

TARD

24th Infantry Division Association

VICTORY



DIVISION

LEAF

"First to Fight"



"Follow Me!" - COL Aubrey "Red" S. Newman

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**COMING
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ON THE COVER: This subject was suggested by a reader whose name I misplaced. I hope to hear from him. See story on page 11.
The cover has a bit of a new look. Comments?



Greetings All Taro Leafers:

Tom Appler, Director-at-Large, has been using Facebook to reach many soldiers who have worn the Taro Leaf and his "contest" has resulted in new signing up new members.

Director-at-Large George Vlasic has put notices of reunion in Louisville in various veterans' magazines. He too has had success in generating interest. I have had a phone call recently from someone inquiring about membership.

We should all use direct contact with people we meet in "advertising" our Association. Just by wearing my 24th IDA hat to the local VA and stores, I have been engaged in a lot of conversations with other veterans.

Sal Schillaci is still working on getting the Medal of Honor memorial placed in Arlington. His granddaughter has given him over 40 pictures of similar memorials already at Arlington. He has spoken with several people at Arlington on the phone and is trying to make an appointment to meet with them.

Gene Spicer has been working hard on the Louisville reunion and has it almost fully planned. See the information he has provided in this issue.

We still need someone to assume the responsibility of the fund raiser starting next year. Chaplain Carpenter has indicated this will be his last year.

Wishing you and your families the best in 2013 and hope to see y'all in Louisville next September!

Best regards,
Don Maggio



Greetings: I hope all of you have escaped the challenges of winter weather and are now excited about the emerging Spring and coming Summer. Even though I live in San Diego, supposedly a warm climate, the colder weather is still uncomfortable for me. I think it has something to do with that winter in North Korea when the temp dropped to forty below zero. I was told this by an artillery officer who had to measure the temperature to set the artillery ammo fuses.

We have over the years heard stories about our green troops in Korea fleeing in the face of the enemy. I think the term "bugging out" was coined then. Sure, it happened at times, but it was by no means endemic. Recently our historian, Merry Helm, has uncovered battle records of the early fighting in Korea, specifically of the 19th RGT and 29th RCT from Okinawa which was assigned to the 24th. As I read the stories of these heroic soldiers I was reassured that our Army was well led by very competent officers and performed "above and beyond" the call of duty when called upon. In this issue you will find stories about the battle of the Kum River, and Chinju with details of the heroic actions of our troops.

We tried an experiment with a mail-back postcard on the back cover. So far we have only a modest number of returns, but it's enough to give us an idea of what people are thinking. We won't report our findings yet because we are running the same query in this issue. However, one thing that became clear to me about the process is that the cover stock should be heavier for the mail-back postcard. Some returned cards were mangled, and some people anticipating a problem put the postcard in an envelope for mailing.

My wife Dottie and I have embarked on an adventure, a six-week visit with my #2 son and his family who live in the Philippines. We have two grandchildren there who we have seen very little of the past twelve years. Since prospects for things to be different in the future are likely nil, we decided to take the initiative while we can.

There is no other country whose history is so entwined with ours since the Spanish-American War in 1898. World War II in the Pacific put the Philippines in the middle of the action, first with the Japanese conquest and three years plus later, with its liberation by the Allies. The central character in this real life drama was Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

I have a connection with Gen. MacArthur, although slight, having been a member of his security unit in Tokyo before he was recalled in 1951 by President Truman. I have been a fan of the General ever since. I have written three books about him and have lectured dozen of times, as the General. I plan to do more of this in the Philippines. I may report on this in a future issue. Can anyone say "Bon Voyage?"

David Valley

Letters

Hello David, There has always been a question about whether Woodrow Wilson Keeble was (*initially- Ed*) denied his Medal of Honor due to a "quota" being implemented. The idea of such a system is disturbing, and 1st Sergeant Joe Sagami (George/19th) found it particularly frustrating as he worked to get Keeble's award.

In a signed affidavit circa 1954, Sagami wrote: "Sgt. Keeble was recommended for the highest honor, that of the Congressional Medal of Honor the latter part of November 1951. The award recommendation was sent through Sgt. Cantrell, the 2nd Bn. Awards and Decorations non-com at regimental Hq. & Hq. Co. The original recommendation was lost somewhere between the regimental HQ and Division. A duplicate recommendation was forwarded on or about December 10, 1951, during the Division's move to northern Japan. Unfortunately, 8th Army Directives made the awarding of this medal to Sgt. Keeble impossible due to the Division's quotas being filled and cutoff date for the Congressional Medal of Honor had passed for the 24th Infantry Division."

Whether the problem was within the 24th Division or at Eighth Army level is unclear, but it is interesting to note that the quota issue also surfaced in other such cases, including at least one within the 101st Airborne.

Perhaps the following offers some insight. It comes from a 1953 Taro Leaf article by Brig. Gen. S.L.M. Marshall, which was reprinted from *Colliers* magazine. Titled, "Do the Real Heroes Get the Medal of Honor?" General Marshall writes: "After careful study I have come to the reluctant conclusion that the Medal of Honor and our other high decorations aren't being used as they were intended and have lost a great part of their value among our troops."

Many men earn their medals the hard way. But others sometimes get them without truly rating them. The decorations are awarded by boards of officers who often lose sight of the main idea in the snarl of red tape. Under our present system, not only does it take so long for medals to be awarded that they lose their good morale effect, but far more serious, morale is undermined because too many outstanding acts of heroism go unrewarded.

One reason is the prejudice of some of our leaders against awarding "too many medals" – no matter how richly deserved. They say they don't want to cheapen the award. To my mind, you can't cheapen the award except by awarding it to the wrong man. The present system is not free of cheapness and hypocrisy, as approved by the quota method of distribution. Under the quota arrangement just so many awards of each class are given to each command. The command can either use up the decorations by awarding minor acts, or cheat true heroism by husbanding the awards too carefully because there are so few." (Taro Leaf, April 1953, p. 8.) **Merry Helm**

Merry: I would not be surprised to learn there are still many shenanigans connected with the award. **Editor**

David: I read in the Taro Leaf magazine a letter about different Guest House's, The Last Chance was spoken of. I was at Flak Kaserne from 1964 to 1966. The song that he spoke of was Detroit City. The words "I wanna go Home", I believe, was within that song. It was not sung by the Beatles. I don't remember the Last Chance but I do remember a place called "Margies". When you walked through the front door the bar was straight ahead with tables and chairs in the area in front and to the right. There was a separate room in the shape of a Keg. Once inside the Keg there was, I think, a Juke Box and tables and chairs also. There was another Guest House on the main road to Flak that was near a railroad bridge. A lot of good times in Margies. There was an apartment above the bar. It would be nice to go back but I'm sure that it is gone like good old Flak. **Al Temple** atemplesr@verizon.net

David: You may want to put this in the Taro Leaf. **Tom Thiel**, Webmaster.

In response to a call for those forever lost in the Korean War, Bob Stratton of the 19th RGT told of April 23, 1951, loss of several of his fellow "M" Company members. Two of those whose actual missing status has never been fully established are: Kenneth Earl Tuttle, PVT, POW, M CO, 19 REGT, and Ernest Clifford Robertson, PFC, POW, M CO, 19 REGT, both on April 23, 1951. Another Stratton recalls is Howard Waters who was taken POW on same date. Stratton described the action near Yonggok Korea as follows:

"The machine gun section of M Company was attached to provide support to K Company on April 23, 1951, near town of Yonggok Korea. During the day we were under continuous shelling by Chinese. Shortly after dusk, the shelling stopped and the Chinese Infantry attacked K company, and our M company machine gun support section.

Howard Waters was the gunner, and I was assistant gunner of 30 caliber water-cooled machine gun. We successfully held off the Chinese attackers until we were running out of ammunition. Section Lt. (unknown) then issued the order to pull out and withdraw back down the hill.

I grabbed the machine gun and ran and rolled down the hill to escape. Of the approximately 20 in our M company machine gun section, only about five of us made it out. Howard was among those missing. I learned that Howard was taken prisoner and was repatriated in 1953. I saw him in Michigan about 6 years ago; sadly he passed away in 2011.

I do not personally remember knowing either Tuttle or Robertson, only that they were from M company and the machine gun section." Stratton also submitted two documents to support his accounts: Distinguished Unit Citation King Company and attached units, and William Burson article describing the action referred to above (see page 9 of this issue). **Robert J. Stratton**

Stratton can be reached at: 9999 E. Lincoln Hwy., Bluffton, OH, 45817-8554, Ph: 419-358-2267.

Hi, David, Please excuse the delay in not responding immediately after my breathtaking surprise in finding my brother Richard and I on the cover of the Taro Leaf magazine which, among other things made me a momentary star at our local post office. Needless to say, too, that it was quite gratifying to see portions of my writing back in print again and I send you my special thanks for that; and might add that you did a great job at editing the key element of the Chinju incident into a one page format. I read the Taro edition from cover cover, as I do with most and must send a belated congratulations on what you've accomplished since assuming the editorial position in 2010. The style, material and photo layouts are always impressive, which I'm sure has been expressed many times over by the 24th ID membership and I wish I could offer more in the effort.

My brother called yesterday in regards to wanting to procure some additional copies of this Taro issue for distribution to his military friends and I suggested he e-mail you; and I'm interested as well in purchasing some additional copies. For one, I'd like to send a copy to my new publisher Navigator-Books. They specialize in military text, photos and maps and I'm hoping they have Bugles ready for release within the next month. I feel the reworked edition will be superior to the first and am now wondering if the Taro Leaf allows for purchasing ad space? Unfortunately I never managed to produce the quality of combat sketches I had in mind, but will continue to work on those for future releases in some format or another.

Thanks again, **Robert Mercy**
robmercy@com-pair.net

Dear David: I find it is my duty to inform you of the passing of my dear friend and former member of the **19th RGT, L CO, Robert Fawley**. He served in Korea 1951-1952. He died in June 2012. He hated discussing anything about the War, so I have no information about his combat experiences. I have been told however that he suffered from PTSD for some time after he returned home from Korea.

On another subject, I was very interested in the notice about the need for signatures to encourage the USPS to make a stamp about POW/MIAs. I made copies and put them with a stamped envelope in every Christmas I sent. I hope it does some good. **George H. Wilson, 34th RGT, Life Member 1852. P.O. Box 82825, Fairbanks, AK 99708. Telephone 907 590-8379.**

Hi all: Since my area of study is pretty much limited to the Korean War, I would like to see if we could redistribute the historian duties to several different people who could do better justice to this role. Previously, I suggested we work with historians by unit, and I have had the great opportunity of working Lisa Sholl, whose area of expertise is the 21st regiment, and Rus Penland for the 52nd FAB. But I have not found any others who focus strictly on particular units – not who I can communicate with via email anyway.

I would like us to consider putting out the word for enthusiasts who specialize in WWII, Cold War occupation including Germany, and Desert Storm. There must be people out there who would be good for these – especially associate members (children of members). I get many requests from people who want to know more about their dad's experiences. There are many I can help, but I am really lame regarding WWII, and I don't have the resources to study that war in addition to writing my Korean War books. Any thoughts?
Merry Helm, Historian

Hi David, My name came up with our email July 2011 about North Korean money. The other subject, dementia and Alzheimer's, I understand what you're up against. My Better-half has been getting worse over the past five years or so. She doesn't like me to leave her side either. What's bad for me also is my kids live in TN and AL making visiting hard to do. They are concerned for my health also. So, I guess we can only do the best we can as long as we can.

I enclosed a couple letters from Harry (Oppenborn) from the time we were in touch with each other. We missed a few years and then I tried to contact him again but found out from his wife, Bobbie, he had passed away in 2010 (86 years old). He was a member of the 24th IDA in 1997. I wanted to ask him about the article he sent to me. I think I was with him and his group the night I remembered the Chinese on other ridge from us. Then I went to the hospital with frostbite of my feet. I returned from Japan Feb., '51. I had a cousin who lives in NC to ask about LT Loflen (in article) from his home town, but no record of him. Harry's obit was put into the next Taro Leaf. Sorry I waited this long to get info to you. Time is getting short, so if we want to get in touch with our war buddies, we better do it before it's too late. I was hoping to see you in New Orleans, but understand your situation now. Take care of yours and yourself. **Carl Hatmaker, Life Member, 918 490-1621, 524 Woodland St. Eufaula, OK 74432.**

(October 13, 1993) **Dear Carl:** I enjoyed our telephone visit. Included are copies of letters I received in January of 1951. SGT Barnard was one of my squad leaders in 2nd Plat. Co L, 19th Inf. SSGT Terry was assistant platoon sergeant. The clipping from Miami Herald had to do with New Year's Eve. There are also some copies of pages from my notebook. MSGT Richard T. Russell was my platoon sergeant. In January '51, when Bill Caldwell became CO, I was sent back to Division to be an air observer. Russell became platoon leader and ultimately had his reserve commission activated. I came back in time to lead a bayonet charge in the middle of April. I thought it was 3rd platoon, but memory fades. A few days later Russell was hit in the face, his jaw was broken and he was evacuated. I was home by July 4, 1951. Russell retired as a major. His phone number is 713-644-3779. I don't have the address but he lives in Houston, Texas. Drop me a line and let me have anything of interest. Sincerely, **Henry L. Oppenborn, Jr.**

(November 24, 1993) **Dear Carl:** Thanks for your letter and the enclosures. I left in early May. I remember being the paymaster on April 30, 1950 (? , maybe 1951). It was raining and I had to pay everyone in a pup tent because L Co. was on line. I will stay in touch and try to answer your letter in more detail. Right now I have six working days until retirement and have a heavy case load. We expect to move to the Ocala area. **Henry L. Oppenborn, Jr.**

"How the hell did we get out of there alive?" By Herman V Critchfield

My time with Task Force Smith

It was in May 1950, that this twenty five year old Army Corporal took a short discharge from an Artillery Battalion in Fort Carson, CO, and reenlisted for the Far East Command. I thought I was going to be in Japan. Our Division was going to start training AIT (Advance Individual training) and I did not think I would like that. I had heard stories about Japan duty and thought it might be interesting.

After a 30-day leave, I reported to Bremerton, WA, and boarded a ship for Japan. It was a nice trip across, smooth waters, good food and a good job on board ship. I was a pusher for the galley detail.

A few days out of Yokohama, we were told that the North Koreans had invaded the South. None of us knew where Korea was. After landing in Japan, we were separated, put on trains, and moved out. I was told I was going to the 24th Infantry Division. We moved south for hours and were unloaded in Kyushu. It was late in the afternoon of 1 or 2 July 1950.

After arriving in the Battery area, I went to the supply room to draw linen. Supply instead handed me a 30 caliber carbine, and directed me to the Orderly Room where I met an Officer who told me stand by to go to Korea. After dark, we boarded a Japanese Ferryboat named "something Mani (*probably 'Maru' - ship, Ed.*) After a short time, we arrived at what I found out later was Pusan, Korea.

We unloaded; I do not know how many people came with me, where they were from, or if we were in the same unit. I next remember getting on a train that had 105mm howitzers on flat cars and must have been A Battery, 52nd Field Artillery. After a period of time we moved out. I was in a passenger car with other soldiers. We traveled for a period of time and came to a small railhead, where we off loaded and sat around waiting.

Probably at this time I was assigned a gun section. Overhead we saw airplanes in a dogfight. We commented that this was appropriate, as it was the 4th of July.

We loaded on the prime movers and moved out. Sometime during the night we stopped and went into firing positions. During the night on our move forward we lost one of the howitzers. He missed a turn. We were traveling black out.

