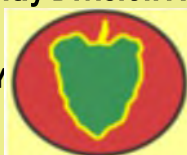


TARD

24th Infantry Division Association

VICTORY



DIVISION

LEAF

"First to Fight"



Korean War National Memorial, Washington, DC

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Taro Leaf, Volume 67, Issue 3, Summer 2013

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**COMING
UP NEXT**

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ON THE COVER:

**The Korean War National Memorial
Washington, DC**



Greetings All Taro Leafers:

Thanks to Loyal Vincent we have volunteers for our Nominating Committee. Donald Bruner, Ch., of Enid, OK (580-233-4228 or donbruner@suddenlink.com); James Knight of

Houston, TX (251-456-9892 or carolynk41@gmail.com); and Larry Schultz of Milwaukee, WI (715-799-4422 or larco5912@gmail.com) may be calling you to solicit nominations or you may contact them.

On the back cover of this Taro Leaf is a postcard you may use to write in your nominees for President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and a Director-at-Large. Please let us know who you want to run your Association.

Wes Morrison has stated he will no longer maintain the Honor Roll after this year's reunion. Wes has done an outstanding job over the years and will be hard to replace. He also fields questions from members and family members of division "alumni" as well as sending out birthday greetings. This is an important position and we need a volunteer to assume those responsibilities. Wes suggests those interested call him at 831-883-2156. Although his shoe size is small, his will be large shoes to fill.

Chaplain Glenn Carpenter is running his last Reunion Drawing. Although he will continue as Chaplain he needs to relinquish his Reunion Drawing responsibilities due to the closing of the bank near in his home town. This job takes about four months to complete and brings in much needed revenue for the Association.

Verbeck Nominees are due to July 15. Please nominate your candidate before it is too late.

The Louisville Reunion is approaching fast. Gene Spicer has been working hard to provide us with an outstanding program. As of the middle of May he has just a handful of applications and that hand might be missing a few digits. Use the forms provided in this issue to register and make your hotel reservations.

Wishing you and your families the best in the summer of 2013 and hope to see y'all in Louisville this September!

Best regards,

Don Maggio



Hello Again:

As editor for the Taro Leaf there is always something to do. And, if I'm not keeping up, it's easy to get buried under. I get a lot of posted mail, email, and occasional telephone calls. I try to keep tabs on the incoming material, but occasionally something slips by. If I have neglected any input

from you, give me a stern reminder.

On a later page of this issue I recounted some of my recent experiences in the Philippines. It was the last major trip Dottie and I will ever make. If I can't get to a location within one day's drive, I'm just not going there. That still leaves a big chunk of geography, which includes San Francisco, Las Vegas, and Laughlin. What more do I need? Speaking of Laughlin, with regret we were away at the time of the 24th ID Regional Reunion. They had a good time, and I have some pictures from Byrd Schrock and Gene Spicer which will be in the centerfold.

I believe it's safe to say the use of an onboard post card has proven to be worthwhile. For the last issue we increased the thickness of the Taro Leaf's cover stock which makes for a more sturdy card. In another change in this issue, someone smarter than I, Bill Stokes's wife, suggested moving the card to a position on the page so that only two sides need to be cut. That has been done. Thank you.

As Don mentions in his letter, adjacent, the postcard is being used on this occasion for nomination of officers, an excellent application. I also wish to encourage our readers to throw hats in the ring...even their own if they wish!

For those of you, especially Korean War vets, who have not seen the National Memorial shown on the cover, I strongly recommend, if possible, you do so. I had seen many pictures of it before I had an opportunity to visit there, but when I stood before it, it had an impact I will never forget. The forlorn features of the larger than life statues in ponchos with slung M-1 rifles created a *deja vu* moment for me.

You will note the "Fallen Comrades" section covers two full pages in this issue. The inevitability of our aging of course, but let's hope it's an aberration.

I hope you and yours will have a very enjoyable summer. Have fun and be kind to one another. Set a goal, if you will, to do something special for a fellow veteran this summer.
God bless,

David Valley

Letters

David: I just recently joined the 24TH Infantry Division Assoc. and have received the Spring 2013 issue of TARO LEAF. I am enjoying it immensely. I served with the 34TH RGT Tank Company in Korea from January 1954 to July 1955, with a brief hiatus in Sasebo, Japan over the Christmas Holidays in 1954. I have been trying to locate some of the men that I served with, but thus far I've had no success.

Below is the roster of the 34TH RGT Tank Company as of Christmas 1954. You probably can't print all the names in the TARO LEAF, but if you could send the names to those on your E-Mail list, and urge them to do the same, it might help me in finding some of them. I was only 20 years old at the time. Most of the men were older and some may not be living today. I hope to attend the reunion this year in Louisville, KY. My basic training was at Ft. Knox. It will be like homecoming to me. Lewis Vaughn, Greer, SC 2965, lewisrvaughn@att.net

CO - CPT John G. Belt, Armor; EXO - 1LT Armor Joseph C. Olson; FSGT - MSGT John J. Gaffney

MAINTENANCE - Motor SGT - SFC Lowell Daniels. SFC Samuel Lee, SGT Robert Kennedy CPLs: Jack Ashley, Daniel Gallegos, Charles Mckinney, Karl Seumenicht, Charles Stanford. PFCs: Stanley Burkhart, Ralph Large, Charles Lohman, Donald Mixon

ADMINISTRATION & SUPPLY - SGTs: Roy L. Davis, Samuel J. Gambino. Cpl James W. Winfrey. Pfc: Edward M. Blechman, John E. Kirk. PVT Karpin

COMMUNICATIONS - CPLs: Richard a. Blundell, Daniel Willis. PFC Robert Driscoll

MESS - Mess Sergeant - SFC Joe C. Holland. SGT Wilbert Pennington. CPLs: Hubert C. Durst, Edward Lane, Herman a. Muzio. PFCs: James Mast, James Ochart, Boyde J. Seaborn, Marvin D. Terrell, Gary a. Wren, Robert L. Yates

HEADQUARTERS TANK - SGT Herbert Walters. CPLs: Cary

Bigman, Franklin Civil, Ulysses Johnson, Roscoe D. Marshall, William Roby. PFCs: Ronald Davis, Russell Dunn, Sidney Strong. Pvs: Donald Crawford, John Shelton, Robert R. Wyckoff.

FIRST PLATOON - Platoon Leader - 2LT Ruel L. Wilson. SFC Lewis R. Vaughn-platoon Sgt. SGTs: Eugene Mitchell, Robert L. Vermillion. CPLs: Leonard Brancamp, John H. Kampwerth, Robert a. Laker, Peter Macres, Guadalupe Perex, Adam Slone, Roscoe Sybert PFCs: James a. Coley, Cal Givens, Dale E. Rupert, Thomas H. Seagle, Earl Simpson, Howard Taylor, Lynn H. Wortley, Jack V. Wright PVTs: Andy Case, Raymond E. Jackson, Luther I. Smith, Henry Story, Billy J. Watson

SECOND PLATOON - Platoon Leader -2LT Lawrence Stebbins. MSGT Abner Meadows-platoon SGT, SFC James E. Flemming, SGTs: Shelah Golden. CPLs: Henry Davidson, Ronald Huston, John Jarrett, John W. Jenkins, Robert Kish, James Marshall, Max Pressnall, Noel Tirey, Arthur Willoughby PFCs: Donald Boothe, Francis Foldesi, Leroy Harvet, Angel Hurtado, Richard Lavigne, Gerald Mayfield, William Nallia, Joel Taylor, Theodore Washington, Johnny Woods. PVTs: Willie Morris, James Scribner

THIRD PLATOON - Platoon Leader- 2LT Daniel Camplese. MSGT John W. Herod, Platoon SGT. SGTs: Plyn W. Green, Charles Myers CPLs: Clarence Baker, Oliver M. Green, Bobby R. Hamby, Earl Knight, Emmett Moran, Charles Strobel, Leland Stuckwisch, James Swank, William Sykes, Frankie Van, William Wathen PFCs: Robert Williams, Robert Buford, Cretis Burdette, James Hopkins, William Love, Stanley Rhodes, Edward Sullivan, James Wells, James Wright. Pvt Forest Brading

FOURTH PLATOON - Platoon Leader - 1Lt George T. Searlls. SFC Alfred Bailey, Platoon SGT, SFC Raymond Thibodeaux SGTs: Frank Riffle, Harold Spencer CPLs: Thomas Budrick, Joseph Jensen, James Joyce PFCs: Harold Bowers, Eugene Caine, Billy W. Campbell, Virgil Humphrey, Roger Johnson, John Jordan, Byrdell Kempf, Michael Kita, Albert Lowden, George Maddox, James Merrick, William Middleton, Richard Myers, Lewis Macfaldia, Henry Mcmillian PVTs: John Holt, Arnold Manning.

David, reading the letter from Tom Sullivan ,brought back fond memories. I had the good fortune to be stationed in Beppu, in F CO, 2nd BN, 19th RGT from June '49 to Feb. '50.

As you probably know New Years Day was everyone's birthday in Japan. I was lucky enough to get a 3 day pass and stayed at one of the hot springs hotels near town. He's right about the baths: wonderful after weeks of training, up in the mountains, in the cold. I went home in Feb., only to be recalled in Sept. assigned to a railway outfit and ended up in Korea anyway. We brought the first diesel locomotives to Korea. Very fortunate for me, knowing what happened to the 19th when they were sent there.

[PFC] Norman,"Norm" Groetzinger, 724th T.R.O.B. Korea, 1950-51. 5897 S. Kings Hwy,LW19, Myrtle Beach, SC 29575

David: The cover inspired me. I have a paper copy of it. I was there, face down, when COL Red Newman got us moving. He was the CO of the 2nd BN., 34th RGT. He was a fearless, outstanding officer. Grover Brown's story (pg. 24) is accurate and typical enough about life in a combat infantry company. I knew Grover, I was the same age as him, served in the same company, H CO, as an ammo bearer, assistant 30 cal. machine gunner, and gunner. Without intending any disrespect to Grover there are some items which I mention because of my personal involvement: I was about 100 yds. from the edge of the beach when I saw MacArthur wading ashore in knee/hip high water, surrounded by Media/Staff. My two ammo boxes weighed 20 lbs. each. The water cooled machine gun weighed 40 lbs., the tripod weighed 51 lbs. Crew members carried carbines. **Eric Diller, Member, 24962** Calle Aragon, Apt. B101, Laguna Woods, CA 92637-3878

Merry & David. First our tanks were Patton's, M-46's with a 90mm Tank Gun. Yes there were other Tank Battalions painting their tank to look like tigers. This was the Chinese year of the tiger. The physiology branch of the US Army thought that IF we painted our tanks to look like tigers the Chinese would see them and be afraid? It didn't work. After they were painted they stood out like spot lights. Here is my story of the rescue of the 8th Airborne Ranger Company. They were attached to the 24th Infantry Division early in 1951. Their mission was to go behind the lines and disrupt the enemy. They were not supposed to be placed on line with regular infantry unit. During the April Chinese Offensive the Chinese were attacking and pushing the 8th Army back down the Korean peninsula. The Rangers were on Hill 628 and just happen to get into a big fire fight as the Chinese were trying to attack the 24th Infantry Division Headquarters because the ROK, South Korean Infantry Division had bugged out. The entire flank was exposed and the Rangers were trying to fill the gap when they became surrounded. This is where I and my 3rd Tank Platoon of Company "C", 6th Medium Tank Battalion came into the picture. **David Teich**

Dave: Thanks for the details. Readers, please read the entire account on page _____.Editor

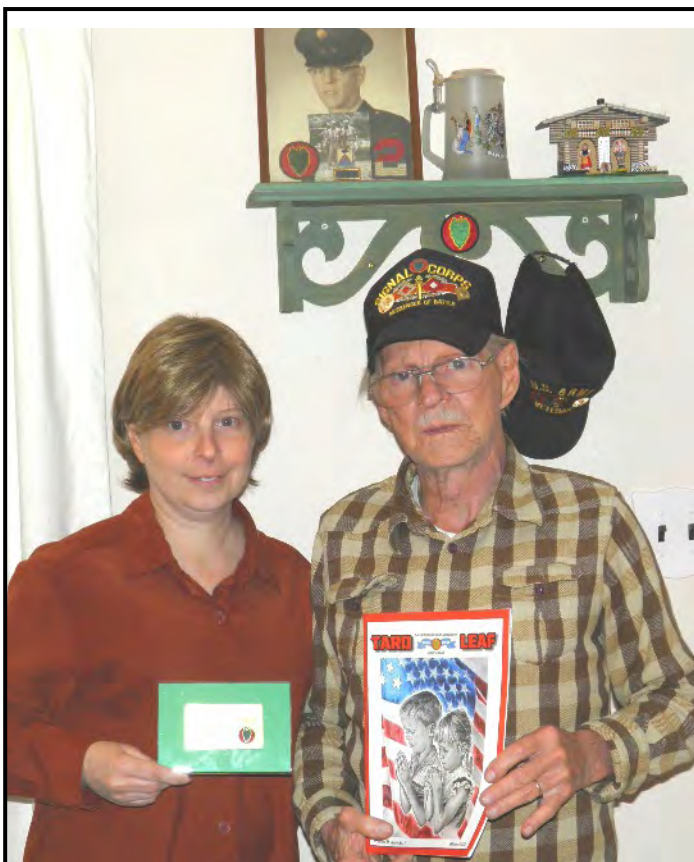
CORRECTION

David: The photo appearing with the Burson article on Pg 8 of last issue and labeled as Bill Burson and wife, is instead the photo of Bob and Treva Stratton of Beaver Dam OH and associated with a letter I sent you that you carried on Pg 4. The two articles are related. Sorry that I didn't correctly label the photo I sent. Tom Thiel



I COMPANY, 21st RGT held its 33rd consecutive reunion May 1-5, 2013 in Branson, MO. We attended two shows and had a luncheon on the Branson Belle Showboat which featured lively entertainment. As it has been our custom, we concluded our stay with a Memorial Dinner.

Editor: It's been a heartache for me to sit and write of my husband's passing as I cared for him daily when he took ill. His pride in the 24th Division and the years he spent in and out of the division during his Army career remained with him always. He was so happy when the Taro Leaf was in the mail; he read every page looking for a name he remembered. So I thank you for that, and I enjoyed the Taro Leaf too. I have enclosed his obituary (see page 28) as I was not knowing what to do with it. I thought only of his service. Charles and I met in Hawaii in 1942; he returned in 1945 and we were married that New Year's Eve. Thank you for writing about Charles. **Marjorie Kowalski**, 263 4th Ave., Apt 202, Edmonds, WA 98020



William "Cris" Crispens is presented with his Lifetime Membership in the 24th Infantry Division Association by his daughter, Jean. Cris served in the US Army during 1962-1964 in the Signal Battalion in Augsburg, Germany. He later completing his service at Ft Meade, MD in the 2nd Army.

David: I am a Life Member #1528. I wrote my story of being drafted and serving with Company D of the 19th RGT, 24th ID for ten months in Korea during the war in 1950-51. I served with Dog Company and was First Sergeant.

The title of my book published by Amazon is "Twenty Five Years." The book came to print because of the help of my daughter, Susan Game! Otto.

Carl B. Gamel, Jr.
5031 Spring Hill Drive
Taylor Mill, KY 41015

Please note: I live at 26431 Williamsburg Drive, Bonita Springs, FL 34135 during the winter months.

