

TARD

24th Infantry Division Association

VICTORY



DIVISION

LEAF

"First to Fight"



Battle Ready - Today's Infantry

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COVER: Battle Read

"Don't take a peashooter to a firefight."
Photo found on internet, origin unknown.



Greetings Fellow Taromen:

You will find the following information about our Annual Reunion in Omaha, September 18 – 21 in this issue: the agenda, tour descriptions, photographs and information about the hotel,

and a registration form. We have strived to keep costs to a minimum, yet maintain a high level of activity. The hotel rate includes up to two free breakfasts per room per day (including the Men's and Ladies' breakfasts) and free transportation from the airport. The tours are low cost, interesting, and 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.

We need to elect officers at our annual meeting. Nominations are being accepted for President (I am not eligible to run again), Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and one Director-at-Large.

Tom Thiel, Webmaster, would like to "retire" from his position and suggests a person with good file management skills as a good "fit". John Dunn would also like to "retire" as Secretary/Treasurer. Contact Tom Appler or any other officer or director with your nominations. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions.

Expired dues are still a problem. Please look at your address on the last page of all issues of the Taro Leaf. The line above your name is a date such as EXPIRE: 08/01/14, which 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. His address is listed inside the front cover and the top left-hand corner of the back cover.

It has been an honor serving you during my two years as president. The stories and conversations I have heard throughout my years of membership have been inspiring and educational. Self-less service and dedication are the words that come to mind when thinking of your service and support.

Best regards, Don Maggio



Greetings Comrades:

Since our last issue I made a trip to Japan and the Philippines. While I was in Tokyo, I visited the Dai Ichi Building, the place of Gen. MacArthur's GHQ during the Occupation. I had previously sent an email requesting a visit to the General's office which has been kept as an historic site by the building's owner, the Dai Ichi

Life Insurance Company. I mentioned that I had served there in the General's Honor Guard in 1951. My tour guide told me that since 9/11 the office had been closed to the general public except for two other visitors, Henry Kissinger, and the American Ambassador to Japan. I must say, I was overwhelmed to be in such distinguished company!

The Philippines was in its hottest season, but not a problem when you spend most time indoors in air-conditioned comfort. I also visited beaches and scenic spots with my companion, once again enjoying why the islands are now considered one of the most desirable vacation spots in Asia. The air travel of about 12 hours+ from the U.S. is almost too much to bear, but if you're flying, the service and food on Japan Airlines is top rate.

We are now in the hot days of Summer and the National Reunion in Omaha, NB is fast approaching. Give it some thought; let's face it we don't have many years to waste.

I guess it's about time I tried to stir up more interest in members to send material to the Taro Leaf. We most enjoy personal accounts, but anything you think might be of interest to other members is most welcome. If it's items you wish to keep, just tell me; I will copy it and return the originals.

We have been running the detailed history of the Korean War's beginning, but it is rare to make a direct connection to material our members provide. On page 6, *Letters*, are photos of men from the 19th RGT describing activities just before the start of the war. On page 22, the history chronicle which begins there tells of the Kum River disaster and mentions the same persons shown on page 6. Thank God there are survivors still living today who keep this information alive.

When I think of "unsung heroes" in time of armed conflicts, it is the medic more than any combatant that draws my attention. They brave enemy fire to treat the wounded and risk their lives with little thought of their personal safety. I recently came across a story by a medic which was published in our Division's History several years ago. The author, Don Perrin, brings forth the drama and trauma of a battlefield in Korea. You'll find it on page 21.

God Bless you all, David Valley

Letters

David: Just wanted to share this wonderful news from NY Times Square about Task Force Smith announcing a park to be built in their honor. It appeared a number of times on Wednesday in Times Square right after the 5/7 Press Release! Hanna Yun, Project Manager

Hanna: I wonder how many of the viewers knew what it was all about? **David**



Hello Everyone: Here are snippets of some recent developments in the accounting mission for POW/MIAs.

For those of you who have yet to sign the Coalition's online petition to the President, Forgotten Men of the Forgotten War, please do so. We're due for a jump in signatures and hope you will be among them! Here's the link:

http://www.change.org/petitions/president-barack-obama-resolve-the-mysteries-surrounding-the-forgotten-men-of-the-forgottenwar?utm_campaign=signature_receipt&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition

Snippets from reports: DPMO / JPAC Reorganization - Congress has mandated that the Department of Defense reorganize the POW/MIA accounting mission to produce better results. This will be a major "restart". There is a lot going on!

The X-Files - These records on unknown American soldiers, nearly 800 of our loved-ones already buried on American soil, are finally declassified. The Coalition has them. Information varies with each record. Some of this information may have lead to identification sixty years ago if the files had been released then. We are developing a searchable database.

Live Sighting Report – We have been following up on this action request document sent in June, 2000, from the U.S. Embassy in Seoul to the Defense Dept. It involves a report that a North Korean citizen sought asylum in return for exchanging eleven sets of U.S. remains and an American P.O.W. still alive in the DPRK. One set of remains was reportedly turned over to the Chinese. To date, it appears that nothing was done to pursue the claim. Then again, it may have been false. We are pursuing what should be a first hand accounting.

Richard Downes, Executive Director (Lt. Hal Downes, MIA)
Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs
P.O. Box 4194, Portsmouth, NH 03802, 818.259.9950
www.coalitionoffamilies.org

24th ID soldiers from WWII in the Pacific: I'm trying to understand something my father Bruce W. Price told me. He said he left New Guinea and went to the Philippines. He said they went through the Great Barrier Reef with Australia on the left and the islands of the Great Barrier Reef on the right. He said it took them about a week to get to the Philippines, and the trip was about a thousand miles. He was in the 19th Infantry and was stationed mainly near Hollandia.

To have Australia on his left and the Great Barrier Reef on his right, he would have had to go back around to the eastern part of New Guinea and then travel through the reef and near Australia and then on to the Philippines. As the crow flies, it would have made sense to leave from the Hollandia area and head to the Philippines, but I realize the direct route may not have been the best path for them to take during the war with the Japanese. Maybe those waters from Hollandia to the Philippines were controlled by the Japanese

and they were more secure going the other, longer way.

My question is can you help me find out where they left New Guinea from? Did they travel from Hollandia to Finschhafen and then through the Great Barrier Reef? I have done a lot of research on this part of the war, but I cannot find any comment of the actual route traveled. I know a lot of these veterans had passed away, but wondered if you could even help me locate some who were on this trip and could verify or explain the route taken.

I'm writing I book from the information that my father left for me. I don't want to include this description of his trip if he remembered it incorrectly.

He was in the invasion of the Philippines and helped take Hill 522. I hesitate to question his memory mainly because most all of his other facts prove to be correct.

Ann Mayfield, apmayfield@hotmail.com

David: Will you please include a picture of our reunion group taken in Savannah, GA, May 4, 2014. We are members of L CO, 21st RGT. This was our 34th reunion! George Vlastic, 279 Ravennaside Dr., NW, Calabash, NC 28467
Life Member 2223

George: You and your group should commended for your loyalty and devotion these past three decades, plus. Keep up the good work! **David**



Dear Sirs: I am writing this on behalf of a man who means the world to me. He served in the U.S. Army with the 9th Cavalry, 24th Division, Headquarters troop and was stationed at Warner Kaserne from February 1963 - August 1965 (he was soon to be promoted to E5), under the command of CPT Kusick. He has fond memories of a program spending time with orphans for a day. Upon his discharge, he had less than two hours to make arrangements for his belongings to be sent home (most of which never made it) including a car. He barely made it himself, having to borrow bus fare, once state-side. Needless to say, he lost all contact with his friends, because all the photos, contact information, even his dog tags, were lost in the transporting of his belongings. He's talked of it on several occasions on how he wished he had all that, and more so lately, as he is aging.

The man I speak of is Jon Belor, my father, but he didn't have to be. He married my mother when I was five, and continued to be there for me, after she left us when I was seven. He even stopped talking with his mother (whom he spoke with daily) for a month when she said he should ship me back because I wasn't his anyway, until she apologized. He tried to adopt me, but my natural father refused. He came to my soccer games, and was the only family member to see me graduate. He is the man I chose to give me away at my wedding. And he is a simple man, wanting very little in this world. He doesn't have internet, yet volunteers to drive Vets to the VA (sometimes a 5 hour drive one way) for their medical appointments.

I would like to be able to help him reconnect with his past if at all possible. I'm not sure what information is available to me because I'm not his biological daughter, nor am I military (other than a Marine mom). I know he's talked of a Ron French (FL), and a Vurplank (Gary, IN), but have no idea of whom else was in his platoon, and am not certain how to go about finding any of them. I am hoping that perhaps these individuals might be willing to share photos, stories, etc... that would be precious memories to my dad. I would mean the world to him, and is the least I can do, for what he's done for me. I appreciate any direction you can steer me toward.
Sincerely, **Franke Forstner**, mysticmuse6@yahoo.com

David, Thank you for publishing Paul Wood's story on page 8, Spring of 2014 issue of The Taro Leaf Volume 68 issue #2, on Corregidor and also the Fast Facts which adds to the story. When WWII was over I came home and made notes on the Battle of Leyte, Subic Bay, Corregidor, and Midanao all of which is part of my story that I remember. **Paul J. Cain Life Member #186**
3109 Chatham Drive B, Urbana, IL 61802-750

Mr Valley: John A Dunn, Sec/Treas, called and asked me to send a copy of the obituary for my brother, (Arthur H Wyker, Jr) who was a member of the 24th Div Assoc. In the Winter 2014 edition of the Taro Leaf is mention of the Verbeck Award. If I'm not mistaken the name Verbeck is associated with the Manlius Military School. My brother Art H. Wyker, graduated from the Manlius School in the Spring of 1945. Enclosed please find a copy of his obituary. (see page 27 herein)
Fred H Wyker, 506 Third Street, Liverpool, N. Y.

Hi John (Dunn): Glad you are having reunion in Omaha, about 110 miles away; I plan to attend. I may be one of few WWII guys there. I served with the 33rd in the Philippines on Luzon and later with the 24th. I was in K CO, 34th RGT. I had the 2nd platoon most of the time and represented the 24th in the Regimental Boxing Team. I got called back in during the Korean War but was discharged after two-and-a-half months by an Act of Congress. I drove a jeep across the U.S. from Seattle to D.C. to promote the Army Museum and the WWII Memorial and placed a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier for all WWII vets. Hope to see many of you in Omaha.
SSGT Gene Poynter, Member
311 Donan St. Mound City MO 64470-1601

Letters

Editor: My name is Paul Narson. I served in the 1/21 Delta Co. 24MID from 2/60-9/62. I spent most of my free time in Munich at a bar called the Cracker Box plus we also went to other bars.

I spent some time on the 21st LeClerc rifled pistol team, and also hung out sometimes with the boxing team. At the Cracker Box there were about 20-25 of us from Warner, Will, and Henry Kasernes that hung together and we had our tours extended due to the Berlin Crises in August 1961.

I am in touch with many members that hung out together in town. If anyone knows of others who hung out in the box or was from 1/21 please let me know. Some of the people I am in touch with and some others I have info on. Chuck (Big Tom) Thomas Division Heavyweight champ. Bob Longo, Fred Uva (Trans) Ed Farmer (Will) Kaserne Artillery, Mike Bolino, Jack Galigher, Steve Mohink (2/28) George Boettger, Leon Aguilar, Al Abruzzo, Lote Faulkner, Lou Malagrino, Hugh O'Donnell, Frank O'donnell, Bobby Dermody (Boxing Team), Joe Gregorsli, Ron Wade 1/21. Nick Panichelli (3rd Eng.)

If anyone has any info on anyone who served with 1/21 or would like info on the above names please contact me
Paul Narson eravet24@aol.com or 631-897-3269

My thought for Veterans Day

Veterans Day will come
Veterans Day will go
Many people will serve
Others will say no
Some sit on the sidelines
Others gave their life
Let someone else do it
I've got it too damn nice.
Then you've got the phonies
In their minds they're great
But in your heart you really know
They're just a bunch of fakes!
Well anyway, I did my part
Of which I don't regret
So on Nov 11th
Shake a hand and thank a Vet!

By Michael J. Pammer, 21 st RGT, Life Member 1334
4489 Memphis Rd. Whitehall PA 18052-1403

Greetings: I recently went to the clinic and my doctor was a Japanese-American whose name is **Taro Arai**. He told me, in the Japanese culture, Taro, means first-born son. Interestingly, his parents met while taking shelter during an air raid on Tokyo.

John Paul Hayes, 3rd ENG
363 West Chester Pike,
Havertown, PA 19083-4535.
Member

June 16, 1950. All was well on this date in Beppu, Japan when Lt. Barszcz was awarded the best unit plaque by Col. Guy S. Meloy. Holding the guide-on is CPL Robert Scroggings. Exactly one month later these men would be engaged in deadly combat as described by Army Historian, Roy E. Appleman. (See page 22 of this issue)



This photo was taken outside the mess hall probably in November or early December 1949. I am on the far left holding a cigarette. The far right I think was Paul Lyles. I think he is the one that got hit in the head with a burp gun and everyone thought he was dead until the medic took his helmet off and saw that the bullets had not penetrated his skull. I understand he came out of it o.k. Tom Pace, Donald Flowers and Thomas are also in the picture. We were all in the 3rd platoon. Wylandt was Platoon Sgt. and Sgt. Harold W. Hill was assistant.