There wasn't enough room for all the howitzers so the Chief of Fire asks if anyone had direct fire experience. I had served in the Marines during WWII, and we were taught direct fire in preparation for the invasion of Japan. I raised my hand and



Herman and Mary Critchfield

was immediately made Chief of Section for the forward howitzer, known as the anti-tank gun.

I was the ranking man in the section, and was to be the Chief of Section/Gunner of the Section. I believe we had five cannoneers and the prime mover driver. We set up forward of the main firing position just beyond a hill. I do not remember who picked the position out but I assume it was Chief of Fire. We did not

dig the howitzer in; we just made spade holes and shot from there. The prime mover was parked immediately to our right rear with a little cover of hanging tree branches.

There was a stuccoed telephone exchange building to our immediate rear, and you could hear the relays clicking. There was an elderly man working in the building. I don't remember seeing him but once. He just disappeared.

We had wire communication with the main battery and sometime later after we had bore sighted the howitzer, off loaded the five rounds of HEAT ammo, and had improved the position, we were notified tanks were coming.

I had previously asked if we could knock the small bridge out just to our right and about 50-75 yards to our front. This was denied. I was thinking I would have a much better shot at the tanks if I could see their belly. There was no sense of anyone being afraid. As I look back, this point amazed me. How could these people, me included, have reasoned that we would get out of this situation alive?

We just went about our job as we were trained. No one questioned the way I had set it up. All the men were good soldiers and we would be just lucky to get out alive. We saw three tanks come around the bend about four hundred yards up the road. They were buttoned up and slowly moving along. The morning was damp and misty with rain.

I explained to the crew that I would get the first tank just short of the bridge, and block it. I thought this might make the others pass him and go into the streambed and climb out. When he was in range we fired and he spun out off the road and stopped. We reloaded and fired on the second tank. I am sure he was also hit as he also spun out. We loaded and fired at the third tank but I don't know the results of that round. The smoke made from firing at that elevation made so much of a cloud out in front of the howitzer it was impossible to see.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page...

I remember us trying to load the next round but it jammed, the brass shell casing crimping in the tube. This happens sometimes if the projectile is not properly seated in the brass casing.

About this time I heard small arms popping around us. I do not think the tanks saw us but they knew we were in the vicinity. I thought it too dangerous to have someone go out in front of the howitzer and with the bell rammer knock the round back out of the tube. It was at this time that I ordered everyone back to the main battery.

We went across the hill behind us following a path that was slick and wet. When we arrived at the main firing position we saw the battery was busy turning the howitzers to the right towards the road getting ready for the tanks coming down the road. They could not see the tanks as yet because of the hill in front of the guns.

I stayed on a little knoll to the rear and slightly behind the howitzers. The fire direction center was located here.

From this time on for this day things are a blur and I remember very little else of what happened in the battery area. But I do remember LTC Perry our Battalion Commander arriving in his jeep and someone saying he had been wounded in the leg. We moved out later in the afternoon with a few 2-1/2 ton trucks; jeeps and maybe a 1/4 ton.

The Korean Captain assigned to us for training acted as our interpreter; he got us out past the tanks by using cow paths. This Captain is now a retired Major General Seung Kook Yoon from the Korean Army.

We got to a small village and occupied a school. We awaited orders and new howitzers and other equipment. When we left the forward position I lost all of my personal belongings because all of our gear was on the truck left at the position. I had just purchased a new "Ike Jacket" that I was forced to buy when I shipped out of California. The jacket cost me \$17.00. I will always remember that loss. *(This reminds me of the gabardine summer uniform I had tailor-made and left in my duffle bag when I boarded a "something Maru" in Sasebo, Japan, July 1950. Ed.)*

This is the way I remember the first day of combat in Korea, 5 Jun 1950. I am sure that it is fairly accurate as I have reminisced this day many times with others who were there. And yes, I asked "How the hell did we get out of there alive?"

Herman V. Critchfield, 5900 Paradise Lane,
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Nominate Your Choice for the 2013 Verbeck Award

July 15, 2013, is the final date for you to nominate that member you feel most merits the Association's prestigious 2013 Verbeck Award. This Award recognizes that Association member who best displays Bill Verbeck's love for the 24th Division and it's Association by engraving the recipient's name on the Association's Verbeck Bowl, recognizing them at the Annual Reunion Banquet, and presenting the recipient with a small personal model of the Verbeck Bowl.

The Award is to acknowledge a person's commitment and hard work in helping to make the Association more successful—it is not to reward popularity.

Please send your recommendation, and sentence or two telling why you believe your nominee deserves the Award, no later than July 15, 2013, to any of the following members of this year's Verbeck Awards

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Outfit Given Up As Being Wiped Out Rejoins Battle

By William Burson

At HQ they rubbed out the symbol which had designated "King" CO. In its stead he drew a blazing arrow topped with the mark used by a Chinese regiment. "King," someone said, "has ceased to exist as a military unit."

It had borne the brunt of the initial thrust of the Communist spring counteroffensive, and stood its ground for four hours in a sea of charging Chinese. Its men were presumed dead, captured, or fighting a death stand surrounded by Reds. But the presumption was made without reckoning with the never-say-die spirit of Capt. Herman Stein of Neenah, WI, and his doughty loyal men.

Twenty-four hours later "King" Company's symbol was back in the tactical lineup. Stein and some of his infantrymen were battling again after a cross-country escape march. Sixty hours later the company fought a rearguard engagement screening the withdrawal of its regiment across the 38th parallel.

Sixty-six hours later this scrappy force, its ranks decimated, jumped aboard tanks and roared off in a vain attempt to bust a road block which had trapped 2,700 withdrawing GIs. And they might have, but at 1930 sharp, Communist mortar and artillery shells started screaming in followed by close rank columns moving up the ridge in front.

"They massed in the valley below," the captain said. "The whistles blew and the bugles blew. They whooped blood-curdling yells and charged like bulldozers. Everyone had a grenade in each hand."

Two suicide waves were downed. The third made the top and pushed the GIs back. But Stein regrouped the company and led a successful counterattack. From then until 11:30 the infantry held fast.

"We had to pull back when they started in on us from the flanks as well as the front," the company commander said. "We withdrew to the next ridge and were ready for them when they followed up."



Bill Burson and his wife

The GIs met the next charge without moving. They came to hand to hand grips with the Chinese who got within the perimeter. "We mowed them down and still they came," 1st

Lt. Charles Post of San Antonio, TX, reported a radio operator died at his post as he called in artillery so close that shrapnel sprayed the Allies.

When their ammo ran out they took up where they left off with .45 automatic pistols or bayonets used as daggers. The story was the same with the 57-mm recoilless rifle crew led by Cpl. Richard Osuna of Peoria, Ill.

For six hours Stein's men stumbled through dark valley and crept up unfamiliar hills. To their south they got near the enemy so they turned north into Red territory. PFC Billy J. Wells of Norman, Okla., scouted ahead of the main party.

In one instance SFC Ray Remp of Pittsburgh, PA, said the men saw an enemy patrol on the ridge line moving South while they were in the valley moving northeast. "I think every one of us stopped breathing as those Chinese went by," he said.

After three hours of this stealthy march, Stein consulted his company and turned south. As the first rays of the morning sun lighted the hills, the tired bedraggled troop topped a crest and saw American tanks below.

"I think we all must have said a little prayer of thanks," 1st Lt. Ray Admire of Ravenna, Ohio, said. "I think if we had been 15 minutes later we would not have gotten out. In the daylight we wouldn't have lasted ten minutes in those hills."

The tanks carried the company back to the battalion headquarters. There Stein's group was reunited with the six men led out by Sergeant Lese. After 12 hours rest on a sunny sandbar in the Ildong River, Captain Stein led his remaining men back into the hills and into the fight.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS (DSC) Rank: Colonel Unit: Commanding Officer 34 Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division "Victory", U.S. Army Action: The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Aubrey S. Newman, Colonel (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while Commanding the 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 20 and on 30 October 1944, during the assault on Leyte, Philippine Islands.

On 20 October Colonel Newman went ashore in the fifth wave of the amphibious landing of Leyte. He found the preceding waves compressed within a narrow space not more than one hundred yards wide and twenty yards from the water's edge, pinned down by heavy rifle and machine gun fire and exposed to mortar and artillery fire. Confused by the loss of key officers, the men were without trained leaders competent to organize an attack. Colonel Newman at once took charge of the situation, issued necessary orders, and literally forced his men off the beach. Under his leadership and direction the troops promptly advanced and secured a beachhead approximately two hundred yards inland, and cleared the way for landing of additional troops, equipment, and supplies.

Ten days later, near Jaro, Leyte, the leading elements of his assault battalion encountered heavy machine gun fire from an entrenched enemy position which commanded the main route of advance. Colonel Newman promptly made a personal reconnaissance and planned his advance, but while giving orders for the attack he was caught in heavy concentration of mortar fire and was hit. Critically wounded, he refused to be evacuated and continued to direct the attack until he lost consciousness.

As a direct result of his energy, leadership and example the attack was pushed to a successful conclusion, and our troops drove the enemy from the position and continued their advance. Colonel Newman's outstanding leadership and heroic devotion to duty were an inspiration to all members of his command and a material contribution to the success of his regiment during the campaign on Leyte. His intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 24th Infantry Division, and the United States Army. Details: Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces in the Far East, General Orders No. 29 (1945).

Germany Episode

1996, Hohenfels – Battalion tactics (war games). The HQ CO Commo platoon maintained a big AM radio rig on radio hill for commo with Brigade HQ in Augsburg. I always took the midnight till 8:00AM so I did not have to pull KP. One morning about 0700 I opened the back door of the radio rig to take in the morning scene looking out over the old bunker.

All of the sudden right below the rig, 5 men walked by in lederhosen, German hats, high stockings and boots. The unusual thing about them was they were carrying PRC-10 back pack radios and rifles and a machine gun and various other military hardware. I slammed the door on the rig and got on the land line to the HQ CO at the bottom of the hill to get up here and get me outa there! They picked me up in a jeep when the trick(?) changed and we returned to our HQ That's when I found out an A Team of green berets had moved in and were the aggressors!

They were housed in our rooms with us and were quite the impressive guys. That, plus the fact we also ran the commo for the umpires in the field. It was a hoot listening to those guys work and outsmart literally hundreds of our troops.

That was a very memorable wake up for me!

Ron Rust, HHC CO 2nd Brigade, 24th ID '65-'66



Paul Wurzer served with A Battery of the 13 FA Artillery, 24th Division in Korea 1950-1951. These men shot thousand of 105 and 155 mm rounds at enemy positions in support of our Infantry troops. They were typically miles behind the front lines, but on many occasions they became part of the front and the cannon-eers had to fight like infantrymen. The 13 FA was one of many artillery units that distinguished itself during the Korean War. They also had a brave group of men called Forward Observers who risked their lives at the front to direct fire on the enemy.

Paul Wurzer, Life Member, 886 Britton Road, Rochester, NY 14615. Telephone 585 663-3153

Korean War: KUM RIVER HEROES

*The War Diary of the 19th RGT for July 16 was lost in battle. Sixteen Distinguished Service Crosses were awarded for action that one day – I haven't heard of that for any other unit. It's a very remarkable record. All-in-all, there were about 80 decorations of all types awarded for the 19th and support units at the Kum River that day. Here's the war diary they put together after-the-fact. This summary of events is compiled from memory of the operational staff of the 19th Infantry. The dates, times and figures are approximate because the journal of the 19th infantry was lost in action and destroyed by fire Sunday 16 July. At this time the 19th RGT consisted of the 1st and 2nd Battalions; Company A, 3rd Engineers; Platoon Company A 78th Tank Battalion; 13th Field Artillery Battalion, and 24th Ambulance Platoon. **Merry Helm***



WAR DIARY - July 16, 1950

At 3 a.m. a flare dropped by an enemy plane was apparently a signal to start the attack. Heavy tanks, artillery, mortar and small arms fire was received along the entire front. Enemy troops repeatedly made Banzai attacks against the river defense line. Our forces called for all artillery and mortar. Everything in supporting weapons was called for and used.

Enemy troops were unable to cross against our dug-in positions along the river. Numerous enemy crossings were made in the gap between Charlie and Easy Companies on the right center flank. These enemy forces hit the right platoon of Charlie Company and forced it back to some extent. It was this gap that the enemy used as the main crossing area. Two more attempts were made to cross by enemy troops. They were successful in getting through at some points in the C and B Companies after repeated storming of positions. Many enemy troops were able to infiltrate into the rice paddies behind the dike on our side of the river.

The 1st Battalion command post was attacked, but the enemy was driven off in a charge led by Major John Cook, Capt. (Allen) Hackett, Lt. Hall, and Lt. Col. (Otho) Winstead. Major Cook and Capt. Hackett were killed in this action. During all of this time enemy troops continued to cross through gaps on the flanks of B and C Companies. A report was received that 1,000 enemy troops were moving south, with some of them turning toward the main supply route.

A counter-attack force was organized from Regimental Headquarters Company. It consisted of all company officers, the Security Platoon, cooks, clerks, drivers, and mechanics. This force went forward to assist in driving the enemy from the rice paddies. Col. Meloy moved forward with a tank and a half-track from the 26th Anti-Aircraft Automatic Weapons Artillery to assist in the attack. The situation at this moment was improved. The counter-attack forced a large number of enemy troops to move back across the river. There was great difficulty however encountered in the evacuation of our

casualties. At 10 a.m., the Commanding Officer 1st Battalion (Otho Winstead) reported to the command post that enemy flanking forces were slowly closing in on Charlie Company. He stated that he could hold the river line but he had no forces to use in the rear area or for that matter elsewhere.

By this time, Fox Company positions on the left flanks were under fire. Baker Company was in trouble on the extreme left flank. Reports were received that the enemy was attacking across the main supply route as far as three miles to the rear. Ammunition supply was stopped by the enemy road block. No 4.2-mortar ammunition was left in the position.

A directive from division was received to prepare withdrawal positions. The commanding officer (Guy Meloy), S-3 and Assistant S-3 moved back towards the rear. At this time, the 52nd Field Artillery was receiving heavy fire in their position. One battery was out of commission. The 11th Field Artillery and 13th Field Artillery reported sniper and machine gun fire to their rear.

It was at this stage that the withdrawal order was issued. On their way to the rear, Colonel Meloy and S-3 ran into the enemy road block established by heavy automatic and light anti-tank fire on the main supply route. The road was congested with vehicles for four hundred yards. The machine gun fire was a crossfire pinning down any personnel that moved. Colonel Meloy was hit in the leg while trying to organize the clearance of the fire block.

At noon, tanks were again dispatched to break the block. The initial movement for a withdrawal began with Baker Company dropping back. The withdrawal was made under great difficulty. The covering force of Fox Company was attacked from all sides. Meantime the road block was reinforced by the enemy. Casualties continued to pile up in our aid station and could not be evacuated because of the roadblock.

Baker Company was ordered to knock out machine guns on the left side of the block. Attempts were made to maneuver tanks into position to fire. The 1st Battalion was trying to fight its way out. Planes were called to help. Elements of the friendly force broke off and worked their way into the hills.

At 5 p.m., the S-2 loaded all the wounded on vehicles, planning to place tanks at the head and rear of the column to push through. Captain (Edgar) Fenstermacher, assistant S-3, returned from the head of the column and reported a push through was impossible, as the road was then completely blocked by vehicles. At 7 p.m., S-2 and Captain Fenstermacher ordered all personnel out of the vehicles, and the wounded were placed on litters for cross-country movement around the blockade. An estimated 500 men, including walking, wounded and litter patients, moved uphill

and south for cross-country escape. At least 75 vehicles had to be abandoned on the road.

