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



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**TARO**

24th Infantry Division Association

24th Infantry Division Association



FIRST TO FIGHT

**LEAF**

# VICTORY DIVISION Fort Stewart, GA

Gulf War Reunion

February 26-28, 2016

**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.



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John A. Dunn, Sec'y.-Treas.  
24th Infantry Division Association  
9150 Hwy. 51, Westover, AL  
35147-9527

Send Obituaries to: Taro Leaf Editor

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



Volume70 Issue No. 1

Winter 2016





**Greetings Taro Leafers: Happy New Year** to all Taro Leafers and your families. The new year is here and where I live, it is very cold. Hope all had a Merry Christmas. Just for your information, the 24th Infantry Division Desert Storm Reunion (25th Silver Anniversary) will be held at Fort Stewart, GA. from February 24th through 28th 2016. You can get more information by going to the web at this address: [www.desertstorm24id.com](http://www.desertstorm24id.com) and in this issue.

The 24th Infantry Division Association's reunion will be coming this September, 2016 in San Antonio, TX. We will be staying at the La Quinta Hotel on the River Walk. The price is \$ 99.00 per night and will include breakfast.

As most will remember at our last reunion we had a tour of the City of Columbus, GA. The tour director was Ashley Woitena, Senior VP, Sales, Columbus Georgia Convention & Visitor Bureau. To show us their appreciation, to 24th Infantry Division Association members, they purchased a granite paver to commemorate our visit. The granite paver was placed on the Heritage Walk at the National Infantry Museum and dedicated on Veterans Day, November 12th, 2015. A page will be dedicated in this issue (Winter 2016) to show what was written on the paver. Please mark your calendar now for the upcoming reunion. We will have a great time. Have a great winter.

Lets pray for all our Active/Reserve/National Guard military men and women who are still fighting our enemies in foreign lands around the world and may they have a safe return home.

**Best wisher, Tom Appler**  
CWO-4 U.S. Army Reserve, (Ret.)



**Greetings:** I hope all our comrades and their families have enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. Now for many it's time to batten the hatches and face the cold weather. Even though I live in San Diego, I dread the coming of winter. I was raised in New England and accustomed to frigid weather but that winter of 1950 in North Korea made me cold phobic ever since.

For those of you who have followed my personal life's trials and tribulations, I have something to report, I have remarried. She's a Korean lady, an extraordinary person. Sue is a former scientist and retired university professor who was my tennis partner years back and dear friend. My son asked, "Don't you think it's a little too soon?" My reply was, "At our age we don't have many years ahead of us and we plan to make the most of it." I consider our falling in love a gift of God and I am most grateful for it. I never would have believed two years ago, when I was very depressed, that my life could ever be so happy. So, I say to comrades who see their lives falling apart, don't despair God may have blessings coming your way.

Someone said to me, "The Taro Leaf isn't as full as it used to be." I agreed and said, "It's not the way I want it to be, but I just don't have the input from our readers." I have said it before, numerous times, send me your stories, or whatever. Let our readers share them.

As you see, from the front cover and throughout, this issue is dedicated to our division's last battle (as of now), DesertStorm. Through the efforts of our president and other we have had the greatest influx of these new members in recent years. We want them to know this is their magazine too, and welcome them and their participation.

God bless you all.

**David Valley**

## Florida Local Reunion

Florida 24th Infantry Division Association group continues its Dutch Treat luncheons into its seventh year! We met November 2 to share our experiences and to build new friendships. Seated from left: Paul and Joyce Boulay, 34th. The Villages; Bill Simunek 3rd Eng. Mount Dora; and Bill Stokes, 34th, Leesburg. Standing middle row: Bob and Jean Hatfield, C 19th, The Villages; Dottie and Woody Wood, Jr., 34th, Silver Springs, and their granddaughter; and Janet and Ed Moran, 24th DMZ, The Villages. Rear: Gordon Talbot, 19th, The Villages (first time); Yvonne and Ed Schulte 3rd Eng., Kissimmee and Wisconsin; Don Van Beck, 34th, Tavares; Gil and Shirley Miller, 45th Div, Ocala; Larry Koschak, 52nd FA, Parish; and Tom Thiel, E Co 19th, Eustis. Ted Jansen, K Co., 19th, Leesburg left before the photo. Our next Luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, March 7, 2016, at IHOP at 10332 U.S. 441, Leesburg, directly across US441 from the main entrance to Lake Square Mall, the entrance with the new large flashing electronic information sign. Everyone welcome.



**Awesome picture of Rick Villapando in Southern Iraq on top of Bradley B66 "MANIACAL GENOCIDE" Bravo Company 3/15th Infantry 24th ID Photo Credit - Dan Ortiz (with permission)**



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Janota, Roy F.	100 Hilton Ave. Unit 518	Garden City	NJ	11530	19th Inf		Korea	8/28/2015
Keller, Rodney A.	4616 Lilliput Ln.	Las Vegas	NV	89102	21st Inf	Hq	Korea	12/21/2015
Moore, Al S.	4433 Rockford Rd.	Dobson	NC	27017	19th Inf	G	Korea	11/27/2015
Personeni, Laurence	10126 Bitney Springs Rd.	Nevada City	CA	95959	34th Inf	I	WWII	5/6/2015
Rag;land, John F.	135 Plaza Dr. Apt 220	Kerville	TX	78028	21st Inf	D	WWII	9/18/2015
Taylor, Charles C. Jr.	323 Aspen Dr.	Asbury	WV	24916	724 Ord		Korea	6/7/2011

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Bane, Paul D.	24th Sig	C	2473
Koontz, Eric B.	Assoc		2474
Smith Willie T.	19th Inf	C	2475
Eyster, Frank D.	24th Div	Hq	2476

NEW MEMBER

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A CO, Stewart, '80-'81

Desert Storm Warrior



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**COVER: The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Desert  
Storm is coming soon.**

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COMING  
UP NEXT

Taro Leaf Spring Issue 2, Vol. 70,  
Deadline for submissions - 4/15/2016.  
Delivery, 5/15/2016



Letters

**David:** There are still some people who believe the 34th RGT lost their colors in the Korean War. Could you put this informative letter in the Taro Leaf?  
Carl Hatmaker, 414 Ashton Ridge Dr., Chat. TN 37421

MSQT Daniel J. Cavanaugh  
U.S. Army, Retired,P. O. Box 406  
Weston, West Virginia 26452

Dear Sergeant Cavanaugh:

This is in response to your request of June 23 ( 1984, for Information about the "loss of colors\* by the 34th Infantry, 24th Infantry Division, during the Korean War.

There is no official definition of the term "loss of colors," but as commonly used it refers to the capture of a unit's colors (flag) by the enemy in battle or the taking away of a unit's colors as a punishment or disciplinary measure.

Official Department of the Army records' do not indicate that the 34th Infantry lost its colors during the Korean War or at any other time in its history. Also, the records contain no mention of any unit of the United States Army that lost its colors to the enemy during World War II or the Korean War. The 34th Infantry served with distinction in Korea earning a Presidential Unit Citation (Army) and two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations.

I trust this information will be of some assistance to you.

