

# TARO LEAF

**FIRST TO FIGHT**



*We have paid in blood for victory  
In the jungles, fields and streets  
As we fought our Country's battles  
Shining bright our Taro Leaf  
We have never asked for glory  
All our glory we have won  
So, if there's still a question  
who the hell are we  
The 24th Division  
Yes the Victory Division  
Of the U.S. Infantry!  
All the way from Pearl to Mindanao  
Where we stoked our passions high  
As we carried freedom's banner  
Proudly balanced at our stride  
Keeping faith with those before us  
Who have blazed an honored trail  
For all their courage and their bravery  
Carry on we'll never fail  
We have never asked for glory  
All our glory we have won  
So, if there's still a question  
who the hell are we  
The 24th Division  
Yes the Victory Division  
That you toasted gallantly!*

*See Pages 20-21*

# The Taro Leaf

Vol. 62, No. 3 Summer 2008 The Official Quarterly Publication of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Assoc.



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## BOD – PRESIDENT, VICE-PRES., SEC./TREAS. & PAST PRES.

NAME	YEARS	UNIT	PHONE	ST.
Gene E. Spicer, Pres.	2006-2008	19th Inf. Regt.	812-273-6996	IN
Mel L. Frederick, VP	2008-2008	19th Inf. Regt.	See at left	MN
Donald C. Maggio, Sc/Tr	2005-0008	24th AG	828-684-5931	NC
Wes Morrison	2003-2006	21st Inf. Regt.	831-883-2156	CA
James F. Hill	2000-2001	19th Inf. Regt.	770-998-3749	GA
Thomas Cochran	1997-1998	34th Inf. Regt.	931-647-4793	TN
James F. Hill	1995-1996	19th Inf. Regt.	770-998-3749	GA
Vincent Vella	1994-1995	21st Inf. Regt.	716-873-7129	NY
Vincent Gagliardo	1993-1994	5th RCT	415-467-2316	CA
Albert McAdoo	1991-1992	5th RCT	813-837-2728	FL
Donald C. Rosenblum	1987-1988	Div. HQ	912-233-6717	GA
Warren C. Avery	1986-1987	21st Inf. Regt.	203-239-3406	CT
Richard C. Watson	1985-1986	19th Inf. Regt.	317-378-3721	IN
John R. Shay	1983-1984	21st Inf. Regt.	708-724-5133	IL
John E. Klump	1977-1978	34th Inf. Regt.	812-623-4336	IN
Paul F. Wisecap	1971-1972	34th Inf. Regt.	813-936-6103	FL
William C. Muldoon	1970-1971	19th Inf. Regt.	941-743-7179	FL
Donald C. Williams	1968-1969	34th Inf. Regt.	810-566-4627	MI

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**Publication Guidelines:** Please send all **TAPS notices, Manuscripts, and Articles to the Editor** at above address. You may send either electronically as email attachments in text (word processor) format, or by USPS as typed or printed originals. Short handwritten material is acceptable, but may be incorporated as is in a graphic image. Articles may be limited to **two or three pages typewritten**.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** are desired for **TAPs and all articles**, and may be submitted in electronic format (300 dpi resolution or higher) as email attachments, or as prints (Note that *Xerox* or *Newspaper* Photos do not copy well; prints are much preferred). For all photos please provide the photographer's name and where they appear in the article, identify each person or other subject in the photo, and if you wish it returned. Copyrighted material should have permission to reprint. **Please include your current correct full name, address, phone number and email with all submissions.**

## **Taro Leaf Deadlines & Publication Dates**

VOL	NO	ISSUE	DEADLINE	DELIVERY
62	4	Fall	Oct. 1, 2008	Nov 2008
63	1	Winter	Jan. 1, 2009	Feb 2009
63	2	Spring	Apr. 1, 2009	May 2009
63	3	Summer	Jul. 1, 2009	Aug 2009



# A Few Thoughts from Your President



**B**y the time you read this I will be nearing the end of my two terms as your President.

We have had extremely good things happen, and also some not so good.

Dan Rickert and the other members of his committee did a whale of a good job on the Memorial for the 24th at the Punch Bowl in Hawaii. I was fortunate to attend the ceremony, and to help Dan carry the floral bouquet to the beautiful marble marker remembering the 24th Division!

Merry Helm and others made the Congressional Medal of Honor happen for Woodrow Wilson Keeble. I was also very fortunate to represent the Association at the recent MOH hero's celebration for Woody at the Sisseton, SD, Cemetery.

Our Taro Leaf Continues to be one of the top veterans publications in the nation thanks to our editor Tom Thiel. But, because of increasingly higher publishing costs, Tom has changed printers and is making some other changes as well. Please read my report to the Association's Board of Directors on page 22 of this *Taro Leaf* on this topic.

The West Coast Reunion was a very successful venture thanks largely to Byrd Schrock and family.

Our 2008 reunion will be in Springfield, MO on September 17-21. If you haven't sent in all your reservation forms yet, please send them now.

I know the price of fuel keeps rising, but don't let this put a damper on attendance. Just remember comradeship is very important to an old soldier's life!

Someone sent me an email recently that really makes a lot of sense. It suggested that instead of sending our young soldiers to fight the enemy, we should send all the older and retired men to battle.

The war would be over in a very short time because the enemy would surrender just keep from listening to the bitching and moaning about every thing that these "crotchety old timers" disagreed with.

Believe it or not we have members just like that; they have all the answers, even when they don't know the question.

So ....

*Be sure to make it to the reunion!  
Be sure to enjoy it!  
Be sure to listen to the old war stories!  
Be sure to drink one for me!*

***Gene Spicer***





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Cover: 24th Infantry Division March and Song converted from 45-rpm vinyl recording from Paul Cain, to a CD-Audio. Will be available at the Reunion in Springfield. See pages 20-21.

1,20-21



### I HEAR NO BUGLES

Robert W. Mercy



34-35

37-40



45-47



## Secretary-Treasurer Report

by Don Maggio (continued next page)

Name	Unit	Amount	Comment
Agee, Clarence R.	Div Aarty	\$5	
Arnold, Russell G.	24th MP	\$20	
Baker, John J.	34th Inf	\$50	For the Taro Leaf and in memory of "Dutch" Nelsen
Baldwin, J. Smith	3rd Eng	\$200	For the Taro Leaf
Barnett, Lacy	34th Inf	\$30	For the Taro Leaf
Bell, Joseph	19th Inf	\$100	For the Taro Leaf and in memory of all who served in the 19th Inf
Benson, Laurence W.	19th Inf	\$35	
Blood, Frank H.	19th Inf	\$20	In memory of CPL George Hanson "B" Co. 19th Inf
Blood, Frank H.	19th Inf	\$10	
Booper, Richard W.	21st Inf	\$10	
Bradford, James E.	21st Inf	\$25	For the Taro Leaf
Brickley, Robert A.	5th RCT	\$100	For the Taro Leaf & to help a great outfit that helped out the 5th RCT
Bronner, Earl D.	Assoc	\$5	
Bronsberg, Alexander F.	3rd Eng	\$20	For the Taro Leaf
Browne, Edward J.	21st Inf	\$100	For the Taro Leaf
Bruno, Howard J.	34th Inf	\$25	For mailing expenses
Colman, Dick R.	34th Inf	\$25	For the Taro Leaf
Cox, William A.	19th & 34th Inf	\$10	
Cullen, Leo R.	19th Inf	\$25	For the Taro Leaf
Cullers, William M.	21st Inf	\$10	
Davenport, Leon	21st Inf	\$50	For the Taro Leaf
Davis, Andrew J.	3rd Eng	\$10	
Davis, Ray G.	19th Inf	\$50	For the Taro Leaf
Debole, Frank S.	24th Sig	\$50	For the Taro Leaf
Doxie, Richard A.	34th Inf	\$50	For the Taro Leaf
Dunkin, Delwyn A.	19th Inf	\$50	For the Taro Leaf
East, Robert	3rd Eng	\$15	For the Taro Leaf
Edwards, John T.	3rd Eng	\$10	For the Taro Leaf
Federwitz, Wilbur L.	21st Inf	\$15	For the Taro Leaf
Field, Paul R.	19th Inf	\$100	For the Taro Leaf
Fletcher, John P.	34th Inf	\$20	
Gaston, Billy C.	24th MP	\$30	For the Taro Leaf
Gibson, Calvin N.	19th Inf	\$5	
Gibson, Wesley J.	34th Inf	\$15	
Hawthorne, Raymond J.	Div Arty	\$100	For the Taro Leaf
Hickey, Robert W.	19th Inf	\$25	
Hightower, Arlene G.		\$50	In memory of William Guthrie Howard, friend of husband, Hugh
Hill, Myra Jean	Assoc	\$10	
Hosler, William C.	19th Inf	\$25	For the Taro Leaf & in memory of Lloyd Order "F" of the 19th Inf Korea
Huss, Matthew M.	21st Inf	\$5	
Jackson, Shelby L.	19th Inf	\$35	
Johnson, Donald H.	13th FA	\$35	
Jordison, Donald L.	34th Inf	\$10	
Lake, Charles E.	21st Inf	\$10	For the Taro Leaf
Landes, Robert E.	24th Med	\$20	For the Taro Leaf
Lehman, Seymour	63rd FA	\$25	For the Taro Leaf
Losio, George P.	19th Inf	\$25	For the Taro Leaf
Lyke, Thomas A.	6th Tank	\$25	For the Taro Leaf
Manselien, Robert S.	24th MP	\$50	For the Taro Leaf
Marrell, Riley W.	24th Med	\$25	For the Taro Leaf
McGill, Allan C.	19th Inf	\$35	For the Taro Leaf
McManus, Frank W.	19th Inf & 24th Sig	\$25	
Mecca, Daniel	13th FA	\$25	For the Taro Leaf
Moore, Robert J.	19th Inf	\$10	
Murray, David A.	3rd Eng	\$20	For the Taro Leaf
Nelsen, Margo	Assoc	\$100	For the Taro Leaf. In memory of husband, "Dutch."
Norton, Goldy	21st Inf	\$50	For the Taro Leaf
Novotny, Stephen Edward	Assoc	\$350	In memory of father, Edmund A. Novotny, and other servicemen
Parker, Jerry R.	11th FA	\$10	For the Taro Leaf
Peer, Theodore F.	24th Admin	\$50	
Pena, Carlos	21st Inf	\$5	
Personeni, Laurence E.	34th Inf	\$15	
Peterson, Raymond L.	34th Inf	\$10	
Pilgrim, Larry W.	24th Sig	\$35	For the Taro Leaf
Plata, Frank J.	19th Inf	\$25	For the Taro Leaf
Priest, Sr., Robert R.	24th Sig	\$20	For the Taro Leaf
Rickett, Daniel	3rd Eng	\$10	For the Taro Leaf
Schanzmeyer, Bernard A.	19th Inf	\$100	For the Taro Leaf
Skinner, Franklin E.	11th FA	\$45	For the Taro Leaf
Stenack, Francis	5th RCT	\$10	For the Taro Leaf
Stratton, Robert J.	19th Inf	\$25	For the Taro Leaf
Tamura, Akira	34th Inf	\$5	
Tashiro, Kenneth A.	19th Inf	\$20	For the Taro Leaf in memory of Chaplain Herman E. Felhoelter, KIA
Thompson, John P.	724th Maint	\$10	For the Taro Leaf
Trinca, John G.	21st Inf	\$20	For the Taro Leaf
Updike, George G.	Div HQ	\$50	For the Taro Leaf
Van Kirk, W. H.	19th Inf	\$100	For the Taro Leaf
Wehrli, Wayne W.	21st Inf	\$25	For the Taro Leaf
Williams, Nevin R.	19th Inf	\$35	For the Taro Leaf "its becoming a real history book"
Wittkower, James A.	34th Inf	\$50	
Wood, Jewel	52nd FA	\$40	In memory of Ellsworth "Dutch" Nelsen
Worrill, Frederick W.	29th Inf	\$15	For mailing expenses
Yost, Kenneth	13th FA	\$15	
Ytominaga, George T.	13th FA	\$5	
Zielezinski, John H.	19th Inf	\$20	For the Taro Leaf
Total:		\$3,155	





# Secretary-Treasurer Report

by Don Maggio (continued from previous page; additional reports on pg. 23)

## New Members

Name	Regiment	Co/Bat/Trp	Sponsor/Comment
Adams, Jeremiah C.	21st Inf	G	Tom Thiel
Baird, Andrew Wesley	21st Inf		Wes Morrison
Johnson, Frank C.	19th Inf	B	Wes Morrison
Lake, Charles E.	21st Inf	K	
Mercy, Robert W.	19th Inf	G	Tom Thiel
Nagy, Jr., William E.	24th Sig		
Napora, Rex J.	19th Inf	G	Gene Spicer
Shelton, Alvin A.	34th Inf	K	Mel Frederick
Simunek, William C.	3rd Eng	HQ	Tom Thiel
Underwood, John	34th & 19th Inf		Bob Taylor
Wagar, Fred E.	24th MI	B	Rod Stock Began Life payments
Wallace, Doney G.	24th Div	Spcl Svcs	Wes Morrison
Yost, Kenneth	13th FA	C	Wes Morrison

## New Life Members

Name	Unit	Co/Bat/Trp	Life #	Date	Sponsor/Comments
Christiansen, Andreas H.	34th Inf	HHC	2315	02 May 08	
Debole, Frank S.	24th Sig		2318	06 Jun 08	
Hepler, George W.	Div Arty	HQ	2312	06 Apr 08	
Novotny, Stephen Edward	Assoc		2316	01 May 08	Wes Morrison, his father, Edmund A., was 34th Inf WWII
Peer, Theodore F.	24th Admin		2317	06 May 08	
Rakow, Francis A.	13th FA		2313	14 Apr 08	
Reid, Jr., CDR Leroy C.	52nd FA	HQ	2319	10 Jun 08	
Van Kirk, W. H.	19th Inf	G	2320	09 Jun 08	
Wallace, Doney G.	24th Div	Spcl Svcs	2311	04 Apr 08	Wes Morrison

## From Your Editor's Computer

by Tom Thiel, Taro Leaf Editor



Well, as you can see, I've been "nudged" off of my page by our Secretary/Treasurer's report. And that is good; mainly I got nudged by Donors. We had 85 contributions that totaled \$3,150. Of that, \$2,255 specifically mentioned the *Taro Leaf*! By comparison, our previous three donor reports averaged \$584 in total contributions each. So, thank you all for your financial support!

And I want to also thank you for your kind words about the *Taro Leaf*, too. I got too many to incorporate in this copy; I've taken the liberty to show some in the Letters section. While I sincerely liked and appreciated them all, I especially liked Nevin Williams' comment "The *Taro Leaf* is becoming a real history book!"

(Continued on Page 43)



## Chaplain's Corner

Lyn Sawyer, 21st Infantry Association Chaplain, Guest Chaplain



### Lighthouses

Would you believe me if I told you I have a lighthouse in my window? It is really beautiful and sends out a light and everything!!

Okay, so it is a miniature designed to burn a candle to send out the light – but then I think some of the earliest real ones had candles and some sort of lenses to magnify the light they sent out too.

Anyway, looking at this one started me thinking about the lighthouses I have been privileged to see.

One year we traveled along the east coast of this land and saw several, and climbed into a couple of them. Later we visited some along the west coast of the United States, and again were able to go inside and climb up into them.

A neighbor recently showed me a tiny wooden replica of one in front of her home on the St. Lawrence River in New York state.

I don't know about other people, but they all set my imagination spinning off in a dozen di-

rections.

In my mind's eye I can see tall ghostly sailing ships with sailors straining their eyes to see, and backs to avoid, the dangerous rocks and shoals of which the lights have given warning.

One year I received a calendar with a different lighthouse for each month of the year. I didn't think a lot about it then, but somehow now, each time I sit down in the living room, my eyes automatically seem to be drawn to my lighthouse, and an old gospel song keeps coming to mind. The old song goes like this:

"Throw out the lifeline  
across the dark wave; somebody's  
brother needs to be saved.

Throw out the lifeline; will  
someone dare?

Who will go help him, his  
peril to share?"

Well – obviously a lighthouse is, or was before the days of radar and electronic guidance systems, a true life line.

In visiting lighthouses, I learned that each one is distinctive because each has its own brightness patterns, and sometimes its own combination of red or green colored light.

Yes, they warn of dangerous rocks and shoals, but they do far more.

