

24th Infantry

Division Assoc.



VOL. #3

"FIRST TO FIGHT"

AUGUST 1996

VICTORY DIVISION NEWS!

Terry Leahy
24th Inf. Div. Assoc.
HCR 3 - Box 191
Rocky Mount, MO 65072-9014
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

EXPIRATION DATE: Life xx
Joseph P. O'Connell
251 Kipling Dr
Warminster, PA 18974



American Defense Svc. Medal



American Campaign Medal



Asiatic-Pacific Cpgn. Medal



World War II Victory Medal



Army of Occupation Medal



National Defense Service Medal



Korean Service Medal



Armed Forces Exp. Medal



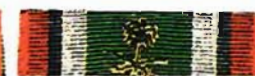
Philippine Liberation Ribbon



United Nations Service Medal



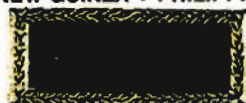
Multinatl Force & Observ. Med.



Kuwait Lib. Medal (Saudi Arabia)

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24th Infantry Division Association



President

James F. Hill
(Hq. 1st Bn. 19th '49-'51)
260 Shelli Lane
Roswell, GA 30075
Tel. (770) 998-3749

1st Vice President

Dutch Nelsen
(34th, 13th, 19th, Tms.
'46-'47, '49-'51, '59-'63)
812 Orion Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
Tel. (719) 475-7499
Fax (719) 473-7487

Chaplain

Joe Hofrichter
(339th Eng. '44)
134 Tocopilla Street
Port Charlotte, FL 33983
Tel. (813) 764-9458

Secretary-Treasurer

Rodolph Mullins
(Med. Co. 19th '49-'51)
HCR-3, Box 191
Rocky Mount, MO 65072
Tel. (573) 365-1007
Fax (573) 365-7872

Editor

Robert L. Lawhon
(6th Tank Bn. '51-'53)
Rt. 2 Box 711
Proctorville, OH 45669
Tel. (614) 886-6935
Fax (614) 886-9679

Directory Chairman

Joseph J. McKeon
(19th, '49-'51)
12733 Muscatine Street
Arleta, CA 91331
Tel. (818) 768-1704

Membership Chairman

Wallace F. Kuhner
(24th Recn. Co. '43-'45)
1637 Falmouth Street
Charleston, SC 29407
Tel. (803) 766-8890

Quartermaster

Albert J. McAdoo
(E 5th RCT '52)
108 Central Street
Acton, MA 01720
Tel. (508) 263-1938

'96 Reunion Chairman

Harold Peters
(21th Korea)
14030 Xanthus Lane
Rogers, MN 55374
Tel. (612) 427-2433

Reunion Coordinator

Donald L. Barrett
(Hd. Co. 19th '51-'52)
2854 Pinckard Avenue
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
Tel. (310) 370-2095

TARO LEAF, the official publication of the 24th Infantry Division Association, is published quarterly by and for its members. Opinions expressed or implied are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the 24th Infantry Division.

From the Editor:

I want to thank all of you who wrote in praise of the last Taro Leaf. Most gave me credit for this. It takes more than one to put out a quality magazine. Thanks and praise goes to the President, the Secretary/Treasurer and his lovely wife, and most of all to all the members who send in the material.

Jean and I want to take this opportunity to thank all who took an active part in the renewal of our vows that took place in Reno in April. Our heart felt thanks to all. It was like a family gathering.

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August 1996

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1996 Reunion
Radisson Hotel South & Plaza Tower
7800 Normandale Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55439-3145
Tel. (612) 835-7800 Fax (612) 893-8419

24th Infantry Division Association



From the President

How Time flies! It seems such a short time ago I wrote about our great Nashville reunion and the pride of being elected your President. Now our next reunion is only a few months away and again I am looking forward to another great meeting and again seeing many of you there.



Since the last issue of the TARO LEAF several events have occurred that are of interest to our Association membership.

The West Coast "Mini-Reunion" was held in Reno, Nevada 21-23 April. Life Member Rodney Stock (34th, Korea) hosted the meeting which was attended by over fifty ex-Taro Leafers. I had the honor and pleasure of attending as well as other Executive Board members Vice-President Elsworth Nelsen, Secretary -Treasurer Rudy Mullins, TARO LEAF editor Bob Lawhon, Membership Chairman Wally Kuhner and National Reunion Coordinator Donald Barrett. The attendees voted to meet again next year at Albuquerque, New Mexico at a time to be determined during April or May.

As many of you know our great 24th Infantry Division (M) stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia was renamed (reflagged) the 3rd Infantry Division (M) at a historic ceremony on 25 April. The division has provided the Association a video tape of the complete reflagging ceremony which can be seen at our Minneapolis reunion. It was sad to see our Taro Leaf flag be furled away but it instilled a sense of pride to know that our 24th flag will always fly from the highest hill in our hearts. As an old soldier I can proudly say for all of us "Well done, brave and victorious 24th!".

Our last Division Commander, Major General Joseph E. DeFrancisco, has been nominated by the President for his third star (Lt. General) and has received orders as Deputy Commander in Chief and Chief of Staff of the United States Pacific Command headquartered in Hawaii. The best to you, Sir, and to your lovely wife, Lynne, in your new assignment. Both of you will be greatly missed by our Association. When you look upon a real taro leaf I know it will bring back pleasant memories of your time with the Victory Division.

Although our division is no longer stationed at Fort Stewart, the Director of the new Fort Stewart Museum has assured me that the museum will always contain an area dedicated to the 24th Infantry Division. For our members who contributed to the memorial brick fund I have been reassured that the bricks will be manufactured and laid at the new museum which is scheduled to be built near the Hinesville entrance to Fort Stewart.

The history book is well on track. Included in this issue of the TARO LEAF is an update from Life Member Dave Mann (34th, WW II) that provides additional information and also a request for photos and other memorabilia for possible use in the book.

The 24th Division tie has been designed. We will have a sample at Minneapolis for all to see. Once in production we plan on providing information in the TARO LEAF on how to purchase one. We should be able to provide the tie through our Quartermaster by early 1997.

I have received several inquiries about the Presidential Unit Citation that is shown on the front cover of the new TARO LEAF. I have included in this issue a short article that I hope will answer all the questions that have been asked.

Past President Vincent Vella (21st, WW II) has informed me that he and Frank Wilczak (24th QM, Germany) have been working hard on the 1997 24th Division calendar and will have them available at Minneapolis. Same price as last year. The calendar will make a great, useful product for one's use and memoirs. Thanks Vinny and Frank for your efforts.

Recent published history books and articles of the Korean War have confused some folk in their references to the 24th Infantry Division and the 24th Infantry Regiment of the 25th Infantry Division. Please remember that this is an attempt by military history writers (many who did not serve there or were not even born!) to rewrite the history of the Korean War but for the soldiers who were there we know the true history and know that each and every unit fought the best it could based on its training and equipment. Enough said!

SHORT NOTES--

New member John Heard (11th FA, Korea) informs me that his battery was the first 155 battery to land in Korea in 1950. There were only two batteries in the battalion (A & B)(and only two battalions in the Infantry Regiments, too, John). A debarked first at Pusan but B got the honor of firing the first round.

Life Member Ernest Terrell (11th FA, Korea) serves as the 1996 President of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. Come on, Ernie, leave those horse soldiers and come back to the Victory Division!

The two camels the division brought back from DESERT STORM have been given to a zoo in Florida and the division Public Affairs Officer, Major Susan Oliver, informs me that they are "hale and hardy" and are most happy to be living in the US instead of the deserts of the Middle East.

Chairman of our 1996-97 Nominating Committee Ben Wahle, (34th, WW II) informs me that the nominees for the new elected officials of the Association have been finalized and will be announced at our business meeting in Minneapolis. Remember, each member has the right to nominate any member for any elected position at the meeting and the selection by the nominating committee is only their recommendation for the officers.

A belated "thank you" to Life Member John Hummer (Div Hqrs., Stewart) and member Frank Brooks (5th RCT, Korea) for providing the Taro Leaf banner that was used at the last Savannah reunion. It will make a great addition to our hospitality room at future reunions.

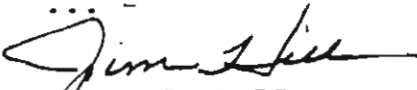
George King (11th FA, WW II) informs me that the division did have a reunion in 1946 at Providence, Rhode Island. Our Association records show the first reunion as being held in Baltimore in 1948. Does anyone remember if we met, and where, in 1947?

Did B. L. Garica (M 21st, 1949-50) of Tucson, Arizona and Ed Wilson (M 21st, 1949-50) of Rockford, Illinois ever get in touch with each other? One of you drop me a note and let me know.

Joseph Mieleszko (C Btry, 13th FA, 1940-44, Pearl Harbor) of North Hatfield, Mass. wrote me a nice letter saying he really likes the new TARO LEAF and to give our Editor, Bob Lawhon, and Secretary Treasurer, Rudy Mullins a pat on the back for doing a superior job. Joe is all in favor of the division neck tie. Unfortunately, Joe and the Mrs. will be unable to attend the reunion at Minneapolis since that are unable to drive that far. He is looking forward to a reunion back on the East Coast before too long.

A special get well soon wish is given to our Association Chaplain, Joseph Hofrichter, who underwent major surgery in June.

Last but not least is our reunion update. As you know we will meet in Colorado Springs on 17-20 September 1997. Reunion Coordinator Don Barrett has been busy looking and visiting potential 1998 reunion sites. Don tells me a final decision will be made prior to our 1996 reunion and that the selection will be announced at Minneapolis at our Association business meeting. See you there!


JAMES F. HILL
19th Infantry
President



MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM JORDAN VERBECK
JANUARY 20, 1904 — NOVEMBER 4, 1965

In the years of its history, recipients of the honor represented by "The William Jordan Verbeck Award" have been:

1966	Kenwood Ross	*1969	Edmund F. Henry	1970	James O'Donnell
*1971	Thomas H. Compere	*1972	Joseph I. Peyton	*1973	Victor Backer
*1974	Aubrey S. Newman	*1975	Robert J. Duff	*1976	Frederick A. Irving
*1977	Samuel Y. Gilner	*1978	Gerald R. Stevenson	1979	William Sanderson
*1980	Clifford G. Hanlin	1981	Howard R. Lumsden	*1982	Paul A. Harris
1983	Donald E. Rosenblum	*1984	Hubert Lowry	1985	John E. Klump
*1986	Lee List	1987	Dallas Dick	1988	John R. Shay
1989	Warren G. Avery	*1991	Robert R. Ender	1993	Lester L. Wheeler
1994	Joseph J. McKeon	1995	Joseph P. Hofrichter		

* Deceased

The WILLIAM JORDAN VERBECK AWARD had its genesis in the mind of the late EDMUND HENRY, one of the Association's founders. He presented his concept to our Executive Committee back in 1966 and agreed to furnish the silver bowl which was to serve as an indicia for the Award. It may be of interest that at the time Ed purchased the bowl, its price was \$2500.00.

The Executive Committee established the guidelines with respect to the standards upon which presentation was to be based. It was to be presented, not annually, but "from time-to-time as justification indicates." It was to be presented to that Association member who best displayed the ideals of BILL VERBECK, an "unabashed love for Division and its Association." It was to be awarded to the member best showing real effort in furthering the best interests of the Association and the Division. It was not intended to reward mere popularity and the like. It was intended to reward sleeves-rolled-up hard work in helping to make the Association into a successfully operating organization.

Major General WILLIAM JORDAN VERBECK, onetime regimental commander of the 21st Infantry and onetime Division Chief of Staff, demonstrated in myriad ways - and consistently - from his Division days of '44 and '45 to the day of his death on November 4, 1965 - an unparalleled love for and devotion to Division and our Association. It was an obsession with him; a magnificent one.

It is this enthusiasm, this spirit, which the Award memorializes. Hard in the conviction that any honor bearing the name of this beloved comrade-in-arms would carry its own ready acknowledgement of that for which it stands, the Executive Committee was firm that it should be known merely as the "WILLIAM JORDAN VERBECK AWARD". The name "VERBECK" is synonymous with "Excellence" in many areas and for many things, but to Taro Leafers particularly, the name represents special excellence in all matters germane to our Division and our Association.

VERBECK was loved and admired by everyone who knew him, and was especially worshipped by those Gimlets who were and are proud to say, "I served with Colonel BILL VERBECK." He was truly an ideal soldier, gallant in action, with a rare gift for leadership, yet with a common touch that endeared him to us all. He died mourned as few men are mourned, because like Bayard, that model of brightly virtue, he could be truly called "Without fear; and without fault".

Over the last thirty years, the Award has been made to 26 members, each of whom was honored for best living up to BILL VERBECK's ideals, for best contributing that extra effort, that "extra mile" to enhance the glorious reputation of our Division and to bring success to the work of our Association.

24th Infantry Division Association



30 June 1996

Major General Joseph E. DeFrancisco
Commanding General
3rd Infantry Division (M) and Fort Stewart
Fort Stewart, Georgia 31314

Dear General DeFrancisco:

Congratulations on your recent selection by the President for promotion to Lieutenant General and your orders as Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff of the United States Pacific Command.

Speaking on behalf of the nearly 3,000 members of the 24th Infantry Division Association we wish you continued success in your military career. As division commander of our Victory Division you have supported our Association in so many ways and each and every member wishes the best to you and your lovely wife Lynne. Both of you will truly be missed by all of us.

As you and Lynne return to the first home of the Victory Division in Hawaii and every time you see a real taro leaf I know it will help you recall the many pleasant memories that you all have had during the time you were an active part of the Taro Leaf division.

Victory!

JAMES F. HILL
19th Infantry Regiment
1949-51
President



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D.C. 20503

September 1996

Victory Division Comrades and Friends:

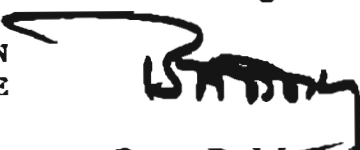
Greetings to all of you, and congratulations for another successful and exciting year.

The appointment by President Clinton earlier this year as Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy was a great honor. There were many mixed emotions about leaving the Army to assume this new role. Had been in uniform since age 17 and was proud to be serving alongside the remarkable young men and women of our Armed Forces. My father, LTG Bill McCaffrey (USA, ret) finally convinced me that retiring from active duty to continue public service to coordinate the national counterdrug effort was the right thing to do. The lives of millions and future generations of Americans are at stake. His advice was right on-the-mark.

The Victory Division will always occupy a special place in my memory. Ask that the 25,000 veterans of the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division Combat Team during Desert Shield and Desert Storm join me in pledging lifelong support and commitment to the proud 24th Infantry Division Association in the many decades to come.

First to Fight!

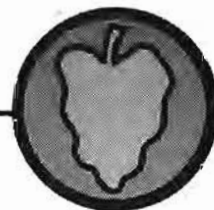
MY BEST WISHES TO ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENT JIM HILL AND TO THE
REST OF OUR COMRADES.



Barry R. McCaffrey
General (USA, Retired)
Director

Word has reached us that
Lt. Gen. PAUL E. BLACKWELL, presently
Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations
and Plans is retiring sometime this
summer. Well done, Paul, well done!!!

24th Infantry Division Association



President

James F. Hill
(Hq. 1st Bn. 19th '49-'51)
260 Shelli Ln.
Roswell, GA 30075
Tel. (770) 998-3749

1st Vice President

Dutch Nelsen
(34th, 13th, 19th, Trns.
'46-'47, '49-'51, '59-'63)
812 Orion Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
Tel. (719) 475-7499
Fax (719) 473-7487

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Tel. (314) 365-1007

Editor

Robert L. Lawhon
(6th Tank Bn. '51-'53)
Rt. 2, Box 711
Praetorville, OH 45669
Tel. & Fax (614) 886-6935

Directory Chairman

Joseph J. McKeon
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12733 Muscatine St.
Arleta, CA 91331
Tel. (818) 768-1704

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1637 Falmouth St.
Charleston, SC 29407
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(E 5th RCT '52)
108 Central St.
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'96 Reunion Chairman

Harold Peters
(21st Korea)
14030 Xanthus Ln.
Rogers, MN 55374
Tel. (612) 427-8154

5 April 1996

LTC Ronald D. Rainville
USA Retired
2411 South Quitman Street
Denver, Colorado 80219

Dear Colonel Rainville,

Thank you very much for your recent letter concerning the solicitation of funds for a plaque supported by the 21st Infantry to be placed in the Congressional Medal of Honor Museum in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

I find the letter very interesting. The writer of the letter, Stanley E. Jones, is not a current member of the 24th Infantry Division Association and as such should not refer in his letter to the Association as a sponsor. In fact, Mr. Jones is in violation of US Postal Regulations by soliciting money through the mails without a permit. However, Mr. Jones may be a former member of the 21st Regiment in Korea and is just trying, in his way, to secure sufficient funds to have a plaque manufactured to honor former members of the 21st Regiment. I plan to question several veterans of the 21st who are members of the Association to determine if Mr. Jones is legitimate or, hopefully not, a well organized scam to procure monies from unsuspecting individuals.

As I am sure you know there is a CMH Museum in Chattanooga which I have visited. Although the focus point of the Museum is displays depicting CMH winners and the memorabilia they have provided a large portion of the Museum is dedicated to other military displays that are not related to the CMH. It is for that reason that Mr. Jones may have asked for a donation. How he got your address I do not know.

Thanks again for your letter. After more investigation if it is found that the solicitation is not valid I will certainly publish Jones letter in the TARO LEAF to alert others to be aware of this type of fund gathering.

Sincerely,

JAMES F. HILL
President

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Radisson Hotel South & Plaza Tower
7800 Normandale Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55439-3145
Tel. (612) 835-7800 Fax (612) 893-8419

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Tel. (612) 427-8154

23 May 1996

Mr. WILFRED W. OCOIN
33 Valley Street
Spencer, Massachusetts 01562

Dear Wilfred,

I recently received your letter in which you enclosed an article from the ARMY TIMES written by George Wilson in which he was highly critical of the actions of some of the military units during the Korean War. In his article he refers several times to the recently published book "Black Soldier/White Army" which deals with, in part, the military actions of the 24th Infantry Regiment, not the 24th Infantry Division.

The 24th Infantry Regiment was part of the 25th Division and on several occasions was the adjacent unit to one of our regiments, including your 21st Infantry. Modern day military historians (who were not there and maybe not even born at the time of the Korean War) are trying to rewrite the military history of the war and sometimes are a "little far out" in their writings. People like you and I were there and we know how it was. Enough said!

Just remember, the three regiments of the 25th Division that were in Korea were the 24th, the 27th and the 35th. The three regiments of the 24th Division were the 19th, the 21st and the 34th. Our Association considers the 5th RCT as part of the 24th also. I am certain that we will read and hear much more in the next few years about our military involvement in Korea during the early 50s but never forget that we were there and know that all our units fought valiantly within the best of our capabilities and equipment.

Again, Wil, I remind you that the article you sent me was about the 24th Infantry REGIMENT, not the 24th Infantry DIVISION. The Victory Division will always be Number One in all of our hearts!

Thanks again for your letter. I appreciate receiving comments like yours from our Association members. Please do not hesitate to write or call if I can ever be of assistance to you in Association affairs.

Sincerely,

1996 Reunion
Radisson Hotel South & Plaza Tower
7800 Normandale Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55439-3145 JAMES F. HILL
Tel. (612) 835-7800 Fax (612) 893-8419

James F. Hill
President



Top: All units represented, the 24th Infantry Division awaited conversion in the final moments of its time on active duty.

April 25, 1996

Paratrooper

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in interest of the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield community

25 Apr 1996

Flag of 3rd ID official today

CEREMONY: Colors of the 'Marne Division' take flight over soldiers of Stewart, Hunter

Public Affairs Office

The 24th Infantry Division, stationed here since 1975, reflagged officially today, when the colors of the 3rd Infantry Division were unveiled in a massive reflagging ceremony this morning. Several units within the 24th Inf. Div. underwent name changes and acquired new unit colors during the ceremony.

This action was prompted by the military downsizing which has taken place in the Department of Defense since the end of the Cold War, and reduced the Army's list of active duty divisions to 10. The 3rd Inf. Div. was retained and the 24th Inf. Div. was selected for deactivation.

Since its activation at Fort Stewart in 1975 the 24th Inf. Div. was known as the "Victory Division" for its part in the liberation of the Philippines during World War II. It steadily assumed a more prominent role in the Army's planning and worldwide power projection strategy. It was the armored force of the XVIII Airborne Corps, the Army's contingency corps.

