

24th Infantry Division Association  
FIRST TO FIGHT

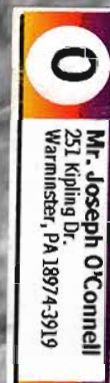


# *Taro Leaf*

VOL. 53 No. 1

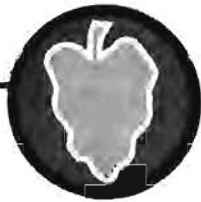
Remembrance of World War II (page 3)

FEBRUARY 1999



Dr. Philip H. Hostetter

# 24th Infantry Division Association



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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.

## **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.

**Volume 53 No. 1**

**February 1999**

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**NEW SECRETARY/TREASURER:** Please send all dues, contributions to the new Secretary/Treasurer - Will Schumaker, 1300 Hartley, Ozark MO 65721-8437.

**1999 Reunion**  
22-26 September 1999  
Adams Mark Hotel  
100 East Second Street  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
Tel. 918-582-9000  
Fax. 918-560-2232

## REMEMBRANCE OF WORLD WAR II

### BATH TUB (SEE COVER)

by

Philip H. Hostetter, M.D.

The enemy installed several huge guns such as are used in battleships, on a mountain top overlooking Davao Gulf on the east coast of Mindanao Island in the southern Philippines. These guns would have been a great menace to ships in the Gulf. We came by land and they never fired a round.

17 April, 1945 The 24th Division landed on the southwest coast of Mindanao and traveled mainly on foot to the Capitol city of Davao arriving 3 May '45, a distance of over 100 miles. Our vehicles would catch up with men on foot every 2 to 4 days as they had to be wrenched through innumerable creeks. The bridges were blown up by the retreating enemy. Each battalion traveled two days and rested one as the two other battalions "leaped-froged" through it's position. Midday humidity was stifling. I drank over 6 quarts of water with salt tablets every day. In the evening I could wring sweat from my shirt. We had no spare uniforms so we slept in the wet clothing. It smells like urine.

Our only shelter was one poncho for each man. We slept in shallow trenches we dug. I slept very well with my head in my helmet and felt fine the next morning.

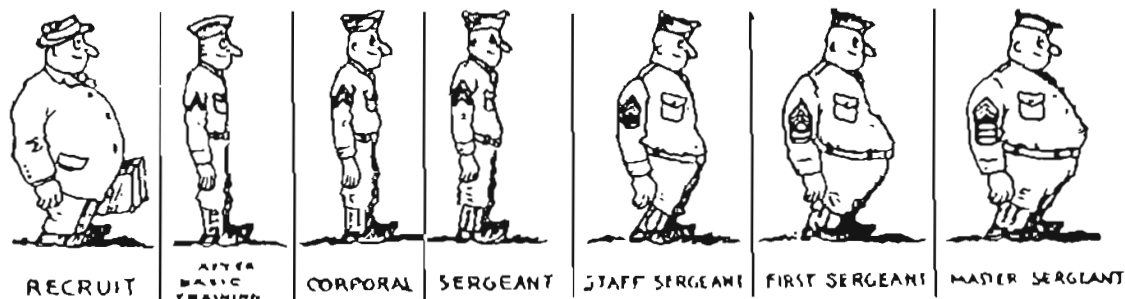
It was all a big man could do to carry machine guns, mortar tubes, and their bases. Other soldiers carried their packs. I carried medical supplies in pouches on either side supported by a canvas yoke over the shoulders.

When the 24th Division approached Davao, the 1st Battalion was sent to neutralize the big guns on a mountain top. We climbed the mountain following a winding trail. The enemy fired anti-aircraft guns at us. The rounds passed an estimated 10 inches and an actual 10 feet over our heads. They could not depress their guns enough to get us.

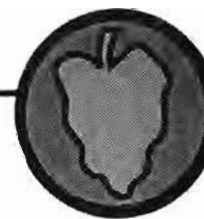
When we arrived in the enemy's camp we saw that he had left in haste. It surprised us that they had made no defensive preparation at all.

Among the many curious objects left by the enemy in his abrupt departure was a field bathtub. An iron firebox extends into the water to warm it. Carrying water from the Davao River a mile away would be quite a task. We assumed the commanding officer had first chance at the tub followed by his staff according to rank.

The next day (4 May '45) we crossed the river into Davao on a single plank because of damage to the bridge. Much later the Army put up an "Off Limits" sign for soldiers, but that day we were welcome.



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January 14, 1999

Dear Member and Friends:

On behalf of the officers of the Association, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for the Christmas Greetings set via e-mail, fax, phone or by postal service. Your kindness and love is felt and very much appreciated. May you be blest with a very Happy New Year!

The February 1999 issue of the Taro Leaf contains more stories and letters from our members and, hopefully, will be of interest to all of you.

I want each of you to know that I appreciate hearing from you and want to thank you for sending information by means of stories, articles and any news items. Everything that is sent in on file to be used as soon as space is available.

I consider it a privilege to serve as Editor and it is my desire to keep the Taro Leaf as interesting, informative and entertaining as possible with all of your assistance.

Just a reminder that we will be having a Raffle in the near future.

## **SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN**

There is a bill "H.R. 363 (Rep Filner, D-CA): This bill would repeal the so-called "age 62 offset" under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) (that is, the reduction in benefits that survivors incur after age 62), and would provide the survivor 55 percent of the covered retired pay amount, regardless of the survivor's age.

Those of you who have internet access can get into your legislators' current cosponsorship status and send them an e-mail at <http://www.2.troa.org/search.html> to find your legislator's page, then click on the "cosponsorship Status" link at the top of the page (right under the legislator's name) and you can send a message asking them to support H.R. Bill 363. If you do not have internet, you may use TROA's toll free line to the Congressional switchboard 1-888-449-3511 to call your legislator's office. When the Capital Hill operator answers, just ask to be put through to your Representative's or Senator's Office. This affects all military families who have SBP. It would be to your best interest to be a "squeaky wheel".

Sincerely,

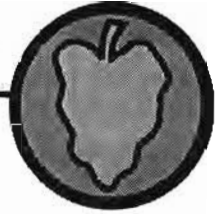
Vonnice, Editor TL

## **LATE BREAKING NEWS**

Received word from our President Harold Peters, of the passing of **Norman Riegler**, 19th Inf Regt., on **January 17, 1999**. Services were held in Ohio on Wednesday, January 20, 1999. Norman represented the 24th Inf Div in Washington, D.C. Korean War Memorial Services in 1996 and 1997. Because of illness he was unable to serve in 1998.

# 24th Infantry Division Association

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Dear Taro Leaf Members,

Happy New Year! I hope all of you have had a great holiday.

I hope all of you can maintain good health in 1999 as we would like to see all of you in Tulsa, Oklahoma, September 22-25, 1999.

Vernon and Donna Clark are doing a great service to the association by chairing this great event. They are working with Karen Moon from TLC Travel. They have done an outstanding job lining up some very interesting tours with affordable prices. I think you will be pleased. Tulsa is a great city with a lot of frontier history and fascinating sites to see. As some of you know these tours fill up early so Vernon and Donna are asking everyone to please get their reservations in ASAP, as they do not want to disappoint anyone. Karen Moon can also help you obtain very affordable airline travel, you will find this information in the 99 reunion section of this magazine. Please do not hesitate to contact her at (918) 333-2299. You will notice that there has been a change in the registration forms, you only have 3 forms to fill out, one for the hotel, one for unit breakfast and one, to be completed on both sides, for registration, tours, meals and Ladies Breakfast. We hope you will find this process easier than before, not as much of a paper trail. The Adams Mark Hotel reported that they already have 8 registrations in for the reunion. I urge you to register early with the hotel and obtain a confirmation number to assure that everyone will have a room.

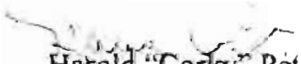
William Schumaker, our secretary/treasurer tells me our association is in excellent shape, both financially and in numbers. He tells me he is in this for the long haul. We are lucky to have him, this is a big commitment and he is doing an outstanding job for us.

Glen Carpenter, our new Chaplain is on top of everything. If you hear that any of our members has passed away please let Glen know

Our recruiting is going along at good pace. We have sent out a good number of news releases to local newspapers, and radio and TV stations, and we seem to get a lot of response from them. I would like to thank all of you who have participated in this membership drive.

In closing I would like to again wish everyone peace and good health in the coming year.!

Sincerely,

  
Harold "Corky" Peters  
President



Picture below sent in by John Korte "D" Co. 19th Infantry Regiment. This is a picture of the 19th Infantry Regiment Camp Hagen, Championship Basketball Team. This team won the Far East Command Championship in Osaka, Japan on March 9, 1952. Approximately 6 weeks after being relieved in Korea. The roster below with the picture is of the players and their respective numbers.

# 19th Inf Regiment Northern Command

NAME	Pos	NO
Edward C Otto	G	10
Alan G Bennett	C	15
Donald Mirandette	F	4
John H Korte	F	12
Harold McKindrey	G	5
McKinley Mosley	F	14
Richard Saner	C	9
Frank Stanczak	F	3
Clarke Miller	C	22
Joseph Rooney	F	8
Lewis Harris	G	16
Francis Patterson	F	7
Gordan Van Der Mark	Mgr & Trainer	
1st Lt Barney S Haynes	Coach	



## SOLDIERS' STORIES

John Grady

The camera whirled. The image was frozen. An instant preserved. Austin Flack - sitting on a bench in the greensward of the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, a pigeon on his left knee.

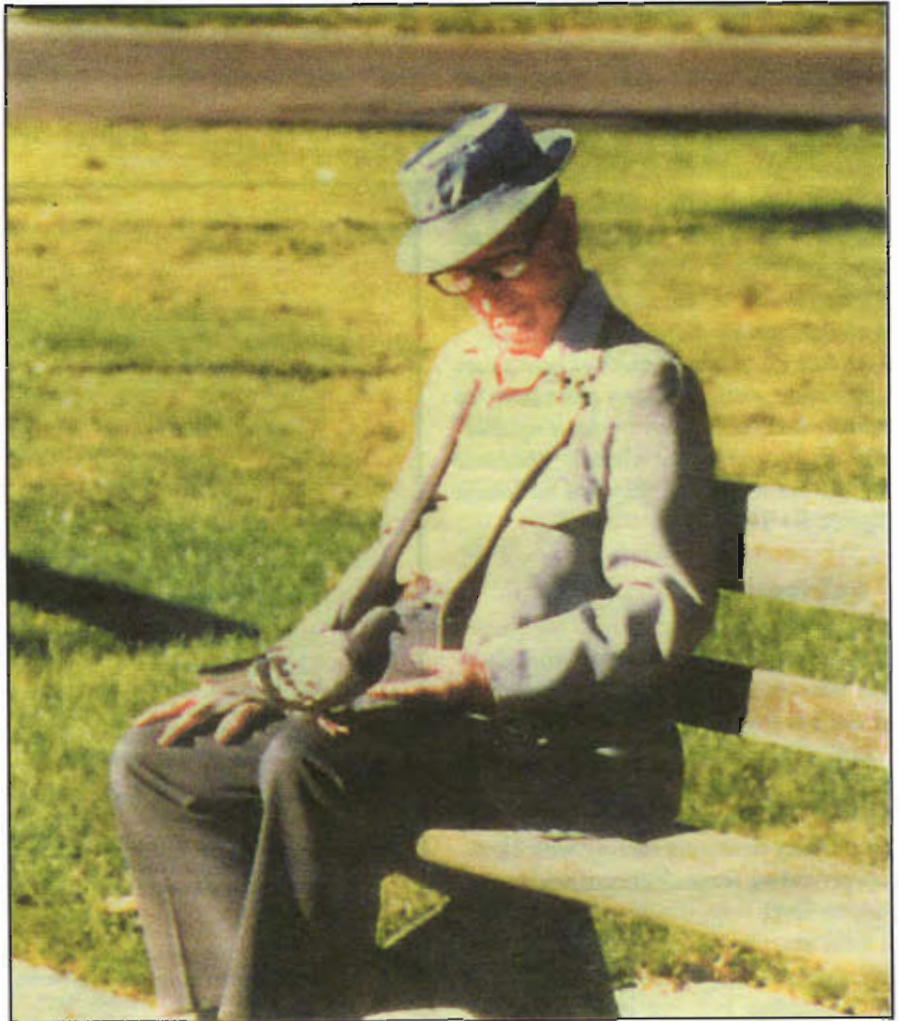
With Austin Flack, AUSA NEWS begins this story of their lives - especially their time in Korea.

As a sergeant major, he arrived on the Korean peninsula with Task Force Smith, the hastily assembled Army units dispatched in June 1950 from occupation duty in Japan to slow the onrushing invaders from North Korea.

He survived years of prisoners of war camps and until he was freed on Aug. 29, 1953, more than a month after an armistice was signed, "I got to think they're going take this sergeant's group to Manchuria or something and not let us out of here. So we were the last group to be released."

He came from his home in Union Mills, N.C., into the horse-drawn Army at Fort Bragg, N.C., in 1936. Over the next decade, Flack survived not only the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, but "I done what a lot of people say you can't do. I stayed with my unit (73rd FABN) all the way through Australia, New Guinea, Luzon, Mindanao and was in the Philippines when the war ended." (and in occupied Japan) Five years later, he was back in combat.

Flack was in the 63rd Field Artillery, 24th Division, when he was sent to Korea in the summer of 1950. With a river as a barrier, he was told "stay there and defend the place and hold at all costs."



And that's where we stayed, right there until they overran us."

It was early afternoon July 14, 1950. The North Koreans started marching their 60 prisoners northward. "There was a drainage ditch down through the field. It was about knee-deep to waist-deep with filthy dirty water. And there was a path on either side.

Well, they walked the path on either side and put us down in the ditch." They were given no food or water for more than a day. "And we marched at night. Lot of men got sick. You got to carry them and carry a load at night in the dark - you step in a hold and it's like falling in a gully." For Flack and those who survived, it was a more than two-month long march north to an open field that became a prisoner of war camp for 900 Ameri-

can soldiers and some Salvation Army missionaries.

They were just across the Yalu River from Manchuria. They dubbed the North Korean commander "The Tiger," who was determined to "put the fear of God" in his prisoners as they were shuffled from site to site. The Tiger singled out a lieutenant, "the closest man to him. "He told us again that one of his orders had been disobeyed and that wouldn't go. And he took out something about like a handkerchief, just a rag or something, and put it right on the lieutenant's head like a blindfold and he put his pistol to the back of that man's head and slid that bandage up just a little and pulled the trigger..From then on, they tried to do what the man said."

## Profiles in Stupidity

William Jefferson Clinton has been impeached! Haleleuja! There is a God. The ordeal of a long and arduous trial is still before us in the Senate, however, the stigma and stain of impeachment will forever be attached to his legacy. It is right and proper that it should.

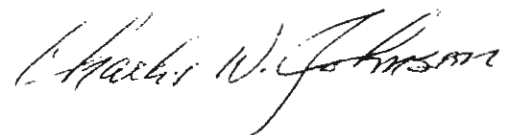
At any time during the preceding months, Clinton could have stopped the entire proceedings by honest contrition in an act of humility. He admitted to misleading the country, yet could not bring himself to admit he lied. In my dictionary, those words are interchangeable. Instead, he chose to continue the deception time and time again by playing word games. To date, he has not convinced anyone of any heartfelt remorse for his misdeeds. Indeed, he continues to display an attitude of arrogance and defiance, in the manner of an incorrigible juvenile. Perhaps his political talents and credentials are greater than many who have held that office. However, he persists in wasting them. He definitely has a polarizing effect that divides this country. Nobody in Congress, including democrats, can take him at his word any longer. No meaningful legislation will be enacted by this president. In my view, he should resign before his legacy gets worse.

He vows to fight to the last hour of the last day of his term. An admirable statement to make in front of the cameras, however, it is still an immature thing to say on the solemn occasion of his impeachment. Those hypocritical democrat partisans who stood there on the White House lawn, did little to acquit themselves. Their performance during debate was despicable. Most of them conceded the charges were true, yet availed themselves of this back slapping pep rally to the president. I'll concede one thing. If their strategy was designed to provoke the republicans into over reaching a bit, it worked. This pious posturing demonstrated at the podium and on the house floor by liberals, was indeed provoking. It succeeded only in getting him impeached.

Contrast that with the search for truth, calmly conducted by the republicans. I doubt that anyone could find fault with the Chairman, Henry Hyde. For every inch he gave, they wanted a mile, and he gave that too. He would not be deterred from his Constitutional purpose, and that infuriated the democrats. When the vote came, they screamed "partisan." It was they who were partisan. I submit the republicans were "deliberate." And a fine job they did too.

Where are all the elder statesmen we could turn to for wise counsel? Obviously, I hold to the conservative philosophy of the republicans, but I recognize many democrats, as well, and hold them in high esteem. For instance, that fiddle playing, white haired gentleman from Virginia, Senator Byrd. His oratories on the Senate floor are legendary. Tip O'Neal is gone and so is Bob Dole. Many of the younger set simply do not wear well. I submit this as an indictment on the news media. They sit back and fan the flames of adversity while both sides burn. It irks me, no end, when a TV commentator looks into the camera and with a contrived look of innocence, asks: "Why can't we get good people in government anymore?" The fact is, few people want the job and no wonder. There are vermin out there, under a rock someplace, who will dig up any dirt they can find, contrived or not, and go public with it just to embarrass any candidate opposing their views. I uphold a free press but this is ridiculous.

History has a way of sorting things out and putting them in perspective. It is a shame that our myopic vision is so blurred while we're living it. How noble were the words of President John F Kennedy: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask, instead, what you can do for your country". The current occupant of that office can make flowery speeches too. Trouble is, his words have a hollow ring to them since he betrayed our trust. The words of honorable men and women have integrity. Integrity and honor are missing from this presidency. CWJ 12-20-98







# BULLETIN

## AARP salutes Glenn

**THANK YOU, JOHN GLENN**, for painting a new face on an age-old stereotype. At age 77, John Glenn has proven once and for all what Satchel Paige said so many years ago: "Age is a question of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."

Glenn has shown Americans of all ages that growing older is a time of inspiration, not desperation. He is living proof that as we journey through this continuum of life known as aging, our ability to navigate successfully depends less on our date of birth and more on our ability to maintain positive attitudes, good health and engagement in life.

John Glenn truly is an ageless pioneer, shaping and enriching the experience of aging for all of us.

## A memorial overdue

**AARP WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE** the World War II Memorial Campaign for its effort to make this long-overdue tribute a reality. The World War II Memorial will be built on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., and will be a permanent monument to a generation of Americans who united on the battlefield and on the home front to preserve our nation's values. It also reminds future generations why they should never take for granted the freedoms for which their parents, grandparents and others so dearly gave their lives.

The WWII Memorial Campaign is spearheaded by former Sen. Bob Dole and the CEO of the Federal Express Corp., Frederick W. Smith.

For further information, call the World War II Memorial Campaign at (800) 639-4992, visit its Web site at [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), or write to: World War II Memorial Campaign, Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 501, 2300 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22201.

## DEPT. OF VA PUBLISHES NEW VETERANS HANDBOOK

The latest edition of one of the federal government's best-selling booklets is now available from the U.S. Government Printing Office. Published by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" has been revised to include changes in law for 1998.

The 88-page handbook provides the latest information on important changes in eligibility for VA medical care. It also describes other federal benefits, including education, disability compensation, pension, home loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation, life insurance and burial assistance. The booklet includes details on benefits and services for particular groups, such as women veterans and Gulf War veterans.

Addresses and phone numbers of all VA benefits offices, medical centers, national cemeteries, counseling centers and other VA facilities are listed. In addition, a toll-free number, 1-800-827-1000, is listed to connect callers to the nearest VA benefits counselor.

The Government Printing Office sells the booklet for \$3.75, but the full text is available free through the Internet at [www.va.gov/benefits.htm](http://www.va.gov/benefits.htm). For copies, ask for GPO stock number 051-000-00214-8 from the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. To order with VISA or Mastercard, phone 201-512-1800.

## ACTUAL BUMPER STICKERS

I love cats...they taste just like chicken.  
Out of my mind. Back in five minutes.  
Laugh alone and the world thinks you're an idiot.  
I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to be a vegetarian.  
When you do a good deed, get a receipt, in case heaven is like the IRS.  
Consciousness: that annoying time between naps.  
Be nice to your kids. They'll choose your nursing home.  
Ever stop to think...and forget to start again?

## **"WE HAVE RETURNED"**

by

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

**October, 1994**

October 20, 1944 General Douglas MacArthur returned to the Philippine Islands as he said he would three years before when he was forced to leave by the invading Japanese. He returned with the greatest sea, land, and air force ever assembled. Allied forces landed first on Leyte Island in the east-central Philippines, on a sandy expanse called Red Beach between the towns of Tacloban and Palo.

Fifty years later the government of the Republic of the Philippines sponsored a huge celebration to commemorate the Leyte Gulf Landings, the beginning of many bitter encounters to free the Philippines of the invaders, and to found a new, independent nation.

Many veterans of the war returned. I had three questions in mind: Do the sentimental Filipinos we learned to know, remember us? What is happening in the Philippines today? Is there really "an eternal bond like no other between those who have known combat together?"

The Filipino people show a new pride and confidence. They realize they are indeed an independent nation. This is the first time in their history they have been truly independent. They lived under Spanish domination and exploitation for 300 years. During that time there was a rebellion an average of every 9 months but all failed. The Spanish-American War of 1898 forced Spain to cede the Philippines and Cuba to the U.S.

Immediately the U.S. set about establishing public schools, unknown until that time. My father Harvey Edgar Hostetter, a teacher in Oklahoma at the time, went to the Islands in 1913 on a sort of Peace Corp mission to found schools. First he had some training in Manila. Very little Spanish was understood by the people, he relied on interpreters who were high school graduates in Manila. He was sent to the Island of Panay south of Luzon with headquarters in Iloilo.

His task was to go into villages where no white man had ever been to contact the "Head Man" who ruled the village. He promised the American government would furnish a teacher from Manila and school books if the village would build a school building. This they were eager to do. For the first time in their history the people enjoyed public education. English was taught - and still is - as a second language. There are at least 40 distinct languages in the Philippines. The 1200 islands are isolated from each other by the sea and divided by mountain ranges. A common language is essential.

Under American influence health conditions, education, manufacturing and commerce improved vastly. Still there were vestiges of colonialism. In 1945 a woman in Davao told me a great problem in her country was indolence. She

might have added initiative, self confidence, and personal responsibility. In the '30's, my father believed the Philippines were still not ready for independence. They were too ununited and vulnerable to foreign invasion. He feared the Chinese. How right he was, only it was the Japanese who invaded!

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii December 7, 1941 caught the U.S., a peaceful nation, woefully unprepared. With a war in Europe at the same time, we were unable to help our allies in the Philippines for three terrible years. Millions died under a cruel enemy.

The single thing that sustained the hopes of the people was the statement by General MacArthur as he was forced to leave the Philippines when Corregidor fell. He made the momentous promise, "I SHALL RETURN!"

"You are brown, we are brown" declared the Japanese, "We are brothers! The white man is here to exploit you?" At first a few Filipinos believed some of this propanganda. "Asia for Asians" they said. The Japanese invented what they called their "Co-Prosperity Sphere" including all of the South Pacific area. They made three terrible miscalculations: America was indeed a sleeping giant they awakened, she did come to the aid of her friends, and Hitler lost in Europe.

Japanese invaders proved to be terrible administrators and

## (continued)

incessantly brutal.

