



VOL. 52 No. 1

IN MEMORY OF RODOLPH (RUDY) MULLINS

FEBRUARY 1998

VICTORY DIVISION NEWS!



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



Multinat. Force & Observ. Med.



Kuwait Lib. Medal (Saudi Arabia)

PEARL HARBOR

AUSTRALIA • NEW GUINEA • PHILIPPINES • JAPAN • KOREA • GERMANY • LEBANON • DESERT STORM



Army Presidential Unit Citation

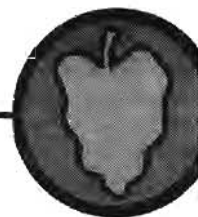


Philippine Pres. Unit Citation



Korean Pres. Unit Citation

24th Infantry Division Association



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535 Paula Dr.
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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!

All dues, donations, changes of address including **ZIP + 4** (9 digit zip code) and deceased notices are to be sent to Yvonne Mullins, Secretary/Treasurer/Editor.

Articles Submissions

To improve speed and accuracy and readability in editing, manuscripts and articles should be originals or clear copies, with either typed or printed out double-spaced in near letter quality printer mode. Articles are to be received by the Editor not later than the deadline established by the President, Secretary/Editor and as published in the Taro Leaf. Any article received after the established deadline and not in the format described above will be put in at the discretion of the Editor. To be considered for publication, articles should not exceed 300 words and should be of general interest and in good taste. Political endorsements and thank you notes will not be used. Biographies or personal stories of interest to the general membership, not exceeding three pages, will be accepted for publication but must conform to policy as outlined above.

**The February 1998 Taro Leaf, Volume 52 No. 1
is dedicated in Memory of Rodolph (Rudy) Mullins
December 7, 1927 - October 28, 1997**

(Past Secretary/Treasurer/ Quartermaster, Editor - 1995 - 1997)

The following **DEADLINE** is established for submission of material to the Editor Yvonne Mullins, of the TARO LEAF for publication.

Deadline to the Editor

1 January 1998
1 February 1998
1 July 1998
10 October 1998

Telephone #

Fax #

E-Mail

Publication Date

February 1998
April 1998
August 1998
November 1998

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1998 Reunion

23-27 September 1998
Excelsior Hotel
Three Statehouse Plaza
Little Rock, AR 72201
Tel. 501-399-8050
Fax 501-375-7320



**E-Mail Addresses
for members information**

The Address and brief description of what they do follows:

AMERICAN VETERANS: <http://www.amervets.com/>

Search for former comrades by name, rank, serial number, hometown, duty stations, even medals awarded.

U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY:

<http://imabbs.army.mil/cmh-pg/>

U.S. Army studies and documents Well-indexed and easy to search.

VETERANS AFFAIRS PAGE: <http://www.va.gov/>

Extensive information on VA benefits and assistance.

VETS NATIONAL ARCHIVES: <http://www.vets.org/>

Database for reunions and finding comrades

VFW PAGE: <http://www.vfw.org>

Your VFW home pagee. Easily accessed, with lots of useful information.

VET COM: <http://vets.com/>

Comprehensive source of veteran-related information, including benefits, news and reunions. Great links to other veterans pages.

WW II U.S. VETERANS WEBSITE: <http://ww2.vet.org/>

Dedicated to keeping WW II veterans in contact and the memory of WW II alive.

Other contacts are:

GULF WAR VETERANS OF WISCONSIN: <http://www.geocities.com/>

VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR, INC: <http://www.sunlink.net/vvnw/>

VETERANS BENEFITS NEWS & RESOURCES, VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA: <http://www.va.org/Benefits/vvagent.htm>

**PLEASE NOTE ADDRESS CHANGE
FOR SECY/TREAS/EDITOR**



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31150 See View Drive
Rocky Mount, MO 65072**



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MEMORANDUM FOR All members of the 24th Infantry Division Association "VICTORY"

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!!

Another year has come and gone and here we are planning for the one ahead; hoping it will be to our liking, filled with love and good health, happiness and peace.

It saddens me greatly to start a letter this way only to now inform you who do not already know of our great loss in the passing of Rudy Mullins on October 28, 1997.

Just one month following reunion when we, who were at reunion, spoke with, dined with, and honored Rudy with the Verbeck Bowl Award for his many years of service to the association now languish his death.

Rudy gave of himself right up to his death for us of the "Victory" division association. The last issue of the Taro Leaf was Rudys' final gift to us all. Vonnie tells me he insisted on taking it to the publisher himself, that was the last time that Rudy drove a car but he wanted to do that for us.

Gene Spicer and I attended Rudys' services and it was a great service. Rudy being eulogized for his contributions to his community, family, friends and the citizenry of the area where he lived the most part of his life. But, the greatest eulogy of all was from one of our own, Joe (Chaplain) Hofrichter. Joe certainly did not intend his letter (a personal one) to Rudy following reunion to be an letter of eulogy, but it was.

When two great members of this association such as Joe and Rudy bond a friendship and charge forward to better the association even though each having a health problem, they and only they, realize the importance of each of us to the other. Joe's letter was so compelling, so compassionate, that Vonnie had it read at the services and I'm asking her to print that letter in this TL for all to read. Not only does that letter exemplify Rudys' accomplishments under trying circumstance, it exemplifies the compassion of the writer to his fellow man, friend, and member of this great association.

Yes, we lost a great man when we lost Rudy, and there are a lot of great ones still with us, stay in touch with them, come to reunion when you can and become involved, you will feel better for doing so.

Again, Happy New Year, and hope to see you in Little Rock.

24th Fully Yours,

TOM COCHRAN
President, 1997-1998



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FOR SECY/TREAS/EDITOR**

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MEMORANDUM FOR The General Membership

SUBJECT: Nominating Committee for Officers 1998-1999

Robert "Bob" Lawhon, Chairman
William "Bill" Hosler, Member
Robert "Bob" Kies, Member
Harry Wittman, Member
Lloyd Hemenway, Member

The five individuals named above have given their consent to serve on the "Officers Nominating Committee" for 1998. Mr. Bob Lawhon has been selected as Chairman and he or a designated representative will be responsible for providing the names of individuals selected at the 1998 24th Infantry Division Association Reunion in Little Rock, Arkansas in September 1998.

Two positions, The position of Vice President and the position of Secretary Treasurer are to be nominated and voted upon at reunion. Now, although we, at the last reunion voted in Mrs. Yvonne Mullins as Secretary Treasurer, we must once again, confirm that person to the position.

We have time to consider who we want in the leadership position of the 24th IDA, and I want to encourage you to start thinking about a person who is both willing and capable of accepting the office of the President.

Over the next two months I intend to start canvassing members who I feel are both capable and acceptable, but I have to learn from them, are they willing? I will present my nominee(s) to the Chairman, Mr. Bob Lawhon and I hope that each of you will do the same.

This is your association gentlemen, you the membership, and this is the time for you to do that which you think is best for the association. Talk over with comrades your choice, reach a conclusion and send that name to Bob Lawhon; he and his committee will decide that person to oversee the association business for another year.

Thanking you in advance for your support, indulgence, and considerations,

24th Fully Yours,

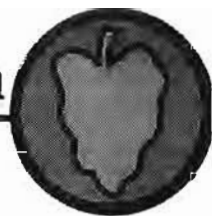
TOM COCHRAN
President, 1997-1998

ADDRESS	NAME: _____
CHANGE	OLD ADD: _____
Please print	CITY _____
Clearly	STATE _____ ZIP _____
and mail to:	NEW ADD: _____
	CITY _____
	STATE _____ ZIP _____
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MEMORANDUM FOR The General Membership

SUBJECT: Verbeck Bowl Award Selection Committee

James "Jim" Hill, Chairman
Dallas Dick, Member
Howard Lumsden, Member
James "Spike" O'Donnell, Member
Joe McKeown, Member
Warren Avery, Vice Chairman

The six individuals named above have given their consent to serve on the "Verbeck Bowl Award" selection committee for 1998. Mr. Jim Hill has been selected as Chairman of the committee and he or a designated representative will be responsible for providing the name of the individual selected at the 1998 24th Infantry Division Association reunion in Little Rock, Arkansas in September 1998.

I would encourage you, officers and members, who desire to nominate a member for this prestigious award do so at the earliest by sending the name of your nominee and reasons for nomination to the Chairman at: Jim Hill, 260 Shelli Lane, Roswell, GA 30075-2967.

For all members; this award is given sparingly, and only to a member who has distinguished himself by service to the 24th IDA, "above and beyond" the call of normal participation in association affairs. The award is intended to exemplify the ideals and devotion shown by General Verbeck in his service to our country and to the 24th IDA.

In the May issue of the TL, I will charge the nominating committee to finalize their findings, and report to me their selection, if any. This will enable us to proceed on with necessary actions prior to reunion, engraving of the bowl, presentation of the bowl at reunion, and by whom.

This is your association gentlemen, you the membership, we who are elected to serve are there for one year and gone, so exercise your right as a member and involve yourself with that which affects all, become involved in all activities of the association.

24th Fully Yours,

TOM COCHRAN
President

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24th Infantry Division Association



YOUR PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS, WISHES, AND TIDBITS.....

Annually, at reunion we recognize Pearl Harbor Survivors, World War II Vets, Task Force Smith, Korean War Vets, and most recently Desert Storm Vets. Are we recognizing everyone, or are we neglecting that select few that should be recognized?

Corky Peters and I talked about this a few weeks ago, and concluded, we have among us men who were in their own right heroes, and recognized for their heroism with medals. We, Corky and I, would appreciate your informing us of medals you received during combat so that we may properly honor you at the Little Rock reunion. We know you are out there and we believe it is only proper to recognize you for your "call above and beyond the line of duty."

Others that should be recognized are the women of the association. Aside from.....

"A Toast to the Ladies....." at reunion, nothing else is ever said about them to recognize them for all they do.

Corky Peters recognized Diane for her untiring efforts in putting on the Minneapolis reunion, as did Dutch Nelsen for Margos' support for the Colorado Springs reunion. Rudy Mullins recognized Yvonne for her continued support throughout his tenure as Secretary Treasurer.

But, do we not need to recognize all the wives for their support to us? They, really are the backbone of the association. They are the ones closest to us, available to discuss issues, resolve differences, and offer advice. They too, are probably the one that approves of going to a reunion or staying home.

Several years ago the military recognized the importance of the military spouse, the one left behind to care for the family while the soldier was away. Today, they give commendations to the spouse in recognition of her/his contributions for their services, a fitting and proper recognition.

We, too should recognize our ladies in a similar manner, for it is she that encourages us on, cares and nurtures us toward the next reunion. It is she that bonds the friendship with the other ladies at reunion that helps us to find new friends, establish camaraderie with others outside our own units and makes this such a great association.

We should not, and we cannot neglect recognizing these ladies of ours, the backbone of the association. They are the pillars of this association, they are the ones that encourage you on, the ones that make decisions on going to reunion or staying home. So, let us begin recognizing them for all they do, beginning right now, our ladies, take a bow.

* * * * *

Still waiting for those who took my rosters at the 34th Breakfast to return them to me...they are important to me.

* * * * *

Publishing my committee members names in this TL issue for nominating officers next year and the Verbeck Bowl Award recipient. Encourage you to send in your nominees name and a short bio on him to the Chairman of the appropriate committee at the earliest.

* * * * *

Corky Peters and I were in Little Rock in November to finalize reunion 1998. Am very impressed with all they are giving us...the Hospitality Room is the entire top floor, overlooks everything and gracious in size, a view with a view.

* * * * *

My wishes for you in 1998 is good health, happiness, and love from all you associate with....and of course, support to me to give you a year of service with acceptance from the general membership, whereby I do for you that which you want done. I appreciate the trust placed in me to be your 51st President and I hope only to give you my services as best I can for the future of this great association. Walk with me and talk to me, together we shall prevail and tomorrow we shall reap.

I am,


TOM COCHRAN

**Not too early to pay your 1998 Dues,
why don't you pay today and get it
out of the way?**



A NOTE OF THANKS

Space in the Taro is limited. However, I would be remiss if I failed to express my deepest gratitude to Vonnice and Rudy Mullins for their kind and touching letter of encouragement published in the last edition of the Taro Leaf.

I also wish to convey my most sincere thanks to all who expressed their concern through prayers, cards, letters and phone calls. Charlotte and I were overwhelmed and deeply moved by your outpouring of love.

I regret the two operations extracted such a toll that I am unable to answer your many letters individually as I would prefer.

I'm pleased to report that I am doing well. I underwent a second operation on November 11th to remove three lymph nodes. The day before Thanksgiving we received the joyful news. It appears the cancer cells did not invade the "nodes". I will not need to undergo the dreaded "Interferon" treatment - at least for the time-being. If only others could be as fortunate.

My attitude remains positive and I shall always be grateful for your deep and sincere concern and most definitely for your prayers.

Please know you are always in mine.

Joseph P. Hofrichter
Chaplain



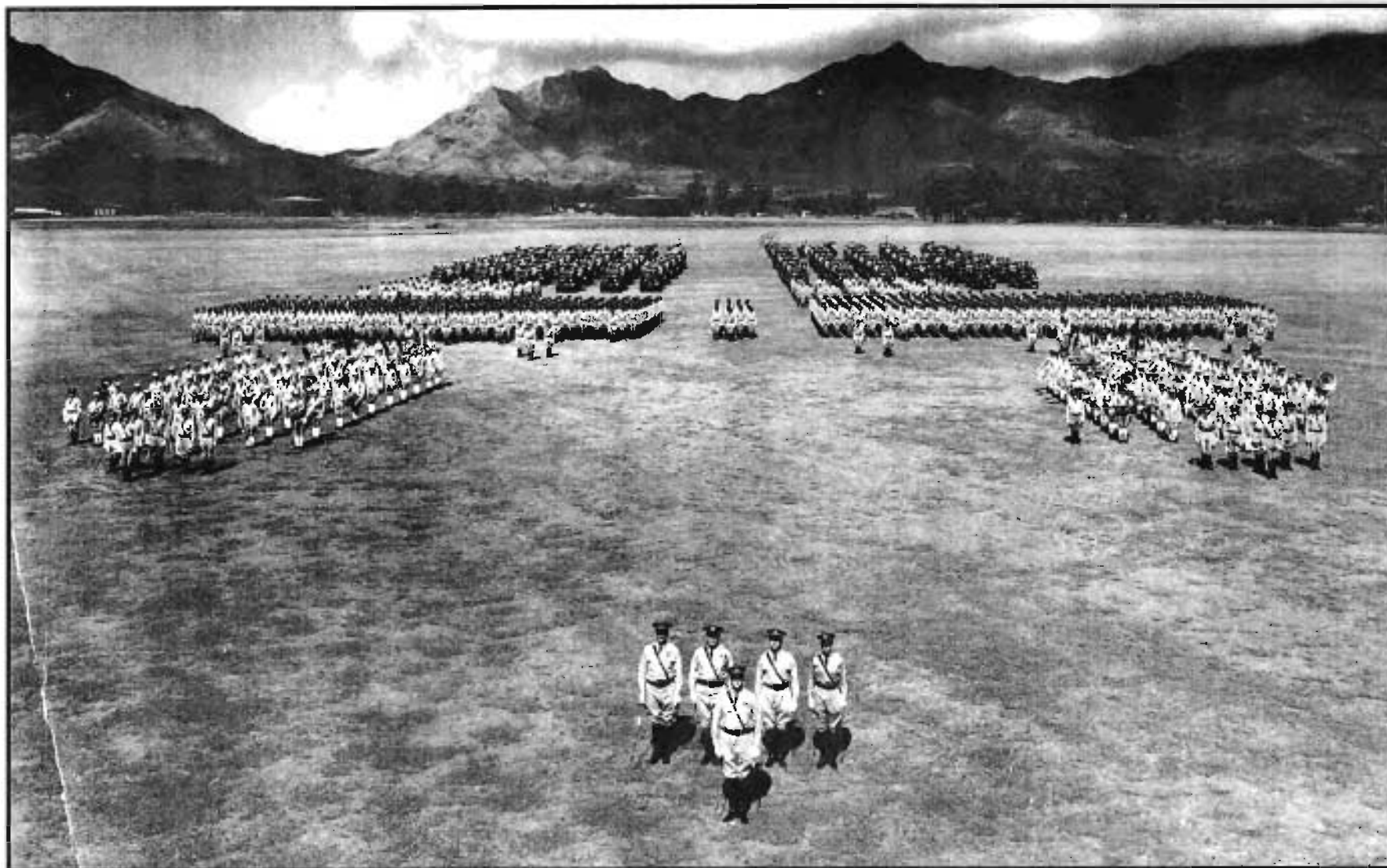


Photo is of the 21st Brigade taken in 1938 at Schofield Barracks. The 19th Infantry is on the right and the 21st Infantry is on the left. We were part of the Old Hawaiian Division. The CO of the 19th Infantry Regiment was Col Bonesteel who later made General. This review was in honor of and to give trophies to the winners of the Musketry competition and the water borne machine gun competition. Musketry was the maneuvering of a rifle platoon and the firing on unseen targets. The machine gun competition was the firing at water borne targets off shore. At this time all rifle companies as well as machine gun companies were armed with the 30 caliber Browning water cooled machine guns.

There was a little humor to this particular review. "K" Co of the 19th had just had a new Captain assigned to them. Captain Jesse Dressler, a very fine officer. Not long after he arrived from the states we had a brigade inspection. Captain Dressler had on brown leather boots and a brown belt. The leather for the 19th was black. The General asked Captain Dressler why his leather was not black, he replied, "Sir, Army regulations say you will not dye your leather". The General looked sternly at the Captain and said, "The next time I see you, you better have black leather, that's a direct order". Well, Captain Dressler dyed his leather. That year "K" Company of the 19th Infantry won the Musketry and the Machine Gun Trophies scoring the highest in the entire Division. The General who had balled out our Captain presented the trophies to Captain Dressler and said, "Captain Dressler, brown leather or black leather didn't make a difference, your company has won every thing, Congratulations". I was a platoon sergeant at the time.



Come On Down!

Little Rock is the center of continental United States and is uniquely accessible by air, rail, or interstate.

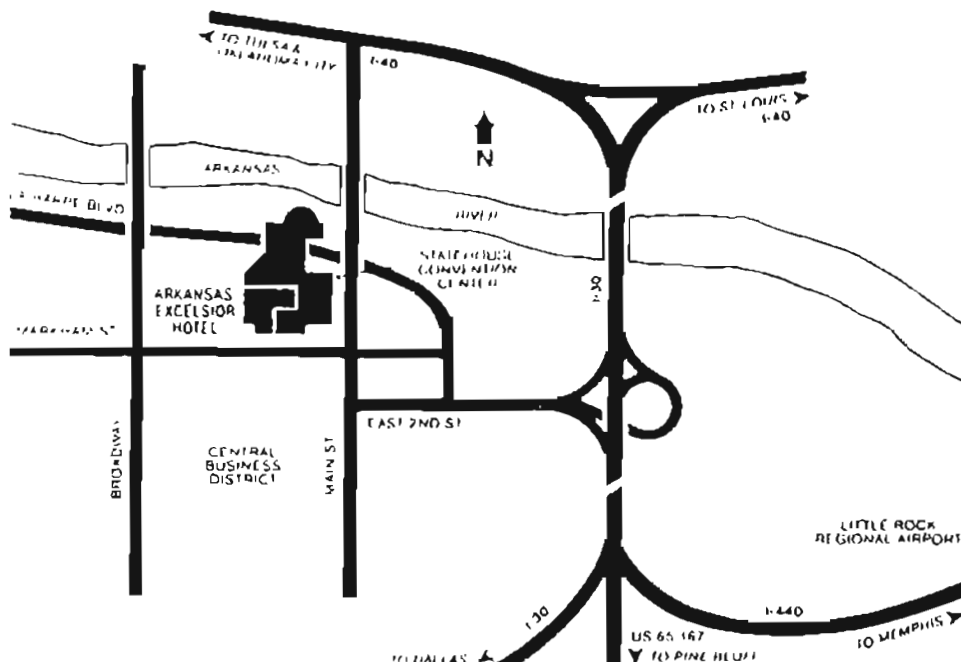
In 1998 the 24th Division Association Reunion will be held at the Arkansas Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock. This is a 5 Star Hotel. The Excelsior Hotel is conveniently located next to the Old State House on the banks of the Arkansas River, only 10 minutes from the airport. It is situated atop the magnificent Statehouse Convention Center and has free parking for guests and complimentary airport limousine service. The rooms are spacious and clean. They offer four restaurants and two lounges for your dining and enjoyment.

This is a great place to renew old acquaintances and meet and make new friends.

If you are driving to Little Rock and you need more information on sites to visit you may contact the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism.

The hotel will go to any length to make your stay pleasant.

The staff said come on down...we'll help you enjoy it!



24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION

September 23 - 27, 1998
Arkansas Excelsior Hotel, Little Rock, Arkansas



MAIL TO:

Little Rock Convention Bureau
P.O. Box 207
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

24th Infantry Division Association

FIRST TIMER? (yes - no) _____

NAME _____
Please **PRINT** legibly Nickname for Badge _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ - _____ - _____
Area Code

24TH DIVISION OUTFITS #1 _____ Dates Served _____
(Please Give Assigned Unit)

#2 _____ Dates Served _____

Name of Wife/Guests Attending _____

Please List Food Allergies and/or special diets required. _____

	Per Person	No. Attending	Amount
*REQUIRED REGISTRATION FEE	\$15.00		\$15.00
(Guests & Spouse Excluded)			
Fri Aloha Night Dinner	\$25.00	_____	\$ _____
Sat. Memorial Banquet	\$26.00	_____	\$ _____
*Note: Door Prices 10% Higher		TOTAL AMOUNT	\$ _____



**WELCOME TO THE ARKANSAS EXCELSIOR HOTEL
HOTEL RESERVATION FORM**

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

September 23 to September 27, 1998

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING ACCOMODIATIONS:

Room Type Request Rate

Standard Single.....\$65.00

Standard Double.....\$65.00

SPECIAL REQUESTS: Smoking___ Non-Smoking___ Connecting Room___
Disabled Room___ Hearing Impaired Room___

*All special requests will be noted but cannot be guaranteed, due to the overall hotel availability

CUT OFF DATE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 1, 1998

The discounted room rate will be extended 3 days prior and 3 days after your reunion.
(After this date, rooms will be on space and rate availability only)

Date of Arrival _____

Time of Arrival _____

Number of Nights _____

Date of Departure _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TEL.NO. () _____

Sharing Room With _____

If guaranteed to a major credit card please give the following information:

___ AMEX ___ VISA ___ MC ___ CARTE BLANCHE ___ DISCOVER ___ DINERS CLUB

Credit Card Number _____

EXP. DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

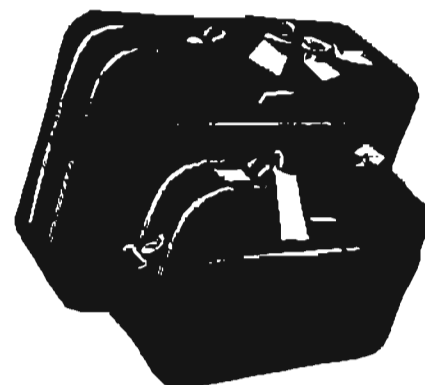
For additional Hotel information call 1-(800) 527-1745

MAIL TO: 1998 Reunion

Arkansas Excelsior Hotel

Three Statehouse Plaza

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201



ATTENTION: 19th, 21st, 34th, 339th, 3rd Engineers & all Artillery Units

Your annual breakfast will be held Saturday, September 26, 1998, 7:30 A.M. at the Arkansas Excelsior Hotel. The rooms where each breakfast will be served will be announced in the June issue of the Taro Leaf. The cost for each breakfast is \$12.00 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:

Roasted Breakfast Potatoes, Chilled Orange Juice, Softly Scrambled Eggs, Grilled Ham, Assorted Danish & Muffins, Butter, Jams and Preserves, Freshly Brewed Coffee.

