

The Taro Leaf

24th Infantry (Victory) Division Veterans' Association

VOLUME III

OCTOBER, 1949

NUMBER 1

24th WILL INVADE CHICAGO IN 1950

NEW YORK CITY CONVENTION ATTENDANCE SETS RECORD

**On August 12, 13, 14, 1949 Nearly
250 Veterans Of The 24th
Gathered For Their 2nd
Annual Convention**

In mid-August that veteran "Victory" Division made another successful assault—this time on New York City—by advance infiltration followed by land, sea, and air invasion. Though the objective, the Hotel New Yorker, was taken by storm, it showed but little evidence of the onslaught. Strangely, however, the veteran "Victory" Division invaders after the three-day battle, were suffering acutely (in some instances) from combat fatigue. The new "commander," Ross Pursifull, assures us that all casualties will be sufficiently recuperated to participate in the Chicago campaign in 1950. Anticipated reinforcements are expected to make this next invasion a "push-over."

blow-by-blow, eye-witness account of the NYC affair follows for the benefit of many (too many) who were not there, as well as for the information of some who were there but "just can't remember." (These were in the minority).

(D-DAY) SITUATION REPORT

Friday, 12 Aug. 49

Registrations

Early arrivals were greeted by a big, colorful Taro Leaf insignia in the hotel lobby, telling them where to register and assemble later. An energetic Arrangements Committee sparked by Ed and Mrs. Henry, "Snapper" and Mrs. Snavelly, Bill and Mrs. Willmot, Vic Backer, "Bucky" Ford and "Flyboy" Melody, had greased the wheels beautifully for this event. They were all set to register conventioners, collect money for dues, banquet tickets and fees and to provide information and tickets for city tours and shows. This later service was largely ignored because everyone found more fascination in just meeting each other, examining the souvenir display in the Trophy Room,

(Continued on Page 10)

Guest of Honor



Lt. General R. L. Eichelberger

Pictured at the Hotel New Yorker is Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger, presently Civ. Consultant to the Sec'y of the Army on Japanese matters, as he addressed members of the 24th Inf. (Victory) Division Veterans Assn. at their 1949 Convention.

WARNING TO ABSENTEES*

This is what happened to one, Thomas Compere, erstwhile Vice President of the Association, absent from the NYC Convention. He received a 100-word telegram, collect, signed by sixteen of his friends who missed his cheery presence at the gathering of the clan.

*This means you, if you could have gotten to the Convention and didn't.

James "Spike" O'Donnell General Chairman For 1950 Convention

The Chairman for the Chicago Convention is to be none other than the gentleman of "Two Cities", the man who covers thirty-five states as his "Territory", work that is, and he claims both Chicago and New York as his addresses. "Spike" O'Donnell, (formerly Co. "G"-21st), the new Vice President for the mid-west area, and the general chairman designated for the 1950 Convention, is going to be the busiest member of the Association this coming year.

Many letters were received from you boys requesting either Chicago or some other mid-western city as the site for the 1950 Convention. We went to the New York Convention armed with these requests and after much discussion both for and against, the boys from Illinois won. Those of us who plugged for Chicago promised that we would see to it that the 1950 Convention would be the BIGGEST AND BEST EVER, if Chicago were selected. Over 50% of our members live in the west and the middle-west, and since Chicago is centrally located, each and every one should make it a must to attend. The Vice President and regular chairmen in the various sections of the United States will be furnished with a list of the members in their respective areas, if they do not already have same, and each Vice President should contact the members in his area several times during the year and see to it that all members send in their reservation as soon as the exact time and place is announced. The "Windy City" is a dandy Convention City, and "Spike" and his committee are going to see to it that the boys from the East have as good a time in Chicago as we from West did in New York.

"Spike" not only has to arrange for all the details for the 1950 Convention, but is responsible for increasing the membership of the Association in order to live up to the promise of the BIGGEST AND BEST RE-UNION EVER. This is where we come in.

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NEW BATTLE HONORS AWARDED 19th INF.

KYUSHU, Japan, Sept. 20th, 1949.—Additional battle honors were received by the 19th Infantry today on the 86th Anniversary of the Battle of Chicamaugua, traditionally observed as Organization Day. In General Orders issued by the Secretary of the Army, the 19th Infantry is cited for exceptionally outstanding performance of duty in action on Mindanao, Philippine Islands, during the period 20 April to 30 June, 1945.

The citation reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Washington 25, D. C., 24 August 1949

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 41

III—BATTLE HONORS.—As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (sec. 1, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (sec. 111, WD Bul. 11, 1942), the following unit is cited under the provisions of AR 260-15 in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citation reads as follows:

The 19th Infantry Regiment is cited for exceptionally outstanding performance of duty in action on Mindanao, Philippine Islands, during the period 29 April to 30 June 1945. After landing on the west coast at Parang and completing a 144-mile advance across the jungle terrain of the island in 17 days, the regiment reached Davao Gulf and prepared to close with the main enemy defenses. On 3 May, it turned north, made an assault crossing of the Davao River, and seized the strategic city of Davao. Expanding its hold on the city, the regiment again drove north to establish contact with guerrilla forces at the head of the gulf, then pushed westward along the Davao River to crash the Sacred Hill-Mandog defense line. The enemy in the Mandog area resisted every attack from well-fortified positions,

Thanks For Your Letters And The Interest Shown In the 1950 Convention

To those of you who were unable to attend the New York Convention, but who wrote stating that you would, no doubt, get to the 1950 Convention if it were held in Chicago,—remember, your buddies took the floor and backed up your request at the New York Convention, and now that the 1950 Convention will be in Chicago, you will not want to be an absentee. Get in touch with all your 24th Division buddies, and let's all turn out in 1950.

GEN. HIGGINS GIVES FAREWELL SALUTE TO 24th AND 3rd ENG. WHERE HE STARTED AS PVT.

FR. KYUSHU, Japan—Closing a chapter in the brilliant career that has led him from stripes to stars in the 24th Infantry Division, Brigadier General Gerald J. Higgins departed recently for duty with the 4th Infantry Training Division at Fort Ord, California.

In a farewell press interview General Higgins paid tribute to the senior noncommissioned officers he has met during his tour as Assistant Division Commander here. "These veteran leaders are proving again the truth of the old adage: 'Non Coms are the backbone of an army,'" the General declared.

The General started his military service as a Private in the 3rd Engineers, rose to rank of Sgt., and won appointment to West Point.

but the battalions, by costly and determined assaults, routed the defenders. The 19th Infantry Regiment then joined the division to eliminate the last organized resistance near Mount Monoy. During these drives, 21 large naval coastal guns were seized and destroyed, 5 large airfields secured, and Pakiputan Straits opened. The sustained fighting qualities and the outstanding achievements of the 19th Infantry Regiment were major contributions to the success of the Mindanao campaign and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army of the United States.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF
THE ARMY:

J. LAWTON COLLINS,

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Official:

Edward F. Witsell

Major General

The Adjutant General

The Second Battalion 19th Infantry formerly had been cited for its distinguished record on Breakneck Ridge, Leyte, P. I., in November, 1944. Our congratulations to the Chicks for their part in adding to the battle laurels of the famous "Rock of Chicamauga" Regiment.

"REMEMBER?"

This searching question is asked innumerable times at all conventions. The answer may concern some unforgettable character—a close call or some spicy bit of humor which would undoubtedly be of tremendous interest to a lot of people. Unfortunately, the gem of a tale usually is lost on the ears of the two or three who meet and ask each other "Do you remember when blah—blah—blah?"

Our new Historian of the Association has a suggested solution to this sad state of affairs. He suggests that if each member were to write up his favorite story somewhat like the short squibs in "Readers' Digest," and send them in for publication in the "Taro Leaf", we could all enjoy these tales at intervals throughout the year instead of having to wait until the next convention.

