

# TARD

24th Infantry Division Association

VICTORY



DIVISION

# LEAF

*"First to Fight"*

The National Museum of the U.S. Army



**"AN ARMY OF ONE" By Master Sergeant Henrietta Snowden**

**Volume 68 Issue No. 1**

**Winter, 2014**

# In This Issue

Cover: An Army of One.....	1
Contents, 24th IDA Officers, Directors, Staff	2
President Don Maggio's message .....	3
Editor David Valley's message .....	3
Letters .....	4-9
Looking For .....	9
Verbeck Nominations .....	9
To Aset the Record Straight .....	10
Waiting for Dawn .....	11
More Letters .....	12
Local Veterans All Served in 24th.....	13
A Philippine Farm .....	14
Beggars Island .....	15
11 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Book Review, "Boys..."	16
Website News .....	17
Lee Walker's Gallery .....	18
Students Honor Vets .....	19
West Regional Reunion.....	20
The Gimlet, a poem .....	21
South to the Naktong, North to the Yalu ....	22-25
U.S. Army Tries to Expand Franchise .....	26
Fallen Comrades .....	27
Quartermaster .....	28
Notices .....	29-30
What's Our Army Coming to?.....	31
Korean War Veteran Interviews .....	32
Reunions .....	33
Verbeck Award .....	34
Florida 24 <sup>th</sup> IDA Reunion.....	35

## Taro Leaf, Volume 68, Issue 1, Winter 2014<sup>th</sup>

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**COMING  
UP NEXT**

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**COVER:** This painting is from the National Museum of Army History, by on of the Army's dedicated artists, MSG Henrietta Snowden. A large collection of her paintings and sketches can be seen ON the Museum website.

**Greetings Fellow Taromen:**

As we move forward into 2014, let us not forget how the sacrifices made by our veterans have resulted in better lives for so many people in this world. As I am writing this, the Nation is facing an onslaught

of arctic air which has brought below freezing temperatures to every state, including Hawaii! This bone-chilling cold certainly brings back memories to those who served during the Korean War. Many of us "younger" veterans recall seeing black-and-white movie reel footage of the communists in their "quilted" winter uniforms. The cold was intense, chilling through the body's core. Our brave soldiers not only endured, their sacrifice laid the foundation for the Republic of South Korea. The South Korean people continue to praise and honor our veterans. A lawyer and law professor from Davao City, The Philippines, recently sent me an e-mail in hopes of establishing a line of communication with your Association. She expressed sincere thanks for the work the 24th Infantry Division did in liberating the Philippine Islands from the Japanese.

Michael Dogherty is assuming Wes Morrison's maintenance of the Honor Roll. This is an important position and we congratulate Mike's volunteering for this responsibility. Tom Thiel, Webmaster, would like to "retire" from this position. He suggests a person with good file management skills. And John Dunn would like to "retire" as Secretary/Treasurer. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions.

Please look at your address on the last page of this and the past issue of the Taro Leaf. The line above your name is a date such as 08/01/2014. That is the date your dues and membership expires. If you are in arrears please pay the past due amount and one year forward. Those whose dues are lapsed will lose their membership and no longer receive the Taro Leaf. Send your payments to John Dunn whose address is listed inside the front cover and the top left-hand corner of the back cover.

Save September 17 through 21, 2014 for our next reunion in Omaha, NE. Please note these dates are one day earlier than previously published. Mike Frederick is well on the way to finalizing the event and more information will be coming in future issues. We will be staying at the Omaha Marriott Hilton. They offer free airport shuttle service. We all hope to see you in Omaha! Best regards,

**Don Maggio**



**Greetings Comrades:** At this time my thoughts go to those of you caught up in the frigid arctic air. Not to rub it in, but we are comfortable here in San Diego and I'll soon be heading for the tennis courts. I'm blessed to be here and I know it. I grew up in Massachusetts and that, with the winter of '50-'51 in Korea, convinced me to live in a warmer place.

I wrote in the last issue I made the difficult decision to put my wife, Dottie, in a nursing home for Alzheimer's patients. She had a tough time adjusting, but now with proper medication she is healthy and seems content. It's sad that she barely knows me, but she is happy in her own world. I can't ask for more. I encourage anyone facing this situation with a loved one to heed your doctor's advice when the situation starts to get out of control. It's best for them and for you. I want to thank those who have written encouraging words and shared their own experiences. It's good to know you're not alone in your difficulties.

I've been adjusting to a new life as a single person. At first I was emotionally distraught and depressed, not a state which should be allowed to persist. It *ain't* healthy! There's no perfect cure for losing a loved one, as I have to Alzheimer's or more decisively by death, but the best remedy is to keep busy, find more to do to fill your time. I took the month of November to visit my son and family in the Philippines and I have gotten into two projects there. At home I'm getting more involved in singles groups and even started a new one on my own. At our age (speaking for a lot of you) every day is precious and deserves our effort to make the best of it. Gee, I'm beginning to sound like a preacher, sorry Glenn.

This coming September, 18-21, our national reunion will be in Omaha, NE. Those who plan to attend this event can follow the news in the Taro Leaf in this and upcoming issues. We especially want to encourage those who have never made it to a national reunion to take advantage of it this year. And also keep in mind the regional reunions which will also be posted here.

You may tire of reading it, but I want to encourage all of you to send your contributions to me for future issues. Your name in print in these pages will give you some satisfaction and may invite...who knows what...from other members.

May God bless you and keep you well,

**David Valley**

# Letters

**To: Don Magio, President:** Michael J. Doherty, (21st Infantry, Germany 66-67) of 1857 West 4th Street, Piscataway, NJ 08854, mcd5@optimum.net, a Life Member of the Association has agreed to take over the responsibilities of the Honor Roll. I have agreed to keep a duplicate copy of the Honor Roll and to assist him until he feels comfortable handling it himself.

It is requested that I also get a copy of any TAPS notices and that you give a copy of the Association roster to him. We have been in touch and reviewed some of the procedures but, each TAPS notice is different so we will be in constant touch on these matters. **Wes Morrison**

**Michael:** Thank you for volunteering for this important job! Let me know what I can do to help, but Wes has all the knowledge on this job. Best regards, **Don Maggio**

**From Newsclip** In 1963, I was a master sergeant in the 24th Infantry Division in Munich, Germany. In November, I and four other E-8s were on a liaison mission to our sister brigade in the German Army in Bad Reichenhall, Germany. About 7 p.m., we were celebrating when a young soldier came in and whispered to their 1st Sgt. He called his troops together and the place became dead quiet. He then told us that President Kennedy had been assassinated. We grabbed our gear and headed back to Munich where we were on alert. **James Ivey**, Green Valley, AZ  
*He is apparently not a member. Can someone contact him?*

## **Editor: 2013 Reunion Memorial Photo Book**

The subject book is now available on the Home and Reunion pages of [www.24thida.com](http://www.24thida.com). Feedback is solicited. Copies available. **Tom Thiel**

**Tom Thiel:** It is very impressive..Excellent job, **Tom Appller**

**Reunion Attendees:** Check this out, Tom Thiel did a wonderful job of putting this together. I'm sure everyone who attended would want a copy. **Editor**

**David,** My name is Fred Wagar and I am a member of the 24th IDA. I was reading the latest issue of the Taro Leaf and noted there is the Western Regional Reunion in Laughlin, NV. I live in Las Vegas and wanted to offer any assistance you may need. I served in the 24th ID '92-'96 in the 124th Intelligence Battalion as an Arabic Interrogator and spent most of my time in the Middle East and Somalia. I now work for the Department of Veterans Affairs assisting separating service members and veterans with their disability claims. It appears that the 24th IDA is mostly Korean War veterans, but I'd be glad to assist with the reunion if you would like. Feel free to contact me at your convenience. **Fred E. Wagar, Member**, 9161 Black Slate St Las Vegas, NV. 89123, (702) 463-9795 (H), (775) 857-9905 (C), (702) 653-2217 (W).

**Fred:** I appreciate your offer to help. It is most welcome. **David**

**Editor:** I am writing to you to ask if you would take Gilbert Hale off the mailing list for the Taro Leaf. He was a life member #951. My Dad past away in April of 1998. He retired at the age of 66 in January of 1998. Two months later was diagnosed with leukemia and past April 27th 1998. My father joined the army at the age of 17. He was one of the first 200 men over to Korea. We as a family always enjoyed listening to his experiences, some happy, others not so happy. We miss him greatly. My mom and dad were married for 48 years and had 6 children, our mom also passed in 2009. We have enjoyed reading the Taro leaf since his passing but now, please remove our address from the mailing list. Thank you.

**mmkcostello@windstream.net**

**Hello David,** In the latest Taro Leaf you noted that you have now placed your wife in a nursing home. I'm going through the same experience with my wife of 55 years. What I was wondering is "does the VA provide any assistance for nursing home care"? Right now I have a caregiver coming in for 6 days a week for 5 hours a day. I pay the full cost for this (\$23 per hour). I may soon need to put her in a nursing home. Eskaton here runs from \$3800 per month up to \$9000 per month depending on the care required. That's why I wondered if the VA would provide any help. Thanks for your input. **George Peifer**

**George:** I recommend you contact the nearest VFW and ask for their Service Officer. He will be able to help or point you in the right direction. You might also contact one of our members, Fred, (adjoining letter) who works for the VA. Another possibility is to get advice from a financial planner in your local area who is familiar with the programs available from your State. **David**

## **Linn County Leader, Brookfield, MO, December, 1954**

**Pfc. Nat L. Serfass**, 21, son of Walter F. Serfass, Rothville, recently left Korea, with the 24th Infantry Division which has been assigned to Hakata, Japan. The Victory Division has been in the Far East since World War II. Serfass, a squad leader in the 34th Regiment's Heavy Mortar Company, has been overseas 14 months. He entered the Army in March 1953. (Recently on the internet, Ed.)

**Hi All:** Maybe you all have seen this already, but here's a link to "Men in War" – a full-length movie made 1957 about Korean War. The first thing I noticed was their Taro patches...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VM7fxJ-Cbo>

## **Merry Helm, Historian**

Thanks Merry, I opened the link on my computer and found the film, but I think I'll try to get a DVD of it rather than try to watch it on the small computer screen. **David**

**Dear E-Mail Gang:** Tomorrow will be my 39th treatment (radiation), last day of it. I am sorry if I missed some of your mail, but at the end of the day, I am just too tired to read them all. I had to delete over 300 hundred and hopefully, none of those needed a reply. I will take a PSA every three months for the next 4 years. The treatments are painless and take between 3 to 5 minutes. I'm the same old Joe whose faith is just as strong as I know God will see me through this. I love all "youse muggs."

**Joe Langone**



**Editor:** I have 80 or so digital pics (scanned from slides - I still have the original slides) taken by my father in the Korean War. He was a Lt (Lt Ralph C. Blow, 1914-1984) at the time, and the pics are in the timeframe before the Chinese came into the war. The pics are of various US and ROK troops, refugees, countryside destruction, etc. My father was with the 24th Infantry Division Replacement Company. He was captured at the Chosin Reservoir by the Chinese, but managed to escape and make it back to friendly lines. Is there an organization that would be interested in having any of these pics? I have attached one of my father with a Unit sign. Thanks, **Mathew Blow**, Lt, USCGR Retired. matt <ttamwolb@yahoo.com>



**Tom Thiel:** Good evening and Happy New Year. I have communicated with you before and I am the son of life member Russell G. Arnold #104. I had printed off the list of Taro Leafs Needed from the Vol 67, Issue 3, Summer 2013 issue. Long story short, Dad has let me borrow his huge stack of Taro Leaf magazines dating back to Jan 1953. I will look at the issues and sort them and be in touch by comparing to the online issues on the website. Best wishes to all and I am very glad to assist in getting a complete list for you. Sincerely, **Mark Arnold** ontario1994@aol.com

**Editor: David J. Valley, 19th RGT**

First allow me to thank you and the 24th Infantry Division for your role in liberating Davao City during World War II. I am a lawyer, professor of law at Ateneo de Davao University and an elected official of Barangay Talomo.

It is heart warming to note that the place where I am serving as elected official right now is at the very place where your division saw action during WWII. I thank you very much for that. I hope we can establish communications.

Best regards, **Atty. Rene Alexis P. Villarente**, Ateneo de Davao University, E. Jacinto Street, Davao City Tel No. (63)(82)2971543 Cell 09267521771



**David:** Here are some more pictures from Korea, 1951. Please use what you want for the Taro Leaf and send the rest to Merry Helm, our historian. **Marvin Reed, 21st AAA**, Life Member #2002, 2900 Right Hand Cyn. Rd., Palomino Valley, NV 89510-9300 tel. 775-475-0290

**Marvin:** Will do. The picture above shows Marvin (right) with Bill Rentzman, July 1951, near Chun Chon, Korea. **David**

**Merry Helm:** Here's some good info about POWs, from Korean War, I thought you might be interested to see. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdKbZKICHs8> **Richard Downes**, Executive Director (Lt. Hal Downes, MIA 1952) Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs P.O. Box 4194 Portsmouth, NH 03802

**Thanks, Rick.** Great detective work. I wasn't expecting to see live interviews with ex-POWs.

Don Schmincke, the first POW interviewed for the film, was a medic in the 21st Regiment, 24th ID. He was captured July 12, 1950 – a very bad day. He survived the Tiger Death March, but he passed away in 1996.

The next patient, PFC Eugene W. Reid, was from Virginia. He was in 7th Regiment, 3rd Division, captured April 1951.

The third interviewee was, of course, General William Dean, 24th ID.

The fourth is Lt. Robert S. Wood and, as he mentions, he was with 8th Cavalry Regiment, captured at Unsan on November 2, 1950.

Number five is PVT James Wendling, Easy Co, 5th RCT, 24th ID, captured April 22, 1951. Died 1999.

General Mark Clark did a great job at the end. Television was stilted in the 1950s, but that's to be expected... Thanks for tracking this down. **Merry**



**John Dunn,**

I would like to fill you in on some of the 24th Infantry Division Personnel from the Pacific during WWII who went to Camp Hakata, Fukuoka Japan as part of the occupation forces. From there to Korea, then to Fort Polk, LA, and finally to San Antonio, Texas.

Let's start at the beginning. There may still be a few around who may have been with WWII General Roscoe Woodruff of the 24th Infantry Division. Now, I will move forward just a bit.

