

TARD

24th Infantry Division Association

24th Infantry Division Association



FIRST TO FIGHT

LEAF





Happy New Year to all Taro Leafers and your families. The new year is here and it is very cold across these United States. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas.

Looking ahead, the Facebook group from which I have been recruiting new members is going to have a 5-day Anniversary reunion for the 24th's Desert

Storm veterans and all 24th members at Ft. Stewart, GA. This will be from February 24th through the 28th, 2015. The group's name is: **24TH Infantry Division Ft Stewart GA**. For more information on this reunion, check it out on Facebook if you can. Note, this is 24 years after the war started and the reunion begins on the 24th of day of February. Anyone superstitious?

BG (Ret.) Gene E. Spicer is coordinating a West Coast reunion, March 22nd through 24th, 2015 in Laughlin, NV. Everyone will have a terrific time. Please attend. Deadline for mail in registration is, March 1st, 2015. Please note the information in the Reunions section of this issue.

The 24th Infantry Division Association will hold its National Reunion on September 16th through September 21st at Columbus, GA. (Ft. Benning, GA.) Please reserve these dates. All information will be published in the Spring edition of the Taro Leaf Magazine. We will be billeted in the Hilton Garden Inn, Columbus, GA. Great rates and beautiful surroundings.

Mike Frederick, reunion coordinator, has the hotel locked in. He is currently working on the events for this reunion. Mike is doing a great job for our Association.

Lastly, the Association is working on a project to donate a tracked wheel chair from The Independence Fund. The Board of Directors have all agreed to donate this machine for a warrior in need. Maybe we can find a warrior that fought with the 24th Infantry Division and is disabled. If successful, the presentation will be held on banquet night at Ft. Benning, Columbus, GA. Please do not miss this reunion. It will be one to remember. Everyone that is a member of this Association has contributed to this fund in one way or the other.

Lets pray for all our Active/Reserve/ National Guard military men and women who are still fighting our enemies in foreign lands and around the world that they may have a safe return home.

Best wishes, Tom Appler,
CWO-4 U.S. Army Reserve, (Ret.)



Hello Taro Leafers: My condolences to you who are braving winter weather. It is currently below zero in many parts of the country. I'm a pussycat, I start to get uncomfortable when the temp drops below fifty-degrees here in San Diego.

For you football sports fans, the good news is, the Superbowl will be played soon, if it hasn't already before you get this issue. The bad news is no more football for many months. Some of our spouses may breath a sigh of relief, but what's a guy to do? If you use the internet, here's a thought: <http://freeintentyears.com/frugal-tips/100-cheap-hobbies/> You might find something new to interest you.

I know many of you readers have followed the events of my wife's condition. She has been in an Alzheimer's unit of a fine nursing home for about eighteen months. It is hard to watch this previously very active and personable lady slowly decline. She now has very little awareness of life as we enjoy it and does not recognize anyone. There is some consolation in knowing that she seems contented and is well cared for. She will always occupy a part of me, but I believe if it were possible, she would be happy to know I have a new companion and I am happy.

Cheer up, Spring is just around the corner. Just believe the year of 2015 is going to be wonderful for us. We are tough, we are the survivors, God has blessed us. Sure, we've got our share of aches and pains, but it's lots better than the alternative. It's not too late to make New Year's resolutions...and here's one for you. Go to a 24th ID reunion this year, whether a local, regional, or the national. Make that special effort, bring along a friend or relative. I remember last year one of our members brought his grandson with him to the Laughlin Regional Reunion. Afterwards they both told me they had a wonderful time, what an eye-opener is was for the young one.

I don't like to keep playing the same old tune, but I have to keep priming the pump. Thanks to members who have responded recently, I have some good new material for this issue of the Taro Leaf. However, the need for more continues. I happened to see the latest issue of the 5th RCT newsletter. It was disappointing to see what had been in the past a great resource become a shadow of its former self. I'm not critical of those who put it together, because I know without a good supply of material, not much can be done.

I want to commend the people and government of Korea for their ongoing efforts to recognize and thank Korean War veterans for their sacrifices which saved the sovereignty of their nation. The country has achieved incredible success the past few decades, but were it not for the fighting men of the 24th and others of the UN Forces (90% U.S.) South Korea would be no better off than its impoverished and subjugated northern neighbor. See page for a new South Korea appreciation program.

David Valley

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COVER: What do these patches have in common?
They are the infantry divisions that fought in the
Korean War from 1950-1953. From top to bottom,
They are: 1st Cavalry, 2nd Inf. Div., 3rd Inf. Div.,
4th Inf. Div., 7th Inf. Div., 24th Inf. Div., 25th Inf.
Div., 40th Inf. Div., and the 45th Inf. Div.

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**COMING
UP NEXT**

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Letters

To: Merry Helm: Hello again. Just wanted to thank you again for your help as I did my research in writing my father's memoir. Good news is that my book came out in late October, 2014. "Through the Eyes of Bruce Price, My Father", is available on Amazon and through me. Can it be advertised in the Taro Leaf?

My father was from South Carolina. He trained at Ft. Bragg, Ft. Benning, Ft. Jackson, Ft. McClellan, and Camp Wolters. In Hawaii, he served with the 24th Division, 19th Infantry. They moved from there to Australia, Goodenough Island, New Guinea, and later to the Philippines. He was part of the team that took Hill 522 during the Leyte Invasion, but he was sent back to New Guinea for hernia surgery, then to Memphis TN to have a kidney removed. He returned to the Philippines for the 40th Anniversary of their liberation and survived the Baggio Pines Hotel fire in 1984. His stories are intermixed with jokes and folk tales that he enjoyed telling. His life really was just pretty ordinary for the times, but he recounted them with humor and a love of detail. He took the high road as he handled the adversities that life threw at him. I commented in the book that my father, being a good ole southern boy, when life gave him lemons, he made ice tea with lemon.

I hope my endeavor will inspire others to write their stores and do it NOW. I can mail a copy for \$25.00.

Mrs. Ann Price Mayfield, 602 Robin Hood Lane,
Anderson, SC 29621

Ann: We cannot accept advertising. However, if you have an independent review of the book, something can be put into the Taro Leaf. **David Valley, Editor**

To: John Allen, and all Taro Leaf Readers:

You wrote the following, which appeared in Taro Leaf 68(4) Fall 2014, page 4. "Merry: 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

John, and all Taro Leaf Readers, when you have questions like this, please find out what the Association's Web site might have on the topic. We have most of the Taro Leafs ever published, many books, and much more. My "guestimate" is perhaps 30,000 pages of material relevant to the 24th! You may key word searches on nearly every page of this!

(Continued next column)

To John Allen, (continued)

Here's how to look for the conduct above. Open Google's Search engine (Google beats Bing, Yahoo and others on this—also you need high speed internet too.) In the Search Block enter exactly: verbeck +alaska +"www.24thida.com" In words this says "Find all documents that contain the words Verbeck and Alaska in articles in the website named www.24thida.com."

Five results are obtained, three of which directly address Alaska's Cut Throats. One is a 1965 Taro Leaf, and others are special reports. Here they are: William Jordan Verbeck Obituary - 24th Infantry Division 24thida.com/stories_by_members/verbeck_obituary.html

William J. Verbeck, native of Manlius, died Thursday in Walter Reed Hospital in ... Verbeck was often praised during the Alaskan campaign because he used his [PDF]major general william jordan verbeck - 24th Infantry Division ...24thida.com/taro_leaf/.../1965-66%2004%20Verbeck_Obit_Mims.pdf Yet even to this last overwhelming enemy, William Jordan Verbeck allowed no clear ... William Verbeck knew that ~the pub~ June, 1944, he served in Alaska".

[PDF]Alaska's Cutthroats - 24th Infantry Division Association 24thida.com/stories_by.../alaskas_cutthroats_Samanta_Seiple.pdf Feb 8, 2012 - The Japanese invasion of Alaska began on June 3, 1942, when carrier man, the hard-bitten and fiercely loyal Major William J. Verbeck. War Stories 24th infantry division association PersonalWar 24thida.com/stories_by_members/0_default.html "Alaska's Cutthroats" by Samantha Seiple, historynet.com. "... and the rains came. Ross, Kenwood, William Jordan Verbeck, eulogy. Simunek, William C. Division History from Other Sources 24thida.com/24th_division/division_history_WWII.html. 24th History-WWII. "Alaska's Cutthroats" by Samantha Seiple, historynet.com. "A regiment in action," by William J. Verbeck, the 21st Infantry Regiment in WWII.

By clicking on these you may download to your computer and either read on your computer monitor or print or save to your computer. You will need to read the document to find the specific information though! You may search for any keyword but always include +"www.24thida.com" at the end of the Search line.

www.24thida.com Your Association Resource for every question you may have. Tom Thiel, Webmaster, 24thidaweb@gmail.com

Letters

David: I have written the stories from my father about his WWII experiences in the 24th Infantry Division in the SW Pacific. He begins with his growing up in small southern towns during the Great Depression and also tells about the military training that led up to his being in the 24th. I realize there's not many WWII veterans left, but I think you may have some readers who might find it interesting reading.

