

TARO

24th Infantry Division Association

24th Infantry Division Association



FIRST TO FIGHT

LEAF



"People of the Philippines, I have returned"



President Pinoy Aquino thanks Taro Leaf editor, David Valley, for his presentation as General Douglas MacArthur at the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Philippines



Greetings Taro Leafers: We had a great reunion in Omaha, NE. The accommodations were excellent and the weather cooperated while we enjoyed our tours. There were a total of 71 participants attending this year. The Reception and Hospitality suites were fully stocked. Our city tour and luncheon at The Bohemian Café were fulfilling events. We had great

wait staff and the owner was very gracious. Mike Frederick did an outstanding job with free breakfast at the hotel, free airport shuttles, both ways, planning of the tours to keep the costs at a minimum, not to mention keeping up with all the traffic in the hospitality room. We also had a great photographer, Tom Subject, Omaha, NE., WWII, 24th ID. Pacific Corridor

The trip to the Strategic Air & Space Museum was another success. Everyone was impressed with planes that had been sitting in scrap fields and then brought back to life at this facility. What a great effort by this private museum. On Sunday we had a wonderful experience, when we traveled to Father Flanagan's Boys Town. This was a first for everyone in the group. The tour guide was very knowledgeable and did not use any notes. What an amazing place to visit.

Our Memorial Banquet went smoothly and the food was absolutely outstanding. The Navy Cadet team was invited to stay and eat with us and were inspiring to the reunion members. General Rowney's presentation was a true gift for this event. He has great humor and was very informative. It was the highlight of the Memorial Banquet.

John Dunn was the annual recipient of The Verbeck Award. As Glen Carpenter pointed out, John is very deserving of this honor. He works very hard and is truly dedicated to The 24th Infantry Division Association.

Your new association officers are: President-Tom Appler; Vice President-Donald Bruner; Director-at-Large is George Vlasic. We are in serious need of a Webmaster to replace Tom Thiel and a Secretary/Treasurer to replace John Dunn.

The financial report, Board of Directors and membership meeting minutes will be included in this Taro Leaf issue.

Next year, the Annual Reunion will be held at Fort Benning, GA. (Columbus, GA) This installation has the largest Infantry Museum in the U.S. At this time, the event will take place in September, 2015. The exact dates will be announced in the next Taro Leaf. Mike Frederick is already working on the Fort Benning reunion. We wish you and your families the best in the coming holiday season!

Best wishes, **Tom Appler**

(Along with the new president, I thought I could give a new look to the inside cover of the Taro Leaf. I hope our readers like it. Editor)



Hello Taro Leafers: Tom Appler reports the national reunion was a great success. For all of our members I want to express thanks to Tom for stepping up to do the important job of President. Sustaining effective leadership in an organization with a large proportion of aging members is a great challenge. Inevitably, critical jobs being done by certain individuals, who have given far more than their share and need relief, are the most difficult to fill, e.g., Secretary/Treasurer and Webmaster jobs. John Dunn and Tom Thiel have gone far "beyond the call of duty" and hopefully, for their sake, can be replaced soon.



I enjoyed vacationing in Hawaii and took the opportunity to visit our division's memorial in the Punch Bowl. It looks great and is well located near the top of the Memorial Walk from which there is an incredible view of Honolulu.

After Hawaii I went to the Philippines to participate in the 70th anniversary of their Liberation on Leyte, October 20, 1944. I was asked by the government to portray Gen. Douglas MacArthur and deliver his famous speech. The original took place during a rain squall; as you can see from the cover shot, the General was drenched. I delivered my little speech in beautiful weather at the MacArthur Memorial at the Palo site just south of Tacloban. This location was near ground zero of the super typhoon that devastated the region last November. Some of the statues had been blown over and had just recently been restored.

At the memorial facing me a few feet away, were the President of the Philippines, Governor of Leyte, and Ambassadors from the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and Japan. Their speeches followed mine. Of course they tended to be long-winded compared to the General's succinct announcement. The cover picture shows President Aquino shaking the imposter general's hand. I also gave a lecture, "My Life in the Philippines, 1903-1945," in uniform, at a university in Tacloban; it was quite a trip!

David Valley

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COVER: The 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Philippines lead by Gen. Douglas MacArthur was recognized in pomp and ceremony at Palo, Leyte on October 20th of this year. The cover insert of MacArthur is a rare photo of him delivering his famous words, "I have returned."

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Taro Leaf, Volume 68, Issue 4, Winter 2013

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

The *Taro Leaf* is printed in Leesburg, Florida, and mailed from the Leesburg, Florida U.S. Post Office.

**COMING
UP NEXT**

Taro Leaf Winter Issue, Vol. 69, No. 1
Deadline for submissions - 1/15/2015
Publication delivery - 2/15/2015

Letters

Hello David, FINALLY, a member of my outfit that joined the 24th Association. Homer C. Smith 111. I was stationed with him in Augsburg, Germany with HHC, G2 Section. I'm sure that he will see this in the TARO LEAF. Hey Homer, remember Thomas Manns, Donald Rhea, Carl Hutchinson, Robert Pouch, and that whiskey runner from North Carolina, Lynn Arrowood? Contact me at atemplestr@verizon.net. Maybe we can get the rest of the guys to join. **Al Temple**

David: Just want to tell you what a terrific job you did with the Taro this quarter. Letters are most interesting. Job well done old buddy. If you notice, David, I attached Bill Coe's email address. I was talking to him when he mentioned that he had a whole box full of old issues of the Taro Leaf. Thought you may want to contact him. Bill may have some of the issues you're looking for. **Joe Langone, joe.sue197@att.net**

Merry: I haven't been very active lately. Mostly working with some of the weapons that belonged to the General.



I have stumbled upon something I cannot prove, and that is, Verbeck may have killed the first Japanese during WWII in ground combat in Alaska. He was in charge of the Alaskan Scouts, "Cut Throats," during the Japanese invasion. I wonder if any of our group here has knowledge of this?

john john.e.allen@earthlink.net



To: Merry Helm: This article appeared as a letter to the editor in the December 2013/January 2014 «German Life» Magazine. **It may be of some interest to those of the Taro Leaf Division posted to Augsburg between the Korean War and the Vietnam War.** **Chris**

Dear Mister Slider (mslider@germanlife.com), I received the December 2013/January 2014 issue of German Life magazine and wanted to say a great thanks for the story by Anna Cramer, "White Pearls at the Baltic Sea". I have a keen interest in the past, present and future of the former German Democratic Republic, especially Meck-Pomm.

However, I found Leah Larkin's story, "Discovering Augsburg," more so interesting. It's unfortunate that she didn't include any pictures of the Fuggerei, a poignant part of Datschiburgers' history. Additionally, I questioned the information the tour guide stated; "(Roux) told us that seventy-five percent of Augsburg was destroyed by bombs in World War II".

I refer your readers to "The Augsburg Raid", published in 1987 by (retired RAF Squadron Leader) Jack Currie, DFC. Augsburg was bombed twice during the war.

The first raid, on 17 April 1942, consisted of 12 Lancaster bombers from No. 44 (Rhodesian) and No. 97 Squadrons, RAF. Seven of the twelve were shot down, and the target, the Augsburg MAN U-Boat diesel engine works. What's notable is the raid netted the commander, Squadron Leader John Dering Nettleton, a Victoria Cross. Damage to the MAN-Werke consisted of eight machine tools of 2,700 destroyed and five of 558 cranes destroyed. Of the 84 RAF aircrew, 37 were killed and 12 were made war prisoners. No collateral damage or destruction was reported by either side.

The second and final raid by the "Terrorflieger" was in a final Big Week mission (#235), the USAAF's Eighth Air Force bombed the Augsburg Messerschmitt-Werke during the day on 25 February 1944. That night (25/26 February 1944), RAF Bomber Command followed with 594 aircraft and completely destroyed the centre of Augsburg. 21 RAF aircraft, were destroyed (at least four due to collision).

The last bombings killed 730 people and injured 1,335; 85,000 were left homeless, and nearly a quarter of all homes had been destroyed. There were 246 "large or medium sized" and 820 small fires. Due to the frozen hydrants and water surfaces (the temperature was minus 18 degrees Celsius) fire fighting was difficult.

Other than that detail, it was a nice article to read. Augsburg was once the "Wall Street of Europe". I've attached some pictures that may be of some interest.

Chris, Stephen Christopher Kelly, MBA, MA, AB,
78 Forest Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502-6860

Others that have information or interest in this story should write to Chris. Editor

OSAN KOREA COMMEMORATION OF THE KOREAN WAR

David: Due to time constraints for submission of articles to be published in this magazine, we erroneously reported misinformation about the Task Force Smith Museum dedication in the Summer edition.

Instead of a dedication ceremony for a new monument July 3, 2014, the mayor of Osan presided at the installation of a plaque dedicated to the members of Task Force Smith. The plaque is attached to the UN Forces Monument at Osan. The heroic monument itself was installed in 1982.

The planting of 540 trees to honor men who fought in Task Force Smith on July 1950 was postponed. Mayor Kwak announced the park of pine trees is continuing to be planned on the grounds where the first battle took place.

