

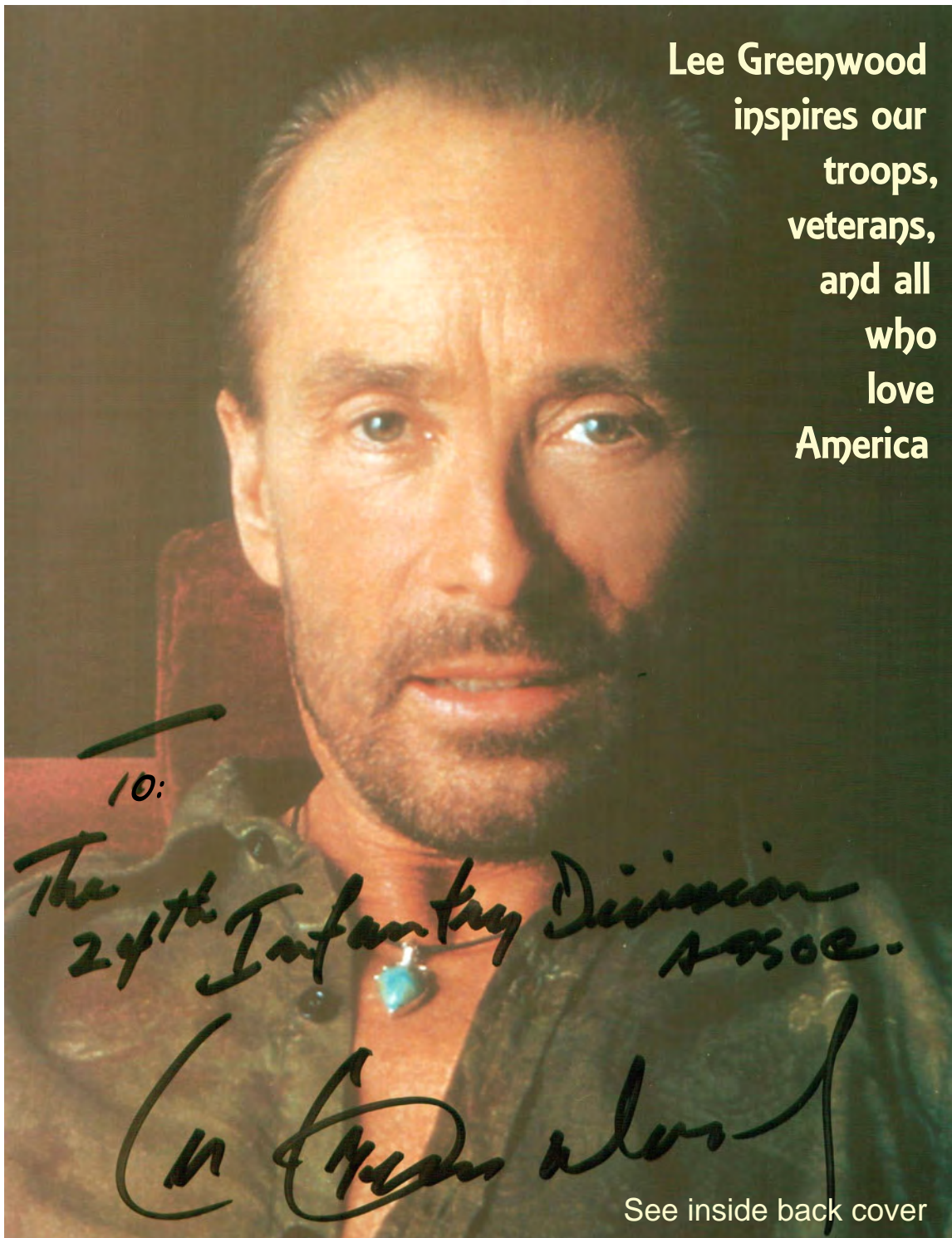
TARD

24th Infantry Division Association



FIRST TO FIGHT

LEAF



Lee Greenwood
inspires our
troops,
veterans,
and all
who
love
America

See inside back cover

In This Issue

Cover, Lee Greenwood	1
Contents, 24th IDA Officers, Directors, Staff	2
President Sal Schillaci's message	3
Editor David Valley's message	3
Calamity at Desert	4,5
Greetings Card, Reunion, Donors	5
Looking For	6
Letters	7-9
Tribute to the Humble Hero.....	10-11
24th IDA Website News	12
Russian War Trophy	13
South to Naktong, North to Yalu	14-16
Combat Infantry Badge	17
Fallen Comrades	18
Pictures.....	19-20
Central Florida Reunion.....	21
U.S. Veterans Homes	22-24
Above and Beyond	25
Operation Nomad	25
A Lucky Dogfoot of WWII	26-27
24th Division Occupation Reports.....	28-30
The Last Few Days.....	31
Notices	32-34
Reunions	35
Donors	36
Minutes, 2010 Board Meeting	37
Screech in the Night, Leaving Korea	38
Tribute to Entertainers	39

Taro Leaf, Volume 65, Issue 1, Winter 2011

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

The **Taro Leaf** is printed in Leesburg, Florida, and mailed from the Leesburg, Florida U.S. Post Office.

**COMING
UP NEXT**

Taro Leaf Spring Issue, Vol. 65, No. 2
Deadline for submissions - **4/1/2011**
Publication delivery - **5/1/2011**

24th Infantry Division Assoc. Officers, Directors, & Staff

President: Salvatore Schillaci - 24th Recon
59 Endicott Drive, Amherst, NY 14226-3323
716-837-1635 ssrecon24@roadrunner.com

Vice President: Don Magio- 24th Admin
411 Concord Rd., Fletcher, NC 28732-9734
828 684-5931 tarheeldon0@lycos.com

Secretary/Treasurer: John A. Dunn - 2nd RGT
9150 Highway 51, Westover, AL 35147-9527
205-678-6165 jokdunn@aol.com

Directors: Melvin L. Frederick - 19th RGT
Summer 507-455-1639; Winter 760-772-7909
Gene E. Spicer '06-'08, 19th RGT (812) 273-6996 IN
Wes Morrison '03-'06, 21st RGT (831) 883-2156 CA
James F. Hill '00-'01, 19th RGT (770) 998-3749 GA
Thomas Cochram '97-'98, 34th RGT (931) 647-4793 TN
Vincent Gagliardo '93-'94, 5th RCT (415) 279-1982 GA
Albert MacAdoo '91-'92, 5th RCT (813) 837-2728 CA
Donald C. Rosenblum '87-'88, Div. HQ (912) 233-6717 GA
Warren C. Avery '86-'87, 21st RGT (203) 239-3406 CT
John R. Shay '83-'84, 21st RGT (708) 724-5133 IL
John E. Klump '77-'78, 34th RGT (812) 623-4366 IN
William C. Muldoon '70-71, 19th RGT (941) 743-7179 FL
Donald C. Williams '68-'69, 34th RGT (586) 566-4627 MI
Directors-At-Large: Loyal Vincent 2nd RGT (402) 496-6570 NE
John J. Slattery 2nd RGT (772) 283-7810 FL

Editor: David J. Valley, 19th RGT
Post Office Box 500907, San Diego, CA 92150
858 485-7550 24thtaroleaf@gmail.com

Historian - Merry Helm
420 8th Avenue South, Fargo ND 58103-2828
701 293-5045 52pianos@cablone.net

Chaplain: Glenn Carpenter, Jr. 21st RGT
8073 W 10-½ Mile Rd., Irons, MI 49644-8404
231 266-5283 chaplaincarp@hotmail.com

Membership: Joseph R. McMahon - 34th RGT
4427 GreenValley Drive, Arnold, MO 63010-3407
636-296-7385 jmahon31@aol.com

Quartermaster: John Walters, 2nd RGT
12358 NW 54th Ct., Coral Springs, FL 33076-3410
Tel: 954 345-8294, or 945 328-5344.
Email: jaw234@bellsouth.net

2011 Reunion Program Chairman (Open)

Webmaster: Tom Thiel
19147 Park Place Blvd., Eustis, FL32736
352-357-3943 Email: 24thidaweb@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.24thida.com

Members of the 24th IDA:

As we enter a new year I pause to remember those of us who have gone on ahead, and I welcome all the new members who will keep the 24th alive and well in the future.

I can only hope that I will be as capable of doing as well as my predecessors. You may reach me by mail, phone, or email and I will be happy to respond to your concerns.

At the Buffalo Reunion, Keith Hagan and I gave a report on the progress of the Medal of Honor Memorial-Arlington Cemetery project. Though the fund raising is independent of the association, all members are encouraged to donate. All are urged to contact their senators and representatives to join in this effort to secure an appropriate location within the cemetery.

I would like to thank all who have already donated to the Medal of Honor monument fund. It is evidence of the pride that we all take in our organization. In the future I will submit the names of all who contributed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Keith Hagan and Tom Thiel for their outstanding efforts in making this project as successful as it is.

Looking ahead, the west coast reunion will be at Laughlin, Nevada on 27-30 March 2011. I hope to see many of you there. The registration form is on page 35.

The national reunion will be in Dayton, Ohio on September 18, 2011. We look forward to being joined by many of the members of the 21st Regiment and the 52nd Field Artillery. At that time, I will contact the Reunion Brat and start the ball rolling for our reunion for Dayton, Ohio. More details and the registration form will be in the Spring Issue of the Taro Leaf.

It is not too early to start considering our venue for 2012 and I would welcome your input on this matter.

My wife and I want to wish all of the members of the 24th Division a very happy, healthy, and safe holiday and may the new year be the best yet for all.

Thank you,

Sal Schillaci, President

A few words from the 24th IDA Chaplain:

We took the Amtrak from South Bend to Buffalo, NY for the National Reunion. We got there at nine in the morning on Sunday which was checking in day. Monday was a run around day. We spent a lot of time in the well-run hospitality room. Tuesday's banquet was lot of fun; the drums were good. Wednesday's meeting went well. I thought the Memorial was inspirational. I chose a verse from 1 John 3-24. "Those who obey God's commandments live in fellowship with him and He with them." We know He lives in us because the Holy Spirit lives in us.

Chaplain Glenn Carpenter



The first issue under my editorship was successfully launched and has been well received. Even so, I can hardly relax as I contemplate the awesome task of putting together more issues in the future that meet our goal of being interesting, relevant, and worthy of our readership.

My greatest concern is a shortage of stories from our members. They are the lifeblood of the Taro Leaf, giving meaning and purpose to our publication. Without them we have only a newsletter of reports and activities. Some of our members have taken pen to paper very well and have produced great chronicles of their experiences with the 24th. We are indebted to them.

I think there are many more who feel they have something say, but haven't either gotten around to writing it, or feel inadequate to the task. My friends and comrades, not everyone who arrives in the military feels up to it, but by getting immersed in the process a person finds a way. If you are not able to write by yourself, you may be able to find someone who can assist you. I suggest you contact your local high school and request a student helper.

Starting with this issue's cover, there is a tribute to persons who have distinguished themselves by their dedicated support of our military: Lee Greenwood, and Toby Keith. Bill Mauldin, although a "dogface" himself, also certainly fits the category and is the subject of an article reproduced on page 10.

Some letters I've received raise questions about the connection of our Association's leadership with its members. From what I have observed, our officers are dedicated to achieving what is best for the Association. Some of their duties, particularly those of the Secretary-Treasurer, require a good deal of work. Also, it is difficult to find members willing to serve. However, since decisions are made almost exclusively at reunions, which total attendance only constitutes only about five percent of our membership, fair representation is a concern. One writer, for example, has questioned the selection of reunion sites and asks for broader input from members for such decision making.

Further, as to our leadership's connecting with members, it's a two way street. Everyone has an opportunity to express their views in the Taro Leaf. And let's not be squeamish about it; if you have an opinion, let's get it out in the open where it might do some good. And for our officers, it's your forum too! Let us have your views.

I see this interaction as a healthy manifestation of our organization. Regardless of what your position, dialogue will only strengthen us. We may not be able to climb those hills while we tote our gear, but there's nothing to keep us from exercising our mental faculties.

Whether regarding topical subjects or sharing your military and life experiences, we need to hear from you. You are the ones who provide our life blood. It's a symbiotic relationship, we need each other.

David Valley

CALAMITY at DESERT by Rudy Wright

On April 25, 1980, eight American servicemen died in the first modern U.S. hostile confrontation with militant Islam. The failed rescue of 53 American hostages held by the Khomeini regime in Iran had far-reaching repercussions.

There is a hushed field of shattered dreams located in a desolate Iranian wasteland where American fighting men died without ever engaging the enemy. The place has no crosses, no memorial, yet it marks the site of the opening skirmish of this country's battles against state-sponsored Islamic terrorism.

At 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 4, 1979, inflamed by the admission of the deposed Shah of Iran to the U.S., a mob of some 3,000 armed "students" stormed the U.S. Embassy compound in Tehran and took the occupants hostage.

The planning for *Operation Eagle Claw*—the mission to free the hostages—began the day the embassy was seized. A core strategy team met at the Joint Chiefs of Staff Special Operations Division (JCS-SOD) to assess the situation and consider reaction options.

The rescue mission was assigned to the Army's newly formed Delta Force. It would be the assault element of Joint Task Force (JTF) 1-79 under the command of Maj. Gen. James B. Vaught, an elite veteran of three wars.

Over the next six months, while negotiations for the hostages' release continued, Delta and the JTF made their plans and trained extensively with Air Force, Navy and Marine elements. By mid-April, President Jimmy Carter had approved the mission, and the task force was flown to a forward-operating base. Also using Masirah Island, the mission was launched from the Gulf of Oman. D-Day was April 25, 1980.

Desolate Desert

It was a hot, moonlit night at Desert One as Air Force Col. James "Kimo" Kyle, onsite mission commander (and author of *The Guts to Try*), awaited the arrival of the two C-141 Starlifters carrying Delta's two squadrons and support elements.

Delta's A and B squadrons totaled 107 men. Thirteen men from the 10th Special Forces Group formed a Special Assault Team. The 1st Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment contributed its C Company.

Marine pilots came from Marine Air Groups 16 and 26. Airmen served with the 8th and 16th squadrons of the 1st Special Operations Wing.

The insertion point, a desolate stretch in the Dasht-e-Kavir Desert some 200 miles southeast of Tehran, had been selected as a refueling site for the eight RH-53D Navy helicopters launched from the carrier *L/SS Nimitz* in the Arabian Sea.

Kyle remembers: "The plan was for the helos to be refueled from three EC-130s, each equipped with 6,000 gallon fuel bladders and pumps. They would then board the assault force and fly them to a drop site 50 miles south of Tehran. The helos were to proceed to a protected hide-site.

"The following night, Delta would infiltrate the embassy compound, free the hostages and use the helicopters to transport them to an extraction site. From there, C-141 aircraft would fly hostages and task force out of Iran under cover of fighters from the *Nimitz*."

As if an omen of the mission's fate, things started going wrong from the time the lead C-130 aircraft landed. It unloaded the command group, Delta's B Squadron, Rangers and an Air Force Combat Control Team.

"I had just started down the ramp when here came a bus, lights flashing, right into our clandestine operation," Kyle recalls. "Our Ranger roadblock team and some Delta troopers intercepted the bus, firing a warning 40mm grenade round past the windshield. A Delta team took charge of the 44 passengers, allowing the roadblock team to deploy. I was impressed with how Delta's actions reflected their training.

"One of the stranded passengers called out in English, 'It's about time you came, Yanks.'" But that was only the beginning of the troubles.

Capt. Wade Ishimoto, riding a motorbike to his roadblock position, along with Ranger Cpl. Robert Rubio, spotted a gasoline tanker approaching. "I triggered a warning burst from my M-16, but the tanker kept coming," he said. "At that point, Cpl. Rubio fired a round from

his M-72 LAW [Light Anti-Tank Weapon], aiming for the engine but hitting the fuel tank. It was then we observed that a second vehicle followed the tanker."

Things got even harrier. "Dammit! Is this Desert One or the damned Hollywood Freeway," Kyle complained as the gasoline ignited and night became day. "Just then one of Delta's officers drove up in his jeep and told us what had happened: The driver escaped and jumped aboard the smaller truck, which took off before anyone could stop it."

Col. Charlie Beckwith suggested that "they were probably smuggling contraband gasoline. I'd make book that they're not running to the police."

Abort the Mission

In spite of these setbacks, the operation appeared to be on track. The MC-130s transporting Delta's Red and White elements arrived, as did the EC-130 tankers carrying additional fuel to refuel the helicopters.

But the helo fleet was late. "We later learned that one of the RH-53Ds had been abandoned due to mechanical failure, and another had to return to the *Nimitz*," Kyle recalls.

Finally, the six remaining helicopters arrived—90 minutes late. Their pilots were in bad shape, having encountered blinding dust storms (masses of suspended dust called *haboobs*) during their exhausting six-hour flight. The combat controllers marshalled them to their respective tankers, and they began refueling.

Sgt. 1st Class Earl Moniz, a Delta radio operator, remembered: "We had rehearsed it thoroughly. As each chopper topped off, Delta shooters boarded their assigned helos for the flight to the overnight laager site."

Beckwith, in his book *Delta Force*, stated that one of the pilots then reported, "The skipper said to tell you that we only have five flyable helicopters, Number Two had hydraulics problems." The carefully planned mission, however, depended on a minimum of six helicopters to insert the assault force.

Consulting with Kyle, Beckwith opted for aborting. Kyle radioed Joint Task Force and discussed the situation to see if there was any way the mission could continue. After Vaught advised

National Command Authority of the dilemma, he directed the MC-130s to proceed to Masirah Island with Delta and the five flyable helos to return to the *Nimitz*.

"We were then ordered to off-load the helos and board the EC-130 tankers for the return trip," Moniz remembers.

Tragedy followed frustration. As the No. 3 chopper lifted off to reposition for refueling for its return to the *Nimitz*, its dust cloud obscured the pilot's view, inducing vertigo. The disoriented flier allowed his helo to drift toward one of the EC-130s. The rotor blades slashed through the *Talon*, causing the helo to crash into the plane's left wing. The helo's internal and auxiliary fuel tanks erupted, enveloping both aircraft in flames.

"We saw blue sparks explode overhead and forward," according to Sgt. 1st Class Eric Haney, whose troop had boarded the EC-130. "Then the crew door blew in as the (light deck erupted and flames entered the troop compartment. We hit the right side door like we were making a jump and managed to get everyone out before the fuel bladder exploded."

But eight others died: five from the 1st Special Operations Wing and three from Marine Air Group 26.

A mission that had been rehearsed to perfection, executed by superbly trained units, supported by a joint task force and led by outstanding commanders failed.

"But something good came of that failure and sacrifice," noted the late David Hackworth. "It opened our military leaders' eyes to the need for a rapid-reaction force and a unified special operations command."

RUDY WRIGHT is a former Special Forces officer and VFW member. He is the author of the novel Tehran Mission (Charleston, S.C.: Book Surge, 2009). This story is reprinted with permission from the April 2010 issue of VFW magazine. An earlier version of the article appeared in its November 2002 issue.

I was urged to do this story by John G. Trinca, Life 1252, '45-'46. John met then LTG James Vaught at the 24th IDA's 1997 reunion and learned about the story reported here. After reading it in the recent VFW magazine he suggested it be made available to readers of the Taro Leaf.

Editor



And to all who served in the 24th Division, Season's Greetings. Thanks to the member whose name the Editor missed placed. Sorry about that!



