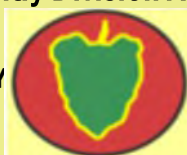


# TARD

24th Infantry Division Association

VICTORY



DIVISION

# LEAF

*"First to Fight"*

The National Museum of the U.S. Army



**WWII's Disastrous Ending!**  
-Special Report, Page 10

*Patrolling the Shadows*, By Darrold Peters

Volume 68 Issue No. 2

Spring, 2014

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## Taro Leaf, Volume 68, Issue 2, Spring, 2014

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**COMING  
UP NEXT**

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**COVER:** This fine painting is from the Army's collection of the War on Terrorism by Sergeant First Class Darrold Peters.



**Greetings Fellow Taronen:** In this issue is information about our Annual Reunion in Omaha, September 18 – 21! We have strived to keep costs to a minimum. Please notice the hotel rate is quite good and includes up to two free breakfasts per room per

day and free transportation from the airport. The free breakfasts also include the Men's and Ladies' breakfasts on Saturday. The tours are also low cost, interesting, and will be easy on the feet.

To nominate someone you feel deserving of the William Jordan Verbeck award, please send Tom Appler, VP, the post card on the back cover, a letter, or an e-mail. The award is not a popularity contest but for excellent and outstanding service to our Association and does not have to be awarded annually.

Nominations are being accepted for president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and one director-at-large. At our annual meeting we will need to elect officers. Tom Thiel, Webmaster, would like to "retire" from this position and suggests a person with good file management skills would be a good "fit". John Dunn would also like to "retire" as Secretary/Treasurer. Contact Tom Appler or any other officer with your nominations. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions.

George Vlasic has suggested a reunion in Columbus, GA. Although it falls "outside" the central US location, it would provide an opportunity to visit the National Infantry Museum and Fort Benning, "Home of the Infantry". The US Army's Infantry motto, "FOLLOW ME", was adopted from COL Aubrey S. Newman, 34th Infantry Regiment, as he led the troops in the invasion on Leyte. It is immortalized in a statue at Ft. Benning. You can review a short biography of him at:

<http://apps.westpointaog.org/Memorials/Article/7690/>. You can also view information at

<http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org/> and

<http://visitcolumbusga.com/>. There will be other reunion site options to discuss at Omaha too.

Please look at your address on the last page of this and the past issue of the Taro Leaf. The line above your name is a date such as EXPIRE: 08/01/14. That is the date your dues and membership expires. If you are in arrears please pay the past due amount and one year forward. Those whose dues are lapsed will lose their membership and no longer receive the Taro Leaf. Send your payments to John Dunn whose address is listed inside the front cover and the top left-hand corner of the back cover.

Best regards, **Don Maggio**



**Greetings Comrades:** Ah Spring! Maybe by now our friends in the north will finally be escaping the cold and snow of winter. You have earned the warm salvation of spring although some may still have to deal with the mess left over and possible flooding in some areas. I grew up in Massachusetts and had experienced the ugliness of winter, but as a boy I enjoyed the outdoors

whenever possible. Winter storms also brought a welcome opportunity; my older brother and I would take snow shovels and work our way through the neighborhood picking up nickels, dimes, and an occasional quarter which was big money to us. Later, the winter of '50-'51 in Korea convinced me I would live in a warmer clime. I've been blessed to be in San Diego the past 46 years.

I wrote previously of my personal situation, of "losing" my wife and companion of 60 years to Alzheimer's. Dottie is doing very well, her warm personality is a bright light in the nursing home. She is happy and healthy though mostly unaware of her past life. Blessings continue to come my way also. A special lady I have known for some time lost her husband last year and we have found each other to be great companions. When I look back to those bleak days about a year ago and compare to the happiness I now enjoy, it seems miraculous. Never lose hope is my thought for those of you who are in the midst of difficulties.

The West Regional Reunion at Laughlin, NV turned out very well considering it lacked the management that Byrd Schrock and his wife DJ provided for many years. I picked up the job and thanks to the support of many members attending we had a great time. The bus trip to the Old West town and lunch at the Bull Head City VFW was heartily enjoyed by many of us. Dan Rickert's daughter Ann brought many gifts for the raffle and Gene Spicer sold out all the tickets. We raised \$160 for the Association. I had the chutzpah to put on Gen. MacArthur's trademark cap, glasses, and pipe to give his version of the 24th Division's history in WWII and Korea. Our last day at the Tropicana Hotel was complimented with a free brunch or dinner for our members and guest. My thanks to all who attended. Let's hope Byrd and DJ will be back next year to carry on this great traditional reunion.

Sal Schillaci, at our banquet dinner gave us an update on the memorial monument for Arlington National Cemetery. He has maneuvered through a maze of difficulties and lacked only "two more" requirements. Completion was in sight when our Historian, Merry Helm, found three more MOH awardees for the now completed bronze plaque. It looks like an added piece can carry the new names. Good luck Sal.

May God bless you all,

**David Valley**



# Letters

## Fellow KOREAN WAR VETS:

Our Foundation is the prime sponsor for HR-318 a Bill that will permit erecting a Wall of Remembrance to the Korean War Veterans Memorial. This is an effort almost unanimously supported by KORWARVETS and KORDEFVETS.

The Bill presently has 48 co-sponsors from both parties. Sadly, the 'sub-rosa' bureaucratic resistance from the National Park Service and others has caused the Bill to be 'pigeon-holed' and denied hearing by the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulations of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

The Subcommittee Chair is Cong Bishop (UT) and the Committee Chair is Cong Hastings, WA. Most frustrating is that a similar Bill in the 112th Congress (HR-2563) was heard by the Subcommittee and favorably reported to the full Committee where it died from inaction when the 112th Congress adjourned 'sine die' on 3 Jan 13.

We are now approaching a 'push and shove' situation. In a few short months most House members will be engaged in what probably will be a most contentious election campaign and they will have little time to be sympathetic to a just cause for KORWARVETS. Ergo, we need to get them 'on board' as co-sponsors now!

If we get 50% plus one of the House we can request a Discharge Petition for the Bill which will bring it to the floor for a vote! It boggles imagination to think that any would vote against honoring our KORWAR KIA!

We desperately need your help to 'get the word out' to your members to get them to urge their local Congressman to become a co-sponsor. The attached brief tells the story. Please put it on your website and your next Newsletter. Our 36,574 comrades who were KIA deserve being adequately acknowledged at our, and their Memorial! Thank you and, No Longer, THE FORGOTTEN WAR AND FALLEN WARRIORS!

William E. Weber, Col, USA-Ret.  
Chairman  
Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation  
10301 McKinstry Mill Road  
New Windsor, MD 21776-7903  
Phone: 410 775 7733  
Fax: 410 775 7760  
[www.koreanwarvetsemorial.org](http://www.koreanwarvetsemorial.org)

**David,** Allow me to introduce a vibrantly motivated young man named Robert Mackowiak. He is the grandson of a Korean War veteran who has made it his mission over the past ten years to begin safeguarding the memories of our soldiers by either physically or digitally maintaining a collection of their uniforms, medals, photographs, records, decorations and more.

I believe some of our members might enjoy sharing their stories and/or memorabilia with Mr. Mackowiak, especially if they have nobody who will safeguard their military belongings in the future.

Our members can see the results of Rob's efforts at <http://captainofthe7th.wix.com/rcmcollection#!koreanwar/cay5>. After enjoying several communications with Rob, I believe we need young people like him to safeguard the history of Korean War veterans. **Merry Helm, Historian**

**Hi Merry--**My name is Robert, and I'm an avid collector, researcher, and preservationist of Korean War items. I gained an interest in military history - particularly the stories of the men who fought in Korea - when I was assigned a project in middle school to interview a veteran. I learned that my Pepère, my grandfather who I was very close to, was a veteran of the Korean War. He served on the front lines with the 31st Infantry, 7th Division. I began asking questions about his experiences and was immediately captivated by his stories. Though I was young, I appreciated and loved every minute of it. I continued to talk to him about the war, and he gradually opened up. Since he got home from Korea in 1952, he never talked to anyone about the war until I became interested. He shared all his memories with me and after some time, passed on his uniforms, medals and awards. After listening to his stories I understand why he tried to forget the war for fifty years.

The time I spent with him sparked my desire to collect and preserve these physical pieces of history. Many of these items are all that is left of seemingly common men who have done uncommon things. Though they might argue they were 'just doing their job,' it is truly more than that. These items are a physical reminder of their lives and stories from times of war. I enjoy discovering, researching, and preserving the history and personal accounts that go along with these artifacts. I began with my own family history - my Pepere and my Dziadzi, a WWII Navy vet. That soon expanded to Uncles and cousins and pretty soon I was scouring eBay and flea markets for the next piece to add to the collection. Each uniform, medal, grouping, and document tells a story. Most of what I have has come from families that have forgotten this story, or if they haven't forgotten, have seen that I have a good place to keep the story alive. I learn all I can to remember these soldiers during their time in the service.

Over the course of about ten years, since I made collecting a full time hobby, I have acquired a great number of items. I appreciate the story of the average soldier who has proudly served. I remember the sacrifice of those whose Purple Hearts I have...one of whom is still MIA somewhere in the hills of Korea. I have become the caretaker of many family uniforms and stories. This is my opportunity to share my efforts and continue to honor and remember those who served in the Korean War."

Talk soon--thanks! **Rob**

Robert Mackowiak  
7 Stone Mill Ln  
Eastford, CT 06242  
860-933-9791  
[captainofthe7th@yahoo.com](mailto:captainofthe7th@yahoo.com)

**Dear Mr.Valley,**

We are given a task by the Osan City to design a website and update the list of the Task Force Smith members and families. I have been in communication with Merry Helm and Don Maggio regarding the TFS your email was referred to me. The website is launched and here is the address: <http://tfsmemorial.com>

This is a world class website specially designed and built just for the TFS members and families. The role of this website is to serve to reach out to TFS members and their descendants, to provide a space for a collective community to record photos, stories and remembrances, and to build awareness and participation with the Museum in Osan. Any feedback is greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

**Hanna Yun**

Project Manager

IMS Advertising + Marketing

office: 703.893.8080 x116

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**Dear Mr. Valley,**

I wanted to take a moment and thank you for including the excerpt of my father's novel, "Beggar's Island" in the Winter Issue of the Taro Leaf. Thanks especially for the nice note and compliment on the background piece I wrote in the forward!

I did note that you recently had to make that tough decision with your wife and her Alzheimer's care. I saw my mother go through that process with her mother a number of years ago, and all I can say is have courage and hang in there. Your approach is healthy and on the right track.

Anyhow, as you can imagine, the experiences that my father had while serving in the 24th Infantry Division, 21st Infantry Regiment in Korea shaped his future and remained primary in his life. "Beggar's Island" was published in February, by my dad at the ripe age of 85, with the help of Friesen Press. I think it is a great read – I'm pretty sure he is sending you a personal copy. As you may know, the novel was inspired by the experiences he had as a company clerk in George Company on the Prisoner of War island of Koje-do. I believe the original photographs are a unique insight into what things were like, especially for the civilians there in 1952-3.

I really enjoy the Taro Leaf. I look forward to reading it whenever I am at my dad's house. Thank you for all you do in keeping the history of the 24th alive.

Sincerely,

**David S. Elmo**

Unit 3470, Box 84

DPO, AA 34041

809-732-6970; [elmods@state.gov](mailto:elmods@state.gov)

**Dear David:** *I ran across a page from an old Taro Leaf that you may be interested in for a future publication. It is from the obituary of James Jones, author of "From Here to Eternity." Our former editor, Ronnie Young, in reference to the old classic movie based on the book wrote: 'We treasure that part where Prewitt sounds "Taps" in the Schofield quadrangle. James Jones described it in his inimitable style, bereft of commas which he abhorred.'*

"Taps. This is the song of men who have no place, played by a man who has never had a place, and can therefore play it. Listen to it. You know this song, remember? This is the song you close your ears to every night, so you can sleep. This is the song of the Great Loneliness, that creeps in like the desert wind and dehydrates the soul. This is the song you'll listen to on the day you die. When you lay there in the bed and sweat it out, and know that all the doctors and nurses and friends don't mean a thing and can't help you any, can't save you one bitter taste of it because you are the one that's dying and not them; when you wait for it to come and sleep will not evade it and martinis will not put it off and conversation will not circumvent it and hobbies will not help you escape it: then you will hear this song and, remembering, recognize it. This song is Reality. Remember? Surely you remember? "Day is done...", "Gone is the sun...", "From-the-lake, "From-the-hill, "From-the-sky, "Rest in peace, "Sol jer brave""God is nigh..."

Well, James Jones, goodnight - and thank you for letting us share with you some of that which we had in common. Ron Young, Editor'

*For your info, David, I found the 19th at Goodenough Island early, 1944. I don't know if there are many of us around anymore. Hope you can use the attached.*

*Regards, Bill Lowden, Box 3414, Great Falls, MT 59403*

The letter above from Bill also included a photocopy of a James Jones picture with his autograph and the note, "To the men of the 24th division association, All Best, James Jones." (The photocopy quality is not suitable for reproduction.) Editor

**Wilbur Federwitz, 21st RGT, I CO, 1941-1944** is shown presenting a check for \$6,500 to Jim Campbell from the Honor Flight fundraiser. It was organized by Carol Berg-Kappel, Wilbur's daughter in Marshfield. Also promoting the program was American Legion Post 54.





# Letters



STUART TOWER WAS A PFC AND COMPANY DRIVER IN CO. I OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT STATIONED IN BEPPU, KYUSHU, JAPAN IN 1946-1948. ORIGINALLY FROM QUINCY, MA. HE NOW RESIDES IN LOS ANGELES, CA. STU WENT BACK TO BEPPU IN 2007 AND THIS IS WHAT HE FOUND.



THE OLD CAMP CHICKAMAUGA HAD BEEN TURNED INTO A BEAUTIFUL PEACE PARK



MAIN STREET IN BEPPU, JAPAN IN 1946 AND TODAY



Plaque commemorating, "The Kindness shown by soldiers of the 19 Infantry Regiments to the people of Beppu in 1945. *Provided by Hall Ness. Thanks, Hal*

**Dear David:** Harold Cohen at age 94 years passed away recently. He was in Pearl Harbor 4 days after the Japanese bombings, with the 24th Division. He also fought up through the Marianas. I happened to see Harold's name in the Taro Leaf and called him because he was also in Rhode Island. We had lunch once a month for three years and I found out what a real gentleman he was. My name is Leroy Mattatall, Sr. and I spent two years with the **21st Regiment** (Company C) in Japan. If it was not for the Taro Leaf, I would have never met Harold Cohen and had the conversations we enjoyed. A great friendship came out of it. He wanted to meet my children and he did, which they enjoyed. He was just very interested in life. Like I said, this is what came out of reading your interesting magazine. **Leroy Mattatall**, 71 Benedict Road, Warwick, RI 02888. **Life Member 1009**

**David:** Enclosed is an article in Sunday's, April 6th News Gazette paper. The paper interviewed me in March and much to my amazement they did a 1-1/3 page spread for my 99th birthday. Pretty impressive since Mickey Rooney, upon his recent death, only got a 1/2 page spread!