Please mail your registration with your check to the correct chairperson of your Unit

19th Infantry - Mail Registration To:

Gene Spicer
8937 W. 750 N.
Commiskey, IN 47227
(812) 873-6548

****Make checks payable to:***

19th Infantry Breakfast

339th Engineers - Mail Registration To:

Joseph Hoffrichter
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(818) 768-1704

****Make checks payable to:***

339th Engineers Breakfast

21st Infantry - Mail Registration To:

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(304) 788-0465

****Make checks payable to:***

21st Infantry Breakfast

All Division Artillery Units - Mail Registration To:

Robert Smith
7720 Deer Lane
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
(715) 325-5057

****Make checks payable to:***

24th Division Artillery Breakfast

34th Infantry - Mail Registration To:

Hurdis Wise
724 W. Saline Circle
Benton, AR 72015-2531
(501) 778-8673

****Make checks payable to:***

34th Infantry Breakfast

3rd Engineers - Mail Registration To:

Billy Johnson
2416 Kimberly Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28306-2345
(910) 424-3840

****Make checks payable to:***

3rd Engineers

UNIT MEMORIAL BREAKFAST REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____
Cost of breakfast \$12.00 each



Ladies Breakfast

***Saturday, September 26, 1998
9:00AM***



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 :

***Creamy Scrambled Eggs with Three Cheeses
Roasted Breakfast Potatoes
Chilled Orange Juice
Grilled Ham
Assorted Mini Danish Muffins
Butter, Jams and Preserves
Milk, Tea or Freshly Brewed Coffee (regular and decaf)***

We have an action packed morning planned for you. A scrumptious breakfast, good friends, and an all around very enjoyable morning for only \$12.00. There will be many door prizes and entertainment that will tickle your funny bone! Watch for further details in the next Taro Leaf

***Send your reservations early! This is one "Ladies Breakfast" you won't want to miss!**

***Make checks payable to: 24th Infantry Division Association**

***Mail checks to: Little Rock Convention Bureau
P.O. Box 207
Little Rock, AR 72203**



Ladies Breakfast

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Cost: \$12.00 each #Attending _____ Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____



REUNION BANQUET SEATING

If you have a group of friends who wish to be seated together,
GET TOGETHER AND PAY TOGETHER
send your Registration Forms in one packet (envelope). Tables are arranged for ten (10) persons per table. Reserve one table, two tables or as many as needed to accommodate your group. Designate one person (or couple) and send in your registration forms along with the appropriate amount of money, by check or money order, to whoever is designated. That person (or couple) will put it all together in one envelope and forward it on to the convention bureau who will then complete the paperwork and notify each person or couple of receipt. A packet in your name will be waiting for you at the pre-registration desk at the Arkansas Excelsior Hotel. Tables will be assigned in order of receipt. So start your planning early and get your reservation and registrations in as early as possible.

Once tables are assigned they will not be rearranged.

***Remember door prices are 10% higher so be an early bird and register early!**

THE CUT-OFF DATE IS - SEPTEMBER 11, 1998

**THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS AFTER THAT
DATE!**

24th Infantry Division Tour Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Event	Time	Cost	# Persons	Amount
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Wednesday, September 23, 1998

#1 Hot Springs Tour	10:30am-4:30pm	\$45	X _____	\$ _____
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#2 Countryside Tour	Noon-4:30pm	\$42	X _____	\$ _____
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Thursday, September 24, 1998

#3 Little Rock Historical Tour	1:00pm-4:30pm	\$32	X _____	\$ _____
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#4 Hot Springs Tour	10:30am-4:30pm	\$45	X _____	\$ _____
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Friday, September 25, 1998

#5 Little Rock Air Force Base	9:00am-3:00pm	\$20	X _____	\$ _____
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Saturday, September 26, 1998

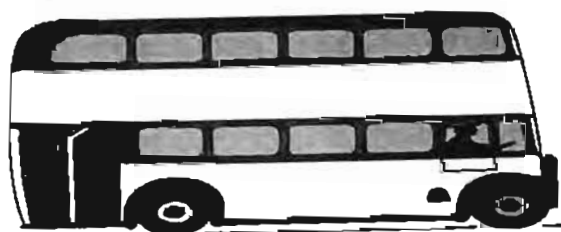
#6 Little Rock Historical Tour	1:00pm-4:30pm	\$32	X _____	\$ _____
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TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make Checks Payable To: 24th Infantry Division Association

Mail Checks To: Little Rock Convention Bureau
P.O. Box 207
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Registration Deadline: September 11, 1998





Countryside Tour

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Noon-4:30pm

Seat of government, financial center, focus of arts and entertainment, Little Rock is a cosmopolitan capitol city at the heart of Arkansas.

Two of the city's historic neighborhoods with beautifully preserved older homes are included in this tour: The Historic Quapaw Area developed around the site of the old Little Rock Arsenal. The birthplace of General Douglas MacArthur, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Only one building remains today and it is the home of the Arkansas Museum of Science and History.

Adjacent to the Museum is The Arkansas Arts Center. Nearby is one of Little Rock's most beautiful antebellum houses, the restored Pike-Fletcher-Terry mansion, is now home of the Arts Center's Decorative Arts Museum.

In The Governor's Mansion Area are many fine examples of restored Victorian homes. One notable example is the Villa Marre.

Little Rock is home to three capitol: the Arkansas Territorial Restoration which serve as the seat of the first governmental body in the Arkansas Territory prior to statehood in 1836. The Old State House, Arkansas' first State Capitol, and the present State Capitol building, a replica of our nation's capitol in Washington, D.C.

Just outside the city is some of the South's finest farm land. Depending on the season of the year, you will view cotton, rice, soy beans and catfish farming.

Marlsgate Plantation is an example of the opulence which existed during the plantation life of the 1800's in the south. This 28 room southern mansion has been meticulously restored and features fine English and American antiques throughout.

Tour includes: Drive by city tour including the Historic Quapaw Area, the Governor's Mansion, the Arkansas State Capitol and Central High School. Narrated tour of Arkansas Territorial Restoration, four restored houses dating back to the early 19th Century, and the Hinderliter Grog Shop (the oldest structure remaining in the city), preserved from the days when Little Rock was a boisterous town in Arkansas Territory. View of the rich farming area, guided tour of Marlsgate Plantation, where you will be served an English Style High Tea. This 28-room Southern mansion reflects the plantation life of the 1800's.

Hot Springs Tour

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Friday, September 25, 1998

10:30am-4:30pm



Hot Springs is located an hour and a half southwest of Little Rock. The hot springs here have drawn visitors since the days of the Indians, when, legend has it, the valley in which they flowed was a sanctuary where rivalries were forgotten so all could enjoy the spring's restorative power. That tradition continued into the early part of this century, when the spa that grew up around the springs was popular not only with the social elite of America but with such gangsters as Al Capone and Owney Madden, all found the warm water relaxing, the surrounding scenery beautiful.

Today, Hot Springs is a sizable city inside a national park. Only one spring still flows free; the others are channeled into a common, government-regulated source that supplies hot water to bathhouses and hotels.

Although thermal baths were the initial drawing card for Hot Springs, another traditional form of entertainment has also been bringing visitors there for over 75 years: thoroughbred racing. Three lakes make Hot Springs tops for water sports in summer.

Tour includes: Narrated city tour of Hot Springs, featuring Fordyce Bath House, Mountain Valley Water Building, vintage homes along the historic Quapaw Avenue. Cruise on Lake Hamilton aboard "The Ducks" (amphibious vehicle) and lunch at Buffy's Buffet.



Historic Little Rock Tour

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Saturday, September 26, 1998

1:00 pm-4:30pm



Seat of government, financial center, focus of arts and entertainment, Little Rock is a cosmopolitan capital city at the heart of Arkansas.

Little Rock is home to three capitol: the Arkansas Territorial Restoration which served as the seat of the first governmental body in the Arkansas Territory prior to statehood in 1836; The Old State House, Arkansas' first State Capitol; and the present State Capitol building, a replica of our nation's capitol in Washington, D.C.

Two of the city's historic neighborhoods with beautifully preserved older homes are included in this tour. The Historic Quapaw Area developed around the site of the old Little Rock Arsenal. The birth place of General Douglas MacArthur, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Only one building remains today and it is the home of the Arkansas Museum of Science and History

Adjacent to the Museum is The Arkansas Arts Center. Nearby is one of Little Rock's most beautiful antebellum houses, the restored Pike-Fletcher-Terry mansion. The restoration is now home to the Arts Center's Decorative Arts Museum.

In the Governor's Mansion Area are many fine examples of restored Victorian homes. One notable example is the Villa Marre. Nearby is Little Rock Central High School which became the focus of world attention during the Integration Crisis of 1957 and 1958. This marvelous structure is one of the premier high schools of the nation.

Tour includes: Narrated tour of Little Rock's Quapaw Area, including the Old State House, Arkansas' first state capitol. Narrated tour of the Villa Marre, a Victorian house-museum combining design features of both the Italianate and Second Empire styles of architecture, featured in the opening scenes of *"Designing Women"*. Narrated tour of the Arkansas Territorial Restoration, four restored houses dating back to the early 19th century, and the Hinderliter Grog Shop (the oldest structure remaining in the city), preserved from the days when Little Rock was a boisterous town in Arkansas Territory. Guided tour of The Arkansas State Capitol, which is a down-scale replica of our Nation's Capitol in Washington, D.C. The legislature of 1911 met in the new building as has each session since that time. Exhibits in the public areas are changed frequently. We will have tea at the Governor's Mansion.



Little Rock Air Force Base

Friday, September 25, 1998

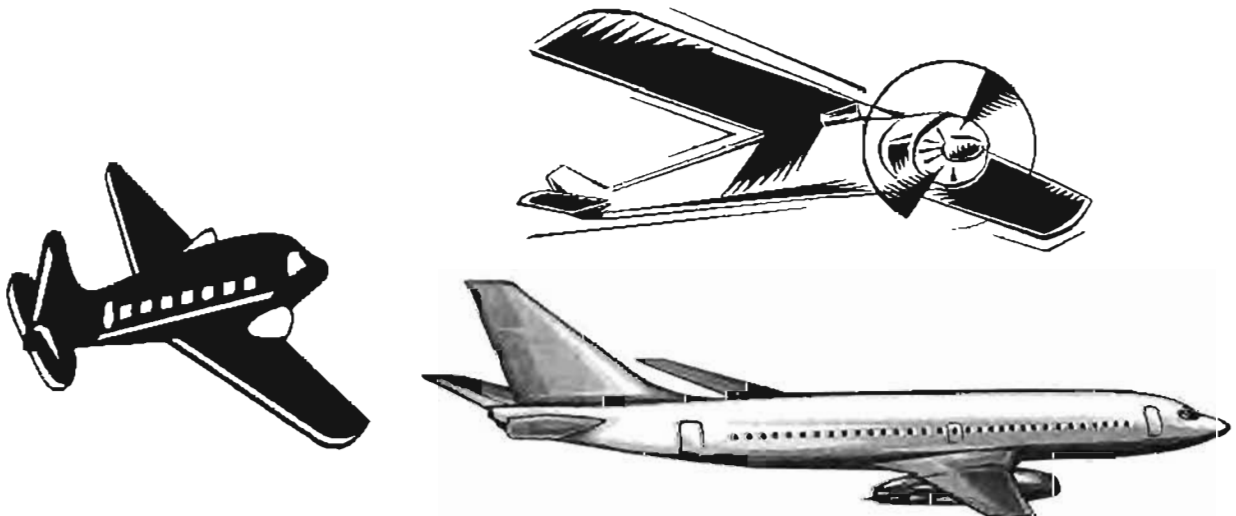
9am-3pm

The Little Rock Air Force Base, "The Rock," is the largest C-130 base in the world. The 314th Airlift Wing operates 44 C-130s to train, provide, and support forces for theater combat delivery to uphold U.S. interests worldwide. As the only Department of Defense C-130 formal training school, they train approximately 2,300 students from the Air Force, sister military services, the Coast Guard and many allied nations. Students are trained in all five C-130 crew positions: pilot, copilot, navigator, flight engineer and loadmaster.

The 463rd Airlift Group, our operational tenant unit, is a key component in developing, operating and sustaining airlift forces in support of U.S. interests worldwide. This group of highly-trained military professionals make sure these missions are carried out by maintaining a vital state of readiness.

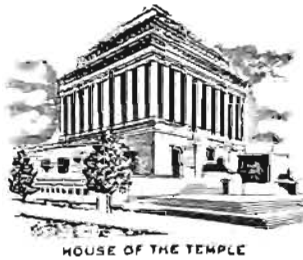
Tour includes: The Little Rock Air Force Base will send tour escorts at 8:30am to the Arkansas Excelsior Hotel for a action packed full day of demonstrations. You will view tactical capabilities demonstrations of the C-130 aircraft. You will also view static displays of the C-130's. From there we will go the Officers Club for a noon luncheon. After lunch we will have a mission briefing. From there we will go to the Army & Air Force Exchange Service where you will be allowed to shop for approximately 1 hour.

***We have been informed that the the "Blue Angels" may be performing an air show at the Little Rock Air Force Base Saturday and Sunday. While we are touring on Friday they will be practicing their show. If so we will be allowed to watch and observe their intricate flying patterns. We will have a confirmation in the next Taro Leaf.**



The Supreme Council
MOTHER COUNCIL OF THE WORLD
OF THE
THIRTY-THIRD AND LAST DEGREE

H. WALLACE REID, 33°
GRAND MINISTER OF STATE
AND
SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL
IN SOUTH CAROLINA



HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE

407 BERKSHIRE HILL
ANDERSON, S. C. 29621-3909
(803) 226-3051

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF
FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U. S. A.

Mr. Wallace Frederick Kuhner
1637 Falmouth Street
Charleston, S. C. 29407-3926

October 6, 1997

Dear Brother Kuhner:

Congratulations! You have just been selected by the Supreme Council to be Invested with the Rank and Decoration of a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. It is with a great deal of pride and pleasure that I am privileged to inform you of this honor.

The Investiture will be held in the Columbia Scottish Rite Temple on November 1, 1997. Your Valley secretary will be in contact with you giving you particulars pertaining to the Investiture.

Again, let me express my personal congratulations to you and thank you for what you do for the Scottish Rite. I look forward to greeting you in Columbia on November 1st.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Wallace F Kuhner
1637 Falmouth St
Charleston SC 29407-3926

H. Wallace Reid



October 21, 1997

Dear Wally,

What an honor! I was so happy to receive a copy of the letter that was sent to you. Certainly wish I could be there for the investiture.

Just want you to know that I am thinking of you and very proud of your accomplishments. Congratulations, Wally.

I will make sure that Yvonne puts this in the February issue of the Taro Leaf. The October issue has gone to print and should be in the mail in early November.

Rodolph (Rudy) Mullins
Rodolph (Rudy) Mullins

24th Infantry Division Association



260 Shelli Lane
Roswell, Georgia 30075
13 November 1997

Mrs. Yvonne Mullins
Editor, THE TARO LEAF
HCR-3, Box 191
Rocky Mount, Missouri 65072

Dear Vonnice,

I recently had the opportunity to read a most descriptive book written by a former member of the 24th Infantry Division giving an account of his experiences as a Prisoner of War (POW) of the Chinese during the Korean War.

William Funchess joined the 19th Infantry in Beppu, Japan in the Spring of 1950. Bill was a young lieutenant, a product of the excellent ROTC program at Clemson College (now Clemson University) Clemson, South Carolina. His initial assignment was as a platoon leader in the 1st Battalion. With the outbreak of the Korean War he deployed with the rest of the regiment from Japan to Korea. Bill was an outstanding platoon leader in every respect and was one of the few Infantry line officers that survived the battles of the Kum River and Taejon.

Bill was captured after he was wounded on 4 November 1950 when the Chinese troops overran and surrounded C Company, 19th near Anju, North Korea. His book relates his memories as a POW in North Korea from that date until he was released on 3 September 1953, a total of 34 months in captivity.

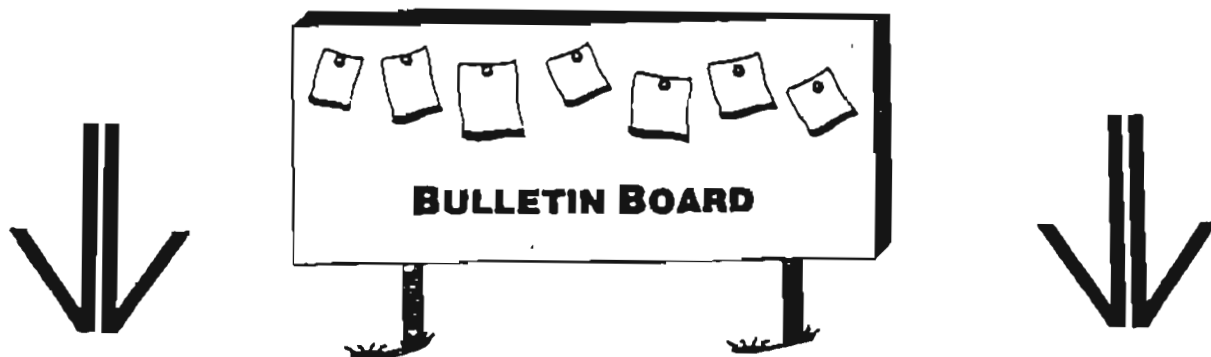
I highly recommend this book for all our members. It brings to the forefront the personal sacrifices that men, like Bill, made in the service of their country and gives pride to all of us that our division had men like Bill in its ranks during those bitter times. Bill has not made wide distribution of his book. In a recent conversation with him he informed me that he has a limited number of copies of the book available for individuals that are interested in procuring a copy.

The book is entitled Korea POW, A Thousand Days of Torment. It is available from the author for \$15.00 plus \$3.00 for Priority Mail delivery. Bill's address is as follows:
William H. Funchess
107 Brookwood Drive
Clemson, South Carolina 29631

In my opinion every member of our Association should have a personal copy of this publication to keep with other memoirs of their military service to our country.

Jim Hill
JAMES F. HILL

19th Infantry
1949-51



**KOREA P.O.W.
A THOUSAND DAYS OF TORMENT**

by William H. Funchess
107 Brookwood Drive

Clemson, SC 29631, Phone: 864-654-4617

Send payment of \$15.00 plus \$3.00 shipping to Bill
at the above address.

(From the Editor of the Taro Leaf - "I read Bill's book straight through. I could not lay it down. My heart was heavy as I read the nightmare that our young soldiers endured. I will never forget the sacrifice they made for all of the rest of us. God Bless you Bill, and all who have given for the rest of us.")

Dear Friends of the 24th Inf Div Association,

On October 28, 1997, I lost my husband Rudy in death. The determination he had to keep living, as long as he did, in spite of his illness will always remain with me.

I want to thank you for the love you have shown in so many ways. The cards, letters, phone calls, flowers, memorials, special gifts, so much that I can never express enough to you what each one of you mean to me. Thank you Tom Cochran, Gene and Donnie Spicer and Barbara for being at the service for Rudy. I will never forget you being there. I know many others would have been there if at all possible, however, time, distance and health prohibited you being there. Just knowing that gave me much comfort.

Gene and Donnie Spicer were visiting Rudy and I on October 23rd, my birthday. Rudy drove the four of us to the Publishers in Versailles, Mo., he wanted them to see how the Taro Leaf magazine is put together. We all looked on as the pages of the Taro Leaf were being finished. After we left there we picked up some minnows and Gene, Donnie and Rudy and our cat, "Alley" went fishing at our place. Rudy caught two fish. I was fixing our dinner and I remember looking down on the dock and knowing that Rudy did not have much time left.

Thank God that life is more than just this earthly life, Rudy still lives on in our hearts and minds and he will never be forgotten.

Remember Rudy's words, "Recruite a new member, today". All of you are doing just that and as of this date, January 11, 1998 we have nine new members and adding to the 55 that are listed in this issue, that is a total of 64 since the October issue. These nine new members will be listed in the next issue of the "Taro Leaf".

24th Fully yours,
Yvonne (Vonnie) Mullins

It is January the 23rd, 1954.

Twenty-one American men and one British soldier turned their backs on family, friends, home and country for the philosophy and way of life of the Chinese Reds who had held them in POW camps for 3 years and more.

Though we've had our Benedict Arnolds in times past, never before had a group of American POWs chosen to remain with their captors.

Never had America entered a war with such high hopes - and ended it with such irritable disillusion.

The apathy it generated was caught by the soldier who felt cut off from the world anyway. The stalemate hadn't helped.

And it was contagious enough to have been caught in the POW camps.

Returned POWs, like soldiers, were hazy about why they had been there in the first place.

Virginia Pasley, a British journalist, devoted a book to the subject - appropriately titling it "22 Stayed" - after travelling 40,000 miles to talk with families and friends.

Let's tabulate a couple of facts on the 21, forgetting the Limey.

What outfits had they come from? -

the 24th - 3	the 2nd - 12
the 25th - 1	the 3rd - 1
the 1st Cav. - 2	the 7th - 2

Who were the 3 Taro Leafers?:



Cpl. Howard Gayle Adams
of Corsicana, Tex.



Pfc. William A. Cowart
of Dalton, Ga.



Pfc. Clarence Adams
of Memphis, Tenn.

We've got more coming on these chaps in future issues.

Does anyone have any information on any one of these 3? Our information is 43 years old. Sorry but information has been truly hard to come by on these chaps.

After the curtain had fallen on our latest fiesta, **DUTCH NELSEN** was the happy recipient of this:



Persons 1

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

October 3, 1997

Dutch -

Dear Colonel Nelsen:

Thank you for the invitation to the 50th "Golden" reunion of the 24th Infantry Division Association. Enjoyed seeing you and Margo, Kenwood Ross, and the many other dedicated members of the Association.

Special thanks for your leadership and efforts to help plan and carry-out this special event. It was simply a first-class event -- one that old comrades will remember well for a long, long time.

Look forward to seeing you at the next reunion.

