

TARD

24th Infantry Division Association



FIRST TO FIGHT

LEAF



U.S. Army Museum to be at Ft. Belvoir, VA

Story on page 26

Volume 65 Issue No. 4

Fall 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

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

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

Directors: Melvin L. Frederick - 19th RGT
Summer 507-455-1639; Winter 760-772-7909
Gene E. Spicer '06-'08, 19th RGT (812) 273-6996 IN
Wes Morrison '03-'06, 21st RGT (831) 883-2156 CA
James F. Hill '00-'01, 19th RGT (770) 998-3749 GA
Thomas Cochran '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
Review Editor: Heidi Edgar

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

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

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

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

2011 Reunion Program Chairman (Open)

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

Greetings !



Dayton is behind us now and we can look back and reflect on what we took with us from our reunion. I came away with warm feelings of seeing old friends and making new ones. That was the most important part of the reunion.

Some things were not as i expected such as the 20 member band that I was promised or the "surprise" buffet at the aloha meal. In retrospect these minor irritations, while upsetting, did not detract from our goal of reuniting and sharing thoughts of the past, news of the present and hopes and plans for the future.

It was decided that we would do away with the aloha banquet and enhance the memorial banquet while keeping the duration of our reunion the same. This would allow an extra tour or perhaps some other activity.

In the future we plan to place notice of our reunions in all the veteran publications in an attempt to lure more members to attend.

As a start, let it be known that our next reunion will be held in New Orleans at a date that has yet to be determined. I am checking with the visitor bureau as to the ideal time to visit the city and what attractions they have to offer. I will also look into the hotels of the city regarding their condition, rates and cost of meals. I would like to make it a memorable reunion .

I hope to see some of you at the west coast reunion next Spring. May we all have a healthy, safe and happy year until we are together again.

Sal Schillaci, President



We hope all of our members, families, and friends have enjoyed a great American summer. There's no holiday like the 4th of July for getting together with those who mean so much to us. Outdoor barbeques with hot dogs and hamburgers hot off the grill, or if you are so blessed a clambake with lobster and other succulent treats. Such times always reminds me of my carefree youth when there were no thoughts of war and even if you were dirt poor during the depression, you didn't know anything different and life was great being a kid.

Being more serious, on Memorial Day, The 4th, and other days, some coming up soon, veterans of our great country are remembered and duly recognized, especially those who lost their lives in battle and those who have past on. Let us thank God, *we are the survivors*. Even though getting older brings its share of burdens, it's far better than the alternative. Let's make the most of it in every thing we do. Find a way to help others and you will help yourself beyond measure.

The national reunion in Dayton, OH took place recently and will be reported on in this issue. Also, please note in the adjoining column the message from our President. We wish him the best in his continuing role and let's everyone support him 100% for the good of the 24th IDA.

The cover picture of the Army Museum-to-be is there to let our members know about this wonderful project of great proportions. I realize most of us may not have an opportunity to personally visit the museum, but we can share in its benefits. It is *our* museum, full of our experiences and memories. It will always be there for us, for our children, and for theirs, many generations to come. It is worthy of our support. There is information about giving on pg. 26.

I have tried to make the selection of reunion sites more membership involved, but the board and members attending the Dayton Reunion, held this September, made the decision for the next three reunions: 2012 - New Orleans; 2013 - Louisville, KY; and 2014 - Omaha, NE. I was told, "The Board and membership chose to keep the Annual Meeting (Reunion) in the Central US. This was due it being a central location and there are several mini-reunions along the Eastern Seaboard and at the Laughlin, NV location."

If our readers would like to comment on the subject of reunions, or any other business of our association, I welcome your participation and will publish your letters in the next Taro Leaf.

David Valley



Tom Thiel's Website News

*This is a progress report on your
web site, www.24thida.com*

[VA Opens Small Business Conference in New Orleans](#) - The National Veterans Small Business Conference and Expo in New Orleans is underway. Hosted by VA for the first time, it is the largest nationwide conference of its kind focused on helping Veteran-owned and service-disabled Veteran-owned businesses succeed in winning federal contracts and expanding their businesses. The conference runs through Thursday. (8/17/11)

[VA Names Finalists for 2011 Employee Innovation Competition](#) - Twelve finalists have been selected for the latest Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Innovation Initiative (VAi2) competition, which sought new ideas to help service-disabled Veterans obtain meaningful employment. (8/12/11)

[VA Reaches Out to Veterans to Explain Upcoming Changes to GI Bill](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reaching out to inform Veterans of recent changes made by Congress to the Post 9/11 GI Bill that take effect in 2011. (8/4/11)

[VA Kicks Off National Caregiver Support Conference](#) - Dr. Robert Petzel, Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Health, gave the keynote address Aug. 2 kicking off the 2011 National Caregiver Support Conference, "Caring for Those Who Care for Our Veterans." (8/3/11)

[Hundreds of Veterans with Disabilities Are in Pittsburgh to Compete in the 31st National Veterans Wheelchair Games](#) - More than 600 disabled Veteran athletes will compete in a variety of sport competitions at the 31st National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Pittsburgh, Aug. 1-6. The event is presented each year by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). (8/1/11)

Another Perspective [www.vawatchdog](http://www.vawatchdog.com)

[Vets' Groups Case Will Not Be Heard by U.S. Supreme Court](#) (10-05-10) Two veterans groups lost in their effort to have the Supreme Court force bureaucrats in the VA to move more swiftly in processing claims.

[DAV Says "No" to Privatizing Va Health Care System](#) (10-04-10) "The realities are that the private sector would not want to enroll the typical VA patient, who is often elderly, has multiple disabilities or is chronically ill.

[VAOIG: VA'S Newark Regional Office Has 29% Claims Error Rate](#) (10-02-10) Also needs to strengthen controls over the recording of NODs for appealed claims, incoming mail upon receipt, and final competency determination processing.

[VA "Gags" Employees as CNN Works on Military Sexual Trauma Story](#) (10-09-10) An internal VA email tells employees who may be contacted by CNN regarding MST story: "DO NOT ENGAGE."

Your Association web site, www.24thida.com is the largest repository of 24th Information on the Internet. You really should know what's on "your site;" either first hand by going there yourself, or if you are not able to do that then go there via a relative or perhaps at your local library. You will be proud I think; just enter www.24thida.com in your browser and follow the menus.

The site has now grown to 530 MB and contains 1,821 files, where a file can be any picture or document or web page, and can vary from a single photograph or page of text to an entire book. I would guess-timate there are some-where between 5,000 and 10,000 pages, illustrations and photographs on the website. Books added include: "South to the Naktong, North to the Yalu," by Roy Appleman, 852 pages; "Children of Yesterday, The 24th Infantry Division In World War II," by Jan Valtin, 429 pages; "24th Forward, A Pictorial History of the Victory Division in Korea" (1952) book, 375 pages; and others. More are planned.

We have also added POW/MIA information. This includes the 24th Association Special POW/MIA Publication, as well as the list of the 1,005 lost 24th ID members in alphabetic and date order in to facilitate looking for a single individual, or for casualties by date. And we have begun building stories of member responses.

There are eighty-plus Member's Stories on the site. These stories are unique first-hand experiences not published anywhere beyond the Taro Leaf. Bringing these stories to an audience much larger than the 2,100 Association members was my main motivation for doing the site.

We thank Wes Morrison for placing 5th RCT and WWII segments of the 24th Honor Roll on the site. Wes is working on the Korean War segment now. These contain very valuable and unique information, we look forward to the time when Wes has it finished.

We also have Quartermaster and Membership Application forms available on the site. Secretary/Treasurer Dunn reports 60 percent of the new member applications come from the web site.

We have the first Taro Leaf published in August 1947, and all of those from 2003 to the present. We also have many in between scanned and uploaded, as well as many more for this era in hard copy yet to be scanned, which takes time and effort. These all have the full text of the document, and if published in color they are retained in color.

We have no capability for text or character-string searching from within the site, which we would like to do. But any word or string of characters anywhere on the site can be found with a general Google or Bing search! (continued on page 22)

David: My first exposure to the association was the reunion in S.C., it was close enough to the surrounding accessible areas to facilitate alternate activity. The planners of these reunions are completely and totally without regard or consideration that many attendees are eighty or ninety years young. When I tripped over a torn carpet at the "Rapid City" gathering, I laid on the hallway floor for over forty minutes until someone came by and helped me to my feet.

The next day people who were seated at the table I couldn't get to, told Sandra and I, there were several derogatory statements about my absence. The distance from the room assignment and the meeting rooms was several city blocks. From the time I spent on the floor, until my arrival back to the room was an hour and twenty minutes, then since diabetes was causing low blood sugar, Sandra was forced to venture out at that ungodly hour. Hopefully those people planning our reunions will never be subjected to the total lack of forethought or consideration we are subjected to. When they get to our age perhaps they will not be treated with such a lack of compassion. The Buffalo Reunion was a much easier and a more convenient experience.

The Dayton Reunion's only saving attribute was the food service staff at the hotel facility. The men's breakfast did not serve anything my system would tolerate other than powdered eggs and bagels. I asked for butter and the woman brought some to others at our table [except me] then she went to the other tables. At that juncture I left went to the hotel dining area and was served real eggs, a toasted bagel **w/butter** and hot coffee. That is another meal we've paid a premium charge for and received nothing in return. Sandra and I do not intend to prepay future meal charges without recourse. If that is not acceptable, we will not participate.

One other item, some months ago my inquiry about a member [Brockman] was answered by someone who assured me of a future notification. The response was nice, but the notification never happened [**Ton-demo Nigh**]. I did meet Brockman and spent a very pleasant afternoon with him. We reminisced the time in 1947 when in Sasebo, Japan.

Sandra and I are not strangers to N.O., we are beginning to dread the choice of location. The last time we did that trip, the organizers picked an area within easy access to everything worthwhile. **Will planners of the N.O. venture exercise some consideration for the people who are no longer in their mid-forties?**

Harley H. Joseph, Life #4, 10644 Kendale Blvd., Miami, FL 33176-2771 email hjchyum94@gmail.com

Harley: I'm interested in your remarks about reunions past and present. Hopefully this letter describing your experiences and concerns will ensure a better reunion in New Orleans.
David



David: I read the story in the Summer issue by Wesley G. Hughes about the Combat Medic Badge. I am happy to see that this badge, which I have, is getting some recognition. I see that John Callison was with the 19th RGT but I do not know when or to what Company he was assigned; I was with B Company, 19th. He mentioned a 'Cross' on his helmet. I'd met several medics during my time with the 24th (October, 1951 to January, 1952), but none of them had a cross on their helmets.

The job of a combat medic seems nice when things are at a standstill. No guard duty during the night, first pick at the brand of cigarettes, goodies given to him to enjoy from the mothers. When things happen it is not such a cushy job. I have no idea how I ended up being a medic. I was assigned and told I had first aid training in Basic and that was all I needed. What a lie! The medic goes on every patrol, volunteered or not. He (or she, today) must always leave a relatively safe position whenever someone gets wounded. We often gave shots of morphine to the suffering (no wonder I hate drugs). The combat medic is the only 'doctor' at the MLR, there is not another office in the area.

In January of 1952, when the 24th went to Japan, I was left behind with the 40th Division as an 'observer,' or whatever, to help new medics adjust. They told me that they were fully prepared and I felt useless. Another medic and I who were left behind asked to go on R&R to Japan. He had been in Korea since September, 1951. They refused to give us R&R but said that we could go behind the lines for 3 days. We did that and hitchhiked back to Wonju (I believe) where we enjoyed ourselves at a USAF Base. When we returned, we asked for a transfer and it was granted. I went to A Company, 23rd RGT, 2nd ID where I pleaded not to be a medic and ended up as a rifleman and BAR ammunition carrier. There, I was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge.

As a footnote - I read the story by Merry Helm about the 21 AAA. I do not recall the outfit's designation but a quad 4 was right at the MLR when we were on patrol to recover a dead GI. We were on a road up near 747 and then were pinned down. The quad 4's guns pinned the Chinese down and we were able to get back with the body and no casualties. Way to go 21 AAA, if that was you.

Tom Donaghy, B Company, 19th. Life Member 996, atomtomd@cfl.rr.com

Editor: The soldier in the photo on p. 15 of the Summer issue of the Taro Leaf is SFC David K. Broad of George Company, 5th RCT. He's taking a breather during the fighting on Sobuk-san Mountain in September 1950. Sergeant Broad was from Laie, Oahu and one of many Hawaiians serving with the combat team during the early days of the war. He was a seasoned soldier and an inspiration to the younger men. He was a M/SGT by the time he shipped home from Korea. The photo was taken by regimental photographer, Arnold Chang.

Sam Kier, Historian, 5th Infantry Regiment Assoc., Pacific Grove, CA, 831-646-8025

Letters

David: July 7, 1950, sixty-one years ago as I write this letter, I arrived in Taejon via rail flatcar along with my unit, 24th ID HQ, G-2 Section. About ten days later began our exodus to the Naktong River (Pusan Perimeter). Thanks to the Inchon invasion we broke the North Korean offensive and headed north, and by the end of September or early October we once again were in Taejon. It was there that we saw what we had only heard about: mass graves.

It was a hot clear early autumn day. My buddy and I had been involved with setting up and then headed for the mess tent. As we approached the mess area we saw something bizarre, a number of men were bent over vomiting. With the next puff of wind we knew why. The odor of death permeated the air.

About a quarter of a mile from us was a large church. The stench was coming from that direction. We were curious and walked toward the church, drawing labored breaths through handkerchiefs, happy that we had not eaten lunch. Arriving at the church, we saw long rows of trenches filled with young men, jammed in the trenches in spoon fashion with their arms bound behind them.

We didn't count the bodies but perhaps there were several hundred. They were in advanced decay. Nevertheless Korean women roamed the trenches searches for their sons, husbands, or loved ones. When they found the remains they sought they took the rotting corpse into their embrace, swaying, they sang to them, probably prayers. I had never before nor after witnessed anything like this. Several of the dead, I was told, were Americans.

We walked to the top of the hill to the churchyard. There, bodies had been dropped into a well. There were also more bodies in the basement of the church. I had my camera with me and took numerous photos. Ironically I never got to see them. I gave the roll of film to a friend who was leaving on emergency leave. He came back but without the pictures. At the time it didn't seem important.

Back in Taejon and during the rest of my tour, I gave the Taejon affair little thought. But now, well over half a century later, the site of the massacre remains in my mind. Still, as terrible as that scene was, war atrocities seem to continue in all wars; Viet Nam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Didn't Sherman say that war was hell?