David L. Lemon  
Colonel, MFC  
Chief, Historical Services Division  
Department of the Army

**David,** Merry Holmes has the wrong year for the date of Operation Nomad. She has October 13, 1950, the date was October 13, 1951. My Company "L" 19th jumped off on the 13th at 6:30 AM. We had taken all of the objectives given to us On Sunday the 14th we jumped off again. We got bogged down around 5PM. My rifle was order off of the hill with the purpose of going around the enemy and surround them. My squad was hit with mortars, one KIA and the rest of us were seriously wounded. I spent two months in hospitals getting better and then I was sent back to Korea the first week of January 1952. Could you see the right year of 1951 is corrected. Thanks,  
**Howard W. Camp,** "L" Company 19th Life #1765



**David:** You are probably wondering what I'm wearing around my neck in this photo. This photo was taken after I received the Accolade of Knighthood as a Knight of the Imperial Order of Saint Eugene of Trebizon (in Turkey). Held at a gathering of Knights in Conclave given in the Chancellery of the Exarchate for North America. The Accolade is when I was kneeling and the sword was touch on both shoulders and my head. This was done in the name of His Imperial and Royal Highness Juan Arcadius Lascaris-Comnenus, Grand Master of the Imperial Order of Saint Eugene of Trebizon. A fine Certificate came with it. I have no idea how I was selected to receive this honor. I'm wearing the jewel of the Accolade of Knighthood. **Bud Collette,** 507 E. Timber Dr., Payson, AZ 85541

ABOUT OUR DUES

24th Infantry Division Association Membership Application



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

☐ Enroll as Member

☐ Reinstate as Member

☐ Enroll as Associate Member

☐ 12 Months Dues \$15.00

☐ Life Membership \$200

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Occupation      Spouse Name

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24TH INF. DIV. ASSOC.

Unit	Bn.	Co.	P	It./Bat.	Squad
Location(s)					
POW	Location	From	/	/	To / /
Other Unit Service		From	/	/	To / /
Sponsor					

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

**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.

**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 members 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



# Wishing on a Star- A Personal Essay

This is an essay written in the desert 25 years ago, on Jan. 17, 1991, the day Desert Storm began. The essay was originally published in the Fort Stewart newspaper, "The Patriot." In 1991, Fort Stewart, Georgia was the home of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized). The piece was written by SPC JW Sternickle. Sternickle was a print journalist (MOS 46Q) and a member of the 24th Infantry Division's Public Affairs Team deployed to Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm. Sternickle is the author of the new "Victory Book." [www.TheVictoryBook.com](http://www.TheVictoryBook.com)

SAUDI ARABIA – Unfamiliar lights blinked in the sky over the Saudi Arabian desert during the very early morning hours of Jan. 17, 1991. Normally on guard duty, I'd see planes flying in groups of two and three as they practiced night-time maneuvers. It became a sort of game to watch the planes and guess their nationality and type. British Tornados, French Mirages and American F-16s had circled in the desert sky for months. But the time for practicing was over. On this cold January night, I saw warplanes flying in groups of six and eight. Their navigation lights blinked, forming moving constellations in the blackness. They were flying north. They were flying to Baghdad and other targets deep inside Iraq.

By 10 am, more than 750 military sorties had been flown. The winds of war had brought a desert storm to the Persian Gulf. The start of Operation Desert Storm came as a welcome relief for all the soldiers in my unit, the 24th Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, GA. After months of anxious waiting and uncertainty, the beginning of the war signaled the beginning of the end. For me, it was the first step toward going home. On a crisp January night two years ago, in 1989, I stood in front of the St. Louis Arch and looked into the sky wondering where the military would take me. In the morning, I would board a plane and leave my home in southern Illinois for basic combat training - the beginning of my military career. I saw the constellation Orion through the Arch. The three bright stars that form Orion's belt can be easily spotted by most amateur astronomers.

Later that same evening, in my hotel room, I wrote a letter to my wife, Donna. I described the beautiful night sky and how much I wished she could be there with me to see it. I told her we soon would hold hands again, and together we would search for Orion and the other mythical heroes of the night sky.

My basic combat training lasted eight weeks. I spent another 12 weeks training for my military

occupational specialty. Each week, my wife and I would exchange letters and reaffirm our love for one another. She would remind me of that night in St. Louis and those starlight beacons glimmering in the sky.

"Each time you peer up into the darkness, you see the same stars I do," she wrote. "No matter how far apart we are, we are together each time you find Orion in the evening sky. Think of those stars as beacons welcoming you home. Remember that we will always be together under those stars; remember you will always be my star-light hero."

That thought kept us strong during my first two years in the Army. Those beacons kept us together and welcomed me home from many trips overseas. During a NATO exercise in Turkey, the stars shone brightly above Istanbul. In my heart, my wife was there beside me watching a crescent moon and a bright star that hung over the Turkish capital. Those same stars glimmered in Honduras. I gazed through the steamy jungle at the belt of Orion. The constellation remained unchanged, just like I hoped my love for my wife would remain unchanged.

Hope has been hard to find in the Saudi desert. For more than five months I have hoped for peace to come to the Persian Gulf. Now war is here. It is said that armies exist to keep the peace - I believe that. Armies are a threat against war, but a threat must not be empty. A madman named Saddam Hussein proved to me that the time for threats is over.

I sent Christmas cards to my friends and family in southern Illinois. I knew even then that the New Year might bring war. In my cards I wrote, Pray for peace in the New Year - or victory.

Now, as I stand guard, Sleuth F117 Nighthawks fly high above me as they head north on their night-time raids. In the dark sky I see the blinking lights of B-52 bombers loaded heavy with deadly cargo to release on Iraq. In the sky, I also see Orion.

The distant constellation reminds me that my love, my wife, is looking at the same sky. More than 8,000 miles away, she is searching for her starlight hero. She is waiting for me to come home.

The start of the war has brought new meaning to those blinking beacons. Now more than ever, they are pointing my way home. JW Sternickle

**Editor:** On September 27, 2015, the Korean War Veterans of Monroe County, Chapter One, went to the Rochester Airport to welcome home vets of WWII and Korea from their Washington, D.C. Honor Trip. There were hundreds cheering them home and color Guards, a heartwarming event. Paul Wurger, 13th FA, A Battery, July '50-May '51



This is where I was during Desert Storm 25 years ago. Wow, 25 years have passed. Seems like a blink of an eye. I was the ripe old age of 24 back then (49 now). Served with Bravo Co 2/7th Inf in 24th Infantry Division out of Ft. Stewart, Ga. If asked right now if I would go back again my reply would be...I'll be ready in 30 minutes! So glad to have served with so many great and wonderful people. They are all heroes in my eyes. It was teamwork beyond anything I have ever seen or witnessed even to this day. The brotherhood that was created in that place so far from home, is unshakable, unbreakable, and unwavering! I tip my hat to those of you I am proud to call my brothers and sisters, on this day and everyday that I walk this great land. You can't tell because it's a blurry picture but on my wrist in this first picture was my pet scorpion. **Jim Eicher**  
11129 Jefferson Hwy  
River Ridge, LA 70123  
phone 724-730-1595  
**WINTER 2016**



## Letters

**David:** I refer to the article from Lewis Vaughn on page 6 of the Fall 2015 issue of Taro Leaf. I was the company clerk for Company C, 34th Infantry Regiment, when the 1st Battalion was activated circa 1949, in Camp Mower, Sasebo, Japan. After the battle of Taejon that began on July 19th, we made our way back to friendly territory (The Pusan Perimeter). There we rested and reorganized. We were presented with the CIB and the BSM. When I say "we", it includes everyone belonging to HQ platoon who made it out of Taejon (cooks, supply clerks, armorer, drivers and yours truly). I would suggest whoever did not receive any recognition during that period to submit a correction of record form to the Army Records Center. In my case my DD Form 214 showed 3 bronze star for my Korean Service Medal. Unsure of my exact date of rotation, I thought I deserved 4 bronze stars. (I received combat pay for 10 months.)I sent a completed DD Form 149 to U. S. Army Personnel Center. When I received the response, The Army Review Board awarded me a silver star for my KSM. Thoroughly enjoy every issue of The Taro Leaf. Thanks for a great job and looking forward to the next issue. **Harrison Lee**  
<magnum44@hawaii.rr.com>



# LAST MAN STANDING



electing to go to the Philippines. Before the troop ship arrived at Fort Moultrie in Charleston, South Carolina, the quota for the Philippines was met and he was destined for Hawaii. He landed on Oahu on November 2, 1940 and was assigned to the **19th Infantry** at Schofield Barracks (later to be recast as the 24th Infantry Division).