An attempt was made by a force under command of Lt. Col. Thomas McGrail, commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, to break the block from the south. This force was withdrawn from the extreme west flank on the river. It was made up of two tanks and four (26th) Antiaircraft Artillery halftracks armed with heavy machine guns and some 37mm guns.

Late in the afternoon, this force broke through the block to the point where the Regimental Commander, Colonel Meloy, was wounded earlier. Here the anti-aircraft vehicles, which were road-bound, proved prime targets for the light anti-tank weapons being used by the enemy. A heavy firefight between the enemy and this force did create some diversion, but they were unsuccessful in their mission of breaking up the enemy block. After firing up their ammunition, this force withdrew. Those vehicles that could move provided transportation and cover for the wounded in the immediate area. The Commander of the force, Lt. Col. McGrail, remained in the road block area and guided some other men out of the immediate danger area just before dark. (One note of interest is that the 4.2 Mortar Company fired 1588 rounds of ammunition from 3 p.m. July 15 to 4 a.m. on 16 July 1950.)

Sixteen Distinguished Service Crosses awarded to members of the 19th RGT and attached units for actions at the Kum River on July 16, 1950.

Private First Class DON V. BAILEY for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with the Ambulance Company, 24th Medical Battalion, 24th Infantry Division. PFC Bailey, an ambulance driver, was wounded while part of a group that was encircled and under extremely heavy enemy fire. Disregarding his wound, he continued to try and evacuate the wounded. His ambulance was destroyed by enemy fire and he then transferred the wounded to an armored vehicle. During this action he was wounded again, and the armored vehicle rendered inoperative. He then secured a jeep and loaded it with wounded, and during this action he was wounded six times, rendering him helpless. Only then would he allow himself to be evacuated. Home of record: Pike, KY.

Sergeant First Class CHESTER H. BROWN for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with Company C, 19th Infantry Regiment. During an attack by an enemy force of superior numbers, the position was being overrun. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, SFC Brown repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire by moving from position to position, rendering encouragement and confidence to his men. At the last moment he withdrew his remaining force, even though they were intermingled with the enemy. He led them over 20 miles of mountainous terrain to rejoin friendly forces. Home of record: Fresno, CA.

Major JOHN M. COOK, Posthumously for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. During an attack the enemy had penetrated the front lines and placed the battalion command post under intense

small-arms fire. Major Cook organized the men at the command post and led them in a counterattack. He was instrumental in knocking out several automatic weapons by the use of grenades; he then engaged the enemy at close quarters, killing one with his pistol and bayoneting another. In this heroic action Major Cook was killed. Home of record: Carrizo Springs, TX.

Second Lieutenant ALFRED P. DIANDA for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with Company D, 19th Infantry Regiment. During a withdrawal from the Kum River Line, LT Dianda's unit was halted by an enemy roadblock consisting of well-emplaced automatic weapons and small-arms fire. The enemy emplacements were situated above a narrow, winding mountain road and covered all approaches with heavy fire. The initial enemy fire was heavy and accurate, and caused many casualties. LT Dianda mounted a tank and, in his exposed position, directed fire against the enemy, destroying many of the gun emplacements. Following this assault a second roadblock was encountered. LT Dianda mounted an abandoned truck, personally manned a .50 caliber machine-gun, and silenced the hostile weapons. Later LT Dianda, through his initiative, leadership, courage, and ability, reorganized three hundred survivors of the battalion while under fire and led them through mountainous enemy territory for a distance of twenty miles to safety. His resourcefulness saved the lives of many soldiers and established order out of chaos. Home of record: Marquette, MI. (Lieutenant Dianda was killed in action one month later.)

Private First Class RONALD D. DUSEK, posthumously, for extraordinary heroism in action while attached to Company B, 19th Infantry Regiment, as a medical aid man when the company was in a defensive position on the Kum River line. The enemy attacked and succeeded in penetrating the right flank of the company's position, occupying some vacant foxholes and setting up four automatic-weapons with additional riflemen, which swept the company's position with deadly, accurate fire. Seeing that the company was being decimated, PFC Dusek manned a light machine gun that was not being operated and delivered effective fire, keeping the enemy from advancing. Running out of ammunition, he took his pistol and several grenades and advanced on the enemy, driving them from the foxholes. He kept advancing, firing his pistol and throwing grenades, until he was killed by a burst of machine gun fire. Home of record: Chicago.

Captain HERMAN G. FELHOELTER, posthumously, for extraordinary heroism while attached as Chaplain to the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. When seriously wounded men of the 19th Infantry could not be evacuated in the face of an overwhelming night attack by superior enemy forces who had cut off the main route of withdrawal, Chaplain Felhoelter, without regard for his own personal safety, voluntarily remained behind to give his wounded comrades spiritual comfort and aid. When last seen, Chaplain Felhoelter was still administering to the wounded. Home of record: Louisville, KY. (CPT Felhoelter and about thirty wounded were killed by North Korean soldiers.)

First Lieutenant WILLIAM H. HOTCHKISS, posthumously, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with Company B, 19th Infantry Regiment. LT Hotchkiss distinguished himself

during an enemy attack on a defensive position held by his company. After several hours of intense fighting the enemy occupied about a dozen foxholes in the company and had set up four machine-guns which were covering most of the company area. LT Hotchkiss, who was executive officer of the company, realizing the seriousness of the enemy position, voluntarily led a group of five men in an effort to drive the enemy out. He took an M-1 rifle and about one dozen grenades and began clearing the dyke of all enemy. He would drop a grenade in foxholes containing enemy and fire his M-1 at those beyond range of grenades. During his assault he stopped long enough to bandage wounds of one of his men that had been hit by enemy fire. He then continued his assault on the enemy and always moving forward, had succeeded in destroying all the enemy except for one machine gun nest. At this time he was wounded in both legs by machine-gun fire. After he was wounded, he continued firing from where he fell until he was finally killed by the enemy. His actions inspired the men in the platoon to drive the enemy from the platoon positions. Home of record: Beloit, Wisconsin.

First Lieutenant HENRY T. MACGILL, posthumously, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with Company C, 19th Infantry Regiment. LT MacGill had placed his company in a defensive position on the Kum River line. At dawn on July 16, 1950, the enemy commenced an attack with overwhelming forces that enveloped the right flank of Company C. LT MacGill, with no regard for his personal safety, repeatedly exposed himself in organizing the defense of his company, in directing the action, and in encouraging his men. He stationed himself in the most exposed and dangerous part of the line and continued to rally his troops through the incessant and severe fighting. By 1300 the situation was extremely grave, and it was apparent that a withdrawal must be made. When ordered to withdraw, LT MacGill, from his exposed position, gave the order to fire and fall back, but he remained in position himself to cover the withdrawal of his unit. By so doing, he was able to save the remainder of his company but sacrificed his chance to escape. Home of record: Fayetteville, NC. (Lieutenant MacGill was captured and was killed this same day for arguing with a North Korean officer, per Johnnie Johnson.)

Colonel GUY S. MELOY for extraordinary heroism while serving as Commanding Officer of the 19th Infantry Regiment. Upon learning that a large enemy force had penetrated the unit's position and was menacing the 1st Battalion command post, COL Meloy personally led a counter attack with two lightly armored vehicles through heavy machinegun and sniper fire, personally taking charge of a machine gun position in order to aid in the counterattack. He continued to lead and inspire his men until loss of blood from a serious wound forced his evacuation. His fearlessness and aggressive leadership so inspired the officers and enlisted men of his unit that the attacking force was eliminated. Home of record: Washington, D.C.

First Lieutenant JOHN ROUSH, JR., for extraordinary heroism while serving with Company A, 71st Tank Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. LT Roush's platoon of four tanks was attached to the 19th Infantry Regiment to assist with the withdrawal of the unit from the Kum River to Taejon, fourteen miles to the rear. The 19th Infantry Regiment was

outflanked on both sides and seven miles of the road to Taejon was under enemy fire from automatic and antitank weapons. LT Roush kept his tank on the Kum River line under constant artillery and mortar fire for approximately six hours, shelling the enemy and preventing entrance into the town of Taegu-youn-ni. His tank was the last vehicle to leave the Kum River defense line. Withdrawing his tank, he destroyed an enemy machine-gun nest, which had pinned down a company of the 19th Infantry Regiment and set fire to the town with white phosphorus shelling. LT Roush, with complete disregard for his own safety, exposed himself to intense small arms fire to remove wounded men from a rice paddy while fire from his tank permitted the balance to crawl to safety. LT Roush loaded the wounded, who were unable to walk, on the top of his tank and proceeded to the Regimental Headquarters. He found the regimental commander seriously wounded. It was agreed that a staff officer would lead those able to walk and carry the wounded through the mountains. LT Roush decided to run the seven-mile gauntlet with the wounded regimental commander (Colonel Meloy) in his tank. The remainder of the unit followed his tank in fifteen trucks. LT Roush, with superb skill and personal daring, bypassed or destroyed several enemy roadblocks and cleared several burning wrecks from the path of the column. One mile from friendly lines his tank was disabled by enemy fire and, despite this fire, LT Roush dismounted and halted the last truck, placed the wounded regimental commander on board, destroyed his tank, and succeeded with his crew in reaching the friendly lines. Home of record: Harrisburg, PA.

First Lieutenant JAMES C. RUDELL, Jr., posthumously, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with the Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment. On (July 16) the enemy, far outnumbering the forces against them, penetrated the Kum River Line, and overran the forward positions. The action disorganized communications, broke up coordinated defense and threatened the regimental command post. LT Ruddell personally rallied small fighting groups and organized them into a defensive team to delay the enemy advance. He constantly exposed himself to heavy fire in organizing and fighting the delaying action on the spot. His courage was exemplary. He took time to give aid to wounded men in exposed positions, where several others had been killed in the attempt. Heedless of numbers, the threat of envelopment, and accurate enemy fire, including that of snipers, LT Ruddell took up a forward position from which he directed mortar fire against the enemy and automatic-weapons fire against infiltrators. His delaying action prevented encirclement and permitted military withdrawal. For several hours he continued to encourage and to lead his troops. His coolness under fire, expert direction of the depleted forces under his command, and his keen analysis of enemy dispositions, won the complete confidence of men who did not know him personally but who were inspired by his determination in the face of tremendous odds. Home of record: Ft. Hamilton, NY. (LT Ruddell was captured and was in the Tiger Death March. He died January 21, 1951.)

Private CHARLES L. SHANHOLTZ for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with Company D, 19th Infantry Regiment. The mortar position manned by members of PVT Shanholtz's squad was being attacked by an enemy force of

superior numbers. A grenade was thrown into the position, and PVT Shanholtz, without regard for his own personal safety, quickly threw it out. Once again, a grenade was thrown into the position and again he threw it out, and in doing so was wounded. The extraordinary heroism exhibited by PVT Shanholtz on this occasion reflects great credit on himself and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Home of record: Winchester, VA.

Lieutenant Colonel CHARLES W. STRATTON for extraordinary heroism in action while serving as provisional commander of the 13th Field Artillery Battalion; the 52nd Field Artillery Battalion, and elements of the 11th Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division (Artillery). While at the command post of the 19th Infantry Regiment, LTC Stratton received a message from the commanding officer of the 52nd FAB that their positions were surrounded by enemy infantry. LTC Stratton left the regimental command post immediately to effect relief and withdrawal of the artillery units which were surrounded. Commanding a tank, LTC Stratton worked his way through to the forward position area of Battery A, 52nd FAB, which he found well organized, and effectively beating off the enemy attack with artillery and small-arms fire. He then proceeded to the position area of Battery B, where he attempted to clear fire blocks which prevented withdrawal of the battery. During this action his tank was knocked out by enemy fire killing the tank driver and seriously wounding the tank commander. LTC Stratton dismounted from the knocked-out tank and proceeded on foot. Upon arrival at the B Battery area, he took personal command of the area, since the battery commander had been killed by enemy fire. He fearlessly directed the howitzers in direct fire against enemy infantry and three enemy fire blocks of an estimated two machine-guns each. The battery at this time was under intense enemy mortar, automatic weapons and rifle fire. LTC Stratton remained in the area for six hours fighting off infiltrating enemy infantry and attempting to reduce enemy fire blocks in order to effectively withdraw friendly infantry and artillery units. Later, taking complete command and effecting complete coordination, LTC Stratton organized the remaining personnel of the 19th Infantry Regiment and the 52nd FAB in this area and led them in fighting through enemy installations and through the hills to friendly forces. By these actions LTC Stratton saved numerous lives. Home of record: Palo Alto, CA.

Private First Class CHARLES ALLEN TABOR, posthumously, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with Company C, 19th Infantry Regiment. During an attack by a superior enemy force, the enemy knocked out two of the 60 millimeter mortars by small arms fire. PFC Tabor stayed at his position with the one remaining mortar and continued to fire. The base plate of the remaining mortar was destroyed, but he held the hot tube in his hands and continued to fire it until all the ammunition was exhausted. During this heroic action he suffered a broken arm. (Note: PFC Tabor was actually killed in action.) Home of record: Louisville, KY.

Sergeant First Class CHESTER W. VAN ORMAN for extraordinary heroism while serving with C Company, 19th Infantry Regiment. The position of the 2nd Platoon, Company C, was being overrun by an enemy of superior force. With

complete disregard for his own safety, SFC Van Orman exposed himself to enemy fire by standing and firing tracer ammunition to direct mortar fire on the enemy. He organized the remaining two platoons of Company C, setting up a perimeter defense and then went to deliver a message to Company A. Finding Company A had withdrawn, SFC Van Orman returned to his unit, remaining in the position until every man had withdrawn. He then led the men through mountainous terrain to join friendly forces. Home of record: Togus, ME.

Lieutenant Colonel OTHO P. WINSTEAD, posthumously, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 19th Infantry Regiment. When his positions were under constant and severe artillery, heavy weapons and sniper fire, LTC Winstead remained constantly in his most forward infantry positions for the purpose of directing counter-fire and to inspire and calm his officers and men by his own personal fearless and daring example. On July 16, 1950, when his positions were subject to attack from the front, the flanks and from the rear by a vastly numerically superior enemy, LTC Winstead personally led a counterattack against a group of infiltrating enemy who were threatening to disrupt the orderly withdrawal of his unit to new defensive positions, killing at least two of them with his pistol at point-blank range. He remained at the battle positions with the last element of his unit and when last seen was calmly directing its preparations for withdrawal. (LTC Winstead was listed as missing in action, later learned to have been killed.) Home of record: Magee, MS.



"I Shall Return Comment" (see story on page 24)

Grover Brown, who fought with the 24th in the Philippines during WWII, stated in his story that the troops resented Gen. MacArthur's famous remark, "I shall return." They felt he should have said "We shall return." I can understand how the troops felt that way, as if the General were hogging all the glory.

There has been a lot of comment about the General's remark first spoken to the Press Corp in Australia, March 20, 1942. The General was always very precise in what he said, especially to the Press. Before meeting with them in Australia he discussed what he planned to say with a trusted advisor, Gen. Carlos Romulo of the Philippines. MacArthur told him he would say "We shall return." Romulo thought about it and told MacArthur it would be better, for its effect on the Philippine people, if he said, "I shall return." His explanation was, the people would identify with him as a person, but not with the intangible 'we.'

MacArthur carefully considered Romulo's point and agreed. He knew by saying "I shall return" he would draw a lot of criticism from those who were inclined to think he was self-centered. It can be said the General tended to be ego-centric, but he always had a good purpose in mind.