Al Peterson, Member, LTC USA Ret., PO Box 1269, Welaka, FL 32193, 386-467-3909 apete93077@aol.com

David: On photos from John Laguna. #1 of Black beach landing I remember on day two the Navy brought in members of the 503rd paratroops. They were not on the regular landing craft we came in on. As they unloaded on the beach Jap 50 Cal MG hidden in a cave in the brush to the left of the landing decided to spray the area. Our Navy Cruiser setting offshore shut him down. I remember this happening. Not sure if we were still clearing out North Dock area or heading up Malinta Hill to release Company K. **Paul Cain** pgee.cain@yahoo.com

Editor: Was I ever surprised to receive my Taro Leaf magazine the other day and find my picture on the front page. Not that anyone would notice but I'm the GI standing beside Marilyn Monroe in Kenneth Yost's picture. He was in C battery and I was in A battery of the 11th FA the day Marilyn was brought up to our position. The day before she had been in a USO show miles away (about and two hours in the back of a 2 1/2 ton truck) where there were a few thousand troops had been standing around waiting for the show to start. Before she came on a couple of other entertainers were literally booed off of the stage. We all wanted to see Marilyn, who finally came on. Once she was on stage everyone quieted down and enjoyed the show and the songs she sang. There wasn't any place to sit so most of the guys were sitting on their helmets or the ground the whole time.

I thought that was it as we were trucked back to our outfit but the next day, low and behold, there she was walking around our gun emplacements up on the line. Everyone was standing around admiring her and I saw someone taking pictures so I walked up behind her and put my arm around her and had my picture taken with the one and only Marilyn Monroe. She turned around and asked, "Where are you from?" and I told her, "Los Angeles" to which she said, "We're practically neighbors". She smiled and continued touring the area.

That was 1954, the year when she and Joe Dimaggio came over to Japan on their honeymoon. He stayed in Japan to talk to some folks about baseball while she came to Korea to entertain the troops.

I was worried that the guy taking pictures, Kenneth Yost, would be upset with me for messing up his picture but when I asked for a copy of the picture, he very graciously said yes. In those days one had to send the film to Kodak to be printed, so about a month later he came over and gave me a copy of the slide. I have treasured that picture all these years and then all of a sudden, there it was as the cover page on your terrific magazine.

Neil Estes, Member, 7103 E Aivlis St., Long Beach, CA 90815
grumpy.grampy@hotmail.com

To Recipients of the POW/MIA Publication: I want to say that I consider the POW/MIA Publication a very worthy effort on the part of the Association to help our brothers who did not return some 60 years ago. I appreciate it and consider it well worth the cost. But, I would like to ask each of you nearly 2,200 Association members who received the publication to expend a bit of additional effort to help your lost brothers.

I suggest you take it to your local newspaper to rouse their interest in helping the cause and to try to get them to help our effort. I did something similar to this a number of years ago in Gary, IN and had good results. Your local library might also be interested. Thank you all very much.

Harry J. Wadding, Member, 19th RGT, B CO, 1950-1951. 2335 Vermillion St., Lake Station, IN 46405-2510 219-962-6522

Merry: I'm an associate member of the 25th IDA and a life member of the 5th Infantry Regiment Assn. When I reported to the 5th Infantry in 1954, it had become, once again, organic to the 71st Infantry Division, its WWII parent organization, so I didn't serve with either the 24th or the 25th. I became an associate member of the 25th IDA because the 5th Infantry "Bobcat" reunion used to piggyback on the Tropic Lightning reunion. Now the 5th has its own reunion at a different time of the year but I've remained with the 25th IDA, as well. Butch Sincock, the Exec. Director has helped me market my latest book, "Two Centuries of Valor: The Story of the 5th Infantry Regiment." Whenever you get 5th Infantry questions that you can't readily answer, please send them to me. I also have a question and answer page on my webpage, twocenturiesofvalor.com. **Sam Kier**

Sam: We would love to incorporate your vast knowledge into the 24th Division in some way. I note you are in CA. The 24th IDA has a "west coast reunion" where you would be a very welcome guest. We have many 5th RCT members who fought in Korea. As you know, they were a mighty force during that time. I am also copying this to our webmaster, to our Taro Leaf editor, and to the Association VP. I'm certain we can help promote your book in some manner. **Merry**

David: I read your article about North Korean War Bonds in the Summer 2011 issue of Taro Leaf and it reminded me about the letter my brother, Sgt. William Peifer, wrote about a similar incident. •They tried to blow up a safe in Pyongyang in 1950. •Bill sent home a bond also. Maybe we should write Kim Jong Il and see if we could cash them in. Bill was with the M Co., 21st Regiment. •Later, he was with I Co. 21st RGT on the night of April 25, 1951 and was killed when Chinese overran his machine gun position that night. •He was so close to rotation - May 51. •He went to Korea in July 1950. •The war was nearly over by the time I got there.

George "Chip" Peifer, sgp@surewest.net, Roseville, CA

Chip: I imagine there were more than a few of us who "liberated" North Korean banks and had some fun trying to blow up their safes. Even is such safes it is unlikely to find any booty. **David**

David: I had a telephone conversation with John A. Kelly on 7 July, 2011. John served with A Battery, 11th FA from '49 to '51. He came to Korea from Japan as a private and left as a sergeant. He lives at 304 Downing St., Nixa, MO 65714-8732 Telephone: 417-725-3951. He recounted the activities of 19-20 July 1950.

Don Maggio, VP, 24th IDA

This is what he told me as best as I can recall. *"We were almost overrun on 19 July and had been heavily shelled by artillery and mortars all day long. We lost two men. The night of 20 July we moved towards Taejon. At daylight there were tanks on the hills all around us and they opened up with their machine guns. The captain said every man for himself. Corporal Edmund H. Cain was in my section. Although I did not see him that morning, I heard he drowned while crossing a river."* **John Kelly**



David: I entered the Army at age 17 in January, 1948 and did my basic training at Ft. Dix, NJ. I was then shipped to Japan and assigned to the 3rd ENG BN as a draftsman. After 30 months I was eligible for surveyor school at Ft. Belvoir, VA. Just three days out of Yokohama Bay the Korean War began. We thought they'd turn the ship around, but there were many civilians aboard so we went on to Seattle, WA.

It was 4th of July weekend and I had trouble getting transportation to Fitchburg, MA. When I got home there was a telegram saying I was to report to Ft. Belvoir at once. All of my Army issue was lost on a bus and I only had what I was wearing. At the Parade Grounds there was plenty of clothing and I helped myself. I got a pair of mis-matched galoshes. (Later, when building a bridge at Pyongyang I got frostbite even though I was wearing three pair of socks.)

In Korea I was assigned to the C2 ENG. Constr. BN. I'd asked to go to the 3 ENG BN, but had been promoted to SGT as a bridge inspector and refused. We built over 40 bridges, maintained roads, built an orphanage, hospital, water tower, etc. They were a very able construction unit.

The real reason I'm writing this letter is that I was saddened to read in the Taro Leaf POW/MIA that CPT Hastie and CPL William D. Smit are listed as POWs, 24 Nov 1950. They had been assigned to Gen. Dean's staff as reps for the 3rd ENG BN. Previously I had been assigned to CPT Hastie, and Smit was a close friend who took my place. Hastie was 1LT at the time. A photo of 1LT Hastie and me is enclosed. It was taken March '50 while on CPX with Gen. Dean.

(SFC) **Roland H. Tremblay**, Member, 8302 Gay St., Cypress, CA 90630, Tel. 714 209-2476

Letters

Editor: How I Met My Wife: It was April, 1947 and cherry blossom time in Japan. I was a PFC in the army, a member of the 19th RGT on occupation duty at Camp Chickamauga, Beppu, Kyushu, Japan. I was assigned to the Special Services Section, managing athletic and recreational facilities for the troops and dependents. One of my duties was assisting in the operation of the Lanik Theater, the camp theater, a former Japanese opera house seating about eight hundred, which was appropriated by the Army.

One afternoon, during a usual tour of the theater, I noticed a pair of geta, Japanese clogs, placed by one of the exit doors. Since it was a Japanese custom to slip off one's geta or shoes when entering a building I assumed an unauthorized person had entered the theater. I searched and found no one, but when I returned to the exit door the geta were gone. A week later I again noticed a pair of geta by the same door. Again I looked for the geta's owner, but to no avail. But this time I saw a Japanese girl walking rapidly away down the lane. In my best phrase book Japanese called out to her, "Anone, ojosan! Doko ikemaska?" (Hey, girl! Where are you going?) She took one look at me and promptly ran away. I was surprised at how fast a person could run while wearing geta.

By running away she really aroused my interest. A few days later I saw her again. This time I tried to be more polite. "Choto mate kudasai," (Please wait) I called out. She stopped and began a broken Japanese-English conversation. I learned her name was Kumiko and she was working as a cook- housemaid at the nearby Army dependent's housing project for Lt. John J. Rock, 19th RGT Communications Officer, and his wife, Jean who taught at the school for dependent's children. Kumiko had been coming to the theater to have an interpreter translate recipes Mrs. Rock had given her into Japanese so she could cook the dishes.

I asked for a date, but she refused. At that time fraternization was discouraged by both Americans and Japanese. After seeing her from time to time at the theater during the next month I finally convinced her to have a date with me and we arranged a meeting at the home of a friend of the Japanese interpreter. That date was the beginning of our romance that has lasted over sixty-four years.

Joe Negrilli

Joe: Thanks for your letter. This subject is a big part of the military occupation experience in Japan. I'm send you a copy of my book, *Gaijin Shogun, General Douglas MacArthur Stepfather of Postwar Japan*. I hope to hear from others who have married Japanese girls. **David**



Kumiko and Joe Negrilli

Dear David: Thank you very much for the copy of your book I should have responded sooner but I wanted to finish reading it before I replied, and my reading sessions kept being interrupted. I thoroughly enjoyed it. By reading it I reaffirmed many ideals I had as well as learning some new things about the General. He was quite the man. I especially enjoyed the part about Bud and Masako and could relate to their experiences.

I wish to comment about fraternization. I remember a case in early 1947. Two corporals, who were section leaders in the weapons platoon of a rifle company, were busted and shipped out when the company commander learned they were co-habiting with the "enemy." In another case, early '49, a friend of mine who had married, his girlfriend and the mother of his child, "Japanese style", was shipped out on short notice when his CO learned of his situation. So Kumiko and I had to be very secretive in the early years of our relationship until I had established myself as a responsible soldier as the Regimental I&E NCO for the 19th RGT.

Gen. MacArthur ruled against the marriage of military personnel with Japanese nationals because laws of the U.S. did not allow the immigration of Asians. In June of 1950 a bill in congress would allow an oriental to enter the U.S. as the spouse of an American Serviceman. This bill passed into law later and became known as the Japanese War Bride Act.

In the Spring of 1950 there were many GI s who were co-habiting with their Japanese girlfriends. They would tell their, "musumes," they couldn't get married because of the regulations. With some of these GIs this was just a, "snow-job," but I believe there were many GIs who thought they really wanted to marry their, "coribitos."

Come June 25, 1950 the NKPA invaded South Korea and the occupation Army shipped out of Japan to Korea. It wasn't long before most of the would-be grooms decided they really just wanted to complete their tour and rotate back to the good old US of A. The net result was that many GI-Japanese marriages did not take place. The Korean war (may have) forestalled many divorces.

Because of the difficulty of getting married I believe the percentage of GI-Japanese marriages ending in divorce was less than the national average. We knew over fortcouplees in the NE Ohio area, of which only four ended in divorce, far less than the reported 50% national average. Personally, after taking a young woman away from her family, friends, country, and culture, to be my wife and the mother of my children, I felt obligated to do whatever it took to make the marriage work.

Joe Negrilli, Life 1580, 36670 Garretts Cove Dr., Eastlake OH 44095-5403



David: I'm Bill Hosler, F CO, 19th RGT (May '49-Jan'51). I saw an obit for Peggie Dick, wife of the late Past President, Dallas Dick. They were very well known, especially to the WWII vets. I live nearby where the Dicks lived and visited them from time to time. **Life Member 374, 409 Sharon Ave, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

Looking For

Hi Merry, I found your address on the 24th's web site & hope you'll be able to assist me in finding my father's brigade, company & squad designations. His name was PFC Bernard J. Leavitt & he was assigned to the 19th RGT at Schofield Barracks on Dec. 7, 1941. He later participated in the campaign on New Guinea. I've received his personnel folder from the Army but it's incomplete due to the fire at the storage facility in the '70's. Any info. you may have or direct me to will be appreciated. Thanks for taking the time to help.

Dean S. Leavitt, U.S. Army M.P. Corps, Military Dist. of Washington, 1974-1977; U.S. Army Reserve, 187th Inf. Brig. (Separate), 1981-1982. dleavit@comcast.net

Hello Dean, Unfortunately, we are not in possession of the regiment's rosters from WWII. However, a number of your dad's comrades from Schofield Barracks are/were members of the 24th ID Assn. The one I knew personally unfortunately passed away a few months ago. But I think there are several others who are still with us. I am copying this to the Taro Leaf editor so he can add your query to the magazine that goes out to our entire membership. Perhaps that will turn up something.

Otherwise, if you are in the D.C. area, you might get some satisfying background on your father by visiting the NARA facility in College Park. The 24th ID records should be there, and if you go through the boxes that contain the division's and/or the regiment's General Orders, you may come across a listing of him receiving his combat infantryman's badge, bronze star for merit or some other reference.

My area of expertise is almost entirely limited to the Korean War, and I am not a veteran. But our organization is a good one, and people will try to help you if they can. I am copying this to our webmaster, who is responsible for our new website. He may have some further ideas for you. I am also sending your request to the Taro Leaf editor.

If you DO uncover relevant records at NARA, we would be very grateful if you would share them with us so we can post them to our site to help other people such as yourself. If you've done business at NARA, you know it can get quite expensive to copy records. A lot of people have switched to using their I-phones or cameras instead. Please let me know if I can assist you further.

Merry Helm, Historian

David: I had a telephone conversation with John A. Kelly on 7 July, 2011. John served with A Battery, 11th FA from '49 to '51. He came to Korea from Japan as a private and left as a sergeant. He lives at 304 Downing St., Nixa, MO 65714-8732 Telephone: 417-725-3951. He recounted the activities of 19-20 July 1950.