Correctly interpreted, they assure ships of safe entry into a safe harbor. Two lights working together can align an incoming ship safely into and through a very narrow channel, all of which were vital for navigation up until late in the 20th century. Even in our modern world, there are some 1,500 working lighthouses

still "doing their job" around the world.

As I am sure you know by now, my writing is always about analogies, and this is no exception. You and I are called to be "lighthouses" in what is often a very dark and dangerous world.

Our Bible tells us that "a man doesn't light a candle, and then hide it under a bushel (basket), but sets it high on a hill where its light can be seen.

Again it says, "Let your light so shine before men that they can see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

What that says to me is that every day I am expected to do good for everyone I encounter as I go through life.

Notice I said "Everyone". Not just people I like, not just whom I choose, but everyone.

By my actions and by my words I am to do all I can to guide them into a "safe harbor" where the God whom I worship is in control.

Like the lighthouses, each of us is different and each of us works in our own special way but we are each expected to "do our job."

Sometimes it takes two or more of us working together to get the job done, but that is OK too.

So – little lighthouses, get your lenses polished, your lights burning brightly, make sure the "lighthouse keeper" is in control, and I guarantee you'll have fun along the way.

Love and Prayers,

*Lyn Sawyer*



# The *Taro Leaf* TAPS

## 5th Regimental Combat Team

**Carl Richard Carpenter**, 77, died at 7:35 p.m. Sunday, April 13, 2008, at Alton, IL, Memorial Hospital. Carl, Association life member #627, spent 21 years in the military with 13 months in Korea, where he fought with Company "C", 5th Regimental Combat team, 1950-51. After retiring from the army, he worked as a security guard at Olin. He is survived by his wife and companion of 27 years, Clara, who wrote: "He loved reading the *Taro Leaf*. It meant a lot to him." Visitation was Thursday, April 17, with a memorial service at 7 p.m., with military rites. Condolences may be sent to: Clara Carpenter, 2918 Hillcrest Ave., Alton, IL 62002-2979 (Clara Carpenter, Alton Telegraph.com)

## 6th Tank Battalion



**Philip T. De Riggi**, 70, resident of Berry Creek, Georgetown, Texas passed away on Thursday, April 24, 2008 at home after a long courageous battle with lung cancer. Association Life Member number 1096, Philip served with 1st Platoon, Dog Company, 6th Tank Battalion in Korea in 1955-56. He is survived by his wife, Marianne, and two sons, Joseph and Philip. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, May 3, 2008, at St. Helen Catholic Church with interment in Our Lady of the Rosary Cemetery. An Army detail from Fort Hood presented the Flag. Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Marianne De Riggi, 30007 Oakland Hills Dr., Georgetown, TX, 78628-1011. (Joe DeRiggi)

## 19th Infantry Regiment

**Edgar N. Bradford**, Life Member #166, died February 16, 2007. Edgar was in 19th Infantry Regiment, but neither service dates nor theaters were listed in our records. Cards may be sent to his daughter, Luanne Sims, at 59667 M40, Jones, MI 49061-9734.

**Louis L. Castner** died April 28, 2008; he was 85. Louis served in WWII with the 19th Regiment, Company C. He worked for the Forest Service for 46 years as a surveyor, and was Smokey Bear for school functions, parades and other events. Mr. Castner was preceded in death by his wife, Maxie Alleen Castner, in 1995. Louis and his son James enjoyed attending the 24th Reunion in Tucson, AZ in 2003. "God bless the men of the 24th Division." James N. Castner, 411 C ST S, Glen Ullin, ND 58631 (James Castner)



**Philip A. Eckroth**, 78 Jamestown, ND, passed away on Friday December 14, 2007, at MeritCare Hospital in Fargo N.D. Philip entered the army in February of 1951, and served in Korea and Japan until Jan. 11, 1953. He transferred into the army inactive reserve on the 23rd of January and was discharged on August 24, 1956. He served in K Co, 19th Regiment, in Korea, and was wounded on October 14, 1951 during Operation Nomad, and returned to duty November 30, 1951. He is survived by his wife Irene, and three daughters. Cards may be sent to: Irene M. Eckroth, 1118 3rd Avenue NE, Jamestown, ND, 58401-3219. (Merry Helm)





# The *Taro Leaf* TAPS



**Charles W. Foster**, Life Member #1445, passed away on May 8, 2008 in Manteca, Ca. from natural causes. Charles joined the U.S. Army in 1951. He proudly served as Corporal in "K" Company, 3rd Battalion, 19th Regiment. He served in the Korean War where he sustained significant injury October 13, 1951 for which he was awarded the Purple Heart medal. He held several other medals including the Combat Infantry Badge, UN Service Medal, National Service Medal and the Korean Service Medal w/Bronze Star. He was proud of the service he had done and stood up for it and this country every day of his life. Cards may be sent to his wife, Elizabeth, 25652 Dodds Rd, Escalon, CA 95320-9580. (Bob Taylor).



**Leon Junior Gilley**, 80, of Grand Ridge, FL, passed away on Friday, April 25, 2008, at his residence. Mr. Gilley, Life Member #2027, served with HQ of 19th Infantry in Korea 1950–52. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 55 years, Beatrice "Tot" Gilley in 2007. His daughter reported that he really enjoyed reading the *Taro Leaf*, and was very proud of his service. He had many stories about his service days even when he had forgotten most other memories. Interment was in the Salem Wesleyan Church Cemetery, Grand Ridge, FL, with full military honors. Send cards: Carole Edenfield, 1200 Highway 69, Grand Ridge, FL 32442-3410 (Ms. Edenfield, [www.jcfloridian.com](http://www.jcfloridian.com))



**Harold W. Hill** passed away the weekend of April 12-13, 2008, in Marina, CA. Harold was an Association Life Member (#2045), having served with Company G, 19th Infantry from 1949 - 1951 in Japan & Korea, and later served in Vietnam. He was predeceased by Doris, his wife of 51 years. A Celebration of Life was held April 18, 2008 at the VFW Chapter, 1313 Crescent Ave., Marina, CA. Condolences may be sent to his family at 3023 Eddy St., Marina, CA 93933-4020 (Wes Morrison and the Monterey County (CA) *Herald*.)



**Stanley J. Poczatek**, 92, passed away on March 24, 2008, at his home in Remsen, New York, after a fifteen-year battle with Alzheimer's Disease. His wife of 62 years, Fay June, was at his side. Life member #883, Stanley enlisted in the Army in 1934, was a Pearl Harbor survivor, and served with the 19th Infantry Regiment in WWII. There was a funeral Mass at St. John the Baptist Church, Newport, NY, on March 27; interment with military honors was in Prospect Cemetery. Cards may be sent to: Ms. Fay J. Poczatek, 959 State Route 365, Remsen, NY 13438-5505 (Ms. Poczatek)

## 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment

**James E. Pierce**, Life Member - #2162, 21st Inf, HHQ, Japan & Korea, died May 26, 2008. Cards may be sent to his wife, Eunice L. Pierce, 12705 E. Bowen St., Independence, MO 64055-2409. (Don Maggio)

# The *Taro Leaf* TAPS

**Frank A. Smith**, 86, of Bentleyville, PA, died Friday, May 9, 2008, in the Mon Valley Hospital following a brief illness. He served in WWII as a staff sergeant, machine gunner and squad leader in Australia, Guam and New Guinea. He was a Pearl Harbor survivor. His wife, Florence E. Blackwood Smith, preceded him in death Sept. 6, 1996. Internment was in Beallsville Cemetery with full military rites. Condolences may be sent c/o: Larry E Smith, 104 Mary St, Bentleyville, Pa 15314 (Don Maggio, Meadville, PA *Tribune*)

## 34th Infantry Regiment

**Richard R. Fisher**, Life Member 1479, Headquarters, 34th Infantry Regiment, WWII from Aug. 1943-Nov. 1945, passed away on Feb. 27, 2007. Condolences may be sent to his wife Betty and family at 1007 28th St., Vienna, WV 26105-1461 (Wes Morrison)

**Wilbur L. Holland**, of King City, Missouri, passed away on January 10, 2008, at a St. Joseph Health Care Center. Wilbur was a member of "C" Company, 34th Infantry Regiment, 1944-46 in the South Pacific. His wife, Viola M. (Cook) Holland, preceded him in death in 2007. Burial, with military rites was in King City Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to the family c/o: Kenneth W Holland, 3104 Joyce Ln, Saint Joseph, Mo 64503 (Don Maggio, St. Joseph, MO, *News*)



**Orville Don Poland**, Brooksville, FL, Life Member 1130, Purple Heart recipient in Korea with Company D, 34th Infantry, died March 5, 2008 in Brooksville. He is survived by his wife, Carol, who wrote: "He was one proud American Veteran and I miss him so much. I am letting you know so you can stop our magazine after the taps one where his name is in. Thank you all for being his friends and making him feel like he wasn't the forgotten Vet." Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Carol Poland, 7045 Pine Needle Ln., Brooksville, FL 34601-6872. (Mrs. Poland, Cincinnati Enquirer)

**Dorothy Wisecup**, wife of Paul Wisecup, Association President 1971-72, passed away at the Rosewood Nursing Center in Orlando, Florida on April 30, 2008. Mrs. Wisecup was a U. S. Marine Veteran of World War II. Arrangements were by the Turner Funeral Home in Hillsboro, OH, with burial at the Masonic Cemetery in Lynchburg, OH, with military honors being presented by the Highland, OH, County Honor Guard. For health reasons, Paul was unable to attend the funeral; condolences may be sent c/o his son Curt Wisecup, 2168 Majestic Woods Blvd, Apopka, FL 32712-3200. (John Klump)

## Division

**Paul E. Chapman**, Div HQ, Japan, died June 24, 2008 and was buried June 28 per phone call from his daughter-in-law, Amy Chapman. Cards may be sent to his wife, Cena Chapman, 6270 E. 1100 N, Morristown, IN 46161-9741. (Don Maggio)

## Association Non-Members

**Earle G. Byers**, 76 of Winter Park, FL, passed away Thursday, June 5, 2008 in Altamonte Springs, FL. He saw combat in Korea with the **5th RCT**. He chartered the First Florida Chapter of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association, and served as its first President, and as treasurer. Earle is survived by his wife, Evelyn, 2232 Smiley Ave, Winter Park, FL 32792, (407) 644-2014. (Bob Peters, Orlando Sentinel)





# The *Taro Leaf* TAPS

**Daniel L. Hayes, Sr., 24th QM**, died on May, 20 2008. Mr. Hayes was a Volunteer Firefighter in Amelia, OH. Funeral arrangements were by E. C. Nurre Funeral Home, Amelia, OH. (William E. Kerns, Don Maggio)

**Albert Laffredo, Sr.**, Providence, RI, Date of death unknown. Served in **M Company, 19th Infantry**, in Papua, New Guinea, Dutch New Guinea and Philippine Islands. Wounded on Luzon. Submitted by George Losio, who said "I served with Al but lost contact with him in New Gineeaa. I would appreciate your listing him in TAPS." (George Losio)

**Harry Earl Nagle**, 80, passed away at home in Des Moines, IA on Thursday, July 3, 2008 of coronary artery disease. Harry was a BAR man until being wounded on May 21, 1951; upon return, he was named 1st platoon radioman with G Co, 19th Regiment, again being wounded on October 15, 1951, in Operation Nomad. A memorial service was held on Saturday, July 19, 2008, at Fort Des Moines Presbyterian Church with burial and military honors at Sunset Memorial Gardens. (Merry Helm).

**Glacel E. Perry, Headquarters Company, 34th Infantry Regiment**, passed away June 9, 2007, of service connected Lou Gehrig's disease at age 76. He was captured July 19, 1950, and repatriated on August 26 1953. His DD 214 lists a wound received on July 21, 1950, which was probably reported by a member of his company a few days after the fact. It is odd that no Purple Heart was ever awarded; he could have easily received one. He leaves his wife, Mary Lou Perry, 13380 Tenny Road Lot 34, Mt. Sterling, OH 40143-9543. (Shorty Estabook)

**Stephen Warren Rieger**, died unexpectedly at the young age of forty-one on May 17, 2008 in Hendersonville, NC. Stephen proudly served multiple overseas tours in the US Army that included Korea, an attachment to NATO in Greece, where he met his Scottish wife, Linda, and a combat tour with the 24th Infantry Division during the first **Gulf War, Desert Storm**. Condolences may be sent to the family at: 112 Shannon Rd. Hendersonville, NC 28791 (Don Maggio)

**Timothy J. Smith**, wounded in the invasion of Kuwait in Desert Storm while with the 24th Infantry Division, was killed, along with two of his six children, by a drunk driver in 1996. After recovery from his Desert Storm wounds and being discharged, he had become a cross-country truck driver in Crockett, TX. Reported by Timothy's father-in-law, Life Member, Sean Harper, 1671 Kildare Road, Ponca City, OK, 74604-6938, (580) 401-3249, who also was a member of the 24th ID in Germany. (Sean Harper)

**Robert A. Yoder**, Charlotte, NC, passed away on June 7, 2008. He was a WWII member of the Division. He is survived by his wife Marian, no address given. (Charlie Sugg)

The TAPS encourages PHOTOGRAPHS with your notices.  
Send TAPS Notices to the *Taro Leaf* Editor

Tom J. Thiel, Editor  
19147 Park Place Blvd.  
Eustis, FL 32736  
[tthiel5@comcast.net](mailto:tthiel5@comcast.net)



# Veteran, young Korean he saved, reunited

More than a half century has passed since John Hoover and Phil Lee first met during the Korean War.

As a teenage schoolboy in 1950, Phil Lee lost his family during a chaotic flight from Seoul, South Korea when the North Korean army captured the city.

He eventually took a respite next to some railroad tracks at a train station in Taegu, Korea, about 500 miles from his home city.

It was there that Lee found a personal savior in U.S. Army Lt. John Hoover, who he was reunited with Tuesday at Brandon Wilde retirement community in Evans, [GA].

"He saved my life. I would not be here if not for him," Lee said as he patted John Hoover on the knee outside a private dining room at Brandon Wilde.

Seeing Lee abandoned at the Taegu train station, Lt. Hoover decided to take him along with his 24th Division Headquarters Unit, keeping him safe during the conflict.



John Hoover and Phil Lee

Lee, 73, immigrated to America in 1971 and now owns a successful real estate company in Daytona Beach, Fla.

"I had no idea he was here," said Hoover, who retired from the army as a Major General, and who is a resident of Brandon Wilde. "I was so happy to find out he was here."

Last Veterans' Day, Lee decided to find the man he said made his life in America possible.

Lee contacted an historian from the Army's 24th Infantry Association, his Korean War Unit, who in turn passed Lee's phone

number to Hoover just before Christmas.

"I couldn't believe it," John Hoover said; I immediately called him."

Now 83, Hoover said he vividly remembers the day he found the skinny 16-year-old boy next to the train tracks.

"Both sides of the road were crowded with people running south, running from the North Koreans, carrying everything they owned, carrying furniture," he said.

"I found Lee and I had to take care of him. Someone had to take care of him."

It was Hoover who convinced the young Lee to pursue an education and make a success of himself, Lee said.

"You see them," Lee said pointing to a portrait of his children and grandchildren that he held in his lap. "They would not be here if it weren't for him!"

*Transcribed by Larry W. Gay, 24th IDA Historian, from a newspaper article dated Jan. 23, 2008, written by Donnie Fetter, Columbia County [GA] Bureau Chief.*

<p>24th Infantry Division Association Secretary/Treasurer Donald E. Maggio - 24th AG 411 Concord Road Fletcher, NC 28732-9734 Tel. 828-684-5931 Email: tarheel@nc.24id.com</p> <p>ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED</p> 	<p>Send Dues &amp; Address Changes <b>Check Your Dues Date Below</b> For TAPS, contact Taro Leaf Editor</p> <p>NON PROFIT US POSTAGE PAID Permit #1040 Leesburg, FL 34748</p> <p>Your Renewal Date Here</p> <p>Your name Your Address Your City, State, Zip</p>
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See back cover for your renewal date—please pay your dues promptly. Thank you!



# Looking For

## Cpl. Donald L. Baer, "K" Co, 34th.



Janet Baril is looking for information about her brother, **Cpl. Donald LaVerne Baer**, a member "**K**" **Company, 34th Infantry Regiment** in July 1950.