David Valley

Korean War: CHINGU BATTLE HEROES

I sometimes fear people will forget the sacrifices made by the 29th Regimental Combat Team which fought as part of the 24th Division in the summer of 1950. Having been rushed to Korea from Okinawa, the regiment's first engagements with the enemy were in ambushes at Hadong and Anui on July 27. Many 29th RCT men were captured, with most of them going through either the Suncheon Tunnel Massacre or the Tiger Death March. A few managed to escape, and a fortunate number of wounded POWs were rescued at Namwon during the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter. Because the 29th became so depleted (more than 1300 casualties from July to November), the survivors were later divided among units in the 24th and 25th Divisions to bring them up to strength. Lest their sacrifices be forgotten, here are Distinguished Service Crosses awarded during their time with the 24th Division. **Merry Helm**



The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to **Master Sergeant Bernard B. Bragg** (RA-35204557) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company M, 3d Battalion, 29th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Master Sergeant Bragg distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces near Hadong, Korea, on 27 July 1950. When the 3d Battalion was subjected to devastating mortar, artillery and automatic-weapons fire from a numerically superior, well-concealed enemy force, Sergeant Bragg directed the fire of his 81-mm mortar platoon on the enemy positions until the supply of ammunition was nearly exhausted. Exposing himself to the intense enemy fire, he made his way to the ammunition supply point and returned with all available 81-mm mortar ammunition. As he was preparing to unload the ammunition, an enemy mortar shell burst nearby, knocking him to the ground and setting his vehicle on fire. Regaining his feet, he extinguished the flames with his jacket, then unloaded the ammunition and distributed it among his mortar crews. After this supply was exhausted, he deployed his platoon as riflemen and engaged the enemy until displacement was ordered. Assembling his platoon with the 60-mm mortar section of another company, he directed the fire of that section on enemy positions until all ammunition was expended. As Sergeant Bragg organized the men for redeployment, they were pinned down by fire from two enemy machine-gun positions. Directing his men to take cover, he moved forward alone, threw two grenades into one of the machine-gun nests, killing the crew; then he made his way toward the other machine-gun and destroyed it with another well-placed grenade. Rejoining his men, he led them to a road where he found an abandoned vehicle and trailer and made two trips in transporting them to safety. As he was returning for the third time, his vehicle was completely disabled by enemy fire. After making his way to the group he had driven to safety and reorganizing them, he was seriously

wounded by enemy shell fire. Home of record: Summers, WV. (Headquarters, Eighth Army General Order 262, 3 May 1951)

The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to **Sergeant Roey E. Limbock** (RA-38079505) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 29th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Sergeant Limbock distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Sangju, Korea, on 27 July 1950. On this date, Company B was attacked and surrounded by an overwhelming enemy force. The aggressiveness of the assault, superior numbers and fire superiority disorganized the company into isolated small groups, each vainly trying to fight a withdrawing action to escape the trap. Sergeant Limbock led a group of nineteen men

through enemy lines to the hills south of Anui. He did so while wounded and with complete disregard for personal safety in the interest of saving his detachment. Sergeant Limbock was wounded so severely that he was unable to walk and had to be carried by his men. He continued to lead and direct his men in this fashion for three days. He directed their route of march, instructed them in providing security along the route, and maintained battle discipline. On one occasion he further risked his life to prevent a grenade from injuring men of his group. Sergeant Limbock, although very weak, encouraged his detachment to keep going in spite of hunger and fatigue. By so doing the men reached a point where a patrol was sent for assistance which arrived and took the group to safety. Home of record: Red River, TX. (Eighth Army General Order 162, 8 Nov 1950)

The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded (Posthumously) to **First Lieutenant Alfred K. McIlquham** (O-1540949) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 29th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. First Lieutenant McIlquham distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Sangju, Korea, on 27 July 1950. On that date, Company B was attacked by an enemy force of overwhelming numerical superiority. Faced with the certainty of being overrun, the company was ordered to withdraw while the 1st Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant McIlquham remained in position and furnished covering fire for the withdrawal. Heedless of the deadly enemy fire, Lieutenant McIlquham repeatedly moved about the exposed terrain to deploy his men and effectively direct their fire. When two men were wounded by enemy machine-gun fire, Lieutenant McIlquham single-handedly charged the machine-gun, silenced it, and then carried the two wounded men to a less exposed position. By his aggressive leadership and courageous example throughout the protracted engagement, he inspired his men to hold their positions despite the overwhelming odds against them, thereby

enabling the remainder of the company to reach safety. Later, while reconnoitering an escape route for his encircled platoon, the position was overrun by the numerically superior hostile force and Lieutenant McIlquham was killed. Home of record: Cook County, IL. (Eighth Army General Order 415, 9 June 1951)

The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded (Posthumously) to **Private Emery B. Northcutt** (RA-17265927) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 29th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Private Northcutt distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Sangju, Korea, on 27 July 1950. On that date, Company B was in a defensive position when numerically superior enemy forces launched an attack supported by heavy mortar and artillery fire. The position soon became untenable and the order to withdraw was given. Without regard for his own personal safety, Private Northcutt voluntarily remained at his position on the flank, firing his light machine-gun and enabling the rest of the company to withdraw. When last seen, he was firing into the advancing enemy as they overran his position. Home of record: Jersey, IL. (Eighth Army General Order 68, 15 Sep 1950)

The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded (Posthumously) to **Sergeant Edward E. Roslof** (RA-32368709) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 29th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Sergeant Roslof distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Sangju, Korea, on 27 July 1950. On that date, Company B was surrounded and the enemy established roadblocks to the rear of the company's position. With complete disregard for his life and in the face of heavy enemy fire, Sergeant Roslof attacked a roadblock in an effort to keep open the only route to friendly forces. When overwhelming odds forced the unit to withdraw, he volunteered to remain behind and destroy all equipment which could not be carried to prevent its seizure by the enemy. In delaying his departure to perform this heroic deed, he was not able to escape and was missing in action. Home of record: Salem, NJ. (Eighth Army General Order 50, 3 Sept. 1950)

The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded (Posthumously) to **Corporal Leroy L. Moore** (RA-17200878) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with 8066th Mechanized Reconnaissance Platoon attached to the 1st Battalion, 29th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Corporal Moore distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces near Chinju, Korea, on 30 July 1950. On that date, Corporal Moore was a gunner on an M-8 (Greyhound) Reconnaissance Car in support of an infantry company which was pinned down by heavy enemy machine-gun fire. Without regard for his own personal safety, Corporal Moore moved to an exposed position on a river bank, and with accurate fire from his machine-gun knocked out three enemy machine-guns, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. This action enabled the infantry company to withdraw to new positions.

In a later action, on 2 August 1950, when his car was put out of action, Corporal Moore dismounted a 30 caliber machine-gun and attempted to move to the flank of an enemy machine-gun which was hampering the evacuation of wounded men. During this action Corporal Moore was killed by mortar fire. (Eighth Army General Order 68, 15 Sept 1950)

The Distinguished Service Cross to **Sergeant Edgar Pappert** for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 29th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Sergeant Pappert distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces near Chungam-ni, Korea, on 2 August 1950. During a savage encounter with a numerically superior enemy, four men of an adjacent unit were found wounded on the battlefield. These men were lying in the direct line of enemy fire, and their rescue seemed a hopeless impossibility. Replenishing his supply of ammunition, Sergeant Pappert exposed himself to the enemy and moved directly into the line of fire, clearing his route of approach with grenades and rifle fire. He killed several of the enemy, wounded many more, and succeeded in reaching the wounded soldiers. He rendered first aid on the spot and succeeded in getting the men back to a point from which they could be evacuated. His courageous actions saved the lives of the four wounded soldiers and contributed materially to the ultimate victory which his company achieved. Home of record: Stubenville, OH. (Eighth Army General Order 127, 7 Mar 1951)

The Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a Second Award of the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to **First Lieutenant Logan Christopher Weathers** (O-2012542) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with 8066th Mechanized Reconnaissance Platoon attached to the 89th Medium Tank Battalion, 29th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. First Lieutenant Weathers distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces near Haman, Korea, on 2 August 1950. The 8066th Reconnaissance Platoon was spearheading an attack by the 19th Regimental Combat Team when they came under enemy fire which included mortar and bazooka fire. Lieutenant Weathers' vehicle received a direct hit and his arm was partially blown off. At that instant the infantry came under terrific enemy machine-gun and, despite his serious wound, Lieutenant Weathers seized his rifle and, single-handed, attacked an enemy machine-gun nest. He silenced the machine-gun nest but during this action he was killed by sniper fire. Home of record: Cleveland, NC. Eighth Army General Order 46, 31 August 1950)

The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded (Posthumously) to **Sergeant Robert H. Pressler** (RA-33114359) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with 8066th Mechanized Reconnaissance Platoon attached to the 89th Medium Tank Battalion, 29th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Sergeant Pressler distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces near Chinju, Korea, on 11 August 1950. Sergeant Pressler was assigned duty as the driver of a gasoline truck refueling tanks for the 89th Medium Tank Battalion in

the front lines. On arriving at the front lines, Sergeant Pressler learned of a tank which had ran out of gas behind enemy lines and, accompanied by a small squad of infantry in a truck, went forward into enemy territory. During the advance the small convoy was ambushed by two hundred enemy. During the firefight which followed, Sergeant Pressler ordered the rest of the men to leave and remained in his position, placing accurate fire on the enemy, which delayed their advance, enabling the rest of the men to withdraw. During this action Sergeant Pressler was killed in action. Home of record: Prince Georges, MD. (Eighth Army General Order 68, 15 Sept 1950)

The Distinguished Service Cross to **Master Sergeant Robert E. Cole** (0-6284787) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company M, 3d Battalion, 29th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Master Sergeant Cole distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces near Sinsan-ni, Korea, on 2 September 1950. On this date, a section of Sergeant Cole's platoon was supporting Company L, 29th Infantry Regiment, in an attack on well-fortified enemy positions. When the advance faltered due to an enemy counterattack, Sergeant Cole made his way through intense enemy small-arms, mortar and automatic-weapons fire to reorganize the dispersed elements of his section. As the intensity of the attack increased, he crawled to the one remaining machine gun, removed the dead gunner and began pouring a deadly hail of fire into the ranks of the attacking enemy. Although twice wounded by enemy grenade fragments, Sergeant Cole refused to be evacuated and continued to deliver effective fire upon the enemy. When his ammunition was exhausted he withdrew, dragging his machine-gun with him. While organizing the few remaining elements of his section in preparation for a counterattack, he was ordered to the aid station for medical treatment. When the high ground was subsequently retaken, eighteen enemy dead were counted in the vicinity of where Sergeant Cole's machine-gun was mounted. Home of record: Prince Georges, MD. (Eighth Army General Order 212, 17 April 1951)

The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded (Posthumously) to **First Lieutenant Elwood F. James** (0-1313896) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company K, 3d Battalion, 29th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. First Lieutenant James distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Sinsan-ni, Korea, on 2 September 1950. During a battalion attack along high ground south of the Chinju-Masan road, First Lieutenant James' company was driving the enemy from the ground overlooking the road. He repeatedly displayed conspicuous gallantry in the face of enemy fire from the high ground as his company assaulted up the slopes of the ridge. Casualties were extremely high from plunging and grazing machine-gun and automatic-weapons fire which wounded all three of his company officers and many of the non-commissioned officers, leaving him virtually alone to organize and direct his company's attack. During the last and successful assault on the objective, he was wounded; however, he continued to physically lead his troops until the advance had reached a point almost to the crest of the ridge. At this point he was again wounded, this time mortally. His last words on his radio

to the battalion command post, although mortally wounded, were cheerful and calm as he reported the capture of the objective. Only through this outstanding individual example of bravery and devotion to duty could such an objective have been taken with the force available. Home of record: Philadelphia. (Eighth Army General Order 18, 12 Jan 1951)

The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to **Corporal Albert Jose Gevara** (RA-17092458) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with 1st Battalion, 29th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Corporal Gevara distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces near Sobuk-San, Korea, on 17 September 1950. On that date, Corporal Gevara's platoon was committed in support of another company whose casualties had been high. During the night the positions occupied by the platoon came under heavy attack by artillery, mortar, small-arms and repeated banzai charges. These attacks resulted in the platoon sergeant and platoon officer being wounded, which left all of the men in a highly nervous and shaken condition. Finally, at about 1500 on 17 September 1950, the platoon was driven from its position by an overwhelming enemy force. Corporal Gevara, although not the senior non-commissioned officer present, noted that the men were bewildered, confused, and completely disorganized, and he used great initiative by assuming the leadership of the remnants of the platoon. Gathering a group of about twenty-five men together, he reorganized the platoon into a cohesive fighting force. Resupplying them with ammunition, he checked to see that none were wounded. Finding one machine-gun had a malfunction, he restored it to an operating condition. In addition, upon being informed of a wounded man that had been left behind, he fearlessly crawled into enemy held territory and dragged the wounded man back to safety. When all preparations had been completed, he moved out ahead of his men in an assault on the enemy. The small group of men were inspired to a maximum effort despite the heavy enemy fire and drove the enemy from the hill, securing the area previously held by the platoon. After the platoon was organized on this position, Corporal Gevara suddenly collapsed. It was discovered at this time that he had been seriously wounded in the stomach and leg at the same time that his platoon leader was hit. Home of record: Denver, CO. Eighth Army General Order 49, 31 January 1951) CPL Gevara returned to duty on November 11, 1950, and was transferred to the 27th Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. He was killed in action on 22 March 1951.



Prairie Boys at War: Korea by Merry Helm (Book Excerpt)

The fate of Task Force Smith was tragic in its own right. But worse, it helped set the tone for others to say this new generation of fighters was not on a par with World War II soldiers.

Robert Roy, the only man in his crew to make it out, told author Rudy Tomedi: We were sent over there to delay the North Koreans. We delayed them seven hours. Don't ask me if it was worth it. We were a bunch of kids and we were just trying to do our jobs. Actually, this "bunch of kids" included experienced combat veterans -- like 34-year-old David Colombe, a Lakota-French Sioux warrior from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. David and both of his brothers served in World War II; David joined the Army; Lester joined the Navy; Fred, a paratrooper, was killed in action at Luzon.



DAVID L. COLOMBE

David's son, Leonard, says he does not believe his father joined the military out of economic necessity. "He was working, and Mom was working, so I think they were surviving okay. I don't think it was that. That was '43, so the depression was all over with. So I don't think that was it. I think there was a call to duty. A lot of Native Americans had warrior type personalities -- it was kind of like their duty. Probably he and his brothers weren't any different. They all volunteered and went in."

David made the Army his career, and his wife and children remained in South Dakota. Thus, Leonard did not really get to know his father until he became an adult. He describes his dad as, "A good country boy. He grew up with guns, so he was a good shot. He was probably about 5'11". By the time he got out of the service, he was more like 5'10". He probably weighed about 180 pounds, if that. Very slim. Very greased lightning type."

It wasn't until late in life that David started opening up about his combat experiences, which were quite violent. One notable event took place in Germany in 1944, explains Leonard: It was a machine gun nest. They were firing at the Americans in this town, and Dad was knocked unconscious from some type of blast -- artillery or something. When he woke up, his weapon was destroyed. He found a dead soldier with this trench knife, and he used it -- he didn't have anything else. He killed two soldiers in a machine gun nest, and he killed a bunch of them when they were retreating from the town. He cut off their retreat, because this machine gun nest was kind of in their backup area. He was behind their military lines, and he was stopping them from retreating, and they surrendered in that town. He got credit for that. Them surrendering, not being able to retreat.