Don Maggio, VP, 24th IDA

"We were almost overrun on 19 July and had been heavily shelled by artillery and mortars all day long. We lost two men. The night of 20 July we moved towards Taejon. At daylight there were tanks on the hills all around us and they opened up with their machine guns. The captain said every man for himself. Corporal Edmund H. Cain was in my section. Although I did not see him that morning, I heard he drowned while crossing a river."

John Kelly

Editor: Through [your link with the Find A Grave website](#), I became aware of your Association and the 24th Infantry Division. At the urging of your webmaster, I have put together a brief photo tribute to my father, Edward J. Hagan, who passed away in 2005.

My father served with the 34th Infantry Regiment and 24th Recon in Korea in 1955-56, and was Life Member #974 of your Association. He lived in Albion, MI. His TAPS notice appeared on page 6, Vol. 63(3) Summer 2009 Taro Leaf.

I do not know very much about my father's time in Korea. After he was gone I uncovered some of his photos. But even then I was not able to learn much. But with some help, I was able to at least learn a bit. The photos are of my father, PFC



Edward Hagan, in Korea from October 1955 to August 1956. The first shows my father on the DMZ in 1955; the next shows him behind a sign with the insignia of the 34th RGT (on right) and was dated May 1955 so it must have been taken in Japan prior to the Regiment returning to Korea. The caption of the one above reads: "This is all of us together before we left. From left to right Katz, Jerry, me, Jones (from Vincennes, IN) and Sharp. Boy don't we look like something out of a funny book? Eddie."

Perhaps one of you may remember or recognize my father, or may have more information than I on my father's pictures. If so I would be grateful if you would contact me.

Beth Hagan Tuck, tuckea@cinci.rr.com

Looking For



Aloha David: The picture is of PFC Arthur F. Wise. It was taken at C CO, 3rd Combat ENG Motor Pool in Kitagata, Kyushu, Japan in June, 1949. He has been missing since the day we withdrew from Taejon toward Pusan on July 20, 1950. Arthur is currently listed as a POW on the 24th ID POW/MIA list as a POW. Hopefully, someone would remember seeing Arthur during his captivity and perhaps provide some closure to his unaccounted for status.

**Bob Kodama, Life 2227, 6141 Patton Way
Buena Park, CA 90620.**

Editor: I'm looking For **Slim Bowden**. It was 1953 and I had been back from Korea for two or three years, living in Philadelphia, working in the post office and going to college. I went to a Boy Scout committee meeting to help plan a big camping weekend for the Philadelphia Council to be held at Valley Forge. It was the first time Valley Forge was used for a big scouting event and became a model for the future.

A discussion about how many shower points were needed for a weekend campout was underway. I sat and after a while spoke up to say "while in Korea I went for weeks without a shower." From across the table a voice asked, "Who were you with?" I said 24th Division. He said, "So was I." The discussion ended with no shower points, a small victory. When we had the jamboree it rained so hard that we had to take the scouts home early and never missed the showers.

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The questioner and I got together. His name was Slim Bowden and he was with the 24th Signal Company in Korea in 50 or 51. Slim was an engineer, older than I and had been in WWII. He had worked for some company that built advanced electronics. He went to Korea to replace and update communication equipment that had been lost. I assumed he was in the military then but he could have been a tech rep.

He had been in the Army Signal Corp. One of Slim's stories was about putting the underwater cable across the Atlantic in wartime. He was sitting on a boat, tying two ends of underwater cable together in the mid-Atlantic. A German submarine surfaced and sank their boat. It was a sitting target, tied by cable to two continents. It was later that I heard some of Slim's personal story. He was injured in WWII. And he was married to an army nurse who was killed in action in Europe.

Slim lived in New Jersey outside of New Hope in a summer cottage by the Rancocas Creek. He was plant manager for an electronic company building some outlandish thing called a computer. For those who have forgotten - the University of Pennsylvania was the birthplace of computers before Silicon Valley.

He asked me to come to work as a computer programmer but I couldn't see myself soldering vacuum tubes. It was for Univac 1, the first commercial computer built. What an opportunity I missed.

But Slim and I did Boy Scout things together and I had a key to his cottage, where I went to study and write for school. He would come to my house for my mother's home cooked meals.

The computer business took off and Slim was traveling all over the world. The company became Sperry Rand and moved to Minneapolis and Slim spent less time around Philadelphia. I finished college and graduate school and moved to Maryland. Slim married again and I last saw him in the late 1950's.

He would occasionally stop to see my mother and ask how I was. So, from that comment at a Boy Scout meeting I found a friend that offered me a career path that I did not take. We shared lots of meals together and he was always around for me. I was going to school and working full time for years so we did not spend a lot of time together, but he was always there. I use the story of seeing that computer being built and not having the foresight to see the future. But I did make a tolerable career for myself.

Does anyone remember Slim Bowden? Is he on any lists? I am sure he had a more formal first name, but I don't know it.

**Frank M. McIntyre, PhD SGT G CO, 19th RGT '51 Korea
Life Member, 2625 Plumbrook Dr- Bloomfield Mi 48304
anmfmm@aol.com - 248-333-7601**

Dear Sir: I'm looking for anyone who served with the 24th ID from 1980-1983 of the Unit of HHB/2/35 FA at Ft. Stewart, GA. Thank You ! Sincerely,
Bill Manson of St. Joseph, MO. meathead3926@yahoo.com



Looking For & Letters

Does this mining site look familiar?

A friend of mine is interested in mining operations in North and South Korea and thought this picture might be of a mine somewhere in Korea. The vehicles have been identified as British, and the bulletin board seen in the lower right hand corner had the word Bulletin in English. Aside from this picture do any of our readers have any knowledge of tungsten mining in Korea, or of any other specialty metals? Please contact the editor if you have any information.

David: I served in Korea with the I&E CO of the 24th Division from July '50 until September '50. When I left Korea, I went back to a hospital in Japan. After that I was sent to Ashiya Air Base (Japan). My job was loading C-119s box cars with supplies and flew to Korea where we dropped ammo, C rations, and other things by parachute to men on the ground. I've wondered if any other men from the 24th were assigned to such duty. If so, I'd like to hear from them.

Clinton A. Roberts, Life Member 1768, 1409 W Walnut St., Washington, IN 47501 Tel. 812 259-2431



David: Check out this picture of my car's license plate. I've had them several years since Virginia allowed Korean War Veterans plates. I wonder how many other States and our members have similar plates?

**Vernon Mullenger, 2221 Grundy Rd.,
Woodbridge, VA 22191**



Editor: I've been planning to write this letter since I saw the photo of 13th FA BN in a 2008 Taro Leaf. That photo activated fond memories of when I was the 13th FA BN Supply T/SGT about a year before the picture that I saw was taken.

I studied all the names and discovered I only recognized one, 1LT R.A. Smith who was a 2LT in '46 and my supply officer. I'm enclosing a picture of myself taken in Japan in '46 and a recent one. I'm 85 now but still playing golf twice a week in the warmer months.

**James "Jim" W. Danhoff, Member
3017 Deindorfer St., Saginaw, MI 48602**



A college psychology professor told his students he doubted the existence of God. He made a challenge saying, "If there is a God I dare him to knock me down." Suddenly a young Marine, still wearing desert camos approached the professor and with one blow knocked him on his ass. When the professor came to he said to the Marine, "Son, why did you do strike me?"

The Marine answered, "Sir, God is very busy right now in Iraq and Afghanistan looking after our men and women and told me to handle this." **Ed Rumbaoa**

Osama Bin Laden sent for Pakistan's most famous fortune teller since he knew Americans might find him. He asked if he might die and she said, "Yes, you will die on a Major US holiday. Bin Laden said, "Which one?" She replied, "Doesn't matter. Whatever day you die will be a major US holiday.

A Navy SEAL & Usama Bin Laden walk into a bar.
A Navy SEAL walks out of a bar.

Letters

David: Thank you for helping make the Taro Leaf the best it can be! I would like to add a little of my experience in Korea. It is about time I put something on paper. Prior to the official cessation of WWII, I enlisted in the Army and after basic was sent as part of an occupation force to Korea and spent my time with the 41st Military Govt. HQ at Hongsong and later to Taejon.

Following my enlistment, I was in the inactive enlisted reserve and was called to duty for the Korean War. I was assigned to K CO, 5th RCT which was then on the way to the Yalu River on the tail of the fleeing N Korean invasion force.

This is what I remember of my initial contact with the Chinese. The 3rd BN of the 5th RCT was placed in reserve and told to dig in and act as a blocking force, as other elements would be coming back through our position following the intervention by the Chinese. After parts of the 1st Cavalry passed through we prepared for attack as we were alerted the Chinese were coming. That night, talk about fireworks! Shortly before midnight bugles sounded and it wasn't long before wave after wave of Chinese were upon us.

In preparation we had their arrival area zeroed in with artillery and had a couple 50 cal. machine guns mounted on the ridge behind us. In addition we had aircraft flying barely over our heads dropping napalm on advancing enemy troops. I was on the closest approach to our position and my new replacement foxhole mate had been wounded and transported out. Just in time the Platoon SGT appeared with a case of grenades. He said it looked like I might need some help ...and the fight was on.

We stopped them cold and, as they were regrouping, we loaded onto trucks and set up new holding positions closer to the 38th parallel. Again they came and were stopped. We held our positions as other elements set up new positions, including a Turkish Brigade that passed forward through our lines to teach the Chinese a thing or two.

I lost a couple foxhole friends but fortunately was never wounded. I felt we all did our share. We fought back and forth, giving a little, taking a little, until I was relieved and rotated back home.

**Don F. Darke, 5th RCT Assoc and Member of 24th ID Assoc.
2170 County Road 571 NE, Kalkaska, MI 49646**

W	Thomas W. Anderson	6th Tank	Texas	
I	Charles Bissett	327th FA	Virginia	
N	John Dennis	13th FA	New Jersey	2
N	Karen Hefferson	13th FA	Michigan	0
E	Joseph D. Karam	5th RCT	Ohio	1
R	John Kocher	34th RGT	New Jersey	1
S	Charles McMichael	19th RGT	Pennsylvania	
	Leon Silver	24th Sig	Pennsylvania	
	Vincent Steckel	11th FA	Iowa	
	Jimmy Woodall	24th MP	Illinois	

HEALTH TIPS FOR SENIORS

Prevent spreading germs to help you and others stay well. • Cover your cough to prevent the spread of illnesses thru the air. • Wash your hands to protect you from bringing germs to your mouth from surfaces that you touch. • Stay home if you are sick to prevent spreading it to others.

Get a Flu shot every year.

Eat a "healthy plate of food." • Do you know what a healthy plate of food should look like? Make half your plate vegetables and fruit. Make the other half plate lean protein and grains. Don't forget the dairy.

Should you exercise if you have arthritis? YES! Exercise reduces joint pain and stiffness and increases flexibility, muscle strength, and endurance.

Talk to your doctor about ANY pain you have. Pain is NOT a normal part of aging. Utilize a pain diary to tell your story and a pain scale to rate your pain. Be descriptive by stating: How your pain FEELS: How your pain BEHAVES: How INTENSE your pain is. Remember, you are the expert on your pain.

Do you have high blood pressure? Do you take medication for high blood pressure? It is important to take your blood pressure medications every day. Take your medications even when your blood pressure comes down . . . even when you feel fine.

Had shingles? You don't want them; they're painful.

• Consider getting a shot to prevent Shingles. Are you over 60? Have you ever had chicken pox? • If you answered yes to these questions, you may want to consider getting a shot to prevent shingles. • Zostavax can help decrease the risk of getting shingles. Talk to your doctor and insurance company to see if Zostavax is an option for you.

Can you recognize when a stroke is happening? • You can often recognize when a STROKE is happening by asking the person to: 1. Smile; 2. Raise both arms; 3. Speak a simple sentence. If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, it may be a stroke. • Call 9-1-1 immediately.

Improve your sleep by picking the right foods. • Foods that help you sleep: Cherries, Bananas, Toast, Oatmeal, Warm milk. • Foods that sabotage sleep: Cured or smoked meats, Chocolate, Energy drinks, Tomato sauce, Chili, Pizza, Spicy foods, Alcohol.

Manage your prescriptions. • Have all of your prescriptions filled at the same pharmacy to allow your pharmacist to screen for potential duplications in therapy and drug interactions. • Carry a current list of your medications with you at all times. Be sure to list the name, dose, and frequency of all medications, including non-prescription and herbal products. Share this list with all of your physicians.

A Promise Made in Combat Haunted This Veteran

Nearly 66 years have passed since Sgt. John G. Trinca made a promise to a 19-year-old soldier. Now, the World War II veteran who served with the **21th RGT** of the 24th ID believes he is finally on his way to keeping his promise, to tell the soldier's family how he died. Trinca never learned the name of soldier who died by his side in combat in 1945—until recently.

Through serendipity and help from army archivists and a local librarian, Trinca just learned the man's name appears to have been Thomas Bateman. "If I find some of his family, it will be hard for me," said Trinca. "But I'll apologize for waiting so long to keep my promise. I've thought about that kid constantly."

It was 1945 and Trinca, then 19, was in the Philippines. He had been drafted and after 22 weeks of armor training, and then 34 days on a boat, he was placed into combat. One day, his sergeant brought him a newly arrived soldier, also 19. "Hey, Chicago," he said to Trinca, "Show this kid the ifs and buts."

The soldier noticed the sergeant called Trinca by the name "Chicago." The two soldiers soon realized that they had grown up in the same area. "If something happens to me, will you let my family know?" the soldier asked. Trinca responded yes and asked him to do the same.

"I'll tell you what," he told the soldier. "When we dig our foxholes tonight, we'll exchange names and addresses." That never happened. The soldiers were soon moved up to where they thought Japanese were located. "I told the kid, 'Stay one step behind me, when I start shooting, you don't want to be in the line of fire,'" Trinca recalled.

As the troops reached a ridge, Trinca spotted a Japanese soldier. His sergeant ordered him to shoot, and suddenly a machine gun began blasting back at the Americans. "I saw a banana plant bend from the wip of the bullet and heard this thump. The kid was dead." Trinca recalled. "Less than a half an hour in combat, and he was dead." He was okay. "My mother's prayers were with me that day," Trinca said.

Later he looked for the fallen soldier, but by then, "the kid had been bagged and tagged and was gone." Trinca returned to combat. When he developed malaria he was put into a

field hospital and delirious for five days. Three weeks later, he was back in combat.

