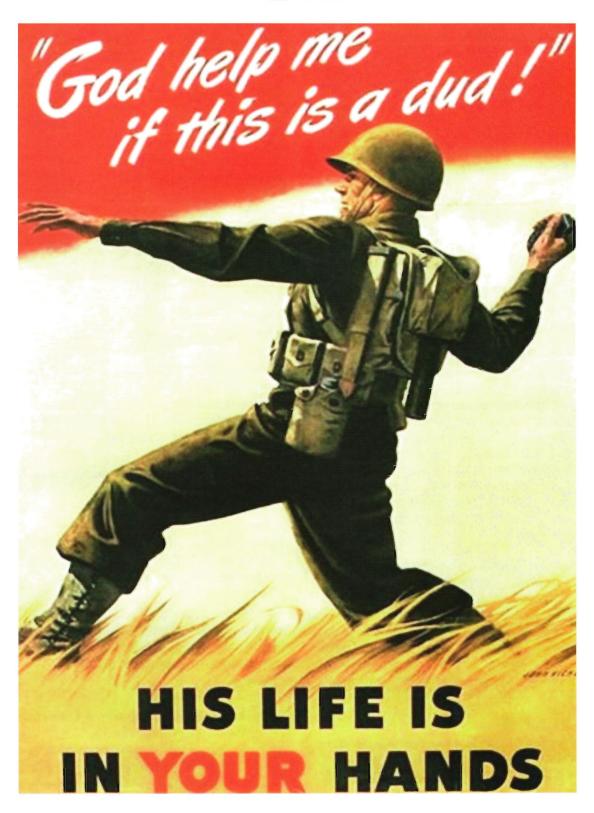


24th Infantry Division Association 24th Infantry Division Association





FIRST TO FIGHT



Volume 69 Issue No. 2

Spring 2015

# President



# Editor



Greetings Fellow Taro Leafers. In this issue, you will receive all information on our upcoming reunion in Columbus, GA. (Ft. Benning, GA.) Save these dates, September 17th through September 21st, 2015. We will have lower hotel rates than last year. We are going to have several free breakfasts, free airport shuttle and compli-

mentary parking + free Wi-Fi in our rooms. This year the Men's and Ladies' breakfast will be combined. The tours that have been planned will be low cost.

Nominate someone you feel deserving of the Verbeck award, by advising Don Bruner, VP. Use the post card on the back cover, letter, or e-mail.

We are looking for a replacement for our Sec'y/Treas., John Dunn. If anyone is interested, please contact John Dunn (see back page). I am glad to announce that we have found a replacement for our Webmaster position, Tom Thiel. Darrell Williams was in the 24th Infantry Division during Desert Storm/ Desert Shield. He was a Captain in the Chaplain's Corp, the first Chaplain with boots on the ground, during Storm/Shield. Darrell, welcome aboard. You are a true leader with the Storm Veterans.

John Dunn, Secretary/ Treasurer and I had the pleasure to attend the first reunion of the 24th Infantry Division's Desert Storm/Desert Shield anniversary at Ft. Stewart, GA. It was held on the 24th year and on the 24th day of Feb. to celebrate the Victory Division's Victory in Iraq (see page 10). The Victory Division's motto is: First to Fight, and they did. A Division of hero's. John Dunn and I had a mission. We brought Taro Leaf Magazines and sign-up forms for joining the 24th IDA. Twenty-five Desert Storm/Desert Shield Veterans signed on. The association is transforming. These Veterans are the next generation Taro Leafers.

Lastly, the association is going to donate a Tracked Wheel Chair to a disabled veteran on banquet night during the annual reunion. The donation of \$16,000 dollars will give a totally disabled veteran another chance in life. The cost will include the tracked wheelchair, the trailer to haul it, and freight cost to get this wheelchair to the disabled veteran. I am asking all of you to donate a couple of dollars more when you read this message. There are so many disabled veterans out there. The Independence Fund, sponsored by Bill O'Reilly, on the O'Reilly Factor is behind this organization 120%. The tracked chair will be presented at our Sunday evening banquet. I am asking our membership to come out and witness this. This is the money you folks have donated over the years. You need to be a part of this historic occasion. Please do your best to sign up and attend. We really appreciate it.

Best Wishes, Tom Appler



Greetings to All. There's some wonderful news for our Association! Thanks a lot to the efforts of our prez, Tom Appler, new blood is flowing in the veins of our aging carcass, if you'll pardon my crude expression. For some time, Tom and others have been actively soliciting

new members from those who served in the division since the Korean War.

As you will read on page 9, Tom and John Dunn took part in a Desert Storm Memorial honoring those who served and died during Desert Storm. They signed up twenty-five new members!

Another Desert Storm veteran, Darrell Williams kdarrellwilliams@gmail.com, has volunteered to take on the webmaster job. Darrell is a very accomplished internet operator and well equipped to carry on the excellent website created and run by Tom Thiel. Darrell wrote, "I am both honored and humbled to serve our historic association in this manner and will do my utmost to make the association stand proud. Tom has done a great job with tons of information. I am not sure anyone can match up to the work he hasdone, but I will give it my best." Darrell founded and ran a large Microsoft Windows Server web hosting company from 1996 and sold it in 2006. He currently maintains several web sites.

The Association will be forever grateful for Tom Theil's work over the years, first as editor of the Taro Leaf and then founding and operating the website. Adios and best wishes to Tom, and welcome aboard to Darrell! Now, if we can just find some young blood to take on John Dunn secretary/treasurer duties, the Association will be well fixed for the future.

Short personal note: I had been in Costa Rica with my companion when she had a bad fall and broke her lower back. She is slowly recovering, hopefully without surgery. Incidentally, Costa Rica is a beautiful country.

I am very pleased to report a recent surge in contributions of material for the Taro Leaf. We have added an extra four pages to this issue, and we can add more. I especially look forward to input from our new Cold War /Desert Storm members. I am sure all our readers would like to hear about your experiences. They need not be heroic, just informative; and they don't need to be in polished prose either.

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> Webmaster: Darrell Williams, kdarrellwilliams@gmail.com WEBSITE: www.24thida.com

COVER: WWII poster displayed in Defense Factories encouraging workers to be quality conscious, or the life of a soldier may be in jeopardy. Sent in by Mullengerg@aol.com (sorry I didn't get your name. Editor

# In This Issue

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover: World War II Poster	1
President Tom Appler's message	2
Editor David Valley's message	2
Contents, 24th IDA Officers, Directors, Staff	2
Letters	4-9
Desert Storm Reunion	10
Some Ambush! and Bridge Named" for POW	11
"It Brought Back Horrible Memories"	12
Maggie's Drawers and Letter	13
Lieutenant General Hank Emerson	14
National Reunion	15-18
South to Naktong, North to the Yalu	19-22
Book Review, American Trophies	23
Fallen Comrades	24-25
Memories of Korean War	26-27
Secretary/Treasurer's Report	28
Western Regional Reunions, Sayonara?	28
Florida 24th IDA Luncheon Report	29
Verbeck Award	29
About Dues, Membership Application	30
Divisional Unit Crests	31
Back Cover, Desert Storm Reunion Members	32

#### Taro Leaf, Volume 69, Issue 2, Spring 2015

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COMING **UP NEXT**  Taro Leaf Summer Issue, Vol. 69, No. 3 Deadline for submissions - 7/15/2015 Publication delivery - 8/15/2015

## Letters



**Hi David:** I was invited on February 6, 2015 to a program hosted by about 30 school kids from South Korea. They were from 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grades and wore colorful traditional Korean clothing. Each veteran was assigned a student with whom we described our experiences. The Koreans showed a video expressing their great appreciation for the veterans of the Korean War. The kids also made a stage performance of singing, dancing, and other demonstrations. After the program we were treated to a Korean dinner which was enjoyable.

Later the kids chatted with us and took pictures. Each of the veterans was given a book in which all the students wrote their personal thanks to American veterans for their freedom. We also received a box of Korean tea and long-stemmed rose. The whole evening was a wonderful experience for me which I'll never forget. Michael T. Sacchitella, HQ Commo PLT, 21st RGT, '49-'51, Box 591, Scituate, MA 02066, Life 2207

**Mike:** You're looking great! Good story, thanks. I don't know of another country in the world, which has been more grateful for our war sacrifices, than Korea. **David** 

**David:** On page 9 of the last issue you wrote that Clinton Roberts went through Camp Mower, Jaoan (should be Japan), but most of us went through Camp Drake on our way to Korea. Also, I want to mention if anybody is going to VA for anything, he should have a Service Officer from VFW, DAV or some other military organization assist him. I have had some experience with the VA, none of it pleasant. **Al McAdoo**, 7506 Mascotte St. Tampa, FL 33616. **Life Member 779** 

David: I'm sending you a Taro Leaf dated April, 1980 postmark. Kenwood Ross was editor. Use whatever you like. Clint Roberts, 1409 W. Walnut St. Washington, IN 47501-2316, 34th RGT, Life Member 1768. Clint: Thank you. I'm copying a poem by an anonymous donor that's pretty clever. David

#### The Shape I'm In

There's nothing whatever the matter with me, I'm just as healthy as I can be.
I have arthritis in both my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.

My pulse is weak and my blood is thin But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in. My teeth will eventually have to come out And my diet I hate to think about. I'm overweight and I can't get thin, But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supporters I have for my feet
Or I wouldn't be able to walk on the street.
Sleep is denied me night after night,
And every morning I'm quite a sight.

My memory fails and my head's in a spin, I'm practically living on as-pir-in. But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is, as this tale I unfold,
That for you and me who are growing old—
It's better to say "I'm fine" with a grin
Than to let anyone know the shape we're In.

Now, how do I know that my youth's been spent? Cause my "get-up-and-go" has "got up and went."
But I really don't mind, when I think with a grin,
Of all the places my "get-up" has been,
And I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

**David!** You may recall my previous two letters regarding installing a cartoon feature in TARO LEAF. I have not received a response to either one, so am trying again. I have redone the cartoon which I suggested as a kickoff to a series. Any further contributions would be from fellow veterans who enjoy doing cartoons. I shall gladly volunteer to field submissions from veterans with artistic talent, forwarding those which I feel

would be most acceptable to you. **Life Member Bill Stokes**, 1561-1 S. Pointe Drive, Leesburg, FL 34748
(352) 365-1511 email: wsswriter@centurylink.net

**Bill:** We are short of space in this issue, but frankly I didn't quite get the humor of your cartoon with the bouncing quarter. But don't give up on me. Try again and I will too! **David** 

Dear David: I have enclosed a rather lengthy death notice on Glenwood Hargens of Cairo, Nebraska. We served together in the 24 Inf. in the Philippines back in the dark ages. S/Sgt. Don Twining of New York State and I were in the same landing craft when we landed on Leyte, 20 Oct '44. He died shortly after the Division went to Japan for duty. I never did find out if it was the result of his wound when a sniper hit him or not. We had been in the same jeep when the bullet struck the windshield frame and shattered. He got shrappel in the side of his face. I never knew since I had come home on emergency leave because of the sudden death of my Dad on May 15, 1945. I was waiting at Camp Stoneman for orders to rejoin the Division when they dropped the Big One, so I stayed Stateside until I got my discharge October 36,1945.



L-R, LT Zynon Rybel, T/3 Hyman Baras, SSGT James Mims, CPT John Miller, MSGT Curtis Packard, T/3 Paul Vance

Most of our original seven member Photo Interpretation Team and Glenwood kept up with each other over the years, but I did not hear from Glen on Christmas of 2012 so I went to the Internet and started a search with the enclosed results. (Readers: see Fallen Comrades) And I am so pleased that I did! We had a nice reunion over the phone before he died.

With his death, I am the only survivor of our seven member 114 Photo Interpretation Team! I was 91 last October, and lost my wife, Mary, January 19, 2014, after over 66 years together. I tell people I can tell whatever I want to because I have outlived nearly all the witnesses!

David, thanks so much for doing our Taro Leaf.

James Mims, 811 Lawson Ave., Midland, TX 79701

Life Member 681

James: I'm sorry I couldn't include more of Glen Hargens obituary; not enough space to allow. David

### Letters

#### TO: 24TH IDA and KWVA Members:

My name is Lewis R. Vaughn and I am a candidate for the office of National Director of the KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION. Elections will be conducted in early 2015 to select four (4) KWVA Directors for three (3) year terms (2015-2018). The BIO's of the candidates have been posted on the KWVA website and they will appear in the next issue of THE GRAYBEARDS this month.