## PEARL HARBOR STORY

Horanzy has told his captivating story many times over the years, often with his mementos from World War II available for the interviewer or attendees to view.

The 24th Infantry Division had just returned to Schofield Barracks on December 6, 1941 after about a week of field maneuvers on the northern end of Oahu. It wasn't until 2

Some say that the origin of the phrase "the last man standing" refers to the last military cadet still able to continue a drill when all others have succumbed to exhaustion. At the urging of a friend, Alex Horanzy joined the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association in 1995 and helped found the Philadelphia chapter. By the time he turned 90 years old, he was the last remaining member of the local chapter and even outlasted the association itself, which dissolved in 2011. Now 94, Horanzy is the president of the December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Association in Pennsylvania and is still going strong.

Alexander Horanzy was born on April 22, 1922 while his family was on vacation in Poland. He grew up with 6 other siblings in the Manayunk section of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He helped the family get through the Depression years by working as a golf caddy. All 5 of the Horanzy boys would go on to enlist in the military.

When he was 17, Horanzy enlisted in the Army on July 13, 1939, with his father's permission. He was sent to Fort Meade, Maryland for basic training with the 66th Infantry (Light Tanks outfit). During the 6 months he was there, he learned how to fire machine guns at aircraft. After serving about a year stateside, Private Horanzy requested to be shipped overseas; originally

a.m. that Horanzy went to bed. Instead of sleeping in as he intended, the sound of planes and machine guns jolted him awake at 7:50 a.m.

No one expected the enemy to attack Pearl Harbor in broad daylight, but there was no mistaking it. Japanese planes were flying so low their red circle insignia and even the heads of the pilots could be seen from the ground.

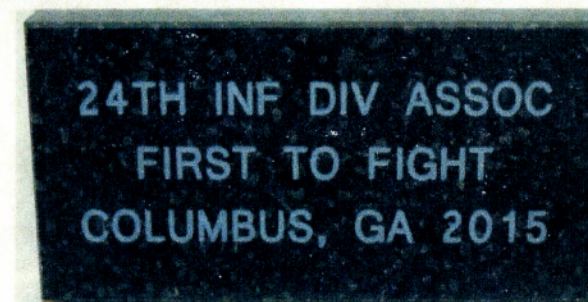
Because of rumors that the Japanese were going to land on the north shore, Horanzy and his fellow soldiers were ordered to load trucks with ammunition and explosives from storage that would be used to fortify the area. When they heard the Japanese Zeros overhead, they stopped and attempted to find cover. Torn between the possibility of a bomb dropping on the warehouse or being easy targets as they ran, they never got to the ravine despite multiple attempts.

"To this day, I wonder why they never fired upon us or bombed the warehouse that was full of explosives. They could have fired upon us while we were running for cover in the middle of the open field toward the ravine, or maybe they were saving their attack for the grand prize, Pearl Harbor, in which they succeeded. I think if the Japanese had known that the warehouse was full of explosives, they would have bombed it and I would not be writing you today," Horanzy noted in

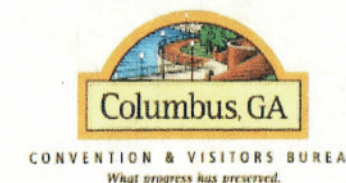
## 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION

A granite commemorative paver similar to the one shown below was placed and dedicated on the Heritage Walk at the National Infantry Museum on Veterans Day 2015 by

## THE COLUMBUS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



Peter Bowden  
President, Columbus CVB





The Columbus, Georgia Convention and Visitors Bureau very thoughtfully donated a paver placed on the Heritage Walk at the National Infantry Museum.  
Tom Appler



December 4, 2015

Thomas Appler  
24th Infantry Division  
2136 Herbert Avenue  
Westminster MD 21157

It was a pleasure hosting your reunion in Columbus, Georgia this past year.

To show our appreciation, we purchased a paver to commemorate your visit which was placed on the Heritage Walk at the National Infantry Museum and dedicated on Veterans Day.

900 Front Avenue  
P. O. Box 2768  
Columbus, Georgia 31902  
706 322 1613 direct  
800 999 1613 toll free  
706 322 0701 fax



Enclosed you will find a certificate with a photo of your paver.

Whenever you are ready to bring your reunion back to Columbus, please give us a call.

*A. W.*

Ashley Woitena  
Senior Vice President, Sales  
Columbus Georgia Convention & Visitors Bureau



## POST PEARL HARBOR ATTACK

In September 1943, the 24<sup>th</sup> Division moved to Australia for intensive training in jungle fighting. Horanzy later fought in New Guinea where the troops spent a lot of time in the swamps. Leeches, mosquitoes, and black flies were rampant there and as a result, he contracted malaria. He was honorably discharged on July 13, 1945. He continued to have bouts with the disease in the United States and had to collect disability until he was able to work.

Under the GI Bill, Horanzy went to commercial art school, but later worked for the Department of the Army in security. After passing his GED test, he entered a 4-year apprenticeship for machinists and

his submission to the Pearl Harbor Survivors website.

In a 2014 interview with Shaun Illingworth (Rutgers Oral History Archives Director), Horanzy read directly from an article entitled "24th Infantry in its First Attack:"

"When the day was over, five Japanese fighters had been brought down by the 24th Division's small arms fire. The fledgling division was the first Army unit to feel the fury of Imperial Japan and the first to fight back."

Horanzy recalls being defenseless as everything was locked up because of the saboteur threats. About a half-hour later, they were able to get their M-1 rifles and other weapons to take aim at the second wave. While 29 Japanese planes were destroyed that day, it paled in comparison to the 164 United States planes lost and the 159 damaged (National Park Service statistics). The P-36 Hawk and P-40 Warhawk aircraft were sitting ducks at Wheeler Army Airfield.

In route to deliver supplies, Horanzy discovered a Japanese flag under the seat of an enemy aircraft downed in Wahiawa. The focus post-attack was to set up a defense.

toolmakers, turning down a police job in the process. He worked his way up to a qualified assurance specialist for the Defense Department before officially retiring at age 55. However, he continued to do contract work and eventually went to work for his son-in-law.

Along the way, he married Katherine S. Long and settled down in Philadelphia. They had 3 children (1 boy and 2 girls) together.

The term "last man standing" usually signifies the winner of a competition or other situation. As the number of Pearl Harbor survivors still standing dwindles, Horanzy is in high demand, especially as the remembrance ceremonies happen across the nation. As announced on November 11, 2015, Alex Horanzy was just named the 2015 Dickies American Hero of the Year. He was awarded \$25,000 for serving in the U.S. military and motivating and inspiring others by speaking publicly about his experiences.

From being a keynote speaker at the Pearl Harbor Day commemoration on the Battleship New Jersey, to speaking to in front of students in the classroom, he encourages every listener to "Remember Pearl Harbor – Keep America Alert." This was the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association's motto but it still applies today. We hear you, Alex Horanzy, and salute your efforts!



# Lions Led by Donkeys

by David French, November 16, 2015

In 14 years of continual combat, has there ever been a greater disconnect between our warrior class and the civilians who purport to lead them? American politicians still don't understand our enemy, still don't understand the capabilities and limitations of the American military, and worst of all, they still seem unwilling to learn.

They come from an intellectual aristocracy that believes itself educated simply because it's credentialed and they tend to listen only to those who share similar credentials. They've built a bubble of impenetrable ignorance, and they govern accordingly.

During World War I, German general Max Hoffman reportedly declared that English soldiers "fight like lions, but we know they are lions led by donkeys." Over time, his criticism stuck, and popular opinion about the war hardened into a consensus that the horrors of the trenches were the product of stupidity and lack of imagination. Callous generals, the criticism held, safely ensconced themselves in the rear while sending young men to die in futile charges, unable to conceive of the tactical and strategic changes necessary to deal with the technological revolutions that defined the war. This criticism was unfair then, as generals on all sides suffered high casualty rates and dramatically changed tactics during the course of World War I, but it's entirely fair now.