In 1946, when his tour was up, Trinca wanted to reenlist, but his mother talked him out of it, so he went to civilian life. "I always thought about the kid. I failed to keep the promise. It bothered me. It was always in the back of my mind," Trinca said. Yet, he couldn't bring himself to do anything to search for the man's family. It was a stranger and a friend who convinced him to try to at least learn the 19-year-old soldier's name.

Trinca told a stranger about the kid who died—and the stranger encouraged him to do some research. Encouragement also came from a friend, Mary Hettich, who knew Trinca's story. She decided to surprise him with two bricks at a local memorial wall, one with Trinca's name on it and another labeled, "Chicago," killed in action, World War II. "At least they could be together again," Hettich said. When Trinca saw the bricks at the memorial, he said he cried.

After a few years of research, Trinca connected with a 24th Division national archives historian. The historian found Morning Reports of his outfit for new soldiers from May, June and July of 1945. Later, Wes Morrison of the 24th ID Assoc. checked his records and told Trinca the likely date was June 1. "And then it hit me. I saw the name. It was in early June. It had to be Thomas Bateman, now if I can only find his family," said Trinca. ***John is still looking.***

The foregoing story was taken from a newspaper article in the Chicago Trib Local, June 2, 2011 by Sheryl DeVore. Ed.

John also wrote to the Taro Leaf to ask, "If anyone could remember the day sometime in June '45 on Mindanao when Alvin Rhodes of 34th RGT was killed by friendly fire from one of our planes. I was watching when the planes made their bombing runs several miles away. Later when we got to the area, we found out what happened to Rhodes. I did speak to his wife when I came home, but I couldn't tell much about what happened. Maybe someone of the Taro Leaf readers might know something about this.

**John Trinca, Life Member 1252, 25426 W. Highwoods Dr.,
Antioch, IL 60002 847 395-3668**

FRANK IANNANTUONO'S KOREA EXPERIENCE

From a story by Cathy Willoughby - Correspondent , The Advertiser-Tribune , OHIO

Frank was drafted in Maarch, 1952 at age 22. He spent 12 weeks in basic training, then went on a troop train to Washington to board a ship heading for Korea.

"We stopped in Japan to process, so we were there for a few days," he said. "We landed in Korea on Easter Sunday; March 25, we were in Pusan, Korea. I was put into **E CO, 5th RCT**. I was a rifleman. We got there on March 25 and I went up as a replacement. We had to march up to past the 38th parallel."

"We had a few skirmishes, then we got word that the Chinese were going to make one of the biggest pushes to push us back. It was their spring offensive."

"We were on the front lines with a Marine division, the South Koreans were on the other side with another division," he continued. "We straddled the line but they (North Koreans) knew that we couldn't hold it. There were about 250,000 Chinese and North Korean troops, they would come and break through and then shove us back."

To next page

Back and forth they fought, so Frank's division and others dug in, bracing themselves for night-time attacks from the North Koreans and Chinese troops. He recalled hearing much shooting, running out of ammunition and some of his buddies beginning to throw hand grenades. He saw many troops being killed or wounded, and realized they were surrounded.

"The Chinese broke through the South Korean division and were behind us on the hill, so we were surrounded," he said. "We tried to do the best we could, we were near the Lincoln Line, near Seoul, and we could hear airplanes overhead. Meanwhile, we tried to get out of the trap, and head for E CO, but they were hit pretty hard," Frank said.

He and others tried to figure out a way to get out, trying to determine the direction of the artillery and mortar rounds. "There were about three or four hours during the night we hid out and scattered," he said. "We were so tired, for one thing. We were behind enemy lines, hiding out, they were shooting at me. I ran out into the bushes in the mountains and hid. I stayed there for six days. There was artillery fire all around and our own planes shooting. Then it finally stopped. I was so thirsty...I had nothing to eat or drink."

"I found some water in a spring, it looked clear. As I was doing that, six Chinese came (from) behind with guns, so I had to surrender," he said. He marched with them for six days. One of the men was mean, but the leader stopped him from mistreating Frank.

"They took us to a place where I had a little something to eat, under a porch-like area," he said. "I didn't know if they were going to shoot me or not. We had heard that a lot of prisoners had been killed; that we knew. They marched me to a ravine, and I thought they would shoot me there, but they marched me to some other ones (prisoners). Eventually, we met others from our company, they couldn't get away."

They then began their "death march," which Frank said was named aptly because they did not get much to eat or drink. While marching, they often were strafed by artillery or bombed from planes, so that they often walked at night. Many died of diseases on the march, mostly from dysentery.

"We lost a lot of men on the march. We marched a month and a half over mountains," he said. "We put in (to a) camp, but the first year especially there were a lot who died. I found out later that 7,000 Americans died; 3,000 of them died from diseases such as beriberi and malaria they contracted in the prison camp."

"People would get night blindness, so they couldn't see at night," he said. "Or yellow jaundice. A lot of sickness spread around. It was cold in the winter, and hot in the summer," Frank said. "It was real hot - we slept on a mud floor, on a mat that was 10 by 10 feet. And there were 10 of us in a room. We could just lay down, we were squeezed in there."

They had different work details during the day - one was for wood, where they would walk five or six miles to find and carry logs for firewood. His buddies died while at camp. Raymond Long died after two months in the prison camp, suffering from trench mouth and

dysentery. Bill Huth and his friend from Sidney died while in the prison camp.

Besides the disease, they also were dehydrated, he added, and no Red Cross packages were allowed in. As word reached them that peace talks were under way, he said prison conditions gradually improved. They would get treats in the form of foods they had not seen; often the only food would be a brown powder they would mix with water and would be hard to digest.

"We got a little better food," Frank said. "I remember one time, we got one or two eggs. It was the first time in the whole first year we had eggs. During the last year, they had sorghum bread, so we had more of that. We had to wash in the river, and we dug a latrine outside. In the winter time, it would get to below zero, and we had to walk a ways. It was so cold that we couldn't button our pants. The conditions (were) pretty rough."

"They would try to brainwash us, too," he said. "They would get on one subject, like the first 30 days they told us that the South attacked North Korea, it was in all of the Communist newspapers, they would tell us that we started the war. Most didn't brainwash that easy. There was some rough treatment. They would put us in the wooden boxes - they were like big pine boxes with one opening, so you couldn't move. There was a lot of that going on."

Frank was in the prisoner of war camp for 28 months before prisoners were exchanged Aug. 15, 1953. Once they were released and back in the hands of the US. military, he said they were debriefed by military intelligence. "There were rumors about collaborators, and there could have been some," Frank said. "When we were debriefed it almost felt like we were being interrogated all over again when we got home."

Living so closely with each other, friendships developed that have lasted a lifetime. "We craved everything, we made lists," he said. "In the second year they allowed a couple of guitars, and we would sing. After the peace talks things started to get better. I made some new friends that I still communicate with on the phone," Frank said. "I never finished school, quit the ninth grade, but I got a college education in prison camp. It was an education I never would get in a lifetime."

During the past 30 years, he has gone to reunions, meeting old Army buddies and fellow prisoners. "I'm 83 now, and most of my buddies, ex-prisoners, are dying fast. A few of them were (only) 16 in there; they lied about their age," he said.

Frank doesn't consider himself a hero - policemen, firefighters, even the teachers who instruct youngsters in reading are the real heroes, he says. "For the most part, they don't get nearly the respect they deserve," he said. "But you can't give no more than your life, the dead gave their all. I was drafted, I didn't volunteer - but I did the best I could."

**Frank Innantoumo, 7 Beechwood Dr., Apt. 215,
Tiffin, OH 44883-1972 419-447-6920**

Fallen Comrades



Prof. Vincent P. DeSantis died on May 30, 2011, at 94 in Victoria, BC, Canada, where he resided in his retirement. In 1941 he was drafted into the Army and served until 1945. He served in **19th RGT** and saw action in New Guinea and the Philippines. He attained the rank of Captain and served again in the Army from 1951-52.

Raymond L. DiPerrio, passed away June 10, 2011. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II serving in M Company, **34th RGT**, and in Japan.



Benny J. Nelson died May 5, 2011. He served in the **21st RGT** in Japan and Korea, 1949-1952. He is survived by his wife, Sybella, 3939 State Road 19, De Forrest, WI 53532. **Member**



Donald J. Barlow, age 76, of 89 Cutter Circle, Bluffton, SC and formerly of Raleigh, died on June 29th after a short illness. He is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Roberta (Bobbie). He served with the 11th Airborne Division and **24th ID** in Germany.



Bill Janssen passed away June 11 2011, at the age of 81. He served in Korea in 1951-52 with the **24th RECON** earning the rank of MSgt, and was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge for his time under fire there. He lived in Northern California and leaves behind a bereaved family and wife, Helen Van Heusen, 5500 Alpine Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95404, **Life Member 808**.

Wayne A. "Johnnie" Johnson passed away on Wednesday, June 1, 2011, at the age of 79. He served in the **21st RGT** until captured in Korea. From July, 1950 to August 1953, Johnnie compiled a list of more than 500 P.O.W.'s. While most died in prison camps, there was also the "Tiger Death March" where they killed a man a mile for almost 100 miles. As a very young man he had the presence of mind to keep a record of the heroes who died on the Death March and in the P.O.W. camps. When released after the Armistice, he smuggled his list home in a tube of toothpaste. The list of names known as "The Johnson List" can be seen on the Internet. As a result of his actions numerous families were able to have final closure as to what happened to their loved who were listed as P.O.W's. **Life Member 916**



Oliver Thomas "Ted" Tedder, 80, of Fairfax, VA, passed away on July 3, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Jean C. Tedder. Ted was a 22 year Army veteran having served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. He was a member of the **5th RCT**.

Joseph J. Drozd, 80, of Albrightsville, passed away July 15, 2011. He was the husband of Irene Drozd for 57 years. Joe enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1947, joining the 25th Infantry division on occupation duty in Japan. When the Korean War broke out, he transferred to the 24th Infantry, 21st Regiment, B Company. He was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism and the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat. **Life Member 2082**

William Mantooth, Colonel US Army died March 27, 2011. He lived in Springfield VA. William served with **63rd FA** in Korea as a forward observer.

Michael C. Petrick of Bensalem, PA, passed July 14, 2011. He was 94. One of Michael's greatest loves was serving his country. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during World War II, where he was awarded the Silver and Bronze Stars. Mr. Petrick was a battlefield commissioned officer during the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of the 87th Infantry Division Association and honorary member of the **24th IDA**.

William C. Bourque Sr., of Waltham, MA died July 23, 2011. He was 84. During World War II Bill served with the United States Army's **24th ID**.



James J. Mulvihill, 83, of New Hartford, died July 25, 2011. Jim enlisted in the Army and was assigned to the **5th RCT** during the Korean War.

James Gordon Cole, Jr., 82, died on July 28, 2011. In 1951, he joined the Army and was assigned to the **24th ID Signal Corps**. Jim was trained as a pole lineman in Tokyo, Japan and was then in Korea, during the Korean War until 1953.



Silas S. "Si" Jones, Captain U.S. Army, retired died August 7, 2011. Si entered the service with the Army National Guard in August 1935 at the age of 16 and called to active duty September 1940. He graduated from the US Army Officers Infantry School at Ft. Benning, GA in July 1942. He served overseas during WWII as an Infantry Company Commander with the 52nd Armored Infantry, 9th Armored Division and became a POW during the Battle of the Bulge. Si served in Korea 1953-54 with the **5th RCT**.

Elmer Goldman, 84, of Sheboygan passed away August 6, 2011. Elmer joined the Army in December, 1944 and served with the **24th ID** during WWII. He was served in Philippine Islands of Leyte and Mindanao during the war, and later stationed in Japan with the Occupational Force. He served 20 years in the Army, including two tours in Europe. He retired from the Army in 1966.

Philip Michael Coyne, 78, of Newton, passed away peacefully August 5, 2011. In 1953, during the Korean War, he enlisted in the Army and served on the front lines with the **5th RCT**.



Brig. Gen. Corey Jefferson Wright died August 10, 2011. He was 82. He received his Regular Army commission in 1952. In 1953 General Wright debriefed officer POWs released from captivity at the end of the conflict. General Wright was posted in Germany from 1961 with the 24th ID, **21st RGT**, as the executive officer.



Thomas Samuel McSweeney, of Penn Hills, PA passed away August 17, 2011 at the age of 84. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1945 serving in Headquarters Company, **21st RGT**, as part of the Occupational forces in Japan. **Life Member 956**

Carl A. Lonkart, 78, of Jamaica, New York died Sept. 6, 2011. He was inducted into the U.S. Army, March 10, 1953 he served during the Korean War in Co. D, 3rd ENG Combat BN. **Life Member 1370**



Paul J. Houret, Jr. of San Jose, CA died September 5, 2011 at the age of 86. A Purple Heart recipient, he served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army from 1943-1946 with the **19th RGT** in the South Pacific where he was awarded two Bronze Medals.



COL Paul R. Walters, Ret., died 24 January, 2011 at age 101. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. He was CO of **24th FA** at Camp Hakata, Japan '45-'48. Survived by his wife Betty, 9018 Charles Augustine Dr., Alexandria, VA 22308. **Member**



Cecil G. Upchurch, age 79, passed away July 3, 2011. He served with I CO, 19th RGT during the Korean War as a combat medic. He was awarded the Bronze Star with a "V."

Elmer John Henry Otte died at age 91, January 6, 2011 in Salina, KS. He served as a Sergeant with the 19th RGT during WWII. **Life Member 606.**



Walter Marszalek died June 21, 2011. He was a member of D CO, 3rd ENG Combat BN. **Life Member 1623**

James W. Eng died May 8, 2005. He served proudly with the 2nd BN, **19th RGT** from 1943-1946. He is survived by his wife, Mae, 174 Lazy Hollow Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20878. **Life Member 836.**

Fallen Comrades



COL John J. Doody died July 23, 2011. "Jack" was with the 21st RGT Task Force Smith and went on to complete a distinguished Army career. He served in the Navy 1943-1944 before entering West Point. Upon graduation in 1948, he was assigned to the 24th ID. He deployed with LTC Brad Smith's Task Force to engage North Koreans just north of Onsan, Korea in the first battle

of the Korean War. 1LT Doody fought gallantly as did others while conducting a delaying operation on July 5, 1950 engaged in heavy fighting with several thousand North Korean regulars. Jack later rejoined his unit, B CO, 21st RGT and within a month received a battlefield promotion to Captain. He took charge of his company just prior to the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter. He led his company in an assault river crossing to outflank two enemy machine gun positions that had the rest of the battalion pinned down. His unit assaulted two enemy positions and relieved pressure for the rest of the battalion to cross. For his actions that day he received the Silver Star.

