



# ***Taro***

**FIRST TO FIGHT**

# ***Leaf***



**“Follow me”**

**National Infantry Museum  
and Soldier Center**

# National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center

By Tom Thiel, Ed

Columbus, GA., April 2-3, 2010: At the request of my son-in-law, Ed Ziobron, in early April I had the distinct pleasure of spending a day and half visiting the new National Infantry

Museum at Fort Benning, GA.

I found the museum truly remarkable; totally impossible to describe in the page and a half I have available here. So, I will rely on a few photographs and other items I've found. But let me say from the outset that this is the most remarkable presentation of the combat infantryman that I have ever seen.

But it was photographically challenging because flash is prohibited, as is the case in most museums. However, I did take the **cover photo**. And I also took the photo of the CIB display just inside the entrance. That CIB must be 48" wide!



Areal view of the Infantry Museum



I also received a couple of photos from the Museum too.

The photo above right is of the re-created WWII era basic training community, located behind and to right of the Museum; it is believe me very representative of my Camp Breckenridge, KY barracks of Nov 1950-Feb 1951 too!



Two more Museum-supplied photos are the one above left of the Iraq war era, and the one at the right of General Ambrose Burnside at the bridge from the Civil War's

Battle of Antietam. Both are life-sized displays as are all in the Museum.

And the photo at left is of me (left), my daughter Chris and Ed, who is a Distinguished Service Cross recipient for extraordinary heroism in action in the Republic of Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) as a



(Continued on page 16)



# Follow Me

**A**fter the Summer 2010 *Taro Leaf* went to press, I discovered that the sculpture that stands in the main entrance to the Infantry Museum, the one that appeared on the front cover of the subject Taro Leaf, was made to honor Major General



Aubrey S. "Red" Newman (1904–1994). General (then Colonel) Newman commanded the 34th Infantry Regiment of the 24th during the Battle of the Philippines in World War II.

His cry of "Follow Me!" at Leyte, during the Battle of Bataan (1945), rallied his troops and has inspired American Infantrymen for decades. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second highest award for bravery, for his actions during this battle.

Tom J. Thiel, *Taro Leaf* "Retired Editor"

[thetaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:thetaroleaf@gmail.com)



# ~~~ President's Letter ~~~



The 2010 reunion and election of officers is fast approaching, so this will probably be my last President's letter.

It has been a gratifying and sobering experience to be your President. Gratifying because so many of you wrote or called and needed help, and sobering to see the number of our members passing on. Hopefully many of you will share your experiences with the *Taro Leaf* before they are lost forever.

The Association faced many challenges this past year, but we have overcome them. The most visible is the health of our *Taro Leaf* Editor and our being forced to replace

him. Tom has done an admirable job and we shall miss him. He has computerized the process and has vast amounts of information at his fingertips. I have relied heavily on him, just as I did in combat in Korea...Thanks for all your hard work Tom.

I want to welcome our new editor, David Valley, who does some freelance writing as his occupation. I thank the Board of Directors for their support in a vote so that we may employ his talents and was able to appoint him as the new *Taro Leaf* Editor. I am sure David will also do an admirable job

We also needed to replace the Historian. I'm sure many of you will be pleased that Merry Helm has agreed to share some of her busy life with those of us who served

with the 24th Infantry Division by agreeing to serve as the Association Historian. Welcome Merry!

Sadly, I just received word that due to health concerns we will need to replace our Quartermaster. Byrd Schrock has filled the position for several years now, but, he is unable to continue. If you would be able to take this position please let me know right away.

You don't realize the demands on your time until you assume the position as Association President. It has been particularly busy since the 60th anniversary of the Korean War issue of the VFW magazine was printed this spring.

I have been flooded with calls for information on the Association and

*(President's Letter Continued on page 9)*

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## Send Verbeck Award Nominations by August 15

Association VP Sal Schillaci is still seeking your nominations for the member you think should be recognized with our Association's prestigious 2010 Verbeck Award.

Please send Sal your nominee and a brief write-up on why you believe your nominee deserves to be honored **no later than Aug. 15, 2010.**

This year's Verbeck Award Committee includes: Gene Spicer, Dan



Rickert, Keith Hagen, Tom Thiel, and Sal Schillaci, chair.

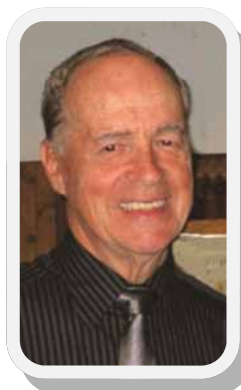
Past Verbeck Award recipients are shown in the table on page 30.

Contact Sal at: Salvatore Schillaci, 59 Endicott Drive, Amherst, NY 14226-3323, ph: 716-837-1635.

Guidelines: The Verbeck Award is presented to that Association member who best displays the ideals of Bill Verbeck—the member who has most furthered the interests of the Association. It is intended to reward and acknowledge hard work in helping to make the Association more successful.



## From Your New *Taro Leaf* Editor by David Valley



Hello. I am your new *Taro Leaf* Editor, David Valley. I served with the 19th Regiment from July 1950 until March 1951

when I was selected to serve in General MacArthur's Honor Guard in Tokyo.

After discharge in 1952 I attended the University of Massachusetts where I earned an engineering degree. My career was in the semi-

conductor and laser fields.

I retired in 1998 and since then have been active in veterans organizations and writing. I have had seven books published, three about Gen. MacArthur, and am a columnist for *Poker Player Newspaper*. I am the executive director of the Gen. MacArthur Honor Guard Association and have edited and published their newsletter for the past ten years.

I am pleased and honored to take over the job that Tom Thiel has done with great dedication and

excellence the past three plus years. Tom succeeded in significantly lowering costs while at the same time enhancing its content and appearance. I hope to carry on his good work in the future.

There will be some cosmetic changes in the next issue, which I will edit, but the content will be much the same as in the past, which I believe is what our members enjoy. However, I am very open to suggestions and welcome new ideas to make *The Taro Leaf* even better.

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## So Long; Thank you all very much! by Tom Thiel

It is with a great deal of emotion that I hand the *Taro Leaf* editor duties to my friend, David Valley.

I dearly loved doing the *Taro Leaf*, and meeting all you wonderful folks who make up the 24th Infantry Division Association. And helping you to get your stories into print. I also loved learning new publishing processes and procedures too.

But time is relentless! Never forgiving! And that is where I found myself—too little time to do all the things I ought to be doing regularly.

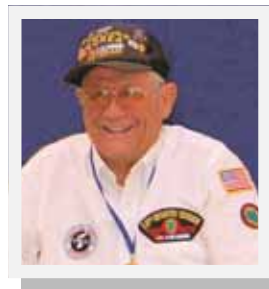
So, when David offered to do it, I quickly opted to take the opportunity to step down as your editor.

I have every confidence in David's ability to do an excellent job as your editor, and encourage you to pro-

vide him with your material.

Those of you who were at the Columbia, SC Reunion a few years ago

will remember David as the person who so ably rendered a General



**(So Long)** *Continued on page 34)*

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## Chaplain's Corner by Glen Carpenter



Hi. Well here we are going into the end of June. Time goes by fast when you are having fun.

I have been serving others. We live in a rural area. On May 27, a semi loaded with ten thousand pounds of food came up from

Grand Rapids, MI. Volunteers help give out 50 lbs of food to 200 people. We also do a free lunch every Thursday to the community. This is paid for by our mission store. We can serve others by serving our own.

We are also helping our son, who has chronic P.T.S.D.

**(Chaplain)** *Continued on page 13)*



# The *Taro Leaf*TAPS

## Association Members

**Marshall H. Anderson**, 80, of Lompoc, CA



Anderson

passed away April 19, 2010. Life member 1024, Marshall served in Korea with the **63rd and 13th Field Artillery Battalions** from Aug. 1950 to Oct. 1951. He returned to Korea as a peacekeeper in 1956, and also served in Iran, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Germany. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Carol Anderson, 1304 E Olive Ave., Lompoc, CA 93436-7416.

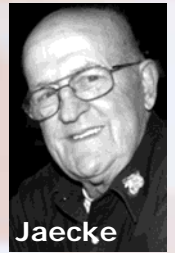
**Norm Dixon** passed away June 25, 2010 in Peoria, AZ. Life Member 2206, Norm served with Company G, **19th Infantry Regiment** from Aug 1951-Jun 1952. He served as the Association Secretary/Treasurer from September 2003 to the spring of 2005, and successfully negotiated IRS rulings against the Association. He is survived by his wife Ms. Dodie Dixon, 13840 N. Desert Harbor Dr, #222, Peoria, AZ 85381-3654.

**Mary Jane Draus**, wife of Richard F Draus, Life member #582, passed away on April 9, 2010. Richard served with HQ & HQ Co. **19th Infantry Regiment**, Korea and Japan, 1951-1952. The Draus' only missed two reunions since 1992. Condolences to: Richard F. Draus, 16428 Woodlawn East Ave., South Holland, IL 60473.

**Wilbur W. Hill**, 89, of Richmond, VA, formerly of Baltimore, MD, passed away April 12, 2009. Life member 264, Wilbur served with Company I, **21st Infantry Regiment**. He was at Pearl Harbor, and served at Goodenough, New Guinea, Hollandia, Biak and Leyte. He was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. Wilbur is survived by his wife Mildred Hill, 2311 New Berne Rd., Richmond, VA 23228-6019.

**Sam P. Hooper**, of Tenaha, Texas, passed away on March 7, 2010. Life member 2353, Sam served with Company A, **34th Infantry Regiment** in WWII from 1942-45, including making the Leyte landing on Oct. 20, 1944. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Hooper, 3101 US Highway 84E, Tenaha, Texas 75974-4504.

**William A. Jaecke**, passed away June 16, 2010, in Salt Lake City, UT. Life member 1476, Bill served with C Company, **19th Infantry Regiment** at the Kum River line where he was wounded. He served three tours in Vietnam. Condolences may be sent to 705 S. Redwood Rd., Tr #77, Salt Lake City, UT 84104-3628.



Jaecke

**Eugene B. Lew**, 91, of Cheektowaga NY passed away Jan. 20, 2010. Life member 376, Eugene was a Pearl Harbor Survivor and served with the **13th Field Artillery** from 1940 to 1945 in Australia, Leyte, New Guinea and the Philippines. He is survived by his wife Mrs. Elizabeth Lew, 78 Victoria Blvd., Cheektowaga, NY, 14225-4015.



Lew

**David Lopera**, of Merlin, OR passed away per letter received from his nephew Richard. Life Member 415, David was with A Company, **21st Infantry Regiment**, at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and served as a Heavy Weapons Platoon Sergeant in the Pacific. His wife Isabel is in assisted living. Send condolences to Richard Lopera, 435 April Drive, Merlin, OR 97532.

**Earl J. Mason**, Gonzales, LA, passed away Jan. 3, 2005, per family-verified record in the online Social Security Death Index. Life member 463, Mr. Mason served with the **21st Infantry Regiment**. *Taro Leaf* returned May 6, 2010; no family information available.

**Rice Alexander McNutt**, 79, of Blue Ridge, VA passed away April 10, 2010. Life Member 1712, Mr. Rice served with HQ & HQ **19th Infantry Regiment** in Japan and Korea; he retired from the Army as a Master Sergeant. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Molly McNutt, 114 Birch Dr, Blue Ridge, VA 24064-1240. (PO BOX 128, BLUE RIDGE VA 24064-0128).



McNutt

**Hoyt Fay Overcash**, Concord, NC, died March 26, 2010. Hoyt served with Battery B, **13th Field Artillery Battalion** in WWII from 1942 to 1945 (See



Overcash





# The *Taro Leaf*TAPS

"Hoyt's War" Vol. 63(2) Spring 2009, Page 16). He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Joyce Cowles Overcash, 772 Ideal Dr., SE, Concord, NC 28025-3810.

**Miller O. Perry**, Brig. Gen. Ret., East Lansing, MI died March 20, 2010 at the age of 102. He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Pauline Moss Perry in 1985. Miller served as Commanding Officer, **52nd Field Artillery**, 24th Infantry Division, with **Task Force Smith**. His awards during his 30 year career included: Distin-



Gen. Perry

guished Service Cross, two Legions of Merit, three Bronze Star Medals, a Purple Heart and numerous others. Interment will be in the United States Military Academy Cemetery, West Point, NY. Ms. Susan M Perry, 120 Gamble St, Saint Charles, MO 63301-1602.

**Alvis Leo "Slim" Rock** passed away on April 15, 2010 in Stilwell, Oklahoma. Life member 132, Slim served in the **21st Infantry Regiment** and fought in the Philippines, where he received the Bronze Star. He also was a welder and served in Japan. His family may be contacted at Janie Hooper, Rt. 1, Box 170, Bunch, Oklahoma 74931-9708.

**Valentine "Val" Schaaf**, 87, Hillsboro, OR, died March 28, 2010. Life Member #280, Val served with "H" Company, **21st Infantry Regiment** in WWII, 1941 - 1945. He is survived by his children, Valerie, Teresa, Michael, Alan, Jim, Janna and Cindy. Michael V Schaaf, 435 NW Forest St, Hillsboro, OR 97124-2964.



Schaaf

**George F. Seiferth Jr.**, of Plattsburgh, NY, passed away May 8, 2010. Life member 1085, George served in Korea and Japan with the **6th Tank**, as a platoon leader and aviation liaison officer. Following active duty, he continued as an Army reserve officer and retired in 1982 as an infantry colonel in upstate New York. He is



Seiferth

survived by his wife, Edith Ann Seiferth of 30 Trafalgar Drive, Plattsburgh, NY 12901-1341.

**Theodore G. Sharpe**, of Clermont, FL passed away June 10, 2008. Life Member 1541, Ted served with the **24th Quartermaster** during WWII. He was with Southern Forces in Naples for NATO as a Captain, and at Clark Air Base in the Philippines at the start of Vietnam War. He retired as a Major in 1963. Ted is survived by his wife, Mrs. Sue Sharpe, 677 East Avenue, Clermont, Florida 34711-2525.

**Francis Sam Slater**, Hatboro, PA passed away March 29, 2010. Sam served with Company C, **19th Infantry Regiment** in Korea from 1951-53. Send condolences to Kathleen B Slater, 503 S Warminster Rd, Apt H1, Hatboro, PA 19040-4117.

**William H. "Pop" Thornton**, Henderson, NV, recently of Millington, TN, passed away May 16, 2010 in Henderson. Life member 2193, William served with Co. B, 21st Infantry Regiment with **Task Force Smith** and with Co. A, 19th Infantry Regiment. He also served in WWII and Vietnam. William is survived by his wife Yoshiko Thornton, 1517 Plainsight Avenue, Henderson, NV 89014-0811.

## Send TAPS Notices to the *Taro Leaf* Editor

(Please include a photo)

[24thtaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:24thtaroleaf@gmail.com)

PO Box 500907

San Diego CA 92150-0907

## Non-Assoc. Members

**Bradley Lawrence Alvadji**, 49, of Navarre, Fla., passed away April 8, 2010. He was born on March 12, 1961, in Detroit. Brad served in the 24th Infantry Divi-

(Continued on page 41)



# The 24th in Korea July 1955 to October 1956

Glenn Richardson, "F" 34th Infantry

Thank you for the history of the 24th Infantry Division. I found it very interesting, but I wanted to let you know the 24ID was on station in South Korea until late in the year 1956 or perhaps early 1957.

While at Ft Lewis the only thing I knew was that I was going to South Korea, but no idea what unit or where I would be. We left Seattle aboard the USS General Mann on 2 July 1955 and arrived off shore at Inchon after a brief stop in Yokohama to drop off dependents.

Inchon still didn't have docks due to the high tides so we made our way ashore via LCT's. As we approached shore, I tried to imagine what it must have been like during the war when the Inchon Landing was executed and how lucky we were that the cease fire took effect in 1953. We were loaded onto "cattle trucks" and taken to the "I" Corp reception center.

I remember seeing my first Korean female and thought "16 months is going to be a long time here." But, they began to look better and better as time went by.

After a few days doing the usual Army "wait and see" in Inchon, I arrived at Foxtrot Company, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th ID. I arrived in mid July of 1955 on the DMZ by way of the 24th Repo Depot at Munsan-Ni.