If you like the idea, scribble out your favorite story and send it to Lt. Col. R. H. Lawson, 1408 N. Abingdon Street, Arlington, Virginia for editing and publication in some future issue of the "Taro Leaf." Remember that wartime censorship is ended, so be sure to stick in names of people, places, undates and anything else which will add to the interest of the tale. Just imagine how much pleasure you will get out of memories stirred by time-improved tales of such characters as Pvt. Moon, "Jock" Clifford, "Terrible Tom" O'Connor, "Doc" Merritt and a host of others. Try to tell the truth, but if the story is good, don't let your conscience bother you too much.

Father of 24th Vet Requests Addresses of Buddies

The following letter from Mr. Amos I. Matley was sent to Joseph A. McCollum, who just prior to the arrival of the letter, had died. Joseph's mother forwarded the letter to this headquarters.

"Dear Comrade,

I see in the "Taro Leaf" your name and also that you served in the 34th.

My son, Pvt. Robert E. Matley, served in Company C, 34th Infantry. He was killed on Mindanao on May 6th, 1945.

I wonder if you could help me contact any Arizona buddies that might have served with him, and who might be able to give me any information as to how he was killed-----

Thank you sincerely for any help that you may give me whatsoever, I remain

Amos I. Matley
Box 20
Camp Wood, Rte
Prescott, Arizona"

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Lt. Col. Richard H. Lawson, Historian
(Formerly 24th Div. G-2 & C/S)
1408 Abingdon Road
Arlington, Va.

When Good Fellows Get Together

NEW YORK CITY CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS.



Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger addresses members of the Association at the 2nd Annual Convention in the Main Ball Room of the Hotel New Yorker, New York City.



Cixon, Purcell, Mrs. Purcell, Lawson, Page, Klepinger, Zierath. Just before dinner.

Present At The NYC Convention . . .

REGISTRATION LIST

- Sam Snyder, 1356 Walton Ave., Bronx 52, N. Y., 34th Inf.
- Louis Kepler, 49 Anderson Ave., Deferist, N. Y., Co. G 21st
- Joseph Dougherty, 405 Grassy Is. Ave., Jessup, Pa., Co. G 21st
- James B. Jones, Hdq. 2nd Army, Fort George Meade, Md., Div. Hdq. 19th
- John T. Quick, Los Angeles, Cal., Div. Hdq.
- Robert J. Duff, Box 447, Danville, Illinois, Div. Hdq.
- A. Bertram Koenig, 621 No. 2nd, Philadelphia, Pa., Quartermaster
- Walter Vansickle, 811 Homewood Ave., Salem, Ohio, Hdq. 3rd 21st
- James Fanning, 42 Rowley St., Rochester, N. Y., Co. 34th
- Harry Snavely, Roseville Rd., Lancaster, Pa., Co. 34th
- J. W. Riccardi, 318 Fayette Pike, Montgomery, W. Va., Co. 19th
- Louis Conne, Boomer, W. Va. Co. 19th
- Wm. A. Savell, Blountstown, Florida, Co. 19th
- James Robinson, Glen Burnie, Md., Co. 19th
- Father Charles J. Brady, 544 E. Genesee St., Syracuse 2, N. Y., 21st
- Thomas E. Grady, 182 Barker St., Hartford, Conn., Co. H 21st
- Steve Pavluvcik, 117 Clover St., Stratford, Conn., Co. H 21st
- Col. M. N. Cizon, Office Service Branch, A. G. O. Pentagon Building, Washington, D. C., Div. Hdq.
- B. E. Van Raalte, 6 Meadow Lane, Lawrence, Long Island, 52nd Field Art.
- James L. Fredricks, 1108 McCormick St., Greensboro, N. C., Co. E 34th
- Hub Bryson, 416 No. Spring St., Greensboro, N. C., Co. K 19th
- Wm. Willmot, 420 Magee Ave., Elizabeth, N. J., Hdq. 3rd 21st
- Rabt. J. Schlatter, West District Rd., Unionville, Conn., Hdq. 21st
- John Wood, 820 Elm Street, Norristown, Pa., Co. 21st
- Ed. J. Crumme Jr., 353 State Street, Albany 6, N. Y., Co. B Medics
- George Stanley, 487 10th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., Co. I 21st
- Gen. R. B. Woodruff, Governors Island, N. Y., Div. Hdq.
- Anthony Muratore, 1376 Bushwick Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., Co. 21st
- M/Sgt. Joe Pritchard, Hdq. 1st Army, Ft. Jay, N. Y., Co. D 19th Medics
- A. J. Mele, 4 East 56th St., N. Y. C., Co. M 21st
- Wm. Muldoon, 212 Webster St., West Newton, Mass., Co. E. 19th
- Ed. Wiegmann, 2210 Oliver St., Ft. Wayne, Ind., Cannon Co. 19th
- Walter Page, Jr., 727 E. 27th St., Paterson, N. J., Div. Hdq.
- Richard Wise, East Bangor, Pa., Service Co. 19th
- Wm. Sausville, 95 Passaic Ave., Passaic, N. J., Hdq. Co.
- Ed Henry, 49 Grove St., No. Attleboro, Mass., Div. Co.
- Bernard Scheinberg, 5141 Pembroke Ave., Baltimore 15, Md., Co. H 21st
- Guido A. Corsetti, 65-20 223 Place Bayside, L. I., 3rd Eng.
- Jacob Pavlik, 1356 Main Street, Pittston, Pa., Co. M 19th
- Francis Linnen, 43 James St., Pittston, Pa., Co. L 19th
- Ed. Arominski, 378 Forest Ave., Locust Valley, N. Y., Co. Hdq. 21st
- Maj. Walter F. Malley, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md., Div. Ord.
- John Lewatsch, 2144 Lemay, Detroit, Mich., Co. F 19th
- Jerome Levine, 3741 79th St., Jackson Heights, L. I., Co. E 34th
- Vic Backer, 480 Lexington Ave., N. Y. C., Co. 34th
- Jack B. Mathews, Princeton University, Div. Hdq. 34th
- Joe. Beuovante, 64-72 223 Place Bayside, L. I., Co. G 21st
- Bucky Ford, 181 Cabot Street, Newtonville, Mass., 52nd F. A.
- Milner Melody, 15 Holland Street, Lexington, Mass., 52nd F. A.
- Daniel Breier, 7402 Boy Parkway, Brooklyn, N. Y., Hdq. 3rd 21st
- Charles Daniels, Sherburne, N. Y., Medics 21st
- Clifford Simmons, Clementon, N. J., Hdq. Co. 19th
- James O'Donnell, 4531 Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill., Co. G 21st
- William Davidson, 540 Park Ave., Swedesboro, N. J., Div. Hdq.
- Walter B. Himes, 8310 35th Ave., Jackson Hgts., L. I., 13th F. A.
- Varain Hoover, Hustontown, Pa., Co. C. 34th
- Wilbur Lind, 16 Jefferson St., Kackensack, N. Y., Co. B 24th Medics
- George Davenport, Adamston Rd., Osbornville, N. J., Co. F 21st
- E. J. Kelleher, Pine Rock, Shelton, Conn., Hdq. 19th
- John Seck, 19921 Moenart Ave., Detroit, Mich., 2 Bn. 19th
- Warren Schmidt, 32 Sheppard Ave., Kenmore, N. Y., 13th F. A.
- Joe. Kindya, 9 Albany St., N. Y. C., Hdq. 1st 34th
- James McGaffigan, 26 Emerson Place, Needham, Mass., Co. G 19th
- Roger M. Schoenberg, 506 Jackson Ave., N. Y. C., Co. K 34th
- M. K. Nakano, 77-19 Second Lane, No. Blvd. Homes, Jackson Hts., L. I., Div. Hdq.
- Fred R. Weber, Quarters 88, West Point, N. Y., Hdq. 21st
- Richard Wilson, Fort Monroe, Va., 11th F. A.
- Robert Pere, 150 West 106 Street, N. Y. C., Co. I 34th
- Joe Lesk, Midway Hotel, Broadway & 100th St., N. Y., Co. I 34th
- Sam Rosen, 3826 Park Ave., Bronx 57, N. Y., Hdq. 19th
- Sam Backer, 254 Oak Street, Lawrence, Mass., Svc. Co. 34th
- R. Solomon, 1297 Hoe Ave., Bronx, N. Y., Co. M 34th
- B. Reiffman, 1912 Ave. H, Brooklyn, N. Y., Co. H 34th
- A. J. Geiringer, 1326 Madison Ave., N. Y. C., At. Co. 19th
- Carl Schank, 150 Stout Ave., Bound Brook, N. J., Svc. Co. 19th
- Nathan J. Stark, 255 West 88th St., N. Y. C., Svc. Co. 34th
- Robt. F. Bonagura, 325 76th St., Brooklyn, N. Y., 19th
- Robt. Florance, 8851 20th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., 3 Bn. 19th
- James Purcell, 98 S. Iris Ave., Floral Pk., L. I., 24th Sig.
- Thomas Aretz, 34 Rochywood Rd., Manhasset, L. I., Co. 19th
- Leonard Stein, 220 Boscobel Pl., N. Y. 5, N. Y., Co. I 21st
- Lawrence S. Weiss, 110 Church Street, Woodbridge, N. J., Co. D 34th