Although David was very highly decorated for this action, some felt he should have been awarded a Medal of Honor. Leonard says his father wasn't concerned about medals, however, feeling they should go to the men who gave their lives. One cannot argue, however, that this tough South Dakotan certainly deserved his prestigious award: The DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS is awarded to Private DAVID L. COLOMBE, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism

in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the 414th Infantry Regiment, 104th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 26 November 1944, in Germany. Armed only with a trench knife after his rifle had been shattered by shell fragments, Sergeant Colombe leaped into an enemy foxhole and single-handedly captured two Germans. Securing a hostile automatic rifle from the emplacement, he voluntarily worked his way behind enemy lines. As pressure was exerted upon the enemy stronghold by his company, Sergeant Colombe killed seven Germans and wounded many more as they attempted to withdraw. His deadly fire demoralized the enemy force, resulting in the collapse of their defenses.

Now, in 1950, Sergeant Colombe had just recently joined Baker Company, 21st Regiment, when Task Force Smith made its stand north of Osan. During their retreat, Colombe and Corporal Van Bullman, from Alexander, NC, were cut off and made it out together. Five days later, reporters were on hand when the two men made it back to friendly lines.

Bullman told reporter Keyes Beech: "When the order came to retreat we started down the reverse side of the hill. We were under fire all the time. Sometimes we laid in rice paddies and played dead until they stopped firing. When we stood up to run they opened up on us again. We ran, crawled and played dead some more."

That first night, Colombe and Bullman reached a village where an English-speaking 16-year-old boy hid them in his family's home. But toward dawn, the boy's uneasy parents asked the soldiers to leave.

Thinking they could circle around the enemy's rear positions, Colombe and Bullman climbed a ridge and headed north. But the enemy columns were too long, so they reversed course and headed south -- they would need to move directly through enemy positions if they hoped to reach safety.

Later that day, Colombe and Bullman joined forces with five South Korean soldiers who were also trapped behind enemy lines.

"The Korean captain, Dad said, is what really helped them, because he could talk with refugees and civilians along the way and get them a little bit of food and some clothes," said Leonard. "They dressed up like refugees is how they got out. They had to get rid of their weapons and their GI clothes, their boots, and stuff. It took them four or five days to get back to American lines, and they walked barefooted, so when they got back to American lines, Dad's feet were in pretty bad shape."

Colombe later said their time behind lines was four days, but official reports indicate they didn't get back to their unit until July 10. Two days later, Colombe wrote to his wife, Josephine, in Winner, South Dakota: (*Continued next page*)

It wasn't long after I went to the 21st Infantry that I was on my way to Korea, and it has been pretty rough there. Was in one of the first Companies to get to Korea and into combat. Our two Companies were overrun and we were trapped behind their lines. Me and one of the boys were together, and it took us 4 days to get back to our lines. I had to go to the hospital with my feet but am leaving now and will probably go back to Korea again. Have been lucky so far and don't know how long it will last, so if I go back again pray for me. But if anything should happen don't you feel too bad. Just remember that I love you, and tell the boys I said hello.

Jo, there has been a lot of young boys die in the last two weeks, but that's the way things go when there's a war on. I just hope it doesn't last too long. I sure wish I could be home with you right now. Well, I can wish can't I?

You know the Korean soldiers aren't taking any prisoners, so I won't let them take me if I get back there again, and you know what I mean.

That country is hard to fight in. All there is is rice paddies with water in them, and there isn't but a few roads. Most of the country is mountains. I should know. I walked them for 4 days and nights. . . all I can say is that it's very rough, but will try and make it home again I hope. I suppose this mess will bring some more back into the army, and I'll bet they won't like that.

Oh yes, forgot to mention that I am in the hospital in Japan with my feet. Just walked too much and will be leaving here this evening and will probably go to another outfit and back over to Korea. . . it's rough over there, so do some praying for me if I have to go back to Korea. . . Tell Broken Leg that it's rough over in Korea and to stay away if he can.

The following day, Colombe's situation was still heavy on his mind when he again wrote to his wife:

Well my dear am still lying around the hospital so thought I would write a few lines before going to bed. Am getting along fine and my feet are pretty well healed up so I suppose I'll be going to an outfit and then back to Korea. It's not that I really want to, but if they say I'll have to go up, I guess I'll just have to. I just hope my luck holds out, but I guess a person can't live forever. Jo tell the boys I said hello and for them to be good. And I hope they never have to come into the army.

I hope this mess over here doesn't lead into another world war, but I suppose it will. It looks like that all they want to do now is fight, and this fighting is rough. The other day you came near being a widow, just by inches, but like I said before, only the good die young. Guess I'll live to be an old man from the looks of things. Tell Broken Leg he had better stay away from over here as it's rough.

Oh yes Jo, the days I was behind the lines I learned to eat Korean meals. At first I could hardly choke it down but learned to eat it when I got good and hungry. Most of their stuff is hot and dirty. I've never seen people like them before. And they don't own anything except their rice paddies. It's Russia that has this mess going. . . Just let the folks know I am ok, and tell Lester to stay out of the army and navy.

Colombe was indeed sent back to Korea, where he rejoined his unit in the 21st Regiment. Less than two weeks later, on July 27, his worst fears came true, as explained by his son: They got overrun again, and he got wounded and captured. When they retreated, it was night, and he walked into two guys and said something like "B Company" or whatever their call was – and the guy hit him with the butt of the rifle and knocked him down.

Dad pulled the guy down, and ripped his nose, and then beat him with his cartridge belt. The other North Korean ran away, and Dad thought he was gone. But when he stood up, the second guy was laying down a little ways away and shot him twice – once in the chest and once in the back – and paralyzed him. They were in like a rice paddy type of thing, and the guy came over and put the gun to his head. But he didn't shoot him. Dad played dead, and the second North Korean dragged his buddy away.

The next day, Dad said, the bugs were bothering him so bad that he had to get away from the water, and he crawled up to this old shack. He had scars on his arms and knees and stuff from crawling on the rocks, because he couldn't walk. And then North Koreans came by and took him prisoner. They took his clothes and boots and his dog-tags. They took everything and just left him in his GI shorts. They had him for about four days. Some Americans were moving in – they were artillery – and the Koreans left. Dad thought they would kill him, but they left him alive. He couldn't walk, he was paralyzed, and they weren't going to carry him, I guess. They just left him. Then, the Marines came through after a day or two and picked him up. He was very lucky there.

Mom got a letter saying he was missing in action and presumed dead at that time. Dad had a sister, Velma, who was a military nurse, and she found him in a hospital in Japan. She contacted us and let the family know that he had been found, and he was alive and doing okay. He recuperated and everything. Just the shock of the shells going through – it didn't hit him in the spine, but he had stuff that was still in his spine after he got out of the service. It was just too close to the spine to operate. He had two good-sized holes in his back shoulder and lower back where he was shot. He got the Purple Heart for that. When asked why the North Koreans didn't kill his father, Leonard said: He always thought that – maybe – the Orientals had a kind of a feeling for Native Americans. The Indians were supposed to be descended from Chinese, so in a way they have an affiliation with Native Americans in a historical context. And he was very Native American. You could tell it by looking at him that he was Native American. He was Rosebud Sioux. And he thought that, well maybe because of their feelings toward Indians. Who knows?

David Colombe's "million-dollar wound" earned him a transfer back to the States on August 15, and he remained in the army until retirement age.

Given his history as a combat warrior, maybe it wasn't – as he suggested to his wife – that he was not good enough to die young. Perhaps he simply refused.

(End of "Prairie Boys at War - Korea" book segment)
To: Tom Appler, 24th Inf. Div. Director at Large

A Much Deserved Tribute to Vietnam Veterans

Let me start by saying that I am honored that you would like to put this story in the Taro Leaf magazine. I must add that I am not the best story teller, mostly because of my terrible memory. The Army and VA have told me that it should work its way back to normal some day. I suffered a mild TBI (traumatic brain injury) in Iraq in 2005.

I feel so very lucky that a concussion is all I came out of that deployment with. So many of our nation's finest left their limbs and a whole lot of their hearts and emotions over there. And, for the over 4,500 troops lost forever I still say a prayer every day.

One thing that came out of my 2005 deployment was a whole lot of memories "some good, some bad," some going back to '91 which was my time in Desert Storm with the 24th Infantry Division. It was actually on my flight home for good from the '05 deployment that I remembered what happened in '91 on my return flight from Desert Storm.

I must first add that I had the honor and privilege to serve the first part of my Army career with some Vietnam Veterans, I went in at age 17 in 1988. I remember driving through Ft. Stewart for the first time. Seeing everything painted tan, I was baffled. When I reported to my unit I asked my platoon SGT why everything was this sand color. He looked down on me and said "Son, we train to fight in the desert" I thought to myself nothing will ever happen in the desert. Man, was I wrong.

August, '90 we deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield which turned into Desert Storm. We all know how the 24th Victory Division did during the Storm. Well after it was over and time to come home everyone was extremely excited and very proud of the mission we had accomplished. I got called for a manifest one afternoon while I was on the wash

rack. I was told to hurry and go pack I was leaving in eight hours. I have never packed a couple of duffel bags so quick. When we taxied down the runway and got set up to take off, the plane was almost dead silent. When the pilot hit the juice and the wheels lifted everyone busted out with cheers and smiles. The flight attendants played a song for us; it was Home Sweet Home from a band of the time.

I can't remember how many hours the flight was, but when we landed at Hunter Army Airfield the cheers and smiles returned. Then it happened, as we were stopping the flight commander came over the PA and asked for all the Vietnam Veterans on board to come to the front of the plane to the exit door. You could have heard a pin drop on that huge jet airplane. He then announced that these guys would exit first and be recognized and welcomed home the way they should have been before.

I was stunned, even as young as I was, I understood the importance of what had just happened. I, along with many others had tears rolling down my cheeks. I cannot begin to express how proud I was to be right there at that moment. I don't know who the colonel was, but for him to think of those guys and show them the respect they deserved and earned was over the top. To the colonel, somewhere out there, who stepped up to the plate and did what our country should have done before, VICTORY!!!!!!!!!!

I'm not sure if that is what you're looking for, please edit as you see it needs. Once again, thank you for asking me to share this memory with everyone.

Nicky Norwood, 24th Inf. Div. Desert Storm Vet.
769-226-8103

David, reading the letter from Tom Sullivan, brought back fond memories. I had the good fortune to be stationed in Beppu, in F, Co, 2nd BN, 19th RGT from June 1949 to February 1950.

As you probably know back then, New Years Day was everyone's birthday in Japan. I was lucky enough to get a 3-day pass and stayed at one of the hot springs hotels near town. He's right about the baths. They were wonderful, especially after weeks of training, way up in the mountains, in the cold. About the only thing different, was the ending.

I went home in February, only to be recalled in September. I was assigned to a railway outfit and ended up in Korea anyway. We brought the first diesel locomotives to Korea. Very fortunate assignment for me, as you know what happened to the 19th when they were sent there.

[PFC] **Norman, "Norm" Groetzinger**, 5897 S. Kings Hwy, LW19, Myrtle Beach, SC 29575 19th Regt, Japan, 1949-50, 724th T.R.O.B. Korea 1950-51

Another Letter from Shoko Seina Shiraishi of Japan.

David: I made a booklet about war history of my town. I gave out them at event for the 50th anniversary of Kitakyushu-city. I have been receiving good reactions from people in my home town. The booklet tells history the town and it also tells POW's history (*who were there during WWII. Ed.*) We are planning to make English version of the booklet.

Now I am planning to visit US for attending ADBC's (*American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society*) convention in Norfolk VA. <http://www.dg-adbc.org/>

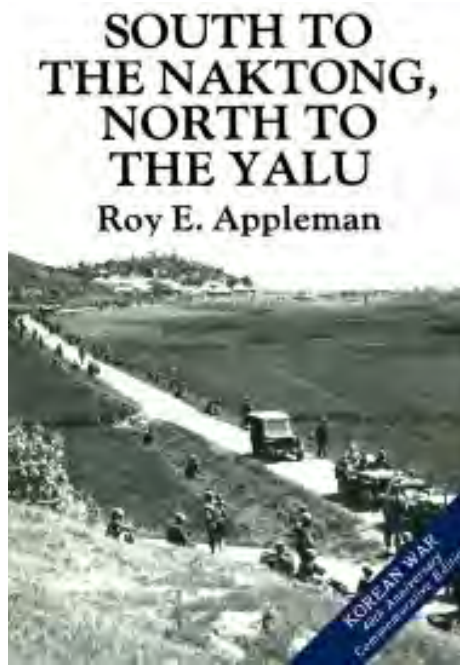
I want to learn more about history of POWs in Japan so that I may introduced it here one day. I also like to visit MacArthur's museum in Norfolk.

Maybe I can meet you in San Diego? **Seina**

Seina: I would be pleased to meet you in San Diego, **David**

We are continuing the story of the early days of the Korean War

Perhaps a word should be said about the close air support that aided the ground troops in their hard-pressed first weeks in Korea. This support was carried out by United States Air Force, Navy, Marine, and Australian fighter planes and some U.S. fighter-bombers. Beginning early in the war, it built up as quickly as resources would permit. On 3 July the Far East Air Forces established a Joint Operations Center at Itazuke Air Base, on Kyushu in Japan, for control of the fighter planes operating over the Korean battlefield. This center moved to Taejon in Korea on 5 July, and on 14 July to Taegu, where it established itself near Eighth Army headquarters. By 19 July, heavy communications equipment arrived and a complete tactical air control center was established in Korea, except for radar and direction-finding facilities. Advance Headquarters, Fifth Air Force, opened at Taegu on 20 July.



and 2 110-gallon napalm tanks, and it mounted 6.50-caliber machine guns. The F-80 could carry 2 110-gallon napalm tanks, and mounted 6.50-caliber machine guns with about the same ammunition load as the F-51. It could also carry 2 5-inch rockets if the target distance was short. Both the F-51 and the F-80 could carry 2,000 pounds of bombs if the mission required it. The F4U could carry 8.5-inch rockets, 2 110-gallon napalm tanks, and it mounted 4 20-mm. cannon with 800 rounds of ammunition. If desired it could carry a 5,200-pound bomb load. The F-51 had a 400-mile operating radius, which could be increased to 760 miles by using external gas tanks. The F-80's normal radius was 125 miles, but it could be increased to 550 miles with external tanks. The F4U had a shorter operating range. With external tanks it reached about 335 miles.

Choch'iwon

The forward element in the control system of the close air support was the tactical air control party, consisting of a forward air controller (usually an officer and an experienced pilot), a radio operator, and a radio repair man who also served as jeep driver. Six of these parties operated with the **24th Division** in Korea in the early days of the war. As soon as others could be formed, one joined each ROK corps and division, and an Air Liaison Officer joined each ROK corps to act as adviser on air capabilities for close support.

The Fifth Air Force began using T-6 trainer aircraft to locate targets on and behind enemy lines. The controllers in these planes, using the call sign "Mosquito," remained over enemy positions and directed fighter planes to the targets. Because of the call sign the T-6's soon became known in Army and Air Force parlance as Mosquitoes. The Mosquito normally carried an Air Force pilot and a ground force observer. The plane was equipped with a Very High Frequency radio for contact with tactical air control parties and fighter aircraft in the air. It also had an SCR-300 radio for contact with front-line ground troops. The ground force observer and the pilot in the Mosquito, the control party, and the forward infantry elements coordinated their information to bring fighter aircraft to targets where they delivered their strikes, and also to direct ground fire on enemy targets in front of the infantry.

