

PARADE

24TH

INFANTRY

DIVISION

ASSOCIATION

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NO. 2

34TH GIVES ITS LIFE FIGHTING

(Ed. Note: As we go to press, a report direct from The Pentagon has it that the 34th is no more. That beloved outfit has been redesignated the 14th Inf. Regt. and has been assigned to the 25th Inf. Div. We are speechless. It is with heavy heart that we make this report. Further details will be forthcoming in our December issue. Meanwhile we intend to tell some of the Washington and Tokyo "brass" just what we think -- and it isn't good!)

The 34th Infantry Regiment gave its life in the fight against Communist aggression in Korea. Battling valiantly, the regiment stood with the 24th Division through the bitter delaying actions of July 1950, but was broken up on August 31 to strengthen the other two regiments of the division.

The fighting men of the regiment stayed on in Korea though no longer in the name of the 34th. The 1st battalion, 34th, became the 3rd battalion of the 19th Regiment and the 3rd battalion, 34th, became the 2nd battalion of the 21st Regiment.

Always ready for a fight, the 34th Regiment was on maneuvers in Japan when the North Korean invaders struck with the full force of their crack, Russian-equipped army. Pulling up stakes in the middle of the night, the regiment moved out of bivouac positions in a pouring rain and began the lightning-speed packing that put them on Korean soil July 2, 1950.

Speeding north as soon as they debarked from a hospital ship at Pusan, the 1st battalion set up stop-gap defenses at Chonan. At this tiny little Korean town where the American soldiers were treated with kindly curiosity, by the native population, the 34th was to fight the second major delaying action in Korea.

The first stand of American forces at Osan had collapsed before the waves of troops and tanks descending from the north. As elements of the tiny force at Osan fell back through the 34th positions, the men braced themselves for the blow they knew was coming.

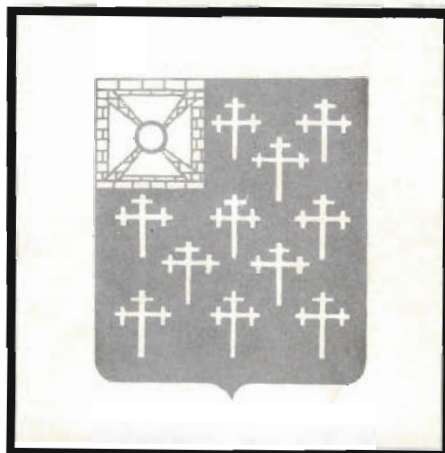
At dusk on July 7, Communist forces first appeared in long columns before the regimental positions. The enemy swarmed forward in mass in a frontal assault behind tanks. The tanks pushed through road-side defenses. North Korean infantry could not push through our line which was backed by heavy firepower.

Failing in their frontal assault, the enemy forces swept around the ends of the short-span defense line. In a double envelopment movement the numerically superior North Koreans completely surrounded the town of Chonan.

A fighting withdrawal was the only chance of survival for the cut-off American battalion. Fighting on all sides, the 34th slowly cut its way through the ring of enemy forces. The lone battalion inflicted heavy enemy casualties as it knifed its way from hill positions to the route of withdrawal, but the battalion also suffered many casualties in the bitter fighting.

Gathering its shattered forces, the 34th set up positions at Kongju. Many men listed

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THE 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Toujours en Avant

STAN'S MESSAGE TO DETROITERS

Following a gracious introduction by his friend and classmate, Gimlet "Bill" Verbeck, Chick "Stan" Meloy addressed the assembled members and their guests at the Detroit Convention last summer. The entire speech (with noted exceptions) is printed herewith as it is believed to be of sufficient importance to warrant its being made "of record" on these pages. "Off the record" and "on the record", it was a stirring message, and we commend its reading and rereading to you. The address follows:

"Thank you, Bill."

"Spike, you've done a good job during this past year. Lots of luck to you, and lots of luck to you, too, Ken, in the year ahead."

"Gentlemen of the 24th and guests."

"It's grand to be here with you at your fourth annual reunion."

"I want to say that I've been among you since early yesterday and I've never been with a finer group. It all comes clear to me now as to how and why you set the record for the 24th which we who followed you tried to live up to later on. I believe we have, and I can promise you that our successors are trying and will continue to try, to live up to that enviable record. (Applause)"

"There are many good things to come out of a reunion like this. One of the best is to be able to get together and talk about past experiences and elaborate upon them and even improve upon them as the evening progresses. We learn lots of new ideas and

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WHAT AND WHY IS THE 34TH INF. REGT. ASSN.

The 34th Inf. Regt. Assn. started by accident, we might say. Back in Dec. 1946 a former 34ther from Sv. Co. went through his address book and invited his ex-buddies to a get-together at a bar in downtown New York. Then it began. The word went around and by the time that night in '46 was over, the fellows were drinking in shifts. Everyone enjoyed himself so much that it was decided to meet again, BUT, at a larger place. A midtown hotel was used in Feb. '47, where the idea of an Assn. was put into being.

Albert Gerstenhaber was elected the first President and he was instrumental in drawing up the by-laws and obtaining a charter. He was followed in the Presidency by Vic Backer in '48, John Ceci in '49, Martin Friedman in '50 and Dom Monto in '51. As in all organizations, there are a few members who work the hardest for its continued success. Outstanding in that vein are Sam Snyder, Jack Davies, Herby Tischler, Warren Leonard, George Rieger, Fred Jarger and Bob Solomon. All members do their part, however, to make the Assn. a must for their social and daily lives.

The main aim of the organization is to lend a helping hand to those less fortunate. To this goal, the 34th is proud of its record. In its short time of existence it has managed to obtain a few jobs for some needy members, they have donated plaques to the families of some of their comrades who made the supreme sacrifice. They visit the various veteran hospitals, donating candy, gum, cigarettes, writing paper, etc. A blood drive was one of its achievements in 1950. One hundred quarts of blood were obtained for the 24th Inf. Div. in Korea. Incidentally, this drive was sponsored in the name of the 24th Inf. Div. Assn. The 34th wanted the Div. Assn. to get all the credit and publicity. Gen. Woodruff was the first in line when it came to donating the blood. Many unselfish deeds have been done without the general knowledge of the members of either the 34th Assn. or the 24th Assn. Only finances hinder them from doing more for their friends.

The Regt. Assn. meetings take place the 4th Monday of each month at 28 E. 39th St. in New York City, and the meetings are always something to attend. Aside from an interesting business session, there is always an extra. Movies seem to follow each meeting. Combat films, world series and others, lend to the enjoyment of it all. About every third month a beer party takes place. Also, many items have been obtained at a big discount for the members.

Each November a Dance and Get-Together is held and the 34th Assn. has met with great social success. In fact the wives and girl friends of the members look forward to it each year. An Assn. newspaper, "The 34th Inf. Informer" is printed monthly and new projects are always coming up. All in all, it's an exciting thing to be with the 34th Inf. Regt. Assn.

(continued on page 8)

Carl C. Winerip (19th) formerly of Winthrop, Mass., has left the Bay State to get closer to the New Jersey mosquitoes. He's at 34 Maple Walk, Camden. How are they bitin', Carl?

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TARO LEAF

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Published in the interest of all men who
have served and who continue to serve in
the 24th Infantry Division.