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All but one of the above took time out to pose for this picture!

PRESENT AT NYC

Continued from Page 4

Wm. A. Somervold, Hq. Co. Fort Monmouth, N. J. 24th Sig.

Jack Davis, River Park, White Plains, N. Y., Co. C 34th

Walter M. Redfield, 67 High Street, Ext. Natick, Mass., Svc. Co. 19th

Peter F. Sullivan, 215 W. 91st St., New York 24, N. Y., Div. Hdq. Fin.

Robert R. Ender, 425 Tenafly, Englewood, N. J., Co. H 21st

John J. Ferri, 149 Prospect Park, S.W., Brooklyn 18, N. Y., Bat. B 52 F. A.

Gennaro A. Fischetti, 693 Sackett Street, Brooklyn 17, N. Y., Hdq. 34th

Paul Belisle, 38 Jennings Rd., Bristol, Conn., Co. L 19th

Henry Schubert, 9 Maple Street, Terryville, Conn., Co. G 19th

Henry Polock, 151 Seeley Ave., Arlington, N. J., At. Co. 21st

T. K. Steele, 2431 Crescent Ext. Charlotte, N. C., Co. H 21st

Urban Throm, 1300 York Ave., N. Y. 21, Div. Hdq.

Andre Maurice, 73-37 Austin St., Forest Hills, L. I., Hdq. 3 21st

Luis F. Martinez, 126 W. 82nd Street, N. Y. C., Co. G 19th

Thomas Upton, 6 Burns Street, Forest Hills, L. I., Div. Hdq.

Danny Cuomo, 146 Franklin Street, Belleville, N. J., Co. B 34th

Harold Fritz, 155 Gold Street, No. Arlington, N. J. Co. B 34th

Arthur May, 10 Somerset St., Garfield, N. J., Co. B 34th

Agas King, 22 Spruce Street, New York 7, N. Y., Co. I 21st

Joe I. Peyton, 131 No. Culver Street, Baltimore, Md., Svc. Co. 19th

John Caci, 1047 Teller Ave., Bronx, N. Y., Co. G 34th

W. H. Lingle, Hdq. 2 Army, Ft. George Meade, Md., 24th Sig.

Herbert Winkler, 21 So. Franklin St., Wilkes Barre, Pa., Div. Hdq.

Sid Bruskin, 612 S. 20th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., Div. Hdq.

Larry Selkowitz, 19 Seymore Street, Pittsfield, Mass., Div. Band

Willie R. Smith, 1321 Fairmount St., N.W., Washington, D. C., Co. B 19th

Bernard Cohen, 1665 Bryant Ave., Bronx 16, N. Y., Co. E 21st

John J. Flood, 23 State Circle, Annapolis, Md., Div. Hdq.

Samuel Stern, 194 Rutgers Street, New Brunswick, N. J., Hdq. Co. 19th

Joe Gordon, 106 N. Grove Street, East Orange, N. J., Hdq. Co. 34th

Anthony J. DiGiovanni, 363 New York Ave., Elizabeth, N. J., Co. M 34th

Russell L. Harkins, Etters, Pa., Co. K 34th

N. E. Sloan, Hopeston, Illinois, Hdq. 21st

John Boyce, 2000 Mapes Ave., Bronx, N. Y., Co. F 19th

Robert M. Berk, 1239 Mace Ave., New York, N. Y., Co. C 34th

Ronald C. Wintle, 90 Cedar Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., Hdq. 3rd 34th

Gene Muller, 7608 Smith Ave., No. Bergen, N. J., Co. B 34th

George H. Rieger, 474 White Hall St., Lynbrook, L. I., Svc. Co. 34th

Joseph Degen, 510 E. 77th Street, N. Y. C., Med. Det. 34th

Dominick Monto, 251 Sherman St., Passaic, N. J., Co. G 34th

Michael Lembo, 232 Nassau St., Brooklyn, N. Y., 24th Ord.

Anthony Barbire, 616 8th St., Carlstad, N. J., Co. E 34th

Russell H. Jones, West Sand Lake, N. Y., Div. Hdq.

Wm. H. Little, Fort McNair, Washington, D. C., Hdq. Div. Art.

Sidney Zlotnick, 540 E. 23rd St., Paterson, N. J., Co. G 34th

Mellini Albert, 570 Main Street, East Orange, N. J., Co. F 34th

Seymour Sheryll, 1475 Grand Concourse, N. Y., Co. I 34th

Ed. C. Burdsall, Main & Summit Sts., Newton Sq., Pa., Co. K 19th

Sgt. Robt. M. Williams, Co. F, 7th Inf. Regt., Co. D 21st

James M. Moran, 111 Amsterdam Ave., New York, N. Y., 2nd Hdq. 34th

John Goldpaugh, 345 Clinton Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., 3rd Hdq. 21st

John Belhumeur, 1300 A.S.U. Det. No. 5 Prov. B. Co., Co. A 19th

Frank J. DeLauro, 617 Gregory Ave., Wee Hawkin, N. J., Co. L 34th

Fred Hoefinger, 121 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville, N. Y., Div. Hdq.

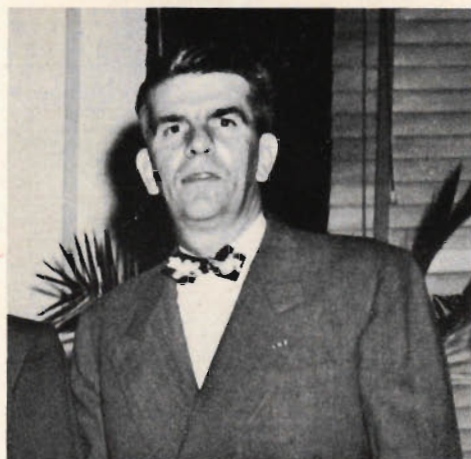
Bernard Dellasso, 2081 Southern Blvd., Bronx, N. Y., Co. K 34th

Ed Haynes, 1976 Hughes Ave., Bronx, N. Y., Svc. Co. 34th

W. McKinney, 146 Loomis Drive, West Hartford, Conn., Co. L 19th

Al Jurist, 1300 Hoe Ave., Bronx, N. Y., Co. K 34th

Julien Mason, Bowling Green, Va., Div. Hdq.



Ed and his Committees did a fine job.