In the early part of the war the F-51 (Mustang), a propeller-driven fighter, predominated in the Air Force's close support effort. This plane had shown to good advantage in World War II in low-level close support missions. It had greater range than the jet F-80 and could use the rough, short fields in Korea. Most important of all, it was available. For close support of Marine troops when they were committed later, a tried and tested plane, the Marine F4U Corsair, was used. The F-51 was capable of carrying 6.5-inch rockets

Just before midnight of 10 July Colonel Jensen began to withdraw the 3d Battalion from the recaptured ridge east of Chonui, bringing along most of the equipment lost earlier in the day. When the battalion arrived at its former position it received a surprise: enemy soldiers occupied some of its foxholes. Only after an hour's battle did K Company clear the North Koreans from its old position.

In a message to Colonel Stephens at 2045 General Dean suggested withdrawing the 3d Battalion from this position. But he left the decision to Stephens, saying, "If you consider it necessary, withdraw to your next delaying position prior to dawn. I am reminding you of the importance of the town of Choch'iwon. If it is lost, it means that the SKA [South Korean Army] will have lost its MSR [Main Supply Route]." An hour later, in talking to a regimental staff officer, Dean authorized falling back four miles to the next delaying position two miles north of Choch'iwon, but ordered, "Hold in your new position and fight like hell. I expect you to hold it all day tomorrow."

Meanwhile, Task Force Smith, re-equipping at Taejon, had received 205 replacements and on 10 July it received orders to rejoin the 21st Regiment at Choch'iwon. Smith arrived there with B and C Companies before dawn of 11 July. A and D Companies had re-equipped at Choch'iwon and they joined with B and C Companies to reunite the 1st Battalion. Colonel Smith now had his battalion together in Korea for the first time. At 0730, 11 July, the 1st Battalion was in position along the highway two miles north of Choch'iwon. Four miles north of it Colonel Jensen's 3d Battalion was already engaged with the North Koreans in the next battle.

At 0630 that morning, men in the 3d Battalion position heard tanks to their front on the other side of a mine field,

but could not see them because of fog. Within a few minutes four enemy tanks crossed the mine field and loomed up in the battalion area. Simultaneously, enemy mortar fire fell on the battalion command post, blowing up the communications center, the ammunition supply point, and causing heavy casualties among headquarters troops. Approximately 1,000 enemy infantry enveloped both flanks of the position. Some forward observers had fine targets but their radios did not function. In certain platoons there apparently was no wire communication. Consequently these forward observers were unable to call in and direct mortar and artillery fire on the North Koreans.

This attack on the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry, was one of the most perfectly co-ordinated assaults ever launched by North Koreans against American troops. The North Koreans who had been driven from the 3d Battalion's position shortly after midnight, together no doubt with other infiltrators, apparently had provided detailed and accurate information of the 3d Battalion's defenses and the location of its command post. The attack disorganized the battalion and destroyed its communications before it had a chance to fight back. Enemy roadblocks behind the battalion prevented evacuation of the wounded or re-supplying the battalion with ammunition. For several hours units of the battalion fought as best they could. Many desperate encounters took place. In one of these, when an enemy machine gun placed a band of fire on K Company's command post, Pvt. Paul R. Spear, armed with only a pistol, charged the machine gun emplacement alone, entered it with his pistol empty and, using it as a club, routed the enemy gunners. Enemy fire seriously wounded him. [43]

The North Koreans overran the 3d Battalion. Before noon, survivors in small groups made their way back toward Choch'iwon. Enemy fire killed Colonel Jensen, the battalion commander, and Lt. Leon J. Jacques, Jr., his S-2, when they tried to cross a stream in the rear of their observation post. The battalion S-1 and S-3, Lieutenants Cashe and Lester, and Capt. O'Dean T. Cox, commanding officer of L Company, were reported missing in action. The 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry, lost altogether nearly 60 percent of its strength in this action. Of those who escaped, 90 percent had neither weapons, ammunition, nor canteens, and, in many instances, the men had neither helmets nor shoes. One officer of L Company who came out with some men said that after he and others had removed an enemy machine gun blocking their escape route many uninjured men by the side of the road simply refused to try to go on. One noncom said, "Lieutenant, you will have to go on. I'm too beat up. They'll just have to take me." A remnant of 8 officers and 142 men able for duty was organized into a provisional company of three rifle platoons and a heavy weapons company. But by 15 July a total of 322 out of 667 men had returned to the battalion. Four tanks of A Company, 78th Heavy Tank Battalion, were lost to enemy action north of Choch'iwon on 10 and 11 July. The 21st Infantry on 10 and 11 July north of Choch'iwon lost materiel and weapons sufficient to equip two rifle battalions and individual and organic clothing for 975 men.

At Chonui the N.K. 3d Division had passed the N.K. 4th on the main highway. It struck the blow against the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry. The 4th Division turned back from Chonui and

took the right fork toward Kongju, following the retreating 34th Infantry. Toward evening of the 11th, after he had full information of the fate of the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry, General Dean ordered A Company, 3d Engineer Combat Battalion, to prepare every possible obstacle for the defense of the Choch'iwon area and to cover, if necessary, the withdrawal of the regiment. Dean also started the 19th Infantry Regiment and the 13th Field Artillery Battalion from Taegu and P'ohang-dong for Taejon during the day.

That night the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry, rested uneasily in its positions two miles north of Choch'iwon. It had to expect that the North Koreans would strike within hours. At dawn an enemy patrol approached C Company's position, and members of the battalion saw hostile movement on both flanks. At 0930 an estimated enemy battalion, supported by artillery fire, attacked Smith's left flank. Very quickly a general attack developed by an estimated 2,000 enemy soldiers. Colonel Stephens decided that the under-strength 1st Battalion, with its large percentage of replacement and untried troops, would have to withdraw. At noon, 12 July, he sent the following message to General Dean: "Am surrounded. 1st Bn left giving way. Situation bad on right. Having nothing left to establish intermediate delaying position am forced to withdraw to river line. I have issued instructions to withdraw."

Colonel Smith disengaged the 1st Battalion by moving one company at a time. Regimental trucks loaded the troops near Choch'iwon. While the infantry were displacing southward, enemy artillery began shelling the regimental command post in Choch'iwon. The retreat was orderly and there was no close pursuit. By 1530 the 1st Battalion occupied new defensive positions on the south bank of the Kum River where the highway crossed it at Taep'yong-ni. The 21st Infantry Regiment completed its withdrawal across the Kum at 1600, but stragglers were still crossing the river five hours later. A thin line of approximately 325 men held the new blocking position at the river-64 men from the 3d Battalion, the rest from the 1st Battalion.

In the series of battles between Chonui and Choch'iwon the under-strength two-battalion 21st Infantry Regiment had delayed two of the best North Korean divisions for three days. It was the most impressive performance yet of American troops in Korea, but the regiment paid heavily for it in loss of personnel and equipment.

The 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, meanwhile, had covered the retreat on the Kongju road and fought a series of minor delaying actions against the leading elements of the N.K. 4th Division which had taken up the pursuit there. Four light M24 tanks of the 78th Tank Battalion joined the battalion, and D Company of the 3d Engineer Combat Battalion prepared demolitions along the road. In the afternoon of 11 July, enemy action destroyed three of the four tanks, two of them by artillery fire and the third by infantry close attack when the tank tried to rescue personnel from a litter jeep ambushed by enemy infiltrators. Remnants of the 3d Battalion had led the retreat. Reorganized as a composite company and re-equipped at Taejon, it returned to Kongju on the 11th. The next day the 63d Field Artillery Battalion and the 34th Infantry crossed the Kum. The last of the infantry and

Colonel Ayres, the 1st Battalion commander, crossed at dusk. General Dean's instructions were to "leave a small outpost across the river. Blow the main bridge only when enemy starts to cross." To implement this order Colonel Wadlington had L Company hold the bridge and outpost the north bank for 600 yards.

CHAPTER VIII

In the Central Mountains and on the East Coast

Eastward, In the central mountains of Korea, aerial observation on 8 July, the day Ch'onan fell, showed that enemy armor, truck, and infantry columns were moving south and were already below Wonju. This led to speculation at the Far East Command that the North Koreans were engaged in a wide envelopment designed to cut the main north-south line of communications in the Taejon area. South of the Han River only one enemy division, the 6th, initially was west of the Seoul-Pusan highway.

The area defended by the ROK Army after American troops of the U.S. **24th Division** entered action on 5 July was everything east of the main Seoul-Taegu railroad and highway. In the mountainous central part of Korea there are two main north-south axes of travel and communication. The first, from the west, is the Wonju-Ch'ungju-Mun'gyong-Kumch'on corridor running almost due south from Wonju. The second, farther east, is the Wonju-Chech'on-Tanyang-Yongju-Andong-Uisong-Yongch'on corridor slanting southeast from Wonju.

The critical military terrain of both corridors is the high watershed of a spur range which runs southwest from the east coastal range and separates the upper Han River on the north from the upper Nakdong on the south. Both rivers have their sources in the western slope of the Taebaek Range, about twenty miles from the Sea of Japan. The Han River flows south for forty miles, then turns generally northwest to empty into the Yellow Sea; the Nakdong flows first south, then west, then again south to empty into the Korea Strait. Mun'gyong is at the pass on the first corridor over the high plateau of this dividing watershed. Tanyang is on the south side of the upper Han and at the head of the long, narrow pass through the watershed on the second corridor.

On the south side of this watershed, and situated generally at its base, from southwest to northeast are the towns of Sangju, Hamch'ang, Yech'on, and Yongju in the valley of the Nakdong. Once these points were reached, enemy units could turn down that valley for a converging attack on Taegu. Or, the more eastern units could cross the relatively wide valley of the Nakdong to enter another east-west spur range of the southern Taebaeks at a number of points-the most important being Andong-and cut across to the east-west corridor between Taegu and P'ohang-dong and the Kyongju corridor leading south to Pusan.

After the initial success of the North Korean Army in driving ROK forces from their 38th Parallel positions, the South Koreans east of the U.S. **24th Division** were badly disorganized and fighting separate regimental and division actions. In the first part of July the ROK Army was generally disposed from west to east as follows: 17th Regiment, 2d, Capital, 6th, and 8th Divisions, and the 23d Regiment of the 3d Division.

The North Korean Army advanced southward on a wide front. The N.K. *1st Division* followed the *4th* and the *3d* south out of Seoul, but then turned off on the next major road east of the Seoul-Pusan highway. This led through Ich'on and Umsong. Ahead of it was the N.K. *2d Division* which had moved westward to this road after the fall of Ch'unch'on. At Ich'on, ROK forces cut off an enemy regiment and destroyed or captured many mortars and several pieces of artillery. Farther west on the Yongin road another enemy regiment suffered heavy casualties at the same time, on or about 5 July, the day of Task Force Smith's fight at Osan. After these actions, the N.K. *1st Division* left the path of the *2d* and slanted southeast toward Ch'ungju. This left the *2d* the first division east of U.S. **24th Division** troops on the Seoul-Taejon highway and in a position to join with the N.K. *4th* and *3d Divisions* in a converging attack on Taejon.

Despite losses and low morale among its troops, N.K. officers drove the *2d Division* southward toward Chinch'on, twenty miles east of Ch'onan. There on 9 July, one day after Ch'onan had fallen, the ROK Capital Division and South Korean police ambushed one of its battalions capturing four pieces of artillery and twenty-seven vehicles. This began a three-day battle between the enemy division and the ROK Capital Division. The ROK's withdrew on 11 July after other enemy divisions had outflanked them on the west by the capture of Ch'onan and Chonui. The N.K. *2d Division*, exhausted and depleted by heavy casualties, then entered Chinch'on. Despite its condition, its commander allowed it no rest and drove it on toward Ch'ongju, headquarters of the ROK I Corps. At the edge of the town, ROK artillery took it under fire and inflicted another estimated 800 casualties. Only when the ROK troops at Ch'ongju were forced to fall back after the U.S. **24th Division**, on 12 July, lost Choch'iwon, twelve miles westward, did the enemy division enter the town. [2]

Eastward, the N.K. *7th Division* advanced down the mountainous central corridor of Korea after it had helped the *2d Division* capture Ch'unch'on in the opening days of the invasion. Retiring slowly in front of it and fighting effectively was the ROK 6th Division. Between Ch'unch'on and Hongch'on, the 6th Division inflicted approximately 400 casualties on the enemy division and knocked out a number of its T34 tanks. From Hongch'on the battle continued on down the road toward Wonju, the action reaching the edge of that rail and road center on or about 2 July. There, the North Korean High Command relieved Maj. Gen. Chon U, commander of the *7th Division*, because his division was behind schedule in its advance. At the same time, the North Korean high command redesignated the *7th Division* the *12th*, and activated a new *7th Division*. After the fall of Wonju on or about 5 July, the newly designated *12th Division* split its forces-part going southeast toward Chech'on, the remainder south toward Ch'ungju.

These enemy operations in the mountainous central part of the peninsula were conducted by Lt. Gen. Kim Kwang Hyop, commanding general of the North Korean *II Corps*, with headquarters at Hwach'on. On or about 10 July, the North Korean high command relieved him for inefficiency because his corps was several days behind its schedule, replacing him with Lt. Gen. Kim Mu Chong.

Below Wonju, while the ROK 6th Division tried to defend the Ch'ungju corridor, the ROK 8th Division upon arriving from the east coast tried to establish a line to defend the Tanyang corridor, the next one eastward. After seizing Ch'ungju and Chech'on, the N.K. *12th Division* converged on Tanyang and on July encountered the ROK 8th Division just north of that village. The N.K. *1st Division*, having entered the central sector from the northwest, turned south at Ch'ungju and on the 12th approached positions of the ROK 6th Division just above Mun'gyong. The N.K. *15th Division*, meantime, joined the attack after following the *7th Division* from Ch'unch'on to Wonju. At Wonju, the *15th* veered westward, passed through Yaju, then turned south, clearing the town of Changhowon-ni after a stiff battle with ROK forces. By 12 July, the *15th* occupied Koesan, eighteen miles northwest of Mun'gyong.

The ROK 8th Division in its withdrawal from the east coast was supposed to concentrate in the vicinity of Wonju-Chech'on. For several days the ROK Army headquarters had only vague and fragmentary information concerning its location. Eventually, in moving from Tanyang toward Ch'ungju on Army order the division found the enemy blocking its way. Instead of trying to fight through to Ch'ungju or to make a detour, the ROK 8th Division commander decided, in view of the exhaustion of his troops and the time involved in attempting a detour over mountain trails, that he would transfer the division to Ch'ungju by rail on a long haul southward to Yongch'on, thence to and through Taegu. A KMAC adviser found part of the division at Yongch'on, between P'ohang-dong and Taegu; other parts appear to have reached Taegu. The ROK Army issued new orders to the 8th Division which sent it back by rail to the upper Han River area. There on the south side of the upper Han River in the Tanyang area the 8th Division had concentrated by 10 July to defend the Yongju-Andong corridor.

American and ROK strategy and tactics in this part of Korea now centered on holding the Mun'gyong and Tanyang passes of the Han-Naktong watershed. Both offered excellent defensive terrain.

The major part of the North Korean Army was striking in a great attack on a wide front against the southern tip of the peninsula. Five divisions moved south over the two mountain corridors; while a sixth followed a western branch of the first corridor, the road from Ch'ongju through Poun to Hwanggan where it entered the Seoul-Taegu highway.

Over the first mountain corridor and across the Mun'gyong plateau came three North Korean divisions, the *1st*, *13th*, and *15th*, supported by the *109th Tank Regiment* of the *105th Armored Division*. Over the second, or eastern, corridor came two North Korean divisions, the *12th* and *8th*. In the eastern mountains there were also 2,000-3,000 partisan guerrillas who had landed in the Ulchin area at the beginning of the war with the mission of operating as an advance element to prepare for the easy conquest of that part of South Korea. This group functioned poorly and was a big disappointment to the North Korean Army.

