

TARO

24th Infantry Division Association

24th Infantry Division Association



FIRST TO FIGHT

LEAF



Volume 66 Issue No. 4

Fall 2012

In This Issue

Cover: "After the Battle"	1
Contents, 24th IDA Officers, Directors, Staff	2
President Don Maggio's message	3
Editor David Valley's message	3
Looking For	4
Letters	4-9
Odd Bitt's and Things	10-11
A Letter to the Lost	12-13
Above and Beyond.....	14-15
Secret Weapon	16
National Reunion.....	16-21
South to Naktong	22-25
Website News.....	26
Quartermaster.....	27
Notices	28-29
Nostalgia, Do You Remember When.....	30
Fallen Comrades	31
Reunions.....	32
Regional Reunion, Laughlin, NV.....	33
"Old Soldiers Never Die"	34
24th Division Awards	35
Florida 24th IDA Delivers to Ft. McCoy Vets	35
"Moving on Out"	33-35

Taro Leaf, Volume 66, Issue 4, Fall 2012

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**COMING
UP NEXT**

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About the Cover

**After the Battle
Tan Hep, Vietnam
By Michael R. Crook, 1967**



Greetings to all Taro Leafers:

Our reunion in New Orleans was successful. Everyone enjoyed the city tour, steamboat ride, tour of the WWII Museum, and gatherings in the hospitality suite. Gene Spicer is putting together a great reunion at Louisville, KY, in 2013 and the members approved Omaha, NE, for

2014. We will work with Frederick Event Management to find centrally located locations to hold future reunions in hopes that our West Coast members will be able to join us.

Mel Frederick was awarded the Verbeck Award this year for his leadership during a period of change and challenges.

We all want to thank Sal Schillaci for his two-year stewardship of the Association and especially his work trying to place the memorial to the 24th Division's Medal of Honor recipients in Arlington National Cemetery. Confronting the hurdles has been very frustrating for him; yet he continues the battle for us. Dan Rickert has made tremendous progress in getting it made.

New member Bill Tricarico, "F" 19th Infantry WWII & Japan Occupation, was elected as Vice President. He brings to our group a depth of knowledge from service to other veteran associations. As our membership has aged and declined, he will work to re-unite veterans of the 24th Division together so we can gain economies of scale to make the cost of attending reunions less while maintaining the camaraderie and identity of those groups.

George Vlasic has worked in the past to publicize our Association and reunion through various veterans' publications. He was elected as a Director-At-Large filling the vacancy left by John Slattery. He will work in concert with Tom Appler to further publicize our Association, reaching out to those who currently use electronic social media. We expect Tom Thiel to keep us all updated on their work via the **Taro Leaf**. We must thank Tom Thiel on his efforts to get so many past Taro Leafs downloaded onto our website (www.24thida.com). Wes Morrison and others have sent him old issues for to scan and put on our website. Tom has also expanded first person accounts, books, and other information available on line.

Glenn Carpenter told us the 2013 fund raiser will be his last so we need another volunteer to fill that position. Please consider volunteering as is important to our Association's membership and financial health.

I encourage all of you to suggest changes to improve our Association. I thank all of you for honor of serving as your Association's President for the coming year. Best regards,

Don Maggio



Howdy! I am racked with fear and trepidations as our country faces the national elections. BY the time you receive this issue of the Taro Leaf the critical contests will be decided, and God help us! I am hopeful for the future of our country and for our descendents. I am very concerned, but there's little I feel I can do other than cast my vote in the upcoming election to change the course of events.

I have a friend who sincerely believes the Apocalypse is upon us. Another believes the Mayan Calendar, which stops at December 12, 2012, tells us the world comes to an end on that date. Well, we don't have long to wait for that prophesy to be revealed, or not.

As for me, I don't deny anything is possible, but I haven't taken to stockpiling food, water, and ammunition. I fully expect in three months from now I'll be plodding through the next issue of the Taro Leaf.

Well readers, you are in for a bit of a shock. We have a reunion committee that is really on top of it. Gene Spicer and Ken Fenter have already started the ball rolling, see page 32. And, I'll do my part to keep updating the information as we go along, hopefully without some of the screw ups I've been guilty of in the past.

I have gone again to the U.S. Army Archives for cover artwork. This artist, Michael Crook, skillfully captures the forlorn look of a weary soldier after battle. He is probably reliving his recent experience and trying to make some sense of it. This painting is from the Vietnam War, but its subject is timeless.

I am curious as to how many of our members are dealing with spouses who have dementia or Alzheimer's (I don't know the difference.) My wife Dottie was diagnosed with "advancing dementia" several years ago. The most obvious effect for her has been loss of memory, which now is virtually non-existent on a short-term basis, although many older memories persist. Her cognitive skills have drastically declined as she cannot do most household tasks, but she tries to help in every way. Life has gotten more complicated and I have to be nearby most of the time, but we still have a great life. God is good to us. I don't try to think where this is leading, but I will stay by her side as long as possible.

Aside from some long term back problems, I have been blessed with good health. I keep mentally active with projects like the Taro Leaf and a small business, and I can still play tennis every week with some other old timers. For those who haven't been as fortunate as I and Dottie, you have my sincere sympathy and wishes for God's blessings.

David Valley

Looking For

Hello David: I am trying to find out some information about my father-in-law's service during WWII. He is now passed, but my children and grandchildren are curious about his service during the war. I was assigned to HHC, 3rd Brigade, 24th Inf Div in Germany in 1968 & 69. One day, my father-in-law saw my old uniform with the 24th Div patch and immediately recognized the Taro Leaf. He seldom talked about the war with his family, but he did engage me about where he was during the war. He said he was in Australia for training and subsequently in campaigns in Hollandia and Papua, New Guinea. But he said he was in the "25th Division"? He was in his mid-eighties by this time and was a little confused about things in general. He didn't save anything from his days in the military, except a bronze star ribbon that his son found in a drawer. But based on my readings of the battles and campaigns the 24th was engaged in the Pacific, it sounds like he was in the 24th division. His discharge papers list the following as battles and campaigns: "GO 33 & 40 WD 45 East Indies Papua New Guinea". Not sure what the GO 33 & 40 WD 45 stand for, but I assume it has something to do with the locations of the battles.

Also, his discharge record does not show his unit in the Pacific, only the unit he was in when he was discharged, which was Battery A, 4th Coastal Artillery. He did tell me that when the war ended he was not discharged right away, but was sent to Panama for a few months. His date of discharge is listed as October 19, 1945 and place of discharge as Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, PA. Is there a way to find out his unit in the Pacific Theater? Also from the information on his separation record about the battles and campaigns, can you tell if these campaigns were the ones the 24th Division was involved in Hollandia and New Guinea? The citations listed on his separation record list - a Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, and Asiatic Pacific Service Medal with 3 Bronze Stars. Any help you can provide is most appreciated. **John F. Butler**, Member # 136, 2 White Pine Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080

David:

I am starting a website for my former buddies of George Company, 19RGT. I'd like to ask the Taro Leaf readers if any of you have an email address or postal address for SHELTON, Ralph W., or any others who served with G CO, 19th RGT. **William Roseboro**, 605 Marlboro St., Hamlet, NC, 28345 910-582-1189. Also check out <http://community-2.webtv.net/wroseboro/Gcompany19thininfantry> My email is wroseboro@webtv.net

Editor: I'm looking for information about my father, Robert Needleman. I'm fairly certain he served in the 24th Infantry Division in Korea. He was from Brooklyn, NY, born in 1931. One of his close friends from his service days was Eugene Levine. I can't tell you any details about his service- my mother does not recall any and he passed away in 1976 when I was only 11 so I never discussed it with him. I would like to find living veterans who may have known him.

Barry Needleman bneedleman@comcast.net

Letters

Dear David: I tried to send you an email but my computer would not send. So I will rely on the old way which I used most of my life. Thank you for the two articles in the summer addition of our Taro Leaf: on page 5, article, and picture of crew from Japan TV for interview on Leyte & Ormoc Valley. I called my Sister Rita and told her about "Power of Prayer" on page 14. She was quite pleased and asked that I thank you. During WWII all my correspondence was with my Mother, I never received a letter from my father either. He was a farmer and I doubt if he ever finished grade school however he fathered and raised 12 of us children. I remember getting home after WWII. They were picking corn the day I arrived home at that old farm house near Ivesdale, IL. I went right to the field, got on the tractor and started picking corn. At this time I realized the war was over and I was home. **Paul J. Cain**, I & K Plt. leader K CO, 3109 Chatham Drive, Urbana, IL. 61802 217 344 1462 email: pgee.cain@yahoo.com

Dear Editor: Being proud of my nearly three years service with the Gimlets 21st Infantry and as 1SGT of CO A of the 24th Division, I have often thought about what happened to the Gimlets after Task Force Smith and Korea.

The August 2012 issue of the VFW Magazine answered some of my questions. They were last to leave Vietnam, served two tours in Iraq, and one tour in Afghanistan. They have served their country well!

I also served during WWII and had the honor of serving under COL Verbeck. **David "Paul" Carpenter**, Life Member

Dear David:

I am writing in regards to the phone call on May 8. I had called about the article in the Spring 2012 issue about Richard Quatier of Vancouver, WA who passed away September 5, 2011. I wrote a letter to him on May 27, 2006 in regards to his son who was lost during the Korean War, namely Robert Daune Quatier. He was listed as MIA while defending his position on the south bank of the Kum River near Taejon, South Korea, on July 16, 1950. At that time the Quatier's were yet seeking closure to the situation. I ask if this could be a related situation. If you can possibly find out, I would appreciate hearing from you, or you might cover it in the next issue. I search every issue to look for the possibility of finding a buddy. So far it has happened a few times, quite often new friends. You have a very fine magazine, David. Respectfully yours, **GILBERT HOOGENDOORN**, Associate Member, 605 339-9835

I NEED YOUR
SIGNATURE
FOR A **US**
POSTAGE
STAMP



THANK YOU

Dear 24th IDA Member: Please support this initiative by sending this message with your name Name, Address, Phone or email to the address below:

Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
1735 Lynn Street, Suite 5013
Arlington, VA 22209

We the undersigned veterans and other community members request, with deep thought and conviction, that you make the MIA/POW Stamp a Forever Stamp as is the Liberty Bell and Purple Heart. The Liberty Bell signifies our independence and the Purple Heart signifies the human suffering associated with this independence. Until there is total peace on earth, there will be conflict. Men and women of our nation will be placed in harm's way; some sustaining the wounds of war. To those who have passed before us and to those who come, the MIA/POW Stamp is a tribute to the ones we left behind in foreign lands. Let us not forget them and all they have done to ensure our freedom as American citizens. Please consider our request and make it a reality. Request by **John Baker**, Life Member, Monterrey, CA

Hello Jack: I had called you on Thursday, September 6th after I read the article in the Tribune about you serving in the 34th INF, the 24th Division. I was in the 21st INF of 24th Division. I was hoping that you would recall in June of 1945 when your outfit was attacked by our own P-38. I saw this all happen from another part of the island in Mindano. We came upon your area and our convoy stopped and I asked what outfit that was and our CO said the 34th. I asked if anyone knew of an Alvin Rhodes. One person said he knew him, but he was killed by one of our own planes (which I was watching from another area). While this was going on the Japanese had come back to open up with machine guns and was raking the whole area. Our drivers said let's get the hell out of here and our convoy took off. I was hoping that maybe you could recall what day that was in June 1945.

Hello David: In the summer issue, the picture of the tanks parked on rocks so their tracks wouldn't freeze to the ground reminded me of a fiasco that occurred in the Fall of '51.

"Albin Barkely (V.P.?) is coming to visit." I believe on an airstrip near Chun Chon. Half our squad on a quad .50 halftrack was sent to the strip. I never saw them again!

The oldtimers wanted to park the quad on some brush, but were overruled by brass that thought it was unsightly. With sub-zero temperatures that night most of the halftrack froze solid to the ground resulting in broken tracks and ruined transmissions...all because it was unsightly.

Another brass fiasco was when a new 2LT came to our position on the MLR. We had been traveling over dusty terrain and had picked up a lot of natural camouflage, and with some added brush we were practically invisible. The LT didn't like it and told us to remove the brush and wipe the track off with oily rags to make it shine! I should have said no, but didn't. The next morning we were showered by NK mortar rounds; their way of saying, "Now we see you." And that wasn't my last run-in with that 2LT. **Marvin Reed, Life Member 2002.**

MARVIN REED-KOREA 11-51



EAST OF KUMSONG, N. KOREA

In November I will have Alvin Rhodes's name on a stone placed next to mine. I have also my buddies, Angelo Strada and Thomas Bateman who were on my left shoulder on that day. Their names will be placed at the College of Lake County War Memorial on Armistice Day. Enclosed a *Taro Leaf* which I receive four times a year from our association. I thought you would enjoy reading it. God Bless and keep on making those roast beef sandwiches. May God Bless, **S/SGT John G. Trinca** 21st RGT 24th Division,

Readers: John found a story about Schaller in a newspaper and sent this letter to him. (Jack Schaller, Schaller's Pump, 3714 S. Halstead, Chicago, IL 60609 773-376-6722) **Editor**

Letters

David: I stumbled across the following news article from the Carroll Daily Times Herald (Iowa), Aug 8 1953. It talks about the fate of many 24th Division POWs in Korea. Richard Cones was with the 5th RCT and was captured April 22, 1953. Gerold Young was from the 19th Regiment and was captured February 4, 1951. They were both from Adair County, Iowa, and they were both repatriated August 14, 1953.

"Iowans Tells Of Hundreds Of POWs Dying"

INCHON, Korea (UP) —A hill inside Red POW Camp No. 1 where hundreds of Americans are buried was described here Saturday by Sgt. Richard L. Cones, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Cones was among POWs who were liberated this week. He referred to the hill where "we buried our dead" and said American prisoners gave it the name "Boot Hill."

"We lost more than 400 men between June and October, 1951, of starvation, malnutrition, beri-beri, dysentery and such as that," Cones said. "A lot of men couldn't eat the stuff they gave us — especially when they looked at the sorghum and rice and saw the maggots and weevils. We buried them in a graveyard on Boot Hill. One to four men in each grave. There were no burial services. Maybe a guy would say a little prayer. The graves are marked now, just with brown wooden cross. There are no names on them I know of. Where there are four men in a grave, there is one cross."

