

# TARD

24th Infantry Division Association



FIRST TO FIGHT

# LEAF



See Memorabilia, page 38

Volume 65 Issue No. 3

Summer 2011

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## Taro Leaf, Volume 65, Issue 3, Summer 2011

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

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

**Vice President:** Don Maggio- 24th Admin  
411 Concord Rd., Fletcher, NC 28732-9734  
828 684-5931 [the24thidavp@aol.com](mailto:the24thidavp@aol.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 2011 Reunion Program Chairman (Open)

**Webmaster: Tom Thiel**  
19147 Park Place Blvd., Eustis, FL32736  
352-357-3943 Email: [24thidaweb@gmail.com](mailto:24thidaweb@gmail.com)  
**WEBSITE:** [www.24thida.com](http://www.24thida.com)

Dear Members,

First, I want to apologize for the delay of sending information regarding our reunion in September. I take full responsibility for this situation.

At the time I was at odds with the Reunion Bratt regarding the cost of some of the items involved in the reunion. It held things up , but we are now past that.

All the information regarding the reunion will be found in this issue of the Taro Leaf on pages 24 through 26.

This year we will have members of the 52nd FA and the 21st RGT joining us at Dayton. I want to welcome these men and women and invite them to join us at all of our future reunions.

I look forward to meeting old friends and making new ones .

I promise I will make sure that the information on reunions in the future will be more timely!

I thank you, and look forward to seeing each and everyone of you who can make it to Dayton.

Sincerely, Sal Schillaci



As another issue of the Taro Leaf is heading to the printers, I sigh with relief as we had to hustle to an early close in order to get national reunion information to our members, ASAP. President Sal wants to provide registration details and encourage as many as possible to come to Dayton, Ohio for what should be a great reunion.

Closing earlier has resulted in fewer pages this issue.

Speaking of reunions, we have received some input from members as to the location of our next one. Results are sparse (pg. 30 )thus far, but will provide good guidance for our reunion planners.

It seems most of our members are not very interested in taking a active part in making contributions to the Taro Leaf, or such things as making judgments about reunion sites. However, I don't interpret this as apathy toward our association or lack of interest in our former comrades-in-arms. If you are content to confine your interest to just reading the Taro Leaf, we are pleased to have you as a member of the association. We need all of you to be a viable organization. And to those whom we might motivate to be more active...please do what you can. We need your stories and support.

I have been thinking about the stories-within-the - stories. Consider old warriors who have little left but their memories of times past and, for all of us, how those years of our youth have so much more significance now.

Material came to me recently which awakened my awareness of our ladies who have been so supportive...in early years, our mothers, and later, our spouses. They share our joys, trials, and tribulations as they become emotionally invested in our lives. The depth of their commitment was never so clear to me as when I read a poem written by the wife of a recently deceased member, see page 13. I am not usually given to emotional reactions, and I am not especially fond of poetry, but this expression of a widow's grief brought me to tears! I am pleased we have a place in the Taro Leaf to share such feelings and thoughts.

I must confess some disappointment that our readers have yet to take to the idea of "Living Large." This feature is intended to showcase current or recent experiences of our members. Come blow your horn, especially if you think it might be an inspiration to another member. Tell us how you are dealing with adversities of health, family, finances, or whatever. God bless you all.

David Valley





## RECENT VA News

**VA to Expand Housing for Homeless Veterans and Their Families** - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) continues to develop housing opportunities for homeless and at-risk Veterans by adding 34 VA locations across the country. This strategy will increase the Department's available beds by over 5,000. VA currently has 15,000 transitional beds available to homeless Veterans. (6/8/11)

**General Allison A. Hickey Sworn In as Under Secretary for Benefits** - Retired Brig. Gen. Allison A. Hickey, a 27-year Veteran of the United States Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserves and a graduate of the first U.S. Air Force Academy class to include women, has been sworn in as the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Under Secretary for Benefits. (6/6/11)

**VA Announces \$92 Million in Construction Contract for Bay Pines** - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the award of a \$92 million contract to construct a new mental health facility at the VA medical center at Bay Pines, Fla., to expand care and services for Florida's Veterans. (6/2/11)

**VA Announces Disaster Assistance After Tornado Outbreaks** - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that special disaster assistance may be available to Veterans with VA-guaranteed home loans who have been affected by recent tornados in Missouri. (5/26/11)

**VA Processing Hundreds of Applications for New Family Caregiver Benefits in First Week** - In the first week for open applications, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has assisted more than 625 Veterans, Servicemembers and their Family Caregivers in applying for new services under the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act 2010. (5/18/11)

**VA Announces Disaster Assistance After Tornado Outbreaks** - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that special disaster assistance may be available to Veterans with VA-guaranteed home loans who have been affected by recent tornados in the South. Veterans living in the designated disaster areas in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee may receive mortgage assistance through their loan servicers. (5/17/11)

**Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) App Helps Thousands** - The PTSD Coach smartphone application (app), launched in April by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD), has already helped more than 5,000 users connect with important mental health information and resources. (5/17/11)



## Tom Thiel's Website News

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

A special POW/MIA Publication to be mailed to Korean Vets. More than a thousand 24th Division Taromen who fought and died in the Korean War are still missing and unaccounted for.



Our Association is undertaking a significant effort to help find or identify our missing brothers who were killed or who died as prisoners of war whose remains have never been recovered. We are sending to all members in our Association Roster who are identified as having served in Korea a special 24-page publication asking for your help.

If you have knowledge about how or where our MIAs or missing POWs were lost, you will be asked to please complete and submit an Oral History to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) in Hawaii.

An oral history is the systematic compilation of living people's testimony about their own experience that relates to the events in which these men were lost. Guidelines for submitting your Oral History are provided in the publication. By completing and submitting an Oral History, you will help JPAC better understand how and/or where our brave brothers were lost.

In the special publication, our missing men are listed by Unit, then by Company or Battalion, and finally in Last Name order. Also included is the date they were last seen.

Space limitations in the printed document limit us to only this listing order; however, should you wish to view the list of names by date of loss, or to see them in alphabetical order, you may go to the Association website at:

**[http://24thida.com/POW-MIA/POW\\_MIA\\_00\\_explanation.html](http://24thida.com/POW-MIA/POW_MIA_00_explanation.html)**

If you are aware of 24th Division veterans who are not members of the Association, please share this information with them. Thank you very much.

Don Maggio, Vice President  
Merry Helm, Historian  
Tom Thiel, Webmaster

**Tom J. Thiel, 19147 Park Blvd., Eustis, FL 32736**  
**Telephone: 352 357-3943**  
**[24thidaweb@gmail.com](mailto:24thidaweb@gmail.com)**

**Members:** I don't know what's happening here but the last three (3) issues of the TARO LEAF seem to have information passed to the Editor that is either incomplete or bad information. When the Editor receives information, he shouldn't have to proofread or check every article for correctness. He is busy enough trying to find articles for the TL and organize those articles into a presentable issue. Here is some of what I mean.

Starting with Volume 64, #4, on page 11, is an article by Clifford G. Sears "My Day of Infamy" and in little note at the bottom is (Cliff is now deceased). I have searched everywhere including the Honor Roll, all my back TAPS messages and cannot find anything on his demises. I have tried to get telephone numbers of persons listed as possible relatives but continue to get "number no long any good". All searches indicate he may still be alive. He was a member of the Association but was dropped from the roll in 2007 for nonpayment of dues that were due on 1 March 2007. If you should have any information on his death, I would appreciate it for the Honor Roll.

In the "Fallen Comrades" section of TL Vol. 65, # 2, William G. Pelligrini, 19th IR G Co is listed with no date of death. In trying to establish a date of death through SSDI and other sources I have, I could not find any record of him having passed away. In a link to Ancestry, I found an entry in the Massachusetts Death Index, 1970-2003 of the name William G Pellegrini that listed a spouse (Shirley A Pellegrini) as having a date of death of 24 Aug 1999, place of death, Plymouth, MA. From all indications, it would appear William is still alive. If someone should have information to the contrary, I would like to know for the "Honor Roll" otherwise, I will not enter his name. I have queried the Editor about this and he doesn't have a date either.

Also, Pitney, Max L 63d FA date of death **6/28/08** should have been furnished. Anderson, Robert S. 24th Med date of death **12/22/97** should have been furnished. (Note the DOD, SSDI show the correct city and ZIP Code. 12 years of TL's mailed to a deceased person.)

On page 29, TL 65/2 is an article by Elliott W. Allen Jr. about his father's wartime experience. I assume that his father has passed away and in checking, I find a Elliott W. Allen of Lillian, AL died on 9/23/07. Association records indicate he was an Association member until December 08 when he was removed from the roster for lapsed dues. Dues were due August 07

**Wes Morrison, WesM8@aol.com, 452 Gloria Circle, Marina, CA 93933, 831-883-2156, Life Member 1581**

**David:** I plan to be at the Dayton reunion. I've been going to the 21st RGT reunions, but now they're over I hope a lot of the 21st guys will go to Dayton. Here's \$50 donation for the outfit. I put together this picture of crests and patches. Maybe you can use it in the Taro Leaf. **Vincent "Bud" Steckel, 11th FA, 18062 Belltown Rd., Sherill, IA 52073. Life Member 2150.**

**Bud:** Sorry, but I can't use the interesting display because it won't copy well. Thanks for your support. **David**

**Dear Mr. Valley:** On December 7th, 2010 I lost my best friend and the love of my life. Bill Robinette served in Korea with the 19th RGT of the 24th ID. He loved his country and fellow veterans he knew from the service and his VFW family. Bill was awarded the CIB, two Purple Hearts, Korean Service Medal with 3 battle stars, UN Medal and other citations. He never wore but one decoration on his VFW cap, the Combat Infantry Badge. He would say, "That's the only one that matters." He was my hero. I miss him so much. I wanted you to know that another of your comrades has fallen. (see also, *Fallen Comrades*, page 12, Editor) Sincerely, **Llannie Ellison, 601 Martin Road, East, Northport, AL 35473.**



**John Dunn:** Neal Barrow (above) served in K CO, 19th RGT in Korea, '51-'52. He was just clowning around when this photo was taken, but after "Operation Nomad," he was probably expressing the sentiments of many of his fellow soldiers. Neal died November, 9, 2010. (From his wife, **Betty Barrow**)

# Letters

**David,** Hope that all is well with you. Will give your Editor's column some thought and try to respond.

The article, "5th RCT Came to Fight", in TL Vol. 65 No. 2 on page 25 contains some information that is in error and tends to create confusion. The area of the action was north of the town of ICHON, SK and not Inchon as written in paragraph two of the article. ICHON is located in Grid 6126 on Map Sheet 6625 I and also just west of Highway 20 which runs between Suwon-Ichon-Yoju-Wonju.

In the same paragraph, two of the three elevations listed are not correct. The two hills listed as being part of Objective ABLE should be Hill 407, and Hill 471. Although the easternmost hill is listed as Hill 475 by Slater in "*Hills of Sacrifice: The 5th RCT in Korea*" it appears on the map as having an elevation of 471 meters. Hill 407 and Hill 471 were located in Grid 5932 of that portion of the maps attached.

Objective BAKER was Hill 256 located in Grid 5730. Both objectives were located on a ridge line located about 2000 meters north of the town of SUBUK, SK. located in Grid 5829.

The 24th Infantry Division was given the task of clearing elements of the 38th Chinese Army from the triangular-shaped area north of Highway 20 between the Ichon-Yoju on the south and the Han River on the east and north. The 21st Infantry was to hold at Yoju on the east bank of the Han and the 5th RCT on the 24th Division's left flank and the 19th Infantry in the center would pivot on the 21st at Yoju and move north. There would also be a change in tactics by General Ridgway...units would tie-in with each other and not push-up the roads which tended to isolate units and invite being surrounded by the Chinese and mauled.

This is not a major problem but most of life is made up of events that are not major but do have an impact on others. Attached are a couple of maps which help explain what happened that day in January 1951.

The 5th RCT had the following casualties in January 1951:

25 - KIA, 65 - WIA, 3 - MIA, 178 - NBC.

**Larry Gay, G CO, 19th RGT, 15335 W. Echo Canyon Dr.,  
Surprise, AZ 85374, 623-214-6090**

**Aloha David:** Your Toripupu humor and Super Submarine story in recent Taro Leaf issues reminded me of recording such historic subject telecast on PBS a year or so ago. Enclosed is a CD of one of these programs for your viewing pleasure.

By the way, while temporarily assigned to the 21st RGT from the 3rd ENG in early 1949, I befriended a former Kamikaze in Kumamoto Machi. According to his story, upon completion of flight training he was assigned to a Kamikaze unit. The constant presence of U.S. fighter planes and fuel shortages delayed his turn to be enshrined at Yasukuni.

When an unusual quiet occurred subsequent to the most destructive air raid he had experienced, he knew that his ultimate sacrifice would not be necessary. Shortly thereafter the war ended. Since he was not one of those interviewed in the PBS telecast, I hope he is surviving in Kumamoto in good health, wealth and happiness. Aloha and take care.

