

## MILESTONE

The Wolfhound Regimental Room was opened on September 27 - - standing room only. More than 200 people, including Division Commander Major General Maher and Mrs. Maher attended the ceremonies along with many old Wolfhounds.

The principal speaker was Colonel Millett, our famed Medal of Honor winner. Major Orlov, commanding the First Battalion in the absence of Lt. Colonel Champoux, gave a short address and read messages from Lt. Colonel Champoux and Lt. Colonel Lynch.

Also present was another legendary Wolfhound - - retired First Sergeant Flo Rivera, the first "tunnel rat" in Viet Nam.

On display were gifts to the Wolfhounds from a Prime Minister of Japan and the King and Queen of Siam, as well as mementos from Wolfhound engagements in the Philippines, Siberia, WWII, Korea and Viet Nam. Photographs of events, people and places out of 27th history abounded.

Prominent was a large photo of child actress Shirley Temple when she became an honorary Wolfhound.

Following the opening ceremonies, retired Wolfhounds of A Company presented a portrait of Medal of Honor winner Benito Martinez, who earned our Country's highest combat award at Sandbag Castle in Korea.

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## MOONLIGHT REQUISITION

A large part of the Wolfhounds' dramatic defeat of three North Korean divisions at the Bowling Alley should go to Lieutenant Colonel Gus Terry, who commanded the 8th Artillery. The "Automatic Eight" was a part of the 27th Infantry Regiment Battle Group.

While in Pusan one lucky day, Terry "found" two unguarded flat cars fully loaded with 105 mm shells. Concerned that they might possibly fall into the wrong hands, he had his soldiers add them to his own ample supply.

This type of transfer was known in GI parlance as a "moonlight requisition," a label also given earlier to items from supply rooms and mess halls which found their way to the Orphanage.

The 8th was thus able to fire thousands of rounds at the enemy at the Bowling Alley, resulting in an unending, murderous barrage. Some of their salvos knocked out several enemy tanks, part of the Communist "bowling team."

While on the subject of the 8th, it should be mentioned that all the units attached to our combat team boasted about the connection. The 8th, for example, had "Bark of the Wolfhounds" stenciled on all its vehicles.

The single-engine spotter planes bore "Eyes of the Wolfhounds" stenciled on the fuselage, and so on.

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Another movie about the Wolfhounds was made by Shochiku Studios of Japan, and released in January, 1960. Entitled "Hey, Pineapple," the picture was partially filmed at Schofield Barracks.

Written by Robert Hongo, a Wolfhound, it recounts the stories of Hawaii-born soldiers and their heroic exploits as 'Hounds in Korea.

We would like to get a copy of this film for the Regimental Room. Can you help?

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## **JOIN THE WOLFHOUNDS... SEE THE WORLD**

The following article, well written and highly interesting, was written by Captain Arnold Strong of HHC, Second Battalion.

After you've read it, mulled over it's religious significance and perhaps envied the Wolfhounds involved, THINK.

What other occupation offers people opportunities like this?

This past Saturday, several of us in HHC visited St. Catherine's Monastery at the base of Mt. Sinai. The Monastery itself was built around the site of the Burning Bush as documented in the Old Testament. The chapel surrounding the original bush was built in the 4th Century AD and the Monastery that extends from and surrounds the chapel was built in the 6th century. According to the traditions of the church the roots of the original bush resprouted in the courtyard of the Chapel, where it grows to this day. Inside the monastery walls hangs one of the world's richest collections of Holy Icons dating from the 4th - 16th centuries. During the Crusades, many Christian paladins evacuated the holy relics of Europe to the isolation of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Catherine's figuring, quite correctly, that they would remain safe in the isolated peaks of the southern Sinai peninsula. These knights left behind proof of their presence as soldiers are wont to do, carving their Coats of Arms into the doors of the main chapel, graffiti now seven centuries old. The Monastery remains active to this day and though it was crowded with visitors, some of us were privileged to meet the kind and knowledgeable Father Paul Hetrelizis, an Australian monk who seemed delighted to be speaking in English to interested ears. After touring the site, we began to ascend the grueling heights of Mt. Sinai. Twenty-five members of the company ranging from Scouts to Commo to Engineers to Mess did our best to re-enact some of the Old Testament within a one hour and thirty-five minute climb. Once we crested the Mountain, our legs shaking with fatigue, we read from Exodus Chapter 19 together, detailing the same ascent by Moses several thousand years ago. We had brought a cardboard cut-out copy of the Ten Commandments with us which now hangs from the gates of the small chapel there at the peak. On the back of these "tablets of the law" are the signatures of all these great soldiers along with a quote from SSG Ray Zucker from Scouts - "Moses brought 'em down, but the Wolfhounds brought 'em back up." Hooah! Wolfhound!