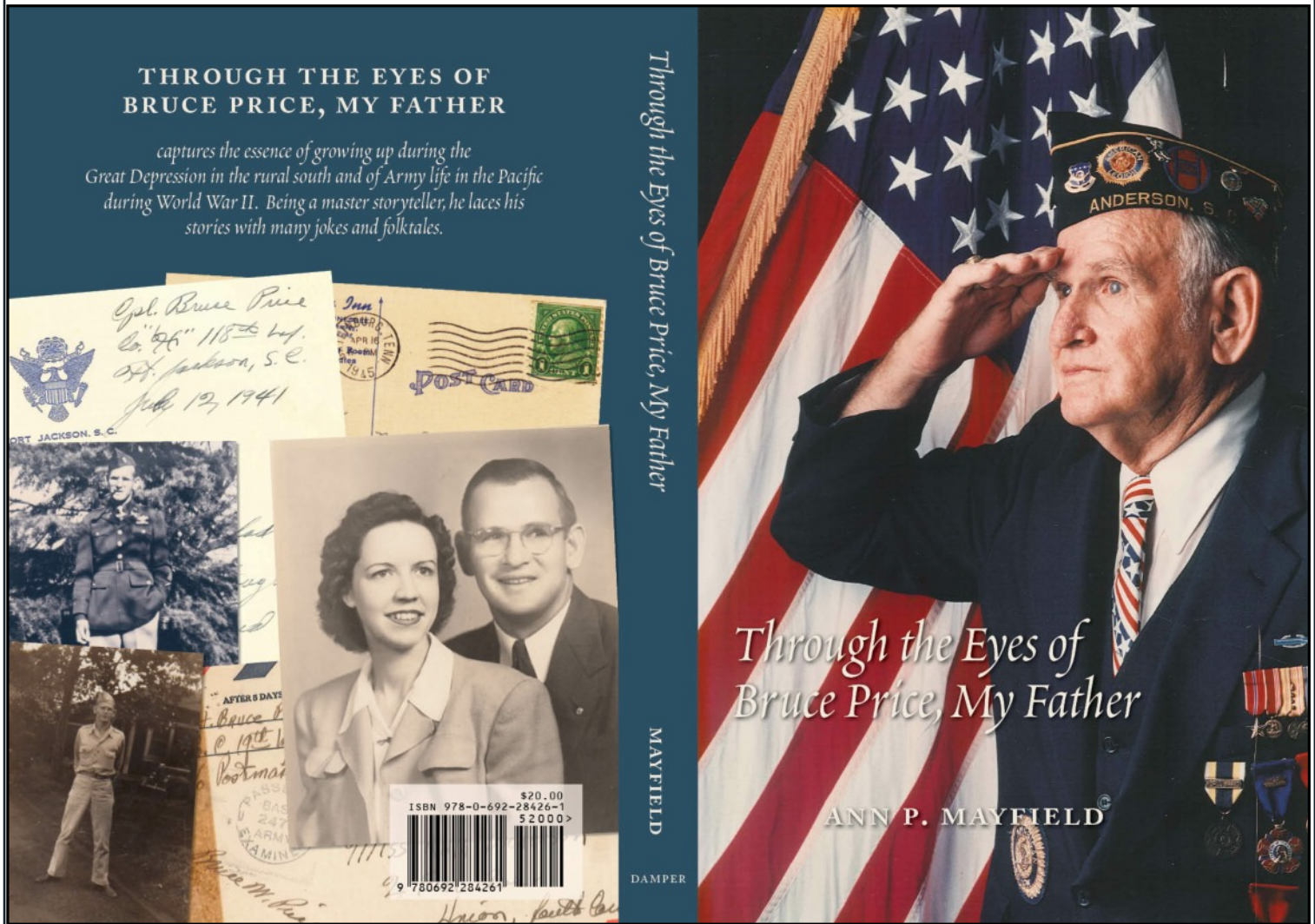
As you requested, I'm including some additional information so if you can add it to a Taro Leaf edition.

I would appreciate it.

"Through the Eyes of Bruce Price, My Father"
25.00 includes shipping.

Mrs. Ann Mayfield
602 Robin Hood Land
Anderson, SC 29621
864-261-6676

Ann: I hope others will follow your lead.. **David**



Hi David, I just wanted to pass along to you my congratulations on the job you did with the most recent Taro Leaf issue. Outstanding! Also wanted to thank you for your portrayal of General Douglas MacArthur - an often controversial military leader, depending on who you are talking with. Regardless, you represented the 24th very well and I thank you!
George F. Lance

George: Thanks for your kind remarks. My recent trip to the Philippines and my portrayal of General MacArthur for the 70th anniversary of their Liberation was a most memorable occasion for me. In addition to the Liberation re-enactment, I gave a one-hour lecture to school children (as the General) and participated in a parade. Quite an event. **David**

Editor: You had an issue of the Taro Leaf with a story and picture about a LT. Blow. There was a picture of him from July 1950. He was killed shortly after that picture was taken. I'm wondering if I'm a relative. Can you please help me out with this matter? **SFC (Ret) Jasper D. Blow JR**
256-259-6873, Life Member

To All: When I saw this letter I thought the writer might be "Joe" Blow who was in my platoon in Korea. I called; it's him. His name is Jasper, but when someone would ask his name he'd say, "Joe Blow" like a wise guy. I saw him get in trouble with non-coms and officers a number of times before he could extricate himself with an explanation. "Joe", I still call him that, though his wife persistently calls him, Jasper, is now 85. He has been married twice, for 30 years each, and has a multitude of grand and great-grand kids. God Bless you, buddy. **David Valley**

Letters

David: I would like to submit a poem written by my sister-in-law (June Sawyer) in memory of her brother who was killed in the Korean War. Ms. Sawyer's brother. Private First Class William J. Feury, served with Company D, 32nd Infantry Regiment. PFC Feury received a purple heart and later was awarded the Silver Star medal for bravery in action against the enemy on 22 September 1950. The poem I am submitting represents Ms. Sawyer's many memories and feelings of her only brother. If possible could you include the citation and poem which would honor the love and closeness she had for this special brother. This would mean a lot to me. I am a WW II veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor who served in the 24th Infantry Division. I hope you will consider including this as an article in our magazine.

Sincerely, **James M. Huff**, P.O. Box 121, Madison Heights VA 24572

James: Will do! Check out page 11. **David**

David: I am sending a picture (below) taken July or August, 1953 at a POW camp, Youngchow, South Korea. This was **C Battery, 11th FA Battalion**. The 24 ID was sent back to Korea from Japan to supervise release of North Korean POWs. When this was completed we were assigned to the DMZ replacing the 45th ID. If anyone in the picture sees this I would like to hear from them. My

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

This has been one heck of a winter. In November. We had three feet of snow. The other day we had a new foot of snow. On January 13th the temperature was minus 20 degrees.

Look to Hebrews 13-1 and continue to love each other with true brotherly love. ISV: "Let brotherly love continue. Stop neglecting to show hospitality to strangers, for by showing hospitality some have had angels as their guests without being aware of it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were in prison with them, as well as those who are mistreated, since they also are only mortal." May God bless you and keep you all,

Chaplain Glen Carpenter

cell phone is 816 820-6455. Best I can remember, top row third from left is Monroe, Middle row left to right is Longshore, Wolken, Schmidt. Bottom row second from left is Elliot, Schuller, Krouse, and Philbrick.

Kenneth D. Yost, 16025 State Highway N, Pattonsburg, MO 64670-7374



David: I'd like to share my Veteran's Day experience with my fellow vets. A school in Michigan gave us a day to remember. They served refreshments and gave each of us a letter of thanks for our service. My moment came when we all went outside at daybreak and with the student raised Old Glory. Following is the letter I received from Holly, one of the students.

Dear Veteran, Thank you for coming to our celebration this morning and for serving our country! We want you to know that we appreciate your sacrifices and service. I understand that freedom is not free and want to take this opportunity to thank you. Because of all of your sacrifices I am able to speak freely, go to school and do all of the things I love, like dance and cheerleading. So, thank you for keep our country safe! Sincerely, Hailey

I want to thank the Mattawan School for my day. **P.S.** I would like a couple extra copies of this issue. **Dayton Davis**, 6799Tall Oak Drive, Apt. 1B, Kalamazoo, MI 49009-7231

Dayton: For extra copies you might send \$5 per to our Sec'y/Treas. John Dunn (see back cover). **David**

Letters

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS



Hello Victory Division Shooters, I found this picture of the M14-E2 shooting team while cleaning my garage. We were a team during 1965 while stationed at Warner Kaserne in Munich. If you were a member and want to say hello to other shooters, let me know and I can put a list together. The team lasted for the year The war ended the matches as the soldiers were needed elsewhere. If you find yourself in the picture let me know. Looking forward to Emails or phone calls. Hope to talk to you. **Tim Schmitt**, 951-536-8429, timschmittl@yahoo.com

MY POEM

You ask me if I do believe,
 You bet I really do.
 Just listen to this story
 For every word is true.
 The word came down to hold the
 hill,
 No matter what the cost.
 I wonder if they really knew,
 How many would be lost.
 Two thousand gooks came up the
 hill,
 With a thousand more below,
 We braced ourselves to make a
 -fight
 There was no place to go.
 The battle started early
 Like Hell's own blazing heat.
 Disaster ruled the hill that day
 And worked for our defeat.
 By noon our numbers dwindled
 There was no help in sight
 We prepared ourselves -for what
 would be
 Our last and final fight.
 Three hundred men that morn had
 pledged
 To fight the best they could,
 But when the battle ended
 We seven only stood.
 Weak of limb and sick of heart
 We rose to look around,
 There lay our proud and mighty,
 Grotesque upon the ground.