The battles in the mountains between the North and South Koreans in July were often bitter and bloody with losses high on both sides. One of the most critical and protracted of these

began about the middle of the month near Mun'gyong between the N.K. *1st Division* and the ROK 6th Division for control of the Mun'gyong pass and plateau.

On the next corridor eastward, the N.K. *12th Division* carried the main burden of the attack all the way south from the Parallel to the upper Han River. Some of its advanced troops crossed the river on 12 July and the division captured the river crossing at Tanyang on the 14th. The *12th* then fought the ROK 8th Division for control of the Tanyang Pass near the village of P'unggi, northwest of Yongju. It outflanked the ROK positions astride the road at Tanyang Pass and forced the 8th Division to withdraw southward. By the middle of July the North Koreans were forcing the Taebaek Mountain passes leading into the valley of the upper Naktong River.

On the east coast along the Sea of Japan the N.K. *5th Division* and the *766th Independent Infantry Unit* after crossing the 38th Parallel moved south with virtually no opposition. The high and all but trackless Taebaek Range, with almost no lateral routes of communication through it, effectively cut off the east coast of Korea below the 38th Parallel from the rest of the country westward. Geography thus made it an isolated field of operations.

At Kangnung, on the coastal road, twenty miles below the Parallel, the *11th Regiment* of the *5th Division* swung inland on an 8-day 175-mile march through some of the wildest and roughest country in Korea. It passed through P'yong-ch'ang, Yongwol, and Ch'unyang. At the last place the regiment met and fought a hard battle with elements of the ROK 8th Division which were withdrawing inland to the Tanyang area. [8] The regiment then turned east and joined the rest of the division at Ulchin on the coast on or about 10 July. In this arduous march through and along the mountains bordering the east coast, the N.K. *5th Division* lost from all causes about 1,800 men.

Meanwhile, the North Koreans succeeded in landing amphibiously a large party of civilians at Ulchin. They had been specially trained at P'yongyang to take charge of the civil government in this eastern province. When it reached Ulchin, the *766th Independent Infantry Unit* separated from the *5th Division* and started westward into the mountains with the mission, as reported by prisoners, of infiltrating southward in small units and cutting communications between Pusan and Taegu.

One of the enemy's major tactical mistakes of the Korean War was failure to press rapidly south on the east coastal road after crossing the Parallel. By sending strong reconnaissance parties out into the wild and rugged mountains inland from the coast to make sure its rear would not be threatened, the N.K. *5th Division* dissipated some of its strength and lost valuable time. There seems little doubt that had it pressed south with all possible speed and effort the division could have been in P'ohang-dong within two weeks after the war began and thus have turned, on this flank, the entire ROK and American line across the peninsula. Once in P'ohang-dong it would have been in a position to advance directly on Pusan. P.107

The story will be picked up at this point in the next issue of the Taro Leaf. Editor

World War II Vet Finally Tells of Horrific Experiences in Philippines

By Bob Wojcieszak
Daily Mail staff

Of all the memorable quotes from World War II, perhaps two of the most remarkable were spoken by Gen. Douglas MacArthur while he was stationed in the Philippines during the Pacific Campaign: "I shall return" and "I have returned." The quotes rallied the home front and inspired creations such as Norman Rockwell's 1942 War Bonds poster "Let's Give Him Enough & On Time," that sent the sale of war bonds skyward and kicked industrial production of war materials into high gear.



Grover Brown

But for the troops fighting the island-hopping campaigns in the Philippines, "I have returned" hit somewhat of a sour note. As West Virginia veteran Grover Brown put it, "The troops thought MacArthur should've said, 'We have returned.' 'They didn't like it. 'I have returned' upset the troops.'" And with good reason. Many people have no understanding of what World War II combat soldiers witnessed. And because the conflict was so long ago, their numbers are dwindling and their stories are fading by the day. (*Comment pg. 15*)

At the tender age of 19, Brown, a native of Man in Logan County, already was working as a coal miner. He was drafted into the U.S. Army. Because his job was deemed vital to the interest of the country, he could have taken a deferment. But he believed it was his duty to serve "just like everyone else." In fact, a member of the Brown family has served in every American military engagement from the French & Indian War through Korea.

On April 21, 1943, Brown became a member of 24th Infantry Division, also known as The Victory Division - one of the most storied divisions of the Pacific war. After basic training, Brown was sent to Goodenough Island off the coast of Australia, where he received the advanced amphibious assault training that he would use in the island-hopping campaign. "I knew I was going into war, and that's all I knew," said Brown, now 88 and living in Paint Creek in eastern Kanawha County.

The 24th served in five campaigns in World War II, the most of any unit in the Pacific. Brown served in four of those campaigns, including 264 days of combat duty. Because the tide of the War in the Pacific changed considerably after the Naval engagements of Coral Sea and, more notably, the decisive victory at Midway, momentum in the Pacific shifted in favor of the United States and the campaign to drive the

Japanese back to their homeland came off the drawing boards and onto the battle field.

The goal of the island-hopping campaign was to systematically strangle the Japanese by gaining control of key islands to strategically cut the enemy's supply lines. In words and on paper it sounds simple; cut off your enemy and starve him out. Reality paints a different picture. The Philippines comprise more than 7,000 islands; more than half didn't have a name other than the military designations assigned to them.

Many islands were nothing but beaches and jungle, and the only access was by establishing a beachhead. Meanwhile, the enemy was dug in, watching and waiting.

Temperatures were tropical. It rained six months of the year, and the biting insects were thick. Malaria, yellow fever and other tropical diseases had to be factored in as well.

Brown, a private first class, was a heavy machine gunner in the 34th Regimental Combat team attached to the 24th Infantry Division. His job was to support the combat infantry troops engaging the enemy.

When the enemy was encountered, he and his crew set up the 30-caliber Browning water-cooled machine gun. Brown was the first gunner in what was supposed to be a crew of five. Most of the time Brown's crew had three members. Brown, who weighed 155 pounds, carried the tripod and the water for the weapon, supplies that weighed more than 90 pounds.

The second gunner carried the gun, which also weighed about 90 pounds. The other members of the crew were ammunition bearers. They carried at least two boxes of belt-fed shells. Each box contained 250 rounds and weighed about 30 pounds. Crew members also carried sidearms and ammunition along with backpacks containing rations, drinking water and shovels.

Brown and his crew had to be ready to fight at the drop of a hat. When they engaged, they were often deep in the jungle. The tripod would be quickly set, and the water for cooling the gun would be readied. The second gunner would mount the gun, and then Brown would load and fire. After the skirmish, the weapon had to be handled with asbestos gloves because of the heat generated from firing it. Carry the weapon. Set the weapon. Fire the weapon. Break down the weapon and carry it some more. Brown endured this scenario countless times during his days of combat. Just getting to combat was a battle.

Off Tacloban, the Philippines Island of Leyte, the men of the 24th Infantry Division were staged in ships offshore. Prior to the invasion, battleships pummeled the island with artillery barrages while aircraft from carriers strafed enemy entrenchments. With all the firepower leveled at the tiny landmasses, Brown often wondered how anyone or anything could survive the onslaught.

At invasion time flat-bottomed boats named Amphibious Landing Crafts, better known as LCPs, were buoyed alongside the troop ships. The men of the 24th climbed down rope ladders thrown over the side of the troop ships and loaded into the LCPs. The invasion was on. "Of course we were scared," Brown said. "If anybody said they weren't, they were lying."

As soon as the LCPs came within range of enemy guns, they were met with a murderous hail of artillery, mortars and machine gunfire. Many of the LCPs were blown to bits in the water. When the order came to "hit the beach," a ramp in the front of the LCP splashed down into the shallow water of the coastline. The troops inside were supposed to scatter and "get low" in every direction possible to avoid being gunned down, often diving into the shallow surf and crawling on their stomachs to the dry ground of the beach.

Brown and the men of the 24th were always in the first wave of the invasions and often incurred heavy casualties in their assaults. Their job was to establish a beachhead for the second wave of the invasion that would bring in heavy equipment, tanks, artillery and, most importantly, more men and supplies so that the invasion could be completed.

The most famous landing Brown was a part of was on Leyte's Red Beach No. 1. After the beachhead was established, MacArthur came ashore and made his famous "I have returned" remark. Before MacArthur arrived, the fighting on Red Beach No. 1 was murderous. "We were pinned down and I was on my belly," Brown recalled. "We couldn't move and I was more than scared."

It was then that the legendary Col. "Red" Newman (See cover and story on page 11. Ed.) rallied the troops. "Col. Newman stood up amidst the gunfire and said, 'Get up; get off this beach; get off your asses and follow me,'" Brown said. "'Follow me' became the official motto of the infantry to this day." From there Brown and the 24th Infantry moved inland to secure the island.

When MacArthur came ashore, Brown and his crew were already battling their way through the jungle. Conditions were terrible. Brown described daylong hikes through infested jungles covered in bug repellent that looked like it was painted on. Hard-charging, ferocious struggles often ended in hand-to-hand combat. Soldiers dug foxholes 3 feet deep for sleeping, only to wake up neck-deep in a pond. Brown



recalled rain, rain and more rain, along with a generous amount of mud.

Men developed the numb symptoms of trench foot. There were no bathrooms. They ate out of cans. It was hot. "We had a job to do. We were going to do it and go home," Brown said of the soldiers' endurance. "Every soldier felt that way. We had a job to do and we did it."

"We all looked after each other. These men were my brothers," Brown said. "Take care of each other first. If you didn't, you lost a lot more men. "It was kill or be killed. We lost a lot of guys in the jungle. The Japs would hide in the trees; when we heard the first shot, we hit the ground." When they lost a comrade in combat, "we took it hard, but we didn't show it," Brown said. Several times, Brown thought he wasn't

going to make it. "I had to fire point blank at several Japs; they would come charging the foxholes," he said.

The worst part was between battles. "Waiting time is the worst time in the world - waiting for the word to go," Brown said. To pass the time, he said soldiers played cards and drank alcohol if they could get it - sometimes it was sake, the rice wine they took from Japanese soldiers.

World War II came to an end quickly after the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After Japan's surrender, Brown served guard duty in Hiroshima through December 30, 1945. He was discharged from Fort Knox on Jan. 13, 1946, his birthday. "It was the best birthday present I ever got," Brown said. "I felt good. I felt like I did what I should've done for my country," he said. And he returned home without a scratch. Brown was asked if he wanted to re-enlist, with a promotion and a pay raise. He declined. "PFC was good enough for me," he said and described his response: "I just want to go home."

He returned to Man and the coal mines, back to the life he knew and loved. His sleep was peaceful. On Aug. 17, 1946, he married his Irene; they had four boys and just celebrated their 66th anniversary. Brown worked in the mines until 1959, when his mine closed. He was a foreman at the time. Brown and his family moved to Chicago, where he worked another 30 years before returning to Paint Creek in 1999 to help take care of Irene's mother.

Brown now has his own health problems. He has leukemia and with the exception of receiving platelets, he has stopped treatment for the ailment he believes may be connected to his guard duty in Hiroshima. His illness prompted him to finally tell his story. Regardless, Brown believes he is blessed. "It's been a good life."

Photographer Bob Wojcieszak, who wrote this story, can be reached at w...@dailymail.com or 304-348-1235.

24th ID Association Vets Meet in Leesburg, FL



Above, standing from left: Frank and Maxine Jennings of Melbourne, Shirley Miller and Dottie Wood, Ron York of Altamonte Springs, Bill Simunek of Mount Dora, Don Van Beck of Tavares, Paul Boulay and Nick Salakas both of The Villages, Becky Bradford, Harley and Sandra Joseph of Miami, Flossie Kespert and Paul Miller of Inverness, and Jim Hird of Ocala. Seated also from left: Gil Miller, 45th Div, Ocala, Woodie Wood of Silver Springs, Tom Thiel of Eustis, Jim Bradford from Winter Haven, Carol Becker (front) of Clermont, Dorothy and Duane Hall of Leesburg and MI, and Ted Jansen of Leesburg. A couple of folks were not in the photo.

Twenty-five dedicated souls of the Florida 24th IDA Group came together on Feb. 6 in Leesburg, FL to prove once again what Bill Stokes said in the *Taro Leaf* 66(3) pg. 34, "Old soldiers never die, they just meet to eat."

But we do a bit more than meet to eat, though! Comradeship is by far the primary reason we continue to get together. But we do other things as well.

One of these has been distributing donated items to veteran's homes. Paul Miller and Flossie Kespert have given a lot of their time and effort to get this program off and going. Ted Jansen has agreed to take the program over now, with their continued assistance.

We have donated items on multiple occasions each to the VFW Veterans Home in Fort McCoy, and the Malcolm Randal Medical Center in Gainesville. Reports on some of these have appeared in previous *Taro Leafs*.

We are now embarking on a "ditty bag" distribution program. Group members are either making or obtaining from mainly

sewing groups small ditty bags that are being filled with toiletries and other such small items that will fit in the small bags. Members are then going to take these to local rest and nursing homes and given to residents, mainly veterans.

Our future Dutch Treat luncheons will be May 1, Aug. 7, and Nov. 6. May 1 will be at 11:45 a.m. Golden Corral, 1720 Citrus Blvd, Leesburg, FL. Aug 7 is open to any other FL location offered to and approved by the group, and the Nov. 6 will be a sit down Holiday Dinner probably in Leesburg.

The FL 24th IDA Group has no dues; we rely on a fifty-fifty drawing to help offset mailing and other costs. Tom Thiel discussed several items from the last *Taro Leaf*, including the Verbeck Award; he urged attendees to nominate their choice by July 15.

From its outset, the FL 24th IDA Group has desired to have its own FL mini-reunion emulating the one Dan Rickert and a few of his fellow Taro Leafers in California developed that is now known as the 24th IDA West Coast Reunion. For varying reasons our Florida efforts have not been successful. But it remains our goal!

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, Secretary/Treasurer

----- 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

Bn.

Co.

P

It./Bat.

Squad

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

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

Donations to Taro Leaf

Bradford	21st Inf	\$ 10
Burns, William P.	26th AAA	\$ 35
Demaray, Dale	19th Inf	\$ 10
Elow, Kenneth	19th Inf	\$ 10
Fox, Robert G.	19th Inf	\$ 10
Hamilton, John	19th Inf	\$ 20
Lane, William D.	34th Inf	\$ 35
Langone, Joe	21st Inf	\$ 25
Mecca, Daniel	13th FA	\$ 25
Popovich, Kenneth R.	21st Inf	\$ 5
Silver, Leon	24th Sig	\$ 5
Stratton, Robert J.	19th Inf	\$ 20
Sugg, Charles	24th Med	\$ 20
Yates, Olen R.	52nd FA	\$ 10

Our New Members - Welcome!

