

24th Infantry Division Association
FIRST TO FIGHT



Taro Leaf

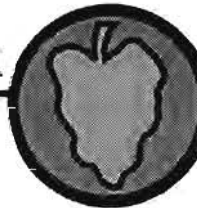
VOL. 53 No. 3

Reactivation of the 24th Infantry Division, June 5, 1999, Fort Riley, KS

AUGUST 1999



24th Infantry Division Association



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1999 Reunion

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

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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 and Editor and as published in the Taro Leaf.

Deadline to the Editor

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24TH INFANTRY DIVISION
(There is no place like home)
FORT RILEY, KANSAS



By Yvonne Mullins, Editor of the 'Taro Leaf'
24th Infantry Division Association

The crowds gather. The anticipation and excitement fill the air. The cannons boom, the 17 gun salute and the charge of the cavalry mark the activation of the 24th Infantry Division Saturday, June 5, 1999 at Fort Riley's Cavalry Parade Field.

The pride of those having served in the 24th ID is evident by the wearing of the Taro Leaf on hats, shirts and medallions. Former Commanders of the 24th ID, Lieutenant General Donald E. Rosenblum, Lieutenant General James B. Vaught, Lieutenant General Joseph E. DeFrancisco and General Barry R. McCaffrey were among those in attendance. General McCaffrey was the last war-time commander of the 24th Infantry Division, the Desert Storm/Desert Shield operations in Southwest Asia.

The US Army Band played the National Anthem and the pride and joy of the activation of the 24th Infantry Division swelled in the hearts of those attending. This is a magnificent day. The day when the colors of the 'Victory Division', the 'First to Fight' are raised to fly once again.

Lieutenant General Joseph E. DeFrancisco cased the colors at Fort Stewart, GA when the 24th Infantry Division was deactivated in April 1996 and was on hand to hold the staff as the colors of the 24th ID were uncased during the activation ceremony at Fort Riley.

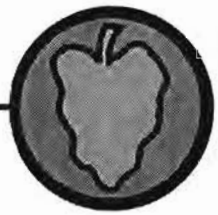
Remarks were made during the ceremony by General Thomas A. Schwartz Commanding General, United States Army Forces Command, Lieutenant General George A. Fisher, Jr. Commanding General, 1st United States Army, Major General Freddy E. McFarren Commanding General, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley and General Barry R. McCaffrey, Director, Office of the National Drug Control Policy. General McCaffrey praised the 24th IDA's representation and support of the activation ceremony.

The veterans are proud of seeing the continuation of the 'Victory Division' Headquarters, Fort Riley and the 30th Separate Infantry Brigade at Clinton, NC, 218th Separate Infantry Brigade at Columbia SC, and the 48th Separate Infantry Brigade in Macon, GA. The Brigades passed in review and the band played the 24th Infantry Division Song and the Army Song. The 24th Infantry Division is at home at Fort Riley for the second time. The first time was 1968 to 1970.

Harold (Corky) Peters, President of the 24th Infantry Division Association, and his wife, Diane attended the activation ceremony along with approximately 50 members of the association. Mr. Peters said, "coming in the gate at Fort Riley, seeing the 'Taro Leaf' and knowing the colors of our great 'Victory Division' have a home makes me immensely proud."

Mr. Peters announced the Commanding General, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, Major General Freddy E. McFarren will be the speaker at the Memorial Service at the 24th Infantry Division Association Reunion in Tulsa, OK September 25, 1999. The Color Guard from Fort Riley will be posting the colors at this Memorial Service.

24th Infantry Division Association



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Date: June 17, 1999

To: Members of 24th Division Association

From: Harold (Corky) Peters, President

It seems as if we just left Little Rock Reunion, and here we are on our way to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for our 1999 Reunion. This has been a very busy year for our association. There is a new Secretary-Treasurer, Chaplain, and a Reunion Coordinator. We have over 100 new members, some from WWII, Germany, and Desert Storm Duty.

Our 24th Division has now been reactivated on June 5, 1999, at Fort Riley, Kansas. A good number from the Association attended the ceremony. I had requested that the Association have a booth at the ceremony, and the Division granted it. Give Vonnie Mullins, Phil Hostetter, and Harry and Frances Wittman a big pat on the back, for they manned that booth and handed out Taro Leaf magazines. In addition, Harry and Frances sold hats and neckties and patches from the Quartermaster and Phil was ready with his camera and captured many photos of the event for our magazine. It is sure great to have people who pitch in to help when they're at a function such as this, instead of just walking around looking important!

The Division Commander, Major General Freddy E. McFarren, has agreed to be our speaker at the memorial dinner on September 25, 1999. The Division will also furnish the color guard.

I have been in contact with the Three Separate Brigade Headquarters. Our intention is to meet and set up chapters at each headquarters for our association.

I have been your president for almost a year and have enjoyed every minute of it. I have responded to many phone calls, letters, and requests; and I've tried to satisfy all of them.

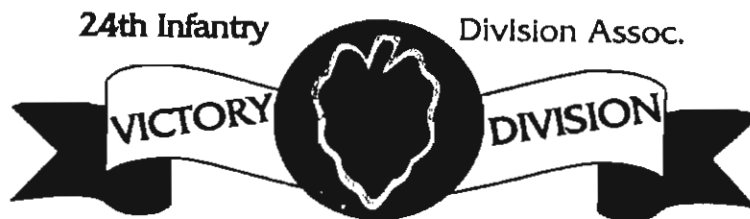
This year at our business meeting on Saturday, September 25, we will take up some very important business. We will be voting on the changes in our constitution and by-laws. We have to thank Wally Kuhner for bringing them up to date. Also, we will vote on one of my favorite projects: **A Scholarship Program**. This will help our members, relatives, and our new members from the Active Division. Two members have called and offered \$500 each to start this fund; they are Warren Avery and Robert Smith. In our Executive meeting we will be discussing new ways of handling our reunions. I have been working with my wife Dianna and Will and Carla Schumaker on updating our new-member records. If it has taken a little longer to get your new membership card, talk to me about it.

I have been informed that Joe Hofrichter will have to give up the Chairmanship of our Reunion in the Year 2000 in Covington, KY. Therefore, I will be looking for a new Chairman.

This has been a busy year, and I am just beginning to know all the duties of The Presidents' position, and the year is up! I will be seeking another year as your President.

1999 Reunion

22-26 September 1999
Adams Mark Hotel
100 East Second Street
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Fax. 918-560-2232



FIRST TO FIGHT

TARO LEAF NOTES

BY

JIM HILL

19th Infantry

I was most happy to hear the news that our great division is to be reactivated later on this year. Although the combat units of the division will be National Guard Brigades from Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina the proud Victory banners of the 24th Infantry will again wave high at Fort Riley, Kansas and Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Received a nice note from Lieutenant General Edward Rowny (Commanding General, July 1965 to September 1966, Germany) requesting help in locating Colonel Farriss Hardin the Division Chief of Staff during the above time period. General Rowny requests that if any Association member has any information on the location of Colonel Hardin that he be contacted at the following address:

LTG. Edward L. Rowny
2700 Calvert Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008
Office and FAX Number 202 986-4752

Member Frederick Baker (21st, Korea) Concord, NH, sent me the complete lineage of the 26th AAA AW Bn (SP) that he was assigned to while serving with the 24th Division in Korea. It was very interesting to follow the lineage of the unit from being a separate automatic weapons company to being a battalion of the 24th Infantry. In a nutshell here is its background:

Activated in Japan on 20 March 1949 as Battery A, 26th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion

Hq Battery of 52nd AAA AW Bn (SP) was attached to the 24th Division on 13 December 1950 and redesignated as Hq Btry of the 26th AAA AW Bn (SP).

In January 1951 A Battery 21st AAA AW Bn was added and was redesignated as B Battery and in the summer of 1951 C and D Batteries were activated.

Items of special interest:

The 26th AAA AW Bn (SP) lineage begins as the 7th Regiment of Artillery activated at Fort Slocum, New York on 29 March 1898.

In June 1924 the unit became the 7th Coast Artillery Regiment.

The Battalion's Battery D in its first combat action in Korea provided support to the 19th Infantry and 13th Field Artillery by expending over one million rounds of .50 caliber ammunition in close ground support.

Battery A is credited with downing three North Korean Yak fighter planes in the early stages of the Korean War. (Hey Guys, wish you had shot down old "Bed Check Charlie" that used to disturb my peaceful(?) foxhole sleeping many a night!)

Fred was most thoughtful in providing me the General Orders and other documents involving the 26th being attached to the 24th Division during the time the division was in Japan and later on, in Korea.

Member William Hosler (19th, Japan and Korea) Mechanicsburg, PA has been keeping me up to date on the proposed US Army Museum at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Latest news is that the Army will build TWO museums, one near Washington, DC and one at Carlisle. Wonder if any good old politics were involved, Bill?

The one at Carlisle will be more of a research facility while the one in Washington will be more of a tourist attraction. As many of you remember Past President Tom Cochran (1997-98) (34th, Japan/Korea) made arrangements to send our Association archives to the US Army Military History Institute at Carlisle for use of military scholars in their research and writing. From all indications as provided by the newspaper clips Bill has sent me the new research museum and the Military History Institute will be a combined facility at Carlisle.

Received a nice telephone call from Charles Ferguson (B/19th, Japan/Korea) Narrows, Virginia thanking me for sending him a copy of the B Company roster and photograph made at Beppu in 1949. Charles was MIA at the Kum River on 16 July 1950 but returned to our lines five days later after dressing up like a Korean native and walking south with a group of South Korean civilians. He sent me a newspaper article from his hometown newspaper that tells the story in detail. I'm positive Vonnie will put it in a future issue of the TARO LEAF. He tells me he has sent Vonnie his membership dues. Welcome to our Association, Charlie!

During a recent trip to Charleston, South Carolina Sue and I had a chance to visit with our Membership Chairman, Wallace Kuhner (24th Recon, WW II) and his better half Eleanor. Wally says we still aren't getting many new members from the Riley, Germany, Stewart and DESERT STORM vets. Thanks Wally and Eleanor to treating Sue and I to a delightful Low Country seafood dinner.

According to our latest membership roster as provided by our Secretary, Will Schumaker (DESERT STORM and Stewart) a breakout of our membership is as follows:

World War II	1016
Korea	1390
Germany	137
Riley	8
Stewart	14
DESERT STORM	18

Included in the above listings are 48 Pearl Harbor vets, 35 TASK FORCE SMITH vets and 25 members who were POWs.

Several folks have written me asking for the correct procedures in obtaining medals awarded while on active duty. Those medals will be issued if requested by veterans or, if they are deceased, their next of kin (NOK). Requests for medals from the Army should be sent to the US Army Reserve Personnel Center, ATTN: ARPCVSE, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5100. The veteran's full name should be printed or typed so that it can be read clearly. The request must contain the signature of the veteran or the signature of the next of kin if the veteran is deceased. Include the veteran's branch of service (ARMY), service or Social Security number and dates of service. If available, include a copy of the discharge or separation document (DD 214) and if possible, send the request on Standard Form 180 "Request Pertaining to Military Records". These forms are usually available from VA offices or veterans organizations. (If all else fails, try your congressional representative!) I understand from folks that have used the procedure that there may be a charge for the actual medals.

Again, I am most happy to hear the good news about the activation of our 24th Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas later this year. Here is a thumbnail lineage of our division:

1 October 1941-Organized at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii
Dec 1941-Coastal defense and training, Northern Oahu, Hawaii
September 1943-Camp Caves, Rockhampton, Australia
15 January 1944-Goodenough Island
April 1944-Combat, Southwest Pacific Theater of Operations
October 1944-Combat, the Philippine Islands
October 1945-Occupation Duty, Japan
June 1950-Combat, Korea
January 1952-Duty, Japan
1954-Return to Korea
1957-Inactivated
15 December 1957-Transferred from the Far East Command to the Department of the Army (less personnel and equipment) pending reorganization.
1 July 1958-Reorganized at Augsburg, Germany
September 1968-Transferred to Fort Riley, Kansas
15 September 1970-Inactivated at Fort Riley, Kansas
21 September 1975-Reactivated at Fort Stewart, Georgia
August 1991-DESERT STORM, Kuwait and Iran
25 April 1996-Inactivated at Fort Stewart, Georgia
1999-To be activated at Fort Riley, Kansas with a forward command post at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Enough for now! See you in Tulsa!



BOOK SALE

Hurdis Wise has written a book entitled, "THINK MAN THINK". This book is the Korean War era. Please fill out the form below to order.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Send Check or money order for \$10.00 to
Hurdis Wise
724 W. Seline Circle
Benton, AR 72015

Eric Diller's Second Edition of "MEMOIRS of a COMBAT INFANTRYMAN" by an Enemy Alien is available, additional information has been added. To order fill out the form below and send with \$10.00 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling. This book is WWII material.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

To: Eric Diller
504 Via La Selva
Redondo Beach CA 90277-6505

John Bogert who writes for the Daily Breeze, Redondo Beach, CA supports Eric Diller's book and says, "This man's personal accounts of wartime horror need to be heard and I help him repeat it here because we need to hear it again, and again tomorrow."

BOOK SALE

"DOCTOR AND SOLDIER IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC".

Author: Philip H. Hostetter, M.D. Served as Battalion Surgeon with the 24th Infantry Division 1943-45 in New Guinea, and Leyte, Mindoro, Simara, Rhomblon, Mindinao Islands in the Philippines and in Japan.

The book consists of battlefield experiences and a soldiers' view of life in a combat outfit, with military maps.

The author was a recent graduate of the University of Kansas School of Medicine. A trained observer and front-line participant, he brings the humor, comradeship, sacrifice and valor of the infantry to the reader in a unique way.

Dr. Hostetter, a retired Family Physician, is a long-time member of the 24th Infantry Division Association and received the high honor of the Verbeck Bowl Award in 1998.

To order send \$22.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling to: Dr. Philip H. Hostetter
2045 Jay Court
Manhattan, KS 66502-3640

Phone: 785-539-2913

Or to: Yvonne Mullins
31150 See View Dr
Rocky Mount, MO 65072 -2903

Phone: 573-365-1007

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

classic REUNIONS



(970) 356-1970 / 1-800-334-6388 2515 Seventh Avenue Greeley, Colorado 80631-8447

Thank you for selecting Classic Reunions for photographic/publishing services at your upcoming reunion. With this letter you received the confirmation of the photography/publishing agreement and notices for each member which you need to send with your mailout.

REUNION: 24th Infantry Division
LOCATION: Adams Mark Hotel
Tulsa, OK

DATE: 9/25/99

START TIME: 5:00 p.m. for pictures

The notices need to be included in your reunion packet. They help you obtain the information necessary for the directory section of your Memory book and notify those members not attending that a Memory Book/or Group Picture will be available. (Those unable to attend may send a 2x3 photo for inclusion in the "Reunion Members We Missed" section of the Memory Book.)

Please have anyone taking candid photos provide you with copies to include in your Memory Book. If you can, designate several people with cameras to take pictures during all your reunion activities and turn the film over to you to develop the pictures to include in the book. 3 1/2 x 5 is the best size.

If we are photographing a Group Picture at your reunion, please set up the location ahead of time. We will need an area large enough for your group along with chairs or steps to help in the placement of your members. Please allow 10-20 minutes for the setup and taking of the group picture depending on the size of the group. For the photography of the members attending we will need a space 8 x 15 in an out of the way area for each camera.

If you haven't done so, **please send us a complete mailing list of those attending as soon as possible.** It helps to insure correct names and addresses in the book.

We will be contacting you 2-3 weeks prior to your reunion to discuss any last minute arrangements.

NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, HAROLD (CORKY) PETERS

WE WOULD LIKE ALL PERSONS ATTENDING THE REUNION TO HAVE THEIR PICTURES TAKEN. YOU ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO BUY ANY OF THEM, BUT THE MORE PICTURES, THE MORE PAGES WE GET FOR OUR REUNION MEMORY BOOK. THERE ARE MANY MEMBERS THAT ARE UNABLE TO MAKE THE REUNION BUT DO PURCHASE THE MEMORY BOOK AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE'S PICTURE.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A GROUP PICTURE, YOU MUST LET US KNOW THE LOCATION WHERE YOU WANT THE PICTURE TAKEN, THE TIME AND NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL ME. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

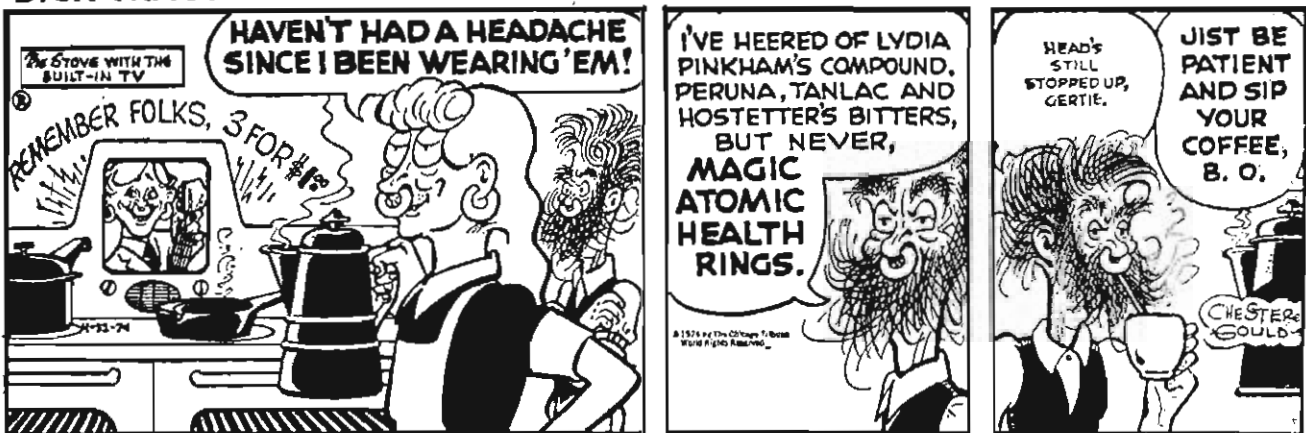
CONSIDER THIS: After dying in a car crash, three friends go to Heaven for orientation. They are all asked the same question: "When you are in your casket and friends and family are mourning over you, what would you like to hear them say about you?"

The first guy immediately responds, "I would like to hear them say that I was one of the great doctors of my time, and a great family man."

The second guy says, "I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and school teacher who made a huge difference in our children of tomorrow."

The last guy thinks a minute and replies, "I would like to hear them say.....LOOK, HE'S MOVING!"

DICK TRACY



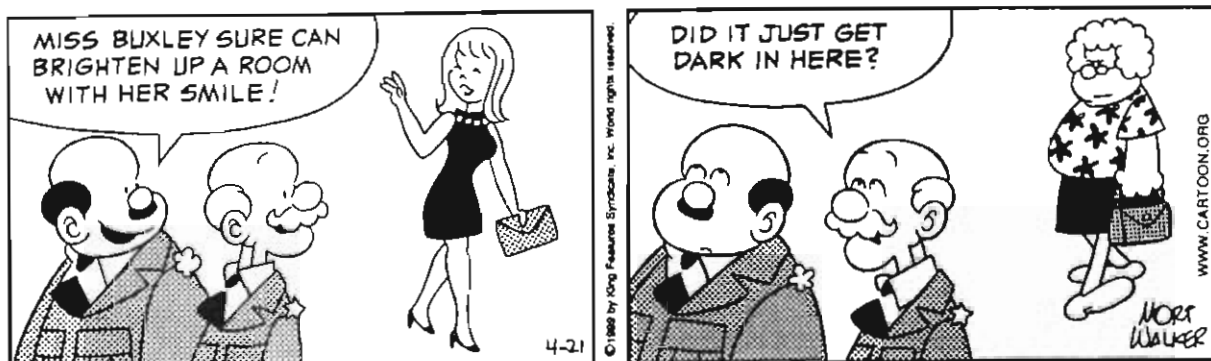
HAGAR the Horrible

By Dik Brown



BEETLE BAILEY

By Mort Walker



ACCIDENT ON ICY MOUNTAIN ROAD IN KOREA KILLS SEVERAL COMBAT ENGINEERS

Several Combat Engineers of the 3rd Combat Engineer Bn of the 24th Infantry Division died when their 6 x 6 truck overturned on an icy mountain road one afternoon in the winter of 1951. Several other men were seriously injured in the tragic accident. The first witnesses on the scene were MAJ LeRoy Northrop, Assistant Division Signal Officer (ADSO) and his driver. They observed the accident from the beginning until about midway thru the on-scene treatment of the dead and injured. His words follow.