"Life under Japanese soldiers was intolerable," Inday Sydiongco, a resident of Tacloban, told me. "Every time we were forced to go into the country to get food the soldiers demanded to know where we had been. They suspected we were working with the Guerrillas which was probably true. If the soldier did not like what he heard he would cut off heads with his saber on the spot." I asked Inday if she had any warning American forces were returning. "More than usual numbers of airplanes passed over", she answered. "I didn't know if they were American or Japanese, but the soldiers hid every time they appeared so I concluded they were American. Also the children started bringing in sticks of chewing gum and a message to not give up hope."

The sea was calm October 20, 1944. Navy ships bombarded the 5 mile beach between Tacloban and Palo until it appeared to seethe like a volcano. Wave after wave of landing craft carried ashore the First Cavalry Division to the north, and the 24th Infantry Division on the south half. I visited the Sick Bay of my ship before it was my time to go ashore. Casualties were already returning. Navy men who were not going ashore donated blood for them the night before.

Personal leadership in the Far East is important. General MacArthur dramatically waded ashore about where the statues are now erected.

HE SAID HE WOULD RETURN, AND HE DID!

By noon the entire beach

as far as I could see was covered by men and machines. The Infantry fighting its way inland overcame coconut-log pillboxes still firing. One was silenced when a bulldozer buried it in the sand with a huge, armored blade, but it was still firing when the Generals came ashore. The Army hoped to reach the mountains 2 to 3 miles inland the first day, but a massive swamp lay in their way. This is now drained and is replaced by the public park where the celebration was held. The foot soldiers did penetrate the mile or so to the road that still runs between Tacloban and Palo and to the foot of the mountain overlooking Palo. They spent the night in low, miserable, and dangerous positions.

Meanwhile the Navy fought the decisive Battle of Leyte Gulf. At night I observed tracer bullets far away forming cones of light as ships directed their fire against aircraft. After that battle the Japanese Navy was no longer a serious threat.

The 50th Anniversary of The Leyte Gulf Landings culminated a week of celebration, removing the invaders from the Islands, 50 years of peace and progress that followed, and total independence of the Republic of The Philippines, a new nation - enough to celebrate!

American veterans returned, 180 of us is one estimate. All of us paid our own way. We are not as young or as wealthy as we would like. The non-stop flight from Los Angeles to Manila takes 14 hours. Distances are unimaginable. I traveled through 11 time zones from Kansas.

Every place we went we were overwhelmed by expressions of gratitude for what our armed forces accomplished, and their admiration of us personally. My group had a noon meal as guests of the City of Manila. I ate with 8 Supreme Court Judges. All of them used chop sticks. This was the only place I saw chop sticks. I will never be a judge, but I am not bad with chop sticks, and improving.

"I think Education is the highest profession", a Justice declared. I agreed with him. He considered Medicine as next. I told him I highly respected Law.

"The Law can be twisted", he explained, "But if you twist Medical Practice very far, you have a dead patient."

Next we went to a reception given by the Mayor of Manila, Alfredo S. Lim. He is considered a candidate for President in the next election. A band greeted us at City Hall as people watched from all sides and from windows of surrounding buildings. A delegation from Chicago presented Mayor Lim with a plaque from the Mayor of that city. He gave each of us a pin with the insignia of the Mayor of Manila. We also received Philippine Liberation Medals and Ribbons. I placed them on my cap with a 24th Infantry Division patch and my cherished miniature Combat Medic award.

October 19 we found the City of Tacloban on Leyte Island jammed with people who had come for the celebration. In the evening the city park, at least a square block in size, contained

## (continued)

several quite long tables covered by free food of all kinds and Coca-Cola. Hundreds of chairs stood on the ground in front of a huge stage. Bands sat on each end. Amateur singing and dancing groups provided excellent entertainment until midnight, aided by 2 Las Vegas comedians and a singer.

Imelda Marcos, the former First Lady, is from Tacloban and now lives there. She is personally very well liked. She made her way through the crowd and happened to pass by me. We shook hands as she gave me a rather cold look. She appears to be in remarkably good health. Being of Spanish descent, she is taller than most Filipinos. Imelda wears the same size shoe as my wife Helen, and, they say, has more of them.

What we knew as "Red Beach" October 20, 1944 is now a huge public park midway between the cities of Tacloban and Palo. Long gone are the coconut log pillboxes sunk in the sand, and the pathetic ditch dug by slave labor supposed to be a tank trap. Leafless coconut palms are replaced by others grown to a stately height. Waves lap gently on the sandy beach where our landing craft ground ashore. Rice fields take the place of the swamp inland.

Thousands and thousands of people in a holiday mood streamed in from all directions October 20, 1994 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Leyte Landings. Motorcycles with side cars, small-sized Japanese cars, and large excursion buses such as ours jammed the roads. Thousands of people walked. Some estimated 200,000 people. I could believe twice that number.

The sun shone brightly all

day but it was not unbearably hot. We tourists felt the high humidity.

President Ramos of the Philippines, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, and envoys from 10 other countries attended the ceremonies on a large, open-air stage. Japanese veterans did not choose to attend but they were welcomed at a similar meeting 10 years before.

Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Yoshifumi Matsuda made a statement some had never expected to hear. He said in effect, and it was repeated on television that evening, "The Japanese people have come to realize all of the suffering of so many millions of people was caused by Japan. We apologize."

Not nearly all of the crowd could see the stage or the beach. Television monitors and loud speakers were scattered over the area. An actor with a corn cob pipe waded ashore from a landing barge. The crowd on the beach laughed as he stumbled. The real MacArthur acted as though he thought he could walk on water.

Warships hovered in the Gulf. Aircraft streaked overhead. Explosives planted in the water detonated. Landing barges stormed ashore. It was by necessity a weak carbon copy of the real thing. The children were amused.

A Manila paper carried a cartoon criticizing the government for such a lavish outlay and neglecting its veterans.

In the afternoon a family in Palo I have known since 1944 came by for me in my small hotel, as we had arranged. It is

remarkable how we met. One afternoon in November 1944, two attractive Filipino girls about 17 years of age came to an Aid Station we operated in the village of Santa Fe 5 miles west of Palo. They asked to meet American doctors. They were obviously refined and well educated, and spoke excellent English. We visited briefly and I made some photos. Years later a Filipino veteran, Vince te Sydiongco who lived in Tacloban, saw the pictures and made an astounding statement. "I know her. She married my roommate in college!" Helen and I looked her up on our visits 10 and 12 years ago. Loling Espana has daughters Violet and Rose - these are abbreviations of their given names - and a son. She was Superintendent of the grade schools in Palo until her retirement. Her husband, an engineer, died recently. There has never been any doubt that nice people live everywhere.

Loling, her daughters, their husbands and I visited the large church in Palo. It was used by the 36th Medical Evacuation Hospital and the 16th Portable Surgical Hospital during the war. Gen. "Red" Neuman (known for his famous "Follow me" command on Red Beach to the 34th Regiment) was treated here after he was seriously wounded near Alang Alang farther west. The beautiful church is being enlarged.

Overlooking the city is the spectacular, sedate mountain we called "522", captured by the 19th Infantry Regiment, the one I later served with. It is covered by dense vegetation. The side toward the city is quite steep.



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A monument marks the summit, and a religious shrine is erected at the base near the bridge. The original bridge is still used for light traffic. A new one is constructed a little downstream for cars and trucks. The little river looks as cool and inviting as ever. A few small houses perch on its banks.

Soon after our forces occupied Palo a band of the enemy ran through the town at dusk throwing grenades and firing into the church-hospital. For some curious reason these fanatics then charged across the bridge two blocks away into a machine gun. If they wanted to satisfy their obligation to die for their Emperor without enduring a war, they succeeded.

Our group of veterans and their wives made a visit to Corregidor, that island that guarded Manila Harbor. It held out against the invaders for months. "Saving face" or preserving dignity is very important in the Orient. Taking that last outpost became an obsession with the invaders. Corregidor became the most heavily bombed spot on earth. Malinta Tunnel goes in one side of a mountain and out the other. It contains 27 side tunnels that served as a hospital and final refuge.

President Franklin Roosevelt ordered General MacArthur to leave shortly before Corregidor was finally forced to surrender. It was then he issued his famous statement, "I shall return!" He went to Australia to build an army. He did return three terrible years later.

The docks and old barracks buildings of Corregidor remain in total ruins. They will never

be restored as a tribute to the many who died there and in the infamous Death March that followed. Corregidor Island is now covered by dense, green vegetation the result of a reforestation effort. The Island is being developed as a resort for children with none of the usual casinos and night clubs.

We passed by Mantubo Volcano. It is now a great, beautiful, green mountain. Two years ago it erupted after being quiet for 600 years. It covered a large area with 10 feet of ash. Ash is hot when it falls. Thousands suffocated in their homes. Rivers in the area are wide and shallow. Choked with mud they flooded causing further devastation. Clark Air Base nearby was abandoned. 50,000 Filipinos owed their livelihood to that Base. Suddenly it was gone and the surrounding territory uninhabitable. Some people are still trying to find a place to live.

Work is going on to raise the main highway 10 feet, and to construct a high-speed highway between Subic Bay and Manila.

The American Subic Navy Base closed when the Philippine Government decided all American bases must go. This was mainly a matter of pride on their part. I think our Bases should have closed 20 years ago. For 8 months part of Subic City was a ghost town. Block after block of empty buildings remain. These are the locations of night clubs, drinking places, and other houses of ill repute where American service men blew the wages American taxpayers sent them.

Subic Bay is one of the

finest harbors in the world. It is surrounded by a large, level area and low mountains farther back. The government with private enterprise plans to build an industrial area and modern city here. At present hundreds of skilled "Volunteers" live in the area. They do menial tasks without pay with the promise of good jobs when construction begins in a few months.

Every place we went we passed grade schools with litter-free playgrounds, extremely neat and clean, healthy enthusiastic students, and basketball courts. Their school days are longer than ours. Day and night is always about equal. They enter High School after 6 years in the Primary Grades. English is a compulsory subject, but it is not stressed as much as it was.

Baguio City in the mountains north of Manila is the summer capitol because of its high altitude and pleasant weather. Camp John Hay in Baguio is converted from an American Rest and Relaxation area to the Philippine Military Academy, the West Point of the nation. 300 Cadets in each of the 4 classes are chosen from among thousands of applicants. We were privileged to have lunch with the entire group.

"Are you married?" I asked the third year Cadet beside me. "No, Sir," he replied. "Cadets are not permitted to marry". "Do you have any prospects?" I asked. "No, Sir. I am still looking."

Classes are conducted in English. All Cadets take the same basic course the first 2 years, and training in their chosen branch of service - army, navy, or air force -

(continued)

the second two. I doubt if there is a finer, more dedicated, and more talented group in the world.

The Republic of the Philippines is a nation of young people. Their population since 1944 has increased from 16 million to 63 million. I noticed an air of pride and confidence everywhere. They have only recently realized they are, for the first time, an independent nation. No longer do they try to imitate everything American. They expect to solve their problems in their own way, and at the same time admire the U.S. above all others.

Problems they do have. The "Huck Uprising" came at a time when it was fashionable to call everyone you did not like a "communist". The protesters were not communists. They were farmers revolting against the feudal system they lived under. Big landowners treated them unjustly, and they had no rights under the law. With justice established there is no problem.

Another situation with no solution in sight is on Mindinao Island, the large island farthest south. A fanatical group of Moslems, the Moros have lived here for centuries. They are a cultural and ethnic tribe distinct from all other Filipinos having come in ancient times from the Malay Peninsula. They believe in killing all Christians in a Holy War with no compromise. They live in only the most southern part of the island. The government might grant them independent territory but they demand the entire Island of Mindanao for themselves.

Unemployment is 20%. They are trying to attract foreign capital to build factories and pro-

vide employment.

The American people can be proud of this nation we helped develop beginning almost a hundred years ago. We can be proud we stood up to our moral obligation when they were invaded by an enemy. This is the Fiftieth Anniversary of our Leyte Gulf Landings!! We have reason to celebrate.



"—And just what is so fantastic about a six-foot native?"



"Those, Senator? Oh those are for all the times we've been shot down by Radio Tokyo."

—Cpl. Ozzie St. George

# 24th Infantry Division Association



260 Shelli Lane  
Roswell, Georgia 30075  
12 August 1998

Mr. Bo Scott  
1905 Glenview  
La Porte, Texas 77571-2869

Dear Mr. Scott,

Your recent request for information on the Hawaiian Division was most welcome. Although I am most interested in the history of the 24th Infantry Division I am most pleased that someone is interested in the unit that was the forerunner of my division and of the 25th (Tropic Lighting) Infantry Division.

I am certain that you already have more information on the division than I have in my records but I am most happy to share what little I know with you.

In 1917 the United States Army was a very small organization with most of its limited resources stationed in the continental US. Prior to our country's participation in World War I our most foreign concern was with Mexico and the military emphasis was in protecting our Southern Border with Mexico. The overseas Army was organized in three Departments; the Hawaiian Department, the Panama Canal Department and the Philippine Department. In 1917 the Philippine Department also furnished troops for the Chinese Sub-department and in 1918 for a regiment in Siberia.

At the conclusion of World War I by Act of Congress in the year 1920 the overseas US Army was organized in three Territorial Departments, Hawaii, the Philippines and the Panama Canal Zone. In 1921 (month unknown) the Hawaiian Division was formed at Schofield Barracks on the island of Oahu to serve as the combat force of the Hawaiian Department. The division was organized under the old "square division" concept of four regiments per division under control of two brigades. The original regiments of the division were:

27th Infantry Regiment (The Wolfhounds)	Assigned 1 March 1921
21st Infantry Regiment (The Gimlets)	Assigned 22 Oct. 1921*
19th Infantry Regiment (The Chicks)	Assigned 17 Oct. 1921**
35th Infantry Regiment (The Cacti)	Assigned 17 Oct. 1921

\* War Department General Orders Nr. 33 dated 28 June 1921 authorizes the assignment.

\*\*War Department General Orders Nr. (Unknown) dated 5 November 1921 authorizes the assignment.

My records also refer to the a Hawaiian National Guard regiment (the 44th) as being part of the Hawaiian Division at one time. This possibly was the forerunner of the 442th Regiment, the regiment made up of Hawaiian-Americans that fought so effectively

in Italy during World War II. Records also show the 19th Regiment as being assigned to the 21st Brigade(?) in Hawaii.

My records further show that the four Regular Army regiments listed above were assigned to the 24th Division on 26 August 1941 (Orders Unknown). It is to be noted that the 26 August assignment was to the 24th Division. The division was not designated the 24th Infantry Division until its activation on 1 October 1941.

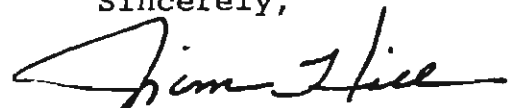
Additional information available shows that General Order Nr. 33, dated 28 June 1921 transferred all personnel of the 21st Infantry (then stationed in the United States) to other regiments and transferred the regiment, by means of its Colors and records to the Hawaiian Department. General Order Nr. 35, Hawaiian Department dated 19 August 1921 directed that "upon arrival in the Department the Colors and records will be sent to Schofield Barracks, TH and there turned over to the Commanding General of the post. Effective upon receipt, the entire personnel of the 44th Infantry is transferred to the 21st Infantry. The 44th Infantry is placed on the inactive list, with the 21st Infantry as its active associate."

I am enclosing some copies of pages from the official history of the 24th Infantry Division that discuss the time that units of the 24th Infantry Division were part of the Hawaiian Division. I have also enclosed some copies of photographs that may be of use in writing your article.

I wish I could provide more information but my informal history records pertain primarily to the 19th Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division and contain very little data on those days prior to 1941.

I look forward to receiving a copy of your article. If there is any additional information you feel that I can provide please contact me the address shown on the enclosed business card.

Sincerely,



JAMES F. HILL  
19th Infantry Regt.  
1949-51

## THE WIZARD OF ID

By Parker and Hart





## An Irish Folly

An Irishman's been drinking at a pub all night. The bartender finally says that the bar is closing. So the Irishman stands up to leave and falls flat on his face. He tries to stand one more time, same result. He figures he'll crawl outside and get some fresh air and maybe that will sober him up. Once outside he stands up and falls flat on his face. So he decides to crawl the 4 blocks to his home and when he arrives at the door he stands up and falls flat on his face. He crawls through the door into his bedroom. When he reaches his bed he tries one more time to stand up. This time he manages to pull himself upright but he quickly falls right into bed and is sound asleep as soon as his head hits the pillow. He awakens the next morning to his wife standing over him shouting at him, "So, you've been out drinking again!!"

"What makes you say that?" He asks as he puts on an innocent look. "The pub called, you left your wheelchair there again."



"Quite frankly, I didn't find her all that beastly."

## HAGAR the Horrible

By Dik Browne



## BEETLE BAILEY

By Mort Walker



TIME MARCHES ON  
by CW Johnson

On that most infamous day in 1941, when Pearl Harbor lay in ruins at the hands of a Japanese attack, I was almost eleven years old. I didn't understand it then, but in the months following that attack, we witnessed the greatest mobilization of armed forces ever undertaken in the history of the world. Young men and women and some not so young, lined up at recruiting stations across the country, to volunteer for service. My dad was among them, however, he did not pass the physical exam. Many of my family did pass, however, including five uncles, with whom I was raised.

The mood of the country seemed to unite as never before, behind our war effort. Scrap metal drives, war bond sales, and rationing of gasoline and many food items such as meat, sugar, and butter, were all taken in stride. Everyone participated in their own way to the war effort. Having just emerged from the Great Depression years, America was waking up to a new challenge. This time, nobody could doubt her resolve. Wherever people gathered, the subject turned, ultimately, to news of the war. Lowell Thomas, HV Kaltenborn, and Edward R. Murrow were among the best known radio personalities. Their news broadcasts would find many of us glued to the radio, intent on every word.

A soldier or sailor home on leave could do no wrong in those days. Their money was no good when out on the town. Restaurants, theaters, taxis, and ball games were free to the man in uniform. Everybody wanted first hand information on the war. There many sad farewells at bus stations and train depots as furloughs ended and hearts were broken. In homes where there were servicemen, blue stars hung in the windows. A telegram from the War Department would notify a family if their son was killed in action. Then the blue stars would be changed to gold. In small towns and rural communities, like where I lived, all of us knew the men who had gone to war. As the casualties mounted, we were all affected insome way by the war.

Finally, it was over! VE-Day! Hitler was dead! Then in August, 1945, an atomic bomb destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Soon after, on the deck of the battleship Missouri, the Japanese surrendered to General Douglas MacArthur. The guns were silent as peace prevailed. The servicemen returned to tickertape parades down Main Street USA and much backslapping and congratulations for a job well done. Most went back to their homes and jobs that were held for them for the duration of the War. For the most part, they resumed their lives and their dreams and society, in general, helped them do it. The GI Bill of Rights was established to allow vets to go to college. Many doors were opened to the returning veterans, and rightfully so. After all, WWII had been a holy crusade to stop a mad man and to punish the Empire of Japan for their treachery. They had done that and we were grateful.

I was so proud of what they had done that I couldn't wait until I was old enough to join the army. I was so envious of the treatment the veterans were getting that I enlisted in the army at sixteen on Pearl Harbor Day, 1947. After a couple years in Japan, I found myself in another war. This time it was called a "Police Action" but later became known as "The Forgotten War." I prefer to call it the ignored war. In 1950, when Korea became a war zone, this country had not yet caught its breath from the rigors of WWII. In the early days, we fought that war with nothing but WWII leftovers. Even the C-rations I ate there, were packed in 1945. Obso-

(TIME MARCHES ON - continued)

lete and worn out weapons were all we had. More modern weapons languished in storage depots in Japan and back in the States.

Politics, reflecting the mood of the people, chose to ignore our plight as much as they could get away with, until Eisenhower became President. Peace talks dragged on for months. Fifty thousand men died in Korea in just over three years before a truce was agreed upon. The chance for a victory was snatched away from us by bleeding heart liberal politicians. This set the tone for what was to come in the ensuing years, Viet Nam!

Veterans returning from Korea, were welcomed home by their families, and that's about all. No brass bands and ticker tape parades occurred, that I'm aware of. We went back home and went to work quietly and dealt with our frustrations as best we could. Our generation plus a few more became known as the Silent Majority during Nixon's Administration. After Carter, we broke our silence to elect Ronald Reagan.

During the sixties and early seventies Viet Nam became a household word. It was again, another instance where a war would escalate in increments, yet not quite enough to get the job done. Ten years and over fifty thousand more soldiers died in a war not supported by the home front. Riots broke out in cities across the country as war protesters clashed with police and their supporters. Dodging the draft became a status symbol, just ask William Jefferson Clinton. He even protested against our involvement while in Moscow, and we were foolish enough to elect him twice to the oval office. Personally, I'm ashamed!

Many men languish in VA hospitals, their minds and bodies scarred for life, as the result of bullets, bombs, and booby traps, in the heat of battle. Friendly fire and agent orange has taken lives as well. Desert Storm has caused a mysterious illness too. The Pentagon denies there was chemical exposure, but their illnesses are real.

I said all of the above as a preface to the following. There is no glory in combat! Bodies on the battlefield, minus their arms and legs, is not a pretty sight. If they lay there more than a day, the stench can make even the most seasoned veteran wretch, as he vomits uncontrollably. Heroics occur often in battle and so does cowardice. You can be a hero one day and a coward the next and visa versa. Every man has a breaking point. The trick is to stop just short of it. Battle sounds can be just as devastating. The whistle of incoming artillery makes your blood turn to ice water. Explosions all around you, sustained over time, can make a whimpering idiot out of the strongest of men. If you have seen all the war movies Hollywood has put out and magnified the intensity by a factor of a hundred, perhaps it would approach battle conditions, but I doubt it.

There is, however, a movie called "Saving Pvt Ryan." It depicts an infantry company in the D-Day landing at Omaha beach in WWII. The realism of those battle scenes, including the sounds of ricochets and artillery, is very impressive. The special effects of this movie puts you right in the middle of the war! There's enough blood and gore and guts, but that's what you find in a pitched battle. It is not over done. I don't know how they did it, but it is real. Even the tank scenes took me back to Taejon, Korea. I suggest that every infantry unit in our military, make this movie required viewing for all its troops. The fainthearted should not see it.



Pencil drawing of Lake Sentani looking west, Hollandia area, New Guinea - 1944  
by Dr. Philip H. Hostetter.

#### SICK CALL BLUES

Gee, Doc, I got a bellyache,  
These cramps are killing me;  
All night I toss and lie awake,  
Tomorrow give KP.

I wake up with the chills at night,  
My feet are cold as ice;  
My lips are blue, my face snow-white,  
Please give me some advice.

My arms are stiff, my back is lame,  
And on my chest a rash;  
My eyes are weak, my leg is game,  
My innards feel like hash.

Oh Doc, oh Doc, in me you see  
A sad sack full of woe;  
My life is full of misery,  
On KP I must go.

New Guinea

-Cpl. MORRIS BELOTZ



"YOU'RE SURE YOU ARE NOT JUST  
TRYING TO GET OUT OF A DETAIL?"

-Sgt. Ralph Stein

Most famous cartoon of the war. How did he get the helmet off? Wise speculation went on for weeks.



Letter received from Joe Sweeney, P.O. Box 506, Dells, WV 26531.

Dear Yvonne,

Over the last several months I have been busy attempting to identify the company units of the dead, missing, and captured men of the 19th Infantry Regiment during the Korean War for the period of July 1, 1950 through December 31, 1951.

By using copies of each company's morning reports, and a few rosters, I have compiled a listing of more than 1900 names, of which all but 33, have been matched to assigned companies.

This list is probably not 100% complete, since information is sometimes missing from the morning reports and the lists of casualties that are made available from the Department of Defense also fail to list all casualties. However, considering the information sources and circumstances, I believe that it is fairly accurate and at the least nearly 99% complete.