EDITORIAL

Much thought and effort went into the last issue of our paper all in a bona fide effort to give you more of the kind of material which you want in a publication of this type.

The enthusiastic comments from some quarters included "Terrific", "Superior", "Best yet", et al. These were very gratifying. The coolness which came from other quarters was enough to force us to drop our brow somewhere between our chin and navel.

At any rate, gentlemen, we tried.

Mistakes? Yes -- lots of them. Room for improvement? Of course -- and we're going to take full advantage of it.

Your editorial staff was the first to sense the shortcomings of the September issue. They were noticed before the paper was mailed.

We make no small blunders; ours are splashy, thunderous and scarry, all in one. But we offer no apology. We only assure you of our untiring effort to profit by the experience of the past to produce improvement in the future. We ask you to stay with us in these early days of our administration.

Meanwhile, keep your comments -- good or bad -- coming. They will all be taken into account as we go to press with future issues.

AND NOW, AS BARRYMORE USED TO SAY,
LET US TURN TO THE LIBRETTO!

Maj. Harry L. "Finance" Jones (Div. Fin. Off. "after Howard and before Ledgerwood") is going back to school. Harry has been busy in the Pentagon for the last four years as Chief of the Personnel Division in the Chief of Finance Office. Harry has now assigned himself into a sweet job as a student at Harvard University School of Business Administration. Good luck, Harry!

MILESTONES IN COMRADESHIP

Previous annual Conventions of the Association:

Aug. 1948 - Baltimore, Md.
Aug. 1949 - New York, N. Y.
Aug. 1950 - Chicago, Ill.
Aug. 1951 - Detroit, Mich.

And next year's meeting in Columbus, Ohio will be the best Convention yet.



Ed Henry who needs no introduction (nor does his lovely wife Dorothy who is as gracious as the dip of a dancing wave) has sent us a series of pictures taken last summer in Mindanao. Ever hear of the Place? Above is shown the Mintal Elementary School

NOTES FROM THE BATTLEFIELD

With the 24th Over There -- Earl W. Peterson (Redwood City, Calif.) and Lawrence Buzbee (Ruskin, Ala.) were walking through a wooded area one night returning to their unit; their jeep had broken down. They heard Korean voices but paid no attention and proceeded on their way. The next morning they asked a Korean policeman the name of the village in the woods. They were amazed to find that there was no village there. They had by-passed a band of guerrillas..... A squad of "Eager Beavers" under direction of John H. Foster (Hilo, T.H.) encountered a live mine field at a point where our tanks would have to by-pass a blown up bridge. They marked the mines before enemy mortars forced them to withdraw. While under cover, Foster set off the fuses with his M-1. Carl L. Easlick (Elsie, Mich.) led the platoon with his mine detector to eliminate the Reds' blockade. After almost completing the job, they were pinned down by small arms fire. Hideo Arakaki and Tsuneo Shishido held off the enemy with BAR's until the tanks arrived. Hail to the 3rd Engineers ("39 continuous years overseas")..... Don Fitzgerald (Dayton, Ky.) led an assault group in a mission to take a hotly contested village. Don says "We were surprised shortly after we moved out when we received radio instructions to proceed into the village; that other elements of our platoon were already in the town." What Don didn't know was that the Reds were in his radio net. John Vaughn (New York City) who was with Don, adds "About halfway in we became suspicious. We checked in on the radio and after proper identification discovered that we were almost in their jaws." Grover Malby (Brillion, Wis.) volunteered to cover the platoon's withdrawal. He used his helmet for a tripod and pinned them down with his fire until his pals had withdrawn. Grover later drew back to safety himself. That's outsnaring 'em, fellows..... Joe Wilkinson (Baltimore, Md.) spent 7 days behind the enemy lines. He was separated from his company along the Nakdong River. He went north instead of going south as he thought he was doing. We all know how that can happen. He dug in in a deserted village. Shortly after, so did some Reds. They left the village each night and returned each morning. Each night after they would leave, Joe would go out and scrounge for food. On the 7th night, the patrol didn't come back so he decided to make a dash for it. He did and successfully, too.....

Col. Jim "Chum" Purcell (Div. Sig. O) is busy at Monmouth. Jim was one of the pioneers in the Assoc. and did much to get us going in the days back on Taloma Beach and Matsuyama, Shikoku, Japan. Write us often, "Chum", we enjoy your good letters.

WHAT DID IT COST?

In our last issue, we promised to compare the costs of our last two issues. The printed July issue, including the Esquire Supplement, cost \$325.00. The photo-offset September issue cost \$154.00. The comparison is not quite fair, however, inasmuch as the September issue was done in three colors whereas the July issue was a straight black and white proposition.

We'll give you more details on costs in the next issue after we've had a chance to gain additional experience with the photo-offset process. It's all in an effort to spend your dollars more cautiously and wisely and you can remove my gall bladder in the morning if that isn't the truth.

SPAM AND GRAVY

With the 24th Over There -- Before the unit was so completely shot up as to require its removal from the line, the 34th Medical Company was one of the most decorated medical units in Korea. Sgt. William Sanderfer was credited by Capt. Robert Stevens, regimental surgeon, with saving seven wounded men from certain death during a heavy artillery barrage near Yongsan. While his aid station was under intense artillery fire, Sanderfer administered life-saving treatment to the casualties and evacuated them over difficult mountainous terrain to a safer place. Lt. Jackie E. Edgar and Sgt. Walter Long (a San Antonian) who was in the aid station at the time volunteered to expose himself and assisted in picking up, treating and evacuating the wounded. He also helped to evacuate emergency equipment and medical supplies out of the danger zone..... Lt. James Gay (24th Sig. Co.) says that the wire crews have the toughest jobs in the Signal Corps. No one will dispute that, Jim. Jim writes "These men have been sniped at and shelled and have gone for days without sleep. When necessary, they've slugged it out of the hot spots with the doughboys; yet they always got their wires laid." Sgt. Blackman Peterson (a wire crew chief who hails from Burgaw, N.C.) was laying wire to a regimental CP when his crew ran into a fire fight. Blackie says "We hit the turf and waited. After the shelling stopped, leaving a gaping hole in our jeep and ruining our wire reel, we started in to work again. We finally reached the CP where we were pinned down for 3 days." Cpl. Bill Linsley (Teaneck, N.J.) was on a pole 30 feet in the air when the shells started falling. Bill claims an all time record for climbing down. Jim Purcell when told about his successors in the 24th Signal Co. beamed all over and said "What did you expect?"..... Joe D. Page (Cushing, Okla.) and Don Zieres (Terra Alta, W. Va.) were captured by the Reds and escaped. Joe says "We must be two of the luckiest guys in the 24th." They were on a reconnaissance near the Nakdong River when they ran smack into Reds with burp guns. They thought they were South Koreans until they tied them up. Joe wrote further saying "We sweated it out for hours until a fire fight broke out between the Reds and the 24th Recon. Co. In the confusion, Joe and Don slipped away. Joe says "The Recon. didn't know we were there but we sure knew they were there"..... Al Brown (Lancaster, Tex.) saw a house moving up a village street. He reported it to his crew chief. After the skipper was called in for a conference, they decided to open fire. Al says "You should have seen those Commies run when we did." Shortly after Al was sent back from the line for a rest period. He thought that the incident might have been the reason. Later in a retreat, his mortar crew left the base plate behind. Al says "We dug in on the next hill and used a steel helmet. It worked fine".....

