

## GREATNESS.....SUCCESS....

Neither is achieved overnight, nor recognized instantly. As a matter of fact, the first sign of recognition is often envy. The Wolfhounds have had their share of the latter directed toward them.....and have received it with what borders on malicious satisfaction.

It is rewarding to view the almost century old sign of the 27<sup>th</sup> tapestry, the work of a master weaver's art. Never completed, growing in splendor, with each of us a thread in its awesome complexity.

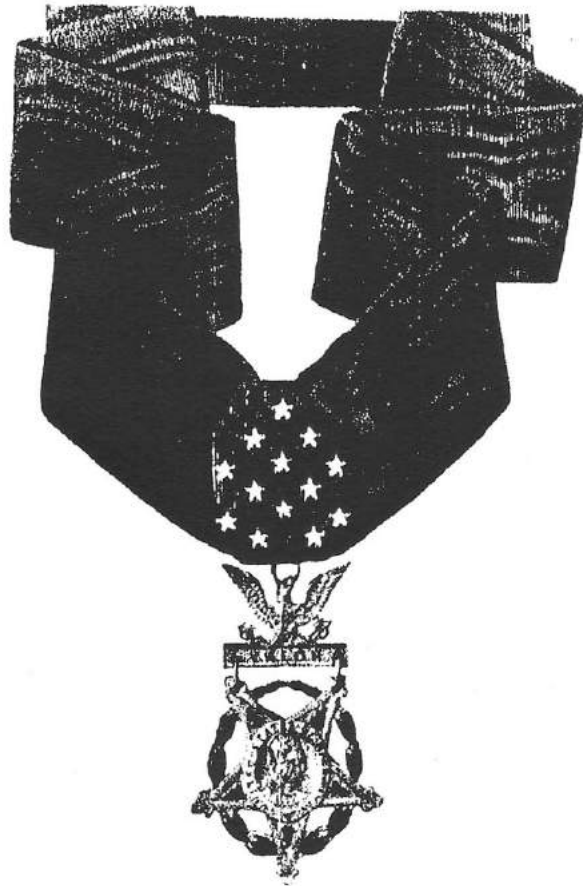
Here, the labors of a private are not insignificant. They are, in fact, the threads which give the whole glorious fabric its foundation.

How indeed could the strategic genius of our leaders be brought to fruition without those "insignificant" efforts? This thought should stir an awareness of who we are, of our importance in the scheme of things.

Regardless of our rank, each of us is definitely, absolutely, vital to the growth and excellence of the Wolfhound "tapestry." Think for a moment, set a goal for yourself, and add one more, one vital, ingredient to your personal plan.....

Whether you're a career man, or going on to other things after this enlistment, there's one thing we all have in common. No matter whether your task today is humdrum, difficult, or even a temporary failure, the effort you put into it now helps to determine who you will be tomorrow.

WOLFHOOUNDS!  
RSM Hugh F. O'Reilly



# WOLFHOUND MEDALS OF HONOR

## PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION

1LT Charles G. Bickman  
1LT George G. Shaw

## WORLD WAR II

CPT Charles W. Davis  
SSG Raymond H. Cooley

## KOREAN WAR

\* CPL John W. Collier  
\* CPT Reginald B. Desiderio  
CPT Lewis L. Millett  
\* 2LT Jerome A. Sudut  
\* CPL Benito Martinez

## VIETNAM WAR

SGT John F. Baker, Jr.  
CPT Robert F. Foley  
\* SGT Charles C. Fleek  
\* CPT Riley L. Pitts  
SSG Paul R. Lambers

\* POSTHUMOUS AWARD

## ARE GENERALS HUMAN?

There are times when those who know and understand the Army wish they could shout its true nature from the rooftops. Such moments came at the dedication of "Eternity Hall" in early April 1997, in Wolfhound D Quad.

Old comrades in arms retired General Fred Weyand and famed, also retired, "Tunnel Rat" 1st Sgt. Flo Rivera met each other for the first time since their days in Viet Nam. No rank here. No protocol.

Each clasped the other in his arms in an impulsive, drawn out gesture of affection which belied the often public impression of steely-eyed generals and gruff domineering sergeants. The general and the sergeant spent the next quarter of an hour exchanging memories until the need to greet others ended the discussion.

Some time later a young boy, perhaps ten years old, walked up to the general with his even younger brother. "My little brother," he said, "wants to shake hands with a four star general."