Just look at the collection of senior talent advising President Obama on ISIS. Stanford and Oxford-educated National Security Adviser **Susan Rice** has no military experience, was part of the team that disastrously botched America's response to the Rwandan genocide, and is notable mainly for a willingness to say anything to advance the electoral prospects of her political bosses. Stanford and Michigan educated and leftist **Valerie Jarrett**, by many accounts, President Obama's most-trusted adviser. She also has no military experience, spent much of her life toiling in Chicago municipal politics, and has gained influence primarily through her steadfast loyalty to the Obamas.

Yes, Yale educated **John Kerry** served in Vietnam, but one of his first acts upon returning home was to turn on his fellow veterans and slander them as war criminals. He has minimal credibility in the military. Perhaps worst of all is Smith College educated **Wendy Sherman**, the lead negotiator of the administration's disastrous Iran deal. She has zero military experience, her career was as a social worker, and then she made her name in radical pro-abortion politics as the director of EMILY's List. Sherman played an instrumental role in the failed North Korean nuclear negotiations during the Clinton administration, so naturally Obama put her in charge of the Iranian debacle. Incredibly, this gang of cocooned leftists has reportedly aced the Pentagon out of the decision-making process and pushed military frustration to the highest level in decades.

But the politicized Pentagon bears its own share of the blame, beginning with a politically correct culture where discrimination complaints are more harmful to careers than battlefield failures. Yale and Oxford educated **Ash Carter** is no doubt intelligent (he has a [Ph.D. in](#) theoretical physics) and may be an upgrade over **Chuck Hagel**, but he has exactly as much experience in uniform as the commander-in-chief.

On his watch, the Pentagon has maintained rules of engagement that have so dramatically hampered American forces in the field that terrorists routinely and easily find safe haven from the world's most capable military.

And while military experience, even experience on the ground in Iraq or Afghanistan, is no guarantee of either wisdom or policy agreement (after all, even the most hardened post-9/11 veterans can and do disagree on tactics and strategy), there is a reason why Senator Tom Cotton stood alone in voting against the disastrous Corker bill. He has seen jihad up close, and he knows that it cannot be appeased.

Republicans, while possessing a bit more clarity regarding the nature of our enemy, suffer from similar defects in experience. Not one of the leading GOP contenders has served one day in the military.

I do not believe that military service is a prerequisite for the presidency, but lack of service, especially lack of service since 9/11 should lead to a degree of humility and openness to counsel that our political aristocracy self-evidently doesn't possess.

I know their world. I've lived in their world. This is a political class that reflexively distrusts the military, believes the right kind of experience can be gained by attending panel discussions from Boston to Geneva to Istanbul, and claims to gain on-the-ground insight from quick, guided tours of the safest sectors of Iraq and Afghanistan.

They know nothing. Worse, they learn nothing. The American people deserve better. This is a nation that has supplied an all-volunteer military with elite warriors for 14 consecutive years of combat. This is a nation whose sons and daughters keep exhibiting the courage of the Greatest Generation and the generations of soldiers who came before. We still raise lions. But alas, the donkeys rule!

*David French is an attorney, a staff writer for National Review, and a veteran of the Iraq War. Submitted by Bud Collette.*

*The Taro Leaf is not supposed to publish political issues, but I'll take the heat on this one, it's too important to be ignored.* Editor

## Fallen Comrades



**George X. Hefferon**, age 84, passed away in 2015. George served 44 years in the military, first with the United States Army 11th Field Artillery, 24 Infantry division in Korea. He was a wavy, 24th Infantry Division during the Korean War and then retired from the United States Air Force with the rank of Master Sergeant E-7.

**Charles Chuck Millard** of Fond du Lac died August 7, 2015. He served in five combat campaigns. He served in the Army from 1948 -1952 and was stationed in Korea from July 1950 to August 1951. His group was one of the first outfits to land in Korea. Life 1680.

**Lester T. Unglaub**, 86, died Oct. 16, 2015, he served his country as a corporal in the U.S. Army's 24th Infantry Division, 3rd Engineer Combat Battalion, during the Korean War.



**Wilbur L. Federwitz**, 93, of Marshfield, died November 8, 2015. Wilbur was a Pearl Harbor Survivor. (Picture, left)

**Al Moore** died on November 26, 2015. Al served in Korea with "G" Co. 19th Infantry Regiment from August 1951 until he was wounded in October 1951.



**Charles J. Bianco** passed away on Aug 9, 2015 at age 90. Charles served with the 24th ID. He often spoke of the human side of the war and was proud to be part of the Philippine Liberation. He enlisted at age 15, was severely wounded at age 19 and discharged from the hospital and the Army at age 22. Charles was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart with an Oak Leaf Cluster. Despite his disabilities, Charles remained a tough guy, one who dedicated his life to the Boy Scouts, his community and his family.

**Charlie Brown** of Troy, TN passed August 27, 2015 at age 84. He was in the Commo Platoon, HQ CO, 21st RGT and a member of Task Force Smith.

**William F. MacIntire** died March 5, 2015 at age 92.



**Frank Howard Blood, Jr.** 85, died, October 7, 2015. Frank served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, his unit being the first to be shipped to Korea. He was a Bronze Star Medal recipient for acts of bravery and meritorious service.

**Willbert Joseph Breaux** died Monday, April 27, 2015 at the age of 83 years. Willbert was a United States Army Veteran of the Korean War.

**Roy E. Wolf** passed away June 27, 2015.

**Dr. Melvin Merken**, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Worcester State University (MA), passed away at the age of 88 on Nov. 4, 2015. He enlisted in the Army on his 17th birthday during World War II and proudly served with the 21st Regiment of the 24th Division. He received the Army of Occupation Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Service Plaque. Life 1004.

**Paul G. Silber, Jr.** died November 19, 2015 at age 90. He grew up in an environment of intellectual wealth and monetary poverty. He left college and enlisted in the Army as a private in July 1943 and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. Infantry at Ft. Benning, GA in November 1944. He joined Company G, 34th Infantry, 24th Division in January 1945 where he was critically wounded by a Jap mortar shell in command of the 2nd Platoon at the Battle of Zig Zag Pass on Luzon in the Philippines. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Combat Infantry Badge.

**John P. Herbert** died December 12, 2012.

**John T. Sharp**, MD passed away Dec. 23, 2015. John graduated from the University of Buffalo in 1945, and their School of Medicine in 1949. He served in the US Army, including eight months as a battalion surgeon with the 24th Infantry Division in Korea, earning a *Bronze Star*. He was discharged from the Army in 1957 as a Major.

**Edmund A. Sokol**, 90, passed on November 29, 2015. He is survived by his wife Lorrie Sokol. Ed joined the army in 1942 at the ripe age of 17. He served as a Combat Field Medic in the Philippines campaign at Mindanao. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star but rarely spoke of his ordeal. His service continued during the occupation of Japan, where he served in a field hospital. Ed lived a full and active life, loved a good joke, cared deeply for his family. He was a proud American and proud veteran.



and were swinging east behind the left (west) flank of Eighth Army.

On the basis of the time and space estimate given him on the 23d and the aerial reconnaissance of the same date, General Walker realized that a major crisis was developing in a section far behind the lines, and at a time when constant enemy attack was pushing his front back. On 24 July, Eighth Army made its first move to counter the threatened enemy envelopment in the southwest. General Walker decided to send the 24th Division posthaste southward to block the enemy enveloping move. He also directed his chief of staff, Colonel Landrum, personally to make sure that the Fifth Air Force made a major effort and used two L-4 planes to fly daily reconnaissance to the west coast below the Kum River. Information also came from aerial combat missions.

