

# TARO

24th Infantry Division Association



# LEAF

FIRST TO FIGHT



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## Taro Leaf, Volume 65, Issue 2, Spring 2011

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**COMING  
UP NEXT**

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## President

Dear Members: As I sit here composing this letter, I am awed by the responsibility of being the president of this great organization, and I vow to do my best to live up to your expectations. That said, let me get on with it!

The planning for our reunion in Dayton is moving along. The Reunion Brat and I have settled on the hotel and, with input from the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, we will soon decide on tours we feel will prove enjoyable to all. Of course, a visit to the National Museum of the United States Air Force will be included. All reunion information will be passed on to our members as soon as plans are finalized.

As many of you know, we are attempting to have a monument placed in Arlington National Cemetery, dedicated to the members of the 24th Infantry Division who have received the Medal of Honor. The monument has been completed and the plaque is in the process of being made. However, we are still awaiting permission to have the monument placed in Arlington. We hope to have this issue resolved soon.

A constant concern in the minds of many of our members is the sad fact that our ranks are dwindling by attrition. We are faced not only with the pain of losing close friends, but also with the challenge of maintaining the strength of our association.

For this reason, I would like to suggest that each member contact their local newspaper and ask them to print a short announcement inviting any person who served in the 24th to a "meet & greet" informational meeting. I have used this method to successfully recruit new members for the Korean War veterans' post in Buffalo. If our members would do this in their local area, I believe it would help membership grow.

Most newspapers will print this type of information at no charge as a community service, and so, for the cost of some coffee and Danish, we may be able to build up our numbers.

If you are interested in this initiative, please call me for any help on how to write a press release and how to plan the recruitment meeting. I also welcome your ideas for other possible recruitment opportunities. The newsletter of the 21st Regiment has been publicizing our upcoming reunion in Dayton and encouraging their members to attend. This collaboration might also provide us with some new members.

In closing, let me say that our Dayton, Ohio reunion will be a special time to see old friends, meet new veterans and enjoy the best of what Dayton has to offer. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

**Sal Schillaci**

## Editor



As another issue is being put together I'm wondering if we can keep the river of our memories and interests flowing to capacity with good information and entertaining reading. My fervent plea to all our readers is to ask they do their part by sending whatever they think might be suitable. For me, its like mining; I visit the Taro Leaf mailbox daily in hopes of finding some gems. Please keep it up.

In this issue you will find more coverage of the Desert Shield and Desert Storm engagements. I'm guessing I'm probably not the only one unfamiliar with this more recent (though now 20 years ago!) operation of our division. What you will find is in no way complete and comprehensive, but I hope it helps and will encourage others to share their memories.

Rather than try to guess what our readers might like to see, or to see more of, I ask for your suggestions. A letter writer in this issue suggests there are too many stories. I don't like to see a lot of large blocks of uninterrupted text, but often the material provided is lacking pictures or graphics. That said, I'll try to provide more open space or breaks in stories to make them more digestible (although I haven't done very well in this issue.)

I have noted many WWII/Korea era veterans groups are folding their tents or curtailing activities such as reunions. It is encouraging that many of our soldiers are hanging in there by participating in our national reunion or one of the regional affairs. But make no mistake, it is a growing, or I should say an aging, problem. Such being the case, let's make the best of it, take advantage of what we've got, such as the get-togethers and the Taro Leaf.

I'd also like to suggest a bit of a departure from the usual content of our stories about the past, but not to deter them, either. I hope to encourage some of our readers to write about the present and what they see of the future. Tell us what you do to make you life fulfilling, how you deal with adversities, and what plans or concerns you have about the future. Your experience may be just what another member needs to hear for encouragement to make his life better. I hope I have succeeded in inspiring some such writers. You will find a new banner in this issue (page 11) titled, "Living Large." Although the material was sent to me previous to this announcement, I thought it fit the criteria well enough to give "Living Large" a kick start.

Keep the faith, my friends, and stay well.

**David Valley**





## RECENT VA News

Sports Programs for Disabled Veterans Expanding - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is awarding two grants totaling \$7.5 million to the U.S. Olympic Committee to enhance recreation and sporting activities for disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces. (2/11/11)

VA & HUD Issue First-Ever Report on Homeless Veterans - For the first time, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development today published the most authoritative analysis of the extent and nature of homelessness among Veterans. According to HUD and VA's assessment, nearly 76,000 Veterans were homeless on a given night in 2009 while roughly 136,000 Veterans spent at least one night in a shelter during that year. (2/10/11)

New and Enhanced VA Benefits Provided to Caregivers of Veterans - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is launching the first of a series of new and enhanced services supporting family caregivers of seriously ill and injured Veterans. In May 2010, President Obama signed the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 legislation authorizing VA to establish a wide range of new services to support certain caregivers of eligible Post 9/11 Veterans. (2/9/11)

New VA Support Line Provides Important Assistance to Caregivers - The VA is increasing its support to caregivers with a new, toll-free telephone line for the caregivers of Veterans of all eras. **1-855-260-3274** (2/8/11)

VA Automating Educational Benefits under Post-9/11 GI Bill - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has successfully deployed a new automated system that is delivering faster, more accurate payments to Veterans attending school under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. (1/31/11)

VA Publishes Final Regulation to Aid Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange in Korea - Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving along the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Korea will have an easier path to access quality health care and benefits under a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) final regulation that will expand the dates when illnesses caused by herbicide exposure can be presumed to be related to Agent Orange. (1/25/11)

VA Seeks Western New York Land for Cemetery - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it is seeking land on which to build a new national cemetery to serve Veterans in Western New York, including the Buffalo and Rochester areas. (2/15/11)

VA Announces Budget Request for 2012 - In announcing the proposed budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) during the next fiscal year, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki emphasized "making every dollar" count in the \$132 billion budget proposal for VA. (2/14/11)

**For more information call: 1-800-827-1000**



## DO YOU REMEMBER?

The U.S. Central Command and its components will help commemorate Kuwait's 50/20 celebration. The event recognizes the 50th year since their independence, and the 20th anniversary since their liberation from the invasion by Saddam Husein's forces.

The U.S. was asked to participate in the parade by the Government of Kuwait. Third Army/U.S. Army Central is leading the effort with support from the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force service components.

The Army is supporting with tactical vehicles, helicopters and soldiers to march in the parade. A platoon of Marines will also march in the parade. A contingent from the distinguished 3rd Infantry Regiment, The Old Guard, will march and carry the colors of the units who executed Operation Desert Storm.

These units include USCENTCOM, Third Army, 7 Corps, 1st Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry, 1st Armored Division, 3rd Armored Division, 18th Airborne Corps, 82nd Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division and the **24th Infantry Division**.

The U.S. Navy will showcase three F/A-18 fighters while the U.S. Air Force will showcase numerous aircraft ranging from a C-130 Hercules to F-16 fighters. The Navy will also participate in a maritime demonstration off the Kuwaiti coast.

The U.S. and Kuwait continue to enjoy a committed relationship. The 50/20 Celebration will showcase our enduring relationship as it combines two watershed moments in Kuwait's history: its independence in 1961 and its liberation, the result of **Operation Desert Storm, 20 years ago**.

Third Army is honored to have commanded all U.S. Army forces in that coalition and has maintained a presence in Kuwait since then, assisting in the development of a lasting strategic partnership that enables operations throughout the region.

The event takes place 21-28 February 2011, Coalition Press Information Center, Regency Hotel, Kuwait City.

***The Taro Leaf salutes the members of the 24th ID who served in this historic event twenty years ago. Sorry, but the celebration will have taken place by the time this issue is published.***

**Editor**

# U.S. Dodged a Bullet

## JAPAN'S SUBMERSIBLE I-400 AIRCRAFT CARRIER

In many ways HUMS 1-400 was decades ahead of her time. She was the world's largest submarine with a length of 400-ft and a surface displacement of 3,530 tons. Above her main deck rose a 115-ft. long, 12-ft diameter hangar housing three torpedo-bombers. These float planes were rolled out through a massive hydraulic door onto an 85-ft pneumatic catapult, where they were rigged for flight, fueled, armed, launched, and after landing alongside, lifted back aboard with a powerful hydraulic crane. The 1-400 was equipped with a snorkel, radar, radar detectors, and capacious fuel tanks that gave her a range of 37,500 miles—one and a half times around the world. She was armed with eight torpedo tubes, a 5.5-in 50-cal deck gun, a bridge 25mm anti-aircraft gun, and three triple 25 mm A/A mounts atop her hangar. The advent of guided missiles and atomic bombs transformed her from an overspecialized undersea menacing strategic threat to a dinosaur.

The 1-400 was originally designed so that it could travel round-trip to anywhere in the world, and it was specifically intended to destroy the U.S. controlled Panama Canal. A fleet of 18 boats was planned in 1942 and work on the first one was started in 1943 at the Kure, Hiroshima arsenal. Within a year the plan was scaled back to five, and four were actually completed.



The I-400's had aircraft storage and catapult for three M6A1 *Seiran* (Storm from a Clear Sky) torpedo bombers. These specially designed float planes had a length of 35-ft, a wingspread of 40-ft, a range of 654 miles, and ammunitions payload of 1800-lb. Additional fuel and bombs could be carried by jettisoning the floats on one-way missions where the pilots and planes were to be expended. The sleek *Seiran* bombers, built by Aichi Kokuki at Nagoya, were stowed in the hangar in compartment with floats detached and wings and tails folded. Actually with the stabilizers folded down, and the top of the vertical stabilizer folded over the overall profile of the aircraft was within the diameter of its propeller. A trained team could rig a floatplane for launch with fuel and armament in as short a time as seven minutes, in fact that same trained team could prepare all three planes, and have them in the air in under 45 minutes time. The planes were launched from a 120 foot catapult on the deck of the giant submarine.

Accommodations for a crew of 145 were designed into the capacious twin hulls, but on most occasions was much higher...somewhere in the 200+ range. The reason for the high number was to facilitate speedy submarine and aviation operations at sea. Even though the sub could surface, the trained crew could in fact could break out, assemble, fuel, arm, and catapult all three aircraft, more men was an "assurance" of that. Also the I-400's had great cruising range which enabled them to launch her three bombers within striking distance of targets as far from Japan as San Francisco, the Panama Canal, Washington, or New York. However, they were completed too late in 1945 to get into action.

At the end of the war, there was a major scramble as the U.S. took control of one of the monster subs and scuttled the rest to prevent the Russians from having one.

*As the I-400 class submarines illustrates, Japan had some capabilities more advanced than ours. The Zero, in the early years of the war, was another example. Japan had the breath of military might to take on any country, but they lacked the depth of resources, which was their downfall.*

Editor



# DESERT SHIELD & DESERT STORM



## DESERT SHIELD

When the United Nations intervened in Kuwait in 1990, the 24th Infantry Division, which was part of the Rapid Deployment Force, was one of the first units deployed to Southwest Asia. It arrived in 10 large cargo ships of the US Navy Sealift Command. Advance elements of the 24th ID began arriving in Saudi Arabia on August 17. Some controversy erupted when the division's round-out unit, the 48th Inf. Brigade (Mech.), of the Georgia National Guard, was not called up for service. Leaders decided that the use of National Guard forces was unnecessary, as they felt the active-duty force had sufficient troops.

The 48th Brigade was replaced once the 24th ID was in Saudi Arabia with the regular Army's 197th Inf. Brigade (Mech). The 24th was then assigned to XVIII Airborne Corps as the corps' heavy-armored division. In the months following, the 24th played an important part of Operation Desert Shield by providing heavy firepower with its large number of armored vehicles, including 216 M1A1 Abrams tanks.

Elements of the division were still arriving in September, and in the

logistical chaos that followed the rapid arrival of US forces in the region, the soldiers of the 24th were housed in warehouses, airport hangars, and on the desert sand. The 24th remained in relatively stationary positions in defense of Saudi Arabia until additional American forces arrived for Operation Desert Storm.

## DESERT STORM

Once the attack commenced on February 24, the 24th formed the east flank of the corps with the 3rd Armored Cavalry RGT. It blocked the Euphrates River valley to cut off Iraqi forces in Kuwait with little resistance. At this time, the 24th's ranks swelled to over 25,000 troops in 34 battalions, commanding 94 helicopters, 241 M1 Abrams tanks, 221 M2 Bradley Armored fighting vehicles, and over 7,800 other vehicles.

The 24th performed exceptionally well in the theater; it had been training in desert warfare for several years before the conflict. On February 26, the 24th advanced through the valley and captured Iraqi airfields at Jabbah and Tallil. At the airfields, it encountered entrenched resistance from the Iraqi

37th and 49th Infantry Divisions, as well as the 6th "Nebuchadnezzar" Mech. Division of the Iraqi Republican Guard. Despite some of the most fierce resistance of the war, the 24th destroyed the two airfields the next day. The 24th then moved east with VII Corps and engaged several Iraqi Republican Guard divisions.

After the Iraqi forces were defeated, the UN mandated the US withdraw from Iraq, ending the Gulf War. By the time of the cease-fire on February 28, the 24th advanced 260 miles and destroyed 360 tanks and other armored personnel carriers, 300 artillery pieces, 1,200 trucks, 25 aircraft, 19 missiles, and over 500 pieces of engineer equipment.

The division took over 5,000 Iraqi prisoners of war while suffering only eight killed, 36 wounded, and five non-combat casualties.

After returning to the U.S. in spring '91, the 24th was reorganized with two brigades at Fort Stewart and the 3rd Brigade reactivated at Fort Benning, Georgia, replacing the 197th Infantry Brigade. In fall '94, Iraq again threatened the Kuwaiti border, and two brigades from the division returned to southwest Asia. As part of the Army's reduction to a ten-division force, the 24th was inactivated on February 15, 1996 and reflagged to become the 3rd Infantry Division.

***Your editor displayed his ignorance in the last issue of the Taro Leaf by asking if the 24th ID was ever in Saudi Arabia. Several members wrote letters to tell of their experiences (see letters from Oster and House, next page.) Tom Stewart wrote, "I hope my 24th Division Commander – Gen. Barry McCaffrey does not see the question you asked on page 20." Well, it wouldn't be the first time I got chewed out, but I'm trying to redeem myself by printing the account from Wikipedia. Don't make the mistake I made looking at the colors on the map. Kuwait is only the small area to the southeast of Iraq.***

**Editor**

**Editor:** I served as a squad leader with D CO, 3rd BN, 15th RGT, 24th Infantry Division. We were stationed at Ft Stewart, Georgia. Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990, and we were alerted the next day and sent to a cantonment area shortly thereafter. We flew out of Hunter Army airfield in Savannah and arrived in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia on the 21st or 22nd of August. We stayed at the port for 2-3 days until our equipment and vehicles arrived by ship. The 24 ID was the first heavy division in country proceeded only by elements of the 82nd and 101st divisions that secured the air and port facilities. The 24th returned to Ad Ammam, Saudi Arabia to clean vehicles and equipment for the return to the states. We left about March 19-21. I hope this helps, I would be glad to supply more information if there is any interest. Thank you and God bless,

**Kenn Oster, Life 2263, 19204 Yew Way, Unit A,  
Snohomish WA 98296-8178, 206-419-8824**

**Hi David:** I am writing in regards to your story in the last Taro Leaf, "Calamity in the Desert. MG James B. Vaught was made the scapegoat. This is what he talked about at our reunion in New Orleans at the Marriott. He said that in preparation for the mission all the helos were tested and modified for "desert conditions." They were loaded on an aircraft carrier for the mission. The plans for use of those helos were scratched and regular Navy helos were used for the mission over the objections of MG Vaught. If you contact the general, I'm sure he will confirm this action taken by the JCofS. He should be commended for his bravery and for taking the blame. His honor is at stake for failure of the mission and blame should be placed where it belongs.

**William L. Pence, Life 443, 8585 Briar Grove Circle  
Tampa, FL 33615 Tel. 813 884-1977**

**David:** The issue I just got is great! I have three comments however: 1. The article on the Medal of Honor page #31 the word 'winner,' the MOH is NOT a contest ! the word(s) that should be used are 'Awarded' or 'Recipient.' Was this your wording or did you copy it from some where else? (Note: My replies to David Baille are shown in bold) **I agree with your comments. I copied it from the source.** 2. Quartermaster page is un-readable, **maybe difficult, but not un-readable.** I can't order from there, **Try harder!** It should go back to the way it was last year. 3. The stories are great but too many make it too busy to read. **I suspect you don't do much reading.** Over all I rate it a 'B.' **Fair enough ...and I would rate your critique at a B also.**

**SCM (Ret) David Baillie, 34 RGT, Life 1847, 2956  
New Leicester Hwy, Leicester, NC 28748, 828-515-0150**

**David:** I'm the guy who sent the Christmas card! You missed the most important thing on the card. The card was issued to us in 1950 when we were in N. Korea! MacArthur was telling us we'd be home for Christmas. I sent it home to my mother and still have it. I was with A CO, 19th RGT July '50 -July '51.

**Jack W. Shuell, Life 2283, 606 Maple Street  
Midland, MI 48640-5699, 989-839-9670**

**David:** Great job with the newsletter! You asked, pg. 20, if the 24th was in Saudi Arabia in 1991. Yes! I was the S3 of 3-41FA supporting the 2nd Brigade for Desert Shield and Storm. Desert Shield was entirely in Saudi Arabia in '90 and very early '91. Desert Storm began in January '91. We didn't move northwest to attack positions until after Desert Storm began, so we did not cross into Iraq until 24 February '91. After Desert Storm we returned to Saudi Arabia to then departed for home. Therefore, you can see that the 24th Division was in Saudi Arabia before and after Desert Storm combat operations in '91.

My second comment deals with the Desert One story on pp. 4-5. I believe there is an error based on my reading of James Kyle's *The Guts to Try* and Charlie Beckwith's *Delta Force*. The account in the *Taro Leaf* indicates that C141s delivered the Delta operators to Desert One. Based on the two books, Delta flew from Ft. Bragg in C-141s to a staging area. They boarded C-130s for insertion into the desert. C-141s were to be used for the evacuation from the vicinity of Tehran. Having flown in and jumped from a number of C-141s, I doubt that a large enough piece of desert for their operations would have been found easily. Again the newsletter looks great!

