

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

MYRTLE BEACH BY DAY  
MYRTLE BEACH AFTER DARK

THE BEST  
OF  
TWO WHIRLS.



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VOLUME XXI

NUMBER 4

1967 - 1968

## TARO LEAF

The publication "of, by and for those who served or serve" the glorious 24th Infantry Division, and published frequently by the 24th Infantry Division Association, whose officers are:

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*Have a Vacation with us!*



The Veterans of the 24th Infantry Division Meet Once More - for their Annual Reunion - at the Ocean Forest Hotel, Myrtle Beach, S.C., Thursday, Aug. 8th - Sunday Aug. 11th.

### THE PROGRAM

#### THURSDAY, August 8th:

9:00 AM to 6:00 PM	Registration - Assembly area - Ocean Forest
12:00 noon on	Lunch - You're on your own.
2:00 - 5:00 PM	Afternoon program - To be announced.
6:00 PM	Welcome Party - "Some- thing Old, Something New" Courtesy of "the Carolina Bunch" - at 24th Division Hospitality Suite - Buffet and Refreshments - a gala party.

#### FRIDAY, August 9th:

10:00 AM to 10:00 PM	Registration Desk at our "Tanemarah Beachhead" - open for enlistments. Trophy Room - we're call- ing it our "Alangalang Room" - open. Hospita- lity Room - complete with our own Taejon Bar" - open.
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(Once registered, "Take 5" to spot your buddies and start reliving the "days when" - you listen while he lies and then he listens while you lie.)

12:00 noon on Lunch - You're on your own.

(During the day "Take another 5" to tour Myrtle Beach and environs on your own. No planned tours per se are scheduled, but come forward, express your pleasure, and we'll help out.)

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM	"Our" Films - Taloma Cinema - whenever 2 or 3 indicate a desire to take a peek - chairs provided; bring your own log, if you insist.
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(Throughout the day - informal get-togethers - by regiments, battalions, companies, platoons, squads, or just plain "doggie meets doggie".)

(And the ocean and swimming pool are just outside our door, if it's a question of changing the routine.)

(And may we commend to you the suggestion that all of us - each of us - make a bona fide effort to avoid the gathering of small groups in the seclusion of our private rooms - that the feeling of exclusion will not be felt by any single one of our members or his lady. As the TV people sing it:

"The family that goes to a reunion together stays together".)

#### FRIDAY, August 9th:

1:00 PM	Committee Meetings - places to be announced. Executive Committee Nominating Committee Auditing Committee Constitution and By- Laws Committee Time and Place Committee
6:00 PM	Cocktail and Dinner Time- You're on your own.
7:00 PM ad infinitum	Organized disorganization. Entertainment: we make our own; it's cheaper and more fun; everyone invited to contribute. Retire when the gout starts kicking up. Join the fun and soak your ulcers. Members are requested to leave "Polack" stories in their rooms.

SATURDAY, August 10th:

Breakfast - You're on your own.

9:00 AM to 7:00 PM Registration - open. Trophy Room - open. Hospitality Room - open. The Bar - open.

10:00 AM to 1:30 PM Films

10:30 AM to 11:30 AM Meeting of Board of Directors Meetings of Committees: Auditing, Nominating, Time & Place, Constitution & By-Laws.

12:00 noon Luncheon - as you like it - when you like it - where you like it.

1:30 PM to 4:30 PM Annual Business Meeting. Call to Order Invocation Addresses of Welcome Introduction of Distinguished Guests Annual Address of the President Unfinished Business and New Business



"Act nonchalant."

Reports of Committees (The reading of the Articles of War and the showing of sex films are being omitted this year). Election of 1968-69 Officers Salection of the '69 Time and Place Adjournment sine die.

1:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Cocktails for the ladies who want to stay close by. Shopping for the ladies who want to go out and spend.

SATURDAY, August 10th:

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Cocktails for All - everyone invited - all mix it up in good fellowship.

7:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Dress - informal - "afternoon" or "cocktail" for the ladies - "suit coats" for the men.

9:30 PM to Dawn

Memorial Service - to honor those who have answered the call. Banquet and all that follows -

Entertainment: we make our own. Dancing - if the legs will take it. Chairs and elbow bending if the legs won't. Tables arranged as you want them - for cozy 2's, happy 4's, happier 6's, ambitious 8's, etc. The songs we used to sing (unexpurgated) - with beverages of our choice - a gathering for everyone for everyone's good time.

SUNDAY, August 11th:

6:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Church Services

10:00 AM 'til you wanna break away....

"The Eye Opener" courtesy of the Carolina membership. Carolina pastries, SOS, etc. Break bivovac. Farewells - Alohas - Sayonaras - Goodbyes - 'til '69.....

This program may be subject to change.

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL REUNION

zip code helps keep postal costs



Exceedingly thoughtful was GEN. CHARLES H. BONESTEEL, III, in sending us a beautifully bound volume covering the Task Force Smith Memorial Ceremony on July 5, 1967. We hesitated to cut the book up but finally decided so to do in order to share its contents with each of you. First, see what Gen. Bonesteel wrote in the flyleaf, addressing it to Past Prexy SAM GILNER:

Seoul Shinmoon played it thus in its July 5th issue:



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96301

Dear Mr. Gilner:

On 5 July of this year the officers and men of Task Force Smith, the vanguard of the 24th Infantry Division and US Army in the Korean War, were honored in ceremonies held on the spot where they so gallantly engaged North Korean Communist troops in 1950.

As you may know, a monument was built by the 24th Division at this spot. Since the departure of the 24th Division from Korea, Mr. Yu, He Hun has, with great personal effort, maintained the grounds of the monument and assured that a memorial service would be held annually on the 5th of July.

Since Mr. Yu is now reaching an advanced age, I have taken necessary action to insure that this ceremony will be held each year and the grounds properly maintained as long as American forces remain in Korea.

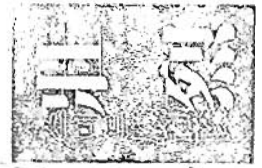
I am inclosing an album of photographs and press coverage of the memorial event which was held this year. This event was attended by many US and Republic of Korea military and civilian dignitaries. I hope you will find this material valuable to your historical files.

With every good wish to you and the members of the famed "Taro Leaf" Division, and with best wishes for a successful meeting.

Sincerely,

*C. H. Bonesteel, III*  
C. H. BONESTEEL, III  
General, United States Army  
Commanding

Incls.  
as



鶴山紀念塔에서 추모식  
[한글 기사 내용]  
北傀와 첫接戰서 散華한肉彈勇士들  
[한글 기사 내용]  
美軍 6.25參戰 17돌  
[한글 기사 내용]

Chosun Ilbo, in its issue of July 6th wrote:

美軍 6.25參戰 17돌

美軍 6.25參戰 17돌  
[한글 기사 내용]

1968 DUES  
ARE NOW DUE!



Honor Guard squads from the 2nd and 7th Infantry Divisions form a cordon leading to the hilltop monument.



General Bonesteel pays homage to the gallant men who fought and died here.



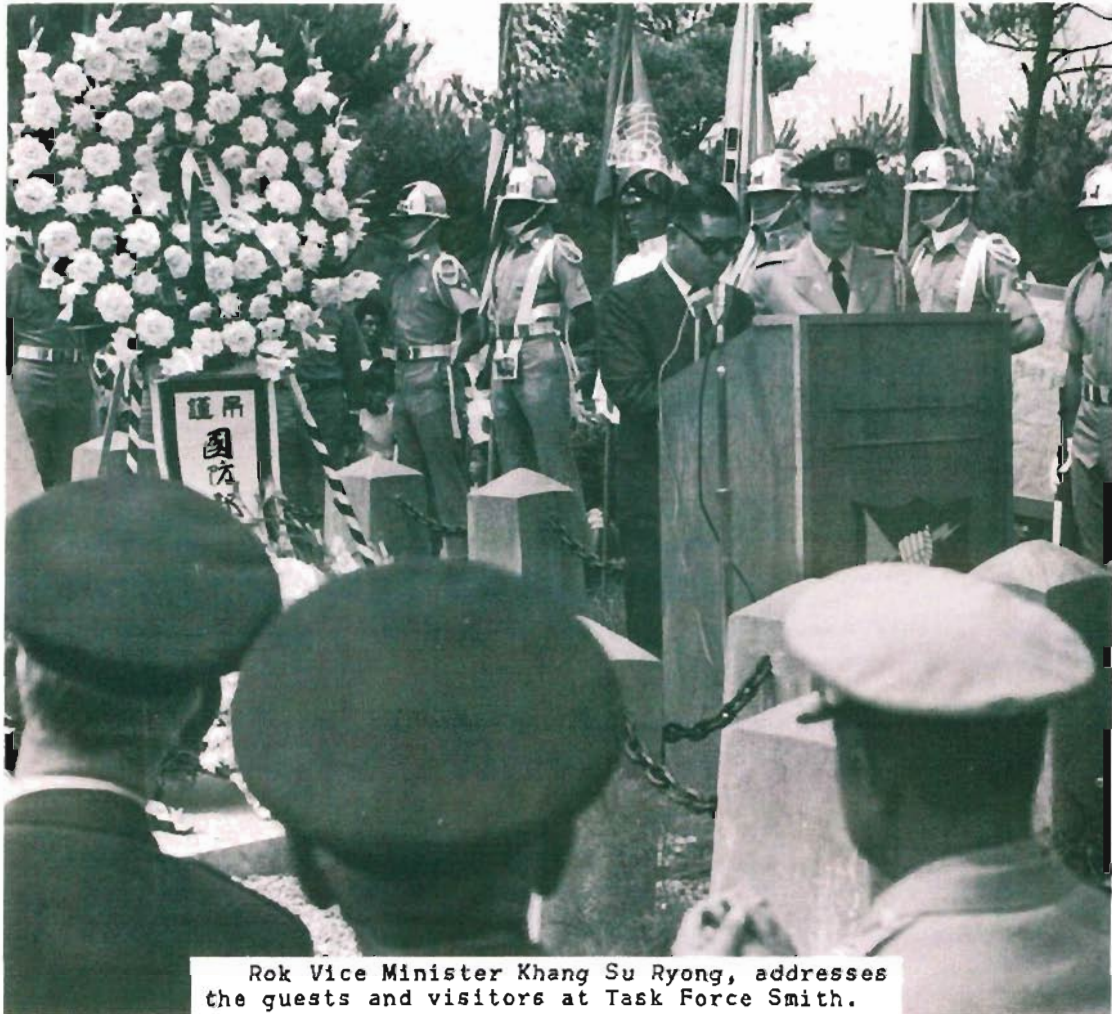
Task Force trio receives warm handshake from Minister Khang.



Mr. Yu Hee Hun (far right) curator of the Hwasung County Cultural Center, recalls the history of the monument and past ceremonies for honored guests and Task Force members.



(From left) Minister Khang, General Bonesteel, Vice Admiral Kim Yong Kwan, Chief of Naval Operations, Lt.Gen. Min Hyung Tae, Rok Army Vice Chief of Staff and Lt.Gen. Shim Heung Sun, Director of Rok Joint Chiefs of Staff.



Rok Vice Minister Khang Su Ryong, addresses the guests and visitors at Task Force Smith.

Stars & Stripes, of July 4, 1967, wrote thus:

# July 5, 1950: A Day Korea Remembers

SEOUL (UNC) — On land consecrated by the blood of gallant soldiers, U.S. and Korean dignitaries and guests will pay tribute Wednesday to Task Force Smith, the first American fighting men to see action against the invading North Korean army during the Korean War.

The annual Task Force Smith ceremony will be held on a tree-covered hilltop at Chukmi-ryong, near Osan, at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Along the ridgelines there, a hastily assembled 540-man contingent from the U.S. 24th Inf. Div. made its first and last stand as a unit against 33 Soviet-made T34 tanks and a regiment of North Korean infantry in a bloody, six-hour battle on the rainy morning of July 5, 1950.

Comprised of 406 soldiers of the 24th Infantry's 21st (Gimlet) Regt., and 134 men from the division's 52d Field Arty. Bn., Task Force Smith had an

impossible job trying to stop the enemy.

The men spent the Fourth of July, 1950, marching through rain-soaked fields to meet a new and unknown enemy.

Many spent the fifth of July dying in the same rice paddies and ridgelines, at the hands of a well-equipped foe who was suddenly no longer a stranger.

Though greatly outnumbered, the task force acquitted itself nobly and, before withdrawing to Taejon, inflicted heavy losses on the North Koreans. One-hundred-and-fifty of those Americans were left dead, wounded or missing in their valiant effort to win a hopeless battle.

The scars of that battle—which won more time for allied troops to reach Korea and dig in for the eventual success in stopping the Communist aggression—have long since disappeared from the fields and mountain slopes.

Only a stone obelisk at Chukmi-ryong hill remains as a re-

minder of the battle for Osan. The monument was erected by the 24th Inf. Div. and dedicated July 5, 1955. It is maintained by the Korean Federation of Cultural Centers (KFCC) through the Hwasong County Cultural Center.

Wednesday, honor squads from the U.S. 2d and 7th Inf. Divs. will form a cordon at the steps leading to the hilltop, as the dignitaries and guests arrive for the ceremony.

Heo Hun Yu, curator of the Hwasong Cultural Center, will speak briefly to open the ceremony. Following a brief, silent meditation, the Eighth U.S. Army Band will play the national anthems of the Republic of Korea and the United States.

Floral wreaths will be placed on the memorial by three U.S. Army personnel in Korea who served with Task Force Smith in 1950.

They are Lt. Col. Robert Campbell, presently working

with U.S. Forces Korea Headquarters in Seoul; Sgt. 1.C. Billy R. Smith of the 2d Inf. Div. Support Command, Camp Ross, and S.Sgt. Arvie F. Taylor of C Btry., 6th Bn., 12th Arty., I Corps (Group) Arty., Camp St. Barbara.

Flanked by the United Nations Command color guard, a rifle squad will fire a 24-gun salute to the fallen heroes of July 5, 1950. As the sound of the last shot dies away, a bugler will play "Taps," echoed by a second bugler on a nearby hill.

Gen. Charles H. Bonesteel, III, commander-in-chief, UNC, will address the dignitaries and guests at the ceremony. The four-star general has a personal interest in Task Force Smith. His grandfather, his father and he all served with the 21st Inf. "Gimlets."

At the close of the ceremony, the Osan Girls Commercial High School Chorus will sing a memorial song.

For a brief period, the clock will have been turned back to 1950 for the three U.S. fighting men. Again for them there will be the clanking of the advancing enemy armor, the chatter of rifle fire muffled by rain and fog, the acrid smell of battle.

Then the guests will leave to resume the tasks of 1967, the band will mute its instruments, and silence will return to the monument for another year. Later there will come an occasional UNC serviceman to visit the memorial, along with local farmers who climb to the coolness of the tree-shrouded slopes and gaze across the sea of green rice paddies below.

The ceremony will be over, but the members of the United Nations Command—joined by citizens of Korea—have not forgotten the gallant men of Task Force Smith who helped insure that the Republic of Korea would remain free.

The Korea Herald of July 6, 1967 covered the story thus:

## First of Korean War

### Rite Recalls U.S. Action

By HYONG-YOL KIM

CHUKMI HILL, near Osan Air Base—A full military honor ceremony was held on this tree-covered hilltop yesterday in tribute to the first U.S. troops to fight against invading north Korean Communists during the Korean War.

The annual ceremony was participated in by hundreds of local citizens, students and ROK and U.S. military leaders, including Vice Defense Minister Suh-ryong Kang, Gen. Charles H. Bonesteel, commander of the U.S. Forces in Korea and U.N. Command, and chiefs of service branches.

Along these ridgelines here, a hastily assembled 540-man contingent dubbed Task Force Smith, named after Lt. Col. Charles F. Smith, from the 24th U.S. Infantry Division made its first and last stand as a unit against 33 Soviet-made tanks and a regiment of north Korean infantry troops in a bloody, six-hour battle on the rainy morning of July 5, 1950.

Comprised of 406 soldiers of the 21st (Gimlet) Regiment and 134 men from the division's 52d Field Artillery Battalion, Task Force Smith had an impossible job in trying to stop the enemy.

Though greatly outnumbered, the task force acquitted

itself nobly and, before withdrawing to Taejon, inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. One hundred and fifty of those American soldiers were left dead, wounded or missing in the valiant effort to win a hopeless battle.

The scars of that battle—which won more time for allied troops to reach Korea and dig in for the eventual success in stopping the Communist aggression—have long since disappeared from these fields and mountain slopes.

Only a stone monument at this hill remains as a commemorative reminder of the battle. The monument was erected by the 24th Division and dedicated on July 5, 1955, and it is maintained by the Korean Federation of Cultural Centers through the Hwasong County Cultural Center.

Representing the task force at the ceremony were three U.S. soldiers—one officer and two enlisted men—currently serving in Korea. They were Lt. Col. Robert Campbell, Sfc. Billy R. Smith and S. Sgt. Arvie F. Taylor.

Recalling the war situation 17 years ago, Col. Campbell said yesterday, "I don't think we really expected to meet any tanks." Campbell was then a second lieutenant and a rifle platoon leader.

"We realized that this was going to be a battle...no doubt about it," he added.

Sfc. Smith, who is currently assigned to the 2nd U.S. Infantry Division, said that the general feeling among U.S. soldiers at the time was that the Communists would turn around and run the other way as soon as they saw U.S. fighting men.

"It felt like we were going on a picnic and that we would be back on Japan occupation duty in a couple of weeks," commented the Korean War veteran. "It didn't out that way."

During the ceremony, wreaths were placed on the memorial by ROK and U.S. officials and the three former members of the task force. Flanked by the U.N. Command color guard, a rifle squad fired a 24-gun salute to the fallen heroes of the battle.

As the sound of the last shot died away, a bugler played Taps, echoed by a second bugler on a nearby hill. Delivering the commemorative addresses were Vice Defense Minister Kang and Gen. Charles H. Bonesteel.

At the close of the ceremony, the Osan Girls Commercial High School chorus sang a memorial song to the brave soldiers who participated in the battle.

The July 6th Korea Times wrote this of the event:

### Commemoration Held For 'Task Force Smith'

By Kim Myoung-sik

ON THE CHUKMI-RYONG HILL — People around this historic site were joined by high home and U.S. military leaders yesterday in their commemoration ceremony for "Task Force Smith" on this tree-covered hilltop near Osan.

Vice Defense Minister Khang Suh-ryong, Commander-in-chief of the United Nations Command Gen. Charles H. Bonesteel III, and service chiefs of Korean Armed Forces attended the ceremony.

The dignitaries laid wreaths before the memorial monument for the gallant soldiers of the task force, who were the first foreigners to engage the invading north Korean army on July 5, 1950.

Solemn music by the Eighth Army Brass band echoed over the hilly area about 20 miles south of Seoul, while the villagers of Osan and other attendants paid tribute to the heroes of Task Force Smith.

The hastily assembled contingent from the Japan-based 24th U.S. Infantry Division suffered 150 casualties out of its original 540 men in the first six-hour engagement with the strange aggressors, the north Korean Communists.

The memorial monument, a stone obelisk, was erected by the 24th Infantry Division on July 5, 1955, and was maintained

by the Korean Federation of Cultural Centers through the Hwasong County Cultural Center.

In the ceremony, three U.S. Army personnel in Korea who served with Task Force Smith in 1950 also placed floral wreaths on the memorial. They are Lt. Col. Robert Campbell presently working with U.S. Forces in Korea headquarters; Sfc. Billy R. Smith of the 2nd U.S. Infantry Division; and S. Sgt. Arvie F. Taylor of the U.S. Corps (Group) Artillery.

At the close of the ceremony the Osan Girls Commercial High School chorus sang a memorial song.