3BN-34th RGT & 2BN-21st RGT, 24th Division

61st Year Reunion • June 14-17, 2011

Drury Inn & Suites, 5505 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines, IA 50266

Room Type: Standard Double, \$109 plus tax. Please reserve your room before May 9, 2011 to secure this rate. Each room includes a continental "Quick Start" Breakfast each morning, a complimentary cocktail, and 5:30 p.m. "Kickback" hot & cold snacks.

There are 2 ways to book your room:

1. On-line: To book online, go to www.druryhotels.com, click on **Book it Fast**, then enter group number **2098523**.

2. Call-in: Call **1-866-791-6395** or **1-515-457-9500** to make your individual group reservations. Please specify the **Hotel location (West Des Moines)** and reference your **Group Name or Number (2098523)**.

For more information, contact:

Mr. Robert D. Wegner

3990 W Avenue, Manning, IA 51455

Phone: 712-653-2234

E-mail: bwegner27@yahoo.com

All Korean War Vets are most welcome



Our Gracious Donors

What a list of donors to the Association (page 36)! The generosity of our membership, even in these tough economic times, is inspiring. I think it must be a continuation of the giving some of you did in years past in even tougher times and places.

The amounts of the gifts vary, and some members donate regularly, certainly all are appreciated and needed for the financial well being of the association.

There is one member that deserves a special "Thank You." The past two fund raising raffles awards the association conducted at the annual reunion (that so many of you support by purchasing the raffle tickets), Bill Boatman, 34th Infantry-Japan, won \$1200. Bill is not only lucky, but generous! I send him the checks, and Bill sends the Association a donation for the amount he has won! God bless you, Bill and all who support the 24th IDA.

John Dunn, Sec'y.-Treas.

Looking For

Dear SFC Rumbaoa: I just read our new Taro Leaf and noticed your being in Korea with A CO **19th RGT** in 1951. My Dad, SFC Dave Grass Jr., was also with A CO from January 1951 until he was wounded in March, then KIA on April 20, 1951 near Kalmal Myon. I have copies of the morning reports all the way from January 1951, until he turned up on the last one on May 5th when he was reported KIA. I'm looking for soldiers who may have served with him in Korea. Also, your poem "With Somber Thoughts" was outstanding.

I am now 63, a Full Professor at the University of Tulsa and will retire in a couple of years. I'm still on my search for "heroes" like yourself who may have served with my dad and hope you may have known him.

The Army recorded my Dad was KIA on the 20th of April, but the Chinese Spring Offensive began on the 22nd of April. I've heard that my Dad had to have been KIA on the 22nd, but others, like former 24th ID Historian, SFC Joe Sweeney said they remember action was on the 20th. I'm looking into that also.

Whatever the answer, whether you served with Dad or not, it is an honor for me to write to you.

You are a true hero to me; take care of yourself, because this country needs people like you.

Prof. Kenneth Grass, Life Assoc 2086, Tulsa University, School of Music, 600 So. College Ave, Tulsa, OK 74104-3189

Anyone who might have known Dave Grass, please write to Ken. Editor

Mr. Valley: I appreciate your speaking to me about my father, Howard Jelks. I would love for you to put something in the Taro Leaf seeking anyone who served with him. His combat time was August 21, 1951-January 23, 1952. He was in the **19th RGT, HQ CO**.

He was involved in the Fall Campaign of Operation Nomad (August-September, 1951). He was also involved in some battles with Woodrow Keeble. Does anyone remember when Keeble was shot through his helmet while he and my father dragged a wounded soldier? Even if someone didn't know my father, I would like to speak to them about some of the battles.

Denise Jelks Gray, 22814 Brittney Reneee Drive, Zachary, LA 70791 225 921-7453 email: denisegray18@yahoo.com

Editor: My wife and I wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all my comrades and their wives who wished me a quick recovery. We both wanted so much to attend the 64th reunion. We try to go to all the gatherings. I am still recuperating from the emergency, it takes a little while. Your well wishes will certainly speed my recovery. God Bless,
Miriam and Alvin M. Dorman 24th Signal Company '45-'46, Life 1333, 1511 Manor Drive N.E. Palm Bay, FL 32905 407 768-0935

David: I have been talking with a disabled 24th veteran, Richard Adams, of Bronx, NY. In April 1964 he was involved in a truck accident and is trying to find the following people who were in the truck with him so he can file for PTSD. He was with HQ Battery, 24th Division Artillery, Will Kaserne, Munich, Germany. He is looking for: SP5 Miguel Antonnetti RA 30 400 646; PFC Mayo Rucker US 15 646 176 (driver); SGT Alberto Lugo. If you are or know these soldiers please contact:

Richard Adams, 110 E. 176th St., Bronx, NY 10453

Best regards, **Don Magio, 24th IDA V.P.**

Editor: My dad just passed away and I am trying to find some info about his military service for a flag display box. He was stationed in Japan from 1946 to 1947 as part of the occupation force. Pictures I have of him show an 8th Army patch on one sleeve and 24th Infantry Division patch on the other. I have a picture of him in basic training standing in front of a 1st BN - 19th INF sign in Georgia. His discharge papers show he was in the 566th quartermaster. I can't find any info about the 566th quartermaster anywhere. I remember him saying he mainly drove a jeep there and most of the pictures show him with Military Police vehicles. Do you know anything about this 566th unit?

I have asked other military historians and they said that the 8th Army was understaffed at this time and quartermaster records were not a high priority and may even not have been kept because the 566th may not have lasted long. Thank you,

**Kenny Tate, 163 East Laurel River Drive
Shepherdsville, KY 40165
k.tate@insightbb.com**

David: I am looking for anyone who may have information about one LTC William Dunn who may have served in Headquarters and Headquarters Company of 24th Infantry Division. It is possible that he was the Provost Marshal of 24th Military Police. He may have served in WWII or in Korea. Any information will be appreciated.

I am also looking for a member of a 57mm Recoilless Rifle Section, 4th Platoon, K CO, **21st RGT** Infantry who helped a seriously wounded member of a rifle squad off the hill during the night of 5-6 November, 1950. If you are the person who helped save the wounded man, or if you know the name of this person from the 57mm RR section please contact me

Contact Larry Gay at 623 214-6090, e-mail: lngay@att.net, or USPS mail at 15335 W. Echo Canyon Drive, Surprise AZ 85374-2081.



Hi David: I have just received my new Taro Leaf and it looks great, very professional. However, please leave out the politics; there is no place for it in our magazine.

**Carl O'Neill, 34th RGT, Member, 12 Almazan Way
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909-4433, 501-922-6405
carloneill@gmail.com**

Carl: Politics?? **David**

David: I guess the cartoon on page 30 isn't political if you hate Obama. I've got problems with the guy myself but if we're going to start knocking presidents I've got a couple cartoons of Bush explaining why we're in Iraq for instance.

Carl: To me, Obama is beside the point. I see the cartoon as social commentary using humor to drive home a point about the sorry state of affairs we drifted into with profligate consumption. I have mixed feelings about including things which might be considered "political" in the Taro Leaf and would like other's views. At one time we were all soldiers, many involved in wars. Someone wrote, "All wars are political," but when under uniform we were rightfully restricted from engaging in debate of public or political issues. As civilians we ignore such matters to our peril. However, that said, as editor I do not think the Taro Leaf should be used as a forum for bi-partisan exchanges. **David**

David: I share your feelings, I'm with you, best of luck. **Carl**

Editor: I recently was at a VA Hospital in Huntington, WV. In the waiting room was a copy of the 2010 Taro Leaf which caught my attention. I was a member of this unit. I am enclosing a copy of the Christmas Dinner menu from 1946. Thought this could be of some use for your next publication.

The menu also has names of those members of the **11th FA BN** attending. My name is enclosed. I look forward to receiving my own Taro Leaf for the first time. Glad I saw the magazine at the VA. Thanks for a proud member of the 24th. I am 83 years old.

**Paul R. Cunningham, 2408 E. KY-8
Vanceburg, KY 41179-7777.**

Paul: Thanks for your letter and for joining the Association. I appreciate the Christmas menu, but can't include it in the Taro Leaf. However, I have sent it on to Tom Thiel, who may be able to put it on the website.

David: I'm enclosing a copy of a poem (see page 31) I wrote just before I came back to the U.S.

I have a copy of the Appleman book and it is by far the best description of what took place during the year I was there. If any member in the L.A. area wants to borrow it, they are welcome to call me at (323) 939-2907.

Incidentally, if any Gimlets (**21st RGT**) there the first year don't recognize the name Goldy Norton my name in service was Norton Goldstein, but everyone called me Goldy. You're doing a great job, thanks.

**Goldy Norton, Life 2279, 6200 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90048-5810**

Editor: Your Fall Issue was very good. Your suggestion to use smaller print, pictures, and other cost savings makes sense. I'm 91 years old, had to use a magnifying glass to read it, but there aren't many of us left and we can cope. The better paper is good also.

I was glad you highlighted those who served other than WWII and Korea, in other units of the 24th. On the opening page (3) I was pleased to see an article on Leyte. That was one of my biggest battles when I was in L CO, 34th RGT, going in on the third wave. SGT Hill of L CO carried and planted the American flag on Red Beach (Tacloban). I received a battlefield promotion from PFC to SGT and got the Silver Star at Jaro.

The article on CPT Wei described the situation pretty well except there was no confusion. We were not leaderless – not disorganized. Yes, we were pinned down; that was when COL Aubrey Newman above us shouted, "Get your ass off the beach. Get up and follow me." I do not know what company CPT Wei was in, but I know what I heard. Years later, MG Red Newman, Ret. gave me an autographed poster by the Army with him doing so with us pinned down at his feet. Please explain.

**Nick Marasco, Life 362. 1494 Gleason Road
Andover, NY 14806-9622.**

Hello: It was nice to see something mentioned about the **2nd RGT** in the Taro Leaf. I arrived in Augsburg Germany in Oct 1961 and was assigned to Combat Support CO, 2nd Battle Group, 2nd RGT stationed at Gablingen kaserne about 10 clicks outside of Augsburg. The kaserne was very small, housing the 2nd and 2nd, a como company, and part of the 32nd armored along with some support units. During WWII the kaserne was a German ME 109 fighter base.

The runways were still there and one of the old hangars where we parked some trucks still had a hole in the roof from war damage. Our battle group HQ was the old base control tower. The barracks were the ones used by the German air force during the war; they still had the old rifle racks in the walls. We were told that some SS troops were there too in the war, but don't know how true that was.

The 2nd BG and 2nd RGT was a very proud unit. I remember our regimental flag; it was so heavy we had to have the biggest guy in the unit carry it. It had a huge ball of battle streamers hanging from the top and the battle rings went almost the length of the staff.

The unit was transferred back to the states in Feb 1962 and replaced by the 2nd Battle Group, 19th RGT until Feb 1963 when all the battle groups were disbanded and replaced by downsized mechanized battalions. I then was transferred to Augsburg to the 2nd BN, 34 RGT until I left for the states in April 1964.

The 2nd BN, 2nd RGT was again in the thick of fighting during Vietnam attached to the 1st ID. My old company commander from Gablingen, Lt Col George D. Greer, was their CO in Vietnam in 1969. I would like to hear from anyone stationed at Gablingen in Combat Support.

James Sim, 24th IDA, simsplace@comcast.net

Letters

Editor: From May '53 to Sept. '54, I was a new lieutenant serving in the 2nd BN **19th RGT**, during the time covered in John Goedeke's article about the **34th RGT**. At Camp Haugan, Japan I was assigned as a Platoon Leader in Co. E. Later the battalion was flown to Korea.

We were to take over a POW camp from the South Korean Army to ensure that truce talks would not be interrupted by a release of Chinese prisoners who did NOT want to be repatriated. Shortly after the July, '53 truce the POWs were transported to the truce site for repatriation interviews. Some who refused return to China were transported to Taiwan.

The BN reorganized to normal configuration and I was reassigned as BN S-1. We were transported by LST to Koje-do Island. We lived in what had been POW Quarters and there for Xmas and New Year's 1953-54, a very cold winter.

In March and April the Division was reassembled on the mainland at what was later known as Taro Leaf Camp. Deployed in the Yangu Valley, the **19th RGT** was in strategic reserve behind a South Korean army corps.

We often rehearsed our reaction plans in case the North Koreans and/or the Chinese broke the truce. In May '54 I was reassigned to E CO. In June I took command of F CO until I rotated back to the States in October '54.

**Theodore "TED" Risch, 9855 E. Irvington Rd., # 128
Tucson AZ 85730-5230 rischspkr@aol.com.**

David: In answer to your request on page 29 (for feedback), I offer the following comments:

After the high quality product that Tom Thiel developed while editor of the Taro Leaf, I did not think further improvement was possible. But I now realize I was wrong. You have already added a few new features and ideas that have made Tom's great product even more efficient and attractive. And in the process you apparently have cut the cost or at least held the line on the cost of production. The explanation of your thinking behind the new changes all make sense, and once again proves that no one individual has all the answers or ideas that can't be improved when viewed from another angle or perspective. My congratulations on the good work.

Last, I'd like more information on your book, *Bright Life*. I read page 31 with great interest, only to discover that there was no more included. I searched the balance of the issue looking for the remaining portion, thinking you had made an error by not including the page number where I would find the "end of the story".

Best wishes in the future, and thanks again for performing a very worthwhile task for the 24th Infantry Division Association.

George Lance, 21st RGT, Life 1101, 319 Valley Rd., Etters, PA 17319-8919, 717 938-6480 email: patlance@aol.com

Editor: Regarding the photo of the black soldier with the 19th RGT in Korea in 1952. I arrived in Korea with the 724th Ord. on July 4th, 1950. We had no black troops. I don't know the exact date, but President Truman signed a bill to desegregate the military. In the spring of 1951 we got our first black replacement. He was a young kid fresh out of basic. We had orders to accept him, so we did. He was shy and I think leery about the situation.

In the long run this turned out to be a good thing for all. There were good and bad blacks, but the same can be said for the whites or any other race. In fact while stationed in Florida during the Cuban missile crisis we had a black 1st Sgt who I considered one of the best for his integrity and leadership. The military came to be a leader, with considerable success, in correcting this blot (segregation) on our history.

POW/MIA: I was pleased to read in the Fall 2010 Issue about the proper disposition of the remains of Cpl. Frank Herbert Smith. As an active member of The American Legion I would like to believe our organization played a small part in resolving this matter.

One of our active committees is POW/MIA. We call for the full accounting of all prisoners of war and the missing in action. Our national organization is chartered in the Congress of the United States of America. As such each year we push for congressional action on this matter. We keep pushing and we keep gaining some ground, as they listen to us.

"Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th National convention encourages all American Legion Posts to conduct a POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony at the opening of all Post meetings. At the end of the ceremony the POW/MIA flag is placed on the Empty chair, a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves for this vital endeavor!"

For a full text of this ceremony go the American Legion Web site: www.legion.org.

**Carl Wiperman, 724th ORD, Life 1227, 12805 51st Ave. SE
Everett, WA 98208-9618, 425 337-8761,
carlwip@frontier.com**

David: Per your article in the Taro Leaf, I was in L CO, **21st RGT**, then L CO **5th RCT**. During '51-'52. we had from 1-5 blacks with us at different times, all great by the way. I wish I had the memory of details that some of you guys have. I was only 16 and most of it is one big blur. I served with a LT Porter (from MA, I believe), SGT Borjadine (spelling?) and a CPL Don Holcomb, from Ohio. I have never been able to find mention of them anywhere.

Incidentally, a great job with the Taro Leaf. I can still read it, although with a magnifier as I have macular degeneration.

**Jim Van Winkle, Member, 426 Cale Garcia, Tuscon
AZ 85706-5360, 520 94-3931, Trains34@hotmail.com**

David: I've been involved with many organizations, military and civilian. I've found the ones most effective are those which have good leadership, sensible programs and activities, and good communications. The 24th IDA has had such benefits over the years, but lately I'm beginning to wonder if our leaders are in touch with the members.

The Taro Leaf has been an effective vehicle for communication, and I especially like the recent improvements, but with so few members participating in national reunions we've become more of an oligarchy than a democracy. I'm not faulting those who do attend; they're doing what others don't want to do, or cannot do for one reason or another. My criticism is the lack of broader member consensus.

I'm especially concerned with the selection of national reunion sites, which recently seem to go from an obscure location, Rapid City, SD, to Eastern sites—recently Buffalo, NY, next year Dayton, OH—and then New Orleans? According to Article III of our By-Laws, "A Corporate Convention shall be held annually on a date and place approved by the members." A commitment for site selection should not be determined solely by five members of the Board of Directors.

I propose a polling of members via the Taro Leaf for sites. A slate of sites should be offered...not just whether we approve of Dayton, OH. I'd also like to see the national reunion coincide occasionally with regional reunions, such as at FL, TN, or AZ, or how about nifty places like Dallas, San Diego, or San Francisco? I'm not sure about how to go about doing this, but I do know all members should have an opportunity to cast their vote.

Benjamin R. Allen, Member, 4734 N. Calle Santa Cruz, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314-5125 ben.allen1927@gmail.com

Tom (Thiel): I was going to the reunions several years ago, but since then the reunions have all been on the east coast and midwest. I know there is a reunion in March in Laughlin, NV, but in March there is a possibility of snow in the southern mountains. Why don't we have a reunion on the northern west coast sometime? I am a member of the 24th IDA and served with the **3rd ENG BN** in Korea.

Paul Balchitis Email: pdbalch@att.net

Paul: Excellent question I think. And I would add, why should 50 or so persons at one of our reunions decide for all of us where our Reunion is held? Since I was not at the Reunion this year, I will forward your question to our management team. **Tom Thiel**

Hello: Today my husband and I saw a show on the History Channel about the 24th Infantry in the Korean War (Conflict?). I found it heartbreaking the way the men of the "duce four" were treated, and so I looked up your website to say that it would be an honor for any American to salute ANYONE who served with your division. I'm so glad that the 24th was reinstated and that you will all be remembered for your heroism. THANK YOU!!!!

Teri Santitoro, Pennsylvania, USA

The above was an unsolicited message sent to the 24th IDA Website. Tom Thiel sent a copy to me. What a nice response, and it's been a long time since I heard the expression, "duce four." Editor

Open Letter by the Editor: The following is from the "24th Infantry Division History," Second Edition, page 75. "The stunned survivors of the Hadong massacre fell back to the next town to the east, Chingu. Reinforcements for the battered 19th and 29th regiments hurried to the front. They were fresh from the United States and most had never been in combat before. Many bewildered young men died west of Chinju that night, 30 July ('50) hardly knowing where they were in that strange land, what outfit they belonged to, who their officers were, and without having their names entered in the company rolls. That was one of the more pathetic aspects of those desperate, early days of the Korean War. Chinju was lost the following day, and now it was Masan the GIs had to defend or else the enemy would have a clear route to Pusan itself."

I was one of those bewildered replacements who at daybreak on July 31 left my assigned outpost (without being relieved) just in time to catch a ride on one of the last trucks leaving Chinju. I remember after crossing a river our convoy of several trucks was halted by a one-star general who ordered everyone to dismount. He started at one end of the line and ordered one group after another to take positions on selected nearby hills and to "dig in." I was near the end of the line when he said, "You four go to that hill." Now I was one of only two left. He said, "Get on that truck, get ammo, and bring it back."

