

TAROLLEAF

24TH

INFANTRY

DIVISION

ASSOCIATION

VOL. V

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1952

NO. 4



We send you this copy with our compliments. Your
membership is greatly appreciated. Won't you send us
your \$1 to Kan Kan today, please? Address him at
1287 Main St., Springfield, Mass. Thank you. We
assure you you will not regret it.

MAN OF THE YEAR
MAN OF MANY, MANY YEARS
MAN OF THE CENTURY

TARO LEAF

The official magazine owned and published regularly by the 24th Infantry Division Association in the interest of all men who have served and who continue to serve the 24th Infantry Division.

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TIME VS. TARO LEAF

It had been rather obvious to not a few for some many months that Time Magazine's recent "Man of the Year" was not to be General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. Oh well, at least one of our boys made it last year.

Their "nasty-nice" writing on the "Stateside" MacArthur had been slightly overdone during recent months with kid gloves with a fish hook concealed in each fingertip.

In politics, as elsewhere, a martyr demystifies himself in large degree when he fights back. What must be admired however is the fact that MacArthur had the guts to fight. In military history, we've had many martyrs; few who have had the courage to fight politics when a great cause or issue has been at stake. We are guided solely by the fact that nine months after his untimely dismissal from the Asian theatre, we are no better off in our relations with the Red-Chinese, Russian, or Washingtonian.

Round #1 of the MacArthur fight is now of record. The present is too much with us to judge who really won. The event is too intricately involved with the world history that is to be made during the next ten, twenty, perhaps fifty years to judge prematurely.

Meanwhile, we nominate as our MAN OF THE YEAR - yea our MAN OF MANY, MANY YEARS - indeed our MAN OF THE CENTURY, the man whom we served long and faithfully and, we like to believe, well. We are proud of his own record just as we are proud of the record we made for him.

Sergeant First Class Archie A. Warren, RA19294238, Armor, Medium Tank Company, 5th Infantry, United States Army. During the withdrawal of a battalion supply train from an enemy ambush near Chinju, Korea on 12 August 1950, enemy machine guns set fire to a gasoline truck. Sergeant First Class Warren, who was covering the withdrawal, moved his tank up to the burning vehicle which blocked the narrow mountain road and shoved it out of the way. Having rescued the two men from the destroyed vehicle, he maneuvered his tank back into a position from which he succeeded in destroying hostile machinegun nests. By his valor, quick thinking and resourcefulness, Sergeant First Class Warren enabled the train to continue without mishap.

"THOSE GALLANT MEN...."

With 24th Div. in Korea-- One spur on a bald hill across the Nakdong River was owned by the GIs -- but they paid a price for it.

The coin was blood, hands and legs -- and life. But for the soldiers it was put up or shut up. For rumor had it that this was "the Sunday punch" designed to shake loose the whole United Nations beachhead. So with the simplicity of men who have been ordered to do something, they did it.

They waded, swam and boated across the bloody Nakdong, smack into an ambush of crossfire from machineguns, mortars and some artillery. Just to reach the river itself required a march, often laden with heavy wooden assault boats, across 300 yards of an open sand bar. Originally, the attack was planned for dusk the previous day. It was going to be a surprise strike across the Nakdong to outflank embattled Waegwan, seven miles to the North. But at dusk troops were trying to reach the assembly area over clogged, closed, broken down South Korean roads. When early morning came, many of the GIs, sleepless and hungry, struggled to find out in the darkness where they were supposed to be. Meanwhile, the artillery fired round after round at the low-lying hills west. But added up, the barrage didn't amount to much in terms of European warfare.

Just as dawn broke -- just enough light to make good targets -- the first assault boats were hefted into the water. The first wave, led by Loran Chambers of Mount Sterling, Pa., got half-way across when there was hell to pay. Throughout the night the hills on the opposite shore had been quiet. But now they crackled with fire. Many of the men in the boats were hit. Some leaped into the water to swim only to find that, in spots, the river was but waist deep.

The fire fight started precisely at 5:45 a.m. I watched the whole operation, sweating it out in an apple orchard overnight in the dark, cold air with four officers in a heavy weapons platoon. I wandered in the darkness to the staging area for the boats, where engineer George Schriener of Norfolk, Va., was doing yeoman work in creating order out of confusion and getting the boats moving. At the first crack of dawn and with the first fire from the opposite shore, I crouched atop a bank with a magnificent panoramic view of the whole show.