**John M. House, PhD, Colonel (Ret.), US Army, Life 1491,  
7618 Eagle Dr., Midland, GA 31820, 706-573-2389**

David: I was delighted to see some of my father's book in the Taro Leaf quarterly and that you plan on including more of his story in the next installment. I would like to obtain five more copies for my mother, Mattie, my brothers, David, Terry, my sister, Cheryl and Jen, Jake's sister. I'd be happy to pay for them and any cost for postage. **(Sorry, the issue is in short supply - I can send only one . Ed.)**

On December 28th of last year, I received a letter from a Ms Jane Crow from Hamilton, Alabama. She had been working on a scrapbook for her father, Dewey Crow. She had somehow found your website. Ms Crow requested three of the photos in the book because her father recognized the beach and a strategic hill that he and his fellow soldiers had taken from the Japanese. Mr. Crow was wounded twice and remembers a medic of a mortar platoon treating his wounds. He believes that it was my father who treated him both times...amazing. They were both part of the invasion of Leyte. It's hard to believe that 70 years later there is a connection between two soldiers who both served in the South Pacific theater. What a small world...it all happened because of Tom's interest and efforts in putting A Lucky Dogfoot from World War II on your website. The Meier and Crow family are most grateful.

I almost forgot, in the book, Jake mentions seeing a lone Japanese fighter plane rising from the island to attack our ships or airplanes. That airplane was shot down. Dad even mentions what gun shot him down. Ms. Crow sent me a copy of the Stars and Stripes dated October 24th, 1944 that speaks of that same incident. It's hard to believe that connection as well. Glad to be a part of the 24th IDA.  
**Paul Meier, 3617 South Hanford St., Seattle, WA 98144**



# Letters



**David:** After serving two months on the DMZ, my outfit, H CO, 34th RGT was pulled back to a small village called, Pagot-ri (may be Gapgot-ri, Ed.). This was 1954 and 1955. I'm sending some pictures of the village the guys might want to see. The picture #1 (top right) is our 24th Repo. The picture #2 (top left) is in the village, with an O-josan looking at me as I took the picture. The picture #3 (right) is the so-called "Freedom Bridge," crossing the Imjin River. It may have been named because returning POWs crossed it. H CO was a heavy weapons company. The picture was taken looking down the barrel of a 105mm recoilless howitzer. In front is a jeep load of our guys crossing to the other side. All this area was south of the DMZ. I'd sure like to hear from any of my buddies who were there with me in Korea at that time.

**Dayton Davis, Member, 6799 Tall Oaks Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 4909, Telephone 269 544-0171**



**David:** In the last issue of the Taro Leaf, you told the story of seeing a brigadier general on the road outside Chinju who stopped a convoy and ordered groups of soldiers to defend nearby hills. Although you were with the 24th ID, you somehow connected with the 25th ID on July 31st, 1950. The general was BG William B. Kean, commander of the 25th. He was promoted a few months later, in September, to MG. I don't know what happened to those troops he assigned outside Chinju.

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

**Dear David:** We are now in a state of quandary about who will present the resolution (for the Arlington monument) since Rep. Christopher Lee has resigned. Furthermore, Congresswoman Jane Harmon, to whom I have submitted my documents for Congress' recommendation to the Sec. of the Army, has also resigned. It is now up to Senator Boxer to carry on, I hope, to push on my request. It is up to your infinite wisdom, now, to find a solution to our problems. I know you won't fail.

**P. Ed Rumbaoa, Life 2234 , 21128 So. Menlo Ave., Torrance, CA 90502 310 320-0108**

**Ed:** I'm not entirely sure what your message is about, but I'm afraid I might have to disappoint you. I'm short on wisdom and my job is editing the Taro Leaf, I'm not the one to carry the colors. As the saying goes, "I don't make the news, I just report it." Perhaps someone reading this can lend you a hand. **David**

**David:** I just received my Winter issue of the Taro Leaf and have read it completely; very interesting and well formatted Thanks for stepping up to the plate to continue its publication for the Association. We are all getting older and it is good to read things in our past. Keep up the good work.

**John T. Edwards, 3rd ENG BN, 14370 Mill Swamp Road, Smithfield VA 23430-3536 757-357-2331**

**Hi David!** I have been a member of the 24th IDA since '07. I recently remitted my dues. Last night I received a nice call from John Dunn. I told him to tell you what a fine job you are doing as editor. Today I thought I would tell you myself. Keep up the good work!! Just thought, (having been an incorrigible editor myself once), that the "duce four" mentioned by Terri Santitoro in her note to you on p. 9 of the latest Taro Leaf, should probably be rendered "deuce four", but don't get me wrong, orthography, or spelling, is perhaps the least egregious of the mistakes we make in our writing. Again, keep up the excellent work.

**Don Young, Member, 4367 Elk Creek Dr. Elk Creek MO 65464-9623, 417-962-4481**



**David:** I can claim eligibility for membership in the 24th Infantry Division Association on three experience levels. The first of these occurred when I transferred from the 519th MP Bn. In Yokohama, Japan, to the 34th Infantry Regiment in Sasebo in 1949.

The regiment had an MP platoon at the time, and as a graduate of the MP School at Ft. Gordon, the assignment to the MP's was a natural. I even spent some time as a member of a two-man MP patrol in Nagasaki, which, at the time, had only a CIC detachment stationed there permanently. It was a heady job for a PFC.

My most memorable deed in Nagasaki was organizing an international shore patrol during the visit of the French frigate *Gueriere* and the USS *Helena* (Cruiser). I do speak French and was invited to the French Chief Petty Officers Mess for dinner. With a different wine served with each course, I soon got smashed and a Frenchman had to drive me to my quarters in my jeep. I still don't know how he got back to his ship.

When the Nagasaki posting was over, I asked to join the Regimental I & R Platoon where my Yokohama friend, MSGT Manny Shubert (KIA 1950) was platoon sergeant.

I transferred out of the 24th ID in May 1950 and ordered to the infamous Sugamo Prison, expecting to become an MP guard again. But when the personnel sergeant found I had two years of college and could type, he made me a personnel clerk.

My second association with the 24th ID came in August 1950 when I was sent to Korea as a replacement to K CO, 19th RGT. I led a charmed life, surviving the battles from the end of the Pusan Perimeter to the Chinese Intervention. To my amazement, I was pulled out of the line in December 1950 and told to report to regimental headquarters company where I learned how to become a radio operator, thus missing a New Year's Eve battle in which most of my old platoon became POWs.

When several enlisted reserve radio operators showed up, I lost my job and was told to find myself another one. Resolved not to walk into battle again, I applied to the CO of Heavy Mortar Company and henceforth rode into battle in a 3/4-ton truck. I was finally promoted to Corporal having set a five year Army record as a PFC.

My third association with the 24th ID was in a support role as the Augsburg, Germany Garrison Post Quartermaster in 1963-4. By that time I was a Quartermaster Corps Captain and supplied household furniture, commissary services and other vital supply items to the locally stationed 24th Division units.

The most interesting series of events occurred quite frequently when the MPs and senior officers insisted that I was wearing the 24th ID shoulder patch on the wrong shoulder.

**William W. Garry, Life 593, 3204 Huntwick Ln., Virginia Beach, VA 23451-3977, drbillgarry@msn.com**

**David:** April, 1943 I was assigned to K CO, 34th RGT on Oahu, H.I. In August '43 the 24th ID moved by troop transport to Port Gladstone on the east coast of Australia where we were united with our equipment shipped from the U.S. Here, Camp Caves was set up by the 24th in a place near Rockhamton, Queensland. There were no buildings or barracks. Each company was assigned an area to set up tents in the trees and hills. Christmas '43 was there at Camp Caves. The nearest town was Rockhamton with no nightlife, so the MP Company had it easy.

At this time the Japanese army was fighting the Australian army in Milne Bay, eastern New Guinea. Also the Carol Sea battle was taking place off the coast of Australia. We beat the Japanese Navy for the first time since Pearl Harbor.

Training was for jungle fighting as well as in connection with the Australia Navy. We did a mock beach landing that lasted from 2 am till 9 pm, climbing down the ropes and hitting the beach. February '44 we left Camp Caves and moved up to Goodenough Island closer to the war in New Guinea.

David, I hope this will give you an idea of Camp Caves. I have no idea how it got its name; I hiked over a good part of that area and never saw a cave. I understand this area is mostly coal mining with Port Gladstone the big shipping port with the coal now going to China, Japan, and the middle east.

**Paul Cain, Life 186, 3109 B Chatham Dr., Urbana, IL 61802, 217-344-1462, pgee.cain@yahoo.com>**

**Dear John (Dunn):** I enclose my check for Twenty-Five Dollars payable to the association to cover my 2011 dues and a small contribution to the treasury.

My service in the 24th was quite short, only a few weeks for the invasion at Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea in April of 1944. I was a member of the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) detachment from Hq. USAFFE (MacArthur's HQ), attached to the 24th for that operation. We went in on D-day with the combat elements of the division. Our CIC mission with the 24th at that point mostly had to do with the interrogation of Japanese POWs, etc, and securing enemy documents and specialized material valuable for intelligence evaluation. As it happened, I found some hidden Japanese Naval aviation equipment at Lake Santani, and was ordered to return to Australia with it for its review by our Navy. Later I returned to Hollandia to join a CIC team going in on the Leyte invasion of the Philippines.

John, you have my best wishes, you and the other fine veterans of the 24th who are keeping its history so well preserved in the Tarp Leaf editions.

**JAMES F. CONWAY, Member, 125 Versailles Circle Towson, Maryland 21294- 6923, 410 296-0489**

# Looking For

**To Anyone:** A yearbook was published in September 1949 at Camp Chickamauga, Beppu, Japan. Its official title is, "The Organization Day Yearbook of the Nineteenth United States Infantry Regiment, 'The Rock of Chickamauga.'" It included photos and names of all the members of the **19th RGT** by Battalion and Company who were assigned to the 19th at the time of publication, plus it gave some history of the unit and contained photos of Camp Chickamauga. This was supposed to be an annual event but unfortunately the Korean War intervened.

As far as I know there was never another publication. My copy was sent to my mother when I became MIA on 4 Nov. 1950, along with my other personal items, (things the packers didn't want to steal), which we had to leave behind at Camp Chickamauga when we left for Korea. My mother kept everything in her basement which became flooded during a rain storm. Most of my belongings were later destroyed by the water, but my copy, or I should say what was left of it, was saved. However it is barely readable and I'm hoping someone out there who has one would be willing to part with it. I am willing to pay a reasonable price for it (or pay to have it copied) plus the postage to send it to me. Thanks for your help.

**Bill Borer, Life 2336, 556 Osprey Dr., Hampstead, NC 28443  
910-270-0049, mrbill10@bellsouth.net**

**Editor:** I am the webmaster of the site now known as <http://rockforce.org> and websites which deal with the 503d PRCT on Corregidor. Unfortunately, the 503d websites give what might be considered to be a one-sided view of the Corregidor operation. I am attempting to have <http://rockforce.org> more completely reflect the role of the 3d Bn, **34th RGT** of the 24th ID on Corregidor. I have articles by Paul Cain, Bill McKenna, Phil Nast, Jim Mathis and others – but there are many aspects of the action which – unfortunately – are incomplete. I would like to obtain a list of the 34th men who were killed on Corregidor. I have compiled lists of the 503d men who were KIA, and have been adding pages for every man about whom something is known as to the circumstances of his death. I started a list [http://rockforce.org/rock\\_force/taps/kia\\_draft\\_listing.htm](http://rockforce.org/rock_force/taps/kia_draft_listing.htm) but it seems to me that I have only 17 of the 38 that I understand were killed. I would appreciate any assistance or guidance that you could give towards completion of this project. Hoping to hear from you,

**Paul Whitman, 2 Jordan Tce., Bowen Hills, Brisbane, Queensland Australia 4006, [exo@rockforce.org](mailto:exo@rockforce.org)**

**Editor:** (C/2/34 1966-1967 Germany, D/1/52; 1968-1969, Vietnam) I was with the above unit in Augsburg Germany before shipping out to Nam. I was wondering if you or someone else can get a hold of these records or transcripts if they are available. The reason is that I am looking for guys that were in my company during that time frame. Thanks,

**Dennis O'Connor, [oonnde12171@aol.com](mailto:oonnde12171@aol.com)**

**Editor:** I received a letter from the sister of Cpl. Stanley T. Depki, of the **19th RGT** who was KIA on 3 Jan 51. She is seeking anyone who may have known Stanley, or who might be able to give her information about him. He was with HQ CO, 2n BN. He may have been assigned to Battalion S-2. (The letter from his sister said he was a "member of the Intelligence Section of the 19th Infantry")

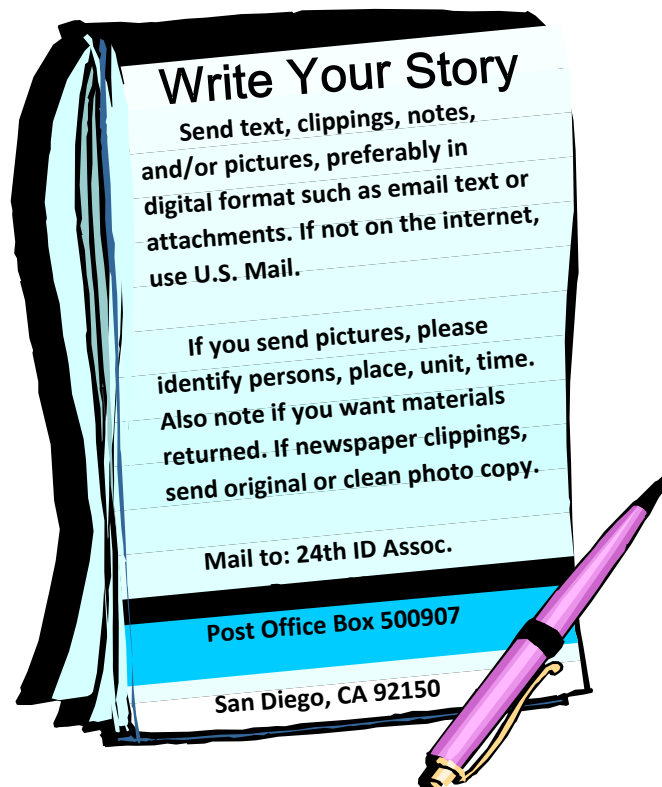
I have a copy of a page from a yearbook printed in Japan (Beppu) in 1949. which lists him as a member of G CO, 19th RGT in Japan.. He is not among the men listed as going with the initial G CO movement to Korea on 4 July 50 and may have transferred to HQ CO, 2nd BN prior to that time. He was listed as a PFC on the yearbook page and as CPL on the KIA list where I found his name. His serial number was an RA number, but with a 27 prefix which indicates he might have entered service as a National Guardsman and transferred later to the Regular Army.

Thank you for any information you may have about Cpl Depki. I will relay it to his sister.

**Bill Roseboro, Life 1323, 605 Marlboro St.  
Hamet, NC 28345 910 582-1189**

**Hi David** – I was wondering if you could put a blurb into the Taro Leaf that I'm looking for men who fought beside – or otherwise knew -- the 24th ID MOH recipients. I have been working on a story about Stanley T. Adams and I'm a bit dismayed by how little information there is about him. Thanks!

**Merry Helm, 24th IDA Historian  
420 8th Avenue South, Fargo ND 58103-2828  
701 293-5045 [52pianos@cablone.net](mailto:52pianos@cablone.net)**





LAWS OF:

# Perversity

**Law of Mechanical Repair** - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

**Law of Gravity** - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place. On some occasions the item you dropped will disappear forever.

**Law of Probability** - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

**Law of Random Numbers** - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

**Law of the Alibi** - If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

**Variation Law** - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you moved to (it works every time).

**Law of the Bath** - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

**Law of Close Encounters** - The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

**Law of the Result** - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

**Law of Bio mechanics** - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

**Law of the Theater and Arena** - At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, etc., and leave early before the end. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies, and stay to the bitter end. They are also very surly people.

**Coffee Law** - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

**Murphy's Law of Lockers** - If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

**Law of Physical Surfaces** - The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor, are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

**Law of Logical Argument** - Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about. If you do know what you are talking about, nobody is interested.

**Brown's Law of Physical Appearance** - If the clothes fit, they're ugly. If you have only one suit to wear when you go to put it on, it will have a big grease stain on the lapel.

**Oliver's Law of Public Speaking** - A closed mouth gathers no feet.

**Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy** - As soon as you find a product you really like, they will stop making it.

**Doctors' Law** - If you don't feel well, make an appointment for the doctor, by the time you get there you'll feel better. But if you don't make an appointment, you'll stay sick.

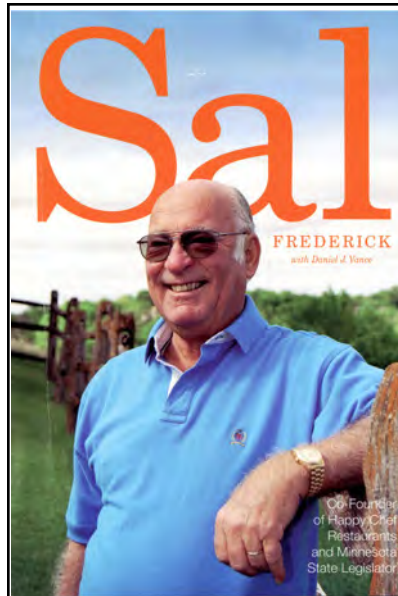
**Law of Remembering** - What you need to remember, you may forget, but if you make a list you will remember and won't need it.

**Life is perverse — don't fight it.**

## Living Large



This is a recent photo of me wearing the uniform of a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary National Branch Chief, Public Affairs. I am still active with this organization. Read the story of **William W. Garry's** assignments with the 24th ID in "Letters," page 9.



**Marcel "Sal" Frederick**, now 85 years old, served with G CO, **34th RGT** during WWII in Mindinao, Philippines and Japan at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After his stint in the Army, he was attracted to the restaurant business and co-founded the successful "Happy Chefs" chain in Minnesota. He later became President of the Minnesota Restaurant Association and was also a board member of the National Restaurant Assoc. With energy and ambition still not fully satisfied he tried politics

and became a Republican Representative of the State of Minnesota, where he served for eight years. About ten years ago Sal wrote his autobiography (cover above).