I have had this listing made up in a binding of 57 pages, titled the "Dead, The Missing, and The Captured, 19th Infantry Regiment, "Korea War" 1950 - 1953. The names are arranged in chronological order by morning report dates from July 5, 1950 through December 31, 1951.

Chronological listing points out major engagements by the numbers of casualties, and also aids the men who were in those battles to identify those that were lost.

Anyone who wants a copy of this list may obtain it by writing to me at the above address. Cost is \$5.00 printing plus \$3.00 mailing for a

total of \$8.00.

The response that I have received back from the copies that I have sent out is all positive.

Now, on to another related subject, the "live" P.O.W.'s that were abandoned to the communists after hostilities ceased in 1953 and the prisoner exchange ended.

The United Nations Command had a list of 389 Military Personnel that it knew were in enemy hands on July 27, 1953. Each year it gave that list to the North Koreans for an accounting. Of the 389 names on that list, 185 were Army Personnel.

The Department of Defense declared all 389 men officially dead in 1953-54, even though some or all could have still been alive. The DOD didn't declare these men dead as prisoners of war, but mostly listed them as "died while missing". Only a very few were given POW status.

In the process of going through the morning reports of the 19th Infantry Regiment units I have been able to identify six of those P.O.W.'s as members of the 19th Infantry and the 24th Infantry Division.

It is my belief that a substantial number of those abandoned men were members of the 24th Infantry Division.

We, the members of the 24th Division Association, as veterans, survivors and citizens of this great nation of the United States of America owe those abandoned men a debt to insure that they are honored and never forgotten and their sacrifice as

pawns between world powers shall always be remembered.

I propose that we identify all of those abandoned men who were members of the 24th Infantry Division, and in each issue of the Taro Leaf a short biography of one, or two, could be published. In other words, a "human face" would be given to those "abandoned and forgotten men" of the "Forgotten War".

I have listed below, the names of the six men that I have identified and what the records say about each of them.

PFC Walter T. Stoeber, born in 1930, entered service from Mahoning County, Ohio assigned to the Hq. Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Inf., MIA on July 16, 1950 at Taejon, South Korea, he may have been wounded because he was hospitalized in the line of duty on July 19, 1950. He returned to duty on August 19, 1950. PFC Stoeber was transferred to Charlie Co., 19th Inf on November 10, 1950.

The 19th Infantry was dug in on defensive positions in the vicinity of Seoul, S.K. on December 31, 1950 when they were attacked by an estimated two Divisions of the 38th CCF Army. In the heavy fighting that followed Charlie Co. was partially overrun and the enemy got behind the 1st and 3rd Battalions.

Ordered to withdraw to new positions, both Battalions had to fight their way out. This was the action that PFC Stoeber was engaged in when he was lost as MIA on January 1, 1951.

PFC Walter T. Stoeber was declared officially dead, as "died while missing" by the Dept of Def on February 18, 1954.

PFC Roger A. Dumas, born in 1931, entered service from Windham County, CT, date assigned to Charlie Co., 19th Infantry is unknown.

On November 4, 1950 Charlie Company, 19th Infantry was dug in along the Kuryon-Gang River, north of Anju in defensive positions as elements of the 19th Infantry defending the Chongchon River—Taeryong River bridgeheads. Heavy attacks by the Chinese forced Charlie Company to withdraw, but the enemy had set up a road block in their only withdrawal route. Six officers and 54 enlisted men including PFC Roger A. Dumas were lost in that action as MIA.

PFC Roger A. Dumas was declared officially dead, as "died while missing" by the Department of Defense on February 26, 1954.

PFC Leonard W.E. Jinks, born in 1929, entered service from Ripley County, IN, date assigned to Charlie Company, 19th Infantry is unknown. He was deployed to Korea with the 19th Infantry in July 1950. During the fighting along the Kum River he was reported as MIA near Tuman-Ni, S.K. on July 16, 1950.

PFC Leonard W.E. Jinks was declared officially dead, as "died while missing" by the Department of Defense on February 18, 1954.

PFC Lawrence A. Harnage, born in 1930, entered service from Benen County, GA, date assigned to Howe Company, 19th Infantry is unknown. Apparently he was deployed from Japan to Korea with Howe Company in July 1950. Near Chinju, S.K. on August 1, 1950, Howe Co. came under heavy attack by the North Koreans and was forced to withdraw to a

position approximately 20 miles east of Chinju. PFC Harnage was reported as MIA from that engagement.

PFC Lawrence A. Harnage was declared officially dead, as "died while missing" by the Department of Defense on March 4, 1954.

Gt. Casimire T. DeMoll, born in 1918, he entered service from Orleans County, LA. Sgt. DeMoll was probably a World War II Veteran, he was assigned to Able Company, 34th Infantry Regt on August 13, 1950, then reassigned to Item Company, 19th Infantry on September 1, 1950 when the Third Battalion of the 19th was activated.

In early February 1951, the 19th Infantry Regiment was on the attack against the 112th and 113th Divisions of the 38th CCF Army. This offensive action took place just south of the Han River and east of Seoul on terrain that dominated the Ichon—Chonyang road. On February 3, 1951 the 3rd Bn. led off, followed by the 1st Bn. Both Battalions took their objectives, but that night the enemy launched a fierce counter attack against the 1st Bn. forcing them back to the next hill. This allowed the enemy to get behind the 3rd Bn. effectively cutting their supply route. The 3rd Bn. was ordered to fight their way out during the hours of darkness. Sgt. DeMoll was lost in that action, and was reported as MIA on February 4, 1951.

Sgt. Casimire T. DeMoll was officially declared dead, as "died while missing" by the Department of Defense on March 5, 1954.

Pvt. William R. Bastie Jr., born in 1933, he entered service from Suffolk County, MA. Pvt. Bastie was assigned and joined King Company, 19th Infantry Regt., on January 19, 1951. Pvt. Bastie was reported as MIA on February 4, 1951 following the action that was described above when Sgt DeMoll of Item Company was lost.

Pvt. William R. Bastie Jr. was officially declared dead, as "died while missing" by the Dept. of Def. on March 5, 1954.

None of the six men listed above "vanished without a trace", nor did any of the rest of the 389 men on the United Nations list, otherwise they would not have been on the list.

Some day the true story about these "abandoned and forgotten" men will be known, until then, we as members of this great association of warriors must do all that we can to make sure they are honored and remembered.

Thank you Yvonne for allowing me this extensive letter. it is a much too important an issue to allow to fade away.

Hopefully, we can compile more information about these "abandoned" men and also identify the other "abandoned" men of the 24th Infantry Division.

"Best Regards",

Joe Sweeney

(Thanks for writing Joe) Pictures of Dumas and Stoeber on next page.

## Roger Armand Dumas



*Plainfield, CT  
Born July 21, 1931*

*US Army  
Corporal  
21004481*

*Died while Prisoner of War  
February 26, 1954*

*Corporal Dumas was a member of Company C, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was taken Prisoner of War by the Chinese forces near Anju, North Korea on November 4, 1950 and died in POW Camp 5 on February 26, 1954. Corporal Dumas was awarded the Purple Heart.*



## Walter T. Stoeber Jr.



*Mahoning, OH  
Born 1930*

*US Army  
Corporal  
13257788*

*Died while Prisoner of War  
January 1, 1951*

*Corporal Stoeber was a member of the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was seriously wounded by an enemy missile in Korea on August 18, 1950 and returned to duty on August 20, 1950. He was taken Prisoner of War while fighting the enemy in South Korea on January 1, 1951 and believed dead on February 18, 1954. Corporal Stoeber was awarded the Purple Heart with an Oak Leaf Cluster.*

## THE GIFT OF TIME

Suppose that there was a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening it deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day.

What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course!!!!

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.

Each day it opens a new account for you. each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "Tomorrow". You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success! The Clock is running. Make the most of today.

To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a grade.

To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

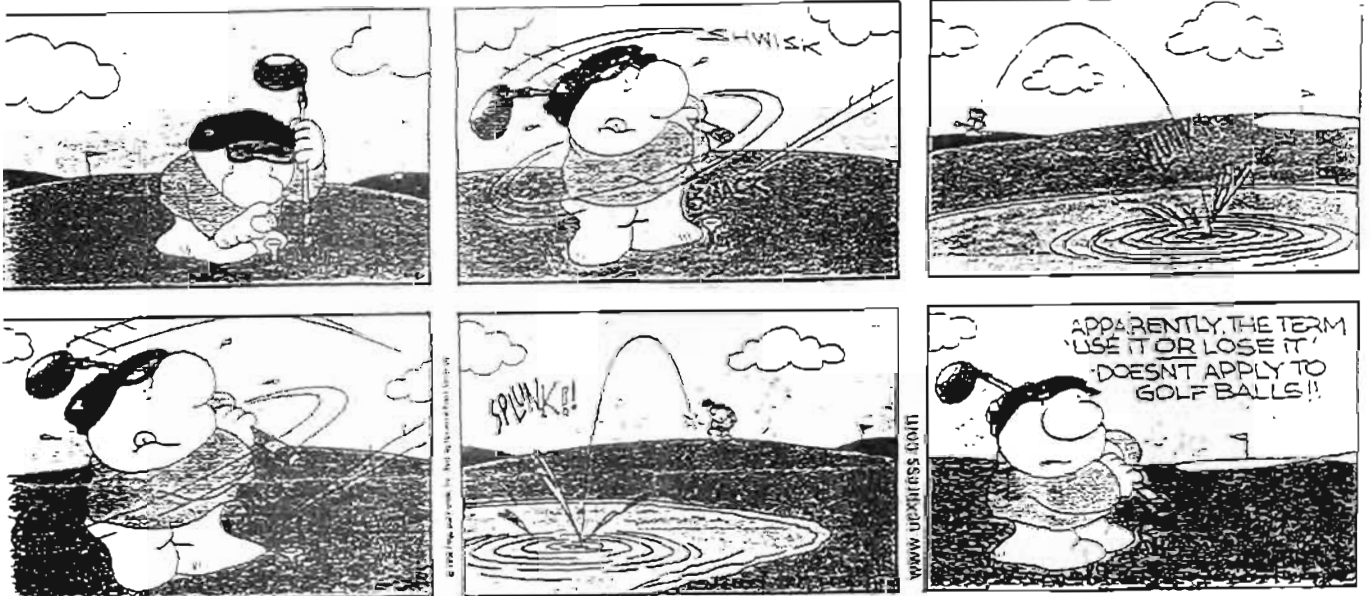
To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who missed the train.

To realize the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who just avoided an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLISECOND, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time. And remember that time waits for no one.

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it's called the Present!!





# 24th Infantry Division Association

TARO LEAF NOTES

By

JIM HILL

19th Infantry



Happy New Year to each and every Taro Leafer. Its not too early to start planning the trip to Tulsa for our 52nd 24th Infantry Division Association reunion 22-26 September. President Corky Peters and VP Don Barrett assure me it will be a good one! I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

Received a phone call a short time ago from an individual in Pennsylvania telling me that his Dad was stationed as a Corporal in E Company, 21st Infantry at Schofield Barracks in 1922. He said a company photograph made circa that time showed his father wearing a 24th Division patch. I informed him that the 24th was not in existence at that time and that the patch his Dad was wearing was the old Hawaiian division patch which also had a Taro Leaf as its central design. He wondered if we had any members in our Association from that time. I told him we had some old vets but not anyone from the 1922 period! (I don't think that even Dallas Dick (19th, Hawaii, Pearl Harbor, SW Pacific) goes back that far!

I have also corresponded with a Mr. Bo Scott from La Porte, Texas who is writing a magazine article on the history of the Hawaiian Division. He promises to provide me a copy for publication in a future edition of the TARO LEAF.

Speaking of the Hawaiian Division. Did you know that during its existence it had four different shoulder patches; all four had some design of the Taro Leaf as its center.

The original Hawaiian Division was formed in 1921 under the old Army square division concept and consisted of the 19th, 21st, 27th and 35th Infantry Regiments. Historical documents show that the division at that time consisted of two Infantry Brigades, the 21st and 22nd. The 19th and 21st became part of 24th and the 27th and 35th became part of the 25th Division when the Hawaiian Division was inactivated in 1941. The 34th Infantry Regiment was not assigned to the 24th until 1941 when the Army adopted the triangular (3 regiment) concept.

Bet you didn't know--The 24th Division was formed in Hawaii early in 1941 but was not designated the 24th INFANTRY Division until its activation on 1 October 1941 at Schofield Barracks.

Joe McKeon, our Association Historian, tells me that he has found old records that show the 19th Infantry as being stationed in the New Mexico territory in the late 1800s doing frontier "police work" along the Rio Grande River in Texas. I have a certificate showing the 19th as being stationed at Camp Douglas,

Arizona in June, 1920. Wonder why we don't have a cactus or Gila Monster on the 19th crest?

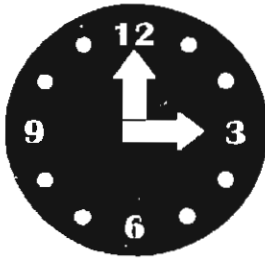
Still have happy vibes from our great Little Rock reunion last year. A great turnout of over 600 attendees for our Memorial Banquet according to our President, Corky Peters. I was especially happy to see so many attendees from our artillery units, the 3rd Combat Engineers and other organic or attached organizations. CSM Frank Plass, President of the 29th Infantry Regiment Association (Iceland, ETO, Okinawa and Korea) tells me that over twenty from his Association attended our reunion. The 29th was attached to the 24th in the very early days of the Korean War. The 29th still stands tall as an active United States Army regiment stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Received a phone call a few months ago all the way from London, England. Seems a company that produces documentary programs for both British and American television was beginning to film a program that deals with the Geishas of Japan. The gentleman calling stated that they had sufficient information on the Geishas except for the period that American and British forces served on Occupation Duty there after World War II. I informed him that I could not provide him any information since Geisha houses were "Off Limits" to military personnel during that time. Since then I have talked to several Taro Leafers who had some pretty good stories about their visits to Geisha houses. Maybe they were Off Limits to young shavetails like me but I think some of older and wiser division members can tell a lot if they so desire!

Thanks to so many of you that remembered this old past President of our Association with your Christmas and New Years cards. I really appreciated the many personal notes you wrote bring me up to date on you and your loved ones. SFC Bill Ballard (C/3rd Combat Engineers, Kokura and Korea) rates a personal "Thank You" for taking the time and effort to give Sue and I a call on Christmas morning to wish us Season's Greetings.

Maybe someone can remember--Lacy Barnett (34th/Div Med Co) is finalizing a book he is authoring about the early days of the 24th Division in Korea. Lacy has documented that the 3.5 Rocket Launchers that were flown over to Korea from the United States were in Taejon on 19 July 1950. However he can find no record that they were issued to the 24th's regiments prior to that date. If anyone can remember when we first used the 3.5 RL please drop Lacy a note. His address is PO Box 167, Winchester, Indiana 47394.

Received a flyer recently from Turner Publishing Company pushing a Volume II of our 24th Infantry Division history. They failed to mention that at Little Rock they promised we folks that supported the first edition would get a reduced cost for Vol II. Sorry, Mr. Turner, try selling your book elsewhere. Not to my house! I'm happy with Vol. I! Until next time, VICTORY!



## *It's Tulsa Time In 99*

Tulsa is in the heart of the continental United States and is uniquely accessible by air, rail, or interstate.

In 1999 the 24th Infantry Division Association Reunion will be held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Tulsa. This is a 5 Star Hotel. The Adams Mark Hotel is conveniently located downtown, at the Williams Center, in the heart of Tulsa's largest cultural and business district. Just 8 miles from the Tulsa International Airport. They offer: courtesy airport shuttle service, 24 hour room service, same day laundry service, business center, florist, gift boutique, shoe shine, and repair, and express check out. Valet parking and wheelchairs available upon request. The rooms are spacious and clean. There is adequate complimentary parking approximately 2 blocks from the hotel. You may use the hotel shuttle to take you to and from the parking lot. If you are driving your own motor home or camper you may park in the hotel lot at no cost. This is a great place to renew old acquaintances and meet and make new friends.

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

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



# 24th Infantry Division Association

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January 10, 1999

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: HAROLD PETERS

## NEWS RELEASE

ON SEPTEMBER 22nd THRU 25TH, 1999 THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD ITS 52nd ANNUAL REUNION AT THE ADAMS MARK HOTEL, WILLIAMS CENTER, 100 EAST 2ND STREET, TULSA, OKLAHOMA.

THIS ELITE ASSOCIATION WILL CELEBRATE OUR 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS GREAT COMBAT DIVISION, THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION (M) VICTORY DIVISION. WE ANTICIPATE AN ATTENDANCE OF 600-800 PEOPLE. SOME OF THOSE ATTENDING WERE AT PEARL HARBOR DURING THE ATTACK ON DECEMBER 7, 1941, AND CONTINUED TO FIGHT WITH THE DIVISION IN OTHER CAMPAIGNS IN THE PACIFIC DURING WWII. ALSO MANY IN ATTENDANCE WERE VETERANS OF THE BLOODY FIGHTING IN THE KOREAN WAR.

THE "FIRST TO FIGHT" DIVISION WAS UNDER JAPANESE ATTACK AT PEARL HARBOR, FOUGHT THROUGH NEW GUINEA, SPEARHEADED THE DRIVE IN THE PHILLIPINES (LEYTE, CORREGIDOR, ETC.) IT WAS DURING THE PHILLIPINE CAMPAIGN THAT THE DIVISION WAS GIVEN ITS MOTTO "THE VICTORY DIVISION" BY THE PHILLIPINES. THE VICTORY DIVISION WERE FIRST TO LAND AND FIGHT IN KOREA UNDER THE COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM DEAN, MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT. ELEMENTS OF THE DIVISION WERE THE FIRST TO LAND IN GRENADA. THE "FIRST TO FIGHT" VICTORY DIVISION WAS THE FIRST COMPLETE ARMY DIVISION TO ARRIVE ON SAUDI SOIL AND PROCEEDED TO ANNIHILATE THE IRAQI REPUBLICAN GUARD.

ANYONE WHO WAS EVER ASSIGNED OR ATTACHED TO A UNIT OF THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION OR IF YOU SERVED WITH THIS DIVISION IN WORLD WAR II, JAPAN, KOREA, FORT RILEY, GERMANY, LEBANON, DESERT STORM, OR FORT STEWART, GEORGIA, YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Harold Peters  
President, 24th Infantry Division Association  
14030 Xanthus Lane  
Rogers, MN 55374

**WELCOME TO THE ADAMS MARK HOTEL  
HOTEL RESERVATION FORM**

**24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

September 22 to September 25, 1999

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING ACCOMMODATIONS:

Room Type Request

Rate

Standard Single.....\$68.00 (1 King-Size Bed)

Standard Double.....\$68.00 (2 Queen-Size Beds)

**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 5, 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) 444-2326**

**MAIL THIS FORM TO: Adams Mark Hotel  
100 East Second Street  
Tulsa , OK 74103**

# IMPORTANT!

## PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

**\* You must mail your checks along with your registrations to the following:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| *Hotel Reservations                              | Mail to the Adams Mark Hotel only!                |
| *Unit Breakfasts                                 | Mail to the chairman of your unit breakfast only! |
| *Registration, meal, tour, &<br>Ladies breakfast | Mail to Diane Peters only!                        |

\*\*\*\*\*



### *Ladies Breakfast*

*Saturday, September 25, 1999  
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 Unit Breakfasts and the 24th Infantry Division Association Business Meeting are taking place.

*The menu consists of: O'Brien Potatoes, Chilled Fruit Juice, Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Ham, Freshly Baked Danish Pastries, butter, Jams and Preserves, Freshly Brewed Coffee, Tea, and De-caf.*

We will have an action packed morning planned for you. A scrumptious breakfast, good friends, and an all around very enjoyable morning for only \$15.00

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

We will announce the program and entertainment in the next issue of the Taro Leaf.

**If you had a good time at the Ladies Breakfast in Little Rock you won't want to miss this one!**



**24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL REUNION**

September 22 - 25, 1999  
Adams Mark Hotel, Tulsa, Oklahoma

**MAIL TO:**  
Diane Peters  
14030 Xanthus Lane  
Rogers, MN 55374

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**  
24th Infantry Division Association

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
Please **PRINT** legibly

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code

Name of Wife/Guests Attending \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please List Food Allergies and/or special diets required \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\*Information for your identification badge**

Nickname \_\_\_\_\_ First Timer: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Unit served with the 24th Division (**Please only list one**)

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember!**

If you have a group of friends who wish to be seated together  
get together and pay together. **Only 10 people at each table.**

**If you want to be seated with your friends at the Aloha and/or Memorial Dinner  
you must mail your registration forms in together. If your forms are not mailed  
in together along with your check we will not guarantee that you will be seated  
together!**

# 1999 Tour & Meal Registration Form

	Per Person	No Attending	Amount
<b>Wednesday, September 22</b>			
• <u>Philbrook and Gilcrease Museums Tour</u> . . . . .	<u>\$33.00</u>	<u>          </u>	\$ <u>          </u>
9:00am-3:30pm			
• <u>Muskogee &amp; Ft. Gibson Tour</u> . . . . .	<u>\$36.00</u>	<u>          </u>	\$ <u>          </u>
9:00am-3:30pm			
• <u>Amish Dinner in an Amish Home Tour</u> . . . . .	<u>\$29.00</u>	<u>          </u>	\$ <u>          </u>
4:45pm-8:00pm			
<b>Thursday, September 23</b>			
• <u>Jenks &amp; South Tulsa Tour</u> . . . . .	<u>\$21.00</u>	<u>          </u>	\$ <u>          </u>
9:00am-3:00pm			
• <u>Muskogee &amp; Ft. Gibson Tour</u> . . . . .	<u>\$36.00</u>	<u>          </u>	\$ <u>          </u>
9:00am-3:30pm			
• <u>Bartlesville &amp; Woolaroc Museum Tour</u> . . . . .	<u>\$35.00</u>	<u>          </u>	\$ <u>          </u>
9:00am-3:30pm			
• <u>Allen Ranch Bar-B-Que Tour</u> . . . . .	<u>\$32.00</u>	<u>          </u>	\$ <u>          </u>
4:45pm-8:00pm			
<b>Friday, September 24</b>			
• <u>Jenks &amp; South Tulsa Tour</u> . . . . .	<u>\$21.00</u>	<u>          </u>	\$ <u>          </u>
9:00am-3:00pm			
• <u>Claremore &amp; Pryor, Oklahoma Tour</u> . . . . .	<u>\$30.00</u>	<u>          </u>	\$ <u>          </u>
9:00am-3:00pm			
• <u>Tulsa City Tour &amp; Shopping Tour</u> . . . . .	<u>\$22.00</u>	<u>          </u>	\$ <u>          </u>
9:00am-3:00pm			
• <u>Aloha Dinner</u> . . . . .	<u>\$21.00</u>	<u>          </u>	\$ <u>          </u>
5:30pm Social Hour - 6:30pm Dinner			
<b>Saturday, September 25</b>			
• <u>Ladies Breakfast</u> . . . . .	<u>\$15.00</u>	<u>          </u>	\$ <u>          </u>
9:00am-11:30am			
• <u>Memorial Dinner</u> . . . . .	<u>\$23.00</u>	<u>          </u>	\$ <u>          </u>
5:30pm-Social Hour - 6:30pm Dinner			
<b>Registration</b> . . . . .	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>1</b>	\$ <b>20.00</b>

\*Spouses and guests do not pay registration fee

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE** \$



## Muskogee and Ft. Gibson Tour

Wednesday, September 22, 1999  
9:00am- 3:00pm



### Philbrook and Gilcrease Museums

Cost: \$33.00

We will visit two of Tulsa's finest museums on this 6 hour tour. Classic and western art lovers, beautiful garden enthusiasts, and any one interested in magnificent architecture, won't want to miss this tour. Philbrook Museum of Art is housed in a 1920's Italian revival style mansion built by oil magnet Waite Phillips. The setting is beautiful with 23 acres of formal and informal gardens. The museum has permanent and changing exhibits. September's exhibit features "American Landscape" works of famous American Artists like Wyeth. Thomas Gilcrease Museum offers a wonderful collection of western art including Moran, Russell and Remington, also a fine collection of Indian art and artifacts. There is also 24 acres of various theme gardens to be explored. On the site is the former home of oil man and art collector Thomas Gilcrease.