Right after the Kum river battle, if you remember, G Co was sent back to see how many wounded we could find. Hill, myself and a couple other guys were on the last half-track when they opened up from a machine gun nest along the road. Hill was hit in the leg when we had to get off and the half-track took off with all our ammo. I had the only rifle out of the bunch. When the half-track came back down the road they stopped and picked Hill up. He was the most unluckiest guy I knew. He was gone about 5-6 weeks and the day he came back he got shot in the other leg, or maybe he was lucky because they said that was enough and sent him home. From: Bill Roseboro, **11th FA**, 605 Marlboro St., Hamlet, NC 28346

Dear David: While recently going through some old files, I spotted the name of Kenwood Ross on a file tab. I pulled it out and read through the contents, refreshing myself on correspondence that took place almost 20 years ago.

After reading the various items I could not help but recognize the deep devotion that Ken had for the 24th Infantry Division Association, which he had helped create so many years before. It is very evident that he spent the rest of his life dedicated to seeing this dream continue and flourish. Finally, after almost 50 years, he passed the baton along to those who followed. What a lasting tribute!

Your last issue of the Taro Leaf - Winter 2014, was another winner for your own efforts as Editor, and I congratulate you for all the dedication and labor you put forth for the benefit of all. I also noticed on page 34, the article about The William Jordan Verbeck Award. The list of worthy recipients was duly noted, and the first name to appear in 1966 is none other than Kenwood Ross. Ken carried on this great love of his for another 28 years before it was finally his time to say adieu.

Please feel free to share his *Last Word* message with the membership. **George F. Lance, 319 Valley Road, Etters, PA Life Member 1101**

George: Here's Ken's "Last Word." **David**

"Forty-nine years ago, almost to the very day, sitting on a log on the beach at Taloma, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, I participated in the parturition of this Association. And I've been working for it ever since. For nigh onto 50 years, this Association and its Division have been my love. Now, after some 250 Taro Leaf issues, it is time to do something different, so I'm going to leave.

This has been a marvelous job in a magnificent organization. I have been-incredibly lucky, deeply grateful for and truly appreciative of the fact that you chose to read what I have inflicted upon you over the years. I cannot go on without first a tribute to my gal, Beverly Corris, who has been faithfully beside me through 37 of those years whilst together we performed the myriad duties of secretary, treasurer and editor that the ship would stay afloat. I could not have done it alone. And I'd be remiss if I did not acknowledge the pleasure which has been all mine in receiving and filing away the plaudits which so many of you - literally beyond counting - have directed my way.

And now as the twilight shadows deepen, I have become acutely aware that I have had few privileges so valuable as the privilege of being of service to people like you. I remain your humble, if somewhat recalcitrant, servant and bid you an affectionate au revoir."

Faithfully,

KENWOOD ROSS (Published Vol. XLVII, No. 6, '93-'94)

Dear Mr. Valley: Many highways in America are named for veterans of the various wars, and that of course, is appreciated by our veterans. Here in South Carolina we've done something we believe is a first. Please let me know if it isn't.

Acting upon the request of Foothills Chapter 301 of the KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION'S (KWVA), the South Carolina General Assembly passed a resolution naming a twelve mile stretch of 1-385 for veterans. What makes this unique is a two mile section of the twelve miles will be named for veterans of WW I, WW II, Korea, the Gulf War, Iraqi Freedom, and for the current war in Afghanistan. Signs will be erected in honor of the veterans for each war. Before entering the twelve mile stretch of this very busy interstate highway, large signs, both east bound and west bound, will be erected informing travelers they are entering the "VETERANS CORRIDOR OF HONOR."

By law, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is not allowed to pay for the signs, but this is not an appeal for donations. I am pleased that the Foothills Chapter 301 of KWVA assumed responsibility for raising these funds. The support and outpouring of South Carolinians was beyond belief. Almost all who were asked to contribute did. We had people calling asking where do I send my check? The money is already on hand for the signs.

We hope to have the signs made and installed by mid-summer. We plan to have an unveiling ceremony when they are completed and installed with veterans of the various wars on hand. Of course no WW I veterans are alive today. We hope to have their relatives celebrate with us. I will keep you posted. **Lewis R. Vaughn, 623 Ashley Commons Ct., Greer, SC 29651 (864) 848-0368**

Hello David: I wrote to former pilot, CDR Bob Abels, USN Ret. about my experiences with F4Us while in Korea. His response follows my letter. I first sighted a F4U at some distance in October, '51 and saw it had been hit. Black smoke poured out and the pilot bailed. He was too far away for me to "visit." My



An aide to the general yelled "Enemy planes" and all the brass, including the general tried to take cover under our half-track. My squad and I were doing our best not to laugh as the general got up, dusted himself off and said, "I think we need a class on aircraft recognition." **Marvin Reed, 26th AAA, Life Member 2002, 2900 Right Hand Cyn. Rd., Palomino Valley, NV 89510-9300**

TO MARVIN REED: U.S. Army, in appreciation of being one of the angels in khaki during Korea that was always ready to rescue a downed aviator, especially corsair flyers. May the Lord always bless you and keep you in the hollow of His hands. **BOB ABELS, F4U-4 PILOT, KOREA**

second sighting took place in Nov. '51 when our unit was visited by a general and other brass. Six Corsairs screamed overhead at about 1000 feet.

Looking For

Hi David. I received the following email from Chris Fox. His uncle, Morgan Downs, was from Springfield, Ohio. Here is the citation for the posthumous Silver Star SFC Downs received at Chonan on July 8 1950.



"Awarded to, SFC Morgan Leo Downs for gallantry in action as a member of HQ & HQ Company, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, on 8 July 1950 near Chonan, Korea. During an enemy tank attack on the town of Chonan two squads of friendly troops were pinned down by their fire. Sergeant First Class Downs, with complete disregard of his own safety, volunteered to act as gunner of a 2.36 rocket launcher after the original gunner became frightened. Although exposed from all directions to small arms and tank fire, he got in position to begin firing the rocket launcher. After Sergeant First Class Downs had fired the fourth round at the enemy tanks he was killed by a direct hit from one of the tanks. This gallant act and supreme sacrifice made on the part of Sergeant First Class Downs reflects the greatest credit on himself and the military service. **Merry Helm**

Hello: My name is Chris Fox; I am trying to find soldiers who knew my dad's first cousin, SFC Leo Downs Morgan, who was killed July 8 1950 at the battle of Chonan. I am trying to find those who served with the 34th RGT that was virtually wiped out and the remaining soldiers were melded into the 19 and 21 RGTs. He lost his life before I was born, so I never got to know him. Morgan Downs also had served previously in the European Theater and was later sent to Korea. To all the soldiers I respect of all wars and conflicts Thanks.

Christopher Fox, 2320 Martin Road, Mount Vernon WA 98273, 360-428-3885, email: foxhunt@gte.net

Mr. Valley: My name is Jessica May and I am the granddaughter of Major Donald Blevins. My mother and I know very little of Donald. You see my grandmother was pregnant with my mother when Donald was killed October 14th 1951. He was in the 19th Infantry Regiment. The only other information I have is 1st Battalion s-3 and I believe he was killed in action around the Kumttwa Kumsong Area. I am looking for any one with any information about him. My mother has often wondered about all of his medals, his purple heart, his silver and bronze stars and I have a few photos. If you know anyone you could point me in a direction, It would be greatly appreciated.

Jessica May <jessica@tnltg.com>

Veterans Protected U.S. Freedom

BY ANDY R. WILSON, JR., 24th Infantry, WWII

Webster's defines a veteran as "any person who has served in the armed forces of a country, especially in time of war." In our American history, this tradition started with the formation of the United States Army and Navy in 1775, early in our war for independence. In the cause of this war, our first military veterans came into being some 238 years ago, their roll call has increased to the present time by many millions of veterans.

This increase has always been solely for the defense and survival of America. Our armed forces, from April 1775 to the present time, have suffered some 2,240,000 casualties of men and women veterans, dead and wounded. Of these, some 656,000 were killed.

The early veteran casualties were suffered to obtain our newly won national freedom from Great Britain. Since that time, our 11 wars from 1812 through the current global war on terror, have always been fought to preserve our freedom, assure our national safety and security and guarantee our individual rights and privileges.

Many countries, and nations, in this world are populated by people that have never known freedom as we Americans enjoy it, or the blessings of our rights to live our lives as we choose. All of us, young and old, rich and poor, must come to realize the historical fact that freedom is not free; it has never been free and it probably will never be free.

In the cause of freedom, our veterans have unfailingly been there to answer the call and serve in the armed forces when needed. Thus far, it has been true in our country that when a maximum effort by the American people themselves has been needed, specifically World War II, from 1941 through 1945, in national emergencies, the American people have been there to provide the overpowering support and means to our armed forces and existing veterans to collectively and successfully preserve our freedom and see that our Union survives. Pray it may always be so.

It is entirely appropriate, on Veterans Day, to submit silent prayers of thanks for all of our veterans, past and present. Please join us in our remembrance to those who served, and to those presently serving. And to all veterans, now hear this: Please obtain and wear your veterans cap often, and look your fellow Americans directly in the eyes when you do. The cap is a walking history lesson for all, and it is a reminder that the veteran has always been there when needed. Be proud of that history.

I wrote the article above for our local newspaper. I'd like to share it with my Taro Leaf friends. I served with the 34th RGT during WWII and proudly wear my 24th ID cap as a history lesson and reminder to my fellow Americans. **Andy R. Wilson, Jr.**, 9914 Columbus Cir. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114



Nominate Your Choice for the 2014 Verbeck Award

Nominating Committee

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September 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 24th Division and it's Association by engraving the recipient's name on the Association's Verbeck Bowl, recognizing them at the Annual Reunion Banquet, and presenting the recipient with a small personal model of the Verbeck Bowl. The Award is to acknowledge a person's commitment and hard work in helping to make the Association more successful.

It is not a popularity. Please write sentence or two telling why you believe your nominee deserves the Award on the reply card (back page).

LET'S ADVERTISE!

Hi David: I thought you would get a kick of the attached photos of the back of my car's rear window and the license plate frame. I hope you might have room in the next Taro Leaf for them. You're doing an excellent job on the Taro Leaf.

Tom Kilfoyle, Life Member 369, 24th. Recon 1948 - 1951
Japan & Korea, ma.pa.k@cox.net



POW COALITION STORY

Reports of American POWs seen alive in North Korea have circulated since the Korean War ended.: "...three POWs (one American) ...", "... U.S. pilots who had been captured in Vietnam ...", "... ten persons, including black men ...". No names are attached. They could be anyone's missing father, son, brother, uncle ... or no one at all. The U.S. government writes them off as, *lacking credibility, mistaken for one of known deserters, got the same reports all the time in Vietnam*. It's more of a, *we can't do anything about them, so we'll say they aren't real* approach. Ostriches around the world surely nod their heads knowingly. There are too many sightings, under too many varied circumstances, to ignore. A year 2000 report is a singular mystery. It was mentioned briefly in the last newsletter. A subsequent investigation has developed all the feel and intrigue of a Cold War spy novel.

The report is an *action request* from the American Embassy in Seoul. In the report, a South Korean human rights group was informed by a Chinese source that a North Korean citizen brought the remains of a U.S. soldier from North Korea, and was seeking asylum in return for ten more sets of U.S. remains and three POWs alive in the DPRK, one American.

(Continued on page 27) The Chinese

Snapshot of a Pearl Harbor Survivor

William Phillip Mueller (July 9, 1921 – Dec. 23, 2012)

By Peter Mueller, as told to Merry Helm,

William P. Mueller was born in Bad Kreuznach, Germany, June 9, 1921, but emigrated to the U.S. with his parents when he was about three years-old. The "Müllers" were sponsored by his mother's aunt and uncle, entering the Nation through "the Gateway to America" on New York's Ellis Island. In a letter written in 1984, Bill stated, "back in those days you had to have a sponsor to get into the U.S.A. Now all you need is a leaky boat!"

Some 20 years later, the young German immigrant more than earned his right to his United States citizenship, and then some.

Enlisting in the Army in October 1939, Bill ended up in Hawaii two months later, being stationed at Schofield Barracks as a member of Company D, 19th Regiment, 24th Division.

After serving there two years, Bill was scheduled to rotate back to the States on or about December 13, 1941. But one week before he was set to sail, the Imperial Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor.

It was December 7, and Bill was actually at Pearl Harbor preparing for his final checkout flight, for getting his private pilot's license, when the Japanese attacked. His flight instructor scrambled to get the plane off the ground, but he was killed by machine gun fire from an enemy "Zero" fighter plane. As Bill's son, Peter, states, "My dad's life was forever changed."

