



The Taro Leaf



24th Infantry (Victory) Division Veterans' Association

VOLUME I

NOVEMBER 1947

NUMBER 2

General Lester Born To Military Leadership



Major General James A. Lester, U.S.A., C. G. 24th Inf. Div.

Slender, wiry, graying, Major General James A. Lester comes from a family rich in military lore. His father, at the age of 15, served in the 13th South Carolina Confederate Infantry which was commanded, at that time, by General Lester's grandfather. General Lester's two great-grandfathers had honorable records in the Revolutionary War.

General Lester was born in 1891, the youngest of 11 children. His father was a merchant in the peaceful community of Prosperity, South Carolina. Young Lester in his early years little realized the career that lay before him. However, by the time he was graduated from the local high school, the military strain, which coursed through his veins beckoned and he enrolled at the Citadel, West Point of the South.

Upon graduation in 1911 after four years introduction to the military, 20 year old Lester set his course. He strove for and won a competitive Congressional appointment to West Point, as a member of the class of 1915, which included Cadets Roscoe B. Woodruff, Dwight B. Eisenhower, and Omar Bradley. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1915 and saw initial duty along the Mexican Border. In 1916 it was 1st Lieutenant Lester. In World War, 1, he served as Battery Commander and then Battalion Commander. He knew the might of four great offensives, Aisne Marne, Champagne, St. Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne.

Before the German surrender he had achieved the rank of Captain, and was a member of the 1st Army Staff. As a member of the 1st Division of Occupational Army he became thoroughly acquainted with occupational duties. In 1920 Captain Lester became Major Lester. There followed the familiar pattern of years of troops duty and General

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

300 Division Veterans Join 24th Association

**Old Addresses Hamper Efforts
But Officers, Editor Carry on
With TARO LEAF**

Herewith is the November issue. The response to Vol. I, No. 1, August issue, while not overwhelming gave the Editor and Officers a sufficient shot-in-the-arm to go forward.

We printed 2500 copies and received about 300 applications as a result. Not too good—but not too bad considering that several hundred were returned for insufficient or old addresses. These copies were enclosed in envelopes and re-mailed to men whose names many of you were thoughtful enough to forward with your own applications.

How many copies were never delivered and never returned by the PO Department, we just don't know, but the number must have been considerable.

We spot-checked the rosters of the various units in selecting our original mailing—and these rosters were 4 or 5 years old. Thanks to many of you we are now building up a bona fide list of recent addresses.

Almost everyone who sent in an application sent a couple of names or an apologetic explanation for the omission. Some sent in as many as 50 or 60.

To those who sent us letters we are very grateful. It is pretty hard to work in a vacuum without knowing what you men think of this sheet—and believe us, it is plenty of work—but when we get appreciative mail we are all set to give it another bloody go. So, keep those letters coming.

THE TARO LEAF may never rival The New York Times in format or content, but we mean to do as well as we can.

CONVENTION PLANS AFOOT

The response to the feeler in the August issue concerning a National Convention indicates plainly that there is strong sentiment for holding one in 1948. Strangely enough, everyone suggested it be held in a large city nearest his own home town! Although we do have some concentrations of membership in and near the large Mid-western cities like Chicago, Detroit, and St. Louis, it is only natural that we should be strongest along the Atlantic sea-board in places like New York, Philadelphia, Boston, etc.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

THE TARO LEAF

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(Victory)
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JAMES G. FAIRBROTHER,
Hq. 2nd Bn., 34th Inf.
Editor
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(Div. Hq.), Sec'y-Treas.
Attleboro, Mass.

Other Christmases

Was it Oahu or Australia? Was it Leyte or Mindoro—Columbian, Barugo, Jaro, Tunga, Tuk-Tuk, Carigara, San Jose, Calipan? Strange names, and names that burn in the brain leaving an unhealed scar dark with bitter memory, but Christmas names—all of them.

Christmas is a day of joyful reverence. God willing, you will spend it again this year within the circle of those whom you love most. Certainly there is no substitute for this. It is what you prayed for during those weary days of mud and sweat and death.

Can you deny, however, that the memories of other Christmases arise to plague you with thoughts of men, fine men and comrades-in-arms, living and dead, who are absent from your sacred family circle? With them you shared hopes and fears, victories and reverses. Even your family cannot completely fill this void.

You marched with one of the elite Divisions of the War. Although your part may seem obscure, you were in the company of giants like Moon, Mower, and Diamond. Nothing can banish the satisfaction of deeds well-done and a task accomplished. Although you cannot gather around you the men of other Christmases, cherish their memories so that they will be the silent guests around this year's Christmas fireside.

How apt are the words that Shakespeare puts into the mouth of the English King Henry V on the eve of Agincourt fought on St. Crispin's Feast Day in 1415:

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;

For he to-day that sheds his blood with me

Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,

This day shall gentle his condition:
And gentlemen in England now a-bed
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,

And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks

That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day."

King Henry V, Act IV, Scene iii

THE DIVISION BOOKSHELF

"The Philippine Campaign of 1st Bn., 34th Infantry"

by Capt. George E. Morrissey, M.C. (45 pp. mimeographed)

The author, battalion surgeon of Dragon Red during the Philippine Liberation campaign, is now practicing medicine at 707 Union Bank Bldg., Davenport, Iowa. He distributed copies to every man in his medical detachment, and a few left-overs were mailed to other friends in the first battalion.