Cones was one of the first Americans repatriated from Camp 1. He had been there since June 1951, and said conditions were very bad at first but later they improved.

Camp No. 1, Cones said, had a jail where the Chinese put prisoners who had violated their rules. Inside were cages about four feet tall and six or seven feet long. "A man could sit up but, he couldn't stand," Cones said. "Sometimes they sentenced a man there for as much as six months." Cones said some men began smoking marijuana, which grew wild in Korea, to escape the realities of the prison camp.

Another liberated Iowan, Sgt. Gerold K. Young of Des Moines, told of a death march United Nations soldiers were forced to make in the bitter cold of a Korean, winter in 1951. Young said 800 weak and wounded prisoners were taken on the march from near the front to the prison camp near the Yalu River boundary with Manchuria. He said a tall Chinese officer lined up the prisoners at the beginning of the march and declared in perfect English: "Now we are going to separate the men from the boys." He meant the strong would live, the weak would die, Young said. On the march, the sergeant added, those who fell were left where they fell. One was kicked over a cliff.

Merry: It is absolutely incredible what these men endured and survived.. I met one of them, Walt Whitcomb, last week at the Laughlin, NV Korean Vets Reunion. "The Sunchon Tunnel Massacre Survivors," tells about him and more of these heroes. **David**

Hi David, On behalf of the Steckels I wish to make a correction to the article in the Spring 2012 Vol 66 Issue #2, page 13 concerning the amount raised for the 24th Assn from the donation of the quilt made last year by Laurette Steckel. The correct amount was \$485.00 - not \$185.00. Thank you, **Susan Perry**

Dear David Valley: I understand completely your concern regarding the lack of material from Association members which in turn makes the Taro Leaf at times less than it could be, as you concisely stated in the latest edition. One of the solutions you've considered is to encourage members to "...speak their minds about current events and the state of the country." May I be impetuous enough to ask that you reconsider, as I believe you already have, according to your earlier commentary that the TL "...may not be the appropriate place for such ruminations."

My feeling, Mr. Valley, is that it's asking for trouble. You might be bombarded with rants, screeds, polemics, craziness going off the scale from all different sides of the political spectrum. Rather than being the glue which holds the Association together, you could be introducing all sorts of viruses which may tend to do just the opposite—become a journal of such different and venomously clashing viewpoints that it begins to impugn the integrity of the publication. It brings to mind the hoary aphorism: "Be careful what you wish for—you might just get it."

As a suggestion, how about doing some house advertising, spotting throughout the publication small boxed squibs with requests such as: "Did you serve at Camp Mowrer [Camp Chicamauga, Camp Wood, Camp Etc.]? Write and tell us about your most interesting experience. Send photos if you have them. We will do some required editing if necessary and print them in the TL if appropriate." Or, "World War II/Korea 24th Division members: Before it's too late, let us print your memories of time spent with your outfit." Or, "Serve with the 24th Division in Germany, Iraq, Kuwait? Put down on paper your most memorable experiences and send them to us. Photos too if you have them."

There also appears to be a great deal of material on the Internet pertaining to the 24th and attached units which is freely available i.e., it's apparently not owned by anyone nor are any copyrights involved or other legal intricacies preventing republishing.

I believe the aforementioned might better serve your interests than the "Whack-a-Mole" battle which political arguments might open up within the pages of the Taro Leaf. Best wishes for all good things. Name withheld on request.

To Unknown: I will hold off any deluge of material inappropriate to the Taro Leaf, but I do like your idea of inserting "squibs" to stimulate our readers toward making submissions.

Thank you, David

Greetings: As past president I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who helped me and made my tenure a pleasure. I want our new president, Don Maggio, to know that I will help him in any way that I can.

You may rest assured that I am still working on getting our monument dedicated to the men of the 24th who earned the medal of honor, placed in Arlington. Know that at this time, the ones (politicians) who could help us in this venture, are too involved in attempting to stay in office or to get into office, but I will persevere!

Once again, good luck to all the new officers.
Sal Schillaci

Mr. D.V.: I am certain that you must receive a tsunami of emails daily and in that jumble of correspondence overlooked my sign-off in the lower right corner of my original email to you (below) So it wasn't Joan who wrote—it was me (I use her email address for my limited usage) Whatever I know about the 24th I.D. I have garnered from the Taro Leaf, from my own involvement in the closing months of WWII and later the early days of the Japan Occupation with the Division, and from reading publications and reference material. There are some of us who wish to remember and report on their experiences while serving in a combat unit, which is commendable for it illuminates the sacrifices which were made by those who did the dirty jobs. Others, however, have no wish to remember and in fact attempt to drive those memories deep within the recesses of the mind. I am of the latter group. Like so many others, we did what we had to do and then got out and went home. We were the lucky ones. / **Albert J. Silverstein**, E21, '45-'46



David: It appears that Roy E. Appleman, author of "South to the Nakong..." as presented in Vol. 66 of the Taro Leaf misspelled the name of the young Nisei from Hawaii on page 23. Okada should have been spelled Okata. I have known Richard Okata since our basic training days of '48 at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. The photo above was from a get together in Gardena, CA in 2002. He is on the right. Richard was awarded the Silver Cross for his action on the ridge that day. **Bob Kodama**, Life Member 2227

Dear David: Many thanks for mention of me in the latest issue of the Taro Leaf. Having been in printing and newspapers for 40 years, I can understand having no room for the large newspaper stories.

A couple of corrections. The duty station was Camp Schimmel Pfennig, and I did not refuse a promotion! My CO put me in twice for it, but both times it was turned down. We finished second in the Regimental inspection. The winners painted the tips of their shoes silver!

Are you aware of the Korean War Veterans Association? They have brought me a bunch of their magazines.

If I sent you a picture and a short story, could it possibly be published? Also, a couple of members that I remember. I will keep it short, maybe a couple of pages. Hope to hear from you soon. **LeRoy E. Atkins**, CO H, 21st RGT

LeRoy: I believe I sent a note to you via USPS, but anyway, your contribution is most welcome. I have included it on the next page. **David**

Dear David, In Volume 66, Issue No. 2 - Spring 2012 - Page 25 - there is an article about the Presidential Unit Citation issued for a battle in which I fought. Until I read this article, I was unaware that my company was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. It wasn't on my D.D. 214. I served in the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division for the first 13 months. I can't remember the date or the village we were in because we moved too fast. As a matter of fact, I wrote about my experience in Korea and sent it to a previous historian of The Taro Leaf. My account didn't include a lot of action, but it was my experience. If you are interested, there are details in my book that were not included in the Presidential Unit Citation article. The title of the book I sent the historian was "The Korean War: The Way I Saw It" written by Otis J. Solar. My account of this battle is written in Chapter 5, page 35 - in case the book I sent has been archived by your organization. I am writing for two reasons. The first is outlined above - I would like to bring to your attention that I wrote about this battle in the book I sent to the previous historian. The second reason I am writing is to ask you if you know how I can go about receiving the Presidential Unit Citation for this battle. If you don't know, do you know who I would contact to pursue this? Any help you can offer me would be greatly appreciated. Additional information you may need to know: Although my current name is Otis J. Solar, when I served, I served under the name of Otis J. Solo. My Life # is 1051 for the 24th Infantry Division Association, 14N206 Highland Avenue, Elgin, IL 60124-7939, Phone number: 847 931-0156 **Otis Solar**

Otis: I will try to locate your book. I would like to read it. I don't know how you would go about getting a copy of the Pres. Unit Citation, but perhaps one of our readers may be able to help you. **David**

Letters

Dear Mr. Valley: Enclosed find some details of my Army life. I have left out many. Please excuse my bad handwriting. Here I do not have access to either a typewriter or computer. In the photo with me is my "boss," SFC Jose Jose Delgado on the left. Hope to hear from you sometime soon.

Basic Training at Indiantown Gap, PA, home of the PA National Guard, 5th Division. The heat of summer and the cold of winter. Training NCO's wore yellow helmet liners and were called lemon heads! Spent a good deal of time at the dentist where they eventually pulled all my teeth and gave me a set of dentures with my name and serial number on them. I wear them to this day. They fit beautifully.



Koje-Do, Korea August 10, 1953

Went to Fort Lawton, WA. Soon after I arrived Ft. Lawton was condemned and we were all sent to Fort Lewis. While my friends were off to Korea, I was put in a special barracks for those whose records had been lost or otherwise mishandled. I never have heard from any of them again.

Our biggest job was to keep off KP and guard duty. In all my time there, I saw the sun only twice. The only duty everyone wanted was KP at the WACS barracks. We later learned that the first six off the bus got the duty. The food and fun was great.

Finally they gave us all new records and we were off for 19 days on a Liberty Ship. Landed in Yokohama in the rain. Train took me and others north to Sendai and the 21st RGT, 24th Infantry Division. I was assigned to CO H. The CO saw I knew how to type, so he assigned me to the Supply Room. It was Camp Schimmel Pfennig. I reveled in being able to wear my civilian clothes.
(Continued, bottom of next column)

David,

Tough assignment, putting the story together. (Bill Roseboro sent a few pages of his scrapbook and I asked background information) Don't know if I'll be able to help a great deal. My initial thoughts were, if you want to publish any of the pictures, some TARO LEAF readers might recognize who, where, and when and respond to you.

Some of the people you asked about I knew, some I did not. All were in G Co, 19th Infantry, but many were from different time periods. I arrived in Korea in August 1950 but was initially assigned to the 11th Field Arty. I reported to G Co 19th in mid-December 1950.

The date range on the pictures runs from Summer 1950 up to the time the 24th was at Camp Haugen (52-53?)

Here is a run-down on the men you named:

Frank Plata - Alive and well and living in Philly. I am in contact with him. Email address below.

Tony Lavourgnia - Still living so far as I know. Don't have his current email address.

Conway - Still living so far as I know.

Singhurst - Possibly deceased.

Modesto Garra - Name changed to Albert Liwanag .Still I iving. Don't have a good email address for him.

Bob Richison - In touch with him often. email listed (Hazel) below.

Ed Williams - Email listed below.

LT Herbert- Now deceased. He went to Korea with G Co in July 50. Was Platoon Leader. Became XO in Feb '51 when the then CO, CPT Dannucci, was KIA. The picture was probably taken late Summer/early '50.

Schulz, Early and Calana - Probably in LT Nichol's 1st Platoon (See below about 1st Platoon)

I can't identify the two illegible names.

I can't provide credits for any of the pictures, some I received from **Vic Hungerford** (deceased) who went to Korea as 1SGT of G Co. Some I got from Conway. Some of them may have come from Bob Richison and from LT Bill Nichols who was a Platoon Leader, 1st Platoon, in G Co before they went back to Japan. Bill died fairly recently. His Platoon Sergeant was "Chief" Woodrow Keeble who was awarded the Medal of Honor for action during "Operation Nomad."

This is about all I can give you right now, David. Some of the others who get this may be able to help out with more info. Wes Morrison can probably help with email addresses. All you who get this, please help iwith info if you can.

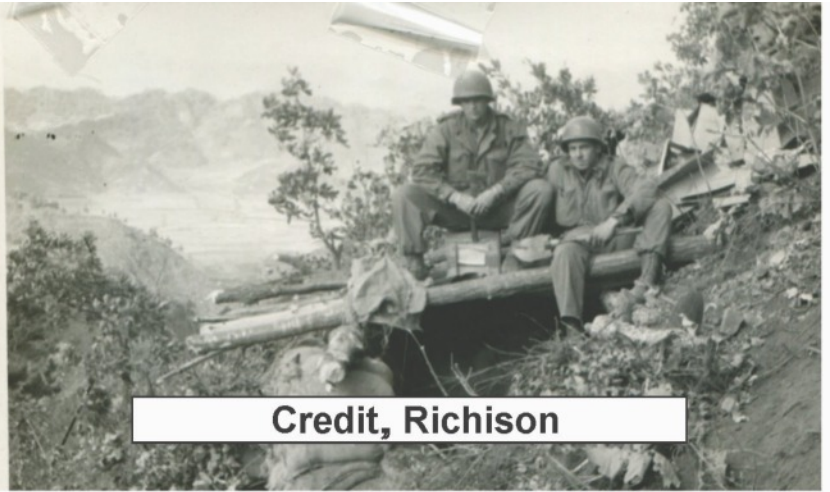
Bill Roseboro

PHOTO COLLECTION ON NEXT PAGE

One day out on maneuvers we were suddenly called back and learned we were going to be sent to Korea! Arrived in Korea and on a train, Korean National Railroad, and were put on freight cars. In the middle of the night we were stopped and turned back headed south. We finally arrived at Koje Do Island via an LST. Job of guarding prisoners. We stayed until the armistice was signed and then we went north to a place called Chuchon. Stayed there until sent home. My CO wanted me promoted from CPL to SGT; it was refused twice. Trying to get new boots was a big problem. Ask for 12 or more pairs and lucky to get one. **LeRoy E. Atkins**



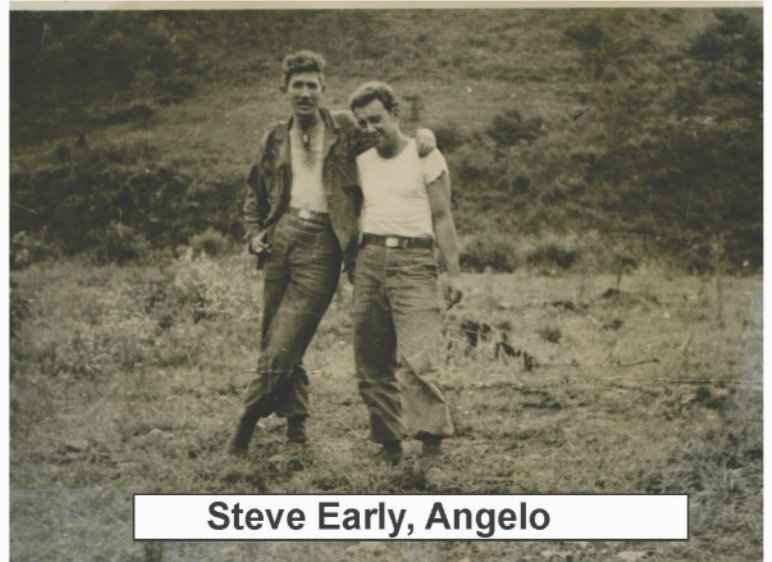
Conway, Singhurst, Goilance?