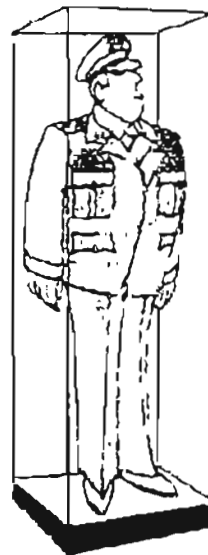
Best wishes,

Barry R. McCaffrey
Barry R. McCaffrey
Director

Lieutenant Colonel Dutch Nelsen (Ret)
Reunion Chairman (1997)
812 Onon Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

"Victory"

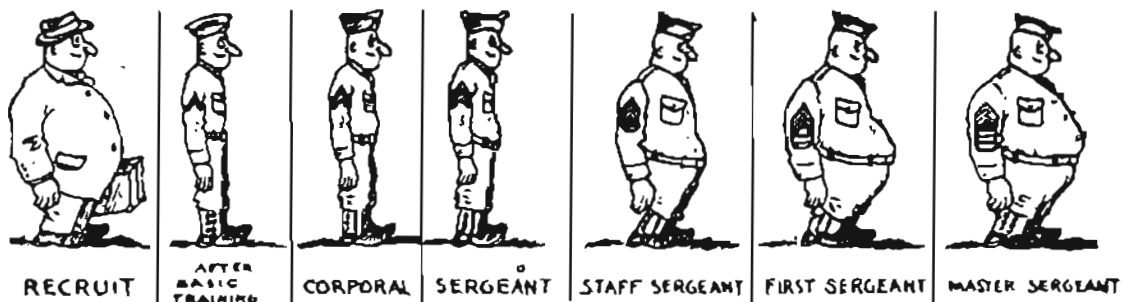
BREAK
IN CASE
OF
NATIONAL
EMERGENCY



BUDGET HEARING
IN SESSION



"Getting back to this special project, General, could you be a little more specific than 'It's gonna cost a pretty penny'?"



Long after WW II ended - well into mid-1946 - special Soviet NKVD ("secret police") units were still terrorizing the Polish countryside exterminating underground survivors.

The West turned a blind eye to Stalin's genocidal campaigns, including the greatest single massacre of POWs in modern history. During the Soviets' treacherous war against Poland in 1939, 1.2 million civilians were deported to Siberia and 250,000 Polish soldiers were imprisoned.

Selected from among those POWs for the "supreme punishment" were 14,736 officers and officials plus 10,685 other Poles held by the NKVD. Stalin's homicidal hatred of Poles led to the barbaric execution of all these men in the Katyn Forest near Smolensk, Russia, in the spring of 1940.

Congress conducted an exhaustive 13-month investigation in 1951-52, finding conclusive proof the Communists carried out the atrocity. Nevertheless, not until the early 1990s did the Russians own up to their crime - but only after 50 years of denial.

Today, a Katyn Forest Massacre Memorial stands in stark tribute in Exchange Place, Jersey City NJ, to the 25,421 Poles who perished - the first fatal casualties of the Cold War in East Europe.

The VA has announced that it will conduct the first phase of a new Agent Orange study. In an effort to determine possible health effects of exposure to the defoliant, VA has hired Klemm Analysis Group to conduct the study.

The project was suggested to VA by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). IOM, which is under contract to VA, periodically evaluates research concerning Agent Orange exposure and subsequent diseases.

Earlier VA studies found a significant excess of deaths from digestive disease, primarily due to liver cirrhosis. The study found that rates of death due to all cancers also were elevated.

One more study!!



"Somebody has been helping themselves to extra rations!!"

A NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR KOREAN WAR VETERANS

Tuscola, Illinois is the site proposed for a national Korean War museum which plans to open its doors to the general public on June 25, 2000--the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. Funding for the new museum will be the responsibility of a historical preservation agency which incorporated in Illinois in August of 1997 for the specific purpose of establishing a national museum and library for Korean War veterans. Fund raising efforts are now underway, and a search committee is studying various site possibilities in Tuscola. Tuscola is located in East Central Illinois at the intersection of I-57 and U.S. Route 36. Tuscola is centrally located in the United States, close to several main traffic arteries (including four interstates), features tourist attractions, has experienced recent economic developments, and lies in proximity to many educational resources.

The concept, purpose and mission, facility features and floor plan, ways and means, and audience/resource considerations for the museum were outlined in a proposal written in January of 1997 on behalf of the Douglas County Museum in Tuscola. The Douglas County Museum is a local history museum at 700 S. Main in Tuscola that featured a significant Korean War exhibit from October through December of 1996. While the exhibit was running, Lynrita Sommer, the Museum's administrator, conducted full-length, cassette-tape interviews with over 100 Korean War veterans. When the exhibit ended, Sommer proposed a national museum based on the comments and desires of the Korean War veterans she met during the three-month duration of the Douglas County Museum's exhibit, "The Korean War; Cold, Bloody, and Forgotten".

An organizational meeting of the newly-created Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library was held in Douglas County on August 25. There, 26 Korean War veterans and guests from three states met to elect officers and initiate the legal documents for the national museum. Doug Fargo of Charles Town, West Virginia (7th Division, 32nd Infantry Regiment, Love Company), and Joe Matthews of Mattoon (2nd Division, 38th Infantry Regiment, Company A, 1st Battalion) donated the state incorporation fee, and Kenneth Cook of Danville (195th Ordnance Depot Company) donated the county filing fee.

Elected organizational officers of the new Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library were Illinois residents: Robert Kenney of Decatur, president; Kenneth Cook of Danville, first vice president; Merle Sims of Decatur, treasurer; Lynrita Sommer of Tuscola, secretary; and Howard Faley of Freeport, second vice president. Elected directors were Bill O'Brien of Howetown, Clyde Fruth of Freeport, Richard Teike of Mt. Pulaski, Billy Gray of Okawville, and Walter Ade of Springfield. A new slate of officers will be elected in 1998.

The purpose of the new Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library is to preserve a record of the participation of the United States in the Korean War, to educate and disseminate information to the general public about the Korean War era and the country of South Korea, and to promote good relations and friendship among Korean War veterans, the citizens of other United Nations allies who participated in the Korean War, and the people of South Korea. The national museum and library will collect, research, care for and interpret Korean War information and artifacts for Korean War veterans, their descendants, and the general public.

Subjects featured in the four galleries of the proposed 133,080 square foot museum will include Korea 1950-53; a Gold Star gallery dedicated to the memory of American servicemen and women who were killed or declared missing in action in the Korean War; Korea Today; and a temporary exhibits gallery. The first gallery that existed on both the front line and in the rear, why the United States was involved, etc. The gallery will feature uniforms, weapons, photographs, and much more. The Gold Star gallery will serve as a memorial to the 64,000 American men and women who died or were lost in action during the Korean War. It will feature photographs and memorabilia about those dead heroes. The names of the deceased veterans, as well as those of each veteran still missing in action, will also be featured in the Gold Star gallery. In the national museum, America's Korean War-dead will be portrayed as much more than mere statistics, and the gallery will serve to remind the world that a large number of our veterans are still listed as missing in action and unaccounted for this half century later. The purpose of the Korea Today gallery is to show the American veterans and general public that the lost lives of our country's deceased and missing veterans, as well as the hardships that all Korean War veterans endured in order that Korea be freed from communism, were not suffered in vain. This gallery will be of great psychological importance

to Korean War veterans. Korea is now a thriving, prosperous, highly industrialized nation, but the vast majority of veterans will never revisit Korea to see and appreciate the positive changes that have taken place there in the decades following the signing of the truce. America's Korean War veterans need to know that their sacrifices in Korea made a difference. The fourth gallery will provide space for temporary, changing exhibits. Special theme exhibits will be created for six or twelve month duration. Other features of the new museum include administrative offices, storage and preservation areas, a "Discover Korea" room for children, museum store, and a conference/convention area with a seating capacity of 1,000. One of the key aspects of the national museum will be a research library which will hold full length, taped interviews with Korean War participants, an extensive photographic collection, and numerous documents and books related to the subject of the war.

Membership dues in the Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library are now being accepted. Annual dues structure is: individual veteran or spouse - \$25; veteran family membership - \$30; general public (individual) - \$35; general public (family) - \$40; Corporate or Civic - \$50; Student - \$15; and Sponsor - \$100. Dues are renewable each year during the month the member joined. Other categories of membership, which entitle one person only to have lifetime membership benefits are as follows: Life Member - \$1000; Patron - \$2,500; Benefactor - \$5,000; and Founder - \$10,000. A portion of all dues (5 percent) is being placed in the museum's Endowment Fund from 1997-2000 to perpetuate the preservation and educational activities of the museum. After the year 2,000, the portion placed in the Endowment Fund will increase to 10 percent, although the dues amount will stay the same. The remainder of the dues fees will be used for administrative costs and newsletter expenses. Dues entitle members to issues of a quarterly newsletter which will provide updates about progress on, contributions to, and activities of the national museum and library, as well as free admission to the museum when it opens.

Checks for dues and/or contributions should be made payable to: Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library, c/o Treasurer, Merle Sims, 2441 Longwood Drive, Decatur, IL 62526. For more information, call the Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library board president, Robert Kenney, 2930 W. Hickory Point Road, Decatur, IL 62526 (ph. 217-877-7091), or its secretary, Lynrita Sommer, 111 E. Houghton, Tuscola, IL 61953 (217-253-2535 or 217-253-4620). Mrs. Sommer's E-mail address is: dcmuseum@net66.com. More information about the Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library can be found on the Internet at the following E-mail address: decker@ameritech.net.

I am sending this article from the Champaign, IL news paper regarding the Korean War Vets Museum. It is to be built in Tuscola IL. I was at a meeting in September that got things started. There is another meeting in October I will be going there with Kenneth Cook of the Robert Wurtzbaugh Chapter of the KWVA of Danville, who is Vice Chairman. I hope this will be of interest to all the Korean Vets. Sincerely,

Elmer C. Shaw

I was at the dedication of the Korean War Memorial. Some wonderful people down state, are going big time intending to build a National Museum in Tuscola, Illinois, just for the Korean War Veterans. I've belonged to the Douglas County Museum ever since they held their first display on the Korean War. It sure renews my faith in some people, and I wanted you to read a copy of the newsletter they just sent me, I want you to be aware of a thing like this happening. In the meantime, take care. All-Ways a Gimlet. Long Live the 24th.

Ed and Margie Wilson
Member #678.

Please print the enclosed article on the Korean War Veterans Museum.
Tom Cochran

I am trying to locate an Army unit of Black soldiers (perhaps a truck-driving unit) who were camped on the western shores of the Philippine Island of Mindanao near Parang, Cotabato, in 1944. Benny Rosell, a former teaching colleague of mine at Hoxie High School in western Kansas and the pastor of the local Christian Church was a 10-year old Filipino boy in 1944. Because of extreme poverty, his father, Hilario Rosell left home, accompanied by Benny, and found work as a pay clerk in a laborer's camp in Parang. Benny occupied himself with venturesome exploits among the American soldiers, walking from one camp to another to observe the soldiers' way of life. Six soldiers, most of them Black, took him in, fed him and allowed him to stay in their tent with them. For the first time in a long time, he was not hungry. Benny, being the son of a preacher, could sing and he went to the Chapel service with the soldiers and sang hymns in the English language. The tent mates of Benny's met his mother, brothers and sisters, too, taking them gifts of food. Benny was heartbroken when the soldiers moved out. They were his heroes and great friends. He wanted to return to the United States with them. His father promised him that one day he would be able to go to America and be educated. At seventeen years of age, Benny's dream came true. He was educated in America and was a high school teacher and debate coach until his retirement in 1994. Benny has never found any of the soldiers who helped him build his dreams. He will be retiring from the ministry in December, 1998, and we would all like to surprise Benny by finding some of his long lost American friends. Can you help us? Where would I go to find a list of Army units stationed in the above mentioned place in 1944? Any help you can give us on this subject will be so appreciated! I thank you in advance for your help. Home 785-675-3088; School 785-675-3286; e-mail: jemerick@educator.mci.net

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joanne Emerick
Social Studies Instructor, Hoxie High School
Hoxie, KS. 67740

From: Charles D Clemens Jr. U.S.N. (Retired)
46 D Deerwood Blvd
Greenville, FL 32331

Enclosed is a picture of my father Circa 1926. I don't know where it was taken. I do know he was stationed in several different places. They are listed below but not in order:
Fort Hamilton, NY; Fort Dupont, DE; Fort McPherson, GA; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; He also served in the New York National Guard circa 1925. He was born on September 19, 1908 in Frankfort, NY. He passed away on March 20, 1973 in Franklinville, NJ. By the way his service number was 668037. I noticed on his shoulder that the patch was the 1st Infantry Division. Was that the division they called the big red 1? I think he also was in the 24th Infantry Division the palm leaf patch. Any history you can give me on the 24th Infantry Division would be appreciated. I am retired Chief Petty Officer USN. Served from 1945 till 1967.

SOLDIERS

I was that which others did not want to be.
I went where others feared to go, and did
what others failed to do
I asked nothing of those who gave nothing,
and reluctantly accepted the thought of
eternal loneliness, should I fail.
I have seen the face of terror, felt the stinging
cold of fear, and enjoyed the sweet taste of
a moments love.
I have cried, pained, and hoped... but most
of all, I have lived times that others would
say were best forgotten.
At least someday I will be able to say that I
was proud of what I was....a soldier

George L. Skypeck



November 15, 1997
Letter from Thomas F. Kilfoyle Life member #369
4506 W. Claremont St., Glendale, AZ 85301-4826
Phone: 602-934-4080

I am enclosing a photo of a good buddy of mine whom I have not seen in 47 years his name is Vernon D. Fortner. Vernon and I were in the 24th. Recon. Co. together. We both joined the company in June 1948 which at that time was located in Kokura Kyushu Japan in an area known as "THE JONO AREA". Vernon was seriously wounded up in North Korea in November 1950 and because of his wound Vernon lost 2 inches off of his left leg. I left the Recon. Co. in June 1951. I had lost all contact with him until I was contacted by Roger Vaughn who is currently working on compiling a list of all former members of the 24th Recon Co. who served in Japan and Korea. Anyway I was visiting my daughter in August, she lives at Elgin AFB, Florida and Vernon and his wife Stennis drove all the way down from Woodland, Mississippi to see me. We had a grand visit talking over old times. I sent Vernon an application after I returned home, I hope he acts on it. The week after Vernon's visit I was visited by another old buddy who is a member namely Bernard Symczak. Bernie stopped by on his way to see his sons in Florida. Bernie had left the Recon Co. on June 1, 1950 for the states. When the war started Bernie was sent to Korea with the 2nd Inf. Div. where he earned the Bronze Star with a "V" for valor and was promoted to Master Sergeant. Bernie lives in Charlton, Massachusetts. Unfortunately Bernie and I did not take photo. As you see I got to meet with two buddies that I had not seen in 47 years. This is something I will never forget.

*Still
friendly
after all
these years*



(L to R) Vernon F. Fortner - Thomas F. Kilfoyle



Letter from Clarence A. (Bud) Collette, 5th R.C.T. Korea 1951-52; 24th Inf. Div. Assoc. Life Member No. 162

My wife, Jean, and I had a great time at our 24th Inf. Div. Assoc. 50th year Reunion in Colorado Springs. Enclosed is a picture taken last October 24th at my High School Class of 1947, 50th year Class Reunion. As you can see I didn't have a good time. The picture is of Helen (Koford) Rivers, otherwise known as actress Terry Moore and I, C.A. Bud Collette. We both graduated from Glendale High School in Glendale, CA in 1947. I've known Helen and her family for 65 years. I thought out Association members might like to see me again, that is if they can keep their eyes off Terry Moore. Jean has known her since 1951. This may be hard to believe, but Helen and I will both turn 69 years old in 1998.

24th Infantry Division Association



Mr. Earl J. Lee
11216 Ainsworth Avenue
Tacoma, Washington 98444-2526

260 Shelli Lane
Roswell, Georgia 30075
14 October 1997

Dear Earl,

No, I haven't forgotten you! After several months of research and telephone calls I think I have the answer to your request that the Department of the Army award you a Bronze Star for your service in Korea during the early part of that war.

As you are aware on 24 November 1950 a message was sent out from 24th Division Headquarters to all division units stating, in part, that "all officers and men who arrived in Korea 30 June 1950-14 July 1950 as an assigned member of an organic unit of this command and are still present be awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service". The key words in his message were "and are still present".

As you well know by November of 1950 many of the original members of the division that went to Korea in June and July were no longer with their units. Many were POWs, KIA, MIA or evacuated back to Japan or the United States due to being wounded in action. General Church's desire was to award those 24th Division members with a meritorious award for their service with the division during the July-November 1950 time frame. As stated above many of the officers and men were left out from receiving the award because they were no longer with the unit. As in my case the Company Clerk submitted the award request for only the men that were still with the unit on 24 November 1950.

Department of the Army informs me that the award of the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service for the stated period was never a DA directive. It was only a directive from the Commanding General and was a "one time" event. If for any reason the individual was not awarded the BS at that time under the authority of the General Church message then DA does not have the authority to later award the medal.

Earl, I am sorry that I can not provide you a more positive response to your request. From all indications many of the deserving individuals did not receive the award at that time and it appears there is no course of action to receive it at this late date.

I appreciate your correspondence and if I can be of any further help in 24th Infantry Association affairs please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Jim Hill
19th Infantry
1949-51

NEW MEMBERS OF THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 10/7/97 THROUGH 1/6/98

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Zip</u>	<u>Unit 1</u>	<u>Recruited by</u>
Stanley	Asbury	Federal Heights	CO	80221	3rd Eng	Yvonne Mullins
Richard John	Ashenbrener	Wisconsin Rapids	WI	54494-3608	11th FA	Robert Smith
Frederick E	Baker	West Stewartstown	NH	03597	21st	VFW Ad
Herbert	Bartee	Denton	TX	76205	24th Sig B	
Peter Larry	Birch	Honolulu	HI	96826	34th	T Cochran & H Peters
William H	Bland	Spickard	MO	64679	63rd	
William H	Boatman	Kalama	WA	98625	34th	Don Eden
Joseph	Bocchino	Newton	NJ	07860	34th	
Alvin E	Bonar	Butler	KY	41006	21st	William Kerns
Raymond J	Boulds	Poplar	MT	59255-0068	Hqtrs	
Michael	Cap	Frankfort	IL	60423	Recon	Thomas Kilfoyle
Jack G	Cardinal	Vincennes	IN	47591	19th	
LTC James	Carrozza USA R	Bel Air	MD	21014-2845	26th AAA	Carl Wagenfuehrer
William A	Cox	Grayling	MI	49738-1508	34th	Harold W Golnick
William F	Cullen	Hollywood	FL	33020	34th	Donald Porter
John L	Diotte	Wimberley	TX	78676-5013	52nd	VFW Ad
Adolph C	Fossum	Lake Havasu City	AZ		19th	Moose Hoffman
Harry	Fridley	Cleveland	OH	44125-1933	5th RCT	Dick Lewis
Jack	Frogley	Springfield	MO	65804	21st	Jim Hill
William S	Fujimura	Fairport	NY	14450-4614	21st	David Hanning
Keith L	Fuller	Tiffin	OH	44883		
William H	Funchess	Clemson	SC	29631	19th	Jim Hill
Thomas J	Gavin	Portland	OR	97201-1304	26th AAA	
George Howard	Graham	Akron	OH	44319	34th	Harry Wittman
Robert L	Haines	Lakewood	CO	80215-4539	19th	Scott Defebaugh
LTC John	Holler	Fort Leonard Wood	MO	65473	3rd Eng	Yvonne Mullins
Sam	Ippolito	Metairie	LA	70005	21st	Ray Bach
Theodore S	Jansen	Leesburg	FL	34748	19th	William J Wing
J L	Johnsrud	Albert Lea	MN	56007	21st	
Erwin J	Krause	Unionville	CT	06085	34th	VFW Ad
John E	Le Beau	Ann Arbor	MI	48103	Finance	Tomy Moss
Shana & Berry	Long	Parkville	MO	64152		Y. Mullins
Billy C	McCain	Dallas	TX	75218-2022	63rd	Everett R. Pope
Robert S	Montgomery	Sarasota	FL	34341	19th	Marvin R Johnson
Charles H	Moran	Springfield	VA	22153	34th	
Col Robert B	Nett USA RET	Columbus	GA	31907-1830	19th	W.L. Jackson
Clarence R	Rasnake	Cleveland	VA	24225-9756	19th	
Richard W	Regler	Holmes	PA	19043	11th	Al R. Horanzy
Charles	Robertson	Calera	AL	35040	19th	James D. Nugent
Jesus	Sanchez	Harbor City	CA	90710-1504	34th	T Cochran & H Peters
William J	Schumaker	Ozark	MO	657221-8437	7th	VFW Ad
Andrew	Serio	East Haven	CT	06512		T.Cochran & H.Peters
Major Charles	Sexton	Fort Leavenworth	KS	66027	HHC 2BD	
Edward N	Slater	Independence	MO	64050	21st	William E. Kerns
Alfred A	Stankovich	San Antonio	TX	78240	21st	Ezra Burke
Russell J	Street	Southampton	NJ	08088	34th	Sgt Walter Bray
Phillip J	Taormino	Fulton	NY	13069	34th	T Cochran & H Peters
Stephen C	Targo	Beverly Hills	FL	34465	11th	VFW Ad
Bill	Traylor	Scottsboro	AL	35769	3rd Eng	Don Finney
Alex	Vernon	Alexandria	VA	22302	64th Armo	Col Walt Holton

NEW MEMBERS OF THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 10/7/97 THROUGH 1/6/98

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Zip</u>	<u>Unit 1</u>	<u>Recruited by</u>
Robert H	Vien	St Louis	MO	63139-1501	52nd	Lester E Johnson
Robert D	Wegner	Manning	IA	51455	21st	Tom Cochran
Roman L	Welter	Monticello	IA	52310-7621	21st	T. Cochran-H.Peters
SGM Oscar C	Wilks, Jr USA Re	Deridder	LA	70634	21st	Wally Kuhner
Robert C	Young	Plymouth	MA	02360	21st	VFW Ad

Total Count 55



NEW LIFE MEMBERS OF THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 10/7/97 THROUGH 1/6/98

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Unit 1</u>	<u>Exp.Date</u>
Birch	Peter Larry	2131 South Benetania - 310	Honolulu	HI	34th	Life xx
Bocchino	Joseph	46 Orchard St, Unit 3	Newton	NJ	34th	Life xx
Carrozza USA RET	LTC James	101 Roland Pl	Bel Air	MD	26th AAA	Life xx
DeMilio	Domenic T	20 West Columbus St	Roseto	PA	21st	Life xx
Fisher	Richard R	4240 Canela St	Cocoa	FL	34th	Life xx
Funchess	William H	107 Brookwood Dr	Clemson	SC	19th	Life xx
Hunt	Fred A	PO Box 10106	Tampa	FL	21st	Life xx
Hyytinen	Niilo	13290 Hodge Dr	Reno	NV	11th	Life xx
Nowak	Edward M	714 E Lamorak Dr	Schaumburg	IL	24th Sig Co	Life xx
Parmerter	Richard	10 New St	Florida	NY	6th Tank	Life xx
Perceful	Earl	3820 S 29th St W	Muskogee	OK	21st	Life xx
Rasmussen	Jerome	495 Park Meadow Dr #104	Waite Park	MN	11th FA BN	Life xx
Roberts	Richard A	PO Box 658	Snowflake	AZ	52nd	Life xx
Schoch	Henry W	140 Vonron Dr	Macon	GA	Div Hq	Life xx
Shields	Robert G	RR 10 Box 408A	Lake City	FL	34th	Life xx
Traylor	Bill	102 Willowchase	Scottsboro	AL	3rd Eng	Life xx



UPGRADED FROM LIFE \$100 (LIFE X) TO LIFE \$150 (LIFE XX) 10/7/97 THROUGH 1/6/98

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Unit 1</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>Upgrade Life xx</u>
Bingham	George M	RR1 Amherst Rd	Waynesfield	OH	21st		12/22/97
Hagerman	Col Russell A	900 9th Ave E Lot 169	Palmetto	FL	11th		12/22/97
Spicer	Gene E	8937 W 750 N	Commiskey	IN	19th		10/24/97
Spicer	Herbert	14 Satellite PL	Carlisle 6101	Western	21st	(M)	12/23/97
Swanson	Dr William J	W Retirement Home, Box 20	Ft McCoy	FL	24th Med		12/4/97
Willmot	Donald W	14 Shady Ln	Glen Gardner	NJ	34th	(SVC)	12/20/97
Wilson	Edward M	1223 Mondale Dr	Rockford	IL	21st	(M)	10/14/97



REUNION STEINS

There are a limited number of steins left from the reunion. These are crystal and etched with our Taro Leaf Patch. They are offered for \$10, includes postage. Send money to: 24th Inf Div Assoc
PO Box 6066
Colorado Springs, CO
80934-6066

ORDER YOUR COPY NOW

Bullets and Bayonets by Paul Austin can be ordered by sending your check for \$18.00 to:
Paul Austin
3945 Misty Meadows Dr
Fort Worth TX 76133
Phone: 817-263-4030
Fax: 817-294-2432
E-mail paustin@flash.net
Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

ERIC DILLER'S BOOK, "MEMOIRS of a COMBAT INFANTRYMAN" by an Enemy Alien, is available for \$10.00 + \$2.00 shipping.
504 Via La Selva
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
Phone 310-375-2024

Allow 1-2 weeks for delivery. Incidentally, Gen. Barry McCaffrey asked Eric at the reunion for a copy of his book. Letter from the General on the following page.