**Bob Kodama, 6141 Patton Way, Buena Park, CA 90620  
714 522-3643**

**David:** I'm responding to your request for stories. Here are some of my recollections of incidents from Korea.

SGT Demboski was our section leader, (two squads with a machine gun in each). We had three sections in the platoon. Two guns always went together. We were in H CO, 19th RGT. We were usually attached to our battalion rifle companies, so we had two guns each for E CO, F CO, and G CO.

We watched two fighter jets attack a Chinese position when we first relieved a unit on line. SGT Demboski was worried about the Chinese sneaking into our positions at night. One particular afternoon he told us to be sure to wear our helmets for identification as the Chinese didn't wear helmets. Our gun was in a bunker with a trench connecting both sides, another trench connected us from the back. It was around midnight and I was on guard. I had an M2 carbine which was fully automatic. I had 2-15 round clips taped together. I was very alert and thought I saw or heard something. Then I saw a movement in the trench that connected us from behind. I turned and pointed my carbine and started to squeeze the trigger. Someone coming toward me wore no helmet.

Demboski called out just in time. He almost had about 15 rounds in him! He didn't say anything more than he forgot to wear his helmet. SGT Demboski was a great guy and later on became our company's first sergeant in Japan. It would have demoralized me if I had squeezed the trigger. I thank God that it all turned out good.

PFC Meade, who was in our squad, came to me one day when we were in this same position and said they wanted two volunteers. He said come on, it's okay. Was I ever surprised! He and I went not too far behind our position and watched a USO show with Danny Kay and Monica Lewis. If I knew what date that show was I would know the date we were in that position. The show was surprisingly close to the front lines. We left that position a short time later. (My daughter Becki looked up USO shows in Korea in 1951 and found it was in November.)

So, it was probably late November, 1951 when we were on the front line in the Kumsong area. When we relieved the outfit in this position, I was given the job of arming and disarming a line of booby traps in our immediate front. The Chinese had been sneaking up at night and had killed some of the guys that were here before us. A carrying party of South Koreans led by one of our guys went through our lines once a day, usually coming back near dark. I armed the booby traps after they returned.

One day about noon a guy from one of the rifle companies came back from patrol they and reported that the platoon was pinned down and there were two dead. The Chinese had let the patrol through but stopped them when they tried to come back. We were in the water-cooled heavy machine gun platoon and they were debating if we should go out or the light machine guns from the rifle company should go. The matter was settled when the patrol came back. The Lieutenant in charge of the patrol stood up exposing himself to the Chink machine gun fire and put a 57 mm recoilless round into one bunker and a black BAR man then took out the other machine gun. Two half tracks went in and got our two KIAs out the next day.

**Harold Smith, 516 Franklin St, SW, Ronan, MT 59864,  
406 676-3322. Member.**



**Editor:** Yes, my husband, Bill (William C. Coe, Life 1069) would like to have a copy of the plaque (for Task Force Smith members). If there is a charge, we'll pay it (no charge). If there are any questions please call 518 235-0194. Thank you for your time and service. Glosian Coe, 59 Lenox Ave, Cohoes, NY 12047

**Bill:** We have mailed plaques to all who have requested them.

**Editor**

**Hya Dave** – I called Al McAdoo 29 May 2011. I spoke with him at length and mailed a copy of the 21 May 1950 Taro Leaf I got when then in North Korea. It praised my unit – 955 FA which was attached to the 24th ID. *"The 955 FA BN, commanded by Lt. Col. Knowlton, was attached to this division on 8 April 1951 and has since done a fine job of keeping those 155 howitzer projectiles going out when needed. Reflecting some of the old Dodgers hustle, these boys from Brooklyn have fired over 17,000 rounds in support of infantry. The battalion is a New York National Guard unit recalled to active duty 19 August 1950 and trained at Ft. Lewis, Washington."* I was in Inchon with A Battery on 8 April 1951, the next day B & C Batteries joined us. We began to fire, at 6:30 PM at the Chinks. Col. Knowlton was a bum and I told him so! I spoke to him in 1995. Several Artillery commanders came to the 955 to "praise us" and to get Knowlton to "write us up," all of us, for our 201 files. He never did. All he did was write up commendations to his fellow officer friends and himself. I got this from "Archives in Gov't," Carlisle Barracks, PA in early 1990. There's nothing in the men's 201 files.

**Tom Cacciola, Member, 201 567-7279**

**Tom Thiel:** I read the article in Taro Leaf written by Jake Meier and was prompted to go to the Taro Leaf web site and read the unabridged article. From his description of A Day (Oct 20, 1944), I think we probably landed in close to the same place on Red Beach on the invasion of Leyte. So this of course started the memories of that long ago event to stir! He further mentions his experience in the landing on Mindoro, which I did not make, but he tells of an event that I do remember knowing about. Here is the story.

On the landing craft that I came in on at Leyte was a naval lieutenant whose name I am pretty sure was Rider or perhaps Ryder. He was attached to the 24th as a "bomb disposal officer". He stood up in the front of our craft where he could watch around the ramp to spot mines on our approach, which fortunately he did not spot! We saw him around Div. HQ G-2 later, and perhaps visited with him. I do not remember for sure.

But I remember our hearing about him at Mindoro. Fortunately I did not make that invasion, but came up later. We learned that Rider had been wounded on the ship he was on, which I suppose was the cruiser, Nashville, due to activities of Kamikazes, and lost an eye. A number of high ranking officers were killed in that attack. Jake apparently saw this happen! But some time later, he was mentioned by name in an article in Time magazine that he defused the bombs on the Pasig River bridge and allowed the First Cavalry to make their entrance into Manila. Reading Jake's account certainly brought back many memories of those long ago days and makes a fellow ask, "Did all of that really happen?!" We served with a bunch of heroes, didn't we?

**James W. Mims, 811 Lawson Ave., Midland, TX 79701-4144  
915-682-1757. Life Member 681**

**Editor:** I agree with your suggestion that we should go beyond our stories of the past (Editors letter), but not to ignore or forget the valuable information and experiences of our adventures.

In the story, "A Lucky Dogfoot," by Jake Meier (Taro Leaf, Spring Issue, Vol. 65/2, page 28) the name of PVT Ova A. Kelley was noted being awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously. Why was he not included in the list of MOH recipients within the last week of November, 1944?

**P. Ed Rumbaoa, 21128 S. Menlo Ave.,  
Torrance, CA 90502. Life 2234**

**Ed:** We will see if anyone has an answer for you. **Editor**

**Merry Helm:** I was with HQ CO, 1st BN Como platoon when I was wounded at Osan, July 5, (1950) at 2pm. About 20 of us were behind a small hill in the middle of a rice paddy pen down by fire from North Koreans. A 2LT said we needed to get behind a ledge out in the rice paddy (to get there we had to go about 20 yards in rice paddy). He said let's go, so he and four of us followed. In the middle of the rice paddy I was hit by small arms fire just above the right elbow. I was carrying a M-1 rifle in my hand and don't know where it went.

When I was hit the three guys behind me turned back. The LT and I made it behind the ledge. I told him I was hit, and he asked, "Do you have a first aid kit." I said, "Yes, but I can't put it on with one hand." He said, "You can try," and left me to do the best I could. I stayed behind the ledge but later went back to where we had been behind the small hill.

We were next to the road where the NK tanks went. We went over the road and were able to stay out of the line of fire. One of my buddies made me a sling out of his tee-shirt. We walked down the edge of a rice paddy and met up with a group that a 1LT was leading. I was the only one wounded so he put me in front so they would not leave me behind. We were able to get a ride in some vehicles that the FA had. We traveled until we came to a town; it was about dark so we spent the night there. The next day we went south to a town that had a train station. They put me and a buddy on the train to go to a field hospital. I spent the night there and the next day they put me and another wounded guy from the FA in a helicopter and flew us back to Japan.

I was in the hospital in Japan for about a week before they flew us back to USA. They let us pick the closest hospital to our home to get the needed care. I went to the Army & Navy Hospital in Hot Springs Arkansas. I was there until October. I asked to go to Ft. Sill, OK. I was on leave the last part of November, and got married on the 21st. We will celebrate our 61st this year. **Johnny Baker [jwb@valornet.com](mailto:jwb@valornet.com)**

**David:** I want to comment about you getting to be an honor guard for MacArthur. Like I tell my brother who was in Redstone the last three months of Korea, but doesn't consider himself a Korean Vet. I tell him it's the luck of the draw. Yours is a great story. I often wonder about myself. One afternoon a couple officers show up on line and want me to leave the Army to join the Coast Guard. It was hard to say no to these guys dressed in their whites, but they were looking for career guys. Not me!

**Marvin Reed, 2900 Right Hand Canyon Road, Palomino Valley, NV 89510, 775-475-0290, Life Member 2002**

## Looking For

**Hello :** I'm hoping you can help me find some info on my Uncle.. He served in the 24th in WWII. I wrote the national archives and got some info but was told his records burned in the fire in 1973. I find this odd because they knew all the medals he won.. Including the Silver Star.. Here is what I have found about him so far... name Artee Bracknell sn/ 34 100 476 21st infantry regiment 24th infantry division.

He died October 24 1944 buried American Cemetery Manila Philippines Plot f row 2, Grave 95.... I'm trying to put together a display case All about his sevice to pass on to the kid's. A war hero should be remembered.. Any help you can give me would be great. I really would love to know which battle he died in I think maybe Leyte.. and a photo would be fantastic I only have one of him as a child... Thank you so much. **Earl Bracknell**

**Earl:** I checked my Reg't In Action Book. It is pretty old and fragile so I don't like to bring it out too much. Your uncle's name is mentioned for Silver Star citation on page 166. Looks like he was in C Company. There is also a list of those who were KIA or died of wounds in the back of the book. I went down the list a few times and could not find his name on this list. Could he had died of a tropical disease? **Merry Helm**

**Editor:** To follow up our conversation regarding my Uncle, Cpl. Edward L. McCall, I am researching his records and gathering facts and memories for our family; a long time dream of my grandmother and my father (his only brother).

Cpl. Edward "Slim" McCall of the 24th Infantry, 63rd Field Artillery was assigned to Wire Section - Hut 7 in Japan, along with Cpt Rickard, Cpl Valenzuela, Sgt Bigley, Cpl Hutton, Cpl Brawer, Cpl Brennt, Cpl Hawk, PFC Shirley, Cpl. Ciringione, Cpl Russell Varner and others I'm not able to identify in photos. We would like to gather any stories, memories and details anyone remembers. Cpl. McCall was the driver for Lt. Col William Dressler and both were reported MIA on July 14, 1950 along the Kum River in Korea. Their bodies were not located until March 1953. One report notes he was last seen aiding a wounded man (Dressler) and taking shelter in a nearby building. U.S. bombers mistakenly bombed the building, thought to hold enemy ammunitions. Their remains could not be separated so both are buried in the Dressler family plot in Darlington Heights, VA.

If anyone can add to these details or verify the information, please contact me and my family.

Thank you for your help.

**Rene' (McCall) Harber, 34750 Canvas Back, Woodland, CA 95695, 530 406-2229 r.n.r@sbcglobal.net**

**Dear Sir:** I believe my Dad, "William Philip Mueller" served in the 19th Infantry, 24th Infantry Division, Company D He was stationed at Schofield Barracks and was at Pearl Harbor during the (December 7th) attack then went to Australia and on to New Guinea where he fought there for over three years.

My Dad will turn 90 this June, God willing. There was an enormous setback a few weeks ago when Dad suffered a major stroke. Dad lives in Rio Rico, AZ and is currently in HealthSouth Hospital in Tucson, AZ

We are hopeful that if he is not able to go home on April 19th that he will go to the VA Hospital in Tucson on his path home.

Is there any way someone may contact him to wish him the best? That would mean the world to him.

My Dad is also a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors. Thank you for your consideration in helping us to honor one of our Nation's Heroes, my Dad. Thank you, Pete

**William P. Mueller, Peter Mueller, P.O. Box 4579, Ventura, CA 93007.0579, Cell: 805.558.1469**

## ANSWER TO A "LOOKING FOR"

In the "Looking For" section of the last Taro Leaf (pg 10), Bill Borer asked someone to make available a copy of "The Organization Day Yearbook Of The Nineteenth United States Infantry Regiment, "The Rock Of Chickamauga," September 20, 1949, Published at Camp Chickamauga, Beppu, Kyushn, Japan."

Bill's note helped me remember that Joseph P. Negrelli, Yearbook Editor in Chief, had contacted me some years ago when I still was Taro Leaf Editor saying that he had seen periodic references to the publication in the Taro Leaf by persons such as Bill who were looking for a copy. He very kindly sent me a full copy of the yearbook. Unfortunately, there was very little I could do with it in hard copy then, so I placed it with my stuff.

As webmaster for [www.24thida.com](http://www.24thida.com) the Association's web site, I have recently been uploading copies of several books about various activities of the 24th Division, but I had completely forgotten the Yearbook until Bill's note. After some scrounging through "my stuff" I correctly guessed that I had forwarded it to our Association Historian, Merry Helm, who most graciously returned it to me.