Not having slept for over 24 hours and despite the rough ride in the back of the 2-½ ton truck, my buddy and I fell asleep. When I awoke the truck was going full throttle, due north! I pounded on the roof of the cab and the driver stopped. I said "Where the hell are you going?" The driver answered, "I don't know, but I'm getting the f... out of here." My buddy and I bailed out and after two days dodging N.K. patrols got back to our outfit.

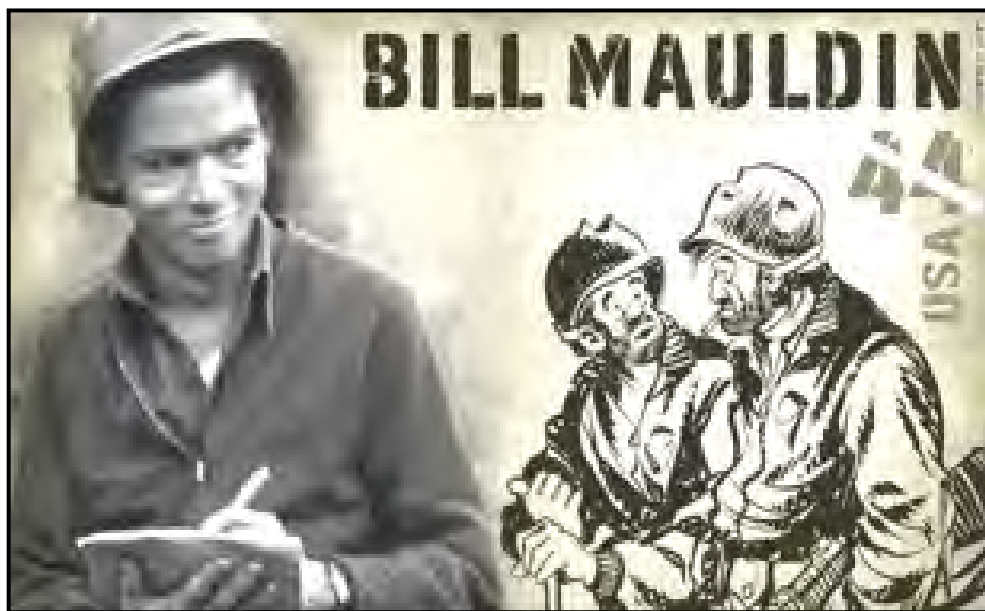
I have always wondered: who was the BG? What was the fate of those ordered to defend on those hills? What happened to the truck we abandoned, and does anyone remember this incident?

David Valley



The Taro Leaf accepts no advertising and it is not our policy to promote the sale of any products. The display above is only presented to inform our readers of the availability of a 24th ID related item.

Tribute to the Humble “Hero”



By Bob Greene, CNN Contributor

I was lucky enough to be one of them. Mauldin roamed the hallways of the Chicago Sun-Times in the late 1960s and early 1970s with no more officiousness or air of haughtiness than if he was a copyboy. That impish look on his face remained.

He had achieved so much. He won a second Pulitzer Prize, and he should have won a third for what may be the single greatest editorial cartoon in the history of the craft: which he rendered on the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. The cartoon pictured the statue at the Lincoln Memorial slumped in grief, its head cradled in its hands.

But he never acted as if he was better than the people he met. He was still Mauldin, the enlisted man.

During the late summer of 2002, as Mauldin lay in that California nursing home, some of the old World War II infantry guys caught wind of it. They didn't want Mauldin to go out that way. They thought he should know he was still their hero.

The United States Postal Service deserves a standing ovation for something that happened this year: Bill Mauldin got his own postage stamp. Bill Mauldin stamp honors the grunts' hero.

Mauldin died at age 81 in the early days of 2003. The end of his life had been rugged. He had been scalded in a bathtub, which led to terrible injuries and infections; Alzheimer's disease was inflicting its cruelties. Unable to care for himself after the scalding, he became a resident of a California nursing home, his health and spirits in rapid decline.

He was not forgotten, though. Mauldin, and his work, meant so much to the millions of Americans who fought in World War II, and to those who had waited for them to come home. He was a kid cartoonist for Stars and Stripes, the military newspaper; Mauldin's drawings of his muddy, exhausted, whisker-stubbled infantrymen, Willie and Joe, were the voice of truth about what it was like on the front lines.

Mauldin was an enlisted man just like the soldiers he drew for; his gripes were their gripes, his laughs their laughs, his heartaches their heartaches. He was one of them. They loved him. He never held back. Sometimes, when his cartoons cut too close for comfort, superior officers tried to tone him down.

In one memorable incident, he enraged General George S. Patton, who

informed Mauldin he wanted the pointed cartoons celebrating the fighting men that lampooned the high-ranking officers to stop. Now! The news passed from soldier to soldier. How was Sgt. Bill Mauldin going to stand up to Gen. Patton. It seemed impossible. Not quite. Mauldin, it turned out, had an ardent fan: Five-star Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme commander of the Allied forces in Europe. Ike put out the word: Mauldin draws what Mauldin wants. Mauldin won. Patton lost.

If you've ever considered yourself a young hotshot, the story of Mauldin's young manhood will humble you. By the time he was 23 years old, Mauldin won the Pulitzer Prize, was featured on the cover of Time magazine and his book "Up Front" was the No.1 best-seller in the United States.

When he returned to civilian life and grew older, he never lost that boyish Mauldin grin, never outgrew his excitement about doing his job, never big-shotted or high-hatted the people with whom he work every day.



"Joe, yestiddy ya saved my life an' I swore I'd pay ya back. Here's my last pair of dry socks."



Gordon Dillow, a columnist for the Orange County Register, put out the call in Southern California for people in the area to send their best wishes to Mauldin. I joined Dillow in the effort, helping to spread the appeal nationally, so Bill would not feel so alone. Soon, more than 10,000 cards and letters had arrived at Mauldin's bedside.

Mauldin's drawings of his muddy, exhausted, whisker-stubbed infantrymen, Willie and Joe, were the voice of truth about what it was like on the front lines.

Better than that, old soldiers began to show up just to sit with Mauldin, to let him know that they were there for him, as he, so long ago, had been there for them. So many volunteered to visit Bill that there was a waiting list. Here is how Todd DePastino, in the first paragraph of his wonderful biography of Mauldin, described it:

"Almost every day in the summer and fall of 2002 they came to Park Superior nursing home in Newport Beach, California, to honor Army Sergeant, Technician Third Grade, Bill Mauldin. They came bearing relics of their youth: medals, insignia, photographs, and carefully folded newspaper clippings. Some wore old garrison caps. Others arrived resplendent in uniforms over a half century old. Almost all of them wept

as they filed down the corridor like pilgrims fulfilling some long-neglected obligation."

One of the veterans explained to me why it was so important: "You would have to be part of a combat infantry unit to appreciate what moments of relief Bill gave us. You had to be reading a soaking wet Stars and Stripes in a water-filled foxhole and then see one of his cartoons."

Mauldin is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Last month, the kid cartoonist made it onto a first-class postage stamp. It's an honor that most generals and admirals never receive. What Mauldin would have loved most, I believe, is the sight of the two guys who keep him company on that stamp. Take a look at it. There's Willie. There's Joe. And there, to the side, drawing them and smiling that shy, quietly observant smile, is Mauldin himself...with his buddies, right where he belongs. Forever.



Mike Keefe THE DENVER POST 2003



The site continues to grow and evolve in response to materials and information I receive. The site now has 358MB of "stuff" containing 1,433 individual computer files, each of which is a story, page, photo, etc. Probably it has some 2 to 3,000 actual pages and pictures.

One of the most recent revisions was the addition of the "Looking For" button. This is, as the name implies, where you may post looking for requests.

Another new addition is the Quartermaster page, which is accessed from either the Home or the 24th Division Buttons. From the QM Page you may print out the QM Order Form, fill it out and send it to QM John Walters. I hope to be able to add small photos of each item in the future.

We are also working on better organizing and presenting information, especially that of an historical nature. This material is mostly found under the 24th Division Button, and I am trying to better arrange it by Units, Places, and perhaps others.

What all this means is that the site changes almost every day, so please go there often. Also, please provide me with your feedback, and also with material that you would like posted.

For example, those of you conducting reunions, whether our national or a mini, please keep me apprised so it can be posted where both members and non-members can access and see it. Also, this is a request of our Association officers, the Reunion Brat, and others to inform me of items you wish to have disseminated.

And anyone who has a "story" of their experiences that they wish made available please send it to me. Whereas, the Taro Leaf has practical limits on what it can publish, the web site can accommodate your whole story. So send it in, please, even if it has already been abstracted in a Taro Leaf issue.

Why publish your story on the internet? Well, your stories are unique. They are descriptions of your experiences and they deserve to be made available for the world community to see. Whereas, our Taro Leaf only goes to about 2,100 members, information on the web can be and is being regularly accessed by the entire world community. So again, please send it in!

Editor David Valley and I coordinate on materials you may send so it is not necessary that you send to both of us.

Thank you all very much.

Tom J. Thiel, web person
19147 Park Place Blvd
Eustis, FL 32736
352-357-3943, 24thidaweb@gmail.com

21st RGT Reunion After-Action Report

At the informal business meeting, Phil and Phyllis Burke announced they would not be able to sponsor any more annual reunions due to their age and medical problems. After discussing several options, with no obvious alternative of continuing a separate 21st RGT reunion, the group agreed they would try to attend the 24th Infantry Division Association Annual Reunions. Most of the group already are members of the 24th IDA.

Phil and Phyllis will continue to publish the 21st RGT newsletter as long as the funds hold out. The group does not have a membership fee and depends on donations to support the cost of the newsletter.

Reunion attendees from the **21st** were: Gene and Barbara Ames, Phil and Phyllis Burke and family, Maurice Canty and companion, Don Duerk, Jim Fine, J.C. and Anna Franks, Brian McCaulay, Jesse Murga, Ralph Peterson and family, Mary Jane Ray and family, Ken Rybus, and Art and Lee Stamler. From the **52nd FA** were: Ray and Sheila Agee, Bud "Shortround" Hardy, Bob Oberbeck, Susan Perry, Fulton and Sheila Simmon, Bud and Laurette Steckel, Pete and Maxine Turnipseed, Betty Wells and daughter, and Olen and Lina Faye Yates.



Eighth Army Commander Lieutenant General Walton Walker (left) is met by Major General William Dean at an advance airfield near Taejon, July 7, 1950. (Photo: U.S. Army). Walker is credited with the success of the Pusan Perimeter, keeping the North Koreans from over-running the entire peninsula. He was a man short in stature, but a giant of a soldier. On December 23, 1950, Walker was killed in a traffic accident. Walker's command jeep, traveling at a high speed, collided with a civilian truck as he inspected positions north of Seoul. His body was escorted back to the United States by his son, Sam S. Walker, then a company commander in the 24th and a future general.

Russian War Trophy

John J. Baker was a communications cryptographer working and living at the Imperial Hotel, just up the avenue from the Dai Ichi Building, Gen. MacArthur's GHQ. He served there from 1948 until the start of the Korean War when he was transferred to the ill-fated **34th RGT** of the 24th Division.

After the 34th was severely mauled during the early fighting in Korea its colors were sent back to Japan and its troops were re-assigned. Baker went to HQ CO, 1st BN, **19th RGT**

"I thought it was Chinese," Baker said and turned it over with other captured weapons to his unit's supply sergeant. Months later after UN forces retreated when the human wave attacks were launched across the Yalu by the Chinese People's Army, Baker was being rotated back Stateside. He had been in Korea from the beginning, July '50 for about one year. He asked his supply sergeant for his Chinese sword and was told it was Russian, pointing out the Red Army markings and Cyrillic letters СССР on the brass hilt.



SGT John Baker during happier times enjoying dinner at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, Japan

John Baker's connection to an exhibit at the Smithsonian Institute began back in Korea in 1951. Baker, who lives in Monterey, CA, loaned his sword to the Smithsonian for the 50th Commemoration of the Korean War in 2000.

Baker was scouting with his squad ahead of the 24th ID's drive from Inchon up to the Yalu River when a Russian-made weapons carrier suddenly appeared. Baker's bazooka man blew up the vehicle with a 3.5-inch rocket. When Baker opened the door he found a Chinese officer and driver dead in the cab. He cut buttons off the officer's jacket and also checked his pockets for documents. Then he noticed the handle of a sword at the dead officer's side and drew forth a three-foot saber in its scabbard.



John Baker a few years ago with his prize sword

At Pusan, Baker was relieved of a Russian-made submachine gun and sniper rifle he'd claimed as war trophies, but was allowed to keep the sword. It was again taken from him in Tokyo, but two years later while awaiting orders in Indiantown Gap, PA, he received a box with the sword and documents attesting to his ownership.

In the year 2000 a curator from the Smithsonian contacted



him about Korean War memorabilia for an exhibit and Baker loaned the sword mounted in a display fashioned by a friend (shown above). The items were on exhibit at the Smithsonian for three years before being returned to Baker. He was told it was the only known Russian sword captured during the Korean War.

This story was pieced together from a newspaper clipping, portions of John's book manuscript, "Waiting for Dawn," and discussions with him. Editor

SOUTH TO THE NAKTONG, NORTH TO THE YALU

Roy E. Appleman



American Ground Forces Enter the Battle, CH. VI

*Appleman's book, written for the Center of Military History, U.S. Army, may be the most accurate and complete review of what happened in 1950 during the early months of the Korean War. The account of **Task Force Smith** is especially illuminating and will be presented in the Taro Leaf in the next few issues.*

This is a continuation of the story published in the fall issue of the Taro Leaf.

The 34th Infantry Regiment loaded at Sasebo during the night of 1 July, and arrived at Pusan the next night. After Task Force Smith had left Japan the rest of the 21st Infantry Regiment, except A and D Companies which sailed from Moji, loaded at Sasebo and sailed to Korea.

General Dean also was on his way to Korea. Failing on 2 July to land at Taejon because his pilot could not find the airstrip in the dark, General Dean the next morning at Ashiya Air Base joined Capt. Ben L. Tufts on his way to Korea by General Almond's order to act as liaison between Army and the press. Tufts' pilot knew the Taejon airstrip and landed his plane there about 1030, 3 July. General Dean and Captain Tufts went directly to the two-story yellow brick building serving as General Church's ADCOM Headquarters. That afternoon a message from General MacArthur notified General Dean that United States Army Forces in Korea was activated under his command as of 0001 4 July

General Dean assumed command of USAFIK during the day and appointed General Church as Deputy Commander. Twenty-two other officers were named General and Special Staff officers of USAFIK. ADCOM provided most of the officers for the USAFIK staff, but some KMAG officers also served on it. Most of the KMAG officers who had left Korea by air on 27 June returned aboard the ammunition ship *Sergeant Keathley* on 2 July. By this time the ROK Army had assembled and partly reorganized about 68,000 men.

Task Force Smith at Osan

Colonels Smith and Perry, and some others, went forward in the late afternoon of 4 July to make a final reconnaissance of the Osan position. At this time Perry selected the positions for his artillery. On the road ROK engineer groups were preparing demolitions on all bridges.

Back at Taejon General Dean, a big six-footer with a bristling crew cut cropping his sand-colored hair, and beanpole General Church, slightly stooped, always calm seemingly to the point of indifference discussed the probability of imminent American combat with the enemy. The third general officer to come to the forward area in Korea, Brig. Gen. George B. Barth, acting commanding general of the 24th Division artillery, now arrived in Taejon in the early afternoon. General Dean decided to send Barth forward to represent him, and with instructions for Task Force Smith. So, at 1500 4 July, General Barth started north by jeep for P'yongt'aek. When he found Smith, General Barth relayed his orders to "take up those good positions near Osan you told General Church about."

A little after midnight the infantry and artillery of Task Force Smith moved out of P'yongt'aek. Colonel Smith had to commandeer Korean trucks and miscellaneous vehicles to mount his men. The native Korean drivers deserted when they found that the vehicles were going north. American soldiers took over in the drivers' seats. General Barth and Colonel Smith

followed the task force northward. On the way, General Barth tried to halt the ROK demolition preparations by telling the engineer groups that he planned to use the bridges. At one bridge, after talk failed to influence the ROK engineers, Barth threw the boxes of dynamite into the river. It was only twelve miles to Osan, but it took two and a half hours to get there because ROK soldiers and civilians fleeing south filled the road and driving was under blackout conditions.

About 0300 on 5 July, the delaying force reached the position which Smith had previously selected. The infantry units started setting up weapons and digging in at the pre-designated places. Colonel Perry moved his guns into the positions behind the infantry that he had selected the previous afternoon. All units were in place, but not completely dug in, before daylight.

In seeking the most favorable place to pass through the ridge, the railroad bent eastward away from the highway until it was almost a mile distant. There the railroad split into two single-track lines and passed over low ground between hills of the ridge line. On his left flank Colonel Smith placed one platoon of B Company on the high knob immediately west of the highway; east of the road were B Company's other two rifle platoons. Beyond them eastward to the railroad tracks were two platoons of C Company. This company's third platoon occupied a finger ridge running south, forming a refused right flank along the west side of the railroad track.

Just east of the highway B Company emplaced one 75-mm. recoilless rifle; C Company emplaced the other 75-mm. recoilless rifle just west of the railroad. Colonel Smith placed the 4.2-inch mortars on the reverse, or south slope of the ridge about 400 yards behind the center of B Company's position. The infantry line formed a 1-mile front, not counting the refused right flank along the railroad track. The highway, likely to be the critical axis of enemy advance, passed through the shallow saddle at the infantry position and then zigzagged

gently downgrade northward around several knob-like spurs to low ground a little more than a mile away. There it crossed to the east side of the railroad track and continued on over semi-level ground to Suwon.

Two thousand yards behind the infantry, Colonel Perry pulled four 105-mm. howitzers 150 yards to the left (west) off the highway over a small trail that only jeeps could travel. Two jeeps in tandem pulled the guns into place. Near a cluster of houses with rice paddies in front and low hills back of them, the men arranged the guns in battery position. Perry emplaced the fifth howitzer as an antitank gun on the west side of the road about halfway between the main battery position and the infantry. From there it could place direct fire on the highway where it passed through the saddle and the infantry positions. Volunteers from the artillery Headquarters and Service Batteries made up four .50-caliber machine gun and four 2.36-inch bazooka teams and joined the infantry positions.

The infantry parked most of their miscellaneous trucks and jeeps along the road just south of the saddle. The artillerymen left their trucks concealed in yards and sheds and behind Korean houses along the road just north of Osan. There were about 1,200 rounds of artillery ammunition at the battery position and in two trucks parked inside a walled enclosure nearby. One or two truckloads more were in the vehicles parked among the houses just north of Osan. Nearly all this ammunition was high explosive (HE); only 6 rounds were high explosive antitank (HEAT), and all of it was taken to the forward gun. When the 52d Field Artillery was loading out at Sasebo, Japan, the battalion ammunition officer drew all the HEAT ammunition available there—only 18 rounds. He issued 6 rounds to A Battery, on the point of engaging in the first battle between American artillery and the Russian T34 tanks.

At the Osan position as rainy 5 July dawned were 540 Americans: 389 enlisted men and 17 officers among the infantry, and 125 enlisted men and 9 officers among the artillerymen. When first light came, the infantry test-fired their weapons and the artillerymen registered their guns. Then they ate their C ration breakfasts.