In my capacity as ADSO I had arranged to visit one of our Regimental Communications Officers that afternoon to discuss and coordinate technical aspects of our support of his regiment. The temperature was hovering near freezing, it was cloudy, there was at least a foot of snow on the ground and rice paddies, and the roads were ice-covered.

As we crawled cautiously up the one-way mountain road and reached its high point, it made a sharp turn to the left and started descending at a medium grade. The only traffic we could see was a 6 x 6 truck a few hundred yards on down the road. As we casually observed it we realized it had begun sliding and shortly it slid over the shoulder into the rice paddy, overturning with its full load of men. We were just passing a quarry site, a hundred feet from the road, where a bulldozer was excavating road fill, so we reversed to speak to the operator. He might even have been a member of the same company. I felt certain the dozer could lift the truck; he agreed and followed down the road as fast as he could.

The situation at the truck was grim, heart-rending, as we observed the dead, the gravely injured, the dazed men in shock. In a few minutes other traffic came along, with personnel having training and experience who could deal a lot more effectively with the rescue and emergency treatment of the injured than my driver or I could. As we left the scene, the dozer was very carefully lifting the truck, freeing more victims for first aid treatment and preparation for ambulance or other transport to the nearest aid station and/or the hospital operated by the 24th Div Medical Bn.

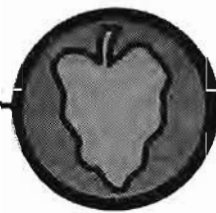
My driver and I had the satisfaction of getting the bulldozer to the scene quickly and of giving some aid initially. But I don't remember anything about meeting with the Regimental CommO! Presumably I did.

CO, 24th Signal Company &
Assistant Division Signal Officer

6 May 1999
LeRoy M Northrop LTC RET
In Korea 21 July 1950 - 21 July 1951

LeRoy writes that he is now 81 years old and wants to record more of his life. We thank you LeRoy for writing for the Taro Leaf.

24th Infantry Division Association



260 Shelli Lane
Roswell, Georgia 30075
6 April 1999

Mr. Peter Klitzke
1365 CTH SS
Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650

Dear Mr. Klitzke:

Ms. Yvonne Mullins, Editor of the TARO LEAF, the official magazine of the 24th Infantry Division Association, has asked me to respond to your email message requesting certain information about Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud. As you are aware, Cpl. Red Cloud received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on 5-6 November 1950 near Chongju North Korea as a member of Company E, 19th Infantry Regiment.

First your questions-

Chongju is located in the Northeast corner of North Korea approximately 25 miles from the Yalu River (the Manchurian Border). The village is located on the main East Coast road that runs from the town of ANJU to SINUIJU. Sinuiju is the North Korean town on the Yalu River across from the Manchurian city of ANTUNG. Most maps of North Korea will identify the above named locations.

Chongju is approximately 100 miles Northeast of Seoul South Korea and 25 miles north of Pyongyang, North Korea.

To the best of my memory Chongju was (is) pronounced chungjew.

I am not knowledgeable who was at the E Company Post (CP) on 5 November 1950

Hill 123 was the designation given a piece of terrain that measured 123 meters above sea level (approx 400 feet). In that this section of North Korea was very mountainous Hill 123 would not be depicted on the average map, only on a tactical map that would be used by the military in their operations.

During the time frame of 4-5 November I was assigned as a lieutenant with the 1st Battalion of the 19th Infantry. The 2nd Battalion, of which E Company was a part, was on our left flank. Although we were aware that Chinese troops were in Korea and that some of our prisoners of war (POW) that we took spoke only Chinese and no Korean we had not had any combat actions with the Chinese troops. Although I did not know Corporal Red Cloud personally all of us who were there that day and night were well aware of his heroic combat actions in preventing the enemy forces from overrunning our positions.

Our Association records indicate that four of our members were

assigned to E Company at the time. You may want to contact them for additional information. They are:

Tomas Carillo	2653 Kerwood Circle Orlando, Florida 32810	407 298-4715
James Doherty	1949 Western Avenue Apt 207 Albany, New York 12054	518 439-3896
Earl J. Lee	11216 S. Ainsworth Tacoma, Washington 98444	206 531-1681
Charles McQuire	3302 Drumond Road El Paso, Texas 77925	915 591-4268

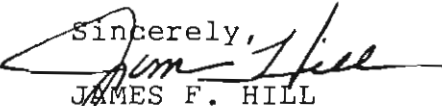
For your information the official history of the 24th Division has the following to say about Corporal Red Cloud.

"Desperate action erupted on the night of 5-6 November on the extreme left flank of the 19th Regiments position where the 2nd Battalion held an isolated height, Hill 123. A five mile gap in the lines extended from that point to the British (the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade) positions farther west.

Communists troops, following telephone lines, came up from the rear and surprised E and G companies, killing many men as they lay in their sleeping bags and overrunning the battalion positions. The other two battalions of the regiment (the 19th), with artillery support from the south side of the river (the Chongchon), drove back enemy attacks that night in hard fighting.

Several E Company men gave their lives in heroic action during the battle for Hill 123. Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud gave the first alarm to his company of the approach of the Chinese when a group charged him from about 100 feet away. He leveled his BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) at the oncoming troops, and after he was wounded Red Cloud regained his feet, wrapped one arm around a tree and continued firing his automatic weapon at point blank range until he was killed. Many Chinese dead were later found in front of his body. For this action Corporal Red Cloud earned the Medal of Honor."

Too often people forget the sacrifices that others have given in the support of our country. All of our members are extremely proud of Mitchell Red Cloud. We all stand in silent respect on what he did on that day. He will always be a hero in our eyes.

Sincerely,

JAMES F. HILL
24th Inf Div Assn

The Occupation of Japan and the South Pacific, The Japs Would Not Believe the War Was Over

by: Robert Osborn 34th Regiment

After reading Phil Hostetter's account (page 3 of the Feb '99 issue) about Davao in the Philippines, I thought the following might be interesting to some.

I was in Shanghai, China on Friday January 9, 1948. And before that we were in Tsingtao, China. We were there because the Chinese Nationalists (Under President Chiang Kai-shek) were about to loose their last toe-hold on the Chinese Mainland to the Chinese Communists, and the Red Army. Our role was an expeditionary role to evacuate as many American Missionaries as possible. Some Missionaries from Honan were being held prisoners by the Red Army, somewhere between Yencheng and Hankow, and American Embassy officials in Nanking were working feverously to get all Missionaries out of the country.

During our stay in Shanghai, I picked up an English copy of the 1/9/48 China Press, which told about the Japs still being on Mindanao. They would not surrender and they would not believe the war was over.

The Date line was Manila Jan. 7, 1948. "A punitive force will be sent to round up Jap stragglers in Mindanao, a military spokesman said. A special investigative team was sent recently to the Southern Philippines to investigate reports that a "1,000-man Japanese force" was playing hide and seek with authorities at Davao. The Investigative team estimated the force actually present on Mindanao at about 200 to 300 men. Which was said to disclaim reports of "huge bands of Japanese stragglers" at large on the island. The team said that the Japs there must be well organized and concentrated to have survived through the two years since the liberation. It was also disclosed that the Japs are holding hostages in their mountain strongholds. Many of such prisoners are said to be members of prominent Davao families. While the number of hostages could not be determined, it is said that many are women. The Japs make frequent foraging expeditions among the lowland barrios (villages) for supplies."

Also I have an article on the history of the 34th Regiment from it's origin on June 3, 1916, through W.W.I, W.W.II, and to the Occupation of Japan. with, Col. Ralph C. Bing, Regimental Commander and Lt. Col. Dwight K. Foster, Regimental Executive Officer at Sasebo Japan. Also the origin of the 34th Insignia, and what each symbol on the insignia means. How the regt. was intended to go to the Philippines in 1941, Pearl Harbor happen in route and the 34th was diverted to Hawaii and became apart of the 24th. Division. After the Japs struck Pearl harbor. They were in Hollandia 1944, Biak, Red Beach Leyte, Breakneck Ridge, Kiley Ridge, the Story of Private Moon, the Medal of Honor winner on Leyte. the move to Mindore, Luzon, Bataan, Corregider. the 3rd Bat. won the Presidential Unit Citation on Corregider. Opening Zig-zag Pass for the 38th Division on Luzon. On Mindanao, the regiment took part in one of the most remarkable feats of Jungle warfare – ever recorded – the advance of 140 miles through the Jungle from Moro Gulf to Davao in 17 days. the 34th Regiment went into Japan at Shikoku, then to Honshu, Himeji, to Kyushu and to Sasebo, and Post Ainoura, which was later renamed Camp Mower (May 2?, 1947) in honor of Sgt. Charles E. Mower of the 34th who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic action on Leyte in November 1944. Some place in my foot-locker there is a full account of Sgt. Mower's actions on Letye.

And could the Regt. Drink beer? Well, they changed the location of the Beer Hall (in April 13, 1947) from the Post Px to a Tent, small building, just beyond the 3rd Battalion, out by the Boat Dock Launchers, and in 2 1/2 hours the regiment drank \$12.00 short of \$1,000. dollars of beer, at about 20 cents a draw or bottle. What a hell of a party that was, and nobody got mean or malicious and there were no fights every one was so relieved to just let their feelings out and not have to march another dam mile the rest of the week. Diary of Robert Osborn and a note out of the Dragon News.

Robert Osborn 3929-66th St.

Des Moines, IA. 50322. E-mail: Ozz6646@aol.com

Fax: 1-515-276-1796

"SAVING PRIVATE RYAN" HOLLYWOOD STYLE

Tom Brokaw in his best-selling book "The Greatest Generation" is writing about us, strange as that seems to us. He quotes veteran Bud Lomell who was impressed that Director Spielberg had been able to re-create the chaos and the bloody conditions of the D-Day landing so effectively, but he had lots of problems with the rest of the film. Tom Hanks as a Ranger captain, he said, "should never be walking around with his men, all talking loudly in broad daylight. That would only bring in German mortars." Also Bud noted that Hanks and his men were much older than the soldiers had actually been. "We were all 18 or 19 years old. I was one of the older ones at 24."

I noticed the uniforms were always clean, the soldiers never looked fatigued or frightened, they never ate or slept, and other military objects in the background never seemed to be doing much, just "atmosphere". The constant roar of tons of Hollywood explosives was spectacular. But who were these men, how did they live, what was their motivation?

Yes, "Saving Private Ryan" is spectacular, and little else.

Philip Hostetter M.D.
19th Regt. 24th Div. '44-'45

Letter from Joe E. Abernathy, Jr., 695 Center Point Road, Carrollton, GA 30117.

Reunion of the 19th and 34th Regiments of the 24th Division is held each year at the end of April at the Ramada Airport Hotel in Nashville, TN. The 1999 reunion was held on April 28th through May 1.

Other than the business meeting, a group breakfast and a farewell dinner, there are tours, the Grand Ole Opry, Opry Land Hotel and numerous attractions for the reunion participants and wives.

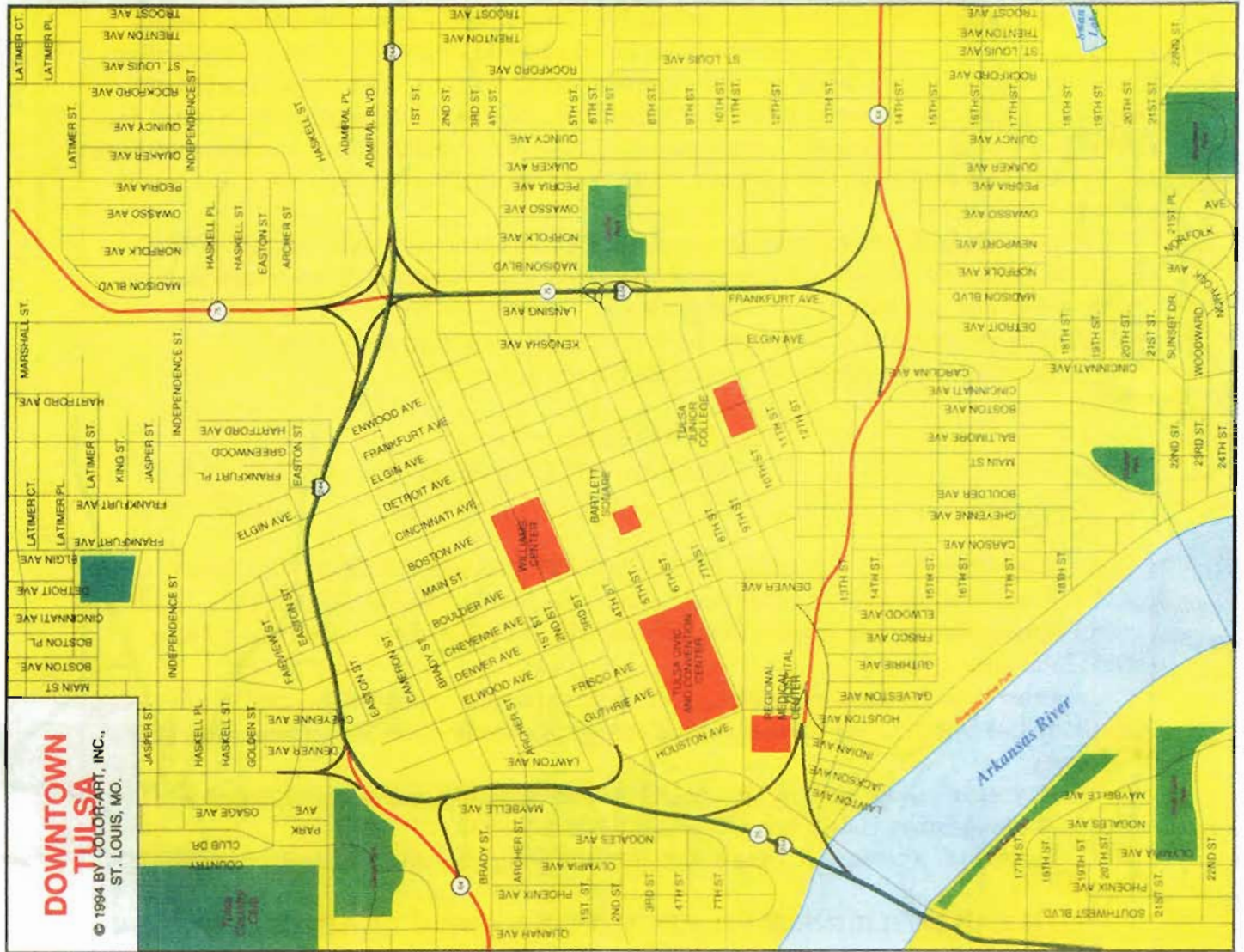
Anyone requiring more information about this reunion please contact Charles W. Shoe, 3924 Harrisburg Drive, Harrisburg, NC 28075 (704) 455-2937.

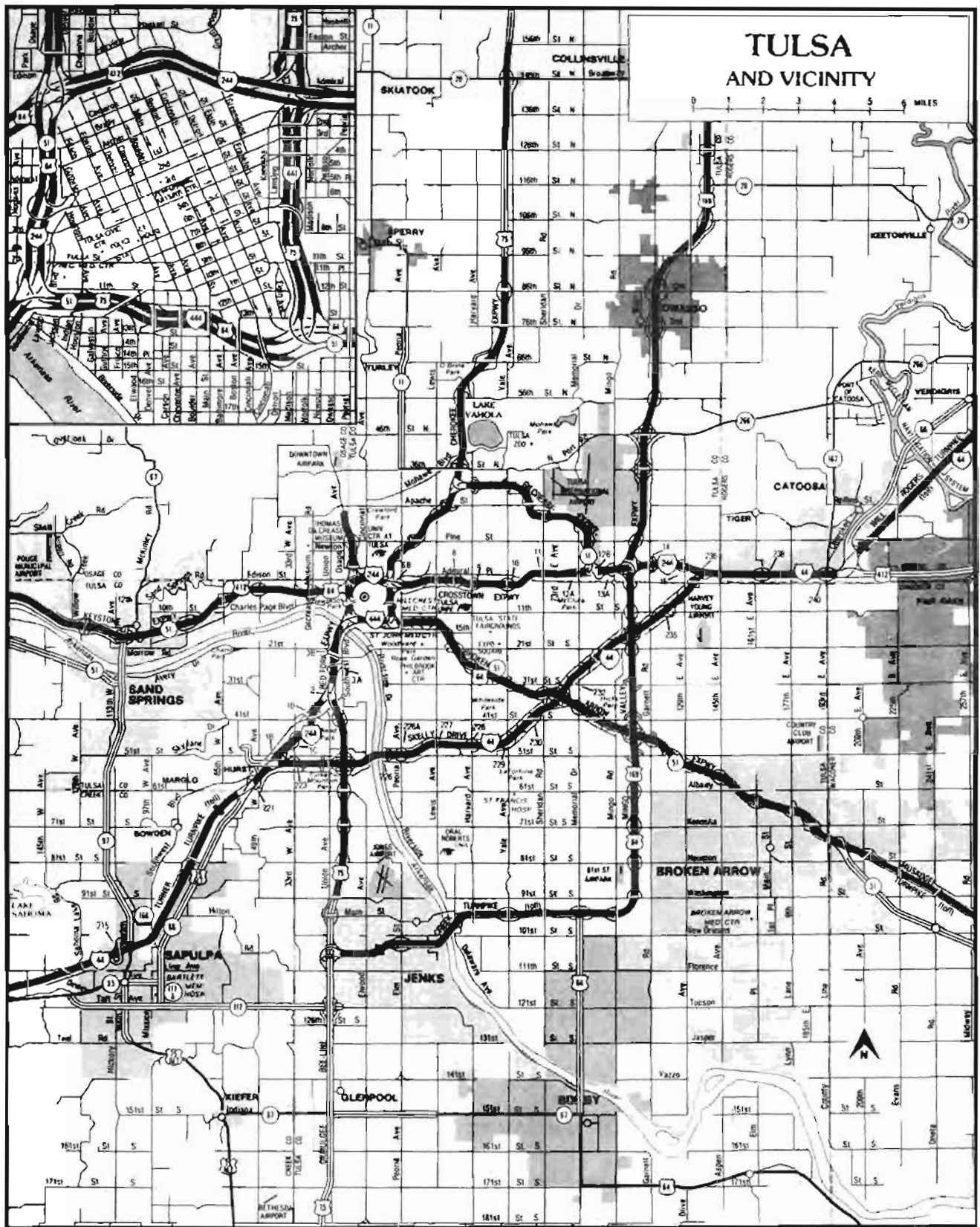
Enclosed is a picture showing a portion of the group present in Nashville in April 1999.