## NUMBERS GAME

In a previous "Reflections," we gave some half-serious thought to the power and influence of numbers. In doing so, we noted that the legendary charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimean War was made by the 27th Light Lancers.

Through Specialist Stedman (Commo, First Battalion) we have since learned of the 2/7 Gurkans, whose valor and esprit almost match those of the Wolfhounds.

On one occasion 300 men of the 2/7 and about 100 men of a Punjalo regiment withstood the determined assaults of an entire Turkish division. A Turkish officer could not conceal his admiration for what he regarded as one of the outstanding feats of arms in the campaign:

"The 35th Division strove for hours in front of that brave, determined little force alone on the little hilltop, and though it lost many men, did not gain its end. They did not succeed in even drawing near.... I must confess to a deep, hidden feeling of appreciation for that brave and self-sacrificing enemy detachment which, though only 400 strong, for hours opposed the riflemen of the 35th Division."

(Note to our Cacti friends: That "35th Division" mention is not contrived. It's purely coincidental that the Turkish 35th had bad luck against the Gurkan 2/7. Although the Cacti have always been a short step behind the Wolfhounds, we're sure you'd have whipped those Turks!)

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## RELUCTANT ADMISSION?

Excerpts from a letter written to the Wolfhounds on April 12, 1943 by outgoing Commander, Colonel William A. McCulloch following the Japanese defeat on Guadalcanal (WWII):

“I regret... due to military necessity I cannot address you in person at one assembly formation.”

“As time goes on, the importance of your successes on this Island increases and it becomes clear that by halting the Jap drive here, the enemy was prevented from further advances towards Australia and New Zealand...”

“On January 10, the Regiment became a spearhead of an attack which led to the total collapse of enemy resistance on Guadalcanal February 9, 1943. In its advance between 10th of January, 1943 and the 26th of January, the 27th Infantry cracked in four days the strong defensive positions on Hills 53 and 57, the initial Corps (editors note-Marine) objective and on the north flank reached it in one day.”

There is more to Colonel McCulloch's letter congratulating the Wolfhounds on further feats in combat on Guadalcanal, but the above should fulfill our desire to make the Wolfhounds' role plain in that battle.

We should note once again that the Marines took the unusual step of recommending a Wolfhound for the Medal of Honor there in spite of the fact that somehow victory on Guadalcanal was credited solely to the Marines by a worshipful press.

## THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS!

From the Tropic Lightning News, dated 11 December 1958:

Yes, Tomiko, there is a Santa Claus.

And those big brown almond-shaped eyes of yours will dance with joy on Christmas Eve when he arrives with his helper at your home, the Osaka Orphanage in Japan.

He won't be coming from the North Pole, and because of a shortage of reindeer he'll arrive on an airplane. But his pack will be 'chock-full-of-presents' for you and the other children at the Orphanage, and the best present of all will be the assurance that all of you are loved.

As a matter of fact, he's coming from Hawaii, and he's really Sergeant Major Woodrow W. Kelly of the 27th Infantry Wolfhounds. His helper, who'll be right there with him, is Sergeant First Class Robert Eustic of the 8th Artillery.