"This journal is a short history of a fighting infantry unit by a working medical officer.

There is no attempt at literary finesse or studied effect, the author contents himself with recording his daily reactions to combat situations as they affected him. The men of the fighting units are neither idealized nor brutalized, they are merely men doing their particular job. The writer has not fallen into the trap of so many narrators who build their own stature by either overstatement or understatement—he has been satisfied to restrict his writing to what happened. The result of this straightforward approach is a small masterpiece of simplicity which gives a remarkably clear picture of life under combat conditions.

Throughout the entire chronicle the author maintains a constant attitude of resignation to unavoidable circumstance and of healthy condemnation of incompetency wherever apparent.

It is unfortunate that the entire journal will not be published as it is an excellent account of what war can be."—**John P. McMurray**, former S/Sgt. Div. Hq. (now of Independence, Calif.)

"A vivid story of the ten months Philippine Campaign of the First Battalion of the 34th is told in the combat journal of Captain George 'Doc' Morrissey, our Dragon Red surgeon throughout the entire period of hostilities. Doc Morrissey does not attempt to discuss tactics. He merely records his day by day experiences and thoughts, which might well be those of any of the men who served with him. Practically all of our experiences during those combat days are brought back to mind as one reads this day-by-day journal: the steaming tropic heat and heavy daily rains, sharp fire fights, ambushes, banzai attacks, arduous treks through swamps and up hills, lack of food and water, mortars, artillery, casualties and attempts to aid and evacuate the wounded, carrying parties, and that utter wornout feeling of the tired mud covered GI." — **William Livingston**, EM, 1st Bn. Hq. 34th. Now of 47 Winthrop Rd., Brookline, Mass.

Here are passages from the journal which may bring back memories to some of you:

The Beach-head on Leyte, 20 Oct. 44.

"0840—Our wave starts in. So far it's the usual amphibious exercise. Radio gives sobering news, good progress but there are some Japs there as casualties prove. Captain Borrow, Co. Commanding Officer, 3rd BN., Killed in Action; Captain Wai, Regt. S-2, Killed in Action, before we reach line of departure. Eight hundred yards from shore enemy mortar shells begin dropping. Noise of boat drowns out crack of burst and everyone stares blankly at black smoke puffs. Then there is a sudden scurry for helmets and ducking to bottom of boat. Mortars drop around all the way in."

Kilay Ridge (Presidential Unit Citation) "15 Nov. '44

An "A" Company five man patrol walked onto 30 Japs this a. m. killed five scattered the rest. "D" Company tried to get their mortars in on positions across the valley that are on the reverse slope to the rest of Divisions artillery. Raining like hell all day.

The 2nd BN. 19th Infantry, the outfit that was to make the left flanking move of this great two day operation is opposite us now and we are trying to make contact. From the sounds coming up out of the valley I judge they are having quite a fight. C 47's dropped rations to them but it looked like they fell in Jap territory."

"19 Nov. '44

Japs now hold a position on Kilay Ridge. All the information we can get from Headquarters is 'Hold the Ridge'. No reinforcements available. However they won't send anyone up to look over the situation. Col. Clifford believes that possession of Kilay Ridge is the key to the Limon-Ormoc Valley battle."

"21 Nov. '44

Everyone is either in a dull, stale, apathetic state or jittery as hell. The latter because proximity of Japs and proximity of our own artillery bursts go hand in hand. I gravitate from one state to the other, but usually just sit and stare. Smoke three times as much as usual.

Wanting to get off this hill is one of the greatest wants I've ever had. At times it even supersedes wanting to go home."

"Classic reply of Corps Headquarters to Clifford after he had reported low strength, number of sick, Japs taking ground away from us on front and coming in on us from right and rear: 'You are in a tough spot.'—period. Another time Clifford to 32nd Division Headquarters, 'Either you gave us artillery or I'm going to pull my men off the Ridge and leave the Japs looking down your throat.' We got the artillery. The utter blackness of the rainy nights when wounded would be carried in through the ocean of mud surrounding us.

How little most of the wounded asked for and how quiet most of them were as soon as night fell. The big pile of rain and blood-soaked cut-up—clothes and dirty bandages to be burned every morning—all very smelly.

Imagining what it would be like, over and over again, if Japs did push us off in a hurry and we'd have to beat them off and get wounded out at the same time in the dark, and wondering many times if it wouldn't be worth while to get wounded so to get the hell off Kilay Ridge."

At Zig-Zag Pass, Luzon.

"4 Feb. '45

"A" Company calls for food, water, and ammunition—none of which can be gotten to them. Fighting along road continues all day as "B" Company proceeds up right side of road and 2nd BN. meets little opposition and goes ahead nearly a kilometer. Lt. Col. Oglesby and Lt. Col. Dahlen among the wounded this morning.

In late afternoon as 2nd BN. began to dig in up the road they were hit heavily by Jap artillery with very high casualties. We took half of them into our station spot for emergency treatment and evacuation.