Jack Doody continued to command his company in numerous combat operations from the Nakdong River to the Yalu, finally culminating at the 34th parallel. His action in command would earn him the Combat Infantry Badge, which he was always honored to wear. His 31-year career spanned three Wars and numerous assignment with troops and in key staff positions. He touched many lives over the course of his career as many have touched him with their honor and sacrifice. **Life Member 1730.**



Jack W. Waltz died May 19, 2011. He served with the 33rd Division in the Philippines and later with the **34th RGT** of the 24th Division in Japan. Later he served in the Air Force for 23 years before retiring. He is survived by his wife, Ladean, 845 Eastlake Dr., Spring Creel, NV 89815. **Life Member 1829**

James W. Eng died May 8, 2005. He served proudly with the 2nd BN, **19th RGT** from 1943-1946. He is survived by his wife, Mae, 174 Lazy Hollow Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20878. **Life Member 836.**

May They Rest in Peace



24th Infantry Division Association

**2011 National Reunion
Dayton, Ohio
September 18-22**







Minutes of the 24th Infantry Division Association

Corporate Convention (Member Meeting), September 21, 2011

Holiday Inn, Fairborn, Ohio

On September 21, 2011, President Sal Schillaci called the meeting to order. Chaplain Glen Carpenter led the assemblage in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Sec/Treas John Dunn gave the Finance & Membership Report. The Association is financially sound with Total Assets of \$80,925.01, up some \$3,000 from last year. Neither year includes the Quartermaster Report. We recorded 66 new members this year and suffered a loss of 67, most due to member death. There were 19 new Life Members.

REUNIONS: President Schillaci presented the Board's recommendations for future reunions; 2012 in New Orleans on September 23-26, 2013 in Louisville on September 22-25, and Omaha in 2014 dates to be determined. There were no proposals from the floor; the Board's recommendations was approved with no dissenting votes.

CONSTITUTION CHANGE: President Schillaci then turned the meeting over to Tom Thiel, Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Mr. Thiel said a crucial part of the Committee's recommended definition of Associate Membership had been removed in the proceedings at the 2009 Annual Corporate Convention, and that the purpose of his appearance at this 2011 Convention was to ask the members present to add the deleted portion back into the Association Constitution (Article V, Section 2, Associate Membership). He read both the proposed addition and the rules for amending the Constitution, and said that at present an Associate Member must be related to a member or to someone who is eligible for membership, and that there is no way at present for anyone with interest in the Association to become an Associate, non-voting member. Some, including some in the 25th Infantry Division Association, have asked about becoming a member. He then moved that under the provisions of Article VIII, Section 2, that the requirement to publish the proposed change in the Taro Leaf be waived, and that the addition be considered by the 2011 Convention. The motion was seconded, discussed, and approved with no dissenting votes.

He further moved that the following be added to the Article V, Section 2, "...or (ii) Any person with a legitimate interest in the affairs of the Corporation not otherwise eligible to be an Active Member who wishes to support its aims and agrees to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws." This motion was seconded, discussed, and when the call for the question was made, passed with one (1) dissenting vote. Hence the addition to the definition of Associate Membership in the Association Constitution was duly ratified by the members present and voting at the 2011 Annual Convention.

QUARTERMASTER: Several questions were raised from the floor regarding non-productive efforts to order items from

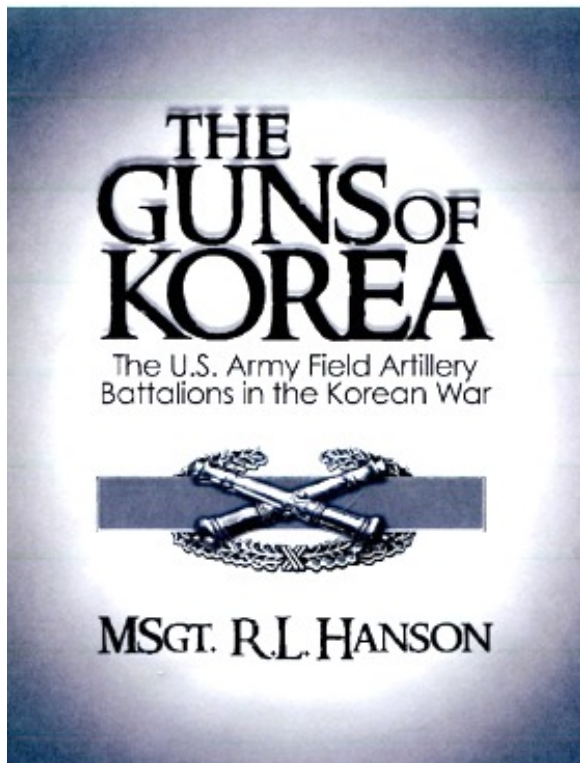
the Association Quartermaster. Members were advised that the transfer of inventory from the previous QM to Mr. Walters took an exceptionally long time, and that Mr. Walters then moving from Cape Coral, FL to his present site at Sandy Springs, GA contributed to this problem. Members were advised that the address in the latest Taro Leaf was incorrect and that the correct address is: John Walters, 333 Summer Dr NE., Sandy Springs, GA 30328. A member from the floor stated that the new QM order form is much too difficult to use to be effective, and moved that Quartermaster and Taro Leaf Editor be instructed to return the 24th Quartermaster Order form similar to the tabular format previously employed." Motion enthusiastically seconded and supported in discussion. Motion approved with no dissenting votes.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Keith Hagen, chair of the 2011 Nominating Committee, then presented his Committee's recommendations for Association Officers for the 2011-12 year: President, Sal Schillaci; Vice-President, Don Maggio; Secretary/Treasurer, John Dunn, and Director at Large, two-year term, Tom Appler. He called for nominations from the floor, and when none was offered, a motion was approved to close the nominations. It was then offered, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the Committee's Officer recommendations.

MEDAL OF HONOR MEMORIAL: President Schillaci, with the assistance of Dan Rickert, presented the current status of the Medal of Honor memorial. The granite is finished, as is much of the memorial itself. Mr. Rickert emphasized the very high quality of the memorial. However, the status of efforts to place the memorial in Arlington National Cemetery are back to the starting gate since Congressman Lee has resigned. President Schillaci reported a contact in the Pentagon, as well as plans to visit ANC to photograph existing memorials. Past President Frederick said that these latter are urgently needed to include with our letters to Congress. Thiel reported that there is a page on the website devoted to this but that it desperately needs to be brought up to date. He also reported on the results of his efforts with Frank DeToma of Senator Bill Nelson's office (U.S. Senate from FL); Mr DeToma said that the Association needs to flood/pressure Congress on this very worthwhile project.

2011 VERBECK AWARD: At the Annual Banquet on Wednesday evening, Don Maggio, Chair of the Verbeck Award Committee, presented the 2011 Verbeck Award to Past President and Director Gene Spicer.

POW/MIA PROCLAMATION: At the Annual Banquet, President Schillaci read a special POW/MIA Proclamation recognizing Mel Frederick for his financial contribution to cover the costs of producing and mailing the POW/MIA Special Publication.



11th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

155mm How, TracDr,
24th Inf Div, RA

Motto: On Time

3 June 1916: Constituted in the Regular Army as the 11th Field Artillery.

1 June 1917: Organized at Douglas, Arizona.

November 1917: Assigned to the 6th Division.

12 November 1920: Relieved from the 6th Division.

1 March 1921: Assigned to the Hawaiian Division (redesignated the 24th Infantry Division, 1 October 1941).

1 October 1941: Reorganized and redesignated as the 11th Field Artillery Battalion.

31 March 1958: Relieved from the 24th Infantry Division and reorganized and redesignated as the 11th Artillery Regiment.

1 September 1971: Redesignated the 11th Field Artillery Regiment.

11th FA Korean War Timeline

25 June 1950: Camp Hakata, Fukuoka, Japan; 11th Field Artillery Battalion (155mm howitzer, tractor drawn), 24th Infantry Division, organic medium field artillery element. Army of Occupation duties and peace-time training activities.

30 June 1950: All units, 24th Division alerted for movement to Korea. *Delaying invasion of South Korea*

5 July 1950: Pusan, South Korea; 11th FA arrives overnight from Japan via LSTs, unloads and moves north by train toward Taejon.

8-10 July 1950: Chochiwon/Chonan area, South Korea; Battery A, 11th FA direct support 21st Inf, 24th Division, north of the Kum River.

To: 24th IDA Members from the 11th, 13th, 52nd, and 63rd FA Battalions

The following pages are excerpts from my book, *The Guns of Korea: The U. S. Army Field Artillery Battalions in the Korean War*, they cover your Korean War service. These pages are for your information and use. You are free to share this work, under the condition that you attribute this work to *The Guns of Korea: The U. S. Army Field Artillery Battalions in the Korean War*. The reason for distributing these pages outside of my book is to provide battalion members, relations, friends, with an overview of the battalion's service in the Korean War. The war we fought, sandwiched between World War II and the Vietnam War, should not be a "forgotten war." I served with the 625th FA Bn, 40th Div in the Korean War. I welcome any corrections and/or comments and can be reached at rhansonl@san.rr.com, or at R. L. Hanson, 10777 Pointed Oak Lane, San Diego, CA 92131 Tel. 858 695-0407

The Guns of Korea: The U. S. Army Field Artillery Battalions in the Korean War (soft cover, black and white, over 600 pages) is available from Lulu.com. It can also be purchased from the author for \$50 (which includes handling and shipping). Checks should be made payable to Bob Hanson, 10777 Pointed Oak Lane, San Diego, CA 92131

(Editor's note: You will find only a small sample here. The complete set of pages will be available soon for reading on our website, or you may order a book.)

12 July 1950: Konju (Kim River line), South Korea; Battery A, 11th FA (two 155mm how) reinforcing fires of the 63d FA (105mm how), 25th Division, in direct support of the 34th Inf, 24th Division.

13 July 1950: Taepyeong (Kum River line), South Korea; 11th FA, 13th FA (105mm how), 24th Division and 52d FA (105mm how), 24th Division, in direct support 19th Inf, 24th Division. The 52d FA at Tuman-ni, three miles south of the Kum River, the 11th FA and 13th FA two miles further south of the 52nd FA. The 24th Div. is assigned to Eighth Army on 13 July 1950.

16 July 1950: Taejon, South Korea; 11th FA reinforcing fires of a composite 24th Division artillery battalion (the remaining 105mm howitzers of the 13th FA, 52d FA and 63d FA3 battalions) for the defense of Taejon.

Another New Book!

**13 Months of Glory for a
Lifetime of Pain**

For a copy visit www.xlibris.com
or call 888-795-4274

Don Perrin, Author
doc50korea@gmail.com



Website News (Continued from page 4)

Every time I search for 24th ID specific information our site is included high among the websites retrieved, often will be the first several listings! We are out there in the world and people are finding us!

Unlike a previous 24th IDA site, the Association owns the site. It is on the Lunar Pages.com server. The Domain Name—24thida.web—costs only \$20.00 per year and the Host Site (where the site is actually stored) is about \$85.00 per year.

Sec/Treas Dunn has the passwords and access codes. It was created and is maintain with my copy of Microsoft Expression Web 4.0 on my computer. This is a standards-compliant website so anyone could take over in the future when I will no longer be able to carry on..

I appreciate all the cooperation I have had and continue to have, especially from David Valley, Editor, and Merry Helm, Historian.

While I always want more material for the site, I now have a bit of a backlog of material that has not yet been loaded.

Tom J. Thiel, 19147 Park Blvd., Eustis, FL 32736

Telephone: 352 357-3943

24thidaweb@gmail.com

Combat Infantrymen's Association

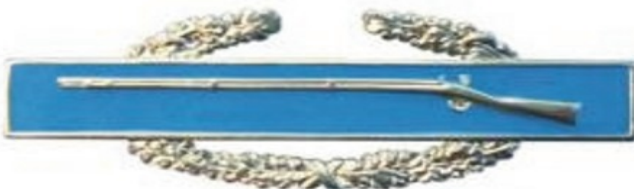
(253) 224-0817

www.cibassoc.com

jabemk32@aol.com

Name _____
Address _____
City _____

**For Information write to:
Combat Infantrymen's Assoc., Inc.
National Deputy Commander
8103 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, PMB 164
Lakewood, WA 98498-6102**



You'll Get a Boot Out of This

25 Dec 1951, was my last day with G Co 19th RGT. It was the day before Christmas when I was called to the G CO CP and told to turn in my rifle and gear and move to the tent for 'rotate-ees.' There I met James L. Hill, Eugene Hunter, Kenneth G. Kilgore, Merrill D. Knapp, George S. Maki, and, James C. Mastin. The next day, after the 'Peter Parade,' a truck took us to 24th Division Rear in Ascom City for our homebound processing.

The tent was large, platoon-size. It was mostly empty except for some stretchers to be used as litters. We took advantage of this opportunity and used the stretchers to sleep on. It was my first night in Korea that I didn't have to sleep on the ground! Another first...I took my boots off to sleep. It was hard to believe...no rifle, no more foxholes to dig, no more mountains to climb, no more guns shooting at me. I'm whole, in one piece. I made it! So I thought...

At just past midnight we started receiving barrages of incoming mortar rounds. The first barrage went well over our tent but awoke us. The second barrage hit nearby and Hill, Mastin, Hunter, Kilgore, Knapp, and Maki ran out for cover. I sat on the side of the stretcher, vigorously putting on my boots; the right slid on easily but the left boot just would not go on. The mortar fire ended and I decided to give up on the boot, thinking it was over. Just then another barrage started, "C'mon left boot, " I said to myself, "you're going on." KABOOM! A round hit a large, lone tree just outside the tent sending in shrapnel just missing me. This time the boot was not a problem. I ran towards the mountain and found shelter in an old Chinese bunker.

When a round comes that close, your body goes into a kind of vibration that lasts a long time. You don't know if you're all there, even though you just ran 100+ yards. With time your feelings start returning. Your touch your hands, your feet, your legs; you feel your torso--all seems to be there. Was there any 'big blood' or 'little blood'? I didn't see any. I wonder, "Am I all OK?" I know I'm alive and mostly safe here. A couple more barrages came while I was in the bunker. I decided to stay until daylight when I finally noticed the Chinese bunker garlic smell. It was so strong I knew I could not stay any longer.

My left foot was the only part of me that seemed not quite right. When I got back to our tent, all the others were already there. I sat on the side of the stretcher and took my left boot off. I felt my foot and didn't see any blood, even when I took my sock off. I was perplexed.