Recorded Greetings From Maj. Gen. J. A. Lester

"To my comrades of the 24th Infantry Division, I send my affectionate greetings. I regret that I cannot be with you tonight, to live over again the days of the long trek of the Division from Hawaii to Japan. I have therefore, chosen this mechanical device to salute you tonight. All of us have reason to be justly proud of the accomplishment of our lustrous Division on the field of battle. Wherever the strategical need was the greatest in the Southwest Pacific, the mission was assigned to the 24th Division. Wherever the fighting was the most severe, the 24th Division was there. In the period from its initial commitment at Hollandia until V J Day in Mindanao, the 24th Division suffered more casualties than any Division in the Southwest Pacific. This brilliant record, written with the blood of our heroes, and the undomitable will of the Division in taking all of its objectives, will always bind us together with unbreakable ties of comradeship."



Maj. Harry L. Jones ready for action at the Banquet.

PRESENT AT NYC

Continued from Page 4

Charles Crow, 16B Garden Terr., No. Arlington, N. J., Co. L 34th

Jay L. Hasbrouck, 83 Laurel Ave., Bloomfield, N. J., Co. M 34th

Seymour Smigrod, 69-35 B 186 Lane Flushing, N. Y., Co. G 21st

Herbert Tischler, 854 Bronx Pk. So., Bronx, N. Y., Co. C 34th

Andrew Boggia, 1361 Webster Ave., Bronx, N. Y., Hdq. 34th

Martin Block, 2000 Anthony Ave., Bronx, N. Y., Co. M 34th

Harold Rosenberg, 1159 Vyse Ave., Bronx, N. Y., Co. M 34th

Harry Chachula, 616 E. J. Street, N. Y. C., Co. C 34th

Frank Bosco, 2250 Bathgate, Bronx, N. Y., Medics 34th

George Shapiro, 82 Attorney St., N. Y. C., Co. C 34th

Joseph Bocchino, 48 Myrtle Ave., Madison, N. J., Co. L 34th

Louis J. Penucci, 52 Railroad Ave., Summit, N. J., Co. L 34th

John J. Roche, 39 Fieldstone Dr., Springfield, N. J., Hdq. 34th

Fred L. Gray, 1371 Sherman Street, Watertown, N. Y., Svc. Co. 19th

Walter Cunningham, 625 So. Clinton St., Iowa City, Iowa, Hdq. 24th

James Basciano, 259 W. 68th St., N. Y. C., Co. M 34th

Armas Hendala, 225 Clinton Ave., Jersey City, N. J., Co. M 34th

Frank A. Chance Jr., Hdq. 2nd Army, Fort Meade, Md., Div. Hdq.

Richard Amerman, 83 Deed Dr., Withersfield, Co. D 21st

Wm. T. Keyes, 58 Bushnell Street, Hartford, Conn., Co. D 21st

Abe Goldstein, 5834 Westminster Place, St. Louis, Mo., Co. H 34th

Ross W. Pursifull, 19462 Sunderland Rd., Detroit, Mich.

Walter J. Klepinger, 1115 Clifton St. N. W., Washington, D. C.

James M. Parent, 42 Loomis Ave., Westfield, Mass., G-21

Clinton Stephens, 5600 Roxbury Place, Baltimore 9, Md., Hdq.

Wm. J. D'elia, 2017 5th Ave., Spring Lake, N. J., Div. Arty.

Martin Crowe, 9 Arlington Blvd., No. Arlington, N. J., Co. B 34th

Tom Mulholland, 2440 N. Marshall St., Philadelphia 33, Pa., Svc. Co. 34th

Wm. Totino, 9214 Ridge Blvd., Brooklyn, N. Y., 24th Sig.

Lt. Col. Fred Zierath, 5007 No. 26th St., Arlington, Va., 19th

Everett Peets, 250 Bronxville Rd., Bronxville, N. Y., Sig. Co.

F. C. Ludwig, 1325 New Hampshire Ave., Washington, D. C., 24th Rcn. Troop

Phillip J. Rosen, 100 Suffolk St., N. Y. C., Svc. Co. 34th

J. A. Saunders, 54 E. Blvd., Gloversville, N. Y., 21st Medics

Sol Ader, 484 E. Houston St., N. Y., Co. C 34th

Mrs. J. C. McNeeley (Next of kin to Capt. McNeeley) 645 Gold Hill Ave., Charlotte, N. C., Co. C 19th

Edmond P. Kielty, 65 Passaic St., Ridgewood, N. J., Div. Arty.

Clarence Gleason, 14906 Dexter, Detroit, Ill., Co. K 21st

William Neff, 2355 Valentine Ave., N. Y. C., Co. I 34th

James F. Pearsall, West Point, N. Y., 34th

Gen. F. A. Irving, Pentagon, Washington, D. C.

Ellie Castelli, 75 Worth St., N. Y., 34th

Bortolo Mollica, 86 Union St., Brooklyn, N. Y., Co. D 34th

Robert Redmond, 117 1/2 Atlantic Ave., Matawau, N. J., Co. E 19th

William Reylek, Sabel Blvd., Sabel, L. I., Medics 34th

Edward Shapiro, 750 Ovec., Bayonne, N. J., 21st

John Farrell, Roldrew Ave., Ryderwood, Md., 21st

Charles Flanagan, Holyoke, Mass., A. T. 34th

Pat. De Marco, 15 Thomson Ave., Gloucester, N. J., Co. A 34th

John Cavanich, 1739 So. 6th St., Camden, N. J., Co. A 34th

John Carbe, 607 Delaware Ave., Riverside, N. J., Co. A 34th

Anthony Fitzick, Reading Ave., Tuckahoe, N. J., Co. A 34th

Julius Godlewski, 52-46 45th St., Woodside, N. J., D. A. 24th

Albert Maxey, 930 West 3rd, Plainfield, N. J., Hdq. 19th

John Stiwaski, 81 Crowe St., Hempstead, N. Y., 21st

Marty Friedman, 11 W. 172 St., Bronx, N. Y., 34th

Donald Riley, R. D. 2, Norwalk, Ohio, Div. Hdq.

Stephen Carpaneto, 1805 60th St., Brooklyn, N. Y., 19th

Emil Jarosz, 69 Kossuth St., Wallington, N. J., Co. B 34th

Joseph Fava, 174 Sherwood St., Clifton, N. J., Co. B 34th

Capt. Glenes Wicker, Fort Jay, Governor's Island, N. Y., 21st Inf.

Fred Lager, 77 W. 94th St., N. Y. C., Co. B 34th

Louis Hymowitz, 366 Snediker Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., Co. M 34th