There is an awful lot of combat hysteria among the new recruits and heat exhaustion among all hands.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

CALL ME MISTER

Goldthwaite, Robert S., Div. Hqs., (FO) is behind bars—at the Security Trust Co., Lynn, Mass., where he has resumed peacetime job as a teller. Lives at 31 Howard Street. This Summer, drove to mid-west visiting buddies enroute, among them Charles W. Milburn, 2854 Rosemont Avenue, and Fred K. Ross, 1835 E. 84th. Street, both of Chicago and both of FO.

Snively, Harry L., well-remembered as CO, 2nd Bn., 34th. Inf., says he is producing frozen foods besides raising three boys and a dog. Jim Fairbrother visited him recently at his home, Roseville Rd., RD#3, Lancaster, Pa.

Denny, T/Sgt., Russell E., Co.C, 21st., served 4 years with 24th. Now in a chemical plant and lives at Box 42, Large, Pa. Wants a convention.

Wade, Alfred D., Co. M, 21st. at 625 Lebanon Avenue, Campbellsville, Ky. Attends Univ. of Ky. and would like to hear of any 24th. Div. men studying there.

Silvers, T/4 Robert R., Div. Hqs. (JA), majoring in English at Michigan State, Lansing. Home: 1329 S. Komensky, Chicago 23.

Tam, Wayne J., Co.L, 34th., lives at 1329 Wright Street, Logansport, Ind., Thanks to him for 25 addresses.

Russell, Pvt. Allen W., Co.H, 34th., after two years in college is in business in Youngstown, Ohio, at 584 E. Indianola Road. Has a baby boy.

Gibbney, Sgt. Lawrence, Div. Hqs. (JA), is another proud father, Michael Lawrence, 8¼-pounds, arrived 6 Sept. 1947 at 27 E. Park Boulevard, Villa Park, Ill.

Reinke, Maj. Richard E. formerly with DSO, sends a friendly letter from 1745 N. 49th St., Milwaukee.

Goldberg, Sidney K., Div. Spec. Service, is now MC of family of wife and baby girl. Lives at 7039 S. Clyde, Chicago.

Brady, Fr. Charles J., 21st Regimental Chaplain, is at 544 East. Genesee St., Syracuse, N. Y.

Friedman, Capt. Richard, former Chick, lives at 193 Hobart Rd., Newton, Mass. In raincoat business—no ponchos.

Tacchi, Sgt. Louis, Co. E, 34th, is an apprentice electrician in St. Louis. Home: 2205 Sidney St. Wants addresses of Donald Peck and Peter N. Somreny, buddies in his company.

Manley, Gene, MP Sgt. at Div. Hq., Commander of Schofield Barracks Post 6, American Legion, sends us a great deal of news of old Pineapple soldiers. Not in RA, but serving in 298th Inf. as Trans. & Inform. Officer.

Stark, Nathan, Sv. Co., 34th, with a clothing mfr. at 168 Fifth Ave., New York, and lives at 255 West 88th St. Belongs to 34th Inf. Assn. in New York City.

Collins, Ira (Bull), Div. Hq., address, P.O. Box 665, Boulder City, Nev. Says he's back on the job as deputy sheriff and bouncer. "Tell the boys if any of them get to Las Vegas or Boulder City to be sure to look me up."

Kowalski, Charles, Co.C21st, works for Post QM at Schofield Barracks, T. H. George Sur. Div. Hq. (AG), is with Post AG James Crabb, 3rd Eng., with Waialua Agricultural Co. All charter members of Assn.

Haynes, S/Sgt. Raymond E., Co. B., 21st, raises cattle in Greensburg, Kan. He's one of our VP's.

Mindanao Member

Lt. Thomas R. Campbell, leader of Weapons platoon of Co. C, 21st, writes to us from White Bear Lake, RR 8, Minn., where he spends part of his time shooting ducks instead of Japs.

"Enclosed is check for \$4.00 to cover my membership and one for Anacito "Buddy" Farola, of Lais, Malita, Davao Province, Mindanao, P. I.

"Buddy served with the Division from December '44 to Sept. '45. First with C Co., 21st, acting as scout and interpreter on three patrols to Lubang Island in Feb. '45 prior to the main landing March 1st by the 1st Bn, 21st. Inf.

"Then he served with the 24th Recon Troop from March through Sept. '45. With the Recon Troop he acted as lead scout of the 1st Platoon of that unit all through the Mindanao campaign. A great number of former members of the Division will remember Buddy as the boy with the shoulder length hair who rode in the lead jeep of the Recon. More than one GI can thank the keen eyes and intuition of this Filipino boy for the fact that he is home today. I know because I am one of those who owes his life to Buddy's alertness."

Harris, M/Sgt. Robert R. Jr., Sv Co, 19th., is in movie-theater business, Box 740, Sanford, Fla.

Chamberlain, H. C., 724 Ord Co, back in garage business in Louisville, Ky. Lives at 1552 Clara Avenue. Says he is happy to join Association and will do everything he can to help it grow.

Lewis, Lt. Col. Robert C., CO of 3rd. Engr. Bn. in Mindanao and Shikoku, at 404 West Paris Avenue, Peoria Heights, Ill. Wrote a friendly and congratulatory note to editor on August issue.