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Bill volunteered for special task forces and was sent to Canton Island for six months of intensive combat training. In May 1943, he rejoined the 19th Infantry at Schofield Barracks to sail for Rockhampton, Australia, for jungle warfare training, then on to Papua, New Guinea. Peter says his father remained in constant combat for over a year, fighting in what Bill referred to as a "hell hole." His combat missions included many areas of Papua and Hollandia, New Guinea.

"My dad wanted to remain in combat along with his brothers in arms," says Peter, "but under threat of court martial, he was ordered to return home against his wishes, due to severe combat wounds, malaria, dysentery, dengue fever, and jungle rot."

The tattered soldier sailed out of Papua on his birthday, June 9, 1944, arriving back in the States three weeks later. After a further year of cadre duty in South Carolina, he was honorably discharged June 15, 1945, at Fort Devens, Mass.

Having earned his Combat Infantryman's Badge the hard way -- beside his fellow "First to Fight" comrades in the South Pacific -- Peter says his father was "fiercely

proud" of the 24th Division's heritage. In addition to receiving numerous campaign citations/medals, Bill was a dedicated member of the 24th Infantry Division Association, Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled Veterans, Freemasons, Scottish Rite, Shriners, American Numismatic Association, and Moose lodge. After the war, he worked for the U.S. Post Office as a letter carrier for about 30 years.

Mueller became an amateur "ham" radio operator, and he spent

much of his leisure time in his "Ham Shack" and enjoying his membership in the Quarter Century Wireless Association. He also enjoyed country music, his beer cold, traveling, photography, prospecting, riding motorcycles and riding his custom made Gold Wing Trike until he suffered a stroke in 2011.

Bill passed away the following year, at age 91, in Rio Rico, AZ. Abiding by his wishes (and allowed by a decree of the U. S. Department of Defense and Department of the Navy) Peter hopes to one day return his father to the waters of Pearl Harbor with full military honors, so he may forever remain with his fallen brothers in arms.

His son, Peter, sends the 24th Infantry Division Association the following message: "We are more than proud of Dad and his brothers in arms for fighting to keep our great nation, the United States of America free. Thank you for helping us to remember and honor one of our nation's heroes, my Dad."



CHONUI-CHOCHIWON MASSACRE - Charles Lake' Account

The 21st Infantry Regiment receives a great deal of credit for its role as the first ground unit to engage the enemy in Korea, and Task Force Smith has deservedly earned a hallowed spot in the 24th Division's history for its seven-hour delaying mission at Osan July 5.

What is often overlooked, however, are the massive losses the 21st suffered at Chonui and Chochiwon during the days that followed. Of 695 casualties suffered July 10-12, the heaviest hit was the 3rd Battalion, including the loss of their commander Colonel Carl "Cliff" Jensen and other key officers, after a nearly perfect ambush that came out of heavy early morning fog on the twelfth.

A massive number of men were killed or captured that morning, particularly in King Company. With so few survivors left to reconstruct what happened, the story was never fully told except for several written accounts by survivors of Love Company.

What follows is a first-hand account by Charles Lake, who was one of the lucky few who escaped the Chochiwon disaster. Mr. Lake was a member of ill-fated King Company and graciously allowed me to interview him on March 26.

After studying the existing command reports, I have added a few clarifying notes to his narrative in parentheses. The following is Charles Lake's story as told to me. **Merry Helm, Historian**

I grew up in Ogdensburg, New York, way up by the Canadian border. I joined the Army in 1948 and took my basic training at Fort Dix. I was sent to Japan to the 24th Infantry Division around Thanksgiving. We went over by boat, a very large boat. We entered at Yokohama and stayed there until we were sent down to Kumamoto, way at the end of the islands, the furthest south of any Army outfits. We were there until the Korean War broke out.

We landed in Korea on July 4, 1950, in Pusan, and we stayed in what was like a big school yard. It was 190 degrees in the shade the day we landed at Pusan, and four hours later, monsoon weather worked in. It started to rain so hard you couldn't see your hand in front of you. You'd go up to get your food – the mess hall was outside – and your mess kit would be full of water before you'd get served. That continued all the way up to July 10th or 11th. We had all kinds of storms before that.

Our 3rd Battalion was the first battalion that made a frontal assault in the war. There was men from the 1st Battalion trapped up there (members of Task Force A at Chonui). We relieved them – kind of broke up the encirclement, because they were surrounded. They came out, and they joined up with their own battalion. On that attack, we lost four men I knew.

The 1st Battalion didn't come back down the main

road like they were supposed to. (Task Force A got out through the hills.) Our orders, from the time we left Japan until we got into the war, was each battalion would take a licking and retreat to set up a defensive position, and the next battalion, which would be the 3rd Battalion, was supposed to take their licking and go back like that, you know? But that didn't happen. The 1st Battalion apparently didn't follow those orders – that's the orders we had, and we were all told the same thing way back.

On the 10th, we were way up north (at Chonui), and we had to come back during the night. But the enemy must have been all around us, because when we got back to our defensive positions, some of the North Koreans were in some of our foxhole positions (particularly King Company positions), and they killed each other.

I was with the 3rd Platoon, and our initial orders had been to stay across the river on this big hill. Our first casualties was from Australian airplanes, they strafed us, and we retreated off the hill. We had to – the enemy came up and chased us off, but they had help from our airplanes.

Well, we made it across the river, but we had to go back and attack the hill. Our company, Company K, our 3rd Platoon were the first soldiers to make a frontal assault in Korea. It maybe doesn't seem interesting, but it's always missed in the history books.

During the night when we had to go back to our positions, the 3rd Platoon couldn't go back to their positions, so we stayed in the battalion area. I was probably 50 feet from Colonel Jensen. Colonel Jensen was a good man. He was a good officer, I know that much. Mostly all the soldiers liked him. I wasn't around him that much, but I know he was a good officer. He just seemed like a great soldier.

When I woke up in the morning, a bunch of bugles were blowing – that's what the enemy did back then – and there was a lot of firing. Tank firing, machine guns and everything. It was awful foggy. You couldn't see a foot in front of you. The fog raised a little bit, and I could see Colonel Jensen and some of the other officers. He was giving orders, and he says to me and a couple others, "You men take that high ground up there," and he pointed north up the hill – it was all hills anyway – and up we went. But that's the last I saw of him. I know he didn't survive.

There were three of us from K Company, and there were two or three from L Company and I Company also in this defensive position. It was just the most terrible thing – that's how the enemy got us. Nobody knew anything, and we didn't have nothing to fight with.

CHONUI-CHOCHIWON, continued

Even my M-1 would only fire one bullet at a time. Our machine guns didn't work, the BARs were never automatic, and we didn't have no mortars. Heavy Mortar Company was just north of us, and most of them got killed.

I was only 17 years old, and I was more scared than anything else. It became like it was every man for themselves. Us men who went up this hill, we set up a defensive position, and we fired down into what we could see was enemy, but it was just chaotic. It was terrible, terrible, terrible.

Anyway, we got chased off that position, and we went down to the road – we could see the road going down south, and there was a truck down there. They were putting wounded on it, and we went down and got on, and everybody was headed south. That was the last I ever seen of that battalion.

The reason I'm telling this is because we lost 690 men. You probably read the story of the 29th Regiment that got all shot up. I read the story a hundred times, and it was just like what happened to us. But we were the first – they came after us. But the story of our battalion has never been told.

There were four tanks – I seen the tanks, and they were shooting right up into our position. Over the years, I've tried to find different men. Some were captured, and we found a bunch of them with their hands tied and killed. They were murdered right there. And some were taken prisoner, and they died in camps.

Some of the other soldiers from L Company and some from I Company survived, and they knew most of them, but most of the men from my company, I couldn't tell you.

We were put in with the 1st Battalion, and we moved down to the Kum River. But when we got relieved and went to the Taejon Airport, we had a head count. There were only about 30-some men left from K Company, and from the whole battalion, I daresay it was under a hundred. (Army historian Roy Appleman reports that by July 12, the 21st Regiment was down to roughly 325 men. Only 64 men from the 3rd Battalion were still able to fight.)

None of this story has been told, and I wanted to talk about it. That's why they call it a forgotten war, right? I just wanted to tell about how all my friends were murdered, because that's what most of them were.

When I escaped, we were down in Chochiwon in the village, and Colonel Stephens comes. (Colonel Stephens had spent the night of July 9-10 in a foxhole at the front with Task Force A, comprised mostly of men from A and D Companies under Captain Charles

Alkire.) He was in clean uniform, and he formed us all up and said, "We're gonna go back up and get any stragglers. We'll see what we can do." Well, we went maybe only half a mile and quit, because of fire coming in, and we just backed up.

The book reads that he had the rest of the regiment on the main road to where the battle was at Chochiwon – the main road of Korea right there. It said the 1st Battalion was there. But when I escaped from that battle, I came down that road, and there was nothing.

The story that's in the books, that ain't true. Because there was no 1st Battalion or any other men on that road. They were on some other position – we always said it was the upper road. But they were supposed to come to us down our road. So everything just went haywire. But that's why our 3rd Battalion was massacred – because of that.

But none of this has ever been told, and this is the Gospel truth. Our orders they gave to us at the beginning when we were forming at Kumamoto – the goal, what our orders would be, and how it was going to go – they gave it to us on the boat. They gave us orientation, how it was going to be, and not to forget.

My sergeant and squad leaders were there. The company commander, the 1st Sergeant told us what they were gonna do. We were supposed to go north and set up a defensive position, and the 1st Battalion, when they got hit at Osan, they were supposed to come down the main road and pass through us. And then, as they say, the enemy would give us a licking – that's what you'd have to say, because we took a licking.

Then we were to fall back through the 1st Battalion, like jumping, but it never happened. 1st Battalion went down that other road for some reason. But they tell it different. I'm not trying to put any blame on anybody, but what you read on paper isn't like they say.

When I came down when I escaped – we didn't run away, we were just following everybody else – we jumped on the truck. People were walking down south, because we couldn't do anything. We could never fight as it was. We didn't have nothing. If you ever found anybody else, they could tell you. Men from L Company who survived it could tell you the same thing. L Company got terribly beat up, too. Lots of them were murdered.

In all the books, there's very little about the 3rd Battalion. If something's mentioned, it's very little. One paragraph or whatever. And whatever's been told was told by the officers or the non-coms from the 1st Battalion, because they had more survivors. But they wouldn't have any recognition of what went on in K Company. That's what the story is about – the K Company massacre.

ONE BITTER DEFEAT FOLLOWED ANOTHER

From Pacific Stars & Stripes, June 22, 1965, Author R.D.

The hopeless defense of Chonan, a straw-roofed village below Suwon, lasted all day and ended at nightfall in confused and tragic retreat. It had started early in the morning, when a phalanx of olive-painted north Korean tanks tore through a tissue-like fog and churned to the edge of a railroad embankment that protected the clay hamlet like an embrasure. There were sharp, deafening blasts as tank guns sheared off rooftops in the village. A thin handful of Americans, who had burrowed into foxholes into the embankment's reverse slope, were pinned down by a blistering fire.

Lt. Col. Robert R. Martin, called "Fighting Bob" by his men, jumped from his hole with a WWII bazooka that had already proven useless in other battles. "Come on," he shouted, "I'll show you how to stop those _____!"

Sgt. Gerard E. Schaffer watched Martin disappear, alone, behind a cluster of houses. Waves of tough, efficient north Korean infantrymen, not the "bandits and partisans" the Americans had expected, advanced behind the tanks and "seemed to multiply as fast as we cut them down."

After dark, as invaders swarmed the town's streets and alleys, the defenders were ordered to pull out. Schaffer moved down the embankment and pulled at limp bodies, filling his shirt with as many dog tags and wallets as he could recover. It was his job to collect personal effects of casualties. He was chief clerk of S-1 in 34th RGT HQ. He walked cautiously into the street and behind the houses where he had last seen Martin. "I almost stumbled over something, and looked down," he recalls, "It was the lower half of a man." Fighting Bob Martin had been chopped in two by a tank shell; a sickened Schaffer did his duty and collected his commanding officer's blood spattered belongings. "I can't remember how many of us got out," Schaffer relates, "but it was damned fewer than came in. We walked down the road, many miles, to Waegwan. It was the next place they'd hit, but what could we do? There was nowhere else to go."

Enemy snipers had moved onto the hilltops over the road. Schaffer has never forgotten how, again and again, there would be a sharp crack, followed by a piercing snap. Someone "only a few feet away" would stiffen, stare blankly and drop limply to the dirt. What was he doing here, Schaffer asked himself. A week before, he had been at Camp Mower, which sprawled down a rocky bluff on the west coast of southern Japan and looked more like a mountain resort than a military post. He had been pulled out of a soft tour of occupation duty, and was told he and the others were going to Korea for what would amount to a brisk little field maneuver.