Since space is limited in THE GRAYBEARDS. I wanted to tell you a little more about me & my qualifications to serve you as a Director should I be elected. It would be an honor to have your vote & support for one of the Directors slots. If elected, I will be active in the affairs of KWVA, and I believe an asset to KWVA.

During my Army career, I was deployed to Korea in January 1954 serving in the Tank Company of the **34th Regiment** of the 24th Infantry Division.

Editor: Bill Olsen was honored in Corsicana, TX on the occasion of his 94th birthday on Feb. 4 by fellow veterans. Olsen served in the United States Army during World War II, both in the Philippines and Japan as part of the 24th Infantry Division. He was part of the occupation force in Hiroshima and Nagasaki after they were bombed. Friday, February 6, 2015 10:44 am. Staff Reports.

**David, on the address label of our Taro Leaf, Vol 69, Issue** above my name: Clarence A. Collette, is *Expires Life No. 162*.

What does "Expire" mean? My nickname is Bud. The E-Mail I have sent you in the past all say Bud Collette, Korean War Veteran. I'm sorry to hear about your dear wife & her health. I lost My wife of 60 years two years ago to brain cancer. Please keep up your fine work as editor of our Taro Leaf. I served in the 5th. RCTJune 1951 to late April 1952. **Bud,** 507 E Timber Dr. Payson, AZ 85541-4077

**Bud**: Since you are a Life Member 162, the "Expire" doesn't apply to you. **David** 

**David:** It's good to see how appreciative the Koreans are of our sacrifices. And, isn't it amazing how they have progressed today. It was so torn up when we were there. And look at North Korea today, that's how the whole country would be, if it were not for the Korean War that we fought. **Ken Yost**, 16025 State Hwy N, Pattonsburg, MO 64670.

### Letters

**To Editor:** I just finished reading the latest issue of the Taro Leaf. It is an excellent publication which gives deserved tribute to all who served. I am in absolute awe of the letters and remembrances of the men who fought and of the men who lost their lives with the 24th Division in previous wars.

I was with the 24th from April of 1960 to March of 1962 in Augsburg, Germany. The last 2 months were courtesy of some guy who decided to build a wall through Berlin. My experiences during this time included the Congo crisis in 1960, the building of the wall in 1961 as well as the ongoing Cold War. These are but a grain of sand on a beach compared to the experiences and courage of those brave men of the 24th who fought aside those who died on the battlefields of World War II, Korea and many other combat missions. I truly salute you.

I can only imagine the emotions of the men who have had the opportunity to go back to visit the places where they fought. On a much lesser scale it was my goal to go back to Augsburg where I spent many memorable months during my 3+ years of active duty. I realized that goal in 2006 when I spent 3 days in Augsburg. Perhaps those who served in Augsburg might be interested in what it looked like then.

My time was spent at Flak Kaserne where I was with the Div. Hq. Co. as well as Sheridan Kaserne where I was billeted during the basketball season when I played with the 24th Division Trains Mustangs at Mustang Arena. (We named it that, not the Army) It was with great anticipation the first morning as I left my hotel to make the trek to Flak.

The memories immediately started to flood back. I first recognized the Nord Bahnhof bar then Marstallers which was about 2 blocks from Flak. As I turned the corner into Flak the main gate was exactly as I had remembered with one exception. There was barbed wire across the entrance. I saw a couple of men approach the old MP shack and they were let in. I spoke to the man in the shack and he said the old barracks building was now a temporary home for displaced persons along with refugees and was closed to everyone else. He did say I could enter by the back gate but would not be able to get near the building or the old mess building.

I entered the back gate and there it was. The old barracks building that we used to call the Nazi barracks. It was an impressive structure probably 3 blocks long. It looked shabby and in great disrepair. The chapel and the motor pool where I had my commo shop were still there and not behind the wire. It appeared that all the rest of the Kaserne including the

structures housing the 24th Signal Battalion no longer existed. It was amazing to see the old building again even though it was in tough shape. I sat for an hour as I relived many of the memories. I could see Captain Venable along with Lt. Stevens in the doorway. I could see Sgt. Fowler and Sgt. Irvin along with Pfc Moore and Pfc Orr standing in formation. I could see the end of the building where General Walker had his office and the 3 covered spaces where his 1960 brown Chevrolet command car was parked. It was amazing.

As I walked back to my hotel I could only think that those buildings would probably be gone within a short time. After a hearty dinner and a good nights sleep I began the journey to Sheridan, a little longer walk. I primarily wanted to see the Arena where I spent so many days and remember our team with Captain Kaufmann (Skip) as our coach along with players such as Willie Thomas, Thomas Kramer, Tom Thompson, Joe Johnson and so many others.

As I approached the back gate of Sheridan I saw that it was also closed with barbed wire. This time there was no one to talk to. There was a big sign on the gate that said in German "Verboten etc etc etc." I did not understand the rest of the words but I did understand Verboten. I was more than a little disappointed.

As I stared through I could see many empty buildings and more than a few large piles of rubble. I walked around the Kaserne through weeds and garbage until I arrived at the front gate. Low and behold it was slightly ajar. I saw some workmen inside. There were several buildings that had controlled burns inside that I assumed was a preparation for demolition. I squeezed my way in and spoke to one of the men. I explained that I used to be stationed there and would he mind if I walked around a bit. He was very hesitant, but said I could for a few minutes but then I had to get out.

I began my walk past empty buildings with grass growing up in the cracks of the streets. There was not a soul around. I did not spend a lot of time at Sheridan so I did not recognize many of the buildings, but it was fascinating all the same. Something seemed to keep going around in my mind. After decades of thousands, maybe millions of soldiers, mostly American and Nazi, marching and walking on these streets, I a kid who was born during World War II on a farm in western Minnesota, was probably the last soldier or ex soldier who would ever walk these same streets before they would be gone forever. Maybe that was a little dramatic but it was fascinating all the same.

As I made my way to a large pile of rubble a car came racing toward me and skidded to a stop.



2006, Front Gate of Flak Kaserne with wire across the entrance.

A German demanded to know how I got in and after I told him of my conversation with the worker at the front gate, he seemed to calm down a bit, but still demanded man got out and he was very angry. He demanded to know what I was doing there. I felt I might soon be arrested for trespassing. I talked very fast and showed him my passport. He said that I must leave immediately. He pointed to the back gate about 3 blocks away. He drove there and waited for me while I walked out.

Before I was ushered out the gate I asked if he could help me with a couple of questions I had. First of all what is happening to Sheridan. He said it is in the process of being leveled for a future residential development. He said no one is allowed in as they didn't want squatters or other lowlifes (apparently like me) camping out in the empty buildings.

I asked him about Mustang Arena. He didn't say anything. He just pointed to the big pile of rubble I had been heading for. As I left I saw him speeding away toward the front gate, where I am sure he would have some words for a certain workman.

I left Augsburg for Munich the next day with such good feelings about my visit. I am sure Sheridan no longer exists and I can only think that Flak is gone too. As my train slowly left Augsburg we went over an overpass and to my right I saw the old bar Nord Bahnhof. It was exactly at this spot on February 20, 1962 that I saw that same scene. I never thought I would see it again. I remembered all of the great men I served with and all of the Officers I served as well as the old 24th. I remembered all of the German people, who treated us so well. I left Augsburg with nothing but best wishes for its peaceful glory. Larry Romo, 1267 Birdie Circle NW, Hutchinson, MN 55350. **Larry:** Thanks for your report. I'm sure those who served in Germany will enjoy it. And for our readers, Larry sent many other pictures which I could not include here. I'm sure he would like to share them with anyone who is interested. Editor

David Valley, Woops, looks like those detestable print house gremlins managed to sneak their way onto subject! As you have probably heard by now, the 4th ("Ivy") Infantry Division's shoulder patch appears to have been snatched off the cover and hidden away somewhere else by mischief-makers. I suppose an editor's note in the upcoming Taro Leaf could set the record straight. Best regards and a huge THANK YOU. Albert J. Silverstein, E CO 21st RGT '45-'48

Albert: In my haste to finish the issue and get off on a vacation to Costa Rica, I was sloppy. Thanks for bringing this to my attention in such a friendly way. I will make the correction in the next issue. But wait, not only did I make the mistake of not putting the 4th ID patch on the cover, I later discovered the 4th did not serve in Korea. So, you see those gremlins were actually doing me a favor! David

David: Something for the Taro Leaf? I sent a letter to the Daytona News-Journal which they published. It might interest some of the guys. I've also included a couple pictures taken in 1951. Top picture shows Roache, Singleton and Davis. Rear: Moore, Lees, Zurande, Bourke and McPhail. The other shows Singleton, Diaz, and LT ('Abner') Yochum. When the 24th went to Japan in January, 1952, I was left with the 40th Division. Their medics were higher ranked and didn't want advice from a Private. I put in for transfer and went to the A Company, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division as a Rifleman. Tom Donaghy, tommyd29@cfl.rr.com, Life Member #996





# Letters

**David,** I just received my latest issue of the Taro Leaf, and it appears to be your usual top quality publication. Also I appreciated your update on your wife's condition. Sadly, with Alzheimers there is nothing any of us can do about this tragic disease. It is good you found happiness at this late stage of life, and I wish you and your companion well in the future. In this most recent issue you requested more stories from the rank and file that could be shared with the membership. I have no action tales to pass along, but can offer the following amusing event for whatever value or merit it contains: I was a member of Service Company, 21st Regiment, and we were located along a dirt road a short distance from Regimental Headquarters. The regiment was located about eight miles south of the 38 th parallel. We were told that our company area was established on what had once been a large rice paddy farm area, just in front of a series of small mountain fingers.

The only substantial buildings were the Headquarters Orderly Room, the Mess Hall and one large Quonset style Maintenance building for vehicle repair. Everything else was a tent or a lean-to with tent canvas used for enclosure. All personnel were in tents. The wash stand for cleaning mess gear was a small open structure in back of the kitchen, covered with a corrugated sheet metal roof. Back along the base of one mountain finger was the latrine, made up of posts and beams, also with a corrugated steel roof. Electric power was supplied by one small generator that stood about mid-point in the company area along one edge of the tent area. This unit operated from dusk to about 9:00 p.m. each day.

Now the story: The rainy season had been all over the area for days and weeks on end. There was water flowing everywhere, and the edges of most roads were washing out faster than the Engineers could keep up repairs. Mud was the rule of the day, everywhere we went. One day we got a new Company Commander. This was not uncommon, as new officers often seemed to start at Service Company, but then quickly move on to permanent assignment with a line company in the regiment. Regardless, this particular officer, after being in his assignment one day, and bothered by hearing the generator run nearby. gave orders to move it back closer to the mountain. Bright and early the next day mechanics from the Maintenance crew hooked up the generator to thehook end of their large wrecker (6 x 10) and began to move it to its proposed new location near the mountain area in back of the mess tray wash stand. Of course they made deep ruts in the ground surfacewith all the wheels grinding away in the mud. These ruts extended from the original generator location,

around the Headquarter/Orderly Room and Mess Hall, then back around the Wash Stand and a a 90° left turn to place it parallel along the edge of the mountain. It was just past the wash stand when the entire right side of the wrecker fell straight down into the earth, so that the deck of the wrecker floor and right front fender were even with the surface of the earth. This occurred instantly, just like a sink hole opening under that side of the truck. Of course that was as far as the wrecker could go.

Reinforcements were called in from the Maintenance Shop. They attempted to drive another 6 x 10 wrecker into the area in the hopes of using a cable to pull the first wrecker from its location. As a result this truck also became stuck. Then they called on Tank Company, who sent over a tank retriever. This monster vehicle deepened the tracks as it passed the Mess Hall and Wash Stand, and moved to get into position to attach a cable. It also became stuck between the first wrecker and the second.

Things remained this way for about two days, and it became a game for company personnel to watch and see what was going to happen to get things back to normal. Finally the Engineers came to the rescue when they had a large bull dozer working along the main road throughout the regiment, repairing washout damage caused by the heavy rains. The operator was persuaded to come into the company area to straighten things out and get the surface areas back to normal. The dozer did get stuck in one location but a detail of good old fashioned manpower plus a few telephone poles helped to extricate it by placing poles under the tracks so that it could back out of the hole in which it was stuck. From there the dozer managed to get both the tank retriever and second wrecker out of their mired locations. Once that was accomplished they all concentrated on the first wrecker and got it back out and operational.