Page, Capt. Walter S., former ADC to Gen. Cramer, is executive secretary to Passaic County Tuberculosis and Health Association. P.O. Box 1740, Patterson, 17, N. J.

Ford, Capt. Raymond J., Hqs. Div. Arty., is with public school system in Watertown, Mass., and lives at 181 Cabot Street, Newton. His proximity to Assn. Headquarters and willingness to help have made him indispensable to officers of Assoc.

Rhem, Capt. Thomas C., 34th., is a lawyer in Shrine Bldg., Memphis, Tenn. Home: 796 Stonewall Street.

Wise, Joseph F., Co. M., 34th, at 1300 Penn Street, Williamsport, Pa. Taking civil service exams for P.O.

Ford, C. Rucker, Co. F, 21st., went from Walter Reed Gen. Hosp. to Pentagon Bldg. Now at 3923 E. Chatham Drive, Richmond, Va., working as a salesman. Married 30 May 1947. Asks whereabouts of Lt. Garrette, a fellow platoon leader.

Baumgart, Charles E., Co. K and 3rd. Bn. Hos., 21st., asks boys to write him at 281 Portsea Street, New Haven, Conn. Especially anxious to have addresses of Robert Kalman, Jacobot Shaffer, Bernard Trudeau, James Bowie, Robert Snyder (all K Co. 21st.) Robert Greene, Co. M, 21st., and Alvis Worthington and Eugene Zwart, 3rd. Bn. Hqs. 21st.

Pursifull, Capt. Ross W., Hqs. Co., 34th., is senior architect for one of largest firms in Detroit. Home address, 9705 McQuade Avenue. Also heads Detroit area Chapter of Res. Officers Association. Asks all men who would like to form a Michigan chapter to contact him.

Chouinard, Marc L., Div. Hqs. (FO) is in bakery business at 465 West Court Street, Kankakee, Ill. Says there are enough men in Illinois to form large State chapter and suggests Chicago for first convention in 1948.

Stein, Lt. Leonard I., Co. I, 21st., is back in business with Legion Sportswear Inc., 1384 Broadway, New York 18. His proudest to date—Faith Susan, born 14 Jan. 1947.

Hingst, Kenneth L., Able Btry., 13th FA is Missouri agent for American Insurance Group and has office at 6 West 10th. Street, Kansas City.

Bandlow, Marylynn, Sv. Co., 19th., is a designer for Briggs Mfg. Co., and lives at 8079 Sprague Avenue, Detroit 14.

Duncan, Capt. Paul C. Hqs. and Sv. Btry., 63rd. FA, is junior member of prominent Oklahoma City law firm, offices in First Nat. Bank Bldg. Ex-CWO Joseph Berna is law clerk in same office.

Pfaff, Ralph G., Cn. Co., 19th., is music supervisor for So. Monterey County and can be reached at Box 188, King City, Calif.

Shuman, Eugene J., Sv. Co., 19th., writes from 299 W. Maple Street, York, Pa., "Glad to be a member of Association".

Ellinghausen, Capt. Edwin A., 11th FA, lives at 1909 So. Xanthus Street, Tulsa, Okla.

Bennett, Maj. Harry R., Hqs. 19th., sent in two years' subscription from 24 Gilbert St., Ridgefield, Conn.

Sanders, Capt. J. B., Sv. Btry., 11th. FA, is at Univ. of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla.

Tuttle, Maj. Alfred, 24th. Med. Bn., and former DSO, is practicing medicine at 606 Hampton Avenue, Pittsburgh 21, Pa.

Boys, Leroy W., 52nd. FA, is a cattle buyer and lives at 717 W. Olin Avenue, Madison, Wis.

Mazzone, Capt. Mario P., Cn. Co., 34th., is a hotel-supply salesman in Seattle, Wash., address 2405-41st. Street N., Apt. 104.

Haskins, Sgt. Sherwood C., AT Co., 21st., lives at 200 Harris Street, Revere, Mass. He's in engineering dept. of NYNH&H Railroad, South Station, Boston.

Peiffly, Richard S., Co. B, 34th., and also with 724 Ord. Co. in Japan, is at 132 No. 11th. Street, Allentown, Pa. He's interested in Penna. chapter.

Davies, Jack N., Hqs. 3rd. Bn, 34th., enjoyed first issue, pledges help in building up mailing list. Address 10 C River Park, White Plains, N. Y.

Catalanotti, Sgt. Baldossaro, Co. E, 34th., of 36 Schumacher Drive, Bristol, Pa., thanks us for copy and sent over 40 names and addresses of his buddies to whom we mailed copies.

Jamison, Capt. James R., 63rd. FA., is with Jamison Coal & Coke Co., Greensburg, Pa.

Richards, Joel Jr., 24th. QM Co., is underwriter with New York Life Ins. Co. Lives at 179 S Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. His comment after reading Taro Leaf "Such memories—such friends".

"THEY'RE IN THE ARMY NOW"

Abert, Lt. Col. George C., former Div. QM, now with the Division of Service Supply and Procurement, Gen. Staff, Room 4E-621, Pentagon Bldg., Washington.

Bemis, Capt. Russell B., ex-21st, with Division of Intelligence, Room 2E-772, Pentagon.