Letters

Dear David, Several years ago I attempted to organize a 724 Ordnance group and utilized the enclosed rosters for contacting people who might be interested. Most of my letters were returned for various reasons. I gave up. The enclosed Thanksgiving Menu was our first special meal after the 24th ID was reassigned from Korea in 1952. We were with the 24th Division from the beginning. Our unit was split into groups and stationed at various locations in Japan. My unit went to Camp Fuji where we enjoyed our first great Thanksgiving meal in a couple of years.



I was discharged in March 1953. I am not a traveler so I do not attend 24th Division Reunions. My last one was several years ago in nearby Buffalo, NY. Also, I am not computer literate so I rely on snail mail and land lines for communications.

Enclosed is a donation to help support the Taro Leaf. I look forward to each issue and its continuance is important to us "old timers". Keep up the good work. Thank you.

George W. Soemann, 2458 Hess Road, Appleton, NY 14008, 716 778-7685 **Life Member #1042**

David: This is a "Letter from A True Warrior"

It is the result of an effort to make a legible a letter by COL Edward Logan sent to me in 1997. This letter in response to one I had written to him. The colonel had suffered a stroke with some loss of memory and brain function. I served as a clerk typist under the colonel, then a major in the S-3 of the 19th RGT, Camp Chickamauga, Beppu, Japan in 1949 and embarked for Korea with him on July 2, 1950 as part of the advanced HQ Section of the 19th RGT. The colonel was a true Warrior and I am proud to have served with him. The country owes him and others like him a debt of gratitude. **Frank Blood, Jr.**

9/75/97 Dear Frank: What a nice surprise. It was almost 47 years ago of your service to the nation and the nice times in Beppu as we tried to train the "Chicks" for any action, never knowing that it would come so fast in a so-called "Forgotten War." COL Meloy looked to our S-3 section for most everything that needed to be done, and we responded to every challenge. They were trying times for the U.S. Army - reduced from the world's greatest fighting machine in 1945 to less than 500,000 - filled with dropsters, many unable to read or write; a reduction of one BN from regimental strength; without the equipment,

Dear Editor: I read your Wanted Item 1 in the fall 2012 Taro Leaf page 13 and folded the page over and set it aside to give you my similar experience. Better late than never, so here it is.

I never kept track or remember exact dates, but I have a Certificate of Tax Exemption for Combat Service that goes from 23 July 1950 to 26 August 1951 so I know the general time period. I think we landed at Yokohama Japan in early July and took a train down to Sasebo.

I was assigned to the 3rd C ENGR, 24 Div. and took an old Japanese ferryboat to Pusan with a submarine scare on the way. We went thru the railroad yards and saw box cars with bloody straw etc. on their floor. We continued up a road still carrying our duffle bags and after a while they started getting tossed off to the side of the road. I finally tossed mine but I must have saved a little camera out of it but not much else.

We finally ended up on a foot path going up a hill where at the crest we met a small army patrol. I remember we greeted each other enthusiastically and walked backwards until they were out of sight. They must have been South Koreans but we sure didn't know.

We ended up on a high bank where you could see the Nakdong River down thru the brush and trees. They had us dig foxholes what seemed about 50 yards apart so I guess we were part of the Pusan Perimeter. Your experience and time frame sounded similar to mine and you also must have had a guardian angel to keep watch over you and got you back to the states.

Donald Roth, 221 Knutson Drive, Madison, WI. 53704
droth7290@att.net **Life Member #17943**

weapons, etc., and with old vehicles, and ammo, that would not work. Yes, I fondly remember the old gang even though my memory is fading.

How well I remember the little town of Ok-Chan-Ni and our night ride in full moon. Our mission was to get to the head of the column and show them the road turn to Taejon I had retreated down that route and was familiar with same. As you recall, the 1st BN (Col. Nauts) was leading the attack. Mission: proceed as rapidly as possible to Taejon; shoot at anything that moved. We had tanks (CPT West, company CO.) Somehow we got ahead of the column. How I will never know. Might recall I stopped to examine the road, saw tank tracks and surmised there was a break in the column. We proceeded forward over a small bridge and about 3/4 mile to the north turn to Taejon. Sure 'nough at the junction there were two tanks facing north. I said, "There they are." I had a my folding carbine and got out. Suddenly the moon came out of the clouds, and there were the North Koreans scrambling to get on the two tanks. I yelled at Ruff, "Let's get moving; they ain't our troops!" I fired about 20 rounds, and we headed east about a mile and saw troops moving west on the road. Told Ruff to pull the jeep into a house and we headed for

(From previous page) the tall grass behind the house. Shortly after, we heard gunfire and Ruff said, "They are shooting up my new jeep." We had got about one week earlier. We watched the Koreans change into white civilian clothes as they passed us in the tall growth. I still had a mission of turning our column north to Taejon; but how to stop the column without getting shot? The British correspondent with us stated he could do it. I had given him my 45 pistol; since his coat stood out as a civilian's maybe they would stop. Reluctantly I agreed and stayed right behind him. His words on the side of the road while waving his hands "I say, old chaps, Americans, Americans." The response from a GI riding the tank, "Blow it out your ass!" But no shots were fired. The second tank did slow down; finally the column stopped, turned around and we stayed for the night before making our last push to Taejon.

You might recall we had a tank battle early soon after Koreans attacked down the road. We lost one tank but destroyed three. It was quite a night; it was on to Taejon the next day. Quite a story especially the rush to the police station to rescue POWs being buried alive and the massacre of civilians on a hill northeast of Taejon (some thousands+). I took command of the 3rd BN, 19th RGT (Formerly of the 34th RGT disbanded, colors retired, etc.) Our BN had the division lead in heading north to Pyongyang, the capital. We had hoped to beat the 1st Cav Div. at key road junction so the 24th could be the one to take the Capital. Our route was off; we missed by about one hour reaching the junction that would give us the lead north. I kept the 3rd BN in our new movement south until April '51. **COL Edward Logan**

David: The following is an account of the events related in the colonel's letter as I remember them after sixty-three years of dimming memories; and as confirmed by my comrade in arms and fellow S-3 clerk, Cpl Joseph P. Negrelli. Then, Major Logan, was wounded in late July and was evacuated to a hospital in Japan for recovery. Upon learning of the of the coming UN offensive, he could not wait to be discharged and went AWOL from the hospital, hitched a plane ride back to Korea and rejoined the RGT in early September. After the September 15th landings at Inchon, the 8th Army was ordered to attack and break out of the Pusan Perimeter. On or about the 21st of Sept the 19th RGT was ordered to mount a motorized attack from Pusang-dong over the road to Taejon, avoiding pitched battles and just running over, around or through any resistance. After racing through minor pockets of resistance it became obvious we were going to run off our issued maps. During a short break, Major Logan was ordered to lead the column since he had traveled the route before and would know the intersection in the town of Okch'on-ni, where the column had to make a sharp left turn to take the road on to Taejon, our objective. **Frank Blood, Jr.**

Frank: As you can tell reading this, I did some drastic editing of the material you sent to me. I hope I have maintained the essence of it. I will send all the material to Tom Thiel. I'm quite sure he will put it, in its entirety into the Association website. Thanks for submitting this.

David

David: The cover and DSC citation in your latest Taro Leaf magazine brought back some fond memories of Major General Aubrey S. Newman. A great officer and a great person. I met the General at Fort Stewart, Georgia where I was stationed as the first Commanding General of the their newly reactivated 24th Infantry Division. I saw him several times after and for many years we exchanged letters.

He sent me his book entitled "What Are Generals Made Of?" A great book talking about the officer corps of the Army from Lieutenant through all ranks up to General. Great reading for all whether one served in the Army or not. More Importantly General Newman was a fabulous individual who taught me more than any Army school ever did. Not only a great officer, but a great person. As many times as he told me to call him "Red" I never could. He was always, The General.

Donald E. Rosenblum, LT General, Retired, **Life Member #169** 32 East Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401 (912) 233-6717

David: I am sending a little story about something that happened in Korea in January of 1952. A national guard Division had relieved the 24th division, the 40th or 45th, I can't remember. A few of us stayed with them for about 10 days, so there wouldn't be all new troops on the front line all at once. I was with the machine gun platoon H Company, 19th RGT. Roberts had been wounded for the 3rd time; we called him "animal." We received some mortar now and then, and a sniper would shoot at us once in a while. A sniper hit a GI going out on patrol early one morning. The bullet went in one cheek and out the other. He was able to walk back. The 50-caliber machine gun crew finally located that sniper with their scope. He was a goner.

We received information that we were going to be attacked because of the new troops on line. We were also told that our artillery would be zeroing in in front of us and that they were bringing in more artillery units behind us. One day we were sent word that we would be attacked that night. It was dark about 2200 hours, a flare went across our front and I heard bugles to our left front I think there was a lot of yelling that I heard. Then 1,2, and 3 rounds hit in that area. Then the whole front where they had been zeroing in erupted. I guess that went on for maybe ten minutes. Then it was quiet It was all over. The enemy never got near us.

I never heard of an attack being stopped that way. I wonder if someone can confirm this as I was one of the few in our outfit that was still there. I left shortly after and went to Japan on a fleet of ships to Camp Haugen just north of Zendai which had the big earthquake last year.

Harold Smith, 516 Franklin Street, SW, Ronan, MT 3211 Member

Harold: Sorry, I didn't have room for your picture. Perhaps someone can recall the experience you had and confirm it. **David**

Lookin For



My great uncle, William Charles Hembree, (picture above) served in the 5th RCT and was killed in action on 19 September 1950 and I am attempting to find out as much as I can about his pre-war service or time in Korea.

I am looking for a unit photo (Company, Battalion, or RCT photo) from his unit, **5th RCT**, just prior to its deployment to Korea, if it exists.

Also, I would like to know if you are aware of any resource that can provide me with the details of his death. The family story says that he was shot by a sniper while shaving in his foxhole. I appreciate your time and any assistance or direction you can provide. I have attached a .jpg picture of my great uncle taken most likely around the end of WWII when he was a Private. Additionally, most of the information I have on him from Ancestry.com is included in the Powerpoint slides attached. The second slide includes a larger photo in which his photo is inset which I believe I pulled that from your website as it was taken about three days after his death and is of the 5th RCT. Thanks again.

Mike Entrekin entrekinmike@yahoo.com

Mr. Valley: I believe that my grandfather, Harry F. Resner, served in the 24th during WWII. He was at Schofield Barracks on December 7, 1941, spent time in New Guinea and fought on Leyte Island. I'm his oldest grandchild and the only one who ever really knew him. I'm hoping that you, or someone from your organization, can help me determine if he did, in fact, serve as a member of the 24th, so that I can more thoroughly research his service. Thank you in advance for any help you can provide. **Ed DeLisle** edelisle@cohenseglias.com

I am trying to find out information about Lt. James Wesley Parrish and I suspect he was in the 24th ID but I can't confirm that. Here is some basic information: Rank: First Lieutenant, Date of Death: June 10, 1944, Details of Death: Died of Wounds received May 27, 1944 in New Guinea. His web page is: <https://cualumni.clemson.edu/sslpage.aspx?pid=1535> I that you will let me know if he was in the 24th ID, his unit and activities of his unit at the time he was wounded. Thank you for your assistance.
Very respectfully,
Dawson Luke, Maj, US Army Ret.
campjoe@hotmail.com

David: I'm looking for anyone who served with me in Korea from October, 1955 to January, 1957. I served with the 63rd FF BN.

You can contact me as follows:

Thomas W. Vaughn
163 Poorhouse Road
Catawissa, PA 17820-8720



David: I just had a overseas telephone talk with the member of the Royal Sussex Regiment and he clarified some of the information he initially sent me. He is looking for a Thomas Wright who served with the 21st Infantry in Korea during the period 1956-57, not the period I assumed to be Sep 50-Jan 51. The member of the Sussex Regiment is also named Thomas Wright and they became good friend and he would like to find any information on him. Reference the "Looking For" article published on page 12 of the Summer 2012 issue of the Taro Leaf.

"Thomas Wright of the Royal Sussex Regiment is looking for information pertaining to a Thomas Wright who served with the 21st Infantry Regiment in Korea during the Period 1956-57. The two became good friend during the period the Regiments served together and the Thomas from England would like to locate him so they could talk, if he was still living. The information previously published indicate the period of Sep 50-Jan 51, but in a telephone conversation with Thomas from England, I found that they met after the fighting had ceased and he give the period of '56-'57." **Wes Morrison**



Nominate Your Choice for the 2013 Verbeck Award

Nominating Committee

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July 15, 2013, is the final date for you to nominate that member you feel most merits the Association's prestigious 2013 Verbeck Award. This Award recognizes that Association member who best displays Bill Verbeck's love for the 24th Division and it's Association by engraving the recipient's name on the Association's Verbeck Bowl, recognizing them at the Annual Reunion Banquet, and presenting the recipient with a small personal model of the Verbeck Bowl.

The Award is to acknowledge a person's commitment and hard work in helping to make the Association more successful—it is not to reward popularity.

Please send your recommendation, and sentence or two telling why you believe your nominee deserves the Award, no later than July 15, 2013, to any of the following members of this year's Verbeck Awards

Bury Me Amongst The Soldiers

**Bury Me Amongst The Soldiers
Where The Crosses Stand In Line
Where My grave Will Be Given
Perpetual Care Until The Very
End Of Time
Bury Me Amongst The Soldiers
For With Them I died Before
Bury Me Amongst The Soldiers
Far Away From The Guns Of War**

J.A. Langone, 2005

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Here we are coming to the end of winter. It has been a long one with lots of snow and very cold as well. We had a January thaw, followed by more snow and cold. We are making it through and burning lots of wood. God has been good and helps us through everything. February is Valentine's day and reminds us to love one another so be reminded of Romans 12 verses 9-13; "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality." Love in Jesus Christ,
Chaplain Glen Carpenter

Duluth Native Honored in Korea Display

by Steve Kuchera skuchera@duluthnews.com

The story of a young Duluth native killed in the opening days of the Korean War will be part of a memorial museum opening next month in South Korea. U.S. Army Cpl. Paul Larson, 19, died on July 5, 1950, during the Battle of Osan - the first engagement between United Nations and North Korean forces. Larson was one of the first of more than 36,500 Americans killed in the war.

"It was a very tragic loss for me, and to this day I still remember old Paul," said Joe Langone, 83, who was with Larson when he died on a hill near the city of Osan. Langone wrote about Larson in a poem, "The Death of a Friend," in 1995. The **U.N. Forces First Battle Memorial** is using part of the poem in its exhibit.

"I've always thought of him and wanted to pay tribute to him," Langone said.

Larson attended Washington Junior and Central High School before joining the Army. He and Langone met in 1949, and were both assigned to the 24th Infantry Division, stationed in occupied Japan. The two quickly became friends.

"He was a gentleman, a good Christian boy, a good guy all the way around," Langone said. "I never saw him get mad, never saw him cuss or swear. He was a good companion, a good guy to be stationed with. We traveled around together whenever we got a pass."

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when North Korea invaded the Republic of Korea. The North Koreans quickly captured the South Korean capital of Seoul. To stem the Communist tide, America rushed Task Force Smith - 406 soldiers of the 24th Division supported by an artillery battery - to Korea.