"They told my outfit," adds SFC Lindy Radcliff, "that we were just going over to tell them to get the hell back over the 38th Parallel and stay there." That illusion was shattered by the barrage that ripped into a battery of the 63rd Field Arty, to demolish a gun and kill most of its crew. Four days later, every gun in the battery was wrecked and dead cannoneers, sprawled along the banks

of the Kum River, were stripped of the boots and uniforms highly prized by poorly dressed North Koreans.

The loss of Chonan, on July 8, 1950, was the third time the tragedy of defeat had followed the shock of communist aggression. And it was only the beginning of the dark days between July 5 and Sept. 15, and aptly termed by one historian, "the most terrible summer in American military history."

Why? Schaffer and Radcliff, now stationed at the U.S. Army Depot Japan, outside metropolitan Tokyo, gave the verdict of experience. Radcliff recalls how his battery moved into position along the Kum River, after being pushed out of many small villages with strange names. Behind the battery, as it dug in, was another village. It was just as small, just as ruined, just as nameless as the others. Now it served as a rest stop for a southbound exodus of refugees who moved right by the guns. The artillerymen had been told that the passersby who wore white baggy clothes were not of concern, they were elders and aristocrats. It was these who carefully watched every movement the cannoneers made for two days—and who ended their masquerade on the third day by tearing off the robes of yangban to reveal enemy uniforms.

"They were on top of us before we knew what was happening." Radcliff wildly emptied his rifle, "at everything and nothing," and then pulled himself and a deliriously babbling casualty out of the foxhole. They and a few others, a very few others, managed to limp away from the carnage, as Air Force jets swooped down to blast the battery and destroy anything that might be intact and useful. Radcliff and his party got back to Taejon, looking more like ragged vagrants than soldiers. A few others in the battery—a very few— had stumbled back by a different route. For all intents and purposes, the decimated weaponless battery had ceased to exist.

Radcliff met Schaffer after Waegwan had fallen. Taejon held out for six days. Radcliff's battery had only two guns that had been rushed up from Pusan and tried to make two do the work of six. They did their best to make the last North Korean victory a costly one.

As the withdrawal began, Schaffer ran after a column of trucks. He rushed for one and grabbed at it. His sleeve caught on the tailgate and he was dragged for 20 yards before hands reached down and pulled him aboard. He had survived three battles without a scratch—to fall on his rifle and break two ribs as he tumbled into the truck. This gave him a two-day respite in Japan; then he was rushed back to a front that was becoming tight and solid. Both Schaffer and Radcliff were on the "stand or die" line on the Naktong River—the one that held until the Inchon landing, when the breakout started and the Americans came out of their holes to attack the enemy. "We were, good," recalls Radcliff, "after we got the hell slammed out of us and we knew what the score was. There was no stopping us then." "We were," agrees Schaffer, "but we had to learn the hard way in a tough school. That's why I'm for tough training, particularly in actual fighting units."

TASK FORCE SMITH MUSEUM DEDICATED

A MONUMENT honoring the UN Forces First Battle opened to the public April 23, 2014, at the city of Osan, South Korea. This event marks the city's 59th consecutive year of honoring the 24th Division's Task Force Smith.

"We believe it is our sacred duty to keep the memory of [Task Force Smith's] devotion and sacrifice alive," explained Kwak Sang-Wook, mayor of Osan.

A dedication ceremony was held July 3 to honor the members of the "First to Fight" Division, with the new monument adding another dimension to the Task Force Smith Museum, located in a 12 acre park along the road where the battle of JookMiRyung took place 64 years ago.

The city also planted 540 trees to honor of the men who fought to protect Osan July 5, 1950. Pine trees were selected, because they symbolize undying loyalty in Korean culture. Accompanying the trees are plaques naming the 540 men known to have taken part in the battle (no exact roster of Task Force Smith members survived the battle).

Task Force Smith was primarily comprised of two companies from the 21st Infantry Regiment and one battery from the 52nd Field Artillery Battalion who were deployed to delay the advance of more than 2,000 North Korean troops barreling down the main highway of the peninsula.

Preceding the enemy infantrymen were at least 34 brand new Soviet tanks that proved almost impervious to the outdated weapons available to the American task force at the time. The friendly troops were further hampered by a shortage of manpower, failure of equipment and weapons, and a severe shortage of tank-busting ammunition (HEAT) – all while fighting in typhoon-like weather conditions.

Representing the 24th Division at the July 3 dedication ceremony in Osan were four heroic members of the task force. From the 21st Regiment were Norman Mathews, Company C; William C. Coe, Company B; and Charles Fronapfel, Medical Company. Representing the 52nd Field Artillery Battalion was John Sanchez, Headquarters Battery.

Norman Matthews' mortar squad expended their meager 12-16 rounds early in the battle and could do nothing but watch as North Korean tanks and motorized vehicles passed down the road.

William Coe still feels the effects of a bullet that passed through the radio on his back and then into his shoulder. During their withdrawal, he and several others came upon three healthy young Koreans dressed as civilians. Their close-cropped hair made Coe suspicious. To keep from drawing the attention of nearby North Korean soldiers, his friends quietly held the three "peasants" at gunpoint, while Coe disabled them by hand. Sure enough, beneath the three men's white garb were enemy uniforms, and their burp guns were soon located, as well.

Fronapfel was one of 31 men from Medical Company, 21st Inf. He was also one of the 11 medics captured, according to Phil Burke from that Company; two other medics were killed. Fronapfel was administering aid to wounded infantrymen on the battlefield when he was captured.

Sanchez, a wire and telephone technician, was given a machine gun and told to join the infantrymen in Company B. He is credited with knocking out the first YAK airplane that strafed the infantry's position.

Lt. Col. Brad Smith, Commander of the 1st Battalion, 21st Regiment, and Lt. Col. Miller O Perry, Commander of the 52nd Battalion, have since been lauded for their bravery and leadership during those opening days of the war.

During the dedication ceremony of the First Battle Monument, remarks were delivered by the Deputy Eighth Army Commander, the Mayor of Osan, and the Governor of GyeonggiDo Province. Representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as Congressmen and members of the City Council and veterans organizations also took part in the ceremonies.

The nearby Task Force Smith Museum, dedicated in similar ceremonies in 2013, consists of a three-floor exhibit space highlighting artifacts and events surrounding the war. One wall is dedicated to portraits and plaques of TFS members. Also displayed are tributes by the Korean people to UN and US troops.

In preparation for the 2014 monument dedication, Osan City gave Image Media Services, of McLean, VA, the project of upgrading the TFS membership list, and they have been searching for contact information from TFS families and relatives.

Hanna Yoon, project manager for the ambitious undertaking, gathered the list of prospective invitees for the July 3 dedication and, in April, helped to launch a website (<http://tfsmemorial.com>) dedicated to the memory of Task Force Smith. Veteran's stories are being considered for use on the Museum's website and social media pages, and emailed contributions can be sent to (connect@tfsmemorial.com). Veterans (or their survivors) may also record their accounts on video, which may be uploaded to (www.YouTube.com/TFSmemorial).

Task Force Smith's action, immediately followed by delaying actions by the 34th Regiment and the remaining sections of the 21st Regiment, helped buy time for the rest of the 24th Division to deploy from Japan to Korea. The grave sacrifices of all 24th Division units in the terrible month of July 1950 are well documented in Roy Appleman's "South to the Naktong, North to the Yalu," currently being serialized in this publication.

Submitted by Rus Penland, Secretary, 52nd FA Bn Association

Gordon Malin Strong

NO. 16424 CLASS OF 1947

KILLED IN ACTION, AUGUST 7, 1950, IN KOREA,
AGED 25 YEARS.

Gordo was born on 26 March 1925 at the Station Hospital, Fort Riley, Kansas, and spent the first two years of his life at that old Cavalry post. From then on through his childhood he found himself living wherever his father, a U.S. Cavalry officer, happened to be stationed. Such places as Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Saumur, France; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia; Fort Knox, Kentucky; and Washington, D. C., were all included in the memories of his childhood.

The facilities for his early education were similarly varied; until at the age of fourteen years he entered Northwood School at Lake Placid, New York, where, after four years of creditable performance in academics and



athletics, he received his high school diploma. Concurrent with his senior year, his mother, after untiring effort and masterful negotiation, secured for him a third alternate appointment to the Military Academy. This appeared at the time to be a very uncertain road to his father's and brother's Alma Mater, but his principal and two senior alternates either failed their examina-

tions or decided on other careers, and young Strong was duly admitted and sworn in, much to his and his family's delight.

Almost immediately after academics had started, Gordo developed a mental allergy to mathematics, which, unfortunately, was not overcome in time to prevent his being found deficient at Christmas. However, after three months with "Doc" Silverman, he was readmitted the following September in the Class of 1947. He was graduated accordingly and bore the mark of the Academy as one who had applied himself with equal enthusiasm to academics, athletics and good fellowship.

There are many young men in the Service today who, in addition to the normal qualities of a true soldier and officer, have an additional intangible aura of leadership which is reflected by their sincerity and by the confidence they inspire. Without noticeable effort they stand out and their leadership and guidance are sought by those around them.

Not knowing that he was such a young man—and probably not much concerned about it anyway—Gordo went into the Infantry. After a year of basic and branch schools in the United States, he found himself aboard a ship bound for Korea. He remained there, evidently quite happy and occupied, for eighteen months. Finally, in January 1950, he wrote that he had been transferred permanently to Hawaii, where he could "buy a car, some Waikiki beach shorts, and perhaps even become engaged for a while".

He returned to Korea with the 5th Infantry Regimental Combat Team in July 1950, after the war there had started, and in the role of a platoon leader in combat, was mortally wounded in action on 7 August while his unit was on the perimeter of the Pusan beachhead, at its smallest.

Gordo was awarded the Silver Star (Posthumous) with the following citation:

"First Lieutenant GORDON M. STRONG, 050835, Infantry, Company E, 5th Infantry, United States Army. When on 7 August 1950 near Chindong-ni, Korea, his platoon was overrun by a numerically superior hostile force, Lieutenant Strong quickly gathered a depleted squad and moved to the flank of the hardpressed unit. Despite intense small arms, automatic weapons fire and hand grenades, he led a direct assault into the enemy forces, thereby creating a diversion which permitted his platoon time to reorganize and defend its position. In the bold, determined attack, Lieutenant Strong was mortally wounded. Lieutenant Strong's gallant leadership and tactical ingenuity are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army. Entered the Military service from Pennsylvania".

We don't usually copy clippings directly into the Taro Leaf, but there was no easy way to get this, otherwise. The story is especially interesting because it personifies the hundreds of young West Point officers of the 1945-1950 "peacetime period" who lost their lives in Korea. May they rest in Peace. Ed.

Hello. I hope your year has been going well.

There has not been very much material provided for me to post on www.24thida.com so I have to confess that I have not added very much new material to the website this past quarter.

President Maggio provided me with information on the upcoming Omaha Reunion, which I have posted along with links to some of the field trip sites. And Editor Valley regularly sends me the early electronic copies of the Taro Leaf, which I also post. And Historian Merry Helm has also offered a large amount of material, some of which I have posted.

But, generally you all have not been in contact asking me to post your "stuff." Sometimes I get the feeling that you all do not even know about www.24thida.com.

I do know that some of you may shy away because you do not fully understand the web and how to use it. But you shouldn't let that deter you. Ask your grandchildren to help you or go to your local library and ask them to help you understand The Victory Division's website.

I wear several Korean War Veterans Association hats as well, including maintaining two websites; therefore, the scanning of some historical 24th materials I do have ready to go is still waiting (www.cid169.kwva.org and www.dfl.kwva.org , for Chapter 169 {Lake County, FL} and the Department of Florida, respectively). Guess like anywhere the squeaky wheel gets the grease. I should be hearing about things like Membership, Memorials and other such items from the Association level.

And, for you members, it is a place to post your Stories, or some of your photos (with explanation of what they show—who, what, when, where and why). That was my primary reason for starting the website in the first place, to get your stories out beyond our own Association boundaries. So, if you'd like your story posted, please contact me.

I want to tell you that there now are 9,901 pages of Taro Leafs published on the site. This is over 300 issues dating back to the first in 1947. I'm still missing a significant number of presumed Taro Leafs. You can tell the ones I am missing by going to http://24thida.com/taro_leaf/taro_leaf.html and scrolling down. Those "blocks" of white space are the missing issues.

Also for your information, I have all 9,901 pages of Taro Leafs in one file, which will easily fit on a DVD. (It is much too large to post on the web, that's why it's on a DVD.) The file is in Portable Document Format (PDF) optimized for easy viewing. Optimization also means that it has been character-recognized. This means that you can search for a character string (e.g., thiel, or valley, Valley, osan, subic bay, etc.) if you have a PDF reader with that capability (Adobe Reader, free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/reader.html>).

This search will find every occurrence of that character string in all 9,901 pages. On my computer this generally takes about 30 seconds or less. You can then view the article on your computer monitor and/or print the page(s) as you wish. Or you could copy the text of one or more pages and articles into a new document you are writing.