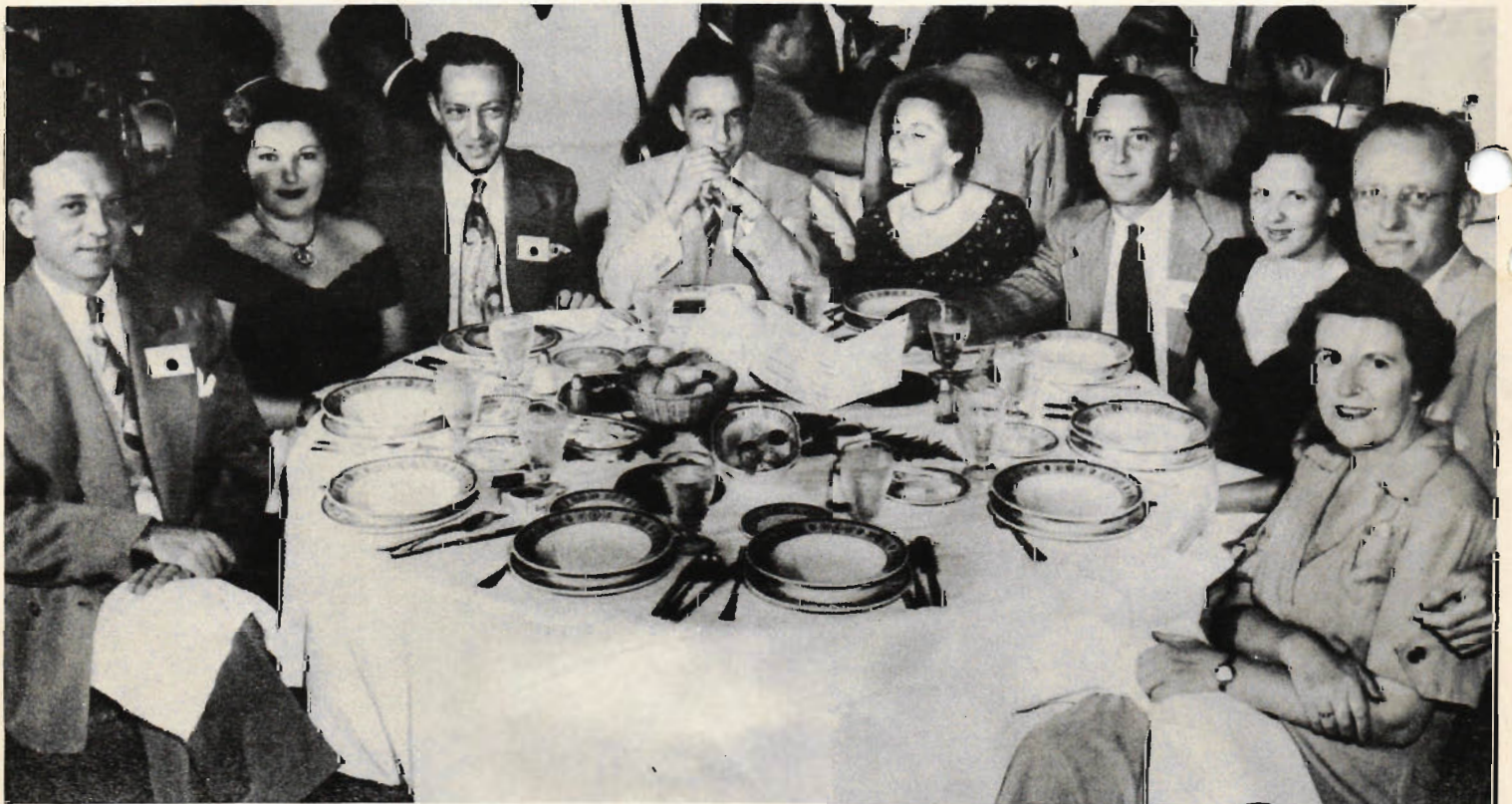
Look Pretty, Please!

SMALL CHANGE, AND SMALLER MEMBERSHIP, SO LET'S GET BUSY.

The Treasurer reports that despite the small membership, the Association under the newly-elected regime will start with a net-worth of \$2251.62. The 1950 reunion

netted a profit of \$417.53—not bad, all things considered. But with a potential of 44,000 veterans, we are a bit ashamed to announce that the Association has less

than 2% of that number as paid-up members. It's about time, dear reader, to sit down and think this over and then DO SOMETHING about it! What say?



Still waitin' for soup!

PRESENT AT NYC

Continued from Page 4

I. Spano, 55 Columbia Ave., Paterson, N. J., Co. G 34th
 V. Lombardo, 431 Madison St., Carlstadt, N. J., Co. A 34th
 Anthony Maisano, 58 Irvin Ave., Englewood Cliff, N. J., Anti Tank
 Morris Cohen, 495 E. 18th St., Paterson, N. J., Co. F 34th
 George Hufford, 335 E. 24th St., N. Y. C., Co. C 34th
 Patricia McDonald, 733 2nd Ave., N. Y. C., Svc. Co.
 Vincent Messina, 1 Horison St., New Rochelle, N. Y., Svc. Co. 34th
 Louis Santoro, 4112 Bruner Ave., Bronx, N. Y., Svc. Co. 34th
 La Mar W. Binkley
 William Baughkley
 Otto Stolzenberg, 6328 Homer, Philadelphia 44, Pa.
 V. J. La Rocco, Box 146 Rutherford Ave., Massapequa, N. Y.
 George Spangenberg, R. D. 6 Box 330, Butler, Pa.
 Wayne Weightman, 2339 25th St., S.E., Washington, D. C.
 Kenwood Ross, 1387 Main St., Springfield, Mass., Div. Hdg.
 Willard Vick, 2813 12th St., N. E. Washington, D. C., 1st Bn. 21st Hdg. Co.
 John V. Hodgins, 1201 Tucker St., Greensboro, N. C., 1st Bn. 21st
 Alexander J. Reid, Parkside Ave., East Trenton, N. J., Hdg. Co. 1st Bn.
 Richard S. Pfeilg, 200 Park View Ave., Allentown, Pa., Co. B.
 William A. Hanson, 27 Lewis St., Plainville, Conn., Co. H 21st
 Dallas Dick, Fort Meade, Md., Co. C 19th
 B. Walker, Mount Pocono, Pa., Hq. 34th
 Blackburn, Fairfield, Conn., Svc. Co. 19th
 Joseph P. Hennessy, 328 E. 31st, N. Y. C. AG Div. Hq.
 Matthew Ott, 3221 Broxton Walk, Camden, N. J., Co. B 34th
 Floyd E. Eyler, 511 Clayton Ave., Waynesboro, Pa., Co. L 21st
 Roland R. Cloud, Kennett Square, Pa., R. D. No. 2, Svc. Co. 19th
 G. B. Page, Pentagon Bldg., P. O. Box 2610 Washington, D. C., G-4.
 Herman Hanke, 592 Boulevard, New Haven, Conn., A. T. Co. 19th
 John E. Fuller, Fort Dix, N. J., G-2
 Harry L. Jones, Pentagon
 H. R. Thomas, Jefferson, Pa., Div. Hq.
 Edward Jensen, Oxford, N. Y.
 Richard H. Lawson, 1408 N. Abingdon St., Arlington, Va.
 Alfred B. Redd, Fort Meade, Md., A. G.

HONEY TOO !!

We have known for a long time that our membership is engaged in every pursuit of life. There are doctors, lawyers, merchants and chiefs. We even have a prominent representative in the chick industry, to say nothing of a broker—produce, that is. But, little did we dream that we had an APIARIST—bee keeper, to you. Yes, our honeyman is none other than ANTON J. NOVAK, formerly of Company D, 21st Infantry. He keeps his bees at 2443 W. 34th Place, Chicago 8, Illinois. Judging from the many-sized labels required for his honey jars, Tony is doing all right. He promises to have a "bit-a-honey" for all who come to the Convention in 1950. Those of you who might want some honey NOW can get in touch with him at the above address. He has instructions to charge you no more than the regular asking price—no free samples until the Convention rolls around.

A private who had been on K. P. duty ever since he was in the army was asked how he liked it and he said he didn't like the 2-man army. When asked what he meant by 2-man army he said, "Jes' me an' General MacArthur."

—The Log



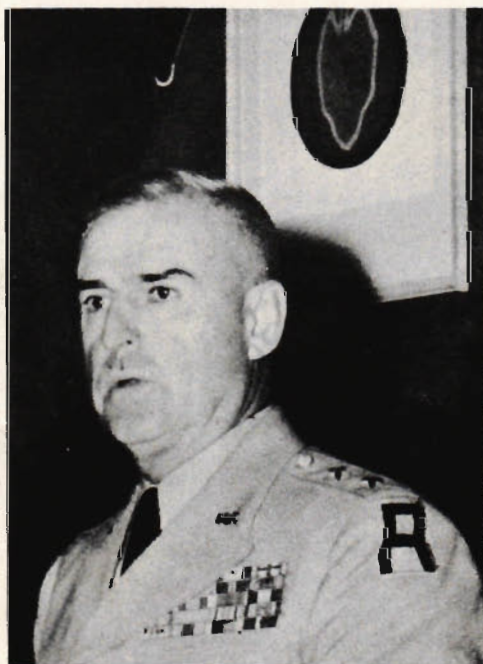
Maj. Gen. Frederick A. Irving

Major General F. A. Irving introduced the Guest Speaker, General Robert L. Eichelberger.