Eventually the generator was relocated back along the mountain and put back in service. The dozer did its best to restore some semblance of order to the grounds surrounding the whole area. It took quite along time after the rainy season was long gone before all vestiges of the ruts and gullies were no longer visible in the company area. The new commander that caused all the ruckus was gone in a matter of days. I don't think he ever did get to hear the guieter sound level of the generator at its new location. I also wanted to compliment and thank Tom Thiel for all his devoted efforts to scan the many back copies of Taro Leafs into the website. What a monumental task that had to be. Tom has done so much. All members owe him a great big "Thank you!" George F. Lance, 319 Valley Road, Etters, PA 17319

**Life Member 1101** 717-938-6480

email: patlance@aol.com

David, I am sending this info on behalf of my father and family. Eric Diller, a WWII veteran and active member of the 24th Infantry Reunions, is grieving the loss of his beloved wife, Dorothy. "Dotty" came to many of the reunions as well. She passed away on 2/14/15. Of special interest is a love letter Eric wrote to Dotty when he was in basic training. The words are all song titles from the Hit Parade, big band era. Eric read this aloud at the memorial service and there was not a dry eye within earshot. Respectfully, Eric Diller (Son), Linda Reid (daughter)

Hello David: Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the Taro Leaf magazine's most recent edition. I wanted to let you know that it arrived today, and that I appreciate your inclusion of my father, Joseph Kane, on the Fallen Comrades page. I know that he would feel very honored to be presented in that manner, and possibly a bit bashful about it.....since he would regard himself as a soldier who just did his job Brad Kane

Hello David, My father never talked much about his service during WWII. He passed away in 2001. I discovered the other day through an old family friend that my father had served with the 11th FAB, although this friend cannot recall which battery. I'd like to know if anyone has information on where I could find 11th FAB rosters. Or, if anyone who served with the 11th FAB between 1943 and 1946 knew my father, TSgt George P. Tripcevich, I'd love to hear from them John Tripcevic, jtripcevic@gmail.com

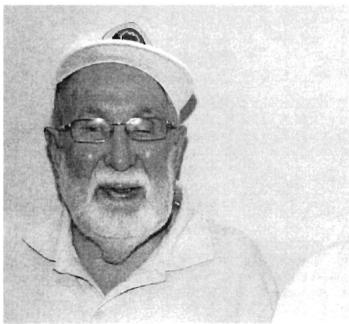
### **Connecting after 64 Years**

Paul A. Boulay, a Fall River, MA native and Bill Stokes, an upstate New Yorker, reunited for lunch in 2010 in The Villages, FL, after Boulay responded to the quarterly 24th Infantry Division Association's luncheon invitation listed in a local newspaper. Paul and his wife, Mary Joyce, have been residents of The Villages, Lady Lake since 2008, and the couple enjoys traveling since his 1988 retirement as a union carpenter. Stokes, who lives in Leesburg after 11 years in Lady Lake - just five miles from the Boulays - made careers of radio, television and writing.

Both raised families: Paul and his wife, Joyce, have two sons, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; Bill raised three children, has seven grandkids and a great grandson. They embarked from Seattle for Japan on a converted Liberty ship in December, 1946, as replacements, and both ended up in Headquarters-Headquarters Company, 1st BN, 34th RGT in Sasebo.

The two reunited in Lady Lake, in mid-March, 2010 for a long lunch following Paul's telephone inquiry to Bill concerning the area's quarterly luncheon. Stokes had discovered TARO LEAF at the public library, noting Tom Thiel lived in nearby Eustis. Stokes, a freelance writer and sometime cartoonist, offered his talents to Thiel.

The two met for lunch and their conversation led to the birth of the area chapter of the 24th IDA, of which Thiel is currently webmaster. The group meets quarterly and attracts not only locals but visiting veterans who stop for lunch while traveling through. Over a two-hour lunch, Paul and Bill reminisced about life overseas from 1946 to 1948. Paul's assignments during the "reestablishment of Japan" included infantry stuff like maneuvers and combing caves in the region for Japanese military hold-outs." "We never found any," he chuckled.





Stokes, by virtue of his typing ability, was assigned as assistant to the battalion supply sergeant, so he escaped the field work but was responsible for the supply function's paperwork. Stokes was sent home for medical treatment, Boulay stuck it out in Japan until returning stateside in 1948.

However, just three months shy of his Army Reserve discharge date, he was recalled for the Korean war and later he ended up in Trieste, Italy, as an armorer until 1951 when discharged.

SPRING 2015 9 Volume 69/2



24th ID remembers fallen 24 years later. Spc. Steven R. Harrington and Pfc. Francisco Irizarry place the memorial wreath next to the Operation Desert Storm memorial, Feb. 27, during the 24th anniversary reunion held on Fort Stewart, Ga. (Photo by Sgt. Uriah Walker, 1ABCT Public Affairs)

FORT STEWART, Ga. - During the 100-hour Operation Desert Storm, 24th Infantry Division lost 16 soldiers. February 27, 2015 was the 24th anniversary and nearly 100 retired soldiers, their families and friends gathered at the Operation Desert Storm memorial on Fort Stewart, Ga., to remember their friends who did not come home or have passed since their return.

August 27, 1990 - The first ship carrying 24th ID troops arrived in Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield and on 12 September combat elements closed in on theater with movement to the Iraqi border commencing January 18, 1991.

"It's been 24 years since we've seen each other and it's like we haven't missed a day," explained Brian Burkhart, assigned to Co. B, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment.

This year's reunion and memorial was the work of two, dedicated men who deployed with 24th ID is support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Spc. Steven R. Harrington and Pfc. Francisco Irizarry spearheaded the 24th anniversary reunion and memorial that brought together those who had

not seen one another since their time together in the Gulf.

"Twenty-four years ago the eyes of the world were upon us as we set about our mission to extricate the Iraqi army from its occupation of Kuwait," began Harrington. "24th Infantry Division was tasked with the mission of seeking out and destroying Iraq's elite republican guard, and dare I say we accomplished that mission well."

Mostly those who personally knew them read the names of the 16 fallen heroes. The readers shared short stories about who the person was and how they influenced their lives. Others were simply represented by a soldier who shared the same military occupation specialty.

"Spc. Kevin E. Wright, 1st of the 18th Infantry, from Louisville, Kentucky," read one attendee. "He was killed on the 2nd of March, '91. I volunteered to read his name since no one's here that knows of him and I know everything I need to know about him - "Infantry by God! Victory Soldiers always keep their promises."

# **SOME AMBUSH!**

I can't say just where we were at the time, but it was a very cold night just sitting there waiting for Chinks to come. We were sent out on what they called an ambush. I was in the 2nd PLT at the time. We left the company area just before dark, one squad with LT Walters, the officer in charge. We had hand warmers which didn't help much but were better then nothing. We headed out to the front lines, boy it was cold.

The Chinks must have been watching our every move. We went about 500 yards when the LT set our position. It was a bright night, you could see a good 2-3 hundred yards, all rice paddies. I sat there like the rest of the men. Nobody came around for quite a while and it got colder an colder. Frozen ground, you couldn't even dig a hole if you tried. We sat there for hours. But you couldn't go to sleep it was so cold.

Then, to our left flank on the hill you could hear screaming and a bunch of shooting All of a sudden all hell broke loose. We had been under artillery fire before, but this was the worst ever. Finally the LT rounded us up on the road where there was a trench we could all get into. Above was little hill that the LT said we had to climb. Morning was now breaking through. By the time we got to the top of the hill we saw an awesome sight on the other side.

The bad guys had gotten in behind us. We could see them all standing on the ridge line like nobody was there to shoot them. I was right behind the LT. We quickly got down off the hill into a rice paddy that had a nice banking. The trouble was, we were caught between our company and the Chinks, and we were getting fire from both our front and rear.

We had to cross a wide-open field with no cover; it was run for your life. The LT and I were the last two to cross the road. I really didn't want to cross it, even though it was only 10 feet to the other side, because our men had it zeroed in with their machine guns and the dirt on the road was really being chopped up. We were still about 100 yards from our position where we were supposed to regroup. Fortunately, by this time our 155s started shelling. Thank God the artillery observer gave accurate sightings away from us.

The LT and I made it. I really don't know how many other guys made it out of there. I guess the Man upstairs helped me out. That's why I say I'm lucky, or the Man upstairs is keeping an eye on me.

**Edward Johnston**, **19th RGT**, G CO, '50- 51, **Member** 135 Riverside Dr. S, Oshawa, Ontario, CN L1H.6P1

# Bridge named in honor of Korean War POW

The Legislature of West Virginia and the United States Army has named a bridge after CPL Eldred Jennings Hensley, who gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country during the Korean War. The bridge, officially called the "Army Corporal Eldred Jennings Hensley Memorial Bridge." is on SR 5 in Logan County, WV.

Hensley served with C Company, 1st Battalion of 21st RGT, 24th Infantry Division in the Korean War and was captured on July 5, 1950. He was eventually shot and killed as a prisoner of war on Nov. 5, 1950. CPL Hensley was a member of Task Force Smith, the first U.S. element to engage the North Korean army after their invasion of South Korea. On July 5, this delaying force was in positions north of Osan blocking the north-south road from Suwon to Taejon. CCO, including CPL Hensley, set up defensive positions that covered B CO's flank. The road was a major avenue of advance for the North Korean Army. Where the road passed through this saddle, Task Force Smith made its initial stand. At 0730 that morning the infantrymen detected a column of eight North Korean tanks moving south along the road from Suwon. The antitank weapons employed by the infantry were ineffective and by 0900 more than 30 enemy tanks had passed through friendly lines. By mid-day, North Korean infantry were overwhelming U.S. Troops and taking many prisoners. At 1430, LTC Smith ordered withdrawal to the south. The Task Force lost 153 men in the first 24 hours of fighting, among them, CPL Hensley, by then a POW.

Corporal Hensley made his way north by stages to Seoul and Pyongyang, and taken by train to Manpo on the south bank of the Yalu River in a mixed group of 750 POW's and civilian internees. Exhaustion and malnutrition had begun to weaken the men and claim lives, and pneumonia became a constant menace. They returned to Manpo in the last days of October in 1950 and on October 31, began a long march to Apex Camps farther northeast.

Companions recall that Corporal Hensley was mortally ill. On November 5, 1950, as the group was making its way over a mountain pass, CPL Hensley fell along the wayside. Unable to continue, he was shot by a North Korean guard as the group was forced to go on. The fate of Corporal Hensley, as well as many other soldiers, may have remained unknown had it not been for the actions of PVT "Johnie" Johnson who was captured by the North Korean Army in July of 1950. During his time as a POW, he clandestinely recorded the deaths of those around him. He smuggled his notes out and was awarded the Silver Star. From the Morgan County Herald, by Mark Faulhaber.

# "IT BROUGHT BACK HORRIBLE MEMORIES"

I read with great interest your article about the soldier missing from the Korean War being accounted for. It brought back horrible memories of January 1951. January 1951 was not at all kind to the 19th RGT or any other units for that matter. January was the month the Chinese hit us very hard with overwhelming numbers. Later in the day as the Chinese pulled back you could barely walk without walking over dead Chinese but we had our share of casualties too.

Most of January was quite hectic with increased enemy activity and the extremely cold weather. I was there with Arthur Richardson at the time. Art was a little older and in another platoon, so we were not close friends. I was assigned to "A" Company Headquarters. However I remember Art as sort of quiet and a class guy. I did not know the exact day that Art went missing. There were so many. Later in January or early February I was taken to a MASH unit due to earlier injuries. When I returned to "A" Company, my C.O. asked "what are you doing back here?" I replied "Just following orders." He said I had no business back there. He then asked "don't I recall you had experience with short wave radio and communications?" I told him "Yes, with the Oregon State forestry Department." I became "Communications Chief" and his personal radio operator. So I had much less walking to do on the bum leg.

Captain Charles Bailey was our Commanding Officer and the best C.O. I ever had. He was a prince of a man. However, it took him a long time to accept "George." You see "George" was our imaginary pet dog. When Captain Bailey was sent home to train recruits in early April '51 he was replaced with a Lieutenant that I never really got to know nor do I remember his name.

On April 23rd we were ordered to take a hill we had been unable to take on a previous attempt. By midday we found ourselves sitting on top of that hill. Our new C.O. had summoned the company officers, a couple sergeants and myself, the Commo Chief. We were all sitting around a fox hole for a briefing. I was on the radio talking to Battalion headquarters requesting more ammo to be sent up. Then the lights went out. We were hit by a heavy mortar barrage.