Contact me if you would like to have a copy of this disc, which I will provide for the cost of the disc and shipping provided there is not too much demand. You can also search the contents of www.24thida.com with Google if you know how to use Google (I use it all the time, even as a spell-checker). In the Google search bar type the following: "your search term" + "www.24thida.com" An example might be: Osan + "www.24thida.com" This gave several pages of articles in 0.22 seconds of which all of the first page and several on the second page were citations from articles posted on our website.

There are listings of other sites citing our site as well as listings in the "Find a Grave" genealogy site's 24th Division page. These include all the text in the 9,901 pages of Taro Leafs that have been posted. That's about it from for me this issue. Give it a try.

Tom J. Thiel, Webmaster, 24thidaweb@gmail.com Ph: 352-408-6612

BOOK REVUE, "Ranger Down" an action adventure story

I especially admire servicemen in the elite special units such as the SEALs, and Rangers. They are survivors of the most rigorous training imaginable and often are required to put it to practice on the battlefield or in covert operations. They are our country's ever-ready immediate response troops when the stuff hits the fan.

When former members of these units leave the service, they don't shuck their training and experience, it is too deeply inbred. Their special qualities may come to bear in their civilian lives as in the case of the story's protagonist, Rick Martin. There's another mark of former special services members, they maintain the brotherhood of those they served with. As they were trained, and as many experienced in combat, they stand ready to

lay down their lives, if necessary, to help their comrades.

Rick Martin left the Rangers after serving with honor for eight years to complete a college education and for a future civilian career. However, the accidental finding of a clue to the location of a hidden treasure took him on a detour of excitement which led to mortal danger as he unraveled the mystery. He barely survived an attack by rogue bikers and, in desperation advertised, "Ranger Down." The brotherhood of ex-Rangers came through.

The 180 page novel written by your editor, David Valley, can be ordered from Sektor Publishing, P.O. Box 501005, San Diego, CA for \$10. Shipping and handling free for Taro Leaf Readers.

BOOK REVIEW

Prairie Boys at War: Korea, Vol. 1

**Researcher, Merry Helm, Spotlights
Northern Prairie Men in Korean War**

Newly published *Prairie Boys at War: Korea* by Fargo writer Merry M. Helm tells how outnumbered soldiers from America's upper prairie states fought heroically to cling to a foothold until reinforcements arrived following North Korea's invasion of South Korea in June 1950. Author Helm focuses on the personal stories of combat veterans from North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and Montana, many of whom earned major decorations for their actions, some posthumously. This first volume (of a projected three-volume work) covers June to October 1950, a desperate period during which American troops suffered more than ten thousand casualties including the total loss of two entire regiments.

Helm's personal interviews with surviving veterans of the war are a unique feature of *Prairie Boys at War*. The author also uses unit action reports, maps, photos, existing news accounts, and information provided by relatives of the deceased. Combined, these elements create a graphically rich history of tough fighting men who grew up during the "dirty thirties," including raw-boned farm boys, miners, golden boy athletes, orphans and standout appointees to prestigious military academies.

"I feel strongly that the stories of these brave men – many of them just teenagers at the time – need to be told. Korea has always been portrayed as somehow insignificant or tame, but this is completely wrong. Time and again I've come across veterans who fought in both World War II and Korea, and they all say the same thing: the conditions in Korea were far worse than anything they experienced in the earlier war. It's my aim to present the realities of what really happened in Korea through the eyes of the men who were there, including many who didn't come home," Helm states.

Helm is a recent recipient of the 2014-2015 "General and Mrs. Matthew B. Ridgway Military History Research Grant" awarded by the U.S. Army Military History Institute (Army War College) to assist in further research for the *Prairie Boys* series. (General Ridgway's leadership provided a key turning point in the war when he arrived at the front in January 1951.)

COMMENTARY:

"Profound stories and a real eye-opener. Lots of heroism, grit, and ingenuity demonstrated by the prairie boys." Major General (ret) Michael J. Haugen, former Adjutant General of North Dakota

"Count me in as one who will buy the *Prairie Boy* books. Helm is doing the work of angels to capture this history, and it is a great tribute to the legacy of each man and generations of their descendants. It is important work to document the history of America's heroes, and Helm tells

these powerful stories with compelling insight. Each profile seems to expose the endurance and bravery forged on the plains. The soul of the prairie is, indeed, in the spirit of the men who fought to defend their love of their homeland." Lt. Col. (ret) Shirley J. Olgeirson

"*Prairie Boys at War* kept bringing a lump to my throat. The U.S. had only a few military "advisors" in Korea when the North invaded the South in June 1950, and the U.S. rushed ill-trained and ill-equipped American units from Japan to help the South keep a toehold on the peninsula. In this riveting narrative, Merry Helm sought out the fast-disappearing Midwest veterans of those frenetic days to record their words, to reconstruct their countless acts of sacrifice and heroism, their almost unbelievable suffering, and the horror of captivity experienced by many. Her vivid narrative of the first four months of America's "Forgotten War," supported by official citations, contemporary reporting, maps, photos, correspondence, and unit reports, is a remarkable achievement. *Prairie Boys at War* is both sad and uplifting, and I am reminded of Winston Churchill's tribute to the Royal Air Force during the darkest days of World War II: 'Never have so many owed so much to so few.' Thanks to Helm, we can say the same about her prairie boys." John Durand, author of *The Boys: The 1st North Dakota Volunteers in the Philippines*

"I very much enjoyed this book. It was an excellent recap of the first four months of the Korean War, and I especially enjoyed reading the different perspectives our Midwestern soldiers and airman had on this war. Very entertaining and enlightening." Maj. Gen. (ret) Steve Doohen, former Adjutant General of South Dakota

"From Bunker Hill to Baghdad, the valor of America's fighting forces has often been shrouded by the prolific prose of hyperbolic historians. In *Prairie Boys at War*, however, author Merry Helm takes the compelling tack of subtly mitigating the treatment of the tactical in favor of underscoring the humanity and selflessness of young Midwesterners called to duty to often do the unthinkable, and in the process reminds readers—lest they should ever forget—that every battle helmet represents a beating heart." Steve Stepanek, PhD, Georgia Southern University

"In a time when all most people know of Korea comes from "MASH" reruns, and when we pay lip service to honoring our soldiers, Merry Helm has done them the highest honor – she gives them a chance to tell their stories. And they are fascinating stories, told in vivid, propulsive prose that hooked me from the first page. Very well done. I'm green with envy." Tom Pantera, Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

This first volume of *Prairie Boys at War* will be available July 15 (6 x 9 paperback, 512 pages, index, maps, illustrations, \$22 plus shipping) To order copies directly from the author, contact:

**Merry Helm, 420 8th Ave S, Fargo, ND, 58103
PrairieBoyBooks.com, 701-293-5045
mhelm@cableone.net**



Submitted by Lewis Vaughn

I Am the Flag of the United States of America

My name is Old Glory.

I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.
I stand watch in America's halls of justice.

I fly majestically over institutions of learning.
I stand guard with power in the world.

Look up ... and see me.

I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.
I stand for freedom.

I am confident.
I am arrogant.
I am proud.

When I am flown with my fellow banners,
my head is a little higher,
my colors a little bit truer.

I bow to no one!

I am recognized all over the world.
I am worshipped - I am saluted.

I am loved - I am revered.
I am respected -- and I am feared.

I have fought in every battle of every
war for more than 200 years.

I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg,
Shiloh and Appomattox.

I was there at San Juan Hill,
the trenches of France,
in the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome
and the beaches of Normandy, Guam.
Okinawa, Korea and KheSan, Saigon,
Vietnam know me,

I was there.
I led my troops,
I was dirty, battleworn and tired,
but my soldiers cheered me
And I was proud.

I have been burned, torn and trampled
on the streets of countries I have helped set free.
It does not hurt, for I am invincible.
I have been soiled upon, burned, torn
and trampled on the streets of my country.
And when it's by those! whom I've served in battle -
it hurts.

But I shall overcome - for I am strong.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth
and stood watch over the uncharted
frontiers of space from my vantage point
on the moon.

I have borne silent witness
to all of America's finest hours.
But my finest hours are yet to come.

When I am torn into strips
and used as bandages
for my wounded comrades on the battlefield,
When I am flown at half-mast to honor my soldier,
Or when I lie in the trembling arms
of a grieving parent
at the grave of their fallen son or daughter,

I am proud.

MY NAME IS OLD GLORY
LONG MAY I WAVE.
DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN
LONG MAY I WAVE

ARE YOU LISTENING AMERICA?

We are the young men of yesterday
We would be the proud grandfathers of today
We answered our country's call to step forward, stand tall, and be counted
To represent our great nation
To help defend a small nation looking for freedom for all.
We came from all points of the compass near and far
With tears in our eyes and hope in our hearts
We left our loved ones to cross a mighty ocean
To fight and die in a strange land
The Land of the Morning Calm

ARE YOU LISTENING AMERICA?

We struggled up the long, dirty, dusty roads from Pusan
to the Yalu
We climbed the steep hot hills and mountain trails
to see what was up there
Get up! Let's go! Just one more hill to go!
We climbed the high frozen mountain peaks
We will have to sleep in the snow
Get up! Let's go! We must move on!

ARE YOU LISTENING AMERICA?

We met the enemy, we saw the fire in their eyes
We know their fear, we heard their bugles
The clash of cymbals, we hear their dying cries
We see the bright starburst in the sky
We see the red flashes in the hills, the roll of
thunder from afar

We begin to wonder who will be next to die
We see the snow shiny and bright, covered with
red from the battle last night
We wonder who it is, friend or foe?
Who is leaving use tonight?
We will never get to know

ARE YOU LISTENING AMERICA?

Are you going to forsake us America?
To leave us here from now to eternity until the end of time?
Do not forsake us for we have served you well
We have done our time
We have paid the supreme sacrifice and deserve to come home

ARE YOU LISTENING AMERICA?

You may ask who we are to request this simple thing
The answer, America, is the 54,248 KIA, the 103,284 wounded
The 8,177 still MIA, the 389 POWs still not accounted for
The Korean War that ended on July 27, 1953
Yes, the Korean War Veterans are still fighting the past and deserve their place in the sun.

By Robert J. Harper
34th and 19th Regiments,
Member, Korea: 2 July 1950
to 15 July 1951
9695 Foxchase Circle,
Freeland, MI 48623-8691,
989-692-0021

A NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY IN KOREA, A Medic's Experience

This story was reprinted from the 24th ID Association History

I was the medic assigned to A CO, 1st Battalion, 19th RGT. C CO was out in front of our position about one mile while we were set up on the right-hand side of the road. CO B was on the left-hand side. On a small hill on our right flank was a ROK outfit. To their right was the 25th Division. On a ridge off a high range around noon on 31 December 1950, the Chinese began sending us mail; it continued on into the night.

When darkness fell, C CO fell in behind us, as Chinese troops closed in from their positions. Unknown to us, during the night the ROK outfit withdrew without telling anyone. We were shelled all night long. The bugles were blowing like crazy.

At first light I looked out of my fox-hole and as far as you could see were Chinese troops coming at us. We then realized the Chinese had surrounded us during the night through the gap the ROK unit had abandoned. They also had the high ground and were firing down on us.

The decision was made for us to cross over the road to B CO, as their ridge was a little higher. We fought our way with C Company across and along the road. We suffered tremendous losses. When we got across the road, we were caught in a crossfire between B CO and the Chinese. I called it the killing field because that's what it was. I was patching up the wounded as best as I could. I saw a guy in front of me take one in the head and saw it come out the back. I passed him up, knowing he was dead. He called to me and said, "Doc, where are you going?" I couldn't believe it! I stopped and patched him up as good as possible and had him hang on to my carbine for me to lead him out. There was blood all over his face.

At that time Bazellies' ammo bearer got hit and he was screaming for me to help him, but he was dead as soon as he was hit. Bazellie was furious. He opened up a new box of ammo and threw it in his machine gun. He looked at me and said, "Give my regards to Broadway, Doc."

We were really getting clobbered, bodies were everywhere. Bazellie rose up with his machine gun in his hand and, going full blast, charged

the Chinese position. It seemed as though the enemy was so startled that they let up on the fire in the ravine. Soon enough Bazellie's gun was answered and we knew the result. It gave us a chance to get a few more men out of the crossfire. I don't think any of us would have made it if not for Bazellie.

I was helping the last man through the pass into B Company when a Chinese ran right over my head and pointed his weapon straight at me. I rose up and he just stood there with his gun pointed at me. Just at that time someone shot him. I couldn't believe he didn't pull the trigger.

As we all joined up with B CO we were being shelled with 120mm mortars. I made two more trips back into the field trying to bring someone out alive but to no avail. Our wounded were getting shot again. I noticed a draw by which I could get some of the walking wounded out, I hoped. I went to the CO and told him I would try to get as many walking wounded out as I could. He said it would be a miracle if I could.

J.B. Hunt, the first sergeant, must have thought I was nuts the way he looked at me. I got 18 men together I thought could make it, including the man with the head wound. I looked back at the command post and Sgt. Hunt was just staring at me. I often wondered what he was thinking, but he never said a word.