The misunderstanding came about due to relaying information from Korea to the Virginia based media service charged with maintaining the TFS memorial website. From there the information about planning was transposed as the announcement was made to our 52nd Field Artillery Battalion Association and the 21st Infantry Association.

John Sanchez of the 52nd FA Bn and Norman Mathews, William Coe, and Charles Fronapfel of the 21st Inf Regt associations attended the dedication.

Osan's ceremony is one of several conducted in Korea and the U.S. annually. The Korean's never ending gratitude is apparent in their enthusiasm and Osan's special significance to the beginning of the war has been celebrated with the choice of Osan as the sight of the 1982 UN Forces Memorial, the Memorial Museum dedicated to Task Force Smith, a bronze plaque added to the UN Forces Memorial, and the future park of 540 trees on the sight of the first battle for Korea.

Rus Penland, 52nd FA Bn Secretary
deltas-1@sbcglobal.net

To anyone who can enlighten me! I received reunion pictures a few weeks ago and set them up for the current issue of the TL. I had assumed they were from this year. Now that I have gotten some details, I understand they were from Springfield in 2009. Unless there is some currently related info, I now don't plan to publish. Please let me know if I'm missing something. I'm beginning to experience dementia. **David**

Welcome to the "Dementia Club" David. I hit that door loooong time back. I believe the pictures of the 2009 reunion were never published in the TL. Mario lezzoni was kind enough to realize that and send out those photos.....I think that's how/why we received them. Has there been a decision as to where the 2015 reunion will be held? Anyone know if a decision has **been made**. In Philly.....

Frank Plata, Silverfjp75@yahoo.com

Letters

Soldier Missing from Korean War Accounted For

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Pfc. Arthur Richardson, 28, of Fall River, Mass., will be buried Sept. 18 in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C. In January 1951, Richardson and elements of Company A, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment (IR), 24th Infantry Division (ID), were deployed northeast of Seoul, South Korea, where they were attacked by enemy forces. During the attempt to delay the enemy forces from advancing, Richardson and his unit were moving towards a more defensible position, when his unit suffered heavy losses. It was during this attack that Richardson was reported missing.

When no further information pertaining to Richardson was received and he failed to return to U.S. control during prisoner exchanges, a military review board reviewed his status in 1954, and changed it from missing in action to presumed dead. In 1956, his remains were declared unrecoverable.

Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea turned over to the U.S. 208 boxes of human remains believed to contain more than 400 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. North Korean documents, turned over with some of the boxes, indicated that some of the remains were recovered from the vicinity where Richardson was believed to have died.

In the identification of Richardson's remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and Armed Forces DNA Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, to include mitochondrial DNA, which matched his niece and grand-niece.

Today, 7,880 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously turned over by North Korean officials or recovered from North Korea by American recovery teams.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans, who went missing while serving our country, **visit the DPMO web site at www.dtic.mil/dpmo or call (703) 699-1169.**

David: I was talking to Bill Coe when he mentioned he had a whole box full of old issues of the Taro Leaf. Tom Thiel may want to contact him. Bill's address (EMail) is: glocoe2001@hotmail.com. His wife's name is Gloria. Hope he can help you. **Joe Langone, joe.sue197@att.net**

Joe: After my recent trip I am so confused I don't remember this. Maybe I'll have a brain recovery and figure it out. **David**

Letters

A FEW YEARS AGO-By Shorty Estabrook, survivor of the Tiger Death March

What is going on in the World now is nothing new. Charles "The Hammer" Martel, Born August 23, 676 and died October 22, 741, was a Frankish Monarch and Grandfather of Charlemagne; he is remembered, among other things, for winning the Battle of Tours in 732, which prevented Moslem advances from getting any farther into Europe than Spain. His Frankish army defeated an Arab and Berber army fighting to spread Islam. If interested consult your computer.

Charles "The Hammer" Martel produced many offsprings. In July 1950, another Charles Martel, his mother and sister, were arrested by the Communist forces pushing south into South Korea. They were all related to "The Hammer". This group was associated with the French Legation in Seoul, South Korea. They had lived in Korea for many years. They were joined with the Tiger Survivors, a group of American soldiers captured early in that war. Another member of that family, Marie, was a Nun with the German Order called Benedictine and was assigned to their monastery just outside of Pyongyang North Korea in early 1949. The new Communist government of North Korea came and arrested them all. They were released in 1954. Many died but Sister Marie survived.

Several Tatars were also arrested by the North Koreans in July 1950 and interred with the Tiger Survivors. Tatars defeated the Russian Princes in 1228. Much strife spread across Russia at that time. Today many Tatars live in Russia and other parts of Europe and Asia and the world. Tiger Survivor Tatars all lived to see freedom and all but one migrated to America.

Shorty, tigeru1@verizon.net

Hi David, I received the Summer 2014 issue of TARO LEAF and found it to be a very good issue (as all the issues you have put out have been). I would like to ask you, however, to make a correction in the next issue of the item you ran in the current issue. Two pictures on page 6, along with the captions, did not originate with me. Robert Scroggins sent them to Jim Cooper years ago and Jim sent copies to me. I recently found them in some of my G CO papers. I called Robert and asked if it would be OK to send them to you for publication. This is how you ended up receiving them from me, and why my name is at the bottom of the item. I was only the messenger. The info about Japan and about the Kum River Battle came from Robert. He was there on the Kum as was the late Jim Cooper. I did not arrive in Korea until 30 August 1950. At that time I was assigned to A Battery 11th FA until trans-ferring to G Co 19th Infantry on 15 December 1950. Thank you for publishing the information, not just from me, but on behalf of Robert Scroggins, Jim Coop and others of CO G, 19th.
Bill Roseboro, 605 Marlboro St., Hamlet, NC , 28345.

Dear David,

Thank you for your book review of *The Most Dangerous Man in America: The making of Douglas Mac Arthur*. I am writing to you personally as I don't know if you really want to make a debate about Mac Arthur a subject of our publication. As it happens. I agree with you and appreciate learning of your own literary contributions to the MacArthur bookshelf.

Like many of our fellow members from that era I am beyond collecting more books for my own library, but I will be alert to read yours if any should cross my path. I have found C. Dorris James' *Days of MacArthur* very useful for details on the General's life, and if Perry made no use of it (or, unlikely, conducted his own equally thorough research) it would make me think he was not too serious in studying his subject. I say this even though James is representative of the liberal side, like most academics. He seemed to sniff when he tells us that MacArthur had sent a subordinate to chaperone Mrs. Roosevelt around Australia, apparently feeling she deserved MacArthur's personal attention. I suspect myself that Mac may have been aware of Mrs. R's leftist inclinations and felt *he* had reasons to sniff a little himself when he had the chance.

He may have been remembering when Drew Pearson, acting through a gumshoe, tried to shake him down while he was on duty as Chief of Staff for a private matter, a highly personal story of a lost love. I thought James deserved credit for putting the unsavory, politicized episode in the records since it reflected more on the perpetrators than on MacArthur.

As for MacArthur *vis-a-vis* (Pres.) Roosevelt I have thought that a "Plutarch's Parallel Lives" approach would do justice to both: they were approximately the same age, both were engaged either at or near the top of a great common enterprise. One was honest, diligent, sincere in his devotion to his duty and his country and put himself at risk in her defense; the other devious, cynical, manipulative and manipulatable, and ultimately led into fatal error by someone who outsmarted him. As MacArthur said on hearing news of the C-in-C's death, according to General Fellers, "So the old man is dead. He never told the truth if a lie would suffice."

I am sorry to hear that you are withdrawing as editor, and hope you can find a worthy replacement. **Lew Howell, Life Member 1757**, 519 W.Taylor St. #124, Santa Maria, CA 93458

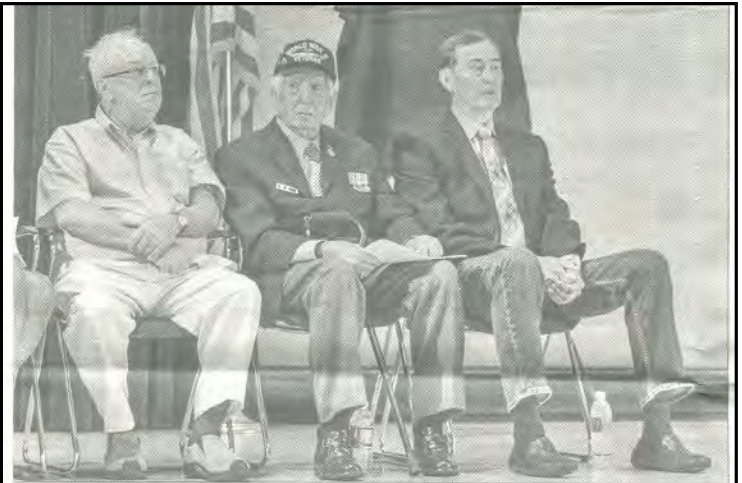
Lew: Thanks for your interesting letter. If I ever get near Santa Maria, I'll look you up. We could have some interesting talks about the "old soldier." Regarding the demise of my editorship, it's news to me! **David**