During the past 20 years it has deployed to the Middle East on many occasions, training in Egypt and in Turkey on military exercises. Its service at Fort Stewart was highlighted in 1990-91 by its combat role in Operation Desert Storm, which pushed Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

It has since made a number of highly publicized rapid response deployment to Southwest Asia on Operations Vigilant Warrior and Intrinsic Action, it also deployed an armored task force to Somalia, Africa, in 1993, and provided

part of the initial U.S. task force sent to Haiti in 1994.

The reflag ceremony marks the 3rd Infantry Division's return to the United States. The division colors were flown here from Germany, where they have been stationed since 1956. Between World War II

and the Korean War and again after its service in Korea, the division was garrisoned at Fort Benning.

The division earned the name "Rock of the Marne," for its actions in France at the Battle of Chateau-Thierry on July 15, 1918 late in World War I. In World War II the 3rd

Inf. Div. fought in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. It also saw action in the Korean War. Forty nine members of the division have been awarded the Medal of Honor, including Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier to emerge from WWII.



MEDAL OF HONOR (By David Baillie)



Medals of America, The "Blue and White", "The Little Blue Ribbon", "The Wearer of the Blue and White" all relates to the highest medal for valor our country can bestow on persons of all the military branches. It is at the very top of what is called "The Pyramid of Honor."

Established in 1861 (21st Dec. 1861 under President of the United States of America, Abraham Lincoln. The first were authorized for enlisted men of the Navy and Marine Corps. Within seven months (12th July 1862) the President authorized a similar decoration for enlisted members of the U. S. Army.

It, like everything else, has evolved and many changes have taken place not only in its design but the way in which it is presented and the criteria by which one is awarded it. Early on, the connection with and terms used became entangled with Congress and to this day the more popular term used when referring to it is: "The Congressional Medal of Honor", which, of course, is incorrect. No where in any of the ACTS that created it and or amended it over the years was it "named" anything else but, "The Medal of Honor".

Most all medals are established through Acts by Congress, and authorized by the President. This does not give them the title of "Congressional Silver Star", etc. The President when ever possible, awards, presents or bestows the decoration to the person, who has been recommended through a long, long line of red tape, and more times than not does not even know they have been so recommended.

This is not something, that was won, a prize, the end result of filling out an application to any such degree. It is awarded for: "Conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty in action involving actual conflict with an opposing armed force." (Army wording)

This has not always been true, the Navy when submarines were new, a number of them sank with their crews. The Medal of Honor was given for saving or attempting to save the lives of these crews. "Lucky Lindy", (Capt. Charles Lindbergh) was given one, but it is not listed as a Medal of Honor, but a special medal given by Public Law, as was Col William Mitchell's and others.

Several hundreds have been removed from the rolls over the years and a few, but a very few restored. There were a large number that were mailed (US Post Office 1st class) to the person or the next of kin, with no ceremony. Some given back to the Government to make a statement of one type or another.

There are but a handful of men who were awarded it more than once. Several Marines over the years got both the Navy and Army medal for the same act. There were even fewer who received it twice for two different acts, and in two different conflicts. There was one who would have (and should have) gotten three, a Marine. Sadly, however, there are many, many more who were recommended or should have been that never saw or will ever see the "Blue ribbon with White Stars" around their neck.

MEDAL OF HONOR (continued)

Arriving at the point to all this, which is once again to show not even the top awarded is free from error and in need of some change and revamping. Which is maybe where this should all start, if has not already. We need a system that will make right the wrongs done by over looking many and forgotten the rest. A system that will open up the time limitations, a "window" for all to get their "just dues" and then move on to tightning up the system again, with some revisions.

"Bull Run To Berbera"

**Hung around the neck, sharp and keen..
Blue, with white stars, in all thirteen..**

**Few who dare, alive to wear, hung around the neck..
Many gave the highest gift, so others lived..**

**All who own it, deny "Hero" would have done, what the heck..
Membership never large, growing smaller, older by the day..**

**2,300 not much more, service to God and Country they gave..
135 years, from Bull Run to Berbera, brave among the brave..**

**Blue, with white stars, in all thirteen..
Only one saluted by Generals all, when not often seen...**

**Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marine..
No stories need to tell, all known full well, when seen..**

**Always their debt to pay, try hard as we may, never done..
Shadows fall, distant sounds fade away, gone the sun..**

**Hung around the neck, sharp and keen..
Blue, with white stars, in all thirteen..**

**All who wear the Blue and the White, would rise tall..
None, no none, said "I can't go" and gladly answered the call..**

**All who wear the blue and white, pray there are no more..
Private to General, matters not their calling, equal all...**

**Ocean to mountain to valley floor, the rich and the poor..
Hung around the neck, sharp and keen..**

**Look you one and all for it well could be the last time seen..
Blue, with white stars, in all thirteen..**

Emergency Room reopens, dedicated to Capt. Robert L. Timmons

By Dennis K. Bohannon
Editor, Seoul Word

Yongsan's 121 General Hospital Emergency Room returned to it's old, but renovated location Monday. Since July 16 the 2,500 square foot facility has been undergoing significant upgrades.

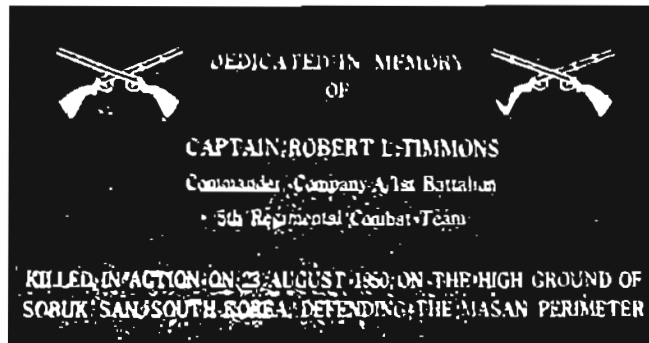
The project, costing \$500,000, includes modernization of the three bed treatment area, a trauma bed area, an OB/GYN room, an orthopedic room which also serves as a close observation room, a separate waiting area for patients and their families, two patient screening areas and a functional nursing station.

The new emergency room is a part of the continuing efforts of the 121 General Hospital in Yongsan to constantly improved the delivery of health care to all beneficiaries.

The newly renovated and modernized Emergency Room was dedicated to the memory of a man who not only gave his life during the Korean War, but whose name is familiar to those serving in the Republic of Korea today, Capt. Robert L. Timmons.

As the Emergency Room opened it's doors, a dedication ceremony was held honoring Capt. Timmons.

Capt. Robert L. Timmons, the father of Lt. Gen. Richard F. Timmons, Commanding General of the Eighth United States Army, arrived in Pusan



A plaque outside the entrance to the emergency room tells of its dedication to Capt. Robert L. Timmons, the father of Lt. Gen. Richard F. Timmons, CG, EUSA.

Photos by Master Sgt. Sebastian Scott, TSAC



Lt. Gen. Richard F. Timmons, Commanding General of the Eighth United States Army, surveys the new Emergency Room dedicated to his father's memory as Staff Sgt. Ross, ER-NCOIC, looks on.

in 1950 with the 5th Regimental Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. In late August during a battle in the vicinity of Chindong-Ni, Capt. Timmons was reported missing in action. Capt. Tim-

mons did not survive to see the victory on Sobuk-san ridge or the final victory on the Korean peninsula, but his legacy and commitment continues today through his son.

The 5th Regimental Combat Team was attached to the 25th Inf. Div. from July 1950 up until the time they were then attached to the 24th Inf. Div. after the 34th Inf Regt of the 24th Inf Div was desimated at Taegon, South Korea.

A Company, 1st Bn, of the 5th RCT, 25th Inf Div entered into combat in July of 1950. Capt. Timmons who was Company Commander was killed in action in August of 1950 while defending his position near Mason, South Korea.

Recently the new emergency room of the 121st General Hospital here in Yongsan Military Post was dedicated to the memory of this gallant Officer.

The son of Capt Timmons was present at this dedication. Any soldier who remembers Cpt Timmons or served with "A" Co. in July - August of 1950 are encouraged to write to his son, LTG Timmons, Commanding General, 8th United States Army APO-AP 96205.

Col Harry G. Summers, Jr

Following Korea, Army reorganized along British lines, replacing the regiment with the brigade. To perpetuate the regimental tradition, the Chief of Infantry was authorized to appoint an Honorary Colonel to act as the regimental commander. In April 1994, in ceremonies at Schofield Barracks, retired Colonel HARRY G. SUMMERS JR. was named the first honorary colonel of the 21st Infantry Regiment.

Two battalions of the 21st were then at Schofield, both assigned to brigades of the 25th I.D. The 3rd Battalion, in whose ranks then Sgt Summers had served as a squad leader in Love Company in 1951, had previously been part of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam, and had been the last U.S. ground combat unit to withdraw from "Nam in august of 1972.

In May 1995, Harry had the sad duty to return to Schofield to preside over the deactivation of the 3d Battalion, part of the Army's drawdown to ten active divisions. The 1st Battalion, however, whose soldiers were just then returning from duty in Haiti, was to remain on the active rolls. We asked Harry for a "blurb" and he favored us with the story used above. He also sent us these three pictures with comments as follows:

"Picture #1 is of then Sgt. Summers, a squad leader in L. 21st, taken on 21 April 1951 on the edge of the Iron Triangle. We were relieved by a battalion of the 5th RCT who were wiped out that night when the Chinese launched their 27 division Spring Offensive. #2 is I with Lt. Col. Mitchell Foodry, CO of 3/21, with the 'Gimlet Stick' engraved with the names of the former commanders. #3 is the 3d Bn., 21st Infantry as they look today." Thanks, Harry, for the fine report - and it goes without saying that we're proud of you.



Sergeant Harry G. Summers, Jr
3d Battalion, 21st Infantry
Iron Triangle, Korea, Apr 51

THREE SIDES OF HILL CHARLIE

"As Regimental Commander of the 34th. Infantry, I faced this problem," writes Maj. General Aubrey "Red" Newman, USA (Retired). "We had captured our initial objectives (on Leyte Island, Philippines). Several days after landing, the primary obstacle to our drive down the road across Leyte to Jaro was the towering mass of Hill Charlie on our right flank.

Hill Charlie had a broad steep side facing generally toward the road, which was largely screened by trees. The steep face of Hill Charlie itself was covered by tall kunai grass and low bush growth--thus almost certainly had the usual foot trails leading upward on that steep face--though I could not see them. The flank routes to the top of Charlie were wooded, thus providing 'natural approaches' for an attack toward the top.

Our division and corps artillery had periodically shelled that open face of Charlie and its top. It seemed probable the Japanese were prepared for a flank attack--but did not believe a brazen frontal assault could or would be made. So my plan was based on one battalion making a frontal assault straight up the face of Charlie--with another battalion held in readiness to drive down the road toward Jaro when Charlie was captured.

During the action, 25 October, 1944, I watched from my selected point of control. As individual soldiers threaded their way upward I was lost in admiration for the way those unnamed combat infantrymen of my regiment met the challenge without hesitation. I still swell with pride as an infantryman as I recall that slow but unflinching movement upward. Hill Charlie was captured without a single casualty. The fighting, too late to help the enemy, followed when they counterattacked."

"I was a squad leader in 'L' Company, 34th Regiment," writes Nick Narasco of Honeoye Falls, New York. "On top of the steep hill (Hill C), I remember a Jap Zero circling our position on the hill top and we were afraid we would be strafed but he never did so. I guess he was making observations."

Only five days before, Sgt. Maracco had landed on Leyte. He writes, "When we (the 3rd Platoon of L. Co., 34th Regt.) hit Red Beach we were the second wave. We found the first wave pinned down at the high water mark. One of our men, Joe Nemitz, received a shoulder wound from machine gun fire and went back out to sea on the landing craft from the next wave. We called him '30-second Joe' and never saw him again. You can see we weren't long in sending the Medics customers.

I lost a very close buddy on the beach at Leyte at dawn the next morning. We had been friends since induction in 1941. In New Guinea he was First Scout, I was Second Scout. We shared fox holes, coffee, rations, everything. When we hit Leyte he was Squad Leader, I was Asst. Squad leader. I went from Second Scout to Squad Leader in a hurry, and that is the hard way. At that point I found I could never become attached to anyone else all through the rest of the war. Do you believe all our scars don't show?"

2--Three Sides of Hill Charlie

Returning to Hill Charlie, Phil Hostetter (former Captain, Medical Corps.) of Manhattan, Kansas, writes in 'Combat Doctor In The South Pacific,' "Tenth Corps Headquarters ordered medical Collecting Companies in support of the 24th Division to send medical groups forward. Care and evacuation of the wounded was becoming increasingly difficult because they were fighting in mountainous terrain. My orders were to go out with two litter squads, 16 men, and find 'L' Company of the 34th Regiment on Hill Charlie. I had no map and only a fair idea where to go.

Our little Platoon walked from the beach through the coconut grove past several empty pillboxes made of coconut logs covered with earth. We went around flat, marshy ground covered by high grass and palm trees, crossed the concrete highway running parallel to the beach between Tacloban and Palo, waded through rice fields, and climbed the very steep mountain.

Company 'L' had established a perimeter by each man digging a trench for himself around the crest of the hill overlooking the steep slopes. With their machine guns, mortars, rifles, and grenades they were confident of repulsing any attack.

The expected second attack did not come. After two days I said goodbye to my new friends in the infantry, whom I had come to admire so much, and headed for Palo."

A day or two later, Sgt. Marasco in 'L' Co. led the assault down Leyte Valley and into Jaro.

He writes, "My squad was the point that got rocked back several times that day. I was standing beside Gen. 'Red' Newman when he was hit. I swear there was something about his red hair that constantly drew fire."

Gen. Newman tells it this way in 'Follow Me'; "The advance was held up by a strong road block at the Mainit River. There I found the leading platoon pinned down by small arms fire and not advancing. After a few words with the lieutenant in charge, in which he advised me urgently to take cover,....I started forward." At that moment General Newman was hit.

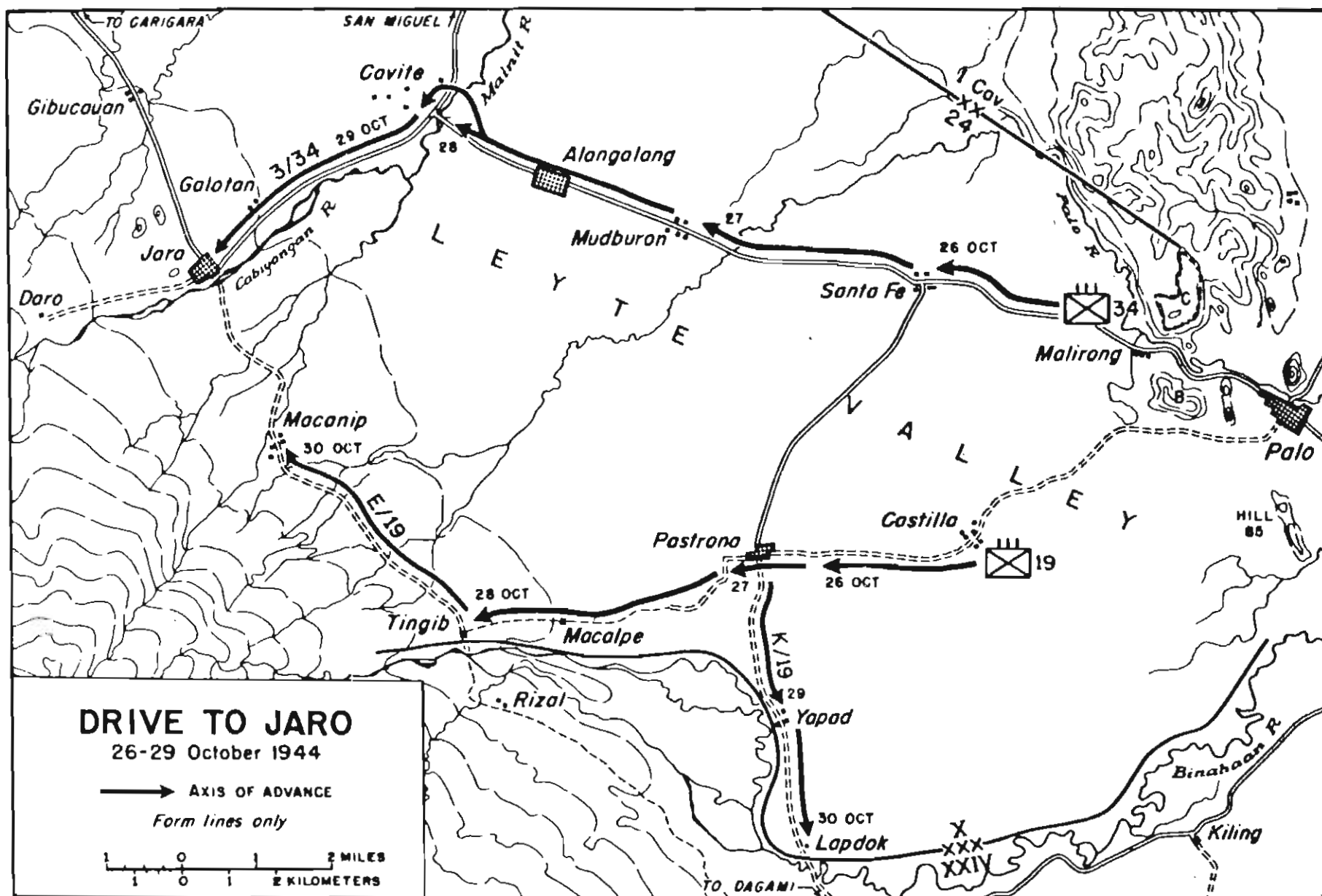
"But as I lay there, the habit was still strong, and so I gave orders. I remember lying and looking up at the sky--and talking--then memory fades."

General Newman was taken back along the highway by ambulance to the 16th Portable Surgical Hospital in the large church in Palo. Nurse Kay Dolemba, 24th Div. Association Member, helped in his care.

He returned to duty in a few months.

Phil Hostetter

Figure 19
20



My unit, the First Battalion of the 19th Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, took 660 casualties on the Island of Mindinao, Philippines, according to my own figures. This was 110% of our average strength. It meant 660 soldiers were unable to remain on active duty either permanently or for a few days to weeks.

We drove the remaining enemy into the mountains north and west of Davao City where they would surely starve to death in time. We were able to use tents after sleeping in slit trenches for many weeks with no shelter.

The Infantry sent out patrols every day to make sure no enemies were present to counter-attack. The motto of the 24th Infantry Division is "First to fight." We were planning to be the first in our sector to invade Japan. The Division estimated this would cost us 1,000,000 men and the Japanese 10,000,000 civilian lives if they resisted as their fanatical leaders demanded. This attitude we find incomprehensible. We defeated them on land, in the air, and on the sea. They did not surrender because some found death honorable, a terrible honor they were willing to share with their countrymen.

The distinguished commander-in-chief of the Japanese on Leyte Island, General Suzuki, wrote a poem during his travels which sums up the attitude of many of his people:

"Every soldier must expect to sacrifice his life in war,
Only then has his duty been done.
Be thankful that you can die at the front
Rather than an inglorious death at home."

General Suzuki died April 16, 1945 when his vessel was bombed near Negros Island.

August 6, 1945 Division Headquarters sent out a news bulletin called "THE HELMET". The headline was "U.S. UNLEASHES MONSTER WEAPON 2,000 TIMES GREATER THAN 11 TON VOLCANO BOMB. The United States unleashed, on Monday, [August 6] the most terrible weapon in the history of war -- atomic bomb-- carrying destructive power equal to 20,000 tons of TNT."

About two weeks later a Medical Officer and an Intelligence Officer, apparently friends, surrendered at Regimental Headquarters.

"Have you heard of any unusual weapons?" I asked. They had not because they no longer had a radio.

"When do you think this war will end?" was my next question.

The Intelligence Officer replied, " In six weeks. Japan can not go on." I would have predicted six months.

If Japan had not been already defeated, they would have waited until they had their atomic bomb. Perhaps Ft. Riley would now be history, and so would we.

Philip H. Hostetter M.D.
Philip H. Hostetter M.D.

History of the Citizens' Military Training Camps Recently Published

Do you remember the military summer camp program for young men between the World Wars? Each year from 1921 to 1940 young American men attended month-long camps, called Citizens' Military Training Camps (CMTC), conducted by the U.S. Army at 40 to 50 locations throughout the nation. Perhaps you not only remember, but were yourself a "candidate" at one or more CMTC; or, if not, knew someone who did take the training. Probably most of the nearly 400,000 youths who attended CMTC served in one of the Armed Forces during WW-II.

With this century near its end, CMTC seemed doomed to history's graveyard, until Donald M. Kington, a retired Army Colonel, resurrected its memory with a book--the first and only comprehensive history of CMTC ever published, Titled *Forgotten Summers: The Story of The Citizens' Military Training Camps, 1921-1940*, the recently published 256 page book is now available for mail order purchase.

