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3109 Chatham Dr. #B  
Urbana IL 61801-7043

# THE TARO LEAF

## IT'S BACK

# President's Message



Comrades;

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your expression of confidence in me by electing me President of our beloved association.

We have set several major goals for ourselves for the coming year that we want to share with you.

We plan on expanding our membership by at least a third by signing up many of the young people who did such an outstanding job recently in Operation Desert Storm. This does not mean we can let our guard down. We will have to retain 3,000 plus of our existing members and expand our Veteran rolls 10% just to stay even.

We have contacted a publisher for the 24th Infantry History and are projecting a published product by next Reunion.

We will be asking several of you to help us in meeting these and other goals that we are developing. If you are asked to help, we know you can make a contribution. If you think you can help, contact me directly and we will welcome you with open arms.

Success or failure will depend upon all of us.

Very Truly Yours;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Albert J. McAdoo".

Albert J. McAdoo, President  
24th Infantry Division Association.

## DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE

# TARO LEAF



**24th Infantry Division Association**

# TARO LEAF

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

VOL. XLV February 1992 NO. 1

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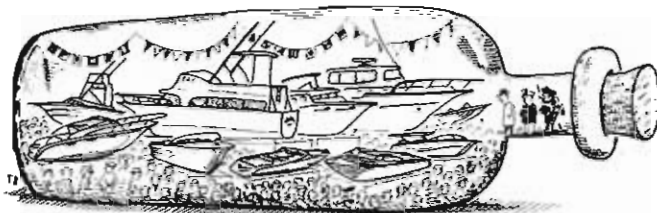
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## The Boat Show

Hardly a boat show. The truth is that we've been through a little surgery, ergo the delay of our FIRST issue since Vol. XLIV - #5 - of last August. Sorry 'bout that.



800 Veterans of the 25th marched at Schofield on Oct. 5th, led by retired Lt. Gen. Harris Hollis, one-time division commander. It was just 5 days after the Division's 50th birthday - 10-1-41 being the day "we" and "they" were born. We visited Schofield two days earlier and quietly had our own birthday celebration.

# TAKEN TO THE EXTREME

Why, with thousands being forced out by the reduction-in-force procedure, at God knows what expense, are we still running Recruiting Offices in most of our cities?



There is one good thing about airline food—at least they're considerate enough to give you small portions.

TONY BAKER of 150 Clear Oak, Universal City TX 78148 writes: "I'm looking for anyone who was a member of L or K Co. 21st '50. Anyone out there remember 2 Sept. '50, Hill 99, give me a call. Tel. 512-659-3114." There you are, Tony. Hope you get some calls.

You never realize how short a month is until you pay alimony.  
JOHN BARRYMORE



PATRICK

# **▼ A FALLEN HEROINE GETS A FINAL SALUTE**

Paul and Gertrude Rossi still grieve over the March 1 loss of their vivacious 32-year-old daughter, Marie, the Army's first woman commander to die in a combat area during the Gulf War. Yet the Oradell, N.J., couple now take some comfort that her loyalty to her

country will soon have a lasting tribute. Last March, Major Rossi was chosen as the fund-raising poster figure for an \$18 million memorial to military women to be built in 1993 at Arlington National Cemetery, not far from where Rossi is buried. "Marie's a symbol of all women who've served in our country's wars," says Paul, 77, himself a Marine veteran of World War II. "It's an honor she would approve of."

Many Americans were introduced to Marie on Feb. 23, the day before the ground assault against Kuwait, when she appeared in a CNN segment about women in war. One of 34,000 U.S. women deployed to the gulf (the larg-

est number ever to serve so close to combat), the personable Major Rossi made a strong impression. Six days later, as she flew her Chinook helicopter at night and in bad weather, it crashed into an unlighted microwave tower. Stunned, many Americans felt as if they had lost someone they knew, if only briefly.

"People haven't forgotten her," says Gertrude, 71, at home, where Marie's cats, Praline and Squeaker, gambol about a living room filled with pictures, medals and posthumous awards. "We've gotten over a thousand letters. And we're still going to dinners in her honor. They even named a local swimming pool where she was a lifeguard after her. It's all very touching, but it's still painful."

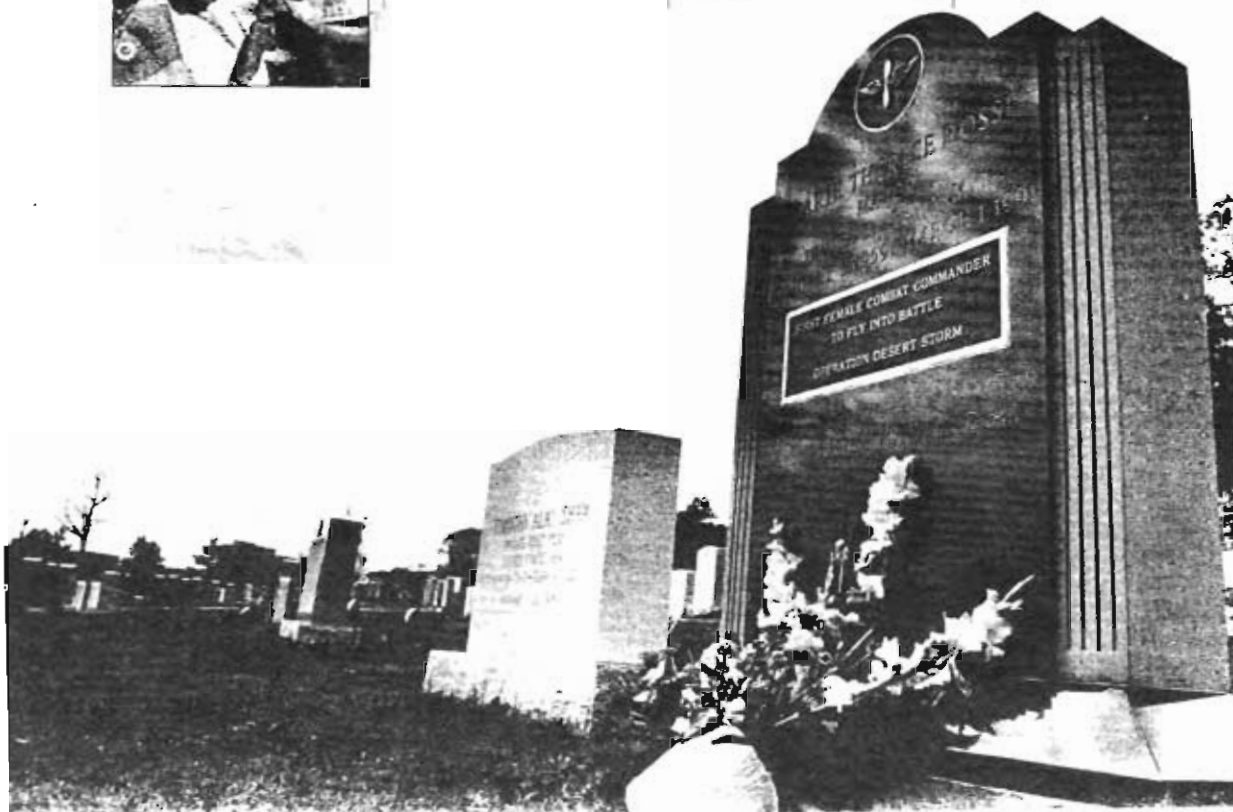
Marie's husband of one year, Chief Warrant Officer John Cayton, 36, a chopper

pilot stationed at Hunter Army Airfield near Savannah, Ga., adds, "She's still very much with me. For months I could hardly talk about her without breaking up inside. I just wish everyone who died over there could get the same recognition as she received."

As if in answer to Major Rossi's belief that qualified women should be given the same combat flight duties as men, President Bush signed a measure on Dec. 5 allowing the Defense Department to have that option in future conflicts. "I believe Marie's courage and sacrifice helped bring about this long overdue change in the law," says retired Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught, head of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation. "She was one of our finest. Now she's left us a lasting legacy." □



Major Rossi's epitaph reads: FIRST FEMALE COMBAT COMMANDER TO FLY INTO BATTLE. OPERATION DESERT STORM.



# Here's the Long and Short of it...

We get hundreds of these - and we don't mind; that's what we're here for. But would you object if we lumped 'em all on one page? Thanx; knew you wouldn't.

WANTS TO HEAR FROM ?

VERNON "Bud" ROKER  
1700 N.17th St.  
Beatrice NE

Anyone in 5th RCT. Was a medic in I Co., 3rd Bn. '51-'52.

Looking for:

DICK EDLING, JR. of 901 Bollen Cir., Gardnerville NV looking for Baker Boys of the 34th '43-'45.

JACK JAKUBAL (11th FA Bn '48-'51)  
1600 Horse Lake Rd., Wenatchee, WA 98801  
looking for friends from 11th FA Bn.

BRYANT WOOD, JR. (A 19th '49-'50)  
Rt. 2, Box 360-B, Silver Springs FL 32688  
would love to hear from anyone. He was in 1st platoon from 3/49-9/50.  
Tel. 904-625-3305

Now fully paid as a Life Member - no more dues for BOB HENDRIX, of 1560 K St., Walla Walla WA. Bob was A 34th fro- '44-'46. He'd love to hear from any of his old commands.

KEITH CURTISS (21st in Japan, I 5th RCT Korea and I & R Plt. '52-'53) of 8003 Newbury Pl. N.W., Bremerton WA 98312, is looking for anyone in I Co. 5th RCT or the I & R Plt. when they were in the Punch Bowl area. "Would certainly like to hear from them, especially during 52-53 time."

Fella wants to "get a K of the 21st Association going". That's ambition for you. And the ambitious one is BILLY MCFARLAND over at 4825 E. Westland, Cave Creek AZ. Tel. is 602-488-3495. We sent him the names of all K Co. Gimlets who are Assoc. members. That will get Billy started.

FRANK SMOLINSKI, 4460 Newton Rd., Hamburg NY 14075 is looking for anyone who served in 24th Sig.Co. '48-'50.

Robert Flaherty, 155 Darrow St., Quincy MA 02169, son-in-law of THOMAS GIBBONS of WW II vintage, is looking for anyone who knew Tom. Can you help Bob?

RAYMOND H. WELDEN (34th Anti-Tank 9/45-11/46) 140 Gould St., Corry PA 16407 is looking for ANDREW SZMEN or SZMAN. He thinks he was in the 19th or 21st. Can you help Ray?

JACK BARTON, 354 Hill Av., NW, Aiken SC 29801 is looking for anyone who served in A 21st '48-'51.

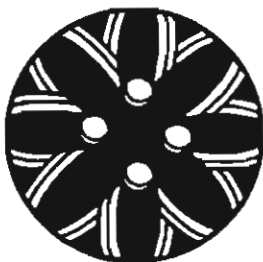
Imagine...

Yes, imagine our forgetting to mention that SHEFFIELD CLARK III (63rd F '49-'50), down at 305 3rd Av.S., Franklin TN would like to hear from old buddies. Kick no more, Sheff, your plug is in.

JAMES J. CANNIOTO (34th Med.Co. '49-'51) 38 Taft St., East Rochester NY 14445 looking for SGT. STEVENS who was with 34th Med.Co. in Korea. Last time he saw him was '52 at Falmouth MA "Buzzards Bay" when he got married. Thinks he lives in Pennsylvania somewhere.

DARIO GUERRA  
2719 Mildred Pl.,  
Ontario CA 91761  
Hv.Mtr. 34th '53

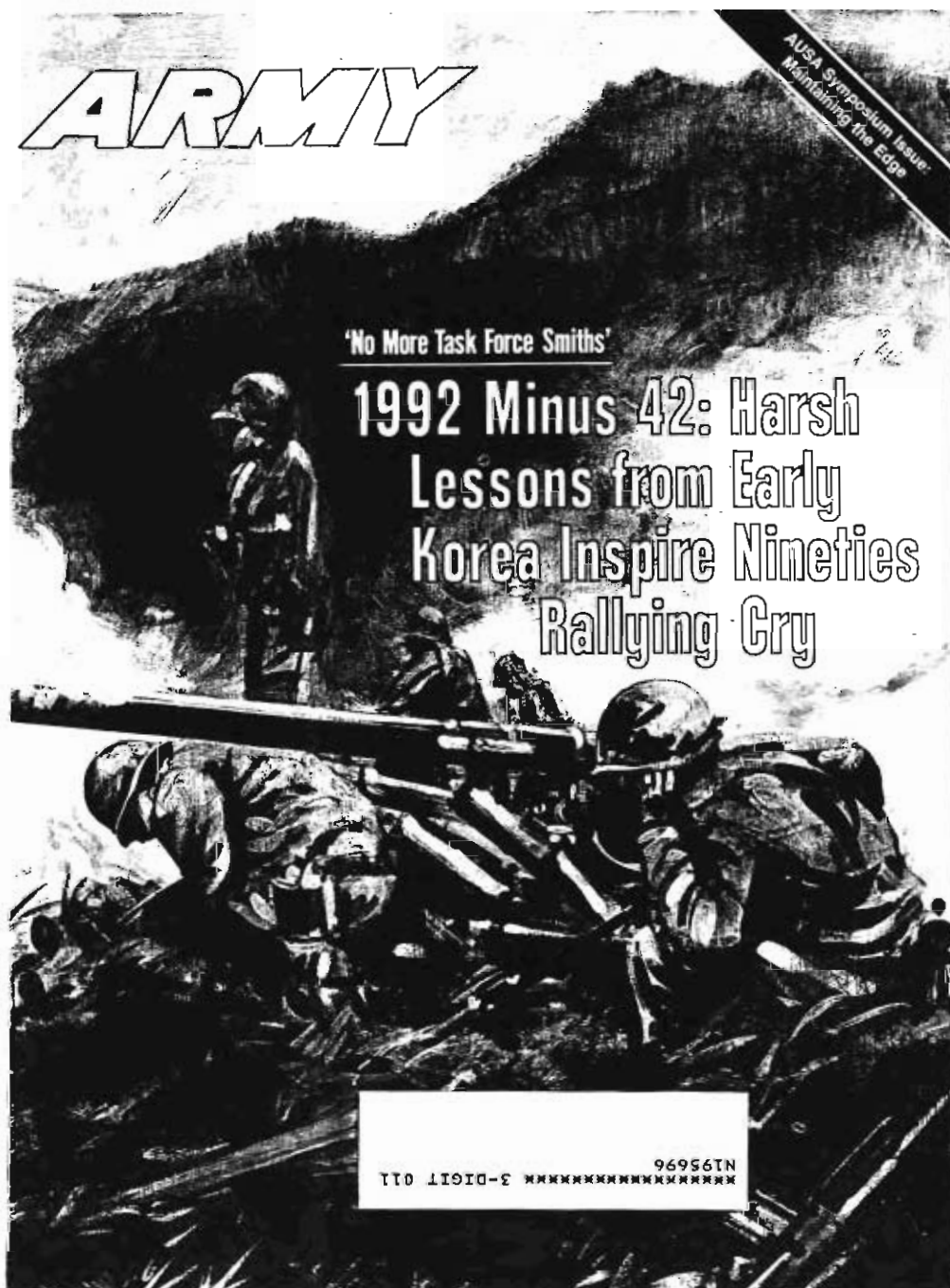
Went to PW Camp #2 in Pusan guarding Chinks. Wants to hear from any buddies.



# flashback

We had the next 9 pages set up when our February issue of *Army* arrived with a cover as reproduced below. Nothing would do but remake the paper. Incidentally the cover showing our men firing a 75-mm recoilless rifle was a John Kaljee painting. Our printer cannot possibly do it justice.

A Bit of History ...  
Right Here



By Eric C. Ludvigsen  
Associate Editor

*The Failed Bluff of Task Force Smith*

# An 'Arrogant Display



Life Member DEL GURULE (C 19th 7/50-8/50) writes from VAMC - 8BE, Ft. Lyon CO 81038. Del has been hospitalized since August - diabetes - beri beri - and going blind. How about a cheerer-upper for poor Del?

The 317th Engineers have arrived at Benning from Germany and is now attached to the Division's 3rd Brigade. Col. ROBERT J. ST.ONGE, JR., 3rd Brigade CO welcomed the troops to the Brigade - and to the Division. In Desert Storm, the unit provided engineer support to the Germany-based VII Corps.

Although the fate of the first American ground force to fight in Korea has become a metaphor for military unpreparedness, the wonder is that Task Force Smith acquitted itself as well as it did, given the impossible mission of redeeming years of neglect against overwhelming odds.

# of Strength'



The Bettmann Archive

**T**ask Force Smith was born in the late evening of 30 June when the commander of the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry, Lt. Col. Charles B. (Brad) Smith, was roused from bed in his quarters at Camp Wood, a onetime Japanese Army cavalry post near the town of Kumamoto on the southern island of Kyushu. The sleep deficit that would plague the task force in the field was already building up: the battalion had been on alert since the 28th, and Col. Smith, with one sleepless night behind him, had turned in less than two hours before.

Col. Smith, 34 and a 1939 West Point graduate, had commanded a company in the 25th Division in Hawaii at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack, then led a battalion on Guadalcanal when the division was commanded by Gen. J. Lawton Collins, Army chief of staff in 1950. He finished the war as the division G3, then served on the Department of the Army intelligence staff for nearly four years before returning to the Far East in July 1949. Col. Smith was considered one of the best battalion commanders in Eighth Army and had the full confidence of his division commander.

During World War II, Gen. Collins later wrote, Col. Smith "had come to my at-

tention... as a bright young officer who showed great promise. Now matured and with combat experience back of him, he was well qualified to lead the first American army troops to fight in the Korean war." (Technically, that distinction belonged to Detachment X of the 507th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion, 33 officers and men with four quadruple-mounted .50-caliber machine guns who were flown into Suwon airfield south of Seoul on the 29th, there to fire on seven attacking North Korean fighter-bombers in two separate engagements, downing one and given credit for a "probable" on another.)

On the telephone, Col. Richard W. Stephens, commanding the 21st Infantry, told Col. Smith only, "The lid has blown off—get on your clothes and report to the CP." Arriving at the regimental command post, he was told to prepare his battalion, less A and D Companies, for movement to Itazuke Air Base, where Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, commander of the 24th Infantry Division, would be waiting with further instructions. Col. Stephens helped find officers, NCOs and riflemen from the regiment's 3rd Battalion to fill gaps in Col. Smith's understrength B and C Companies. Other troops would join the task force at Itazuke.

The core of Task Force Smith departed Camp Wood for the 75-mile truck ride to the airfield at about 0300 hours, 1 July; the five-hour trip was made in the driving monsoon rain that would follow the task force for most of its first six days in Korea. The task force was to go to the southeastern Korean port of Pusan in Air Force C-54 transports.

Col. Smith remembers that Gen. Dean gave him these prototypical mission-type orders: "When you get to Pusan, head for Taejon. We want to stop the North Koreans as far from Pusan as we can. Block the main road as far north as possible. Contact [Brig.] General [John H.] Church [chief of GHQ's

*Someone once complained to Calvin Coolidge that a man being considered for a senatorial nomination was an "out-and-out S.O.B." "That maybe," Coolidge said, "but there's a lot of those in the country and I think they are entitled to representation in the Senate."*

Infantrymen of Task Force Smith arriving at the Taejon railway station on 2 July after an overnight train ride from Pusan.



AP Wirephoto

Advance Command and Liaison Group—ADCOM—in Korea and the senior Army officer in the country at that time]. If you can't locate him, go to Taejon and beyond if you can. Sorry I can't give you more information. That's all I've got. Good luck to you, and God bless you and your men."

Some historians have judged Gen. Dean harshly for sending a weak two-company task force with no assurance of support or reinforcement and no effective antitank weapons to face a victorious North Korean People's Army (NKPA), which had just seized Seoul from disintegrating Republic of Korea (ROK) forces with the aid of 120 tanks and ample artillery. The fact is, however, that, as Gen. Dean later admitted, the thought of failure never crossed his mind. Overconfidence bordering on arrogance was the prevailing mood in Far East Command, from Gen. MacArthur down to the greenest of Col. Smith's riflemen.

Virtually nothing was known about the NKPA, and what little information was available never filtered down to Task Force Smith—that knowledge would have to be purchased at great cost on the battlefield. The troops had been led to believe that they would be facing an ill-armed peasant army that would quit the field at the first appearance of an American uniform. After all, President Truman had not even dignified the U.S. military response as a war: many of the soldiers of Task Force Smith expected to be back in their Camp Wood billets in a few days, at the conclusion of the "police action."

"We thought they'd back off as soon as they saw American uniforms," then-1st Lt. Philip Day wrote historian David Detzer 23 years after the first battle. "I regarded the episode as an adventure that would probably last only a few days," wrote another participant, 1st Lt. John Doody. In 1951 testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Gen. MacArthur offered this retrospective justification of his deployments during the July crisis: "I threw in troops from the Twenty-fourth Division by air in the hope of establishing a locus of resistance around which I could rally the fast-retreating South Korean forces. I also hoped by

that arrogant display of strength to fool the enemy into belief that I had a much greater resource at my disposal than I did."