I was lucky enough to draw guard duty at the Repo Depot, where they

gave me a German Sheppard to patrol the fences to watch for Korean "Slick" Boys (thieves). When that dog heard tin cans rattle it was all I could do to hold him back.

The 34th's mission on the DMZ on the North side of the Imjin River was to create a delaying action in the event the NKA decided to end the cease fire. They briefed us by saying the bridges would be blown in the event of an attack and that if we weren't able to hold the line our way back across the river was via DUCKS.

Our being ordered to the front-line bunkers a couple days prior to the anniversary of the cease fire was an exciting, and somewhat scary experience. The daily routine consisted of around the clock daily patrols (vehicular and on foot), guard details, work details to repair and improve the fortifications along our side of the DMZ, improvements to our company and battalion areas, and of course, thinking about winter coming on because we were still living in squad tents.

When we were really feeling sorry for ourselves, it only took remembering what those before us had done to bring the war to a cease fire to get us back to reality.

Like all GI's throughout the history of our country we all wished we were back home, and Christmas 1955 was a day I will never forget.

We sat around singing Christmas

carols and sharing gift boxes of goodies from home.

Every company in the 34th was under strength when I arrived. They had arrived that way after having been deployed from Japan to replace the 1st Cavalry in late 1954 or early 1955.

The only officer assigned to our unit was a 1st Lt who was our CO. We had a very capable Field First in MSGT Julian McGee, Durham, NC and a First Sgt, MSGT Robert Cosby, Aliquippa, PA. (Cosby was my platoon leader when I first arrived but was later promoted to First Sgt.) Most of the platoon leaders were SFC's.

I was assigned to the 1st Platoon and issued a BAR. I only weighed in at 140 pounds and it didn't take me long to decide there had to be a better job than lugging around a 20 pound weapon.

So, I volunteered (yes volunteered) to replace the company clerk when his drop came to rotate home. What I didn't know when I volunteered was that when we went into the field or to the DMZ, I became the CO's radio operator!

Capt Heard liked to run. On road marches we would start at the head of the column but he liked to stop and let the entire company go by to check out the men. Then we would run back to the head of the column.

( Continued on page 8)





There was a lot of interesting reading in the old morning reports. Now I wish I had a copy machine.

At one point during the war Fox-trot's manpower included a Captain, one MSGT and 4 enlisted men. Everyone else had been KIA, wounded or captured.

We had 40 plus KATUSA's (Koreans Attached to the United States Army) assigned to our company to bring the platoon up nearer full strength. But, even with these guys my rifle platoon only had 7- man squads and four of the 7 were KATUSA's.

Later, the units were brought up to full strength and we had a full contingent of officers including Captain Richard T. Heard, San Antonio, TX as the CO.

I'll never forget one young ROTC 2d Lt (I think his name was Riser) that joined us, prior to Capt Heard's assignment. He had the idea that he was going to shape the company up. He wanted to have full dress company formations twice a month with all our patches properly applied.

The NCO's had previously told us to turn in our Class A's to supply for storage because we wouldn't need them until we were lucky enough to draw R&R in Japan.

Prior to the initial dress formation some of us paid one of the house boys to sew the Taro Leaf patch on the Lt's uniform "up side down." The LT showed up at the formation all decked out and immediately knew how he was out of uniform.

No more dress uniforms until Capt Heard came on the scene.

Another memorable event was the first USO show I went to. Because we were classified as being in a war zone we were armed, but after a few guys shot off some rounds, the brass said no more ammo at USO shows.

In the Spring of 1956 we moved to the rear area near Paju-Ri having switched positions with either the 19th or 21st, I don't remember which.

The daily training continued which involved maneuvers with some other units doing simulated war games. On the plus side we moved into metal buildings that were a lot more comfortable as they had electricity all the time. And we could occasionally get a weekend pass to Seoul.

We also had a Community Center nearby that included a theater and snack bar run by the USO. A group of my friends, 12 in total, converged on the snack bar and placed our order for 36 hamburgers, 12 milkshakes and 24 orders of French fries. We had a great time.

We were still getting a monthly ration of 2 six-packs of 3.2 beer and 2 cartons of cigarettes, but since I didn't smoke or drink, I made some extra money selling or trading my ration to others.

We were still issued military script on paydays so when we had the opportunity to go on R&R we were able to exchange the script for Yen at Camp Drake in Japan.

I rotated home in October 1956 with

a seven-day delay in route in Honolulu where I had a great time meeting up with a couple guys I'd graduated high school with as their ships were in port.

The rumor was we were going to be reassigned somewhere in Europe as this was the time of the Hungarian Revolt.

I believe the 24th ID did finally rotate to Europe because one of my friends from Hawaii still had time before his enlistment was up and went with the unit.

I've been back to South Korea twice since 1956. Once was a pleasure trip (my wife said I wanted to find my foxhole) and we did have an opportunity to visit the old Regimental area near Paju-Ri. ROK forces had taken over the entire area and while we were able to make it up to Libby Bridge (Named for Medal of Honor winner, Sgt Libby) we weren't permitted to cross the Imjin.

In 2001 I returned to South Korea with my brother, Bernard R. Richardson who was with the 2nd Division. He had gone into Korea via Pusan just after the war started in 1950. He was with the 2nd ID Quartermaster in charge of fuel distribution all the way to the Yalu and back to Seoul.

He passed away last year but we talked many times about our trip back. It was a highlight for him as well as me.

We made the trip as part of the three year celebration of the end of

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8)

the war in 1953 at the invitation of the ROK Veteran's Association.

When we arrived at the Seoul International Airport (formerly K-19) there was a thirty man Honor Guard of Korean Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines lined up to greet us. We were treated like royalty and toured the country from Pusan to Panmunjom including the opportunity to go into one of the many caves the NKA had dug under the DMZ. Other than a small contingent of a US Army outfit at Panmunjom the entire sector had been turned over to the ROKA.

This is probably more than you have space for but it did me good to remember the many guys I served with; I wonder where they are now.

I've been able to keep in touch with

a few guys that live in Hawaii and interestingly enough, I was walking down the street in Lima, Ohio several years ago and saw a man coming toward me. I said, "is that you Gamble?" It was Oscar Gamble, one of the guys from Foxtrot. I've tried unsuccessfully to find others. One of the reasons I joined the Association was to find others.

I keep in touch with Jim Long from Huntington, IN; he and I grew up together and joined the army together under the buddy system. We were together through basic at Ft Bliss, Ft Carson and Ft Lewis until we rotated home from Korea in 1956.

I mustered out as an E-5 at Ft Hayes in Columbus, OH on 25 Jan 1958 having spent three great and important years growing up with the Army. Since becoming a member of the 24th IDA I, unfortunately

haven't become active. My plan was to attend the annual reunion in South Dakota but due to my wife's illness I had to forgo those plans. Unfortunately my wife, Ellen E. Van De Walle passed away on 31 Dec 2009. I'm planning to attend the next reunion in Niagara Falls.

Another dream I have, as a regular volunteer with Habitat for Humanity here in Hendersonville, NC is to lead or join a Habitat Global Village team to South Korea.

My wife and I served as team leaders with Habitat GV to Gliwice, Poland in 2006 and 2007. We were scheduled lead another team back to Poland in 2008 but her illness prevented us from doing so.

Glenn Richardson, 34th Inf, F  
128 Eagle Rock Trail  
Hendersonville, NC 28739  
828-697-1566

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**(President's Letter** *Continued from page 3)*

requests for application forms to join the 24th IDA. Many did not know the Association even existed until they read about it in the VFW magazine.

And this VFW contact also pointed out the need for a viable 24th IDA website (the one referenced by VFW, Norm Tredways' [www.victory24.org](http://www.victory24.org), is no longer operating). We want to create a new one, which should be a terrific recruiting tool. Since Tom has so much content, he has agreed to work on this project. Also helping Tom is Dan Oneil, one of our newer members. Merry wants to place historical information on the web too. And we have permission from Ms. Patricia Tredway, Norm's widow, to utilize some material from Norm's site that he had set up privately. So, I'm hopeful that we will have a website soon.

Donna and I are looking forward to seeing you in Buffalo September 26-29. Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your President.

*Mel Frederick*

ED Note: Since this also is my last *Taro Leaf*, I wish to thank Mel, and Gene Spicer before him, for the confidence each has shown in me as *Taro Leaf* editor. The Office of the Association President is more vital than most may realize. Mel and Gene dealt with issues perhaps beyond the ordinary scope of the position, and both dealt with them effectively and without involving Association membership, all the while keeping a stern hand on the Association tiller!

The state of your Association remains steadfastly firm! Thank you Mel; thank you Gene! Tom J Thiel



# Fraternization in Japan

From "*Gaijin Shogun*," by David J. Valley, 19th Infantry Regiment

Gen. MacArthur was always correct in his assessments of the common soldier's basic attitudes and interests, and what could be more basic to the soldier than sex, especially after living in a deprived state?

About fraternization he said, *"Sometimes my whole staff was lined up against me, but I knew what I was doing. After all, I had more experience. And most of the time I was right."*

His brief tour in occupied Germany after WWI had convinced him that banning social contacts with the defeated population was poor policy.

*"Soldiers will be soldiers,"* he said. He thought GIs were more interested in companionship than sex, anyhow, though he wasn't against that either. During one of his drives through the capital he saw an American soldier embracing a Japanese girl in a doorway, fondling her breasts. And she was responding likewise.

*"Look at that,"* the General said to Major Faubion Bowers. *"They keep trying to get me to stop all of this Madam Butterflying around. I won't do it. My father told me never to give an order unless I was certain it would be carried out. I wouldn't issue a non-fraternization order for all the tea in China."*

And fraternize the the GIs did. Certainly there were many devoted to wives or sweethearts at home, but the majority of the unattached young men had sex on their mind and made the most of it.



Much has been said about the sexual revolution of the 1960s; it wasn't entirely original. However, a significant difference between the sixties phenomenon and the behavior of GIs in Japan was the generally monogamous nature of the later. The impetus for this came mostly from the Japanese girls themselves; they were very critical of "cho-cho" boys, referring to the butterfly that flits from flower to flower.

Of course, prostitution was also widespread, but these girls generally did not form lasting relationships.

When the General said GIs were more interested in companionship than sex, this may have been overstated, but it was also true.

After GIs experimented a bit with prostitutes, they often decided that sex alone was not all that satisfying, and they sought companionship. With patience they could find nice Japanese girls who were interested in relationships. They could be found in public places or where they worked in support of Occupation operations: PXs, clubs, dance halls, restaurants, and shops.

Usually, families of these girls depended on them for financial assistance, not only from their day jobs, but also if they elected to co-habit, or "shack-up," a word popularized during the Occupation. A portion of the money or goods the girls received from their boyfriends often went to their families.

GIs by the thousands fell in love with the comely, sensitive, and satisfying Japanese girls. For many it was the first time they experienced a loving sexual relationship at all, or one of any duration.

Folks at home may have had difficulty understanding how this was possible with people of another race, but the GI saw the musime (girl) as a worthy object of his affection.

Over 25,000 GIs married Japanese during the Occupation, but unfortunately, like marriages of other young people, many were not to last. Ill-conceived marriages fell apart shortly after the servicemen returned to the States with their "war-brides."

Many difficulties were encountered as the couples tried to assimilate in American society. Divorce seemed an easy answer. Some of the rejected Japanese girls returned to their homeland. Some found others of similar plight and, with mutual support, they made a home for themselves in America.

There are also thousands of happy stories, of couples who experienced the hardships of a mixed race mar-

**(Fraternization** *Continued on page 11)*





riage in a less tolerant society—along with the usual challenges of marriage, but their love was true and strong, carrying them through the adversities.

### Bud and Masako

Here's Bud's story, and his trial of youthful romance. Bud was smitten by Masako, a beautiful girl with intelligence, poise and charm.

Masako modeled for a department store and worked at a taxi dance hall, the Club Oasis Dance Hall on the Ginza. It was in a basement below the present day Matsuzakaya department store.

The club was quite large, with a low ceiling which later in the evening captured a cloud of blue tobacco smoke that would have downed the less hearty.

By the entry was a cashier's booth where dance tickets were purchased. Dance tickets were about ten cents each, but it took ten for a dance set, and if the patron wasn't alert his dance partner might cop extras from his string.

A large bottle of beer was 100 yen, or about thirty cents at the time.

The girls, standing along a side wall, were not all great lookers, but there was someone for everyone. To the discerning eye it didn't take long to pick out the more exceptional girls; they didn't wait long for a partner.



Something must be said about the music. The musicians were relatively young Japanese with just enough skill to read music or follow a popular tune with something recognizable, but for most not very well.

What was more akimbo was the singing, as few Japanese had the skill to pronounce the words they sang. Some may have had good voices, but if so, they were lost in the mangling of the language. As bad as it might have been however, it was great nonetheless to hear popular American music and have the opportunity to dance with pretty girls.

When Bud first spotted Masako at the Club Oasis he felt an immediate kah-thump in his chest and, as we say now, "he was history."

But she didn't go for him right away; in fact, after depleting most of his funds on dance tickets, Bud had the impression she didn't think much of him at all.

Meanwhile his buddy Rod, was making headway with another girl who was a friend of Masako's. With Rod's

help they arranged a daytime date for the foursome, during which Masako agreed to see Bud again, alone. He was soaring with excitement; oh young love, oh those carnal thoughts.

They met on the Ginza and walked from one end to the other, window shopping and stopping along the way for refreshments.

Masako looked beautiful and was very stylishly dressed, uncommonly so for a Japanese girl at that time.

He learned later that she modeled and designed her own clothes from American magazines. Her English was fair and she helped him with Japanese.

It was a great time, and he finally mustered the nerve to say, "I know a nice hotel near here (they were all over the place)." She laughed and said, "Is that all you want?" To salvage his ego, he laughed with her and didn't press the matter.

On subsequent dates, during which Bud was experiencing ever intensifying hormonal attacks, Masako took him to her family's residence, outside Tokyo in Denenchofu, where he met her sister and father. He later met her

**(Fraternization** continued on page 12)



mother, a very friendly warm-hearted mama-san, who operated a small sake bar in Oimachi.

All this time Bud was romancing to his utmost with no success. Masako then told him she wouldn't go to a hotel, only to a place of their own.

This was scary concept to a twenty year old with no thoughts of a committed relationship, but his intense affection and rising level of hormones convinced him.

Their "arrangement" meant renting a room and buying furnishings. It was big dough on a corporal's pay, but he had some money in the States saved while in Korea.

Masako found a place in Oimachi, a room in a small Japanese home, with access to a kitchen and toilet. For bathing there was a public bath about two blocks away.

For about a year it was a grand romance as Bud spent most of his free time with Masako when she was not working.

Occasionally, he would sit at the sake bar while Masako helped her mother; the patrons seemed to accept the company of the American soldier.

They went to Japanese movies he didn't understand, occasionally to American films at the Ernie Pyle Theater, to the beach at Atami with a mad time at a hot springs hotel there, shopping excursions for Masako to find fabric or trimmings for her dresses, to many restaurants, and much more.

It was great, but it went sour mostly due to Bud's juvenile jealousy. Masako

continued to work at the Club Oasis, where Bud frequently looked on as she plied her trade.

He thought she was too friendly with her customers. She told him that if he gave her enough money, she would quit her job, but that wasn't possible on his pay and didn't sit well with him. Although it was a practical matter for her, he believed she was only interested in his money.

They began fighting, especially when he had too much to drink, and within a couple months before Bud's leaving for the States, they parted less than friendly.

But there is a sequel to the story—albeit mysterious.

After a four-year courtship with a local hometown girl, while completing college on the GI Bill, Bud married. He had shared stories and pictures of Japan, including those of his Japanese girlfriend Masako. She took it with good grace, not concerned about an old affair.

In the late 80s, Bud and his wife were living in Tokyo where he was involved in business. Frequently on weekends they would take the train into Tokyo, for shopping and sightseeing.

One Sunday afternoon when returning to their stop at Shinagawa Station, Bud noticed an attractive Japanese woman standing across from where they were seated.

She looked directly at him, which was most unusual in Japan. There was a resemblance he couldn't quite place, but then it occurred to him.

He said to his wife, "Check out the woman by the door, she looks like my

old girlfriend might look today."

As they traveled Bud noticed she glanced at him and his curiosity began to rise.

Since Oimachi, where he had lived with Masako, was only a couple stops further on the same line, Bud suggested that they go there to the local department store. His wife gave him a reproving smile and agreed.