19TH AND 34TH REGIMENTS REUNION IN NASHVILLE APRIL 28-MAY 1



TULSA





**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, 1999

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, &
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
Wednesday, September 22			
1. <u>Philbrook and Gilcrease Museums Tour</u>	<u>\$33.00</u>	_____	\$ _____
<i>9:00am-3:30pm</i>			
2. <u>Muskogee & Ft. Gibson Tour</u>	<u>\$36.00</u>	_____	\$ _____
<i>9:00am-3:30pm</i>			
3. <u>Amish Dinner in an Amish Home Tour</u>	<u>\$29.00</u>	_____	\$ _____
<i>4:45pm-8:00pm</i>			
Thursday, September 23			
4. <u>Jenks & South Tulsa Tour</u>	<u>\$21.00</u>	_____	\$ _____
<i>9:00am-3:00pm</i>			
5. <u>Muskogee & Ft. Gibson Tour</u>	<u>\$36.00</u>	_____	\$ _____
<i>9:00am-3:30pm</i>			
6. <u>Bartlesville & Woolaroc Museum Tour</u>	<u>\$35.00</u>	_____	\$ _____
<i>9:00am-3:30pm</i>			
7. <u>Allen Ranch Bar-B-Que Tour</u>	<u>\$32.00</u>	_____	\$ _____
<i>4:45pm-8:00pm</i>			
Friday, September 24			
8. <u>Jenks & South Tulsa Tour</u>	<u>\$21.00</u>	_____	\$ _____
<i>9:00am-3:00pm</i>			
9. <u>Claremore & Pryor, Oklahoma Tour</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>	_____	\$ _____
<i>9:00am-3:00pm</i>			
10. <u>Tulsa City & Shopping Tour</u>	<u>\$22.00</u>	_____	\$ _____
<i>9:00am-3:00pm</i>			
* <u>Aloha Dinner</u>	<u>\$21.00</u>	_____	\$ _____
<i>5:30pm Social Hour - 6:30pm Dinner</i>			
Saturday, September 25			
* <u>Ladies Breakfast</u>	<u>\$15.00</u>	_____	\$ _____
<i>9:00am-11:30am</i>			
* <u>Memorial Dinner</u>	<u>\$23.00</u>	_____	\$ _____
<i>5:30pm-Social Hour - 6:30pm Dinner</i>			
Registration	<u>\$20.00</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>\$ 20.00</u>
<u>*Spouse and guests do not pay registration fee</u>			

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____



Muskogee and Ft. Gibson Tour

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



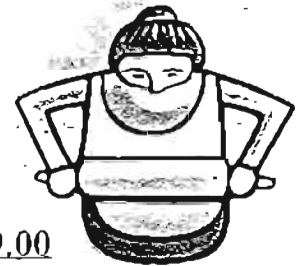
Philbrook and Gilcrease Museums

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 Wolaroc Museum

Cost: \$35.00

This 6 1/2 hour tour takes us 45 miles north of Tulsa to Bartlesville, home of Wolaroc 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.

Wolaroc 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**

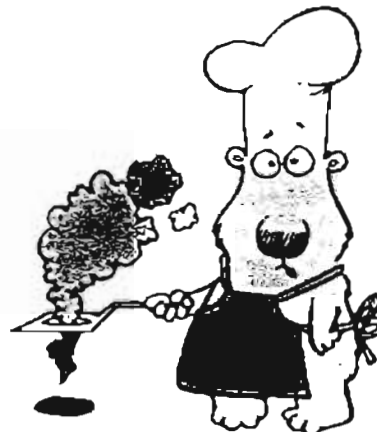
Thursday, September 23, 1999
4:45pm-8:00pm Evening

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 litterly 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 Unca 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 Unca 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 her toll free at (877) 634-7390, day, night, and weekends, or by E-Mail at 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) 886-6435

**Make checks payable to:*

Robert Lawhon

UNIT MEMORIAL BREAKFAST REGISTRATION FORM

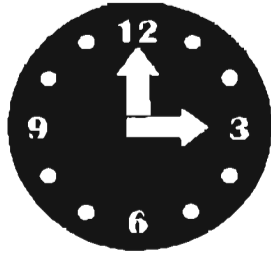
NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Cost of breakfast \$12.00 each



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!



Dear Dr. Hostetter:

I was a member of the 1st BN Medical Detachment of the 34th Rgt., 24th Division. I joined the 34th on Goodenough Island as a litter bearer and served as such through the Hollandia Campaign, after which I was assigned as the aid man for D Company. I served in that capacity on Biak Island and on Leyte, Mindora, Luzon and Mindanao. Captain George E. Morrissey, M.D. was my commanding officer and the 1st BN Surgeon during the greater part of that time. I'm sure you must have known him.

I read your article "We Have Returned" in the February 1999 issue of the Taro Leaf. Your mention of the feelings of the Philippino people concerning the Leyte invasion caused me to dig into my archives and come up with a letter written by a Leyte resident shortly after October 20, 1944. I thought you might like to see it so I am taking the liberty of enclosing a copy. I hope you enjoy it.

Picture below is taken in early 1944 on New Guinea. I'm in the middle wearing the tee shirt. To my left is Jason Friedlander from Cleveland, OH who later served as an aid man in the 19th. To my right is Charlie Fuentes who was later severely wounded in the leg on Biak Island while serving in C Company of the 34th. The young boy in the front looks like he was anxious to join-up. Note the dearth of clothing, the cigarettes and the terrible disfigurement of one of the boys.

Sincerely

Dan Donovan



HOW WE FELT WHEN YOU CAME

(A letter to Daniel F. Donovan, First Battalion Medical Detachment, 34th Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, by a resident of Leyte Island shortly after our invasion there on October 20, 1944)

It's needless describing in detail what we felt when you came to liberate us, dear friends. I'm writing this anyway, as my grateful "moments" on your arrival. Hope you don't get bored reading it.

In the early part of the year 1943 we learned (as news travels fast secretly) that your aid was nearing our door. Just imagine our joy bursting from within our hearts. I say "within" cause even at the mention of the word "American" our lives would pay for it. Oh Heavens it was a torture, it was a Hell awaiting your dear liberation. But we were made to pay for the cost of you liberating us at a high price. It's not even a hundredth part of what you've gone through, all for our cause. Even then I sought for our cause, really were you coming? In black and white I'm telling you that sometimes I gave up hope of your coming just because these Japs would put us in conviction that your helping hand wouldn't reach our motherland any longer. This ill news would sweep our Tacloban (capitol city of Leyte Island) (as we were yet there) as fast as a contagious disease would. Those weak hearts would stand their propagandas! The Whites beaten by them "how many times".

How we shed tears at the sight of those American flags treaded on by them with so mean a disrespect as the ground they stepped on. And with thousands of soldiers stepping on them they got worn out at last. I felt that every heart in the audience at that free show "On To Singapore" was touched at the way they 'demoralized' us, Filipinos as we are. We were told, at the cost of anything, to stand at attention (the men raising their hats) when the American Hymn was played on. Hearing it made our blood run hot and with feelings so much heightened by a longing for your coming. But, as there was no other way, we had to take things in the meantime for granted.

September 12 dawned with a promise of a fair day. We started our daily routine as usual. Breakfast being over we made way to our rooms and hummed to lighten our burdens. When – wow! A terrible noise from over the landing fields in Tachloban was heard! We were then in our hometown a week. We never dreamed that your aid had come until we saw from out the window those white planes gleaming as the sun struck their wings! Oh! How many sighs of thanksgiving were written on our lips, how many eyes gazed with tears of joy at those planes, and prompted a thousand misgivings at that moment from those pro-Japs who nearly treated us as the Japs did. Noontime came and other American bombers did their bit. Late in the afternoon they came again, and each time they visited us there was a hush among us making us silent, the Japs as well and as damn onlookers.

At the instant when your planes came those Japs started keeping their things in order and evacuating them at the tops or foot of mountains, or in big houses at the outskirts of the town. They were "busy-bodies" from thence day in and day out. Much to our surprise they were telling us not to get scared with the noise your planes made, cause they were their planes in practice! They were thinking of us as fools and perhaps as ignorant people who weren't using their heads. Even a small kid could tell they were seeking refuge, every limb of theirs was made to move for there was danger ahead. That evening of that first day's bombing of your planes we knelt in prayer of gratitude that you came in time to save us. The next day there were no more sales in our stores and in our market. A general order was made in that early morning that evacuating even to the outskirts of the town was strictly prohibited. Sure! Because they were planning to mix with us. But we could escape and we did escape, from their cunning eyes that day and that very night. We were trespassing against their ordinance not to sail at night. We were sailing for Samar at the cost of our lives but thanks, we reached it safe and sound the next morning.

Here on this coast where we are now I realize our life as evacuees, hard as we try to earn our daily bread we just live up to grasp the barest necessities of life. Not used to this moving around with living in the jungle, we got no working clothes with us so that our finer clothings were made to wear out before we knew it. Sometimes we exchange our clothing for food we want as those Japanese money isn't welcome here. But we took everything as easy as we could anyway. October 17 witnessed the biggest typhoon I ever experienced. Or is it because this Province is noted for typhoons? It seemed at the tip of the voice for winds. Our nightmares came true for we were still in bed when a number of planes as convoys to the ships began to make their usual noise. Of course, they dropped bombs also. Jumping up from bed and climbing up the mountain top I saw a number of ships it seemed. Every ship was throwing something we guessed from our lookout. And imagine the noise! That was shelling I learned later. We were indeed sure that you were here! Were our eyes deceiving us? But we were seeing you in plain letters it seemed, even if you were far. There! Another ray of hope was revived in us even if there were weeks of interval since the first American planes bombed those landing fields. I can't put in words nor say in plain language the joy again that made us work day out with beaming faces. From thence and until now I shall never forget that day which brought you all into our shores especially to the shores of Leyte. We can say however that in our little ways, hopes and inspirations, we can do great things for you, dear friends. We have plans to be true to you, to keep faithful to you.

Sincerely, JO JO

REMEMBRANCE OF WORLD WAR II

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

QUARTERMASTER 24TH IDA - SUPPLY PRICE LIST

Control #	Item	Description	Price Ea.
1	24th Inf Cloth Patch	(Colored)	\$3.00
2	24 IDA Colored Patch		\$5.00
3	24 I.D. Black Cap W/Patch		\$10.00
4	24 I.D. Cap White W/Patch	First to Fight	\$10.00
5	24 I.D. Decal 2"	6 for \$5.00	\$1.00
6	24 I.D. Decal 4"	Each	\$3.00
7	Bolo Tie W/TL Gold	W/Gold or Black Chain	\$15.00
8	Bolo Tie W/TL Silver	Silver W/Black Chain	\$15.00
9	Belt Buckle W/TL	Gold or Silver Belt Buckle	\$15.00
10	29th Inf. Cloth Patch (Color)		\$5.00
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

QUARTERMASTER 24TH IDA - SUPPLY PRICE LIST

Control #	Item	Description	Price Ea.
48	Bumper Sticker	W/TL and Desert Storm	\$3.00
49	6th Tank Btn Cloth Patch	Cloth Patch	\$5.00
50	Purple Heart Medal HP-754		\$3.00
51	Bronze Star Medal HP-926		\$3.00
52	Good Conduct Medal HP-927		\$3.00
53	Korean Serv Medal HP-929		\$3.00
54	Nat'l Serv Def Medal HP-957		\$3.00
55	Victory Medal HP-958		\$3.00
56	Silver Star Medal HP-959		\$3.00
57	ETO Campaign Medal HP-962		\$3.00
58	DFC (HP-965)		\$3.00
59	Korean 8000 Missing HP-115		\$3.00
60	CMB 1st Award HP-569		\$3.00
61	US Flag Clutch Back HP(V-37)		\$3.00
62	US Flag Pin Back HP(V-38)		\$3.00
63	Pacific Campaign Medal HP-963		\$3.00
64	Am Campaign Medal HP-964		\$3.00
65	Army Occupation Medal HP-051		\$3.00
66	Meritorious Serv Medal HP-056		\$3.00
67	UN Serv Medal HP-059		\$3.00
68	Philippine Liberation HP-361		\$3.00
69	Korean Serv Ribbon HP-099		\$3.00
70	Air Medal HP-925		\$3.00
71	DSC Hatpin-308		\$3.00
72	Bring Em Home/Back HP-214		\$3.00
73	Am Def Medal HP		\$3.00
74	Viet Nam Serv Medal HP		\$3.00
75	24 Inf Div Hatpin		\$3.00
76	24th Inf Div Tie(Reg.Length)	Regular length	\$20.00
77	24th Inf Div Tie (Clip-on)		\$20.00
78	63rd Field Artillery	Cloth Patch	\$5.00
79	Army Commendation Medal HP		\$3.00
80	Soldiers Medal HP		\$3.00
81	POW Medal HP		\$3.00
82	Armed Forces Reserve Medal HP		\$3.00
83	1" Decal 24th I.D.	Sell 12 for \$1.00	\$1.00
84	24TH CHRISTMAS CARDS	10 ea. Packet	\$5.00
85	World War II Tapes	Starts Australia - 5 left	\$15.00

QUARTERMASTER, 24TH IDA

Harry L. Wittman, Jr.

1385 Terri Street

Keyser, WV 26726

We require \$3.00 postage and handling.

Please allow six weeks delivery. No Phone Orders Please.

Post a copy of this or any of our ads at your local Vets Clubhouse. Others may be interested in some of these items.



This picture taken 10 January 1954

James D. Batton writes: Tragic days in Korea are recalled by three veterans in a reunion at Fort Knox KY. Left to Right are: Maj Gen William F. Dean, who spent three years as a prisoner of the communist; Capt. Max E. Dolcater, who briefed Gen Dean upon his release and Sgt James D. Batton, Dean's driver in Korea and one of the last Americans to see him before he was taken prisoner.

HEADQUARTERS 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 24

SUBJECT: Assumption of Command 24 July 1950

TO: The Officers and Men of the 24th Infantry Division

Upon assumption of command, I desire to express my personal commendation and admiration to each officer and enlisted man of the 24th Infantry division and to my predecessor, Major General William F. Dean, one of the most gallant, skillful and outstanding officers in our Army today.


I take command at a time when the Division has successfully concluded the first United States Army mission in the Korean War. That mission was begun on 2 July 1950 by elements of the 21st Infantry Regiment and was to gain sufficient time and space, in the face of overwhelming odds, to permit the concentration, equipping and supply of available United States and South Korean Army forces. The mission was successfully completed on 22 July 1950 when the 21st Infantry Regiment was relieved in place by elements of the 1st Cavalry Division at Yong Dong.

Accomplishment of our initial mission has been most expensive in personnel and equipment. We have the satisfaction and assurance that it was infinitely more costly to the enemy, and that by your stand he has lost his chance of victory.

We cannot now rest on our laurels and the distinctions we have justly won. It is incumbent upon each of us to prepare, and to prepare quickly, for a new and, for us, a long awaited mission – the offensive! We must reorganize and reequip; we must re-study the combat lessons we have learned – and, do all of this immediately! There is no time for dalliance or retrospect.

The 24th Infantry Division is battle tested and proved – despite our reduced numbers we remain a potent force – proud and alert; our motto henceforth must be “Forward”!

DISTRIBUTION: “A:


JOHN H. CHURCH
Maj. Gen., USA
Commanding

Note from Jim Hill: “This should bring back some memories to our early Korean War Members.



LETTERS

Janice Robinson of P.O. Box 653, Dauphin Island, AL 36528 sent me a letter she had written to Turner Publishing Company:

Dear Sir:

My husband Major James W. Robinson was in the 24th Division. He was a Company Commander. He participated in Leyte, Hollandia, New Guinea, Biak and Bataan. This was under General Krueger and General Irving and Lt Col Robert Spraggins. I've heard many of the stories that I now read in Volume I of the 24th Division History. A General on T.V. stated "some of the fiercest fighting in all of World War II, was in this area." This I believe.

On Leyte, after two days of bombing they were still pinned down by enemy fire and could not get off the beach. One of the stories Jim told was, Jim stepped out of the foxhole to give an order and the next shell exploded in it. Three soldiers were killed and his sergeant (radio man) Kirkpatrick from Carolina, died in his arms.

The truck full of dead soldiers you mentioned in the book, he saw. The banzie attack and being behind enemy lines with air drops of food.

One close friend had been killed and was brought by in a jeep. To the first reunion in New York, we invited Joe Malloy's mother. How brave she had to be to join us and her son did not return.

Jim returned ill and it was Captain Edward Croxdale that tended to him. The Company Commander that took his place was killed the next landing. Jack Clifford, if I recall correctly.

A close friend had an appendectomy on the beach. Can you believe all this happening? Jim relived much of it before his death 2 1/2 years ago.

I too, would like to hear from anyone that was with him. He loved the 24th. I wish my grandchildren each, to have Volume II. They need to know what war is all about.

Janice Robinson

Max L. West of 1229 Nebraska St., Blair, NE 68008 sends a letter he received from a friend that he had not heard from in fifty years. The picture below is of Max when he was State Commander of Nebraska in 1994 and 1995 of the veterans of foreign wars.

Sgt West, I read your letter in the Taro Leaf and thought I would drop you a few lines to see if you remembered me. I got in Hvy Mtr Co in January of 1950 and was a member of Welby O. Wriths squad. You may remember when I got back from that first battle in Ison. You were in a tent when I walked in and you said I had been reported dead. Its been a long time since then and I've thought about you a good many times. I found Tom Flynn, Howard Rhodes and Don Porter in Florida. Welby Writh, John Walker and Clogg have passed away. Our commander is still living and he's in Virginia. I found Claude Crist too. He was our mail clerk in Japan. I'm glad to know you're still with us. Take care and I hope to hear from you soon.

An old Gimlet, Bob

MAX L. WEST

Robert Roof
2759 NC Highway 133
Rocky Point NC 38457-9145



Note from martha and Charlie Card of 2115 Crystal Hills Dr., Houston, TX 77077: "Dick Muir (R-34) has suffered a stroke (last November) and is very slowly recovering. Cards/letters can be forwarded through his daughter: Irene Hunter, 1208 Rancho RD., Centralia, WA 98531

Note received from Frank Blood of 431 Pearl St. #367, Gardner, MA 01440-2498: "Picture below was taken aboard Carnival Cruise Lines M.S. Sensation last March by my wife, Aggie Blood. Left to Right: Bill Allen C Co 19th, Helen Allen and Frank Blood Hq Hq Co. 19th.



Email received from Thomas Kilfoyle: "All members who faithfully and honorably served the US anytime during the cold war are entitled to cold war certificates. The dates are defined as Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991. The web site is: <http://coldwar.army.mil>

Email received from the son of Leonard (Bob) Thompson stating that his father served with the 24th Inf in Korea from 1950-51. He was assigned to the "Headquarters Battery 52nd AAASP Battalion". He is specifically looking for a Roger Kunzelman. If anyone can be of assistance please email UCLAMSW@aol.com

Email received asking for information about Eugene Nix who served in Korea during the Korean War and was apparently among the MIA's of that period. At the beginning of the war he was in Japan and then sent to Korea. I have been unable to find any information as to the record of his service. He was a high school friend in Bridgeport, Nebraska and other than missing in action, nothing has surfaced since. Anyone who is able to assist, please email Hdhaden@aol.com

Email received from Ken Grass, Professor of Music, University of Tulsa, OK. "My dad, Sgt. 1st Class was killed in Korea on April 20, 1951, I was 5 years old. I'm looking concerning anyone in his group, platoon, etc. who knew him!! If there is anyone who knew him, it would be an honor to

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

visit with you. My address is 2601 East Dallas, Broken Arrow, OK 74014; Work 918-631-2260, Home: 918-258-3246 and email address is j.grass@gte.net Please contact Ken is anyone is able to be of assistance.

Letter received from Robert Watts of 505 La Barea Dr., Morgan Hill, CA 95037 and he writes: "I am writing to your organization in hopes you can help me locate anyone who served with my uncle in Korea. His name was M/Sgt Joseph E. Schaefer. My telephone number is 408-778-3995 or email, wattr2@prodigy.net Please let Robert know if you are able to help.

Received a letter from Mrs Dorothy A. Christianson of 744 Atwood Ave., Park Falls, WI 54552: "I read an article about the 24th Inf. I am a widow of 25 years. My husband Robert W. Christianson served with the 24th. Most of his training was in Camp Hood, TX and he was sent overseas after 11 months training. 35 months of service and he was wounded three times. Purple Hearts in Leyte, Luzon and Mindinao". Mrs. Christianson was sent an application to become an associate member and if anyone recognizes her husband's name, I am sure she would enjoy hearing from you.

NEWS FROM THE WEST COAST FROM THE VP (Don Barrett)

The West Coast Mini Reunion in Ventura, CA was a huge success and the best yet. There were 74 who attended the Saturday night dinner. Captain Roxanne Fox, Company Commander of the Ventura County Recruiting Station and her staff were invited to the dinner and all had a great time.

Two buddies Nick Russiello and Frank Alvarez who attended the reunion met for the first time in over 55 years. They served together in the 34th Regiment in the Philippines.

Rod Stock has volunteered to chair the next West Coast Reunion which will be in Reno, Nevada.

I attended the reactivation ceremony of our division in Fort Riley, KS. I wish you all could have been there. It was a memorial event with a full cavalry charge at the end of the program. It left me a little misty eyed and very proud to be part of the Division Association.



Left: Frank Alvarez/Right: Nick Russiello
"Buddies Again, After 55 Years"



Captain Roxanne Fox, right center and Her Staff?