Here is what several eminent scholars have to say about the book: "In his very readable book...Donald Kington makes good use of the lively memories of almost 200 veterans," Edward M. Coffman, author of *The Old Army*. "An invaluable contribution to the current public debate on national youth service as well as to students of military history," Charles Moskos, Northwestern University, author of *A Call to Civic Service*. "A resounding success...presents institutional history in human terms, with truly fascinating results." Bernard C. Nalty, U.S. Air Force History Program (retired), author of *Strength for the Fight: A History of Black Americans in the Military*. "Vividly recreates an almost forgotten chapter in the history of the U.S. Army and American innocence between the world wars," J. Garry Clifford, author of *The Citizen Soldiers: The Plattsburg Training Camp Movement*.

To order a book send a check or money order for \$18.95 (postage and handling paid) to TWO DECADES PUBLISHING, Box AU-167, 3739 Balboa St., San Francisco, CA 94121. Visa and Mastercard credit cards are also accepted--please include expiration date with the account number.

TO THE EDITOR

My name is R. Gary Shields, Life #1577, 825 Evergreen Av., Lake City, FL 32025, telephone 904-755-1878. I am the son of James Charles Shields, Jr.

My Dad was a member of the 34th Inf. Regt., 2nd Battalion, Company H or M. (service #34976042) (Soc Sec. # 261-03-6623). He was killed on Feb. 5, 1945 at the battle of ZIG-ZAG PASS, Luzon, Philippines.

I would like to hear from anyone who knew my Dad, or from someone who was at the battle of ZigZag, and can tell me about it.

I also would like to know if Company M was attached to a battalion as a whole unit or were the men attached to other companies. Also, what does M mean? Was it a machine gun company or was it just like other companies and just had a letter designation.

Is there anyway I can find out if my dad was attached to H or M company. I have letters that show both companies.

On the Company Morning Reports for the day my dad was killed, there is a CODE M by his name. What does the M mean? Could that be the company or does it mean missing or what?

Thanks for your help. I look forward to hearing from someone. I have joined the 24th as a Life Time member

LINDSEY P. HENDERSON, JR., enlisted in Troop A, 108th Cavalry, Georgia National Guard in May 1940. He was working on an appointment, through the Guard, to the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY.

Called to service in February 1941, his unit was the first American battalion to go into action against the Japanese in the Southwest Pacific Area in Papua, New Guinea in May 1942.

During World War II, he received a battlefield appointment as a 2d Lieutenant, was wounded and could not pass the physical. He was later disabled out of service.

Just before graduation from the University of Virginia, he passed a physical and received his commission. He was called to active duty in the Pentagon in January 1949 and worked under General Omar Bradley. He was the first "Editor of Officers' Call" and the only 2d Lieutenant on active duty in the Pentagon.

Then on to Ft. Benning, to Infantry School and the 30th Inf. Reg. From there to Japan and the 31st Inf. Reg. When the Korean War conflict broke out, he immediately volunteered and was transferred to the 21st Inf. Reg., 24th Inf. Div., which was fighting desperately to stem the N. Korean advance.



He was assigned to Co. L, a truly great, hard fighting unit. Wounded, he was evacuated to Japan and the States.

After hospitalization, he was assigned to the 8th Inf. Div. at Ft. Jackson, SC a training division.

From there he was assigned to a Special Operations unit as he excelled in Unconventional Warfare. Then on to Taiwan, Matsu and Quemoy, Indo China, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. After all that, a return to mundane duties as a sub-sector commander to the U.S. Army Reserves, in his hometown of Savannah, GA. There he trained Infantry, Transportation and Medical Units. He recruited, organized, and trained a fine USAR Special Forces Detachment.

He was then assigned to 513th Military Intelligence Group at Camp King and then on to Berlin to command the 513th Military Intelligence Unit there. After a year he was returned to Camp King as Deputy Group Commander. On his return to the States, he was hospitalized and retired on the disability list.

A Combat Infantryman and Paratrooper, his decorations include the Silver Star w/3 OLC, the Bronze Star with "V" device and OLC, the Army Commendation w/ OLC, the Purple Heart w/3 OLCs, the Presidential Unit Badge World War II, and OLC (Korea), Combat Stars for World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He also received the Freedom's Foundation of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania George Washington Patriots award in 1966. He received additional Freedom Foundation Awards in 1972 and 1978. He received the top "Commendation" from the American Association of State and Local History and is a Fellow and Governor of the Company of Military Historians. He has written for the Combat Forces Journal "Company 'L's' Four Days" and "MY ROKS Were Good".

A reader reflects on the good old days

Dear Editor:

As a person gets well up in years you can reflect and reminisce back fifty or sixty or even more years.

What do I remember of the 20's, 30's and 40's? This is what came to my mind.

Attending college was a privilege, rather than a right. A farmer, then, could plant what he wished, Uncle Sam left him farm his way. The Supreme Court, in those days, protected society rather than the criminals. The older folks were cared for by their children. Most foreign officials who visited the White House and Congress didn't ask for taxpayers money. In those days we entered a war to win it.

A life sentence for a serious crime didn't mean a possible parole in 10 years. Our flag was respected at home and abroad. America conducted her foreign affairs without consulting the U.N., whose members usually veto on issues contrary to our wishes and interest. In those days a father went on welfare only out of desperation and tried to get off it as soon as possible. At that time charity was a virtue instead of big business.

now many fund raisers take the biggest cut.

Yes, in those days we could laugh at jokes about the Polish Irish, Swedes, or the Dutch without being considered bigots, or someone shooting at you asking you for a remark which was not in the best interest of another ethnic group. And listen to this you doctors, in those days the first question was "Where does it hurt?" rather than "Do you have good insurance?" Big federal handouts was the exception rather than the rule.

Finally, giving aid to the enemy was treason, now it's sometimes called foreign aid. Now we have so much debt by being Santa Claus for every needy problem on the planet that our country is as good as broke.

Now as you and I reflect back three-fourths of a century, and look forward to the year 2000, we come to one conclusion! The entire moral fiber of our culture and its people need a Biblical Revival, the sooner, the better.

Dick De Weert,
Pella, Iowa.

Div Hq 42-45

Dick De Weert

A post card to R.C. Goins 1984

This quartet of Taro Leafers is making the rounds and the flats - of Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the P.R. in memory of the better - and worse - times years ago. Our real target - Red Beach - 30 years late to the day. In memory of you and, too, of those less fortunate who gave their all, we'll leave behind some sober thoughts and some deep prayers. This trip is in the name of the greatest bunch of guys ever to follow a swab of alabrine with a plate full of SOS. We pl to pay your respects at Matsuyama, Kokura, Osan, Taejo, Indora, Inva and, of course, Palo, Alangalang, Jaro, Longa, Carigara, Pinamapoon and Breakneck Ridge. Tanwarah Bay, Goodenough, and Rockhampton are just a little out of the way - just as they damned sure were in the 40's - but we'll make up for it at Schofield as we wing homeward. Good wishes and warm remembrances to you, from

Gerry Stevenson * Bill Sanderson * Ed Henry
Bub Duff * Ken Ross *

A Little Bit Of...

HUMOR



Sign in optometrist's office: "There are two things I'd like to make clear."

Patient: "My right foot hurts." Doctor: "It's just old age." Patient: "But my left foot is just as old. How come that one doesn't hurt?"

WEDDING VOWS RENEWED

Editor Bob Lawhon and his beautiful wife Jean renewed their wedding vows at the West Coast Mini Reunion in Reno on Tuesday, 23 April 1996.

Bob and Jean were first married by a Japanese minister in Aomori, Northern Honshu, Japan on 3 October 1952. This marriage was not recognized by the military for the purpose of Bob being able to return with Jean to the United States.



Hiroko "Jean" and Bob Lawhon



Seated: Rose Gagliardo. Standing L to R: Vince Gagliardo, Yvonne Mullins, Rudy Mullins, Jean Lawhon, Pastor Hunter and Bob Lawhon.

They were then married by a Foreign Services Officer of the American Embassy in Yokohama, Japan on 2 July 1953.

For all these 43 years both Bob and Jean wanted to be married by a minister and thought that it would be appropriate to have it before an audience of friends from the 24th Inf. Division. Bob asked if I would be his best man and Yvonne to be the matron of honor, we were delighted. Rod and Carol Stock arranged for the minister, Pastor Hunter, from the Sparks Methodist Church to perform the ceremony. Elene and Niilo Hyytinen provided the beautiful wedding cake.

Vince Gagliardo gave the bride away and a hidden talent of Vince's surfaced when he sang the beautiful **Korean Love Song, in Korean.**

by Rudy Mullins

June 17, 1996

RE: TIME MAGAZINE SPECIAL EDITION COVER--SUMMER 1996

The Summer 1996 Special Edition cover of Time magazine is an outrage!

This insult that Time magazine has inflicted upon America, Americans, and the flag, must not go unchallenged! Time magazine, and photographer, Gregory Heisler, appear to believe that placing our flag beneath ones feet is acceptable! HITLER believed the same, that disgracing our flag was both acceptable and desirable. Hitler promised to stomp our flag into the ground, Looks like Time has partially accomplished what Hitler could not do! Using our flag in such a manner is appalling. We, as Americans should be outraged. We are. Standing on our flag is not to be tolerated!

In defense of our flag and our country many Americans have died, and many others continue to bear the scars of war. Lives are forever changed.

I hope that every newspaper, magazine and other media who owe their freedom of speech to the men and women in our military and government service will censure Time for this deplorable lack of ethics. The constitution of the United States gives Time the right to print, and they have stepped on that right. Censure, not censorship is what is needed here.

I hope that those of you who have a subscription to Time will cancel your subscription, we certainly did. Those who buy Time at the newsstand, stop! If you are not a Time reader, please still do your part to denounce this unforgivable act Time has committed.

The address for your letter to Time is:

Time Inc.
Principal Office/Time & Life Building
Rockefeller Center
NY, NY 10020-1393

Times Chairman is Reginald K. Brack, the President and CEO is Don Logan. Please write to one or both of them. The 800 number is: 1-800-843-8463. Also write, phone, FAX or e-mail to whomever else you feel may care. Please do not let this disrespect to our Great Country go unchallenged!

Most sincerely,
Billy Johnson and Family

s/
SGM(Ret) Billy Johnson
Minie Johnson
CPT Julie Lynn Johnson
Linda Jeanne Johnson DeJaco

2416 Kimberly Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28306-2345
910-424-3840

For those who would like to see what Billy is talking about, please see the magazine at your local library. DO NOT BUY. I don't feel like giving it any mileage in the Taro Leaf. In my opinion if the publisher couldn't get people like Michael Johnson to pose for such disgraceful things as this, then it wouldn't happen. He was undoubtedly paid well. (Rudy Mullins, Secretary)

Dear Robert,

Each year the 24th Assoc. presents an award to a ROTC Cadet at Clemson University in honor of Maj. Gen. Blackwell, Clemson graduate and Past Div. Commander.

I presented a certificate to Cadet Romand Schmuck, MS IV Arotc for the Assoc. Cadet Schmuck's name will be placed on the big plaque in the ROTC Office on a brass plate along with cadets so honored each year. Hope you can use this in the next Taro Leaf.

Faternally,

Bruce W. Price, Sr
214 Bedford Forrest Avenue
Anderson, SC 29625-2317



April 22, 1995

Dear Thomas,

I hope you do not mind me writing you but I got your name from the 24th Infantry Division Association roster. You were listed as being with the 13th Field Artillery Battalion in WWII. I do not know what period you were with that unit, but my father, Judson P. Hurd, was with the unit from March 1941 until February 1943. He started as a private and was a technical sergeant at the time he left the unit.

My father was killed in Korea on October 3, 1951 when I was 5 years old and I never got to know him. A couple of years ago my daughter was married and, as we were cleaning out her room, I ran across many letters my father had written to my mother and his mother during WWII and Korea. In reading them I got a tremendous urge to try to find out more about him so I embarked upon a mission to locate persons who served with him and might remember him. Possibly, they can tell me what he was like; what kind of soldier he was and another antecedents.

From his letters during the time he was with the 13th, he mentioned several names: Loring, Warner, Captain Elmore, Cpl Lipari, Navajo, Elvis' Sullivan, and Douglas "Rusty" Keith Bult. If you have any information relative to my father or any of the other names that would be of interest to me, please write me at the address below. I realize that this was many years ago and I am expecting a lot.

Robert B. Hurd
5340 S. Louisville Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74135

24th Infantry Division Association



Dear Bob,

June 18, 1996

Just finished reading a book (180 pages) written by Paul Austin entitled "Bullets and Bayonets". It is the best combat narrative of the Hollandia, Biak and Leyte Campaigns that I have read. While quite wide in scope it centers on the engagements of the 2nd. Bn. of the 34th Infantry. It covers the whole story of WW-II from 1942 to 1945.

It's a moving story of a country boy from Burleson TX who went all the way from Private to second in command of the second battalion of the 34th Inf. Paul earned not one but two Silver Stars which attests to his combat experiences. His story as a combat Company Commander is a model of what in my opinion a Company Commander should be.

Perhaps most important it captures what it takes for "GI" Joe to earn the coveted Combat Infantrymans badge. A limited number of books are available at \$15.00 plus \$3.50 for S&H. I highly recommend this book. The book may be ordered from the following address:

Mr. Paul Austin
3945 Misty Mdw. Dr.
Fort Worth TX 76133-6816

Sincerely,
Jim Wahle
Jim Wahle

DUSTY OLD HELMET

Dusty old helmet rusty old gun, they sit in the
corner and wait
Two souvenirs of the second World War that
have withstood the time and the hate
Many times I've wanted to ask them - And now
that we're here all alone
Relics all three of a long ago war; Where has the
freedom gone?
Mute witness to a time of much trouble
Where kill or be killed was the law-
Were these implements used with the high honor
What was the glory they saw?
Freedom flies in your heart like an eagle
Let it soar with winds high above
Among the spirits of soldiers now sleeping
Guard it with care and with love.
I salute my old friends in the corner
I agree with all they have said
And if the moment of truth comes tomorrow
I'll be free or by God I'll be dead.

Audie Murphy
(From Audie Murphy Library San Antonio)

MUSEUM BRICK LAYING ON HOLD

Money safe in banks until

Liberty Trail initiative developed

by: Major Susan Oliver, 3d ID PAO

Building a museum one brick at a time can take a while, just ask the 24th Infantry Division Museum Foundation. The foundation has been trying to raise an estimated \$6 million for a new structure.

The private organization, created by friends of the Victory Division shortly after the end of Desert Storm in 1991, collected donations from soldiers, family members, and the division's friends throughout Coastal Georgia through a "buy a brick" program. For each donation, a brick was to be engraved and placed in the design of a new museum, immortalizing the donor, other appropriate individuals, or quotes and sayings.

The foundation does have \$40 thousand in accounts at the Hinesville and Coastal banks. Instead of continuing on their own though, the organization has joined forces with Liberty County. "The foundation has put everything on hold pending the outcome of the Liberty Trail initiative," stated Johnny Zoucks, Foundation Treasurer.

The Liberty Trail initiative is a new partnership between Fort Stewart and Liberty County for a new museum and welcome center. Fort Stewart is reviewing the installation's long range master plan for possible sites for the structure. They are also evaluating the legal requirements associated with the project. Liberty County has taken the lead on researching funding alternatives. The building's design is a cooperative effort between Fort Stewart and the local community. The ultimate goal is to have a state of the art museum, education, and welcome center all under one roof that is easily accessible to the public.

The proposed facility will display the histories of the 24th and the 3d Infantry Divisions, the installation's history to include the early history of Liberty County, and possibly the history of the Georgia National Guard. Along with office and work space, the design provides for an auditorium to support the museum's primary mission of education, a food court and welcome desk area, gift shop space, bathroom facilities, and expanded parking. Project coordinators are also pursuing altering the design to include the installation's Public Affairs Office.

"I'm very excited about this project. The design will allow us to portray both divisions and tell the rich history of this part of Coastal Georgia. If the Georgia National Guard join us, it will make it even a better facility - we will have much more to offer than what we are able to do now. It will also give us a better facility to conduct our military history training and briefings; and give the local area a first class gathering place," stated Roger Durham, Fort Stewart Museum Curator.

"The Foundation's Board of Directors will support whatever the (3d ID) Commanding General decides. When the new museum/welcome center is built, the money will go towards it in some appropriate fashion. Exactly what that will be has not been determined at this time, but it will do just honor to the Victory Division," explained Zoucks. In the meantime, the money collected under the buy a brick program sits safely tucked away in the two banks, gaining interest.

DOES ANYONE REMEMBER ME?

Let me introduce myself. PFC Randall P. Nehr, RA13484049, 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 6th Tank Battalion, attached to the 24th Division, 8th U.S. Army. I'm not sure what date I arrived at the 6th Tank, but I have papers that say I rotated back to the "Land of the Round Eyed Women" on 28 Oct '55. These were signed by a Capt. Cronk (Inf), Company Commander. I spent 18 months in the "Land of the Morning Calm" so I had to have arrived there in April of '54. I was first assigned to the 434th Combat Engineers in Pusan, then transferred north to the 6th Tank Bn.

I (and others) were shipped north by train? and truck. We arrived at night, just as the Battalion was leaving on a night alert. The tanks were still painted in the "tiger" motif and it was a bit terrifying to see these huge (at least to us) M-46's come roaring out of the tank park and disappearing into the night, with only the unearthly glow of the exhaust pipes visible. After all this we were taken inside the compound and bedded down. The next day we were assigned to our duties. I drew "Charlie One Three".

Much to my shame I cannot remember the names of my crewmates, except for one Katusa named Lee Kee. Lee attached himself to me and became a constant companion. I remember one guy in our tent who had a very pronounced German accent and never stood weekly inspections. He had something to do with the Officers Mess. I remember another Katusa named Bak Soo. We were housed in 12? man tents with canvas cots. Ammo cases were our furniture. At that time I stood a hair over 6', had brown hair, blue eyes and about 180 lbs. We had 2 oil burning stoves (I think) for winter and rolled the tent sides up in summer.

I remember the name of Munsan-ni as the nearest village? town? railhead? I remember one trip to the DMZ? Imjin river? where we relieved a Canadian outfit and were there for awhile. I fell asleep and sunburned my backside so bad, I passed out while on runner duty at the comm switchboard. Needless to say I was not popular with the brass at that time. While on R&R in Japan I acquired a tattoo of an eagle clutching a snake on my right arm. It seems that memories get jumbled and mixed up as the years pass. I'm sitting here trying to remember anything pertinent that might jolt someone's memory and find my own is no longer infallible. Another time not long before I rotated, I went out on guard duty, walked off a wall and cracked my ankle. I hobbled around in an ankle cast for awhile. Who was the guy with V.D. and asked me to give him a shot of penicillin? (Randy, I don't think you'll get alot of answers on that question)

Does anyone remember Saturday morning inspections when we would have to field strip our 45's and have them out for inspection. We always got gigged for pits in our barrels. One time we switched barrels with the guy who never stood inspection and had a barrel on his weapon that was spotless. He never did figure out where those pits came from. Well, enough for now. I hope to see some of you at the Dedication in July. I will be there on Saturday, hopefully with a bus load from my area.

Shim-pai-nai, G.I. san
Randy Nehr
417 Main St.
McSherrystown, PA 17344

Bob,

I wonder if you could help me. You will find the story of Sgt. Geo. Libby, "Medal of Honor Winner" enclosed. I would like to know who drove the tractor, M-5.

To my knowledge I drove the only M-5 tractor out of Taejon on July 20, 1950. Even though I picked up several wounded and loaded them on the tractor, the wounded were the only ones who would ride with me. It was late at night and there was about 15 or 20 burning trucks and half tracks in front of me blocking the road. Everyone said I couldn't make it, but the wounded said they didn't have anything to lose. We almost didn't make it after I pushed the burning trucks and half tracks off the road. About two miles up the road, we ran into a T-34 tank. As it was dark as hell and we were running without lights. I didn't see the tank until the last minute. We hit the tank a glancing blow, his gun barrel hit our top gun mount, it took the tank turret off, we didn't stop to see if anyone got hurt. I didn't have insurance.(ha) We made it, a little shaken up though.

The moral of this story is no one can protect the driver of a M-5 tractor, to my knowledge. Sgt. Libby was not on my tractor. So who drove him? I received the silver star, I don't know who put me in for the medal. I spent the next 2 months in the hospital.

John Kelly
A Btry 11th FA ('49-'51)
539 E. Lindbergh Rd
Nixa, MO 65714

October 6, 1995

Dear Robert,

James Lender and his wife stopped in to see us today. They are on their way from West Newton, PA where they live to CA for a visit. Jim was a Company Aid man with K Co., 19th Regt. He made the long march across southern Mindanao with us. He was in the Mandog area when the Regt. Co. Col. Clifford and some others were killed with a mortar. Jim was blown out of his truck but was not injured.