NEWS OF THE 24TH

GETS AROUND

Before the NYC Convention came to a close, the new Secretary, Robert J. Duff received a communication from a Chicago Hotel manager, requesting that we give his Hotel consideration when selecting Hotel Headquarters for the 1950 Convention.



Maj. Gen. R. B. Woodruff

Major General R. B. Woodruff (Deputy Commander, First Army) addresses Members of the Assn. at New York City.

Remember

COMMITTING A NUISANCE ON BREAKNECK RIDGE*

Late in 1944 the telephone rang in Colonel Verbeck's CP tent at Pinamapoan, at the foot of Breakneck Ridge on Leyte. The 21st Inf. Commander answered and heard the voice of Lt. Col. Madison, C. O. 2nd Bn., saying: "Colonel, the Japs are doing some sniping up here." To which Colonel Verbeck replied, "What's unusual about that, Seymour? They do that all the time." The classic answer came back, "Well, I thought you'd be interested. They're using 75-mm and its coming in the direction of the Regimental CP."

*Maj. Gen. Kenneth Cramer, now Chief of the National Guard Bureau, CP, confirms this story; he was in Bill Verbeck's CP. Bill is now with a U. S. Military Mission in Brazil. Seymour Madison is in business in Denver, Colorado.

Bastogne Hero Heads 24th, and G. I.s 'Snap to'

Daily News Foreign Service

TOKYO—Maj. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, who said "nuts" to a German surrender offer at Bastogne, is now commanding the U. S. Army's 24th division in Southern Japan.

After a couple of years of staff work in Washington, the general is glad to be back with the troops.

The troops, however, aren't quite so happy.

McAuliffe holds to the theory that an Army exists to be ready to fight. He's started a series of rugged training maneuvers. Nobody is exempt. Everybody, including the Officers' Club bartenders, the movie operators and other soft-job holders, are getting into the field.

Gen. A. C. Smith Sends Greetings Via Disc.

"Greetings from a former Division Commander. General Eichelberger, officers and men of the 24th Infantry Division Veterans' Association; as an ex-postwar commander of your fine Division, let me congratulate you former members on the splendid record made by the Division on Oahu, Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines, and in Japan. Let me also assure you that the present members of the Division are fully aware of their responsibilities to you to carry on the fine tradition and esprit de corps left as their heritage.

Sincerely,

A. C. Smith, Major General
 2nd Armored Division
 Camp Hood, Texas"

COUNCIL OF COMBAT UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

by Edmund G. Love
Chairman of the Organizing Committee

There are approximately fifteen million missing persons in the United States today. More than two thousand people sit down in every twenty-four hour period and write a letter that goes something like this: "Dear Sir, Can you please tell me the present whereabouts of Private Joe Blow who used to be a rifleman in Company A, Umpty Umph Infantry-----?" The tragic part of this whole picture is that until now, there was no place to send the letter with the certainty that it would be answered. The Federal government has provided the wherewithall for a veteran to get a house, go into business, or get cheap life insurance, but it has not provided a place where he can get a simple thing like a comrade's address. Even the Division, for instance, had more than forty thousand men in its ranks during the war. Its Association has the names and addresses of about fifteen hundred of these eligibles. You may remember how everyone rushed home after the war. Most men hoped they would never see or hear of the Army again. Now, four years later, they've changed their minds. They've decided that old Pedro Gonzales, the BAR man, was a pretty good guy. They'd like to see him again, to see how fat he's become down there on the border. They may never see him. In the rush back in 1945, they forgot to get his address. Chances are most men who served with the 24th Division don't even know that a 24th Division Association exists.

About a year ago several former combat soldiers in Washington became concerned over the situation. They decided that something had better be done about it. They began the organization of a "Council of Combat Unit Associations." Today that organization is comprised of sixty Combat Division Associations. The main purpose of the "Council" is to reunite old buddies through reunion groups of their old outfits. It is stipulated in the charter that the "Council" shall not engage in political lobbying nor become a veterans' pressure group. The cost of its operation is borne on a pro-rata use basis by all participating Associations and there can be no profit-taking from it.

The "Council" will shortly launch a national campaign to urge every ex-combat soldier to get in touch with his own combat unit veterans' association. To make matters simpler, there will be one single address. No matter what a man's old outfit was, if he will write to P. O. Box 1111, Washington, D. C., he will be put in touch with his unit association if one exists. In order to make this movement a success everyone must register, sending in his name, present address, and old company or battery, regiment, and Division.

The 24th Infantry Division Veterans' Association now is a member of the "Council." Other Division Associations are helping us find the men who do not know of the existence of the Association. We can help others. In your city block at home, in your office, in your recreation, you must run across many veterans. Spread the word around! Someone in his old outfit is probably trying to find that man you see every day. The answer is simple. Take him to the nearest mailbox and stand over him while he mails the postcard with his name, address, and old organization (including company or battery). Tell him to send it to his old Combat Unit Association in care of P. O. Box 1111, Washington, D. C., or to the "Council of Combat Unit Associations", same address. Remember, other Division Associations are helping the 24th. Let's make this a worthwhile thing. Get a veteran to enroll on his old outfit's roster today.

Remember

THAT RED BEACH NIGHTMARE*

TANAHMERAH—Red Beach 2—first night—inky blackness—taut nerves—fatigue—the unknown ahead—sporadic firing—Japs all around (so we thought)—a nightmarish groan and a scream!—dead silence—what gives? More Grenades! I was lying on my side 20 feet from the CP tent peering into that vast blackness. Suddenly there he was—a silhouette—a Jap standing near the CP entrance—I knew it—the outline of his helmet against the sky—his short stature—standing motionless—waiting—waiting—to kill, not one but several, as soon as someone coughed or talked—maybe the CG, maybe a busy radio crew, maybe the staff—still there—no time to lose—get on all fours—trench knife in teeth—not to be a Tarzan but to ease crawling and to avoid a tell-tale strike of the blade against stone—here we go—slowly—eyes fixed on that immobile Jap!—heart pounding like mad—closer and closer—he moved—something luminous—signal to other Japs—hurry—hurry—there it was again!—now we're ready to spring—firm grip on knife—go—spring and a vice-like grip pinning his arms, a presence-of-mind snarl as the knife goes to the top of the swing for the plunge—WHO'S THIS?—Sgt. Behan! Sgt. Behan! Sgt. Behan!—and he collapsed in my arms.—We both fell in a heap on the ground—relaxed—relieved—hysterically congratulating each other—me, that it was not a Jap—him, that the knife didn't find its way into his back. (The signal was his luminous watch—in motion as he flicked mosquitoes and insects from his face.)

*The author (or should we say "hero") of this squib, Lt. Col. Fred Zierath is now on duty in the Pentagon in the Plans and Operations Division of the Department of the Army. Sgt. Behan is rumored to be in the dry clean business, but we don't know where. His present business may well have resulted from the above incident.



This group apparently had an enjoyable dinner.



Getting ready for a "toast".

YES, WHO!

When his daughter returned from the girls' college, the farmer regarded her critically, and then demanded: "Ain't you a lot fatter than you was?"

Daughter (admitting): "Yes, Dad, I weighed 140 pounds stripped for gym."

Father (in horrified amazement): "Who the --- is Jim?"

They were quite a distance from the shore when the canoe tipped over and sank. "Do you think you can swim to the buoy?" he asked.

"If I can't," she replied, "it will be the first buoy I haven't made!"

—Truss-Buster

Two men were working on the White House lawn, each supplied with a small push cart upon which was a garbage can. They walked about picking up papers with a long spear. One spied a piece of toilet paper and started to spear it, when suddenly a gust of wind came up and blew the paper into the White House through an open window.

The man became frantic and rushed into the building. He returned shortly after and said: "I was too late. He already signed it."

Man on telephone: "Is this the Salvation Army?"

"Yes."

"Do you save bad girls?"

"Yes sir, we do."

"Well save me one for Saturday night."