Credit, Richison



CPL Joe Schultz, Barber?



Steve Early, Angelo

SGT Horin, SGT Campbell

LT Herbert, Dannucchi?



Lavorgnia, Guema?, Plata

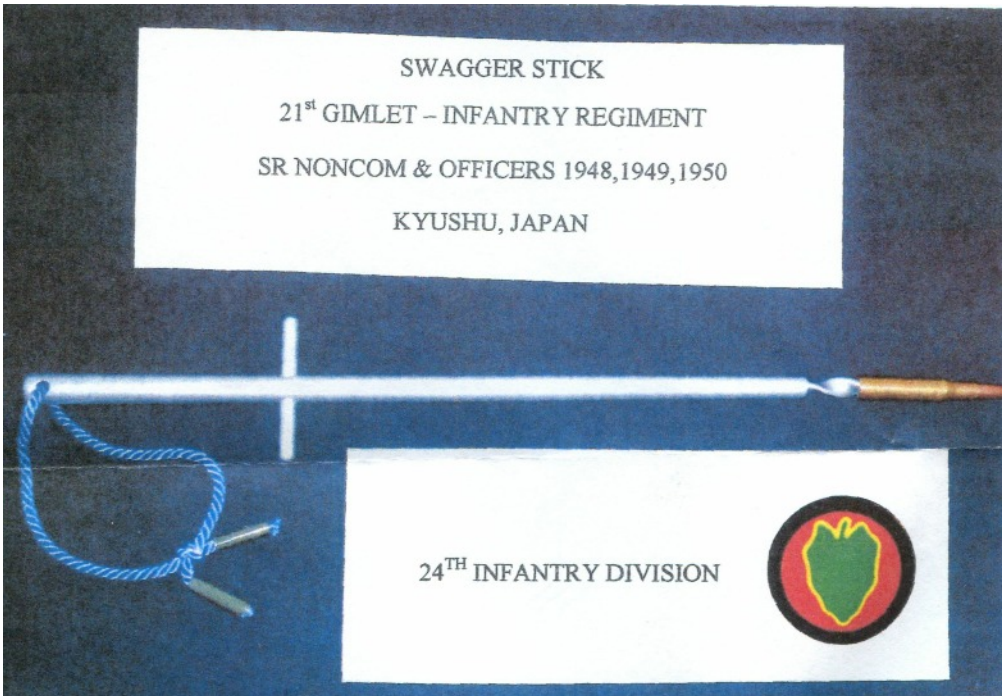


MSG Ed Williams



Tony Lavorgnia

G CO, 19 RGT, Korea - 1950; Camp Haugen 1952-53

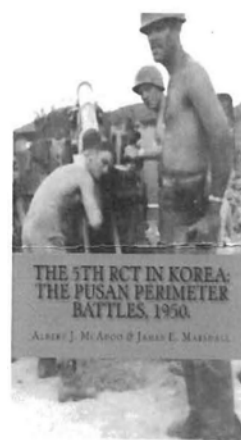


Do any of you old Gimlets remember The swagger stick? I had never seen such a device. Editor

Submitted by John Baker, Monterrey, CA



JULY 3, 1950 – This was from the very early days of the Korean War. The picture, top left, shows men of Task Force Smith on their way to Korea. The text is not readable, but the headlines are very interesting.



NEW!

The 5th RCT in Korea: The Pusan Perimeter Battles, 1950

by
Albert J. McAdoo
& James E. Marshall

This is a new work on the combat operations of the US Army's 5th Infantry Regimental Combat Team on the frontlines of the Korean War's first campaigns. The 5th RCT reached Korea at the close of July, 1950, just as UN forces made their last ditch stand against the Communist invasion of South Korea around the port of Pusan. Attached to the 25th Division the 5th was engaged in operations near Masan, including "Fox Hill," the fight at "Bloody Gulch," and the struggle for "Battle Mountain." Based on the regimental war diary of the 5th RCT, and contributions by veterans of the actions of this period, this new work by Albert J. McAdoo sheds some new light on the baptism of fire of the 5th RCT in Korea.

\$14.95 post paid
Available Direct From the Author:

Albert J. McAdoo
7506 S. Mascotte St.
Tampa, FL 33616

The text above states the 5th RCT was originally attached to the 25th ID, within a couple of weeks it was attached to the 24th ID. (Editor)

If non-deliverable, return to
KENWOOD ROSS
 24th Inf. Div. Assoc.,
 1387 Main Street
 Springfield, Mass.
 Return postage guaranteed



Address

Why a 24th Infantry Division Association?

To honor and perpetuate the memory of the men who distinguished themselves by their services and sacrifices while with the 24th; to perpetuate the memory of the achievements of the 24th; to encourage and aid historical research in relation to the activities of the 24th; to acquire and preserve records of the services of the 24th and the personnel thereof; to mark the scenes of the activities of the 24th with appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversaries of events in the history of the 24th; to assist in the relief of families of men of the 24th within reasonable limits; to promote the National defense and to help to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and at all times to defend and uphold the Constitution of the United States of America.

*Mrg Robert Nelson
 4413 Sansom St
 Philadelphia Pa*

This postcard - a real "penny postcard" - was sent by Margo Nelsen. This search for members was in Dutch Nelsen's files. Note the date of Sept 2, 1951 which was during the second year of the Korean War.

Dear Twenty-Four'er:

The 24th Inf. Div. Association solicits your membership. All former division personnel regardless of rank are invited to join. Membership offers you a chance to attend the next annual 24th reunion at Columbus, Ohio in Aug., 1952, and includes subscription to "The Taro Leaf", the Assoc. paper. Publication is presently a quarterly but will become a monthly as memberships are received. "Directory of 24th Div. Personnel" and "History of 24th Division" are in process of preparation at the moment If you are already a member, won't you pass this

Please cut out and mail today

To Joseph L. Peyton, Secretary,
 24th Inf. Div. Assoc.
 131 North Culver Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

Please find enclosed my \$3.00 for which please enroll me as an Association member and as a subscriber to "The Taro Leaf". I was with

..... of the 24th
 unit

From.....
 date

to.....
 date

Name.....

Address.....

on to a friend who is not? Our system prevents us from avoiding occasional error of sending this invitation to one who has already joined Assoc. . . . Assoc. offers opportunity to keep alive the better of the memories we shared somewhere along the long, rough road from Hawaii to Korea. We recognize no rank. We are simply a clearing house for re-establishing the friendships which were formed during taro leaf days. Won't you join today and share in the pleasures which our members are receiving from membership in the Assoc.

Aloha!

KENWOOD ROSS, President

24th Inf. Div. Assoc.

1387 Main Street, Springfield, Mass.

A "Letter to the Lost"

A "Letter to the Lost" written six years ago lead a Bowling Green, OH, Orthodontist to learn more about his uncle/godfather's death 61 years ago in the Iron Triangle area of North Korea.

Wayne and Kaye Michaelis visited with Tom Thiel, 24th IDA Webmaster, at Tom's home in Eustis, FL, on August 31, 2012.

Wayne Michaelis (left) accepts photo of his uncle



and godfather, Arthur A. Schwind, from Tom Thiel, who served with Art in Company E, 19th Regiment, 24th Infantry division.

They came to better understand the death of Wayne's uncle and godfather, Arthur A. Schwind, on July 8, 1951. Art died immediately in a "friendly fire" incident as his rifle company was launching an attack on the Chinese People's Volunteers; Tom was in the same column and witnessed the incident.

Tom said that he and Art took basic training together at Camp Breckenridge, KY, and then traveled to Korea together. Both were assigned to Easy Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division in April 1951.

Insert: Photo A0490 51xx Art Schwind,E Company, 19th Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, July 4, 1951, in rest area in rear; photo by Thiel.

Tom wrote the *Letter to the Lost* in 2006 in response to a request by Ted Barker of the Korean War Project (www.koreanwar.org/); in it, he said: "What's more important is your (unfulfilled) life during those same 55 years, Art. The life that could have been if you had not been nearest that short falling US artillery round on the fateful noon, July 8, 1951.

"I didn't recognize you as the GI who had lost his life on one of our "jabs" into the Chinese Peoples Volunteers communist positions in the Iron Triangle. It was not until an hour or so later when your Sergeant Williams answered my question about that GI he lost that I realized

it was my very good friend Art from Bowling Green.

"We took basic together, crossed the Pacific on the Mitchell together, went to Korea together on the Howze, and then to E Co, 19th! Art, Rudy and me from Basic to Company E; now it was only Rudy and me!*"

"I was speechless but not your Sergeant! He cursed everyone he could, especially those arguing over which chairs to sit in at the Peace Talks, which had just begun. "Oh how your life might have been Art. A wife there in Bowling Green. Children. A home. And now perhaps grandchildren. Or maybe even like me a great grandfather too! Probably they would have all been BGSU Falcons!

"But that was all taken from you 55 years ago in a far-away place called North Korea, in the Iron Triangle."

Tom wrote five such letters. After sending them to the KWP, he wondered, "Why not try to reach the families?" So, he sent them to newspapers in the locales of "his Korean War KIA friends." As far as Tom knows, only the Sentinel-Tribune in Bowling Green, OH, carried his letter. That was on Veterans Day 2006, Saturday November 11. Tom said on the following Sunday evening his phone rang.

Art Schwind,E Company, 19th Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, July 4, 1951, in rest area in rear;



photo by Thiel.

A female voice asked, "Did you write the article in the paper?"

"I live in Florida and do not know what article you are referring to," he replied.

"An article about Art Schwind," she said quite excitedly.

"I sent an article to the paper," Tom said. "That's probably what I wrote."

"I am Art's sister, Mary Michaelis," she replied. "We have been wondering all these years how Art died. The military people did not explain it very well, and we'd like to know more."

Mary and Tom talked for a while and he sent her a letter with more details. A couple of months later Art's older

brother called and he and Tom visited for a while by phone.

Tom says that he had forgotten about his letters, but not his comrades who lost their lives, three as a part of Tom's recoilless weapons section of E Company.

Then on August 29, 2012, another call came from area code 214 in NW Ohio. This time it was from Wayne and Kaye Michaelis, who had come to central Florida on a personal trip. Wayne is of course Mary's son. They came to try to get "real" answers to how Wayne's uncle and godfather, Art, had died in the Land of the Morning Calm, that beautiful clear summer day in a grove of pine trees along a North Korean trail.

Tom explained that Art was singled out by the "gods of chance," the falling of a short U.S. artillery round on July 8, 1951, as he walked in single file into combat against the Chinese Peoples Volunteers. Tom told them what he had seen from his position in the line behind where the shell fell. Then a few minutes later he walked by the spot where the body lay on the ground. Tom says he truly hopes that his meeting with Wayne and Kaye will help to provide some degree of closure for Art's family. He says, "I know it helped and encouraged me beyond belief."

For this Veterans Day, he plans to renew his efforts to contact the Zollman (MI), Spisco (OH), Pillon (NY), and Culler (NC) families again somehow through his 'Letters to the Lost' written six years ago.

Tom J. Thiel, E Company, 19th Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, Korea 1951-52, 19147 Park Place Blvd, Eustis, FL 32736 (originally from Upper Sandusky, OH)

** Tom wrote a similar letter to Rudy Spisco, KIA November 24, 1951. In it he said "Art, Rudy and me, from Basic to Company E; now it was only ME!"

Editor: I would appreciate if you could slip this notice in the upcoming TARO LEAF somewhere (if it is not too late). Wes, I don't know if you can send this to all your email listings, but if you can it would be appreciated.

Request for Info: CCF New Year's Offensive 31 Dec 1950

Information is requested from anyone who was with the 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry (Hq., Hq. Co, Companies E, F, G, H and/or any units or personnel attached to or operating with the 2nd Battalion) during the period on or about 30 December 1950 - on or about 4 January 1951.

Information from any other organizations, units or individuals will be appreciated if it applies to the actions of the 2nd BN, 19th Infantry in the above date range. Anyone with personal knowledge of the events during the above period is encouraged to respond. (I was with G Co. 19th Infantry during this period.)

Bill Roseboro
605 Marlboro St., Hamlet, NC 28345
(910)582-1189
wroseboro@webtv.net

WANTED

ITEM 1. Did any of you Korea-bound soldiers

encounter this experience? "It was July, 22 1950 when we arrived portside at Sasebo, Japan. We were all carrying full field equipment and a dufflebag of our reserve clothing and personal items. Among my clothing was a class-A tailored gabardine uniform that cost me almost a month's pay. As we neared the gangway a Sergeant said, "Drop your duffle bags here, you'll get them back later." (It sure was "later," I got a handful of small items about 1960!) The ship we boarded was an old Japanese freighter, one that barely survived WWII. I can't accurately estimate how many of us were herded into the bowels of that wreck, it was certainly in the hundreds. Our lower deck was covered with beat-up tatami mats. I think it's where I picked up my first body pests. At sea, despite the stifling air and the uncomfortable crowding our spirits were high. Some boisterous ones were talking about "killing some gooks." Suddenly there was a huge explosion that shook the sides of the old hull. That was our first wake-up call. We were told later it was from a depth charge dropped by a nearby destroyer on a suspected submarine. We disembarked at Pusan on the morning of July 23, a date I won't forget because it was my 19th birthday. We were soon marched to a railroad station where we saw many wounded American soldiers being taken off a train. That was our second wake-up call. We didn't need any more as we headed to the front."

Editor

ITEM 2. Did you serve at Camp Chicamauga, Japan?

This was the home of the 19th RGT before the outbreak of the Korean War. For those of us who never had the experience, we'd like to hear about what we understand was an idyllic life there. My friends told me Beppu, being located in southern Kyushu, was in a moderate climate with nearby mountains and many natural hot springs. Please let us know about those of you who had a nearby off-base hootch with a lovely Japanese sweetheart waiting on you. We've seen the movie, *Sayonara*, so we have an idea of what it was like, but we'd like the straight skinny.

ITEM 3. Did you serve in Hawaii, Schofield Barracks, before WWII?

That must have been good duty, also. It would be great to see more photos from those days. I vividly remember when a classmate from Hawaii at the engineering school at Ft. Belvoir showed me his high school class book. I had never seen such beautiful girls, the wahines of Hawaii! We'd like to hear about the shocking attack of the Japanese and how things changed. We know many of our members later went with the 24th to the South Pacific and fought there. Please share your memories with us. You don't have to write a long story (but please do if you can) it can just be a short anecdote of an incident that you have never forgotten, or something that means a lot to you.