In spite of the rain Smith could see almost to Suwon. He first saw movement on the road in the distance near Suwon a little after 0700. In about half an hour a tank column, now easily discernible, approached the waiting Americans. In this first group there were eight tanks. About 0800 the men back in the artillery position received a call from the forward observer with the infantry for a fire mission.

At 0816 the first American artillery fire of the Korean War hurtled through the air toward the North Korean tanks. The number two howitzer fired the first two rounds, and the other pieces then joined in the firing. The artillery took the tanks under fire at a range of approximately 4,000 yards, about 2,000 yards in front of the American infantry. The forward observer quickly adjusted the fire and shells began landing among the tanks. But the watching infantrymen saw the tanks keep on coming, undeterred by the exploding artillery shells.

To conserve ammunition Colonel Smith issued orders that the 75-mm. recoilless rifle covering the highway should withhold fire until the tanks closed to 700 yards. The tanks stayed in column, displayed little caution not leaving the road. The commander of the enemy tank column may have thought he had encountered only another minor ROK delaying position.

General Barth had gone back to the artillery just before the enemy came into view and did not know when he arrived there that an enemy force was approaching. After receiving reports from the forward observer that the artillery fire was ineffective against the tanks, he started back to alert the 1st Battalion of the 34th Infantry, whose arrival he expected at P'yongt'aek during the night, against a probable breakthrough of the enemy tanks.

When the enemy tank column approached within 700 yards of the infantry position, the two recoilless rifles took it under fire. They scored direct hits, but apparently did not damage the tanks which, firing their 85-mm. cannon and 7.62-mm. machine guns, rumbled on up the incline toward the saddle. When they were almost abreast of the infantry position, the lead tanks came under 2.36-inch rocket launcher fire. Operating a bazooka from the ditch along the east side of the road, 2d Lt. Ollie D. Connor, fired twenty-two rockets at approximately fifteen yards' range against the rear of the tanks where their armor was weakest. Whether they were effective is doubtful. The two lead tanks, however, were stopped just through the pass when they came under direct fire of the single 105-mm. howitzer using HEAT ammunition. Likely, these artillery shells stopped the two tanks, although the barrage of close-range bazooka rockets may have damaged their tracks.

The two damaged tanks pulled off to the side of the road, clearing the way for those following. One of the two caught fire and burned. Two men emerged from its turret with their hands up. A third jumped out with a burp gun in his hands and fired directly into a machine gun position, killing the assistant gunner. This unidentified machine gunner probably was the first American ground soldier killed in action in Korea. American fire killed the three North Koreans. The six rounds of HEAT ammunition at the forward gun were soon expended, leaving only the HE shells which ricocheted off the tanks. The third tank through the pass knocked out the forward gun and wounded one of its crew members.

The tanks did not stop to engage the infantry; they merely fired on them as they came through. Following the first group of 8 tanks others came at short intervals, usually in groups of 4. These, too, went unhesitatingly through the infantry position and on down the road toward the artillery position. In all, there were 33 tanks in the column. The last passed through the infantry position by 0900, about an hour after the lead tanks had reached the saddle. In this hour, tank fire had killed or wounded approximately twenty men in Smith's position.

Earlier in the morning it was supposed to have been no more than an academic question as to what would happen if tanks came through the infantry to the artillery position. Someone in the artillery had raised this point to be answered by the

Continued on the following page

infantry, "Don't worry, they will never get back to you." One of the artillerymen later expressed the prevailing opinion by saying, "Everyone thought the enemy would turn around and go back when they found out who was fighting." Word now came to the artillerymen from the forward observer that tanks were through the infantry and to be ready for them.

The first tanks cut up the telephone wire strung along the road from the artillery to the infantry and destroyed this communication. The radios were wet and functioning badly; now only the jeep radio worked. Communication with the infantry after 0900 was spotty at best, and, about 1100, it ceased altogether.

The tanks came on toward the artillery pieces, which kept them under fire but could not stop them. About 500 yards from the battery, the tanks stopped behind a little hill seeking protection from direct fire. Then, one at a time, they came down the road with a rush, hatches closed, making a run to get past the battery position. Some fired their 85-mm cannon, others only their machine guns. Their aim was haphazard in most cases for the enemy tankers had not located the gun positions. Some of the tank guns even pointed toward the opposite side of the road. Only one tank stopped momentarily at the little trail where the howitzers had pulled off the main road as though it meant to try to overrun the battery which its crew evidently had located. Fortunately, however, it did not leave the road but instead, after a moment, continued on toward Osan. The 105-mm. howitzers fired at ranges of 150-300 yards as the tanks went by, but the shells only jarred the tanks and bounced off. Altogether, the tanks did not average more than one round each in return fire.

Three bazooka teams from the artillery had posted themselves near the road before the tanks appeared. When word came that the tanks were through the infantry, two more bazooka teams, one led by Colonel Perry and the other by Sgt. Edwin A. Eversole, started to move into position. The first tank caught both Perry and Eversole in the rice paddy between the howitzers and the highway. When Eversole's first bazooka round bounced off the turret of the tank, he said that tank suddenly looked to him "as big as a battleship." This tank fired its 85-mm. cannon, cutting down a telephone pole which fell harmlessly over Eversole who had flung himself down into a paddy drainage ditch. A 105-mm. shell hit the tracks of the third tank and stopped it. The other tanks in this group went on through. The four American howitzers remained undamaged.

After these tanks had passed out of sight, Colonel Perry took an interpreter and worked his way up close to the immobilized enemy tank. Through the interpreter, he called on the crew to come out and surrender. There was no response. Perry then ordered the howitzers to destroy the tank. After three rounds had hit the tank, two men jumped out of it and took cover in a culvert. Perry sent a squad forward and it killed the two North Koreans.

During this little action, small arms fire hit Colonel Perry in the right leg. Refusing to be evacuated, he hobbled around or sat against the base of a tree orders and instructions in preparation for the appearance of more tanks.

In about ten minutes the second wave of tanks followed the last of the first group. This time there were more, "a string of them," as one man expressed it. They came in ones, twos, and threes, close together with no apparent interval or organization.

When the second wave of tanks came into view, some howitzer crew members started to "take off." As one present said, the men were "shy about helping." Officers had to drag the ammunition up and load the pieces themselves. The senior noncommissioned officers fired the pieces. The momentary panic soon passed and, with the good example and strong leadership of Colonel Perry and 1st Lt. Dwain L. Scott before them, the men returned to their positions. Many of the second group of tanks did not fire on the artillery at all. Again, the 105-mm. howitzers could not stop the oncoming tanks. They did, however hit another in its tracks, disabling it in front of the artillery position. Some of the tanks had one or two infantrymen on their decks. Artillery fire blew off or killed most of them; some lay limply dead as the tanks went by; others slowly jolted off onto the road. Enemy tank fire caused a building to burn near the battery position and a nearby dump of about 300 rounds of artillery shells began to explode. The last of the tanks passed the artillery position by 1015. These tanks were from the *107th Tank Regiment* of the *105th Armored Division*, supporting the N.K. *4th Division*.

Colonel Perry estimates that his four howitzers fired an average of 4 to 6 rounds at each of the tanks, and that they averaged perhaps 1 round each in return. After the last tank was out of sight, rumbling on toward Osan, the score stood as follows: the forward 105-mm. howitzer, and 2.36-inch bazookas fired from the infantry position, had knocked out and left burning 1 tank and damaged another so that it could not move; the artillery had stopped 3 more in front of the battery position, while 3 others though damaged had managed to limp out of range toward Osan. This made 4 tanks destroyed or immobilized and 3 others slightly damaged but serviceable out of a total of 33.

For their part, the tanks had destroyed the forward 105-mm. howitzer and wounded one of its crew members, had killed or wounded an estimated twenty infantrymen, and had destroyed all the parked vehicles behind the infantry position. At the main battery position the tanks had slightly damaged one of the four guns by a near miss. Only Colonel Perry and another man were wounded at the battery position.

Task Force Smith was not able to use any antitank mines — one of the most effective methods of defense against tanks — as there were none in Korea at the time.

To be continued in the next issue of the Taro Leaf

Combat Infantry Badge

When a boy at age thirteen, I wanted to be an Infantryman. I never played cops and robbers, but always played games mimicking the Marine infantry hitting the beaches in the South Pacific.

At eighteen, I joined the Army requesting an infantry company. I was soon on my way to Fort Dix, New Jersey having been assigned to the 9th Infantry Division to do my basic training. Back in the late forties, most of the boys making up the U.S. Army, were poor and usually only with an eighth grade, or a few years of High School education. But we had other attributes going for us. We were strong, tough, wiry, and eager to learn.

Those of us who had looked to this moment most of our young life, took to the training like ducks taking to water. We admired our Sergeants and Officers, as most were WWII veterans. I remember the first time I saw a Combat Infantryman Badge on the dress uniform of one of our Sergeants. "What's the badge for Sarge?" I asked one of our drill sergeants. He just looked at me like, can this kid really be so stupid. "It's called the Combat Infantryman Badge. It is awarded to those who actually fought against an armed enemy of the United States in ground combat." He continued, "I hope you never get the chance to win one, but if you do you better do us who earned it, proud."

Right then and there, my young mind was made up, I wanted to earn that beautiful looking badge of honor. Only one problem, we were not at war!

After basic training, I was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division in Japan as part of the occupation army. **B CO, 21st RGT** was stationed at Camp Wood on the island of Kyushu. When I arrived at Camp Wood I was in 'hog heaven.' There we were 'real infantrymen'. Our training was under the watchful eyes of West Point officers, regular officers, and officers who were commissioned during war time, and, our tough Sergeants, who were, for the most part, WWII veterans.

Funny thing about our Sergeants, they never bragged about their combat experiences. I cannot ever recall one talking about the war. Back then in the Army, there was no fraternization. While



The Badge of Glory

*Of all the medals upon our chests
From battles and wars we knew
The one admired as the very best
Is the one of infantry blue*

*It's only a rifle upon a wreath
So why should it mean so much?
It is what it took to earn it
That gives it that Touch.*

*To earn this special accolade
You faced the enemy's fire
Whether you survived or not
God dialed that one desire.*

*For those of us who served the cause
And brought this nation glory
It's the Combat Infantryman's Badge
That really tells the story.*

©2010 Combat Infantrymen's Association

in the field, the Officers, Sergeants, and the plain soldiers, stayed pretty much to themselves, especially during meals. Closeness only occurred during training and at the rifle range.

Sounds kind of 'goofy,' but I really was a happy guy in training carrying a real weapon and learning tactics and all the other techniques taught to the ground soldier. I even enjoyed physical training (PT) held every morning after breakfast. We did our run at 0530 through the housing area where the occupants probably did not appreciate a company of soldiers running by noisily with those heavy combat boots.

As our training progressed, and I was starting to build up time as a soldier in the Infantry, I knew that getting that prize possession (CIB) was not in the picture, at least, not during this enlistment, as there were no wars. There wasn't even talk of a war. But this changed in last few

days of June, 1950. On June 30, 1950, at around 2200, I just returned from town celebrating my once a month pay day. At the Main Gate, the MP on duty inquired what company I was with. I told him "B-21st." He then told me my company had been alerted and to report immediately. As soon as I arrived my Officer told me to go to the supply room and draw ammunition and "C" rations for my squad. He really didn't tell me why. I do not think now he was sure himself what was going on.

At 0300 we were loaded aboard trucks. The flap on my truck was closed as it was raining like crazy when all of a sudden it flew open and a Catholic Chaplain stuck his head in inquiring if anyone was Catholic. Several of us nodded and he gave us the Last Rites. It wasn't until that act did I realize we were going into to a very dangerous situation. Funny thing, at that very moment, the CIB did not enter my head.

The next morning, after a seventy-five mile truck drive through heavy rain, we arrived at Itazuki AFB, boarded C-54 aircraft, and flew to Korea. I had my war, but found I was pretty scared. My 'baptism of fire' occurred on July 03 and July 04, by being strafed by the Australians on the 3rd, and by the North Koreans on the 4th. On the morning of the 5th of July, we received our first ground action. At that time, I had no idea that I had finally earned my CIB.

When I came home from that war, no one commented on my Badge except the veterans who had earned it. Sometimes they just gave a silent handshake, mostly they just inquired where you earned it.

I thought earning the Badge would be a really great award. However, my reward then and now, comes not from the Badge, but from those men who also earned it. There is a bond there that I feel is greater than the award itself. Words really do not have to be exchanged. CIB veterans know what you did to earn it and understand the price. That is really the only recognition I need.

Joe Langone, Member, 21st RGT, 16829 Acebo Drive, San Diego, CA 92128, 858 592-0159, joe.sue@worldnet.att.net

Joe was a member of Task Force Smith

Fallen Comrades

Raymond Perez passed away on Monday, September 13, 2010, in Fresno at the age of 80. He served in Korea in the **26AAA** from 1951 - 1953. He is preceded in death by his wife Ophelia. He is survived by his children, Carmen Perez, Beatrice Rivas, Frank and Michael Perez.

Guy Banner Sr., died September 10, 2010 with his beloved Nancy of twenty-five years by his side. He served as Sergeant 1st Class in the 24th Infantry Division AAA in Korea where he received a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars.

Robert J. Moore passed away August 10, 2010. He served in Korea with E CO, **19th RGT** 1951-1952.



Fred A. Erwin, age 92, passed away September 20, 2010 in the company of his loving wife of 64 years, Leila Mae. In WWII he was deployed to the Phillipines as First Sergeant with 2nd BN HQ CO, **21st RGT**. He took part in the invasion of Mindanao and the occupation of Japan.

Dr. William Carter Parker, Jr. died September 18, 2010. He served in **HQ 24th Infantry Division** in Augsburg, Germany.



Fisher Ames, 85, of Herndon, VA, died on Monday, October 4, 2010. He left The Citadel at the age of 18 to enlist for WW II where he served with the **19th RGT** as an Infantry scout, mapping Japanese positions and trails. He was discharged May 1946, after a year recuperating in an Army hospital. **Life Member 1423**

Kenneth Fretty, 81, died November 26, 2008 in Swea City, Iowa. CPL Fretty was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" Device for heroic achievement when serving with C CO, **5th RGT**. He distinguished himself by heroic action near Yongon-ni, Korea, on 19 October 1951. He is survived by his wife Norma of Grand Meadow, MN.

Edwin A. Marmon, 88, of Lake Worth, FL, passed away Sunday, October 10, 2010. At 19 years old, Edwin entered OCS at Fort Sill, OK, where he was later commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. He began his Army service as a liaison pilot for the field artillery flying Piper Cubs. He was an officer of the 19th RGT combat team. He earned the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, and the Bronze Star for service in the Philippines. He completed his service as a captain in Japan during the early months of the occupation before being discharged in December, 1945.



Frank Fantino, died September 9, 2010 in Apple Valley, CA. He was 85 years old. He served with the **19th RGT** in Hollandia, New Guinea and the Philippines 1943-1946. "My husband of 61 years will be missed by many as he was a fine man who loved his country and served with pride," said his wife, Mary Fantino, 13443 Paoha Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308-3727, 760 247-5916 **Life Member 402**.

CPL Floyd Hooper's remains were buried in November, 2010 in his hometown of Stratton, CO. Defense officials say the 27-year-old Hooper was fighting with the **19th RGT** against Chinese Communist forces in Korea, February 1951. He was captured Feb. 4, 1951, near Yangp'yong. Surviving prisoners of war said Hooper was held in a POW camp in Suan County, North Korea, where he died of malnutrition and dysentery.

Virgle A. Graham passed away on April 19, 2010. Virgle served in Korea with the **19th RGT**, where he received the Purple Heart. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Eula M. Graham, 318 Devin Dr, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464-4500, (931) 762-2166.

John W. Tate died October 20, 2010 in Mt. Washington, KY. He took basic training with the 1st BN, 19th RGT and served with the with 24th ID, 8th Army, and 566th Quartermaster in Kobe, Japan from 1946-1947. He is survived by his son, Kenny Tate, 163 East Laurel River Drive, Shepherdsville, KY 40165 k.tate@insightbb.com.



Fred Retterath was born Feb. 13, 1918 and served in the Army from 1942 to 1945. He was SSG of the Sharp Shooters of the **21st RGT** and was wounded at the Battle of Leyte. He died December 6, 2010, at the Austin Medical Center.

Robert A. "Bob" Newkirk, 21st RGT, (picture on the next page, top left; Bob attended the Buffalo Reunion) Retired Command Sergeant Major died December 6, 2010 at age 89. He enlisted in the Army on January 3, 1941 and served during the attack on Pearl Harbor and throughout the war in the Pacific. Bob was a Life Member of the Association and served as the On-site Chairman for the Association's reunion in Indianapolis in 2006. He is survived by a son Paul Allen Newkirk of Whiteland, IN and a daughter Gloria Jean Cassens of Appleton, WI.

Francois X. Therrien, LTC (Ret.), 21st RGT C CO, age 82, of Winter Springs, passed away November 10, 2010. He was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy in 1950, he served the country he loved for over 24 years. As a highly decorated US Army infantry officer he fought in many campaigns in Korea and Vietnam. He received the French *Croix de Guerre* with Palm. In addition to numerous other medals, he was awarded the Silver Star and Bronze Star. Surviving Francois is his wife of over 41 years, Yoshiko Therrien.

William H. "Pop" Thornton, Company B, 21st RGT (Task Force Smith) died 16 May 2010 in Henderson, NV. He served with the Division in Japan and departed from there for Korea in July 1950. He served during WWII, Korea and Vietnam earning two stars for the Combat Infantryman Badge. William is survived by his wife Yoshiko who resides at 1517 Plainsight Avenue, Henderson, NV 89014.

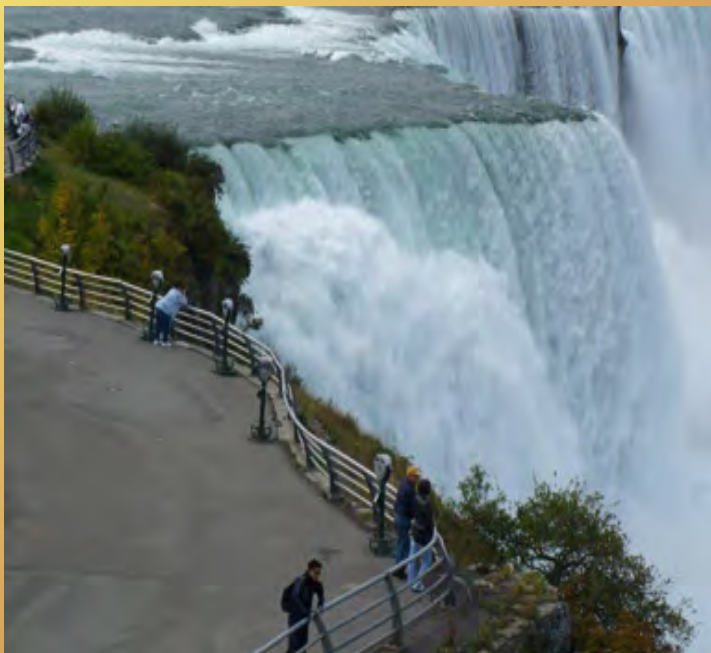
William Clyde McClure, 82, died September 8, 2010. He was a corporal in the Korean War serving with the **21st RGT HQ** 2nd BN, '51-'53. He Life member of the 3/34th-2/21st Infantry Reunion Association and 24th IDA **Life Member 1548**.

