

TARO LEAF

FIRST TO FIGHT



Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble

MEDAL OF HONOR

KOREAN WAR



I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST ★ I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT

WWW.ARMY.MIL/MEDALOFHONOR/KEEBLE

I WILL NEVER QUIT ★ I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE

The Taro Leaf



Vol. 62, No. 2 Spring 2008 The Official Quarterly of the 24th Infantry Division Assoc.

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| John R. Shay | 1983-1984 | 21st Inf. Regt. | 708-724-5133 | IL |
| John E. Klump | 1977-1978 | 34th Inf. Regt. | 812-623-4336 | IN |
| Paul F. Wisecap | 1971-1972 | 34th Inf. Regt. | 813-936-6103 | FL |
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PHOTOGRAPHS are desired for TAPs and all articles, and may be submitted in electronic format (300 dpi resolution or higher) as email attachments, or as prints (Note that *Xerox* or *Newspaper* Photos do not copy well; prints are much preferred). For all photos please provide the photographer's name and where they appear in the article, identify each person or other subject in the photo, and if you wish it returned. Copyrighted material should have permission to reprint. **Please include your current correct full name, address, phone number and email with all submissions.**

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| 62 | 4 | Fall | 1-Oct-2008 | Nov 2008 |
| 63 | 1 | Winter | 1-Jan-2009 | Feb 2009 |
| 63 | 2 | Spring | 1-Apr-2009 | May 2009 |



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Cover: Pentagon Poster of new 24th Division MOH Recipient, Woodroe Keeble, George Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, for action during Operation Nomad, October 24, 1951 near Kumsong North Korea. Poster Source: "Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, U.S. Army."



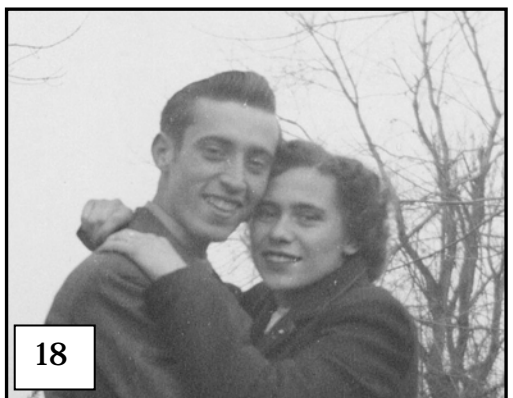
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A Few Thoughts from Your President



What a beautiful Spring Day, After Day, After Day of rain.

I just returned from the 24th Infantry Division

Association West Coast Reunion in Laughlin, NV.

Byrd Schrock and family put together one whale of a mini Reunion! I got to meet some 24th members for the first time.

The hotel rates were good. The food was good. And the beverages in the hospitality room were terrific! Even the slots were half-way friendly.

Now, I'd like to move to a more somber note. In the future, we of the 24th Infantry Division Association must do more to help keep our coffers replenished.

Look at the page by the Editor and you will understand what I am talking about-that it costs us more to produce and mail the *Taro Leaf* than we receive in dues.

The *Taro Leaf* keeps us all informed, and is so very interesting to read.

If every member will donate just \$10.00 a year to help offset some of these losses, some of the drainage from our coffers could be offset.

Also try to find new members for your Association! Try to find younger guys-for example, those who served with the 24th in Desert Storm, in Germany, and stateside.

Our Annual Association Reunion in Springfield, Mo, September 17-20 is not too far away. Be sure to send your Hotel reservations in right

away, and, while you are at it, send in your Reunion Registrations to the Reunion Brat too. Both applications are in the latter pages of this *Taro Leaf*.

March 3, 2008-what a great day for men of the 24th Infantry Division!

Woody Keeble, a decorated veteran from WWII, and then in Korea, was honored by President Bush with the Medal of Honor. This should have happened in the 1950's instead of 2008, but at least a wrong has been righted. Woody's family now can see that the circle of life is complete!



In the photo above, Assistant Secretary of Defense, Gordon R. England, left, presents the folded flag from the Pentagon ceremony held for Woody on Tuesday, March 4, to Woody's stepson, Russell D. Hawkins.

On behalf of all of the members of the 24th Infantry Division Association, I extended to Mr. Hawkins, to all the family members of Woody Keeble, and to the Sioux Nation, the congratulations and best wishes of all of Woody's fellow Taro Leafers.

Gene Spicer

The Taro Leaf



President Bush Awards Medal of Honor to 19th's Woodrow Wilson Keeble

2:35 P.M. EST, Monday, March 3, 2008 East Room

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

THE PRESIDENT: Welcome. Thanks for coming. Mr. Vice President, Mr. Secretary, members of the Dakotan Congressional Delegations, Senator from Alaska, other members of Congress, Members of my Cabinet, members of the administration, members of the United States Armed Forces, distinguished guests: Welcome to the White House.

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor a President can bestow, and I'm honored recipients of the Medal of Honor have joined us. Thank you for coming. During my time in office, I've had the privilege of performing this duty on nine separate occasions. Every ceremony has been inspiring. Many have been joyful. Some have been poignant. But I'm not sure I can remember many ceremonies quite like this one.

It's taken nearly 60 years for Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble to be awarded the medal he earned on the battlefield in Korea. His nominating paperwork was lost, and then it was resubmitted, and then it was lost again. Then the deadline passed, and Woody and his family were told it was too late. Some blamed the bureaucracy for a shameful blunder. Others suspected racism: Woody was a full-blooded Sioux Indian. Whatever the reason, the first Sioux to ever receive the



Medal of Honor died without knowing it was his. A terrible injustice was done to a good man, to his family, and to history. And today we're going to try to set things right.

Few people worked harder for this day than Woody's family. I thank the members who are with us, including his son, Russell, who is accepting this award on their behalf, along with his nephew. I want to welcome you here. Thank you for supporting Woody. Thank you for your understanding, your patience and, most of all, your persistence.

I also offer special thanks to the determined delegations of North and South Dakota, including the Governor of North

Dakota and the former Governor of South Dakota. Woody had ties to both Dakotas. Each state claims him as its own. (Laughter.) I think I'm going to stay out of the argument. I want to thank you for carrying Woody's banner to the Pentagon, and to the halls of Congress. You did the right thing.

It's easy to understand why so many people argued so passionately for the Medal once you hear the story of what Woody Keeble did. This story unfolded at an important time in our history. The year was 1951. The world was divided by a Cold War. America was under threat and -- some believed -- overmatched and out of heart. The great evil of communism was said to be the

future of the world. It was on the advance in Europe, and in China, and on the Asian peninsula of Korea.

On that peninsula, a battle raged between communist forces in the North and the forces of freedom in the South. And Woody Keeble, a decorated veteran of Guadalcanal, raised his hand to serve his country once again. Woody said he volunteered for Korea because, "somebody has to teach those kids how to fight." And that's exactly what he did. In George Company, he quickly became a mentor, a teacher, and a legend. He was so strong that he could lift the back of a jeep and spin it around.



Some people knew he had been scouted by the Chicago White Sox. He had a heck of an arm, and he threw grenades like a baseball. One soldier remembered the time Woody walked through a mine field, leaving tracks for his men to follow. Another recalled the time Woody was shot twice in the arm and he kept fighting, without seeming to notice.

That fall, Woody's courage was on full display during a major offensive called Operation No Man [sic] (Nomad). His company was ordered to take a series of hills protecting a major enemy supply line. High up in those hills and manning machine guns were Chinese communist forces. After days of fighting, the officers in Woody's company had fallen. Woody assumed command of one platoon, then a second, and then a third, until one of the hills was taken, and the enemy fled in wild retreat.

That first advance nearly killed him. By the end of the day, Woody had more than 83 grenade fragments in his body. He had bleeding wounds in his arms, chest, and thighs. And yet he still wanted to fight. So after a day with the medics, he defied the doctor's orders and returned to the battlefield. And that is where, on October 20, 1951, Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble made history.

Communist forces still held a crucial hill that was the "pearl" of their defenses. They had pinned down U.S. forces with a furious assault. One soldier said the enemy lobbed so many grenades on American troops that they looked like a flock of blackbirds in the sky. Allied forces had tried heavy artillery to dislodge the enemy, and

nothing seemed to be working. The offensive was failing, and American boys were dying. But our forces had one advantage: Woody was back, and Woody was some kind of mad.



He grabbed grenades and his weapon and climbed that crucial hill alone. Woody climbed hundreds of yards through dirt and rock, with his wounds aching, bullets flying, and grenades falling all around him. As Woody first started off, someone saw him and remarked: "Either he's the bravest soldier I have ever met, or he's crazy." Soldiers watched in awe as Woody single-handedly took out one machine gun nest, and then another. When Woody was through, all 16 enemy soldiers were dead, the hill was taken, and the Allies won the day.

Woody Keeble's act of heroism saved many American lives, and earned him a permanent place in his fellow soldiers' hearts. Years later, some of those tough soldiers' eyes would fill with tears when they saw Woody again. One said: "He was the

most respected person I ever knew in my life." Another said: "I would have followed him anywhere." A third said: "He was awesome." Those brave boys battled tyranny, held the line against a communist menace, and kept a nation free. And some of them are with us today. We are honored to host you at the White House. We thank you for your courage. We thank you for honoring your comrade in arms. And we thank you for your service to the United States.

As the war ended, Woody went back to North Dakota. In some ways, his return was a sad one. Within a few years, his first wife died. He would suffer from numerous affects of the war. A series of strokes paralyzed his right side and robbed him of his ability to speak. And the wounds he sustained in service to his country would haunt him for the rest of his life.

Yet Woody was not a bitter man. As a member of his family put it: "Woody loved his country, loved his tribe, and loved God." Woody even found love again with a woman named Blossom. Woody may not have been able to speak, but he could still get a message across. He wrote a note asking Blossom to marry him. She told him she needed some time to think about it. So while she was deliberating, Woody put their engagement announcement in the newspaper. (Laughter.) This is a man who was relentless in love as well as war. (Laughter.)

In his community he was an everyday hero. Even in poor health, he would mow lawns for seniors in the summers and help cars out of the snow banks in the winters. He once picked



up a hitchhiker who was down on his luck and looking for work. Woody wasn't a rich man, but he gave the man \$50. Those who knew Woody can tell countless stories like this -- one of a great soldier who became a Good Samaritan.

To his last days, he was a devoted veteran. He proudly wore his uniform at local events and parades. Sometimes folks who loved him would see that uniform and ask him about his missing medal. They felt he was cheated, yet Woody never complained. See, he believed America was the greatest nation on Earth, even when it made mistakes. And there was never a single day he wasn't proud to have served our country.

Woody suffered his eighth -- and final -- stroke in 1982. His son, Russell, took him to the hospital and prayed it wasn't the end. But Woody knew, and he wasn't afraid. Woodrow Wilson Keeble died in graceful anonymity, unknown except to the fortunate souls who loved him, and those who learned from him. Russell put it this way: "Woody met death with a smile. He taught me how to live, and he taught me how to die."

I am pleased that this good and honorable man is finally getting the recognition he deserves. But on behalf of our grateful nation, I deeply regret that this tribute comes decades too late. Woody will never hold this Medal in his hands or wear it on his uniform. He will never hear a President thank him for his heroism. He will never stand here to see the pride of his friends and loved ones, as I see in their eyes now.

But there are some things we can still do for him. We can tell his story. We can honor his memory. And we can follow his

lead -- by showing all those who have followed him on the battlefield the same love and generosity of spirit that Woody showed his country everyday.

At the request of the Keeble family and in accordance with the Sioux tradition, two empty chairs have been placed on this stage to represent Woody and Blossom and to acknowledge their passing into the spiritual world. The Sioux have a saying: "The life of a man is a circle." Well, today, we complete Woody Keeble's circle -- from an example to his men to an example for the ages. And if we honor his life and take lessons from his good and noble service, then Master Sergeant Woody Keeble will serve his country once again.

I want to thank you all for coming. May I ask for God's blessings on you and Woody Keeble and the Keeble family. May God continue to bless our country. And now I ask Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Bluedog to join me. Commander Thompson will read the citation.

COMMANDER THOMPSON: The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor to Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble, United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty:

In action with an armed enemy near Sangsan-ni, Korea, on 20 October, 1951. On that day, Master Sergeant Keeble was an acting platoon leader for the support platoon in **Company G, 19th Infantry**, in the attack on Hill 765, a steep and rugged position that was well defended by the enemy. Lead-

ing the support platoon, Master Sergeant Keeble saw that the attacking elements had become pinned down on the slope by heavy enemy fire from three well-fortified and strategically placed enemy positions. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Master Sergeant Keeble dashed forward and joined the pinned-down platoon. Then, hugging the ground, Master Sergeant Keeble crawled forward alone until he was in close proximity to one of the hostile machine-gun emplacements. Ignoring the heavy fire that the crew trained on him, Master Sergeant Keeble activated a grenade and threw it with great accuracy, successfully destroying the position. Continuing his one-man assault, he moved to the second enemy position and destroyed it with another grenade. Despite the fact that the enemy troops were now directing their firepower against him and unleashing a shower of grenades in a frantic attempt to stop his advance, he moved forward against the third hostile emplacement, and skillfully neutralized the remaining enemy position. As his comrades moved forward to join him, Master Sergeant Keeble continued to direct accurate fire against nearby trenches, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Inspired by his courage, Company G successfully moved forward and seized its important objective. The extraordinary courage, selfless service, and devotion to duty displayed that day by Master Sergeant Keeble was an inspiration to all around him and reflected great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

(The Medal is presented.) (Applause.)

END 2:51 P.M. EST



The Future of Your *Taro Leaf*

By Tom Thiel, Editor

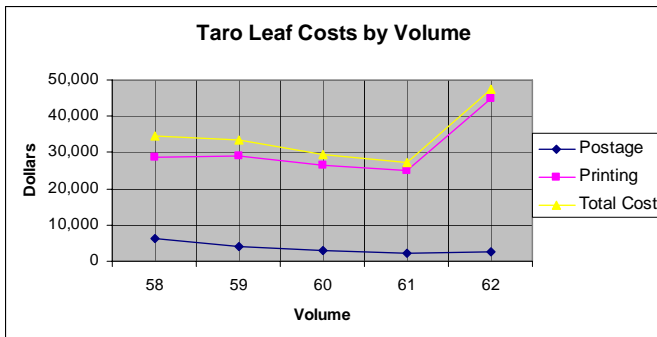


Many of you have thanked me profusely for the *Taro Leaf* and shown the special pride you have in it and our Association.

Unfortunately, that pride doesn't come for free!

The last issue of the *Taro Leaf* cost us over \$4.83 per copy to produce and mail.

Multiply that by our total membership and that approaches \$12,000 per issue. Multiply that by four issues per volume (year) and that runs around \$45,000 per year.



The graph above shows the historical cost of the *Taro Leaf* by volume (Vol. 62 is the current one and is projected). Note that *Taro Leaf* costs are governed primarily by production costs – postage has remained relatively flat, mainly because we are losing members and mailing fewer copies. Also, I need to point out that Vols. 60 (2006) and 61 (2007) did not have four issues because of our former editor's illness, and that when I became editor there was only time to publish two slightly larger issues. Finally, note that based on the cost of the first issue of the current year, our projected costs this year approach \$45,000.

For a couple of months, we asked our current printer for lower-cost alternatives; for reasons now apparent, they were not very forthcoming.

We also have explored other means to lessen the costs of the *Taro Leaf*. We might consider going to two larger issues per year (suggested from the chart above). We might also cheapen the quality of the *Taro Leaf* by either changing to a lighter cover, or leaving color and going to a black and white format. The former would lessen costs a

bit; B & W of course would be significant.

Forget about reducing the salaries of the editor and staff; no matter how much you slash \$0.00, it is still \$0.00! So no hope there!

We should also examine our income sources. About half of our members pay \$15 in annual dues; that's about \$18,000. The remaining members are Life Members who most likely paid, as I did about eight years ago, \$100. Now Life Members pay \$150; if we get 40 a year, that's about \$6,000.

Dues income is insufficient to maintain the *Taro Leaf* publication. And that assumes that everyone pays their dues! They don't!

So members, the *Taro Leaf* is living on borrowed time. My above analysis assumes that the Association only has expenses for the *Taro Leaf*, which is of course not true.

The Association must address this issue; I hope we will do that at the September Business Meeting. But in the meantime, this is an appeal for you to provide some extra support, NOW

First of all **PAY YOUR DUES ON TIME AND WITHOUT WAITING FOR A SPECIAL LETTER FROM TREASURER MAGGIO**. That costs us extra time, effort and funds. Your membership anniversary date is on the back cover just above your address.

Next, **GET US NEW MEMBERS!** On page 52 of this issue is an appeal for you to take a press release to your local newspaper. **DO IT TODAY!**

Also, consider sending in a small contribution especially for the *Taro Leaf*. This will help defray the costs. Everyone will appreciate it – just \$10 or \$20 from say just half our members would realize, on average, about \$18,000, annually.

Three weeks ago, I began searching for printers locally here in Lake County, FL. Effective with this issue we have decided to change to Leesburg Printing, Leesburg, FL. Indications are that we will realize more than a 25 percent reduction for the same quality of printing. With this, our costs might be reduced to about \$36,000 this year, but long term solutions are still needed!

Thank you for your support! TJT #####



Ladies & Gentlemen, “Margo wants to hear from you”

By Tom J. Thiel, Editor

March 25, 2008: This morning I had a most pleasant phone call from a most pleasant lady, Margo Nelsen!

Yes, Margo (Ms. Dutch) Nelsen!

She was calling about another matter, but we soon got on the subject of the *Taro Leaf*, the Association, and it's glorious past.

In our discussions about the *Taro Leaf*'s future in this spiraling cost era, she was quick to remind me of her husband, Dutch's philosophy on the *Taro Leaf*, one that he expressed in an August 13, 2001, email to a fellow Board member. It said in part:

“Regarding the *Taro Leaf*. I will take credit, or blame, for the *Taro Leaf* being what it is today. When I became President, I observed that fewer and fewer men were able to come to our reunions. But every man gets the *Taro Leaf*. Therefore, it seemed to me that our emphasis (and duty) was to make the *Taro Leaf* the best possible publication that we could -- it goes to every man four times a year. In this effort we were blessed to have Rudy and Vonnie Mullins and they responded to my request for an improved *Taro Leaf* by putting out the best Division Sized veterans publication there is. And it is not just "good," it is great. What about the cost?? What the hell else do we have our money for if not to serve our members????? ... As long as I am in any position of authority in this outfit I will do everything I can do to see that this money gets plowed back to the guys one way or another.” End Quote

Margo's call to me was to appeal to the *Taro Leaf* ladies, especially to those who have recently lost their *Taro Leaf* husbands, to let them know they are not forgotten.