The "Estes"



Waiting for the Ventura Trolley to Shop,
Shop, Shop!!



Left: Keith Hagen
Right: Phyllis Wicinski
"Bring in the Clowns"



Some
of the
Troops



Chow Time



24th Infantry Division ***Reactivation June 5, 1999*** ***Fort Riley, Kansas***



REACTIVATION OF THE 24th

Pictures taken



Reactivation
of the
24th Infantry
Division.

Manning the
Telephones
on June 4, 1999.



President of the Association, Harold (Corky)
Peters and his wife, Diane, with General Barry
McCaffrey after the Reactivation Ceremony.



Yvonne Mullins, Editor, with soldier from Ft. Riley.
(The 24th IDA Poster displayed at the Riley Center)

Wes Morrison,
24th IDA
Reunion
Coordinator;
Major Jeffrey
Wingo, Public
Relations, Fort
Riley; and
Corky Peters,
President of
24th IDA.



Major General Freddie McFarren, Mrs. Aubrey
McFarren and Harold (Corky) Peters.

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION

June 4, 5, 1999



Major Charles Sexton and Colonel Walt Holton.



Norm Wolak, Wes Morrison, Tom Cochran and Becky Tisson.



Colonel Walt Holton, aide to General Barry McCaffrey, interviewing Harold (Corky) Peters, President of the 24th IDA.



Colonel Jaques, James Johnson (grandson of Billy Johnson) and Billy Johnson.



Don Barrett, Tony Apodaca, Warren Avery, Becky Tisson, Norm Wolak and Wes Morrison with military personnel.



Harry Wittman, Frances Wittman, Norm Wolak, Diane Peters, Dr. Phil Hostetter, Yvonne Mullins, Wes Morrison and Corky Peters.

Pictures by Dr. Phil Hostetter

24th Mech - The VICTORY Division - First to FIGHT

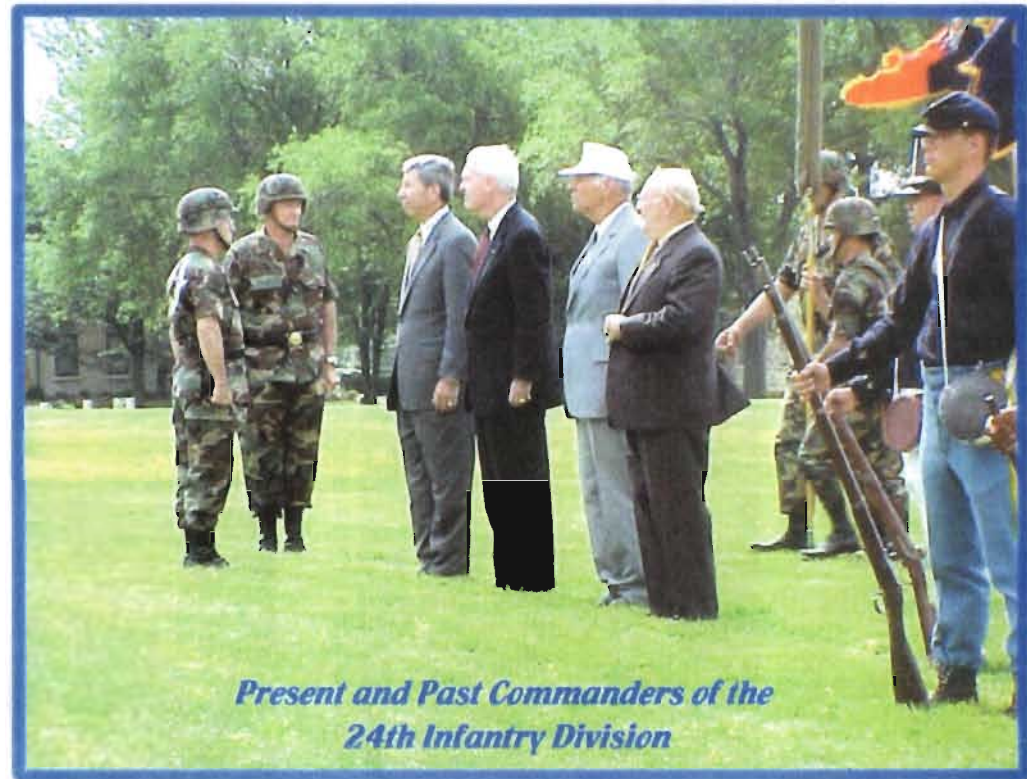
*24th Infantry Division
Re-Activation June 5, 1999
Fort Riley, Kansas*



The 24th Division's Colors are unfurled again!



Lt. General James B. Vaught (ret)



*Present and Past Commanders of the
24th Infantry Division*

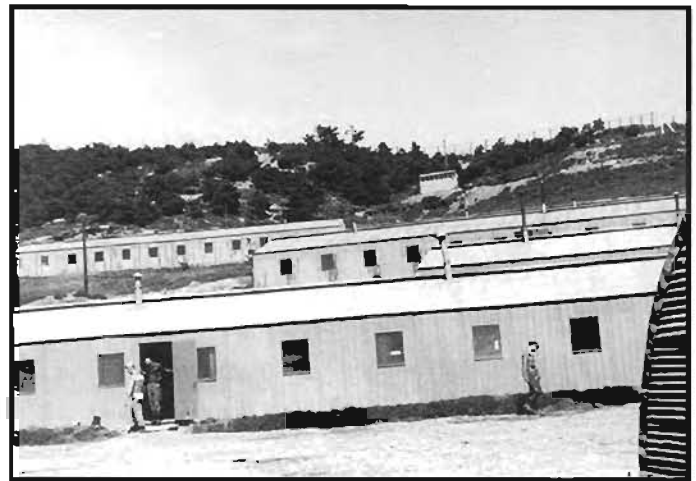
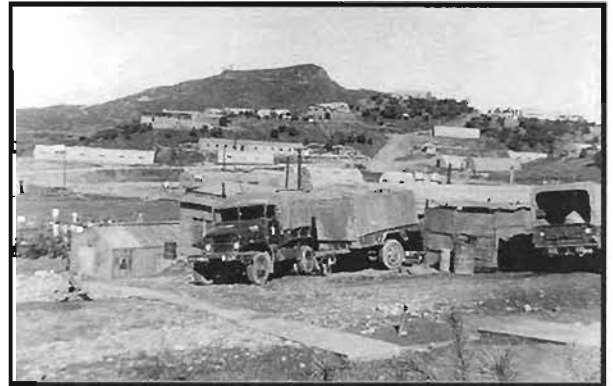
By Joe Sowders

By Joe Sowders
6/5/99

Note from Robert M. Hubbell of 5210 State Rd. 33 N #32, Lakeland, FL 33805-9530. "I am sending a few old pictures, one of myself and of Kilo Company 34th Regt. In Korea, 1956-1957.



EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



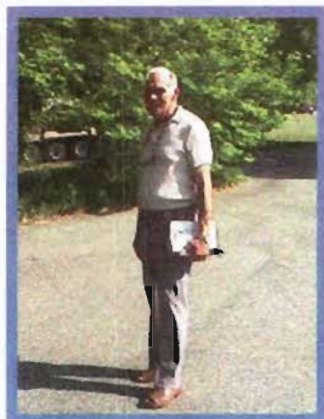
Picture of Nicholas L. Marasco of 1494 Gleason Rd., Andover, NY 14806-9622. Nicholas writes: "What I do best now, shows a Taro Leaf in my lap." We think a very good way to spend your time and thanks for writing, Nick!



Dan Dovan of 49 Fairway DR, Denver, PA 17517 sends picture of his wife and himself taken last July in Tampa, FL. Dan writes, "Can you think of anything worse than Tampa in July? It was worse than New Guinea". Be sure to read a letter sent in by Dan entitled, "How We Felt When you Came".



In A Signature Remembered. ...46 Years later a REUNION!



In my pervious article for the Taro Leaf, I described how I found one of the greatest Officers the United States Army ever had. That Officer and Gentleman is General James B. Vaught. On April 21, 1999 I had the distinct pleasure of being reunited with General Vaught. I served as his S-3 Operations Draftsman in the 34th Inf. Regiment in 1953-54 and at that time Capt. Vaught was the Regimental S-3 Officer.



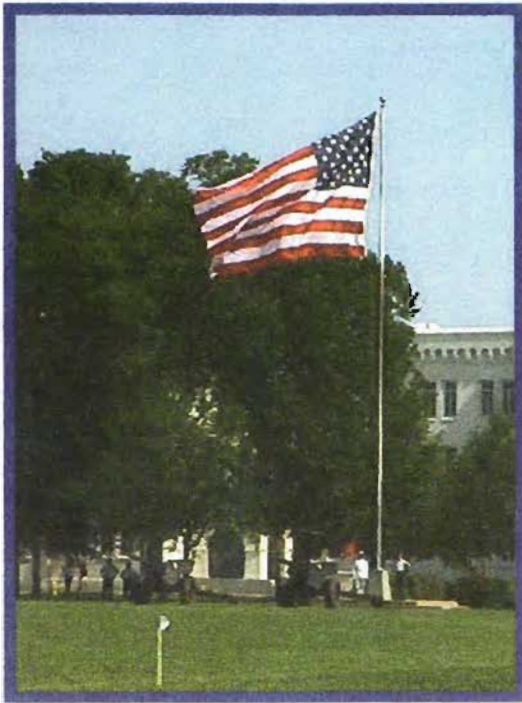
He made such a lasting impression on me that I never forgot him and as stated previously...I never quit looking for him. Well, 46 years past, a lot of hair thinned and my stomach isn't quite as flat as it was then but my heart has swelled with the thrill of finding General Vaught. This reunion can't really be described by words, as only Old Soldiers know what it means to find Army Buddies.



On the way to General Vaught's, I picked up another Army Buddy who I'd last seen in 1954. This gentleman is Alvin (Tuck) Tucker and was Colonel Olson's (Regimental Commander) personal Driver. You can imagine the stories that were hashed and rehashed during our auto trip of about one thousand miles. Once we got to General Vaught's...the stories got better.

And let me not forget Florence! (Mrs. James B. Vaught) Florence is a lady that you love right from the start. What a wonderful couple and they made Tuck and I feel right at home during our visit. She jokingly told us the Lt. General James B. Vaught may have Three Stars but in her house she wears 5 Stars.





OLD GLORY at The Citadel

General Vaught took us to a Review at the Citadel where his Grandson is in his first year. We were placed up front in the guest seats with all the Top Brass. General Vaught introduced us to the Commandant and several other Generals in attendance. You can imagine the feeling it was for two old Sergeants hob-nobbing with Generals and even being saluted by a two star General. We also had the distinct pleasure of meeting and shaking hands with one of the few surviving Congressional Medal of Honor Veterans. General Vaught is a graduate of The Citadel and in my previous article, I erroneously stated that he was a West Point Graduate. When I was in Korea with him, we all thought he was a "Pointer". I stand corrected. The Citadel has graduated some of the finest Officers this US Army has ever known. In my estimation...General James B. Vaught proves it.

We had three days of reminiscing that will never be forgotten. I only wish the history of General Vaught's Army Career would be published, as it would be a story that would curl your hair and make James Bond look like a Wimp. Just maybe...I might try to do that before the real story gets lost in the sands of time.

*Sergeant
Alvin Tucker*



*Sergeant
Joe H. Saunders*

Lt. General James B. Vaught

THREE OLD SOLDIERS REUNITED AFTER 46 YEARS

October 20, 1984, Anniversary of Leyte Landing
"Thoughts on Returning to the Philippines"
By William T. Llewellyn

Forty years ago on October 20th I landed with the 9th wave on Red Beach at Leyte with the 24th Infantry Division. I was 19 years old at the time. The Filipino people were very grateful for our return and I understand they still welcome us and are glad to see the returning veterans.

I spent a good part of that day on my stomach and it will be good to return to Red Beach in an upright position and look around. Probably the swamp we crossed back of the beach will not be where our resort hotel is located.

Part of our tour will be to Subic Navel Base at Olongapo on Luzon. Our unit recaptured this base and our 3rd Battalion retook Corregidor.

The band of men facing combat together in time of war is the strongest of fraternities and in World War II the whole country was behind us. It will be an interesting and nostalgic trip.

An interesting note on this trip is that 39 years ago when I was on Mindanao, the Cubs won the pennant and played Detroit in the World Series. Quite possible they could be playing Detroit again while I am in the Philippines. However, if we have to wait another 39 years for them to win again, I guarantee you I won't be in the Philippines.

Editor's note: Bill was killed in the hotel fire in the Philippines in 1984 during the 40th anniversary return trip. His wife, Sherry writes that Bill was buried in Marshall, Missouri on November 11, 1984

Written prior to 2nd landing on Luzon, February, 1945. on board ship.

"BEACH HEAD"

Across the water the moonlight's glaze
In contrast to the cannon's blaze,
Battleships, cruisers, destroyers banding,
To pave the way for another landing.

At down the first wave heads toward shore,
Followed closely by two, three and four
The beach looks mighty far away.
As you move forward midst the spray.

As the first wave hits the sand,
Five, six and seven head towards land,
With mortar shells dropping all about.
You really sweat the beachhead out.

Amid fire and confusion comes a shout.
"Aid man, aid man, get this man out!"
And later as newspapers play it in glory,
You know that most of it was an untold story.

From letter to home written February 8, 1945. Luzon, Philippine Islands.
W.T. Llewellyn, 34th Infantry, 24th Division.

Crunt

by Wayne K. Uhden

DO UNTO OTHERS
AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM
DO UNTO YOU...
SOMEHOW, THAT DOESN'T APPLY
TO MY FIRST SERGEANT...



"Pass? Of course . . . let's see now . . . I.D. card, Mess Pass, PX Ration, Liquor Ration, Social Security card, uh . . ."



"Looks like old Burton decided to take it with him."

NAVY SHIP NAMED AFTER WISCONSIN MAN KILLED IN KOREAN WAR

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (AP) — A U.S. Navy ship will bear the name of a Native American Army corporal from Wisconsin killed while defending his troops during the Korean War.

The U.S.N.S. RedCloud, named after Medal of Honor recipient Mitchell RedCloud Jr., will be dedicated August 7, 1999 in San Diego.

"It is quite an honor for his family and also for the Ho-Chunk nation," said Anita RedCloud, Mitchell RedCloud's only daughter.

"The only regret I have is that he is not around to be part of it," she said. "I never knew my father, and with all the awards and tributes he receives, it always comes back to me that I wish he were around to enjoy them with us."

Her father killed Nov. 5, 1950 when he was 26 years old.

RedCloud's company was defending a ridge near Chonhyon, South Korea, when he noticed enemy troops approaching from a brush-covered area less than 100 feet away, military reports said.

RedCloud, a native of Black River Falls, warned others and began to fire his automatic rifle. The effort allowed his company to organize a defense.

He stayed at his position by wrapping an arm around a tree until he was mortally wounded — hit eight times by enemy gunfire.

The names of the 19 new and reconditioned ships were selected by the Navy. Because the ships will carry Army equipment and supplies, Army medal of honor winners were selected, the Navy said.

The military transport that will bear RedCloud's name has a cargo carrying capacity of about 380,000 square feet, equivalent to almost eight football fields.

It can carry an entire Army task force, including 58 tanks, 48 other track vehicles and more than 900 other vehicles.

The ship's dedication will be only one event: Anita RedCloud's family will celebrate, the family will also celebrate the marriage of Anita's 24 year old daughter.

More than 100 friends and relatives will attend the dedication ceremonies, said Merlin RedCloud, nephew of Mitchell RedCloud.

Members of the Blackhawk American Legion Post 129 of Black River Falls also plan to attend the ceremony, said legion member Clayton Winneshiek.

"Mitchell was a highly respected member of this nation, and I don't think something like this will happen again," Winneshiek said.

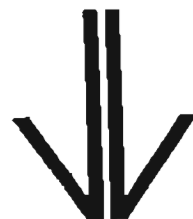
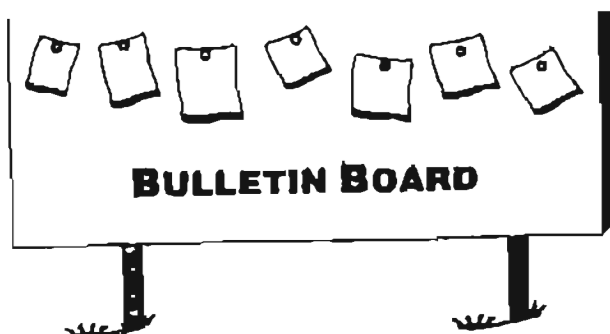
CHRISTENING DATE: AUGUST 7, 1999 AT 1920 HOURS (AN EVENING CEREMONY). SAN DIEGO AT THE SHIP.

INITIAL LANDING OCTOBER 20, 1944 LEYTE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

I recall after the Hollandia operation in New Guinea the 19th Infantry Regiment 24th Division being in a camp waiting for the next operation. All of a sudden we started to get fresh meat, fresh eggs and all the good stuff and then we knew we would be moving out soon. The time arrived and they loaded us up on trucks and transported us to our troop ship and we sailed for the Philippine Islands. We stopped at the Admiralty Islands to rendezvous with other troops ships that were headed for the same destination. I recall we went ashore to get some fresh chow, but we did not have mess kits so we used our helmets and the chow was in layers but tasted good. After a few hours on shore we embarked back onboard the troop ship and joined the rest of the convoy heading for Leyte in the Philippines. While underway we listened to Toyko Rose on the radio and she said she knew that the 24th Division was on the way and they would be waiting for us. She called us the 20,000 Devils from Hell. We finally arrived at our destination the island of Leyte in the Philippines. There were all kinds of troop ships there. After awhile we were told to get ready to board the landing craft on the side of the ship. There was a deathly silence amongst the troops when we started to disembark climbing down the rope nets draped over the side of the ship into the landing craft. I don't know how it started but someone started to sing the Aussie Song, "I Got Sixpence Jolly Jolly Sixpence I Got Sixpence To Last Me All My Life". I got two pence to lend two pence to spend and two pence to send home to my wife, poor wife, no pretty little girls to deceive me, happy as a lark believe me, as we go marching, marching home. I don't recall if all the words were correct words but it did relieve the tension and pretty soon every soldier in line waiting to climb down the net into the landing craft, was singing along, and the mood changed. My name is Charles E. Blunt and I was Assistant Squad Leader of the 1st Squad 1st Platoon C Co. 19th Inf. Regiment. S/Sgt Gladys was my Squad Leader. Sgt. Don Irwin my best buddy was assistant Squad Leader of the 2nd Squad. T/Sgt Osborn was our Platoon Sgt and was in our landing craft along with our Co. Commander Capt. Joseph C. McNeely and his runner were at the stern of the landing craft right behind me and Sgt. Irwin. We proceeded to rendezvous with the other landing craft and then we were on to hit the beach in front of the town of Palo, Leyte in the Philippines. There were two squads in the landing craft side by side. We were told to keep our heads down until the landing craft hit the beach to unload us. All of a sudden there was a tremendous explosion at the front of the landing craft. I looked up and saw that the ramp was shattered very bad and I could hear a lot of screaming and moaning. A Japanese artillery shell had hit the landing craft at the front and shattered the ramp which reacted like a bomb and sprayed shrapnel all over the two squads. There was blood all over. S/Sgt Gladys had his arm blown off and T/Sgt Osborn also

lost one arm. The shrapnel killed Capt. McNeely and his runner lost an eye. I looked over, I glanced over where my buddy Sgt. Don Irwin was and noticed that he was bleeding very badly around the face, evidently he had raised his head just prior to the explosion and a piece of shrapnel had hit him in the face. I discovered later after the war it had blinded him. I went to see him after the war in the hospital in Menlo Park, CA. The ramp had dropped down into the water and water was coming into the landing craft and mixing with the blood and it looked like red wine. We were getting as close to the beach as we could with the ramp in that condition. We finally came to a stop as the ramp hit the sand. I moved to the front of the boat and the ramp was hanging down and we could not use it to walk off on to the beach. It was about 6 or 7 feet deep. I jumped off into the water holding my breathe all the time. I pushed with my feet and came to the surface and took a deep breathe of air and pushed forward and then I was on the beach with my head out of the water. I motioned to the rest of the Squad to do the same. When they were all off the landing craft I assembled what was left of the Squad. I believe there were 7 or 8 of us. We proceeded to move forward up the beach towards some cover. People were getting hit all over the place. There was machine gun fire and rifle fire constantly. We moved inland about twenty five yards and came up on a tank trap filled with water and there were pill boxes on the other side putting out machine gun fire. We slipped into the tank trap and it was up above our waist and the pill boxes had us pinned down. We stayed in that tank trap, in that water for several hours and they finally knocked them out so we could proceed on our mission which was hill 522 behind the town of Palo, Leyte. We arrived at the base of hill 522 and proceeded to ascend the hill. It was starting to get dark as we were climbing up the hill. In the meantime the Japanese soldiers on the other side of the hill had a trench running along just over the ridge and were tossing grenades that were rolling down the hill and wounding some of the troops. It was almost dark and I could hear moans and groans. We were told to dig in for the night and we proceeded to do so. The next morning we discovered we had been cut off by Japanese troops driving a wedge between hill 522 and the beach. Also we were running out of water, so we sent a squad down to the base of the hill to try to locate some. We found a small pond that water buffalo had been sloshing around in and it was awfully muddy but we filled all the canteens up with the water and thank God for halazone tablets. The next day after a few encounters, we secured hill 522 and then waited for orders for our next mission.