Recall Task Force Smith. A total of 540 members, some from the 21st Regt and others from the 52d Field Artillery who were the first to enter Korea. The mission was to slow the advancing North Koreans. The Battery Commander of the artillery unit was Lt Duane Scott.

Now back to Camp Hakata. It was the home of all of the 24th Division Artillery. Our Commanding General was H.J. Meyer. His Aide was Lt Tom Rogers. Shortly, all of this will come together.

By late 1951, just about all of the Kyushu's 24th had rotated. Enter Lt. Dewey Coles arriving at Ft Polk, Louisiana. Upon my arrival, Capt Tom Rogers met me and brought me to report to General Meyer, the XV Corps Artillery Commander. Tom was still the General's Aide.

I was surprised that General Meyer remembered me. The majority of the conversation was explaining our trip north to the Yalu River and then the trip south. He said it reminded him of the trip up and down in July '50.

I joined an artillery battery in North Fort Polk and was with it for a few months. Tom Rogers told me about Duane Scott. He was the Aide to the Corps Commander, General Woodruff. The three of us managed to get together. That was fun.

It was shortly thereafter that I was reassigned to the Corps headquarters. For the next two years, we three stayed close. There were only two Lieutenants in the Corps Headquarters. Building. I was in G3 and the other in G4.

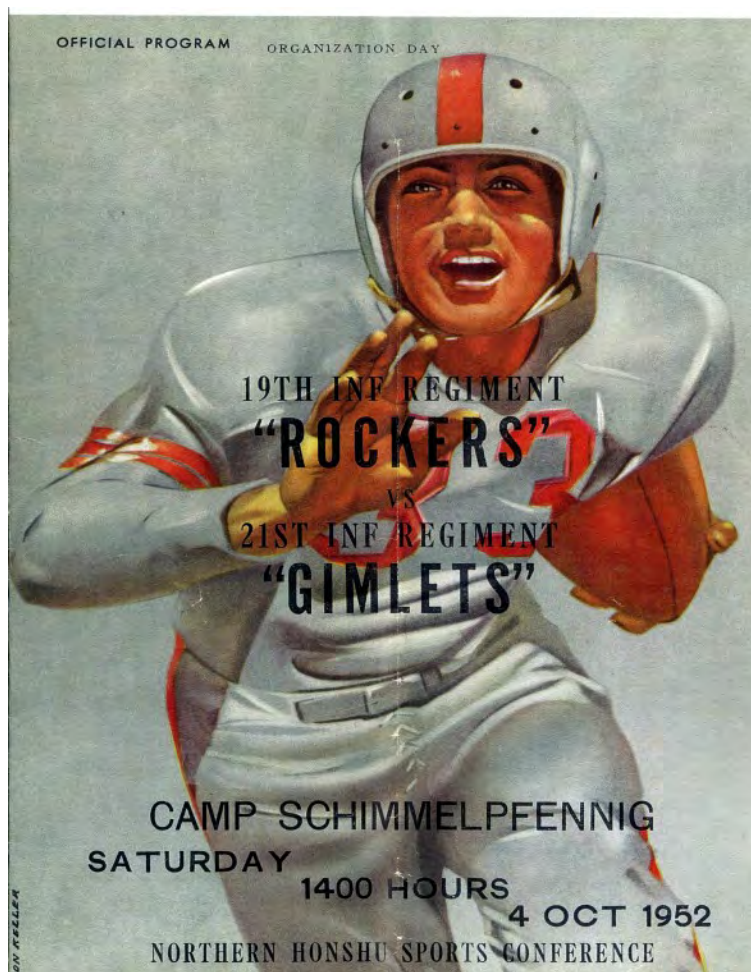
Now the 24<sup>th</sup> Reunion in Columbus, Ohio in 1952. I'm adding a picture. A group of Taro Leafers were rounded up. We flew to Columbus. I am in the 2nd row directly behind the two guys wearing ties.

Well over 20 years ago, we were visiting friends in San Antonio. They had been our next door neighbors while at Polk. He, Harold Floyd, had been the Medical Service Officer at Camp Hakata around 1948-49. The timing of the visit was perfect. We were there for a reunion of the Hakata group. Approximately 20 plus were in attendance. I remembered a few who were there when I arrived. Most had been there from early occupation days. As a matter of fact, neither Harold nor I knew the other had been at Hakata during occupation days until the S.A. reunion came about.

Often times we hear people say "It's a small world" when talking about seeing people after many years. I guess what I have mentioned here shows that "it's a small 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association."

**Dewey Coles**, Member, 130 Oak Dr., Breaux Bridge, LA 70517-4852 tel. 318-332-2057





## GIMLET TEAM, 21ST REGIMENT

<b>C</b> Lyons 44	4 1 Petee. Wilford
<b>QB</b> Danks 16	42 Schevermann, R.
<b>FB</b> Hall 27	43 Maliski, Paul
<b>RG</b> Gavam 10	44 Lyons, Leonard
<b>RT</b> Malik 60	45 CoanKello. S.
<b>RE</b> Cunningham 51	47 Filers, Jay
<b>LE</b> Keehn 50	48 Poitivant, Roland
<b>LT</b> Mays 61	49 Miller, Larry
<b>LHB</b> Haghes 24	50 Keehn, Ludwig
<b>RHB</b> Byard 26	51 Cunningham, J.
<b>LG</b> Schevermann 42	52 Davis, Melviu
16 Danks, Thomas	5J Little, Okey
17 Thomas, Robert	54 Rodgers, Jim
19 Bracey, Wilbert	55 Ikilki'.s John
24 Hughes, Robert	56 Katalinicb, Joe
25 Lemer, James	59 Green Freather, R
26 Byard, Milton	60 Malik, Henry
27 Hall, Marvin	61 Mays, Carl
31 DeFranco, Joseph	62 Pierangeli, V.
33 Hogge, Lawrence	63 Fisher, Charlie
34 Llances, William	64 Myers, John
35 Gosert, Robert	65 Schultz, Pete
36 Bagley, George	66 Plummer, David
39 Sanders, John	67 Krynicki, Bernerd
40 Garan, George	f8 Tiedeken, Richard

## TARO TIPS - BY HAMBURG



### Referee:

Capt Leroy S. Stewart  
Columbia Univ.

### Umpire:

Mr. Wm. Katrishen,  
Mississippi Southern

### Field Judge:

Lt Col Francis Gregg  
New York Univ.

### Head Linesman:

Mr. Thomas Petrus  
Ohio Univ.

### Head Timer

Capt Howard Smith  
Army, Ball

## ROCKERS TEAM 19TH REGIMENT

<b>LHB</b> Samela 33	71 Hackaett, Robert S.
<b>C</b> Anderson 66	54 Evans, James L.
<b>QB</b> Patterson 23	31 Shrum, William E.
<b>FB</b> Nimon 22	61 Gilmore, Robert
<b>RG</b> Gilts 44	49 Birnstengel, Richard
<b>RT</b> Vanderloon 64	47 Thomas, Herbert H.
<b>RE</b> Braky 41	42 Read, Rodger
<b>RHB</b> Sullivan 59	69 Fletcher, Jack F.
<b>LE</b> Drilling 43	53 Tiso, Geatano A.
<b>LT</b> Maghakain 63	48 Guindon, Roy E.
<b>LG</b> Read 42	63 Maghakain, John
70 Glasso, Vito	23 Patterson, Francis
37 Erskine, Stafford	22 Nimon, Jack
59 Sullivan, Raymond J.	25 Stiner, Jack R.
58 Vath, Henry G.Jr.	24 Lawson, Arthur
40 Decarlo, Raymond A.	33 Samela, Leonard T.
5o Jesberger, Leon L.	41 Braky, Richard E.
52 Wallace, Eugene	60 Picken, Herman P.
64 Vanderloon, Eugene	35 Adair, Allen C.
45 Jones, Robert P.	39 Cross, George B.
66 Anderson, Robert W.	62 Clowser, Richard J.
43 Drilling, Richard D.	38 Crocker, Raymond
44 Gilts, Roy A.	67 Columbo, Thomas

Thanks to **Harvey L. Zimmerman, 24 th Med, Life Member #1510**, who sent one of the original play bills to me. This must have been an interesting because of the rivalry between the regiments and considering the players were a tough crew, many of who had survived combat in Korea. Harvey can be contacted at Box 356, Christianburg, OH 45389.

**David:** We tried to make traps in order to stop tanks. This was the largest and best one we made at Schofield Barracks. We were the 11th Tank Company. This tank had a nine-cylinder radial engine. I came to Hawaii in 1939. **Robert "Bob" Maher, Sr., Member,** 14419 Holiday Dr. Kp N, Gig Harbor, WA 98329-5126



**Dear David:** I read your comments in the latest Taro Leaf and wanted to drop you a line. We are sorry for your wife's illness, and the difficult decisions that are necessary in such a situation. My wife and I just celebrated our own 60th wedding anniversary, and fortunately both of us enjoy good health. We often are aware of those around us, approximately the same age or even younger, who have not fared as well. We thank the Lord for our good fortune every day.

I had just finished reading an article from a local paper, The Fishwrapper, in which the author of the main story dealt with this very topic. I thought her viewpoints may be of meaning and assistance to you as well, so will enclose it for your benefit. In closing I also wish to express my personal gratitude to Tom Thiel for his steadfast and dedicated work as Webmaster. Although I do not know him personally, I have been keenly aware of his many years of dedication to this Association, first as Taro Leaf Editor and more recently as Webmaster. Tom has also certainly earned the thanks and praise of every member!

**George F. Lance, Member,** 319 Valley Road, Etters, PA 17319 tel. 717-938-6480 email: patlance@aol.com

**David:** I have been a member of the assoc. for five years. I served near the DMZ in bunkers and trenches and at the compound, Village Pagot-Ri. I looked over the Imjin River near Freedom Bridge for a year in 1957. Went over "Chunchon in 1958 to help guard old airstrip. We're bringing 4 missel from Japan. Saw one "Honest John" rocket leave the pad. I was in 1st squad, 1st platoon, Able Co, **34th RGT.** I called one Taroman from Kalamazoo, MI last week. I would to hear from others who served in '57-'58. **Ernest E. Wickline, Member,** 413 Monroe St. Mt. Hope, WV 25880 tel. 304 877-5298

**Editor:** My name is Joe V. Patterson, I served with A Co, **19th RGT** in Korea, 1951-1953. I went up Komwa (sp?) Valley from Incheon to Hill 547. I was also in Japan at Camp Schimmelpfennig. I'm looking for anyone who served in the unit at that time. Thank you. **Joe Patterson, Member,** 608 K 20 Highway, Horton, KS, 66439 tel. 785 817-1949

**Hi David:** Nice story about you and your M-1. I'll tell you mine. Several years ago while I was in the VA Hospital waiting room I was reading my latest issue of the "American Rifleman" which had the M-1 on the cover. A man nearby asked me about my interest in guns. I told him I used to carry one and would like to have one again. He asked if I would like to buy one and would \$25 would be too much! I quickly said no. He later called with his address. About this time I'm thinking this M-1 is probably junk, but it was like new. I test fired it and it wouldn't cycle, but I changed the blow-back piston and cured it. I wanted to put a scope on it and left it with a neighbor who said he could do that. Later he claimed someone stole it!

Strangely, the only time I carried an M-1 was when in basic training at Camp Roberts, CA. In Korea I was assigned to 21st AAA and was issued a M-1 carbine. Back in the States at Fort Irwin I was a supply clerk and didn't have to do many formations. I don't recall what I had for a weapon. I do remember a time I was Soldier of the Month and got to carry the guide-on when on parade. My home was only three hours away, so that was a good assignment for me. Looking back, I served with a great bunch of men! But to me it is a bit strange that none of us have stayed in touch. As many times my name has been in the Taro Leaf and Graybeards, no contact. Maybe some, especially draftees, don't want to be reminded of their service. You are doing a great job with the Taro Leaf, David. Keep it up.

**Marvin Reed, Life Member #2002,** 2900 Right Hand Canyon Road, Reno NV 89510





## Nominate Your Choice for the 2014 Verbeck Award

### Nominating Committee

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410-746-3412 (C)

Glen Carpenter, Chaplain  
21st RGT.. 231-266-5283

Mel Frederick 19th RGT., Director  
760-772-7909-W 507-455-1639-S

Gene Spicer, 19th RGT, Director  
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John Burgess, 13th FA. Life Member  
954-494-1443

**July 15, 2014**, is the final date for you to nominate that member you feel most merits the Association's prestigious Verbeck Award. This Award recognizes that Association member who best displays Bill Verbeck's love for the 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Use the postcard on the back page for your entry.**

## Looking For

**Editor: Arthur Brown, 24th ID.** Art was my oldest brother who I never met. I would like to learn more about him while in the Army and more about him as a POW. My three other older brothers are now deceased and they used to attend conventions trying to learn information. If you recall him please share with me. My grandchildren chose to honor him in a class Veterans Day school project but would have liked more personal information if it is available. Nancy Brown Arunakul, baby sister **Nancy Arunakul**

**Editor:** I am seeking information about my Uncle, Captain Gerald S. Kidd, who was killed in an airplane crash at Atami, Shizuoka-ken, Japan, on August 14, 1953. At the time he was Section Chief, Headquarters Company Aviation Section, 24th Infantry Division. He had enlisted in the Army at age 18 or 19 while he was living with my family in Washington State but was a native of Kansas. He went to officer school after the start of WWII and served in Europe during that war and later in Korea and Japan. I have the record of his awards and decorations and would like to have more information if possible. He had lived with my family, due to the death of his parents and was more like a brother than an uncle.  
**George Robison, 14017 56th Ave. NW, Gig Harbor WA 98332**  
georgerobison@centurytel.net

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I'm sending this message from my iPad. Here we are in the middle of January. We've had plenty of snow. The wind chill got to 45 degrees below zero. I'm still working with my son and his group who have PTSD and tbi. Everything is going fine.

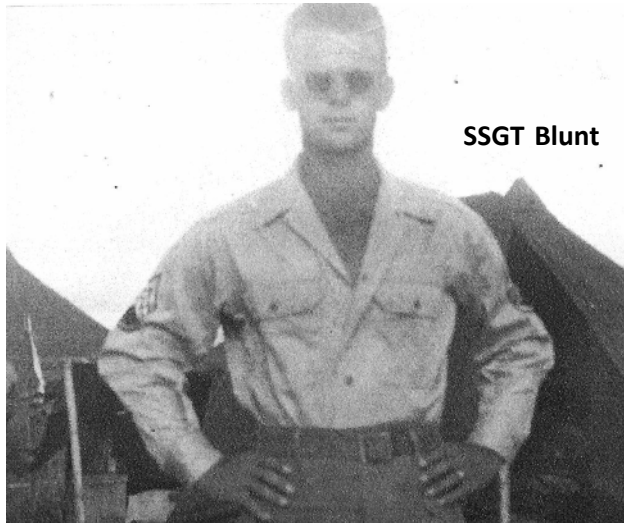
I selected these verses, Psalm 27-4,5 for the this issue of the Chaplain's Corner.