And we all – Margo, the *Taro Leaf*, and the Association – want you to stay in touch with us, to remain a part of the 24th IDA!

We want you to know that surviving spouses can remain a part of the Association by being an Associate Member, or like Margo, being a Life Associate Member.



This will ensure that not only will you continue to receive the *Taro Leaf*, you will also still be most welcome at our reunions, and be eligible for all other membership privileges that go with Associate Membership.

As you know, there is still an Association Ladies Breakfast, and other ladies activities at the reunion.

And Margo says that you brave *Taro Leafers* could give your wives an Associate Membership as an Anniversary present and you will be remembered forever! Finally, Margo wanted me to put this in bold: **“Margo wants to hear from you!”** You can reach her at:

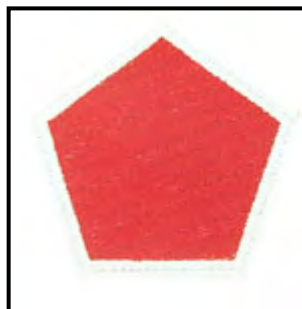
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And we want to hear from you, too. Our address is on the inside front cover.

And, should you be interested in being an Associate Member, an application form appears elsewhere in this *Taro Leaf*.

PS: The canon is for “Dutch!”

#####



“The FIFTH INFANTRY Regiment United States Army, was established on twelve April• one thousand eight hundred and eight! The FIFTH Regi-

ment, third oldest in the Army celebrated its two hundredth anniversary twelve April two thousand and eight! At last count the Regiment wore seventy-eight campaign streamers on its colors, ten of which were Korean War Streamers.

DON STROBEL



The Chaplain's Corner

By Glen Carpenter, Jr., Association Chaplain

A Few Things to Ponder

Give God what is right – not what is left.

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

**When praying, don't give God instructions –
just report for duty.**

Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.

WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.

Plan ahead – it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Exercise daily – walk with the Lord.

Never give the devil a ride – he will always want to drive.

Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.

Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.

~~~~~

**Romans 8:28** – And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

**Luke 18:27** – Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

**1 peter 5:7** – Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** – Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.





# Secretary-Treasurer Report *by Don Maggio*

| New Lifetime Members |             |          |        |           |                       |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Name                 | Unit        | Co/Batt  | Life # | Date      | Sponsor/Comments      |
| Armour, Wendell G.   | 5th RCT     | I, R & F | 2308   | 07 Mar 08 |                       |
| Gaston, Billy C.     | 24th MP     |          | 2310   | 02 Apr 08 | Sponsor: Wes Morrison |
| Hall, Donald         | 724th Maint | C        | 2305   | 05 Mar 08 |                       |
| La Belle, Lomby C.   | 24th Sig    | B        | 2309   | 29 Mar 08 |                       |
| McMahon, Joseph R.   | 34th Inf    | D        | 2306   | 06 Mar 08 |                       |
| Spangrud, Don M.     | 19th Inf    |          | 2307   | 07 Mar 08 |                       |
| Winwood, Donald L.   | 19th Inf    | D        | 2304   | 01 Mar 08 | Sponsor: Larry Gay    |



| New Members         |               |           |                                                                                                          |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name                | Unit          | Co/Bt/Trp | Sponsor/Comments                                                                                         |
| Brown, James T.     | 34th/19th Inf |           | Beginning Life Member annual payments                                                                    |
| Delpizzo, Julius A. | 19th Inf      | K         |                                                                                                          |
| Hall, Iris M.       | Assoc         |           | Father-in-law was David Earl Hall 13th Inf "B" 49 - 52 Camp Hakata, Japan                                |
| Inman, Marry H.     | Assoc         |           | Husband, Calvin, was Life Member - #2168                                                                 |
| Konczal, Conrad     | 3rd Eng       | C         | Sponsor: Son Michael                                                                                     |
| Muckala Steven H.   | Assoc         |           | Sponsor: Wes Morrison/Father, Richard Muckala, 34th Inf I & R, WWII, Leyte, Luzon, Mindanao, Zigzag Pass |
| Okata, Richard Yoso | 21st Inf      | I & R     | Sponsor: Robert Y. Kodama                                                                                |
| Petry, Joey L.      | 19th Inf      | HHC       | Sponsor: Bob Taylor Beppu, Japan                                                                         |
| Poirier, Michael J. | Assoc         |           | Father Alfred (USA Ret MSG) was member & in "B" 63rd FA 41 - 45 Sponsor: Wes Morrison                    |
| Teruya, Henry Y.    | 21st Inf      | D         | Sponsor: John J. Baker                                                                                   |
| Van Beck, Donald L. | 34th          | HHC       | Sponsor: Tom Thiel                                                                                       |
| Vaughn, Wendell R.  | 19th Inf      | D         | Ad in DAV publication put in by Robert E. Taylor                                                         |

| Donors                   |                |        |                                                                   |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name                     | Unit           | Amount | Comment                                                           |
| Barnabi, John            | 19th Inf       | \$10   | In memory of 3 pals from the 19th Inf                             |
| Dillon, Kenneth R.       | 19th Inf       | \$60   | In memory of PFC Tatsuo Arai KIA 14 Oct 51                        |
| Fijol, Stanley           | 21st Inf       | \$10   | For Taro Leaf                                                     |
| Fox, Robert G.           | 19th Inf       | \$10   | for stamps, etc.                                                  |
| Gardner, Lloyd E.        | 21st Inf       | \$100  | Punch Bowl Memorial (Feb 06)                                      |
| Hession, Sr., Paul J.    | 3rd Eng        | \$20   | In memmory of his brother, Joseph Hessions, Jr.,                  |
| Howard, William Guthrie  | 34th Inf       | \$50   | In memory of Hugh William Hightower"C" 34th Inf WWII              |
| Marcan, Frank            | 5th RCT        | \$15   | For Taro Leaf                                                     |
| Matchett, Robert S.      | 21st Inf       | \$10   | for postge and overhead                                           |
| Mathis, Mrs. Jim E.      | 34th Inf       | \$25   | In memory of her husband, Life - #1036                            |
| McFall, Donald B.        | 7th FA         | \$35   | Expenses                                                          |
| Miller, Doris Downing    | Assoc          | \$20   | In memory of 19th Inf father KIA 13 Jun 45 on Mindanao            |
| Vickers, William E.      | 34th Inf       | \$30   | In memory of James Mathis 34th Inf 3rd Bn HQ                      |
| Wood, Jewel              | 52nd FA        | \$30   | In memory of Elsworth "Dutch" Nelsen, "May he never be forgotten" |
| Aastrup, Delmar P.       | 19th Inf       | \$5    |                                                                   |
| Barry, Elmo M.           | 21st Inf       | \$20   |                                                                   |
| Bradford, James E.       | 19th Inf       | \$10   |                                                                   |
| Brice, Trinnie A.        | 52nd FA        | \$10   |                                                                   |
| Brown, William E.        | Div HQ         | \$25   |                                                                   |
| Carpenter, LTC Hubert L. | 3rd Eng        | \$35   |                                                                   |
| Dawson, Charles L.       | 29th/34th Infs | \$15   |                                                                   |
| Delpizzo, Julius A.      | 19th Inf       | \$4    |                                                                   |
| Demaray, Dale            | 19th Inf       | \$10   |                                                                   |

Continued at Right

| Donors                  |                |                 |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Name                    | Unit           | Amount          |
| Douglass, Carl R.       | 3rd Eng        | \$10            |
| Funchess, William H.    | 19th Inf       | \$60            |
| Furtado, Vincent O.     | 26th AAA       | \$5             |
| Garland, Max            | 34th Inf       | \$10            |
| Gregg, Robert E.        | 34th Inf       | \$5             |
| Hamilton, John F.       | 19th Inf       | \$35            |
| Hill, Myra Jean         | Assoc          | \$10            |
| Keller, Rodney A.       | 21st Inf       | \$5             |
| Lane, William D.        | 29th/34th Infs | \$10            |
| Lovett, Joel L.         | 153rd Med      | \$20            |
| Marcinko, Joseph J.     | 21st Inf       | \$15            |
| Musselman, William R.   | 24th Repl      | \$20            |
| Neifert, Lowell J.      | 34th Inf       | \$5             |
| Nunley, Bobby D.        | 34th Inf       | \$10            |
| Peer, Theodore F. "Ted" | 24th Admin     | \$10            |
| Pinkham, Harry L.       | 5th RCT        | \$5             |
| Pugh, Edward L.         | 3rd Eng        | \$5             |
| Ragland, John           | 21st Inf       | \$10            |
| Santoro, Anthony A.     | 24th Sig       | \$5             |
| Silver, Leon            | 24th Sig       | \$10            |
| Sugg, Dr. Chales F.     | 24th Med       | \$15            |
| Turner, Ted D.          | 34th Inf       | \$10            |
| Yagura, Katsumi         | 21st Inf       | \$5             |
| <b>Total:</b>           |                | <b>\$295.00</b> |



# *The Taro Leaf TAPS*

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Engineers**



**Eli J. Hostetler**, Headquarters, 3rd Engineer Battalion, Korea 1950-51, passed away on March 5, 2008, in Canton, OH. He was a member of American Legion Post 44, VFW #3747, DAV Chapter 6, and the Korean Conflict Veterans of America. Eli faithfully volunteered at the Canton VA Clinic. He was a member of the Stark County Sheriff's Dept. Auxiliary, and was active with the children's DARE tours. He was preceded in death by his wife Betty Mae. Condolences may be sent to Eli's daughter: Debbie Graber, 3639 Swamp NE, Hartville, OH 44632

## **5<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team**

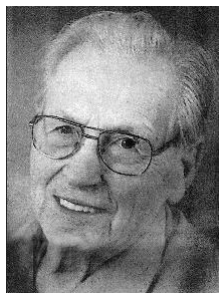
**Dennis E. Finn**, Life - #691 5th RCT Japan & Korea. Deceased per USPS returned *Taro Leaf* Vol 62, No. 1.

## **19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment**

**Jasper D. Blow, Jr.**, Life Member - #2011, "C" Company, 19th Infantry, Korea, July 1950 to April 1951, of Scottsboro, AL, died on July 22, 2007. His wife, Sharon, died in 2003. (Earl Blow)

**Kenneth C. Getter**, Life #399, 19th Infantry, Japan and Korea. Died January 8, 2008. Cards may be mailed to: Mrs. Kenneth Getter, 216 Circle Dr., Viroqua, WI 54665-2203 (Mrs. Getter)

**William L. McDonough**, Life # 576, 19th Infantry, WWII, died December 30, 2007. He was buried with military honors at Alleghany West Cemetery, Bridgeville PA near Pittsburgh. Our last Association Reunion was in Buffalo, NY, and he was not too well then. Our son said at his memorial at the Veterans Hospital in Aspinwall, PA, "He was our hero." He had been seriously injured in the Philippines yet worked and raised a family. With respect and love. Mrs. Wm. McDonough (Dorothy), 93 Martera Pl., Pittsburgh, PA 15205-3428 (Mrs. McDonough)



**Jacob "Jake" Meier**, 91, of Monroe, WA, passed away on February 3, 2008, after having been in a nursing home for over two years following major surgery. Jake served as a surgical technician for the 81mm Mortar Platoon of the 3rd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division of the United States Army. Many lives were saved as he traveled with them through New Guinea, the Central Pacific, Southern Philippines, Leyte, and Luzon. His many commendations include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Philippine Liberation Medal. He had a military funeral with an honor guard from Ft. Lewis, WA. Cards may be sent to Mrs. Matilda Meier, 15476 166th Ave SE, Monroe, WA 98272-2652 (Mrs. Meier)



**Calvin M. Inman**, Battery "B", 13th WWII in Australia; Hollandia, New Guinea; Leyte, Mindoro, and Davao, the Philippines, and Matsuyama, Japan, Association Life Member #2168, passed away in January 2007 in San Antonio, TX. Memorial services were held in San Antonio and in Hot Springs, SD. Cards may be sent to: Mary Inman, 3114 Clearfield Dr., San Antonio, TX, 78230-3414, ph: 210-699-5544, email: [marycaltx@aol.com](mailto:marycaltx@aol.com) (Mary Inman)





# *The Taro Leaf TAPS*

## **19th Infantry Regiment (Continued)**



**Lloyd E. Oler, Sr.**, Life Member #1216, Company F, 19th Infantry Regiment, died December 27, 2007. Lloyd served with the Division and Regiment in Japan prior to the Korean War and in Korea from July 1950 - Jan 1951. Condolences may be sent to the family c/o Roger Oler, P.O. Box 75032, Colorado Springs, Co 80970-5032 (Roger Oler)

## **21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment**

**Carl F. Bernard USA**, 81; a decorated veteran of WWII, Korea, Laos, and Vietnam, and Life Member #294, passed away at his Fort Belvoir, VA, home March 4, 2008. From 1944 to 1946, Bernard served in the Pacific and China as an enlisted US Marine. He enlisted in the US Army in 1947, and was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1949. He was assigned as a platoon leader with **L Co. 21st Infantry** in Japan. July 1950 found Bernard with "Task Force Smith" at Osan when it was overrun by the North Koreans. Lt. Bernard led a group of survivors back to American positions a week later where he was reunited with L Co. But several days later his unit was again overrun at Chochiwan, where Lt. Bernard was awarded the DSC for his actions during a close combat with NK tanks. His unit had been deployed to Korea with weapons tagged "Combat Unserviceable," and despite their heroic efforts, the N. Koreans drove them to Pusan. This experience led Col. Bernard to become a tireless advocate for military readiness. Condolences may be sent to his wife Edith and family at 9100 Belvoir Woods Parkway #123, Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060-2713 (see tribute pages 30-31)

**Michael A. Mandac**, Life Member #1078, Company L, 34th Infantry/Company G, 21st Infantry (see entry under 34th Infantry Regiment).

**Sanford W. Thatcher**, Company D, 21st Infantry Regiment, Korea from August 1950 - August 1951, passed away March 16, 2007. Cards may be sent to his wife Shirley Thatcher, 1987 Springtown Hill Rd., Hellertown, PA 18055-2942. (Daughter Diane Becker)



**Clifford "Cliff" Gene Thurber, Sr.**, (left) 78, of Nacimiento Lake, CA, Life Member #2029, died on Saturday, January 5, 2008, in a Templeton hospital. Cliff was born in Aurora, Ill. and lived in Lakewood from 1960 to 1987 before moving to Nacimiento Shores. He served with "B" Company, 21st Regiment in the Korean War from 1950 to 1951, and was in the U.S. Army from 1948 to 1952. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Carolyn; four sons and seven grandchildren. Cards may be sent to Carolyn Thurber, 2718 Bee Rock Rd, Bradley, CA 93426-9657.

**Betty Jo Waterkamp**, 75, passed away on March 9, 2008. She was the wife of Gary Waterkamp, "I" company, 21st Infantry Regiment, Life Member #1664, of the Association. She was in the U.S. Army (WAC) during the Korean War and served as a dental technician at Brooke Army Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, TX and later at 4th Army Headquarters where she met her husband, who was also assigned to 4th Army Headquarters at the time. She was buried with full military honors at Fort Custer National Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to: Gary Waterkamp, 70932 Sherman Rd., Edwardsburg, MI, 49112-9122, Ph: 616-663-8611



# *The Taro Leaf TAPS*

## **34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment**

**Kenneth Scott Bonovich** of Pasadena, MD, Life Member #1258, died January 2, 2008, at Baltimore Washington Medical Center after a brief illness. He was 82. Mr. Bonovich served in the Army during World War II; and with an Ordinance Company of the 34th Regiment in the Korean War. He received the Bronze Star for conveying munitions from Japan to Korea at the outset of the Korean War. He was interred in the Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Crownsville, MD. Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Leah Bonovich, 3502 Kingsley Court Apt. E, Pasadena, MD, 21122-6635 (Mrs. Bonovich)



**Joseph Gordon**, 90, passed away on February 1, 2008, at home in Summit, N.J. He served with the Company M, 34th Infantry Regiment, starting on July 15, 1941, and was overseas for 40 months - in the Pacific Theater. He was a warrant officer assistant regimental communications officer in Hollandia and Biak in Dutch New Guinea, and in Leyte in the Philippines. He landed with the third wave of the Invasion of Red Beach Leyte and engaged there for 79 straight days. He was awarded the Bronze Star. Mr. Gordon received many honors for his services as a New Jersey attorney. Condolences may be sent to Ms. Joan Gordon, 10 Canoe Brook Place, Ste.

200, Summit, NJ 07901-1441. (Ms. Gordon)



**Hugh William Hightower**, Newport, TN, Staff Sergeant, 34th Infantry Regiment, Company C, passed away April 26, 1980. He served from 1944 to February 1949, on Luzon and Mindanao. He enlisted in the National Guard in 1949 and was discharged Nov. 1, 1952. Surviving is his wife Arlene and son Hugh William Hightower Jr. Publication in the *Leaf Taro TAPS* was requested by member William Guthrie Howard, who made a donation in Mr. Hightower's memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at: 353 Jefferson Ave, Newport, TN 37821 (423) 623-7283

**Michael A. Mandac**, Life Member #1078, Company L, 34th Infantry, Company G, and 21st Infantry passed away on June 26, 2007 in Waianae, HI. Michael served with the 34th Infantry in Sa-sebo, Japan and moved with the Regiment to Korea in July 1950. Condolences may be sent to his wife Adeline and family at 87-201 Mikana Street, Waianae, HI 96792-3731 (Tom Cochran).

**Jim E. Mathis**, Life Member #1036, Headquarters 34th Infantry in WWII, passed away on August 26, 2007, at his home in Parker, AZ. Condolences may be sent to Jackie Mathis, 9069 Lakeview Dr., Parker, AZ 85344-8063 (Jackie Mathis).

## **63rd Field Artillery**

**Frederick L. Kepke**, Life member # 1264, of Palmdale, CA, died in February 2003, per letter from his wife received in January 2008. Frederick served in the 63rd FA in Japan and Korea. Last known address was: 39669 Makin Ave., Palmdale, CA, 93551-2986.

## **Division**

**Eileen Jay**, Associate 24<sup>th</sup> IDA Member, passed away on October 29, 2007. Eileen was the wife of H. Douglas Jay, 8007th AFRS (Division Headquarters) in Japan and Korea who preceded her in death on July 23, 2006. Cards may be sent to the family at: 2225 Greenstone Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810-2303. (Son Brad Jay).





# *The Taro Leaf TAPS*

## **Division continued**

**Robert A. Wilson**, 92, Life Member #516, died Saturday, March 15, 2008, after a short illness. Robert enlisted in the U.S. Army as a conscientious objector and served as an Army Medic seeing action in New Guinea and the Philippines with the 24th Medical Battalion, "A" Co from 1942 to 1945. His distinguished career as a U.S. Army officer included service in Korea and Vietnam, and being awarded the Bronze Star. He is survived by his widow, Virginia C. Wilson, 6225 Mineral Point Rd, Madison, WI 53705-4562. (Charles T. Bauer)

## **Association Non-Members**

**Richard "Dick" Joseph Czernik**, 79, Easthampton, MA died March 11, 2008, U S Army 24th Division, **34th Regiment**, WWII, occupation in Sasebo, Japan, no further information. (Joseph A. Mieleszko, Life Member 862)

**Frank C. Durant**, Hq Co, 2d Bn, **19th Infantry Regiment** passed away February 22, 2008. Frank served with the unit in Beppu and went to Korea in July 50 and was taken prisoner during the first week of fighting. Cards may be sent to Socorro Durant, 333 McCarthy, El Paso, TX 79915-3817 or email his daughter at [duranthuggabear@hotmail.com](mailto:duranthuggabear@hotmail.com) (Shorty Estabrook).

**Joseph F. Firth, Jr., 13th FA**, WWII, died on January 18, 2008.

**Raymond F. Goodburlet**, Co I, **5th RCT**, date Unknown; no additional information (TAPS Section of Korean War Ex-POW Association new letter).

**Jimmie Lipps**, Medical Company, **34th Infantry Regiment** passed away on March 11, 2008 in Fountain City, IN. Jimmie was wounded in action on 20 July 1950 during the battle of Taejon; he had suffered a head wound, in addition to other wounds. (Lacy Barnett)

**William E. Stoker**, "I" **19th Infantry**, died on March 28, 2008. He was a member for many years, but allowed his membership to lapse after the passing of his wife, Doris in late 2005. He was a machine-gunner in an emplacement in Ala Mannu Crater, at Pearl Harbor, on December 7, 1941. Condolences may be sent to his daughter, Karol W. Stoker, 945 Pasque Drive, Longmont, CO 80501

**Lloyd Vaughn**, L Company, **21st Infantry Regiment** passed away on February 12, 2007. Lloyd was captured on July 11, 1950 and released on August 23, 1953. His life mate, Beatrice passed away on September 19th, 2007. Both are interned in Arlington National Cemetery. (Shorty Estabrook)

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Please Send Taps Notices To The *Taro Leaf* Editor

Tom J. Thiel, 19147 Park Place Blvd, Eustis, FL 32736-7262, Ph: 352-357-3943

tthiel5@comcast.net

The TAPS encourages PHOTOGRAPHS with your TAPS notices, if you wish.





April 4, 2008: Good Morning Tom,

I've been out of the hospital again for 14 days now. Details are usually boring so I will spare you. The doctors and I think I will be well again very soon. Answered prayers! The doctors have been amazing, not just with their medical skills but also with their emotional support. Each of them knew my Billy, a few treated him also, and they know what our past couple of years have been like.

I know that you are very pleased with your *Taro Leaf*. The Johnson Family certainly is. Thank you for making it fly again. For some of our dear and precious members, especially our older ones, this is proof perfect that They Were There. This is one of the most important ways they have to pass along their personal history to their families, and add to the history of our beloved America.

In Friendship. Minie Johnson

First Atrocity in Korea *(additional info)*

I would like to set the record straight regarding Lt. Herman Driskell. (See *Taro Leaf* 62(1) p. 32.)

I used the American Battle Monument Commission site to find out what happened to Lt. Driskell. So I had every reason to believe what was on that site.

Now I find this site to be wrong.

Driskell was not shot on the train in North Korea. That input came from the ABMC web site. Although that is a Government site they (sometimes) allow family members to add to the narrative. His body was found in South Korea, South of Seoul near Suwan which is North of the battle field.

He was interned in the cemetery at Pusan (TANGGOK Main Cemetery) initially and finally brought home to LA and buried there.

Four men of the Tiger Survivor Group reported that Lt. Driskell was a POW with them. They are Martin Tullio, Fredrick Rager, Edward Soria, and Susumu Shinagawa. All are still alive. Rager speaks via his throat and is very hard to understand. Shinagawa is deaf; I will see him in April in Hawaii. He was repatriated in Operation Little Switch. Tullio and Soria correspond regularly with me via email.

These men were captured at different times than Driskell but married up with him after capture.

Soria reported that 2nd Lt Driskell slipped on some wet grass and startled the guard who spun around and shot Lt. Driskell and killed him. This was done when Soria was freed in 1953.

Lt. Driskell's body was found by Search and Recovery operation Graves Registration unit which went into that area after our forces drove the Reds back the first time.

The above information came from the DPMO in the Pentagon.

Shorty Estabrook B/19/24

Dear Tom,
Words can not express
my gratitude for your kindness
and generosity in sending my
family & me each a copy of the
Taro Leaf with the article on my
husband, for.

It was a beautiful gesture
& very well done. He would
have been very proud of it.

My family & me will
treasure it forever.

Thanks again,

Beverly Young





Mr. Thiel,

Thank you very much for sending me the above mentioned issue of Taro Leaf, the one that had my father (Dale M. Holton) listed in the TAPS section.

His family appreciates it very much.

Sincerely,

Jimmie D. Holton



I just received my issue of the *Taro Leaf* and as usual I could not stop reading the articles until I read all of them. The book reviews, the Eddie Ko story, Ronald Young story, and A Thousand Days of Torment were very touching.

We thank the members of the 24th in sharing their experiences and dedication to keep America free.

Best Regards, John T. Edwards

“America's forgotten victory”

November 2007 Letter to the *Southern Illinoisan*

As a veteran of the Korean War, why should I be surprised that the Korean War Veterans had not been mentioned or honored in your tribute in your veterans day series. You went from WWII to Vietnam War without a word about the Korean War Veteran. Not even a movie was mentioned.