I scanned the book in its entirety and have uploaded it as a PDF document to the above web site where it can most conveniently be found under the "Books" link at the bottom of either the Home or the 24th Division pages. By clicking on this Books link you will be taken to a page of books that have been uploaded to the web site. You will see the book listed there; by clicking on the link with the book's listing you will then be taken to the book itself.



*Continued from previous page.*

Not only is it available for viewing on the website, it may also be downloaded to anyone's home computer. Once it is there, you can print out your own hard copy or download to a thumb drive and take to Office Depot, Staples, etc., for them to print for you. It is in 8x14-inch format.

The file is full text key word searchable with Acrobat Reader; this includes all the names. etc. It is a rather large file being nearly 50MB, which is too large to be sent by email attachment. For those on high speed internet connection, it should download from the web site to your computer in less than 10 minutes. (I personally have found that Internet Explorer handles these large PDF files much better than Firefox or Google Chrome.)

For those of you not on the internet have faith. You could have family or friend download it, or I suspect that if you took this article to Office Depot, they would be able to download and print it almost as soon as you paid them about \$6.50 for printing!

This is the best method I could think of to make Mr. Negrelli's Yearbook available to members.

Tom J. Thiel, [www.24thida.com](http://www.24thida.com) 24thidaweb@gmail.com,  
352-357-3943, 352-408-6612

Lou Repko (driver below) is hoping someone will recognize men in this picture not identified. He served in the 34 RGT, HQ & HQ CO, Wire Section out of Sasebo prior to Korea.

## Looking For



SGT Herbert E. Lee. In Beppu he was with 19th RGT 1st BN. He may have been my platoon SGT in the 19th RGT HQ CO, in Korea. If so, he was called "Pappy" Lee. I'd appreciate any info about him. David Valley, Editor



Lou Repko, driver; Ken Edwards, above; Myles Cable, center; others unknown.  
Picture taken July 31, 1950 by LIFE combat photographer, Carl Mydans

# “My Old Box of Memories; Thoughts of the Korean War” by Bill Allen

## Excerpts from his book

On July 27, 1995 there was the dedication of the Memorial to the Korean War in Washington, DC. It has been a long and very difficult venture in getting this memorial built. The sad part is that so many veterans did not live to see that day. Unable to be with the large group of Korean Veterans that are expected to attend, I know they will be in our thoughts and prayers. As I am writing this, my thoughts go back many years. This is what started me searching through MY OLD BOX OF MEMORIES.

My Old Box of Memories is a box that I have had over the years that I kept throwing things into. Everyone has a box like this. Things that are very important, but never get put in their proper order. There are papers, letters, pictures, a little bit of everything. I can't even remember where some of the things came from.

I thought this would be a good opportunity get my old box of memories in order. Maybe I can put some of the things to rest that have been troubling me through the years. There are many questions for which I wish I had answers. I know some will never be answered. I have learned to accept what I am and do the best I can.

.....  
About 2 am on the 16th (July 1950) trip flares went off. Everyone let loose with everything we had. I knew I had to get my head up to see what was going on, or the N. Koreans would come right in my foxhole after me. Once I had my head up, looking around you would not believe what I saw and heard.

The best way to explain it is like this. You are on second base in a large stadium with the lights off. All of a sudden, they turn the lights on and there are 50,000 people yelling and screaming at the top of their lungs. The Korean's were banging on pots and pans blowing bugles in one mass attack. They were across the river and they were after our ass.

.....  
Writing about all the things that happened is very difficult for me because it brings back memories of things I do not like to think about. I try to forget, but it will haunt me until the day I die. Everything I write about I am reliving as I write it.

.....  
It seemed like everywhere we went we were finding GIs who had been executed. I know from first hand what they do to Americans, dead or alive. They do not take many prisoners and if they do, some are better off dead. This was our biggest fear, getting caught by the North Koreans.

.....  
As I slid the door open inside there was a young Korean girl that was covered with blood from the waist down. There lying on a blanket was a baby that was just born. I mean it hadn't even been cleaned up or anything. It had to be born when we walked into the courtyard. That is why the mama-san was going crazy. She must have thought I was going to shoot all of them.

"Well, Allen what in the hell do you do now?" We were ordered to send everyone out of the buildings and south down the road. I looked at the old mama-san and at the young Korean girl and they both looked at me. I took hold of the old woman pushed her in the room with the girl and her baby and closed the door. I reported to squad leader that the building was all clear.

I have often wondered if I did the right thing, you wonder what happened after we left? I may have done them more harm than good. In hindsight, I did what I thought was the right thing at the time.

.....  
Taejon was liberated and Charlie Company was given the honor of the liberation. Marching through what was left of the city brought back memories of all the death and misery that went on in July. We stayed in the area over night and moved out at daybreak toward the Kum River.

.....  
It is now late October, the UN forces have just about taken all of North Korea and we are in reserve and the rumor is that the 24th we will be in Japan and we will parade in front of General MacArthur. Lt. VanOrman went back to Japan to make arrangements for our return. We also turned in our ammunition and they were taking inventory of our equipment. It looked like the war was over for the 24th. Well we sure were in for a big surprise.

.....  
The Division was taken out of reserve and was sent north to support the M.L.R. I think we were in the area of Unsan, but where ever we were the name isn't important. What I am writing about is the main thing that counts, and the story is true to the best of my memory. C Company was to set up a roadblock to hold so the 1st Cavalry could pull back through our lines. They took a hell of a beating in Unsan and they were in bad shape.

.....  
We set up a line just south of the Yalu River. Everyone was waiting to see what the Chinese were going to do. We had a good Thanksgiving Dinner thanks to the company cooks. Hot food was a luxury and winter was starting to set in and it was getting cold at night. About Nov. 26 or 27 the Chinese made their move and came storming across the Yalu. They hit the whole front at once. We had about six divisions on the line while the Chinese had their whole army setting on the border.

.....  
When we finally stopped withdrawing south and set up a defense on the 38th parallel our moral was at rock bottom. In less than a week the UN was sitting on the Yalu River and when the Chinese came across we lost it all. It took us about three months to get to the border and the amount of casualties were unreal.

The Marines alone had 4,418. The 2nd Division lost 4,940 at the Battle of Kunu-ri. Our company lost a whole platoon plus officers and men. The Chinese just didn't seem like they had anything to live for, or they just didn't give a damn. When they made an attack they would blow their bugles and they would come at you wave after wave the more we would kill the more they would send.

.....  
Some of the events I write about may not be in the right order, but they did happen. Writing this is like watching a TV screen. I am seeing everything in my mind as I write it and it is very difficult to relive it. There are a lot of things that I wish I could forget, but it is impossible, even after all these years. It is strange sometimes that I can't remember what I did yesterday, but I can remember in detail what I was doing over 45 years ago.

*Continued next page*



In a short time the shelling stopped and there was this deadly calm. My heart was pounding so hard I was afraid the Chinese could hear it. After a short time the bugles started and you could hear the Chinese yelling and screaming. They were at some of the positions. The trip flares were going off and you could see them coming towards our positions on the hills. The machine gun on my left flank started firing about the same time I opened up with my B.A.R.

Everyone was trying to get that son of a bitch with the bugle. That is a sound that sends chills up and down your spine. Finally someone got him right in the middle of a toot. You could hear him go down.

He got some guys and started out yelling, "Allen bring up the rear with the AR." We made it down the hill and we were going through a deep ditch, there was a lot of snow and that made it all the more difficult to move very fast. VanOrman and the others were about 30 yards ahead of me while I brought up the rear.

All of a sudden, the Chinese had them surrounded. They were lying in the snow with white sheets covering themselves and we just walked into them. After I saw what had happened I could also see that I had a clear firing zone without hitting my own people. Besides that, I didn't think they saw me.

Just as I was about to open fire the Chinese jumped up and challenged me. They were just lying there waiting. I cannot put into words how I felt. Not knowing what their reaction would be at that time. Would they shoot me on the spot? All I can say is that if there was a course set for me to follow throughout my life it had changed forever at that moment.

Two things I knew for sure. One, I was alive. Two, I was a PRISONER OF WAR!

*See Book Review, page*

## Letters

Continued from page 7

**Dear Tom:**

My computer is giving me problems. Not sure why. I'm a 95 yr-old and my children purchased this guy for me 5 years ago. It should respect my age.

I have a young man who married my granddaughter and has a M.S. in Computer science. He as in the past will get us back together I am sure.

I am sending you an article on Leyte Landing (see adjoining column). You have my permission to correct any wording or spelling as you may see fit. Remember this, I was old enough to (age 21) vote when I graduated from high school. Best grade I ever got in English was a "C," which was good by me, as I was still eligible to play football.

I have 2 children. Mike who ended up being Superintendent of Champaign Schools and Christie my daughter taught grade school in Rolla, MO. Upon retirement she helped me publish a book about the Cain-Donovan family of 12 Children. Thank you, Tom, and good luck with the 24th IDA web site.

**Paul J. Cain, 3109B Chatham Drive, Urbana, IL 61802-8520**

## BEACH LANDING, LEYTE, P.I.

**By Lt. Paul J. Cain**

I was the Platoon Leader, 1st PLT. CO K, **34th RGT**, on 20 October 1944. After seeing some action in Hollandia and Biak we loaded on troop transport ships and headed for Leyte, P.I. Early morning of 20 October 1944 we pulled into San Pedro Bay. The sea was very calm, the sun shining, it was a beautiful day.

After climbing down the rope ladder into the Landing Craft and circling for an hour, which seemed like 6, we headed for the beach in the assault wave with navy gunboats, rocket ships, and our assault boat all firing all weapons at the beach landing area. Some 30 yards short of the beach, our landing craft hit a sand bar; they dropped the ramp and we waded in thru waist deep water.

All firing had stopped and the beach was very quiet for about 5 minutes as we moved in about 30 yards to where the Japs were dug in. They came out of their holes and opened fire from pillboxes, trenches and from some who had climbed trees.

PFC, a rifleman, and Joe Whalen, BAR man, were hit almost immediately as we were now on top to the enemy positions. The grenade became the weapon of choice. Lt Stoneburner, company CO managed by himself to take care of one pillbox with a grenade. A second pillbox in our area was taken care of by Sgt. Bonches from KY. and Sgt. Conard, our platoon guide, again with grenades.

A Jap sniper bullet peeled the bark off a tree right over LT Cain's head. He dropped down and rolled to his left trying to see where it came from. Just then Lt. Barrow, I company CO, came to the same spot looking for I CO. Lt. Cain told him "off to the left, but lookout a Jap has that tree zeroed in." Lt. Barrow apparently did not hear me as when he stood up the sniper put a bullet through his head.

SGT Trank and PFC Jim Sullivan spotted the sniper and the sniper was done for. CPL Chou with a tommy gun was moving along side of a slit trench with Lt. Cain on the other side of the clearing when CPT Wai from RGT HQ came along with us. One lone Jap sitting in the trench half full of water as we approached fired one round and CPT Wai fell dead. CPL Chou gave the sniper one burst from his tommy gun and the sniper disappeared in the water.

SGT Modester Duncan, PLT SGT, 1st PLT, K CO from Kennedy, AL started hollering "Let's move out!"

SGT Dan Valles picked up Joe Whalen's BAR remarking, "We may need this." Jim Sullivan picked up a belt of ammo for the BAR and followed Dan into the swamp where the water in some places was shoulder deep.

After we got out of the swamp and on some solid ground LT Stoneburner reorganized K CO and dug in for the night. That night I spent with SGT Duncan and Ray Ashley, our Aid Man, who came from Tuccalusco, AL. Ray just had a very busy day.

Shortly before daylight we experienced our first Banzai attack. Not as big as we latter experienced however K CO was just as scared. Pfc. Dwight Dipple from Illinois saw a Jap coming toward his position. As he was sighting his gun at the Jap, who was apparently carrying a land mine, blew himself up and an arm landed in one of the foxholes nearby. **(end)**



# Fallen Comrades

**Edward J. Kenney**, age 82, of Springfield PA, passed away on March 30, 2011. During WWII, he was a rifleman with the **19th RGT** and was awarded the WWII Victory Medal and the Army of Japan Occupation Medal.

**Ralph Carter** recently passed away. He was a proud member of **19th RGT**, serving in the Pacific Theater during WWII. **Life Member 495**

**Sgt Charles Rechenbacher**, who served in Korea with the D CO, **34th RGT**, and H CO, **19th RGT** passed away April 2, 2011. He was ex-POW from the Korean War where he earned the CIB, two Bronze Stars with "V", two Purple Hearts, and several other medals.

**Richard Samuel Blose**, 84, died Thursday, April 21, 2011. He faithfully and honorably served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War with a rank of Sergeant in the **5th RCT**. He was the recipient of the Purple Heart Medal.