"The 24th Division was air-lifted in to try to delay the North Koreans," said Merry Helm, historian at 24th Infantry Division Association, who is writing a book on the Korean War. "They were the nearest troops, being on occupation duty in nearby Japan. It would take a lot of time and effort to prepare and ship more men to Korea, so these delaying battles were bloody and very costly, beginning with **Task Force Smith** at Osan. It was there that the brass finally understood how well the North Koreans were trained and how amply they were supplied by Stalin and the USSR."

In the early hours of July 5, Task Force Smith dug in along a mile-long front near Osan, south of Seoul. Larson and Langone were in different platoons and started the battle on separate hills. In the rain, the troops waited. "As soon as dawn broke we looked up, and here comes the North Koreans," Langone said. "We never really had a chance; they had so many tanks and artillery and troops against us."

A column of Russian-made T-34 tanks led the North Koreans. With no effective anti-tank weapons, the infantrymen were unable to stop the tanks from passing through their line, past the artillery positions and on toward Osan.

"I actually stood up and was firing at a tank with my M1 .30-caliber rifle, he said. "Now, you try to figure that out. You just get so frustrated."

Associated Press correspondent Tom Lambert was in Korea and covered the battle. "At one time during the

breakthrough fight American artillerymen threw open their gun sights and fired point-blank at the Red tanks sighting down the gun barrels, so close was the fighting," he reported in a story that appeared in the Duluth News Tribune.

After the tanks passed, Task Force Smith engaged an oncoming force of some 5,000 North Korean troops. During the battle, Langone's platoon was driven eastward from its hill, onto the hill where Larson was fighting. "I bumped into Paul sitting in a fox hole, so I jumped in with him," Langone said. "It was raining. I still had one cigarette. I broke the cigarette in half and gave him half." Sharing the foxhole, the friends watched as mortar shells exploded closer and closer to their position. When the explosions got too close, the pair ran to higher ground, got behind a mound of dirt and fired on North Koreans coming up the hill.

Then Langone heard a sound like a hand slapping against another hand. "I looked at Paul and he had been hit in the face with two shots and in the chest," he said. "He didn't last long."

The Americans delayed the Communists for several hours before being overwhelmed by superior numbers. Nearly surrounded - with a fourth of his force killed or wounded, nearly out of ammo, without transportation or air support - Lt. Col. Charles Bradley Smith ordered a withdrawal about 2:30 p.m.

"What could we do?" Pvt. John Easterling, a 19-year-old machine gunner who covered the withdrawal, told Lambert. "One machine gun and 50 riflemen against a regiment. They just kept coming out of the hills, that's all." What began as an orderly withdrawal degenerated into a confused retreat, with some American wounded left behind.

"Ghastly' mission accomplished," Lambert wrote about one lieutenant sobbing after the battle.

"Ten to one is good odds," the lieutenant said. "But we can't take 100-to-one odds - without ammunition."

About a third of Task Force Smith's members were killed, wounded or captured that day. Among those captured was Sgt. 1st Class Floyd A. Roy, 43, of Cloquet. He died in captivity, and his remains were never recovered.

"To outsiders, especially World War II vets, these early battles appeared to be routs," Helm said. "It is true that the men had to keep falling back, but that was always part of the plan. Those first months were ghastly, but these men accomplished their mission - to delay the enemy until more help could arrive. "There was no such thing as a front line until several months later," she said. "It was all about putting up the best fight possible, and then as the enemy began their flanking/surrounding movements, quickly falling back to the next staging area, where they would once again fight like hell to survive. And it all began at Osan."

A monument to the battle and its U.N. dead was built in Osan in 1982, and a memorial service is held every July 5 on the battlefield. Now, final touches are being completed on a \$3.4 million, 10,043-square-foot memorial museum. An opening ceremony was scheduled for April 23, 2013.



24th Website News

Digitizing the Taro Leaf. Our goal of digitizing ALL issues of the Taro Leaf continues. As of now, 290 Taro Leafs with a total of 9,195 pages have been converted to electronic format, and uploaded to the website!

I do not know how many Taro Leafs have been published; the Association has no master list. So, part of this process is logging all Taro Leafs (digitizing and uploading creates a total key word index of all issues and their contents).

This involves understanding each Editors' publishing logic; not only was this inconsistent from Editor to Editor, it was inconsistent within Editors! What appeared best to me is shown in the table of Taro Leafs Needed at right where they begin with single years, then about 1963 convert to Bi-yearly Volumes, and about 1996 return to years with four issues per year.

More Taro Leafs are still needed. Thanks to the many members for supplying copies, and to Ed Farmer's support for a high speed scanner, we have been able to upload all the Taro Leafs we have. But many are still missing. These are shown in the table, which is arranged by year, and then by the copies needed for that year (missing years mean what I have is complete).

I have "guestimated" there may be as many as 110 missing issues, but have no idea how many were actually printed. The number published each year varied from two to ten. This is the reason for the guestimate.

So, would you please examine the table and your supply of old Taro Leafs, and send me the needed copies. But remember that in order to scan them with the Canon scanner, I need to cut the magazine bindings separating the copy into single sheets for feeding through the scanner. I store them as individual documents and file them after scanning. I would rather not return your magazines after scanning. And please call me before sending any to avoid having more than one person send the same issue.

For more information about the whole process, or should you be wondering "Why is he so Hell-Bent on digitizing Taro Leafs," go to www.24thida.com and hit the Taro Leaf button. I appreciate your cooperation. This is your site, so I need your material. Please email it, or call me to discuss putting the material on your web site for all the world to view.

**Tom J. Thiel, 19147 Park Blvd., Eustis, FL 32736-7262 Telephone: 352 408-6612
Email: 24thidaweb@gmail.com**

YEAR	TARO LEAFS NEEDED
1947	ALL but: Aug & Nov
1948	ALL but: Feb, Jun & Aug
1949	ALL but: May, Jun & Dec
1950	ALL but: Jun, Aug & Dec
1951	ALL but: Apr
1952	ALL but: Feb
1953	ALL but: Apr
1954	ALL but: Jan & May
1955	ALL
1956	ALL but: Aug, Oct & Dec
1957	ALL but: May, Jun & Jul
1958	ALL but: Jan, Jul & Nov
1959	ALL but: Jan, Jul, Aug & Dec
1960	ALL but: May, Jun, Jul, & Dec
1961	ALL but: Jan-Feb, May, Jul, & Oct
1962	ALL but: May & Sep
1963	ALL but: Mar, Jun, Jul, & Aug
1964-65	ALL but: No 10
1965-66	Nos. 4, 6
1966-67	Nos. 3, 6 and higher
1967-68	ALL but: No. 2
1969-70	Nos. 7 and higher
1970-71	ALL
1971-72	Nos. 4 and 8 and higher
1972-73	No. 5 and higher
1974-75	No. 3 and higher
1975-76	No. 4 and higher
1981-82	1981-82 #07
1982-83	1982-83 #05
1984-85	1984-85 #05
1994-95	No 4 and higher
2001	No. 4

*Following is the story of my tank
platoon actions on April 22,
1951...LT David Tiech*

TANKS TO THE RESCUE



I don't recall exactly my position or the actions my third tank platoon of Charlie Company, 6th Medium Tank Battalion, when I received a radio call from the 8th Airborne Ranger Company which was surrounded by the Chinese on Hill 628. Their radio operator, later identified as R. C. Rivera, was asking for help. The Chinese had surrounded his unit, his company commander was wounded, and they were trying to fight their way down off of Hill 628.

I had work with this Ranger Company before and knew their executive officer LT Giacherine. I informed him I would check with my company commander and would get back to him as soon as possible. I reported to my CO CPT James Houtz that the 8th Rangers were in trouble and needed help. He replied, "F----- them, let them fight their own battles, I've got orders to pull back and that's what I'm going to do."

I replied, "Captain Jim, those are American soldiers just like we are and they need help and we have to help them."

He said, "We have orders to move out."

I replied with, "What if I volunteer to stay behind with my platoon and help the rangers out?"

He said, "If you're that stupid that's up to you I'm moving out with the rest of my company."

I returned to my tank platoon and explained to them that the 8th Rangers were cut off, surrounded, and needed assistance. I said I had volunteered our platoon to stay behind and help them. They were all in favor.

At this time, I only had four tanks since SGT Rice's tank, number 55, was disabled by Chinese infantrymen the week before and was being repaired at company maintenance.

We mounted up and moved north into a large valley and continued until we came to the base of Hill 628. We could hear the firefight going on at the top of the hill. As we spread out about 25 to 50 yards apart I noticed that the hills on each of our flanks had numerous Chinese infantrymen moving south. I informed my men that we did not want to get into a firefight with these Chinese. Looking through my binoculars at the Chinese soldiers I noticed they were all carrying heavy backpacks and were wearing blue sneakers.

I don't remember the exact time frame that we were at the base of Hill 628 but you could hear the firefight getting closer to us as the rangers fought their way down the hill. Then out of the trees at the base of the hill

came two soldiers carrying a litter with the Ranger Company Commander on it.

I move my tank closer to where they were and they placed the litter down next to my tank. I climbed out of my tank and approached the Company Commander. He had his finger stuck into his jugular vein stopping the bleeding from his wound. He looked up at me and said, "boy am I glad to see you. If you pull your pants down I'll kiss your ass."

I replied, "Captain, we have to skip the formalities and get on the tanks as fast as we can because the Chinese are on both our flanks." We loaded the captain on the litter onto my tanks right sponsor.

At this time his EXO LT Jack Giacherine came up to me and I explained our position to him. He announced to his men to load up on the tanks. I informed him that with so many of his men on my tanks I would not be able to fire the tanks guns if we came upon the Chinese, and that they would have to fire their personal weapons.

I don't remember the exact count but I thought that with the rangers 90 men and the stragglers, they had picked up, there were approximately 110 to 120 men riding on my four tanks. The last wounded man they had, was their medic; the only open space remaining was my tank hatch. We gently placed the medic on my open hatch. Just as we did this, a Chinese sniper fired at me. The bullet narrowly missed me, went under my arm and hit the medic in his groin. This medic just took a bullet meant for me. I learned years later that his name was Gregory.

We proceeded to move south and traveled approximately one or two miles and came upon a roadblock manned by the 5th RCT. I had no idea that a roadblock had been set up behind me. This roadblock consisted of infantrymen, quad .50 caliber machine guns mounted in half tracks, a battery of 105 howitzers, several medical jeeps and a H-13 helicopter from a MASH hospital unit, I think there were also some tanks from the 5th Tank Co.

I stopped the tanks and a COL Wilson approached me. He

informed me he was the regimental commander and that we were to load the wounded company commander and his medic onto the Mash, H-13, and helicopter, and to put the other wounded onto the medical jeeps. I suggested to him it would be best to leave the wounded on the tanks because it was an easier ride.

I also informed him that the Chinese had been passing me on my flanks for several hours, and asked if he had his flanks secured? He replied in the affirmative.

After the helicopter took off, we proceeded south through this valley until we came to a very narrow defile. Since the colonel informed me that he had his flanks secured, I assumed he also meant this defile. Because if it had not been secured I would have dismounted infantrymen to make sure it was clear before I moved my tanks through it.

We continued through the defile without any resistance and upon exiting continued to the rear until we came upon our troops. There, the 8th Rangers dismounted and the remaining wounded was taken to aid stations. I returned my platoon to Charlie Company. Where my Company Commander called me. "A God Dam Fool" for doing what I did.

I learned later that as the 5th RCT tried to enter this defile they were cut off and in the ensuing fight with the Chinese they lost all of their equipment and most of the men. I do know that one of the officers from the antiaircraft half-track unit escaped after they had run out of ammunition and destroyed their half-tracks. They escape by climbing the mountains and traveled southward until they came upon 24th infantry division troops. This officer was an OCS classmate of mine and he told me this story many years later at an OCS reunion. His name is LTC Frank Shelby (Ret.)

I also learned that company D of the 6th Medium Tank Battalion was given the mission of breaking through the defile and rescuing the 5th RCT. Unfortunately they lost nine of their seventeen tanks at the defile.

There is an interesting article in the Taro Leaf, 2005, written by Tom Lyke who was a tank crewman on one of

the tanks that was destroyed. He was captured and became a prisoner of war until 1953. I believe there is another book written by a member of the 5th RCT entitled, "The Valley of Death."

In 1989 I attended an OCS reunion at Fort Riley Kansas. There I met a member of the 5th RCT who had escaped from Death Valley. He told me it was my fault that the 5th RCT was almost eliminated at Death Valley. I informed this gentleman that if, when they had set up that roadblock they had also secured their flanks, and the defile, that Death Valley would never have happened.

I'm glad my tank platoon and I volunteered to help the 8th Rangers and that we survived the Korean War...over the objections of my CO. I might add that in the 10 months I was in combat as a tank platoon leader I had five different COs. This one was the worst of them.

I remember one battle where I was supporting the 3rd BN of the 19th RGT. They were on the left side of a valley and advancing fairly fast, while LT Houtz's platoon was supporting his infantry battalion on the right side of the valley. His unit wasn't advancing as fast as mine. We were about a half-mile ahead of his infantry. My platoon sergeant called me and said he could see and take under fire the Chinese who were attacking Houtz's infantry. I called Houtz on my radio and suggested he send his second section up to where I was fighting. There his tank section could get some good shooting at the Chinese. He replied, "You fight your platoon your way and I'll fight mine my way." I could see Chinese killing soldiers of the battalion that he was supposed to be supporting, so I had my platoon sergeant turn his two tanks and fire on the Chinese with the caution, "Be careful of our infantry trying to advance. We didn't want to kill any one with friendly fire." I just couldn't let this incident pass and watch the Chinese killing our troops without doing something. I mention this to compare his attitude with mine when I was asked to help the Rangers surrounded in their firefight.

David Teich, MJR, Life Member #1784, 284 Vaughn St., Aurora, CO 80011-8631303-364-7597

davidteich284@comcast.net

A recent communication...

Hi Merry, I want to bring you up to date on what's been happening. The 8th Rangers contacted me several months ago and wanted all the information I could get them on the tank that I had in the 6th tank Battalion in Korea 1951. I sent them several pictures and they found a similar tank at Fort Leonard Wood Missouri. Fort Leonard Wood painted it exactly as my tank was painted to look like a tiger in 1951. The tank is now on display at the U.S. Army heritage Museum at Carlisle Pennsylvania. The 8th Rangers are having a reunion and a ceremony to honor my rescuing them on April 25, 1951. The reunion dates are July 26 and 27, 2013. They have reserved several rooms at the Meadow Lodge at Allenberry, PA. I have

located a platoon sergeant from Charlie company who lives in West Virginia; he is also going to the reunion. I don't know if the 8th Rangers are going to let the Taro Leaf know about the reunion. Col. Robert Black, 8th Rangers, sent two pictures of the tank and a flyer for the reunion. I have them in my computer but I can't seem to attach them to any emails.

Send me your regular mailing address and I will forward the pictures to you. I am really looking forward to meeting with these remaining 8th Airborne Rangers after 62 years. I hope you are feeling well.

Dave Teich

DEATH VALLEY AMBUSH

Merry Helm retrieved this 1951 UP news story about the April ambush of the 5th RCT at Pisi-gol. Although incomplete, it ties in with the prior story.