**One thing I ask from the Lord,  
this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord  
and to seek him in his temple.**

**For in the day of trouble  
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;  
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred  
tent  
and set me high upon a rock.**

Chaplain Glen Carpenter

# To Set the Record Straight



**SSGT Blunt**

To set the record straight, this article was taken from the 24th Division history book, and it is incorrect. I was one of the squad leaders in that operation. Lt. Naegle was ordered, under threat of a court martial, to proceed with the two squads to engage the Japanese without mortar support. That was a bad decision by Capt. Dallas Dick the company commander. I was wounded in the upper leg in three places, two close to my crotch and one in the outer side of my leg not in my lower leg.

**SGT Charles Blunt, Squad Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, C Company, 19 RGT, 24th ID.**

"Next, the 19th Regiment turned its attention to two islands in the Sibuyan Sea, east of Mindoro, Simara and Romblon, which are about 25 miles apart.

The plan was for reinforced companies of the 1st Battalion to land simultaneously on each of the islands on the night of 11-12 March. The expected surprise, it was hoped, would offset the disadvantages of darkness, heavy seas and rain squalls.

The rubber-raft landing on Romblon by C Company 19th went off well, but poor visibility and mixed signals from guerrillas ashore forced troops to delay the invasion of Simara until dawn.

The fighting on both islands was difficult and costly. The company assigned to Simara took 10 days to clear the island of the stubborn enemy, killing 120 but losing 10 dead and 20 wounded of its own. That company, leaving the rest of the job to the Filipinos, moved over to Romblon to help conclude that operation.

After the landing, C Company riflemen engaged in house-to-house fighting and drove the Japanese out of the town of Romblon and into the hills. An American patrol, maintaining contact with the enemy, was cut off and pinned down by the Japanese, who held the high ground.

A relief patrol poured enough fire into Japanese positions to allow the first unit to escape with their casualties, but the Chicks remained at a disadvantage to the Japanese holding the crest of the hill.

Mortarmen laid down a barrage and drove the enemy off the top, enabling C Company to charge up the height. Lieutenant William C. Naegle leading the unit received orders by radio to pursue the enemy.

With no heavy weapons support available, Lt Naegle moved his platoon into position to resist an expected Japanese attack. He placed Sergeant Charles E. Blunt's first squad on the right, a machine gun squad with Roy Welch, gunner in the center, and the second squad on the left. Despite laying down a base of fire, the platoon came under heavy fire from Japanese snipers and a machine gun as a Japanese officer waved his Samurai sword to signal a banzai charge.

With several men already killed and wounded, the first platoon started moving back toward the beach. Sergeant Blunt, although wounded in the lower leg by a grenade, led his squad down a steep ravine to avoid the Japanese attack. Sitting down facing four directions the squad waited while Japanese soldiers beat the brush with machetes looking for them. When darkness came Blunt led his squad to the beach. Blunt and one of his squad members, PFC Gene Welch, who was also wounded, recovered together in a makeshift hospital and later in a field hospital on Mindoro.

The 19th Infantry troops put down the island's last resistance on 3 April with a loss of 15 killed and 35 wounded. About 140 Japanese were killed."

*This concludes the official report of the battle as taken from the 24th ID History. Editor*

# "Waiting For Dawn"

December 1, 1950, an excerpt from John Baker's book



Harry DeNofio

I think it was Dec. 1, 1950. I woke up in a snow bank at daybreak, cold and hungry. Every bone in my body ached. I was not sure I could get up from where I was lying. But that was the least of my problems; I could hear artillery echoes in the distance from all directions. The question was, "whose artillery?"

A few yards from me were three dead American soldiers, half covered with snow. I turned one of them over; he was lying on his M-1 rifle. I picked up his weapon, pulled back the bolt halfway. One round was in the chamber and one in the clip. I let the bolt go forward, pulling the trigger twice to make sure the weapon worked. The soldier had two bandoliers full of ammunition tied around his waist. I used my bayonet to cut the strings removing the bandoliers from underneath him. I checked the pockets of his parka; luck was with me, two cans of c-rations. I felt around his neck for his dog tag chain and removed the tag from the extension chain. I held the tag in my left hand, made the sign of the cross, read his name out loud, and said "Soldier, rest in peace." I repeated the same for the other two. I must have plowed through three hours of snow, still picking up dog tags as I went, knowing it would snow again; all those bodies would be covered up and never seen again.

It was three PM. I saw an American; he was vertical! My heart leaped with joy, a live one. He was at port-arms

with bayonet. A shot rang out; saw the American fall backwards into the snow. Dropped down on my left knee, putting the carbine on full automatic. I could see no one. Then out of nowhere, a Chinese soldier running with rifle and bayonet, just yards from the American. Took aim, pulled the trigger. I saw the Chinese soldier fly backwards.

Plowing through the snow towards the American, hoping he was still alive. Got to him, I shouted "why didn't you shoot that bastard?" He laughed, "out of ammo." "Where you hit?" "Right chest."

"Soldier, do you have any morphine shots?" "No." "O.K., put these two units under your left arm pit. They're frozen and have to defrost so they will work."

I was applying the medical pad to his chest when he yelled out "Johnny!! It's me!! Harry DeNofio." I couldn't see his face. The fur on the top of the parka was covering his helmet and face. Pushing away the fur, sure enough, it was Harry. I laughed, "Harry, what the hell are you doing here? My sister Margie wrote. You were wounded?" "Yeah, in September!" "So, why are you still here in Korea?" "Oh, that. A machine gun bullet went right through my thigh. I sent the Purple Heart medal to mom back home." "Harry, a Purple Heart should have been your ticket home."

"Oh, O.K. Johnny." "Harry, give me one of those morphine units." I gave Harry the morphine shot in the right shoulder, then I cut a mobius strip of material off my parka. Made a medical sling around his neck and around his arm to keep it in one place. Took my medical pack, applied it to his stomach wound. The blood on his stomach was frozen.

"Harry, do you know where you are?" "Yeah, North Korea!" "Point to the south." "Johnny, I'm lost." "Yeah, me too. Harry, I have to get you to a hospital!" "Johnny, how many morphine shots do you have?" "Four in my pocket and one under your left armpit!" "How long are they good for?" "Four hours."

"Johnny, when I go home, I want to prove to the people back home in Cedarville that Italians are good Americans. We're not afraid to fight!" "Harry, you don't have to prove anything; to anyone, anywhere! To hell with them, hold your head up high!"

"Harry, we have two choices. I can pick you up and carry you and hope we run into an American unit or wait until daybreak and see the sun rise. Then I know exactly what direction to go." "Johnny, you know the Chinese shoot prisoners of war?" "Yep" "So Johnny, let's not go carrying me into the Chinese, O.K.?"

"Johnny, I feel great, there's no pain." "That's the morphine working, Harry. I'm going over and strip the Chinese of his clothing. Here's my .45 pistol. It's cocked, (See next page)



*(Continued from (from previous page)*

round in the chamber. Safety's off. Hold it with your left hand, in case of visitors, Chinese type!"

I stripped the Chinese of his padded coat and pants. All he had on his feet was material strips wrapped around and up his legs. He was stiff as a board. I returned to Harry and put the padded pants under him and the padded coat over him. The temperature was minus 30 degrees in the day time. No one knew how cold it was at night. According to China and North Korea International statistics 1950-51, November, December, and January, was the coldest winter in one hundred years. No wonder I could never get warm. I shivered all the time. In North Korea it was miserable.

"Johnny, do you think our Moms are burning candles and praying at the church for us?" "Oh yeah, morning, afternoon, and evening. In fact, the rate our moms are burning candles at the church, they will have to build another candle factory in Rome just to keep up with our mothers' prayers. And hope our moms don't wear out their rosary beads. Harry laughed, "That's a good one Johnny. That makes me feel good and warm inside."

We reminisced about our childhood days, all night while "Waiting for Dawn." There we were, huddled together in a snow bank trying to stay alive, not knowing what the next 12 hours would bring. Life or death; that would depend on the Chinese. I had one can of C-rations left, 1943, frozen. It would be a long night. *(Excerpt ends here)*

**Waiting For Dawn. The book is dedicated to Baker's friend, Harry DeNofio, 27th Inf., 25th Infantry Division.**

#### **Epilogue:**

When dawn broke, Baker carried Harry DeNofio until they found some American troops. By that time, Harry had died. Mr. Baker left Harry and the pocketful of dog tags he had collected with a medic. He went on with another unit. He later learned that the medic and his unit had been killed by the North Koreans. Harry DeNofio and those who had owned the dog tags that Mr. Baker collected remained classified as MIA, missing in action, because their bodies were not found and there was no record of their deaths. These men were officially listed as "presumed dead" in January, 1954. **John Baker, Life Member #2061**, 839 Newton St., Monterey, CA 93940-9394

#### **Dear David:**

Just a note to let you know that we mourn with you for your actions with Dottie. It's tragic after 60 years to have to put your loved one in a nursing home. The recent Taro Leaf was, as usual, a good one, we enjoyed reading it. If you can find time, come to visit us if you are in the area. Would love to see you. As of now we plan to be at the reunion in Laughlin in March.

**Ben and Beverly Allen.**

**Ben:** Thanks for the note. I see Dottie frequently and she is happy in her own world. I'm more contented now knowing I did the right thing. Hope to see you soon. **David**

## Letters

#### **Dear David,**

You noted in the last Taro Leaf that you'd like some memorable stories for future publications. The following immediately came to mind and I pass it along for what ever it is worth.

I entered Korea in late 1953, arriving at Inchon and making my way south on a troop train all the way to Pusan. From there it was a landing craft ride to Koje Island, where the exchange of prisoners had just been completed.

I was one of the first new arrivals to be interviewed by a sergeant from the Personnel Section, who asked if I could type. I responded that I had one year of typing in high school, but never got past 35 words a minute. He repeated his question: "can you type." I responded I could in a very limited fashion and was immediately assigned to his Personnel Section, taking care of the personnel records for two line companies. And that is where I spent the next eleven months of duty before shipping home.

Some months later we moved up near the 38th parallel to relieve another regiment. The Personnel Section was housed in a quonset hut style building, which was isolated up on a hill overlooking the Regimental area. It had a plywood floor that echoed every footstep, and a wooden front door that served as the entrance and exit point. It was almost impossible to close without shaking the end wall and making a loud reverberating sound.

The Warrant Officer in charge had his office on a raised platform at the rear end of the hut. We traveled to work each day in the back of 6x6, on a dirt road leading to our building. When inside the building you could hear every vehicle as it made its approach or departure.

The story: One day we heard a jeep coming up the road and stop outside. A brand new second lieutenant came through the front door and demanded to see whoever was in charge of the company to which he had been assigned. He was directed to that individual and thus began a heated discussion. Finally, after the lieutenant had fully expressed his disappointment or disgust (I'm not sure which) he stormed out of the building, with each footstep pronounced extra loudly on the plywood floor, and slammed the wooden door behind him. The whole building shook from the slam. We heard the jeep start and trail away down the road.

Unknown to most of us, and certainly the 2nd lieutenant officer, the Regimental Commander happened to be up in the office/platform speaking to the Warrant Officer in charge. The commander had obviously witnessed the entire display of bad temperament. The commander waited a short while and then called headquarters, asking for the lieutenant by name. His verbal request was that the lieutenant "please return to the Personnel Section and close the front door properly."

*(Next page, lower)*

# Local Veterans all served in the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

Paul McArdle of Summit Hill is a roofer. He's had his business a long time. He's always had an insignia on his truck for the U.S. Army's 24th Infantry Division, the unit he served in during the Vietnam era. He was stationed in Germany. He was installing a roof on a West Amidon Street residence a couple of years ago when Mario Iezzoni, a neighbor to McArdle's customer, noticed the sticker.



Iezzoni also served in the 24th Infantry Division, but during the Korean War. Bernard Markey of Summit Hill, a post-man at the time, delivered mail. He noticed that McArdle and Iezzoni both got the "Taro Leaf" magazine, the official publication of the 24th Infantry. Markey also had served in the unit. He served with the 24th in Korea right after the Korean War ended. He contacted McArdle and Iezzoni and the three became close friends. This week, the trio got together and shared stories about their military experiences. The 24th Infantry Division, nicknamed the Victory Division, was formed Feb. 1, 1921, at the Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. The division insignia is based on the taro leaf, emblematic of Hawaii, and 24th Division soldiers are often referred to as 'Taromen'.

Iezzoni, 80, made a career in the military, retiring as a sergeant major. He served in Korea from January 1951 until January 1952. He saw the most combat of the three veterans. He recalled that on his first day of duty in Korea, a gunner and assistant; gunner close to him got hit by enemy fire, he was an arms bearer. On that first day when I started receiving fire, he said. I crawled into a small crevice between two rocks. I was there for one or two hours. The enemy was on the other side and kept

firing. He fired at me at least 25 times and missed every time." It was a snowy, foggy, chilly night. One of the platoons chased the enemy away. In one stretch, he was in combat 55 days in a row. Another time, the Chinese counter-attacked his unit and hit four or five men. "They were

firing all over the place," Iezzoni recalled, noting that some bullets even flew between his legs. Miraculously, he wasn't hit. "I wound up coming home without a Purple Heart," he said. "I got scrapes." He said he sustained shrapnel in the head, legs, and foot, but no serious injuries. He did receive numerous awards including the Bronze Star.

Markey, 77, was in Korea from 1954 to 1956. The war had ended in June 1953. "My tour there was no where near as exciting as his," he said of Iezzoni. He said he was trained as a radio operator but never got to use that skill. Instead he drove Jeeps for an Air Force lieutenant. He recalled two interesting events in Korea. One time he was picked up by Jack Sovitsky of Lansford. Another time, Gino Poll of Coal Dale gave him a ride.

McArdle, 69, was in Germany in 1963-1965. He was a teletype operator specializing in Morse Code. He said he made a lot of friends in Germany and still keeps in touch with some of them after 48 years.