Some men dropped on their bellies in the sand at the first shot but others plugged steadily ahead with their boats. On the opposite shore there was a burst of rifle fire and then the heavy chug of an American light machinegun.

It was possible to see men dropping in their tracks.



Bob, Louise and Bobby Duff in their Danville, Ill. home. Our former Editor looks contented, doesn't he? Knowing Louise, Bob would be open to a charge of "holes in his head" if he didn't wear that contented look.

Roger L. Eustachy (A 24 Med. Bn. from 12-42 to Nov. 45) recently joined up and sent along a mighty fine list of names and addresses of buddies. We are exceedingly grateful to you, Roger. He lives in Oakland, Calif. He recently took a trip east to Detroit to pick up a new car and en route back to the West Coast he stopped by and visited with old buddies. Roger is a veritable bee when it comes to activity.

TARO LEAF REPORTS

Mario Mozzone (Cannon Co., 34th), now in Seattle, Wash. writes that he is "married, have one red headed daughter, and work for a hotel supply company as a salesman." Thanks for the message, "Captain".... Carl Boyd, Rt. 2, Gordon, Tex., has moved down from Torrington, Wyo. He has been going to vocational school in Mineral Wells, Tex. He lives on a ranch and is raising his own cattle. Good luck, Carl. We hope they make a master craftsman out of you.... Ted Sharpe has moved from Pickett to Ben Harrison where he is instructing at the Adjutant General School. He wants to contact any member of the 24th QM Co. He also wants to locate Charles Nicodemus of the 724th Ord. Co.

DOUGHBOY REAR

Vice President Albin Barkley visited the Korean front in November as you know. What you may not know is that the shell which he autographed and fired was fired from a howitzer of Battery C of the 52nd Field. The shell carried the vice president's seal and the inscription: "Fired for freedom by the 24th Infantry Division in Korea." The Veep wrote his name on the shell with a red crayon before pulling the lanyard.

Lt. Col. Howard G. Ledgerwood, (Div. Fin. Off. after Harry Jones) dropped in on Ken Rose, at Springfield, the other day stopping off on his way through from St. Louis to Rome on his next assignment. Ledger says: "I've been in nine divisions in my time but the patch on this little old left shoulder is the Taro Leaf." Bless your great big heart, Ledger.... Wayne E. Laibe (Div. Hq.) is lecturing and demonstrating hypnosis around Lima, Ohio. We well remember the boat ride from the Philippines to 1945 when Wayne started to hypnotize the Admiral.

A "PLEASE" WITH SUGAR ON IT

Please check your address as it appears on this issue. If it is incorrect, we will appreciate your advising us. That will help us save paper, postage, and extra work, and will assure you of a more prompt delivery in the future. We try to maintain a sweet disposition about this mail problem, but sometimes we feel meaner than the guy who pours cement in life preservers. Give us a break, will ya, please? What do we mean? Here are a few members -- paid up members, mind you -- whose mail comes back to us marked "MOVED":

Charlie Baumgart, (21st)
New Haven, Conn.

Jerry Van Mohr,
Dayton, Ohio

Vernon Nelson (21st)
Manhattan, Kansas

Fred Czerkas (Div. Hq.)
Dearborn, Michigan.

GENERAL COLLINS' THOUGHTS

In a recent interview concerning the American soldier in Korea, General J. Lawton Collins, C/S of D/A was asked if it wasn't true that the troops sent into Korea were "green". He replied: "Sure they were green. And of course they made mistakes at first; that was inevitable. But where does one find combat-trained troops in peacetime. A soldier is green until he has been in battle"

THEY STICK THEIR NECKS OUT!

Everybody was waiting, waiting for the chinks and waiting for the rain. Tenseness was all through the encampment. The tiger-painted tanks of "A" Company, 6th Tank Battalion, were lined up like huge cats ready to spring. Company "A" men were checking the treads and transmissions, making sure their M-46 Pattons were oiled and gassed, and counting out full quotas of ammo. The Chinese were coming.

The 1st and 3d platoons were in a forward position while the 2d platoon sat pensively in reserve at the CP. Some of the men were sleeping; most of them waiting. Though all the tents were blacked out, the burning ends of cigarettes shone out in declaration of quiet tenseness.

For days, the M-46's had gone out in an endless stream of patrols and sighted little. Pvt Richard A. Parsons, Cheney, Kans gunner with the second tank of the 2d platoon, said, "We knew the Chinese were there but when we'd go by they'd dig in or go back to their holes. The infantry got a little play but the Chinese didn't seem to want to tangle with tanks."