William Guthrie Howard, 92, passed away December 2, 2010. He lived at 703 West Main Street, Portland, Indiana 47371. He served with the 24th Infantry Division during World War II in the Philippines and Occupied Japan. Surviving are wife Clara, son William, and two daughters, Linda and Phyllis.



More pics From the Buffalo Reunion

Thanks to Tom Appler





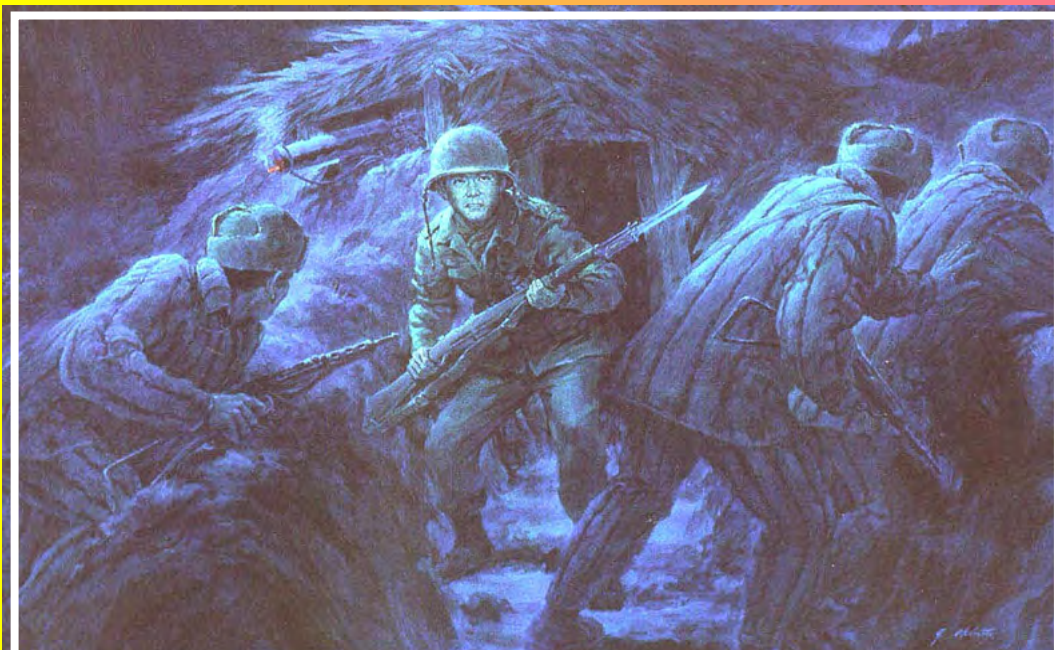
24TH INFANTRY DIVISION SOLDIER
by Peter Varisano
Saudi Arabia, 1991



A prototype of a programmable "smart" grenade launcher that uses microchips as sort of a guidance tool is being deployed in Afganistan. Specifically, the shoulder-fired weapon's projectile "finds" the enemy, even if the enemy is hidden behind a wall or other cover. **↓ Sign Below** - Origin unknown



I found the interesting artwork above on the internet, but know nothing about it other than the title shown. Can any of our readers confirm that the 24th was in Saudi Arabia at that time, or have any other related information? The same for the picture below which is apparently a confrontation between a G.I. and Chinese troops in Korea. Editor



Toripupu, Japan's oldest living kamekaze pilot, visits the U.S. and tells his story of survival. He doesn't understand why his countrymen gave him the yellow scarf as a going away "presento." (Guess who plays this fictitious character)

Central Florida 24th IDA Group/5th RCT Mini-Reunion



The Central Florida 24th IDA group teamed with the 5th RCT, especially Bill Kane and Tony Polemeni, to conduct a joint 5th reunion in St. Augustine, FL, Nov 4-7, 2010. Thirty-nine members, spouses and family members attended; all but five of the 21 members are members of the 24th IDA.

The hospitality suite was the most popular place; here memories with old friends were renewed and we all gained new friends. Saturday morning was spent in a short business meeting at which we decided to plan another joint mini-reunion tentatively planned for Nov. 3-5, 2011, also in St. Augustine.

Bill Allen, 19th RGT and POW for 31 months, presented the reunion with a POW/MIA flag. We thank Bill for freely sharing his POW experiences and for bringing copies of his book, "My old box of memories."

Tony Polemeni led the Saturday evening Banquet program, Cal Karram did the Honor Guard and POW/MIA ceremonies, and Helen Kane saw to it that everyone had a small gift to help remember the evening.

While each attendee brought very much to the reunion, we especially thank 24th Sec/Treas, John Dunn from Westover, AL, 24th VP Don Maggio, and his father-in-law,

Jakie Cauble from North Carolina; 5th RCT President Frank Jennings, and the several 5th RCT members from the northeast U.S. for coming to the Mini-Reunion. And last but not definitely not least, we thank Helen and Bill Kane, and Tony and Carol Polemeni for making the reunion a success!

Photo above is of all 33 who were at the Saturday Banquet, they are, from left: Ted and Marilyn Jansen, Tom Thiel behind them, Tony and Carol Polemeni, Jim and Becky Bradford, Jakie Cauble, Jerry and Judy White, Don Maggio, Harold and Judy Visser, George and Mary Sue Woodard, Heidi and Matthew Edgar, Don and Bettelou Perrin and kneeling in front are daughters Mary and Vera, Bill and Helen Kane, Cal and Gloria Karram, Bill and Helen Allen, Frank and Maxine Jennings, Harley and Sandy Joseph, Leon Slarskey, and Al McAdoo.

See Association web site, www.24thida.com, for more information. On the Home Page click on Central-Florida 24thIDA, and then click on Nov 2010. **Tom Thiel**, 19th RGT IR, Association web person. 24thidaweb@gmail.com or 352-357-3943.

Ladies below from laeft: Becky Bradford, Bettylou Perrin, Gloria Karram, Helen Allen, Betty Visser, Carol Polemeni, Helen Kane, Maxine Jennings, and Judy White



Hospitality Suite Photo, from left clockwise: John Dunn, Frank Jennings, Bill Kane, Harold Visser, Ron York, Don Perrin, Jakie Cauble, Tony Polemeni, Jerry White, Bill Allen, Cal Karram, and Jim Bradford.



Joan DeMundrum



Ken Campen

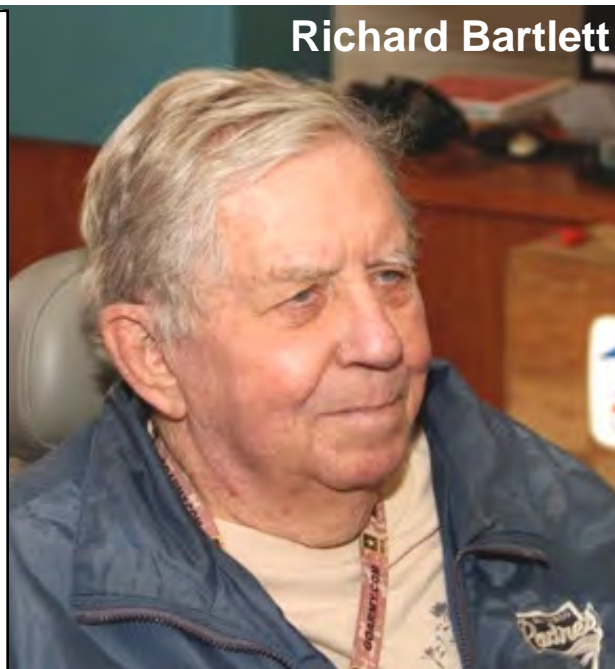


Photos on this page by Bob Francella

Chula Vista, California



Resident's Library



Richard Bartlett

U.S. VETERANS HOMES

By David J. Valley, Editor

Some of our members may currently reside in one of the many homes across the country; others may be interested or unaware of their existence.

Each state administers its own Veterans Home program under the guidance of the National Association of State Veterans Homes. State programs may vary to some degree, but basically they will be similar to the California program which is described below. To locate the Veterans Home in your state contact the Service Officer at the VA or one at your local American Legion or VFW Post. You may also check on the internet: www.nasvh.org/home/index.cfm

Typically the mission of a Veterans Home is to provide the aged or disabled veterans with rehabilitative, residential, and medical care and services in a home-like environment. First and foremost it is a place where veterans come to live. It offers complete medical and dental care amidst the amenities of a small town family atmosphere. Residents may participate in on or off-campus activities, civic affairs, or attend veterans' service organization meetings. Leisure activities include, but are not limited to dances, social events, special programs, arts and crafts, and gardening, to name a few.

Most residents may come and go as they wish or simply enjoy the peace and quiet of their rooms. The goal is to enable all residents to achieve their highest quality of life in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. The resident population is representative of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds of our service members.

To be admitted you must be over the age of 62 or disabled and must have served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States with your discharge having been honorable according to your DD214. To be accepted for residency in a Veterans Home, you must be eligible for hospitalization or domiciliary care according to the laws and regulations of USDVA. There are certain restrictions:

1. You must not have active communicable tuberculosis.
2. You must not require more care and supervision than can be provided at a VHC campus or another of your choice.

3. You must not require acute hospitalization at the time of application.

4. You must not have a primary need for acute psychiatric care.

5. You must not have a past history of violence, mental illness or a criminal record that would create a risk to yourself or other residents of VHC.

6. You must not be under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.

7. You must present proof of participation in a qualified federal, state or private health service plan, or have an application for such a plan pending.

The Veterans Home in Chula Vista rivals many of the much higher priced retirement homes in California...and the good news is that any qualified veteran can afford it. What you pay is based on a percentage of your available income, whether a lot or a little. Neal Asper, Administrator, who has worked in and seen many other homes says, "Chula Vista is in a class by itself."

Of the 305 beds funded by the State of California, only ten are awaiting new residents. The facility has capacity for about 100 more beds which are in reserve pending future funding. The administration, skilled nursing quarters, and common services building sits in the middle of a 28 acre hilltop parcel surrounded by four satellite residence quarters.

Veterans in the Chula Vista home are assigned into independent, assisted living, or skilled nursing units depending on their needs. If the condition of their health changes, they are reassigned. They occupy 2-bed rooms with an adjoining bath shared with one other room. The amount they pay for their residence is a percentage of their income, depending on the level of care. For skilled nursing it is 70%, for assisted living, 55%, and for independent living it is 47%. Residents able to drive may keep a car on the premises and come and go as they please. Profiles of some residents follow.

Joan DeMunbrun, a very active and spry woman of 97, makes her presence known as she pushes her file laden pink walker around the common areas of the

Chula Vista home. She served in the WACS during WWII and later pursued a career as a professional photographer. She was the first woman admitted into the facility when it opened in 2002. About fifty women, fixed at the percentage they represented in the military, are in residence.

Ken Campen, an 82 year-old veteran, served in WWII and Korea as an interpreter, originally for Japanese and later for Korean and Chinese languages. How does it happen that the son of immigrant Norwegians living in the Northwest becomes a linguist for Asian languages? It took rare circumstances and a natural gift for languages. Ken was raised with children of Japanese farmers in the State of Washington and readily picked up their language without giving it a thought.

After Pearl Harbor the government took away his friends and enrolled him in the Monterrey Language School. He wasn't there long before he was assigned to the Marines on Guadalcanal beginning his career as an interpreter and intelligence officer. That career went on for fifty years, officially and "unofficially." After WWII, Ken had learned Chinese and Korean. It made him a perfect choice for an intelligence assignment when the Korean War began. After the Korean War, Ken was tapped by the CIA and worked special assignments around the globe until he retired.

Richard Bartlett lied about his age in 1944 when only sixteen and joined the Merchant Marines. He was assigned to the Pacific and his ship participated in the Philippines Liberation at Leyte. After the war he was discharged and returned to his home in California contented that he had done his service for his country. But it wasn't over.

When the Korean War began Dick was drafted. After training he was assigned to the 25th ID and served in Korea from 1953-1955. Dick, like others I interviewed at Chula Vista, were very content with their decision to spend their remaining years living in this home. Especially for those without good alternatives, it is not a hard choice to make.

More on next page

VISIT YOUR STATES' VETERANS HOMES...

Whether you have a personal interest, or may have a veteran buddy in mind, check out one or more of the homes in your state. Also, you might consider visiting veterans who would welcome having someone to talk to. Call ahead and say

you are curious about the Veterans Home and would like to visit. Ask if you could meet veterans with whom you may have something in common. These guys, and ladies too, are anxious to share things with someone new. You just might

brighten the day of a lonely veteran and add a new dimension to your life. The locations are given below. For addresses and telephone numbers contact the National Assoc. of State Veterans Homes, 419 625-2454

ALEXANDER CITY, ALABAMA
BAY MINETTE, ALABAMA
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA
PALMER, ALASKA
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS
BARSTOW, CALIFORNIA
YOUNTVILLE, CALIFORNIA
CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA
HOMELAKE, COLORADO
RIFLE, COLORADO
FLORENCE, COLORADO
WALSENBURG, COLORADO
AURORA, COLORADO
ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT
MILFORD, DELAWARE
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA
LAKE CITY, FLORIDA
LAND-O-LAKES, FLORIDA
PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA
SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA
PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA
MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA
HILO, HAWAII
BOISE, IDAHO
LEWISTON, IDAHO
POCATELLO, IDAHO
LA SALLE, ILLINOIS
MANTENO, ILLINOIS
ANNA, ILLINOIS
QUINCY, ILLINOIS
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA
MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA
FORT DODGE, KANSAS
WINFIELD, KANSAS
HAZARD, KENTUCKY
WILMORE, KENTUCKY
HANSON, KENTUCKY
JACKSON, LOUISIANA
MONROE, LOUISIANA
JENNINGS, LOUISIANA
BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA
RESERVE, LOUISIANA

AUGUSTA, MAINE
BANGOR, MAINE
CARIBOU, MAINE
SCARBOROUGH, MAINE
SOUTH PARIS, MAINE
MACHIAS, MAINE
CHARLOTTE HALL, MARYLAND
CHELSEA, MASSACHUSETTS
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA
HASTINGS, MINNESOTA
LIVERNE, MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
SILVER BAY, MINNESOTA
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
COLLINS, MISSISSIPPI
OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI
KOSCIUSKO, MISSISSIPPI
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI
MEXICO, MISSOURI
MT. VERNON, MISSOURI
ST. JAMES, MISSOURI
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
WARRENSBURG, MISSOURI
CAMERON, MISSOURI
COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA
GLEN DIVE, MONTANA
NORFOLK, NEBRASKA
BELLEVUE, NEBRASKA
SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA
GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA
BOULDER CITY, NEVADA
TILTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
VINELAND, NEW JERSEY
MENLO PARK-EDISON, NJ
JERSEY PARAMUS, NEW JERSEY
FORT BAYARD, NEW MEXICO
TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES,
NM MONTROSE, NEW YORK
BATAVIA, NEW YORK
OXFORD, NEW YORK
STONY BROOK, NEW YORK
JAMAICA, NEW YORK
FAYETTEVILLE, NO. CAROLINA

SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
LISBON, NORTH DAKOTA
SANDUSKY, OHIO
GEORGETOWN, OHIO
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA
CLAREMORE, OKLAHOMA
TALIHINA, OKLAHOMA
CLINTON, OKLAHOMA
SULPHUR, OKLAHOMA
LAWTON, OKLAHOMA
THE DALLES, OREGON
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA
SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
JUANA DIAZ, PUERTO RICO
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
WALTERBORO, SO. CAROLINA
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA
HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA
MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE
HUMBOLDT, TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
BONHAM, TEXAS
TEMPLE, TEXAS
AMARILLO, TEXAS
FLORESVILLE, TEXAS
EL PASO, TEXAS
McALLEN, TEXAS
BIG SPRING, TEXAS
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
BENNINGTON, VERMONT
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
ORTING, WASHINGTON
RETSIL, WASHINGTON
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON
BARBOURSVILLE, W. VIRGINIA
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA
KING, WISCONSIN
UNION GROVE, WISCONSIN
BUFFALO, WYOMING



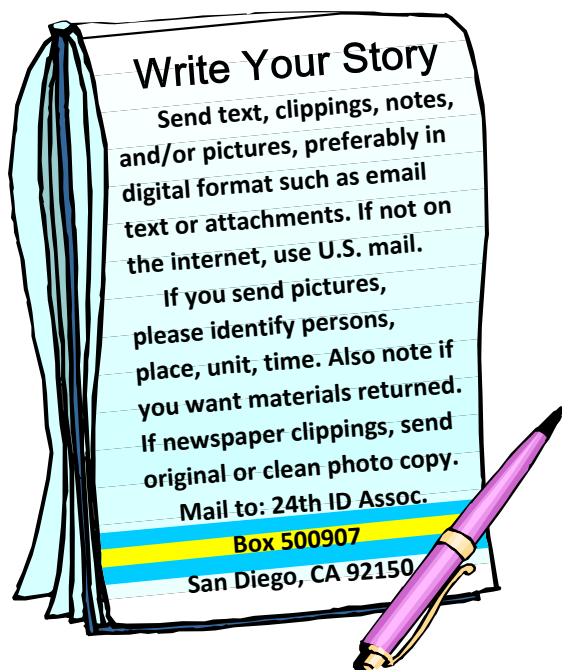
Silver Star Awarded to Earl W. Dahnke

Private Earl W. Dahnke, a member of Company D, **21st RGT** was awarded the Silver Star (posthumously) for gallantry in action on 10 July 1950 near Chonui, Korea.

Private Dahnke had returned from Chochiwon to the 1st Battalion Motor Pool in his truck loaded with mortar and machinegun ammunition. He was aware that the enemy had penetrated forward positions and had set up a road block between the Battalion motor pool and his company.

Realizing the hazard of running a road block with live ammunition and in spite of the fact that his immediate superior informed him that he did not have to go forward, Private Dahnke, knowing the desperate need for ammunition by his unit volunteered to drive his truck loaded with ammunition to the front lines. In his attempt to do so he was killed.

Private Dahnke's display of courage, fortitude and valor reflect the highest credit on himself and the United States Army. GO 71, 6 Aug 1950. Dahnke entered service from Roseville, MI.



OPERATION NOMAD

Editor, VFW Magazine

Thank you for highlighting the Korean War in your June 2010 edition of the VFW Magazine.

Members of the 24th Infantry Division have done exhaustive research regarding a little-known battle called **Operation Nomad**, which overlapped and/or coincided with Heartbreak Ridge and Operation Commando in October, 1951.

Public outcry over the bloodletting in the fall of 1951 led to censorship regarding **Operation Nomad**, so it's not surprising this battle failed to make it into the history books. Unfortunately, it was also missing from your list of deadliest battles on page 20.

The 24th Division took 1,846 casualties in this action, with 308 men either killed in action, dying from their wounds or declared dead. (This does not include casualties taken by the attached Columbian battalion.)

By studying the 24th ID's General Orders, Purple Heart awards were discovered for an additional 46 men who are not carried on the official casualty lists, including NARA's website.

One prominent example is **Woodrow Keeble** (also covered in your June issue), who received his MOH (plus a Silver Star) in **Operation Nomad**. Official casualty lists do not reveal Keeble as a casualty, yet morning reports, first-hand accounts, photos and his actual Purple Heart reveal he was multiply wounded on three separate days in Op Nomad, including 2 bullet wounds in his left arm, a dud grenade that broke his nose, 81 pieces of shrapnel from a concussion grenade and other shrapnel wounds to his chest and both legs.