**By RON GOWER, Times-News, PA**  
[www.thonline.com](http://www.thonline.com)  
[rgower@tnonline.com](mailto:rgower@tnonline.com)

*(From previous page)* Word about his request quickly spread among we clerks. Sure enough, a short time later we heard the approach of a jeep on the road. It stopped outside but the engine remained running. A few moments later the front door opened about a third of the way, and then gently closed again.

The jeep departed down the road and that was the end of the incident. We all got a chuckle out of the happenings and I always get a smile on my face when I think about it.

A lesson learned: As time moved on in life, I also realized that the commander had passed along an important and valuable lesson to not only the lieutenant, but for each one of us who were witnesses.

By his method of handling the situation he demonstrated that the 2nd lieutenant's rank was not very important in

the overall scheme of things, and he was just another guy in a place he'd rather not be. The bars on his shoulders did not make him more important than anyone else.

But the commander also did not force the lieutenant to re-enter and face him - or any of us face to face. Instead, he made his point and set the lieutenant on the correct course without "stepping on his shoe shine." He allowed him to save face.

As a supervisor of many people throughout my subsequent 40 years in the private work world, I valued such lessons many times over. My Army Leadership School plus practical lessons learned along the way in the military served me well for all that time. It was time well spent.

**George F. Lance**, Member, 319 Valley Road, Etters, PA 17319 tel. 717-938-6480 email: [patlance@aol.com](mailto:patlance@aol.com)



**K CO, 19th RGT in the Davao  
"Victory Parade," 1945**

the squad leader gave the order for us to pull back about fifty yards and set up a line of fire. Another soldier and I grabbed Eddie's pack straps and dragged him back to the shade of a tree in the rear. Then we took up our positions on the line.

I was lying in a shallow depression about six inches deep with only a lone cornstalk for shade. As the

## A Philippine Farm...

My squad moved cautiously out of the jungle and slowly across the clearing. We were high up in the Mindanao hills in the last big mop-up campaign in the Philippines. The scene spread before us was one of peace and quiet. In the center of a cornfield sat a small bamboo farm house with its palm-thatched roof. To the right of the field was a deep ravine choked with dense growth of the tropical jungle. The far end and left side of the field were hedged by dense green foliage of a banana grove. In the heat of the midday sun an atmosphere of drowsiness and peace prevailed over the scene.

We spread out in a thin gray-green skirmish line and advanced cautiously across the field. A dog, sleeping in the shade of the bamboo shack, roused and went trotting across the clearing to disappear in the banana grove. No other sign of life was visible. As the squad approached the edge of the banana grove, our automatic rifle (BAR) gunner suddenly dropped to one knee and began to sweep the dense foliage with bullets. The heavy cracking of the Browning was echoed by a thin staccato of a Japanese Nambu machine gun. As if controlled by a giant force, the advancing line fell flat and began to return the fire.

When I pressed my carbine to my cheek and squeezed the trigger, nothing happened. My gun had jammed. The realization of what was happening had not yet made its impression on my mind. I fished the jammed cartridges from my weapon and looked around to see what the rest of the squad was doing. A few yards to my left, the BAR gunner was crouching in the dirt and firing as rapidly as he could reload. Beyond him lay Eddie, my tent mate from the previous night, stretched out with his head in a pool of blood. His life was slowly staining the Philippine dust. The rapidity of it all, the newness of it all, filled my mind leaving no time to be afraid.

After a few minutes, which seemed like an eternity,

seconds grew into minutes and the firing increased, I began to think of a farm back in Kansas, and how different it was from this one. I thought of Mom and Dad and of all I planned to do when I got out of the army. And last of all, I thought of Eddie lying there in the pool of blood as his life ebbed away. For the first time in my life I began to know fear.

As I lay there and looked around I began to notice things I had hardly seen before. The jungle-choked ravine could hide untold numbers of Nips waiting for an opportune moment to spring upon us. The dense foliage of the banana grove furnished perfect camouflage for the wily Jap. It shut off from our sight any glimpse of the hidden machine gunner, and left us shooting blindly. The once peaceful farm with its cornfields and gardens was suddenly transformed into a shooting gallery with my squad as targets. The flat open field that had been such a relief to the men after wrestling with the tangled creepers of the jungle was ironically turned into a gallery of hell. For us, it afforded very little concealment and no cover. The sun burned pitilessly down upon the men stretched in the open, but they dared not move for fear of attracting the enemy fire.

By the time a tank came to blow up the edge of the banana grove, I had drank my two canteens of water and was almost overcome by nausea. The fear imbedded in my being that day stayed with me throughout the ensuing months of combat, and long afterward. For months I would awake suddenly from a sound sleep in a cold sweat with visions of Eddy lying in a pool of blood. The impression of the Philippine farm was imprinted on my brain as if etched there by some master craftsman.

**By Robert W. Hickey, 1945-1946, Life Member 384,  
7800 CR 327, Blanket, TX 76432-6369**

*Bob wrote this account when in college, he also provided the picture above. Editor*



# BEGGAR'S ISLAND, Koje-do, Korea

by John S. Elmo, Introduction by Major General David S. Elmo, U.S. Army Reserve

My father, the author of this novel, John S. Elmo served as a Corporal in the Korean War. He was on the Korean Peninsula during the latter stages of the war in 1953. He worked as the company clerk in George Company, 21<sup>st</sup> RGT, 24th Division, whose mission was to help manage a Prisoner of War (POW) camp on Koje-do, an island off the extreme southern end of Korea. While much of this story is fictitious, a good portion of the historical references in the novel are based on what he saw, participated-in and experienced there.

Many people refer to the Korean War as "America's Forgotten War." It has always been curious why it is commonly considered "forgotten." While there are many other reasons, my simplified interpretation of this unfortunate dynamic considers three historical points.

First, the war in political and territorial terms was stalemate – the 38th parallel (*as a national border*), existed both before and after the war. Next, the reaction of the American public to the war in Korea was always considered rather mute. I believe the reason for this had a lot to do with the fact that the American perception of war was hardened by the grand scale of WWII, which had concluded a mere five years before. Last, the returning veterans themselves, upon coming home, seemed to be quickly and culturally mainstreamed back into a society that was both experiencing an economic renaissance and did not seem overly concerned with criticizing or analyzing the overall objectives of our effort in Korea. This being said, I have not met a Korea veteran who does not get agitated when others refer to their war as a "conflict" or in the more euphemistic "peace (*police?*) action" term.

A dispassionate review of the historical facts, however, demonstrates that the Korean War was one of our nation's most intense, difficult and bloody. Estimates indicate that nearly 37,000 American and 138,000 South Korean troops gave their life in and around the peninsula. Deaths among the opposing communist forces, principally the North Koreans and the Chinese, are estimated in a range from 370,000 to near 750,000. These estimates do not even consider civilian deaths (*est. 1-3 million*) throughout the Koreas, nor the numerous non-death casualties. All of this loss of humanity occurred in a little over three years, officially from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953.

It is important to note that in the early 1950's, the United States' approach to national security, during the Truman administration had evolved into a policy of containment. This policy was primarily aimed at stopping the growing Soviet and communist threat. As such, Korea

became our first proxy war. That is to say that the actions which took place on the Peninsula represented a strategic struggle between the forces of democracy and communism. On the democratic side, the major forces to the Korean War included the Republic of Korea, the United States (U.S.) and troops from the hastily constituted United Nations (U.N.) command, who had about twenty other member countries contributing in various combat and support roles. On the communist side, the major forces included the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and China, with advice and varying levels of support from Soviet Russia.

Many consider the Korean War as the first major act of the Cold War. The historical timing of Beggar's Island is set as when my father was in Korea, beginning in 1953. The warring forces at this point had mostly settled back to

their pre-war geography, with a dividing line mostly at or around the 38th parallel. What dominated this period of the war, however, were the exasperating, long-term diplomatic negotiations between the two opposing forces. A primary theme in these negotiations dealt with the repatriation and management of POWs. The communist negotiators were adamant that, without exception, all their POWs were to be returned to the country that they came from. Due to the fact that a large percentage of these POWs did not want to be repatriated, the U.N. command negotiators pushed for voluntary repatriation. All of these dynamics, not to mention, the presence of hard-core communist infiltrators, greatly agitated tension in the camps.

Beggar's Island, set in Koje-do, is historically correct, as this was where the great majority of the U.N./U.S. managed POW camps were located. It is estimated that throughout the war over 170,000 POWs were kept on Koje-do. For your context, the word "do" in Korean, equates to the English word of "island." There are a number of historical references that attribute the nickname "Beggar's Island" to Koje-do. While the most prominent linkage of Koje-do to "Beggar's Island" occurred when Time magazine named it such in its January 1952 feature. Other sources indicate that it was an expression of the difficult conditions and attitudes of local inhabitants on the island. Also, newer, perhaps more apologetic, sources claim that it had more to do with the unprepared quality of the military personnel assigned there during the Korean War.

**John S. Elmo, Life Member #1512, [john.s.elmo@juno.com](mailto:john.s.elmo@juno.com)**  
John has written several books, this apparently the first about the Korean War. He sent an e-copy to me from which I read the introduction by his son, MG David S. Elmo. I found it to be one of the best background pieces on the Korean War I have ever read. I selected the first portion of it to include here. Editor



# 11th Field Artillery

## Artillery Unit Proves The Value of the "Mediums" August 1950. Stars and Stripes- KOREA

The 155-mm howitzers of Artillery are the big boys of a divisions' fire power. But the Artillerymen of the 24th Division's 11th Medium Field Artillery Battalion proved that the mediums can work effectively in the front lines when the need arises.

Tired but jubilant over their showing at the front in support of both the 24th Division and the 1st Cavalry Division, men of Battery B pulled out of the line on July 25 after more than two weeks of some of the fiercest fighting in Korea.

The story of Battery B in particular, and the entire 11th in general, was told by 1st Lt. Irvin Feinberg of Brooklyn, N. Y., the executive officer of Battery B.

Under command of Kansan Capt. John R. Thompson, the battery moved into the line the night of July 7 in support of the 21st Regimental Combat Team of the 24th Infantry Division.

The battery received its baptism of fire at Chochiwon where it accounted for five Red tanks, firing at a distance of from 12 to 13 thousand yards. It marked up six tanks the second day, and pulled back from its location in front of Chochiwon to take up new firing positions to the south.

Again the unit displaced to Taejon where it continued to support the 21st RCT after Taejon fell. Then it moved to Yongdong where where it took on the task of supporting the 1st Cavalry Division until the 82d Medium Battalion could move in.

At Yongdong it accounted for a great many more tanks bringing its total up to 29 for the entire period. During its stay on the line Battery B also accounted for a great number of trucks, enemy troops, and four self-propelled guns. It was given credit for breaking up a planned attack against the 21st and 34th Infantry Regiments by this practice of "mixing everything" it had in the way of ammunition.

Battery B moved out of the line with its equipment intact and only one man wounded, a sterling record for any unit which had seen that much action. However, the battery, according to Lieutenant Feinberg, was forced to fight its way out of every firing position in order to gain a new one. Even the withdrawal from the line was made under small arms and mortar fire, and at all times the Artillerymen were either firing their guns or in perimeter defense.

Guns were set up in dry river beds. In a few instances they were set up in orchards, but the soggy ground of Korea made it difficult to keep the guns laid, and in one day the guns had to be laid 14 times because the trails jumped each time the gun was fired.

In addition, the mediums were called upon to fire like 105s, which meant that they had to re-lay the guns to fire at new targets. In a day and a half at Chochiwon, Battery B alone pumped out 830 rounds.

There were feats of individual heroism in the 11th, too. In one instance Corporal Chavez of Service Company, ammo truck driver, was moving a four-ton truck and a huge trailer load of ammo to the front when the trailer was hit and burst into flames.

Without a moment's hesitation, Chavez leaped from the truck, ran to the rear, unhooked the trailer and, returning to the cab of the truck, drove it to safety, saving the lives of eight men and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

Another time during the evacuation of Konju, a six foot long strip of roadway collapsed beneath the weight of a loaded ammo truck. The truck overturned, trapping Lt. Kenneth G. Smart of Omaha, Neb. While flames began to lick towards the hand grenades and 155-mm shells. Lt. Delbert Bishop of Enid, Okla., and Cpl. Billy Toon of Service Company, (Oklahoma City) ran to the truck and succeeded in pulling Lieutenant Smart to safety.

Back in the rear for regrouping before returning to the firing line, the 11th looks back at its first days in combat with pride in its achievements.

*(In checking against the 24th General Orders that I have so far gathered, I note Thompson received the Silver Star for actions 16 July 1950; Delbert Bishop and Billy Toon each received the Bronze Star/V. I suspect Corporal Chavez was decorated, as well, but his citation might be among the hundreds of General Orders I haven't yet retrieved from the National Archives. Merry Helm)*

## BOOK REVIEW

"**Prairie Boys at War**" kept bringing a lump to my throat. The U.S. had only a few military "advisors" in Korea when the North invaded the South in June 1950. The U.S. rushed ill-trained and ill-equipped American units from Japan to help the South keep a toehold on the peninsula.

In this riveting narrative, **Merry Helm** sought out the fast-disappearing Midwest veterans of those frenetic days to record their words, to reconstruct their countless acts of sacrifice and heroism, their almost unbelievable suffering, and the horror of captivity experienced by many.

Her vivid narrative of the first four months of America's "Forgotten War," supported by official citations, contemporary reporting, maps, photos, correspondence, and unit reports, is a remarkable achievement.

**Prairie Boys at War** is both sad and uplifting. I am reminded of Winston Churchill's tribute to the Royal Air Force during the darkest days of World War II: "Never have so many owed so much to so few." Now, thanks Merry Helm, we can say the same about her prairie boys.

This review is by **John Durand**. He is a military author whose books include "The Boys: 1st North Dakota Volunteers in the Philippines."

**Members:** *I need not remind you that Merry is our dedicated historian who has been extremely helpful in finding buried information about the 24<sup>th</sup>. I will let you know in the next issue where we can get Merry's book.*

**Editor**

## BACK ISSUES NEEDED

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

**24<sup>th</sup> ID on Find a Grave Website** "Find a Grave" is a 1995 website by Jim Tipton to cater to his hobby of visiting celebrities' graves. Genealogists soon discovered it and it has become a primary genealogy site. Last September, Ancestry.com announced its acquisition of Find A Grave, thus bringing it firmly into the genealogy realm. It now has over 111 million records (1/14). At a genealogy presentation, I used [www.24thida.com/](http://www.24thida.com/) to demonstrate how to access and download website data. Lee Gordon, a member of both my genealogy and computer groups asked me if it would be acceptable for him to download our TAPS entries from our website (or from Wes Morrison's distributions) and upload them to Find a Grave. Lee has been doing this ever since; you may view the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division grouping he created at <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=mr&MRid=47550011&MSid=46554879>. This is a valuable means of showing off our 24<sup>th</sup> IDA—several have found us this way.