LEFT FOR DEAD...When I came to I was dazed, confused, traumatized and scared as hell. I looked around, there were bodies scattered everywhere, but

no one was moving. The C.O., Company officers, and the two sergeants were nowhere to be seen. I later heard they were dead.

Then I heard the sound of bugles and whistles that sent chills up my spine. By this time I was very familiar with that sound. It was the Chinese coming up the other side of the mountain. I keyed up the radio, it was dead. I pulled the radio off my backwith the intention of destroying it. There was no need. The entire back of my radio was blown away. It had undoubtedly saved my life.

I grabbed an M-1 and a couple of bandoleers of ammo and ran to the top of the hill where I could see the Chinese coming up the hill. They were still a ways off but several were much closer and trying to flank us. I picked off three or four, then ran back picked up a M-1 Carbine and several bandoleers and proceeded to get the Hell off that hill. When I passed one area where numerous bodies were lying I heard someone saying, "Don't Leave Me."

I checked the area and it was one of my buddies, Ronald Wierick. I told him I wouldn't leave him. I asked him how bad he was hit. He replied "Bad". I saw his knee was bleeding profusely; one hand was dangling off by his little finger. And when I picked him up and threw him over my shoulder parts of him fell out and over my chest. As I went through some brush he yelled, "don't hurt my hand." I couldn't be worried about his hand.

We ran a long ways off that hill and I stopped, leaned him back against the hill, and let my legs rest. I lit up a cigarette, we both took a couple of drags off it, threw it down and then started to leave. Ron said, "Wait Del I want you to have this ring my mother gave it to me for graduation." I still have it to this day. I told Ron to keep it. He told me he wanted me to have it stating, "I'm not going to make it." I finally put the ring on my finger and we took off down the hill again.

Later I came across two fellows from another company who had been hit but were in pretty good shape. I asked if they were going off the hill and would they try to get him to the bottom. They agreed and took him the remainder of the way. I was so weak and tired I could hardly take a step.

Later I got in a fire fight with some of the Chinese flankers and was shot in the left leg. I cut my clothes off down to my bare leg. Every time my heart beat my leg would spurt a blood stream as large as my thumb. I knew it had hit a main artery. I stuffed several o.d. bandages down inside my open leg. I saved a couple bandages to wrap the outside. I took my web belt off, placed my wallet between the web belt and where I believed the artery to be and tightened the belt as tight as I could get it. See next column.

In those days it was taught that you could only leave a tourniquet on for fifteen or twenty minutes but I knew if I did I would bleed to death, so it staved on. I crawled about a half-mile or more before I attracted some friendly personnel who came and carried me out. I had given myself two shots of morphine at the time of bandaging and by now the pain was still nearly unbearable.

Ron Wierick and I both had been left for dead. After getting out of the service. I named my second son after Ronald Wierick. I have been haunted all my life by the thought of those bodies that I left on that Hill.

David, I have for years searched for someone to help me find out if those bodies were ever found. I have written letters, made phone calls all falling on deaf ears. I got more help from you than anyone. If you remember I asked you about it. You introduced me to a fellow who worked in missing personnel. He wore a white military uniform. He met with me and showed me his list of people from "A" Company, 19th Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. Only Arthur Richardson's name came up, who we now know that he too has been accounted for. Therefore, I'm assuming that I can now lay to rest the thought that I possibly left Live bodies behind.

Taro Leaf Member, Delbert (Del) Massey, "A" Co. 19th RGT, P.O. Box 151, Bonanza; Oregon 97623

Dear David: I am a former member of the 19th RGT. joined in Beppu, Japan in August 1948, and served with the regiment until I was taken prisoner by the North Koreans on 4 November 1950. I was released on 1 September 1953 during "Operation Big Switch". At the time of my release I was greeted by General Ridgeway and had my picture taken with him by MSG. Al Chang, a USA official photographer as well as some other photographers. Al told me a copy would be sent home to my parents and I gave him my parent's address. They never received it. The years passed and I forgot about it. I think now I would like to have a copy for my children. We went several times to the National Archives to search the photos taken during "Operation Big Switch," but for some reason they have nothing on file from 1 September 1953 onward to the end of the operation. All photos are dated 31 August 1953 and earlier.

The Director of the Archives told me this was highly unusual and he would look into it personally. He sent a letter later informing me he looked into this mysterious matter and was unable to find any photos of "Operation Big Switch" dated after 31 August '53.

I'm hoping you will publish this letter in your next publication of the "Taro Leaf. Perhaps someone out there can shed some light on the mysterious disappearance of all those photos taken from 1 September 1953 to the end of the operation. William F. Borer, 556 Osprey Drive, Hampstead, NC 28443 mrbilllO@charter.net

#### **MAGGIE'S DRAWERS**

Ft. Hood, Texas, 1944. A hot August day in Basic Training. Today, we're on the rifle range. The "dry runs' over, now we will zero in on targets with live ammo from our M-1's. Along the long firing line we get into the prone position. I "lock" and "load" and on signal squeeze off my first shot. From the trench down range comes a waving "Maggie's Drawers." I fire off another round, and again, "Maggie's Drawers". Three, four more shots—the same results. I squeeze off two more misses and two more "waves" from Maggie.

All the other guys on the line have finished and wait, all their eyes on me. A range officer approaches. I scramble up. He takes my rifle, gets down into prone position. I watch as he fires. Whoops, it's "Maggie's Drawers." The lieutenant fires again. Nope. He shoves in a new clip and takes aim—and misses. And now, all eyes are on him. Three more shots—three more "Maggie's". I feel vindicated but make damn sure that I don't smirk. After a couple more shots— Hurrah! He has hit the upper edge of the target. He continues to fire and adjust the sights. Click after click, until twelve clicks later—Bulls Eye!

He hands me my weapon, and I ultimately qualify as a marksman with, now, a reliable and trusty M-1.

Six months later, I'm on the beach at Leyte, Philippine Islands. I'm issued an M-I and climb aboard a ship with men of the 34th regiment for the Luzon operation. Five days later we land above Olongopo and take off to Zig Zag Pass, to open the highway to Manila. After a truck ride and a long hike, Able Company takes a position on a small hill several hundred yards off the main road. We dig in as jungle darkness enve lopes us. Suddenly, Japanese voices break the siillness with yells and screams of "Banzai". They charge up the hill. The jungle is thick and I can see only a few yards to my front. I fire a clip into the darkness and at an enemy yet unseen. Our perimeter erupts with gun fire. The first attack ends quickly. The Japanese have been beaten back. And it is quiet again. I cradle the M-1 I had been issued just days before, and I wonder. Did anyone ever test it out on a firing range? Does it fire accurately? And I wonder, did I hit anything or anyone? I am certain only of one thing: Nobody waved "Maggie's Drawers". Bill McKenna, "A" Co, 34th RGT, 970 Neilson St., Al-

bany, CA 94706

#### **Lieutenant General Hank Emerson**

OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS by Sam Kier

He served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars having earned 2 Distinguished Service Crosses, 5 Silver Stars and 2 Bronze Stars.

In August, 1950, the 5th infantry Regiment was placed on a ridgeline to the left of the 25th Division and facing a higher ridgeline called Sobuk-san, which was in the hands of the North Korean 6th Division. Things remained relatively quiet until the 23rd of themonth when the commander of 1st Battalion summoned CPT Robert Timmons and told him to take his A Company on a reconnaissance in force for some three miles in front of the friendly lines. The company moved out with the platoons of LT's Hank Emerson and Charles Worley taking the lead.

When they reached a small knoll with a few scraggly trees on it, the company stopped to re-organize. They were immediately caught in a maelstrom of criss-crossing fire and the crunch of 120mm mortar rounds. A machine gun round pierced LT Worlev's heart and a few minutes later CPT Timmons was mortally wounded. Emerson assumed command of the company and led its surviving members in a successful attack against an enemy position located on a small rise to the front.

LT Emerson was informed that two hundred Chogi bearers, South Korean porters, were on their way with a resupply of water and ammunition. They never arrived. North Korean soldiers overran the unarmed, overloaded porters, who fell shrieking to the ground as the North Koreans emptied their burp guns and tossed grenades into the screaming mass of helpless souls, In light of the re-supply failure Emerson was given permission to

withdraw to the MLR, secure ammunition and water and repeat the attack on the following morning. He was now confirmed as the CO of A Company.

The next morning, Hank Emerson led his men back up another hill which they captured after a brisk fire fight. For nineteen days, Able Company repulsed assault after assault as the enraged NKPA attempted to retake the hill.

For four of those days. LT Emerson, having lost all of his platoon leaders, was the only officer on the hill. He personally laid wire and mines, exposing himself to enemy machine guns, small arms, mortar, artillery and grenade fire. During twenty-seven vicious enemy assaults, he moved from position to position encouraging his soldiers and directing their fire.

On 7 September, 25th Division Headquarters issued verbal instructions for the 5lh RGT to prepare for a relief in place. The forty-one surviving members of Company A walked down the hill. Henry Everett Emerson, who was born in Washington, D.C. in May of 1925, spent much of his childhood at the Presidio of San Francisco while his army surgeon father was on staff at Letterman General Hospital. He was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1947.

Emerson was serving as the executive officer for Company L, 31st Infantry in Korea in 1949 when he and many other 7th Division soldiers were transferred to fill the ranks of the newly formed 5th Regimental Combat Team. He went to Hawaii with the regiment in 1949 and returned with it in 1950 as a platoon leader in Company A. In 1952-53, he served as Aide-de-Camp to General Mark Clark in FECOM Headquarters in Japan. In 1954, through the efforts of his former 5th RCT

commander, John Throckmorton, Hank returned to West Point to teach in the Department of Tactics. He credits former Bobcat commanders John "The Rock" Throckmorton and Lester Wheeler, among those who inspired and guided his army career.

Hank Emerson's next combat tour occurred in 1965-66 when he served as a battalion commander for 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne in Vietnam. In January 1968, he returned to Vietnam as Commander, lst Brigade, 9th Infantry Div., until he was wounded in August. He suffered severe burns after his helicopter was shot down in the Mekong Delta and returned to the United States.

Emerson gained recognition during the Vietnam War for his tactical ability. He was credited with having conceived such methods as the *checkerboard concept* that involves small groups covering grid squares to seek out an enemy, and *jitterbug* tactics which are complex maneuvers using helicopters and ground troops to surround and destroy an enemy. He demonstrated that American soldiers could effectively "out-guerrilla" the Viet Cong.

Soon after Vietnam, Emerson was promoted to major general and assumed command of the 2nd infantry Division in Korea. When he received his third star in 1975, he was appointed commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg. He remained in that position until his retirement in June 1977. Following his army career, Emerson worked briefly for a firm in Fayetteville, North Carolina that provided support services to international building contractors. He is now completely retired and living in a remote area of Montana. Emerson received two Distinguished Service Crosses, five Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts.

### 24<sup>th</sup> IDA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM September 17 – 21, 2015 COLUMBUS, GA



YES, SIGN ME UP FOR THE 24<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY ASSOCIATION 2015 REUNION!!!

NAME				_	
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<b>PAYMENT IS</b>	<b>DUE NO LATER</b>	R THAN A	<b>UGUST 21, 20</b>	15 V, AND MADE PAY	
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Confirmation of registration and itinerary will be sent out by August 28, 2015. 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 Hilton Garden Inn directly at (706) 660-1000 or HGI Brand Reservations at (877) 782-9444 no later than August 31, 2015. Be sure to tell them you are with the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Reunion to receive the discounted rate of \$89 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 Columbus!