EPIC FIGHT OF AMBUSH TOLD By WILLIAM BURSON WITH U.S. 24TH DIVISION, KOREA—(UP)—This is the story of "death valley" and the 405 brave Americans who died or were captured there in a Chinese ambush.

It is the story of a company commander who was hit nine times by machine gun fire while leading futile counter-attacks, but never faltered. It is the story of medics who fired machine guns when the men at the triggers fell dead. It is the story of infantrymen who never had fired an artillery piece in their lives, but took their places at the lanyard under fire. They sought to save 65, and it might never have happened if the trapped men hadn't stayed behind to rescue 65 surrounded American Rangers.

The ambush occurred last April 25 in a deep mountain defile north of the Chongpyong reservoir on the west-central front during the first stage of the Chinese spring offensive. Lieut. Colonel Harry S. Wilson of Brownsville, Texas, commander of the 5th Regimental Combat Team, had been holding a rearguard perimeter to screen the withdrawal of other 24th Division elements.

With him were the combat team's 1st and 2nd Battalions, the 555th Field Artillery Battalion with 155-millimeter howitzers, and Baker Company of the 6th (Patton) Tank Battalion.

Wilson was about to order his men out when he learned a company of Rangers had been surrounded farther north by a Chinese regiment while trying to hold a wide-open flank. The commander decided to hold on a little longer and sent five Patton tanks to the rescue. Two hours later, they returned with 65 survivors, most of them wounded. Wilson gave the order to withdraw. The first of the convoy, led by Major Claude Baker of Saranac, Mich., commander of the 1st Battalion, passed safely through the defile. But as the first truck of "Charlie" Battery neared the south exit, a figure in white jumped a ditch, whirled, and fired a hip-supported heavy machine gun into the cab.

The vehicle careened backward, and the big gun it was pulling crashed into the truck behind, knocking it out of control.

As if on signal, Chinese appeared on the ridge line, along the slopes and in the roadside rice paddies. From somewhere, mortars coughed and laid their explosive eggs along the length of the column. Automatic weapons opened up killing many G.I.s in the cross fire. A regimental operations officer ran down the road to order the men off the trucks and into the hills. A machine gun burst stopped him in his tracks. Wilson, firing back with his .45, gave the order himself to the remaining units.

Lieutenant Colonel Clarence E. Stuart of Freeland, Mich., commander of the 555th, ran — shooting as he went — half a mile back to his "Able" battery and personally directed the setting up of howitzers to counterfire on the enemy. Artillery men of "Charlie" Battery unhitched their guns at the head of the column and fired point blank at the Reds around them. And when the artillerymen fell, infantrymen like Corporal Berrand Combs of Elgood, W. Va., who had never fired an artillery piece in his life took their places at the lanyards.

The 1st Battalion rallied around the bellowing leadership of beefy Captain Horace W. (Captain Combat) West of Nazareth, Pa., commander of "Able" Company. West's company made three futile counter-attacks down the road. Baker Company attacked up the hill to the west and "Charlie" Company assaulted the ridge on the east. All were repulsed. West was hit nine times by machine gun fire, but never stopped. A young air force tactical officer, Second Lieutenant Walter Fay, who had arrived in Korea only three days earlier, stayed with his radio jeep and called in air strikes which worked within 100 yards of the beleaguered Americans. He was wounded once, but stayed at his post.

The Chinese swarmed off the hills and attacked at close range. Many got within 10 yards of the G.I.s before they were downed. Infantrymen fought from trucks, behind rocks, in ditches. Some counterattacked.

(This is the extent of the article. Source: Bakersfield Californian. 26 May 1951)

Back to the Philippines By David J. Valley

The first of March, Dottie and I traveled to the Philippines to visit our family. My son, Darin, and his wife Patti have lived there for thirteen years and we have seen very little of them as their children have grown up. It was quite an undertaking, but visiting with the family made it all worthwhile. Since our last trip in 2006



David and Dottie Valley in the Asian Tropics

many things have changed in the Metro Manila area. Hundreds of high rise office towers and condos have sprung up in and around the city.

Most developments have associated shopping malls, many of which are more extensive and lavish than any in southern California.

My son lives in Alabang, an upscale community about 20 miles from downtown Manila. The mall there has about 300 stores and is so extensive we frequently got lost in its many sections. Besides all the well known retail stores and boutiques, it has most of the American fast food restaurants and the better ones such as Friday's, Tony Roma's, Chilli's, the Outback, and others. Prices for meals were about the same or a bit higher than in the U.S. I don't know how the average Filipinos can afford them.

Other things, such as gasoline (\$5/gal), are also higher, however personal services are very reasonable. Caregivers can be hired for a \$1.50-\$2.00 per hour, and a full time driver for \$250 per month. Ladies (and guys too) can enjoy multiple visits to beauty salons for about 1/3 of what such services cost in the U.S.

Traffic around the city is terrible and complicated by the Philippine answer (none) to public transportation. There are thousands of Jeepneys (mini home-made buses), motor cycles with sidecars which carry up to four persons, similar bicycle pedaled transports, and personal motor

cycles and motor scooters which fly in and out of auto traffic like swarms of insects. Pedestrians have no regard for crosswalks and challenge the cross flow of traffic at every opportunity.

On the bright side, I saw an innovation which would be

useful in the U.S. At many major intersections there are large digital clocks, which can be read more than a block away, displaying seconds on a countdown until the lights change. These clocks seem to encourage discipline at inter-sections; I didn't witness any running red lights.

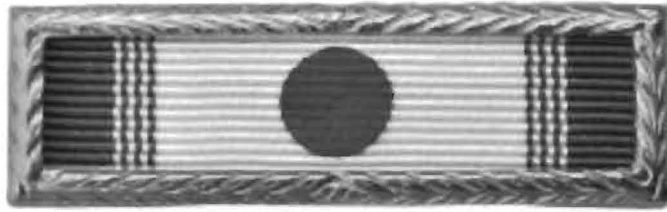
Fortunately for us, the weather during the month of March was moderate for the Philippines in the 80-90s. In April we experienced weather in the high 90s...and always with a heavy dose of humidity. It takes a lot of getting used to.

I had hoped to make some appearances as Gen. MacArthur while there, but I only made two, one at the re-enactment of the Battle of Manila, and another at a private gathering. Sorry to say, but interest in past history, as in the U.S., is fast waning.

I am told that one of the reasons the peso is strong against the U.S. Dollar (40P/USD) is because of a high influx of investments and tourist spending from other Asian countries since the Philippines is now considered the upscale "bargain" location of the Far East. It used to be Hong Kong and Korea, and much earlier Japan....not anymore.

An example of the opulent commercial enterprises aimed at tourists is the Mall of Asia, which is probably the largest in the world. It is located on Manila Bay south of the U.S. Embassy. Even from a distance it looks huge. We didn't bother to visit it since the local malls were already too big for us to comprehend.

KOREAN PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION



The Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation is a military award issued by the government of South Korea to both South Korean and foreign military units. The last major issuance of the decoration was during the Korean War when the decoration was bestowed to several American, British, and Commonwealth military units. By order of the South Korean government, the award was also retroactively authorized to every unit of the United States Army which had deployed to Korean Peninsula between 1950 and 1954. The award was also awarded to Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea for service between 9 December 1999 to 24 April 2002.

AWARD TO 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION

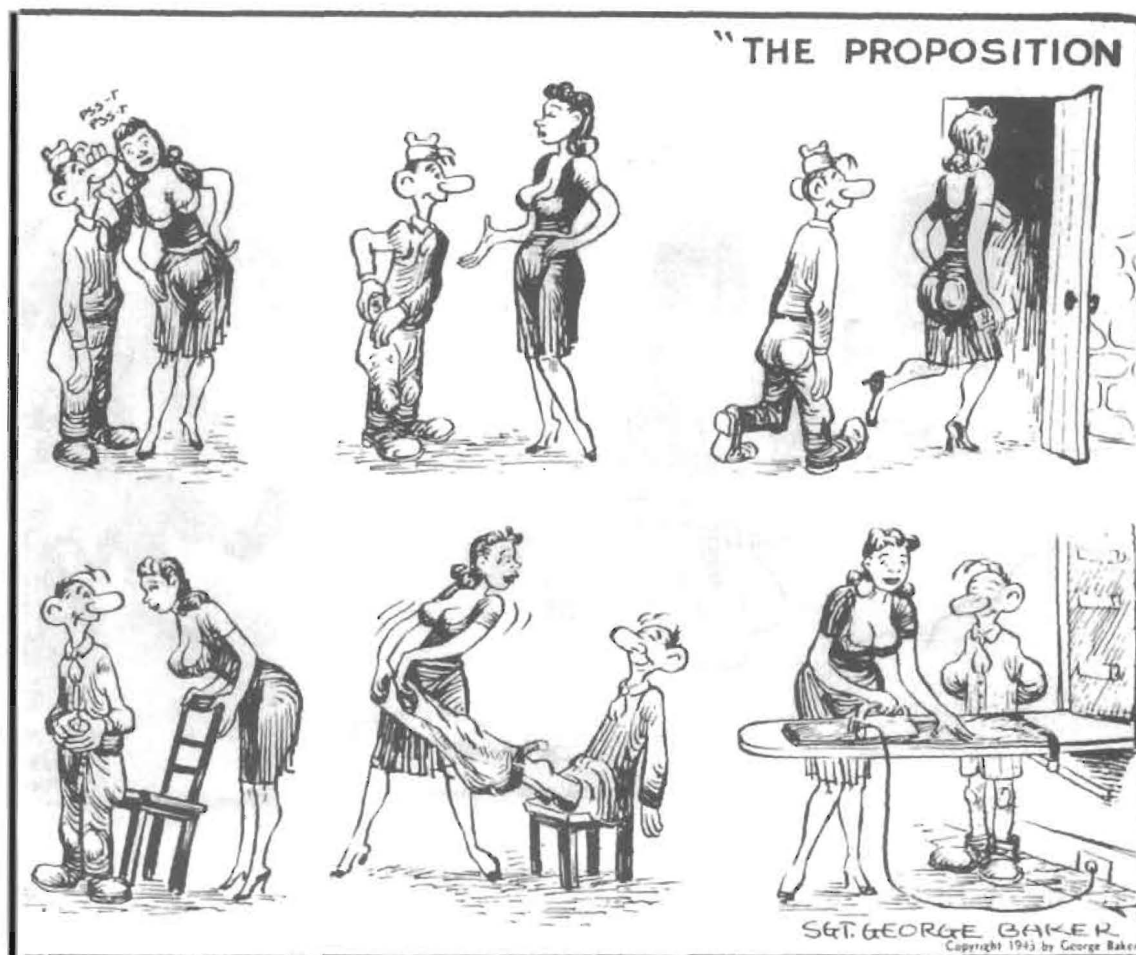
REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION awarded by citation dated 29 September 1950, by Syngman Rhee; President of the Republic of Korea, for outstanding and heroic performance of duty on the field of battle during period 2 July 1950 to 22 July 1950, inclusive, citation as follows:

As the first United States Division in combat at Pyongtaek, Korea, [the 24th Infantry Division] so distinguished itself by its tenacity, hard fighting and willingness to make extraordinary sacrifices against greater odds as not only to delay the advance of a numerically superior enemy, but, in addition, gained valuable time to permit other United Nations Forces to arrive on the battlefield. This marked and brilliant performance of duty by each individual member of the 24th Infantry Division of the United States Army is in accord with the highest traditions of peace-seeking defenders of Liberty.

The presidential Unit Citation ribbon (Republic of Korea) is authorized to be worn by personnel who were assigned to and present for duty with one or more of the units listed below at any time during the period for which such unit was cited. Not more than one such ribbon will be worn by any individual and no oak-leaf cluster or other appurtenance is authorized. The ribbon will be worn above the pocket on the right breast to the wearer's left of all United States emblems and/or badges worn above the pocket on that breast, the red portion of the central figure uppermost. The ribbon will be worn on the uniform only when at least one United States military decoration, service medal or service ribbon is worn simultaneously.

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION: Hq and Hq Company; Band; 3rd Engineer Combat Battalion; 19th Infantry Regiment; 21st Infantry Regiment; 34th Infantry Regiment; 24th Medical Battalion; 24th MP Company; 24th QM Company; 24th Reconnaissance Company; 24th Replacement Company; 24th Signal Company; 78th Heavy Tank Battalion; 724th Ordnance Maintenance Company; Division Artillery: Hq and Hq Battery; 11th FAB; 13th FAB; 52d FAB; 63d FAB; 26th AAA; Medical Detachment.

**SAD
SACK**
By
George
Baker



**WILLE
& JOE**
By
Bill



"I'll be dawgoned! Did ya know this can opener fits on th' end of a rifle?"



A Hero Returns Home After 63 Years

After being declared missing in action for more than 60 years, a Korean War veteran was returned home.

MSG Ernest Grainger's remains were flown into Charleston and then taken to Conway accompanied by his widow. It's likely Grainger died in the summer of 1950 while in Korea, but he wasn't classified as dead until 1953. Even so, he was never found, and his family was left to wonder all these years.

According to records of Grainger's time in the Army, he was reported missing in action in 1950 after the **24th Infantry Division, 21st Infantry Regiment, K Company** was deployed to an area along the Kum River in western South Korea. The unit was ordered to hold its position along the river so retreating South Korean soldiers could move into more defensible positions further south.

During a fire fight in the middle of July, North Korean forces overran the U.S. positions, destroying much of the 21st RGT. Grainger was reported missing after the fighting ceased. Grainger's unit had been serving as occupiers in Japan before being deployed to Korea. During Grainger's time in the military, he also served as a paratrooper in the 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment during World War II. While in the Pacific Theater, he made various jumps and engaged Japanese soldiers in combat throughout the Philippines.

After World War II, Grainger signed one as an Enlisted Reserve Corps member before joining the regular Army and going back to the Pacific for occupation duty in Japan. Now finally, 63 years later, he was only a short ride away from home.

"This is why we're standing here free today," said Patriot Guard Rider, Larry Bothner. "Grainger gave everything when he lost his life fighting in the Korean War, he was just 25 at the time of his death."

His surviving family, his widow, a niece and her daughter, stood by as Grainger's remains were carried off the plane. They got the call last June after he was found by South Korean soldiers. His remains were then flown to Hawaii where he was positively identified.

"This is why we're standing here free today," said Patriot Guard Rider, Larry Bothner. "He defended our freedom. It's a different generation now, World War II and Korean veterans deserve all the respect that we give our current soldiers," Bothner said. "They paved the way for what we have today." Bothner, a veteran and Patriot Guard Rider, led the procession to Conway, the site of Grainger's boyhood home. It's also where his loved-ones had hoped for over 60 years, for an answer.

"They now have, with Grainger's return, relief, closure, and the contentment to know he's come home," said Bothner. Yes, finally home, another life's sacrifice from a generation that will never be forgotten.