"Task Force Smith," concluded Dr. Detzer in his book *Thunder of the Captains: The Short Summer in 1950*, "was an armed marionette, lowered onto the stage of battle as a kind of *deus ex machina*, to frighten the credulous North Koreans in the audience and give heart to the South Koreans."

As assembled at Itazuke Air Base for transport to Pusan, Task Force Smith comprised two rifle companies, B and C of the 21st Infantry (still understrength despite the hastily drafted fillers); one half of Headquarters Company of the 21st Infantry's 1st Battalion; one half of a communications platoon; a composite platoon of four 75-mm recoilless rifles; and a composite platoon with four 4.2-inch mortars. Aside from their M1 rifles, M1 carbines and Browning automatic rifles (nine per company), each company had a weapons platoon with a .50-caliber machine gun, two tripod-mounted .30-caliber machine guns and two 60-mm mortars. There were also six 2.36-inch Bazooka teams.

About one-third of Task Force Smith's officers were World War II combat veterans, while half of the NCOs had served in that conflict, although not all in combat. Lower ranking enlisted men were mostly in their late teens, so that the task force's average age was about 20 years. Most had enlisted to escape boredom or lack of prospects in rural and small-town America, and were predominantly from the South and

West. In Far East Command's Eighth Army as a whole, about 43 percent of the lower ranking enlisted soldiers scored in the two lowest categories of the Army's qualification tests, which denies enlistment to most candidates today.

GHQ's air movement plan quickly broke down under a combination of the bad weather, a shortage of aircraft and the poor runway at Pusan, which eventually had to be closed to the heavily loaded, four-engined C-54s. Consequently, two each of the task force's recoilless rifles and heavy mortars, along with their crews, could not be airlifted and never caught up, cutting heavy firepower in half and reducing strength from 440 to 406 men before the force ever got to the front.

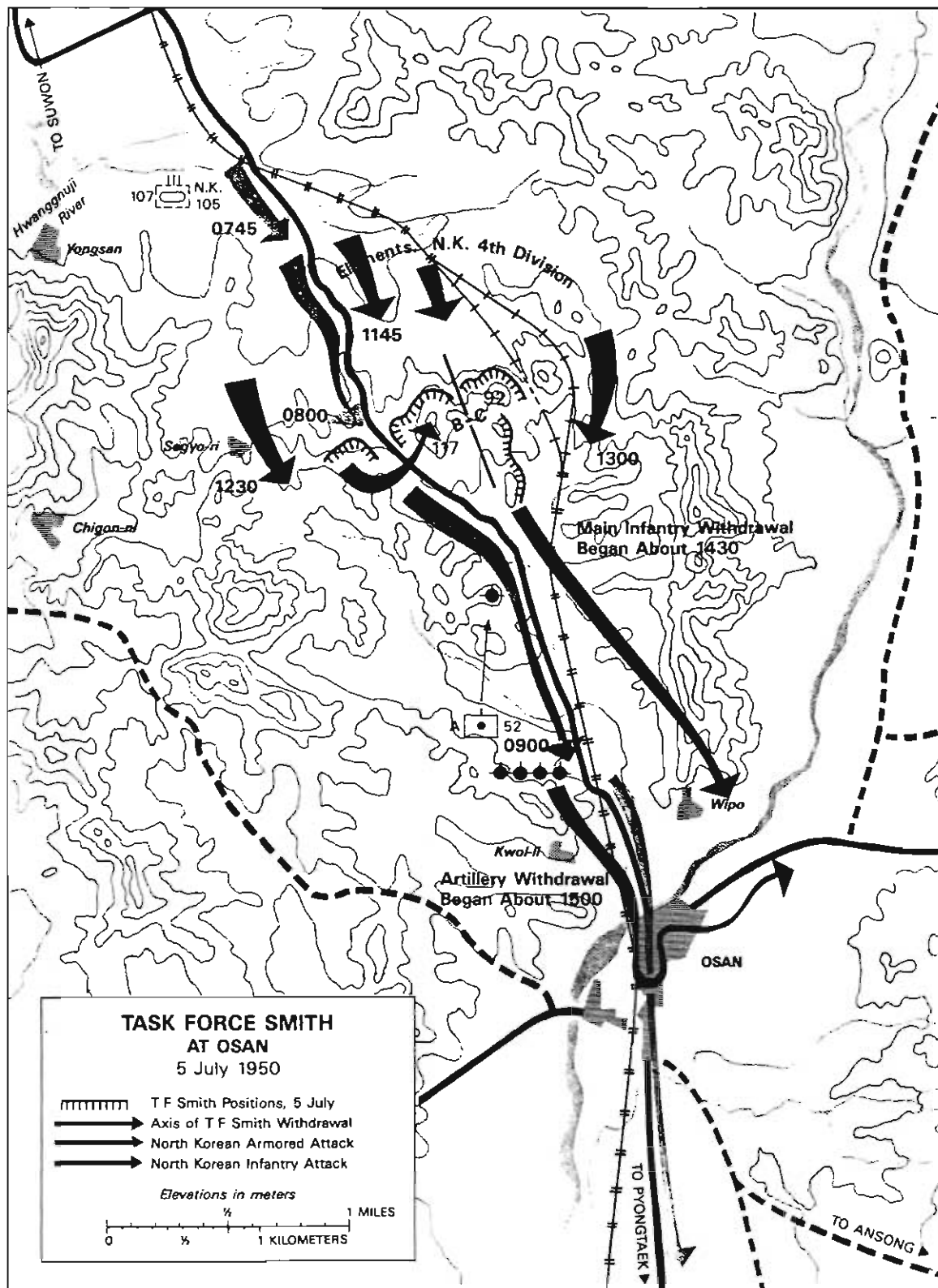
Task Force Smith advanced from Pusan by rail, arriving in Taejon—more than halfway to Seoul—on the morning of 2 July. There, Col. Smith consulted with Gen. Church, who indicated that the NKPA would soon move on Suwon, about 20 miles south of Seoul. "We have a little action up here," Gen. Church said, indicating the place on the map. "All we need is some men up there who won't run when they see tanks. We're going to move you up to support the ROKs and give them moral support."

While his troops bivouacked at Taejon, Col. Smith and some of his officers jeeped north more than 80 miles over the main Seoul-Pusan road and rail route, scouting likely defensive terrain and bucking a southward-bound stream of refugees and retreating ROK troops all the way. About eight

A small businessman was called in for an IRS audit. After hours of questioning and supplying documentation, the businessman had a question:

"Why is it," he asked the auditor, "that the government isn't as fussy about how it spends its money as it is about how I'm spending mine?"

We're a little late in covering Elizabeth Taylor's wedding to Larry Fortensky. True, he may be her 8th husband, but look at it this way - he's her first truck driver.



Looking for -  
AL SULLIVAN (D 24 Med. '46-'48 attached  
to 19th at Beppu) is looking for  
MIKE MCCORATH of same outfit. Says  
Mike was from Seattle. Any clues,  
Watson?

Remember J. Fred Muggs, the chimp on  
the first Today show? Well NBC recently  
celebrated the show's 40th with a lot of  
hoopla - including pictures of Muggs.  
Now comes the chimp's owner wanting NBC  
to pay for the shots. Question: is a  
monkey entitled to residuals?

miles south of Suwon and not quite three miles north of the village of Osan, the reconnaissance party found a good ambush site: a series of knolls rising to a height of about 300 feet above the valley floor and straddling the main highway, which rose through a saddle between the hills. The position dominated the highway and parallel railway and provided visibility almost all the way to Suwon.

After returning to Taejon late on the 2nd, Col. Smith was ordered to move north by rail to Pyongtaek, about 15 miles south of Osan, and to take up positions there and at Ansong, 12 miles to the east. With the NKPA now moving south from the Han River toward Suwon, the task force concentrated at Pyongtaek on the 4th and received a significant reinforcement: a detachment of the 24th Division's 52nd Field Artillery Battalion comprising A Battery, with six 105-mm howitzers, and one-half each of Headquarters and Service Batteries. Under Lt. Col. Miller O. Perry, the 52nd's commander, the detachment added 108 men and 73 vehicles to the task force and what would turn out to be its only effective anti-tank defense—six of the new shaped-charge HEAT (high-explosive antitank) rounds. There were only 18 such projectiles in the division artillery on Kyushu, and they had been shared equally among the three firing batteries of the 52nd going to Korea.

A little after midnight on 5 July, Task Force Smith, now 540 men strong, departed for its chosen position above Osan, the infantry riding in impressed Korean commercial trucks, whose drivers disappeared as soon as they understood they were heading north. Gen. Dean had arrived in Taejon on the 3rd and at midnight on the 4th took over command of the newly activated U.S. Army Forces in Korea (USAFIK) with Gen. Church as his deputy. Gen. Dean's plan was to blunt the NKPA advance with Task Force Smith, then stop it with the 34th Infantry, which had arrived at Pusan by sea on 2 July, followed closely by the other half of the 21st Infantry.

The 1st Battalion of the 34th was directed to dig in at a stream crossing just south of Pyongtaek, while the 3rd Battalion occupied positions at Ansong. The deployments were intended to cover the gap between



Then-Col. Charles B. (Brad) Smith, commander of the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry and Task Force Smith.

Asan Bay, an arm of the Yellow Sea on the west, and higher mountains on the inland side. Gen. Dean figured this was the last opportunity to halt the North Koreans before the terrain broadened out, giving easier access to the central and southwest areas of the ROK and the cities of Taejon and Kongju.

It was a sound plan, except that the forces available to execute it were pitifully inadequate. The commander of the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, Lt. Col. Harold B. Ayers, later wrote the Army's official historian that Gen. Dean and his staff "acted as if they were deploying corps against numerically

inferior forces, instead of three weak, poorly armed battalions against divisions of well-armed and well-trained and well-supported NKPA forces. . . . [Gen.] Dean's impression that this was a strong position with its left flank secured by the Yellow Sea was erroneous."

When Task Force Smith arrived at its Osan positions at 0300 hours on 5 July, it was still raining heavily and was unseasonably cold. By daylight, the troops had not yet finished digging in, but were in place on the hills, which had only low scrub and a few stunted pine trees for cover. Col. Smith placed one platoon of B Company on the knoll on the west side of the highway, the other two and one of the recoilless rifles on the highest hill immediately to the east of the saddle. Two platoons of C Company and the other recoilless rifle faced front on the rightmost of the three hills while the other platoon occupied positions along a finger ridge to the rear and facing east, to guard against any enemy attempt to flank along the railway roadbed, which split from the highway at this point. The two 4.2-inch mortars were sited on the reverse slope of the hill, about 400 yards behind B Company's main position.

Col. Perry emplaced four of his howitzers about 2,500 yards behind the infantry, on the left side of the road. A fifth piece was supplied with the precious HEAT rounds and moved up about halfway to cover a bend in the highway as an antitank weapon. Most of the artillery vehicles were parked under cover in the walled courtyards and narrow streets of Osan, along with the sixth howitzer, which was left behind because of



Although not present at Osan, the 24th Division's 155-mm howitzer battalion, the 11th Field Artillery, was in action within a few days.

*I seen temptation coming, but it seen me coming too.*

Otis Campbell, The Andy Griffith Show

problems with its prime mover.

The artillery had about 900 rounds of high-explosive (HE) projectiles at the guns, with another 300 rounds in reserve, on trucks parked in a walled enclosure behind the main battery position. Volunteers from the artillery Headquarters and Service Batteries added four .50-caliber machine guns and four more Bazooka teams to the infantry defenses.

While the leadership in Tokyo and Taejon was hoping to overawe the NKPA, the North Korean command was dealing with the consequences of its own failed bluff. North Korea had expected that popular uprisings in the South would end resistance there after the capture of Seoul, which was completed on 28 June. The ROK government of President Syngman Rhee, however, was still functioning in Taejon and attracting the aid and sympathy of the United Nations (UN). The NKPA's best hope was to push all the way to Pusan as quickly as possible, before foreign UN military forces could arrive in strength.

The NKPA command revised its plans on the fly, but before the second phase of the offensive could get under way, its 3rd and 4th Divisions had to fight a vicious two-day battle for Seoul's industrial suburb of Yongdungpo on the south bank of the broad Han River. Because ROK forces had blown the Han bridges, this was the first battle the NKPA fought without tank support (the infantry crossed in boats) and casualties were unexpectedly heavy—more than 2,000 in the 4th Division alone. The battle ended quickly early on 3 July, after one of the railway bridges was repaired and decked over for tank traffic. The 4th Division then struck out for the airfield at Suwon, with a tank regiment of the 105th Armored Division (lately a brigade, but jumped up to honor its role in the Seoul fighting) in the lead. Brushing aside an ROK roadblock halfway to Suwon, NKPA forces secured the airfield and town by midnight, 5 July.

Scanning toward Suwon with his field glasses at about 0700 hours, Col. Smith saw movement in the road that soon resolved itself into a column of eight Soviet-supplied T-34 85 medium tanks, moving at deliberate speed. They approached within about 2,000 yards of the task force's infantry positions before the call for fire went out from the artillery forward observers: the first rounds were fired at 0816.

Fire was quickly adjusted, but the tanks rolled on with seeming indifference as the artillery shells exploded close aboard. The recoilless rifles opened up at a range of 700



Maj. Gen. William F. Dean (center), who commanded the 24th Division in its early days in Korea, was military governor there during 1947-48. He is seen here on a tour before UN-supervised elections in May 1948, with Col. R. H. Brown (left), commander of the 20th Infantry, and Col. T. H. Murphy, an Army provincial civil affairs officer.

yards, but several direct hits had no apparent effect. (There were no HEAT rounds for these weapons.) Firing their main guns and machine guns, the tanks advanced up the slope toward the saddle, where the Bazooka teams went into action.

From a ditch on the east side of the road, 2nd Lt. Ollie D. Connor, a Mississippian who would win a Silver Star this day, fired 22 rockets from a range of 15 yards, most at the weaker rear armor of the two leading tanks. It is not clear what effect these hits had; they may have damaged the running gear of one or both tanks, but some were obviously duds, screeching off the steel armor in a shower of sparks. (Col. Smith thought the Bazooka ammunition had deteriorated with age.) What is certain is that the lead tanks were stopped when taken under fire by HEAT rounds from the lone howitzer posted at the bend of the road below.

The damaged tanks pulled to the side of the highway to let the others pass. One of the tanks started to burn, and two of its crew attempted to surrender, but the third man came out of the turret firing a submachine gun. Before all three men were cut down by return fire, the tank crewman had fired into one of the infantry machine-gun positions, killing the assistant gunner. This man, whose identity unfortunately has never been determined, was very probably the first ground soldier killed in action in the war.

The American artillery's initial success

was short-lived—the third tank through the pass put the antitank howitzer out of action with a single round from its 85-mm main gun, wounding one of the crew. All of the HEAT rounds had been fired in any case. More tanks followed the first eight, another 25 in all from the 107th Tank Regiment of the 105th Armored Division. The last of them passed the infantry positions at about 0900; they made no attempt to stop and engage, but fired in all directions as they came through the saddle, killing or wounding about 20 of Col. Smith's men in a half-hour.

Warned by the infantry that the tanks were coming, the main howitzer battery position kept them under fire with HE rounds up to ranges as close as 150 to 300 yards but could not halt them, except for the third tank through, whose tracks were damaged. Five Bazooka teams from the main battery position then went into action, led by Col. Perry and Sgt. Edwin A. Eversole, but their rockets were ricocheting or exploding on the armor with no effect. Col. Perry, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for this action, was wounded in the right leg, but refused evacuation and continued to direct his troops. The balance of the armor now came on in groups of two, three or four at irregular intervals, pausing behind a rise that gave cover, then sprinting down the road.

When the second batch of tanks appeared, some howitzer crew members panicked and ran. Under the leadership of 1st Lt. Dwain

*I had plastic surgery last week. I cut up my credit cards.*

Henny Youngman

L. Scott, who was later awarded the Silver Star, officers humped ammunition and loaded the guns, while senior NCOs laid and fired them. The panic soon passed, and the gun crews sheepishly returned. The tanks were firing desultorily as they moved but apparently could not locate the battery position from their buttoned-up vehicles. One more tank was disabled when hit in the running gear; some also had two or three infantrymen riding their decks, and all of these were killed by artillery fire.

Three of the remaining 29 tanks were damaged but managed to disappear down the highway toward Osan with the others, the last passing the artillery position at about 1015. About this time, the dump of reserve ammunition, hit by tank fire, began to burn and explode. None of the artillerymen had been killed, and only Col. Perry and two others were wounded.

**T**he story of the tank assault might have been different if Task Force Smith had had any antitank mines; the first batch of 800 had been flown in from Japan on 30 June, but none had yet reached the front. At about this time, a problem began to manifest itself that would have grave consequences for the balance of the action and that following at Pyongtaek: communications between the infantry and artillery and between Task Force Smith and the outside world were flickering and dying. The tanks had chewed up the field telephone wire laid along the road, and enemy fire during the infantry attack that followed prevented its restoration.

The radios, soaked by the rain, had been functioning intermittently all along, and the last jeep radio quit altogether at about 1100. The artillery was thus effectively knocked out of the fight and contributed little to the final defense—Col. Smith, in fact, concluded that the artillery had been destroyed by the tank column. Without the radios, the task force could not report its situation to Gen. Dean in Taejon or to the units behind them at Pyongtaek and Ansong.

Shortly before 1100 hours, Task Force Smith observers spotted further movement far north on the highway near Suwon. This turned out to be a column of trucks headed by three T-34 85s and followed by infantry



An infantry squad mans a rocky ridgeline, summer 1950.



Troops take cover as sniper fire halts an Army convoy in a Korean town, July 1950.

Do you think former California Gov. Jerry Brown has solved the re-entry problem yet?

They're calling Governor Cuomo "Hamlet-on-the-Hudson".

Bumper Sticker: I gave up smoking, Drinking & Sex.\*  
\*It was the worst 15 minutes of my life.

Bumper Sticker: Everyone needs to believe in something. I believe I'll have another beer.



Maj. Gen. John H. Church (right), who directed Task Force Smith as a brigadier general after its arrival in Taejon, was shortly thereafter promoted and appointed to succeed the missing Gen. Dean in command of the 24th Division. He is seen here in August 1950 during a tour of Pusan perimeter positions with Gen. J. Lawton Collins (left), Army chief of staff, and Lt. Gen. Walton H. Walker, commanding general of Eighth Army.

on foot—the complete 16th and 18th Regiments of the NKPA 4th Division, numbering between 4,000 and 5,000 men (although some were apparently recently impressed fillers for the 3,300 casualties the 4th had so far taken in the campaign, for rural peasant white showed up among the mustard-colored NKPA tunics in the marching ranks). Col. Smith estimated the column at six miles long, and the head of it required nearly an hour to get within 1,000 yards of the infantry positions.

At that point, just before noon, Task Force Smith opened up with every infantry weapon at its disposal. The heavy mortars and .50-caliber machine guns were especially destructive, setting several trucks afire, bringing the column to a halt and forcing the enemy infantry into the ditches. The NKPA infantry force apparently had no reports from the leading tank regiment and was unaware that the location was defended, let alone by Americans. They recovered quickly, however, and about 1,000 infantrymen began to deploy, shielded by the tanks plastering the ridgeline with main gun and machine-gun fire at 200 to 300 yards range.

An enemy frontal attack on the east side of the road was stopped cold by fire from B Company, but the NKPA set up machine guns and mortars there to support a double envelopment. By about 1230, an enemy force had gotten onto higher ground west of the position and forced Col. Smith to withdraw the B Company platoon there across the road. The position tightened, but within another hour, the enemy was pouring in fire from the higher ground east of the railroad tracks.

As mid-afternoon approached, with the

enemy established on both flanks and with a huge uncommitted reserve in front, Col. Smith concluded that his task force had done all it could, up to the point of needless sacrifice. Ammunition was running low, the NKPA tank regiment was rampaging somewhere in the rear, and there was no hope of outside help. Friendly fighter-bombers could have visited enormous destruction on the stalled enemy force, but the low overcast and rain precluded aid from that quarter. Even if the aircraft had been able to fly, the chaotic state of air-ground communications at that time had restricted air action to targets north of the Han, after U.S. and Australian fighters mistakenly attacked allied forces repeatedly on 3 July, blowing up a northward-bound ammunition train at Pyongtaek and shooting up 30 trucks and killing 200 ROK soldiers on the Suwon-Osan road.

**A**t 1430 hours, Col. Smith issued the order for a withdrawal, a very delicate maneuver under enemy fire in daylight. He had waited perhaps a bit too long, but Col. Smith said, "I had no authorization to withdraw earlier, or even at the time we did. Our ammunition was running out; that was the main thing." In any case, the withdrawal plan went to pieces almost immediately. C Company was to come off the hill first, then the medical platoon and battalion headquarters, followed by B Company—each unit to cover the movement of the one ahead of it.