But you have probably already guessed that your GI foster fathers, who've been taking care of you for nine years now, would do everything in their power to make Christmas a happy time for you.

When they took up their regular monthly collection this payday, they earmarked twenty-five per cent of it for your Christmas. And twenty-five per cent of \$2,500 will buy lots of presents. Then they asked the Army's permission to have Santa Claus deliver the gifts in person, and despite what you may have heard, there are nice people running the Army and they gave permission gladly.

So keep your eyes on the sky, Tomiko, and if you hear a big plane over Osaka just before Christmas watch for the old gentleman with the white whiskers and the red suit. He'll have a familiar and well-loved figure with him, a soldier in Army green--so you can't miss.

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## WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?

The following affirmation of a soldier's role in America by Father David Desmond O'Brien, is a favorite of Wolfhound hero Colonel Lewis Millett.

It's the soldier, not the fort  
That gives us freedom of speech.  
It's the soldier, not the reporter  
That gives us freedom of the press.  
It's not the campus agitator  
That gives us the right to demonstrate.  
It's the soldier that salutes the flag,  
Who serves under the flag,  
Whose coffin is covered by the flag,  
Who gives the asinine agitator  
The opportunity to burn the flag.

(Father O'Brien, a former sergeant, taught at Notre Dame).

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A group of Wolfhound truck drivers, sent to pick up ammo and other supplies in Taegu, a provincial capital south of the Bowling Alley, were scheduled to stay overnight and return to the 27th in the morning.

Exhausted, they bedded down in an empty schoolhouse. The city, and the territory around it were barren. Families, fleeing from the communists, found shelter wherever they could, or merely laid down to sleep anywhere in the devastated area.

Somewhere nearby, at about four in the morning, a baby started to cry, waking the drivers. One of them half-shouted, "what's that kid crying about?"

Out of the darkness came a muted voice sadly, "he just found out he was born in Korea."

## LEGENDARY WOLFHOUND

We've written about him before. However... Sam Solomon ... First Sergeant Samuel Solomon of C Company, native of Kahala on the "Big Island" of Hawaii. Tough soldier, outstanding athlete, almost worshipped by the men in his Company in Viet Nam.

His name is kept alive by an exhibit in the Wolfhound Regimental Room and by the Solomon Elementary School at Schofield Barracks.

The last ten days of his life are described in a letter from Major General (Retired) Guy S. Meloy, First Battalion Commander at the time. Meloy had selected him to accompany two other soldiers to visit the Wolfhound Orphanage on October 24, 1966. They flew to Japan through the courtesy of Japan Air Lines.

According to General Meloy, Solomon "was ecstatic and enthused by what he had seen and experienced."

A few days later, the Wolfhounds were in the midst of Attleboro, a climactic battle of the war during which then, Major Meloy found himself controlling eleven companies.

Back to Sam Solomon... on May 9, 1967, the Congressional Record reprinted a Honolulu newspaper article by 25th Division photographer Al Chang which contained the description of Sam's last hours: "On November 3, the outfit was in heavy action and Solomon moved out alone eight times into the dense brush to bring back wounded men. Then, halting for a breather, the big First Sergeant was shot and killed by a sniper."

Major General Weyand, 25th Division Commander, said of Sam, "He was one of my finest soldiers."

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## IT STARTED HERE

A news release from the 25th Division in May, 1962 credits wives of Wolfhounds as the founders of what is now known in the Army as the Family Support Group.

The Wolfhound wives initiated the project when their husbands were on duty in Thailand. According to the Division article, the informal association mushroomed into a Division-wide family assistance program, and eventually became Army-wide.

It might be added that the custom itself was not new in the Wolfhounds. This writer recalls the wives rallying around to help and support each other as long ago as the years of the Korean Conflict.

We're as proud of these ladies as we are of their husbands.

