

TARO

24th Infantry Division Association

VICTORY



DIVISION

LEAF

"First to Fight"

The National Museum of the U.S. Army



"Pedro Art" Korean Winter Warfare...On Attack!

2013 Reunion Reports Inside

Volume 67 Issue No. 4

Fall 2013

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ON THE COVER: This painting is from the National Museum of Army History, but the artist or name is not identified other than "Pedro Art". Let's consider it as a tribute to all the Hispanics who fought in Korea.



Greetings Taro Leafers:

Thanks to Gene Spicer and his family and Ken Fentner, we had a very successful reunion in Louisville, KY. A total of 162 people attended. The tours were informative and fun, especially the trip to Ft. Knox and lunch with a soldier. The

mess hall was certainly different from what I remember while there in November and December, 1965! Gene brought several of his restored military vehicles to display and so did several of his friends. The publicity generated on local TV resulted in four new members!

The highlight was the Memorial Banquet. Glenn Carpenter, Jr. was this year's Verbeck Bowl recipient. As Mel Frederick said during his presentation, Glenn has given the Association dedicated service as Chaplain and running the reunion donation fund raising drawing. John Dunn will take over Glenn's role as reunion donation fund raiser.

We are still seeking someone to assume Wes Morrison's maintenance of the Honor Roll. This is an important position and we need a volunteer for this responsibility.

We are also looking for someone to take over as Webmaster for Tom Thiel, who suggests the person needs good file management skills. And John Dunn would like to "retire" as Secretary/Treasurer.

Your new officers are: President – Don Maggio; Vice President – Tom Appler; and Director-at-Large – William Tricarico. Minutes of the Board of Directors and Annual Meeting minutes and our financial report are can be found in this issue.

Please save September 18 through 21, 2014 for our next reunion in Omaha, NE. Mike Frederick is well on the way to finalizing the event and more will be coming in future issues. We will be staying at the Omaha Marriott, which is centrally located to sites and shopping. They offer free airport shuttle service.

We wish you and your families the best in the coming holiday season!
Best regards,

Don Maggio



Greetings Comrades: Summer is now behind us and it seems we are on a fast track to the close of another year. I think it's a holdover from my youth when I loved summer vacation time and going back to school was the end of my fun time. I've heard it said by old folks that the years seem to fly by as you age. Now as one of the old folks, I can say they got it right.

I don't know what the stats are, but I would guess at least one-third of our members are of post-retirement age and many are having a struggle with health and age related issues. My wife and I have been together for 60 years and enjoyed the good life, but that has changed drastically as dementia/Alzheimer's advanced to the point where I had to put her in a nursing home. I can tell you there is considerable doubt and much self incrimination when trying to make such a decision. I was holding out against the advice of my family and doctors until I accepted it is a win-win situation. I have been able to observe she is better off, and health-wise, I am too. So much for the logical part, that's obvious, but the emotional part is something else. I'm working on it by keeping close to family and friends and being busy, busy, busy. Editing this issue of the Taro Leaf comes at a good time.

I have always had a lot of creative thoughts floating through my head, most of which were not worth pursuing. However, every once in a while I do get a good idea. Maybe this is one which may qualify. What about sharing our problems and challenges and what we found to cope, overcome, or solve them. They may be major or minor, you may wish to share what you found to be successful, or you may just wish to get something off your chest and ask for suggestions or advice. I would see to it that the communications were anonymous unless someone wanted to be known. A related idea would be to put a questionnaire in the Taro to get an idea of the physical and mental situations of our members. I am open to comments or advice, if you will on this topic.

Don Maggio, in the adjoining letter mentioned Tom Thiel is ready to handover the Webmaster reins. First, let us recognize, Tom has used his skills and worked an incredible number of hours to develop the excellent website we have. He deserves our strongest praise and thanks. He will be hard to replace, especially among our peers for few of us have the needed computer savvy. I ask our members to consider a younger relative, a son, nephew, or grandson who is "into" computers and would like to help preserve our legacy.

David Valley

Letters

Hi Merry! One of Dad's Army band buddies has passed away- Richard Crampton. His son, Greg, and I have swapped stories and photos the past several years of our dads who spent time together performing with the US Army 24th Infantry Division Band, stationed in Sendai, Japan during the Korean War.

This was the band that performed live every Sunday evening from Tokyo over the US Armed Forces Radio Network, at a lepers colony where they offered some comfort to the ailing, and at the signing of the armistice agreement that brought closure to the Korean War.

Often those who serve our nation in a military band get overlooked, but their service is just as critical. These patriots help keep our service men and women strong and proud, their spirits and determination high, and their preparation razor sharp as they all defend the freedoms we enjoy each and every day.

To this day my Dad can't help but tear up whenever he hears the rousing measures of a military march. The memories of those marches stir deep within each of these men who performed together in the 24th Infantry Division Band. I suppose in many ways these marches serve as simple reminders that they (and we) are all part of something much larger and more important than ourselves-- our country.

It was somewhat hard telling Dad today that another one of his dear Army band buddies had passed away. All he could say was: "Dick was a wonderful friend and comrade. Bless his heart. We will miss him."

Knowing Dad like I do, he'll spend this evening...and perhaps this week...recalling those Army band days when he was a young, EKV music major who was sent off to Japan to join a special group of men who fought war with the harmony their band instrument brought.

On behalf of our family, my Dad (Calvin L. Whitt), and the children of these Army bandmen who still remain in contact, we salute Richard Crampton for his service and pay tribute to a life committed to bringing music to a world that continues to thirst for peace and harmony. A grateful nation honors him this day.

Marc C. Whitt

Associate Vice President | Public Relations | Eastern Kentucky University |
p: 859-622-8615 c: 859-200-6976

David:

This is Don Bruner, I am the chairperson of the nominating committee and I wanted to let you know that my e-mail address in Don Magios' should be donbruner@suddenlink.net. It now shows as .com.

Editor: I am looking for veterans from the 24th or 25th Divisions who were stationed in or near Pusan, Korea in the early 1950s, or who were in the 584th TT Company. I have a home movie from a man which shows the 584th Transportation Truck Company, probably in Busan, Korea, in 1950, or 1951 and I would like to positively identify it as such, and perhaps some of the men featured in it. It might be the films of a man named Martin Martin but this also needs to be confirmed. Do you have any links to veterans from this unit who could watch this to see if they are in it? Or that might be able to identify the town, camp and landscape of the area at that time?

Lydia Pappas

Assistant Director and Curator
Moving Image Research Collections
University of South Carolina
707 Catawba Street, Columbia, SC 29208



John (Dunn): Sorry I took so long getting back to you. here's a photo holding my 24th Inf Div membership plaque #2424

I enlisted in 1964 and served with the 1st Bn, 34th Inf, 24th Inf Div 1965 to 1965 at Sheridan Kaserne Augsburg Germany. Left Germany as a Sgt E5, finished my tour of duty in Ft Benning, Ga as a DI with OCS.

On discharge finished up college, became a CPA and later on a CFP (I was one of the first) founded a comprehensive Financial Planning, tax & accounting firm that is going strong today. Please give me quick heads up to let me know you got this okay.

Patrick Astre patrick_ast@msn.com

All Members: You could be reading the letter you sent to the Taro Leaf in this spot. We would like to hear from you. It doesn't have to be anything earth shattering, just drop a line. Tell us about a memorable event when you were in the 24th. Write to:

Editor, Taro Leaf, Box 500907, San Diego, CA 92150

Gentlemen: I appreciate that my good friend Tom Thiel has divulged to me what has been happening regarding the Verbeck Award. I have been worried that this event might arise someday, and here it is.

I am humbled that the membership has endorsed me, but I am heartsick that I am again the cause of division within the true ranks of the 24th Division. I have never fought on a battlefield, have never even pulled a trigger on a gun. Indeed, I have been most fortunate to have been shielded from the blood, the death and mental suffering that many of you have endured. While it's true that the 24th IDA is the only organization that I've ever truly cared to join, and to work hard for, I do not deserve any special favor compared to those who actually served.

Wars are presumably fought to gain peace. Therefore, I shall wage peace by respectfully removing myself from contention for this highly esteemed award. I ask that you instead do me the great honor of sending me to Washington D.C. to lobby congressional leaders on behalf of the Division's Medal of Honor recipients. We need to have these men's monument placed at Arlington, and I believe I can make it happen if you place me face-to-face with the senators from each of these warriors' home states.

Going to Washington would also allow me to continue my work at the National Archives – gathering the division's War Diaries and General Orders for the Korean War (hopefully followed by the records for WWII). I would be extremely grateful if the membership could help me carry out this work.

And while I completely understand Tom's need to distance himself from the travails of his membership, I would be very thankful if he continued the work of maintaining our website. It's a thankless job, to be sure, but nobody could have accomplished what he has so brilliantly endeavored to provide us. If I had my druthers, I'd give him a second Verbeck Award.

Respectfully yours,
Merry Helm

Ms. Helm

I am looking for the order of battle for the 24th ID from February 84 thru October 85. I was assigned to B troop, 2/9 CAV during that time. What I am looking for is what was the divisional Engineer (combat) unit during a rotation to the National Training Center (NTC) in February of 85?

Ssg Bartley Bass, USA(ret)
PO box 66
Minden, Tx 75680
email: 3idsout@eastex.net

If anyone one else can help, contact Ssg Bass.

Dear David Valley, I hope you don't mind me contacting you out of the blue like this; I found your email address on the 24th Infantry Division Association website. I'm a Researcher at Blakeway Productions, a London-based TV company, where I'm working on a documentary about the Pacific War for the Smithsonian Channel in America. The film will be driven by the footage shot by British journalist William Courtenay, who accompanied American and Australian troops in the Pacific.

Courtenay filmed troops from the 24th Division landing at Tanahmerah Bay, Hollandia, in April-May 1944. Do you know whether anyone, either the commander Major General Fred Irving or any other soldier who took part in the Pacific War, has written or recorded memoirs about this landing, and the subsequent occupation? Also, do you know whether any soldiers who were present at Tanahmerah Bay might be around and available for a phone interview?

I'd be hugely grateful for any help that you are able to provide. I look forward to hearing from you. Many thanks,

Toby Thomas

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Editor: I have two requests.

1st. Does anyone have Jack H. Higdon email address? I tried calling him (from the telephone he had on the story he wrote) and there was no answer. He served with my uncle.

2nd...My uncle who is deceased by the name of Cleo G West served in the 21st Infantry Regiment and was in the Korean War. Two things we do know. 1. He was assigned to M Company, 21st Infantry Regiment in Japan as a Sgt. 2. He was assigned to HQ & HQ Company, Bn. Motor Sgt., 21st Infantry Regiment in Korea November 1950 as a SFC. Q. Does Jack Higdon remember Sgt. Cleo West? Q. Was Cleo G. West part of Task Force Smith? Q. Do you have any information (anything) on Cleo West?

Thank you, our family has been searching for years. Cleo G West was in WW II as a PFC in the 504th PIR, 82nd Airborne and he retired in 1954 as a SFC after the Korean War. We do know he had 6 bronze battle stars on his Korean Medal. We do know he won the CIB in the Korean War. That is all we know. We think he might have been a Jeep Driver for an MP Unit while assigned to M Company in Japan 1947 through 1949. We always suspect he was a machinegunner, but not sure.

John Haven
haven5095@sbcglobal.net

Letters

Dear Mr. Valley, Attached is my letter of gratitude to all Korean War Vets for submittal to the Taro Leaf magazine. I have recently returned from a Korean Revisit Tour during the 60th anniversary of the armistice signing with my father who is a Korean War Veteran. The journey back for my father was one I hope that with this letter I can inspire other vets to return to a country that has prospered because of the sacrifices of so many United States veterans. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, **Renee DiMenno Zepezauer**

I just returned from a Korea Revisit tour with my father and family (brother, sister, and daughter) after the 60th Anniversary of the Armistice signing. I have been pestering my father to write something about his trip since he has so much going on in his head after returning to a country where he contributed to their democracy and prosperity. He should write something about it.

My father served in the U.S. Army and after training for combat in Mt. Fuji, Japan. He was sent to Korea in July of 1953 through November of 1954 in Fox Company 34th RGT.

For the last 10 years, since 2003, he said he wanted to go back, but on a business trip with me. My sister was the one that insisted there must be a company that specializes in military tours and so my search began. I found a company that did just that, specializes in military tours to specific battle sites called Military Historical Tours out of Woodbridge, VA. I learned that there is a special program sponsored by the Korean government for veterans of the Korean War during a specified time period for which MHT is a provider and liaison.

After the paperwork was filled out and was sent to verify my father's service, he started to prepare for the journey. He went through photos, found maps of the tungsten mine he guarded, familiarized himself with Outpost Harry, the Iron Triangle, Cherwon Valley, and then in Seoul, the Han River. He went to the library and checked out books. But, nothing would prepare him for what he experienced.