**Digitizing Taro Leaf Progressing** — Our mission to digitize all 24<sup>th</sup> IDA Taro Leafs ever published is still underway; we now have nearly 10,000 Taro Leaf pages scanned and uploaded to [www.24thida.com/](http://www.24thida.com/). There are more yet to scan, BUT I DO NOT HAVE THE COPIES. Please review the table enclosed for those I still need. Remember that I need to cut the spines to enable passing them through the scanner.

I want to mention again that this effort was aided immensely when Ed and Carolyn Farmer donated over \$900 to provide a high speed sheet feeder scanner that will automatically digitize both sides of the pages of an 80-page Taro Leaf in less than a minute!

**History of 24th Infantry Division in Taro Leaf Index**  
There has never been a key word index of Taro Leaf publications; now thanks to Larry Gay, George Company, 19th Infantry Regiment. 24th Infantry Division Historian, 2004-2009, we now have an excellent one. Larry compiled those items in our Taro Leaf publications that in his subjective judgment were of significance. This has also been uploaded at: [http://24thida.com/taro\\_leaf/taro\\_leaf\\_index\\_gay.html](http://24thida.com/taro_leaf/taro_leaf_index_gay.html). Three versions are presented: the original in Date/Volume, Article and Event order.  
Much thanks, Larry!

### Recent Additions to the Website:

2013 Louisville Reunion Photo Book, Thomas Hoke  
Compere Wartime Letters 1942-45, 19th Inf. Reg.  
Monument-GA, Gay's Taro Leaf Index, USA Today's 60th Anniv, Bill Funchess in USA, Lady Tigers by Estabrook, Hist of 24th Desert Storm, and 5th RCT, incl. Newsletters.

**Tom J. Thiel, 19147 Park Blvd., Eustis, FL 32736-7262**  
**Telephone: 352 408-6612**  
**Email: 24thidaweb@gmail.com**





SGT Howell, Motor Pool (sitting). CPL Buesler, mechanic (standing, left, CPL John T. Powell, CO's driver on Jeep. Pusan, Korea, August, 1953. They were repairing bullet and shrapnel holes after being hit 27 July, the day of the truce signing. Lee Walker was in jeep and got shrapnel in his back.



Robert J. "Uncle Bobby" Castillo Memorial Honor Guard  
MHD Team 12

SFC Lee A. Walker (arrow) with American Legion Honor Guard at the National Veterans Cemetery, Riverside, CA "81 and still going strong."

## Lee Walker's Gallery



SFC Lee A. Walker, Northern Nevada Veterans Coalition Honor Guard

"So what did you expect, Brad Pitt?"



CPL John Powell and PFC "Turtle" Johnson, Camp Mt. Fuji, 1953. He used to catch turtles and sell them; he had many tips of his fingers bit off which got him the nickname, "turtle." He was a gambler and won a lot. I took care of his bankroll, otherwise he would be broke. He sent a lot of money home to his wife.



CPT John B. Vought, 34th RGT Heavy Mortar Company, Camp Fuji, 1953. He went on to have a distinguished military career and retired in 1990 as a Lieutenant General (LG). John Powell was his driver in Japan and Korea.





## SCHOOL STUDENTS TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

Dear Veteran,

Thank you so much for your service. I appreciate the time you gave up with your family and friends as well as risking your life. Without you, the world would not be the same. I thank you for protecting my friends and family. Also, without heroes like you, I would not be able to go to school or participate in sports. Thank You so very much for all that you have done!

Dear Veteran,

Thank you so much for your service. I appreciate the time you gave up with your family and friends as well as risking your life. Without you, the world would not be the same. I thank you for protecting my friends and family. Also, without heroes like you, I would not be able to go to school or participate in sports. Thank You so very much for all that you have done!

Thank you,  
Sam K.

Thank you so very much for all that you have done!

Thank you,  
Sam K.

**David**, The Mattawan (MI) Middle School 8th graders give thanks to veterans by giving a veteran a letter of thanks for serving our country. I would like to share my letter with all veterans written by Sam K., a student in Mattawan's 8th grade. I thanked him and his class for honoring all veterans past and present. **Dayton Davis, 269 544-0171**





**HONORED GUESTS**

## 24th Infantry Division Regional Reunion, Laughlin, NV March 24-26, 2014



Yes sir, we are planning a great regional reunion convenient for members who live in the West, or wherever. Byrd Schrock and his wife have been hosting our Laughlin reunions at the Aquarius Hotel for several years and doing a great job, but this year they have other commitments and couldn't do it. So, your Taro Leaf editor, David Valley, has taken on the task. "Since I put together a reunion last Fall at the Tropicana Hotel and it worked out very well, it made sense for me to use this venue again. The picture above shows the two towers. Our hospitality room and personal rooms will be in the rear tower. The covered parking structure abuts it, so it is convenient to go to and from cars.

"On Tuesday, we will have a fun bus trip. Our tour guide will give the local history as we travel to Oakman, AZ, about an hour's ride. The pictures below are from this real Western town which still has an active gold mine. It is a most interesting and entertaining place to visit. There are many shops to wander through for curios and souvenirs and at times wild burros wander into the town looking for handouts of carrots from tourists.



"Later, on our way back to Laughlin we'll stop for lunch at the Bullhead City VFW. Last year my group had a good lunch and fun time there with the local veterans.

"We will have our group dinner Tuesday evening after we return from the bus trip. I promise a sumptuous meal and lively time. We will have an "open mike" session during which anyone can spout off for 5-10 minutes with his favorite war, amusing anecdotes, or anything he wants to do." **David**





# The Gimlet

Just beneath the forest floor  
sewn among the roots  
There remain the last of him –  
good old Moody's boots.

When he laid down there long ago,  
scarcely were there trees,  
just rocky, bloody soil  
where impressed Moody's knees.

The air now sweet with forest scent  
so one could hardly know  
that underneath that canopy  
lie the bones of a G.I. Joe.

The rifled shot hit Moody square,  
impacted in his chest as  
His heart beat frantically within  
the hollow of his breast.

Then another round came in,  
hit Moody in the thigh.  
Moody's rifle blazed away  
as he heard someone cry –

"That man's a tough one, yes he is  
Hit him twenty times or more  
He kept coming at us yet  
just like a Gimlet bore.

So there is seen a shallow pit  
just beyond the spot  
where Moody gave all he had  
but mankind soon forgot.

Baptized at Cedar Mountain  
or some other killing field  
It doesn't really matter now  
that Moody be revealed.

But washed in the fire  
like those who went before  
Brave lads stood their ground  
For what? Peace forever more?

For many others followed him  
and paid the price for peace  
Laid their life upon the line  
to make all warfare cease.

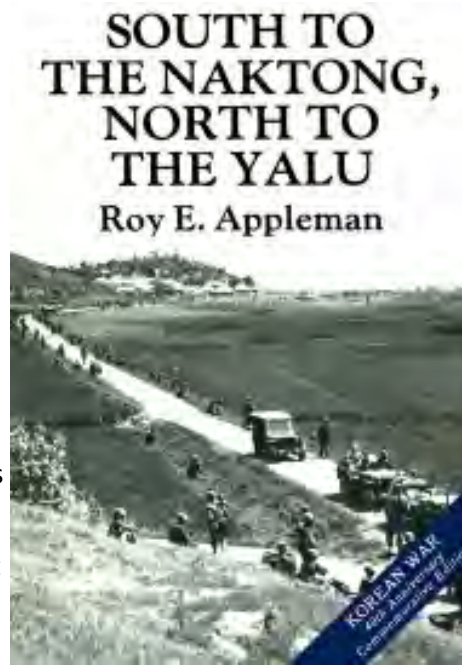
Well, these did not die in vain,  
nor any other soul  
who took the sword of righteousness  
to fill that vacant hole

Where Moody gave all he could  
to defend the way that's right  
His boots cry out from the forest floor  
"Give us peace," each day and night.

Now a Gimlet's not just any guy.  
He's unusual to say the least  
for he's filled the gap and held the hill  
against the raging beast.

Welcome, all you Moodys  
to the highest hall of fame  
for those are your boots, buddy  
and Gimlet is your name.

July 14, 1950. The weather was clear after a night of rain. The 63rd Field Artillery Battalion sent aloft a liaison plane for aerial observation. This aerial observer reported by radio during the morning that two small boats carrying men were crossing the Kum to the south side and gave the map co-ordinates of the crossing site. Apparently this was part of the same enemy crossing seen by L Company men. The battalion S-3, Maj. Charles T. Barter, decided not to fire on the boats but to wait for larger targets. One platoon of the 155-mm howitzers of A Battery, 11th Field Artillery Battalion, in position east of Kongju fired briefly on the enemy troops. But Yak fighter planes soon drove away the liaison observation planes, and artillery fire ceased. *(To upper right)*



Soon after the enemy crossed the river below I Company, Lieutenant Stith, the company commander, unable to find the machine gun and mortar sections supporting the company and with his company coming under increasingly accurate enemy mortar and artillery fire, decided that his position was untenable. He ordered L Company to withdraw. The men left their positions overlooking the Kum shortly before 1100. When Sgt. Wallace A. Wagnebreth, a platoon leader of L Company, reached the positions of the 63rd Field Artillery Battalion, he told an unidentified artillery officer of the enemy crossing, but, according to him, the officer paid little attention. Lieutenant Stith, after ordering the withdrawal, went in search of the 3rd

Battalion headquarters. He finally found it near Nonsan. Learning what had happened, the battalion commander relieved Stith of his command and threatened him with court martial.

### **The 63d Field Artillery Battalion Overrun**

Three miles south of the river, the 63rd Field Artillery Battalion had emplaced its 105-mm. howitzers along a secondary road near the village of Samyo. The road at this point was bordered on either side by scrub-pine-covered hills. From north to south the battery positions were A, Headquarters, B, and Service. The artillery battalion had communication on the morning of the 14th with the 34th Regimental headquarters near Nonsan but none with the infantry units or the artillery forward observers with them on the Kum River Line. The day before, the commanding officer of the 63rd Field Artillery Battalion, Lt. Col. Robert H. Dawson, had been evacuated to Taejon because of illness, and Maj. William E. Dressler assumed command of the battalion.

About 1330 an outpost of the artillery battalion reported enemy troops coming up the hill toward them. It received instructions not to fire unless fired upon as the men might be friendly forces. As a result, this group of enemy soldiers overran the machine gun outpost and turned the captured gun on Headquarters Battery. Thus began the attack of the North Korean 16th Regiment on the 63rd Field Artillery Battalion. Enemy reconnaissance obviously had located the support artillery and had bypassed the river line rifle companies to strike at it and the line of communications running to the rear.

Now came enemy mortar fire. The first shell hit Headquarters Battery switchboard and destroyed telephone communication to the other batteries. In rapid succession mortar shells hit among personnel of

the medical section, on the command post, and then on the radio truck. With the loss of the radio truck all means of electrical communication vanished. An ammunition truck was also hit, and exploding shells in it caused further confusion in Headquarters Battery.

Almost simultaneously with the attack on Headquarters Battery came another directed against A Battery, about 250 yards northward. This second force of about a hundred enemy soldiers started running down a hill from the west toward an A Battery outpost "squealing like a bunch of Indians," according to one observer. Some of the artillerymen opened up on them with small arms fire and they retreated back up the hill. Soon, however, this same group of soldiers came down another slope to the road and brought A Battery under fire at 150 yards' range.

Mortar fire began to fall on A Battery's position. This fire caused most of the artillerymen to leave their gun positions. Some of them, however, fought courageously; Cpl. Lawrence A. Ray was one of these. Although wounded twice, he continued to operate a BAR and, with a few others, succeeded in holding back enemy soldiers while most of the men in the battery sought to escape. Soon a mortar burst wounded Ray and momentarily knocked him unconscious. Regaining consciousness, he crawled into a ditch where he found fifteen other artillerymen—not one of them carrying a weapon. All of this group escaped south. On the way out they found the body of their battery commander, Capt. Lundel M. Southerland.

Back at Headquarters Battery, enemy machine guns put bands of fire across both the front and the back doors of the building which held the Fire Direction Center. The men caught inside escaped to a dugout, crawled up a ravine, and made their way south toward Service

Battery. In the excitement of the moment, apparently no one saw Major Dressler. More than two and a half years later his remains and those of Cpl. Edward L. McCall were found together in a common foxhole at the site.

After overrunning A and Headquarters Batteries, the North Koreans turned on B Battery. An enemy force estimated at 400 men had it under attack by 1415. They worked to the rear of the battery, set up machine guns, and fired into it. The battery commander, Capt. Anthony F. Stahelski, ordered his two machine guns on the enemy side of his defense perimeter to return the fire. Then enemy mortar shells started falling and hit two 105-mm. howitzers, a radio jeep, and a 2 1/2-ton prime mover. A group of South Korean cavalry rode past the battery and attacked west toward the enemy, but the confusion was so great that no one in the artillery position seemed to know what happened as a result of this intervention. The North Koreans kept B Battery under fire. At 1500 Captain Stahelski gave the battery march order but the men could not get the artillery pieces onto the road which was under fire. The men escaped as best they could.

An hour and a half after the first enemy appeared at the artillery position the entire 63rd Field Artillery Battalion, with the exception of Service Battery, had been overrun, losing 10 105-mm. howitzers with their ammunition and from 60 to 80 vehicles. The 5 guns of A Battery fell to the enemy intact. In B Battery, enemy mortar fire destroyed 2 howitzers; artillerymen removed the sights and firing locks from the other 3 before abandoning them.

Meanwhile, Service Battery had received word of the enemy attack and prepared to withdraw at once. A few men from the overrun batteries got back to it and rode its trucks fifteen miles south to Nonsan. Stragglers from the overrun artillery battalion came in to the Nonsan area during the night and next morning. Eleven officers and 125 enlisted men of the battalion were missing in action.

It is clear from an order he issued that morning that General Dean did not expect to hold Kongju indefinitely, but he did hope for a series of delaying actions that would prevent the North Koreans from accomplishing an early crossing of the Kum River at Kongju, a quick exploitation of a bridgehead, and an immediate drive on Taejon.