—Rebel

The sergeant strode into the barracks and shouted, "O. K., you lazy *****s, hop to and fall in."

The soldiers grabbed their hats and lined up—all except one, who lay on his bunk blowing smoke rings.

"Well?" roared the sergeant.

"Well," said the soldier, tapping the ashes off his cigar, "there certainly were a lot of them, weren't there?"

—Urchin

Spike (Sgt) O'Donnell should have some "Hot dope" about 1950 in Chicago ready for the next issue in Nov.

24th WILL INVADE CHICAGO IN 1950

(Continued from Page 1)

seeing the 24th Division combat film and swapping time-improved tales about each other and famous characters of combat days. **Trophy Room and Combat Movie**

Major General Roscoe B. Woodruff, former CG24D and now Deputy CG First Army, contributed immensely to the success of the convention by arranging to have Signal Corps combat films searched for shots of the 24th Division in action, and piecing these shots together into one long film to be shown at the convention. It was a thoughtful and greatly appreciated feature of the reunion. The film is now in the hands of the new Historian, Dick Lawson in Washington, D. C., for further editing.

(Ed note:—When the new 24th Division film, a regular Signal Corps project, is finished, complete with all possible identifications of individuals and units on a sound track, an effort will be made to distribute copies to regional areas for use in recruiting new members in the Association).

General Woodruff also provided guards for the Trophy Room displays, the banquet color guard and excellent music by the First Army Band during the banquet on Saturday.

Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Eichelberger,

Early Arrivals

Welcome guests at the Convention were Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger and his charming wife, "Miss Em." The "greeting" committee took care of the General and Miss Em in befitting royal style—framed Taro Leaf insignias adorned the walls of the General's hotel rooms and even the pitcher and glasses therein. An aide was provided, thanks to General Woodruff. A continuous stream of visitors flooded the General's rooms, including members of the press who received advance copies of his Saturday speech. Late that evening the General was given a special showing of the 24th Div. combat film, stirring memories of scenes which he mentioned subsequently in his banquet speech.

Other early arrivals included enthusiastic supporters from all over the country—Indiana, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts,

Michigan, Florida, California, Missouri, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey, North Carolina—and even Brooklyn. The four North Carolina Association members (Bryson, Frederick, Hodgkin and Steele) were there, 100%. Later, it was found that about half of those who attended the Baltimore Convention had also attended this one.

(D + 1) SITUATION REPORT,

Saturday, 13 Aug. 49

Master of Ceremonies Switch

Registration began again bright and early (about 9:30) Saturday, but at noon word was received that Major General Cramer, the planned Master of Ceremonies, was detained on National Guard business in Washington and would not be present. Aside from the upset in plans and the difficulty in replacing such an able speaker, the absence of General Cramer threw a cloud over the whole convention—he had been the backbone of the original 24th Division Association and an inspiration to later Association officers just as he had been with the division in combat. A hasty committee meeting resulted in the selection of another well known and admired combat commander to substitute as Master of Ceremonies, Lt. Col. Fritz Weber. Fritz rose to the occasion as usual and proved to be a most fortunate choice.

Sidelights—Guests of Note

Among the guests were three of particular interest. Mrs. McNeely, widow of Captain John C. McNeely, formerly of Company "C", 19th Infantry, was there. John McNeely was killed in the initial landing on Leyte. Mrs. McNeely was warmly welcomed by her husband's many friends at the convention.

A second guest, of note, was M. K. Nakano, who performed invaluable translator and PW interrogator services for the division during the Hollandia-Tanahmerah Campaign. He made the advance to the airfields with the 21st Infantry and personally discovered several important Japanese documents which greatly influenced the progress of the war in the Pacific. Though, merely attached to the 24th Division for a while, Nakano's name is well known throughout the division.

The third guest chooses to remain anonymous, as does the southern gentleman who brought her to the banquet. She was the mother of a 24th Div. soldier killed in action on Leyte near Palo. Her escort was a staff officer in her son's battalion. It was a warm hearted gesture which both she and we appreciated.

The Business Meeting—Membership Drive

At 1400 the Business Meeting was called by Chairman Max Cizon and the audience was unexpectedly orderly and cooperative.

Outgoing President Ed Henry brought up some items of general interest, pointed out some of the more serious problems to be overcome during the coming year and then opened the meeting for general discussion. The response was immediate, spirited and most constructive, centering largely around the ways and means of enlarging the Association membership—a factor acknowledged to be vital to our future development. Fred Zierath suggested the most practical plan and the one most likely to succeed, call for the President to designate a select member as his agent in each state of the U. S. Through these agents the Secretary could carry on a coordinated campaign to recruit new members. General Woodruff suggested regional chapters of the Association as an additional means of re-acquainting ex-24th Division men with each other and with the Association. It was voted that the new Association officers should follow up on these suggestions.

"Council of Combat Unit Associations"

At that point the former Division Chief of Staff, Lt. Col. Dick Lawson, was asked to present the idea of 24th Division Association participation in the "Council of Combat Unit Association",—a non-political organization being formed to reduce the burden of administration for associations such as ours. This "Council" is discussed more in detail elsewhere in this issue of the "Taro Leaf". It was voted almost unanimously (one vote dissenting) to have the 24th Division Association participate in the "Council" to the extent of sending a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, 6-7 October in Washington, D. C. \$100.00 was voted to assist the "Council" to get started. Later the new President, Ross W. Pursifull, named Dick Lawson as the 24th Division Association delegate to the convention. It was generally agreed that it was wrong to ask of the Association officers too much of their time, energy, and personal facilities as had been customary in the past. The "Council" seemed to solve this problem if it could function economically. (More about the Council of Combat Units will be found on Page 8 of this issue).

Election of Officers for '49-'50

By a unanimous vote the following slate of officers, carefully selected by a Nominating Committee, was approved:

(Continued on Page 11)

24th Infantry (Victory) Division Veterans' Association

P. O. Box 447, Danville, Illinois

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME.....
COMPANY AND REGIMENT OR BATTERY.....
HOME ADDRESS.....
ADDRESSES OF FELLOW-VETERANS.....
.....
.....
REMARKS.....
DUES ENCLOSED.....

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES, \$2.00
(Includes Subscription to TARO LEAF)

24th WILL INVADE CHICAGO IN 1950

(Continued from Page 10)

PRESIDENT

Ross W. Pursifull
19462 Sunderland Road
Detroit 19, Michigan
(formerly a captain in the 34th Inf.
and G-2 in Div. Hq.)

SECRETARY

Robert J. Duff
P. O. Box 447
Danville, Illinois
(formerly a Major in G-4 Section
of Div. Hq.)

TREASURER

William V. Davidson
Swedesboro, New Jersey
(Former Lt. Col., Asst. G-2 in Div. Hq.)

CHAPLAIN

Father (Capt.) Chris Berlo
Percy Jones General Hospital
Battle Creek, Michigan
(formerly 19th Inf. Chaplain)

HISTORIAN

Richard H. Lawson (Lt. Col.)
1408 N. Abingdon St.
Arlington, Virginia
(former 24th Div. G-2 and Chief
of Staff)

VICE PRESIDENTS AND REGIONAL CHAIRMEN:

1. SOUTHEAST

William A. Savell
Blountstown, Florida
(19th Inf.)

2. NEW YORK

Vic Backer
c/o Wing Studios, Inc.
480 Lexington Ave.
New York City, N. Y.
(34th Inf.)

3. PENNSYLVANIA

A. Bertram Koenig
621 N. 2d. St.
Philadelphia, Pa.
(24th QM Co.)

4. NEW JERSEY

William C. Willmot
420 Magee Ave.
Elizabeth, New Jersey
(21st Inf.)

MIDWEST

James M. O'Donnell
4531 Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois
(21st Inf.)

6. NEW ENGLAND

Neil W. Young
326 Spring St.
Rockland, Mass.
(19th Inf.)