The towering (6'4") general bent down to meet the youngster's eyes and said, "I'm not a four star, I've got eight," pointing to his shoulders in turn.

The wide-eyed children gazed up at the giant figure in front of them in awe. It's not too far-fetched to imagine that their children will hear that story....

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## DAVID and GOLAITH

It wasn't the Orient Express. It wasn't even Amtrak. But what it lacked in amenities it sure made up for in armament.

This was the "Destroyer," one of a fleet of armored cars which roamed the 4,500 mile Trans-Siberian Railroad, plundering, raping, killing. Coated with half-inch armored plate reinforced with eighteen inches of concrete, it was armed with ten machine guns, two three inch guns, two one pounders and a rifle for each of its fifty-seven man crew.

Commanding the "Destroyer" was General Nikolai Bogomoletz, a brigand of the first order. The Cossacks, ostensibly supporters of the Anti-Bolshevik (communist) forces, attacked people of any ----- or no ----- side in the civil war, raging throughout Russia in the closing days of WWI.

A measure of their mindless savagery may be found in the fact that they murdered 1,600 people in one day to show that, in the words of a Cossack ataman, "shootings can be carried out on Sunday as well as on any other day.

The Wolfhounds, along with the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment (Polar Bears) made up the American contingent in the Allied Expeditionary Force in Siberia.

An encounter between a platoon from M Company of the 27<sup>th</sup>, plus a few Polar Bears, is recounted on a following page. Somewhere between 33-38 soldiers led by Lt. "Bull" Kendall (later a Lt. General) armed with one automatic rifle and a few grenades and a rifle per man against a monstrously formidable fortress on wheels !!

Stay tuned .....

## GO THOU....AND DO LIKEWISE

What was he really like?

Away from all the hype, the larger than life idealizations which attach themselves to men and their deeds, what makes them tick? Why do they do what they do?

The late Mrs. Patricia J. Desiderio, in a gracious response to such questions, has given us a warm, caring view of her Wolfhound hero spouse. Some excerpts:

"Dusty quit halfway through high school to enter the Army at the age of fifteen. He later returned to school and graduated. He was called to active duty in 1941 and was commissioned in 1942 at Fort Benning.

He loved variety and chance taking. He had flings with the Air Corps and the paratroops but his first love was the line Infantry. In Europe he earned the Silver Star and Bronze Star with three clusters.

"Strange for me to say that he was adored by his men... but he was adored by everybody...

"He was a perfectionist.....never spared himself....and led by working harder than anyone under him....

"He was greatly devoted to his duty, but more devoted to his God and family. His interest in his men was absolute... he demanded much, but he demanded fairly and justly.

"He was a tower of strength to me; ... I imagine he had the same effect on men in combat... No more modest, un-assuming man ever lived. He didn't worry about honors, rank or recognition.

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## BITTER ABOUT LITTER

St. Catherine's Monastery, legendary shrine perched on the rocky slopes of Sinai, falls victim to insensitive litterers, much as do so many historic sites around the world.

Although the Wolfhounds' mission was totally dissimilar to that of the monks who inhabit the noted buildings, they were nevertheless offended by the sight of randomly discarded leavings scattered everywhere. So they took action.

Second Battalion CSM Rodney Chang ordered a total cleanup, in the hope that the pristine appearance of the approaches to the shrine might, at least for a while, deter future trash heap creators.

Under the leadership of Sergeant Don Scott, about a dozen Wolfhounds worked the entire day under a hot, hot sun. They collected plastic water bottles, candy wrappers, tissue, food scraps, discarded items of unimaginable filth....and a deep distaste for the people of many nations who had left slovenly reminders of their presence.

Perhaps an account such as this could be considered inappropriate in a publication devoted to the deeds of warriors.... but we like to feel that it is another indication of the fact that the Wolfhounds, wherever they pass, like to leave things at least a bit better than they found them.



## SEOUL MUSIC

The opening days of 1951 witnessed the withdrawal of U. N. forces from Seoul, the capital of South Korea.

As usual, the Wolfhounds were chosen to cover the withdrawal. The Division had been ordered to set up a defensive line just south of the Han River, and the first unit to evacuate was the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Then came the 35<sup>th</sup>, followed by the 29<sup>th</sup> British Brigade which was attached to the Division at that time.