\* LUNCH INCLUDED

Wednesday, September 22, 1999  
4:45pm-8:00pm Evening



### Amish Dinner in an Amish Home

Cost: \$29.00

20 minutes east of Tulsa is an Amish settlement. Several families open up their homes and serve wonderful dinners served family style. These meals are home-cooked, made-from-scratch dinners with hot rolls, pies, and all the trimmings that will melt-in-your-mouth. After dinner, they will be glad to show you around and to discuss their culture. Many homes have bakery goods for sale for tomorrow's breakfast.

\*FAMILY STYLE DINNER AND FARM VISIT INCLUDED

Wednesday, September 22, 1999  
Thursday, September 23, 1999  
9:00am-3:30pm



### Muskogee and Ft. Gibson Tour

Cost: \$36.00

This 6 1/2 hour tour takes you to two historic sites of military interest. At the Muskogee War Memorial Park, we will tour the USS Batfish, a WWII submarine that sank 13 enemy vessels during battles. Also at this site is a War Museum and Memorial that honors all Veterans.

After LUNCH we will travel a few miles to Ft. Gibson and visit the 1824 fort built to help maintain the peace on the frontier, to deal with the Indian population and as a supply center for explorers, pioneers and traders going west. This fort is still in tact and was used by the military until 1890. Some famous military men serving here were Sam Houston, Jefferson Davis and Washington Irving.

\*LUNCH INCLUDED

\*THIS ONE WILL FILL UP EARLY SO GET YOUR DEPOSIT IN ASAP.



Thursday, September 23, 1999  
9:00am-3:30pm



### Bartlesville and Woolaroc Museum

Cost: \$35.00

This 6 1/2 hour tour takes us 45 miles north of Tulsa to Bartlesville, home of Woolaroc Museum one of the finest Western and Indian museums in the U.S. The short drive from town through the Osage Hills, passes by a wild horse preserve and some picturesque scenery, on the drive through the grounds to the museum watch for buffalo, deer, long-horn cattle, antelope and many other animals, roaming free.

Woolaroc stands for woods, lakes and rocks. In the museum are priceless works of western art and sculptures, collections of many kinds and descriptions, even some shrunken heads and some dinosaur eggs. Another feature is the Y-Indian Center with a film presentation about Indian culture and folk-lore. Also on the property is a petting zoo, nature walk, and gift shop. After a wonderful morning we'll head back to town for **LUNCH**, then take a tour of this unique town. You'll see the first oil well drilled in Oklahoma, the Price Tower that Frank Lloyd Wright designed, the Frank Phillips Mansion and much more.

\*LUNCH INCLUDED

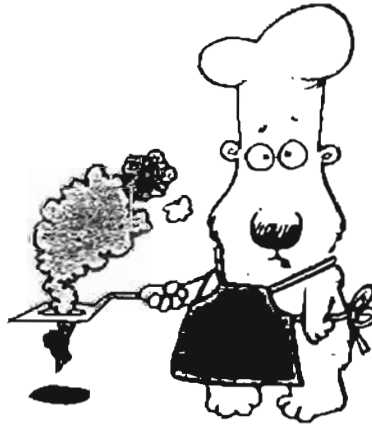
Thursday, September 23, 1999  
4:45pm-8:00pm Evening

### Allen Ranch Bar-B-Que and Cowboy Evening

Cost: \$32.00

About 20 minutes south of Tulsa is the Allen Ranch. This family owned and operated ranch had been a working ranch since 1945. Over the years it has been a cotton farm, a dairy farm and a horse ranch. It still is a working ranch, but now, its emphasis is on a youth ministry for troubled teens. Life on the ranch teaches the youth responsibility, and discipline that so many kids miss today. The kids live, go to school, and work on the ranch. The cowboy counselors are dedicated to helping these kids regain their lives and become productive citizens. We have the privilege to support this worthwhile ministry and have a great evening to boot. The evening will consist of an all-you-can-eat authentic Oklahoma B Bar-B-Que dinner, hay ride around the ranch, cowboys doing rope tricks, a gunfight and campfire sing-along with real guitar-playing cowboys, and much more.

\*ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDED



Thursday, September 23, 1999

Friday, September 24, 1999

9:00am-3:00pm



### Jenks and South Tulsa Tour

**Cost: \$21.00**

For 6 hours you shoppers will be in heaven...Jenks is a small town just minutes south of Tulsa. It is littered full of antique and unique gift shops (Lots of benches around for husbands). After **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**, we'll drive back through some of south Tulsa's elite 1920's and 30's neighborhoods to see some "Old Oil Money" Mansions, to The Tulsa Garden Center and Rose Gardens, and Woodward Park, then finish off the day at Utica Square an exclusive shopping area, and then take a short drive around Swan Lake, and interesting bird sanctuary.

**\*LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

Friday, September 24, 1999

9:00am-3:00pm



### Claremore and Pryor, Oklahoma

**Cost: \$30.00**

Did you know that Will Rogers was from Claremore, Oklahoma? This 6 hour tour goes first to Pryor to tour the Vogue Motorhome Facility. Vogue custom builds motor homes starting at \$100,000.00 and up. We'll stop for an early lunch at an Amish Restaurant, they serve a fantastic home-cooked-all-you-can-eat-meal...so...go lite on breakfast. After we roll out of the restaurant, we'll have a few minutes for a nap before we arrive in Claremore. We will visit the Will Rogers Memorial, built on the site that Will Rogers planned to retire and build a home. His death saddened the world. He is buried on the site. We'll also visit the J.M. David Gun Museum. The world's largest collection of guns. Also in the museum are saddles, musical instruments, steins and WWII posters.

**\*LUNCH INCLUDED**

Friday, September 24, 1998

9:00am-3:00pm



### Tulsa City Tour and Shopping Extravaganza

**Cost: \$22.00**

This 6 hour tour will take in some of Tulsa's downtown sights including Boston Avenue, Methodist Church's unusual architecture, then on to south Tulsa for a driving tour of some of Tulsa's old mansions, drive around Swan Lake, a bird sanctuary, then stop at Utica Square, a beautiful shopping area with some exclusive shops. Then on we go for more shopping at Promenade Mall. At the Mall you can have lunch on your own and shop, shop, shop...or go to a movie at Tulsa's newest Mall. We'll spend the rest of the afternoon here.

**\*LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**



# 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). Only ten (10) people can be seated at each 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 Diane Peters who will then complete the paperwork and notify each person or couple by receipt. A packet in your name will be waiting for you at the pre-registration desk at the Adams Mark 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.

Any table seating arrangements received after September 4, 1999 will not be guaranteed seating assignments!

**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 4, 1999  
THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS AFTER THAT DATE!**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **TLC by Karen**

Are you planning to fly into Tulsa for the 1999 - 24th Infantry Division Reunion?

Call Karen Moon of TLC Travel and save from 15-20% on your plane tickets... She would love to help you with your other airplane tickets as well...

She can book cruises, travel packages and rental cars too... check out the bargains by calling or faxing her at (918) 333-2299, day, night, and weekends, or by E-Mail at [KMOONTLC@AOL.COM](mailto:KMOONTLC@AOL.COM). She will have an 800 number available...soon!



TLC by Karen  
1630 Smysor Drive  
Bartlesville, OK 74006



## ATTENTION

### 19th, 21st, 34th, 3rd Engineers & all Artillery & Miscellaneous Units

Your annual breakfast will be held Saturday, September 25, 1999, 7:30 A.M. at the Adams Mark Hotel. The rooms where each breakfast will be served will be posted at the registration tables. 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: The Will Rogers Breakfast

*O'Brien Potatoes, Chilled Fruit Juice, Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Freshly Baked Danish Pastries, Butter, Jams and Preserves, Freshly Brewed Coffee, Tea & De-caf.*

### Please mail your registration & check to the chairperson of your Unit listed below

19th Infantry - Mail Registration To:

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

*\*Make checks payable to:*

Gene Spicer

3rd Engineers - Mail Registration To:

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

*\*Make checks payable to:*

Billy Johnson

21st Infantry - Mail Registration To:

Harry Wittman  
1385 Terri Street  
Keyser, WV 26726  
(304) 788-0465

*\*Make checks payable to:*

Harry Wittman

All Division Artillery Units - Mail Registration To:

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

*\*Make checks payable to:*

Robert Smith

34th Infantry - Mail Registration To:

Marvin Wallace  
405 Locust  
Ardmore, OK 73401-1772  
(580) 223-8452

*\*Make checks payable to:*

Marvin Wallace

Miscellaneous Units - Mail Registration To:

Robert Lawhon  
49 Township Road 88, #1152  
Proctorville, OH 45669-9067  
(740) 886-6935

*\*Make checks payable to:*

Robert Lawhon

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### UNIT MEMORIAL BREAKFAST REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of breakfast \$12.00 each

January 1999  
From: James F. Hill

Dear TARO LEAF EDITOR:


CSM Frank C. Plass, President of the 29th Infantry Regiment Association, wrote the following letter that voiced his comments and thoughts on his participation in the Korean War that was originally published in the 29th Association newsletter of December 1998. Sgt. Major Plass was assigned to the 29th Infantry Regiment which was deployed from Okinawa to Korea in July of 1950 and was initially assigned to the 24th Infantry Division in assisting in the establishment of the Pusan Perimeter in the defense of South Korea.

## KOREA'S LINGERING GRASP

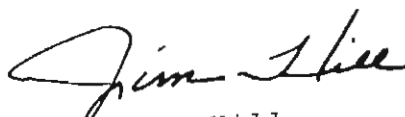
In a strange, far-away land, Americans paid the price for another nation's freedom! It was a strange war in a small country far away, and it ended 45 years ago. In three years and one month, nearly as many Americans died as in the war of Vietnam. What happened in Korea gave stunning pause to "RED CHINA" and its vast army. A much smaller force of a half dozen U.S. divisions, a fine British Commonwealth division, a scattering of French, Greek, Turkish, and the lackluster Republic of Korea armed forces stopped 40 Chinese hard core divisions.

The first year of that war was dramatic with spectacular dashes up and down hills. Korea, a third bigger than Florida and really roughly the same shape if you reverse the "panhandles," some brilliant end runs the "Inchon Landing" in September 1950, and traps being laid at the "Yalu River" and the Big "Chosin Reservoir." Then it was largely a static war with trenches, bunkers, barbed wire and "Mortars." Lots and lot of night raids and don't forget the dam shelling. There were planes, of course, and warships and tanks. Artillery too, don't forget the Artillery, quite good on both sides. Oh yes, don't ever forget those dam mines - mines and mines. But

if ever a "modern" war belonged to the "INFANTRY" and the riflemen, "this one did." "Korea is worth remembering, not only because of the 54,000 troops who were killed there, but for the 8,100 still missing. Yes, let's say Korea is worth remembering. For what it was worth, and what it did. Will we ever get over it? I don't know! Occasionally, in the mail, I receive an offer to make a trip back. Others have gone. I guess I can answer that myself. I know I will never go back to Korea, never sign up for an old soldier tour. I don't want to see them hills again or feel the cold or hear the wind out of Siberia, moaning. I don't want to disturb the dead. I'll just remember.

  
Frank C. Plass,  
President

(Well stated Sergeant Major. I know many of us have the same feelings and thoughts as you.

  
James F. Hill  
19th Infantry  
1949-51



### A Proud Reward

At the top of a soldier's  
ribbons, I proudly sit  
In that part of the uniform  
I am a perfect fit  
And if that soldier is  
wearing his olive drab  
You can see the blue and  
silver easier within my  
badge

Oh how proud that soldier  
is to pin me there  
The love for me, with a  
woman, he would not share  
He fought hard to win me, and  
on the way, lost many friends  
The agony he had to suffer  
his mind will never mend

And when his Captain yelled  
lets go men and keep on going  
till we reach the top  
The firing was heavy but he  
made it without being shot  
He pulled the enemy from their  
hole  
Oh this Infantryman, so strong  
and bold

And many more battles he lived  
to fight  
Combat starts in the morning  
and continues into the night  
And after so many battles he  
finally did grad  
As he was awarded me, his  
Combat Infantryman Badge

J.A. Langone  
"B" 21st 24th Inf Div

LIVE YOUR LIFE ONE DAY AT A TIME AND LIVE ALL  
OF THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE!

In a University commencement address several years ago, Brian Dyson, CEO of Coca-Cola Enterprises, spoke of the relation of work to one's other commitments:

"Imagine life as a game in which you are juggling some five balls in the air. You name them "work," "family," "health," "friends," and "Spirit," and you're keeping all of these in the air. You will soon understand that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it will bounce back. But the other four balls - family, health, friends, and spirit - are made of glass. If you drop one of these, they will be irrevocably scuffed, marked, nicked, damaged or even shattered. They will never be the same. You must understand that and strive for balance in your life. How?

Don't undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others.

It is because we are different that each of us is special.

Don't set your goals by what other people deem important. Only you know what is best for you.

Don't take for granted the things closest to your heart. Cling to them as you would your life, for without them, life is meaningless.

Don't let your life slip through your fingers by living in the past or for the future. By living your life one day at a time, you live ALL the days of your life.

Don't give up when you still have something to give. Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying.

Don't be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect. It is this fragile thread that binds us to each other.

Don't be afraid to encounter risks. It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave.

Don't shut love out of your life by saying it's impossible to find. The quickest way to receive love is to give; the fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly; and the best way to keep love is to give it wings.

Don't run through life so fast that you forget not only where you've been, but also where you are going.

Don't forget that a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated.

Don't be afraid to learn. Knowledge is weightless, a treasure you can always carry easily.

Don't use time or words carelessly. Neither can be retrieved.

Life is not a race, but a journey to be savored each step of the way.

Yesterday is History, Tomorrow is a Mystery and Today is a gift; that's why we call it - "The Present."



"HAVE I TIME TO FINISH THE BOTTLE?"



....AND WHO HAD THE TABLE SCRAPS?"



## **GEORGE D. LIBBY**

**Sergeant, U.S. Army**  
**Company C, 3d Engineer Combat Battalion**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division**

### **Citation to Accompany the Medal of Honor**

Place and date: Near Taejon, Korea, 20 July 1950

Sgt. Libby distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action. While breaking through an enemy encirclement, the vehicle in which he was riding approached an enemy roadblock and encountered devastating fire which disabled the truck, killing or wounding all the passengers except Sgt. Libby. Taking cover in a ditch Sgt. Libby engaged the enemy and despite the heavy fire crossed the road twice to administer aid to his wounded comrades. He then hailed a passing M-5 artillery tractor and helped the wounded aboard. The enemy directed intense small-arms fire at the driver, and Sgt. Libby, realizing that no one else could operate the vehicle, placed himself between the driver and the enemy thereby shielding him while he returned the fire. During this action he received several wounds in the arms and body. Continuing through the town the tractor made frequent stops and Sgt. Libby helped more wounded aboard. Refusing first aid, he continued to shield the driver and return the fire of the enemy when another roadblock was encountered. Sgt. Libby received additional wounds but held his position until he lost consciousness. Sgt. Libby's sustained, heroic actions enabled his comrades to reach friendly lines. His dauntless courage and gallant self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself and uphold the esteemed traditions of the U.S. Army.



**GEORGE D. LIBBY**  
Sergeant, U.S. Army

HEADQUARTERS 3D ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION  
24TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO 24

25 March 1951

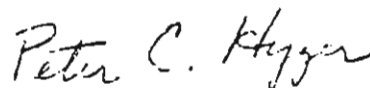
SUBJECT: Organization Day

TO: The Officers and Men of the 3d Engineer Combat Battalion

Today the 3d Engineer Combat Battalion celebrates the 50th anniversary of its birth on 25 March 1901 as the Third Battalion of Engineers. The past half century is rich in unit tradition based upon splendid work performed in many parts of the world. It is not entirely tradition, however, that makes a fine organization. A military unit is only as good as its officers, NCO's and men make it. I have never, in all my service, seen such a group of fine people gathered in one unit.

It was with some trepidation that I joined the 3d Engineers then in the process of moving to Korea, for I knew little about the unit and its training. During the trying Taejon days it was gratifying to find the engineers calmly and efficiently doing their job of fighting and engineering, in spite of the confusion, heavy casualties, and near panic. We became respected as infantry fighters for our successful aggressiveness while defending the Nakdong River. Since then our reputation, based upon performance, has grown. In my daily travels around the division area I am still constantly surprised by the vast quantity and high quality of engineer work being performed. Although the organization, equipment and manpower given us has been inadequate for the mission, aggressiveness and enthusiasm have overcome all obstacles. Your hard work has been a major factor in the success of the 24th Division and the Eighth Army in Korea.

I take great pride in commanding this fine battalion. In my opinion the past nine months have been the most glorious in its fifty year history. All past, present and future members of the 3d Engineer Combat Battalion may well be proud of your accomplishments. This enthusiasm and good work must continue, for without it we can not long ride on the high reputation we have fought so hard to gain.



PETER C. HYZER  
Lt Col            CE  
Commanding



—

TWENTY-FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION  
Office of the Commanding General

22 March 1951

Commanding Officer  
3rd Engineer Battalion  
APO 24

Dear Colonel Hyzer:

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you, the officers, and men of your battalion on the occasion of the unit's 50th Anniversary.

The unexcelled record of the 3rd Engineer Battalion as the "Pacific Engineers" during the years prior to World War II and its achievements as part of this division during World War II are well known to all of us. However, never before have the exploits of your battalion played so vital a part in an operation as they have in the one in which we are presently engaged.

Without the ability of your organization to overcome the difficulties imposed by rugged terrain, lack of roads and unbridged streams it would have been impossible to have supported logistically the operations to date. Moreover in every case where your battalion has been called upon to fight in ground action it has fought in the best infantry tradition and acquitted itself with distinction.

Again I want to express my appreciation and gratitude for the outstanding performance of duty by the 3rd Engineer Battalion while here in Korea, and to express the hope that in the years to come the battalion will continue its writing of a most brilliant chapter in the history of the United States Corps of Engineers.

Sincerely,

/s/ B.M. Bryan  
/t/ B.M. Bryan  
Major General, USA  
Army



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

### LINEAGE AND HONORS

#### 3d ENGINEER BATTALION

Constituted 2 February 1901 in the Regular Army as the 3d Battalion of Engineers

Organized 25 March 1901 at Fort Totten, New York

Reorganized and redesignated 30 June 1916 as the 3d Engineer Regiment

Reorganized and redesignated 1 October 1941 as the 3d Engineer Battalion and assigned to the 24th Infantry Division

Redesignated 1 April 1942 as the 3d Engineer Combat Battalion

Redesignated 10 March 1954 as the 3d Engineer Battalion

Inactivated 15 April 1970 (less Company D) at Fort Riley, Kansas (Company D concurrently inactivated in Germany)

Activated 21 September 1975 at Fort Stewart, Georgia

#### CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

##### World War II

Central Pacific

New Guinea (with arrowhead)

Leyte (with arrowhead)

Luzon

Southern Philippines (with arrowhead)

##### Korean War

UN Defensive

UN Offensive

CCF Intervention

First UN Counteroffensive

CCF Spring Offensive

UN Summer-Fall Offensive

Second Korean Winter

Korea, Summer-Fall 1952

Korea, Summer 1953

##### Persian Gulf War

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait



P.F.C. Dave Murray, D CO. 3rd Combat Engineer (Christmas Tree Korea 1951)

## Up Front with Willie & Joe

© by Bill Mauldin Reprinted in The Stars and Stripes Courtesy of Bill Mauldin



"Yer lucky. Yer learnin' a trade."

A favorite cartoon of the 3rd Engineers -

During a recent visit with me in North Carolina Cal and Mary Inman, my wife, Joyce, and I were rehashing "war stories" and Jake came up in the conversation. Cal told me about the story he had written about Jake; we dug out some old pictures I had of Jake and Cal sent me the following story from San Antonio upon his return home.

I feel that this story is worth sharing with our comrades since I'm sure many others had a "Jake" in their outfit during the long months and years away from home. I feel especially moved by this account of Jake since I was one of the fortunate who shared a hammock with him many a night.

Hoyt Overcash  
Battery B, 13th Field Artillery

## JAKE, THE UNFORGETTABLE CANINE

by

CAL INMAN

Often the boredom, homesickness and depression men have felt in the midst of war have been forced aside for a time by the antics of the inevitable mascot, usually a friendly mongrel. Because of this strange characteristic, the war memoirs of several hundred artillerymen will be brightened by the trifling memory of a certain mongrel pup's victory over a Filipino fighting cock.

Jake wasn't a war dog in the general sense of the term, but he was as G.I. as the mess kit he loved to eat from. He grew up to be a chow hound, first class, but that was only one of his many distinctive personality traits.

When Jake first came into the outfit he was too small and weak to walk. Everyone who saw him that first week figured that he wasn't worth the pack of cigarettes that the Filipino took for him. His body was about the size of a dollar sack of Duke's and about as shapeless. Just a dirty little bag of bones with four scrawny legs, a long tail and a head about the size of a golf ball. He was a dirty fawn color with a patch here and there that turned out to be white after he had a bath.

For the first two or three weeks the pup, as he was called for the want of a better name, was

confined to quarters and fed condensed milk. One of the fellows made a bed for him from a small paper box filled with cotton waste. It would have been a fine bed for an ordinary dog, but not for that curbstome setter. Nothing like a box of waste would do for him, he preferred sleeping on a cot under a tight mosquito bar. No one minded sharing his cot or hammock with him while he was small, because those giant Mindoro mosquitos weren't particular where they got their pint of blood each night.

A month or so on GI chow made a great change under the wrinkled little hide. (He was the only one in the battery that ever really appreciated the army's food.) But when it came to getting around, he was still in bad shape; he didn't walk, he waddled! As the weeks slipped by, four feet weren't enough for him. The older he grew the more clumsy he became. When he tried to run things happened. He stepped on his front feet with his hind paws because his back quarters were always out of step. After many unsuccessful tries, he developed his individual navigating method of running with his back end off at an oblique.

The first words he un-

derstood were "come and get it"! He learned they meant chow and where there was food, there was Jake. After he learned to run without stepping all over himself, he invariably lead the rush to the chow line. Later he got so lazy that he just hung around the chow tent all the time.

About the same time Jake came to the battery, one of the fellows in the machine gun section bought a red fighting cock from one of the local Filipinos. He planned to train the rooster for the ring and perhaps pick up a little side money at the weekly cock fights by entering the rooster and betting against him. As it turned out, all the fighting that red devil ever did was with poor little Jake.

It was a running fight for about two months. Old Red did the fighting and Jake did the best he could at running. That cock had a mean streak in him four feathers wide, and in the absence of other game birds he gave his attention to the pup. He would sneak up behind Jake with the devil gleaming in his eye and in a flurry of wings and a loud squawk he would attack with beak and claws, jumping on Jake's back, pecking him on the head and buffeting him with his wings.

Jake was so clumsy that

## (continued)

he couldn't get away or fight back; all he could do was yelp and whine until someone came to the rescue. After the cock was dislodged with a well placed foot, he would withdraw a bit, strut and crow triumphantly over the battered pup.