For 1.6 million Americans who served in Korea (1950-53), U.S. Society and the media has been less than generous in terms of recognition. It is time to rectify this injustice and give credit where it is due.

All we did was stop the spread of Communism and give Freedom to the South Korean people.

Courage was never in short supply. Of the 131 Medals of Honor awarded to Korean War servicemen, 70 were posthumous. Altogether 50,258 medals for valor were issued.

Over three years of the Korean War, 33,629 Americans died in combat, and over 100,000 were wounded in action. Those of us lucky enough to endure the brutal fighting, below zero weather, mountains over 1,000 meters high, and living in bunkers and trenches - went back to civilian life and melted into the main stream.

There are still nearly 8,000 Americans missing in action in Korea. More than 7,000 Americans were captured during the Korean War; nearly 40 percent of them died while in captivity – murdered, frozen, or starved. Try reading “American POW's in Korea,” by Harry Spiller - he happens to live in Marion, Illinois.

Spiller says in his book: “The Korean POW's returned to their homes, got married, raised their families, and provided for those families, and usually never asked for anything for their service to their country.” Just like the rest of the 1.6 million that served during that time. Statistics indicate the possibility of being killed in combat, accidental or enemy fire, in WWII was 1 in 12, with the majority from enemy fire. In Vietnam, the ratio was 1 in 16, majority from enemy fire. But in Korea, this ratio was 1 in 9, with 91 percent from enemy fire.

Come on you Korean War veterans speak up – be recognized!

Frank Marcan, 5th RCT Korea 51-52,
2335 Lakeshore Dr. S., Goreville, IL, 52939,
618-995-1326, cell, fjm5thrct@hotmail.com





Colonel Bernard (See TAPS, Page 10) was an Honorary Tiger Survivor and a member of the 21st Infantry Regiment Association and of course Task Force Smith.

When our forces went back into the area that the North Korean Army had taken, Bernard was part of a group that searched for remains of our men. He told me what a sad job that was for him as he found many of those people from his unit.

Some of us get to become Eagles and some of us get to fly with Eagles. Colonel Bernard was indeed an EAGLE of the first order.

A salute to you Colonel and I will pay you the highest honor one can give to another soldier and that is that you were a SOLDIER.

Shorty (Estabrook) B/19/24

More on Christmas Eve, 1951



by Ken Dillon, left.

I also remember the Carolers on Christmas Eve 1951. I also remember how we yelled for them to stop; we thought that might draw artillery fire.

I also remember the Christmas cards. My friend, Sgt. Carlos Easterday of Pleasant City, OH has one of those cards.

On Christmas Eve 1951, ten members of the 3rd Platoon, Co. E, 19th Inf. Regt. went on an Ambush Patrol up the valley to the right of hill 747 to an old Korean Hut. Five members went from 6:00 to midnight, and five went at 12:00 to relieve them, and stayed until daylight.

I was in that latter group, which also included Sgt. Jullian Williams, Troy Griffin, Wilber Wright and one other member I do not remember. We pulled 100 percent guard duty. I can remember lying in the snow by myself,

waiting on the Chinese to come.

The Chinese never did come, and we came back through the 2nd Platoon's line on Christmas morning. My foxhole buddy was David Hill from Arkansas, and my squad leader was Sgt. Keller from North or South Dakota.

Kenneth R. Dillon, 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad, Co. E, 19th Inf. Regt., June 1951 to June 1952. 19 E. Dayton Yellow Springs Rd., Yellow Springs, OH 45387, Ph: 937-767-1318 ###

And still more on Christmas Eve 1951.

I read the letters about Christmas Eve, 1951, and would like to relate what I vividly remember.

I was a rifleman in the 2nd platoon, "B" Company, 19th Infantry Regiment on that night.

We were told that a small Chinese plane would soon be flying over our positions and we should not shoot at it because it was just flying along the line playing Christmas Carols and dropping Christmas Cards.

As the plane came into view we could hear the familiar recorded carols and as it passed over we could see the stuff floating down. When it stopped coming down we rushed out to get some of them.

Someone shouted not to take any of the propaganda leaflets because if we had them we would be in trouble and might be court marshaled. I grabbed some of the Christmas Cards, got back into my foxhole, and listened to the Christmas Carols as the plane flew out of sight. I was then glad I had the cards and sent them home.

Alvin Merrill, Life Member #976, 33 Kelwyn Drive, Sommersworth, NH 03878-1318 ###

And one more on Christmas Eve – '51

Ken Dillon mentioned Carlos Easterday; in a phone conversation with Carlos, he remembers something different. He still has the greetings from 57 years ago.

Continued on page 26



Helm kept Keeble Medal of Honor effort alive

By ELOISE OGDEN, Regional Editor egoden@minotdailynews.com Sunday, March 9, 2008, Reprinted with permission of the Author and the *Minot Daily News*.



Best Wishes,

*To Mary,
I am proud of the work
you did to honor Woody Keeble.
Congratulations!
Sharon L. Dorgan*

Merry Helm, of Fargo N.D., right above, being presented a framed copy of Senator Dorgan's statement on Woody Keeble he read into the Congressional Record. Senator Dorgan recognized Merry March 3, 2008, the morning before the Whitehouse Medal or Honor ceremony.

Merry Helm, of Fargo, N.D., is credited with keeping alive an effort resulting in Army Master Sgt. Woodrow Wilson Keeble posthumously receiving the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony Monday, March 3, 2008.

North Dakota's congressional delegation has recognized Helm for her work.

"It's been a genuine privilege to work on Woodrow Keeble's story and to talk with the men who fought beside him," Helm said. "... they recall him with tremendous respect – his honesty, his physical strength, his bravery, his leadership. They also recall him as quiet-spoken, humble, and a 'helluva nice guy.'"

Helm said she joined the decades-long endeavor several years ago to have Keeble become a recipient of the Medal of Honor.

"I did in-depth research into the battle and Woody's actions so we could reinforce the evidence that called for this medal upgrade," she said. Helm, a screenwriter by trade, said she is working on a documentary about Keeble.

"Learning what I have about Keeble, I think he would not want this Medal of Honor to be about himself – he would want it to be about all the men who fought in Korea.

It was as brutal, with some of the most extreme weather and terrain conditions, as any war ever fought by American troops," Helm said.

"Woody was fortunate to survive it. Some 36,000 Americans (nearly 1,000 per month) didn't make it. Given how protective he was of his men, I can't help but think Keeble would want us to open our eyes and see Korean War veterans as he saw them – worth fighting for."

Locally, Keeble's name will be added to the North Dakota Medal of Honor Memorial in Minot's Roosevelt Park. The 19th pillar of the memorial has been reserved for Keeble, said Bill Kolb, Minot, chairman of the N.D. Medal of Honor Memorial Committee. Keeble will also be honored at this year's Festival of the Parks on July 4.

(How fitting Keeble's name will be added to the 19th pillar – Keeble served with George Company, 19th Infantry Regiment. ED)



Slice of Life—"Letters to Ann"

January 16, 1951

Dearest Ann,

I just grabbed this pad and envelope and found a pencil to write this letter. I finally got out of the hospital, and got sent to the 8069th Replacement Battalion. And to what I thought would be a halfway decent place. It turned out to be a long building with about ten big rooms in it and a few smaller buildings for the workers, etc.

For the men who didn't bring any mess equipment, they had us sign for steel trays to put the food in, but no utensils with which to eat. I started eating with some improvised chopsticks but didn't do too well, and one of the guys gave me his spoon. We had cots to sleep on and a little stove for each room, but if you wanted any heat in the stoves you had to buy the wood from the gooks*.

I was there for about two and a half days when they called for men going to the 24th Division. At last, I thought I'd stop all this messing around and get to my outfit. They loaded us up on trucks and headed out for Taegu. When we got there, it started



all over again. Nobody knew about us coming and when we finally found someone who did, he had no place to put us. An R.T.O. man finally put thirty-eight of us up, in a car that was on a siding, so we could have somewhere to sleep.

Then we sent someone out to see if we could get some chow and after running around a bit, finally got us some C rations. We were getting kind of sick of eating C rations so two other fellows and myself took some of our extra clothes and went to town to sell them. We got 28,000 won (Korean money) (which is equal to about 7 dollars) which was nowhere near to what the clothes were

worth, but we wanted some chow so we took it.

We found a few GI's and they told us where we could find a place to eat, so we proceeded on. We each had two hard boiled eggs, a plate of fried potatoes, and a cup of coffee. We felt much better after that and we headed back for the train and stood around the fire and talked with some Englishman, and then went to bed. We naturally have to be careful of enemy infiltrators so there are guards all over the rail yard and the best thing to do, if you don't want to get shot, is stay around your car. A few men have already been shot here through some kind of misunderstanding or carelessness.

In the morning the lieutenant took us back to the R.T.O. office and the men that stayed in the office the night before told us they were taken over for hot chow the night before. He finally got us on two cars of another train and we piled in and got as comfortable as possible. Much to our surprise, we had two meals on that train. There were three stoves in the car so it was quite warm enough to sleep with only

* These are the first of several letters that Robert Moncur of "F" Company, 19th Infantry Regiment wrote to his wife, Ann, from Korea in 1951. That's Ann and Robert in the photo above. Mr. Moncur stated: *In my early letters, I used the word "Gooks" to describe a Korean civilian, and called "Korea as a filthy hell hole." I was a young man from the U.S. who had seen nothing of the world. It was easy to use words like that when speaking of strange people who spoke in a foreign tongue and dressed so strangely. With time and maturity, I learned to respect and care about these simple people, and hated when they were referred to that way. And I came to appreciate the natural beauty of their country—"The Land of the Morning Calm."*



*Slice of Life - "Letters to Ann"****

one blanket.

We finally arrived here (Kumchon) this morning and we walked about a mile to the 24th Replacement Company, where I am now. The story here is much the same as everywhere else only worse. They were set up to take care of about three hundred men, and with us coming in it gives them about one thousand.

They were getting three hot meals a day but with us here now I think they will cut it down to two. Of course it's still better than C rations as far as I'm concerned.

The worst part of the whole place is that they don't have anywhere near enough housing for the men and the place is just cluttered with pup tents. I haven't even got that much because they don't know anything about my equipment so I've given it up for lost but I'm going to try to squeeze in one of the few buildings that are here.

I've never felt so lousy in my life as I did these past weeks. It's bad enough just being in this filthy country, worse to be here under the conditions of possible fighting, and then to top it all off you get knocked around so much and no one knows what's going on. You hear how bad they need replacements and all that. I've been here for two weeks now and still haven't gotten to a permanent station.

Believe me, Ann, I'd rather

spend three years in jail than to spend 21 months in a hell hole like Korea. To see the way these people live and the houses and towns here really makes me appreciate the way they have it at home. The dirtiest slums of any city would be paradise compared to here. I know if this all turns out okay and we have a home and children of our own that we should really be thankful for what we have.

I'll never go back on my promise to be as good a husband, and possibly father, as I humanly can, and my love for you will never lessen. I know it has grown stronger than before. I'll sign off for now so take care of yourself kitten, and remember I love you with all my heart and will forever.

Yours always.

###

February 14, 1951

Dearest Ann,

I am writing this letter in hopes that a kitchen party comes up with chow so I can have it mailed.

Yesterday was quite a busy day as they finally decided that we would try to take that hill again, but after it was all over we were right back where we started.

Artillery, mortars, and air strikes were on that hill all day again, but those chinks are so well dug in that it is practically useless. We started out around nine-thirty and after it started to

get late in the day we had only one more knoll to go and sniper fire had us stopped cold.

There were quite a few casualties and we lost twenty-eight men including one missing.

We were supposed to go into reserve, but as usual something happened and we are still up here. Most of the men have some kind of ailment or other but they just can't be spared for lack of men.

My toes have had sort of a dead feeling and hurt something awful once in awhile, but as long as I can still walk without too much trouble I'll stay up here.

We also heard that a National Guard Division was on the way over here to relieve us in March, and although we're tired of being disappointed, we've got our hopes up again. The Division has taken quite a beating over here, and was the first one to get here so we figure that there might be a chance that it's true.

Well I guess I can only repeat what I've been saying all along and that is that I hope and pray that something happens over here soon so we can all feel safe again and we can begin again to start our lives together.

I'll sign off now Ann, so take care of yourself, and give regards to all at home. I love you and always will.

Yours forever. ###

To be continued.



6th Medium Tank Battalion, 24th Infantry Division

by Thomas A. Lyke, Second Platoon, 6th Tank Battalion, Korea, 1950-53



Second Platoon, Dog Company, 6th Medium Tank Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, Pusan, S.K., August 1950. 1. Roger Jelkins, 2. Bernard Williams, 3. Wayne Gee, 4. George Lee, 5. Lareno Jimenez (POW), 6. Samuel Mosthere, 7. Michael Martin (POW), 8. Robert Dotson, 9. John Trautman (KIA), 10. Hayward Hodges, 11. Joseph Roy, 12. Albert Myers, 13. Ray Maxwell, 14. Carlton Slider (POW), 15. Louis Lehman, **16. Thomas Lyke (POW)**, 17. Donald Harrell, 18. Harry Griffin, 19. Bobby DeGraw (POW), 20. Robert Alexander, 21. Milton Jenkins, 22. Steve Wallace, 23. Frank Hand, 24. Plt. Ldr. 1st Lt. Kenneth Sharp, 25. Pok, and 26. Plt. Sgt. Joseph Kirkland.

I coaxed my mother that if she would sign for me, I would enlist in the Army, even though I had just turned 16 years of age on October the 5th, 1948. She laughed but said if I could convince the recruiting SGT, she would sign. I altered my birth certificate to show I was born in 1931 instead of 1932. The recruiter accepted it, my mother signed, and I left WV for Fort Knox, KY, for basic in January 1949.

After basic, I was shipped to Fort Hood, Texas, for advanced armor training with the 6th Medium Tank Battalion, 2nd Armor Division.

I went home on furlough for Christmas of 1949, at which time I met my future wife, Charlotte A. Hoch. I returned



Cpl. Tom Lyke, Chipyeong-ni, N.K., Feb. 16, 1951.

to Fort Hood to continue training in January 1950.

In July 1950, the 6th Tank Battalion was ordered to Korea, where we were attached to the 24th Infantry Division.

All the UN had left of Korea when we arrived was a 35 mile perimeter around Pusan.

We started our push north in September and joined the Marines and the 7th Division in Seoul; then on to the North Korea capitol of Pyongyang (although officially assigned to the 24th Division, the 6th Tank Bn. supported many other units in



the Korean War).

I was wounded for the first time north of Pyongyang at Anjou, North Korea. The first



L to R: Kirkland, Lyke, DeGraw, Hodges and Lehman.

elements of the Chinese attacked us that day with 120MM mortars. It was Oct. 26, 1950, 21 days after my 18th birthday. I was evacuated to Tokyo General Hospital.

Along with five of my friends, I volunteered to return to Korea; we wanted to stay with our outfit because we had been together since basic.

It was a whole new war when we rejoined Dog Company in the first week of January 1951. The UN forces were retreating to a defense line they could hold. We fought hard to hold our positions. The 6th Tank was used all over place, being attached to anybody that needed armor support.

We were in support of the 24th Division and the 6th Republic of Korea Forces at Kapyong, Korea, when the

The Taro Leaf

Chinese started their spring offensive on the 25th of April, 1951.

The Chinese and North Korean forces broke through our defenses and cut off elements of the units supporting the 24th Div and South Korean troops.

The 6th Tank Battalion

stayed as rear guard to allow the UN troops to withdraw to another defendable line.

Dog Company, 6th Tank, got word of a group of wounded Airborne Rangers who were surrounded in a draw. We took five tanks from the second platoon and went in to get them. We found 65 rangers, loaded them on our tanks, and brought them out. From there, they were loaded in trucks and escorted to the rear.

The second Platoon was asked to stay as rear guard, as other elements were still straggling through.

The 5th Regimental Combat Team had the 555 Triple Nickel Artillery Battalion, which was also cut off. They had a truck loaded with 155mm artillery shells blocking the road.

Our tank retriever, which

had been towing one of our disabled tanks back for repair, tried to push the truck



D-10, "Dagwood," my tank, which was hit on the night of April 25, 1951. Photo taken on April 29, by other elements of Dog Company, which retook the area. April 29 was also the day I was taken prisoner some six miles from this spot.

off the road so the rest of the column could get through.

Unfortunately, the truck exploded, and blocked the escape of all other vehicles. During the night the Chinese were able to move in close enough to knock out all of our tanks, half tracks and trucks, including my tank.

I was again wounded and knocked out. When I came to, things were much quieter, and all I saw were dead bodies – ours and theirs.

I moved out and headed south later that night, but I had to seek refuge in a cave when faced with a barrage from our own artillery. I tried to leave when daylight came, but there were enemy troops all around. I went back and burrowed deeper into the cave.

As the day went on, I heard noises outside. Three South Korean soldiers entered.



They suggested we wait till night and try to move south. I fell asleep, and when I awoke the South Koreans were gone.

I tried to move out, but the valley was swarming with Chinese; I returned to the cave. Four days passed, and I needed water and food. Trying to slip through the Chinese lines, I went up a hill and spotted a stream on the other side. I got a drink, but when I started to move, the Chinese were all over me. This was the 29th day of April 1951.

I spent the next 855 days as a prisoner of the Chinese and North Korean Communists. I went from 157 pounds to 87 pounds in a matter of 2 months.

I was moved on several occasions to different camps, because the Chinese claimed I had a reactionary attitude.

One of my dearest friends in captivity was William Deer With Horns, of the 19th Regiment, 24th Division. He, two other POWs, and I escaped in July of 1951, but we were recaptured shortly thereafter. Deer, as we called him, died the following night from his beating.

After the peace talks began in July of 1951, the treatment and conditions improved somewhat; I weighed 105 pounds upon my release on 28 August 1953. I arrived home on the 19th day of September, 1953, for a furlough with my family. I was discharged on the 24th day of



Tom Lyke on August 29, 1953, the day after his release by the Communists. Red Cross Photo.

October, 1953.

Charlotte and I were married on October 1st, 1954. We have two children, Thomas J. Lyke and Charlene K Floyd.

I have been blessed to have had the privilege to serve my fellow EX-POWs and veterans in several organizations and have received many Military Medals and Ribbons.

Tom Lyke
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Tom Lyke, right, receiving the Honorary Airborne Ranger award; from left: Bill Rhatigan, Lou Lucasick, and Tom Lyke.

Into the Valley of Death Rode The Four Hundred. *By William Burson, (United Press Staff Writer)*

With U. S. 24th Division, Korea, May 26 [1951]—This is the story of “Death Valley” and of the 405 brave Americans who died or were captured there in a Chinese ambush (where Tom was wounded and captured.)

It is the story of a company commander who was hit nine times by machine-gun fire while leading futile counter-attacks, but who never faltered.

It is the story of medics who fired machine guns when the men at the triggers fell dead.

Trapped Men Stayed to Help

It is the story of infantrymen who never had fired an artillery piece in their lives, but took their places at the lanyard under fire.

And it might never have happened if the trapped men hadn't stayed behind to rescue 65 surrounded American rangers.

The ambush occurred April 25 in a deep mountain defile north of the Chongpyong Reservoir on the west-central front during the first stage of the Chinese spring offensive.

Lt. Col. Harry S. Wilson of Brownsville, Tex., commander of the Fifth Regimental Combat Team, had been holding a rear-guard perimeter to screen the withdrawal of other 24th Division elements.

With him were two of the combat team's battalions, the 555th Field Artillery Battalion with 155-millimeter howitzers, and Baker Co. of the Sixth (Pat-



ton) Tank Battalion.

Wilson was about to order the men out when he learned that a company of rangers had been surrounded farther north by a Chinese regiment while trying to hold a wide-open flank.

The commander decided to hold on a little longer and sent five Patton tanks to the rescue. Two hours later, they returned with 65 survivors, most of them wounded.

Wilson gave the order to withdraw. The first of the convoy, led by Maj. Gen. Claude Baker of Saranac, Mich., commander of the Sixth Battalion, passed safely through the defile.

But as the first truck of "Charlie" battery neared the south exit, a figure in white jumped a ditch whirled and fired a hip-supported heavy machine gun into the cab.

The vehicle careened backward and the big gun it was pulling crashed into the truck behind knocking it out of control.

Chinese Appear Everywhere

As if on signal, Chinese appeared on the ridgeline along the slopes and in the road-side rice paddies. From somewhere, mortars coughed and laid their explosive eggs along the length of the column.

Automatic weapons opened up killing many GIs in the cross-fire.

A regimental operations officer ran down the road to order the men off the trucks and into the hills. A machine-gun burst stopped him in his tracks.

Wilson, firing back with his .45, gave the order himself to the remaining units.

Infantrymen Man Guns

Lt. Col. Clarence E. Stuart of Freeland, Mich., commander of the 555th, ran—shooting as he went—half a mile back to his battery and personally directed setting up howitzers to counterfire on the enemy.