Up to this time, the task force had suffered about 30 to 40 casualties—far fewer than the number it would lose in the next few hours. The infantry left all of its crew-served weapons on the field, and Col. Smith

felt there was no choice but to abandon the dead and wounded, the latter attended by a medic who volunteered to stay behind, his name unrecorded. Two senior veteran NCOs also refused to leave, while the 2nd Platoon of B Company never even received the withdrawal order. The force was now in the open under murderous fire from some well-sited NKPA machine guns, and discipline broke down as the terror of being left behind seized the men. The withdrawal turned into a panicked headlong flight south through the rice paddies east of the railway, as the troops discarded rifles, boots and helmets to speed their transit through the sucking, stinking mud. They were chased by machine-gun fire, but there was no North Korean pursuit.

Col. Smith followed the railroad track to the artillery position to let the gunners know that the infantry was leaving. He was surprised to find the battery still mostly intact. The artillerymen removed the sights and breech blocks from the howitzers and carried them back to the north edge of Osan, where they found most of their vehicles still in running condition. (The infantry's make-shift transport park had been mostly destroyed by the enemy tanks that morning.)

With Cols. Smith and Perry, the artillerymen boarded the vehicles and headed into Osan, intending to take the main road southeast to Ansong. One of the reasons the infantry withdrawal plan broke down is that Col. Smith was reluctant to designate an assembly area because he did not know where the NKPA tanks were. The retreating U.S. convoy found the answer to that question as they suddenly came upon three T-34s on the main street of Osan, their crews relaxing and smoking cigarettes. Glaring stares were exchanged, but no shots, as the American vehicles quickly reversed course and turned east on a poor dirt road they hoped would lead to Ansong. Along the way, the convoy picked up about 100





24th Division infantrymen display their company guidon after escaping the fall of Taejon. The censor obliterated the company and regimental designation from the guidon.

Task Force Smith infantrymen emerging from the rice paddies to the north.

The shattered remnant of the task force arrived safely in Ansong that night, and went further south to Chonan for reorganization on 6 July. Cols. Smith and Perry had brought out about 185 men, and Capt. Charles Dashner, the commander of C Company, arrived in Chonan with 65 troops. Second Lt. Carl F. Bernard and 12 men of B Company's 2nd Platoon—the unit that did not get the word about the withdrawal—came in two days later after evading five NKPA roadblocks.

When all the headcounts had been made, it was determined that the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry suffered 153 casualties at Osan—five officers and 148 enlisted men killed, wounded and/or missing. A Battery, 52nd Field Artillery Battalion and attached units lost five officers and 26 enlisted men, all but three of the total of 31 from among the forward observers and volunteer weapons crews serving at the infantry positions, none of whom ever came back. Circumstances made it impossible to know exactly the number of battle deaths among the casualties, but it is estimated to be about 20. Others later died in captivity, some from the effects of battle wounds. A few of those initially listed as missing showed up weeks later, having walked out over long distances. Documents captured later in the war indicated that the NKPA lost about 42 dead and 85 wounded in the fight at Osan.

Task Force Smith's loss rate of about 35 percent was enough to label the action a disaster, but the doubt and uncertainty that

the defeat created was far more damaging to American military fortunes than the actual casualties. Because of the lack of radio communications, other 24th Division units assumed the task force had been completely wiped out. Gen. Dean came forward to Pyongtaek on the evening of the 5th and stayed for several hours waiting for word of what happened. Shortly after he left, Col. Perry reported to the Pyongtaek CP and rendered the first official report on Task Force Smith to Gen. Dean's personal representative in the forward area. Brig. Gen. George B. Barth, the acting division artillery commander, (Gen. Barth had been borrowed from the 25th Infantry Division to fill in for his 24th Division counterpart, who was returning from leave in the United States.)

Col. Perry's report stressed the efficiency and determination of the NKPA force and its skill at envelopment and infiltration. Gen. Barth thereupon made some changes in Gen. Dean's dispositions of the 34th Infantry that resulted in a precipitate withdrawal after slight contact with the enemy at Pyongtaek. Something similar happened with 24th Division units at Chonan, at Chonui, at Chochiwon, on the Kum River line and finally at Taejon, where Gen. Dean was captured after battling T-34s in the streets with one of the new 3.5-inch Bazookas. The pendulum had swung completely—from utter contempt for the enemy. Army units now assigned him near-supernatural powers. Troops lost confidence in their leaders, tactics and weapons, and were

reluctant to stand and fight—a virus that spread quickly throughout the division and would take many weeks to get under control.

Despite the infamy now attached to its name because of the panicked retreat and abandoned comrades, Task Force Smith did stand and fight. Gen. Church had wanted men who would not run at the sight of tanks, and they did not. But neither were they able to halt the NKPA advance, so what had their bravery gotten them? That was the question in the collective minds of the next units in the path of the NKPA advance, and they did not like the answer.

Certainly there were craven acts at Osan, but also many heroic ones, some performed anonymously. Two other Silver Stars were awarded for that day, both to private first class machine gunners; Vern Mulligan of C Company, who killed six enemy in a hair-raising close-quarters firefight, and B Company's Florentin Gonzales, who volunteered to cover his platoon's withdrawal and stayed behind his gun until the position was overrun.

The circumstances had placed Task Force Smith in a nearly impossible situation. That the task force was perhaps more sinned against than sinning is evidenced by the fact that no attempt was ever made to scapegoat Col. Smith. He was back in action with his battalion (now reunited with its A and D Companies) on 11 July. Col. Smith was eventually awarded a DSC for Osan and continued to command the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry until the time of the Chinese intervention in the war in November 1950.

After five months of hard, continuous combat, during which he was again decorated for bravery, Col. Smith was reassigned to the United States, in the Office of the Inspector of Infantry, Army Field Forces. He eventually advanced to the rank of brigadier general and retired in 1966 as assistant division commander of the 5th Infantry Division. Gen. Smith then worked for 12 years as an executive with the Semiconductor Products Division of Motorola Inc. He lives in retirement in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Bumper Sticker: Just when you thought you were winning the rat race, along come faster rats.

Bumper Sticker: A woman's place is in the mall.

Bumper Sticker: Gee, Tonto, I don't think we're in Kansas anymore.

# Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



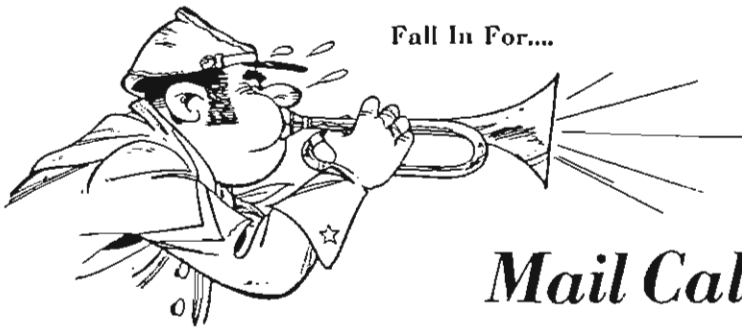
ROBERT D. BAXTER, SR. (Hq. & Hq.Co. 5th RCT 7/51-6/52) 1427 S.Carlisle St., Philadelphia PA 19146 says, "In my post I have had the good luck of raising about \$150.00 to aid the Korean War Memorial Fund in Washington, D.C. I received a card with my pension check and made copies and passed them out at my job. When I sent in the returns I felt good for our cause. Now I am sending an extra \$10.00 for the little and unknown men that served with me in the 53rd Counter Fire Platoon. 5th RCT, Hq. & Hq. Co. was an experiment unit and we did our best from 7/51 - 6/52. I never knew what happened to our unit after that. Maybe someone else has heard of us and can tell me."

Our thanks to DICK LEWIS, Box 1776, Fredrick MD, for this fine shot of B Btry., 11th Field, at their September get-together at Springfield MO. Says Dick: "We had 15 vets, 12 wives of vets, and 3 widows of vets." He named them for us and here they are:

**1992  
DUES  
ARE  
NOW  
DUE**



Front Row L-R: HOWIE (Mtr Sgt)& DORIS WAGNER, ELMER (MG Sec) JUNI, LOUIE (Gun Sec) SPACCOMONTI, RUSS (Commo) CASEY, LEEROY (Gun Sec) TEAGUE, GOLDA HALEY widow of FRANK (Gun Sec), CHRISTINE BARBEE widow of RALPH (B.C.Driver), ISABELLA & A.I. (Gun Sec) BYRD, ELIZABETH HERNDON. Second Row L-R: BETTY RILEY, NANCY WILL widow of JIM (Btry Cmdr), RUTH SPACCOMONTI, DOROTHY BERNs, MILLIE TEAGUE, JANE KING, BERNICE CARMACK, PEG CHILCOTE, ROSILAND STAUFF, LEE (Mtr Sec)HERNDON Top Row L-R: GLEN (Gun Sec) RILEY, FRANCES & CONLEY (Gun Sec) CHEEK, HUBERT (Gun Drvr) BERNs, DICK (Survey) LEWIS, GEORGE (Commo) KING, MURREL (Gun Sec) CARMACK, WILL (Ex Off) CHILCOTE, MIKE (Ammo Cpl) STAUFF.



## Mail Call!

Delicious quote from wonderful guy,  
JOE MCKEON:

"By the way, I use the History Book Club to do some reading on the Civil War, which I find fascinating. They were as screwed up in those days as we are now. Seems like we never learn and are bound to repeat our mistakes"...Love seeing more reps from our "Germany contingent" coming aboard. Welcome, we say, to TED PEER, (6690 Peppermint Dr., Reno NV). Ted was H & H, 24th Admin. at Sheridan Kaserne, Augsburg.

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

**A** farm boy accidentally overturned his wagonload of corn onto the road. The farmer who lived nearby went over to have a look. "Hey, Willis," he called, "forget yer troubles for a spell and have dinner with us. I'll help you with the wagon later."

"That's mighty nice of you," Willis said, "but I don't think Pa would like me to."

"Aw, come on, son!" the farmer insisted.

"Well, OK," the boy finally agreed. "But Pa won't like it."

After a hearty meal, Willis thanked his host. "I feel a lot better now, but I just know Pa will be upset."

"Nonsense," the farmer said. "Where is your pa, anyway?"

"Under the wagon."

KERMIT L. STEELE (M 21st '41-'45)  
328 Crosslane's Dr., Nitro WV 25143  
would like to hear from old buddies  
or anyone from the 24th Division.  
Kermit picked up his application at  
VFW Post 9097.

EARL J. COOPER, (D 21st '41-'45)  
1544 Jermain Dr., Toledo OH 43606,  
Life Member #1159, says, "I enjoy  
and look forward to the Taro Leaf."

A must read -  
John Toland's just  
released "In Mortal  
Combat: Korea, 1950  
1953" (Morrow, 624  
pp., \$25.00). The  
forgotten war is no  
longer forgotten,  
if it ever was.

## A Gentle Reminder!

DOMINIC D. GIOVANNI (Korea) wants to  
know if anyone in Arizona is interested  
in joining the Purple Heart Group. Write  
or call him at 10438 E. Flintlock Dr.,  
Sun Lakes AZ 85248 - Tel. 602-895-8016.



Just before joining our soiree at S.F.,  
our scholarly Past Prexy TOM UPTON was  
relieved of his automobile. Relieved?  
It was stolen - and as we write, has not  
been recovered. That was in NY. Then  
Tom flies all the way to the west coast,  
only to be relieved of his pocket  
possessions. Relieved? Tom was mugged  
in downtown S.F. So, in final analysis,  
it came as no surprise that Tom suffered  
a fainting spell in the very lobby of our  
caravansary. 911. Emergency people by  
the dozens. Hospitalization. And finally  
hours later Tom's release - and thank  
fortune, return to normalcy. He's doing  
just fine - but he will never forget the  
merry month of September '91. We are a  
near state of anarchy, aren't we? -  
worrying more about the rights of the  
criminal than the rights of the victims.  
Where will it end? Is this the kind of a  
country we fought to protect?



**1992  
DUES  
ARE  
NOW  
DUE**

# The Official 24th Infantry Division Association Watch



A Seiko Quartz timepiece.  
Featuring a richly detailed three-dimensional  
re-creation of the Association Seal,  
finished in 14 kt. gold.  
Convenient interest-free monthly installment plan.

For faster service, credit card orders may be placed weekdays from  
9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Eastern Time).  
Telephone toll free 1-800-523-0124 and request Operator E40KQ.

## Personal Reservation Form

### Mail Orders to:

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION I ASSOCIATION  
c/o P.O. Box 670  
Exton, PA 19341-0670

Please accept my order for the following Official 24th Infantry Division  
Association Watch(es):

\_\_\_ Ladies' Seiko Quartz Wrist Watch with Leather Strap (TID-SLS) @ \$200\* ea.  
Qty \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Men's Seiko Quartz Wrist Watch with Leather Strap (TID-SMS) @ \$200\* ea.  
Qty \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Seiko Pocket Watch with Matching Chain (TID-SPK) @ \$245\* ea.  
Qty \_\_\_\_\_

\* Plus \$7.50 handling and insured shipping charge per watch. On ship-  
ments to Pennsylvania, include 6% state sales tax to total of order.

Purchaser's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Daytime Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

If "ship to" address is different from above please attach correct address to order form.

Please allow 6-8 weeks for shipment.

I prefer to pay as follows:

- ☐ ENCLOSED IS MY INITIAL INSTALLMENT of \$40 for each strap watch, or \$49 for each pocket watch, payable by check or credit card (information provided below), together with shipping and handling charge of \$7.50 per watch. I agree to pay the balance due in 4 monthly installments of \$40 for each strap watch, or \$49 for each pocket watch. \*\* (On shipments to Pennsylvania only, please include 6% state sales tax on total order to your deposit.)
- ☐ IN FULL BY CHECK. Enclosed please find my check or money order for the full amount due, made payable to "Official 24th Infantry Watch".
- ☐ IN FULL BY CREDIT CARD. Following shipment of my watch(es), please charge the full amount due to my credit card as indicated below.

Credit Card Information:



Full Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date:

Mo. \_\_\_\_\_ Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*All orders are subject to acceptance. There is no finance charge on the monthly payment plan. The amount of payments (total sales price) is equal to the single payment price. If purchaser fails to pay any portion of the total payments scheduled, the entire balance shall become immediately due at the discretion of the watch distributor, Weyanco Enterprises.

Operator No.E40KQ

## What Would You Like From Us?

They'd like our support, that's what!

A new foundation has been formed to help make the dream of a new museum become a reality.

The 24th Infantry Division Museum Foundation was formed when the decision was made to begin raising funds to build a new museum.

"A museum foundation has been established with the purpose of building a 20,000 square-foot museum in front of the Desert Storm Monument," said Maj. Rick Clifton, director, 24th Infantry Division Museum.

Members of the foundation include military leaders and members of the local community.

Membership to the museum foundation is \$10.00. A membership will also entitle the holder to 10 percent off anything in the gift shop at the current museum.

The foundation is establishing a donor recognition program.

"We are designing brass plaques to place on the wall," Clifton said. "These plaques will include the name of the donor. The larger the donation, the larger the plaque."

The museum is planning to add to its current displays. "The new museum will allow us to show our entire collection," he said. "We are also contacting veteran groups from the division and asking them to send us photographs, uniforms and any souvenirs they have so we can place them on display in the new museum."

Anyone interested in donating to the museum foundation can call Maj. Rick Clifton at 912-767-4480 or write:

Victory Museum Foundation  
PO Box 2424, Hinesville GA 31313.

Your Association has started with a \$100.00 contribution.

## DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES ARE NEEDED

As of next July 31, 1992, Life Memberships will cost \$150.00.

JOSEPH J. MCKEON (19th 2/49-5/51) of 12733 Muscatine St., Arleta CA 91331, our Directory Chairman, has given us \$50.00 to be applied to his already paid-up Life Membership #62. (Joe completed his payments way back in 1966).

Joe says he wants to be the first to bring his Life Membership payment up to the now required \$150.00!


Wouldn't it be terrific if more of our presently paid-up Life Members would follow Joe's example.

## Now Hear This.

At S.F., one of his soldiers said of General McCaffrey: "The man is absolutely fearless; he would strike a match to look into a gas tank."



It's Helen and Dr. PHIL HOSTETTER, our faithful photographer, on Sept. 7, 1941 and Sept. 7, 1991. We flowered these wonderful people in your name on their anniversary day. Photos by - you guessed it - Doctor Phil.

 **YOU**  
don't belong to  
this Association!  
**IT** belongs  
to **YOU!**

## TO MAKE A LONG TALE SHORT...



The powers-that-be have told us our issues have been "too big" and "too costly". Boy, can we take a hint. For abbreviated style, watch this...In Nov., the 317th Eng.Bn. arrived, to join elements of the 3rd Eng.Bn. to form the 11th Eng.Bn., part of the Division Engineer Brigade. Are you following us? ...Past Prexy JOHN KLUMP in and out of surgery just before the holidays. Rotator cuff, right shoulder - second time. The baseball pitcher's common complaint. All AOK reports John...

This crowd doesn't send out statements. We're not chintzy, mind you. Strike that. We are. Statements cost 29¢ to mail. And we're trying to save YOUR \$.

At S.F. it was voted to increase the annual dues to \$15 per annum, effective Aug. first, 1992. At the same time, Life Memberships are increased from \$100 to \$150.00, also as of Aug.1,1992. So better to renew now, and get in under the wire at the "old" rate.

FLASH. Important news. KEN MCNABB, (L 34th '46-'48) of Rt. 3, Box 205, Oblong IL attaches this note with his check for dues: "Sorry to be late; been putting up a chicken fence; use the extra \$5 for whatever."

*'Tis our true policy to  
steer clear of permanent  
alliances, with any  
portion of the foreign  
world-as far, I mean, as  
we are now at liberty to  
do it.*

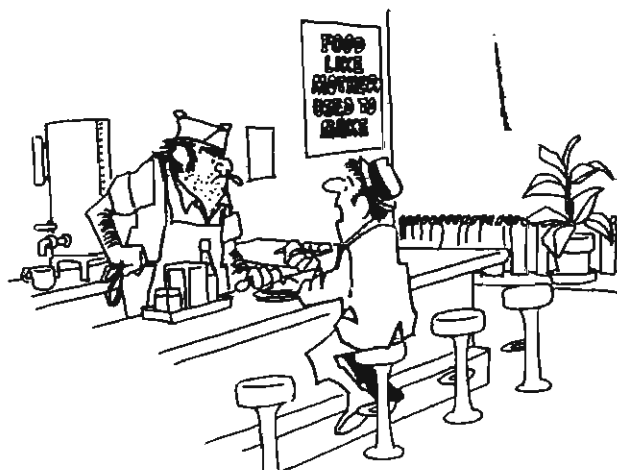
George Washington, Farewell Address, 1796

# Let's Dance.

Congratulations to Maj.Gen.DENNIS MALCOR who is now Deputy C/S for Training at the Trng. and Doctrine Command in Ft.Monroe VA. Gen. Malcor was one-time First Brigade Commander at Stewart.

And Congratulations, too, to BG FREDERICK WONG who is now ADC (Support) at Fort Polk, 5th Inf.Div.(Mech). General Wong was one-time Second Brigade Commander at Stewart.

Quotable Quotes: DAN CHASE, B19th '51 of 46 Cochituate, Framingham MA, on missing S.F. - "In my view, nothing will ever replace the camaraderie resultant from military service." BEN WAHLE (E & G 34th '43-'45) of 1132 Killarney Ln. Burlingame CA 94010, "After S.F. PAUL and Lynn AUSTIN spent a few wonderful days with us before flying home to Ft.Worth." HANFORD RANTS (HQ Co. 34th '43-'45) of 9330 Parrot Av., Downey CA 90240, "Another reunion, another total outstanding success. My thanks go to the hotel, its personnel and its facilities - as good as any we have ever had. Even the banquet food was uniquely flavorful." CARL WIPPERMAN (724 Ord '49-'51) 12805 51st SE, Everett WA: "Here is my check for \$100.00 for Life Membership. I attended my first reunion this year. I really enjoyed the Comradeship. Even met a member from Washington who happened to be sitting next to me and my wife at the banquet. He knew people that we know. Talk about a small world. As a career soldier I was not too keen on an all volunteer army in 1969, through the years I have changed my mind. Meeting the great young soldiers and their General of the 24th convinces me that the all volunteer army is working."



"No offense, but did your mother happen to be a mess sergeant at Fort Bragg?"

# On the Agenda

It's on our agenda - to help in the sales of this splendid book. We snatched the ad from Patriot. So what if it appeared weeks ago? You can still order the book:

PATRIOT, Thursday, November 28, 1991 - 3A

## Victory Book captures 24th's actions

The soldiers and civilians from the 24th Infantry Division have the chance to relive Operations Desert Shield/Storm.

The Victory Book: A Desert Storm Chronicle, is a 242 page book now available for purchase.

"The Victory Book is a first-

class compilation of the Victory Division's part in the Southwest Asia Campaign," said Maj. Kevin Bergner, Public Affairs Officer. "It contains beautiful photography and art done by soldiers while in the desert.