Are You moving? Have you moved? Please notify the Secy. of any change of address, as it costs the Association five cents, (5c) for each copy forwarded or returned.

CROSS FIRE

The 37th Division Veterans Association boasts of 9000 members (Wowie!!!) It's annual assessment is \$2.00 per year and it puts out a fine quarterly paper, "The 37th Div. Veterans News." The "Buckeyes" tell us that they are the largest divisional association. Congratulations! Their headquarters, incidentally, is 1101 Wyandotte Building in Columbus, Ohio, just across the street from the Deshler Wallick Hotel where we'll convene next August. Anyone knowing a "Buckeye" who hasn't joined his Assoc. might pass the word along. They're doing the same for us..... The 5th Armored Div. has over 800 members. What's more, they have a lady secretary. Non-members can write her, Mrs. Claire E. Watrous, at 8549 Lowell St., St. Louis..... The 81st Div. Assoc. gave us a nice plug in their last "Wildcat News." "Up to the minute," they called us. Arigato, Wild cats. You're not doing badly either. Like ourselves, they need members. Have your "Wildcat" buddies contact James E. Cahall, Hotel Hillsboro, Raleigh, N. C., who is their Nat'l. Adjt..... The "boys of Buna", the 32nd Div. Assoc. advises they have about 16,100 members. Zowie! The state of Wisconsin has just designated highway 32 running north-south through the state as "The 32nd Division Memorial Highway." Now they're trying to get the states of Wisconsin and Michigan to underwrite their Division history. Wisconsin passed it -- Michigan is expected to next year. They're on the ball. More power to you, fellows!..... The 34th Div. Assoc. doesn't have a publication as yet. We're giving them some information about our experiences on costs, etc. in an effort to help them get going. If you know any 34th Div. boys, have them write Junior F. Miller, Secty., 34th Inf. Div. Assoc. at Argonne Armory, Des Moines, 9, Iowa.....

Maj. Dan McClellan (Asst. Div. G-1) is with the Army Security Agency in Washington.

Al Stewart (F21) has been recalled to active duty and has been assigned to the Post Engineers at Fort Ord, Calif. It was good to hear from you, Al.

Sgt. Harold Noll (24 Sig.Co. - Oct. '41 - May '44) has just returned from Korea after serving 11 months with the 2nd Inf. Div. Is now in Co. A, 303rd Sig.Svc.Bn., Cp. Cooke, Calif. He writes that he's happy to rejoin. We're happy to have you back in the 48's, Harold.

Louis C. Grilhi (19th) successfully operates a formal wear store in Yonkers, N.Y. Top hats, white ties, canes, and all the fixin's.

George Mildonia (19th) is now a "bird Colonel" and is flying around Fort Williams, Me. Hi, George.



MAJOR GENERAL BLACKSHEAR M. BRYAN, JR.
Commanding General, 24th Infantry Division

Major General Blackshear M. Bryan, Jr., entered the military service from Alexandria, Louisiana after graduation from the United States Military Academy on 14 June 1922. Prior to his entrance at the Academy, General Bryan was an ROTC Cadet from Sep 1918 to Nov 1918 at the Virginia Military Institute. Upon his appointment as 2d Lt from the USMA in the Field Artillery, he assumed a battery duty with the 15th Field Artillery until Aug 1924. During the period from Sep 1924 to Dec 1924, his duties were that of Recreation Officer Headquarters 3d Coast Artillery. The next two and one half years found him doing miscellaneous battery duty with the 18th FA following which he was Assistant Football Coach at the USMA. He was then again assigned to the 18th FA for battery duty for 6 months following which he was assigned duties as Instructor, Adjutant, and Mess Officer at the Military Academy (from Jul 1928 to Aug 1932). He then became a Student Officer at the Field Artillery School, until May 1933, when he assumed the duties of a Company Commander, CCC. From Sep 1933 to Mar 1934, General Bryan's assignment was that of a Battery Officer with the 1st FA. He then became Football Coach Instructor at the USMA until Aug 1935, when he became a Student Officer at the Command and General Staff College, for one year. After his completion of the CGSC course, he became an Instructor at the Field Artillery School where he remained until Jul 1939 when he went to the Army War College. The General was then assigned to the General Staff, War Department at Washington as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, Miscellaneous Branch. Here he remained until 10 Feb 1942. He next assumed duties with the Provost Marshal General's Office as Chief of the Alsins Division, for 10 months. For the period from 18 Dec 42 to 3 Dec 45, General Bryan was Assistant to the Provost Marshal General, in charge of Prisoners of War and Military Police Action. On 5 Dec 1945, he became the Provost Marshal General, and remained in that capacity until 9 Apr 48. His next assignment was that of Acting Provost Marshal from 10 Apr 1948 to 22 June 48, at which time he was assigned duties in the Canal Zone as Chief of Staff, Caribbean Command, Quarry Heights, Canal Zone. He remained in the Canal Zone until his assignment to the Far East Command for duty in Korea as Commanding General of the 24th Infantry Division on 12 Jan 1951.

The General is married and has four children: Blackshear M. III, 21; Robert E., 14; James E., 10; and Carina, 6. His permanent home address is 3459 Macomb St., N.W., Washington, D.C., where his wife, Mrs. Catherine Bryan, now resides.

General Bryan has received the following decorations and awards: Distinguished Service Medal, 1945; Army Commendation Ribbon, 1946; American Defense Medal; American Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal; Order of the British Empire with rank of Honorary Commander, 1947; Cross of French Legion of Honor, rank of Chevalier, 1947; Korean Service Medal, 1951.

OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE

Does anyone know the present whereabouts of Majors John Gahr or Robert Malone, formerly with the 24th Signal Co.? If so, will they communicate with Ye Editor, please. Likewise as to Loren Dyson, the Red Cross representative at Div. Hq. during the days when he was trading knives with the Moros.

POOP ON PILL PUSHERS

Doc Bill Markel (D Co. clearing, 24 Med.) is practicing internal medicine (is that good, Doc?) in NYC. Bill was succeeded at Kochi, Shikoku by Doc Bill Martin who has opened offices at Glen Cove, L.I..Doc Walter Anderson (Div. Veterinarian up until Leyte) is practicing veterinary medicine and has his own hospital at Tacoma, Wash..... Doc Bill Georgi (En. Surgeon, 3rd Bn, 34th from New Guinea to Shikoku) is practicing medicine in his home town of Buffalo, N.Y..... Doc Charlie Merri (13th F. Surgeon and C.O. of 24th Med. in Japan) is practicing medicine at Woodside, L.I., N.Y..... Lt. Col. Dick Shrum (Div. Surgeon) is at the U. S. Army Hospital, Ft. Leavenworth, Kans.

Bobby Treadway (2nd Bn - 21st) just sent in his money for "another hitch with the Taro Leaf." Thanx, Bobby.

Also new faces in the Assoc. Doc Bill Anderson (Med. Det. 19th from Sept. '43 - Mar. '45) of Minneapolis, and Norris Tibbetts (C-34th from fall of '44 - winter of '46) of Danville, Va. Welcome aboard, mates!