This sort of thing went on nearly every day for two months until only the rooster's probable toughness kept him from being converted to stew. Jake grew larger and less clumsy in spite of the beatings he took. He became less and less a pushover, and the cock had to resort to such tactics as sneaking up while Jake slept, pecking him on the head and then making a fast get-away. Jack's head was constantly in bad shape and he was a regular on "sick call". He needed a helmet worse than anyone in the outfit.

Jake finally made up for all the beating he had taken in one master stroke. It happened one morning while the battery was out on the drill area for rifle inspection. Jake was lazily nosing around in front of the ranks while Old Red came strutting up looking for trouble. Only a few noticed them at first, but as the rooster came on the scene he looked around and sized up the situation. It was a fine public place for him to stage a show—at Jake's expense.

In a short time the inspection had passed a couple platoons, so the two characters out front had a pretty good audience. The rooster slipped around behind Jake rather casually, pecking at the ground here and there as he went. He tiptoed up from the rear, so intent upon looking around at his audience that he didn't notice

Jake watching him out of the corner of his eye. Closer and closer he crept, until he could have touched the dog's tail; then with a loud squawk he flapped his wings and leaped for the pup's back. The battle was on again! Just as he leaped Jake whirled and made a surprise attack at the rear and caught himself a big mouthful of tail feathers. The outfit stood gaping, but the rooster was the most surprised. Jake had never been fast at anything except the chow line.

Then the chase started! Up and down through the ranks they went. The rooster was making more noise than a coop-full of chickens and running as if the devil was in his tail feathers. Jake ran free and easy for a while, then held back a little and let the rooster pull him along. When he got tired running he set his feet and held back while the cock tried to run. The rooster scratched at the ground and spun his running gears like a car stuck in the mud. The dirt flew, but Jake shut his eyes and hung on.

Round and round the drill field the show went. Jake letting the cock run a while, then holding back and letting him race his motor. Everyone, including the officers, lost interest in the inspection and a large circle formed around the combatants to cheer Jake in his moment of triumph. And he was enjoying it more than anyone. GI's swear to this day that Jake was smiling in spite of the mouthful of tail feathers.

Obviously the rooster couldn't keep up the pace long. In a few minutes he could let out only a feeble squawk and could

hardly stagger. Old Red finally gave it up as a bad deal and flopped down, all out of breath. Jake mauled him a little for good measure, but the rooster was too weak to resist. His fighting spirit was gone, so the pup gave him a disdainful look and withdrew to the shade of a tent. The battle was over.

After his victory over Old Red on Mindoro, Jake invaded Mindanao and went on up to help the outfit occupy Japan. He still may be hanging around the Battery mess tent if some near sighted "Son of Heaven" hasn't mistaken him for a fish.



### TRIVIA for your Enjoyment

President Calvin Coolidge said,  
*Little progress can be made by  
merely attempting to repress what  
is evil. Our great hope lies in devel-  
oping what is good.*

Experience is a wonderful thing; it  
enables you to recognize a mis-  
take every time you repeat it. -  
Anonymous

*We are always getting ready to  
live but never living.* - Ralph Waldo  
Emerson.

*If you never learn to live along the  
way, what makes you think you  
will be happy at the end of the  
road?* - Unknown.

REMEMBER - Keep Smiling!!

**24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION WEST COAST  
REUNION**

**VENTURA, CA**

**21 APRIL - 25 APRIL 1999**

**ACTIVITIES**

**PLAY THE PONY'S**

**SEASIDE PARK RACE BOOK CASINO**

FRIDAY, 23 APRIL 6PM TO 12PM AND ALL DAY SATURDAY 24 APRIL.  
PRICE INCLUDES FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET AND ADMISSION ALL DAY SATUR-  
DAY, PARKING INCLUDED. FUN FOR ALL AT A GREAT PRICE OF \$20.00 PER  
PERSON.

**AHOY MATES, LETS SHIP OUT (NAVY TALK) ISLAND PACKERS CRUISE.**

THURSDAY, 22 APRIL 9AM TO 3PM A 6 HOUR CRUISE TO ANACAPA IS-  
LAND ON THE 65' BOAT, THE SUNDOWNER. LAND ON THE ISLAND OR STAY  
ON BOARD AND CRUISE AROUND THE ISLAND. THE BOAT HAS A FULL GAL-  
LEY (FOOD AND DRINKS AT A REASONABLE PRICE). A MUST FOR CAMERA  
BUFFS. COULD SEE WHALES, SEALIONS, JAWS? DRESS WARM \$28.00 PER PER-  
SON.

SEASIDE PARK CASINO FRIDAY 6PM TO 12PM/SAT ALL DAY.

\$20.00 PER PERSON X( )=\$\_\_\_\_\_

ANACAPA ISLAND CRUISE THURSDAY 9AM TO 3PM

\$28.00 PER PERSON X( )=\$\_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: DONALD BARRETT  
2854 PINCKARD AVE  
REDONDO BEACH, CA 90278

**DEADLINE 10 APRIL 1999 (NO EXCEPTIONS)**



## 24th Infantry Division Assoc. West Coast Reunion

VENTURA, CA.  
April 21- April 25, 1999

### Hotel Reservations

Hotel accommodations provided by the DOUBLETREE , VENTURA, CA.

<u>Room Type</u>	<u>Rate (Does not include 10%tax)</u>
Standard Single	\$65.00/night*
Standard Double	\$65.00/night*
Standard Triple	\$65.00/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: DOUBLETREE HOTEL  
2055 HARBOR BLVD.  
VENTURA , CA. 93001

OR CALL 805- 643-6000  
FAX 805- 643-7137

Cut off date for hotel reservations is: **APRIL 1,1999 - NO EXCEPTIONS**

# 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOC. WEST COAST REUNION

Ventura, CA  
April 21 - April 25, 1999

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## Dinner Selections

**Saturday April 24 7:00pm**

Fiesta Salad with ranch or raspberry vinaigrette dressing  
(and choice of)

Top Sirloin Steak with five peppercorn sauce and garlic mashed potatoes  
**\$28.00**

Oriental Swordfish marinated in ginger with rice  
**\$28.00**

Chefs selection of seasonal vegetables  
Rolls and butter  
Vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce

## Breakfast buffet

**sunday april 25 8:00am**

Choice of scrambled eggs or egg beaters

Crisp bacon and sausage

Breakfast potatoes

Assorted chilled fruit juices

Mini - croissants, danish and muffins

**\$15.00**

Fresh brewed coffee, tea and decaf coffee served with dinner and breakfast. Prices include all taxes and gratuity

Menu order form (return this portion with check)

---

### Saturday eve dinner

Top sirloin steak \$28.00/person x ( ) = \$

Oriental swordfish: \$28.00/person x ( ) = \$

### Sunday morning breakfast

Breakfast buffet \$15.00/person x ( ) = \$

Registration Fee \$ 10.00

Make checks payable

Send to:

Phone:

Donald Barrett

2854 Pinckard Ave

Redondo Beach, Ca 90278

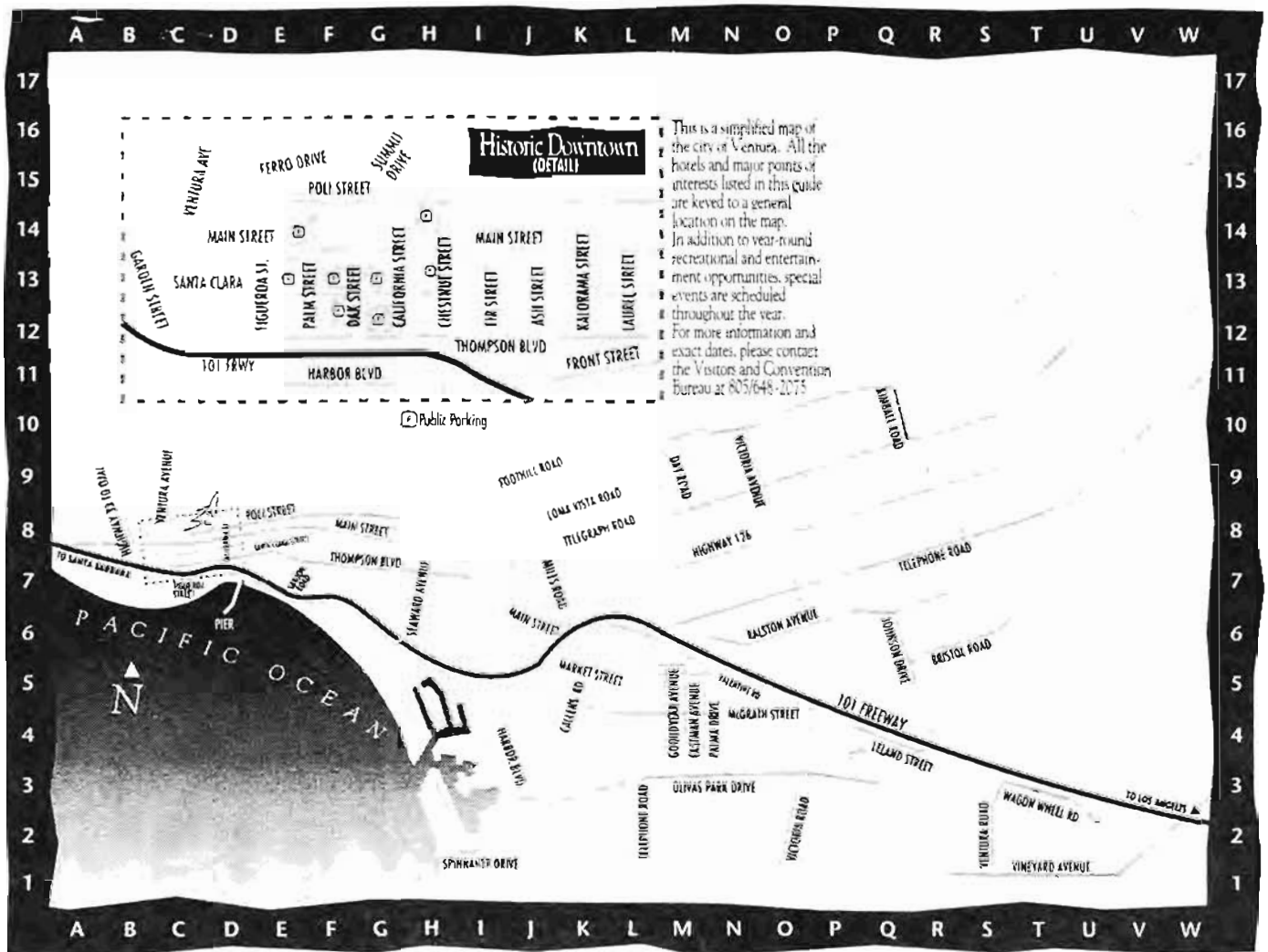
310-370-2095

**Total**

**\$**

Deadline April 10, 1999 (no exceptions, please)

# WEST COAST REUNION = VENTURA = AREA MAP



## Points Of Interest And Recreation

### HISTORIC DOWNTOWN VENTURA (CS)

San Buenaventura's rich history is evident in downtown's museums and architecture, while the colorful shops and restaurants of the area are evidence of a downtown renaissance. The fishing pier, promenade and beaches are all in walking distance.

### VENTURA HARBOR (C2)

Unwinding its legs and spreading over the last few years, Ventura harbor is now home to a picturesque seaside village of shops and restaurants. Stroll the promenade, take a cruise, or visit the headquarters of Channel Islands National Park and Morro Station.

### WINERIES:

Leonard Winery (B5)  
2784 Johnson Drive  
805-5254

Old Creek Ranch Winery  
16024 E. Old Creek Rd., Ojai  
805-4152

### HISTORY

Albinger Archaeological Museum (C14)  
113 E. Main St.  
Daily except Mon. 10-4  
805-5823

Civic Hall (H15)  
501 Poli St.  
Monday-Friday 9-5  
805-7882

Fr. Santa Cruz (C8)  
Michele Block (H20)

Oliver Adobe (H3)  
4200 Olivas Park Drive  
Open daily 10-4  
Admission: Sat. & Sun. 12-4  
805-4746

Oliver Adobe (C7)  
100 West Main St.  
Park 10-4  
805-4726

San Buenaventura Museum (E14)  
211 East Main St.  
Daily 10-5  
805-4738

Ventura County Museum Of History And Art (C14)  
100 East Main St.  
Daily except Mon. 10-5  
805-7823

### POST OFFICE

Main Ventura  
Post Office (H3)  
875 Santa Clara St.  
805-4465

### VISITOR INFORMATION

Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau (G15)  
8440 South California St.  
805-58 Mon-Fri  
10-4 Weekends  
805-468-2075

### PARKS

Arroyo Verde Park (M10)  
Carmichael Park (L6)  
Channel Islands National Park (I3)  
Visitors Center (I3)  
805-48262  
Crown Park (C9)  
Marina Park (H4)  
Mission Park (E13)  
Plaza Park (H12)  
Ventura State Beach Park (F6)  
State Parks & Recreation Center  
805-444-7275 toll free  
Crown Parks  
805-4751

### TRANSPORTATION

Ventura County Shuttle  
805-4650  
South Coast Area Transit  
805-7156  
Ampl  
805-7246  
Crestmont  
805-7164  
Great American Stage Line  
805-7165

### SHOPPING

Buenaventura Plaza (J7)  
Downtown Ventura (C8)  
(see inset map)  
Ventura Harbor Village (I2)

### RECREATION

Jeti Heli-Cat Racing ★  
805-43329  
Gold n' Stuff (O5)  
805-444-7151  
Sunset Cycle Rental (G7)  
805-444-7151  
Waterpumps (I3)  
805-444-7151

### GOLF

Buenaventura Golf Course (Q3)  
805-444-7151  
Olivas Park Golf Course (J2)  
805-444-7151  
River Ridge Golf Course (S2)  
805-444-7151  
Santa Barbara Golf Course (S2)  
805-444-7151  
Santa Barbara Regional Golf Course  
805-444-7151

### TENNIS

Ventura College Courts (L8)  
Anacapa Jr. High School (J7)  
Buena High School (O9)  
Ventura High School (I8)  
Carmichael Park (L7)

### RACQUETBALL

YMCA Health Center (K7)  
805-444-7151

### SPORTFISHING, WHALEWATCHING & CRUISES

Bay Queen Harbor Cruises (I2)  
1567 Spinnaker Dr.  
Ventura Harbor  
805-444-7151  
Island Packers (D3)  
1567 Spinnaker Dr.  
Ventura Harbor  
805-444-7151  
Ventura Sportfishing Landing (I3)  
5100 Anacapa Way  
805-444-7151



(A Veteran, but not our 24th, George J. Hartmann) put together an idea for a wooden quilt, made up of 54 separate carvings by the members - Mid-Wis-Chippers. You will notice the Taro Leaf insignia stands out in the picture below. George Hartmann's story (48 Hours of Hell) is on the opposite side of this picture. This picture and story was submitted by Carlton (Tui) G. Grode.



## 48 HOURS OF HELL

By George J. Hartmann

Entered service U.S. Army January 1943. Basic training (BIRTC) Branch Immaterial Replacement Training Center, Little Rock, Arkansas. Several months after basic training assigned to Regimental Training Aids. While there I supervised construction of an officers' club and a camp-wide N.C.O. Club. It turned out that the BIRTC turned out to be an infantry basic training.

July 1944 I shipped out to a replacement center in Italy, then assigned to the 91st combat division and issued an M1 rifle (which had its guts shot out in the African campaign). I was given 20 rounds to zero in at 200 yards at full-size silhouette targets. None of my shots hit the target or ones on either side. I made "expert" in the states with Springfield and M1 rifles. I prided myself on marksmanship. I was forced to carry this rifle into combat (Monte Belmont). Our objective was above Florence and Livernano. This was a sheer escarpment in the Apennine Mountains about 800 feet straight up. The enemy was dug in from above and out to the face of the cliff. This was an impossible target when covered during daytime. We were fired upon point blank at night.

All hell broke loose on Friday, October 13. While moving down over an open hillside in the last squad of our company toward a hedge row at the base of the hill the enemy cut us off with machine gun fire. I laid flat on the ground when a burst from the right cut five grooves in the ground under my nose. I tried to back down into a slight depression when a burst from the left tore the rifle out of my hand. One bullet went through my upper left arm like a bee sting but never touched the bone. However, the bullet injured the median nerve paralyzing part of my left hand. I then played dead while the enemy threw about 15 rounds of mortar fire into the area. One round hit a few feet in front of me. I could reach over and put my hand into the crater. Luckily I was

in the umbrella area and was not hit by shrapnel. Some of the rest of the outfit were not so lucky.

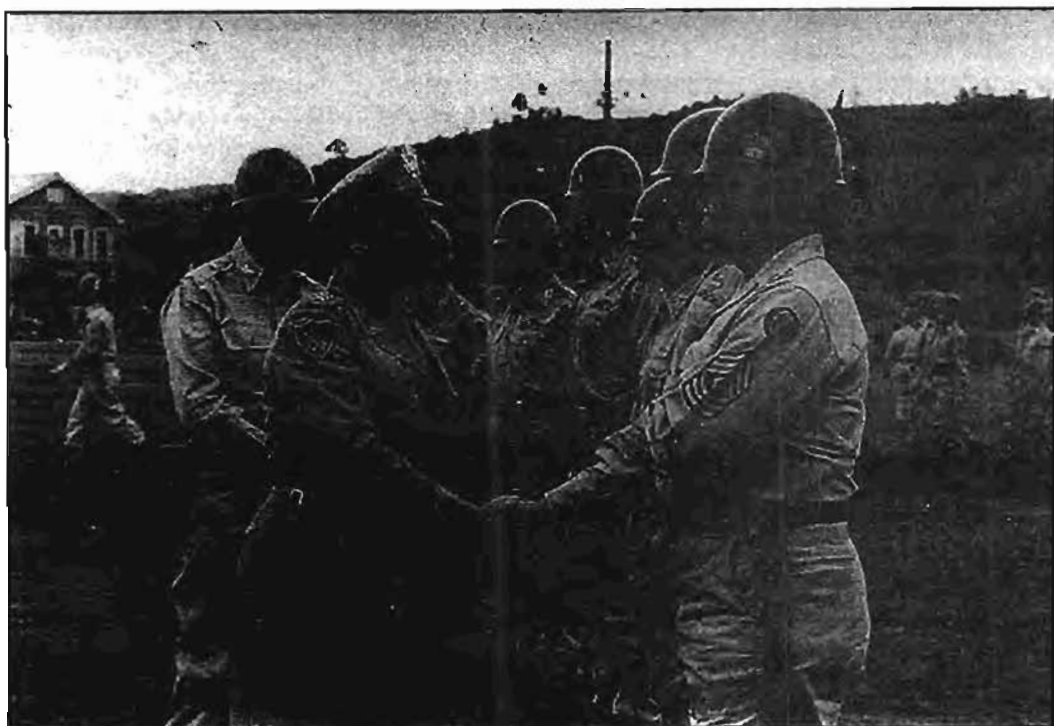
While watching my life zip past me I made up my mind that I did not want to get into enemy hands. When the mortar fire stopped I made my first dash uphill about 100 yards where the hillside had been bulldozed into an access road. Above this road was a forested area. I did not draw fire during the first move and I knew that they could not see me when I was flat on the road. I did draw fire everytime I got up to run like a drunken football carrier for the next half mile. I removed four bandoleers, light pack and an ammo belt while on the ground since they were useless without a rifle. All I had were 6 hand grenades in my pants pockets to help hold me down.

When I reached the stone courtyard around the stone house command post I thought the area was secure and leisurely walked across the yard through the doorway of the house. A split second after I walked through the doorway a machine gun burst split the door jamb from top to bottom. The walls of the farm house were solid field stone two feet thick. This persistent gunner still angled shots into the window openings to ricochet bullets like a swarm of bees. A medic in the room applied a bandage to the wound which did not bleed much and then made a sling to hold my arm immobile. The enemy kept shelling the house with heavy artillery. They never made a direct hit but hit the ground around making the house shiver and shake. One of the fellows in my squad followed me in on his own power after having his family jewels removed by mortar shrapnel. The man weighed about 250 pounds. At dusk we started back to the battalion command post. We were about 6 miles south of Bolgna, a nazi stronghold dug in under ground. It took 4 stretcher bearers to carry the big man in this mountain terrain. On the way we passed a mule train bringing

in supplies. We stopped to rest at the base of a straw stack. When we were about 100 feet away an incendiary shell hit the straw stack, sending flames 100 feet into the air. If we had been there they would never have missed us. From battalion headquarters a jeep carried us to regimental HQ. Then an ambulance carried us 75 miles to a large field hospital in Florence. The enemy kept shelling the highway in front and in back of us. The moral to this story is that while wounded and pinned down I promised the good Lord that if I got out alive I would do something for people less fortunate than myself never knowing how this would come about. After the neurosurgeons repaired my injury I got about a 90% return of function. I then got an assignment to work in the occupational therapy department of Mayo General Hospital at Galesburg, IL. This suited my interest fine because I could occasionally get a week-end pass to go my home in Milwaukee. After discharge I used my mustering-out pay to buy a few woodworking machines and started on my own in the custom furniture building business. Due to a lack of patience this was a flop so I went back to my old job at Milwaukee Gas Light Company. I hated every minute of it. Bookkeeping just wasn't my thing after 3 1/2 years in service. The desk job bored me into falling asleep on the job. Then the near miracle came about. One of my O.T. friends at Mayo General who got a job at the VA Hospital at Tomah, WI heard there was a job opening for a Manual Arts Therapist. I filled out a form S7 and got the job in one of the best equipped M.A.T. Wood clinics in the country. For 27 years I helped my fellow veterans. I enjoyed the work and tried my best to fulfill my obligation. Everything fell into place.

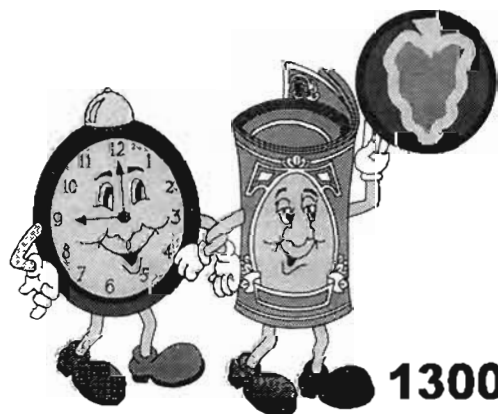
I am now retired for 24 years and still enjoy woodwork and especially woodcarving in a beautifully equipped shop of my own.





- (1) Col John A. Dabney (Deceased)
- (2) General Walker (Deceased)
- (3) Lt Russell Bertholf
- (4) First Sergeant Charles "Chuck" Wiley (Deceased)

This picture was taken of General Walker greeting Officers & NCO's in Camp Wood Japan, during Col Dabney's departure as CO 21st Inf October 1949.



## TIME TO PAY YOUR **ANNUAL DUES**

Please send dues to: Secretary/Treasurer

**Will Schumaker,**

**1300 East Hartley, Ozark, MO 65721-8347**



## EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Charles W. Shoe of 3924 Harrisburg Drive, Harrisburg NC 28075: I would like to run the following Reunion Notice in the Taro Leaf Magazine if possible in January 1999. (February '99 Issue)

**Korean War Veterans Group Reunion**  
**1st BN. 34th & 19th Infantry Regiment 24th Division**  
**April 27,28,29,30, May 1, 1999**  
**Ramada Inn - Nashville, TN**  
**For More Details Contact:**

**Charles W. Shoe**  
**Phone: 704-455-2937**

Charles also writes: "I really do enjoy reading the TARO LEAF MAGAZINE, keep up the good work. I also am a life time member of the Taro Leaf".