Cpl. Baer was declared MIA on July 20, 1950. He was later designated as a Prisoner of War. Baer's name appeared on the Johnnie Johnson list of 469

POW's as having died in captivity in North Korea. Cpl. Baer was declared dead by the Department of Defense on Dec 31, 1953. The above photo of Baer (at left as you view the photo) and three of his fellow "K" Company members was taken in Japan.

If you can identify any of the three men with Baer in the above photo, or if you have information regarding the death of Cpl. Donald L. Baer in Hanjang-ni, NK, please contact:

Mrs. Janet Baril, 701 North Logan Street  
Marion, IL 62959, Ph: (618) 713-4063  
E-mail: [oldbutnew@mchsi.com](mailto:oldbutnew@mchsi.com)  
Submitted by: *LWGay, 24th IDA Historian.*

There is still a need for DNA samples from family members of those men whose names remain on the "Unaccounted For" list from the Korean War.



## James F. Dolan

I am looking for anyone who served with my great-uncle, **SFC James F. Dolan** (photo at left), "**C**" **Company, 3rd Engineer Battalion** (Combat), during the Battle of Taejon, South Korea. He was last seen on July 20, 1950, when he was listed as Missing in Action. His remains were recovered in 1951, and repatriated to the United States. He was a "Combat Construction Foreman." He was born in Ipswich, MA in 1928, and enlisted in the Army for the first time in late 1945. James was the first serviceman from Ipswich lost to the fighting in Korea. If you remember James, I would very much like to speak or correspond with you about him and the experiences of the 3rd Engineers at Taejon.

Respectfully, Sam Dolan, (661) 644-6430 [sam\\_dolan@hotmail.com](mailto:sam_dolan@hotmail.com)

## Special Orders—19th Regiment or 24th Division

**David Buckner**, Headquarters Company, 19th Regiment, Korea, July 1950-July 1951, would like to obtain copies of any Special Orders that were cut for both the 19th as well as the Division. His records were lost in the St. Louis Records fire and also a personal house fire. Please contact David at 1953 Bolin Road, North Augusta, SC, 29841, Ph: 803-278-0811, [davidwbn@aol.com](mailto:davidwbn@aol.com)



## Documentaries-Battles Of Leyte and Luzon

"I am a researcher for NHK Japan Broadcasting Corporation, Japan's public television station. We are working on, and will be continuing to amass oral histories on the battles in the Philippine Islands from veterans in Japan and in the United States. As the producer has been working on oral histories in Japan for several years, we know we will be in need of recollections of veterans who participated in the battles of Leyte and Luzon on the American side.

Our Leyte project will be finished by the end of June 2008, and it will air in Japan on August 15. My producer hopes to continue with documentaries and oral histories of Luzon as well, but is not sure when we will be able to do the filming for that as of yet. Since it usually takes a few months to get people to respond, it would be very helpful if you could indeed put this into the Taro Leaf.

You have been VERY helpful. We are interviewing seven of your members from the 24th Division – including **Mr. Arthur Kemp** of 21st Infantry in Myrtle Beach on June 17. We have two from 19th, two more from the 21st (including **Mr. Farmer** in Spokane), and two from the 34th Infantry Regiments.

Thank you again for your assistance -- without which, I would not have been able to find all these people in a timely manner.

Best regards," Midori Yanagihara, [midorijon@erols.com](mailto:midorijon@erols.com), Phone 703.709.9868

### John J. Earley, 19th

**Mario Iezzoni**, G Co, 19th, is trying to obtain information on John Early, who died of wounds Apr. 11, 1951.  
SN:US51091914.

John was from New Haven County, CT, and was born in 1925. I'm trying to find what Company was he in and anyone who knew him.

**Mario Iezzoni**, G Co 19th,  
[mario7@ptd.net](mailto:mario7@ptd.net),  
29 W. Amidon St., Summit Hill, PA,  
18250-1401, 717-645-9326

### George Enjian & Henry Alves, 21st Reg.

I'm looking for two of my former buddies who served with me in the 24th Infantry Division, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2224th LD., 2nd Battalion, Howe Co, in the 1954-55 time frame.

The first is **George Enjian** (not sure of the last name spelling), who was from the Chicago area back then.

The second is **Henry Alves** of New York. I've been trying for years to find these men, but I don't have the right connection I guess. I'm sure they would know where some of the rest of the guys are.

**Norman Harp**, 631 North Rose Drive #E410, Placentia, CA, 92870-7557,  
[winner@dslextreme.com](mailto:winner@dslextreme.com).







## William Renison, 21st Regiment, Kojedo Island

**Jeremiah Adams, George Company, 21st Regiment**, Kojedo Island, North Korean P.O.W. camp, is looking for **Bill Renison**, also of George Company 21st. Jeremiah says: "I lost contact with William when I was transferred to the 25th Division. The things I remember about him was that he was from California, possibly Whittier; he was a Hot Rod enthusiast, and his father sent him a letter telling him of his intention to set up William with a tractor for hauling trailers when he got out of the Army."

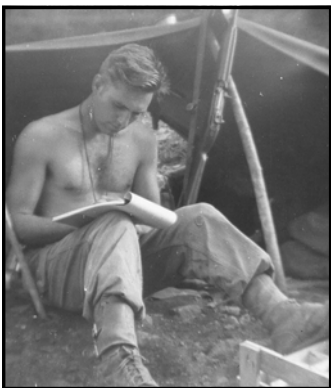
Contact: Jeremiah Adams, 37 Horne Way, Millbury, Massachusetts 01527, Tel: 508.865.5939, [adams5939@charter.net](mailto:adams5939@charter.net)

## Grady L. Chambers, 19th

Charlotte Chambers is looking for information on her brother, PFC. Grady L. Chambers, 19th Regiment, who was killed in action in North Korea on Oct. 15, 1951. She does not know his company. Ms. Chambers is searching for any information she can find about how he died. If you have any information on Grady Chambers, please contact: Charlotte Chambers, [Crafts4u2@aol.com](mailto:Crafts4u2@aol.com)

## Herbert O. Martin, "F" 21st Regiment, MIA Sept. 5, 1950

**Don Martin** is looking for anyone that might have known his brother, **PFC Herbert O. Martin**, or who was with the above unit on Sept. 5, 1950. PFC Martin was reported as Missing in Action on Sept. 5, 1950, and was assigned to **F Co, 2nd Bn, 21st Reg**; it is possible that he was originally with "K" Co and transferred on Sept. 5, the day of his MIA. Several years later he was listed as KIA. His body has never been recovered. His Company was at **An'gang ni** on Sept 4, and during night started movement to an area just North of **Kyongju**. The 1st and 3rd Bn had left first and the 2nd Bn provided rear guard during movement and maintained contact with the enemy. The Bn encountered an enemy road block, and finally destroyed it and fought their way to Kyongju. Herbert Martin was born in 1928 in Gibson County, IN. If you have any information on PFC Martin, please contact: Donald Martin, 24A Nichols Street, Hebron, IN 46341, Ph: 219-996-4256, [dm1944@aol.com](mailto:dm1944@aol.com)



## Roscoe Owen(s), "E" 19th, Jul. 50 to Mid 51

Editor Tom J. Thiel, is looking for Roscoe Owen(s) believed to be of Kentucky. Roscoe selected Tom to serve in his E, 19th, Fourth or Weapons Platoon, as a 57-Recoilless Rifle ammo bearer. Periodically, Roscoe would become disgruntled with his position in life, and would draft a letter to General Ridgeway (see left); it is uncertain if he ever mailed them. If anyone knows of Roscoe's whereabouts' please contact Editor Tom Thiel. [tthiel5@comcast.net](mailto:tthiel5@comcast.net)

# Where have you been? I haven't seen you for a while!

*George Borun, 34th Infantry Regiment, Korea 1953-54.*

**Preface:** While reading "The Coldest Winter" by David Halberstam, I was impressed by the fact that while I was involved in the Korean War, I knew very little about the plans of the commanders. As I read the book, I decided to keep notes of what I remembered and experienced. What follows are these recollections and comments, whether they are true or correct, who knows.

## **The start**

I received my notice of induction into the army around September 1952. Theoretically, I was not eligible for the draft because I was a student at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). I worked the 12 PM to 8 AM shift at R. Lavin & Sons, as Chief Chemist.

Anyway, I was enrolled in the Air Force ROTC and already non-draft able. I had a brevet Lieutenants commission, in the National Guard from the High School ROTC at Schurz High. One I never exercised.

After I got my notice I contacted the draft board to let them know I was ineligible for draft. They said: "Well, report that to the people where and when you are ordered to report." Needless to say, the reporting facility said to report that fact at the next station, then the next station on down the line. My case fell in the crack. No one could change the induction process. So, I was in the Army.

I was sent to Camp Breckenridge, KY, with the 101st Infantry Division. It was

not more than a couple of days before they found out I had been in ROTC and had trained a lot, so I was made field first sergeant.

## **Three stripes, two rockers.**

The reason I was promoted was that they had NO CADRE! Everyone had been sent to Korea and there was no one left that knew about training troops.

I didn't mind too much because I had my own private room, didn't train too much, and had weekend passes. I quit trying to get the draft reversed since I would have to pull only two years duty in the Army, instead of four as an officer in the Air Force.

Everything went great until the squad leaders that reported to me, came up with a problem that undid my happy life.

## **The Undoing**

The commanding officer, a captain, had a scheme for stealing food and taking it to his sisters' restaurant in town. He was in cahoots with the supply mess officer and cook. They loaded the food, milk, pasta, canned goods and so forth in his car trunk, and he took it to town. By "they," I mean he had the recruits do the loading. Dumb!

To replace the stolen rations, we got old "C" rations from WWII, and other junk, which had apparently unlimited draw. We got one carton of milk a day, instead of at every meal.

The men complained and wrote a letter to me stating their grievances; they all signed it. What do I do?

I saw the Division Chaplain, who said "Go ahead and file the complaint, I will back you up."

So, I did, and all hell broke loose. The company commander defended his actions as "taking food to the men in the field." He denied everything. Case dismissed.

I was demoted to recruit and put on KP cleaning grease pits and garbage cans.

As we finished basic, the company commander took me aside and said, "You have screwed up my life and promotion to Major, I will see to it that you are sent to Korea, and I Hope you get killed!"

"You better hope I do, because I will look you up when I get back," I replied. I never did, but why should he sleep well.

I don't know if the disgruntled company commander had the connections to do so, but when I got to Oakland, California, I was called by name from shipping manifests to Okinawa and Japan. The third time I was assigned, I was sent to Korea. Probably, to fulfill the CO's curse.

I was assigned to Charlie Company, the 34th Inf. Regiment, 24th Infantry Division in Korea.

We were flown to I think Taegu, and then loaded into trucks and driven to the front, or at least very close. No instructions, no indication as to



## ***Borun, Continued***

where we were on the map. We didn't need to know.

My memory of this time is very hazy. It may be due to my strong desire to forget rather than remember. War is a traumatic thing, especially for a young person. I fully understand PTSD Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Well, maybe not fully, but certainly receptivity in understanding the stress and things like nightmares. It would be difficult for a noncombatant to grasp the concept.

Anyway, on line we were told only that we had Chinese in front of us, Turks on the left, and another American group on the other side.

After a while living in the field like this, a person begins to stink. There is a limit to what you can wash off in a canteen of water. I remember going on patrols forward of our position. Not much to be reported as Yanguu Valley had a river running through it and the Chinese were on one side and we were on the other.

Patrols amounted to looking for breeches in the line, build-ups, and river crossings. Our CO had us going on patrol with a 30-caliber air-cooled machine gun and carrying boxes of ammo. You couldn't run with it, or haul the heavy boxes of ammo, or set it up to fire in less than 2-3 minutes.

I think that if you survive your officers in the first few weeks, you stand a good chance to survive.

One day, the company medic and I went down to the river to bathe. Wrong move! We stripped, got wet, and when we

got ready to dress, we were apparently spotted by the Chinese, who thought we were a large group of men, and called in the artillery. We were blasted all around. One hit very close to me as I was lying on the ground, and the shrapnel went up like a spray. I was bounced up and was stunned and deafened. We ran low and made it back to our position. I stayed pretty much stunned and deaf with ears ringing, for a few days. Since I had no big holes, I was not evacuated.

Not long after that incident, we were preparing to cross the river and attack the fortified mountain. The Chinese were pretty well dug in, as evidenced by seeing our fighters drop napalm on them to where you could not believe anyone could survive.

But when it was all over the Chinese would come out and shake their blankets out and go back in. We knew that we were not going to have an easy time of it. I was a weapons squad leader. I had a machine gun, two BAR's, a 2.36" rocket launcher, (the small one), and a carbine for myself along with a .45 cal. pistol. (I have read where the new model weapons were issued prior to, and during the Korean War. No way!)

We had all old WWII stuff. Never even saw new weapons much less used them or knew how to use them or take them apart.

Interesting aspect of being on-line is that the Chinese used bugles and whistles to give commands. When they attacked it was "Ta Da! Or tweet tweet." They started doing it at night so that we couldn't sleep. Must say it was effective in un-nerving us.

I had an ex-master sergeant in my squad who had been

in combat. He was busted for I'm not sure what, but he drank heavily and used drugs. He knew his way around and I knew he could get all of us through if I listened to him. He stashed ammo everywhere. He buried cans in the forward, rear and fallback positions, so we wouldn't have to run with cans.

So, we were set to go on July 27, 1953, into an all out attack when the word came down that there had been a cease fire. Halleluia! It fell right on my 21st birthday. What a present!

I don't rightly remember how long we stayed up at the front, but it was a few days, after which we were moved out to take part in the prisoner exchange: "Operation Big Switch."

I still couldn't hear very well with ringing constant in the head. Eventually it subsided only to get louder when there was a sharp noise or gunshot.

## **Prisoner Guard Training**

The Iraq war suggestion of prisoner abuse at the Abu Ghraib in Baghdad got me thinking about the time I guarded war prisoners. A different war and a different time, yet it appears that not much has changed.

It has been over 50 years since the 24th Infantry was taken off line in Korea, and assigned the task of prisoner exchange. Now, my memory is admittedly a little faulty, but I don't remember being told much more than the fact that we were going to be part of "Operation Big Switch," the Chinese and North Korean POW exchange for our United Nations soldiers.

The enemy prisoners were taken from the prison Island of Koje-do on landing craft that were converted with chicken wire





into one big bunch of cages. The prisoners were herded in and taken to Inchon. Lots of barfing! Guards were posted around the top of the craft to prevent escape.

When the landing craft unloaded, the prisoners were given time to recover and were then fed. Eventually, they were loaded aboard a train car, here too with wire stretched across the windows.

I was now a genuine prison guard—with zero training and instruction.

I was one of two guards per rail car of 60 prisoners. We stood in the aisle, one on each end to stop any prisoners from escaping.

We escorted the POW's to Freedom Village on the cease-fire line. There the prisoners were run through a tent singly, and asked if they wished to be repatriated to their country (North Korea, or China) or to Taiwan (if they were Chinese), or be allowed to stay in South Korea. They chose by going to the left or right exit, without coercion by anyone.

The train went only 10 miles an hour or less so the trip was rather lengthy. My only instruction was "Don't let them escape." We had the standard M-1 rifle and bayonet, and we faced inward to watch the prisoners.

Along the way the prisoners were fed at one of the stations. They got hot noodles or rice with vegetables and meat of some kind. We watched while they ate.

But we had our lunch of cold "C" rations from WWII. No kidding! I don't remember getting a single meal as good as the

prisoners received.

As we rumbled through the countryside, the POW's sang patriotic songs with great gusto. We guards had no choice but stay there and listen, day after day, new prisoners, same songs. Soon we were able to join in chorus with them. It was like the *Hit Parade*. We didn't know what we were singing, but the melody stuck with us.

Then our superiors ordered us to "Make them quit singing!" How were we going to do that? We didn't speak Chinese or Korean. Well, orders are orders so we went into the car and shouted in English: "Stop singing." Needless to say the order was not enforced, at least not by us.

The guards on a couple of the cars were thrown off the moving train. We couldn't have that happen too often, so a couple of shots were fired in the air to calm the passions. It seemed to work. No one got killed.

But our fearless leaders back at our base camp reviewed the incidents, and became worried that if a prisoner were shot or killed during the exchange, the enemy would kill one or more allied prisoners in retaliation. So, you guessed it, they took our bullets away! We had no bullets, just a bayonet to protect ourselves against sixty prisoners. We never told the POW's that we had empty guns and that our commanders didn't trust us to use good judgment!