I didn't even commit a crime to get such publicity! All I did was my part in WWII. Well, I just want to share this article with you. WCIA TV will be here this afternoon to do a video shoot for a spot on their TV news.

What have I done to gain so much attention? Wishing you all the best! **Paul Cain**, Apt B, 34109 Chatham Drive, Urbana, IL 61802 **Life Member 186** (see next page, Ed.)

**Dear Sir:**

In your Taro Leaf, Volume 68, Issue 1, Winter 2014 you ran an article on page 18 about Lee Walker. In that article, under the top left picture, it states that "Lee Walker was in the jeep and got shrapnel in his back".

I am the Mercer County Ohio Veteran Service Officer. I have worked with John T. Powell, mentioned and pictured in the article, for many years. He was the driver for CTN John B. Vought as stated in the article. The top left picture and the bottom center and right pictures were sent to Lee Walker by John Powell. I have been attempting to get John his Purple Heart for shrapnel that went through the back of his seat in the Jeep and struck him in the back. We have been unsuccessful because there is no treatment records in his file for this wound. He was treated by a medic at the site and continued his duties.

I'm wondering if it might be a misquote that Walker was the one hit in the back? John and I have attempted to make contact with anyone who might have witnessed the incident in order to get a "buddy statement" that could be used as evidence in our efforts to get the Purple Heart for him. If you have any other information on this incident or could connect us with anyone who does it would be appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Tom Risch, CVSO  
Veterans Service Office  
220 W. Livingston Street • B270  
Celina, Ohio 45822  
Thomas J. Risch  
County Veterans Service Officer  
Phone: (419)586-3542  
Fax: (419) 586-7702



**David:** Per our telephone conversation:

These two American missionaries came to our MP headquarters in Matsuyama-Dogo, Shikoku, Japan in 1945, soon after we arrived and set up our Camp. I believe they were sisters from New York. They had been in Japan during the war. Can anyone determine what church organization they were from? I believe one sister returned to the U.S. on the General Pope, August of 1947. **Russ Arnold**, 3999 St., Route 55, Urbana, OH 43078, 937 788-2789, **Life Member 104**

**David:** As we discussed on the phone today, I enjoy reading each issue of the Taro Leaf and I especially enjoy looking at the pictures and letters. I am enclosing some pictures with descriptions on the bottom of each. I was assigned to HQ & HQ Co. at Camp Haugen, Japan in 1952 and was stationed with my brother Andy. However Andy rotated home in early 1953 and the 19<sup>th</sup> Regiment was moved to Cheju-do Island, Korea to take over guarding the Chinese prisoners (POWs).

We had a very large compound full of Chinese prisoners. At the time we were told there were 90,000 POWs there. Right after the war ended on July 27, 1953 we started repatriating the prisoners. We took them to the beach where they were loaded on LSTs (Landing Ship Tanks) to be returned to their homeland, China.

In September of 1953, after all the POWs at Cheju-do were shipped out, our unit, the 19th Regiment, moved to Koje-do Island where repatriation of Chinese POWs was already in progress. Our unit took over the task of repatriation until all POWs were moved out which I believe was some time in early October of 1953.

My main duty at both Cheju-do and Koje-do was serving as a driver and assistant to the Catholic Chaplains (Fr. Donald O'Gara and also to Fr. Sullivan who spoke fluent Chinese) and I often accompanied Fr. Sullivan into the compound where he held prayer services (including Mass) for the POWs. After all the POWs were gone we had more free time and sometimes on Sundays members of our church group visited orphanages and brought them needed items we purchased with funds collected at our Sunday Church Services. **Benedict (Ben) Gross**, 325 Newfield Way, Peachtree City, GA 30269 **Life 1259**

**Ben:** Thanks for pics and report. See page 16. **David**



It looks like footlocker inspection at Camp Wood, HQ&HQ CO, 21st RGT, Kumamoto, Japan, 1950. From the left, unknown name, then Richard A. Gumm, mechanic, Al Cates, cook (recently deceased), and Wirtz.



# Now 99, Ivesdale native Paul Cain never shied away from the challenges of work or war

On the bloody volcanic rock of Corregidor, Paul Cain earned his Silver Star for holding his position and stopping repeated.

But calmly sitting in his Urbana home, he tells the World War II story clearly and concisely. Cain prays his rosary twice a day and greets visitors in his driveway almost every day at 4 p.m. He thinks it's no big deal that he just turned 99. He didn't even want a birthday party. That can wait until the big round number, Cain says.

"He plans to live to 102, because that's when the money runs out," says his son Mike Cain, the former Champaign schools superintendent. "He has always managed to keep himself physically and mentally sharp, working on the computer and taking a walk down the street when the weather's good," the younger Cain says. "This is a man who was plowing a field with a team of horses back then."

Growing up shucking corn by hand on his father's farm in Ivesdale, Cain was a work-hardened young man who turned into a surprisingly fit old man. Along the way, he married the late Florence Wise, became an officer with three Bronze Stars and a Silver Star, fathered two children and moved from farming into a long career in sales.

Corregidor remains a strong memory long after his warrior comrades from the area have passed away, one of them, he says, possibly running guns in Cuba. The Philippines were the site of a humiliating American and Filipino surrender in 1942. The Bataan Death March followed. Gen. Douglas MacArthur vowed to return.

More than two years later, MacArthur did return, thanks to the efforts of men like Cain, who had been drafted but graduated from officer candidate school and was a first lieutenant in early 1945. He and his men fought a series of battles in the Pacific area before February 1945 when the mission moved to recapture Corregidor, a rocky volcanic island at the mouth of Manila Bay. A combined paratrooper and naval attack began on the entrenched Japanese, starting Cain's days of terror and heroism.

The battle began with Lt. Cain's men in a dangerous landing ship assault on the beaches. He remembers that a Jeep's driver was killed by a land mine as it left the landing craft. His unit, 34th Infantry Regiment, I Company, fought off banzai and mortar attacks and even suicide bombers as the Japanese desperately tried to hold onto the island's depots. Cain's job was to hold the north dock. Right off, his company needed a tank to clear a machine

gun in a tunnel, which took about an hour.

On the first night, according to Cain's written account, a Japanese soldier "slipped into service company area and set off a charge, destroying himself and a water treatment plant brought in to convert sea water to drinking water." Another enemy soldier crawled under a truck loaded with demolitions. "Fortunately, he blew himself up under the front of the truck and only blew off the truck's left front wheel," Cain wrote.

**FAST FACTS:** *Some things you ought to know about the battles for Corregidor — Japan invaded the Philippines shortly after Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Gen. Douglas MacArthur chose Bataan and Corregidor Island as two places that had to be held. Corregidor was important because it controlled Manila Bay. Early in the war, Japan had great success in the Pacific. Bataan fell in April 1942, and Corregidor Island became the last outpost of organized resistance in the islands. American and Filipino forces held off the enemy for 27 bloody days but were forced to surrender. — Filipino and American forces that included Urbana's then Lt. Paul Cain retook the rocky island between Feb. 16 and 26, 1945, but only after facing suicide attacks. MacArthur had vowed to return, and he did.*

Cain remembers Japanese soldiers being able to hide in shell holes, thanks to craters created by American 500-pound bombs. Flame throwers were used to empty caves, trenches and holes. Cain's company was ordered to move to the top of Malinta Hill, where the hand grenade was the primary weapon of defense. The next day, Cain asked for the Navy to use illumination shells in the night attacks.

Cain was told Japanese tunnels held some 35,000 artillery shells, 10,000 powder charges, 2,000 pounds of TNT and 80,000 mortar shells — enough to create a new channel in the island.

When the Japanese blew their tunnels, "Malinta Hill bounced, fire came out of the tunnels and rose up the sides," Cain wrote.

His unit was relieved on Feb. 24 as Japanese defenses grew ever weaker. In August, the war was over. Asked whether the two atomic bomb drops were necessary for a surrender, Cain's face evidenced serious contemplation. "It had to be done," he said.

Cain returned to the United States in November 1945. By that time, he was twice promoted, the Silver Star recipient and would soon be a father.

There were other Champaign County residents who served in the Pacific with Cain, and for a long time he kept in touch with them and went to reunions. "They're all dead, my group," he says now.

Looking back on his life, from farming to the war to a long career in sales, Cain said there's one thought he has kept in his head when times get tough. "If you don't like something, do something about it."

**Story by PAUL WOOD** /// [pwood@news-gazette.com](mailto:pwood@news-gazette.com)  
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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 Verbeck Award. This Award recognizes that Association member who best displays Bill Verbeck's love for the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 a popularity. Please write sentence or two telling why you believe your nominee deserves the Award on the reply card (back page).

## Nominate Your Choice for the 2014 Verbeck Award

### Nominating Committee

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8937 W. 750 N  
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## Looking For

**Editor:** I was given your contact info as I was looking for more info on my Grampa. He served in the A Battery 52nd Field Artillery battalion which I have been told fell under the 24th? I only have his discharge paper right now, I have requested his complete file. I'm just very curious what he did in New Guinea and the Southern Philippines. I am doing genealogy and really want to know what combat he participated in and what his unit did? I know he was in the Army from August 1941 to January 1945 and spent 15 months overseas, but not sure which dates he was in those countries, maybe his file will tell more when I receive it. I hope you can help me find out more? His name was William Rendina, I can provide more info if needed. Thanks!,

**Sheralyn Zeto** sheralynzeto@yahoo.co

**Mr. Valley**, I just learned that you are Editor of the "Taro Leaf". My uncle ROBERT MURPHY, RA13299180, PFC E3, Fayette County, PA -- my mother's brother -- was in A-company, 1st BTN, **34th REG** and taken POW on 7/20/50. He later escaped, was recaptured, then died in one of the Apex camps on 5/25/51. He remains in North Korea. My mother and I submitted DNA samples for possible future remains match. He saw me one time as an infant. Could you publish my request for contact info regarding anybody who served with him? I've also just learned of the 24thida.com site.

**Larry Faren**, lfaren@msn.com

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

What a nice trip out to Laughlin, NV for the Westcoast Regional Reunion. The travel took two days out and two days back on the Amtrak.

It was a nice reunion. We took a bus trip to Oakman, AZ. We saw a bunch of wild burros which wander into this old West town to be fed by tourists. Our tour guide commented on the markings that most burros have on their backs. Looking from above there is a very distinct dark line along the spine. At the shoulders a transverse line goes partway down the forelegs forming a distinct cross. The story is that since Jesus rode the burrow into Jerusalem, on what we know as Palm Sunday, burros have been so marked.

*My verse is Romans, chapter 12 verse 9: Love must be sincere, hate what is evil, cling to what is good. Be devoted to one in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.*

Chaplain Glen Carpenter

# WWII's Disastrous Ending!

*This would likely have happened if the Atomic Bombs were not dropped on Japan.  
Many reading this story and their decedents would not have been a part of the human race!*

Deep in the recesses of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., hidden for nearly four decades lie thousands of pages of yellowing and dusty documents stamped "Top Secret". These documents, now declassified, are the plans for Operation Downfall, the invasion of Japan during World War II.

Only a few Americans in 1945 were aware of these elaborate plans that had been prepared for the Allied Invasion of the Japanese home islands. Even fewer today are aware of the defenses the Japanese had prepared to counter the invasion had it been launched. Operation Downfall was finalized during the spring and summer of 1945. It called for two massive military undertakings to be carried out in succession and aimed at the heart of the Japanese Empire.

In the first invasion - code named "Operation Olympic"- American combat troops would land on Japan by amphibious assault during the early morning hours of November 1, 1945 - 61 years ago. Fourteen combat divisions of soldiers and Marines would land on heavily fortified and defended Kyushu, the southernmost of the Japanese home islands, after an unprecedented naval and aerial bombardment.

The second invasion on March 1, 1946 - code named "Operation Coronet"- would send at least 22 divisions against 1 million Japanese defenders on the main island of Honshu and the Tokyo Plain. Its goal: the unconditional surrender of Japan.

With the exception of a part of the British Pacific Fleet, Operation Downfall was to be a strictly American operation. It called for using the entire Marine Corps, the entire Pacific Navy, elements of the 7th Army Air Force, the 8th Air Force (recently redeployed from Europe ), 10th Air Force and the American Far Eastern Air Force. More than 1.5 million combat soldiers, with 3 million more in support or more than 40% of all servicemen still in uniform in 1945 - would be directly involved in the two amphibious assaults. Casualties were expected to be extremely heavy.

Admiral William Leahy estimated that there would be more than 250,000 Americans killed or wounded on Kyushu alone. General Charles Willoughby, chief of intelligence for General Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Commander of the Southwest Pacific, estimated American casualties would be one million men by the fall of 1946. Willoughby 's own intelligence staff considered this to be a conservative estimate.

During the summer of 1945, America had little time to prepare for such an endeavor, but top military leaders were in almost unanimous agreement that an invasion was necessary.

While naval blockade and strategic bombing of Japan was

considered to be useful, General MacArthur, for instance, did not believe a blockade would bring about an unconditional surrender. The advocates for invasion agreed that while a naval blockade chokes, it does not kill; and though strategic bombing might destroy cities, it leaves whole armies intact.

So on May 25, 1945, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, after extensive deliberation, issued to General MacArthur, Admiral Chester Nimitz, and Army Air Force General Henry Arnold, the top secret directive to proceed with the invasion of Kyushu. The target date was after the typhoon season.

President Truman approved the plans for the invasions July 24. Two days later, the United Nations issued the Potsdam Proclamation, which called upon Japan to surrender unconditionally or face total destruction. Three days later, the Japanese governmental news agency broadcast to the world that Japan would ignore the proclamation and would refuse to surrender. During this same period it was learned -- via monitoring Japanese radio broadcasts -- that Japan had closed all schools and mobilized its school children, was arming its civilian population and was fortifying caves and building underground defenses.

Operation Olympic called for a four pronged assault on Kyushu. Its purpose was to seize and control the southern one-third of that island and establish naval and air bases, to tighten the naval blockade of the home islands, to destroy units of the main Japanese army and to support the later invasion of the Tokyo Plain.