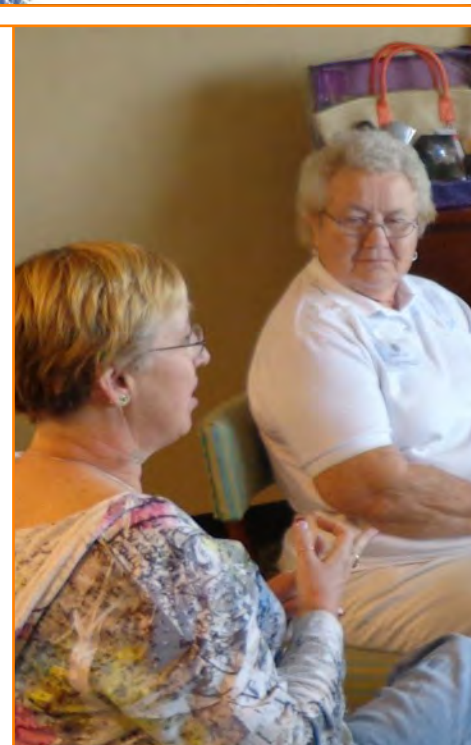
"Thank a veteran, have respect for veterans, have respect for their families; the families go through a lot also," he said. "We show respect, that's the least of what every American should do for a veteran."

By Eric Egan,
eegan@abcnews4.com CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCIV)

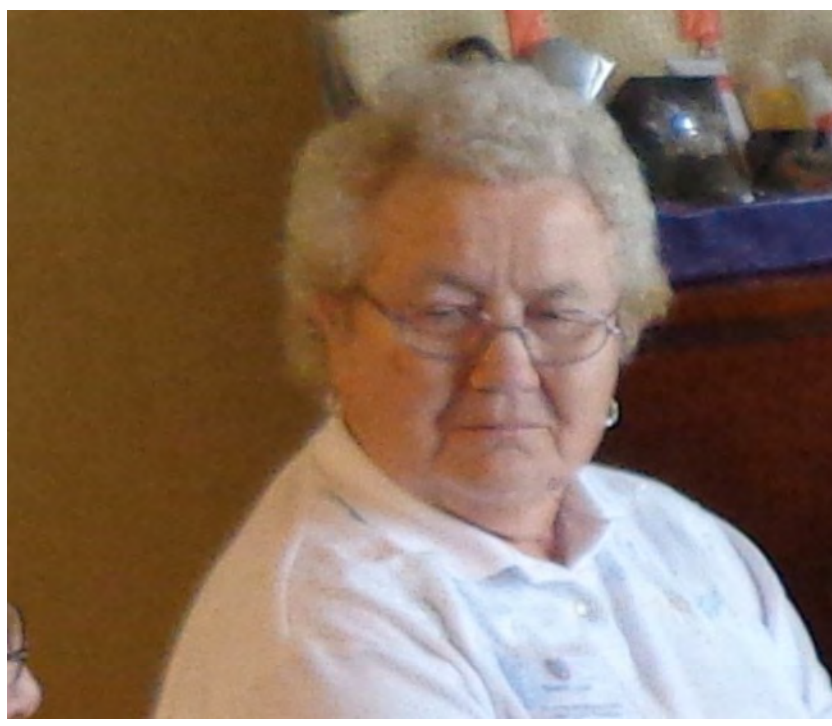


WESTCOAST REGIONAL REUNION









"LEST WE FORGET"

They were getting old and paunchy
And their hair was falling fast,
And they sat around in clubs,
Telling stories of the past.
Of a war that they once fought in
And the deeds that they had done,
Of their exploits with their buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

Tho' sometimes to their neighbors
Their tales became a joke,
All their buddies listened quietly
For they knew whereof they spoke.
But we'll hear their tales no longer,
For old buddies have passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Veteran died today.

Not mourned by many,
just family and friends.
They lived an ordinary life,
in a quiet sort of way.
Worked and raised a family,
most with meager pay.
The world won't note their passing,
Tho' a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state.
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell their life stories
From the time they were young.
But the passing of a Veteran
Goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
One who breaks their promises
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary Military person
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve their country
And offers up their life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which they live,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that they give.
While the ordinary Veteran,
Who offered up their all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension...
Though relatively small.

With your enemies are at hand,
Would you want some politician,
With their ever waffling stand?
Or would you want a Service person
To rise up and take commands
Just a common Service person,
To fight and die for this land?

They were just common persons,
And their ranks are growing thin,
But their presence should remind us
We may need their like again.
For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Military's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do them honor
While they are here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give them homage
At the ending of their days.
Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
**"Our Country Is in Mourning,
a Veteran Died this Day."**

By an anonymous Patriot

The time is early July, 1950 as Allied Forces are being herded to what would become known as the Pusan Perimeter.

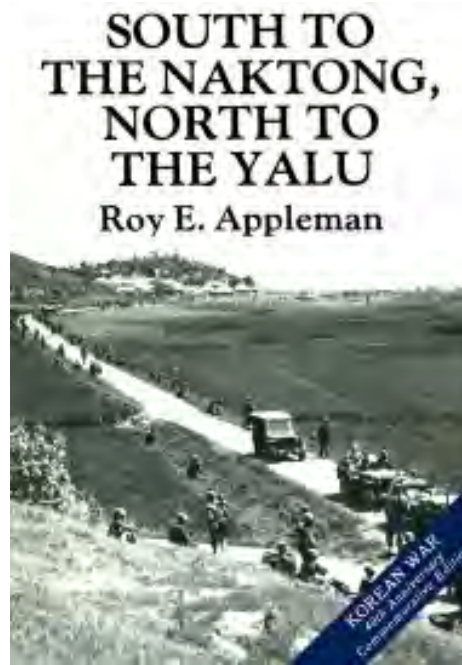
After the ROK 8th Division withdrew inland the only troops on the east coast to oppose the enemy were the ROK 23d Regiment of the 3d Division. Col. Kim Chong Won, better known as "Tiger Kim," an unusually big and strong man for a Korean, commanded this regiment. The regiment went into action against Communist guerrillas in the vicinity of Ulchin and P'yonghae-ri in early July. Beginning on 10 July it engaged the N.K. 5th Division in battle on the coastal road in the vicinity of P'yonghae-ri.

From this time on through July there was hard fighting on the coastal road for control of Yongdok and the northern approaches to P'ohang-dong.

General MacArthur was aware of the enemy division advancing down the coastal road, and he knew that unless halted it would constitute a grave menace. On 7 July, he ordered General Dean to halt hostile troops moving south along the east coast near Yongdok, and instructed him to provide security for Col. Robert Witty and his 35th Fighter Group at the air base being established at Yonil, five miles south of P'ohang-dong. Pursuant to these instructions, General Dean ordered the 3d Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, then assembling at Taegu, to proceed to P'ohang-dong, where it arrived on 8 July. By 9 July an antiaircraft company also was at P'ohang-dong and heavy engineering equipment was en route by LST to improve and extend the Yonil air strip by 3,000 feet.

Reports of strong unidentified enemy or guerrilla forces moving south along the Taebaek Range now reached the ROK Army and 24th Division headquarters. They assumed that these forces intended to attack P'ohang-dong in conjunction with the main enemy force moving down the coastal road.

Colonel "Tiger Kim," feeling the force of the N.K. 5th Division for the first time, requested that he be sent reinforcements. Colonel Emmerich, senior KMAC adviser with the ROK 3d Division, in turn requested that the ROK Army release immediately the ROK 1st Separate Battalion and the Yongdungp'o Separate Battalion from their antiguerrilla operations in the Chiri. Emmerich, through the ROK G-3, ordered them all back north to Yongdok and followed them himself.



Mountains of southwest Korea. This was granted and the two battalions, numbering about 1,500 men armed with Japanese rifles and carbines, moved by rail and motor transport to the east coast.

Meanwhile, Capt. Harold Slater, KMAC adviser with the ROK 23d Regiment, sent to Colonel Emmerich at Taegu a radio message that the ROK situation near P'yonghae-ri had grown critical. Emmerich started for that place accompanied by the G-3 of the ROK 3d Division. Some fifty miles below the front, at P'ohang-dong, they found retreating ROK soldiers. They also found there the regimental executive officer in the act of setting up a rear command post.

Already U.S. naval and air forces had joined in the fight along the coastal road. Ships came close in-shore on the enemy flank to bombard with naval gunfire the North Korean troop concentrations and supply points on the coastal corridor. The newly arrived 35th Fighter Group at Yonil Airfield joined in the fight. Weather permitting, aircraft bombed and strafed the N.K. 5th Division daily. Capt. Gerald D. Putnam, a KMAC adviser with the ROK 23d Regiment, served as an observer with the fighter group in identifying targets and in adjusting naval gunfire. Heavy monsoon rains created landslides on the mountain-flanked coastal road and helped to slow the North Korean advance. Late in the afternoon of 11 July the command post of the ROK 23d Regiment withdrew south into Yongdok. When the 3d Division commander arrived at P'ohang-dong, pursuant to Colonel Emmerich's request that he take personal command of his troops, he ordered the military police to shoot any ROK troops found in the town. That proved effective for the moment. The next day, young Brig. Gen. Lee Chu Sik arrived on the east coast to assume command of the division.

On or about 13 July, the N.K. 5th Division entered P'yonghae-ri, twenty-two miles above Yongdok and fifty miles from P'ohang-dong. There the 10th Regiment turned westward into the mountains and headed for Chinbo, back of Yongdok. The enemy advances down the mountain backbone of central Korea and on the east coast had assumed alarming proportions. The attack on Yongdok, the first critical and major action on the east coast, was at hand.

General Dean tried to give this front additional strength by assembling there the advanced units of the 25th Infantry

Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. William B. Kean. It was the second United States division to be committed in the war and arrived in Korea between 10 and 15 July. On the 8th, General Kean and an advance party flew from Osaka, Japan, to Taejon for a conference with General Dean. Two days later the 27th Infantry Regiment (Wolfhound) landed at Pusan.

There the regiment learned that its new commander was Lt. Col. John H. "Mike" Michaelis. On the 12th, a second regiment, the 24th Infantry, an all-Negro regiment and the only regiment in the Eighth Army having three battalions, arrived in Korea. Col. Horton V. White commanded it. Lastly, the 35th Infantry Regiment, commanded by Col. Henry G. Fisher, arrived at Pusan between 13 and 15 July.

The 27th Infantry at first went to the Uisong area, thirty-five miles north of Taegu. General Kean opened his first 25th Division command post in Korea at Yongch'on, midway between Taegu and P'ohang-dong. On 12, July General Dean ordered him to dispose the 25th Division, less one battalion which was to secure Yonil Airfield, so as to block enemy movement south from Ch'ungju. One regiment was to be in reserve at Kumch'on ready to move either to the Taejon or the Ch'ongju area. [14] The next day, 13 July, the 27th Infantry moved from Uisong to Andong on Eighth Army orders to take up blocking positions north of the town behind ROK troops.

On 13 July, with the U.S. 24th Division in defensive positions along the south bank of the Kum River, the front extended along that river to a point above Taejon, eighty miles south of Seoul, where it bent slightly north of east to pass through Ch'ongju and across the high Taebaek passes south of Ch'ungju and Tanyang, and then curved slightly south to the east coast at P'yonghae-ri, 110 air miles north of Pusan at the southern tip of the peninsula. On all the principal corridors leading south from this line heavy battles were immediately in prospect.

By 6 July it was known that General MacArthur planned to have Eighth Army, with General Walker in command, assume operational control of the campaign in Korea. General Walker, a native of Belton, Texas, already had achieved a distinguished record in the United States Army. In World War I he had commanded a machine gun company and won a battlefield promotion. Subsequently, in the early 1930's he commanded a battalion of the 15 Infantry Regiment in China. Before Korea he was best known, perhaps, for his command of the XX Corps of General Patton's Third Army in World War II. General Walker assumed command of Eighth Army in Japan in 1948. Under General MacArthur he commanded United Nations ground forces in Korea until his death in December 1950.

During the evening of 6 July General Walker telephoned Col. William A. Collier at Kobe and asked him to report to him the next morning at Yokohama. When Collier arrived at Eighth Army headquarters the next morning General Walker told him that Eighth Army was taking over command of the military operations in Korea, and that he, Walker, was flying to Korea that afternoon but was returning the following day. Walker told Collier he wanted him to go to Korea as soon as possible and set up an Eighth Army headquarters, that for the present Col. Eugene M. Landrum, his Chief of Staff, would remain in Japan, and that he, Collier, would be the Eighth Army combat Chief of Staff in Korea until Landrum could come over later.

General Walker and Colonel Collier had long been friends and associated in various commands going back to early days together at the Infantry School at Fort Benning. They had seen service together in China in the 15th Infantry and in World War II when Collier was a member of Walker's IV Armored Corps and XX Corps staffs. After that Collier had served Walker as Chief of Staff in command assignments in the United States. Colonel Collier had served in Korea in 1948 and 1949 as Deputy Chief of Staff and then as Chief of Staff of United States Army forces there. During that time he had come to know the country well.

On the morning of 8 July Colonel Collier flew from Ashiya Air Base to Pusan and then by light plane to Taejon. After some difficulty he found General Dean with General Church between Taejon and the front. The day before, General Walker had told Dean that Collier would be arriving in a day or two to set up the army headquarters. General Dean urged Collier not to establish the headquarters in Taejon, adding, "You can see for yourself the condition." Collier agreed with Dean. He knew Taejon was already crowded and that communication facilities there would be taxed. He also realized that the tactical situation denied the use of it for an army headquarters. Yet Colonel Collier knew that Walker wanted the headquarters as close to the front as possible. But if it could not be at Taejon, then there was a problem.

Collier was acquainted with all the places south of Taejon and he knew that short of Taegu they were too small and had inadequate communications, both radio and road, to other parts of South Korea, to serve as a headquarters. He also remembered that at Taegu there was a cable relay station of the old Tokyo-Mukden cable in operation. So Collier drove to Taegu and checked the cable station. Across the street from it was a large compound with school buildings. He decided to establish the Eighth Army headquarters there. Within two hours arrangements had been made with the Provincial Governor and the school buildings were being evacuated. Collier telephoned Colonel Landrum in Yokohama to start the Eighth Army staff to Korea. The next day, 9

July at 1300, General Walker's advance party opened its command post at Taegu.

General Walker Assumes Command in Korea

As it chanced, the retreat of the U.S. 24th Infantry Division across the Kum River on 12 July coincided with the assumption by Eighth United States Army in Korea (EUSAK) of command of ground operations. General Walker upon verbal instructions from General MacArthur assumed command of all United States Army forces in Korea effective 0001 13 July. That evening, General Church and his small ADCOM staff received orders to return to Tokyo, except for communications and intelligence personnel who were to remain temporarily with EUSAK. A total American and ROK military force of approximately 75,000 men, divided between 18,000 Americans and 58,000 ROK's, was then in Korea.

General Walker arrived in Korea on the afternoon of 13 July to assume personal control of Eighth Army operations. That same day the ROK Army headquarters moved from Taejon to Taegu to be near Eighth Army headquarters. General Walker at once established tactical objectives and unit responsibility.

Eighth Army was to delay the enemy advance, secure the current defensive line, stabilize the military situation, and build up for future offensive operations. The 24th Division, deployed along the south bank of the Kum River in the Kongju-Taejon area on the army's left (west) was to "prevent enemy advance south of that line."

To the east, in the mountainous central corridor, elements of the 25th Division were to take up blocking positions astride the main routes south and help the ROK troops stop the North Koreans in that sector. Elements of the 25th Division not to exceed one reinforced infantry battalion were to secure the port of P'ohang-dong and Yonil Airfield on the east coast.