FABULOUS VEGAS MINI-REUNION VACATION!

There will be a Mini-Reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada June 8 - June 11, 1998. We have been able to get the very special rate of \$35 Plus Tax for rooms. Call Room Reservations at the Orleans Hotel. 702-365-7111 or write to 4500 W. Tropicana Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89103. Remember you must identify yourself as a member of the 5th RCT Group to get this rate. We have also arranged for some very special deals that we will let you know more about as the time for the reunion gets nearer. Don't delay, make your reservations early to assure a room. Sent in by Bill Kane, Phone: 407-275-7450

Dear Taro Leafers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow soldiers and their wives for the many cards, letters, and telephone calls I received after the reunion in C.S. They are deeply appreciated.

Glad to report I am on the road to recovery, thanks in part to you. This is just living proof that the bond established 53 years ago in combat never fades.

Thanks again and will see you in Little Rock next September. To those in the 34th there will be another breakfast in Little Rock and I promise to be there.

Ben Wable

11TH FIELD ARTILLERY, SERVICE BTRY, 24TH INF DIV, KOREAN CONFLICT, MAY '52-MAY '54. REUNION - APRIL 22,23,24 & 25, 1998.

Reunion will be held at the Grand Ramada Hotel in Branson, MO 65616. Contact Howard Buckles, P.O. Box 267, Keosauqua, IA 52565-0267; Phone:319-293-3012 for more info.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS GROUP REUNION

1st BN, 34th & 19th Inf. Regt. 24th Div
April 28, 29, 30, May 1st & 2nd 1998
Ramade Inn Nashville, Tennessee

For More Details

Contact: Charles W. Shoe
3924 Harrisburg Dr
Harrisburg, NC 28075
Phone: 704-455-2937

**my wife says i
never listen to her.
at least i think that's
what she said.**



Personal

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

November 17, 1997

Eric -

Dear Mr. Diller:

It was a pleasure meeting you at the 50th Reunion. Thank you for forwarding your book, Memoirs of a Combat Infantryman by an Enemy Alien.

The story of your sacrifice and dedication to America's freedom is interesting and compelling. Your experiences are particularly poignant because of your war-time status as an "enemy alien". You are privileged to possess a unique appreciation of the blessings of American citizenship, and the obligations that go with it.

As you acknowledge, we can pursue no greater goal than passing on to our children and grandchildren the values of family, church, and community that preserve us. In this way, we develop future generations of responsible citizens.

Best wishes,

Barry
Barry R. McCaffrey
Director

"Victory"

Mr. Eric Diller
504 Via La Selva
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Rodolph "Rudy" Mullins

We all have to come to grips, sooner or later, with the fact of death. Yet soldiers, for reasons never explained, dote on the fiction that they better understand the fact, are better equipped to cope with it, than the man-on-the street.

The fiction was worn mighty thin in October. The heartbreak, the sense of needless loss, all were there, soldiers or no.

There was no surprise in this latest turn of events for RUDY MULLINS was one among us who had more than his share of sick calls, had been entered in many a Sick Book. And yet this sorely-troubled man was never heard to complain.

Aside from family, our Association, its honor and its pride, came first - that for which Rudy had a deep abiding love and affection. The 24th, truly, was his obsession.

Rudy has escaped us now, as each of us will one day escape into Death. But the memory of his being, so closely and completely intertwined with anything and everything that smacked of 24th Division, is and ever shall be with us.

There is no disguising that the passing of RUDY MULLINS is a heavy misfortune for us, his friends, not to mention the lovely Yvonne, his steadfast mate over the years.

Vonnie and our Association have lost incalculably in loyalty, dedication, enthusiasm, love, determination, doggedness.

Carry on, we must, we will. But it will be with a different verve, a different zest.

Rudy's life was full of energy, humanity, confidence, spontaneity, generosity, compassion and humor - a full and rare combination.

Now the hard painful struggle has ended. He has earned eternal rest.

After life's fitful fever, may you sleep well, Rudy.



Kenwood Ross

LATE BREAKING NEWS

January 17, 1998, my heart is heavy with news received today of the passing of yet another friend. KENWOOD ROSS, known to many as "Mr. 24th", passed on at his home in Springfield, MA. Kenwood had sent the above tribute of Rudy to me January 15, 1998 and now we grieve for him. The next issue will cover more - but for now. . . .

God washes the eyes by tears until they can behold the invisible land where tears shall come no more. Henry Ward Beecher.

The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces. ISAIAH 25:8

Yvonne Mullins, Editor

RODOLPH "RUDY" MULLINS

December 7, 1927 - October 28, 1997

It was October 28th. The phone rang. The news was devastating. Rudy Mullins was gone from our midst. This incredible man had slipped the surly bonds of earth to touch the face of God.

In July we wept when he wrote that his three year battle with cancer would soon be over. His Oncologist could do no more. At best he had six months to live.

When we saw him at the Colorado Springs reunion and shared in his moment of glory as he received the Verbeck Bowl, little did we realize that in five weeks, this splendid man would be gone from our lives.

We had no idea and he gave no hint that his body was in such great pain he was barely able to stand to receive the highest award the Association can bestow upon any of its members. We did not know he was so weakened by his illness that it took all of his energy just to say just two words in appreciation -- "Thank you." It was all he needed to say for we all knew it came from the deepest recesses of his heart.

Yes, we all knew Rudy's time would soon come. We expected it. I dare say we thought we were prepared for it, but despite that preparation we still feel the awesome sense of loss and sorrow. But beneath our sorrow we can find a deep underlying note of optimism. Death has but freed and liberated our dear friend from a mortal body that has long borne the burden and the heat of the day.

We acknowledge that we tend to hold onto anything of value. And relationships are among the most valuable possessions on earth. Who can blame us then, for lamenting the loss of someone who meant so much to so many, for so long?

Everyone whose life was touched by Rudy is blessed and each of us has special memories and stories of when, where, and how he left his lasting impression of goodness upon us.

We remember Rudy as a man of countless virtues. He always walked with grace, hands outstretched to everyone he met and always with a smile that lit up your day. Never did we meet a more gracious, more humble, kinder gentle man. Never did we hear him utter an unkind word about anyone or anything. He was always the last to register a complaint, even when justified. Indeed, Rudy was a role-model soldier, husband, father and human being.

His love of God and family, his value of friendship, his pride in country and his dignity in work, set him apart. Wherever he went, Rudy cast a big shadow -- not in black or gray, but in magnificent technicolor. He always had a listening ear and time to help anyone in need. Indeed, Rudy was patience personified.

Few others had greater love for the 24th Infantry Division Association, and unequivocally, few have served the Association with greater distinction, dedication and efficiency. We marvel at the super-human effort he gave in serving so nobly as our Secretary-Treasurer and Editor of the Taro, throughout his long illness. If nature could speak, it would should to the world, "This was a man"!

You left us far too soon, Rudy, and there were so many things we forgot to say to you. Please forgive us. Thanks for enriching our lives and for all the beautiful memories you left us.

God love you. We certainly did. May you body and soul rest in eternal peace.

Joseph P. Hofrichter
Chaplain

"MY PEACE BE THINE"

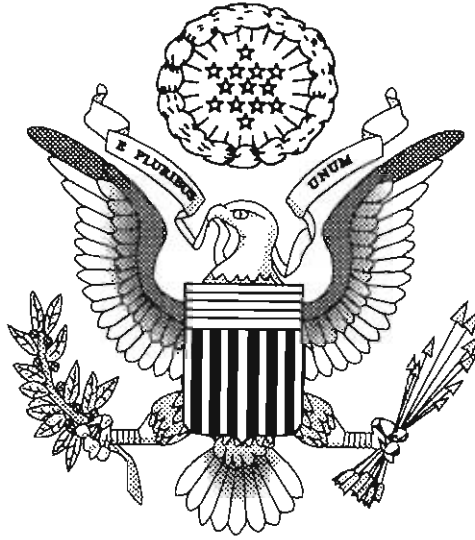
God looked around His garden
And found an empty place.
He looked down upon the earth
And wept when He looked at
Rudy's face.

He knew how he was suffering
He felt his terrible pain
He knew as only God could know
Rudy could never be well again.

He saw the road was getting rough,
The hills so hard to climb
So He closed Rudy's weary eye
And whispered softly,
"Sleep My child, My peace be thine."

He put His arms around him
And gently lifted him to rest
To that empty place in His garden
He had saved for only the best

It breaks our hearts to loose him
But he will never be alone
For a part of us went with him
The day God called Rudy home.



*The United States of America
honors the memory of
Rodolph Mullins*

*This certificate is awarded by a grateful
nation in recognition of devoted and
selfless consecration to the service
of our country in the Armed Forces
of the United States.*

*William T. Clinton
President of the United States*

"Another Soldier's Coming Home"

TAPS

His back is bent and weary
His voice is tired and low
His sword is worn from battle
and his steps have gotten slow,
But he used to walk on water
or it seemed that way to me,
I know he moved some mountains
and never left his knees.



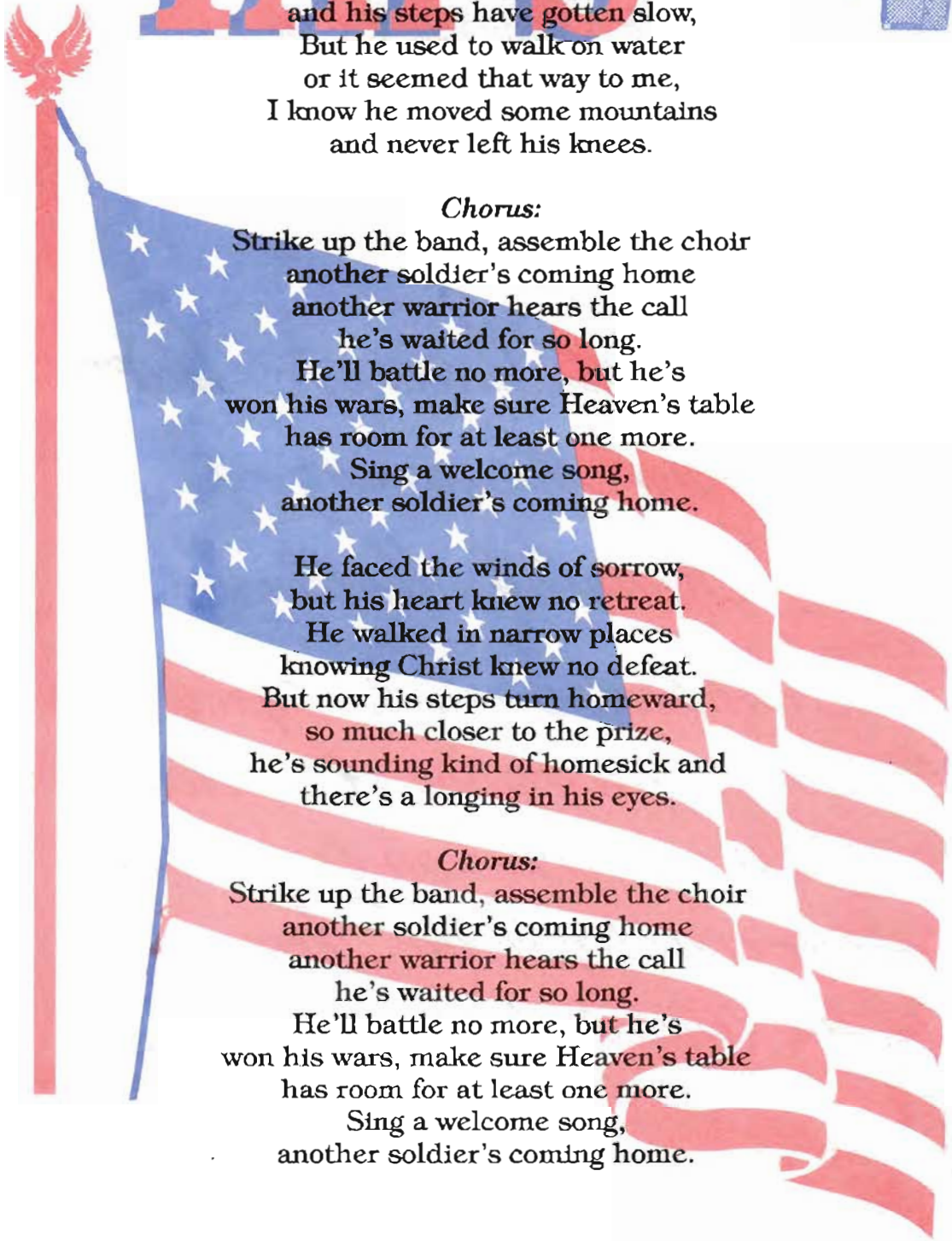
Chorus:

Strike up the band, assemble the choir
another soldier's coming home
another warrior hears the call
he's waited for so long.
He'll battle no more, but he's
won his wars, make sure Heaven's table
has room for at least one more.
Sing a welcome song,
another soldier's coming home.

He faced the winds of sorrow,
but his heart knew no retreat.
He walked in narrow places
knowing Christ knew no defeat.
But now his steps turn homeward,
so much closer to the prize,
he's sounding kind of homesick and
there's a longing in his eyes.

Chorus:

Strike up the band, assemble the choir
another soldier's coming home
another warrior hears the call
he's waited for so long.
He'll battle no more, but he's
won his wars, make sure Heaven's table
has room for at least one more.
Sing a welcome song,
another soldier's coming home.





LCOL RODOLPH MULLINS. USA RET

December 7, 1927 - October 28, 1997

Tribute To My Husband

by Yvonne Mullins

Rodolph Mullins was the third oldest child and the first son born to his parents, Lucretia Hall Mullins and Thomas M. Mullins. There were 9 children in the home.

His Father was a coal miner and worked hard to make a living. Rodolph and the other children were taught moral and spiritual values by his parents. When he was young Rodolph was called "RO" by everyone, family and friends.

His Father was also a Baptist Lay Minister and taught his children to fear God and always show respect for the family name. "Ro" grew up always honoring his parents and making his parents and family very proud of him. Ro only weighed 3 lbs at birth and was very fragile as a child and not expected to live a long life. Perhaps knowing his physical weaknesses caused him to appreciate the value of life.

He was 14 years old on December 7, 1941, the day of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He recalled his Uncle being home on furlough and being summoned back to duty. He thought of the day that he too might be in the army. He turned 18 on December 7, 1945 and was drafted into the Army Air Force on December 14, 1945. He received a battlefield commission at the age of 23 during his time in Korea. He always strived for physical strength and later in the Army went to "Mountain Climbing School". He always excelled in all he attempted.

Although his formal education was limited, in that he attended only through the sixth grade, his desire to learn and to gain knowledge was never limited. He went on to gain a G.E.D. and then on to two years of college, Austin Peay State University Tennessee. He spent 26 years in the army and retired in 1972 as LCol. In 1973 he became the administrator of the Pulaski County Memorial Hospital in Waynesville, Missouri.

While Rodolph was in the Army he was given the nick name, "Rudy", which stuck throughout his lifetime. Rudy had a firm faith in God, loved his family and friends and was proud to serve his country. He had a very positive outlook on life, never gave excuses. He worked hard and enjoyed the life God gave him. He did not waste time with useless regrets, he lived his life believing every day to be a gift and living it with all the strength he had.

When Rudy and I married, July 10, 1975, he gladly accepted the rearing of my two younger children. My two oldest were already gone from home. He loved the responsibility of a home and family. He had seven children from a previous marriage and the youngest, a daughter, came to live with us at our home in Waynesville, Missouri.

Rudy was saddened to be diagnosed with terminal cancer, however, he never said, "Why me Lord, rather why not me, Why would I wish this on anyone else". He thought if he

Tribute To My Husband, (continued)

were to ask, Why me?, it would be like wishing someone else would have it. He believed in the doctors and nurses who cared for him and had the greatest respect and admiration for them. He accepted the fact that he was dying and still continued to live every day to the fullest.

He loved the 24th Infantry Division Association and I credit the wonderful people of this organization with giving him added strength and desire to carry on. He always believed in the 24th that it would and will survive long after the WW II and Korean Veterans are gone. He had faith in the younger generation (The Desert Storm era) that they will continue the great 24th Association. This is evidenced in the fact that he took the position of Secretary/Treasurer very seriously. He wanted the funds to grow so that the 24th would continue into the 21st century. In one year as our treasurer, the funds in the checking account doubled. He found ways to encourage members to pay dues on time. He started the Raffle, which was purely voluntary on the part of each member participating. All of this along with generous contributions from the membership, kept the association thriving.

The excellence of the Taro Leaf is the finest example of the work Rudy did. He wanted all members to benefit and with the quality of the quarterly issues of the Taro Leaf everyone was certainly profiting from the increase of the treasury. Rudy definitely believed that all members should share from the wealth of the Association and he felt by publishing the best "Taro Leaf" possible, was the most advantageous way this would be accomplished.

Rudy died the way he lived, with all the control God allowed. He fought the battle of cancer for two years and five months. He was up and dressed for the day by 6:30 a.m. every day until Sunday, October 26th. He was in bed at home the 26th, 27th and the 28th. Ten of our children came to see Rudy during those days, only one daughter remained for him to see. At 5:16 p.m., October 28th our 11th child had arrived and went to greet her Dad. He waited to see all of our children. He opened his eyes and smiled at her. Then once more he opened his eyes with great excitement, one more smile and the angels came and took him home to our Lord.

Rudy, you are my hero, I miss you so much.

Lovingly.

Your wife Yvonne



Yvonne & Rudy
1978

EXPERIENCES IN KOREA 1950

Taped by Rodolph Mullins in 1984

Rudy taped his experiences of the Korean War 1950 in the Fall of 1984. I have transcribed the tape he made and the following is his story in his own words.

A short time ago you wrote me a letter requesting information concerning my experience and the experiences of others during the Korean War, particularly those events leading up to and to include the battle of Taejon.

I am sorry that I haven't gotten to you sooner than this but shortly after arriving back from the reunion in Cincinnati last August, I was involved in an automobile accident and have been undergoing some physical therapy for one of the injuries received in that accident. I think I will be able to provide you with some information to the best of my recollection of what happened up to the battle of Taejon.

I was with the 1st Bn, 19th Infantry of the 24th Infantry Division and so our Bn was not involved in the battle of Taejon and the only thing I could give you concerning that battle would be strictly heresay but its probably very

reliable heresay. I will give you some of the information that was relayed to me about the battle in particular how it affected our medical company. The 1st Bn of the 19th Infantry arrived in Pusan on 5 July 1950 after a 5 day trip from Camp McGill by way of Camp Chickamauga.

The Battalion had been at McGill undergoing amphibious training since early May. Upon arrival in Pusan the Bn proceeded for Taegue arriving there late evening on the 5th of July and after over nighting in Taegue we departed early morning on the 6th of July. Our destination was unknown to most of us and after traveling all day and into the night we arrived at an airfield in Taejon. We spent the night and the next day at the airfield and left on the morning of the 8th and traveled by convoy to another destination unknown to most of us. On the 8th of July was our Battalion Surgeon Assistant's birthday, Captain Linden James Buttrey and he was from Nashville, Tn. He had been in the service approximately 25 years and he was

what we called the "Old Man". We celebrated his birthday by going out and buying some watermelon from the local people and also purchased Korean beer, "Tiger Beer". We drank the beer and ate the watermelon and sang Happy Birthday to Captain Buttrey.

Anyway on early the morning of the 9th we departed again and returned to the airfield in Taejon and overnighted there and proceeded on the 10th to our defensive position north of Taejon on the Kum River. The 1st Battalion Aid Station set up in a school house approximately 1000 yards from the MRL. On the 11th of July we received our first casualty at the aid station, he had been wounded near Su Wan and was a member of Company "L" 21st Infantry Regiment, which formed Task Force Smith. He had treated himself and had not had anyway of combating the infection of the wound and consequently he had a very, very bad wound, infected and no way that he could have possibly have treated it to have prevented it from getting in the condition that it was in. He said he had

been wounded sometime on the 4th or 5th of July, he wasn't really sure and since this was the 11th and had gone untreated professionally during that period of time. Since I was a surgical technician, the surgeon had me to de breed the wound and although it was my first try at it, my first experience at anything like this at least, I had to leave the patient a few times to go outside and naturally throw up. I finally got the job done and the surgeon commended me on a job well done. I had to cut away quite a bit of the infected tissue and when I got through, it did look fairly good. I never had any problem after that, with a weak stomach, seems like it, I guess when you save someone's life in that manner you forget your own personal feelings.

Our next casualty was an accidental shooting from a buddy and it occurred on the night of the 12th of July. It seems this young soldier climbed out of his fox hole to relieve himself and his buddy who had probably dozed, awoke and heard some noise, supposed what he thought to be an enemy and not realizing it was a buddy, shot him in the chest. Upon arrival at the aid station, he was in very serious

condition. We plugged the bullet hole with vaseline gauze and made it air tight since it was a sunken chest wound. We evacuated him by ambulance, 8th Army ambulance, as we had confiscated a couple of them from a platoon that had been operated in the area and we attached them to our aid station. We used our litter jeeps to evacuate from the MRL itself and I think this is probably one of the first times that this was done and since it worked effectively for us we continued that as long as I was in Korea. We evacuated this soldier into Taejon to the airport and they air lifted him to the Tokyo General Hospital. We were all very curious to see how he was going to be since most of us knew him and we called and finally found out that he arrived safely and was going to be O.K.