When the plane landed in Seoul and we had our bags in hand departing customs, we were greeted by a welcoming committee with flashes from the cameras – photos posed and candid. The volunteers would not let my father lift any baggage. The next day was July 27, 2013, and we went to the ceremonies at the War Cemetery and participated in the very dignified ceremonies honoring the living and perished soldiers. My father was interviewed by CNN while at the cemetery and then taken back to the hotel, but not before he was treated to Korean bimimbap, meaning mixed rice, different than the famous Korean barbecue. He had it Gangnam style because we ate in Gangnam, right on U Street. Wait a minute! Seoul

was leveled the last time he was here. There was one bridge to cross the Han river, and that was precarious. This now is a metropolis with very sophisticated people, business, shops, and commerce 60 years later. He traveled to the DMZ on a bus full of other veterans and all were paired with Korean students in college. It was a day that made him think so hard, with memories flowing back to 1953 and his feelings of being in a country that he had never even heard of. Now he is riding with a student and being asked all kinds of questions out of interest, out of gratitude of my father's service.

Another day was the train ride to the DMZ for a peace concert where my father was thanked at the concert by a four star general in the Korean Army. He was visited by many Korean military during our dinner in the anteroom of the concert. My dad was greeted everywhere he went with open arms and most of all genuine gratitude from all the Korean people he met. I have never seen anything like it. I began to think, this is not real. It was over the top. I could not believe it.

And then we went to China after Korea as a side trip. It was while we were in Hangzhou on our last few days of the trip that made me believe. We were all sitting in a restaurant eating lunch when a table full of men next to us were interested in something my brother was wearing. Our guide told about the Anniversary of the Armistice signing. The gentlemen asked the reason we were in Asia. My father answered, "Because I now know that I helped a country become free. I saw it with my own eyes." They all summarily stood up and clapped for my father, and then two more tables full of men and women stood up and clapped, came over to shake my father's hand.

My father served his country when he was only a teenager out of high school. He has no bitterness that these years were so-called taken from him. He, like the Korean people he met on this revisit tour, have a gratitude and comfort knowing that it was not in vain. The Korean government and several companies fund these revisit programs for veterans. There is no other country in this world that has given back to the men that gave their lives in many instances and have kept this part of history alive by continually teaching the younger generations about the sacrifices these soldiers made.

I have never served in the military, but I can only think that going back to a place where battles were fought for freedom 60 years later must be a dream that only a soldier can truly appreciate. I am grateful for all of the soldiers that have and do serve their country. With gratitude and sincerity,

Renee DiMenno Zepezauer
Daughter of Phillip Joseph DiMenno

Editor: I would like to present the story I have researched and put together about my father's Army service during WWII.

When I was a boy and asked dad about WWII, he didn't like to speak of his time spent there too much. Guess it brought back to many bad memories from battles. He did tell me bits and pieces of his time spent there. This is what I have been able to research about my dad E-8 First Sergeant James S. Reed's (RA 34146032) military history from before enlistment until death.

He was born Aug. 26, 1917 in New-born TN. At the time of his enlistment, he lived in Memphis TN. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Sept. 13, 1941 at the age of 24, at Fort Oglethorpe, GA and went through boot camp at Fort Jackson SC. Later he was shipped out with the 80th Infantry Div. to Florida to patrol the east coast from Miami north for a year or so. In Aug 1944, dad was reassigned to the 6th Army, 24th Infantry, 34th RGT, 1st Battalion, H company, and shipped out Aug 12, 1944 to Australia at Camp Caves, near Rockhampton for combat training. After a period of intensive training, the Division moved to Goodenough Island.

While in Australia, Dad's unit was chosen to assault the island of Leyte; the 34th Infantry was chosen to spearhead the assault on Leyte. On Oct 20, 1944 the 34th RGT landed on Red Beach, Leyte to liberate the Philippines. The unit was in a series of bloody battles for 75 continuous days.

The 34th received the Presidential Unit Citation for conspicuous valor and outstanding performance while holding Kilay Ridge for three weeks behind enemy lines, often times fighting hand-to-hand. Two Medals of Honor, the Nation's highest recognition of honor, were awarded during this Battle.

The Battalion's nickname, "Leyte Dragons", and the Motto of the Infantry, "Follow Me", derives from the Leyte assault. In January 1945, the 34th Infantry Regiment made its second beachhead assault on the island of Luzon. F Company suffered

more than 90 casualties in one day.

Many days of bitter fighting, with legendary acts of individual heroism, were required to accomplish this mission. Dad said that he was hit in his back, and wounded by grenade's blowing up around him, but he kept fighting.

While mopping up continued on Leyte, the 19th RGT moved to Mindoro Island on December 15, 1944. Airfields and a PT base were secured for operations on Luzon. Divisional elements effected a landing on Marinduque Island. Other elements supported the 11th Airborne drive from Nasugbu to Manila.

The 34th RGT, landing at San Antonio, Luzon, January 29, 1945, ran into a furious battle on Zig Zag Pass and suffered heavy casualties. The 34th was later chosen to assault the island of Corregidor and seize Malinta Hill. Those were the most agonizing days of war experienced with significant cost in lives but the hill was secured and the Battalion was awarded another Presidential Unit Citation.

On February 16, 1945 the 3rd Bn. took part in the amphibious landing on Corregidor and fought Japanese under a hot sun on the well-defended island. The honors for recapturing the "Rock" went to the 503rd Parachute RCT and elements of Maj. Gen. Roscoe B. Woodruff's 24th Division, the same units which undertook the capture of Mindoro island.

The 34th then led in the Mindanao campaign. For Mindanao posed the greatest challenge for the liberating American forces, primarily because of the island's inhospitable geography; the extended Japanese defenses; and the strength and condition of the Japanese forces, which contained the significant remaining concentration of combat troops in the Philippines. Like most of the Philippine Islands and other similar places Mindanao challenged soldiers who would have to fight there.

The inland topography was rugged and mountainous. Rain forests and numerous crocodile-infested rivers covered the terrain, the rest either lake, swamp or grassland. These

grasslands offer the worst obstacles limiting vision and sapping the strength of soldiers who forced their way through. The few roads in Mindanao further obstacle for troop movement. The strongest of the Japanese defenses were around the Davao Gulf area, which was heavily mined to counter an amphibious landing, and in Davao City, the island's largest and most important city.

Artillery and anti-aircraft batteries extensively ringed the coastal shoreline defenses. Believing that the Americans would ultimately attack from Davao Gulf and also anticipating they would be eventually driven from the city, the Japanese also prepared defensive bunkers inland behind its perimeter where they could retire and regroup, with the intention of prolonging the campaign as long as possible.

After numerous mopping up actions in March, the Division landed on Mindanao, 17 April 1945, cut across the island to Digos, 27 April, stormed into Davao, 3 May 1944, and cleared Libby Airdrome, 13 May 1944.

Although the campaign closed officially on 30 June, the Division continued to mop up Japanese resistance during July and August 1945.

While on Corregidor dad contracted malaria and was sent to the States on Oct 14, 1945 to Fitzsimons Army Hospital for treatment.

Dad earned many medals during his action in the south Pacific: Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Theater Ribbon and medal with 3 Bronze service stars, WWII Victory Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon and medal with 2 bronze service stars, and others. He attained the rank of 1st Sergeant during combat and was offered an officer commission if he would re-enlist in 1945, but declined. He was discharged on Nov. 16, 1945 and returned to Memphis, TN to live the rest of his days. Dad passed away of lung cancer on April 19, 2006 at the age of 88. I would like to become an associate member in his name.

James S. Reed Jr., 112 Bay Mar Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33931.

American Soldier

Soldier, brave
Soldier, strong
On your journey
Journey, long

Trained to fight
For what is right
Though some may not see
And some may disagree

In your soul
You long for home
Courageously, you carry on
As your mission is clear

Feeling all alone
Yet, you are not
Present are you
In the minds
And in the hearts
Of those who pray
For your triumph
Each and every day

As you face this challenge
And ultimate struggle
For freedom, greatly admired
Is your decision and
Complete your mission

For all American Soldiers,
This poem is written
You will be rewarded
For all you've given
By the Lord, Himself
So keep your eyes
On the prize
American Soldier

By Claudia Venerio

Soldier Missing Since Korean War Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of a serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and have been returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Sgt. Bernard J. Fisher of Wilkes Barre, Pa., was buried July 16, in Arlington National Cemetery. In January 1951, Fisher and elements of **Company L, 3rd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment (IR), 24th Infantry Division (ID)**, were deployed northeast of Seoul, South Korea, where they were attacked by enemy forces. During the 19th IR attempt to delay the enemy forces from advancing, Fisher and his unit moved towards a more defensible position, when the unit suffered heavy losses. It was during this attack that Fisher was reported missing.

In July 1951, the U.S. Army Graves Registration recovered the remains of four men north of Shaha-dong, near Seoul, South Korea. The remains were buried in the United Nation Cemetery at Tangkok, South Korea, and were disinterred and transferred to the U.S. Army's Central Identification Unit in Kokura, Japan for laboratory analysis.

During the analysis the remains of three men could not be positively identified. In March 1955, a military review board declared the remains of the fourth to be unidentifiable. The unidentified remains were transferred to Hawaii, where they were interred as "unknown" at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the "Punchbowl."

In 2012, U.S. officials reevaluated Fisher's records and determined that with advances in technology, the unknown remains could likely be identified. Following the reevaluation, the decision was made to exhume the remains for scientific analysis identification.

In the identification of the remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, such as dental comparison and chest radiograph – which matched Fisher's records.

Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously turned over by North Korean officials. Today, more than 7,900 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War.

NEW BOOK, 'LETTERS TO ANN,' chronicles Korean War soldier's correspondence with his young daughter.

Thousands of miles separated them, but Capt. John F. Hughes and his 4-year-old daughter's collection of heartfelt notes kept a father serving in Korea connected to his young daughter back in America. The written correspondence between the two from 1950 to 1951 is nothing short of heartwarming. Though he was surrounded by violence, Capt. Hughes found bits of light-hearted humor to share with his little girl about his daily life as a serviceman in a faraway land.

"The great truism of war is that it makes good men do bad things, and bad men do terrible things," says Miami Herald columnist Glenn Garvin. "'Letters to Ann' offers an important addendum: that through the worst moments of war, the best part of humanity, our ability to love and comfort one another, survives intact. It's impossible to

read this collection of a soldier's letters from the battlefield in Korea to his 4-year-old daughter at home without being charmed and touched."

A charming slice of the past that cannot be found in history books, readers have praised "Letters to Ann" for its emotional content and unique insight into the "Forgotten War."

"This book is engaging, beautiful, sad and happy all at the same time," reviewed one reader on Amazon.com. "The coupling of historical facts and the wonderful cartoons make this book worth reading."

For author, Ann Marie, an attorney who lives in Denver, "Letters to Ann" is her first book. It is available at independent bookstores, as well as online at Amazon.com.



Nominate Your Choice for the 2014 Verbeck Award

Nominating Committee

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July 15, 2014, 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

Looking For

Dear Mr. Valley,

I am writing you with the hope that you can help me contact my first cousin Marice J. Canty. I found a reference to him in the The CF 24th Vets February 2011 newsletter which I came across online while doing a search for Maurice. I tried to reach him at the phone number listed in the newsletter (813-775-4498) but was unsuccessful. If at all possible, could you or someone on your staff contact him and ask him to contact me?
Thank you!

Roger E. LeBlanc
phone: 925-361-7325
email: rogerleblanc@att.net

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

23rd PSALM

The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

"He Was a No. 1 Soldier"

Sergeant First Class Harold R. Cross, Jr., EASTERN FRONT Korea, July 31 (AP) — The last Allied soldier killed in the Korean war was Sgt. First Class Harold R. Cross, Jr., a husky, 24-year-old veteran from Michigan and Kansas. He died when a mortar shell hit his bunker.

Cross was wounded at 8:40 p.m. An hour and 20 minutes later that day, July 27, silence settled on the front as the truce went into effect. It was either a heavy mortar shell or an artillery round that got him. He was in a bunker on an outpost on the eastern front, one mile west of Christmas Hill. The bunker was only 500 yards from a Chinese stronghold, hill 931, a fortress almost 3,000 feet high. The mortar or artillery shell (caved) in the bunker, and Cross and five other men, some wounded, were sealed inside for an hour while the front received a terrific pounding.

From the moment he was wounded until he died, 2 ½ hours later, Cross never whimpered or complained. He stoutly maintained that "I'm O. K," and "I'm fine." There were indications that he was doubtful about his condition, but his buddies and a priest felt he did not know he was going to die.

Cross was a good soldier and very popular. Available Army records give only skimpy details of his life. The records show that his father is Harold R. Cross of Detroit, Mich. The sergeant served in the German Occupation Forces from Nov. 26, 1948, to March 1952. His past post in Germany was in the Headquarters Battery of the 12th Anti-Aircraft group. He brought home a German war bride, Mrs. Ilse Lydia Cross, who lives at Junction City, Kan. (Cross was stationed at Ft Riley, Kan., last year until his outfit started moving toward Korea. He and his wife occupied an apartment in Junction City near Ft. Riley. Mrs. Cross returned to Detroit when he left the fort.)