"Most importantly, (it contains) the definitive tactical plan the division executed in

Desert Storm."

The story is documented in a hard-bound edition, with a complete division history from its inception before Pearl Harbor to its action in Desert Storm. The 144 pages of full-color photos add a visual dimension to the story.

The Victory Book covers not

only the soldiers but the story of the families at home.

"It (the Victory Book) contains a homefront section that chronicles the families activities here at Fort Stewart," he said.

Each unit tells the story of its part in Operation Desert Storm including the planning, implementation and victory.

A special section is dedicated to remembering the fallen and celebrating their valor.

"This is something that would be helpful for family members and parents to get a clearer insight into the eight months spent in Southwest Asia," Bergner added.

Copies can be reserved on Fort Stewart at the ITR, the Arts and Crafts Center, the PX mall, ACS and the 24th Infantry Division Museum.

Hunter Army Airfield locations include ITR and the PX mall.

Prices for the Victory Book are \$15 pick-up price and \$20 mailed price.

Mail \$20 Check or money order to: 1MWRP, Post Office Box 3597, Fort Stewart, GA 31314  
For More Information, Call: (912) 767-5136

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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\$15 - Pick Up Price

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Gift Certificates are available.

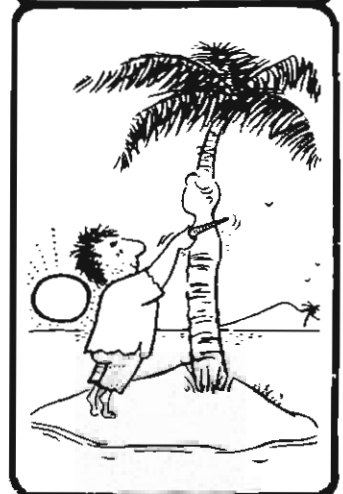
A Great Christmas Gift Idea

It may be that the race is not always to the swift,  
nor the battle to the strong—but that is the way  
to bet.

DAMON RUNYON



A great looking Color Guard. They flew the 3000 miles to be a part of our celebration. We are grateful to you General McCaffrey for bringing this fine group with you. Photo by ALAN DE MOSS. Nice shot, Alan.



The newest additions to the Division are home as soldiers of the 226th Supply and Service Company arrived at Hunter from Germany.

The 226th is the third unit to arrive from Europe, following the 317th Engineer Bn. and the 396th Transportation Co., which arrived earlier.

The new unit will become part of the Division Support Command and will support Division units as well as non-divisional units. They can provide POL resupply and storage, and water purification along with other services.

A videotape of the visit to West Point by Gen. H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF is now available.

This tape contains excerpts from various events including the Brigade Review, press conference, and dinner in the Cadet Mess Hall. Gen. Schwarzkopf's "Character and Competence" speech to the Corps of Cadets is also included.

The tape may be purchased through the Directorate of Cadet Activities for \$10.00. To order, send your check or money order, payable to Cadet Activities Fund, to:

Directorate of Cadet Activities  
ATTN: Schwarzkopf Video  
Eisenhower Hall, Bldg. 655  
U.S. Military Academy  
West Point NY 10996.

A woman knelt in the confessional, telling her priest, "I'm so distressed: After three marriages, I'm still a virgin!"

"But how can that be, my child?" asked the priest.

"My first husband died of a heart attack before the marriage could be consummated. My second husband was a man with no sexual experience who had not realized that he was impotent.

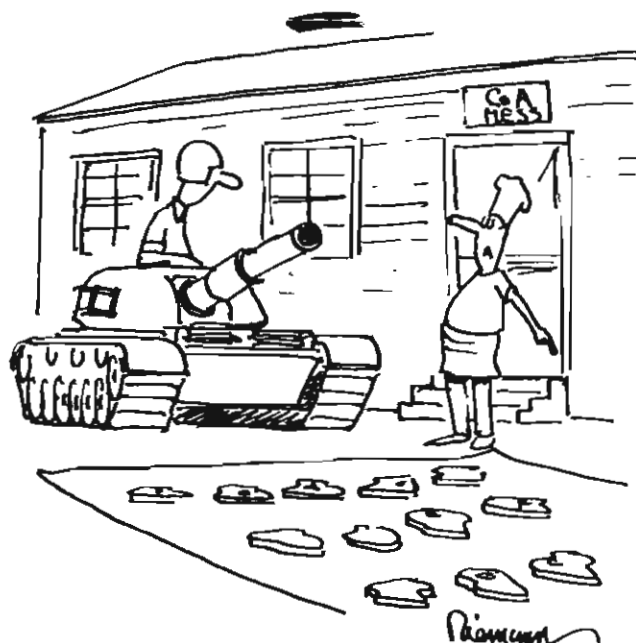
"And my third husband is with IBM. He just sits on the bed and tells me how great everything's going to be *next year*."

At S.F., it was decided to raise our annular dues from \$10 to \$15 as of next August the first (the beginning of our fiscal year) and to raise the Life Membership fee from \$100 to \$150.00 as of the same date.

Big Deal? You better believe it.

Remember Bill Mauldin who made a career out of spoofing a polo-playing general fond of glitzy sidearms? That didn't stop him from being presented with this year's Gen. George Patton award.

In the Forties, to get a girl you had to be a GI or a jock. In the Fifties, to get a girl you had to be Jewish. In the Sixties, to get a girl you had to be black. In the Seventies, to get a girl you've got to be a girl.  
MORT SAHL



"Go ahead, I think two passes should soften 'em up enough for steak Dianne tonight."

**1992  
DUES  
ARE  
NOW  
DUE**

# So Set 'Em Up, Norm

Eons ago, we initiated a campaign to outlaw blackened windows in vehicles. We had only one supporter out of our 3500 members. Thanks RALPH BALESTRIERI... BIG BEAR was in the running for Time's Man of the Year. Lost only to Ted Turner ...Division has officially the new annex to its Museum. 5320 more square feet. Houses a vast array of Desert Storm exhibits.



You better believe our gang can still do it. Well, maybe a little slower - but only a little. A Hostetter photo.



Dr. HOSTETTER took this amazing shot of our Memorial Table at our Saturday night banquet. It nicely shows up the Book of our Honored Dead. Thanks, Phil.

Teacher: "That's why we love America - everyone is free."

"Not me," said a little boy.  
"I'm five."

To the writer of a manuscript replete with spelling errors: "I'm not very good at it myself, but the first rule about spelling is that there is only one z in is."

# the Deal

C  
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6th Transportation  
Engineer Battalion  
rt and were welcomed

the official welcome  
from Germany and  
rm. The units are  
rt of the Army's  
reduction there.

According to Floyd, the 396th Transportation Company is now scheduled to become part of the Division Support Command and will serve Stewart and Hunter.

The 317th Engr.Bn. will join with elements of the 3rd Engineer Battalion to form the 11th Engineer Battalion, part of the Division Engineer Brigade.



*To Exercise is  
human: not to  
is divine.*

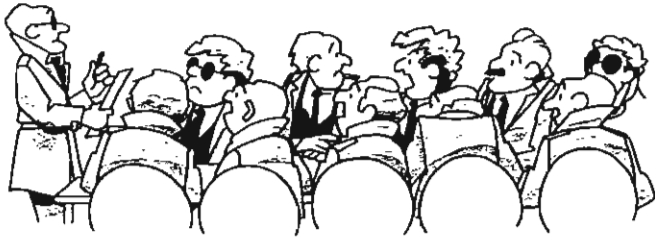
Robert Orben

**"NEVER VOLUNTEER FOR NOTHIN"**

or

**"How did I get into this mess?"**

Pearl Cruises is planning a Pacific Cruise to battle sites - 27 days beginning next July 21st. The ship, Ocean Pearl, will visit Manila, Corregidor, Gaudalcanal, Palau, Wewak, Madang, Rabaul, Hollandia and Australia. Price \$4995 per person. Try them at 1510 Southeast 17th St., Ft.Lauderdale, FL 33316 (800-426-3588).



"Of course one of us is a spy, you idiot...We're all spies!"

## Who's Who and What's What

A nephew, David Lintner by name, has just signed up his 76 year old uncle, FRANK GRACAN, as a Life Member. Frank, who was F 19th from 8/50 - 9/51, can be found at Box 534, Irwin PA. Dave tells us that Frank is a stroke victim and has been unable to speak for years. Here, let Dave tell you:

"I take care of his affairs. I am attempting to put together a short biography for his eventual funeral, in order to make the living aware of Frank's little spoken of military career. He was highly decorated in both wars. I have no information about Frank in Korea. My goal is to locate someone who knew or served with him in Korea. As best I can tell he was a SFC and squad leader in Korea. Maybe your Association can help me before Frank passes on. Frank's youngest brother was killed in action in Korea, August '50."

Dave, we're going to see what we can do for you and for your poor uncle Frank.

Your Editor has moved from 101 Mulberry St., Springfield MA 01105. It would help if all mail were addressed to him at the 120 Maple St., Room 207, Springfield MA 01103 address. Thank you.

Rejoined - which is always refreshing - BILL PRICE (G 5th RCT 7/50-5/51) now at RD 2, Box 158B, Ashland PA. Bill played with us back in '65-'67; now he has signalled that he wants to play again.

*How to know you're growing older:*

The little old gray-haired lady you help across the street is your wife.

# THE LONG AND THE SHORT



The WILLIAM JORDAN VERBECK award this year went to the indefatigable BOB ENDER. Photo by PHIL HOSTETTER. Bob, by the way, is one of our hardest workers. Nettles you, once in awhile. Great guy nonetheless.

Prediction: that Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Mary E. Lupo will end up as the most famous judge in America, next to Wapner.



396th Transportation Company arrived in Stewart - actually Hunter - in Dec. to become part of the Division Support Command...Today, an old fashioned couple isn't one that stays married, but one that gets married... Wonderful quote: "SF was great. Don't want to miss the next one." SAM and Belle OLEN, 4235 Tanglewood East, Palm Beach Gardens FL.

# Easy Come, Easy Go.

Blame this one on EARLWIN C. OKLAIRE (L 21st '50-'51) of Box 967, Eagle Butte SD 57625: "Ambitious young missionary asked his guide to take him to a remote section inhabited by cannibals. Upon meeting the tribe's chief, the missionary told the interpreter, "Ask him if he knows anything about religion."

"After a bit of grunting and sign language the interpreter replied," "He says he got a little taste of it when that other missionary was here."

## YOUR 1992 DUES ARE DUE

Col. JOHN J. DOODY (B 21st & Hwy. Mortar Co. 9/49-7/51, 4356 Dresden Lane, Sarasota FL 34233, sends in his \$100.00 contribution with the very sincere, "Please accept the enclosed in memory of all those Taro Leafers who fought those early Korean War battles."

Here's another one who heard about us 40 or so years late. ORVILLE "Don" POLAND, (D 34th 6/50-6/51) of 2896 Four Towers, Cincinnati OH, heard about us - and immediately wrote a \$100.00 check to become our Lifer #1130. Welcome aboard, Don.

# NEWS & NOTES

300 Sergeants Major and Command Sergeants Major have been selected for early separation as part of the on-going military drawdown... Mass. to FL permanent change of station for WALT and Corinne WYANE (C 34th '44-'45). It's now 5203 6th St. Court West, Bradenton FL. Don't blame you, folks... C.H. "Bronco" ATKINSON (24th MP '41) down there in LVNEV - Las Vegas, NV - country, was thrilled at SF. He met an old comrade, T.Sgt. JOHN FREEMAN, (Hq. Bt. 63rd F) of Newark CA. They relieved the war all over again.

The incongruity of it all. Sen. Kennedy, Dem-Mass, proposes a \$210 billion - yes 210 billion - cut in the defense budget, while Sen. Dodd Dem-Conn, his good buddy, goes before Sec/Defense Cheney crying about the cutbacks at Electric Boat in Groton CT.

## FRANK'S NOVELTY SHOP

- Gags      ● Masks      ● Jokes
- Flags      ● Wigs      ● Costumes
- Balloons      ● Posters      ● Beards
- Magic      ● Tricks      ● Hats
- Party Supplies      ● Moustaches, etc.

Theatrical Make-Up, Auto Tags & Bumper Stickers,  
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Lingerie, Halloween Supplies

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HOURS: MON.-SAT. 10-6

WE STILL HAVE LOADS OF HALLOWEEN  
COSTUMES AND SUPPLIES

FRANCIS "Frank" HOWARD (L & K 34th '48-'50 and G 21st '50-'51) has moved again. Try 7200 Woodlake Dr., NE 102, Palm Bay FL 32905. He operates Frank's Novelty Shop at 4700 Babcock St. NE, Sabal Palm Sq., Palm Bay FL 32905. Here's his ad - kinda late on that Halloween stuff, Frank:

# BIG DEAL

Some wonderful Christmas messages come our way this past year. This one from LLOYD & Neoma POTTERTON (E 19th '43-'44) of 222 Balsom, Spooner WI: "Today, Dec. 7, 1991 brings back many memories, some good, some not so good. It certainly changed my life. But a lot of good things came out of it. I was lucky to have been able to fight with one of the best divisions in the entire army. I met many fine people and made some lasting friendships."

## THINGS WORTH NO-ING

No, No on this one. JIM HERRING (11th QM '40-'41) R 1, Box 1303, Beach Lake PA 18405 sends us this news: Service personnel who were in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, or their survivors, are eligible for the bronze Pearl Harbor Commemorative Medal.

Thank you, Jim, for this info. And please note that we have a bunch of the application forms. Write us and we'll mail you yours.

If dogs could talk, it would take a lot of the fun out of owning one. Andy Rooney.

JOHN P. MORGAN of Rt. 4, Box 124, Colcord OK (Tel. 918-422-5593) is trying to generate enthusiasm for a 19th Inf. get together in Savannah next September immediately before our gathering. Give Johnny a call if interested.

Dean Field at the Division NCO Academy has been named for you-know-who. Bill has a special place in our history and in our hearts - a place shared by only two others - GENERAL IRVING and GENERAL MCCAFFREY. All three led our Division into battle.

## WHAT'S UP?

It's a sad story - the November typhoon on Leyte - but I want JOE and Charlotte HOFRICHTER to tell it in their words. Joe and Charlotte, you're on.

"On November 3/4, Leyte was completely devastated by Typhoon Thelma. It created a national disaster of unprecedented proportions. The storm was the most powerful on record. In a damage report I received from the Philippine Embassy, I could scarcely believe the statistics.:

"4990 people killed, 3174 injured, 1389 missing and 14,236 homeless! Incredible...and the count keeps growing with each passing day. The total numbers may never be known.

"The areas suffering the greatest casualties were: Ormoc City, Barauen, Jaro, Palo, and Tacloban City. The report indicated 18 bridges destroyed and the infra-structure of all towns rendered useless. Nothing on the island was spared; the agriculture crops, livestock, public utilities - including water treatment plants, school buildings and military installations.

"Fearing outbreaks of cholera and other intestinal diseases, workers used dump trucks and earth movers to speed mass burials of the victims.

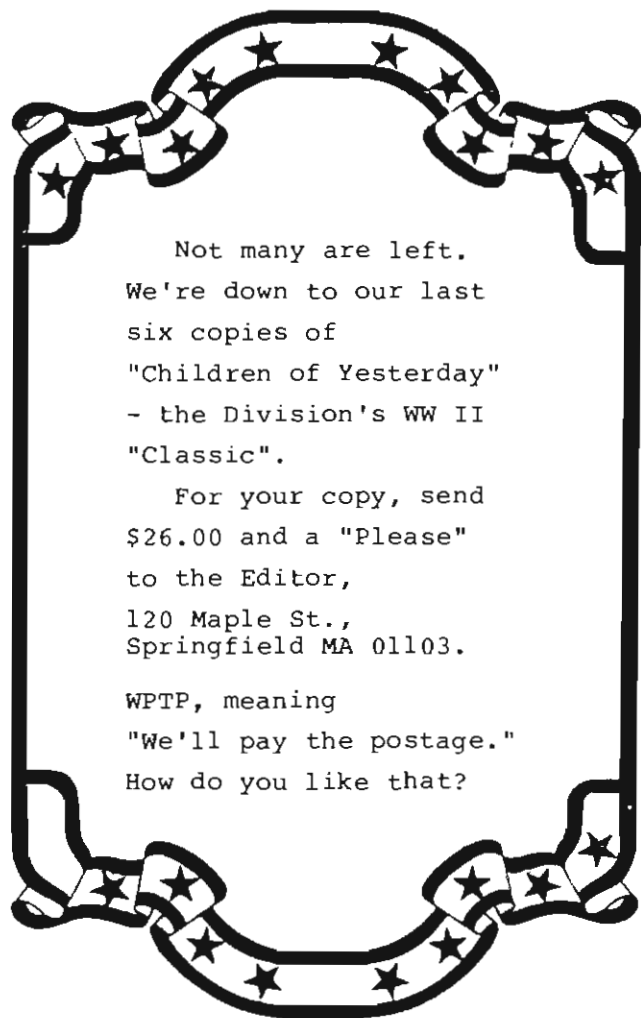
"Roman Catholic priests offered prayers and sprinkled holy water as bulldozers covered graves during some of the mass burials at Ormoc's hillside cemetery.

"But often bodies were simply dumped uncereemoniously into open graves to prevent disease. The trucks then rushed back to make-shift morgues to pick up more.

"Many of you know of my close association with Father Bart. Starting with nothing but a dream in 1980 and a few hectors of land, he built the Paraclete Home - a facility to house, clothe, feed and nurse the poorest of poor in the Tacloban-Palo area.

"Through the years, Father Bart has been able to add a 35-bed hospital, an elementary school for 1114 children, a brick factory and a series of dormitories in which to house the staff and hundreds of the poorest of poor.

Him: If someone offered you \$8000 less 8%, how much would you take off?  
Her: Everything but my earrings.



Not many are left.  
We're down to our last  
six copies of  
"Children of Yesterday"  
- the Division's WW II  
"Classic".

For your copy, send  
\$26.00 and a "Please"  
to the Editor,  
120 Maple St.,  
Springfield MA 01103.

WPTP, meaning  
"We'll pay the postage."  
How do you like that?

"Much of what Father Bart and so many worked so hard and long to build, is gone.

"On behalf of Father Bart, the Paraclete Home and the thousands of victims of Typhoon Thelma, I humbly ask you to join us in helping these long-suffering people.

"If you are able to send a contribution, please make your checks payable to The Paraclete Home and forward them to me. The Paraclete Home is a non-profit charity and contributions are tax deductible. All funds will be transferred by international bank wire service directly into the account of the Paraclete Home in the Tacloban City branch of the Philippine National Bank."

Joe and Charlotte Hofrichter are at  
1718 Bird Dog Ct.  
Loveland OH 45140.

Your Editor has already sent in his check. Keep up the good work, folks.

# No One Enjoys A Good Convention More Than We Do.

Somewhere, somehow, we intercepted the statement on the part of one of our members, that the Association "has more WW II types than other types".

We were intrigued - so to good friend, JOE MCKEON, we went.

His report, having put the question to his computer, came out thus:

"It would appear that the Korean type outnumber their older brothers, but there are a number of factors to be considered.

"We have 447 members who have not indicated when they served.

"We have 40 who were in the 'brown-shoe' Army, but left their unit before the shooting started.

"We have just over 100 who were in their unit in the inter-bellum period; some may have seen action in WW II; some may have been in Korea.

"Just over 100 served in Korea after the Truce and before Division was 'shelved' for the 9-month hiatus.

"All in all, it looks like the Korean types would win out by a few percentage points. Make it 45% for the Korean types and 31% for the WW II types. Of course, there is 13% unknown and, naturally, a certain % for error, but even if all the other factors were added, it would end up in a draw.

Joe went statistical and translated it for us thus:

Duplicate Addresses	12
Unknown Period	447
Non-Unit Members	5
Pre WW II	32)
Schofield	8)
WW II	79)
1939-46	1044) = 1153
Inter-War	82
Japan	21
1947-54	1382)
Korea	87)
1954-57	103) = 1572
1958-91	165
Post Wars (1958-91)	13
	3452

Very interesting, Joe. Thanks.

And, of course, these statistics will be shot to H--- now that the Stewart gang is coming aboard "in quantity. Welcome aboard, fellas; we'll not worry about statistics.

With the activation of Division's Engineer Brigade, a new engineering concept has been born.

"What I believe is another significant first for the 'First to Fight' Victory Division is we're the first heavy division in Forces Command to establish the new divisional engineer brigade," said Col. Jack O'Neill, the new brigade's commander. He will have three battalions - the 3rd, 11th and 317th Engineer Battalions under his command.

The need for heavy divisions to have an organic engineer brigade was never more apparent - especially to the Victory Division, than during the conflict in Iraq.

"When we fought in Iraq we had seven engineer battalions in direct support or general support of this division," said Maj.Gen. BARRY R. MCCAFFREY. The need to organize the combat multipliers was apparent and thus, the 36th Engineer Group was born.