**Sal Frederick, Life 1619, 212 Parkway Place, Mankota, MN 56001, 507 388-2251.**



Korean War vet, Dick Stuben picketing illegal immigration saying U.S. has sent troops to Korean border for 60 years, but has sent none to our borders. Dick served with the **19th RGT** and **3rd ENG**. **Richard Stuben, 505 S 6th St, Apt 309, Council Bluffs, IA 51501-6436, 712-323-6416**

# TANKERS: THEY STICK THEIR NECKS OUT

Everybody was waiting, waiting for the Chinks and waiting for the rain. Tenselessness was all through the encampment. The tiger-painted tanks of "A" Company, 6th Tank Battalion, were lined up like huge cats ready to spring. Company "A" men were checking the treads and transmissions, making sure their M-46 Pattons were oiled and gassed, and counting out full quotas of ammo. The Chinese were coming.

The 1st and 3d platoons were in a forward position while the 2nd platoon sat pensively in reserve at the CP. Some of the men were sleeping; most of them waiting. For days, the M-46's had gone out in an endless stream of patrols and sighted little. Pvt Richard A Parsons, of Cheney, Kansas, a gunner with the second tank of the 2d platoon, said, "We knew the Chinese were there, but when we'd go by they'd dig in or go back to their holes. The infantry got a little play but the Chinese didn't seem to want to tangle with tanks."

Company Commander, Captain Jack C. Moss, of Chicago, called his men together. "Men, the infantry's spotted some 2,000 Chinamen or more up in that area we patrolled yesterday," he said. Then Captain Moss explained the assignment and his men started to their tanks. "Do your best, that's plenty good enough for me," he said.

At 2315 hours, the clouds lifted and a three-quarter moon lighted the area. At about 2345 flares appeared high over the rugged mountains, trip flares—the Chinks were coming. Infantry companies Item, Love and King of the 5th Regimental Combat Team, set up around hill 678. Item Company had a north ridge, Love Company an entrance to a draw, and King Company took a left flank defense position. The three companies were to take the initial blow and fall back. They were far out in front of the main line of defense.

The 1st and 3rd platoons of "A" Company M-46 tanks placed themselves in support of the 5th RCT position. The mission was to give fire-power and make it count. Shortly after midnight the attack came, the Reds came down the slope opposite hill 678 in columns of three. Huge trench spots set up by the 3d Engineers blinked on the rays bouncing light off low hanging clouds. The Chinese filed down the hills like ants, and soon the hill was black with them. Howitzers, both 105 and 155 mm, were booming and the "Long Toms" were beating out. Item and Love companies moved forward and the battle began.

Back at the CP of 6th Tank Battalion, the artillery was deafening. CWO William H Cassels Jr, Marion, Virginia, went from tent to tent getting the 2nd platoon ready to move out. "Strike the tents," he said, "I've got an idea the CP will be withdrawing a bit." The men obeyed. As the chores were completed, men gathered around the half-track that held the radio. The whole story was blaring out by radio contact. Second platoon men were waiting for the voice of Captain Moss to tell them to move forward. The captain blared out at last, "Send the 2nd up, also the ammo truck." The 2nd platoon forded the river, moved up toward hill 578, and took positions on the north river bank.

First Platoon Leader, Sgt Clarence Allison, Piedmont, S.C., directed a base of fire to the slope across from hill 678. As Item Company started to drop back, Allison's platoon covered. An enemy machine gun started to pour fire over the area. Lt. Warren J. Weber, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, had his 3rd platoon join Allison's platoon in concentrating fire until the machine gun nest was no more.

Crew: Callen Burris, Robert  
Faulkner, Doyle Boone, and  
David Lees



The first wave of Chinese had been fully armed but as the second wave moved in, it was estimated only about one in five was armed. At 1300 hours, clouds covered the moon and only the trench spots lit the area. Item Company was moving back as planned and Love Company followed. The tanks continued to cover. Ammunition was running low and before 0400 hours the 50 caliber ammo was almost exhausted. The M-46's moved back, each covering the other's withdrawal and return.

Tank one of the 1st platoon was low on 30 caliber ammo. Tank commander Sgt Antonio Granillo, Florence, Ariz., got out of his turret position to pass some of the ammo stored on the exterior of the vehicle in to the bow-gunner. A mortar shell exploded by the left rear, wounding Sergeant Granillo, and driver Sgt Lawrence J Eno, Chevboygan, Mich. Bow-gunner, Pvt Harry E Smith, Middlehook, Arkansas, took over as driver while Sgt Granillo, remained as tank commander. Though wounded, he directed the loading of two wounded Rangers on the tank and smoothly worked the M-46 back to the road where a litter-jeep met them.

CWO Cassels contacted Captain Moss by radio. "What about breakfast?" asked the Warrant Officer. "You can start cooking it" replied Captain Moss. By 0630 hours the withdrawal was completed and the tank platoons relieved alternately to eat. Over 500 rounds of 90 mm high explosive ammunition had been fired. They continued the constant pounding and before the day was over 900 rounds were fired.

The men were tired and as things quieted down, they snatched bits of sleep and ate C-rations or hot meals, according to their tactical positions. The howitzers started to boom and howl again, and as the noise grew the Tiger-tanks moved out. The CP had moved back, and the Infantry Companies and Patton-tanks set up a new line of defense—this time to stay. "All in a day's work," commented Warrant Officer Cassels. The 6th Tank Battalion, the first Tank Battalion in Korea, had introduced the M-46 "Pattons" to combat. Commanded by Lt Col Henry M. Byorum, Moorhead, Minn., the "Tigers" unit has gained fame for its integral part in the Korean Campaign.

***This story was published in the Jan-Feb, 1952, Taro Leaf while the war was still raging in Korea. Unfortunately, the author's name was not given. A copy of the 8-page Taro Leaf was provided by Major Edward Farmer, Ret. Editor***



# An Occupation Army's Far Reach

***The Occupation of Japan was more of a social than military action. It introduced far reaching changes to the traditions and culture of the country. At GHQ in Tokyo, the Government Section under Gen. Courtney Whitney was engaged in monumental tasks, like the revision of Japan's constitution, but as the following report indicates they were concerned with all sorts of abuses.***

By CPT John E. Fuller, G-2, HQ CO 24th ID (Okayama, Honshu)  
14 March 1946 SUBJECT: Violation of SCAP Directive, AG 726.7.

**Subject: Abolition of Licensed Prostitution in Japan.**

1. An investigation of two "geisha houses" (prostitution) in Okayama City, Okayama Ken, was conducted to determine the conditions under which they are operating. There is an association composed of approximately 50 members who "own" 46 girls and operate in two locations called the "East" and "West" houses. The buildings are large flimsy barrack type buildings with numerous small rooms. Each member has invested 15,000 yen in the enterprise.

2. A member of the association, Munewasa Aoki, Higashi Nakajima Cho, Okatama City, Okayama Ken, was interviewed and he stated: "The shogi, (prostitutes) have now been changed to shakufu (waitresses) but they still continue to work in the same manner as before. The only difference is that the girls can now leave as soon as they pay their debts and they are no longer required to stay for a set period of time." (*Don't you just love the way this problems was solved.*)

3. Another member, Terutaro Kawakami, Nishi Nakajima Cho, Okayama City, was also interviewed and told a similar story and added that the debts had been canceled and no attempt was made to collect outstanding obligations.

4. Twelve girls were interviewed and it was learned that all girls are in debt on an average of 6,000 to 8,000 yen. They are largely from the country, have a very limited education, and were ignorant of any SCAP directives nullifying contracts or agreements binding any woman to the practice of prostitution. Many indicate a desire to get out of business but had no idea of the length of time required to repay their obligation.

5. In most cases the debt was incurred by the girls family. There is no specific way a girl can pay off her debt. She is not forced to continue in prostitution, but so far in nearly all cases that has been the only way she can pay off her indebtedness. The family can assist in repaying the money borrowed, but it is not likely that they will be in a financial position to do so.

6. The houses are patronized by Japanese personnel exclusively and one hour of entertainment costs from 22 to 27 yen. 12 yen is deducted for government tax and the balance is divided equally between the girl and the house so that she can make a net profit of 5 to 7 yen per hour which is applied to her account. The girls appeared to be well cared for since they receive food, quarters and medical care. It is

necessary that they provide their own clothing, however. They are also permitted to leave the house during the day and can also leave to visit their families for a limited period of time.

7. No girls have ever attempted to leave the association without paying their obligation. One girl stated: "It would be of no use, as they would come after us." The Japanese code of always paying their debts is strong in their mind and several said that their conscience would bother them if they failed to pay back their obligation.

***Our thanks to Major Edward S. Farmer, Ret., for sending a copy of this document to the Taro Leaf.*** **Editor**

## BELATEDLY, GETTING HIS PURPLE HEART



By Bruce Leaf,  
Boulder Daily Camera  
Though Wesley Stiller was wounded twice in battle, he waited nearly sixty years for recognition. Veterans, friends and family members packed the Longmont City Council Chambers on Tuesday night to see Korean War veteran Cpl. Wesley Stiller receive the Purple

Heart 59 years after he was twice wounded in combat.

Mayor Bryan Baum said, "Poor record keeping at the time prevented him from getting the award; tonight, we're here to rectify that oversight." He added, "Wesley never sought it out. Someone else sought it out for him. It's a sign of the times that he lived in that people weren't interested in glorifying themselves." He credited his family and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 434, in Longmont for doing the legwork.

In an interview Tuesday afternoon, Stiller said he didn't think he would ever get the award. "So it's a real honor to get it. Many, many people didn't get it." The Army wasn't negligent; it was just that time passed without the recognition. "There's so much going on and you're moving around and pretty soon you're removed from the people who know what happened," he said.

"The first time I was wounded, both me and my assistant were wounded by the same grenade, probably; there were quite a few of them going off," he said. That occurred Oct. 14, 1951. He was wounded again two weeks later on Oct. 31, 1951, when he was hit in the right leg by machine gun fire.

*Stiller served in L CO, 19th RGT, as a corporal operating a BAR. After returned to Japan, his unit conducted training in beach landing, air transport, and combat ski training in Hokaido and provided advance training for new officers heading for Korea. Wes didn't know about the 24th IDA. We hope to sign him up.*

**Editor**

## SOUTH TO THE NAKTONG, NORTH TO THE YALU

Roy E. Appleman



## American Ground Forces Enter the Battle, CH. VII

*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** will be concluded in this issue.*

**Late morning, day one, July 5, 1950.** Colonel Perry was of the opinion that a few well-placed antitank mines would have stopped the entire armored column in the road. After the last of the tank column had passed through the infantry position and the artillery and tank fire back toward Osan had subsided, the American positions became quiet again. There was no movement of any kind discernible on the road ahead toward Suwon. But Smith knew that he must expect enemy infantry soon. In the steady rain that continued throughout the morning, the men deepened their foxholes and otherwise improved their positions.

Perhaps an hour after the enemy tank column had moved through, Colonel Smith, from his observation post, saw movement on the road far away, near Suwon. This slowly became discernible as a long column of trucks and foot soldiers. Smith estimated the column to be about six miles long. It took an hour for the head of the column to reach a point 1,000 yards in front of the American infantry. There were three tanks in front, followed by a long line of

trucks, and, behind these, several miles of marching infantry. There could be no doubt about it, this was a major force of the North Korean Army pushing south—the 16th and 18th Regiments of the N.K. 4th Division, as learned later.

Whether the enemy column knew that American ground troops had arrived in Korea and were present in the battle area is unknown. Later, Sr. Col. Lee Hak Ku, in early July operations officer of the N.K. II Corps, said he had no idea that the United States would intervene in the war, that nothing had been said about possible U.S. intervention, and that he believed it came as a surprise to North Korean authorities.

With battle against a greatly superior number of enemy troops only a matter of minutes away, the apprehensions of the American infantry watching the approaching procession can well be imagined. General MacArthur later referred to his commitment of a handful of American ground troops as "that arrogant display of strength" which he hoped would fool the enemy into thinking that a much larger force was at hand.

When the convoy of enemy trucks was about 1,000 yards away, Colonel Smith, to use his own words, "threw the book at them." Mortar shells landed among the trucks and .50-caliber machine gun bullets swept the column. Trucks burst into flames. Men were blown into the air; others sprang from their vehicles and jumped into ditches alongside the road. The three tanks moved to within 200-300 yards of the American positions and began raking the ridge line with cannon and machine gun fire. Behind the burning vehicles an estimated 1,000 enemy infantry detrucked and started to deploy. Behind them other truckloads of infantry stopped and waited.

It was now about 1145. The enemy infantry began moving up the finger ridge along the east side of the road. There, some of them set up a base of fire while others fanned out to either side in a double enveloping movement. The American fire broke up all efforts of the enemy infantry to advance frontally. Strange though it was, the North Koreans made no strong effort to attack the flanks; they seemed bent on getting around rather than closing on them. Within an hour, about 1230, the enemy appeared in force on the high hill to the west of the highway overlooking and dominating the knob on that side held by a platoon of B Company. Smith, observing this, withdrew the platoon to the east side of the road. Maj.

Floyd Martin, executive officer of the 1st Battalion, meanwhile supervised the carrying of available ammunition stocks to a central and protected area back of the battalion command post. The 4.2-inch mortars were moved up closer, and otherwise the men achieved a tighter defense perimeter on the highest ground east of the road. In the exchange of fire that went on an increasing amount of enemy mortar and artillery fire fell on the American position. Enemy machine guns on hills overlooking the right flank now also began firing on Smith's men.

Earlier, Colonel Perry had twice sent wire parties to repair the communications wire between the artillery and the infantry, but both had returned saying they had been fired upon. At 1300 Perry sent a third group led by his Assistant S-3. This time he ordered the men to put in a new line across the paddies east of the road and to avoid the area where the earlier parties said they had received fire.

About 1430, Colonel Smith decided that if any of his command was to get out, the time to move was at hand. Large numbers of the enemy were now on both flanks and moving toward his rear; a huge enemy reserve waited in front of him along the road stretching back toward Suwon; and his small arms ammunition was nearly gone. A large enemy tank force was already in his rear. He had no communications, not even with Colonel Perry's artillery a mile behind him, and he could hope for no reinforcements. Perry's artillery had fired on the enemy infantry as long as the fire direction communication functioned properly, but this too had failed soon after the infantry fight began. The weather prevented friendly air from arriving at the scene. Had it been present it could have worked havoc with the enemy-clogged road.

Smith planned to withdraw his men by leapfrogging units off the ridge, each jump of the withdrawal covered by protecting fire of the next unit ahead. The selected route of withdrawal was toward Osan down the finger ridge on the right flank, just west of the railroad track. First off the hill was C Company, followed by the medics, then battalion headquarters, and, finally, B Company, except its 2nd Platoon which never received the withdrawal order. A platoon messenger returned from the company command post and reported to 2nd Lt. Carl F. Bernard that there was no one at the command post



and that the platoon was the only group left in position. After confirming this report Bernard tried to withdraw his men.

At the time of the withdrawal the men carried only small arms and each averaged two or three clips of ammunition. They abandoned all crew-served weapons-recoilless rifles, mortars, and machine guns. They had no alternative but to leave behind all the dead and about twenty-five to thirty wounded litter cases. A medical sergeant, whose name unfortunately has not been determined, voluntarily remained with the latter. The slightly wounded moved out with the main units, but when enemy fire dispersed some of the groups many of the wounded dropped behind and were seen no more.

Task Force Smith suffered its heaviest casualties in the withdrawal. Some of the enemy machine gun fire was at close quarters. The captain and pitcher of the regimental baseball team, 1st Lt. Raymond "Bodie" Adams, used his pitching arm to win the greatest victory of his career when he threw a grenade forty yards into an enemy machine gun position, destroying the gun and killing the crew. This particular gun had caused heavy casualties.

About the time B Company, the initial covering unit, was ready to withdraw, Colonel Smith left the hill, slanted off to the railroad track and followed it south to a point opposite the artillery position. From there he struck off west through the rice paddies to find Colonel Perry and tell him the infantry was leaving. While crossing the rice paddies Smith met Perry's wire party and together they hurried to Perry's artillery battery. Smith had assumed that the enemy tanks had destroyed all the artillery pieces and had made casualties of most of the men. His surprise was complete when he found that all the guns at this battery position were operable and that only Colonel Perry and another man were wounded. Enemy infantry had not yet appeared at the artillery position.

Upon receiving Smith's order to withdraw, the artillerymen immediately made ready to go. They removed the sights and breech locks from the guns and carried them and the aiming circles to their vehicles. Smith, Perry, and the artillerymen walked back to the outskirts of Osan where they found the artillery trucks as they had left them, only a few being slightly damaged by tank and machine gun fire.

Perry and Smith planned to take a road at the south edge of Osan to Ansong, assuming that the enemy tanks had gone down the main road toward P'yongt'aek. Rounding a bend in the road near the southern edge of the town, but short of the Ansong road, Smith and Perry in the lead vehicle came suddenly upon three enemy tanks halted just ahead of them. Some or all of the tank crew members were standing about smoking cigarettes. The little column of vehicles turned around quickly, and, without a shot being fired, drove back to the north edge of Osan. There they turned into a small dirt road that led eastward, hoping that it would get them to Ansong.

The column soon came upon groups of infantry from Smith's battalion struggling over the hills and through the rice paddies. Some of the men had taken off their shoes in the rice paddies, others were without head covering of any kind, while some had their shirts off. The trucks stopped and wait-

ed while several of these groups came up and climbed on them. About 100 infantrymen joined the artillery group in this way. Then the vehicles continued on unmolested, arriving at Ansong after dark.

There was no pursuit. The North Korean infantry occupied the vacated positions, and busied themselves in gathering trophies, apparently content to have driven off the enemy force.

The next morning, 6 July, Colonel Smith and his party went on to Ch'onan. Upon arrival there a count revealed that he had 185 men. Subsequently, Capt. Richard Dashmer, C Company commander, came in with 65 men, increasing the total to 250. There were about 150 men killed, wounded, or missing from Colonel Smith's infantry force when he took a second count later in the day. The greatest loss was in B Company. Survivors straggled in to American lines at P'yongt'aek, Ch'onan, Taejon, and other points in southern Korea during the next several days.

Lieutenant Bernard and twelve men of the reserve platoon of B Company reached Ch'onan two days after the Osan fight. Five times he and his men had encountered North Korean roadblocks. They arrived at Ch'onan only half an hour ahead of the enemy. A few men walked all the way from Osan to the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan. One man eventually arrived at Pusan on a Korean sampan from the west coast.

None of the 5 officers and 10 enlisted men of the artillery forward observer, liaison, machine gun, and bazooka group with the infantry ever came back. On 7 July, 5 officers and 26 enlisted men from the artillery were still missing.