I heard the explosions from a quarter mile down the road to the north. The enemy had let us pass waiting for bigger game. Sorry this print is in color. Helen would have or should have been in the picture but she is taking the picture.

Philip H. Hostetter M.D.



NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Ernest R. Burlingame	21st Inf Regt (Korea, Japan)
Bobby E. Bruce	19th Inf Regt (Korea)
Charles Ballard	5th RCT (Korea)
John R. Cooley	34th Inf Regt (Korea)
Frederick R. Carley	21st Inf Regt & 34th Inf Regt (Japan, Korea)
Frank H. Dennis	34th Inf Regt (Germany)
Ronald A. French, Sr	34th Inf Regt (WWII)
William A. Felker	26th AAA (Japan)
Alton I. Furbish	5th RCT (Korea)
Charles G. Guidetta	5th RCT (Korea, Japan)
William C. Gaurich, Sr	19th Inf Regt (Korea, Japan)
Gilbert G. Hilkemeyer	Cannon Co. 19th Inf Regt (WWII & Japan)
Harold K. Hamel	19th Inf Regt (Korea)
Marvin Johnson	19th Inf Regt (Korea)
Sang Yun Lee	Hq 19th Inf Regt (Interpreter) (Korea)
Eugene Lewis	19th Inf Regt (Korea)
William C. McClure	21st Inf Regt (Korea)
Joseph Polito	19th Inf Regt (WWII, Japan)
Walter P. Roduner, Jr	19th Inf Regt (WWII)
Hugh Ruckdeschel	5th RCT (Korea)
Elbert W. Sliger	34th Inf Regt (WWII)

NEW MEMBERS

Robert R. Anding	24th Recon (Korea)
Paul E. Bader	34th Inf Regt (WWII)
James F. Boylan	5th RCT (Korea)
David S. Buzzell	6th TK Bn. (Korea)
Stewart Conley	Unit not listed on roster
Cecil C. Cushman	5th RCT (Korea)
Jack D. Cheek	19th Inf Regt (WWII, Japan)
Dr. R. Michael Dowe, Jr	19th Inf Regt (Korea)
Herbert L. Dareff	19th Inf Regt (Korea)
William J. Dillon	24th Med Bn (WWII)
Robert E. Debozi	21st Inf Regt & Div Arty (Korea)
Jack Dochow	24th Recon (Korea)
Louis A. Diamond	24th Recon (WWII)
George Ersh	5th RCT (Korea)
Donald K. Finney	3rd Engr Bn (Korea)
Roy S. Garland	2/7 (Desert Storm)
Louis A. Genner	339th Engr Bn (WWII)
Garry Greathouse	New Associate Member (Uncle, KIA Korea 1950)
John W. Hewitt	3rd Engr Bn (c) (Korea)
Capt Forrest W. Higgins(Ret)	5th RCT (Korea)
Harold M. Hall	52nd F.A. Bn.

NEW MEMBERS (Continued)

Eugene F. Hawk	34th & 21st Inf Regts (Korea)
John C. Heard, Jr	11th F.A. Bn (Korea)
Samuel Irwin	19th & 21st Inf Regts (Germany)
John H. Korte	19th Inf Regt (Korea)
Adam A. Kwiccinski	5th RCT
Willie D. McFadden	26th AAA (Korea)
Charles L. Millard, Jr	11th F.A. Bn (Korea)
Wesley R. Morrison	21st Inf Regt (Korea)
Manuel J. Mosbey	21st Inf Regt (Korea)
James E. Moyer	21st Inf Regt (WWII)
John W. Percy	21st Inf Regt (WWII)
John W. "Bill" Quinn	21st Inf Regt (WWII)
Phillips L. Reitz	34th Inf Regt (Korea)
Harry M. Rowles	5th RCT (Korea)
Fred O. Simpson	19th Inf Regt (Korea)
Raymond W. Smith	724th Ord (Korea)
David Spears	21st Inf Regt (Germany)
Walter E. Selle	24th Sig Co (WWII)
Michael Troioni	19th Inf Regt (Japan)
Leo J. Toninato	19th Inf Regt (Korea)
Roy H. Wells	26th AAA (Korea)
Robert L. Wilkie	21st Inf Regt (WWII)
Marion M. Williams	21st Inf Regt (WWII) (Pearl Harbor)
Don D. Wooten	21st Inf Regt (Korea)
Richard S. Wagner	21st Inf Regt (Korea)
William T. Welch	5th RCT (Korea)
Robert W. Wandersee	11th F.A. Bn. (Korea)
Earl Woodard	1st Bn. 70th Armor (Germany)
Sandy Young	21st Inf Regt (Korea)
Raymond Zabolski	24th Sig. Co. (Korea)

ADDRESS CORRECTION: Please send me your change of address. It takes just a few minutes of your time and you will sure save me a few headaches and the association a few dollars. With the new format of the Taro Leaf, it cost \$1.93 to send you the Taro Leaf first class. thats how it must go on all mail returns.

DUES: It dues time again. Check your mailing label, the Exp. Date: is your dues due date.

HISTORY BOOK: If you have previously donated to the history book, it is still not too late to make your wishes known as to your desires on purchasing a copy. I sent you a letter in March informing you of the amount you had donated along with your purchasing options. You may contact me at: HCR 3 Box 191, Rocky Mount, MO 65072-9014.

Contributions 3-12-96 - June 22, 1996

Co. George D. Haskins	\$10.00	Div. Arty
Thomas C. Breazeale	\$10.00	19th
James P. Dever	\$ 5.00	19th
Dallas Dick	\$50.00	19th
Donald L. Duerk, MD	\$10.00	Div. Hq
Frank M. Mc Intyre	\$10.00	19th
Kenwood Ross	\$75.00	Div. Hq
Peter Knapp	\$ 5.00	19th
Gerald Lieber	\$ 5.00	Div. Hq
Michael K. Lipka	\$35.00	24th MP
Joseph F. Dawson	\$30.00	34th
Jack E. Lee	100.00	21st
B.J. Hunt	\$ 5.00	19th
Richard R. Glenn	\$20.00	24th Recon.
(In Memory of Bob Ender)		
Charles V. Kowalski	\$10.00	21st
Louise J. Arsenault	\$10.00	11th FA
(In Memory of Aime M. Arsenault)		
Barney B. Bertinuson	\$50.00	24th Med
Paul A. Fraser	\$50.00	52nd
Dale E. Higbee	\$ 5.00	19th
O.E. Trechter, Jr	\$ 5.00	Assoc. Member
Rogert L. Eustachy	\$25.00	24th Med
(Memory of Bob Ender)		
Clifford G. Scars	\$10.00	21st
Rudolph Weber	\$10.00	21st
Edward Howell Sharpe	\$10.00	24th Med
Warren M. Avery	\$25.00	21st
Robert A. Olson	\$10.00	34th
Herbert Fordyce	\$ 5.00	19th
Charles E. Garrett	\$20.00	19th
Robert K. Martin	\$10.00	63rd
Salvatore A. Nicoletta	\$10.00	21st
Donald B. Perrin	\$ 5.00	19th
William P. Stebens	\$20.00	21st
LeRoy M. Northrop	\$ 5.00	24th Sig.
Charles H. Reese	\$10.00	724th Ord.
Lloyd T. Potterton	\$10.00	19th
Ernest P. Terrell	\$25.00	11th FA
Robert J. Moore	\$10.00	19th
James J. Tesitor	\$20.00	(In memory of Anthony Tesitor of the 3rd Engr)
Paul J. Cain	\$10.00	34th
Carlton D. Chuman	\$10.00	19th
Richard H. Miller	\$ 5.00	724th Ord
Rudolph J. Omahana	\$10.00	19th
"Axle" Poland	\$10.00	34th
Alan J. Shields	\$ 5.00	21st
LTC Hervey J. Leboeuf	\$ 5.00	21st
Jerry Olivo	\$ 5.00	21st



Elvin Merk joined Battery "C" 11th FABN, 24th Division on September 1, 1951. By February 1952 the 24th Div. was moved to Japan, replaced by the 40th Div. The unit was then stationed at Camp Younghans and Camp McNair. In this photo taken October 1951 near Kumsong, Korea are shown kneeling L. to R.: Homan, Perran, Argento, O'Rourke. Back row: Sgt. Coker - Chief of Section, Moore, Goff - Gunner, Merk, Huberty, Duran, Downing, Poston, Lewis.



Harry L. Wittman, Jr Life Member #262, served in Korea April 1951 to February 1952. While in Korea, I was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Korean Service Ribbon with 5 Battle Stars, UN Ribbon, Combat Inf Badges, Korean Presidential Unit Citation awarded to just "G" Co., American Defense and Good Conduct Medal.

I graduated from Victory High School in Clarksburg, WV, 1946. Went to work on the B&O Railroad as an apprentice painter in Grafton, WV in 1946. I was drafted into the Army in October 1950. Took training at Camp Atterbury, IN with the 28th Div. National Guard from Pennsylvania. was shipped to Korea and assigned to Co. "G", 21st Regt, 24th Inf. Div. April 1951. I was rotated home in February 1952.

I was separated from active duty to the reserves in July 1952 and spent 5 years in active reserves and was honorably discharged in 1957. I was married to my wife, Frances, February 1951 and we've been together for 45 years. In 1985 I retired from Chessie System with 39 years service.

Contributions (Continued from Page 33)

Frank Orloski	\$200.00	3rd Eng.	Victor Bialczak	\$30.00	
Don Lennon	\$ 10.00	24th Recon.	Harry Schultz	\$25.00	24th Signal
W. H. Schumacher	\$ 20.00	D 35th Inf Regt (25th Inf Div.)			

ORLOSKI'S

QUIK MARTS

P.O. Box 313, 508 Blackman Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0313
717-829-0888 FAX 717-829-4390

Robert L. Lawhon
(6th Tank BN '51-'53)
Rt. 2 Box 711
Proctorville, OH 45669

Dear Bob,

What a thrill it was to open my mailbox and find a new, refreshing, and colorful copy of the Victory Division News. I found myself glancing back at the colorized cover and saying to myself "Now this is class!" The new articles and the many photos made this edition, in my opinion, the finest edition ever produced. Bob, you are to be commended for your efforts and by means of this letter I send along a personal "Thank you!" I feel very confident when I say, that I am speaking for many other Taro Leafers who don't have the time or inclination to write a similar response.

By the way, I am life member #1058 and served in Korea with the 3rd ENG. Combat BN from March 1951 to February 1952. If any former Eager Beavers recognize my name, it would certainly be nice to hear from you. My mailing address would be:

Frank R Orloski
254 Woodlawn Avenue
Mountaintop, PA 18707

Bob, I'm enclosing a check for \$200.00 toward the association, in hopes that it may help you with the fine work being accomplished with the Victory Division News. You deserve it...Keep up the good work!

Best Wishes,



Frank R Orloski

P.S. Our days spent in the Land of the morning calm are long past - but the memories will live forever.

HOW TO TREAT A TOOTH ACHE
SUBMITTED BY PAUL A. FRASER
52ND FA BN ('41-'44)

During our stay on North Shore of Oahu after December 7th, the 52nd FA was widely dispersed along that side of the island.

To relieve the boredom we always had a poker game at Bn Headquarters at night. Our Bn Surgeon, Bill Doyle received a call from one of the batteries that they were sending in a man with an age old problem. Bill Doyle, the Surgeon, never missed a session of poker. Leaving instructions with his detachment, he left the aid station and joined the other players.

After awhile a very timid soldier showed up at the aid station. The Sgt. in charge told the man to get up on the table. The Sgt and his crew then gave him an enema. The soldier, fresh out of recruit camp wasn't about to challenge a Sgt and followed orders, suffering in silence. When the procedure was done he raised up, and screwing up his courage said, "what did you do that for, I've got a tooth ache".

As the soldier with the tooth ache was putting on his fatigue trousers the constipated man arrived.

Recruited by:
Raymond J Warner
Membership Chairman
p/d

5th R.C.T. Association
Membership Application
(Please PRINT or TYPE)

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date Served in **5th RCT** from _____ to _____

Company/Battery _____ Regt or Bn _____ Special Assignment _____

Name of Spouse _____ (Not Mandatory)

Eligible Service for 5th RCT is 1949-1954. Annual Dues are \$15.00 and are from 1 Jan to 31 Dec. Life Memberships are NOT available, however you may pay for as many years in Advance as you wish. Please forward checks or money orders to:

Treasurer, 5th RCT Association
P.O.Box 1776

Frederick MD 21702-0776 Phone 1-301-845-8298

5th RCT Veterans are eligible for Membership in The 24th Infantry Division Association. Should you desire membership in this Association also, please submit a seperate check in the amount of \$15.00, their Dues are: 1 August to 31 July. Your Request for that Membership will be forwarded.

VA REDUCES CLAIMS BACKLOG

ARMY RETIREE RECORDS MOVED

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) is taking over providing management and service for approximately 720,000 Army retiree military personnel records. These records had been maintained by the U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN).

A special agreement between the National Archives and Records Administration and the U.S. Army Reserve, signed in September 1995, places management of Army retiree records in line with the other branches of the service, whose records are already maintained by NPRC.

The records, previously stored in warehouse facilities in Granite City IL, were moved to the Federal Records Center complex beginning Jan. 16, 1996. Both ARPERCEN and NPRC are located at this complex. The move should be completed by May 1.

What does this mean for Army retirees?

Beginning April 1, you must send your written requests for 214s, retirement orders and copies of medical files to: National Personnel Records Center; Military Personnel Records; 9700 Page Av., St. Louis MO 63132-5100.

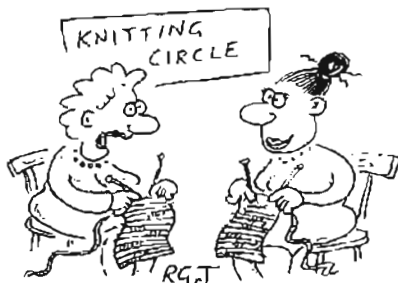
Remember to include your complete name, Social Security number and return address with requests.

The VA has reduced its benefits claims backlog by nearly 200,000 cases over the past two years by developing ways to accelerate processing. VA's claims processing backlog, which peaked at 574,000 cases at the end of 1993, was reduced to 385,000 at the end of fiscal year 1995.

VA's Veterans Benefits Administration is using "help teams", experienced rating specialists drawn from regional offices, and "partnering", a pairing of VA stations to share workload.

On last May 22nd, at Fort Leavenworth, the late Major General AUBREY S. NEWMAN, was inducted in the Leavenworth Hall of Fame. Red's widow, Dorothy, participated in the unveiling of a painting of our popular one-time Chief of Staff, and Lt. Gen. JAMES B. VAUGHT, one-time Division Commander, made the Induction Address in Red's behalf.

The Hall of Fame dates back to the Civil War. Only some 60 Army members have made it including Col. Robert E. Lee (he was a General but only of the CSA), Gen. Philip H. Sheridan, Capt. James E.B. Stewart (again a Major General but of the CSA), and Generals all - Marshall, MacArthur, Eisenhower, Van Fleet, Ridgway, Westmoreland, and many more. Oddly, the name of Pershing does not appear on the honored roll. We wonder why!



*'Do you think it's dangerous
to share needles?'*

24th Infantry Division Association



HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

June 15, 1996

Thanks to the contributions of many members, the history book is right on schedule. You have been generous with your photographs, clippings, and personal accounts of actions in which you were involved. The writer, Don Gordon, and the editor, Bob Martin of Turner Publishing Company, have done a remarkable job in absorbing the division's history and writing an interesting narrative. We are deeply indebted to Ken Ross for providing nine large boxes of his writings, photos, and materials for the history.

Approximately 500 members have ordered the history. I encourage the rest of you to place your orders. I believe you are going to be well pleased with the final product.

On August 1 the publisher will present the first complete draft. The history committee will review this draft and return their corrections and suggestions for improvement by the time of the annual reunion in September. Therefore, the committee can give you a good idea at the reunion what still needs to be done before publication sometime in 1997. The date in 1997 will depend on how much still needs to be done to transform the first draft into the final proof and to select and place the appropriate photographs.

We need from you:

More photographs. I cannot guarantee all will be used, but we want all the photographs possible to make as wide a selection as possible. Your photographs will be returned to you as soon as the book is published.

More written accounts of action in which you were engaged if it can be documented as to date and location.

More artifacts or clippings that can be used in the book. One member submitted samples of all the currency used by the division in World War II.

More orders. You'll be doing yourself a big favor by getting your division's history for your family and posterity.

Dave Mann Dave Mann for the History Committee

Carl Bernard
Ben Wahle
Bill McKenna

Neil Estes
Eric Diller

Harry Maihafer
Charles Lewin

LADIES BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1996
9:00AM



ATTENTION ALL LADIES:

FROM: Diane Peters

Be sure to sign up for the Ladies Breakfast, it is something you won't want to miss. The program is planned at the same time the 24th Infantry Division Association Business Meeting is taking place.

The menu consists of Freshly squeezed orange or grapefruit juice, scrambled eggs with cream cheese, bacon or sausage, breakfast potatoes, assorted breakfast basket, butter, jams and marmalades, coffee, tea and milk.

We have two guest entertainers, Donna Montgomery and Sylvia Benson.

Donna, a native Minnesotan, has been billed as the "Twin Cities own home grown "Erma Bombeck" A seasoned speaker, and celebrated author, she has traveled nationally appearing on over 125 radio and TV stations. Donna will share excerpts from her books, "Surviving Motherhood" and "Coffee Talk".

Sylvia, "Auntie Lena", a 100% Norwegian American comedienne is originally from Roseau, Minnesota, but she has plied her craft around the Twin Cities for over ten years, having appeared at various comedy clubs in the area.

Ladies what more can you ask for? Two wonderful guests to tickle your funny bone, a scrumptious breakfast, good friends, and an all around very enjoyable morning for only \$12.00. There will be many door prizes, including a homemade crocheted afghan, and a quilt rack to display it on. Send in your reservations early.
This is one "LADIES BREAKFAST" you won't want to miss!

Make checks payable to: 24th Infantry Division Association

Mail To: Harold Peters
14030 Xanthus Lane
Rogers, MN 55374



LADIES BREAKFAST

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COST \$12.00 EACH # ATTENDING _____ TOTAL AMT ENCLOSED \$ _____

ATTENTION:

ALL 34th INFANTRY REGIMENT (DRAGONS) PERSONNEL

The 34th Infantry Regiment will be holding a breakfast Saturday, September 7, 1996 from 8:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. at the Radisson South Hotel, site of the 24th Infantry Division Association Reunion. The room where the breakfast will be held will be in the packets that you receive when you register at the Reunion.

The cost for the Breakfast is \$10.00 with no registration fee for the event. Since the 24th Infantry Division Association Annual Meeting follows at 10:00 A.M. We request that if you plan on attending this breakfast that you be punctual, so that we may conduct our business, eat our breakfast and adjourn to the Association Meeting at 10:00 A.M.

Breakfast Menu:

Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice
Scrambled Eggs with Cream Cheese
Sausage
Breakfast Potatoes
Assorted Breakfast Basket
Butter, Jams and Marmalades
Freshly Ground and Brewed Coffee
Select Herbal and Premium Teas

Make checks payable to : 34th Infantry Regiment

Mail checks along with form below to: Bill Henninger
535 West Sandhurst Drive #115
Roseville, MN 55113

Phone Number (612) 487-5440

"34th INFANTRY REGIMENT BREAKFAST"

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

34th Inf. Units 1. _____ Dates Served _____
2. _____ Dates Served _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____
Cost of Breakfast is \$10.00 each

ATTENTION: ALL 19TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CHICKS) PERSONNEL

The Annual 19th Infantry Regiment (Chicks) "John Morgan Memorial Breakfast" will be held Saturday, September 7, 1996 from 8:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. at the Radison Hotel, site of the 24th Infantry Division Association Reunion. The room where the breakfast will be served will be announced in the June issue of the Taro Leaf in addition it will be provided when acknowledgement is sent.

The cost for the breakfast is \$10.00 with no registration fee for this event. Since the 24th Infantry Division Association Annual Meeting follows at 10:00 A.M., it is requested that attendees at the Memorial Breakfast be punctual so that we may conduct our business, eat our breakfast and adjourn to the Association Meeting at 10:00 A.M.