At noon on the 24th, General Walker asked General Church, the new commander of the 24th Division, to come to Eighth Army headquarters in Taegu. There Walker informed him of the threat in the southwest and told him that he would have to move the 24th Division to the sector. "I am sorry to have to do this," he said, "but the whole left flank is open, and reports indicate the Koreans are moving in. I want you to cover the area from Chinju up to near Kumch'on." The two places General Walker mentioned are sixty-five air miles apart and separated by the wild Chiri Mountains.

General Church had assumed command of the 24th Division just the day before, on 23 July, after General Dean had been three days missing in action. The division had been out of the line and in army reserve just one day. It had not had time to re-equip and receive replacements for losses. The division supply officer estimated that 60 to 70 percent of the division's equipment would have to be replaced. All three regiments were far under strength.

General Church immediately ordered the 19th Infantry to move to Chinju, and it started from Kumch'on shortly before midnight, 24 July. The next day, 25 July, at 1700, Eighth Army formally ordered the division, less the 21st Regiment, to defend the Chinju area.

Eighth Army now had reports of 10 enemy tanks and 500 infantry in Mok'po at the southwest tip of the peninsula; 26 trucks and 700 soldiers in Namwon; tanks, trucks, and 800 soldiers in Kurye; and 500 enemy troops engaging South Korean police in Hadong. [15] The Eighth Army G-2 estimated at this time that the N.K. 4th Division was dispersed over 3,300 square miles of southwest Korea. On the morning of 25 July, Col. Ned D. Moore arrived at Chinju about 0600, preceding his 19th Infantry Regiment headquarters and the 2d Battalion, which reached the town at 1500 in

the afternoon. Lt. Col. Robert L. Rhea, following with the 1st Battalion, remained behind on the Kumch'on road north of Chinju. There, at Anui, where a road came in from the west, Colonel Rhea placed A Company in a defensive position. The remainder of the battalion continued south eight miles to a main road junction at Umyong-ni (Sanggam on some old maps and Hwasan-ni on others), just east of Hamyang.

The next day, 26 July, Col. Charles E. Beauchamp's 34th Infantry Regiment, on orders from General Church, moved from the Kunwi-Uisong area north of Taegu to Koch'ang. At the same time the 24th Division headquarters and divisional troops moved to Hyopch'on, where General established his command post. Hyopch'on is 12 air mile west of the Naktong River, 25 miles north of Chinju, and 15 miles southeast of Koch'ang. It was reasonably well centered in the vast area the division had to defend.

Of the eleven infantry battalions requested by General MacArthur in early July to make up shortages within the infantry divisions of the Far East Command, two battalions from the 29th Infantry Regiment on Okinawa were the first to arrive in Korea. The history of these units between the time they were alerted for probable combat use in Korea and their commitment in battle shows the increasing sense of urgency that gripped the Far East Command in July, and how promises and estimates made one day in good faith had to be discarded the next because of the growing crisis in Korea. And it also shows how troops not ready for combat nevertheless suddenly found themselves in it.

About the middle of July, Maj. Tony J. Raibl, Executive Officer, 3d Battalion, 19th Infantry, learned in Tokyo that the Far East Command expected that the regiment would have at least six weeks' training before being sent to Korea.

Yet, immediately after making that estimate, the Far East Command issued orders to the regiment on 15 July to prepare for movement. All troops were placed in two battalions, the 1st and 3d. Lt. Col. Wesley C. Wilson commanded the 1st Battalion and Lt. Col. Harold W. Mott, the 3d Battalion. The regimental headquarters was to remain behind as a nucleus for a new regiment that would assume responsibility for the ground defense of Okinawa.

THE ENEMY FLANKS EIGHTH ARMY IN THE WEST Page 215

To be continued in the next Taro Leaf Issue.

# 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Reunited To Commemorate Silver Anniversary of Desert Storm



For thousands of years soldiers have forged in battle a bond that is stronger than most relationships that civilians simply do not comprehend. The dependency upon each other for survival as well as a love for others beyond themselves creates a brotherhood or sisterhood that is not replicated in other professions. It is for this reason that Veterans yearn to reunite with each other, to come together, to share their experiences with each other, to remember and to honor their fallen comrades.

A quarter of a century ago, the soldiers of the 24th Infantry Division answered the call of their Nation and went to war, first to defend Saudi Arabia and then to liberate Kuwait by defeating the Iraqi Army. There were predictions that many would not return home and casualties could be as high as 30% yet they stood side by side determined to accomplish the mission victoriously and bring each other home. In an outstanding performance of professionalism and leadership the "Victory Division" lived up to its namesake and accomplished the mission with lightning speed as the "Point of the Spear" of Desert Storm in 1991.

War is never without cost, sixteen Taro Leaf soldiers paid the ultimate price for freedom during the Persian Gulf War. Many others were wounded and even more came home with unexplained illnesses and the hidden wounds of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. It is for these men and women that our great Nation owes a debt of gratitude and remembrance. Each made a commitment, each soldier signed the dotted line to

serve, protect and defend even to the point of death.

On February 24-28, 2016 Veterans of the mighty 24th Infantry Division will gather at Fort Stewart, GA to commemorate the silver anniversary of Desert Storm. During the five-day reunion, many activities and events are being planned to foster social interaction, remembering and celebrating. Educational sessions on PTSD, Suicide Prevention, Gulf War Illness and a presentation on the National Desert Storm Memorial will also be provided. Representatives from the 24th Infantry Division Association will be on hand to promote the Association and register Veterans as members.

The Victory Division will reunite to remember the sacrifices of the Fallen at Memorial Ceremony on Friday, Feb 26 at 11:00 hrs at the Gulf War Memorial. Former Division Commander, General Barry McCaffrey will be the keynote speaker. Catherine Alaniz-Simonds, widow of SPC Andy Alaniz KIA 24th ID Desert Storm will also be speaking and the 3rd ID Band will play patriotic songs, Amazing Grace and TAPS. The Memorial Ceremony will be the highlight of the reunion and include honoring our fallen with a Memorial Wreath and dedication of a Memorial Bench. A special reunion fund is available for those who would like to support the Veterans in reuniting and all contributions are sincerely appreciated. For full reunion itinerary and more information on reunion activities and registration see [facebook.com/24thIDreunion](https://facebook.com/24thIDreunion) or [DesertStorm24ID.com](https://DesertStorm24ID.com)

Why do soldiers go to war and then yearn to reunite with each other 25 years later? Perhaps it is best summed up in one word, Brotherhood as stated in the 2001 film, and Mark Bowden novel, Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War "When I go home, people ask me, 'Why do you do it? You some kind of war junkie?' I won't say a word. Why? They won't understand. They won't understand why we do it. They won't understand it's about the men next to you... and that's it. That's all it is."

Chaplain K. Darrell Williams 423-312-4752  
[KDarrellWilliams@gmail.com](mailto:KDarrellWilliams@gmail.com)





## Thank you for your gift!

October 28, 2015

24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association  
9150 Hwy. 51  
Westover, AL 35147

Dear 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association,

On behalf of The Independence Fund, I wish to pass along our sincere thanks and appreciation for your recent donation of \$16,000! No goods or services were exchanged.

The Independence Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated towards restoring as much independence as is possible for our nation's severely injured veterans. The Independence Fund has gifted over 1,000 all terrain wheelchairs to severely wounded American Heroes.

On the battlefield we made a promise to leave no one behind, and the Independence Fund is honored to also keep that commitment here at home. Our commitment to the Heroes of this nation will last long after the last troops exit Afghanistan. The Independence Fund is proud to support every era of disabled veterans on their journey home. Your tax-deductible donation will be used wisely. Our EIN number is 26-0322088. More than dollars, we rely on the support of caring individuals like yourself, and for this we cannot thank you enough.

Sincerely,

Tommy Rieman, Executive Director

Tokyo and Washington to alter their plans for the conduct of the war.