The N.K. 4th Division and attached units apparently lost approximately 42 killed and 85 wounded at Osan on 5 July. A diary taken from a dead North Korean soldier some days later carried this entry about Osan: "5 Jul 50 . . . we met vehicles and American PWs. We also saw some American dead. We found 4 of our destroyed tanks. Near Osan there was a great battle."

***This installment concludes author Appleman's account of the action of Task Force Smith, but by no means does it show the breath and depth of this fine historical document describing the early months of the Korean War.***

***Editor***



**Comrades,**  
you've done  
your service for  
your country  
and may have  
inspired others,  
perhaps family  
members. Tell  
us about them.

# Nothing Has Changed

From a story written by David A. Farrell,  
Staff Writer, The Picayune Item 11-28-10

A former Korean War POW, who spent 32 months and 17 days in captivity, has one word to describe what's happening today on the Korean Peninsula: "Politics! It was politics then and politics now," says Clarence R. Penton, Jr. He believes the North Koreans are shelling the South to draw attention, in an attempt to blackmail the West for concessions of money, aid and oil.

Penton, now 80, looks back with pride on his service and has nothing but praise for those men with whom he served, some he saw die. Wounded twice during the conflict and spending most of the war in a POW camp close to the North Korea-China border, Penton has a unique perspective into the events surrounding the Korean War, and the constant tension that persists along the 38th Parallel since the shooting stopped 60 years ago.

The recent shelling was on a portion of the disputed western border section, Yeonpyeong Island, South Korea, near Inchon, where MacArthur made his surprise landing. This weekend, North Korean officials said the peninsula was "on the brink of war," South Korea fired its defense minister over the incident, and a U.S. nuclear-powered carrier was on its way to South Korean waters.

North Korea lays claim to Yeonpyeong Island, on which two civilians and two South Korean marines were killed during the North Korean shelling on Tuesday. An official peace treaty was never signed, and the war has officially and legally never ended between North and South.

Said Penton, "It was a dirty, nasty war; no give; no take; no compromise. The North Koreans were brutal, lived a brutal life, and treated their enemies that way, too. And the Chinese, who came in later, were little different. It is the same today."

Penton marched up and down the peninsula with the 24th Infantry Division as a signalman and was captured near Seoul on Jan. 1, 1951, just north of the 38th Parallel, in what was known as the "Chinese New Year Offensive." Said Penton, "How you were treated, depended on how the truce talks were going. You were always treated badly, but you knew

the peace talks were not going their way when you were treated worse."

Penton joined the Army on Aug. 11, 1949, about 11 months prior to the breakout of hostilities on June 24, 1950. He said he walked almost the entire length of the peninsula as a member of **Headquarters CO, 24th Inf. Div.**, and then was force-marched into North Korea when captured to what was called Camp 1 just a few miles from the North Korean-Chinese border.

His family back home in Picayune had been told he was missing in action after he was captured on New Year's Day, and it wasn't until 18 months later that his family got word that he was still alive and a POW. It took a letter six months to reach home or back. His battalion had pulled back, leaving Penton in an exposed position, and after the battalion regrouped, Penton was missing, a letter from the Army, told his family.

Most of his family and friends imagined him being dead; however, his family and close friends held out hope he was still alive and continued to pray for him. That he survived is a miracle, and Penton to this day attributes it to Providence. "After I got back home, I found out that a lot of people had been praying for me, and when I looked back on my experiences, I realized that I had felt those prayers, and had gained strength at my lowest points; it had to be my people's prayers," he said.

Penton said he was captured when he went to retrieve communication gear. He loaded it on a jeep and told his driver to take it to the battalion; he planned to walk out. When he began walking, he realized the Chinese had infiltrated his position. He veered to his right to rejoin **C CO**, which he thought was still in its position, but was hit by a mortar round.

He was first wounded on Aug. 10, 1950, in the leg, recuperated in Japan and returned to combat on Sept. 30. This time, the mortar concussion tore his rifle from his hands, and then he realized **CO C** was gone, too. After he was wounded by the mortar round, he got up, hid in a vacant house, ran out of it when the Chinese set it on fire, ran around a boulder to hide and came face-to-face with a Chinese soldier, pointing a rifle at him.

The loss of his rifle probably saved his life when the Chinese soldier didn't shoot him when they ran into each, probably because Penton was unarmed. The soldier threw him into a vacant house with another prisoner. That night, the two were lined up in front of a wall, and the Chinese conducted a 30-minute discussion, or what seemed like a debate.

"I think they were planning on shooting us, but one talked them out of it," said Penton. They then force-marched him and his fellow prisoners north to Camp 1. The food was horrible and he lost a lot of weight, but he kept putting one foot in front of the other. "You had no alternative but to try the best way you could to survive. Some didn't make it," he added.

Camp 1 held 800 American POWs and 300 British. It took four months, of marching and moving about after his capture to reach Camp 1. Camp life was monotonous and hunger was always present. Each day in long, tedious classes the captors tried to "brainwash" their prisoners. He was released on Aug. 21, 1953. A Korean armistice had been signed on July 27, 1953. He arrived home in Picayune, MS on Sept. 15, 1953.

When released, he was taken by truck to the 38th Parallel to what was called Freedom Village. Each time one American walked south across the truce line, 20 North Koreans or Chinese walked across to the northern side. Some of the North Korean and Chinese captured soldiers refused to go back to the communists.

Says Penton today, "It's one of those things where you have to say, now that it is all over, I wouldn't take a million dollars for the experience, but I darn sure wouldn't want to have to go through it again."

He added, "I noticed when I came back that little things didn't bother me anymore, I was gentler and kinder and more understanding to people, and realized how important our freedoms really are. It changed my life forever. It was a lot of close family ties and a lot of prayers that brought me through. I guess the Good Lord was good to me," he said.

**Picayune Item, P.O. Box 580, Picayune,  
MS 39466**



## Fallen Comrades



**Charles Edward "Chuck" Unsworth**, 82, was a member of HQ CO, 1st BN, **19th RGT** and Past-President Jim Hill's driver in Korea during the Korean War (50-51). Had served in Korea on Occupation duty prior to joining the 24th in Japan. Chuck passed away December 22, 2010. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1948, and while serving in the Korean War he received two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. **Life 984.**



**Junior Gougisha**, passed away January 15, 2011 at the age of 82. Junior served in the Recoilless Section of the Weapons Platoon of E CO, **19th RGT**, 1951-52 in Korea.



**Xen Emerson Lemmon**, 82, passed away January 18, 2011. After graduation he joined the United States Army serving in the **24th ID**, stationed in Karkora Japan.

**Torrence Vernon "Mike" Jones**, LTC Ret., age 96, of Columbia, SC died recently. In 1943, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the European Theater where he received a battlefield commission in 1945. He also served in Korea with the **24th ID**. Mike was awarded the Silver Star, the [Bronze Star](#) with Oak Leaf Cluster, and CIB.



**Joseph H. Newman**, 83, of Gilford, NH passed away January 18, 2011. He joined the US Army in 1946 and spent a year in Japan in the post WWII Occupation as part of the Army Service CO, **19th RGT**. He was discharged in 1950 but was recalled to active duty for the Korean War.

**Wallace C. Carson**, 84, died December 30, 2010. He joined the Army in 1944 and served in the Philippines and Japan with the **19th RGT**. **Life member 339**

**Clifford N. Walter**, 84, Eagle Lake, passed on Nov. 13, 2010. He served in the **52nd FA** in Korea, 1950-1951.



**James T. Kane Jr.**, 90, passed away Jan. 24, 2011. He enlisted in the Army at the beginning of World War II. Trained as an artillery specialist and forward observer, he saw extensive combat action with the 24th ID, **52nd FA** in the Philippines and Dutch New Guinea. **Member**

**Jackie Thomas Eazarsky** passed away Friday Feb. 4, 2011. He entered the Army in May 1965 received basic training at Fort Dix N.J. and assigned to the **24th ID** in Germany.

**W.H. Van Kirk** died November 1, 2010. He was a proud Army veteran who enlisted in 1948. He served in Japan and then in Korea, 1950-1951, with G CO, **19th RGT**, also in Germany before being discharged in 1954. He leaves his wife, Vickie, and children. Vickie Van Kirk, 12751 Clay Sta. Road, Herald, CA 95638, tel. 209 748-2416. **Life 2320.**

**William E. Kramer** passed away on Friday, Feb. 4, 2011. A member of the 24th Association, Mr. Kramer served in G CO, **19th RGT**, from July 1951 to July 1952 in Korea and Japan. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Mrs. Vallaise "Val" Kramer, at ....**Member**



**George Gilman Bigelow Dopp** After graduation, he entered the [Army](#) as a Second Lieutenant stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia. After completing infantry officer training, he graduated from the Ranger and Airborne schools. He served in Vietnam earning the [Bronze Star](#). He was reassigned to Munich, Germany, with the **24th ID**.



**James Woodrow Flynn, Jr.**, age 78, died February 10, 2011. He was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1953. He served as an Engineer Supply Specialist in H & S. CO, 3rd ENG Combat BN, 24th ID, in the Republic of Korea in 1953 and 1954, attaining the rank of sergeant. **Member**



**Joseph Allen "Jack" Franks**, Lt. Col. (Ret) He was in the Occupational Forces in Japan at the close of [WWII](#), and taught ROTC at Woodrow Wilson High School in Dallas in the early 1950's. He also served in Korea and with the 24th Infantry Division in Augsburg, Germany, where he was the Division's Inspector General.

**Paul Vance**, died some months ago, also his wife, Jane passed away this past year. Paul was in his early 90's He was a T-3 with the 114th Photo Interpretation Team, HQ **24th ID**. Paul was with us on Leyte, Mindoro, and Mindanao, and went on to Japan for several months of occupation duty. **Life 1453**



**Curtis C Willis**, G CO, **21st RGT** passed away on Feb. 15, 2011 with Virginia, his wife of 61 years at his side. He served as a SGT in Leyte, Mindanao, and Mindoro followed by duty in Japan. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Virginia Willis at PO Box 84, Ben Hur, VA 24218. **Life 860**

**LTG Robert Jacob Baer**, USA (Ret.) He graduating with the Class of 1947 U.S. Military Academy, West Point. General Baer served his Army and nation proudly for 36 years. In 1954 he was a Tank Company Commander in the **24th ID** in Japan.

# Fallen Comrades

**Schumacher, Eugene E. "Gene"** Age 82. Passed away March 3, 2011. [Korean War Army](#) Veteran, Gene, was a member of the 24th Infantry Division Association, the **5th RCT. Member**



**JD Henley, (left) passed away** December 19, 2010 in Marana, AZ. He served with the **19th RGT** during WWII in the Philippines. **Life 1710**

**Robert Anderson, 24th MED**, Served in WWII, Woodruff, SC 29388 **Life # 382**

**John S. Baldwin, 3rd ENG**, WWII, Died 2/17/11. Front Royal VA

**H. Gordon Behrel, 19th IR HQ**, WWII, Died 3/22/10. Spouse survivor, Jane, 843 Maple Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515

**William M. Cullers, 21st IR** E CO, Died 11/2/10. Served in Japan, Oklahoma City OK 73102

**Leo R. Davignon, 21st IR G CO**, Died 6/21/08, Served in WWII Middleburg Hts., OH 44130 **Life # 975**

**Dunkin Delwin A., 19th IR F CO**, Died 1/8/11. Served in WWII and Japan. Survived by Lottayne, 701 Montara Rd #142, Barstow, CA 92311 **Life # 1239**

**Harold W. Edwards, 19th IR F CO**. Died 6/2/10. Served in Korea. Survivor, Margaret, 3140 E. Raynell St. #U, Springfield, MO 65804

**James W. Flynn Jr., 3rd Eng H&S**, Died 2/10/11. Served in Japan & Korea. Baytown TX 77521

**Henry E. Gorgol, 21st IR**, Died 3/21/09. Served in WWII. Exeter, NH 03833, **Life #758**

**William G. Howard, 4th IR C CO**. Died 12/2/10. Served in WWII and Japan. Survived by Clara, 703 W. Main St., Portland, IN 47371.

**Donald C. Luedtke, 34th IR**, Died 6/10/10. Served in Japan and Korea. Arcadia NE 68815 **Life # 262**

**Lowell W. McDaniel, 19th IR HQ**. Died 2/17/10. Served in WWII. Survived by Frances, 6409 Duffield Drive, Dallas, TX 75248.

**Robert A. Newkirk, Sr., 21st IR** H CO. Served in WWII. Died 12/6/10. Franklin, IN 46131 **Life #449**

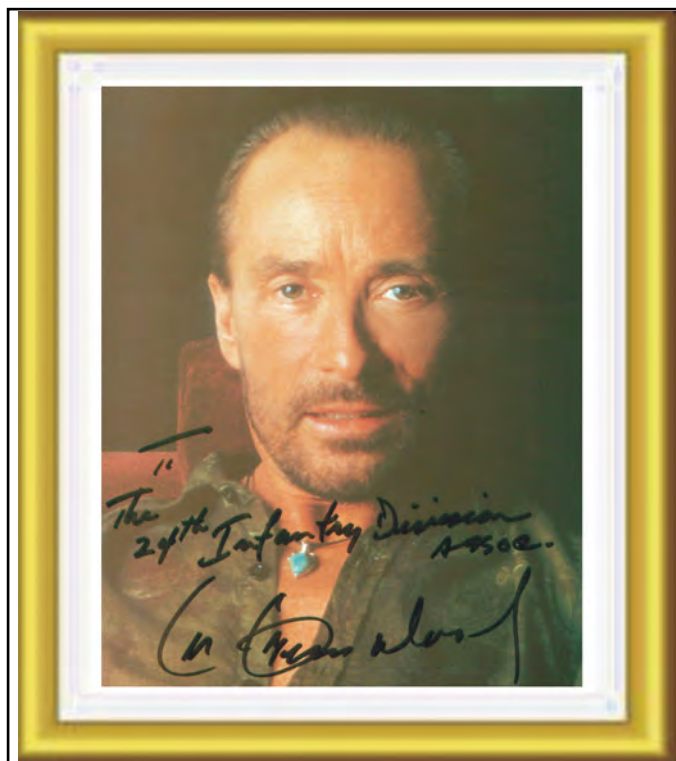
**Louis J. Pascal, 21st IR**. Died 8/25/95. Served in WWII. Twinsburg, OH 44087. **Life # 839**

**Hollis E. Pederson, 19th IR**. Died 6/4/10. Served in Korea. Mesa, AZ 85205 **Life # 865**

**William G. Pellegrini, 19th IR G CO**. Served in Germany. Carver, MA 02330, **Life # 1152**

**Max L. Pitney, 63rd FA**. He served in WWII and Japan and was a POW. Overland Park, KS 66213. **Life # 697**

**Fred Putz, 21st IR**. Died 9/30/04. Served in WWII and Japan. Lacona, IA 50139. **Life # 446**



## Country Western Fans - Autograph Collectors

The original signed photograph of Lee Greenwood, which was shown on the cover of the Taro Leaf Spring Issue, has been attractively framed and is being put up for auction for the benefit of the 24th ID Association.

We ask for bids in increments of \$10 and we already have a starting bid of \$25. For the latest high bid call David Valley at 858 485-7550.

The winner will be reported in the Summer Taro Leaf

**Robert M. Raub, 19th IR** I CO. Died 2/21/11. Served in Japan and Korea. Zephyrhills, FL 33541

**Arlen S. Russell, 5th RCT K CO**. Died 12/22/10. Served in Korea. Pickerington, OH 43147. **Life#1077**

**Edwin J. Ryan, 19th IR HQ**. Died 11/29/10. Served in Japan and Korea. Walpole, MA 02081

**James D. Sharps, 24th QM**. Died 2/10. Served in Japan. Himrod, NY 14842

**James W. Stark, 19th IR HQ**. Served in Korea. Mauston, WI 53948. **Life # 2253**

**Louis R. Torres, 21st IR** L CO. Died 11/24/10. Served in Japan and Korea. Survived by Sheridan, 1214 Coast Oak Drive, Santa Ynez, CA 93463. **Life # 1605**

**Curtis C. Willis, 21st IR**. Died 2/15/11. Served in WWII and Japan. Ben Hur, VA 24218 **Life #860**

**MAY GOD REST THEIR SOULS**





# 2011 National Reunion Dayton, Ohio

As of this printing of the Taro Leaf, we are awaiting details of the plans for this year's reunion.

There are many area attractions, but presently the only one certainly on the schedule is the Air Force National Museum. Pictures below.



**New Exhibits**

## NEWS!

## 2012 Reunion Site by Members' Vote

In a Letter to the Editor in the Winter Issue of the Taro Leaf, member Ben Allen questioned the process of reunion site selections. He wrote, "According to Article III of our By-Laws, 'A Corporate Convention shall be held annually on a date and place approved by the members.'" The previous practice has been to make these decisions at the annual reunions by the Board of Directors.

President Sal Schillaci has recently informed the editor that future site selections will be based on a polling of members via the Taro Leaf. Since there have been a number of reunions held in eastern U.S. in recent years, a selection of possible sites west of the Mississippi are proposed along with the previously selected site of New Orleans.

All members are urged to voice their opinion as to the site for the 2012 reunion. You may respond via email or send your vote by U.S. mail to Secretary/Treasurer John Dunn. Please note his address on the back cover of the Taro Leaf. The sites are listed in alphabetical order below:

- |                      |                    |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Branson, MO       | 2. Las Vegas, NV   | 3. Little Rock, AR |
| 4. New Orleans, LA   | 5. San Antonio, TX | 6. San Diego, CA   |
| 7. San Francisco, CA | 8. Seattle, WA     |                    |

**Vote by email to: [24thtaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:24thtaroleaf@gmail.com) or by mail to Taro Leaf, PO Box 500907, San Diego, CA 92150**

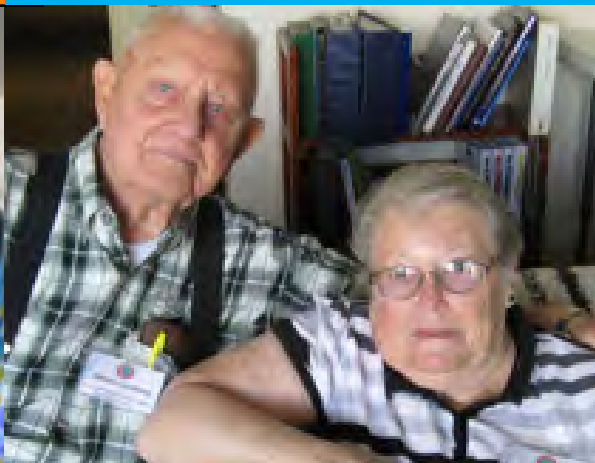




3rd ENG at the reunion. There are eleven Counting the one hidden. Amazing turnout, about 20% of attendees



## The Great Westcoast Regional Reunion Laughlin, NV March 28-31







I know the pictures suck, but thanks to Byrd for some of the better ones. Sure wish we had a good photog.  
Editor







**Original Monument at Osan, above,  
New Monument below.**



**Thanks to James W. Bolt for  
the photos above.**

## Tribute to Gallant Men Called to Honor



To honor those few hundred men of Task Force Smith's group who took on the "Frontal Assault" of six North Korean Infantry Division's tanks/armor. The battlefield was Osan, South Korea. The date was July 5, 1950.