I hope these words will stir up some memories and incite you to write to us. **24th IDA, Post Office Box 500907, San Diego, CA 92150.**



A 27-year-old doctor, Major Edwin L. Overholt, was awarded the Silver Star, the nation's third highest decoration, for conspicuous gallantry in action in Korea, at a special ceremony by Brigadier General Harry D. Offutt, Commanding Officer of Fitzsimons Army Hospital, Denver, Colorado, 14 March.

A native of Chicago, Major Overholt graduated from the University of Iowa School of Medicine in 1948 and interned at Fitzsimons from 1948 to 1949. He completed his assistant residency in Internal Medicine at Fitzsimons and was ordered to the Far East in May 1950.

The major distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry in action as Osan and Ansong, Korea, during the period 5 July to 7 July 1950. Working in rugged mountainous terrain with improvised facilities, hampered by rain and under constant enemy fire, Major Overholt undoubtedly saved the lives of many wounded soldiers. In all instances his care of battlefield casualties was characterized by exceptional skill, calmness and deep personal concern without regard for his own comfort and safety.

When forced to withdraw from Osan Hill, Major Overholt assisted in carrying the wounded over mountainous terrain for a distance of approximately forty miles. During this journey, he remained behind with several litter cases who could not be carried further, satisfying himself that every possible aid had been given to each of the wounded men before he rejoined the unit.

Immediately upon reaching Ansong, Major Overholt, without food or rest, assisted with an emergency operation on an American soldier; and then he undertook to treat the wounded men of a unit that had lost its surgeon in combat. Major Overholt's professional skill and selfless devotion in caring for the wounded with complete disregard for the hazards of battle exemplify conduct that is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. He entered the service from Iowa. (Complements of Lewis Barger, Historian, AMEDD, Office of Military History, OTSG/MEDCOM)

“.... THE FOREST FOR THE TREES”

By M/Sgt. Charles Willeford, USAF

There are not many men in the Army today who remember SFC Nelson V. Brittin, for he wasn't the kind of soldier who made a deep impression at first meeting. In fact, you didn't recall the things he said, but remembered rather the way he said them, and he said them very well. He wasn't very tall, only about 5 feet, 7 inches, and couldn't have weighed more than 130 pounds with a rock in each hand; but his movements were quick and he had the wiry toughness of the well-trained infantryman who kept in shape in spite of himself. He wore G.I. glasses, and what little hair he had left was cropped to less than an inch. His right arm was much longer than his left. When he walked, springing along on the balls of his feet, he leaned forward, his arms swinging hardly at all.

The first time I saw Sergeant Brittin was at the weekly, mandatory Troop Information Hour at the Clifford Theater in Kokura, Japan. He was the 24th Infantry Division's I & E NCO. As a rule he presented the topic himself, rarely delegating the lecture to anyone else. He was gesturing feverishly, and his eyes bugged out like two neon tubes. The subject concerned the Marshall Plan, and I failed to see what there was to get excited about. I turned to the soldier sitting next to me.

“Who is that character?”

“Sergeant Brittin. I don't know anything about him except that since he's been here the last month, nobody sneaks out of the lectures at the break anymore.”

“You mean he's that good?”

“No He doesn't allow it; if you're caught, you've had it.”

“I settled back and tried to ignore his fervor. He was a good speaker, knew his subject well, and when he finished I, too, knew the purpose of the Marshall Plan. After the lecture he started a discussion, and in no time had heated pro and con men leaping up and down from different sections of the theater; interested to a degree that I had never seen before at a Troop Information, period.

After the session, I thought to myself, here was one time the Army had put the right man in the right job.

Not long after that, I got to know Brittin very well. I was station manager for WLKR, the Armed Forces Radio Station covering the island of Kyushu, and the 24th Div. Armed Forces Radio was under the supervision of the I & E Section, and Brittin being chief clerk, all of my paperwork and reports had to cross his desk. I liked the man from my first contact with him. I had him pegged as the “non-soldier clerk-type” in my mind. This was understandable, as his desk was stacked so high with paper and reports he was almost hidden. I talked to him about it one day.

“Brittin, you'd better check your workload. It looks to me like you've got too much work for an eight-hour day.”

“This isn't all mine,” he said. “These are all reports from the regiments and Divarty. They do their reports all wrong then when they hit here, I have to do them over.”

“Bounce the stuff back, then. You don't have to do their work. Just write a nasty endorsement telling them to get on the ball.”

Next page...

"I've sent memorandums down on how to do all these reports, so it's probably my fault. Besides, if I do them, they're right, and none come back from Corps."

I didn't argue with him. There are several guys like him in the Army. It's too bad there aren't more. He was that way about everything he did. It was torture for him to memorize anything, yet he memorized the 50-minute speech he delivered each week. I discussed that with him too.

"Nobody expects anybody in the Army to memorize an hour's lecture every week. All you have to do, trooper, is take a few notes, and glance at them from time to time. Either that, or break the subject into sections and detail three or four men from the company to give each one."

"I know all that," he said. "But this way I know that the men who listen to me will go away knowing what the subject is all about. And when I look them in the eyes, they don't fall asleep."

He was right, the hard way, but he suffered while getting his speeches down. Monday and Tuesday nights he wrote his speech, then memorized it the remaining nights before Saturday

morning. This was all done at night, on his own time, after putting in a full day at the I & E office. I have never seen any Army enlisted man work harder than he did so consistently. Perhaps I have put over my point. Sergeant Brittin was sold on the idea of the American soldier being the best informed soldier in the world. It was his job to sell it to others. He was being paid for it. He did it.

I wish I knew more about his family background, but I don't. Brittin never spoke of his family and never received mail from anyone.

He finally found a Japanese girl who suited him, and he entered into which was probably the happiest period of his life. He rented a small house five miles away from the compound and rode back and forth each morning and evening on a bicycle.

I didn't see him much after that, and I never met the girl. I saw her once in awhile waiting for him in front of the post exchange. She wasn't pretty, even by Oriental standards, but her figure was good, and she had the shy old-fashioned look that is quickly disappearing from the modern Japanese girl. I hope she was good to him. I know she was good for him.

A few days before I left Japan, I ran into Brittin at the bar in the NCO club. He was drinking a double shot. I bought him another.

"On me. I'm going home next week."

"Home. Where's that?" he asked.

"I mean the States."

"You should stay here. There's nothing in the States. Anything that will happen will happen here. You'll miss out."

"Thirty months is enough for me."

"I'm never going back."

"Why not?"

"I like it here. There's nothing in the States for me."

That was the last time I saw Sergeant Brittin. I returned to the States and re-enlisted in the Air Force. Knowing that Brittin never got any mail, I wrote him a couple of times. My letters, as I expected, were never answered. The Korean fighting came along, and I read everything I could concerning the 24th Infantry Division.

The other day I read where Sergeant Brittin got the Medal of Honor. As a squad leader he killed 20 enemy soldiers and destroyed four automatic guns. As he charged the fourth heavily defended position after destroying the first three he ran into a burst of automatic fire and was killed instantly. After I read the piece in the paper, I wept. I wept, and I don't know why. If any soldier in Korea knew what he was fighting for, Sergeant Brittin knew.

Perhaps I wept because I didn't know, and never will.

(Reprinted from The Taro Leaf, Vol V, No 4. Jan-Feb 1952.)

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR (Posthumously) to Sergeant First Class NELSON VOGEL BRITTIN (ASN: RA-32271499), United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Company I, 3d Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy aggressor forces at Yonggong-ni, Korea on 7 March 1951. Volunteering to lead his squad up a hill, with meager cover against murderous fire from the enemy, Sergeant First Class Brittin ordered his squad to give him support and, in the face of withering fire and bursting shells, he tossed a grenade at the nearest enemy position. On returning to his squad, he was knocked down and wounded by an enemy grenade. Refusing medical attention, he replenished his supply of grenades and returned, hurling grenades into hostile positions and shooting the enemy as they fled. When his weapon jammed, he leaped without hesitation into a foxhole and killed the occupants with his bayonet and the butt of his rifle. He continued to wipe out foxholes and, noting that his squad had been pinned down, he rushed to the rear of a machinegun position, threw a grenade into the nest, and ran around to its front, where he killed all three occupants with his rifle. Less than 100 yards up the hill, his squad again came under vicious fire from another camouflaged, sandbagged, machinegun nest well-flanked by supporting riflemen. Sergeant First Class Brittin again charged this new position in an aggressive endeavor to silence this remaining obstacle and ran direct into a burst of automatic fire which killed him instantly. In his sustained and driving action, he had killed 20 enemy soldiers and destroyed four automatic weapons. The conspicuous courage, consummate valor, and noble self-sacrifice displayed by Sergeant First Class Brittin enabled his inspired company to attain its objective and reflect the highest glory on himself and the heroic traditions of the military service. General Orders: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 12 (February 1, 1952)

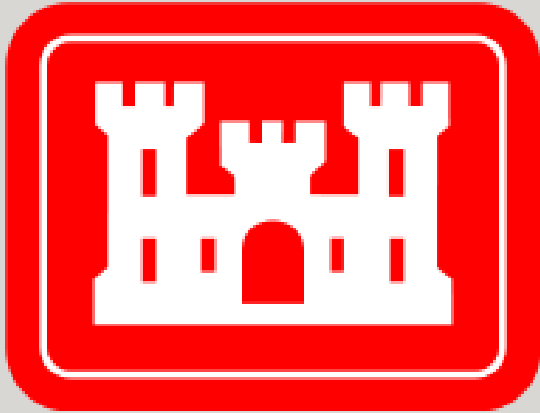


Reprinted from the Taro Leaf, 1952

U. S. Reveals 'Secret Weapon': Combat Engineers Do Everything

By Jack Burbey - United Press Staff Writer

WITH 24th DIVISION IN KOREA—The U. S. army unveiled a new “secret weapon” today that lays mines, builds bridges, blows them up under fire, evacuates troops, turns into infantry, and—under pressure—roams enemy territory on combat patrols.



The “secret weapon” is known officially as the Third Combat Engineer Battalion, a group of hard fighting, hard working, 20-year-olds whose presence in Korea until now has been labeled “top secret.”

They have been in the thick of the action since the Kum River line crumbled. They were still in the thick of the fighting the day I visited them. On that particular day they were front-line infantrymen.

Pfc. Lee Eliason, 20, of Deer Lodge, Mont., summed up the Korean history of the outfit this way: “It’s been pure hell until now. Too much running. We’re all right now, though.”

The “pure hell” was the worst at Taejon, where Charlie Company was the last American force to withdraw. That was where Pfc. Kenneth Lavrenz, Campbellsport (Fond du Lac County), Wis., backed a truck full of ammunition into a tank full of Communist crewmen making frantic efforts to crawl out of their tank. Lavrenz ran about 15 yards and hit the dirt before the ammunition blew up, taking the tank with it. When I saw him, Lavrenz was sitting under a brittle, cloudless Korean sky watching the front as a rifleman in a forward platoon.

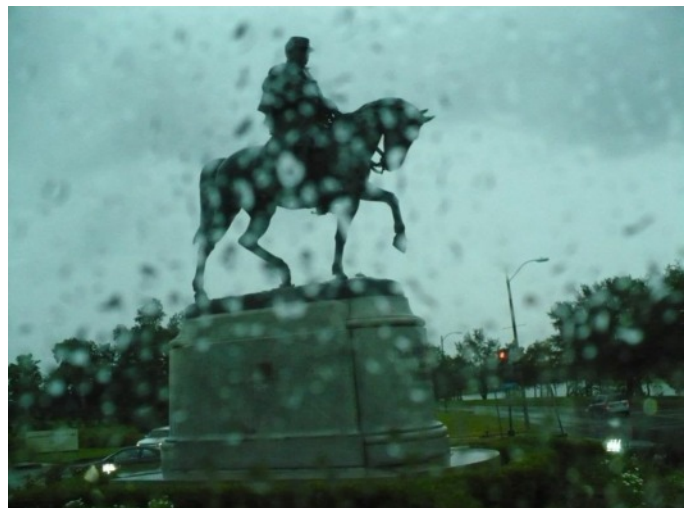
Pfc. Frank Pinkerton, Washington, Pa., is another of these versatile engineers. He helped stall the enemy at Taejon and a few weeks later was back in enemy territory on combat patrol with 13 other men.

The “secret-weapon” is proud of its part in the Korean war thus far. A big part of the reason is Lieut. Col. Peter C. Hyzer, battalion commander. He leads his men on patrols to new sectors to get them oriented, and his command posts are placed so far up, the rest of the division calls them observation posts.

30 August, 1950

2011 National Reunion New Orleans

Pictures courtesy of Vince Steckel and Tom Appler



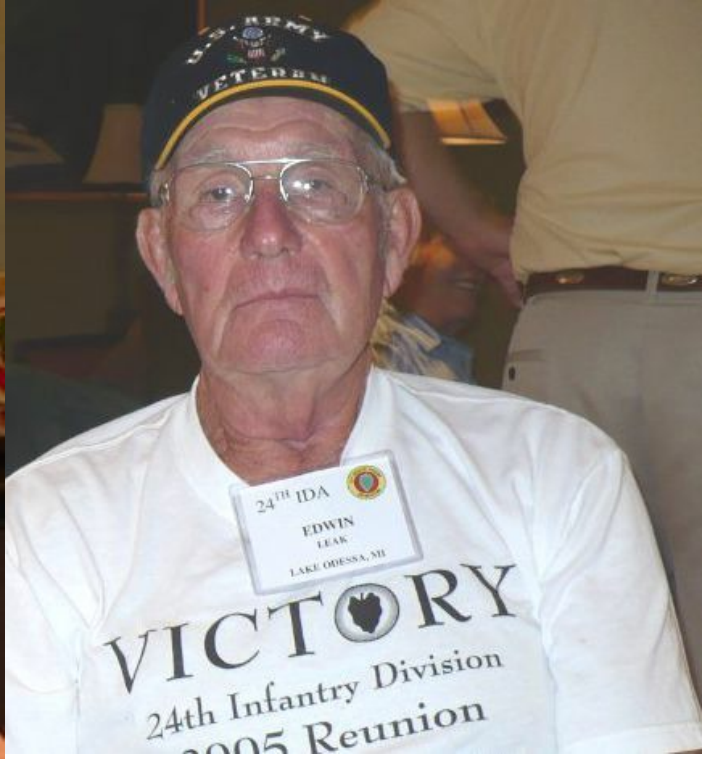




Vincent Steckel's wife (below) made the quilt which was auctioned at the reunion. She is shown with the winner who paid \$531 which was donated to the Association. Mucho Gracias!