The preliminary invasion would begin October 27 when the 40th Infantry Division would land on a series of small islands west and southwest of Kyushu . At the same time, the 158th Regimental Combat Team would invade and occupy a small island 28 miles south of Kyushu. On these islands, seaplane bases would be established and radar would be set up to provide advance air warning for the invasion fleet, to serve as fighter direction centers for the carrier-based aircraft and to provide an emergency anchorage for the invasion fleet, should things not go well on the day of the invasion. As the invasion grew imminent, the massive firepower of the Navy - the Third and Fifth Fleets -- would approach Japan. The Third Fleet, under Admiral William "Bull" Halsey, with its big guns and naval aircraft, would provide strategic support for the operation against Honshu and Hokkaido. Halsey's fleet would be composed of battleships, heavy cruisers, destroyers, dozens of support ships and three fast carrier task groups. From these carriers, hundreds of Navy fighters, dive bombers and torpedo planes would hit targets all over the island of Honshu. The 3,000 ship Fifth Fleet, under Admiral Raymond Spruance, would carry the invasion troops.

Several days before the invasion, the battleships, heavy

cruisers and destroyers would pour thousands of tons of high explosives into the target areas. They would not cease the bombardment until after the land forces had been launched. During the early morning hours of November 1, the invasion would begin. Thousands of soldiers and Marines would pour ashore on beaches all along the eastern, southeastern, southern and western coasts of Kyushu . Waves of Helldivers, Dauntless dive bombers, Avengers, Corsairs, and Hellcats from 66 aircraft carriers would bomb, rocket and strafe enemy defenses, gun emplacements and troop concentrations along the beaches.

The Eastern Assault Force consisting of the 25th, 33rd, and 41st Infantry Divisions, would land near Miyaski, at beaches called Austin, Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler, and Ford, and move inland to attempt to capture the city and its nearby airfield. The Southern Assault Force, consisting of the 1st Cavalry Division, the 43rd Division and Americal Division would land inside Ariake Bay at beaches labeled DeSoto, Dusenbergl, Essex, Ford, and Franklin and attempt to capture Shibushi and the city of Kanoya and its airfield.

On the western shore of Kyushu, at beaches Pontiac, Reo, Rolls Royce, Saxon, Star, Studebaker, Stutz, Winston and Zephyr, the V Amphibious Corps would land the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Marine Divisions, sending half of its force inland to Sendai and the other half to the port city of Kagoshima.

On November 4, the Reserve Force, consisting of the 81st and 98th Infantry Divisions and the 11th Airborne Division, after feigning an attack on the island of Shikoku, would be landed -- if not needed elsewhere - near Kaimondake, near the southernmost tip of Kagoshima Bay, at the beaches designated Locomobile, Lincoln, LaSalle, Hupmobile, Moon, Mercedes, Maxwell, Overland, Oldsmobile, Packard, and Plymouth.

Olympic was not just a plan for invasion, but for conquest and occupation as well. It was expected to take four months to achieve its objective, with the three fresh American divisions per month to be landed in support of that operation if needed. If all went well with Olympic, Coronet would be launched March 1, 1946. Coronet would be twice the size of Olympic, with as many as 28 divisions landing on Honshu.

All along the coast east of Tokyo , the American 1st Army would land the 5th, 7th, 27th, 44th, 86th, and 96th Infantry Divisions, along with the 4th and 6th Marine Divisions.

At Sagami Bay, just south of Tokyo, the entire 8th and 10th Armies would strike north and east to clear the long western shore of Tokyo Bay and attempt to go as far as Yokohama. The assault troops landing south of Tokyo would be the 4th, 6th, 8th, 24th, 31st, 37th, 38th, and 8th Infantry Divisions, along with the 13th and 20th Armored Divisions.

Following the initial assault, eight more divisions - the 2nd, 28th, 35th, 91st, 95th, 97th, and 104th Infantry

Divisions and the 11th Airborne Division -- would be landed. If additional troops were needed, as expected, other divisions redeployed from Europe and undergoing training in the United States would be shipped to Japan in what was hoped to be the final push.

Captured Japanese documents and post war interrogations of Japanese military leaders disclose that information concerning the number of Japanese planes available for the defense of the home islands was dangerously in error.

During the sea battle at Okinawa alone, Japanese Kamikaze aircraft sank 32 Allied ships and damaged more than 400 others. But during the summer of 1945, American top brass concluded that the Japanese had spent their air force since American bombers and fighters daily flew unmolested over Japan.

What the military leaders did not know was that by the end of July the Japanese had been saving all aircraft, fuel, and pilots in reserve, and had been feverishly building new planes for the decisive battle for their homeland.

As part of Ketsu-Go, the name for the plan to defend Japan -- the Japanese were building 20 suicide takeoff strips in southern Kyushu with underground hangars. They also had 35 camouflaged airfields and nine seaplane bases.

On the night before the expected invasion, 50 Japanese seaplane bombers, 100 former carrier aircraft and 50 land based army planes were to be launched in a suicide attack on the fleet.

The Japanese had 58 more airfields in Korea, western Honshu and Shikoku, which also were to be used for massive suicide attacks.

Allied intelligence had established that the Japanese had no more than 2,500 aircraft of which they guessed 300 would be deployed in suicide attacks. In August 1945, however, unknown to Allied intelligence, the Japanese still had 5,651 army and 7,074 navy aircraft, for a total of 12,725 planes of all types. Every village had some type of aircraft manufacturing activity hidden in mines, railway tunnels, under viaducts and in basements of department stores, work was being done to construct new planes.

Additionally, the Japanese were building newer and more effective models of the Okka, a rocket-propelled bomb much like the German V-1, but flown by a suicide pilot.

When the invasion became imminent, Ketsu-Go called for a four-fold aerial plan of attack to destroy up to 800 Allied ships.

While Allied ships were approaching Japan, but still in the open seas, an initial force of 2,000 army and navy fighters were to fight to the death to control the skies over Kyushu. A second force of 330 navy combat pilots was to attack the main body of the task force to keep it from using its fire support and air cover to protect the troop carrying transports. While these two forces were engaged, a third force of 825 suicide planes was to hit the



American transports.

As the invasion convoys approached their anchorages, another 2,000 suicide planes were to be launched in waves of 200 to 300, to be used in hour by hour attacks.

By mid-morning of the first day of the invasion, most of the American land-based aircraft would be forced to return to their bases, leaving the defense against the suicide planes to the carrier pilots and the shipboard gunners.

Carrier pilots crippled by fatigue would have to land time and time again to rearm and refuel. Guns would malfunction from the heat of continuous firing and ammunition would become scarce. Gun crews would be exhausted by nightfall, but still the waves of kamikaze would continue. With the fleet hovering off the beaches, all remaining Japanese aircraft would be committed to nonstop suicide attacks, which the Japanese hoped could be sustained for 10 days. The Japanese planned to coordinate their air strikes with attacks from the 40 remaining submarines from the Imperial Navy, some armed with Long Lance torpedoes with a range of 20 miles, when the invasion fleet was 180 miles off Kyushu.

The Imperial Navy had 23 destroyers and two cruisers which were operational. These ships were to be used to counterattack the American invasion. A number of the destroyers were to be beached at the last minute to be used as anti-invasion gun platforms.

Once offshore, the invasion fleet would be forced to defend not only against the attacks from the air, but would also be confronted with suicide attacks from sea. Japan had established a suicide naval attack unit of midget submarines, human torpedoes and exploding motorboats.

The goal of the Japanese was to shatter the invasion before the landing. The Japanese were convinced the Americans would back off or become so demoralized that they would then accept a less-than-unconditional surrender and a more honorable and face-saving end for the Japanese.

But as horrible as the battle of Japan would be off the beaches, it would be on Japanese soil that the American forces would face the most rugged and fanatical defense encountered during the war.

Throughout the island-hopping Pacific campaign, Allied troops had always outnumbered the Japanese by 2 to 1 and sometimes 3 to 1. In Japan it would be different. By virtue of a combination of cunning, guesswork, and brilliant military reasoning, a number of Japan's top military leaders were able to deduce, not only when, but where, the United States would land its first invasion forces.

Facing the 14 American divisions landing at Kyushu would be 14 Japanese divisions, 7 independent mixed brigades, 3 tank brigades and thousands of naval troops. On Kyushu the odds would be 3 to 2 in favor of the Japanese, with 790,000 enemy defenders against 550,000 Americans. This time the bulk of the Japanese defenders would not be the poorly trained and ill-equipped labor battalions that the

Americans had faced in the earlier campaigns.

The Japanese defenders would be the hard core of the home army. These troops were well-fed and well equipped. They were familiar with the terrain, had stockpiles of arms and ammunition, and had developed an effective system of transportation and supply almost invisible from the air. Many of these Japanese troops were the elite of the army, and they were swollen with a fanatical fighting spirit.

Japan's network of beach defenses consisted of offshore mines, thousands of suicide scuba divers attacking landing craft, and mines planted on the beaches. Coming ashore, the American Eastern amphibious assault forces at Miyazaki would face three Japanese divisions, and two others poised for counterattack. Awaiting the Southeastern attack force at Ariake Bay was an entire division and at least one mixed infantry brigade.

On the western shores of Kyushu, the Marines would face the most brutal opposition. Along the invasion beaches would be the three Japanese divisions, a tank brigade, a mixed infantry brigade and an artillery command. Components of two divisions would also be poised to launch counterattacks.

If not needed to reinforce the primary landing beaches, the American Reserve Force would be landed at the base of Kagoshima Bay November 4, where they would be confronted by two mixed infantry brigades, parts of two infantry divisions and thousands of naval troops.

All along the invasion beaches, American troops would face coastal batteries, anti-landing obstacles and a network of heavily fortified pillboxes, bunkers, and underground fortresses. As Americans waded ashore, they would face intense artillery and mortar fire as they worked their way through concrete rubble and barbed-wire entanglements arranged to funnel them into the muzzles of these Japanese guns.

On the beaches and beyond would be hundreds of Japanese machine gun positions, beach mines, booby traps, trip-wire mines and sniper units. Suicide units concealed in "spider holes" would engage the troops as they passed nearby. In the heat of battle, Japanese infiltration units would be sent to reap havoc in the American lines by cutting phone and communication lines. Some of the Japanese troops would be in American uniform; English-speaking Japanese officers were assigned to break in on American radio traffic to call off artillery fire, to order retreats and to further confuse troops. Other infiltration with demolition charges strapped on their chests or backs would attempt to blow up American tanks, artillery pieces and ammunition stores as they were unloaded ashore.

Beyond the beaches were large artillery pieces situated to bring down a curtain of fire on the beach. Some of these large guns were mounted on railroad tracks running in and out of caves protected by concrete and steel.

The battle for Japan would be won by what Simon Bolivar

Buckner, a lieutenant general in the Confederate army during the Civil War, had called "Prairie Dog Warfare." This type of fighting was almost unknown to the ground troops in Europe and the Mediterranean . It was peculiar only to the soldiers and Marines who fought the Japanese on islands all over the Pacific -- at Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Prairie Dog Warfare was a battle for yards, feet and sometimes inches. It was brutal, deadly and dangerous form of combat aimed at an underground, heavily fortified, non-retreating enemy.

In the mountains behind the Japanese beaches were underground networks of caves, bunkers, command posts and hospitals connected by miles of tunnels with dozens of entrances and exits. Some of these complexes could hold up to 1,000 troops.

In addition to the use of poison gas and bacteriological warfare (which the Japanese had experimented with), Japan mobilized its citizenry.

Had Olympic come about, the Japanese civilian population, inflamed by a national slogan - "One Hundred Million Will Die for the Emperor and Nation" - were prepared to fight to the death. Twenty Eight Million Japanese had become a part of the National Volunteer Combat Force. They were armed with ancient rifles, lunge mines, satchel charges, Molotov cocktails and one-shot black powder mortars. Others were armed with swords, long bows, axes and bamboo spears. The civilian units were to be used in nighttime attacks, hit and run maneuvers, delaying actions and massive suicide charges at the weaker American positions. At the early stage of the invasion, 1,000 Japanese and American soldiers would be dying every hour.

The invasion of Japan never became a reality because on August 6, 1945, an atomic bomb was exploded over Hiroshima. Three days later, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Within days the war with Japan was at a close. Had these bombs not been dropped and had the invasion been launched as scheduled, combat casualties in Japan would have been at a minimum of the tens of thousands. Every foot of Japanese soil would have been paid for by Japanese and American lives.

One can only guess at how many civilians would have committed suicide in their homes or in futile mass military attacks. In retrospect, the 1 million American men who were to be the casualties of the invasion were instead lucky enough to survive the war.

Intelligence studies and military estimates made 50 years ago, and not latter-day speculation, clearly indicate that the battle for Japan might well have resulted in the biggest blood-bath in the history of modern warfare. Far worse would be what might have happened to Japan as a nation and as a culture. When the invasion came, it would have come after several months of fire bombing all of the remaining Japanese cities. The cost in human life that resulted from the two atomic blasts would be small in comparison to the total number of Japanese lives that

would have been lost by this aerial devastation.

With American forces locked in combat in the south of Japan , little could have prevented the Soviet Union from marching into the northern half of the Japanese home islands. Japan today could be divided much like Korea and Germany.

The world was spared the cost of Operation Downfall, however, because Japan formally surrendered to the United Nations September 2, 1945, and World War II was over.

The aircraft carriers, cruisers and transport ships scheduled to carry the invasion troops to Japan , ferried home American troops in a gigantic operation called Magic Carpet.

In the fall of 1945, in the aftermath of the war, few people concerned themselves with the invasion plans. Following the surrender, the classified documents, maps, diagrams and appendices for Operation Downfall were packed away in boxes and eventually stored at the National Archives. These plans that called for the invasion of Japan paint a vivid description of what might have been one of the most horrible campaigns in the history of man. That the story of the invasion of Japan is locked up in the National Archives and not told in our history books is something for which all Americans can be thankful. \*\*\*

***Excerpt from Prairie Boys from interview. Charles Lake's account of the demise of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Regiment, at Chochiwon on July 11, 1950:***

Lieutenant Colonel Jensen and his men held the recaptured ground at Chonui the rest of the day, July 10, finally withdrawing from the ridge just before midnight. When they returned to their previous positions north of Chochiwon, they were surprised by enemy soldiers who had taken over foxholes in K Company's positions. After battling another hour, the North Koreans were finally booted out, and the exhausted men of the 3rd Battalion collapsed where they stood.

As it turns out, it was a tragic mistake to remain in these positions, because the enemy now had intimate knowledge of the battalion's layout. As had happened to Charles Alkire the previous morning, enemy tanks advanced through thick fog at dawn on July 11. Perfectly coordinated mortar fire started falling on the battalion's positions, and within a very short time, Jensen and his men were surrounded by approximately 1,000 enemy soldiers.