"There's no way I can put this boot on," I said as I tried again to slip on the boot. I must have said it loud enough for others to hear. James Hill came over and asked if I had his boot because one of his was too large. I sure did. He had put on my boot 9 1/2 and left his 6 1/2 boot for me!

**Mario Iezzoni, Life member 1229, 29 W. Amidon St.
Summit Hill, PA 18250-1401**

Painful Memories of Leyte Invasion

During WW II, a young soldier who had just been promoted to sergeant found himself among thousands of troops storming the shores on the island of Leyte. He was part of a massive Allied attack on October 20, 1944 to liberate the Japanese occupied Philippines.

Domingo Vasquez, a resident of Duarte (CA), doesn't speak much about about his war experiences. The fear, hatred and pain remain.

Vasquez, a member of the **21st RGT, 24th infantry Division**, was grouped among the ninth wave of soldiers hitting the beaches as part of an overall strategy shake loose the Japanese reign in the Philippines during (what would be) the final months of the war.



"This is how you feel," he said of those moments upon leaving the boat heading into enemy fire. "You want to go to the bathroom and you want to vomit at the same time. If you ever remembered God, you did then."

The invasion began at Leyte, then jumped to the larger Island of Mindanao. It was the return of Gen. Douglas MacArthur to the site of his departure in mid-1942.

The first waves of soldiers established the beachhead on Leyte. The later waves moved further inland pushing the Japanese back into the mountains before they settled to make their stand against the assault.

Vasquez was part of a scouting team sent into the mountains a couple of days after the landing. Part-way up the mountain they were attacked by a sniper. "He shot the first guy in the head, then he shot the second scout. He shot a sergeant and then he shot me in the back," Vasquez recalled.

Vasquez said the force of the bullet knocked him down the mountain and into a grassy area where he woke up the next day. Although covered with blood, Vasquez discovered he could still move and ran down the mountain until he found a group of U.S. soldiers who eventually got him to a hospital.

"A captain came around with a Purple Heart," Vasquez said, "but I didn't want it because I didn't want my family to find out (about being wounded). But they found out anyway through an Army telegraph."

Vasquez recovered, but the wound haunts him to this day. "Sometimes I have to get up at three o'clock in the morning and take a shower because my whole body itches. I have a bad nerve problem."

Upon returning to his unit, Vasquez was sent to a new offensive on Mindoro where the action was similar to that on Leyte. From there, Vasquez and his fellow soldiers were sent to Mindanao to clear out the last of the Japanese resistance there. It was on Mindanao he discovered weather could be as fierce as enemy fire.

"The weather was very hot and when it would rain, steam would rise up from the ground. I used to pass out." Vasquez contracted malaria and spent the remainder of the war in the hospital.

Allied troops eventually took control of the Philippines and in July, 1945, MacArthur declared the islands were liberated.

Vasquez, in addition to the Bronze Star that just arrived, also earned a Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, the Philippine Liberation Medal, a Philippine Presidential Unit Citation and a field promotion. It was that promotion, from PFC to SGT he thinks may have led to the Bronze Star award.

Vasquez said that during action in New Guinea he was part of a patrol that captured a Japanese soldier. His group was making a hasty return to their boats for a quick trip across a lake before dark when a fellow soldier was stricken with a bad attack of malaria.

The sergeant in charge ordered the sick soldier left by the side of the trail with a medic and ordered the patrol to hurry to the boats. Once there, Vasquez said he insisted on going back for his ailing comrade, and, with several other soldiers they rushed back to the site, rigged a stretcher, and carried their friend back out of the jungle and to safety.

This narrative is from a story written by Loran Lewis, a newspaper reporter about 1989. Domingo sent the tattered clipping with a note saying, "I just received the Spring Taro Leaf and there wasn't much of WWII. I am 91 years old and I still remember the islands I went through during my service in the Pacific." Pictures are admittedly of poor quality, but someone might recognize Domingo from when he was in the Army and then forty years later. Editor

Domingo Vazquez, Life member 700, 2902 Freeborn Street, Duarte, CA 91010

THE LEFT OF THE 24th DIVISION: THE 5th RCT IN OPERATION NOMAD

By Samuel M. Kier, 5th RCT Historian

In August, 1951, the Fifth Regimental Combat Team was relieved on Line Wyoming and assigned to IX Corps reserve. The combat team moved to Soojihachon and was tasked with apprehending enemy stragglers, evacuating civilian personnel, protecting communications facilities and rehabilitating blocking positions and portions of Line Kansas. In their spare time the units were to participate in eight weeks of training. During this period of "limited activity", forty-five officers and one thousand three hundred enlisted men were rotated home to the United States.

On 16 September, COL Alexander Surles relieved COL Arthur Wilson of command of the 5th RCT. The timing was good. The former armored officer took command of an infantry regiment right in the middle of a training cycle, rather than in the midst of combat deployment. He was able to participate in a regimental command post exercise and a 24th Division training operation. On October 7, the 5th Infantry moved forward and relieved the 31st Infantry and the Ethiopian Battalion on Line Wyoming. At this point, thirty-one percent of the combat team's personnel had arrived since the unit's last contact with the enemy.

Colonel Surles received orders on October 10 directing the 5th RCT to participate in a IX Corps offensive to seize the high ground south of Kumsong. This northern thrust, code-named OPERATION NOMAD, was intended, in part, to apply military pressure to the enemy and help persuade the Communists to resume truce negotiations at Panmunjom.

The terrain in the zone to be attacked by the combat team consisted primarily of two ridge lines separated by a narrow valley. The ridge on the right of the sector comprised the commanding terrain. Elevations varied from six hundred to eight hundred meters. Both ridges were criss-crossed by minor ridges which had depressions, gullies, streams and trails.

First Battalion moved up to the line of departure, under cover of darkness, and began the attack at 0445 on 13 October. Company B experienced some delay when it ran into an enemy anti-personnel minefield. After breaching that, the company came under heavy machine gun and small arms fire from the Chinese who were dug in atop Hill 633 near the village of Pandangdong-ni.

During the ascent of the hill, SGT Floyd Pelfrey single-handedly destroyed three enemy gun positions with accurate automatic rifle fire. Several other members of Baker Company had made unsuccessful attempts to destroy a bunker position that was holding up the progress of the company. PFC Daniel Machinski charged the position head-on and killed its occupants with rifle fire and grenades. Then he continued his ascent but was killed when he attacked another bunker at the crest of the hill.

Charlie Company was held up by fire from the same location as the Chinese reinforced the hill through communication trenches on the reverse slope. When the company commander was hit, CPL Rawland Otterstrom tried to rescue his wounded skipper but died in a hail of machine gun fire. This exposed the location of the gun and Otterstrom's buddies were able to take it out and extricate their captain. By 1300, when Able Company joined the fray, there was an entire enemy battalion on the top of the hill. Company C, having suffered heavy casualties, was ordered to pull back to an assembly area.

The Chinese had made good use of the three prior months. The bunkers on Hill 633 had four feet of overhead cover and the hill was honey-combed with trenches and fighting compartments.

Tank fire and all other supporting fires, including two air strikes, were brought to bear on the objective as Companies A and B inched forward. When night fell the two companies were short of the crest of Hill 633. They dug in where they were in order to hold the ground that they had gained and were under heavy mortar and artillery fire throughout the night.

Second Battalion had crossed the line of departure at 0530 on the 13th and Company F was on top of its objective by 1545 but pushed off by a Chinese counterattack fifteen minutes later. By 1610 the rest of the battalion had taken its intermediate objectives and pushed on. Fox Company attacked again on the following morning and secured the hill.

As Company A resumed its assault on Hill 633 on the 14th, PFC Arthur Okamura discovered a minefield directly in the company's path. Although exposed to enemy fire, he devoted the next four hours to clearing mines until a booby trap exploded and mortally wounded him.

The 3rd Battalion, 5th Infantry, was ordered to pass through the 2nd Battalion, 21st Infantry and did so on the morning of the 15th. After fighting all day down a long ridge line to one crest and then onto the top of the next peak, the 3rd Battalion commander discovered that they were in the wrong neighborhood. The similarity of terrain features along the ridgeline and faulty map reading had led him astray. The 3rd Battalion was ordered to hold in place and was attached to the 21st Infantry for operational control.

On October 16th, as 2 /21 continued attacking north, the 3 /5 swung to the east. As the latter crossed a valley, it came under small arms and artillery from the forward slopes of its next objective. The advance continued slowly but ended successfully as the men of 3rd Battalion dislodged the enemy, just prior to darkness, with a bayonet charge.

With 3rd Battalion on the Chinese left flank, 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry was instructed to keep pressure on the enemy troops to its front and to advance slowly but not force their adversaries to withdraw from the trap that was beginning to close. As they advanced, they met light resistance and spent a quiet night. Apparently some of the Chinese were heading north and taking their mortars and artillery with them.

Pleased with the progress of the operation, the 24th Division staff decided to extend the attack as far north as a demarcation dubbed Line Polar. The 5th Infantry was instructed to continue the attack and then organize and defend Line Polar, utilizing the most favorable terrain.

The 3rd Engineers were finally able to bulldoze a supply route through the 5th Infantry sector which greatly accelerated the arrival of supplies and evacuation of the wounded. Prior to that, the wounded had to be carried by stretcher down the ridges to battalion aid stations that were consigned far to the rear because of the terrain.

On October 18th, 3rd Battalion was assigned an east-west ridge as its objective. Tanks and supporting weapons were moved into position in the valley under cover of the heavy early morning fog. As the fog lifted, K Company was met by a heavy volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire as it

approached the base of the ridge. Company L and a platoon of tanks were sent around the eastern end of the ridge as K Company made its frontal assault. When the tanks appeared at the rear of the Chinese, all resistance crumbled.

The Columbian Battalion relieved the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry and the latter moved forward to an assembly area near the village of Chuktae-ri where it was soon joined by the 1st Battalion. Plans were made for the two battalions to resume the attack the next day while 3rd Battalion rested on its October 18 objective. Meanwhile the Chinese were reinforcing their defenses with two additional regiments from the 203rd Division, 68th CCF Army.

The attack on the 19th got off to a slow start due to heavy morning fog and drizzle. This persistent fog, usually lasting until ten o'clock, hampered plans for tactical air support throughout the operation. Valuable daylight hours were wasted waiting for an air strike which might, or might not, happen. When the planes did arrive, they were late and were generally directed to targets of opportunity.

When the fog lifted, the 2nd Battalion was well up on its objective and took it by 1320 against light resistance. The 1st Battalion was having a more difficult time advancing against a well-emplaced enemy. At 0940 Able and Charlie Companies were under heavy mortar and artillery fire as well as increasing small arms fire.

At 1630 on the 19th, George Company was ordered to attack 1st Battalion's objective from the west. Darkness prevented the completion of that attack and Company G, after suffering five killed, withdrew to 2nd Battalion's position. First Battalion withdrew slightly, to break contact, and dug in for the night. At 0245 a Chinese counterattack forced Charlie Company to withdraw through Baker Company. Company B repulsed the counterattack and restored C Company's previous position just prior to dawn.

The bodies of six members of Charlie Company and that of LT Neilson Brouillette, a forward observer from the 555th Field Artillery Battalion, were evacuated that morning. Brouillette had positioned himself well forward during the early morning counterattack directing artillery fire on enemy troops who were in close proximity to his position. He remained there as Charlie Company withdrew and called down a devastating barrage that stunned the Chinese assault. Having completed his mission, LT Brouillette attempted to return to Company C but was killed by an exploding enemy mortar shell.

All three battalions moved out on the morning of October 20th against moderate to heavy resistance. At 1030 on the morning of the 21st, the 5th Infantry closed up to Line Polar all across its sector. Second Battalion moved back to regimental reserve and the 1st and 3rd Battalions established an outpost line in front of their positions. Security patrols were sent out and reported no enemy contact.

In his October command report, Colonel Surles concluded "Prior to this 10-day offensive, the regiment had engaged in no severe combat, as a regiment, since the end of May. During that period, rotation caused a tremendous loss in battle experienced junior officers and senior non-commissioned officers.

The two month training period during August and September helped to alleviate this trouble. However, the regiment was an inexperienced unit on 13 October. The 10-day offensive proved to be the perfect answer to this problem. The fighting was heavy, but casualties were moderate. The action was continuous and required quick and efficient movements by motor and foot, day and night. Supply and evacuation was difficult but not insuperable."

Above & Beyond

SGT George D. Libby was killed in action July 20, 1950, near Taejon while serving with the **3rd ENG** Combat Battalion. Devastating enemy fire disabled the truck in which Libby and others were riding, passengers except engaged the enemy, wounded comrades, artillery tractor and aboard. As the enemy arms fire against the realizing that no one vehicle, placed himself driver and the enemy The vehicle made wounded. Libby, himself wounded, refused first aid, helped the men aboard and continued to return fire while shielding the driver until losing consciousness and dying. From: Bangor Daily News, By Kent Ward



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,
to honor the greatest place on earth.

*My apology to Nancy for omitting the last line
of her poem in the last issue of the Taro leaf. Editor*

New 24th IDA Life Members

Burgess, John M.	13th FA	2395
Ebbert, Robert L.	31st Trans	2392
Laird, Elizabeth J	Associate	2394
McIntyre, Frank M.	19th Inf	2393
Sanchez, Jesus	34th Inf	2391

Colonel Surles' report offered no details regarding the human cost of Operation Nomad other than to say "casualties were moderate." Raymond Warner's list of 5th RCT members killed during the war lists six officers and sixty-one enlisted men who died during the ten day fight in the Chuktae Valley. Daniel Machinski, Rawland Otterstrom, Arthur Okamura and Neilson Brouillette were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously. Floyd Pelfrey lived to receive his DSC.

Sources 5 RCT Command Report, October, 1951, pp. 1-6, HQS, 8 U.S. Army, G.O. Nos. 36, 66, 192, 954, 986

The U.S. ARMY MUSEUM, Fort Belvoir, Virginia



For far too long the US Army has lacked both a comprehensive story place and a fitting tribute to relate and recognize the personal and professional sacrifices of its Soldiers. It is now time to hear them, and to say thanks to fourteen generations

of these American men and women whose leadership, character, and selfless sacrifice have forged and safeguarded our nation for over two centuries. As one of the cornerstones of American democracy, the United States Army exemplifies both the principles on which our nation was founded and the values that have sustained America throughout its history.