24th IDA REUNION, SEPTEMBER 18, 2012, NEW ORLEANS, LA

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Attendees

John Klump, Gene Spicer, Mel Frederick, Keith Hagen, Tom Appler, Sal Schillaci, Glen Carpenter, and Don Maggio. Chaplain Carpenter opened the meeting with a prayer.

Future Reunions

Louisville 2013: Gene Spicer presented tour options, hotel and transportation cost estimates for the 2013 Annual meeting September 22 through 25, 2013. Holiday Inn cost will be \$77/night with free parking and free airport shuttle. Discussion about certain aspects of the contract followed and Gene will work with Mike Frederick to obtain changes to the contract.

Omaha 2014: The Board recommended presenting Omaha 2014 to membership. Don Maggio passed out information and hotel proposal obtained by Loyal Vincent and the Board recommended that Mike Frederick also negotiate rates and contract with the hotel

2015: The Board recommended we find a location central to all members for 2015 and the future. Mike Frederick was asked to run a centroid analysis based on member Zip Codes to find a centrally located tier two city. There may result several cities within the central area that would be acceptable and utilized so members do not tire of one location. The Board did recommend looking at Branson, MO as the next site.

Reunion Contact

While fielding inquiries about this year's reunion, Mike Frederick received a lot of calls not specific to the reunion. It was agreed that Tom Appler, Director-at-Large - Membership would be the contact person listed in notices put in veterans' publications. Tom would be able to answer non-reunion questions and direct callers to the appropriate person for further information. He could also recruit those callers who are not members of the Association. George Vlasic will place notices in those publication again for the reunion in 2014.

Membership

Mel Frederick suggested we contact organizers of the various mini-reunions and affiliated groups (19th Infantry Regiment, et al) to encourage them to join the 24th IDA at the annual reunions. The thought is to increase the number of participants and be able to obtain better room, tour, and banquet prices; thereby reducing the cost to attend. The Board allocated \$2000 for use by Tom Appler and George Vlasic to place announcements about the Association in various publications in order to recruit more members.

The Board also recommended we look at the percent of Life Members relative to total members to see if an assessment for additional revenue might be warranted. We should also consider increasing the annual dues from \$15 to a higher amount. The VFW and American Legion charge from \$30 to \$35 dollars for annual membership. A motion to adjourn was passed by voice vote.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order by President Schillaci and a prayer was offered by Chaplain Carpenter.

Nominations for Officers

President Schillaci called for nominations from Keith Hagen, Chairman – Nominating Committee. Keith nominated Sal Schillaci for President and Don Maggio for VP but was informed that Sal had served two one-year terms and was not eligible for an additional term. Gene Spicer moved to nominate Don Maggio for President, it was seconded by Dan Rickert, and the motion was passed by a show of hands.

Schillaci asked for nominations for Vice President and none were made. William "Bill" Tricarico volunteered. A motion was made to nominate him; Mel Frederick seconded the nomination, and the motion passed by voice vote.

Schillaci called for nominations for Director-at Large to replace John Slattery. George Vlasic volunteered and was accepted by those present with a voice vote. He will serve a 2-year term.

Other Business:

It was moved that the Association spend up to \$2000 for expenses to advertise in various veterans' and other publications to inform people of our existence. Gene Spicer seconded the motion and it was passed by voice vote.

Glen Carpenter announced that the 2013 raffle will be his last and that the Association needs a volunteer to carry on this effort.

Sal Schillaci reported on his continuing efforts to have the 24th ID Medal of Honor plaque placed at Arlington Cemetery. His efforts have been frustrating and unproductive due to resistance by those at Arlington. It is suggested all members continue to contact their Senators and Representatives in an ongoing effort to solicit their support his effort.

While reporting on the progress of making the plaque, Dan Rickert announced that the first awardee of the Medal of Honor for service in Korea was George Libby, a member of the 24th Infantry Division. Everyone should mention that in their letters.

Tony Polemeni moved to adjourn, Don Maggio seconded, and the motion passed by voice vote.



SOUTH TO THE NAKTONG, NORTH TO THE YALU

Roy E. Appleman



Delaying Action: P'yongt'aek to Choch'iwon

Elements of the 34th Infantry began arriving at Pusan by ship late in the afternoon of 2 July. The next afternoon two LST's arrived with equipment. All that night loading went on at the railroad station. Just after daylight of 4 July the 1st Battalion started north by rail; by evening the last of the regiment was following. Col. Jay B. Lovless commanded the regiment, which had a strength of 1,981 men.

When Colonel Lovless saw General Dean at Taejon early on 5 July the General told him that Lt. Col. Harold B. Ayres (an experienced battalion combat officer of the Italian campaign in World War II), whom Lovless had never seen and who had just flown to Korea from Japan, had been placed in command of his 1st Battalion at P'yongt'aek. Colonel Ayres had arrived at P'yongt'aek that morning about 0500 with the 1st Battalion. Dean told Lovless that he would like the 3d Battalion to go to Ansong, if possible, and that the 34th Regimental command post should be at Songhwan-ni. As requested by General Dean, the 3d Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. David H. Smith, went to Ansong, twelve miles east of P'yongt'aek to cover the highway there. Colonel Lovless set up his regimental headquarters that day, 5 July, at Songhwan-ni, six miles south of P'yongt'aek, on the main highway and rail line.

General Dean placed great importance on holding the P'yongt'aek-Ansong line. On the west, an estuary of the Yellow Sea came up almost to P'yongt'aek and offered the best barrier south of Seoul to an enemy that might try to pass around the west (or left) flank of a force defending the main highway and rail line.

Once south of P'yongt'aek, the Korean peninsula broadens out westward forty-five miles and a road net spreads south and west there permitting the outflanking of the Seoul-Taegu highway positions. East of Ansong, mountains come down close to that town, affording some protection there to a right (east) flank anchored on it. P'yongt'aek and Ansong were key points on the two principal highways running south between the Yellow Sea and the west central mountains. If enemy troops succeeded in penetrating south of P'yongt'aek, delaying and blocking action against them would become infinitely more difficult in the western part of Korea. General Dean was expecting too much, however, to anticipate that one battalion in the poor state of training that characterized

the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, and without artillery, tank, or antitank weapon support, could hold the P'yongt'aek position more than momentarily against the vastly superior enemy force that was known to be advancing on it.

The Retreat From P'yongt'aek

When General Barth reached P'yongt'aek from the Osan position the morning of 5 July he found there, as he had expected, Colonel Ayres and the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry. He told Ayres of the situation at Osan and said that probably enemy tanks would break through there and come on down the road. He asked Ayres to send some bazooka teams on ahead to

intercept the expected tanks.

Lt. Charles E. Payne with some infantrymen started north. Approaching the village of Sojong they discovered tank tracks in the muddy road where an enemy tank had turned around. Payne stopped the trucks and dismounted his men. A South Korean soldier on horseback, wearing foliage camouflage on his helmet, rode up to them and yelled, "Tanks, tanks, go back!" Payne eventually located the enemy tank on the railroad track about a mile ahead at the edge of Sojong-ni, five miles south of Osan. In an exchange of fire about 1600 between his bazooka teams and the tank at long range, enemy machine gun fire killed Pvt. Kenneth Shadrick. The bazooka teams withdrew, bringing Shadrick's body with them. The group returned to P'yongt'aek and reported the futile effort to Barth and Ayres.

That evening after dark General Dean and his aide, 1st Lt. Arthur M. Clarke, drove to P'yongt'aek. There was still no word from Smith and his men, but the presence of enemy tanks south of Osan raised all sorts of conjectures in Dean's mind. After midnight, he started back to Taejon full of forebodings about Task Force Smith.

Four survivors of the Osan fight arrived at Ayres' command post at P'yongt'aek shortly after General Dean had left it and told an exaggerated story of the destruction of Task Force Smith. A few minutes later, Colonel Perry arrived from Ansong and made his report of what had happened to Task Force Smith. Barth and Ayres then decided to keep the 1st Battalion in its blocking position but to destroy the highway bridge just north of the town now that enemy tanks must be expected momentarily. Members of the 1st Battalion blew the bridge at 0300, 6 July. General Barth instructed Colonel Ayres to hold as long as he could but to withdraw if his

battalion was in danger of being outflanked and cut off. He was "not to end up like Brad Smith."

General Barth left the 1st Battalion command post at P'yongt'aek about 0130, 6 July, and started south. He arrived at Colonel Lovless' regimental command post at Songhwan-ni about an hour later. Already Colonel Smith with the remnant (about eighty-six men) of his task force had passed through there from Ansong on the way to Ch'onan, leaving four badly wounded men with Lovless. Colonel Lovless had not received any instructions from General Dean about General Barth, yet now he learned from the latter that he was giving orders to the regiment, and also independently to its battalions.

General Barth told Lovless about the position of his 1st Battalion at P'yongt'aek. According to Colonel Lovless, Barth then told him to consolidate the regiment in the vicinity of Ch'onan. Barth directed that the 3d Battalion, less L Company (the regimental reserve) which was near P'yongt'aek, should move from Ansong to Ch'onan. Colonel Lovless thereupon directed L Company to act as a rear guard and delay on successive positions when the 1st Battalion should withdraw from P'yongt'aek. As events later proved, the company did not carry out that order but closed directly on Ch'onan when the withdrawal began. Barth left the 34th Infantry command post for Ch'onan before daylight.

The men of the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, in their positions at the river line two miles north of P'yongt'aek had an uncomfortable time of it as dawn broke on 6 July in fog and rain. With water in their foxholes, the men huddled in small groups beside them as they broke open C ration cans for an early breakfast. Colonel Ayres came down the road and stopped where a group of them manned a roadblock, and then he climbed the hill west of the highway to the A Company command post.

On the hill, Platoon Sgt. Roy F. Collins was eating his C ration breakfast when the sound of running motors caused him suddenly to look up. He saw in the fog the outline of tanks on the far side of the blown bridge. From the company command post, Colonel Ayres and Capt. Leroy Osburn, A Company commander, saw the tanks about the same time. Beyond the first tanks, a faint outline of soldiers marching in a column of twos on the left side of the road and a line of more tanks and trucks on the right side, came into view. Some of those watching speculated that it might be part of the 21st Infantry Task Force Smith coming back from Osan. But others immediately said that Task Force Smith had no tanks. It required only a minute or two for everyone to realize that the force moving up to the blown bridge was North Korean. It was, in fact, elements of the North Korean 4th Division.

The lead tank stopped at the edge of the blown bridge and its crew members got out to examine the damage. Other tanks pulled up behind it, bumper to bumper, until Sergeant Collins counted thirteen of their blurred shapes. The North Korean infantry came up and, without halting, moved around the tanks to the stream, passing the blown bridge on both sides. Colonel Ayres by this time had ordered the 4.2-inch mortars to fire on the bridge area. Their shells destroyed at least one enemy truck. The enemy tanks opened fire with their tank guns on A Company's position. American return fire was scattered and ineffective.

After watching the first few minutes of action and seeing the enemy infantry begin fanning out on either flank, Colonel Ayres told Captain Osburn to withdraw A Company, leaving one platoon behind briefly as a screening force. Ayres then started back to his command post, and upon reaching it telephoned withdrawal orders to B Company on the other (east) side of the highway.

The 4.2-inch mortar fire which had started off well soon lapsed when an early round of enemy tank fire stunned the mortar observer and no one else took over direction of fire. Within half an hour after the enemy column had loomed up out of the fog and rain at the blown bridge, North Korean infantrymen had crossed the stream and worked sufficiently close to the American positions for the men in A Company to see them load their rifles.

When he returned to his command post, Colonel Ayres talked with Maj. John J. Dunn, S-3 of the 34th Infantry, who had arrived there during his absence. About 0300 that morning, Dunn had awakened at the regimental command post to find everyone in a state of great excitement. News had just arrived that the enemy had overrun Task Force Smith. The regiment had no communication with its 1st Battalion at P'yongt'aek. The distances between Ansong, P'yongt'aek, and Songhwan-ni were so great the command radios could not net. Land lines were laid from Songhwan-ni to P'yongt'aek but it was impossible to keep them intact. Retreating South Korean soldiers and civilian refugees repeatedly cut out sections of the telephone wire to improvise harness to carry packs and possessions. The only communication was liaison officers or messengers. Accordingly, orders and reports often were late and outdated by events when received. Dunn asked Colonel Lovless for, and got, permission to go forward and determine the situation. Before he started, Dunn asked for any instructions to be delivered to Colonel Ayres. Lovless spread a map on a table and repeated General Barth's instructions to hold as long as possible without endangering the battalion and then to withdraw to a position near Ch'onan, which he pointed out on the map.

Dunn set out in a jeep, traveling northward through the dark night along a road jammed with retreating ROK soldiers and

refugees. In his conversation with Ayres at the 1st Battalion command post, Major Dunn delivered the instructions passed on to him. The decision as to when to withdraw the 1st Battalion was Ayres'; the decision as to where it would go to take up its next defensive position apparently was General Barth's as relayed by Lovless. Colonel Ayres started withdrawing his battalion soon after his conversation with Major Dunn. By midmorning it was on the road back to Ch'onan. That afternoon it began arriving there. Last to arrive in the early evening was A Company. Most of the units were disorganized. Discarded equipment and clothing littered the P'yongt'aek-Ch'onan road.

Night Battle at Ch'onan

When General Barth arrived at Ch'onan that morning he found there two troop trams carrying A and D Companies and a part of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry. They were the parts of the battalion not airlifted to Korea on 1 July with Task Force Smith. Barth put them in a defensive position two miles south of Ch'onan. When General Barth returned to Ch'onan in the early afternoon the advance elements of the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, were already there. He ordered the 1st Battalion to join elements of the 21st Infantry in the defensive position he had just established two miles south of the town. Lovless had already telephoned from Ch'onan to Dean at Taejon giving him the P'yongt'aek news. Familiar aspects of war were present all day in Ch'onan. Trains going south through the town were loaded with ROK soldiers or civilians. Everyone was trying to escape southward.