Breakfast Menu:

Freshly Squeezed Orange or
Grapefruit juice
Scrambled Eggs with
Cream Cheese
Bacon or Sausage
Breakfast Potatoes
Assorted Breakfast Basket
Butter, Jams and Marmalades
Freshly Ground and
Brewed Coffee
Select Herbal and Premium Teas

Make check payable to: 19th Infantry Regiment Funds

Mail check along with form below to: Rodolph (Rudy) Mullins
HCR 3 Box 191
Rocky Mount MO 65072-9014

My phone # 573-365-1007

19TH INFANTRY (CHICKS) "JOHN MORGAN MEMORIAL BREAKFAST"

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
Name of Wife if Attending _____

19th Inf. Units 1. _____ Dates Served _____
 2. _____ Dates Served _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____
Cost of Breakfast \$10.00 each

EARLY BIRD LIST

1996 REUNION - MINNEAPOLIS

COMPANY AND UNIT

Last Name:	First Name:	Control	Company:	Unit:	First Timer:
Martinez	Nicolas	042	"B-BTRY"	11th FA BN	
Smith	Robert	077		11th FA BTRY A	
Estes	Neil	052		11th FAB	1
Jakubal	Jack	014		11th FIELD	
Smith	Donald T.	155	A" BTRY	11th FIELD	
Hen	Jack	011	A-BTRY"	13th FA	
Iwen	George	118	Btry "B"	13th FA	
Mullins	William L.	174	BTRY "C"	13th FA	
Todd	Vann	031		13th FA	
Cody	Raymond	005		13th FA BN	1
Nelsen	Ellsworth	021		13th FA BN	
Sellmeyer	Joseph	046	HQ" BTRY	13th FA BN	
Toohy	John	032		13th FA/52nd FA	
Agresti	Angelo	002	HQ Co."	13th INF	
Albright	Bobby	086	CN", Co.	19th INF	
Allen	Benjamin	053		19th INF	1
Barry	John	129	Co. "G"	19th INF	
Biggs	Richard	130	Co. "B"	19th INF	
Carter	Harvey	004	"B"	19th Inf	
Cline	Virgil	156	HQ Co.	19th INF	
Dick	Dallas	131	Serv. Co.	19th INF	
Donaldson	Ralph	006	Co. "G"	19th INF	
Draus	Richard	137	HQ Co. 2nd BN	19th INF	
Feltner	Charles	007	HQ Co."	19th INF	1
Fryer	Ray	121	Co. "C"	19th INF	
Goff	Buford	148	Co. "F"	19th INF	1
Green	Virgle	161	Co. "H"	19th INF	
Hanks	William	132	HQ" CO.	19th INF	
Hartley	Robert	143	Co. "B"	19th INF	
Higbee	Dale	087	Co.'s "F & I"	19th INF	
Hill	James	111	HQ Co. 1st BN	19th INF	
Hoffman	Evert	012	Co. "D"	19th INF	
Hogue	Charles	094	Serv. Co.	19th INF	
Hosler	William	082	Co. "F"	19th INF	
Hostetter	Philip	013		19th INF	
Hunt	Bobby	141	Co. "B & C"	19th INF	
Johnson	Lester	015	HQ 2nd BN	19th INF	
LaPalm	Joseph	091	Co. "C"	19th INF	
Lewis	Eugene	142	Co. "F" 2nd BN	19th INF	1
Liwanag	Albert	018	Co. "G"	19th INF	
Luchterhand	Freddie	064	Co. "H"	19th INF	
Mainor	Charles	092	Co. "B"	19th INF	
McGill	Allan	089	HQ" Co.	19th INF	
McKeon	Joseph	019	24th RECN	19th INF	
Montgomery	Donald	104	HQ" Co.	19th INF	1
Muldoon	William	158	Co. "E"	19th INF	
Mullins	Rodolph	084	Med."	19th INF	
Munch	Robert	133	Med Det	19th INF	1
Oler	Lloyd	173	Co. "F"	19th INF	
Otto	Edward	105	Co. "C"	19th INF	

COMPANY AND UNIT

<u>Last Name:</u>	<u>First Name:</u>	<u>Control</u>	<u>Company:</u>	<u>Unit:</u>	<u>First Timer:</u>
Peters	Walter	095	Co. "C"	19th INF	
Powell	Ernest	127	Co. "I"	19th INF	1
Price	Bruce	065	Co. "C"	19th INF	
Reising	Robert	135	Co. "K"	19th INF	
Riegler	Norman	078	Co. "C"	19th INF	
Schwerin	Harlan	125	M 3rd BN	19th INF	1
Spencer	David	028	Co. "K"	19th INF	
Spicer	Gene	100	Co. "HQ"	19th INF	
Sweeney	Joe	054	Co. "G"	19th INF	1
Thornton	William	030	Co. "A"	19th INF	1
Toninato	Leo	103	Co. "G."	19th INF	1
Carter	Harvey	004	Co. "B"	19th INF	
Lee	Jack	017	Co. "A"	21st INF	
Shortnacy	Harold	027	Co. "H"	21st INF	1
Acker	Wilford	138		21st INF	
Brault	Charles	146	Co. "L"	21st INF	1
Chavez	Alfonso	075	Co. "K"	21st INF	
Choate	R. Gerald	113	Co. "H"	21st INF	
Clinton	Patrick	116	Co. "H"	21st INF	
Crosson	Hugh	098	Co. "H"	21st INF	
Crowe	Moody	144	Co. "C"	21st INF	
Dame	Donald	067	Co. "K"	21st INF	
Davignon	Leo	109	Co. "G & H"	21st INF	
Donovan	Basil	066	Co. "K"	21st INF	
Duke	Walter	106	Co. "K"	21st INF	1
Eager	Milton	124	Co. "D"	21st INF	
Evins	Robert	136	HQ" Co.	21st INF	
Farmer	Edward	097	Co. "H"	21st INF	
Ford	C. Rucker	114	Co. "E"	21st INF	
Frey	John	112	Co. "H"	21st INF	
Gazzara	Charles	057	Co. "E"	21st INF	
Gomez	Joaquin	117	Co. "H"	21st INF	
Hagen	Keith	010	Co. "I"	21st INF	
Hayes	Clinton	107	Co. "H"	21st INF	
Hoop	Vaughn	071	Co. "K"	21st INF	
Kerns	William	167	Co. "D"	21st INF	1
King	John	160	HQ Co. 1st BN	21st INF	
Krejci	Jerome	164	Co. "D"	21st INF	
Lemon	James	073	Co. "K"	21st INF	
Lumsden	Howard	163	Co. "L"	21st INF	
Martin	Floyd	162	HQ Co. 1st BN	21st INF	
Monti	Konrad	093	Co. "D"	21st INF	
Mullin	William J.	058	Co. "H"	21st INF	
Newkirk	Robert	020	Co. "D"	21st INF	
Olivo	Jerry	145	Co. "K"	21st INF	
Payne	Joe	140		21st INF	
Peters	Harold	001	Co. "G"	21st INF	
Porter	John	059	HQ 2 BN	21st INF	
Ragland	John	108	Co. "D"	21st INF	
Ragland	V. L.	126	Co. "D"	21st INF	1
Ray	James M.	151	HQ" Co.	21st INF	
Reichman	Marvin	074	Co. "K"	21st INF	
Riddle	Arnold	024	Co. "H"	21st INF	

COMPANY AND UNIT

Last Name:	First Name:	Control	Company:	Unit:	First Timer:
Risceck	Walter	070	Co. "D"	21st INF	
Rodriguez	Johnny	025		21st INF	
Sacchitella	Michael	026	HQ" Co.	21st INF	
Schaaf	Valentine	115	Co. "H"	21st INF	
Stokes	Douglas	029	Co. "G"	21st INF	1
Thiel	Mike	110	Co. "L"	21st INF	
Vella	Vincent	034	Co "K"	21st INF	
Waterkamp	Gary	037	Co. "I"	21st INF	
Weber	Rudolph	039	Co. "K"	21st INF	
Welch	Francis	040	Co "L"	21st INF	
Williams	Donald	069	Co. "K"	21st INF	
Wolak	Norman	169	Co. "G"	21st INF	
O'Donnell	Spike	159	Co. "G" 1st BN	24st INF	
Riter	Gordon	119		24th SIG Co.	
Kuhner	Wallace	016		24th CAC Recon	
Altieri	Alphonso	090		24th DIV	1
Broderick	Thomas	003	MED BN	24th Div	
Uting	George	139		24th DIV	
Phillips	Robert	023		24th MED BN	1
Wallace	Zane	036		24th RECON	
Dolchow	Jack	083		24th RECON Co.	1
Kalich	Stanley	063		24th RECON Co.	1
Franke	William	008		24th SIG Co.	
Paraska	Robert	076		24th SIG Co.	
Boardman	Clifford	080		339th ENG	
Knutson	Karel	099		339th ENG	
Hawk	Eugene	134	Co. "L & G"	34th & 21st INF	
Armayer	Arthur	147	Co. "H"	34th INF	
Brown	Louis	150	Serv.	34th INF	
Brown	Mryl	170	Co. "M"	34th INF	
Calihan	Ray	153	Co. "L"	34th INF	
Cameron	Donald	149	HQ Co. 2nd BN	34th INF	
Davis	Theodore	154	Co. "L"	34th INF	
Diller	Eric	049		34th INF	
Freeman	L. L.	009	Co. "C"	34th INF	
Garland	Max	050	Co. "G"	34th INF	
Gosztyla	Henry	166	Co. "B"	34th INF	
Hartman	William	079	CN' Co.	34th INF	
Henninger	William	101	Co. "D"	34th INF	
Kirk	Jack	085	Co. "E"	34th INF	
Lockwood	Francis	102	Co. "F"	34th INF	
Montaglione	Angelo	048		34th INF	
Nast	Philip	045	Co. "I"	34th INF	1
Olson	Robert A.	047	Co. "M"	34th INF	
Osborn	Robert	165	Service	34th INF	
Shields	Edward	068	HQ. Co. 2nd BN	34th INF	
Sullivan	James	171	Co. "K"	34th INF	
Valles	Daniel	172	Co. "K"	34th INF	
Vickers	William	035	Co. "HQ"	34th INF	
Wahle	Ben	051	Co. "G"	34th INF	1
Whisler	John	152	"HQ" Co	34th INF	
Fecko	John	120	Med Det	3rd ENG	1
Perry	Miller	022		52nd FA BN	1

COMPANY AND UNIT

Last Name:	First Name:	Control	Company:	Unit:	First Timer:
Fraser	Paul	061		52nd & 63rd FA	
Pitney	Col. Max L.	060		52nd & 63rd FA	
Roussel	John	056		52nd FA	
Wells	Richard	041		52nd FA	
Fentner	Kenneth	044		52nd FAB	
Doerr	Frank	123		5th RCT	
Hardin	Robert	043	Co. "I"	5th RCT	
Laabs	Merlin	088		5th RCT	
Mayo	Glenn	157		5th RCT	
Polemeni	Anthony	122	Co. "K"	5th RCT	
Mc Kinstry	Wayne	168		63rd FA	1
Schaad	Carl	062		63rd FA	
Weber	Eric	038		724 ORD	
Boylan	James	128		72nd ENGR 5th F	1
Upton	Thomas	033		Div HQ	
Ross	Kenwood	081		Div. HQ	
Payne	David	055		HQ BTRY 11th F	
Trebonyak	Jodeph	072		HQ BTRY 13th F	
Jay	Douglas	096		HQ Co. 24th DIV	

ATTENTION DOG FACES

The 1997 West Coast Mini Reunion has been moved **inland** to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Date: April 9 through April 13, 1997
 Hotel: Pinnacle 4 Seasons
 Rate: \$64.00 Single/Double Same rate 2 days before and after

A Saturday night dinner and Sunday morning farewell Buffet Breakfast are in the process of being finalized. Other things to see and do that are being planned include the following:

- Hot Air Balloon Flights, including a Champagne Breakfast at the site
- Los Amigos Cookout on an Indian Reservation with authentic Aztec Indian Ritual Dances
- Kirtland Air force Base and Sandia Atomic Lab tour with lunch at the O Club on the Base

Look for further details and prices for the above in next Taro Leaf. All members of the 24th are welcome. The Adventure begins in Albuquerque.

Donald Barrett
 Reunion Coordinator
 2854 Pinckard Ave
 Redondo Beach, Ca 90278
 310 3702095

COMBAT CONDITIONING (Baptism Of Fire)

The war in Korea was fought with only half hearted support of the people. People who were still celebrating their victory in WWII. The returning GI's were going about their daily lives in an effort to build their well deserved American Dream. Our government had the A-bomb. No country would dare challenge us and risk nuclear devastation. We became complacent, as a nation, ignoring trouble spots around the world and content with enriching our own lives.

During the five year interval between the end of WWII and the beginning of the Korean "Police Action", we systematically gutted our military. With the help of Louis Johnson, then the Secretary of Defense, the democrats rode roughshod over the Pentagon. When hostilities began in Korea, our military was in shambles and scattered around the world. Most units were just a skeleton of its former self with a cadre of career soldiers.

I enlisted on December 7, 1947. Basic training was thirteen weeks at that time, later to be cut to eight weeks. I took a six week course in leadership before leaving Ft. Jackson S.C. on my way overseas. In mid summer 1948 I found myself in Japan. Stationed in Tokyo GHQ for a few months, I transferred to the 34th Inf Regt in the early spring of 1949. Stationed at Camp Mower, near Sasebo, I enjoyed the easy life we had there.

As part of the 24th ID, the 34th regt consisted of just two battalions. We played war games but our minds were on other things. Off duty hours and a trip to town. The cabarets and bars of Sasebo got rich off our money. Many of the officers and men alike had Japanese girl friends. Like GI's anywhere, we quarreled and sometimes fought with each other. We also built lasting friendships. We had our share of misfits and trouble makers and they were dealt with fairly, in my view. Alcohol abuse was widespread and usually ignored as long as it didn't spill over into duty hours.

We took a few hikes around the Widows' Tit, an aptly named mountain known to all GI's that ever passed through Camp Mower. We had some classroom training, some good and some not so good. We experienced monsoon rains and knee deep mud in the field, but only in small doses. Until just prior to the outbreak of war in Korea, our field experience was like a Boy Scout camp out. Back in the barracks at night to sleep between clean sheets and get a hot shower. Our minds, without realizing it, began to develop some erroneous notions about wartime living conditions. Of course we all knew better, but then again, perhaps we didn't. It was already too late when our training turned serious.

Mud and rain and cold were familiar to us on maneuvers in the mountains of Japan. Even there, we slept on cots inside of 12 man tents. War games went on day and night, however, until a rainy Sunday night 25 June 1950. We were abruptly awakened around midnight and ordered to strike tents. After a long ride in the back of a truck, we arrived back at Camp Mower. Almost in shock at that point, we were issued live ammo including grenades. We cleaned our equipment and wrote a few letters. Several departure times came and went while we waited and wondered. Obviously, we were going to Korea, but when? We packed up our personal things in our footlockers on which we had stenciled our home address. We carried those to a warehouse to be shipped home by the army. To my knowledge, nobody has received their locker to this day.

As lacking as our training might have been, I recall trying to remember every bit of it on the boat ride to Pusan. We boarded a train and started north. We saw car after car of wounded soldiers and civilians as other trains passed. Butterflies flapped their wings inside our stomachs. My mouth became dry. I could see in their faces that others were going through similar

experiences. I tried to imagine what they were thinking. Would I measure up? Lost in thought, my whole life was relived on that train ride.

The train departed south, leaving us stumbling in the dark under the weight of our full field equipment. In the distance we could see and hear artillery fire on the horizon. At first it appeared to be lightning but it had a cadence to the point where you could predict the next shot. We hiked over a narrow path between a series of rice paddies till we reached a hill overlooking the road and the railroad. To our front was a bridge some 600 yards away that we were to zero in on. Beyond the bridge, the road faded away around a cut through a hill. We dug in to wait. At this point we begin to play mind games. Noises could be heard beyond the bridge out of sight. Imagination and anxiety can play hell with ones nerves. Trying to stay calm is damn near impossible. Through the day and through the night we waited.

At dawn there was a heavy fog over the whole area. The unmistakable sounds of tanks could be heard in the distance. As visibility grew from 300 to 400 yards I could faintly see the vague outline of the lead tank. For a time it just sat there while the sun burned away the fog. Looking out across the hills, I saw enemy troops swarming in our direction. The tank came forward, revealing a column where I counted 13 but couldn't see the end. Our mortars opened fire as the lead tank approached the bridge. After several misses, one tank was destroyed and another damaged. Still they came. The lead tank now aimed its gun directly at me and fired. I can still see the ring of smoke around the gun muzzle. The shell landed a few yards behind me near the CP. Almost immediately, we got the order to withdraw. That is, all but our outpost by the bridge. Nineteen men from the 1st platoon including Lt Driskoll were lost that day.

We scrambled off the hill into the rice paddies in no particular order. They called it a bug out. They were right. We were an embarrassment to ourselves that day. In our anxiety to leave, we left behind everything but our weapons. As the day wore on, we were gathered up in small groups by the few seasoned NCO's we had and eventually regrouped with Captain Osburn and the rest of company A. On a forced march now, we hurried to take up new positions. Seeing how vulnerable we were as individuals, our attitudes began to change. The shock of being fired upon made obvious the value of teamwork. No one is immune from becoming a casualty in war. Without training and teamwork it is almost a certainty.

I submit that we of the 34th infantry, in 1950, were no different than any other green troops when committed to battle. I resent any inferences to the contrary. Anyone going into battle will experience a period of shock when shot at for the first time. Recovery time varies from a few hours to forever, depending on how much baptism you experienced. It never gets better but you learn to deal with it. A wise old sergeant once told me that if you survive your first day in combat, you stand a good chance of surviving the war. At the time, I thought he was full of beans but I later learned he was talking about the baptism of fire. You learn quickly how to survive or you die. It's that simple. How much better would it be, were it possible to impart that mind set to our recruits in basic training?

I can still see the faces of the men in Company A. Some of their names escape me now as I start my first year on Medicare but their faces remain forever young. I was and still am proud to have served with these men of the 34th regiment. Under the same circumstances, I would do it again. However, the current political climate is such that if I was drafted, they would have to drag me off kicking and screaming all the way. A climate that allows our flag to be burned as a political statement is perverted. Let us go about the task of changing it with our votes.

C W Johnson 5-17-96

-WANTED-

PRESENT LOCATION of-

1ST LT.
DON. S. BRIMBALL
(HOLDEN, UTAH.)

6TH TANK BN.-Co. "C"

24TH INF. DIV. (SUPPORT
FOR THE 19TH)
(10 JAN. 52)

ANYONE-ie- FAMILY-
RELATIVES-NEIGHBORS-
FRIENDS of DON-----
PLEASE NOTIFY-----



Harry M Schultz *
202 1st Ave NE
Lutz FL 33549

* 1-813-949-1185
* SIGNAL PHOTOGRAPHER



ATLEE COLVIN

KEN SMITH

DICK LEWIS (5th RCT), of Box 1776, Fredrick MD is happy. He found two chaps who live 2 blocks from each other and neither knew of the other. They are ATLEE COLVIN and KEN SMITH, both Bare Bayonet Bastards of B of the 5th. Dick brought them together. He writes: "They shook hands and then the combat brother half-embrace. Atlee Colvin had been seriously wounded on a hill in Korea in Feb. '52, Ken Smith told him all about the terrain that it happened on. This after some 40 years and now they live two blocks from each other. After going the extra mile, for something like this to happen, it is truly gratifying and most rewarding."

Great story, Dick, but you gave us no addresses - not even the town.

Learn from the mistakes of others - you can never live long enough to make them all yourself.

Leslie L Blouin (Doc)
13 George circle
Mechanicsburg, Pa 17055-4708
Tel: 717 697-8455
13th Hq & Hq Btry F.A.Bn.
(June 1949-July 1951)
Hq & Hq Co 19th Inf Regt
(December 1955-April 1956)
Retired after 22 plus years
as a CWO-3. Currently work
for thge Navy as a logistics
supervisor. My wife Doris and
I make our home at the above
address. We've been here for
20 years and love Pa. Have
recently been in touch with
Harold Golnick, Ray Sharp and
Don Hand all of Hq & Hq in
Korea. Would like to hear
from any others who served
with us. All four are plan-
ning to be at the reunion in
Nashville in September. There
are many others that I've
read about in the Taro Leaf
who I'm looking forward to
seeing again. 24 April 1995

PENTAGON GETS FACELIFT

The Pentagon is in the midst of a \$1.2 billion, 12-year renovation, that will modernize the 52-year old building. The largest military construction project ever undertaken by the Army Corps of Engineers' Baltimore District began in early 1993 with construction of a heating and refrigeration plant. Renovation of the basement began in October 1994. Preparations are underway to renovate the first of the building's five sections. Improvements include an incinerator, with a capacity of two tons per hour, to handle classified material from the Pentagon and Washington area. Two tons per hour - of waste paper? WOW!!

■ Sleep is still the best eraser in the world.