Departing Yesan on 13 July, the N.K. 6th Division started south in two columns and crossed the lower Kum River. (See Map III.) The larger force appeared before Kunsan about the time the 3d and 4th Divisions attacked Taejon. The port town fell to the enemy without resistance. The division's two columns united in front of Chonju, thirty miles to the southeast, and quickly reduced that town, which was defended by ROK police.

The N.K. 6th Division was now poised to make an end run through southwest Korea toward Pusan, around the left flank of Eighth Army. In all Korea southwest of the Taejon-Taegu-Pusan highway, at this time, there were only a few hundred survivors of ROK 7th.

The 6th Division departed Chonju on or about 20 July. At Kwangju on 23 July the three regiments of the division separated. The 13th went southwest to Mokp'o on the coast, the 14th south to Posong, and the 15th southeast through Sunch'on to Yosu on the southern coast. The division encountered little resistance during this week of almost constant movement. About 25 July, it reassembled at Sunch'on, ninety air miles west of Pusan, and made ready for its critical drive eastward toward that port. Logistically, the division was poorly prepared for this operation. Its supply was poor and rations were cut in half and on some days there were none.

Advancing next on Chinju, General Pang Ho San, commander of the N.K. 6th Division, proclaimed to his troops on the eve of the advance, "Comrades, the enemy is demoralized. The task given us is the liberation of Masan and Chinju and the annihilation of the remnants of the enemy.... The liberation of Chinju and Masan means the final battle to cut off the windpipe of the enemy."

Everywhere refugees fled the terror sweeping over southwest Korea with the advance of the North Korean Army and guerrilla units. An entry on 29 July in the diary of a guerrilla tellingly illustrates the reasons for panic: "Apprehended 12 men; National Assembly members, police sergeants and Myon leaders. Killed four of them at the scene, and the remaining eight were shot after investigation by the People's court."

Walker Acts. During the battle for Taejon, U.N. aerial observers had reported enemy movements south of the Kum River near the west coast. U.N. intelligence mistakenly concluded that these troops were elements of the N.K. 4th Division. A report from the Far East Command to Washington on 21 July noted this enemy movement and attributed it to that division. The next day a similar report from the Far East Com-

mand stated, "The 4th North Korean Division ... has been picked up in assemblies in the vicinity of Nonsan." Enemy forces in battalion and regimental strength, the report said, were moving in a "southward trend, colliding with local police forces." General MacArthur's headquarters considered this "a very bold movement, evidently predicated on the conviction of the enemy high command that the Allied units are potentially bottled up in the mountainous areas northeast of the headwaters of the Kum River. ... The potential of the advance of the enemy 4th Division to the south is altogether uncomfortable, since at the moment, except for air strikes, there is no organized force capable of firm resistance except local police units."

General Walker knew enemy units were moving south of the Kum River into southwest Korea and maintained aerial observation of the roads there when flying weather conditions permitted. His intelligence section wanted distant armored reconnaissance of this region, but the armored vehicles and personnel to carry it out were not available. In addition to aerial reconnaissance, however, there were the many reports from local South Korean police units. These often were vague, conflicting, and, it was thought, exaggerated.

On 21-22 July, heavy overcast prevented aerial reconnaissance and permitted the enemy to put his columns on the road during daylight and to move rapidly without fear of aerial attack. Alarm at Eighth Army headquarters began to grow. The Fifth Air Force had moved its advance headquarters from Itazuke, Japan, to Taegu on 16 July. The most advanced air bases in Japan-Itazake and Ashiya-were hardly close enough to the battle area of early and middle July to allow more than fifteen to twenty minutes of support by jet fighters. When weather was bad the F-80 jets could scarcely fly a mission at the front and get back to Itazuke. Effective 24 July, the advance group of the Air Force was designated as the Fifth Air Force in Korea. Fair weather returned on 23 July, and General Walker requested the Fifth Air Force to fly an armed reconnaissance of the Kwangju-Nonsan area.

When General Walker asked for aerial reconnaissance of southwest Korea on 23 July, he had at hand a G-2 estimate of the enemy situation in the west below the Kum, just provided at his request. This estimate postulated that elements of one division were in the southwest. It estimated the rate of progress at two miles an hour and calculated that if the enemy turned east he could reach the Anui-Chinju line in the Chiri Mountains by 25 July. This proved to be an accurate forecast.

The air reconnaissance carried out on 23 July was revealing. It showed that enemy forces had indeed begun a drive south from the estuary of the Kum River



There were many heroic actions by American soldiers of the 24th Division in these first weeks in Korea. But there were also many uncomplimentary and unsoldierly ones. Leadership among the officers had to be exceptional to get the men to fight, and several gave their lives in this effort. Others failed to meet the standard expected of American officers. There is no reason to suppose that any of the other three occupation divisions in Japan would have done better in Korea than did the U.S. 24th Division in July 1950. When committed to action they showed the same weaknesses.

A basic fact is that the occupation divisions were not trained, equipped, or ready for battle. The great majority of the enlisted men were young and not really interested in being soldiers. The recruiting posters that had induced most of these men to enter the Army mentioned all conceivable advantages and promised many good things, but never suggested that the principal business of an army is to fight.

When the first American units climbed the hills in the Korean monsoon heat and humidity, either to fight or to escape encirclement by the enemy, they "dropped like flies," as more than one official report of the period states. Salt tablets became a supply item of highest priority and were even dropped to troops by plane.

One participant and competent observer of the war in those first days has expressed the conditions well. He said, "The men and officers had no interest in a fight which was not even dignified by being called a war. It was a bitter fight in which many lives were lost, and we could see no profit in it except our pride in our profession and our units as well as the comradeship which dictates that you do not let your fellow soldiers down."

As part of the historical record, it may be worthwhile to record General Dean's own judgment after turning over in his mind for several years the events of Taejon, and after having read this chapter in manuscript. Many of the things related in this chapter he did not, of course, know at the time. Here are the words of this brave and honest soldier, written seven and a half years after the event.

Hostile and friendly dispositions, which are now quite clear, were much more obscure at the time. I stayed in Taejon for a number of reasons: (1) In an effort to stimulate the fighting spirit of the 34th Infantry and attached troops there in the city. The second reason was as an example to the ROK leaders and also to give confidence to the ROK forces. The third was to see at close hand just what kind of a fighter the North Korean was. It is now clear to me that I was too close to the trees to see the forest, and therefore was at the time

blind to the envelopment that the North Koreans were engineering. Not until we turned off on the road to Kumsan and we ran into the North Korean detachment dug in at intervals along that highway did I realize what had happened. I was disturbed about the infiltrators into the City of Taejon itself, but I was not alarmed and I was sanguine of extricating the 34th Infantry until I had left the city on the Kumsan road and realized that there had been an envelopment of major proportions. But even then, I did not realize the extent of the envelopment and my earnest prayer at the time was that the majority of the 34th Infantry would not take the Kumsan road but would leave by way of the Okch'on road. Subsequent events have proved that it would have been better if we had all headed down the Kumsan road because I am certain we could have cleared that and gotten a greater number through....

In retrospect, it would appear that the 21st Infantry Regiment should have been employed to secure the exit from Taejon. But I never issued such an order and my reason for not doing so was that I was convinced that the 21st Infantry Regiment should hold the commanding terrain just west of Okch'on to prevent an envelopment from the north, which would cut off both the 21st Infantry Regiment and the 34th Infantry Regiment and permit the enemy to drive through Yongdong and south through Yongdong to Kumch'on and hence south. My big two errors were: (1) Not withdrawing the 34th Infantry Regiment the night of the 19th of July, as originally planned; (2) releasing the 24th Reconnaissance Company to the 34th Infantry Regiment.

After the fall of Taejon the war was to enter a new phase. Help in the form of the 1st Cavalry Division had arrived. No longer would the 24th Division and the ROK Army have to stand alone.