We moved down the ravine. When I got to the bottom I went out on the iced-over rice patty and came under fire. I tried to crawl on the ice but I couldn't with my overcoat on. I took off my aid bag and laid it on the hump of a hill until I could get my overcoat off. When I put my aid bag back on, the firing had stopped. I moved the men out onto the next ridge where our other troops were supposed to be. We were traveling on the backside of the ridge when I came under fire again. I got all the men down.

I looked around and saw a Chinese waving a flag at me off to my left. He motioned me to come on down, so I did. He informed me that it was not the Chinese that were firing at us but one of our own. He said if I surrendered my weapon to him we

would be granted safe passage through the Chinese lines. They wanted the United States to know they were going to honor the Geneva Convention. The North Koreans did not and that is why medics had to carry guns and not wear any markings of any kind on us. The Chinese who stopped us spoke better English than I did. He said he was a graduate of Berkeley in California. I went up over the hill and called out to one of our Officers. He said he would go with us. The Chinese said no way he could go with us. I finally got him to agree to let us pass. The Chinese told me to stay on the top of the ridge.

Our lines were about eight miles ahead. The temperature was around 0 degrees during the day. It really helped out with the wounds that were bleeding. That's the only way these guys got out alive. Late that night I got our guys into ambulances. I was exhausted after two days on the move but the CO of the company whose lines we came through asked me to fill in as they were expecting the Chinese to hit them that night and their medic had been killed. I restocked my aid bag off the ambulance and fell in with the 25th Infantry Division. The Chinese didn't attack that night. I guess they were worn out also from the two days of fighting. I fell asleep that night and my feet froze for the second time. The next day I had to be evacuated back to my own outfit or what was left of it. It was one hell of a New Year's Party. The skies were lit up all night with shells and flares.

Years later I wrote to Sergeant Hunt to ask him what he was thinking. He said it was so hectic that day he didn't remember much of anything. I still have the nightmares they said would go away and I am still suffering with my feet and back, which is another story. I had 13 months under fire from July 1950 through September 1951. I have seen a lot of guys get Congressional Medals of Honor but none deserved one more than Bazellie. He only received a Purple Heart but deserved it more than most who received higher medals.

Don Perrin, Life Member 2022, 7930 129th St., Sebastian, FL 32958-3633 772-388-9342

SOUTH TO THE NAKTONG, NORTH TO THE YALU

Roy E. Appleman



About 1800, several staff officers decided that they would place Colonel Meloy (wounded) in the last tank and run it through the roadblock. The tank made four efforts before it succeeded in pushing aside the pile of smoldering 2 1/2-ton trucks and other equipment blocking the road. Then it rumbled southward. About twenty vehicles followed the tank through the roadblock, including a truck towing a 105-mm. howitzer of the 52d Field Artillery Battalion, before enemy fire closed the road again and for the last time. A few miles south of the roadblock the tank stopped because of mechanical failure. There Captain Barszcz and G Company, withdrawing toward Yusong, came upon it and Colonel Meloy. No one had been able to stop any of the vehicles for help that had followed the tank through the roadblock. Instead, they sped past the disabled tank. The tank commander, Lt. J. N. Roush, upon Colonel Meloy's orders, dropped a thermite grenade into the tank and destroyed it. Eventually, an officer returned with a commandeered truck and took Colonel Meloy and other wounded men to Yusong.

About an hour after the tank carrying Colonel Meloy had broken through the roadblock, Captain Fenstermacher, acting under his authority from Major Logan, ordered all personnel to prepare for cross-country movement. The

On July 16, 1950 — the 19th RGT had about 900 troops on the south shore of the Han River south of Seoul. After coming under heavy attack they began withdrawing toward Taejon but a formidable enemy roadblock to their rear kept them in the killing zone. When the breakthrough was made only about half the troops made it to Taejon or to other points south. It is now July 17, troops are demoralized and sweltering in the excessive heat as we pick up the story below.

critically wounded and those unable to walk were placed on litters. There were an estimated 500 men and approximately 100 vehicles at the roadblock at this time. Captain Fenstermacher and others poured gasoline on the vehicles and then set them afire. While so engaged, Captain Fenstermacher was shot through the neck. About 2100 the last of the men at the roadblock moved eastward into the hills.

One group of infantrymen, artillerymen, engineers, and medical and headquarters troops, numbering approximately 100 men, climbed the mountain east of the road. They took with them about 30 wounded, including several litter cases. About 40 men of this group were detailed to serve as litter bearers but many of them disappeared while making the ascent. On top of the mountain the men still with the seriously wounded decided they could take them no farther. Chaplain Herman G. Felhoelter remained behind with the wounded. When a party of North Koreans could be heard approaching, at the Chaplain's urging, Capt. Linton J. Buttrey, the medical officer, escaped, though seriously wounded in doing so. From a distance, 1st Sgt James W. R. Haskins of Headquarters Company saw through his binoculars a group of what appeared to be young North Korean soldiers murder

the wounded men and the valiant chaplain as the latter prayed over them.

All night long and into the next day, 17 July, stragglers and those who had escaped through the hills filtered into Yusong and Taejon. Only two rifle companies of the 19th Infantry were relatively intact—G and E Companies. On the eastern flank near the railroad bridge, E Company was not engaged during the Kum River battle and that night received orders to withdraw.

When Captain Barszcz encountered Colonel Meloy at the stalled tank the latter had ordered him to dig in across the road at the first good defensive terrain he could find. Barszcz selected positions at Yusong. There G Company dug in and occupied the most advanced organized defense position of the U.S. 24th Division beyond Taejon on the morning of 17 July.

The North Korean 3d Division fought the battle of the Kum River on 16 July without tanks south of the river. Most of the American light tanks in the action gave a mixed performance. At the roadblock on one occasion, when Major Logan ordered two tanks to go around a bend in the road and fire on the enemy machine gun positions in an attempt to silence them while the regimental column ran through the block, the tankers refused to do so unless accompanied by infantry. Later these tanks escaped through the roadblock without orders. An artillery officer meeting General Dean at the south end of the roadblock asked him if there was anything he could do. Dean replied, "No, thank you," and then with a wry smile the general added, "unless you can help me give these tankers a little courage."

The 19th Infantry regimental headquarters and the 1st Battalion lost nearly all their vehicles and heavy equipment north of the roadblock. The 52d Field Artillery Battalion lost 8 105-mm. howitzers and most of its equipment; it brought out only 1 howitzer and 3 vehicles. The 13th and 11th Field Artillery Battalions, two miles south of the 52d, withdrew in the late afternoon to the Taejon airstrip without loss of either weapons or vehicles.

The battle of the Kum on 16 July was a black day for the 19th Infantry Regiment. Of the approximately 900 men in position along the river only 434 reported for duty in the Taejon area the next day. A count disclosed that of the 34 officers in the regimental Headquarters, Service, Medical, and Heavy Mortar Companies, and the 1st Battalion, 17 were killed or missing in action. Of these, 13 later were confirmed as killed in action. All the rifle companies of the 1st Battalion suffered heavy casualties, but the greatest was in C Company, which had total casualties of 122 men out of 171. The regimental headquarters lost 57 of 191 men. The 1st Battalion lost 338 out of 785 men, or 43 percent, the 2d Battalion, 86 out of 777 men; the 52d Field Artillery Battalion had 55 casualties out of 393 men, or 14 percent. The total loss of the regiment and all

attached and artillery units engaged in the action was 650 out of 3,401, or 19 percent.

During 17 July, B Company of the 34th Infantry relieved G Company, 19th Infantry, in the latter's position at Yusong, five miles northwest of Taejon. The 18th Infantry that afternoon moved to Yongdong, twenty-five air miles southeast of Taejon, to re-equip.

In the battle of the Kum River on 16 July one sees the result of a defending force lacking an adequate reserve to deal with enemy penetrations and flank movement. Colonel Meloy never faltered in his belief that if he had not had to send two-thirds of his reserve to the left flank after the collapse of the 34th Infantry at Kongju, he could have prevented the North Koreans from establishing their roadblock or could have reduced it by attack from high ground. The regiment did repel, or by counterattack drive out, all frontal attacks and major penetrations of its river positions except that through C Company on Hill 200. But it showed no ability to organize counterattacks with available forces once the roadblock had been established. By noon, demoralization had set in among the troops, many of whom were near exhaustion from the blazing sun and the long hours of tension and combat. They simply refused to climb the hills to attack the enemy's automatic weapons positions.

The N.K. 3d Division, for its part, pressed home an attack which aimed to pin down the 19th Infantry by frontal attack while it carried out a double envelopment of the flanks. The envelopment of the American left flank resulted in the fatal roadblock three miles below the Kum on the main supply road. This North Korean method of attack had characterized most other earlier actions and it seldom varied in later ones.

Both North Korean divisions were now across the Kum River, both were ready to advance to the attack of Taejon itself. The *3d Division* was closer to the city and approaching it from the northwest. The *4th Division*, in the Kongju-Nonsan area, was northwest and west of the city and in a position to join with the *3d Division* in a frontal attack or to move south and then east in a flanking movement that would bring it to the rear of Taejon. The road net from Kongju and Nonsan permitted both these possibilities, or a combination of them. After its successful crossing of the Kum on the 14th, the *4th Division* apparently had been gathering its forces and waiting on the *3d* to complete its crossing effort so that the two could then join in a co-ordinated attack.

In the North Korean plan, a third division, the *2d*, was supposed to join the *4th* and the *3d* in the attack on Taejon. This division was advancing on the east of the other two and had been heavily engaged for some days with ROK troops in the Chinch'on-Ch'ongju area, where it suffered crippling casualties. As events turned out, this division did not arrive in time to join in the attack, nor did the other two need it. Had it come up as planned it would have appeared on the east and southeast of Taejon, a thing that General Dean very

much feared and which he had to take into account in his dispositions for the defense of the city.

If past practice signified anything for the future, the North Koreans would advance against Taejon frontally with a force strong enough to pin down the defenders and attack first with tanks in an effort to demoralize the defenders. Thus far, their tanks had led every advance and nothing had been able to stop them. While this frontal action developed, strong flanking forces would be moving to the rear to cut off the main escape routes. This North Korean maneuver had been standard in every major action.

The N.K. *4th Division* was in a favored position to execute just such a flanking maneuver against Taejon from the west and southwest. Had the *2d Division* arrived on the scene as planned it would have been in a position to do the same thing from the east and southeast. The *3d Division* was in position between these two divisions and undoubtedly was expected to exert the main frontal pressure in the forthcoming attack.

In any deployment of his forces against the North Koreans in front of Taejon, General Dean faced the fact that he had only remnants of three defeated regiments. Each of them could muster little more than a battalion of troops. Osan, Chonui, and Choch'iwon had reduced the 21st Infantry to that state; P'yongt'aek, Ch'onan, and the Kum River had left only a decimated 34th Infantry; and 16 July at the Kum River had sadly crippled the 19th Infantry. In addition to numerical weakness, all the troops were tired and their morale was not the best. General Dean braced himself for the job ahead. He himself was as worn as his troops; for the past two weeks he had faced daily crises and had pushed himself to the limit.

Dean's Plan at Taejon

After dark on 16 July, the 34th Infantry on orders from General Dean fell back approximately twenty miles from the vicinity of Nonsan to new defensive positions three miles west of Taejon. Col. Charles E. Beauchamp, who had flown to Korea from Japan to take command of the regiment, established his command post at the Taejon airstrip just to the northwest of the city. General Dean consolidated all remaining elements of the divisional artillery, except the 155-mm. howitzers of the 11th Field Artillery Battalion, into one composite battalion and emplaced it at the airstrip for the defense of the city. The airstrip itself closed to ordinary traffic. Early in the afternoon of the 17th the 34th Infantry took over the entire defensive line north and west of Taejon. Except for General Dean and three or four other officers, the 24th Division headquarters left for Yongdong, 28 miles southeast on the main highway and rail line. Remaining with Dean at Taejon were Lieutenant Clarke, an aide; Capt. Richard A. Rowlands, Assistant G-3; Capt. Raymond D. Hatfield, Transportation Officer and Assistant G-4; and two drivers.

Dean instructed Maj. David A. Bissett to establish an office for him at the 21st Infantry command post at Okch'on so

that he could from there more easily keep informed of affairs east of Taejon. Dean said that he would spend nights at Okch'on. "But," commented Bissett, "he never did, and indeed none of us there expected him to."

Before the battle of the Kum, Dean had selected two regimental positions three miles west of Taejon for the close-in defense of the city. These positions were on a 500-foot high, 3-mile long ridge behind (east of) the Kapch'on River. Each extremity covered a bridge and a road immediately to its front. The position was a strong one and well suited to a two-regimental front. It was known as the Yusong position. A village of that name lay across the Kapch'on River about a mile from the northern end of the ridge.

Dean's plan had been to place the 19th Infantry on the northern part of the line covering the main Seoul-Pusan highway where it curved around the northern end of the ridge and to place the 34th Infantry on the southern part to cover the Nonsan-Taejon road where it passed along a narrow strip of low ground at the southern end of the ridge. But with the 19th Infantry combat-ineffective after the ordeal of the 16th and at Yongdong for re-equipping, the defense of the entire line fell upon the 34th Infantry.