When they got off the train at Oimachi, so did the mystery woman! As she turned away, she looked at Bud again over her shoulder.

By this time, the coincidence upon coincidence was beginning to raise Bud's hackles. But they lost her in the crowd as they proceeded to the department store.

Later as they walked back to the station, Bud took a route that would bring them past the former location of Masako's mother's sake shop. As they turned the corner, the mystery woman was standing about where the shop had been.

Bud went into shock! He exchanged a glance with the Japanese woman and walked by, hardly breathing.

He said to his wife, "That must be her."

His wife asked him to stop and talk, but he couldn't...he didn't know why.

Years later he decided it was better to keep a memory alive than learn it was an illusion.

David J. Valley  
PO Box 501005  
San Diego CA 92150-1005  
Ph: 858-485-7550  
dvalley1@san.rr.com



# "ELFIR IM"—A Soldier's New Love

It was the last week of March 1951; war was raging up and down the Korean peninsula. The exhausted soldier was trying to recuperate from the stress of front line duty. It was called company rest and reserve to be ready for the next enemy onslaught.

The GI spent a lazy afternoon brooding over the anxiety of survival from the dangers of battle. Then a mischievous idea suddenly flashed in his mind. So, with pen and paper at hand, he wrote:

"Elfir IM is her name. She is my constant companion. I cuddle with her each night. She is a beauty; very well proportioned, and very deadly in her own right. She makes me se-



Elfir IM

cure in my hope to survive this dangerous assignment. I shall send you a picture of her when we might pose together."

It was a disaster when the letter reached the soldier's sweetheart. She read it once and crumpled it into a tiny ball slamming it in outrage to the rubbish can at the dark corner of her room. Later, for some reason, she retrieved it.

Sobbing, she pleaded: "Why did he do this to me? Doesn't he know I have been fervently praying for his safety and quick return from war? That I have asked God to send him back to me on my birthday; that would be the greatest gift God could give. I shall send him a bitter reply.

Yes, a letter of indignation. He is so unfaithful, so inconsiderate. And me in the midst of my final semester exam, oh how could he be so cruel?"

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.

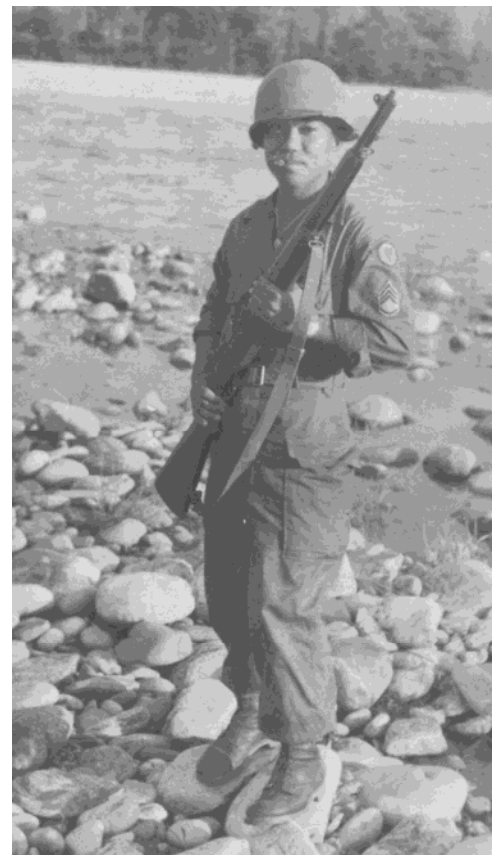
Her words came back to the soldier sharp and penetrating!

The soldier regretted his futile effort at an April fool joke he

didn't think needed explanation.

He replied right away that "Elfir IM" was, "M1 Rifle" spelled backwards.

She was embarrassed at her outburst! And he at his foolish joke! They took turns apologizing to each other. It was a blissful reconciliation; and yes how sweet it was!



Rumbaoa

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**(Chaplain** *Continued from page 4)*

from Iraq. So, we are staying pretty busy taking him to his appointments.

My verse is from 1 John 3-16. This is how we know what love is. Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. In Jesus Christ Lord.

Chaplain Glen Carpenter





# First on Korea's front lines, medic risks life to save others

By Jeff Redman, *The Mountaineer*, NC, [redman@themountaineer.com](mailto:redman@themountaineer.com), 828-452-0661 ext. 134



Lane at Ft. Hood

*Canton, NC, Sunday, March 28, 2010:* On Sunday, June 25, 1950, North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel into South Korea, dramatically escalating ongoing conflicts between the two nations and thrusting the Asian peninsula into war. President Harry Truman responded to the incursion of communist forces with an order to

America's military to halt the advance.

The invasion and Truman's response came at a time when most American forces in the region were occupying post-war Japan. One Haywood County (NC) man was among those forces; Bill Lane was serving as a medic in the Army's 24th Infantry Division.

"I had just come in from chapel service," Lane said of hearing the news of the invasion. "I didn't really know where Korea was at the time."

That Sunday, Lane and his fellow servicemen were put on alert and within the week were deployed to South Korea as the first American forces engaged in battle there. Their mission was to slow the North Korean advance until more American forces could arrive to fight the North Koreans back.

"We knew we'd be shipping out," Lane said, adding that he spent his days more focused on making sure his personal items were in order and ready to be shipped home. "Being as young as I was, I think was a little too brave sometimes."

Arriving at a port on the western shore of the Korean peninsula, Lane and his fellow soldiers found they needed plenty of bravery. The North Koreans were advancing south, pushing fleeing South Korean civilians ahead of them. The 24th Infantry Division set up its headquarters in Taejon, but battles in the advance to Taejon had left it weak and with little available communication to other American forces. Lane remembers being in Taejon

on July 25th when the city was overrun.

"The North Koreans had tanks all over town," he said. "They shot a hole in a (medical) aid station which was in a school. It was chaos all that day."

By mid-afternoon, Lane said, the division had orders to evacuate the town. Outnumbered and outgunned by the North Koreans, the American forces were attacked relentlessly on the way out of Taejon.

"We got pinned down all afternoon," Lane said.

An attack on Lane's convoy flipped a truck in which several soldiers were riding.

"There was so much shooting going on, we couldn't get up and go," he said. "We had to stay in ditches to stay out of harm's way."

Lane found the cover he needed at nightfall to try to rescue the soldiers pinned under the truck. He put together a small group to sneak up to the truck and free the soldiers.

"We discovered that three or four of our personnel were pinned under the truck," Lane said. While he was looking under the truck asking if everyone was all right,

Lane said he heard a familiar voice.

"I heard a voice say, 'Lane, is that you?'" he said. "It was my best friend."

Quietly, Lane and others jacked the truck up to free the trapped soldiers. As they started to move the truck, its horn started blowing, forcing them to free the soldiers in a hurry and find cover. Lane said they put the injured on a half-track and



Lane at Sasebo, Japan, 1951

traveled slowly at night.

*(Continued on page 15)*



(Continued from page 14)

"Everything was at a standstill all day," Lane said. At night, they'd find more injured soldiers and put them on the half-tracks.

"We'd put as many troops that could hang on," he said.

For his efforts in aiding and leading wounded troops to safety, Lane was awarded the Silver Star, the third-highest decoration awarded to a member of any branch of American armed forces. The citation details Lane's heroism.

"During the entire period he was in Taejon, he aided in giving medical attention and evacuating over 30 wounded men," the citation reads.

Lane continued serving in Korea until New Year's Eve, when Chinese forces entered the conflict and engaged Lane's unit in battle.

"There were flares everywhere," Lane said. "You could see the enemies coming up."

Lane's service and the efforts of his comrades in the 24th Infantry on the Korean peninsula came with a tremendous toll — thousands of men were killed and thousands more taken prisoner of war, including the division's commander, Maj. Gen. William F. Dean. In spite of the losses, the division was able to slow the North Korean advance enough to allow American forces to set up important perimeters that held vital South Korean territories.

Lane was shot in the wrist during the New Year's battle



Lane at Haywood NC Regional Medical Center.

with Chinese forces — a wound that would end his service in Korea. It wouldn't, however, end his service to the Army.

Lane retired from the Army in 1972 after serving as a medic both stateside and overseas, including a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam in 1968. After his military retirement, Lane continued working in the medical field, retiring from 22 years as a

lab technician at Haywood Regional Medical Center.

Today, Lane and his wife, Betty, travel the country attending Army reunions and connecting with veterans. As a member of the 24th Infantry Division Association, Lane says he and his wife have "put a lot of miles on the car" staying in touch with friends and fellow servicemen. (See color photo of Lane at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin in 2009 on page 46.)

Lane said that anyone who's served in the 24th Infantry Division interested in joining him at reunions can contact him at [wdlanejr@yahoo.com](mailto:wdlanejr@yahoo.com) (Reprinted with permission)

William D. Lane, 8 Pearson Place, Canton NC 28716-5830, 828-648-1717, 34th Inf., Med



Contact your Representative NOW!

In order to be granted permission to place this memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, it must have the support of every member of the House of Representatives!



MANCHURIA  
YALU RIVER  
NORTH KOREA  
DEC 1950



# WAITING FOR DAWN

BY JOHN J BAKER

Waiting for Dawn

Nov. 27-30, 1950

After four nights of snow, and four days of fog with no sun, I knew we were in for a break in the -30 degree weather.

Harry cried: "Johnny look! It's the sun! That's east. That's Tokyo; let's head

south. Let's go home."

But that was wishful thinking, the only people that would be going home were those in body bags.

General MacArthur said he would have the troops home by Christmas, but he didn't say which year. The war and its misery would go on for three more years.

So, with Harry on my back we plowed through the snow heading south. Harry had a 9mm Russian slug in his right chest, and a bayonet wound in his lower stomach, left side. Each step I took was a jolt of pain to Harry's body; the last morphine I had I gave him at 0200 and it was now 0930!

I was afraid we would run into a Chinese patrol, what a target we made! I was looking for an American unit; one with a medical aid station.

Just before noon, I noticed Harry had stopped talking. I said: "Hey—say some-

Planned Book

thing Harry!" His steel helmet slid off to the snow below, and I slid my hand over his wrist for a pulse. I said: "Harry, not now! Stay with me, you are going home!"

I tied Harry's combat boots together so he would not fall off, and placed his left arm over my left shoulder with my left hand holding him tight. I was determined to bring him home, not leave him here in "No man's land."

Sometime later I found that American unit, an artillery unit with a medical doctor. Unfortunately, he would be able to do Harry no good.

We had big plans, Harry and I. I was going to take him to Philadelphia and introduce him to pretzels on a stick with mustard, and Philly Cheese cake. And show him the Liberty Bell at City Hall.

War causes many empty dreams.

John J. Baker  
839 Newton St.  
Monterey CA 93940-9394  
Ph: 831-375-3328

(Continued from page 2)

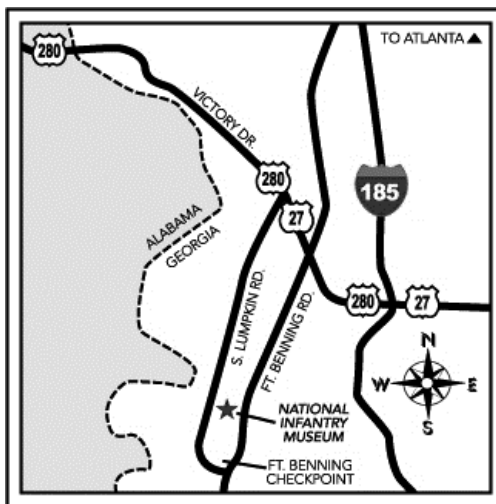
squad leader of an American-Vietnamese exploitation force operating deep within enemy controlled territory. Ed's son Zach is one of us (see Vol 63(1), page 45).

The Museum, which opened last year, is located outside the gates to Fort Benning, in Columbus, Georgia; it is just off Fort Benning Road, about two miles south of Victory Drive.

If you are using a GPS, enter 3800 South Lumpkin Road, Columbus, Georgia 31903,

National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center, 1775 Legacy Way, Columbus, Georgia 31903, 706-685-5800.

Admission is free but they accept contributions.



There is an excellent article on the Museum in the April 2010 issue of the VFW Magazine.

Make your visit to the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center now to honor all those who have earned and protected our freedoms for 234 years.

You may want to schedule your Museum visit to coincide with the Infantry Museum's inaugural ball on August 14 when Association Life

Member 1270, Gen Barry McCaffrey (a longtime supporter of the museum project) will be the guest speaker.

The Museum's web site home page is very interesting: it is <http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com/>

I heartily recommend every Taro Leafer go to the Museum; the Division is well presented there! TJThiel





# Remember Pearl Harbor— Keep America Alert!"

by John E. Joniec, "E" 19th Infantry Regiment.  
From Inside Dust Jacket

Remember Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, a "Day of Infamy."

I was with "E" Company, Second Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Division, Schofield Barracks. We fought back at the Japanese planes December 7th, 7:55 am. Went to Brisbane and Rockhampton, Port Moresby, Goodenough Island and fought in Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, in 1943.

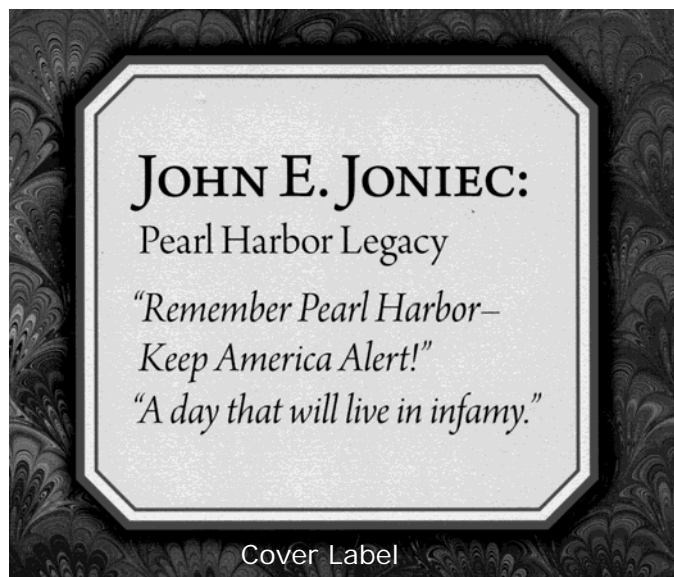
Returned to the United States on December 31st, 1944. Discharged from Fort Dix June 1945. I had served from March 1941 without furlough or R&R.

I married Anne Sysol, my wife, on May 5th, 1945. When Anne died she made a request, and was granted, to be covered in my Army coat as it was what she enjoyed when I came home from overseas and hugged her that day. I told her I would bring the original shirt when I die.

To Anne, my wife and eternal love, and to our children, Theresa, John Jr., and Michael, who blessed us with their arrival and who have enriched our lives ever since.

A scene from his boyhood in the early '30's flashed to mind. He and his father are on the docks in Port Richmond, watching scrap iron and steel being loaded onto ships bound for Japan. His father warns: "Someday they're going to use that stuff against you guys."

John E. Joniec , Life - #140  
19th Infantry Regiment, "E" Company  
3312 Edgemont St.  
Philadelphia PA 19134-5306  
Ph:215-634-6626



## Book Review

### Chronology (Contents)

- \* Letter to Anne—July 1941
- \* "For Pa. vet, Pearl Harbor is always near," by Art Carey, Philadelphia Inquirer, December 2009
- \* Oral history of John E. Joniec for The Library of Congress Veterans History Project
- \* Pearl Harbor Survivors Association—"Navy Will Toast 1941 Attacker" (Counterattack)
- \* "Japan's New Mood—Cause for Concern in U.S."—movie filmed at taxpayers expense
- \* Philadelphia Daily News Articles from December 3, 1991
- \* "The Pineapple Soldier" poem written by son, John F. Joniec
- \* Certificates of Appreciation: City Council Citation, WWII Memorial, American Legion



# Independence Day 1945

*Mindanao, The Philippines, by Douglas Thornton, B Company, 34th*

A pesky machine gun on our left flank had stalled us as we were advancing on a narrow, unpaved, curvy road, somewhere in the area of Tuli, Mindanao.

It was July 3, 1945. Nothing seemed to work and we were not advancing. Since my squad wasn't committed, I spent most of the day sprawled next to a dead water buffalo. Its carcass was made particularly appealing by the hordes of maggots that were feeding on its decaying flesh. It was also my companion that night.