Rejoined Last Year

Cross left the Army on his return to the United States but reenlisted in October, 1952. He came to Korea as a corporal last Feb. 27. In March, he was assigned to **King Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Regimental Combat Team** formerly attached to the 24th ID. In the last days of the Korea fighting, the 5th RCT was attached to the U. S. 45th Infantry Division.

Cross had hoped to bring his wife to Japan and continue his Army career there. He was a blue-eyed blond haired man about 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighed 175 pounds.

"He was a fine fellow, and everybody liked him," said Sgt. John C. McCrimmon, 27, Lincolnton, Ga.

"He was a No. 1 soldier, a real morale builder," said PFC John Bluhm, 21, a 6-foot-2-inch medic, from Cleveland, Ohio.

McCrimmon, Bluhm, Cross and the other men, including a sergeant, were all in the bunker that fateful Monday. As night fell, the six talked of the end of the war which would come soon, at 10 p. m.

"Just Sitting"

"The men were mostly sitting along the walls of the bunkers," Bluhm said. "About 8:30 o'clock, when mortar and artillery rounds began landing near us, Cross went to the doorway and sat there, his feet in the doorway, and picked up the phone to relay reports on incoming rounds to company headquarters."

Cross was wearing an armored vest but no one remembers whether it was zipped shut. The mortar or artillery round exploded in the doorway. It broke the 16-inch log which served as the supporting beam of the doorway. The blast blew off half Cross' flak jacket and left the other half on. It hurled him deep into the bunker. The roof of the bunker caved in, sealing the interior into two compartments. On one side were Cross and Bluhm. On the other side were McCrimmon, the other sergeant, who suffered a compound fracture of both legs, and two other wounded men.

One Unhurt

Only McCrimmon was unhurt. He didn't have a scratch. Three pieces of shrapnel nicked Bluhm in the legs, inflicting minor wounds, which he ignored.

He felt, before he actually knew, that Cross was badly hurt.

"It was very dark," Bluhm recounted. "I shouldn't have done it, according to regulations, but I lit a candle to examine Cross's wounds. I kept the candle burning only two minutes."

He was appalled by what he saw. The lower part of Cross' jaw was gone. As was his left collarbone and much of the left side of his neck. His left chest had been ripped open. His lower right arm was torn almost completely off—it dangled by shred of flesh at the elbow.

"I told him he was going to be fine," Bluhm said. "I put a 12 x 12-inch stretcher bandage on his neck, chest and jaw to slow the bleeding and smaller bandages on his shoulder. Strangely enough, the arm wasn't bleeding much. The shell may have sealed off the blood vessels. I wondered that his jugular vein

wasn't cut since it was fully exposed."

Little Pain

"He wasn't in too much pain, I believe. I guess it was the shock of what happened. I didn't give him any morphine—when you have a chest wound, you don't give morphine."

Along the 45th Division front, Chinese were continuing their great barrage—8,800 mortar and artillery rounds in four hours. The King Company sector alone received 1,200 rounds between eight and 9:30 p.m.

"Fifteen or 20 more rounds fell around our bunker," McCrimmon said. "If we had had another direct hit, it would have killed us all."

"Cross was praying," Bluhm said. "Well, we were all doing that. A rosary was around his neck, and it was getting in the wound. I cut it off, and he felt me do it and said, 'Don't take away my rosary.' He couldn't grasp the rosary, but I laid it in his left hand. It fell out of his hand when we finally moved him."

Pain Hits Him

"Then pain began hitting him, and his head was sagging, so I supported it so the position would be as comfortable for him as possible. It was remarkable that he could still talk in spite of the condition of his jaw. He told me once he thought he should be evacuated as soon as possible."

McCrimmon said he kept "hollering over to Cross," asking how he was.

"He always replied that 'I'm okay,' or 'I'm fine,'" McCrimmon said. "He never gave me an indication he was badly hurt. There wasn't anything anyone could do to rescue us with the shells falling the way they were. About 9:30 a letup came, and six men of our company dug us out."

Bluhm said Cross had lost a lot of blood, "but he still had strength enough to crawl a little bit when it came time to pull him out."

The bunker was out on a finger of ridge which pointed at Chinese hill 931. Cross was laid on a litter, and the men of his platoon carried him 250 yards back to the main line where an ambulance jeep and a Catholic chaplain were waiting.

The chaplain, who declined using his name, said: "Sgt. Cross was grateful that he had gotten out of the bunker alive. He said he was glad the war was almost over and that he hoped there wouldn't be any more of them. There was no word of complaint from him. He was that kind of man, and all of us held him in high regard. He had been to mass that morning."

The litter jeep carried Cross to an aid station one-quarter mile down the road. The chaplain went along.

Transfusion

A doctor at the aid station began tying off exposed veins and giving a transfusion through a vein in the foot.

"Cross received several pints of blood," the priest said.

"While this was going on, he praised the medics and the men of his own platoon who had dug him out of the bunker. He received the last sacraments and repeated the Act of Contrition. It is my own personal opinion that Cross did not think he was going to die."

At about 11 p.m., medics carried Cross out of the aid tent. The plan was to send him several miles back to a clearing station hospital for further medical aid. Just as he was leaving the aid tent, Cross looked back and in a faltering voice, said: "Am I going to make it?"

The sergeant who had been in the bunker with him, the man with the fractured leg, called: "You'll make it all right."

During the next 30 minutes, first in a litter jeep and then in an ambulance, Cross jolted over rough roads to the clearing station hospital, and somewhere during the trip he died.

At 11:30 p. m. Sgt. McCrimmon, looking from the site of the destroyed bunker, watched incredulously as beams from Chinese flashlights began dancing on Red stronghold 931 in front of him, and he realized the war was really over.

The war was over, and Sgt. First Class Harold E. Cross was dead.

When you read such a story...about a good soldier who died bravely, you can't help but feel humbled. SGT Cross did not perform heroic deeds on his final day to win medals, but he demonstrated qualities which we should all strive for. Though severely wounded he was only concerned for the well-being of his buddies. He had to be aware of his wounds, but he didn't whimper or ask for special attention.

SGT Cross was a religious man, a Catholic, who was not embarrassed to wear a Rosary around his neck. He was aware of its presence as he lay dying. He lived like a man and died like a man. May God have a special place for him and those many more who "answered the call to defend a country they never knew, and a people they never met."

Editor

NO COMBAT PAY FOR POWs

ARMY MEN CAPTURED DURING KOREAN WAR WERE NOT PAID COMBAT PAY WHILE A PRISONER OF WAR!

Two years after the Korean War began the Army made a change to its regulations saying Army men captured would be paid Combat Pay for only three months after capture. This change was then dated 1 May, 1950, which was before the Korean War began.

Combat pay was \$45.00 a month during the Korean War. Men captured in July, 1950, spent over 37 months in Communist hell holes in North Korea. They were not paid for 34 months of Combat Pay. This amounts to \$1530.00 for each soldier in that particular group. The death rate of American POWs of the Korean War was higher than any other war. For those captured early in July 1950, (the Tiger Survivors) the death rate was a staggering 58%.

The Defense Department has recognized those men who died while a Prisoner of War in Korea, and has awarded a Purple Heart Medal to each and every one of them. It is historic that those men died under combat conditions! How can the Army and only the Army still refuse to pay this past due Combat Pay to former Prisoners of War of the Korean War.

When the Korean War began the Army deployed a little more than 500 men (Task Force Smith) from Japan to Korea. This included Medical and Artillery. This initial group was outnumbered more than 10 to 1. They went into a meat grinder. The United States had no combat troops in Korea at that time. The 7th Infantry Division had been pulled out of Korea the year before.

Now we hear that the Korean War was not a forgotten war. It must be strongly stated that for all the Army Prisoners of War held in North Korea, it is still a forgotten war.

We now see the POW flag flying beneath the American flag over our capitol in Washington. We hear all the talk of how the brass honors us. The President has even sent a letter to us telling of how grateful our country is for our honorable service.

It must be noted that the 21 turncoats who chose to turn their backs on this country and who went to China rather than return home, were paid back pay for time spent as a Prisoner of War in North Korea. They were even allowed to come home later on when they could not learn Chinese or when they discovered that system was not for them. How were they punished? The answer is... not at all. How were we honored? No Combat Pay!

The Tiger Survivors has 61 men still living. Will they be promoted to Glory with this final chapter of the Korean War not being written?

Senator Barbara Boxer of California is concerned with this issue. She was the Senator who caused the Purple Heart Medal to be awarded to those who died while a Prisoner of War from December 7, 1941 to the present and indeed into the future.

Shorty Estabrook Tigeru1@verizon.net
POW North Korea 37 months and 13 days

COMRADE

The word Comrade, as explained in most dictionaries, simply states, among others, a fellow soldier. The term is used heavily in the German and Russian Armies, but the meaning is the same in any language, a "Fellow Soldier". What are the designers of dictionaries trying to convey when they use this simple phrase. "A Fellow Soldier".

Since I was a soldier, and almost every one of you reading this was a soldier, or some other part of the U.S. Military, as this phrase applies to all of us, regardless of service, I will attempt to explain how I define these words.

No matter what branch of service you were in you swore an oath that if need be you would give your life, not your wealth, property, fancy car, but your life, to defend our country. Therefore, as in the early days when the American Indian roamed our country and swore to other Indians that he was their blood brother, and the consequence for giving this statement, was their life, its meaning was not a play of words, but an oath that they would fulfill.

Though a young American, be they male or female, at the time they raise their hand, swearing this allegiance, may not have been fully aware of consequences, they were

willing to do just that, give their life.

American military, *willingly* give their lives, but do they do it willingly? Isn't that a 'wacky' analogy? I never heard one military man scream, "I regret I have but one life to give to my country", but I heard them say, "Come on you dumb bastards, we can't live forever". These young men who scream such epithets are not young men who readily want to die, they are young men who are willing to die for a cause, and American freedom is that cause.

The Viet Nam veterans have a saying when they greet a fellow vet, "Welcome Home Brother" I have had them say it to me, and I in turn, have said it to other vets. I think, besides hearing taps played at a military burial, these words, Welcome Home Brother, say it all. Regardless of what war you were engaged in, be it in actual combat, or part of the American team supporting those in the more dangerous positions, we're all brothers as we were willing to give our lives to a people and a country that we love. Welcome home, brothers!

Your 'Old' Comrade, Joe Langone

Osan, Korea, Memorial Hall Opens

OSAN, South Korea (April 23, 2013) -- The South Korean city of Osan opened a memorial hall April 23, to honor the first American Soldiers to fight in the Korean War.

The UN Forces First Battle Memorial Hall was opened during a ceremony near the ridgeline where Task Force Smith made its valiant stand, in July 1950.

Arriving by air from Japan, Task Force Smith was the first U.S. combat unit to take on invading North Korean forces.

With 540 U.S. Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry, and A Battery, 52nd Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, the combat task force was named after its commander, Lt. Col. Charles B. Smith.

The task force was outnumbered almost 10 to 1 in that first fight, called the Battle of Osan.

To buy time for follow-on forces, American Soldiers attempted to stop nearly 5,000 advancing enemy soldiers and 34 Soviet-built tanks, with a limited amount of anti-tank weaponry.

After several hours of fierce fighting, Task Force Smith had to withdraw south to Taejon, where it merged with the 24th Infantry Division and re-engaged the enemy.

The \$33 million memorial features videos, interactive displays and pictures from the Battle of Osan. The memorial also features the names of the members of Task Force Smith.

One of those Task Force Smith members, Wilbert A. Walker, posed by his name and picture on the wall. A member for 52nd Artillery Battalion during the battle, Walker thanked the city of building the memorial hall.

"It has been said freedom is not free, but it was worth the cost," said Walker.

Susan M. Perry, the daughter of another Task Force Smith member and former 52nd Field Artillery commander, Lt. Col. Miller O. Perry, also flew to Korea to attend the ceremony.

Osan Mayor Kwak Sang-wook said the memorial hall was built "To commemorate the noble sacrifices made by the men of Task Force Smith and also hope that to Americans, in particular, this place will become a source of pride for their parents' and grandparents' unfaltering commitment to freedom and democracy some decades ago," said Kwak. "We will do our utmost to make sure that this memorial hall will be visited by many visitors from home and abroad."

Eighth Army Deputy Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Chris Gentry thanked the city for building the Memorial Hall.



"I'd like to extend a special thanks to the City of Osan for its continued efforts to honor the Soldiers of Task Force Smith," said Gentry.

Gentry said the task force's heroic stand delayed enemy forces long enough for more Eighth Army troops to join the fight.

"Task Force Smith's action had bought valuable time for the follow-on forces from Eighth Army to deploy from Japan to Korea," said Gentry. "America had been able to successfully intervene in time to impede North Korea's attempt to conquer all of South Korea."

As the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice approaches this July, Korean War veterans are visiting the peninsula. Along with the Task Force Smith Memorial Hall, monuments, statues and memorials across the nation honor the service of American and UN troops during the Korean War.

Gentry said the greatest tribute to Korean War veterans is the modern, prosperous and democratic nation that rose out of the rubble of the brutal three-year war.

"All you have to do is look around you here today to see that," said Gentry. "Look around at this incredible country that has risen from ashes of war in just 60 years. Look at the freedom, prosperity and security enjoyed by the citizens of the Republic of Korea, and look at Korea's commitment to helping other nations around the world."