At about 1:00 p.m., the Chinese raised a huge flag over the city hall in celebration of what they viewed as an overwhelming victory.

Meanwhile, Wolfhounds were scouring the city, ensuring that no units or valuable equipment were left behind. They were also arranging a welcome for their uninvited "guests."

Next on the scene, Chinese Army reconnaissance units, certain that Seoul was now their uncontested property, sauntered down the city's main streets as if they were out on a Sunday afternoon stroll. Their euphoria was rudely shattered by storms of Wolfhound small arms fire.

Following this Aloha gift, the Wolfhounds left the city over the Han River bridge which was blown up a few minutes later by the 65<sup>th</sup> engineers.

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## SO, LONG, SONNY

Wolfhound old timers sadly recall many nights at Pohakuloa with nostalgia. Almost half a century ago, once the velvet blanket of night softened the harsh, bleak landscape, a whole new world opened up--so real, so close that the day's rugged training became a not quite forgotten memory.

It was Sonny Chillingworth time. Sonny, later to become one of Hawaii's premier slack key guitar artists, would bring Island music to life far into the night. Wolfhounds, each wrapped in his own special dreams, reclined lazily on cots or sat in a deep circle around him until the stars closed their eyes against the morning sun.

Now, Sonny has left us, perhaps to entertain earlier Wolfhounds reclining on softer cushions in their own Valhalla. We here can only find him among the CDs in the music department.

A few years later, the flying fingers of Rene Paulo entranced listeners all over Oahu and the Mainland. A graduate of Juilliard, Rene was a company clerk in the Wolfhounds.

Equally at home with "Fur Elise" or "Kamuela Boy", coaxing out of the Keys the haunting love songs of the Orient, Rene was...and is...Hawaii's finest piano virtuoso.

Reluctant to leave the Islands, he entertains visitors and locals in various upscale cocktail lounges, usually in Waikiki. Quiet, reserved, Paulo is still proud of his time with the Wolfhounds.

## **SOFT...LIKE GRANITE!!**

The oft-repeated description of Occupation troops in Japan...those who were thrown into the Korean Conflict in July, 1950...as ill-trained, soft and with low morale, raises the hackles of Wolfhounds who were there.

The writer cannot speak for other units, and will agree that training then was not nearly as good as it is in the 25th Division today. But Wolfhounds "soft, and with low morale?" Having known the Regiment for 65 years I have never known the Wolfhounds to be either one.

The marriage of a feisty, cocky Regiment with a tactical genius (Lt.Col. John H. Michaelis) is what did the trick.

### **HEAR! HEAR!**

**(Feb. 2, 1992)**

Excerpt...letter from retired Major General Guy S. Meloy, First Battalion Commander in Viet Nam as a Major, to Lt.Col. Paul Herbert 1st Bn. commander 1991-1993:

"For some unexplained reason that defies description, the Wolfhounds have always been a special breed of warrior. I count my days as a Wolfhound as some of the greatest... and proudest...of my entire career."

Note: MG Meloy, prior to his retirement, commanded the 82nd Airborne Division.

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## PHOTOGRAPHER TURNS REPORTER

Shortly after the battle of the "Bowling Alley", Life Magazine photographer Hank Walker was present near the Wolfhound Headquarters when four of the 1st Battalion's best noncoms were standing around uneasily, wondering why they had been ordered to report there.

Lt. Col. Michaelis stepped out and eased their minds.... he told them they had each been recommended for the Silver Star. Walker tells what each of them had done:

"Sergeant Robert V. Bemis, in action near Yongdong, found his heavy weapons section attached to a forward rifle company. Heavy enemy attacks isolated them and with all the officers dead or wounded, Bemis assumed command. Under heavy fire he collected the wounded and then he and his men fought their way back to the Regiment."

\* \* \* \* \*

"Sergeant Joseph T. Bass was near the Regimental Command Post at Chindong when it was attacked. The Reds got within 75 yards. Bass on his own initiative took a 20 man patrol and went 500 yards behind the enemy. Bass alone killed 10 men and his patrol's action wiped out the threat to the C.P. "I don't know", said Sergeant Bass, "I didn't do anything unusual."