COL John J. Doody  
Clarence R. Agee  
Earsel E. Bonds  
Ezra P. Burke  
William C. Coe  
Earl N. Colbey  
Francis P. Connor  
Claude C. Crist  
Herman V. Critchfield  
Gerald Eickstadt  
Robert C. Fitzgerald  
Thomas E. Flynn  
Elwood H. Foltz

Jack P. Goodwin  
Gilbert Hale  
John J. Hudak  
LTC Jim H. Hunt  
Joseph A. Langone  
Alan B. MacAuley  
Manuel V. Montezdeoca  
Charles E. Rosengrant  
John H. Sanchez  
Yoshinobu Teruya  
William H. Thornton  
William Vihlidal  
George D. Weidensall

This tribute was conceived by John Baker, Life Member 2061. You may write to him: 839 Newton St., Monterey CA 93940-9394, or telephone 831-375-3328.

If any of the men named above would like an 8" x 10" copy of the plaque suitable for framing, please write to the Taro Leaf Editor.



# **UNFORGETTABLE IS THE WORD FOR HIM** by Aubrey S. Newman

Soon after I assumed command of the 34th Infantry in New Guinea, the adjutant came in with a problem. We were preparing for the assault on Leyte so, in accordance with normal procedure, soldiers in the guardhouse were returned to us. The adjutant's problem was that the company commander of PVT Harold Moon didn't want him. "All right," I said. "At the company commanders meeting after lunch, see if any other company wants him. If not, his company must keep him." Later, I learned that the commander of Company G had said, "I'll take him. He sounds like a man looking for trouble. Where we're going, there will be more trouble than he can handle."

That first night on Red Beach, there was hell to pay when the Japanese counterattacked our beachhead, on the far side of the swamp, at Pawing. At first light, I got hold of an Alligator—that wonderful hybrid of an amphibious tank and a deep bed truck, with a .50 caliber machine gun mounted topside. This was ideal transportation to get across the swamp, and see what the situation was after all that shooting in the night.

First, I arranged for an air strike by Navy planes. Then, standing deep in the Alligator as we crossed the swamp, I witnessed the planes diving on visually-located remnants of the Japanese attackers - bombing, rocketing and strafing with .50 calibers.

On our left flank, Japanese bodies literally carpeted the roadway and along the shoulders of that raised road, in front of the position held by G CO. The attacking Japanese had approached incautiously down the road before splitting into attack formations, and our alert battalion commander correctly decided that the nebulous moving mass in the darkness could only be enemy. So machine guns blazed a deadly fire that mowed them down. But the fanatical enemy continued to attack in the darkness, and all but overran G CO before daylight, though at terrible cost to themselves.

The air attack at daylight put the finishing touches on the Japanese. Remaining enemy hidden in the high grass were invisible to ground observation, but were sitting ducks from above.

When I arrived in Pawing that day and saw the tremendous havoc our fire had visited on the attacking enemy, I did not think of PVT Moon. Nor was there any jubilation among the officers and men there. The reason was plain to see, for a long row of our own silent dead were lined up neatly where all could see them.

However, this was no time for us as soldiers to stand and grieve for lost buddies, some of whose names I did not know, others whom I knew so well. It was a time for action, a time to attack and gain the high ground to our front, thus exploit the opportunity brave men had paid with their lives to give us, before the disorganized enemy survivors could organize the high ground for defense. I turned to the battalion executive officer, indicated the silent row on the ground and said, "Get them out of here, to the rear, immediately."

"But, Colonel," he replied, "we have no transportation."

"Use the Alligator I came in; I'm not going back."

"Sir," he replied, looking at the line of dead but thinking only of the floor space in the Alligator and not its depth, "the Alligator is not enough."

"They're dead, aren't they?" I said. "Take them back - now!" I started toward the battalion commander to insure that an attack for the high ground was launched at once.

At that moment, it did not enter my mind that Private Harold Moon might be in the line of dead forms (for I had never seen him), or that his tremendous battle performance that night would bring him our nation's highest accolade, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Six months after that day on Leyte, and following recuperation from a taste of Japanese steel myself, I rejoined our Division in the southern Philippines. There I read the magnificent citation for the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to Private Moon.

Nearly 200 dead Japanese were found within 100 yards of Moon's foxhole. In a signed affidavit, Staff Sergeant Ver-dum C. Myers said, "By 0545, Private Moon was running out of ammunition. His position had been the focal point of the enemy attack for over four hours. They were determined to take it; he was determined to hold it. The Japanese had worked men around on all sides of Private Moon's position.

"At dawn an entire platoon of the enemy arose and rushed the position in a desperate bayonet assault. Private Moon calmly steadied his tommy gun between his knees, and calling to the Japanese to come and get him, he emptied the entire magazine into them, killing eighteen before they overwhelmed and killed him."

As other men in nearby positions were killed or wounded, (the record shows) Private Harold Moon not only held fast but inspired all within hearing distance as he simultaneously carried on a running battle of oral insults with the enemy across the raised road, especially with an English speaking officer - whom he eventually killed.

Every combat veteran has memories of the realities of battle, and there is no limit to the variations. This is one of the things that forges a special bond that others who "were not there, Charlie" can never understand.

***The author, MG Aubrey S. Newman died in 1994, 11 days shy of his 91st birthday. This account is an excerpt from one published in the Taro Leaf 35 years ago, and is on our website. I was intrigued by Newman's thoughtful narrative and especially by the central character, PVT Harold Moon.***

***Moon's story is reminiscent of the famous movie, "The Dirty Dozen," which told of a group of soldiers taken from the stockade for a special mission against the Nazis. We do not know what Moon's offense was, that landed him in the guardhouse, but can only imagine it was serious enough that his own company wouldn't take him back. Unlike the movie, his story is real and his courage and heroics far exceed those of the fictional Hollywood characters. Editor***



## Denzel Washington at Brooke Army Medical Center

### FACTS & FICTION

**TRUE:** Denzel Washington and his family visited the troops at Brooke Army Medical Center, in San Antonio, Texas, (BAMC). This is where soldiers who have been evacuated from Germany come to be hospitalized in the United States, especially burn victims. There are some buildings there called Fisher Houses. The Fisher House is a Hotel where soldiers' families can stay, for little or no charge, while their soldier is staying in the Hospital. BAMC has quite a few of these houses on base, but as you can imagine, they are almost filled most of the time.

**URBAN LEGEND:** While Denzel Washington was visiting BAMC, they gave him a tour of one of the Fisher Houses. He asked how much one of them would cost to build. He took his check book out and wrote a check for the full amount right there on the spot. The soldiers overseas were amazed to hear this story and want to get the word out to the American public, because it warmed their hearts to hear it.

**TRUE:** After seeing the 24<sup>th</sup> ID patch on the shoulder of officer next to Denzel, I called Brooke and spoke to Dewey A. Mitchell, Chief, Public Affairs. He had only been there two years and said the visit took place before his time, but he did know the financial contribution was vastly exaggerated in the press. Mitchell said Denzel made a "sizable contribution, but nowhere near enough to build a new Fisher House."

The officer shown in the picture is Brigadier General C. William Fox, Jr., who was commanding general of Brooke Army Medical Center at the time. I tried to get in touch with the general to ask for his version of the story, but so far, no luck reaching him. If any of our members who served with Fox can reach him, it might be a good idea to invite him to join the 24th IDA. We're running short of generals amongst us.

Editor

## Nihongo, Occupation Style

For you old soldiers who picked up a bit of the Japanese language while in Japan, I recently found an old article in my files that should refresh your memories. "GI Joe Meets Japanese: Occupation Jargon" was originally published in a magazine called *Intersect Japan*.

Just before the war ended, thousands of women fled to the interior of the country because they had been told Americans were monsters who would rape and kill them. After the surrender, when they learned the GIs were actually gentle and generous, they literally came out of the woods. There were thousands of widows and others who had no way to survive but by making themselves available as companions for U.S. soldiers.

The article is a comical look at the words GIs used to communicate with Japanese girls (o-jo-sans) and visa versa in the post-war years. Needless to say, both groups badly butchered their non-native languages. The tortured communication took place in the many bars, dance halls, and tea shops that sprung up around U.S. bases.

During the Occupation, GIs who went from one "o-jo-san" to another were called, "cho-chos" (butterflies). Some "shacked up" with a "musume," which got pronounced like "moose." Many Japanese lived in shacks in those days, hence the shack-up phrase origin.

"Sukoshi," meaning little, became "skosh," as in "skosh tomodachi," the term used to describe unwelcome crabs/fleas/lice. "Mo sukoshi," meaning "wait a minute," came out like "moreskosh." "Takusan," meaning a lot, sounded like "taksan," as in "Taksan daijobee (diajobu) with ol' watashi." (It's fine with me.)

Especially after a few drinks, GIs became quite "fluent" and loose with their money and, not surprisingly, enamored of the Japanese ladies. A guy that was over-sexed got called a "s'kibi honcho." Honcho means boss and s'kibis, (skivvies the military jargon for underwear) hence came to mean dirty old man.

In those days of scarcity, there were few fat women, but those that stood out by being overweight might be referred to as "taksan butchan o-josan," translated as Miss Piggy because "buta" means pig. Or if unattractive, she might be called "o-ka-chi-minko," horseface.

Bar girls had their own form of broken English. A soldier, somewhat drunk, might be asked, "Whassamattayou? You alla time hot to go, neh? You go, honto. Go PX buy purezento then we do short time." The GI might reply by saying, "Madoka hagayui" meaning "What can I say, I'm vexed." Or, he might answer in bar-girl English by saying, "neva hatchi tomodachi." GIs might also remember homeless urchins on the Ginza begging from GI's saying, "Mama-san, papa-san gone, Hiroshima, boom-boom!"

How many might remember the song "London Bridge" with Japanese lyrics? "Moshi moshi ano ne, ano ne, ano ne / Moshi moshi ano ne / A so desu ka? Or, "On top of Mt. Fuji/all covered with snow/I lost my corbito/'cause I pom-pom too slow?" Sixty-five years is a long time ago, but as the Dean Martin song put it, "Memories are made of this."

**Author, Prof. Bert McBean of Oita University, Japan, an old friend of mine, is usually given to more serious pursuits, but thought my friends and I might enjoy this piece.**

Editor



## 5th RCT Came to Fight

On 18 September 1950, the 5th RCT was detached from the 1st Cavalry Division in order to replace the 34th RGT of the 24th Division. The 34th had gone into action in July with 2000 men. Two months later, its 184 survivors were parceled out to the 24th's remaining regiments, the 19th and 21st. As an organic unit of the 24th Infantry Division, the combat team seized the riverside city of Waegwan, crossed the Nakdong River, and participated in two 8th Army thrusts into North Korea. Following the second attack, the so-called "Home by Christmas Offensive," the 8th Army withdrew to south of the Han River.

On 29 January 1951, division directed the 5th RCT to move to Inchon and prepare to attack northward toward Subuk-san, a series of ridges on the far side of a wide valley. COL John Throckmorton ordered 1st BN to seize Objective Baker, Hills 475 and 476. Objective Able, Hill 256, was assigned to 2nd BN. The 3rd BN remained in reserve.

The 2nd BN moved out at 0730. 1st BN commenced its attack one hour later. The battalions advanced slowly through a heavy morning fog which helped conceal the infantry but interfered with the adjustment of artillery fire and close air support. When the fog lifted at 1330, enemy resistance increased tremendously but coordination of artillery and air strikes became possible.

The 1st BN fought its way to the tops of Hills 475 and 476 by 1630 and killed many enemy soldiers during the ensuing mop up. A Chinese counterattack pushed Charlie Company out of its positions but the company rallied and regained its ground by 2110.

2nd BN's Objective Able proved to be a greater challenge. G CO led the assault that morning and suffered considerable losses securing its objective on the lower part of a long ridge line dominated by Hill 256. A flight of P-51 Mustangs kept the enemy's head down as E CO moved through G CO and commenced its attack towards the summit.

LT Carl Dodd's 3rd Platoon, CO E, ascended the ridge through heavy defensive fire. When a squad leader yelled at his men to take cover, LT Dodd yelled "Take cover, hell. Use marching fire and follow me!" When the squad stopped to help some men that had been hit, Lieutenant Dodd looked back and yelled "Come on. Follow me!"

Carl Dodd rushed up the slope armed with a .45 caliber pistol and seven grenades. When he used up his own grenades, he gathered more from the dead and the wounded. One particularly persistent Chinese machine gun kept his soldiers pinned down. LT Dodd charged the gun, firing his pistol to keep the Chinese heads down. When he reached the bunker's opening, he hurled a grenade inside, killing the crew. Whenever his soldiers bogged down, he continued the attack alone. They almost made it to the

summit but, at 2110, COL Throckmorton ordered the 2nd BN to dig in for the night.

The 2nd BN's tactical aggressiveness and initiative stunned observers from corps and army headquarters who had witnessed the bitter, close-range infantry fighting. Eighth Army Commander, General Matthew Ridgway was present the following morning when the 2nd BN rapidly cleared the remainder of Objective Able. He sent a telex to all American and Korean corps and division commanders in which he concluded: "This operation achieved the true measure of tactical success – key terrain, a vital mountain pass – seized with heavy losses inflicted and only light losses sustained. The reason was due to proper appreciation and use of terrain and high leadership whereby high class infantry with support-ing air and artillery worked its way along the ridges until all dominating ground was taken. This operation furnishes a fine example of how it ought to be done."

President Truman subsequently awarded the **Medal of Honor to 1st Lieutenant Carl H. Dodd** in a ceremony held in the White House. Dodd survived the Korean War, in spite of his ferocious, aggressive spirit. He died in Laurel County, Kentucky on October 13, 1996, at the age of 71.

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## Award of the Silverstar (posthumously)



**PFC DONALD DAHL** a member of Company B, 21st RGT, 24th ID distinguished himself by courageous action near Sebanggo-ri, Korea on 21 July 1951. His squad was the lead element in his company's attack on Hill 660. As Assistant Squad Leader, he personally led the attack, advancing to a point where, due to heavy enemy machine gun and small arms fire and a virtual rain of hand grenades, his squad was pinned down.

Realizing the enemy was in well-fortified bunkers, he exposed himself completely by advancing alone and firing his rifle until he reached a position from which he could throw grenades into the enemy entrenchment.

After throwing all his grenades and expending most of his ammunition, he, although seriously wounded, leaped into the dugout and with slashing bayonet and rifle butt smashes, proceeded to destroy the stunned enemy. Killing and wounding many and completely routing the remainder, he enabled his squad to advance and accomplish its mission. He succumbed to his wounds shortly afterwards. Private Dahl's outstanding courage and extreme devotion to duty under intense enemy fire were an inspiration to his comrades and reflects the highest credit on himself and the United States Infantry.





# A Lucky Dogfoot of WWII - *continued*

*This is the concluding account 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](http://www.24thida.com).*

After the initial landings, the 1st Cavalry Division went inland and took the city of Tacloban and went on north. They had a rough time building airstrips for our heavy bombers and fighter planes due to the heavy rainfall, plus harassment by the Japanese. The 96th, after San Jose, fought its way north up the coast to where we had been. The 7th Infantry Division took a road west and then north, to the road that we were going on. And I think they also went down the coast south on Highway 1 and across the island to the west.

We moved to the northwest on a one lane dirt road, with some resistance from the enemy once in a while, until we came near a place called Pastrano. Then the going got a little tougher, a Japanese sniper was up in a tree and pinned us down by firing wood bullets at us. One of the riflemen rolled over on his side and let go a burst with his Tommy gun. First the sniper's rifle came down, and then he dropped to the ground. A lot of times the snipers were strapped to the tree, live or die. After that we moved on and didn't get very far before we were stopped dead still. We had come to the town of Pastrano.

We moved forward a ways and then the Japanese that we had passed over started to snipe at us. A young fellow and I had started to dig our foxholes when from up front there was a call for a medic. I dropped my pack and took off with my aid packs, which I carried all the time, and found the guy right in front of the pillbox, about two hundred feet from it. Two headquarters men were lying there side by side. The one to the right had been shot through the fleshy part of his upper arm, so I cut his sleeve away and wrapped a bandage around it. About that time a Japanese bullet went through the front of my helmet as I crouched down. It missed hitting me in the eye, although I did get some metal by my eye and the side of

my face. As I got down flat on my stomach and face, a mine went off in a tree back where I had come from, and a piece of shrapnel hit the ground just inches from my face, the gravel and dirt stinging the same side of my face again. I decided that was enough, and got up and took off back to where I had come from. On the way I came upon a shell hole and lay down in it, and stayed there until things quieted down, which was an hour, I'm sure.

Some of the aid station men were pinned down nearby by a fallen log and were lying flat beside it. The Japanese beneath the shack were peppering the log just above their butts. They kept firing until one of the infantrymen got into the shack, stuck the barrel of his Tommy gun under the floor, and fired away until he figured that they were all dead. And that was the end of that.

When I got back to where I had been digging my foxhole, the young fellow who was digging with me lay dead. A piece of shrapnel from the mine that had gone off in the tree had hit him and taken his arm off at the shoulder, and he died within minutes. So maybe I wouldn't have been so lucky back there either.

Since the action had stopped, I decided to see about the Japanese who had taken a shot at me. I was accompanied by a Philippine scout who had been with us since Palo. We went into the pillbox, and there in the corner were a bunch of enemy soldiers, four deep. One must have been playing possum, and after the GIs had passed through had raised up and took a shot at me. There were many dead Japanese in this building, also below the floor, many without limbs, and a lot with bandages on their heads and bodies.