We knelt to hold the hand of
 some
 Who gasped for life's last breath,
 To offer them a word of help,
 Before their final death.
 Sickened, saddened, there I knelt
 Without a word to say,
 Yet though I breathed the breath
 of life,
 My heart had died that day.
 With bloodied hands and sweaty
 shirts
 We rose in disbelief ,
 Surrounded by the stench of
 death,
 The agony and the grief.
 I never shall forget the things
 That happened there to me,
 As yet another shell did fall
 And we seven then were three.
 With pounding hearts and beating
 pulse
 We stood in disarray,
 Changed from the flush of youth
 that morn
 To men of old that day.
 And there in desperation
 We clung to that bloodied slope,
 Waiting for the end to come
 There was no earthly hope.
 Then I felt the hand of God
 And this I heard Him say,
 "I still have time to listen, Son,
 If you have time to pray.
 If you can find but a grain of faith
 And have belief in Me,

Then I have both the power and
 strength
 And the will to set you free.
 And if you ask where faith be
 found,
 Faith is everywhere."
 And sure enough I prayed for faith
 And found that faith was there.
 So I knelt before the power of
 God
 And bowed before His might,
 And prayed that He would give us
 strength
 To help us from our plight.
 For He had seen the tragedy
 That tore my world apart,
 And then I prayed for strength to
 keep
 The faith within my heart.
 Then He performed for my grain
 of faith
 As was promised there to me,
 And He produced the miracle
 That was to set us free.
 For though we were surrounded,
 A path he opened wide,
 That led the way to freedom
 And the safety of our side.
 Yes, we had lost the battle
 But I had won an inner war,
 Faith was mine forever
 How could I ask for more?
Gene Pinnell,
21st RGT., Korea '50-'51
 Floyd J. Pinnell, 1895 Vz County
 Rd. Edgewood, TX 75117-3866

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

I am repeating this from the previous issue since our need for material is ongoing. Editor

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 were assigned as riflemen for the 19th RGT.

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 them after use. I need your help. **David**

My Name is MIA

Oh God, please deliver me from this 20 years of chains, free me from this bondage and 20 years of pain.

I can't remember who I am, or who I was before. These rags that once were uniform, should open memories door.

I've forgotten what's called freedom, envy animals running wild.

I'd give the arm I still have left, just to hug and kiss a child.

Somewhere in the dim lit past I remember a loving wife. She was pregnant with our first child as I entered Vietnam's strife.

Let's see, today it's nearing 20, I wonder if boy or girl. And do they remember as they see our flag unfurl?

If I could only know for sure, that someone back there cares, then I'll know its all been worth the pain, before climbing Heaven's stairs.

For I'm a professional soldier, I answered duty's call, and though I'm bent and broken, my heart's still standing tall.

I don't have a name now, they just call me MIA, but I'm an American first and foremost, my strength to face each day.



Clinton A. Roberts, Item Company, 34th RGT, Camp Mower, Jaolan, 1949.

Clinton: You sent the hand-written poem above, your picture, and a Taro Leaf issue published in 1979. You said I could do what I wanted with the material. You didn't say who is the author of the MIA poem. Please let us know.

David Valley, Editor

Clinton Roberts

9649 State Road 56
French Lick, IN 47432-8103



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Applications Accepted for 2015 National Veterans Wheelchair Games - The Department of Veterans Affairs is accepting applications for the 2015 National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Registration began in early January and will close April 15.

VA to Pilot IBM Computer Technology to Assist Physicians in Caring for Patients - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun a two-year pilot to study innovative approaches to quickly search electronic medical records and medical literature for relevant published studies. During the pilot, VA will assess how the technology may accelerate evidence-based clinical decisions.

VA Implements National Hypoglycemic Safety Initiative - As part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) ongoing effort to improve Veterans' access to healthcare, VA is announcing the launch of a national Hypoglycemic Safety Initiative (HSI) to encourage diabetic Veterans receiving VA care to seek support to lower the risk of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). The new initiative will enable Veterans living with diabetes to work more closely with their VA clinicians to personalize health care goals and improve self-management of the disease.

VA's Top Doctor Named Among Top 20 Most Influential People in Healthcare - Modern Healthcare Magazine recently ranked Dr. Carolyn M. Clancy, the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Interim Under Secretary for Health, as number 19 in its annual "100 Most Influential People in Healthcare" poll. Dr. Clancy has appeared on the publication's notable list for 11 straight years.

New Members Appointed to VA Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced the appointment of five new members to the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans. The committee was chartered on November 2, 1994, and advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the needs of the nation's 4.7 million minority Veterans with respect to compensation, health care, rehabilitation, outreach and other benefits and programs administered by the VA. The Committee assesses the needs of Veterans who are minority group members and recommends program improvements designed to meet their needs. The committee members are appointed to two or three-year terms. Minority Veterans comprise nearly 21 percent of the total Veteran population in the United States.

VA Expands Eligibility for VA Health Care Related to Military Sexual Trauma - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), under authority from the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 ("VACAA"), today announced expanded eligibility for Veterans in need of mental health care due to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during their military service. This trauma is commonly known as military sexual trauma (MST).

SILVER STAR

PFC William J. Feury RA13292193, Infantry. United States Army, CO D, 32d Infantry Regiment, displayed gallantry in action against an armed enemy on 22 September 1950, near Kwanmun-Dong, Korea. Private Feury acting as forward observer for the 81 mm Mortar Platoon of CO D which was in support of CO B's daring an assault. Private Feury and the assault company were subjected to intense small arms fire from the enemy's defensive position several hundred yards to its front. In attempting to call for supporting fire from his mortar platoon Private Feury discovered that all means of communication had failed. Without regard to the personal danger involved, Private Feury left the protective covering of his forward observer

ABOVE AND BEYOND

position and started back to the mortar platoon's position. While enroute he was wounded, but proceeded to the mortar platoon where he had his men dismount their mortars and ammunition from their vehicles, registered fire aid delivered it to the enemy positions. He refused to be evacuated and continued to direct covering fire despite his wounded condition until the assault company, which had been pinned down, could withdraw to a more favorable position. Private Feury's display of gallantry on this occasion reflects great credit on himself and the military service. He entered the military from Virginia.

A Sister's Tribute to Her Dear Lost Brother

Brother Bill

Bill never knew his dad
And that is sad.
Another man entered his life.
Little did he know of the strife!
Mom had trouble coping
All the while hoping.
This new man provided a roof
But remained aloof.
Little Bill wanted love
Yet, it only came from above.
He had two sisters
Who were only listeners.
Along came another baby.
So, Bill thought maybe
More attention would come his way,
That's like wishing for another day!
Times were lean
And I Do was mean!
However, he worked hard.
We had plenty of lard.
Bill learned to find play
In each day.
The mountains became his home.
He learned to roam.
Cousin Skeet
Thought Bill was neat.

In the teen years
Bill bought a lot of beers!
Girl kissing!

He realized what he was missing!
School was a bore.
He decided no more!
A job on the C&O (RR)
Provided a little money just so!
Then a car-
Easier to get to a bar!
Next step was service.
Made Mom nervous-
He joined up
Never had to worry about sup!
Foreign lands beckoned him.
He lived his life out on a limb!
First to go
Though Mom didn't know
To fight in a foreign land
On a war that made him a man!
Proud soldier he was
Much more than his Cuz!
Pain couldn't stop him
And he was on the rim.
His lights went out
When he was a scout!
The day was September 22nd.
It was his worst.

"Tell Mom I pray-
Even on this day"
The little boy named Bill
Never came off the hill.
He went to meet his dad.

And oh How glad!
Bill received the Purple Heart
That was just a start!
Next came the Silver Star.
Now he is watching from afar!



PEARL HARBOR DAY The date which President Franklin D. Roosevelt said would 'live in infamy,' the surprise bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, was marked with a wreath-laying ceremony outside Wayne Memorial Hospital. About 40 people, most of them veterans, gathered for a brief ceremony, Monday, December 8th, which included readings about that day when "everything went dark," according to a survivor of the event.