When the South Korean farmers along the way heard the prisoners singing, they used their "Honey Buckets" of night soil to express their dislike of the old enemy. For the uninitiated, night soil is human waste used to fertilize the crops.

The farmers used long poles with a coffee can on the end to dip into the quite liquid night soil, and then splashed it against our 10-MPH car. The prisoners closed their windows and were spared, but we guards were caught in the open!

Then the prisoners decided that they did not want to arrive at "Freedom Village" dressed in new uniforms, because it would indicate some degree of acceptance of their predicament. So, they stripped down to underwear shorts and threw their uniforms out the train window. The farmers now stopped the spraying and gathered up the clothing. But, some of us guards used wire hooks to scoop up the uniforms and trade them for boiled noodles from food vendors at stations along the way.

I noticed that the prisoners were fat! No propaganda here! They were well fed and healthy. Not like some of the allied exchange prisoners that we saw.

At the Village, we turned the prisoners over to Marines with Chrome plated helmets. We then returned to Inchon for a new batch of prisoners. Not much time for training on how to handle prisoners.

So I guess that little has changed in our military training procedure. Combat troops are moved around and given jobs for which they had no training.

The officers never thought to communicate with the "troops." Why would we need to know where we were and what we were supposed to do? We were dummies-cannon fodder, not gentlemen by act of congress, as they used to say.

I'm going to reserve my judgment on the degree of guilt of



## ***Borun, Continued***

the guards at Abu Ghraib until someone tells me how they were trained to handle prisoners.

### **Officers**

In truth, we never saw the officers much. Hardly knew their names. They ate separately, slept separately, they never talked to us. We saw them at roll call, that's it.

### **Food**

Our food was terrible. We stole things that would help the hunger. I remember having lots of bullion cubes that we made soup with whatever was available. Onions were very good.

Our cooks were mostly Puerto Rican. "No Sabe" was the watchword if you asked for bigger helpings. Unless you threatened a line server, you ate what he was willing to give you. Once I was in line as they started serving and the soup was poured into my canteen cup. I took a swig, and I spit it out immediately. "What the hell is this?"

Old no sabe said "Eats soup made from Bay leaves, they tol me bay leaves is for soup, so I made soup."

There was no milk, not even the powdered kind. That I really missed.

### **An Almost Transfer**

My second Rest & Recuperation was to Tokyo, where I didn't do much as it was expensive. I walked down the Ginza market and saw the Dai Ichi building the Far Eastern Command HQ.

I also walked around the moat of the Imperial palace and saw the Frank Lloyd Wright Im-

perial hotel.

I had read in the Stars & Stripes the fact that there was a large medical laboratory. I was curious as to what they were doing and so I went in and had an interesting experience.

I was sent to an office by the receptionist and was met by a captain who listened to my story that I was a Chemist and Spectroscopist in civilian life and was on R&R from Korea. I said I wondered if I could see the lab.

Well, he did not exactly respond to my query. Instead, he said, "Follow me."

So I went with him to an office where he rapped on the door and was told to enter.

There was a one star General seated at the desk, and the Captain asked me to repeat what I had just said to him. So, nervously, I did.

The General leaped from his desk and came around and practically hugged me, saying,

"Where the hell have you been? I have been looking for someone who understood Chemistry and Spectroscopy to run my lab."

He asked what I was doing and where, and I told him I was a weapons squad leader in the Infantry. He immediately asked if I would like to come to work for him? I said sure!

So, he had the Captain get all the info on me and he said he was going to put in for an INTER-FECOM transfer. I was pretty happy. Absolute luxury, good food, plus a promotion!

Not to be! Approved everywhere except at the 24th Division Command where the transfer was

blocked because,

"I was irreplaceable as a weapons squad leader."

It seemed that the basic training stigma followed me to Korea. If that is so, I pity the organization that would allow that.

### **Going home**

When it came time to go home, we camped in tents in some area of Korea that I don't believe we were ever told where. We spent the rest of my enlistment (?) there.

Since I was one of the longest timers in the outfit, I got to rotate out early. No sad good-byes, no parties or anything. I packed up, got on a truck and never looked back. We were driven to an airfield and flown to Japan and then boarded on a ship and sent to Seattle and then by train to Chicago. On board ship, I volunteered to help the Chaplain, where I ran a class for the dependent children that were stationed in Japan. I got to sleep in my bunk and buck the line for chow. A real good deal!

We were taken to Ft. Sheridan, north of Chicago, given a medical exam, new uniforms (finally) and told to go home. My mother and father drove up and picked me up at the camp.

To sort of sum up my whole military experience, one acquaintance said to me: "Where you been George, I haven't seen you in a while."

George Borun  
5503 Candlelight Dr.  
La Jolla, Ca 92037  
[gborun@yahoo.com](mailto:gborun@yahoo.com)  
December 2007



# Victory Division March and Song

Did you know our 24th Division has a March and a Song? I didn't. But, Paul J. Cain of Urbana, IL did!

I had searched the web looking for a 24th ID song or march for a long time; I never found one. But many other divisions have theirs!

Then in with a pile of quite old *Taro Leaf*s from Paul, I discovered a 45 rpm vinyl record with a nice jacket marked "Victory Division!"

A scan of the front jacket cover is shown at right (looks like Paul may have used the jacket for a coaster at one time)!

And the rear of the jacket is also shown at right below (some words are obliterated).

Paul said he received the record at the 24th Association Reunion at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, which, according to some of the photographs was 32 years ago in 1976. He thinks the record was made by the 24th Division Band and likely composed by one of its members. It is not copyrighted, and the only distinguishing other markings appear to be in German.

The record label states that both the March and the Song are "Official March (and Song) of the 24th Victory Division."

Names shown include T. Moses and L. Murat with the March, and Tallant, Lambrecht, Moses and Morris with the Song.

The March was recorded by the 24th Victory Division Band, and the Song by the Band and the 7th Army Chorus.

Both sides say the recording was produced by the Taro Booster Association. There is no date shown.

In response to my email question, our Historian, Larry Gay, supplied a copy of page 128 from an unidentified book that had sheet music titled "The 24th Infantry Division March." While there was some variation in the wording between the record and the sheet music, they were obviously same.

A friend of mine was able to play the 45-rpm vinyl record, and burn (copy) it to an audio CD. From there I "ripped" (copied) it to my computer, and then edited out as many of the pops and hisses as I could using a freeware program named Audacity.

I then burned it back to a new audio CD, where it sounds pretty darn good!



"I was born on the first day of October, 1941. Sixty-eight days later, I was baptized . . . in fire. My blood mingled with the salt sting of the Pacific and I grew to manhood tempered by the icy winds of Korea. I am called the Victory Division. Don't challenge me."

This fighting heritage is captured in the stirring words and music of the "VICTORY SONG", recorded by the 24th Infantry Division Band, under the direction of CWO Joseph L. Murat.

The Victory Division, now stationed in Bavaria, Germany, was the first American unit to engage the enemy in two wars: at Pearl Harbor and later in Korea. Always stationed in foreign lands, the 24th Infantry Division has proudly carried its battle streamers across the Pacific and Atlantic whenever and wherever Democracy has been challenged. As in the past, the 24th Infantry continues its mission and maintains its pledge to the free world: VICTORY.

I transcribed the words, and they appear on this issue's cover.

When I asked my "*Taro Leaf* Readers" about this as a cover, a couple said they didn't like the words. I don't like all of them either, but it is a transcription from the recording itself. So it is what it is!

A suggestion also was made that I work





# Audio CD & Punch Bowl DVD at Reunion!

## Audio CD

We plan to offer a CD with both the Victory Division Song and March, and a couple of renditions of some native Korean music, to members at the Springfield Reunion. You may obtain a copy there by donating \$5.00 to the Association.

If you are not going to be at the reunion and would like one, you may request it from the Association Quartermaster for a donation of \$10, which covers shipping and handling.

## Punch Bowl DVD

A number of you have indicated an interest in having a copy of the DVD containing the video of the placing of the 24th Division Memorial marker at the Punch Bowl in Hawaii in 2007. We plan to also have copies of this available at the Springfield Reunion. The suggested donation for the DVD is \$10 at the Reunion, and \$15 upon request of the Association Quartermaster, which includes shipping and handling.

### *(Division Song—Continued from previous page)*

with the authors to make changes; I have not been able to find any of the authors.

I have a friend locally who served as a Colonel in the 24th Division in Germany. He says the 24th was considered sort of a "disorganized" division there, and that nobody really knew very much about it.

The words seem to mirror that perspective I think: *"So, if there's still a question who the hell are we, The 24th Division, Yes the Victory Division, Of the U.S. Infantry!"*

Do you have any information on this song?

## Paul Cain—On Ft. Stewart Reunion

Paul wrote some nice comments on the Ft. Stuart Reunion. He said:

"I have gone through my files hoping to find more on that reunion at Ft. Stewart, Georgia. That record was given out at that reunion. The CG, BG Donald E. Rosenblum, as I remember was in charge of the reunion.

"I remember the field trip and a demonstration put on showing how troops could be moved with the Huey Cobra. We WWII troops never saw a Huey. On Sat. AM we saw the Division on Parade with all members of the Association gathered in the reviewing stand.

"The 24th Inf. Division did a terrific job and put on one heck of a show for us old vets. That was some 30 years ago. We were much younger then."

Paul J. Cain Co. "I" 34th Infantry Regiment  
3109 B Chatham Dr., Urbana, IL, 61802-7044  
Ph: 217-344-1462



Here are two photos Paul sent from the Ft. Stewart Reunion, August 13, 1976.

Top: Paul lunches with SP4 Ralph Carrell.

Bottom: 24th IDA members John W. Gorman and Paul J. Cain as they visit a display area of 2nd Bn., 34th Infantry Regiment.

Photos by: SP4 Vincent Sturupp

# Status Report on the *Taro Leaf* as of May 31, 2008.

To the Association Directors, by Gene Spicer, President

Over the last couple of years, our *Taro Leaf* publication has missed a few issues and generally struggled a bit mainly because of the serious health issues that confronted the Johnson family. This was unavoidable, perfectly understandable, and as we all know, resulted in a tragic loss to the Family, and to the Association.

But the needs of our members for the "cement" the *Taro Leaf* offers became overwhelming, and in August 2007, I asked Tom Thiel to accept the position of *Taro Leaf* Editor. Tom accepted saying he would do the best job that he could.

First, let me say that I think Tom has carried on our tradition of having one of the best Veteran's publications anywhere, and if anything even ratcheted it up a bit higher.

Tom took over the reins and examined where the *Taro Leaf* had been. With the aid of the folks at Classic Graphics, our printer since June 2005, he was able to publish his first issue in time for our September 2007 Annual Reunion in Columbia, SC. Not only was this quite an accomplishment just to get it completed, it was an outstanding issue!

I should state that Tom has only addressed publication issues, among which was the continuation in all aspects of *Taro Leaf* publication, the exact printing, paper and other specifications that had been employed by the previous Editor since at least 2005.

Because he entered into the picture quite late in 2007, Tom only published two issues in 2007, Vol 61 (1&2), and Vol 61(3&4). But in an effort to "catch up" on information of vital importance to members, with my approval, he made these issues larger, the former having 66 and the latter 62 pages.

Shortly after we entered

2008, Sec/Treas Maggio pointed out that unit costs of producing the *Taro Leaf* were growing significantly, despite the fact that we had retained the exact publication specifications employed previously. In fact costs were escalating beyond levels supported by the Association's annual income.

Upon learning this, Tom immediately sought means to reduce production costs. He first contacted the existing printer, Classic Graphics, and then local printers in his area of Lake County, FL.

There he discovered that a cost reduction of about 20 to 25 percent was achievable without any reduction in quality; the last issue, Vol 62(2), is a product of that effort.

Based on the costs associated with Vol 62(2), we are projecting an annualized cost of about \$31,000 to produce four, 48-page issues of each volume of the *Taro Leaf* at our current membership level.

This would be less than any annual cost of a four-issue volume of the *Taro Leaf* since 2003, which are all the records that we have!

While this was a major improvement, it still may not be good enough. Tom has already begun exploring further cost reductions by lessening the quality of the *Taro Leaf* well below that employed by the previous Editor and himself.

One possibility being explored is going to high-quality black and white inks. While distasteful to me personally and operationally more difficult, we nevertheless may have to consider this option.

I have asked Tom to gather appropriate information on our various *Taro Leaf* printing options to bring to the Director's meeting in Springfield in September.

Now let's look at the other side of the issue.

Current membership is about 2,230. Of these about 1,265 are Life Members and about 965 pay annual dues of \$15. This translates to about \$14,000 annual member dues income.

While we get income from other sources, clearly \$14,000 is insufficient to maintain our current, or maybe any, level of *Taro Leaf* publication.

While we have compiled membership statistics, none of these are precise enough to accurately show why our membership is where it is today-why members have left, etc. We urgently need a viable Membership Committee to provide input to this area.

One of the things that the BoD needs to consider at the Springfield meeting is how the Association wishes to proceed with the *Taro Leaf* and how we will pay for this and our other expenses in 2009.

Finally, Tom has closely followed my guidance and counsel in all of his Editorial efforts, and I not only fully support him in his position as Editor, I applaud him for his devotion to the Association.

In closing I would like to refer to a couple of short emails to Tom that I had the privilege to see; they were from Shorty Estabrook and Tom Lytle. They are on page 31 of this *Taro Leaf*.

**Make your reservations NOW  
for our 62nd Reunion in  
Springfield, MO, Sept 17-21.  
See Pg. 27-30.**



# 11-Month Income & Expenses

01 Aug 07 - 30 Jun 08

Ordinary Income/Expense			
<b>Income</b>			
40-Membership Dues		12,110.00	
41-Full Life Pmt		3,160.00	
4100-Reunion Donations		19,403.00	
4180-Interest Income		1,251.92	
42-Partial Life Pmt		1,460.00	
43-Donations		6,237.00	
44-Assoc Member Dues		645.00	
49-Misc Income		60.00	
499-Discounts		25.00	
	Total Income		44,351.92
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>General Office Expense</b>			
505-Computer/software Expense		679.19	
508-Misc Office Expense (1)		5,891.74	
6100-Bank Fee Expense		31.08	
6120-Engraving Expense		233.00	
6200-Office Supplies Expense		964.14	
6230-Postage & Delivery		1,558.99	
6300-Phone/Fax Expense		53.68	
510-Returned Mail Expense		168.61	
52-Refund Expense		110.00	
	Total Gen'l Expenses		9,690.43
<b>Taro Leaf Expenses</b>			
6280-Taro Leaf Printing Expense		44,287.47	
6285-Taro Leaf Mailing Expenses		5,954.24	
	Total Taro Leaf Expenses		50,241.71
<b>Reunion Expense</b>			
542-Reunion Prize Expense		5,000.00	
543-Reunion Meal Expense		735.00	
6255-Reunion Entertainment Expense		50.00	
6265-Reunion Expense (Other)		728.75	
	Total Reunion Expense		6,513.75
55-Tax/License		1,605.00	
58-Misc Expense		11.16	
6150-Insurance Expense		750.00	
6320-Travel Expense		2,196.18	
	Total Expense		71,008.23
<b>Quartermaster Activity</b>			
8105-Income		4,285.40	
8110-Purchases		-3,222.00	
8115-Shipping		-369.26	
	Total QM Activity		694.14
	TOTAL INCOME		-\$25,962.17
<b>508-Misc Office Expense (1)</b>			
\$1977 Reunion notice letter due to no Taro Leaf			
\$2558 Donation solicitation letter preparation & mailing			

## Secretary Treasurer Report (Continued)

Don Maggio

### Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Chair, Keith Hagen, announced that the members of his committee are as follows:

Keith R. Hagen, Chairperson  
41091 Ingersoll Rd.  
Concrete, WA 98237-9778  
360-826-3695  
[hagenka@verizon.net](mailto:hagenka@verizon.net)

Tom J. Thiel  
19147 Park Place Blvd.  
Eustis, FL 32736-7262  
352-357-3943  
[tthiel5@comcast.net](mailto:tthiel5@comcast.net)

Daniel J. Rickert  
28099 Calle Valdes  
Mission Viejo, CA 92692-1551  
949-215-7553

David R. Rives  
737 Los Angeles Ave.  
Simi Valley, CA 93065-1874  
805-527-1414