"Today the Republic of Korea serves as model for other nations who seek freedom, justice and democracy," said Gentry. "And as this memorial hall demonstrates, your sacrifices will never be forgotten."

Veterans of the Korean War are blessed to have fought in a righteous war for a nation appreciative of our sacrifices. Our comrades who fought in Viet Nam and now fight in the Middle East receive little or no such consideration. Ed.

Leominster (MA) Welcomes Home One of Its Own

After more than 60 years, the City of Leominster will be welcoming home Private First Class Norman P. Dufresne. Private Dufresne was lost in the Korean War and until recently, his family and friends knew little about what had happened to their loved one.

On August 7, 1951 U.S. Army Graves Registration Service personnel recovered the remains of an unknown U.S. serviceman from the vicinity of the village of Taesu in southern South Korea.

Following the AGRS recovery, the remains were buried in the UN Cemetery at Tanggok, South Korea. Before internment, the unknown remains were analyzed by the U.S. Army Central Identification Unit in Japan. The staff determined that the remains could be those of Private Dufresne but they could not make a positive identification. The remains were then transferred in 1954 to Hawaii to be interred at the Memorial Cemetery in the Pacific.

In 2012, the Central Identification Unit made another attempt at identifying the remains. Extensive research was completed including analysis of dental records, matching skeletal characteristics, and other evidence found with Private Dufresne. Thanks to new forensic technology not available in 1950, the CIU was able to identify Private Dufresne and will now return him to his family.

Private First Class Dufresne is entitled to the Purple Heart (Posthumous), Army Good Conduct Medal (Posthumous), National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, and Combat Infantryman

Private First Class Dufresne was with G Company, 24th Infantry Division on July 30 when he was declared Missing In Action in the vicinity of Chinju, South Korea.

A military review board later amended his status to non-recoverable. Thanks to new technology and the hopes and prayers of his family, Private Dufresne, after more than 60 years, will be returned to his hometown of Leominster, Massachusetts. 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Division.

Editor's Response

Dufresne's story shook me up as it brought back memories.

I know it was about the end of July when Chinju was overrun by North Korean troops. Some of us who were on outposts ran back to where the last of our troops were loading onto a few 2-½ ton trucks to get away from the oncoming horde of tanks and soldiers. They were on our tail, but for some unknown reason the tanks took a turn away us and we escaped unscathed.

I was thinking, 'what lucky bastards we are.' Despite the rough dirt road which literally shook the guts out of you, I dozed off since I had gone without sleep for more than 24 hours. Suddenly our little convoy came to a halt. I peered over the railing up the road and saw an officer striding quickly our way. When he got close, I saw he was a one-star general (I learned later he was probably with the 25th Division).

"Everyone off the trucks!" he commanded. Line up single file." There were probably 50-100 of us, I'm not sure. The general started at the left end of the line, picked the first group of eight to ten and said, "You men take a position on top of that hill," pointing to one nearby. He continued down the line in that manner, sending groups to one hill or another until he came to the last two men standing, one of whom was me. "You men go forward to load up that truck with ammo and bring it back."

We never did get back which is another story in itself, but I often thought of the suicide mission that I was barely spared from and wondered what the likely fate was of the soldiers who had to face an enemy certain to overwhelm them. God bless them all.

It is very possible that Norman Dufresne was among them. It is also possible that Norman and I had crossed paths before. I was in Clinton High School during the same years Norman was in Leominster High School. Our schools, about 15 miles apart, were great sports rivals. I may have met him playing football or baseball.

David Valley, Editor

Veteran of the Week – George Vlasic - Carolina Weekly

"I didn't know what I wanted to do so I figured a three year enlistment in the Army would help me mature and give me more time to decide on my future plans. After basic at Ft. Dix, I spent a year at Fort Lewis, then received orders for occupation duty in Japan."

Aboard ship to Japan, Vlasic learned there was a war on in Korea. Shortly after landing in Yokohama he was shipped to Pusan, Korea, where the United Nations and South Korean forces were confined in a small pocket at the south end of the peninsula. The United Nations forces were at their lowest point in the Korean War having been nearly overrun by North Korean forces.

"I immediately became an infantryman with 'L' Co., 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division," he said. "I learned very fast what to do in the infantry. With the reinforcements I came in with, as well as the landing of troops at Inchon, we broke out of the Pusan perimeter and began our drive north," Vlasic recalled. "We went all the way up the west coast into North Korea nearly to the Yalu River, then, the Chinese army came into the war."

The 24th Division, along with the other United Nations units, was driven back into South Korea and a stabilization of the battle lines occurred near the 38th parallel, which was the original dividing line between North and South Korea.

"From that point on, fighting took place along the 38th parallel," Vlasic said. After a year in Korea, he was shipped back home.



"I went to the Veterans Administration where I took a battery of tests to determine what career fields I was best suited for. To my surprise, I scored high in education," he said. Vlasic attended California State Teachers College. After graduation, he began a 34-year teaching and counseling career at Butler High School.

Now retired, George and his wife of 52 years recently took a trip to South Korea through a revisit program of the Korean War Veterans Association. "I had wanted to go back to Korea for a long time and this program presented the opportunity," he said. "On the 60-mile trip from the airport at Inchon to the hotel in Seoul, I saw what the Korean War was all about. The progress in the country is out of this world. The country was destroyed during the war, so everything, at most, is only 60 years old and the whole country is vibrant with activity."

The South Korean government hosted the trip, paying one-half of the plane fare for Vlasic, one-third for his wife as well as the hotel, meals, travel and entertainment for the entire trip. "The trip was a fabulous experience, far exceeding my expectations," he said. "The South Korean government can't do enough for Korean War veterans. The country goes out of its way to demonstrate its appreciation for the sacrifices we made over 60 years ago."

By Paul Gable, August 11, 2013

PROUD PARENTS



Mike Pammer and his wife Joanne proudly announce the promotion of their daughter, Melissa to Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force.

She is currently stationed at Sheppard A. F. Base, Wichita, KA. She is a trained pharmacist and is in charge of Pharmacy and Radiology. She has been in the Air Force ten years.

Mike served with the **21st RGT** and is a life Member of the Association, Number 1334.

He and Joanne live at:
4489 Memphis Road
Whitehall, PA 18052
Tel. 610-262-5832



24TH IDA NATIONAL REUNION 2013

Membership Meeting

September 24, 2013, Louisville, KY

Nominations

President: Don Maggio & William Tricarico
Vice President: William Tricarico & Tom Appler
Secretary/Treasurer: John Dunn
Director-at-Large: Tom Appler, George Vlasic and Sal Schillaci
No nominations were offered from the floor.

Voting Results

President: Don Maggio
VP: Tom Appler
Secretary/Treasurer: John Dunn
Director-at-Large (Mel Frederick noted that Tom Appler and Sal Schillaci were automatically Directors and he nominated William Tricarico). A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate. It passed by voice vote.

Other business

2014 Reunion in Omaha – BOD recommends the Omaha Marriott venue
Report of Taro Leaf voting for future reunions: (see Board Minutes, page 23 for results)
Our Membership by geographic distribution:
Northwest 84; Southwest 302; Midwest 508
South 176; Northeast 552; Southeast 432; Other 31
Future sites to be explored: San Antonio, TX; Branson, MO; Indianapolis, IN. Others if very good rates and

transportation: Albuquerque, NM; Savannah, GA; Columbus, GA; Columbia, SC; and Raleigh, NC
George Vlasic will publicize our future reunions in veterans' publications.

To encourage increased attendance at reunions the BOD passed a motion to limit the number of registration fees.

John Dunn will assume annual drawing responsibilities from Glenn Carpenter

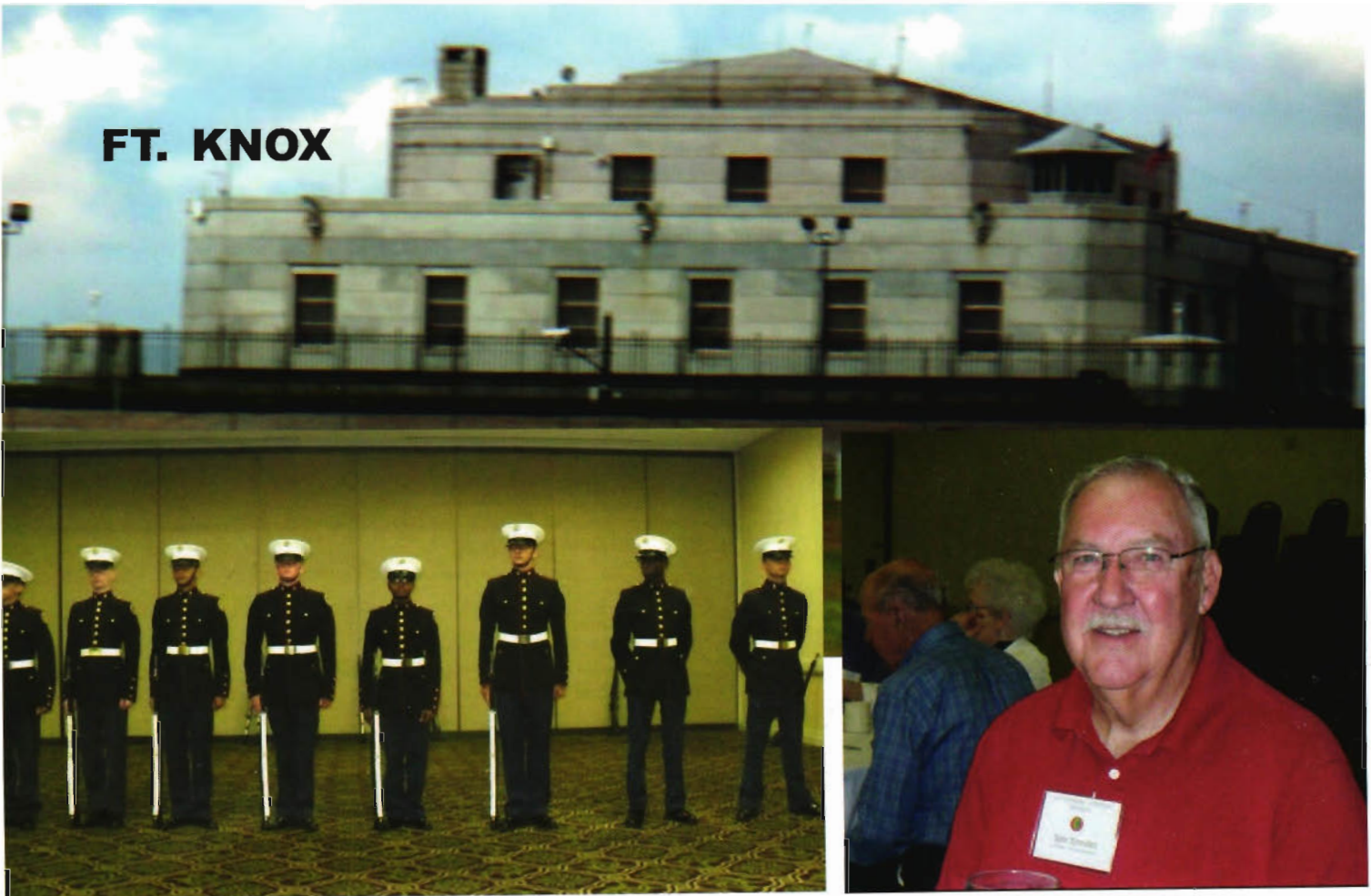
MOH plaque in Arlington (See BOD Minutes) Dan Rickert gave an excellent update on the plaque's casting and finishing.

Membership: Tom Appler reported on his Facebook recruiting members and to conduct another membership drive for 2013-2014. Tom will also seek a webmaster & person to maintain the honor roll. We all need to recruit at least one new member

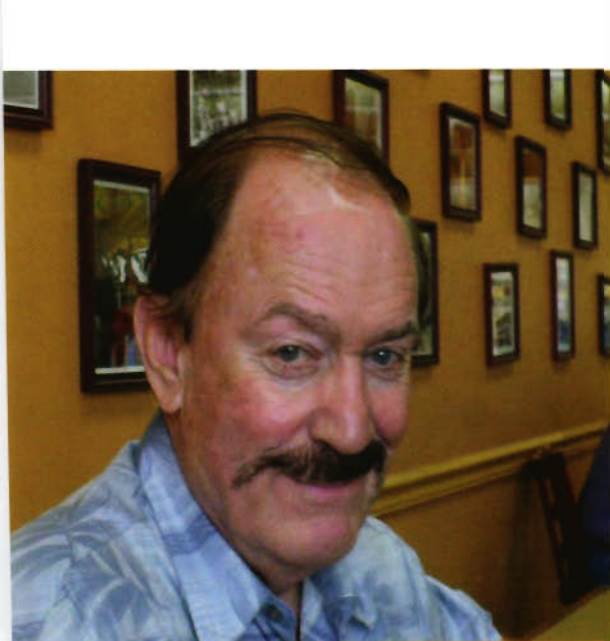
The BOD passed motion to present a meritorious award to anyone for outstanding service and contributions to the Association to be determined by BOD or designees. Any member may make recommendations to the BOD.