For many years prior to the Persian Gulf conflict Army leaders had discussed the concept of having an organic division engineer brigade, according to McCaffrey. But, it wasn't until 1987 that the concept started to become a reality.

"The notion of a heavy division having an organic divisional engineer brigade was tested by a first-rate engineer battalion commander in the 2nd Armored Division" - then Lieutenant Colonel O'Neill," said McCaffrey.

The second step was the creation of the 36th Engineer Group. And finally, as McCaffrey unfurled the new brigade's colors, the concept became reality.

Jose Rijo, Cincinnati Reds pitcher and MVP of the World Series, when asked if he was a Democrat or a Republican: "I'm a Dominican."

*My wife ... I think  
I'll keep her.*

Geritol Commercial

If we've missed YOUR item, forgive us please. We've a "ton" of copy - and they are limiting us to size. Hopefully you'll find yourself in the next issue. Ain't budgets hell?



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Japanese Long Swords ..... Up to \$25,000 each  
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 Also; Japanese Antique Armour, matchlock guns,  
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## Japan Gallery

“Specialists in Japanese swords, arms, armour and antiques”

7046 S. Niagara Court, Englewood, Colorado 80112  
 1-303-220-8472

# GENERAL'S GOING ALL OUT TO GET YOU

We want to report to you an event that took place way last August at Stewart. Better still, let's let us show you how the Patriot reported it.

## Former Taro Leafers seek Desert Storm vets

By Pvt. 2 Carri Bellar

Staff writer

Members of the 24th Infantry Division Association visited Fort Stewart recently to discuss strategies for incorporating Desert Storm veterans into the association.

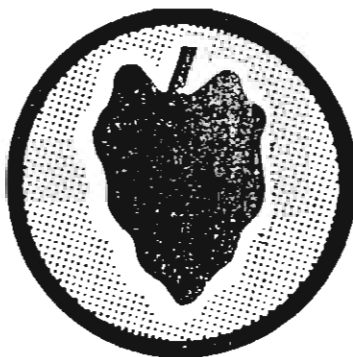
The association was formed in 1945 and has a current membership of approximately 3,400, most of whom served in World War II or Korea. However, membership is open to anyone who serves or has served in the division during combat or peacetime.

"We are continuously reaching out to former Taro Leafers," said Kenwood Ross, secretary, treasurer of the association and editor of its monthly newsletter. "It's been the most difficult job we've been faced with over the past 45 years."

"I think the association is very important — especially for the soldiers coming back from Desert Storm," said Herbert C. Carlson, president of the association.

The members of the association take great pride in watching the division in action. "The greatest thrill our people have experienced the last few years is Desert Storm," said Ross.

The objectives of the association are to preserve the patriotic history of the division, to maintain and strengthen bonds of comradeship, and to provide a newsletter and annual reunion to inform and unite members.



"The association will be a tremendous thing in the future lives of Desert Storm veterans. Besides the combat there must have been many hours where they had harrowing experiences, close calls, funny things that happened and being out there without beer, the soldiers' best friend. They can laugh at it more years down the line than they can today," said Robert R. Ender, reunion coordinator.

The association provides a means of maintaining and strengthening the bonds of comradeship over time. "You'll never forget building up, getting ready and then four days of the most successful campaign our nation has ever pulled off," said Maj. Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, commander of the 24th

Infantry Division (Mech.) and Fort Stewart.

An annual reunion is usually held by the association in September. This year the reunion will be held Sept. 25 through 29 in San Francisco. "I look forward to the meetings each year because they bring us together," said Wallace F. Kuhner, national membership chairman.

The Taro Leaf, the association's newsletter, is published five or six times a year. It consists of approximately 60 pages of news about the association, current stories from the Patriot, cartoons, news clippings and updates on members.

"We represent a love of the division. Having been through the combat experience, in later years we have found a strong desire to renew the friendships and the comradeship which were developed during combat," said Ross.



JIM MACK (Hq. 19th '39-'41) ventures forth from Furnace Lane, New Florence PA and visits cemeteries rounding up epitaphs on the stones. He sent us two:

Beneath this stone our baby lays,  
He neither cries nor hollars  
He lived just one and twenty days  
And cost us forty dollars.

Here lies the body of our Anna  
Done to death by a banana.  
It wasn't the fruit that laid her low  
But the skin of the thing that made her go

RUSSELL W. WEST (K 19th '44-'45)  
1412 12th Av., Monroe WI 53566,  
says, "Here's my dues PLUS \$15.00 that  
I fined myself for being late."  
You're wonderful, Russ.

DAVID W. MARTIN (21st Serv. & Special  
Operations 3/56-10/57) 150 Gibbs St.,  
Newton MA 02159 sends along \$10.00 for  
Korean War Memorial - "\$1.00 for me,  
\$8.00 for others with less than me, and  
finally \$1.00 for the treasurer to help  
defray costs."



## USED STAMPS APPRECIATED

Members and friends are invited to send their used stamps to: Stamps for Veterans

Bernie Elmore

P.O. Box 398

Depew, NY 14043-0398

DAV Bernie Elmore and the Senior Citizens Volunteers of the Buffalo Chapter American Lung Association collect and donate cancelled postage stamps to the Veterans' Hospitals in Buffalo, N.Y. and Washington, D.C.

BOB OSTROWSKI faithfully sends us items; this one's about poor KEN SHADRICK. Thanx Bob:

### AFTER 41 YEARS, A MEMORIAL REMEMBERS PVT KENNETH SHADRICK

HE WAS THE FIRST reported killed in the American forces, during the fighting on July 5, 1950 outside Sojongri.

PVT. KENNETH SHADRICK was only 19. He was destined to never become a father, or grandfather. Now in 1991, the Fine Arts Commission in Washington, D.C. refuses to even consider placing his name at the head of the thousands who died in that war.

But others did care. FLOYD COX, identified only as Chairman of the Committee to Memorialize the Koreans War's First Fatality, Inc., said he did not know why it had taken so long to erect a memorial. Shadrick. Cox moved to the area of Pineville, West Virginia in 1976, the town where American Legion signs can be seen bearing the welcome "God and Country" greeting.

Floyd Cox began planning some kind of memorial. After long and tedious years he and his group are responsible for the granite memorial, costing about \$5,000, that now sits on the courthouse lawn. The nearby Elmore Bridge on Highway WV 10 was rededicated in memory of Pvt Shadrick.

Cox said with the collapse of the Soviet Union this year this memorial has a special significance for him. "It's very important because Kenneth Shadrick died in the war that was the beginning of the end of communism," he added.

Many family, friends and veterans gathered to salute Shadrick and all others who gave their lives in the war. But special tribute came from a retired Army veteran who had fought about a mile away from where Shadrick lost his life.

Col. CARL BERNARD of Washington said Shadrick was "the victim of a misguided military philosophy." He said the soldier died because he was using outdated equipment that military officials knew was obsolete. "If Kenny Shadrick had had the anti-tank weapon he needed, he'd be here telling his story."



Retired, after  
37 years of police  
work -

ED FITZGERALD  
(B 21st 24th MP  
Plt., 24th MP Co.  
12/46-4/51) of  
82 Osceola, Deer  
Park NY. This one  
is of Eddie and  
his lovely Ann.



"IN THE MEDICAL CORPS, SOLDIER, WE  
DON'T HAVE CHASERS WITH OUR SHOTS."

-Sgt. Frank Brandt and Cpl. Joe Procyon

EUGENE P. BRODERICK (A 21st 5/51-2/52)  
415 Cottonwood Cove Rd., Searchlight NV  
89046 sends \$80.00 for the Korean War  
Memorial Fund with thoughtful words as  
follows: "The money represents \$10.00 each  
in memory of eight guys I knew KIA  
while I was a rifleman with A 21st.  
Maybe they will rest a little easier  
knowing they've been remembered after all  
these years."



Judge GENNARO FISCHETTI shown here with  
ever faithful Luise, (H & H, 34th '43-'45),  
flew all the way from 42 Rose Court, Staten  
Island NY to serve as our new MC - and  
Gerry, it was a wonderful job. Gerry  
reminds us that for the Pearl Harbor anni-  
versary, Japan's foreign minister,  
Michio Watanabe, expressed "remorse" for  
Japan's wartime actions but stopped short  
of apologizing for Japan's aggression. Just  
before the big day, conservatives in the  
governing Liberal Democratic Party  
scrapped plans for a parliamentary state-  
ment, saying there was no need to  
apologize. Ho hum.



"That's ruined your chances of becoming a U.S. Supreme Court Justice."

# It's not every day an offer like this falls into your lap.

## FUTURE REUNIONS AND REUNION SITES

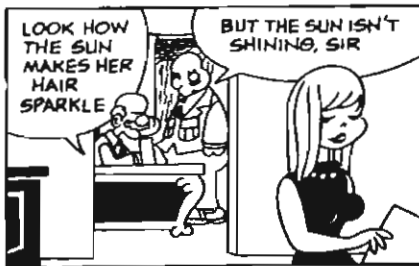
Herb Carlson, Wally Kuhner, Ken Ross and Bob Ender spent four days last August in Savannah and at Fort Stewart. Our purpose was three fold: to pay honor to the division for spearheading the Desert Storm operation; to discuss perpetuation of our association by eventually "passing the torch" to the current active division personnel, and discussing the possibility of having the division host our 1992 reunion in Savannah. The enthusiastic support given by General McCaffrey and his entire staff was very positive on all three issues. Therefore, we proceeded with hotel negotiations and rates and finalized the following:

### 1992 REUNION: SAVANNAH, GA.

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Room Rate: \$62.00 Sing/Dbl.

(Details in future issues of Taro Leaf)  
All members welcome. Make plans now.



The site selection committee selected by the president (John Klump, Don Rosenblum, Tom Upton, Joe McKeon, Herb Carlson, Al McAdoo) will be working on 1993, 1994, and 1995, but, first, more input is requested from the membership-at-large. At our San Francisco reunion, and prior, we have had presentations from potential chairmen for the cities of: (alphabetical)

Denver/Colorado Springs: Urb Throm took the lead in presenting Denver. We also have quite a few members in Colorado Springs; perhaps have co-chairmen. Great climate. Only 300 miles west of dead center of USA.

El Paso, Tx: Vito Kersulis operates a travel agency there and would be able to provide a great program for that city as well as south of the border - Juarez Mexico.

Houston, Tx: Charlie Card went to great lengths for detailed information and would be willing to chair a reunion there. (Worked hard on San Antonio, too, but rates not competitive due to peak tourist season).

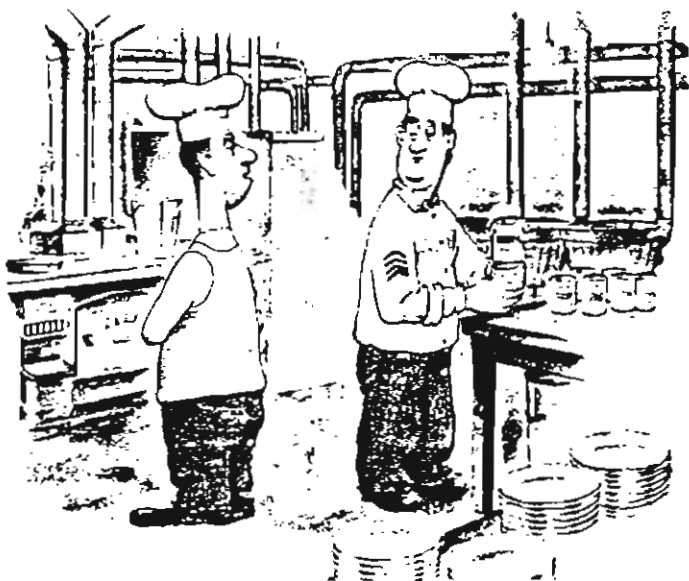
Indianapolis: John Klump and Bob Shay would be co-chairmen if this city were selected. Home of Indy 500, plus a great many attractions.

Greater Miami area: (Not Miami Beach). Championed by Ben Strickland. Favorable rates can probably be negotiated.

Orlando, Fl: Phil Burke made the presentation. Plenty to do; favorable rates. Disneyworld, Epcot Center, etc.

Pittsburgh, Pa: We have an enthusiastic member in that city who volunteered but, somehow, his name and correspondence have vanished. Mr. Pittsburgh, will you please come forward a second time? Thank you.

Reno, Nev: Ken Boyd would be willing to host our convention. Clean city. High altitude/dry climate. Very attractive rates. Plenty to do, including gambling! Beautiful Lake Tahoe nearby.



"Something smells terribly good... I wonder what it could be?"  
-Pvt. Tom Flannery



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

Tucson, Az: Larry Dickey pitched for this city. Wild West flavor. Climate warm and dry. Excellent rates.

Cruise: Vito Kersulis, travel agent recommends a four day reunion (stops at three ports) aboard one of the Carnival Line cruise ships. Medium accommodations estimated at \$800 - \$900 per person, all inclusive  
-----accomodations, food, beverages, tips, air fare from most major cities/rail fare from some cities. Members not using air/rail transportation will receive credit---net lower fare. Vito would be chairman.

Other possibilities (only): New Orleans:- John Trinca has researched this city, but we have no one living there to chair our gathering. (We must book at least three years in advance for N.O.) Atlanta: Recommended by several members but, again, no chairman (that we know of) available. Nashville: Super convention site; lots of action; plenty to do. Anyone living in the area who would be willing to take the chairman's job?

It's great to see so many members expressing so much interest. Keep in mind that the cities receiving high preference from the membership will have to pass the scrutiny of the site selection commlttee before final approval, which means that the rates and conditions of the hotel and the city selected will have to be on a par, or better, than previous locations and, also, that a competent chairman will be available to supervise this event.

Following is a list of the cities which hosted previous reunions and numbers of times hosted:

7 Chicago	1 Each:	Detroit	Hawaii
5 Savannah	Lexington	Washington	West Point
3 Louisville	Cincinnati	Garmisch	Irvine, Ca.
3 St. Louis	Columbus	Philadelphia	Los Angeles
3 New York City	Peoria	Atlantic City	Fort Worth
2 Myrtle Beach	Pittsburgh	Boston	Buffalo
2 Baltimore	Clearwater	Hawaii	
2 San Francisco	Norfolk	Nassau	

Given the current economic situation we have a great opportunity to lay the ground work for the next three years and should be able to negotiate hotel space at favorable rates, and even come up with a few extra perks! We want to know your preferences, sooooo, let's hear from you troops out there! Fill in the blanks below with the cities of your choice (or, use a form of your own). For additional comments, use a separate sheet.

MAIL TO: Robert Ender  
1864 El Paso Lane  
Fullerton, Ca., 92633

#1 _____	#4 _____
#2 _____	#5 _____
#3 _____	#6 _____

TABULATIONS WILL BE MADE THREE WEEKS AFTER RECEIPT OF THIS TARO LEAF!!!!





# REUNION PHOTORAMA.....

Nice one of this head table pair at S.F. Looks like we caught Herb with knife and fork in mid-air.



Like baseball players, there's always the request for "One more please?" It's our new Prexy AL MCADOO and our honored guest, the Division Commander, who thrilled us with his straight forward talk on what really ha-pened. We loved it when he described various maneuvers with that wonderful verb "wump" - "We wumped them from the left - then we wumped them from overhead - then we wumped..." Wonderful new word for our lexicon. Thanks, Barry. Don't identify the thrilled youngsters, sorry.



Soldiers of the Year from various battalions were the surprised recipients of gifts - our small show of respect and affection for those who are filling our shoes. Get up close to this shot which ALAN DE MOSS took, can you? Get a look at the faces of these fine young men - a wonderfully clean cut group of today's soldiers. We understand, General McCaffrey, when you tell us how proud you are.



It's Command Sergeant Major JAMES D. RANDOLPH making a thoughtful presentation to outgoing Assoc. Prexy HERB CARLSON. Jim went back to the post only to pass custodianship of Division's Colors to CSM FRANKLIN D. THOMAS. Jim has been reassigned - Pentagon.

asking why we don't use our physiognomy in these pages. Tell you what we're gonna do. We're going to break with tradition and show you what PHIL HOSTETTER saw when he snapped us with Margot Hall. Kindly note the hand on Margot's shoulder - and a broad shoulder it was. Out of Public Affairs, and the Editor of their just out Desert Storm History - be sure to get your copy - Margot was everywhere and everything that our interaction with Stewart would succeed - which it did.



*"You may have been in headquarters before. Murray. but you're infantry now!"*

What absolutely delighted us about our Stewart brothers - and sisters - was their ability - individually and collectively - to be one step ahead of we retreads in anticipation of our wants and needs. For instance, take beautiful DENA DRAKE, who, if she wasn't working behind her camera, was working in front of it, not to mention smoothing the ways in dozens of other areas where her services were needed. Unless you have been close to the throne on one of these reunions, you simply cannot realize the engineering involved. Thanks Dena, you were Engineer First Class.



Ever smiling Maj. KEVIN BERGNER, out of Stewart's Public Affairs Office served us all well in mixing Division's people and problems with ours. His was the balm for agitated nerves and sometimes respite from insomnia. Since returning to camp, Kev has gone back to his artillery post. As Margot Hall explains it, "They don't let you stay in these cushy jobs too long". You might wanna speak to Margot 'bout that, Kev. In the meantime, thanks for a job beautifully handled; thanks for being just you.





The Supreme Allied Commander of Europe, U.S. Gen. JOHN R. GALVIN, visited his hometown high school in Wakefield MA recently to speak with students and unveil a new scholarship program that bears his name.

The four-star general, who now heads NATO, also met with his first-grade teacher, Flora Hall Kite.

He graduated from Wakefield High School in 1947. Galvin, 62, began his military career a year later with the Massachusetts Army National Guard. Then West Point, and you know the rest! Here is Jack being greeted by the students of old alma mater. And is Jack happy!



## **"TAPS"**

**There will be a great encampment  
In the land of clouds today.  
A mingling and a merging  
Of our boys who've gone away.  
Though on earth they are disbanding,  
They are very close and near.  
For those brave and honored heroes  
Show no sorrow, shed no tears.  
They have lived a life of glory,  
History pins their medals high,  
Listen to the thunder roaring,  
They are marching in the sky!**

JEROME E. CASSIDY  
died October 19, 1991  
was 19th  
Reported by JOHN P. MORGAN

HEMAN HARP  
died October 25, 1991  
was M 34th and C 24th Med.Bn. 10/44-11/45  
Reported by his nephew, Richard D.Wilmot

ROBERT J. KAHLEY  
died September 9, 1991  
was B, C, Hq.Co. 1st Bn. 21st Inf.  
1/47-7/51  
Reported by William C. Hosler

DONALD R. SPREADBROUGH  
died August 22, 1991  
was L 21st '51  
Reported by HUGH A. BROWN

WALTER RANDALL  
52nd FA Bn. (WW II)

MICHAEL J. RAFTER  
died December 10, 1991  
A 34th '41-'44  
Reported by wife, Loretta  
Loretta is at Box 374, Rt. 4,  
McDonald Rd., Lake Geneva WI 53147

ROSS W. PURSIFULL  
died December 6, 1991  
was 34th '41-'45  
Reported by wife, Marjorie.  
Marjorie is at 2879 Holiday Pines Rd.,  
Traverse City MI 49684

JOHN B. FARRELL  
died September 20, 1991  
was 21st '42-'45  
Reported by his wife, Mary.

Barbara SCHILLER  
Wife of MELVIN DEAN SCHILLER  
September 1991  
Mel was A 34th and Hq. 24th 8/50-10/51

WILBUR J. WINCHEL  
died May 10, 1991  
19th (med.) and 21st '49-'52  
Reported by Claude C. Crist, Jr.

WILLIAM N. KELLER  
died September 23, 1991  
was A 21st 10/39-11/42  
Reported by David M.Lopera

ADOLPH J. DESAVAGE  
died October 15, 1991  
was L 21st WW II  
Reported by JOHN F. MCKENNEY

Major HAROLD L. THRALLS  
died December 7, 1991  
was M Co. 5th RCT 11/50-12/51  
Reported by Albert McAdoo

WARREN WETHERBEE  
died 1991  
Unit and years unknown  
Mail returned "Deceased"

GEORGE L. YOCUM, JR.  
died July 12, 1991  
was Korea  
Reported by his brother, James Yocum

WILLIAM H. NICHOLS  
died December 1, 1991  
19th and 21st '52-'57  
Reported by wife, Doris,  
Doris is at 537 Alabama Av., SW,  
Birmingham AL 35211

HARMON D. MOORE  
died December 10, 1991  
was F 21st '42-'45  
Reported by his son, Dan  
His wife, Gladys, at 8538 Sylvan Dr.,  
Riverside CA 92503

HENRY J. DESIMAS, JR.  
died May 15, 1990  
was 34th WW II  
Reported by JOHN DILUBERTO

THOMAS E. MELLINGER  
died December 1, 1991  
was L 34th '41-'45  
Reported by Nicholas L. Marasco

ROBERT H. WICK  
died January 9, 1992  
was F 34th WW II  
Reported by KENNETH A. WEBER

HARRY E. STRASEN  
died December 7, 1991  
was 34th 6/45 - 1/46  
Reported by his brother Clarence A. Strasen

ROBERT "Bruce" GLANDER  
died July 16, 1991  
was K 21st '50-'51  
Reported by his wife, Audrey.