Three World War II veterans were among the participants, including **James Herring** who was in the Schofield Barracks at Pearl Harbor that day.

The 95-year old U.S. Army vet of the **24th Div.** said he was among those ordered to fan out around the island to protect it from possible invasion. A wreath in the shape of a cross was presented, memorializing fifty-five young men from the area who died in WWII.



Tribute to Bill Allen, “C” 19th, POW 1/1/1950–8/1953

I first heard the name “Bill Allen” when, in 2007, as Editor of the Taro Leaf I received a photo and a brief story from Frank Blood with something about 19th Regiment Hurdles Finding Each Other! Frank mentioned that Bill had been taken POW; I was interested but was of course too busy to follow-up. Then in the Winter 2010, Bill himself wrote me as Editor saying he was “... looking for former members of “C” Company, 19th Infantry to add to ‘My Old box of Memories, Thoughts of the Korean War,’” and would I put an item in the Taro Leaf? I did.



Bill and his granddaughter

I finally got to meet Bill and Helen in November of that same year at the joint 5th RCT—Florida 24th IDA Mini-Reunion in St. Augustine. We met again at the same reunion again in subsequent years. I fondly recall the many stories he told and the fellowship we shared even though my Korean experience was nothing like his. “My Old Box of Memories” gave me Bill’s fascinating life story; I wrote a review for the Summer 2011 Taro Leaf.

www.24thida.com/books/allen_box_of_memories.html

Then in January 2012 Bill and Helen came to one of our FL24th Luncheons; he made a presentation and received an Eagle Came from Claus Tiesman of the Lake County Carver’s. He also presented me an autographed MIA/POW flag, which I will retain forever.

Bill kept me aware of some of the many things he was doing, and I tried to help—the Forever Stamp, PTSD treatments, hospitals, museums, schools—I wish I had done more to help him. I’m going to try. Bill’s name kept surfacing, m



Bill (right rear) and fellow POWs from Michigan

Most recently at our Chapter 169 Korean War and Korean Veterans Association Chapter 169 Member Meeting when Chaz Vienna mentioned that Bill would no longer be able to assist him with PTSD treatments. Chaz literally had tears in his eyes; Bill meant that much to his PTSD program!

I last heard from Bill on October 26, 2014, when he wrote: “Hey Tom, I am improving slowly.... Then in early December I learned that Bill had leukemia! But, Helen’s email caught me by total surprise. It read: “William M. Allen. It is with great sadness that we inform you that Bill passed away Saturday, December 27, 2014 in the Hospice unit at the VA Hospital. Bill battled acute leukemia since early July and participated in a clinical trial at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa knowing the prognosis was not a good one; he stayed positive to the end. You are invited to Bill’s Celebration of Life and Irish Wake on Friday, January 2, 2015 6:00 p.m. at the Armed Forces History Museum.

Bill always enjoyed a good party; so, it is only fitting that we throw him a good one! Please join us and share some memories, food, drinks and music. If you are unable to attend, then please raise a glass to our beloved and wish him well. If you can think of someone else that may have known Bill and might not have received this email, please forward it. Bill will be laid to rest, at a date later to be determined, at Arlington National Cemetery. We look forward to seeing you on Friday. *Helen and the entire Allen Family.*” We circulated the notice as widely as we could.



Bill with General Petraeus

Due to my health and distance I was not able to be there. But, I got a first-hand report from our mutual good friend, Joan Arcand of KWVA Chapter 14, where Bill was a member.

Joan wrote: "Tom. It was a very moving 'Celebration of Life' for Bill and was well represented by the local Marine Chapter [who fired the rifle salute and played taps], Bill's family, Congressman Jolly, "Roaring Thunder," the POW Group, and us, KWVA Chapter 14! I'd say there were about 250 people present." Joan. Bill is gone now, but not his memory. Also not gone are his many endeavors, especially his attempt to get a permanent, POW/MIA Forever stamp to remember all POWs and MIAs of all conflicts. For more information on how you can help Bill finish this campaign, please visit, <http://armedforcesmuseum.com/support-the-powmia-flag-as-forever-stamp/>

But here is something you can do now; PLEASE, DO IT RIGHT NOW. Write your Congressperson in Washington, DC, and tell them you want their support of House Bill H.B. 2794, which would make the POW/MIA Flag a forever stamp, to become law, and to encourage the Postal Service to move swiftly to make the POW/MIA stamp immediately and permanently available. You can do this for Bill, and for all POWs and MIAs of all time! And you can do it now!

**By: Tom J. Thiel, Webmaster, 352-408-6612,
24thidaweb@gmail.com**

MEMORIES, MEMORIES...

Frank Sinatra considered Kate Smith the best singer of her time, and said when he and a million other guys first heard her sing "God Bless America" on the radio, they all pretended to have dust in their eyes as they wiped away a tear or two.

The time was 1940. America was still in a terrible economic depression. Hitler was taking over Europe and Americans were afraid we'd have to go to war. It was a time of hardship and worry for most Americans.

This was the era just before TV, when radio shows were HUGE, and American families sat around their radios in the evenings, listening to their favorite entertainers, and no entertainer of that era was bigger than Kate Smith. Kate was also large; plus size, as we now say, and the popular phrase still used today is in deference to her, "It ain't over til the fat lady sings". Kate Smith might not have made it big in the age of TV, but with her voice coming over the radio, she was the biggest star of her time.

Kate was also patriotic. It hurt her to see Americans so depressed and afraid of what the next day would bring. She had hope for America, and faith in her fellow Americans. She wanted to do something to cheer them up, and went to the famous American song-writer, Irving Berlin (who also wrote "White Christmas") and asked him to write a song that would make Americans feel good again about their country. When she described what she was looking for, he said he had just the song for her.

He went to his files and found a song that he had written, but never published, 22 years before - way back in 1917. He gave it to her and she worked on it with her studio orchestra. She and Irving Berlin were not sure how the song would be received by the public, but both agreed they would not take any profits from God Bless America. Any profits would go to the Boy Scouts of America. Over the years, the Boy Scouts have received millions of dollars in royalties from this song.

This video (link below) starts out with Kate Smith coming into the radio studio with the orchestra and an audience. She introduces the new song for the very first time, and starts singing. After a couple verses, with her voice in the background singing, scenes are shown from the 1940 movie, "You're In The Army Now." At the 4:20 mark of the video you see a young actor in the movie, sitting in an office, reading a paper; it's Ronald Reagan.

To this day, God Bless America stirs our patriotic feelings and pride in our country. Back in 1940, when Kate Smith went looking for a song to raise the spirits of her fellow Americans, I doubt whether she realized just how successful the results would be for her fellow Americans during those years of hardship and worry.... and for many generations of Americans to follow.

Now that you know the story of the song, I hope you'll enjoy it and treasure it even more. Many people don't know there's a lead in to the song since it usually starts with "God Bless America" So here's the entire song as originally sung..... ENJOY!

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/TnQDW-NMaRs?rel=0>

Contributed by: **Lewis R. Vaughn** 623 Ashley Commons
Ct. Greer, SC 29651 (864) 848-0368

10,000 Pages of Taro Leafs on line!

Actually, the exact number of pages is 10,010! The number of Taro Leaf publications posted is 351. It includes the very first Taro Leaf, the August 1947 issue provided to me by **Jim Mims** of Texas.

The one that placed us over 10K was provided to me by Mark Arnold of Mansfield, OH, son of **Russell G. Arnold** Life Member #104, who has been going over his late father's collection and provided me with issue 1965-66 No. 9. We thank Jim and Mark, and the many of you in between, who likewise have provided copies I did not have.

And, while we are passing out kudos, let's not forget **Ed Farmer**, who donated \$940.00 for the procurement of a Canon DR-M160 scanner, which reduced scanning time to make this project even worthy of consideration. While document preparation, indexing and uploading remained significant, the DR-M160 scanned both sides of a page with one pass that took for example less than 60 seconds for an 80-page Taro Leaf!

I do not know of any issues I am missing. There appear to be some gaps, but I am not sure any were published then. You can check by going to

http://24thida.com/taro_leaf/taro_leaf.html

and look over the table to see where gaps appear. If you should happen to have some in these gaps, please contact me.

So, there are 10K pages of Taro Leafs; and quite likely an equal number of pages of stories, books, and other documents on the site, what does it mean if our members do not use it?

When I see people asking many of the questions that appear in this publication, I know they do not use it, or know how to use it. I discussed one of these elsewhere
i

in this issue (page 4). And I will, therefore, not discuss that here. But be aware, every word on those 10,010 Taro Leaf pages is searchable. Not in the website but with Google, which has recorded all this material and full-text indexed every one of them.

Bring up the Google search window. In the query block, enter, exactly the term you are looking for followed by +"www.24thida.com" For example, if you are looking for information about General Verbeck enter the following in the Google Search block:
Verbeck +"www.24thida.com"

I have attached a graphic of the home page; I just did a bit of a redesign to make the links at the bottom more apparent. For example, the FL 24thIDA Group page is now more easily found at the bottom left of the table of Links at the bottom of the page. And all you 5th RCT guys will note that there is table entry for the 5th RCT Battlestars (thanks to Frank Jennings), as well as a good bit of other 5th material thanks to Al McAdo!