Biggerstaff, Lt. Col. William H., former AG, Division of Personnel and Administration, Room 3D-564, Pentagon.

Coers, Major Burt N., former 21st surgeon, now with Surgeon General's office, Room 2C-466 Pentagon; married has 2½-year-old daughter-lives in Arlington, Va.

Covotsos, C., former CWO now 1st Lt., former assistant to the C/S, with AG office, Room 1E-736 Pentagon Bldg.

Gruber, Brig. Gen. William R., ex-Div Arty CG, retired, seen about Washington frequently, lives at 4000 Cathedral Avenue, N. W.

Hall, Capt. Claude H., formerly in 21st, with Intelligence Div. at Room 2E-841A, Pentagon.

Jones, Major Harry L., one-time Div. Fin. O., Office of Chief of Finance, Room 2C-662, Pentagon.

Klepinger, Col. Walter J., former G-4 Hq. AGF, Room 3E-589 Pentagon.

Lang, Lt. Col. DeW. W., CO 63rd FA, Division of Research and Development, Room 4E-821 Pentagon.

Mathews, Lt. Col. Jack, ex-34th Co. Comdr., Div of Organization and Training, Room 3D-768, Pentagon.

Page, Lt. Col. Gordon, former G-4, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, Room 5C-323 Pentagon.

Pitney, Lt. Col. Max, former CO 52nd FA, student at American University, Washington, lives at 2900 Naylor Avenue, S.E.

Waters, Capt., William P., formerly 11th FA, office of QM General, Room 1035, Temp A, OQMC, Pentagon.

Wicker, Capt. Glen E., formerly 21st Inf., Div. of Intelligence, room 2C-802 Pentagon, married 4-months ago.

Located at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga., are the following: Capt. Louis N. Berdani, ex-19th; Lt. Col. Warren Shields, ex-19th; Lt. Col. Charles E. Oglesby, former S-3 and 1st Bn. Comdr, 34th; Lt. Col. David P. Schoor, former Div. PM; Lt. Col. W. C. Wickboldt, former Ex O & CO 19th; Lt. Col. Eric P. Ramee, former Ex. O, 34th, and 21st; Major Ralph L. Dalton, ex-19th.

Farmer, Capt. Edward S., Co. D, 21st, has duty assignment with Legal Section, SCAP, GHQ, Tokyo, APO 500.

Simpson, Chester L., formerly Capt., Inf., with Sv. Co. & Co. B., 19th, is Sgt. Major of 4163 AAF BU, Municipal Airport, Cleveland.

Psaki, Maj. Raoul C., MC, formerly with Spec. Trps., now stationed at Oliver Gen. Hospital, Augusta, Ga. Sends greetings to Capt. Winkler and Silverberg, old bridge partners at Div. Hq.

Backus, Cpl. Alton W., with Squadron M., 609th AAF, Eglin Field, Fla. Served 39 mos. with 11th FA and says, "I wish I were still with it."

Dick, Capt. Dallas, Recruiting Sta., Pottsville, Pa., 24-26 Centre St. Veteran of 10 years with 19th Inf. Former CO of Co. C.

Shimbo, T/3 Kenneth K., is with Hqs. G-2, 2nd Armored Div., Camp Hood, Texas. Says, "No matter where you go you can't forget the outfit you were with in combat." Served from Hollandia to Japan in G-2.

DeGuzman, Sgt. Benito, Div. Band, now with 264th AGF Band, Ft. Shafter, T. H. Reversed his field and recently spent fur-

lough at Talomo Beach, Mindanao! Married a girl whom he met while Division was there.

Maderios, M/Sgt. Walter, Div. Hq. (FO), is with 199th Fin. Disb. Sec., Schofield Barracks. At same post but in 237th Ord. (LM) Co. is 1st Sgt. John T. Lupon, formerly 11th FA.

Jones, Col. Charles H., former CO of 19th, was retired for physical reasons in Dec. '45. Lives at 6503 Queens Chapel Rd., University Park, Md., near Walter Reed where he goes for periodic check-ups. Glad to hear however, that everything is under control—he feels fine, swims, golfs, etc., and enjoys seeing old friends. Oldest son is now in Japan as S-1, 3rd Bn., 34th.

Easter, 1st Sgt. Jesse, formerly 52nd FA, now with Hq. & Hq. Det., Schofield Barracks. In same unit are S/Sgt. George Spangenberg, and T/Sgt. Michaeliski, both ex-Gimlets.

Malone, Capt. Robert "Ace", Cos C & A, 21st, integrated into RA in CAC. At Advanced Officers Course, Ft. Sill, Okla. Two sons—Mike and Dennis.

Sliwoski, Cpl. John J., served 34th mos. with Co.M., 34th. Now at Ft. Meade, Md., with 43 Mecz. Cav. Sq. Address at 81 Grove St., Hempstead, L. I., N. Y.

Wright, Capt. David E., Btry C., 63rd FA, stationed at Sumter, So. Car. Married Dallas, Texas girl, and has two children, Dave and Nancy.

Liebe, Lt. Col. Harold E., CO of 13th FA at CGSS, Ft. Leavenworth, Kans., with Lt. Cols. Postlethwaite and Perkins. Sends greeting to old 19th RCT.

