



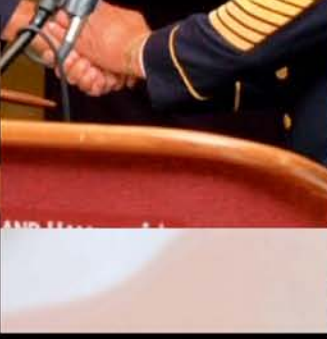
Indianapolis, Indiana



Charlotte Battin









19th Infantry Taro Leafers Reunite for First Time at Indy!

Indianapolis, IN, September 21, 2006. Taro Leafers from the 19th Infantry Regiment (from left): Don Vail, H. Co., Tom Thiel and Mel Frederick, E. Co., and Joe O'Connell, also H. Co., get together for first time in more than 50 years.



Mel and Tom last saw each other in February of 1952 at Camp Haugen, Japan, when Tom departed for the states, and Tom and Don last saw each other in August 1952 in Camp Roberts, CA, where they shared a cadre room while both were completing their military tours of duty. Joe and Don have been regularly attending H-Co. reunions in Missouri.

All four second battalion members and Association Life Members saw extensive action in the Kumsong, North Korea area, especially during Operation Nomad in October 1951. Don hails from nearby McCordsville, IN, Tom from Eustis, FL, Mel from Owatonna, MN, and Joe from Warminster, PA. Contacts: Mel Frederick, (507) 455-1639, Don Vail, (317) 335-3715, Joe O'Connell, (215) 672 6799, and Tom Thiel, (352) 357-3943.

Journalist Merry Helm Holds On-Camera Interviews at Indy

Merry Helm, a Fargo, ND, free-lance journalist, conducted on-camera interviews with members on their October 1951 experiences in the 24th's Operation Nomad-Polar. While researching the Woody Keeble MOH story (see page 32), Merry became so intensively absorbed that she abandoned a promising career in Public Radio to report on the 24th's actions.



In photo at left, Merry is 3rd from the left, and David Derry, is at far right (the others are identified above). David, also with George Co. 19th, was an eye-witness to Woody Keeble's brave actions during Operation Nomad.

Merry is applying her experience with writing television movies to two film projects about the 24th Division's actions during

October 1951; a documentary about MSGT Woodrow Keeble, and a feature film about Korea in the summer and fall of 1951. If you participated in Operation Nomad-Polar, she would very much welcome your personal story.

With the help of Tom Thiel and Joe O'Connell, Merry is also compiling a comprehensive database of awards, casualties, and company designations of all Korean War 24th ID veterans. She would appreciate any assistance you can provide her for this effort, including copies of unit rosters, and help in identifying men by company. You may contact Merry Helm at: 701-293-5045 or (mhelm@cablone.net), and David Derry, 731-742-4367. ###