Artillerymen of "Charlie" battery unhitched their guns at the head of the column and fired pointblank at the Reds around them. And when artillerymen fell, infantrymen like Cpl. Berrand Combs of Elwood, W. Va., who had never fired an artillery piece in his life, took their places.

One battalion rallied around the bellowing leadership at beefy Capt Horace W. (Captain Combat) West of Nazareth, Pa., commander of "Able" Company.

West's company made three futile counterattacks down the road. "Baker" company attacked up the hill to the west and "Charlie" company assaulted the ridge on the east. All were repulsed.

West was hit nine times by machine-gun fire, but never stopped.

A young Air Force tactical officer, Second Lt. Walter Fay, who had arrived in Korea only three days earlier, stayed with his radio jeep and called in air strikes which were within 100 yards of the beleaguered Americans. He was wounded, but stayed at his post.

The Chinese swarmed off the hills and attacked at close range. Many got within 10 yards of the GIs before they were downed. Infantrymen fought from trucks, behind rocks, in ditches—some counterattacked.

Chinese Didn't Fire on Medic

Medics worked feverishly to aid the wounded and load them on trucks. The Chinese did not fire on the medics, according to Maj. William Hedberg of Honolulu, who treated wounds for four hours.

Some medics, like Sgt. James L. Harrison of Riverside, Calif., jumped on half-tracks and fired their quadruple .50-caliber machine guns when the gunners were killed.

Sgt. Kenneth Bunting of Erie, Pa., a radio operator, got off an SOS. It was intercepted by First Lt. Sidney Blum of New York, who assembled a tank task force to break the road block.

The Chinese knocked out two tanks and killed the riding infantry before the column reached the trap area. It was forced to pull back.

Destroy Abandoned Equipment

After four hours, Wilson ordered his men to make a run for a lateral road to the west. Abandoned equipment was destroyed.

All night long and all next day, the survivors trickled back through the 24th new defensive line.

When a final count was made, 405 men were dead or missing, and eight 155-millimeter howitzers, six Patton tanks and an undetermined number of jeeps, trucks and supplies lost or destroyed.

"Every man who got out alive can thank God," First Lt Leon Banashak of Chicago said.

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My "Typewriter" Korean War

by Richard L. Harris, Cpl, Typewriter Repair, 24th Quartermaster, Korea 1951-52 (Photo below).

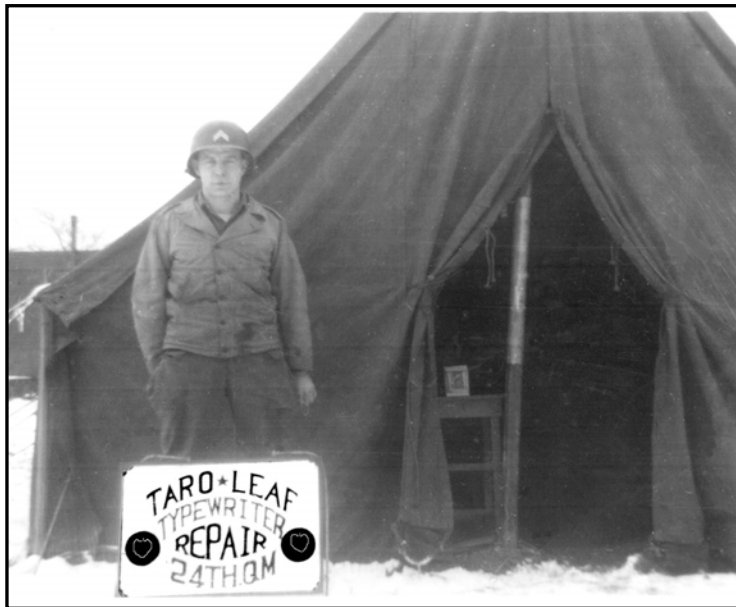
At the beginning of the Korean War I was working for Remington Rand in Schenectady, NY. I was drafted and reported for duty at Catskill, NY, and we all were sent to Ft. Devans, MA, for processing, and then sent to Camp Picket, VA, where we trained with the Heavy Mortar Co. 169th National Guard from Connecticut.

After basic training, we had a leave over New Years, and were then sent to California on a troop train. We got on a ship in California. About two weeks later we were in Japan.

At Camp Drake we were standing for over two hours, and nothing was happening. A Sergeant said the typewriters were not working. I told him that I had worked on typewriters for about six years. He said get your butt in there, they need six men.

Along with five others, I spent six weeks at the Tokyo QM Depot typewriter repair school. They trained us on all the name brand office model machines, no training on the portables. In Korea, I came across only one office model machine; all the rest were portable typewriters!

When I got to Korea, I was assigned to the 24th Division. Another fellow and I began repairing typewriters. We had a Korean house boy. He cleaned up and everything. One day he showed me a Sears catalog with ads for a jacket, hat and gloves. He asked me if I could get them for him. I took out the pages that I needed and sent them to



my mother. A little later, I received them and when I showed him what I had for him, I thought he was going to pick me up. He was real happy, and said now I can stay warm. Thank you.

Next, I went to Kimpo Air Field typewriter repair. I was the new man on the job, so I got to clean the typewriters and mimeographs.

After a while, my eyes got all red and swollen. I went on sick call and the doctor gave me some salve to put in my eyes and pills to take, also a note that I was not to clean the machines anymore and stay away from that solution. I gave the note to the Sergeant in charge. He said this causes a problem; the new man is supposed to clean the machines. I said we could have the two Koreans that clean up around here clean the machines, they speak good English and know what we are talking about.

The Sergeant wasn't sure what to do. He said OK but if the Colonel says anything you have

to be responsible. I said OK; don't lose the note from the Doctor.

I had the two Koreans take the machines apart, clean and reassemble them, and do some adjustments. I told the Koreans if an officer were to come in the room, they were to holler and come to attention.

The Colonel came in one day and I heard one of the Koreans holler attention. We all came to attention. The Colonel smiled and said at ease. I

could tell by the smile on his face that he thought that was pretty good.

Harris, he said, I hear you're doing a good job. I do my best sir. He said they can't get their reports out up front; their typewriters don't work. I'm sending you and your two Korean helpers up there to get the typewriters repaired so they can get their reports out. There will be a tent repair man and his two helpers, and a truck driver to help with setting up. You are to be in charge and I have left word at the supply that they are to give you what you need, OK? YES SIR. Good Luck, and the Colonel departs.

The next day Cpl. Miles comes by with a truck and off to the supply we go. The next day we head north. We pull in where Miles says we're to, and check in at the office tent.

We set up the two tents and had all the tables and equipment ready to go. The sergeant had the light wire run and a light set up in the main tent. We are ready to go; up and running.



The next day we had a couple of customers. We cleaned and oiled these machines, checked all the moving parts to see that they were working, oiled and assembled and tested the units, made necessary repairs and sent them back where they came from. We did this for a few customers.

A few days later a Sergeant came in wanting a typewriter. I told him that we did not have any to hand out and to bring in his typewriter. He said it was back in the rear for service; it had been there for two weeks, and that he can't get his reports out.

He said I'll tell you what I'll do. I have a quart of Whiskey says you can get me a typewriter. I said OK! Miles, I said, early tomorrow morning make a trip down to the salvage depot and see if you can get two or more of this make and model typewriter.

Miles came back late afternoon the next day with three of those little rascals. We had one cleaned that night, plus fixing the one that belonged to someone else. The next day we had one of the stock units up and running.

That Sergeant was in a hurry for a typewriter; he came back that afternoon and asked how we made out. I said do you have the quart of Liquor? He said yes. I said I have the typewriter ready for you. He went out and got the Liquor and we made a swap.

He came back a few days later and said that machine really works well; I told a few others how they could get a typewriter. I said thanks. He said I thank you.

We were now in the trading business.

One guy brought in a typewriter that a truck had run over. I told him I couldn't fix it. He said I have a quart of Liquor. Do you have it with you I asked? He said yes. I said I'll get you a typewriter. Deal completed, another satisfied customer.

A Captain in the rear area found he had no Liquor when the General was coming to visit. He asked the Sergeant where he might be able to get some quickly. The Sergeant asked me if I had any. I have a quart for the Captain, if you would have a quart for me, I chuckled. I sent Miles down with it right after lunch. A few days later I was promoted to Private First Class; in a few weeks I was a Corporal.

A Colonel came into the tent. I wondered what the hell I had done now. He said I need a large typewriter with a long carriage that will take this form-it must have been 30 inches wide. Have you ever worked on one this wide? I said yes. He said I know you can get me one. I replied that may take some time to find one with a carriage that long. After a little talking, we settled for three quarts of Liquor. I got him one that worked just fine.

We took it to the Colonel's bunker. I opened the door and walked in. Just as I was all the way inside the Colonel was going past, all smiles he said you have a typewriter? I said yes, I wanted to make sure I was in the right place. He calls for the Sergeant. The Colonel said help this man with the typewriter. They got their form out, put it in the typewriter, set the tab stops etc, typed on it and said now we can get our reports out. The Sergeant got the three quarts of Liquor. They thanked us, and we said we thank you. Outside I said to Miles another satisfied customer!

Near the end of the 24th Division's stay in Korea, Miles was transferred. The First Sergeant asked me if I could drive the truck. So, I became a truck driver too.

When the California 40th Division was relieving the 24th, I was called back to our intermediate location to show members of the 40th where the front line was. My relief from the 40th, and a few others went with me.

When we got to the area, I said to my relief, things have changed. I found a spot to back up and turn around. As I backed in we saw a patrol running toward us. I said have the men in the back to load their weapons. The patrol was of course our men, but they begged a ride, so we took them where they needed to go.

Just after the patrol was out of sight around the side of the hill, shells started coming in. I hol-lered take cover and spread out. The Chinese were apparently after some of our tanks.

Shortly after the shelling stopped, a Sergeant came down off the hill and said who has the truck here? I said I do. He said thank you for bringing over the patrol. Now the General says to get the hell out of here. As we were leaving, we saw the jeep up on the hill with a star on it. That's the only time I ever received an order from a General!

When we got back to our area, I told the First Sergeant the 40th men know where the front is now. I'm rotating back to Japan with the rest of you guys (there were only a few roving typewriter repair men in Korea).

Richard L. Harris Cpl.
US 51 046 046
24th. Inf. Div. Q.M.
5219 Grape Street
Houston, TX 77096
Ph: 713-664-1872



U.S. AND CHINA SIGN POW AND MIA ARRANGEMENT

Washington, DC, Feb. 29, 2008: U.S. and Chinese officials signed a document Friday morning to formalize research in Chinese archives on Korean War POW/MIA matters.

Ambassador Charles A. Ray, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, signed the arrangement with Major General Qian Li Hua, of the Chinese Ministry of National Defense.

The arrangement outlines expected cooperation between the U.S. and China in researching the archives, which may shed light on Americans who were missing in action or held as prisoners of war in camps managed by the Chinese.

In seeking to account for the approximately 8,100 servicemen missing from the Korean War, Ambassador Ray's office, the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, has sought access to these archives for more than a decade.

The cooperation of the Chinese people and

government has led to the recovery of the remains of Americans lost in the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Korean War and World War II.

This joint archival effort is expected to open more avenues of research to enable U.S. analysts to narrow their searches for the specific locations where American remains may be buried.

The signing ceremony took place in Shanghai, in the same hotel where President Richard Nixon and Premier Cho En-lai signed their historic communiqué in 1972.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call (703) 699-1420. George "Herb" Artola, DPMO, Northeast Asia Division, (703) 699-1228, george.artola@osd.mil #####

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## Letters – (Continued from page 16)

One is the exact same one shown in the Taro Leaf Vol. 61(3&4), page 21.

First Scout Carlos remembers the area well; the main road with a small side one heading up the valley to 770, and the tanks using these roads and firing on the Chinese periodically.

Carlos recalls being on patrol. As they began to head back to friendlier areas, they heard the familiar whine of artillery rounds overhead quite close. But these were different; they exploded in the air and delivered a rein of propaganda leaflets, and Christmas greetings.

Carlos recalls this was a day or two before Christmas Eve, but is adamant that the greetings came by artillery! He also says he has no recollection of any Christmas Carols.

Carlos Easterday, 2nd Platoon, 1st Squad, E Co., 19th Infantry, 17906 Pipa Road, Pleasant City, OH 43772-9613, Ph:740-685-2869. ###

**ED NOTE:** So, how did we get the Christmas Cards? Maybe several ways. But I heard the

Carols-of that I am certain! And that was on Christmas Eve. And I did not hear any aircraft; they distinctly came from behind our positions. Editor ###

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1-21 Inf. Gimlet Newsletter April 2008

G'Day Tom: You might have already received this file. It was sent to me by Phil Burke of the 21st Inf. Association. I just thought that some elements in the newsletter could be of interest to you and perhaps provide copy for the upcoming *Taro Leaf*. Note that the 21st is no longer 24th Div. but is now attached to our sister division, the 25th. Best wishes. / Al Silverstein #####

I didn't realize Gimlets were in Iraq today! Portions of the April 2008 1st Battalion Gimlets Newsletter appear on pages 34-35. ED.



Gimlets Eye-Witness to Decisive Leyte Gulf Naval Battle

by Ed Farmer, 21st Inf.

When the 24th Division arrived in the Philippines on Oct 20, 1944, its 21st Infantry Regiment had landed somewhat earlier in Southern Leyte, on the Island of Panoan. Its mission was to capture a Japanese PT Boat Base and an Airfield located there.

Our Regimental Combat Team was dropped off, and the ships that brought us sailed away. If you think thousands of men can't get lonesome real quick, think again. We were 400 miles from any other American troops!

Japanese fleet sailed up the Surigao Channel right on by where we were. They were headed toward what would become for them a deadly engagement with the U.S. Fleet.

Before the engagement began, there was a U.S. PT Squadron of about 45 boats with our RCT. After the engagement with the Japanese ships passing through the straits, there were only about twelve PT boats left. (The www.battleship.org account of this battle, suggests being on a PT boat was somewhat akin to being a BAR man!)

The battle between the two fleets (the Battle of Surigao Strait) began in the afternoon, and raged all that day and throughout that night. We were on high ground and could see the ships burning.

The Japanese were throwing 16 inch rounds all over hell. I want to tell you when those hit they can lift you right out of your slit trench! When daylight came, we could see Japanese sailors swimming ashore.

The 21st Infantry Regiment was the only Army Unit to witness this great Battle.

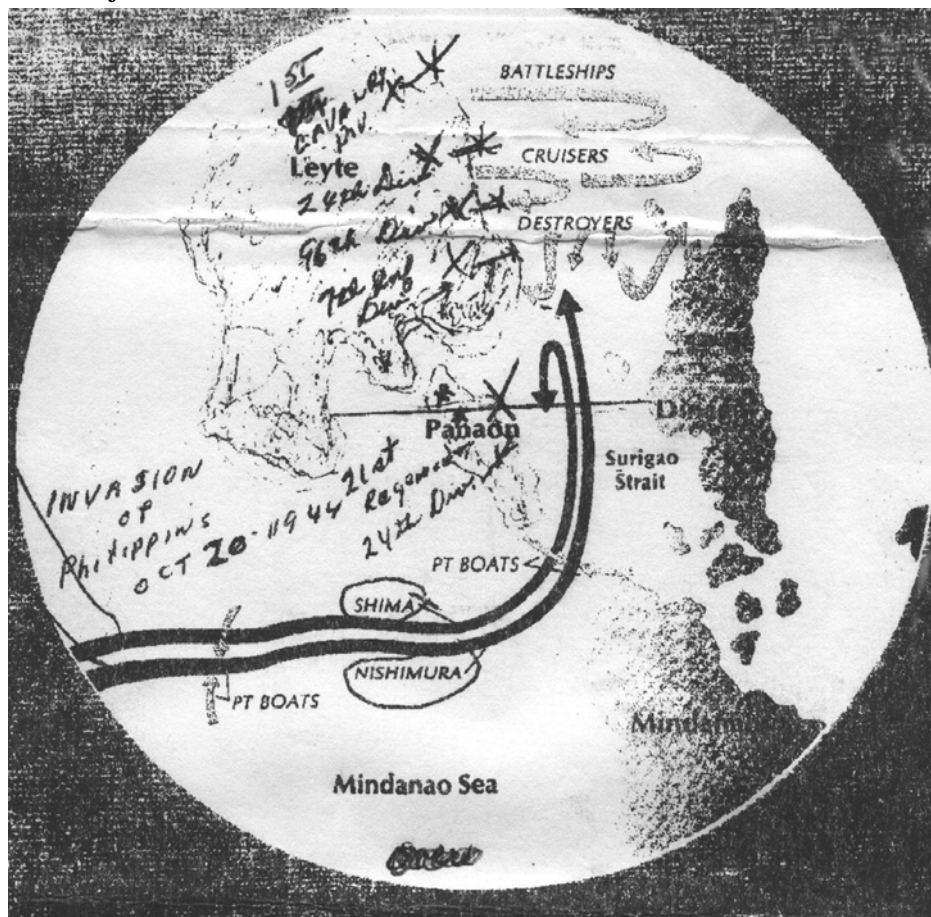
We were very happy to be picked a few days later to be rejoined with the rest of the 24th Division near Palo.

Flash Back Television, one of the United Kingdom's leading independent TV production companies, was quite surprised when they discovered that infantry troops had witnessed the Naval Battle; they had thought only naval personnel were involved. This was, of course, the Twenty-first Infantry "Gimlet" Regiment!

Ed Farmer, Battalion Adjutant, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment.
906 South Rees Lane
Spokane Valley, WA 99037
Ph: 509-893-2483

(The graphic at the left is Ed's hand-drawn sketch of the area. Editor)

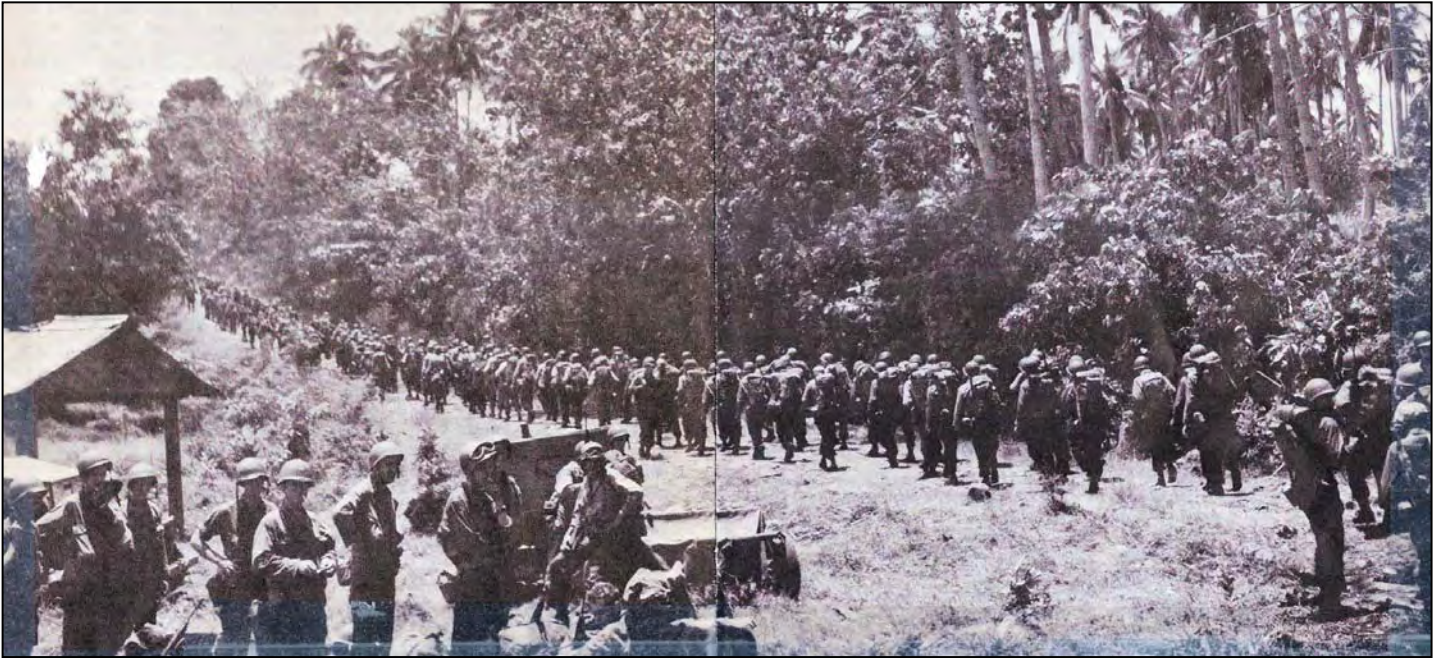
Two days later the whole



JUNGLE GRAPEVINE

by Bill McKenna, "A" Company, 34th Infantry Regiment

Mindanao, P.I. April 15th, 1945. Landing at Parang. The operation will be the first time all units of the 24th Division have been together since Leyte.



Ft. Picket, Mindanao, P.I., where the entire Division assembled for the push across the island.

Our objective: Davao, some 150 miles east, through valleys, high mountains, and jungle; an area inhabited by tribes of Moro natives, still addicted to head hunting and cannibalism.

It's the third day of the invasion. We've moved up the river in LCVP's and are now deployed at a barrio called Kabakan.



We're "A" Company, 34th Regiment, 24th Victory Division; photo at left is our company moving up the Digos road.

This morning Young and I split a k-ration and are heating coffee over a small fire.

Sgt Polk comes by. He's chewing on a homemade cheroot of some kind. "You guys, take off up the road—outpost," he says.

Young and I move out to a place where the road turns sharply out of sight. After only ten minutes, Young gets sick with the GI's.



He leaves. Now, I'm alone. I decide I'd better be on the alert.

Suddenly, a Filipino, wearing a white shirt, appears from around the bend. Behind him, trailing in single file are many Moro's—colorfully dressed pirates, each carrying a menacing spear, rifle, or a gleaming curved *kriss*.

"What the hell is going on; who are these guys," I ask myself.

I don't wait for an answer. I get up slowly and warily. I move out onto the road, and wait while they approach. I figure quickly that there must be seventy-five of them.

I have my finger poised on the trigger of my Tommy gun, but I sure as hell won't point it at them—not with these odds.

They stop. The guy in the white shirt walks up to me. He says, in perfect English, "Welcome! I hear your President Roosevelt is dead."

Now, this is the first time I've heard that the President has died, and the first time I've heard news of any American president – from a Moro pirate, on a jungle road, thousands of miles from home.

Dumbstruck, but relieved that these guys seem to be on my side and don't plan on slitting my throat, I

quickly retrieve a four-pack of cigarettes from my pocket, and light one up for the Chief.

He says there are no enemy forces up ahead, and that he and his people want to go ahead into the village.



(Photo of Moro's from the Internet; Bill says his were much more colorful!)

I nod, and say, "Sure, Chief," (like I could stop them anyway).

Together, we head into the village, one GI, and a band of fearsome pirates.

Bill McKenna
970 Neilson St.
Albany CA, 94706-2141
Ph:510-525-7902, Billjomac@aol.com

Right: Bill McKenna
upon returning from
Japan, February 1946.



Carl F. Bernard – Tribute to a Brave Warrior Friend

by General Volney Warner, 24th IDA Life Member #165

McLean, VA, March 5, 2008: I lost a warrior friend yesterday. He died comfortably in his bed reading a book on Korea.

This is a synopsis of our early association, and was done for his children and in preparation for my eulogy at his funeral. Great men also die!

Carl was indeed the bravest combat soldier that I have ever known, and a dear friend for many years worth remembering.

I reported in to L-Company 21st Infantry Regiment as a replacement 2nd Lt fresh out of West Point end August 1950.

Carl had already distinguished himself in battle in July as one of the few survivors of Task Force Smith. As 1st Lt Company Executive Officer, Carl was now tasked with fitting me and several of my classmates into the remnants of Task Force Smith then holding a section of the Naktong Perimeter.

Carl took one look at the lot of us and remarked: "The war is over, the ring knockers are here." We called him "peep sight" because he had broken his glasses and refused to go to the rear to get another pair. Instead he put a thin strip of white tape across the offending lens which obscured his vision but improved his aim.

As for weaponry, he often carried a .45 with one round in the chamber as alternative to capture, and wore a bedraggled WWII wool knit cap and sweater which he claimed, as did the Ghost Dancing Sioux before him, to be "magically bullet proofed." No bullet would ever have his name on it as long as he was so garbed.

The Division MP's fined him 25 dollars in the



rear area for failure to wear a steel pot, but it took an order from General Ridgeway to get him to comply.

Those soldiers who survived the initial North Korean onslaught with him worshipped the ground he fought on, and the rest of us loved him for what he was and would follow him anywhere.

The company lost about 200 soldiers mostly killed or captured and some were wounded from July 1950 to July 1951.

When Carl was sent to the rear for a break as an L-19

observer, he continued to keep track of us on the ground like an overhead mother. When the going got tough on the ground, he came forward to join the fight, even once arriving in a "borrowed" armored vehicle for added fire support.

He adjusted "danger close" artillery support one day on the Chinese contesting our real estate so close that it splattered us with hot fragments but separated their body parts and obviated our fixing bayonets.

We never had time to appropriately record Carl's heroic efforts. Pencil and paper was in short supply in those days and the enemy just over the next hill mass.

So each year those of us in L-Company, plus wives who will listen to us, meet for three days somewhere to relive (and embellish) our exploits and discuss who will toast the company from the "last man standing bottle," before L-Company falls in again in the Great Hereafter.

Volney Warner, 6724 Danforth St., McLean, VA, 22101-4402, 703-556-0592. ###



Looking For

Looking for 24th Quartermaster Typewriter Repair Unit truck driver, Corporal Miles (see pages 24-25). Richard L. Harris, the unit's typewriter repair specialist thinks Miles was from the New York City area. Mr. Harris is also looking for anyone who might have any **photos of the Taro Leaf Typewriter Repair signs**. His were destroyed in a home fire. Please contact Richard Harris, 5219 Grape Street, Houston, TX 77096, Ph: 713-664-1872

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**Looking for Gene Ireland**

(right in photo) of Toledo, OH, area. Gene was driver for Chaplain Reverend Father Murphy from the spring of 1951 un-



til when the Division left Korea for Japan. Gene and I took basic training at Camp Breckenridge, KY, together, went over to Japan and Korea together on same ships, and traveled together on the same return voyage. Last time I remember seeing Gene was at Camp Atterbury, IN, early spring of 1952. Gene may have been one of the Carolers on Christmas Eve 1951 (see Letters). Please contact: Tom Thiel, Editor, 19147 Park Place Blvd., Eustis, FL 32736, 352-357-3943, [tthiel5@comcast.net](mailto:tthiel5@comcast.net).

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Looking For any former member of the 24th Division who wore either of these patches; please contact the *Taro Leaf*.



The Taro Leaf

?? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
Ask the Answer Man
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Our idea with this new item is to provide a format for answering our reader's simple questions. The Answer Man doesn't know all the answers—not by a long shot—but if he can't find one, he will post the question in this column and hope that one of our readers will bail him out.

If you have a question, or an answer to one of the unanswered questions, please send it to: "The Answer Man," PO Box 501005, San Diego, CA 92150, dvalley1@san.rr.com, 858-485-6616, or to the *Taro Leaf* Editor.

Here are a couple guidelines: limit the question to 25 words or less, and don't ask about specific individuals; that is for the "Looking For" section.

Here are a couple questions that have already stumped the Answer Man.