Dean that evening started for Ch'onan. There he presided over an uncomfortable meeting in Colonel Lovless' command post. Dean was angry. He asked who had authorized the withdrawal from P'yongt'aek. Colonel Ayres finally broke the silence, saying he would accept the responsibility. Dean considered ordering the regiment back north at once, but the danger of a night ambush caused him to decide against it. Instead, he ordered a company to go north the next morning after daylight. General Barth remained at Ch'onan overnight and then started for Taejon. He remained in command of the 24th Division artillery until 14 July when he assumed command of his regular unit, the 25th Division artillery.

As ordered, the 3d Battalion, 24th Infantry, had arrived at Ch'onan from Ansong the afternoon of 6 July and during that night. Colonel Lovless gave its L Company the mission of advancing north of Ch'onan to meet the North Koreans the morning of the 7th. With the regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon in the lead, the little force started out at 0810. Only some South Korean police were in the silent town. The civilian population had fled. At this point Lovless received a message from General Dean. It read, "Time filed 1025, date 7 July 50. To CO 34th Inf. Move one Bn fwd

with minimum transportation. Gain contact and be prepared to fight delaying action back to recent position. PD air reports no enemy armor south of river. CG 24 D." Pursuant to these instructions, the 3d Battalion moved up behind L Company.

Col. Robert R. Martin had now arrived at Ch'onan from Taejon. He was wearing low-cut shoes, overseas cap, and had neither helmet, weapons, nor equipment. General Dean and Colonel Martin had been good friends since they served together in the 44th Division in Europe in World War II. Dean had the highest opinion of Martin as a regimental commander and knew him to be a determined, brave soldier. As soon as he was ordered to Korea, General Dean requested the Far East Command to assign Martin to him. Arriving by air from Japan, Colonel Martin had been at Taejon approximately one day when on the morning of 7 July Dean sent him northward to the combat area.

As the 3d Battalion moved north out of Ch'onan it passed multitudes of South Koreans going south on foot and on horseback. Lovless and others could see numerous armed troops moving south on the hills to the west. Lovless asked the interpreter to determine if they were North or South Koreans. The latter said they were South Koreans. Some distance beyond the town, men in the point saw enemy soldiers on high ground where the road dipped out of sight. The time was approximately 1300. These enemy troops withdrew several times as the point advanced cautiously. Finally, about four or five miles north of Ch'onan enemy small arms fire and some mortar shells came in on the I & R Platoon. The advance halted. It was past mid-afternoon. An artillery officer reported to Lovless and Martin (the latter accompanied Lovless during the day) that he had one gun. Lovless had him emplace it in a gap in the hills about three miles north of Ch'onan; from there he could place direct fire in front of L Company.

A liaison plane now came over and dropped a message for Lovless which read, "To CO 34th Infantry, 1600 7 July. Proceed with greatest caution. Large number of troops on your east and west flanks. Near Ansong lots of tanks (40-50) and trucks. Myang-Myon large concentration of troops. Songhwan-ni large concentration of troops trying to flank your unit. [Sgd] Dean."

Lovless and Martin now drove to the command post of the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, to acquaint Colonel Ayres with this intelligence and the situation north of Ch'onan. When they arrived there they found Brig. Gen. Pearson Menoher, Assistant Division Commander, 34th Division, and General Church. General Menoher gave Colonel Lovless an order signed by General Dean relieving him of command of the 34th Infantry and directing that he turn over command to Colonel Martin. Martin likewise received an order to assume command.

The change of command took place at 1800. Lovless had been in command of the regiment only a month or two before the Korean War started. He had replaced an officer who had failed to bring the regiment to a desired state of training. It appears that Lovless inherited a chaotic situation in the regiment; the state of training was unsatisfactory and some of the officers wholly unfitted for troop command. Before the regiment's initial commitment in Korea, Lovless had not had time to change its condition appreciably.

While the change of command scene was taking place at the 1st Battalion command post, Major Dunn had gone forward from the regimental command post to find the 3d Battalion moving into a good defensive position north of Ch'onan with excellent fields of fire. While he talked with Colonel Smith, the battalion commander, the I&R Platoon leader drove up in a jeep. There were bullet holes in his canteen and clothing. He reported that an estimated forty enemy soldiers had ambushed his platoon in a small village a mile ahead. The platoon had withdrawn, he said, but three of his men were still in the village.

Dunn started forward with the leading rifle company, intending to attack into the village to rescue the men. As he was making preparations for this action, Maj. Boone Seegars, the battalion S-3, came from the direction of the village with several soldiers and reported that he had found the missing men. Dunn then canceled the planned attack and directed the company to take up a blocking position. As the company started back to do this a small group of North Koreans fired on it from the west. The company returned the fire at long range. Dunn kept the company moving and got it into the position he had selected, but he had trouble preventing it from engaging in wild and indiscriminate firing. Friendly mortar fire from the rear soon fell near his position and Dunn went back to find Colonel Smith and stop it. Upon arriving at the 3d Battalion defensive position he found the battalion evacuating it and falling back south along the road. He could find neither the battalion commander nor the executive officer.

Dunn went to the command post and explained to the group that the 3d Battalion was abandoning its position. One of the colonels (apparently Colonel Martin) asked Dunn if the regiment would take orders from him. Dunn replied, "Yes." The colonel then ordered, "Put them back in that position." Dunn headed the retreating 3d Battalion back north. Then with Major Seegars, two company commanders, and a few men in a second jeep, Dunn went on ahead. Half a mile short of the position that Dunn wanted the battalion to reoccupy, the two jeeps were fired on from close range. Majors Dunn and Seegars were badly wounded; others were also hit. Dunn crawled to some roadside bushes where he worked to stop blood flowing from an artery in a head wound. An enlisted man pulled Seegars to the roadside. Dunn estimates there

were about thirty or forty enemy advance scouts in the group that ambushed his party. An unharmed officer ran to the rear, saying he was going for help.

From his position on a little knoll, Dunn could see the leading rifle company behind him deploy when the firing began, drop to the ground, and return the enemy fire. The men were close enough that he could recognize them as they moved into line. But they did not advance, and their officers apparently made no attempt to have them rescue the wounded men. After a few minutes, Dunn heard an officer shout, "Fall back! Fall back!" and he saw the men leave the skirmish line and move to the rear. This exhibition of a superior force abandoning wounded men without making an effort to rescue them was, to Dunn, "nauseating." Dunn, who was captured and held thirty-eight months a prisoner in North Korea, said the main enemy body did not arrive for two hours. Major Seegars apparently died that night.

The battalion, in withdrawing to Ch'onan, abandoned some of its mortars. By the time the battalion reached the town its units were mixed up and in considerable disorder. South of the town, Colonel Smith received an order to return to Ch'onan and defend it. Colonel Martin led a Headquarters Company patrol north of Ch'onan and recovered jeeps and other abandoned 3d Battalion equipment. By 1700, 7 July, the 3d Battalion was in a defensive position along the railroad tracks west of Ch'onan and along the northern edge of the town. Some of the troops organized the concrete platform of the railroad station as a strongpoint. Others mined a secondary road running from the northwest into the town to prevent a surprise tank attack from that direction. In the early part of the evening some enemy pressure developed from the west.

At 2000 a battery of the 63d Field Artillery Battalion, newly arrived in Korea, emplaced south of Ch'onan to support the 34th Infantry. Soon thereafter it fired its first fire mission, employing high explosive and white phosphorus shells, against a column of tanks and infantry approaching the town from the east, and reportedly destroyed two tanks. This enemy force appears to have made the first infiltration into Ch'onan shortly before midnight.

After midnight, reports to the regimental command post stated that approximately eighty men and Colonel Martin, who had gone into the town, were cut off by enemy soldiers. Lt. Col. Robert L. Wadlington, the regimental executive officer, reported this to General Dean at Taejon, and, at the same time, said the regimental ammunition supply was low and asked for instructions. Dean instructed Wadlington to fight a delaying action and to get word to Martin in Ch'onan to bring his force out under cover of darkness.

In the next issue of the Taro Leaf you will read of the heroic death of Colonel Martin.

To be continued



Tom J. Thiel, Webmaster
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 Telephone: 352 408-6612

Our website on the internet, is proceeding very well; we are approaching 1,000 pages of Taro Leafs uploaded!

Thanks to Wes Morrison, John Haverty, Gerald Brown, Mario lezzoni, Vince Steckel, John Shay, and George Lance, I again have a file box full of old Taro Leafs to scan and I'm ready to upload!



Thank you also Ed Farmer for your most generous support! Scanning is now a miniscule component of the process. You may recall from the last Taro Leaf that Ed contributed over \$900 to cover the cost of a Canon DR-M160, which scans both sides of an 80-page Taro Leaf in less than a minute! While it looks rather large, it has a footprint smaller than an old portable typewriter—remember those?

One of the most time-consuming tasks for me is to understand the Volume and Numbering systems employed over the entire 66 years; some volumes had up to 11 issues! "I still need more old Taro Leafs!" Despite the generosity of the above-named members, I am still missing a large number of Taro Leafs. The ones still needed are shown in the right column of the enclosed table. The other two columns show the years and the Volume. Please note that most needed are those in 1950s, but I'm still missing some in other years.

Please keep in mind that in order to scan them with the Canon scanner, I need to cut the magazines into single sheets for feeding through the scanner. I would rather not

YEAR	VOL	NEEDED
1947-48	1	No. 6
1948-49	2	Nos. 3,4,5,6
1949-50	3	Nos. 1,5,6
1950-51	4	Nos. 1,4,5,6
1951-52	5	All
1952-53	6	All
1953-54	7	All
1954-55	8	All
1955-56	9	All
1956-57	10	All
1957-58	11	All
1958-59	12	All
1959-60	13	All
1960-61	14	All but No. 5
1961-62	15	All but No. 2
1962-63	16	Nos. 3, 7 and after
1964-65	18	All but No. 8
1965-66	19	Nos. 5 & 8
1966-67	20	Any after No. 5
1967-68	21	nos. 1, 3, 4, & any after No. 5
1968-69	22	Nos. 7, and any after No. 8
1969-70	23	Any after No. 6
1970-71	24	All
1971-72	25	Nos. 4, 5, and 6
1972-73	26	Any after no. 4
1974-75	28	Nos. 3 and after
1975-76	29	Nos. 4 and after
1976-77	30	Nos. 3 & 4
1991-92	45	No. 3 and 5 or higher
1992-93	46	Nos. 5 and up
1994-95	48	Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 6
2001	55	No. 4

return your magazines, but if you so desire please let me know. Please send your Taro Leafs to the address shown below. Materials other than Taro Leaf magazines are also being uploaded; one of the most interesting set of documents recently received is a file of Dutch Nelsen's materials sent by Margo. We will upload that as soon as we can find some time.

I appreciate your cooperation. This is your site, so I need your material for it. Please send it to the below address, or call me to discuss putting your material on your web site for the world to view.

I am now getting regular feedback about the website from mostly the outside world, so it is having an impact beyond our ranks!

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 24thidaweb@gmail.com

QUARTERMASTER ORDER FORM

HAT PIN MEDALS ALL \$5: 1. Philippines Liberation 2. Nat'l Def Svc 3. Good Conduct 4. Silver Star 5. Pacific Campaign 6. Armed Forces Reserve 7. Army Occupation 8. POW 9. Distinguished Svc Cross 10. ETO Campaign 11. Soldiers Medal 12. Meritorious Svc 13. United Nations 14. American Defense 15. Vietnam Svc 16. American Campaign 17. Armed Forces Expeditionary 18. U.S. Flag 19. Army Dist Flying Cross 20. Korea Svc Ribbon 21. Army Commendation 22. WWII Victory Ribbon 23. Marine Corp Expeditionary 24. Korean Svc Medal 25. WWII Victory Medal 26. Bronze Star 27. Purple Heart 28. Air Medal 29. 24th ID 31. 19th RGT 32. 37. Combat Medic Badge 38. Army Desert Storm 39. Vietnam Heaven & Hell 104. Desert Storm 110. Philippines Presidential Unit Ribbon.

PATCHES: 42. 24th ID color \$6. 43. 24th IDA \$6. 58. 19th RGT Color \$6. 59. 21st RGT Color \$6. 60. 34th RGT Color \$6. 61. 11th FA BN Color \$6 62. 13th FA BN Color \$6 77. 5th RCT \$6 87. 6th Tank BN Color \$6. 91. 63rd FA BN Color \$6. 97. 24th ID Korean Vet \$6. 107. Division Artillery \$6. 108. 29th Inf Div Color \$6. 109. 24th ID Victory Patch \$6.

CRESTS: 52. 24th Sig \$9. 53. 19th RGT \$9. 54. 21st RGT \$9. 56. 11th FA BN \$9. 57. 13th FA BN \$9. 63. 24th ID \$9. 75. 3rd Eng BN \$9. 76. 14th Eng BN \$9.

CAPS: 65. 21st RGT White \$15. 66. 21st RGT Dark Blue \$15. 69. 24th IDA White w/Taro/Germany \$12. 70. 24th ID Red w/Taro/Germany 71. 24th IDA Red \$15. 72. 24th ID White/1st to Fight \$15. 73. 24th IDA Green (X) 74. 24th ID White Mesh (X) 78. 5th RCT Red w/patch \$12. 80. Desert Storm Vet \$12. 81. POW/MIA Blk \$15. 82. WWII Vet Blk \$12. 101. WWII Veteran w/CIB \$15.

MISCL: 40. **Ladies Necklace** 19th RGT \$5. 41. **Ladies Bracelet** 19th RGT \$5. 46. 24th ID Window sticker \$2. 85. CIB Window sticker 2x5 \$3. 86. **BUMPER STCKER** 24th ID "Proudly Served" \$3. **BOLO TIE:** Taro Leaf Gold w/Blk Braid \$15. **BELT BUCKLE:** 50. Taro Leaf w/Silver Buckle \$15. **NECK WALLET:** 94. 24th ID Green \$5. **KEY CHAIN:** 95. 24th ID \$10. **FLAGS 3'x5':** 90. 24th ID Outdoor Screen Print \$65. 102. Korean War Silk Screened \$65. 103. Korean War Vet Silk Screened \$65. **CHRISTMAS CARDS:** 93. 10 cards w/env. \$8. **CD:** 98. 24th ID Songs & March \$10. **DVD:** 99. 24th ID Punchbowl Memorial/Hawaii \$15. **License Plate:** 79. 24th ID w/Taro Leaf/First to Fight/Victory Div \$8. **HISTORY BOOK:** 96. **T-SHIRTS \$15 ea.** 24th ID Hawaii Div/Black in Color (Sizes XXL/L/M) 24th ID Hawaii Div/White in color (Sizes 2XL/XL/L/M) **NEW ITEMS:** 116. 24th ID Airborne Hat Pin. Bumper Stickers: 24th RGT Div PROUD TO SERVE. Also have bumper stickers for WWII and the Korean War. 120.