After we went through the pillbox, we went around it to the corner where the one had taken a shot at me. There

was a tunnel going down and under the building. The scout walked up to take a look, and as he did, a Japanese from in the tunnel shot him in the forehead and killed him. Maybe this was the same Japanese who took a shot at me. When that happened, someone let the man on the bulldozer know, and he grabbed two five-gallon cans of gasoline and came over. He dumped them into the hole, lit the gas, and you could hear some screaming. The driver went back to his dozer, brought it over, scooped up a bucket of dirt, and dumped it over the hole. Then he backed off and took a run at the building to level it. When he came out the other side of the building the metal roof was hanging to the cab of the dozer.

While he was doing this, we commenced to gather the Japanese bodies and lay them in a street ditch for him to come along and push the bodies together until he had a bunch. Then he let the blade down, picked up some dirt, and covered up the bodies. On he went until he had them all covered up. I don't know how many there were in the bunker, but on the outside we picked up fifty-eight.

I will mention that after the Japanese were taken care of, in and under the shanties, the medics took care of the cuts on the side of my face. I think that since the bullet hit the front and side of my helmet, it glanced off; otherwise it would have done more damage. The hole in my helmet was a good inch in diameter.

We stayed in Pastrano overnight after setting up a perimeter, and had the artillery lay in a box barrage. A box barrage is when the artillery places rounds across the front, the sides, and the back of a perimeter, and then bring in the rounds as close as they can. So, in case the enemy decides to attack, they have a rough time getting through. This was done every time after a move. The howitzer guns could fire as far as seven miles, the 155mm cannon, or rifles, as far as 15 miles.

The next morning we took off down the road to the left and went several miles without seeing any Japanese. Toward sundown we saw them walking in the same direction that we were, about a half mile to the right of us, walking single file. The riflemen



tried to get them with heavy machine guns, but they kept right on as if nothing were happening. So we set up our perimeter in a place that happened to be a swampy and open area. It was dark by then, and I dug myself a trench-like foxhole. I placed some grass and stuff on the bottom of my so-called bed, and bedded down for the night. After seeing those Japanese, I was afraid I wouldn't get much sleep again that night. Well, it wasn't long before it started to rain heavily, and by morning I was laying in eight inches of water. And naturally I didn't dare to raise up and lay on top of the ground for fear that someone would take a shot at me. I must say that my toesies were wrinkled, and so was the rest of my body.

This was the time of the year when the monsoons were due. Leyte is eleven degrees north of the Equator. Hollandia was less than three hundred miles south of the Equator and a lot hotter, but I don't remember it raining there that much. Eleven degrees would put Leyte between seven and eight hundred miles north of the Equator.

Before daylight on the morning of the all-night rain, a patrol was sent out to see if those Japanese were still in the area. They weren't over a mile away, still sleeping in a building. The soldiers went in the door and wiped them out before they knew what was happening. So on we went again, up the road until we got to Jaro; from there we went on by truck convoy to Carigara.

Between Jaro and Carigara, we passed a Japanese troop column that had been caught between the two towns; dead and bloated along with the horses and water buffalo that they had used to pull their supply carts. I was glad that we were on trucks and moving fast, as the stench was something else. And I was also glad that the Air Force and artillery got to them before they got to us on down the road.

Carigara is located on the north coast of Leyte Island. The 1st Cavalry Division had gotten there earlier, that's why we had been able to come from Jaro to that point. The 7th Division also had crossed the island and had reached the west coast, and headed north on Highway 2. The 1st Cavalry had made an amphibious end run around the northeastern tip of Leyte and landed

near Carigara. They were waiting for the 24th to come up from the south. The Japanese had evacuated the town and were up on higher ground.

We had to fight our way to Limon, a small village where the road turns to the south toward Ormoc, a port on the west side of Leyte, in Ormoc Bay. In the meantime, the Japanese had dug in on the ridges above and beyond Limon, and set up strong defenses. They placed their field guns to cover the sharp turns in the road. This was the strongest defense line so far in the war for Leyte.

The 21st Regiment named a ridge "Breakneck" because it was the one that took them almost two weeks to capture. The terrain favored the Japanese, and it resulted in a bloody stalemate, with hand-to-hand combat. And since our men had no change of socks, their feet were raw.

The monsoon rains were upon us now, and it rained constantly, making the roads too muddy for tanks, supply vehicles, and the foot soldiers. Besides, it was hard to make strafing runs or fly in food and ammunition. There were times when the C-47s dropped more rations into the enemy lines than to our men. Sometimes there was a race between our men and the enemy as to who would get to the rations first, and a lot of times the Japanese beat us to it. It was almost no use to have a foxhole because it would fill up with water anyway. After two weeks in the rain and mud, the GI's feet would get raw and blistered. Some of them had only one or two pairs of socks with them, and within a few minutes their feet would be wet, even if they wore packs.

The Japanese had an elaborate tunnel system built, with entrances all over. They would wait until our men went by and then they would attack them from all sides. It was a seesaw battle for two weeks for the 21st, when finally the 32nd Division flanked the enemy, got behind them, and cut them off. They drove the rest down toward Ormoc, and, along with the 77th Infantry Division, finished them off.

We in the 19th Regiment were in reserve at this time because it was thought that we needed a break after walking and fighting across most of the island. We did help with the wounded

as they arrived from the front, besides holding down the town and the coast in case the Japanese would try to make a landing nearby.

The 32nd Division replaced the battered GIs of the 24th Division on November 16. Between the two divisions that fought this end of the island, we suffered fifteen hundred casualties and killed an estimated 5,250 Japanese. By the time the Leyte campaign was over, the Japanese lost about 60,000 lives on Leyte as well as in the surrounding waters off the island when their transports were sunk. The total U.S. killed were 3,000, with 12,000 wounded.

After two weeks of fighting, the 21st had advanced only two miles. Some days they gained only 300 yards. By this time General MacArthur had moved his headquarters to Tacloban, and already had plans for the 24th Division to invade another island the following month of December. So from Carigara Bay we went back to Tacloban for a short rest and to prepare for the next venture.

I had a chance to go to the business district of Tacloban one day before we left town. I got to see their fish market. They had tables set up on Main Street with different types of fish, including some tables with just fish heads, and some vendors would be sitting on the tables by their fish. Talk about a smelly place. I have a picture that I took of the market and of other Filipino ways of doing things.

I know that there were a lot of other happenings on the island, but my memory fails me after all these years; then again, I think a person wants to forget a lot of the stuff.

In the last week of November, the Japanese high command still had the idea of driving us out of Leyte by bomber raids on the airstrips of Tacloban and Dulag, near the original Leyte landing beaches. And they were still trying to bring in some convoys and planes, but our Air Force was too much for them. So the Japanese seeing they were about out of planes, resorted to suicide pilots, called kamikazes. I understand that some of those planes were made out of plywood because they had a one-way mission. They also

*Continued, next page*

were going to land some troops from transport planes, but three were shot down before they got to their destination, so they abandoned that plan.

That was about the last week in November, 1944. At dawn one morning, a Japanese general who thought that the transports had landed came out of the jungle and ordered an assault. They overran a bivouac and bayoneted a number of our service and engineer troops who lay asleep on the ground. Other GIs grabbed their weapons and, in their underwear and bare feet, began firing, but had to retreat. Five Japanese entered a cook's kitchen to loot it, but he was able to kill all five of them. The rest of the Japanese were driven off after they realized that they couldn't make it to the airfield, but not until they gave the Americans a hard time. Private Ova A. Kelley was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.

The fall of Leyte was an enormous defeat for the Japanese. Not only did they lose most of His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Navy during the Battle of Leyte Gulf, but they couldn't mount another major sea battle. So now it was up to the suicidal kamikaze tactics. Our PT boats played a large part in wiping out the Japanese ships and also many of their kamikazes, which is not to say that the little mosquito boats didn't suffer too. The PTs cut and slowed down the Japanese warships as they came through the Surigao Strait before they got to Leyte Gulf.

On December 12th, we, the 24th Division, moved out through Leyte Gulf and into the Surigao Strait, and on to the Mindanao Sea on another assignment. We were escorted by PT boats, destroyers, and the cruiser, Nashville. The following day, in late afternoon, we saw about eight Japanese planes come flying through the clouds. It wasn't long before we saw four of our P38s come from the opposite direction. When the Japanese saw them, they took off into the clouds and above.

About that time we heard machine gun fire and pretty soon one Japanese came down smoking, and then another, with the P38s diving and still firing, until they were halfway down. Three of the Japanese turned tail and headed for home, but one kamikaze came diving

and dove into the port side of the cruiser, Nashville. He carried two bombs, and they touched off five-inch and 40mm ammunition in the top lockers. The blast killed 133 officers and men, including both the Army and Navy Chiefs of Staff, and the colonel of the bombardment wing. The Nashville returned to Leyte Gulf. At the time we didn't know that it was the Nashville, but knew that it was a cruiser, and saw the Japanese hit. There was a ball of fire, and we heard the explosion and were wondering how many were killed, but didn't think there would be that many.

Later ten more Japanese planes attacked and one got through to a destroyer. The explosion killed 14 soldiers and the destroyer also had to go back to Leyte.

We went ashore on Mindoro Island in the Mangarin Bay near San Jose around seven o'clock on the morning of December 15th. We didn't meet very much resistance; drove back a small Japanese garrison. We set up a perimeter defense large enough to be able to establish and protect a fighter base. Just an hour after we went ashore the Japanese kamikaze came over and started to dive on the destroyers, but were shot down by fire from the ships in the bay before they were able to hit the destroyers. One Japanese plane was brought down by one of the PT boats outside the bay. The sailors saw the kamikazes coming, so they got between the LSTs and the approaching planes. The kamikazes strafed the PTs, but didn't do any damage. The boats brought down three more of the seven that were coming. Two more were shot down by PTs and LSTs, two got through and crashed into two LSTs, setting them on fire. Eventually our destroyers had to scuttle them. A hundred survivors were picked up by PTs.

The next morning one kamikaze came along and was able to sink an LST, but his plane's tail was shot off and he crashed on the beach killing five men and wounding eleven others. Then some more came at the PTs and were shot down before hitting the quick-maneuvering mosquito boats. Some planes missed the boats by only a few feet and plowed into the water, spraying debris. I don't know just how many kamikazes lost their lives, but there must have been many. I heard

one time that they had as many as 400 kamikazes. There were dogfights every now and then overhead. We used to love to watch the Japanese be blasted out of the sky as they were right overhead. I saw only one of our planes come down. The pilot bailed out not far from where I was located. His P51 plowed into the ground about a half-mile away, so we thought we'd go over and see what would be left of the plane. All that was left was the tail section and a few other pieces; the rest was buried in the ground, especially the motor. Smoke from the motor was coming up through the ground.

The Japanese were caught by surprise again; they must have thought that it would be Palawan or Luzon, because the Air Force was bombing those islands.

In eight days, the engineers established two fighter strips and put them into operation. And a few days after that, the Air Force was flying B-25 bombers from Mindoro. From where we were, the bombers were able to soften up targets on Luzon Island, the big one that the big General was after—his final goal, so he could say, "I have returned."

The fighter planes and bombers were also able to finish off the rest of the Japanese Navy as well as what was left of their air force. The fighter planes were busy just about every day. We used to watch when they came back from a run. They would let us know how many Japanese planes they had shot down by how many belly rolls they made; one roll meant one score. Sometimes one of the fighters would make three rolls, but usually each one would roll at least once. They operated in groups of four. One of the pilots was an ace; he had 38 kills. His name was Thomas B. McGuire, Jr. And so the airstrip on Mindoro was named after him.

I took a picture of a B-25 bomber parked on one of the runways, and also of the reader board with our Regiment sign, RCT-19, which stands for Regimental Combat Team. I wish I had taken a close-up so you could see what else it says, for I don't remember. I also have a picture of myself looking ragged after the time that we left New Guinea.

***To read the entire story and view the many pictures and maps go to the website: [www.24thida.com](http://www.24thida.com)***



# My Dad's Wartime Experience

"This report was written to record wartime experiences of my father, SGT Elliott W. Allen, SGT, 3rd Squad Leader, 2nd PLT, B CO, 1st BN, 19th RGT. Information was gained by talking to my father, reading his papers, notes, and records from his army days, talking to TSGT William Braswell, and reading books such as The Children of Yesterday by Jan Valtin, 24th ID." -- Elliott W. Allen, Jr., Major, United States Air Force Reserve.

***The full story written by Elliott Allen, Jr. can be found on our website, [www.24thida.com](http://www.24thida.com). In this edited a portion for the Taro Leaf, SGT Allen is simply referred to as Allen. Editor***

Hollandia, New Guinea is where the 24th ID made its first combat landing of WWII. The beach was not anything like intelligence predicted. There was not much opposition. The Air Force and Navy had been there first, however, and had run most of the Japanese under cover. The area was well saturated with bombs and naval heavy gunfire. Directly behind the beach shoreline was very swampy terrain. This left no place for equipment and supplies to be stockpiled during the landing operation. According to the official U.S. Army history of the operation, elements of the 19th RGT backpacked many tons of supplies ahead to the front. Then the regiment found a Japanese jeep type vehicle. It was pressed into service to carry supplies and equipment. It had three cylinders and the motor was air cooled. It was about the same size as our jeeps.

There was nothing but a mountain trail leading to Hollandia. Hollandia was actually five miles from the shoreline where the 19th RGT landed. Allen's 2nd BN reached its first objective on the first day. That was a big lake just outside of Hollandia. This is where General MacArthur built a big home soon after the island was secure. Every night the Japanese sent airplanes over from Biak Island to bomb American troops. On the third night on New Guinea the oil dump with a large supply of oil was struck by Japanese bombs.

There was a Japanese airfield near Hollandia which the 19th Regiment captured quickly which was where the supply dump was made. C-46 aircraft ferried most supplies in including gas. The airplanes were landing there before the airfield was completely secure. The Japanese put up a stiff fight, but the 19th took them out.

Allen said they had been drilled constantly about what the Japanese would do to them. They were told not to capture Japanese because they did not take American prisoners. U.S. troops were told to stay until the Japanese were whipped.

On patrol Allen's platoon was making a sweep around the regimental perimeter. They would go beyond the perimeter during day light as far as they could before coming back through the lines before dark. On this patrol, as on most, Allen's squad was on the point and Allen as squad leader was about third man back in the column. The scouts found Japanese on a river bank, on the opposite side of the river from the patrol in a clearing. They waited for orders from the platoon leader. The first orders up were to deploy for an attack to wipe out the Japanese. But, actually the platoon leader, Lieutenant Buck, wanted prisoners and tried to pass that word up to Allen. With 50 men in the patrol and no radio contact

within the platoon, that word never reached the head of the column.

A patrol of this size was strung out a long way in the jungle. Word was passed up by hand signals and word of mouth. The column was halted for about 15 minutes while the second squad moved across the river and behind the Japanese. Visual communication was very difficult in the dense jungle terrain. When the Japanese started to move away the first squad fired and all of the Japanese were killed. Allen did not want them to get away.

LT Buck was very upset because no prisoners were taken. He thought Allen had not followed orders. LT Buck told Allen he had gotten him "in a bind" and thought it might be brought up in the higher chain of command. The Platoon Sergeant knew Allen did not get the orders. He did not fault Allen for giving the order to shoot. Lieutenant Buck was transferred out of the second platoon as a result of this action. Buck was eventually made platoon leader of the heavy weapons platoon of CO B. Later, he led the heavy weapons platoon onto beach during the invasion of Leyte.

Thompson submachine guns were much sought after as the weapon to carry on patrol. They were somewhat lighter and delivered a tremendous amount of fire power. On New Guinea about the only troops that had them were the engineers. On another patrol with the entire platoon Allen carried a Thompson. He was about eight or ten men back from the point. The patrol encountered Japanese about 20 yards away. The point man had gone by them when Allen's friend PVT Raymond Gross said, "There's one on your right." The Japanese was just getting up to move away. Allen fired several bursts, but missed. As the Japanese stood to return fire Allen started backing up and fell back into a stump hole. A good thing, because the Japanese also missed. Allen's buddy, Gross, fired a single tracer round and struck the Japanese between the eyes. The bullet passed through his head and continued into the jungle where it lit up the trees.

Allen had found the Thompson next to a coconut tree in the bivouac area, the day before the above patrol action. When he returned from this patrol he replaced it where he found it and never used a Tommy gun again. Privates Gross, Sutterfield, and Carpenter were on this patrol. Carpenter was from Mississippi.

## Biak Island

In order to eliminate the air raids that the Japanese made regularly, the 24th's 34th RGT was sent to Biak Island to capture the airfield there. After they secured the island the 34th was replaced with an all black outfit. Allen said, being in their first combat they slaughtered each other at night. Parts of the 19th and 34th RGTs were sent to back to Biak to re-secure the island. Later on the island was returned to the black regiment. Self-inflicted action was not uncommon in the Pacific. According to Allen there were lots of jungle noises. The trees were full of parrots. They made a lot noise by just breaking tree branches. When one green soldier would shoot at a noise the entire company might open up. Green troops thought this was enemy movement. If the perimeter was not set up just right the troops would be firing on each other. A green outfit could take a week to get over the jitters.

# 52nd FA Korean Combat Operations, July 1950

**5 July Battle at Osan.** (Map right) A Btry and Hq (-) move to psn. 1,000 yds north of Osan. 1st Bn 21st Inf overrun. A Btry withdraws to Ansong with 1st Bn 21st Infantry. B Btry plus Hq (-) arrive Songwan by train at 2200 hrs. B Btry into position between Songwan and Pyongtaek DS 1st Bn 34th Inf.

**6 July** B Btry displaces to psn 2 miles south of Chonan, DS 3rd Bn 34th Inf. Hq + Svc Btry displace to Chochiwan, join remainder of A Btry in process of re-equipping.