Pearsall, Lt. Col. James F., 2nd Bn., 34th, is at West Point.

Maj. Gen. R. B. Woodruff, writes from Hqs, I Corps, Osaka:
"My best regards to members of the old Division. Although their superb work in the Southwest Pacific will probably never be sufficiently publicized, those of us who are familiar with it give to those men who went through so much, the greatest credit."

Convention Plans Afoot (Cont.)

And, of course, we have a splendid nucleus in Washington, D. C., where a chapter has been recently organized by Col. William J. Verbeck, former Gimlet CO, consisting largely of Regular Army personnel in Pentagon Bldg. Thus, some place in the East should be most convenient; and the date, sometime in the fall.

William V. Davidson, former Lt. Col. and Asst G-2 (Swedesboro, N. J.) suggests a post-card canvass giving alternate places and dates, and requesting a choice. Very likely you will receive something along these lines. Maj. General Cramer, Assn. President, announces that he will appoint a committee on arrangements to get underway immediately. The make-up of this committee will be announced in the next issue with a report of progress to date. The Public Information Division of the War Department gives every possible assistance in publicizing Division reunions.

For the National Guard Divisions the choice of a convention city is easy, since they naturally meet in a large city of the state from which the units were drawn. Regular Army Divisions, like ours, have a harder job to pick a spot. That will be up

to the committee, however, with the help of any suggestions you send in. Incidentally, 2 or 3 Divisions met in 1947 at Army Posts and camps—the 78th Div. for instance at Fort Dix. What do you think of that idea, assuming it could be arranged?

Ross, Kenwood, now a civilian in Springfield, Mass., after 7 years in RA and 2½ years as Div. Ord. Off. Left Japan in July of this year, and got his eagles on retirement. Associated with law office at 1387 Main Street.

NEWS OF REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

Reports of the formation of regimental associations reached this office recently but subsequent reports indicate that one of them "went out of business" in favor of the Division Association.

In a letter, Col. William J. Verbeck, ex-21st, and acting secretary of the Gimlet Association, said the group was dissolving in favor of the Division Association.

However, the 34th. Infantry Regiment organization, formed in the New York City area, continues to be active and recently held its first annual dance in the Beekman Towers Hotel, that city. Many of its members are also members of the parent group.

The group draws its membership principally from the New York area and serves to preserve the associations and friendships made during wartime service. Members are kept informed of developments through the "34th. Infantry Informer", published monthly for the nine meetings held each year.

Eligibility is limited to those having served with the 34th. but an invitation to attend their meetings has been extended any former 24th. man. Meetings are held every fourth Monday at 8:30 p. m. at the 77th Bldg., East 39th. Street, between Park and Madison Avenues, Summer months excluded.

Officers of the association are: president, Albert Gerstenhaber; vice president, Allan D. Harris J. secretary, Abe Goldstein; assistant, Frank Bosco; treasurer, Harry Grossman; assistant, Harry Landman Jr.; and sergeant-at-arms, Dan Cuomo.

The board of directors include Vic Backer, chairman; Sam Schneider, Jim Patty, Charles Kessler, William Neff, Nat Levi-son, Hy Novik, Martin Block, John Fitzgerald and J. L. Hasbrouck.

Future events of the group list a Christmas party Dec. 22; meeting and nomination of officers, Jan. 26, 1948; and election, Feb. 23.

Personalities published in "The Informer" reveal that Morris Cohen, Seymour Schiffirin and Alex Juskiewicz mid-aisled it recently. Added to the chow-line were newcomers at the home of Larry McDon-ald, Harry Grossman and Ben Reifman.

From time to time we'll try to keep our readers informed of doings in the 34th. Association.

LOST—A VICE PRESIDENT

Sergeant Walter B. Himes, 13th FA, has moved from 5 Prospect St. Apt. 939, New York City. We need his new address since he's one of our Vice-Presidents. Can anyone help?

GENERAL LESTER (Continued)

Staff duty. Then through his superior knowledge of artillery problems he was selected to attend the Advance Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in 1925 and 1926.

Climbing the ladder rung by rung, Major Lester next attended Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. His military career was heightened when, in 1927, he found himself bound for Paris and the Ecole Superior De Guerre, French War College. Back to the States in 1929 he became Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Yale.

Across the Atlantic again in 1932 and back to Paris where Major Lester assumed the duties of Military Attache to the American Embassy. He remained there until 1936, the year that brought him his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and return to the States.

Now followed another period of troop duty with the 17th Field Artillery at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 1939 he left the 17th to attend War College in Washington, D. C. Following this he was appointed a member of the General Staff. His next appointment took him west to Fort Sill where he took over the position of Assistant Commandant.

In March of 1942 he became Brigadier General Lester and left Fort Sill to join the 24th Division as Division Artillery Commander through the Hollandia Operation. As Chief of Artillery of the XIV Corps he saw action again on Bougainville in August 1944. During the Lingayen Operation he landed with the XIV Corps and started the difficult operation in January 1945, which was to end with the successful capture of Clark Field and Manila.

In March 1945 Brigadier General James A. Lester became Major General Lester. From June 1945 until he assumed command of the 24th Infantry Division, he served as the Provost Marshal General of the Philippines. It was during this period that he successfully reorganized the Philippine Constabulary a force of some 20,000 men. It was also during this period that he served as a member of the commission that voted to hang Yamashita.