Arnold Mommsen asked to mention Daniel William Hallock's book titled, "Hell, Healing and Resistance ". Estimated price for a hardcover is \$25.00 and softcover is \$17.00. To order contact: The Plough Publishing House Rte. 381 N. Farmington, PA 15437, Phone: 800-521-8011 or WWW.PLOUGH.COM

e-mail received from, "Reba Meyers" <reba\_ros@hotmail.com>  
Hello, I am looking for Roger Lee Myers, my husband's brother who disappeared in San Francisco Airport on his way back to Korea after being home on emergency leave in May 1970. I do not know which unit Roger was assigned to. His SS# is 295-46-8130. Roger had previously spent two tours in Viet-

Nam and was wounded there. Any information you could give me would be gratefully appreciated. Thank you, Rebecca Myers (Can anyone help Reba out?)

Letter from Gladys Lumsden of 167 Hickory St., Wood River, IL 62095: I am sorry I missed the reunion but did not know if I could make it tell it was too late to get a room. I hope to make the next one. I want to keep up with my friends by getting the Taro Leaf. I know in the past when a life member passed his widow still received the newsletters. Thanks so much for the nice job you did on the page for Howard....

( I know Gladys would appreciate hearing from friends, letters or phone calls. Gladys is on the roster and will continue receiving the Taro Leaf).

A note from Frances and Harry Wittman: "We have five WW II Tapes left to sell".

1. A Department of the Army program "24th Division in World War II". 30 minutes long and shows actual camera scenes of the division fighting in the islands and the Philippines. Starts out with the history of the division being formed in Hawaii in Sept 1941 and takes it through the early occupation days in Japan. It has action newsreel scenes of General Irving, Col. Red Newman, Col. Clifford, et al, as well as film of McArthur visiting the 24th positions. 2. A

45 minute film on the fighting in the Southwest Pacific. Mentions the 24th several times as well as provides the historical information on why the US did what it did and why it was done. 3. Two US Army "Big picture" films on the Pacific fighting during WW II to include the Navy actions. Special emphasis is placed on the fighting in the Philippine Islands as well as the recapture of Manila from the Japanese". Harry is the Quartermaster and his address is: 1385 Terri St., Keyser WV 26726 and Telephone No. is 304-788-0465.

John B. Crabtree, Jr., of 490 Parish Point Blvd., Mary Esther, FL 32569 writes: "In September I went to the U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA in a final effort to locate and hopefully contact four friends I fought with, assigned to the 5th Regimental Combat Team in Korea from January 3, 1953 until rotating home in December 1953. The first night homeward bound someone slashed open my duffel bag apparently looking for money, etc, they took my address book with all the information about my friends. After a long search I did locate one of my friends in New York, but he was unable to give me any addresses or numbers. I am listing below the last known city and state where my friends lived while we were in Korea in 1953. I would appreciate any assistance you can give me in locating them if they are still living:

1. William Turner, Nevada. Missouri; 2. Vincent DeLuca, Brooklyn, New York; 3. Edward Wickler, Pittsburgh, PA; 4. Kenneth



Mennig, Omaha, NE. These men and I were all radio operators in the headquarters unit of the 5th RCT. (Can anyone help John out).

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## EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter from Col. Robert Allen Ret., of 2435 Antelope Ct., Villa Hills, KY 41017-3723: "I lost my wife of 40 years, five years ago..I remarried a widow and we are doing fine. Enclosed is a little writing I did back in August."

### "LIFE"

With a Golden Heartbeat we enter this world. Our growing years go quickly, molding as we go, into the learning years, and still growing.

We mature, we seek a direction in which to go. Additional education is needed through out. There is no end in gaining knowledge, never enough.

In time two become one, evolving in family unison. And the good times, the challenges, the rewards, Life is at its peak. Family and children, our desires, our dreams, are met or broken, but we never give up!

Goals are achieved, we improve our status. Respect comes with experience, ability and knowledge. Active years begin to slow. Looking back with pride and joy, we did it the best we knew how, we did it our way.

Many friends have come and gone. Happy to have been a part of it all. Cray a little, laugh a lot. Health becomes a priority, sometimes a concern. Our bodies slowly wear down and wear out. And then in a golden moment, our last heartbeat.

RLA 8/98

A letter received from our new Chaplain Glen Carpenter: "Dear Comrades,

It is such an honor to be chosen to be your Chaplain. I know the Lord had a hand in this. He gets all the glory. My wife and I had a fantastic time meeting new friends. We were so warmly accepted. I will do the best I can as Chaplain. It has always been an honor to be in the 24th ID".

In Christ,  
Chaplain Glen Carpenter

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Letter received from Lloyd Oler: "I found another comrade from the 21st Regt., William P. Roth. Bill was inducted into the Army in February 1944. He served with the occupational forces in Japan and ran the 21st Regt. Postal Unit in Kumamoto - Shikoku and also was mail carrier between the Island Honshu and Shikoku. Bill was discharged in Nov. 1945. After his discharge he stayed in the Postal Service and retired as Postmaster of the Prairie du Sac, WI Post Office. His beautiful wife Penny is a semi retired Minister of the Methodist Church. Bill is a little reluctant to become a member of the 24th IDA now but perhaps if members who remember Bill would drop him a line, he might be persuaded to change his mind. His address is: William P. Roth 438 Lueders Rd., Sauk City, WI 53583 ; Phone Number: 608-643-6362.

Letter from Dayton Davis of PO Box 19981, Kalamazoo, MI 49019-0981: "Entered the Army February 4, 1954, went to Korea around September 1955 until December 1956. Units served in Korea: 34th Infantry Regt. 21st Battalion H-CO Heavy Weapons Platoon, 24th Infantry Division. Company Commander was Cpt. Shulenburg, Platoon Leader: Lt. Colby; Platoon Sergeant: Sgt Mercer; Sgt Master Sergeant Todd; I was a 105 Jeep Driver. I was involved in an accident approximately December 4, 1955 at Nightmare Range and returned to Unit from hospital around end of February 1956. Placed on light duty and returned to USA on December 9, 1956. I need to locate Harry Lott Co. D 34th and Dick Adams Co. I 34th in helping me with my claim". Please Call 616-342-2094 or write to Dayton Davis, P.O. Box 19981, Kalamazoo MI 49019-0981,

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Jack Bray, 414 Holly Drive, Ephrata, PA 17522-1638 writes: "In August 1998 I clipped a notice from the Lancaster County Shopping News regarding your search for former members of the 24th Infantry Division. I was a member of the 24th from January 1947 until August 1948. Assigned to Hq. Co. 21st Infantry Regiment (Gimlets) located in Camp Wood, Kumamoto, Kyushu, Japan. Its commander then was Colonel Winfield Ross McKay, a venerable gentleman. I am interested in obtaining information about your

Association. It's hard to imagine, it's been 50 years since I left the 24th Infantry". (Jack, hope you will join, and if any out there know Jack, please write him and encourage him to complete the application for membership.)

**Letter from Mrs. Rita West Myers** of 2947 E. Hwy. CC; Fair Grove, MO 65648, Phone: 417-759-7369. "Since January 1998 I have been searching for any information I can possibly obtain on my late Father, Richard William West. My father passed away 25 years ago from a rare form of cancer. He was only 56 at his time of death. He died without ever seeing any of his grandchildren. My goal is to gather all that I can and then publish the information for my children to have and enjoy. I have been through WWII collecting bits and pieces. It has been a very enjoyable experience for me. I managed to locate an old buddy of dad's. He shared some wonderful stories. My family and I have been amazed at the nice soldiers that have taken an interest in my project.....There are probably a few men out there who would remember my dad. I would love to make contact with some of them. Can you help me? I would so enjoy any news. Please feel free to pass my name and address on to anyone you think might be able to share information with me. " Sincerely, Rita West Myers (Can anyone help Mrs. Myers?)



## EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Received a letter from Dr. Phil Hostetter:** "In Little Rock Bevo and I sauntered down the street one evening to a New Orleans type of place for something to eat. Quite a few of our members were there. A young man asked about our organization. I was wearing my little cap with the Taro Leaf insignia. He was much impressed by the veterans and paid our check to show his respect! That means a lot to an Old Soldier, much more than a check". (Thanks for writing Phil. It makes us all realize that the younger generation does appreciate what veterans have given for all of us.)

**Letter received from Cleon Eckler:** "Just wanted to let you know I presented the certificate from the 24th to Jason Kim, the Korean native who donated his services of pressing the flag for the ceremonies at Washington, D.C. He was so pleased, he expected nothing. The Editor of the Local Paper went with me to take our pictures. To say he pressed the American flag and campaign banners was a mistake. It was the Division flag (Taro Leaf) and campaign ribbons. Editor's mistake."



Jason Y. Kim (right), who operates New Castle '1' Cleaners at Boyd's Corner, was recognized this week for pressing an American flag and campaign banners used in the Korean War Memorial Day services held in Washington, D.C. on July 27, and at Arlington National Cemetery ceremonies later that day. Kim, a native of South Korea, donated the services. Presenting him with a certificate acknowledging his efforts is Cleon Eckler, a local Korean War veteran who attended the services, representing the 24th Infantry Division. (Scott Lawrence photo)



Letter received from Max L. West of 511 PIR, 1229 Nebraska ST APT #1, Blair, NE 68008-1707. "I served with the 24th Inf Div from 1948 to 1950 with Hvy Mtr CO under Capt Raymond E. McDonough. I went to Korea in June with Task Force Smith under Col Smith. I was there when General Dean was captured. I retired in 1969 with 27 years of honorable service. I am a disabled veteran." (Thanks for writing Max, we will be happy to have you as a member of the 24th Inf Div Association.)

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E-mail received from Leonard Therry of 12900 Westbrook Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030: "Thank you for your reply regarding my interest in locating John Taggart and your willingness to include a notice in the Taro Leaf. Can you send me a copy when it does appear? I served with the 24th during the period 1956-57. I would be pleased to join if you forward me the information required." (Thanks for writing, Len. The December Taro Leaf and application are in the mail as of this date, January 14.)

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Letter received from Gerald Gustafson of 5534 Drysdale Dr., San Jose, CA 95124-6306. "I recently corresponded with Joe McKeon, he suggested I write you to run a notice in the Taro Leaf newsletter. I'm trying to find anyone who served with George Alfred Baumer in October of 1951 and may have information about his death. He was a PFC Service #4556143573 killed October 13, 1951. Yvonne, the reason I'm trying to get as much information as possible is that his name has been omitted from a memorial in California for those killed in action in the Korean Conflict. I'm trying to



get his name added. I would appreciate any help you might have, I think hearing from someone who was with him would help. I'm a very close friend of George A. Baumer. We went to 12 years of grade and high school and two years of college. We were drafted the same day. I served with the 2nd Division. He has no relations living except two nieces and 2 nephews. George A. Baumer was his given name, in school he went by "Alfred" his middle name. My phone number is 408-266-4218. (Thanks for writing Gerald and I hope some of our members will be able to help you).

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A letter from Virgil G. Tapps of 1703 Carr, Ruthven, IA 51358-8505. "I was looking through my recent copy of the Cappers Weekly when I spotted your notice of wanting to contact former members of the 24th Inf Div. I served with Battery C "Charlie" 63rd Field Artillery Battalion from about 15th of November 1956 to 25th June 1957. I was a transfer replacement from the 565th Engineer Supply Depot near Inchon." Thanks for writing Virgil and for sending the pictures included on this page. (If anyone remembers Virgil, he would be happy to hear from you).

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## EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Korea spelled disaster for "A" Battery, 63rd Field Artillery Battalion. Historians have not been kind when they chronicled the action of "A" Battery, 63rd Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division at the Kum River on 14 July 1950. A personal review by a survivor of that tragic afternoon, as recorded by historians, sees it as seriously flawed in many respects, with good reason, since only one of the few survivors was interviewed after the action and although his account, I am sure, was true as he reported it, that gun crewman was not, nor could he have been expected to have comprehensive knowledge regarding all of the events that took place during and after the attack on that fateful afternoon. As the sole surviving officer of "A" Battery and the last to depart the battle area on that 14 July, it is important that the complete record be set straight. Let me add that I have always felt that the silver star that I received for my part in that action, pales against the sorrow and agony over the loss of so many good men lost at that dreadful battle.

One must go back to "A" Battery's days in Japan to fully understand the circumstances that played so heavily at the Kum River on 14 July, and one must have experienced the eight days of brutal combat prior to 14 July to arrive at an honest judgment regarding the near massacre that took place on that afternoon. When I was posted to the 63rd Field Artillery Battalion at Camp Hakata, Kyushu, Japan in June of 1949, the Division was undergoing a transition from an occupation force to a combat ready division. Having served during World War II in a parachute field artillery battery, as a gunner corporal, a sergeant chief of section, as a first sergeant and as a firing bat-

tery executive officer and a forward observer, after receiving a battlefield commission and having survived three campaigns, I felt I had a pretty fair idea of the measure of a combat ready field artillery firing battery.

What I discovered upon joining "A" Battery was shocking. Training was haphazard at best, equipment that was left over from World War II, had deteriorated and was in short supply, vehicles and radios remained deadlined for weeks on end due to non availability of parts, nor was the personnel situation any better. Most of the younger officers had not served in World War II, the same was true of the non-commissioned officers with a critical shortage of middle grade NCO's. Compounding combat readiness, the direct support field artillery battalions had only two of the three authorized firing battery's, even at this reduced authorization, "A" Battery was required to place in limited storage, two of its howitzers, because of a manpower shortage. This, then, was the sad state of the battery's readiness when on 25 June 1950, the North Koreans crossed the 38th parallel.

The first order of business when General MacArthur made the decision to commit the 24th to Korea was to bring the Division up to strength, fillers were ordered, literally, overnight from the other three Divisions stationed in Japan. In the confusion that ensued, many of the fillers were assigned to positions that they were not trained to fill, "A" Battery, for example, received a number of infantrymen who had to be assigned as ammunition handlers or converted to cannoneers. So there you have it, "A" Battery...ill trained, ill

equipped, ill prepared...physically, as well as psychologically, headed for a war that no one had any idea would prove so devastating.

"A" Battery was loaded aboard an LST on 2-3 July, sailed on Independence Day, the Fourth of July, arrived in Korea on the 5th of July and on the 6th of July, the second day of the war, was engaged in combat. The Battery suffered its first casualties that evening when a forward observer and his party were killed in action. On the 7th of July, the Battery barely managed to escape, when it found itself nearly surrounded; again, on the 9th of July, North of the Kum River, the Battery found itself as the front line. After expending all of its ammunition against advancing tank and infantry columns, was nearly cut off and narrowly escaped disaster.

By the 13th, the Battery had occupied a position south of the Kum River after occupying a series of position areas, firing almost continuously as it moved south. The men had little sleep since the 6th of July. This, coupled with the monsoon heat, dysentery, stress of finding itself, far too frequently, with no infantry at its front, had the troops physically and mentally exhausted and greatly demoralized.

Little did we know, the worst was still to come. It came the very next day on 14 July when suddenly and without warning, at about 1:30 in the afternoon, the North Korean 16th Regiment launched an all out attack against the 63rd Field Artillery Battalion. The Battalion was disposed with "A" Battery, Headquarters Battery and "B" Battery, in line from North to South, over a distance of about 500 yards along a secondary road, near the village of Samyo, about

three miles south of the Kum River. The first attack came from the Northeast, they came swarming across the rice paddy, fortunately, the ground attack was preceded by a mortar barrage that provided time for the perimeter defense to react. This initial attack was stopped with the enemy withdrawing to some shrub covered foothills, but the mortar fire continued, intense and unabated. The second attack came more from the East, probably a second force within minutes of the first attack. This second attack would, most certainly, have resulted in the enemy either filling or capturing the entire battery had not an enemy mortar round scored a direct hit on a fully loaded ammunition truck, located in the center of the Battery area. The ensuing ammunition explosion halted the momentum of the enemy attack and prevented their entry into the battery area.

Immediately after the first ground attack, the battery commander recognized that our position was untenable and made the decision to evacuate the position area on foot. His order to me, as the Executive Officer, was to destroy the guns and to follow as soon as this was accomplished. As fate would have it, it was only seconds after the Battery Commander had departed the area when the direct hit was made on the ammunition truck. Two men had remained behind with me. We took cover in previously prepared foxholes, and that is where we remained for the next several hours, while the ammunition exploded round after round.

At a point when the exploding ammunition became intermittent, I managed to crawl to the gun positions to carry out the Battery Commanders' order of destroying the guns, but the guns had already

been destroyed by the exploding ammunition. The tires were still burning, no living gun crewmen were present, enemy bodies dotted the rice paddies to the Battery front, some within a few yards of the gun positions. Reasoning that the enemy would enter the battery area once all of the ammunition had exploded, the two men and I departed the area via the same route that the Battery Commander had taken. Several hundred yards along the route, we came across the body of the Battery Commander along with the bodies of other members of the Battery.

For the next two days, the two men and I walked south, avoiding enemy patrol and finally ran into a South Korean Outpost. Upon rejoining the few "A" Battery men that had escaped, one gun section was quickly reconstituted, and that section was lost at Taejon two days later. For all intents, that ended "A" Battery's history in Korea. The few of us that remained, went on to form the Nucleus of "C" Battery, 13th Field Artillery Battalion and completed our days in Korea with that Unit.

In the final analysis, the enormity of the obstacles that had to be overcome by "A" Battery in those first days in Korea, proved to be insurmountable. One had to be part of that total experience to fully appreciate, that against unwinnable odds, and given the unreadiness posture of the Battery, the Unit performed beyond what could be reasonably expected of it. The indescribable sacrifices made by "A" Battery during those first few weeks in Korea has never been fully recognized, but perhaps that is so, because there were precious few survivors left to tell the whole

story.

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**I received e-mail from Charlie Johnson with the subject "Our Flag Guys - Our Beautiful Flag". He passed on a condensed speech by Leo K. Thorsness, recipient of the Medal of Honor as follows:**

"I know you will feel this story as I have. Dear God, we have been so fortunate and so blessed. My prayers shall always be: God Bless America, The Home of the Brave and the Land of the Free. Your Brother In Arms, Lee

"You've probably seen the bumper sticker somewhere along the road. It depicts an American Flag, accompanied by the words "These colors don't run." I'm always glad to see this, because it reminds me of an incident from my confinement in North Vietnam at the Hao Lo POW Camp, or the "Hanoi Hilton," as it became known.

Then a Major in the U.S. Air Force, I had been captured and imprisoned from 1967-1973. Our treatment had been frequently brutal. After three years, however, the beatings and torture became less frequent.

During the last year, we were allowed outside most days for a couple of minutes to bathe. We showered by drawing water from a concrete tank with a homemade bucket. One day as we all stood by the tank, stripped of our clothes, a young Naval pilot named Mike Christian found the remnants of a handkerchief in a gutter that ran under the prison wall. Mike managed to sneak the grimy rag into our cell and began fashioning it into a flag.

Over time we all loaned him a little soap, and he spent days cleaning the material. We helped by scrounging and stealing bits and pieces of anything he could use. At night, under his mosquito net, Mike worked on the flag. He made red and blue from ground-up roof tiles and tiny amounts of ink and painted the colors onto the cloth with watery rice glue. Using thread from his own blanket and a homemade bamboo needle, he sewed on the stars.

Early in the morning a few days later, when the guards were not alert, he whispered loudly from the back of our cell, "Hey gang, look here." He proudly held up this tattered piece of cloth, waving it as if in a breeze. If you used your imagination, you could tell it was supposed to be an American flag.

When he raised that smudgy fabric, we automatically stood straight and saluted, our chests puffing out, and more than a few eyes had tears.

About once a week the guards would strip us, run us outside and go through our clothing. During one of those shakedowns, they found Mike's flag. We all knew what would happen. That night they came for him. Night interrogations were always the worst. They opened the cell door and pulled Mike out. We could hear the beginning of the torture before they even had him in the torture cell. They beat him most of the night.

About daylight they pushed what was left of him back through the cell door. He was badly broken; even his voice was gone. Within two weeks, despite the danger, Mike scrounged another piece of cloth and began another flag. The

Stars and Stripes, our national symbol, was worth the sacrifice to him.

**Now whenever I see the flag, I think of Mike and the morning he first waved that tattered emblem of a nation. It was then, thousands of miles from home in a lonely prison cell, that he showed us what it is to be truly free.**

(Thanks, Charlie for sharing this story with us. How we can even imagine allowing others to burn or in any way desecrate our flag.)

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#### **Spielberg film brought back painful memories**

Having seen "Saving Private Ryan" revived some unforgettable World War II memories. The movie is very realistic, almost too much so. Nothing less can be expected from a Steven Spielberg masterpiece.

The Omaha Beach landings had to be the worst of the worst. I salute all survivors, and all those who didn't.

I participated in six beach landings - Hollandia and Biak (New Guinea), and Leyte, Luzon, Mindoro and Mindanao (Philippine Islands). Most were either lightly defended or unopposed. However, our Oct. 20, 1944, Leyte invasion was the Omaha equivalent, casualties included. Our regiment of the 24th Infantry Division landed on Red Beach and although it was probably only half or less as bad as Omaha, it provided lasting memories for the survivors.

It took a brave officer, later

severely wounded, to get us going with: "Follow me and let's get the hell off the beach." And that was only the beginning of the Philippine campaign of seemingly endless combat until the end of the war. To be a surviving combat infantryman, one had to be extremely lucky, as I was, escaping with only minor wounds and malaria.

We now enjoy our annual reunions, where the World War II veterans are gradually decreasing in number. It is the only place where we can discuss combat experiences, many of which seem unbelievable unless you were a participant. I wrote my memories in a book (unpublished) and gave a copy to each of our four children so they would know what was done in WWII to ensure their freedom.

I had tears in my eyes as the movie ended in Normandy with a graphic view of the crosses, row upon row.

- Eric Diller  
Torrance

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The following appeared in Abigail Van Buren column and was submitted by Beverly Corris:

#### **Freedom is Not Free**

I watched the flag pass by one day. It fluttered in the breeze. A young Marine saluted it, and then He stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform so young, so tall, so proud, with hair cut square and eyes alert. He'd stand out in any crowd. I thought how many men like him had fallen through the years.

(continued on next page)

How many died on foreign soil?  
How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot  
down? How many died at sea?  
How many foxholes were sol-  
diers' graves?  
No, freedom is not free.

I heard the sound of taps one  
night, when everything was still. I  
listened to the bugler play and felt  
a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times  
that taps had meant "Amen,"  
when a flag had draped a coffin of  
a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children, of the  
mothers and the wives, of fathers,  
sons and husbands with inter-  
rupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard at the  
bottom of the sea, of unmarked  
graves in Arlington.  
**No, freedom is not free.**

-Cadet Major Kelly Strong, Air  
Force Junior ROTC, Homestead  
Senior High School, Homestead,  
FL - 1988.

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### **ARMY AWARDS SPIELBERG FOR TELLING SOLDIERS' STORY BY Gary Sheftick Army News Service**

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**Washington** - Film director  
Steven Spielberg said it was one  
of his proudest and "most amazing  
evenings ever" when he accepted  
the Army's highest award for pub-  
lic service from Secretary of the  
Army Louis Caldera Thursday.

Spielberg said the Distin-  
guished Civilian Service Award  
was for him a "validation" after  
struggling with personal anxieties  
during the making of "Saving Pri-  
vate Ryan." "Privately I won-

dered, and collectively all of my  
collaborators wondered, if what  
we were trying to accomplish  
would gain approval of those  
veterans of D-Day, as well as the  
veterans of Korea, Vietnam and  
all the violent struggles that have  
engaged this nation throughout  
the course of the 20th century,"  
Spielberg said.