Captain Leon Rainville, a World War II veteran from St. Paul, was later interviewed by war correspondent Keyes Beech, of the Chicago Daily News, saying: "We could hear their tanks moving up into position in our rear. They had automatic weapons and they brought their infantry up to the front in trucks. The firing first broke out on our right flank, then on our left, then in our rear. I was up on the hill at the observation post when [Colonel Jensen] ordered me down to get more mortar ammo. I went down but never got back up."

# An Army Brat's View of the Korean War

By Ron Tully

Our Army family arrived at Camp Hakata, Kyushu, Japan in September 1949. The camp was located on the Gannosu Penisular which was bounded by the Sea of Japan on one side and Hakata Bay on the other. Kyushu is a southern island of Japan and the one closest to Korea.

My dad, Sgt Robert Tully, was a member of Headquarters Company, Air Section, 24th Infantry Division. His duty station was at Brady Field, about 10-12 miles from Camp Hakata. It was another 5-6 miles from Brady into Fukuoka, the only city of any size nearby. The Air Section housed all of those small liaison aircraft used by the cannon cockers for spotting targets. They had the L-5s and L-19s. The L-5 looked like a militarized Piper Cub.

One of our "near" neighbors was Col. Perry of the 52nd Field Artillery Battalion. Col. Perry and his family lived across the street from us in officers' country. He would be the CO of the artillery unit that supported Task Force Smith at Osan in the first battle of the Korean War on that rainy July 5, 1950.

Camp Hakata was also home to the rest of the artillery units of the 24th: the 11th FA Bn., the 13th FA Bn. and the 63rd FA Bn.

We led a quiet peaceful life there in that bucolic "gem" of the Army's inventory of overseas bases. Quiet until that last Sunday in June 1950 when Kim Il Sung launched his attack across the 38th parallel next door in Korea. Sometime during that timeframe of June 25, 1950 and the first week in July, my dad had CQ (Charge of Quarters) the night before at Brady Field. Early the next morning, he came racing home. He rushed into the house and headed to the closet where he kept his field gear: his mess kit, pack and steel helmet to go with his helmet-liner. He gave my mother a quick kiss and he was off in a cloud of dust left by the weapons carrier.

Overnight, the pace of life at Camp Hakata changed dramatically. For a short period of time there was a fevered pitch of activity with men and material staging for their deployment. And then they were gone, and the camp became a ghost town.

Shortly after the last of the 24th left, .50 caliber machine gun nests sprung up around the base – most notably on Hakata Bay side and on the ocean side. No doubt, the skeleton crew of base admin personnel, would man these weapons, if need be.

Also about this time, the Japanese guards who used to patrol the base after business hours 17:00 – 08:00 and only carried billy clubs were now toting 12 gauge shotguns, a pocketful of shells and patrolled the entire base 24/7. My older brother, Bob made the pointed remark that this was the first time that the US was "re-arming" the Japanese since the end of World War II.

It wasn't long before we got some new troops at Hakata.

Troops from the northern islands of Japan used Hakata as a transit point as they deployed to Korea. They would come in, occupy the previously empty barracks for a day or two as they drew their supplies of war and then they would ship out. As they spent the night in the barracks, many of them would tear off their unit patches and discard them. I remember the 25th Infantry Division's Tropical Lighting patch, the distinctive horse head patch of the 1st Cavalry and the hour glass red & black patch of the 7th Infantry Division. Camp Hakata was not only the closest spot to Korea, but also a natural transit point with Itazuke and Ashiya Air Bases and the port of Sasebo all nearby. My Rand McNally shows me that we were probably only 100 air miles across the Straits of Japan to Korea.

Our home lined up with the runway at Itazuke. The low flying F-80 jets would pass over our house each day as they made the daily commute to war. Loaded with fuel and ammo, they were exceptionally low as they struggled to gain altitude. Once past our housing area, they were out over the Sea of Japan. The Korean War Project tells us how many did not return.

Shortly after the last of the transit troops left, the wounded from Korea began returning to Camp Hakata. The dispensary area was greatly expanded. Extra hospital wards were built and a covered walk way was built connecting the wards. My mother took a job for the PX, selling cigarettes, shaving cream and toiletries from a rolling cart that she pushed through the wards. The walking wounded began showing up at the PX and at the theater in their distinctive Army robes and hospital attire. A new patch arrived. The black bulls-eye with the white border, which I think was the 118th Station Hospital in Fukuoka.

As the Pusan Perimeter tightened around that last major landmark in South Korea, the Army brass at Camp Hakata called the wives into a meeting. Their offer was a one way ticket back to the States. They obviously were fearful of a Dunkirk type of evacuation from Korea and they wanted all non-essential personnel out of the way. My mother refused the offer. She felt it would be running out on her husband and she didn't want to do that. Our family stayed.

At times, the only news that we had of my dad was the daily Stars & Stripes. And in those early days of the war, it was never good news. I vividly remember those photos of the American soldiers, captured, hands tied behind their backs and shot in the back of the heads. Of course, the photos never showed their faces or identified them, but that only added to the anxiety.

The tension in our Army community was palpable. Some dads would come home through the hospital system. Some dads would not come home for 3 years. Some dads would not come home at all.

One evening, my mother came home from work with a



selection of books from the base library. She would gather us together each night before bedtime and read to us. One of her first books was Audie Murphy's, "To Hell & Back." An odd choice to allay our anxiety, but as she explained it: Audie Murphy and dad were both veterans of World War II in Europe. And both had survived and both had Army buddies to help them out. And we knew some of dad's Army buddies in Korea with him. There was M/Sgt James Jones, a veteran of the 82nd Airborne who had jumped into France behind enemy lines on D-Day. And there was Cpl Kaytna who had been a Marine, had landed on Bougainville and had the scars and Purple Heart to prove it. These men had been guest at our house, had eaten Thanksgiving dinner with us and even had played cards with my dad as they turned the dinning room into a makeshift rec room.

And then there was Cpl. Walter Crazan (not sure of that spelling) and Cpl. Clarke (Clark with an E). For a home cooked meal they had painted the picket fence my dad had put up around our house. And of course, there were either winners or losers in those card games.

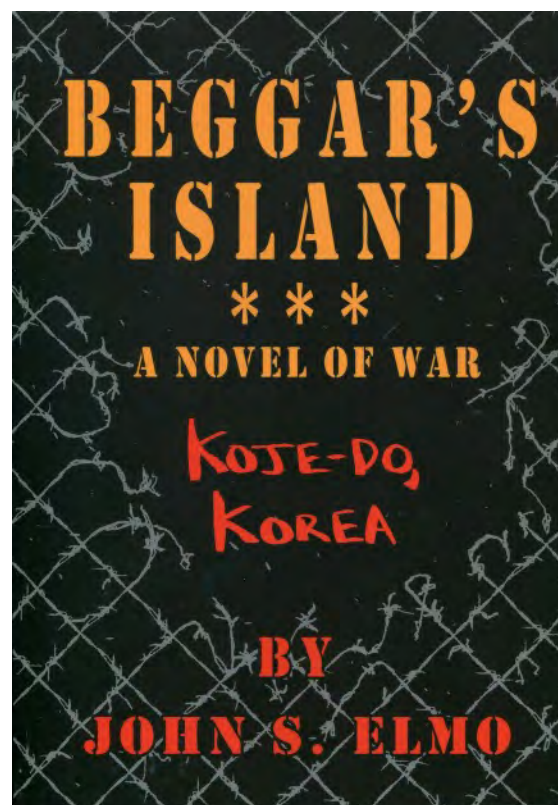
Through the grace of God, my dad survived, accumulated his points and came home to us in Japan in the late summer of 1951. We then transferred up to Yokohama and the Japan Logistical Command and a new patch.

Thankfully, M/Sgt Jones, Cpl. Kaytna and Cpl. Crazan all survived. Cpl. Kaytna would join us in Yokohama at JLC. He would share another Thanksgiving dinner with our family. He would also join us for Christmas shopping in Stuttgart, Germany a few years later with the 7th Army and our last patch. Cpl. Crazan would stop by the house in Yokohama for a home cooked meal on his way back to the States. We would see M/Sgt Jones once again in the States. We did not hear from Cpl. Clarke. I hope that he was not on that casualty list from Taejon on July 20, 1950. I didn't know his first name and I never knew his exact unit. I just remember him as very young and wearing paratrooper boots.

The Pacific would call some of us back over the years. My dad would serve at least one more tour in Korea after the war. My younger brother Rick would serve in Korea at a remote radar site on Paengnyong-do (K-53) with the USAF. Our sisters, Jackie & Jeri would serve, without returning to the Pacific, by working for various federal and state agencies. In 1965, brother Bob and I would arrive as Marines in Vietnam: another Asiatic land mass threatened by the invasion of the communist from the north. We would be joined in that struggle by my dad. Four of us Tullys went to Vietnam, only three of us came home alive. Brother Bob was killed in action on his second tour of duty in Vietnam with the First Marine Division. "Semper Fi, Bob, Semper Fi."

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*Thanks Ron, for this great, well-written story, and may  
God bless your family for your Service.  
Editor*



**Editor:** Enclosed is a copy of my Korean War historical novel, "Beggars Island," published by Friesen Press in February 2014. The novel provides an insight into what it was like to be a draftee in the U.S. Army in 1952-3, culminating with service in Korea, and specifically drawing on during my time as a company clerk on the Prisoner Of War island of Kojedo, located toward the south of Pusan.

At its peak, Kojedo held over 170,000 communist prisoners. Because there has not been much written on this historical time and place, "Beggars Island" illustrates a slice of army life and a unique perspective into company operations during this period. There are also about two dozen original photographs that nicely document what life was like for the civilian inhabitants of Kojedo in 1952-3.

If you believe that the novel has historical merit relative to the Korean War, I ask you to share it with whomever you see fit. For those who might be interested, the novel is available in both electronic and soft cover format, ISBN: 978-1-4602-3427-3 or 978-1-4602-3426-6 respectively. Please note that I give a portion of my royalties to the Wounded Warrior Project as well as the Taro Leaf/24th Infantry Division Association.

Sincerely,  
**John S. Elmo, Member,**  
24th Infantry Division Association, formerly, 21st  
Regiment, George Company, Korea 1952-3  
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P.S.: I would be very pleased if you would write a review of my novel on any of the major book review sites, such as Amazon books or Google books - search under the ISBN or my name and "Beggars Island."



How often do you use your association website? A lot of work is involved in maintaining the site; I hope you are using it. Contacts from the outside world tell us that others are finding it. That was my goal in setting up our website, and it seems to be working. If you don't have a computer, have you gone to your local library and asked them to bring it up for you to look at? Or asked your grandchildren to let them examine "Grandpa's Division?"

The site is the largest online source of material on the 24th Victory Division ever assembled. For example, the Taro Leaf section alone has 9,865 pages of more than 300 Taro Leafs, each as a separate document! And, we are still missing some! The **Home Page** (Mar 21, 2014), where you go when you log on to [www.24thida.com](http://www.24thida.com), is shown below.

Note the brown buttons on the left margin. Each takes you to a separate section. For example, the Taro Leaf button takes you to the page listing in tabular form by year (columns) and Number or Month (rows). By clicking an issue you want it will be downloaded for you to view or to print if you wish.

These are exact scans of the original Taro Leafs. This scanning was made possible largely through a major

donation of Ed Farmer enabling me to obtain an excellent high speed scanner that will digitize an 80-page Taro Leaf in less than a minute, thus rendering that part of uploading Taro Leafs much more "doable!"

The "24th Division" button guides you to much of the History of the 24th. I wish it were better organized and more complete. The remaining buttons take you to sections that I hope are obvious. Try them. Also, note the bold lettered and underlined phrases in the lower third of the page. Each take you to a sub-menu of items appropriate for that topic. Those marked "Recent Additions:" are intended to call the viewer's attention to new items.

I noted the Medal of Honor link; it will need be updated as two of those new awardees (by President Obama just this week) were in the 24th, one with the 21st RGT and the other with the 5th RCT. Another of these is devoted to Florida 24th IDA in second line that is essentially our own website.

As you know, I was Editor of the Taro Leaf for about three years. During that time I became concerned that some quite unique stories were not getting outside our ranks "for the world to see." My inquiries, including the Library of Congress, all resulted in the advice to "put them on the internet." So, this is what I have done. I am proud of it; I hope you are also. Try your site today; let me know what you think about it!

Tom J. Thiel, webmaster, 352-408-6612,  
[24thidaweb@gmail.com](mailto:24thidaweb@gmail.com)

**The 24th Infantry Division Association**

*Presented August 1945 in a POW camp, blood brother*

**Welcome to the 24th Infantry Division Association.**

If you have ever worn the Taro Leaf shoulder patch this site is for you.

Wherever you wore the Taro Leaf, whether at Pearl Harbor, in the South Pacific, Japan, Korea, Fort Stewart or Fort Riley, Germany during the Cold War, Desert Shield/Desert Storm or any the other numerous places the 24th Infantry Division served our Nation, this site is for you.

This site is mostly about the Association, but the second button, "24th Division," is reserved for the collection of historical documentation of the Victory Division. We know it is incomplete, and would welcome information from your era of service to the 24th.

We welcome you to browse through the pages of our site to see what we do to retain the memories and the comradeship of the 24th. Frankly, we need everyone who served the 24th, especially those serving in later years. We hope that you will consider [becoming one of us](#).

Click on the links below

**Recent Additions:** [Task Force Smith Website](#) [Cacciola's Historical 955th FAB](#) [2013 Louisville Reunion](#) [Photo Book](#) [Thomas Hoke Compere Wartime Letters, 1942-45](#) [19th Inf. Reg. Monument-GA](#) [Gay's Taro Leaf Index](#) [USA Today's 60th Anniv](#) [Bill Funchess](#) [Lady Tigers, by Estabrook](#) [Hist of 24th Desert Storm](#) [5th RCT, incl. Newsletters](#)

[Medal of Honor](#) [Association Birth](#) [Assoc Presidents](#) [Constitution and Bylaws](#) [Business Meetings](#) [Verbeck Award](#) [24th Memorials](#) [Florida 24thIDA](#) [Audio Books](#) [How to Join](#) [Using PDF Files](#) [How to search this site](#) [Revisit Korea](#) [Requesting Military Records](#) [Quartermaster order form](#) [Member Photos](#) [Contribute Your Oral History](#) [Korean War & Service Vets Assn](#) [Donating 24th materials](#) [Carmel and Korean Tiger Death March](#)









03/25/2014



LAUGHLIN  
REUNION



03/25/2014







# OCCUPATION OF JAPAN 1946-1948

BY HAROLD M. NESS, RA 13209738

I enlisted in the Army in September 1946 and took Basic Training at Ft. Dix, N.J. After home leave I reported to Camp Stoneman California. We were processed at the Stoneman "Reppo Depot," boarded ferries to San Francisco Bay and loaded aboard the Army Transport General William M. Black. Three thousand of us were jammed into the Black which was designed to hold 1500. We doubled up on canvas bunks and because of the overload were served only two meals a day. The next 17 days we plowed across the Pacific going through a raging typhoon, which caused us to go 250 miles off course, and anchored outside the port of Inchon, Korea. There we dropped off about 300 troops who, because of the extreme tide, had to disembark over the side, into landing craft to go to shore. The same landing craft brought back 300 soldiers who had completed their tours and were headed home. We were "fuzzy faced" kids and the troops we picked up looked so much older and tired. It was a preview of what we would look like in about 15 months. After three more days we arrived in Yokohama, Japan 21 days after leaving San Francisco.