**7 July** B Btry moves one platoon north of Chonan to spt. advance by 3rd Bn 34 Inf - meet heavy resistance and withdraw. The 63rd FA moves into psn. B Btry to spt fires of 63rd FA. Bn (- B Btry) joins 21st Inf at Chochiwan

**8 July** A Btry spt. 1st Bn at Chonui. B Btry spt. 3rd Bn 34th Inf 3 miles W of Chong-Ju. B Btry 11th FA attached. 21st Inf Regt. assumed command of 34th Inf Regt. (Map below)

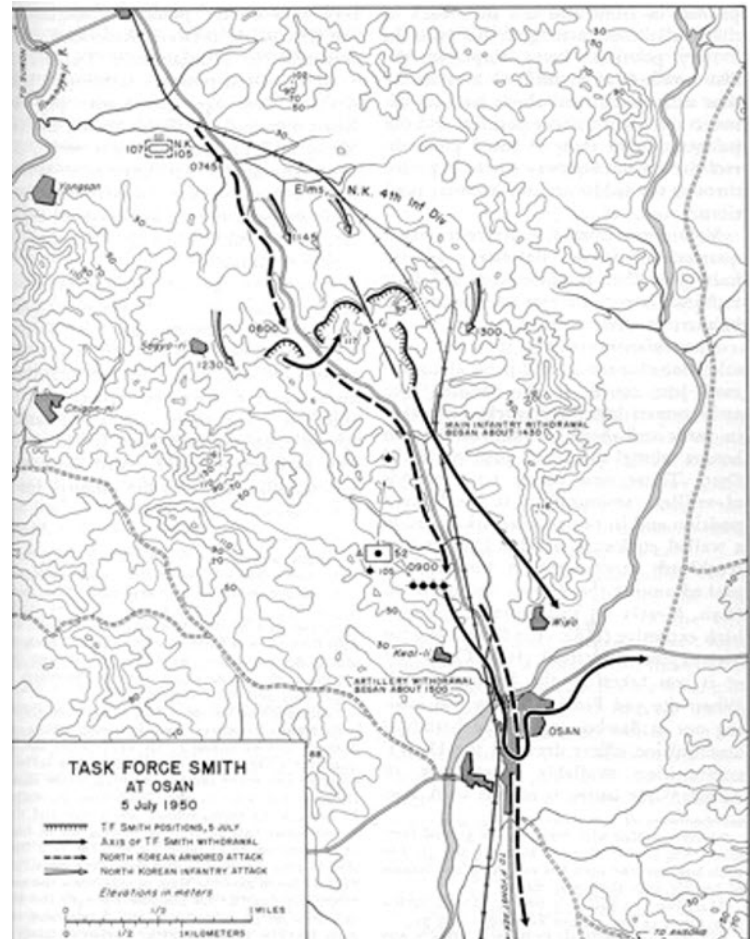
**9 July.** All batteries registered on a common point, fired on targets of opportunity throughout day.

**10 July.** 1st Bn under heavy attack. Had to withdraw in afternoon. 3rd Bn successfully counter-attacked. 52 FA forced to withdraw to vic Konghong-ni where BN CP was located.

**11 July.** B Btry displ. to N of Chochiwan. A Btry displ to So of Chochiwan. 3rd Bn hit by heavy attack causing loss of most of staff. Remnants of 1st Bn (from Osan) reequipped at Taejon joined A and D companies. Entire 52d FA Bn withdrew S of Chochiwa.

**12 July.** Heavy attack on 1st Bn (est. NK regiment). 1st Bn ordered to withdraw behind Kum River Line. After supporting 3rd Bn 21st IR, 52nd FA displ. to Tuman-ni south of Kum River. 13th FA atch to 52nd FA.

**13 July.** 19th Inf relieved 21st Inf, ordered to airstrip N of Taejon to reorganize and reequip. 3rd Bn consolidated into one rifle company (K Co.) and a weapons company (M Co). (Note: this was same configuration of 3rd Bn on the Nakdong R. on 3 Aug.). 52nd FA to spt fires of 13th FA.



**14 July.** Reserve battalion 19th Inf moved near CP of 52nd FA Bn .. A Btry displ. 1000 yds E due to counter-battery fire.

**15 July.** Continued to spt. 13th FA. At 2000 hrs Bn received heavy shelling. One howitzer section dispatched to E of Taejon. Reserve battalion 19th Inf moved to Kyongju to spt 34th Inf in serious trouble.

**16 July.** Bn hit by heavy enemy attack. At 1500 Bn attempted to displace, prevented by road block. One section from B Btry was able to get through. Bn took heavy casualties, mostly in B Btry whose CO and 1st Sgt. were KIA. Most men walked out.

**17-20 July.** Bn reassembled. A Btry reequipped w/minimum for combat.

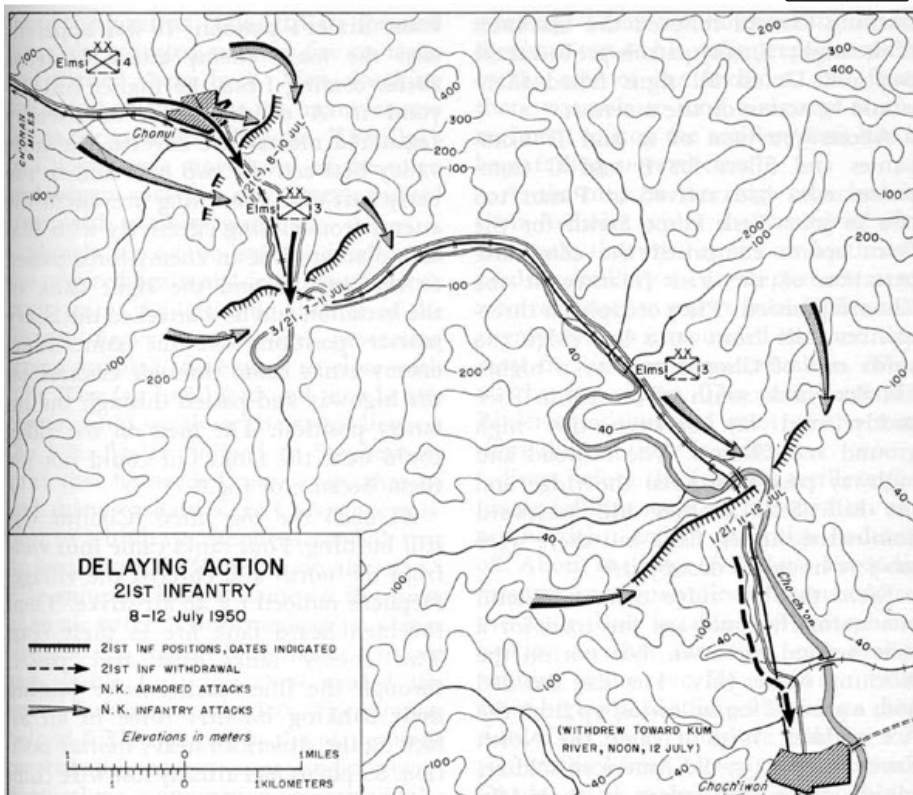
**21 July.** Bn moved to vic Obeng-dong. A Btry to psn E of Yongdong atch to 13th FA.

**22 July.** A Btry released to Bn control.

**25 July.** Bn departed Oksan-dong for psn at Kanchon-ni. Spt 21st Inf (21 IR) at Pohangdong.

**27 July.** A Btry and fwd FDC to psn S of Yond ok. Good spt from naval gunfire. Bn(-) remained at Pohang-dong. C Co 21 IR provided local security for A Btry.

*This report by COL Robert F. Hallahan, Forward Observer, is in its original field language. Good luck on abbreviations. Thanks to James W. Bolt for providing it.*  
Editor





# Desert Storm Remembered 20 Years Later

By Howard Wilkinson, [www.cincinnati.com](http://www.cincinnati.com)

The boots-on-the-ground portion of Operation Desert Storm that began 20 years ago Wednesday, when the United States and its allies liberated Kuwait and crushed Saddam Hussein's vaunted army -- is sometimes called "the 100 hour war." But not by those who served in it. For them, it was months of preparations, months of living in rough conditions in the Saudi Arabian desert, followed by four intense days of combat that will live in their memories forever.

For a month before infantry and armored troops crossed into Kuwait and southern Iraq, the United States and its allies had pounded Iraq with massive air strikes - the first phase of Operation Desert Storm. That air assault decimated Saddam's military and made for a very short, very clean ground war that achieved its objective in only 100 hours. "It was over very quickly, but it was a very intense time, as short as it was," said **Todd Mayer** of Anderson Township, who was, at the time, an Army captain who commanded the tanks of C Co. **4-64 Armor, 24th ID**, as they raced headlong into what was the largest tank battle in history.

"Those of us who were there are like a 'Band of Brothers,'" Mayer said, referring to the legendary Easy Company of World War II that was the subject of a best-selling book and an HBO TV series. "We weren't in combat as long as the original 'Band of Brothers,' said Mayer, now a colonel in the Ohio National Guard, "but we did the job we were sent there to do."

It was, for the ground troops who crossed the border into Kuwait and Iraq at about 8 p.m. Cincinnati time - 4 a.m. on the 24th in the Middle East - much more than a 100-hour battle. They had been on the ground in Saudi Arabia for months while the United States built its coalition of support and throughout the massive air assault the U.S. unleashed on Iraq beginning Jan. 17 - nearly six months of living in crude conditions, eating MREs and fighting sand fleas by the millions.

They were there to do a job that was clearly defined, narrowly focused - with none of the "nation building" that plagued the U.S. invasion of Iraq 12 years later. There were more than

500,000 Americans, from all branches of the U.S. military, along with forces from more than 30 allied countries, massed in the Persian Gulf in the fall of 1990 to do one thing and one thing only - oust Saddam Hussein's army from Kuwait, an important Persian Gulf port state.

In early August 1990, Saddam sent 120,000 and 2,000 tanks into the small nation on Iraq's southern border, quickly overwhelming Kuwait's tiny army and declaring Kuwait Iraq's 19th province. The U.S. response was immediate. President George H.W. Bush, sending a force of U.S. fighter planes to Saudi Arabia three days after Saddam's invasion; and calling to active duty thousands of reservists - first for a 90-day mission, which was later extended to 180-days. Over the next two months, some of the U.S. military's most vaunted units were called to deploy to the Middle East - the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions, the Army's 82nd Airborne, 101st Airborne, and the **24th Infantry Division**.

**Doug Haynes** of West Chester was a 20-year-old specialist stationed at Fort Knox when the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait took place. Mayer's 4-64 Armor regiment was at only 49 percent strength when the deployment orders came. Haynes volunteered to fill one of the holes in the unit; and, by late August, found himself in Saudi Arabia, assigned as a gunner on one of the M1A1 tanks in Mayer's company.

There were no established camps in Saudi Arabia, no barracks or infrastructure for the hundreds of thousands of troops pouring into the desert in August and September. "It was brutal," Haynes said. "We lived in a concrete building for a while; and it was really hot. Then we were out in the desert in makeshift tents. Nobody knew when we were going in. Nobody knew what the end game was going to be. It was just months and months of waiting."

**Dion Grener** - now a lieutenant in the Lebanon fire department - was there in the desert, too - a sergeant and infantry scout with a reconnaissance platoon in the **24th Infantry Division**. Grener, who lives in Grove City, Ohio, was part of a 30-man recon platoon that was among the first of the allied troops to enter Kuwait and Iraq, with a handful of Hum-

vees and a couple of Bradley Fighting Vehicles. Their job was to find the enemy's positions and radio them into headquarters, so that the tank battalions and the ground troops would know where to go.

"We crossed the berm a day-and-a-half before the main force," Grener said. "Our job was to paint a picture of the battlefield for them, to show them what was out there and what their objective would be." Grener's platoon had a number of skirmishes with small groups of Iraqi soldiers, many of whom would surrender immediately rather than get in a fight with U.S. soldiers.

"I remember getting into one engagement with a group of Iraqis who surrendered," Grener said. "I will never forget this one kid - real young - down on his hands and knees saying in perfect English, 'please don't hurt me.' Turns out he went to college in New York."

By the time the ground war began, most of Saddam's army had been decimated by the air campaign and only one division remained intact - the Hammurabi Division of the Republican Guard. It was Grener's recon platoon that fixed the Hammurabi Division's location and called in the armor.

On dawn of the third day of fighting, a massive force of U.S. tanks - with Mayer's 4-64 Armor as the "point of the spear" - slammed into the Soviet-built tanks of Saddam's Republican Guard in the largest tank battle in history.

It was the first experience in combat for most of the men involved. "I didn't know if I would be able to pull the trigger, if I could do something to cause another man's death," Haynes said. "I was scared. But it was in that experience that the fear turned to anger. 'I fired that gun in anger,'" Haynes said. "It was the only way I could do it."

It was a rout for the Americans, who left a trail of burning Soviet tanks along Highway 80 - "The Highway of Death" - that ran from Kuwait City to Basra in southern Iraq. By the time it was over, the Iraqis had lost 3,700 of their 4,280 battle tanks and nearly all of their other armored vehicles. Not a single U.S. tank was destroyed.

# Notices

## New Life Members

Schanzmeyer, Bernard A.	19th IR, G	2378
Willuweit, Steven R.	24th ID Adm	2379
Perry, Susan M.	Assoc*	2380
Tanaka, Thomas Y.	19th IR, A	2381
Helmer, Lewis F.	24th SIG	2382
Miller, John E.	34th IR HV MTR	2383
Bonds, Earsel E.	21st IR HQ	2384

\*Daughter of BG Miller O. Perry

New Member	Unit	Served
Austin, Ervil C.	19th IR K CO	Korea 52-53
Babits, Lawrence	21st IR B CO	Germany 64-66
Clyburn Jr., Prince A.	19th IR MED	Korea 52-53
Freshour, Robert W.	19th IR E CO	Korea 50-52
Gonzalez, Wanda C.	34th IR	Assoc
Jamerson, Ben C.	21st IR E CO	Korea 50-51
King, Ernest F.	21st IR HQ	Japan, Korea 48-51
Kohlhof, Keith A	124th MI A CO	Ft. Stew.-DS 89-96
Kugler, William L.	52nd FA	Japan, Korea 48-52
Kyle, Reginald W.	21st IR B CO	Japan 45-46
Letts, Jr., Harry F.	26AAA HQ	Korea 51-52
Macaulay, Alan B.	21st IR B CO	Japan, Korea 49-50
Oberbeck, Robert T.	52nd FA A BT	Korea 51-52
Ryan, Helen K.	19th IR	Assoc
Simmons, Fulton H.	52nd FA A BT	Korea 51-52
Stamler, Arthur A	21st IR MED	Korea 50-51
Stevens, Howard A.	52nd FA HQ	Korea 50-53
Stevens, John	21st IR C CO	Korea 53-54
Wilson, Andy R.	34th IR	Japan 46-47
Yates, Olin R.	52nd FA C BT	Japan, Korea 49-51
Yelton, James C.	21st IR MED	Korea 50-51

## Taro Leaf Donors

Albrecht, Samuel P.	3rd Eng	10
Baker, John J.	34th Inf	60
Bonito, Michael G.	63rd FA	5
Buckner, David W.	19th Inf	20
Colvin, Charles R.	24th ID HQ	5
Conway, James F.	24th HQ	10
Davis, Andrew J.	3rd Eng	5
Demaray, Dale I.	19th Inf	10
Domenosky, Eugene F.	34th Inf	10*
Garcia, Tony M.	24th Med	10
Gavin, Thomas J.	25th AAA	50
Gibson, Wesley J.	34th Inf	15
Hill, David C.	13th FA	50
Hofrichter, Charlotte	34th Inf	5
Jackson, Melvin A.	63rd FA	50
Keller, Rodney A.	21st Inf	10
Lang, Louis	724 Ord	25
LaPalm, Joseph R.	19th Inf	20
Loesch, Herbert C.	24th Med	15
Lovasz, Edward T.	19th Inf	10
Lowry, Charles R	21st Inf	5
MacAulay, Dennis A.	19th Inf	25
Marcinko, Joseph J.	21st Inf	10
McIntosh, Elvin R.	21st Inf	5
McSweeney, Thomas	21st Inf	100
Meier, Paul	Assoc	5
Miller, John E.	34th Inf	10
Nunnally, Charles	11th FA	25
Pinnell, Floyd J.	21st Inf	100
Rumbaoa, Prudencio E.	19th Inf	15
Shank, John K.	21st Inf	5
Snow, Marvin L.	19th Inf	10
Stratton, Robert J.	19th Inf	25
Stuben, Richard A.	3rd Eng	5
Teruya, Henry	21st Inf	35
Underwood, John	34th Inf	10
Verhulst, Frederick P.		10
Whitfield, James E.	21st Inf	20
Williams, Curtis M.	21st Inf	20
Wszolek, Joseph F.	13th FA	10

\* In memory of: Ramon Cooper

## Central Florida 24th IDA Group

[http://24thida.com/cf24thida/O\\_cf24thida.html](http://24thida.com/cf24thida/O_cf24thida.html)

**Leesburg Golden Corral 11:45 a.m.**

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

3943 [cf24ida@gmail.com](mailto:cf24ida@gmail.com)

or Bill Stokes, 352-750-6741

[wsswriter@centurylink.net](mailto:wsswriter@centurylink.net)

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

Tentative dates for 2011 mini-reunion

November 3-5, St. Augustine, FL

### Come to think about it...

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.  
 When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.  
 The batteries were given out free of charge.  
 A dentist and a manicurist fought tooth and nail.  
 If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.  
 With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.  
 You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.  
 When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.



John Walters, our new Quartermaster, has inspected all of our inventory and for most items has some in stock and has established a source of supply. However, there are many items previously available which are out of stock and for which no source has been located. These items have been permanently removed from the Quartermaster's list shown below.

John assures me if he has the items you order in inventory he'll ship it within 48 hours, barring weekends and holidays. Otherwise, it may take a few weeks to obtain the item from our vendor.

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.**

## 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

**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) 31. 19th RGT 32. Remember POW /MIA 33. POW/MIA "Bring 'Em Home" 34. CIB Mini(X) 37. Combat Medic Badge(X) 38. U.S. Army Desert Storm 39. Vietnam Heaven & Hell 100 104. Desert Storm 108. Philippines Unit Ribbon **New Item 24th ID Airborne Hat Pin**

**PATCHES:** 42. 24ID Color \$5 43. 24th IDA \$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. \$5 107. 24th INF Division 108. 29th Inf. Div Color \$6 109. 24th ID VICTORY Patch \$6

**CRESTS:** 52. 24th Signal BN(X) \$9 53. 19th RGT \$9 54. 21st 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

**CAPS:** 65. 21st RGT White Embroidered \$15 66. 21st RGT Blue Embroidered \$15 69. 24th 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. \$12 101. Cap, WWII Veteran Black w/CIB \$15

**MISCELLANEOUS - NECKLACE:** 40. 19 RGT \$5 **BRACELET:** 41. 19th RGT \$5 **WINDOW STICKERS:** 46. 24th ID \$2 85. CIB 3"x7" \$3 **BUMPER STICKER:** 86. 24th ID Proudly Served \$3.00 **BOLO TIE:** 47. Taro Leaf Gold w/Gold Braid(X) \$15 **TARO LEAF BELT BUCKLE:** 50. Silver \$15 **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 24th ID 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/Color, Sizes XXL/L/M 113. White, Sizes 2XL/XL/L/M.