Bob Barreth (724 Ord) writes us on stationery of "Barreth Motor & Implement Co., Union, Mo." Bob liked those jeeps so much that he's selling them today.

Angelo Lorio (724 Ord. from Oct. '44 - Jan. '46) dropped in to Ken Ross' office in Springfield just as this issue was being "put to bed". He's working and living in Brooklyn. 320 Stockton St. is his APO. 012-26-7451. Angelo had just returned from a holiday down in his old home state of La. Angelo reports having met Hap Conklin (724 Ord.) the other day. Hap is selling jewelry. Hap's address is 55 Montgomery St., Newburgh, N.Y.

Ed Weil is now an attorney with the firm of Holmes, Mitchell and Gamelson in Wichita, Kans. Ed moved over from Missouri; likes the better climate in Kansas.

SILVER STAR FOR COMBAT BADGE

Perhaps you have noticed recently that some soldiers are wearing silver stars on their Combat Infantrymen's Badges.

The blue, rectangular badge with its silver musket and silver oak wreath is familiar to you; its the proudest emblem worn by soldiers.

The brilliant, distinctive silver star at the top of the badge's oak wreath may not be familiar, but it tells a story about the soldier who wears it that deserves your admiration. It means he has been engaged in close combat with the enemy in both World War II and the war in Korea.

Front-line medical men who served alongside the fighting infantrymen in both wars have been given similar recognition in the form of a silver star for their medical badges.

Of the Army's 21 military badges, these two are prized most highly by soldiers.

The main reason soldiers desire to earn the combat infantryman and medical badges is that these two show that they have been in spots where the only thing between them and the enemy was the front of their shirt.

The newly-designed badges with the stars began to make their appearance in this country as rotation of soldiers from Korea got under way.

The combat infantryman badge dates from 1943. Members of infantry regiments or smaller units engaged in active ground fighting are eligible for the decoration. In order to provide equality of treatment for medical corps personnel assigned to such infantry units in combat, the medical badge was authorized in 1945. Only Medical Corps members of the infantry combat classification -- in front-line medical detachments -- are eligible to win this award.

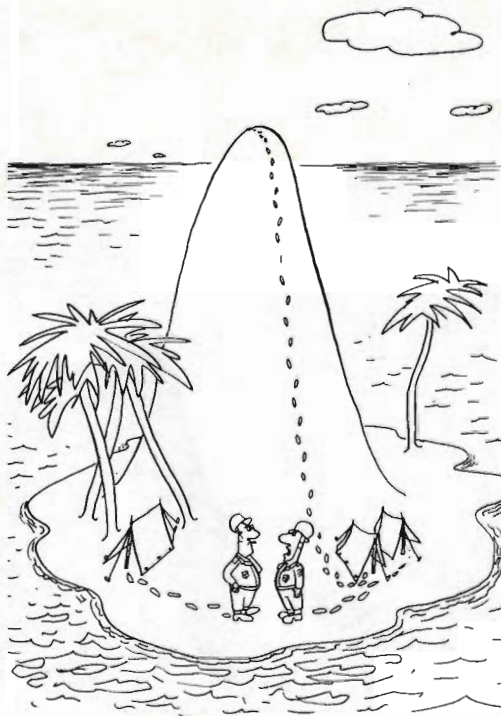
Officers with a branch of service other than infantry can win the combat infantryman badge only under special circumstances. They are required to have been in actual command of an infantry unit of regimental size or smaller during at least 30 days of combat.

General officers, although many of them won the award under regulations in effect during World War II or earned it before promotion to general officer rank, now are specifically prohibited from being awarded the decoration. It is intended only for infantry officers and men who ordinarily are within small arms range of the enemy.

Rather than for a volunteer service or special duty the two combat awards are won in the fire of battle by the most important soldiers in the Army -- the infantryman and the medical man at his side.



Mindanao, 1951 -- Taloma Beach where the "Victory Division" was unofficially redesignated the "Volleyball Division". The beach looks like a summer resort place today.



SIR. I'M AFRAID JOHNSTON HAS GONE OVER THE HILL

(Copyright 1951 by Virgil Franklin Partch III from his book, "Here We Go Again" published by Duell, Sloan & Pearce, Inc., New York, N. Y. Reprinted with the kind permission of the publisher)

Again we acknowledge our gratitude to Mr. Partch and to his publishers for permitting us to reprint one of his very laughable cartoons.

The publishers have also published General George C. Kenney's "The MacArthur I Know."

When two men have joined forces in time of difficulty and defeat, and have together met danger, outlasted criticism, and pushed aside every human obstacle on the hard road back, they know each other. That adversity is the great revealer of character has never been more convincingly demonstrated than in this book, the intimate portrait of Douglas MacArthur by a man who shared defeat and victory with him from 1942 to 1945.

Today, when a raging dispute over MacArthur's dismissal consumes the nation, Americans want to know more about him than legend, propaganda, and journalistic sketches can satisfy. "The MacArthur I Know," whose writing was begun long before the events of early April, 1951, though it encompasses them, is probably the first book to get through the myth to the man. The military strategist, the militant statesman, the commander, the comrade-in-arms on the battlefield or relaxing with friends -- all the many MacArthurs are here, in warmly human yet penetrating stories which are the stuff of history and the keys to understanding.

CHOTO MATAY!

Reading the N. Y. Times one morning, Ken Ross spotted a story about Cpl. Robert E. Kane of Newark, N.J. The Army was a year behind in paying him due to the familiar allotment snafu. Pronto, Ken dispatched a letter to Bob telling him that he was personally paying for a year's membership in the Assoc. for him. Ken wrote him "Anyone with your record and with that amount of trouble deserves a free ride. Welcome aboard." Bob says every time he goes to a pay table, he sees the same thing: "Pay to Robert Kane, Cpl. - Nothing." Bob hopes to get the mess cleared up by Christmas. We're with you, Bob!

"THE OLD OUTPOST"

Bob Berner down in Wichita, Kans. thoughtfully sends us this poem, written by a doughboy in Korea. The name of the soldier, regrettably, is unknown.

THE OLD OUTPOST (by a soldier in Korea)

This old outpost tonight is so lonely
As I sit and look into the night
It's been just like this all over the country
As we wait for them to come out and fight.

Many nations here are united together
Joined as one to fight the imperialism band
Fighting Communists in all kinds of weather
So it won't spread all over the land.

Many buddies we have lost in Korea
Many others have been wounded and sent home
But we will carry on the fight as we promised
Though it may last many months to come.

The United Nations General Assembly
Has tried hard to settle it in a peaceful way
But the Communists have turned down every offer
That is the reason we are still here today.

We came over here to fight against aggression
Though some people seem to think the other way.
They call us a bunch of dirty fighting bandits
Though we try to never think of what they say.

This old Taro Leaf Division is making history
Just as history was made in two wars before.
We will fight to keep its record shining,
May the 24th Division be remembered forevermore.

Someday when this awful war is over
We'll go back to our loved ones and home.
We'll not forget the buddies that were left here
Sleeping in a soldier's grave, all alone.

Though we have a bloody battle to fight
We know what the outcome will be
A lasting peace through all the nations
And America will be forever free.