The men and women of the United States Army represent the ideals and character of the nation as a whole. A great Army and its magnificent Soldiers—past, present, and future—deserve a world-class National

The United States Army has designated the **Army Historical Foundation**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, to the lead funding to create the National Museum of the United States Army. This National Museum, long overdue, will present a comprehensive history of the Army from colonial times to the present. From its magnificent displays and resources the American public will gain an appreciation of the Army's role developing our nation and preserving freedom at home and around the world.

The National Army Museum (NAM) will honor the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served in its ranks for the past 235 years.

A dedicated Board of Directors meeting quarterly governs the activities of the Army Historical Foundation and NAM. The distinguished National Army Museum Campaign Executive Committee, which includes three former Army Chiefs of Staff and a former Under Secretary of the Army, is guiding the national fund raising campaign.

The United States Army has approved the location of the Museum at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and groundbreaking is scheduled to begin in 2011.

As our veterans know, the United States Army has a story to tell, and there is no better time than now to tell it. From our Army and its Soldiers, past and present, our people, country, and our culture, we can learn much. Their history is our history, told from a unique and remarkable perspective.

Regardless of the mission—whether combat, peacekeeping, or nation-building—Soldiers' stories exemplify the indomitable spirit that has so clearly defined the American character since 1775.

museum where the heritage they have created can be protected, preserved, understood, and honored by all Americans.

It is time to build the National Museum of the United States Army, but it won't be cheap, an estimated \$200 million. The fund raising will come in a large part from leading corporations and foundations, businesses, States, national philanthropists, veterans groups, national fraternal organizations, and folks like us, the American public.

The Army has donated the land and will cover the design and development costs prior to the Museum's opening. Its location at Fort Belvoir puts it close to Washington, D.C., the country's most visited tourist destination. Revenues from an abundant flow of visitors will do a lot to offset operating costs.

The museum will house many special feature Galleries:

- Fighting for the Nation Gallery, with displays depicting Founding the Nation, Preserving the Nation, Nation Overseas, and Saving Democracy around the Globe.
- Soldier's Stories Gallery, a unique and engaging setting to tell the stories of Soldiers in their own words and voices.
- Army and Society Gallery, which explores the broad and often unknown symbiotic relationship between the Army, its civilian government, and the public.
- Medal of Honor Display and the grand Army Theater.

My 24th IDA comrades, I believe the Army Museum is our legacy telling for all time what we were, what we did, and the sacrifices of our fallen heroes. Editor

For Donations: <https://www.usarmyregistry.org/NewAccount.aspx?t=d>

Prairie Boys at War: Korea

by 24th IDA Historian, Merry Helm

LESLIE BLOUIN was a radio operator for Headquarters Company, 13th Field Artillery Battalion. His job was to make sure the artillery could communicate via telephone with its primary partner, the 19th Infantry Regiment. While the 13th provided general support for the regiment, each of its three firing batteries had one specific infantry battalion to support.

"Each of those batteries put a forward observer up with the infantry battalion," Blouin said. "The artillery Headquarters, which I was in, provided the communications link to the forward observers, who were up with the infantry. We would lay wire lines up to the back of the infantry battalion and then lay wire lines up to the three forward observers who were up in front. We generally had a switchboard. They also had radio communications, but wire was more secure.

"The forward observers would ring our switchboard, and we'd connect them with wherever they wanted to be connected. Sometimes it was back to the battalion commander, sometimes it was to personnel, but in most cases it was back to FDC – fire direction control."

Blouin grew up in the town of Delamere, North Dakota. As a middle child with six siblings, he became close to his father, a rural mail carrier, by riding along on his father's daily route. As a teenager, Blouin quit school and went to work for an electric company, servicing and building power lines. After his dad died in December 1948, Blouin left home and joined the Army.

"I went to radio repair school," he said, "and then I went to Japan, and they put me in the 13th Field Artillery. I had enlisted for the Signal Corps with my electric and communications background, but they said, 'You're in communications, that's what counts. That's what you wanted.'" Blouin was manning his switchboard the morning of July 16 when trouble erupted.

The fighting started on the afternoon of the fifteenth and went through the night," he recalled. "The 19th infantry was at a bridge they were guarding. From where we had our forward switchboard set up by the Kum River, we could see the battle for the bridge during the night of the fifteenth. By the morning of the sixteenth, the North Koreans had crossed somewhere else, and they were working their way through the hills to come in behind us.

"We started getting overrun early that morning when our line back to our battalion went dead – I don't know if it was hit by artillery or what. Harold Golnick, from Michigan, and I went with our wire truck to run a new line. We thought we could go down to find where it was blown out and just splice on to it with a new line."

Blouin and Golnick threw equipment into their three-quarter-ton truck and moved out – one driving and the other running behind stringing out wire in the ditch so it did not get tangled up with traffic. They abruptly came under fire when they reached a roadblock caused by enemy crossfire. The enemy had heavy weapons, which allowed them to stay out of range of the Americans, who had only M-1 carbines. When their vehicle was hit, Blouin and Golnick jumped into the ditch. Their sergeant, Alan R. Sharp, was making his way up to them when he got hit.

"He was just a little ways from us," said Blouin, "and I think it was an AK-47, because there's not many guns as accurate as that one. He had 12 slugs that made a hole in his belly about the size of a half-dollar."

A small tank moved up carrying an infantry officer and also their 13th Artillery commander.

"He was Colonel William Stratton – Wild Bill Stratton – the best commander I ever had," Blouin said. "He was in one of the division's reconnaissance tanks, and there was a rocket propelled grenade, I think, that hit the side of that tank, and they got out and joined us in the ditch. There were a lot of people caught in that roadblock, we weren't the only ones going. We had to get out over the hills. We mostly had to walk, because it's difficult to run in rice paddies.

"We went around behind a sort of stone cliff. Colonel Stratton stuck his head out to see what it looked like going across the paddies, and a couple bullets ricocheted off the rock." Blouin recalled Stratton's comical reaction. "He pulled his head back and says, 'Those pecker-heads see my rank on my helmet! Give me your helmet!' Evidently it was just some wild rounds, because I didn't give him my helmet, and nobody shot at him when he looked back around."

Lieutenant Colonel Stratton's award for valor provides a clear picture of what transpired during the next six hours: *The DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS is awarded to Lieutenant Colonel (Field Artillery) CHARLES W. STRATTON, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving as Provisional Commander of the 13th Field Artillery Battalion, the 52nd Field Artillery Battalion, and elements of the 11th Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division Artillery. Lieutenant Colonel Stratton distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces along the Kum River north of Taejon, Korea, on 16 July 1950.*

While at the command post of the 19th Infantry Regiment, Colonel Stratton received a message from the commanding officer of the 52nd Field Artillery Battalion that their positions were surrounded by enemy infantry. Colonel Stratton left the regimental command post immediately to effect relief and withdrawal of the artillery units which were surrounded. Commanding a tank, Colonel Stratton worked his way through to the forward position area of Battery A, 52nd Field Artillery Battalion, which he found well organized, and effectively beating off the enemy attack with artillery and small-arms fire. He then proceeded to the position area of Battery B, where he attempted to clear fire blocks which prevented withdrawal of the battery. During this action his tank was knocked out by enemy fire, killing the tank driver and seriously wounding the tank commander.

Colonel Stratton dismounted from the knocked-out tank and proceeded on foot. Upon arrival at the B Battery area, he took personal command of the area, since the battery commander had been killed by enemy fire. He fearlessly directed the howitzers in direct fire against enemy infantry and three enemy fire blocks of an estimated two machine-guns each. The battery at this time was under intense enemy mortar, automatic weapons and rifle fire. Colonel Stratton remained in the area for six hours fighting off infiltrating enemy infantry and attempting to reduce enemy fire blocks in order to effectively withdraw friendly infantry and artillery units. Later, taking complete command and effecting complete coordination, Colonel Stratton organized the remaining personnel of the 19th Infantry Regiment and the 52nd Field Artillery Battalion in this area and led them in fighting through enemy installations and through the hills to friendly forces. By these actions Colonel Stratton saved numerous lives. (8th Army GO 169, 13 Nov 1950)

"If I'm gonna die, let me die trying"

By Bryant "Woodie"
Wood, Jr., Life 953

Transcription taken by Merry Helm, Association Historian, July 27, 2011 for the



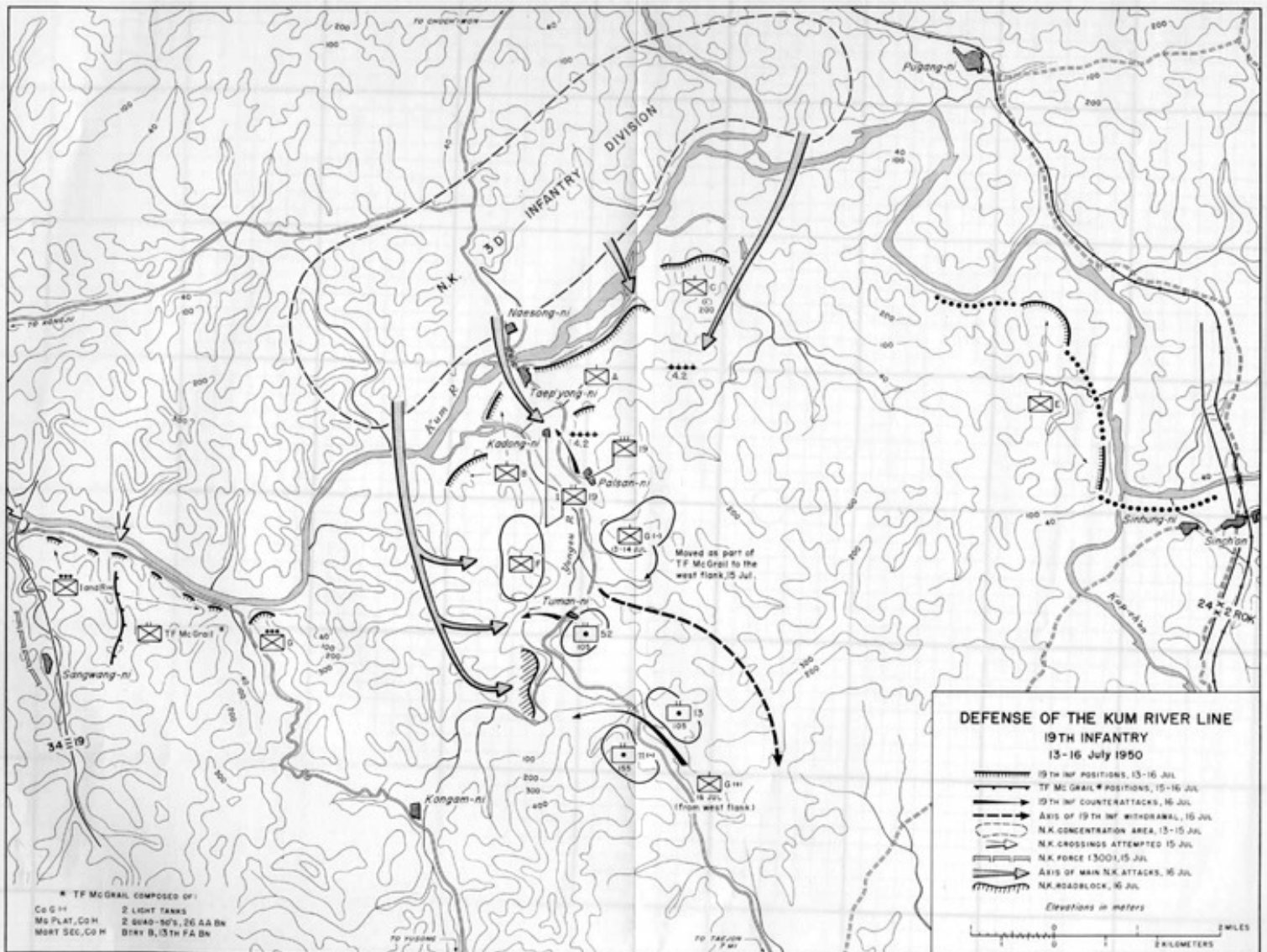
Woody and his wife, Dottie

Let me just tell the story of what happened, and then you decide. You can talk to some of our other people and decide whether my information is of value. I know there's something to it, because I saw it with my own eyes.

When you were in a spot like we were in, we got overrun up there. They just wiped us out and killed everyone they came to. We were dug in on the bank of the Kum River up there where they blew the bridge. When they blew the bridge, I don't know – about the 12th of July (1950)

On the 16th the Communists had moved way down south of us and came up behind us, because we were the only people there, you know, the 24th Division. At that time, we had nobody to guard behind, or all

Continued next page



Anyway, they came on our rear. Now understand, the artillery is set up in the rear seven, eight miles behind. They wiped out our artillery before they came up and got us infantry. I was dug in on the river bank along with the rest. I know Company A was there, because I was in Company A, 19th Infantry Regiment. We were dug in on the river bank. That was our front line unit. The Communists were dug in on the river bank on the other side. See map of battle area on previous page.

The first guy they captured was Roger Zunk. He was in my squad. They came across the river and got him. They took him back to the other side of the river. He screamed for us, and all. Still brings nightmares if I think about it hard.

in a couple days the push came. They came in on us. The G-2 said there was 97,000 coming in. So, there was what – about 5,500 of us, see? So they wiped us out there in two days. I was on the river. I got machine gunned there in a rice paddy. Took three slugs in my right arm. Blew off pieces. I could not fight anymore, so I laid there and I went to sleep. Before I went to sleep, I heard the North Koreans fixing bayonets and killing everyone they came to.

Like I said, our company was on the riverbank. The reason I keep going back to that river thing, I had struck up the mountain to where that priest [Father Herman Felhoelter] was that got killed, the one with all the wounded guys he was waiting with for out troops to rescue.

I could have waited with them, but I didn't. I backed off the hill and I went into the river. I figured if I get in that river, I can go downstream. I can float. I can't do anything else. I don't know how far down the river I went, but I went almost to where the artillery was, back there, and I came out.

All my time in the river, I saw bodies. I couldn't tell who they were in the night, but I saw 'em all in that river. I saw 'em that day! And I just figured it was whoever got killed up there. It was about midnight or one o'clock in the morning when I got out of the river and onto the bank. I was just about half-dead. I'd been bleeding all that night.

I saw trucks and tanks and stuff up on the ridge, they were on fire. I came out of the river there, and I ran into two boys. One of them was blind – got shot in the head, and he was blind. And another guy. I was helping them along. When I saw the trucks, I didn't know who was on them trucks. So, I hollered out to see if it was Americans. When I did, I got an answer with a .50-caliber. It was like lightning bolts coming down, the tracers. I took off like a helicopter, I went straight up the hill. I don't know how I got to the top. I got up there and got into a crater – one of those 155s that blew out at the top.