Company Commander, Captain Jack C. Moss, Chicago, Ill., called his men together. "Men, the infantry's spotted some 2,000 chinamen or more up in that area we patrolled yesterday," he said. The captain explained the assignment and his men started to their tanks. "Do your best, that's plenty good enough for me," Captain Moss said.

At 2315 hours, the clouds lifted and a three-quarter moon lighted the area. At about 2345 flares appeared high over the rugged mountains. Trip flares--the Chinks were coming. Infantry companies Item, Love and King of the 5th Regimental Combat Team, set up around hill 678. Item Company had a north ridge, Love Company an entrance to a draw, and King Company took a left flank defense position. The three companies were to take the initial blow and fall back. They were far out in front of the main line of defense.

The 1st and 3d platoons of "A" Company M-46 tanks placed themselves in support of the 5th RCT position. The mission was to give fire-power and make it count!

Shortly after midnight the attack came. The Reds came down the slope opposite hill 678 in columns of three. Huge trench spots set up by the 3d Engineers blinked on the rays bouncing light off low hanging clouds. The Chinese filed down the hills like ants, and soon the hill was black with them. Howitzers, both 105 and 155 mm were booming and the "Long Toms" were beating out. Item and Love companies moved forward and the battle began.

Back at the CP of 6th Tank Battalion, the artillery was deafening. CWO William H. Cassels Jr., Marion, Virginia, went from tent to tent getting the 2d platoon ready to move out. "Strike the tents," he said, "I've an idea the CP will be withdrawing a bit." The men obeyed.

As the chores were completed, men gathered around the half-track that held the radio. The whole story was blaring out by radio contact. Second platoonmen were waiting for the voice of Captain Moss to tell them to move forward. The captain blared out at last, "Send the 2d up, also the ammo truck." The 2d platoon forded the river, moved up toward hill 578, and took positions on the north river bank.

First Platoon Leader, Sgt Clarence Allison, Piedmont, S.C., directed a base of fire to the slope across from hill 678. As Item Company started to drop back, Allison's platoon covered. An enemy machine gun started to pour fire over the area. Lt Warren J. Weber, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, had his 3d platoon join Allison's platoon in concentrating fire until the machine gun nest was no more.

The first wave of Chinese had been fully armed but as the second wave moved in, it was estimated only about one in five was armed.

At 1300 hours, clouds covered the moon and only the trench spots lit the area. Item Company was moving back as planned and Love Company followed. The tanks continued to cover. Ammunition was running low and before 0400 hours the 50 caliber ammo was almost exhausted. One by one the M-46's moved back, each covering the other's withdrawal and return.

Tank one of the 1st platoon was low on 30 caliber ammo. Tank commander Sgt Antonio Granillo, Florence, Ariz., got out of his



What About The Morale of the Armed Forces!

turret position to pass some of the ammo stored on the exterior of the vehicle in to the bow-gunner. A mortar shell exploded by the left rear, wounding Sergeant Granillo, and driver Sgt Lawrence J. Eno, Cheyboygan, Mich. Bow-gunner, Pvt Harry E. Smith, Middle Rock, Arkansas, took over as driver while Sgt Granillo, remained as tank commander. Though wounded, he directed the loading of two wounded Rangers on the tank and smoothly worked the M-46 back to the road where a litter-jeep met them.

CWO Cassels contacted Captain Moss by radio. "What about breakfast?" asked the Warrant Officer. "You can start cooking it" replied Captain Moss.

By 0630 hours the withdrawal was completed and the tank platoons relieved alternately to eat. Over 500 rounds of 90 mm high explosive ammunition had been fired. They continued the constant pounding and before the day was over 900 rounds were fired.

The men were tired and as things quieted down, they snatched bits of sleep and ate C-rations or hot meals, according to their tactical positions.

Day had come and almost gone again when the rain quietly began to fall. The howitzers started to boom and howl again, and as the noise grew the Tiger-tanks moved out. The CP had moved back and the Infantry Companies and Patton-tanks set up a new line of defense--this time to stay. "All in a day's work," commented Warrant Officer Cassels.

The 6th Tank Battalion, the first Tank Battalion in Korea, had introduced the M-46 "Pattons" to combat. Commanded by Lt Col Henry M. Byrum, Moorhead, Minn., the "Tiger" unit has gained fame for its integral part in the Korean Campaign.