34TH INF. REGT. ASSN. TO ASSIST US

It is common knowledge that the 34th Infantry has formed its own Assn. Through a mutual misunderstanding, their members did not become part of the Div. Assn., but that has been rectified. The unselfish efforts of the Div. Assn. Sec'y. Joseph I. Peyton (19th) has cleared all obstacles, and the way is clear for the betterment of both organizations.

Hard working Joe took time off to go to New York recently to attend the September meeting of the 34th Inf. Regt. Assn. While there, he discussed the differences of both organizations and arrived at a satisfactory conclusion. The officers of the 34th have promised an extended drive to bring its large membership into the 24th Div. Assn.

IN MEMORY OF BOB ALLAN (34th)

Mrs. Thomas H. Allan, 339 South Belmont, Wichita, Kans. wrote Joe Peyton recently enclosing a check in memory of her son, Bob, who was killed on Mindanao. Mrs. Allan writes: "Please accept this check, keep it and use it. Bob would have been so interested in all you're doing." Thank you from the very bottoms of our hearts, Mrs. Allan. Will friends of Bob who read this drop a line to Mrs. Allan?

WEST COAST CONFERENCE PLANNED

Bill McKenna of Albany, Calif. is hard at work as one of the new Assoc. "Veeps."

When the decision was made to convene in Columbus, Ohio in '52, Ken Ross immediately went to work on plans for an Assoc. "Conference" to be held on the West Coast sometime in February or March of 1952 in order to meet the enthusiastic demands of the California, Oregon and Washington boys for "some kind of a get-together."

Bill will serve as general chairman of the conference and will be announcing his committees shortly.

Pres. Ken, Sec'y. Joe and Treas. Bill will be on hand to help to make the affair a success.

More details in next month's issue.

Here's your chance, you western fellows.

Bill, in accepting the chairmanship, wrote in his whimsical style saying, "I'm not quite sure of my ability as an organizer, although I once rounded up a couple of men for a patrol."

He added, "We'll do our best to arrange a meeting whereat the men can travel once again those long, dusty trails at Hollandia, Alangalang, Kilay Ridge, San Jose, Catabato, Mintal, and that place with the coconuts and the hot and cold running mice."

Pine work, Bill, and we'll see you at the conference.

DON'T FORGET S.S. NUMBERS

You'll recall that in the Sept. issue, we announced a new contest. In each issue of "Taro Leaf" we will publish five Social Security numbers. Check these numbers against your own. If yours appears and you notify the Secretary, you will receive a complimentary year membership in the Assoc.

Quote from Maj. Gen. P. M. Bryan's recent letter to Joe Peyton:

"You can well be proud of the way the Division is performing its duties here. Never was its luster brighter."

We think so too, General!

Lt. Col. Fred Stoll (Exec. 21st) is at Atterbury and living at 54 North Water St., Franklin, Ind. We had hoped you'd make Detroit, Fred. There were lots of Gimlets there.

Jos. Novosel (34th) is operating a tavern with his brother in Robinson, Ill. He wrote in the other day offering to donate \$10.00 to the Assoc. if we'd tell him the address of Cecil Pfautz (D-34th) who was wounded October 27, 1944 on Leyte. Happily we were able to oblige. Cecil's address is Hesston, Kans. So the Assoc. is worthwhile after all.

SECRETARY VISITS 34TH INF. REGT. ASSN.

On Sept. 24, 1951, Div. Assn. Sec'y. Jos. I. Peyton (19th) traveled to New York City for his first visit to the 34th Inf. Regt. Assn. On arrival at the big city, our secretary was greeted by members of the 34th Assn. The afternoon was spent sightseeing, and getting better acquainted with New York City. The 34th Assn. sponsored a dinner in honor of the Div. Sec'y. at the 77th Div. Clubhouse. After the dinner, the secretary attended the monthly meeting of the 34th Assn. There he gave a little talk to its members, and was given a standing ovation after its completion.

CARRYING ON TRADITIONS

With the 24th Over There -- When their overheated 57-mm recoilless rifle began to "buck", two 21st soldiers weighted it down with sandbags to keep it firing at attacking Reds. Gunner Cpl. Eldridge Dunmoodie and assistant gunner PFC Raymond Smook had set up their gun on a knoll when the Reds attacked. They poured round after round into the advancing ranks. As the gun got hotter, it bounced a foot into the air at each round but the Communists were pressing so hard that the GI's couldn't afford to stop firing. They removed the tripod and piled sandbags on top of the weapon. It still bucked several inches from the ground. Pfc. Smook threw himself across the barrel. "Didn't do any good," he said. "She still bounced. What a ride!" With the two still shooting, the enemy wavered and withdrew. Cpl. Dunmoodie emerged from the engagement with a black eye from contact with the sight of the bucking 57..... On an artillery-battered Korean hill there sits an encampment of spaced pup tents, landscaped parade grounds and graveled paths. The front lines are only three or four miles away and yet in the midst of the rubble of war is a well-ordered, well-disciplined leadership school called "Little West Point." The "Little West Point of Korea" instructs non-coms, not officers, on how to be good leaders besides being good soldiers. Officers of the 5th RCT were aware that they had first-class combat leaders, but that many didn't know how to lead on the parade ground or in the classroom. Maj. Ernest H. Davis, 3d Bn. CO, conceived this particular school commanded by Lt. Thomas S. Walker. The training cycle is two weeks long. Each day accounts for 18 hours. "We assume they sleep the other six" says SFC James Ray Farmer, Coffey, Kans., a member of the training cadre. "We're very garrison for a reason," says Capt. Harland Wagonhurst, training adviser. "Atmosphere is needed in this type training. Clean clothes and orderly personal belongings all play a psychological part in helping the soldier to discipline himself and others." Though the pup tents are a measured distance apart and even the toothpaste has a certain place, the unit is mobile. It can break camp and set up on a half hour's notice.....



Mindanao, 1951 -- Ipil Point. Will you ever forget!

NEW APO'S

Taro Leafers as a group either are the fastest movers on earth or just don't pay their landlords. Whatever it is, the problem of keeping up with the new addresses is bringing gray hair to a fast balding Secretary before his time. 010-11-7840

Here are a few changes:

George Chin (724 Ord.) to 1526 11th Ave., Yuma, Ariz.

Joe Gordon to 754 Scotland Rd., Orange, New Jersey

Lewis McKinney to 127 Robbins Ave., Newington, Conn.

Maj. Martin E. Griner (24 QM from 12-41 to 8-44) now at Box 128, Pensacola, Fla.



Mindanao, 1951 -- National Highway looking west at Matina Airdrome (just outside of Davao.) Mt. Apo in the background.

S/SGT. LOUIS HANSEL, Co. A, 34TH

Mrs. Nannie Hansel of P. O. Box 163, Mt. Vernon, Ky. recently wrote to Roscoe Claxon. She is the mother of Louis Hansel (A, 34th) who was killed on Leyte on Nov. 20, 1944.

Mrs. Hansel said that she had never heard from a single person of the 24th after Louis was killed. "All I ever got," she wrote, "was that telegram."

Ken Ross heard of this and immediately sent out 623 post cards to old members of Co. A of the 34th. Fortunately his records are such that this could be done. Ken told what had, or rather what had not, happened and asked those who remembered Louis to write his mother. Mrs. Hansel said "I would like nothing better than to hear from them."