Billy E. McFarland  
P.O. Box 573  
Quartzsite, AZ 85346-0573  
602-509-0191  
[BEM2091@msn.com](mailto:BEM2091@msn.com)

## 11-Month Balance Sheet

01 Aug 07 - 30 Jun 08

### WANTED

Candidate to Serve in the Office of the  
Secretary/Treasurer

Some computer skills needed

Contact any of the Nominating Committee

<b>ASSETS</b>			
Checking/Savings			
HomeTrust Bank-Checking		5,093.96	
HomeTrust Bank-Money Market		5,867.30	
Fifth Third Bank-Checking		13,763.22	
Fifth Third Bank-Savings		3,255.43	
Chase Bank Checking		3,718.24	
Wells Fargo Bank-CD		33,726.24	
			67,416.01
QM Inventory (Estimate)			3,000.00
	TOTAL ASSETS		\$70,416.01
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
Opening Balance Equity			15,068.49
Net Assets			79,303.07
Net Income			-25,962.17
			\$70,416.01





# THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I desire to be: Enrolled ☐ (or) Reinstated ☐; as a Member ☐ (or) Associate Member ☐

(please check the proper two boxes)

*of the*

### **24th Infantry Division Association "Victory Division"**

**The Greatest Combat Division the United States Army has ever known.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

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

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDREN & AGES \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

(Relation to sponsor if the Application is for Associate Membership) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

SERVED IN THE 24th or was ATTACHED TO THE 24th:

UNIT.....SQUAD \_\_\_\_ PLATOON \_\_\_\_ COMPANY \_\_\_\_ BN. \_\_\_\_ REGT. \_\_\_\_ HQ \_\_\_\_ FROM \_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_

UNIT.....SQUAD \_\_\_\_ PLATOON \_\_\_\_ COMPANY \_\_\_\_ BN. \_\_\_\_ REGT. \_\_\_\_ HQ \_\_\_\_ FROM \_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_

REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Dues: ____ Annual	- \$15.00	____ Lifetime	- \$150.00
Payable Yearly on the Anniversary Date of		Payable in lump sum of \$150.00	
Entering in Association		or in 5 yearly payments of \$30.00	

Please make checks payable to:  
**"24th Infantry Division Association"**  
And mail with this completed application to:  
Donald E. Maggio, Secretary/Treasurer  
24th Infantry Division Association  
411 Concord Road  
Fletcher, NC 28732-9734

Recommended By: \_\_\_\_\_

June 9, 2008 version



## 24th infantry Division Association Quartermaster Order Form

Item #	Description	Price	Quantity	Amount
1	Philippine Liberation Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
2	National Defense Service Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
3	Good Conduct Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
4	Silver Star Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
5	Pacific Campaign Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
6	Armed Forces Reserve Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
7	Army of Occupation Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
8	POW Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
9	Distinguished Service Cross Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
10	ETO Campaign Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
11	The Soldiers Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
12	Meritorious Service Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
13	United Nations Service Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
14	American Defense Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
15	Vietnam Service Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
16	American Campaign Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
17	Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
18	U.S. Flag Pin	\$5.00		
19	Distinguished Flying Cross (Army) Hat Pin	\$5.00		
20	Korean Service Ribbon Hat Pin	\$5.00		
21	Army Commendation Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
22	WW II Victory Ribbon Hat Pin	\$5.00		
23	Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
24	Korean Service Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
25	WW II Victory Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
26	Bronze Star Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
27	Purple Heart Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
28	Air Medal	\$5.00		
29	24th Infantry Division Hat Pin	\$5.00		
30	Korea 8000 Missing Hat Pin	\$5.00		
31	19th Infantry Regiment Hat Pin	\$5.00		
32	Remember our POW/MIA Hat Pin	\$5.00		
33	POW/MIA Bring 'Em Home Hat Pin	\$5.00		
34	Combat Infantryman Badge (Mini) Hat Pin	\$5.00		
35	Combat Infantryman Badge Hat Pin	\$5.00		
36	Combat Infantryman Badge (2nd Award) Hat Pin	\$5.00		
37	Combat Medic Badge Pin	\$5.00		
38	U.S. Army Desert Storm Hat Pin	\$5.00		
39	Vietnam Heaven & Hell Hat Pin	\$5.00		
40	19th Infantry Regiment Ladies Necklace	\$5.00		
41	19th Infantry Regiment Ladies Bracelet	\$5.00		
42	24th ID Color Patch	\$5.00		
43	24th ID Association Patch	\$6.00		
44	Cap, 24th ID Black Taro Patch	\$15.00		
45	Cap, 24th ID White w/ Taro Patch (First to Fight)	\$12.00		
46	24th ID Window Sticker (2.5" x 2.5")	\$2.00		
47	Taro Leaf Bolo, Gold with Gold Braid	\$15.00		
48	Taro Leaf Bolo, Gold with Black Braid	\$15.00		
49	Taro Leaf Bolo, Silver with Black Braid	\$15.00		
50	Taro Leaf Belt Buckle, Silver	\$15.00		
51	Taro Leaf Belt Buckle, Gold	\$15.00		
52	24th Signal Battalion Unit Crest	\$9.00		
53	19th Infantry Regiment Unit Crest	\$9.00		
54	21st Infantry Regiment Unit Crest	\$9.00		
55	34th Infantry Regiment Unit Crest	\$9.00		

Please Detach and Complete Both Sides

The ***Taro Leaf***



Continued on Reverse Side

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Item #	Description	Price	Quantity	Amount
56	11th Field Artillery BN Unit Crest	\$9.00		
57	13th Field Artillery BN Unit Crest	\$9.00		
58	19th Infantry Regiment Color Patch	\$6.00		
59	21st Infantry Regiment Color Patch	\$6.00		
60	34th Infantry Regiment Color Patch	\$6.00		
61	11th Field Artillery Battalion Color Patch	\$6.00		
62	13th Field Artillery Battalion Color Patch	\$6.00		
63	24th Infantry Division Unit Crest	\$9.00		
64	Cap, 19th INF Dark Blue with Crest	\$12.00		
65	Cap, 21st INF White with Embroidered Patch	\$15.00		
66	Cap, 21st INF Dk Blue with Embroidered Patch	\$15.00		
67	Cap, 34th INF DK Blue with Crest	\$12.00		
68	Cap, 24th IDA Dk Blue with Taro Patch	\$15.00		
69	Cap, 24th ID White with Taro Patch (Germany)	\$12.00		
70	Cap, 24th ID Red with Taro Patch (Germany)	\$12.00		
71	Cap, 24th IDA Red	\$15.00		
72	Cap, 24th IDA White	\$15.00		
73	Cap, 24th IDA Green	\$15.00		
74	Cap, 24th ID White Mesh with Taro Patch	\$12.00		
75	3rd Engineer BN Unit Crest	\$9.00		
76	14th Engineer BN Unit Crest	\$9.00		
77	5th RCT Pocket Patch	\$6.00		
78	Cap, 5th RCT Red with Crest	\$12.00		
79	24th ID License Plate with Taro Leaf	\$8.00		
80	Cap, Desert Storm Veteran Black	\$12.00		
81	Cap, POW MIA Black	\$15.00		
82	Cap, WWII Veteran Black	\$12.00		
83	Cap, Korean War Veteran Black	\$12.00		
84	Combat Infantryman Badge Window Sticker (3"x7")	\$5.00		
85	Combat Infantryman Badge Window Sticker (2"x5")	\$3.00		
86	Bumper Sticker, 24th ID Proudly Served	\$3.00		
87	6th Tank BN Color Patch	\$6.00		
88	24th ID Neck Tie	\$20.00		
89	24th Medical BN Unit Crest	\$9.00		
90	24th ID Flag, 3' x 5' Outdoor Screen Print	\$65.00		
91	63rd Field Artillery BN Color Patch	\$6.00		
92	24th ID Sticker, 1" Taro Leaf, set of 12	\$1.50		
93	24th ID Christmas Cards, Set of 10 with Envelopes	\$8.00		
94	24th ID Neck Wallet, Green	\$5.00		
95	24th ID Keychain	\$10.00		
96	History of the 24th Infantry Division, Hardback Book, 2nd Edition Reprint	\$41.00		
97	Patch, 24th ID Korean War Veteran	\$5.00		
	Add Shipping and Handling (see below)			
<b>Grand Total (Include Totals From Page 1)</b>				

**Mail to:**  
Byrd Schrock, QM  
1009 Mesquite Dr.  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635  
(520) 678-0207

Shipping and Handling is \$3.00  
Cap orders S & H is \$5.00  
No phone orders accepted  
Please allow 4-6 weeks for  
delivery

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

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

City & ST: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_





# 24th Infantry Division Association Reunion

September 17 – 21, 2008

## HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

### HAWTHORN PARK HOTEL

(Soon to be Doubletree Hotel)

Room Type Requested	Rate	Number in Party
All Rooms	\$74.00	_____

Note: Current room tax is 8%, plus an occupancy tax of \$2.00 per night and is subject to change.

#### SPECIAL REQUESTS: \*

Smoking\_\_\_\_\_ Non-Smoking\_\_\_\_\_ Connecting Room\_\_\_\_\_ ADA Room\_\_\_\_\_

Hearing Impaired\_\_\_\_\_

\*Special requests will be noted but cannot be guaranteed due to the overall hotel availability.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 17, 2008 TO ENSURE ROOM AVAILABILITY. (After this date, rooms will be on space and rate availability only.)**

The discounted room rate will be extended 3 days prior and after the reunion.

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Nights \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

If guaranteed to a major credit card, please give the following information:

AMEX\_\_\_\_\_ VISA\_\_\_\_\_ MC\_\_\_\_\_ DISCOVERY\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to: Confirmation Number \_\_\_\_\_

Hawthorn Park Hotel

2431 N. Glenstone Ave.

Springfield, MO 65803

Reservations: Phone: (417) 831-3131 Fax: (417) 831-2582



# 24th Infantry Division Association 2008 Reunion Menus

## Traditional Breakfast

Chilled Orange Juice,  
Farm Fresh Scrambled Eggs  
Crispy Bacon  
Breakfast Potatoes  
French toast  
100% Colombian Coffee, Decaf &  
Specialty Tea Selections

## Friday Night Aloha Banquet

Choice - Braised Berkshire Pork Loin or  
Copper River Salmon, or Vegetarian  
Salad Maison w/Champagne Vinaigrette,  
Chef's selection of  
Starch and Seasonal Vegetable,  
Rolls and Butter, Choice of Dessert,  
Coffee Service and Iced Tea

## Saturday Night Memorial Banquet

Chicken St. Moritz or Prime Rib or Vegetarian  
Mixed Garden Greens with Chef's Dressing,  
Chef's Selection of Starch and Seasonal Vegetable,  
Rolls and Butter, Choice of Dessert,  
Coffee Service and Iced Tea

*Wine courtesy of FAYE-ED FARMS of Dupont, IN*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## Press Release Notice to Taro Leafers

Below is a press release pertaining to our reunion in Springfield, MO. Regardless of whether or not you plan to attend, please cut it out and either take it to or mail it to your local newspaper and request it be published in their military, special events or Letters to the Editor section. Please try to blanket this notice across the country to announce our reunion and let all former 24th Division Members know there is an active association in existence. Please, feel free to change the wording to suite your local newspaper.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 24th Infantry Division (First to Fight) will hold it's annual reunion to Honor the fallen veterans of the Division and renew old acquaintances in Springfield, MO, September 17-21, 2008, at the Hawthorn Park Hotel (Doubletree Hotel). All former members of the 24th Infantry Division or members of any unit that have been assigned or attached to the Division at any time are welcome. The reunion will be held at the Hawthorn Park Hotel (Doubletree Hotel), 2431 North Glenstone, Springfield, MO 65803-4735. For reservations call (417) 831-3131. For further information contact: Vice President Mel Frederick, 507-455-1639, Email: melfrederick@msn.com (or place your own local name and telephone number instead).



# Annual Reunion Registration

*24th Infantry Division Association*

September 17 – September 21, 2008

Hawthorn Park Hotel, Springfield, MO

(Soon to be Doubletree Hotel)

Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Wife/Guests Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any food allergies or special diets required. Please be specific.

## Name Badge Information

Nickname \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_ First Timer? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

I will be arriving by: Air \_\_\_\_\_ Car \_\_\_\_\_ Train \_\_\_\_\_ Bus \_\_\_\_\_

## REMINDER on BANQUET SEATING

If you wish to be seated with your friends at the Banquets, you must mail your registration forms together, along with appropriate payments, in one envelope with a cover letter indicating all who want to sit together at the same table. Otherwise, there is no guarantee that you and your friends will be seated together! Each table will hold up to 10 persons. All other persons attending the reunion will be given their seating assignments for each Banquet at time of check-in at the hotel. **DEADLINE AUGUST 18, 2008**

**Make Checks Payable to The Reunion Brat  
and mail not later than 18 August 2008 to:**

The Reunion Brat  
50721 State Hwy 410 E  
Greenwater, WA 98022

*(be sure to indicate this is for the 24th IDA Reunion)*





**TOURS, MEALS & REGISTRATION**  
**24th Infantry Division Association**  
**September 17 – September 21, 2008**  
**Hawthorn Park Hotel**  
**Springfield, MO**

<u>Date &amp; Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>		<u>No. Persons</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b><u>Thursday, Sep 18, 2008</u></b>					
9:00AM – 2:30PM	National Battlefield/ Brewery Tour	\$32.00	x	_____ =	\$_____
6:00PM – 11:30PM	Branson Belle Dinner/Showboat	\$63.00	x	_____ =	\$_____
<b><u>Friday, Sep 19, 2008</u></b>					
9:00AM – 4:00PM	Fantastic Caverns & Honey Haven	\$53.00	x	_____ =	\$_____
6:00 PM – 10:00PM	Aloha Banquet	\$47.00	x	_____ =	\$_____
Aloha Banquet Meal Selection: Pork_____ Fish_____ Vegetarian_____					
<b><u>Saturday, Sep 20, 2008</u></b>					
8:00AM – 11:00AM	Breakfast/Business	\$16.00	x	_____ =	\$_____
9:00AM – 11:00AM	Ladies Breakfast	\$16.00	x	_____ =	\$_____
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Memorial Banquet	\$47.00	x	_____ =	\$_____
Memorial Banquet Meal Selection: Beef_____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____					
(Note: Memorial Banquet Wine provided courtesy of FAYE-ED FARMS of Dupont, IN)					
<b>Registration Fee (per person)</b>		\$20.00	x	_____ =	\$_____
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED .....</b>					<b>\$_____</b>

**PAYMENT IS DUE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 16, 2008, PAYABLE TO:**

**THE REUNION BRAT**  
**50721 State Hwy 410 E**  
**Greenwater, WA 98022**

Confirmation of Registration and Itinerary will be sent out by Sep 1, 08. A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable. Call the Hawthorn Park Hotel (Doubletree) at 417-831-3131 not later than August 16, 08 to make your hotel reservation. Be sure to mention you are with the 24th Infantry Division Association Reunion to receive your group rate of \$74 a night plus tax. These prices are available 3 days prior to and after the event should you choose to extend your stay. See you in Springfield, MO.





## About the *Taro Leaf* 62(2)

Dear Tom:

Just a few words of praise, which seems inadequate, at this time for a job well done on the *Taro Leaf*.

You have outdone yourself on this issue. It is everything a Veterans Bulletin should be and much more.

For me this is the best issue of the *Taro Leaf* I have ever read!

Congrats on a super job.

**Shorty Estabrook**

B/19/24

\*\*\*\*\*

Tom

I just received my copy of the *Taro Leaf* it is magnificent. I receive the Greybeards, Purple Heart, DAV, VFW, American EXPOW and Under Age Veterans Publications, and I must say this is the best I have seen.

I would like to purchase 6 extra copies if that is possible for a few of the 6th Tankers that are not on the membership rolls that I know of. Let me know of the cost and I will send it right away.

Thanks again for a job well done. I am sure MSGT Woodrow W. Keeble's family and friends will be very proud.

Again thank you Job well done.

**Tom Lyke**

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Tom:

The latest issue of the *Taro Leaf* is outstanding. Thanks too, for the jungle grapevine story--great!

Just a thought on funding our publication: I would be willing to be a "voluntary subscriber" to The *Taro Leaf*, pay for the cost of having my favorite magazine delivered--say \$40 per year. If some others would be able to do this, the *Taro Leaf* could continue to be available free to most members.