The first night in the "Reppo Depot" outside of Yokohama was the coldest night of my life as I tried to sleep on a folding canvas cot with one blanket in a CP tent with a wood burning stove and outside temperatures hovering near zero. Orders transferred me from the Signal Corps to the Infantry and we were told to replace the Signal Corps braid on our "C" Caps to the powder blue of the infantry. We boarded a train and were told to keep the shades down because the Japanese would throw rocks at us if they knew troops were on board. The seats were wood and the backs were at 90 degrees making the trip painful. Holes in the aisles, like spittoons, were for urinating. It was a very slow 550 mile train ride - south through the 2 ¼ mile Kammon rail tunnel, under the sea, from the island of Honshu to the island of Kyushu. No food along the way!

I was introduced to the 19th Infantry Regiment when the train stopped in a dirty little town named Beppu where most of the roads were dirt, the smell of human waste in "honey buckets," used for fertilizer, permeated the air, and raw sewage flowed down trenches at the side of the streets. This odor conflicted with the ever present smell of cheap perfume worn because of the lack of bathing.

The 19th was a very proud regiment having been formed during the War of 1812, distinguishing itself at the battle of Chickamauga Creek in September of 1863 to gain the moniker, "The Rock of Chickamauga" and cited for bravery in WWI & WWII. Five Lieutenants, who began their careers with the 19th went on to be distinguished Generals in WWII including Dwight D Eisenhower.

In the late summer of 1946 about 300 officers and enlisted men, of the 19th were sent to the Japanese Island of Shikoku just off the coast of Kyushu. They awaited completion of the building of Camp Chickamauga over on a hill outside of Beppu, on the island of Kyushu, and made plans for the occupation and infantry training duties. Thousands of kids like me flowed into Camp Chickamauga from early November to mid-December of

1946, and by Christmas the 19th was at full strength with over 4000 personnel. Similar numbers of troops were sent to the two other regiments of the 24th Div., the 21st in Kumamoto, and the 34th in Sasebo.

I had joined the Maryland State Guard when I was 16 and when I got to Ft. Dix I was appointed a squad leader. When I got to Japan I was made a squad leader, but two months later my platoon Sgt. was put on TDY and because there was a shortage of non-coms I was given the responsibility of the Platoon Sergeant. I was only a PFC being paid \$ 96/per month. I performed the duties of the Platoon Sgt. of 1st platoon, of K Company for the next 12 months during which time I was promoted to Corporal in April 1947 (\$ 108/per month) and to Sgt. In June 1947 (\$ 120/per month). Two weeks before being shipped home I was offered a "rocker" by the Battalion Commander if I would reenlist. I declined the "carrot", which included a raise in pay to \$ 135/per month, wanting to go home and to college.

The 19th was charged by MG James Lester, 24th Division Commander, to be the lead force for future combat. Therefore we trained in infantry tactics every day during our deployment. The majority of our time was spent out in the field participating in war games and firing all kinds of weapons. Ten and fifteen mile marches, with full equipment, were not uncommon and we had one of 50 miles over a two day period. C and K rations were the norm when in the field. My duties also required me to take patrols up into the mountains to go through villages to show the Japanese we were not going to harm them. Approaching a small village we would see the citizens scatter and disappear. We would stop in the dirt street and wait. Eventually, an elder, usually in black robes, would make an appearance. Our interpreter would speak with him, explaining our mission and, as if by magic people would appear. The little kids would pull on our pant legs, call me "Gunsou" (Sergeant), and smile as we gave them some food and some hugs. Our missions were successful when we saw lots of smiles.

Several of our career non-coms were veterans of two and three years of combat either in the Pacific or European theaters. I saw evidence of PTSD, first hand, when some of them "lost it" during parts of our training. Our barracks, at Camp Chickamauga, which had been virtually thrown together by Japanese contractors, were very flimsy buildings infested with rats and were fire traps. One of the BOQ barracks did burn down in less than 35 minutes. Days began at 0530, or earlier, and many evenings I had non-com classes. When in the field we would be busy with night maneuvers and compass courses. An MOS #745 is one to be proud of but denotes a military work ethic not envied by many. Shelter halves and blanket rolls were always at the ready as we would have to be prepared to move swiftly in case of an alert. We were put on alert at least three times and then we were called back in from maneuvers, assembled, put on trucks to the train station to be transported to a port to be shipped to Korea due to friction on the 38th parallel.

The civilian population of Japan was very respectful to us



and although there were occasions of aggression by former military they were handled easily. Witnessing the destruction of cities like Tokyo, Yokohama, Hiroshima, Osaka, Oita and others it was easy to see why there were 3 million homeless Japanese. Another responsibility of the occupation forces was to demilitarize 5 million Japanese military and destroy hundreds of thousands of weapons. It was quite evident to us, with what we saw and experienced, that an invasion of Japan would have been catastrophic in the loss of life for them and for us.

After 13 to 14 months of intense training, many of the 19th's soldiers began to reach the end of their enlistment, training slowed down, and the ranks began to thin out as more and more troops went home. The 19th's forces were greatly depleted and I do not think the three regiments of the 24th Div. were at full strength when the Korean War broke out in June of 1950. The 24th was ill prepared and ill outfitted as the first units to fight in Korea and suffered terrible losses. My First Sgt., Frank Oleyar, and a buddy, Sgt. Bob Sanzi were KIA on July 16, 1950 at the battle of the Kum River in Korea.

I retraced my steps, in January of 1948 as I boarded the train at Beppu and headed north to Yokohama. During our 4 or 5 days at the Yokohama "Reppo Depot" we were a happy bunch and showed very little respect to higher ranks. A highlight was a 7 hour pass to Tokyo where I had the "thrill" of drinking out of a glass and eating off of a plate; all of our meals in or out of camp were in our mess kits and canteen cups. Finally trucks carried us to port where I was the 86th guy, of 1450, to board the Army Transport General Haan to start my journey home. Once aboard ship I thought I was "free & clear" but my name was blasted over the "squawk box" and I was assigned as Sergeant of the Guard for a guard detail to bring prisoners up from the brig and chain them to the fantail railing for fresh air. These guys were bad dudes and headed for lengthy times at Fort Leavenworth. However, all was not work as we stopped in Hawaii on our trip home where, I got a 7 hour pass into Honolulu. Some of the Hawaiian kids who had been with me in K company had disembarked and gone home. They came back down to the dock and invited me to a night "on the town" bringing with them a lovely Hawaiian girl as my date. Wonderful! Once on board ship, I was told to report for KP, in the ship's galley, on Saturday January 3rd. It was the first time I had KP since the second week of Basic Training 16 months earlier.

When the General Haan slipped under the Golden Gate Bridge on Sunday January 4th at 2303 a most deafening cheer went up and euphoria overflowed. It was an unimaginable thrill to be back "Stateside" after more than a year away in a foreign country. It had been 14 months since I had heard my parent's voices and communication had been by V Mail which took about two weeks to go either way. We had to sit in San Francisco harbor all night. The ship listed to one side as most of the troops went to the side to watch the twinkling lights in San Francisco. No more "honey bucket" smell, just good old American fresh air. The next morning tug boats pushed us in to the dock and cheers, once again it reached a crescendo as an Army Band played to welcome us home

At Camp Stoneman Replacement Depot we were told equipment had to be accounted for before we could be discharged, "INCLUDING AN OVERCOAT". Now, anyone familiar with the WWII overcoat knows it was a burden to carry around. Most of us had gotten rid of it in some fashion. Picture Army in a row, coats were on display in barracks A & B. A CO, and his entourage, came in one end of barracks A. Everyone had an overcoat. When the officers left the other end of barracks A and headed for barracks B the overcoats were hastily gathered from A and run over to barracks C. This process was continued until all barracks had been inspected, amazingly every soldier had his overcoat checked out. The camaraderie of soldiers had won out again. I believe that all the officers knew what the heck was going on, don't you think ?

I had to stay at the "Repple Depple" for 14 days, but finally on Saturday January 17th I received my "Honorable Discharge" and my "ruptured duck". The next day I boarded a train and headed east. The train from San Francisco to Chicago was filled with soldiers and we had a grand old time. Once in Chicago most of us split and took trains in all directions. All at once my emotions were conflicting. I wanted, so badly, to get home and yet I had just said goodbye to guys I had shared so much with and most likely would never see again. I didn't realize, then, how much I loved them but today I do.

There were a few more guys from Baltimore who were with me in the 19th. Jim McCurdy who managed the regimental laundry in Oita, a former Kamikaze base, Ray Wood, a clerk in Regimental Headquarters, Buck Hyle, an MP, and Don Heins who was one of my Asst. Squad Leaders. I've lost track of Buck and Don but, today, Jim lives in Salisbury, Md. and Ray in Hilton Head, S.C.

I have recently been successful in locating others who served, with me, in the 19th. Sgt. Arthur Tougias who was in my platoon and now lives in Naples, Fl., Don Simonds living in Maui Hawaii, Lyle Converse, living in Wyoming, Michigan, and Stu Tower, living in Los Angeles. I was able to locate Charlie Launi who was a squad leader with me at Ft. Dix and later a clerk at Camp Chickamauga and Eugene L'Heureux, Corporal and an Asst. Squad Leader, in my platoon. Unfortunately, Charlie and Gene, have both left us since my original contact with them in 2011.

One final note I think is of tremendous importance and interest. Stuart Tower went back to Camp Chickamauga in 2007. He found the camp had been replaced with a beautiful "Peace Garden" full of gorgeous flower gardens. He was warmly received by the mayor of Beppu and other dignitaries. There is a monument at the entrance of the gardens on which is inscribed, "THANKS FOR THE KINDNESS SHOWN BY THE SOLDIERS OF THE 19TH INFANTRY TO THE PEOPLE OF BEPPU IN 1946-1948"

The occupation of Japan was tremendously successful. Little did we know as kids of 18, 19, and 20 that we were having such a positive effect on our relationship with the Japanese people. I think we can all be very proud of that.

Harod M. Ness, **Member**, RA 13209738  
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# SOUTH TO THE NAKTONG, NORTH TO THE YALU

Roy E. Appleman



*July 16, 1950 — the 19th RGT and other elements of the 24th ID spread their green troops along the south shore of the Han River south of Seoul hoping to set up a defensive line. It was a record hot day under a scorching sun as they readied themselves for an impossible task.*

An accident that would weigh heavily in the outcome of most battles was one that now occurred. One of the 155-mm. howitzers of the 11th Field Artillery Battalion had been assigned to fire flares over the river position on call. At the most critical time of the enemy crossing, the 1st Battalion through the regiment requested a slight shift of the flare area. Normally this would have taken only a few minutes to execute. But the artillery personnel misunderstood the request and laid the howitzer on an azimuth that required moving the trails of the piece. As a result of this mishap there were no flares for a considerable period of time. Colonel Winstead, the 1st Battalion commander, said that

mishap and the resulting lack of flares hurt his men more than anything else in their losing the south bank of the river. Enemy troops succeeded in crossing the river at 0400 in front of the gap between C and E Companies on the regimental right and struck the 1st Platoon of C Company for the fourth time that night. In the midst of this attack, Lt. Henry T. McGill called Lt. Thomas A. Maher, the 1st Platoon leader, to learn how things were going. Maher answered, "We're doing fine." Thirty seconds later he was dead with a burp gun bullet in his head. North Koreans in this fourth assault succeeded in overrunning the platoon position. The platoon sergeant brought out only about a dozen men. C Company consolidated its remaining strength on the middle finger of Hill 200 and held fast. But the North Koreans now had a covered route around the east end of the 1st Battalion position. They exploited it in the next few hours by extensive infiltration to the rear and in attacks on the heavy mortar position and various observation and command posts.

Simultaneously with this crossing at the right of the main regimental position, another was taking place below and on the left flank of the main battle position. This one lasted longer and apparently was the largest of all. At daybreak, men in B Company saw an estimated 300 to 400 North Korean soldiers on high ground southwest of them—already safely across the river. And they saw that crossings were

still in progress down-stream at a ferry site. Enemy soldiers, 25 to 30 at a time, were wading into the river holding their weapons and supplies on their heads, and plunging into neck-deep water.

From his observation post, Colonel Meloy could see the crossing area to the left but few details of the enemy movement. Already B Company had called in artillery fire on the enemy crossing force and Colonel Meloy did likewise through his artillery liaison officer. Capt. Monroe Anderson of B Company noticed that while some of the enemy moved on south after crossing the river, most of them remained in the hills camouflaged as shrubs and small trees. Lieutenant Early, fearing an attack on his rear by this crossing force, left his 3d Platoon and moved back to a better observation point. There for an hour he watched enemy soldiers bypass B Company, moving south.

By this time it seemed that the North Koreans were crossing everywhere in front of the regiment. As early as 0630 Colonel Winstead had reported to the regiment that his command post and the Heavy Mortar Company were under attack and that the center of his battalion was falling back. The enemy troops making this attack had crossed the river by the partly destroyed bridge and by swimming and wading. They made deep penetrations and about 0800 overran part of the positions of A Company and the right

hand platoon of B Company behind the dike. They then continued on south across the flat paddies and seized the high ground at Kadong-ni. Lt. John A. English, Weapons Platoon leader with B Company, seeing what had happened to the one platoon of B Company along the dike, ran down from his hill position, flipped off his helmet, swam the small stream that empties into the Kum at this point, and led out fourteen survivors.