Then there is the brown highlighted menu on the left. Each button goes to a whole section of material. This describes a bit of what is on your site, the largest online source of material on the 24th Victory Division ever assembled! This site is a lot of work.

It costs the Association roughly \$125 a year to keep online. You guys with computers should learn to use it. If you do not have a computer, then go to your local library and ask them to bring it up for you to view. Or ask your grandchildren to let them examine "Grandpa's Division?" You will be glad you did!

Tom Thiel, Webmaster

*Congratulations on your milestone, Tom, and deepest thanks from everyone one in the Association, their offsprings, historian's, teachers, and students. You have done all a great service. **David Valley**, Editor*



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Welcome to the 24th Infantry Division

WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS

If you have ever worn the Taro Leaf shoulder patch this site is

Wherever you wore the Taro Leaf, whether at Pearl Harbor, in the South
Storm or any the other numerous places the 24th Infantry Division serve

This site is mostly about the Association, but the second button, "24th D
incomplete, and would welcome information from your era of service to t

We welcome you to browse through the pages of our site to see what we
24th, especially those serving in later years. We hope that you will consi

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antry Division Association

ed August 1945 on a Philippine Island beach

ision Association.

for you.

a Pacific, Japan, Korea, Fort Stewart or Fort Riley, Germany during the Cold War, Desert Shield
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e do to retain the memories and the comradeship of the 24th. Frankly, we need everyone who
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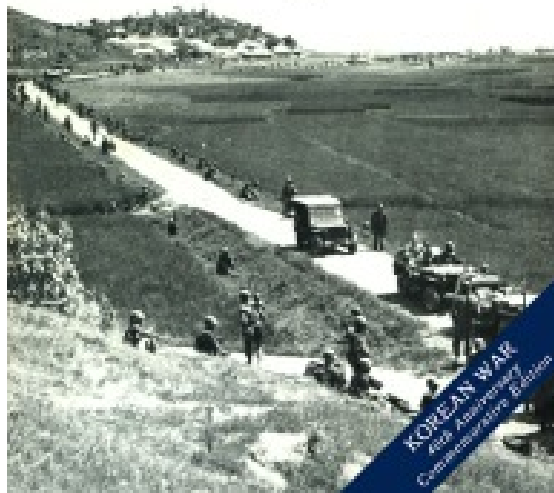
Carmel&Tiger March

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SOUTH TO THE NAKTONG, NORTH TO THE YALU

Roy E. Appleman



Dean took Montesclaros to the 34th Infantry command post. Beauchamp was not present, but from a member of his staff Montesclaros obtained a written order. Before placing it in his shirt pocket, Montesclaros glanced at the order. It directed McGrail to bring his battalion back to the west edge of Taejon.

Montesclaros drove back down the road to the 2d Battalion command post. He found it deserted. Not a living person was in sight; a dead Korean lay in the courtyard. Puzzled, Montesclaros turned back toward Taejon. After driving a short distance, he turned back to the command post to make sure no one was there; he found it the same as before. No one, neither friend nor foe, was in sight. A strange stillness hung over the spot. Again he turned back toward Taejon. He overtook E Company on the road and instructed it to go into position there. At the edge of Taejon, Montesclaros met 1st Lt. Tom Weigle, S-2 of the battalion, who told him that McGrail had established a new command post on a high hill south of the road, and pointed out the place. Montesclaros set out for it and after walking and climbing for forty-five minutes reached the place. Colonel McGrail and his command post were not there, but a few men were; they knew nothing of Colonel McGrail's location.

Montesclaros started down the mountain with the intention of returning to Taejon. On his way he met Lieutenant Lindsay and E Company climbing the slope.

Battle of Taejon

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. Montesclaros reported to him, gave the position of the 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry, and asked for instructions. General Dean patted Montesclaros on the back and replied, "My boy, I am not running this show, Beauchamp is."

They said the enemy had overrun them on the road. Looking in that direction, Montesclaros saw an estimated battalion of North Korean soldiers marching toward the city in a column of platoons. A T34 tank was traveling west on the road out of Taejon. As it approached the enemy column, the soldiers scurried for the roadside and ducked under bushes, apparently uncertain whether it was one of their own. Montesclaros decided not to try to get into Taejon but to join E Company instead.

What had happened at the command post of the 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry? Simply this, believing that the enemy had cut him off from Taejon, Colonel McGrail decided to move his command post to high ground south of the Nonsan road. He instructed E Company to fall back, and then his radio failed. McGrail and his battalion staff thereupon abandoned the command post shortly before noon and climbed the mountain south of Taejon.

Already F Company had given way and was withdrawing into the hills. Soon not a single unit of the 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry, was in its battle position west of Taejon. Nearest to the city, G Company was the last to leave its place. From his hill position, Captain Barszcz, the company commander, had seen enemy tanks two and a half miles away enter Taejon just after daylight and had reported this by radio to Colonel

McGrail's headquarters. Later in the morning he lost radio communication with McGrail. Shortly after noon, before noon and climbed the mountain south of Taejon. Already F Company had given way and was withdrawing into the hills.

Soon not a single unit of the 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry, was in its battle position west of Taejon. Nearest to the city, G Company was the last to leave its place. From his hill position, Captain Barszcz, the company commander, had seen enemy tanks two and a half miles away enter Taejon just after daylight and had reported this by radio to Colonel McGrail's headquarters. Later in the morning he lost radio communication with McGrail. Shortly after noon, Capt. Kenneth Y. Woods, S-3, 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry, arrived at G Company's position and gave Captain Barszcz instructions to join the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, group that had passed him in the morning headed south, and to withdraw with it. The G Company 60-mm. mortars were firing at this time. About 1300 Barszcz issued his orders for the withdrawal. The 3d Platoon was to follow the Weapons Section and bring up the rear. In the withdrawal, however, unknown to Captain Barszcz, the Weapons Platoon leader asked the 3d Platoon leader to precede him, as he had some mortar ammunition he wanted to expend. The Weapons Section never got out-the entire section of one officer and eighteen enlisted men was lost to enemy action.

Except for the small group at the road junction half a mile west of the city, all the infantry and supporting weapons units of the two battalions in the battle positions west of Taejon had been driven from or had left those positions by 1300. All of them could have come into Taejon on the Nonsan road. Instead, nearly all of them crossed this road approximately two miles west of the city and went south into the mountains. Back at Taejon, the first North Korean tanks had reached the edge of the city before dawn. They came from the northwest along the Yusong road and from the airfield. There is no evidence that the 3.5-inch bazooka teams of the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, posted along the Yusong road engaged these tanks.

Soon after daylight two enemy tanks entered the city from somewhere to the northwest. They were soon followed by a third. Enemy soldiers crowded their decks. These tanks drove to the center of Taejon and there unloaded soldiers who spread quickly into buildings and began the sniping that continued throughout the day.

The two tanks then turned back past the large compound where the Service Company of the 34th Infantry had established the regimental kitchen and motor pool. The 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry, also had its kitchen trucks in this compound. Approximately 150 men were there when the two enemy tanks opened fire on it with their tank cannon. This fire killed several men, destroyed vehicles, and set an ammunition truck on fire. After shooting up the compound, the tanks rumbled away and fired at various targets of opportunity. [38]

Not until after the tanks had left the compound area did any of the men there locate a 3.5-inch bazooka. Then, in trying to drive out snipers from nearby buildings, someone fired a 3.5-inch white phosphorus rocket into a building setting it afire. The fire spread rapidly to other wood and straw structures in the city until large parts of Taejon were burning, from this and other causes. Bazooka teams from the 24th Reconnaissance Company set out after the two tanks. These tanks, meanwhile, encountered two jeep-loads of men at the Medical Company headquarters, killed all but two, and wounded them. One tank ran over one of the wounded as he lay helpless in the road. A bazooka man finally got in a shot against one of these tanks, hitting it in the side and bouncing it off the ground, but the tank kept on going. At the railroad station, this tank fired into supplies and equipment, starting large fires. There, with a track off, it came to the end of its journeys. Rifle fire killed the tank commander. A rocket hit the second tank and knocked a piece of armor three feet square from its front plate. A third tank for a period survived a rocket that penetrated the top turret. Pfc. Jack E. Lowe and Cpl. Robert B. Watkins of the 24th Reconnaissance Company were the bazooka men who scored the destructive hits on these tanks.