Attached is a photo of him still suffering from his wounds after rotating back to Japan in 1952. It's fair to say there are hundreds, if not thousands, of men like Keeble missing from the "official" casualty lists of wounded.

Members of the 24th ID would be pleased to see **Operation Nomad** covered in a future issue of your wonderful magazine. **Merry Helm, 24th IDA Historian**

Merry received this response from the VFW Magazine:

Merry: Operation Nomad was not included on the deadliest battle list because it was an operation (a series of battles in an offensive), not a single battle. Dick Ecker's book shows 223 KIA for the 24th Div. between Oct. 13-22 in operations Nomad and Polar combined (p. 125).

Kelly Von Lunen, Senior Writer, VFW Magazine

Volunteer Researcher Wanted

Merry Helm, is looking for someone to search the records of the 24th Division which are located Eisenhower Library, Abilene, Kansas. If you can help, please call her.

701 293-5045 email: 52pianos@cablone.net.

A Lucky Dogfoot of WWII

The following account is from the unpublished memoir of Jacob "Jake" Meier, who died in 2008. It can be found in its entirety with its dozens of photographs on our website www.24thida.com. It is a stirring first-person account by the "dogfoot" who served as a medic for the 81mm Mortar PLT, 3rd BN, 19th RGT. He saved many lives while frequently risking his own in New Guinea, the Central Pacific, and Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Philippine Liberation Medal.



Now was the time for the big one that General Douglas MacArthur was waiting for. The Return to the Philippines. The way had been cleared, the Japanese were annihilated in the Southwest Pacific, and they had lost most of their naval air power. What navy warships that they had left were pulled back to defend the Philippines and their homeland.

The dispute between Nimitz and MacArthur was on again; whether to invade Formosa first or the Philippines. When that was decided, if the Philippines were first, should the island of Mindanao, which was 300 miles away, be first or should it be the island of Leyte. Admiral "Bull" Halsey suggested to Admiral Nimitz that the island of Leyte was wide open, which it wasn't, and should be the one. It was passed on to President Roosevelt and he agreed; the Leyte invasion was moved up two months to October 20th.

An invasion force was formed at Admiralty Island and in the area of Hollandia, including us in the 24th Division, the 1st Cavalry Division, the 96th Division, and the 7th Division. The U.S. Seventh Fleet and the U.S. Third Fleet, an armada of 17 fleet aircraft carriers, 12 battleships, 28 cruisers, 150 destroyers, and hundreds of other ships must have added up to 800 or more vessels. Wherever you looked, there were ships. It looked like we were in for something really big. And we found out, after we got out a few hundred miles, of the over a thousand miles that we had to go until we got to our destination, it was the center of Leyte in the Philippine Islands.

At dawn on the morning of October 20, 1944, we were in the Leyte Gulf on Leyte's east coast. The big battleships were shelling the beaches. What a sight and what a racket as the infantry was crawling down the rope ladders of the troop transports into the LCVs (Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel). Just before the first waves got to the beaches, the shelling stopped. The trees along the shores were stripped of their branches; they looked like large toothpicks standing there.

The sea was fairly rough the morning of the landing. We had to climb down over the side of the transport, a Liberty-type ship, on those rope-type ladders into the landing craft while carrying a 60 pound backpack. The craft bobbed up and down two to three feet. Besides the packs, the infantry also had to carry their weapons and ammunition; the mortar platoon had to carry their barrels, bases, and some shells.

We went in circles between the transports and the beachheads with everyone in their landing craft, and then took off for our designated areas to land. We were to land on Red Beach One. After circling, we formed a wave on Red Beach One. After circling, we formed a wave, or line, before going to the beach. I was in the third wave with the 81mm Mortar Platoon in one of the LCIs. We were luckier than the second wave. The first wave got through all right, but by the time the second wave came through, the Japanese were zeroed in and wiped out most of the wave. Before they reloaded and fired, we snuck through. But we did get some splash from the shells now and then. I looked over the boat one time and saw one of the craft get hit. From then on I kept my head down. A thirty-nine year old aidman of our Battalion Aid Station told me the morning before we got off the troop ship that he had a feeling that he wasn't going to make it and, sure enough, I heard that the boat that he was on had sunk and he had drowned.

While the shelling of the beaches was going on, a lone small Japanese plane flew over the landing force from one end to the other, and made it without being hit although it seemed like every ship was firing at it. The sky was full of shell bursts.

After I got on the beach, I couldn't find anyone of the platoon, let alone the Aid Station. I thought that they were either lying face down on their tummies, or they might have gone inland. So, I followed some advancing infantrymen, thinking that I might find someone that I recognized. After all, it would be better to get off the beach in case they started shelling. There wasn't much gunfire at that time, so I kept following. When going through a swamp, a fellow not far ahead was shot in the calf of his leg, so I tied a bandage around it. As I did that, an officer came by and asked who I was and what I doing up there on the very front. I told him I was looking the M Company or the men in our Aid Station. He said that I had better go back to the beach; they would most likely be there.

When I got back, things were really popping. Some Japanese had waited in a cement pillbox until then to do their work, which was to pin everyone down in their line of fire, which was usually in one arc and direction. I didn't know it until I crossed their line of fire and was in a shell hole by a building with some other GIs. Every now and then they would fire some rounds with their machine guns and the chips would fly from near the bottom of the building. A bulldozer came along, but they stopped that too. Someone eventually crept up from the back side and threw a hand grenade into the opening for their guns. That put an end to that. After I was sure that they had finished off the enemy, I crawled out of the hole and found my outfit. They had been pinned down and were still back by the shore.

When this was over, we moved inland a ways further, except those who stayed behind to guard the beach and the unloading of the supplies. We set up a perimeter for the night. While doing this and digging our foxholes, the fellow digging next to me was shot in the head by a Japanese sniper who was hiding in a ditch in tall grass. Seeing this, I figured that I had better dig myself a deep foxhole, which I did.

Did I get some sleep that night? Not a wink. There was too much going on, not so much on account of the Japanese, but our own trigger-happy men. One was killed because he decided

to get out of his foxhole and go over to the tank to get something or other. After all the preaching we had had about wandering around at night, he should at least have known not to get up and go for a walk at night, for any reason. There were a couple of other instances when someone lost his life that way. Two were new recruits, or replacements, walking down the trail to have an early morning BM and triggered a Bouncing Betty that had been placed along the trail to get an enemy soldier in case he came sneaking along. The other one was on Samar Island just outside of Davao City, on Mindanao. We knew immediately what happened when we heard the explosion.

Next came the task of clearing the Japanese from the island. The infantry was up early and had moved out. They hadn't gotten very far, maybe a half mile when the enemy stopped them. The casualties were coming in pretty regularly. I didn't know until forty years later that our head doctor had panicked and taken off for the rear, leaving our staff sergeant in charge. Because of that, our chaplain recommended that the Silver Star be awarded to the Sergeant, and he received it.

The enemy repulsed our advance and we had to retreat. After the infantry returned, they said that there was still a wounded man who needed to be brought in for treatment. Three other aidmen and I were asked to get him. Would you believe that there was no one out there to protect us? We didn't know that, so out we went into a wide, open area. We hurried along and finally found a fellow by a tree, his hands as well as his rifle shot to pieces. He had been dead for some time. We thought that he couldn't be the guy who we were to get, so we went on looking the area over, but found no one.

All this time the enemy was still where they had been when they stopped our infantry. Late in the afternoon, after the infantry had brought up some light tanks, they took another stab at it. After a fellow on the tank had his head blown off; they had suffered more casualties and were driven back again.

I was following along, and I'll never forget the cracking of the bullets from the Japanese machine guns, like lighting a whole bunch of firecrackers. And it sounded like they were all around my head. Then I came upon a fellow that had just been hit in the most unusual place, right through the middle of his private. All the while I was bandaging him to stop the bleeding, he kept crying. And, I could understand why. I hadn't realized that the bullets were coming that low.

When I saw men coming back, I could understand; so we all went back to our foxholes for the night. The next morning they tried again in the same direction, but the Japanese had pulled back to put up another stand. We moved on and were able to take the bridge and cross the river by mid-afternoon, and also captured the town of Palo. We set up our aid station in the Catholic Church that was in town and not far from the end of the bridge, and dug our foxholes around the outside of the church. The infantry put machine gun and anti-tank positions at the street intersections of the town.

This night the Japanese were on the offensive and gave us a taste of their banzai attack, while we were on the defensive. They were able to come across the bridge that night, take one of our machine gun emplacements, and started using our own gun on us. But one of the men that was with our four that were in the emplacement played dead and shot the Japanese.

A nineteen year-old and Jake Stoltz, a good friend of mine, was among those who were guarding the east end of the bridge when the Japanese started to come. They held out as long as they could by blasting them with their Tommy guns as they came around the bridge abutment. As soon as their heads came up over the abutment, they let them have it. The nineteen year old said the barrel of his gun was covered with blood and brains.

After they saw they couldn't hold out any longer, they jumped into the river and floated downstream a mile and a half. The nineteen year old made his way back the next morning before noon. When Stoltz didn't return, a patrol was sent out to look for him. When they found him, he was buried in a foot and a half of dirt with only his hands and forearms showing. The fingers were scorched, and his body punctured by bayonets.

The Japanese suffered heavy losses the night of the banzai attack compared to our losses, so on the morning after, their corpses were gathered and placed in the corners of the intersections. They were piled up about four feet high and then hauled away in dump trucks to be buried. They had gathered some of their own and put them in a pile and burned them. Our wounded were taken to the Cathedral for first aid and then out the bay to a hospital ship. Those that couldn't come back soon were sent to Hollandia or back to the States.

The morning after the banzai attack, a lone Japanese bomber or troop plane flew over and was shot down by a gunner on a tank with a 20mm anti-aircraft cannon. You could see the tracers coming closer and closer until it started to smoke. When the tracers got to the plane, everyone cheered with shouts when it started to spiral down.

I learned later that Lew Ayres had come to the church where we set up our aid station (as a field hospital), as an orderly or male nurse. Since the war, I've seen a picture of the inside of the church after it was changed to a hospital. After a few days there to make sure that the Japanese were cleared out, we moved out on a road that cut across the island.

During this time, about three days after we landed on Leyte, the battle between the U.S. and the Japanese Navy was going on. It was to be the finish of the threat of their Navy. A lot of their biggest warships were sunk or crippled, plus a lot of their air force. We heard this commotion going on out by the gulf but didn't know that the Japanese Navy came so close to wiping us out before we got through with our advance to Palo. I didn't know this until I read about it after I was back.

The Navy almost blew it; they got their signals crossed. The main Naval Task Force had taken off to the north to search for one of the Japanese forces said to be coming south. They left a small force by Leyte Gulf to protect the landing parties. Thank God, the Japanese fleet commanders got into a disagreement too, or the outcome of the war could have been a different story. The southern Japanese force came through the Surigao Strait, and the central force came through the San Bernardino Strait, north of Leyte, and were to come around and into the Leyte Gulf. The Japanese got clobbered on the way in the Sibuyan Sea and in the Mindanao Sea by our planes and PT boats, and were crippled by the time they got to outside of Leyte Gulf.

There will be another installment in the next issue. For those with internet access, you can read the entire story along with it extensive documentation on our website: www.24thida.com.

24TH DIVISION OCCUPATION REPORTS

Okoyama, Honshu, Japan

Kevin M. Woods, while doing research at Ft. Leavenworth came across Army Monthly Reports of the 24th Division during their occupation duty on the southern Japanese islands of Shikoku and Honshu. I have extracted many of the more interesting anecdotal accounts to give readers a sense of what the troops were doing and the experiences of the newly invaded Japanese people. Editor

MAY REPORT, 1946

Riots and Disorders

Koreans continued to cause civil disturbances during May. Usually the trouble exists between the Koreans and Japanese but one incident occurred which involved two Korean Societies fighting between themselves. An argument over the share received by the smaller group resulted in two fights in which three persons were seriously injured. The area was placed under the close surveillance of the 34th Infantry.

On 10 May, about 0130, two Koreans attempted to steal some of the personal belongings of a group of repatriated Japanese soldiers in Okayama. A fight between about twenty Koreans and thirty Japanese ensued which required fifteen Japanese police to quell. There were no occupational troops involved.

While investigating blackmarket activities on the night of 13 May in Katsuyama, thirty miles northwest of Okayama, several Japanese police were attacked by three Koreans and one Jap. Two of the policemen were wounded by pistol shots. All of the assailants were captured. They had come from Kobe City in search of blackmarket rice and had been previously involved in blackmarket activities and robberies in Kobe. They were held for trial. Chinese nationals were involved in misconduct during May. The 36th Military

Government reported that some Chinese illegally seized tobacco and cigarettes from two warehouses in southern Okayama Ken, and that a third attempt was foiled. On one occasion the Japanese Police apprehended the offenders and returned the stolen property. This situation is being watched.

Civilian Attitude

The trials of the Japanese war criminals are not passing unnoticed by the people. An editorial in the *Kochi Shinbun*, 1 May 1946, entitled "Know Yourself" attempted to show the people the errors of the late war. The editorialist stated that: "The lack of knowledge of America's huge productive capacity was one reason for the reckless Pacific War. When the war began, the people eyes and ears were covered so they did not know the real facts of the war. Have the Japanese ever once been told the true history of Japan? The truth of Japanese history has been distorted. We must not only rewrite the past history but the present history, for we are making history. The war criminal investigations which will open within a few days will teach us actual Japanese history. We must learn from this the right steps to take in the future. To the Japanese the maxim 'Know Yourself' is most important."

A resident in Himeji City, Kusanabe, in talking about the trials said he believed General Tojo should be given the death penalty which was what most of the Japanese people wanted as his sentence.

Sawata, the public prosecutor of the police department in Himeji City, declared that because the Emperor is the only one that the Japanese people trust and obey it would be unwise to 'try' him as a war criminal. He added that the people do not hold Hirohito responsible

for the war as they feel that he was ill-advised and misled by his counsels.

Interrogations relative to the new American Provost Courts in the vicinity of Okayama revealed the people have accepted them as equitable. Several defendants stated that they received just consideration and they liked the fact that they could present their own cases.

A 21st Infantry patrol reported that it encountered a road block of about twenty boulders near Kurayoshi, twenty three miles west of Tottori City. Four Japanese boys were arrested and confessed having set up the boulders. It was also noted by the patrol that the people of the community were unfriendly and uncooperative. CIC continued investigating the incident and civilian attitude.

Intelligence Targets

The 178th Bomb Disposal Squad kept busy in May. During the first week of the month the Squad finished disposing 196 tons of Picric Acid in Futake, Honshu. On 11 May the Squad moved to Hayoshino, Honshu from where approximately 160 tons of bulk Picric Acid were shipped. Additional demolition tasks were assumed in Kasaoka. A total of 446 tons of Japanese explosives were destroyed, and 440 tons were shipped to the 25th Division's burning grounds.

Japanese factories continued to come under the scrutiny of American patrols. The 11th Field Artillery Battalion checked Mitsubishi Mining Company in Naoshima, eight miles north of Takamatsu, which produced copper, zinc, and sulphuric acid during the war and is now producing copper sulphate and other copper compounds.

The 21st Infantry investigated the Kurashiki Industrial Company in Tamashima, southwest of Okayama which was engaged in turning out 2000 engine parts and 500 oil pumps per month while the war was in progress. It is now producing spinning machine parts, flour grinding machines, and it also repairs printing and weaving machines.

The 19th Infantry reported on the Aizan Factory in Mishima, Kochi which manufactured silk during the war and is still producing that commodity although the output has been reduced by about forty pounds per month.

A detachment of thirty-eight men and two officers from the 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop patrolled a portion of Tottori Ken and was instrumental in opening up the Shino Manufacturing Company. In the factory there were 250,000 .70mm shell casings awaiting disposal. Details were straightened out and the company started in operation converting the casings into farming implements.

Failure to Comply with Surrender

The 21st Infantry reported that on the night of 2 May a group of Japanese were observed dumping some weapons into the Asahi River in Okayama. Three of the party were caught and it was disclosed that the arms had come from the Okayama Post Office. The vice postmaster had received orders from postal headquarters in Hiroshima to destroy all military training equipment and he ordered Watanabe Cho, an employee, to carry out the directive. Watanabe destroyed all of the wooden items but said he did not know how to dispose of the metal weapons so he hid them under the steps in the post office until he decided to dump them into the river. A total of fifty rifles, fifty-one bayonets, one grenade discharger and two light machine guns were recovered. Watanabe was held for trial and all other individuals involved were questioned and then released.

An anonymous letter led a patrol from the 19th Infantry to investigate the police station in Mishima, twenty miles north-east of Matsuyama. In the rear of the station in a sand bank forty-four shotguns were found. The explanation for the presence of the guns was that they had been turned in by the civilians and stored in the police station and concealed at the time of the collection of weapons so as to avoid trouble with the Occupation Forces. The weapons were confiscated and three of the policemen were held pending trial.

Eight Japanese were given a mass trial by the first American Provost Court in Okayama. The accused were the principal and seven teachers of the Kurashiki Shoko School in Kurashiki. They were charged with giving false and misleading information, and also refusing to divulge information to members of the American Forces on official business. The verdict was guilty for each of the defendants. The principal was fined ten thousand yen and sentenced to serve six months in jail pending approval of the Commanding General, 24th Division. The teachers were given suspended sentences of six months and fined from 1000 to 5000 yen.

An investigation of the Niima Agricultural and Forestry School thirty-three miles northwest of Okayama by the 36th Military Government revealed obvious violations of SCAP directives. The school officials had failed to turn in four light machine guns, 103 bayonets, and sixty rifle barrels saying that they were to be made into farming tools. Also found were 300 glider sets, thirty-one wooden rifles used in bayonet training, ten kendo sets, and numerous books which had been banned by SCAP. The citizens of Niima had formed a militaristic organization designed to foster the nationalistic spirit and their policies were to be inculcated into the children through the use of the school facilities in the community. The 36th MG placed the town under close watch and started an investigation in order to reveal the people responsible for these activities.

CIC investigated a large stock of gasoline and alcohol which was in the possession of the Okayama Police Department. It was revealed that the supplies had been transferred to the police by the Japanese Army in August and September 1945 to avoid reporting them to Occupational authorities. Also uncovered were five tons of duralumin which had been purchased illegally from the Japanese Navy in October 1945.

The Commerce and Industry Department of Okayama was aware of the transaction in March 1946 and confiscated the goods. Disposition of the supplies will be made after further investigation.

Miscellaneous

Numerous (explosive) mines continued to appear, especially in the vicinity of Shikoku. Two mines floated ashore five miles southeast of Kochi and exploded, injuring two Japanese. Nine mines were found on the shore near Orino, forty-seven miles southwest of Kochi, and a police guard was set up around them pending disposal.

Several aerial bombs dropped by Allied planes which failed to explode have been reported in the vicinity of Okayama Park, Okayama.

The 21st Infantry located seven fire bombs and five magnesium bombs. The 19th Regiment disclosed the discovery of nine 500-pound missiles south of Mt. Toyouke near Mishima City, Shikoku. The 11th Division Artillery revealed that a one-hundred pound incendiary bomb was found in a rice field near Himoji City that was dropped by an American plane 4 July 1945.

The 24th MPs destroyed 177 bottles of poison sake which several of the local cabarets in Okayama had been selling. The cabarets in question were prohibited from dispensing any more sake. There was no indication of sabotage or willful destruction during May, nor was any vital terrain information reported.

Continued, next page.