### **Wolfhounds!**

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Ready for another story about the finest infantryman in the Country? OK, but this one is not about one of Colonel Millett's amazing feats in combat.

Back in 1966, when he was serving as a member of the US Military Advisory Group in Viet Nam, he spent his spare time constructing a hospital for refugees. He wrote to the Wolfhounds for assistance and they and their wives replied with several crates of food, vitamins, soap, garden utensils, school supplies and other useful items.

Don't be surprised... he holds the honorary degree of Humane Letters from Emerson College.

## TIMES CHANGE

Among the many historic documents and memorabilia to be found in the Wolfhound Regimental Room is a handwritten General Order dated June 24, 1902.

The order outlines methods to be used in dealing with Moro tribesmen during the Philippine Insurrection. It indicates that guerrilla warfare was not as highly developed as it is today.

Over the signature of Colonel Frank D. Baldwin, 27th Commander, it directs that "if armed Moros are met on the trail by a party of soldiers they will be required to halt and put down their arms and then retire, when the same will be taken into the possession of the party, who will then arrest the Moros..."

Lest it be assumed that Colonel Baldwin's approach was naive, it is well to remember that the Colonel was a veteran of the Indian Wars and one of the few men in our Country's history to receive the Medal of Honor twice.

Just eight days after the publication of this order, soldiers of the 27th fought and won the first major battle in its history. Their victory at the battle of Bayan was noted in a congratulatory cablegram a few days later by President Theodore Roosevelt.

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## UGLY AMERICAN?

The following incident actually occurred... and it may well be a reflection of similar ones which occurred at the time.

It was late afternoon on a cold, wintry afternoon in Osaka. The war had just ended, and American Occupation soldiers could be seen from time to time on the streets.

Of course when one did appear, all the females in the area disappeared in the twinkling of an eye, as if by magic. They well knew what horrors would befall them if they fell into the hands of these ravaging beasts... for years the newspapers and radio had drummed the warnings into their eyes and ears.

Teenage Kimiko and her little brother scurried along the street toward home. They'd been out to the farms on the outskirts of the city in a fruitless effort to trade Kimonos for rice.

As they raced along, they turned a corner and ran smack into a huge American (all Americans were huge). He spread his arms wide, and crowded them into a doorway. There was a faint odor of alcohol on his breath and Kimiko just knew the end was near.

Slowly his hand went to his back pocket. Slowly it was withdrawn, and in his hand was... a Hershey bar! "Merry Christmas, little girl," he said as he handed it over.

They bowed and bowed their thanks as they sped off.

That night, and every night for weeks after, the children of the family gathered around to unwrap the chocolate and gaze at it with longing eyes. They didn't try to eat it... they well knew that it was poisoned!

Finally, Kimiko could stand it no longer. She peeled off the tin foil and broke off a corner, now gone completely white. She ate it... and it was delicious!

## IT'S UP TO YOU

There's a priceless opportunity to get the combat soldier's point of view...and learn some lessons from it.

The only combat veteran of the Vietnam conflict in the Regiment today is First Battalion Command Sergeant Major Nathaniel Washington. Twice wounded in the leg at "Antelope Valley," and the back at "Fire Base Rock," he is always available to Wolfhounds wanting to learn.

He often says that self-discipline should be the primary goal of every soldier. He adds that attaining that goal can be and often is tiresome, even boring, but that once it is gained, a man's whole approach to life in and out of the Service will bring many benefits previously beyond his reach.

To a combat soldier, self discipline means above all, control of fear. Every man feels fear in combat... controlling it, and using that control makes him almost unbeatable.

Self-discipline helps him to endure, over and over again, practicing the skills of the soldier. He can shoot, and shoot well when the chips are down. He can keep going when lesser men fall by the wayside.

He knows his weapon as well, or better, than any other man. And he learns how to take orders so that he can learn to give them.

As we said, talking to the Sergeant Major is an opportunity not to be missed. And unless his duties get in the way, there's nothing he likes better than talking to a young soldier wanting to learn.