General Dean and his aide, Lieutenant Clarke, had awakened about 0530 to the sound of small arms fire. As Clarke made the bed rolls he remarked to General Dean, "I don't think we'll sleep here again tonight." The general agreed. Sometime later an enemy tank passed close to the 34th Infantry command post headed west out of the city. General Dean immediately started in pursuit of this tank accompanied by two 2.36-inch rocket launcher teams. The tank went through Lieutenant Herbert's roadblock without being fired on. It was mistaken for a friendly tank until too late for action. When General Dean's party arrived at the road fork, Herbert explained what had happened. Subsequently this tank re-entered the city and was destroyed, apparently by a 155-mm. howitzer, at the southwest edge of Taejon. During the morning, Dean and his party

lost an opportunity against 2 other tanks on the airfield road when the bazooka man with them missed with his only rocket. [40] By 0900, 4 of the 5 tanks known to have entered Taejon had been destroyed.

At noon another tank entered Taejon. A 3.5-inch bazooka team from the 3d Engineer Combat Battalion hunted it down and destroyed it. Soon afterward still another penetrated into the city and rumbled past the regimental command post. General Dean led a group, joined later by a 3.5-inch bazooka team from the 3rd Engineer Combat Battalion, in pursuit of this tank. After an hour or more of climbing over walls and fences and dodging through houses stalking it, with enemy snipers firing at them frequently, General Dean and his party brought this tank to bay. About 1400 a group including General Dean, a corporal carrying the bazooka, an ammunition bearer, and two or three riflemen entered a 2-story business building through a back courtyard and climbed to the second story. Looking out from the edge of a window, they saw the tank immediately below them. General Dean has since written that the muzzle of the tank gun was no more than a dozen feet away and he could have spat down its tube. Under General Dean's directions the bazooka team fired into the tank. Captain Clarke has described what followed: "I remained by the corner of the building in front of the tank to use my Molotov cocktail on it if it began to move. The first round [3.5-inch rocket] hit the tank, and the occupants began to scream and moan. The second round quieted most of the screaming and the third made it all quiet. We all then withdrew to a better observation post and observed the tank burning." This was the incident that led to the much-quoted remark attributed to General Dean that day, "I got me a tank."

General Dean's personal pursuit of enemy tanks in Taejon was calculated to inspire his men to become tank killers. He was trying to sell to his shaky troops the idea that "an unescorted tank in a city defended by infantry with 3.5-inch bazookas should be a dead duck."

The number of enemy tanks that entered Taejon during the day cannot be fixed accurately. Most of them apparently entered Taejon singly or in small groups. It appears that American troops had destroyed 8 enemy tanks in Taejon or its immediate vicinity by 1100, 6 of them by 3.5-inch rockets and 2 by artillery fire. Engineer bazooka teams destroyed 2 more T34 tanks in the afternoon. If this is a correct count, United States soldiers destroyed 10 enemy tanks in Taejon on 7 July, 8 of them by the new 3.5-inch rocket launcher, first used in combat that day.

Not every round from a 3.5-inch bazooka stopped a T34 tank in the Taejon street fighting as has been so often stated. Three bazooka teams of the 24th Reconnaissance Company, for instance, made seven hits at close range (30 to 70 yards) on 3 tanks and stopped only 1 of them.

Fifth Air Force planes also destroyed an undetermined number of enemy tanks at Taejon. In the morning, soon after the initial penetration of approximately 15 tanks along the Yusong road, the Air Force knocked out 5 before they reached the city. An enemy tank crew member captured during the day reported that planes destroyed others north of Taejon. It appears that the North Koreans lost at least 15 tanks at Taejon, and possibly more.

The enemy tanks largely failed in their mission within Taejon itself; They did not cause panic in the city, nor did they cause any troops to leave it. They themselves lost heavily, mostly to the new 3.5-inch bazooka which they encountered for the first time. Taejon demonstrated that for the future there was at hand an infantry weapon that, if used expertly and courageously, could stop the dreaded T34.

Withdrawal From Taejon-Roadblock

The sequence of events and the time of their occurrence in Taejon on the afternoon of 7 July have been impossible to establish with certainty in all instances. Participants and survivors have different recollections of the same event and of the time it occurred. Some recall incidents that others do not remember at all. Battalion and regimental records were all lost during the day and night and, except for an occasional message entry in the 24th Division journals made at Yongdong many miles to the rear, there is no contemporary record extant to fix time. Yet despite these difficulties in reconstructing the story of that eerie and bizarre afternoon, it is believed the jigsaw puzzle has yielded to the long and laborious efforts to solve it.

When he returned to the 4th Infantry command post after stalking and destroying the tank in the center of Taejon, General Dean joined Colonel Beauchamp for a lunch of cooked C ration. They discussed the situation, which did not seem particularly alarming to them at the time. It would be difficult to find a parallel to the bizarre situation-the two commanders quietly eating their late

lunch in the belief that their combat forces were still in battle position a mile or two west of the city, while actually the two battalions were scattered in the hills, completely ineffective for any defense of Taejon. Except for a few scattered enemy infiltrator-snipers in Taejon, the city was quiet. During the conversation, Dean told Beauchamp that instead of waiting for dark as they had planned earlier, he wanted him to initiate a daylight withdrawal because the chances would be better of getting the transportation out safely. The time of this instruction was about 1400.

Colonel Beauchamp immediately set about implementing the order. He instructed Maj. William T. McDaniel, the regimental operations officer, to send messages by radio or telephone to all units to prepare to withdraw. He then wrote out on paper duplicate orders and sent them by runners to the three infantry battalions. There was then no telephone or radio communication with the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry, or the 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry. The runners, of course, never reached these two battalions. But it appears that neither Dean nor Beauchamp received any report on this. The 3d Battalion, 34th Infantry, did receive the units in and about the city received the withdrawal instructions about 1500. The planned march order for the movement out of Taejon gave the 3d Battalion, 34th Infantry, the lead, followed by the artillery; the Medical Company; the 34th regimental command group; 2d Battalion, 19th Infantry; and last, the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry.

After watching Beauchamp get off the orders to his units to withdraw, General Dean stepped out of the command post. He could see and hear friendly fighter planes overhead. He walked down to the end of the schoolhouse command post building where Lieutenant Hillery had set up the tactical air control party's equipment. In conversation with Hillery, Dean found that the former was having difficulty in getting target assignments from the 34th Infantry even though the planes reported many below them. In the confusion of getting out the withdrawal orders and making ready for it themselves the command group apparently did not give much attention to the TACP reports. Then there was also a reluctance to give targets close to Taejon because of the many mistaken attacks in recent days and weeks on American and ROK troops. General Dean remained with the TACP for some time and called

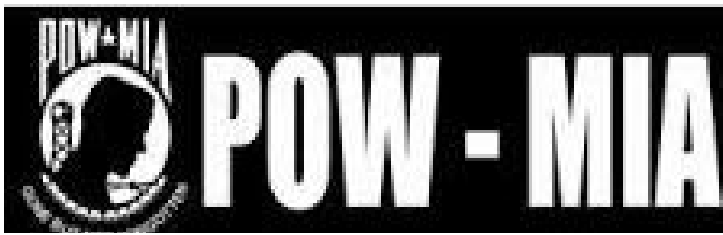
several strikes on North Korean artillery and tank concentrations reported by the planes.

About this time a young lieutenant of the 1st Cavalry Division Tank Company arrived in Taejon with P platoon of tanks. Dean expressed to him his surprise at seeing him there and asked what had brought him. He replied that he had come in response to a request received at Yongdong from the 34th Infantry for tank escort out of Taejon for administrative vehicles. The young officer in turn told what a start he had received on seeing the smoldering T34 tanks in the center of Taejon. Various units had begun to form in the streets around the command post for the withdrawal, and the tank officer started with the first of them for Yongdong. This was about 1530 or 1600.

Several incidents took place shortly after noon that, properly interpreted, should have caused deep alarm in Taejon. There was the urgent telephone call from an artillery observer who insisted on talking to the senior commander present. Beauchamp took the call. The observer reported a large column of troops approaching Taejon from the east. He said he was positive they were enemy soldiers. The "road from the east" Beauchamp interpreted to be the Okch'on road. Beauchamp had misunderstood a conversation held with General Dean that morning to mean that Dean had ordered the 21st Infantry to leave its Okch'on position and come up to Taejon to cover the planned withdrawal. What Dean had meant was that he expected the 21st Infantry to cover the withdrawal from its Okch'on positions in such a way as to keep open the pass and the tunnels east of the city. (With respect to the pass and tunnels, Dean miscalculated.) Now, receiving the report of the artillery observer, Beauchamp, with the erroneous concept in mind, thought the column was the 21st Infantry approaching Taejon to protect the exit from the city. He told the observer the troops were friendly and not to direct fire on them. Events proved that this column of troops almost certainly was not on the Okch'on road but on the Kumsan road southeast of Taejon and was an enemy force.

To be continued next issue.

Ref. Pg 166/ Later



Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs <

Hello Everyone,

Donna Knox, past Coalition president, is now our legislative/policy consultant. She is in Washington this week, meeting with congressional offices on issues ranging from the DoD reorganization of the POW/MIA accounting mission to returning search and recovery teams to North Korea.

Donna is posting comments on Twitter that should interest everyone. Please take a look. (Twitter: @koreanwarmias. Scroll back to begin at her first tweet.)