Roger A. Rookensbach Jr (21st) recently forwarded his 1951-52 dues. Roger is at present the owner of a Service Station in Des Plaines, Illinois. If any of you guys get around that way, drop in at Rocky's Service Station, and fill up.

Robert T. Wilson (13th FA) recently sent his membership application into headquarters. Bob is currently serving in Korea, and expecting to return home soon. Good luck Bob, and look us up on arrival.

Bring your wife to Columbus in August.....Or bring your girlfriend.....Better still, and if your homelife is such as to allow it, bring both.....

Col. Richard W. Stephens (21st) is now a Brig. Gen. and is FEC Special Officers in Tokyo.

From the "Bridgehead Sentinel" the publication of "The Society of the First Division"

THE INFANTRY, WHAT'S THAT?

The Air Corps really won the war. Though the Navy cleared the seas; And Armor made the biggest kill, In outposts with the Artillery.

Supply was a terrible problem. The QM. carried the loads; Ordnance kept them firing, And the Engineers opened the road.

And since it wasn't during a lull, The Infantry carried the ball; And though they died by the thousands, They really was asking at all!

When the ch and seeds were dead, Why, the fighting was almost through; And all that was left to win the war, Was some mopping-up to do.

They almost lost the war, the doughs, They work so damn slow! They were barely ahead of Communiqués; Eh, guess that, don't you know?

But the Air Corps is not selfish, And the Navy is tolerant, too; And since in awhile they will admit, That the Engineers did get through.

Too bad we died so often-- Lots of paper work, you know. It doesn't make good reading, What little he does he so slow.

It's only an inch on the map; It's only a minute by air, Why is it taking our bloody Joe So long to get up there?

The enemy's already beaten; The victory's already won; The Officer's quarters completed, With Big China for a little fun.

Yet the dogface keeps on lighting-- Where do the 1st days go? Thank God for the Air and the Army-- Quickest and cleanest, you know!

So, yes, the Air Corps really won the war, And the Navy cleared the sea; And both were somewhat helped, we hear, By the Armor and the Artillery.

But tagging along is worth the fun, Safe on the ground below. The Queen of Battles stumbled along-- Just "mopping-up", you know.

See ya in Columbus in August



JOE'S WOES

If I send out a letter, it may be too long;
If I send out a postcard, it may be too short
If I don't send a notice, I'm lazy;
If I send it early, you forget it;
If I send it late, you've another date;
If I attend a committee meeting, I'm butting in;
If I don't attend, I'm shirking;
If I ask members for dues, I'm insulting;
If I fail to collect, I'm slipping;
If I ask for advice, I'm incompetent;
If I don't, I'm bullheaded;
If my reports are complete, they're too long;
If I condense them, they're incomplete;
If I talk on any subject, I'm trying to run things;
If I remain silent, I've lost all interest;
So it is, my aching back,
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust,
What others won't do, the Secretary must!

TOM BARRETT, 19th

Charlie Fabian, Sec'y. of the Second Division Association recently wrote us as follows:
"A Mrs. Clayton Dietzel, of 3316 'I' St., Philadelphia, Penn., called me the other day. Her nephew, Thomas Barrett, 19th Inf. has been missing in action since January 3, 1951 in Korea. She would like to hear from someone who was with him and knows exactly what has happened to him. I told her that I would contact the 24th Division Association.
"We have had many results on matters of this sort through our monthly publication. I know you will do your best to find something and this woman will really appreciate any news she might get."
We'll go to work on it at once, Charlie. Many thanks.

Catherine Watt, wife of Bill Watt, and living in Seattle, wrote us the other day. She says Bill just put in a year with the 7th Armored at Cp. Roberts. She took time out to offer to address cards for us. She said, "I'll gladly do it for the honor and glory of the 24th of which I feel a part. We have a new addition in the family, but I find many hours when I feel I need a diversion, so your task will fill the bill."
Thanks a million, Kay. You are a very definite part of the 24th.

32ND DIV. SEC'Y. KNOWS HIS STUFF

Joe Hrdlick, Sec'y of the 32nd Div. Association, wrote us the other day as follows:
"Wish to thank you sincerely for the fine plug you gave our 32nd Association in your November 1951 issue of the TARO LEAF. Thank you - Sir!
"If there is a better division publication than your TARO LEAF I would like to see it as I doubt if there is any division publication anywhere that can even come close to yours. Someone certainly works hard to compile all the interesting news you publish and that someone certainly deserves a salute of thanks from all the members of the famous 24th Infantry Division."
This was just so very flowery that we couldn't resist the temptation to insert it verbatim in this issue. Thanks, Joe!