7. SOUTHWEST

Harold E. Liebe (Lt. Col.)
Artillery Center
Fort Sill, Oklahoma
(13th FA Bn.)

8. NORTHWEST

Harold Reed
(34th Inf.)

9. CALIFORNIA

Richard Johnston
268 10th St.
Richmond, California
(34th Inf.)

10. SOUTH CENTRAL

John Leddy (Capt.)
Medical Section
Atlanta General Depot
Atlanta, Ga.
(24th Med. Det.)

1950 Convention Site

The next subject for discussion was the

matter of naming the city for the 1950 Convention. This brought a bit of fireworks, after Bob Duff announced that he had received over fifty letters requesting Chicago as the City for the next Convention. It appeared that this subject was close to many hearts. The voting and motions got under way and the Chicago "gang" put it over on the basis that continued interest in the Association would be stimulated by holding the Convention in a different section of the U. S. each year. The Windy City is our "next objective". In that connection James M. "Spike" O'Donnell was designated General Chairman for the Chicago (1950) Convention. Spike already has an enthusiastic plan in mind.

The business meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM without further incident.

Pre-Banquet and Banquet Activities

The Committee arranged for pre-banquet cocktails to be served at 7:30 PM in honor of the guest speaker and his wife, General and Mrs. Eichelberger. Present in addition to the Eichelbergers, were General and Mrs. Woodruff, General Irving, Mr. and Mrs. Henry, Lt. Col. Cizon (the Convention Chairman), Mr. Ross W. Pursifull (the new President), Mr. and Mrs. Snavelly, Lt. Col. and Mrs. Weber, Col. Klepinger, Lt. Col. Lawson, Mr. and Mrs. Backer, Mr. and Mrs. Mason, Mrs. McNeely and Father Brady.

Immediately following the gathering honoring General Eichelberger, all proceeded to the Grand Ball Room and were seated for the banquet. Amid impressive military ceremony and with music by the First Army Band, the colors were brought in by a fine appearing Color Guard and placed before the speaker's table. Fritz Weber then took over as Master of Ceremonies, called upon Father Brady for the invocation and, after welcoming those present, permitted the dinner to be served.

Music, including frequent familiar Hawaiian numbers, was played throughout the evening. The three hundred diners were distributed around thirty circular tables in the Grand Ball Room. At intervals around the wall were hung large reproductions of unit insignias of elements of the division. The Division Taro Leaf was centered behind the long speakers' table. At this table were seated, in addition to General and Mrs. Eichelberger, the Master of Ceremonies, Lt. Col. Fritz Weber and Mrs. Weber, General Woodruff and Mrs. Woodruff, General Irving, Mrs. McNeely, the new Association President, Ross Pursifull, Mrs. Julian Mason and Father Brady.

After the dinner General Woodruff greeted the assembly and recalled his long association with the Division through Mindoro, Mindanao and on to Japan where he became CG of I Corps. He called upon his predecessor (as Division Commander) General Irving, to introduce the guest speaker.

As General Irving arose to speak the audience stood up as one man and gave him a long, spontaneous ovation. It was a heart-

warming demonstration of affection such as few commanders are privileged to receive. Despite the emotion which he must have felt, the General gave an excellent summation of his long acquaintance with General Eichelberger. When General Eichelberger was the superintendent at West Point, he, General Irving, was the Commandant of Cadets. This

(Continued on Page 12)

Taps For Former 34th Infantry Man

Word has been received from Mrs. Virginia G. Johnson, 1617 G, East Portland, Apt. 642, Phoenix, Arizona, of the death of her two sons, one of whom was Joseph McCollum, better known as Art. Art had been in ill health for some time and had been very nervous and jittery, according to the information received here. According to the newspaper article dated October 7th, Art was with his brother on a street in down town Phoenix, when he stepped from a car, strode to the rear and opening the turtleback and got an antique pistol he had bought before the war. He stepped back to the driver's door of the car and fired directly at his brother. Then he slipped under the steering wheel, quickly reloaded the pistol and died by his brother's side.

Mrs. Johnson wanted this information passed on to Art's former buddies of the 24th Division. Her letter reads in parts as follows:

"Dear Comrades of My Dear Son,
Joseph A. McCollum, Pfc.:

To you I offer my sincere apologies for my neglect in advising you of Art's and Stanley's death on October 6th, 1948. I am enclosing a letter from Amos Matley, asking information regarding his son's death in Mindanao. Maybe some one can help him out.

I am also enclosing a newspaper clipping regarding the boys' death. I am also enclosing \$2.00 for the "Taro Leaf". May I receive it as a mother who wishes to keep in contact with a much beloved son's buddies.

Any letters from Art's buddies will be greatly appreciated, and I will try to answer them as soon as possible.

To you boys who served Uncle Sam with my sons, greetings and prayers for you and yours.

Sincerely,
Virginia G. Johnson"

24th WILL INVADE CHICAGO IN 1950

(Continued from Page 11)

close association continued when General Eichelberger commanded I Corps in Australia and New Guinea and General Irving commanded the 24th Division in that Corp. Amid much laughter General Irving recounted the story of a 24th Division soldier who had the temerity (or unmitigated gall) to "borrow" the Corp Commander's car.

General Eichelberger, his lined, soldierly face known to everyone present, gave a fine address. He expressed repeatedly his admiration for the soldiers and commanders of the 24th Division. His vivid word pictures of jungle battle scenes made all of us relive again those difficult days of a few short years ago. He told us many things we had not known before about the reasons behind the fateful decisions which were made by General MacArthur and other commanders in every echelon, decisions which were later proved to be brilliant, life-saving ones, though at the time there were many doubts. In glowing terms he touched upon every phase of the Pacific war and the overwhelming defeat of Japan. The General did not stop there but led his audience out of the glorious past into the problems of the peace and the threats to the security of the future. It was a most impressive address (reproduced in the New York Times of 15 August), providing much food for thought.

After the applause had quieted, Fritz Weber again took the floor and read several telegrams from absent members including Father Berlo at Battle Creek, Michigan and Captain John Mayer at Fort Benning, Ga., and a letter from Col. Liebe at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Another interesting surprise was the amplified broadcast of the recorded voices of two other well known general officers of the Division, Major General A. C. Smith, now CG 2d Armored Division, Camp Hood Texas, and Major General James Lester, now CG, San Francisco Port of Embarkation, sending greetings to the Convention. General Lester's familiar southern accent brought back memories to every artil-

leryman and many others present at the banquet.

Ed Henry, the out-going President, was given a big hand for his tireless and inspiring services with the Association during the past year.

After Father Brady's benediction and the removal of the colors the throng dispersed in groups of old acquaintances all talking at once, promising to write more often and saying goodbye reluctantly until the Chicago Convention in 1950.

(D + 2) SITUATION REPORT 14 AUG. 1949

The dispersal of the banqueteers duly recorded in the D + 1 report turned out to be incorrect. It seems that large groups re-assembled in assorted hotel rooms to continue tongue-wagging, back-slapping and elbow-bending until an early hour on Sunday, (or so we were informed). The final withdrawal from the objective was accomplished on an individual basis, quietly, and with the firm conviction that Conventions are grand affairs which, fortunately, come but once a year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

8/22/49

Balance 1/1/49 Attleboro Savings & Loan Association....	\$1380.17	
Balance 5/12/49 First National Bank, Pedricktown, N. J. (checking)	502.65	
Deposit Pedricktown 5/17/49....	477.78	
" " 6/27/49....	76.00	
" " 7/12/49....	58.00	
" " 7/25/49....	26.00	
" " 8/ 5/49....	22.00	
" " 8/ 9/49....	10.00	
" " 8/15/49....	625.00	\$3177.60
Less Charges		
Check 5/12/49 Colonial Press—stationery	\$ 12.75	
" 5/31/49 Max Cizon—Postage	3.00	
" 7/ 1/49 Attleboro Print—Taro Leaf ..	274.80	
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(Continued from Page 1)

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