CIB BRACELET \$35 (order direct from Sektor Co., Box 501005, San Diego, CA 92150 - Free shipping)

Circle item number for purchase and indicate quantity. Shipping and handling is \$5.00. Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery. No phone orders. I suggest if you have an email address send me an email first, before ordering any items and I can check and see if I have them in stock. We do not accept credit cards. Make checks payable to the 24th IDA. Send the completed form and your check to:

Quartermaster John Walters, 313 Heritage Overlook, Woodstock, GA 30188.
Email: 1k34cspd@gmail.com

QM Notes: I recently secured a large quantity of hat pins, medals, patches, etc. from Albert McDoo with the 5th RCT out of Tampa. Their QM had passed away and they were getting rid of his inventory cheap so I got a good deal on the items. I am in the process of going through these items for inclusion in our inventory, which will hopefully be ready for the next TARO LEAF. In addition I would like to encourage all TARO LEAF readers to use my email to

request items **before** ordering to see if I have the certain items they want. This will accomplish two things, first save you 45 cents in postage and second, once they email me I can send them a more user friendly inventory list than what appears in the TARO LEAF. Thanks for your understanding.

Quartermaster, John Walters
EMAIL: 1k34cspd@gmail.com

ABOUT OUR DUES

How much are present annual dues to the Association and when are they due?

Current dues are \$15 annually and are due in the month that you joined the Association. Your Association membership card has the month and year that your current dues expires; they should be renewed by that month.

The association does not send out invoices for dues, and I have to admit that I have been lax in sending out "Past Due Notices," as this is an expensive task for the Association.

Look at the address label on back page of this Taro Leaf. The first line is a series of letters and numbers related to the Postal Service and has nothing to do with the Association. **The second line (immediately above your name), is the date that your dues expire or have expired.** Any date prior to 11/01/12 indicates your dues are **past due** and states when they expired.

For those who are in arrears on their dues, I trust that you will get current as soon as you can.

If at all possible I would like to encourage members to pay multiple years in advance. This would cut down significantly on postage and other expenses related to processing dues payments.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Current Lifetime Membership is \$200.00. This can be paid in a lump sum, or \$40 per year for 5 consecutive years, or sooner. I just had a member pay \$40 per month for five months, to complete his Lifetime Membership. If the \$40/5 year plan is selected the Lifetime membership is effective on the completion of the payments.

The Lifetime Member receives a 2"x3 1/2" brass plated card about the size of a credit card.

The plate is embossed *24th Infantry Division Association-Life Member*. On the left side is the outline of an Infantry Soldier. On the bottom right is the colored division patch. The recipients name is engraved across the plate along with his Life Member Number.

John Dunn, SEC./TREAS.

-----Cut out and mail-----



24th Infantry Division Association



John A. Dunn, Sec'y./Treas.
9150 Highway 51
Westover, AL35147-9527

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Occupation _____

Spouse Name _____

- ☐ Enroll as Member
- ☐ Reinstate as Member
- ☐ Enroll as Associate Member
- ☐ 12 Months Dues \$15.00
- ☐ Life Membership \$200, or
- ☐ Installments \$40 / 5 years

**CHECKS PAYABLE TO
24TH INF. DIV. ASSOC.**

Unit

i.e. 5th, 19th, 3rd Engr., 955 FABn., Etc.

Bn.

Co.

P

lt./Bat.

Squad

Location(s)

i.e. Pearl, WWII, Japan, Korea, Germany, Ft. Stuart, Lebanon, Somalia, Desert Storm, Ft. Riley, etc

POW ☐

Location

From / /

To / /

Other Unit Service

From / /

To / /

Sponsor

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME 8/1/10-7/31/11 8/1/11-7/31/12

Dues	\$8,305.00	\$7,115.00
Life Payments	2,225.00	1,955.00
Partial Life Paymets	670.00	995.00
Associate Dues	300.00	540.00
Donations	5,314.00	4,116.00
Reunion Donations	16,000.00	15,683.00
Interest Income	462.79	
Q M Sales	1,184.00	525.00

Total Income \$34,460.79 \$30,929.00

EXPENSES

General Office	\$ 846.39	\$497.00
Taro Leaf Publication	24,398.14	18,479.00
Drawing Payout	4,000.00	4,000.00
Liability Insurance	750.00	750.00
Accounting Fees	1,185.00	0.00

Total Expenses \$31,179.53 \$23,726.00

Net Income \$ 3,281.26 \$ 7,203.00

ASSETS

Regions Checking	\$27,025.67	\$32,703.00
Regions CD	\$35,383.10	\$35,471.00
Carpenter Checking		
Carpenter Savings	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
QM Checking	\$ 525.00	

TOTAL \$65,408.77 \$71,699.00

DONATION WINNERS 2012

Bissett, Charles W.	VA	327 FA
Brennan, John R.	NY	21st RGT
Coles, Dewey L.	LA	13th FA
East, Malcolm P.	TX	724 Ord
Fliehman, Kelton R.	OH	24th HQ
Jordison, Donald L.	IA	34th RGT
Lee, Harrison	HI	34th RGT
Reddish, Arthur O.	NE	3rd Eng
Schanzmeyer, Bernard A.	MO	19th RGT
Shelton, Lawrence R.	OH	21th RGT

SEC'Y/ TREAS. REPORTS

Donor Name	Unit	\$	Donor Name	Unit	\$
Bolinger, William	3rd Eng	20	Mecca, Daniel	13th FA	5
Butler, Ervin L.	21st Inf	20	Moritz, Robert	Div Arty	10
Byrem, Robert B.	3rd Eng	5	Mozeleski, Joseph	19th Inf	10
Cauble, Jakie A.	24th Adm	5	Newell, Linwood	19th Inf	10
Darke, Donald F.	5th RCT	5	Northam, Charles	19th Inf	10
Davidson, Bennie	21st Inf	5	Olson, Robert	34th Inf	10
Eckardt, Raymond	19th Inf	5	Parker, Robert	24th QM	5
Erwin, Gary J.		5	Popovich, Kenneth	21st Inf	5
Hearn, Thomas	34th Inf	10	Reese, Charles	724th Ord	10
Irwin, Sam	19th Inf	25	Rumbaoa, P.Ed	19th Inf	30
Janca, Frank T.	3rd Eng	5	Sechrist, Gary L.	2nd Inf	5
Johnson, DeWayne	24th Sig	10	Silverstein, Albert	21st Inf	10
Johnson, Donald	13th FA	10	Snyder, Walter B.	34th Inf	10
Kroeck, Walter	19th Inf	15	Sund, Edward B.	21st Inf	10
Leerkamp, Henry	34th Inf	10	Thornton, Douglas	34th Inf	10
Loesch, Herbert C.	24th Med	20	Tominaga, George	13th FA	10
Lowry, Charles	21st Inf	5	Weir, Warren J.	19th Inf	10
Maggio, Donald E.	24th Adm	15	Whitfield, James	21st Inf	20
McCaughy, Wayne	21st Inf	10	Williams, Donald	21st Inf	10
McDevitt, Paul E.	19th Inf	5			

NEW MEMBERS

Akerson, Nancy M.	Assoc	
Bland, Denise	Assoc	
Bourgeois, James	19th Inf	C Germany 58-59
Bruner, Donald L.	2nd Inf	A Germany 59-60
Canfield, Elmer R.	24th MP	Ft. Stewart 87-90
Gasior, Andrew J.	24th Avn	Ft. Stewart 82-84
Gore, William W.	21st Inf	Germany 64-66
Graham, Bill	24th Div	Germany 66-69
Kobus, Donald E.	8th Eng	Korea 57-58
Lancaster, Kenneth	70th Arm	Ft. Stewart 81-84
Liberman, Fred R.	19th Inf	Korea 50-52
Martorano, William C.	32nd Arm	Germany 61-63
Padilla, Ramon	21st Inf L	Korea 50-51
Salakas, Nicolaos G.	21st Inf B	Germany 60-62
Talbot, Gordon G.	19th Inf	HQ Korea 55-56
Tye, Arnold J.	21st Inf L	Korea 50-51
Whitt, Calvin L.	24th Div Band	Japan 52-53

New Life Members

Miller, Paul B.	34th Inf	HQ 2410
Kerschner, Billy R.	34th Inf	HQ 2411
Shell, Herman S.	19th Inf	F 2412
Rhodes, Rex P.	31st Trans	C 2413

Nostalgia, Do You remember when...by Joe Langone

When I was a kid, and saw such a title, I would think it was something in Spanish. We veterans, especially those of us born in the twenties, or early thirties, are loaded with the meaning of nostalgia. I would like to get away from war stories, for awhile, and maybe revive some memories of the 'good old days'.

All of us men (boys back then) basically all enjoyed the same games, adventures in the woods and rivers, games in the streets, and our 'invention' to counteract the price of expensive baseballs and foot ball gear. But first, I want to remind you guys and gals, what we did to earn money.

Remember when finding a penny in the street was the greatest gift ever? When I was growing up a penny bought one cigarette or a delicious slice of George Washington cake. Soda was a nickel and it was kept outside in a box provided by the Coca Cola Company which held ice to keep the soda cold. We would go to the box, pick out either an orange, Royal Crown Cola, or a coke, walk into the store and give the lady a nickel.

We boys never stole! Well, sometimes we would hit the water melons and tomato patches, but that was open game. My best friend's grandfather had such a patch, and since it was a relative, it wasn't stealing. One of the gang, "Judge Bernie", made that ruling. Money was earned!! I did everything as a boy. I painted, sold Liberty Magazines, shoveled snow, cut grass, and even worked the farms at harvest time during the war years. The farmers would come to town in big trucks, load us boys in the back, each one of us carrying our peanut butter and jelly sandwich in a Wonder Bread wrapper, and off we'd go. We felt like Pinocchio going off to that magic island. The work was hard but we soon found out, the more you picked, the more money you made.

Our game equipment was never the real thing. The football was someone's stocking cap that we stuffed with leaves, the basketball hoop was the ring off a tomato basket, bats were usually flat boards. Hockey 'sticks' were just that, limbs off of trees. For some reason, we all did manage to get a sled from somewhere.

We had great fun at our games. Never once gave it a thought that some of the rich kids were using the real thing. We just loved to play, and the more dangerous it was, the more "Macho" we became. Our tours of duty during WWII or Korea, might have seemed child's play to our Mother's thinking. I think all Moms had the attitude, if he didn't die in the street, he'll never die in the war.

Some of the games we boys played were, "Kick the Can", "Capture the Flag", "Hot' Beans", "knuckles", "Buck, Buck, How many horns are up"? Then there was the game with the knife. Remember when we were lucky enough to get a pair of high top boots with the pocket knife on the side? We called this game, Mumbly Peg.

This game required a certain amount of skill or you could stab yourself. You'd start by gently sticking the point against your body, snapping the knife from each finger and ensuring it stuck in the ground. After both hands, you went to the wrist, elbow, shoulder, chin, each eye, nose, both ears. The loser had to pull a match stick out of the dirt with his teeth. The boys ensured the peg was deep enough where you had to eat dirt first.

Our life style made us strong and very accustomed to hard times. Not many of us grew in a home where each room was heated in the winter. Our 'warm' room was the kitchen heated by a coal stove. The bedrooms had linoleums on the floors which were always ice cold in the winter. In order to see outside, you had to scrape the ice from the inside of the windows.

Folks often wondered how we young soldiers survived the war in the winter. There's your answer. One thing I'll also remember as a boy growing up in the winter in New Jersey, was the sound the train made. You heard the whistle for miles. The more distant the train, the more haunting the sound.

Our summers were always spent on the river. We had a boat rental place run by a fellow named Bates. Mr. Bates would rent us a row boat for fifty-cents a day. We'd row down to our favorite swimming hole. It had a real fancy name. We called it BAB. Once we set sail, or rather oars, some would jump into the river and swim near the boat. Oh, we always had the guy who would speed up rowing to see how fast we could swim. We all laughed and waited for our time at the oars.

We played war a lot especially making amphibious landings against an 'enemy held beach.' If it rained we turned the boat on its side, propped up the side with sticks, and got underneath. It was important we kept our cigarettes dry. We always managed to sing one song on our way back up river. "Row, row, row your boat, go gently up the stream...."

One last thought, the Bowling Alley. Those of you who worked the 'pits' as a pin setter knew it was dangerous. If you didn't jump as soon as you set the last pin, you not only lost your job, but could have a huge medical bill to boot.

Well comrades and brothers and sister in arms, I hope you will read this and say, "Hell, I did all of those things too," and then remember, how wonderful those years really were.
Joe Langone, 21st RGT

LCOL James Louis Russell died on January 25, 2011. He served in CBT Group, **28th Infantry** in Germany, '61-'62, Life Member 2258.



Donald N. DeWalt, Age 83, died March 16, 2009. In October 1951, during Operation Nomad, then Lt. Don DeWalt was Platoon Leader of Weapons (4th) Platoon, Easy Company, 19th RGT. Mel Frederick and Tom Thiel were Platoon Sergeant and Squad Leader,

respectively, under LT DeWalt, who retired from military service as LCOL.



Rodman 'Pop' Doty of Burlington Township died in 2012. He was 92. He was a U.S. Army veteran of Pearl Harbor, Stationed at Schofield Barracks on Dec. 7, 1941. He worked as a plumber, steamfitter, and an estimator for Civil Service at Fort Dix when he retired. Life Member 1200.