We'll try to report to you in the next issue what action these boys took.

This is the kind of thing this Assoc. is designed for.

TARO LEAF NOT A MONTHLY YET!

This November issue is our first since the September issue. Returns on new memberships made it seem inadvisable to go to the expense of an October issue. We are operating on a pay-as-you-go policy with definite plans for setting aside a reserve for functions other than the printing of the paper.

There will be issues in December and January. Our hope is to publish at least nine issues this year which at least will be an improvement over the four issues of last year. We are not yet prepared to commit ourselves to a monthly edition. We plan to, however, as an increase in our membership strength permits it.

ATTENTION ALL SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE WAIKANA SCHOOL DISTRICT. There will be no work in the pineapple fields tomorrow.

Marlyn Bandlow (19th) Detroit, is married and has a boy and a girl. He's working in the engraving department for Briggs in Detroit.

George E. Fahrenkopf (21st from Feb. 47 to Mar. 49) is swinging along with us. He's at 139 Belmont, Detroit. He thoughtfully enclosed some names of new prospects along with his check. Many thanks, George.

MUSHEE! MUSHEE!

If you have any pictures which you want included in the Division Picture History, work on which is underway, send them to Ken Ross, 1387 Main St., Springfield, Mass. Label them on the rear sides thereof so that they may be returned to you after they have served their purpose. This book is fast becoming a reality. More details in the next issue.

TAPS

William "Blackie" Neesan (19th) passed away on Feb. 5, 1951. Blackie will be remembered from the company "smokers" on Oahu. He was formerly from Elizabeth, N.J., married on rotation furlough, and settled in Turlock, Calif. after separation from service. He went through the rough stuff of WW II only to take the "ten count" with leukemia. Our deepest sympathies to Blackie's family

ANNO-NAY!!

Space limitations didn't permit us to mention by name all of those who attended the Detroit convention nor did they make it possible for us to pay the respect that was and is particularly due to Spike O'Donnell (21) for his successful year as Association President and to Dick Lawson (Div. Hq.) our untiring Historian. Hats off to this devoted pair of Taro Leafers.

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

Here's the score as of press time. It's a steadily improving report. New members are joining daily so that even as you read this, the figures will have changed.

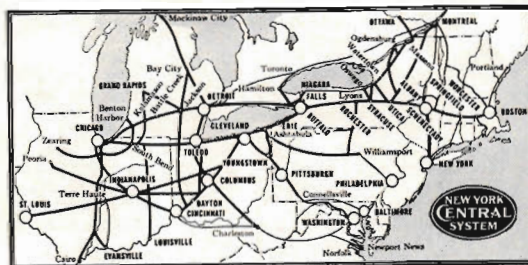
Membership as of 2-1-51 --- 491
Membership as of 8-14-51 -- 987
Membership as of 10-20-51 - 1042

Col. Milton Hale (Div. Fin. Off.) commands the Indianapolis Section of the Army Finance Center and School.



Mindanao, 1951 -- Taloma Beach still wearing some of the scars of the war activity.

ON TO COLUMBUS!



The New York Central Railroad has kindly loaned us this map showing their system. They are proud of the fact that so many of their lines lead to Columbus.

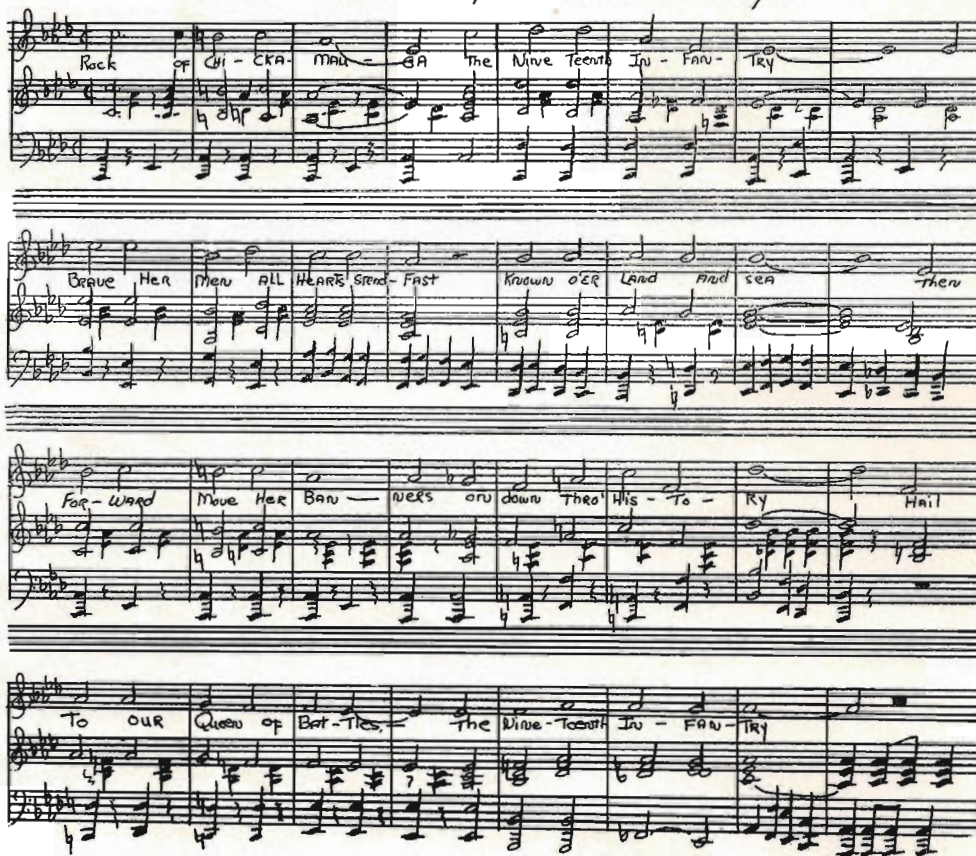
Plans are underway for making up special cars of conventioners each of which will leave St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore on Friday, August 15, 1952 to converge on Columbus on Saturday morning, August 16.

Every indication points to the largest and best convention yet.

YEAH CHICKS!

At Detroit, some efforts to revive some of the words (not to mention the tune) of "The Rock of Chickamauga" were somewhat futile. That it may not happen at Columbus in '52 or at San Francisco (for those who go to the West Coast reunion this winter), we furnish herewith the words and music. Try it out on your piano or harmonica.

The Rock of Chickamauga



Dean K. English (63rd F) Detroit, has a boy 5 years old. He's a switch tender for the N.Y.C. -- Dean, that is, not the boy. Dean isn't going to make him go to work until he's 8. Dean and Tony Procopio (63rd F) Pittsburgh, both attended the Detroit Convention and were disappointed in not seeing any more of the old 63rd F gang there.

James R. Jamison (63rd F) is with Jamison Coal & Coke Co. in Greensburg, Pa.

Lt. Col. Milton Skelley (Div. Hq.) writes us that he's in the Pentagon w/Army Disab. Review Bd. He even invited us to drop in on Mrs. Skelley and the two (one born in Japan) children at Alexandria. We'll do it yet, Milton.