Charles E. Blunt
Squad Leader 1st Squad C Co. 19th Regiment
24th Infantry Division



TO 24th Infantry Division, Division Ar-
tillery Persons.

FROM: Robert H. Smith

DATE: May 3, 1999

In the May issue of the 'Taro Leaf', it stated that Jim Hill would be our speaker — this is not to be. Our speaker will be Col. John C. Heard. Col. Heard (retired) was the commander of A Battery of the Eleventh Field in Japan and took the Battery to Korea when the North Koreans invaded the South. I am told he will speak on the occupation duties while in Japan and discuss our first few weeks in Korea.

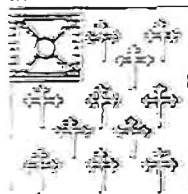
TO: All members, 34th Infantry Regi-
ment

FROM: Ben Wahle, Chairman

As you know, our second "Red" Newman breakfast will be held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Tulsa at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday the 25th of September 1999.

Marvin Wallace, who is in charge of arrange-ments, and whose address is 405 Locust, Ardmore OK 73401-1772, Phone 580-223-8452 is accepting the \$12.00 registration fee. I hope we can make this the biggest reunion yet as we will have as our principal speaker our 2nd BN surgeon "Doc Cameron." Doc saw plenty of front line action during our many battles and I know he will have some-thing interesting to say. I am also sure he may have patched a few of you up that forgot to "duck."

As time is running out be sure to try to make this one. It's later than you think.



KOREAN WAR VETERANS GROUP RE-
UNION - 26TH AAA "D" BATTERY & 11
FIELD BN WHO SERVED IN KOREA TO-
GETHER IN LATE 1952, 1953 & 1954
WILL BE HAVING A REUNION IN
BRANSON, MO IN APRIL 2000.

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:

BILL WEATHERLY

1204 HILLSIDE

GAINESVILLE TX 76240-2922

940-665-2540

FOR 26TH AAA "D" BTRY

GROUP

HOWARD BUCKLES

PO BOX 267

KEOSAUQUA, IA 52565

319-293-3012

FOR 11TH F.A. BN GROUP

24TH DIVISION ARTILLERY
(CAMP HAKATA ASSOCIATES)

12TH ANNUAL REUNION TO BE HELD
SEPTEMBER 14-16, 1999 IN
SHREVEPORT/BOSSIER CITY, LA. THIS
REUNION WILL BE HELD AT THE LE
BOSSIER HOTEL IN BOSSIER CITY
AND IS OPEN TO ALL OF THOSE PER-
SONS WHO SERVED AT CAMP HA-
KATA, KYUSHU, JAPAN IN 1946 - 1951.

PLEASE CONTACT:

LTC ART TRAVIS SECY'

COORDINATOR

1817 PRIVATE ROAD 3776

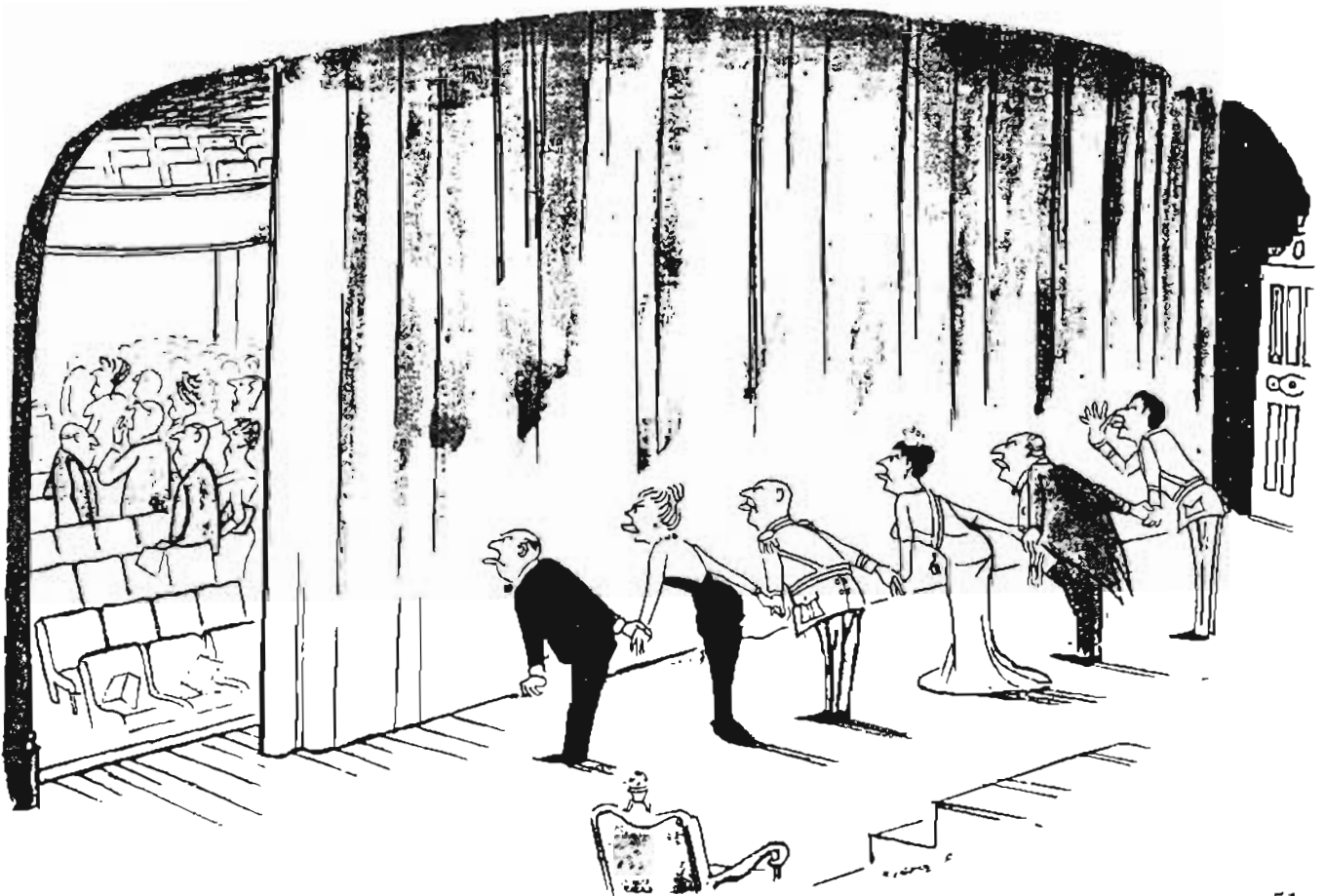
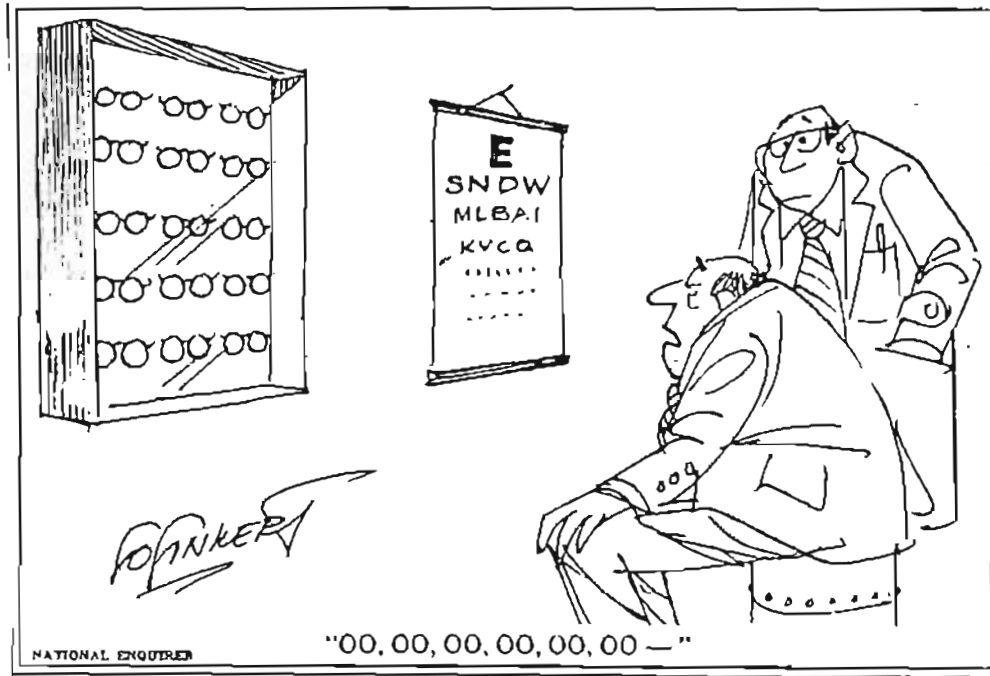
WILLS POINT, TX 75169-4637

PHONE - 903-560-0206 OR

800-600-7443 (Access Code - Zero 6)

West Coast Mini Reunion 2000 will be April
23 thru 27 at the Sundowner Hotel/Casino,
W. 4th & Arlington Sts. Downtown Reno,
Nevada in the heart of Casino Center.

Rod Stock, Chairman,
West Coast "Reunion 2000"



Letter received from Don & Marilyn Clark of 5316 53rd Ave., Lot G-7, Bradenton, FL 34203-5607, phone number 941-755-0125. "I am hunting an ole buddy, Joseph L. Rooney, his last known address was 488 E. 139th St., Bronx, NYC, NY. I probably will not be able to make Tulsa inasmuch as Marilyn and I have our 50th H.S. Class Reunion in September 1999. Maybe next year. The check is in memory of my good friend, Rudy Mullins." Thanks for writing Don and I hope someone will be able to help you locate Joseph Rooney.

Letter received from V.J. La Rocco of 842 Ocean St., Lindenhurst, NY 11757-6226.

"Vonnice, you are doing a great job as Editor. the best G.I. News in the U.S. Army. I'm still hangin on. Hope one reunion comes East so we can attend. I sure miss the Gang. Take care." Thanks for writing and also congratulations to you and your wife on your Golden Anniversary.

Mr. And Mrs. V.J. La Rocco celebrated their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary on April 23, 1999. Their 4 children gave them a dinner with all their friends, relatives and grandchildren. Vinny served with HQ Co. 1st BN, 21st Regt, 24th Division from 1943 to 1946. Vinny and Barbara will go on a cruise to celebrate.

Email received from Martin Isaacson mji@earthlink.net

"I am searching for a bronze star winner who served in Goode-nough Island 1943-1944 by his initials, JEA. Joe McKeon has searched all the papers that he has and could not come up with anything on JEA and his bronze star". Can anyone help Martin?



Email from ONOJU-NAS@aol.com

"My dad's name is Robert Lee Smith, from Hinton, WV. 24th Inf Div 19th Inf Regt, Charlie Company. He landed in Japan on Christmas day 1950. On October 19, 1951 he was wounded, he was shipped home December 19, 1951. As far as I know when he was in Charlie Company he remembers the hospital as 282 hospital in Osaka. He was in Kanako hospital in Japan also. He remembers large guns outside, he lost an eye and had metal fragments in several places in his face. He remembers what he thinks is the medics name as Shoptease (unknown spelling). He was American Indian descent and he remembers an Ernest Hull or Hall of Jones LA. Any information will be really rewarding as soon as possible because my dad is not feeling that well lately." Can anyone help?

Email from Frank Plata Silverfps@aol.com

"To all of the 'G (Let George Do it)' Company vets who are still around and in touch with some of their old buddies. Thought I'd let you know I've been in touch with several of our old friends in recent months. I've spoken via email with Bob DeFrain out in Los Angeles and was called by Dave Lopez from his California residence. Both had made contact and met at the California group reunion. They sent me a picture of themselves and both look terrific. About a week ago I received an email letter from Frank McIntyre formally with Tony Lavornia's

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

2nd Platoon. Frank and his wife Alice stopped in for some coffee/tea and danish while we tried to out exaggerate each other to impress our spouses. Several months back I heard from Richard Mercy in New York thanking me for the copy of the Christmas tape I sent to a number of former "G" Company alumni. Richard is still working and if any of you are looking for a private eye investigator, Richards may be your man. I hope I will be able to attend the Tulsa reunion but I'll have to keep my fingers crossed. Hope you will grab on to another "G" Company guy to attend or to contact as many of the old crew as is possible. I'd like to hear from you and we can catch up on what happened in the past 45 plus years. From the "City of Brotherly Love", take care of yourself. Hope to see you in the near future.

Note from Bill & Sally Jaecke of 705 S Redwood Rd, Lot 77, Salt Lake City, UT 84104. "We will not be able to be at the reunion in Tulsa. One daughter is getting married the first week of September and a granddaughter is getting married on 22 September. We will miss you much and all the rest of the 19th boys. You are always in our thoughts and the year 2000 we will be there no matter where you pick. We sure miss seeing our old friends. Tell all we said hello and God Bless you all." Thanks for writing Bill and Sally. We sure will miss you both too and look forward to seeing you in 2000!!

Email received from Charlie Johnson - GrampsCWJ@aol.com "Thank you very much for Chris Deghi's address. I called him tonight and we talked for an hour. He remembered me, and that made my day. I wrote a long letter, which included some pictures he should recognize." Glad you were able to chat with an old friend, Charlie!

Note received from Fran and Harry Wittman of 1385 Terri St., Keyser WV 26726. "Today, I received a call from Amos Sparks, 204 William Reed Dr., Antioch CA 94509. He is looking for a buddy. Would you publish the name of the buddy he is looking for?" J. H. Thomas JR, RA 18270739, Co. K, 34th Regt., 24th ID, Sasebo, Japan 1950. Anyone able to help Amos? Please let him know.

Note from John Hargreaves of Pelham NH writes: "Fell in February and broke left hip and small bone in right hand. What with hospital and rehab time flew by. Doing OK now." Thanks for writing John and we are glad you are doing better.

Received a note from Larry Platje: "I was so impressed with this poem, "Combat Infantryman Badge" that I had to share it with other veterans, so I sent it to the Combat Infantry Association for their "Blue Badge Newsletter" and they printed it". Thanks for writing, Larry!

Charles Fredrick Evans was in Korean War 1950-52 and looking for fellow members that served with him. His address is 4 Fern Circle Wyoming Delaware 19934 and phone number is 302-492-1126. His daughter's email is



Alogan6357@aol.com

Any who is able to assist, please do so.

Email from Frank J. Plata:

Jim Cooper of Albuquerque, NM is a new member and was a former member of the 3rd Plt of G Company of the 19th. Are any of you former G Co people who arrived early with the division in Korea attending the Tulsa reunion? Jim Cooper will be in attendance and hopefully you folks will be able to re-establish some former comradeship. You may email Jim Cooper at jcoop@spinn.net

Email from Tom Kilfoyle: "While in the Kmart store in Phoenix AZ, my wife and I were looking for a toy for our grandson's 4th birthday. I came across a toy soldier dressed in desert uniform with the 24th Inf Div patch on it. If you want to pass this on to other members their email address is: www.galoob.com click on galoob military then click on Battle squads then click on the 24th Inf. Div. The toy soldiers are very authentically dressed." Thanks Tom, I did go take a look and it is great!

Email received from Jchl294@aol.com

"I served with the I&R Platoon of the 19th Infantry from Jan 1950 when it was stationed in Beppu, till I left them in Korea in May of 1951. I am interested in any information about life in Beppu, prior to the Regiment leaving for Korea and old friends from the I&R that may still be around. Names are

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

vague now but I can remember Sgt Matthews, Johnson, Golottie, Tom Swift, Gordon Palmare and Oginski. If anyone can help let me know. Our old Platoon leader who joined us in Korea in august 1950, Lt Bill Patch, retired as a Major General, the Commander of Ft Dix. Please email, if you are able to assist.

Received email from Pastor Michael Howard, Church of the Open Door, Nampa, ID chopendoor!@aol.com

"I am looking for information on Thomas Jay Rickey who has lost his memory and is not able to recall much of the information he would really like to have concerning his service in the Korean War. I am his pastor and friend. He entered the United States Army in July of 1951 after graduating from high school in Chicago. He did his basic at Ft. Polk and then was trained at Ft. Sill, then transferred to Ft. Lewis where he was sent to Korea with what he believes was the 24th Division. He was discharged on October 14, 1953 after serving in Korea. Does anyone remember Thomas Jay (TJ) Rickey? —Is there anyone that can help? Please contact Pastor Howard, if so.



Let it go, let it go
Let it all unravel
Let it free and it can be
A path on which to travel



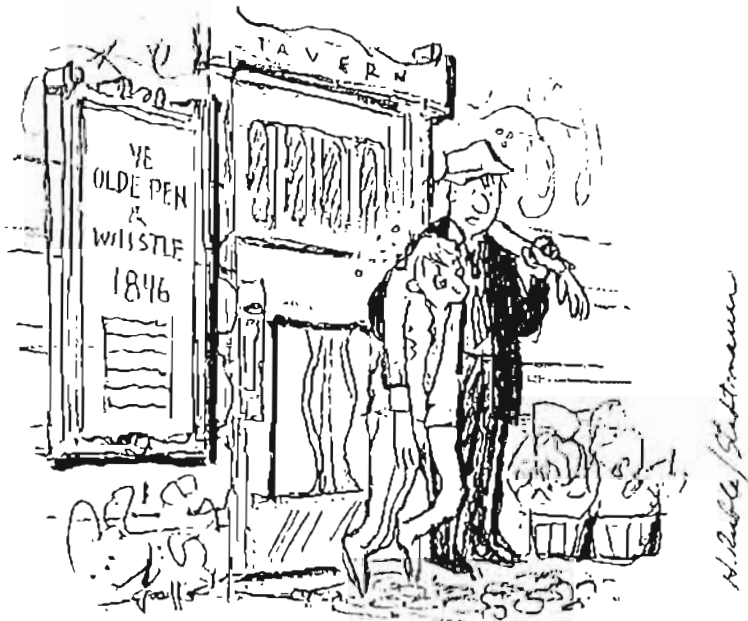
INTRODUCING HAL RUBLE AND SAUL STADTMAUER

Sergeants Hal Ruble and Saul Stadtmauer, posted in division forward headquarters P.I.O., met during the Korean action in 1951 and have kibitzed together ever since. Now respectively a Kalamazoo-based graphic designer and illustrator, and a New York City freelance writer/journalist, they've agreed to preview some of their many cartoons in these pages. Unless rejected by popular demand, you'll be seeing more of their work in future issues

Hope all of our members enjoy and many thanks to both of you, Hal and Saul!!



"CUSTOMER WANTS TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO...
SAYS IT'S AS TOUGH AS AN OLD RUBBERTIRE"



"IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE...IMAGINE GETTING DRUNK
IN A PLACE WITH NO HISTORY"



R. Bush

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

June 11, 1999

Dear Victory Division Comrades and Friends:

Want to share with you copies of letters signed by Presidents Bush and Clinton commemorating the reactivation of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

The unfurling of our Division's Colors on June 5, 1999 was a spectacular event and will be long remembered by the hundreds of thousands of Victory Division veterans – past, present and future. I was enormously proud to participate in this ceremony and to be joined by hundreds of supporters that included senior Army leaders, congressional and community members, veterans, soldiers and friends of the "Victory Division."