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## WE LEAD!

If accounts of Wolfhound accomplishments are viewed as idle boasting, the following short list taken from a 25th Division history may serve to straighten out some critics:

The Wolfhounds fired the first shots at attacking Japanese planes on December 7, 1941,

The Wolfhounds were the first Division unit to see combat (Guadalcanal) in WWII,

The Wolfhounds met the Chinese when they crossed the Yalu into South Korea,

The Wolfhounds were the last to cross the Han after the fall of Seoul,

The Wolfhounds were selected as the first honor guard at the outset of truce talks in Korea,

And that's not all...

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A frequent visitor to the Holy Home was the late Honolulu Mayor Neal S. Blaisdell. He and his wife Lucy came to know many of the children by name.

The Mayor always asked that neither his visits or his donations to the Orphanage be publicized. He had a deep and sincere feeling about the Wolfhounds and their Orphanage project and did not want any misunderstanding about his actions.

His political experience had taught him that there were always small minded people anxious to turn the decency of others into fabrications suited to their own notions and desires.

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## YOU'VE GOT FRIENDS

Denby Fawcett was an outstanding combat correspondent for a Honolulu paper, and was deeply respected by the Wolfhounds. On her return to the Islands a group of men of the Regiment held a luau in her honor at the Schofield Barracks rifle range.

She is now a reporter for station KITV in Honolulu.

Here are some excerpts from a recent letter explaining her inability to attend the opening of the Regimental Room:

“Thank you very much for the copy of your book Wolfhound Reflections. I already have your Volume III and especially enjoy the stories about Lewis Millett. The Wolfhounds were especially cordial to me in Viet Nam. I remember a Wolfhound Battalion Commander who served dinners in the field on fine bone china.\* David Pabst, who was a Wolfhound platoon commander and was one of my favorite classmates at Punahou. He's now a bigwig in the US Foreign Service in Japan.\*\*

\*Wolfhounds always did do things in style!

\*\*Pabst is the US Consul General in Osaka, and has visited our Orphanage.

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## WHAT'D YOU SAY?

Time marches on.

So too does language, but at a more rapid pace. Or so it seems to this refugee from the nineteenth century.

For example, take "The Wolfhound Weekly," a publication by and for the Second Battalion in Sinai. The last issue we saw featured Spyro Gyra, whose name at first glance appeared to be the name of the enemy secret agent organization a la James Bond.

Actually it's a famous jazz band which was on tour in Israel. They had a day off... and entertained the Wolfhounds for free.

But that's not the story. What was of confusing interest was the writer's description of one band member's performance: "He inspired terror in any unfortunate trash metal fan nearby looking for a mosh pit." We assume that this was a laudatory comment...

Describing how one member joined the band, he was quoted as saying, "They'd sneak me into NCO clubs as an underage kid... actually, I went through a lot of other interesting things with them."

Such as?

(To the guys at "The Wolfhound Weekly"... don't get angry fellows! You're doing a great job under the conditions!)

## WOLFHOUND REFLECTIONS IV

“Reflections” is getting around. We’re getting letters from all over the Mainland. Retired Wolfhounds, Wolfhounds on active duty with other units, families of Wolfhounds and just plain civilians.

We even got some nice comments from a former combat correspondent who had done stories about the Regiment in Vietnam.

No doubt we’ve made some mistakes - - and if you spot any, please let us know. We’d also like to receive any stories of which you have knowledge. The more we go on, the more tales we uncover, but that’s to be expected in an outfit such as the Wolfhounds.

Hugh F. O’Reilly  
Honorary Wolfhound Sergeant Major

Please send comments and suggestions to:

Commander  
1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment  
ATTN: S-2 (Regimental Operations)  
Schofield Barracks, Hawaii: 96857

Friends of the Wolfhounds:

Should you desire additional copies, there is no charge for the books, but please enclose sufficient postage.