ALEX KOPACZ  
died November 15, 1991  
was H 21st '41  
Reported by HAROLD F. SMITH

BG PETER C. HYZER  
died Sept. 16, 1991  
was CO 3rd Eng. Bn. '50-'51

JACK FRANK DODD  
died December 14, 1991  
was H 21st 5/44-3/45  
Reported by ROBERT ENDER

EDWARD F. BARTIZAL  
has died  
was D 34th '42-'45  
Reported by JOSEPH F. DAWSON

It's a sad, sad story about DOMINICK FERRANTE, SR. (H 21st & 24th MP '49-'51.  
Thank you ED FITZGERALD for representing all of us at poor Dom's last farewell:

# Slain Father, Son 'Now at Peace'

By Gwen Young  
STAFF WRITER

The flag-draped coffin of Dominick Ferrante Sr. was carried slowly up the 11 steps of Holy Name of Mary Church by uniformed pallbearers to the strains of a bagpipe yesterday. Then came the polished wood casket of his 28-year-old son, John.

Mourners watched solemnly as a New York City Correction Department honor guard saluted the caskets of the two men, who police say were killed just days before the New Year by the live-in boyfriend of Ferrante's daughter, Doreen.

Father and son had both worked as New York City correction officers, according to Capt. Dennis Genco and Frank Serafino, who were in charge of the 60-member honor guard. Dominick Ferrante was a retired captain with 20 years service and his son had worked for the department for five years, they said.

Friends offered support for family members of the two victims, surrounding them as they were escorted into the Valley Stream church, which was still decorated with wreaths, poinsettias and three Christmas trees with hundreds of lights.

The Rev. Theodore J. Leture officiated. "They were good men," Leture said of Dominick Ferrante — who was a Korean War veteran — and John Ferrante. "They are now at peace." Leture told the mourners, "When you have a spare moment, say that Hail Mary for the family. You're feeding them with your presence, your love, your warmth. Don't stop."

According to police, 35-year-old Dennis Carney, who lived with Doreen Ferrante and their 5-year-old daughter, shot and killed Doreen's 59-year-old father — who was visiting for the holidays from Fort Myers, Fla. — and her brother, after arguing with her. Carney then shot and killed himself.

John Ferrante's widow, Annmarie, 24, also of Val-

ley Stream, who witnessed the shootings, has criticized police, saying they should have arrested Carney when the family first complained about threats he had made over the weekend. But police officials say they acted properly because Doreen Ferrante refused to press charges for an arrest. Doreen Ferrante has been unavailable for comment.

A funeral procession of about 50 cars followed the caskets from the church to St. Charles Cemetery in Farmingdale. In a tearful tribute, mourners filed past the coffins in the interment chapel, placing carnations in brass vases as a member of the honor guard played Taps. Family members placed roses on the caskets.



Newday/Ken Spencer

Flanked by uniformed pallbearers, hearses carrying Dominick and John Ferrante leave church yesterday

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# **Mark McClure**

NO. 5868 CLASS OF 1922

Died 2 October 1990 in Washington, D.C., aged 92 years.

Interment: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

MARK MCCLURE WAS BORN on 6 February 1898 in Anderson, Indiana, the second son of Judge John and Mary Bowman McClure. His life-long love of golf began during his summers in Anderson. He and a group of friends would play in the morning and caddy for older club members in the afternoon. At that time the caddy fee was fifteen cents for nine holes and twenty-five for eighteen. They were more than pleased to get a five-cent tip. All his efforts were rewarded in 1915 when he won the club championship at age seventeen.

After graduation from high school he followed his father and brother to De Pauw University, where he lettered in



Mark McClure

basketball and baseball. In the spring of 1918 he was offered a West Point appointment for the following fall, which he eagerly accepted. This class of more than 400 cadets was to undergo intensive training designed to produce second lieutenants for World War I the following June. When the Armistice was signed shortly thereafter, it was decided the class would continue and take the regular four-year course. Many were not prepared for the time or academic requirements, and, as a result, only 102 were graduated in June 1922. He regarded staying with the Corps as the best decision he ever made.

After graduation he was assigned with the 12th Field Artillery at Fort Sam Houston, the very post that also would be his last tour of duty. In 1930, while an instructor at West Point, he had the good fortune to meet Evelyn Krumm. She was visiting the home of Max Taylor and his wife Diddy. Evelyn's long-time friend from Baltimore. Evelyn and Mark were married 27 December 1932 at the West Point Chapel.

Assignment to the 13th Field Artillery at Schofield Barracks followed, and their daughter Lyn was born there on 3 September 1937. In 1938 Mark graduated from the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth and came to

Washington, D.C. as a staff officer. He was there when word came of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

During World War II his combat service was as an artillery officer of the 95th Infantry Division, first assigned to General Patton's Third Army. He participated in the attack and capture of Metz and later was transferred to the Ninth Army and took part in the reduction of the Ruhr Pocket. He returned with the division in June 1945.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star and two Bronze Stars.

His post-war duties included assignment as a Professor of Military Science at Harvard University and four years in Germany, where he was assistant Chief of Staff G-2 for the US Army, Europe.

After his return to Washington he became deputy assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence at Army Headquarters. In April 1954 he was sent to Korea as Chief of Staff of the Eighth Army, and, in July 1954, he was named commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division. After returning to the U.S. in 1956, he was designated Fourth Army Deputy Commanding General for Reserve Forces at Fort Sam Houston. He retired in 1957.

Subsequently, Mark and Evelyn made their home in Washington, D.C. Mark became an active participant in the establishment of the Army Distaff Home and was its treasurer for many years. He enjoyed regular golf and bridge games, class luncheons and reunions, vacations, family visits and the love, respect and companionship of the many close friends he made throughout his life. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of fifty years, who died 26 December 1982.

He is survived and dearly missed by his daughter Lyn, son-in-law Richard, two grandsons and two granddaughters.

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# **Roy Eugene Hattan**

NO. 8557 CLASS OF 1929

Died 25 February 1986 in San Antonio, Texas, aged 77 years.

Interment: National Cemetery, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

ROY WAS BORN in Denver, Colorado, on 13 August 1908, the son of William Wright and Mollie Aumiller Hattan. After completing elementary and high school there he was appointed to West Point by United States Representative Vaile.

From the time of his graduation in 1929 as a Field Artillery second lieutenant, Roy showed a high proficiency as a commander and as an instructor, from his first assignment to his last.

In 1931, Roy married Ruth Langley Philter of Statesville, North Carolina. Barbara Jean was born in 1936 and Robert Leland in 1943.

At the outbreak of World War II Roy was a math instructor at West Point and, in early 1944, went to the European Theater to command the 808th Field Artillery Battalion until V-E Day. For that service he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

After the war, Roy continued to utilize his proven capabilities in positions of significant responsibility: chief of the Artillery and Light Aviation Section in the G-3 Section of Fourth Army, S-3 of the Division Artillery of the 24th Infantry Division and as executive officer of the G-3 Section of Japan Logistical Command.

When he was assigned as an action officer in the North American Branch of the Operations Division in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3 during the Korean War, his ability was a key factor in the sound and efficient handling of staff actions pertaining to Canadian-United States relations in joint military activities and matters of political-military interest. During his service with the 24th Division in Korea, Roy earned the Silver Star and Legion of Merit.

Later, he served as chief of the Troop Training and Inspection Branch and then as Chief of the Training division in the G-3 Section of Fourth Army. Roy was responsible in large measure for the planning and conduct of training activities, tests and inspections of all units assigned to that Army.

Roy's service culminated in his performance as Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. Trinity, a lovely school with high standards, is reminiscent of those small, high-quality universities that dotted New England when we were cadets.

Roy had a long, full life. He is survived by his widow, Ruth (215 Calumet, San Antonio, Texas 78209); daughter, Barbara Hattan Stokes (4142 Hillswind, San Antonio, Texas 78217) and son, Captain Robert L. Hattan, USN, who is in command of the USS *Prairie* (wife Eileen and son Robert Austin live at 1350 Ridgeway Way, Bonita, California 92002). Ken Zitzman '32, with the complete cooperation of Ruth and Barbara

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# **Patrick David Mulcahy**

NO. 11617 CLASS OF 1939

Died 19 October 1987 in Carmel, California, aged 71 years.

Interment: Carmel, California.

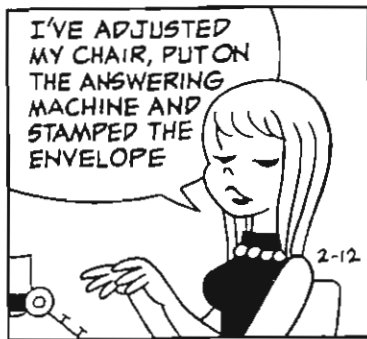
PATRICK DAVID MULCAHY was born in Des Moines, Iowa on 13 June 1916. Pat attended elementary school in Chicago and high school and junior college in Mason City, Iowa. He received a congressional appointment to the United States Military Academy from the 43rd District of Iowa and entered USMA in July 1935.

At the Military Academy, Pat was well-liked by his classmates. Boisterous and good-natured, he took cadet life in stride; even demerits would start that hearty Irish laugh echoing through the halls of barracks. For four years he was on the debating team, and during first class year he taught Sunday School. Pat graduated at the middle of his class and, upon graduation, opted for the Infantry. His assignments were varied. After serving in Africa and Sicily during 1943-45, he went airborne, instructed in the School at Fort Benning and then commanded the 350th Airborne Battalion at Fort Bragg. He attended Command and General Staff School and then went off to command the 350th Infantry Regiment in Europe. Pat returned to the States to earn his master's degree in psychology at Tulane in 1955. He commanded a battle group of the 5th Cavalry in Korea from 1958-59 and served as chief of staff, 24th Division, from 1962-63 in Europe. He most treasured having the opportunity to command the task force that prepared the welcome for President John F. Kennedy in Frankfurt, Germany in 1963. In 1969, Colonel Mulcahy was retired for disability and took up residence in Carmel, California.

He did not rest long on his laurels. With characteristic energy, Pat went into the field of youth education, where he taught high school drop-outs striving for a GED diploma and was their counselor a half-day each week. Soon he was hired by Monterey Peninsula College as director for a new education program for soldiers at Fort Ord, California. He started with six courses and 200 students, teaching Political Science and Psychology himself. In the ensuing nine years, 24,000 students attended the program. While there Pat earned another master's degree in political science.

Pat finally turned to writing with one book published in 1984: one awaiting publication, and a third on the drawing board when he died in 1987.

Pat was a workaholic with great interest in people, particularly the young. A classmate



5

COMMANDO!

GI jargon led to

# Words of war

FLATTOP

Eisenhower jacket.

gobbledygook

WWII  
50  
YEARS LATER

gizmo

ERSATZ

By JOHN LACY  
Courant Staff Writer

World War II gave us "GI Joe" as the slang name for any U.S. soldier.

Other terms born in that tumultuous period half a century ago include: blockbuster, bazooka, B-girl, V-girl, black market, commando, Dear John, Eisenhower jacket, ersatz, flak, flattop, gizmo, gobbledygook, gremlin, gung ho, Kilroy was here and many more.

When peacetime came, some wartime expressions fizzled out like duds. Others survived the battlefields to enrich our language.

Rex O'Meara of West Hartford, an Army veteran of World War II, says he cannot use many terms from that era in his standup comedy routines because audiences wouldn't understand.

"Kilroy was here, that would be completely lost," he says.

Accompanied by Ethel O'Meara, whom he likes to introduce as "my first wife," he entertains at banquets and conventions from Cape Cod to Florida.

The word "gremlin" has been replaced by "glitch" and "bug," he says.

He is reminded of humor from his childhood that depended on the lifestyle of a bygone era. A wag would take the saying "two can live as cheaply as one" and turn it into:

"The only two who can live as cheaply as one are the bird and the horse."

Not many people today recall how birds pecked at manure littering the streets from horse-and-carriage traffic, he says.

GUNG HO!

In case you missed our first explanation of where we've been these past few weeks, may we sneak in a repeat right here. Surgery. Convalescence. With apologies for no Taro Leaf since last August Vol. XLIV No. 5 '90-'91). And now, once more, we're in good health and good spirit and a sense that we've much for which to be thankful.

The Division Band played at the Orange Bowl in Miami on 1/1/ Didja see'em?...

## World War II era gave our language an abundance of etymological wonders

Continued from Page C1

Arthur J. Kiely Jr. of West Hartford, a former Marine Corps photographer, recalls that "Gizmo & Eightball" was a comic strip in a magazine for military readers.

While "foxhole" was taken by Americans from the British in World War I, a dramatic Kiely photograph shows a Japanese soldier jumping from a Pacific island foxhole to surrender.

An M1 carbine was the rifle Kiely lugged around with his camera. Officially, "M1 Garand" (for Model 1 developed by John Garand), it was the U.S. infantryman's weapon in World War II.

"Swabby," Kiely remembers, was a sailor (taken from the Navy routine of mopping the deck). And "dog-face" was a soldier, "sky pilot" a Navy chaplain, and "old man" a senior officer, he recalls.

He also owns a figurine of a pregnant girl bearing the phrase "Kilroy was here."

Interest in terms sired by the war has resulted in some serious etymological study.

Stuart Berg Flexner's 1976 book "I Hear America Talking" (Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., \$18.95) has a copious chapter on the lingo.

Rather than drily citing the origin or a term, Flexner wraps it in tidbits of historical information in a comfortably entertaining style.

As in "bazooka."

"The bazooka was originally a homemade trombone made from two pieces of stove pipe and a whiskey funnel by one of the last famous 'Arkansas traveler' comedians, Bob Burns (he made and named it around 1905). . . . Burns meant the name to be comical and took it from the spitting ba-zoo, ba-zoo sound the instrument made." An army major gave the name to the rocket launcher shaped from a steel tube about 5 feet long and 3 inches in diameter. "As Burns said about his musical instrument and the antitank weapon named after it, 'both have a more or less devastating effect.'"

**B-girl** began as "bar girl" in 1938 for a woman employed by a bar to talk and drink with male customers. Wartime made them B-girls, local prostitutes who drank around.

**V-girls** (a short form of "Victory girls") weren't prostitutes. They gave it away, helping the war effort by being nice to men in uniform.

**Black market** (a translation of the German *Schwarzmarkt*) originally meant buying and selling stolen military supplies, such as blankets, food and truck tires. It soon came to mean the illegal market in rationed and scarce items.

**Blockbuster** was a result of the British air force's increasing the size of its bombs, bomb loads and the aircraft that carried them. In September 1942, the first 8,000-pound bombs to be dropped were dubbed blockbusters because one could destroy an entire city block. Blockbuster lives on as an expensive movie or novel.

**Commando**, from the Afrikaans *kommando* (a unit of troops under one command) entered the English language during the Boer War in South Africa, 1899-1902. Americans first used the word to refer to specially trained British troops who made daring raids on occupied Europe early in World War II.

**Dear John** was a letter to a soldier from his sweetheart, fiancée or wife to say she was breaking with him, usually because she had found someone else in his absence.

**Eisenhower jacket** was a short, fitted Army jacket reaching to the waist and having a self belt, first worn by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower during the war.

**Ersatz** is a German word meaning compensation, replacement. In 1940, we and the Germans used it to refer to artificial foods and synthetic items replacing war-scarce materials.

**Flak** was from the German acronym for *Flieger Abwehr Kanone*, an aircraft defense gun. By war's end, servicemen were using "flak" or "flack" to mean any barrage of words, lies or complaints. After the war, it came to be criticism or nagging. Later a "flack" meant one who put out a barrage of words, as in advertising or public relations.

**Flattop** became a term for aircraft carrier as these big ships replaced battleships as the main fleet vessel during the wide-ranging Pacific action. It came to describe a man's close-cropped haircut.

**Gizmo** meant "a gadget or contrivance whose name was unknown; the word seems to have originally been used in the navy."

**Gobbledygook**, meaning verbose, obscure, bureaucratic jargon, was coined by Maury Maverick,

Just joined - HARMON NOLAND, (A19th & 3rd Eng. '51-'52), down at 1213 S.E. Graham, Pryor OK. We welcome you aboard, Harmon... Boy, are we going back! RUSS SMITH (E 19th '40-'42) over at Rt. 1, Box 2-5, in Macks Creek MO has learned about us. Says he took the oath on 1/5/40 in Boston and in a few hours was on his way to Wahoo. Would love to hear from any Easy Chicks.

chairman of the Smaller War Plant Corp., in a 1944 memo after attending a wordy committee meeting. He later said the word just came to him, but that perhaps he was thinking of the turkey gobblers back in his native Texas and of the 'gobbledgobbling' sound they made while strutting so pompously."

**Gremlin** was an imaginary imp causing mechanical problems in an airplane. "Bug" later came to mean a defect or cause of trouble. "Bug" remained active in the language, while "gremlin" faded.

**Gung ho** (from the Chinese *kung ho*, literally "more fiery," fierce, awesome) became a very popular war term meaning eager, full of zeal, devoted.

**Kilroy was here** was written on fences, buildings and sidewalks and meant "a U.S. serviceman was here." So many stories circulated as to its origination that no one could say with certainty how it started. Many of the graffiti writers made a drawing of a wide-eyed, bald-headed face peering over a fence that had everything below his nose except his fingers shown gripping the top of the fence. Kilroy is not entirely forgotten — President Bush mentioned the slogan in his recent State of the Union address.

**Mae West** was an inflatable life vest worn by air crews, giving the wearer a bulky chest resembling the buxom entertainer.

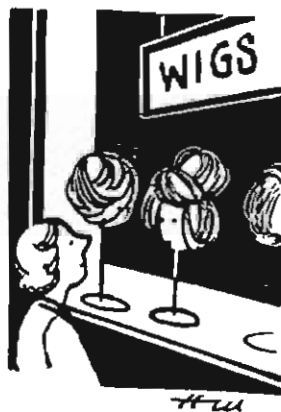
**Radar**, from the Navy acronym for "radio detecting and ranging," was one of the most important inventions of the war and continues in many uses today.

And let's not forget "G.I. Joe."

"In the 1920s 'G.I.' began to be used as the abbreviation for galvanized iron in the army and a 'G.I.' was a heavy galvanized-iron army garbage can. By 1935, 'G.I.' stood for 'General Issue' (some say 'Government Issue'), and the initials were stamped or stenciled on everything issued to soldiers, from underwear to trucks."

Meanwhile, into the 1940s, "Joe" became a popular name for any typical guy.

The terms were combined and first appeared as "G.I. Joe" in Lt. Dave Berger's comic strip for Yank, the army weekly. Soon "G.I. Joe" was the name for any American soldier. Soldiers themselves often shortened it to "G.I." because they felt the "Joe" was condescending.



Under the heading "Georgia Punch", the 12/2/91 issue of Army Times covered this after-action review of the Division in Desert Storm. Although reporter James Blackwell slugs us in his opening paragraph, it's a terrific report. Before you get too deeply into it, note paragraph two where he says the WW II fellas "swore never again" to be caught short. In '50, we were. Now let's get on with the report.

## 24th Mech puts the squeeze on Iraq

By James Blackwell  
Special to Army Times

FORT STEWART, Ga. — When the first units of the 24th Infantry Division were alerted, they were terribly understrength, poorly trained and alcoholism was rampant.

Still, the division was roused out of a sleepy garrison on Kyushu Island, Japan, on June 30, 1950. Task Force Smith was thrown together out of the division's short-handed fighting battalion and suffered terrible losses as it barely stopped the invasion into South Korea from the north. Nine years earlier, the division was posted at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and was caught sleeping early on Dec. 7, 1941, when Japanese aircraft swooped over the U.S. Navy fleet, virtually unimpeded by anti-aircraft fire. The officers and soldiers of the Victory Division swore never again would they be caught short in combat because of a lack of peacetime readiness.



In August 1990, the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) was the most combat-ready heavy division in the continental United States. It had been designated in the early 1980s as the heavy punch for the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force. It had been commanded in the mid-1980s by Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf and before him, Gen. John Galvin. The current commander, Maj. Gen. Barry McCaffrey, the Army's youngest division commander and one of its most highly decorated soldiers, had assumed command in June. The division's mission was to be prepared to deploy on short notice to any theater in the world, concentrating on Southwest Asia. On Aug. 7, it was alerted to deploy to Saudi Arabia in Operation Desert Shield.

The division assembled in the Saudi desert as the first heavy U.S. division between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's forces in Kuwait and major Saudi cities and strategic sites. The preparedness of the more than 20,000 soldiers was immeasurable, but assumed, after extensive training here and at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. The condition of the division's equipment, however, could be measured and reached a level unheard of in peacetime operations: Tanks were at a 98 percent operational ready rate, Bradley fighting vehicles at 97 percent, M901 Improved TOW Vehicles were at 92 percent, howitzers stood at 97 percent and Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, or MLRSs, were at 100 percent. The readiness of the division's helicopters was as impressive, with AH-64 Apaches, AH-1 Cobras, OH-58 Kiowas and EH-60 Quickfixes all at 100 percent.