Special thanks to Major General Freddy E. McFarren, newly appointed Commanding General, 24th Infantry Division, for his leadership and support in carrying-out this first-class event. Under his leadership, I am sure the Division will be trained and ready to respond when our country calls it into action.

Best wishes,

Barry R. McCaffrey
General, USA (Retired)
Director

"Victory"

GEORGE BUSH

June 5, 1999

Dear Men and Women of the Victory Division,

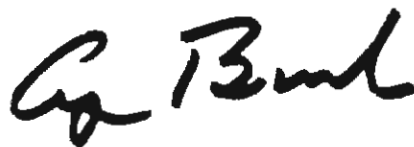
I am glad that the colors of the 24th Infantry Division are being unfurled today in Kansas. The soldiers of the Victory Division have played important roles in many battle campaigns over the years. Personally, I remember the inspiring performance of the Division against seven Iraqi divisions.

During my term as Commander-In-Chief, I saw first-hand the unswerving loyalty and valor of the men and women of the 24th Infantry Division during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Under the superb leadership of General Barry R. McCaffrey, the Victory Division deployed on no notice to defend Saudi Arabia and deter Iraqi aggression. The readiness of the Division was brought home to me when I sent Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell to ask Major General McCaffrey what problems he had. MG McCaffrey responded, "We have none. The division has rehearsed its plan, is fully modernized, and has the best troops in the world."

This upbeat report from the Victory Division gave me confidence that we were ready to attack. The challenges facing the 24th Infantry Division were enormous. The operation involved a division attack over 370 kilometers into Iraqi territory to block the Euphrates River and prevent the escape of 500,000 enemy soldiers in the Kuwaiti theater of operations. In four days, the Victory Division enveloped approximately one-fifth of Saddam Hussein's army. The 24th Infantry Division's swift and decisive attack will be viewed by historians as one of the singular accomplishments of modern war.

I am proud of the 24th Infantry Division's service during the Gulf War. I know that tomorrow's commanders-in-chief will be similarly reassured to know they can rely on you again.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Bush", with a stylized, cursive script.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 1, 1999

Warm greetings to everyone gathered for the reactivation of the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division. This is a proud occasion for all who have worn the Taro Leaf of the 24th Infantry Division.

The history of your division is long and distinguished, stretching back to the days of Pearl Harbor when the 24th ID recorded the first enemy casualties of World War II and earned the motto "First to Fight." Led by soldiers of character and courage, the division won battle after battle against determined, entrenched enemy forces throughout the Pacific. Following World War II, the 24th ID once again answered the call to duty, serving with distinction in the fight against North Korean aggression.

General Barry McCaffrey, who is carrying my congratulations to you on this occasion, led the division during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The division's famous "left hook" and the crossing of the Euphrates River into Iraq over a distance of 370 kilometers have been counted among the greatest cavalry charges in history. The ground attack spearheaded by the division resulted in the surrender of the fourth largest army in the world in 100 hours. Now the 24th ID once again stands ready to defend the American people and to advance our nation's vital interests.

Today American troops and our NATO allies are meeting new challenges -- maintaining the peace in Bosnia, protecting the lives of millions of Kosovar Albanians, assuring the overall stability of the Balkan region -- and reminding us once again of the importance of America's military. I salute each of you, your families, and all our men and women in uniform who sacrifice so much for the well-being of our nation. I am pleased and proud that the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division is rejoining the ranks of the U.S. Armed Forces and once again stands ready to answer the call to action.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.



NEWS RELEASE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442
TELEPHONE: (785) 239-2022 FAX: (785) 239-2592
AFTER HOURS 239-2222

**HOME
OF
AMERICA'S ARMY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Rel. No. 6-11-99

Deb Skidmore, Public Information Officer

June 9, 1999

24th Infantry Division welcomed to Fort Riley

By Daniel Hobson

The division colors of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) are flying once again.

During a ceremony Saturday at Cavalry Parade Field, Fort Riley became headquarters of the division and in doing so, stands at the forefront of a new Army concept of integrated active and reserve component forces.

"In front of us is the unveiling of a very historic event, the building of our Army of the future, a reorganization of the Army as you see it," said Gen. Thomas Schwartz, the commander of the U.S. Army Forces Command, during the ceremony.

The reactivated division consists of three Army National Guard Brigades. They include the 48th Separate Infantry Brigade from Georgia, the 218th Separate Infantry Brigade from South Carolina and 30th Separate Infantry Brigade from North Carolina. Approximately many as 12,000 soldiers are assigned to the three brigades. More than a hundred active-duty soldiers are scheduled to be stationed at Fort Riley permanently.

Almost 2,000 people came to watch the ceremony and watched as Lt. Gen (Ret.) Joseph De-Francisco, who commanded the division when it was inactivated in 1996 at Fort Stewart, GA., uncased the division colors. Many of the spectators who came to Fort Riley were veterans of wars the division has fought. They came from all parts of the country. Warren Avery, who fought in the Korea War with the division's Taro Leaf patch on his shoulder, traveled to Kansas from Connecticut to see the division reactivated. The division has a distinguished history, and Avery said he's glad that the division is back serving the country again.

Many distinguished people came to the ceremony, including Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and two Kansas representatives, Jim Ryun and Todd Tiahrt.

Fort Riley is leading the way for the idea of a new Army — one which utilized the reserve components for maximum capabilities, said Roberts, who was instrumental to getting the division to Fort Riley. The installation will continue to contribute significantly to the Kansas economy, Roberts said.

The division's presence at Fort Riley will increase the visibility of the installation to the state and to the Army, Ryun said during a news conference after the activation ceremony.

Fort Riley became the home of a division headquarters for the first time since the famous "Big Red One," the 1st Infantry Division, left the post in 1996. Although the 1st Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division remains at Fort Riley, the division itself is now headquartered in Germany. Maj. Gen. Freddy McFarren, the commander of the 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, said the importance of Fort Riley to the nation and to the Army will continue into the next century.

"Since 1850, this post has been training soldiers," McFarren said. "We've trained soldiers for the Indian War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and all the major conflicts of this century."

"Another page of history is being written for Fort Riley. To the soldiers who stand before you and to anybody who is listening, I will tell you that we will be ready when our country calls us to action."

Joe Sweeney
P.O. Box 506
Dellslow, WV 26531-0506

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Yvonne Mullins, Editor, *Taro Leaf*
31150 See View Drive,
Rocky Mount, MO 65072-2903

Ref: Ltr., 5/18/98, Abandoned P.O.W.'s

Dear Yvonne,

Thank you for publishing the subject article in the February 1999 Issue of *Taro Leaf*. The roster of men of the 24th Infantry Division who were Prisoners-of War and left alive in Korea has now been increased to forty seven, including three more men of the 19th Infantry Regiment.

The Honor Roll of those abandoned and forgotten men is enclosed. If possible could you please publish this roster in the next issue of *Taro Leaf*?

These names were identified from a roster of 308 MIA's that the Department of The Army intended to have each former POW to go over, and then the ex-POW was supposed to complete a questionnaire for the purpose of determining the fate of each man on the roster. The roster was apparently compiled after exit interviews with the POW's during Operation Little Switch and Big Switch in 1953 and 1954. Delbert Henson, (2d Bn., 29th Infantry Regiment, May 1949-Aug. 31, 1950, and Item Co., 19th Infantry Regiment, Sept. 1950-Feb. 4, 1951, POW till Aug. 31, 1953.) sent me the list. SFC Henson was a Platoon Sergeant until his capture on Feb. 4, 1951 while he was covering the withdrawal the 3d Bn., 19th Infantry from a hill surrounded by the enemy.

When the roster came to me, I compared it with the same list of known POW's that the United Nations Command used in their meetings with the Communists after the truce in 1953. These 47 names are the result. To the roster I have added two entries, the home county of each man and the Korean Conflict Casualty File (KCCF) code that indicates the final disposition of each man's fate by the Department of Defense. Only two KCCF codes were used, A3-died while missing, and A4-died while captured. Apparently only those men given the A4 status code were considered Prisoners-of War as a final disposition of their fate.

The twenty-three men of the 29th Infantry Regiment comprise the largest group of men on this Honor Roll. James F. Hill wrote about the actions where they were lost in: "Baptism To Combat", "The 3rd Battalion 29th Infantry at Hadong Pass, July 1950". His story was published in the February 1999 Issue of the *Taro Leaf*.

The three men of the 19th Infantry, Cpl. Kenneth L. Cozad, Pfc. Leo E. Fetzer, and Cpl. Maxie L. Pickard were lost in the actions associated with those of the 29th Infantry at Hadong

Pass. Cpl. Cozad was one of sixty replacements that were sent up to George Company after dark while they were withdrawing from a hill under fire. He became a POW instead. Cpl. Pickard was a replacement being sent to Easy Company and he was also lost.

Easy Company morning reports indicate that Pfc. Fetzer was not a replacement, but an assigned member of the company when he was lost on July 30, 1950.

Records show that Cpl. Pickard died while a POW on September 6, 1953; he was 35 years old. Cpl. Cozad was declared officially dead on Mar. 1, 1954, and Pfc. Fetzer was declared dead on Feb. 16, 1954.

At this time I do not have any Korean War Memorial printouts for the men on this roster except for those that I included with my letter of May 18, 1998; however, on my next trip to Washington I hope to add printouts for these men to my records.

Perhaps someone will remember the actions, or recognize the names of the "abandoned and forgotten" men on this Honor Roll and will write something about them.

My gut feeling is that these 47 men are only a few of many men who were captured by the enemy in Korea and remain unaccounted for.

Thank you Yvonne for publishing the previous roster and for including this Honor Roll in the *Taro Leaf*. Perhaps we can discuss the issue of these "abandoned and forgotten" men in our 24th Infantry Division Association meeting at Tulsa next September and decide on a way to commemorate them. It would be the proper thing to do!

Now on to another subject, the listing that I compiled of the Dead, Missing and Captured Men of the 19th Infantry in Korea. The response to my offer in the February Issue of *Taro Leaf* was great. For those who did not get a copy, I will have some with me in Tulsa, the cost will be \$6.00 because printing cost have increased and that is my cost. I make no profit.

Keep up the great work, Yvonne, each issue seems to be better!

Sincerely,

Joe Sweeney



CORRECTION

There was a report in the May issue that ***M.G. Elmer Pendleton*** was deceased. We have word that he is alive and doing fine. His address is: 3028 Knoll Drive - Falls Church, VA 22042-3111.

We apologize for this error and we are very happy that we were wrong!

HONOR ROLL

Roster of the men who served with the 24th Infantry Division in Korea and who became Prisoners of War. The names listed here are those of the men "*known to be alive* when the Armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, but they were *never repatriated*".

<u>Name</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>MIA Date</u>	<u>KCCF</u>
<u>29th Infantry Regiment</u>					
Bedell, Norman C.,	RA 16318848,	Pvt.,	Baker	07/27/50	A3
	Washtenaw Co., MI.				
Billigmeier, Milton P.,	RA 37541893,	Cpl.,	Love	12/01/50	A3
	Stutsman Co., NC				
Buster, Johnnie J.,	RA 19338734,	Pfc.,	Mike	08/01/50	A3
	San Bernardino Co., CA				
Callis, Henry O.,	RA 14296259,	Pfc.,	Love	07/27/50	A3
	Shelby Co., TN				
Dove, Leroy J.,	RA 16302584,	Pfc.,	Item	07/27/50	A3
	Branch Co, MI				
Elias, Daniel A.,	RA 13341710,	Pvt.,	Dog	07/27/50	A3
	Allegheny Co., PA				
Grenier, Donald T.,	RA 21724933,	Pvt.,	Love	07/27/50	A3
	Burlington Co., NJ				
Hadnot, Charles D.,	RA 14276776,	Pvt.,	Mike	07/27/50	A3
	Pinellas Co., FL				
Harry, Edward S., Jr.,	RA 18283271,	Pvt.,	King	07/27/50	A3
	Pulaski Co., AR				
Hayne, Robert E.,	RA 19360132,	Pvt.,	Love	08/02/50	A3
	Los Angeles Co., CA				
Hogan, Kenneth A.,	RA 19354580,	Pvt.,	Item	07/27/50	A3
	King Co., WA				
Hoogacker, Phillip T.,	RA 16315593,	Pvt.,	Dog	07/27/50	A3
	Wayne Co., MI				
Krygowski, Francis J.,	RA 11189504,	Pfc.,	Item	07/27/50	A3
	Middlesex Co., MA				
Linebaugh, Orvall F.,	RA 19356698,	Pvt.,	Baker	07/27/50	A3
	San Diego Co., CA				
Masters, Louis R.,	RA 13273131,	Pvt.	Dog	07/27/50	A3
	Lawrence Co., PA				
Mireles, Macario,	RA 18353729,	Pfc.	Dog	07/27/50	A3
	Bexar Co., NV				
Peterson, Lyle E.,	RA 19351553,	Pvt.,	King	07/27/50	A3
	Cowlitz Co., WA				
Richey, Aggie L.,	RA 19325608,	Pvt.,	King	07/27/50	A3
	Santa Clara Co., CA				

Springer, William,	RA 12338808, Pfc., Passaic Co., NJ	Item	07/27/50	A3
Stegar, William R.,	RA 16257788, Pfc., Cook Co., IL	King	07/27/50	A3
Thomas, Mitchell C.,	O 2014760, 2 nd Lt., Talladega Co., AL	Baker	07/27/50	A3
Wilson, Richard L.,	RA 16328280, Cpl., Wayne Co., MI	Item	07/27/50	A3
Young, Russel V.,	RA 19328641, Pvt., San Mateo Co., CA	Baker	07/27/50	A3

34th Infantry Regiment

Holt, Crenshaw A.,	O 58927, 1 st Lt., Philadelphia Co., PA	Mike	08/13/50	A3
Hull, Leonard C.,	RA 12242197, Cpl., Tiago Co., NY	Service	07/20/50	A3
Kalama, Herbert,	RA 10101615, Sgt., Hawaii Co., HI	Hq., 34 th	07/20/50	A3
Mattingly, Donald L.,	RA 38569409, Sgt., Garfield Co., OK	Item	07/29/50	A3
Nearhood, John W.,	RA 16315922, Cpl., Cook CO., IL	Charlie	08/08/50	A3
Royer, Charles B.,	RA 38649112, Cpl., Jack Co., TX	Hq., 34 th	08/11/50	A3
Rozear, John M., Jr.,	RA 12314868, Pfc., Bucks Co., PA	Love	07/29/50	A3
Sanford, Royal W.,	RA 13349848, Pvt., Lounenburg Co., VA	Able	11/11/50	A3
Takahara, Sam O.,	O 2030786, 1 st Lt., New York, NY	Hq., 34 th	07/20/50	A3

21st Infantry Regiment

Haag, Douglas H.,	O 2101071 2 nd Lt., Jefferson Co., KY	King	07/12/50	A3
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19th Infantry Regiment

Bastie, William R., Jr.,	RA 11202604, Pvt.,	King	02/04/51	A3
Cozad, Kenneth L.,	RA 15275155, Cpl., Jennings Co., IN	George	07/30/50	A3
De Moll, Casmire T.,	RA 38171941, Sgt.,	Item	DOD 03/01/54 02/04/51	A3
Dumas, Roger A.,	RA 21004481, Pfc.,	Charlie	11/04/50	A3

Fetzer, Leo E.,	RA 15281807,	Pfc.,	Easy	07/31/50	A3
	Wayne Co., OH			DOD 02/16/54	
Harnage, Lawrence A.,	RA 14337390,	Pfc.,	Howe	08/01/50	A3
Jinks, Leonard W. E.,	RA 15057580,	Pfc.,	Charlie	07/16/50	A3
Pickard, Maxie L.,	RA 20811182,	Cpl.,	Easy	07/31/50	A4
	Dallas Co., TX			POW, Died 09/06/53	
Stoeber, Walter T., Jr.,	RA 13257788,	Pfc.,	Charlie	01/01/51	A3

5th Infantry Regiment

Fulk, Lester E.,	US 55158005,	Pfc.,	Easy	08/03/52	A4
	Texas Co., MO				

26th AAA AW Battalion

Bull, Clifford G.,	RA 18254536,	Pfc.,	Btry. A	08/10/50	A3
	Colfax Co., NM				
Lagoni, Ditlef J.,	RA 16265716,	SFC,	Btry. A	08/10/50	A3
	Berrien Co., MI				
Preas, Curlous M.,	RA18337006,	Pfc.,	Btry. A	08/08/50	A3
	Coleman Co., TX				

3rd Engineer (Combat) Battalion

Abbott, Charles L.,	RA 17258068,	Pvt.,	Charlie	07/20/50	A4
	Scots Co., IO				

Note: KCCF indicates the Korean Conflict Casualty File code for type of casualty.

A3 means Died while missing.

A4 means Died while a prisoner of war.

DOD is the date the Department of Defense declared the man officially dead.

Videotapes Are Available of National Reunions.

Raines Video Productions has videotaped the 1997 reunion in Colorado Springs and the 1998 reunion in Little Rock. A videotape will also be made of the reunion this year in Tulsa. These videotapes include highlights of all of the major events and interviews with veterans talking about their experiences in the 24th and their lives afterwards. The videotapes are edited with music from the 1940's and 1950's.

To order a videotape, you can send a check to:

Raines Video Productions
180 Golf Club Road, Ste. 157
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

or call 1-800-654-8277 to order with a credit card.

The tape price is \$31.95 including shipping.



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TAPS





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Following is a story about the life of Lee Sang Yun, a life member of the 24th Infantry Division Association. He was extremely proud of this membership. It took me 46 years to locate Mr. Lee. He passed away on 17 March 1999 in a hospital in Seoul, Korea. I am also enclosing a photograph of Mr. Lee and myself taken in July 1996 while visiting Korea Village south of Seoul.

Lee Sang Yun, civilian Soldier

Mr. Lee and I became very close friends in 1950, he a 24 year old who joined C Company of the 21st as an unpaid civilian Interpreter-Rifleman. Me I was a 17 year old Rifleman. We shared foxholes, patrols, outposts and in general did what all Infantrymen did in the Korean War. He had a very interesting life, and I thought it should be shared.

Lee was born in Angang, South Korea, near the coastal city of Pohang during the Japanese occupation of Korea. When he was about 5 years old his family was uprooted by the Japanese and moved to Manchuria as farmers. Apparently the Japanese wanted the Lee's property. Lee grew up in Manchuria and of course had to attend Japanese schools. Upon his graduation

He and his classmates were conscripted into the Japanese Army. He was eventually assigned to the Russian front where they fought and were overrun. Having been taken prisoner, he and others escaped and walked to the

southwest. He was taken prisoner by Nationalist Chinese Army; escaped and was then taken prisoner by the Communist Chinese Army. It seems that in each of these escapes he was used as labor and would hide and then walk away when it was safe to do so.

Lee then was trying to return to his hometown of Angang. The North Koreans grabbed him and again he was forced to be a laborer, and again he slipped away to continue the long walk from North Korea to South Korea. He dressed as a Peasant during the trip through North Korea.

Upon reaching Seoul, Lee bought a book and during the remainder of his long walk taught himself to speak English.

He was living in his hometown when the Korean War broke out. In August 1950 the War had reached as far south as Angang. The shelling and fighting drove all of the townspeople into the hills around this Village. At this same time the 21st Infantry was in the region of Kyong-ju, Angang and Pohang. It was near the end of August

T A P S (continued)



1950 that I joined C Company at an intersection between Kiggye and Pohang north of several mile north of Angang. We were supporting the ROK Capital Division.

Upon moving into the mountains to the east, Lee approached Captain Wyrick and asked to join the Company as an interpreter. Lee was assigned to my 2nd Platoon. Lee and I spent much time together except when needed elsewhere as an interpreter. It was about this time that the KATUSA's were assigned to each American unit. Lee was very busy relaying orders to these untrained Korean soldiers

Moved into Pohang and Lee was able to round up some food from a warehouse, rice balls, kimchee and dried squid. We ate while waiting on trucks to move us to Taegu area.