But at dawn of July 4, the machine gun had pulled out and we again began to continue our advance. Another company was on the point. Within a few minutes, we heard firing ahead of us. B Company pulled off the road and my squad sprawled at the bottom a small hill. Charlie Card, my good buddy from Mt. Vernon, Ohio, who always strived to live up to his last name, pulled out a deck of cards.

But our quiet little game of Hearts was soon interrupted by a loud bel- low: "Sgt. Thornton, get your squad up here on the double!"

With the usual groans and sick feel- ings in our bellies, we went.

"Thornton, here's what you've got to do. The Lieutenant got his damn pla- toon pinned down by the little bas- tards. Finally had to pull back. Left two men out there. Might be alive; might be dead. You and your squad and some stretcher bearers are going back to the area with The Lieutenant

and see what you can find out about these missing men. Get going!"

This Lieutenant turned out to be a recently-arrived officer replacement. We combat veterans exercised the epitome of timidity and caution in advancing to the vicinity of the pin- down, but not this juvenile John Wayne. Apparently, he had received his instructions by watching B grade war movies.

To our astonishment, he actually pulled grenade pins with his teeth! Then, as he dropped these grenades into the unoccupied holes, he vio- lently bellowed: "Take that, you little yellow sonovabitches! That'll show you you shouldn't fool with my pla- toon. I hope that blows your ass to Kingdom Come."

If I hadn't been so scared, I would have died laughing. The Japs had pulled back, but you better believe that every one within a mile knew our position. Any moment I ex- pected mortars to commence falling!

I was at the front of our little column covering this stupid JERK with my Thompson Sub when he screamed, "Grenade!"

One of his nervous tosses missed a hole and the grenade was coming back down the hill right toward us. We all hit the dirt. I hit the ground face away and above the grenade on the side of a hill. It went off, and I felt a heavy, bruising feeling, as a small fragment tore into my left hip!

Glen Gosnell of Shamrock, Texas yelled: "You okay, Thornton?"

Grimacing with pain, I triumphantly held up fingers signifying Purple Heart-five points towards discharge!

Gosnell's reply was sympathetic, ten- der and caressing: "You Lucky Son- of-a Bitch!"

By mid-September, I was discharged from the hospital and returned to a post-combat B Company, staging to occupy Japan.

Shortly after my return, I was sum- moned to Battalion Headquarters. To my amazement, a staff officer in- formed me that I had been recom- mended for the Silver Star (However, I never received it).

Then, to my further astonishment, he continued, "We are also recom- mending the Lieutenant for the Medal of Honor for his great bravery on July 4 when you were wounded; we would appreciate your telling us what happened. We feel that the Lieutenant deserves the Medal of Honor, and we know that your testi- mony will help him to get it."

Too happy that the war was over to make a scene, I replied: "Be glad to do it, sir."

And I did.

I now know the Lieutenant never received the Medal of Honor. But, in retrospect, I have often wondered whether I was recommended for the

*(Continued on page 19)*



# Officer Elections for 2010-11 to be at Reunion

It is time to seriously consider our Association Officers for 2010-11.

New officers and one Director at Large will be voted on at the Annual Corporate Convention at the Reunion in Buffalo, NY, Wednesday, September 29 after the Saturday Members Breakfast. This is the Member Meeting.

Only an Active Member as defined by our Constitution and Bylaws may be nominated and serve.

“Active Membership is defined as any person who has served as a member of the 24th Infantry Division, or as a member of a unit that

either is now or ever has been at any time attached to the Division.”

“The Officers of the Corporation, and one of the two Board Members at Large (these alternate on an even odd yearly basis), shall be elected annually by the Legislative Body (members) at its annual meeting.” All are for one-year terms except for the At Large Director, which is for two years.

If you would like to serve, or would like to nominate a fellow member to serve, you may do so by contacting any of the Committee now or at the meeting in Buffalo.

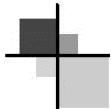
Keith Hagen is again serving as Chair of the Nominating Committee; members are: Dan Rickert , Dan Cretaro, and Tom Thiel.

Keith Hagen, Chair  
41091 Ingersol Road  
Concrete, WA 98237-9778  
Ph: (360) 826-3695, [ha-genka@verizon.net](mailto:ha-genka@verizon.net) ,

Dan Rickert 949-215-7553,

Dan Cretaro, 210-653-2251,  
[dac2729@aol.com](mailto:dac2729@aol.com), and

Tom Thiel 352-357-3943  
[thetaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:thetaroleaf@gmail.com)



*(Continued from page 18)*

Silver Star, for which I did nothing to deserve, as an inducement to support the Lieutenant's recommendation for the Medal of Honor. Of course, I'll never know.

I know one thing. I wasn't much of a soldier, but it was a heck of a note when someone is recommended for the Medal of Honor for putting me out of action!

###

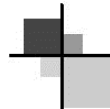
End Notes:

1) Some years ago, Charlie Card was transferred to Houston, TX, and subsequently retired there. We remained friends with the Cards through the

decades. After my first wife's death in 2002, I moved to Houston to be near my daughter. Sadly, Charlie died of cancer as I was packing to make the move.

2) When I returned to B Company after my hospital stay, one of my friends told me that he had heard that Lt. Jones had led another patrol back to where his group had been ambushed. They found the bodies of the two GIs that had been left behind. The Battalion had been removed from the area on July 5; these two poor GI's had almost made it through the war!

Douglas W. Thornton, Co. B,  
34th Infantry Regiment, WWII.  
2115 Rosefield Dr.  
Houston TX 77080-6438  
(713) 467-9171



Send Your Story,  
Looking For,  
or Letter

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[24thtaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:24thtaroleaf@gmail.com)

or

PO Box 500907  
San Diego, CA 92150-0907

**Now!**  
**Photos Desired**





# 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association 64th Reunion Itinerary

September 26-29, 2010

~~ **Buffalo, New York** ~~

*To be held at the Millennium Airport Hotel. Room rates are \$99 per night. Parking at the hotel and airport transportation are free. A hospitality room stocked with snacks, beverages and cocktails will be provided each day.*

Our new Taro Leaf editor advises that he will not be attending the Buffalo reunion and has requested that he be sent reports and pictures from those who attend. David J. Valley,  
PO BOX 500907, San Diego CA 92150-0907,  
(858) 485-7550, [24thtaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:24thtaroleaf@gmail.com)

## **Sunday September 26**

*2 pm Registration and Hospitality Room opens*

*Dinner On Your Own*

## **Monday September 27**

*9 am – 5 pm Tour Niagara Falls—Casino Niagara*

*Dinner On Your Own*

## **Tuesday September 28**

*9 am Board of Directors Meeting*

*9 am – 5:00 pm Tour of Graycliff-Buffalo Naval Yard*

*6-10 pm Aloha Banquet Dinner and Dance\**

## **Wednesday September 29**

*9 am Member Breakfast, to be followed immediately by the*

*Annual Corporation Convention Member Meeting*

*New Board of Directors Organizational Meeting*

*9-11 am Ladies Breakfast & Entertainment*

*5-10 pm Memorial Banquet Dinner and Program\**

~~~~~

*\* Banquet table seating arrangements will be designated at time of registration.*

**Call the Millennium Airport Hotel at 800-323-3331, no later than August 1, 2010, to make your hotel reservations. Ask for the 24th IDA \$99 rate.**

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

**For More Information, Contact: Sal Schillaci, 716-837-1635.**

**The Reunion BRAT—Phone: 360-663-2521; email: [Info@TheReunionBRAT.com](mailto:Info@TheReunionBRAT.com)**

**If you are going to Canada, you need your valid Passport to re-enter the U.S.**



# 24TH IDA 64th REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

*September 26-29, 2010*

***YES SIGN ME UP FOR 24<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY ASSOCIATION 2010 REUNION!!!***

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY \_\_\_\_\_

IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION? YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEAL SELECTIONS:

ALOHA PORK LOIN \_\_\_\_\_ ORANGE ROUGHY \_\_\_\_\_ VEGETABLE \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORIAL CHICKEN \_\_\_\_\_ SIRLOIN \_\_\_\_\_ VEG LASAGNA \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION FEES

REGISTRATION FEE (REQUIRED) # PERSONS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

ALOHA BANQUET # PERSONS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_

MENS BREAKFAST # PERSONS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

LADIES BREAKFAST #PERSONS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORIAL BANQUET #PERSONS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$46 = \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED .....** \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN August 1, 2010**

**PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE  
ADDRESS BELOW, AND MADE PAY-  
ABLE TO:**

## **THE REUNION BRAT**

**50721 State Hwy 410 E  
Greenwater, WA 98022  
(360) 663-2521**

***A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event (prior to August 26). Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable.***

***Note1: Tour Registration is separate—see pg.22.***

***Note2: If you plan to go to Canada, be sure to have your valid passport as re-entry to the U. S. requires one.***



# 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association Reunion

**September 26-29, 2010**

**~~ Buffalo, New York ~~**

**Make Your Reservations with the Hotel**



## Address

2040 Walden Avenue  
Cheektowaga (Buffalo), New York 14225  
Telephone: 800.323.3331 or 716.681.2400  
Facsimile: 716.681.8067  
Toll-Free Reservations: 866.866.8086  
Email address: buffalo@mhrmail.com  
Website: www.millenniumhotels.com  
Worldwide GDS Code: MU

**Ask for the  
\$99 rate**



## TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NIAGRA FALLS TOUR #PERSONS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$55 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

GRAYCLIFF/NAVAL PARK #PERSONS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$55 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE ADDRESS BELOW, AND MADE PAYABLE TO:**

**24th IDA Reunion Tours**  
**c/o Sal Schillaci**  
**59 Endicott Drive**  
**Amherst, NY 14226-3323**  
**716-837-1635**  
**ssrecon24@roadrunner.com**

**PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN August 1, 2010.**

A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event (prior to August 26). Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable. **Note1: Reunion registration is separate—see pg. 20. Note2: If you are going to Canada, you need your valid Passport to re-enter the U.S.**

**If you are going to Canada,  
you need your valid Passport  
to re-enter the U.S.**

Our new *Taro Leaf* editor will not be attending the Buffalo reunion and requests that he be sent reports and pictures from those who attend. David J. Valley, PO BOX 500907, San Diego CA 92150-0907, (858) 485-7550, [24thtaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:24thtaroleaf@gmail.com)





# The Taro Leaf

Vol. 63, No. 4 Fall 2009 The Official Quarterly Publication of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Assoc.



## President

Melvin L. Frederick – 19<sup>th</sup> Inf.  
950 W. Barney  
Owatonna, MN 55060-3800  
Summer MN 507-455-1639  
Winter CA 760-772-7909  
[melfrederick@msn.com](mailto:melfrederick@msn.com)

## Vice President

Salvatore Schillaci— 24<sup>th</sup> Recon  
59 Endicott Drive  
Amherst, NY 14226-3323  
716-837-1635  
[ssrecon24@roadrunner.com](mailto:ssrecon24@roadrunner.com)

## Secretary/Treasurer

John A. Dunn—2nd Infantry  
9150 Hwy. 51  
Westover, AL 35147-9527  
205-678-6165  
[jokdunn@aol.com](mailto:jokdunn@aol.com)

## Directors at Large:

**Loyal Vincent (2011)** 2nd Infantry  
5120 N 159th Circle  
Omaha, NE 68116-4079  
402-496-6570 [corkyi@msn.com](mailto:corkyi@msn.com)

## John J. Slattery (2010) 2nd Inf.

7924 SE Double Tree Drive  
Hobe Sound, FL 33455-8123  
772-283-7810 [jjstf@aol.com](mailto:jjstf@aol.com)

## Taro Leaf Editor

David J. Valley  
PO BOX 500907  
San Diego CA 92150-0907  
858) 485-7550  
[24thtaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:24thtaroleaf@gmail.com)

## Historian

Merry Helm  
420 8th Avenue South  
Fargo ND 58103-2828  
701-293-5045  
[52pianos@cablone.net](mailto:52pianos@cablone.net)

## Chaplain

Glenn Carpenter, Jr. 21st Inf.  
8073 West 10-1/2 Mile Road  
Irons MI 49644-8404  
231-266-5283  
[chaplincarp@hotmail.com](mailto:chaplincarp@hotmail.com)

## Membership

Joseph R. McMahon – 34<sup>th</sup> Inf  
4427 Green Valley Drive  
Arnold, MO 63010-3407  
636-296-7385  
[jmahon31@aol.com](mailto:jmahon31@aol.com)

## DIRECTORS

| NAME                | YEARS     | UNIT            | PHONE         | ST. |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-----|
| Gene E. Spicer      | 2006-2008 | 19th Inf. Regt. | 812-273-6996  | IN  |
| Wes Morrison        | 2003-2006 | 21st Inf. Regt. | 831-883-2156  | CA  |
| James F. Hill       | 2000-2001 | 19th Inf. Regt. | 770-998-3749  | GA  |
| Thomas Cochran      | 1997-1998 | 34th Inf. Regt. | 931-647-4793  | TN  |
| James F. Hill       | 1995-1996 | 19th Inf. Regt. | 770-998-3749  | GA  |
| Vincent Gagliardo   | 1993-1994 | 5th RCT         | 415-279-1982  | CA  |
| Albert McAdoo       | 1991-1992 | 5th RCT         | 813-837-2728  | FL  |
| Donald C. Rosenblum | 1987-1988 | Div. HQ         | 912-233-6717  | GA  |
| Warren C. Avery     | 1986-1987 | 21st Inf. Regt. | 203-239-3406  | CT  |
| Richard C. Watson   | 1985-1986 | 19th Inf. Regt. | 765 -378-3721 | IN  |
| John R. Shay        | 1983-1984 | 21st Inf. Regt. | 708-724-5133  | IL  |
| John E. Klump       | 1977-1978 | 34th Inf. Regt. | 812-623-4336  | IN  |
| William C. Muldoon  | 1970-1971 | 19th Inf. Regt. | 941-743-7179  | FL  |
| Donald C. Williams  | 1968-1969 | 34th Inf. Regt. | 586-566-4627  | MI  |

**The Taro Leaf** is the official quarterly of the 24th Infantry Division Association, a 501(c)19 non-profit organization, and is published by and for its members. Opinions expressed or implied are solely those of their author(s), and not necessarily those of the Editor, the Association, or the Department of the Army. The **Taro Leaf** is printed in Leesburg, Florida, and mailed from the Leesburg Post Office.

Editor: David J. Valley  
Address: PO BOX 500907  
City: San Diego CA 92150-0907  
Telephone: 858) 485-7550(  
Email: [24thtaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:24thtaroleaf@gmail.com)

Printer: Leesburg Printing Company  
3606 Parkway Blvd.  
Leesburg, FL 34748  
800-828-3348  
[www.leesburgprinting.com](http://www.leesburgprinting.com)

**Publication Guidelines:** Please send all **TAPS notices, Manuscripts, and Articles to the Editor** at above address. You may send either electronically as email attachments in text (word processor) format, or by USPS as typed or printed originals. Short handwritten material is acceptable, but may be incorporated as is in a graphic image. Articles may be limited to **two or three pages typewritten**.

**PHOTOGRAPHS are desired for TAPs and all articles**, and may be submitted in electronic format (300 dpi resolution or higher, please) 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.**

## Quartermaster

Vacant

## 2010 Reunion Prg. Chair

Salvatore Schillaci— 24<sup>th</sup> Recon  
59 Endicott Drive  
Amherst, NY 14226-3323  
716-837-1635  
[ssrecon24@roadrunner.com](mailto:ssrecon24@roadrunner.com)

## Taro Leaf Deadlines and Publication Dates

| VOL | NO | ISSUE  | DEADLINE     | DELIVERY  |
|-----|----|--------|--------------|-----------|
| 64  | 4  | Fall   | Oct. 1, 2010 | Nov. 2010 |
| 65  | 1  | Winter | Jan. 1, 2011 | Feb. 2011 |
| 65  | 2  | Spring | Apr. 1, 2011 | May 2011  |
| 65  | 3  | Summer | Jul. 1, 2011 | Aug. 2011 |





# THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



I desire to be: Enrolled ☐ (or) Reinstated ☐; as a Member ☐ (or) Associate Member ☐  
(please check the proper two boxes)

*of the*  
**24th "Victory Division" Association**  
The Greatest Combat Division the United States Army has ever known.

☐ **Annual Dues - \$15.00 (1) Year From date of joining in The Association.**

☐ **Life Member - \$150.00 Payable in one sum or 5 yearly payments of \$30.00 each.**

~~~~~

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE+4 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

***Served IN the 24th Division, OR was Member of Any Unit Ever Attached TO the 24th at any time.***

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Squad \_\_\_\_\_ Plt/Bat \_\_\_\_\_ Co \_\_\_\_\_ Bn \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., 5th, 19th, 21st, 3rd Eng., etc.)