Off and on until the morning of the 16th of July we improved our fox holes everyday and they came in handy because we were subjected to shelling at several times each day and every day. As I recall we had only 3 more casualties during that 4 day period.

Early on the morning of the 16th of July the North Ko-

rean Army attacked in force pushing us back. Most of the Battalion staff had become casualties, to include the Regimental Commander, Colonel Guy S. Malloy. Along with Major Fenstermacher, the Battalion S2, Colonel Malloy did manage to rally the troops and they assembled the cooks and the mechanics and whoever else was in the battalion area at that time, they scrapped them together and lead a counter attack that pushed the North Korean Army back across the Kum River, temporarily. However, there were still plenty of enemy on our side of the Kum as they had pushed around us, to our flanks, probably the left flank and gotten down to a bridge, where they set up a road block there. Company "C", as I recall, was on our right flank and although most of the officers had been killed, they managed to hold their ground. We held all day and started to retreat when the road block, the North Korean Army had set up at the bridge, a mile or so down the road, they were reinforced there which made it almost impossible, infact it did make it impossible for us to get out by road. As I recall they did have a tank and they put Margarete Higgins, the reporter that was operating with us there, and also

Colonel Malloy and along with a few others, they got them out somehow.

Anyway we were all bottled up there all day long, even the artillery unit was firing direct fire and they had several casualties of their own. I helped to evacuate them back toward the front and to the collecting station where we had a great number of casualties stacked up and we were unable to get them out. Major Fenstermacher, I think it was his efforts that finally decided that we would have to go out through the hills and ordered all the vehicles and as much of the equipment that we could not carry or take with us, he ordered it all destroyed. We fixed our bayonets and bayoneted the tires and put thermite grenades on the engine blocks and did what we could. Next morning, however, the airplanes did come in and they strafed and I think they rendered all that equipment pretty well useless.

We started walking through the hills there and it was pretty tough for the medics. We got a few of the P & A Platoon members, they helped us carry casualties and it was so dark being, I guess it must have been a quarter moon or something

but nothing, you couldn't see the hand in front of your face. So we took off up through a trail and you just had to feel with your feet and carrying our wounded. As I recall 60 to 70 and we started out carrying everyone of them until it got to be such a burden that we just had to tell those who could walk they were going to have to walk and those who could possibly help us, carry some of the more severely wounded. We asked them to do that. Sometime during this retreat MSgt Raymond Stafford, from someplace in New Mexico, asked me to go back down the trail a little way to make sure that there were no stragglers and try to get us altogether and to get out of there in one piece. It was so dark this night, like I said, that you couldn't hardly see the hand before your face so the only way to follow the trail was with my feet, so I clumsily went back down the trail, moving very slow. I went down a few hundred yards and didn't see or didn't hear anything, the vehicles and the equipment was burning, therefore, illuminating the area a little. I thought I had accomplished what Sgt Stafford had sent me to do and started back up the trail. I don't know

how far I had traveled when I suddenly bumped into someone. I was scared to death and didn't know exactly what to do. I reasoned to myself and I'm sure he or it must have done the same, that if I spoke up in English and if it was a gook I would be shot right there and if I attempted to say anything in Korean, which I didn't know very much of it anyway, and if he had been a GI, I would be shot, so I just said nothing and he said nothing. I really don't know how long we stood there trying to see who it was and I know he had a gun in my ribs and I had a gun in his ribs but we stood there, it seemed like an eternity and after awhile we both withdrew from each other and went our separate ways. To this day I think of that night there and still wonder what it was and where he went and I imagine whoever he is he's probably wondering the same thing. Anyway after departing from my trail companion, I walked for about 45 minutes and finally caught up with the Column.

We had a big GI who had been hit by some white phosphorus and he was drinking water like it was going out of style because as fast as he would drink it, it was just going right through his body since the skin had been

been burned off. He had about 60 percent third degree wounds and he was a big man like I say and we carried him and finally he said he thought he would be more comfortable if he would get up and try to walk because I guess the canvas was really, from that litter, was really tearing him to pieces. So he did get up and he walked and we all ran out of water because he would drink a canteen about every half an hour and Ray Stafford finally got a couple of guys together and got all the canteens together and he sent them after some water. This probably occurred around 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning. It was beginning to get a little bit light so these guys did manage to get into a village, how they found it, God only knows but anyway they got down there and they got water and came back up to the top of the hill where we were. It was daylight and we were all resting. Sometime during the day I had picked up a bullet wound in my leg through the fleshy part and didn't even know it but after resting up on top of that hill for about an hour, laying down and slept a little bit or dozed or whatever it might be, when I woke up I noticed that my leg was hurting so I checked down there and sure enough at the top of my boot a bullet had gone

through. Didn't have much time to take care of myself, since I wasn't bleeding, everything had clotted around it, I just let it go. We started descending a hill, we got down to the bottom, one group went into this old village and another group of us headed off toward the south and after about 30 minutes we heard a lot of shooting back in the village and only surmised that probably they had run into the enemy in that village and later we found that they did. A lot of our wounded were being tended to by some of the medics and the infantry P & A platoon that was left with them. Chaplain Fellhoffer, I don't recall his first name, he was a Catholic Priest from Louisville, KY and was giving, I understand, from an eye witness, he was giving the last rites to one of the soldiers and the Koreans walked in and bayoneted the soldier and shot the Chaplain and at this time Captain Buttrey who was with that group, yelled out to "take off", so everybody took off and some of them, I think 18 out of 28 or 29 got away. Buttrey had been shot in the hip in his escape. So anyway I was left behind with two other men, Cpl John Madden from HazelGreen, KY and

Jim Dunlap from someplace in West Virginia. Anyway we were suppose to recover the retreat of those other people and so we saw a whole bunch coming toward us, it looked like about 25 to 30. We waited and waited and Jim Dunlap and John Madden wanted to fire and I kept saying no, lets let them get a little closer since they haven't spotted us maybe let them get closer maybe we can at least get them and stop them before they can get to us. So lucky thing we did because it turned out to be those who had just escaped from the village. At a distance the GI fatigues looked like the North Korean fatigue type uniforms that they were wearing. Anyway they rejoined us and we all went out together. I forget exactly how many there was left, 30 to 40 of us I guess and some wounded, unfortunately those that were on litters didn't make it because they were in that group that were with Chaplain Fellhoffer and they were all shot. Later on in September I went back up in that area. They came and got me to go out on GRS detail to show them where some of the battles were fought. So I went with them and we recovered a lot of the bodies still laying on the litters up in that area.

We walked all day and finally just north of Taejon we saw a jeep and a couple of 2 1/2 ton trucks and some other people and we walked toward it and as we got up to it it turned out to be General Dean with his aid and some of his staff members and a small detail. So anyway he looked very, like a very sad man at that point and I think Major Buttrely asked him if we were the only group that gotten out and he reported that, no there had been others to come out in different ways and that it looked like the battalion would be regrouped after we got into Taejon and to see what we had left. I don't know how many we had left, I do know out of the 15 company aid men assigned to the companies, I don't know if any of them got out. We were left, generally, I think about 37 people assigned to our 1st Battalion Medical Platoon, there was only about 18 of us left. The 2nd Battalion fared even worse. I think, 2nd Bn Aid Station that is, the entire aid station itself was killed in Taejon during that battle along with all the company aid men. So of the 186 medical personnel that went into Korea we were down to somewhere around 80, so we lost quite a few during those first couple of weeks there.

I AM YOUR FLAG

*I am your flag.
I am the flag of the United States of America.
I am called Old Glory.
I am called the Star Spangled Banner.
I am the rockets red glare;
the bombs bursting in air.
I am the imminence of patriotism.
I am the trenches in France, Belgium,
Anzio, Normandy, Omaha Beach,
Guadalcanal, and Korea. I am the jungle of
Vietnam and the sands of Desert Storm
and the streets of Bosnia.
I am "One Nation under God."
I am the names of those who never came back
to keep this republic free. When you salute me,
you are actually saluting them.
I am the symbol of America.
The home of the proud, the brave and the free.
—Author Unknown*



A FISHERMAN'S PRAYER

GOD, GRANT I MAY LIVE TO FISH
UNTIL MY DYING DAY,
AND WHEN IT COMES TO MY LAST CAST,
I THEN MOST HUMBLY PRAY,
WHEN IN THE LORD'S SAFE LANDING NET,
I'M PEACEFULLY ASLEEP,
THAT IN HIS MERCY I BE JUDGED
AS BIG ENOUGH TO KEEP!

(This was submitted by Rudy's friend
Dick Pennington when he learned that
Rudy went fishing on October 23rd and
died on October 28th.)



AN ODE TO KOREA

If I were an artist with nothing to do,
I'd paint a big picture, a panoramic view,
I'd show you Korea the way it should look
I'd show all the cities, their crannies and nooks.

Rare breasted damsels with never a bra
Bumping against you, there should be a law,
Snotty nosed children, and flea bitten dogs,
They all live together like a pond full of frogs.

Streets run together, it's really a scream
You'd think you were having a dope fiend's dream
A sidewalk hawker, a beggar with a sack,
A pregnant woman, with another on her back.

A smelly fish market, the public square
A rotten stench, it's right in the air.
Here comes an "A" frame with a short little man,
There's enough on his back for a moving van.

A sidewalk restaurant, they sit on the floor.
The food is so filthy and flies are galore.
The shoeshine boys are around everywhere,
Dirty old clothes and short-cropped hair.

They'll shine your shoes for a nickel or so,
Then ask you to change some G.I. dough.
The crowded streetcars, there's room for one more,
They have no seats, so you sit on the floor.

I've seen their fair cities, their small narrow streets,
Their baggy old pants, without any pleats.
I'm glad I came now, I'm ready to go,
Give it back to the natives, I don't want it - I know!

By Herb Kenz



An Irish Blessing

Do not resent growing old.
Many are denied . . .
The Privilege.

*"I don't care if he does say
'sho nuff,' 'right smart,'
and 'you all,' I still think
he's a North Korean."*





Notes From the Secretary/Treasurer

Weldon B. Hester of 5101 Powhatan Ave., Norfolk, VA writes: I was the American Red Cross Field Director, attached to the 34th Regt, 24th Division during the entire WWII in the Philippines. I hold the Bronze Star and the Medal of Freedom, highest award made to an American Civilian, made only by the President (President Truman in my case). Weldon, the 24th Inf Div Assoc extends our sympathy in the lose of your wife. Thank you for writing and we hope to see you in Little Rock in September.

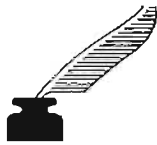
Keith Forton, writes: If anyone remembers Ernest Ulrey, a member of the 34th Infantry Regiment, WWII/Philippines, please drop him a line at 2547 West Torch Lake Drive, Kewadin, MI 49648.

James D. McElhannon of 12807 Bell Halen Dr, Le Moore, CA 93245, PH 209-924-0240 writes: Does anyone know the whereabouts of 2nd Lt. Yordy, 2nd Pt. C Company, 3rd Combat Eng. formerly a Warrant Officer and Platoon leader in September & October 1950. Can anyone help Jim out?

Lee R. Phillips, P.O. Box 432, Wilder, ID 83676-0432 writes he needs help from anyone who can verify that he was exposed to radiation. Lee served with the 24th Division in Leyte July 1945, however, spent most of his time in Japan and later to the jungle above Davao, where he was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. Lee mentions that he went to Japan shortly after they dropped the atomic bombs and he was exposed to radi-

ation and that he knows for sure that he is service connected. He is on the waiting list at the Boise, ID Veterans Hospital for cataract surgery. When checking with the hospital, they say that he is non-service connected, no record of treatment in Japan in his service medical records. Can anyone out there help Lee? We also extend our sympathy to Lee in the passing of his only sister. Lee sent the pictures below, taken at the Rest Camp in Davao and a picture of Japan.





Notes From the Secretary/Treasurer

Joseph LeMieux, 491 8th St. Lot M1, Bradenton, FL 34201 writes: I would like to know if anyone knows the whereabouts of Roger Buss, Eddy Alt, Russel Mordani, or Wilbur Parrish. Can anyone help Joe?

Bob Moncur, 98 Woodland Rd., Piscataway, NJ 08854 writes: "The photos are of Bill Stiner and myself. We served as a machine gun team in Fox Company 19th Regt in 1951. Bill's wife, Helen and my wife, Ann had corresponded for a few years after we first returned from Korea, but with each of us moving a bit and getting busy raising our families, we kind of lost touch. Three years ago, I got a surprise call from Bill, who told me he had gotten my phone number from the service provided by the 24th Division Association. He also told me all about the association and that he had paid a year's membership dues for me. We have been corresponding ever since that call. This year Bill promised to come east for a visit and did manage to make it in October. He and Helen stayed for two days and we went to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, which we all enjoyed. Of course, Bill and I knew each other, but our wives had never met. I guess they each were wondering how well the time together would work out. Well, they were like two peas in a pod, and when we were saying our "good-byes", they both had tears in their eyes. No wonder we made such a terrific machine gun team!!! Photos of Bill Stiner and Bob Moncur below:



Charles Millard, 342 S. Park Ave., Fond Du Lac, WI 54935-5151, 11th FABN Btry A, writes: After forty six years nine members of A Battery 11th F.A. were reunited with their Lt. now Col. Ernest Terrell. Bill McColgan one of the nine members obtained the guide arm and brought it to the reunion also Col. Terrell brought a large plaque of the Unit Crest: Picture below: Back Row: John Kelly, Chuck Millard, Alva Snyder, Don Smith Front Row: Bill McColgan, Col Ernest Terrell, Juan Colderon, David Ayers.



Bob Smith





Notes From the Secretary/ Treasurer

Walter B. Snyder, 600 Wolsey Dr., Dallastown, PA 17313-9771 writes, "I would like to hear from anyone who served with me in Korea 1953-54 in the 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Medical Battalion Clearing Company.

Ed Ryan, Walpole, MA (19th Inf) Writes: We initially looked forward to joining all of you in Colorado Springs, checked out flights, etc., but couldn't work it out. One of our daughters surprised us with a celebration for our birthdays and didn't know we were planning a trip. Ed, thanks for writing and for calling and hope to see both of you in Little Rock in September.

Lester J. Berends, 14362 Elder Ave #165, Grant, MI 49327-9656 (19th Inf Regt '45-'46) writes: Thanks for the list of names you sent me. I called one of the men and talked to him, he remembered me. Would like to hear from some more if possible. Anyone out there remember Lester? Maybe drop him a line.

Carl Conner, 1025 Center St., SW, Mableton, GA 30059-2101, writes: "I would like to contact anyone who sailed to Hawaii on the Hunter Legget from Charleston, South Carolina on March 3, 1941. Upon arrival at Schofield Barracks on March 28, 1941, I was assigned to the 3rd Engineers. I was on Saipan Island in the Marianas in May 1944. I am a charter member of the Association and member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Inc.

Carnell Stacy, PO Box 41, Killeen, TX 76540-0041 (3rd Eng 8/50-9/51) would like information on Peter Hyzer who commanded the 3rd Eng Bn in '50 and '51. Can anyone help him out?

Everett R. Pope, 1104 Redbud Cir., Pasadena, TX 77502-1707 ('44-'46 WWII Japan) writes: "I was camped in S.F.A. State Park and I was showing a fellow camper the Golden Anniversary edition of the 24th Infantry and his friend wanted to see the copy. He then informed me he was in the division also. He filled out the membership application and enclosed a check for membership. Thanks for recruiting, Everett. Keep it up.

Alex Vernon, 1576 Mount Eagle PL, Alexandria, VA 22302 writes: Happy Veterans' Day. In the spirit of today's observation, I desire to be enrolled as a lifetime member of the 24th Infantry Division Association, and thereby remain affiliated with the greatest combat division the U.S. Army has ever known. I served in the 24th from December 1989 to January 1992, with the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, in the division's 2nd Brigade. I was a tank platoon leader throughout Desert Shield and Desert Storm. I have passed along your information to my fellow 24th ID Desert Shield/Storm veterans. Alex was recommended by COL Walt Holton, presently chief of staff for Barry McCaffrey. We are proud and happy to welcome you to the association, Alex. Thank you for passing the information along to your fellow Desert Shield/Storm veterans.

Ernest L. Powell, 1168 High St., Brandenburg, KY 40108-1501 (19th and 21st 6/51-10/53) Rudy did a great service to the 24th and Country. I was in the 19th Regt I Co before being wounded October 1951. I have met 2 men from I Co the few years I have

been in the association. I would like to hear from anyone that was with the 21st Regt in Camp Schimmelpennig, from June 1952 until going to KOJI-DO. I was Platoon Sgt B Company. Rotated October 1953 from Koji-Do.

Keith L. Fuller, 307 S. Twp 109, Tiffin, OH 44883 writes: During WWII my uncle, Joseph Worthington served on Leyte, Luzon and Southern Philippines. My uncle and I were extremely close in fact he was a second dad to me. However, he would speak very little of his service in the war once he went overseas. Recently he passed away and I am now trying to find out as much information as I can about his service. Through the VFW I was able to reach a Mr. Wallace Kuhner, and he gave me your address. I would like to have information as to what company that my uncle served in. Keith, I hope the roster of the men in the 21st Inf Regt have been of some help. Hope someone out there knows of your uncle.

David E. Wabl, 2401 E. Southmore, Apt. 604, Pasadena, TX 77502-1438 writes, August book and pictures are great. Does anyone remember "Rolling Barrages"?

Leslie R. Davis, Box 246, Bethany, OK 73008 (Co. C 3rd Eng-1953) writes: I was at Camp Fuji Japan in January 1953 with a fellow Platoon leader from M.I.T. James Strawn, is there any record of him in our association. I lost track of him when I went on to Korea. He was a nice guy and the Japs used to walk around him like a California Red Wood tree in amazement. I'd like to contact him if he is still alive. Does anyone know him?



Notes From the Secretary/ Treasurer

Walter Kroeck, 16 Pkwy. PL., Red Bank, NJ 07701-5643 (19th Inf 1950-52) writes: Your work is much appreciated and the magazine is great. Hope to see Waltham Army Hospital Waltham, MA patients someday mentioned 1950-1952.

William J. Schumaker, 1300 East Hartley Ozark, MO 65722-8437, new member writes: Does the 7th have a regimental breakfast like the one at the 50th reunion? I want to be as active as I can so if I can be of any help, let me know. Happy to have you in the association. Any of the units having a breakfast would be most happy to have you with them.

Jim Chrismond, 1531 Weyburn Rd. Baltimore, MD 21237, Ph 410-866-6857, writes: "W.E. Spicer formerly of Albany, GA., now of Dayton, OH. Please contact Jim Chrismond at the above address regarding your trip back to Beppu, Japan. - 19th Reg.

William E. Kerns, 12397 Bowman Rd., Independence, KY (21st Inf 1948-51) writes: I am looking for some pictures of the Division taken in Japan and Korea from '48 to '53, any Regiment, to fill my picture book. I have over 500 pages so far so if anyone has some pictures to spare, send them to me.

Vincenzo J. LaRocco, 842 Ocean St., Lindenhurst, NY 11757, (HQ Co. 21st Regt 1943-1946) writes: I became 1st Bn Sgt. Major on Mindanao P.I. in the field. I went on to Japan right after the big bombs fell and war ended. Yeah Gimlets!

A letter from **Don Perrin**, 7930 129th St., Sebastian, FL 32958-3633 (19th Inf Regt Co C, 9/50 - 9/51) 11/10/97

Dear Rudy,

"I am really saddened to hear you are losing your fight with cancer, I had hoped we would get the chance to meet again and was sure we would meet in Little Rock next year.

I feel like we have a lot in common and have always felt a bond between us for some unknown reason. I don't know if you remember but I was one of the men reassigned to the Inf. when I reached Japan and was assigned to Charlie Co. 1st BN. as an infantry man. I only saw you a couple of times, I meant to talk to you while I was in Charlie Co., as you recall the first three weeks were quite hectic to say the least. At Chinju pass I was assigned to the B.A.R. with a rock on the point. I was always going to ask you if you were there, I am sure you were but can't remember too much, there was so much I wanted to ask you, even if you knew how we got out of there. I have talked to several of the other guys that was there and they can't remember either. I believe you were the Medic that sent me back when I came down with malaria in late August, and when I came back from the hospital they wanted to send me to Med Co., and the only way I would go back was to be back with Charlie Co. and I believe you were the Medic I replaced. Unless you had been pulled in the 10 days I was off the line. There is so much I wanted to talk to you about. I was going to call you on the phone but I know all I will do is cry and that won't do either one of us any good. The only thing I can say is you did a great job, for Charlie Co., and I was always trying to live up to your actions. The only good thing I can say

about going to join our comrades is that the nightmares and flash backs will stop."

Don, Rudy never saw your letter but I feel that somehow God is letting Rudy know how you feel. God bless you for writing, it means so much to me.

Joe Subsak, 27 Rutter St., Buttonwood, Wilkes Barre, PA 18702-1119 writes: I had major surgery in September. I had an abdominal aneurysm repaired, what an ordeal. However, I am recuperating at home with excellent care from my wife. Thanks for writing Joe, and hope you are very much better by this time.

Carl J. Curtis 716 W Utica St., Sellersburg, IN 47172-1156 (Co H, 21st Inf)

writes: I am still battling cancer. Doctors say I am now in remission. Guys, send Carl a card, let him know we are thinking of him.

Ruth Ann Kies, wife of Bob Kies (19th Inf) from 335 Hower Town Rd., Catasauqua, PA 18032-1837 is home recovering from an operation and will be undergoing chemotherapy for maybe six months. Ruth, we send our best wishes and hurry and get well soon. See you in Little Rock.

Wilbur L. Holland, 3410 Sacramento St., St. Joseph MO 64507, (Co. C 1st Bn. 34th 12/44 - 8/46) writes: I found out Melvin Shaw in my company died in 1993 from cancer. This has not been my year, I belong to the prostate and heart club. I would like to hear from anyone who was in company C during the period 12/44 - 8/46.

RODRIGUEZ ESCAPE ATTEMPT-A TALE OF A TIGER

By Shorty Estabrook, founder of the Tiger Survivors, 2257 Via Puerta,
Unit A, Laguna Hills, CA 92653, Estabrook was a prisoner of war with Rodriguez.

Life for 19 year old Lupe G. Rodriguez in Sasebo, Japan was good, really good until June 25, 1950 when the North Korean Army suddenly invaded South Korea. Rodriguez was in the Army on occupation duty with the 24th Infantry Division on the southern most island of Japan.

Rodriguez was assigned to Medical Company, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. As soon as the war began, the young medic found himself on the front lines in South Korea, fighting the Communists from the north. Suddenly, he was captured, missing in action and a prisoner of war. It was 3:30 p.m. on July 21, 1950.