Rick Downes, Executive Director
<coalitionoffamilies@gmail.com>

"Keeping the Promise", "Fulfill their Trust" and "No one left behind" are several of many mottos that refer to the efforts of the Department of Defense to recover those who became missing while serving our nation.

More than 83,000 Americans are missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War and the 1991 Gulf War. Hundreds of Defense Department men and women -- both military and civilian -- work in organizations around the world as part of DoD's personnel recovery and personnel accounting communities. They are all dedicated to the single mission of finding and bringing our missing personnel home. The mission requires expertise in archival research, intelligence collection and analysis, field investigations and recoveries, and scientific analysis.

RECENT NEWS

Sgt. Joseph M. Snock, Jr., U.S. Army, Heavy Mortar Company, 31st Infantry Regiment, was lost Nov. 30, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for Jan. 5, 2015. He will be buried with full military honors.

Jack M. Redman, U.S. Marine Corps, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, was lost Nov. 20, 1943, in Tarawa. He was accounted for Dec. 20, 2014. He will be buried with full military honors.

Cpl. Robert Higgins, U.S. Army, Battery C, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, was lost Feb. 13, 1951, in South Korea. He was accounted for Jan. 6, 2015. He will be buried with full military honors.



The young often feel they're invincible. Nehemiah Harris certainly did. Harris spent more than a year in combat during the Korean War, but he never doubted he would come home safe, not even when he was wounded by enemy fire.

"When you're young you don't think anything can happen to you," said Harris, now pastor at New Pilgrim Baptist Church in Alexandria. "I had no fear. I don't know why I wasn't scared. I could see people getting killed. I just never thought it would happen to me."

Harris was far younger than most when he enlisted. There was just one problem, he was only 14. At 6 ft+ and 190 pounds, though, he was a big kid. He lied about his age, as being 17, and was soon in the Army.

Harris spent about 18 months in Korea. He never told anyone about his age. "I could have gotten out of there if I said something," he said. "But when I get into something, I ride it out. It was an experience for young fella like myself. But I have to say, if I could do it over again, I don't think I would."

Harris initially served in Korea with the 24th Infantry Regiment, one of the last traditionally black units in the Army, despite the Army being officially integrated a couple of years before. When the unit was dissolved in 1951, he moved to the integrated **19th RGT**.

He was wounded once, in the left foot, when the trench he sought shelter in was too shallow. "I had a choice — I could put my head in or my feet in," he said. "I put my head in. That's how I got shot."

Harris was discharged in March 1954 and, at 17, went back to Peabody High School. He worked for 30 years as a cook at the Alexandria Veterans Affairs Center and has been pastor at New Pilgrim, the church where he was baptized, for 32 years. Now 78, he talks about the war easily enough. But for years he never volunteered anything about his experiences and to this day, he changes the tv channel when battle scenes are shown.

From: Alexandria Town Talk

Korean War Veterans Youth Corp 2015 Convention

July 24-27, 2015 & Location: Washington, D.C.

24th IDA Members: Here is an excellent program designed to give Korean War veterans an opportunity to share their experiences with a family member and participate in related events at our Nation's Capitol. It is an exceptional opportunity for you and a loved one to be a part of history. David Valley, Editor

- **Host:** Korean War Legacy Foundation (KWLF), Inc. (www.kwvdm.org). An organization that supports our veterans and houses 400+ KWV in-depth interviews and 6,000 artifacts (KWV Digital Memorial)
- **Eligibility:** Must be a descendant (child, grandchild, or greatgrandchild) of a Korean War Veteran
- Must be aged 15-30 (most members are in high school or college)
- Must provide proof of veteran's service (i.e., DD214)
- **Mission, goal I:** "KWV 3 Generations Together" Invite descendants and their heroes from 21 participated countries of the Korean War Descendants interview their own heroes
- **Mission goal II:** "The Korean War in World History Textbooks" Descendants will analyze coverage of the Korean War in their own history textbooks.
- Host a conference for high school history & social studies teachers on the Korean War
- Work with College Board and prominent history textbook authors to expand coverage of the Korean War in textbooks

- Other activities (subject to change): Attend the Armistice event at Arlington National Cemetery. Day and evening tours of Korean War Memorial and National Mall
- Pentagon tour

• Notes:

The Korean War Legacy Foundation will cover all expenses such as programs, meals, transportation*, and lodging during convention

Participants are responsible for booking & paying for transportation, 50% of which will be reimbursed at convention by the foundation.

Registration fee: \$50 if registered by March 15 After March 15, fee increases to \$100, Late registration must be received by June 1

- For more information see Website at <http://www.kwvdm.org/youth.php?p=introduction>

- **Benefits:** Foundation will award \$1,000 scholarships to 10 best interviews.

Opportunity to attend MPVA's 7-day Peace Camp program in Korea

Internship opportunities with Korean War Legacy Foundation

- **Contact information:** KWV Youth Corps President Dayne Weber kwvyouthcoprs@gmail.com, 724-822-8900

Or Korean War Legacy Foundation President Jongwoo Han jonghan@syr.edu, 315-480-9427.



24th Division Band Ends Tokyo Tour; Drew Huge Crowds

Tokyo - November 1, 1952

Tokyo was invaded last weekend by the 70-piece 24 Division Victory Band from Sendai, for a four-day series of performances that ranged from swing combos in the wards of Tokyo General Hospital to a concert before a huge Japanese and American audience in Hibya Park.

The Taro Band let by WO Evar Anderberg played at the Ernie Pyle Theater, the Far East Mecca for all soldier talent. The program was broadcast on Armed Forces Radio, FEN, with the assistance of announcer, PFC Bill Webber.

Fallen Comrades



Joseph Kane, from Akron Ohio, served in the 1st Battalion of the **19th Infantry Regiment** from 1943 until 1946, including intense combat in Hollandia / New Guinea and the Philippines (landings and campaigns at Leyte and Mindanao), and as part of the occupying force in Japan. He was awarded two Bronze Stars, in addition to other commendations. Joe's service

in the 24th Division transformed him into a confident, competent high-achiever, inspiring him to attain his Bachelor's and Master's degrees, and pursue a career in community service. His capabilities and commitment that first emerged during his service with the 24th Division enabled Joe to improve countless lives over decades of public service. Joe Kane passed away in October 2013 in the Los Angeles area, where he lived a wonderful life with his wife since 1950. **Bradford R. Kane** 483 Vallejo Street, San Francisco, CA 94133 brk.california@gmail.com



I regret to inform you of the death of **James J. (Joe) Clogher**, 98, of Gulfport, FL and Falmouth, MA on Nov. 27, 2014. Joe served in the Pacific in WWII in the 24th Division, **724th Ordnance**, Light Maintenance Company, and was a Life Member #222 of the Taro Leaf Association. Honorably discharged 20 Jan.

1946. He is survived by his wife of 75 years, Mary, three children, two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. **Arlene Clogher**, 8 Manton Terrace, Brookline, MA 02446 617-566-0697

The following entries are from Wes Morrison research: **Carl Lee Powers**, 407 Great Dane Lane, Dante, VA passed away on September 21, 2013. He served in Hq Co, **21st Infantry**, 1949-52 served in both Japan & Korea (not a member of Task Force Smith) and earned the CIB & Bronze Star.

O'Coin, Wifred W., Life #570 died 12/17/10 in Spencer, MA. Obituary shows he served in Pacific during WW II.

Marchesi, Angelo F., of Woburn, MA died on 1 November 2006. His obituary indicates he joined the US Army in early 1941 and was with the 52d FA during the attack on Pearl Harbor. He received the Purple Heart for wounds received by Japanese machine gun fire during the attack.

May, Sam R., 13th FA Bn, died on 3 April 2009 in Salisbury, NC. His obituary states he served during WWII with the 13th Field Artillery Battalion in the Asiatic Pacific Theater and earned the Philippine Liberation Campaign Ribbon.