~~~~~

**Q:** I served from July 1950 to April 1951 in Korea. I have a Korean Service Medal with five battle stars (according to my DD214). What were the five battles?

**Q:** I was in the 19th Infantry Regiment in Korea, and have a Presidential Unit Citation. Was this awarded to the Division or to the Regiment, and what for?







## “Bore Brother Bore!”

3 March 2008

Dear Gimlet Family Members and Former Gimlets,

I have the sad duty of reporting to the Gimlet Family that we have lost four of our Brothers. During combat operations vicinity the village of Albu Alwan, in Abu Ghraib Iraq, a Stryker from B Company struck an improvised explosive device, resulting in the deaths of SSG Jerald Whisenhunt, SGT Gary Willett, SGT Timothy Martin, and CPL Michael Manibog. Six other Gimlets were wounded. A memorial ceremony was held in Iraq on 12 February and in attendance was General Petraeus. This was a significant blow to the Gimlet Battalion; however, the Soldiers have continued



the mission and have succeeded in all aspects of operations against the enemies of the people of Iraq. Thank you all for your prayers and messages of condolence.



The Gimlets have made an immediate impact in both the urban and rural portions of the Abu Ghraib Qada (similar to a county at home) and continue to execute

focused operations against threat groups. There is no part of our assigned 23 kilometer by 26 kilometer area of operations that we do not influence daily. Also significant for the Abu Ghraib area, is the increased amount of combined operations that we are doing with our local Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police partners. For the past four years this portion of Baghdad has been left behind in many of the key service, governmental, and security areas. The Gimlets – working with our Iraqi partners in all areas – aim to change this and move Abu



April 2008

### Inside this issue:

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| Bravo Company                      | Pg. 7-8  |
| Charlie Company                    | Pg. 9-10 |
| Bravo Company/<br>52 Infantry      | Pg. 11   |





Ghraib into a state of increased security and prosperity for all the groups that occupy this important area of Baghdad.

I have received numerous emails from Gimlet spouses, Family members, Friends, and Former Gimlets...keep them coming and spread the word to all that want to keep track of the Gimlet Battalion. I encourage you to register for the Gimlet virtual Family Readiness Site (vFRG) to get current info on the battalion, as well as unit messages, photos, and updates. The web site is: <http://www.armyfrg.org/skins/frg/home.aspx?AllowSSL=true>. You will need your Soldier's last four digits of their Social Security Number.

This month we begin our Environmental Modeled Leave (EML) program. For the next nine months approximately 70 Gimlets will be returning home or to other leisure locations to get a well deserved break and spend time with loved ones. Another great milestone this month I am proud to announce is that 9 new Gimlets have been born since our deployment in early December. Each Baby Gimlet will get a certificate announcing them as an official member of the Gimlet Clan.

The men are staying focused on their mission and not letting their guard down. We absolutely refuse to let complacency infiltrate our ranks. We refuse to provide the enemy an opportunity to attack our formations. We remain offensive minded and will not allow the enemy to regain a foothold in our part of Baghdad.

Until next time, remain plugged into the Family Readiness Group so we can keep you informed about upcoming events. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers.



As always...Bore Brother Bore!

Mario A. Diaz  
LTC, IN  
Commanding Officer  
[mario.diaz@us.army.mil](mailto:mario.diaz@us.army.mil)

Peter J. Roethke  
CSM, USA  
Command Sergeant Major  
[peter.roethke@us.army.mil](mailto:peter.roethke@us.army.mil)

**Note:** All Updates and Photos received by the Rear Detachment Commander can be found on the vFRG website. If you need assistance with registering, please contact [sarah.king3@us.army.mil](mailto:sarah.king3@us.army.mil).



~Mahalo~

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# ANGELO J. "RED" MANTINI

"The 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in New Guinea and the Philippines in WWII"

*By Richard A. Beranty, World War II History – Excerpted by Heidi Edgar, Associate*

ANGELO J. "RED" MANTINI was hardly an angel growing up in the small coal-mining towns of western Pennsylvania in the 1930s. By his own admission he was kicked out of school more than once for being a trouble maker; a character trait that did not endear him to his teachers.

But the penchant he showed for getting into fights, along with the grit and savvy he possessed to win them, would serve him well during World War II. On New Guinea and in the Philippines, he proved to be as quick with the trigger on his Thompson submachine gun as he had been with his fists. Whether you stood on a dark street corner in America or pushed your way through the dense undergrowth of a sniper-infested jungle, Mantini was the kind of fighter you wanted to have on your side.

"I was always pretty quick with my hands," offers this 85-year-old retired shoe-maker from Ford City, Penn., explaining his reputation as a person not to mess with in Hometown USA. "And I had a pretty good reputation in the Army. Nobody would fool with me, not even the company commander. I didn't take crap off of nobody."

With an attitude like his it is little wonder that Mantini found himself doing time in the stockade, or busted in



rank, several times during the war. Rarely did he take guff from anyone, including his higher-ups, which is why, at various times, he was a sergeant, then a private, then a sergeant, and so on. Somebody once remarked about him, "He was up and down like a yo-yo." But Mantini proved to be a survivor while many of his enemies were not. By war's end this former platoon sergeant with the 24th Infantry Division was officially credited with killing more than 40 Japanese soldiers in fighting on five different Pacific islands.

His success at eliminating the enemy was due in part to the great American pastime of baseball.

"When we were advancing in combat, I always figured distance by the length of a ball

field," he explains. "I would think to myself, from here to over there is the distance of a ball field, so I'd try to measure it with my feet. I'd go this way 30 feet, then I'd shoot forward another way 30 feet."

\*\*\*\*\*

Mantini's journey into the nightmare called the Pacific War began on October 20, 1941, when the 24-year-old was drafted and sent to Camp Lee in Virginia, where he was stationed when the Japanese launched their attack on Pearl Harbor. "I was on a pass in Richmond when the Japs attacked. Loudspeakers everywhere were broadcasting that everyone had to get back to camp. We were told to hitch a ride with any car going our way."

Trained for duty in the supply ranks, Mantini arrived in Hawaii eight months later and recalls seeing some of the wrecked hulks of ships, remnants of the mauled U.S. Pacific Fleet, still littering the harbor at Pearl. "I was in the Quartermaster Corps when I got to Hawaii. When we got off the ship we were told, '50 drop off here and go over there, 50 drop off and go over there, 50 drop off and go over there.' Finally, somebody walked by me and said, 'Twenty of you break off and go over there. You're in the 19th Infantry Regiment, Company A.'



They didn't even look at our service records. Guys like me, who took quartermaster training, were put in the infantry. And guys that took infantry training were put in the Quartermaster Corps."

The 19th Infantry Regiment to which Mantini was assigned was one of three regiments to comprise the 24th "Victory" Division, one of the few Army units specially trained during the war as assault spearheads for tropical operations. Activated at Schofield Barracks on Oahu in 1921, its stated mission to protect the Hawaiian Islands from foreign attack was realized in December 1941 when it became the first Army ground force to engage the Japanese in combat during those confusing early hours of the war. This gave the division its "First to Fight" designation.

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The men left Oahu for Australia in September 1943 to train for the upcoming invasion of New Guinea. There Mantini's toughness was noticed by Army officials, and he soon made staff sergeant.

"It was rough training in Australia," he says, "cross-country and mountain training. We went on a hundred-mile hike one time. Only three of us made it to the end of the trail; just me and two other guys."

\*\*\*\*\*

Forming the largest amphibious operation attempted in the South Pa-

cific up to that time, the Hollandia attack force, consisting of more than 200 vessels, left its assembly area off Goodenough Island and put its men ashore 500 miles to the west during the early daylight hours of April 22, 1944. The 41st landed near Hollandia in Humboldt Bay, and the 24th assaulted the beaches in Tanahmerah Bay, 22 miles to the west.

Not only did poor planning and miscommunication among Japanese commanders leave their troops too widely scattered to offer invading forces much resistance, but support from U.S. carrier planes weakened any defensive effort they could muster. Attacks by American submarines on Japanese troop transports coming from China prevented many reinforcements from ever reaching New Guinea. When Mantini went ashore he saw abandoned teapots boiling over fires and unfinished breakfast bowls of rice still on the beach, all left behind in the enemy's haste to re-

treat inland when the assaults began. Securing the Hollandia area took just four days at a cost of 171 men to the two divisions. Japanese losses were estimated at 4,000.

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With the Hollandia area in Allied hands, the initial U.S. offensive in the Philippines began on Friday, October 13, 1944, when half the invasion force (the other half originated in Hawaii) boarded transport ships in Humboldt Bay and headed for Leyte. The trip was a lonely and mostly seasick time for the GIs, but it provided them an opportunity to ponder their fate, read, or write letters home. For Mantini, it gave him a chance to play cards and throw dice with other soldiers.

The Philippine ground campaign started on October 20, 1944, when four U.S. infantry divisions landed abreast along an 18-mile front on Leyte's northeastern coast. The 24th Division was assigned the beach area near the town of Palo, where two of its regiments were to land 3,000 yards apart, the 19th on the southern side of the invasion site, and the 34th to its north. Their primary objective of the day was Hill 522, a steep, circular-based, volcanic outgrowth that towered over the coastal terrain about a mile inland. It was one of several hills that guarded the entrance to the Leyte Valley, and the Japanese intended to use it as the



Mantini (left) displays a captured Japanese Regimental flag with an unidentified member of "A" Company near Hollandia, New Guinea in 1944.



key to their defense of the Palo beaches. Months prior to the invasion, much of the male population of Palo had been forced to transform the hill into a labyrinth of machine-gun nests, bunkers, communication trenches, and tunnels.

"We were told to hit the hill, get to the top of it, and wipe out whatever was in front of us," Mantini says.

That was the situation the Americans faced in the pre-dawn hours of October 20, when the invasion force, accompanied by warships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, was poised just off Leyte and ready to strike.

For everyone connected with the invasion, being "scared as hell," as Mantini puts it, was a natural state of mind, and for good reason. Never before had they seen such a frightening yet awesome sight. Hundreds of rockets screamed inland while carrier planes and warships bombarded the menacing jungles that loomed in the distance, now burning and smoking from all the attention. After seeing such firepower being unleashed on the enemy's positions, Mantini wondered to himself how any Japanese could survive the bombardment, and that maybe the invasion would not be too difficult. From what he could tell, the earlier landing craft were making it safely to shore. But Mantini was in a

later wave. Still about a thousand yards from Red Beach, some of the boats around him began to take direct hits from Japanese artillery.

For what seemed to him like an eternity, Mantini's landing craft slowly crept toward the Leyte shoreline. Finally, the Navy coxswain steering it screamed instructions that no one could hear over the din of battle. As Mantini tightened the strap on his helmet and slipped the safety off his Thompson, the boat came to a stop, the men inside jerked backward, and the ramp clattered down. Pushing their legs through hip-deep water at first, they raced across the narrow beach searching for cover.



An amateur boxer prior to the war, Mantini is shown (walking, far left) giving boxing instructions to two natives on New Guinea in 1943. "When some of the natives realized we wanted to put boxing gloves on them, they ran into the jungle," he says. "They had never seen them before." All photos courtesy of Mr. Beranty.

Mantini flopped belly down and hugged the ground, trying as best he could to hide from the indiscriminate mortar and artillery shells exploding around him. The dead Americans lying nearby

were grim testament to the accuracy of Japanese machine guns spewing bullets from concealed positions and the fire of snipers hidden in trees.

"Landing on a beach with the enemy firing at us was the worst part of the war," he says.

By the end of October the 24th Division's fighting along Leyte's coast had ended at a cost of 638 Americans dead, wounded, or missing. Its next target was the 35-mile-long, 10-mile-wide Leyte Valley, a peaceful place during the dry season, criss-crossed with slow-moving streams and home to numerous plantations that grew rice, bananas, coconuts, and papayas.

When the company rejoined its regiment nine days after starting the mission, only 120 men were fit for duty. The others had been killed, or were wounded or sick from the physical strain and exposure to the elements.

Leyte was cleared of Japanese troops by Christmas 1944. The enemy's last area of defense was on the island's northwest peninsula where, in a final show of defiance and willingness to die, a horde of

Japanese soldiers armed only with bayonets fixed to bamboo poles attacked strong American positions occupied by the 34th Regiment. Since the Division's landing on Red Beach 66





days earlier, an estimated 7,300 Japanese had died in battle; casualties for the 24th Division were 2,000 killed, wounded, or missing.

While the 34th was left behind to secure Leyte, the Division's other two regiments were picked to invade Mindoro, which was needed for airstrips from which planes could menace Japanese shipping in the sea lanes through the Philippines and provide air cover for the coming landings on Luzon.

Although Mindoro was not manned by a large number of the enemy, U.S. troops still had a tough time of it, particularly on the beaches where they were bombed and strafed by Japanese planes on a daily basis. All of this attention caused concern that a Japanese counteroffensive was imminent, so the order was given to dig in and erect machine-gun emplacements. The men on the beach spent Christmas Day under such conditions.

"It was the worst Christmas of my life," Mantini says. "Guys beside me were being blown up from the shelling."

We were anticipating an invasion from the sea, but it never happened."

It took four months of grueling effort for the Americans to clear Mindoro of enemy troops who were separated in the hills and were never able to organize themselves into a single fighting unit. Instead, they crawled into the mountains and became one-man

terrors.

American frustration on Mindoro ended when Japanese opposition ended. Enemy losses were estimated at 600 killed, and in a rare occurrence 73 taken prisoner, two of whom Mantini captured himself.

"There are so many damn islands over there," Mantini says. "The Philippines have more than 7,000. And that's all it seemed we kept doing, hitting these damn beaches. When we went in on Verde, it was dark, darker than hell. We had to hold on to the guy in front to stay close to him. That's how dark it was. We were supposed to see a light when we landed, a beacon, but it wasn't there. I said to my buddy, 'I think this is it. The damn light ain't there.' But after a little while it did come on, and we moved toward it."

Mantini's final combat experience of the war took place on Mindanao, where the largest and last enemy stronghold in the Philippines, some 50,000 soldiers, was located after the fall of Manila. Leaving San Jose harbor on Friday, April 13, two regiments of the 24th (later reinforced by the U.S. 31st Division) went ashore four days later at the town of Parang on the shore of Moro Gulf on the island's western coast. The choice of that invasion site completely fooled the enemy defenders, who expected any assault to come on the eastern side of the island where the bulk of the Japanese garrison was lo-

cated.

Facing no opposition, the Americans gained a 35-mile length of coastline and easily progressed five miles inland by the end of the first day. High mountains, deep valleys, and about 50 streams and rivers separated the men from their ultimate goal, the city of Davao, 150 miles to the east. To reach it, 24th Division troops mainly followed the National Highway, a mostly one-lane road defended at various places by small but lethal Japanese outposts. Night ambushes were a common occurrence, and numerous types of booby traps hampered their march. The most devastating of these were the 500-pound aerial bombs, left over from the destroyed Japanese air force. The enemy buried these along the trail, and they were detonated with wires strung into the jungle.

Despite these hidden dangers, Mindanao was cut in half in less than two weeks. The force reached Digos on the island's eastern coast on April 28 and found abandoned guns and pill-boxes pointing seaward, indicating the Japanese had planned a strong defensive effort against any would-be invader.

The division now began its 40-mile drive north to Davao, where an estimated 10,000 Japanese were to perish in the coming months.

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After five island landings, months of tough jungle fight



ing, and never receiving a wound in battle, Mantini's luck was stretched to the limit. It ran out on June 24 in his company's last fight of the war, when he was injured under both arms by shrapnel from an exploding Japanese grenade.

"I was in action, shooting, when three grenades landed beside me. I was able to drop my gun and throw two back, but one landed to my right and I knew I couldn't get to it before it exploded because you only have about four or five seconds. I was turning to get away from it when the explosion caught me under my arms and ripped open my shoes and my pack. It caught me real good up under my arms. I made every drive the company made during the war, and that was the last one."

Mantini received the Purple Heart while in an Army hospital on Leyte, where he remained until the end of the war. "When I got out of the hospital and went back to my company's headquarters, everybody there was new, even the company commander. He called me up and said, 'We're going to Japan for occupation duty. Do you want to go with us?' I told him the only place I wanted to go was home."

Mantini was discharged from the Army at Fort Knox, Ky., on December 14.

During four years of active duty, Mantini had somehow escaped the symptoms of malaria until he arrived home.

"I got it after the war. My first Christmas back home I had it. First you're sweating, and then you're freezing so bad that you can't stack the blankets high enough. Then you're sweating again. But I never had it over there. And it's funny that I didn't because they supplied us with pills [atabrine, a form of quinine] that made our skin yellow. That's why I never took them. I didn't want yellow skin. And as a platoon sergeant in combat, I was supposed to take the pill, stand in front of the men in the morning and be the first one to take it. But I would fake it. I got really good at it. I would hold the pill in my hand and throw it toward my mouth. I didn't take it, but I had to make sure that everybody else in my platoon did."

Nearly 60 years after the war, Mantini assessed his role with fondness for his comrades, similar

to that felt by most veterans who have experienced the horrors of modern warfare.

"In combat, I think you're better off in the infantry than in any other outfit."

"Guys would go like this," he says, holding his hand above his head with his index finger pointed skyward. "I'd say, 'What the hell are you trying to do?' They'd say, 'I want the Purple Heart to get out of combat.' But then they'd laugh. They just did it for fun."

Times like that made being in the infantry special. You're in danger when you're fighting, but I think it's a better unit than any other."

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Angelo J. "Red" Mantini, 87, of 704 Fourth Ave., Ford City, PA, died Sunday, Aug. 10, 2003 at his residence. He served during World War II as an Army staff sergeant with the 24th Infantry "Victory" Division (19th "Rock of Chickamauga" Regiment) in New Guinea and the Philippines, where he earned the Purple Heart, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, with three bronze stars, and the Philippine Liberation Medal, with two bronze stars. His wartime experiences were featured in the July 2003 issue of World War II History magazine. Survivors include his wife, Genevieve (Kocak) Mantini whom he married Sept. 17, 1948; and six sons . #####

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The Kasbah, Sasebo, Japan 1946

Probably everyone who spent some time with the 34th regiment in Sasebo, Japan will remember the Kasbah. Many a soldier could be seen there in the evenings enjoying the entertainment of music, dancing and occasionally a beer or two.



Submitted by: Marvin E. Wallace, 2581 Garfield Ave., Abilene, TX, 79601-2014, 325-673-8573.