Location Served: \_\_\_\_\_ From (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_ To (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., Pearl H., WWII, Japan, Korea, Germany, Ft. Stuart, Lebanon, Somalia, Desert Storm, Ft. Riley, etc.)

POW: From (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_ To (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Unit Served With: \_\_\_\_\_ From (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_ To (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks in above amount payable to the **"24th Infantry Division Association"**  
And mail with this completed application to:

**John A. Dunn, Secretary/Treasurer**  
**24th Infantry Division Association**  
**9150 Hwy. 51**  
**Westover, AL 35147-9527**

June 25, 2009



## U.S. VETERANS ONLY

### Application Form for an Appreciation Letter From the Republic of Korea President to Korean War Veterans

#### Section I - Veteran's Personal Information

Last Name		First Name		Middle Name	
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)		
Address	Street	City		State	
Zip Code(9 digits)	Country		Email Address		
Phone Number (include area code)	Home:			Cellular:	

#### Section II - Veteran's Korean War Service Information

Military Service Number		Branch of Service	
Period of Service in the Korean War(mm/yyyy)	from through		
Member of the US Korean War Veterans Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

#### Section III - Veteran's Certification

I verify that I am a Korean War Veteran. *(It is not necessary to belong to a Korean War Veterans Association to receive the President's Letter. A family member can sign for an incapacitated Veteran).*  
I authorize the Government of Korea and/ or US Korean War Veterans Association to use this information to provide me with the Letter of Appreciation from the President of the Republic of Korea.  
The information will not be used for any other purpose.

#### Veteran's (or family member) signature & date

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

By Internet: click here to apply online or visit at <http://eng.koreanwar60.go.kr/apply.asp>

Mail Application Form to:

US Branch ROK

60th AKW Commemoration Committee

2450 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Washington, D.C. 20008, USA

See note bottom page 40 of this Taro Leaf.





# Charlotte Gliese KO Promoted to Glory

Charlotte Gliese KO was promoted to Glory on 7 February 2010 at the Spring River Christian Home in Joplin MO. She was 94 years old. That was the same place that her friend, Nell DYER, (also a prisoner in Korea) lived when she was promoted to Glory at age 97.

Lotte was born September 7, 1915 in Berlin Germany. When World War II broke out she was a young woman and could remember the allied bombings. At some point she married a Korean by the name of Ko and when the Russians liberated that part of Germany they were forced to leave. They settled in South Korea thinking they would be safe there.

Then North Korea invaded South Korea on 25 June 1950 and Lotte was teaching at Seoul University when the Communists came to ar-

rest her and her husband. Her husband was taken away and has never been heard from since.

Lotte was imprisoned with 80 other civilians from several countries and American Prisoners taken early in the war from the 24th Infantry Division. That group is now known as the Tiger Survivors. We Americans knew her as Lotte and in POW camp we would refer to her as the "German Lady."

Lotte was repatriated to Germany and then accepted an invitation from Nell Dyer to immigrate to the United States. She became an American citizen and had an oriental furniture store in Little Rock Arkansas. Later she moved to Joplin MO.

Shorty "The Tiger" Estabrook  
37645 Flora Ct  
Murrieta CA 92563-2726  
Ph:210-267-5243

## Secretary-Treasurer Reports

by John Dunn, Sec/Treas

NAME	UNIT	AMT	FOR
Arnold, Russell	24th MP	\$20	Taro Leaf
Bach, Raymond	21st Inf	\$150	Taro Leaf
Bell, Joseph	19th Inf	\$25	Taro Leaf
Bevan, Barry E.	21st Inf	\$15	Taro Leaf
Bradford, James E.	21st Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Bressler, Jack L.	19th Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Brockmann, Lawrence H.	34th Inf	\$60	Taro Leaf
Caldwell, Thomas M.	21st Inf	\$50	Taro Leaf
Caldwell, Thomas M.	21st Inf	\$25	Taro Leaf
Clark, Raymond V.	3rd Eng	\$10	Taro Leaf
Cooper, Ramon, F.	26th AAA	\$30	Taro Leaf
De Moss, Alan D.	Div Arty	\$100	Taro Leaf
Dye Jr., Audrey	13th FA	\$25	Taro Leaf
Gibson, Calvin N.	19th Inf	\$5	Taro Leaf
Gooley Jr., William F.	724 Ord Bn	\$25	(1)
Harband, Myron J.	34th Inf	\$5	Taro Leaf
Heiles, James R.	24th Med	\$20	Taro Leaf
Heller, Francis H.	Div Arty	\$400	Taro Leaf
Hession, Paul J.	3rd Eng	\$25	(2)
Holland, Casey B.	3rd Eng	\$10	Taro Leaf
Hoover, John E.	24th Div Hq	\$60	Taro Leaf
Jacketti, Victor	24th Med	\$10	Taro Leaf
Johnson, Lester E.	19th Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Keller, Rodney A.	21st Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Leerkamp, Henry	34th Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Lutz, Sephen M.	41st FA	\$25	Taro Leaf
MacAulay, Dennis A.	19th Inf	\$25	Taro Leaf
Machett, Robert S.	21st Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Marasco, Nicholas L.	34th Inf	\$50	Taro Leaf
Martinez, Nicholas	11th FA	\$60	Taro Leaf
Mauselian, Robert S.	24th MP	\$25	Taro Leaf
Mecca, Daniel	13th FA	\$25	Taro Leaf
Minor, Rayford T.	19th INF	\$20	Taro Leaf
Nelsen, Margo	Assoc	\$100	(3)
Nichols, Herschel "Nick"	21st Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Nichols, Herschel "Nick"	21st Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Nunley, Bobby D.	34th Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Owens, Roderick	26th AAA	\$15	Taro Leaf
Pasta, Melvin J.	52nd FA	\$10	Taro Leaf
Reddish, Arthur	3rd Eng	\$80	Taro Leaf
Reed, Marvin	26AAA	\$50	Taro Leaf
Repko, Louis	34th Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Romero, Edward C.	24th Adm	\$10	Taro Leaf
Santoro, Anthony A.	24th Sig	\$10	Taro Leaf
Sherman, Gary R.	5th RCT	\$25	Taro Leaf
Slarskey, Leon	21st Inf	\$21	Taro Leaf
Spero, John J.	34th Inf	\$20	Taro Leaf
Stenack, Frank	5th RCT	\$5	Taro Leaf
Underwood Jr., John	34th Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Whitfield, James E.	21st Inf	\$15	Taro Leaf
Total		\$1,771	
(1) In memory of Frank(Nipper) McClain, 2nd Inf Div-KIA			
(2) In memory of brother, Joseph, B Co. 19th KIA 3-51			
(3) In honor of Dutch Nelsen Chapter KWVA, to be used for Taro Leaf			

Booster Contributions 2/28-6/15/2010



# Secretary-Treasurer Reports

by John Dunn, Sec/Treas

## Income-Expense-Assets Report

INCOME	8/1/09--12/31/09	1/1/10--3/1/10	3/1/10-06/15/10	TOTAL
Membership	\$4,335.00	\$1,710.00	\$2,085.00	\$8,130.00
Full Life	\$1,200.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$1,800.00
Partial Life	\$350.00	\$375.00	\$90.00	\$815.00
Assoc Member	\$150.00	\$115.00	\$15.00	\$280.00
Donations	\$2,105.00	\$1,889.00	\$1,771.00	\$5,765.00
Quartermaster	\$0	\$1,500.00	\$0	\$1,500.00
	\$8,140.00	\$5,889.00	\$4,261.00	\$18,290.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Misc. Office Expens	\$1,119.83	\$279.03	\$1,214.71	\$2,613.57
Taro Leaf	\$4,839.25	\$3,912.85	\$4,235.18	\$12,987.28
Mailing Taro Leaf	\$1,029.12	\$987.87	\$1,022.62	\$3,039.61
Reunion Prizes	\$4,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$4,000.00
Reunion Expenses	\$2,765.33	\$1,600.00	\$0	\$4,365.33
Insurance	\$750.00	\$0	\$0	\$750
	\$14,503.53	\$6,779.75	\$6,472.51	\$27,755.79
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Checking Accts	\$32,475.88	(\$742.77)	\$29,588.49	
Savingd Acct	\$34,832.30	\$0	\$34,832.30	
Quartermaster				
	\$67,308.18	(\$742.77)	\$64,420.79	

## New Members 2/28-6/15/2010

NAME	UNIT	STATION
Adams, Richard C.	24th Arty Hq Batt	Germany 63-64
Barter, Wayne L.	724th Maint	Germany 67-69
Basford, Frederick L.	34th Inf Svc Co	Japan-Korea 52-54
Bellay, Robert S.	13th Arty 1st How Bn	Germany 61-62
Boulay, Paul A.	34th Inf Hq&Hq Co	Japan 46-48
Colvin, Charles R.	Div Hq JAG Sec	Japan-Korea 53-54
Dorsey, John N.	101 Abn Reg	Germany 54-61
Gardiner, Theodore E.	34th Inf	Korea 55-56
Habermann, Conrad L.	19th Inf HQ Co	Japan 53-53
Kankiewicz, Michael F.	19th Inf	Japan 52
Landes, Robert E.	24th Med Bn	Korea-Japan 51-52
Markendorfer, Frank R.	19th Inf	Japan 54-56
Peleggi, Bruno	34th Inf H Co	Korea 55-56
Rodriguez Sr., Jesus	39th RCT A Co	Korea 50-51
Scott Sr., Vernon, L.	21st Inf Hq Co	Germany 64-67
Spero, Frank	21st Inf I Co	So. Pacific 43-45
Stanton, Bob L.	2nd Inf A Co	Germany 59-60
Swayne, Robert E.	21st Inf K Co	Korea 50-52
Tarte, Richard	3rd Eng Bn D Co	Germany 60-61
Torres, Joe	34th Inf G Co	Korea 55-56
Wydra, Dennis	724th Maint Bn A Co	Germany 61-64

## New Life Members 2/28-6/15/2010

NAME	UNIT	COMPANY/ BATTERY	LIFE NO.	DATE
Brice, Trinnie A.	52nd FA	HQ	2370	4/12/2010
Landes, Robert E.	24th Med		2371	4/21/2010



## Pleased to see veterans' stories

Hi Tom !

Yes, I did mean WINTER Taro Leaf even though the Spring 2010 is in our hands!

I would never have believed that time could get away so quickly and easily. Aside from many other things that came up in the last few months, there is always "old age" to factor in. Only those who have been closely involved with war or near death experience can think of old age as "the good news AND the bad news."

Now to thank you for another wonderful edition and to tell you how sad we will be when you retire as editor. However, from your photo on page 4, we are fearful that we are seeing you in a hospital or rehab environment (still smiling as always). Your health and well being are important and you certainly have "paid your dues" to the 24th Infantry Division Association, as a conscientious, devoted, generous and capable member.

The *Taro Leaf* Taps keep taking up more space - and again our feelings are mixed about losing our veterans - but being thankful they lived long lives.

We are also so pleased to see how many other veterans' stories have been included. The article about Corregidor really increases our knowledge of - and pride in - the 24th Division. "Task Force Smith" was a heartbreaker - but it's something everyone has come to know as a reality faced by our fighting men and women. The many other stories have added another dimension to the 24th Division - the history, the sacrifices, the very important part played in defending our country. None of our wars will EVER be forgotten wars. With

(Continued on page 39)

# Notices

## 24th infantry Division Quartermaster Order Form

is not printed in this issue. If you might see it from an earlier issue **we ask that you do not place any orders** as Byrd Schrock is no longer able to carry on the duties of the Quartermaster for health reasons. If you would like to become 24th Quartermaster, please contact President Mel or Vice President Sal. Thank you. If you have an outstanding order, it will be returned to you.

## National Veterans Day In Birmingham, Alabama, *special*

*invitation from Sec/Treas Dunn, please see page 45.*

Our new *Taro Leaf* editor advises that he will not be attending the Buffalo reunion and has requested that he be sent reports and pictures from those who do.

David J. Valley, PO BOX 500907, San Diego CA 92150-0907, (858) 485-7550,

[24thtaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:24thtaroleaf@gmail.com)



## Central Florida 24th IDA Group

**Florida 24th IDA Members** (and all members in FL then)

Dutch Treat Luncheons, Golden Corral, Leesburg Florida, 11:45 a.m.  
Scheduled: August 4; November Reunion (see below); and February 2, 2011.

Space limited; contact: Tom Thiel, 352-357-3943 [cf24ida@gmail.com](mailto:cf24ida@gmail.com)  
or Bill Stokes, 352-750-6741 [wsswriter@netzero.com](mailto:wsswriter@netzero.com)



## Florida Annual Mini Reunion

**5th RCT Association (17th) and Central Florida 24th IDA Group (1st)**

Thursday November 4 through Sunday November 7, 2010

Holiday Inn, 860 Hwy A1A Beach Blvd, St. Augustine Beach, Florida

Rooms: \$79 plus tax: 904-471-2555/800-626-7263

Reunion registration deadline: October 23, 2010; Contact: Bill Kane, 5023 Andrea Blvd, Orlando, FL 32807, 407-275-7450 or 407-421-4465 cell; email: [kcrabbybill@yahoo.com](mailto:kcrabbybill@yahoo.com)







**Claude 'Harris' Harrison 555th FAB.** Harris served in Korea from August 1951 to May 1952. He was a member of the 'Triple Nickel' 555th FAB, HQ Battery. He was a Field Wireman Foreman, and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service.

Harris is still alive today and is a healthy 80 year old, living in Jesup, GA.

I am his grandson and am writing to find any information which may help me in my pursuit to piece together my family's history. I would love to find any surviving members of his unit, pictures, and the like.

If you can help in any way, please contact me at joshstafford1@gmail.com or 912.294.1803.

**Gary R Sherman** is looking for anyone who served with him in Korea with the **5th RCT**, from May to October 1954, he also served with **19th Infantry Regiment**, Medical company from July 1954 to September 1954 and October 1954 to September 1955.

Gary R Sherman, 250 Hammond Pond Pkwy #311N, Chestnut Hill, MA 2467-1524 Ph: 617-244-0050, grs65@comcast.net

Anyone who might have known my brother, **Robert D. Quatier**, who was with the 24th Division, **19th Regiment, A Company**. Robert (on right in photo below) was last seen on the South Bank of the Kum River, South Korea and became MIA of July 16, 1950.



Robert was my brother, and I would really appreciate help in finding any information regarding the events surrounding his loss. I do not know the other two men in the photo above.

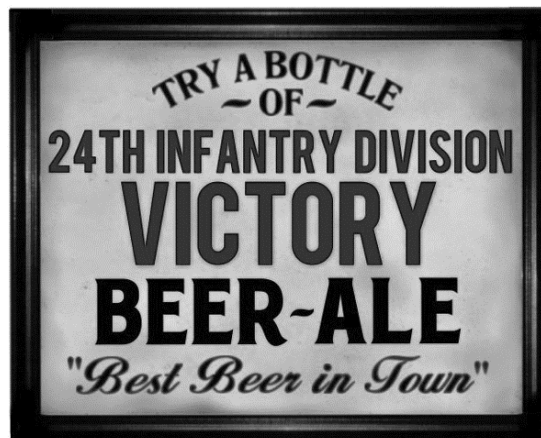
Richard Quatier, Associate Life Member  
9901 NE 27th Court  
Vancouver, WA 98686-5778  
360-566-0219  
rquatier@msn.com

## Will Kasserne, HQ Battery Artillery

I am looking for anyone that was involved in a vehicle accident in Germany from 1963-1964 while assigned to **HQ Battery 24th ID Artillery**, **Will Kasserne** APO 29 USAREUR.

Thank you

Richard C. Adams at  
(646) 229-3863.