The N.K. 6th, farthest to the west of the enemy divisions, had a special mission. After the fall of Seoul, it followed the N.K. 3d and 4th Divisions across the Han as far as Ch'onan. There the N.K. Army issued new orders to it, and pursuant to them on 11 July it turned west off the main highway toward the west coast. For the next two weeks the division passed from the view of Eighth Army intelligence. Various intelligence summaries carried it as location unknown, or placed it vaguely in the northwest above the Kum River.

Actually, the 6th Division was moving rapidly south over the western coastal road net. Its shadow before long would turn into a pall of gloom and impending disaster over the entire U.N. plan to defend southern Korea. Its maneuver was one of the most successful of either Army in the Korean War. It compelled the reposition of Eighth Army at the end of July and caused

## Army Private Remembers the Infamous Pearl Harbor Strike

*There was no time for fear as Japanese bombs exploded on Dec. 7, 1941.*

Army Private James Herring left the mess hall at Schofield Barracks in Oahu, Hawaii, on Dec. 7, 1941, for what the 21-year-old New York man thought was a typical, quiet Sunday on the base. "I looked up and Japanese airplanes were in view," said Mr. Herring, now 96, from his Beach Lake home in Wayne County "We knew who they were with the red circles on the planes." Japanese aircraft sprayed bullets at the base and at Army fighter pilots and planes at the adjacent Wheeler Field.



Mr. Herring and others in the 24th Infantry Division ran to their barracks to grab their guns in fruitless attempts to return fire. "Our guns did not have bullets in them," said Mr. Herring. "They did not keep bullets in the barracks." His division, a transportation unit, suffered casualties. The men quickly congregated, gathered ammunition and awaited orders. They were on the lookout for Japanese planes.

"In the distance, we could see clouds of smoke." Mr. Herring recalled. "We knew it was bad." Pearl Harbor, about 14 miles from Schofield Barracks, had been hit "We heard what we thought were bombs." Mr. Herring said, though it was unclear whether they were Japanese bombs or U.S. Navy anti-aircraft shells. "They (the U.S. Navy) were hitting back so quickly that the shells weren't set correctly and were landing near us," he said.

The division began to move equipment, ammunition and troops. There was no time to be scared. "We were just reacting so quickly ... it was utter chaos," he said.

"We were there to protect it (Oahu). There was no time to worry." His division spent the following months building a coastal defense system in northern Oahu.

When Mr. Herring joined the Army on March 13, 1940, the then-20-year-old needed a job and looked forward to traveling. He never imagined he would be thrust into war.

In 1943, Mr. Herring traveled with the 24th to Australia, where they trained on Goodenough Island to prepare for jungle warfare in New Guinea and the Philippines.

Two years later, Mr. Herring returned to Fort Dix, New Jersey, on a troop train from San Francisco. After a five-year tour, "they took our records, gave us money and said go home," he said. Mr. Herring was honorably discharged on Aug. 9, 1945. He received the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Once home in Otsego County, New York, Mr. Herring suffered several bouts of malaria. He was sent to the Tilton General Hospital at Fort Dix. There, he fell in love with his nurse and they married. Mrs. Herring passed away on Oct. 7, a month shy of their 70th wedding anniversary.

On the 50th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, Mr. Herring and his wife traveled to Hawaii and ate breakfast in the Officers' Quarters at the Schofield Barracks. "They served us the same breakfast that we would have had in 1941." Mr. Herring said. "It was hamburger meat in a cream sauce on toast (SOS). It was pretty much what they served us for meals in peace time."

Today 74 years since the Pearl Harbor attack, Mr. Herring lives a quieter life filled with summer golf with friends, monthly meetings with his Senior Club in Narrowsburg, New York, and visits from his three children-four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



2015 - FIRST BATTLE FOR KOREA COMMEMORATION

The first battle for South Korea was on 5 July 1950. That battle at Osan was commemorated again on July 2, 2015. Present were the 8th Army Deputy Commander, other military dignitaries, the President of the Prefecture, and one UN Forces honoree.

The battle known as Task Force Smith was represented by Major General Seung Kook Yoon, a Captain during that 1950 event. He was attached to the 52nd Field Artillery Battalion until September 1950, and was instrumental in providing guidance to the Commanders of TFS, reading maps in Japanese and eventually helping them find a safe passage from the aborted battle scene.

At the commemoration, Osan's Mayor Sang-Wook Kwak announced the final plans to make a park of 180 pine trees adjacent to the UN Forces Memorial Museum to memorialize the 180 individual casualties of Task Force Smith. Each tree will be marked with a plaque identifying each man.

The Task force Commanded by General Brad Smith (then Lt Col) with his two companies of the 1st Bn of the 21st Infantry Regiment, and General Miller O Perry (then Lt Col) with his one firing battery of 105 mm artillery, have been credited with providing a much needed delaying action overpowering North Korean forces. Their approximately 500 men met the surprisingly superior enemy force of over 2000. They were outnumbered and out-gunned. No one knew there was such a large force of enemy ground troops supported by 34 Russian made tanks. Intelligence was lacking and observation in the field was obscured by overcast skies and typhoon-like weather.

Colonel Smith's infantry arrived by air and the artillery by ship. Almost all necessities were denied the infantry and their artillery support—weapons, ammunition, field rations, armored vehicles, operable radios and telephones. The communications equipment drawn from Division supply were in poor repair or obsolete. Division supply had 6 rounds of high explosive anti tank (HEAT) ammunition and would only release 3 rounds to the artillery.

This left the dough boys, some of whom had trained for two and one half years at Camp Wood in Japan with daily exercise and physical training, and a continuing regiment of either firing range or combat training, out-numbered and unequipped to take on the onslaught of men and equipment they met near the

38th parallel. Among other things, they lacked anti tank ammunition for their bazookas.

The artillery could fare no better. Those men who had passed their firing exercises at Beppu, Japan just weeks before were under-equipped to fight 2000 enemy supported by 34 tanks which could travel down the road comprising the center of the battlefield without impunity. Communication was bad because the first tanks mutilated the telephone wire hastily strung between the two army units. Neither the infantry or artillery had sufficient fire power to stop the tanks and lacked the manpower to stop the horde that surrounded them. Only three tanks were immobilized with their inappropriate ammunition.

The tanks brazenly went straight down the road, through the small force they met, and went through the battle site to await their foot soldiers' advance. Most TFS members, blocked by the tanks from the obvious escape route, were forced to make their way out by foot through rice paddies.

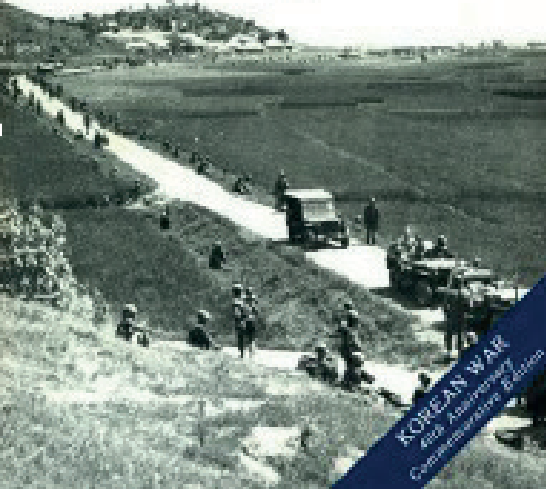
Among those men were WWII veterans and young men who had been enjoying their service in Japan much like the troops in England and elsewhere before they were selected for their ultimate battles. Most were first tim22ers—initiates to battle! Were they green? If green means fresh, that fact is a given. All young combat soldiers, throughout history have been green if they were reared in a free country!

Calling those young men of TFS green (in a derogatory manner) is an inflammatory remark! The fact is that the men of TFS stood up to their challenge and were responsible for providing the delaying action necessary for the 8th Army to assemble sufficient numbers of men, adequate equipment, and above all appropriate ammunition. As to training, one TFS hero, Joe Longone (21st Inf) sums it up,"How (else) could those young soldiers fight as hard and long?" and Herman Critchfield, the Corporal who bore-sighted his howitzer in order to immobilize 2 tanks, simply said "We just went about our job as trained."