## MORE OF WALKER'S ROAD TO THE SILVER STAR

"Mess Sergeant Arthur Rogers, while preparing hot chow, found himself and his pots and pans attacked from the rear. He and one of his helpers dove for a .50 caliber machine gun. When they ran out of ammunition, Rogers went 50 yards under fire for more, When his buddy was killed, Rogers picked up the gun and chased off a platoon of Reds in that terrible sort of rage which mess sergeants usually reserve for KPs who put too much salt in the potatoes."

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Sergeant Harold Lederer told the Life Magazine photographer his own story: "I guess I got excited. I got to the top of the ridge (near Yongdong) and saw this gook in his hole. I tried to bayonet him but it wouldn't go in, so I grabbed his rifle and stuck him with his own bayonet. I suddenly realized I was up there all by myself so I went down, collected the squad, and we secured the ridge. We held out until next morning. That was a long time in those days!

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"A unit lives and grows in pride through its knowledge of it's history and traditions."

General Fred Weyand (Ret.)  
Former Army Chief of Staff and Former 25<sup>th</sup>  
Division CG

## WHY?

Retired Major General Guy S. Meloy, who commanded the First Battalion in Viet Nam as a Major, has provided us with many, many items concerning his experiences with the Wolfhounds. One such, entitled "Payday at Cu Chi (or how I learned that Wolfhounds are special people) describes his first day with the 27th on July 31, 1966.

The full article may be read in the Regimental Room. Here are some shortened excerpts:

"The Battalion Adjutant requested that I co-sign a check for almost \$3,000 ..... the July Collection for the Wolfhound Orphanage in Osaka, Japan.

You have to appreciate my position: 1) I had never heard of the Wolfhound Orphanage. 2) I had no idea where Osaka was. 3) I had seen too many units in the 1950s and early 1960s when payday lines were not always fair to young troops because of pressures put on them to support various "collections" (Soldier's Deposit, Red Cross, AER, Savings Bonds, company slush funds, etc.) and 4) I thought that \$3,000 was an awful lot of money to be collected from just one battalion of about 750 soldiers."

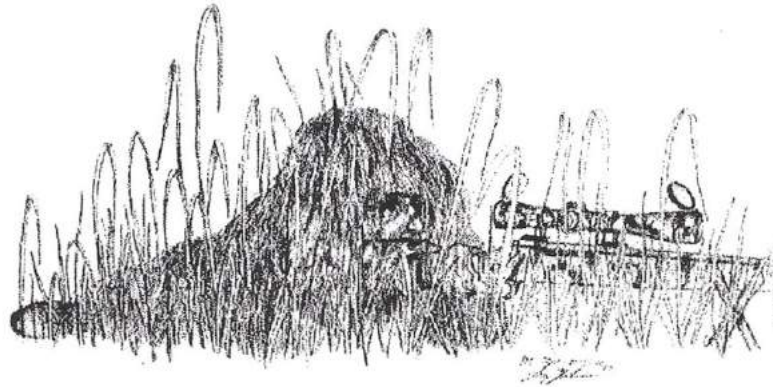
(Note: Because the General's account runs for several more pages, much of the material is deleted here. He proceeded to question various enlisted men about why they donated.)

"To a man, they looked at me with open astonishment. The overwhelming majority of them said, word for word, "Because we're Wolfhounds".

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“Wolfhounds indeed were special people. They not only felt good for supporting the Orphanage, but a second message came through loud and clear, and that was a degree of individual and collective pride I had never seen in other units.”

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“Soldiers need more take machine guns apart and less lectures on dialectic materialism.”

General John H. Michaelis  
1<sup>st</sup> Wolfhound CO in Korea

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## LITTLE KNOWN BUT TRUE

Most Wolfhounds are familiar with the Distinguished Unit Citations earned by units of the Regiment. Lesser known, but giving an even greater perspective to the courage and determination of the Regiment is a VALOROUS UNIT AWARD.

This award to the tough Second Battalion was earned on 15 and 16 June 1968. It describes the "indomitable courage and combat proficiency" of the Battalion in a vicious firefight. The enemy unit, three to four times the numerical strength of the Wolfhounds, had been threatening Saigon, the capital of South Viet Nam.

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One of the proudest boasts of the Wolfhounds has been that the Regiment has never withdrawn except on orders from higher headquarters. In Korea, the 27th was always chosen to lead the advances and serve as the rearguard of U.N. Forces.

This kind of recognition is a Wolfhound tradition in peace as well as in war. There is a long history of the Regiment's selection for unusual tasks calling for professional expertise at Schofield Barracks.

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