**Raymond G. Bowering**, 83, died Feb. 2, 2011. He served with the **19th RGT** in Japan, 1946-1949. Surviving is his wife, Doris, 846 Galloping Lane, Powell, TN 37849-3141 **Member**

**Barney Bertinussen** died December 2, 2010. He served in the **24th ID** during WWII in the Philippines. He is survived by his wife, Debbie, Bethel Center, 1705 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Apt. 108, Williston, ND 58801 **Life Member 1000**

**CORRECTION:** Wallace C. Carson should be Wallace C. Carlson with his place of death, Perry, OH



**Rt. Rev. Robert Marshall Anderson**, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota from 1978 to 1993 died recently. He served in the **24th ID** in Korea from 1955-1956



**Vincent M. Jurkiewicz**, 88, passed away April 8, 2011. In September of 1941, he enlisted in the Army and served with the **24th ID** in the Pacific Theatre, where he was wounded.

**James Conner Gordy**, age 81, of Tuscaloosa, died April 9, 2011. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps in June 1951, served in Korea and Japan with the **24th ID**.



**Larry Paul "L.P." Jones**, 66, passed away on Saturday, April 23, 2011. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and had served with the **24th ID** in Germany.

**Robert Henry "Bob" Bockweg**, 84, died May 3, 2011. He served his country honorably during World War II in the Philippines with the **21st RGT** and was wounded in action and honorably discharged in 1945.

**Harry C. (Don) McWade**, 87, died Tuesday May 3, 2011. He served in the Army with the **24th ID**. He was a proud survivor of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and he also saw action in New Guinea and served in Australia.

**John R. Russell** died recently. He served with A CO, **21st RGT**, 1948-1950. **Life Member 706**



**A. D. Colwell**, 85, died May 6, 2011. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and the Occupation of Japan with the **24th ID** from 1948 to 1952. He was honored with the Bronze Star, Distinguished Military Service Cross, Korean Service Award and the Purple Heart.

**Richard F. Edling, Jr.**, passed on May 11, 2011. He served with the **34th RGT**. **Life Member 1221**

**Billy Banner Robinette** died December 7, 2010. He served in Korea with the **19th RGT** and retired from the U.S. Army. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, and two Purple Hearts. **Life Member 1355**.



**Joe E. Abernathy, Jr.** died April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. He served in Korea with K Co, **19th RGT**. He was platoon SGT of Weapons Platoon during Operation Nomad. Survived by his wife, Martha, 695 Center Point Road, Carrollton, GA 30117 **Member**



**Emery "Dwayne" Gentry** passed away on May 11, 2011, one month short of 87 years. He served our country honorably in the Philippines and Japan during World War II in the U.S. Army 24th Division, **19th RGT**, 1st BN, CO G, as a 1st Scout.



**Walter Ade**, 79, died Sunday, May 15, 2011. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Korea. While there his unit, the **5th RCT**, started an orphanage, the Sam Dong Boys Town in Seoul, South Korea, which he visited several times. He retired from the Illinois National Guard as an LTC. **Member**

**Richard T. Wagner**, 86, died, May 19, 2011. He served with E CO, **19th RGT**, and also served in Japan. **Member**

**Douglas Oliver Wirta** died on May 19, 2011. Doug joined the army and was assigned to the **5th RCT**, CO C. He fought in the Korean War - from May 1952 until April 1953, his unit was assigned to the infamous "Punch Bowl" line. Doug rose from rifleman to platoon sergeant during this time, earning the Combat Infantry Badge, Korean Service Medal and two bronze stars.

**David H. Landale**, 78, died Saturday, May 28, 2011. He was a veteran of the Korean War, having served in the **34th RGT**. While serving he received the Bronze Star for valor in battle and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He also received the National Defense Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal.



**Dr. Richard Coffman Shrum** died April 27, 2011. He joined the Army Medical Corps, United States, with the **24th ID**, in the Philippine Islands as a Battalion Surgeon during the latter stages of World War II and then in Japan during the early part of the occupation. For serving with infantry troops in combat, he was authorized to wear the Combat Medical Badge and awarded a Bronze Star Medal. Dr. Shrum remained in the United States Army Reserve until 1975, when he retired with the rank of Colonel. **Life member 1221.**

**Ralph H. Brownell** who served in Korea passed away July 12, 2010 at the VA Hospital in Iron Mountain, MI. He was assigned to the **34th RGT**, CO B. He is survived by his wife Gloria Brownell, PO Box 502, Watersmeet, MI 49969. **Member**

**Louis Indeck** died November 18, 2010 at age eighty-one. He held the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts for his service in Korea with **the 24th ID**. He is survived by his wife Janice. 12611 Classic Dr., Coral Springs, FL 33071, [granjan300@bellsouth.net](mailto:granjan300@bellsouth.net) **Life Member 982.**

*I feel we are privileged and honored that Louis' wife, Janice, would share her poignant intimate thoughts with us. **Editor***

## Fallen Comrades

**Mark Musser**, 56, died June 5, 2011. Mark served proudly with the US Army as a Chief Warrant Officer, retiring after 20 years of service. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal. Mark served in many places including Desert Storm during the Iraqi Gulf War with the **24th ID**.

**John D. Burns** died January 5, 2011. He was the **34 RGT**, CO A in the Philippines during WWII and in Korea. He also served in Germany with the 24th ID and retired from the Army in 1962. **Life Member 2060**

**Neal Barrow** died November 19, 2010. He served in Korea with K CO, **19th RGT**, 1951-1952 and participated in Operation NOMAD. He is survived by his wife, Betty

May They Rest in Peace

### The Morgue

A tree limb caught in ice, he was, mouth agape, sheeted on a gurney  
clasped in my arms, my lust for life grasping him reaching from my soul  
suddenly the clock, sterile, white faced posted on the wall clicked.  
Its long arm gestured down, beckoned me to leave the marriage I had learned to love.

I took the pictures of his life with me  
The bronze star that testified he had been away in strange battles of life given and life taken  
In towns and houses others had called home.  
This was a time wrapped in a deep drawer he opened when alone,  
a drawer that clattered medals and humorous cards from friends who had sometimes laughed  
with him when humor was the sole emollient to fear.

I have a flag they wrapped painstakingly and gave to me and shook my hand.  
It sits in its triangular box to remind me of the boy he was before he was my man.  
The wars of long ago mangled his spirit, and I sometimes thought he carried snakes of vitriol  
inside his head, hate and despair he never let me see

But as I've learned we really never know another, I left them there  
and was content with how I held his hand in mine  
where I hoped we would be safe forever, and prayed it could be so.  
He was my second voice, the opinion I waited for though often didn't need.  
He was the warmth when I awoke and I, the crutch he reached for when sudden  
noises made him shake with memories he never shared.

My world is four counted walls around me now  
Without his eyes adoring me, loving me telling me  
I was the best gift his life had ever known.  
Wretched without him, I live in silence so loud  
It crushes me and I feel small.

# Recollections of Eric Diller, A WWII Veteran

*Reading the Spring 2011 Taro Leaf's several WWII articles made me recall combat and other experiences. For example, I saw MacArthur land in the Philippines. In recent years I participated in the dedication of our Memorial in Hawaii and socialized with many of you at reunions. The request to 'Write Your Story' gives me the opportunity to update my life.*

I was an Infantry replacement, joined H CO, 34th RGT on Goodenough Island in Feb. '44. After Pearl Harbor I wanted to enlist in the Navy, but was turned down because I was born in Germany and not yet an American citizen. I was drafted and my paperwork listed me as an ENEMY ALIEN in bold letters.

We sailed to and invaded Hollandia, New Guinea, shot at each other unintentionally occasionally and rescued 120 mistreated nuns and missionaries. Next stop was Biak, an island near the equator, where we suffered our first KIA casualties. Then back to Hollandia. Our D day on Leyte was on Oct. 20, 1944 where we, the 2nd wave, piled up on Red Beach (Tacloban). Col. Red Newman's order "Let's get the hell off the beach" got us moving, among plenty of opposition and casualties. Several hours later MacArthur waded ashore surrounded by Staff and Media. Our 2nd BN was no more than 150 yards inland, among plenty of Jap sniper action. It was not safe yet. After wading across a waist deep rice field our machine gun section and G CO rifle platoon formed a road block. At 1:00 AM the Japs attacked and all hell broke loose.

We were ordered to cross the road where I intended to join two of our squad's foxholes but there was no

room. The Japs occupied our foxhole, threw grenades, one of which landed in my buddies foxhole and killed them both. Our gunner, Leo Sowada, wound up with 27 grenade fragments. He lived but was KIA later in Mindanao. The Japs got no further. We held at a cost of 14 KIA G CO riflemen and 3 H CO Machine gun section KIA. Pvt. Harold Moon, a G CO rifle man, deservedly earned the MOH posthumously.

It was a hell of a welcome to the Philippines. Our squad got credit for 160 dead Japs. The battle lasted well into dawn when we got more help from our Air Force. A total of 600 Jap bodies were counted.

We were in the frontlines for 78 straight days as we fought our way across the Leyte Valley. On a hill, again with G CO we formed a road block. Jap reinforcements had landed in Ormoc and attacked our perimeter. Our section SGT spotted them 10 feet in front of our gun position and died instantly from a bullet to the head. We repulsed them with guns of our G CO riflemen and grenades. We counted 38 bodies; their wounded had been dragged away. Next island was Mindoro which had been secured by our 19th or 21st RGTs. I saw a B-24 take off on a mission and blow up as it cleared the runway...no survivors.

Next stop was Zig Zag pass, Bataan, Luzon. Our 2nd BN had so many casualties we were held in reserve for the Corregidor Campaign. Then on to Mindanao where a doctor sent me to a Base Hospital in Leyte for several foot problems. There a doctor, after reviewing my combat record, transferred me to an Ordnance company. I soon found out the difference in Army life between a

combat and rear echelon (although very necessary) outfit. I thought I went to heaven, 3-square meals daily, cot to sleep in, roof (tent) over my head, movies at night, sport activities, AND nobody shooting at you.

Arrived under the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco after a 29 day Liberty ship ride 12/31/44. I flew on a DC-3 to Ft. Dix and was immediately entered in a Hospital with malaria and malnutrition. After 2 weeks I was ready for my Honorable Discharge, except I was still an ENEMY ALIEN. I insisted on getting rid of that label and they agreed. I was sworn in as an American Citizen on 1/31/46, a day before my discharge, a proud moment in my life.

I used the GI Bill to get a Mechanical Engineering degree from '47-'51; they were very hectic years. I married Dotty, my childhood sweetheart, in 1948. We had son Bruce in 1949, daughter Linda in 1950, graduated in 1951, had son Paul in 1955 and son Eric in 1960. They produced nine grandchildren for us.

I had my Aortic valve replaced in 1978, again in 1990, and again in 2008 when my mytral valve was also repaired, tricuspid valve moved and they gave me a Pacemaker. Dotty was diagnosed with Alzheimer in 2006. In 2009 we moved to an assisted living institution. We are satisfied since we don't have to shop, cook, or clean up any more. Our children visit us regularly so we really have little to squawk about.

**Eric Diller, Life Member 1185  
24962 Calle Aragon B113  
Laguna Woods, CA 92637**





## **AFTER 43 DAYS OF COMBAT...this warrior in Korea from the 5th RCT shows every bit of it.**

*This, and the following article are from Historian Merry Helm's upcoming book, "Prairie Boys at War." She would be interested to learn the identity of the soldier shown above.*

**PHILIP DEANE'S ACTUAL NAME** was Gerassimos Svoronos Gigantes. He was a Greek war correspondent working for The London Observer who had just arrived in Korea to report on the 24th Division. Although he would spend the majority of the war as a prisoner of the communists, the few articles Deane posted before he was captured provide a valuable view of the situation.

Arriving in Korea, the reporter hitched a ride with an ambulance to Taejon, where fighting was already in progress. Fans of the television comedy M\*A\*S\*H would find no resemblance to the medical realities Deane found in Taejon: "There is a large public building," he wrote, "its filth deodorized by gallons of disinfectant. Stretchers are on the floor, in rooms, in corridors, on landings. Medics, haggard and sleepless, pass from dying man to dying man, callous only because they have been numbed by too much caring for other men's agony. Doctors operate ceaselessly, their hands bare, blood spattered down their fatigues. No rubber gloves, no white smocks here. Stitch this, clip that, sponge, stitch, clip, saw – faster, faster, faster, there are more waiting."

Meanwhile, General Dean decided his 24th Division would attempt to hold the city just one more day before falling

back. This would turn out to be a disastrous decision not only for his men but also personally.

Philip Deane wrote ". . .there is no hope in this provisional capital; Taejon's turn is coming soon, and everybody seems to know it. Here, a gallant general and five thousand men are trying to stem the Red tide from the north: fifteen divisions, four hundred tanks, thousands of howitzers, armored cars, antitank rifles."

A surgeon, Major Wade Heritage, gave Deane a ride to the front lines. Deane noted the officer watching the refugees pouring past them – elders, children, young mothers, babies and "also thousands of strapping young Koreans marching along in their midst, heads held high, arms swinging. They are the only ones with smiles on their faces," Deane wrote.