Mel Frederick moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

FT. KNOX







The text below is unreadable, but this is a remarkable document created in the field during WWII. Member James Herring, who served from 1940 to late 1944, found this in an old scrapbook. The entire text is on the next page.



Battle BIOGRAPHIES

BY TS DICK LUDMIS with TONY CHUCK VOORHIS



THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION

When the Japs struck at Pearl Harbor, the 24th (Victory) Inf Div was one of the two divisions garrisoned on the Hawaiian Islands. The other was the 25th, which was formed of those elements not included in the 24th at the time of its reorganization into a triangular division, 1 Oct 1941. In the 24th are the famed 19th (Rock of Chickamauga) Regt of Civil War fame; the 21st Regt, which was activated in 1861, and the 34th Regt, formed in 1916. All are Regular Army regiments, the last two serving in World War I. The 19th was ready to ship when the Armistice was signed. The division was on Oahu on 7 Dec 1941 and suffered light casualties. It immediately began to strengthen the island defenses and train for jungle warfare and amphibious landings.



When the threat to the islands had passed, the division sailed for the Soupes, arriving at Rockhampton, Australia in August 1943. Then began another period of training which bore its first fruit when the Torokereh Bay-Hollandia campaign was begun. D-day for this operation was 22 April 1944. By means of strategic and tactical surprise, the immediate objective—the Hollandia airbase—was taken in less than five days, and with only 52 casualties. When the mop-up was completed, the Japs had lost 1771 killed and a then unprecedented number of prisoners, 502. After the Hollandia job was over, elements of the division were sent to Bisk Island to reinforce the 41st Inf Div.



The rest of the 24th remained on Hollandia until the time was ripe for the invasion of Leyte. On 20 Oct 1944, it landed on Red Beach and found the island powerfully defended. Shore batteries had not been heavily damaged by the naval bombardment, and the Japs sank four landing craft. After overrunning the beach fortifications, the division drove inland through jungles. Fighting bitterly every foot of the way. The battle for the Ormoc Valley ended the Leyte campaign, and the 24th proceeded at once to Mindoro Island, helped take it and went on to Marinduque, which it also took without much opposition.



Shortly after Leyte was won on these islands, the 34th Regt was attached to the 38th Inf Div and spearheaded that outfit's landings at Subic Bay at the top of the Batanes peninsula. It led the attack down the coast to Alangapo and then cut inland where it engaged in heavy fighting. The 3d Bn of the 34th was picked for the dangerous job of assaulting Corregidor, supporting troops of the 503d Pz Cn Regt. The battalion hit the beach at South Dock, 16 Feb 1945, captured Malinta Hill and contacted the paratroopers. In early March, the division was regrouped and began clearing out small islands. Verde fell, and the Jap garrison at Lubang was wiped out.



A task force was dispatched to occupy Romben and Simara islands and did the job without much difficulty. Next on the list of objectives was Miskenan, southernmost of the larger Philippine Islands. Landings in force were made by the 21st Regt. Airborne troops had been flown in to secure the airport at Dipolog in advance of landings by the 41st Inf Div. With the aid of guerrillas, the Yanks made steady progress, climaxed by the capture of Davao, capital of the island. The garrison in the city, however, had fled to the hills and a house-to-house search failed to unearth any but dead Japs. In the hills, the Victory division smoked and dug them out from caves, a long, tedious and nerve-wracking operation. The division's proudest boast is that it has never lost a battle.





THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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What I love about this collection of information is the fact it was put together, most likely by members of the 24th who were on the scene at the time. It may not be historically accurate in all its details, but it is what was known at the time and believed to be gospel. It is also a succinct history.

EIGHTH ARMY IN COMMAND

Of necessity, an airlift of critically needed items began almost at once from the United States to the Far East. The Military Air Transport Service (MATS), Pacific Division, expanded immediately upon the outbreak of the war. The Pacific airlift was further expanded by charter of civil airlines planes. The Canadian Government lent the United Nations a Royal Canadian Air Force squadron of 6 transports, while the Belgian Government added several DC-4's. Altogether, the fleet of about 60 four-engine transport planes operating across the Pacific before 25 June 1950 was quickly expanded to approximately 250. In addition to these, there were MATS C-74 and C-97 planes

operating between the United States and Hawaii.

The Pacific airlift to Korea operated from the United States over three routes. These were the Great Circle, with flight from McChord Air Force Base, Tacoma, Washington, via Anchorage, Alaska and Shemya in the Aleutians to Tokyo, distance 5,688 miles and flying time 30 to 33 hours; a second route was the Mid-Pacific from Travis (Fairfield-Suisun) Air Force Base near San Francisco, Calif., via Honolulu and Wake Island to Tokyo, distance 6,718 miles and flying time 34 hours; a third route was the Southern, from California via Honolulu, and Johnston, Kwajalein, and Guam Islands to Tokyo, distance about 8,000 miles and flying time 40 hours. The airlift moved about 106 tons a day in July 1950.

From Japan most of the air shipments to Korea were staged at Ashiya or at the nearby secondary airfields of Itazuke and Brady.

Subsistence for the troops in Korea was not the least of the problems to be solved in the early days of the war. There were no C rations in Korea and only a small reserve in Japan. The Quartermaster General of the United States Army began the movement at once from the United States to the Far East of all C and 5-in-1 B rations. Field rations at first were largely World War II K rations.

Subsistence of the ROK troops was an equally important and vexing problem. The regular issue ration to ROK troops was rice or barley and fish. It consisted of about twenty-nine ounces of rice or barley, one half pound of biscuit, and one half pound of canned fish with certain spices. Often the cooked rice, made into balls and This became the standard ration for them during the first year of the war.

SOUTH TO THE NAKTONG, NORTH TO THE YALU

Roy E. Appleman



wrapped in cabbage leaves, was sour when it reached the combat troops on the line, and frequently it did not arrive at all. Occasionally, local purchase of foods on a basis of 200 won a day per man supplemented the issue ration (200 won ROK money equaled 5 cents U.S. in value).

An improved ROK ration consisting of three menus, one for each daily meal, was ready in September 1950. It provided 3,210 calories, weighed 2.3 pounds, and consisted of rice starch, biscuits, rice cake, peas, kelp, fish, chewing gum, and condiments, and was packed in a waterproofed bag. With slight changes, this ration was found acceptable to the ROK troops.

On 30 June, Lt. Col. Lewis A. Hunt led the vanguard of American officers arriving in Korea to organize the logistical effort there in support of United States troops. Less than a week later, on 4 July, Brig. Gen. Crump Garvin and members of his staff arrived at Pusan to organize the Pusan Base Command, activated that day by orders of the Far East Command. This command was reorganized on 13 July by Eighth Army as the Pusan Logistical Command, and further reorganized a week later. The Pusan Logistical Command served as the principal logistical support organization in Korea until 19 September 1950 when it was redesignated the 2d Logistical Command.

The Port of Pusan and Its Communications

It was a matter of the greatest good fortune to the U.N. cause that the best port in Korea, Pusan, lay at the southeastern tip of the peninsula. Pusan alone of all ports in South Korea had dock facilities sufficiently ample to handle a sizable amount of cargo. Its four piers and intervening quays could berth twenty-four or more deepwater ships, and its beaches provided space for the unloading of fourteen LST's, giving the port a potential capacity of 45,000 measurement tons daily. Seldom, however, did the daily discharge of cargo exceed 14,000 tons because of limitations such as the unavailability of skilled labor, large cranes, rail cars, and trucks.

The distance in nautical miles to the all-important port of Pusan from the principal Japanese ports varied greatly. From Fukuoka it was 110 miles; from Moji, 123; from Sasebo, 130; from Kobe, 361; and from Yokohama (via the Bungo-Suido strait, 665 miles), 900 miles. The sea trip from the west coast of the United States to Pusan for personnel movement required about 16 days;

that for heavy equipment and supplies on slower shipping schedules took longer.

From Pusan a good railroad system built by the Japanese and well ballasted with crushed rock and river gravel extended northward. Subordinate rail lines ran westward along the south coast through Masan and Chinju and northeast near the east coast to P'ohang-dong. There the eastern line turned inland through the east-central mountain area. The railroads were the backbone of the U.N. transportation system in Korea.

The approximately 20,000 miles of Korean vehicular roads were all of a secondary nature as measured by American or European standards. Even the best of them were narrow, poorly drained, and surfaced only with gravel or rocks broken laboriously by hand, and worked into the dirt roadbed by the traffic passing over it. The highest classification placed on any appreciable length of road in Korea by Eighth Army engineers was for a gravel or crushed rock road with gentle grades and curves and one and a half to two lanes wide. According to engineer specifications there were no two-lane roads, 22 feet wide, in Korea. The average width of the best roads was 18 feet with numerous bottlenecks at narrow bridges and bypasses where the width narrowed to 11-13 feet. Often on these best roads there were short stretches having sharp curves and grades up to 15 percent. The Korean road traffic was predominately by oxcart. The road net, like the rail net, was principally north-south, with a few lateral east-west connecting roads.

American Command Estimate

Almost from the outset of American intervention, General MacArthur had formulated in his mind the strategical principles on which he would seek victory. Once he had stopped the North Koreans, MacArthur proposed to use naval and air superiority to support an amphibious operation in their rear. By the end of the first week of July he realized that the North Korean Army was a formidable force. His first task was to estimate with reasonable accuracy the forces he would need to place in Korea to stop the enemy and fix it in place, and then the strength of the force he would need in reserve to land behind the enemy's line. That the answer to these problems was not easy and clearly discernible at first will become evident when one sees how the unfolding tactical situation in the first two months of the war compelled repeated changes in these estimates.

By the time American ground troops first engaged North Koreans in combat north of Osan, General MacArthur had sent to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington by a liaison officer his requests for heavy reinforcements, most of them already covered by radio messages and teletype conferences. His requests included the 2d Infantry Division, a regimental combat team from the 82d Airborne Division, a regimental combat team and headquarters from the Fleet Marine Force, the 2d Engineer Special Brigade, a Marine beach group, a Marine antiaircraft battalion, 700 aircraft, 2 air squadrons of the Fleet Marine Force, a Marine air group echelon, 18 tanks and crew

personnel, trained personnel to operate LST's, LSM's, and LCV's, and 3 medium tank battalions, plus authorization to expand existing heavy tank units in the Far East Command to battalion strength. [23]

On 6 July, the Joint Chiefs of Staff requested General MacArthur to furnish them his estimate of the total requirements he would need to clear South Korea of North Korean troops. He replied on 7 July that to halt and hurl back the North Koreans would require, in his opinion, from four to four and a half full-strength infantry divisions, an airborne regimental combat team complete with lift, and an armored group of three medium tank battalions, together with reinforcing artillery and service elements. He said 30,000 reinforcements would enable him to put such a force in Korea without jeopardizing the safety of Japan. The first and overriding essential, he said, was to halt the enemy advance. He evaluated the North Korean effort as follows: "He is utilizing all major avenues of approach and has shown himself both skillful and resourceful in forcing or enveloping such road blocks as he has encountered. Once he is fixed, it will be my purpose fully to exploit our air and sea control, and, by amphibious maneuver, strike him behind his mass of ground force."

By this time General MacArthur had received word from Washington that bomber planes, including two groups of B-29's and twenty-two B-26's, were expected to be ready to fly to the Far East before the middle of the month. The carrier Boxer would load to capacity with F-51 planes and sail under forced draft for the Far East. But on 7 July Far East hopes for a speedy build-up of fighter plane strength to tactical support of the ground combat were dampened by a message from Maj. Gen. Frank F. Everest, U.S. Air Force Director of Operations. He informed General Stratemeyer that forty-four of the 164 F-80's requested were on their way, but that the rest could not be sent because the Air Force did not have them.

To accomplish part of the build-up he needed to carry out his plan of campaign in Korea, MacArthur on 8 July requested of the Department of the Army authority to expand the infantry divisions then in the Far East Command to full war strength in personnel and equipment. He received this authority on 19 July.

Meanwhile, from Korea General Dean on 8 July had sent to General MacArthur an urgent request for speedy delivery of 105-mm. howitzer high-explosive antitank shells for direct fire against tanks. Dean said that those of his troops who had used the 2.36-inch rocket launcher against enemy tanks had lost confidence in the weapon, and urged immediate air shipment from the United States of the 3.5-inch rocket launcher. He gave his opinion of the enemy in these words, "I am convinced that the North Korean Army, the North Korean soldier, and his status of training and quality of equipment have been underestimated."

The next day, 9 July, General MacArthur considered the situation sufficiently critical in Korea to justify using part of his B-29 medium bomber force on battle area targets. He also sent another message to the Joint Chiefs of Staff,

saying in part: The situation in Korea is critical... His [N.K.] armored equip[ment] is of the best and the service thereof, as reported by qualified veteran observers, as good as any seen at any time in the last war. They further state that the enemy's inf[antry] is of thoroughly first class quality.