O.A. BATTISTA

Liberty (Ind.) Soldier Helps Capture First Japanese Prisoner On Hollandia

By MURLIN BRENCER.

With the Americans at Hollandia, New Guinea, April 27 (Delayed) —(AP)—Weary soldiers of the 11th Division captured the great Hollandia airdrome yesterday and spent the night in the charred wreckage of Japan's once-formidable Hollandia airbase.

Sweeping forward over a high hill, they looked upon the airfield. Nothing remained but a burial ground for Zeros and two-engined bombers, destroyed on the ground in the Fifth Air Force's devastating aerial blitz.

Occupation of the airdrome, near the towering Cyclops mountains, climaxed a tortuous 20-mile march over a trail so difficult no vehicle could follow. The Japanese had fled and there was no fight, for which these troops had hoped.

Witness to Victory.

I accompanied the Americans on their four-and-a-half-day march and was the only American war correspondent to watch the Hollandia airdrome fall.

On the first day Private First Class Belvin Martin of Tulsa, Tex., shot a Japanese who penetrated the defense perimeter, and this Japanese was the first credited to the division. Next day Sergt. Vincent Sandercack of Pen Argyl, Pa., and Private First Class Robert Pettibone of Liberty, Ind., dove into the bush and brought out the first enemy prisoner taken by the division.

As the troops advanced they kept asking: "Wonder when the tanks and trucks will get up?" They didn't know a torrential rain-storm had swept one caterpillar tractor over a cliff and buried another in a landslide and that tanks couldn't get through.

Food Problem Serious.

The food supply problem got serious the third day. The air force was called in and supplies were dropped by parachute, but even then the ground troops remained on meager rations for the whole operation.

At night they slept in foxholes dug in Hollandia's red clay. Palm leaves provided a measure of cover from the rain. They took quick baths whenever they found a likely stream.

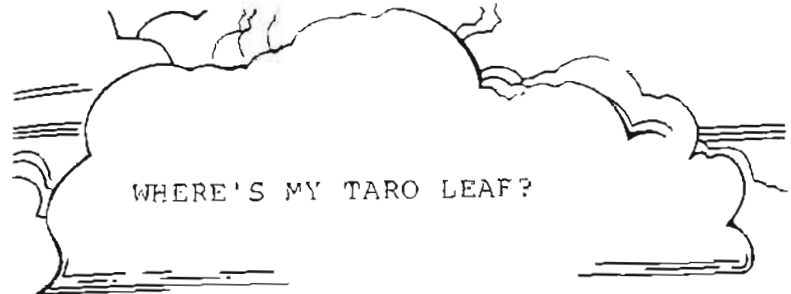
From the standpoint of spectacular warfare this operation was disappointing to the troops because there were only minor skirmishes. But strategically it meant the capture of an important base with only a handful of casualties.

And this new base points toward the Philippines, to which Gen. Douglas MacArthur plans to return in the distant future.

People who park outside someone's window and honk the horn for several minutes trying to get the attention of whoever's in the house should be publicly flogged. If they do it at night, they should be executed.

Controversy is an Editor's middle name.

F'r instance, here comes BOB PETTIBONE with more info on who was the first to give a KIA to a Jap on Hollandia. Sez Bob: "It was I and here's an AP release to prove it."





DIVISION ARTILLERY

On a shield of the colors, red for Artillery, bordered by a narrow edge of gold. The shield is split with a diagonal ribbon of white on which are five stars denoting the five major campaigns in which Division Artillery has participated.

In the upper right corner is a black lion, which originated with the 11th Field Artillery Regiment of the old Hawaiian Division. Division Headquarters (Artillery) was later formed from this regiment.

Palm trees and a strip of island are superimposed on a rising sun in the lower left of the crest. The palm trees and island signify Hawaii, where DivArty originated. The rising sun indicates the Far East, where Division Artillery served during World War II.

Motto of DivArty is *"Victory Follows Me."*

On 1 October 1941, when the 24th and 25th Infantry Divisions were formed from the Hawaiian Division, Headquarters Battery of the old 11th Field Artillery Regiment became Headquarters Battery, 24th Division Artillery. The 11th Regiment became the 11th Battalion.

At that time Division Artillery was composed of the 8th, 52nd, 63rd and 11th Field Artillery Battalions. The 13th Field Artillery Battalion replaced the 8th immediately after activation and today these four battalions make up Division Artillery.

All of these units went through the Japanese sneak attack of 7 December 1941 and then followed months of training and equipping for the task that lay ahead.

After taking an active part in the defense of the northern part of Oahu, which was the task assigned the Division after war began, the Battalions went to Australia with the 24th Division for training in all phases of jungle and amphibious warfare. During September and October of 1943 all units of Division Artillery studied and trained at the Amphibious Training Center at Toorbul Point, Australia.

The stay in Australia lasted for five and one-half months. On 15 February 1944 DivArty moved to Goodenough Island, a tiny bit of land off the southeastern tail of New Guinea. Here the routine of preparation continued for two more months. Finally, the opportunity to enter combat came when the artillery stood by to land at Tanahmerah Bay on the northern coast of Dutch New Guinea. The assault waves went ashore on 22 April 1944 but encountered no resistance. When the artillery unloaded, however, it quickly mired down, for the beach had a swamp which had not been discovered in reconnaissance. Numerous other obstacles arose. Consequently, for the first several days, the inland moving infantry had to be supplied by human carrying and there was little chance for artillery to maintain the pace. Even so, a few 105's of the 11th Field Artillery Battalion went into battery on the beach at Tanahmerah Bay and fired towards the airstrips which were the goal of the operation.

By 6 June Hollandia airstrip was secured and the operation completed. Development of the strip began at once, a development which, at length, turned Hollandia into an important air base for the ensuing movement toward the Philippines. Although terrain has hampered the use of big guns, Division Artillery had played an important part in killing 3,300 Japanese soldiers who died during the operation. As a token of recognition for its participation in this operation DivArty carries its colors a streamer embroidered "New Guinea". Also embroidered on that streamer is an arrowhead, symbolizing the assault landing.

From Hollandia the advance of the Allies inched along the coast of New Guinea toward Japan. The islands of Biak and Neomfoor were occupied in the early fall. Later the Vogelkopf Peninsula fell and beyond it, toward Japan, Morotai in the Halmahera group. On 20 October the 24th Division Artillery got still another opportunity to face the enemy.

Division Artillery loaded into naval vessels on 13 October 1944 and sailed out to the northwest. For the next week it moved across the vast waters of the Southwest Pacific. Fifteen hundred miles from the point of embarkation it anchored among the islands of the Philippines, prepared to cut one out of the middle and make an assault. On 20 October two regiments of the 24th Division stormed ashore at San Pedro Bay, Leyte. The artillery followed the foot soldiers ashore. The battalions immediately set up on Red Beach and commenced to fire in support of the infantry.

Once a beachhead was established, the artillery followed the assault troops across the island through the Leyte Valley, plastering the jungle with high explosives. Twelve days later, having reached Carigara Bay on the other side of the island, they cut off the northern neck of Leyte. Every foot of the way called for human agony. The Artillery often found itself fighting as line infantry. On 5 November, for example, 50 Japanese attacked and surrounded the Observation Post of the 52nd Field Artillery Battalion. Manning a good tight perimeter, the redlegs killed 16 of the attackers while sustaining only one casualty.

From the landing on 20 October to 14 November, the units of DivArty fired 19,325 rounds at the stubborn enemy. This included 105, 155 and 90 millimeter ammunition. The enemy retaliated mostly with 75 millimeter explosives. While DivArty's guns were sometimes concentrated on the foe, the Japanese seldom fired more than two guns together.

When the ridges were captured on Leyte the reoccupation of that island was, in the main, completed. This was accomplished by the end of 1944. For its part in this conquest DivArty carries on its colors a streamer embroidered "Leyte" with an arrowhead symbolizing the landing at San Pedro Bay.

After Leyte there followed a few months of rehearsal for new amphibious assaults. Certain islands in the vicinity were taken. Some of them, like Mindoro, fell without much struggle. These were but preliminaries for the attack on the second largest island of the Philippines, Mindanao.

The assault on Mindanao went by the code name of V-5 and began at Parang on the Moro Gulf on 17 April 1945. Here DivArty was on ground over which the United States Army had fought 30 odd years earlier to subdue fierce Moros during the insurrection. For this operation additional 105's were attached to DivArty, plus three batteries of heavies, one of 155 guns, one of 90 millimeter anti-aircraft guns, and one of eight inch howitzers.

The landing was unopposed but not the movement across the island. The objective, Davao, southeast from the landing beaches on the other shore, was an important Japanese base. Conditions on Mindanao frequently required the use of artillery in a most unorthodox way. For example, jeeps were widely employed as prime movers. At times it was even necessary to push cannon over paths and shaky pole bridges by hand.

It was in this operation that the 90 millimeter anti-aircraft guns gained popularity among redleg officers. They relied on this weapon whenever direct high velocity shelling of ground targets was called for, and it was most effective.

It took just two weeks of hard fighting to reach Davao, a distance of 153 miles from the initial point. The capture of this important base, however, by no means ended the campaign. The struggle continued from 17 April until 30 June, a total of 75 man-killing days. The Japanese were, at times, ensconced in a system of caves where they were virtually immune to the effects of artillery shells. The howitzers then had to enter into close liaison with the infantry and engineers to clear these caves. They fired pointblank at the apertures while infantrymen and engineers closed in the demolitions equipment, flamethrowers and bulldozers to seal the caves and bury their defenders. Ninety milli-meter guns, in pointblank firing, again proved invaluable.

During the V-5 operation, Artillery rained a total of 97,155 rounds on the enemy. Every conceivable grouping of artillery pieces was used to back the movement of the foot soldiers.

Following this encounter, DivArty remained at Mindanao and was at that location when work came on 15 August that the war had ended.

Late in September DivArty began to train for occupation duty in Japan. This movement took place in October and DivArty established itself on Honshu on the 22nd of that month.

At the onset of the Korean conflict, the 52nd Field's A Battery accompanied the meager delaying force from the 21st Regiment in the daring actions of "Task Force Smith." On the heels of this battery came DivArty's relief force, A Battery of the 63rd Field, A and B Batteries of the 11th Field, and A Battery of the 13th Field.

During the early stages of fighting, Division Artillery units experienced the same hardships and misfortunes of war as did all elements of the 24th Division. Positions were overrun, casualties were high, equipment was abandoned or destroyed and personnel were haggard and weary in the face of an unfamiliar enemy.

The 63rd was hit the hardest and almost depleted. From this ill-fated Battalion came such casualty reports as "Headquarters Battery . . . four dead three wounded, 98 missing. . . ."

The 63rd Field was reduced to zero strength and transferred on paper back to Japan. They were replaced by the 555th ("Triple Nickel") Field Artillery Battalion which, in an attached status, was overrun three times during the course of the fighting.

As the Division fought tooth and nail to hold the shrinking Pusan Perimeter, DivArty's "big iron" was employed as direct fire weapons at ranges from 100 to 1000 yards in an attempt to repulse the never ending waves of North Korean attackers.

When the United Nations launched its first crushing drive north, redlegs spent many a sleepless night trying to keep up with the ever advancing infantrymen. It was at the apex of this sustained drive that the Chinese Communist intervened, and the Division was in for another nightmare.

At Sinanju, near the Korean-Manchurian border, bitter fighting ensued. United Nations forces attempted an orderly withdrawal but the red masses were too much to contain. Again, as at Taejon and Taegu, weapons and equipment were destroyed, positions were overrun, casualties mounted and a weary, haggard Division Artillery withdrew tortuously southward, fighting fiercely out of the jaws of the communist trap.

Upon reaching the south, Division Artillery resumed its role of supporting the infantry. It fought up and down the battlefields and mountains of Korea with the Division, pouring countless rounds into enemy positions.

Division Artillery returned to Japan with the 24th in January of 1952 and began an intensive training program that lasted until July, 1953, when it again returned to Korea.

Only the 63rd Field Artillery Battalion, however, saw action in this second tour, again moving from place to place to shell the enemy.

With the signing of the cease fire, DivArty established headquarters at Taegu and settled down to guarding prisoners of war and important installations in South Korea.

Division Artillery, along with all other elements of the 24th Division, moved north of the 38th Parallel again in March of 1954 when the 24th took over the positions of the homeward bound 45th Division



Mr. James F. Hill

14 July 96

Dear Jim,

Many thanks for your nice note. Tomorrow I give up command of the 3rd Inf Div and the next day leave for my new duties in Hawaii - birthplace of our beloved Victory Division. My close association with the 24th Div and its brave, heroic veterans will remain my proudest memory.

Best wishes to you and all the great members of the 24th ID Association.

VICTORY!

Jaehde Francisco
MG, USA



24th MEDICAL BATTALION

On a field of sanguin, the nearest heraldic color to maroon, are superimposed in white, the letters spelling "Curare", the motto of the Battalion. The word means "To Care For".

On a wreath of the colors is the rim of the earth with a dimisun rising over the horizon. This denotes the Medical Corps' never ending battle of medicine, come rain, come shine.

The 24th Medical Battalion had its birth from the 11th Medical Regiment in Hawaii on 1 October 1941 with the activation of the 24th Infantry Division.

This unit trained throughout the months which followed the attack on Pearl Harbor and went with the Division to Australia in 1943. The first taste of action came to the medics on New Guinea at Tanahmerah Bay when they performed the difficult task of evacuating wounded over almost impassable jungle trails.

On Leyte the difficulties in evacuating wounded were doubled, but the men of the 24th Medical Battalion succeeded by foot, Jeep, raft or any other available means in transporting litter cases to rear areas for treatment. Forward elements of the Battalion had to fight with the Infantry to guard perimeters.

Following the Leyte campaign, Company B of the Battalion accompanied the 19th Infantry in the Mindoro operation and Company C went to Luzon with the 34th Infantry. In the latter action the medics were kept busy day and night, especially at Corregidor, where the carnage was terrible and the facilities meager.

On Mindoro and Mindanao the story was the same. The medics, now well experienced in battle, had to provide their own cover for the litter parties and evacuate wounded over torturous trails.

The 24th Medical Battalion accompanied the 24th Division to Japan for occupation duty when World War II came to a close. When the Korean conflict broke out on 25 June 1950 the Battalion was stationed at Kyushu, Japan.

In the Korean action the 24th Medical Battalion again showed its mettle by evacuating and treating thousands of wounded under fire. In the early stages of the fighting the Battalion was often forced to provide its own infantry support during evacuation procedures. The job of the Battalion was increased many times by the numbers of Korean citizens and soldiers, both friendly and hostile, who came seeking medical aid.

Although the Battalion did not have jungles to contend with as it did in World War II, the Korean terrain was equally difficult in a different way. The use of helicopters greatly increased the effectiveness of the Battalion, since the rugged and mountainous terrain often made other means of evacuation virtually impossible.

Returning to Japan with the 24th Division in February of 1952, the various companies of the Battalion were scattered throughout the main island of Honshu, giving medical care to the widely dispersed 24th Division.

In Korea again in July, 1953, the 24th Medical Battalion again scattered its units to give the necessary medical assistance to all of the troops of the Division.

In February, 1954, when the 24th Division moved north to occupy positions above the 38th Parallel, the Medical Battalion went too. It is in this position that the 24th Medical Battalion is continuing to live up to its motto, "Curare" (To Care For).



24th AVIATION COMPANY (PROVISIONAL)

Superimposed on the insignia of the 24th Infantry Division, a Taro Leaf, is an L-19 type aircraft. The aircraft bears the number 482, the same as the plane of the Division Aviation Officer. Astride the fuselage of the airplane sits a red devil wearing a pair of earphones and holding in his hands a pair of binoculars.

The phones and binoculars denote the 24th Aviation Company's role as aerial observer. During the Korean conflict these "Devils" flew countless missions in reconnaissance and observation

Nickname of the Company is the "Devils".

The 24th Division Aviation Company (Provisional) is actually the youngest organic member of the 24th Infantry Division.

Inaugurated on 1 March 1954, the Company was formerly a portion of G4 and was composed of various elements of the Division. Wide disbursement of the Division prevented a previous consolidation.

The normal operations of the Company consist of aerial observation and surveillance of all battalion, regimental and division maneuvers. This, however, is only a portion of the duties of the Company. Administrative flights have, since the war ended, taken the majority of the air hours of the Company. Because of the extreme location of the Division the "Devils" spend the major portion of their flying time in a "taxi" capacity; that is, ferrying Division personnel from place to place in Korea.

The Company also flies training missions, photographic and recon flights as well as insecticide spraying and maintenance tests.

The Division air strip is a popular and well known location, for it is here that all Division reviews are held. During these reviews the Devil pilots perform various maneuvers for visiting dignitaries.

Although a youngster in the formation of the 24th Infantry Division, the 24th Aviation Company (Provisional) is nonetheless an important and vital element of an efficient combat team.

Men earning the Combat Infantry Badge are eligible for membership in the CIB Assoc., 138 Locust Av., New Rochelle NY 10805. For information send self addressed #10 envelope.

RALPH PFISTER (24 Med. '41-'42) left 2925 Soft Wind, Ft. Worth TX and hit the road. Here's his report: "Just returned from my first visit to Hawaii in 50½ years. Left the 24th Med. Bn. in Dec. '42 for OCS. It certainly wasn't the Hawaii that I knew then. The Aloha Tower was the tallest building in Honolulu!

"Schofield Barracks still had the old movie theater, Bell bowl, etc. The old 11th Med. Regt. barracks gave way to the PX and Commissary shopping center. Lots of quarters built so it was hard to pinpoint. Did get up to the sacrificial rock at Kolohe Pass. Made the Arizona also.

"It was a good trip but not one that I intend to make again. My wife, daughter, her husband and our two grandchildren were along so they saw where Daddy and Grandpaw spent 2½ years in peace and war."

Here's a tear jerker from CHESTER and Berdelle ANDERSON (B 3rd Eng. '43-'45) who write from Box 15, Plevna MT., "I'm back and I'd better pay my dues as I like to read about my buddies and all that was in the 24th. I hear from some of them in the 3rd engineers and really enjoy it.

"The wife and I had it all planned to go to the reunion a year ago but she had a stroke so that put an end to it all. She is paralyzed. She and I live alone in our house so I have a full time job.

"I hope someday we can make it to a reunion but I guess that will never be. My wife is 77 and I'm 79 so our traveling is about over.

"I'll say hello to everyone and sign off."

Neighbor of ours was through France and Germany during the WW II unpleasantness. He says that during the winter, all of their trucks had stenciled in white letters on the radiators the word PRESTONE. He says that in France when they finally broke out of the hedgerows into open country every village and town we went through had people standing along the road waving and shouting: "VIVE LA FRANCE! VIVE L'AMERIQUE! VIVE LE PRESTONE!"

Former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Frederick C. Weyand relates that one of his annual physicals was conducted by a very young, very nervous Army doctor. After an examination from, quite literally, head to toe, the young doctor hesitatingly inquired, "Sir, should I address you as chief or as general?" Weyand smiled and replied, "Son, after what we've just been through together, why don't you just call me Fred?"

When was the last time you wrote a letter to Taro Leaf? Just a postal card would denote your interest and let some buddy know where you are. You like to read what other members send in...why not do your own part and write a few lines now and then for their enjoyment.

BOB MANSON has an idea - a small Division flag for your vehicle antenna so as to help you find yours in a parking lot. Any takers? Would you buy one? What would you be willing to pay for it? Your thoughts will be welcomed.

MELVIN KAHLE (19th WWII), of RR5, Box 330, Ponca City OK 74601 is as busy as a prostitute on a troopship. He was going through some old papers and found this item - 52 years old. Oklahomans were recognized back at home. Right?

Oklahomans Fight In Lost Battalion Of Battle on Leyte

By JAMES HUTCHESON

WITH THE 24TH DIVISION IN
THE PHILIPPINES—(Delayed)—A low.

The second battalion of this division's Civil war-famed 19th regiment carved an historic niche in the annals of Leyte reconquest with an epic of grim courage and determination against overwhelming odds at the critical peak of fighting for the Ormoc corridor.

It became known as Leyte's "lost battalion."

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

The battalion was commanded by Lieut.-Col. Robert B. Spragens, Evanston, Ill.

Eat Rice of Dead Japs

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

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

Patrols fought for food dropped by airplane. They fought for water from a mountain stream. The number of wounded in foxholes increased alarmingly. Medicine ran low.

But they clung doggedly to the block across the vital supply road until ordered out. The retirement took another four days of fighting.

When the battered battalion finally reached the main American forces, its casualties were 10 per cent killed or wounded. It had counted 600 dead Japanese and many more undoubtedly were pulled away during night attacks.