Dear David, Here are a couple photos from about my time in Echo CO (Bridge) 3rd Engineers. I was in Germany with them from August 1964 to July 1966 between Gabligen-Augsberg and Will Hansern-Munich. Since we were a bridge company, we never went to Grafenwehr or Harenfeld, but instead to Ingolstadt on the Danube River, or Maing on the Rhine. At that time every division in Germany had a bridge company. The equipment was designed by the French, manufactured by the Germans, and operated by the Americans. We also used a quarry in Dachau for our training. **Arthur H. Hahl**, 28496 W Big Hollow Road, Ingleside, IL 60041. Tel. 847 587-8317



On the Danube, 1966



JUDE KAIDER The Hi Lifer

Tom McAvoy, (from left) veteran and Antioch resident SSgt. John G. Trinca, and Thomas Bateman, Jr. await the beginning of the Purple Hearts Reunited and the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) joint ceremony at the Lake County Veterans Memorial on the campus of the College of Lake County, 19351 W. Washington St., Grayslake on Aug 3. The ceremony was held to return a lost Purple Heart medal to the family of Pvt. Thomas Bateman, who died in battle in the Philippines during the Second World War. McAvoy found the Purple Heart medal in Chicago in the early 1950s. He contacted the Purple Hearts Reunited organization to assist in finding the true owner of the medal. During the discovery process, SSgt. Trinca was located. Trinca was standing next to Pvt. Bateman when he was killed. Thomas Bateman, Jr., a Memphis, Tenn. resident, received the long-lost Purple Heart, along with his father's many other medals, a reunion nearly 70 years in the making. Bateman is the fourth in a line of five Thomas Batemans. The first of these, Bateman's great-grandfather, also died in battle. It happened at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862 during the Civil War.

Dear David, I recently received the summer issue of the Taro Leaf and was pleased and appreciative to see my "Veterans Protected U.S. Freedom" write-up. Thank you very much. You have made an old infantryman happy to get his thoughts to all our 24th IDA vets, regardless of their time or place of service. I am very serious about vets wearing their service caps, WWII or other. We still have a solemn obligation to remind our younger citizens about our history and the freedom of our country. I'm going to "keep on keeping on." "Freedom isn't Free."

Andy R. Wilson, 34th RGT, 505 898-3015.

Concise Background of 24th Infantry Division

Active: 1921–70, 1975–96, 1999–2006

Country: United States Department of the Army

Type: Infantry Division

Role: Mechanized infantry warfare

Size: Division

Nickname: "Victory Division" (by special designation)

Motto: "First to Fight"

Engagements: World War II, Pearl Harbor; Korean War, Task Force Smith, Pusan Perimeter, Yalu; 1958 Lebanon crisis, Operation Desert Storm

The 24th Infantry Division was an infantry division of the United States Army. It was inactivated in October 2006 where it was based at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Formed during World War II from the disbanding Hawaiian Division, the division saw action throughout the Pacific theater, first fighting in New Guinea before landing on the Philippine islands of Leyte and Luzon, driving Japanese forces from them. Following the end of the war,

the division participated in occupation duties in Japan, and was the first division to respond at the outbreak of the Korean War. For the first 18 months of the war, the division was heavily engaged on the front lines with North Korean and Chinese forces, suffering over 10,000 casualties. It was withdrawn from the front lines to the reserve force for the remainder of the war, but returned to Korea for patrol duty at the end of major combat operations.

After its deployment in the Korean War, the division was active in Europe and the United States during the Cold War, but saw relatively little combat until the Persian Gulf War, when it faced the Iraqi military. A few years after that conflict, it was inactivated as part of the post-Cold War U.S. military draw down of the 1990s. The Branch division was reactivated in October 1999 as a formation for training and deploying U.S. Army National Guard units before its last deactivation in October 2006. *Compliments of Wikipedia*

David - At Merry Helm's suggestion, I am reaching out to you to see if you can help me find pictures of the 24th Infantry, 6th Tank Battalion in Korea, 1958. My father in law, Robert Finley, served in the Army at that time and I would like to surprise him with a few photos of the camp / barracks / troops, etc. from that period. I've attached an aerial photo of the camp from (I think) 1957. Merry thought you might include this request in the next issue of the Taro Leaf along with this photo (to give the request some attention). Thank you in advance for your help! Best regards, **Rick Rohrbach, (215) 287-0565**

Merry Helm: My father, who died on 13 March 2003, served in the 24th Aviation Battalion, approximately September 1961 - October 1963. Specialist Four Gerald Montgomery Kelly, RA 52 513 412. He was a draftee and completed Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1960. He mentioned another man in his battalion, David Lester, and a World War Two veteran, Willie Barrow.

My dad was MOS 901.20 Air Traffic Controller at a place called Lager Lechfeld (Gablingen?). He mentioned he worked with the Bundes-Luftwaffe, training West German Air Force air traffic controllers, and the commander was a Major named Winterkamp. I was also curious about a character named "Herr Kottner" he mentioned who'd had something to do with flying/testing Me262s during WWII.

Anything you could tell me about this battalion during this time would be of great help... Thanks in advance...

Chris Kelly, 78 Forest Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502-6860, email: 2217583@vzw.blackberry.net Telephone: {434} 221-7583

Looking For

My name is Dean Palladino, I am a resident of Middlebury Ct. A dear friend of mine, who passed away in 2010 was Dr. Sydney B. Luria. He was a WWII vet fighting in the Philippines with the 21 Infantry, 24 Division and the Chief Medical officer (I believe). I do know that he was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star and his Purple Heart. I am currently trying to put together a surprise for his surviving wife and am hoping to discover more information with regards to his service. Do you know where or how to pursue and records and or obtain other information?

Email: Dean@Palladin.com

Mr. Magio: I am doing research on Pearl Harbor for a friend and was trying to track down what happened during Pearl Harbor with the H company. I was seeing if there are any battle reports. I am specifically looking for a person that was in H company. His name is Arthur Townsley. He was a Private First Class at the time. Thanks for the help in helping me locate this information. Best, **Nick Layman** layman.nick@gmail.com

Editor: I am looking for any information or records you may have or know about a man from my town, James V. Corsi, 32506485, PFC, USA, who was killed in World War II. He served with the 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. His date of death is Nov 6th, 1944. According to your history that would have been during the battle at Breakneck Ridge. Do you have any casualty lists from that battle? I have found his grave at Fort McKinley in the Philippines, but would like more information for the research project I am doing. I work with a group of students that read veterans tributes at our annual Memorial Day Parade. We would like to have his story to read in the future. Please contact me at this email address: degerton2@gmail.com. Or call me at 914 238-2505.

Seriously Looking For

See Below

ALERT, ALERT, ALERT, ALERT, ALERT, ALERT, ALERT, ALERT!

My Buddies: With this note I hope to get your attention. Our beloved Taro Leaf magazine is suffering from serious MALNUTRITION. Not since I became editor about 4 years ago has there been such a serious shortage of material from our members. This issue has only 28 pages whereas we usually have 36-40. There are a few of you who have been most supportive, but we need many more to send their stories, comments, anecdotes, jokes or whatever. Strangely, I recently got the same news story about Trinca and Bateman from three different members and I had already done a related story a year or more ago. (I inserted a new photo clip however, page 7, since it covered a new angle.)

I know from past experience that almost everyone has some memorabilia from their Army days and many stories either written down or in their memories. How many of us have thought of an old buddy and something crazy or tragic connected with him? Who is it you think of when

there is a call for a silent prayer for departed comrades?

Now I've got myself thinking of Gilly. We had completed the map making school at Ft. Belvoir and were on our way across the States by train to California. At Chicago Gilly said, we've got to get off and go to the ballpark, Satchel Page is pitching. Gilly was an avid baseball fan. Against my better judgement, I agreed, but as a result of this side trip, we reported in one day late at Camp Stoneman and were put down as one day AWOL. It's on my DD214, and am I sorry? Not one bit, because Gilly was killed in Korea two weeks after we landed as riflemen for the 19th.

I am probably the world's worst typist of those who write professionally, but even so, I welcome any kind of hand-written scrawl for material. It's best if already typed, but I'll take anything. And, whatever you want back, pictures, etc. I'll return after use. I need your help. **David**



In recent months the VA has been racked by one scandal after another. We would like to think the organization charged with the health and well-being of our veterans is above the typical government bureaucratic corruption and mismanagement, not so. Let's hope the new Director and thousands of good workers in the VA can make the very needed improvements. Editor

Secretary McDonald Op-Ed in the Baltimore Sun: VA is critical to medicine and vets - During preparation for my confirmation as secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA), I was repeatedly asked, "Why doesn't VA just hand out vouchers allowing veterans to get care wherever they want?" For a department recovering from serious issues involving health care access and scheduling of appointments, that was a legitimate question. (10/24/14)

VA Demonstrates New Telehealth Scheduling System to Veteran Service Organizations - Representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) met today with Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) at the Washington VA Medical Center for a hands-on demonstration and discussion about VA's telehealth programs and services. (10/23/14)

VA Expands Fry Scholarship to Surviving Spouses of Service members Who Died on Active Duty - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it will begin accepting applications by mail on Monday, November 3, 2014, for the Fry Scholarship under newly expanded eligibility criteria to include surviving spouses. The expanded criteria for the Fry Scholarship is the latest in a series of VA actions to implement provisions of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 ("Choice Act"). (10/20/14)