Of these young men, the major blurted, "We should shoot them all. I'll bet there's at least a pistol in every pack. They're the ones who shoot our boys in the back at night. We let them through in front of our eyes, and tonight we'll hear that the Communists have infiltrated our lines again. It's sheer suicide!"

After a time, there was nobody left on the road, and Major Heritage's jeep was stopped by "a tough sandy-haired Canadian with American citizenship" sitting in a ditch. It was Lieutenant Macarver, in charge of the 3rd platoon, K Company, 34th Regiment. He and his 36 men were responsible for holding a front three miles wide, telling Deane he and his men comprised the "rear-guard platoon of the rear-guard company of the rear-guard regiment in this here shooting war."

Deane wrote that among Macarver's men was a young soldier named Gerald Nelson, "a freckle-faced youngster from Halma, Minnesota, [who] says to me, 'Say, couldn't you find an easier way of turning a buck, or do you enjoy this kind of smell?' Gerald hasn't yet reached the age where a man has to shave, but he has the appetite of a man and a half, and eats half the lieutenant's rations, though that still leaves him hungry. He complains to me that the card he sent his mother for Mother's Day took weeks to arrive."

That night, Deane accompanied Macarver's platoon as it moved out to help rescue two companies from the 63rd Field Artillery – James Bolt was likely among the men they were trying to reach. The artillerymen were cut off and trapped by North Koreans who had dressed in American uniforms to cross the Kum River.

As Macarver's group moved forward, engineers – including Ward Neville and his men – blew bridges after they crossed. Intense enemy shelling wounded some including Deane, who was hit in the shoulder by shrapnel. Deane bandaged his own wound, procured a shot of morphine and

**Continued next page**

continued forward. Soon, they found exhaustion had finally caught up with many young fighters.

"At intervals we come across American soldiers lying asleep in the road," he wrote, "their shoes flung aside to ease their bleeding feet. They have reached the point in human endurance where exhaustion brings first heedlessness, then oblivion. We load them all on the truck, making them stand, packaging them tightly so that they cannot fall out, and still they sleep, waking occasionally only to mumble some incoherent phrase. By now we have men clinging to the fenders and lying across the hood."

The men made it back to Taejon very late that night or the next morning. Deane wrote that news from the front was confusing, and officers understandably were unwilling to give information. But Deane was quite certain the city would have to be evacuated soon.

"Yet withdrawal does not come," he wrote, "before the GIs, severely out-numbered, have pushed back again and again the tanks, heavy artillery and waves of expendable infantry hurled at the thin American line; it does not come before the bulk of the Americans have escaped encirclement, straightened out their line, retreated in orderly fashion under terrific fire; it does not come before the Americans have paid a heavy price for the time they have gained."

Deane lamented the enemy's inability to understand the essence of American soldiers like the 21st Regiment's Richard Stephens, the colonel from South Dakota.

"[I heard him] lecturing his junior officers on how to get into a foxhole without losing dignity. 'When you hear shells,' he was saying, 'you walk nonchalantly off the command post, walk to the foxhole or nearest ditch, and get down into it feet first without disarranging your uniform.' Before he had time to finish, shells were already coming over. We all dived headfirst into the nearest ditch, except the colonel. From the ditch we watched him walk across to us, look down at us, and shake his head sadly."

Deane wrote the battle at Taejon included a "huge, burning roadblock" flanked by snipers along the 34th Regiment's southern escape route. The 24th Division was taking artillery, mortar and small arms fire from every direction.

"There were many deaths, but not one of which the Democratic world need be ashamed," Deane wrote. "Faced by insurmountable odds, these kind young kids. . . fought like their brothers on Bataan and Guadalcanal and they got through enemy lines."

***This concludes the present excerpt of "Boys..." . Ed.***

## **"There are no Chinese there..."**

William H. Funchess, was an infantry platoon leader with the 19th RGT in 1950. On Nov. 4, two of his patrols spotted Chinese soldiers less than a quarter-mile from his position. "I had 12 ROK soldiers with my unit that identified them as Chinese," Funchess said. "I talked with battalion headquarters, who said there were no Chinese there. In two hours, I had a machine gun bullet through my foot that shattered the bone. I was then a POW of the Chinese."

Funchess and other American prisoners marched for more than two weeks to a camp on the Yalu River. He saw wounded soldiers who could not continue killed and their bodies abandoned. A constant starvation diet of two cups of millet a day led to vitamin deficiencies that killed more than 1,000. "We all became extremely weak, and I was diagnosed with acute hepatitis by an American POW doctor," Funchess said. "I had beriberi and night blindness."

"We would have 20 to 30 die on some nights. The Chinese made us stack the bodies on the ground in the snow like cordwood. There were three or four of these stacks, and each was about three to four feet high." Funchess wasn't certain how many of those were ever identified to American officials after the war. He has "great compassion" for those missing in action.

"I was not taken into China," Funchess said. "Some of the POWs, primarily Air Force personnel, were taken into China to be jailed. We kept getting rumors that some were being sent to Russia."

"There are around 7,000 from Korea not accounted for. Many died in POW camps or were buried in different places. I know some were thrown into the rivers."

Funchess was held for 34 months before being released. Despite suffering nightmares for years, he said he is a better American citizen now than when he was captured.

He said all Americans must not forget these veterans. "There are families who have lived in uncertainty," Funchess said. "That's why it's important to respect those who died in battle and the MIAs who no doubt died under different circumstances."

From a story by Phil Sarata, Staff Writer The Times and Democrat, Sunday, May 29, 2011

**William Funchess, 107 Brookwood Dr.,  
Clemson, SC 29631, 864-654-4617 Life Member 1725**



# Oh, those aching feet!

Years of wear and tear can be hard on our feet. So can disease, poor circulation, improperly trimmed toenails, and wearing shoes that don't fit properly. Problems with our feet can be the first sign of more serious medical conditions such as arthritis, diabetes, and nerve and circulatory disorders.

As we age we need to practice good foot care. Check your feet regularly, or have a member of your family check them. Podiatrists and primary care doctors (internists and family practitioners) are qualified to treat most foot problems. Sometimes the special skills of an orthopedic surgeon or dermatologist are needed.

It also helps to keep blood circulating to your feet as much as possible. Do this by putting your feet up when you are sitting or lying down, stretching if you've had to sit for a long while, walking, having a gentle foot massage, or taking a warm foot bath. Try to avoid pressure from shoes that don't fit right. Try not to expose your feet to cold temperatures. Don't sit for long periods of time (especially with your legs crossed). Don't smoke.

Wearing comfortable shoes that fit well can prevent many foot ailments. Here are some tips for getting a proper shoe fit:

The size of your feet changes as you grow older so always have your feet measured before buying shoes. The best time to measure your feet is at the end of the day when your feet are largest.

Most of us have one foot that is larger than the other, so fit your shoe to your larger foot.

Don't select shoes by the size marked inside the shoe but by how the shoe fits your foot.

Select a shoe that is shaped like your foot.

During the fitting process, make sure there is enough space (3/8" to 1/2") for your longest toe at the end of each shoe when you are standing up.

Make sure the ball of your foot fits comfortably into the widest part of the shoe.

Don't buy shoes that feel too tight and expect them to stretch to fit.

Your heel should fit comfortably in the shoe with a minimum amount of slipping - the shoes should not ride up and down on your heel when you walk.

Walk in the shoes to make sure they fit and feel right. Then take them home and spend some time walking on carpet to make sure the fit is a good one.

The upper part of the shoes should be made of a soft, flexible material to match the shape of your foot. Shoes made of leather can reduce the possibility of skin irritations. Soles should provide solid footing and not be slippery. Thick soles cushion your feet when walking on hard surfaces. Low-heeled shoes are more comfortable, safer, and less damaging than high-heeled shoes.



**Hello David – Editor:** I looked at the Fall, 2010, Taro Leaf to check out the humorous cartoon mentioned by one of the readers. My take, some people just can't stand to see the truth! And it displays a fact about B. "Hussein" O. As a matter of fact I see your point, but I'm rambling. So I suppose my joke of a story won't pass inspection. **Marvin Reed, 26th AAA, 2900 Right Hand Canyon Road, Palomino Valley, NV 89510, Life Member 2002**

**Marvin:** You may offend the sensibility of some, but we're big boys; we can handle it. So, readers of the Taro Leaf, here's a sample of Marvin's humor. **Editor**

## My experience with a Quartermaster's depot

"During the entire Korean War, only two Quartermaster people died!

The first had a case of toilet paper fall on him; the second died laughing."

"I got caught pilfering cans of fruit out of five-in-1s." (He was probably looking for fruit juice which ferments into something like bath tub gin.) "I was caught in the act." (Which isn't saying much for Marvin's skill as a dog-robber when he can't dodge a QM dude.) Marvin lamented, "It put me and my crew at the bottom of the mess SGT's list."

To reclaim their honor in a demonstration of might and prowess, he directed the attention of his crew to a broken-down hut about 500 yards up a nearby hill. "I had my gunner line up a quad-50 (ack-ack gun) on that poor shell and open fire. Oh boy! How that created some excitement! All the 'spit and polish' went running around screaming, 'We're being attacked.'" (Marvin, I was hoping you were going to tell me some adventurous G.I. was engaged therein with a lady of ill-repute and ran out, bare-assed, with his pants around his ankles. But, it's your story...tell it your way.)

Marvin continued, "Pretty soon the Brass showed up asking questions, and I had the answer. I told them we had been informed there was a sniper holed-up there. (So who's going to argue staring down a quad-50.) "I made my point," says Marvin, "After that they made sure we had all the rations we wanted."

(Way to go, Marvin! And my apologies to all the hard working essential men of the QM Service. Editor)



# A Fallen Comrade's Belated Return to U.S.

For 60 years, Artie Hodapp's family agonized over a heart-rending mystery: Where had the young man, known for his rollicking sense of humor, come to rest after dying in the Korean War?

They couldn't know the answer was among 17 boxes of remains that North Koreans turned over nearly two decades ago. Nor could they know the DNA the Army collected from his surviving siblings several years ago would finally help solve the riddle.

Hodapp's long journey home came to an end this week at a Catholic cemetery in northern Illinois, where he was buried with full military honors beneath a grave marker his sister bought despite not knowing where he was.

"We waited all this while," said Frances Meyers, 88, remembering her parents and siblings who died without knowing Hodapp's fate. "The rest are all gone, but I've got to feel good about it for them too, the rest of the family. Everybody wanted him back but there was nothing we could do about it."

Six decades later, Hodapp is no longer a forgotten soldier of the so-called Forgotten War, but an example of the U.S. Defense Department's stubborn efforts to account for young men lost in long-ago battles. Through a review of Army reports and memories of a fellow POW tracked down in New Jersey, The Associated Press was able to reconstruct the conditions under which the young man — called a "spitfire" and the "life of the party" — starved to death in a prisoner of war camp.

The story of Arthur Leon Aloysius Hodapp comes partly from a soldier held in the same camp, who described the pasty cattle feed given to prisoners, the agonizing dysentery and the "give-up-itis" to which some men succumbed. Other clues surfaced in a cousin's chance meeting with a former POW in Minnesota who had Hodapp's name and date of death scratched in his boot. Finally, U.S. military scientists were finally able to link his siblings' DNA to Hodapp's dental records.

Army officials announced the identification just shy of 60 years after Hodapp's April 23, 1951 capture by Chinese Communists in heavy fighting 40 miles north of Seoul. He died July 3, 1951, in or near the POW camp, which his family didn't know until the war ended two years later.

Hodapp is one of just 162 missing soldiers from the Korean War identified since the 1950s. He is one of the about 90 service members identified each year by the U.S. military from among tens of thousands still missing from World War II, Korea and Vietnam — including 7,995 from Korea.

"We don't want any of our guys lost over there forever," said Clyde Fruth, founder and commander of Freeport's chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association, who chokes up when talking about Hodapp because of his own Korean combat experience. "All the guys over there, they all say that if they die, they don't want to be left over there."

Born in 1928, Artie Hodapp was an altar boy who earned a solid "B" average at St. Joseph's Catholic grade school, never tardy in eight years. "He was a hearty laughter and would find humor in almost anything," said Charlie Cremer, a classmate of Hodapp's who also served in Korea.

Meyers said her brother "teased me unbearably," recalling him advising tellers at the bank where she worked that she had "sticky fingers," or claiming he saw her on the town with this boy or that.

After three older brothers served in World War II, Artie Hodapp enlisted in February 1946, serving two years in Germany. When he returned, he joined the reserves. On July 2, 1950, when Frances and Edmund Meyers were celebrating their first wedding anniversary, Hodapp showed up with a gift and a farewell — he would be in Korea by October.

In April 1951, Hodapp's **5th Regimental Combat Team**, attached to the 24th Infantry Division, was part of a front fighting off the "Spring Offensive," a push to capture Seoul by Chinese Communists who had invaded to aid North Korea. Hodapp did not return.