On 17 July, four days after he assumed command of Korean operations, General Walker received word from General MacArthur that he was to assume command of all Republic of Korea ground forces, pursuant to President Syngman Rhee's expressed desire. During the day, as a symbol of United Nations command, General Walker accepted from Col. Alfred G. Katzin, representing the United Nations, the United Nations flag and hung it in his Eighth Army headquarters in Taegu.

A word should be said about General MacArthur's and General Walker's command relationship over ROK forces. President Syngman Rhee's approval of ROK forces coming under United Nations command was never formalized in a document and was at times tenuous. This situation grew out of the relationship of the United Nations to the war in Korea.

On 7 July the Security Council of the United Nations took the third of its important actions with respect to the invasion of South Korea. By a vote of seven to zero, with three abstentions and one absence, it passed a resolution recommending a unified command in Korea and asked the United States to name the commander. The resolution also requested the United States to provide the Security Council with "appropriate" reports on the action taken under a unified command and authorized the use of the United Nations flag.

The next day, 8 July, President Truman issued a statement saying he had designated General Douglas MacArthur as the "Commanding General of the Military Forces," under the unified command. He said he also had directed General MacArthur "to use the United Nations flag in the course of operations against the North Korean forces concurrently with the flags of the various nations participating."

The last important act in establishing unified command in Korea took place on 14 July when President Syngman Rhee of the Republic of Korea placed the security forces of the Republic under General MacArthur, the United Nations commander.

Although there appears to be no written authority from President Rhee on the subject, he verbally directed General Chung Il Kwon, the ROK Army Chief of Staff, to place himself under the U.N. Command. Under his authority stemming from General MacArthur, the U.N. commander, General Walker directed the ROK Army through its own Chief of Staff. The usual procedure was for General Walker or his Chief of Staff to request the ROK Army Chief of Staff to take certain actions regarding ROK forces. That officer or his authorized deputies then issued the necessary orders to the ROK units.

This arrangement was changed only when a ROK unit was attached to a United States organization. The first such major action took place in September 1950 when the ROK 1st Division was attached to the U.S. I Corps. About the same time the ROK 17th Regiment was attached to the U.S. X Corps for the Inch'on landing. Over such attached units the ROK Army Chief of Staff made no attempt to exercise control. Actually the ROK Army authorities were anxious to do with the units remaining nominally under their control whatever the commanding general of Eighth Army wanted. From a military point of view there was no conflict on this score.

When political issues were at stake during certain critical phases of the war it may be questioned whether this command relationship would have continued had certain actions been taken by the U.N. command which President Syngman Rhee considered inimical to the political future of his country. One such instance occurred in early October when U.N. forces approached the 38th Parallel and it was uncertain

whether they would continue military action into North Korea. There is good reason to believe that Syngman Rhee gave secret orders that the ROK Army would continue northward even if ordered to halt by the U.N. command, or that he was prepared to do so if it became necessary. The issue was not brought to a test in this instance as the U.N. command did carry the operations into North Korea.

Troop Training and Logistics

General Walker had instituted a training program beginning in the summer of 1949 which continued on through the spring of 1950 to the beginning of the Korean War. It was designed to give Eighth Army troops some degree of combat readiness after their long period of occupation duties in Japan. When the Korean War started most units had progressed through battalion training, although some battalions had failed their tests. Regimental, division, and army levels of training and maneuvers had not been carried out. The lack of suitable training areas in crowded Japan constituted one of the difficulties.

If the state of training and combat readiness of the Eighth Army units left much to be desired on as June 1950, so also did the condition of their equipment. Old and worn would describe the condition of the equipment of the occupation divisions in Japan. All of it dated from World War II. Some vehicles would not start and had to be towed on to LST's when units loaded out for Korea. Radiators were clogged, and over-heating of motors was frequent. The poor condition of Korean roads soon destroyed already well-worn tires and tubes.

The condition of weapons was equally bad. A few examples will reflect the general condition. The 3d Battalion of the 35th Infantry Regiment reported that only the SCR-300 radio in the battalion command net was operable when the battalion was committed in Korea. The 24th Regiment at the same time reported that it had only 60 percent of its Table of Equipment allowance of radios and that four-fifths of them were inoperable. The 1st Battalion of the 35th Infantry had only one recoilless rifle; none of its companies had spare barrels for machine guns, and most of the M1 rifles and M2 carbines were reported as not combat serviceable. Many of its 60-mm. mortars were unserviceable because the bipods and the tubes were worn out.

Cleaning rods and cleaning and preserving supplies often were not available to the first troops in Korea. And there were shortages in certain types of ammunition that became critical in July. Trip flares, 60-mm. mortar illuminating shells, and grenades were very scarce. Even the 60-mm. illuminating shells that were available were old and on use proved to be 50 to 60 percent duds.

General Walker was too good a soldier not to know the deficiencies of his troops and their equipment. He went to Ko-

rea well aware of the limitations of his troops in training, equipment, and in numerical strength. He did not complain about the handicaps under which he labored. He tried to carry out his orders. He expected others to do the same.

On 1 July the Far East Command directed Eighth Army to assume responsibility for all logistical support of the United States and Allied forces in Korea. This included the ROK Army. When Eighth Army became operational in Korea, this logistical function was assumed by Eighth Army Rear which remained behind in Yokohama. This dual function of Eighth Army—that of combat in Korea and of logistical support for all troops fighting in Korea—led to the designation of that part of the army in Korea as Eighth United States Army in Korea.

This situation existed until 25 August. On that date the Far East Command activated the Japan Logistical Command with Maj. Gen. Walter L. Weible in command. It assumed the logistical duties previously held by Eighth Army Rear.

The support of American troops in Korea, and indeed of the ROK Army as well, would have to come from the United States or Japan. Whatever could be obtained from stocks in Japan or procured from Japanese manufacturers was so obtained. Japanese manufacturers in July began making anti-tank mines and on 18 July a shipment of 3,000 of them arrived by boat at Pusan.

That equipment and ordnance supplies were available to the United States forces in Korea in the first months of the war was largely due to the "roll-up" plan of the Far East Command. It called for the reclamation of ordnance items from World War II in the Pacific island outposts and their repair or reconstruction in Japan.

This plan had been conceived and started in 1948 by Brig. Gen. Urban Niblo, Ordnance Officer of the Far East Command. During July and August 1950 an average of 4,000 automotive vehicles a month cleared through the ordnance repair shops; in the year after the outbreak of the Korean War more than 46,000 automotive vehicles were repaired or rebuilt in Japan.

The Tokyo Ordnance Depot, in addition to repairing and renovating World War II equipment for use in Korea, instituted a program of modifying certain weapons and vehicles to make them more effective in combat. For instance, M4A3 tanks were modified for the replacement of the 75-mm. gun with the high velocity 76-mm. gun, and the motor carriage of the 105-mm. gun was modified so that it could reach a maximum elevation of 67 degrees to permit high-angle fire over the steep Korean mountains. Another change was in the half-track M15A1, which was converted to a T19 mounting a 40-mm. gun instead of the old model 37-mm. Weapon.

The Story will be continued from this point in the next issue of the Taro Leaf. (Resume at page 115)

Editor

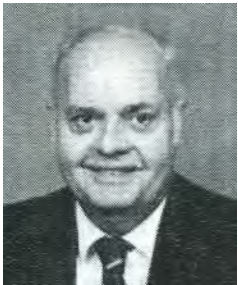
FALLEN COMRADES



LeRoy "Roy" Atkins died April 21, 2013. Roy was in the US Army, August 1952 to August 1954, during the Korean War. He was in Company H, 21RGT guarding North Korean prisoners on the Island of Koje-Do. He was Supply SGT. for Company H and remained with them until his enlistment was up. **Member**



Charles V. Kowalski, Retired SMJ, passed away on December 26, 2012. He was with the 24th Division at Schofield Barracks Hawaii on December 7, 1941 and left with the division to the Pacific theater. He was then stationed at Tokyo, Japan in 1948 and later with the 7th Division at Hokkaido in 1949. He rejoined his 24th Division in Korea in 1950. His awards include the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star. **Life member #1395**



Harold J. Wolken died September 24, 2012 at Garnett, KS. He served in Korea with C Battery, **11th FA BN** from 1953 to 1955.



LTG William B. Caldwell III died March 17, 2013. He was in Company A, **34th RGT** from 1949 to 25 July 1950. After the battle of Taejon, he was transferred to Hq and Hq Co, 1st Bn, 34th, and on 1 Sep 50, he was assigned to 3rd Bn, **19th RGT**. His son, LTG Caldwell IV is retiring from Ft Sam this summer and will become President of the Georgia Military College, at the age of 59. Lt. Gen.

William B. Caldwell III (1925-2013) is an honored veteran of two wars in which he was awarded three Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. **Member**



Aaron D. Barnes died February 13, 2013 at age 80. He was a member of CO G, **19 RGT** and fought throughout the Pacific Theater from New Guinea to Japan. He is greatly missed by his family and friends. **Life Member #306**

Edward Vincent Jackson died May 30, 2012 at the age of 73 at Cape Girardeau, MO. He served in the U.S. Army with the **21st RGT. Life Member 1470**

Edward "Ed" E. Hults died October 21, 2012 at the age of 84. He served with the Occupation Army in Japan in 1949 and later went to Korea with the **11th FA BN**. He was a **Life Member #1255**.



John Franzone died January 14, 2013. He served during WWII in the South Pacific with E CO, **19th RGT. Member**



Daniel Mecca died March 12, 2013 at age 80 in New Brunswick, NJ. He served in the Army during the Korean War, '50-'52, with the **13th FA BN**. He was an accomplished and well-known jazz drummer. **Life Member 1810**

Marcel Fournier died February 24, 2013 at age 91. Marcel enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1940 and was with the **21st RGT** in Hawaii when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He later served in the South Pacific and was awarded the Bronze Star. **Life Member #1613**



COL Urban Linus Throm II, M.D. died February 13, 2013 in Denver, CO. He was 98 years old. He had joined the Army in 1934 and served as an enlisted man before taking medical training at Walter Reed Hospital and later received his M.D. He served in the Philippines during WWII and received four battle stars on his service ribbon. Postwar he served in a

hospital in Japan. He specialized in dermatology and served at posts in Europe and the Middle East before retirement. **Life Member #15**



Clarence Ray Agee died on Mar 19, 2013. He served with A Btry **52nd FA Bn**, 1949-51 as a Medic. Ray was a veteran of Task Force Smith, and a faithful member of the 52nd FA Bn Association. **Member**

Clarence W. Waggoner died October 7, 2012 in Burlington, KY. He served with the **19th RGT. Life Member 589**

Norman Claude Smith, age 80, of Owenton, KY died February 12th, 2013. Smith served in E CO, **19th RGT**, in Korea, 1951. He was seriously wounded by a Chinese mortar round in Operation Nomad and received the Purple Heart. **Member**

George J. LaVigne passed away April 8, 2012 He was with **19th RGT** in Japan and the Korean War. **Life Member #539**

Henry Bise passed away April 8, 2013. Bise joined the US Army and served 44 months with the **24th ID**, 30 of it fighting the Japanese in World War II. He spent most of his military time fighting battles in the Pacific Theater, going from island to island hunting Japanese fighters. Mr. Bise remembered at one point not eating for 18 days and came out of the jungle weighing only 98 pounds. Mr. Bise received various medals, including the Purple Heart. He was shot while fighting a vicious battle on the island of Leyte in the Philippines. Mr. Bise was at Baxter Army Hospital in Spokane recovering from wounds when he looked up and his brother Kelly was four seats away in the mess hall. They hadn't seen each other in six years. Kelly was fighting the Nazi's in Italy and was also shot, earning a Purple Heart.



Howard James Bruno died, April 6, 2013. He served in HQ, **34th RGT** in the South Pacific in World War II and Japan.

John P. "Jack" Jorgensen passed away on 4 April, 2013. He served in HQ, **24th ID** during WWII & the Occupation of Japan

Rue B. Fields died recently in Rogersville, MO. He served with E Co. **21st RGT** in Korea, 1951. **Member**



Charles E. Nunnally died April 23, 2013. He served with the **11th FA BN** in Korea, 1951-52 and later in Japan. **Member**

FALLEN COMRADES



PFC Charles Heddinger, passed away 2 May, 2013. He was a member of the **21st RGT**, 24th ID medical company, He was with Task Force Smith and captured. He endured 37 months in a Korean Prison Camp until the duration of the action in Korea.

Dom Pantalone died May 1, 2013. He served in E CO, 19th RGT Korea 1951 – 52. **Life Member #2076**. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Joyce, and family at 712 Dorcaster Dr, Wilmington, DE 19804-2214.

Dewey A. Brewer passed away on March 21, 2013. He served in the U. S. Army during the Korean War I CO, 5th RCT. He was captured on April 4, 1951 and returned during Big Switch on August 8, 1953 and was a POW for 28 months 1951-53.



Lawrence Brockmann died on January 11, 2013. He proudly served with the **34th RGT** in the Pacific Theater during WWII and later in the Occupation of Japan. **Life Member 2094**

Shelby C. Creel died during the month of March 2013. He served with C CO, **19th RGT**. (Tiger Group). He was a POW (Camps 3 & 7) captured July, 16, 1950 and returned during Big Switch on August 26, 1953.

Lloyd Pate died March 20, 2013. Lloyd served with K. Co. **19th RGT**. and was captured on January 3, 1951. He was returned during Big Switch on August 19, 1953, (Camps 5, 3, 2 & 1). . He was Past President of the Korean War EXPOW Association. **Life Member #503**.



Othmar R. Jahn passed away March 5, 2013. at Brookside Village in Jasper. He was a United States Army Veteran serving as a **Military Policeman** in the Philippines during WWII.

Secretary's Taps List

Caldwell, William B.	7200 Warm Springs Rd.	Mdland	GA	31820 34th Inf	A	Japan-Korea 49-51	Died 3/17/13
Dorfman, Alvin M	1511 Manor Dr. NE	Palm Bay	FL	32905 24th Sig		Japan 45-46	Died 11/25/10
Dowdy, William C. Jr.	510 Tucker St.	McKinney	TX	75069 11th FA	HQ	WWII 44-46	Died 12/24/12
Franzone, John A.	2262 Swedish Dr-Apt 54	Clearwater	FL	33763 19th Inf	E	WWII 44-46	Died 2/19/13
Harman, Richard P.	1701 Park Ave.	Orange Park	FL	32073 5th RCT		Korea	Died 3/4/13
Jorgensen, John P.	1481 S. Danube Way #104	Aurora	CO	80017 Div HQ		WWII-Japan	Died 4/4/13
Mason, John C. Sr.	50 N. 9th St. Apt 803	Reading	PA	19601 11th FA		Japan-Korea 48-51	Died 9/12/09
Roskowiak, Eugene	3852 139th Lane NW	Andover	MN	55304 5th RCT		Korea	Died 2/28/13

"Old Taro Leafer" Honored

Holding History: Pearl Harbor survivor Alex Horanzy holds copies of newspapers from World War II that he saved. By William Kenny Photo provided by the Inquirer



Alex Horanzy and his buddies had a late night on the town on Dec. 6, 1941. In fact, their night of revelry in Oahu, Hawaii, lasted well into the early hours of Dec. 7, 1941. Eventually, they all made it to bed and tried to sleep it off, but the Japanese didn't let the members of Horanzy's U.S. Army's 24th Infantry Division sleep too long. Emperor Hirohito's planes attacked America's Pearl Harbor at about 7:50 a.m., thrusting the United States headlong into World War II.