Secretary McDonald Announces VA to Continue Town Hall Events at VA Facilities Nationwide - Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald has directed all Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare and benefits facilities to continue to hold quarterly town-hall events to improve communication with, and hear directly from, Veterans nationwide. This follows the recent completion of town-halls at these facilities held between August and the end of September of this year. (10/8/14)

VA Sharply Reduces Drug-Resistant Staph Infections in Hospitalized Veterans - A Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) initiative targeting potentially life-threatening staph infections in hospitalized patients has produced significant positive results, according to recent statistics released by VA. VA's success in substantially reducing rates of health care-associated infection with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) serves as important confirmation that multifaceted intervention strategies can achieve effective and sustained control of MRSA in U.S. hospitals. (10/8/14)

VA Achieves Certification on Whistleblower Protection - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) certified VA under OSC's 2302(c) Whistleblower Protection Certification Program on October 3, 2014. Following through on recent recommendations from the OSC, VA worked to achieve

compliance and protect employees who identify or report problems from unlawful retaliation. (10/7/14)

VA Seeking Nominations for Appointment to the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment to serve as a member of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (RAC). (10/7/14)

Deputy Chief Procurement Officer, Veterans Health Administration Procurement & Logistics Office, Proposed for Removal - Today, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) Sloan Gibson proposed removal of the Deputy Chief Procurement Officer (DCPO), Veterans Health Administration Procurement & Logistics Office, following an investigation by the VA Office of Inspector General in which allegations of conduct prejudicial to the Government were substantiated. (10/6/14)

Department of Veterans Affairs Partners With Walgreens to Expand Real-Time Sharing of Medical Information of Vaccines Provided by Walgreens to Enrolled Veterans - In a first-of-its-kind partnership, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that it will join forces with retailer Walgreens to provide greater access to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-recommended vaccinations to Veterans across the country. This partnership grew out of a successful pilot program that began in Florida to provide flu vaccines to Veterans throughout the state. Based on those results, VA is expanding the pilot nationwide. (10/2/14)

VA Awards Contract for Independent Assessment of Health Care to Non-Profit Firm - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that the MITRE Corporation, a not-for-profit company that operates multiple federally funded research and development centers, has been awarded a contract to support the Independent Assessment of VA health care processes, as required by the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 ("Choice Act"). MITRE Corporation will serve as program integrator. (10/2/14)

Central Alabama VA Healthcare System Director Removed - Today the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) formally removed the Director of the Central Alabama Veterans Healthcare System (CAVHCS) from federal service. This decision followed an investigation by the Office of Accountability Review (OAR) in which allegations of neglect of duty were substantiated. (10/24/14)

**"I have never read a book
describing mortal combat
as this one does."**

Joe Langone, Task Force Smith

"Dynamite!" Addison Terry

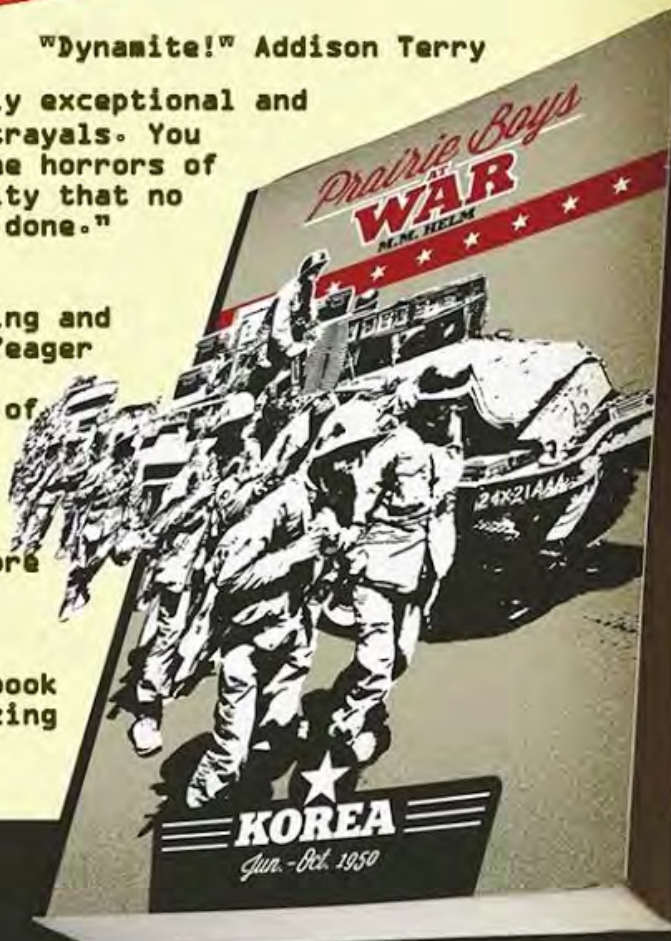
**"It is so markedly exceptional and
unlike other portrayals. You
have described the horrors of
war with a lucidity that no
other author has done."**
Leonard Becicka

**"Absolutely amazing and
fantastic." Jim Yeager**

**"...best chapter of
military history
I've ever read."**
Steve Strinden

**"I had tears before
I was through."**
Sherri Willey

**"I just put the book
down after realizing
it was 3:15 AM!"**
Terry May



**Readers respond to Volume I
of "Prairie Boys At War"
by Merry Helm, honorary
Taro Leafer.**

www.prairieboybooks.com

I think my book is great book for combat vets who can't describe their experiences to their families – this book explains why it's so hard to talk about, and they might consider giving it to their child or spouse who want to know "What was it like?" The book is 512 pages, including index, maps, photos. A huge portion focuses on the 24th ID's huge sacrifices during those early months. The book costs \$22, and I'll sign it and also cover shipping costs to Taro Leafers who can send a check to Prairie Boy Books, 420 8th Ave S, Fargo ND 58103. It can also be ordered online at www.prairieboybooks.com. (Note – people can purchase for lower price on Amazon.com, but I take quite a loss on those purchases – publishing this book was very expensive, and I need to make a profit so I can keep going on Volumes II and III.) *Taro Leafers, our historian has written a wonderful book, let's help her out. Editor*



DPRK Foreign Minister in the U.S. / POW/MIA Recognition Day, September 19, 2014

This year's POW/MIA Recognition day falls during a Congressional mandated transformation of the nation's mission. Heartfelt rhetoric by government officials will expound the high priority given to the recovery effort. The challenge, of course, is to support this rhetoric with action.

One course is to remedy a glaring hole in the Korean War accounting mission. North Korea's foreign minister Ri Su-yong will be in New York for a September 30th address to the United Nations. It is a rare appearance on American soil by a DPRK official of his stature. The visit offers an opportunity to discuss the return of U.S. search and recovery teams to North Korea. Roughly 5000 American soldiers are still missing in the former battlefields and POW camps in the DPRK. The initial recovery effort has been suspended since 2005, when it was slipped into the back-pocket of political discord over nuclear disagreements between the two nations.

The foreign minister is not involved in the nuclear policies of the DPRK. This is a critical opportunity to support today's heartfelt rhetoric with real action. We ask the administration to stand by its promise to return missing American soldiers by engaging the foreign minister in a non-political discussion about this humanitarian mission.

* * * * *

The Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs promotes the fullest possible accounting for nearly 8,000 American soldiers who remain missing-in-action from the Korean and Cold Wars. Our members are the families of the missing men. The latest issue of the newsletter, Update & Review, is attached for further information.

Richard Downes,
(Lt. Hal Downes, MIA)
Executive Director

Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs
P.O. Box 4194, Portsmouth, NH 03802, 818.259.9950
www.coalitionoffamilies.org

Soldier Missing from Korean War Accounted For

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Pfc. Arthur Richardson, 28, of Fall River, Mass., will be buried Sept. 18 in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C. In January 1951, Richardson and elements of Company A, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment (IR), 24th Infantry Division (ID), were deployed northeast of Seoul, South Korea, where they were attacked by enemy forces. During the attempt to delay the enemy forces from advancing, Richardson and his unit were moving towards a more defensible position, when his unit suffered heavy losses. It was during this attack that Richardson was reported missing.

When no further information pertaining to Richardson was received and he failed to return to U.S. control during prisoner exchanges, a military review board reviewed his status in 1954, and changed it from missing in action to presumed dead. In 1956, his remains were declared unrecoverable.

Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea turned over to the U.S. 208 boxes of human remains believed to contain more than 400 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. North Korean documents, turned over with some of the boxes, indicated that some of the remains were recovered from the vicinity where Richardson was believed to have died.

In the identification of Richardson's remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and Armed Forces DNA Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, to include mitochondrial DNA, which matched his niece and grand-niece.