Caldera said the film  
provides an "unprecedented  
view to combat" and makes  
Americans "stop and think what  
it means to sacrifice for one's  
country." He told Spielberg the  
award represents the gratitude of  
more than a million soldiers in  
the total Army today and mil-  
lions who served before, because  
the film tells the story of their  
fortitude, courage and sacrifices.  
Prior to the award ceremony, a  
screening of "Saving Private  
Ryan" was attended by congress-  
men, hundreds of Capitol Hill  
Staffers and veterans, including  
many who served in World War  
II and landed on the beaches of  
Normandy. World War II vet-  
eran Joe Varghi said the film  
brought back memories of a sort.  
He was a young ensign beach-  
master on D-Day when his land-  
ing craft hit the shore at "Easy  
Red" sector 7:30 a.m., June 6,  
1944. Varghi said the movie was  
realistic, and he was "waiting for  
all the purple smoke" which  
shrouded the beach during the  
actual landing because demoli-  
tion teams were blowing up ob-  
stacles and mines.

Varghi's son, Joe Jr.,  
thanked Spielberg and told him  
the film "opened my eyes to see  
what my father went through  
some 50 years ago." He also said  
the film helped his father talk  
about the war years.

"For 50 years, he didn't  
talk at all (about the war)," Joe  
Varghi Jr. said. "As kids, we  
didn't know anything about what

he did I think he felt the pain in-  
side all those years." Varghi Jr.  
said his father first began to open  
up during the 50th anniversary of  
VE Day when he returned to Nor-  
mandy for a commemoration, and  
now Spielberg's film has made it  
all the easier to talk about those  
war experiences. Secretary of De-  
fense Bill Cohen said the movie  
"had a deep-felt effect on the vet-  
erans of this country." He said it  
helped to heal some deep wounds  
and act as a catharsis. Cohen said  
the film "brings us face to face  
with the chaos that is war" but  
shows how soldiers can "hold on  
to humanity." He said the action  
of the film is so realistic that it  
"drives a cold steel spike into our  
very soul," but serves as a re-  
minder of what it took to save  
democracy.

World War II veteran  
Sen. Strom Thurmond told the  
theater audience that Spielberg's  
film was the "closest to being in  
battle one can get without actually  
picking up a weapon..." He said  
when the final World War II vet-  
eran is laid to rest, the movie will  
remain to "help the next genera-  
tion of Americans understand  
what price we must pay for lib-  
erty." Army Chief of Staff Gen.  
Dennis J. Reimer said it "was not  
a movie about saving Private  
Ryan, it was a movie about a gen-  
eration who sacrificed and saved  
our world." He pointed out that  
some of the actual heroes of the  
movie - World War II veterans -  
were in the ballroom of the Pen-  
tagon City Ritz-Carlton where the  
award was presented: Medal of  
Honor recipient, retired Col.  
Lewis Millet, was there in his  
Class A uniform. Millet fought in  
7 campaigns during WWII, earn-  
ing a battlefield commission and  
received the Medal of Honor in  
Korea. Spielberg said he felt "the  
gratitude of the armed services  
right through to my bones."



Received a letter from Bob and Ann Moncur of 98 Woodland Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854...This interesting e-mail came from a young man who wrote the following about his uncle's time in Korea. We never get tired of hearing this type of story - and we thought some others might want to also.

Thanks for writing Bob and Ann (It was very nice to meet both of you in Little Rock and thanks for your kind words.) The story follows:

The following letter is about my uncle David - who was selected to be in the 8th Army Ranger Company. Their mission - after Inchon Invasion - the Chinese were spotted and thought to be involved in the war. One of our lines had been broken and thought to be where the enemy was making a buildup. Their mission was to find where the enemy buildup was taking place. Directly ordered by G/3 "I'm selecting some volunteers for a very dangerous mission behind enemy lines" were the words that greeted these soldiers. Of the hundreds who heard those words few volunteered and even fewer were selected. My uncle was described as one of those intrepid individuals which were selected. David grew up in Wyoming on a ranch and was also a shepherd of sheep and was very good with a (gun) pistol or rifle. Was operator of the (bar) browning automatic rifle which could shoot 300 rounds per minute with a 20 round clip. The operator of this weapons job was to lay down ground fire so his fellow soldiers could advance. David was tied to the left flank during this battle that this letter talks about. Flanker positions are very important. THE FOLLOWING LETTER was recently received by Dave's parents from their son who is serving with the Rangers in Korea in it

Weapons Leader relates the terrifying and heroic account of the rescue of his company commander from a hill overrun by Chinese Red troops early this month. The complete account of the story appeared in most daily newspapers and was recently printed in the issue of the Budget December 5, 1950.

Dear Mom and All,

Well it has been quite a while since I've written to you all so I'd better get busy. The big push didn't last very long. The Chinese started one the same time we did. The Ranger Co. is about done for. We lost three quarters of the Co. in day and night. There are thirty five of us left counting 10 replacements we got the other day. It was Nov. 25 and the morning of the 26th that we lost them all. That was the hardest fight we ever had. I'll never forget it for the rest of my life. It took us all day to take a hill. We were about out of ammunition when we got to the top. We had six counter attacks and we got pushed off. There was about 700 Chinese soldiers on the last attack against 40 Rangers. They came up in a big wave right after they threw a bunch of mortars at us. Mortar blasts were landing all around my foxhole. Then when they came over the hill they were throwing hand grenades and shooting burp guns (automatic weapons). They came over so fast most of the guys never had time to get out of their foxholes. They shot our guys before they could get out. The company commander was shot all to hell. But I and two other guys got him out. I don't see how we did it. A war correspondent was talking to me afterwards and he said he was going to put my name in the paper at home. Watch and see if

he does. The three of us who got him down are suppose to get a silver star for it. I don't know if we will or not. I don't particularly Care that isn't going to help me get home. When we three left the hill, I had two M-1 rifles shooting at them. They were so close I couldn't miss and I sure was raising hell with them for awhile. When they were both empty I threw them away and ran like hell. We had to go like hell to keep ahead of them. It was pretty dark and they couldn't see us, but we were dragging the company commander and they could hear us. They threw hand grenades and shot at us all the way down. They came awfully close a couple of times. When we got to the bottom of the hill my field jacket was full of holes, especially the hood. At the bottom there were some tanks. We were sure glad to see them. We put the Co. Commander. on a tank and took off. We left a lot a dead Rangers up there but there wasn't anything we could do about it. We were lucky to get off ourselves. Three guys I took basic with at Ft. Ord. were left up there. Mom, my squad leader thinks that I am dead and he may write to you about it. But I am not up to now. He got hit with a hand grenade and is in the hospital now. He will probably write to you about it. If he does, I hope you get this letter before you get his. I hope the Chinese stop at the 38th parallel. If they do the war will be over and we can all come

home. If they don't there is going to be a third World War. The Chinese are pushing us back awful fast. We will be clear out of Korea in a few more days. Well Mom, I guess I better close and try and get a little sleep while I can. Write often and I will do the same—  
Dave

Dave got a silver star and was then used to train the new men who wanted to be Rangers. I wish I could say that I knew my Uncle

but only had the honor of meeting him a few times. The first time I met him (I was about 10) he taught me how to shoot a pistol. A story like this makes me thankful that I never had to go to war. I also have 4 more pages on this mission, battle and a 1 page account from the other Ranger (Billy G Walls) who was my Uncle's fighting partner who helped rescue their Commander Ralph Pucket. My Uncle made the newspapers again after he passed away, his commander held a ceremony in David's honor on Memorial Day a few years back. The article briefly describes their special mission and what he did. His Commander honored him with a plaque presented to his Mother (My Grandma) who later placed it on his tombstone. My Grandma Thelma is still alive. May the Lord's blessings always be with her. Watch a special called, KOREA - OUR TIME IN HELL.  
God Bless - Ron

The following is e-mail received from Lacy Barnett. Is there anyone out there able to help Lacy in his search for two men? Please contact him, if so.

**Subject: SEARCH FOR TWO MEN**

**Date:** Wed, 6 Jan 1999 18:22:59 -0500

**From:** "Greetings To The World" <abarnett@globalsite.net>

**To:** "Vonnie Mullins" <rudyvoni@lakeozark.net>

**CC:** <JMckeon827@aol.com>

Vonnie and Joe

Hope that you are not snowed in as badly as we are. Have 10 inches of snow and 3 inches of ice. Supposed to get more tonight.

I was a member of Medical Co, 19th with Rudy. I am in desperate need of locating two men. They were assigned to Company L, 19th Inf and were captured on 14 Sept 50 but both escaped and returned to military control on 27 Sept 50. They are:

1st Lt. Billy M. McCarver (or McCarver).

Sgt. Ollis E. Chapman

I have checked the phone directory on the internet and cannot find them. Are they members of the 24th Association? If so, would you be kind enough to provide me with their telephone numbers or addresses if you do not have a phone number.

Thanks so much.

Lacy C. Barnett  
abarnett@globalsite.net

**ODE TO THE HAS BEENS**

I'd rather be a COULD BE  
If I could not be an ARE  
For a COULD BE is a MAYBE  
With a chance of reaching far.

I'd rather be a HAS BEEN  
Than a MIGHT HAVE BEEN by far  
For a MIGHT HAVE BEEN has never been  
But a HAS BEEN was once an ARE.



Letter received from Earlwin Oklaire of P.O. Box 967, Eagle Butte, S.D. 57625 and he writes: "I am enclosing a newspaper clipping of a young Indian veteran. I am sure it would be of interest to the members of the outfit that he was in. I am enclosing some donations in memory of this veteran."

# A tale of two warriors



MITCHELL RED CLOUD

By David Melmer  
Today staff  
Northern Plains Bureau

BLACK RIVER FALLS, Wis. — Memories of the exploits of true warriors will never fade as long as veterans' organizations survive.

Veterans from the Ho-Chunk Nation in Wisconsin, an ancient warrior society, take pride in their service to their original homeland and adopted government, the United States of America. A visit with members of the Andrew Black Hawk American Legion Post No. 129 will reveal stories of glory, heartache and suffering of Ho-Chunk (Wisconsin Winnebago) warriors who patriotically served in every war fought by the United States.

Some of the stories are first hand, others are passed down from generation to generation about armed conflict like the Civil War, the War of 1812 and the wars between woodlands tribes.

Scattered throughout the stories are acts of bravery by Ho-Chunk men and women, but the bravery and honor of two special warriors are mentioned first. One is Mitchell Red Cloud. Cpl. Red Cloud fought bravely in two of America's wars, as a Marine in World War II from 1941 to 1945 and in the Army in 1950 at the start of the Korean Conflict.

It was for his supreme sacrifice in Korea that Cpl. Red Cloud received the highest honor any American warrior can achieve, the Congressional Medal of Honor. And at 26, he was the first Ho-Chunk and Wisconsin resident to receive the Medal of Honor.

Today a camp in Korea carries Corp. Red Cloud's name.

His fellow soldiers called him "Chief." No disrespect was meant, say members of his family and military friends.

On Nov. 5, 1950, Cpl. Red Cloud distinguished himself and the members of the Ho-Chunk Nation. On Hill 123 near Chonghyon, Korea, Cpl. Red Cloud was the first man to detect a massive attack by the Chinese Army, the

first such attack of the war. Cpl. Red Cloud took a position in front of the company, brandished an automatic weapon and held off the Chinese until his company had time to regroup and form defensive tactics.

"I was with Cpl. Mitchell Red Cloud the day he was killed in action in Korea. It was a morning he'll never remember ... and one I'll never forget," Kenneth L. Bradshaw, a member of Cpl. Red Cloud's company, said during a 1994 Korean War veteran's gathering in Wisconsin.

**"I was a morning he'll never remember ... and one I'll never forget," said Kenneth L. Bradshaw, a member of Cpl. Red Cloud's company.**

Nellie Red Cloud, Cpl. Red Cloud's mother, was presented with his posthumous award April 3, 1951, by Gen. Omar N. Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Medal of Honor citation said in part: "Corporal Red Cloud, Company E 19th Infantry Regiment, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy near Chonghyon, Korea on November 5, 1950."

According to the Congressional Record of the U.S. Senate and eye-witness accounts, Cpl. Red Cloud held off the Chinese onslaught while critically injured. Refusing assistance, he wrapped one arm around a tree and continued to hold off the Chinese offensive with his automatic rifle until he fell, fatally wounded.

"By his gallant disregard of his own personal safety and his immediate response to the initial enemy attack, Corporal Red Cloud delayed the enemy for a sufficient length of time to permit his company to reorganize and tighten up its already infiltrated defenses and saved the company from being completely overrun by the initial attack.

"His resumption of firing, at the sacrifice of his own life, prevented additional heavy casualties," Capt. Walter E. Conway said for the Congressional Record.

Cpl. Red Cloud was buried in Wisconsin near his childhood home of Black River Falls. The well-attended funeral included military, Christian and Ho-Chunk ceremonies.

The inscription on his grave marker reads: "The grandson of an Indian Chief and warriors, who goes into battle to kill or be killed, and if he should die, he shall live forever."

The Rev. Mitchell Whiterabbit is another Ho-Chunk warrior who distinguished himself in the military. The Rev. Mr. Whiterabbit, a minister of the United Church of Christ, was the first American Indian to become a chaplain in the U.S. military, serving with the Navy during World War II.

The Rev. Mr. Whiterabbit presided over the funeral of Cpl. Red Cloud. They were boyhood friends.

The Rev. Mr. Whiterabbit later became pastor of the Winnebago Indian Mission and served from 1947 until 1970. He also served as director of the St. Paul (Minn.) Indian Center and secretary and was chairman of the Winnebago Business Committee from 1963-1968, and chairman of the Department of Indian Works, Wisconsin Council of Churches 1964-1968.

Both men are highly revered in the Ho-Chunk community as courageous men who gave of themselves in different ways for their community. The Historic Preservation Department of the Ho-Chunk Nation has created permanent displays that tell the stories of the two men.

e-mail received from Randy Hutson of 4180 Sportsman Retreat, Onalaska, TX 77360-4300, Telephone Number 409-646-5066. "I was referred to you by JJ McKeon. I would like to hear from anyone who was in the 11th FA, BN, Hdq & Hdq Battery on December 7, 1941. I would also like to hear from any member of Division Hdq & Hdq Company who was in Division Chemical Warfare Section during 1942-43." His e-mail address is bozotro@livingston.net

e-mail received from Jerry Gapol "I'd like to submit my personal military adventures perhaps my buddies in Co B 1st BN 34th Inf Regt will recognize and contact me. I was a Squad Leader with the 3rd Platoon under SFC Driggers, a tough, grizzled, combat veteran Platoon Sergeant who I took after and somewhat became like him. I was too young to enlist in WWII but finally enlisted at 17 years old in latter part of WWII and assigned to the 86th Inf Div. Then my tour with the 24th Inf Div at Paju Ri, Korea in 1958. Had two combat tours in Vietnam, one with the hard fighting 9th Inf Div. Went on to retire in 1974. Anyone who remembers me at Paju-Ri, would love to hear from you and bring back our time. If I knew my buddies names I could attempt to find them in the Internet. Its been a long time ago and names seem to wander off. Use my e-mail for those with e-mail capabilities. My address: Geraldo Gapol, 1694 Hooheno St., Pearl City, HI 96782-1610. e-mail address: PVNA71C@prodigy.com

**I don't  
have time  
to be  
this busy!**



## Princeton Man Helps Search For Veterans

Above is a photo taken Nov. 6, 1945, of T5 H. A. Delameter, his wife Lenora and son Ellis at the age of 23 months. H. A. served 30 months in the South Pacific with Company A 34th Infantry Div. 24. See story at right.

## Twenty Fourth Infantry Division Searches For Past Members

H. A. Delameter brought the photo at left in to THE MIRROR, along with a letter asking for assistance helping locate veterans who ever served in the 24th Infantry Division. An association which informs former members of the 24th of annual reunions and other activities. The association for former members of the 24th Infantry address is:

Yvonne Mullins, Editor.

31150 See View Dr., Rocky  
Mount, MO 65072-2903

H. A. served 30 months in the South Pacific with Company A 34 Infantry 24th Division. He took part in the invasion of Hollandia, New Guinea, Biak Island, Layte, Bataan, Peniasula, Corregidor and Mendano. H. A. had just been discharged on Nov. 5, 1945, in Camp Beal, CA, when the photo was taken a day later. He had never seen his son Ellis who was born while H. A. was overseas.

Leonard Hashman, Mercer, also served with H. A. in Company A 34 Infantry 24 Division.

Mr. Tracy L. Derks  
5618 Spring Lodge  
Kingwood, TX 77345  
(281) 360-6344

October 7, 1998

Editor  
24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Veterans Association Newsletter

Dear Editor:

I'm writing a book about the campaign on Leyte during World War II. My book will center on the recollections of veterans who fought those battles. The 24<sup>th</sup>'s heroic actions on Leyte, from Red Beach to Carigara to Kilay, Corkscrew and Breakneck Ridges ensure that they must be a major source for eyewitness accounts of the combat on Leyte. I hope this letter finds its way to the newsletter and that it is published there.

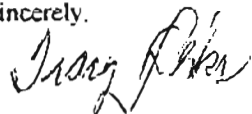
Too often in histories of World War Two the fighting on Leyte is framed in the context of MacArthur's personal glory in returning to the Philippines, or as a backdrop to the naval Battle of Leyte Gulf, or even as a prelude to the assault on Luzon. Yet, the Japanese Army High Command viewed the Battle for Leyte as their decisive battle, where the Americans would have to be stopped if the war was to be won by Japan. The Japanese committed the elite of General Yamashita's Philippine force to fighting there. For the Japanese the gamble was all on Leyte.

I have decided to write a mainstream account of the battle. As the authors of From Pearl Harbor to V-J Day write in their book, "...the campaign was not finished until early May (1945)" yet "the campaign on Leyte had been disappointingly long and costly for the Americans." Despite the toil and blood of units like the 24<sup>th</sup>, the full extent of the fighting for Leyte seems mired in the thoughts of historians as a mere prelude to Luzon, unimportant of itself.

The deeds of the 24<sup>th</sup> and the units that fought alongside them, deserve better than to remain the opening chapters on a book about retaking the Philippines -- they deserve their own book. With your help I intend to tell this story, not to provide *bona fides* to your struggles -- your actions speak for themselves -- but so that a wide audience can appreciate those actions, and come to respect the men of the 24<sup>th</sup> as I do.

If any members of the 24<sup>th</sup> would like to contact me they can do so in the following methods; mail your information, or call me (I will be glad to call you on my dime and record your recollections.) I also have an e-mail address; [tracy\\_derks@administaff.com](mailto:tracy_derks@administaff.com)

Sincerely,



Mr. Tracy Derks  
5026 Maple Brook Ln.  
Kingwood, TX 77345-1020

## BAPTISM TO COMBAT

### The 3rd Battalion 29th Infantry at Hadong Pass, July 1950.

By  
James F. Hill

The first day of July 1950 dawned bright and clear on the island of Okinawa. Only a few years before American forces had, at a great sacrifice, taken the island in bitter fighting from the Imperial Japanese forces during the final stages of World War II. Now the island had reverted back to its pre-war way of life as an agricultural economy and was still a part of the "spoils of war" and had not been returned to Japan.

For the men of the 29th Infantry Regiment stationed on the island there was no hint that in a very short time the way of life they knew would be no more and the peaceful routine of overseas occupation would suddenly change into a horrible fight for survival in a country that most of the young troops stationed there had ever heard its name much less knew its location.

On 25 June 1950 when the North Korean Army crossed the 38th parallel and began their invasion of South Korea the only forces to combat them was the small US trained Army of South Korea and a small contingent of US military advisors. The nearest US combat troops available were the forces of the 24th Infantry Division stationed across the Korea Strait on the Japanese island of Kyushu.

When the United States realized that the South Korean forces could not stem the influx of the North Korean army, units of the 24th Division were sent from Japan to Korea to stop the invasion. History has only too well recorded the events involving the 24th Division but the events involving the 29th Regiment are not as well known.

Once the 24th Division was committed to Korea the Far East Command (FEC) in Tokyo realized that more US troops were required to combat the NK forces. The 29th was

selected because of its proximity to Korea and its manpower availability. Although FEC had promised the Commander of the 29th that the regiment would have six weeks training before deploying, the movement orders were received on 15 July. Since the 29th, like all the US Occupation Forces in the Far East was understrength, the regiment was reorganized in two battalions; the 1st Bn. commanded by Lt. Col. Wesley C. Wilson and the 3rd Bn. by Lt. Col. Harold W. Mott. The regimental headquarters was directed to remain in Okinawa to create a new regiment to replace the troops of the 29th.

The original deployment orders were for the 29th to go to Japan and train and then move on to Korea. However, on 20 July the regiment found out that they would go directly to Pusan and not land in Japan as scheduled. In fact, on the same day a US troop ship arrived in Okinawa with over 400 recruits directly out of basic training in the United States. The recruits were off-loaded at the port of Naha, driven to the regimental area, issued arms and field gear, assigned to the 1st and 3rd Battalions and sent back to the port where they were on-loaded on two other transports and sailed for Pusan on 21 July. It is to be noted that the men did not have any training other than their basic training and many had never fired the crew served weapons that were issued. Although Eighth Army had promised that the regiment would have at least three days in Pusan to get organized, upon landing on 24 July, Eighth Army issued orders for the regiment to proceed to Chinju and to be attached to the 19th Regiment of the 24th Division.

On the 25th of July the

3rd Battalion of the 29th received orders from the 19th to proceed to the village of Hadong, about 35 miles southwest of Chinju. Intelligence had reported over 500 NK troops were moving toward Hadong and the 19th CO, Colonel Ned Moore, directed the 29th to block the enemy advance. In Chinju was Major General Chae By-ong Duk, former Korean Army Chief of Staff, who had been relieved from his position by the President of Korea after the fall of Seoul to the North Korean forces. Colonel Moore agreed for General Chae to accompany the 29th and to serve as a guide since he was familiar with the area and did not have any official duties with the South Korean Army at the time.

Colonel Mott, commanding the 3rd Battalion, ordered the unit to move during the night of the 25th so as to arrive in Hadong before dawn of the 26th. Leaving around midnight and being guided by General Chae the unit took a round about way because the direct route had an impassable ford due to recent monsoon type rains. Much delay was caused by the narrow road and the frequent miring of vehicles in the rice paddies that were on both sides of the road. After daylight, and still not to Hadong, the battalion met a Korean vehicle with numerous wounded South Koreans. The survivors told Colonel Mott that they were all of what was left of the local militia and that the North Koreans were already in Hadong and had been identified as the 6th North Korean Division. Based on this information, Colonel Mott halted the battalion and set up proper security. In that the battalion did not have radio communications with the 19th Regiment he sent Major Tony Raibi, Executive Officer of the 3rd Bn. back by jeep to inform Colonel Moore of the situation. Mott requested that the battalion be allowed

## Hadong Pass 2

to prepare a defensive position west of Chinju to be able to cover the Chinju-Hadong road. Colonel Moore directed that the battalion continue on with its initial order to seize Hadong. Based on Moore's order Mott continued on towards Hadong and by dusk was at the village of Hoengch'on, three miles from Hadong. During the night an Air Force Tactical Control party joined the battalion to direct the next day's air strike on Hadong but upon trying to establish communications back to Chinju discovered that their radio was inoperative.

On the morning of 27 July the battalion moved out towards Hadong led by Company L, commanded by World War II combat veteran Captain George F. Sharra, and a platoon of the Heavy Weapons Company. Just before reaching the pass going into Hadong, L Company encountered a small NK patrol coming through the pass. After firing two 75mm recoilless rounds at the enemy, Sharra ordered L Company to secure the pass and take up positions on each side.

The road through the pass was a typical, narrow, one lane Korean road. It had numerous sharp turns up to the pass and then went down hill towards Hadong a mile plus away. To the right of the pass a higher peak overlooked the road and to the left the terrain dropped off to rice paddies along the Sumjin River.