JUNE REPORT

Riots and Disorders

The 24th Division had found little if any violent display of emotions by the Japanese against its troops prior to moving to Kyushu, but on this Island several incidents occurred in this vein. The 21st Infantry reported that on the night of 17 June in the Public Park in Kumamoto City rocks were thrown at some American soldiers. None of the offenders were caught but it is believed that they may have been school boys opposed to fraternization between the soldiers and Japanese girls.

Steps were immediately inaugurated to prevent future occurrences of these disorders. There were no more reports received concerning Kumamoto but the 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop disclosed that one of its members was attacked 23 June in Moji, near Kokura, by four Japanese men but the soldier escaped unharmed. The motives of the assailants again were attributed to fraternization as the victim had earlier in the evening escorted a Japanese girl to a dance. None of the Japanese were apprehended.

The 24th Reconnaissance Troop reported that in Moji a Japanese youth was apprehended for slapping a Japanese girl and stealing her purse. Interrogations revealed that the boy disliked fraternization and that the girl had been associating with American soldiers.

Civilian Affairs

The food shortage continued as one of the most serious problems faced by the Japanese people. In addition to the fact that food is scarce the mis-appropriating of rations and blackmarket activities increased the burden of the officials who attempted to alleviate the shortage by equitable distribution. And yet one instance can be shown in which the officials of Shimonoseki City allowed approximately 4000 pounds of potatoes to rot due to the heat.

In the case of at least one manufacturing concern, Bridgestone Tire Company Ltd.

in Kurume twenty miles south of Fukuoka City, the lack of food caused absenteeism from work to become more prevalent during the month. There have been no indications that the Japanese hold the American Forces responsible for the food situation. The arrival of the 24th Division on Kyushu placed heavy demands on Japanese labor and it soon developed that the Japanese Government was forcing families in the Kokura City area to meet the needs to the extent of the people either taking time off from their regular jobs or hiring someone to work in their places. The people complained, and when brought to the attention of the MG the Japanese officials were informed that the Army did not want a Labor policy pursued that created a hardship on individual households.

The 21st Infantry reported that the civilian population in many rural areas of Kumamoto Ken seemed to show a slight degree of fear of the American Forces but it was believed that this was nothing more than a form of curiosity concerning the newly arrived Occupation Troops.

The political life of the Japanese continued in an unstable stage of transition from imperialism to democracy. The Saga Shimbun, Saga Prefecture 15 June 1946, carried an editorial which stated: "It is to be regretted that there still exists a portion of the public which has the mistaken idea that democracy cannot be realized without a show of violence. Such persons must consider the fact that demonstrations of this sort may have the opposite effect on the general public."

An editorialist writing in The Kumamoto Nichinichi Shimbun, 17 June 1946 remark-ed, "The true meaning of democracy has not yet been fully grasped by the public, especially the younger people who tend to go the extremes in its support. Democracy must be put to practice as a guiding principle in daily life."

This same newspaper presented an editorial on 20 June 1946 concerning the new Japanese constitution. It declared, "What we expect now is not merely a revision of the Constitution, but rather

the enactment of a new Constitution based upon democratic ideas." And the Mianichi Shimbun, Fukuoka Prefecture, 23 June 1946 said, "that the Diet members must be given freedom of expression or else they will merely become a repetition of the past Diet sessions conducted in a feudalistic manner." The Japanese are blundering along but it seems that their intentions are very sincere to form a new-democratic government.

Intelligence Targets

The 21st Infantry reported on the Kyushu Sangyo Company Ltd., in Fukuoka City. The plant has completely converted from the war-time manufacture of airplane parts to the turning out of prefabricated houses. The 24th Division Artillery investigated several factories in the Fukuoka area one of which was the Nishihara Iron Works which produced airplane fuel and oil tanks during the war but is now manufacturing 600 bicycles a month.

Provost Courts

On the very first day that the 24th Division assumed occupation responsibility for Kyushu a Provost Court was held for the trial of six Japanese youths. All of the offenders were found guilty of being implicated in the stealing of ninety-five cartons of cigarettes from the 24th Division PX warehouse. The sentences ranged from two years at hard labor to a 500 yen fine and six months imprisoned. The ringleader and two other youths remained at large at the time of the trial but the former was apprehended within a few days. An article in the Mainichi Shimbun and the Asahi Shimbun, both dated 17 June 1946 told the people, "Although yesterday's trial was the first of its kind to be held in Kokura, it served as a grim warning to all Japanese."

Our thanks to LTC Kevin M. Woods, Life Member 2153, 3458 Grambell Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22192-1729. 703-499-8040, kevinmwoods@gmail.com. He served with the 1-24th Attack Helicopter BN 24th Aviation RGT, 1988-1992

The Last Few Days by Goldy Norton*

The attack was going very well.
We gained miles of ground each day.
My crew was really working hard;
No time for rest or play.

We moved up with the doughboys
Stringing wire as we went.
We kept communications;
We know how much they meant.

It was really hell for seven days
We hardly slept or ate.
But everything was going swell,
So we were feeling great.

The Chinks were not just giving up
They had mortars and let us know
And snipers raised a lot of hell
But we were on the go.

The Reds were getting desperate
They had to act – but quick
They decided on a daring plan
And brother – it was slick

They hit us in our rear C.P.s
One night when things were still.

We all were resting peacefully
When Hell broke loose on the hill.

They started coming – wave by wave.
We fought ‘em off as best we could.
Our gunners really had some fun
They had the Chinks stacked up like wood.

By dawn the attack was broken up
And we began to push them back.
But then they didn't want to fight
They began to surrender, pack by pack.

Our casualties were not too high
But theirs sure were, without a doubt.
And then I got a sudden call ---
“Back to the battalion – they're moving out.”

So back we went to lay more wire
We worked steadily through the day.
When darkness came, we still weren't through.
We were really earning our pay.

But finally the job was done
We went back to try to sleep
Had I known then, what I know now
I'd have counted a million sheep

I was really in for a great surprise
When I awoke the following day
They told me I was going home
Back to the good old U.S.A.

No more wire for quite a while
No more snipers, no more toil
No more mortars to make you dive
And come up with a mouthful of Korean soil.

No more being with the gang
The finest guys I ever knew.
No more bugging out for Seoul,
Before we took the damn place, too.

A lot sure happened, both good and bad
During those few short days in May,
And though it seems strange, it is still my wish
To remember it all till my dying day.

*Goldy Norton, Life 2279, 6200 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1112, Los Angeles, CA 90048 *Known in the Army as Norton Goldstein*



24th IDA Annual Fund Raiser

This program using direct mail coupons which has been run by Glenn Carpenter, Jr. has raised thousands of dollars to add to our meager coffers. We sincerely appreciate the contributions of members who have generously supported the program. At the national reunion, according to tradition, the names of ten donors were selected and are shown below.

Winners of the 2010 Donation Program

Gonzales, Wanda	34th RGT
Mathews, John D.	724th MNT
Sambaceti, Lou	unknown
Nast, Hilja	34th RGT
Hughes, Jack E.	34th RGT
Boatman, William	34th RGT
Boatman, William	34th RGT
Nicholson, Carl R.	724 ORD
Reddish, Art	3rd ENG
Wahlmark, Lauren	21st RGT

Thanks to Daniel J. Rickert, 3rd Combat Engrs. BN, for sending this photo of the Arlington grave marker of SGT Libby who was the first MOH winner of the Korean War. Daniel reminds us to support the Arlington Memorial (see page 34). Don says he hopes to see us at the West Coast Reunion in Laughlin, NV, March 27-30, 2011.

Dan's telephone number is 949 215-7553

FINANCIAL REPORT by John Dunn, Sec'y-Treas

Income	FY 2009	FY 2010
Membership Dues	\$10,085.00	\$9,285.00
Full Life Payments	\$2,400.00	\$1,800.00
Reunion Donations	\$20,400.00	\$16,962.94
Interest Income	\$804.24	\$175.46
Partial Life Payments	\$1,215.00	\$905.00
Donations	\$7,504.02	\$5,731.24
Assoc. Member Dues	\$555.00	\$325.00
Dan's Keeble Drive	\$3,226.00	\$0.00
OM Sales	\$4,360.25	\$0.00
Total Income	\$50,549.51	\$36,684.64
Expenses		
General Office	\$6,343.02	\$1,639.45
Taro Leaf Publication	\$29,160.37	\$21,590.40
Returned Taro Leafs	\$111.35	\$0.00
Reunion Expense	\$670.77	\$4,365.33
Drawing Payout	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00
Misc. \$23.00 \$0.00		
Liability Insurance	\$750.00	\$750.00
Accounting Fees	\$1,115.00	\$1,150.00
OM Expenses	\$4,215.95	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$47,389.46	\$33,495.18
NET INCOME	\$3,160.05	\$3,189.46

Fiscal Year: August 1 to July 31

Editor's Style Sheet (Ammended)

Standard nomenclature for designating Army ranks and units was introduced in the previous issue. Thanks to a reader's advice the listings were not totally accurate or complete and have been corrected.

General Officers

BG: Brigadier General - 1 star
MG: Major General - 2 star
LTG: Lieutenant General - 3 star
GEN: Chief of Staff - 4 star
GA: General of the Army - 5 star
 (only in times of war)

Enlisted Ranks

PVT or E-2: Private
PFC or E-3: Private First Class
CPL or E-4: Corporal
SGT or E-5: Sergeant
SSG or E-6: Staff Sergeant
SFC or E-7: Sergeant First Class
MSG or E-8: Master Sergeant
1SGT or E-8: First Sergeant
SGM or E-9: Sergeant Major
CSM or EA-9: Command Sergeant Major
SMA: Sergeant Major of the Army

NEW MEMBER	UNIT	SERVICE/NOTE
Baumgardner, James C.	555 MP Bn	Korea 53-54
Boyd, George W.	24th	Germany 66-68
Burgess, John M.	13th Arty SVC	Germany 64-67
Butler, John F.	3rd Brg HHQ	Germany 68-69
Cunningham, Paul	11th FA A CO	Japan 46-47
DeCarlo, Michael D.	2nd RGT A CO	Germany 59-61
Elliott, Michael A.	724 ORD A CO	Germany 58-60
Englesson, Pauline (A)	Sister	of Christ Franqus, KIA, '43
Fisher, Lowell D.	I CO	Korea 50-53 POW
Frankforther, Dorothy (A)	Wife	of Leroy F., Deceased '10
Garcia, Conrado	34th RGT	Germany 64-67
Hart, James L.	211th MP	Saudi 90-91
Kerschner, Billy Ray	34th RGT HQ	Germany 58-60
Komsa, Leon F.	21st RGT HQ	Germany 64-65
Lindberg, James T.	724th ORD	Korea 50-51
Longo, Robert W.	31st TRN A CO	Germany 60-62
Lowden, William M.	19th RGT I CO	WWII-Japan 44-45
Meier, Paul (A)	Father	WWII
Nitschke, Leonard	21st RGT HQ	Korea 51-52
O'Neill, Carl R.	34th RGT D CO	Korea 52-54
Platvoet, William F.	21st RGT HQ	Korea 52
Richards, Orrin	52nd FA SVC	Korea 51
Robertson, Norris A.	13th FA C BAT	Germany 63-66
Sim, James	2nd RGT SPT	Germany 61-64
Turnipseed, Doyle R.	52nd FA A BAT	Korea
Turnipseed, Maxine L. (A)	Wife	of Doyle
Van Kirk David M. (A)	Grandson	of W.H., Deceased 2010
Van Kirk, Sammuel (A)	Grandson	of W.H., Deceased 2010
Van Kirk, Viola (A)	Wife	of W.H., Deceased 2010
Wolken, Harold	11th FA C BAT	Korea 53-54
Young, George L.	19th RGT A CO	Korea 50-52
Fiske, Charles W.	19th RGT	New Life No. 2372
Cramer, Stewart S.	21st RGT	New Life No. 2373
Hoag, John A.	6th TNK	New Life No. 2374
Knight, James H.	2nd RGT	New Life No. 2375
Garcia, Conrado	34th RGT HHQ	New Life No. 2376
Hamp, Frank B.	24th MED	New Life No. 2377

Central Florida 24th IDA Group

http://24thida.com/cf24thida/0_cf24thida.html

February 2, 2011 Dutch Treat Luncheon
Leesburg Golden Corral 11:45 a.m.

Space limited to 50; contact: Tom Thiel, 352-357-3943

cf24ida@gmail.com

or Bill Stokes, 352-750-6741 wsswriter@centurylink.net

Luncheons will also be held on May 4 and Aug. 3.

Tentative dates for 2011 mini-reunion

November 3-5, St. Augustine, FL

John Walters, our new Quartermaster, is pleased to announce he is getting things organized and has already fulfilled some orders. However, he is short of some items and is awaiting suppliers. John assures me if he has the items you order in inventory he'll ship it within 24 hours, barring weekends and holidays.

The revised order form is shown below. Some new items have been added such as T-Shirts.

If you have a question or wish to place an order use the order form or contact John:

12358 NW 54th Ct., Coral Springs, FL 33076-3410

Tel: 954 345-8294, or 945 328-5344.

Email: jaw234@bellsouth.net

Keeping your Records

Your help is needed to update and complete our 24th Infantry Division Association files. Only you can help us to make sure our files are accurate and up-to-date now and for the future. Many have not ever provided their email addresses, please do so. Send all address, phone, and email changes today to:

jokdunn@aol.com, or
24thtaroleaf@gmail.com, or
Write to: John A. Dunn
9150 Highway 51
Westover, AL 35147-9527
205 678-6165

Quartermaster Order Form (X) indicates out of stock

HAT PIN MEDALS all \$5: 1. Philippines Liberation 2. Nat'l Defense Svc. 3. Good Conduct 4. Silver Star 5. Pacific Campaign 6. Armed Forces Reserve 7. Army of Occupation 8. POW 9. Distinguished Service Cross 10. ETO Campaign 11. Soldiers Medal 12. Meritorious Service 13. United Nations 14. American Defense 15. Vietnam Service 16. American Campaign 17. Armed Forces Expeditionary 18. U.S. Flag 19. Army Dist. Flying Cross 20. Korea Service Ribbon 21. Army Commendation 22. WWII Victory Ribbon 23. Marine Corp Expeditionary 24. Korean Service Medal 25. WWII Victory Medal 26. Bronze Star 27. Purple Heart 28. Air Medal 29. 24th ID(X) 30. Korea "8000 Missing" 31. 19th RGT 32. Remember POW /MIA 33. POW/MIA "Bring 'Em Home" 34. CIB Mini(X) 35. CIB Larger(X) 36. CIB 2nd Award(X) 37. Combat Medic Badge(X) 38. U.S. Army Desert Storm 39. Vietnam Heaven & Hell 100. 24th ID Artillery Unit 104. Desert Storm 108. Philippines Unit Ribbon

PATCHES: 42. 24ID Color \$5 43. 24th IDA \$6 44. 24th ID Black Taro(X) \$15 45. 24th ID White Taro-First to Fight (X) \$12 58. 19th RGT Color \$6 59. 21st RGT Color \$6 60. 34th RGT Color \$6 61. 11th FA BN Color \$6 62. 13th FA BN \$6 77. 5th RCT Pocket \$6 87. 6th Tank BN Color \$6 91. 63rd FA BN Color \$6 97. 24th ID Korean War Vet. \$5 106. 29th INF Division 107. 24th INF Division Color Cloth VICTORY **CRESTS:** 52. 24th Signal BN(X) \$9 53. 19th RGT \$9 54. 21st RGT \$9 55. 34th RGT \$9 56. 11th FA BN \$9 57. 13 FA BN \$9 63. 24th ID Unit \$9 75. 3rd ENG BN \$9 76. 14th ENG BN \$9 89. 24th Medical BN \$9

CAPS: 64. 19th RGT Dark Blue \$12 65. 21st RGT White Embroidered \$15 66. 21st RGT Blue Embroidered \$15 67. 34th RGT DK Blue(X) \$12 68. 24th IDA Blue w/Taro(X) \$15 69. 24th ID White w/Taro - Germany \$12 70. 24th ID White w/Taro - Germany \$12 71. 24th IDA Red \$15 72. 24th IDA White(X) \$15 73. 24th IDA Green(X) \$15 74. 24th ID White MESH(X) \$15 78. 5th RCT Red w/Crest \$12 80. Desert Storm Vet. \$12 81. POW/MIA Black \$15 82. WWII Vet. \$12 83. Korean War Vet Black \$12(X) 101. Cap, WWII Veteran Black w/CIB \$15

MISCELLANEOUS - NECKLACE: 40. 19 RGT \$5 **BRACELET:** 41. 19th RGT \$5 **WINDOW STICKERS:** 46. 24th ID \$2 84. CIB 3"x7" \$5 85. CIB 3"x7" \$3 105 Desert Storm Veteran Window Sticker \$3 **BUMPER STICKER:** 86. 24th ID Proudly Served \$3.00 **PAPER STICKERS:** 92. 24th ID 1" set of 12(X) \$1.50 **BOLO TIE:** 47. Taro Leaf Gold w/Gold Braid(X) \$15 48. Taro Leaf Gold w/Black Braid \$15 49. Taro Leaf Silver w/Black Braid(X) \$15 **TARO LEAF BELT BUCKLE:** 50. Silver \$15 51. Gold (X) \$15 **NECK TIE:** 88. 24th ID(X) \$20 **NECK WALLET:** 94. 24th ID Green \$5 **KEYCHAIN:** 95. 24th ID \$10 **FLAGS (3'X5'):** 90. 24th ID, Outdoor Screen Print \$65 102. Korea War Silk Screened \$65 103. Korean War Veteran Silk Screened \$65 **CHRISTMAS CARDS:** 93. 10 pcs. w/env. \$8 **CD:** 98. Audio, 24th ID Division Song and March \$10 **DVD:** 99. DVD 24ID Punchbowl Memorial, Hawaii \$15 **LICENSE PLATE HOLDER:** 79. 24th ID w/Taro Leaf \$8 **HISTORY BOOK:** 96. 24th ID, 2nd Edition \$41 **T-SHIRTS Hawaii Div. 24th ID - \$15:** 109. Black, Size XXL 110. Black, Size L 111. Black, size M 112. White, Size 2XL 113. White, Size XL 114. White, Size L 115. White, Size M.

Circle item number for purchase and indicate quantity Shipping & Handling \$5.00 Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Mail check payable to "24th IDA" with your address to Quartermaster: John Walters, 12358 NW 54th Ct., Coral Springs, FL 33076-3410 Tel: 954 345-8294, or 945 328-5344. Email: jaw234@bellsouth.net

Please contact your Congressional Representative NOW!



Write a letter to your Representative asking them to support Congressman Lee's bill, H. Con. Res. 232, to honor the Army's 24th ID and its 14 Medal of Honor recipients through a memorial marker to be installed at Arlington National Cemetery. We need broad support from our members if we wish to see this deserved recognition in our nation's most prestigious cemetery. We also need your financial support, please send a donation to President Sal Schillaci.

-----Cut out and mail-----



24th Infantry Division Association



John A. Dunn, Sec'y./Treas.
9150 Highway 51
Westover, AL35147-9527

Membership Application

- ☐ Enroll as Member
- ☐ Reinstate as Member
- ☐ Enroll as Associate Member
- ☐ 12 Months Dues \$15.00
- ☐ Life Membership \$150, or
- ☐ Installments \$30 / 5 years

**CHECKS PAYABLE TO
24TH INF. DIV. ASSOC.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Occupation _____ Spouse Name _____

Unit	Bn.	Co.	P	lt./Bat.	Squad
i.e. 5th, 19th, 3rd Engr., 955 FABn., Etc.					