In recognition of Memorial Day, Horanzy told his Pearl Harbor story to members of the Holme Circle Civic Association during the group's monthly meeting on May 22 at St. Jerome Church.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor claimed the lives of 2,402 U.S. service members and as many as 68 civilians. Horanzy survived the attack and the ensuing four years of war. He served in Australia and New Guinea, where he contracted malaria while helping to reverse Japan's hostile foray into Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Horanzy, 90, of Holme Circle, says he is the last remaining member of his Pearl Harbor Survivors Association chapter. The others have passed away.

"As the Japanese were attacking, I was assigned with other soldiers to an ammunition warehouse that was full of explosives. ... We began to load trucks with ammunition and explosives to fortify the north shore of the island, because we anticipated that the Japanese troops were going to make a landing there," said Horanzy, who spoke with a backdrop of wartime newspapers and a Japanese flag that he said he collected from the cockpit of a downed enemy fighter plane. The warehouse was next to an airfield a short distance from the harbor, which was the base of operations for the Pacific Fleet. "We were inside the warehouse, carrying out the ammo to load the trucks when we heard the planes coming overhead. We quickly stopped what we were doing and ran for cover. ... To this day, I wonder why they never fired upon us or bombed the warehouse that was full of explosives. ... Maybe they were saving their attack for the grand prize, Pearl Harbor, in which they succeeded. ... I think if the Japanese had known that the warehouse was full of explosives, they would have bombed it and I would not be [speaking to] you today."

Association Members Pay Tribute to a Comrade

"Hello, my name is Paul Kowalewski and I was honored when the 24th Infantry Division Association asked me to represent them at this event to honor my friend, Alex Horanzy. We met a couple of years ago at a local restaurant when I noticed his Taro Leaf emblem and mentioned I also served in the 24th Infantry Division during the Korean War. He said he served in World War II. Since that time we have become close friends. Alex it is my honor at this time to present you with this proclamation from your fellow Taro Leafers."

"First to Fight" "Victory Division"

Whereas, May 22, 2013 has been recognized as a day to honor Alexander R. Horanzy;

Whereas, Mr. Horanzy was present that "Day of Infamy" at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, December 7, 1941;

Whereas, Mr. Horanzy served with the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, for four years in the Pacific Theater;

Whereas, Mr. Horanzy, a member of the "Greatest Generation" and veteran of World War II;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the 24th Infantry Division Association do hereby honor Mr. Alexander R. Horanzy for his courageous and devoted service to his Nation, community, and fellow Taro Leafers.

**For the Association:
Donald Maggio, President**

QUARTERMASTER ORDER FORM

HAT PIN MEDALS ALL \$5: 1. Philippines Liberation 2. Nat'l Def Svc 3. Good Conduct 4. Silver Star 5. Pacific Campaign 6. Armed Forces Reserve 7. Army Occupation 8. POW 9. Distinguished Svc Cross 10. ETO Campaign 11. Soldiers Medal 12. Meritorious Svc 13. United Nations 14. American Defense 15. Vietnam Svc 16. American Campaign 17. Armed Forces Expeditionary 18. U.S. Flag 19. Army Dist Flying Cross 20. Korea Svc Ribbon 21. Army Commendation 22. WWII Victory Ribbon 23. Marine Corp Expeditionary 24. Korean Svc Medal 25. WWII Victory Medal 26. Bronze Star 27. Purple Heart 28. Air Medal 29. 24th ID 31. 19th RGT 32. 37. Combat Medic Badge 38. Army Desert Storm 39. Vietnam Heaven & Hell 104. Desert Storm 110. Philippines Presidential Unit Ribbon.

PATCHES: 42. 24th ID color \$6. 43. 24th IDA \$6. 58. 19th RGT Color \$6. 59. 21st RGT Color \$6. 60. 34th RGT Color \$6. 61. 11th FA BN Color \$6 62. 13th FA BN Color \$6 77. 5th RCT \$6 87. 6th Tank BN Color \$6. 91. 63rd FA BN Color \$6. 97. 24th ID Korean Vet \$6. 107. Division Artillery \$6. 108. 29th Inf Div Color \$6. 109. 24th ID Victory Patch \$6.

CRESTS: 52. 24th Sig \$9. 53. 19th RGT \$9. 54. 21st RGT \$9. 56. 11th FA BN \$9. 57. 13th FA BN \$9. 63. 24th ID \$9. 75. 3rd Eng BN \$9. 76. 14th Eng BN \$9.

CAPS: 65. 21st RGT White \$15. 66. 21st RGT Dark Blue \$15. 69. 24th IDA White w/Taro/Germany \$12. 70. 24th ID Red w/Taro/Germany 71. 24th IDA Red \$15. 72. 24th ID White/1st to Fight \$15. 73. 24th IDA Green (X) 74. 24th ID White Mesh (X) 78. 5th RCT Red w/patch \$12. 80. Desert Storm Vet \$12. 81. POW/MIA Blk \$15. 82. WWII Vet Blk \$12. 101. WWII Veteran w/CIB \$15.

MISCL: 40. **Ladies Necklace** 19th RGT \$5. 41. **Ladies Bracelet** 19th RGT \$5. 46. 24th ID Window sticker \$2. 85. CIB Window sticker 2x5 \$3. 86. **BUMPER STCKER** 24th ID "Proudly Served" \$3. **BOLO TIE:** Taro Leaf Gold w/Blk Braid \$15. **BELT BUCKLE:** 50. Taro Leaf w/Silver Buckle \$15. **NECK WALLET:** 94. 24th ID Green \$5. **KEY CHAIN:** 95. 24th ID \$10. **FLAGS 3'x5':** 90. 24th ID Outdoor Screen Print \$65. 102. Korean War Silk Screened \$65. 103. Korean War Vet Silk Screened \$65. **CHRISTMAS CARDS:** 93. 10 cards w/env. \$8. **CD:** 98. 24th ID Songs & March \$10. **DVD:** 99. 24th ID Punchbowl Memorial/Hawaii \$15. **License Plate:** 79. 24th ID w/Taro Leaf/First to Fight/Victory Div \$8. **HISTORY BOOK:** 96. **T-SHIRTS \$15 ea.** 24th ID Hawaii Div/Black in Color (Sizes XXL/L/M) 24th ID Hawaii Div/White in color (Sizes 2XL/XL/L/M) **NEW ITEMS:** 116. 24th ID Airborne Hat Pin. Bumper Stickers: 24th RGT Div PROUD TO SERVE. Also have bumper stickers for WWII and the Korean War. 120.

CIB BRACELET \$35 (order direct from Sektor Co., Box 501005, San Diego, CA 92150 - Free shipping)

Circle item number for purchase and indicate quantity. Shipping and handling is \$5.00. Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery. No phone orders. I suggest if you have an email address send me an email first, before ordering any items and I can check and see if I have them in stock. We do not accept credit cards. Make checks payable to the 24th IDA. Send the completed form and your check to:

Quartermaster John Walters, 313 Heritage Overlook, Woodstock, GA 30188.
Email: 1k34cspd@gmail.com

QM Notes: I recently secured a large quantity of hat pins, medals, patches, etc. from Albert McDoo with the 5th RCT out of Tampa. Their QM had passed away and they were getting rid of his inventory cheap so I got a good deal on the items. I am in the process of going through these items for inclusion in our inventory, which will hopefully be ready for the next TARO LEAF. In addition I would like to encourage all TARO LEAF readers to use my email to

request items **before** ordering to see if I have the certain items they want. This will accomplish two things, first save you 45 cents in postage and second, once they email me I can send them a more user friendly inventory list than what appears in the TARO LEAF. Thanks for your understanding.

Quartermaster, John Walters
EMAIL: 1k34cspd@gmail.com

ABOUT OUR DUES

How much are present annual dues to the Association and when are they due?

Current dues are \$15 annually and are due in the month that you joined the Association. Your Association membership card has the month and year that your current dues expires; they should be renewed by that month.

The association does not send out invoices for dues, and I have to admit that I have been lax in sending out "Past Due Notices," as this is an expensive task for the Association.

Look at the address label on back page of this Taro Leaf. The first line is a series of letters and numbers related to the Postal Service and has nothing to do with the Association. **The second line (immediately above your name), is the date that your dues expire or have expired.** Any date prior to 11/01/12 indicates your dues are **past due** and states when they expired.

For those who are in arrears on their dues, I trust that you will get current as soon as you can.

If at all possible I would like to encourage members to pay multiple years in advance. This would cut down significantly on postage and other expenses related to processing dues payments.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Current Lifetime Membership is \$200.00. This can be paid in a lump sum, or \$40 per year for 5 consecutive years, or sooner. I just had a member pay \$40 per month for five months, to complete his Lifetime Membership. If the \$40/5 year plan is selected the Lifetime membership is effective on the completion of the payments.

The Lifetime Member receives a 2"x3 1/2" brass plated card about the size of a credit card.

The plate is embossed *24th Infantry Division Association-Life Member*. On the left side is the outline of an Infantry Soldier. On the bottom right is the colored division patch. The recipients name is engraved across the plate along with his Life Member Number.

John Dunn, Secretary/Treasurer

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



24th Infantry Division Association



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

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 \$200, or
- ☐ Installments \$40 / 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 ☐

Location

From / /

To / /

Other Unit Service

From / /

To / /

Sponsor

DONATIONS TO TARO LEAF

DONOR	UNIT	GIFT
Bevan, Barry E.	21st Inf	\$ 5
Benson, Laurence E.	2nd Inf	\$ 10
Domenosky, Eugene	34th Inf	\$ 10
Dye, Autrey E.	19th Inf	\$ 25
East, Malcolm P.	724th Ord	\$ 100
Freshour, Robert W.	19th Inf	\$ 10
Hession, Paul J. Sr.	3rd Eng	\$25*
Holland, Casey B.	34th Inf	\$ 10
Jacketti, Victor	24th Med.	\$ 10
Jordison, Donald L.	34th Inf.	\$ 5
Keller, Rodney A.	21st Inf	\$ 10
Mammina, Philip R.	19th Inf	\$ 5
McArdle, Paul R.	24th Sig	\$ 24
Melcher, Ralph W.	19th Inf	\$ 50
Moore, Al S.	19th Inf	\$ 35
Nunley, Bob	34th Inf	\$ 10
Parker, Jerry R.	11th FA	\$ 10
Peterson, Alfred L.	24th HHQ	\$ 70
Shelton, Alvin A.	19th Inf	\$ 15
Spero, John J.	34th Inf	\$ 20
Steckel, Vincent	11th FA	\$ 50
Thompson, Stanley	21st Inf	\$ 5
Thornton, Doug	34th Inf	\$ 10
Tomlin, Gerald	19th Inf	\$ 5
Uting, George	21st Inf	\$ 10
Whitfield, James E.	21st Inf	\$ 20
Wianeki, Louis	21st Inf	\$ 100
Winchenbach, Keith	21st Inf	\$ 10

* In memory of Brother

NEW MEMBERS

NAME	AFFILIATION	LOCATION
Bennight, Victor D.	24th Avn	Germany 61-63
Bruce, Kenneth S.	21st Inf	Cannon Japan 46
Castillo, Caesar	Assoc	
Chisamore, Ernest	19th Inf	HQ Japan -Korea 49-50
Clark, Dennis R.	Assoc	
Davis, Howard V.	28th Inf	B Germany 58-60
Fox, Gary A.	19th Inf	B Germany 62-65
Hester, Thomas A.	26th AAA	Korea 55-56
Higdon, N. Bruce	2nd Bde	Stewart 77-80
Krieger, Janes G.	Assoc	
Lauro, Ralph	19th Inf	G Korea 50-51
Lesyk, Walter N.	11th Arty	Svc Germany 68
Matter, Melvin H.	3rd Eng	H&S Japan 46-47
Mielczarek, Maryann	Assoc	
Nicholson, Ronald E.	Assoc	
Pass, Gregory A.	24th MP	Stewart-Storm 90-94
Procopio, Domenico S.	3rd Eng	WWII-Japan 45-46
Quinters, Phillip	2nd Inf	B Germany 59-60
Reed, James S.	Assoc	
Routhier, James P.	3rd Eng	A Stewart 84-86
Solomonson, John L.	24th Med	A Germany 65-68
Vaughn, Lewis R.	34th Inf	Tank Korea 94-95
Yerkey, William	19th Inf	B Germany 59-62

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

NAME	AFFILIATION	NO.	LOCATION
Crispens, William J.	34th Sig	B 2414	Germany 62-64
Strang, Robert M.	21st Inf	HQ 2415	Korea 51-52
Shank, John K.	21st Inf	Tank 2416	Korea 53-54
Kraai, Henry C.	21st Inf	HQ 2417	Germany 60-62
Sears, Robert C.	21st Inf	2418	Korea-Japan 52-55
Zeno, Jonathan J.	91st Chem	2419	Desert Storm 87-91
Butler, Roger D.	24th Sig	Wire Sect. 2420	Korea-Japan 50-51
Rogers, Charles R.	DISCOM	Hq 2421	Stewart 92-94
Painter, Robert T.	21st Inf	G 2422	Korea-Japan 51-52
Hawn, Sr. Robert C.	24th Avn	A 2423	Desert Storm 90-29

By John unn, Sec't-Treas.

BOOK REVIEW "Young Boy to American Warrior"

BOYHOOD - The scrawny raw-boned kid born during depression years acquired solid morals and values from his Irish mother while overcoming the hardship of having a runaway father. He got tough while building loyal relationships with his buddies in the streets and woods of Bordentown, New Jersey. Though living on the edge of poverty, their lives were rich with excitement and wonder as they explored the joys, threats, and challenges of being boys.

U.S. ARMY - Joe's admiration for men who were fighting in World War II inspired him to join the Army at the age of 18. He took to Army life like a duck to water. He thrived in its strict discipline and rigorous training. And, as he says, "I never ate so good in my life." Assigned to Occupation Duty in Japan he witnessed the effects of a devastating war while undergoing advanced infantry training. The lessons would soon be tested when the Korean War broke out.

In July, 1950, Gen. Douglas MacArthur had to halt North Korean Communist troops as they overran the inadequate defenses of South Korea. He ordered a detachment of about 500 men from the 24th Infantry Division airlifted to Korea to face off against a far better equipped enemy force more than 100 times their size. This was **Task Force Smith** where Joe Langone would show what he was made of, or die trying.

THE BOOK - It goes far beyond its focus on an historic military action. It is a touching personal account of how adversity makes a man out of a boy.

Young Boy to American Warrior by Sektor Publishing - \$10.00. It may be ordered from Amazon.com or read on Kindle. Or, you may order a copy by calling Joe Langone at 858 592-0159.



NEW MEMBERS

RECRUITMENT INITIATIVE

Tom Appler, Director-at-Large for recruiting, will be initiating a Membership Drive contest for Facebook members who are 24th ID veterans.

It begins for any member who joins our organization from January 1st, 2013 until September 22, 2013. This group currently has 900 members, as of this printing, and is growing every month. All former members of the 24th ID, that are not currently members of the 24th IDA, are eligible.

A Facebook notification will be entered two times per month, starting in January for reminder purposes.

The Rules:

1. Not currently members of the 24th IDA. Must have been a former member of the 24th Infantry Division, wearing the 24th patch, wherever they served.