After taking up positions along the pass the 3rd Battalion command group came forward to include General Chae and some other Korean officers. While looking over the road coming from Hadong a column of NK soldiers

were observed marching down the road, and from all indications, were unaware that the Americans had secured the pass. When they were in closer range it was determined that they were a company of North Koreans. General Chae shouted to them in Korean asking them their identity. The unit immediately hit the ditches on either side of the road and Captain Sharra directed his 30 cal machine guns to open fire. In quick response the North Koreans answered with their machine guns and mortars on the pass. From the higher ground on the right the Americans also received small arms fire. The initial burst of the enemy fire immediately killed General Chae and also wounded Major Raibl. Colonel Mott and some of his staff were also wounded. The mortars also destroyed several of the battalion's vehicles, including the Air Force radio jeep. During the fire fight US planes flew over the area but did not fire since they did not have any radio contact with the forward controller. Major Raibl was wounded again during the early stages and Colonel Mott shortly after broke his foot when a ammunition container dropped on him. For a period of time he was out of contact with his fighting units.

On the north (right) side of the pass, Lt. J. Morrissey and his 1st Platoon engaged in a fierce fire fight with the enemy that were dug in on the higher ground above them. However, even after taking heavy casualties from close in fighting, the 1st Platoon held their position. On the south (left) side of the

pass Captain Sharra and the 2nd Platoon gave fire support to the 1st Platoon across the road. The young soldiers, who many only a few weeks before had just completed basic training, held their positions and took a heavy toll on the North Koreans.

During the first stages of the fight, Captain Robert M. Flynn, the 3rd Bn. S-3, went back to hurry up the supporting units. He ordered Company K, commanded by Captain Joseph K. Donahue, to attack up the hill toward the enemy and then continued on down the road. Captain Donahue was killed later on in the day. Flynn came upon Lt. Alexander G. Makarounis of I Company and ordered him to move between L and K Companies through the rice paddies on the left hand side of the road. MSgt James A. Applegate led the lead platoon behind the small paddy dikes for protection. Shortly after noon Lt. Ernest Philips of L Company found Capt. Sharra and informed him that he had talked to Colonel Mott. Sharra sent Philips back to bring Mott forward. Mott was carried forward and when briefed on the combat conditions told Sharra to take over command of the battalion and to retire from the area of the pass. Sharra ordered his three platoons to withdraw to the foot of the pass. The runner he sent to Lt. J. Morrissey and the 1st Platoon never reached the platoon position. The rest of L Company, after coming down the hill, were loaded on trucks and headed back to Chinju.

On the way back to Chinju the group met a section of B Battery, 13th Field, commanded by Lt. Ellsworth (Dutch) Nelsen.



## Hadong Pass 3

As recalled by Nelsen the battery tried to turn around on the narrow road by unhooking the guns from their tow and turning them around by hand. The battery was directed to return to Chinju having to abandon one 105 howitzer and four 2 1/2 ton trucks that had become mired in the rice patties. (Dutch served as the President of the 24th Infantry Association for the 1996-97 term.) Another Association member who was there is Earl Lee, C/19th, who now lives in Tacoma, Washington. In a letter to the author Lee recalls going towards Hadong with a company from the 19th Infantry and coming in contact with the 3rd Battalion's kitchen trains heading back to Chinju. Lee also remembers seeing the many casualties and the "mass of confusion" that was present there. Colonel Mott was finally able to contact Capt. Flynn by radio and ordered all units still in or around the pass to withdraw. Flynn was able to call out to Lt. Morrissey and tell him to take his unit and retire back down the hill. Morrissey had only 12 of his platoon left and he and another soldier were wounded. The Air Force controller had fought as a rifleman all day but when the men retreated he was either dead or missing. Captain Mitchell, the battalion S-2, had also fought all day as an infantryman but lived to fight another day.

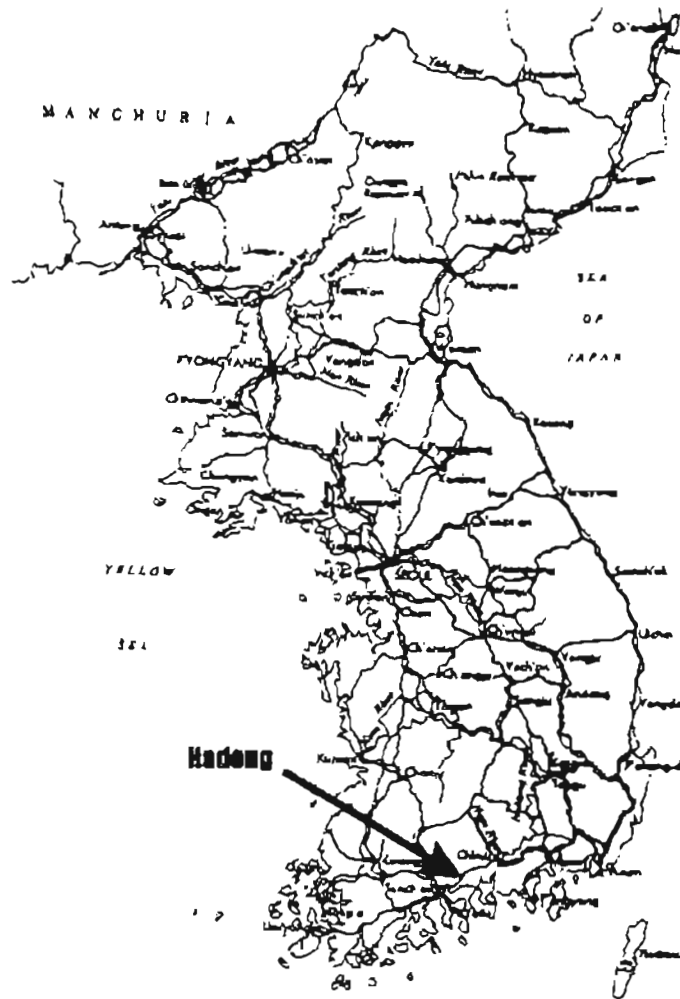
After what was left of L Company had been loaded on trucks and sent towards Chinju, Flynn observed much of I Company still in the rice paddies on the left of the road. He also saw at least a battalion of North Koreans coming down the hill behind a mortar barrage and machine gun fire that was preceding them. I

Company men had to cross a 20 foot stream to escape and many drowned trying to cross. Others were killed by the enemy fire. Flynn and a group of other Americans were able to get away and while they rested about a mile behind the pass they again came under enemy fire. Flynn and about ten others walked all night on the 25th and on the morning of the 26th were able to reach the forward lines of the 19th Infantry. Others who escaped went South to the coast where they found a small fishing vessel that took them out to sea to a Korean Naval vessel which returned them to Pusan. MSgt Applegate of I Company led almost a hundred men to safety this way.

First reports of the Hadong fight were encouraging. Later as the survivors returned to the 19th lines, the reports changed to a gloomy picture. Major Ed Logan, S-3 of the 19th, in his report to division headquarters stated "No estimate on total number of casualties. Over 100 WIA now in aid station." The next day a head count of the 3rd Bn, 29th Infantry showed only 354 officers and men present for duty with some of them being walking wounded. A final account based on straggler reports listed 2 killed, 52 wounded and 349 missing. A North Korean POW later said that at Hadong they took over 100 American prisoners. In September of 1950 when American forces broke out of the Pusan Perimeter and went back through Hadong a search revealed over 313 American bodies, mostly along the river and in the rice paddies.

The officer loss was great. It included the battalion Executive Officer, the S-1, the S-2 and the Asst. S-3. The I, K and M Company Commanders were killed or missing, Capt. Donahue (Company K) and Capt. Hugh P. Milleson (Company M) were killed with the I Company Commander reported missing. Lt Makarounis (Company I) was captured but later escaped while a POW in North Korea. Most of the battalion vehicles, crew served weapons and communication gear was lost as well as most individual soldiers lost all their weapons and equipment trying to return to the American lines.

On 28 July 1950 the remaining men of the 3rd Battalion, 29th Infantry were reorganized into K and L Companies. On 29 July K Company was attached to the 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry at Chinju and L Company to the 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry near Chinju. The 29th remained attached to the 19th Infantry until 2 August 1950. General Order Nr. 134, Hqrs., 25th Infantry Division, dated 10 September 1950 and effective 5 September to the 25th Division as the 3rd Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division and the 1st Battalion became the 3rd Battalion, 35th Infantry, also in the 25th Infantry Division, under authority of the same order. The battalion colors of the 1st and 3rd Battalions were returned to Okinawa on 6 September 1950. Thus ends the brave tale of the valiant struggle of the young men of the 3rd Battalion, 29th Infantry and their short time in the annals of the history of the 24th Victory Division.



The Author of this article, James F. Hill, Roswell, Georgia, is a former member of the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division and was at Chinju during the time of the actions of the 3rd Battalion, 29th Infantry at Hadong Pass.

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Korea, The First War We Lost, Bevin Alexander, Hippocrene Books, New York, 1986.

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The Forgotten War, Clay Blair, Doubleday Publishers, New York, 1987.

Letter to Author, Earl Lee, Tacoma, Washington, 31 January, 1997.

Numerous conversations with Ellsworth "Dutch" Nelsen, Colorado Springs, Colorado concerning his involvement at Hadong Pass.

Telephone conversation with CSM Frank C. Plass, US Army Retired, Ellerslie, Georgia, President of the 29th Infantry Regimental Association, concerning his involvement at Hadong Pass.

Letter, Albert McAdoo, Acton, Massachusetts, 5 June 1992 giving a brief history of the 29th Regiment at Hadong Pass.

Article, The Hadong Massacre, Harold Gamble, 29th Infantry Regimental Association Newsletter, date unknown.

Article, Korean War, 1st and 3rd Battalions, 1950, author unknown, 29th Infantry Regimental Association Newsletter, December 1995.

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## TAPS



Received e-mail on the death of two of our members:

Billy M. McCarthy, HQ CO 1st BN 21st Inf Regt 1945-61. Billy died December 9, 1998. He was a Task Force Smith Member. His wife Terry survives. 2881 North Star RD., Columbus OH 43221.

Audrey (Sam) Revlett Hvy Mortar CO 1950-51 died of a heart attack on December 10, 1998. He was a Task Force Smith Member. His wife, Shirley survives. 880 Main St., Calhoun, KY 42327.

Received a telephone call from George Langdale of 125 Orchid Knob, Athens GA 30605 in regard to the death of Archybill Sidney Langdale on November 29, 1998. He was from Walterboro-Charleston SC and served in the Pacific with the 19th Inf Regt.

Received word from Alva Snider informing us of the death of a member, James Russell Lewis. He died November 1, 1998. Alva writes, "I have had the pleasure of working with Jim the past few years in several veterans organizations. We were on the Fountain County Veterans monument council and Fountain County Veterans Council, which is an organization made up of all the V.F.W. and American Legions organizations in the County. We had the job of getting up the money to put up our veterans monument at the County Court House. He will be missed by everyone in the County. (Thank you for sending this information to us, Alva.) Samuel

McClure Goodwin, Brigadier General, U.S. Army, Retired 1916 - 1998. After a courageous last battle with bone marrow cancer, Sam died in his sleep on the night of 30 September - 1 October at his beloved home at the Crossed Sabers Ranch, Cerrillos, New Mexico. He was surrounded by his devoted family. In accordance with his personal desires Sam has been cremated and his ashes strewn here at the ranch by his wife and sons. A ceremony of remembrance will be held here for his family and friends at a later date. In lieu of flowers Sam asked those who wished, contribute to the Samuel McClure Goodwin Scholarship at the New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell, New Mexico 88201.

e-mail from Virginia Raitz: "Sorry to report the death of my husband, Gordon Raitz on October 5, 1998 at the age of 82 years. Gordon served his country in the US Army in the South Pacific WWII from 1942 to 1946. He was discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was in the HQ CO 1st BN 19th Inf., 24th Inf Div. Survived by wife Virginia of 51 years, by six children, Keith & Betty, Roger, Scott & Sally Yvonne Schroder and Douglas and Daphne. May his memory remain in our hearts."

Received word from Glenn Behrends of the passing of a friend, Bernard "Bud" Hauptman. Bud was a member of 24th Signal CO 1942 to 1945. He is survived by wife, June of 603 Union ST., Emmetsburg, IA

50536. Bud died July 3, 1998.

Received notice from Renita Schepeler of 1116 S. Earling Ave., Miles City, MT 59301 of the passing of her father, Chester C. Anderson of 2300 Wilson St., #510, Miles City MT 59301-5078 on February 16, 1998.

Received word from Duke D. Cranford of 518 Christina St., Junction City KS 66441 of the passing of a friend, John Eadie: EADIE - John, 79, of Sunrise, FL passed away on Saturday, August 1, 1998. Formerly of West Islip, NY. He is survived by his devoted wife of 50 years, Toyoko; his 4 children, Sayuri Hanlon, Grace Michel, John Eadie, JR., and Dorothy DeDario; 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. John worked for TWA for 26 years. An army veteran of WWII and the Korean War, also a member of the Pearl Harbor's Survivors Association. Memorial service held August 4.

e-mail from Joe O'Connell: "I have just learned from the daughter of Calvin Meeks that he passed away on December 22, 1997 in Gillet AR. He died from a combination of lung and liver cancer. Sgt Meeks and I served together in H Company, 19th Infantry in Korea and Japan in 1951 and 1952. I don't believe he belonged to the Association. His daughter, Patty Allison of 6320 Thibault RD., Little Rock, AR 72206 says she would be honored to hear from anyone who served with him.



## TAPS (Continued)

Another non-member, Bernard W. Paazig of 18613 Sycamore Road, Mount Vernon 43050 passed away July 31, 1998. He served with the U.S. Army 24th Infantry Division in Korea. He is survived by his wife Loretta Jean (Holland) Paazig, whom he married October 17, 1953.

Received word from Arnold and Velma Riddle of 10 Barbara Circle, Scott Depot, WV 25560 of the passing of a friend, Thomas M. Martin. Tommy, age 71, of Buffalo died Thursday, December 3, 1998, in St. Mary's Hospital, Huntington, after a short illness. His wife, Elizabeth Harris Martin survives.

Received word from Wilbur L. Holland, 3410 Sacramento, St. Joseph, MO 64507: "I contacted Melvin Shows widow. He died in 1997 from cancer. His widow lives in Yorktown, TX.

Wilbur also sent the following obituary of George E. Horn JR.:

### **B2 ST. JOSEPH (MO.) NEWS-PRESS**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1998**

#### **George E. Horn Jr. 1931 - 1998**

CEDARBURG, Wis. — George E. Horn Jr., 67, Cedarburg, formerly of St. Joseph, died Saturday, Dec. 19, 1998, at a hospital in Rochester, Minn.

Mr. Horn had been a sales and marketing executive with the brewing industry for 35 years until retiring.

Born in Lexington, Mo., on April 21, 1931, he had lived in St. Joseph during his youth and in Cedarburg for 35 years. He was a graduate of the University of Missouri, School of Journalism, at Columbia.



Mr. Horn

Mr. Horn was a member of the Methodist faith; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 14000, Kansas City; American Legion, Post No. 0812, Milwaukee; and Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. During the Korean War, he served in the Army. Mr. Horn also was a member of the 24th Infantry Division Association and 2nd Indian Head Division Association.

On June 12, 1963, he married Harriett L. Holbert in Lee's Summit, Mo. She survives of the home.

Mr. Horn was preceded in death by his father, George E. Sr.

**Additional survivors:** a daughter, Leslie Berning, Lenexa, Kan.; his mother, Ruby M. Horn, St. Joseph; a sister, Norma Word, Freeport, Ill.; and two grandchildren.

**Service:** 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Meierhoffer-Fleeman Funeral Home, St. Joseph. **Burial:** Memorial Park Cemetery, St. Joseph. **Family visitation:** 7 to 8:30 tonight and noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, at the funeral home. **Memorials** may be made to the Mayo Foundation, 200 1st Street S.W., Rochester, MN 55901.

Received e-mail from Joe McKeon informing me of the death of one of our members, MG Elmer Pendleton, long time President of NAUS. They will be sending a copy of the obituary.

Received a letter from member Paul Cain of 802 C Constitution DR., Homestead, FL 33034 informing us of the death of Jack G. Young, CO I 34th Inf Regt WWII. Paul wrote, "Jack joined us on invasion of Luzon, Subic Bay, Corregidor and was with us when the war ended on Mindanao. Jack passed away from a severe heart attack on 13 August 1998." The picture below is of Jack with Paul when Jack visited him in Florida, December 1997.



Jack G. Young and Paul Cain  
taken in Florida in December 1997.



## TAPS (continued)



Received notice from William L. Smith of Goose Creek, S.C. about the death of a friend, Dan Weber who served in Co E 19th Inf Regt 24th Div. He died on July 24, 1998 in Quincy, WA and is survived by his wife Jeanne of the home, 7824 Road TN W, Quincy, WA 98878-9617.

Received word from Ernest B. Partida of Florence, CO of the death of Leonard Warren Willis Sr. Mr. Willis died on December 18, 1998 in Colfax, WA. Leonard was a decorated veteran of the Korean War, he was awarded the silver star in 1951. He was a life member of NRA. Mr. Willis was chief of police from 1966 to 1967. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Willis of Stiptoe, WA.,; the mother of his children, Marge Thomas Willis of Florence; sons Lin (Cindy) Willis of Des Moines, IA, Larry (Kim) Willis of Elko, NV and a daughter, Tiane Willis Bramwell of Florence. Also surviving are four grandchildren and one great-grandson. Services with military honors were held in Stiptoe, on December 23rd.

E-mail received from Phyllis and Phil Burk of the death of Isaac Canales. Mr. Canales died of a heart attack on January 1, 1999.

E-mail received from Jim Fine: "Dan O'Connor drove up to Gibsonton FL to check the report that John L. "Doc" Shields had died. A neighbor lady told him John had died of a heart attack on the 20th of November. He wasn't found until the next day. The date previously reported was apparently the day the mailman returned the

"Love Notes" newsletter to Hugh Brown. The following is a short acknowledgment that I included in a local Purple Heart newsletter with minor corrections to show his true date of death.

To my knowledge he was never wounded, I have no idea as to how he escaped. He was perhaps not wounded in the body perhaps only in the heart or mind. He was an infantryman when I served with him but we called him "Doc" and continued to do so after Korea. The story true or not was that he had been blackballed out of quartermaster and that was how he came to be in a line infantry outfit. In any case we found out he had been a medic in WWII, got him a medic's kit and he became John L. "Doc" Shields, line infantry medic. Not an official MOS. John Shields January Love Company newsletter came back marked Deceased and a date 12/18 handwritten on it. We have since found out he died of a heart attack November 20, 1998. Hugh Brown cut the front of the envelope off and sent it on to me. I've always felt a special kinship with John. At Kurnchon the slugs sounded like an angry swarm of hornets, I had raised up a little too high and took a nicking slug through the helmet. I thought it had taken the top of my head off and yelled "Medic!" John started back to me. I rolled over on my back and instinctively grabbed at the top of my head. Feeling no hole I looked at my hands, no blood. I yelled again "Never mind!" John never let me forget that the rest of the time I was in Korea. He used to

tell the story and say "I wondered what the hell are those guys doing...playing games at a time like this."

John set the hill on fire when we were leapfrogging out of North Korea after the Chinese intervention. The fire burned my down sleeping bag and I could only get two old WWII blanket bags to replace it. I never let John forget that. I almost froze to death before I finally found a G.I. down replacement in a South Korean house we were staying in.

John was in the group pinned down on "Sleeping Bag Hill" by the machine gun when I stumbled around the corner and really got in the way of a slug. John and another medic in the group behind the rock ledge had immediately stood up and came to me. John tried to cut my clothes off with scissors but I had on too many. They had to undress my upper body to get at my wounds. John and the other medic had a great part in saving my life that cold February 6th '51 and there's no way you cannot feel close to an individual after that. I got to see John at the 1988 Love Company reunion in Orlando FL. I called John before Love Company's Myrtle Beach SC reunion in 1998 but he said he was not able to get out much. I'd have liked to see and talk to him one more time. I salute you John Shields...until we meet again. Jim Fine

Submitted by:

Johnny Rodriguez

Paul G. Jauregui  
CO H 19th Inf  
24th Division

Paul took his basic training at Camp Fannin, Texas. That is where I first met him. Although I had known of him, I had never met him until Camp Fannin. His family sent me his address.

When I arrived in his area to visit him, I heard some music. The rest was easy, I followed the music and there was Paul playing the guitar and singing. I did not see Paul again until after the war.

Shortly after the war, I formed a baseball team in Wichita, Kansas. We played a game against Wellington, Kansas. Paul pitched against us. I hit for a home run in that game. That turned out to be the only Home Run that I ever hit in my six year Baseball Career. Sometimes when I would visit him, I would ask him if he let me hit on purpose. He would not answer. He would just grin about it. I feel certain that he let me hit a fat one.

Paul never studied music, but he had a natural talent for it. He could listen to a tune one time and play it like he had played it for years. He played with different groups in and around Wellington, all over Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma. He loved to play all types of music, but had a special place in his heart for Country Western Music. As sure as there is a Heaven, I'm sure he looks down here and says with a smile, "Hey! I'm still playing Music". Paul is survived by his wife Inossensia. Sons: Rosalio, Bernie, Mario. Daughters: Paulette Umscheid and Marina Brown.

PAUL G. JAUREGUI





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11	24th Sig BN Unit Crest		\$5.00
12	19th Inf Crest	Current Issue \$10 Pr	\$5.00
13	21st Inf Crest	Current Issue \$10 Pr	\$5.00
14	34th Inf Crest	Current Issue \$10 Pr	\$5.00
15	11th FA Crest	\$10 Pr	\$5.00
16	13th FA Crest	\$10 Pr	\$5.00
17	19th Pocket Patch(Color)		\$5.00
18	21st Pocket Patch(Color)		\$5.00
19	34th Pocket Patch(Color)		\$5.00
20	11th FA Pocket Patch(Color)		\$5.00
21	13th FA Pocket Patch(Color)		\$5.00
22	24 I.D. Lapel Pin		\$5.00
23	21st Inf Lapel Pin		\$5.00
24	34th Inf Lapel Pin		\$5.00
25	CIB(1stAward)1-1346(Mini)	Mini DRESS MESS	\$5.00
26	CIB(2ndAward)1-1347(Mini)	Mini DRESS MESS	\$6.50
27	CIB Lapel Pin		\$5.00
28	19th Cap Dark Blue/Crest		\$10.00
29	21st Cap White/Embroid/Crest		\$12.00
30	21st Cap Dark Blue/Embroidered	Crest	\$12.00
31	34th Cap Dark Blue w/Crest		\$10.00
32	24 IDA Cap DarkBlue w/Patch	On front, Poplin Twill	\$10.00
33	24 IDA White Caps		\$10.00
34	24 IDA Red Caps		\$10.00
35	24 IDA Green Caps (Patch)		\$10.00
36	24th Inf Div White Mesh/Cap		\$10.00
37	3rd Engr Crest		\$5.00
38	14th Engr Crest		\$5.00
39	19th Inf Bracelet(Ladies)		\$10.00
40	19th Inf Lapel Pin		\$5.00
41	19th Necklace(Ladies)		\$5.00
42	24th Div. License Plate		\$4.00
43	Desert Storm Cap - Black		\$12.00
44	Desert Storm Hat Pin		\$3.00
45	Korean Veteran's Cap	Black w/CIB	\$12.00
46	Bumper Sticker	W/TL and WWII	\$3.00
47	Bumper Sticker	W/TL and Korea	\$3.00

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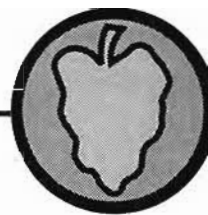
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