Tiger Survivors Captured In July 1950

Compiled and reported by Shorty Estabrook

| 24th UNIT | # CAPTD |
|---------------|---------|
| 21 Regt | 312 |
| 34 Regt | 188 |
| 19 Regt | 114 |
| 63 FAB | 56 |
| 52 FAB | 15 |
| 11 FAB | 9 |
| 3 ENG | 8 |
| 24 QM | 5 |
| DIVARTY | 4 |
| 24 RCN | 3 |
| 13 FAB | 1 |
| 26 AAA | 1 |
| 8050 EVAC HOS | 1 |
| TOTAL | 717 |

In the table, I have compiled the number of persons by 24th Infantry Division unit captured from July 5 - 30, 1950, who were with the Tiger Survivor Group. Included in this were 83 from Task Force Smith.

More joined us later on in captivity, including the following branches and Divisions: USAF, 7; USN, 1; 4th Rangers, 1; 7th ID, 9; 25th ID, 7; USMC, 4; 1st CAV, 3; and one British Commando.

In addition, there also were 81 Civilians with Tigers; they were from South Korea, Russia, France, Germany, Australia, Japan, USA, Sweden, Belgium, Austria, Poland, Ireland and England.

Of the total of 831 human beings, 465 perished in captivity, including 67 who were shot.

Included in the civilian Tiger Survivors were:


- a Japanese civilian who was a KP who went to Korea with an artillery unit of the 24th ID, who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and later became an American citizen and served in the US Army. He was credited for his time as a POW.
- a US Bishop who first arrived in the area where we were held POW in 1922.
- a full Commissioner of the Salvation Army of England who first arrived in the area we were held POW in 1918.
- a man from England who became a spy for Russia after he returned to England and started working for MI 5. He was caught and sentenced to 44 years but escaped to Russia where he still lives. He is reportedly the last of the super spies still living.
- a Nun from Belgium, who was a German POW during WWI; she was released because she was very ill.
- a war correspondent from England, who later became a Senator in Canada.

Also of note: One of the Frenchmen became Ambassador to Afghanistan, and one of the British prisoners became Ambassador to San Salvador.

Eleven were Tatars; one gave birth to a baby boy in camp. Many had been held captive during WWII.

For more information, contact: Shorty Estabrook, 16514 Clydesdale Run, Selma, TX 78154-9998

Email: marites@satx.rr.com

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>24th Infantry Division Association Secretary/Treasurer Donald E. Maggio - 24th AG 411 Concord Road Fletcher, NC 28732-9734 Tel. 828-684-5931 Email: tarheeldono@ycos.com</p> | <p>Check your Dues Date below</p> |
| <p>ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED</p> | <p>Please send <u>ALL</u> Dues and Address Changes to:</p> |
|  | <p>Check Dues Date Here</p> |
| | <p>Name</p> |
| | <p>Street</p> |
| | <p>City, State and Zip</p> |
| | <p>(See Back Cover)</p> |



Woody Keeble's MOH "Comes Home"

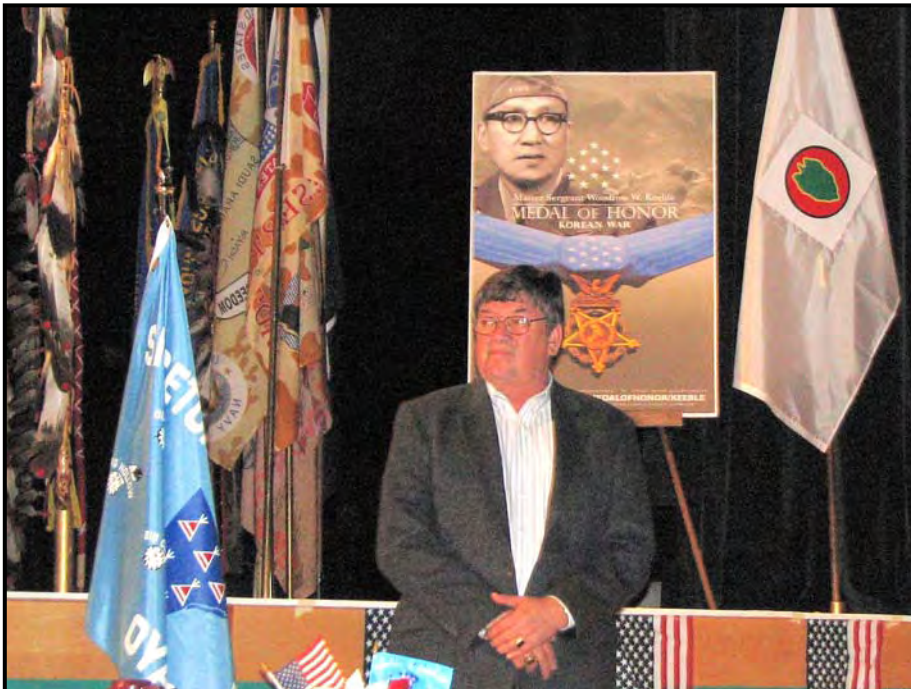
Reported by and photos by Merry Helm, Fargo, ND

A Welcome Home Akicita Celebration was held on Saturday, March 22, 2008, at the Dakota Magic Casino Convention Center, SD. Akicita means soldier in Dakota language. There were so many representatives from the Plains Tribes that they ran out of stands for their Eagle Staffs and Flags. It was an extremely colorful and dignified celebration.

Shown in the photo at the right is Mr. Jake Thompson, a Tribal Councilman for the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, of which Woody was a member. Note:

1. The MOH neck piece in case (with the citation lying separately in the foreground).
2. The MOH flag -- on right (only partially shown), blue background w/white stars, gold fringe.
3. In background, tribal eagle staffs belonging to color guards who attended
4. The case with Woody's medals sets on two chairs -- one is dressed in Woody's uniform and to his left, closest to his heart, is a chair with his wife Blossom's red shawl. Thus, they symbolically attended the Celebration. To "Woody's" right is a newly crafted eagle staff -- the first Sioux MOH eagle staff. It's at his right hand, because he was a warrior. It contains thirteen feathers indicating specific wounds Woody received in battle.
5. To the left of the MOH lies his helmet, with a bullet hole in it.
6. At Woody's feet is an eagle wing and below that is a plate and saucer.

To the right of the WWII flag, out of sight, was the Korean War flag, then the big poster of Woody, then a Taro Leaf flag fashioned by one of the tribal members.



The photo at left shows Kurt BlueDog, an attorney, who accepted the MOH along with Woody's stepson, Russell Hawkins. Mr. BlueDog is standing in front of the large poster of Woody that had been first unveiled in the Pentagon ceremony on March 4. Woody was Kurt's Granduncle. (I had a difficult time getting crisp photos, because the light was very low and I couldn't get close enough for the flash to be an advantage. So this photo isn't like I'd prefer. But it does show the Taro Leaf flag that was fashioned by one of the tribal members!)



Photo at the right: James Fenelon, an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux, attests to Keeble's courage in action.

Behind him is Bernard Wagner, president of the North Dakota National Guard, the 164th Infantry Regiment, in which Woody served.

Both men served beside Keeble on Guadalcanal in WWII.

For a description of the items appearing in this photo, please see description for the photo on the facing page.



Left: Woody's new Eagle Staff -- and the Medal of Honor Flag presented to him posthumously by Deputy DoD Director England at the Pentagon upon Woody's induction into the Hall of Heroes. The Eagle Staff was constructed specifically for Woodrow Keeble; it honors his courage and spirit as a warrior.



Below: Shadows of eagle feathers fall across the face of Keeble's stepson, Russell Hawkins (right), during the Welcome Home Celebration held for Woodrow Keeble on Saturday, March 22. Beside him are Keeble's namesake, Woodrow Hawkins, and the youngest person to attend the Medal of Honor Celebration, Holden Hawkins. Russell has been the driving force behind the decades-long effort to upgrade Keeble's DSC to the MOH.



New Ideas – Mini-*Life* Magazine & Local Gatherings

Some members have been forthcoming with some ideas about how to make the Association and the Taro Leaf more effective and prominent. We were especially pleased with two that we received. Here they are. Editor

IDEA NO. 1: “A miniature ‘*Life*’ *Taro Leaf*,” from Al Silverstein of NY



Al wrote:

I was thinking (dangerous) about content [of the *Taro Leaf*]; content in such a way that it would address every editor's need for worthwhile copy.

It appears, for at least at the outset, you have received some really good responses for “slices of life” stories. It is so rewarding to see the *Taro Leaf* developing into its potential as a central repository for experiences that otherwise would never have been revealed, and would have simply disappeared along with its narrator.

Then just recently, I received from out of the blue, a Christmas card from a fellow Gimlet whom I had not seen nor heard from since way back then. He enclosed some photos, and seeing them started me thinking.

You may want to mull over in your spare (?) moments that the *Taro Leaf* can become a forum for not only historical commentary but also as a place where thousands or more photos depicting the 24th I.D. could be placed for future generations to see—a pictorial record of what was back then, i.e., pre-WWII, WWII itself, Korea, Germany, Kuwait, etc.

Not just indiscriminate photographs, but those that can answer the journalistic questions: who, what, where, when, how, and why? I don't mean including pictures just for the sake of pictures that are just plopped onto the page and difficult to decipher what they are all about, but those that “tell a story.”

This idea, however, bears two sides of the coin: 1) turning the *Taro Leaf* into a miniature *LIFE Magazine* in terms of layout and format would be a backbreaking undertaking and probably

just sop up whatever time you may have saved for yourself and family, and 2) adding to the burden would be having to face what could turn out to be a torrent of responses, and you could be swamped with too much of a good thing.

Perhaps the Association would be willing to spring for some \$\$\$ to help pay for a part-time editorial assistant for you. It could be a local high school student interested in learning what you could teach or a journalism student at a nearby two or four year college.

Anyway, Tom, I could be daydreaming but as they say: “just because I may be crazy doesn't mean an idea or two can't make it into daylight.”

Best regards. Al Silverstein
#####

I hope Al never stops thinking, and suggesting! What a super idea!

Al was the member who originally suggested “Slice of Life” articles (Vol 61[3&4] pg 9); this issue's “Letters to Ann” is a direct result of Al's thinking. And also I think responsible for a lot of items you have sent the *Taro Leaf*.

Note especially that Al is suggesting photo stories that answer the questions: who, what, where, when, how, and why, and **not just pictures alone.**

These are what we want for the *Taro Leaf* now; these are what we want for the “miniature *LIFE Magazine Taro Leaf*.” Yes, we are most interested in doing what Al suggests—pictorial records of what was back then, i.e., pre-WWII, WWII itself, Korea, Germany, Kuwait, etc. And we want to explore means to disseminate these stories to more than just our own members too!

So please dig out your old photos from back then. Examine them carefully and pick out some of the better ones and then for each picture write out the “who, what, where, when,



how and why" story (long hand is OK if not too long). Send them to me and I will convert them to digital format and return the photos to you.
Editor. #####

IDEA NO. 2: Local Member Meetings *from David Valley*



David sent me this one. Unfortunately I have misplaced his email so am reproducing it from memory.

David wrote that he had just returned from the recent West Coast Reunion in Laughlin, NV, and

while there he met members who had served in his unit in Korea.

He said that he so enjoyed his time at Laughlin that when he got back home he wondered how many members live in his immediate greater San Diego area, and how nice it would be if he could call them and maybe arrange for them to get together locally for maybe a dinner or luncheon social gathering.

He wondered if there was anyway I might be able to help him with his idea. #####

David's idea is likewise an excellent one. And it is quite easy to help him do it as well.

We have a current roster that is maintained for, among other things, mailing the *Taro Leaf*. It of course has the zip codes.

From a Google search of web sites I was able to find several free sites that provide a graphic view of the U.S. with the zip codes and their boundaries displayed.

It would then be quite easy to select those addresses with the same and nearby zip codes, and send them to a member in that area wishing to coordinate or facilitate such a local gathering of 24th IDA members.

I think that if indeed a member does contact their local fellow Association members, he/she should also put a notice in the local paper just in case there might be some former members of the Division living nearby who, like me

The Taro Leaf

about eight years ago, have never heard of the 24th IDA!

New members – we urgently need new members!


David has responded: "Tom: Thanks for the information. I've called three guys who are relatively nearby and hope to have a couple and them and their wives join Dottie and me for a Friday dinner at the Poway VFW. I'll take this one step at a time and try to get a core group going that can hopefully draw in others. You certainly may pursue my idea however you wish." David

Please let me know if you wish to do something like David is doing in your local area.

Editor. #####

VICTORY

24th Infantry Division Association



Norm Treadway has advised us that his 24th Victory Division web site is back up and running; I noted that it has been updated with new materials and forms.

The new address for Norm's 24th IDA site is:

<http://victory24.org/>



Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Chair, Keith Hagen, announced that the members of his committee are as follows:

Keith R. Hagen, Chairperson
41091 Ingersoll Rd.
Concrete, WA 98237-9778
360-826-3695
hagenka@verizon.net

Tom J. Thiel
19147 Park Place Blvd.
Eustis, FL 32736-7262
352-357-3943
tthiel5@comcast.net

Daniel J. Rickert
28099 Calle Valdes
Mission Viejo, CA 92692-1551
949-215-7553

David R. Rives
737 Los Angeles Ave.
Simi Valley, CA 93065-1874
805-527-1414

Billy E. McFarland
P.O. Box 573
Quartzsite, AZ 85346-0573
602-509-0191
BEM2091@msn.com



A Special Note of Appreciation
to the
Taro Leaf Proof Readers
this issue

Heidi Edgar
Vince Rybel
David Valley

24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION Eight-Month INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT 01 Aug 07 - 31 Mar 08

Ordinary Income/Expense

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Income | |
| 40-Membership Dues | 10,050.00 |
| 41-Full Life Pmt | 1,960.00 |
| 4100-Reunion Donations | 16,408.00 |
| 4180-Interest Income | 995.29 |
| 42-Partial Life Pmt | 840.00 |
| 43-Donations | 2,907.00 |
| 44-Assoc Member Dues | 465.00 |
| 49-Misc Income | 60.00 |
| 499-Discounts | 25.00 |
| Total Income | 33,710.29 |

Expense

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| General Office Expense | |
| 505-Computer/software Expense | 45.70 |
| 508-Misc Office Expense (1) | 5,329.17 |
| 6100-Bank Fee Expense | 13.08 |
| 6120-Engraving Expense | 163.00 |
| 6200-Office Supplies Expense | 702.65 |
| 6230-Postage & Delivery | 948.15 |
| 6300-Phone/Fax Expense | 53.68 |
| 510-Returned Mail Expense | 143.49 |
| 52-Refund Expense | 57.00 |
| Total Gen'l Expenses | 7,455.92 |

Taro Leaf Expenses

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 6280-Taro Leaf Printing Expense | 35,995.98 |
| 6285-Taro Leaf Mailing Expenses | 4,641.96 |

Total Taro Leaf Expenses 40,637.94

Reunion Expense

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| 542-Reunion Prize Expense | 5,000.00 |
| 543-Reunion Meal Expense | 735.00 |
| 6255-Reunion Entertainment Expense | 50.00 |
| 6265-Reunion Expense (Other) | 728.75 |

Total Reunion Expense 6,513.75

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| 55-Tax/License | 1,595.00 |
| 58-Misc Expense | 11.16 |
| 6150-Insurance Expense | 750.00 |
| 6320-Travel Expense | 1,570.83 |

Total Expense 58,534.60

Quartermaster Activity

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| 8105-Income | 2,664.00 |
| 8110-Purchases | -1,545.38 |
| 8115-Shipping | -264.86 |

Total QM Activity 853.76

TOTAL INCOME **-\$23,970.55**

508-Misc Office Expense (1)

\$1977 Reunion notice letter due to no Taro Leaf
\$2558 Donation solicitation letter preparation & mailing

24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION Eight-Month BALANCE SHEET As of March 31, 2008

ASSETS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Checking/Savings | |
| HomeTrust Bank-Checking | 10,101.96 |
| HomeTrust Bank-Money Market | 5,852.95 |
| Fifth Third Bank-Checking | 10,841.22 |
| Fifth Third Bank-Savings | 3,190.16 |
| Chase Bank Checking | 3,940.86 |
| Wells Fargo Bank-CD | 33,488.86 |
| | 67,416.01 |
| QM Inventory (Estimate) | 3,000.00 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$70,416.01 |

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Opening Balance Equity | 15,068.49 |
| Net Assets | 79,303.07 |
| Net Income | -23,970.55 |

\$70,416.01





THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I desire to be enrolled ☐ (or) reinstated ☐ as a Member ☐ (or) Associate Member ☐

of the

24th Infantry Division Association
The Greatest Combat Division
the United States Army has ever known.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

OCCUPATION _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____ CHILDREN & AGES _____

SPONSOR'S NAME _____

(Relation to sponsor if the Application is for Associate Membership) _____

SERVED IN THE 24th or was ATTACHED TO THE 24th

UNIT.....SQUAD ____ PLATOON ____ COMPANY ____ BN. ____ REGT. ____ HQ ____ FROM ____ TO ____

UNIT.....SQUAD ____ PLATOON ____ COMPANY ____ BN. ____ REGT. ____ HQ ____ FROM ____ TO ____

REMARKS _____

Dues: ____ Annual - \$15.00

____ Lifetime - \$150.00

1 Year From Date of

Payable in lump sum of \$150.00

Enlisting in Association

or in 5 yearly payments of \$30.00

Please make checks payable to:
"24th Infantry Division Association"
 Mail with this completed application to:
 Donald E. Maggio, Secretary/Treasurer
 24th Infantry Division Association
 411 Concord Road
 Fletcher, NC 28732-9734

Recommended By: _____



WELCOME TO SPRINGFIELD, MO

The time is fast approaching for our Annual Reunion this year in Springfield, MO.

Springfield is centrally located to St. Louis, Little Rock, Tulsa and Kansas City. A family-friendly area, it is only 45 minutes from the theaters of Branson, and the recreational opportunities of Bull Shoals, Lake Taneycomo and Table Rock Lakes.

Springfield itself has several unique geological formations, which have become popular sites for visitors: Fantastic Caverns and Crystal Cave.

There is an excellent zoo with a history of breeding endangered animals, and the largest drive-through wildlife park in the country, 12 miles east of town.

History buffs will be interested in exploring Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, General Sweeney's Museum of Civil War History, the Air and Military Museum, the History Museum of Springfield and Greene County.

Unfortunately, many of these sites could not be incorporated into the reunion



plans; if you are arriving early, or departing late, you may have to opportunity to visit one or two of them.

This will be our 2nd year with the The Reunion Brat planning of our reunion. Last year turned out to be a great success, and I know the same will hold true this year.