This force more and more assumes the aspect of a combination of Soviet leadership and technical guidance with Chinese Communist ground elements. While it serves under the flag of North Korea, it can no longer be considered as an indigenous N.K. mil[itary] effort.

I strongly urge that in add[ition] to those forces already requisitioned an army of at least four divisions, with all its component services, be dispatched to this area without delay and by every means of transportation available. The situation has developed into a major operation.

Upon receiving word the next day that the 2d Infantry Division and certain armor and antiaircraft artillery units were under orders to proceed to the Far East, General MacArthur replied that same day, 10 July, requesting that the 2d Division be brought to full war strength, if possible, without delaying its departure. He also reiterated his need of the units required to bring the 4 infantry divisions already in the Far East to full war strength. He detailed these as 4 heavy tank battalions, 12 heavy tank companies, 11 infantry battalions, 11 field artillery battalions (105-mm. howitzers), and 4 antiaircraft automatic weapons battalions (AAA AW), less four batteries.

After the defeat of the 24th Division on 11 and 12 July north of Choch'iwon, General Walker decided to request immediate shipment to Korea of the ground troops nearest Korea other than those in Japan. These were the two battalions on Okinawa. Walker's chief of staff, Colonel Landrum, called General Almond in Tokyo on 12 July and relayed the request. The next day, General MacArthur ordered the Commanding General, Ryukyus Command, to prepare the two battalions for water shipment to Japan. [30] The worsening tactical situation in Korea caused General MacArthur on 13 July to order General Stratemeyer to direct the Far East Air Forces to employ maximum B-26 and B-29 bomber effort against the enemy divisions driving down the center of the Korean peninsula. Two days later he advised General Walker that he would direct emergency use of the medium bombers against battle-front targets whenever Eighth Army requested it.

It is clear that by the time the 24th Division retreated across the Kum River and prepared to make a stand in front of Taejon there was no complacency over the military situation in Korea in either Eighth Army or the Far East Command. Both were thoroughly alarmed.

Disaster at the Kum River Line

Continual exercise makes good soldiers because it qualifies them for military duties; by being habituated to pain, they insensibly learn to despise danger. The transition from fatigue to rest enervates them. They compare one state

with another, and idleness, that predominate passion of mankind, gains ascendancy over them. They then murmur at every trifling inconvenience, and their souls soften in their emasculated bodies. (MAURICE DE SAXE, *Reveries on the Art of War*)

The Kum River is the first large stream south of the Han flowing generally north from its source in the mountains of southwestern Korea. Ten miles east of Taejon, the river in a series of tight loops slants northwest, then bends like an inverted letter U, and 12 miles northwest of the city starts its final southwesterly course to the sea. For 25 miles upstream from its mouth, the Kum River is a broad estuary of the Yellow Sea, from 1 to 2 miles wide. In its semicircle around Taejon, the river constitutes in effect a great moat, much in the same manner as the Naktong River protects Taegu and Pusan farther south and the Chickahominy River guarded Richmond, Virginia, during the American Civil War.

Protected by this water barrier, generally 10 to 15 miles distant, Taejon lies at the western base of the Sobaek Mountains. To the west, the coastal plain stretches northward to Seoul and southwestward to the tip of Korea. But south and southeastward all the way to the Naktong and on to Pusan lie the broken hills and ridges of the Sobaek Mountains. Through these mountains in a southeasterly course from Taejon passes the main Seoul-Pusan railroad and highway. Secondary roads angle off from Taejon into all of southern Korea. Geographical and communication factors gave Taejon unusual military importance.

The Seoul-Pusan railroad crossed the Kum River 8 air miles due north of Taejon. Nine air miles westward and downstream from the railroad, the main highway crossed the river. The little village of Taep'yong-ni stood there on the southern bank of the Kum 15 air miles northwest of Taejon. At Kongju, 8 air miles farther westward downstream from Taep'yong-ni and 20 air miles northwest of Taejon, another highway crossed the Kum.

Engineers blew the highway bridges across the Kum at Kongju and Taep'yong-ni and the railroad bridge at Sinch'on the night and morning of 12-13 July. On the approaches to Taejon, engineer units placed demolitions on all bridges of small streams tributary to the Kum.

Downstream from Kongju the 24th Reconnaissance Company checked all ferries and destroyed all native flat-bottomed boats it found in a 16-mile stretch below the town. Checking below this point for another twenty miles it came to the south side of the river. In the arc of the river from Kongju eastward to the railroad crossing, General Menoher, the assistant division commander of the 24th Division, then ordered all similar boats seized and burned.

General Dean and his 24th Division staff had a fairly clear idea of the situation facing them. On 13 July, the division intelligence officer estimated that two enemy divisions at 60 to 80 percent strength with approximately fifty tanks were closing on the 24th Division. Enemy prisoners identified them as the 4th Division following the 34th

Infantry and the 3d Division following the 21st Infantry. This indicated a two-pronged attack against Taejon, and perhaps a three-pronged attack if the 2d Division moving south next in line to the east could drive ROK forces out of its way in time to join in the effort.

Behind the moat of the Kum River, General Dean placed his 24th Division troops in a horseshoe-shaped arc in front of Taejon. The 34th Infantry was on the left, the 19th Infantry on the right, and the 21st Infantry in a reserve defensive blocking position southeast of Taejon. On the extreme left, the 24th Reconnaissance Company in platoon-sized groups watched the principal river crossing sites below Kongju. Thus, the division formed a two-regiment front, each regiment having one battalion on the line and the other in reserve.

The 24th Division was in poor condition for what was certain to be its hardest test yet. In the first week, 1,500 men were missing in action, 1,433 of them from the 21st Regiment. That regiment on 13 July had a strength of about 1,100 men; the 34th Infantry had 2,020 men; and the 19th Infantry, 2,276 men. There were 2,007 men in the division artillery. The consolidated division strength on strength 14 July was 1,440 men.

Action against the Kum River Line began first on the left (west), in the sector of the 34th Infantry.

From Seoul south the N.K. 4th Division had borne the brunt of the fighting against the 24th Division and was now down to 5,000-6,000 men, little more than half strength. Approximately 20 T34 tanks led the division column, which included 40 to 50 pieces of artillery. Just before midnight of 11 July the 16th Regiment sent out scouts to make a reconnaissance of the Kum, learn the depth and width of the river, and report back before 1000 the next morning. An outpost of the 34th Infantry I&R Platoon during the night captured one of the scouts, an officer, 600 yards north of the river opposite Kongju. The regiment's mission was the capture of Kongju.

U.N. air attacks on North Korean armor, transport, and foot columns had become by now sufficiently effective so that the enemy no longer placed his tanks, trucks, and long columns of marching men on the main roads in broad daylight. The heavy losses of armor and equipment to air attack in the vicinity of P'yongt'aek, Chonui, and Ch'onan in the period of 7 to 10 July had wrought the change. Now, in approaching the Kum, the enemy generally remained quiet and camouflaged in orchards and buildings during the daytime and moved at night. The North Koreans also used back roads and trails more than in the first two weeks of the invasion, and already by day were storing equipment and supplies in railroad tunnels.

The N.K. 4th Division Crosses the Kum Below Kongju

On the high ground around Kongju, astride the Kongju-Nonsan road, the 3d Battalion, 34th Infantry, was in its defensive positions. On line from left to right were L, I, and K Companies, with the mortars of M Company behind them. The 63d Field Artillery Battalion was about two and

a half miles south of the Kum in their support. Three miles farther south, the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, was in an assembly area astride the road

Communication between the 3d Battalion units was practically nonexistent. For instance, L Company could communicate with only one of its squads, and it served as a lookout and was equipped with a sound power telephone. The L Company commander, 1st Lt. Archie L. Stith, tried but failed at the 3d Battalion headquarters to obtain a radio that would work. He had communication with the battalion only by messenger. Procurement of live batteries for Signal Corps radios SCR-300's and 536's was almost impossible, communication wire could not be obtained, and that already laid could not be reclaimed.

At 0400 hours 13 July, D Company of the 3d Engineer Combat Battalion blew the steel truss bridge in front of Kongju. A few hours after daybreak an enemy squad walked to the water's edge, 700 yards from a 34th Infantry position across the river, and set up a machine gun. On high ground north of this enemy machine gun squad, a North Korean tank came into view. [10] The men of the 3d Battalion, 34th Infantry, now had only the water barrier of the Kum between them and the enemy. That afternoon, the North Koreans began shelling Kongju from across the river.

The command situation for Colonel Wadlington continued to worsen as both the regimental S-2 and S-3 were evacuated because of combat fatigue. Then, that night, K Company, a composite group of about forty men of the 3d Battalion in such mental and physical condition as to render them liabilities in combat, was withdrawn from the Kum River Line with division approval and taken to Taejon for medical disposition.

There were now only two understrength rifle companies of the 34th Infantry in front of Kongju-L Company on the left and I Company on the right of the road on the river hills, with some mortars of the Heavy Weapons Company behind. These troops knew of no friendly units on their left (west). From the 19th Infantry on their right, Capt. Melicio Montesclaros had visited the I Company position and told the men there was a 2-mile gap between that flank and his outpost position eastward on the regimental boundary.

Shortly after daybreak of the 14th, American troops on the south side of the Kum at Kongju heard enemy tanks in the village across the river. By 0600, enemy flat trajectory weapons, possibly tank guns, were firing into I Company's area. Their target apparently was the mortars back of the rifle company. Simultaneously, enemy shells exploded in air bursts over L Company's position but were too high to do any damage. Soon thereafter, L Company lookouts sent word that enemy soldiers were crossing the river in two barges, each carrying approximately thirty men, about two miles below them. They estimated that about 500 North Koreans crossed between 0800 and 0930. Pg. 126

The story will be continued in the next issue of the Taro Leaf.
Editor

FALLEN COMRADES

Jack Neal Moore, 82, of Salt Lick, KY, passed away Friday August 30, 2013. He was retired from the United States Army having served during the Korean and Vietnam wars. He was a 24th IDA life member #1345. He served in Japan after WW2, in the Korean War with 24th ID in two different campaigns for which he earned a CIB, Bronze Star with Valor and Oak Leaf cluster, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. He was in the A.S.A. during the Vietnam War in two different campaigns. He retired an E-7 in Aug 31 1973 with 24 years 10 months and 5 days of honorable service. After he was retired he was very involved in the veteran community and held offices in the VFW in his home state of Kentucky.

Clark McMinn, age 82, died on August 10, 2013 of a long illness. Clark was a member of the Enlisted Reserves when the Korea War began. He was part of a group which was airlifted to Korea in early 1951. Clark was assigned to a 60 mm Mortar Section, 4th Platoon of **G Company, 19th RGT**. He was wounded twice and was rotated to the States in the summer of 1951. He was an active supporter of the 24th IDA. Cards may be sent to his wife, Donna McMinn, 315 Burt, Hamlet, NE 69040

Robert Wolever died. He lived at 1500 SW 192nd Ave Aloha, OR. 97006-2637. No additional information is available. He was a life member of the 24th IDA, #1413



Howard B. Vaine, Sr. Died September 1, 2013 in West Palm Beach. He served with the 19th RGT during the Korean War in five campaigns and was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart. He is survived by his wife, Doris, 331 Valley Road, Apt. D, Boynton Beach, FL 33435 **Life Member #2092**.



Seymore Lehman died January 30th, 2013. He served with the **63rd Field Artillery** in Korea from 1953-1954. He is survived by his wife, Rosalind, 50 Gateway Road, Yonkers, NY 10703. He was a **Life Member, #2090**



SGT Melvin F. Kahle died April 18, 2013 at the age of 91. He served in the Army from 1942-1945 with G Co, **19th RGT**. He fought in the Pacific Theater with the "Lost Battalion" and took part with the liberation of the Philippines.



Ralph "Corky" Dula died April 20, 2013 in Hanceville, AL. He served with the **21st RGT** in Korea, 1950-1952. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge and attained the rank of Master Sergeant. He was a **Life Member 2187**

John W. Marvel died March 16, 2013 in Carson City, NV at the age of 86. He joined the Army in 1945 and served with the **19th RGT** in Japan. He was discharged in 1946.

John "Jack" Kiernam died March 26, 2013 at the age of 74 in Carson City, NV. He served with the **13th Field Artillery** in Korea, 1956-1958. He was a Member of the 2th IDA.

Rudolph "Rudy" Weber passed July 7 and 2013 in LaCross, KA. He served during WWII in the Philippines with the 21st RGT and during the occupation of Japan. He was a Life Member number unknown. He is survived by his wife, Violet, 4511 E. 14th St., LaCross, KA 67548.



FSGT Richard Seltz died October 11, 2012 at the age of 87 in Austin, MN. He served during WWII in the Philippines with the 2nd BN ("The lost battalion") of the **19th RGT**. He later served with the occupation forces in Kochi, Shikoku, Japan. He loved baseball and was a renowned high school baseball coach. **Life Member 2139**.