Diane Tellez, the daughter of **Jose L. Rangel**, would like to talk to anyone who may have known her father Jose, or the man he shared his foxhole with **PVT Paul S. Ramirez**, in WWII. **PFC Rangel** served with the 2d BN, possibly G Company, **21st Infantry Regiment** under Captain James H. Thompson. Jose Rangel died October 9, 1982.

You may contact Diane at:  
dtellez6360@yahoo.com





I am looking for information about or anyone who might have known or served with **LTC Olavi Alakulppi**, who was one of the **Finnish officers** that came to the US Army after the Second World War.

LTC Alakulppi retired from the U.S. Army in 1968, and was, I believe, very active in the 24th Infantry Division Association.

I am looking for this information on Finnish officers and their contribution to the US Army for my undergraduate studies at the University of Nevada Reno (UNR). There are not many English sources regarding the arms concealment affair and these officers' later service to the US Army and Special Forces.

Thank you for any help you may offer.

Philip Chrystal (775) 221-0126

Email: landser@gmail.com

**Russell G. Arnold**, former sergeant of the 24th MP Platoon in Kokura, Japan, wants to know the name and hometown of the **lieutenant who was killed on the railroad tracks** between Kokura and Shimonoseki City Japan in the 1946/1947 timeframe.

Rumors at the time indicated that the victim of the accident had reported that some higher ranking officials were illegally selling "rations" to the Japanese. Russell was the first GI on the scene after the accident.

You may contact his son, Mark Arnold, via email at [ontario1994@aol.com](mailto:ontario1994@aol.com), or you may call Russell at 937-788-2789 (home).

## Membership

(From Rosters)

June 2010	2,073
March 2010	2,073
December 2009	2,079
November 2008	2,170
November 2007	2,399

## Verbeck Award Honorees

1966 Kenwood Ross	d
1967 N/A not listed	
1968 N/A not listed	
1969 Edmund Henry	d
1970 James Spike O'Donnell	d
1971 Thomas H. Compere	d
1972 Joseph I. Peyton	d
1973 Victor Backer	d
1974 Aubrey S. Newman	d
1975 Robert J. Duff	d
1976 Frederick A. Irving	d
1977 Samuel Y. Gilner	d
1978 Gerald R. Stevenson	d
1979 William Sanderson	d
1980 C.G. Hanlin	d
1981 Howard R. Lumsden	d
1982 Paul A. Harris	d
1983 Donald E. Rosenblum	
1984 Bert F. Lowry	d
1985 John E. Klump	
1986 Lee B. List	d
1987 Dallas Dick	d
1988 John R. Shay	
1989 Warren G. Avery	
1990 N/A not listed	
1991 Robert Ender	d
1992 N/A not listed	
1993 Brig. Gen. Lester Wheeler	d
1994 Joseph J. McKeon	
1995 Joseph P. Hofrichter	d
1996 Wallace F. Kuhner	d
1997 Rodolph Mullins	d
1998 Philip H. Hostetter, MD	d
1999 Henry J. Gosztyla	
2000 Ellsworth "Dutch" Nelsen	d
2001 Harry L. Wittman	d
2002 Harold "Corky" Peters	d
2003 Ben H. Wahle, Jr	d
2004 William H. Muldoon	
2005 Edward S. Farmer	
2006 Wesley R. Morrison	
2007 Billy Johnson	d
2008 Dan Rickert	
2009 Keith Hagen	
2009 Tom J. Thiel	





5 March 2010

24 Infantry Division Association

A note to say THANKS to all the officers, Editor of the Taro Leaf all the members of committees, etc, and the hundreds of people that work so hard to keep this organization going. We appreciate your hard work. You do a GREAT job.

Enclosure - my check for March-2010 - March 2011 dues.

Sincerely,  
Raymond Foreythe

F. Co 1945  
1st WQ 19th Reg. 1945-1946



This \$100.00 donation is in honor of LTC. Ellsworth 'Dash' Nelson & the Dutch Nelson Chapter of the Korean War Veterans on the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War. To be used for Taro Leaf as it reaches most of the members.

Victory  
first to fight  
Margo Nelson

Thank you, Margo!

3-11-10

Hi TOM

The last Taro Leaf "Vol 64 NO 1" you had an article about Nisei's.

I was in the 21st IR platoon. We had five Nisei's in our platoon and they were all good guys. I would go with them anywhere. I don't know why the Japanese were treated the way they were treated. They were patriotic people. Some of them were in the 442nd C. B. T. that fought in Europe and were very distinguished. I don't know their full names.

Alto Solo

- 1) Sgt. Matsuoka sgd leader
- 2) Sone driver
- 3) Cpl. Richard Okata, art sgd leader
- 4) Shogo Sato driver
- 5) Matsumura

Tom!

You do the nicest things.

for all of us in the 24th. Wonderful Taro Leaf.

The very best of health for you. Take care of yourself none else will. As ever



Margo N.





## Restoring order in Korean POW camps in '53

In reference to the History article above in the Fall 2009 issue, Vol 63(4) at the bottom of the 1st column on pg 32. It states that--- In July 1953 the division went back to Korea to restore order in POW camps. I would like to expand on that very general statement.

I was assigned to Fox Company, 34th Regiment as a BAR man and we were stationed at Camp Fuji at the base of Mt Fuji. We were training every day. On the last day of June we were told to pack up our gear and were transported to Tachikawa Air Base and on July 1st airlifted in C-119, Flying Boxcars, to a base near Pusan Korea. Between July 1st and the 27th, we moved north in maybe 7 or 8 steps until we were in blocking positions at the south end on the Iron Triangle. I don't remember how long we were there before the 27th. We were called to formation about 10.00 hrs. on the 27th, and advised of the pending Cease Fire to be in effect at 22.00 hrs that night. We were given copies of the order (copy reproduced below) and within hours we were on our way back to Pusan.

We then did guard duty at I think POW Camp 2 outside Pusan. I do not know where the other 34th Companies, or 19th and 21st Regiments were during this time. Maybe one of you readers can fill in that blank.

So at least Fox Co. was involved in the show of force that may have accelerated the Cease Fire signing.

Sincerely

John F. ( Jack ) Goedeke Sr.

29381 Woodridge Dr.

Easton MD 21601-4621

410-822-7286; jjgoe2005@yahoo.com

HEADQUARTERS 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT  
APO 24

27 July 1953

SUBJECT: Cease Fire Order

TO : All Members of this Command

1. The following telephone message received from 8th Army "quote Armistice was signed at 1000 hours today. Cease fire will be at 2200 hours today. Encode, Cease fire and withdrawal orders follow at once.

2. No firing will be conducted in the forward areas whatsoever.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL OLSON:

*Robert L. Clark*  
ROBERT L. CLARK  
Major, Infantry  
Adjutant

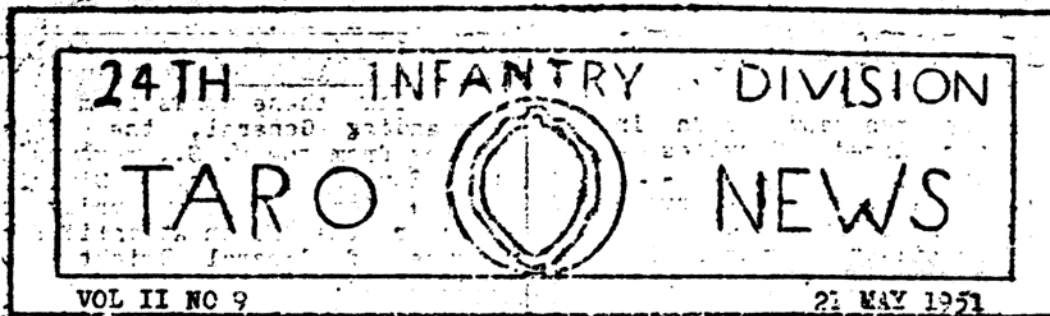
DISTRIBUTION  
"A"



### Contact your Representative NOW!

In order to be granted permission to place this memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, it must have the support of every member of the House of Representatives!





## The 955th FAB in Korea

The *TARO NEWS* copy at the left was provided by member Thomas Cacciola, 955 FAB Korea, of Englewood Cliffs, NJ. When Tom received the last *Taro Leaf* he called with reference to Al McAdoo's article in Vol 64 (2) Page 8, "5th RCT in Death Valley..." saying "I was there, I heard the Chinese bugles and whistles."

The copy of the front page of the May 21, 1951 *TARO NEWS* at left is from one of the many originals that Tom has at his home. (Sorry I had to reduce it to fit it in.)

Tom was interested in telling me about the 955th FAB, which was in support of the 24th Division and more specifically the 5th RCT. Please read the lower portion.

Tom also took many excellent 35mm color photos, one of which is shown on the back cover.

Thomas F. Cacciola,  
955 FA Bn  
25 Skyline Dr.  
Englewood Cliffs, NJ  
07632-1815  
Ph: 201-567-7279

### LATE NEWS FROM KOREA

Tokyo, Japan 2 May (AFRS) - Heavy enemy attacks were beaten off by Allied forces on the east-central front Sunday as Chinese Communist pressure increased after a twenty four hour lull.

Southeast of Chunchon, 2,000 Chinese Reds slammed at the Allied line at 4:45 A.M. but by 9:30 the attack had been repulsed.

#### DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

**5TH INF REGT:** Continued operating in front of the main body of the defenses. During the hours of darkness, 1st Bn repulsed an estimated 200 enemy attacking and inflicted 100 casualties. During daylight, the Regiment attacked in zone against moderate resistance scoring gains up to 3,000 yards.

**19TH INF REGT:** Attacked in zone across enemy mine fields and advanced 50 yards against moderate resistance. At the close of the day, 2nd Bn was receiving heavy machine gun and S/A fire.

**21ST INF REGT:** Moved forward steadily in zone advancing 4-5,000 yards. One company secured a hill to front only to be pushed off by a vicious enemy attack estimated to be 400 Chinese.

**28TH REGT:** Advanced steadily in zone chalking up gains of 5-6,000 yards. Part of the KSLI became heavily engaged with 4-500 enemy on one hill and at close of day the enemy had pulled back on the reverse slopes continuing the contact.

Southeast of Hange, a 1,000 man Red force attacked with mortar and automatic weapons but 400 of them were killed.

Planes and artillery concentrated on an enemy force east of Hange, bounding the Reds throughout the day.

Six thousand Chinese Reds attacked South Korean positions east of Pungam and there was some loss of ground. But the South Koreans counterattacked and won back their positions.

Strong Allied reconnaissance patrols in the west advanced more than five miles north of Seoul Sunday with very little resistance from an apparently surprised enemy.

A tank force entered Uijongbu on the main road north of Seoul.

Twenty eight American planes encountered fifty MIGs on the Korean side of the Yalu River Sunday in a furious twenty-minute dog fight and an estimated three enemy planes were destroyed and one damaged.

All of the F-86's returned to their bases safely.

#### 955TH WITH 24TH

The 955th FA Bn, commanded by Lt. Col Knowlton, was attached to this division on 8 April 1951 and has since done a fine job of keeping those 155MM howitzer projectiles going out when needed.

Reflecting some of the old "Dodger hustle", these boys from Brooklyn have fired over 17,000 rounds in support of the infantry.

The Battalion is a New York National Guard unit recalled to active duty the 19th of August 1950 and trained at Fort Lewis, Washington.

~~955TH WITH 24TH~~ (Continued)

Approximately 40% of its members are from Brooklyn. (That's a village on the eastern seacoast of the U. S. A., in the quaint providence of New York.)

They arrived at Pusan on the 2nd of February 1951 and after a short period of conditioning on the Korean roads and mountains, moved north to join the fight.

Some 2,200 Chinese, if they could talk, could testify that the Battalion knows its business.

Needless to say, the Division is glad to have Lt. Colonel Knowlton and his "955th" around.





*In Memory of*  
**Joseph P. Lopez**  
June 21, 1929  
July 16, 2009

I'd like the memory of me  
to be a happy one,  
I'd like to have an afterglow  
of smiles when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo  
whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times  
and bright sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who  
grieve, to dry before the sun,  
Of happy memories that I leave  
When life is done.

*Co A 1950-51  
5th RCT*

**Joseph P. Lopez,**  
Medic with Company  
A, 5th Regimental  
Combat Team died  
July 16, 2009.

“Many a man owes  
their life to Joe  
Lopez”, according to  
Jay B. Dixon, also of  
Co. A, 5th RCT.

Jay says: “I was at  
Death Valley on  
April 25, 1951 (see:  
Al McAdoo’s article  
in *Taro Leaf* Vol 64  
(2) Page 8, ‘...Death  
Valley...’ So was Joe  
Lopez; he was a  
Medic.

We were both in Company A, 5th Regimental Com-  
bat Team

A lot of us owed our lives to Medic Joe.”

Jay B. Dixon,  
2105 Military Rd.,  
Niagara Falls NY 14304-1735,  
Ph: 716-297-0124

**(So Long)** *Continued from page 4)*

MacArthur impersonation at the Aloha Banquet!

I had the good fortune to spend some quality time with David and his most personable wife, Dottie, in the hospital room there at Columbia, and strongly urge you to receive them as warmly as you received me.

This is my thirteenth *Taro Leaf* covering just one issue shy of four volumes of copy (two were dual issues). I remember the anxiety when I first told then President Gene Spicer that I would undertake the job.

That quickly evaporated into the passion of working with you all on “your stories.”

While there were some ruts in the road over the last three years, I only have good feelings of my tenure as your editor.

These have come in the form of hundreds of thank you emails, letters and phone calls that have poured in over the years.

And it was reinforced just yesterday by a phone call from Ed Farmer saying: “Tom, you’ve done a hell of a job with the *Taro Leaf*!”

I gave it my best shot!

Best wishes to all you Taro Leafers! God be with you!

Tom J. Thiel  
19147 Park Place Blvd  
Eustis FL 32736-7262  
352—357-3943  
[thetaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:thetaroleaf@gmail.com)

**Special Thank You** I wish to extend a heart felt thank you to my *Taro Leaf* proof readers including Bill Stokes, David Valley, Vince Rybel and most especially to Heidi Edgar. You all contributed greatly to the *Taro Leaf*. Tom Thiel



**Contact your Representative NOW!**

In order to be granted permission to place this memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, it must have the support of every member of the House of Representatives!



# Romblon Island, Philippines, March 1944 *by Chuck Blunt*

I am setting the record straight about a specific combat operation that was reported in the 24th Infantry Division History book, page 42, middle column (24th Infantry Division, Second Edition, Turner Publishing Company, Paducah, KY, 1999).

I was Squad leader of the 1st Squad, C Company, 1st Platoon, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, as we landed under the cover of darkness on rubber rafts on the Island of Romblon in the Philippines.

We had to make our way up a steep mountain in difficult terrain and all the time it was raining heavily. All the riflemen carried extra mortar shells strapped to their back in addition to their own equipment so that the mortar squad would not run out of ammo when we attacked the Japanese Garrison stationed there.

We arrived at our destination after some difficulty and our troops proceeded to move into position. While we were in the process of doing this our movements had been spotted by a Japanese Soldier, who had a hand-held siren that he started to crank to warn his fellow troops.

When they came running out of the barracks, we proceeded to open fire on them and killed quite a few. Part of our infantry company was trying to get into position to contain the enemy but were not fast enough and many of the enemy escaped.

The following days we proceeded to try to flush them out by sending patrols up a ridge and down a valley



Charles E. Blunt (left) with Solomon Hoag, Mindoro, 1944

while moving systematically around the island. We eventually arrived at their stronghold and proceeded to assemble our troops at the top of the ridge.

Lt. Naegele called the platoon Sgt. and the two Squad leaders together to discuss our strategy. I was one of those Squad leaders, Sgt. Charles E. Blunt; I had joined C Company in May 1943 in Schoefield Barracks Honolulu. I do not remember the names of the others at that meeting.

(A few years ago, I talked to Lt. Naegele about this operation. In the article in question in the 24th Infantry Division History Book, Gene Welsh was not the Sgt. in charge of the squad at that time, but a PFC and one of my riflemen.)

While Lt. Naegele gathered us three non-coms, he was in touch with our Company Commander, Capt. Dallas Dick, who was on another ridge. I heard Lt. Naegele request air or heavy weapons support. Then I heard Capt.

Dick tell the Lt. that no support was available, and to move his troops forward.