On October 9, 1950, the group of prisoners Rodriguez was with staggered into the town of Kosan, North Korea, more dead than alive. Since capture, many had been shot or died from sickness or battlefield wounds. There were about 750 prisoners of war and many civilian internees. The weather was turning very cold and the prisoners were still wearing summer fatigues in which they were captured. Many had no shoes. They slept in open fields without any cover. Time was running out for this desperate group.

Shortly after arrival in Kosan, Rodriguez made friends with J.C. Fain, Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. Fain was from Arkansas. Another who became his friend was James R. Dowling, Medical Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. Dowling was from Georgia. These new friends immedi-

ately began plotting an escape. Their plan was kept secret. They had no maps or compass and no food supply squirreled away. All they knew was they wanted to escape.

On October 13, 1950, they crawled from the outhouse to a corn field, immediately collected some corn to take with them, and headed for the nearby mountains. Looking back at the camp, everything was quiet. So far, so good. At this point the trio talked about going back but decided that would be too risky. About midnight, they went to sleep, scared, thirsty, cold and hungry.

The next day was crisp and beautiful. Frost was on the ground and the three escapees awoke to more hunger, thirst, and cold. But, they soon found some wild figs and turnips and enjoyed breakfast. Heading south, they found a small stream and quenched their thirst. Following the stream west, they skirted a small village and came upon a canoe and started paddling downstream. Suddenly, the canoe tipped over and into the bitterly cold water they went. The three struggled to the bank and immediately ran into a Korean man who ran away, yelling his head off. On and on they walked and no one seemed to be after them. Things looked good, but soon, all the food they had been carrying was gone and another terrible night was spent under the stars.

October 15th turned into another beautiful day but hunger, thirst and cold was still

with them. They walked all day without food or water. In late afternoon, they came upon a mud shack and walked in. There was a Korean man, a woman and a little boy and girl. The little boy ran off yelling and the escapees finished the meal the Koreans had started. Suddenly, the voices of many men could be heard. The prisoners assumed they were North Korean soldiers and they were right. Quickly, they hid in a small haystack and the soldiers went right by them. "Good luck once again", Rodriguez thought, but their luck rapidly changed and the soldiers returned.

One of the North Korean soldiers saw or heard something and they all started firing their weapons into the haystack. Diving to the rear of the haystack, Rodriguez could hear Dowling and Fain scream in pain as the bullets tore into them. Playing dead, Rodriguez was dragged from the haystack and his feet were placed in a fire. Deciding this was no way to go, he jumped out of the fire scaring the North Korean soldiers. Rodriguez prayed that his death would be quick and painless. The North Koreans tied his hands behind him and led him to where Fain and Dowling lay lifeless on the ground. Fain and Dowling were shot again at close range. A firing squad was formed to finish off the remaining escapee, Rodriguez. Commands were yelled out and bullets were slammed into the chambers, but good luck came to rescue the brave American once again. This time, it was a North Korean officer stopped the firing squad. The date was 15, 1950. Fain and Dowling

were dead, killed in action. Rodriguez could still remember their last supper together the night before.

The North Koreans untied Rodriguez's hands, applied handcuffs and led him away to a small headquarters, kicking and hitting him all the way. At the headquarters, he was forced to kneel by a desk and many Koreans paraded by, kicking and spitting on him. Dried blood was still on his head where a bullet had grazed his skull. Another lucky moment.

Then a very large dog was brought in, but the dog just looked at the helpless American but did not attack. Rodriguez thought the dog must be a special dog because he was so big. Other dogs in North Korea don't live long enough to get that big. They become the stew of the day.

On October 16, 1950, Rodriguez was returned to the group of American prisoners of War in Kosan. He was ordered to kneel down and hold a rock above his head. If he rested the rock on his head, he was kicked and beaten. Another rock was placed over the backs of his lower legs. The North Koreans then poured kerosene all over Rodriguez but never lit the match. Another lucky break. This took place in the presence of the other prisoners to make an impression on them. A North Korean officer ordered him to tell the others that to escape was certain death and the next time no one would be spared.

On 1 November, a madman the Americans came to call, "The Tiger", shot Lieutenant Cordus Thornton, L Company, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in the head and that was the beginning of the, "Death March" which ended on 9 November 1950. Rodriguez survived that

ordeal. The winter was spent at a death camp called Hanjang-ni where 202 men died. Rodriguez survived that as well and then went on to survive the rest of the nearly 38 months of captivity.

Lupe Rodriguez is proud to be called a, "**TIGER SURVIVOR**". He earned that title. His nightmare often takes him to Kosan where he can see the faces of Fain and Dowling as they lay by that haystack of death. Lupe Rodriguez' address is: 430 Shrine, San Antonio, TX 78221, Phone: 210-923-8818.

THE CHICKEN CAPER

This is a story about intrigue and high adventure that took place in a Prisoner of War camp administered by the Chinese Army in North Korea during the Korean War. This incredible incident took place during the summer of 1952. It is yet another story about the "**TIGER SURVIVOR**", a group of Prisoners of War, from the 24th Infantry division, who were captured in July 1950.

A TRUE STORY BY EUGENE SCOTT!

Bennie Oribio, K/34/24, started his day early as usual. He had to pull the fire from under the rice and start the soup. This was like any other day except for one nice addition, the Chinese had given him one chicken to sweeten the broth for 200 hungry Prisoners of War in Camp 3.

John Shimshock, L/ 21/24, had already established himself as a known scrounge. One of those fabled guys who are often derided yet sought out by their detractors when anything is needed. Shimshock also started

his day early, looking for something to eat or to trade for things he needed. Shimshock was always up early.

Three other characters in this story are up and about too. Martin Tullio, A/34/24, Ernest Fortura, Med/21/24 and Fred Rager, A/34/24. Like Shimshock they too were searching for something to scrounge. This was not unusual. Not unusual until you put the spark to the fumes.

This is as close as one could describe that moment when Shimshock walked past the open rear window of the kitchen. His crafty eyes were surrounded by eyebrows and eyelashes that were too long and suddenly he spotted the white feathered chicken, lifeless on Bennie's work table. Bennie had his back to the window and the ideal situation presented itself. Almost by reflex, like swatting a biting mosquito, Shimshock with that half smile of conquest on his face, snatched the chicken and disappeared into a nearby building.

Bennie soon discovered that the chicken had flown the coop and started to scream with all the power he could muster from his bulky Filipino frame. Someone stole the chicken, he yelled, in his broken English, and it reverberated throughout the camp, reaching every corner including that area where the guards were sure to be. Several Chinese rushed into the kitchen expecting Bennie to have sliced off a hand or at least a finger. Bennie told the Chinese investigator about the missing chicken and he reported to the next higher authority who decided to conduct a complete camp shake-down to find the missing fowl. It would seem that just about every prisoner in Camp had something to hide. A complete camp shake-down would be a disaster. One of

the guards, Frankenstein, had already started to snoop around.

The camp quickly began to verge on chaos. Some prisoners felt cheated because the chicken was for broth and for everyone to taste. Others were nervous because of the impending search. Then there was a few who would turn in Shimshock to stop the search.

Not far away Shimshock had some hot water and was in one of the unoccupied buildings, plucking the feathers from the bird. He could almost taste the finished product. Frankenstein poked his head through a window but couldn't see Shimshock. Shimshock took no chances and pushed his feet into the hot water so as to appear to be soaking his feet. Now Shimshock had a pair of red feet to show for his trouble.

In order to stop the search where a lot of contraband would be uncovered, those who knew about the chicken heist talked with Shimshock and it was decided to return the chicken, less feathers to the rightful owner.

A diversion was necessary and Tullio and Fontana volunteered to stage a fight with Rager egging them on. Soon the fighting and yelling and pushing started and dust started to rise up and a crowd soon gathered to see the fight. Bennie and the Chinese guards also came to observe the combat. Some people were egging them on and others were trying to break up the whole fracas.

Meanwhile Shimshock had taken the naked chicken to the rear of the kitchen and gently returned it to the work bench. Before returning the chicken, Shimshock thought he should have the last word and wrote a note which he put in the chickens beak. After he returned the chicken Shimshock ambled away as if nothing had

happened looking right and left for something else to scrounge.

The note in the chickens beak, what did it say? In words as crude as could be thought of and as crusty as an old sailor's Saturday nights verbiage, the note advised the finder to take the chicken and ...I forgot the rest.

The writer was with B/21/24.
Eugene Scott
30455 Novato Way
Murrieta, CA 92563
Rewrite by
Rose McKinley and Shorty
Estabrook

Tiger Survivors
Shorty Estabrook
2257 Via Puerta Unit A
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

THE BALLAD OF THE RETIREE

*Oh, I've done my duty
for God and Country.
I've served my fellow man well;
I've slogged through the mud,
the muck and the grime,
and I've seen the gates of Hell.
Now I've reached the time of life
when I should collect
my just reward;
Sit back, relax, put my feet up,
the day I've been working toward.
But...
there are so many jobs undone,
such avenues to explore;
The knowledge that I've gained
through time
is in demand once more.
Yes, listen-I hear the cadence call,
and see the banner curving-*

I'm On My Feet! I'm Marching Again! Retired, But...Still Serving

WHEN I'M A LITTLE OLD LADY

Then I'll live with my children and bring them great joy.
to repay all I've had from each girl and boy.
I shall draw on the walls and scuff up the floor,
run in and out without closing the door.
I'll hide frogs in the pantry, socks under my bed;
and whenever they scold me I'll just hang my head.

I'll run and I'll romp, always fritter away,
the time to be spent doing chores every day.
I'll pester my children when they're on the phone;
as long as they're busy I won't leave them alone.
Dash off to the movies and not wash a dish;
I'll plead for allowance whenever I wish.

I'll stuff up the plumbing and deluge the floor;
as soon as they've mopped it I'll flood it some more.
When they correct me I'll lie down and cry,
kicking and screaming, not a tear in my eye.
I'll take all their pencils and flashlights and then,
when they buy new ones I'll take them again.

I'll spill glasses of milk to complete every meal;
eat my banana and just drop the peel,
Put toys on the table, spill jam on the floor;
I'll break lots of dishes as though I were four.
What fun I shall have, what joy it will be,
To live with my children like they lived with me.
(Author Unknown)

24th Infantry Division Assoc. West Coast Reunion
Buena Park, Ca
April 15 - April 19, 1998

Hotel Reservations

Hotel accommodations provided by the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, Buena Park, CA.

<u>Room Type</u>	<u>Rate (Does not include 12% room tax)</u>
Standard Single	\$59.00/night*
Standard Double	\$59.00/night*
Standard Triple	\$59.00/night*
Standard Quad	\$59.00/night*

*This discounted rate will be available 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion. Beyond that, rooms are subject to hotel availability. Please call the hotel for room rates.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Tel No. () _____

Date of arrival _____ Time of Arrival _____

Number of Nights _____ Date of Departure _____

Special Requests*: _____ Smoking _____ Non Smoking _____ Disabled Room

* All special requests will be noted but cannot be guaranteed.

If you wish to guarantee a room with a major credit card, please provide the following information:

_____ AMEX _____ VISA _____ MC _____ DISCOVER
Credit Card Number: _____
Expiration Date: _____
Signature: _____

Send this form to: Holiday Inn Hotel
7000 Beach Blvd
Buena Park, CA 90620
or Call: (714) 522-7000
or Fax: (714) 522-3230

Cut off date for hotel reservations is: March 15, 1998 - (NO EXCEPTIONS)
For additional hotel information call the Holiday Inn.

24th Infantry Division Assoc. West Coast Reunion
Buena Park, Ca
April 15 - April 19, 1998

Dinner Selections

Saturday April 18 7:00pm

Tossed Salad with choice of Ranch or Italian Dressing with
(Choice of One)

N. Y. Roast Sirloin with Red Wine Mushroom Sauce

\$26.00

Stuffed Cornish Game Hen with Orange Sauce

\$26.00

Fresh Vegetable Medley

Baby Red Potatoes

Rolls and Butter

Vanilla Ice Cream with Pineapple Topping

Breakfast Buffet

Sunday April 19 8:00am

Choice of Scrambled Eggs or Egg Beaters

Crisp Bacon and Sausage

Breakfast Potatoes

Fresh Fruit Platter

Assorted Chilled Fruit Juices

Mini - Croissants, Danish and Muffins

\$12.00

Fresh Brewed Coffee, Tea and Decaffeinated Coffee served with Dinner and Breakfast.

Prices include all taxes and gratuity

Menu Order Form (Return this portion with Check)

Saturday Eve Dinner

N. Y. Roast Sirloin:

\$26.00/person x () = \$

Cornish Game Hen:

\$26.00/person x () = \$

Sunday Morning Breakfast

Breakfast Buffett

\$12.00/person x () = \$

Make Checks payable to:

Donald Barrett

Send to:

2854 Pinckard Ave

Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Phone:

310-370-2095

Deadline: March 20, 1998 (NO EXCEPTIONS, PLEASE)

24th Infantry Division Assoc. West Coast Reunion
Buena Park, California
April 15 - April 19, 1998

Reunion Activities

Name _____ () Telephone # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Wed. April 15 - Sun. April 19 - Knott's Berry Farm

Military admission passes good for any one of the above dates.
Includes Transportation to and from hotel.

\$18.50/person x () = \$ _____

Wed. April 15 - Sun. April 19 - Movieland Wax Museum

Military admission passes good for any one of the above dates.
Includes Transportation to and from hotel.

\$6.50/person x () = \$ _____

Friday April 17, 1997 - Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament

5:30 pm A medieval feast and tournament including jousting, sword fighting
and knights on horseback. Dinner includes soup, roast chicken, spare
ribs, potato and all the fixings. Two round of soda or Beer included.
Gratuity is not included.

\$ 26.50/person x () = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Donald Barrett

Mail checks to: Donald Barrett
24th Inf. Division Association
Reunion Coordinator
2854 Pinckard Ave
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Deadline: March 20, 1998 - (NO EXCEPTIONS, PLEASE)

I have been reading with great interest the 24 Inf. Div. Assoc. News magazine. I heard about you several years ago thru the American Legion Mag. I joined and 1 year later I became a life member #1222

I was in 1956 assigned to the 24 I. D. 21st Reg. Service Co.

After a short time there I volunteered for a special assignment. After some training (there were 9 of us) back in the states I returned to the Service Co. To work as a truck driver as before I went back for special training. When Command needed any of us we reported to a area of 24th H.Q. for assignment. Then we would go out and do our business. I'm glad I did what I did and don't regret it for the most part. Early on we decided that we needed some sort of patch to I.D. as different from but the same as the 24th. A tough assignment for the full bird Col. In charge of us. He did come up with a patch. A 24th Toro leaf but it had a skull and cross bones in the leaf. He told us that it was such and such and a little bit of the history of the unit. But for the life of me I cant remember what he said.

Does anyone out there know of this unit, it's history, and the unit designation?

And might have a patch? I have one myself but I would like another.

As far as the volunteering is concerned what 18 year old listened to his dad. Beside he volunteered for WWI then when that wasn't enough he volunteered for duty with AEF in Russia 1919-1920 With the 27th Wolfhounds.

Any help from the members on my request, I would be thankful.

David W. Martin
150 Gibbs St.
Newton, Ma.
02159-1928
"E" Mail
dazz@mediaone.net

Am I a life member?
X or XX If X I will gladly upgrade.

In response to David Smith's article "Good riddance to WWIs?"

If you click your heels 3 times, Mr. Smith, you might be able to go back to reality

David W. Martin

Personal services for Vets available toll-free

VA has a single, nationwide, toll-free number to make it easier for veterans and their family members to inquire about and apply for VA benefits.

The number, 1-800-827-1000, can be dialed from anywhere in the United States, Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands, Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30. It's a very busy number, but keep trying. Dialing automatically connects the caller with the nearest VA regional office during normal office hours. If you can't get through on the toll-free line, check your telephone directory for the local VA office in your area.

There are 53 regional offices, at least one in each state, which process applications for veterans benefits and provide information and referral.

OVERSEAS BONUS PLANNED

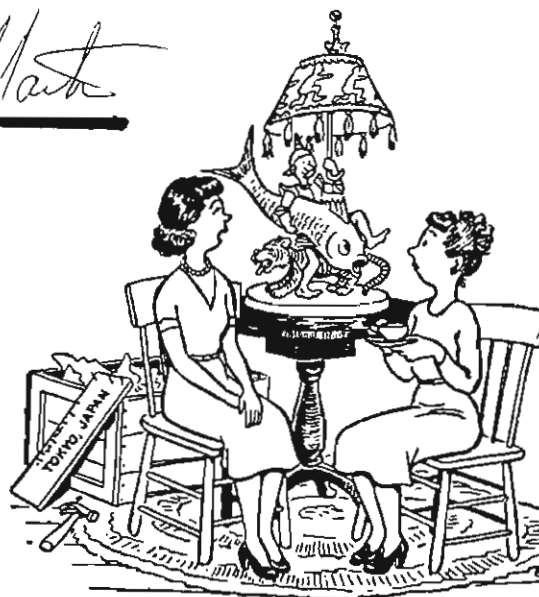


HE services expect soon to offer enlisted troops \$2,000 to stay overseas for an extra year.

If that sounds expensive, military auditors say it's cheaper to pay troops extra to stay abroad than it is to move them back home and move their replacements overseas.

Already the services offer troops with critical skills several incentives to prolong overseas tours. Among them, \$80 a month in extra pay, 30 days extra leave, or 15 days leave and free round-trip travel to the United States.

The \$2,000 bonus would be instead of, not in addition to, the other incentives. And each service can decide which troops with which job skills are eligible for the cash.



"IT'S SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS WANTED
... BUT NOT VERY MUCH"

Criminals think that they will not get caught.

If caught, they think they will not be convicted.

If convicted, they think that they will get a light sentence.

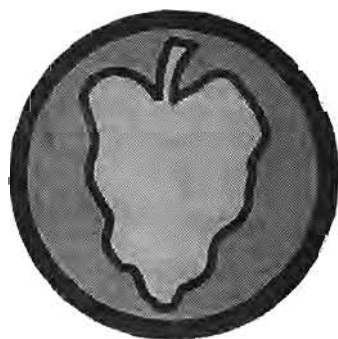
We, the noncriminals, have contributed a great deal to their way of thinking.

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"A Memory Which is Branded in My Brain Forever"

by W.B. "Wild Bill" Nelson

I believe it was July 20, 1950. We had pulled back from the north side of Taejon to a school yard. We parked our trucks around the inside of the fence which was high enough to conceal our truck's from the outside. We sat up defensive positions on the top of the school roof and around the fence inside the school yard.

My truck was loaded level to the top of the side boards with ammunition and covered with a tarp and was parked beside the kitchen truck. The next morning, just after daylight the kitchen truck was hit by a mortar round killing one of the cooks. It was not a pretty sight, and I can still see the shattered body of one of my comrades. I was sleeping on the driver side of my truck on top of the ammunition when the mortar round came in hitting the kitchen truck on the driver side. We were parked just 2 to 3 foot apart, so this mortar round missed me by about 12 feet. It shook the whole area, and I grabbed my M-1 and rolled off the top of my truck hitting the ground very hard. It knocked the breath out of me for a little while, I thought that I had been hit! When I had come back to my senses, one of my comrades was holding me up and shaking the hell out of me asking if I was all right. Thanks to the good Lord I was.

This school was located on the north west side of an intersection with the streets running north - south and east - west. On the west side of the school was a large drainage ditch of sort about 400 feet wide. It was wide enough so they had to build a bridge across it. The bridge itself was about 450 feet long with concrete railings on

both sides of the bridge.

About 20 - 30 minutes after the mortar round came in one of our truck driver's who was near the East side of the school fence was hit in the stomach area by a sniper. When the shot rang out I was crouched beside the front of my truck and I noticed some movement on the second floor window of the brick building which was south across the street from the school yard. Two comrades and myself manned one of the fifties mounted on one of the trucks and let go with about 300 rounds of 50 caliber fire. We did not receive anymore sniper fire from the building the rest of the time we were in the school yard.

About one hour after my comrade was shot in the stomach, two Russian T-34 tanks were approaching from the west heading toward the bridge and the school house where we were located. We had received the new 3.5 inch bazooka when the 19th Regiment, 24th Division reached Taejon earlier in the week. They were flown in by the Air Force in A C-47. These bazookas and ammunition were loaded on my truck and others and taken to a munitions dump somewhere near the center of Taejon. We looked for some 3.5 inch A.P. bazooka missiles, but we could only find Phosphorus rounds. We loaded one or two of the bazooka's with the Phosphorus missiles and were going to fire on the two T-34's coming down the street. I ran back to the fence and got in a prone position and was preparing to shoot the driver of the T-34 tank. The dis-

tance from the fence to the tanks going by was only about 20 feet when they passed by. Both tank driver's had their heads fully exposed. This fence around the school yard did not go all the way to ground. This was my position and this is why I could see the driver's head and would have been able to shoot the driver of the tank. At this time a 2nd Lieutenant ran over to us and told us not to fire. He was a World War II veteran and us not knowing at the time he gave orders not to shoot, in fact saved our lives. Had we shot both driver's dead the shooter in the tanks would have leveled us flat. So many, many thanks to that dark complexioned 2nd Lieutenant, again he saved our lives.

The two T-34 tanks continued past us going east. I think to the railway station about 10 or 12 blocks. When they got to their destination they fired about 4 to 8 rounds. I did not hear any explosions other than their cannon fire. They were down there just a little while before they returned on the same street heading back in a westerly direction.

I don't recall very much gun fire or mortar rounds, but there were no more tanks that day. For some reason my mind goes blank between the time the tanks went by and the time that we pulled out of that school yard. From the time we pulled out of the school yard until the next day I remember just about everything.

"On the way out"

We received orders to pull out of the school yard about 12 to 1 p.m. coming out of the school yard we turned right headed toward the south. At the intersection just out-

side the school yard was a jeep with three men in it. All three men were dead. I noticed the driver had a large open wound on his left shoulder, his left arm was hanging down outside the jeep, and his helmeted head leaning backwards. The 2nd Lieutenant told me, and the rest I am sure that when we started out to watch the openings in the buildings for snipers, and to shoot first. I had a staff sergeant riding with me. We drove about 10 blocks, then turned left. Just before we turned left a bullet came through the windshield between me and the sergeant, he immediately returned fire. I had a 45 in my left hand, but was too busy driving that truck out to use it. The streets were narrow, the turns were sharp, I remember at one turn I caught part of a building on a left hand turn. The sergeant was firing at every turn and on and off until we got out of Taejon. The convoy coming out of Taejon was slow, much too slow because we were receiving heavy fire on our right flank of the convoy. The sergeant riding with me was hit in his right arm and right leg, but he was still returning fire toward the North Koreans. It was very hot and very dusty, but we were getting further and further from Taejon each minute. We looked back and the whole town was on fire, burning black smoke. Finally about 2-3 o'clock we came to a halt. At the time I stopped my truck I yelled out to the sergeant to hit the ground, but he did not make it out of his seat. I think it was machine gun fire that got him. We tried to pull him out through the driver side, but his right leg was hanging out on the passenger side, but he had no pulse at all. The reason for the sudden halt was one of our tanks that was in the convoy took a direct hit and was burning

fiercely. A Spanish boy by the name of Joseph A. Hammond was driving the truck just ahead of me, and I think there was a truck just ahead of him, so I was the third truck from the burning tank. After we had tried to get the sergeant out of my truck, and two other comrades had checked his pulse just to make sure he was dead, I hunkered down beside the left front wheel of my truck. I remember watching the convoy proceed on as if nothing had happened and I thought, damn they must not care about the rest of us on the north side of the burning tank.