Robert F. Elze died May 14, 2013 in Albany, NY at age 81. He served with the **5th RCT** in Korea of the 24th Division, 1950-1953. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Elze, 20 Boylston Dr., Delmar, NY 12054. **Member**



Secretary John Dunn's List of Departed

Chance, Adelbert W.	133 Taylor Rd.	Newfield, NJ 8344	63 rd FA	Japan-Korea 48-53	Died 8/27/13
Connor, Francis P.	10311 Mazoch Rd.	Weimar, TX 78962	21st Inf C	Japan-Korea	Died 4/10/11
Cuomo, Danny	10 Gaston St. # 6Q	W. Orange, NJ 7052	34th Inf B	WWII-Japan-Korea	Not Known
Elze, Robert F.	20 Boylston Dr	Delmar, NY 12054	5th RCT	Korea 50-51	5/14/2013
Jensen, Norman A.	2020 Muldoon -214	Anchorage, AK 99504	34th Inf K	Japan-Korea	Died 10/8/11
McMinn, Clark E.	210 Burt St.	Hamlet NE 69040	19th Inf G	Korea 51	Died 8/10/13
Moore, Jack N.	371 Bypass Rd.	Salt Lick, KY 40371	24th QM	Korea	Died 8/30/13
Prevatt, Mark A.	308 Wondertown Dr.	Erwin NC 28339	21st Inf A	Japan	Died 12/25/08
Sampson, William	18801 Hawthorne #33	Torrence CA 90504	34th Inf K	Japan-Korea 50-51	Died 6/1/13
Vaught, James B.	954 Cole Ct.	Myrtle Bch SC 29577	34th Inf	WWII-Japan-Korea	Died 9/20/13
Wolever, Robert	1500 SW 192nd Ave	Aloha OR 97006	63rd FA	Korea	Died 12/31/12

New Monument Planned

David: I need your help getting some press in the Taro Leaf and on your website. Attached is our press release.

I am leading the effort to place a Monument at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park here in Atlanta, GA. The Monument is to commemorate the service of the Regular Army Infantry Regiments that fought here as part of the Atlanta Campaign of 1864. The Monument was finally approved by the Nat'l Park Service. That was an agonizing effort. I am ordering the Monument next week.

Both of your 19th Infantry Battalions at Fort Benning are on board with the effort. I met with LTC Mark Read, 1-19IN, and briefed him on the project. He has offered to

assist. We plan to place the Monument on its site on or about 12 December 2013. This date was selected based on the training/deployment schedule and commitments of 1-15IN who is providing the manpower to move the Monument on the side of the Mountain where our Regiments fought. The Monument will be dedicated on 27 June 2014. This is the 150th anniversary of the battle.

I would appreciate your help in getting the word out via the Taro Leaf and your website. You can visit our website for additional information.

<http://www.15thinfantry.org/monumentproject.html>

Mike

National Battlefield Park Monument to Honor Civil War Regular Army Units

Source: 15th Infantry Regiment Association

Dated: Sep. 25, 2013

ATLANTA -- The 15th Infantry Regiment Association announced today that the National Park Service approved the placement of a monument in the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park honoring the service of the 15th Infantry, 16th Infantry, 18th Infantry, and 19th Infantry Regiments for their action during the Civil War at Kennesaw Mountain. These Regiments served with distinction in the Army of the Cumberland during the Atlanta Campaign of 1864 and have continued their service to the present day. The yearlong effort by the 15th Infantry Regiment Association is spearheaded by Michael J. Horn, an Atlanta area resident. Horn reports that the battle positions of the Regulars are clearly visible on the Battlefield after nearly 150 years. Active duty and former members of these Regiments have participated in the Monument planning process. Active duty soldiers of

the 15th Infantry, 19th Infantry and the 18th Infantry Regiment Association have partnered with the 15th Infantry Regiment Association to erect the Monument as a tribute to Civil War members of these fine historic units.

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park is a 2,923 acre National Battlefield that preserves a Civil War battleground of the Atlanta Campaign. Opposing forces maneuvered and fought there from 19 June 1864 until 2 July 1864. The Park is located northwest of metro Atlanta along Interstate 75.

Approval by Nancy Walter, Superintendent, Kennesaw Mountain NBP was the first step in the lengthy process. Final approval was made by the Jonathan Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service, in Washington, DC.

To make a donation and for more information visit the 15th Infantry Regiment Association website at <http://www.15thinfantry.org>.

For more information, contact Mike Horn at 404-414-5974 or via email at mhorn@15thinfantry.org.

QUARTERMASTER ORDER FORM

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COST	PATCHES:			
HAT PIN MEDALS:			42 23th ID Color	\$6	82 WWII Vet Black	\$12
1	Philippines Liberation	\$5	43 24th IDA	\$6	101 WWII Veteran w/CIB	\$15
2	Nat'l Defense Service	\$5	58 19th RGT Color	\$6	MISCELLANEOUS:	
3	Good Conduct	\$5	59 21st RGT Color	\$6	40 Ladies Necklace 19th	\$5
4	Silver Star	\$5	60 34th RGT Color	\$6	41 Ladies Bracelet 19th RGT	\$5
5	Pacific Campaign	\$5	61 11th FA BN Color	\$6	46 24th ID Window Sticker	\$2
6	Armed Forces Reserve	\$5	62 13th FA BN Color	\$6	85 CIB Window Sticker 2"x5"	\$3
7	Army Occupation	\$5	77 5th RCT	\$6	86 24th ID "Proudly Served	
8	POW	\$5	87 6th Tank BN Color	\$6	Bumper Sticker	\$3
9	Distinguished Svc Cross	\$5	91 63rd FA BN Color	\$7	?? Bolo Tie Taro Leaf Gold	
10	ETO Campaign	\$5	97 24th ID Kore Vet	\$6	w/Black Braid	\$15
11	Soldier's Medal	\$5	107 Division Artillery	\$6	50 Taro Leaf Silver Belt Buckle	\$15
12	Meritorious Service	\$5	108 29th Inf Div Color	\$6	93 Christmas Cards 10 w/env.	\$8
13	United Nations	\$5	109 24th ID Victory Patch	\$6	94 24th ID Green neck Wallet	\$5
14	American Defense	\$5	CRESTS:		95 24th ID Key Chain	\$10
15	Vietnam Service	\$5	52 24TH Sig	\$9	98 24th ID Songs & March CD	\$10
16	American Campaign	\$5	53 19th RGT	\$9	T-SHIRTS:	
17	Armed Forces Expeditionary	\$5	54 21st RGT	\$9	24th ID Hawaii Div/Black (Sizes	
18	U.S. Flag	\$5	56 11th FA BN	\$9	XXL/L/M)	\$15
19	Army Dist. Flying Cross	\$5	57 13th FA BN	\$9	24th ID Hawaii Div/White (Sizes	
20	Korea Service Ribbon	\$5	63 24th ID	\$9	2XL/XL/L/M)	\$15
21	Army Commendation	\$5	75 3rd Eng BN	\$9	FLAGS:	
22	WWII Victory Ribbon	\$5	76 14th Eng BN	\$9	90 24TH id Outdoor Screen Print	
23	Marine Corps Expeditionary	\$5	CAPS:		3' x 5'	\$65
24	Korea Service Medal	\$5	65 21st RGT White	\$15	102 Korea War Silk Screen	\$65
25	WWI Victory Medal	\$5	66 21st RGT Dark Blue	\$15	103 Korea War Vet Silk Screen	\$65
26	Bronze Star	\$5	69 24th IDA Wh. w/Taro/Ger.	\$12	CIB Bracelet	\$35
27	Purple Heart	\$5	70 24th ID Red w/Taro/Ger.	\$12	(Order Direct: Sektor Co., Box 501005	
28	Air Medal	\$5	71 24th IDA Red	\$15	San Diego, CA 92150)	
29	24th ID	\$5	72 24th ID Wh.1st to Fight	\$15	Quartermaster John Walters, 313 Heritage Overlook, Woodstock, GA 30188. Email: 1k34cspd@gmail.com	
31	19th RGT	\$5	73 24th IDA Green (X)	\$15		
37	Combat Medic Badge	\$5	74 24th ID White Mesh (X)	\$15		
38	Army Desert Storm	\$5	78 5th RCT Red w/patch	\$12		
39	Vietnam Heaven & Hell	\$5	80 Desert Storm Vet	\$12		
104	Desert Storm	\$5	81 POW/MIA Black	\$15		
110	Philippines Pres. Unit Ribbon	\$5				
116	24th ID Airborne	\$5				

QM Notes: 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.

Shipping and handling is \$5.00. Allow 2 - 4 weeks for delivery. No phone orders.

If possible e-mail first before ordering to see if it is in stock. No credit cards. Make

checks payable to 24th IDA. Send completed form and your check to:

QM John Walters, 313 Heritage Overlook, Woodstock, GA 30188

E-mail: 1k34cspd@gmail.com

Notices

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, Sec'y./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

lt./Bat.

Squad

i.e. 5th, 19th, 3rd Engr., 955 FABn., Etc.

Location(s)

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

POW ☐

Location

From

/ /

To

/ /

Other Unit Service

From

/ /

To

/ /

Sponsor

NEW MEMBERS

DONATIONS TO TARO LEAF

DONOR	UNIT	GIFT
Bellay, Robert S.	13th FA	\$50.00
Bolinger, William L.	3rd Eng	\$20.00
Butler, Ervin L.	21st Inf	\$15.00
Byrem, Robert B	3rd Eng	\$10.00
Cauble, Jakie A.	24th Adm	\$5.00
Davidson, Bennie	21st Inf	\$5.00
Davisworth, Norman	13th FA	\$10.00
Draus, Richard F.	19th Inf	\$100.00
Eckardt, Raymond J.	19th Inf	\$5.00
Edwards, John T.	3rd Eng	\$10.00
Fecko, John J.	3rd Eng.	\$20.00
Gibson, Calvin N.	19th Inf	\$10.00
Handley, Edward R.	19th Inf	\$5.00
Harrison, Edward F.	11th FA	\$10.00
Johnson, Lester E	19th Inf	\$10.00
Jones, Joseph J.	19th Inf	\$50.00
Karvo, Roy E.	21st Inf	\$5.00
Koschak, Lawrence E.	52nd FA	\$15.00
Kroeck, Walter W.	19th Inf	\$15.00
Lovasz, Edward T.	19th Inf	\$10.00
Lowden, William M.	19th Inf	\$15.00
MacAulay, Dennis A.	19th Inf	\$30.00
Maggio, Donald E.	24th Adm	\$5.00
McDevitt, Paul	19th Inf	\$10.00
Melcher, Ralph W.	19th Inf	\$50.00
Moritz, Robert	Div Arty	\$10.00
Mozeleski, Joseph P.	19th Inf	\$10.00
Nederfield, John	19th Inf	\$5.00
Newell, Linwood C.	19th Inf	\$10.00
Owens, Roderick	26th AAA	\$10.00
Parker, Robert S.	24th QM	\$5.00
Pileggi, Bruno	34th Inf	\$5.00
Reed, Marvin	26th AAA	\$16.00
Sharkey, Robert A.	3rd Eng	\$10.00
Silver, Leon	24th Sig	\$10.00
Silverstein, Albert J.**	3rd Eng	\$60.00
Soemann, George W.	724 Ord	\$50.00
Stock, Rodney F.	34th Inf.	\$100.00
Struecker, Howard	19th Inf	\$10.00
Sund, Edward B.	21st Inf	\$10.00
Swanson, Myron J.	19th Inf	\$10.00
Tominaga, George T.	13th FA	\$10.00
Vogl, William F.	6th Tank	\$10.00
Williams, Donald C.	34th Inf	\$15.00
Wojtkiewicz, Bernard	19th Inf	\$10.00
Wolf, Roy	34th Inf	\$5.00

** Mem. Osan K. 7/5/50

NAME	AFFILIATION	LOCATION
Anthony, Ronald	19th Inf	Germany 61-63
Billotte, Michael L.	2nd Bde.	HHC Ft. Stewart-Desert Storm 89-91
Bruckardt, Ryan Allen	Assoc	Father-Gary B. Germany 66-68
Cartledge, Paul M.	3rd Eng	B Germany 64-65
Elsen, Frank J.	24th Med	Clearing Korea-Japan 51-52
Fisher, Donald G.	21st Inf	K Korea 50-51
Garcia, Juan D.	24th Avn	HHC Germany 62-65
Gay, Richard J.	52 FA	A Japan 46-47
Hahl, Arthur H.	3rd Eng	E Germany 64-66
Handley, Edward	19th Inf	B Germany 70
Henderson, Floyd	21st Inf	C Riley 70
Houchens, Billy E.	34th Inf	A Germany 60-62
James, Winford R.	19th Inf.	I Korea 53-54
LaSure, Brennie	19th inf	K Korea
Leavitt, Darryl S.	70th Armor	HQ Germany 67-68
Ledford, Franklin	21st Inf	A Japan-Korea 52-53
Lewis, John P.	26th AAA	HQ Japan-Korea
May, Jr., Roy L.	34th Inf	HHC Korea 56-57
Miller, Gene H.	34th Inf	G Korea 56
Miller, Robert E	24th Div	HHQ Germany 60-63
Ochsenbein, Harlan P.	34th Inf	C Korea 50-51
Rhodes, Edward	24th ID	 Japan-Korea
Robertson, Richard E.	19th Inf.	G Japan-Korea 45-50
Ruiz, Jose D.	21st Inf.	G Korea 52-54
Smith III, Homer	24th Div	HQ Germany 64-67
Smith, Willie T.	19th Inf	C Korea 56-57
Stutzky, Harold T.	19th Inf	A Korea 8/50-11/50
Tauber, Frank A	Div Arty	HQ Germany 60-62
Wood, Jerome E.	3rd Eng	B Ft. Stewart-Desert Storm

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Astre, Patrick P.	34th Inf	HQ	2424 Germany 65-67
Tye, Arnold J.	21st Inf	L	2425 Korea 50-51
Sellman, Donald L.	5th RCT	I	2426 Korea 50-51
King, Ernest F.	21st Inf	HQ	2427 Korea 50-52
Longo, Robert W.	31st Trans	A	2428 Germany 60-62
Northam, Charles T.	19th Inf	F	2429 Korea 53-55
Vitale, Michael L.	24th Sig	HQ	2430 Germany 61-64
Bruner, Donald L.	2nd Inf	HQ	2431 Germany 59-60
Leatherwood, William K.	24th Avn	F	2432 Ft.Stewart-DS 88-93
Procopio, Domenico S.	3rd Eng		2433 WWII-Japan 45-46
Mourlot, Emilio	13th Arty		2434 Germany 61-64
Ledbetter, David J.	19th Inf	G	2435 Korea 51-52

NEW MEMBERS

RECRUITMENT INITIATIVE

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

It begins for any member who joins our organization from October 1st, 2013 until September 22, 2014. 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, 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 1/10/2013 and 9/22/2014.