By August 1953, Army documents reviewed by the AP indicate, five soldiers had confirmed that Hodapp had died at Mining Camp No. 1. It was a temporary camp also known as "Death Valley," according to Lewis H. Carlson's oral history, "Remembered Prisoners of a Forgotten War."

Harry Borie, a medic, was captured in the same battle as Hodapp and was held initially at the Mining Camp. Now 81 and retired after careers in the Army and pharmaceutical sales, Borie doesn't remember Hodapp. But Army documents suggest he knew him at the time. A report of an Army interview with another former prisoner, reviewed by the AP, said he learned about Hodapp's death from Borie.

POWs at the Mining Camp were packed side by side on dirt floors in 10-by-12 huts, Borie said from his home in Williamstown, N.J. Dysentery, beri beri and other diseases ravaged the men. What little food they did get was sorghum that cooked into paste; some just let themselves die. "We used to call it 'give-up-itis,'" said Borie. "They just would say, 'I don't want to take it anymore,' and just give up."

Another former POW the Army interviewed, Keith Stenson, who died in 1981, said Hodapp expired en route to another camp, listing as cause of death, "Too weak from starvation — could not eat."

One of Hodapp's cousins, who had lived near Stenson, recalled meeting a man at a neighborhood party who had known him. Joan Tacl couldn't remember Stenson's name but she said the man retrieved a boot from his house and under the insole, he had scratched Hodapp's name and date of death — a secret record of a comrade's fate.

"He said Artie had lost a lot of weight because he wouldn't smoke marijuana to choke down the food," Tacl said. The drug grew wild near the camps and many prisoners smoked it, historian Carlson said. "We weren't raised that way, and he would have just thought, that's not right," Meyers said.

The Army declared Hodapp's remains "nonrecoverable" in 1956 and efforts to retrieve American remains were stymied through decades of the Cold War. But between 1990 and 1994, North Korea handed over 208 boxes of remains. Hodapp's were among 17 boxes transferred on July 12, 1993.

"It's incredibly laborious, and sadly it doesn't happen as fast as it does on these TV shows," Defense spokesman Larry Greer said.

Last year, Congress ordered the Defense Department to identify 200 sets of remains a year — more than double the current number — by 2014. Greer calls it a promise "that we will leave no man behind."

Ultimately, Artie Hodapp wasn't.

By JOHN O'CONNOR, Associated Press

# BILL'S STORY

as written by his wife, Nancy

William H. "Bill" Muldoon JR. was born and raised in Brighton Massachusetts, one of four children.

It was December 7th, 1941 when Japanese surprised the country with the deadly attack on Pearl Harbor. It was a day that will never be forgotten. For the Muldoon family it was an especially sorrowful time as they were still mourning the recent passing of Bill's dad.

With his older brother serving in the Army Air Corps, and his younger brother too young to enlist, Bill was the sole supporter of his family. He continued his job with the NY Central Railroad out of Boston for two years. On July 14, 1943, Bill enlisted in the Army. Early in '44 he was in the South Pacific assigned to Company E, 2nd BN, 19th RGT. He participated in landings at Hollandia, New Guinea.

War is serious, but there are comical moments. Bill was in the HQ Command tent when a snake startled him. He jumped up and knocked over a kerosene lamp, starting a fire. He caught hell, but still laughs about it.

It was after Bill landed in Leyte in October 20, 1944, that General MacArthur came ashore to visit his troops. After 21 days of close fighting with the Japs, his unit was pulled off the line for a break. That night intelligence learned Japs were landing 35,000 reinforcements. Bill's unit was quickly dispatched to Ormoc Valley to stop these troops from getting to the front lines. After a five-day forced march they engaged the lead Jap troops.

The next day the enemy was driven off the hill. One of the guys searched a dead Jap and found a pack of American cigarettes. Bill was enjoying these smokes with five others when he found himself ten yards from where he had been sitting, with blood spurting out of his leg. After six days Jock Clifford and the 1st BN of the 34th came to the rescue. It took nearly a week to get the injured back to a field hospital. Bill was eventually evacuated to Biak on New Guinea. As his wounds were too severe for him to return to his unit, he was honorably discharged, July, 1945.

Bill's military honors include the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, World War 11 Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign medal w/arrowhead and two campaign stars for New Guinea and Leyte, the Good Conduct medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

He is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, The Military Order of the Purple Heart, VFW Post #5690, and the 24th Division Association.

**Bill Muldoon, 2100 Kings Highway #259, Port Charlotte FL  
33980-4230, 941-743-7179 Life Member 500**

## BOOK REVIEW

### My Old Box of Memories: Thoughts of the Korean War by Bill Allen

I do not read very much; have little time to read with so many other things to do. But I do read books written by POW's when I get them. Bill Allen is a name that I first came across in 2007 when I was editor of the *Taro Leaf*. Bill's good friend, Frank Blood, submitted an article titled: "19th Regiment Hurdlers Find Each Other After 40 Years!" (The *Taro Leaf*, Summer-Fall 2007, pg. 38). In it Frank mentioned that Bill had been a POW.

Then in the Winter 2010 issue of the *Taro Leaf*, pg. 28, Bill wrote that he was "... looking for former members of C Company, 19th Infantry to add to 'My Old box of Memories, Thoughts of the Korean War.'" He finished his request by saying: "It is called the Forgotten War, but only by those that didn't 'fight it!'"

Bill uses the money from book sales to support his projects in helping those in need, active military veterans, abused children and other causes, and spreading the word about the Korean War when he has the opportunity, because so little is known. He has done this to the tune of around \$50,000 more or less.

Last November at the joint 5th RCT—Florida 24th IDA Mini-Reunion in St. Augustine, I finally had the good fortune to meet Bill in person. I cannot really describe this meeting because it was so overwhelming and yet so easy. Honest, forthright, pleasant, unassuming—are but a few of the words I can think of to describe Bill. Oh, I also bought a copy of Bill's "My Old Box of Memories." Photo of Bill and Helen Allen.

I really cannot adequately review the book more than to say, I could not put it down.

To say that I heartily recommend you obtain your copy is an understatement (\$15.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling to: Bill Allen, 421 4th Ave., N.Tierra Verde, FL 33715-1730, email: wallen2@tampabay.rr.com, phone 727-866-8337.

I recommend you read the associated "Excerpts from My Old Box of Memories." (Page 21-22) It will give you an idea of what it is all about.

**Review by Tom J. Thiel**

### Our America

BY NANCY MULDOON

My husband earned a purple heart  
in a foreign land across the sea  
he was serving with the 24th  
fighting to keep our country free  
Because of him, and other veterans,  
we have the right to speak our mind  
the right to criticize those who lead  
the right to vote and hold a sign  
when danger strikes we come together  
regardless of race or place of birth  
we proudly wave our beloved flag,

# A Badge of Courage

by Wesley G. Hughes

John Marion Callison's most difficult memory of his life as a combat medic in the Korean War was at the side of a fatally wounded comrade. Both feet of the wounded soldier had been blown off and one lay nearby. And there were other injuries. The soldier told Callison, "Get out of here. You can't help me. I'll be gone soon." Callison's face twisted with remorse as he recalled the incident. "I hate it that I couldn't help him."



The Army Combat Medic Badge (above) is one of the most respected symbols in the military. That's because the other soldiers know that the medic crawls through the same hail of gunfire that felled the warrior he's trying to save. He's wearing a cross on his helmet but to many of the enemy it doesn't mean "don't shoot." It means "easy target."

John wears his Combat Medic Badge proudly on his red, white and blue baseball-style cap along with his 24th Infantry Division patch and the ribbon signifying the Purple Heart Medal.

Callison's Purple Heart came one day on the front lines as he crawled up on a ledge to grab a fallen soldier. "I reached over to pull him back and the shrapnel hit and knocked me back." The piece of shrapnel struck him in the head above the left eye. It knocked him neatly backward and laid him out. A doctor at a medical facility near the lines examined the wound that was threatening his eye. "He said he wouldn't touch it and ordered me sent to the hospital in Pusan," said Callison. "I was in the hospital there for two weeks," he said as he rubbed the spot above his left eye.

Callison's a big guy, 6-2 with heavy shoulders and big hands. His feet and knees have let him down since the days when he was 25 and ranging easily up and down the Korean peninsula from Pusan to the Yalu River and back. He keeps a cane in his small truck to make getting around a little easier.

The old soldier's craggy face still echoes the handsomeness he must have had from his teens onward. You can hear the Blackburn, Okla., in his still strong voice. Callison was a teenager in 1946 just after the conclusion of World War II when he was drafted. He trained at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, and was sent to Japan with the 24th Division, 19th Infantry Regiment, Medical Group.

When North Korea attacked the South without warning on June 25, 1950, John found himself in combat within days.

He was finally rotated home and went to work on a friends farm baling and stacking hay in the hot sun. Other workers laughed and said, "He's not gonna make it," Callison remembered. "And I said right then I was going back in service." He said he wanted to work in air-conditioning. He enlisted in the Air Force and stayed until he had 20 years total, both Army and Air Force. "I retired from Norton on 1 January '67," he said.



**John Callison seen in a reflection of his medals**

Callison lives in Rialto in a mobile home and he's proud of the 20-foot-tall flag pole flying Old Glory, just outside. He's lonesome and would like to reconnect with some of his war-time buddies for old time sake. And he still has an eye for and a way with the ladies. He's divorced and would like a woman in his life. "Since she left me, she's been married three more times," Callison says with a shake of his head, as though it's beyond understanding.

The veteran has three sons, who all live within a quarter-mile of his place, but he doesn't see them often, although he'd like to.

On Thursday, he visited the county Veterans Service Office to see if he could get a little help, maybe a medical pension. No promises but it did sound hopeful. And he took a shine to the veterans service clerk that took his application. "Is she married?" he asked. Never to old to hope.

*John has never established any contact with his buddies he served with in Korea and often thinks about them. He told me it would be the best gift he could ever receive to hear from any of them. Editor*

**John M. Callison, 2930 W. Rialto Ave., Sp. 63,  
Rialto, CA 92376. 909 875-7473.**



**LELAND B. FAIR** "The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Leland B. Fair (0-558789), Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, for



extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company A, **34th Infantry Regiment**, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 4 July 1945, near Tuli, Mindanao, Philippine Islands. On this day as an Infantry company was attacking along a road leading from Kibangay to Tuli, the leading squad came under intense enemy machine gun fire from pill boxes and from a light machine gun mounted in a tree to the front. Mortar fire also fell on the platoon, and four men were killed instantly and six others were wounded by the initial fire.

The fire was so intense that it was impossible to give medical attention to the wounded men who lay on the road in the path of the enemy fire. Second Lieutenant Fair volunteered to take a squad through the jungle to outflank the suspected locations of the enemy from the left. The squad approached the enemy positions from their right rear, and as they came near the first pillbox they received heavy machine gun, rifle, and grenade fire. Second Lieutenant Fair attacked the pillbox, approaching it from the blind side. With complete disregard for his own safety, he stood in full view of the enemy, fired his rifle and threw grenades into the embrasure, killing the enemy occupants.

The men of the squad were inspired by this heroic action and followed Second Lieutenant Fair in advancing on the next pillbox. Four of the enemy pillboxes now brought fire to bear on the squad with machine guns, rifles, and grenades. Second Lieutenant Fair directed the fire of the lead scout and the automatic rifleman on the central pillbox, then left his position and rushed forward under their covering fire to the pillbox. He threw two grenades into the emplacement and disposed of its crew. After disabling the enemy gun in the emplacement, Second Lieutenant Fair moved toward the third pillbox. As he approached his right hand was injured by fragments of a Jap grenade. Disregarding his wounds, he ordered his men to cover him, and advanced on a fourth pillbox, exposing himself to enemy fire during his rush. He pitched a grenade into the emplacement and called back for the rocket launcher. When the bazooka man arrived, Second Lieutenant Fair directed protective rifle fire on the pillbox, meanwhile loading the bazooka himself. The first rocket blew a small hole in the top of the pillbox and Second Lieutenant Fair tossed grenades into the emplacement through the hole of the roof. He then attacked the remaining pillboxes and destroyed another light machine gun in one of them. Eight pillboxes were destroyed and 22 Japs were killed. Before his squad could leave the area, however, Japanese mortar fire was brought to bear, and two members of the patrol were wounded. A litter was improvised and the wounded were removed.

After he had returned to the company and reported the action, it was determined that possibly one forward pillbox might have been missed. Second Lieutenant Fair, although fatigued from the first assault and bleeding from the wound in his right hand, volunteered to return to the enemy area. He took command

## Above & Beyond

of a squad from another company to make his second assault, and he moved out in front of the first scout until he arrived at the fortified area. He deployed the squad on the edge of the pillbox area and led them through the abaca. Several additional pillboxes were spotted. Second Lieutenant Fair placed his men in a position to concentrate their fire on the pillboxes, when enemy mortar fire began to fall ahead of the squad. Despite the risk involved, Second Lieutenant Fair moved boldly and aggressively to the pillboxes, and determined that the enemy had withdrawn. After satisfying himself that there were no more in the vicinity, he evacuated the casualties from the first assault. Only then did he agree to submit to medical treatment. By his brilliant and aggressive leadership, and the resolute courage he exhibited in these actions, Second Lieutenant Fair inspired his men to extraordinary efforts and achievements. His matchless feats of valor won for him the respect and admiration of all, and are consistent with the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army." *Leland was born January 12, 1923 at Breckenridge, Missouri, his Home Town: Chillicothe, Missouri.*



Korean War, 1951. Three days after my new assignment to 1st Platoon, A CO, 19th RGT in Korea, my squad leader, a feisty red-head with a southern drawl told me early in the morning, "You're going to be a point man today." "Sarge, what's a point man?" "Rumbaoa, don't ask questions, just follow what I tell you to do."