Today, 7,880 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously turned over by North Korean officials or recovered from North Korea by American recovery teams.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans, who went missing while serving our country, visit:

**DPMO web site at www.dtic.mil/dpmo
or call (703) 699-1169.**

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes, Omaha, Ne Friday, September 19, 2014 8:00 Am

- I. Chaplain Carpenter Offered Opening Pledge & Prayer
- II. **OLD BUSINESS:** a. Read minutes of last meeting - approved b. **Treasurer's report** – to be published in *Taro Leaf* c. **Membership:** John Dunn reported 50 members died and we got 34 new members. Tom Appler reported we got four new life members and six annual members from his Facebook initiative. George Vlasic's announcements in veterans' publications resulted in about 24 contacts. d. **QM:** John Dunn will discuss QM operation with John Walters. e. **Arlington Medal of Honor Plaque:** Sal Schillaci reported COL Chilsom has been very helpful in helping with our application for placement. The Association may need to donate funds to complete the casting if private donations are not sufficient.
- III. **NEW BUSINESS:** a. **Officer Nominations:** President: Tom Appler, VP: Don Bruner, S/T: John Dunn, Directors-at-Large: George Vlasic. George Padar has volunteered to become Historian. John Dunn and Don Maggio will begin phone solicitations to find a replacement for Webmaster Tom Thiel. b. **On-line dues payment raffle via internet** will be explored by Don Maggio c. **BOD reunion recommendations for 2015 & 2014:** i. 2015 – Columbus, GA/Ft. Benning/Infantry Museum ii. 2016 – San Antonio, TX iii. Alternative – Branson, MO.
- IV. John Dunn moved to adjourn and Gene Spicer offered the second. Motion passed by voice vote.

24th IDA Membership Meeting September 20, 2014, Omaha NE

1. **Call meeting to order at 9:45 AM**
 - a. Prayer by Chaplain Carpenter
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance
2. **Treasurer's Report by John Dunn**
3. **Nominations for Officers:**
 - a. Report of Nominating Committee:
 - i. President – Tom Appler
 - ii. Vice President – Donald Bruner
 - iii. Secretary/Treasurer – John Dunn
 - iv. Director-at-Large –George Vlasic
 - b. Nominations from the floor: None. Glenn Carpenter moved to accept the nominations and it was seconded by Gene Spicer. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - c. Historian: George Padar has volunteered to replace Merry Helm who wishes to resign.
 - d. Tom Thiele would like to be replaced as webmaster.
4. **Other business:**
 - A. 2015 & 2016 Reunions BOD recommendations:
 - i. 2015 Columbus, GA/Ft. Benning/Infantry Museum
 - ii. 2016 San Antonio, TX
 - iii. Alternate: Branson, MO
 - iv. George Vlasic moved to accept Columbus, GA/Ft. Benning/Infantry Museum as the 2015 reunion site. John Dunn seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote.
 - v. Gene Spicer moved to accept San Antonio as the 2016 reunion site and it was seconded by Mel Frederick. The motion passed by voice vote.
 - b. Sal Schillaci reported positive actions occurring for the placement of the 24th Infantry MOH plaque in Arlington thanks to COL Chisolm on the Arlington staff.
 - c. Tom Appler reported his Facebook recruiting initiative garnered four new full-paid Life Members and six annual members.
 - d. Gene Spicer moved to adjourn the meeting and George Vlasic seconded. Motion passed.



Omaha Reunion,



FATHER FLANAGAN'S BOYS' HOME (The Original "Boys Town")

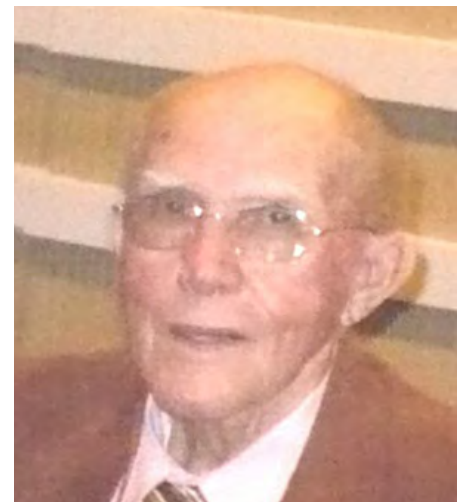
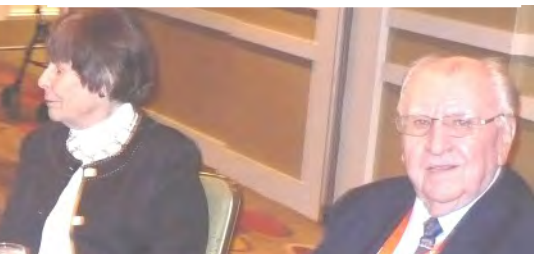
Boys Town was founded as a home and school for homeless, abandoned, neglected or otherwise underprivileged boys, regardless of color or creed, by Father Edward J. Flanagan (1866-1948) on December 10, 1917. The first Father Flanagan's Boys' Home at 25th and Dodge Streets in Omaha, Nebraska, sheltered five boys--three from the Juvenile Court and two homeless newsboys.

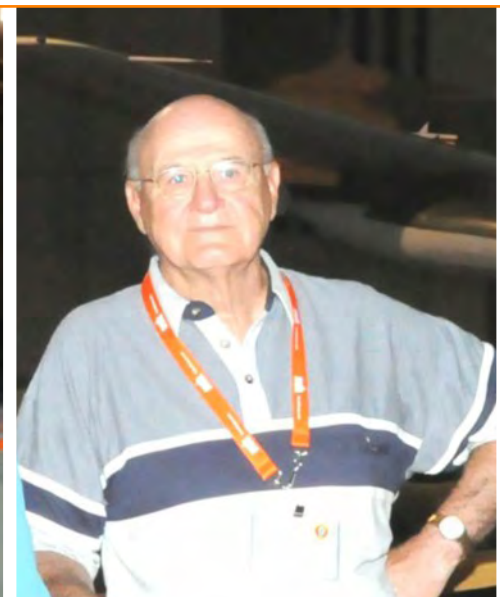
On October 17, 1921, Father Flanagan bought Overlook Farm outside Omaha, nucleus of today's Boys Town campus. From here thousands of Boys Town residents have gone on to become productive citizens in all walks of life.

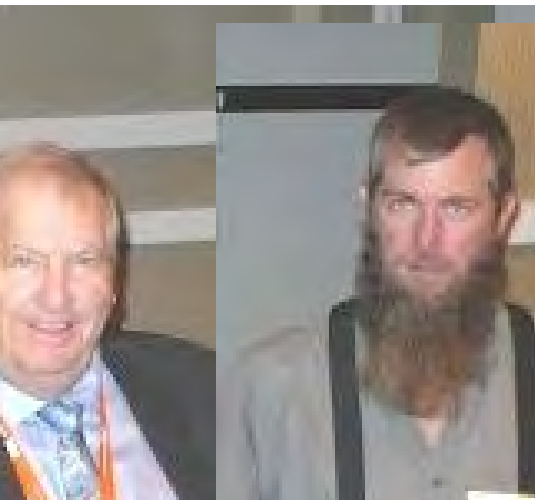
The philosophy of Boys Town is summarized in Father Flanagan's words:

"Our young people are our greatest wealth. Give them a chance and they will give a good account of themselves. No boy wants to be bad. There is only bad environment, bad training, bad example, bad thinking."

Boys Town









**24th IDA New Pres.
Tom Appler**



SOUTH TO THE NAKTONG, NORTH TO THE YALU

Roy E. Appleman



Taejon-The First Day 18 July 1950, continued.

In the afternoon of 18 July General Dean went to the 24th Division command post at Yongdong and there in the evening he took steps to bolster the defense of Taejon for an extra day, as desired by General Walker. He ordered the 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry, to move back to Taejon from Yongdong and B Battery of the 13th Field Artillery Battalion to return to the Taejon airstrip from the vicinity of Okch'on.

At the same time he ordered the Reconnaissance Company to be released from division control and attached to the 24th Infantry Regiment. Up to this time the Reconnaissance Company had been based at Kumsan. The division order to the Reconnaissance Company releasing it to regimental control moved it to Taejon the next day. As a result, the division became blind to what the enemy was doing on its southern flank. General Dean subsequently considered his releasing the Reconnaissance Company to the regiment as one of his most serious errors at Taejon. His purpose in releasing it to Colonel Beauchamp's command was to ensure the 34th Infantry getting direct and immediate information as to conditions on its southern flank; he had not anticipated that the division order would send it to Taejon.

General Dean also discussed again with Colonel Stephens the role of the 21st Infantry in the next few days. It was to keep open the withdrawal road out of Taejon. Stephens pointed out that his troops were astride that road and on the hills between Taejon and Okch'on and asked if he should change their disposition. General Dean answered no, that he did not want that done, as he also feared an enemy penetration behind his Taejon position from the east through the ROK Army area there and he had to guard against it. Dean decided that the 21st Infantry should stay where it was but patrol the terrain north of the Taejon-Okch'on road and send patrols periodically up the road into Taejon.

The North Korean attack against Taejon got under way the morning of 19 July. The first blow was an air strike against communication lines in the rear of the city. At 0720, six YAK's flew over the lines of the 21st Infantry and dropped four bombs on the railroad bridge two miles northwest of Okch'on. One bomb damaged the bridge, but by noon B Company of the 3d Engineer Combat Battalion had repaired it and restored rail traffic in both directions.

The YAK's strafed near the regimental command post and dropped propaganda leaflets signed by three American officers and three noncommissioned officers captured at Osan two weeks earlier. Four planes then strafed the Taejon airstrip. Later in the day, the crews of A Battery, 26th Antiaircraft Battalion, supporting the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, shot down two YAK's near Yusong, just west of Taejon.