"I have never been in a unit in peacetime with operational ready rates this high," McCaffrey says.

The readiness is all the more apparent in hindsight. The 24th Infantry Division swept wide in Schwarzkopf's "Hail Mary" maneuver, closing the Euphrates River Valley to Iraqi units trying to flee Kuwait and preventing reinforcements from the north. The Iraqis were stunned by the firepower of the division behind them, as Division Artillery volleys, attack aircraft and tanks stunted their attempts to retreat north. Even after the cease-fire, division soldiers didn't stand down. They blocked the Iraqi army's last-ditch effort to race up the river valley out of coalition-controlled southern Iraq.

"We liberated Kuwait, we took Saddam Hussein out of power and we won new respect for the United States," says Sgt. Jim Mowry. "We've all got a lot to be proud of."

The division was alerted at 3 a.m. Aug. 7. It exercised the standard rapid deployment drill, but it nevertheless was clear to all the soldiers and their families that this was not routine. It took six days, nine hours and 57 minutes after the alert for the first ship full of equipment to depart. The FSS Capella steamed down the Savannah River Aug. 13, bound for Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, the Air Force's mammoth C-5A Galaxy and C-141B Starlifter transport planes began arriving at nearby Hunter Army Airfield to load troops and critical oversized equipment. The first plane departed Aug. 20: most were civilian aircraft provided under the Defense Department's Civil Reserve Air Fleet system.

Under most of its contingency plans, the 24th has two active-duty maneuver brigades and a roundout brigade, the 48th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) of the Georgia National Guard. The 48th is well-equipped and its soldiers trained, but for this mission, it just was not ready to go within the seven days required. After much consideration, Army officials decided to assign the 197th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) from Fort Benning, Ga., as the 3d Brigade of the 24th.

The 197th was not fully modernized. For example, instead of Bradley fighting vehicles, the 197th was equipped with M113 armored personnel carriers. "On balance, probably, the 197th Infantry Brigade was the single, best trained, most effective brigade in the Army, beyond a shadow of a doubt," McCaffrey says. After a series of training exercises in 1990, including brigade rotations to a Return of Forces to Germany exercise and the National Training Center, it had more live-fire and maneuver training under its belt than most units get in a year. The 197th got the nod from the Army.

Leaving the roundout brigade behind was not the only force-structure difficulty facing the division. One of its tank battalions, the 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, had just finished deploying most of its tank crews and NCOs to South Korea as part of the COHORT unit assignment system. Battalion lead-

ers and staff provided a formidable shell, but the inner workings that make a combat unit had been gutted. The options were limited. The Pentagon's solution was to replace the skeleton battalion with one from Fort Hood, Texas. But the 24th's leaders did not want to break up the effective leadership team painstakingly assembled and tested that summer at the National Training Center.

An innovative alternative arose: a vast untapped source of highly trained armor power at Fort Knox, Ky., at the U.S. Army Armor Center and School. When the call went out for volunteers to deploy immediately to Fort Stewart to join the 24th, hundreds came forward. Planload after planload arrived here during the early days of the deployment and soon, 4/64 Armor had its tank crews and leaders.

After setting up port operations in Saudi, the division pushed a 10,000-soldier force into the desert by Sept. 7. With the arrival of the final ship Sept. 20, the entire division was in the theater of operations. All told, 18,000 soldiers, 1,574 armored vehicles, 90 helicopters and 3,500 wheeled vehicles arrived in Saudi Arabia.

Back at the home post near Hinesville, about 40 miles southwest of Savannah, loved ones supported each other and their warriors overseas. Organized by Marilyn Frazar and coordinated by Jill McCaffrey, they formed a tightly knit group called "The Sisterhood." With more than half the division's soldiers married, they had their work cut out, suddenly implementing dependent care plans that no one had taken seriously before. Many young spouses chose to go away to parents, family or friends elsewhere. Keeping track of them and keeping them informed was a principal task The Sisterhood set for itself.

The division rear detachment organized the links between Fort Stewart and division headquarters in Saudi Arabia. Not only did it speed the flow of requests for material on daily flights out of Hunter Army Airfield, it also established morale-boosting communications links. Public affairs provided video conferences broadcast from the field and bounced off satellites to local television studios in Savannah.

Gen. McCaffrey was convinced the division might have to fight as soon as it arrived in Saudi. He had watched the Iraqi invasion of

Bigamy is having one wife too many. Monogamy is the same.  
OSCAR WILDE

The best way to keep children at home is to make the home atmosphere pleasant—and let the air out of the tires.  
DOROTHY PARKER

Kuwait and the subsequent build-up on the Iraqi-Saudi border. He realized Saddam would have a clear path to the south for several days until U.S. heavy forces could arrive in strength. If the Iraqis were not deterred by early arriving air power and light infantry forces, whatever was available from the 24th at the time would be the only U.S. armor standing between Kuwait and Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. The division was prepared to live up to its motto, "First to Fight."

About 100 soldiers were sent with each shipload of equipment and vehicles, well above the normal complement of about 40 for peacetime sea deployments. In addition to the usual maintenance workers, the division sent air defense crews and chemical decontamination units. Each fighting vehicle was loaded with ammunition and fuel so once crews joined their systems, combat power could be generated at the port.

But the Iraqi attack scenario that Schwarzkopf, U.S. Central Command commander in chief, said was his worst nightmare never materialized. The equipment was unloaded and moved to a tactical holding area just outside the port of Ad-Dammam. All told, more than 200 40-foot trailer loads arrived daily, bringing the Victory Division's full complement of gear to the field from Ad-Dammam. While the deployment continued, the division quickly occupied a defensive sector near the town of As Sarrah, 258 kilometers from the port.

There, the division prepared to defend Saudi Arabia, but also planned future offensive operations. The sector was a kind of a defensive box, about 150 kilometers south of the Kuwaiti border, and was tied in with the 1st Marine Division, also defending in Saudi Arabia. "We had Saudi military units, about five brigades' worth, in front of us between the Iraqis and us," McCaffrey says.

The division's greatest challenge was to maintain its equipment under harsh desert conditions. Armored vehicle and helicopter engines failed more often, as expected, in the dust and heat. Repair parts arrived daily for the division's 10-day average requisition load of 3,800 parts.

The desert was especially hard on helicopters. The choppers went through rotor blades and engines much faster than at Fort Stewart. At first, all Army helicopters were based at the airport at Dhahran, with the idea that a central loca-

tion would ease maintenance. However, the plan didn't meet the tactical needs of the Victory Division. "My heart and my gut said this was wrong. We had to be where the division was," says Col. Burt Tackaberry, commander of the division's aviation brigade. Tackaberry recommended McCaffrey bring the helicopters to the field, figuring the maintenance support would be no worse and responsiveness might be better. It was a risky choice, but McCaffrey agreed. They selected a forward base near the village of Thaj, about a 45-minute flight north of Dhahran. It worked, Tackaberry says. "We didn't fight the desert. We learned to live in the desert."

**M**aintenance was not the only logistics challenge the division faced in the 120-degree heat. Soldiers gulped about 213,000 gallons of water a day and vehicles consumed 345,000 gallons per day of diesel fuel. Food became a morale issue; there was plenty of it, but little variety. Maj. Walter Holton, 2d Brigade's executive officer, attempted a humorous explanation before the Senate Armed Services Committee during a hearing in May: "There are 12 selections [of Meals, Ready-to-eat, or MREs]. But if you eat them cold, and then you heat them up, you have a total of 24. They taste different."

The heat not only oppressed the soldiers, it melted the tread off recapped tires, slowing the transportation of vital supplies. Saudi trucks hauled most of the division's supplies from Dhahran to the division support area 245 kilometers away.

While the logisticians executed the greatest troop movement since D-Day, the operational planners conducted a mammoth planning effort, partially shrouded in secrecy. Defending Saudi Arabia was the immediate task and most of the division's efforts were directed to that end. Troops built sand tables and designed map exercises. Every unit rehearsed the defensive plan over and over. Planners considered all contingencies while crew and squad members drilled on makeshift ranges.

Discipline was remarkable. CSM James Hart of the aviation brigade told a reporter, "This is probably the cleanest war I can ever remember." The veteran of three tours in Vietnam said, "There's no pornography, no booze and no drugs here. And the support of the people [back home]

has just been amazing. I don't ever remember anything like that in Vietnam."

The discipline extended even to operation security. "We brought 100-and-some telephones out there and let all our soldiers call home the entire time we were there," McCaffrey says. "They were told, 'Don't tell your family you've left the Eastern Seaboard. Don't tell them what your purpose is. Don't tell them when you think we're going to attack,' and they never did. There were 26,000 soldiers. I'll bet most of them called home one time during that month. Tremendous self-discipline."

The division made a concerted effort to assure the local Arab leadership that the soldiers were not "ugly Americans." Col. John LeMoyné, 1st Brigade commander, had volunteered to serve in Saudi as a young major. He came to love the country and often camped with the native Bedouins. This background proved valuable as the division moved across the northern Saudi desert later in the operation. McCaffrey recalls one incident that epitomized LeMoyné's contribution to Saudi-U.S. relations: "It was the most surrealistic thing I've ever seen in my life. This blinding sandstorm, hundreds of armor vehicles roaring out of the dust and we kept running through groups of Bedouins with their camels and goats, terrified. LeMoyné's guys pulled up in there and there was a knot of Bedouins standing around looking fearful. He had one of his sergeants hop out, start a fire for them with petrol, put a teapot on, said, 'I hope you have a safe day,' in Arabic, and off they went."

#### Meeting the locals

Fourteen towns were scattered across the division's initial defensive area. Relations were good. No town was off-limits. Division leaders went to each local emir to explain that they wanted the troops to be able to buy snacks and such and use the telephones in town. They made sure most soldiers had the opportunity to mingle some with the Saudis — to see mosques and museums. To take a camel ride.

Because of the training and the cultural exchange, morale remained high throughout Desert Shield. Spec. Clinton Lange, the driver of a 3d Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment M1 Abrams main battle tank nicknamed "Hussein's Nightmare," told a reporter,

"This tank's awesome. If you gotta go in, this is what you want."

As the division trained, soldiers gained confidence, yet did not seem eager to employ their highly honed skills on human targets. "People are more cautious," says Cpl. Neely Raper. Raper says a war was necessary. "The worst thing that could happen would be for [Saddam] to pull out and leave his army intact. . . . They say in 10 years, he'll have missiles that can hit New York."

For amusement, Sgt. Ken Oster of D Company, 3d Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, gave names to various mythical gods affecting the lives of soldiers in the desert. He named the wind god "Wendel," and the sand god "Cecil." While the frost god that often made mornings miserable remained unnamed, it was the ubiquitous sand that drew the most complaints. "Cecil kicks our butts all the time," Oster said.

#### 'It was breathtaking'

But while the division trained and overtly planned to defend Saudi Arabia, plans were being made covertly for offensive operations. In a highly compartmentalized effort, McCaffrey had a few of his closest staff members begin to consider offensive options. These

were cast in terms of "what-if" exercises, and never were discussed outside the division. "At one point," McCaffrey says, "there were, I think, 22 people in the division who had any clue as to what was going on, and that had specified code words. We only planned in one van that I had installed." Sooner or later, an offensive option would have to be considered, either in response to an attack south by the Iraqis marshaling in Kuwait, or, later, when allied combat power was sufficient to throw Saddam's army back into Iraq.

Then, on Nov. 7, Central Command officials called a secret conference for division and corps commanders. Schwarzkopf unveiled the plan that eventually became Operation Desert Storm. McCaffrey distinctly remembers the moment they all saw it for the first time. "It was breathtaking. They pulled the covers off the map and revealed this astounding surprise to all of us. . . . It was a special period of history. . . . It was clear to people like me that we were now going to use this tremendous strategic leverage and surprise to save lives."

At this point, division brigade and battalion commanders were brought into the plan. It became a special night, just before Christ-

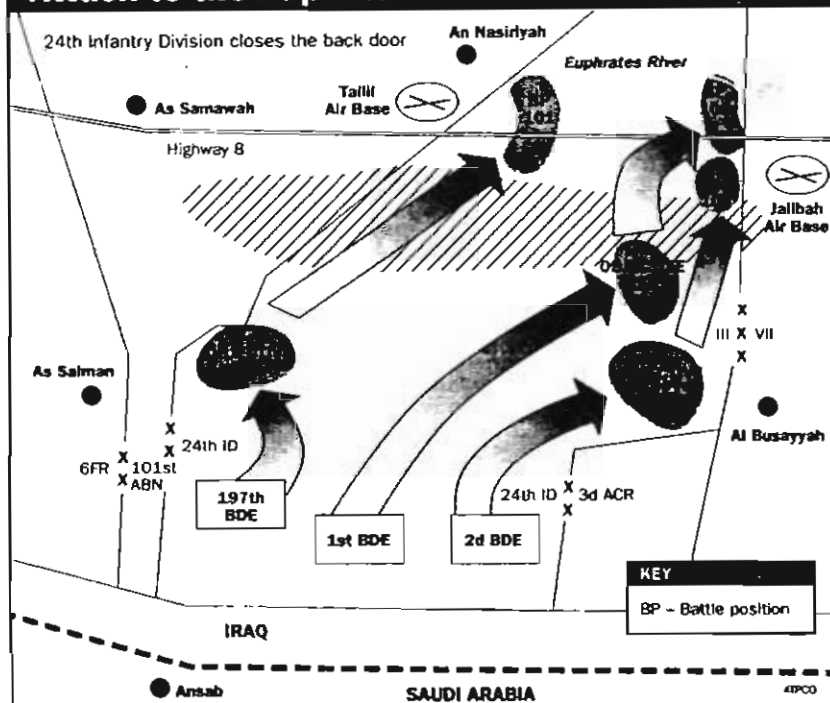
mas, for the division commanders and staff members. They put up a tent on a high point overlooking the desert floor. There was a catered dinner with patriotic music by division musicians. The Saudi regional commander provided a seven-course meal complete with china and silver as each battalion commander received a locked briefcase with the plan inside. From that point, they spent every Sunday afternoon and evening conducting map exercises, rehearsing and exploring every option and contingency of the plan. The troops weren't brought in on it until Feb. 15.

#### Facing Iraqi defenses

In January, as the division continued to prepare, plan and train, it became apparent the Iraqis intended to stand and fight in response to an allied attack. "[Defenses] that has been deliberately constructed over months are going to pose real problems," says Capt. Ralph Corradi, operations officer for the 3d Combat Engineer Battalion. One of the battalion's soldiers, Spec. Brian Green, remarked at the time, "I wish we'd gotten this thing over a lot

## Plan was received with awe

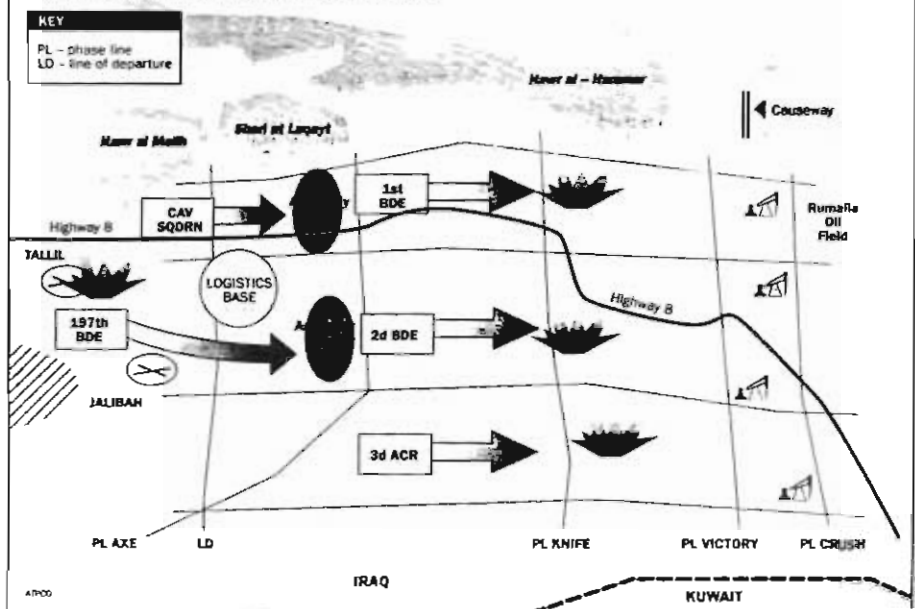
### Attack to the Euphrates



## No booze, no drugs

## Battle of Rumaila Oil Field

24th Infantry Division prevents escape of Republican Guard



earlier. They're real dug in now."

For Victory Division soldiers, the mission was to be of historic proportions. They were to strike swiftly and decisively 300 kilometers deep, into the enemy's rear and flanks to block the Euphrates River Valley. They would block the escape of the 500,000 Iraqi soldiers from Kuwait. Later, if the situation allowed, the 24th would continue the attack east toward Basra, Iraq, to complete the destruction of the Republican Guard command. The division received much more firepower and strength to accomplish these tasks. It grew to a massive force of 1,793 tracked combat vehicles, 94 helicopters, 6,566 wheeled vehicles and 26,000 soldiers in 34 battalions.

Intelligence preparation was good in anticipation of G-Day, the start of the ground war. The estimated threat in the division's zone included elements of seven Iraqi divisions, including four Republican Guard divisions. The location of Iraqi units was pinpointed by satellites and other imagery. Using data from the division's electronic warfare aircraft, intelligence analysts were able to construct a highly accurate picture, down to battalion level in most cases, of what the Iraqis had and where it was. Capt. Elizabeth Schwab, a division intelligence operations officer, later told the Senate Armed Services Committee: "I knew where the Iraqi divisions were that we were going to face, down to battalion level... And when we fired artillery prep on them, they were there and we hit them." And contrary to later criticism of the inability of the intelligence system to push information down to units, Schwab said, "The corps pushed intelligence to us as quickly as they could. In fact, there were a few times where I got reports that were just 25 minutes old, or less."

### Moving in secret

But before the division would

make its dash to the Euphrates, it had to move to a secret attack position. Schwarzkopf's elaborate deception plan was designed to make the Iraqis believe the coalition forces would attack directly through their prepared defenses in Kuwait. In reality, the XVIII Airborne Corps, which includes the 24th Infantry Division, would shift surreptitiously far to the west to get into a position flanking the Iraqi defense. Even with the deceptions and extensive preparation, McCaffrey says he expected division casualties to be high. "I thought we'd have 300, 500 casualties minimum in the division and possibly a couple thousand," he says. "There was no scientific analysis on that. It was just that I was a company commander in combat. In most serious fights, I'd get 25 people killed or wounded... We didn't go into this thinking it would be a cakewalk. But we also went in knowing we'd win... Quickly, totally."

Victory Division soldiers loaded up and moved more than 500 kilometers from their defensive positions around As Sarrar to attack positions near the town of Ansab, Saudi Arabia. The 24th Infantry Division moved northwest by road in 67 convoys of about 150 vehicles each. Reporters were kept from seeing any more than a small part of the tactical move to reinforce the Iraqi command's expectation that the coalition would attack right into their defenses in Kuwait. The movement, with all vehicles fully loaded and crews ready to fight, took 10 days, 16 hours each day.

While the division's massive ground force road-marched, its aviation brigade, now including an infantry company, provided an initial screen between the eventual attack position and the Iraqi border. At 9 p.m. Jan. 30, the division took its first enemy fire as six OH-58 Kiowa scout helicopters conducting reconnaissance

near the border dodged machine-gun fire.

### Reaching across the border

At daylight the next morning, Apache pilots identified an electronic warfare site in the area. The division's Apaches launched a raid to take it out. The aviation brigade continued to work across the border, delivering long-range reconnaissance detachments and scouting for enemy activity along the routes the division planned to use to advance into Iraq. A key part of the reconnaissance was provided by the electronic warfare units flying EH-60 Quickfix intelligence and jamming aircraft collecting Iraqi signals that revealed the size and location of the enemy's forces.

The division's 2d Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment and the aviation brigade were across the border four days before G-Day, scouting Iraqi positions and verifying the terrain analysis conducted during the weeks before the ground war. Lt. Col. Tom Leney had taken command of the squadron in December as the squadron nearly doubled in size for anticipated missions deep into Iraq. Additional tanks, artillery — including an MLRS battery — engineers, ground surveillance radar and helicopters provided more than 1,500 soldiers to serve as the division's eyes and ears. They were especially mindful of minefields, which they expected to contain chemical mines.

The six-man reconnaissance and surveillance detachments provided clandestine observations close to enemy locations before G-Day. These soldiers slipped in quietly at night and dug themselves in, virtually disappearing from the desert during the day. At night, they used sophisticated sights to see deep into Iraqi positions. Scheduled reports were sent to the division by special communications channels. SFC Robert Kramer, a team leader, describes

the tension behind enemy lines. "At any time, you may have just been spotted. The hardest thing is to tell whether you have been seen. You are sitting there, watching. Do I call a bird to get extracted? That's a nerve-racking position."