Pursuant to General Dean's orders, Colonel Wadlington, the acting regimental commander, left his headquarters at Ponggong-ni on the main road running south out of Kongju the morning of the 14th to reconnoiter the Nonsan area in anticipation of a possible withdrawal. He was absent from his headquarters until mid-afternoon. Shortly after his return to the command post, between 1500 and 1600, he learned from an escaped enlisted man who had reached his headquarters that an enemy force had attacked and destroyed the 63d Field Artillery Battalion. Wadlington at once ordered Lt. Col. Harold B. Ayres to launch an attack with the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, to rescue the men and equipment in the artillery area and drive the North Koreans westward.

According to Ayres, Wadlington's order brought him his

first word of the enemy attack.

The 1st Battalion a little after 1700 moved out northward in a column of companies in attack formation. The three-mile movement northward was without incident until C Company approached within a hundred yards of the overrun artillery position. Then, a few short bursts of enemy machine gun and some carbine fire halted the company. Dusk was at hand. Since his orders were to withdraw if he had not accomplished his mission by dark, Colonel Ayres ordered his battalion to turn back. At its former position, the 1st Battalion loaded into trucks and drove south toward Nonsan.

As soon as the 24th Division received confirmation of the bad news about the 63rd Field Artillery Battalion it ordered an air strike for the next morning, 15 July, on the lost equipment—a practice that became standard procedure for destroying heavy American equipment lost or abandoned to enemy in enemy-held territory.

During the day I Company, 34th Infantry, had stayed in its position on the river line. Enemy mortar fire had fallen in its vicinity until noon. In the early afternoon, artillery from across the river continued the shelling. The acting commander, Lt. Joseph E. Hicks, tried but failed to locate L Company and the 3d Battalion Headquarters. A few men from the Heavy Weapons Company told him that enemy roadblocks were in his rear and that he was cut off. Except for the enemy shelling, all was quiet in I Company during the day. That night at 2130, pursuant to orders he received, Hicks led I Company over the mountains east and southeast of Kongju and rejoined the regiment. The 34th Infantry occupied new positions just east of Nonsan early in the morning of 15 July.

In their first day of attack against it, the North Koreans had widely breached the Kum River Line. Not only was the line breached, but the 19th Infantry's left flank was now completely exposed. The events of 14 July must have made it clear to General Dean that he could not long hold Taejon.

Nevertheless, Dean tried to bolster the morale of the defeated units. After he had received reports of the disaster, he sent a message at 1640 in the afternoon saying, "Hold everything we have until we find where we stand—might not be too bad—may be able to hold—make reconnaissance—may be able to knock those people out and reconsolidate. Am on my way out there now." Informing Colonel Stephens that the 34th Infantry was in trouble, he ordered him to put the 21st Infantry Regiment in position on selected ground east of Taejon. Something of Dean's future intentions on operations at Taejon was reflected in his comment, "We must coordinate so that the 19th and 34th come out together." General Dean closed his message by asking Stephens to come to his command post that night for a discussion of plans.

Although an aerial observer saw two tanks on the south side of the Kum River southwest of Kongju early in the morning of the 15th, enemy armor did not cross in force that day. Other parts of the 4th Division continued to cross, however, in the Kongju area. Air strikes destroyed



some of their boats and strafed their soldiers. By nightfall of 15 July some small groups of North Korean soldiers had pressed south from the river and were in Nonsan.

### **N.K. 3d Division Crosses the Kum Against the 19th RGT**

The third and last regiment of the 24th Division, the 19th Infantry, commanded by Col. Guy S. Meloy, Jr., began to arrive in Korea on 4 July. Nearly ninety years earlier the 19th Infantry Regiment had won the sobriquet, "The Rock of Chickamauga," in a memorable stand in one of the bloodiest of Civil War battles. Now, on 11 and 12 July General Dean moved the 1950 version of the regiment to Taejon as he concentrated the 24th Division there for the defense of the city. Before dark of the 12th, the 19th Infantry was in position to relieve the 21st Infantry Regiment on the south bank of the Kum, but the formal relief and transfer of responsibility for the regimental sector did not take place until 0930 the next day. Fourteen years earlier General Dean had served as captain in the regiment in Hawaii.

The 19th Infantry's zone of responsibility was a wide one, extending from high ground just east of the railroad bridge, 8 miles due north of Taejon, westward along the river to within 3 miles of Kongju. This was an airline distance of 15 miles or a river distance of almost 30 miles because of the stream's numerous deep folds. Necessarily, there were wide gaps between some of the units in disposing a regiment—a 2-battalion regiment at that—over this distance. The main regimental position was astride the Seoul-Pusan highway where it crossed the Kum River at Taep'yong-ni, about midway of the regimental sector.

Engineer demolition troops had blown, but only partially destroyed, the highway bridge over the Kum at 2100, 12 July. The next morning they dynamited it again, and this time two spans dropped into the water. On the 15th, engineers destroyed the railroad bridge at Sinch'on.



**19th RGT BAR man at Dike Position near Taep'yong-ni**  
At Taep'yong-ni the Kum River in mid-July 1950 was 200 to 300 yards wide, its banks 4 to 8 feet high, water 6 to 15 feet deep, and current 3 to 6 miles an hour. Sandbars ran out into the streambed at almost every bend and the channel shifted back and forth from the center to the sides. The river, now swollen by rains, could be waded at many points when its waters fell. On the regimental right,

the railroad bridge lay just within the ROK Army zone of responsibility. A mile and a half west of the railroad bridge a large tributary, the Kap-ch'on, empties into the Kum. On high ground west of the railroad and the mouth of the Kap-ch'on, E Company in platoon-sized units held defensive positions commanding the Kum River railroad crossing site. West of E Company there was an entirely undefended 2-mile gap. Beyond this gap C Company occupied three northern fingers of strategically located Hill 200 three miles east of Taep'yong-ni. [31] Downstream from C Company there was a 1,000-yard gap to where A Company's position began behind a big dike along the bank of the Kum. The A Company sector extended westward beyond the Seoul-Pusan highway at Taep'yong-ni. One platoon of A Company was on 500-foot high hills a mile south of the Taep'yong-ni dike and paddy ground.

West of the highway, the 1st Platoon of B Company joined A Company behind the dike, while the rest of the company was on high ground which came down close to the river. West of B Company for a distance of five air miles to the regimental boundary there was little protection. One platoon of G Company manned an outpost two miles away. The I&R Platoon of about seventy men, together with a platoon of engineers and a battery of artillery, all under the command of Capt. Melicio Montesclaros, covered the last three miles of the regimental sector in the direction of Kongju.

The command post of Lt. Col. Otho T. Winstead, commander of the 1st Battalion, was at the village of Kadong, about a mile south of the Kum on the main highway. Colonel Meloy's regimental command post was at the village of Palsan, about a mile farther to the rear on the highway.

The 2nd Battalion with two of its rifle companies was in reserve back of the 1st Battalion. Behind A Company, east of the highway, were two platoons of G Company; behind B Company, west of the highway, was F Company. The 4.2-inch mortars of the Heavy Mortar Company were east of the highway.

Artillery supporting the 19th Infantry consisted of A and B Batteries, 52d Field Artillery Battalion; A and B Batteries of the 11th Field Artillery Battalion (155-mm. howitzers); and two batteries of the 13th Field Artillery Battalion. Lt. Col. Charles W. Stratton, commanding officer of the 13th Field Artillery Battalion, coordinated their firing. The 52nd Field Artillery Battalion, in position along the main highway at the village of Tuman-ni, about three miles south of the Kum, was farthest forward. Behind it two miles farther south were the 11th and the 13th Field Artillery Battalions. The larger parts of the 26th Antiaircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapons) Battalion and of A Company, 78th Heavy Tank Battalion (light M24 tanks), were at Taejon.

Aerial strikes on the 14th failed to prevent the build-up of enemy armor on the north side of the Kum opposite Taep'yong-ni. Tanks moved up and dug in on the north bank for direct fire support of a crossing effort. Their fire started falling on the south bank of the Kum in the 19th

Infantry's zone at 1300, 14 July. Late in the day an aerial observer reported seeing eleven enemy tanks dug in, camouflaged, and firing as artillery. There were some minor attempted enemy crossings during the day but no major effort. None succeeded.

The afternoon brought the bad news concerning the left flank-the collapse of the 34th Infantry at Kongju. The next morning, at 0700, Colonel Meloy received word from his extreme left flank that North Koreans were starting to cross there. An aerial strike and the I&R Platoon's machine gun fire repelled this crossing attempt. But soon thereafter enemy troops that had crossed lower down in the 34th Infantry sector briefly engaged the Reconnaissance Platoon when it tried to establish contact with the 34th Infantry.

These events on his exposed left flank caused Colonel Meloy to reinforce the small force there with the remainder of G Company, 1 machine gun platoon and a section of 81-mm. mortars from H Company, 2 light tanks, and 2 quad-50's of the 26th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion-in all, two thirds of his reserve. Lt. Col. Thomas M. McGrail, commanding officer of the 2d Battalion, accompanied these troops to the left flank. Meloy now had only F Company in reserve behind the 1st Battalion in the main battle position.

The morning of 15 July, Colonel Stephens at 0600 started his 21st Infantry Regiment from the Taejon airstrip for Okch'on, ten miles east of the city on the main Seoul-Pusan highway. This organization was now only a shadow of a regiment. Its 1st Battalion had a strength of 517 men. The 132 men of the 3rd Battalion were organized into K and M Companies and attached to the 1st Battalion. A separate provisional group numbered 466 men. As already noted, the regiment so organized numbered little more than 1,100 men of all ranks.

General Dean had ordered the move to the Okch'on position. He feared there might be a North Korean penetration through ROK Army forces east of Taejon, and he wanted the 21st Infantry deployed on the high hills astride the highway in that vicinity to protect the rear of the 24th Division. The regiment went into position five miles east of Taejon, beyond the railroad and highway tunnels, with the command post in Okch'on. From its new position the 21st Infantry also controlled a road running south from a Kum River ferry site to the highway. One battery of the 11th Field Artillery Battalion accompanied the 21st Infantry. A company of attached engineer troops prepared the tunnels and bridges east of Taejon for demolition.

As evening of 15 July approached, Colonel Meloy alerted all units in battle positions for an enemy night crossing. Supporting mortars and artillery fired on the enemy-held villages across the river. This and air strikes during the evening set the flimsy Korean wood-adobe-straw huts on fire and illuminated the river front with a reddish glow. Enemy sources indicate that all day the N.K. 3rd Division had made preparations for an attack on the river line, and that repeated air attacks seriously hampered the movement of its heavy equipment and instilled fear in the

minds of its soldiers. Political officers tried to raise the lowering morale of the troops by promising them a long rest after the capture of Taejon and by saying that when the city fell the Americans would surrender.

Just before dusk, 2nd Lt. Charles C. Early, platoon leader of the 3rd Platoon, B Company, from his position above the Kum, saw an enemy T34 tank come around a bend in the highway across the river. While he telephoned this information to his company commander, he counted eight more tanks making the turn in the road. He could see them distinctly with the naked eye at a distance of about two miles. Three of the tanks pulled off the road, swung their turrets, and fired on Early's position.

Most of their rounds passed overhead. Enemy artillery began firing at the same time. The 1st Battalion had called for an air strike when the enemy tanks opened fire, and now two planes appeared. When the planes arrived over the river all the tanks except one took cover in a wooded area. The strike left the exposed tank burning on the road. The two planes stayed over the area until dark. Upon their departure, enemy infantry in trucks moved to the river's edge.

Small groups of enemy soldiers tested the American river defenses by wading into the river; others rushed out to the end of the blown bridge, jumped into the water, and began swimming across. Recoilless rifle and machine gun fire of the Heavy Weapons Company inflicted heavy casualties on this crossing attempt at and near the bridge, but some of the North Koreans got across under cover of tank fire.

Upstream in front of Hill 200 another enemy crossing attempt was under way in front of C Company. The combined fire from all company weapons supported by that from part of the Heavy Weapons Company repelled this attack and two more that followed after short intervals.

Some rounds falling short from friendly 81-mm. mortars knocked out two of the company's 60-mm. mortars and broke the base plate of the remaining one. Corporal Tabor improvised a base plate and, holding the tube in his hand, fired an estimated 300 rounds. With his first river crossing attacks repulsed, the enemy made ready his major effort. At 0300 Sunday, 16 July, an enemy plane flew over the Kum and dropped a flare. It was the signal for a coordinated attack.

The intensity of the fire that now came from enemy guns on the north bank of the river was as great, General Meloy has said, as anything he experienced in Europe in World War II. Under cover of this intense fire the North Koreans used boats and rafts, or waded and swam, and in every possible way tried to cross the river. American artillery, mortar, and supporting weapons fire met this attack. Pg. 135

*The story will resume at this point in the next issue.*

*Editor*

# U.S. ARMY TRIES TO EXPAND FRANCHISE

ABOARD THE USS LAKE ERIE — Approaching from the Hawaii coast, the mosquito-shaped helicopter buzzed around this guided-missile cruiser twice before swooping toward the landing pad. The Navy crew on the deck crouched, the helmeted faces betraying more than routine concern as the aircraft, flown by a pilot who had never before alighted upon a ship, hovered a foot off the tarmac and then set down with a thud.



The sailors' trepidation was prompted by three words painted in black block letters on the drab olive fuselage: United States Army.

The Army, which fights on terra firma, does not usually land its helicopters on ships — the domain of the Navy and the Marine Corps — but these are not usual times in the U.S. military. As the Obama administration winds down the Army-centric war in Afghanistan, Pentagon leaders are seeking to place the Air Force, Navy and Marines in dominant roles to counter threats in the Asia-Pacific region, which they have deemed to be the nation's next big national security challenge.

Fearful that the new strategy will cut its share of the defense budget, the Army is launching an ambitious campaign to transform itself and assert its relevance in the Pacific. And that, in turn, is drawing the Army into a fight.

With the Marines!

Calculating that there are only slim chances of the Army fighting a big land war anywhere in the Far East other than the Korean Peninsula, the new top Army commander in the Pacific, Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, wants his forces to more quickly and effectively respond to small conflicts, isolated acts of aggression and natural disasters. Doing so, however, has traditionally been a challenge for the Army, which bases most of its soldiers assigned to the Orient in Hawaii, Alaska and Washington state. To overcome what he calls "the tyranny of distance," Brooks is trying to make his forces more maritime and expeditionary.