It's eagles for Col. J. H. Hodges, Jr. (11th F) now at Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va. and Col. Dwight K. Foster (34th) now at Armory, 7 Mich. St., N.W., Grand Rapids, Mich. Fine business for two mighty fine fellows.

STAN'S MESSAGE
(continued from page 1)

find out about things that we never realized happened. I'm sure they're all good lessons. (Laughter)

"Frankly, I think you missed a bet here in not having Spike get up here in this spotlight and tell you all about his troubles with Junior Harris. May be you haven't heard of Junior but I heard about him until 4 o'clock this morning. (Laughter)

"You know that the 24th's record is a glorious one. (Applause)

"There's no division in the Army that will ever approach the 24th's record. I've considered the 1st Cavalry Division when I say that, too. (Applause)

"I'd like to tell you a little story about the 1st Cav. Do you remember in July, 1950, the publicity they got when they made their amphibious landing at Pohangdang? Well, the 2nd Bn. of the 19th greeted them there when they came ashore. We had held Pohangdang for about a week before they got there." (Laughter and sustained applause)

At this point, General Meloy went into a brief report on some of the honors the 24th has won for its action in Korea. He described the collective honors (division and unit honors) and some of the individual honors which are familiar to us. He referred particularly to the Division's Presidential Citation and the Citation from the Republic of Korea. A side remark that in his opinion "the 19th RCT was the best in the division" didn't escape the cheers of his listeners. Gimlets and Dragons accepted the boast with mixed emotions and the artillerymen looked on with puzzlement. Stan squirmed out of it with a follow-up opinion that the "three regiments are the best in the U. S. Army." What a diplomat! Now we understand how he got to be a general.

Stan continued:

"But figures and statistics will never tell of the courage and bravery of the men of the 24th. Even history books will never tell the whole of the real story.

"Let's talk first a bit about Korea itself.

"The terrain cannot be adequately described. It's just up and down. And the down spots are filled with rice paddies so they don't do you much good. The soldiers say that "when God was creating the world, He was tired by the time He got to Korea so He quit." That could be so.

"There have been occasions over there when a company attack has been on a one man front."

The speaker then went into an interesting and colorful description of the terrain with particular emphasis upon the obstacles which each of the terrain features presented to our brothers who wore the Taro Leaf against the North Korean and Chinese Red.

Continuing, he described the torrid heat of the summer and the bitter cold of the winter in Korea. It was an enlightening but saddening description.

"The misery of the country is pronounced," Stan added. "Every day was a problem of finding out how to feed everyone over there.

"As for recreational facilities, there were none. Perhaps I'm not fair in this. I realize that the 24th fought all through the Pacific and my World War II experience was limited to Europe. But what struck me in Korea was that when a man did have a few moments to himself there was no place to go and there were no pretty girls to look at. My research on this problem was a little incomplete, I'll admit (laughter) but that was my general impression. I should have had Spike along. (Laughter)

"I'm a little provoked about some of the news releases back here. One I saw recently was to the effect that the first troops over there weren't any better than a troop of Boy Scouts. That's a bunch of bunk! (Applause and cheers). We were! We had had a year's extensive training before Korea. I'd like to disavow that right now. The 24th, as well as the rest of the division had been going through a serious training cycle, and thank God, they all had."

Stan then specifically cited the training program which the 19th had been and was in the process of going through. Here it was, straight from the regimental skipper himself. He did much to upset some notions that the press had placed in our minds about the standard of proficiency of our successors. The report, coming first hand, was received with wild enthusiasm. Many agreed afterward that it was the most detailed and thought provoking account of those early days in Korea that they had yet received.

Stan went on:

"The first 40 days in Korea were more rugged than you can possibly imagine. I do not believe there has been anything like it in the history of U. S. armed combat.

"The first front that the 19th had, and I know that this is also true of the 21st -- in fact initially, I know the 21st was on a little wider front -- was 22 miles. Put that in your pipe. 22 miles! And we only had 2 battalions. We only had 2 of the 3 batteries of light artillery which we were supposed to have. This was true of the 21st and the 34th as well. That's a pretty good sized hunk of real estate for an RCT. It was true of the first 40 days -- excessive frontages with minimum forces. It was a fight of desperation -- of delaying action. We'd get cut off and we'd have to fight our way out. It was that kind of a proposition over and over and over.

"The enemy forces initially were good forces. The North Koreans were well equipped. They were well led. They were well trained. And they were pointed, I'm sure, for just that particular operation. The Koreans now are not as well equipped or as well led. They've suffered. The same can be said of the initial Chinese forces. They were good troops, well led and well equipped. But they've suffered as time has gone on. So we can look to that as an accomplishment.

"We finally got the war settled down at the Pusan perimeter with the 25th, the 1st Cav., the 7th and the 2nd from the States. It wasn't any luxury force but they were holding nonetheless.

"Then came the breakout at Pusan and the Inchon landing and the collapse of the North Korean army. Although lots of elements of it were by-passed and had to be cleaned up later on. Some of that clean up work was pretty severe.

"The 24th had the honor -- and deservedly -- of breaking out of the Pusan perimeter up the old road to Taejon and of recapturing Taejon. You know darn well that they were one pretty proud bunch of boys when they went back in there.

"Then heading for the Yalu and the 21st got as close to it as anyone in the Eighth Army did -- about 14 miles from the border. They went up on the west; the 19th went up more or less through the middle. The 5th was in reserve at that particular time.

"This was followed by the Chinese intervention and as General MacArthur said, we had a new war on our hands. And back we went, with the 24th doing a tremendous share of the rear guard action for the Eighth Army. We held Seoul while the other elements fed through us and we were the last elements out of Seoul and across the Han.

"Back and then forward again. And throughout it all the 24th wasn't in reserve for more than a week or ten days. That's a long time to be in combat by any rules.

"The elements of the 24th have been a fire brigade throughout. Don't be misled! Our elements moved around just as much as the 27th Regiment Wolfhounds, I can tell you.

"That's a pretty fast review of the 24th's part in Korea.

"Regretfully, I must skip over the actions of the platoons, the squads and the individuals. All of their fights made the over-all record of the 24th the glorious one that it was. All of the individuals like Spike's playmate, Junior Harris, helped to make up the big picture.

"Their stories will be told in our reunions in years to come -- in Columbus next year -- and in years thereafter. I don't know how they'll be told but I'm sure

they'll be told and each story will be a proud recital by a man as to what he could do and did when the chips were down.

"It's hard to describe the qualities of that American soldier. I've commanded him in combat and I know him. I'll never be able to put into words my respect for that individual. He goes through an awful lot, generally with a smile, an understanding, and a sense of humor that makes you wonder. It makes you very proud and very humble in the face of your responsibilities to that fellow soldier.

"And now what of the future.

"You know something of the problem ahead. You are soldiers and you know that it's going to be a fight in one way or another."

Stan then went on to tell us what we should be doing about preparing for the future.

He called on each of us to re-evaluate the worth of our individual efforts as citizens. He charged us with the duty of self-analyzing our participation, what we are doing in connection with our duties and obligations as citizens. He severely scored the general attitude in the country of "What's in it for me?" He reminded us of the need for an awakening to a realization on the part of each individual as to his responsibilities of unselfish devotion to our country. Time after time, he was delayed in his talk by the bursts of applause as he would tell us something which perhaps we already knew but weren't doing anything about. Here were words that were giving us much to think about through the rest of the Convention and in the days thereafter.