(612) 804-9457



# MEETING AT A GLANCE COLUMBUS

	Pre Day One Thursday Sept 17, 2015	Day One Friday Sept 18, 2015	Day Two Saturday Sept 19, 2015	Day Three Sunday Sept 20, 2015	Post Day One Monday Sept 21, 2015
Morning	Arrivals	Breakfast Azalea I 8:00 am - 9:00 am	Men's / Ladies Breakfast	Breakfast Azalea I 8:00 am - 9:00 am	Breakfast Azalea 8:00 am - 9:00 ar
		Registration Azalea Foyer 7:00 am – 9:00 am	Azalea I & II 9:00 am - 10:00 am	Hospitality Suite Azalea III 9:00 am – Noon	Departures
		Hospitality Suite Azalea III 8:00 am – Noon	Annual Meeting Azalea I & II 10:00 am – Noon		
Afternoon	Arrivals Continue Registration Azalea Foyer	Lunch & Ft Benning Rangers In Action Ceremony & Tour	Lunch At Country's BBQ & Columbus City Tour	National Infantry Museum Tour & IMAX Theater	Departures Continue
	2:00 pm – 5:00 pm  Hospitality Suite  Azalea III  1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 3:00 pm  Depart Lobby Area  Return Lobby Area	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm  Depart Lobby Area  Return Lobby Area	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm  Depart Lobby Area  Return Lobby Area	
		Hospitality Suite Azalea III Noon – 6:00 pm	Hospitality Suite Azalea III Noon – 6:00 pm	Hospitality Suite Azalea III Noon – 6:00 pm	
Evening	Hospitality Suite Azalea III 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Hospitality Suite Azalea III 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Hospitality Suite Azalea III 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Memorial Banquet Azalea I & II 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	
	On Own	Board Meeting Azalea II 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	On Own	Hospitality Suite Azalea III 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm	
		On Own			

**SPRING 2015** 16 **Volume 69/2** 



# 24<sup>th</sup> IDA Agenda Columbus

Thursday, September 17, 2015						
All Day	Arrivals					
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Hospitality Suite Azalea III					
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Registration Azalea Lobby Foyer					
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Hospitality Suite Azalea III					
	Friday, September, 18, 2015					
At Leisure	Breakfast Lakeside Grill Flow					
7:00 am to 9:00 am	Registration Azalea Lobby Foyer					
9:00 am to 9:00 pm	Hospitality Suite Azalea III					
9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Lunch & Fort Benning Rangers In Action Ceremony & Tour					
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Board Meeting Azalea II					
Saturday, September 19, 2015						
9:00 am to 10:00 am	Men's / Ladies Breakfast Azalea I & II					
10:00 am to Noon	Annual Member Meeting					
Noon to 9:00 pm	Hospitality Suite Azalea III					
Noon to 2:00 pm Lunch At Country's BBQ & Columbus City Tour						
	Sunday, September 20, 2015					
At Leisure	Breakfast Lakeside Grill Flow					
9:00 am to 4:00 pm	Hospitality Suite Azalea III					
12:00 pm to 4:00 pm	National Infantry Museum Tour & IMAX Theater					
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Memorial Banquet Azalea I & II						
8:30 pm to 11:00 pm	Hospitality Suite Azalea III					
	Monday, September, 21, 2015					
At Leisure	Breakfast Lakeside Grill Flow					
All Day	Departures					

#### **Tour Descriptions for Columbus**

#### Fort Benning Rangers In Action, Lunch and Tour:

Come watch a Rangers in Action Demonstration (RAI) on Fort Benning. The U.S. Army Ranger School is recognized as the Army's premier leadership course. This highly coordinated performance will awe and thrill you as Rangers detonate explosives, jump from helicopters into the water, rappel down and up towers, race down zip lines, and participate in hand to hand combat.

Have lunch on base like the old days followed by a tour of the base including interaction with simulators, gun ranges and other hands on activities.

#### **Country s Barbecue and Columbus City Tour:**

Country's Barbecue offers great barbecue cooked in open pits over hickory and red oak -- the way folks down here like it. We also offer a full range of country cooking, homemade pies, shakes, sundaes, banana splits and old fashion made in a double boiler banana pudding. Country's on Broad offers full table service, to go and drive thru. We're in an original Greyhound bus station with a built in 1940 something bus.

Columbus is an authentic rivertown. Today, the river is home to the 15-mile trail known as the Chattahoochee RiverWalk. Locally, Columbus offers a variety of fine attractions, such as the State Theatre of Georgia, the historic Springer Opera House; Port Columbus Civil War Naval Museum; the National Infantry Museum; The Columbus Museum; the beautiful Historic District and spectacular architecture of the MidTown Historic District; and the Coca-Cola Space Science Center. Stroll back to times genteel with a guided tour of Heritage Corner, in the

heart of Columbus' 26-block Historic District — Georgia's largest — where brick cobblestone streets, ancient oaks and old homes are the order of the day. Five historical buildings, from a trader's log cabin to the home of Dr. John Pemberton — whose French wine d'coca became better known as Coca-Cola.

# The National Infantry Museum, Soldier Center and IMAX Theater:

The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center salutes soldiers in a 190,000-square-foot facility nestled where Columbus meets Fort Benning. It is the only museum in the country dedicated to the American Infantryman and preserves one of the greatest collections of military artifacts. Featuring state-of-the-art exhibits, the museum traces infantry history from colonial times to the present in a series The museum also showcases the of galleries. Vietnam Memorial Plaza, featuring the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall and the iconic World War II Company Street. Guests can enjoy the many attractions at the museum, including the area's only IMAX Theatre, Combat Simulators and EST200 Rifle Range, Soldier Store, and the Fife and Drum Restaurant.

The IMAX Theatre at Patriot Park is the region's premiere destination to experience the most thrilling Hollywood blockbusters and the most immersive documentaries! The theater features the area's largest screen at five stories high and 70 feet wide that offers a bigger picture, clearer images and crystal clear sound. Recognized as the world's most immersive movie-going experience, IMAX puts you IN the movie, delivering an experience that cannot be replicated in a conventional cinema.



## SOUTH TO THE NAKTONG, NORTH TO THE YALU

Roy E. Appleman



Battles on the Kumsan road toward Taejon (cotinued from previous issue)

Nor was this the only encounter with North Koreans close to the Kumsan road that afternoon. Major Dunham led his men down toward the Kumsan road, as directed by Ayres. On the way they had a fire fight with what they took to be a band of guerrillas. They disengaged and moved into the draw at Kuwan-ni about three miles south of Taejon. Enemy troops there fired on Dunham's party from nearby finger ridges.

This fire hit Dunham in the neck, mortally wounding him, and there were other casualties. All in this party who could do so now fled west to the Yudung valley at Masu-ri. But none of these incidents were known to Dean, Beauchamp, and the men in Taejon.

Although the purpose was not apparent to the men in Taejon, enemy troops to the west and northwest of the city shortly after noon began to close on the city and exert increased frontal pressure to coincide with the movement of the enemy forces that by now had had time to get to the rear of the city. In the early afternoon, Lieutenant Herbert's platoon sergeant called his attention to a large column of troops on high ground westward from their roadblock position just west of Taejon. Herbert watched them for a while and decided that they were enemy troops. He then moved his men to a knoll south of the road and into defensive positions already dug there. The enemy force, which Herbert estimated to be in battalion strength, stopped and in turn watched Herbert's force from a distance of about 600 yards. [52] This probably was the same column that Montesclaros had seen on the Nonsan road about noon.

Back of Herbert's knoll position at the southwestern edge of the city was a battery of 155-mm. howitzers. A runner from the battery arrived to ask Herbert about the situation, and Herbert went back with him to talk with the battery commander. At the artillery position he found howitzers pointing in three different directions but none toward the southwest, where the enemy force had just appeared. Herbert asked that the pieces be changed to fire on the enemy in

front of him. The battery commander said he could not change the howitzers without authority from the battalion operations officer. Herbert talked to this officer on the field telephone but failed to secure his approval to change the howitzers.

By this time the North Koreans in front of Herbert's men had set up mortars and begun to shell his position and also the howitzers. This fire killed several artillerymen and caused casualties in the infantry group. Herbert sent a runner into Taejon to report and ask for instructions. At the 34th Infantry command post a group of fifty men was assembled from Headquarters Company and sent back under Lt. William Wygal, S-2 of the 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry, with instructions to Herbert to hold where he was until the artillery could be evacuated. So Herbert's augmented force exchanged fire with the North Koreans and held them to their ridge position.

General Dean observed this fire fight from the command post and thought it was going well for the American troops. He mistakenly thought, however, that it was McGrail's 2d Battalion troops that were engaged. About this time, Dean walked back from the TACP to the 34th Infantry command post and asked for Colonel Beauchamp. It was about 1700. To his surprise he was told that no one had seen Beauchamp since about 1500. Like Major Lantron in the morning, he had just disappeared. Dean remembered that he had expressed a great deal of concern to Beauchamp about the loss of communications with the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, and that he had directed someone to get through and find Ayres. When

he learned that Beauchamp had left the command post shortly after 1500 he concluded that Beauchamp had personally gone forward to contact Ayres. It was not until some three years later after he was repatriated from North Korea that General Dean discovered that this was not the fact.

What had happened to Beauchamp? About the time the first of the vehicles started to form into convoy at the command post and the tanks from Yongdong led the first of them out of Taejon, Colonel Beauchamp got into his jeep and drove to the southeast edge of the city along the withdrawal route. There he came upon four light tanks of the 24th Reconnaissance Company and ordered the tankers to defend the southeast side of the city and the Okch'on road exit. Starting back into Taejon, Beauchamp discovered on glancing back that the tanks were leaving their positions. He turned around and caught up with them on the Okch'on road. But in running after the tanks he came under enemy small arms fire. After stopping the tanks, Beauchamp decided to climb a nearby knoll and reconnoiter the situation. From this eminence he saw numerous groups of enemy troops moving across country south of Taejon toward the Okch'on road. Because he had been under fire on the road he knew that some of them had already arrived there. Knowing that the convoys for the withdrawal were forming and that the first vehicles already had gone through, Beauchamp decided to go on with the two tanks he had with him to the pass four miles east of the city and to organize there a defensive force to hold that critical point on the withdrawal road. At the pass, Beauchamp put the tanks in position and stopped some antiaircraft half-track vehicles mounting quad .50-caliber machine guns as they arrived in the early phase of the withdrawal. Some artillery passed through, and then a company of infantry. Beauchamp tried to flag down the infantry commander's vehicle, intending to stop the company and keep it at the pass. But the officer misunderstood his intent, waved back, and kept on going.

Enemy sniper fire built up sporadically on the road below the pass. From his vantage point Beauchamp saw a locomotive pulling a few cars halted by enemy small arms fire at the tunnel. This locomotive had departed Iwon-ni at 1620, so the time of this incident must have been approximately 1630. Still expecting the 1st Infantry to cover the withdrawal route. Beauchamp decided that the best thing he could do would be to hurry up its arrival. He drove eastward to the command post of the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry, and from there telephoned the 21st Infantry regimental command post in Okch'on. It chanced that General Menoher was there. He instructed Beauchamp to come on in to Okch'on and give a detailed report. But again, none of these happenings were known in Taejon.

The locomotive had been sent to Taejon as the result of General Dean's telephone request to the 24th Division a little earlier. In midafternoon, Captain Hatfield tried to send a rolling supply point of ten boxcars of ammunition out of the Taejon railroad yard to Yongdong. Returning to the rail yard at the northeast side of Taejon, Hatfield discovered that the Korean crew had uncoupled the locomotive from the supply train and fled south in it. It was then that Dean had telephoned the division to dispatch a locomotive immediately to Taejon to pull out this train. The nearest rail yard was at Iwon-ni, fifteen miles southeast of Taejon. Only armed guards had kept the Korean train crews there on the job. Enemy fire on the locomotive from Iwon-ni punctured the water tender.

Though under sniper fire at the railroad yards, Hatfield awaited the arrival of the locomotive. When it pulled into the vards more enemy fire hit it. The engineer said the locomotive was so damaged that it could not pull the train out. To Hatfield's dismay, the Korean engineer threw the locomotive in reverse and backed speedily southward out of the yard. At the tunnel southeast of Taejon enemy fire again swept over the locomotive and grenades struck it, killing the engineer. The fireman, although wounded, took the train on into Okch'on. Some American soldiers rode the train out of Taejon. According to 24th Division records, the time was 1645. Informed of this untoward incident, Dean again telephoned the division, and at 1700 he received a telephone call that it was sending another locomotive, this time under guard. Dean informed Hatfield of this and the latter waited at the rail yard. Hatfield was killed by enemy soldiers there while waiting for the locomotive that never arrived. The next morning at 0830 a U.S. Air Force strike destroyed the train load of ammunition and supplies still standing in the Taejon rail yard.

About 1700 in the afternoon when he discovered that Colonel Beauchamp was not at the command post and that no one there knew where he was, General Dean turned to Colonel Wadlington, the regimental executive officer, and told him to get the withdrawal under way in earnest. Wadlington called in the 3d Platoon of the 24th Reconnaissance Company which had held a position a few miles down the Kumsan road on the north side of the enemy roadblock that had been discovered during the night. For their own reasons the enemy forces in that vicinity had seen fit not to attack this platoon and thereby alert the 34th Infantry to the enemy strength in its rear. In coming in to Taejon to join the withdrawal convoy, the platoon drew machine gun fire near the rail station. Pvt. James H. Nelson engaged this enemy weapon with a .50-caliber machine gun mounted on a 2 1/2-ton truck and knocked it out. In response to the earlier withdrawal order, Capt. Jack Smith had brought the 3d Battalion, 34th Infantry, in trucks to the designated initial point at the street corner in front of the regimental command post. When he arrived there, Major McDaniel told him that General Dean wanted a perimeter defense established to protect the initial point and to support an attempt to recover a battery of 155-mm. howitzers. Smith unloaded L Company for the perimeter defense and sent the rest of the battalion on to join the convoy that was forming.