2. Must join the 24th IDA between 1/1/2013 and 9/22/2013.

3. Payment of \$15.00 for the first year must be received before September 22nd, 2013.

4. 24th IDA Secretary/Treasurer John Dunn, will receive and verify payment on time. Membership applications can be found on our website: www.24thida.com or on page 28 of this Taro Leaf. Applicants should complete and send it to John Dunn.

5. Prize award will be \$ 250.00 picked at random during the Louisville, KY national reunion, September, 2013. Person may not need to be present to win prize.

6. One winner is to be selected. If he chooses Life Membership and makes payment before Sept. 22, 2013, the award will be \$300.00. Life membership must be paid in full to be eligible before the deadline date of Sept. 22, 2013.

It is very simple contest. If there are any questions, please call Tom Appler, CW4, USA Reserve, (Ret.)

410-848-1081 (H)
24th Inf. Div. Supply & Transportation BN, 1964-1966,
Augsburg, Germany,
Email: tom-steph@comcast.net



Group photo of veterans and some of the church members in front of the Korean Baptist Church, 7710 SW 38th Avenue, Ocala. FL 34476.

Apr. 6, 2013, Ocala, FL: Seventy Central Florida Korean War Veterans, along with their spouses and friends, were honored by The Korean Baptist Church of Ocala, FL in recognition of the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice July 1953. Veterans attending were from the Florida 24th IDA as well as four chapters of the Korean War Veterans Association. Florida 24th IDA members attending were: Woody Wood, Ted Janson, Gordon Talbot, Bill Simunek, Carol Becker, Don Van Beck and Tom Thiel.

This was the first ever such event in this area. It was facilitated by Reverend Joseph Ryu; Tom Thiel Chapter 169

past president coordinated the KWVA participation, and Pastor Kim the Korean Baptist Church. All were treated to very tasty Korean foods, each was presented a lovely living orchid, and the Korean ladies gave a lovely rendition of the Song of Arirang, which was better remembered by the vets as "ah di dong." In return, Gold Star Spouse Carol Becker on the piano led the veterans with God Bless America.

KWVA Veterans greatly appreciated this beautiful occasion to remember them for their service defending Korea, and to make it the symbol of freedom and democracy in Asia. They welcomed their new Korean American friends!

PLEASE SUPPORT POW/MIA LOCATING EFFORTS

Americans Left In Captivity - Resolve the mysteries surrounding documented reports that soldiers were left behind in captivity following Korean War; **Remains Recovery** - Resume search and recovery operations in North Korea, and negotiate the establishment of interview programs with North Korean eyewitnesses to many of the missing men's fate; **Archival Research** - Declassify, research, report and *act upon* all documents relating to the Korean War, including foreign archives.

We need friends, neighbors, colleagues, and other nonfamily members to support us. You can help by purchasing one of these outstanding stainless steel POW/MIA bracelets for \$50.00, of which \$25.00 will be donated to: **Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs** to further their work of searching and motivating government agencies.



I have made arrangements with the manufacturer of these POW/MIA bracelets to contribute \$25 to the **Coalition** for every order they receive. Please send your check of \$50 to Sektor Company, Box 501005, San Diego, CA 92150. (Incidentally, these are the same bracelets being sold by Medals of America in their catalog and website for \$50.)

David Vallev, Taro Leaf Editor

24th INFANTRY DIVISION UNIT CITATIONS

General Orders: Number 30, 17 December 1944

The Second Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, is cited for conspicuous gallantry and the accomplishment of an extremely hazardous mission in action against armed Japanese military forces in the LEYTE ISLAND OPERATION of the PHILIPPINE LIBERATION CAMPAIGN, 10 to 24 November 1944. On 10 November, this battalion, entering its twenty-first day of continuous combat, with only six hundred and ninety-two men, was ordered to move from Hill 1525 into the ORMOC VALLEY and drive a wedge between two enemy regiments, already at the northern end of the valley, and reinforcements moving up from ORMOC. It fought its way through the enemy screen over difficult mountain terrain, despite heavy rain and high winds, and on the 15th drove strongly entrenched forces from a dominating hill and severed the enemy line of communications. For five days, surrounded, attacked repeatedly, unable to evacuate its wounded, and with ever increasing attrition from hunger and exposure, the battalion held. It broke up four enemy truck columns, dispersed three strong foot columns, neutralized four field pieces, and artillery observers directed devastating fire on numerous concentrations. Enemy supply was reduced to sporadic runs of a few light tanks and enemy reinforcements limited to infiltration by small parties. Withdrawal was ordered on the 19th November. At daylight 20 November, a Japanese "Banzai" attack of an estimated battalion was repulsed as was a second attack thirty minutes later. The evacuation was a running fight over rugged terrain, during which the battalion protected a

party which had been sent to carry out wounded and sick. Many of the carrying party themselves were wounded, and some of those already wounded were wounded again or killed. Litters had to be passed from hand to hand in moving up and down steep slopes. One blinded casualty and the soldier leading him were killed by snipers. Appropriately, first elements of the battalion arrived at PINAWOPOAN on Thanksgiving day, the remainder on 24 November, to begin staging immediately for another operation. Unit morale, including that of attached troops, was high throughout the thirteen-day mission. The battalion had completely outfought elements of the Japanese First Infantry Division, hardened veterans of fighting in Manchuria and China. With a loss of thirty-one killed, all of whom were buried with religious services, and two missing, the unit had killed at least six hundred and six enemy troops, a ratio of twenty of the enemy to one of its own. It successfully evacuated fifty-five wounded, and although two hundred and forty-one men were hospitalized for skin disorders, sore feet and fatigue, it was not until they had seen the action through. The establishment and maintenance of this block of enemy communications contributed decisively to cracking of the strong Japanese defense of "BREAKNECK RIDGE" and paved the way for the advance of our troops toward ORMOC. The men of the Second Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, by their outstanding courage, fortitude and tactical skill, have written a stirring chapter in American Military History.

By command of Major General Woodruff:

Richard H. Lawson, Lieut. Colonel, G. S. C., Chief of Staff

By Order 22 Dec 1950 The 24th Infantry Division and the attached 441st Counter Intelligence Corps Team

is cited for exceptionally outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in combat against a numerically superior enemy forces in Korea during the period 2 July to 15 September 1950. When the gravity of the military situation in South Korea, and the shortage of immediately available transportation necessitated piecemeal commitment of the division, despite its one-third shortage in all essential elements, the division faced an enemy force estimated to be a completely equipped corps, delayed this force and limited its advance. Stubbornly resisting the enemy's drive from Osan, where the advance force of two companies bravely blunted the driving onslaught, the division, though outnumbered, outgunned, and outarmored in the face of continual frontal attacks, intense Guerrilla activities and infiltration of exposed flanks, succeeded in delaying the enemy's main effort until United Nations reinforcements arrived in the critical combat zone. Fighting in the streets of Taejon, where the Division Commander himself led rocket launcher assaults, the enemy was made to pay dearly for every mile gained. Time and time again fierce fighting took place throughout the delaying actions when front line units decimated waves of attacking enemy with rifle, machine-gun and artillery fire, then killed the remnants that reached their position with bayonet and grenades. On 24 July, when a grave threat to the vital port of Pusan was made by superior enemy forces from the west, the division was called upon to meet this crisis. With only 2

days rest, the 24th Infantry Division met this critical menace and foiled the enemy's attacks; battalions and companies tenaciously gave ground, exacting a heavy toll of enemy dead and stopped this advance. Moving to a sector on the central Nakdong River front it resisted and later eliminated a dangerous enemy bridgehead that threatened the entire United Nations beachhead. This determined and successful attack completely destroyed one enemy division as a fighting force. The division again distinguished itself in early September when it reinforced a Republic of Korea unit whose lines had been breached in the Kyongju-Pohang sector. By skillful strong attacks, this last serious threat to the final defensive area was eliminated. Throughout the entire period of this heroic action, officers and men distinguished themselves by conspicuous gallantry and courage. Service troops fought side-by-side with riflemen, supply and medical personnel performed their missions despite enemy infiltration and flank penetrations. Engineers fought as infantry and stopped hostile assaults with mines and demolitions. Artillerymen fought off attackers to keep their guns in action, in fact every man in the division was engaged in battle. The individual and collective heroism displayed by all ranks of the 24th Infantry Division in its valiant stand against great odds reflect the highest credit upon itself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Official:

EDWARD F. WITSELL J. LAWTON COLLINS

Major General, USA Chief of Staff, United States Army

**Sept 22-25, Hotel Holiday Inn
Hurstbourn East, Louisville, Kentucky
Rates \$77.00 plus tax/night
Tours and Events Planned:**

- Fort Knox - We'll be having lunch with the troops \$25
- Kentucky Derby Museum \$25
- Louisville Slugger/Frazier Museum \$25
- City Tour/Churchill Downs \$25
- Memorial Banquet \$30/Men & Ladies Breakfast \$16
- Military Drill Team at our Breakfast
- Display of WWII Korea and Modern Day Military Vehicles
- Ladies Breakfast
- Men's Breakfast
- Member Annual Meeting

(See the following pages for schedules)

24th IDA NATIONAL REUNION Sept 22-25 2013

Florida 24th IDA Group

**2013 DUTCH TREAT
LUNCHEONS**

•Aug 7th •Nov 6th

11:45 a.m. Golden Corral

**1720 Citrus Blvd
Leesburg, FL 34748**

**Space limited to about 50
please make reservations**

**By contacting: Tom Thiel
352-408-6612, or
fl24thida@gmail.com**

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

WESTERN REGIONAL REUNION

Laughlin, NV

Spring 2014

**As of the time this
issue of the Taro Leaf
is going to press,
details are not
available. Complete
information will be in
the next issue. Editor**

24th IDA NATIONAL REUNION - LOUISVILLE, KY September 22-25, 2013

NAME _____

UNIT _____ YEARS _____ LOCATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STREET _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

GUESTS NAMES _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION? YES () NO ()

MEAL SELECTIONS: FISH () CHICKEN () BEEF () PORK ()

Please list any special needs _____

REGISTRATION FEE (REQUIRED) # PERSONS _____ x \$25.00 = _____

MEN'S & LADIES BREAKFAST # PERSONS _____ x \$ 16.00 = _____

Memorial BANQUET (Hawaiian meal) # PERSONS _____ x \$30.00 = _____

CITY/CHURCHILL DOWNS TOUR # PERSONS _____ x \$25.00 = _____

FRAZIER/SLUGGER MUSEUM # PERSONS _____ x \$25.00 = _____

FORT KNOX TOUR (Lunch with a Soldier)# PERSONS _____ x \$25.00 = _____

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 10, 2013.

SEND PAYMENTS TO: B.G. GENE E. SPICER (RET), P.O. BOX 207, DUPONT, IN 47231

Confirmation of registration and itinerary will be sent out by August 20, 2012. A \$25 per persons cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 15 days of the event are non-refundable. Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Holiday Inn, Hurstbourne, East . 1-502-426-2600 or www.hihurstbourne.com Be sure to tell them you are with the 24th Infantry Division Reunion to receive the discounted rate of \$77.00 plus tax. The rate is good for 3 days before and 3 days after the event should you wish to extend your stay.

24th IDA REUNION AGENDA

Sunday, 9/22 Arrivals All Day

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.	HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.	REGISTRATION LOBBY AREA
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.	RECEPTION - HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.	HOSPITALITY ROOM - MESSANINE

Monday, 9/23

8:00 a.m. to Noon	REGISTRATION LOBBY AREA
9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon	CITY AND CHURCHILL DOWNS TOUR (Depart in front of hotel)
9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.	HOSPITALITY ROOM - MESSANINE
12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	VIEW HISTORIC AND MODERN MILITARY VEHICLES
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	BOARD MEETING

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Tuesday, 9/24

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. to Noon

Noon to 9:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

LADIES BREAKFAST

MEN'S BREAKFAST

MEMBER ANNUAL MEETING

HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE

FRAZIER AND LOUISVILLE SLUGGER MUSEUM

VIEW HISTORIC AND MODERN MILITARY VEHICLES

Wednesday, 9/25

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE

FORT KNOX MUSEUM/LUNCH WITH A SOLDIER

MEMORIAL BANQUET Hawaiian Meal

HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE

Louisville Kentucky 2013



Louisville's premier dining, entertainment and retail destination. 4th Street Live! Here's where you go for fun nightlife. Lots of restaurants, watering holes, shops and many happy people out to have a good time.



Louisville's Amazing Big Four Bridge Now Open! People are flocking to the new walking, jogging and cycling span across the Ohio River. You can cross to the Indiana side and return. A more formal opening will happen later this year when the Indiana ramp is done.

ALL MEMBERS:

Please fill out and cut out the adjoining postcard and mail it to the association.

We want to get a good slate of nominations for the Kentucky Reunion.

The time for the reunion is fast approaching. We hope many can attend this year. At least you will have an opportunity to add names to our list, although nominees must be present to participate in the election.

If you have not attended a past reunion, please give it a try this year.



PLACE
33 CENT
STAMP

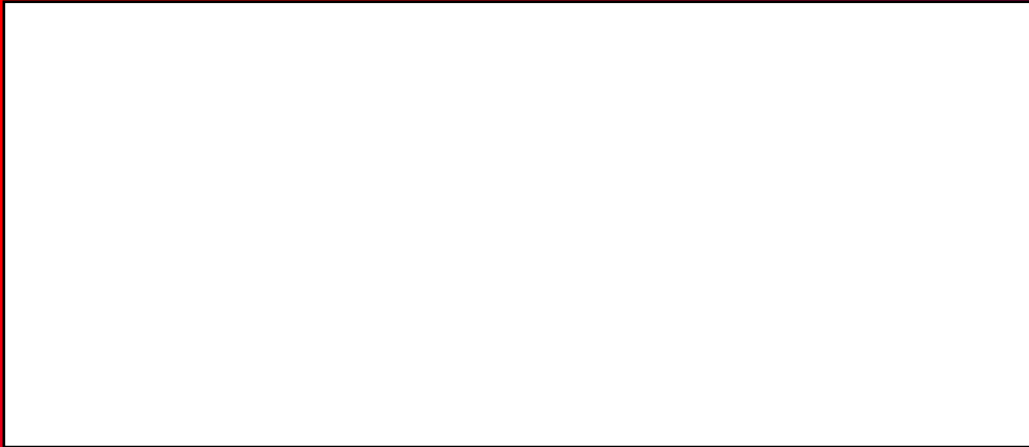
John Dunn, Sec'y/Treas.
24th Infantry Division Association
9150 Hwy 51
Westover, AL 35147



John A. Dunn, Secretary/Treasurer
24th RGT 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
9150 Hwy. 51, Westover, AL
35147-9527

Send Obituaries to: Taro Leaf Editor

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

MEMBERS: Please indicate your nominees for the offices indicated. We need to know who you want to run the Association. Let the Nominating Committee know before September 1, 2013 so the information can be compiled and presented at the Annual Meeting in Louisville.

President: _____

Vice-President: _____

Secretary/Treasurer: _____

Director-at-Large: _____

Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

National

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

2013 Elections

You can participate in the process of selecting the officers of your preference for the

24th ID Association

To vote you must attend the national reunion in Louisville, but if you submit names on the card alongside, the nominating committee will give them consideration.

Even if you plan to attend, please send in your nominations on the postcard.