The U.S. Air Force also went into action early on the 19th. It bombed and burned known and suspected points of enemy concentration west and southwest of Taejon. Aerial observers at noon reported that the enemy had partially repaired the bridge across the Kum River at Taep'yong-ni, ten miles north of Taejon, and that tanks and artillery were moving south of the river. The Air Force operated at considerable disadvantage at this time, however, for there were only two strips in Korea suitable for use by F-51 and C-47 types of aircraft-the K-2 dirt strip at Taegu and the similar K-3 strip at Yonil near P'ohang-dong. South of Chinju, the K-4 strip at Sach'on was available as an emergency field. Most tactical planes flew from Japan.

After completing its crossing at Kongju, the N.K. 4th Division split its forces for a two-pronged attack on Taejon. The bulk of the division, comprising the 16th and 18th Infantry Regiments, the Artillery Regiment, and most of the tanks, went south to Nonsan and there turned east toward Taejon. Some of the infantry of these regiments may have moved south out of Nonsan in a wheeling movement through Kumsan to the rear of Taejon. Others apparently moved across back country trails to strike the Kumsan road south of and below Taejon.

The 5th Infantry Regiment, supported by one tank company, left Kongju on the secondary road running southeast through a mountainous area to Yusong, and apparently was the first enemy unit to arrive at the

outskirts of Taejon.

At 1000, after the 24th Reconnaissance Company had arrived at Taejon, Colonel Beauchamp sent its 2d Platoon, consisting of thirty-nine men, southwest along the Nonsan road. Half an hour later, three miles west of the Kap-ch'on River, enemy fire struck the patrol from both sides of the road. It withdrew to the river and there joined the platoon of L Company on the east bank of the stream. The remainder of L Company arrived and deployed.

General Dean had left Taejon that morning intending to go briefly to Yongdong. On the way he stopped at the 21st Infantry command post at Okch'on. There he said suddenly about 1000 that he was worried about the disposition of the 34th Infantry and was going back to Taejon. When he arrived there, action already had started at the L Company roadblock on the Nonsan road. The battle of Taejon had begun. Dean stayed in Taejon.

The 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry, arrived at Taejon from Yongdong about this time, just after noon. By 1300, Colonel McGrail, the battalion commander, had the unit ready to move out at the railroad station. There he received an order saying the North Koreans were breaking through L Company's blocking position at the Kap-ch'on River and he was to attack there immediately and restore the position. When he arrived at the scene of fighting McGrail found General Dean there with two tanks, directing fire.

McGrail's battalion attacked immediately with two companies abreast astride the Nonsan road, E on the left (south) and F on the right (north). On the right an enemy force was in the act of enveloping the north flank of L Company, 34th Infantry. F Company raced this enemy force for possession of critical high ground, taking and holding it in the ensuing fight. On the left, E Company moved up south of the road, and G Company occupied a hill position a mile behind it. Even with the newly arrived battalion now deployed covering the Nonsan road, there was still a mile-wide gap of high ground between it and the left of the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, to the north.

Co-ordinated with the North Korean advance along the Nonsan road was an enemy approach on the main Seoul highway. There in the Yusong area, B Company of the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, came under heavy attack. Enemy flanking parties cut off two platoons half a mile north of Yusong. In the fighting there both platoon leaders were wounded and several men killed. Colonel Ayres from his observation post east of the Kapch'on River could see large groups of North Koreans assembling and artillery going into position in the little valley northwest of Yusong. He directed artillery fire and called in air strikes on these concentrations. In the afternoon he requested and received authority from Colonel Beauchamp to withdraw B Company from its exposed position at Yusong to the main battalion position back of the Kap-ch'on River. The company successfully withdrew in the evening.

Meanwhile, just before noon, the North Koreans began shelling the Taejon airstrip with counterbattery fire. This fire, coming from the north and northwest, built up to

great intensity during the afternoon. That evening, General Dean told Major Bissett that he had seen as much incoming artillery fire at the Taejon Airfield that day as he had ever seen in one day in Europe in World War II. Frequent artillery concentrations also pounded the main battle positions of the 34th Infantry.

By early afternoon, Colonel Ayres was convinced that a major enemy attack was impending. At 1400 he recommended to Colonel Beauchamp that the regiment withdraw that night. Beauchamp rejected this, thinking they could hold the enemy out of Taejon another day, and he so told General Dean. After dark, however, Beauchamp moved his 34th Infantry command post from the airfield into Taejon. At the same time all the supporting artillery displaced from the airfield to positions on the south edge of the city.

As darkness fell, Colonel Ayres ordered his motor officer to move the 1st Battalion vehicles into Taejon. He did not want to run the risk of losing them during a night attack. Only one jeep for each rifle company, two jeeps for the Heavy Weapons Company, the battalion command jeep, and the radio vehicle were left at the battle positions.

On the left of the defense position F Company of the 19th Infantry had been under attack all afternoon. After dark men there heard noises on their right flank, and it became apparent that enemy soldiers were moving into, and possibly through, the mile-wide gap between them and the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry.

Taejon was ominously quiet during the evening. Occasional showers from the edge of a typhoon that had narrowly missed the area settled the stifling dust raised by the vehicular traffic in the city. As the night wore on the quiet gave way to ominous noises. At his command post Colonel Ayres about 2200 heard the rumble of tanks on his right. He sent a patrol out to investigate. It never reported back. Ayres telephoned Beauchamp and told him he thought enemy troops were moving around the city and again recommended withdrawal.

Before midnight a report came in to the 34th Infantry command post that an enemy unit was six miles south of Taejon on the Kumsan road. With nine members of the 24th Reconnaissance Company 1st Lt. George W. Kristanoff started down the road on a jeep patrol to investigate. Six miles below Taejon an enemy roadblock stopped them. Kristanoff reported the beginning of the action by radio. At 0300, 20 July, a platoon of the Reconnaissance Company drove cautiously out of Taejon down the same road to check on security. Enemy fire stopped the platoon at the same roadblock. There platoon members saw the bodies of several men of the earlier patrol and their four destroyed jeeps. A little earlier, at 0300, word had come in to Taejon that a jeep had been ambushed on the Okch'on road.

It would seem clear from these incidents that enemy units were moving around to the rear of Taejon during the night-in just what strength might only be guessed. But for reasons that cannot now be determined these events were not so evaluated at the time of their occurrence.

General Dean has stated that he did not know of the enemy roadblock on the Kumsan road; apparently it was not reported to him. He did learn of the jeep incident on the Okch'on road but dismissed it as the work of a few infiltrators and of no special importance because the road subsequently seemed to be clear.

Taejon-The Second Day

Shortly after 0300, 20 July, the S-2 of the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, who since dark had remained in the battalion forward observation post, ran into Colonel Ayres' command post and said that the North Koreans had overrun the observation post and penetrated the battalion main line of resistance. Ayres has said that this was his first knowledge of the enemy's general attack. He could now hear small arms fire to the front and right and see flares bursting at many points over the battalion position. There seemed to be no action on the battalion left in C Company's position.

The enemy attack, infantry and armor, came down both sides of the highway and rolled up the battalion right flank. Other enemy infantry attacked from the north against this flank. The North Koreans penetrated to the 81-mm. and 4.2-inch mortar positions behind the rifle companies and then struck Headquarters Company. About 0400 small arms fire hit the Korean house in which the 1st Battalion command post was located and riflemen from the overrun front line began coming into the Headquarters Company area. Ayres tried, and failed, to communicate with his front line companies. He sent a message to the regimental headquarters that tanks had penetrated his position and were headed toward the city. There is some evidence that the infantry bazooka teams abandoned their positions along the road when the attack began. And rifle companies certainly did not fight long in place. In the growing confusion that spread rapidly, Ayres decided to evacuate the command post. Maj. Leland R. Dunham, the battalion executive officer, led about 200 men from the Heavy Mortar Company, the Heavy Weapons Company, and the 1st Battalion Headquarters southward from the Yudung valley away from the sound of enemy fire. Colonel Ayres and his S-3 followed behind the others. Day was dawning.

In Taejon, Colonel Beauchamp received Ayres' report that enemy tanks were in the 1st Battalion position. Later, telephone communication to the 1st Battalion ended and Beauchamp sent linemen out to check the wires. They came back and said they could not get through—that enemy infantry were on the road near the airfield. The regimental S-3 did not believe this report. Beauchamp went to his jeep and started down the road toward the 1st Battalion command post to find out for himself just what the situation was. At the road junction half a mile west of Taejon, where the main Seoul highway comes in from the northwest to join the Nonsan road, an enemy tank suddenly loomed up out of the darkness. The tank fired its machine gun just as Beauchamp jumped from his jeep; one bullet grazed him, others set the vehicle afire. Beauchamp crawled back some hundreds of yards until he found a 3.5-inch bazooka team. He guided it back to the

road junction. This bazooka team from C Company, 3d Engineer Combat Battalion, set the enemy tank on fire with rockets and captured the crew members. It then took a position to guard the road intersection. Later in the morning this rocket launcher team and one from the 24th Reconnaissance Company destroyed two more T34 tanks approaching from the direction of the airfield.