On 19 September 1950, we assaulted across the Nak-Tong river, and Lee not only crossed the river with the 2nd platoon, by re-crossed the river at least one or more time to bring machine gun ammo to us during the fighting. Lee was a civilian, but he dressed in our uniform and always carried a carbine. Lee was really a good soldier.

Lee marched all the way to the Yalu River with us, and when short of rations, he would find a way to obtain some food, such as in Haegu, he was able to provide us with several chickens; we had a good meal that night.

Enroute north, we were patrolling ahead, Lee found a brand new airplane used by "bed check charlie" hidden in a hay stack. Our CO needed some lights so Lee removed the battery from the airplane and provided light for the headquarters tent that night.

True the 21st did not get to the banks of the Yalu River, but Lee and my squad went out on a patrol that actually

got to the banks of the river. We captured some prisoners, one was an officer, an NK Major or Colonel, which Lee interrogated. He was with us as we moved back south through Seoul.

It was early in 1951 that Division found out about Mr. Lee, and offered him a civilian job with pay, he moved to Headquarters of the 19th Infantry at this time, so I lost track of Mr. Lee for the following 46 years.

Upon the 24th moving back to Japan in December 1951, Mr. Lee went to work for some other units, and eventually winding up in Pusan are interrogating POW's

When the War had ended, Mr. Lee took a job with an Air Force unit and transferred with them to Thailand where he was used by the Intelligence Unit as Interpreter-Interrogator during the Vietnamese War.

When this Air Force Squadron was moved to the states, Mr. Lee made his way to Hong Kong, where he sold men's suits. Later he made his way back to Seoul, and worked very hard establishing a very successful chain of grocery stores.

Mr. Lee became a member of both the 24th Infantry Division Assn. and the 21st RCT Assn. In 1996. He was able to attend the reunion in Minneapolis in 1996 and Dallas in 1997. Lee was liked by all that was fortunate to meet him. Prior to becoming ill, Mr. Lee was a great assist to those of Task Force Smith who re-visited Korea in July 1998. I am going to miss this Civilian-Soldier very much. He was a great friend and in 1998 after being told of his critical condition, he insisted on coming to see me at my home before he was too ill for travel. All that knew him will tell what good man and friend Lee Sang Yun was to us all.

TAPS (continued)



Received by email. To all you "soldiers", the "WHY" TAPS moves the heart.

THE STORY BEHIND "TAPS"

It all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate Soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The captain lit a lantern. Suddenly, he caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was partially granted. The captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for the son at the funeral. That request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate.

Out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of his dead son's uniform. This wish was granted.

This music was the haunting melody we now know as "Taps" that is used at all military funerals.

In case you are interested, these are the words to "TAPS" Day is done, Gone the sun, From the lakes, From the hills, From the sky. All is well. Safely rest. God is nigh.

FIRST LT. RALPH R.

BALESTRIERI, 72, of EATONTOWN, died yesterday at Riverview Medical Center, Red Bank. He started his career with the Army in 1940 and retired in 1960 as a master sergeant. He ultimately achieved the rank of first lieutenant. He served in two wars. He served in World War II from 1940 to 1947 and was lieutenant from 1943 to 1947. He served in France, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Austria. He served in Korea from 1950 to 1953 as first lieutenant. His World War II campaigns included, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. In Korea, his campaigns included the UN Offensive, CCF Intervention, first UN Counter Offensive and CCF Spring Offensive. During World War II, he ran supplies through scattered enemy holdouts and took two prisoners. In Korea, he was with the rifle company of the Third Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment. His was the first artillery vehicle to enter Belgium and Germany and he was the first to direct observed artillery fire on German soil. While in the service, he was an educational specialist at the Signal Corps at Fort Monmouth and after his retirement, continued in that capacity as a civilian. He was awarded the Purple Heart during World War II for injuries received in battle.

He was a member of the Military Order of World Wars, a life member of the 58th Armored Artillery Battalion Association, the Third Armored Division Association, the 24th Infantry Division Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the National Rifle Association, the Society of Graduates Officers Candidates School at Fort Sill, Okla., the Retired Officers Association, the Veterans Battle of the Bulge and the Veterans in Politics Inc. He was a charter member of the Battle of Normandy Museum, a member of the Fourth Infantry Division, the 11th Armored Division, the Armor Corps, the Field Artillery, the Korean War Veterans Association, and the Association of US Army. MENSA.

Born in Camden, he lived in Pleasantville until World War II, moving to Eatontown in 1959.

Surviving are his wife, Mutsu Tanaka Balestrieri; a son, Ralph E. Balestrieri, Dunkirk, Md.; two sisters, Pauline Wilson, Vero Beach, Fla., and Evelyn Balestrieri, Lakeland, Fla.; and a grandson, Richard.

Received word from the family of Frank M. Barnes of his Death on June 20, 1999 of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) at Farragut Health Care Center. He was a 40 year Veteran of the U.S. Army and a Veteran of the Korean Conflict. He was awarded the Distinguished Rifleman badge and was Recognized as one of the "President's 100," an award Reserved for the top 100 Marksmen in the country. He Was retired from Martin Marietta Energy Systems and was a member Of Bible Way Baptist Church In the Karns Community. In life, His goal was always to help others. In death, he gave the ultimate gift by Donating his body to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Since he was very hopeful that the gift of his body would benefit other ALS patients, the family asks that donations be sent

to the ALS Association in lieu of flowers. The address of the Association is 27001 Agoura RD, Suite 150, Calabasas Hills, CA 91301-5104. Mr. Barnes was preceded in death by parents Erastus A. and Amanda B. Barnes; twin brothers who died at birth; and sister, Alice Elder. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Fonda B. Barnes; son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Kathy Barnes, and their children, Luke and Zak Barnes; step-daughter, Jill Edds; son and daughter-in-law, Eugene and Renee Barnes, and their son, Robbie; and daughter Marilyn Sowell. Rev. Billy Bell officiated at the memorial service for Mr. Barnes at the Bible Way Baptist Church on June 27, 1999.



T A P S
(continued)

Lester Lewes Wheeler

Brigadier General Lester L. Wheeler, US Army (Ret), died of cancer May 5 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington at the age of 88. Born and reared in Baltimore, Gen. Wheeler, ("Lefty"), graduated from McDonogh School in 1929. He was a star football and lacrosse player, he played the trombone and was an accomplished horseman, riding in numerous races and steeplechases throughout the Maryland countryside.

After graduating from McDonogh, and inspired by family stories of relatives who had served on both sides in the Civil War, he decided upon a military career. One of the highlights of his youth had been meeting General John (Black Jack) Pershing when he visited Baltimore upon his return from France. He attended Western Maryland College on a football scholarship and entered the United States Military Academy at West Point where he played lacrosse and football and sang in the Cadet Choir. He graduated in 1935.

Gen. Wheeler's first assignment took him to Plattsburgh Barracks, NY, where he met his wife of 62 years, the former Dorothy Hutchin. General Wheeler and his family survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and he spent the rest of WWII in the Pacific. He commanded the 34th Infantry Regiment during amphibious assaults on Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines. Later, during the Korean Conflict, he commanded the Fifth Regimental Combat Team at Outpost Harry.

His peacetime service included the faculties at West Point and Armed Forces Staff College, and an assignment with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where he was part of the US Delegation to the Foreign Ministers Meeting in Geneva which negotiated with the Russians to assure unimpeded access to Berlin after WWII. He was later Commanding General, Yukon Command in Alaska, where he established the Army Post, Ft. Wainwright.

As Chief of Staff, Third US Army, he was instrumental in the development of the military's Air Mobility concept. A most genial and gracious man, Gen. Wheeler was highly regarded throughout his career as a leader and mentor to young officers and soldiers. General Wheeler's awards and decorations include the Combat Infantry Badge with star, two Silver Stars, for valor, five Bronze Stars, the Distinguished Service Medal and Legion of Merit. He recently received a special medal struck for survivors of the battle for Outpost Harry. Following retirement from active duty he joined the RAND Corporation where he was a consultant on military doctrine and developed and evaluated computer war games.

In private life he was an avid gardener and outdoorsman as well as a keen student of history. His Maryland roots ran deep, and he returned throughout his life to sail the Chesapeake and to visit with dear friends and family. He also contributed his time and talents to many environmental causes, especially in the management of fish and game.

In addition to his wife, Gen. Wheeler is survived by three children, Helen Wheeler Buckley of Baltimore, MD, Louis Lamborn Wheeler of Vienna, VA and Thomas Hutchin Wheeler of Eugene, OR, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers contributions may be sent to the Scholarship Fund, McDonogh School, or to the Superintendent's Fund at West Point.



T A P S (continued)



William Franklin Eberhart Sr.

Funeral Liturgy with Mass will be celebrated Thursday for William Franklin "Frank" Eberhart Sr., a survivor of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, who died Tuesday, March 23, 1999, in Wheeling Hospital. He was 76.

A resident of Wheeling, he was born Dec. 18, 1922, in Centerville, W. Va., son of the late John F. and Ora Mae Walters Eberhart.

Eberhart was a brick and stone mason for Wheeling Bricklayers Local No. 1, a member of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, Wheeling, and a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army's 24th Infantry Division, 3rd Engineers. He received the Purple Heart Award as a result of being wounded in New Guinea in 1944.

He was a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association Inc., the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the McMechen Veterans of Foreign Wars, McMechen Disabled Veterans, Blake Brothers American Legion Post 46, Benwood, and was a past

commander of the DAV Chapter No. 15, Marshall County.

He also was a member of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, a past recording secretary-treasurer of Bricklayers Local No. 1 for 30 years, a former trustee of the Bricklayer Pension Fund and a member of the Cave Club, Wheeling.

He was past president of the Holy Name Society Wheeling Deanery, and was the first president appointed by the late Bishop Hodges of National Council of Catholic Men.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, John F., a sister, Geraldine E. Swart. Surviving are his wife, Helen Toth Eberhart; a son, Wm. "Frank" Jr. of Wheeling; two daughters, Linda J. Wymer of Tiltonsville and Kathleen Geiser of Wheeling; a sister, Mrs. Richard (Bewty) Hehl of Seminole, Fla.; eight grandchildren; two great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Friends received 2L30-9 p.m. today at Altmeyer Funeral Home, 1400 Eoff St., Wheeling. Funeral liturgy with Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, with the Rev. Patrick Condron as celebrant. Entombment in Mount Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum, Wheeling. Vigil services at 6:30 p.m. today. Military graveside services will be held by the Moundville Honor Guard.

Memorial contributions may be made to the courtesy van, in care of Wheeling Hospital, Mount de Chantal Road, Wheeling, W. Va., 26003. A Note re-

ceived from Mrs. Helen Eberhart: "Sorry to report my husband William F. Eberhart died March 23, 1999. Enclosed is his obituary. Would like to continue receiving the Taro Leaf. Would like to publicly thank Randy Hutson, 4180 Sportsman Retreat, Onolaska, TX 77360-4300 for dropping my husband a few lines after he saw my plea in the December issue Pg #22. Thank you".

A letter received from Michael S. Shadrack. "I'm sorry to inform you that my father, Captain James B. Shadrack, passed away some time ago. He was always proud to have been a part of the 24th Infantry Division, and of the Association and the men that served in it. My apologies for not writing sooner, it was a difficult and busy time. Enclosed you'll find a copy of the obituary".

JAMES BURT SHADRICK

Talladega - Graveside service for Retired Captain James Burt Shadrack, 79, was Monday at 3 p.m. at Pine Hill Memorial Park with the Rev. Randy Hagan officiating.

Mr. Shadrack died July 12 at Citizens BMC. A native of Talladega, he coached Babe Ruth for 20 years, served a term as Street Commissioner, one term on the City Council and was a member of the George Wooten Sunday School Class. He was a veteran of World War II, the Korean War and was a Lebanese Peace Keeper.

He is survived by two daughters, Brenda Lawson and Gail Hubbard of Talladega; one son, Mike Shadrack of Talladega; one sister, Louise Shadrack -



T A P S (Continued)

Nabors of Talladega; two brothers, Sam Shadrick and Harold Shadrick of Talladega; five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

The George Wooten Sunday School Class, friends at McDonald's, Dr. David Roberts and former officials of the City Council and Talladega City Commission served as honorary pallbearers.

Usrey Funeral Home directed the service.

Mrs. Lee B. List died on May 1, 1999. Many of you will remember Mrs. List, her husband received the Verbeck Bowl Award in 1986.

Robert D. Ball of 6008 119th St SW, Tacoma WA died on May 7, 1999.

STANLEY ADAMS, 76, IS DEAD; LED COUNTERATTACK IN KOREA.

By Richard Goldstein

Lieut. Col. Stanley T. Adams, who as an Army sergeant won the Medal of Honor in the Korean War for leading a counterattack that left more than 50 enemy soldiers dead in hand-to-hand combat, died on April 19 at the Oregon Veterans Home in The Dalles, Ore. He was 76.

Colonel Adams, who lived in Bend, Ore., had Alzheimer's disease, said his wife, Jean.

In July 1950, Colonel Adams, then a sergeant first class, was serving with the 19th Infantry Regiment of the 24th Division

Sgt. Stanley T. Adams, with his 3 year old son, Gary, after receiving the Medal of Honor for leading his platoon in battle in the Korean War.



when it was rushed to South Korea from occupation duty in Japan soon after North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel and invaded South Korea. Most of the men in the division were inexperienced, but Sergeant Adams, a native of DeSoto, Kan., was an Army veteran of World War II who had fought in North Africa and Italy and had been wounded in action. By midwinter of 1951, United Nations forces in Korea were reeling after Chinese Communist troops had staged a large counteroffensive in late November 1950, forcing American soldiers and marines to retreat from the Yalu River and the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. Within six weeks, Communist forces had

recrossed the 38th parallel and recaptured Seoul, the South Korean capital.

United Nations troops in the Eighth Army, which included the 24th Division, began a counteroffensive in late January. Sergeant Adams' company set up positions south of Seoul on Feb. 3. His platoon held an outpost on a ridge 200 yards in front of the rest of the company.

About 11 p.m., the Communists attacked two adjacent companies, driving a wedge between them. Two hours later, 250 enemy soldiers hit Sergeant Adams' outpost with machine-gun and mortar fire. After holding on for 45 minutes, the platoon retreated toward the company's



T A P S (continued)

Main position. Soon afterward, Sergeant Adams fixed his bayonet and charged the enemy, followed by 13 men from his platoon.

"The tenacity of the Chinese and North Korean soldiers forced the men of the Eighth Army to battle them at close quarters reminiscent of the Civil War," Edward F. Murphy wrote in "Korean War Heroes" (Presidio Press, 1992). "The only way to remove the enemy from their hilltop positions was to dig them out. Men like Sergeant Adams knew this, and effectively used the almost obsolete bayonet to accomplish their missions."

When Sergeant Adams was 50 yards from the enemy he was hit in the leg by a bullet. He continued on, only to be knocked down four more times by the concussion of exploding grenades.

But he got up and charged the Communist positions, swinging his rifle butt and using his bayonet. After nearly an hour of hand-to-hand combat, the Chinese retreated, leaving behind more than 50 dead.

In a white House ceremony on July 5, 1951, President Harry S. Truman presented Sergeant Adams with the Medal of Honor, its citation crediting him with "saving his battalion from possible disaster."

Soon after receiving the medal, the nation's highest military decoration, he was commissioned a second lieutenant. He remained in the Army until 1970, retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Colonel Adams later held an administrative position with the Internal Revenue Service in Alaska.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, Gary, of Wellington, MO, a daughter, Joy Kenyon of San Mateo, CA., a brother, Charles, of Wichita, KS; 12 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Received email from Cal Inman Writing of the death of **Nathan Plager**. "Nathan was a Pearl Harbor survivor and a member of the Jewish War Veterans. Some of his old buddies may remember him."

Received word from Mrs. Edward Mueller of the passing of her husband **Edward M. Mueller Jr.** "It is with sadness that I write. Ed passed away 1 May 1999 at William Beaumont Army Medical Center. Ed served 35 years. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery on the 14th of May with full military honors."

Received email from Shorty Estabrook of the passing of **Alfonso T. Natera Jr.** "Little Al Natera was a member of M Company 21st Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division. He was captured on 5 July 1950 and was with Task Force Smith that was rushed to Korea in the early hours of the Korean War. Al was with the first group to be taken Prisoner of War. He was released on 27th August 1953. Our thoughts are with his family and especially his wife, Sylvia."

Her address is: Mrs. Alfonso T. (Sylvia) Natera Jr., 1468 Gene Torres Dr; El Paso TX 79936 "

Received a letter from James H. Fulmer of the passing of his brother, **William F. Fulmer**. James writes, "My brother was in B Company 19th Infantry Regiment Beppo Japan and in Korea from 1950-51. He died on August 1998. I was glad to have served in B Company 19th the same time as my brother."

Received email from Bill Allen and note from Hugh Ruckdeschel—**Sgt. Major Graham M. Cockfield Ret.** Died suddenly March 30, 1999. He was with L Co. 19th Inf. Regt in Korea from 1950 to 1953 and was a POW for 32 months. He is survived by his wife Sonia of 51 years.

COCKFIELD, GRAHAM McQUEEN, 72, of St. Petersburg,



died Tuesday (March 30, 1999) at home. Born in Lake City, S.C., he came here in 1975 from Rockford, Ill. He retired as a sergeant major after more than 20 years with the Army, serving during the Korean War, where he was a prisoner of war for 32 months. He was a member of the Korean War Vets Association, Suncoast Chapter, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Ex Prisoners of the Korean War, VFW Post 39, St. Petersburg, and DAV Chapter 91, Pinellas Park. He was a member of the 24th Infantry Division Association. Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Sonia; a niece, Elizabeth N. Anderson, Tarboro, N.C.; a nephew, Fulton Hard-ee, North Carolina; and two grand-nieces. Anderson-McQueen Funeral Homes & Cremation Tribute Center-Ninth Street Chapel, St. Petersburg.



Letter received from Susan Katz of 650 Pauley Drive, Prescott, AZ 86303-5422: "My father died last week and I would appreciate you printing the following in the TAPS section of the Taro Leaf."

Marshall H. Katz, who would have been 80 on July 28th, died Thursday, June 10, 1999, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After enlisting in the Army on October 3, 1940, he was extremely proud to be a lifetime member of the 24th Infantry Division, and a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. When out in public, he took pride in wearing his PHSA jacket and PHSA and Taro Leaf pins on his hat, and not only enjoyed discussing Pearl Harbor with people who would inquire, but also felt it his duty, to help keep the memory alive of that infamous day. His last army related act was leading a moment of silence in his nursing home, on December 7, 1998 to honor his fallen comrades, during which he proudly wore his special ceremonial PHSA hat, which I know meant a lot to him. Taking directly from his Honorable Discharge: At time of discharge which was June 16, 1945, he was a Technical Sergeant with the HQ Company 767th Tank BN. His Battles and Campaigns included: Central Pacific; Philippine Islands; GO 33 WD 45. His Decorations and Citations included: American Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star; Asiatic Pacific Service Medal; Good Conduct Medal GO 2 HQ 767th TK BN 10 Mar 44; Philippines Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star.

J. Richard (Dick) Salerno Whitesboro

J. Richard (Dick) Salerno, age 75, a 41 year resident of Whitesboro, went to be with the Lord December 9, 1998, at Faxon Hospital with his loving wife and family at his side.

Dick was born April 17, 1923, in Dolgeville, NY, the son of the late Michael G. and Helena Hult Salerno. He attended school in Dolgeville and Philadelphia, NY. On April 26, 1947, he married R. Beverly Johnson of Inghams Mills, NY, a union of 51½ years. Dick was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army. He served during World War II in the H O Btry, 13th Field Artillery BN, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He was a **Pearl Harbor Survivor**. He also served as an Alamo Scout on New Guinea, the Philippines and other Islands in the South Pacific. He managed two theaters at the same time in Port Lyden and Philadelphia, NY. Mr. Salerno worked for H.P. Snyder, Little Falls, had a business engraving grave markers, worked at Chicago Pneumatic Co. and at Bendix-Allied/Lucas Aerospace, Utica. He was a dedicated worker for the company and for the workers. Dick dedicated 40 years of service as Steward, Grievance Person, Negotiating Committee, Financial Secretary and AFL-CIO Labor Council Member, from 1952-1992, United



Mr. Salerno

Steelworkers of America, Local 4831. He was a life member of the "Pearl Harbor Survivors Assn.", life member of VFW Post 7393 and was a Leader of Air Explorers Squadron 240 Mohawk Airlines, Boy Scouts of America. Dick was an avid golfer and enjoyed playing many area golf courses with his friend, Joe Soldato. Dick was a loving husband, father, grandfather and a good friend.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by a brother, Bob, and a son, Darry Richard.