Members

Hughes, Alfred J.	2nd BDE	HQ Germany 67-69
Kier, Sam M.	5th RCT, HQ	Ft. Lewis 54-56
Mount, Edwin D.	3rd Eng	HQ Germany 66-68
Mueller, Peter W.	Assoc	Father-W.P. Mueller 21st RGT WWII
Mueller, Michele J.	Assoc	Father-W.P. Mueller 21st RGT WWII
Nall, Kenneth M.	48th BDE	Ft. Stewart 87-91
Shoot, C.W. "Bill"	70th Arm	1st Bn Germany 66-68
Werygo, Robert	19th RGT A CO	Japan 46-48
Zabek, Anthony D.	924 MP	Ft. Riley 03-05

New Life Member

Kraai, Henry c.	21st Inf HQ	Germany 60-62	Member No.2417
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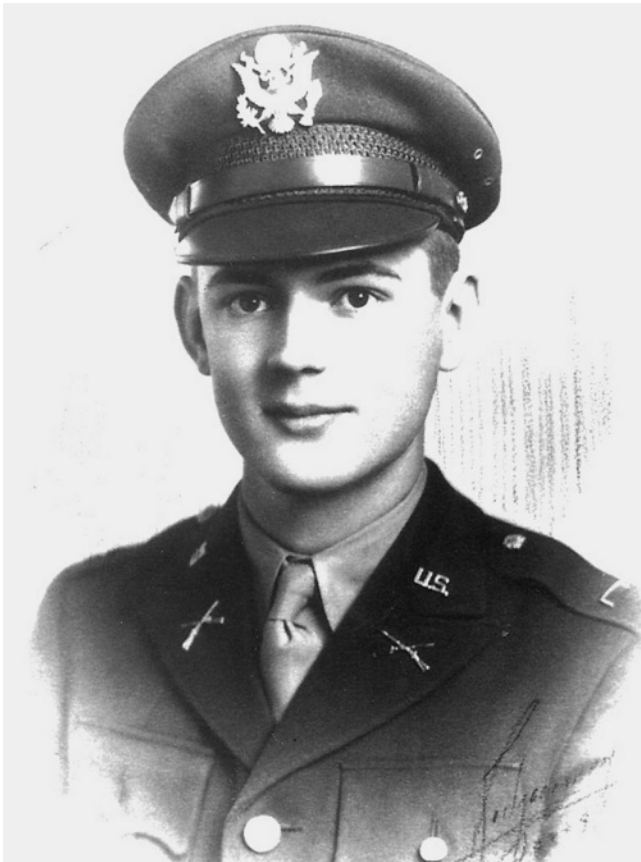
PLAY BALL!



HOLD STEADY, BURRO



He Saved Gen. Dean's Life



Major Gen. William F. Dean after his repatriation as a Korean War POW presents the Silver Star to Kitty Tabor, the widow of Lt. Stanley E. Tabor who died in Korea after trying to save Gen. Dean from Communist North Korean troops.

First Lieutenant Stanley E. Tabor, Infantry, United States Army, a member of Company E, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, distinguished himself by gallantry in action near Taejon, Korea, from 22 July to 26 July 1950. Surrounded by a numerically superior foe with routes of escape cut by the enemy, small elements of the division were making a determined attempt in the face of relentless enemy pressure to withdraw toward friendly lines.

Alone and attempting to evade capture and reach friendly fire, he met his Division Commander suffering from injuries, disease and hunger and attempting to make contact with friendly forces. Although in good health and physically capable of making a long march over rugged terrain,



Lieutenant Tabor, with complete disregard for his own safety and despite repeated urgings of his Division Commander to abandon him, elected to remain and assist his disabled commander.

On July 26, 1950, they were discovered by the enemy who attempted to capture them. Lieutenant Tabor immediately covered the escape of his commander by pouring devastating rifle fire into the ranks of the foe. When last seen, he was crawling through a paddy and attempting to evade capture and later died of wounds while in the hands of the enemy. Lieutenant Tabor's selfless devotion and act of gallantry is in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself.

Department of the Army
General Orders No. 26 - 3 April 1954

Stan was the Executive Officer for Company E, 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry. He and General Dean evaded capture together for a week or so after the battle of Taejon in July, 1950. General Dean's account may be found here, on pages 48 through 54: http://archive.org/stream/generaldeansstor011699mbp/generaldeansstor011699mbp_djvu.txt

Please feel free to publish my email address and phone number in the Taro Leaf; I would very much welcome contact from anyone who knew Stan: **Jim Krieger**, kriegerlaw@sbcglobal.net telephone 214-395-7062

NEW MEMBERS RECRUITMENT INITIATIVE

Tom Appler, Director-at-Large for recruiting, will be initiating a Membership Drive contest for Facebook members who are 24th ID veterans.

It begins for any member who joins our organization from January 1st, 2013 until September 22, 2013. This group currently has 900 members, as of this printing, and is growing every month. All former members of the 24th ID, that are not currently members of the 24th IDA, are eligible.

A Facebook notification will be entered two times per month, starting in January for reminder purposes.

The Rules:

1. Not currently members of the 24th IDA. Must have been a former member of the 24th Infantry Division, wearing the 24th patch, wherever they served.
2. Must join the 24th IDA between 1/1/2013 and 9/22/2013.
3. Payment of \$15.00 for the first year must be received before September 22nd, 2013.
4. 24th IDA Secretary/Treasurer John Dunn, will receive and verify payment on time. Membership applications can be found on our website: www.24thida.com or on page 28 of this Taro Leaf. Applicants should complete and send it to John Dunn.
5. Prize award will be \$ 250.00 picked at random during the Louisville, KY national reunion, September, 2013. Person may not need to be present to win prize.
6. One winner is to be selected. If he chooses Life Membership and makes payment before Sept. 22, 2013, the award will be \$300.00. Life membership must be paid in full to be eligible before the deadline date of Sept. 22, 2013.

It is very simple contest. If there are any questions, please call Tom Appler, CW4, USA Reserve, (Ret.)

410-848-1081 (H)
24th Inf. Div. Supply & Transportation BN, 1964-1966,
Augsburg, Germany,
Email: tom-steph@comcast.net

FALLEN COMRADES



William Phillip Mueller passed away on December 23, 2012. He was a member of the 24th Infantry Division Association, Life Member 799. He served in the U.S. Army, **19th RGT**, Company D. He went on to New Guinea where he remained in constant combat for two years, crossing the entire island of New Guinea. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary Herbert, 1604 Crescent Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065

Lawrence H. Brockmann served with A CO. **34th Infantry Regiment** in WWII and Japan Occupation 1945 – 1946. He proudly attended the reunion in Louisiana in 2012. **Life Member #2094.**



Edward Albert Grygier, died recently in Queens, NY. He was part of the **19th RGT Heavy Mortar CO**, 09/49 - 08/51, and served in Japan & Korea. Survived by his wife Josephine, 3030 Holland Avenue #2, Bronx, NY 10467 Life Member #878.

Marcel "Sal" Frederick died Sept. 24 at age 86. He was a life member, He served in G Company, **34th RGT**.

Gerald P. Deegan died 1/7/13 at Chappaqua, NY. He served with HQ CO, **21st RGT** in Japan, 1947-1949.

Roger H. Covert died 8/25/12 at Northport, MI. He served in Korea with A CO, **21st RGT**.

Basil C. Donovan died 2/8/12 at Englewood, FL. He served during WWII with K CO, **21st RGT**, 1943-1944.

Adolph C. Fossum died 12/5/11 at Lake Havasu, AZ. He served with D CO, **19th RGT**, in Japan and Korea 1949-1951.

Marcel S. Frederic died 9/24/12 at Mankato, MN. He served during WWII and in Japan with G CO **19th RGT**.

Edward Grygier died 1/23/13 at Staten Island, NY. He served with the J & K Cos, **19th RGT**, 1949-1951.

Edward A. Kolesar died 12/13/12 at Ottawa, IL. He served in the **21st RGT** in Korea, 1950-1951.

John Kuns died 11/26/12 at Somerdale, NJ. He served during WWII in A CO, **21st RGT**, 1944-1945.

Norman Schwarzkopf died 12/27/12 at Tampa, FL. He served with HQ, **24th ID** during Desert Storm.

Alfred A. Stankovich died 12/12 at San Antonio, TX. He served with A CO, **21st RGT** in Japan and Korea, 1950-1951.

Donald F. Vail died 11/30/12 at McCordsville, IN. He served with H CO, **19th RGT** in Korea, 1951-1952.

Donald R. Ver Helst died 1/19/13 in Nora Springs, IA. He served with HQ CO, **21st RGT** in Korea, 1951-1952.

Reunions

24th IDA West Coast Reunion
24-27 March, 2013

**According to our Catering contract
Dinner fees are non-refundable after
17 March 2013**

Aquarius Casino Resort

1900 So Casino Dr, Laughlin, NV
89029

800-662-5825 for
reservations

CODE C-WCR 13

Name: _____ Spouse/Guests: _____
Unit: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
Zip Code: _____ Phone (optional): _____ Email (optional): _____

ROOMS
\$29.00

Roast Sirloin of Beef \$38 x ____ = ____
Chicken Cordon Bleu \$38 x ____ = ____
Filet of Salmon \$36 x ____ = ____
Registration (\$20 per Family) = ____
(total) \$ ____

Mail fees & registration form to:

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

Florida 24th IDA Group

2013 DUTCH TREAT
LUNCHEONS

•Feb 6th •May 1st
•Aug 7th •Nov 6th

11:45 a.m. Golden Corral

1720 Citrus Blvd
Leesburg, FL 34748

Space limited to about 50
please make reservations

By contacting: Tom Thiel
352-408-6612, or
fl24thida@gmail.com

or Bill Stokes, 352-750-6741
wsswriter@centurylink.net

L CO 21st RGT REUNION Branson, MO

A special reunion for special
people in America's Showplace
Capital. There are an incredible
number of Headliner Shows and
many other attractions in this
compact city in southern
Missouri.

May 1-5, 2013

CONTACT: George Vlasic, 910 287-5618
geonanvlasic@atmc.net

**Sept 22-25, Hotel Holiday Inn
Hurstbourn East, Louisville, Kentucky
Rates \$77.00 plus tax/night
Tours and Events Planned:**

- Fort Knox - We'll be having lunch with the troops \$25
- Kentucky Derby Museum \$13
- Louisville Slugger/Frazier Museum \$25
- City Tour/Churchill Downs \$25
- Hawaiian Banquet \$30/Men & Ladies Breakfast \$16
- Military Drill Team at our Breakfast
- Display of WWII Korea and Modern Day Military Vehicles

Cordinator: BG Gene E Spicer . If you need any info email me: carolynbr@frontiernet.net or telephone: 812 521-2324

We will have a spectacular 24th Division memorial blanket (queen size) at the reunion for auction. See picture below

24th IDA NATIONAL REUNION Sept 22-25 2013



OLD 24TH ID CHALLENGE COIN



From Tom Appler



24th IDA NATIONAL REUNION - LOUISVILLE, KY September 22-25, 2013

NAME _____

UNIT _____ YEARS _____ LOCATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STREET _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

GUESTS NAMES _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION? YES () NO ()

MEAL SELECTIONS: FISH () CHICKEN () BEEF () PORK ()

Please list any special needs _____

REGISTRATION FEE (REQUIRED) # PERSONS _____ x \$25.00 = _____

MEN'S & LADIES BREAKFAST # PERSONS _____ x \$ 16.00 = _____

HAWAIIAN BANQUET # PERSONS _____ x \$30.00 = _____

CITY/CHURCHILL DOWNS TOUR # PERSONS _____ x \$25.00 = _____

FRAZIER/SLUGGER MUSEUM # PERSONS _____ x \$25.00 = _____

FORT KNOX TOUR (Lunch with a Soldier) # PERSONS _____ x \$25.00 = _____

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 10, 2013.

SEND PAYMENTS TO: B.G. GENE E. SPICER (RET), P.O. BOX 207, DUPONT, IN 47231

Confirmation of registration and itinerary will be sent out by August 20, 2012. A \$25 per persons cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 15 days of the event are non-refundable. Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Holiday Inn, Hurstbourne East 1-502-426-2600 or www.hihurstbourne.com Be sure to tell them you are with the 24th Infantry Division Reunion to receive the discounted rate of \$77.00 plus tax. The rate is good for 3 days before and 3 days after the event should you wish to extend your stay.

24th IDA REUNION AGENDA

Sunday, 9/22 Arrivals All Day

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.	HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.	REGISTRATION LOBBY AREA
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.	RECEPTION - HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.	HOSPITALITY ROOM - MESSANINE

Monday, 9/23

8:00 a.m. to Noon	REGISTRATION LOBBY AREA
9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon	CITY AND CHURCHILL DOWNS TOUR (Depart in front of hotel)
9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.	HOSPITALITY ROOM - MESSANINE
12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	VIEW HISTORIC AND MODERN MILITARY VEHICLES
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	BOARD MEETING

Continued Next Page

Tuesday, 9/24

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. to Noon

Noon to 9:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

LADIES BREAKFAST

MEN'S BREAKFAST

MEMBER ANNUAL MEETING

HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE

FRAZIER AND LOUISVILLE SLUGGER MUSEUM

VIEW HISTORIC AND MODERN MILITARY VEHICLES

Wednesday, 9/25

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE

FORT KNOX MUSEUM/LUNCH WITH A SOLDIER

HAWAIIAN BANQUET

HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE

Louisville

Kentucky

2013



Louisville's premier dining, entertainment and retail destination. 4th Street Live! Here's where you go for fun nightlife. Lots of restaurants, watering holes, shops and many happy people out to have a good time.



Louisville's Amazing Big Four Bridge Now Open! People are flocking to the new walking, jogging and cycling span across the Ohio River. You can cross to the Indiana side and return. A more formal opening will happen later this year when the Indiana ramp is done.

ALL MEMBERS:

Please fill out and cut out the adjoining postcard and mail it to the association.

We are hoping to get a better consensus as to where the reunions should be held in the future.

We each have an indefinite number of possible reunions in our future, so we would like to accommodate our members the best possible way we can.

By sending in the card we can plan better and it by no means obligates you.



PLACE
32 CENT
STAMP

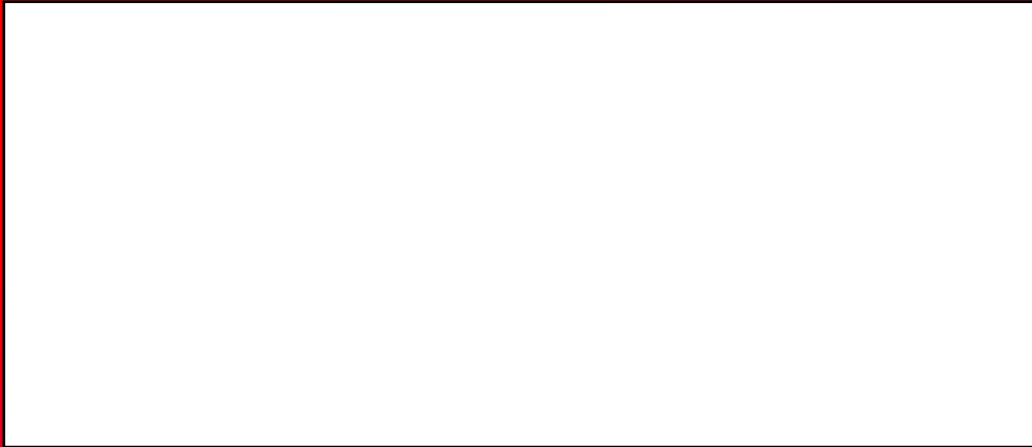
John Dunn, Sec'y/Treas.

24th Infantry Division Association
9150 Hwy 51
Westover, AL 35147



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

NON PROFIT U.S.
POSTAGE PAID
Permit #1040
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

This is the second use of the "built-in" postcard. The response so far has been "modest." Please give us your opinion.

If this prove to be useful we may use it in the future to poll members on other subjects.

If you have a suggestion as to how we might use the postcard for other queries, please let us know.

1. Do you approve of the policy of having out national reunions in a central location? YES () NO ()

2. Would you favor alternating locations between a central location and eastern or western cities? YES () NO ()

3. My preference for a reunion city is _____

4. Comment: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ email _____

Postcard Subject _____