3. Payment of \$15.00 for the first year must be received before September 22nd, 2014.

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, 2014, the award will be \$300.00. Life membership must be paid in full to be eligible before the deadline date of Sept. 22, 2014.

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2013, LOUISVILLE, KY

Attendees:
John Klump
Gene Spicer
Mel Frederick
Bill Tricarico
Tom Appler
George Vlasic
Glen Carpenter
Don Maggio
John Dunn

Chaplain Carpenter opened the meeting at 6 PM with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance

John Dunn gave financial report which will be published in the Taro Leaf. CD is earning 0.5% and Tom Appler suggested there are places paying 2.5% - 3% that can be found on-line. John will seek those in the Birmingham, AL area so funds do not get dispersed. Positive financial position indicates we do not need to increase annual or life member dues.

Donation Drawing: Glenn Carpenter reported contributions from this endeavor have been declining. John Dunn will assume these responsibilities from Glenn for future reunions.

Reunions: After reviewing Mike Frederick's information the Board of Directors (BOD) chose to recommend the Omaha Marriott for the 2014 reunion. Several members suggested we seek to combine reunions with the 5th RCT, Co. A 2nd BN, 21st INF RGT, and others to increase numbers for better rates. George Vlasic will continue to put announcements of our reunions in various veterans' publications. Future reunions: Post card poll from Taro Leaf resulted in 38 responses: 9 to alternate between all locations, 13 approve of central location but also favor alternating between all three options, 14 want reunions in central location, and 2 did not have a preference. BOD will ask Mike Frederick to consider Branson MO, San Antonio TX, Indianapolis IN, Columbia & Charleston SC, Savannah GA, and Columbus GA (because of its unique museum). The SC & GA sites would only be considered if the costs were extremely beneficial.

Membership: Tom Appler reported we had gained 9 new members from his efforts on Facebook. Recruiting needs to be a priority of everyone.

Verbeck Award: Mel Frederick moved we accept the recommendation of the Verbeck Committee on the member eligible for the award. John Klump seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote. John Dunn moved that BOD create an award to anyone for meritorious service and contribution to the Association as determined by the BOD or their designees. All members may recommend to the BOD nominees for consideration. Frederick seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Medal of Honor Plaque: During the meeting we received a call from Sal Schillaci announcing he had been contacted by an official from Arlington National Cemetery with indications the submission of one more form and a letter of request placement of the plaque may be approved. The official indicated there were staff members who would be available to help draft the letter of request to enhance the chances of approval.

Recommendation: To encourage more people to attend the annual reunions a motion was made by Gene Spicer to waive the registration fee for guests if a member brings 3 or more with him. The Association will pay the fees for those fees waived. (member would pay only the registration fees of himself and one guest.)

QM: The retail value of inventory is said to be \$15,000 - \$20,000, which seems higher than necessary. Some items are not selling and should be put on reduced prices. The order form in the Taro Leaf is not user friendly and should revert to a 2-page spreadsheet.

Gene Spicer moved to close the meeting and it was seconded by John Dunn. The motion passed by voice vote.

Per President, Don Magio

Florida 24th IDA

Dutch Treat Luncheons

Nov. 6, 2013, 11:45 a.m.

Leesburg Golden Corral, 1720 Citrus

Blvd Leesburg, FL 34748

2014 dates (all 11:30 a.m.): Jan. 8,

Mar. 5, May 7, Sept. 3 and Nov 5.

At Leesburg unless you help schedule one elsewhere in FL.

Space limited to 50; contact: 352-750-

6741 wsswriter@centurylink.net or,

352-408-6612 fl24ida@gmail.com

WESTERN REGIONAL REUNION

TROPICANA HOTEL

Laughlin, NV

March 24, 25, 26, 2014

Byrd Schrock and his wife D.J. have been faithfully holding the reunions for many years, but cannot do so in 2014.

Your editor, David Valley, will take on the task in 2014 and I promise a corker! This is not my first rodeo. Details will be sent to those on the mailing list. Or, you may write or email (see inside front cover).



MY OLD PARTNER – THE M-1 RIFLE

My M-1 Garand rifle and I were constant companions from July, 1950 to April 1951 when I served as a rifleman with the 19th Infantry in Korea.

It was the centerpiece of my combat gear along with its bayonet and scabbard hooked onto the cartridge belt which had pouches full of .30 cal rounds in clips, and backed up with a couple bandoleers of ammo too.

I had not fired an M-1 since I left Korea although I carried one on occasion when I served a year in Japan. Over the years I often thought I would like to own an M-1, and, as I approached my 82nd birthday, I decided to indulge myself.

The Army surplus rifle I bought was made in June, 1945, in the Springfield Armory, not far from where I grew up. By that time the war in Europe was over so this weapon was most likely sent to the Pacific Theater and used in the later months of WWII. It could very well have been used in Korea by a guy like me.

The walnut stock was dinged and heavily covered with grime from accumulated dirt and grease. I stripped the rifle down and separated the three wood sections from any metal before going to work on them with cleaner and sand paper. I removed enough of the grime to show the wood grain, but left the used-look intact. I finished with a heavy rubbing with a beeswax wood treatment...and it looked perfect!

From a local Walmart I bought ammo, a cleaning kit, and a pair of shooter's ear muffs. I ran a saturated patch through the bore several times until it was clean and shiny. The other interior parts had a few minor rust spots which I cleaned, then I re-oiled the entire piece. It was ready for action.

My son, Dana, made arrangements at a shooting range on the Cahuilla Indian Reservation near his home in Aguanga,



CA. The silhouette targets were set up at 50 yards, not much of a test for the M-1, but a typical killing zone in combat.

I loaded a clip of eight rounds and fired a shot...high right. After adjusting the sight (click,click,click) I fired another round which hit about at the belt buckle. I was aiming center-mass, so it was a satisfying result. My son fired a few rounds, also easily making kill shots.

Wearing the earmuffs the sound was more like a mortar thump than the sharp report of a rifle. I wanted to hear how it sounded without ear covering. Ka-bang! Big mistake. It rattled my head and my ears rang. Two days later I still felt the effects. This is rather amazing to me as we never wore any ear protection in combat and I don't recall it being a problem. All I can think is that old ears are not as resilient and

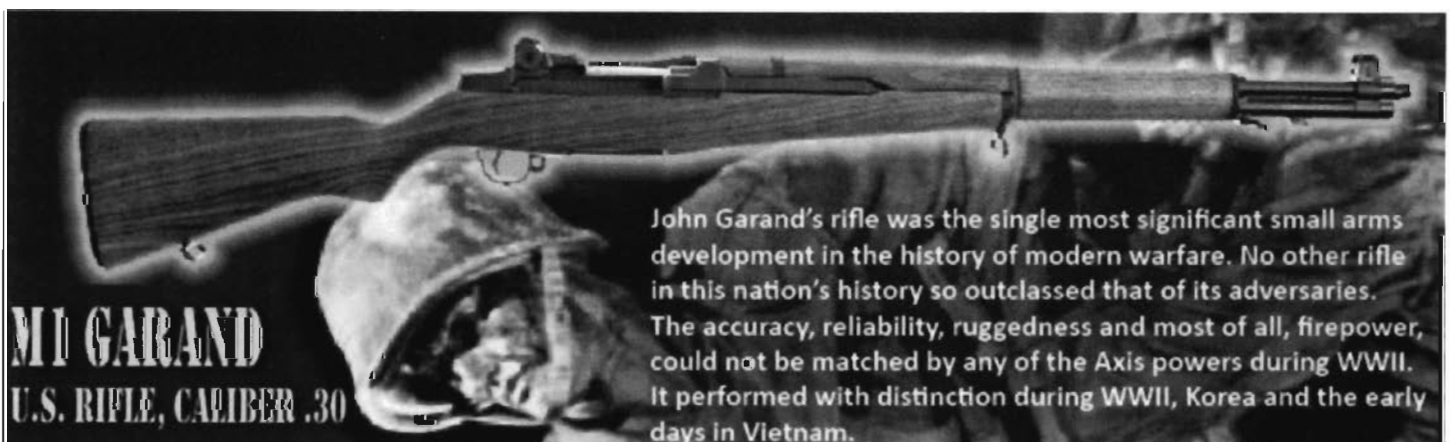
accommodating as young ears.

Before firing I wondered about the "kick." Again, I can't remember it being a problem, but the 150 grain rounds I had could deliver a good punch. You can certainly feel the kick when you shoot, but it isn't hurtful at the time and I did not feel any aftereffects. The rifle has enough mass and is so well balanced it gives less kick than a 12 gauge shotgun.

General George S. Patton, Jr., said, "In my opinion, the M1 rifle is the greatest battle implement ever devised." It was the rifle that won WWII and saved South Korea from the Communists.

There is no other weapon in the history of warfare which has such a record of success. James Garand should be enshrined for engineering this incredible rifle. I am surely proud to own mine.

David J. Valley





Gen.
George S.
Patton's
Horse
Replica



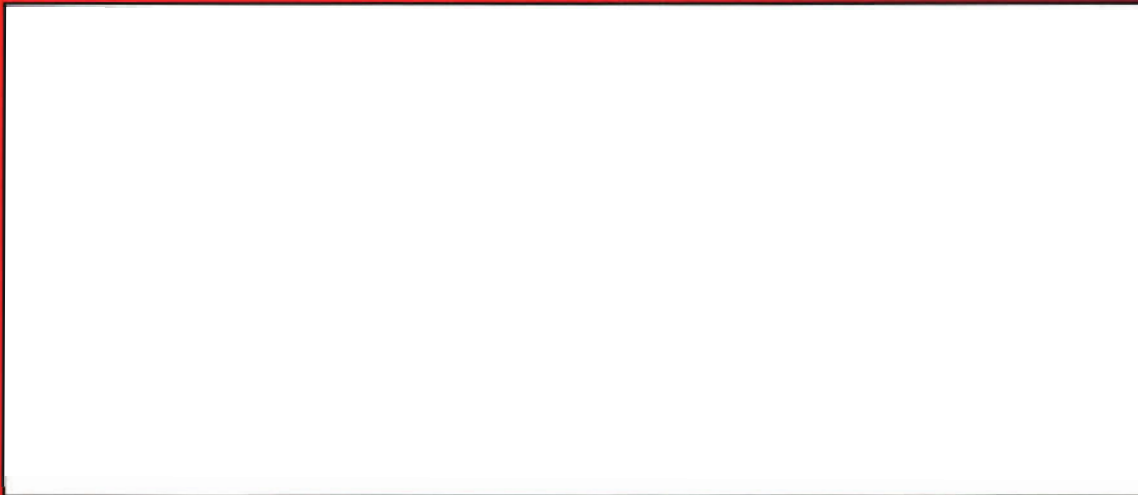
24th IDA
REUNION
WAS A
GREAT
SUCCESS!

BEST
WISHES
TO THOSE
WHO
ATTENDED



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

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Leesburg, FL 34748



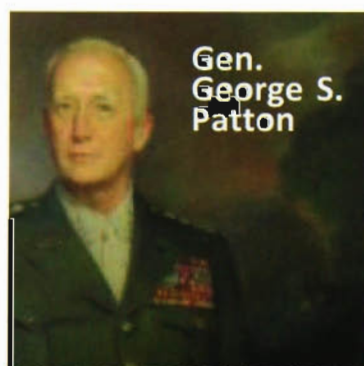
MEMBERS: Check your dues date above your address
12 months dues = \$15.00

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



Gen.
George S.
Patton