Lt. Naegele started to have a discussion with the Captain but he was threatened with court marshal if he did not move his troops forward into the Japanese stronghold.

So, Lt. Naegele had us move our squads into position to engage in a firefight. My squad was on the right and the other squad on the left, and the machine gun squad with Roy Welch as gunner in the middle.

I placed one rifleman on my right flank and told him to kill any Japanese soldier who tried to attack us from that side. I had a Filipino Scout attached to my squad, so we took a position where we could observe the enemy position and I could shout orders to my squad. I do not recall his name but he was a very intelligent guy and a graduate of the University of the Philippines and a Filipino patriot. (After all this time I can still remember some of my guys names, Dan Reeves, Paul Wright, Prater, Gene Welsh and my Assistant Squad Leader Mendoza.)

I observed Roy Welch spraying the area and doing one hell of a job keeping the Japanese busy.

It was difficult to see much movement because of the tall grass, and my squad was not doing much firing because of it and no specific targets were visible. So, I shouted orders for them to pick out a pattern in front of

*(Continued on page 36)*





them and lay down some fire power. At least that would get their attention.

When I looked to my right I saw that my Filipino scout was dead. Then I felt a burning sensation in my right leg and blood started to flow. I realized that a Japanese soldier had killed my riflemen and gotten close enough to kill my Filipino Scout. He also was close enough to toss a hand grenade that fell between my legs.

I crawled back to some cover and had one of my riflemen pour some sulfa powder on my wound and bandage it the best he could. A short time later one of my other riflemen crawled back and said "Sarge, I saw a Japanese Officer waving a samurai sword and shouting like he was going to lead a bonus charge towards our position."

I motioned for the rest of my men to follow me, including Gene Welsh, who was wounded in the foot but still able to walk.

I located the Platoon Sgt. a few yards back at the base of a low lying hill with a gradual slope. I told him about the Japanese Officer, and he looked at me with a blank look on his face. He did not say anything.

I told him to get out of my way I was taking what was left of my squad out of there. We proceeded to make our way up the hill about fifty or so feet. I glanced to the left and spotted a Japanese machine gun squad preparing to fire on us. They had flanked us and had the high ground.

I shouted to my squad to get down on the ground and follow me. We crawled towards a ravine with thick underbrush about forty or fifty yards away. We crawled on our stomach and dragged our rifles. The Japanese machine gun had opened fire on us but they could not see us in the tall grass.

We were lucky; it was just starting to get dark. We stumbled down into the ravine all the while grabbing branches or anything we could to break our fall until we finally reached the bottom where the thickest underbrush was located.

I motioned to my men to be very quiet, and we sat back to back facing four directions with our rifles pointed in front of us in case the Japanese located us we could at least have a fighting chance.

I removed my tee shirt and wrapped it around my wounded leg. We could hear the Japanese soldiers beating the brush with machetes and jabbering in Japanese. It got dark and they went away. We stayed there in that position all night.

When morning arrived I checked our bearings and proceeded to lead my Squad on a trail headed to the coast and the beach. I am sure glad I did not have to fire my rifle as I had discovered the barrel was clogged with dirt from dragging it on the ground. I did have a side arm, a 45 pistol.

Once we reached the beach, we took cover and looked around to see if there were any Japanese soldiers around.

About then, I spotted a Filipino in a

small boat and I walked onto the beach and motioned for him to come ashore. My men were covering me with their rifles.

The Filipino turned out to be friendly, and I don't recall if he paddled me around the point where our camp was located or if he went around and sent a boat back to pick us up and take us back to our base camp.

Gene Welsh and I ended up at a makeshift Hospital where they operated on my leg and removed some of the shrapnel. I am sure glad the grenade was not one of ours or I would not be here today telling this story.

Gene Welsh and I were flown back to a field Hospital on the Island of Mindoro to recover from our wounds. While we were in the field Hospital in beds next to one another a group of Officers came in and presented us with the Purple Heart Medal.

We were told that later when they went back to pick up the dead they discovered that the Japanese had tortured them by running wires thru their eyes and throats and cut off fingers etc.

This is how it happened on the Island of Romblon in the Philippines in March of 1944!

Charles E. "Chuck" Blunt, Life#1271  
Squad Leader, 1st Squad  
C Company, 1st Platoon  
19th Infantry Regiment  
77 Tulare St.  
Brisbane CA 94005-1742  
415-467-0519  
Email: [cebhgb@aol.com](mailto:cebhgb@aol.com)



# A Soldier Died Today

He was getting old and paunchy  
And his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the Legion,  
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in  
And the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his buddies;  
They were heroes, every one.

And 'though sometimes to his neighbors  
His tales became a joke,  
All his buddies listened quietly  
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,  
For ol' Bob has passed away,  
And the world's a little poorer  
For a Soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,  
Just his children and his wife.  
For he lived an ordinary,  
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,  
Going quietly on his way;  
And the world won't note his passing,  
'Tho a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,  
Their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing,  
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories  
From the time that they were young  
But the passing of a Soldier  
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution  
To the welfare of our land,  
Some jerk who breaks his promise  
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow  
Who in times of war and strife,  
Goes off to serve his country  
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend  
And the style in which he lives,  
Are often disproportionate,  
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier,  
Who offered up his all,  
Is paid off with a medal  
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians  
With their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom  
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,  
With your enemies at hand,  
Would you really want some cop-out,  
With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier—  
His home, his country, his kin,  
Just a common Soldier,  
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Soldier,  
And his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us  
We may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,  
We find the Soldier's part  
Is to clean up all the troubles  
That the politicians start.

*(Continued on page 38)*



# A night under Korean stars *by Dick Nelson, C 21st*

It was a balmy autumn Korean night in 1951. My platoon (1st, C, 21st) was holding a battalion outpost on a hill in North Korea. At night, for added security, a four-man listening post was placed on a little knob maybe a hundred yards to our front on the only "easy" approach to our positions.

This particular night I had to furnish a man for this detail. The turn went to Bob Rogers (not real — don't remember). Rogers was slow-speaking, good-natured and tall, well over six feet - five and a half feet of which seemed to be arms and legs. He moved slowly, but with a lot of arm and leg motion and weighed about 160 pounds. Rogers had the habit of calling everyone, "Jim."

At dusk the four moved to the listening post and we settled down for 50-50 percent guard in-our holes.

About half past midnight, we were hit

with a twenty-minute or so mortar barrage. Then it quieted, except we began to hear voices coming from below the knob. Then all hell broke loose! Bugles blew, red flares arched up, "burp" guns crackled and people were yelled. We also heard M1s firing, and grenades exploding down below our outpost.

We held fire and after a few minutes of pitched battle it quieted on the knob. We waited and wondered. Then out of the darkness and silence, we heard people running towards us.

"Who's there???"

"Jenson (not real—I don't remember his name) from the OP" came the reply.

"How many behind you?"

"Three," he said as he raced by towards his hole.

Two vague forms swished by. Then came


Rogers. As he came abreast of my hole he stopped and peered down and said in his slow drawl, "I aims to warn yah, Jim, theyr a comin!" He then high-tailed it for his hole.

It was quiet so everyone on the hill, and likely below heard him. Our guys had an extended hysterical laugh out of it, lasting a full minute or so. With tension released we all went to work with smiles on our faces.

Since our battle with the Chinese didn't start for another good hour I've always thought they couldn't figure out our laughter and feared walking into an ambush or kill zone. Oh yes, we remained on our hill!

Richard L. Nelson, C 21st  
PO Box 4575  
Oceanside CA 92054-4575  
760-726-7790

**Your help is needed** to update and add to our 24th Infantry Division Association files. Only you can help us to make sure our files are complete today and for the future. Send all address, phone and email changes today to:  
[jokdunn@aol.com](mailto:jokdunn@aol.com) or  
[24thtaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:24thtaroleaf@gmail.com)

 24th Infantry Division Association Secretary/Treasurer John A. Dunn—and Infantry 9150 Hwy. 51 Westover, AL 35147-9527 205-678-6165 jokdunn@aol.com	<b>Check Your Dues Date Below</b>	NON-PROFIT U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit #400 Leesburg, FL 34748
	Send Dues & Address Changes To:	<b>Your Renewal Date</b> Your Name Address City, State, Zip Code

*Rear Cover*

*(Continued from page 37)*

If we cannot do him honor  
While he's here to hear the praise,  
Then at least let's give him homage  
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simply headline  
In the paper that might say:  
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,  
A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."

Received from Joe O'Connell



# Timeline for U.S. Participation in War

Dates	War in Which American Colonists or United States Citizens Officially Participated	Major Combatants
July 4, 1675 - August 12, 1676	King Philip's War	New England Colonies vs. Wampanoag, Narragansett, and Nipmuck Indians
1689-1697	King William's War	The English Colonies vs. France
1702-1713	Queen Anne's War (War of Spanish Succession)	The English Colonies vs. France
1744-1748	King George's War (War of Austrian Succession)	The French Colonies vs. Great Britain
1756-1763	French and Indian War (Seven Years War)	The French Colonies vs. Great Britain
1759-1761	Cherokee War	English Colonists vs. Cherokee Indians
1775-1783	American Revolution	English Colonists vs. Great Britain
1798-1800	Franco-American Naval War	United States vs. France
1801-1805; 1815	Barbary Wars	United States vs. Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli
1812-1815	War of 1812	United States vs. Great Britain
1813-1814	Creek War	United States vs. Creek Indians
1836	War of Texas Independence	Texas vs. Mexico
1846-1848	Mexican-American War	United States vs. Mexico
1861-1865	U.S. Civil War	Union vs. Confederacy
1898	Spanish-American War	United States vs. Spain
1914-1918	World War I	Triple Alliance: Germany, Italy, and Austria-Hungary vs. Triple Entente: Britain, France, and Russia. The United States joined on the side of the Triple Entente in 1917.
1939-1945	World War II	Axis Powers: Germany, Italy, Japan vs. Major Allied Powers: United States, Great Britain, France, and Russia
1950-1953	Korean War	United States (as part of the United Nations) and South Korea vs. North Korea and Communist China
1960-1975	Vietnam War	United States and South Vietnam vs. North Vietnam
1961	Bay of Pigs Invasion	United States vs. Cuba
1983	Grenada	United States Intervention
1989	US Invasion of Panama	United States vs. Panama
1990-1991	Persian Gulf War	United States and Coalition Forces vs. Iraq
1995-1996	Intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina	United States as part of NATO acted peacekeepers in former Yugoslavia
2001	Invasion of Afghanistan	United States and Coalition Forces vs. the Taliban regime in Afghanistan to fight terrorism.
2003	Invasion of Iraq	United States and Coalition Forces vs. Iraq

(Continued from page 27)

each year and each war, the heroes (and yes, they are ALL heroes) will remember and so will every family member in every generation - because it is an experience never to be forgotten. A lot was

taken from us, but a lot was given back, and thanks to your wonderful efforts, we continue to learn why we are so proud and so thankful.

Have a nice summer - relaxing if possible.

Best wishes always,

Ann and Bob Moncur,  
98 Woodland Rd.,  
Piscataway NJ, 08854-4220,  
908-463-0218





Dear Fellow Taro Leafer

I want to tell you about a young lady from Portland, ME who is trying to make something of her difficult life. Her name is Jamie Burnell, and her story is, well let me allow her to tell it.

*"In 1996 I was a 9-year-old foster kid. A World War Two/Korean War veteran, Edward Bicknell (all his friends call him Eepa), was doing volunteer driving for the State and he was assigned to take me from my foster home way out in the country to various places such as doctors, counselors, etc. The rides were an hour and a half each way twice a week. He started using the "drive time" to verbally help me with my school work. When I was 11 the State gave me back to my father, and he encouraged my driver-veteran friend to continue helping with my education. Eepa practically home-schooled me through middle school and high school. I am now going to college to be a medical assistant or nurse.*

*When I was 12, Eepa's Korean War unit, the 424th Field Artillery Battalion, had their annual reunion in South Portland, Maine. He took me, and the vets and their families took to me and me to them. The unit adopted me and I fell in love with veterans.*

*Eepa bought me a computer and taught me graphics. I began making address labels for the veterans in "My Unit" and that expanded to other units. People gave me money for the labels and that inspired me to go further so I could buy clothes and stuff. It was the first time in my life that I had any money.*

*My real job is working for the Maine Blood Center recruiting blood and platelet donors for the Maine Medical Center. When I'm not doing that I am making labels for veterans and going to college part time."*

I'd like to appeal to you to send Jamie an order to make a label or business card for you. Jamie's photo and a couple examples of her work are shown in color on page 49, including one she did for me. Marvin Reed, 26<sup>th</sup> AAA, Life # 2002, 2900 Right Hand Canyon Road, Palomino Valley, MV 89510. Continued on page 44

## Foster Care for Veterans

For two months last spring Jack, a 79-year-old former Air Force sergeant, lived in a nursing facility that he found to be sterile and lonely. In May, Jack grabbed an opportunity to move in with Geraldine Carr, 53, and her family in Memphis, Tenn. He now has his own room and receives 24-hour care as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' Medical Foster Care Program. Vets pay between \$1,500 and \$4,000 a month to their caregivers. Jack, whose last name is withheld due to privacy concerns, is among the more than 600 veterans nationwide to be placed in private homes since 2000. The program now operates in 25 cities and serves vets who need nursing home level care. "It's one million times better [than the nursing facility]," says Jack of the Carrs' home. For information about the program, call 202-461-6786 or e-mail [thomas.edes@va.gov](mailto:thomas.edes@va.gov). —Michelle Diamant (AARP Magazine)

## 60th Anniversary of Korean War

This year, 2010, marks the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. The Republic of Korea plans various ways of thanking and honoring Korean War Veterans.

One of the most meaningful is a letter from the Presi-

dent of the Republic of Korea to those Veterans still living expressing profound gratitude for their service and sacrifice in laying the foundation of the peace and freedom South Koreans enjoy today.

Korean Veterans and their families are invited to download and submit an application for this letter at <http://eng.koreanwar60.go.kr/apply.asp>

(A mail in form is on page 25 of this *Taro Leaf*.)



# The *Taro Leaf*TAPS

(Continued from page 6)

sion in **Operation Desert Storm**. He is survived by his wife, Susie.

**John Wilson Callaway**, 94, of Atlanta, GA, died May 11, 2010. From 1941 to 1944, he served as a company officer and Regimental Adjutant of the **34th Infantry Regiment**. John was predeceased by his wife of 59 years, Madeleine Sohlstrom Callaway.

**Ernest James Charles**, 82, passed away on March 26, 2010 at Pikeville, KY. On July 5, 1950, Ernest was a member of Medical Company, **21st Infantry Regiment**, and was captured by the North Koreans where he spent over 37 months as a POW and was a Tiger Survivor. Cards may be sent to Mrs. Emma Charles, PO Box 2731, Pikeville KY 41502-2731.

**Ruben D. DeLaCruz**, 79, Waco, TX was promoted to Glory on April 11, 2010. Ruben was a member of HQ Company, 2nd Battalion, **19th Infantry Regiment**; he was captured on July 16, 1950 near the Kum River and became a Tiger Survivor. He leaves his wife Rosa, to whom cards may be sent at 2525 Colcord Avenue, Waco TX 76707-1910.

**Lawrence A. Gardner, Jr.** LT. Col. (Ret.), 76, of Shingletown, CA, died May 23, 2010. He served with the **19th Infantry Regiment** in Korea, was a POW, and received the Silver and Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Gardner, 30877 Bambi Dr, Shingletown, CA 96088-9601

**Frank F. Hughes Jr.**, 61, Buffalo, NY, died March 6, 2010. Mr. Hughes served as a combat medic at Fort Lee, VA, served two tours in Korea and, served with the **24th Infantry Division** at Fort Stewart, Ga. He is survived by his mother, Lorraine; three brothers, Richard, Michael and Edward; and a sister, Lynda.

**Tyree Jones**, 89, died Sunday, March 28, 2010, in Ridgeland, MS. He served in the military from 1942 to 1945 with the 24th Infantry.

**Erling A. Julnes**, 80, of Olga, WA, died January 16, 2010. He served with HQ. and HQ. Co., 19th Infantry Regiment in Korea.

**Joseph P. Lopez**, Medic with Company A, **5th Regimental Combat Team** 1950-51, died July 16, 2009. "Many a man owes their life to Joe Lopez", according to Jay B. Dixon, also of Co. A, 5th RCT, 2105 Military Rd., Niagara Falls, NY 14304-1735.