To cut travel time and increase regional familiarity, he is seeking authorization to send key elements of a U.S.-based infantry brigade to Asia and keep them there for months at a time, moving every few weeks to different nations to conduct training exercises. The rotating

deployment, which amounts to the first proposed increase in U.S. forces in Asia in years, could enable the Army to move more speedily to address humanitarian crises and security threats.

Brooks said he wants "a capable force that can respond to a variety of contingencies" — rapidly. "Forces that are already in motion have an

advantage in responding," he said.

The initiative, which Brooks is calling "Pacific Pathways," is also an opportunity to recast the Army's image in Washington, yielding television images of soldiers — not just Marines and sailors — responding to typhoons and cyclones. "We can no longer afford to build [combat] units and put them on a shelf to be used only in the event of war," Brooks's command wrote in an internal planning document.

To the Marine Corps, however, Brooks is committing the military equivalent of copyright infringement. Marines regard themselves as the nation's first — and only — maritime infantry force. They have troops in Asia that are not tied down in Korea — three infantry battalions, an aviation wing and a full logistics group based on the Japanese island of Okinawa — and, they note, they have an expeditionary unit that sails around Asia to conduct bilateral exercises and respond to crises. Those Marines were among the first to respond to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines last month.

"They're trying to create a second Marine Corps in the Pacific," said a Marine general, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the Army's internal plans. "To save their budget, they want to build a force the nation doesn't need."

Okinawa's governor on Friday acceded to U.S. plans to maintain a large Marine contingent on the island, despite local opposition, by approving site preparation for a new air base on the less-populated northern half of the island. To win permission, the Marines have pledged to relocate almost 5,000 personnel to the U.S. territory of Guam, about 1,400 miles away, which could bolster the Army's case for a small rotating force closer to mainland Asia.

The Army-Marine fight has profound implications for both services. If Brooks succeeds, Army leaders would lay claim to a new strategic narrative and gain a powerful argument to stave off additional rounds of personnel cuts, while the Marines could face an



existential crisis without their exclusive expeditionary status. If he doesn't, the Army, which is planning to shrink from 540,000 to 490,000 soldiers by 2017, could become even smaller.

"The Army is in genuine crisis at the moment," said Kori Schake, a research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution who has served as director of defense strategy on the National Security Council. "They're grasping for a mission to justify their end-strength."

Both sides see the battle in winner-take-all terms: The administration's national security strategy and the Pentagon's strategic guidance to commanders have all but rejected the sorts of troop-intensive counterinsurgency campaigns waged by the Army in Iraq and Afghanistan. Instead, they call for a focus on Asia to counter China's growing influence in the region. The documents envision not a head-on war with China but the need to be able to confront Chinese efforts to control shipping lanes and seize disputed territory with a combination of air and naval power — and an agile, fast-moving ground combat force.

"There is no doubt about the need for expeditionary, amphibious troops," a senior Defense Department official said. "The question is whether we need the Army to provide that capability."



## MORE LETTERS

**David:** At age 81 I'm still doing Honor Guard details, It's a pity there are not more volunteers. I spoke to Wes Morrison about getting a plaque for the 24th at the Riverside National Cemetery, there are plaques for the 3rd and 4th Division and the 1st Cav; he said "money, money, money," I guess that says it all. I hope my pictures are okay. The 34th Heavy Mortar Company was at Freedom Bridge when the ROKs were released in January '53. We had put up tents and had a hell of a time trying to get their pegs into the frozen ground. He had great respect for our troops who were there before us. Keep up the good work on the Taro Leaf. **Lee A. Walker, Life Member 2277**, 3641 Eve Circle, Apt J, Mira LOMA, CA 91752-1211.

**Lee:** Thanks for the pictures and your detailed descriptions. They can be seen on page 18 of this Taro Leaf issue. **David**

## FALLEN COMRADES

**John W. Frey**, 10-20-1923 departed this life 10-27-2013 a few days after his 90th birthday. He served his country in WWII with the 24th Division in the South Pacific. He was awarded the Combat Infantry badge, "Philippine Liberation Medal" and the Presidential Unit Citation. He is survived by his wife Frances. **Member**

**Thomas E. Flynn**, passed away Wednesday, November 6, 2013 in Key Biscayne, FL. He served in Korea with the **21st RGT**, Hvy Mtr Co in 1950. He later went on to a distinguished career and was known as, SIR THOMAS EDWARD FLYNN, Consul General for Australia. **Life #1502.**

**Gilbert Hale** passed away in April of 1998. He joined the army at the age of 17. He was one of the first 200 men over to Korea, **21 RGT, Life Member #951**



**Robert N. Clarke** died October 31, 2013 in Wakefield, RI. He served with the **21st RGT** during the Occupation of Japan and in Korea. **Member** He is survived by his wife, Jean, of 64 years. Box 92, Charlesown, RI, 02813

**Raymond K. McGuire** died November 21, 2013 at Greensboro, WV. He served with the **24th Recon** in Japan and Korea where he was awarded the Bronze Star. His daughter said he was an avid reader of the Taro Leaf.

**Maurice J. Monahan Jr.**, 83, of Swoyersville passed away Thursday, Oct. 10, 2013. *(From Merry: Harold Smith called to let me know of the passing of Maurice Monahan. I interviewed Maurice in 2007, and he was among the men providing cover fire for MSGT Woodrow Keeble when he was carrying out his Medal of Honor action during Operation Nomad-Polar in October 1951. He was an ammo bearer for Kirk Roberts, 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, H Company, 19th Regiment. He was from Swoyersville, PA.)*



**Donald Williams**, Member, from Wyatt, MO. Don was in the **21st RGT** and served during WWII, 1943-1946. He was a cook in HQ&HQ CO, in Kumamoto, Japan. *(I am Richard A. Gumm, I was in the same company with Al, However, I was a mechanic. We got to Korea about July 5th, 1950 on a LST. George A. Gumm, Box 555, Reno, OH45773.)*

May God Bless our dear departed comrades



# QUARTERMASTER ORDER FORM

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COST	PATCHES:			
HAT PIN MEDALS:			42 23th ID Color	\$6	82 WWII Vet Black	\$12
1	Philippines Liberation	\$5	43 24th IDA	\$6	101 WWII Veteran w/CIB	\$15
2	Nat'l Defense Service	\$5	58 19th RGT Color	\$6	MISCELLANEOUS:	
3	Good Conduct	\$5	59 21st RGT Color	\$6	40 Ladies Necklace 19th	\$5
4	Silver Star	\$5	60 34th RGT Color	\$6	41 Ladies Bracelet 19th RGT	\$5
5	Pacific Campaign	\$5	61 11th FA BN Color	\$6	46 24th ID Window Sticker	\$2
6	Armed Forces Reserve	\$5	62 13th FA BN Color	\$6	85 CIB Window Sticker 2"x5"	\$3
7	Army Occupation	\$5	77 5th RCT	\$6	86 24th ID "Proudly Served	
8	POW	\$5	87 6th Tank BN Color	\$6	Bumper Sticker	\$3
9	Distinguished Svc Cross	\$5	91 63rd FA BN Color	\$7	?? Bolo Tie Taro Leaf Gold	
10	ETO Campaign	\$5	97 24th ID Kore Vet	\$6	w/Black Braid	\$15
11	Soldier's Medal	\$5	107 Division Artillery	\$6	50 Taro Leaf Silver Belt Buckle	\$15
12	Meritorious Service	\$5	108 29th Inf Div Color	\$6	93 Christmas Cards 10 w/env.	\$8
13	United Nations	\$5	109 24th ID Victory Patch	\$6	94 24th ID Green neck Wallet	\$5
14	American Defense	\$5			95 24th ID Key Chain	\$10
15	Vietnam Service	\$5	CRESTS:		98 24th ID Songs & March CD	\$10
16	American Campaign	\$5	52 24TH Sig	\$9	T-SHIRTS:	
17	Armed Forces Expeditionary	\$5	53 19th RGT	\$9	24th ID Hawaii Div/Black (Sizes	
18	U.S. Flag	\$5	54 21st RGT	\$9	XXL/L/M)	\$15
19	Army Dist. Flying Cross	\$5	56 11th FA BN	\$9	24th ID Hawaii Div/White (Sizes	
20	Korea Service Ribbon	\$5	57 13th FA BN	\$9	2XL/XL/L/M)	\$15
21	Army Commendation	\$5	63 24th ID	\$9	FLAGS:	
22	WWII Victory Ribbon	\$5	75 3rd Eng BN	\$9	90 24TH id Outdoor Screen Print	
23	Marine Corps Expeditionary	\$5	76 14th Eng BN	\$9	3' x 5'	\$65
24	Korea Service Medal	\$5	CAPS:		102 Korea War Silk Screen	\$65
25	WWI Victory Medal	\$5	65 21st RGT White	\$15	103 Korea War Vet Silk Screen	\$65
26	Bronze Star	\$5	66 21st RGT Dark Blue	\$15	CIB Bracelet	\$35
27	Purple Heart	\$5	69 24th IDA Wh. w/Taro/Ger.	\$12	(Order Direct: Sektor Co., Box 501005	
28	Air Medal	\$5	70 24th ID Red w/Taro/Ger.	\$12	San Diego, CA 92150)	
29	24th ID	\$5	71 24th IDA Red	\$15	Quartermaster John Walters, 313 Heritage Overlook, Woodstock, GA 30188. Email: 1k34cspd@gmail.com	
31	19th RGT	\$5	72 24th ID Wh.1st to Fight	\$15		
37	Combat Medic Badge	\$5	73 24th IDA Green (X)	\$15		
38	Army Desert Storm	\$5	74 24th ID White Mesh (X)	\$15		
39	Vietnam Heaven & Hell	\$5	78 5th RCT Red w/patch	\$12		
104	Desert Storm	\$5	80 Desert Storm Vet	\$12		
110	Philippines Pres. Unit Ribbon	\$5	81 POW/MIA Black	\$15		
116	24th ID Airborne	\$5				

**QM Notes:** 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.

Shipping and handling is \$5.00. Allow 2 - 4 weeks for delivery. No phone orders.

If possible e-mail first before ordering to see if it is in stock. No credit cards. Make

checks payable to 24th IDA. Send completed form and your check to:

**QM John Walters, 313 Heritage Overlook, Woodstock, GA 30188**

E-mail: 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**



# SEC'Y/ TREAS. REPORTS

## DONATIONS TO TARO LEAF

DONOR	UNIT	GIFT
Erwin, Gary J.	2nd Bgd	\$ 10.00
Hayes, John P.	3rd Eng	\$ 5.00
Hoop, Vaughn	21st Inf	\$ 5.00
McCourt, Jack G.	24th Div	\$ 10.00
Popovich, Ken R.	21st Inf	\$ 5.00
Coyle, Eugene P.	19th Inf	\$ 100.00
Ebert, Clayton	3rd Eng	\$ 10.00
Gonzales, Dan M.	5th RCT	\$ 5.00
Yost, Kenneth D.	11th FA	\$ 10.00
Snyder, Walter B.	34th Inf	\$ 10.00
Marx, William D.	19th Inf	\$ 25.00
Rochon, Louis W.	5th RCT	\$ 10.00
Van Kirk, Viola	Assoc	\$ 10.00
Hearn, Thomas	34th Inf	\$ 10.00
Elow, Kenneth L.	19th Inf	\$ 10.00
Davis, Dayton H.	34th Inf	\$ 5.00
Darke, Donald F.	5th RCT	\$ 5.00
Jones, Richard D.	24th Repl	\$ 20.00
Repko, Louis	34th Inf	\$ 5.00
Fox, Robert G.	19th Inf	\$ 25.00
Hawthorne, Ray	11th FA	\$ 100.00
Johnson, Don H.	13th FA	\$ 10.00
LeerKamp, Henry	34th Inf	\$ 5.00
McArdle, Paul*	24th Sig	\$ 24.00
Albrecht, Samuel	3rd Eng	\$ 5.00
Gavin, Thomas J.	26th AAA	\$ 10.00

\* Memory of Pablo Luna

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Yamamoto, Thomi	24th Sig	2436	Japan-Korea 50-51
Gasior, Andrew J.	24th CAB E	2437	Stewart 82-84
Risch, Theodore D.	19th InfE/F	2438	Korea 53-54
Harris, William B.	21st AAA A	2439	Korea 50-51

## NEW MEMBERS

Worthy, Jamie K.	24th HHC	Stewart-Storm 89-93
Marshall, Nevin L.	19th 2nd Bn-E Co	Germany 61-64
Searcy, James G.	298 MP CO	Stewart 83-85
Moulin, Frank c.	19th Inf E	WWII
Blackwell, Carlton R.	19th Inf I	WWII - Japan 46
Andros, Anthony N.		Korea 50-52
Padar, George Z.	32nd Arm 5th Bn-A	Germany 64-65

## NEW MEMBERS

### RECRUITMENT INITIATIVE

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

It begins for any member who joins our organization from October 1st, 2013 until September 22, 2014. 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, 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 1/10/2013 and 9/22/2014.

3. Payment of \$15.00 for the first year must be received before September 22nd, 2014.

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](http://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 next national reunion. 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, 2014, the award will be \$300.00. Life membership must be paid in full to be eligible before the deadline date of Sept. 22, 2014.

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](mailto:tom-steph@comcast.net)

# WHAT'S OUR ARMY COMING TO?

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – The Pentagon took steps on Wednesday to give individual troops greater latitude to wear turbans, head scarfs, yarmulkes and other religious clothing with their uniforms, but advocacy groups said the new policy fell short of what they were seeking.

“The military departments will accommodate individual expressions of sincerely held beliefs (conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs) of service members” unless it might affect military readiness or unit cohesion, the updated policy on religious accommodation said.

The policy was mainly expected to affect Sikhs, Muslims, Jews and members of other groups that wear beards or articles of clothing as part of their religion. It also could affect Wiccans and others who may obtain tattoos or piercings for religious reasons.

Lieutenant Commander Nate Christensen, a Pentagon spokesman, said for the first time the Defense Department’s policy encouraged acceptance in the military of beards, long hair and articles of clothing worn for religious reasons so long as they do not interfere with good order and discipline.

A service member who wants to wear a beard or article of clothing for religious reasons must seek permission, or an accommodation, from the military. The Pentagon previously made only a small number of accommodations to its uniform policy to enable Sikhs to wear turbans.