**Circle item number for purchase and indicate quantity Shipping & Handling \$5.00 Allow 2-4 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**

# Notices

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							





## 3/34<sup>th</sup> & 2/21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiments - 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division 61<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:bwegner27@yahoo.com)

All Korean War Vets are most welcome



## NATIONAL REUNION NEWS FLASH! SEE NEXT 19

For Central Florida Reunions see page 32



## Florida 24th IDA Group/5th RCT Annual Mini-Reunion Nov. 3-6, 2011



**Holiday Isle Oceanfront Resort, 860 A1A Beach Boulevard, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080, Ph: 904-471-2555/800-626-7263.**

Contact: Bill Kane, 5023 Andrea Blvd., Orlando, FL, 32807-1302, Ph: 407-275-7450, cell 407-421-4465, [kcrab-byll\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:kcrab-byll[at]yahoo.com), or Tom Thiel (see below) or: [http://24thida.com/cf24thida/2011-11-03\\_mini.html](http://24thida.com/cf24thida/2011-11-03_mini.html)

### Dutch Treat Luncheons

**May 4, and Aug. 3, Leesburg, FL Golden Corral 11:45 a.m.**

Contact: Tom Thiel, 352-357-3943 [cf24ida\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:cf24ida[at]gmail.com), or Bill Stokes, 352-750-6741 [wsswriter\[at\]centurylink.net](mailto:wsswriter[at]centurylink.net), or go to: [http://24thida.com/cf24thida/0\\_cf24thida.html](http://24thida.com/cf24thida/0_cf24thida.html)

**Everyone Welcome!**



## Tom Thiel's Website News

This is a progress report on your  
web site, [www.24thida.com](http://www.24thida.com)

Your web site continues to grow and evolve in response to materials and information available. The site now has 3-4,000 total pages of "stuff" and it continues to grow almost daily, so go there often.

Recent new additions include a "Books" page where we are mostly posting links to books that we know about and reviews of available books as well. But it also now contains the full text of several books! One of these is "Children of Yesterday" by Jan Valtin. Another is "24th Forward, A Pictorial History of the Victory Division in Korea."

We also added a "Looking For" button, where you may post looking for requests. And we have added the Quarter-master page, which is accessed from either Home or the 24th Div. 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 continue to work on better organization and presentation of information, especially that of an historical nature. This material is mostly found under the 24th Div. Button. I am trying to arrange it better by Units, Places, and perhaps others. A very significant recent addition there is "52nd Field Artillery Bn, Hallahan, Combat Operations in Korea, 1950-52," sent to me by James Bolt. This is a day-by-day account of the activities of the 52nd FA BN from Osan to its departure in January 1952. It also has links to a dozen and a half highly detailed maps available from the Barker's Korean War Project!

Reunions and Stories: There is highly detailed information on our reunions, mostly past, but with everyone's help, also upcoming reunions. So, 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 find it and hopefully attend. (This is a request of our Association officers, the Reunion Brat, and others to inform me of items you wish to have disseminated.) Also in this area, the site now has a special link to the Florida 24th IDA Group, and its activities and reunions too!

Anyone who has a "story" of their experiences 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, 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. This is in contrast with our *Taro Leaf*, which only goes to about 2,100 members. So again, I urge you to 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, 19147 Park Place Blvd.,  
Eustis, FL 32736  
352-357-3943  
[24thidaweb\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:24thidaweb[at]gmail.com)



## Drafting Men Over 60

I am over 60 and the Armed Forces thinks I'm too old to track down terrorists. You can't be older than 42 to join the military, but they've got the whole thing ass-backwards. Instead of sending 18-year-olds off to fight, they ought to take us old guys.

You shouldn't be able to join a military unit until you're at least 60. For starters: Researchers say 18-year-olds think about sex every 10 seconds. Old guys only think about sex a couple of times a day, leaving us more than 28,000 additional seconds per day to concentrate on the enemy.

Young guys haven't lived long enough to be cranky, and a cranky soldier is a dangerous soldier. "My back hurts! I can't sleep, I'm tired and hungry." We are impatient and maybe letting us kill some bastard who desperately deserves it will make us feel better and shut us up for a while.

An 18-year-old doesn't even like to get up before 10 AM. Old guys always get up early to pee, so what the hell. Besides, like I said, "I'm tired and can't sleep and since I'm already up, I may as well be up killing some fanatical bastards."

If captured we couldn't spill the beans because we'd forget where we put them. In fact, name, rank, and serial number would be a real brainteaser.

Boot camp would be easier for old guys. We're used to getting screamed and yelled at and we're used to soft food. We've also developed an appreciation for guns. We've been using them for years as an excuse to get out of the house.

They could lighten up on the obstacle course however. I've been in combat and didn't see a single 20-foot wall with rope hanging over the side, nor did I ever do any pushups after completing basic training. Actually, the running part is kind of a waste of energy, too. I've never seen anyone outrun a bullet.

An 18-year-old has the whole world ahead of him. He's still learning to shave, to start up a conversation with a pretty girl, and he still hasn't figured out that a baseball cap has a brim to shade his eyes, not the back of his head.

These are all great reasons to keep our kids at home to learn a little more about life before sending them off into harm's way.

Let us old guys track down those dirty rotten cowardly terrorists. The last thing an enemy would want to see is a couple of million pissed off old farts with attitudes and automatic weapons who know that their best years are already behind them.

Also, how about recruiting women over 50 – in menopause! You think men have attitudes! If nothing else, put them on border patrol – they'll have it secured the first night (and we won't have to hear "Press 1 for English" anymore).

Signed: "Old, but still full of piss and vinegar, veterans"



# Excerpt: Prairie Boys at War

By Mary Helm

SEOUL WAS AGAIN LOST, this time to the Chinese. By the end of January, the enemy had pushed allied troops completely out of North Korea in what the Chinese called their Third Phase Offensive. They were now massed at the Han River preparing for their next offensive.

Ridgway answered with a counter-offensive named Operation Thunderbolt, launched on January 25, 1951. In the first days of the operation, Allied units succeeded in pushing back the enemy to take control of Highway 20. They also regained the Suwon Airfield where Peter Ternes had lost his life in the opening hours of the war. It seemed a lifetime ago to those who had been in since the beginning.

## Spring 1951

The 24th Division was in reserve when the operation began, and on 26 January, command of the division was handed off from General Church to Major General Blackshear Bryan.

Bryan paid a visit to the 19th Regiment, where he found himself fairly unimpressed by the unit's lack of supplies. "How could a fine old regiment like the 19th possibly be short 2,000 helmets?" he asked.<sup>1</sup> Ned Moore had been ill since December, and Ollie Kinney had been acting in his place for several weeks. Moore was now sent back to the States, and Kinney assumed official, albeit brief, command of the 19th.

Meanwhile, Richard Stephens also rotated out, handing off leadership of the 21st Gimlets to Gines Perez. Fritz Mudgett later told Clay Blair that in contrast to the Big Six, who loved the limelight and enjoyed sharing martinis with reporters, Perez was more reserved – an intellectual. "In a quiet but forceful manner [Perez] became an outstanding tactical commander," Mudgett said.

Ridgway anticipated enemy opposition to increase after the allied gains made during the first days of Operation Thunderbolt, so he ordered the 24th to join the attack on the morning of the January 30 to protect the right flank of the line. Ridgway was on hand to watch the 24th go into action that day. The clash with the enemy was immediate – and it was intense.

"I NEVER EVEN KNEW he had the Distinguished Service Cross until he died," said Becky Hines of her father, Gerald Dilley. "I knew he had been wounded – my grandma talked about it, and I saw his scars."

Dilley was a down-to-earth man born and raised in Ogalalla, in southwest Nebraska. He attended rural

schools in Lewellen and Garden Counties, enlisted in January 1949, at age 21, and was with the 24th Division when it was deployed to Korea during the opening days of the war.

Dilley was a corporal in Baker Company, 19th Regiment, when Operation Thunderbolt began. Dilley told his family he did nothing special in combat – that he just did what was expected of him. The US Army disagreed with his assessment, awarding him the Distinguished Service Cross.

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS to GERALD L. DILLEY**, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. Corporal Dilley distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces near Hyenbang-ni, Korea, on 30 January 1951. On that date, Corporal Dilley's company was attacking a massive and rugged terrain feature firmly held by an estimated reinforced enemy company in well-prepared, sandbagged and camouflaged positions. As the attack progressed, his squad leader was wounded and evacuated. Corporal Dilley, although painfully wounded, assumed command of the squad and continued to direct the attack. After neutralizing two enemy positions, an enemy grenade landed so close to him that he was knocked one hundred feet down the nearly vertical hill. Ignoring the bruises and the pain from his wound, he quickly climbed back to his squad and continued to lead them in their advance. The last objectives of his squad were two emplacements consisting of two machine-guns in one and two submachine-guns in the other, which were holding up the advance of the entire company. Working his way forward under extremely heavy machine-gun fire and a shower of grenades, he reconnoitered the best route to attack these positions. While on this mission he was again wounded by machine-gun fire, but upon returning to his squad organized them for the final assault. Leading them aggressively forward, he singled out one of the machine-gun emplacements, moved into it and with his bayonet and rifle butt killed the crew of four as his squad engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. As these positions were cleared, enemy resistance on the hill crumbled and the company moved forward. While Corporal Dilley reorganized his men in a defensive position on the summit of the mountainous area, the company commander detected his wounds and ordered him to the rear for medical attention. (Eighth Army GO 310, 15 May 1951)

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"He spent almost a year in a hospital," said his daughter. "He was so close to death for so long. You know, he suffered from that long after he came home. Mom said he used to wake up – and I heard him a couple of times in the middle of the night – and he would be screaming, having a nightmare.

"But I think the thing that was most shocking to me was that when he was wounded, and he was evacuated to Japan, they notified his mom and dad –and not immediately but a few days later – that he'd been wounded and wasn't expected to live. And my grandparents had no money to go to Japan. They had to wait there and wonder what would happen to him. And he was in a Japanese hospital for quite a while.

"Then, when they evacuated him from Japan, they took him to the VA hospital in Denver, where he spent several months. And that was the first time my grandma and grandpa got to see him. He talked a little about that, but he didn't remember the majority of that, because he was so severely ill that he was kind of in and out during a lot of it. Sedated and everything.

"He carried shrapnel in his body the rest of his life. He had to be escorted through metal detectors, because he had it in his back and his arm. They said that in his back, they couldn't remove it, because they were afraid of paralyzing him – it was right near the spine," said Becky.

"He wasn't even supposed to be leading that charge, but there was nobody left. He said, 'I just did what had to be done. I was trying to stay alive.'"

FOUR DAYS AFTER Corporal Dilley was evacuated, Stanley Adams, a member of Dilley's battalion, was still fighting. It's unlikely the two men knew each other, but they lived in neighboring states.

Adams was from Olathe, Kansas. It was from here that he joined the military during WWII and subsequently fought – and was wounded in action – during fighting in North Africa and Italy. In a later news article, he was described as six feet tall, handsome and soft-spoken.

In Korea, Adams was a platoon sergeant in Able Company, 19th Regiment, and he had been going through the same horrors experienced by Gerald Dilley. February 4th turned out to be particularly difficult for Adams and his regiment. That day the 19th suffered almost 220 casualties, including 46 either captured or missing in action.

Very early that morning, Stanley Adams reached his limit. He was about to make history.

***This concludes the excerpt from Merry Helm's book, *Prairie Boys at War –Spring 1951. I hope we have an opportunity to present more of it in future issues of the Taro Leaf.****

**Editor**

## Japan Tragedy Stirs Memories

I lived at Sendai one time, for a couple of months. This was so long ago I don't have a recollection of vivid memories. Anyway, things I remembered from that time would be changed. Sendai was (recently) at the epicenter of a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and later it was crushed under a 33-foot tsunami that the geologic lurch generated.

When with the United States Army, I was a bit scared. Our troop ship landed along a pier in Tokyo Bay. We — green troops — disembarked, and were marched to a warehouse-like structure. We were assigned bunks with no bedding, save for mattresses, and began our first night on Japanese soil.

In the very early hours of the next morning my name was called on a loudspeaker. I was told to report to an office at the end of the warehouse. The voice was that of MSG William T. Morrison. The sergeant was going through 401 Files looking for a soldier to fill a slot in the 24th Infantry Division headquarters' Public Information Office. He gave me a slip of paper, a kind of railroad pass, and pointed to a train. "You've got to get on that train. You're going to Sendai."

Back at my my bunk everyone asked "What in hell is Sendai?" I didn't know. I'd never heard of such a place. No one knew, save for MSG Morrison. Sendai was then headquarters for the 24th Division, which had been smashed in the first attacks in Korea in 1950 and being readied for a return visit.

So it was that I went to Sendai. I didn't know where exactly in the world I was. Everyone called Sendai a town. I learned quickly this town had a population of about one million people. I never had lived in any place so big. It was because of Sendai that I came to have great respect and true admiration for Japan.

When commanders of the 24th Infantry Division had important business with military chiefs in the Dai Ichi Building in Tokyo, Gen. MacArthur's headquarters, "peons" in the division were designated "couriers." Couriers took a train with a file to the Tokyo rail center, where they passed it on to a waiting NCO from the Dai Ichi. The new guy (me) got a courier assignment because everyone else was ducking.

On the return trip, I went to the diner on the train. I had a pork chop, probably pork chop and rice, or maybe broccoli; I don't remember.

At home trains running to/through Worthington were miserable...dented, with worn seats and stained upholstery. There were no diners. I was riding to Sendai on perhaps the finest train I ever experienced. I was sitting on a cushioned chair in a beautifully appointed dining car eating a wonderful chop. All this was not 10 years after Japan had been leveled, burned and beaten up by America's B-29 bombers. At other tables were well-dressed people caught up in conversations which, of course, I could not understand. We rolled toward Sendai through a verdant countryside where I could see no damage.

"These people," I thought, "are very impressive. This country is very impressive." My days at Sendai taught me Japan is a remarkable land.

***From an article by Ray Crippen, Worthington Daily Globe, March 15, 2011***



# Do you remember the gear we wore and carried?



**The steel helmet** of WWII and Korea was a lifesaver for some and otherwise a very handy item for bathing, cooking, or as a pillow or something to sit on. Of course it couldn't be worn without the fiber helmet liner with its webbing inside. My fondest memory was using my helmet for frying a "liberated" chicken in two pounds of butter stolen from a mess tent.

**Army combat gear used during the Korean War.** I don't remember the suspenders for the cartridge belt. I'm quite sure I never used them, although I do recall Gen. Ridgway wore them with a pair of hand grenades taped to the vertical straps. Not shown on the cartridge belt are a bayonet in a scabbard and first aid pack. You could also hang the entrenching tool on the belt, which I preferred. The combat boots below were standard issue in 1950.



Do you guys remember, in Basic, trying to put a shine on those rough leathers hides? It sure took a lot of hard work.



During the cold winter months in North Korea those boots didn't provide much warmth. The trick was to get an oversized pair and wear extra socks. Not shown above is the bed roll with the shelter-half, blanket, poncho, and the one thing that kept us from freezing at night, the down-filled sleeping bag. I kept my chocolate bar ration in the bottom of my sleeping bag; I'm not sure why. DJV

## New Feature!

## Introducing the 24th IDA Memorabilia Exchange

Do you have items of military memorabilia you may wish to sell or buy? Chances are you have some things tucked away in a closet or your garage that you might wish to pass on to an interested buyer. It's a market we would like our members to explore from within our ranks...for sellers and buyers.

**Military uniforms, weapons, vehicles, insignias, books, etc.**

What might not be of much interest to you can be of value to someone else.

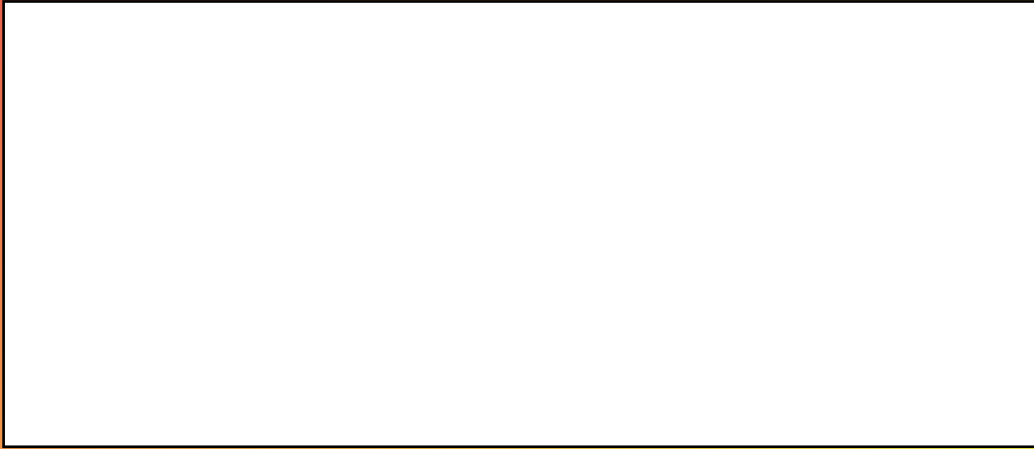
How it works is very simple: Send a note or email to the Taro Leaf Editor describing what you wish to sell and your personal contact information. If you wish you may mention a selling price, or not and leave it for discussion with anyone interested.

Items will be show in the **Memorabilia Exchange** column in future issues (if there is participation). The 24th IDA will facilitate such communications, but will assume no responsibility for transactions, which is strictly between the parties involved.



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## Verbeck Award Nominations - 2011

The 24th Infantry Division Association is seeking nominations for the member you feel should be recognized with our Association's prestigious 2011 Verbeck Award. Association President, Sal Schillaci 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. 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 unabashed 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 award is not intended to reward popularity, but to acknowledge a person's commitment and hard work in helping to make the Association more successful.

**Send recommendations to any of the following members of the Nominating Committee:**

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Fletcher, NC 28732-9734, 828-684-5931 email: [the24thidavp@aol.com](mailto:the24thidavp@aol.com)

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