This action at the crossroads just west of Taejon in the pre-dawn of 20 July is the first verifiable use of the 3.5-inch rocket launcher against the T34 tanks. This rocket launcher had been under development since the end of World War II, but none had been issued to troops because of the difficulty in perfecting its ammunition. The ammunition had been standardized and in production only fifteen days when the Korean War started. General MacArthur on 3 July requested that the new rocket launcher be airlifted to Korea. The first of the launchers, together with an instruction team, left Travis Air Force Base in California on 8 July and arrived at Taejon on the 10th. The first delivery of the new weapon arrived at Taejon on 12 July. That same day selected members of the 24th Infantry Division began to receive instructions in its use. The 3.5-inch rocket launcher was made of aluminum and weighed about fifteen pounds. It looked like a 5-foot length of stovepipe. It was electrically operated and fired a 23-inch-long, eight-and-a-half-pound rocket from its smooth bore, open tube. The rocket's most destructive feature was the shaped charge designed to burn through the armor of any tank then known.

When Beauchamp returned to his command post after his encounter with the enemy tanks he found that there was still no communication with the 1st Battalion. A little later, however, a regimental staff officer told him radio communication with the battalion had been re-established and that it reported its condition as good. It was learned afterward that the 1st Battalion had no communication with the regiment after Ayres reported the enemy penetration of his position. The only plausible explanation of this incident is that North Koreans used Colonel Ayres' captured radio jeep to send a false report to the regiment.

Disturbed by reports of enemy penetrations of the regimental defense position, Colonel Beauchamp after daylight ordered the 3d Battalion to attack into the gap between the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, and the 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry. K Company with part of M Company started to execute this order but it never reached the designated area. On the road leading to the airfield it had a sharp encounter with an enemy force. Six T34 tanks and an estimated battalion of enemy infantry scattered part of the troops. In this action, SFC Robert E. Dare of K Company courageously covered and directed the withdrawal of the advanced platoon at the cost of his own life. The entire force withdrew to its former 3d Battalion position.

In its defensive positions on the ridge east of the airfield, the 3d Battalion remained undisturbed by enemy action throughout the morning except for a small amount of mortar and artillery fire. A peculiar incident had occurred, however, which no one in the battalion could explain.

The battalion commander, Major Lantron, disappeared. Lantron got into his jeep about 0930, drove off from his command post, and simply did not return. Colonel Wadlington learned of Lantron's disappearance about 1100 when he visited the 3d Battalion. In Lantron's absence, Wadlington ordered Capt. Jack E. Smith to assume command of the battalion. Some weeks later it was learned that Lantron was a prisoner in North Korea.

The pre-dawn attack against the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, the first tank approaches to the edge of Taejon, and the subsequent North Korean repulse of the K and M Companies' attack force near the airfield apparently were carried out by the 5th Regiment, N.K. 4th Division, together with its attached armored support. This regiment claims to have captured the Taejon airfield by 0400, 20 July. But after these spectacular successes which started the wholesale withdrawal of the 1st Battalion from its positions west of the city, the enemy force apparently halted and waited for certain developments elsewhere. This probably included completion of the enveloping maneuver to the rear of the city. Only tanks and small groups of infiltrators, most of the latter riding the tanks, entered Taejon during the morning. All these actions appeared to be related parts of the enemy plan.

Neither Colonel Beauchamp nor his executive officer at the time knew of the North Korean repulse of the K and M Company attack force that was supposed to close the gap between the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, and the 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry. About the time this event was taking place near the airfield, Colonel Beauchamp told General Dean of his early morning experience with tanks at the edge of the city, and Dean also was informed erroneously that the 1st Battalion was holding in its original battle positions. From the vantage point of Taejon everything seemed all right. At this time, however, General Dean instructed Beauchamp to plan a withdrawal after dark on the Okch'on road. Dean then telephoned this information to the 24th Division command post at Yongdong.

In the 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry, positions covering the Nonsan road there had been alarms during the night, and some false reports had reached Taejon that the enemy had overrun the battalion position. Actually, E Company held its position near the bridge, but north of the road F Company under enemy pressure withdrew approximately 200 yards about daylight.

When Major Dunham led the 1st Battalion and the 34th Infantry Headquarters group south, followed at a short interval by Colonel Ayres and his small party, it was just after daylight. These men passed along a protected route behind the high ground held by F Company, 19th Infantry. They had expected to reach the Nonsan road about three miles away and there turn east on it to enter Taejon. As Ayres neared the road he could see F Company on the hill mass to his right (west) engaged in what he termed a "heavy fire fight." As he watched he saw the company begin to leave the hill. He continued on and saw ahead of him the main body of his headquarters group climbing the mountain on the other side of the Nonsan road.

Major Dunham, on reaching the road with this group, met and talked briefly there with Colonel McGrail who told him he had had reports that enemy tanks had cut that road into Taejon. Upon hearing this, Dunham led his party across the road into the mountains. When Ayres reached the road enemy machine gun fire was raking it and the bridge over the Yudung. Ayres led his party under the bridge, waded the shallow stream, and followed the main group into the mountains southward. These two parties of the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, united on high ground south of Taejon about an hour before noon. Even earlier, the rifle companies of the battalion, for the most part, had scattered into these mountains.

The rumor of enemy tanks on the Nonsan road that caused the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, group to go into the mountains instead of into Taejon had come to Colonel McGrail soon after daylight. A jeep raced up to his command post east of the Yudung bridge. The men in it said that three enemy tanks blocked the road junction just outside the city (they had seen the tanks from a distance, apparently, and had not known they had been knocked out) and that they had seen three more tanks approaching the junction from the airfield. Colonel McGrail could see smoke hanging over Taejon and hear explosions and gunfire. He turned to 2d Lt. Robert L. Herbert and ordered him to take his G Company's 2d Platoon and open the road into the city.

On the way Herbert encountered a bazooka team which he persuaded to accompany him. He also passed a rifle company getting water in a streambed. This unit identified itself as Baker Company, 34th Infantry; it continued south toward the mountains. Upon arriving at the road junction, Herbert found two T34 tanks burning and a third one that had been destroyed earlier. Lieutenant Little and a reinforced squad armed with two bazookas held the road fork. The burning wreckage of the Heavy Mortar Company, 34th Infantry, littered the road back toward the airfield. A mile to the north three enemy tanks stood motionless. Some men of H Company, 19th Infantry, passed the road fork on their way into Taejon. Herbert's platoon joined Little's squad.

After Herbert's platoon had departed on its mission, Colonel McGrail lost communication with Colonel Beauchamp's command post. He had now learned from Major Dunham that the enemy had overrun the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, on the Yusong road to the north of him. His own F Company had started to fall back. The general feeling of McGrail's 2d Battalion staff was that enemy troops had cut the road between the battalion and Taejon and were probably in the city itself. About 1100 Captain Montesclaros of the S-3 Section volunteered to try to get into Taejon and reach the regimental headquarters for instruction. Colonel McGrail gave him his jeep and driver for the trip.

Montesclaros reached the road junction without incident, saw the burning enemy tanks, met Lieutenant Herbert's platoon at the roadblock, and, much to his surprise, found the road into the city entirely open. At the edge of the city, Montesclaros encountered General Dean. **To be continued. Page 160, ref. 35.**

Fallen Comrades



Kenneth R. Dillon of Yellow Springs, 85, passed away October 17th. After high school, he entered the army in 1951 and was a member of the 24th Infantry Division, **19th Infantry Regiment**, Company E. He served eight months in Korea, and was wounded on October 14, 1951. He then served in Japan from February to June of 1952. Ken earned a Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart, Army of Occupation Medal with a Japan Clasp, Korean Service Medal with three battle stars, United Nations medal, and National Defense Service Ribbon. **Life Member 1687.**

Ralph W. "Walter" Thomas Jr., 89, of Hudson, died Sunday, Aug. 31, 2014. He was a WWII and Korean War veteran, serving in the U.S. Army, **24th Infantry Division**, until being honorably discharged in 1952.

Donald D. Kinkaid, died 25 July 2014. He was a member of the **21st Infantry, L Company**, and served in Japan and Korea April 1950 - January 1952. He was buried with full military honors. Mrs. Kinkaid would welcome condolences at 2872 Limabuirg Rd, Hebron, KY 41048-8255.

Elmer J. Harris, MD, 21st RGT, WWII. Life Member 897. My father passed away on June 23, 2014 and I wanted to let you know to remove him from the Taro Leaf subscription. It was his favorite magazine to receive. He died at age 97, 9 months. **Mary Ellen Harris**, mary.e.harris@nasa.gov

Garry, William W. Bill was the Host for the reunion in 2001 in Hampton, VA. I received a message from his wife Nina to remove him from my email roster and on inquiring how he was, she informed that he had died on February 9, 2013 in Virginia Beach, VA. She stated she didn't let anyone know because that was his wishes. She also stated to remove him from the Association's roll. I couldn't find any Obituary and the SSDI only showed the information I have stated.