Thanks and best regards,

**Bill McKenna**

Ed Note: I received many more such nice comments, and want to thank you all for taking the time and effort to write me. And also *THANK YOU for sending your checks too!*

But I got two emails expressing another view. I am copying the one below from Bill Wasserman who is an experienced publisher, and who offers some constructive criticisms. TJT End Note.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tom

I have read your lament about *Taro Leaf* and costs and I have a few suggestions.

1. Reduce the size from 8-1/2 x 11 to 8 x 10-1/2 like the VFW magazine. Reduce the size of the type. This will allow the same information on fewer pages. Most newspapers and magazines use a smaller type size than *Taro Leaf*.

2. Use lighter weight stock. I know of no commercial magazine that uses paper that heavy, including such slick ones as *Playboy*. If you want to keep a heavier cover, OK, but lighten up the inside. It will also save postage cost.

And don't talk about "cheapening" when you are publishing articles by people who can't write. This is a limited newsletter, not *American Heritage* magazine.

3. Save color for the cover and an interior section rather than throughout. Most of the pictures shown are old black-and-whites anyway.

4. Accept advertising. There is no point about being snobby about it; every newspaper and magazine, including most specialized professional ones, accepts advertising. They don't simply "accept," they aggressively work for it. If no one can give the time to sell, you could probably find an agent on commission. At least let local advertising agencies know you will accept and they will probably be willing to help a veteran's organization.

At this point you are probably wondering, "Who is this guy who thinks he so smart and if he's so good why doesn't he take over this thankless job." Well, I'm not dumb, but more importantly I am experienced. I was an advertising director for major



book publishers for many years. I learned a bit about paper and printing. I also had to watch the pennies; publishers are notoriously cheap. Secondly, I have done my share of thankless jobs: I'm in my 16th year as VFW commander, no one wants it; I'm the municipal historian, unpaid; I'm working with another man on a video history project of nine local towns, also unpaid. And I've been a volunteer both in my town and elsewhere for many years.

You have a difficult, volunteer job, I recognize that, and I commend you for taking it on, but I don't think I should [be] asked to contribute money when there are other approaches to solving the problem.

**Bill Wassmann**  
**Hq. Co., 2nd Bn., 19th Inf. 1953-54**  
\*\*\*\*\*

My reply.

Bill, I'm sorry if I offended you by my "lament." You, of course, have the discretion to decline (to make a contribution) but nearly a hundred of your fellow Taro Leafers have seen it differently.

We have greatly improved our situation by simply changing our printer, but we also have other approaches under consideration. Now to your specific points:

1. I have resisted reducing font below Georgia 11 (and will continue to); this is based on my own vision, which is still fairly good. I could of course reduce the overall size of the copy.
2. I continued using the same paper stock and printing specifications that were used by the previous editor. We are considering reducing paper stock and other specs also.

As to our people not being able to write; it's not about that. It is about their stories and the "need" to publish them before they leave permanently. So, the *Taro Leaf* has nothing to do about writing skills per se and everything to do about what they have to say. (Furthermore, it is "by the members for the members.")

3. We will likely do this (convert to B&W).
4. I have thought of Advertising, but so far as I

know the *Taro Leaf* has never had any ads. Also with our quite limited distribution it may be a difficult sell. And with a staff of one (me), it is not something else I want to take on.

Unlike you, I am totally inexperienced in the publishing field, but quite like you, I am involved with many other volunteer activities.

Your suggestions are sincerely appreciated. Thanks again Bill, I will copy our officers.

**Tom**  
**E 19th, 1951-52.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Christmas Eve of 1951

Tom:

Received my *Taro Leaf* yesterday and was amused to see Christmas Eve of 1951 was still an item. There were definitely Christmas Carols. I do not remember any airplanes or artillery that evening. Being the Platoon Medic I did not have to pull any guard duty but due to the situation I was up most of the night. As I recall it was a very quiet night.

I really enjoy this aspect of the *Taro Leaf*. It helps members to more or less communicate with each other and I think it helps to jog your memory. Keep up the good work.

**Tom Donaghy**  
[atomtomd@bellsouth.net](mailto:atomtomd@bellsouth.net)

PS: Because I was a Medic, along with another Medic I was left to help the 40th Division when the 24th went to Japan in early 1952. What a joke!  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Taegukgi, A Good Korean War Film on DVD

**Paul Garland** sent us a note on a good movie made in South Korea in 2004, that is now available on DVD. It shows the Korean War from the fictional perspective of two brothers who were conscripted and quickly went into battle. >>>





# Soldiers Missing From The Korean War Are Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced that the remains of two U.S. servicemen, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

They are Sgt. 1st Class George W. Koon of Leesville, S.C.; and Sgt. 1st Class Jack O. Tye of Loyall, Ky.; both U.S. Army. Koon was buried in Leesville, and Tye was buried in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

Representatives from the Army met with the soldiers' next-of-kin to explain the recovery and identification process, and to coordinate interment with military honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

In late November 1950, Koon was assigned to the Medical Company, 9th Infantry Regiment, and Tye was assigned to Company L, 38th Infantry Regiment. Both were members of the 2nd Infantry Division advancing north of Kunu-ri, North Korea. On Nov. 25, the Chinese Army counterattacked the Americans in what would become known as the Battle of the Chong Chon (River). This combat was some of the fiercest of the war, and the 2nd Division initiated a fighting withdrawal to the south. Koon and Tye were captured by Chinese forces during the intense enemy fire, and subsequently died while in captivity from malnutrition and medical neglect.

In 2002, two joint U.S./Democratic People's Republic of Korea teams, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), investigated and excavated a mass burial site located 20 miles northwest of Kunu-ri, along the route taken by captured U.S. POWs being moved to permanent POW camps along the Yalu River. The teams recovered remains at the site believed to be those of several U.S. servicemen, including Koon and Tye.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory and JPAC also used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons in both Koon's and Tye's identification.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call (703) 699-1169.

Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (Public Affairs)  
Washington, DC 20301-2900, (703) 699-1169

>>> According to reviews I have read, the personal stories of the two brothers perhaps clouds the war scenes themselves, which reportedly are very good. And of special note is the recreation of 1950 Seoul street scenes, which receive high marks.

Paul says it is a good movie; it set a record for the best-selling Korean film of all time with 11.7 million tickets sold. It is named Taegukgi (2004) ["Tae-geuk-gi"] and you may see extensive excerpts at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nnx2CjhHADM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXm-kceKdvs>

Or buy it: from \$10.49

<http://www.amazon.com/Tae-Guk-Gi-Brotherhood-War/dp/B0006VL1J2>



# I Hear No Bugles

By Robert Winston Mercy, 5th Platoon, George Company, 19th Regiment, Korea, 50-51.  
(Merriam Press, 2008, 436 pages, Amazon.com)

Extracted from a review: By Dr. Wesley Britton, with annotations.

Even in the first days of the silent movie era, film producers knew well the value of celluloid stories as propaganda. Before World War I, those opposed to America's involvement overseas cranked out tragic tales designed to discourage any support for the then feared "Merchants of Death." Just as quickly, once war was declared, Hollywood shifted gears and found itself a major contributor to recruitment drives.

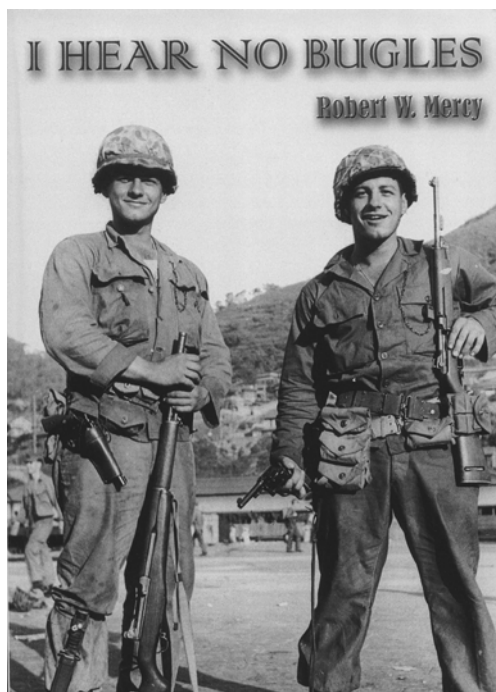
From that point forward, war movies resonated with the themes of valor, glory, and stoic self-sacrifice in which anyone anywhere could find themselves elevated morally and spiritually by doing their patriotic duty.

One story from these times is unique. The opening pages of a new memoir by Robert Winston Mercy, *I Hear No Bugles*, begins with scenes of a young American drawn into a soldier's life due to what he had seen in movie houses.

Then, we learn about the life of a front-line infantryman in North Korea discovering just how war was never what was shown in dark auditoriums. Then, bringing his story full circle, Robert Winston Mercy came home to become first a stunt-man and then a contract player at MGM playing the very roles he'd grown up watching, only this time as military commanders in TV series like *Combat!*, *Maverick*, and *Playhouse 90*.

The first paragraph of *I Hear No Bugles* makes Mercy's thesis clear:

"The effects of propaganda films cannot be underestimated, particularly in this era of contending political and religious dogmas that relentlessly threaten to make this century even more unimaginably bloodier



Robert and Richard Mercy

than the last. Indisputably, film is second to literacy in the intellectual, philosophical and moral development of the human species. The defunct uniformed 'press-gangs' of history that 'Shanghaied' young men into military service have been supplanted by the more subtly hypnotic persuasion of TV and the movies. Every image, symbol and mode of each delivered word is meticulously crafted to extract the desired emotional and moral support from its national audience."

For Mercy, the imagery of war was first implanted in his consciousness when, at the age of four, he saw the Laurel and Hardy 1934 *Babes in Toyland*.

As the years passed, young boys in his neighborhood witnessed a plethora of war movies onscreen and emulated what they saw at home with plastic Dick Tracy submachine guns. The lines between good and evil were not blurred, the superiority

of Western values were unquestioned, the rewards for patriotism evident in every scene. For a young man in an unhappy home, military life seemed the dreamed of escape from poverty and the "Spare the rod, spoil the child" mentality of the times.

Mercy chronicles how, inevitably, he became a Marine and describes his years in the states and Japan in the military police where idealism, if not his military mindset, began to erode.

[Ed. Note: Reviewer Britton only saw the Marines! While Mercy became a Marine at 16, he left soon thereafter on a medical discharge. A year later at 17, he along with his twin brother Richard joined the Army. They stayed together throughout their service time and eventually both ended up with the 24th's George Company, 19th Regiment, in Korea, where they became NCOMs of the 5th KATUSAS (Korean Augmentation To the United States Army) Platoon.]

Not until he was called up for service in North Korea in 1950 did reality and imagination come together. "I looked beyond the perimeter's barbed wire fence," he writes, "the rice paddies reddened by the sinking sun knowing that the 'movie' I'd waited a lifetime for had just begun."

What happens from this point forward is the heart of the memoir, and *I Hear No Bugles* is, in fact, the first published personal account [?] of a front-line soldier in combat during the "Forgotten War."

Mercy's descriptions are laced with what he sees and how the sites compare—or don't—to what he saw in all those war movies of his youth. Not surprisingly, his first mo-



ments in battle bring the cinema center-stage in his mind—"I thought of every cinematic charge I'd ever seen. As the company flaked across the field, I stopped in mid-splash: *Something's missing...what? It's...the musical soundtrack!* I whispered, "I HEAR NO BUGLES," and then the tempo of fire grew."

According to Mercy, there were few Gary Cooper's facing down enemy fire in Korea—instead, Mercy witnessed cowardice, greed, stupidity, "bug outs," death from friendly fire, savagery and, within himself, a blood-lust sometimes difficult to control. Where other autobiographies might include flashbacks to childhood events to connect the adult with their past, Mercy's memories of home come from lines by heroes portrayed by the likes of Errol Flynn, Robert Taylor, and Ronald Coleman and what they might have said in the circumstances Mercy describes.

But as Mercy's battlefield experiences continue, references to actors and famous movie lines become fewer and fewer—certainly, a literary means to demonstrate that piles of corpses, the stench of war, icy blizzards, and devastated civilians caught in the cross-fire have more than replaced the sights and sounds of silver screen fiction in his mind. Still, fantasy intrudes.

When two POWs are brought to him for interrogation, "My mind reeled through half a dozen films and found the one it needed." Drawing from an idea from some unknown script-writer, Mercy took one Chinese soldier behind a boulder and faked his execution. The other talked—and then was shown his still-alive comrade.

Ultimately, Mercy is wounded in combat and visions of Hollywood return. In a M\*A\*S\*H hospital, a nurse attempts to steal his wallet and sews adhesive tape inside his wound when she is caught.

While Mercy—serving with his twin brother Richard—was often at odds with superiors and line soldiers alike, being at the front was the life he preferred to the point he felt adrift when no longer part of the dangers of combat. His is a story of life-and-death choices on a daily basis, a man often wondering why he didn't pull an easy trigger knowing that if he were in any other army, the decision would have often been far more brutal.

The graphic evolution of this veteran should remind readers that history does repeat itself, and even viewers who believe they're watching movies and TV dramas with objective, or even cynical eyes, should know they cannot be immune to the overt and subtle messages that become part of our cultural DNA. With one eye looking to the past, we can read *Bugles* as a reminder of neglected history; with the other, we can use it as a mirror into ourselves, a window into an awareness of our own mental fusions of what we absorb, all those influences both with and without soundtracks. ### You may view Britton's full review at: [www.CinemaRetro.com](http://www.CinemaRetro.com)

Dr. Wesley Britton is the author of three books on espionage in the media, his fourth, *The Encyclopedia of TV Spies* will be issued from Bear Manor Media. Many of his articles—including an interview with Robert Winston Mercy about his work on television and film—are posted at [www.Spywise.net](http://www.Spywise.net)

[Ed. Note 2. Dr. Britton was far more eloquent than I could have ever been in reviewing Mercy's book, so, with his approval, I decided to use portions of his review. It is a bit long, but I think Mercy's book is well worthy of the space we're giving it.

My own assessment of Mercy's book was that it is different from anything I have ever read before about our mutual times in the "Land of the Morning Calm." The Mercy twin brothers – Robert, the

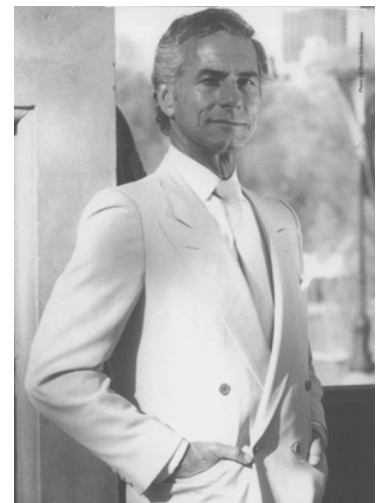
author, and Richard - along with their compatriot Robertson, were cut from a different military mold than was I; actually I may have been one of the draftees Robert looks on and sort of laments in Chapter 34, The Last Reel.

As he is returning to George Company from the hospital in Japan, he says: "And the new draftee soldiers seemed far less promising than the under trained volunteer army that had arrived the year before."

*Bugles* is one of the best books written by someone who experienced Korean War combat first hand, although much of the work deals with the inner struggles he copes with in growing up under fire and providing a basis for his gut-wrenching decisions! Another struggle he deals with is the perceived ineptitude of officers and NCOs alike. Finally he makes no secret of his disdain for "rear echelon" types.

Mercy's work is thorough; *Bugles'* 436 very well written pages include copious photographs that take the reader from his earliest military days to his successful film career to today. While I definitely recommend his book, I must add that it is clearly an "adult" book!

I should also add that Mercy received a Silver Star, a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, and a Presidential Unit Citation! Ed.]



**Robert Mercy**



# Ask the Answer Man

We received many answers to the question about "**Battle Stars**" awarded for the Korean War. The most complete response came from Dan Cretaro, Sgt. Maj. (Ret.), San Antonio, TX, who served in the 34th and 19th. Dan said: "First, the battle stars represent campaigns, not battles. Since the questioner had the Korean Service Medal with five battle stars he essentially had one silver star which corresponds to five bronze battle stars. There were a total of ten campaigns during the Korean War:

1. U.N. Defensive (6/27/50 - 9/15/50)
2. U.N. Offensive (9/16/50 - 11/2/50)
3. CCF Intervention (11/3/50 - 1/24/51)
4. First UN Counter Offensive (1/25/51 - 4/21/51)
5. CCF Spring Offensive (4/22/51 - 7/8/51)
6. U.N. Summer-Fall Offensive (7/9/51 - 11/27/51)
7. Second Korean Winter (11/28/51 - 4/30/52)
8. Korean Summer-Fall 1952 (5/1/52 - 11/30/52)
9. Third Korean Winter (12/1/52 - 4/30/52)
10. Korea, Summer 1953 (5/1/53 - 7/27/53)"

Thank you, Dan, and others who responded.