Advocacy groups expressed concern that the updated policy does little to protect Sikhs and others from the whims of their commanders.

Amardeep Singh, a spokesman for the Sikh Coalition, said it was the first time the Pentagon had indicated it was willing to accommodate long hair grown for religious purposes.

Noting that the religious accommodation would have to be approved each time a service member changed assignments, Singh said, “What is disappointing ... is that the presumptive bar on the Sikh articles of faith remains.

“So a Sikh can’t just sort of enlist in the U.S. military and expect that they won’t down the line have to make the false choice between their faith and their service to the country,” he said.



Army Corporal Simranpreet Lamba, one of only three currently serving observant Sikhs to have received permission to keep their hair and turban, said the updated policy was a small step in the right direction.

“I really appreciate that the Army has looked into the matter and tried to add something, but at the same time it doesn’t provide any kind of accommodation for all the Sikhs who want to join,” he said.

Lamba said it took him nine months to receive permission to keep his hair, beard and turban and he has not had problems with the accommodation in his 3.5 years in the service.

He said he uses a thin turban like a bandana while wearing a helmet, and has been able to get an effective seal with his gas mask despite his beard, a common concern for people with beards in the military.

Ibrahim Hooper, a spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said he welcomed any move to broaden religious accommodation in the U.S. military.

“We’ve dealt with this issue on a number of occasions, whether it was with beards or with head scarfs or even in support of the Sikh community on the issue of turbans and skullcaps for the Jewish military personnel,” he said.

“I’d have to see how it’s carried out in practice,” Hooper said. “If it’s subject to the whim of individual commanders that becomes problematic because that’s what we’ve seen in the past – some are allowed, some are denied.”

(Reporting by David Alexander; Editing by Toni Reinhold)

## Korean War Veteran Interview

By Louise Carroll, Elwood City Ledger

Anthony Pasquale of North Sewickley Township, PA

Rank: Corporal

Military occupational specialty: Infantry

Service dates: 1948-52

Unit: 19th Infantry Regiment, F Company, 24th Division

Anthony Pasquale, 82, remembers the Korean War well. And he has a point to make with those who would buy into the politically motivated effort back then to label it a police action. "If that was a police action, a lot of policemen died," he said. "Half the men I served with didn't come back."

After basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., Pasquale went to Japan. He recalls it took 13 days and 14 nights to get there by ship, and when they crossed the International Date Line, they had a ceremony marking the event. In June 1950 in Japan, an officer told his unit, "We're going to Korea." There were a number of comments because few people knew where it was. The commander continued, "I'll tell you something. This is not practice. This is war, and a lot of you won't be coming back." "It was true. I was the last man surviving in my squad; the others were dead, wounded or captured," Pasquale said.

In Korea, he was stationed at Camp Chickamauga at Beppu. Soon after he got there, Pasquale, who was in Fox Company, was walking guard, and as he passed a soldier from George Company, he thought he looked familiar and they exchanged greetings. They struck up a conversation, and he quickly realized that the other soldier was Gerald Book from Ellwood City, someone he knew. Pasquale wrote his mother about the encounter and she talked to Book's mother, and there was a piece in The Ledger about the two men meeting in Korea. As often as they could, they got together to talk about home. Book died in Korea, Oct. 1, 1951.

Pasquale recalls that when he first got to Korea, they were outnumbered 500 to 1. They would hold the enemy as long as they could, then fall back and then hold another hill as long as they could. Once, running uphill, Pasquale was exhausted and fell to the ground. "I said, 'I

don't care if they get me. I can't move another step.' But when I saw them coming, I got up and ran," he said. "It was up one mountain, up another hill," Pasquale said. "We were young kids. I had my 19th birthday in a foxhole. It was tough on everybody."

Pasquale said most of the troops were fresh out of boot camp. He recalls one young man who, when he arrived, bragged, "The war will be over in two weeks." When they asked him how he knew that, he said, "Because I'm going to kill them all." Soon, the young man was in his first battle, and when it was over, he was crying and shaking and told them, "I'm only 15 years old. I want to go home." He was immediately taken to a safe area.

Because they were outnumbered, they were often overrun, and Pasquale said in the beginning they didn't have proper clothing or weapons and ammunition. "We didn't have enough ammo. We would take it off the bodies. We had to use our knives and bayonets. Once I had my rifle shot out of my hands," Pasquale said. "It was bad. I carried my Bible with me through the whole time. We all carried Bibles." "We were always wet. We couldn't keep the water out; we were always going through the rice paddies," he said. Pasquale describes the cold as numbing, with temperatures 20 to 25 below zero. Pasquale suffered frostbite to his hands and feet and was taken to a hospital ship on Jan. 1, 1951. One toe was so painful, he asked the doctor to cut it off, but the doctor said they could save the big toe and explained that it was necessary for balance.

Eventually, Pasquale was flown to Hawaii and then to a hospital in Texas and finally to a hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he spent the next six months recuperating. The experience left Pasquale with an appreciation for today's military personnel. "War is terrible," he said. "It was a war in Korea. We have to appreciate our soldiers who fight to protect us and our freedom, and we shouldn't forget them."

On the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, the veterans of that conflict received a certificate of appreciation from the president of the Republic of Korea, Kim-Dae-Jung. "I wear a hat with Korea Vet on it, and people will shake my hand and thank me," Pasquale said.



**WELCOME TO OUR REUNION**  
**L CO, 21ST RGT**  
**APRIL 30-MAY 4, 2014**  
**THE INN AT ELLIS SQUARE**  
**SAVANNAH, GA**  
**GEORGE VLASIC, (910 287-5618)**  
**279 RAVENNASIDE, DR. NW, CALABASH NC 28467**  
**GEONANVLASIC@ATMC.NET**



## Florida 24th IDA

### Dutch Treat Luncheons

#### 2014 DATES

Leesburg Golden Corral, 1720 Citrus

Blvd Leesburg, FL 34748

2014 dates (all 11:30 a.m.): Jan. 8,

Mar. 5, May 7, Sept. 3 and Nov 5.

At Leesburg unless you help schedule one elsewhere in FL.

Space limited to 50; contact: 352-750-

6741 [wsswriter@centurylink.net](mailto:wsswriter@centurylink.net) or,

352-408-6612 [fl24ida@gmail.com](mailto:fl24ida@gmail.com)

## 19th & 34th RGT Regiments

### Pigeon Forge, TN Reunion

April 28-30, 2014

Holiday Inn Express, 308 Henderson

Chapel Road, Pigeon Forge, TN

37868

For reservations: call 888 774-4366

Mention code KVR for \$63 rate

No Fees, Come and have fun!

This will be our 21st reunion. It is in Pigeon Forge in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. This location offers many fine attractions including: world famous Dollywood, shopping malls, many showplaces, and excellent dining.

For information: Call Don Perrin

772 538-2876

## WESTERN REGIONAL REUNION TROPICANA HOTEL, Laughlin, NV March 24, 25, 26, 2014

SEE  
Page  
20

ACTIVITY	FEE	# PERSONS	TOTAL FEE
Registration Fee per person	\$25.00		
Tuesday Bus Tour per person	\$35.00		
Tuesday Banquet per person	\$35.00		
TOTAL			

**Make checks payable to:** 24<sup>th</sup> IDA. **Mail to:** John Dunn, 9150 Highway 51, Westover, AL 35147. You may wish to check in a day earlier (same low rate). Rooms are \$29/night. For your room reservations call: **800 243-6846** and give **code 19054**.

Name(s)			
Address	State	ZIP	Tel
City	Email		

# THE WILLIAM JORDAN VERBECK AWARD

By Larry W. Gay, former 24th IDA Historian \*

At its 1966 Nineteenth Annual Reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC, the 24th Infantry Division Association began a new phase in its history by implementing the William Jordan Verbeck Award.

This award, symbolized by a large silver bowl was conceived to encourage excellence to emulate the values of William Jordan Verbeck.

Colonel Verbeck took command of the 21st Infantry Regiment at noon on November 7, 1944, during the battle for Leyte, PI, and later became the 24th Infantry Division's Chief of Staff.

Association President Edmund F. Henry, said: "Verbeck demonstrated in myriad ways—and consistently, from his Division days of '44 and '45 to the day of his death on November 4, 1965—an unparalleled love for, and devotion to, the Division. It was an obsession with him, a magnificent one."

"To Taro Leafers, the name represents excellence in all matters germane to the 24<sup>th</sup>." Gen. Verbeck remains among us in spirit, in the form of a large silver bowl on which are engraved the names of the awardees—those members who have excelled in sustaining and advancing the memory of all those who are joined to us by their service to the 24th Division, and its Association.

It was fitting that the first name engraved on the Verbeck Bowl was that of Kenwood Ross. He never gave up, and kept the Association alive in difficult times. Other names on the Verbeck Bowl are of members who have striven to achieve excellence in all that the Association undertook.

With the addition of Billy Johnson's name in 2007, the surface of the large



**Top: William Jordan Verbeck. Bottom: Verbeck Bowl today—original on top with the wooden base on the bottom (Gene Spicer presents Mel Frederick with the 2012 Verbeck Award).**

silver bowl became completely filled. At its September 21, 2007, meeting in Columbia, South Carolina, the Association BoD approved the addition of a wooden base to support the original silver bowl which would provide an attractive and effective means to carry future names.

\* Originally appeared in the 2007 Vol 61 (3&4) Summer-Fall Taro Leaf; edited and updated to Jan. 2014, by Tom J. Thiel, 24th IDA Webmaster.

## Verbeck Award Recipients

1966 – Kenwood Ross  
 1969 – Edmund Henry  
 1970 – James Spike O'Donnell  
 1971 – Thomas H. Compere  
 1972 – Joseph I. Peyton  
 1973 – Victor Backer  
 1974 – Aubrey S. Newman  
 1975 – Robert J. Duff  
 1976 – Frederick A. Irving  
 1977 – Samuel Y. Gilner  
 1978 – Gerald R. Stevenson  
 1979 – William Sanderson  
 1980 – C.G. Hanlin  
 1981 – Howard R. Lumsden  
 1982 – Paul A. Harris  
 1983 – Donald E. Rosenblum  
 1984 – Bert F. Lowry  
 1985 – John E. Klump  
 1986 – Lee B. List  
 1987 – Dallas Dick  
 1988 – John R. Shay  
 1989 – Warren G. Avery  
 1990 – Not Awarded  
 1991 – Robert Ender  
 1992 – Not awarded  
 1993 – BG. Lester Wheeler  
 1994 – Joseph J. McKeon  
 1995 – Joseph P. Hofrichter  
 1996 – Wallace F. Kuhner  
 1997 – Rodolph Mullins  
 1998 – Philip H. Hostetter, MD  
 1999 – Henry J. Gosztyla  
 2000 – Ellsworth "Dutch" Nelsen  
 2001 – Harry L. Wittman  
 2002 – Harold "Corky" Peters  
 2003 – Ben H. Wahle, Jr  
 2004 – William H. Muldoon  
 2005 – Edward S. Farmer  
 2006 – Wesley R. Morrison  
 2007 – Billy Johnson  
 2008 – Dan Rickert  
 2009 – Keith Hagen  
 2009 – Tom Thiel  
 2010 – Don Maggio  
 2011 – Gene Spicer  
 2012 – Mel Frederick  
 2013 – Glen Carpenter



# FLORIDA 24TH IDA GROUP MEETING



**Florida 24th IDA Luncheon** get together on January 8, 2014 was at the Eustis Golden Corral. Top photo, left to right standing: Dottie and Woodie Wood of Silver Spring, Yvonne and Ed Schulte of Kissimmee and MI, Don Van Beck of Tavares, Sam Irwin of Riverview, Joel Briggs of Summerfield, Carol Becker of Clermont, Nick Salakas of The Villages, Bill Simunek of Mount Dora, Eleanor Hall, and Nancy, Bill Simunek's daughter of New York. Seated, from left: Andrew Thiel; Tom Thiel of Eustis; John Thiel of S. Lake Tahoe, CA; Ted and Marilyn Jansen of Leesburg; Duane Hall of Leesburg and MI; Herbert and Joyce Betz of Eustis and MI.

Lower photo: Tom Thiel was proud to have his grandson Andrew (left) and son John who live in S. Lake Tahoe CA with him for the Luncheon.

The next scheduled Dutch Treat Luncheon will be April 2, 2014 at the Golden Corral, 15810 U.S. 441, Eustis, FL 32726. For information 352-408-6612.

**NOTICE - 2013  
LOUISVILLE REUNION  
BOOK FOR SALE**

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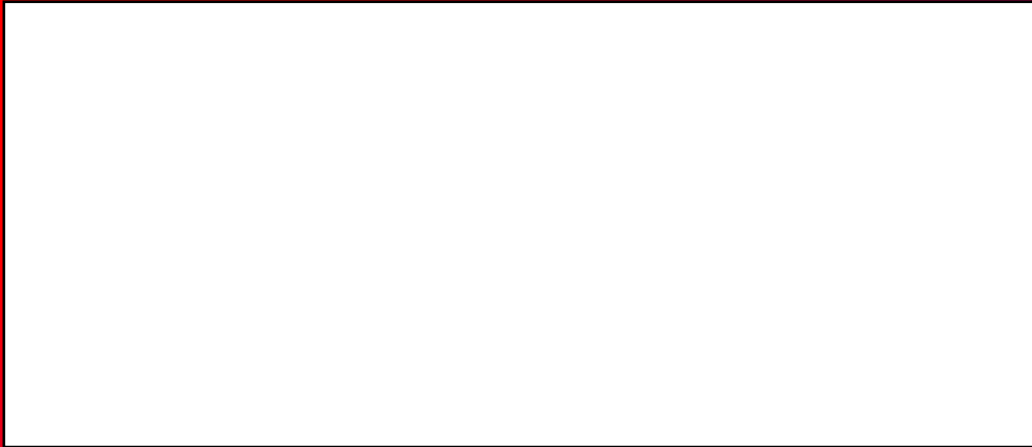
**Thomas M. Appler, VP 24th IDA  
2136 Herbert Ave.  
Westminster, MD. 21157**





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

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Leesburg, FL 34748



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

**Send Dues & Address Changes to:**

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

**Verbeck Award Nominations**



**July 15, 2014**, is the final date for you to nominate the member you feel most merits the Association's prestigious Verbeck Award. Please use the adjacent card to submit your nomination.

**MEMBERS:** Please indicate your nominees for the Verbeck Award and give A brief explanation for your recommendation.

**Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I believe he/she is worthy because**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_