Instead of withdrawing their howitzers while Herbert's force held off the enemy force at the west edge of Taejon, the artillerymen had shown no desire to limber up the pieces under fire. When Herbert left his position to fall back to join the withdrawal he noticed the howitzers. The North Koreans guickly moved up and occupied Herbert's old position when he withdrew from it, and some advanced to the battery position. From these places they began firing into the city. Learning of the impending loss of the 155-mm. howitzers, General Dean ordered Colonel Wadlington to organize a counterattack force from personnel at the command post to rescue the pieces. Major McDaniel, the regimental S-3, volunteered to organize and lead the counterattack. He drove the enemy soldiers from the battery position and kept down hostile fire until he could bring up tractor prime movers, hitch them to the howitzers, and pull out the pieces. Lack of tractor drivers prevented taking them all out; those left were rendered inoperative.

By this time word came back to the command post that enemy small arms fire had knocked out and set afire two or three trucks at the tail end of the first group of vehicles to leave the city, and that they blocked the street at the southeast edge of Taejon. Flames could be seen in that corner of the city, and the sound of small arms fire came from there. Dean then rewrote a radio message to be sent to the 24th Division. It said in effect, "Send armor. Enemy road-block eastern edge City of Taejon. Signed Dean." Dean directed that the message be sent in the clear.

The general then went over to the Capitol Building with his interpreter to see if he could find a northward route out of the city that would pass over the tableland east of the railroad station and swing around to hit the Okch'on road some miles from the city. The Koreans in the building were panic-stricken and he could get no information from them. Dean hastened back to the command post and, being informed that Beauchamp had still not returned, he directed Colonel Wadlington to close station and move out.

Enemy fire into and within the city had increased considerably. One result was that an enemy mortar shell scored a direct hit on the collecting station of the 24th Infantry, wounding ten men. Captain Smith from his perimeter defense post reported that he

could see North Koreans advancing from the airfield. Wadlington told him to hold them off until the convoy could escape. Wadlington showed General Dean his place in the convoy. He told Dean that he was going to lead the convoy with two jeeps, each carrying five men, and that Major McDaniel was going to be at the tail of the column. With L Company already engaging approaching North Koreans, Captain Smith asked Dean how long he was to hold the company in position as a covering force.

Dean told him to give them forty-five minutes and then to withdraw.

Dean looked at his watch as he drove out the gate of the command post. It was 1755. Outside in the street he talked briefly with Wadlington and the senior officers riding the lead vehicles. He told them that very likely they would get sniper fire in the city, but that once outside he thought they would be all right. He instructed that if sniper fire was encountered and the column stopped for any reason, everyone was to dismount and clean out the snipers. It was a few minutes after 1800 when the large, main convoy started to move.

With Wadlington at its head the convoy rolled down the street. Some parts of the city were now blazing furnaces, and in places swirling smoke clouds obscured the streets. Soon the convoy stopped while those in the lead removed a burning ammunition trailer and telephone poles from the way. Then it continued on and swung into a broad boulevard. There the convoy encountered heavy enemy fire, both machine gun and small arms, sweeping up and down the avenue. Colonel Wadlington and the men in the two lead jeeps dismounted and opened fire. In about five minutes enemy fire slackened. Wadlington ordered the men in the second jeep to lead out, saying he would join them as soon as he saw that the convoy was moving. After the head of the convoy passed him. Wadlington and his men got into their jeep and started forward to overtake the head of the column. Not able to pass the trucks, however, they swung off at a corner to go around a block. This route led them to a series of misadventures-they found themselves in dead-end streets, cut off by enemy fire, and eventually in a dead-end schoolvard on the east side of the city. There Wadlington and his companions destroyed their vehicle and started up the nearby mountain.

Meanwhile, the convoy hurried through the city, drawing enemy sniper fire all the way. One 2 1/2-ton truck in the convoy smashed into a building at an intersection and almost blocked the street for the rest of the vehicles. Then the first part of the convoy took a wrong turn through an underpass of the railroad and wound up in the same dead-end schoolyard as

had Colonel Wadlington. There were approximately fifty vehicles in this part of the convoy. These men abandoned their vehicles. Led by an artillery major and other officers the group of about 125 started into the hills, first going north away from the sound of firing and later turning south. During the night the group became separated into several parts. Some of the men reached friendly lines the next morning, others on 22 July; some just disappeared and were never heard of again.

Herbert was in the part of the convoy that took the wrong turn into the schoolyard.

After the first part of the convoy took the wrong turn, the remainder kept on the street leading to the Okch'on road. A little farther on they drove through walls of fire as buildings burned fiercely on both sides. Just beyond this point, General Dean's vehicle and an escort jeep sped past an intersection. They were scarcely past it when Lieutenant Clarke said to Dean that they had missed the Okch'on turn. Enemy fire prevented them from stopping to turn around, so they kept on going south down the Kumsan road.

Just outside the city on the Okch'on highway the convoy encountered enemy mortar fire. A shell hit the lead vehicle and it began to burn. A half-track pushed it out of the way. The convoy started again. Enemy fire now struck the half-track, killed the driver, and started the vehicle burning. Machine gun fire swept the road. Everyone left the vehicles and sought cover in the roadside ditches. Some in the convoy saw North Korean soldiers rise from rice paddies along the road and spray the column with burp gun fire.

When the enemy mortar fire stopped the column, SFC Joseph S. Szito of the Heavy Weapons Company, 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry, set up a 60-mm. mortar in the roadside ditch and fired at a group of North Koreans on a hill just south of the road. A little later he set up an 81-mm. mortar and fired about thirty rounds of smoke shells in an effort to cloak a proposed attempt to push the destroyed half-track off the road so the undamaged vehicles could proceed. But enough men would not go out into the stream of enemy fire to clear the road. Enemy mortars soon hit and destroyed three more vehicles. The men then poured gasoline on most of their still undamaged vehicles, set them afire, and started for high ground to the north. [62]

Enemy mortars searched up and down the highway, making a shambles of everything on it. The latter part of the convoy now came up to the stalled and burning vehicles. These men scrambled out of their vehicles, sought cover in the ditches, and prayed for darkness. One survivor of this group estimates that

there must have been 250 men bunched together in an area fifty yards square.

When darkness came, 2d Lt. Ralph C. Boyd, commanding a truck platoon of the 24th Quartermaster Company, with the help of some others, located six vehicles that appeared to be undamaged and still able to run. They were a fulltrack artillery prime mover, two half-track vehicles, two 2 1/2-ton trucks, and a jeep. Boyd had the driver of the prime mover push vehicles to the side of the road and clear a path while he and others loaded the seriously wounded onto the half-tracks.

When the prime mover had cleared a path, the other vehicles started forward with most of the men walking in the roadside ditches. Boyd told them to maintain silence and not to return any enemy fire. Boyd's group turned into a narrow dirt road running north from the main highway and traveled on it for some time without trouble. Then, suddenly, enemy machine gun fire ripped into the little group. It knocked Boyd off the prime mover. In falling, he struck a rock and lost consciousness. When he regained it sometime later everything was quiet and the vehicles were gone. Upon discovering that a bullet had only creased his knee, he got to his feet and ran two and a half miles into the lines of the 21st Infantry.

Engineer troops of C Company, 3d Engineer Combat Battalion performed well in the withdrawal from the city, but they suffered heavy losses. Two examples of their heroism should be mentioned. Enemy mortar fire destroyed Pvt. Charles T. Zimmerman's jeep and wounded Zimmerman. Enemy soldiers then directed small arms fire at his group. Although wounded by a mortar fragment and eleven bullets, Zimmerman killed five enemy soldiers and destroyed two machine guns.

Another member of the engineers, Sgt. George D. Libby, was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his heroic behavior that evening. Enemy fire at the roadblock area disabled the truck in which he was riding and killed or wounded everyone in it except him. Libby got into the roadside ditch and engaged the enemy. Twice he crossed the road to give medical aid to the wounded. He stopped an M-5 artillery tractor going through the roadblock, put the wounded on it, and then placed himself on the enemy side of the driver. He wished to protect the driver as he realized that no one else present could drive the tractor out. In this position Libby "rode shotgun" for the tractor and its load of wounded, returning enemy fire. The tractor stopped several times so that he could help other wounded on to it. In passing through the main enemy roadblock, Libby received several wounds in the body and arms. (Pg. 173)

To be continued in next issue.

### **BOOK REVIEW**

American Trophies: How US POWs Were Surrendered to North Korea, China, and Russia by Washington's "Cynical Attitude"

By Mark Sauter and John Zimmerlee Avialable at Amazon in paperback \$17.99, and Kindle 8.99. Review by Colonel Louis T Dechert, National President, KWVA, 2004-2008.

During my military service in two wars—Korea for a year and four years in Vietnam as a Special Forces of-ficer—I became well-acquainted with the "tactical" issues of PW/MIA, escape and evasion, search and rescue, and recovery missions, tactics and techniques. However, there was also another level, which I term the "political/strategical," that ultimately ruled every action dealing with PW/MIA—and as illustrated in this new book still does so.

I left Vietnam the final time, a year before the end, knowing that live Americans had been abandoned because political/strategical concerns and policies ruled it so. This was due, primarily, to the nature of our enemies: Russians, Chinese, North Koreans, and North Vietnamese. They all had ideology in common as well as disdain for civilized treatment of prisoners. In previous wars against European enemies, and later against the Japanese, we were fortunate to operate with civilized norms, developed and adopted as the Geneva Conventions.

The Soviets refused to repatriate, or account for upwards of 500,000 captive Axis prisoners; the North Korean and Chinese Communist Forces refused to repatriate, or account for several thousand captive UN prisoners, including nearly 8,200 Americans, and hundreds of thousands of South Koreans; and the North Vietnamese have never accounted for over 10,000 French and colonial troops marched away from Dien Bien Phu as prisoners. There are still upwards of 2.000 Americans unaccounted for by the Vietnamese. Consequently, American forces has stressed and thus far successfully trained, fought, and operated so as to leave no one behind: allow the enemy no PW, allow no MIA. These tactics have proven successful now over a dozen years of large scale (on the US side) warfare in IRAQ and AFGHANISTAN.

However, as this new impactful book by Mark Sauter and John Zimmerlee, documents, Americans have been callously abandoned, frequently as a matter of policy, by US Government officials and agencies since the first months of the Korea War, summer of 1950, and continues up to the present in Washington, DC.

More despicable, if possible, is the fact that active duty or recently retired military officers, committed to no one left behind, have taken Department of Defense positions, espousing the denial of PW/MIA reality—with evidence—in a national denial of what was done and what continues to be done regarding the PW/MIA from Korea and Vietnam.

Sauter and Zimmerlee have painstakingly prepared a complete intelligence workup regarding the failure of our government's actions and orders regarding the care for Americans taken prisoner in battle, executed along remote trails, frozen and starved to death by their captors, and finally, in proven numbers, bartered among America's enemies, as perpetual slaves to those who did not defeat our nation in battle.

One could wish that our national intelligence agencies and agents were as thorough and professional in their own intelligence labors. Most of the military services, at the tactical levels, and all of the next of kin/survivor/family organizations, have sought by every possible means, and against inconceivable opposition, to rescue surviving PW/MIA or satisfactorily account for their present status/remains.

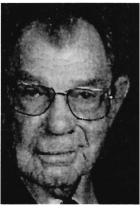
The authors present evidence, carefully developed and documented, of US Senators and Department of Defense military and civilian functionaries at every political/strategic level refusing to support efforts to do the honorable things due our PW/MIA, to honor their memory, and succor their relatives. They also cite and expound to a degree recent Congressional oversight investigations which have leveled grave charges against the entire Washington/DOD PW/MIA structures, as well as their field activities engaged in conducting remains location, identification, and repatriation operations.

Recognizing and defining any problem is the fundamental first step in solving any complex problem. Mark Sauter and John Zimmerlee have given those of us concerned an admirable start in doing so.