"FLATFOOT" LOOKING FOR BUDDIES

M/Sgt. Bill J. Bernstein, 7th Air Police Squadron, Carswell Air Force Base, Ft. Worth, Tex., advises us that he is trying to locate 24 M.P. Platoon personnel "who served between Pearl Harbor and Hollandia." Shorty Portman, Jerry Ellsworth, Shorty Sherer, Paul Luneford, and Sgt. Peratac, where are you? Bill Bernstein wants to hear from you. Bill says, "It's been a long, long time." Now true, Bill.

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.

ANALYSIS OF OPINION POLL

We're glad we did it. The response to the political opinion poll to which we gave birth in our December issue has been most gratifying and heartwarming. Our thanks go out to all of those with courage enough to venture an opinion.
An analysis of the returns as of press time follows:

Favorite party

The question: Which political party do you favor?
The returns: Republican 37%
Democrat 50%
Dixiecrat 7%
Other 6%

First choice

The question: Which candidate in either political party would you like most to become the next President of the U.S.
The returns: Eisenhower 61%
Truman 26%
Other 13%

Republican Nominee

The question: Which of the following candidates would you prefer to see win the Republican nomination?
The returns: Taft 39%
Eisenhower 40%
MacArthur 12%
Stassen 2%
Warren 4%
Dewey 1%
Others 2%

Democratic Nominee

The question: Which of the following candidates would you prefer to see win the Democratic nomination?
The returns: Truman 5%
Eisenhower 62%
Vinson 20%
Douglas 3%
Kefauver 4%
Others 6%

McCarthy

The question: What is your honest opinion of Sen. Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin?
The returns: (a) Do you believe his campaign against Communism has benefited or harmed the country? Benefited 53%
Harmed 47%
(b) Do you believe the charges he has made against Acheson, Jessup, Latimore, et al? Yes 60% No 40%
(c) Do you believe that in Sen. McCarthy's case "the end justifies the means?" Yes 53% No 47%
(d) Do you believe that Sen. McCarthy should be expelled from the Senate? Yes 26% No 74%
(e) If Sen. McCarthy lived in your state would you vote for him? Yes 34% No 66%
(f) Do you think the Senator would make a good candidate for President? Yes 4% No 96%

Morality

The question: What is your honest opinion about the decline of morality in government?
The returns: (a) Do you believe Truman is responsible for the low state of public morals evidenced by recent Congressional investigations? Yes 55% No 45%
(b) Do you believe the Democratic Party is responsible? Yes 61% No 39%
(c) Do you think the Republican Party has an equal, or any, responsibility for the present low state of political morals? Yes 49% No 51%

(d) Do you think Truman should fire any and all members of his official family who have indulged in questionable practices? Yes 76% No 24%
(e) Do you think government morals would be improved by a change of administration? Yes 91% No 9%

Party and Man

The question: Which party and which candidate do you think will win the 1952 Presidential election?
The results: (a) Republican Party 62%
with Eisenhower 46%
Taft 24%
MacArthur 7%
Others 23%
(b) Democratic Party 38%
with Eisenhower 21%
Truman 36%
Douglas 12%
Vinson 11%
Others 20%

There it is, folks! We refrain from commenting one way or the other.

"THIS IS FOR THE BIRDS"

Bob Steger owns and operates his own furniture store in Cape May, N.J. He just bought it. Then he turned around last October and married. Best of luck, Bob -- and to Betty, too 011-11-6144

George Gaynor is now a Lieut. Col. and is I.G. of the 1st Cav. in Korea. Glad you made it, George. Don't forget you're a 24th man, not a 1st Cav. boy.

HOLD ONTO YOUR HATS - HERE WE GO AGAIN

* WORLD WAR II VETERANS,
* KOREAN VETERANS,
* and "IN BETWEEN" VETERANS *
* This is YOUR paper -- for ALL of you. *
* Keep in contact with your comrades *
* through the "Taro Leaf." *
* Write us today and tell us about your- *
* self. We want news. *

JOTO, NAY?