This enemy penetration through the center of the regimental position to the 1st Battalion command post had to be thrown back if the 19th Infantry was to hold its position. Colonel Meloy and Colonel Winstead immediately set about organizing a counterattack force from the 1st Battalion Headquarters and the Regimental Headquarters Companies, consisting of all officers present, cooks, drivers, mechanics, clerks, and the security platoon. Colonel Meloy brought up a tank and a quad-50 anti-aircraft artillery half-track to help in the counterattack. This counterattack force engaged the North Koreans and drove them from the high ground at Kadong-ni by 0900. Some of the enemy ran to the river and crossed back to the north side. In leading this attack, Maj. John M. Cook, the 1st Battalion Executive Officer, and Capt. Alan Hackett, the Battalion S-1, lost their lives.

Colonel Meloy reported to General Dean that he had thrown back the North Koreans, that he thought the situation was under control, and that he could hold on until dark as he, General Dean, had requested. It was understood that after dark the 19th Infantry would fall back from the river to a delaying position closer to Taejon. But events were not in reality as favorable as they had appeared to Colonel Meloy when he made his report to General Dean. Colonel Winstead, the 1st Battalion commander, soon reported to Colonel Meloy that while he thought he could hold the river line to his front he had no forces to deal with the enemy in his rear. Fire from infiltrated enemy troops behind the main line was falling on many points of the battalion position and on the main supply road.

Then came word that an enemy force had established a roadblock three miles to the rear on the main highway. Stopped by enemy fire while on his way forward with a resupply of ammunition for the 1st Battalion, 2d Lt. Robert E. Nash telephoned the news to Colonel Meloy who ordered him to go back, find Colonel McGrail, 2d Battalion commander, and instruct him to bring up G and H Companies to break the roadblock. Almost simultaneously with this news Colonel Meloy received word from Colonel Stratton that he was engaged with the enemy at the artillery positions.

All morning the hard-pressed men of the 19th Infantry had wondered what had happened to their air support. When the last two planes left the Kum River at dark the night before they had promised that air support would be on hand the next morning at first light. Thus far only six planes, hours after daylight, had made their appearance over the front. Now the regiment sent back an urgent call for an air strike on the enemy roadblock force. Scattered, spasmodic firing was still going on in the center when Colonel Meloy and his S-3, Maj. Edward O. Logan, left the regimental command post about an hour before noon to check the

situation at the roadblock and to select a delaying position farther back. Before leaving the Kum River, Meloy gave instructions to Colonel Winstead concerning withdrawal of the troops after dark.

The enemy soldiers who established the roadblock behind the regiment had crossed the Kum below B Company west of the highway. They bypassed B and F Companies, the latter the regiment's reserve force. Only enough enemy soldiers to pin it down turned off and engaged F Company. During the morning many reports had come into the regimental command post from F Company that enemy troops were moving south past its position. Once past F Company, the enemy flanking force turned east toward the highway.

About 1000, Colonel Perry, commanding officer of the 52d Field Artillery Battalion, from his command post near Tuman-ni three miles south of the Kum River, saw a long string of enemy soldiers in white clothing pass over a mountain ridge two miles westward and disappear southward over another ridge. He ordered A Battery to place fire on this column, and informed the 13th Field Artillery Battalion below him that an enemy force was approaching it. A part of this enemy force, wearing regulation North Korean uniforms, turned off toward the 52d Field Artillery Battalion and headed for B Battery.

Men in B Battery hastily turned two or three of their howitzers around and delivered direct fire at the North Koreans. The North Koreans set up mortars and fired into B Battery position. One of their first rounds killed the battery commander and his first sergeant. Other rounds wounded five of the six chiefs of sections. The battery executive, 1st Lt. William H. Steele, immediately assumed command and organized a determined defense of the position. Meanwhile, Colonel Perry at his command post just south of B Battery assembled a small attack force of wire, medical, and fire direction personnel not on duty, and some 19th Infantry soldiers who were in his vicinity. He led this group out against the flank of the North Koreans, directing artillery fire by radio as he closed with them. The combined fire from B Battery, Colonel Perry's group, and the directed artillery fire repelled this enemy attack. The North Koreans turned and went southward into the hills.

Before noon the enemy force again turned east to the highway about 800 yards south of the 52d Field Artillery position. There it opened fire on and halted some jeeps with trailers going south for ammunition resupply. Other vehicles piled up behind the jeeps. This was the beginning of the roadblock, and this was when Colonel Meloy received the telephone message about it. South of the roadblock the 11th and 13th Field Artillery Battalions came under long range, ineffective small arms fire. The artillery continued firing on the Kum River crossing areas, even though the 13th Field Artillery Battalion Fire Direction Center, co-ordinating the firing, had lost all communication about 1100 with its forward observers and liaison officers at the infantry positions.

The North Korean roadblock, a short distance below the village of Tuman where the highway made a sharp bend going south, closed the only exit from the main battle



position of the 19th Infantry. At this point a narrow pass was formed by a steep 40-foot embankment which dropped off on the west side of the road to a small stream, the Yongsu River, and a steep hillside that came down to the road on the other side. There was no space for a vehicular bypass on either side of the road. South of this point for approximately four miles high hills approached and flanked the highway on the west. As the day wore on, the enemy built up his roadblock force and extended it southward into these hills.

When Colonel Meloy and Major Logan arrived at the roadblock they found conditions unsatisfactory. Small groups of soldiers, entirely disorganized and apathetic, were returning some fire in the general direction of the unseen enemy. While trying to organize a group to attack the enemy on the high ground overlooking the road Colonel Meloy was wounded. He now gave to Colonel Winstead command of all troops along the Kum River.

Major Logan established communication with General Dean about 1300. He told him that Meloy had been wounded, that Winstead was in command, and that the regimental situation was bad. Dean replied that he was assembling a force to try to break the roadblock but that probably it would be about 1530 before it could arrive at the scene. He ordered the regiment to withdraw at once, getting its personnel and equipment out to the greatest possible extent. Soon after this conversation, enemy fire struck and destroyed the regimental radio truck, and there was no further communication with the division. Colonel Winstead ordered Major Logan to try to reduce the roadblock and get someone through to establish contact with the relief force expected from the south. Winstead then started back to his 1st Battalion along the river. Shortly after 1330 he ordered it to withdraw. In returning to the Kum, Winstead went to his death.

During the previous night the weather had cleared from overcast to bright starlight, and now, as the sun climbed past its zenith, the temperature reached 100 degrees. Only foot soldiers who have labored up the steep Korean slopes in midsummer can know how quickly exhaustion overcomes the body unless it is inured to such conditions by training and experience. As this was the initial experience of the 19th Infantry in Korean combat the men lacked the physical stamina demanded by the harsh terrain and the humid, furnace-like weather. And for three days and nights past they had had little rest. This torrid midsummer Korean day, growing light at 0500 and staying light until 2100, seemed to these weary men an unending day of battle.

When the 1st Battalion began to withdraw, some of the units were still in their original positions, while others were in secondary positions to which enemy action had driven them. In the withdrawal from Hill 200 on the battalion right, officers of C Company had trouble in getting the men to leave their foxholes. Incoming mortar fire pinned them down. Cpl. Jack Arawaka, a machine gunner, at this time had his gun blow up in his face. Deafened, nearly blind, and otherwise wounded from the explosion, he picked up a BAR and continued fighting. Arawaka did not follow the company off the hill.

As 2d Lt. Augustus B. Orr led a part of the company along the base of the hill toward the highway he came upon a number of North Korean soldiers lying in rice paddy ditches and partly covered with water. They appeared to be dead. Suddenly, Orr saw one of them who was clutching a grenade send air bubbles into the water and open his eyes. Orr shot him at once. He and his men now discovered that the other North Koreans were only feigning death and they killed them on the spot.

(The message in the G-2 Journal reporting Logan's conversation with General Dean reads, "Colonel Meloy hit in calf of leg. Winstead in command. Vehicles badly jammed. Baker Battery is no more [apparently Refer-ring to B Battery, 52d Field Artillery Battalion, but in error]. Will fight them and occupy position in rear. Both sides of road. Vehicles jammed. Taking a pounding in front. Air Force does not seem able to find or silence tanks.")

When C Company reached the highway they saw the last of A and B Companies disappearing south along it. Enemy troops were starting forward from the vicinity of the bridge. But when they saw C Company approaching from their flank, they ran back. Upon reaching the highway, C Company turned south on it but soon came under enemy fire from the hill east of Palsan-ni. An estimated six enemy machine guns fired on the company and scattered it. Individuals and small groups from the company made their way south as best they could. Some of those who escaped saw wounded men lying in the roadside ditches with medical aid men heroically staying behind administering to their needs. On the west side of the highway, F Company was still in position covering the withdrawal of B Company. At the time of the withdrawal of the 1st Battalion, F Company was under fire from its left front, left flank, and the left rear.

As elements of the withdrawing 1st Battalion came up to the roadblock, officers attempted to organize attacks against the enemy automatic weapons firing from the high ground a few hundred yards to the west. One such force had started climbing toward the enemy positions when a flight of four friendly F-51's came in and attacked the hill. This disrupted their efforts completely and caused the men to drop back off the slope in a disorganized condition. Other attempts were made to organize parties from drivers, mechanics, artillerymen, and miscellaneous personnel to go up the hill-all to no avail. Two light tanks at the roadblock fired in the general direction of the enemy. But since the North Koreans used smokeless powder ammunition, the tankers could not locate the enemy guns and their fire was ineffective. Lt. Lloyd D. Smith, platoon leader of the 81-mm. mortar platoon, D Company, was one of the officers Major Logan ordered to attack and destroy the enemy machine guns. He and another platoon leader, with about fifty men, started climbing toward the high ground. After going several hundred feet, Smith found that only one man was still with him. They both returned to the highway. Men crowded the roadside ditches seeking protection from the enemy fire directed at the vehicles.

Several times men pushed vehicles blocking the road out of the way, but each time traffic started to move enemy machine guns opened up causing more driver casualties

and creating the vehicle block all over again. Strafing by fighter planes seemed unable to reduce this enemy automatic fire of three or four machine guns. Ordered to attack south against the enemy roadblock force, F Company, still in its original reserve position, was unable to do so, being virtually surrounded and under heavy attack. About 1430, Major Logan placed Capt. Edgar R. Fenstermacher, Assistant S-3, in command at the roadblock, and taking twenty men he circled eastward and then southward trying to determine the extent of the roadblock and to find a bypass. Approximately two hours later, he and his group walked into the positions of the 13th Field Artillery Battalion which had started to displace southward. A few minutes later Logan met General Dean. With the general were two light tanks and four antiaircraft artillery vehicles, two of them mounting quad .50-caliber machine guns and the other two mounting dual 40-mm. Guns.

In carrying out Meloy's instructions and going back down the road to find Colonel McGrail and bring G and H Companies to break the roadblock, Nash ran a gantlet of enemy fire. His jeep was wrecked by enemy fire, but he escaped on foot to the 13th Field Artillery Battalion position. There he borrowed a jeep and drove to McGrail's command post at Sangwang-ni on the regimental extreme left flank near Kongju. After delivering Meloy's orders, Nash drove back to Taejon airstrip to find trucks to transport the troops. It took personal intercession and an order from the assistant division commander, General Menoher, before the trucks went to pick up G Company. Meanwhile, two tanks and the antiaircraft vehicles started for the roadblock position. Colonel McGrail went on ahead and waited at the 13th Field Artillery Battalion headquarters for the armored vehicles to arrive. They had just arrived when Logan met General Dean.

Logan told General Dean of the situation at the roadblock and offered to lead the armored vehicles to break the block. Dean said that Colonel McGrail would lead the force and that he, Logan, should continue on south and form a new position just west of Taejon airfield. While Logan stood at the roadside talking with General Dean, a small group of five jeeps came racing toward them. Lt. Col. Homer B. Chandler, the 19th Infantry Executive Officer, rode in the lead jeep. He had led four jeeps loaded with wounded through the roadblock. Every one of the wounded had been hit again one or more times by enemy fire during their wild ride. [60]

McGrail now started up the road with the relief force. One light tank led, followed by the four antiaircraft vehicles loaded with soldiers; the second light tank brought up the rear. About one mile north of the former position of the 13th Field Artillery Battalion, enemy heavy machine gun and light antitank fire ripped into the column just after it rounded a bend and came onto a straight stretch of the road. Two vehicles stopped and returned the enemy fire. Most of the infantry in the antiaircraft vehicles jumped out and scrambled for the roadside ditches. As McGrail went into a ditch he noticed Colonel Meloy's and Major Logan's wrecked jeeps nearby. Enemy fire destroyed the four

Taro Leaf Spring 2014

antiaircraft vehicles. After expending their ammunition, the tanks about 1600 turned around and headed back down the road. McGrail crawled back along the roadside ditch and eventually got out of enemy fire. The personnel in the four antiaircraft vehicles suffered an estimated 90 percent casualties.

The location of the wrecked Meloy and Logan jeeps would indicate that McGrail's relief force came within 300 to 400 yards of the regimental column piled up behind the roadblock around the next turn of the road.

Back near Kongju on the regimental west flank, G Company came off its hill positions and waited for trucks to transport it to the roadblock area. Elements of H Company went on ahead in their own transportation. Captain Montesclaros stayed with the I&R Platoon, and it and the engineers blew craters in the road. They were the last to leave. At Yusong General Menoher met Capt. Michael Barszcz, commanding officer of G Company, when the company arrived there from the west flank. Fearing that enemy tanks were approaching, Menoher ordered him to deploy his men along the river bank in the town.

Later Barszcz received orders to lead his company forward to attack the enemy-held roadblock. On the way, Barszcz met a small convoy of vehicles led by a 2 1/2 ton truck. A Military Police officer riding the front fender of the truck yelled, "Tanks, Tanks!" as it hurtled past. Barszcz ordered his driver to turn the jeep across the road to block it and the G Company men scrambled off their vehicles into the ditches. But there were no enemy tanks, and, after a few minutes, Barszcz had G Company on the road again, this time on foot. Some distance ahead, he met General Dean who ordered him to make contact with the enemy and try to break the roadblock.

About six miles north of Yusong and two miles south of Tuman-ni, G Company came under long-range enemy fire. Barszcz received orders to advance along high ground on the left of the road. He was told that enemy troops were on the hill half a mile ahead and to the left. While climbing the hill the company suffered several casualties from enemy fire. They dug in on top at dusk. A short time later a runner brought word for them to come down to the road and withdraw. That ended the effort of the 19th Infantry and the 24th Division to break the roadblock behind the regiment.

Efforts to break the enemy roadblock at both its northern and southern extremities disclosed that it covered about a mile and a half of road. The enemy soldiers imposing it were on a Y-shaped hill mass whose two prongs dropped steeply to the Yongsu River at their eastern bases and

overlooked the Seoul-Pusan highway. Behind the roadblock, the trapped men had waited during the afternoon. They could not see either of the two attempts to reach them from the south because of a finger ridge cutting off their view. Not all the troops along the river line, however, came to the roadblock; many groups scattered into the hills and moved off singly or in small units south and east toward Taejon. **Ending page 143. To be continued , next issue.**

# ABOVE AND BEYOND...

**Medal of Honor recipient Jack Weinstein** was born in Lamar, Mo., Oct. 18, 1928. He was drafted in the U.S. Army in 1950.