Communist troops came up there hunting me. Six of them. I could've reached out and touched them. But I led them away from them two guys, you see? Where they wouldn't bother them. They'd have to come hunt me. Because I'm a backwoods boy anyway.

I jumped in that crater, and I just rolled up, and I didn't hardly breathe. The North Koreans came real close to me and they stopped. Had a smoke. Had a talk. I'm wondering "Why don't you guys go?" Because I couldn't start a fight with them. I wasn't able to fight. So anyway, they went on. They went one

Way, I went the other. had told those two boys before hand – I pointed out the light of Taejon, and I said, "You follow that light. If we get separated, you go toward that light. Cross those mountains and go toward that light. You'll come out there." I don't know if they ever did or not, because I never saw them anymore after that.

It has always been in my mind, if that darn river goes to the ocean, or it goes somewhere where it's backing up water – I don't know what the terrain is at the other end. I don't know where the Kum ends at or what it dumps into. I just know a lot of bodies went in that river. And wherever they went, I cannot tell you. I don't know.

Because the Communists would kill you – like the priest that said he'd stay there with the wounded group. They had an article in the *Taro Leaf* about him a few months back. I thought if I had waited with them, I'd have been one of them, you know... dead. But they said they'd leave them and come back? You never leave anybody. You don't leave 'em. I'm telling you.

I hid beside the road, and the next morning I seen these people coming – about 70 people together, and I didn't know who they were. We called them gooks – the communists. I didn't know if it was gooks or our guys, you know? There was a major, he was the leading the group. I hollered, and a sergeant came over there and found me. The sergeant helped me because I was just about gone. I didn't know him, but he helped me.

We started out walking, and the major stopped the column and said, "We're going to have to leave all the wounded behind, we'll send someone out back for you." That sergeant said, "You're not going to leave anybody. We don't leave anybody. We all stay, or we all go. We are not leaving anybody." Because they never come back, see?

They were moving so fast on us, if you hold back, you're gone. They'll knock you out. That's what happened to preacher (priest) up there where I said I'm not waiting. I won't wait. ***As long as I can move, I'm not waiting. If I'm gonna die, let me die trying.***

Anyway, I always wondered about them guys in that river. I watch the news, and I see how many guys in the Korean War are missing. And I think to myself that I know a lot of those guys were washed away. If there was a stopping place somewhere, you might find something, you might now. That was 61 years ago. What do you say, you know?

They brought me back here, to the U.S. They flew me back. And my goodness, it took two weeks to fly from Japan back to America with all those stops they made. Rest stops, they called it. But we were all patients in a wheelchairs or on a litter.

I was so weak, I couldn't walk. I'd lost so much blood it took me about two months to get my strength back. I wound up in Army-Navy General in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Woody's interviewed continued as he described his early years, joining the Army at 16, and winding up in Japan on occupation duty at Beppu, Kyushu, Japan before going to Korea with the 19th Regiment. His entire story can be read on the 24th IDA website. Editor

Notices

Keeping your Records

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

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

Quartermaster Report

John Walters, our Quartermaster, has told me he is pretty much complete on filling orders and getting replacement inventory. Members can send their requests to him at **333 Summer Dr NE, Sandy Springs, GA 30328.**

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 a vendor. According to a resolution passed at the Dayton Reunion, the Quartermaster long order form will be used again. We expect to have it ready for the next issue of the Taro Leaf.

Email: jaw234@bellsouth.net

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
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Taro Leaf Donors

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Weir, Warren J.	19th Inf	\$10
Williams, Donald F.	21st Inf	\$5
Wolak, Norman E.	21st Inf	\$10
Wolf, Roy E.	34th Inf	\$35
Yost, Kenneth D.	11th FA	\$10
Zielezinski, John H.	19th Inf	\$25

Anonymous Life Member thanks these men who helped in a time with a gift of \$1,400: Oliver Christianson, Donald Van Beck, Charles Lane, Harley Joseph, Billy Freshcoan, & Ralph Peterson
*MIA Directory **Osan Remembrance 6/5/50

Notices

New Member	Unit	Service
Cale, Frank J.	5th RCT	Korea 51-52
Casey, Charles	21st Inf	Korea
Elliott, William A.	21st Inf HQ	Korea 56-57
Feustel, Jerome	2nd Inf	Germany 58-60
Garen, Donald R.	21st Inf	Korea 50
Griffiths, Marilyn Assoc.	Niece of Edward Lucid	MIA 8/6/50
Hasty, Carl S.	19th Inf	Japan-Korea 47-51
Kirschmann, Roger	34th Inf	Japan-Korea 48-52
Lederer, Albert	34th Inf	Pearl H WWII 41-45
Mazzacane, George	24th ID	HQ Germany 59-62
Myers, Baldwin F.	19th Inf	Korea 50
Peifer, George D.	Assoc. Bro. Bill 21st RGT	KIA 4/25/51
Powers, Lawrence C.	21st Inf HQ	Japan-Korea 50-51
Shepherd, Thomas J.	21st Inf	Korea 54-55
Williams, Jay F.	19th Inf Hq	Japan 48-50

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	8/1/09 - 7/31/10	7/31/10 - 8/1/11
Membership Dues	\$9,285.00	\$8,305.00
Full Life Payments	\$1,800.00	\$2,225.00
Part. Life Payments	\$905.00	\$670.00
Assoc. Member Dues	\$325.00	\$300.00
Donations	\$5,731.24	\$5,314.00
Reunion Donations	\$16,962.94	\$16,000.00
Interest Income	\$175.46	\$462.79
QM Sales	\$0.00	\$1,184.00
Total Income	\$35,184.64	\$34,460.79

EXPENSES	8/1/09 - 7/31/10	7/31/10 - 8/1/11
General Office	\$1,639.45	\$846.39
Taro Leaf Publication	\$21,590.40	\$24,398.14
Reunion Expense	\$4,365.33	\$0.00
Drawing Payout	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Liability Insurance	\$750.00	\$750.00
Accounting Fees	\$1,150.00	\$1,185.00
Total Expense	\$33,495.18	\$31,179.53

Net Income	\$1,689.46	\$3,281.26
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ASSETS	8/1/09 - 7/31/10	7/31/10 - 8/1/11
Regions Checking	\$22,659.71	\$27,025.67
Regions CD	\$34,832.30	\$35,383.10
Carpenter Checking	\$15,968.03	
Carpenter Savings	\$3,779.22	
Total	\$77,239.26	



**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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Occupation _____ Spouse Name _____

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

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

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							
		From	/	/	To	/	/

Sponsor _____

24th Infantry Division West Coast Reunion 25-28 March, 2012

The Aquarius Casino Resort

1900 S Casino Dr, Laughlin, NV 89029



Room Rates: \$29.00

Call 1-800-662-5825 for reservations.

You must book your rooms under contract # C-WCR12 no later than 15 March 2012 to qualify for the \$29.00 rate.

Contact **Byrd** or **D.J. Schrock** for more information.

New Address →

P.O. Box 1626

Sierra Vista, AZ 85636

(520) 678-0207 or (520) 678-0513 byrd2a@cox.net

Reunion Registration

(Registration Deadline 18 March 2012)

Registration Fee: \$20 per Family

Banquet Dinner \$36 (Evening of 28 March)

In accordance with our Catering contract, dinner fees **are non-refundable after 18 March 2012**

----- Cut Along Dotted Line -----

Name: _____ Spouse/Guests: _____

Unit: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

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

Roast Sirloin of Beef \$38 x ____ = ____

Chicken Cordon Bleu \$38 x ____ = ____

Filet of Salmon \$36 x ____ = ____

Registration (\$20 per Family) = ____

(total) \$ ____

Mail dinner fees, registration form and fees to:

New Address → **Byrd Schrock**
P.O. Box 1626

Sierra Vista, AZ 85636

Make checks payable to Byrd Schrock

Reunions

19th & 34th Infantry Regiments Pigeon Forge, TN Reunion April 23-25, 2012

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

No Fees, Come and have fun!

This will be our 19th reunion. They began in 1994 in Myrtle Beach, SC. It has grown in size and has re-united many wartime buddies. Later, the reunion met in Nashville, TN, but in 2006 the group voted to move to Pigeon Forge in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This location offers many fine attractions including: the world famous Dollywood, shopping malls, many showplaces, and excellent dining.

For information contact: **Bob Taylor, 828 884-9593**

No National West Coast Reunion - Ever!

According to a decision made by the 24th IDA's Board of Directors all future national reunions will be held in "Central" USA. The apparent logic behind this decision is, a central location is most convenient to everyone. Not that the editor should question this, because it would have made great sense back in the horse and buggy days, but when everyone traveling any distance today goes by airplane, does it make that much difference? Another justification for not having one on the West Coast is that we already have a successful mini-reunion there...I agree with that.

This annual reunion will be held at the Aquarius Hotel & Casino in Laughlin, Nevada from 25-28 March 2012. Room rates are **\$29 per night** with the banquet dinner costing **\$38 per plate**. Except for the dinner, this is a very informal, unstructured event. Our awesome Hospitality Suite, filled with refreshments, drinks, books, memorabilia, old friends and new and tall tales, overlooks the magnificent Colorado River. Contact Byrd or D.J. Schrock at (520) 678-0207 for more information. (For registration details and form see page 33)



Florida 24th IDA—5th RCT



Invites you to its 18th

Annual Mini Reunion

Thursday, November 3 to Sunday, November 6, 2011

Holiday Isle Oceanfront Resort

860 A1A Beach Blvd, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080; Phone: 904-471-2555 / 800-626-7263

\$79.00 per night, plus tax & gratuity

Registration deadlines: October 23, 2011

Contact: Bill Kane, 5023 Andrea Blvd., Orlando, FL 32807

Phone: 407-275-7450 or 407-421-4465 cell Email:

2012 Quarterly Dutch Treat Luncheons

Jan. 4, 2012 Leesburg Golden Corral 11:45 a.m.

Space limited to 50; contact: Tom Thiel, 352-357-3943 or fl24thida@gmail.com

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

Remaining 2012 Luncheons — Apr. 4, Jul. 11, and Oct. 3 — place open, offer one.



24th Infantry Division Association



Proclamation

Whereas, in June of 1950 the North Korean Communists in overwhelming numbers and with the unabashed support of the Soviet Union unleashed an unrelenting attack on its brothers and sisters in South Korea, and

Whereas, the United States of America, responded to aid South Korea to preserve freedom and repulse the advance of Communism, first sent the 24th Infantry Division, The First to Fight "Victory" Division, to impede the rapid advance of North Korean Communist legions intending to occupy all of the Korean peninsula, and

Whereas, the 24th Infantry Division immediately responded to this call to action, but found with its WWII equipment and spotty leadership they were ill-prepared for the well-equipped Communists, and

Whereas, the 24th Infantry Division, and the many other U.S. and U.N. battle units that followed them into the Korean War, lost many thousands of their members as POWs or MIAs, and later as KIAs, whose final resting place has never become known, and

Whereas, dialog between Association Historian, Merry Helm, and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) was initiated to capture via Oral History Donations from any information our members might still retain which might help locate these lost brothers, and

Whereas, the Association sought to publish a list of 1,005 of its brothers lost in the Korean War who still remain unidentified, and, whereas, time is of essence since Korean War Veterans are losing their life's battles at the rate of more than 400 per day, and

Whereas, upon learning of the Association's desire to create this Special POW/MIA publication to be sent to all its members with Korean War experience, Past President and Board Member, Mel Frederick, immediately responded by supplying the funds needed to print and mail the publication, and

Whereas, this publication has successfully resulted in the submission of numerous Oral History Donations to JPAC, and stories for the Association's Taro Leaf and the Website.

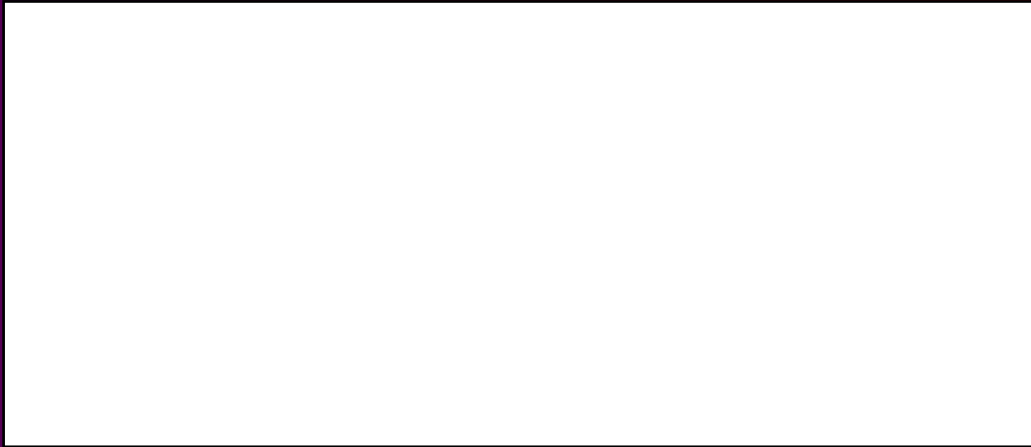
Now therefore be it resolved, the 24th Infantry Division Association hereby expresses its sincerest heart-felt appreciation to **Past President Mel Frederick**, for his unselfish support of the Association, the Division, and all of its brothers who still lie lost and unidentified in that country, the "Land of the Morning Calm," twelve-thousand miles away from our native land.

Composed by Tom Thiel



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

NON PROFIT U.S.
POSTAGE PAID
Permit #1040
Leesburg, FL 34748



MEMBERS: Check your dues date above your address
12 months dues = \$15.00

Send Dues & Address Changes to:

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

Send Obituaries to: Taro Leaf Editor

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

Verbeck Award Nominations - 2012

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

have an opportunity to name their nominee for the award." Please send your recommendation and a brief write-up as to why you believe your nominee deserves to be so honored. You have until July 15, 2012 to make your submissions.

Verbeck Guidelines: The Verbeck Award is presented to that Association member who best displays the ideals of Bill Verbeck. He had an un-abashed love for the Division and its Association. The award is to be given to a member who displays those qualities of Bill Verbeck and effectively furthers the interests of the Association and the



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

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

Tom Thiel, 19147 Park Place Blvd.,
Eustis, FL 32736-7262, 352-357-
3943, email: