

TARO LEAF

24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
Kenwood Ross, Editor
120 Maple Street, Room 207
Springfield MA
01103-2278

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Spicer, Gene E.
RR 1, Box 303
Commiskey IN 47227

Far away, but
not forgotten

1990



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 26, 1990

I am delighted to send greetings to all those gathered in Buffalo for the 24th Infantry Division Association's annual reunion.

All Americans owe a lasting debt of gratitude to our combat veterans. Much of the cost of our precious freedom has been borne by the brave and selfless members of our Armed Forces, and those of the 24th Infantry Division have certainly given their share. Yours is an outstanding record of service that dates back to the fateful Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II and continues today with the elements of the 24th that are deployed in the Persian Gulf. The 24th stands ready, as it always has, to defend the universal cause of freedom and justice.

I salute you and join you in paying tribute to your fallen comrades. They, like you and the legacy of the 24th Infantry Division, will never be forgotten.

Barbara joins me in sending best wishes for a most enjoyable reunion. God bless you.

Gay Bush

TARO LEAF



COMMANDER IN CHIEF
UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
OPERATION DESERT SHIELD, APO NY 09852

GREETINGS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of the 43rd reunion of the Victory Division, it is my distinct honor and privilege to offer you a very special message from Saudi Arabia where yet another generation of brave, courageous and dedicated soldiers of the 24th Infantry Division are on the cutting edge of our Nation's defense.

Like many of you who went before, it is now their turn to hold back the onslaught of yet another ruthless, vicious dictator who threatens the very principles of decency and humanity. This time, the Victory Division has drawn a line of world resolve in the hot, dry sands of the Arabian desert. As in the past, the Division stands guard not just for the United States, but for the entire civilized world community!

When I visited our troops far forward in the desert last week, I looked into their youthful eyes, and could not help but reflect on the days of Leyte's Red Beach, Korea's Task Force Smith, and other hallowed places where similar faces, now graced with age and wisdom, shined with the same vigilance and resoluteness. The sight of these great soldiers in their Abrams Tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles would touch the soul of all who have worn the Taro Leaf. I wish you could be here to see them.

In closing, I know each of you would be truly inspired by today's First To Fight soldiers enduring the heat, sand and uncertainty of Saudi Arabia with confidence and courage. It makes my chest swell with pride to not only be serving our Nation, but to be a part of the Victory Division family. In my heart, I know the 24th Division is America's true Desert Shield.

- H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF, GENERAL, USCINCCENT



TARO LEAF

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* * *

Association membership is open to anyone and everyone who wears or ever wore the Taro Leaf or served in any of its attached units.

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* * *

1991 annual Convention
will be in
San Francisco, California,
September 26 to 29.

* * *

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When it comes to Military Reunions



Our indefatigable Convention Chair Lady FRAN VELLA and our Chaplain JOE HOFRICHTER say "Cheese" for PHIL HOSTETTER, our indefatigable cameraman. Nice shot, Phil.



Our own precious neighbors, Clarys and ART KEMP, seem to appear on film each year - blame it on PHIL HOSTETTER - no, not "blame" - it couldn't happen to a nicer pair.



The long and the short of it, as PHIL HOSTETTER caught it. Big BILL BROOME almost, not quite, got outside of the camera's reach. And with him is the most delightful Delia Cabesa, of the P.I., now living in Canada - Toronto, isn't it, Delia?



Doctor PHIL HOSTETTER's award-winning shot from his Buffalo files. It's Doctor URBAN THROM and his oh-so-lovely bride, Teddie. Our warm wishes go out to this most delightful pair.

Whoever said, "It's not whether you win or lose," probably lost.
Martina Navratilova.

Sprightly!
Lively!
Vivacious!
Just wonder-
ful to know.
This lovely
lady is
Ms. GEORGE
(Susan)
FALSO, (G
(G 21st
10/51-3/53)
of HC 67,
Box 51,
Greig NY.
Another
great one
taken by
PHIL
HOSTETTER.



Here's a sad one -
Life Member 703 WARFIELD E. SHIPLET
(24th QM '50-'52) who was living in
Oxford PA is now at Perry Point Nursing
Home. Full address is:

Bldg. 9H, Room 215, Second Floor
Perry Point Nursing Home
Perry Point MD 21902.

Take 5 - or 10 - will you please - and
drop a note or a card to this old soldier -
PLEASE!

Without money, blind, this 77 year old
veteran is down a well.

Warfield was in France, Belgium,
Luxembourg, Switzerland and Germany in
WW II. Then in '49, he reenlisted and
ended up with us. Was MIA for 14 days in
July '50. "Was wounded, came home, and
got discharged." We won't forget you,
Warfield.

Who do you think spent a recent weekend
at Camp Mower - in Sasebo? LES "Little
Brown" BROWN, (L 34th '46-'48) and Joan
and daughter. Says it's no longer Camp
Mower; it's Camp Okita.

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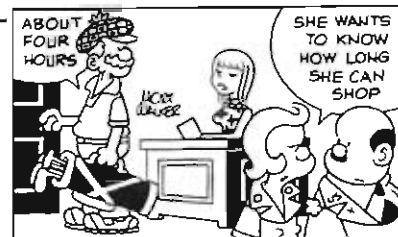
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U.S. Commander Urges Caution on Attacking Iraq

*Says Nation's Ruin May
Damage Long-Term
Balance of Power*

By YOUSSEF M. IBRAHIM

Special to The New York Times

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov. 1 — The commander of the American forces facing Iraq said today that his troops could obliterate Iraq, but cautioned that total destruction of that country might not be "in the interest of the long-term balance of power in this region."

"President Bush has stated again and again, our argument is not with the Iraqi people, and that would cause thousands and thousands of innocent casualties," the commander, Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, said in an interview. "I do think there are other alternatives to having to drive on to Baghdad and literally dig out the entire Baathist regime and destroy them all in order to have peace and stability in the area." [Excerpts, page A8.]

The general said the decision on the kind of military action that might be taken against Iraq rested with Mr. Bush and leaders in the Persian Gulf region.

General Schwarzkopf, who came to Riyadh in late August to take command of the more than 210,000 American troops in Saudi Arabia and the gulf region, indicated that while he believed a war could erupt "anytime," he did not expect military action soon.

Urges 6-to-8-Month Rotation

The American commander made these points in the hourlong interview today:

¶ He has recommended to the Pentagon that American combat units in Saudi Arabia be rotated out of the country every six to eight months. This would be a sharp departure from the policy followed in Vietnam, under which soldiers were rotated home on a yearly basis. The Army wants to maintain unit integrity to preserve morale and fighting cohesion, military officials said. This means that the American troops who arrived in August and September may very well remain here past Christmas, he said.

¶ Iraqi missiles will have only a modest effect on the conduct of any battle because they are highly inaccurate and because the Iraqis have a relatively small number of rocket launchers. General Schwarzkopf played down Iraq's ability to mount chemical warheads on its missiles.

¶ The continued operation of Saudi oil fields and production plants is fairly immune to Iraqi attacks, which to



David Turnley/Black Star

American forces in the Persian Gulf could obliterate Iraq, according to their commander, Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, shown in September.

Need we say more?



The Japanese get Pebble Beach and we get the world's biggest sand trap!

Continued on Page A8, Column 1

Important News:
Please Read!

U.S. Commander in Gulf Says Ruin of Iraq Should Not Be the Goal

Continued From Page A1

cause serious damage would have to be carried out by the Iraqi Air Force in repeated strikes. He said such a possibility was virtually nil given the superiority of the allied air forces and anti-missile defenses.

Many Iraqi Army generals who performed well in the eight-year war with Iran have been executed by President Saddam Hussein so he would not have to share the limelight with them, and several other generals who planned the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait have also been eliminated, creating widespread fear and distrust in the upper echelons of the Iraqi Army.

The American four-star general also gave his assessment of the quality of Iraq's estimated 430,000 troops facing his forces in southern Iraq and Kuwait. He said that while the members of the Iraqi Republican Guard were of high standards, they were kept away from the front lines, leaving those positions to be manned by the worst elements in the Iraqi Army, who "know they've been put out here to die, and that that is why they have low morale."

Sipping ice-cold water throughout the interview, General Schwarzkopf, dressed in his battle fatigues, said he had long studied the character and psychological profile of Mr. Hussein, a man the general described as "an island of a man, who has really both isolated and insulated himself from the entire rest of the world."

He said the Iraqi "wants to be the leader of the Arab people no matter what it costs — and certainly no matter what it costs the people of his own country."

The general has given about 20 interviews since arriving in Saudi Arabia, and has carefully avoided any discussion of detailed battle plans like the remarks that led to the dismissal of Gen. Michael J. Dugan, the Air Force Chief of Staff, in September. General Dugan was dismissed for saying the Joint Chiefs of Staff believed that the only effective military option for driving Iraq out of Kuwait was heavy bombing of Baghdad to "decapitate" the senior Iraqi leadership.

General Schwarzkopf — a 6-foot, 3-inch-tall man whose troops nicknamed him "the Bear" and "Stormin' Norman" — exuded confidence, asserting at several points that he had not the slightest doubt that his troops would decisively defeat the Iraqi Army in any war.

Speaking of the objectives of the 300,000 American-led allied troops concentrated here, he said the force had the technological advantage and sufficient firepower to obliterate Iraq if so ordered. But he added, "I would like to think that the ultimate objective is to make sure that we have peace, stability and a correct balance of power in the Middle East so that nations can continue to prosper without the fear of being attacked or blackmailed by a neighboring state."

He said one way to do that, after an Iraqi defeat or retreat, would be to establish a peacekeeping force of regional powers, with Americans taking part only if they were asked to do so.

He expressed his fervent hope that a war can be avoided as Mr. Hussein, whom he described as a "megalomaniac" and "ruthless" man, realizes he is facing impossible odds.

"He is not stupid," General Schwarzkopf said of the Iraqi. "And I would

hope that within this conflict he would understand that to continue down this road where we are going, is going to lead to his destruction, and, therefore, he will not accomplish any of these things that he has in mind."

The general cast strong doubts on the effectiveness of Iraqi missiles to hit targets in Saudi Arabia accurately or in any significant numbers.

"I cannot say that no missile will come in," he said. "It would be foolish for me to say that. But I can tell you

There are alternatives to taking Baghdad, the general says.

that I discount their rhetoric about their missiles because we know a great deal about their missiles, and the things that they claim they can do we do not think they can do."

The general interrupted the interview — which was held in an air-conditioned Government office that cannot be identified under military briefing rules — at about 3 P.M. Saudi time to take a 15-minute telephone call from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Colin L. Powell, who he said calls at the same hour almost every day, at 7 A.M. in Washington.

Saudi Oilfields Called Safe

General Schwarzkopf also said the Saudi oilfields, which lie largely in Eastern Province of this country near the Persian Gulf coast, were by and

large immune to major disruptions by Iraqi missile or air attacks. He said, however, that the Iraqis could seriously damage Kuwait's oil installations.

The general said there were no major problems of coordination among the forces gathered here — the Americans, as well as thousands of British, Egyptian, French, Syrian, Moroccan, Pakistani and other forces.

"Anytime you have this many forces involved in an operation, it's complicated," he said. "It's complicated even if you have this many forces involved from only one nation. So it is not a simple business at all, but I am satisfied that currently we have as good a coordination as possible, as could be asked for."

Although he did not say so, the general left little doubt that while all the forces here are in theory under the command of Saudi Arabia, if a war started, it would be American commanders, and ultimately himself, who would direct the forces.

Three Goals Set Forth

Asked whether all the nations whose armies are gathered here agree on their strategic objective, General Schwarzkopf said his military mission had three clear goals: the defense of Saudi Arabia, the liberation of Kuwait with the restoration of its legitimate Government and the establishment of stability and peace in the region, an objective he acknowledged needed to be clarified further.

While he refused to be pinned down on how long the confrontation may last, he said he had already recommended that the American troops here since August should be rotated to ease the strain of the austere social climate and



COMMANDER IN CHIEF
UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
OPERATION DESERT SHIELD, APO NY 09452

September 13, 1990

Dear Ken,

Thanks for your recent letter of support. Sorry to miss the reunion, but as I'm sure you understand, I'll be otherwise employed. I will be there in spirit! Nevertheless, I would like to pass on to the Association my thoughts on the Division as it is deployed in the Arabian desert and on the young soldiers who wear the Taro Leaf today. I hope you can find an appropriate moment during the schedule to relay my thoughts (encl 1) to the gathered members.

Please pass on my regrets for not being with you in Buffalo, but know that there is no place that I would rather be than serving here with the Nation's finest. First To Fight!

Sincerely,

H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF
General, U.S. Army

Mideast Tensions: Talking With the Top General

Excerpts From Interview With Commander of American Forces in Gulf

Special to The New York Times

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov. 1 — Following are excerpts from an interview here today with Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of American forces in the Persian Gulf region:

Q. How many troops do we have here? The Pentagon said another 100,000 are coming, so where are we heading? What's the ultimate number?

A. I am not sure the Pentagon ever announced another 100,000 men. I think there were a lot of discussions about it. We have over 210,000 troops here now, and we are continuing to flow into the area. No upper limits were ever established over the number of troops we were going to have in countries and, so we are continuing to build robustness into the forces we have here.

Q. How much is enough?

A. For a military man you can never have enough. I think it is fair to say that President Bush has announced that he wants to let the sanctions have an opportunity to work, and, if the sanctions don't work, then he is prepared to pursue other options. It is my job to make sure that we continue to flow forces until I am sure that I am prepared to execute whatever options the President is prepared to select.

How Long a Fight?

Q. When battle-time comes, how tough and how long a battle is it likely to be? Hours, as some Saudis say, days, longer, or you just don't know?

A. I think that is the correct answer. We just don't know. As a military commander I have to prepare for the worst. And, that's exactly what I am doing. I think we have vastly superior fire power and technology and I can assure you that if we have to go to war, I am going to use every single thing that is available to me to bring as much destruction in the Iraqi forces as rapidly as I possibly can in the hopes of winning victory as quickly as possible.

And, you know you can think of all sorts of different scenarios that would cause it to be over quickly. But on the other hand, I can think of other scenarios that could cause it not to be over quickly, too.

The most dangerous thing a commander could do, or that a country can do, in planning for battle is assume away the capabilities of the enemy.

The Strategic Goal

Q. What is the strategic goal? We know the mission, but what is the basic idea? Is it to liberate Kuwait or to remove the whole Saddam regime?

A. ... There are alternatives to destroying Saddam Hussein or to destroying his regime. I like to think that the ultimate objective is to make sure that we have peace, stability and a correct balance of power in the Middle East, so that all nations can continue to prosper without the fear of being attacked or blackmailed by a neighboring state. There are many ways you can accomplish that. Obviously one way would be the total destruction of Iraq, but I am not sure that is in the interest of the long-term balance of power in this region.

So, and again, President Bush has stated again and again, our argument is not with the Iraqi people, and that would cause thousands and thousands of innocent casualties and I

don't think anybody wants that. So, as a military man, obviously these decisions are going to be made at a level far higher than mine as to the long-term geopolitical situation in this part of the world, but I do think there are other alternatives to having to drive on to Baghdad and literally dig out the entire Baathist regime and destroy them all in order to have peace and stability in the area.

I think there are some arrangements, long-term security arrangements. I hesitate to fall back on the NATO model because I don't want to sound like I am advocating something, but you know NATO was a great success. We've only found that out now, after all those years of questioning the validity of NATO and the way NATO worked, lo and behold, you know, we now have reunified Germany. We have peace in Europe and NATO was a great success.

NATO was containment, but not necessarily U.S. presence. We've made it very clear from the outset that if invited, we would come, and that when asked to leave, we would go, and we are not seeking permanent bases in this region.

Obviously, if in the future we were asked to stay that's something that will have to be addressed by people much higher than ours, but it doesn't have to be necessarily U.S. forces. There are a lot of areas where peace has been maintained by other forces. Right now there are peacekeeping forces in a lot of areas of the world that are maintaining the peace, and perhaps that's an alternative. So it doesn't necessarily demand the destruction of Saddam Hussein, although it personally wouldn't bother me if he were to step aside and make life a lot easier for all of us.

A Close Encounter

Q. There is a story going around that says you ran into some Iraqis.

A. It is true that I was on the border, and I was looking out in front of me with binoculars like Beau Geste, looking over the sands, and the border post commanders said, "Would you like to see some Iraqi trucks?" and I said, "Sure," and he said, "Well, they are right in front of you."

Of course I was looking out thousands of kilometers and there was nothing out there.

And he said, "No, they are right in front of you." And I said, "I am looking out there," and he said they were right down below me. They were trucks. Then I said, "Where are the people in the trucks?" and he said, "They are right downstairs," and my security people went crazy, as you can well imagine. But I did go out and checked the equipment. It's in terrible shape. I was delighted.

A Dove or a Hawk?

Q. Your last interview struck me as, shall we say, dovish? It was taken as a strong desire to avoid a conflict. What are you assuming on terms of losses, and how resolved are you to take losses?

A. I don't consider myself dovish. And, I certainly don't consider myself hawkish. Maybe I would describe myself as owlsh — that is, wise enough to understand that you want to do everything possible to avoid war — that once you're committed to war, then ferocious enough to do whatever is necessary to get it over as quickly as possible in victory.

If we have to fight, I am going to use everything that is available to me to inflict the

maximum number of casualties on the enemy as possible. Now, why do I do that? I do that because I want to minimize the casualties in my troops and the way to do that is to make the enemy pay dearly rather than make your own forces dearly. The reason why we have generals, I think, the reason that we have people that devote their lives to the military is to train people how to accomplish their mission, but also to train them how to do it with the least cost in human lives.

Q. What about the welfare of the hostages stuck in Iraq?

A. I think if it comes to war, you obviously have to consider the hostage, but you shouldn't be constrained severely because of the hostages.

Being Prepared

Q. You are talking as though you have plenty of time?

A. No, I am ready. The last thing my commanders do every night before they go to sleep is ask themselves, "Are we ready to go to war tomorrow morning if it happens?" And that is one of the requirements that I have placed upon them. So, I am confident that if we have to go to war tomorrow morning we are ready. If we are attacked tomorrow morning we are going to be prepared for it no matter how that attack comes.

Q. Now when is that for — next week, the week after, by Christmas?

A. I have already told you, I hope it doesn't come. What I hope is that Saddam Hussein understands, you know, finally that he is going to lose. There is no question about the fact that he has got the entire world lined up against him.

Troop Rotation

Q. What do you do about rotation of troops? This is a tough place to take, even for those of us who are staying in Riyadh.

A. If we are over here for any length of time, we're going to have to have a rotation policy, just as we did in Vietnam. In Vietnam the rotation policy was a year. I think the rotation policy over here would be shorter than that. I have already made my recommendation to the Department of Defense and they are being considered right now and we may see a rotation policy announced shortly. Again, that is totally dependent, of course on how long we're here. Which at this point, we could start going home tomorrow, if Saddam Hussein comes to his senses.

We are looking to six to eight months to rotate the combat units home, something like that. I don't think the combat units will stay a year over here because as you say it is a very severe environment.

Assessing the Enemy

Q. What do you think of Saddam? What kind of enemy are you facing? How do you read the man?

A. I've read a good deal about him. Some of the best writing has been done by Arabs. If you study his childhood and the things that happened that formed this man that is Saddam Hussein, I think you come to the conclusion that this is an island of a man, who is really both isolated and insulated himself from the entire rest of the world.



Recognize 'em? Why it's BRUCE PRICE (B & C 19th '42-'45) on the left side of your screen, and LENNIE MORTON (AT 19th '43-'46) on the right side. Good clear shot, Dr. HOSTETTER. Thank you.



A couple of our favorites. DALLAS DICK and our favorite photographer's favorite, Helen HOSTETTER.



PHIL HOSTETTER, you've played right into our hands with this one. It's the kind we like - a couple of Taro Leafers at Buffalo - father and son - KARL F. FORD, SR. and KARL F. FORD, JR.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1990-91 DUES?
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CONSIDER THIS YOUR INVOICE

KEN ELLIS (5th RCT - 555 FA '48-'51) of Box 297A, Rt. 2, Walnut Grove MS -39189, that's Mississippi in case you're wondering - we were - is on the sick book. He has lost a kidney - surgery - and is a diabetic - but lovely Jerolene tells us that they believe the malignancy to be under control. A card to this lovely couple will do wonders here.

Remember "Hubba Hubba"? Don't hear it much these days. How about you?



We've got all kinds in this club. STAN LEMM, (G 21st, Hq. 2nd Bn., 21st '43-'45), over at 237 Fairmont, San Carlos CA, has a unique hobby - doll houses for the kids. Look at that detail, will ya? Stan loves to watch the expressions on the faces as he delivers these things.





JACK ANDERSON selling VINNIE VELLA a bill-of-goods - or vice versa, Cameraman PHIL HOSTETTER knows not which.



The "old" - TOM UPTON, sitting, and the "new" - HERB CARLSON, standing, as caught by the ever-active camera of Dr. PHIL HOSTETTER.



JOHN and Janice CARTER (E 19th '40-'45) all the way up from Waycross GA, proved they still know something about the terpsichorean art. Sez Johnny: You know you're growing old when your knees buckle and your belt won't. Knees don't look buckl'in to us, John.

Kudos go to all the Vella people who worked so valiantly in helping to "make Vinnie's reunion for his old comrades" the success that it was. The envelope please - hats off to daughter Barbara Cioffi - who took a week off and came over from Vermont to help her Mother and Dad - to daughter Cynthia Chiarmonte who likewise had her shoulder to the wheel - to Vinnie and Fran's "only" son, Gerry, and his beloved Sheila, in the pitching, - and lastly, to Mildred Palma, Fran's sister. A great bunch of workers.



Another peachy bit of PHIL's delightful artistry - two of our lovely gals - to your left, Meliza HOGGATT, Ms. HORACE (Meliza) HOGGATT (339 Eng. '43-'45) and Ms. HENRY (Elsa) MCCUMBIE (19th '44-'46). We're gonna cheat here a little - we're gonna cut this nice photo down the center and bring these two ladies closer together.



MEMBERSHIP IS
OUR STRENGTH —
PAY YOUR
1991 DUES
TODAY

THE LEADING EDGE ON THE WATER'S EDGE

That's just where we'll be come next September -- at the water's edge - on San Francisco Bay - at the Marriott - actually in Burlingame, about 1/2 mile south of the San Francisco Airport. In fact you can sit at the Marriott and watch its heavy traffic coming and going. And only a short haul into San Francisco too. You know, we feel quite certain, that it's "San Francisco" - never "Frisco" - a cardinal sin for the folks of the "city on the bay".



IT BRINGS OUT
THE

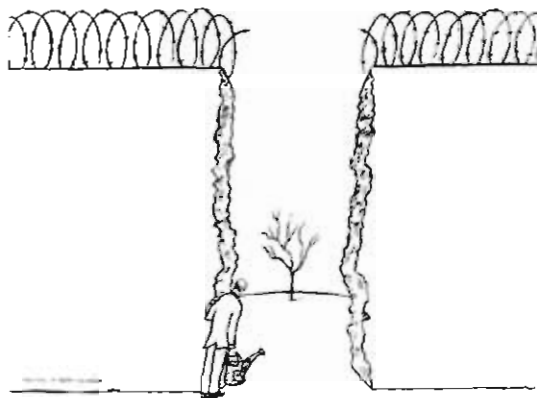
BEST

IN ALL OF US



The Association is up to the wall on donations for the Korean Memorials (east coast and west coast versions). We have already contributed dollars to each - in the Association name. And we chance to know that quite a few of our members have already contributed individually to one or the other or both. Now, we'd like to make one last appeal. If there are among you any members who would like to make a modest last minute contribution via the Association, we ask that you send your check, payable to the "24th Inf.Div. Assn." at 120 Maple St., Rm. 207, Spfld. MA 01103, and marked either "For the Washington Memorial" or "For the California Memorial." We'll add the \$ up and send single checks to the respective committees - hopefully before Christmas - and in time we'll publish the contributors in a forthcoming Taro Leaf. Hopefully this will end it. We might have tried to clean this one up at Buffalo. Unfortunately we never got to it. It's a must; we've got to make a showing as an Association. Can we count on you - for a few dollars? - any given amount will help.

Now here's a fella who wants action. Lets give it to him. Col. OLEN O'CONNOR writes from 1278 Los Arcos, Prescott AZ 86301. Says we never have anything on the 26th AAA AW Bn. Let's hear it, you guys - sound off as if you had a pair. You write 'em; we'll print 'em.



WHEN THE WALLS COME CRUMBLING DOWN

And they've been crumbling for a long time for poor BOBBY WILLIS HELMS (C 5th RCT '52-'53). Bobby's at Rt. 1, Box 135A, Union SC. Ma Bell will get him for you if you punch out 803-427-5730. Anyway here's the story. Bobby's trying to support a claim - 38 years later? He was wounded "near the Punch Bowl in late '52 or early '53." Ya gotta admit there's not much to go on here - but is there anyone out there in Taro Leaf Land who has any idea of what we're talking about? Call us collect if you can help!!

On the Agenda

We respond to the request of an anxious mother, one of our lovely members, Ms. Judy Faye Jordan asks that we publish the name of her son, her only child. He's in Saudi Arabia. She hopes some of us can write him - we already have. Try

Sp 4 James D. Jordan
264-79-6045
B 3-18th FA
APO NY 09657

Fay, by the way, has a new address:
218 Sprague Dr., Pensacola FL
32534-1445.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1990-91 DUES?
WE DO NOT BILL SEPARATELY!
CONSIDER THIS YOUR INVOICE

'The Write Stuff'



Came this warm message gratefully received by we Taro Leafers assembled at Buffalo:

GREETINGS AND WARMEST REGARDS TO MEMBERS AND GUESTS ASSEMBLED FOR THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION. WE OWE A GREAT DEBT TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO BRAVELY AND PATRIOTICALLY DEFENDED OUR COUNTRY AND ITS PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF TODAY'S 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION WHO STAND READY TO SUPPORT OUR DEMOCRATIC IDEALS IN THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. BEST WISHES FOR A MEMORABLE AND ENJOYABLE GATHERING AS YOU RENEW OLD FRIENDSHIPS.

MARIO M CUOMO



Open for business: Sgt. Bennie Goble mans the .50-caliber machine gun on his M1 tank, part of the 2d platoon, 3d Battalion, 69th Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) in the Saudi Arabian desert.





AP PHOTO

Soldiers from the 24th Infantry Division read copies of an English-language newspaper after arriving in Saudi Arabia yesterday.



GEORGE WAGGONER had 'em all ears in Buffalo when he said: "I think women have a right to work anywhere they want to... as long as they have dinner ready when I get home." A Hostetter photo.



"YA KNOW, WHEN I WAS A KID I USED TO BE CRAZY ABOUT RICE."



"Talk about wires all fouled up—you know anyone at Fairfax 2-1991, Kansas City, Kansas?"



The world is moving so fast these days that the man who says it can't be done is often interrupted by someone doing it. And that's the way it was when Doctor HOSTETTER caught this pair - JOE DAWSON and our very own BEVERLY CORRIS who sets all this typing up and puts the issue to sail. Without her, it's quite conceivable that there would be no Taro Leaf. We are grateful, Beverly.

And, of course, Joe's dog, his gift to your Editor, is showing what he thinks of K-9-P Dept. "complaints", and suggests that your editor should do the same.

We said somewhere that we couldn't possibly thank every member who sent us an item on our young friends over on the hot sands. But we wanna make an exception in JIM DEVER's case. Jim (D 19th 1/51-11/51), now at 625 Olympia, in Pittsburgh, PA wrote "Hope our gang doesn't wither on the vine from boredom. However, don't read this to mean that I'm for a shootout with all its sorrow. My prayers are with our men over there." We're all with you on this one, Jim.



After a day of beating down on U.S. troops, the Saudi sun has the last word, top, as it silhouettes two soldiers and a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. Right, PFC Jim Nash of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) drinks to replace what the desert has taken away. Left, an airman is greeted by a blazing sunrise in the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing's tent city, dubbed "Bedrock."



"YOU OLD RASCAL, YOU WEREN'T IN GREENLAND ALL THIS TIME AFTERALL, WERE YOU!!!"



Hurry Up and Wait!

JOHNNY PORTER took this shot and titled it, as you can see. It's our gang in the front doorway of the Buffalo Hyatt. The gang is itching to go to the Falls. Thanx, John Porter.



On to Niagara Falls, JOHNNY PORTER, (Hq. 2nd Bn. 21st '42-'45) took this one. Johnny, by the way, won one of the pair of AA tickets raffled off at Ft. Worth a year ago. He hails from Claude, TX. Wrote John from Wahoo: "As always, a beautiful place. Will go to Punch Bowl on Sunday for Sunrise services - and as you suggested, have had several toasts of remembrances of our time at Schofield and also Brigade Woods and dillingham as well as to those of us that did not return with tears."

Back to John's picture taken in front of our caravansary. That's JACK KIRK (E 34th) plumb in the middle. Jack, you looked wonderful at B. Wouldn't know you'd had that stroke in early '89. We're happy you're still with us.

BIG DEAL

One of the missions of the Association is to help the membership - in ways possible - and we intend to live up to that purpose - but we do need some help in one particular area - the compliance with requests for names of members in a certain platoon, or squad, or company, or battalion or regiment - and worse, when the request is accompanied with a specified vintage (e.g. "between Sept. '48 and July '50"). The requests are becoming so numerous that we have had to start asking for a few bucks to meet the expenses of our valued computer friend who, up to now, has been answering our pleas with considerable grace. It's about time we compensate him for what he is doing for us. We put the totality of our members into his little black box - a Herculean task in itself - and now he can say a few magic words and some of those names will spit out at him in a printout. For the time involved, the paper, the ink, the electricity, the postage, etc., we're saying that some compensation is in order. So if you want the names of Baker Co. of the 5th, or B of the 555, or whatever, please enclose \$9.00, payable to the Association, with your request when you mail it in to us. We'll keep not one penny of it. We'll merely pay the computer when we forward your request. Give us about 3 weeks if you will - and we'll have your printout in the mail and on its way to you. Fair enough.



"Sergeant, should I spell it according to Webster, or do it the colonel's way?"

WHAT NEXT?

Sorry -

We are out of "Children of Yesterday". If still interested you might try:

The Battery Press, Inc. PO Box 3107,
Uptown Station, Nashville TN 37219.
Tel. 615-298-1401.

They are the ones who did the reprinting.
\$32.50 plus \$2.00 shipping.

Best Bets

We have a few baseball caps on sale for \$8.00. Make checks payable to "24th Inf.Div.Assn." and mail to 120 Maple St., Rm. 207, Spfld. MA 01103.

Details, details

We have 5 copies left of

"Leavenworth Paper #13

Counterattack on the Nakdong 1950"
\$8.25 - and we pay the postage. Make check payable to "24th Inf.Div.Assn." and write us at Springfield MA.

No Kidding

Sorry - but we're plumb out of our supply of copies of "Korean War Almanac" by our very own Col. HARRY G. SUMMERS, JR.

Try your local bookstore or write
Facts on File

460 Park Av., New York NY 10016
(Tel. 615-298 1401)

Soft cover \$14.95 - Hard cover \$24.95
plus shipping.

The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for thirty years she served the family nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found.

Calvin Trilling.

The Gorbachev-Bush summit went well, but the timing was bad. We'll have great relations with the Soviet Union just as it ceases to exist.



U.S. Army tank commanders sitting in the shade of an Abrams M-1 Wednesday as they reviewed tactics during maneuvers in the Saudi desert.



"THEN I SAYS 'YEAH-AN' HOW MANY POINTS YOU GOT COLONEL?"

-Sgt. Ozzie St. George

Looking For:

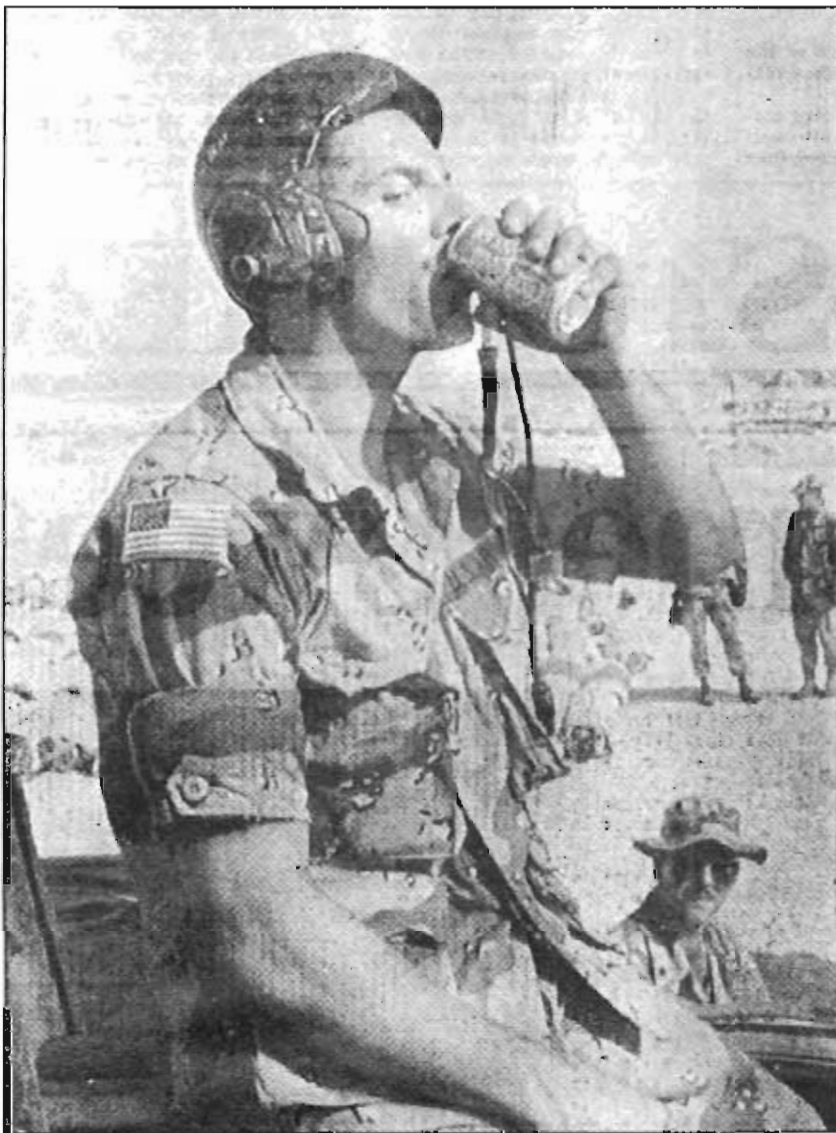
CHET ANDERSON, Box 15, Plevna MT 59344, wants to hear from anyone of B 3rd Eng. has never seen or heard of anyone from that old outfit, '43-'45. Let's surprise him. How about it, you beavers?

JAMES H. BYERLY, (I 34th & Hq. 34th '49-'51) 3013 Liberty, Erie, PA 16508
Looking for anyone of I of the 34th or Hq.Co. of the 34th.

GILES ENGSTROM (Hq. 555 FA '50-'52) Box 2965, Winnemucca NV 89445. Looking for "anyone" of the 555th and promises a tour of a "real gold mine" to anyone passing through.

DONALD DELISLE, 23 Roosevelt Ct., Metuchen NJ 08840. Looking for "anyone" stationed at Sendai with Dog. 21st '52-'54.

BUFORD F. GOFF, 212 W.Circle Dr., Russellville AR 72801 (that's Arkansas, not Arizona) wants to hear from any F 19th Chicks or 2nd Bn. 19th of '48-'51 vintage.



AND A SMILE: A soldier with the U.S. Army's 24th Mechanized Infantry takes a break for a Coca-Cola at their camp in the Saudi desert. AP photo

Love Co. 19th was represented by BILL and Joan BRADLEY, over from 12 Sunset, Troy NY. Bill was with Love in '50-'51. Bill was telling someone at Buffalo about his neighbor. Bill asked him what he thought of the civil rights bill. His neighbor replied, "Well, if we owe it, we ought to pay it."

One of the decisions coming out of our annual Business Meeting - at Buffalo, was to send copies of Taro Leaf to our compatriots in Desert Shield. Consider it "Mission being accomplished."

Down at the lake's edge at Buffalo's Naval Park, we were privileged to board a guided missile cruiser (USS Little Rock) a destroyer (USS The Sullivans) and a submarine (USS Croaker). A most impressive display.

Slowly - and imperceptibly - we're trying to persuade more of our vintage Germany fellows to "Come on in, the water's fine." Have a warm note from Col. EDWARD M. MUELLER, JR., Div. Chaplain in Munich in '60. Ed's at 3141 Rockwall, El Paso TX, suffered a heart attack a year ago - then a triple-by-pass. Recovering nicely. Is a political reporter/commentator on the local CBS affiliate, KDBC-TV. Also writes a weekly column for his local paper. Ed, slow down, please, slow down.

Typical of the hundreds of letters we are receiving these days: "Our boys are again called upon in a time of need - my prayers for their wellbeing are offered. Sincerely JOHN "Rod" SANDERS" (6th TK. 9/51-1/52) now at Rt. 2, Box 285, Onconta AL.



"Hello service battery? You better get hold of some ordnance people and come on up here. Somebody's fouled up somewhere!"



There they are, folks, our colors, proudly guarded by the men who flew up from Stewart. Great show, men. Thank you.



Associated Press

Tough Talk From U.S. Commanders in Saudi Arabia

Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the United States forces in the Persian Gulf, giving a pep talk yesterday to American troops in the Saudi

desert. Confident that U.S. forces could ward off an Iraqi advance, one officer disclosed details of how the Marines would repel such an attack. Page 5.



Thanks



"... THEN CAME D-DAY PLUS ONE ..."

—Col Tom Flannery

GOLDY NORTON in sending us a news item added: "I would be the first to say that the significance of the attached is minimal in view of the situation now confronting those brave young people now wearing our beloved Taro Leaf. The indomitable spirit still exists and patriotism still thrives in our nation." Right on, Goldy.

Item Co., 21st '51-'52, two steps forward. BURT LAWSON who hangs his hat at 13119 Manor, Detroit MI, 48238, would like to renew old acquaintances. Writes Burt: "I was with the 2nd platoon until I was wounded on Fri., July 13, 1951. After being discharged from the 128th Hospital in Japan I returned to my unit and drove one of the company trucks, No. I-6. Maybe someone remembers." What a memory, Burt.

President Bush proposes to put a man on Mars by the year 2019. The Japanese are saying, "That's great! He can stay with us."

URB THROM and his lovely bride, Teddie, back from Japan. Entertained royally in Takayama, Denver's "sister city".

Beware the path of least resistance. That is what makes people and rivers crooked.

Soldier shows pride in letter to family

By Sgt. D.R. Doss

SAUDI ARABIA—Shortly after his unit from the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Stewart, was alerted for deployment to the Middle East, Private 1st Class Wade V. Merritt, 20, from Knoxville, Tenn. began preparing for yet another deployment.

Unlike other deployments and field exercises that Pfc. Merritt had participated in, this one filled the young soldier's mind with fear and uncertainty, but most of all with an overwhelming sense of pride.

His bags were packed long before the alert was called. Private 1st Class Merritt had not anticipated the deployment, but like all soldiers who are part of the Army's Rapid Deployment Force, his bags were always packed.

The few things left to do that would place Pfc. Merritt, along with his fellow soldiers, on foreign soil for a possible armed conflict were uneventful. However, what Pfc. Merritt thought would be a last letter to his loved ones was nothing of the sort.

He wrote the letter shortly before his unit was to move out. His high self-esteem as a soldier was

made very clear not only to his family, but eventually to many others as well. The letter was his attempt to let them know he had no regrets or remorse about his job.

"I wasn't sure when or if I was coming back. I was proud of what I was going to do. We would do our job because freedom can't be taken for granted," said Pfc. Merritt.

His letter was received by his parents before he departed Fort Stewart. Pfc. Merritt's parents shared the letter with neighbors and friends who took it to the local airport where they worked and began distributing it.

After much encouragement, Pfc. Merritt's mother Ann sent the letter to President Bush. She immediately got a written response that was followed by a telephone call that came from the White House asking permission for the president to use parts of the letter in his address to Congress.

All of this was unknown to Pfc. Merritt, who was already in Saudi Arabia doing his job as a combat signaler with the 124th Military Intelligence Battalion.

"After I had gotten word the president had read my letter to Congress, the next thing I know, two

guys from the public affairs office showed up. I was floored," said Pfc. Merritt.

"It's a soldier's ultimate reward to be recognized by the president," said Pfc. Merritt. "Like all soldiers I was confused and excited, but unaware of the danger we were going into. . . I wasn't the only one feeling this way; we were uncertain of our future but we were going to give it 110 percent."

What followed for Pfc. Merritt and his family were a string of television appearances beginning with Good Morning America; interviews with Cable News Network, USA Today; local papers and television, and most recently a televised appearance on the Joan Rivers Show.

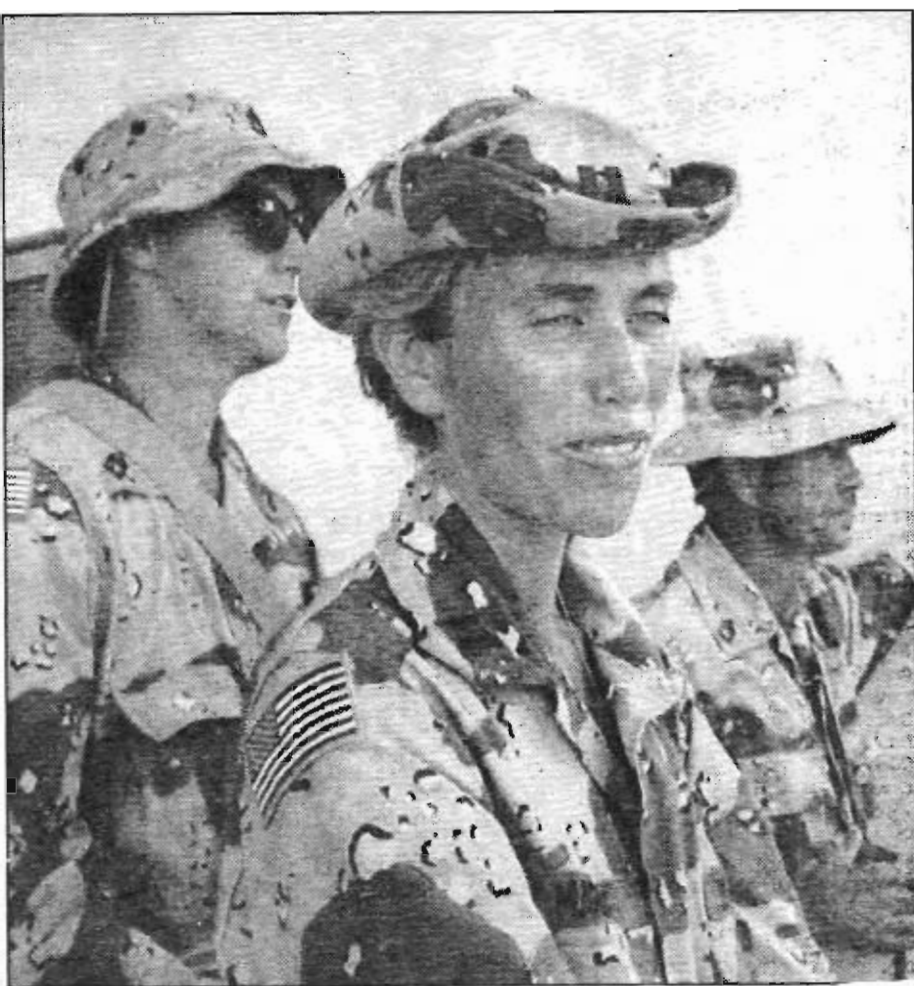
All of the attention given to Pfc. Merritt was taken in stride. Pfc. Merritt said he didn't try to write a letter that would bring him so much regard.

"I wrote what I honestly felt," he said. With everything that happened because of the letter, Pfc. Merritt said he was happiest knowing he had made his parents proud.

After answering all the questions that were asked about himself, and the military, the soldier summed it up by saying: "I hope I said good things for all the soldiers in the 24th and the U.S. Armed Forces."



Let us tell you something. Here's a queen bee of a worker - WALLY KUHNER, shown here with his patient and understanding Eleanor. Wally is our Membership Chairman - and what a worker. Never tires. He's 24 Recn. '43-'45 and resides at 1637 Falmouth, Charleston SC 29407. Merci Merci, Wally.



SOLDIERING ON: Army Capt. Kelly Marunde of 24th Mechanized Infantry, with colleagues in Saudi Arabia



"You seen our pack mule?"



The catering department of the Hyatt did their best in trying to make a couple of Taro leaves in ice. At least the thought was there. PHIL HOSTETTER, you didn't hit this one head on - just as well.

5



First prize went to Mrs. FRANK (Lei-Lani) DOERR; presented by Mrs. DONALD (Angie) KNAPTON. Frank and Lei came to Buffalo all the way from Milpitas CA. Enjoyed Forth Worth a year ago; thought they'd go for another round. More wonderful camera work, Phil.



Conflict bringing strangers together

By Spec. J.W. Sternick

Today a bright-eyed little boy asked me why I wore a camera around my neck and why I carried a thick notebook.

I explained to him that I was an Army journalist. He didn't understand.

I picked up a newspaper and pointed to the photographs and writing on the front page. I used hand gestures to explain that I wrote stories and took pictures for the newspaper.

He just smiled at me and pointed to the American flag sewn on my shoulder and the M-16 cradled in my arms. All that he saw was a soldier.

I'm an Army journalist and many people don't understand what I do. It's hard to explain sometimes.

In a nutshell, I'm a 46Q. That's my military occupational specialty - Print Journalist. My primary mission is to provide command information. Wide-eyed 9-year-olds don't understand big words like command information.

That means I write news stories for the commanding general. I help him, and the commanders under him, communicate with their soldiers and their families. I do that by taking photographs and writing stories that help tell the Army story.

I write about exciting things, like Apache helicopter pilots and championship softball games. I also write about not so exciting things.

But this little boy couldn't understand this. All that he knew was that I was a soldier and that I wore an American flag on my right shoulder. I was one of the good guys.

This little boy understood good and bad. He and his family had fled Kuwait shortly after the invasion by Iraqi forces on Aug. 2. His eyes told stories of long nights fleeing across the desert and long, hot days wondering what will become of the place he calls home.

He knows very little about his future, but he knows who his friends are. They wear the stars and stripes. It doesn't matter what job we do. Infantryman, tanker, nurse, supply clerk, journalist — we are all soldiers and to this little boy we are all his friends.

Sometimes we get caught up in our individual jobs and we forget that we are all soldiers. We carry the same rifles and wear the same patch on our uniforms. We face the same fears and all pray for peace, because we know what war can really mean.

As individuals we mean very little, but together we mean everything. The patch that we wear on our shoulders may be just a symbol to some, but it should remind us why there are so many soldiers in the Saudi Arabian desert.

A little boy knows what that patch means; it means hope.

Fun is like life insurance; the older you get, the more it costs.



We had last been with JOHN FULLER in Okayama - circa '46 - long before he had met Doris - so it was a privilege to meet this lovely lady in Buffalo. Happy you caught 'em both, PHIL. Johnny had to inspect a couple of brothels in Okayama. The other day he sent us a copy of his report. If we can find the space, we'll squeeze it in one of our issues. It's a delight.



We're not sure, but we're gonna take a chance. It's "Suburban URBAN" THROM in the lower left of your frame. If it's a wrong guess, our apologies PHIL HOSTETTER. The other two we are sure of - our new President HERB CARLSON and "the old one" - TOM UPTON.

Wintering in Costa Rica are the BUFORD F. GOFF's - F 19th '48-'51. Buford was a POW for two days 7/16, 17/50 - escaped. He'd like to hear from any F 19th men. Catch him: C/O American Embassy, Costa Rica, APO Miami FL 34020.

Italy's Communist Party, largest in the West with 1.4 million members, has changed its name to Democratic Party of the Left.

This deserves a whole page - and by gosh it's gonna get a whole page. It's BILL HANSON's letter to us and its enclosure.

Oct. 8, 1990

Dear Ken,

Imagine my surprise and obvious pleasure when I returned from the convention and found this article waiting for me; the Company that I had worked for for so long (34 years) was now transporting troops of the Division that I had served with in W.W.II.

I would be pleased beyond words if, sometime in the future, you could find room in the Taro Leaf to report this item.

Sincerely,

Bill Hanson
2279 W. 230th. St.
Torrance, Cal. 90501
H, Co. 21st. 43-46

FLAGSHIP

Published by the
American Air
Force Association
and the 1991-92

American Flies Troops

Coordination Involves 20 Departments

American enlisted two DC-10-30s to carry troops to Saudi Arabia as the United States and 22 other nations build up forces there to oppose Iraqi aggression.

While American is using only two aircraft — including flight crews and support personnel — the operation presents immense logistical problems.

The airline had to change schedules from the Caribbean to Hawaii to free the two needed aircraft. And it needed to devise a timely but flexible system to cater, fuel and staff the pair of planes to transport soldiers half-way around the world.

American is participating in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) program, activated by the Air Force's Military Airlift Command in mid-August. CRAF is a partnership under which the nation's airlines provide the military with additional transport aircraft during national emergencies.

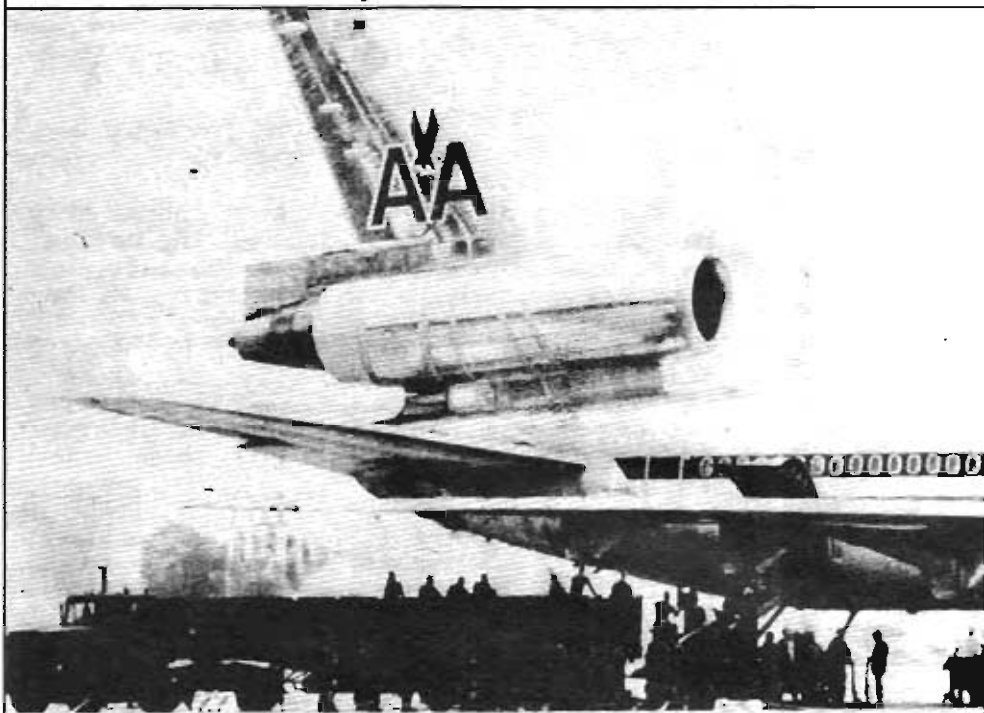
Iraq's invasion of neighboring Kuwait sent fears throughout the Middle East and the world that Saudi Arabia would be the next target and prompted President George Bush to send in troops.

About 20 departments across American's system designated representatives to plan each CRAF mission, which takes two full days roundtrip.

"While it's a small number of airplanes," said Don Kneram, managing director of Systems Operation Control (SOC), "this is such a unique operation that it takes a considerable amount of coordination."

Each mission must be individually planned to take the aircraft to the military base, perhaps to

Soldiers Airlifted to Middle East



U.S. servicemen from the 24th Infantry Division at Hunter Army Airfield in Fort Stewart, Ga., board an American Airlines DC-10, the first commercially owned airliner used to transport troops destined for duty in Saudi Arabia.

ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

a stop on the U.S. mainland, across the Atlantic for a refueling stop in Europe, and on to Saudi Arabia.

"This operation has created some real challenges and long hours for several departments, particularly for our colleagues in Europe," Kneram said. "However, as usual with American Airlines personnel, they have overcome these obstacles and have provided outstanding assistance to the effort."

"One of the biggest challenges," he noted, "is loading the aircraft because of the military equipment." Rifles, machine guns and ammunition tend to weigh considerably more than the typical laundry-laden suitcase carried by a more conventional airline passenger.

Soldiers, under AA supervision, load the DC-10-30s by hand, a process that takes considerably longer than the container loading normally used with commercial flights.

Hand loading also requires more care because the weight of the loaded items must be verified and communicated to Load Control at SOC.

"The initial load plan is critical because we must take into consideration all the downline airports we will operate into," Kneram said. "We don't want to take soldiers or equipment off en route."

The soldiers also carry their rifles and gas masks on board, said Dallas Knudson, manager of field support operations, and who flew on American's first two CRAF missions. In fact, a lavatory was unusable on one flight because it was filled with rifles, he said.

The troops were also insistent on carrying their gas masks on board and were very protective of them, Knudson said. Each soldier is specially fitted for his or her gas mask, he explained.

Catering the flights presents its own problems, Kneram said. The DC-10's unique catering system doesn't allow much time to arrange the catering for a flight before meeting the troops. American, he noted, doesn't officially learn which military base it will go to until about 72 hours before.

"You have to be flexible," he said. "Only an hour before one flight was to depart for a base, it was directed instead to a second base."

Just lining up the two needed DC-10-30s took some careful planning.

When American got the call for aircraft, it selected two from its Dallas-Fort Worth-Hawaii flights, said Ken Cunningham, coordinator of aircraft and facilities for capacity planning.

Not able to afford losing two similar flights simultaneously, American relocated several jets. Eventually, a Newark-Los Angeles flight was cancelled, and several flights ended up with replacement aircraft, including the second DFW-Hawaii flight.

That flight got a DC-10-10 in place of its earlier DC-10-30, which is larger, capable of flying further and better suited for transporting passengers or troops 7,000 to 8,000 miles.

Aboard each flight are a three-to-five-member flight crew, a load specialist, nine flight attendants, two maintenance technicians, and a flyaway kit, which includes tools and certain basic aircraft parts that might be needed.

The pilots and flight attendants are selected from the respective reserve pools that are set aside for fill-in duties.

"The flight attendants are very pleased to be doing this," said Janet Kraus, managing director

of flight services. "The soldiers tell them what a super job they are doing. There's really a lot of spirit among the flight attendants out there."

Maintenance technicians are included on the flights for refueling, checking the engines, adding needed oil, and coordinating with the Military Air Command, Knudson said.

One crew flies a mission to the European stop, where a second crew takes over for the latter leg of the trip. Upon returning to Europe, the first crew resumes command while the second crew tests.

Eight of each flight's 34 first class seats are set aside for resting crew members. The remaining first class seats are taken by the highest ranking military officers, Knudson said.

American learned from the first flight what little amenities to provide the troops. A deck of cards and a newspaper are left on each seat for them.

The newspapers, upon landing in Saudi Arabia, are shared with the troops already there, Knudson said. "They really appreciate it," he said. "There are two things the troops there ask us for: newspapers and water."

"Most of the troops already there haven't seen a U.S. newspaper in awhile and they're hungry to know what's going on. And they're thirsty. We give them what we can."

Also for entertainment, each flight shows five movies, he said. "They really like Hunt for Red October, Air America and anything with James Bond," he added.

About 30 minutes before landing in Saudi Arabia, Knudson noted, the mood on the aircraft turns somber. "Soon," he continued, "the soldiers are straining to see the country out the windows. But all you can see is sand."

Upon landing, about 30 soldiers help unload the aircraft, which takes two to three hours, and the DC-10-30 is back in the air on its return flight.

After completing a mission, each aircraft is either serviced or temporarily replaces another aircraft so it can be serviced.



"Old Soldier" JOE DAWSON and "modern day version" HORACE HOGGATT as caught by the Hostetter lens.



A couple of old pals - even though they had last met in '45. Both wearing native garb. It's Dr. TONY ZALE on the left. Tony was with the 407th Collecting Co. on Goodenough and Leyte in support of Dearly Beloved. Tony's at 1538 Wyoming, Scranton PA. And in the other corner is our faithful cameraman, Dr. PHIL HOSTETTER who served with Tony in the 407th before joining Division. A couple of happy fellows. Agree?



The Honorable JAMES D. GRIFFIN, the Mayor of Buffalo, but in our book, E 5th RCT 4/53 to 11/53. True, he graced our rostrum for a few delightful words, but more, he opened up his city for us to enjoy - which we did. Thank you, Mr. Mayor - "Jim".



Schwarzkopf monitors Iraq from a Saudi border post

The Desert Bear

With a John Wayne swagger and a growl like a grizzly, General H. Norman Schwarzkopf confronted a camouflage-clad Special Forces company newly arrived in the forbidding desert of Saudi Arabia. "How long have you guys been standing out in the hot sun?" he demanded. "Two hours, sir," replied a soldier. "I think you're tough enough to take it," said the commander. "You better be. We may have some plans for you later on."

Schwarzkopf's inspection was delayed by an unscheduled meeting with Sultan Mohammed al-Haza, administrator of a remote northern principality sparsely populated by Bedouin shepherders. As incense wafted through the room, Schwarzkopf perfumed his hands in preparation for a lunch of chicken and rice. Observance of the ancient ritual of Arabian hospitality was reminiscent of his introduction to the exotic culture of the region 44 years ago. At age 12, Schwarzkopf spent a year in Iran, where his father, a major general, trained the Shah's imperial police during World War II.

As commander in chief of the American military forces in Saudi Arabia, expected to reach 250,000 by the end of the month, Schwarzkopf is constantly performing the dual roles of soldier and diplomat. Because of his imposing physique (6 ft. 3 in., 240 lbs.) and gruff manner, the C-in-C (pronounced sink) is affectionately known as "the Bear" by subordinates and as "Stormin' Norman" by rival Pentagon brass. He is aware that the U.S. presence in the conservative Islamic society of Saudi Arabia has created a potential clash of cultures that could undermine the alliance against Saddam Hussein's aggression. For instance, to avoid antagonizing the Saudis, Schwarzkopf has banned alcohol for the troops he leads. He himself ab-

stains even on trips to neighboring gulf countries that allow liquor. "More than any other command," Schwarzkopf said, "this is a political-military assignment."

Peering out the window of his Air Force C-20 en route to visit the Special Forces units, Schwarzkopf contemplated the empty desert below. "There's no front line," he said. "If Saddam were to attack, I would want to suck him into the desert as far as I could. Then I'd pound the living hell out of him. Finally, I'd engulf him and police him up. It's that simple."

Schwarzkopf believes his strategy may be tested by the increasingly cornered Iraqi leader. Although Schwarzkopf is confident of U.S. ability to fulfill its defensive mission, Saddam's unpredictability worries him. Defensive strategies against most opponents are based on an assessment of their capabilities and intentions. "In Saddam's case," says Schwarzkopf, "you have to look purely at his capabilities and not try to figure out his intentions."

That requires vigilance against a variety of threats, including terrorism and chemical and biological warfare. To reduce the danger of an attack on U.S. forces, Schwarzkopf has relocated thousands of troops who had been temporarily housed in hotels, spreading them out horizontally rather than stacking them vertically. Troop encampments in vulnerable areas are protected by sentries carrying loaded automatic weapons and by concrete barriers positioned in front of barred gates. "We're not going to have another Beirut barracks bombing if I can help it," says Schwarzkopf. He is less worried about chemical and biological attacks, since he contends that the Iraqis lack reliable systems to deliver chemical warheads to their targets.

Schwarzkopf had an unexpected opportunity to assess Iraqi preparedness two weeks ago. Hours before his arrival at a remote Saudi patrol post on the Kuwaiti border, 13 Iraqi soldiers turned up. According to Saudi officers, such peaceful incursions across the border by Iraqi troops seeking food and water are common. Some of them defect; others, fearing for the lives of their families, are allowed to return. While the Saudis debriefed their Iraqi guests, Schwarzkopf discovered one of their trucks had a transmission leak and a battery without water. "That shows the poor state of their maintenance," he said.

A red telephone in his Riyadh office links Schwarzkopf directly to General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the two talk on a scrambled line at least once a day. Schwarzkopf refused to speculate about the possibility of a U.S. strike. "The forces we have on the ground have both defensive and offensive capabilities," he said, "but the only mission we have is to deter and to defend if attacked." Yet he agreed with the widespread view that merely a withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait would constitute "a small win for the U.S., a small win for Saddam Hussein and a big loss for the gulf. We don't want to win the war and lose the peace."

—By Dean Fischer/On the Kuwaiti border



President's Message

TO: MEMBERS OF THE 24th DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Hopefully everyone made it home safely from Buffalo. I had a great time there and from what I observed, you all did too.

I want to thank each and every one of you for the help and support you have given me and our association. Vinnie Vella and his group did a great job for us in Buffalo. THANK YOU!

Now we have to start thinking about 1991 and the future ahead. We need all the new blood and new ideas we can get; people who want to get involved. We need your help. Over the years I have talked to numerous people in our group and I have never seen so much talent. Don't waste it.

It's time to tighten things up here in the North Country. Winter will be here soon. We had our first little snow squall Sept. 17. Now Indian Summer, hunting season and then snowmobilers until Spring. That is, if they can afford the gas...?

I called my daughter the other evening. She and my grandchildren are doing great. Said it was too hot in North Carolina.

As your President, all I can say is I will do the best I can. With your help, BETTER!!!

Sincerely,

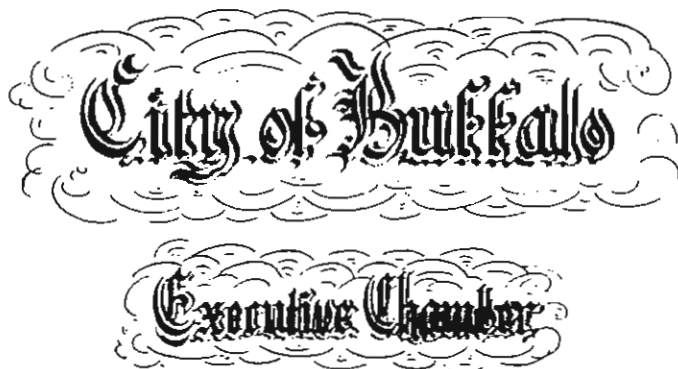


Herb Carlson
President

HC:cc



One of our problems: how are we gonna get it all in this issue? Good JIM GRIFFIN "proclaimed" for the city. Note how he sneaked it in about his own 5th RCT connection. Loved it, Jim!



- P R O C L A M A T I O N -

WHEREAS, The 24th Infantry Division Association consists primarily of veterans of World War II and Korea who helped build the heritage and tradition of the 24th Infantry Division during traumatic times at Pearl Harbor, in the Pacific and in Korea; and

WHEREAS, the 24th Infantry Division has a unique history having been the first United States Division to see action in two major wars; World War II and Korea; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 24th Infantry Division Association are living reminders of the commitment, dedication and loyalty of the American people to fight to preserve the values of liberty and freedom which we all enjoy and cherish; and

WHEREAS, having been a member of the 5th Regimental Combat Unit, I can personally attest to the intestinal fortitude so proudly and bravely displayed by members of this division and all Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the 24th Infantry Division Association will hold its 43rd annual reunion in Buffalo, New York - "The City of Good Neighbors" where they will renew friendships, remember fallen members who have paid the supreme sacrifice and continue to preserve the freedom they so valiantly fought for,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES D. GRIFFIN, Mayor of the City of Buffalo, do hereby proclaim September 27, 28 and 29, 1990 as

24TH INFANTRY DAYS

In the City of Buffalo, and ask all citizens to join in congratulating these fine individuals who fought for the liberty and freedom we so deeply cherish.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Buffalo to be affixed this 27th day of September, 1990.


JAMES D. GRIFFIN
MAYOR OF BUFFALO

DOCTOR DOCTOR DOCTOR
DOCTOR DOCTOR DOCTOR
DOCTOR, DOCTOR



Caught a Dear Abby column where a letter writer told of his secretary who was looking for "Europe" under "U" in the dictionary. Recall one of our young gals who came in one day with the question: "Is Miami a state?"

EXTRA, EXTRA

TWENTY FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

August 28, 1990

Maj. Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, USA
Commanding,
24th Infantry Division (Mechanized)
APO New York 09315

Dear Barry:

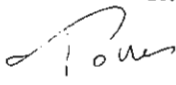
Know please that we are with you and yours every
inch of the way.

You shall be in our prayers until you are once
again ensconced at Stewart.

First to fight!--and this time may it not be so.

Cordially,

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION


Thomas F. Upton
President



VICTORY DIVISION
September 10, 1990



Another one of your fantastic pictures,
PHIL HOSTETTER. Thank God, you don't
charge us for them. It's Helen and
JOHNNY KANE (Hv.Mtr., 5th RCT 5/51 - 4/52)
who shuffled to Buffalo all the way from
4320 I St., in Philadelphia PA.

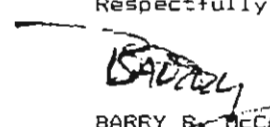
Dear Tom,

Appreciated your note. Division Command
Sergeant Major and Chief-of-Staff will pass to
senior leadership.

24th ID (M) now on line and doing final spin-
up. 17,000 soldiers, 1,300 armored vehicles,
4,000 wheel vehicles. All ammo, supplies, mines
on hand.

Hope this aggression can be reversed without
combat. If they're looking for a fight, they came
to the right place.

Respectfully,


BARRY R. McCAFFREY
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

Mr. Thomas F. Upton
President, 24th Infantry Division Association
120 Maple Street-Room 207
Springfield, MA 01103-2278

Thomas H. Compere

We come together to mourn the loss of a true American, to share the grief that we all feel and, perhaps in that sharing, to find the strength to bear our sorrow and the courage to look for the seeds of hope.

Words pale in the shadow of grief; they seem insufficient even to measure the true worth of this man we so loved and admired.

Their truest testimony will not be in the words we write, but in the way he lived his life - with dedication and honor.

The best we can do is to recall him to mind - to recall him as he lived, bringing life and love and joy to those who knew him.

Tom was a splendidly complex, multifaceted man, but his supreme civilian motivation, and ultimate focus, was always achievement as a lawyer, according to the highest standards and values of the practicing bar.

Tom devoted the entirety of his adult life to the law - save for a hefty piece of it which he gave to the Division which he loved with all his heart.

There he set a standard of discriminating judgment for brother officers to imitate, and he provided a model of generosity for young lieutenants to emulate.

Tom seemed like another Mr. Chips to those who had occasion to deal with him in his G-1 office, those who encountered his high-minded, gentle, allusive ironic rhetoric.

In a Division, by very nature a C/S has to be sympatico with his G's - or better said, reversely. Our G-1 was in sync with his chief. Years later, the "former Chief" was to write of Tom: "He had the endearing mannerism of telling me about some problem we had - then looking at me a moment, before turning his head to one side and laughing. And all of a sudden the problem was less troubling - and I could laugh about it too."

And now, this exercise in nostalgia.

Most of us will likely remember him best at our annual gatherings. Tom, stocky, with a shock of wavy white hair, eyebrows furry as caterpillars, wearing that clamorous black and white jacket, would take over our annual rostrum - year after year until three years ago when he painfully asked to be relieved of the assignment he had loved so well and for so long. Even then the years were closing in on him.

Our loss is great, but it is not as great as our enrichment, and we will remain enriched by Tom in our memories and in our hearts so long as we are privileged to live.

We find consolation only in faith for we know in our hearts that he makes his home beyond the stars, safe in God's promise of eternal life.

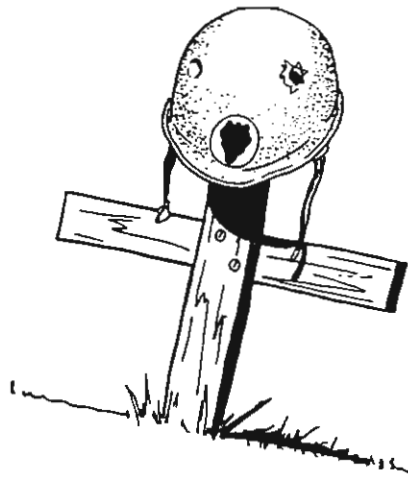
Now we must pick ourselves up and press on despite the pain.

We mourn his passing.

We bid him goodbye; we shall never forget him.

There is a fashion that tells us that a memorialization such as this should be a celebration of the life of the friend now gone. We agree ... but yet we do not wholly agree.

We urge that, upon the reading, we allow ourselves a tear.



We have recently come onto the sad news of the passing of Maj.Gen. MARK MCCLURE in his 92nd year. The General died of pneumonia in his Washington home.

An Indiana native and a West Point '22 graduate, he passed through the usual posts ending as Div.Arty. Commander of the 95th ID in Europe in WW II.

After the war, he was PMS & T at Harvard, then C/S of the eighth Army in Korea.

He was our Division CG in '54, leaving us to go to Ft.Sam where he was Fourth Army Deputy Commander from which he retired in '57.

Much loved and deeply respected by we Taro Leafers - who served under him or otherwise worked with him, Gen. McClure will be missed.

DANIEL L. FRENCH
died 1989
34th

CHARLES HAWKINS
died August 1990
CO Hq. & Hq. Co. 34th

TAKESHI KUMAGAI
died 1988
Hq. 34th '46-'50

CHARLES W. MENNINGER, SR.
died 1990
A & K 34th, Hq. 3rd Bn. 34th
Hq. 2nd Bn. 21st 2/47 - 4/51

ARCHIE L. STITH
died September 3, 1990
L 34th

HOWARD W. RICHARDSON
died October 29, 1990
724 Ord. '42-'45

Death has come to old friend, MELVIN G. COLBERT of George Company from July of '50 to August of '51. His lovely daughter, Christina, has told of Mel's passing on last June 8th, leaving his widow, Dolores, and five young people - Wayne, Gary, Kenneth, Donna and Christina. His was a full life, lived generously and shared with a multitude of family and friends. We are put in mind of these two lines from Hamlet:

"Good night, sweet prince,
And flights of angels
sing thee to thy rest."

Lucille BOYCE
wife of JOHN E. BOYCE
died June 1990
was 1202 Broadway, Rahway NJ 07065
John was F 19th 8/41-2/45

Lottie MONTGOMERY
wife of RAYMOND C. MONTGOMERY
died Sept. 21, 1990
was 159 Northview Dr., Shepherdsville KY
Ray was L 21st 11/42-12/45 40165

Lt.TOMMIE W. BATES
died Sept.14, 1990
24th Inf.Div.
traffic accident in
Saudi Arabia

DONALD J. ARMOUR
died October 4, 1990
Hq. 24th Med. '42-'45

Lt.Col. FLOYD S. GIBSON
died 1990
I 21st 7/50-1/51

JOSEPH R. MORGAN
died September 23, 1990
was B 3rd Eng. C Bn. 1/51-12/51

The Reaper has moved his supernatural hand -- and we are saddened to make of record this one.

Friends eulogize a soldier-poet

Coventry man killed in desert is laid to rest

*Choose your friends?
You can't.
Friends choose you.
For what you are
And you let them hang on.
Be friends.
Be beyond the stereotype.
Don't tell me you are.
Show me.*

— "Friends," by Tommie W. Bates, written Sept. 4, 1990, while stationed in Saudi Arabia.

By LYNN ARDITI

Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

COVENTRY — Soldier. Poet. Playwright. Actor. Friend. Those were the words used to describe Lt. Tommie W. Bates, 27, who died Sept. 14 in a traffic accident in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Yesterday, the family and friends of the Coventry soldier packed the Frank R. Gorton & Sons Funeral Home on Washington Street to pay their respects.

"To the core of his being, Tom Bates was a poet," said the Rev. Bob Hollis of the First Baptist Church in Tiverton. "He was the kind of man who gave his all to what he did."

Bates published 12 plays and a short story, spoke Greek fluently and ran marathons, said Melissa Fahmi, public-affairs assistant at Fort Stewart, Ga., where Bates was based. He was named one of America's best young poets two years ago by the American Poetry Association.

Bates also was the star witness in a murder case, authorities said. He witnessed a barroom shooting of a California businessman in Savannah, Ga., earlier this year. Prosecutors had hoped he would testify in the trial of Charles Dale Hosick Jr. of Statesboro, Ga. Bates was the only person police knew who could identify the gunman.

Bates was a 1980 graduate of Coventry High School, where he was a member of the student council. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1986 with a degree in literature.

In 1988, he was assigned to Fort Stewart, where he became involved in plays. Bates won an award last month for an Army theatrical production.

Bates was killed when his vehi-



Journal-Bulletin Photo by BOB THAYER

BURIAL: Army Sgt. Clifford A. Bates II stands graveside during yesterday's burial of his brother, Army Lt. Tommie W. Bates, who was killed in an auto accident in Saudi Arabia.

cle left a road and crashed, the Army said. Army officials told Bates' mother he suffered a fractured skull.

Bates was buried in Knotty Oak Cemetery.

Fifteen soldiers from the 39th Engineer Battalion from Fort De-

vens, in Ayer, Mass., attended the funeral yesterday, along with U.S. Rep. Claudine Schneider and Coventry High School Principal James A. DiPrete.

During the service, friends read selections from several of Bates' poems.

"I would dearly love someone to come to me at any time of the day or night and ask me: What do you think? I'd dare not answer, but would thrill at the question."

— "Silent Minority," by Tommie W. Bates