Weinstein is being recognized for his exceptionally valorous actions on Oct. 19, 1951, in the vicinity of Kumson, Korea, when his platoon came under enemy attack. He volunteered to stay back and provide cover while his men withdrew from their positions. Weinstein killed six enemy combatants and, after running out of ammunition, used enemy grenades around him to keep the enemy forces back. Weinstein held his position until friendly forces moved back in and pushed the enemy back.

After a year and a half in Korea, Weinstein returned home, married, and settled in Saint Francis, Kan. Weinstein and his wife had five children, nine grandchildren, and four great-grand-children. Weinstein passed away, April 20, 2006.

Weinstein received the Medal of Honor, March 18, 2014; Purple Heart with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Infantryman Badge, United Nations Service Medal, and Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal.



## **H.R. 2794 — Perpetual POW/MIA Forever Stamp Act (Introduced in House - IH)**

To provide for the issuance of a forever stamp to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who are still prisoner, missing, or unaccounted for, and for other purposes. In the House of Representatives, July 23, 2013.

**Please contact your U.S. Congressperson and ask them to support H.R. 2794 -- Please call or write immediately.**

This effort initiated by Bill (Helen) Allen, 421 4th Ave. N., Tierra Verde, FL, 33715-1730, 19th Inf, C, POW 01 Jan 51 to 11 Aug 53, wallen2[at]tampabay.rr.com, 24th IDA Life #1695, KWVA P003331, FL Chapter #14 - Suncoast Chapter. Bill contacted Congressmen Bilirakis (FL) and Young (FL) who in turn petitioned the U.S. Postal Service to issue a Forever Perpetual POW/MIA stamp; the U.S.P.S. refused. Therefore, Cong. Bilirakis has introduced H.R. 2794 to direct the issuance of a POW/MIA forever stamp. Please contact your congressperson now and ask them to support HR2794 NOW. We must honor our nearly 8,000 brothers still in Korea!





**Ralph W. Burge**, age 88, of Mechanicsville, Iowa, died November, 2013. He served during WWII in the United States Army as a Staff Sergeant in the **34th Infantry Regiment** of the 24th Division. In 1946, he was stationed in Nagasaki, Japan, in charge of 3rd Battalion records until his discharge in May 1947.

He returned from service to become a dedicated farmer. He truly enjoyed receiving the "Taro Leaf" and read it from front to back, hoping to find information on one of his buddies from his past military days. He was privileged to know the whereabouts of four comrades and kept in contact with them. He is survived by his wife Helen of 64 years. (Helen Burge, 16591 35th St, Mechanicsville, IA, 52306-8014).

**James Leroy "Square" Bell, Jr.** Died February 23, 2014 in East St. Louis, IL. He captured the hearts of many with his infectious smile and good humor. He served in Korea with the **21st RGT**. He leaves his wife, Katie Ruth, of 61 years and a large devoted family. (1629 Ridge Ave., East St. Louis IL 62205-1925 ) **Life Member 155**

**Thomas A. Hearn**, 90, died February 20, 2014 in Pittsburg, PA. Tom served in WWII with the 24th Division in campaigns in New Guinea, Luzon, and Southern Philippines where he was awarded two Bronze Stars. He was active in veteran's organizations throughout his life and was a life member of VFW Post 1810 where he served as an Honor Guard. He is survived by his wife, Anne. **Member**

**Cleno Jefferson** passed away January 21, 2014 at age 82. Cleno served with the **19th RGT** during the Korean War, 1951-52. He delighted attending the Association's national reunions. He was most proud to have served his country and the Choctaw Nation of his heritage. He is survived by Clara Jefferson and family. 3977 Donald Ave Riverside CA 92503-3807 **Member**



**Donald Shrader**, 96, of Marshalltown, Iowa passed away November 8, 2013. During WWII he joined the Army Air Corp and later served with the **21st RGT**. He was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery in the Philippines. He is survived by his wife, Wanda and family. **Member**

**(Photo) Alfred D. "Al" Cates** died December 7, 2013. He served as a cook in HQ & HQ CO, **21st RGT** in Kumamoto, Japan. He was a cook for HQ&HQ CO in Kumamoto, Japan and in Korea. *(My name is Richard A. Gumm, I was in the same company with Al, However, I was a mechanic. We got to Korea about July 5th, 1950 on a LST) George A. Gumm, Box 555, Reno, OH 45773.)*

## FALLEN COMRADES



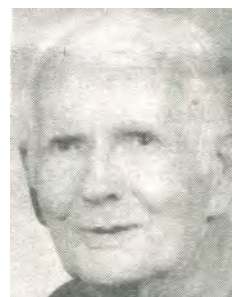
**CORRECTION:** The last issue stated Donald Williams of Wyatt, MO passed on. There were two Donald Williams in the **21st RGT**. The one whose passing I wrote about was from Wyatt, MO. I served with Don in K CO/21 from 1943-46. Don was wounded May '45 on Mindanao, P.I. He was in the weapons platoon. He was discharged in 1946 and did not serve in Korea. (By: James W. Lemon, Life Member

#1494, 812 932-2182)



**Harlan Jerome Lett**, 95, died December 18, 2013 in Charlottesville, VA. He served four years in the Army during WWII and later in the Korean War (**19th RGT**). He made the landing on Leyte, P.I., October 20, 1944. After the Korean War he left the Army with the rank of major. **Life Member 900**. He is survived by his wife, Grace Rayl, 5023 Clearfield Ct., Crozet, VA

22932-3146



**Charles Cecil Vanderbilt** passed away March 2, 2014. He was drafted into the Army and served in the **34th RGT**. He was sent into combat in New Guinea, where he was wounded, then to the Philippines for the Leyte invasion and on Luzon the battle of Zig Zag Pass. He concluded with occupation duty in Japan before returning home three years later. By his daughter, Carolyn J. Conner, 817

675-3711. **Member**



**Robert N. Clarke** died October 31, 2013 at Wakefield, RI. He was 85. Bob served proudly in the Army during WWII and Korea with the **21st RGT**, CO F. He was a member of VFW Post 8955. Bob retired after 33 years with the Electric Boat Company in Groton, CT. **Member**



**Richard B. Shiwnk**, 91, of Lancaster, PA passed away on February 16, 2014. He served with the 21st RGT during WWII and was a Pearl Harbor survivor. He worked as a technician for RCA in Lancaster, PA for 30 years. **Member**

# 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			95 24th ID Key Chain	\$10
15	Vietnam Service	\$5	CRESTS:		98 24th ID Songs & March CD	\$10
16	American Campaign	\$5	52 24TH Sig	\$9	T-SHIRTS:	
17	Armed Forces Expeditionary	\$5	53 19th RGT	\$9	24th ID Hawaii Div/Black (Sizes	
18	U.S. Flag	\$5	54 21st RGT	\$9	XXL/L/M)	\$15
19	Army Dist. Flying Cross	\$5	56 11th FA BN	\$9	24th ID Hawaii Div/White (Sizes	
20	Korea Service Ribbon	\$5	57 13th FA BN	\$9	2XL/XL/L/M)	\$15
21	Army Commendation	\$5	63 24th ID	\$9	FLAGS:	
22	WWII Victory Ribbon	\$5	75 3rd Eng BN	\$9	90 24TH id Outdoor Screen Print	
23	Marine Corps Expeditionary	\$5	76 14th Eng BN	\$9	3' x 5'	\$65
24	Korea Service Medal	\$5	CAPS:		102 Korea War Silk Screen	\$65
25	WWI Victory Medal	\$5	65 21st RGT White	\$15	103 Korea War Vet Silk Screen	\$65
26	Bronze Star	\$5	66 21st RGT Dark Blue	\$15	CIB Bracelet	\$35
27	Purple Heart	\$5	69 24th IDA Wh. w/Taro/Ger.	\$12	(Order Direct: Sektor Co., Box 501005	
28	Air Medal	\$5	70 24th ID Red w/Taro/Ger.	\$12	San Diego, CA 92150)	
29	24th ID	\$5	71 24th IDA Red	\$15	Quartermaster John Walters, 313 Heritage Overlook, Woodstock, GA 30188. Email: 1k34cspd@gmail.com	
31	19th RGT	\$5	72 24th ID Wh.1st to Fight	\$15		
37	Combat Medic Badge	\$5	73 24th IDA Green (X)	\$15		
38	Army Desert Storm	\$5	74 24th ID White Mesh (X)	\$15		
39	Vietnan Heaven & Hell	\$5	78 5th RCT Red w/patch	\$12		
104	Desert Storm	\$5	80 Desert Storm Vet	\$12		
110	Philippines Pres. Unit Ribbon	\$5	81 POW/MIA Black	\$15		
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

## 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 11/01/13 indicates your dues are **past due** and states when they expired.

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

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

### LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

**John Dunn, Secretary/Treasurer**

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



### 24th Infantry Division Association



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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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

- ☐ Enroll as Member
- ☐ Reinstate as Member
- ☐ Enroll as Associate Member
- ☐ 12 Months Dues \$15.00
- ☐ Life Membership \$200, or
- ☐ Installments \$40 / 5 years

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

**Unit**

**Bn.**

**Co.**

**P**

**It./Bat.**

**Squad**

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

**Location(s)**

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

**POW** ☐

**Location**

**From**

**/**

**/**

**To**

**/**

**/**

**Other Unit Service**

**From**

**/**

**/**

**To**

**/**

**/**

**Sponsor**



## SEC'Y/ TREAS. REPORTS

### DONATIONS TO TARO LEAF

Baca, Michael M.	Assoc	\$10.00	Taro Leaf
Bialezak, Victor	24th Div	\$ 30.00	Taro Leaf
Bradford, James E.	21st Inf	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Byrem, Robert B.	3rd Eng	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Cretaro, Daniel A.	34th Inf	\$ 20.00	Taro Leaf
Delpizzo, Julius A.	19th Inf	\$ 15.00	Taro Leaf
Demeray, Dale	19th Inf	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Dicke, Dale	19th Inf	\$ 15.00	Taro Leaf
Domenosky, Gene	34th Inf	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Estes, Neil D.	11th FA	\$ 50.00	Memory of Noel Estes
Hession, Paul J.	3rd Eng	\$ 15.00	Memory of brother KIA
Johnson, Donald H.	13th FA	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Keller, Rodney A.	21st Inf	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Lance, George F.	21st Inf	\$ 15.00	Taro Leaf
Lane, William D.	34th Inf	\$ 35.00	Taro Leaf
Lewis, John P.	26AAA	\$ 45.00	Taro Leaf
Maggio, Donald E.	24th Adm	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Mullenger, Vernon	3rd Eng	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Nunley, Bobby G.	34th Inf	\$ 15.00	Taro Leaf
O'Neill, Carl R.	34th Inf	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Owens, Roderick	26AAA	\$ 25.00	Memory of Ed Smigel
Payne John F.	21st Inf	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Quick, George C.	19th Inf	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Riggleman, Greg	3rd Eng	\$ 20	Taro Leaf
Snow, Marvin L.	19th Inf	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Stiner, Billy c.	19th Inf	\$ 20.00	Taro Leaf
Sugg, Charles F.	24th Med	\$ 15.00	Taro Leaf
Tumulty, Jerome H.	24 Div Hq	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Uting, George	21st Inf	\$ 10.00	Memory of Ed Kolesar
Wallace, William	Assoc	\$ 60.00	Taro Leaf
Werygo, Robert G.	19th Inf	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Wydra, Dennis	724 Maint.	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Yates, Olen R.	52nd FA	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf

### New Members

Allinder, James R.	Associate	Grandfather, Korea 50-51
Chichester, Robert F.	7th Arty C	Germany 67-68
Cox, Calvin J.	70th Arm HHC	Germany 66-68
Jenks, Karen W.	Associate	Grandfather, WWII
Massey, Del	19th Inf A	Korea 50-52
Ness, Harold M.	19th Inf K	Japan 46-48
Palmer, Gerald	Associate	Bro-Eugene WWII 24th, '43
Quann, Charles	34th Inf D	Korea - 52
Sterling, Katherine	Associate	Bro-M.Kennedy 19th Inf. K Co, KIA, 7/7/51
Tougias, Arthur E.	19th Inf K	Japan 47
Trammell, David J.	52nd FA A	Korea 50-51
Walsh, John J.	21st Inf A	Korea-1957

## REUNIONS 2014

### 5th RCT 2014 Branson Mini-Reunion Sep 21-25



- . Branson Towers Hotel
- . 236 Shepherd of the Hills Expressway, Branson, MO
- . 417-336-4500
- . Room—\$ 56.95 plus tax; Continental Br. Incl.
- . Reservations by Sept. 7.

#### Casual Dress

Mon. 8:00 p.m. Presley's show \$30.00/person

Tues. 6:00 p.m. dinner catered at the hotel

Wed. 10:00 a.m. Business Meeting; bring donations for drawing afterward.

#### Information & Registration

John W Crail  
14203 Morning View RD,  
Alexandria KY 41001-  
8080. PH: 859-635-9127



**24th IDA guests are welcome.**



### NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Routhier, Jamies P., 3rd Eng A	2440	Stewart 84-86
Leerkamp, Henry G. 34th InfC	2441	Korea - POW
Pasquale, Anthony 19th InfF	2442	Korea- Japan
Reeves Jr., Joseph R. 24th Div HQ	2443	Stewart 86-91
Gore, William W. 21st Inf	2444	Germany 64-66





This is one of the guard towers; notice all the wire around it to keep anyone from climbing up to accost the guards. The guards always pulled the ladder after they were up. On each of these guard towers was mounted a .50 caliber machine gun manned by two GIs on each tower. These towers were about 300 yards apart all around the perimeter of the enclosures (prison compound). In addition to the towers which were approximately 28 feet high, there were guards walking around the enclosures at all hours.



Here I am standing on the left and another soldier (can't remember his name) is playing Santa on Christmas day in 1953. We took up a free will offering at the Midnight and Morning Masses. What we collected was given to a nearby orphanage on Christmas Day for gifts and played Santa for the orphanage staff and children.

**In 1953, the 19<sup>th</sup> RGT returned to Korea for POW duty. Here are some of my photos. Ben Gross, 325 Newfield Way, Peachtree City, GA 30269**



Chinese prisoners from the prison compound at Cheju-do Island, Korea. They are waiting to be loaded on a Landing Craft (LST) to be returned to China after the Korean War in the late summer of 1953. Up close you can see they were well fed and well cared for. Many did not wish to be repatriated.