One is always somewhat reluctant to become involved in the cause of resolving the disgrace of still missing PW/MIA who were abandoned over half a century ago (in Korea, and nearing that figure in Vietnam). Realizing the nature of our enemies, we know that they hold all the "high cards" in the effort—they can always make certain that there are "no surviving American PW" from the Korea War. Sauter and Zimmerlee close their book with a suggested action plan to at the least close out the case of the Korea missing in an honorable manner, and perhaps in a manner by which some living and all fallen PW/MIA are home again.

It is obvious from their documented study that few, if any, in the political/strategic realms of the US government have much stomach for the task. Tolerating this sad conclusion to continue is a national scandal.

# Fallen Comrades



Glenwood H. Hargens, 95, died Friday, Jan. 23, 2015. He was born Nov. 13,1919, on a farm. He owned a trucking business which he operated until being inducted into the U.S. Army at Fort Leavenworth, in 1944. After completion of his basic training at Camp Hood, Texas, he was sent to the South Pacific where he served with the 24th Infantry Division until returning by way of Tokyo, Japan, to Fort Sam Houston. Texas, where he

was honorably discharged in 1946.



Doney G. "Boots" Wallace died January 22, 2015 in Goshen IN. Boots joined the Army during the Korean War and served in Special Services of the 24th Infantry Division. He was a Life Member, 2311 of the Association. Boots worked for the Universal Co-op for forty years, was a member of the VFW, and volunteer at Goshen General Hospital. He is survived by his wife Marilyn Wallace, 1806 Amberwood Drive, Goshen, IN 46526.



Aloys P. Mica died January 11, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas at the age of 92. He fought in the Philippines during WWII with I Company of the 21st RGT. He retired from the Army as a SFC. His wife, Gertrude, is now deceased also. Life Member 2321



John V. Haverty died December 9, 2014 at the age of 85 in Fitchburg, MA. He served in the 19th RGT, Company B, during WWII in the Pacific Theater. By his son, Joseph C. Haverty, 8 Boylston Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420 Life Member 845



Cecil O. Cox passed away August 16, 2014. My father enlisted in July, 1940 in the United States Army and served in WWII until he was wounded and discharged in July, 1945. He served in New Guinea and Southern Philippine Islands Campaign. He was a First Sergeant in the 34th RGT. He received numerous ribbons and

medals while serving. He saved one of his men even though he was himself was wounded by putting his belt on his leg, so the soldier would not bleed to death. The man lived, as my father found out several years ago. We have the Purple Heart. my father received, which we will cherish forever. He served in the Asiatic Pacific Theater for three years and 17 days, but he suffered the rest of his life from wound, which left his left foot and ankle without any feeling and he suffered from malaria fever his whole life. He not only was a hero in the eyes of his family, but a hero for his Country and was always so proud of his service to his Country. Life Member 945 By his daughter, Mrs. Shirley c. Ray, 555 East Steele Rd. West Columbia, SC 29170 Tel. 803 755-0577

John E. Joniec, 95, Woodlyn, PA, formerly of Philadelphia, PA, passed away February 4, 2015. Life member 140, served with E Co. 19th RGT from mid-1941 to early 1945. He was on guard duty at Schofield Barracks when Pearl Harbor was attacked, and Ranger trained in Australia before several island landings eventually took him to New Guinea. He is survived by his three children, 3312 Edgemont Street, Philadelphia, PA 19134. Life Member 140

Ylario Larry Delgadillo of Santa Barbara, 85, passed away February 2, 2015. He was a member of the 19th RGT, HQ & HQ ATM platoon, Korea & Japan 51 - 53. He was buried with full military honors. Life Member 2242



Floyd James Linn, 88, of Gillette died at home on March 12, 2013. He joined the Army in November 1944. After basic training, Floyd went to the Pacific. He served with the 21st RGT and was assigned to A Company, 1st Platoon as a scout. He was sent to Leyte and Mindanao in the Philippines

and later he served in occupied Japan. Life 120

Russ Arnold, Life Member 104, happily advises us, contrary to what was reported in the last Taro Leaf issue, "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." ontario1994@aol.com

Joseph (Joe) R. Schelin Sr. 82, on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015. Joe lied about his age and joined the Army just shy of his 18th birthday on Oct. 12, 1950. Once Joe finished boot camp he was sent to Korea. He served with the 19th RGT, K CO. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Korean Service Medal with one bronze star, and the United Nations Service Medal. Joe was very proud of his military service but said he wished no one would ever have to go through what he went through. He wouldn't own a gun because he said he never wanted to kill another living thing.

Alvin Monroe Rinehimer, Sr. died September 22, 2014 in Newark, DE. He was in the 3rd Engineers, 1945-1946. Alvin was a regular reader of the Taro Leaf Publication and read each issue cover to cover. Member From the Rinehimer Family <rineauto@aol.com>



Warden Lee Howard, 85, of Waverly, W.Va., passed away March 1, 2015 He was born June 25, 1929, in Waverly. Mr. Howard joined the U.S. Army shortly after graduating from Williamstown High School and served in the Occupation of Japan in the 24th Medics. He later served at Fort Campbell, KY. during the Korean Conflict, and retired from the West Virginia Army National Guard in 1989 as Sergeant First Class.



Leonard Marchetta passed away on December 10, 2014 at the age of 90. He was inducted in June of 1943 and served until January of 1946. He was a member of the 34th Infantry Regiment his entire service time. In the Pacific, he was in Luzon, New Guinea and the Philippines. His service time ended during the occupation of Japan. Member



Arthur Orville Reddish, Jr., 84 years of age passed away on Friday, February 6, 2015. On March 28,1951 he was inducted into the Army and took Basic Training in Fort Leavenworth, MO. He was deployed to 3rd Combat Engineers in Korea for two years operating a D-8 Caterpillar to build runways for P51 planes and a dam for water on Prisoner Island. He was honorably

discharged on January 24, 1953. Art and a military friend, Gordon Green started the Nebraska Korean Veterans Reunion open to all branches of service and all 50 states and Canada. The group met yearly for 25 years providing comradeship and support to veterans. Life Member 2238

**Russell A. Hagerman** died April 8, 2014. He served with the **11th FA** in WWII. He retired from the Army as a Colonel. **Life Member 1305** 

Joseph T. Agustoni died April 15, 2012. He enlisted in the Army and was sent to Korea as part of the 21st RGT Task Force Smith, that fought the battle of Osan. This was the first engagement of U.S. troops against the North Korean Army.

**Hardy, Olin M.**, 2861 Thornridge Lane, Doraville, GA 30340, Served in the **52 FA**, Korea, Died 2/12/2015

**Howard, Warden L.**, P.O.Box 325, Waverly, WV 26184 Served in **24th Med Co**, Japan, Died 3/1/2015

Marchetta, Leonard, 2590 Rockville Centre Pkwy, Oceanside, NY 11572, Served in **34th RGT**, WWII, Died 12/10/2014

**Rives, David R.,** 737 Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley, CA 93065, Served in **21st RGT**, I CO, Korea, Died 1/17/2015

Wallace, Doney G., 1806 Amberwood Dr., Goshen, IN 46526 Served in 24th Div Sp. Svc., Korea, Died 1/22/2015

**Albert Gonzales** died March 1, 2015. Albert served with the **24th Division** in the South Pacific during WWII.

#### LETTER

Hello David. Enclosed is an obituary (see above) for Albert E. Gonzales. As you will note, it mentions he served with the 24th Infantry Division during WWII.

I went to the visitation last night and met with the wife and other members of the family. I told them I was there as a representative of the Association and extended sympathy and condolences on its behalf. The family was very appreciative for my being there.

I asked if they had any information as to the specific unit he was assigned to; they did not know, but would let me know if they found out. I mentioned this information would be reflected on his Discharge Form, DD 214. Since he was going to be buried at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, this document had to have been provided, so I asked the representative of the Funeral Home if they had a copy in their files. He said he would check and later told me he could not find it. The obituary appeared in the San Antonio Express-News Sunday Edition, March 8, 2015. **Dan Cretaro,** 5823 Archwood Dr., San Antonio, TX 78239-1409. **Member** 

Dan: Good work! David

# **MEMORIES of KOREA, 1951-1952**

I was recalled to active duty from the Inactive Reserves on 7 Nov 1950 as a PFC, having been separated from active duty 2 June 1950, at the ripe old age of 19. After some hit and miss retraining I was sent to Korea arriving in Japan in Jan., 1951, under my Ordnance MOS 0912, Automotive Electrician. I was then shipped out of Sasebo, Japan to Korea on a Japanese transport that stunk to high heaven.

Upon arrival at Pusan we were put on a train and sent to the replacement center near Taegue, as I recall it was in an apple orchard, we remained there for several days and were then sent forward to our units by truck, mine being Service Company of the 21st Regiment. Upon arriving at the 21st RGT, I was informed I had been reassigned to K CO and my MOS was now changed to 4745, Rifleman.

I joined K CO on 21 Feb 1950 and assigned to the 1st Platoon, 3rd Squad. The Platoon Leader was 2LT R. Daigle, my squad leader was CPL Henry Miner, and Asst. squad leader was PFC Tony Baker.

I remember being involved in several skirmishes and doing a lot of walking. In reading some of the history, I believe we were involved with Operation Ripper. The first real serious battle I recall was in April when the Chinese started the 1st Spring Offensive. We were in position on a hill near a big reservoir when we were hit. It started early in the day and continued into the night.



I recall LT Daigle coming into the squad's position around 2 am and checking on our ammo. The BAR man had two or three clips left and most of us riflemen had fewer than 6 clips. He ordered us to fix bayonets, that sure got my attention, but fortunately the Chinese had enough for that night. The next day we moved out and walked over 20 miles. I was wearing snowpack boots and the bottoms of both feet were solid blisters.

We caught up with our Supply and Mess, for the first hot meal in several days. I asked the supply sergeant for a pair of boots and was informed that he didn't have any. Later when passing the supply tent, I saw a pile of equipment covered with a tarp with some boots exposed. I found a pair my

size and took them; walking was a lot better with combat boots.

The next operation I believe was the 2nd Chinese Offensive. By then my squad leader was SGT Otto Bailey and I was the assistant. As I recall we were in a blocking position near a school yard, the squad on our left was tied into a unit from I CO.

As we received word to move out we spotted a squad of Chinese on the road below us; our light machine gun crew opened up and eliminated them. As we moved out a larger Chinese force came over the ridge above and overran the I CO position; we managed to escape.

In May, 1951 I was transferred to Company Headquarters as the radio operator and later became the communication sergeant. In late August or early September, while in reserve all senior NCO's were asked if they were interested in receiving a direct appointment to 2LT. I had been promoted to SFC in early August and agreed to go before the board of officers to be considered. I was recommended and offered a commission, which I turned down since I was to be transferred to another unit to take over a rifle platoon. I informed them I was willing to take the Battalion Headquarters Company, Communication Platoon.

Shortly thereafter we went back on line. Just as we settled in I was summoned to the battalion forward CP by LTC Smith. He asked me if I was still interested in the Communication Platoon. I said yes and was sent back to BN HQ to report to the Adjutant (WOJG Haas).

Upon arriving Mr. Haas asked me if I was sure I wanted to do this as he had orders sending me home. I said yes and was sent to division headquarters where I was processed. I was commissioned in the reserves to active as a 2LT on the 19 Oct 1951.

When I returned to 3rd BN later in the day, I was briefed on the location of all the units of the Battalion. by LT Meadows, S-2 Officer. He gave me a tour of the positions, L and K companies. The weather was lousy with limited visibility. I CO was in position on OPLR (Outpost Line of Resistance) but we didn't get to their location, LT Meadows just pointed

into the haze and said, "they're out there."

LTC Smith wanted a land line laid into I CO that night. LT Meadows briefed me on how to get there. He said to start at the position on the line where we had been earlier and go from there. I was to take the trail to the next trail intersection where there I would find a dead Chinese mule and take the trail to the left, following it to the next intersection where I would find two dead Chinese soldiers. Finally I was to take the trail to the right which would take me straight to I CO's position.

I got a wire team of six men together and started out. We tied into the battalion switchboard and started laying wire. We made it to the starting point at the line company where found the dead mule and later the two dead Chinese soldiers and turned down the trail to I CO.

I heard talking and could see movement against the starlit sky, but couldn't make out whether they were Chinese or American. As we were only lightly armed with Carbines and 45 pistols, we were not in any condition to get into a firefight.

I deployed the team to either side of the trail and instructed them to lay low and keep quiet until whoever it was passed our position. Shortly thereafter I saw some one light a cigarette and I knew then that they had to be Americans. As we approached I challenged and received the correct countersign.