Walter Kenneth Kline, Chief Warrant Officer, 84 died Nov 12, 2002. **24th Signal**. Kline served in the U.S. Army from 1946 to 1975. His military awards and decorations included the Bronze Star Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the "V" device, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Good Conduct Medal with the bronze clasp and two loops, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with silver service star, United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Occupation Medal-Japan, Vietnamese Civil Actions Honor Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with palm, Combat Infantryman Badge and the Parachute Badge. Life Member 1194



Everett "Abe" Davis died August 2, 2012 in Rochester, PA. He was in the U.S. Army and served with the 24th Division, 3rd Engineers. PICTURE Davis

Spero William Calos died on April 5th, 2012 just three weeks shy of his 90th birthday. He was raised in Palmetto, FL, where he worked on the family dairy farm throughout his childhood until he joined the military. Spero was a 22-year veteran for the US Army, serving in WWII and the Korean War, earning a Purple Heart. He was with the **34th RGT**, 3rd BN, '50-'51. Life Member 173.

FALLEN COMRADES



Roy D. Akerson, died July 16, 2012. He was a Korean War Veteran and member of VFW Post 4502. Roy served as a CPL with the 3rd Engineers and 34th RGT, '52-'55, Member. He is survived by his wife, Mary, 1229 N. Hackberry St., Apt 207, Wahoo, NE 68066.

CORRECTIONS:

Boyce Hudson, Life Member 272, served with the 24th MP Company during WWII and was a Pearl Harbor survivor. He was from Casselberry, FL.

Harry A, Mullens, correct name is Harry A. McMullen, Life Member 914

Gene H. McQuitt should be Gene H. McQuitty.

Ervil Austin - On my out-dated Roster as Ervil G., and date of Death shown is 2013, should be 2012.

Confirmed on Obituary and SSD Index by Wes Morrison.

Secretary John Dunn's List of Deceased These men may or may not have been previously listed

AlveradoManuel	19th Inf	Japan
Conley William E.	24th MP	Japan
Cooper Ramon F.	AAA	Japan & Korea
Dickinson Alfred H.	52nd FA	WWII
Feedback Charles W.	21st Inf	WWII
Fleming Justin B.	34th Inf	Japan & Korea
Freshcorn Billy L.	19th Inf	Japan & Korea
Goldthwait Robert S.	Div HQ	WWII
Huson Boyce	24th MP	WWII
Jackson Shelby L.	19th Inf	Japan & Korea
Jacobson Norman	24th MP	Korea
Jeremiah Charles W.	21st InfC	Japan & Korea
Laabs Merlin M.	5th RCT	Korea
McMichaelCharles E.	19th Inf	WWII & Japan
Miller John A.	34th Inf	WWII & Japan
Mullins William L.	13th FAC	WWII
Nichols William E.	19th Inf	Korea
Quaiter Richard L.	Assoc	Korea
RedcayRufus W.	FA	WWII & Japan
Rowlands Richard	Div HQ	Japan & Korea
Ruane Robert J.	21st Inf	Japan & Korea
Saccente Angelo R.	3rd Eng	Japan
Welsh Eugene M.	19th Inf	WWII & Japan
Yarnell Robert G.	3 4th Inf	Korea

Rest in Peace

24th IDA NATIONAL REUNION 2013

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION: (To be updated in future issues)

Sept 22-25, Hotel Holiday Inn Jurstbourn, Louisville, Kentucky

Rates \$77.00 plus tax/night

Tours and Events Planned:

Fort Knox
Church Hill Downs
Downtown Louisville
Louisville Slugger
Frazier International
History Museum
Side Trips to the Horseshoe Casino
Military Drill Team at our Breakfast and a
Display of WWII Korea and Modern Day Military Vehicles
Hawaii Theme Banquet

The hotel is a done deal, the display of Military Vehicles is a done deal, and all the others are in process.

B.G. Gene E Spicer and Ken Fentner

IMPORTANT NOTICE



The memorial is essentially complete, paid for, and ready to be properly placed in the nation's most prestigious location for honoring veterans, Arlington National Cemetery. However, to date we have not

been able to win approval from the powers that be. See Sal Schiillaci's letter at the top of page seven. It will help to contact your local representative and ask them to support Cong. Lee's Bill, H. Con Res. 232.

Please contact your Congressional Representative NOW!

24th IDA West Coast Reunion

24-27 March, 2013

Reunions



Aquarius Casino Resort

1900S Casino Dr,
Laughlin, NV 89029

1-800-662-5825 for

Use Code: C-WCR13

ROOMS
\$29.00

Contact: Byrd or D.J. Schrock for more info.

P.O. Box 1626
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636
(520)678-0207 or (520) 678-0513
email: byrd2a@cox.net

Reunion Registration Deadline 17 March, 2013

Registration Fee: \$20 per Family

Banquet Dinner \$36 (Evening of 27 March)

In accordance with our Catering contract, dinner fees are non-refundable after 17 March 2013

----- Cut Along Dotted Line -----

Name: _____ Spouse/Guests: _____

Unit: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone (optional): _____ Email (optional): _____

Roast Sirloin of Beef \$38 x ____ = ____

Chicken Cordon Bleu \$38 x ____ = ____

Filet of Salmon \$36 x ____ = ____

Registration (\$20 per Family) = ____

(total) \$ ____

**Mail dinner fees, registration form
and fees to:**

Byrd Schrock
P.O. Box 1626
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636

Checks payable to Byrd Schrock

Latest VA News Releases

VA Offers a New Tool to Help Veterans Prevent Diabetes - The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced the implementation of a pilot version of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), a program being promoted nationally by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, aimed at reducing the number of Veterans who develop diabetes.

VA Leads Nation in Breast Cancer Screening Rates - The Department of Veterans Affairs leads the Nation in breast cancer screening rates and has outperformed non-VA health care systems in breast cancer screenings for more than 15 years, with 87 percent of eligible women receiving mammograms in the VA health care system in fiscal year 2010. (10/1/12)

VA Awards over \$47 Million for State and Tribal Veterans Cemeteries - The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the award of 18 grants totaling \$47,462,135 to 15 states and one tribal government to establish new Veterans cemeteries and to expand or improve others. (10/1/12)

Online Toolkit Aims to Support Mental Health Providers

Serving Veterans in the Community - The Department of Veterans Affairs has developed a new online Community Provider Toolkit

(www.mentalhealth.va.gov/communityproviders) aimed at delivering support, therapeutic tools, and resources to community providers treating Veterans for mental health concerns. (9/27/12)

VA Teams Up with American Heart Association to Raise

Awareness of Heart Disease in Women - The Department of Veterans Affairs will raise awareness of heart disease in women, particularly women Veterans and VA employees, at a "VA Goes Red" health expo Thursday, Sep. 27, outside VA's central office at 810 Vermont Avenue. The event will run in conjunction with the FRESHFARM farmer's market held at the same location from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (9/24/12)

VA and Entertainment Industries Council Launch Resource on Veterans' Mental Health - A powerful new tool is available to the entertainment industry with the release of Picture This: Veteran Mental Health Challenges and Solutions, a comprehensive guide to assist members of the creative arts community in accurately portraying mental health issues Veterans may experience. (9/24/12)

VA Completes Over 1 Million Compensation Claims in 2012 - The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), which oversees the delivery of disability compensation and other benefits to the nation's Veterans, processed over one million disability claims during fiscal year 2012, marking the third year in row VBA claims processors have exceeded the one million mark. (9/20/12)

VA Fills First Phase of Veterans Retraining Program to

Enhance Job Skills - The Department of Veterans Affairs has approved applications for all 45,000 slots available in fiscal year (FY) 2012 under the successful Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) and is in the process of approving applications for a total of 54,000 slots available in FY 2013. (9/20/12)

VA Awards More than \$300,000 to Ohio Veterans Home - The Department of Veterans Affairs is awarding more than \$300,000 for the state of Ohio to renovate the fire alarm system at the Veterans home in Sandusky. (9/20/12)

OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE; THEY JUST MEET TO EAT

LEESBURG, FL. - The iconic quote retiring General Douglas MacArthur made, "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away" is paraphrased every three months at Golden Corral Restaurant in Leesburg, when veterans, their spouses and significant others prove "Old soldiers never die, they just meet to eat."

Several years ago, 24th Infantry Division veteran Bill Stokes, who served in the Army of Occupation in Sasebo, Japan 1946-47, noticed a local newspaper invitation from Tom Thiel of Eustis, FL to attend a luncheon to whom all 24th Division veterans - and anyone else attached to units subordinates to the Victory Division were invited. He responded and his proximity to Thiel led to a long lunch and plans being laid for future get-togethers.

Area media were receptive to future notices and summer attendances run easily into the forties; seasonal (that's "winter" to you snowbirds) swells the set-aside restaurant meeting room to capacity. Meals are "Dutch Treat" and the Golden Corral's choices among all courses displayed make for a repast that more than one wife was heard to say, "Well, I don't have to cook tonight!"

It is said laughter improves digestion, and it's true with the crowds our quarterly meetings stimulate. Recollections - some comical and some poignant - recall the good and bad days of veterans of WW II, Korea and Viet Nam. "By far," says founder and luncheon host Tom Thiel. "Our group is of mostly Korean vets, as am I."

Nor are veterans attending these luncheons for good food and fellowship local residents; some travel appreciable distances to be with their fellow vets and to make new friends. For example, Delmar and Valjean Dickson are Maryland residents who detoured especially from their planned route to be with our group in October. Others, including Harley and Sandra Joseph, come from Miami and John Dunn hails from Westover, AL. Some visitors have even brought fresh tomatoes and strawberries from home for everyone to enjoy.

Stokes, who takes reservations for meetings from phone inquirers, one morning found a veteran with whom he had taken basic training in 1946 at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. He and Massachusetts native Paul Boulay, who lives just six miles away, were featured in TARO LEAF in the Summer 2010 issue, Thiel said.

The next meeting of the group will be Wednesday, December 5, at the Golden Corral, 1720 Citrus Blvd. (US Hwy 27-441, Leesburg) at 11:45 a.m. And let us not forget our combined associations meeting, the Florida 24th IDA/5th RCT Reunion November 1-4 at St. Augustine, Florida. **Bill Stokes, Life Member**

Unit Decorations and Campaign Streamers for the 24th Division



Philippine Presidential Unit Citation,
Philippines WWII, 1944



Army Presidential Unit Citation
Pusan Perimeter, Korea



Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
For service in Pyongyang, 1950



Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
For service in Korea, 1952-53



Superior Unit Award, 1994

Conflict	Streamer	Year(s)
World War II Central Pacific		1943
World War II New Guinea (with Arrowhead)		1944
World War II <u>Levte</u> (with Arrowhead)		1945
World War II <u>Luzon</u>		1945
World War II Southern Philippines (with Arrowhead)		1945
<u>Korean War</u>	UN Defensive	1950
<u>Korean War</u>	UN Offensive	1950
<u>Korean War</u>	CCF Intervention	1950
<u>Korean War</u>	First UN Counteroffensive	1950
<u>Korean War</u>	CCF Spring Offensive	1951
<u>Korean War</u>	UN Summer-Fall Offensive	1951
<u>Korean War</u>	Second Korean Winter	1951 1952
<u>Korean War</u>	Korea, Summer 1953	1953
<u>Gulf War</u>	Defense of Saudi Arabia	1991
<u>Gulf War</u>	Liberation and Defense of Kuwait	1991

Florida 24th IDA delivers to Ft. McCoy Veterans

Florida's 24th IDA group recently delivered a large truckload of items to the several hundred veteran residents of The VFW Retirement Home, Inc. Ft. McCoy, Florida. The Home is a "non-medical, independent living retirement home committed to providing a home-like atmosphere offering affordable housing and services to qualified veterans and their spouses. Monthly rates are \$1,615 per couple, \$1,415 per private single room, and \$804.50 for a shared room. www.vfwretirementhome.flvfw.org

We have been going to other veteran's facilities, but especially like VFW Ft. McCoy because we are able to meet and visit with the veterans themselves, and we were treated to a free lunch.

The Florida 24th IDA Group consists of 24th veterans, Gold Star spouses and surviving spouses who meet quarterly for Dutch Treat Lunches. Our next luncheon is Dec. 5 in Leesburg. We also have been holding a mini-reunion jointly with the 5th Regimental Combat team, the latest Nov. 1-4, 2012 in St. Augustine. We welcome all Floridians, all snowbirds, and visitors.

If you are interested please contact Tom Thiel, fl24thida@gmail.com or 352-408-6612, see our note elsewhere in this Taro Leaf. or go to: www.24thida.com/florida_24thida/0_cf24thida.html



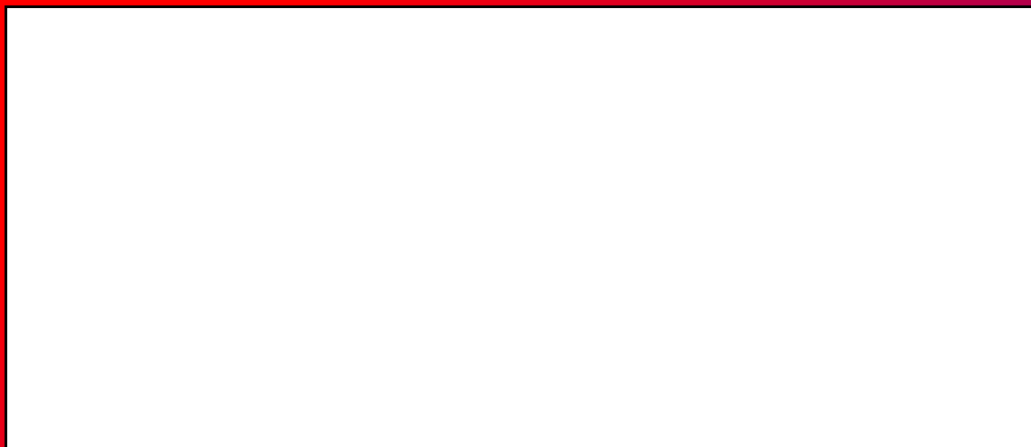
Taro Leafers making the presentation were, from left, Tom Thiel, Carol Becker, Al Lugo (Home Director), Ted Jansen and Paul Miller.

(See Bill Stokes story on the preceding page)



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

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Leesburg, FL 34748



MEMBERS: Check your dues date above your address
12 months dues = \$15.00

Send Dues & Address Changes to:

John A. Dunn, Sec'y.-Treas.
24th Infantry Division Association
9150 Hwy. 51, Westover, AL
35147-9527

Send Obituaries to: Taro Leaf Editor

(Please include a photo if available)
Post Office Box 500907
San Diego, CA 92150
24thtaroleaf@gmail.com



"Moving Out" Afghanistan Watercolor by MSGT Martin J. Cervantez,
Artist in Residence at the U.S. Army Center of Military History