That is when I started thinking of what to do. My thoughts went back to Ft. Ord, California and my basic training. I thought of my 1st sergeant, sergeant Puscarek of Alabama and my platoon sergeant, staff sergeant Ball. I, and the rest of the young men taking our basic training, thought what bastards these guys are! They don't care about us they just want to drill the hell out of us. Well these sergeants did their job well, they were all veterans of WWII and and hunkered down there by the left front wheel. I thought to myself, sergeants did your job very, very well indeed and that's when I just started doing what they had trained me to do to protect myself, my comrades and most important my country. The United States of America. While WWII was going on I watched each Saturday at the movies as to how our men and women were doing in the service in Europe and in the Pacific. I read in the papers everything about WWII. It took our men and women almost 5 years to win WWII, but the main thing they did was win and a win that would cost many lives and

leave a great number of service people crippled in body as well as in mind. The men and women of WWII were truly my hero's and in my mind for the rest of my life. Myself, and our country still owe these great hero's and their families.

We began returning fire on the North Koreans. After awhile I started hearing HELP, PLEASE GET US OUT OF HERE! That is when I saw the 3/4 ton truck upside down. Hammond, and myself started for the 3/4 truck in the rice paddy. Bullets started hitting the dirt all around us and we scrambled back for cover behind our trucks. This rice paddy was about 250 to 300 yards wide. Then there was the railroad track which was built on a 3 ft to 5 ft burn, then beyond the railroad track there were some 6 to 12 farm houses, then beyond the farm houses which were settled on the side of a gently slopping hill were the trees that went to the top of the hill. The heights and lengths I give here are approximated, because it has been nearly 46 years ago.

The rice paddy was on our westerly side and on our easterly side was this very high hill. At the base of this hill on the easterly side of the road were some four or five farm houses beside the road. My truck was directly in front of the farm house which was south of the rest of the houses. We all had several Bandoleers of ammunition of which we used up in a matter of some minutes. We got some more ammunition of which we had to refill the clips for our M-1's. Five of us were in a circle beside the farm house some sitting and some just kneeling reloading the M-1 clips when three of the men fell over dead. Hammond was shot through the neck. He fell over on the ground then stood up

grabbing his neck. I grabbed him and pulled him to the ground beside the farm house. He was choking to death on his own blood. I pulled him to the rear of the house. Most of the blood was coming out the left side of his neck, but there was a lot of blood coming out of his mouth and his nose. He gurgled out "PLEASE HELP ME NELSON!". Needless to say I was scared nearly to death to see my good friend from Beppu, Japan and now here on this bloody, hot and dusty country of which he or I had ever heard of. I positioned him slightly head down on his left side so the blood might come out the hold in his neck. I was pressing pressure points on the arteries to his head and I remember very clearly asking God to please help me, help my good friend...Some how God guided my hands, the bleeding subsided. I then dressed the wound. I went back to my truck and emptied two clips. When I came back to Hammond he was sitting up and blood was streaming down his left side again. I put him back in the same position that I had stopped the bleeding in earlier and it stopped again. I told him this time stay put as you are. He wanted his M-1 so he could fire back. I got his M-1 and lay it beside him, but told him not to get up until I told him he could, he nodded he would.

What I still see when I lay down at night to sleep are his pleading and grateful eyes, that is when I have to get back up because I just can't sleep some nights and too, his bloody face, hands and his clothes. Then there are the other three that I guess were killed instantly. I saw some of my buddies caring for them, then the next few minutes I saw them laying side by side with their arms folded across their chest.

During all this time, the screams still coming from the 3/4 truck upside down in the rice paddy. It was terrible hearing my buddies begging for help and there just wasn't anyway we could help them. I remember the railroad, there was a culvert under it to allow for water drainage. I noticed some movement in the culvert and in a few minutes I could see fire and a little smoke. It looked to me like it was a machine gun, so I concentrated my fire at the culvert. It seemed like it was about 500 yards more or less, anyway I started firing at that culvert. By this time it was getting late, the sun was just going down, so I could see my tracers hitting very close to the opening in the culvert. After I had emptied about 3 clips on it I saw more movement, but it was the Koreans moving out of the culvert. By this time the sun had set and the firing from both sides had subsided quite a bit. In the meantime after checking on my friend, Hammond and the sun going down and the tank fire had subsided quite a bit, we got some men organized. We discussed on how we would get to the men under the 3/4 truck. We decided that as soon as it got dark enough we would go down to the truck and try to at least get it on its side so we could get the men out from under it. We succeeded in getting the truck up high enough to get the men out. I remember two of the men's names. One name was Harper of the 34th I think and the other mans name was Barnett and I think this man was with the 34th. Maybe Harper or Barnett was under the truck too. that part isn't real clear because it was dark and we were in a hurry to get them out and back to cover. One man was named Talley. He

was soaked in gasoline and I think he was with the 34th Regt. or maybe the 24th Med BN. I am not real sure about the units they were in but I am sure about the names. Several weeks later we heard that Talley had died, of what I don't remember.

I can't remember whether it was just before, during or just after we got the men out from under the 3/4 truck that the North Koreans started blowing bugles and making other weird noises all around us. The way it sounded we were completely surrounded by the North Koreans. It did serve its purpose, it scared the hell out of all of us there. Some hour to two hours after it got dark someone drove a big wrecker truck up from the rear of the convoy to where the tank was blocking the road. I remember checking the 6x6's and most all had the tires shot out plus bullet holes in my truck and Hammond truck and the one in front of Hammond had holes in the radiator, hoses or blocks because there was a lot of water under each truck. All of our trucks were shot up pretty bad, this I learned the next day. After the big wrecker made it up to us a bunch of us got together and made a plan on how to get out of this awful mess.

We all talked, we knew we were surrounded and there was only one way out, and that was past the tank or push it over toward the rice paddy so the big wrecker could get by. I don't remember how we got past the tank whether we pushed it to the side or whether we went around it in the rice paddy. Anyhow, we decided to load all the wounded that could not walk on to the big wrecker. Then we decided to put half the men on the left flank and the other half on the right flank. It was agreed upon that going out we

would not fire a single shot unless we received heavy fire from a concentrated area. We then decided the driver would put the wrecker in the lowest gear and let it go at idle speed. The idle speed did not make very much noise, so this is what we would do. We then proceeded at a very slow pace. After about 2,3, maybe 4 hours we came upon another farm village. When we were about a quarter of the way into the village we saw this tank, it was backed into a house for concealment and it was sitting at a slight angle to the road, the cannon on the turret was pointing straight at us, but there was no movement, no running engine, and no lights. We just kept walking expecting any moment for the tank to open fire. I could not tell whether it was one of ours or a T-34. It was a dark clear night, but we could see the village and the tank sitting there. We just kept on walking and thanked our Lord that it did not fire.

We walked in this manner until daylight. After daylight we stepped up the pace heading south. The next thing I remember was seeing one of our ambulances with the white circle and the red cross on it. From that point until I got back to Service Co. 19th Regt. 24th Div., which was bivouacked on a rocky river bed, I just don't remember how I got from the ambulance to the Company area. When I walked up to the company area there was a man washing his face and hands, this guy turned out to be another one of my good buddies Curtis Hilley. He asked where I had been and how my clothes got cut up so bad. It turned out to be bullet holes. We counted them there were 5. I then took my helmet off to wash up and there was a crease across the top of my helmet. We looked at it and were

joking about if it had been just 1/2 inch lower, well, you know the rest!

This event in my life in Korea was just 36 hours for all this to happen. I know my Lord was watching over this young lad!!

Postscript:

Hammond my good friend was shipped out to a hospital in Japan. I never saw my friend Hammond again until October 1951. My 1st sergeant called me at the motorpool at Fort Hood, TX and asked me to come to the orderly room, that there was someone that wanted to see me there. When I got there it was my good friend, Joseph A. Hammond. After he left Korea in such bad shape I really didn't think I would ever see him again. We greeted each other with a handshake and a great big hug. He told me first I want to thank you for saving my life. I said oh, Hammond your good Lord just wasn't ready for you yet. Then he told me that the doctors told him that whoever took care of the wound in his neck really saved his life!

So, now after all these years I have been trying to find my friend with no luck at all. So if anyone out there might remember my friend, Joseph A. Hammond, (I think he was from New Mexico) Please contact me:

**W.B. "Wild Bill" Nelson
214 W. Mockingbird Ln.
Harker Heights, TX 76548**

Korean Kaleidoscope (One Soldier's Passing)

by
Earl Courtney Downey Sr

The deep frozen snow of a Korean winter
With temperatures twenty below
A soldier, ever so lonely, warmed by the fire
Of the hibachis glow.

His thoughts drifted from the comfort there was
To a far off home where it was sunny and warm
Wishing he was there, that place far away.
So safe from the war and the storm.

Somehow he knew, and he felt within,
His fate was cast like a shadow
On the snow of the land so barren and cold
Yet his thoughts were clear and unrattled.

Pale moonlight touched the new fallen snow
Creating shadows that looked so weird
Soldiers restlessly shifting around, ever so slow
Trying to disguise the presence of fear.

Morning light crept up like a snail
As movements of the soldiers kept pace
If a war must be fought like this
Why couldn't it be with more haste?

At a moment least expected the shelling began
And into the foxholes it swept
Leaving on the ground in its crimson wake
Broken bodies of his comrades in death.

For a moment he thought...how lucky I am
To have lived while my comrades died...
Too soon had he thought of his fortune this night
For an explosion at that moment, struck from the side.

He lay there on the brink of life...
Or was it the edge of death
A moment it was...ever so brief
For he died...with a long sighing breath.

What is to be learned from this heart breaking saga
Of one soldier's passing?
Very little, I'd venture to say
For wars we'll forever be having!



SOUND OFF

Obtaining your military records

Have you ever wondered what is inside your military personnel or service records? If you are currently on active duty or in the reserve, you shouldn't have much trouble finding out. For the military veteran or retiree or their next of kin it might not be so easy to do. Most personnel or service records (201 files) of veterans or retired military are stored at the National Personnel Record Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, MO. In some cases these records date back to 1886. They have over 60 million records.

Why would someone want to look at these records? Because they contain important service and medical information that may be needed after the veteran has left the military.

Separation or discharge documents are often needed by the veteran later in life to show proof of military service. Family members may be trying to learn more about a family's history. Military records usually contain a great deal of information about a veterans family background, military experience and medical history.

Veterans or the next of kin of a deceased veteran can get access to these records in three ways:

Write to the NPRC and ask for copies of a particular document(s).

Visit the NPRC in person and review the entire file, or

Get a third party to review and

copy the records at the NPRC

Veterans or their next of kin should never request their records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Only limited information can be provided under FOIA. Their entire record can be acquired or reviewed if requested by the veteran (or his next of kin, if he is deceased). This is done under the Privacy Act.

There are advantages and disadvantages in any of these three choices. Making a written request is the least expensive choice as there is usually no fee. The mailing address is: National Personnel Record Center, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. If you write, you have to ask for specific items of information or documents. It is unlikely that you will get a copy of the entire file (even if you request it) because of the enormous workload and the limited number of clerks at the NPRC. Since they receive over 200,000 requests a month, don't expect a quick reply. If the documents or information you want is needed quickly you should consider the other options.

Visiting the NPRC can be a quicker way of getting copies. Veterans or their next of kin can get a copy of a separation or discharge in about two hours, if they arrive before 1 p.m. on normal work days. There is no fee for this service. Family members will need a signed authorization from the veteran or proof that the veteran is deceased. Make sure you bring along a photo ID such as a driver's license.

To view the entire file, the veteran or his next of kin must make an appointment. To do so, call one of the following numbers: Air Force, 314/538-4218; Army, 314/538-4122; Army retired, 314/538-4010; Navy, Marine

Corps or Coast Guard, 314/538-4200.

The last option is to get a third party to obtain the file and copy all or part of it. U.S. Locator Service in St. Louis, MO, is a private firm that specializes in military records search. NPRC has approved this firm to act as agent for veterans or their next of kin. With a signed authorization, they will obtain the complete file and make copies of either the discharges or the entire personnel and medical file. The copies will be sent directly to the requester. The cost to obtain a copy of discharges is \$60 and \$110 for obtaining copies of the entire file. The average turnaround time is 10 to 21 days. For more information and an authorization form call Dick Bielen, U.S. Locator Service, P.O. Box 2577-S, St. Louis, MO 63114-2577; phone 314/423-0860.

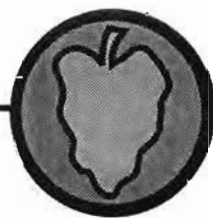
No matter which method you use, you must provide the following: the veteran's full name, including middle name; branch of service; period of service; and service number and/or Social Security number.

A fire at the NPRC in 1973 destroyed many of the records of veterans who served in the Army from 1912 to 1960 and in the Air Force from 1947 through 1964. Some records survived, others were reconstructed. In these cases, it is possible to locate alternate sources for the required information. U.S. Locator Service may be able to obtain the needed information through these alternate sources.

The NPRC also has numerous Army unit rosters and Navy ship muster rolls. These list the names of all assigned members and service numbers of a unit or a ship at a particular time. These can be helpful in locating other members of a unit for a reunion or other research. Morning reports for Army and Air Force units are at the NPRC. These morning reports list personnel action such as transfers, promotions, hospitalization and death of assigned members. While it is possible for the public to obtain copies of the microfilm records, it is a somewhat complicated and lengthy process. U.S. Locator Service can obtain these for a fee of \$60 per hour. Most requests take only an hour to complete. Contact Dick Bielen at the address above for additional information



24th Infantry Division Association



TAPS



Deceased: 9/97
H L (Bill) Adkison
13th '49-'51
353 Ardic Ave Apt 87-B
Eusria FL 32726

Deceased: 10/97
Richard C Biggs
19th 6/41-3/45
109 Moray Firth
Williamsburg VA 23188

Deceased: 10/96
Kermit B Blaney
21st 4/42-6/45
801 Peachtree Dr
Columbus GA 31906

Deceased: 10/97
Dominic Castillo
21st 9/50-1/51
800 Tennyson St
Denver CO 80204-2945

Deceased: 12/97
Lucille Coats
wife of W. Coats
4 Carol Dr
Succasunna NJ 07876

Deceased: 10/97
Leak Elliott
Non-Mbr '37-'39
211 West U.S. 74 Hwy
Rockingham NC

Deceased: 3/97
Edwin K Funk
19th 1/40-10/44
PO Box 133
Jansen NE 68377-0133

Deceased: 6/97
Jack Hen
52nd 10/41-9/45
47 Yorkwood Dr
Brick NJ 08723-7806

Deceased: 12/97
Anne Marie Hester
wife of W.B.Hester
5101 Powhatan Ave
Norfolk VA 23508

Deceased: 5/96
Jack A Lutz
413 Wisler
Davison MI 48423

Deceased: 10/97
LTC Rodolph Mullins USA
19th 7/49-7/51
HCR 3 Box 191
Rocky Mount MO 65072

Deceased: 11/97
Irving Nessel
21st '43-'45
5015 35th Ave S Apt 315
Minneapolis MN 55417

Deceased: 6/97
Elmer H Peterson
21st 12/46-2/48
2119 Mineral Point Ave
Janesville WI 53545-3474

Deceased: 10/95
Dutchie Ray Pitchford
Non-Mbr '50-'52
515 W Campbell St
Kermit TX 79745-4002

Deceased: 12/96
Edward R Puhr
5th RCT 9/51-11/52
1203 Grant
Danville IL 61832-2911

Deceased: 5/93
Alfred C Russell
63rd 6/49-1951
Layetteville AR

Deceased: 8/97
Walter Skillman
5th RCT '52-'53
7236 N 600 W
Frankton IN 46044-9563

Deceased: 12/97
James I Smith
Non-Mbr
Rt 4
Roanoke VA

Deceased: 2/97
Vicente Sydiongco
34th 10/44-10/45
3105 Tarpon Dr
Las Vegas NV 89120-1198

Deceased: 3/96
Corrine Wiley
wife of W.S.Wiley
10166 S State Rd 227
Lynn IN 47355-9329

TAPS

RODOLPH (RUDY)MULLINS



Rodolph Mullins was born to Thomas M. and Lucretia Hall Mullins on 7 December 1927, at Mc Roberts, Ky and departed this life on October 28, 1997 at his home in Rocky Mount, Mo. Rudy fought a long hard battle with cancer.

He attended school at McRoberts was drafted into the Army Air Force on 14 December 1945, spending 15 months in overseas duty at Goose Bay Labrador. After 38 months in the Army Air Corps he reenlisted in the Army in February 1949. After attending Surgical Technician School at Fort Sam Houston, Texas he was assigned to the 19th Infantry Regiment 24th Infantry Division in Beppu Japan. After 1 year of occupation duty in Japan, he went with the Med Co. 19th Inf Regt to Korea, where he saw action in both South and North Korea. He participated in the battles of Pyong-Tack, Chonas, Kum River, Taejon, Naktong, Weegwan, Sariwan, Kusang, Anju, and Pakchon. He participated in a total of 15 battles. During Operation Ripper he was awarded a battlefield commission on 22 March 1951. He returned to the States in August 1951.

After 40 days leave he was assigned to Fort George G. Meade, Maryland and after 4 months he was sent to Fort Sam Houston to attend the Basic Officers Orientation School. He was reassigned, after completing the 10 week school, to Camp Picket, VA. Then on to Fort Campbell, Fort Knox and 42 months in Germany. He returned to the States in August 1959 and was assigned to Fort Leonard Wood, as Executive Offi-

cer of the 12th Field Hospital and Med Company Commander of the U.S. Army Hospital until June 1964 when he was again ordered to Korea for a second tour. After his tour of duty in Korea he was reassigned back to Fort Leonard Wood as Commanding Officer of the 12th Field Hospital. He held this position until April 1967. Again he was assigned to the General Leonard Wood Army Hospital. Upon being promoted to Lt Col in January 1968, he received orders for the Republic of Vietnam. He arrived in Vietnam in April and was assigned as Executive Officer 61st Med Bn at Cam Rahn Bay. He returned to Fort Leonard Wood in April 1969 and remained assigned there until his retirement in January 1972 after 26 years service. He received the Combat Medical Badge, Bronze Star Medal with Cluster (2d award), Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Army Occupation Medal, Korea Service Medal w/5 Campaign Stars, Vietnam Service Medal W/4 Battle Stars, National Defense Service Medal W/Cluster (2d Award), UN Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, US Presidential Award and Republic of Korea Presidential Award.

Upon retirement he took a year off and then became Administrator of the Pulaski County Hospital where he remained for the next five years retiring due to ill health.

He joined Richland Lodge #385

AF & AM in October 1961 and the Shrine of Abou Ben Adhem Temple in Springfield, MO. He became a York Rite Mason in 1966 and the Scottish Rite of Joplin in 1974. He served as Worshipful Master of Richland Lodge #385 in 1989. He was a member of the Waynesville-St Robert Lions Club and served as President 1977-78. He was a member of the Pulaski County-Fort Leonard Wood Shrine Club and served as Rajah 1985. He was Chairman of the American Red Cross (Pulaski County Chapter) 1975 - 1978. He was instrumental in founding the Waynesville School of Practical Nursing and served on the Board for a number of years. He resided in Waynesville 17 years and was active in community affairs.

He was made a Tennessee Ambassador of Goodwill by Governor Don Sundquist and an Arkansas Traveler by Governor Jim Guy Tucker.

Rudy was a life member in the National Sojourners (Harry S. Truman #152, Waynesville, MO), a life member of the Retired Officers Association, a life member of the National Order of Battlefield Commissions, a member of the VFW Post No. 3176 of Waynesville MO. and the American Veterans Legion of Rocky Mount, MO.

He served two years as Secretary/Treasurer and Editor of the Taro Leaf, 24th Infantry Division Association. He was awarded the highest award, The Verbeck Bowl in 1997 for his service to the Association.

TAPS (continued)



Rudy was united in marriage to Yvonne Marie Minnehan on July 10, 1975 in the Campbell Avenue Methodist Church in Springfield, MO. They made their home in Waynesville, Mo for 17 years and then moved to Rocky Mount, Mo where they have lived the past 5 years.

Besides his wife Yvonne of the home, he leaves to mourn his mother Lucretia Mullins of McRoberts, Ky. He is survived by 7 children from a previous marriage. His daughter (Wilma Jo) Mr/Mrs Ron Place of Buffalo, MO., his son (Curtis Wade) Mr/ Mrs Curtis Mullins of Greenville, S.C., his son Stephen Mullins of Greenville, S.C., his son (Rex B.) Mr/Mrs Rex B. Mullins of Miami, OK., his daughter (Lucretia Lynn) Mr/Mrs Steven Upton of Waynesville, MO, his son (Barry) Mr/ Mrs Barry Mullins of Richland, MO and his daughter (Donna Jean McMahon) Mr/ Mrs Ronnie McMahon of Richland, MO. He leaves 4 step children, (Colleen) Mr/Mrs Ron Harp of Springfield, MO, (David) Mr/Mrs David Minnehan of Nixa, MO, (Kelly) Mr/ Mrs David Eberline of Kawkawlin, MI and (Shana) Mr/ Mrs R. Berry Long of Parkville, MO. He leaves 19 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. He is survived by three brothers : Charles Mullins, Henry Lee Mullins of McRoberts, Ky, David Mullins of Ann Arbor, MI. Two sisters, Irene Collins and Vera Potter of Shelby Gap, Ky. He was preceded in death by his father, Thomas M. Mullins, two sisters, Mae Clark and Loretta Kern and one brother Thomas V. Mullins. In addition to his immediate family, he leaves a host of relatives and friends to mourn his passing.

Richland Masonic Lodge #385 AF&AM, and Waynesville/ St.Robert Masonic Lodge #375 AF&AM, held services at 7:00 PM Thursday, October 30, at Waynesville Memorial Chapel.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 PM Friday, October 31, at Waynesville Memorial Chapel with Dr. Clinton Wofford officiating. Hospice Chaplain Doug Einfeld read a letter written by Joseph P. Hofrichter, Chaplain of the 24th Infantry Division Association. Pianist, Renee' Hof-foway accompanied Soloist, Jlee Wooley as she sang, "One Day At a Time," "Wind Beneath My Wings," and "Another Soldier's Coming Home" were also played. U.S. Army soldiers served as escorts.

Burial with military honors was in the Waynesville Memorial Park Cemetery. Services were under the direction of Waynesville Memorial Chapel.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Eldon United Methodist Church Memorial Fund or to the 24th Infantry Division Association in memory of Rudy Mullins.

HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST

God saw he was getting tired
and a cure was not to be.
So he put his arms around him
and whispered, "Come with Me".

With tear-filled eyes we watched him
suffer and fade away,
although we loved him deeply,
we could not make him stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,
hard working hands put to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
he only takes the best.