TFS was forced to walk out of their positions. The artillery pieces were left with firing mechanisms removed, and except for 180 casualties, lived to fight a week later.

Submitted by Rus Penland, , 52nd FA Bn Association deltas-1@isbcglobal.net Tel. 361 992-8647

SOUTH TO THE NAKTONG, NORTH TO THE YALU  
Roy E. Appleman



When all the men who escaped from Taejon had rejoined their units, a count showed 1,150 casualties out of 3,933 of the U.S. 24th Division forces engaged there on 19-20 July—nearly 30 percent. Of these casualties, 48 were known dead, 228 wounded, and 874 missing in action.

Most of the last were presumed killed and this was borne out by subsequent information. Among the rifle companies, L Company, 34th Infantry, the rear guard unit, lost the most with 107 casualties out of 153 men (70 percent).

The equipment loss also was very great. Virtually all the organic equipment of the troops in Taejon was lost there. Only B Battery, 13th Field Artillery Battalion, B Battery, 63d Field Artillery Battalion, and I Company, 34th Infantry, brought out their equipment substantially intact. They escaped just before the enemy enforced the roadblock which caught everything behind them. Approximately only 35 regimental vehicles escaped from Taejon. The 24th Quartermaster Company lost 30 of 34 trucks; A Battery, 11th Field Artillery Battalion, lost all 5 of its 155-mm. Howitzers.

At noon on 22 July the 24th Infantry Division turned over the front-line positions at Yongdong to the 1st Cavalry Division. The division's consolidated strength on that day was 8,660 men. Seventeen days had elapsed since division troops had first met North Koreans in combat at Osan on 5 July. In that time, casualties of some of the major units at Taejon were as follows:

Unit	Casualties	Percentage
Hq, 34th Inf	71 of 171	41.5
1st Bn, 34th Inf	203 of 712	28.5
3d Bn, 34th Inf	256 of 666	38.4
2d Bn, 19th Inf	211 of 713	29.5
C Co, 3d Engr (C)	85 of 161	53.0
A Btry, 11th FA	39 of 123	31.7

Two enemy divisions had driven it back 100 miles in a southeasterly direction. In these two and a half weeks,

the division had suffered more than 30 percent casualties. More than 2,400 men were missing in action. It had lost enough materiel to equip a division. Losses in senior officers of field grade had been unusually severe. And then finally, at Taejon, the commanding general of the division was missing in action. Charged with carrying out a delaying action, the division had held the enemy on its front to an average gain of about six miles a day. On 22 July, with General Dean still missing in action, Eighth Army ordered Maj. Gen. John H. Church to assume command of the 24th Division.

Soldiers of the 24th Division faced many handicaps in their early battles with the North Koreans. Often the unit commanders were new to the units and did not know their officers and men; there were few qualified officer replacements for those lost; communication was a most serious and continuing problem—there was a lack of telephone wire, and the batteries for radios were outdated and lasted only an hour or so in operation or they did not function at all; there was a shortage of ammunition, particularly for the 60-mm., 81-mm., and 4.2-inch mortars; dysentery at times affected a fourth of the men; and always there were the rumors, generally absurd and groundless, which kept the men agitated and uneasy. The maps, based on the Japanese survey of 1918-32, were often unreliable, resulting in inaccurate artillery fire unless directed and adjusted by an observer. Road and convoy discipline was poor. Driver maintenance was poor.





Darrell Williams with Iraqi T72 Tank, (was he going to dig a hole and bury it?)

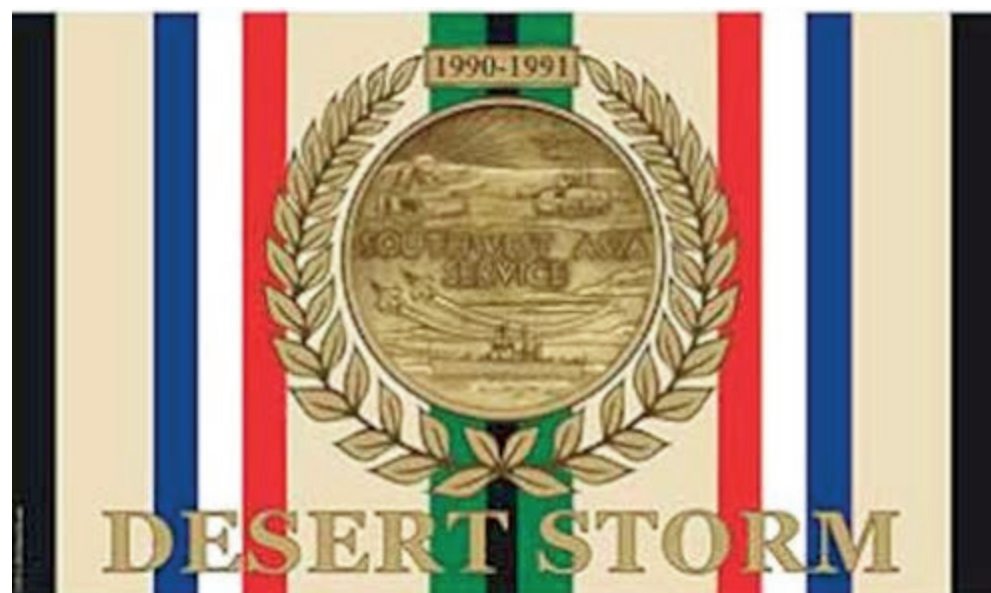


Back of Soldier's Helmet



Inside Tank at Jalibah, Destroyed Enemy to Front

Campaign  
Flag -  
Desert Storm



## Four-legged Soldiers Sniff Out Insurgents

30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team Story by Capt. Richard Scoggins

*Throughout the course of the long war in the Middle East Coalition troops have relied on thousands of military working dogs to help keep them safe, and make their jobs easier. The dogs are trained to detect explosives, to find illegal drugs, to search for missing comrades, or target enemy combatants. Not only are they active on the front lines, but behind the lines they serve as therapy dogs, service dogs, and loyal companions. They also share the same risks as the ground troops, suffering injuries and sometimes death on the battlefields. Following is an account from one of the K-9 units ([k9pride.wordpress.com](http://k9pride.wordpress.com)).*



BAGHDAD — The four-legged Soldiers of Forward Operating Base Falcon's military police K-9 section working with the 30th "Old Hickory" Heavy Brigade Combat Team, are making a name for themselves by patrolling for explosives and conducting combat tracking.

The section is led by Staff Sgt. Christopher Jasper of Everett, Wash., and includes fellow handlers Sgt. Kyle Harris of Essex, Conn. and Sgt. Jeff Todoroff of Willis, Texas.

The group has six years of combined experience with their dog partners. Jasper's K-9 section covers the entire 30th HBCT's area of responsibility, and during the past eight months, has participated in almost 100 missions for two brigade combat teams.



There are three types of missions all military dogs can train for— patrol explosive, specialized search and combat tracking. The dogs are certified in a specialty, then deploy with their handlers, creating a solid bond between Soldier and animal.

The dogs at Falcon go on explosive detection missions that range from suspected weapons caches to suspected weapons or explosives smuggling operations. "These dogs are on point every mission," Harris said. "They are here to find explosives before humans do."

The dogs' jobs are very physical. Patrol explosive detector dogs can work without a leash to warn Soldiers before they get too close. The dogs find explosive materials by scent. The dog's sense of smell is extremely precise. "When we smell hot stew, all we smell is the stew," Todoroff said. "But the dog smells all of the ingredients, separately."

The military dogs track scents close to the ground, and can identify whether a person is running or walking, and whether that person is under stress or at ease.





Darrell Williams, Chaplin, aiding Medi-vac