In December 1945 he became Commanding General of the 24th Infantry Division, a position he has held since that time. He has moved with the Division from original occupation sites on Honshu and Shikoku to the division's present location on Kyushu with headquarters at Kokura.

(By Capt. W. B. Koons, Div. PRO.)

Division Bookshelf (Cont.)

Last casualty out after dark. Today we used a couple of 2½ ton trucks for some of the walking wounded. Although there were plenty of severely wounded there were a surprising lack of the terribly mutilating wounds our own shells cause.

My cold is worse and I feel very dopey. Jap shells bursting near here cause dirt and stones to rain down all night."

Mindanao, on the drive from Parang to Davao

"23 April '45

Another terrible march yesterday from Ft. Pickit on to Junction near Kabacan, about ten miles. Road looked as if a tornado had swept down column of marching troops, scattering exhausted soldiers on each side. This is the type of weather that Filipinos will not go out in. It is entirely possible that the sun can kill a man. Finished march just about dark."

Near Mintal

"8 May '45

Last night was very noisy with big thunder storm, our artillery and mortars and a Jap 90 m.m. mortar trying to reach our 4.2s. One of our men killed in action recovered yesterday after 30 hours was almost completely decomposed. The heat and humidity are terrific. Jap bodies are beginning to subtly taint the entire area. Big sick call every day. This is the only battalion that treats men daily wherever we are.

In Foothills of Mt. Apo.

"10 June '45

At 6:30 p. m. last night the Japs threw two artillery shells right across us but 100

yards long. We hit for our holes and just as it got dark enemy mortar fire began again accompanied by light machine gun fire. They walked the shells across the whole battalion at ten yard intervals and I've never before hugged the ground so tight. That characteristic hiss sounded as if the shells were coming right down on me each time and my head was bouncing off the dirt from the concussion. Our own artillery soon went into action and soon quieted the Japs down for the evening."

Call me Mister (Cont.)

Greenfield, Marshall, Cn. Co., 21st., lives at 1331 Estes Avenue, Chicago 26. Asst. sales manager in area for a packing company. Anxious to help form an Illinois chapter.

Wells, T/3 Eugene H., Div. Hqs., is an auditor for Commercial Life Ins. Co. Lives at 3015 Taylor Blvd., Louisville, Ky.

Kernodle, John R., 34th. Medics and Co. C 24th. Med. Bn., is on staff at Duke Hospital, Durham, N. C. Lives at 1614 Delaware Avenue. Asks 24th. men at Duke Univ. to drop in.

Govan, Ben. A., Hqs. 34th. (he's the mailman) is back with Post Office in Boston and lives at 102 High Street, Everett, Mass. Gave much help in addressing copies of Taro Leaf.

Gordon, Joseph, WOJG with Hqs. Co. 34th., now practicing law in Bayonne, N. J. Lives at 7 Morton Place, Jersey City, N. J.

Diskan, Albert E., former Regt. Surgeon 34th., practicing medicine in Manchester, Conn. Office at 869 Main Street, that city.

D'Elia, William J., Div. Arty., now a civilian doctor at 1308 Fourth Avenue, Spring Lake, N. J.

Ender, Robert R., CO of H Co. 21st., sends in application from 425 Tenafly Road, Englewood, N. J.

Wey, Lt. Frederick, 24th. Sig. Co., lives at 3272 West Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio. With Sears, Roebuck & Co., 8501 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland. Asks for news of Sig. Co. boys.

Johnson, Lt. George F., Co. D 19th., is teaching music in Kansas, Illinois schools. Address: Box 8, that town. Has baby daughter born 15 July 1947.

Johnston, Richard C., Hqs. 34th. (he of the pipe) is an attorney at 268 Tenth Street, Richmond, Calif.

Zehner, Russell C., Hqs. Co., 19th., sends application from 514 W. Market Street, Orwigsburg, Pa. In the jargon of 'Down Under' wrote, "Give 'er a bloody go". Appended 32 names and addresses.

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WITH THE VICTORY DIVISION IN JAPAN

By Lloyd Price,
former Capt. and PRO, now of Dallas News

When this correspondent received this assignment he promptly visualized an Association-paid trip to the Orient and said "sure."

The Ed Henry, who is the sparkplug of the Association, started bombarding him with copies of "V-Day," the Division newspaper, plus restricted monthly Division histories, all full of queer Japanese names and similarly incomprehensible material.

It is quite possible that everything would be perfectly clear to someone who had been to Kyushu, and who was accustomed to an occupation army with the dependent children of military personnel constituting a major problem, but I am not.

Therefore, this report must be taken as my idea of what is happening to the Victory Division, and not necessarily as what is actually happening. In other words, any similarity between this report and what is really going on over there is pure guesswork.

Chapman Field, at 19th. Inf. Post in Beppu, in named for Capt. Chapman, former S-3 killed, together with Col. Jock Clifford, at Tamogan, Mindanao, by mortar fire.