The roster shows he was with the **34th & 19th Inf** but no dates. I check the rosters of all units of the 34th and rechecked the 1st Bn & Hq but could find no record of his assignment with the 34th as of 1 July 1950. Wes, **Wesley Morrison** <wesm8@aol.com>

Raymond Kenneth McGuire, 81, passed away November 21, 2013. Born April 11, 1932, Raymond was raised in Russell County, VA and Mercer County, WV. He attended Matolta High School until the age of 16 when he left school to join the Army. He was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division in 1948 and stationed in Japan. He received the Army of Occupation Medal (Japan) and Good Conduct Medal. For service with the 24th Recon in Korea he received the Bronze Star, Presidential Unit Citation, and Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Campaign Stars. He finished high school while in the Army. After being honorably discharged from the Army, he attended college and later started a construction business. **Member**

Sec'y/Treas. List of Departed Comrades

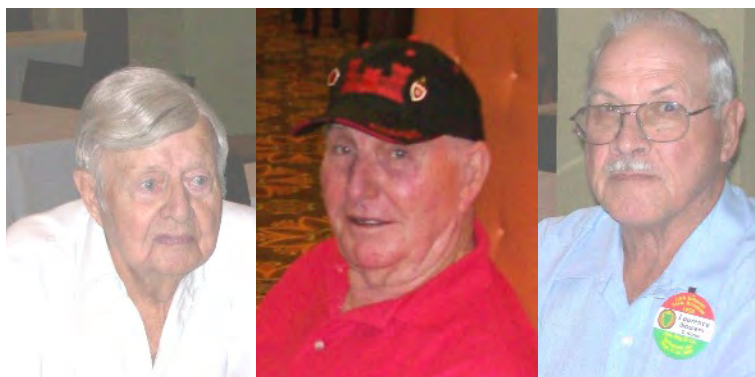
Bacon, Burnette A., 130 Long & Winding Rd St. Peters, Mo, 63376, 5th RCT HQ, Korea '51
Bucher, Alvin G., 27 Thomas Dr, West Seneca, NY 14224, 5th RT, Korea
Calnan, Dan M., 1048 Greystone Ave, Bartlesville OK 74006, 19th Inf, Japan '46-'48
Clyburn, Prince A., 216 Berkley St, Beckley, WV 25801 19th Inf Med, Japan-Korea '52
Cullen, Leo R., 716 Park View Pompton Plains, NJ 7444 19th Inf, L, Korea '51-'52
Garry, William, 3204 Huntwick Ln, Virginia Beach 23451, 34th Inf, J, Japan-Korea
Harris, Elmer J., 7704 Carlton Dr SW, Huntsville, AL 35802, 24th Med, WWII '42-'44
Hendricks, Clifford B., 2010 Canal St, Auburn CA 95603 19th Inf, C, Korea '51-'52
Kahle, Melvin F., 1101 N. U St, Ponca City OK 7460 19th Inf, G, WWII '42-'45
Kincaid, Donald F., 2872 Limaburg Rd, Hebron KY 41048, 21st Inf, L, Japan-Korea, '52
Lane, Julius B., 5608 S. Rockford Pl, Tulsa OK 74105 52nd FA, Korea '51-'53
Leerkamp, Henry G., 4724 16th Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503, 34th Inf, L, POW '50-'53
Lett, Harlon J., 5023 Clearfield Ct, Crozet, VA 22932 19th Inf, WWII - Japan
Manous, Roy A., 909 Rose St Corpus Christi TX 78418 19th Inf, G, Korea '51
McGuire, Raymond K., 9 Pineburr Ct, Greensboro, NC 27455, 24th Recon, Korea '51
Reed, Luton R., 4589 Brookhill Dr N, Manlius NY 13104 34th Inf, K, Japan '51-'52
Regec, Stephen P., 2935 Fairview St, Bethlehem, PA 18020, 26th AAA, Korea
Shelton, Lawrence R., 6631 Epworth Rd, Loveland, OH 45140, 21st Inf, F, Japan-Korea
Smith, Clifford H., 6302 E Carolina Dr, Scottsdale, AZ 85254, 19th Inf, B, Korea
Spragins, Charles E., 8A Marsh Harbor Dr, Beaufort, SC 29907, 24th Div
Stukins, Charles H., 211 Scott Dr, Englewood, OH 45322 19th Inf, L, Korea
Tyndal, Russell c., 619 E. Denver St, Holyoke, CO 80734, 5th RCT, Korea
Verhulst, Frederick P., 23 Andover Cir, Northbrook, IL 60062, Korea
Volens, Stanislav, 7106 Norris Ave, Syksville, MD 21784 5th RCT, Korea
Wallace, Benjamin, 1204 S. 21st Ave, Yakima, WA 98902, 21st Inf, WWII

Donald B. Oleson, of Fort Dodge, IA died this past summer. He served with 34th Inf RGT, CO G, during WWII in the Philippines. **Life Member #1532.** He received full military honors for his burial by members of Walter Porsch Post 1856. Reported by Don Jordison who was with CO G, 34th in Korea.

Rest In Peace

Springfield, MO Reunion 2009

Resurrected by
special request,
not previously
published.



QUARTERMASTER ORDER FORM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notices

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 11/01/14 indicates your dues are **past due** and states when they expired.

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

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

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

John Dunn, SEC./TREAS.

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

24th Infantry Division Association



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Shelton, Alvin A.	19th Inf	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
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Slaney, Maurice R.	34th Inf	\$ 70.00	Taro Leaf
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Tashiro, Kenneth A.	19th Inf	\$ 25.00	Memory of Chaplain HG Fechoelter
Temple, Alfred R.	24th HQ	\$ 20.00	Memory of SGM Kearns
Vihlidal, William	21st Inf	\$ 10.00	Taro Leaf
Welch, Francis H.	21st Inf	\$ 20.00	Taro Leaf

SEC'Y/ TREAS. REPORTS

WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS

Adams, Lynn Charles	724 Maint E	Germany 67-69
Cline, Roy Lee	34th Inf D	Japan-Korea
Cortina, Samuel	24th Div Arty	HHB Stewart 86-89
Davis, Bert J.	28th Inf D	Germany 60-62
Dews, LaRonald W.	24th Sig	HHQ Stewart 83-84
Durkin, Edward	21st Inf	WWII-Japan 46-48
Forstrom, Tommy J.	724 Maint E	Germany 67-69
Gifford, Conrad C.	24th Div	Korea 50-51
Hardy, Thomas W.	19th Inf D	Japan-Korea 48-51
Hovey, Walter T.	34th Arm	HHC Germany 60-62
Lawrence, Mark c.	69 Arm/3rd	Batt, Stewart 93-94
Munoz, Raul	21st Inf	Korea 52-53
Norman, Robert W.	28th Inf E	Germany 60-62
Peacock III, William (Bill)	Assoc Father	21st inf-A Co- 44-46
Schofield, David J.	24th Adm PSD	Germany-Riley 66-68
Solis, Samuel	724 Supt Bn B	Stew't-Dst Stm 90-91
Storkman, G. Richard	21st Inf A	Korea 51-52

WELCOME - NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Ruiz, Jose D.	21st InfG	2445	5/15/2014
Ceccato, Robert A.	21st InfL	2446	6/1/2014
Wickline, Ernest E.	34th Inf, A	2447	6/1/2014
Thomas, Irven E.	21st Inf, D	2448	7/15/2014



Generals Walker and Dean in conference during early part of Korean War. It did not turn out well for either of them; Dean was captured and Walker was killed in a vehicle accident.



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No refunds after this date

Registration Fee: \$30 per person

Banquet Dinner: \$35, choice of beef, chicken, or fish

Hospitality beverages and chips included in registration

Sunday, March 22 registration and meeting other Taro Leafers. Monday registration in the morning; the afternoon will be spent at Mike and Candee Dohertys home for food and bull shipping. Tuesday will be an open day unless we are able to arrange a side trip. Wednesday bull shipping all day and partaking of adult beverages and chips and continuing of bull shipping with a banquet in the evening.

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

Name: _____ Spouse/Guests: _____

Unit: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

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

Banquet Dinner \$35 x _____ person(s) = _____

Registration \$30x _____ person(s) = _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Registrations must be mailed by March 1st to:

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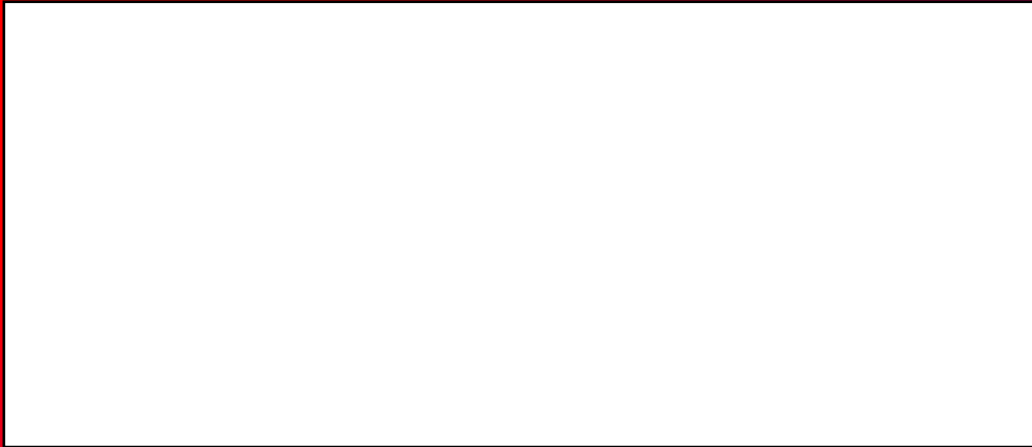
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San Diego, CA 92150
24thtaroleaf@gmail.com