Chinese prisoners of war being loaded on an LST for transport across the China Sea to be repatriated to their homeland from Cheju-do Island, Korea. Voyage!



Here I was the driver for Fr. Donald O'Gara (Chaplain) who is seated. CPL Don Green, standing, was the Protestant's Chaplain's assistant



# WHO LOADED THE REVEILLE CANON WITH BILLIARD BALLS?

by Ben R. Allen

In 1948 I was attending a junior college in Pasadena, California and due to money and girl troubles I was convinced that my best course of action was with the French Foreign Legion. Unfortunately, the Foreign Legion was a long ways away and so I made my way to the nearest Army Recruitment Office. I wanted to offer my talents to the Army Air Corps but, as the Recruiting Sergeant informed me, enlistment in Air Corps was closed. However, he sweetly advised me, I could enlist in the regular Army and then perhaps transfer at a later date to the Air Corps. Big mistake.

I was first sent to Fort Ord to await assignment. Fort Ord is a very large post situated on the California coast about half way between Los Angeles and San Francisco. I joined a large group of men in the same situation, all waiting for assignment. In about 2 weeks we were all loaded on a troop train for transportation to various assignments on the east coast. This luxurious form of transportation took us only 10 days. Ten days on a troop train with a coal burning engine traveling through the Deep South in the middle of summer with the windows opened was an experience I don't want to duplicate. Other troops and I were dropped off in Virginia at Camp Lee where we attended the Army supply school. In this school the Army taught me a skill that has been a benefit to me throughout my life. I was taught to type. I was at Camp Lee during August and September and upon graduation was further assigned to Fort Devens, MA.

At Fort Devens I was assigned as a Supply Clerk to the Headquarters Company of the 7th Infantry Regiment. The 7th was the only outfit at Fort Devens and the only combat unit in the whole 1st Army area which took in all of New England. The 7<sup>th</sup> was part of the famed 3rd Infantry Division which was headquartered at Fort Benning, Georgia. The 3rd Division was one of the Army's most decorated units and had performed with distinction throughout Europe during World War II. The Army's most decorated soldier during WWII was Audie Murphy. He won all his awards as a member of this division.

As supply clerk I was responsible to maintain and issue any and all supplies and equipment for the entire regiment. Of course I had a supply sergeant over me but he was required to hold down a bar stool at the NCO club and couldn't be bothered with trivialities. In about 6 months I was promoted to corporal and pretty well ran the supply room by myself. It was during this time that an incident occurred that I have neither taken the credit nor accepted the blame for.

At 6 o'clock each work day morning the MP's were responsible for firing the reveille canon which happened to be a 105MM Howitzer. This is a large gun that fires a large shell; however, the MP's used blank charges. At least 1 or 2 times someone would forget to run a ram rod through the barrel to clear it and the blast would

destroy the muzzle cover put on the end of the gun to protect the barrel. Each time this occurred the MP's came to me to get another muzzle cover. After several months of this, the routine became rather tiresome. *Somebody* decided to teach the MP's a lesson and loaded the canon with billiard balls. Investigation of the event showed that a large ridge of bubblegum had been stuck to the bottom of the interior of the barrel of the gun to hold the billiard balls in place just ahead of the forward rim of the blank shell.

The canon was located on one end of the formation quadrangle (a large area in the center of each post for marching and drilling). Directly opposite the gun on the other side of the quadrangle was the personnel building. The billiard balls devastated the second floor of the Personnel Building. All the windows facing the gun were gone and the inside was a hell of a mess with broken desks, tables, chairs and filing cabinets. Because it occurred at 0600 nobody got hurt. Three ranking MP's were reduced in rank as a result of the investigation.

During the rest of my assignment at Fort Devens, I never had to buy another muzzle cover, but I did procure another set of billiard balls for the Day Room. **Ben R. Allen, Member, 19th RGT, 4734 N. Calle Santa Cruz, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314, 928 772-1058 [baldbuzzard@gmail.com](mailto:baldbuzzard@gmail.com)**



**Hi John Dunn:** Just a few lines, to let you know about me with the 24th Div. In 1947. I was assigned to Camp Kokura. At the time I was with the Band until the 1950 Korean War when we were moved the port Mojico(MOJI) and to Pusan. We then went to a town named Taejon. The division occupied a Catholic school; we were in the basement and orphan children were on the second and third floors. On July 8 about four in the morning the building was under heavy fire so the headquarters with Gen. W. C. Dean had to be abandoned. I forgot my wallet and returned to the building, but I was trapped inside the building with all these children! I finally opened a window and led the children out the best I could, so I guess I saved most of them. The group in the picture (above) came from South Korea to Washington, DC to see me. The four girls in the picture with me are the great-grand-daughters of those whose lives I saved.

P.S. I also had two tours with the 14th until I returned back to Kyushu, Beppu with the 187<sup>th</sup>. In 1954.

**MSG Andres Vergara, Life 2212, 1556 Belleair Road, Clearwater FL 33756-2302**



# NATIONAL REUNION

## 24<sup>th</sup> IDA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

September 18 - 22, 2014

Omaha, NE

**YES, SIGN ME UP FOR THE 24<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY ASSOCIATION 2014 REUNION!!!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

GUESTS NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

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

### MEAL SELECTIONS:

MEMORIAL BANQUET \_\_\_\_\_ FISH \_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN \_\_\_\_\_ BEEF \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: \_\_\_\_\_

### REGISTRATION FEES

REGISTRATION FEE (REQUIRED*)	# PERSONS	_____	x	\$25=	_____
MENS BREAKFAST**	# PERSONS	_____	x	\$00=	_____
LADIES BREAKFAST**	# PERSONS	_____	x	\$00=	_____
MEMORIAL BANQUET	# PERSONS	_____	x	\$22=	_____
LUNCH AT BOHEMIAN CAFÉ & OMAHA CITY TOUR	# PERSONS	_____	x	\$36=	_____
STRATEGIC AIR & SPACE MUSEUM	# PERSONS	_____	x	\$30 =	_____
FATHER FLANAGAN S BOYS TOWN TOUR	# PERSONS	_____	x	\$23 =	_____

\*If you bring more than 2 people, the association will cover the registration fee of those guests above 2. You still will be required to pay for their tours and meals. Please list all attendees on your registration form.

\*\*Free Breakfast is included in your room rate for up to 2 people per room and can be used for this event. Additional attendees above the 2 per room or anyone not staying at the hotel would need to be listed and pay \$16.00.

### GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED

**PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 20, 2014**

**PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE ADDRESS BELOW, AND MADE PAYABLE TO:**

**FREDERICK EVENT MANAGEMENT  
9233 SHETLAND ROAD  
EDEN PRAIRIE, MN 55347  
(612) 804-9457**

Confirmation of registration and itinerary will be sent out by August 28, 2014. A \$25 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 15 days of the event will be non-refundable. **Hotel reservations can be made by directly calling the Omaha Marriott Hotel at (402) 399-9000 or Brand Reservations at (800) 228-9290 no later than August 26, 2014. Be sure to tell them you are with the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Reunion to receive the discounted rate of \$94 plus tax.** The rate is good for 3 days before and 3 days after the event if you wish to extend your stay. We'll see you soon in Omaha!

# 24<sup>th</sup> IDA MILITARY REUNION

## Tour Descriptions Omaha, Nebraska

### LUNCH AT THE HISTORIC BOHEMIAN CAFÉ

Includes Kolache Making Demonstration

The Bohemian Café is a Czech landmark since 1924.

Luncheon group menu includes a Czech style sauerbraten, soup, dumplings, Sauerkraut, bread, coffee & Tea! Presentation is about the Omaha Czech community and the history of the Bohemian Café. After lunch, a demonstration on Kolache making is given to the group by one of the café cooks.

### OMAHA CITY TOUR WITH STEP-ON GUIDE

Enjoy a guided driving tour of Omaha's past, present and future. Professional guide gives your group an overview of Omaha's points of interest. Tour the historic Old Market District, Lewis & Clark Landing, the Historic Gold Coast District and Creighton University. Included sites include Billionaire Warren Buffet's residence, 1903 Joslyn Scottish Castle, St. Cecilia's Spanish Cathedral, the Blackstone Hotel (birthplace of the Reuben Sandwich), TD Ameritrade Park (Home of the annual College World Series), Fertile Ground Mural, Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge (longest pedestrian bridge to connect two states), Omaha Community Playhouse (where Henry Fonda started acting), Joslyn Art Museum, Rose 1950's Hollywood Candy warehouse and much more. Groups will also have an opportunity to experience Pioneer Courage Park with a brief tour stop. The park contains complete life-size sculptures of an authentic pioneer wagon train traveling west across the Nebraska prairie. Visitors can walk among the wagons, oxen, horses and pioneers. This is generally the perfect place for individual and group photos.

### STRATEGIC AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

Travel west to the small community of Ashland, Nebraska! See history come alive with 300,000 Square Feet of space including WWII and Cold War aircraft and artifacts. Museum also offers interesting traveling exhibits, library and theater. Many tours will include the area where planes are currently being restored.

### FATHER FLANAGAN'S BOYS TOWN TOUR

Travel to west Omaha for a tour of famous Father Flanagan's Boys Town! Tour includes visiting the Hall of History, the museum on campus; the Dowd Chapel, the Catholic Church where Father Flanagan is entombed; and Father Flanagan's Historic House. Boys Town is an independent village of Omaha with its own police department, post office and mayor. The mayor is actually one of the boys and girls in village. We would like to welcome you to stop at the National Historic Landmark, made famous by the 1938 Oscar-winning film Boys Town! We appreciate the opportunity to welcome visitors. The more chances we're given to share with the public and educate people about what we do, the more opportunities we're given to help our children.

### *WIKIPedia Says about Omaha:*

**Omaha** /'oʊməhɑː/ is the largest city in the state of Nebraska, United States, and is the county seat of Douglas County.[7] It is located in the Midwestern United States on the Missouri River, about 10 miles (16 km) north of the mouth of the Platte River. Omaha is the anchor of the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area, which includes Council Bluffs, Iowa, across the Missouri River from Omaha.

According to the 2010 Census, Omaha's population was 408,958, making it the nation's 42nd-largest city. According to the 2012 Population Estimates, Omaha's population was 421,570. Including its suburbs, Omaha formed the 60th-largest metropolitan area in the United States in 2013 with an estimated population of 895,151 residing in eight counties. The Omaha-Council Bluffs-Fremont, NE-IA Combined Statistical Area is 931,666, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2013 estimate. There are nearly 1.3 million residents within a 50-mile (80-km) radius of the city's center, forming the Greater Omaha area.

Omaha's pioneer period began in 1854 when the city was founded by speculators from neighboring Council Bluffs, Iowa. The city was founded along the Missouri River, and a crossing called Lone Tree Ferry earned the city its nickname, the "Gateway to the West." It introduced this new West to the world when in 1898 it played host to the World's Fair, dubbed the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. During the 19th century, Omaha's central location in the United States spurred the city to become an important national transportation hub. Throughout the rest of the 19th century, the transportation and jobbing sectors were important in the city, along with its railroads and breweries. Once the world's largest, and its meat packing plants. You can walk among the wagons, oxen, horses and pioneers. This is generally the perfect place for individual and group photos.





## Florida 24th IDA Group Luncheon

**Florida 24th IDA Group Luncheon was March 5, at the Golden Corral, Eustis, FL.** The group continues to get together to reminisce about their times from over 60 years ago, and to collect items needed by the homeless veterans living in Ocala National Forest and elsewhere.

Those at the Mar. 5 luncheon were: Standing: Ellie Hall; Nick Salakas (21st) of The Villages; Joyce and Paul Boulay (34th) The Villages; Ted and Marilyn Jensen (19th) of Leesburg; Maxine Jennings; Don Van Beck (34th) Tavares; Bill Simunek (3rd Eng) of Mount Dora; Yvonne and Ed Schulte (3rd) of Kissimmee and WI; and Woodie Wood, Jr. (19th) of Silver Spring.

Sitting: Herb Betz (19th) of Eustis and MI; Duane Hall (26th AAA) of Leesburg and MI; Joyce Betz; Tom Thiel (19th Inf) of Eustis; Frank Jennings (5th RCT) of Melbourne; Dottie Wood, and Carol Becker (GSS – Bob Becker, [21st]) of Clermont. Paul Miller (21st Inf) and Flossie Kespert of Inverness left before photo was taken.

**The next Luncheon will be: May 7,  
again at the Golden Corral, 15810  
US Highway 441, Eustis, FL 32726.  
All Taro Leafers are invited.**



Gene Leahy Mall, Omaha



Century Link Center, Omaha

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**Price \$25 Includes postage**

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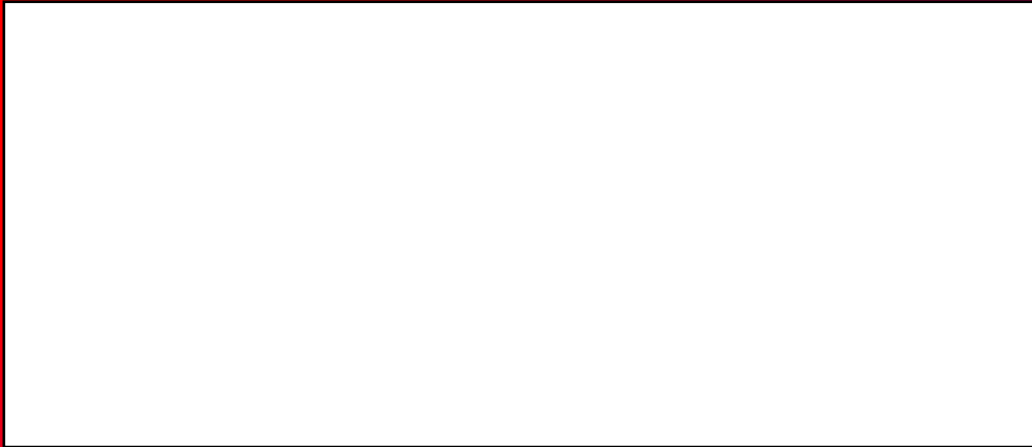
**Thomas M. Appler, VP 24th IDA  
2136 Herbert Ave.  
Westminster, MD. 21157**





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

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**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

**Verbeck Award Nominations**



**July 15, 2014**, is the final date for you to nominate the member you feel most merits the Association's prestigious Verbeck Award. Please use the adjacent card to submit your nomination.

**MEMBERS:** Please indicate your nominees for the Verbeck Award and give A brief explanation for your recommendation.

Person: \_\_\_\_\_

I believe he/she is worthy because

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_