Of this, however, I am reasonably sure. The 24th is still in northern Kyushu. This island, if you will look at your map, is the southernmost of the main Japanese string. The towns of Sasebo, Beppu, Fukuoka, Kumamoto and Kokura keep cropping up in the news stories. Division headquarters is apparently located at the latter spot. To further orient the casual reader, this whole area is contiguous to the scene of the second atomic bomb drop—Nagasaki—and it is to be hoped that the present lads of the 24th are steering clear of radiation.

Camp Mower, 34th post, is named for Sgt. Charles E. Mower, of Co. A, who won Congressional Medal at Capocan, Leyte, on 3 Nov. 44.

What is probably the chief topic of conversation in the Division as this is read is the coming of winter. The cold shouldn't be so bad, since the latitude of this area is about the same as Dallas or Savannah, but it is to be noted that there doesn't seem to be much between the division and freezing Siberian winds except a lot of ocean.

The chief concern among commanding officers, reports indicate, is the loss of personnel because of redeployment to the States, although it is still in a lot better shape, as far as manpower is concerned, than at the close of fighting on Mindanao, for instance.

Capt. Deel E. Young, Asst. AG, became a 20-year man recently. His wife has been in Japan since Sept. 46. Expect to return soon to USA.

Careful scanning of news and official reports shows that occupation duty is not very exciting. There have been a few riots and disorders among the Japanese, but apparently the little yellow men like to fight each other and leave the troops strictly along. In only one case that this correspondent has been able to unearth were soldiers of the Division involved in trouble with the civilian population, and investigation showed our men at fault.

Organization Day, the sixth, was celebrated on October 1st in all units of the Division. V-Day issued a handsome commemoration pamphlet giving history of the Division and of its organic units, and featuring a message from Maj. Gen. Lester in which the CG proudly recounted the combat accomplishments of the Division.

The proud old 19th Infantry celebrated its eighty-sixth birthday on 20 September, and its regimental history was recited again to the men who now make up its ranks.

Not a campaign or a battle was left out—from the organization of the outfit in 1861 and its heroic stand at Chickamauga through the New Guinea and Philippine actions of World War II. The Presidential Citations received by the 2nd Battalion and the Regiment as a whole were repeated.

Troops took a three-day holiday at their Camp Chickamauga, near Beppu. They heard band concerts, speeches by Major General James A. Lester, Division Commander, and Colonel William B. Yancey, Commanding Officer of the Regiment, and ate holiday fare.

And, on the day commemorating the organization, Colonel Yancey turned over his command to Second Lieutenant Wilkes B. Williams of F Company, the junior second lieutenant of the regiment. It was a gesture to bring alive that day in 1863 at Chickamauga, Georgia, when only a second lieutenant remained standing to command the 19th Infantry.

In his message, General Lester said in part:

"Whenever in the future, in your mind's eye, you see the men of this proud regiment passing in review, with the light of victory glistening on their helmets and your regimental colors bedecked with the many battle streamers that the brave men of the regiment have earned with their sweat and blood, you too will be proud that you have at one time marched with the Nineteenth Infantry—The Rock of Chickamauga."

The last copy of "V-Day" (Sept. 22) available, tells that the 24th's baseball team—nicknamed the "Big Green"—was scheduled to begin the following Tuesday a Shaunessy playoff with the three other top teams in the All-Japan Baseball League.

The winner of this playoff was to have the honor of representing Japan in the All-Pacific tournament at Hawaii. Other contenders were the 25th Infantry and 1st Cavalry Divisions and the league-leading Eighth Army nine.

(Just so we beat the 1st Cav. Doesn't make much difference what else.)

Other items tell of a "Big-Green" football squad in process of organization, and a championship boxing team which was carrying the Victory Division's hopes to the All-Japan Boxing Tournament at Tokyo.

One of the programs on WLKH is called "Information Dozo".

Lt. John Scipsea, Asst. G-1 and former Chick, left in October for reassignment to 3rd Armored, Ft. Knox, Ky.

Lt. Col. William Craig, former AG, left for USA in Sept. He's to be integrated into RA as 1st Lt., QMC.

Major General R. B. Woodruff is up to his old tricks. Remember how he used to drive his own jeep, frequently in a manner which would have drawn threat of courtmartial to one of lesser-statute? Well, he's still doing it.

I quote as proof this probably very retrained paragraph from a "V-Day" dispatch describing the general's arrival at a series of maneuvers being conducted by the third battalion of the 34th Infantry:

"The former CG of the Victory Division drove his jeep at a flying pace from Beppu to the Hijudai area."

General Woodruff is now in command of I Corps of which the 24th is a unit. The story about the maneuvers tells of his reunion with Capt. Fabian Comes, S-3 of the 34th, who fought under General Woodruff in the Philippines.

"It's good to see one of the old-timers," the general said. "There aren't many of us left."

Hot Lips—Hot Nips

The Division Band conducted by CWO Eugene Papi gave its final performance Sept. 1 of three summer concerts for the civilian population of Kokura. More than 7,000 Japanese gathered under a hot afternoon sun to hear the numbers, and when the lads had blown their final toot the town's mayor thanked band members for the series.

The program included "What Do You Do In The Infantry," "Begin the Beguine," "Chinese Nights," "Schmitzbank," and "Gems of Stephen Foster." The Japs seemed to like it.

THE TARO LEAF

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