Oklahomans in Battle

Men from Oklahoma who fought with the battalion and came through safely included: Corp. Milton Coffey, Garvin; Sgt. Wesley Green, Fort Gibson; Corp. Glen Haley, Broken Bow; Sgt. Jordan R. Pybas, Jr., Oklahoma City; Pfc. Morris E. Ridgeway, Hunter; Pfc. Rolfe Cooper, Fort Gibson; Pfc. Wilmer Lipps, Hobart; Pfc. Eddie G. McClaskey, Henryetta; Pfc. Cecil W. Wykel, Hominy; Pfc. Foy Pitman, McCloud; Pfc. Vernon W. Reed, Lulu; Pvt. Fred Baker, Bristow; Pfc. Cecil Caldwell, Stilwell; Second Lieut. Lloyd A. Hess, Salina; Pfc. George W. Hutchings, Fort Gibson; Pfc. Melvin F. Kahle, Kildare; Pvt. Victor Anderson, Miller; Pfc. Herman Tucker, Baileyville; Pfc. Raymond C. Welchel, Cloud Chief; Pvt. Wilbur F. Renner, Muskogee.

Men from Kansas who were members of the battalion and came through safely included Pfc. Max W. Miller, route 3, Winfield; Corp. Ralph E. Prouty, Winfield, and Sgt. Jesse B. Simpson, route 4, Winfield.



SGT. GEORGE DOLTON LIBBY

Company C, 3rd Engineer Battalion

Sgt. Libby - with several members of an engineer platoon - was withdrawing in convoy from Taejon on 20 July 1950, when the truck was disabled at a roadblock by enemy rifle fire. Every occupant, with the exception of Libby, was either killed or injured. After twice crossing the highway to aid his wounded comrades he took cover in a drainage ditch alongside the road and returned enemy fire with his carbine. When an M-5 artillery tractor chanced by he lifted a wounded man aboard and mounted the cab of the prime mover. Noting that the enemy was now directing fire at the driver and realizing that no one else could operate the controls, he boldly stationed himself, completely exposed, between the driver and the enemy and answered their fire, killing and wounding a number of the ambushers. He refused first aid for the deep wounds in his arms and legs, but continued to shield the M-5 driver with his own body while he countered the fire of the Communists. As the tractor sped to safety he lost consciousness and collapsed, fatally weakened from the loss of blood. He received the Medal of Honor.

ANYONE KNOW WHO DROVE THIS TRACTOR?

Dear Editor:

Over the years I have viewed "Victory At Sea"; Invasion of the Philippine Islands everytime it was on T.V. I being attached to Co. E, 34th Infantry, 24th Inf. Div. as one of two first aidmen from the 2nd Bn, Medical Detachment, the other first aidman was Edwardo Parra. After a fierce 4 day battle we finally recaptured Tacloban, Leyte Island, P.I. in October 1944.

After a day or two to clean up and rest up we split and columned thru the village of Tacloban, about 5 paces between men. Just before we entered the hub of the village, a U.S. Army Photographer was busy with his movie camera. I caught sight of him about 15 feet away on an elevated piece of ground. As we got closer I made a few derogatory remarks as to why he wasn't up where the fighting was going on a few days ago where he could have gotten some real war pictures.

Some of the villagers greeted us with hand shakes, some with kisses, flowers or just a simple hug. We rejoined with the remainder of our Battalion on the other end of this village. Little did I think of this incidence until the commentator in the video said "Tacloban" a few times and this put me on alert because I remember I was there. After about the 4th viewing of the video I was able to recognize one of the "characters" of Co. E, a few seconds later I recognized the soldier in front of me though I cannot recall their names.

Suddenly a close-up shot appeared on the TV screen and I nearly jumped thru the ceiling. The elation was like taking 40 years off my life. I'm sure other men of Co. #, 34th Infantry would also recognize themselves or at least some buddies and they too could say they made it in the movies.

There is another set of videos entitled "U.S. and Philippine Relationship" which also has that same camera shot. So you men of Co. E be on the alert. Please insert in Taro Leaf when you have space.

Bill Haurilak
125 Southworth St.
Milford, CT 06460

May 13, 1996

Dear Bob,

In your May 1996 issue, on page #36, what memories it brought back, also the officers listed on page #46, many I do remember fondly. I have all numbered from page 36, I don't recall all of their names. I'll do my best, also I'll give you a brief history of the officers. I have some good photos from Hallcundia, and the Philippines, are the prints returnable? P.S. Dynamite Publication, thanks.

Joe Subsak
2nd 34th Inf.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-1119



Stringfellow
Became 1st Sgt in Japan

Vic Roesch ? St. Louis, Mo.
Kuttz / Kurz

? Avila ?
CaLIF.

Jay Porpiglia (my best buddy)
Hazeltown, Pa. DEC. 2 years ago

Walter Bledsoe
Salena, Ks.

? Parisi / Parini

Mario Cavelli
S.F. Ca.

? Plt. Sgt.
Mass.

Gene Cozine (KIA)
Calif.

Wm. Staskiewicz
Elizabeth, NJ.

Claire slivinski
Buffalo, NY

Pfc. George Updike of #4 Lebanon, In, holds a Japanese Battle Flag, which he found wrapped around the waist of a dead Japanese Soldier near Digos, Mindanao, P.I. as members of his division surrounds him. All are with the 2nd Bn. 34th Inf., 24th Div.

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION REGISTRATION FORM (TOURS)

Name	Telephone #
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Address	City	State	Zip
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Event=====	Time=====	Cost=====	#Persons=====	Amount
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Thursday, September 5, 1996

#1 Mall of America	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	\$15.00 x	_____ =	\$ _____
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#2 Mississippi Riverboat Cruise	5:00 pm - 9:30 pm	\$40.00 x	_____ =	\$ _____
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Friday, September 6, 1996

#3 Twin Cities Highlights Tour	9:00 am - 12:00 noon	\$16.00 x	_____ =	\$ _____
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#4 Mystic Lake Casino	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	\$17.00 x	_____ =	\$ _____
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Saturday, September 7, 1996

#5 Twin Cities Highlights Tour	12:00 noon - 3:00 pm	\$16.00 x	_____ =	\$ _____
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#6 Historic Fort Snelling Tour	12:00 noon - 3:00 pm	\$16.00 x	_____ =	\$ _____
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Total Enclosed	\$ _____
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Make checks payable to: 24th Infantry Division Assoc.

Mail checks to: Harold Peters

Reunion Chairman
14030 Xanthus Lane
Rogers, MN 55374
612-427-2433

DEADLINE FOR ABOVE TOURS: AUGUST 29, 1996. NO TOUR RESERVATIONS MADE AFTER THAT DATE AND NO REFUNDS.

REMEMBER: THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR REFUNDS ON REGISTRATION AND BANQUETS & LADIES BREAKFAST IS AUGUST 13, 1996.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

Wesley Olesen (34th, Dates Unk) from 45611 283rd St., Hurley, SD 57036 is looking for Domer Patterson who was from Kentucky. Can anyone help with his address?

In search of Army and Navy personnel who were in the small group on Furgusson Island in Oct-Nov 1943. For a book contact Glenn E. Behrends 311 East 11th St., Monticello, IA 52310.

New Life Member John E. Anderson writes that it sure feels good to be a life member, says he won't be forgetting to send in his dues anymore. Good thinking John and welcome to life membership. John also sent along some nice words about the Taro Leaf.

New Life Member Fred Carley says he's been a member since 1990 and paying yearly (or was that dearly) and now wants a life time membership.

Life Member #1000 Barney Bertinuson Co. D 24th Med Bn (42-45) says he really looks forward to getting the T.L. and says he really appreciates all the hard work and time being put into this organization. Its our pleasure Barney.

Lloyd T. Potterton Co. E. 19th Inf Regt (43-44) would like to hear from any of his old buddies who might still be around. You may reach him at 222 Balsam St., Spooner, WI 54801-1103.

James Tesitor, brother of the late Anthony Tesitor, 3rd Engr Combat Bn (42-45) would like to hear from anyone who knew Anthony, and a big thank you to James for the \$20 donation he made in the name of Anthony. Anthony died on October 19, 1977.

Glenn Behrends, 24th Sig Co. (Feb. '42-July '45) says he and wife Bernice will be attending the 49th Reunion in Minncapolis. Glenn says he wishes there was a way to get a message to all Veterans of the 24th Inf. Div. to make them aware of our great association. He would especially like those who were members of the 24th Signal Co. to get the word. Lets **all** start spreading the word by becoming membership recruiters.



HEY!

EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA

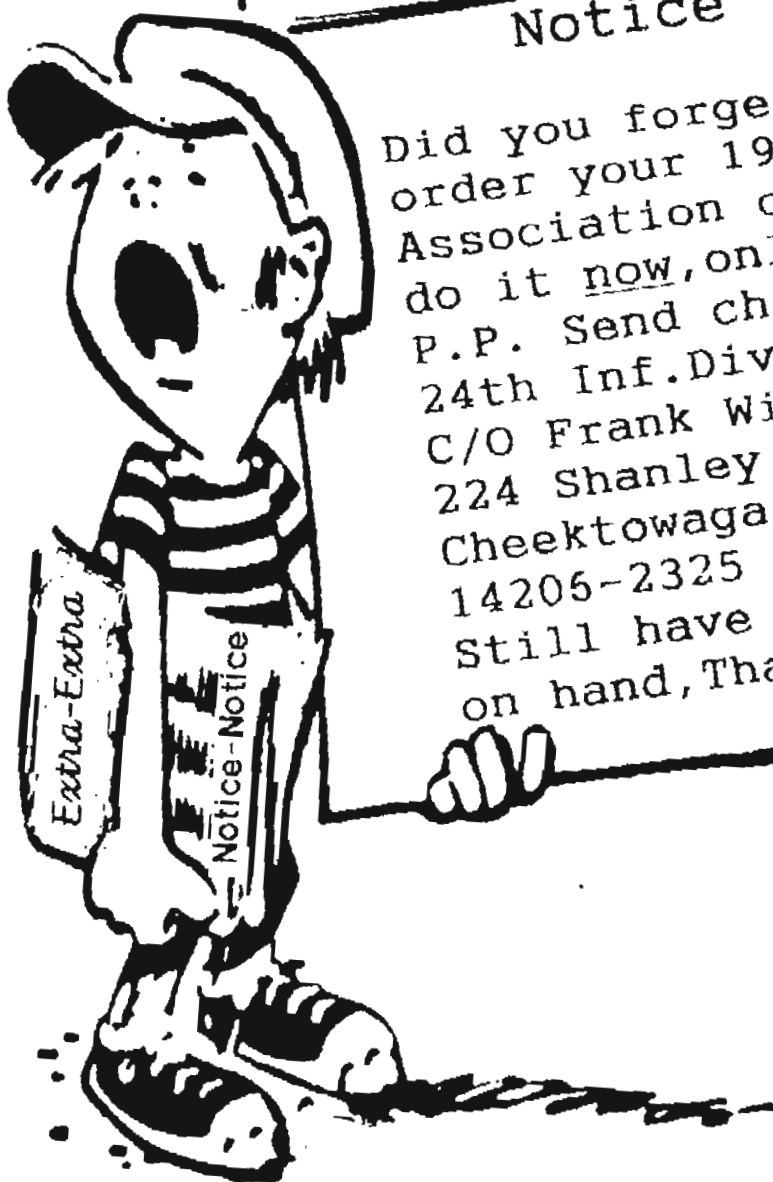
Any member attending the reunion who would like to play a few rounds of golf while in Minneapolis, contact John R. Bechtel at. (612) 888-3190

NOW HEAR THIS:

24th Infantry Division
Association
Taro Leaf Bulletin

Notice

Did you forget to
order your 1996
Association calendar,
do it now, only \$6.00
P.P. Send check to
24th Inf.Div.Assoc.
C/O Frank Wilczak
224 Shanley St.
Cheektowaga, N.Y.
14205-2325
Still have plenty
on hand, Thank You





7909 E. 20th Pl., Tucson, AZ 85710-5831; (520)296-9726

Vol. XVI, No. 5: May 1996

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

The following article, from "The Blue Press", May 1996 edition, should be of interest:

(Dis)Armed Forces and the Commander-in-Chief by Barrett Tillman

Once upon a time, there was a young knight, a superb warrior who had slain hundreds of the enemy of his people. The leader of his nation was so grateful that the famous hero was ordered to the leader's residence for presentation of the country's highest military decoration.

Upon reporting to the praetorian guard at the leader's castle, the knight was instructed to hand over his sidearm. Because certain factions within the nation disliked the leader's actions and the course of the war, there had been assassination attempts against the head of state. Consequently, no one but members of the praetorian guard were permitted in the leader's presence while bearing weapons--including members of the armed forces.

Though the nation was desperately fighting for survival, with an internal climate of oppression and fear, the young warrior was personally affronted by the order to disarm. In a firm, clear voice, he stated that he had been fighting for nearly two years, and no one had yet questioned his integrity or loyalty. If he no longer held The Leader's trust and confidence, then the head of state was welcome to keep his medal. The world's greatest knight would use the time to see his bride before returning to combat.

The members of the praetorian guard were stunned. Nobody had ever challenged them on a mere point of personal honor--let alone risk incurring The Leader's icy

rage. They allowed the knight to enter, and he received his decoration in an audience with The Leader.

The foregoing is not merely fable--it is history. The year was 1944, the place Nazi Germany. The warrior was Major Erich Hartmann, then a 22-year-old Luftwaffe pilot who had shot down 301 Soviet aircraft and was to be awarded the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves, Swords and Diamonds. The praetorian guard were members of the Schutzstaffel, the dreaded SS. The fuhrer, the Leader of the German Nation and People, was Adolf Hitler.

A half century later, in a far different nation under vastly different circumstances, the same situation arose again. The Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. would not meet with members of his own armed forces as long as they had operable weapons in their possession. Presumably it is policy; it has happened at least twice.

In the fall of 1995 a soldier recently separated from active duty called a Phoenix radio talk show, describing President Bill Clinton's visit to troops in Europe for the 1994 anniversary of D-Day, the Normandy invasion. According to the ex-GI, every soldier in his battalion (normally about 900 troops) was lined up and ordered to remove the bolt from his or her rifle or machine gun. Simultaneously, the slides were stripped off every pistol, including those of commissioned and noncommissioned officers.

Following that humiliation, the battalion was then ordered to remove all metallic objects such as watches and jewelry, and paraded through metal detectors. Thus purified, the troops were adjudged ready to receive their leader.

Recently when Clinton flew to Bosnia to distribute Hershey bars to the Americans he consigned to the UN/NATO peace-keeping force, photos showed troops carrying M-16s

without magazines. This is a war zone, remember. But further radio reports, including press accounts read on the G. Gordon Liddy program, repeated the Normandy procedure: weapons were rendered inoperable for those soldiers who would actually appear with the president.

For those concerned with legality, there appears little or no doubt that such a procedure, while outrageously demeaning, is legitimate. If the president, secretary of defense, chairman of the joint chiefs or other military farther down the food chain order such measures, the troops presumably have no recourse.

But what about morale? In an era obsessed with "sending messages," what does disarming the soldiers who serve the president and policies of the U.S. tell them about their standing in the eyes of that president? As the old saying goes, if you don't really want to know the answer, don't ask the question.

As yet we do not know if any Army officers in Europe protested the disarming of their troops as a requirement of meeting President Clinton. The odds are that none did, Clinton's anti-military attitude ("I loathe the military", he wrote in 1969) is too well known for any politically-astute officer to ignore.

But those same officers might ask themselves: What was it that produced the response of 22 year old Erich Hartmann in the face of Adolf Hitler? And what seems missing in the makeup of current followers of the profession of arms in the United States of America?

5-13-96

Please print this article in our "Taro Leaf"
to show our Assoc members what a yellow-
stripe Clinton has down his back.

C. A. Bud Collette
Life member
3rd Inf Div, Assoc

QUARTERMASTER SUPPLY PRICE LIST 24 IDA

Page 1 of 2 SEVERAL NEW ITEMS ON THIS LISTNEW LIST DATED June15,1996

X-1	24th Infantry Division Cloth Colored Patch	\$	3.00
X-2	24th Infantry Division Association Colored Patch		5.00
X-3	24th Infantry Division MESH HAT, BLACK OR WHITE W/Div.Patch		10.00
X-4	24th I.D. Decal Patch Size	Six for	5.00
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X-15	7th Infantry Pocket Patch Full Color Price reduced		5.00
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X-30	19th Infantry CAP, Dark Blue with Crest Design		10.00
X-31	21st Infantry CAP, WHITE with Embroided Crest Design		12.00
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X-33	34th Infantry CAP, DARK BLUE with Crest Design		10.00
X-34	24th IDA CAP, DARK BLUE with 24th IDA patch on front		10.00
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Nothing will improve a person's hearing more than
a word of praise.

"Have you lived in this town all your life?" the visitor
asked. "Not yet," replied the native.

"You say the guy is crooked?" "Crooked" He's so
dishonest that even the wool he pulls over your
eyes is half cotton."

A young man took his wife to the doctor. After the
examination, the husband asked, "Does she have
the Russian Flu?" "No," said the doctor "She has
the Egyptian flu — she's going to become a
mummy."

An elderly woman telling a relative about her
husband's heart attack said, "Don't worry. He's in
the best of hands in the expensive care unit."

FROM MILITARY OFFICE
VIEWS - ISSUE #4/8
JOE DAWSON
DCU 347440 44

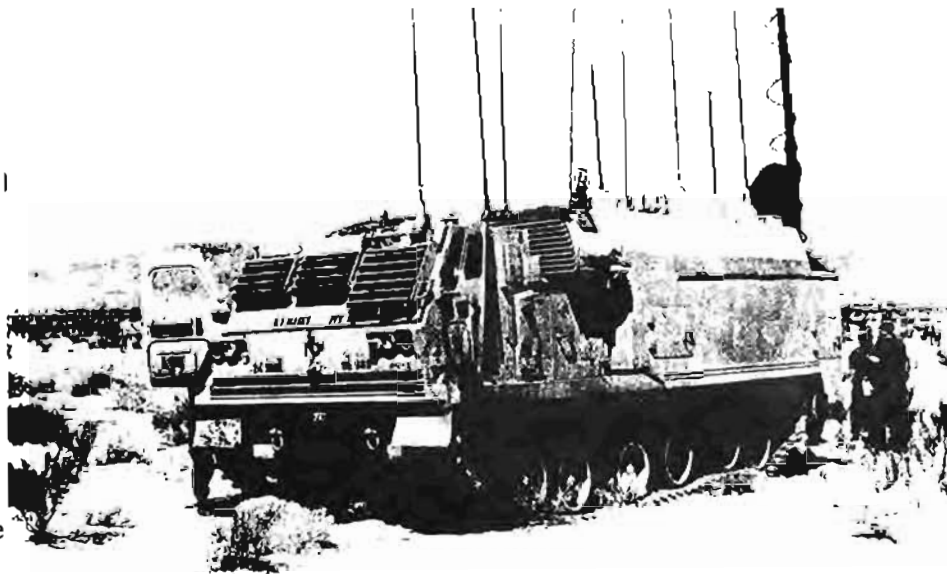
FORCES OF THE FUTURE

THE U.S. ARMY'S NEW DIGITAL BATTLEFIELD EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES PART III-COMMUNICATIONS AND CLOSE AIR DEFENSE/SUPPORT VEHICLES

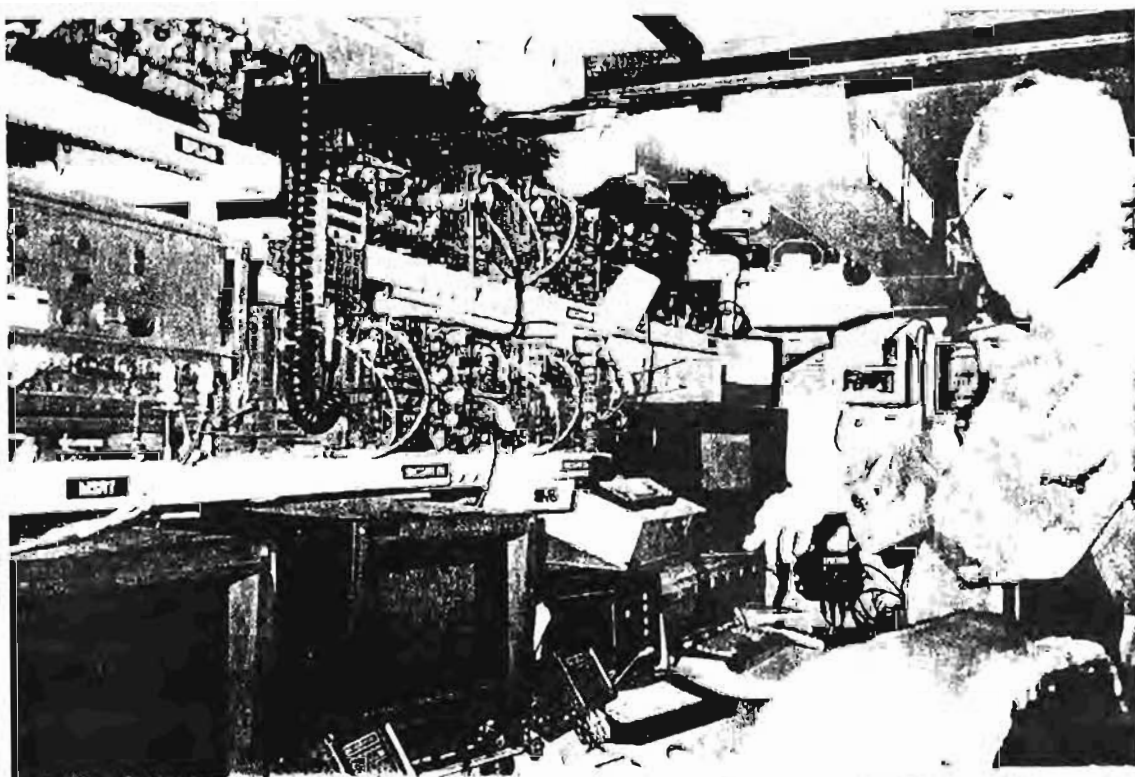
BY PHIL KERN

The digital fighting forces most effective weapon is information. The enemy's strength, location, speed direction and composition must be determined in addition to acquiring the same data regarding friendly forces. All this information must be quickly collected, communicated and distributed to rapidly moving task forces via the instantaneous digital information network for them to be effective on the battlefield. To provide this command, control and communications (C3) capability, the U.S. Army has begun to equip some units with the Battle Command Vehicle (referred to as the BCV, of course). Constructed on a Bradley Fighting Vehicle chassis, the BCV is also very closely related to the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) vehicle.