I talked to their leader and found out they were a platoon from I CO. He informed me we were on the right trail to get to I CO. We proceeded on laying our land line and arrived at their position a short time later. I hooked a EE8 telephone to the wire we had laid and got the battalion switchboard with no problem and great relief. My first mission as the commo officer was a success.

The I CO Commander informed me we were to stay and replace the troops we had met on the way. Needless to say I wasn't happy with this. I used the telephone we installed to call the BN Commander and informed him of what the I CO, CO had told me.

The BN Commander told me to give the phone to the CO. Shortly he informed me we would return to BN HQ. Not to long after that we got a new battalion commander, LTC Edward F. Baker. I continued to serve as BN Commo Officer, and moved with the Division back to Japan in Feb. of 1952. I then rotated to the States in March, 1952.

# Walter Duke, Jr., Life Member 1483 wduke1@roadrunner.com

Some of the names I remember:
Daigle R.J., 2LT, K CO, Plt. Ldr.
Lucas (Luckes), CPT, K CO, CC
Meadows 1LT, K CO, Plt. Ldr./S2
Sheehan, Edward F., 1LT, K CO
Haas, Charles, WO, HQCO, Adj.
Sibert, Ray, MJR, RGT HQ, Adj.
Urbina, George, CPT, K CO, Exec
Whipple, J., CPT, HQ CO, BN S-4
Beaty, Richard, 1LT, HQ CO Motor
Miller, (Pony), MJR, HQ, BN S-3

SEC'Y/TR	EAS.R	EPUI	Dunn
NEW MEMBERS	REGIMENT	UNIT	STATION
Alexander, Randy	5th AAA	С	Stewart/Storm 90-92
Brown, Richard C.	HQ Co		Korea 51-53
Bucy, Davin	15th Inf	В	Stewart/Storm 89-92
Carson, Stanley	333rd FA	G	Stewart/Storm 90-91
Eicher, James R.	7th Inf	В	Stewart/Storm89-92
Harless, Kevin G.	299 Eng	С	Stewart/storm 90-92
Harrington, Stephen R.	41st FA		Stewart/Storm 90-91
Henry, Jerry	11th Eng	HHC	Stewart/Storm 90-92
Herrera, Jose M.	7th Inf	С	Stewart/Storm 90-92
Jefferson, John N.	3rd Eng	В	Ft. Stewart 79-85
Karanovich, Daniel	21st Inf	Н	Korea 50-51
Laflin, W. Michael	46 Arm	HHQ	Stewart/Storm 85-92
Mangrum, Anthony	4th Cav	Е	Stewart/storm 89-91
Merrihew, Gerry N.	224FSB		Stewart/Storm 90-91
Morgenthaler, Kenneth E.	7th Inf	Α	Desert Storm 89-91
Norwood, Nicky	41st FA	HHB	Stewart/Storm 88-92
Powell, James E.	3rd Eng	В	Korea -Japan 51-52
Quinn, James P.	15th Inf	В	Stewart/Storm 90-92
Roberts, Kirk	19th Inf	Н	Korea 51-52
Rodriguez, Lee S.	24th Div Arty		Ft. Stewart
Rosado, Lindel D.	15th Inf	В	Stewart/Storm 90-92
Rosandich, Jason T.	64th Arm	HHC	Stewart/Storm 90-91
Schultz, Richard J.	15th Inf	В	Stewart/ Storm 90-92
Shattuck, Timothy P.	41st FA	С	Stewart/Storm 90-92
Shewmaker, Andrew	64th Arm	В	Storm/Stewart 90-92
Smith, Stephen F.	15th Inf	A & HHC	Stewart/Storm 89-90
Stapleton, Christopher D.	41st FA	С	Stewart/Storm 90-92
Thompson, Timothy P.	64th Arm	HHC	Stewart/Storm 90-91
Varnell, Kary D.	15th Inf	В	Stewart/Storm 89-91
Wanner, Craig	19th Inf	В	Stewart 78-81
Williams, K. Darrell	15th Inf	HHC	Stewart/Storm 88-91

NEW LIFE MEMBER	UNIT	UNIT	LIFE#
Keller, Rodney A.	21st Inf	HQ	2452
Stokes, William S.	34th Inf	HHQ	2453
Becerra, Miguel	11th FA		2454
Monahan, Gerald E.	21st Inf	Α	2455
Hill, Dave	13th FA		2456
Kiser, Coley R.	41st FA	HHB	2457
Irizarry, Francisco	41st FA	HHB	2458
Houpt, Jerry L.	4th Cav	Α	2459
Alberti, Nicholas J.	19th Inf		2460
Wilburn, Phillip D.	69 Arm		2469

DONOR	UNIT	GIFT					
Bolinger, William	3rd Eng	\$20.00					
Bradford, James	21st Inf	\$10.00					
Busciano, Peter J.	11th FA	\$15.00					
Colvin, Charles R.	Div HQ	\$ 10.00					
Demaray, Dale I.	19th Inf	\$ 15.00					
Gibson, Wesley W.	34th Ord	\$ 19.99					
Helseth, Stan	19th Inf	\$ 10.00					
Janca, Frank T.	3rd Eng	\$5.00					
Johnson, Paul E.	21st Inf	\$ 25.00					
Lane, William D.	34th Inf	\$ 35.00					
Lauro, Ralph A.	19th Inf	\$25.00*					
Letts, Harry F.	26th AAA	\$10.00					
Loesch, Herbert C.	24th Med	\$20.00					
Lovasz, Edward	19th Inf	\$ 10.00					
Perkins, Paul	13th FA	\$ 25.00					
Rodriguez, Johnny M.	21st Inf	\$100.00*					
Ross, John	3rd Eng	\$10.00					
Soemann, George W.	724 Ord	\$75.00					
Stiner, Bill	19th Inf	\$ 20.00					
Stratton, Robert J.	19th Inf	\$25.00					
Yost, Kenneth D.	11th FA	\$10.00					
* Mem . Of G Co. CO [							
** Memory of Jim Diam	ond 21st						

# 24th IDA Western Regional Reunion, Sayonara?

By John

Reunion Chairman, Gene Spicer, despite months of hard work making hotel arrangements and soliciting attendance, had to conclude the disappointing turnout indicated this reunion had an unlikely future. He said he gave it his all, but wouldn't do it again. The previous year's chairman and Taro Leaf editor, David Valley, concurred and feels we have seen the last of the Western Regional Reunion.

Those who attended enjoyed the comradery and "bullshipping," as Spicers says, and were treated to a fine dinner banquet. An Air Force ROTC group from a nearby high school provided a color guard and two members put on a flashy close-order-drill. The guest speaker was Mr. Jongwoo Han, President of the Korean War Legacy Foundation. He described their virtual museum, a website which shows hundreds of pictures from the Korean War and has recorded video interviews with over 400 Korean War Veterans. During the reunion he conducted more interviews with 24th IDA members. He told of their summer programs in Washington, D.C., where veterans, their grandchildren, and their teachers could attend a four day seminar at very little cost to them. We regret more details could not be given here, but you may contact David Valley for more info.

#### Florida 24th IDA Luncheon Report

The Florida 24th IDA held its 24th Dutch Treat Luncheons since commencing in the Summer of 2009; this one on March 2 at the IHop in Leesburg. Twenty-three attended this event. We also discussed the relationship (or perhaps more significantly the lack thereof) between where the majority of our members live and where our reunions are being held.

# REUNIONS

Frank Jennings said that the 5th RCT Reunions will be held permanently at Branson, MO in the fall. This year's 5th RCT will be in Branson Sept. 23-27. After discussing several local items we agreed to meet again, May 4 at the same IHop! **Tom Thiel** 



Next Florida 24<sup>th</sup> IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon will be Monday, May 4, 11:30 am at I-Hop, 10332 US 441, across from the main entrance to Lake Square Mall, 7 miles south of downtown Leesburg.

Call 352 408-6612 or email 24thida@gmail.com

#### Verbeck Award Nominations

To nominate someone you feel deserving of the William Jordan Verbeck award, please advise Don Bruner, VP. Use the adjacent post card, a letter, or e-mail. The award is not a popularity contest, but for excellent and outstanding service to our Association. It does not have to be awarded annually, but the association would like to continue the practice at our annual reunion this coming September, 17-21, in Augusta, Georgia.

# Verbeck Award Nominations



MEMBERS: Please indicate your nominees for the Verbeck Award and give A brief explanation for your recommendation.					
Person:					
I believe he/she is worthy l	oecause				
Name:					
Address:					
City:	State:	Zip:			

# **ABOUT OUR DUES**

### 24th Infantry Division Association Membership Application

			John A. Dur 9150 Highw		'y./Treas	S.					
		MAIL TO:	Westover, A	•	7-9527		Enroll as	s Men	nber		
Name							Reinsta	te as I	Иem	ber	
Address			_				Enroll a	s Ass	ociat	e Membe	r
City							12 Mont	hs Du	es \$´	15.00	
State	Zip	Phone					Life Mer	nbers	hip \$	200	
Email											
Occupation	1	Spouse I	Name				CHECK 24TH IN				
<b>Unit</b> i.e. 5th, 19th, 3th	rd Engr., 955 FABn		Bn.	Co.	Р		lt./Bat.		S	quad	
Location(s	-		Lebanon, Somal	lia, Desei	rt Storm, Ft	. Rile	ev, etc				
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Other Unit	Service				From	1	1	То	1	1	
Sponsor											
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**To Join**, just submit the registration form above and pay \$15. Dues are also \$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.

MEMBERS: 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 the current date indicates your dues are past due and states when they expired.



PLACE 33 CENT STAMP

Donald Bruner, Vice-President 2611 Old Mallard Road Enid. OK 73703 LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP in the association \$200. It may be paid in a lump sum, or \$40 per year, annually for 5 years, or paid off sooner at your convenience. Some have chosen to pay it off monthly for five months.

All Lifetime Member will receive a 2" X 3-1/2" brass plated card about the size of a credit card with the 24th patch in color and your name embossed.

John Dunn Secretary/Treasurer David: This plaque was given to me at the Ft. Stewart-Desert Storm reunion that Tom Appler and I attended. I was told that the regimental crests are for units that were part of the division during WWII and Korea. However I don't think it's complete. And I know that units after Korea are not represented. If individuals would like to send me their unit crest while they were with the 24th I will have a larger plaque made to accommodate all that I receive. I would like to get this done prior to the reunion.

Crests on the plaque, starting with the top row, from left to right are: 2nd Arm, 70th Arm, 64th Arm, 32nd Arm, 9th Cav, 13th FA, 34th Inf, 19th Inf, 5th PPF Art(?), 229th FA, 3rd Eng, 92nd Eng Bn, 333rd Arty, 24th TRANS, 260 QM, 7th Sig Com, 24th Sig, 724th Mnt Bn, 24th Med, 24th Ml. Not on the plaque I have Div Arty, 15th Inf, 7th Inf. I hope you will be able to get this in the TARO LEAFThanks, **John** 

John: I tried to improve the clarity of your image and cropped the round plaque. This is the best I could do. I'd like to see a better image of the unit insignias and thought of those on the inside cover of the 24th History. I got the images below from Rus Penland, Sec'y, 52nd FAB. It would be a good project to make a complete



collection of our division's assigned units and their crests. Below are shown what I have currently. I'm sure there are many more. I will work on it and would welcome help from our members, especially from Cold War and Dessert Storm eras.

David



11th F A Field Artillery Battalion

#### **CURRENT LIST**

724th Ordnance 24th Signal BN 24th Quartermaster Co. 24th Medical Company 24th Aviation Company 3rd Engineer Combat BN 24th Reconnaissance Co. 24th Division Artillerv 26th AAA Battalion 6th Tank BN 5th RCT 19th Infantry Regiment 21st Infantry Regiment 34th Infantry Regiment 555 Field Artillery BN 13th Field Artillery BN 11th Field Artillery BN 52<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery BN 63rd Field Artillery BN

Looking for more - Ed.

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



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MEMBERS: Check your dues date above your address 12months dues = \$15.00, Life Membership \$ 200.00 or \$ 40.00 per year for 5 years. Send dues to John Dunn, Sec'y/Treas.

# **DESERT STORM REUNION**



#### Send Dues & Address Changes to:

John A. Dunn, Sec'y.-Treas. 24th Infantry Division Association 9150 Hwy. 51, Westover, AL 35147-9527 Send Obituaries to: Taro Leaf Editor

Please include a photo if available)
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