With the advent of utilizing a reunion planner, we need to make some adjustments from what the Association did in the past. We will no longer have an Onsite Chairman to plan and coordinate the reunion.

The Reunion Brat has been very helpful in trying to fulfill our needs, but we have to remember that where our Onsite Chairman had only

our reunion to handle, The Reunion Brat handles many others each year and doesn't have the luxury of concentrating only on our reunion.

Some sacrifices have to be made to fit into their system and procedures. I am trying to keep the expense to the members as low as possible, yet still have a great reunion.

Wes Morrison, Coordinator



24th Infantry Division Association Reunion

September 17 – 21, 2008

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM HAWTHORN PARK HOTEL (Soon to be Doubletree Hotel)

Room Type Requested

Rate

Number in Party

All Rooms

\$74.00

Note: Current room tax is 8%, plus an occupancy tax of \$2.00 per night and is subject to change.

SPECIAL REQUESTS: *

Smoking _____ Non-Smoking _____ Connecting Room _____ ADA Room _____

Hearing Impaired _____

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

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 17, 2008 TO ENSURE ROOM AVAILABILITY. (After this date, rooms will be on space and rate availability only.)

The discounted room rate will be extended 3 days prior and after the reunion.

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____ Number of Nights _____

Name (Please Print) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

AMEX _____ VISA _____ MC _____ DISCOVERY _____ OTHER _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail this form to:

Hawthorn Park Hotel

2431 N. Glenstone Ave.

Springfield, MO 65803

Reservations: Phone: (417) 831-3131 Fax: (417) 831-2582

<http://www.hawtornparkhotel.com>

Confirmation Number _____



Important!! Please Read and Follow These Instructions

~~~~~

## **HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

**Mail your check and your registration forms to:**

HAWTHORN PARK HOTEL  
(Doubletree Hotel)  
2431 North Glenstone  
Springfield, MO 65803-4735

*(We recommend reservations be made by telephone and get confirmation number)*

~~~~~

REUNION REGISTRATION, MEAL & TOUR FORMS

Mail your check along with your registration forms to:

The Reunion Brat
50721 State Hwy 410 E
Greenwater, WA 98022

(Be sure to indicate on the check that's it's for the 24th IDA Reunion)

~~~~~

## **REUNION BANQUET GROUP SEATING**

**– DEADLINE AUGUST 18, 2008 –**

If you have a group of friends and wish to be seated together, you need to reserve together and pay together. Only 10 people can be seated at a table; reserve as many tables as needed to accommodate your group. To request that you be seated together, you must:

1. Send all your registration forms in one envelope.
2. Designate one person in your group to be the group's contact point, and send your registration forms along with the appropriate payment to that person, who will then forward all registration forms and payments to The Reunion Brat.
3. When The Reunion Brat has received all paperwork and money, they will send a confirmation letter to the contact person.
4. A registration packet for each person will be waiting at the reunion Registration Desk.
5. All tables will be assigned in the order of receipt – so start planning early and get your reservation and registration in as early as possible.
6. Any group table seating arrangement received after August 18, 2008, will not be guaranteed.
7. All other registrants not included in a group arrangement will have their table assignments made for each Banquet at time of check-in.
8. Please Note – Once tables are assigned and accepted, they will not be rearranged.



# 24th Infantry Division Association Reunion

September 17-21, 2007

Springfield, MO

## Reunion Itinerary

*To be held at the Hawthorne Park Hotel (soon to be the Doubletree Hotel) Room rates are only \$74 per night, plus tax. Parking at the hotel, and airport transportation are free. A hospitality room stocked w/ snacks, beverages and cocktails will be provided each day.*

### **Wednesday September 17**

*2 pm Registration and Hospitality Room opens*

### **Thursday September 18**

9 am – 2:30 pm Tour **Wilson Creek Battlefield/Springfield Brewery**- Begins with a visit to 1,760 acre battlefield, greatly unchanged and considered our most historically pristine battle site in the country. Next stop Springfield Brewery for a great lunch and tour! Cost: \$32.00

6-11:30 pm **Branson Belle Showboat Dinner**- Branson's #1 show and attraction. Great patriotic review! Cost: \$63.00

### **Friday September 19**

*9-11 am Board of Directors Meeting*

9 am – 4 pm Tour **Fantastic Caverns and Honey Heaven**- Starts with a trolley ride through an ancient underground river filled with massive formations. Next stop Bass Pro Shop where you have a great lunch and time to shop. Final stop Honey Heaven, the Ozarks largest beekeeper for demonstrations and shopping! Cost: \$53.00

*6-10 pm Aloha Banquet Dinner and Dance*

### **Saturday September 20**

*8-11 am Breakfast Business Meeting*

*9-11 am Ladies Breakfast*

*6-10 pm Memorial Banquet Dinner and Program*

*(Wine courtesy of FAYE-ED FARMS, DUPONT, IN)*

### **Sunday September 21**

*Departure*

Call the Hawthorne Park Hotel at (417) 831-3131 no later than August 17, 2008, to make your hotel reservations.

**COME JOIN US AS WE SHARE OLD MEMORIES AND MAKE NEW ONES!!!**

*For More Information:*

Contact Wes Morrison  
Phone: (831) 883-2156  
Email: [WesM8@aol.com](mailto:WesM8@aol.com)

Contact: The Reunion BRAT  
Phone: (360) 663-2521  
Email: [Info@TheReunionBRAT.com](mailto:Info@TheReunionBRAT.com)



# Annual Reunion Registration

24th Infantry Division Association  
September 17 – September 21, 2008  
Hawthorn Park Hotel, Springfield, MO  
(Soon to be Doubletree Hotel)

Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please list any food allergies or special diets required. Please be specific.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Name Badge Information

Nickname \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_ First Timer? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

I will be arriving by: Air \_\_\_\_\_ Car \_\_\_\_\_ Train \_\_\_\_\_ Bus \_\_\_\_\_

## REMINDER on BANQUET SEATING

If you wish to be seated with your friends at the Banquets, you must mail your registration forms together, along with appropriate payments, in one envelope with a cover letter indicating all who want to sit together at the same table. Otherwise, there is no guarantee that you and your friends will be seated together! Each table will hold up to 10 persons. All other persons attending the reunion will be given their seating assignments for each Banquet at time of check-in at the hotel.



**Make Checks Payable to The Reunion Brat  
and mail not later than 18 August 2008 to:**



**The Reunion Brat  
50721 State Hwy 410 E  
Greenwater, WA 98022**

***(be sure to indicate this is for the 24<sup>th</sup> IDA Reunion)***





# TOURS, MEALS & REGISTRATION

24th Infantry Division Association  
September 17 – September 21, 2008  
Hawthorn Park Hotel  
Springfield, MO

| <u>Date &amp; Time</u>               | <u>Activity</u>                                                                | <u>Unit Cost</u> | <u>No. Persons</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <b><u>Thursday, Sep 18, 08</u></b>   |                                                                                |                  |                    |               |
| 9:00AM – 2:30PM                      | National Battlefield/<br>Brewery Tour                                          | \$32.00          | x _____ =          | \$ _____      |
| 6:00PM – 11:30PM                     | Branson Belle Dinner<br>Showboat                                               | \$63.00          | x _____ =          | \$ _____      |
| <b><u>Friday, Sep 19, 08</u></b>     |                                                                                |                  |                    |               |
| 9:00AM – 4:00PM                      | Fantastic Caverns &<br>Honey Haven                                             | \$53.00          | x _____ =          | \$ _____      |
| 6:00 PM – 10:00PM                    | Aloha Banquet                                                                  | \$47.00          | x _____ =          | \$ _____      |
|                                      | Aloha Banquet Meal Selection: Pork _____ Fish _____ Vegetarian _____           |                  |                    |               |
| <b><u>Saturday, Sep 20, 08</u></b>   |                                                                                |                  |                    |               |
| 8:00AM – 11:00AM                     | Breakfast/Business                                                             | \$16.00          | x _____ =          | \$ _____      |
| 9:00AM – 11:00AM                     | Ladies Breakfast                                                               | \$16.00          | x _____ =          | \$ _____      |
| 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM                   | Memorial Banquet                                                               | \$47.00          | x _____ =          | \$ _____      |
|                                      | Memorial Banquet Meal Selection: Beef _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____     |                  |                    |               |
|                                      | (Note: Memorial Banquet Wine provided courtesy of FAYE-ED FARMS of Dupont, IN) |                  |                    |               |
| <b>Registration Fee</b> (per person) |                                                                                | \$20.00          | x _____ =          | \$ _____      |
| <b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b> .....   |                                                                                |                  |                    | \$ _____      |

**PAYMENT IS DUE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 16, 2008, PAYABLE TO:**

THE REUNION BRAT  
50721 State Hwy 410 E  
Greenwater, WA 98022

Confirmation of Registration and Itinerary will be sent out by Sep 1, 08. A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable. Call the Hawthorn Park Hotel (Doubletree) at 417-831-3131 not later than August 16, 08 to make your hotel reservation. Be sure to mention you are with the 24th Infantry Division Association Reunion to receive your group rate of \$74 a night plus tax. These prices are available 3 days prior to and after the event should you choose to extend your stay. See you in Springfield, MO.



# **24th Infantry Division Association**

## **2008 Reunion Menus**

### **Traditional Breakfast**

Chilled Orange Juice,  
Farm Fresh Scrambled Eggs  
Crispy Bacon  
Breakfast Potatoes  
French toast  
100% Colombian Coffee, Decaf &  
Specialty Tea Selections

### **Friday Night Aloha Banquet**

Choice - Braised Berkshire Pork Loin  
or Copper River Salmon, or  
Vegetarian  
Salad Maison w/Champagne Vinaigrette,  
Chef's selection of  
Starch and Seasonal Vegetable,  
Rolls and Butter, Choice of Dessert,  
Coffee Service and Iced Tea

### **Saturday Night Memorial Banquet**

Chicken St. Moritz or Prime Rib or Vegetarian  
Mixed Garden Greens with Chef's Dressing,  
Chef's Selection of Starch and Seasonal Vegetable,  
Rolls and Butter, Choice of Dessert,  
Coffee Service and Iced Tea  
Wine courtesy of FAYE-ED FARMS of Dupont, IN

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Press Release Notice to Taro Leafers

Below is a press release pertaining to our reunion in Springfield, MO. Regardless of whether or not you plan to attend, please cut it out and either take it to or mail it to your local newspaper and request it be published in their military, special events or Letters to the Editor section. I would like to see this notice blanket the country to announce our reunion and let all former 24th Division Members know there is an active association in existence. Please, feel free to change the wording to suite your local newspaper.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 24th Infantry Division (First to Fight) will hold it's annual reunion to Honor the fallen veterans of the Division and renew old acquaintances in Springfield, MO, 17 – 21 September 2008 at the Hawthorn Park Hotel (Soon to be Doubletree Hotel). All former members of the 24th Infantry Division or members of any unit that have been assigned or attached to the Division at any time are welcome. The reunion will be held at the Hawthorn Park Hotel (Doubletree Hotel), 2431 North Glenstone, Springfield, MO 65803-4735. For reservations call (417) 831-3131. For further information contact: Wes Morrison, Association Reunion Coordinator at (831) 883-2156 or e-mail: wesm8@aol.com



QUARTERMASTER SUPPLY

"Items are for sale only to members of the Association or individuals who are members of another nonprofit organization."

| ITEM | | ITEM | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 1 | 24th ID Colored Shoulder Patch | 41 | 19th INF Lapel Pin |
| 2 | Same as #1 with 24th ID Written Around Edge | 42 | 24th ID License Plate (new) w/Taro Leaf |
| 3 | Black Cap w/24th ID Patch | 43 | Desert Storm Cap - Black |
| 4 | White Cap w/24th ID Patch - First to Fight | 44 | Desert Storm Hat Pin |
| 5 | 24th ID Window Sticker 2" x 3" | 45 | WW II Veteran's Cap - Black w/CIB |
| 6 | 24th ID Decal 4" | 46 | Korean War Veteran's Cap - Black CIB |
| 7 | Bolo Tie w/Gold Taro leaf - Gold or Black Chain | 47 | Bumper Sticker - CIB |
| 8 | Bolo Tie w/Silver Taro Leaf - Silver Chain | 48 | Bumper Sticker - Proudly Served w/Taro Leaf |
| 9 | Gold or Silver Belt Buckle w/Taro Leaf | 49 | 6th Tank BN Cloth Patch |
| 10 | 29th INF Colored Cloth Patch | 50 | Purple Heart Medal Hat Pin HP-754 |
| 11 | 24th Signal BN Unit Crest | 51 | Bronze Star Medal Hat Pin HP-926 |
| 12 | 19th INF Crest - Current issue \$10. Pair | 52 | Good Conduct Medal Hat Pin HP-927 |
| 13 | 21st INF Crest - Current issue \$10. Pair | 53 | Korean Service Medal Hat Pin HP-929 |
| 14 | 34th INF Crest - Current issue \$10. Pair | 54 | National Defense Service Medal Hat Pin HP-957 |
| 15 | 11th FA Crest - \$10. Pair | 55 | WW II Victory Medal Hat Pin HP-958 |
| 16 | 13th FA Crest - \$10. Pair | 56 | Silver Star Medal Hat Pin HP-959 |
| 17 | 19th INF Color Pocket Patch | 57 | ETO Campaign Medal Hat Pin HP-962 |
| 18 | 21st INF Color Pocket Patch | 58 | DFC Hat Pin HP-965 |
| 19 | 34th INF Color Pocket Patch | 59 | Korean 8000 Missing Hat Pin HP-115 |
| 20 | 11th FA Color Pocket Patch | 60 | CMB (1st Award) Hat Pin HP-569 |
| 21 | 13th FA Color Pocket Patch | 61 | U.S. Flag (Clutch back) HP (V-37) |
| 22 | 24th ID Crest | 62 | 24th Medical BN Crest |
| 23 | 21st INF Lapel Pin | 63 | Pacific Campaign Medal Hat Pin HP-963 |
| 24 | 34th INF Lapel Pin | 64 | American Campaign Medal Hat Pin HP-964 |
| 25 | CIB Mini Dress Mess (1st Award) 1-1346 | 65 | Army Occupation Medal Hat Pin HP-051 |
| 26 | CIB Mini Dress Mess (2nd Award) 1-1347 | 66 | Meritorious Service Medal Hat Pin HP-056 |
| 27 | CIB Lapel Pin | 67 | UN Service Medal Hat Pin HP-059 |
| 28 | 19th INF Cap - Dark Blue w/Crest | 68 | Philippine Liberation Hat Pin HP-361 |
| 29 | 21st INF Cap - White Embroidered w/Crest | 69 | Korean Service Ribbon Hat Pin HP-099 |
| 30 | 21st INF Cap - Dark Blue Embroidered w/Crest | 70 | Air Medal Hat Pin HP-925 |
| 31 | 34th INF Cap - Dark Blue w/Crest | 71 | DSC Hat Pin HP-308 |
| 32 | 24th ID Assn. Cap - Dark Blue w/Patch | 72 | Bring' Em Home/Back Hat Pin HP-214 |
| 33 | Cap w/Taro Leaf - Red or White GERMANY | 73 | American Defense Medal Hat Pin |
| 34 | 24th ID Assn. Cap - Red or White | 74 | Vietnam Service Medal Hat Pin |
| 35 | 24th ID Cap - Green w/Patch | 75 | 24th ID Hat Pin |
| 36 | 24th ID Cap - White Mesh | 76 | 24th ID Tie - Regular |
| 37 | 3rd ENG BN Crest | 77 | 24th ID Flag - 3X5 Screen Print - Outdoor |
| 38 | 14th ENG BN Crest | 78 | 63rd FA Cloth Patch |
| 39 | 5th RCT Pocket Patch | 79 | Army Commendation Medal Hat Pin |
| 40 | 5th RCT Cap - Red | 80 | Soldiers Medal Hat Pin |
| | | 81 | POW Medal Hat Pin |
| | | 82 | Armed Forces Reserve Medal Hat Pin |
| | | 83 | 24th ID 1" Decal (12 for \$1.00) |
| | | 84 | 24th ID Christmas Cards (Packet of 10) |
| | | 85 | WW II Tapes (Starts Australia) |
| | | 86 | 24th ID Neck Wallets |

Byrd R Schrock, Quartermaster
24th Infantry Division Association
1009 Mesquite Drive
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635-1292
(520) 678-0207

We require \$3.00 Postage and Handling. Please allow six-weeks delivery.
No Phone Orders Please!





The Congressional Medal of Honor is the Nation's highest award for military Valor. It is given to those who acted with supreme courage and disregard of their own safety in the face of hazardous battlefield conditions. Only a handful of men in the world are entitled to wear the Medal of Honor. It is bestowed by Act of Congress, and reflects Democracy's gratitude to those who, in moments of risk, offered everything they had in its defense, including life itself. The Medal of Honor is a humble token—a gesture of recognition—for sacrifices that cannot be repaid to its honored holders and their survivors in worldly goods. From 1944 to 1951 fourteen 24th Infantry Division soldiers so distinguished themselves on the battlefield, and received this highest decoration. Four received for action in World War II, and the other ten for their action in the Korean War. Only General Dean, Lieutenant Dodd, And Sergeant Adams lived to receive the Medal personally. Sergeant Duke survived combat, but died later in a North Korean POW camp; Sergeant Keeble likewise survived but died 30 years before being recognized in 2008. All the others were killed in action, and, therefore, received their Medal of Honor posthumously.

Captain FRANCIS B. WAI
34th Infantry Regiment
20 October 1944, Leyte

Captain Wai landed at Red Beach, Leyte, in the face of accurate, concentrated enemy fire from gun positions advantageously located in a palm grove bounded by submerged rice paddies. Finding the first four waves of American soldiers leaderless, disorganized, and pinned down on the open beach, he immediately assumed command. Issuing clear and concise orders, and disregarding heavy enemy machine gun and rifle fire, he began to move inland without cover through the rice paddies. The men, inspired by his cool demeanor and heroic example, rose from their positions and followed him. During the advance, Captain Wai repeatedly determined the locations of enemy strong points by deliberately exposing himself to draw their fire. In leading an assault upon the last remaining Japanese pillbox in the area, he was killed by its occupants. Captain Wai's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.

24th Infantry Division Association
Secretary/Treasurer
Donald E. Maggio – 24th AG
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Check your Dues Date below

Please send Dues and Address Changes to:



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