The Answer Man is still seeking information about the **Presidential Unit Citation** (for regiment or division?)

The Answer Man would like to compile a glossary of "**G.I. Speak**" used in Japan/Korea. Here's a starter list (I'll assume you know the definitions):


Hubba-hubba,  
Moose,  
Shack-up,  
Cho-Cho,  
Pom-Pom,  
Skivvy,  
Bug-out, and  
Corobito.

If you have any to contribute, please provide the definition too. Phonetic spelling is suggested. The Answer Man will provide definitions in a future issue of the *Taro Leaf*.

If you have a question, or an answer to one of the unanswered questions, please send it to: "The Answer Man," PO Box 501005, San Diego, CA 92150, [dvalley1@san.rr.com](mailto:dvalley1@san.rr.com), 858-485-6616.

A note from...

NEVIN R WILLIAMS

A FEW \$\$\$  
TO HELP  
COVER COSTS  
OF TARO LEAF.  
IT IS BECOMING  
A REAL HISTORY  
BOOK.  
N. R. Williams  
19th INFANTRY  
NOV-DEC 1957  
(WE THEN CONVERTED  
TO 1st CAV DIVISION)  
  
RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
Reserve Officers Association of the United States  
"Serving those who serve"

## Editor (continued from page 43)

We changed printers; that reduced costs by about 25 percent! The last issue 62(2), the Woody Keeble issue, cost us \$3.40 per copy to produce; it cost another \$0.63 to mail. Production costs were down; mailing up. Because of seven reunion pages that issue was 56 pages.

Now, with this issue we are imposing a 48-page length limit and are trying to reduce both production and mailing costs even more.

But I assure you we will make every effort to retain a high-quality *Taro Leaf*! And you have a role to play in this. Your stories! Your photos! Your efforts to get new members, especially younger members! Thanks.

Tom Thiel



## Letters to Ann—Part II

*By Robert Moncur, Company "F", 19th Infantry Regiment, 1950-51 (Continued from Taro Leaf 62(2). It contains selected letters SFC Moncur wrote to his new bride, Ann. The total collection covers the period from Dec. 12, 1950 to August 23, 1951, his last one from the combat zone, and is some 32 typewritten pages. Ann recently completed the task of typing Bob's letters in response to a request from their children. Mr. Moncur stated: In my early letters, I used the word "Gooks" to describe a Korean civilian, and called Korea "... a filthy hell hole." I was a young man from the U.S. who had seen nothing of the world. It was easy to use words like that when speaking of strange people who spoke in a foreign tongue and dressed so strangely. With time and maturity, I learned to respect and care about these simple people, and hated when they were referred to that way. And I came to appreciate the natural beauty of their country—"The Land of the Morning Calm." ) The Moncurs live at: 98 Woodland Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854, [Bobbm93@aol.com](mailto:Bobbm93@aol.com)*

Feb. 19, 1951: Once again I've gotten a chance to sit down and write a letter to let you know that everything is still all right. I have heard that they are starting to censor letters over here so I hope that you got my letters in time so you can really understand my position as far as writing is concerned.

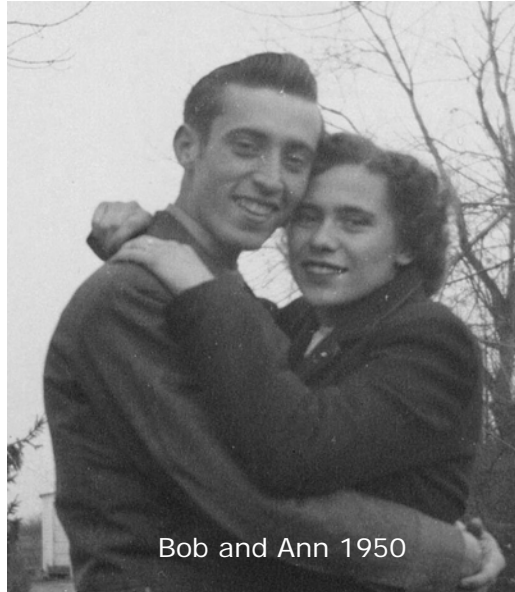
Yesterday we were supposed to jump off on the attack of a hill. But we encountered no Chinese and proceeded to march overland about twelve or fourteen miles. We have now reached the Han River and expect to be here a few days and possibly go into battalion reserve for awhile.

Yesterday was the roughest day yet as far as physical strain goes as we were continually on the move for about fourteen hours.

Due to the casualties of our last attack, I've become assistant machine gunner now and between the gunner and myself lugging that machine gun on our shoulders all day we were quite a fatigued pair.

We had no chow and no sleeping gear last night, but we were lucky enough to be in a village, so we had some sort of protection from the cold.

Before I forget, be sure to tell Uncle Max and Aunt Kate that I really appreciated the foot powder but it happens that it was my first mail since I've been here and it only took thirteen days to get here. He had presumed that I'd



already received some packages of food stuffs so he'd send me something I could use for my feet – but you can tell him I said that if he can get mail here that fast that I'll let him be the postmaster and everyone can give their packages to him to mail.

I hope this letter can get out of here as we have no transportation up here yet and they even drop our rations to us by plane – so I don't know how soon I can get this one on its way.

My feet were beginning to bother me pretty bad at the start of the week but I couldn't get to the aid station and now they seem to have quieted down some.

I thought that twenty-one months would not be too bad Ann, but it has only been two months now and it seems like an eternity. I wish more and more each day to get out of here and back home to you and the family

again and never have to worry about being separated again. I miss seeing the gang around, the family arguing about where the cookies disappeared to and Dickey not knowing a thing about it.

Feb. 27, 1951: I am not feeling well at all. I have had a bad case of the GI's and instead of taking care of it right away I figured it would pass off but it got worse. I'm taking care of it now and it's improved some but I still feel pretty rotten. They say it's from the polluted well water we have been drinking and washing mess gear in without boiling it first.

Someone said that there were snakes in the well that we drink out of and someone else said there were lizards in it. Well, on the way down to the aid station, I stopped to take a look and in the bottom were small half snakes, half lizard reptiles. I guess you know I lost all interest in the water from that well.

March 1, 1951: Guess what! My PFC rating finally came through yesterday so that means a little more money in the bank for us.

Enclosed is a snapshot that our platoon guide took and gave to me. All the boys agreed that it was an A1 picture and perfectly suited for the Daily Home News, so I will give you some information about it and after you have some made you can try getting it in the paper.

I guess you and the family can put the background story and

Moncur with light machinegun



I can just tell you it was taken on a clearing operation in Eastern Korea and I was covering a draw with a light machine gun. I guess that's all I can say and if the paper accepts it, it will be something worth keeping.

I'm still having troubles with my stomach and the GIs and somehow or other I just feel rotten as a whole. There are times I feel okay and then there are other times I could just pack up and leave this place no matter what the consequences might be.

Today we went on a company problem with live ammunition and it was about the coldest day we've had here, and after lying around for this time the boys were all pretty well pooped when we got back. Tomorrow we are supposed to get up about five o'clock and go out somewhere to pick up supplies that have been dropped by plane.

March 10, 1951: I have been back at the clearing station four days now [for my G.I.'s] getting pills and so forth and probably will rejoin the company today or tomorrow morning. I can't see as they have done me any good but at least I got a couple days rest out of it.

We are really getting close to the 38th now and we are all hop-

ing and praying that we don't go over it again.

Enclosed is a propaganda slip, one of many that were dropped here in the hills to induce the enemy troops to surrender, which you can give to Dick and tell him I will try to get a few more and send them to him. If only they would all work, this nonsense would be over and we could all go home.

March 13, 1951: I am now back with the company and as usual we were on the highest peak around the area. There were six of us that left the clearing station and were taken to the company kitchens to be forwarded to the company. We moved up a few miles more with the kitchen and set up in a new area a little closer to the lines so the chow could be packed up to the men a little easier. From the kitchen we moved up another couple of miles to a small village where a lieutenant and a few men were taking care of the carrying parties, etc. We spent the night there and then go up to the company when they send up the chow. We pulled some security guard and then in the morning, about nine o'clock, we went on our way.

We are getting closer to the 38th all the time and the closer we get the more I hope and pray that we don't go past it. I keep thinking how thankful so many people will be if they could settle it soon.

March 17, 1951: We have moved to a new position again and this one is higher than the last time. I'm just waiting for the company to start issuing the troops oxygen masks. There are lots of good rumors running around up here but I won't bother telling

them to you because they are just rumors. My buddy's wife wrote him something about the reserves being put on an indefinite period. Is so?

There's nothing quite like watching these Air Corps boys go through their stuff when you get into any trouble. We heard the water cooled machine guns giving our troops support fire and didn't make out any return fire so we wondered what was going on.

We moved up to a knoll just before "calf" where the guns were located and they told us that the Chinese just left their positions and took off over the ridge without even firing a shot.

We stayed on the ridge we were on and dug in while the lead company proceeded to secure "calf" and the day's climbing was over. Last night was the first decent night's sleep I'd gotten in about a week and it sure felt good.

We read in the Stars & Stripes today that MacArthur says there wouldn't be much sense stopping at the 38th when it would take the same amount of men to hold the line as it would to go all the way through. That would be the biggest let-down for me and so many other guys who are hoping that we don't cross.

People will never realize how rotten this place is and yet guys are getting shot up and killed just to hold it. I guess we will just have to keep on hoping and praying for something to happen.

March 22, 1951: We have been on the move from early morning til evening for the past two days and have only taken time out for chow and sleeping. Yesterday we had quite a hike and it was just late afternoon when we cut off the road up a finger to a high peak.

George and Easy companies were forward and we were bringing up the rear, and when the point companies reached the second





highest peak, they drew fire.

We halted and made small fires with which to keep warm and stayed there for about half an hour while George and Easy proceeded to secure the knoll. We then got the order to saddle up and move out again and we moved through the lead company intending to take the last and highest peak of the mountain.

It was just getting dark and we were drawing machine gun fire from our right flank, direct front and sniper fire from the left front, so the place was pretty well protected by fire.

We had just maneuvered to the jumping off point when I guess they decided it was getting too dark so we just turned around and dug in on a lower peak.

It was cold, as usual, and we had no sleeping gear or chow so we felt pretty lousy for awhile. After about half an hour, hot chow came up and that made our guts happy but we were still cold and without bedrolls, but they said a carrying party would return with them.

About ten o'clock bags finally came, but there weren't enough for everyone to get one and my buddy and I missed out, but they said more were on the way. It was too cold to sleep but our squad leader gave us a shelter half to keep the wind out and it made us a little more comfortable.

We got in a couple of catnaps between shivers and at one o'clock the rest of the bags finally came, so at last we would be warm and get in a little sleep – we thought!

It seemed no sooner had we gotten into our bags when an enemy machine gun opened fire from our right rear. Actually an hour had passed but we had only been sleeping for half the time and when the firing had started we naturally got out of our bags and on the machine gun. We were really cold

Bob Moncur and Billy Stiner  
"best" machinegun team



then after being nice and warm in our bags and the bullets were going right overhead so we were without sleep for another hour and a half.

We decided that everything was clear so we tried to catch a little more but I didn't get in my bag again in case I had to use the gun in a hurry. It turned out that it was a fifteen man Chinese patrol with a machine gun and they had been detected by the fourth platoon.

You might think I finally got a couple or three hours sleep, but at four-thirty we had to roll up and move out to take our objective of the night before, so at the very most I got an hour's sleep after marching all day long and carrying the machine gun most of the way. It turned out the Chinese had departed during the night, so we just walked up to the peak and here I am.

We heard a rumor about another cease fire plan but I'm not pinning my hopes on much of that any more. Of course, I hope it's true and it works out but I'm not going to count on it.

March 26 1951: I was going to write yesterday, as we were supposed to spend a couple of days on this last hill we moved to, but it was raining when we got up in the morning and it lasted all day.

We had a position dug in for the machine gun but nothing to keep the rain out so we had to do something. We started cutting small trees and proceeded to make a lean to shelter and covered it with pine boughs.

We got all soaking wet doing this and after it was finished we climbed inside and it was all dripping wet anyway.

After staying in there for about half an hour we decided to look for something better.

I climbed down the reverse slope of the hill and found a few overhanging boulders that afforded some protection from the rain, so we sat down under them and built a small fire. This was much better and at least we didn't get any wetter (if we could) and the fire gave us some warmth.

We heated our chow and stayed there for a couple of hours til the rain slowed down a little and then decided to go down to the village and try to get some mats and straw to keep the rain out at night because we would have to go back into the position and be with the gun.

It was quite a good distance down the hill to the village and we finally got there and got a Korean papa son (old man) to carry a load of hay and we got a mat and another load of hay, packed them on A-frames and started back.

It sure was a tough climb back up but we finally made it and fixed us up a good roof to keep the rain out. Of course, by this time we were soaked through so we went to a fire to dry out and get ready to hit the sack for the night.

About 9:30 an order came through to put out all fires and the rain had stopped so I got into my sleeping bag pretty dry.

There have been quite a few good rumors going around, such as reservists called in before the emergency was called, are sup-

South Korean—"Shorty"



posed to be released as soon as possible, and a couple of more just as morale building.

March 28 1951: Just woke up this morning and decided that I would write a letter while I had the chance. I got another letter yesterday and it was number twenty-four and I've already received up to number eighty-nine – but still about fifty or so to receive yet.

It rained again yesterday and it looks cloudy today so maybe the rainy season has started. We have been on this hill for about four days now and we've been expecting to get relieved every day – and every day they say maybe tomorrow. We haven't got it bad here though and it would be alright with us if we stayed here for the rest our time here.

Last night and the night before, the second platoon got us all on the alert by machine gun fire, rifle fire and all kinds of nonsense but no enemy was ever seen.

As you will probably notice the change in the pencil, I relieved a package from you with the two mechanical pencils, etc. so I'll

thank my dear wife for sending it. I also got six more old letters today and a recent one from you, Uncle Max and Mom so I made out pretty good as far as the mail goes.

We have also come down off the hill this afternoon to go into reserve for a couple of days. We are to sleep at the base of the hill tonight and move to an assembly area in the morning.

I never did tell you that a couple of months ago we picked up a Korean kid and kept him with our squad ever since. He serves as ammo bearer and does odd jobs for us and he is treated just like one of the regular squad members. There are a couple of other boys with us but I think that "Shorty" is a real nice kid and the others are smart guys and loafers.

I let him wear my watch (the one I got at Dix) one day and never bothered to ask for it back, so I'm going to let him keep it and when we separate for any reason or other, I'm going to give him ten dollars to take with him.

He told us that if the outfit crosses the 38th he will probably leave us and go back to join his folks in Seoul. In that package I got last week there were those jelly beans so I gave some to him

and he got the biggest kick out of them. Just like a kid you would find back home.

While I think of it, ask Bill to send a camera from home or get an inexpensive one and send it, and quite a few rolls of film so I can take some pictures here.

You may not believe this but there is an order from our outfit that says the men WILL be clean shaven and washed, and the area WILL be policed. Just like back in garrison!!

April 1, 1951: The weather has been quite pleasant as far as temperature goes, but we have been having some rain almost every day. I finally got my first haircut in three months today and I sure feel empty on top (that's on the outside only).

I thought the last rest area was bad but here we train, have regular guard with an O.D. and all have to know our general orders and all kinds of other garrison nonsense.

There were church services today so I went and the priest really was good because you could understand what he was saying and he gave a lot more in English than they usually do so I understood a little more of what was going on.

You of course know that U.N. forces have crossed the 38th. It sure was a blow when we heard it over the radio yesterday but are hoping that something happens soon because it will really get rugged if we go into North Korea.

*(To be continued in next issue.)*

Bob and Ann Moncur & Billy and Helen Stiner in 2002





# "19th's 'Lost Battalion' in Leyte Fight"

*In The Torrington (CT) Register via Associated Press, 1946*

The Torrington (CT) Register 1944: PFC Frank Fantino, 126 LaFayette Street, Torrington, helped carve an historic niche in the annals of Leyte's reconquest with an epic of grim courage and determination up against overwhelming odds at the critical peak of fighting for the Ormoc corridor. This according to an Associated Press dispatch from 24th Division Headquarters in the Philippines.