One member of the unit, Spec. Raul Luevano, says the detachment's dangerous missions brought its members closer. "Here, it's a different story from the line grunts. You're on your own, you're in your own world out there. I think it is important to have the same people all the time. You bond."

The division also conducted several raids into Iraq to knock out Iraqi observation posts. On Feb. 18, B Company, 2d Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, captured an Iraqi flag from an observation post during one such raid. Armed helicopters — six Apaches and three OH-58s — fired rockets and guns into the site and called in an artillery-fired Copperhead round. Lt. Col. Tom Stewart, the Apache battalion commander, called the mission "an early morning wake-up call."

### 'Scared as hell'

"I think that they're scared as hell of getting hammered day and night," Stewart said. Armed with fixed bayonets, B Company's 31-soldier patrol moved across the berm shortly after midnight, only to find it abandoned. "It was a good mission," says Capt. Todd Sherrill, who commanded the mission. "It was good to get across the border and do something." The patrol found a page torn from a Western defense publication showing an A-4 Skyhawk attack aircraft, similar to those used by the Kuwaiti air force. They also found documents and instructions for a German-made gas mask.

The division was to launch its portion of the coalition ground campaign at 3 p.m. Feb. 24. The area up to 20 kilometers inside

Iraq was determined to be free of enemy forces. "Not only is there nothing there, there is absolutely nothing there," said 1st Lt. Tom Mathers, an Apache gunner. Even the observation posts scouts had been watching for about a week, were abandoned by the time the attack was launched.

The division moved with brigades abreast, with the 197th Infantry Brigade as the division's 3d Brigade on the left, the 1st Brigade in the center and the 2d Brigade on the right. The 2d Cav had moved to a blocking position on the division's right flank and the air cav troop provided the advance guard.

The brigades aligned on combat trails pointing north. These occasionally were dirt roads carved out of the desert by the Iraqis, but in most places, they were nothing more than passable terrain fea-

# Night move is through 'absolutely nothing'

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tures that the division planned to use as main supply routes as it moved forward. Advancing combat units and engineers marked the trails with stakes, posts and signs. For easy recognition at night and during times of limited visibility, the engineers devised infrared and flashing light markers that used solar detectors to turn on automatically when darkness set in. Dubbed "Chuz lights" after Maj. Chuz Chamberlain, a signal officer with the 36th Engineer Group who invented them, they were easily visible through thermal sights when not visible to the naked eye. McCaffrey described the effect: "If you were a trucker, you drove down the line using white lights... at 30 mph, following blinking lights — thunk, thunk, thunk — as far as you could see. You could fly the route."

## Rapid movement

Because of the lack of early resistance, the division moved far more rapidly than planned and reached its first day's objectives within a few hours of launching the attack. The objectives, dubbed Brown and Grey, covered the ends of a major Iraqi supply route that ran east to west from As Salman, the French 6th Armor Division's Day 1 objective, and Al Bussayah, a VII Corps objective east of the 24th Infantry Division's sector.

McCaffrey and his staff members were concerned that any kind of Iraqi movement along this route would run into the 24th's advance and disrupt or confuse the division. They worried that counterattack plans contemplated by the defending Iraqis at Al Bussayah and As Salman would call for brigade-size attacks to reestablish the road serving as the defenders' only route for re-supply — one that was missed by allied air interdiction. The road had been constructed hurriedly by Iraqi engineers during the invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Airborne sensors showed a volume of traffic between As Salman and Bussayah that corresponded to a corps main supply route.

As it turned out, the French quickly took As Salman and the 1st Armored Division marched to the Euphrates on Day 1 of the ground war. After preparatory air strikes and artillery fires, the 197th and 2d brigades encountered only light resistance at objectives Brown and Grey. The division took about 300 prisoners at these objectives. Meanwhile, the 1st Brigade also found little resistance completing its first-day mission to take Objective Red, a piece of ground overlooking the rough terrain that stood in the way of

the division's approach into the Euphrates River Valley proper.

## Fording Great Dismal Bog

While the maneuver brigades briefly collected themselves to continue the advance, 2/4 Cavalry moved out the first night to verify the division's routes of advance into the valley. The terrain analysis team already determined this would be the most difficult phase of the operation. From map inspection, there appeared to be no avenue of advance suitable for an entire brigade to move through what came to be called the Great Dismal Bog. This was a massive stretch of wadis and intermittent sabkhas, or swamps. McCaffrey calls it "The Ranger School of mechanized operations."

Leney's cavalry troops worked the bog all night in some of the worst weather of the campaign. These wadis and washouts turned out to be monstrosities. There were sheer rock walls 150 feet high in some places and precipices dropping off 80 feet in the space of a few yards. The cav tore its equipment up that night, leaving several vehicles stranded in the rough terrain, but found a suitable route.

By this time, the allied attack was moving swiftly across the front and the Victory Division was told to accelerate its advance in concert with the other coalition ground forces. McCaffrey ordered his brigades to prepare to move the next day to the Euphrates River. They had planned to halt for a half-day or so to bring up logistics, but the accelerated schedule allowed only for a rapid refueling before the attack.

The 197th was the last brigade to emerge from the bog, late Feb. 26. The brigade moved northwest to assume a blocking position. But a sandstorm, mud and mire conspired to leave dozens of vehicles stranded in the bog. By 10 p.m., the brigade advanced into the heart of a defensive position held by the 3d Commando Regiment of the Republican Guard, facing east. Within minutes, the brigade took out the regiment's command post, suffering two killed while killing six Iraqis. By 10:25 p.m., scouts had found the far right flank of the position and mounted a coordinated attack into a battalion position covered by dug-in T-72 tanks. It was over in minutes. After firing armor-piercing cluster-bomblet artillery rounds, tanks and machine guns, brigade members had killed 49 Iraqis and wounded seven, destroying six trucks, six jeeps, three buses and a motorcade. The rest of the command battalion surrendered.

## Launching the night attack

At 3 p.m. Feb. 27, the 1st Bri-

gade launched the main attack to seize a blocking position straddling Highway 8 and the Euphrates River. Highway 8 is the eight-lane highway between Basra and An Nasiriyah, with several lanes and roads following the course of the river. A canal network also paralleled the river, with narrow lanes on top of the levees on each side. The brigade had to block these routes to prevent the arrival of reinforcements from the northwest and to catch the Iraqis fleeing from Kuwait and southeastern Iraq.

LT. Gen. John Craddock's 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment was the first to arrive at Battle Position 102 east of An Nasiriyah, and encountered substantial resistance from air defense units and defending support troops in a major logistics site in southern Iraq. While advancing, Craddock found himself in the midst of an intense firefight, taking antitank rocket fire and direct hits from an Iraqi tank. With their main gun sights knocked out and engine compartment hit, Craddock and his tank crew fought their way through the position, silencing those threats and, in the process, earning awards for valor. They later discovered they had run right through an entire commando brigade with attached armor that had been dug in to protect this area.

## Total destruction

The 1st Brigade immediately began taking artillery fire from about five battalions of Iraqi artillery. The Iraqi fires were silenced quickly by counterbattery fire directed by the division's artillery radars. As Col. Paul Kern, 2d Brigade commander, puts it, "We'd get a sensing round from them and the Iraqis would get 48 in return."

One infantry battalion captured a truckload of Iraqi doctors and medical specialists, all of whom spoke English and were all of whom were trying to surrender. They immediately were pressed into service treating Iraqi wounded and prisoners streaming into the division's sector.

By now, there were so many prisoners, soldiers were tossing rations and water, then directing most of them to the rear. SSgt. Robert Greene, a tankner, describes the battle: "We were on them so fast, and when they did fire upon one of our vehicles, the response that they drew was total destruction quicker than they could imagine. And... when you would fire on one armored vehicle and totally destroy it, the other guys would jump out of their tanks and BMPs and run with their white rags. They didn't want any more of it."

McCaffrey told of another ex-

ample of the Iraqi's response, in which an Iraqi captain, his leg smashed, was pulled out of a bunker applauding his captors. And Capt. Wayne Grigsby Jr. of B Company, 3d Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, recalls the results of one prisoner interrogation: "I personally talked to a company commander who was wounded one night when I was on Highway 8; he was a veteran of the eight-year Iran-Iraq War. And he... asked me why we were in Iraq. 'Why are you there? You are cheating, you were supposed to go through Kuwait through all the ditches and minefields that we set up. We don't now know why you are here; it is not fair.'"

## Site hardly touched

The logistics site was enormous. It apparently had been built by the Iraqis during the Iran-Iraq War and hardly had been touched by allied air attacks. As it swept through, with the 1st Brigade at Battle Position 102, the 2d Brigade occupying Battle Position 103 to the south and the 197th Infantry Brigade just outside Tallil Air Base behind them, the division discovered more than 1,300 bunkers and underground depots holding one of the world's largest military storage facilities, an area 100 by 80 kilometers. "I have never seen so much ammunition in my entire life," McCaffrey says. With these kinds of supplies, division officials estimated the Iraqis could have held on for an inestimable amount of time had they had not been attacked on the ground.

The infantry troops began exploding the stored munitions, but quickly stopped as some explosions sent debris flying 12 kilometers. McCaffrey said one detonation was the equivalent of a nuclear bomb of one or two kilotons. The division left more than 900 bunkers to engineers and elements of the 82d Airborne Division, now moving in behind the 24th.

As the division began to sweep down Highway 8, moving more than 100 kilometers by the end of this phase of the operation, they destroyed hundreds of trucks streaming away from the battles to the south and east. The 24th's drivers pressed their armored vehicles to the limit. McCaffrey said the Bradley he rode in moved faster than 40 mph and Abrams tanks were going even faster.

The Iraqis had no idea they were trapped. One 30-truck column was destroyed by artillery. Another column was brought to a stop when its lead vehicle was hit by helicopters. But as the column continued to advance, going around the disabled lead vehicle, the attack helicopters continued to fire, first sending 30mm can-

non rounds into the side of a vehicle to warn the crew. If the vehicle continued, cannon into the front grill. If that did not stop it, the helicopters fired rockets at trucks and Hellfire missiles into armored vehicles. Highway 8 was littered with destroyed Iraqi vehicles.

## 'Bowed to their knees'

The next day, the division asked for and received permission to strike at two nearby airfields, expecting there would be formidable defending forces given the unexpected size of the corps logistics site where they found themselves. The 197th brigade took Tallil after an air attack by Air Force fighters and a massive artillery preparation, destroying a number of Iraqi aircraft positioned off the concrete but in mint condition. Had their pilots not fled, the aircraft easily could have been flown. The 2d Brigade turned its efforts to the air base at Jalibah to the southeast.

The attack on Jalibah began at 6:30 a.m. with a tremendous artillery bombardment. When the rounds began to fall, all 80 of the defending Iraqi anti-aircraft guns opened fire toward the sky, the crews thinking they were under air attack. "We were 15 kilometers away and we had been there for eight hours polishing off the Tallil Air Base and the logistics center," McCaffrey says. "We were too far in their rear area for them to comprehend it. And then the speed of the advance bowed them to their knees."

The division again had caught the Iraqis by surprise, but a company of T-55 tanks opened fire on the advancing Bradley that had begun sweeping down the airfield. A platoon of Abrams tanks was brought up and, with artillery support, quickly silenced the Iraqi tanks. CSM Ben Palacios watched the tanks from his 3/69 Armor battalion as it swept through the airfield and remarked, "This is almost like a firing range."

"They just don't have any heart for a fight with us," says Capt. Chuck Sexton, who interrogated several Republican Guard soldiers captured at Jalibah. Troops from the Al Fao Republican Guard division lacked neither food nor weapons and many sported jewelry stolen when they occupied Kuwait. It was as they swept across the airfield that the 24th experienced its only instance of friendly fire. A tank gunner mistook a Bradley for an Iraqi vehicle. Two soldiers were killed.

## Facing a division-size force

With the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment under the division's

See PUNCH page 61

# Division's prisoner count: 4,600

PUNCH from page 22

control the morning of Feb. 27, the Victory Division drew up to make its final advance toward Basra. By this time, the division had destroyed two large logistics complexes, 25 aircraft, more than 300 armored and wheeled vehicles and more than 100 artillery pieces. It had taken 4,600 Iraqi prisoners.

Division intelligence analysts calculated about a division-size force was facing the 24th west of Basra. The division intelligence staff figured the Iraqis had gone into a defensive shell, with two Republican Guard divisions defending against the attacking 24th from bunkered positions. They also figured elements of the retreating Hammurabi Division and other regular army units would be able to muster resistance.

McCaffrey had his operational planners prepare a massive artillery and attack helicopter firestorm in front of the advancing brigades before meeting the enemy. By this time, the division was arrayed from north to south with the 1st Brigade in the north, the 2d Brigade in the center and the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment in the south, all preparing to move east. The 197th brigade was in reserve and, with the aviation brigade, the division's 26,000 soldiers were mounting a punishing assault of five maneuver brigades.

## Cease-fire declared

But it was not to be. President Bush's decision to halt hostilities was received by the division late Feb. 27. McCaffrey says he was glad for the halt because he had expected to take the most serious casualties of the war at this point. But he never doubted the outcome. And he did not question the president's decision, saying the further killing of Iraqis was unnecessary.

Most of the division's soldiers were wary, however. PFC Temujin Hood referred to Saddam when he said that day, "After all this time, you can't trust that man. You can't take a beating like he did and give up that easily." Yet the Iraqis were surrendering or abandoning their weapons, and the division, by and large, would have been content to spend the rest of the time in Iraq, destroying equipment rather than killing people.

But in the early morning darkness of March 2, the Iraqis tried to fight their way out of the trap set by the allied ground campaign. At 3:30 a.m., 3/7 Infantry scouts in the southernmost portion of the division's cease-fire line reported about 100 sets of headlights were moving toward them. Brigade commander LeMoyné asked the battalion commander

whether that particular scout was reliable. It was an experienced sergeant who had left the Army in spring 1990, but who reenlisted when he got word that his former unit was deploying to Saudi Arabia. He was one of the most reliable scouts in the division and if he said it was 100 vehicles, it was 100 vehicles.

## Headlights kept coming

The battalion moved its scouts ahead for a closer look and the next battalion to the north, 2/7 Infantry, commanded by Lt. Col. Chuck Ware, picked up the advancing headlights. They kept coming and now, 100 more Iraqi vehicles were moving north. Meanwhile, Tackaberry sent helicopters north of the Hawr al-Hammar lake to see where the Iraqis might be heading.

The only bridge across the lake had been taken out by air strikes. They only way out for the Iraqis was through the 24th Infantry Division. But Tackaberry's aviators discovered the Iraqis had built an earthen ramp leading around the destroyed approach to the bridge and, with the main span intact, were using it to escape north. Already, about 200 vehicles were parked north of the lake. Tackaberry could see this was the objective of the hundreds more now advancing into the division's security zone.

At daylight, 2/7 Infantry was rocked by Iraqi antitank guided missiles and T-72 main gun and rocket fire near the Rumaila Oil Field between the lake and Kuwait. It was an apparent attempt by a division-sized force composed of the remnants of the Republican Guard Hammurabi Division and other armored and infantry elements. They had organized themselves to try to fight out. They had to be stopped.

## 'We won big'

In the ensuing battle, the 24th organized three battalion task forces from the 1st Brigade and three attack helicopter companies, two air cavalry troops and five artillery battalions to stymie the Iraqi attempt to escape. As Ware put it, "They shot first. We won big."

For 20 minutes, the division unleashed all the fury of its artillery on the advancing Iraqi column. McCaffrey says this hastily planned barrage was made possible only by the effective use of the division's tactic fire direction system, or TACFIRE. Helicopters fired at ranges of more than four kilometers. Tackaberry was the first to arrive in his command UH-60 Black Hawk. He flew right at the lead vehicle, which was too startled to return fire. "It was amazing what we did here," Tackaberry said. "In Vietnam, we

killed people. Here, we were killing vehicles."

The first attack choppers to arrive were Cobras, firing 20mm cannons, then rockets, then anti-tank missiles at the lead vehicles of each advancing column. First hit was an ammunition truck on a

**"In Vietnam, we killed people. Here, we were killing vehicles."**

— Col. Burt Tackaberry  
Commander, aviation brigade

dike road, which blocked the entire column. Then, two companies of Apaches arrived from the north side of the lake and fired 107 Hellfire missiles into the column, missing with only five. "It was clearly the Victory Division's fight from then on," Tackaberry said.

## 'Little footprints'

At 10:45 a.m., Craddock's tank battalion of Fort Knox volunteers

swept up the highway all the way to the bridge, destroying every Iraqi vehicle in sight, pausing to allow Iraqi tankers who had not already done so to flee before their vehicles were destroyed. Most of them did flee, as McCaffrey tells it. "There were thousands of little footprints running to the east, [Iraqis] hiding in the ditches, in the pipelines, whatever." One of the Iraqi generals had ordered his soldiers to fight until they were dead, or he they would kill them himself. The general then drove off, never to return.

It was an incredible sight, a 20-by-15-kilometer area filled with burning Iraqi armor. Greene describes the nature of the shooting: "I saw the muzzle of an artillery piece and thought it was a tank preparing to engage me. I hit it at 3,090 meters while I was moving, and I was thoroughly impressed with that. I did not think it was possible. You know, a whole tank I would have hit, but just a muzzle of an artillery piece!"

When it was all over, the Battle of Rumaila resulted in the destruction of 23 T-72 tanks, seven T-55s, 65 armored personnel carriers, 34 artillery guns and more than 400 trucks and other wheeled vehicles. Through the entire campaign, the Victory Division had suffered eight killed and 36 wounded in action.

## Relief begins

The cease-fire agreement was made official March 3 at Safwan, Iraq. The division continued its destruction of enemy equipment for one more day and devoted most of its efforts after that to providing relief to thousands of Iraqis who came under the 24th's care. During this time, division soldiers provided more than 120,000 MREs, 2,500 gallons of potable water and 550 cases of bottled water before they started pulling out March 8.

When asked to summarize the performance of the division in the war, McCaffrey says, "It's the damndest thing the U.S. armed forces have ever done."

The troops of the Victory Division, though, looked forward to getting home.

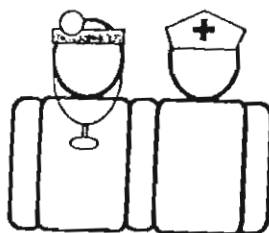
"I'd like to order a pizza, maybe go swimming and be able to lay down in green grass," PFC Rob Larkins said. "I want to hug my kids and kiss my wife and enjoy the things we too often take for granted," said Maj. John Tyula.

James Blackwell is deputy director for Political-Military Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank in Washington. He is the author of *Thunder in the Desert: The Strategy and Tactics of the Persian Gulf War*.



# Look Who's Talking

A friend was in London on a foggy night, and he went to a club where he had a guest membership. Hoping to strike up a conversation with a distinguished looking Englishman sitting nearby, he said, "May I buy you a drink?" "No," said the British coolly, "Don't drink. Tried it once and I didn't like it." After my friend ordered a drink, he tried to make conversation again. "Would you like a cigar?" "No. Don't smoke. Tried tobacco once and I didn't like it." My friend thought for a minute and then said, "Would you like to join me in a game of gin rummy?" "No. Don't like card games. Tried it once, and I didn't like it. However, my son will be dropping in after a bit. Perhaps he will join you." My friend settled back in his chair and said, "Your only son, I presume?":



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#### LEAP YEAR



It's leap year. Bachelors should keep a wary eye on their letter-boxes. The love-lorn ladies may spring a few surprises.

Dec. 7th was properly observed at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Let's read of it in Col. CARL and Mary SCHAAD's own words: "I wanted to let you know of an experience I had this past Dec. 7th that might be of interest to other Taro Leafers who were present in Hawaii at the time of the attack.

"It was my honor to represent the retired officer association at the Armed Forces Fall Honor wreath laying ceremony commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Ceremony. Following the laying of the wreath by the Deputy Secretary of Defense (Cheney was in Hawaii with the President) the representative of each veterans organization participating was announced in turn and placed a red rose in a white wicker basket located below the wreath. This was an emotional, impressive and moving ceremony. Even though I wasn't representing the 24th directly, a member who was in Hawaii at the time did participate in the ceremony."

Thank you Carl and Mary. Sorry we don't know who represented "dearly beloved." Quite often we're the last to know.

The Japanese government has admitted that the army forced "tens of thousands" of Korean women to serve as ladies-of-the-evening during WW II - and even hinted that survivors might be offered some kind of compensation. Does anyone recall the nest of them we intercepted on Mindanao?

Former First Lady Imelda Marcos hoping to become such again in the upcoming May elections. Our money says she'll make it. Remember when she was doing laundry work on Leyte in '44? A cigarette for a washed CKC shirt - two for a pair of pants.



By which we squeeze in this shot of BOB LUHRSEN (M 19th '43-'46). Bob, legally blind, is at 105 Fleur de Lis Lane, Naples FL 33962.