Location(s)
i.e. Pearl, WWII, Japan, Korea, Germany, Ft. Stuart, Lebanon, Somalia, Desert Storm, Ft. Riley, etc

POW <input type="checkbox"/>	Location	From	/	/	To	/	/
Other Unit Service							
Sponsor							

24th Infantry Division West Coast Reunion 27-30 March, 2011**The Aquarius Casino Resort** 1900 S. Casino Dr, Laughlin, NV 89029**Reservations: 1-800-662-5825** mention contract **#C-WCR11**. For **\$28.00** rate you must call no later than 12 March. **Registration Deadline 18 March 2011**

Name: _____ Spouse/Guests: _____

Unit: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

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

Roast Sirloin of Beef \$36 x ____ = _____

Chicken Cordon Bleu \$36 x ____ = _____

Filet of Salmon \$36 x ____ = _____

Registration (\$20 per Family) = **\$20.00****Total \$** _____**Mail registration form and fees to:**

Byrd Schrock, 1009 Mesquite Dr.

Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

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

byrd2a@cox.net

Make checks payable to Byrd Schrock**Per our catering contract, dinner fees are non-refundable after 15 March 2011****19th & 34th Infantry Regiments
Pigeon Forge, TN Reunion****April 25, 26, 27, 2011**

Holiday Inn Express, 308 Henderson Chapel Rd., Pigeon Forge, TN 37868 For reservations call **888 774-4366** Mention code **KVR** for \$60 rate

No Fees – Come and have fun!

This will be our 18th reunion. They began in 1994 in Myrtle Beach, SC. It has since grown in size and has re-united many wartime buddies. Later, the reunion met in Nashville, TN, but in 2006 the group voted to move to Pigeon Forge in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains and adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This location offers many fine attractions including: the world famous Dollywood, shopping malls, many showplaces, and excellent dining.

For information contact:

Bob Taylor
828 884-9593

**5th Regimental
Combat Team
2011 Tampa Florida Reunion**

We have arranged full suite accommodations at the luxurious Main Sail Suites Hotel with complimentary breakfast buffet, airport shuttle, parking, Internet access, local calls, newspaper, full size kitchen and living room, and a spacious hospitality room for our get-togethers...all for only **\$99** a night. Some will want to enjoy this spectacular vacation spot for the full week, or you may stay for a shorter period if you wish.

Exciting daily venues include the "Fantasy of Flight" Show, Largo Armed Forces Museum, Tampa History Museum, Florida Aquarium, and Yebo City Cigar Museum.

RESERVATIONS: Call MAIN SAIL at (813)243-2626 or email at www.mainsailtampa.com and mention 5th RCT reunion for our special rate.

INFORMATION: Call Al McAdoo at (813)837-2728
7506 South Mascotta Street
Tampa, Florida 33616-2206

DONORS to TARO LEAF

(special mention shown in parenthesis and below)

Agee, Clarence R.	DIV ATL	\$ 10	Moritz, Robert J.	DIV ATL	\$ 10
Anonymous	34th RGT	35	Mozeleski, Joseph P.	19th RGT	10
Bacon, Burnette A.	5th RCT	30	Musselman, William R.	24th RPL	20
Barnett, Lacy C.	34th RGT	5	Nederfield, John	19th RGT	5
Becerra, Miguel	11th FA	10	Newell, Linwood C.	19th RGT	10
Behnke, Bert	21st RGT	10	Northam, C.T.	19th RGT	10
Benson, Lawrence E.	2nd RGT	20	Olson, Robert A.	34th RGT	10
Berube, Hubert	6th TNK	10	Parisi, Joseph F.	34th RGT	9
Blankenburg, Joan	19th RGT	5	Parker, Robert S.	24th QM	5
Boatman, William	34th RGT	800	Pedigo, Clarence L. (2)	34th RGT	25
Bolinger, William	3rd ENG	5	Peterson, Alfred L.	24th HQ	10
Carpenter, Hubert L.	3rd ENG	50	Plata, Frank J.	19th RGT	10
Cauble, Jakie A.	24th ADM	5	Popovich, Kenneth R.	21st RGT	5
Clark, William E.	19th RGT	10	Poynter, Eugene A.	34th RGT	50
Cochran, Thomas F.	34th RGT	10	Quick, George	19th RGT	70
Cramer, Stewart S.	21st RGT	50	Reese, Charles H.	724 Ord	10
Cullers, William M.	21st RGT	25	Rochon, Louis W.	5th RCT	5
Danhoff, James W.	13th FA	5	Rose, Perry w.	21st RGT	10
Darke, Donald F.	5th RCT	5	Rumbaoa, Prudencio E.	19th RGT	20
Davidson, Bennie D.	21st RGT	5	Salter, Harvey C.	24th SIG	10
Davis, Dayton	34th RGT	5	Sanchez, Jesus	34th RGT	3
Davisworth, Norman R.	13th FA	10	Schulte, Edwin	3rd ENG	10
Ebert, Clayton	3rd ENG	10	Sechrist, Gary L.	2nd RGT	15
Eckardt, Raymond J.	19th RGT	5	Shelton, Alvin A.	19th RGT	25
Engler, Daniel	19th RGT	10	Silver, Leon	24th SIG	10
Estes, Neil D.	11th FA	20	Skinner, Franklin E.	11th FA	20
Fecko, John J. (1)	3rd ENG	25	Smith, Beryl	26 AAA	10
Fijol, Stanley	21st RGT	10	Smith, Bill J.	26AAA	10
Fletcher, John P.	34th RGT	5	Snyder, Walter B.	34th RGT	5
Fox, Robert G.	19th RGT	20	Struecker, Howard W.	19th RGT	5
Frey, John W.	21st RGT	10	Sund, Edward B.	21st RGT	5
Furtado, Vincent O.	26AAA	10	Swanson, Myron J.	19th RGT	10
Harrison, Edward F.	11th FA	20	Tashiro, Kenneth A. (3)	19th RGT	20
Hill, Myra Jean, Assoc.	19th RGT	10	Tavares, Brenda	21 RGT	5
Jackson, Shelby L.	19th RGT	55	Thornton, Douglas W.	34th RGT	10
Johnson, Dwayne L.	24th SIG	10	Tominaga, George T.	13th FA	10
Koschak, Lawrence E.	52nd FA	10	Tomlin, Gerald R. (4)	19th RGT	20
Leercamp, Henry G.	34th RGT	10	Tucker, William E.	19th RGT	5
Maggio, Donald E.	24th ADM	25	Tucker, William T.	19th RGT	5
Martin, Robert	63rd FA	10	Van Kirk, Viola, Assoc.		15
Marx, William D.	19th RGT	25	Vega, Vincent R.	19th RGT	15
McArdle, Paul R.	24th SIG	24	Vihlidal, William	21st RGT	5
McCort, Jack G.	24th Div	10	Vincent, Gerald G.	11th FA	10
McDevitt, Paul E.	19th RGT	10	Vogl, William F.	6th TNK	15
McGuire, Raymond K.	21st RGT	25	Weir, Warren J.	19th RGT	10
Mecca, Daniel	13th FA	25	Williams, Donald F.	21st RGT	15
Meier, Paul, Assoc.		5	Yost, Kenneth D.	11th FA	20
Melcher, Ralph W.	19th RGT	10			

(1) Memory of 3rd ENG (2) Memory of Taejon (3) Memory of deceased of CO D, 19th RGT (4) Honor of D CO KIA 16 Jul 50

24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
2010 Board Of Directors Meeting Minutes
Buffalo, New York, September 28, 2010

Attendees: Mel Frederick, President* John Slattery*
John Dunn, Sec/Treas* Loyal Vincent*
John Klump, Past President* Glen Carpenter, Chaplain
Don Maggio, V-President Elect

*Board member –a quorum was present

Meeting called to order by President Frederick at 9:30 AM.

Chaplain Carpenter opened with The Pledge of Allegiance and offered the Invocation.

Opening Comments: President Mel Frederick announced the following members to carry on the Association's services: David Valley - Taro Leaf Editor: John Walters - Quartermaster: Merry Helm - Historian. The Association offers its sincere thanks to these three individuals for volunteering to undertake these tasks.

Nominating Committee: President Frederick presented the slate of officers submitted by the Committee: Sal Schillaci, President; Don Maggio, Vice President; John Dunn, Sec/Treas; Jack Slattery, Director (2Years); Loyal Vincent, Director (1 Year). Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to present the slate to the convention.

2011 Reunion: Dayton, Ohio was approved last year as the location for the 2011reunion. Discussions regarding location of reunions: consensus was that central US would best to facilitate travel for members. Motion made, seconded and unanimously passed to hold convention in New Orleans, LA-2012, and Springfield, IL -2013.

Financial Report: Due to briefcase being lost en route to reunion information was not available for distribution. Verbal report indicated that income and expenses were down but net income was comparable to last year. Total net assets were approximately \$80,000. Because of the changes in the QM position there was no information regarding that account.

New Business: Dues: Discussion centered around Life Memberships as an operational negative to the financial well being of the association. Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to increase life memberships to \$200, effective Jan.1, 2012 for new members only. Current members will be able to attain Life Membership for \$150. Current members making annual partial life payments will be unaffected by this dues change.

WEB SITE: Permission was granted to the association to use materials from Norm Treadways 24th Division web site. Tom Thiel has taken these materials and extensively added information for our new association web site, WWW.24th IDA.com. Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to allocate \$200 per year for fees and maintenance of the web site.

MISCELLANEOUS: Discussion of Board Meeting participation suggest that future reunion coordinators schedule board meetings so as not to conflict with other scheduled activities.

President Frederick adjourned meeting at 11:00 AM

Minutes submitted by John Dunn, Sec/Treas

Screech in the Night!

By Ben Allen

Korea, winter of '50 and '51: The 24th ID was on the front on the western side of North Korea. The Chinese had joined the North Korean troops and were creating havoc with the Marines at the Chosen reservoir on the east side of the peninsula. The 27th British Brigade had joined us and one of their units was protecting our right flank. This unit was a famed Scottish Regiment and they were indeed welcomed by us as they had arrived with a great combat history.

We had repulsed the last Chinese attack and were waiting for the next one which we were sure would certainly come. The Chinese had demonstrated a need to blow bugles and trumpets proceeding any attack and we supposed it was an effort to bolster their courage. Our courage was not bolstered by these noises as they surely kept us on edge and awake. The first night after the Scots had joined us we were all awake, nervous and jumpy. Some of our troops fired their weapons in response to any noise they heard. The weather was getting colder and we were wearing everything we had in the attempt to keep from freezing. We were all deep in our foxholes in the futile attempt to catch a little sleep and much needed rest.



It all started with a tremendous blast of sound at about 0300. We all jolted erect upon hearing what had to be the sound of death on the march. It was a sound that is very hard to describe. It started low and went very high on the scale and each time raised the hackles on the back of your neck. It invited cold uncontrollable shivers down the back of each of us. The wailing continued and was joined by other sources of these unknown ghostly

entities until they became a chorus of loud noises which surely proceeded the arrival of death himself. We were certain that what we were hearing was surely the Banshees from Hell preceding the next Chinese attack. It all ceased abruptly at about 0400 and the only thing we could hear was our teeth collective chattering. In a couple of hours it started to get light in the east and we began to believe that we might survive the night.

Later while trying to digest a whole can of "C" rations for breakfast, the Scottish liaison officer came by to coordinate defenses. He stopped to pass the time of day with my platoon and commented in his hard Scottish brogue "How 'ja like the concert?" In a really bad frame of mind I answered "What damn concert?" And with a big smile he explained, "Well, the lads played their pipes last night. Didn't ye hear it?" The young captain never knew just how close he was to death. This was my first and never-to-be-forgotten introduction to weird sounding Scottish bagpipes.

**Benjamin R. Allen, Member, 4734 N. Calle Santa Cruz,
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 ben.allen1927@gmail.com**

Leaving Korea!

By David Valley

I served with the 19th RGT from July, '50 until March, '51 at which time I was fortunate to be selected for Gen. MacArthur's security unit in Tokyo. I can't quite remember where we were at the time; it was just another of the dozens of non-descript places we "visited" as we traversed the peninsula. I'd spent the better part of a day at regimental headquarters waiting to be interviewed by an officer from MacArthur's Honor Guard Company. The 1LT was wearing the cleanest set of fatigues I'd seen since coming to the land of extreme discomforts and endless hills. We talked for a while and then it was more waiting.

Suddenly I was alerted, "Valley," an old MSG called, "front and center, the rest of you, back to your units." I was stunned. I was getting out of Korea. How the hell did I get picked? I've never been able to figure that out. My best guess is my mother's rosary of prayers every night may have had something to do with it. I asked if I could go back to my platoon to pick up my gear and say goodbye to my buddies. He said, "I've got orders and \$50 of script. Do you go back to your outfit or go to Tokyo?" It wasn't a hard decision.

My orders read something like "Authorized to travel by all means of available transportation to Pusan and air transport to Japan." I was given a week to report into Tokyo, which to me was in another universe. I was about 150 miles from Pusan and had no idea how to find it except by heading south and asking question. I bummed food and rides on any military vehicle that would stop for me and also rode on a few civilian vehicles. I got hassled once by MPs, thinking I was a deserter, but my orders cleared me. By the time I got to Pusan I had five days left and \$50 burning a hole in my pocket. I found just about everything I'd missed the past eight months was readily available in Pusan; I must confess I was overcome by my lack of discipline. Three days later, with only a few dollars left and coming off the greatest hangover of my young life, I got my act together.

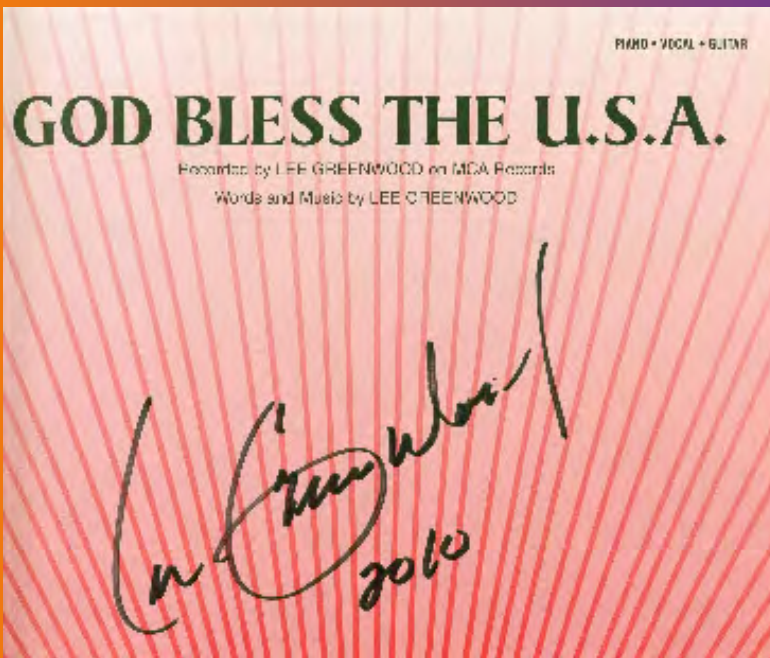
Picture me as I hiked to the airfield. I had cleaned up, but was still equipped like any soldier coming off the line, wearing worn fatigues and full combat gear. As I walked near the rail line where a British unit was waiting to board a train someone called out, "Hey, Yank." They asked, "What's it like up on the front?" One of the Brits was especially fascinated by my M-1 rifle and it



M-1 Rifle – Old Faithful

suddenly occurred to me, I didn't need it anymore. I said, "Would you like it?" He thought I was kidding, but soon I was handing over all my gear. It caused a lot of excitement and attracted one of their officers. When he realized what I was doing, he said, "Do you know what you're doing, soldier?" "Yes, sir," I answered, "I'm on my way to Tokyo and don't need this stuff anymore."

I still remember how I felt when I walked away; I was incredibly lighter, physically and psychologically. I caught a flight and reported into Tokyo a day early. I've wondered about the fate of the Brit soldier who got my M-1. DJV



From the time of the America Revolution our song writers have written patriotic songs expressing the sentiments of those in the military and their loved ones back home. Some of these songs really hit the mark, awakening feelings which are otherwise hard to express. A song which best exemplifies Americans' love of country and pride in our military is Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U.S.A."

In the halls of VFWs, the American Legion, and other patriotic and fraternal organizations around the country when this song is played people will rise to their feet and sing along with passion its lyrics below:

If tomorrow all the things were gone I worked for all my life,
And I had to start again with just my children and my wife.
I'd thank my lucky stars for livin' here today,
'Cause the flag still stands for freedom
and they can't take that away.

And I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free.
And I won't forget the men who died , who gave that right to me.
And I'd gladly stand up; next to you and defend her still today.
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land
God bless the U S A.

From the lakes of Minnesota to the hills of Tennessee
Across the plains of Texas from sea to shining sea,
From Detroit down to Houston and New York to L A
Well there's pride in every American heart
and it's time to stand and say: God Bless the U S A.

I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free.
And I won't forget the men who died , who gave that right to me.
And I'd gladly stand up; next to you and defend her still today.
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land
God bless the U S A.

TOBY KEITH



When it comes to visiting and entertaining our troops overseas, make room, Bob Hope! Toby Keith stands in a class by himself among modern day entertainers. This country-western singer has delighted tens of thousands of troops doing more than 145 USO shows overseas.

Toby says, "I've been traveling with the USO since 2002, and every year I look forward to spending time with the men and women who serve this great country. When I get onstage and look out into a crowd of uniforms, it gives me a great sense of pride to know that I am giving back to them."

A fan said, "Toby has always been there for our troops. He has a heart bigger than Texas. He is one of the most loved performers in the business. He always gives back and remembers our troops. His love for America and our troops is what makes him a special man. In my eyes, he too is a Hero. He never backs down from anything concerning our troops. Thank you Toby for having so much compassion for our troops and for mankind."





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

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

Permit #1040
Leesburg, FL 34748



MEMBERS: Check your dues date above your address

Send Dues & Address Changes to:

John A. Dunn, Sec'y.-Treas.
24th Infantry Division Association
Hwy. 51, Westover, AL 35147-9527
(205) 678-6165 email jokdunn@aol.com

Send Taps Notices to: Taro Leaf Editor

(Please include a photo if available)
Post Office Box 500907
San Diego, CA 92150
24thtaroleaf@gmail.com

Verbeck Award Nominations - 2011

Association Pres. Sal Schillaci is seeking nominations for the member you think should be recognized with our Association's prestigious **2011 Verbeck Award**.

Sal advises: "All members have the opportunity to name their nominee for the award." Please send him your recommendation and a brief write-up as to why you believe your nominee deserves to be so honored. Since this will be the 2011 award you have until July 15, 2011 to make your submissions.



Verbeck Guidelines: The Verbeck Award is presented to that Association member who best displays the ideals of Bill Verbeck. He had an un-

abashed love for the Division and its Association. The award is to be given to a member who displays those qualities of Bill Verbeck and effectively furthers the interests of the Association and the Division.

This is not intended to reward popularity, but to acknowledge commitment and hard work in helping to make the Association more successful.

Send to:

Salvatore Schillaci
59 Endicott Drive
Amherst, NY 14226-3323
(716) 837-1635