(Author Unknown)

TAPS
(continued)



VICENTE H. SYDIONGCO

January 24, 1924 - February 15, 1997

The morning of October 28th, 1944, A Company under the command of our late dear friend, Gil Heaberlin, moved into the town of Alangalong, Leyte Island. From the jungles stepped a tall, thin, handsome 19-year old Filipino Guerilla.

During the Japanese occupation, Vicente and his band of Guerillas were a constant thorn in the side of the Japanese. Now Vicente was offering his services which proved invaluable to the 34th Infantry.

When the 1st Battalion was pinned down at the Manit River Bridge, it was Vicente who saved the day and hundreds of casualties.

F Company, under command of Paul Austin, was ordered to take the Company down stream, ford the river and with fixed bayonets, execute a flanking maneuver on the heavily fortified, dug-in Japanese. But where best to ford the river?

Here is where Vicente proved his value and valor. He led F Company to the shallowest and safest place to cross the river and in a matter of some twenty minutes, the enemy was wiped out and the bridge safely in our hands.

Vicente had endeared himself to the men of the 34th forever. After the War, he went on to become a member of the Philippine Bar Association, City Engineer of Tacloban City, General Manager of Leyte Electric Cooperative and Chairman of the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Leyte.

Vicente attended many Reunions and it was always such a joy to see him. In 1987 he became a citizen of the United States and resided in Las Vegas.

Vicente will live on in the hearts of his loving wife, Inday, his family and most certainly, the men of the 34th Infantry.

Joseph P. Hofrichter
34th Infantry, F Company

TAPS (continued)



It is with deep regret that I inform you of the death of **DOMINGO F. CASTILLO** of Denver, Colorado on October 9, 1997. We were together at the Colorado Springs Reunion in September, it being the first reunion that Dom ever attended. We had such a good time together. Dominic was in the 1st squad of 2nd Platoon of "G" Company, 21st Infantry Regiment. He was captured on January 2, 1951 and remained a Prisoner of War for 18 months. I lost touch with Dominic for many years, but we were brought together by a mutual friend here in Connecticut and have been corresponding and in phone contact since then. I have lost a dear friend and am happy to have had the time with him at the reunion in Colorado Springs and to have visited his home and great family of 5 wonderful sons in Denver, Colorado.
Warren G. Avery reported.

Domingo F. Castillo of Denver, passed away October 9, 1997. Preceded in death by wife Dolores R. Castillo; brothers, Manuel Castillo, Ralph Castillo, Mike Castillo, Pete Castillo and Francis F. Castillo. Survived by children, Domingo "Sam" Castillo, Clarence D. Castillo, Carlos A. (Victoria D.) Castillo, John J. Castillo and Sidney L. (Michelle L.) Castillo; brother and sisters, Joe F. (Christella) Castillo, Aurelia F. (Eloy) Gutierrez, Virginia "Mary Lou" Nunez, Ruth (Everly) Silva and also survived by 10 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. Interment at Fort Logan National Cemetery.

Leak Elliott was in the 19th Infantry at Schofield Barracks, 1937-39, most of his time with F Company. He once told me that his company commander was Captain Aubrey Newman. I attended the memorial service and signed the book as representing the 24th Infantry Division and the 19th Infantry Regiment. Bill Roseboro reported.

Mr. Leak D. Elliott, 77 of Rockingham died Monday, October 27, in Britthaven Nursing Center, Hamlet. Mr. Elliott was born Dec. 14, 1919, in Richmond County, a son of the late John Adam and Effie Garris Elliott, and was preceded in death by his wife, Margot Lindemer Elliott, in March 1978. He was a retired US Army Master Sergeant, serving in WW II, Korea and Vietnam. He was a Mason of Clemson Lodge #254 AF&M, Clemson, S.C., as well as a member of VFW Post #4203. Memorial services with full military honors with Rev. David Spaulding officiating. Mr. Elliott is survived by a son, Davis Elliott, of Atlanta, Ga., two sisters, Helen Elliott, of the home, and Elizabeth "Bessie" Jacoby, of Rockingham, several nieces and one nephew.

I am sorry to have to report that another of our members has answered the last roll call. I am enclosing a copy of the obituary for James Izell Smith who served in "G" Company, 19th Infantry in Korea in 1951-52. James and I were in the same platoon. He died in 1994, but I only learned of his death in December. Bill Roseboro reported.

Funeral services for **James Izell Smith**, 66, of Rt. 4, Roanoke, VA were Tuesday, December 6, 1994, at 2 p.m. from Quattlebaum Funeral Chapel, with the Rev. Maynard McGinty officiating. Burial was at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church cemetery in Chambers County. Mr. Smith died Sunday, Dec. 4, at West Georgia Medical Center in LaGrange. A Randolph County native, Mr. Smith was born May 11, 1928, son of Tommy and Lucy McClendon Smith. He was an army veteran of the Korean War and was a textile worker. He is survived by two brothers, Thomas L. Smith and Lewis J. Smith, both of Roanoke.

Col. Douglas W. Syverson, U.S. Army, Retired, of San Antonio passed away on September 15, 1997 at the age of 80. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Billie Marie Syverson; daughter, Lorraine Curtis, sons, Wayne Syverson, Michael Syverson, Albert Syverson, sisters, Ruth McGuire, Maxine Moore, sisters-in-law, Orvilla Syverson, Norma Syverson, three grandchildren, Marcella and Genevieve Syverson and Janie Hernandez. Mr. Syverson was born in Webster, SD to Albert and Tracy Syverson, where he was also reared. He spent 32 years in the US Army. Graveside services with Full Military Honors at Fort Houston National Cemetery.



TAPS

(continued)

A TRIBUTE TO COL. DOUGLAS W. SYVERSON U.S. ARMY, RETIRED



Observations by two soldiers who served under the late Colonel Douglas W. Syverson, 24th Infantry Division, during the year 1950-1951 in Korea. We wish to extend our sympathies to his wife, Billie, and to his sons and daughter. Doug was an outstanding family man.

With the passing of Col. Douglas W. Syverson, 80, of San Antonio, Texas on September 15, 1997, we would like to note his outstanding officer characteristics during the "Blitzkrieg" year in Korea, July-July, 1950-1951. Doug came to us about July 22, 1950, shortly after Taejon as a 1st Lt. He immediately became CO of "L" Co., 34th Infantry and in September became CO of "G" Co., 21st Infantry. The 34th was deactivated in September, having been whittled down to 184 men. I, Len Korgie, came to "L" Co. the same day that Doug arrived for the holding actions shortly after Taejon. We had about 100 men, deplete of practically all heavy weapons and seemingly in a state of disorganization. The situation seemed incredible and non-describable. The one officer I saw, a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge in the ETO, was everywhere on the forward slopes under heavy fire. He aligned our meager troops to more effective firing positions and exhorted scared kids to fire their weapons. We were constantly in danger of being overrun.

The volume of small arms fire, mortar fire and self-propelled fire was tremendous. At one point the North Koreans attacked us frontally-shielding themselves with hundreds of white-clad civilians among whom were white-clad North Korean soldiers and some in U.S. uniforms-firing heavily. They were closing fast and we hesitated to fire back at civilians. Three strafing and rocket-firing P-51 Mustangs and Capt. Syverson broke our silence and probably saved us from the fate of POW camps.

Once we survivors of the 34th came inside the Pusan Perimeter about August 1, 1950, the depleted companies took up positions along the banks of the Nakdong River. Divisions could only adequately defend the expanse of the river banks that we dotted. Captain Syverson was on the banks when the multitude of North Korean 4th Division Troops broke through on the Ohang Ferry level-ground and captured and killed a number of us. A few of us escaped on the fateful night of August 5-6, 1950.

Captain Syverson was with us on August 15-18, 1950, when we and the 19th Regt. and 1st Marine Brigade destroyed the 4th North Korean Division and regained the Pusan Perimeter. Doug stayed on the hill with us as we weathered heavy North Korean artillery and tank fire for two days and nights from across the Nakdong.

At Pohang-Angang-ni in early September, 1950, the 34th Regt. was depleted to 184 men and was deactivated. "L" Co. 24th became "G" Co. 21st Regt. Capt. Syverson got a full compliment of officers, men and equipment.

At Angang-ni, "G" Co. was in support of the South Koreans. Doug's platoons were out-posted in different directions. Heavy North Korean attacks caused "G" Co. to be surrounded. From a central position Capt. Syverson skillfully and calmly reeled in his platoons with moderate casualties. They inflicted heavy damage on the North Koreans and the situation was stabilized for the South Koreans. Fox & Easy companies came to the rescue of "G" Company. Capt. Syverson showed outstanding leadership and skill in this situation.

In the breakout north from the Pusan Perimeter, Capt. Syverson and two officers and two platoons were some of the first troops to cross the Nakdong at Waegwan. We set up a flanking position to protect the crossing by the RCT which assaulted Waegwan the following day.

Capt. Syverson was out in front of his troops on our trek to the north all the way to within 15 miles of Yalu River.

Doug was a CO you could place your trust in. He was aggressive in combat, knowledgeable, a tough disciplinarian and he displayed exceptional skill in infantry combat. He was also compassionate. The fact that he was promoted from 1st Lt. to Major in eight months is testimony to his skill and ability. Regimental commanders often called on his company to spearhead combat operations. He had a great influence on us then and to this very day.

Doug Syverson went on to General Staff College and became a full Colonel in the regular army which he served for 32 years.

Sergeant First Class Leonard F. Korgie

Sergeant First Class Warren G. Avery

TAPS (Continued)



I wish to inform you of the death of my husband: Richard C. Biggs. He died of renal carcinoma after a very brief hospital stay of 4 days and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 30 October 1997 with full military honors. He requested that the "Oak Leaf" emblem be engraved on his headstone and I am honoring his request. He served in the 19th Infantry throughout WWII. Signed Katie N. Biggs

Ret. U.S. Army Col. Richard Chester Biggs died at Williamsburg Community Hospital on October 16, 1997. He had lived in Williamsburg since 1992.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 49 years, Katie Nettles Biggs, and three children, Richard Kirby Biggs of Falls Church, Deborah C. Biggs of Lanexa, and Timothy C. Biggs of Glen Rock, N.J.; and four grandsons, two granddaughters, and a great-grandson.

Col. Biggs was a native of Seattle, Wash., graduating from Queen Anne High School in 1935. He attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, Skull and Keys and other honorary societies, and captain of the Freshman Track Team. In 1939, he received a bachelor's degree and an infantry ROTC commission.

He began active duty in February of 1941, and was stationed with the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, at the time of the Japanese attack. He continued to serve with the regiment in Australia and through

campaigns in New Guinea and the Philippines until mid-1945 in positions from platoon leader to regimental executive officer.

He held key staff positions with the U.S. Military Government Command in Korea from 1946 to 1948, including seven months as one of two U.S. XXIV Corps Liaison Officers representing the U.S. with the Soviet Union Army headquarters in Pyongyang during the early development of the North Korean armed forces and the beginning of the Cold War.

As a Regular Army Transportation Corps Officer he commanded battalion level units in Korea during the war and later in Germany, where he also became the V Corps Transportation Officer. He commanded the 4th Terminal Command at Fort Eustis from 1963 to 1964.

He attended several Army Schools, including the Army Command and General Staff College, where he also taught for four years, and graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1960.

After military retirement in 1966, he was the civilian assistant to the principal logistics officer in Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe, from 1967 to 1972. He held the senior civilian logistics position in the Defense Attache Office, Saigon, from 1973 to 1974, and then served on the Army General Staff.

In 1976, he was appointed as a GS-16 as assistant director for material maintenance, office of the Army

Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. He was later assigned as the deputy commander of the Engineer Logistics Command in Saudi Arabia, retiring from his civilian Army career in 1981.

He was awarded the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star, both with Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal and numerous civilian awards from the U.S. Government and the Republic of Vietnam; and is a Distinguished Member of the Transportation Corps Regiment.

Following the career as an Army civilian, Col. Biggs worked for a defense contractor operating the U.S. base maintenance contract in Turkey, and as a consultant with a number of other base maintenance contractors.

During 1993 and 1994 he volunteered at Fort Eustis as a co-author of the book "Spearhead of Logistics, A History of the Transportation Corps," the definitive history of U.S. Army transportation from the Colonial period to the present.

He served as the executive vice president of the board of directors of the Army Transportation Museum Foundation, and belonged to several professional military associations and the Christopher Wren Association. He was also a volunteer in the Elderhostel programs at the College of William and Mary.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, Oct. 30, at 9:45 a.m. at the Old Chapel at Fort Myer, Arlington. Interment will follow in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

TAPS (Continued)



The following was reported by John E. Fuller: LT Col Gaynor W. Hathaway was in the 24th Inf Div 1945-47 where he was the AC of S, G2, in Kokura, Kyushu, Japan. I was his Executive Officer.

Gaynor W. Hathaway died Tuesday, August 6 in Honolulu, Hawaii. He was born January 11, 1915 on the old Sorrels Ranch, now Kino Springs, along the Santa Cruz River. He was the eldest son of William and Lucile Hathaway, a Santa Cruz County pioneer ranching family.

A graduate of Nogales High School and the University of Arizona, Hathaway later had a long career as a US Army Officer. He was a veteran of WWII and the Korean Conflict, serving more than two and a half years in active combat zones. During WWII he served as an intelligence officer in the Pacific campaign in the Philippines, New Guinea and Japan, and was among the first U.S. Army personnel to enter Japan.

Hathaway served on Gen. Douglas MacArthur's staff during the post war occupation of Japan. He later had a number of military assignments, including tours of Germany and France, and retired as a LCol in 1962 after 24 years in the Army. Hathaway was decorated several times for meritorious service. His honors included the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and the Air Medal.

Following retirement, he worked for the Red Cross in Germany, Idaho, Alaska and Washington. Survivors include his wife

Dorothy, of Honolulu, Hawaii, two daughters, Janet Hathaway of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, and Anne Florey of Ninilchik, Alaska; and three grandchildren. He is also survived by four brothers, Lincoln Hathaway of Chino Valley, Arizona Appeals Court Judge James D. Hathaway, Bob Hathaway and Paul Hathaway, all of Nogales. He was predeceased by two brothers, Gilbert and Gregory.

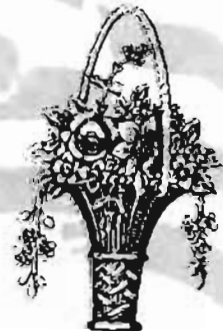
Irving V. Nessel, age 77, of Minneapolis, MN died November 8, 1997 at the Minnesota Veterans Home. Surviving are his wife, Mary, daughter Julie Wills; son David and grandson Nicholas Nessel; brother Howard and sister Irene Linkert. Burial was at Fort Snelling. Irv was with Co. "L" 21st Inf Regt (1943-45). He joined the 24th Division in Sydney Australia and served with Co. L at Goodenough I., Hollandia, New Guinea, Leyte, Mindoro and Mindanao, PI. He was the weapons Platoon Sgt. in the Philippine Campaign. Irv was a late joiner to our Association. During the Minneapolis reunion Fran Welch of Old Bridge, N.J., also Co. L and Mortar Squad Sgt. visited with Irv at his home. This was their first meeting since Fran was wounded and hospital bound on May 6, 1945 on Mindanao. Irv was unable to attend the reunion because of illness and Fran submitted Irv's membership and dues at that time.

Irv's wife Mary resides at 5015 35th Ave South #315, Minneapolis, MN. 55417.

From Weldon B. Hester. I am writing of the death of my wife, **Anne Marie Hester**, 5101 Powhatan Ave., Norfolk, VA on December 7th. She died of Pneumonia at the home of our daughter, Nancy Anne Van Norman. Survivors include myself, our daughter Nancy Anne Van Norman, Grandson John, Weldon, and grand daughter Alissa Anne Van Norman Murph, Niece Phyllis Anne Clark and Grand Nephew Fred Phillips Strebec.

Anne was a Nationally known and honored water safety swimming instructor for over 60 years. It is estimated that she has taught 10,000 pupils to swim and swim better in this period.

Vernon R. Clark, 3308 Nowata Rd., Bartlesville, OK 74006-4909 writes of the death of **Jack Lutz**, **Company C, 6th Tank Bn. 24th Inf Div 1954**. Jack A. Lutz was born January 30, 1931 and passed away May 12, 1996. Rev. Bradley Long officiated with interment in the Smith Hill Cemetery, Otisville, Michigan.



Kermit Blose Blaney

(Ret.) Colonel Kermit Blose Blaney, 78, of Columbus, died Sunday at the University Hospital in Baltimore, MD.

Graveside services will be held 1:00 p.m. Thursday in Parkhill Cemetery, according to Striffler-Hamby Mortuary, Columbus. The family will receive friends Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Col. Blaney was born January 26, 1918 in Morgantown, West Virginia, the son of Joseph A. and Alice Blose Blaney. He had lived in Columbus since October 1966. He retired from the U.S. Army on November 30, 1966 after 28 years of service while serving during World War II and the Korean Conflict.

Col. Blaney was a member of St. Luke United Methodist Church; William Henry Shaw Sunday School Class; an Alumnus of West Virginia University; Sons of the American Revolution; Valley Senior Golfers Association; Georgia Senior Golfers Association; Green Island Country Club; Retired Officers Association; AUSA; Financial Secretary Board Member of Goodwill Industries; a volunteer with St. Francis Hospital; Active with Meals on Wheels; former member of Columbus Kiwanis Club and a 32nd Degree Mason. He was preceded in death by his son, Dr. Robert L. Blaney.

Survivors include his wife, Marilu Crafton Smith Blaney of Columbus; one daughter, Susan Blaney Hudson of Columbus; one sister, Kathryn Blaney Large of Oxford, MD; three grandsons, Jason Hudson, Jeffrey Hudson and Edward Smith Simmens; two stepdaughters, Edwina Smith of Washington, DC and Dr. Marilyn Smith of Boone, NC; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the charity of your choice.

TAPS (continued)



LEDGER- ENQUIRER

1996 P W Page 6019

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Our 170th Year, 141st Issue

A10

Wednesday, October 16, 1996

EDITORIALS

Blaney was a visionary

Col. (Ret.) Kermit Blaney, a native West Virginian who passed away Sunday at the age of 78, was a special person who combined vision with a willingness to work at the hard parts that turn dreams into reality.

Following completion of a distinguished 28-year military career, Blaney settled in Columbus where he served as executive director of the Multi-State Transportation System Advisory Board. Among his visions was a multi-mode superhighway through central Georgia linking the eastern and western parts of the state. Originally, Blaney wanted to run the great road all the way to Missouri, but in the end had to settle for the

Georgia portion. Anyone who has traveled from Columbus to the Sea Islands on the coast knows the route well. Most of us call it Corridor Z.

But Blaney was involved in much more than roads. He had a hand in the original land clearing and construction of Westville, the living history museum down in Lumpkin, and he was known locally for his volunteer work with many charities. On occasion, his sprightly comments graced these pages.

Last year, in recognition of Blaney's efforts, the Georgia Department of Transportation named a portion of Corridor Z the Kermit Blaney Parkway. It was a fitting tribute.

We will miss him.

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38	14th Engr Crest		\$5.00
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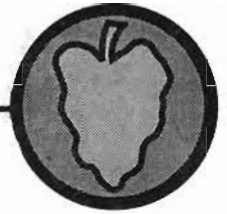
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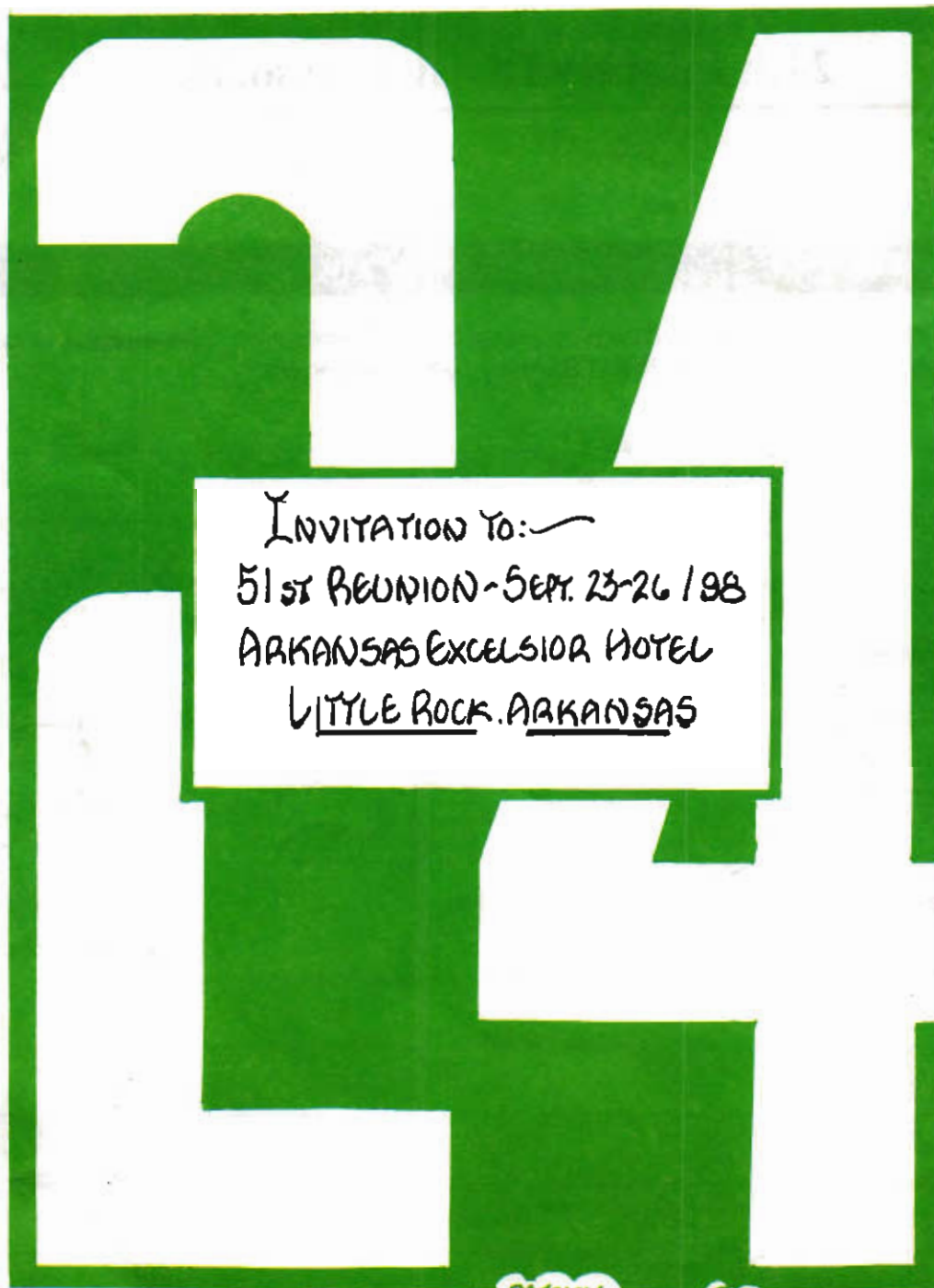
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