General Dean had no intention of fighting a last-ditch battle for Taejon. He looked upon it as another in the series of delaying actions to which the 24th Division had been committed by General MacArthur to slow the North Korean advance, pending the arrival of sufficient reinforcements to halt and then turn back the enemy. Expecting that the North Koreans would arrive before the city just as soon as they could get their tanks across the Kum River and carry out an envelopment with ground forces, General Dean on 18 July made plans to evacuate Taejon the next day. Anticipating an early withdrawal, engineer demolition teams with Colonel Stephens' 21st Infantry at the Okch'on position prepared the tunnels east of Taejon for destruction.

But Dean's plan was changed by the arrival of General Walker at the Taejon airstrip before noon of the 18th. After the North Korean crossing of the Kum River, General Walker had asked his Chief of Staff, Colonel Landrum, to assemble troop and logistical data bearing on Eighth Army's capability in the face of the growing crisis in Korea. At his office in Yokohama, Colonel Landrum and his staff spent a hectic day on the telephone gathering the information Walker wanted. Then Landrum called Walker at Taegu and relayed to him the status of all troops in Korea or en route there; an estimate of United States military build-up in Korea during the next ten days, with particular emphasis on the 1st Cavalry Division; the status of supplies and especially of ammunition; and a report on General Garvin's progress in organizing the supply base at Pusan.

During the conversation Walker had at hand a set of terrain maps and terrain estimates of the roads, railroads, and corridors running from north to south and from south to north and their relationship to enemy operations and Eighth Army's build-up in Korea. He repeatedly interjected the question, "When and where can I stop the enemy and

attack him?" General Walker's final decision in this conference was that the 24th Division and the ROK Army should execute maximum delay on the North Koreans in order to assure stopping them west and north of the general line Nakdong River to Yongdok on the east coast. He hoped to get the 1st Cavalry Division deployed in the Okch'on area and south of Taejon along the Kumsan road, thinking this might provide the opportunity to stop the enemy between Taejon and Taegu. Walker felt that if he was forced to fall back behind the Nakdong River he could stand there until Eighth Army's troop and equipment build-up would permit him to take the offensive. Upon concluding this conference with Landrum, General Walker particularly instructed him to keep this estimate to himself, although authorizing him to consider it in reviewing staff plans.

General Walker had this concept of future operations in Korea in his mind when he talked with General Dean at the 34th Infantry command post. He spoke of the 1st Cavalry Division landing which had started that morning at P'ohang-dong on the southeast coast. Walker said he would like to hold Taejon until the 1st Cavalry Division could move up to help in its defense or get into battle position alongside the 24th Division in the mountain passes southeast of Taejon. He said he needed two days' time to accomplish this.

After his conference with Dean, Walker flew back to Taegu. He informed Colonel Landrum that he had told General Dean he needed two days' delay at Taejon to get the 1st Cavalry Division up and into position. Landrum asked Walker how much latitude he had given Dean. Walker replied, in substance, "Dean is a fighter; he won't give an inch if he can help it. I told him that I had every confidence in his judgment, and that if it became necessary for him to abandon Taejon earlier, to make his own decision and that I would sustain him."

This conference changed Dean's plan to withdraw from Taejon the next day, 19 July. Shortly after noon Dean informed the headquarters of the 21st Infantry that the withdrawal from Taejon planned for the 19th would be delayed 24 hours. The regiment passed this information on to the engineer demolition teams standing by at the tunnels. At this point it is desirable to take a closer look at the geography and communications which necessarily would affect military operations at Taejon.

In 1950 Taejon, with a population of about 130,000 was in size the sixth city of South Korea, a rapidly growing inland commercial center, 100 miles south of Seoul and 130 miles northwest of Pusan. [5] A long and narrow city, Taejon lay in the north-south valley of the Taejon River at the western base of the middle Sobaek range of mountains. Extensive rice paddy ground adjoined the city on the north and west. The railroad ran along its eastern side with the station and extensive yards in the city's northeast quarter. Two arms of the Taejon River, the main one flowing northwest through the center of the city and the other

curving around its eastern side, joined at its northern edge. Two miles farther north the Yudung River emptied into it and the Taejon then flowed into the Kap-ch'on, a large tributary of the Kum. The highway net can be visualized readily if one imagines Taejon as being the center of a clock dial. Five main routes of approach came into the city. The main rail line and a secondary road ran almost due south from the Kum River.

On this approach, 3 miles north of the city, a platoon of I Company, 34th Infantry, established a road and rail block. From the east at 4 o'clock the main Pusan highway entered the city, and astride it some 6 miles eastward the 21st Infantry held a defensive blocking position in front of Okch'on with the regimental command post in that town.

There were two railroad and two highway tunnels between Taejon and Okch'on. One of each of them was between Taejon and the 21st Infantry position. From the south, the Kumsan road entered Taejon at 5 o'clock. General Dean had the Reconnaissance Company at Kumsan to protect and warn the division of any enemy movement from that direction in its rear. At 8 o'clock the Nonsan road from the southwest slanted into the Seoul-Pusan highway a mile west of the city. Astride this road 3 miles southwest of Taejon a platoon of L Company, 34th Infantry, held a roadblock at the bridge over the Kap-ch'on River at the southern end of the 34th Infantry defense position.

The Seoul highway slanted toward the city from the northwest at 10 o'clock, and of all approaches it had to be considered the most important. At the western edge of Taejon (700 yards from the densely built-up section) where the Nonsan road joined it, the highway turned east to enter the city. The Taejon airstrip lay on a little plateau north of the road two miles from the city. A mile in front of the airstrip the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, was in battle position astride the highway at Hill 138 just east of the Kapch'on River. A mile farther west B Company occupied an advanced position.

Behind the 1st Battalion, a mile and a half away, the 3d Battalion, 34th Infantry, held a ridge east of the airfield and between it and the city. The composite battalion of artillery supporting the infantry was emplaced at the airfield where it could fire on the expected avenues of enemy approach. [6]

Taejon-The First Day

In the afternoon of 18 July General Dean went to the 24th Division command post at Yongdong and there in the evening he took steps to bolster the defense of Taejon for an extra day, as desired by General Walker. He ordered the 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry, to move back to Taejon from Yongdong and B Battery of the 13th Field Artillery Battalion (Ref. Pg. 152)

The battle for Taejon will continue in the next issue. Ed.

BEST CON-JOB I EVER WITNESSED

The best con-job against the military I ever witnessed occurred in 1951 in Japan. With about 4000 other combat veterans, I was returning from Korea and loading aboard the APA General Meigs at the harbor in Sasebo. Since I was an NCO and my name began with "A" I was tagged for guard duty for the top deck of this luxury cruise ship to guard and protect a couple dozen WACs returning to the states from Japan from all the sex starved vets aboard.

While in position and alert, I observed a MP vehicle arrive on dock. Out of the vehicle came three men, two of whom were MPs. The third, I learned later, was a young Army corporal, named George. The MPs loaded George, complete with bags onto the ship and released him to the ships Sps. George was promptly placed in the ship's brig.

As soon as the ship cleared the port on its way to Oakland, California, George was let out of the brig and assigned to a normal compartment where I met him and heard the story of his predicament. George had been stationed in Tokyo at a supply depot. During his time in Japan he had met and fallen in love with a local girl. His love for her had grown to the point it forced him to commit a terrible error. He asked his commander for permission to marry her.

In 1951 marriage to a Japanese girl was not allowed.

Since George's time in Japan was almost at an end he was ordered to return to the states immediately. When George voiced his objection, the local MPs were ordered to gather up him and his gear and physically place them on the next ship leaving for the States.

After 10 days at sea we arrived at Oakland and tied up to a dock in the local shipyards. George and I unloaded together and while standing on the dock awaiting transportation we noticed there was another APA tied to the same dock just behind us. George quickly found out that it was loading for, and was soon to leave for Japan.

Without a farewell or goodbye George put his duffel bag on his shoulder and marched his way to the gangway of this departing ship. There were two SPs guarding the gangway. George approached them, threw his bag down between them, and in a loud voice declared, "There is no way you rotten bastards can make me get on board this ship."

The two SPs called for reinforcements and they all promptly loaded George, bag and baggage, on board.

The last I saw of him he was wearing a big grin as he ducked his head inside the passageway on his way to the ship's brig. I have often wondered if George made it back to his sweetheart's arms.

By **Ben R. Allen, Member**, 4734 N. Calle Santa Cruz, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314-5125 928-772-1058



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!

CORRECTION: In volume 68, issue 2, Spring Taro Leaf, pg. 27, there is an in the "Fallen Comrades" listings. It states Donald Williams of Wyatt, MO passed on. There were two Donald Williams in the 21st RGT. I served with Don in CO K, 21st from '453-'46. Don was wounded on Mindinao, P.I., May, 1945. He ws in our weapons platoon. The article states Don served in Korea in 1950. I believe this was Donald C. Williams and is his picture. **James W. Lemon, Life Member 1494** 812 932-2182

COL James Hill, passed away in October 2013, and his wife followed him in December according to information from SSGT John Trinca, **21st RGT. Life Member 936**

Robert C. Phillips, 90, of Kingston, died Tuesday, July 8, 2014 in Select Specialty Hospital, Saginaw, Michigan. He served in the U.S. Army, C Company, **21st RGT**. He served as 2nd Lieutenant Commanding Officer at the end of World War II during the Occupation in Japan.

Reports of American Missing POWs (from page.9)

The Chinese source was in Seoul at the time. A meeting was set with the U.S. Embassy's political officer (*PolOff*). That's it, it ends there. The report was declassified in 2009. There was no mention of the meeting between *PolOff* and the source of the report. Nothing was said about the remains. A North Korean claiming contact with an American POW?

No one at DPMO, the agency created to follow up on live sighting reports, apparently never followed up on this one. They had no information regarding the set of remains. No knowledge of a follow-up report filed by *PolOff*. There was no follow-up on the report of other remains and the live POWs. Needless to say, this is disturbing.

The Chinese source either showed up for the meeting, or did not show up for the meeting. One would think someone would have at least checked on that. Our *Coalition* has taken on the task. We contacted the human rights group in South Korea, *No one internally re-members that there was follow-up on this issue*. No one at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul knew of any follow-up.

So, it is true. Apparently, no one at DPMO, the agency charged with bringing home missing soldiers, followed-up on an opportunity to bring home missing soldiers.

That's where it stands to date. We are about to pursue the one person who knows most about the incident: *PolOff*. The man with a title right out of a James Bond movie. The man who has answers to questions that should have been asked a decade ago.

Richard Downes, President
Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs
P.O. Box 4194, Portsmouth, NH 03802
818.259.9950
www.coalitionoffamilies.org

FALLEN COMRADES



William "Bill" P. Burns, 87, of Newport, RI died Friday, April 25, 2014. He joined the U.S. Navy and served on the Cruiser Spokane, during World War II, as a Gunner's Mate. Bill later joined the U.S. Army, serving as an Artillery Instructor at Fort Bliss, Texas, and then as the NCO in charge of a unit of Half Tracks, equipped with quad .50 caliber powered turrets, in Korea with the 26th AAA, a unit of the 24 ID. While serving on the battle front in a direct infantry support fire mission, Bill was wounded by enemy mortar fire and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Arthur H. Wyker Jr., 86, of Liverpool, NY, passed away on May 17, 2014, at the New York State Veterans Home in Oxford, NY. He was an Army veteran of WWII and a **Member** of the 24th ID Association. See Letters, pg. 5

William H. Cook, died June 14th, 2014. William served in Japan and Korea with the 21st Infantry Regiment but the dates are not certain. It appears he might have been part of Task Force Smith but definitely served in 1950. He also served in Vietnam, retiring with 30 years service. Condolences may be sent to his wife at 2643 Marco Polo Dr., Clearwater, FL 33764-1047. **Life Member #793**

Rex J. Napora, died 2 June 2014. He served with 19th INF, CO G in Korea. Condolences may be sent to the family at PO Box 31, Garden, MI 49835-0031. **Member**



Richard Golden Adams died March 7, 2011. He served in the **19th RGT, K CO** in Korea and was awarded the Purple Heart. He also served in the Merchant Marines until retirement. He is survived by his widow, Mary K. Adams, 152 Lori Lee Drive, Gallatin, TN 37066. **Member**



James E. Livingston died October 3, 2011. He served in Germany with the **34th RGT. SFC** Livingston was in the Army for 21 years before retirement. He is survived by his wife, Renate Livingston, 710 Joe Morse Dr., Copperas Cove, TX 522-3122, **Life Member 1782**