Stan summed it all up when he advised that if we don't revive that spirit of duty and loyalty to the flag, we might wind up without the freedoms that we talk so glibly about.

One other thing he cautioned us to appreciate included a realization of the fact that we are world leaders and an effort to act accordingly. His point was that individually we must contribute to that effort of acting successfully in the role of world leaders.

He reminded us, too, that we may be living for very many years to come with the threat of an all-out attack and that we should be prepared for that kind of a life. "We may be living," Stan said, "not knowing when it's going to strike. That kind of an existence calls for strength and courage and common sense."

Meloy went on to the wind-up of his address with these words:

"As a country, every decision we make in the future has got to be a carefully weighed decision. An impetuous solution might bring disaster then and there. We must be careful not to be sidetracked by every will-of-the-wisp that looks like an easy way out of the particular situation. There is no easy way out. We're going to be kidded into that frame of mind by the enemy if they can. We can't let complacency spell our undoing.

"This trouble in Korea is not an acute, brief attack of a new disease. It's a chronic ailment that has got to be cured and we've got to cure it. We won't cure it if we lessen our determination, if we become complacent, if we assume a business-as-usual attitude, or if we set up a clamor to emasculate our armed forces.

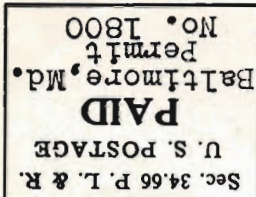
"For the rest of this evening, I'd like to suggest that we go into more important business and polish up on these stories of our own past experiences so that we can improve them even more.

"I'm proud and happy to be here. Count on me and the rest of the Korean veterans of the 24th to carry on the traditions you have so well established.

"Thank you."

With this, there was a resounding roar of approval.

Bill Verbeck thanked Stan Meloy on behalf of the Association and with that the crowds withdrew to the anterooms to go to work on those stories. Our heartfelt thanks to you, General Meloy. You were great!



34TH GIVES

(continued from page 1)

as missing in action came out of the hills to rejoin their outfit. American airstrikes swooped to the support of the regiment at Kongju for the first time in Korea. The 24th Reconnaissance Company joined the force for support.

The light tanks of the Recon could not stand up before the huge Russian-made T-34's when the Communists attacked the positions. Every American tank was knocked out and the regiment was ordered to withdraw to south of the Kum River.

A great tragedy struck the Division south of the river. Infiltrated North Koreans swept down out of the hills and overran the 63rd Field Artillery. The 34th concentrated its strength to fight for the guns and men of the artillery battalion. The under-strength regiment was no match for the enemy forces armed with American artillery pieces.

The next gallant stand made by the two-battalion regiment was in defense of the city of Taejon. Due to the shortage of troops and the large area only a lightly manned perimeter could be set up around the city.

Enemy artillery bombardments blasted Taejon through the night and into the day of the attack on the vital city. Enemy tanks bore down on the town and one battalion of the 19th regiment had to be called to add to the defense of the city. Street fighting broke out behind the crashing tanks and the 34th fought block by block to delay the enemy in the flaming streets of Taejon.

Escaping the brick-wall enemy road blocks set up south of Taejon, the 34th joined the 24th in the frantic rush to bolster weak spots in the Pusan Perimeter. In the Nak-tong River defense the regiment relived the terrible fighting of Corregidor in World War II.

Heat and malaria pierced the souls of the men in the understrength companies. The enemy crept through the sweaty stillness of summer nights, and the fighting was often blade to blade or hand to hand. But the 34th Regiment held.

When the "Victory" Division broke the Pusan Perimeter and moved north the 34th Regiment was no longer with it. The men were there, but the regiment as a unit could not share the glory of victory.

"We still stuck together, we of the 34th," said one man, "And we knew we could be proud of the fighting we had done in Korea."

SITUATION NORMAL

Are you moving? Have you moved? Please notify Joe Peyton. It's imperative that we keep up to date on your whereabouts. Please help us, won't you? Thank you.

WHAT AND WHY
(continued from page 1)

The governing body consists of its officers and a board of directors which consists of 10 members. The officers and directors are elected each year by majority vote.

All former members of the 34th Inf. Regt. are invited to become active members of the 34th Assn. For complete information, write to the 34th Inf. Regt. Assn., 77th Division Clubhouse, 28 E. 39th St., New York City.

The officers and members of the 34th Assn. extend to each member of the Div. Assn. an invitation to attend their meetings, and participate in their endeavors. You are always welcome, and will be treated as true friends.



Mindanao 1951 -- Davao City Hall

34TH REGT. ASSOC. DANCE

On Saturday, November 10, 1951, the 34th Inf. Regt. Assoc. will hold their 5th Annual Dance and Get-Together. The place will be POP JOE'S RAINBOW ROOM at Secaucus, N.J.

A large orchestra has been obtained and there will be free souvenirs for all. A great time has been prepared for those who attend.

All members of the 24th Division and their friends are cordially invited to attend and join in on the fun. Tickets may be obtained by writing to the 34th Inf. Regt. Assoc. at 28 East 39th St., New York, N.Y. or they can be bought at the door. The price is \$2.00 per person. Let's support this affair if we're in the New York area.

A WORD ON "KEN" CRAMER

Just prior to leaving with his 43rd Division for Europe, Maj. Gen. Kenneth Fox Cramer wrote us a note relative to the troubles which he went through at Camp Pickett last spring and summer.

Ken wrote:

"I am deeply appreciative of your recent letter and the understanding which it reflects. During this period, one of the most gratifying things has been the response of friends with whom I have been previously soldiering and without knowing too much of the particular circumstances involved are nevertheless certain that we are in the right. You have analyzed the situation properly. At the present time we are neither at war nor peace; however, we must in fairness to the very fine men who comprise the army give them the training that will carry them through anything which might lie ahead. It is most difficult for some of the people back home to comprehend this situation, but you and I have seen much action and know that it is the only way in which to proceed. Time will, of course, completely vindicate our procedure. In fact, that has in reality already occurred. The reaction to the Time Magazine article was all in the direction of solidification of the Division, more so than ever before. All hands realize the unfairness of the article in question, especially in view of the reports of the various inspectors who rated our training as Excellent, our administration as Excellent, and our overall activities in the same category."

We asked Ken for permission to quote from his letter as it carried a message which all of us understand and appreciate. He replied 'If you feel that it's worth anything, you certainly have my permission.'

We do think it's worth something, General Cramer. We particularly value it in the light of its source. It comes from a "brass hat" who has the admiration and respect of every single man who ever wore the Taro Leaf. You will never be forgotten, Ken, and as you go forward in Europe, our prayers and good wishes accompany you.

Word has just been received that Lt. Oliver Curran (11th Field) who was flown back from Leyte to Percy Jones Hospital, died at the hospital on November 28, 1945. Our sympathies go out to his family.

Jim Gay, of Box 134, Garfield, Ca. (24 Sig. from 4-50 to 6-51) just sent in his dues. Glad you're back, Jim.

THE TARO LEAF
24th Inf. (Victory) Division Assn.
131 N. Culver Street
Baltimore 29, Maryland