**Don Mickey**, F Company, **21st Infantry Regiment** in Korea passed away Jan. 7, 2010. Condolences may be sent to Ms. Donna Mickey, 4524 Hazelwood, North Little Rock, AR 72116.

**Kenneth Milheiser** of Palm Harbor FL on May 30, 2010. Served in Korea 1950-1951 with the Triple Nickel (555th) FA BN, C Battery, **5th Regimental Combat Team**. Ken was a thirteen year member of KWVA Chapter 14; four words sum up Ken's life—for God and country. Last known address: 1479 Brier Ct, Palm Harbor, FL 34683-6367. Submitted by Clarence Dadswell.

**Marion Eugene "Gene" Moulton**, 81, of Havana, FL, passed away March 12, 2010. Gene served in the **24th Infantry** during the Korean War, his battalion was the first to enter the war on July 4, 1950. He is survived by his daughter, Angela Edele (Scott) of Severance, NY and son, Andrew Moulton of Tallahassee.

**Robert Dale Smith**, 87, died March 14, 2010 in Duxbury, MA. Robert served in the US Army as a Captain during WWII with the **24th Infantry Division** in the Phillipine Islands. He is survived by his wife Arline Smith of Marshfield, MA.

**Robert F Smith** passed away March 29, 2009 in Long Beach CA. Bob served with the 24th Infantry Division in Augsburg, Germany in 1965 - 1966 and was assigned to Company D. **724th Maintenance Battalion**. His wife Lou, his son Robert and daughter Jamie and several grandchildren survive.

**James William Truluck, Jr.**, of Florence, SC, died May 21, 2010. Bill served with the 24th Infantry Division in the Pacific; he made six amphibious landings in New Guinea and The Philippines, receiving the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. Bill is survived by his wife, Peggy Taylor Palles Truluck,



# The *Taro Leaf*TAPS

**Raymore Douglas "Bud" Walcher** died Mar. 6, 2010 in Grand Junction, CO. He was a Sergeant in the Military Police, **24th Infantry Division** including a tour in Japan. He is survived by his wife, Virginia.

**Denny B. Young**, 77, of Eustis, FL, passed away April 28, 2010. He was a canoneer with the **555th Field Artillery** in Korea where he was captured in 1951 and held Prisoner of War for 28 months. Denny is survived by his wife Mrs. Nelda Young, 610 Briarcliff Rd, Eustis, FL, 32726.

The following served with **21st Infantry Regiment**.

**Donald D Burke**, 52nd HQ, May 15, 2009.

**Herbert Cain**, Hvy Mtr, Jan. 10, 2006.

**Oliver M. DeVoss**, 52nd HQ, May 31, 2009.

**Rudolph Giannelli**, HQ Co, Dec. 4, 2008.

**Paul Godsman**, 52nd FA HQ, Nov, 8, 2007.

**Leon Heatherly**, M Co, Oct. 13 2008.

**James G. Holder**, I Co, Jan. 9, 2010.

**James H. Hopkins**, 52nd, Jan 30, 2009.

**Jack J. Kron**, 52nd HQ, Mar 19, 2005.

**Wm. A. Littleghost**, F Co, Jul 31. 2009.

**Lloyd R. McCandlish**, D Co, Dec 13, 2009

**Ray Wilhite**, M Co, Dec 21, 2007.

End of 21st Infantry Regiment list.

The following served with the **5th RCT**.

**Bronald E. Alden**, 555th FA Bn, Battery A (52-53) died May 1, 2009, in Galesburg, IL. He is survived by his wife June, 130 Circle Dr., Galesburg, IL 61401-1829

**John E. Back**, Company A, (50), died December 4, 2009 in Paragould, AR.

**Marshall F. Bendixen**, Co. H (51-52) died Nov. 2, 2009, in Albert Lea, MN. He is survived by his wife Helen, 1705 Lancaster Lane, Albert Lea, MN 56007.

**Clyde Chance**, died May 12, 2010, in Nederland, TX. He is survived by his wife Betty.

**Charles R. Eichorn**, Company L & HHC, 3d Bn (51-53) died December 25, 2009, in Hebron, ME.

**Williams S. Edwards**, died April 20, 2010, in St Paul, MN. He is survived by his wife Shirley.

**James W. Evans**, died May 1, 2010, in Williamsburg, VA. James commanded Company A during the battle for OP Harry earning a Silver Star and Purple Heart.

**Eugene M. Elmore**, HHC died March 16 2010 in Louisville, KY. His wife Francis preceded him in death.

**Ken Fujinaga**, 555th FA Bn, Battery A (50-51) died June 21, 1998 In Kapaa, HI

**Thomas W. Hardy Jr.**, died March 28, 2010 in Savannah, GA. He was awarded the Bronze Star in Korea. He was preceded in death by his wife Blanche.

**Kenneth M. Hatch**, 72d Engr, died April 18, 2010 in Newport, OR. During the Korean War he was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

**Ronald L. Hughes**, Co. M, (53-54) died Aug. 11, 2009 in Chesterfield Township; survived by his wife Donna, 30585 Lynn court, Chesterfield Twp, MI 48051.

**Harry C. Karns**, Company E (52-53) died Aug. 11, 2008 in Bedford, PA.

**Theodore Noose**, died Apr. 26, 2010 in Chicago, IL.

**Albert Paragoso**, Hq, 3d Bn (50-51) died in Apr. 1, 2010 in Mililani, HI

**Clarence Randle**, Company H died Feb. 4, 2010 in Chicago.

**Phillip R. Schwalm**, Hq Co (52-53) died Jan. 19, 2010 in Santa Fe, TX. He is survived by Marceline, 11903 Old Spanish Trail Santa Fe, TX 77510-6638.

**Harry L. Thomas, Jr.**, Company L (52-53) died Apr. 29 2009. His survived by his wife Leona 2902 Wood-lawn Ave., Colonial Heights, VA 23834-1561.

**Theodore H. Wolf**, Hq Company, died Feb. 8, 2009 in Macungie, PA. He is survived by his wife Betty 2802 Terrwood Drive East, Macungie, PA 18062-8490

End of the 5th Regimental Combat Team list.





## What the Memorial is...

As was reported in the last *Taro Leaf*, a number of members are leading an effort to recognize the fourteen members of the 24th Infantry Division whose deeds have been so outstanding that they have been recognized by the *Medal of Honor*.

The goal is to have a memorial placed in Arlington National Cemetery. A drawing of the Memorial is shown above.

But in order to have it placed at Arlington, action by the members of the U.S. Congress is necessary.

Accordingly, on January 28, 2010, Congressman Chris Lee (NY-26) introduced legislation (H. Con. Res. 232) to honor the Army's 24th Infantry Division and its 14 Medal of Honor recipients through a memorial marker at Arlington National Cemetery. We urged you then to contact your Congress Representative to support this bill.

But a June 21 search of the THOMAS Internet website reported: "24. H.CON.RES.232 : Expressing the sense of Congress that a site in Arlington National Cemetery should be provided for a memorial marker to honor the memory of the 14 members of the Army's 24th Infantry Division who have received the Medal of Honor.

Sponsor: Rep Lee, Christopher J. [NY-26] (introduced 1/26/2010) Cosponsors (20)

Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 2/18/2010 Referred to House subcommittee.

Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Readiness."

## What you must do NOW!

Write a letter to your Congressman or lady asking them to support Congressman Lee's bill, H. Con. Res. 232, to honor the Army's 24th Infantry Division and its 14 Medal of Honor recipients through a memorial marker at Arlington National Cemetery.

On June 2, 2010, Dan Rickert, Chair of the MOH Committee, reported that Professor Larry Jones of Saddleback College, the same person who sculptured the 24th Memorial in Hawaii, has begun working on the MOH Memorial. The College is allowing us to use their Fine Arts facility.

Sal Schillaci, Committee Sec./Treas. reports that to date he has received over \$10,000 in contributions from you all. But he also reported that his best projection of total costs will be perhaps as much as \$15,000. Hence, more will be needed.

So, Keith Hagen will be sending out more solicitation letters to those he had not yet reached.

Send your contribution to:

Salvatore Schillaci  
59 Endicott Drive  
Amherst, NY 14226-3323  
716-837-1635





# Basic trainee vets reconnect after 63 years



**Boulay**

**Stokes**

Paul A. Boulay, a Fall River, MA native and Bill Stokes, an up-state New Yorker and sometime cartoonist for the *Taro Leaf*, reunited for lunch recently in The Villages, FL, after Boulay responded to our quarterly 24th Infantry Div. reunion listing in a local newspaper.

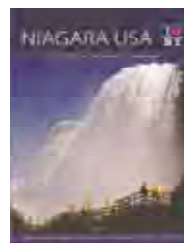
Paul and his wife, Mary Joyce, have been Villages residents since 2008 and the couple enjoys traveling the world since his retirement from construction work in 1988. Stokes, who lives in Lady Lake - just five miles from the Boulays - made careers of radio, television and writing. Both raised families: Paul has two sons and four grandchildren, Bill raised three children and has seven grandkids.

He and Boulay were basic trainees at Aberdeen Proving Ground in fall, 1946. They embarked for Japan on a converted Liberty ship in December, 1946, as replacements, and ended up in Headquarters-Headquarters Company, 34th Inf. Regt. in Sasebo. The two reunited in mid-March this year for a two-hour lunch, reminiscing about life in Sasebo from 1946 to 1948. While

Paul A Boulay  
921 Bristol Ter  
The Villages, FL 32162-3390  
(352) 751-2388

William S. Stokes  
304 Balsam Circle  
Lady Lake FL 32159-3201  
(352) 750-6741

Stokes was sent home for medical treatment, Boulay stuck it out in Japan until returning stateside in 1948. Just three months short of his Army Reserve discharge date, he was recalled to Trieste as an armorer until 1951.



## Jamie Burnell by Marvin Reed Continued from pg. 40



Examples of two labels, including mine at right, and one from the "what was that division?"

To have **Jamie Burnell** (left) make labels for you, please provide her with: Your Name, Street Address, City, State and Zip+4, Phone, email, and your unit, ribbons etc., to Jamie at the address at right. She cannot take tele-

phone calls because of her schedule. Labels are: \$11 for 150 and \$18.50 for 300; Business cards are: 50 for \$16.50, 100 for \$27; and 500 for \$129. She provides proof copies by email.

by Marvin Reed



Jamie L. Burnell  
19 Myrtle Avenue  
South Portland, Maine 04106-1618,  
[Jamie-USA@maine.rr.com](mailto:Jamie-USA@maine.rr.com)



# Helm, new Association Historian



Helm receiving a Honorary Association membership at the Rapid City Reunion last year.

the editor for *House to Home* magazine, and wrote a history-based daily program for North Dakota Public Radio called *Dakota Datebook*.

Merry Helm has been appointed to the position of Association Historian by President Frederick, replacing Larry Gay, who served in the position for the past several years.

Ms. Helm has been a researcher and writer since 1992.

She has written several movies for television, was

Most recently, she has been focusing on writing a series of books called *Prairie Boys at War*. The first will focus on Korea. It was inspired by her work in helping to get the Medal of Honor for North Dakota native, Woodrow Wilson Keeble, and will include the stories of several DSC recipients from the 24th ID, including LTC Carl Jensen, LT Ward Neville, COL Richard Stephens, and other 24th ID veterans.

Merry requests that members who have written memoirs, stories, books etc. of their experiences in any form to please send her a copy.

She also says that she is not ready to try answering questions just yet.

Merry Helm  
420 8th Avenue South  
Fargo ND 58103-2828  
701-293-5045  
[52pianos@cablone.net](mailto:52pianos@cablone.net)

## National Veterans Day In Birmingham, Alabama



John and Kathleen Dunn  
at Rapid City

tending this event on Nov. 10-11, please call or email me as soon as possible, and I will start working on the details. I have had discussions with a local military vehicles restoration group, and they would have restored vehicles available for us to ride in the parade.

John A. Dunn, Sec/Tres,  
9150 Hwy 51  
Westover, Al 35147  
Ph: 205-678-6165,  
[jokdunn@aol.com](mailto:jokdunn@aol.com)

Sec/Treas John Dunn invites all Association members to join with him in celebrating Veterans Day 2010 in Birmingham, Alabama, which has one of the oldest and largest Veterans Day parade and activities in the nation.

There is a dinner the evening before, and a luncheon the day of the parade. These activities honor the veterans and feature notable military persons as speakers.

There is a charge for the meal functions, but I think the prices are reasonable. Hotel rates near the locale of the activities are approximately \$100 per night. There is a web site, [nationalveteransday.org](http://nationalveteransday.org), for more details.

If you are interested in at-





# West Coast Reunion Photos *by Nick Cortese*



West Coast Reunion photos by Nick Cortese of Las Vegas; from left clockwise, members of the 19th IR, "Ladies of the 24th," and members of the 21st IR.



## 69th Anniv Pearl Harbor



Dec. 7, 2009, Willow Grove Naval Base PA, on the 69th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Two old timers who were in Schofield when the 24th and the 25th were formed in October 1941.

### George D Frazier

Life # 1803, 13-63 FA  
300 Estelle Ln  
Warminster, PA 18974-2914  
(215) 672-0991

### Ralph F. Carter

Life # 495, 19th Infantry  
268 Ellicott Road  
Avondale PA 19311-9106



**Bill Lane**, Canton NC, 34th Inf., Med, Korea, 1950, in front of a truck similar to what he used as a Medic in Korea. This was in 2009 at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Please see story on pages 14-15 in this issue.





# Bill Allen with General Petraeus



Left: Member Bill Allen (left), presents a POW/MIA Flag to General David H. Petraeus, Commander U.S. Central Command. The flag now flies at Central Command Headquarters. Bill also presented him with a copy of his book about his life as a POW *My Old Box of Memories*.

The James A. Haley Veterans Hospital invited Wounded Warriors and Veterans, and Allen, a former Prisoner Of War, and his family to the Honda Grand Prix in St Petersburg, FL. General Petraeus invited Bill and his family and the members of the Rolling Thunder Veterans to his headquarters.



For a part of Bill Allen's story, please see: *The Taro Leaf*, Vol 61(3&4) Summer-Fall 2007, Pages 38-39.

Left: Bill with General Petraeus and Bill's granddaughter, Margaux Allen, (left) at Central Command.

Bill Allen, Association Life Member 1695, C. Co 1950-53, 421 4th Ave. N., Tierra Verde, FL 33715-1730, wallen2@tampabay.rr.com, Phone 727-866-8337.

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## 24th IDA Central Florida Group—Gainesville Veterans Hospital



Gainesville, FL, March 17, 2010: Julie Baker, Veterans Volunteer Services Officer at the Malcom Randal VA Medical Center in Gainesville, FL accepts socks, gloves, toiletries and various other items contributed by the Central Florida 24th IDA Group from Tom Thiel, left, of Eustis, and Paul Miller of Inverness.

The items were collected by about 50 members of the 24th Infantry Division Association's Central Florida Group that has been getting together quarterly for sharing camaraderie and Dutch Treat luncheons in Leesburg, FL. The Group cordially invites any veteran who has ever served with the 24th Division, or with any unit every attached to the 24th to come to the next luncheon to be held at August 4 at 11:45 a.m. in Leesburg, FL. Spouses or significant others are also invited. Please call 352-750-6952 or 352-357-3943 for reservations.

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## Want to grow membership?

Want to increase membership? How about Association provide every member with bumper sticker left to put on their bumper? The number is available.



**1-866-24TH FWD**

Suggestion by member Lester A. Johnson, 9410 Melvina Ave., Oak Lawn, IL, 60453, Ph: 708-237-0637; 866 number availability checked by ED.





## Check Your Dues Date Below

**Send Dues &  
Address  
Changes To:**

**24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association  
Secretary/Treasurer  
John A. Dunn—2nd Infantry  
9150 Hwy. 51  
Westover, AL 35147-9527  
205-678-6165  
[jokdunn@aol.com](mailto:jokdunn@aol.com)**

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Notices to the  
*Taro Leaf* Editor**  
(Please include a photo)  
[24thtaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:24thtaroleaf@gmail.com)

PO BOX 500907  
San Diego CA 92150-0907

955 FA Bn  
by Thomas F. Cacciola  
See pg. 33