CSM Louis Lang passed away June 5, 2014. He served during WWII as a Marine in the South Pacific and received the Combat Action Ribbon and Bronze Star. He later served with the 724th ORD, '66-'69. He is survived by his wife, Dagmar Lang, 124 Candlewick Road, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714 **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		
17	Armed Forces Expeditionary	\$5	53 19th RGT	\$9	T-SHIRTS:	
18	U.S. Flag	\$5	54 21st RGT	\$9	24th ID Hawaii Div/Black (Sizes	
19	Army Dist. Flying Cross	\$5	56 11th FA BN	\$9	XXL/L/M)	\$15
20	Korea Service Ribbon	\$5	57 13th FA BN	\$9	24th ID Hawaii Div/White (Sizes	
21	Army Commendation	\$5	63 24th ID	\$9	2XL/XL/L/M)	\$15
22	WWII Victory Ribbon	\$5	75 3rd Eng BN	\$9		
23	Marine Corps Expeditionary	\$5	76 14th Eng BN	\$9	FLAGS:	
24	Korea Service Medal	\$5			90 24TH id Outdoor Screen Print	
25	WWI Victory Medal	\$5	CAPS:		3' x 5'	\$65
26	Bronze Star	\$5	65 21st RGT White	\$15	102 Korea War Silk Screen	\$65
27	Purple Heart	\$5	66 21st RGT Dark Blue	\$15	103 Korea War Vet Silk Screen	\$65
28	Air Medal	\$5	69 24th IDA Wh. w/Taro/Ger.	\$12	CIB Bracelet	\$35
29	24th ID	\$5	70 24th ID Red w/Taro/Ger.	\$12	(Order Direct: Sektor Co., Box 501005	
31	19th RGT	\$5	71 24th IDA Red	\$15	San Diego, CA 92150)	
37	Combat Medic Badge	\$5	72 24th ID Wh.1st to Fight	\$15		
38	Army Desert Storm	\$5	73 24th IDA Green (X)	\$15	Quartermaster John Walters,	
39	Vietnan Heaven & Hell	\$5	74 24th ID White Mesh (X)	\$15	313 Heritage Overlook,	
104	Desert Storm	\$5	78 5th RCT Red w/patch	\$12	Woodstock, GA 30188.	
110	Philippines Pres. Unit Ribbon	\$5	80 Desert Storm Vet	\$12	Email: 1k34cspd@gmail.com	
116	24th ID Airborne	\$5	81 POW/MIA Black	\$15		

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

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

Bn.

Co.

P

It./Bat.

Squad

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.

Florida 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheons

September 9, 11:30 a.m.

**Amvets Post 2006, 501 N Canal St,
Leesburg, FL 34748**

Space limited to 50; contact:

352-750-6741 wsswriter@centurylink.net

352-408-6612, 24thidaweb@gmail.com

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

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

NOTE: Because of technical difficulties, we were not able to update the Sec't/Treas. Reports. Ed.

BOOK REVIEW: 'The Most Dangerous Man In America': The Making of Douglas MacArthur' by Mark Perry, Review By Evan Thomas

Washington Post, March 28 General of the Army Douglas MacArthur was one of the most shameless self-promoters in history. In April 1951, after MacArthur gave his famous farewell address to Congress ("Old soldiers never die, they just fade away"), Rep. Dewey Short of Missouri cried out, "We heard God speak today, God in the flesh, the voice of God!" When MacArthur was cast (and posed) as the hero of Corregidor in the opening days of World War II, mothers named their newborns after him. Others, more familiar with the general and his moods, were less enraptured. President Harry Truman fired MacArthur for insubordination, and his colleagues knew him to be vainglorious.

History has not been kind to MacArthur. "A recent, if informal, Internet poll listed him as America's worst commander; Benedict Arnold was second," Mark Perry writes in his engrossing book on the great, though greatly flawed, general, "The Most Dangerous Man in America." "A popular television series on the war has Marines on Peleliu cursing MacArthur for expending their lives in seizing the island needlessly." MacArthur, the author notes, "had nothing to do with the battle."

Perry sets out to rehabilitate MacArthur — or at least to set the record straight about his strengths as well as his weaknesses. A close student of Napoleon and Genghis Khan, MacArthur was an innovative genius, especially when it came to moving enormous numbers of troops over vast distances. Perry deals only with MacArthur's role in World War II; the book ends before his successful shogunate in postwar Japan and his wildly up-and-down record in Korea. But fans of military history and general readers will have much to enjoy and to ponder: The author offers a vivid and convincing recounting of MacArthur's tremendous skill as a pioneer of air-land-sea battle in the Pacific, along with ample evidence that "proud and egotistical" MacArthur "was his own worst enemy."

MacArthur, Perry writes, could be "short-tempered, abrupt, sullen, and impatient." Also "small-minded, embittered, suspicious." His staffers were, by and large, toadies. "You don't have a staff, general, you have a court," scoffed his boss, Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall. Franklin Roosevelt was well aware of MacArthur's limitations. In the summer of 1932, when New York Gov. Roosevelt was the newly anointed Democratic nominee for president, he discussed with his advisers MacArthur's heavy-handed rout of the Washington Bonus Marchers, impoverished World War I veterans encamped along the Anacostia River in the nation's capital. MacArthur was "the most dangerous man in America," suggested Roosevelt, who saw MacArthur's potential to become the Man on the White Horse, a pseudo-Napoleon willing to sacrifice liberty to restore stability to a frightened people. Roosevelt lumped MacArthur with demagogue Huey Long, the fiery populist governor of Louisiana. But, Roosevelt went on to say, "We

must tame these fellows and make them useful to us."

With his keen insight into human nature, Roosevelt understood that it takes outsize personalities to accomplish great things. Ordinary men, though saner and humbler, lack the will and boldness. The trick was to co-opt MacArthur, which Roosevelt cleverly did by holding him close (so he would not be a political rival) and making sure that he had good commanders to carry out his orders. Perry notes that, while MacArthur's staff was obsequious, his ground commanders in the Pacific island-hopping campaign were generally first-rate. Perry especially credits the somewhat overlooked Gen. Robert Eichelberger who, in his private letters to his wife, referred to MacArthur as "Sarah," after the histrionic actress Sarah Bernhardt.

MacArthur had showy, inspirational bravery. Inspecting the front lines on the embattled island of Los Negros, he was momentarily stopped by an Army officer who said, "Excuse me, sir, but we killed a Jap sniper in there just a few minutes ago." MacArthur responded: "Fine. That's the best thing to do with them," and kept moving forward into the jungle. But he was also a "realist, the quiet and somber man he rarely allowed anyone to see," Perry notes. On the eve of World War II, MacArthur was visited in his Manila headquarters in the Philippines by journalist Clare Boothe Luce, who wanted to profile him for Life magazine. Luce asked MacArthur his theory of offensive warfare. "Did you ever hear the baseball expression, 'hit 'em where they ain't?'" That's my formula," he jauntily explained.

MacArthur was hardly the only military commander with an ego. Perry observes that Adm. Ernest King "despised" Gen. George Patton, and that Army Air Force Gen. Hap Arnold "couldn't bring himself to talk to King," and that Eisenhower thought British Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery was "conceited," and that "Patton held all British commanders in disdain," while Gen. Omar Bradley "plotted ways to take advantage of Patton's antics." Aside from vanity, these feuding warlords had only one thing in common: They won!

Though hardly in the league of historians like Mark Perry, I have been a fan of Gen. MacArthur since I was selected for his elite security unit in Tokyo after eight months in Korea with the 24th ID. I have written three books about the General, numerous articles, and have lectured as him in uniform in Japan, the Philippines, across the U.S. and on cruise ships. Last month I met with members of the Japanese Press in Tokyo to present my latest book, "General MacArthur's Ploy, the Shaping of Japan's Constitution." It is an historic novel which presents the facts and drama of what took place in the early months of the Occupation leading up to the inauguration of their hastily created, but extraordinary, democratic constitution.

David Valley, Editor

MEETING AT A GLANCE OMAHA

	Pre Day One	Day One	Day Two	Day Three	Post Day One
	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
	Sept 18, 2014	Sept 19, 2014	Sept 20, 2014	Sept 21, 2014	Sept 22, 2014
Morning	Arrivals	Breakfast Opex AB 8:00 am – 9:00 am Registration Nuez Foyer 9:00 am – 11:30 pm Hospitality Suite Nuez 9:00 am – Noon Board Meeting Nogal 8:00 am – 11:00 am	Ladies Breakfast Opex B 9:00 am – 10:00 am Men's Breakfast Opex A 9:00 am – 10:00 am Annual Member Meeting Opex A 10:00 am – Noon	Breakfast Opex AB 8:00 am – 9:00 am Hospitality Suite Nuez 9:00 am – Noon	Breakfast Opex AB 7:00 am – 8:00 am Departures
Afternoon	Arrivals Continue Registration Nuez Foyer 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Hospitality Suite Nuez 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Lunch At Historic Bohemian Café & Omaha City Tour 11:30 pm – 3:00 pm Depart Lobby Area Return Lobby Area Hospitality Suite Nuez Noon – 6:00 pm	Strategic Air & Space Museum Tour 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm Depart Lobby Area Return Lobby Area Hospitality Suite Nuez Noon – 6:00 pm	Father Flanagan's Boys Town Tour 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Depart Lobby Area Return Lobby Area Hospitality Suite Nuez Noon – 6:00 pm	Departures Continue
Evening	Hospitality Suite Nuez 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm On Own	Hospitality Suite Nuez 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm On Own	Hospitality Suite Nuez 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm On Own	Memorial Banquet Juni AB 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Hospitality Suite Nuez 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm	

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Omaha, NE

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LADIES BREAKFAST**	# PERSONS	_____	x	\$00=	_____
MEMORIAL BANQUET	# PERSONS	_____	x	\$22=	_____
LUNCH AT BOHEMIAN CAFÉ & OMAHA CITY TOUR	# PERSONS	_____	x	\$36=	_____
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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.

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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 24th 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!

24TH 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.



24th IDA REUNION HOTEL, September 18-22 Omaha Marriott Hotel - 866-460-7456, 402-399-9000

Property Location 10220 Regency Cir, Omaha, NE, 68114, only 7 miles from the vibrant Old Market area of downtown Omaha, the Omaha Marriott hotel really lets you make the most of your time in the area. Just a short distance to the city's biggest businesses, the Century Link Center and the Ameritrade Park (home of the NCAA Baseball World Series). Stay on top of your game at this Omaha hotel with complimentary Wi-Fi, a 24-hour Business Center, indoor and outdoor pool and fitness center. Start your day off with our full Starbucks menu. Enjoy a cooked-to-order breakfast, lunch or dinner from the Heartwood Restaurant or grab a snack to go from the 24-hour Market. With flexible meeting space for up to 300 people and a 24-hour Business Center, this Omaha, NE hotel is a smart choice as an Omaha meeting, social event, wedding and reception venue. This hotel offers a complimentary shuttle service to take you to and from Omaha's neighboring attractions. When it comes to Omaha hotels, few compare to our wedding and reception planning and wonderful catering options.

Rooms Make yourself at home in one of the 300 air-conditioned rooms featuring LCD televisions. Your Tempur-Pedic bed comes with down comforters. Complimentary wired and wireless Internet access keeps you connected, and cable programming provides entertainment. Bathrooms feature shower/tub combinations, designer toiletries, and complimentary toiletries.

Recreation: Spa, Premium Amenities Don't miss out on the many recreational opportunities, including an indoor pool, a spa tub, and a 24-hour fitness facility. This hotel also features complimentary wireless Internet access, gift shops/newsstands, and wedding services. Getting to nearby attractions is a breeze with the complimentary area shuttle that operates within 5 mi.

Omaha Marriott, 10220 Regency Circle, Omaha, Nebraska 68114, 402-399-9000

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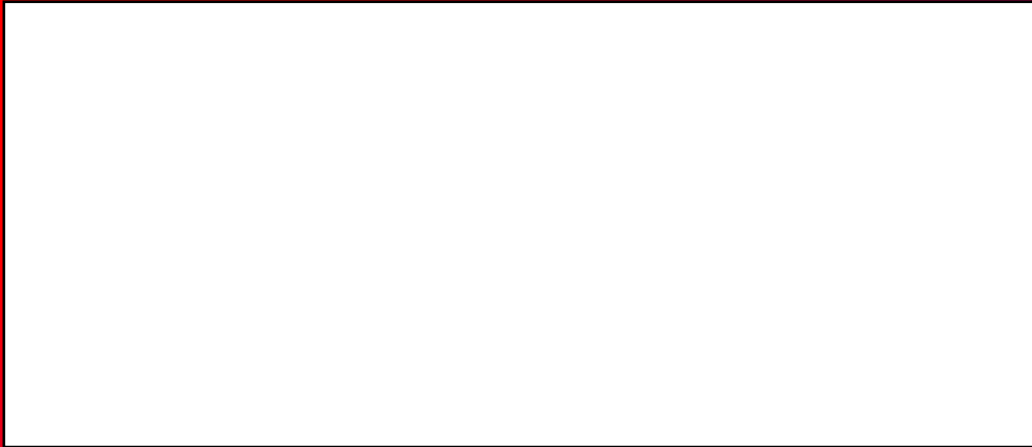
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