Armored against small arms fire and shell splinters, only two BCVs have been built to date and the particular vehicle shown here is still considered a test bed for the latest digital technology. On this exercise, it will be employed by the Third Brigade, 24th Infantry Division as a mobile command and control post for brigade and below units. Typically, the brigade commander would utilize the BCV while on the move in the field, with the goal being to access data for decision making purposes and to provide a common picture of the battlefield situation to all units of the task force, minimizing confusion,

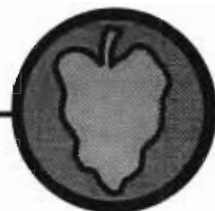


The "Armored Winnebago" at Fort Irwin: the Battle Command Vehicle constructed on the chassis of the Multiple Launch Rocket System vehicle.



The interior of the Battle Command Vehicle, visible are the four computer battlestations, and SINCGARS and EPLRS radios. 71

24th Infantry Division Association



President

James F. Hill
(Hq. 1st Bn. 19th '49-'51)
260 Shelli Ln.
Roswell, GA 30075
Tel. (770) 998-3749

1st Vice President

Dutch Nelsen
(34th, 13th, 19th, Trns.
'46-'47, '49-'51, '59-'63)
812 Orion Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
Tel. (719) 475-7499
Fax (719) 473-7487

Chaplain

Joe Hofrichter
(339th Eng. '44)
134 Tocopilla St.
Port Charlotte, FL 33983
Tel. (813) 764-9458

Secretary-Treasurer

Rodolph Mullins
(Med. Co. 19th '49-'51)
HCR-3, Box 191
Rocky Mount, MO 65072
Tel. (314) 365-1007

Editor

Robert L. Lawhon
(6th Tank Bn. '51-'53)
Rt. 2, Box 711
Proctorville, OH 45669
Tel. & Fax (614) 886-6935

Directory Chairman

Joseph J. McKeon
(19th '49-'51)
12733 Muscatine St.
Arleta, CA 91331
Tel. (818) 768-1704

Membership Chairman

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Quartermaster

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Tel. (508) 263-1938

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Tel. (612) 427-8154

March 14, 1996

Dear Herb,

It breaks my heart to know you are so very ill.

In speaking to your sister-in-law, I was stunned to learn the nature and seriousness of your illness.

Aside from my sadness, I can only wonder why a man of your goodness is so afflicted. There is no rationale, other than the fact that God forewarned us that life on earth would not be easy for us. Each of us would endure the weight of many crosses in our journey through life.

How I wish it were possible for me and every member of the 24th Infantry Division Association to put our shoulders to your current cross and lighten your burden.

We would do it in a heartbeat, Herb, just as we did for our buddies on the field of combat - so long ago.

From the time you served under the colors of our beloved Division, the elements of goodness were so mixed and varied within you, you did not go unnoticed. It was inevitable that one day you would serve as the President of the 24th Infantry Division Association.

Only a man so universally loved, respected and admired can be so honored by his peers.

On behalf of the entire Association, thank you, Herb, for your outstanding leadership, your warm friendship and the positive impact you have made in the lives of all blessed by your friendship.

Please know that you are constantly in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. We wish you well, dear friend. May God ease any pain, apprehension or despondency you may be suffering and may He always hold you in the palm of His kind and loving hands.

Prayerfully yours,

Joseph P. Hofrichter
Chaplain, 24th I.D.A.

1996 Reunion
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TAPS



HERBERT C. CARLSON
19TH INFANTRY, KOREA

NEWS AND SENTINEL - Colebrook, New Hampshire

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

HERBERT CARLSON JR.

Herbert C. Carlson Jr., 65, of Pittsburg, died on April 8, 1996, at the Veteran's Hospital in White River Junction, Vermont. He was formerly of New Milford, Connecticut.

He was born on February 25, 1931, the son of Herbert Carlson Sr. and Olive (Conley) Carlson.

Mr. Carlson served in the Army and was a member of the 24th Division. He was wounded in action during the Korean War. He also was Past President of the 24th Infantry Association and was a lifetime member of the V.F.W. in Littleton, the American Legion in Canaan and the Disabled American Veterans in Mount Washington. He was also a member of the New Hampshire Guides Association.

He leaves one daughter, Cindi Summerlin; three grandchildren, Stacey, Sara, and Joshua, all of Dudley, North Carolina; one brother, Robert Carlson of Kent, Connecticut; two sisters, Virginia Mariotti of Bristol, Connecticut, and Phyllis Krom of Southington, Connecticut; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 20, at 11 a.m. at the First Congregational Church in Kent, Connecticut.

Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society at 360 State Route 101, Suite 501, Bedford, N.H. 03110.

T.S. Eliot once wrote: "April is the cruelist month..."

And this year's April was no exception: HERBERT C. CARLSON was taken from us. God has called him home.

In his last days, his fighting heart moved in cadence with his active mind. The Big C had found another victim.

From the day in January when Herb's cancer was discovered until he died in April, he was never heard to utter, "Why me?" Instead he showed the same determined optimism and competitive spirit he had applied to all his endeavors.

Herb lived in delightful harmony without and within the Association about whose members he cared so much. He will live in the same way in memory.

Loyalty he demonstrated well as he joined the ranks of our Life Members; loyalty which we repaid in kind as we voted him into the Presidency of our Association for the year 1990-91.

He was a simple man, peace-loving, soft-spoken, humble, and self-effacing, quiet and retiring.

Every once in awhile, his delightful sense of humor would surface in a sort of low-key, self-deprecating, tongue-in-cheek understatement.

We are sad because we shall miss Herb. But one must not grieve so fine a life, so nobly lived. There is joy in our hearts, because he was here, a comrade in arms, a colleague, and a friend.

In the past 40 years, crowded sometimes with explosive, and always with moving, events, nothing was more rewarding than possession of the friendship of Herb. For it, we are more than grateful.

Lee List



EAST PEORIA — Lee Benjamin List, 82, of 115 Ronald Road died at 10:45 a.m. Thursday, April 25, 1996, at Veterans Administration Medical Center in Danville.

Born Feb. 20, 1914, in Tremont to Benjamin A. and Clara Cooper List, he married Cecelia A. Marie on July 27, 1968, in Peoria. She survives.

Also surviving are one son, Dan Ray of Wichita Falls, Texas; one daughter, Leona Endsley of Chillicothe; four grandchildren; two brothers, Carl of Washington, Ill., and Frank of Winter Haven, Fla.; and one sister, Ruth Jones of Sparks, Nev. He was preceded in death by one son, three brothers and one sister.

He retired from Essig Motors in Washington in 1978.

A World War II Army veteran, he was a Pearl Harbor survivor. He was a life member of the 24th Infantry Division Association and American Legion Post 1115 in Spring Bay.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Mason Funeral Home in Metamora. The Rev. Donald Machen will officiate. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday and one hour before services, both at the funeral home. Burial will be in Spring Bay Cemetery in Spring Bay, where military rites will be accorded by his American Legion Post.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association or his American Legion post.

LEE B. LIST 21ST INFANTRY, WW II

Any man's death diminishes us, as John Donne said more than 360 years ago, but this spring the Association has been diminished by the loss of Lee List, linked to us in the integrity of his spirit and passion for that for which we stand.

It bothered us because our Association never satisfactorily expressed to him its appreciation for his long tenure as our membership activist, a position to which he brought a rare dedication and selfless service to our cause. We were in the unique position to weigh the effectiveness of his work. Over the years we observed eleven of our number who served us in that capacity. No one served us better.

His high degree of competence, imagination, conviction and professionalism insured that we would and did grow stronger with his each passing report. The standards he gave impetus to had a profound and sustained effect on the success of this Association.

Upon his passing, his labors of many years past are evident in the present strength of the Association. Lee List gave much to it. We remain thankful and forever in his debt.

A special debt of gratitude is owed to him, one which was denied him in his life.

There are tears - because he can no longer contribute to our corporate achievements and, more importantly, to our personal enrichment.

There is joy - because we are fortunate enough to have known him at all.

TAPS

Donald N. Moyer (52nd F.A.Bn, Korea) 7046 Gain Dr., San Diego, CA 92110 died on 29 Apr. 1996.

Russell W. West (19th Inf. Regt WWII) 1128 24th St., Monroe, WI 53566-3342 died on 18 Jan. 1995.

Robert J. Tillman (34th Inf Regt, Korea) 3610 E. 55th St., Tulsa, OK 74135 died Nov. 1995.

Rev. Booker T. Morris (Co. H, 5th RCT 1952) 4230 Wethering Heights, Houston, TX 77045 passed away Friday, May 10, 1996. Morris attended schools in Cuero, TX and

TAPS (Continued)

earned a BS Degree from Prairie View A&M University and a Masters of Education from Texas Southern University. He taught science at Jack Yates and Melby Senior High Schools. He is survived by his wife Myrtris LaDonne, sons and daughter-in-law Booker T. Morris III and Jarmese Morris, Jacque D. Morris and Don M. and Joanie Morris, all of Houston, Texas. Sent in by Paul R. Garland.

Otto R. Fox (3rd Engr Bn, Jul 1942-Oct 1945) 921 Gardenia Dr. #271, Delray Beach, FL 33483 died May 8, 1996. He is survived by his wife Joan.

Robert G. Troetschel Life #567 (24th MP Co. WWII) died recently. Date unknown. From 5230 Ranchview Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15236. Wife Sandy Troetschel resides at above address.

Arthur D. Smith (Co. K, 34th Inf. Regt., Jan.'45-Feb.'45) died 14 Apr. '96 at National Park Medical Center in Hot Springs, AR., 1176 Carpenter Dam Rd., Hot Springs, AR 71901-9231.

Albert L. Ledgard (Co. L 34th Inf. Regt.) from Bethesda, MD died in January 1996. Sent in by good friend Jack Cooley, Life #1452 (Co. K 34th Inf. Regt.)

Raymond W. Fies (21st Inf. Regt WWII) died 27 Feb. 1996. His wife Sophia resides at 3714 Romig Av., Reiffton, Reading, PA 19606.

Oby Harris (Co. A, 21st Inf Regt '45-'46) Bolivar, MO passed away 14 Apr.'96. He saw combat in the Philippines Campaign. Reported by friend Wilford Acker (Co. A, 21st Inf Regt '45-'46.

Alice Louise McClure



BEAVER DAM — Alice Louise McClure, 66, of 99 Suncrest Ave., Beaver Dam, died Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1996, at Owensboro Mercy Health System. She was born in Rockport, Ind.; was a homemaker; and was a member of Hartford Christian Church, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 696 Auxiliary and the Amvets Post No. 75 Auxiliary, both in Owensboro, and the Disabled American Veterans

Chapter 11 in Ohio County.

Survivors include her husband, William C. "Bill" McClure; a son, Joe Edward Allmon of Westminster, Md.; two grandchildren; a great-grandchild; a sister, Martha Carver of Rockport, Ind.; and several nieces and nephews.

Services are at 2 p.m. Saturday at Miller-Schapmire Funeral Home in Hartford. Burial in Sunnyside Cemetery in Beaver Dam. Visitation is from 5 to 9 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home. The family requests that expressions of sympathy take the form of donations to the Hartford Christian Church Building Fund, Family Life Center, 122 W. Walnut St., Hartford, KY 42347. Memorial contribution envelopes are available at the funeral home.

Miller-Schapmire, Inc.

TAPS (Continued)

Charles D. (Don) Hinsley died 1 Feb 1996, was Hq Co., 2nd Bn Commo Platoon. His widow JoAnn resides at 6041 Ville De Sante Dr, Omaha, NE 68104. He is also survived by son and daughter-in-law Todd and Lori Chase; beloved grandsons Matt and Tony Chase. Don was a Veteran of the Korean Conflict and was a Member of VFW Post 247.

We received a call from Joe Payne informing us of the death of **Jose R. Maes** on May 19, 1996. Jose died of a heart attack and is buried in Santa Fe, NM National Cemetery. He is survived by Susie Maes and two daughters. Joe and Jose had gotten together the end of April, the first time they had seen each other since 1946. They had a wonderful time together. Thank you for getting the word to us, Joe. There will be an obituary in the next T.L.

The following is a letter to John Trinca from our Chaplain Joseph P. Hofrichter:

Dear John,

It has just been brought to my attention that your Mother, Rose, passed away in February. The loss of a loved one...particularly a Mother, who gave us life, is devastating.

The grief you are experiencing has to be the most painful emotion a human being can suffer. There is no other emotion like it in the human experience.

On behalf of all members of the 24th Infantry Division Association, I extend to you and your family our prayers and deepest sympathy.

In your time of grief and sadness, we pray that God will provide you and your family, the strength and the courage to face the days that lie ahead and that He will grant your Mother, Rose, eternal rest.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Hofrichter, Chaplain

TAPS (continued)

Lieutenant Colonel Charles William Hood (affectionately known as "Bill" and as "Charlie" by his friends) died on Monday, April 15, 1996 in Moraga, California. Bill was a 'charter' member of the 24th Infantry Division having been assigned to the old pre Pearl Harbor Hawaiian Division, elements of which formulated the new 24th Infantry Division.

Bill was commissioned an Officer in the U.S. Army upon his graduation from U.C. Berkeley in 1937. He was called to active duty in early 1941 and assigned to the Hawaiian Division in Oahu, Hawaii. In 1943 Bill was assigned to temporary duty to escort a contingent of Japanese Americans to a camp in Mississippi for military training and subsequent combat duty in Italy. Before returning to Oahu Bill was granted a few days leave and proposed marriage to Betty Gerrish, his sweetheart that he had left behind when he first went on active duty. Two weeks after his final return to the mainland, Bill and Betty were married on October 14, 1944. After one year of duty at the U.S. Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, Bill was discharged from active duty and continued his military life in the Army Reserves until he retired in 1968.

As a civilian Bill tried a number of jobs until he became interested in making a career in investment and financial planning. After almost twenty years in the financial counseling business Bill achieved his Certified Financial Planner rating. He was one of a few investment counselors in the United States to receive this top honor. During this time Bill was active in many civic activities, including the Orinda Lions Club, the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, and sat on the Board of Directors of the Miramonte Gardens Homeowners Association. Additionally, notwithstanding the time spent in a myriad of activities, Bill and his adorable, lovely Betty raised two handsome, stalwart and high-spirited sons--their pride and joy.

Following graduation from O.C.S. at Fort Benning, Georgia, I was assigned to "E" Company, 21st Infantry Regiment at Schofield Barracks. Bill Hood was the Company Commander. Bill was a serious-minded, no nonsense, meticulous leader, and yet had a winsome, kind respect for the dignity and welfare of his Officers and enlisted men. He was more than just my Commanding Officer - he became a very close friend that I respected and loved like a brother from the start. We have maintained our friendship, to these many years since the War.

A few years ago Bill developed a kidney disease, and as his health began to dangerously deteriorate, he was told that he needed dialysis treatment to survive. Courageously Bill began outpatient dialysis treatments three times a week. He made the Nashville reunion last year, but as the frailty of his body worsened he succumbed to the inevitable and died peacefully April 15th. Bill will be sorely missed by his family and many friends.

Submitted by C. Rucker Ford
Platoon Leader in 'E' and 'F' Companies

TAPS (Continued)
Colonel Johnnie Benjamin Hall
August 8, 1947 - May 31, 1996
Interment Service Address
General Barry R. McCaffrey (USA, retired)
Arlington National Cemetery
June 10, 1996

*"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good things,
therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to
any human being, let me do it now. Let me not deter it or
neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."*

- John Galsworthy (1867-1933)
British author, Nobel Winner 1932

We gather here in final honor and tribute to Colonel Ben Hall...a caring son, a loving husband, a devoted father, a skillful doctor, a professional soldier, and a special friend to all of us gathered here to say farewell.

It would be appropriate to recognize some important people in Ben's life, people who we know Ben admired, respected, and cherished.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie and Lois Hall, Ben's father and mother. Mr. Hall, despite long hours of physically demanding work as a Bethlehem Steel worker, you found time to earn your GED and set an example for your son. Mrs. Hall, you supported your husband and raised seven beautiful children. You provided the love that emboldened Ben to live life as he did -- seizing opportunities, caring for others, and dedicating himself to a lifelong commitment as a soldier.

Mrs. Valerie Hall and dear Margo, we admire your courage at this difficult time. Besides Ben's mother and father, you are the ones who were most important in his life. We thank you for your role with Ben as a partner and parent of these wonderful children:

Dorian, hopefully soon on her way to law school; Tiffany, a university graduate as of last Friday with sights on a doctorate degree in Molecular Genetics; Greg, following in his father's footsteps as an Army Medical Service Corps officer, with future plans to apply to Dartmouth College Medical School (the same institution from which his father graduated); and Brandon, an avid basketball player just completing his first year in college. When asked who his greatest role models were, he didn't offer the expected response of Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, and Dennis Rodman. "I have just one," he said. "It's my father." Finally, the three youngest in the family, Dana, Joseph, and Donovan. Ben spoke often of his youngest boys. We remember some of his stories, particularly one of how proud he was when six-year old Donovan caught a fly ball - much to Donovan's own surprise - during a recent T-ball game.

All of us assembled here admire and are proud of the way Ben lived his life. He set his sights on a medical profession from childhood and never gave up. Ben worked to put himself through high school and college. He cleaned septic tanks with his uncle, served as a print shop apprentice, and worked as a cook. We are equally as proud of Ben's distinguished military career. He spent over a third of his nearly 22 years of active service overseas. He loved the Army and sought the toughest jobs: Chief of Surgery and OB/GYN in the 7th U.S. Army Europe Medical Command in Wuerzburg, Germany; Chief of Ambulatory Care Services at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii; and Division Surgeon of the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division during combat operations in Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Smiles and good humor came naturally to Ben. If he were here at this "formation" today, he'd have us laughing and poking fun at each other in no time. He may have even threatened not to come if things were too somber. Soldiers loved him. We often referred to him as the division psychiatrist. We all sought Ben out frequently not because of any physical problem, but more for a much needed mental "shot in the arm." Ben could share a laugh and renew that special inner spirit and bond that soldiers develop with each other in foreign lands. Ben was also an avid photographer. He developed a fascination and love for camels. We often wondered if they were subjects to refine photography skills, or whether they were just surrogates to let off steam and practice bedside manner and counseling methods. Camels don't talk back. Whatever it was, it worked on both counts.

Ben, we will all miss you. Thank you for your friendship, courage, and lifelong example to the young men and women of our Armed Forces. Your life was a statement of the ideals and spirit that built this great nation. You were indeed an American patriot.

*"Your course on earth is run. Let it be said, 'well done.'
Be thou at Peace."*

24th Infantry Division Association



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I desire to be enrolled or reinstated as a member of the Association, and thereby remain affiliated with the greatest combat division the U.S. Army has ever known.

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Rodolph Mullins
Secretary/Treasurer
HCR 3 - Box 191
Rocky Mount, MO 65072

Recommended by : _____