The following table was compiled by John Dunn

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP	UNIT	Co/Batt	THEATER	DIED
Allen, William M.	421 4th Ave N.	Tierra Verde	FL	33715	19th Inf	C	Korea 50-53	12/27/2014
Bergan, Morris H.	500 Pike Sat. Apt 9	Ridgeway	IA	52165	34th Inf	HQ	WWII	9/2/2010
Best, Charles	1232 Old Manor	Liberty	MO	64068	19th Inf		WWII	7/20/2012
Blouin, Leslie L.	13 George Cir.	Mechanicsburg	PA	17055	13th FA		Japan-Korea	11/19/2014
Bradley, Charles	306 E. 1st St.	Perryville	KY	40468	19th Inf		WWII	3/5/2010
Cain, Paul J.	3109 B Charam Dr.	Urbanma	IL	61802	34th Inf	I&K	WWII 42-45	8/13/2014
Dillon, Kenneth R.	19 E. Dayton Yel. Springs Rd.	Yellow Springs	OH	45387	19th Inf	E	Korea 51-52	10/17/2014
Finley, Fondo J.	1410 Pinecrest Dr NE	Lancaster	OH	43130	13th FA		Japan-Korea	10/29/2004
George, Leonard L.	106 Bennett Rd	E. Peoria	IL	61611	24th Sig		Korea 50-51	9/1/2011
Hartman, James T.	10201 Wright Brothers Ct	Dayton	OH	45458	724 Ord		WWII	12/1/1996
Heller, Francis H.	150 Quebec St Apt 100	Denveer	CO	80230	Div Arty		WWII-Japan 43-47	1/9/2013
Hyytinen, Niilo	13290 Hodge Dr	Reno	NV	89511	11th FA	HQ	WWII-Japan 44-46	10/30/2014
Littlehawk, Herman	PO Box 534	Pine Ridge	SD	57770	21st Inf		WWII	5/9/1995
Marchesi, Angelo	4 Stoneham St	Woburn	MA	1801	52nd FA		WWII	11/1/2006
May, James C.	9685 Mitchell Rd	Empire	AL	35063	21st Inf	C	Japan-Korea 49-51	4/20/2014
May, Sam	PO Box 1482	Rockwell	NC	28138	13th FA			4/3/2009
Michno, Anthony N.	8520 Brookville Rd	Plymouth	MI	48170	19th Inf		WWII -Japan	12/1/2007
Montgomery, Raymond C	159 Northview Dr	Shepardsville	KY	40165	21st Inf	L	WWII 42-45	4/12/1972
Moyer, Frank	400 Lancaster Ave Apt 114	Stevens	PA	17578	19th Inf		WWII 41-45	9/11/2005
Murphy, Thomas C.	35 Glenco St Apt 48	Brighton	MA	2135	19th Inf		Germany	Mar-88
Newlin, Walter C	28 Canyon Rd	Sandia Park	NM	87047	19th Inf	Svc	Japan-Korea 51-53	9/27/2014
O'Coin, Wifred W	33 Valley St	Spenceer	MA	1562	21st Inf		WWII 42-45	12/17/2010
Peters, Robert H	1023 San Domingo Rd	Orlando	FL	32808	24th Sig		Japan-Korea	12/17/2014
Preslar, Benjamin F	1843 Newcastle Dr	Jenison	MI	49428	19th Inf	D	Korea 51-52	12/13/2014
Roberts, George W	7906 Beersheba Hwy	McMinville	TN	37110	21st Inf		Korea	6/19/2011
Spragins, Robert B.	1498 Pacific Hwy Ste 500	Tacoma	WA	98402	19th Inf	D	WWII 44	11/1/2003
Swem, Leon D	RR 3 Box 327	Carthage	NY	13619	34th Inf		WWII	5/9/2009
Theis, Richard A	221 Wentsler Ave	New Stanton	PA	15672	Div Band		WWII-Japan	6/7/2013
Turnipseed, Doyle R	1010 PR 7014	McDade	TX	78650	52 FA	A	Korea	11/16/2014
Weidensall, George D	110 Freeman St	Beckley	WV	25801	21st Inf	C	Jpn.-Kor. 49-51	6/12/2011

DONATIONS

SEC'Y/ TREAS. REPORTS

NAME	UNIT	AMOUNT
Baker, Johnnie E.	Div Arty	\$ 40.00
Becerra, Miguel	11th FA	\$5.00
Brand, Julius	5th RCT	\$ 10.00
Butler, Ervin L.	21st Inf	\$ 10.00
Ebert, Clayton W.	3rd Eng	\$10.00
Fox, Robert G.	19th Inf	\$10.00
Gavin, Thomas	26th AAA	\$ 50.00
Gavin, Thomas J.	26th AAA	\$10.00
Gonzales, Dan M.	5th RCT	\$ 10.00
Handley, Edward R.	19th Inf	\$ 10.00
Johnson, Donald H.	13th FA	\$10.00
Johnson, Lester E.	19th Inf	\$ 10.00
Lee, Harrison	34th Inf	\$20.00
Marx, William D.	19th Inf	\$ 25.00
Melcher, Ralph	19th Inf	\$35.00
Moncur, Robert I.	19th Inf	\$ 100.00
Poynter, Eugene A.	34th Inf	\$50.00
Repko, Louis	34th Inf	\$5.00
Roberts, Clinton	34th Inf	\$150.00
Sund, Edward B.	21st Inf	\$ 10.00
Swanson, Myron J.	19th Inf	\$10.00
Thompson, Stanley S.	21st Inf	\$10.00

New Officers Needed

As reported previously the Association is looking for two persons to relieve our Sec'y/Treas. John Dunn, and our Webmaster, Tom Thiel. They have worked hard for the Association for many years and they are looking for their replacements.

These are not simple jobs, but they are not especially difficult for someone who has some related experience.

Please, if you think you could help, let's talk about it.

John and Tom are more than willing to teach you the ropes and back you up.

For the Webmaster call Tom Thiel at 353 408-6612

For Sec'y/Treas. Call John Dunn at 205 678-6165.

Editor

NEW MEMBERS	REGIMENT	COMPANY	STATION
Alderman, Chancey L.	724th Suppt	A	Ft. Stewart
Bentz, Vincent A.	24th Div	HQ	Korea 50-51
Dub, Robert F.	7th Inf	HHC	Ft. Stewart-DS 88-91
Eyster, Frank D.	24th Div	HQ	Korea 54-55
Prange, Marshall A.	24th S&T	B	Germany 68-69
Romo, Larry N.		HQ	Germany 60-62
Subject, Thomas J.	21st Inf	G	WWII-Japan 45-46

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS	10/1/2014	TO	1/15/2015	
NAME	UNIT	CO/BATT	LIFE#	DATE
Hardy, Thomas W.	19th Inf	D	2449	10/1/2014
Oberbeck, Robert T.	52nd FA	A	2450	11/1/2014
Yeary, Steven R.	DivArty	HHB	2451	1/1/2015

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



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

**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 <input type="checkbox"/>	Location	From	/	/	To	/	/
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Other Unit Service	From	/	/	To	/	/
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Sponsor



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April 27, 28 & 29th, 2015

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Don Perrin 772 538 2876



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PH: 910-287-5618

E-Mail: geonanvlasic@atmc.net





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Reunion Registration Deadline March 1, 2015

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 DottedLine -----

Name: _____ Spouse/Guests: _____

Unit: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

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

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

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

TOTAL \$ _____

Registrations must be mailed by March 1st to:

**Gene E. Spicer
654 Furgol Lane
Lake Havasu Az. 86406**

For Info:

Call Gene E. Spicer (812) 521 2324

Email : gspicer@seidata.com



The FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon Held on Jan 5 in Leesburg. Sixteen members and their spouses joined together at the IHop across from the Leesburg Mall in the 31st such event held by the FL 24th IDA since forming in the Fall of 2009.

From left, seated: Carol Becker, Gold Star Spouse 21st Clermont; Joyce and Herb Betz, F Co., 19th from Eustis and Palmyra MI; Nancy Boggs; Dorothy and Jim Hird, 26th AAA, Ocala; and Tom Thiel, E Co 19th Eustis. Standing: Bill Stokes, 34th Leesburg; Paul and Mary Boulay 34th The Villages; Yvonne and Ed Schulte 3rd Eng. Kissimmee and Wisconsin; Don Van Beck 34th Tavares; Bill Simunek 3rd Eng. Mount Dora; Ted Jansen, 19th Leesburg and Ernest Boggs 34th Lakeland and Ohio.

The Schultes told about their experiences at the 2014 Association Reunion in Omaha, and we discussed plans for the 2015 Reunion at Ft. Benning.

The members agreed to meet again 11:30 a.m. on March 2, 2015, at I-Hop at 10332 U.S. 441 #101, Leesburg, FL, directly across U.S. 441 from the main entrance to Lake Square Mall and about 7 mi South (East) of downtown Leesburg. For info: Tom Thiel 352-408-6612 24thidaweb@gmail.com. Coming up next:

Florida 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon

Monday, March 2, 11:30 a.m.

I-Hop,

**10332 U.S. 441, Leesburg, FL, across U.S. 441
from the main entrance to Lake Square Mall;
7 mi South (East) of downtown Leesburg.**

352-408-6612, 24thidaweb@gmail.com

MORE ON LAUGHLIN REUNION...

I asked Gene Spicer for an update on the reunion plans and he sent the following message. Editor

Everything is still the same as shown in the last Taro Leaf. The only exception is: Registration is Sunday, March 22 and Monday, March 23.

Monday afternoon will be at Mike and Candee Dohertys home for games and swimming. Tuesday, March 24 will be bullshipping all day. Wednesday, March 25 will be the banquet with choice of Beef, Chicken, or Fish. Use registration form on the adjacent page

Everyone can bring something to be used in the Raffle on Wednesday night. Hope to see you all there. Gene

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



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MEMBERS: Check your dues date above your address
12months dues = \$15.00, Life Membership \$ 200.00 or \$ 40.00 per



Send Dues & Address Changes to:

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

Send Obituaries to: Taro Leaf Editor

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