The CO gave the order to, "Saddle-up." It was battle formation: 1st platoon, with my squad leading. I was told to move in front. At first I considered it to be an honor to lead our troops to battle, but my ego was shattered when I heard machine gun bullets whizzing over my head. I was scared. As I crouched forward through thick bushes, I saw two riflemen in a fox hole in front guarding the machine gun nest. I quickly shot them in the head and by instinct I lobbed a grenade direct hit at the crew. Next, several enemy soldiers advanced toward me. I emptied my M-1 and loaded another clip. For a moment there was a deadly silence, then the full force of the platoon surged behind me.

I was dazzled, confused, and not knowing what to do next. My squad leader turned around and yelled, "Rumbaoa, come on, move forward!" When we reached the top of the hill, we set up a perimeter defense. Our absolute order was to hold our position at all costs. After four or five days I was told to report to BN HQ. I was worried. Did I do wrong? Did I disobey orders?

We made a single line formation like we were ready for inspection. According to the citations, two Silver Stars and several Bronze Stars were pinned to our chests by the Division General.

When I got back to CO HQ, I requested our clerk to send my Silver Star to my sweetheart in Manila, Philippines for safe keeping. After all these years I'm still wondering...what is a point man?"

**P. Ed Rumbaoa, Life Member, 21128 S. Menlo Ave., Torrance, CA 90502**

# The Day Japan Bombed Oregon

By: Norm Goyer

On September 9, 1942, the I-25 class Japanese submarine was cruising easterly, raising its periscope occasionally as it neared the U. S. coastline. Dawn was approaching; the first rays of the sun were flickering off the periscopes lens. Their mission; attack the west coast with incendiary bombs in hopes of starting a devastating forest fire.

The Japanese Navy had a large number of I-400 subs under construction. Each capable of carrying three aircraft. Pilot Chief Warrant Officer Nobuo Fujita and his crewman Petty Officer Shoji Okuda were making last minute checks of their charts.

September 9, 1942, Nebraska forestry student Keith V. Johnson was on duty atop a forest fire lookout tower between Gold's Beach and Brookings, Oregon. Keith had memorized the silhouettes of Japanese long distance bombers and those of our own aircraft. He felt confident he could spot and identify, friend or foe, almost immediately. It was cold on the coast this September morning, and quiet. Residents of the area were still in bed or preparing to head for work. Lumber was a large part of the industry in Brookings, just a few miles north of the California Oregon state lines.

Aboard the submarine the Captain's voice boomed over the PA system, "Prepare to surface, aircrew report to your stations." You could hear the change of sound as the bow of the I-25 broke from the depths and nosed over for its run on the surface. The crew assigned to the single engine Yokosuki E14Y float equipped observation and light attack aircraft, sprang into action. They rolled the plane out its hangar built next to the conning tower. The wings and tail were unfolded, and several 176 pound incendiary bombs were attached to mounts under the wings. This small two passenger float plane had a nine cylinder 340 hp radial engine.

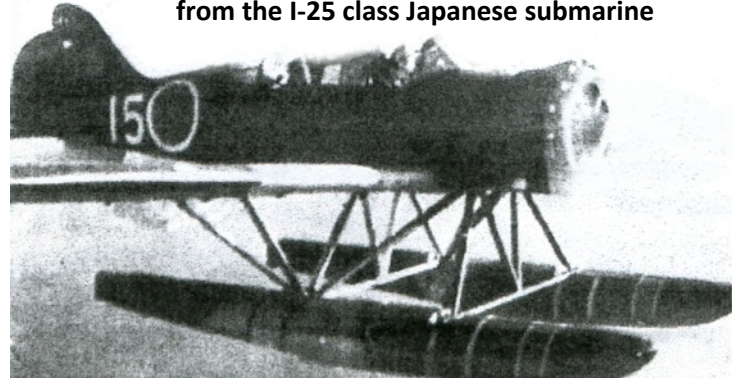
It was full daylight when the Captain ordered the aircraft to be placed on the catapult. There was a slight breeze blowing and the seas were calm. A perfect day to attack America. The catapult launched the aircraft and the pilot turned on a heading for the Oregon coast.

Keith Johnson was sweeping the horizon but could see nothing. He went back to his duties searching for any signs of a forest fire. The small Japanese plane had climbed to several thousand feet of altitude for better visibility and to get above the coastal fog. The pilot had calculated land fall in a few minutes and right on schedule he saw breakers flashing white on the Oregon shores.

Johnson was about to put his binoculars down when something flashed in the sun just above the fog bank. The aircraft was an unusual sight because all air traffic had been flying up and down the coast, not aiming into the coast.

The pilot checked his course and alerted his observer to be on the lookout for a fire tower which was on the edge of the wooded area where they were supposed to drop their bombs. The plane reached the shore line and the pilot made a course correction to the north. The huge trees were easy to spot and certainly easy to hit with bombs.

The Yokosuki E14Y, "Glen," was catapult launched from the I-25 class Japanese submarine



Johnson watched in awe as the small floatplane with a red meat ball on its wings flew overhead. The plane was not a bomber and there was no way that it could have flown across the Pacific; Johnson could not understand what was happening. He locked onto the plane and followed it as it headed inland.

The pilot's instructions were to fly at 500 feet, drop the bombs into the trees and circle once to see if they had started any fires. Johnson could see the two bombs under the wing of the plane and knew that they would be dropped. He grabbed his communications radio and called the Forest Fire HQ informing them of what he was watching.

The bombs tumbled from the plane and struck the ground; the pilot circled and spotted fire around the impact point before he headed back to the submarine. The small float plane headed to the surfaced submarine, landed gently nearby and then taxied to the sub. A long boom swung the plane onto the deck where the plane's crew folded the wings and tail and pushed it into its hangar. The I-25 submerged and headed back to Japan. This event, which caused no damage, marked the only time during World War II an enemy plane dropped bombs on the United States mainland.

What the Japanese didn't count on was coastal fog, mist and heavy doses of rain which made the forests so wet they simply would not catch on fire. Fifty years later the Japanese pilot, who survived the war, would return to Oregon to help dedicate a historical plaque at the exact spot where his two bombs had impacted. The elderly pilot then donated his ceremonial sword as a gesture of peace and closure of the bombing of Oregon in 1942.

**Carl Nicolson, 724 ORD, Member, Tel. 209 772-2344**, who submitted this story wrote: *In the spring issue of the Taro Leaf your article "U. S. Dodged a Bullet" brought to mind the enclosed article I thought you might like to use as a follow up on the I-400 submarine story. As an added bit of information, in 1944 and 1945 Japan launched balloons carrying bombs and incendiaries from one of their northern islands. They hoped to take advantage of upper air jet streams to carry the balloons to western Canada and the western United States. Some of the balloons made it to California as told to me by friends that worked for the California Division of Forestry at that time.*

**Thanks, Carl**

# Recognizing the 21AAA by Historian Merry Helm

Sergeant Fred Baker was an anti-aircraft man, and for a long time he has wondered why information about the 21st AAA has not been included in the Taro Leaf. As a member of A Battery, **21st AAA**, Baker knows he and other members of the 21st belonged to the 24th Division in Korea. He was there!

was added, and in the summer of 1951 Batteries 'C' and 'D' were activated with personnel from the other batteries filling key positions.

"The Battalion quickly made a reputation of being a fighting unit. Battery 'D' in its first major encounter with the enemy fired nearly one million rounds of caliber .50 ammunition in close ground support to the 19th Infantry Regiment and the 13th Field Artillery Battalion.

"In its action against enemy aircraft, Battery 'A' (Fred Baker's unit) has three YAK fighter planes to its credit. Members of the Battalion have been up and down the Korean peninsula from the Pusan perimeter to the broad stretches of the Yalu River. They have crossed the 38th parallel no less than four times, going over the battle-scarred roads time and again."

Captain Mosher then adds the answer of how Batteries A, 21st AAA, somehow got dropped from the 24th Division's history pages, writing that in November 1951, "The

battalion, with its various numerical deal (seal?) designations, was made organic to the 24th Division and designated as the 26th AAA AW Bn."

**Thanks, Merry, for clarifying this matter. Editor**

**Below: The 21AAA on the move with troops of the 24th ID. Note the markings on the half-track's bumper clearly showing the 21 AAA as part of the 24th.**

## Fred Baker in Korea with 21st AAA

An explanation has been found. Captain Kenneth Mosher, HQ 26th AAA AW, wrote to the commanding officer of the 24th Division Artillery on 26 December, 1952. Mosher provided a document titled Historical Dates of the 26th AAA AW Bn, explaining: "Battery A of the 26th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons

Battalion was the only Anti-aircraft Battalion to engage the enemy in the early days of the Korean conflict. The lone Battery not only gave Antiaircraft protection to the 24th Division but also contributed greatly in ground support missions.

"Slowly the Battalion grew in size and strength. Headquarters Battery of the 52nd AAA AW Bn was attached to the 24th Division December 13, 1950. In January 1951 Battery 'A' 21st AAA AW





# 2011 National Reunion Dayton, Ohio



**Dayton's Aviation Heritage National Park will be one of the featured tours for the upcoming reunion this September**





**64<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REUNION  
24<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
DAYTON, OHIO  
SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2011**



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PREFERRED NAME ON BADGE \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF YOUR GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_ PREFERRED NAME ON BADGE \_\_\_\_\_

ALOHA BANQUET MEAL SELECTION: LOMI LOMI SALMON \_\_\_\_\_ KAHLUA PORK \_\_\_\_\_ VEGETARIAN \_\_\_\_\_

BANQUET MEAL SELECTION: BEEF \_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN \_\_\_\_\_ VEGETARIAN \_\_\_\_\_

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY \_\_\_\_\_

IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION? YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEES**

REQUIRED REGISTRATION FEE \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 35 = \_\_\_\_\_

ALOHA BANQUET \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 42 = \_\_\_\_\_

BANQUET \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 45 = \_\_\_\_\_

LADIES BREAKFAST \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 15 = \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER'S BREAKFAST \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 15 = \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 25 = \_\_\_\_\_

HERITAGE PARK \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 22 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 18, 2011**

**PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS AND MADE PAYABLE TO:**

**THE REUNION *BRAT*  
16817 Mountainside Drive E.  
Greenwater, WA 98022  
(360)663-2521**

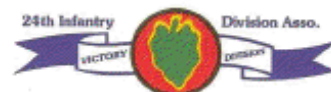
- Confirmation of Registration and Itinerary will be sent out by August 18, 2011.
- A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable.
- Call the Holiday Inn Dayton Fairborn at 937-426-7800 no later than September 7, 2011 to make your hotel reservations. Be sure to mention you are with the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Reunion to receive your group rate of \$98 a night plus tax. If rooms are available the hotel will honor group rate 3 days prior and 3 days after your event, should you choose to extend your stay.

**WE'LL SEE YOU SOON IN DAYTON OHIO!**





# **64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION 24<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION DAYTON, OHIO SEPTEMBER 18-22 2011**



*To be held at the Holiday Inn Dayton Fairborn. Room rates are \$98 a night plus tax. Parking at the hotel is free. There is a complementary airport shuttle to the hotel. The following is the tentative itinerary:*

- ~ Sunday Hospitality Room Opens*
- ~ Monday ~ National Museum of the U.S. Air Force*
- ~Tuesday ~ Board Meeting*
- ~Tuesday ~ Tour Dayton's Aviation Heritage Park & Wright Bros. Bicycle Shop*
- ~Tuesday~ Aloha Banquet*
- ~Wednesday ~ Member's Business Meeting with Breakfast*
- ~ Wednesday ~ Women's Meeting with Breakfast*
- ~Wednesday ~ Banquet & Program*
- ~ Hospitality Room stocked with snacks, beverages & cocktails all 4 days*
- ~ All associated taxes and gratuities*

***Please call the Holiday Inn Dayton Fairborn at 937-426-7800 no later than September 7, 2011 to make your hotel reservations.***

## **Optional Tour**

### **National Museum of the U.S. Air Force**

***Monday September 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 9am ~ 5pm. ~ Price \$25 per person***

*The National Museum of the United States Air Force galleries present military aviation history, boasting more than 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles on display -- many rare and one-of-a-kind -- along with thousands of historical items.*

***Lunch is on your own at the Cafe***

### **Heritage Park**

***Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> ~ 12:30 ~ 4:00pm ~ Price \$22 per person***

*Dayton's Aviation Heritage National Historical Park where interpretive centers give you a glimpse into Dayton's varied aviation history and most notable aviators, Orville and Wilbur Wright. At the park you will be able to visit the original site of the Wright Brother's Bicycle Shop and Museum.*

***COME JOIN US AS WE SHARE OLD MEMORIES AND MAKE NEW ONES!!!***

***For More Information:***

***Contact: Sal Schillaci***

***Phone: 716-812-7312***

***Or***

***Contact: The Reunion BRAT***

***Phone: 360-663-2521***

***Email: [Info@TheReunionBRAT.com](mailto:Info@TheReunionBRAT.com)***



## LATE NEWS

Not to belabor the point, but this issue of the Taro Leaf was a rush job. I had to call on some favors to get the help I needed.