PFC Fantino was serving with the Second Battalion of the war-famed 19th Regiment, which became known as Leyte's "Lost Battalion."

The battalion was battle fatigued from nearly a month of continuous fighting when it received orders to advance through the mountains to throw a road block against Japanese reinforcements. They were attempting to reach a strong troop concentration against American forces hammering to break southward toward Ormoc. This was before an amphibious landing was made behind the enemy at Ormoc to smash his defense line.

Loaded with supplies and ammunition, the battalion had to fight the enemy and the tortuous mountain terrain for four days to reach the road. After 24 hours without food, the men fought savagely to take dominant heights. Then they ate rice from the packs of dead Japanese and stripped the hearts from palm trees. An air drop provided a fraction of a meal per man.



Frank Fantino in Winsted, CT, just before leaving for Panama, during the Korean War; when he was called back into the Army. He says he was lucky to be sent to Panama. Later his wife was able to also go to Panama, where their oldest son was born.

They established the road block and held it for four days against enemy tanks, truck columns, artillery fire and fanatical charges.

Patrols fought for food dropped by airplane near the enemy. They fought for water from a mountain stream. The number of wounded in fox-holes increased alarmingly. Medicine ran low. To conserve their dwindling ammunition supply, the men were ordered to fire only when they could actually see their targets.

Men were continually wet. Feet began to swell and Jungle Rot developed. They slept in fox-holes that were often half-filled with water. Dysentery and stomach troubles weakened many.

But they clung doggedly to the block across the vital supply road until ordered out

after four days. The retirement took another four days of fighting.

Trails were treacherous. Stretchers made of saplings and parachutes sometimes had to be passed hand-to-hand on down the steep slopes. At one swollen river, a rope of bamboo and vines had to be fashioned to help the men cross.

When the battered battalion finally reached the main American forces, US casualties were ten percent killed or wounded. It had counted 600 dead Japanese and many more undoubtedly were pulled away during night attacks.

Sgt. Henry E. Schubert of Terryville also served with the battalion and he and PFC. Fantino came through the ordeal safely, according to the dispatch. #####

Hi Tom:

I thought *Taro Leaf* readers may be interested in this article about an action I was in that my mother sent me while I was overseas in 1944. I didn't write about it to my parents while I was on this mission; I didn't want to worry them. The clipping just appeared in the "The Torrington Register," our local paper back in Conn.

I have no idea how the AP got my name and home town; I was never interviewed or questioned.

To elaborate on the article a bit, I was on the heavy machine gun at the road block.

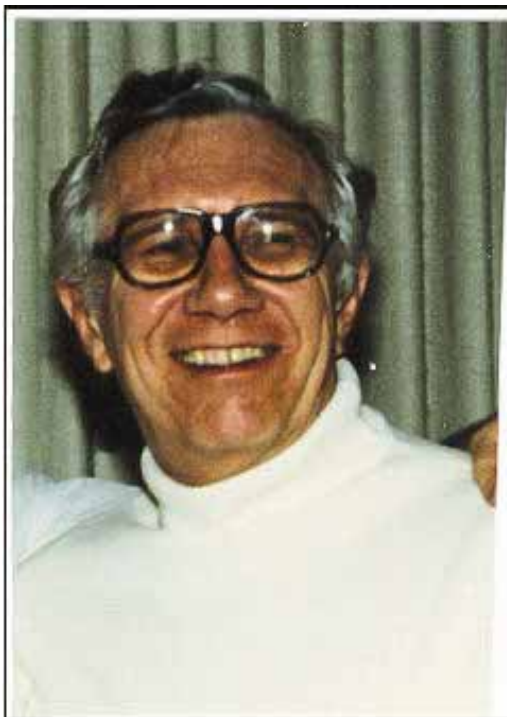
During the first couple



days, our gun was positioned above the road on a ledge. But after some contact with the Japanese, and getting grenades thrown at us, we got orders to move higher up on the hill.

It took three of us to get the tripod up that hill as we hadn't eaten for over a week.

Later, after we had fired at a Japanese weapons carrier that had come down the road toward us, one of their tanks came around the bend and fired a round at us. The round hit just below us with enough force to lift the machine gun a couple inches, but the round didn't explode! Then they fired another round, which went just over our



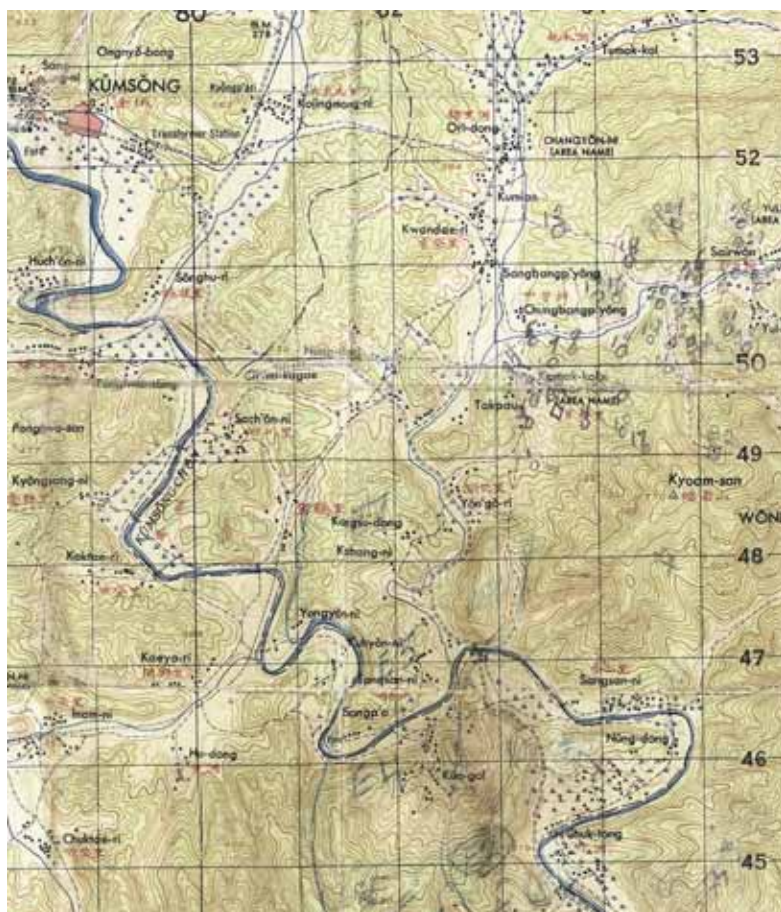
heads and hit the hill above us. But that round didn't explode either! The tank then left.

For many years I would dream I was back there. Then about twenty years ago I was doing some genealogy research, and was asked to write my story for my grandkids and nieces. After finishing my story I stopped dreaming about those experiences.

That's Frank in a more recent photo at left.

Frank Fantino, Life 402  
19th Inf, "H" Company  
13443 Paoha Road  
Apple Valley, CA 92308-3727

## Operation Nomad—October 13-22, 1951 A Request for Your Memories and Stories



"Kumsong [North Korea] was a staging area for the Communist supply system on the east-central front. A main purpose of "Nomad" was to mount troops close enough to Kumsong to render it useless to the Chinese forces operating in the area.

The limited-objective drive ran up against several regiments of vigorous, combat-ready veterans, a fanatical defending force that was ordered to resist until death. Despite this frantic attempt to hold firm, after two weeks the division drove seven miles inland and occupied every position it had set out to acquire." From *24th Forward, The Pictorial History of the Victory Division in Korea*, circa 1952.

We want to focus on your experiences in Operation Nomad in the next issue of the *Taro Leaf*. So please go through your pictures and send in your short stories of what you may remember from fifty-seven years ago October 2008!

The map at left was provided by Don Vail, a FO with H Co. 19th in support of Easy Co. Don had his 1951 original marked map of the Kumsong area digitized recently, and the clip from the left is from that graphic. For those of you with computers, this would be a tremendous resource. Ed



# A Note From Your Quartermaster



Dear Fellow Taro Leafers

This issue of the *Taro Leaf* includes the new Quartermaster Order Form (see Pg. 25-26—it is a tear-out page for you to complete and mail along with your check).

It has been several years since the Association has increased prices on our inventory. Some items have actually remained the same price but others had to be increased. The shipping and handling rates have remained the same with the exception of cap orders where we had to increase shipping and handling charges to \$5.00 to offset the cost of purchasing the boxes used to ship the caps. I hope to add more items to the inventory in the very near future, including: T-Shirts, windbreaker nylon jackets, sweatshirts and coffee mugs. Of course these items will be adorned with the Victory Division's Taro Leaf logo. D.J. and I have been very happy and proud to serve you the past couple of years. Thanks for your support.

Byrd and D.J. Schrock

## From Your Editor's Computer *(Continued from page 6)*

With this issue, we are trying some more changes. The most obvious of these is a half color and half black and white format, and lower weight paper. As I am writing this both the visual and the cost impacts of these are still to be determined. The decision on which copy to put where was mainly based on content; if there are color photos then it goes into the color section.

Another change that may be less obvious is that we have changed from a MS Word/Adobe Acrobat system of production to using MS Publisher. This was mainly at the request of the printer, but the spin-off should be much better quality of printing. Fortunately, I had Publisher, but needed to go on a crash course of learning how to use it! Incidentally, we were also asked to change graphic formats to CMYK (cyan, magenta, yellow and black, a standard printers format). This necessitates the use of Photoshop, which I didn't have, and would not likely get; I am most grateful that the Association obtained it.

Now to some discussion of "Stories," your stories! As I mentioned earlier, I really appreciated Mr. Williams' comment about becoming historical in nature. But another member (see page 31) said we were not producing "*American Heritage*," and that none of our writers can "write." Well, we are not here to polish our writing egos, we are here to "tell our stories!" And I believe WE are doing that very well!

So keep on sending in your stories. Your good photographs and your recollections of the story each one tells—the who, what, where, when, how, and why of each photo. We are beginning to get a bit behind in converting some of your material, but largely that has been due to the heavy burden of our conversion to new systems, and to a few other things. So don't be discouraged if your story didn't make this issue.

Now to just a few lines about our production costs. I have been accused of being negligent and of changing the *Taro Leaf* printing standards in order to satisfy my ego. Nothing could be further from the truth. When I became editor, I followed exactly the same paper and printing procedures employed by the previous editor. I have no previous editor experience beyond producing a Computer Society newsletter. Just producing the *Taro Leaf* a major undertaking, and costs didn't enter my mind; after all we have a Treasurer. Fortunately, when it became apparent that costs were a factor, Don made me aware of that fact. Since then I have made major changes that affect cost. *(Continued on page 36)*



# MOH Headstone for Woody Keeble

*Photos and Story by Merry Helm*



The 17th of May was Woody Keeble's birthday.

Twenty-three years after his death, friends, relatives, and patriots gathered in his honor-not to celebrate his age, but his legacy.

On a beautiful sunny day at the Sisseton, SD, Cemetery, the wind unfurled the flags carried by Honor Guards and Patriot Guard, creating a sea of stars and stripes as stepson Russel Hawkins and grand-nephew Kurt Bluedog unveiled the head-



stone that will forever identify Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble as an American hero (photo above).

Members of the North and South Dakota Patriot Guard aligned themselves along the north edge of the veterans' circle, while Vietnam veterans from Keeble's Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate tribe stood watch on the opposite side (photo right). The Honor Detail from the Old Guard, Arlington, Virginia, fired the rifle salute, and their bugler played Taps (top right).



Seven veterans of the 24th Infantry Division paid their respects at the unveiling. They were (below right) from left: **Joe O'Connell**, Howe Co (hvywpns), 19th Reg, who gave machine gun fire for Keeble during his MOH action; Cmd. Sgt. Maj. (ret) **Bob Newkirk** who was in the 24th ID in WWII; Brig Gen (ret) **Gene Spicer** (in back) who was in 19th Regiment in Korea and is President of the 24th ID Assn; **Mario Iezzoni**, George Co. 19th Reg, who delivered food and supplies to Keeble during Operation Nomad; **Bob Richison**, 4th platoon of George Co, who gave cover for the rifle platoons in Operation Nomad; **Mel Frederick** who was in Easy Co. to the right of George Company during Operation Nomad, and who is VP of 24th ID Assn; and **Rex Napora** who was George Company runner during Operation Nomad.





# 24th IDA West Coast Reunion



*Continued Next Page*

# 50th Reunion

## 1st Airborne Battle Group, 187th Infantry Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division, Beirut, Lebanon, 1958 – to be Oct. 2008, Hudson Valley, New York



July 2008 will mark the 50th anniversary of Operation Bluebat, the United States' involvement in the Lebanon Crisis of 1958.

On the night of July 14–15, 1958 the commander of the 24th Airborne Brigade, 24th Infantry Division, stationed in Augsburg, Germany, was informed of the overthrow of the Iraqi government indicating the need to place the troopers of the Brigade on alert.

This led to a succession of events including the departure of the Brigade Headquarters and the 1st Airborne Battle Group 187th Infantry Combat Team from Furstenfeldbruck Air Base, Munich, Germany on the morning of July 16 with their ultimate destination being Beirut, Lebanon on July 19, with a staging lay-over at Incirlik Airbase, Adana, Turkey.

The troopers remained in Lebanon until mid-October 1958. Shortly thereafter the 187th returned to the United States, and those troopers whose overseas tour of service was not completed were reassigned to other units, thus losing track with one another.

While nothing serious developed during the Operation, leaving it simply as a footnote in history, much has been written about the Lebanon Crisis of 1958, including a paper by Roger J. Spiller titled "Not War, But Like War: The American intervention in Lebanon," published in 1981 by the Combat Studies Institute, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

In the succeeding 50 years, when troopers who were in Lebanon meet by accident, there has been mention of holding a reunion of the 1st Airborne Battle Group 187th Infantry Combat Team (Reinforced), 24th Airborne Brigade, Army Task Force 201. However, none has ever taken place.

This coming October one will be held in the Hudson Valley of New York State. Anyone interested in attending the reunion or in obtaining information about it should contact,

**Larry Lenahan, 24th IDA Life Mem. 2179; Ph 845/628-6229; e-mail: [atf201@gmail.com](mailto:atf201@gmail.com)**

## More West Coast Reunion Photos



*West Coast Reunion Photos by Mel Frederick & Bob Marszalek, More next pg*





## 19th & 34th Mini-Reunion, Pigeon Forge, TN



Contact: Bob Taylor, 302 Thunder Road, Brevard, NC, 28712, 888-884-9593, [bobnjoan@citicom.net](mailto:bobnjoan@citicom.net) for information about next year's event.

### More West Coast Reunion Photos







The Congressional Medal of Honor is the Nation's highest award for military Valor. It is given to those who acted with supreme courage and disregard of their own safety in battle. Only a handful of men are entitled to wear the Medal of Honor. It is bestowed by Act of Congress, and reflects Democracy's gratitude to those who offered everything they had in its defense, including life itself. The Medal of Honor is a humble token for sacrifices that cannot be repaid to its honored holders. From 1944 to 1951 fourteen 24th Infantry Division soldiers so distinguished themselves on the battlefield, and received this highest decoration. Four received for action in World War II, and the other ten for their action in the Korean War. Only General Dean, Lieutenant Dodd, and Sergeant Adams lived to receive the Medal personally. Sergeant Duke survived combat, but died later in a North Korean POW camp; Sergeant Keeble likewise survived but died 30 years before being recognized in 2008. All the others were killed in action.

Sergeant First Class **STANLEY T. ADAMS**

Olathe, Kansas

A Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 2 August 1951, near Sesim-ni, Korea

Sergeant First Class Adams' platoon, posted some 200 yards ahead of their company, came under heavy attack early in the morning by a force of approximately 250 enemy soldiers. Observing an estimated 150 silhouetted enemy troops, SFC Adams, along with 13 other soldiers, fixed bayonets and charged the enemy troops. Wounded in the leg, SFC Adams continued to close with the enemy and was knocked down four times from concussion grenades that had bounced off of his body. Shouting orders to his men, he engaged the enemy soldiers in hand-to-hand combat, downing man after man with his rifle butt. SFC Adams and his comrades killed over 50 enemy soldiers and forced the remainder to withdraw.

**24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association**

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Donald E. Maggio – 24th AG**

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