Survivors include his loving wife; two daughters, Dale Salerno, New Hartford, and MSG Diane Rowland, Fort Stewart, GA; one son and daughter-in-law, Kim and Linda Salerno, Edna, KS; four grandchildren, Hal D., Chris and Sarah Salerno, and Shannon Rowland; also Connie Williams, a friend of the family.

Funeral services will be Sunday, December 13, 1998, at the **J.W. Dimbleby Funeral Home, Forty Main St., Whitesboro**. Visitation will be from 1:00-4:00 p.m. At 4:00 p.m., the Pearl Harbor Survivors Assn. and the VFW will conduct ritualistic services, followed by the funeral service with Cherrie Peaslee, Pastor of Inghams Mills Baptist Church officiating. Interment will be Monday, December 14, 1998, at 1:00 p.m. with full Military Honors at the National Veteran Cemetery, Bath, NY, with Cherrie Peaslee officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Hospice Care, Inc., 4277 Middle Settlement Rd., New Hartford, NY 13413. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

RAYMOND A. MATTHEWS, **RETIRED MECHANIC**

Raymond A. Matthews, 71 of Lancaster, a retired mechanic, died Tuesday May 4, 1999 in Kresge Residence on the Mitchell Campus of Hospice Buffalo, Cheektowaga, after a brief illness.

Born in Buffalo, he served in the Army's 24th Infantry Division in WWII and the Korean War, attaining the rank of sergeant.

Returning from the Army in 1954, he worked as a mechanic for Tripi Foods, Casey Truck Sales and Kiefer Construction Co. He retired in 1985.

He was a member of the Ukrainian Democratic Club of Lancaster; Post 7275, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Lancaster; and the 24th Infantry Division Association.

He enjoyed woodworking, gardening and fixing things.

His first wife, Rosie, died in 1990, and his second wife, Bertha Beckman Matthews, died in 1993.

Surviving are a daughter, Shelly of Lancaster; four sons, Donald, Ronald and Danny Fliss all of Lancaster and Gary Matthews of Lackawanna; his mother, Mary of Orchard Park; three sisters, Irene Pherigo of Hemet, CA; and Carol Myers and Joyce Willson, both of Lancaster; four brothers, Frank Jr. of Elma, Harold of Hawthorne, CA, Robert of Orchard Park and Martin of Rogersville, MO; and several grandchildren.



T A P S (Continued)

A letter received from Shirley Sadler, 1503 Phyllis St., Lakeland, FL 33803. "I wanted to let you know that my husband of 47 years died February 19, 1999. He was a Life Member of the Taro Leaf. He loved reading it and looking for old friends. In the December 1998 issue there was a picture of five of his buddies and him on page 33. He loved the service and never tired of talking about old army days with his friends."

BENJAMIN SADLER, 68 Pavers Inc.

LAKELAND — Mr. Benjamin E. Sadler of Lakeland died Friday (Feb. 19, 1999) at Lakeland Regional Medical Center. He was 68.

Born in Monongahela, Pa., on June 13, 1930, he moved to Lakeland from Donora, Pa., in 1971. He was retired from Pavers Inc., where he was employed as a truck driver for 13 years. He was a member of American Legion Post No. 4 in Lakeland. He attended New Home Baptist Church.



Sadler

He is survived by his wife, Shirley A. Sadler; daughters, Judy Whalen, Lakeland, Bonnie Quintero, Polk City; sons, Keith Sadler, Perryopolis, Pa., Bruce Sadler, Lakeland; brothers, Norman Sadler, New Eagle, Pa., James Sadler, Charleroi, Pa.; sisters, Georganna Weaver, Monongahela, Pa., Laura Figer, Topeka, Kan., Ruthetta Sampson, Charleroi, Pa., Norma Anderson, Dunlevy, Pa.; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be 6 to 8 tonight at Lakeland Funeral Home, 2125 Bartow Road. Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral home chapel.

Lewis Howell noticed the obituary of Fred Soto of Santa Maria, CA. Fred Soto enlisted in 1942 in the U. S. Army and served in the Philippines and New Guinea as a communications chief with the 19th Infantry Regiment.

Received word from Earl N. Colbey of the passing of his brother **John Henry Colbey, Jr.** On April 9, 1999. Earl writes: "I am writing in regards to the death of my brother, Johnny. We joined the Army together February 18, 1948. We were in the 21st Inf 24th Div together. Johnny transferred to Yokohama about 5 or 6 months before the Korean War started. I went over with Task Force Smith. We were over run and I was captured July 6, 1950. Johnny came over shortly after I did. He served his full term in Korea plus two trips to Viet Nam. He fought in three wars. He was a first class soldier and a gentleman and I'll miss him."

Received email from Wes Morrison of the passing of **John O. Baker**, 5th RCT, Korea. He died March 16, 1999. His wife survives and the address is: 3055 Berney Dr., Marina, CA 93933.

Received email from Barbara and Al Chavez of the passing of **Mary Morreale**, wife of Joe. You may write to Joe at: 820 Gerry Dr., Kenner, LA 70062-5154.

Word received from Nancy Guiffrida of the passing of her husband, Phillip on March 6, 1999. She writes, "Phillip took great pride in his service to his country. He was a sergeant in the 5th RCT in Korea."



Phillip Guiffrida

Phillip Guiffrida, 69, of 7 Benson St. and Las Vegas, died at 6:20 p.m. Saturday (March 6, 1999) in Las Vegas.

A lifelong Jamestown resident, he was born March 2, 1930, the son of the late Frank and Bessie Triscari Guiffrida.

Prior to retirement in 1987, he was employed as a grinder by Marlin Rockwell for 38 years. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean Conflict and earned the Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medals, while serving in Germany and Korea.

He was a member of the John W. Tiffany Post No. 53 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Amvets Post No. 1996, the Marco Polo Club and an original member of the Jamestown Boys Club and the Alumni Association. He was a communicant of St. James Catholic Church.

Surviving are his wife, Nancy Santo Guiffrida, whom he married June 17, 1950, in Jamestown; a son, Frank M. Guiffrida of Pennsauken, N.J.; two daughters: Mary Anne G. Genco of Jamestown, Nanette M. Turpin of Kona, Hawaii; five grandchildren: Nickolas P., Raymond C. and Phillip J. Genco, all of Jamestown, Jesse K. and Kyla J. Turpin of Kona; three brothers: Joseph, George and Lois Guiffrida, all of Jamestown; and three sisters: Ida Griffin of Calif., Caroline Strazzo of Georgia and Sarah Sundberg of Jamestown.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Thursday in St. James Catholic Church. Entombment will be in Holy Sepulchre Mausoleum.

Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the Hubert Funeral Home, where a Christian Wake Service will be at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

T A P S (continued)

From Mrs. William Law Watkins
317 North Street
Anderson SC 29621

I wanted to make the 24th Division Association aware of the death of my husband, William Law Watkins (Bill). Bill was devoted to your association and faithfully attended Association functions as long as his health permitted him to do so. I have attached to this note a copy of his obituary that appeared in the Anderson Independent Mail, The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier, The State (Columbia, SC), The Charlotte (NC) Observer, and The Raleigh (NC) newspaper.

Bill was involved in a lot of activities and played a role in a lot of different organizations over the course of his 88 years; but his association with the 24th Infantry Division was one that has always been extremely important to him. The Association helped Bill to stay in touch with many lifelong friends with whom he proudly served his country. We both enjoyed these friendships as well as the friendships that were formed with their spouses through the years at various Association-sponsored events.

He was mentally alert until his last day and was able to stay at home with his family around him until his death.

LAWYER, HISTORIAN WATKINS, 88, DIES

By Andrew Moulton
Independent-Mail



One of Anderson's most prominent attorneys and amateur historians died at his home Sunday at the age of 88 from natural causes, and leaves a \$1 million charitable foundation as his legacy.

William Law Watkins, of 317 North St., retired in 1992 from the law firm of Watkins, Vandiver, Kirven, Gable & Gray, which his father founded in 1904. He had started practicing there in 1933 after graduating from law school and only missed four years to serve in World War II.

Known for its work in corporate law, his firm has represented many large local textile clients, as well as Duke Power and Clemson University. He had also served on the board of directors of Duke Power, Perpetual Bank and other companies.

An active community leader, Mr. Watkins served as president of the Rotary Club, the Anderson Chamber of Commerce, the Anderson County Hospital Association and the Anderson YMCA, and served on the boards of other organizations.

Recently, Mr. Watkins donated \$1 million to create the Foothills Community Foundation, friend and retired businessman Cordes Seabrook said. The foundation is in the process of being incorporated, and Mr. Seabrook said its mission is to allow local residents to include charities in their estate planning. The foundation will serve Abbeville, Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties in South Carolina and Stephens, Franklin, Hart and Elbert counties in Georgia. "This couldn't have happened without Bill's generosity," Mr. Seabrook said. Retired banker Harry Findley, 80, said Mr. Watkins was instrumental in helping him start a career at South Carolina National Bank after retiring from the Air Force in 1961, and the two remained friends until Mr. Watkins' death.

Mr. Findley said over the years, Mr. Watkins led the effort to develop the county's hospital and more recently played a strong role with the Anderson County Development Partnership. "There just weren't many things he wasn't involved in," Mr. Findley said. "He was the sort of person you had confidence in and respect for." Mr. Watkins was the author of a brief history of Anderson County titled "Anderson County: The Things That Made it Happen" and a frequent contributor to Carologue, a publication of the South Carolina Historical Society. At the time of his death Mr. Watkins had recently completed a history of his church, Central Presbyterian, for its centennial celebration next year. The church's pastor, the Rev. David Bailey, said Mr. Watkins was a pillar of the congregation, sharing a clear understanding of the Bible as a Sunday School teacher for both children and adults.

"He didn't like to toot his own horn - he was a behind-the-scenes kind of person," Mr. Bailey said. "I think that kind of grew out of his Christian faith."



T A P S (Continued)

Note received from Mabel Sousa informing us of the death of her husband, **Alfred A. Sousa**. Mabel writes: "I wish to inform you that my husband passed away on February 28, 1999 and was buried two weeks ago today. It's been very sad to be without him. He was a wonderful man and is missed very much. May his soul rest in peace."

Calvin R. Basham of 1548 Clark RD, Charleston, WV 25314-2358 writes: "I am sorry to advise you of the death of **William A. Franke** on January 31, 1999. Sometime during June he had a heart attack while staying at his home here in Charleston. He lived in two places staying at Charleston during the summer months and during the cooler months in Phoenix, AZ. He died in Phoenix and was returned to Charleston for funeral services and final resting place is Greenwood Cemetery, Wheeling, West Virginia. Bill and I were Radio Telegraph operators in the 24th Signal Company. I left the Signal Company in 1943 to accept a commission as a Second Lieutenant and proceeded to Holandia in Dutch East Indies. I operated the Signal repair shop at that location departing in April 1945. Bill had retired from C & P Telephone Company and due to my business had quite a few years communicating with Bill. My business leased many telephone circuits which Bill checked for us and corrected our problems. Bill and I were both Amateur Radio Operators. I have operated telegraph since 1938.

Email received from Shorty Estabrook: "Sadly I report the death of yet another Tiger, **John D. Sanders**. John died on May 10 at Franklinton, LA and is buried in a family cemetery on his property. John or Sandy as we called him, was with L company, 34th Infantry Regiment of the 24th Division. He was captured on 7 July 1950 and released on October 29, 1953. Sandy died of Pancreatic cancer and also had cancer throughout his body. He suffered uncomplaining. He was a good man and a straight arrow. I remember him working the bulloxen at the old Japanese Army Camp at Andong in the summer of 1951. John was born February 28, 1930 and was 68 years old."

Helen Scotto, wife of **Michael G. Scotto** died in February 1999. The home address is 33 Duges St., Staten Island, N&Y 10304-4204.

James A. Jones passed away on April 9, 1999. The home address is 6444 Alisa LN., Houston TX 77084-1454.

Received a letter from **Frank Brooks** reporting the death of **William J. Straney** of 622 E 21st St., Owensboro, KY 42303-3813. Frank writes: "The daughter of Bill Straney called me and advised me that he had passed on. He was one of the original members of Fox Co in Korea before we went to Hawaii in 1949 and completed a full tour with the Co and we were assigned to the 24th Division,

Sandra Levy of Lake Worth, FL wrote of the death of **Jerry Levine** of 10 Hershey Rd., Wayne NJ 07470-5517. She writes, "Please be kind enough to pass this information along as appropriate. Mr. Levine's family may be reached at the above address in care of Mrs. Jerome (Marion) Levine.

Received a letter from **Beverly Salerno** of 107 Cary Ct., Whitesboro, NY 13492-1801 reporting the death of her husband, **Joseph Richard Salerno**. "He passed away on December 9, 1998 and I would like to put his obituary in the 24th Infantry's magazine."

Received a letter from **David R. Hanning** reporting the death of **William S. Fujimura**, January 1, 1928 – May 19, 1999. David writes, "Born in Seattle, Washington, Bill was the youngest of three. At the age of 10, he left America with his mother, brother and sister to care for an ailing relative in Japan on one of the last ships before World War II. During his time in Japan he grew up in Hiroshima as an American citizen. During the war he was drafted into a Navy ship yard in the outskirts of the city. There he witnessed the first atomic bomb. After the war he became interpreter for Colonel Winfield McKay, C.O. of the 21st Regiment -- first at Okayama, Honshu, then at Kumamoto, Kyushu. He then found a way to emigrate back to America and graduated from Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane, Washington. He met Amy (his wife of 45 years) in California and together

T A P S (Continued)

they traveled east to the university of Rochester, graduating in 1959 from the Institute of Optics. During the Korean War he entered the service where he eventually retired as a Major in the 391st Regiment.

After working for Bausch and Lomb, he joined the Consumer Division of Optics at the Eastman Kodak Company. There he ultimately retired as the Director of Optics Technology in 1991.

He had a passion and special ability with cameras and lenses. After his retirement he was the Honorary Curator of Technology at the George Eastman House in Rochester. His love for cameras led him to be a Fellow of the Photographic Historical Society. In his memory, the William S. Fujimura Scholarship Fund has been set up at the Institute of Optics, Wilmot Building, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627-0186."

Jeanne Snyder of 3555 Oxford Ave., Bronx NY 10463 writes of the death of her husband, **Sam Snyder**. "I regret to inform you of the passing of my dear husband, Sam Snyder on August 20, 1998. I am enclosing the obituary notice and a biography.

P.C. SAM SNYDER

Sam was born on May 10, 1913 on East 6th Street in lower Manhattan to Sylvia and Isidore Schneideman. Having lived next door to a stable, Sam's interest in following the horses got an early start. The family which included Sam's brother Ben moved to the Bronx where Sam graduated from J.H.S. 55 and James Monroe High School. At Monroe, Sam was an award-winning member of the swimming team. After graduation from Monroe in 1931, he entered the printing industry working as a printer's devil and serving an apprenticeship in lithography. He became an offset press-

man and was associated with Local No. 1 of the Amalgamated Lithographers Union.

Sam volunteered for service in the U.S. Army in 1941 and was assigned to the infantry. He was stationed at Schofield Barracks in Oahu, Hawaii with the 24th Infantry Division when World War II began. Sam, never having forgotten that day of infamy at Pearl Harbor, has devoted himself to patriotic causes. He was awarded the Silver Star for saving an officer's life and for gallantry in action in the battles of Leyte and Corregidor and deservedly received the Purple Heart. While waiting to be rotated and discharged according to the Army point system, he participated in the battles of Luzon, Mindoro, Biak and Minanao. He was finally discharged on July 6, 1945.

Sam and Terry Samberg were married on July 6, 1946. They had two lovely daughters, Susan Marcia and Eileen Frances. Family and friends were saddened by the untimely passing of Terry in July 1978.

After the service Sam returned to his printing job but because service related wounds made it difficult for him to stand all day, he left the trade. He then decided to become a transportation engineer and bought a taxicab and medallion in 1947. Sam joined the American Legion Unknown Soldier Post No. 1124 in 1947. He was elected Commander and served in that capacity for 2 years. He was awarded Life membership for his many activities in the Legion. In recent years Sam has been associated with the William Irwin Post No. 774. On October 30, 1981 Sam and Jeanne Elias took their marriage vows. They continue to enjoy their role as grandparents to Toni Ann, Nicole and Dominick, the beautiful children of Eileen and Joey Fonte.

After his retirement in Sep-

tember 1981, Sam had more time to devote his energies to the Knights, to his creative latch-hooking projects and to encouraging Jeanne in her educational endeavors and now is a co-member of the retired School Supervisors Association. As a Pelham-Brotherhood Knight, Sam participated in and chaired many committees, spoke out at meetings and attended most functions. He brought new members into the Lodge for which he received the Damon Award. The coveted Pythian of the Year Award was bestowed on Sam in November 1986. He has served as President of the Association since 1981 and has completed five years as Treasurer of the Lodge. A salute

To Sam is most appropriately in order for his constant devotion to family, friends and the ideals of Pythianism-Friendship, Benevolence and Charity. Sam served in the 3rd BN, CO 134th Inf Regt 1941-1945.

Received word from Dorris Kalish on the death of her husband, **Benjamin F. Kalish** on June 16, 1999. Dorris writes that "Ben died of lung cancer. He is greatly missed".





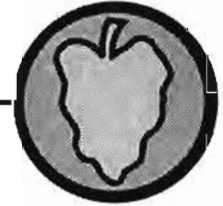
The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1863, has awarded in the name of The Congress the MEDAL OF HONOR to

MASTER SERGEANT STANLEY T. ADAMS
UNITED STATES ARMY

Citation: Master Sergeant (then Sergeant First Class), *Stanley Adams*, U.S. Army, Company A, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against an enemy on 4 February 1951, near Sesim-ni, Korea. At approximately 0100 hours, Master Sergeant *Adams'* platoon, holding an outpost some 200 yards ahead of his company, came under a determined attack by an estimated 250 enemy troops. Intense small-arms, machine-gun, and mortar fire from three sides pressed the platoon back against the main line of resistance. Observing approximately 150 hostile troops silhouetted against the skyline advancing against his platoon, Master Sergeant *Adams* leaped to his feet, urged his men to fix bayonets, and he, with 13 members of his platoon, charged this hostile force with indomitable courage. Within 50 yards of the enemy Master Sergeant *Adams* was knocked to the ground when pierced in the leg by an enemy bullet. He jumped to his feet and, ignoring his wound, continued on to close with the enemy when he was knocked down four times from the concussion of grenades which had bounced off his body. Shouting orders he charged the enemy positions and engaged them in hand-to-hand combat where man after man fell before his terrific onslaught with bayonet and rifle butt. After nearly an hour of vicious action Master Sergeant *Adams* and his comrades routed the fanatical foe, killing over 50 and forcing the remainder to withdraw. Upon receiving orders that his battalion was moving back he provided cover fire while his men withdrew. Master Sergeant *Adams'* superb leadership, incredible courage, and consummate devotion to duty so inspired his comrades that the enemy attack was completely thwarted, saving his battalion from possible disaster. His sustained personal bravery and indomitable fighting spirit against overwhelming odds reflect the utmost glory upon himself and uphold the finest traditions of the infantry and the military service.

THE WHITE HOUSE
July 5, 1951

24th Infantry Division Association



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Commanding
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Division
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Fort Riley.**

Brigades In Review



24th Infantry Division Association

EDITOR TARO LEAF

Yvonne Mullins

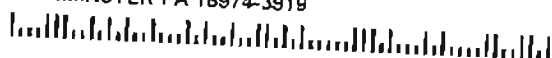
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