John Dunn, our Sec'y/ Treas. came through with the data to produce the tables on this page. It may seem a small thing to some, but it takes a lot of time to collect and organize the information.

Another person who came through with flying colors is Heidi Edgar, who few of our readers would know. She is a professional editor who donates her time to proof read each issue of the Taro Leaf. I dumped this unfinished issue in her lap and begged for one-day service. She didn't disappoint me. Thanks, Heidi!

I just checked my email box and found I had made an omission in the last issue. Fortunately, I have some space for it here, rather than wait for the next Taro Leaf.

*David: I appreciated seeing my short article about Objective Baker, January 1951, on p.25 of the Taro Leaf, but couldn't find where the article was attributed to me. I was hoping that readers who are interested in finding out more about the 5th RCT in Korea would be directed to my website, [www.twocenturiesofvalor.com](http://www.twocenturiesofvalor.com). Is it too late to try again with something about the Chuktae Valley offensive in the fall of 1951 for the next issue?*

*Sam Kier, Pacific Grove, CA, 831-646-8025*

Sam: I apologize for missing the attribution. As far as Chuktae Valley is concerned, I don't know what you have in mind. Send it along and I'll put it into the next issue if it meets our guidelines.

David Valley, Editor

Taro Leaf Donor	Unit	Amount
Bradford, James E.	21st Inf	\$ 10
Bode, Alfred K.	5th RCT	\$ 5
Childers, Robert L.	24th QM	\$ 15
Colvin, Charles R.	24th Div Hq	\$ 10
Ellison, Liannie	19th Inf	\$ 10
Ericson, Russell L.	21st Inf	\$ 10
Evans, Maurice C.	724th Maint	\$ 55
Frederick, Melvin L.	19th Inf	\$ 400
Hamilton, John	19th Inf	\$ 20
Hession Sr., Paul J.	3rd Eng	\$25*
Holland, Casey B.	34th Inf	\$ 10
King, Ernest F.	21st Inf	\$ 25
Mecca, Daniel	13th FA	\$ 25
Nunley, Bobby D.	34th Inf	\$ 10
O'Meara, Thomas G.	34th Inf	\$ 25
Steckel, Vincent J.	11th FA	\$ 50
Stiner, Billy C.	19th Inf	\$ 10
Struecker, Howard W.	19th Inf	\$ 5
Donovan, Robert L.	52nd FA	\$ 10
Moritz, Robert J.	Div Arty	\$ 10

\* In memory of brother, Joseph

NEW Members	RGT	Unit	Stationed
Banther, Jack	24th Div		Germany 59-60
Guarino, Vincent	19th Inf		Korea 57-59
Hart, Charles E.	19th Inf	K	Korea 50-53*
Hill, Benjamin	19th Inf	B	Korea-Japan 52-55
Johnson, Walter	21st Inf	B	Germany 63-66
Lentz, LaVerne	11th FA	Hq	Korea 53-54
McCartney, Russ	21st Inf	Hq	Germany 66-67
McColl, Myron	34th Inf	C	Japan 47-48
Reeves Jr., Joseph R.	24th Div Hq	HHC	Stewart-DS 86-91
Shell, Herman S.	19th Inf	F	Japan-Korea 55-56
Shook, Vernon W.	24th Div		Germany 58-60
Stewart Jr., James H.	3rd Eng	D	Germany 67-69
Yamamoto, Thomi	24th Sig Co		Japan-Korea 49-51
Pray, William M.	35th FA	Svc	Germany 63-66
			* POW 51-53

New Lifetime Members	RGT	Unit	No.
Wydra, Dennis	724 Maint	A	2385
Pinkham, Harry L.	5th RCT	HHQ	2386
Joseph, Harley H.	34th Inf	Svc	2387
Toninato, Leo J.	19th Inf	G	2388
Yelton, James C.	21st Inf	M	2389
Kohlhof, Keith A.	124th Intl	A	2390

### 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

John Walters, our Quartermaster, has told me he will be delayed sending out merchandise for awhile until he get everything set up in his new place. Members can still send their requests to him at 333 Summer Dr NE, Sandy Springs, GA 30328, but it will take awhile for him to fill the orders.

He 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.

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

## 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



**Parts for Monument  
Have been completed**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Unit	Bn.	Co.	P	It./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							



# Reunions

Thank you, to those who made the effort to express their vote. There are not many who did, but it's a start. The results are compiled in the table below, and further down the page are the names of our contributors and their selections. Based upon our president's prior commitment to leave the decisions to the membership, I expect it will be done through the pages of the Taro Leaf rather than at the upcoming reunion business meeting. Keep voting, the selection will be announced in the **Fall Taro Leaf**.

<b>Branson: 2</b>	<b>Las Vegas: 1 + 2</b>	<b>Little Rock: 0 + 1</b>
<b>New Orleans: 2</b>	<b>San Antonio: 3 + 2</b>	<b>San Diego: 5 + 1</b>
<b>San Francisco: 0</b>	<b>Seattle: 0</b>	

A.A. Stamler:	1. San Antonio	2. Little Rock (no Branson)
John Ragland:	1. San Antonio	2. Las Vegas (no New Orleans)
Tony Alvarez:	1. San Diego	
Paul Balchitis:	1. Las Vegas	2. San Diego
Peter J. Buscaino:	1. San Diego	2. Las Vegas
Glen Carpenter:	1. New Orleans	
Joe Abernathy:	1. San Diego	
Clarence Agee:	1. Branson	2. New Orleans
George Brown:	1. San Antonio	
Dale Schreiber:	1. San Diego	
Andy Christianson:	1. New Orleans	2. San Antonio
Guy Sheppard, Sr.:	1. Branson	2. San Antonio
David Valley	1. San Diego	

I should avoid influencing the voting, but since I recently organized a reunion for the Gen. MacArthur HG Assoc. in San Diego, I studied the possibilities at length. We found a great venue, the Bahia Resort Hotel. It's a fantastic place with great amenities and surprisingly attractive prices. If the 24th IDA picks San Diego, I'll help!

Editor



## Central Florida 24th IDA Group

[http://24thida.com/cf24thida/0\\_cf24thida.html](http://24thida.com/cf24thida/0_cf24thida.html)

**August 3, 2011**

**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)**

**Luncheon will be held Aug. 3.**

**Tentative dates for 2011 mini-reunion**



## 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, [kcrabbbybill@yahoo.com](mailto:kcrabbbybill@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@gmail.com](mailto:cf24ida@gmail.com), or Bill Stokes, 352-750-6741 [wsswriter@centurylink.net](mailto:wsswriter@centurylink.net), or go to: [http://24thida.com/cf24thida/0\\_cf24thida.html](http://24thida.com/cf24thida/0_cf24thida.html)

**Everyone Welcome!**

# New Feature!

## Introducing the 24th IDA Memorabilia Exchange

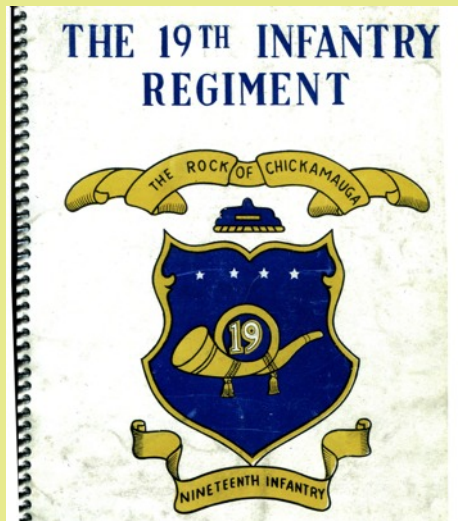


*The picture of Marilyn Monroe on the cover and the one above were taken by Ken Yost in Korea, 1953 or 1954.*

Editor: I have some pictures I took of Marilyn Monroe when she was in Korea. I was in C Battery of the 11th FA. We were on the DMZ where she came by helicopter. She saw I wanted to take her picture and posed in front of me. When I tried to take the picture I found I hadn't cocked the camera and I said, "Oh shit!" She let out a laugh that was better than any pose, and I caught it (cover photo).

She had a pleasant personality and other features obvious to a 19 year-old soldier far from home. I don't know what value these pictures may have. Maybe someone will let me know. I have the original 35mm slides. **Kenneth D. Yost, Member 24th IDA**, 660 868-0534, 16025 State Hwy N, Pattonsburg, MO 64670-7374.

"The Organization Day Yearbook of the 19th RGT, "The Rock of Chickamauga" (cover below). This was published September 20, 1949 in Beppu, Japan. It was sent to the Editor by Malcolm W. Clark who was with the Service Company and later with G CO in Korea until he was wounded crossing the Naktong River on 19 September 1950 when the RGT made the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter. Malcolm had also been a sharpshooter on the division rifle team and later a clerk in the Chief-of-Staff's office of the division.



I will mail the book to Tom Theil so he can scan it onto the 24th IDA website. He will return the book to Malcolm who readers may contact if they are interested in the book. Malcolm's address is given below. Editor

**Malcolm W. Clark, Member 24th IDA**  
15 Germond Drive  
New Hartford, NY 13413-4923

Telephone: 315-736-8573



**North Korean War Bond**

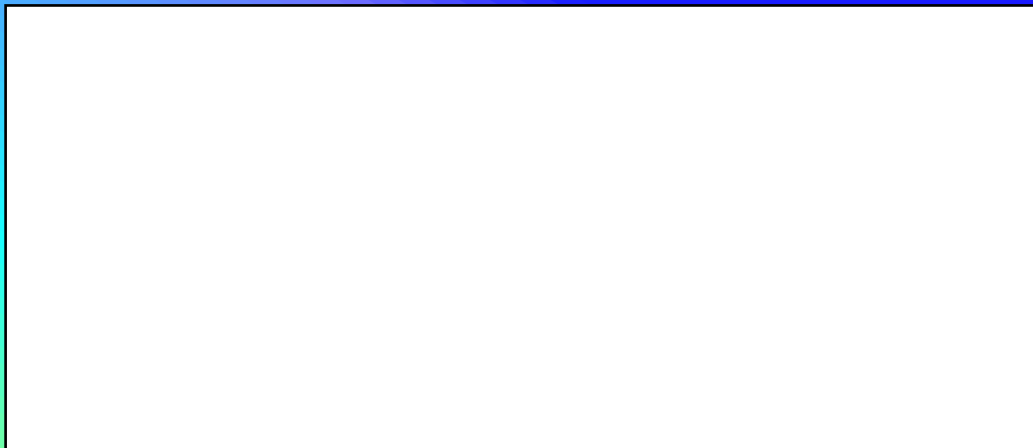
It was October, 1950, we were heady with the surge into North Korea. Our 19th RGT had taken a small city and the unit was put in reserve as others moved forward through our lines. My buddies and I found a bank on the main thoroughfare. The doors were open and there was little of any value to be found inside, but there was a large safe. It was locked. While we considered how we might open it, a prospect appeared as a ROK unit marched by. We grabbed a South Korean carrying a 3.5" bazooka and his ammo bearer. Well-placed rounds knocked open the vault. Small fires were quickly put out and we recovered piles of North Korean currency and bonds which we took into the street for a bonfire. I mailed home the war bond above and some of the currency. I'd love to hear from anyone who remembers this incident. **David Valley 858 485-7550 or email dvalley1@san.rr.com.**





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

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(205) 678-6165 email: [jokdunn@aol.com](mailto:jokdunn@aol.com)

**Send Obituaries to: Taro Leaf Editor**

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

## 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:**

**Don Maggio**, 411 Concord Rd.,  
Fletcher, NC 28732-9734, 828-684-5931 email: [the24thidavp@aol.com](mailto:the24thidavp@aol.com)

**Dan Rickert**, 2899 Calle Valdes,  
Mission Viejo, CA, 949-215-7553

**Gene Spicer**, 8937 W. 750 N.,  
Commiskey, IN 47227-9345, 812-873-6548, email: [gspicer@seidata.com](mailto:gspicer@seidata.com)

**Tom Thiel**, 19147 Park Place Blvd.,  
Eustis, FL 32736-7262, 352-357-3943,  
email: [24thidaweb@gmail.com](mailto:24thidaweb@gmail.com)