Jim Postma (21st) is practicing law in Lawrence, Kansas.... C. Stuart McLean, Jr. is Race Secretary of the Buffalo Trotting Assoc., Inc., in Hamburg, N.Y.... George C. Herron (21st) is Asst. Road Commissioner out in Oakland, Calif.... Brig. Gen. Charles Blanchard (CG, Div. Arty.) is in Trieste with the Allied Military Government.... S. W. Driftmier is president of Driftmier Publ. Co. in Shenandoah, Iowa. He's also supervising a radio program on a small chain of stations, is publishing a magazine, and is running a mail order nursery business. Busy fellow, eh?.... Bob Scott has been in Korea with the 1st Cav. Div. Never heard of the outfit, Bob.

A SKOSHIE STORY

With 24th Div. in Korea-- Knocking out Chinese machine gun nests with a 57-mm recoilless rifle is the favorite sport of PFC Robin C. Fugate, who bagged three in one engagement with the enemy. Attacking a hill, Charlie Co. was kept from making much progress by the heavy fire laid down by the three enemy machine guns. Word came down to "get those mg's," and Fugate unlimbered his 57. Watching the path of the tracers, Fugate zeroed the recoilless in on each machine gun in succession and silenced all three with but four rounds of ammunition.

Lt. Charles T. Wilson (Baker, Dog and George, 21st) dropped in to Ken Ross' office in Springfield one morning recently. Charlie was the hero of the story in the July, 1951 Esquire, entitled "The Long Walk" which article was reproduced as a supplement with our July Taro Leaf. In the story it was Sgt. Charles T. Wilson. Last April, he won a battlefield promotion.

Charlie's home is in Ware close to Springfield, which is a town noted in New England for the winter weather which gets down to -25 to -30°F on some days. Charlie says that weather is nothing compared to last winter in Korea. The -10 and -20 of Korea was harder to take.

Without the fanfare of waving flags and cheers of admirers, Charlie slipped home after 9½ months with the 24th in Korea. Charlie flew in with the 1st Bn., 24th on July 2, 1950 and says they opened up on us as we got off the train at Osan.

With 2 Silver Stars, the Soldier's Medal, 4 Bronze Stars, the Commendation Ribbon, the Purple Heart with 3 clusters, the Good Conduct Medal with 2 clasps, the American Theatre Medal, the European Theatre Medal with bronze arrow head and 3 battle stars, World War II Victory Medal, American Defense Medal, Japanese Occupation Medal, Korean Presidential Citation, Korean Campaign Medal with 3 battle stars, French Croix de Guerre, President Unit Citation with 3 clusters, Combat Infantryman's Badge with star, and Ranger Paratrooper Badge with one jump star, the guy is loaded.

Lt. Wilson is a natural soldier. He enlisted in the Army in 1941 and was sent to Camp Edwards. Later he was shipped to Anzio, Italy, where he was twice wounded and was discharged as a 100 per cent disability in 1944. There was a change in the ruling about enlistments in 1947 when disabled veterans were allowed to re-enlist and he took advantage of the opportunity to again get in uniform and was sent to Japan, being with the first contingent to fly to Korea from Japan.

When things became tough and his officers learned his background, they allowed him to get back in an infantry regiment and he was in the thickest of the fighting from the start. He served along the eastern coast from Yongdok to Pohang.

Asked about his most harrowing experience, he stopped shining a brass belt buckle, took a cigarette from his pack, lit it, blew out the match, scratched his head and with a serious expression began the following story:

"There weren't any of my experiences over there that you could exactly call picnic parties, but there was one I'll never forget I was in charge of a mortar platoon observation crew and we went up front as close as we could to the enemy lines to direct the fire. We were closer than we thought because suddenly we found that we were surrounded by enemy troops. We got down on our bellies and started to crawl when a couple of shells burst about four or five feet beside me and I was knocked spinning.

"We were all for sticking it out for a showdown but the battalion commander radioed us to fall back to the platoon. We started back crouching down and zig-zagging away in the face of snipers who were firing at anything that moved. I was just coming to a rice paddy when I heard two shots and something hit me in the back and spun me around. I found that I was able to move so I kept on going until I got out of range and then I sat down to investigate my back injury. I unstrapped my radio, which I carried on my back and found that it had been hit twice by bullets, but thank God, I was all right. That was about as nasty an experience as I had and it was close enough for me."

Following such harrowing experiences as this, his commanding officers noticed that he was slipping physically and they sent him back to a hospital in Osaka, where he was put to bed for a complete rest.

When asked how it seemed to be an officer he replied, "What's the difference? We're all soldiers," and looking down at the belt buckle he was polishing added, "Now I have a lot of brass to keep shiny that didn't bother me before. I liked my job when I was a sergeant, but they want me to be an officer, so I'm an officer."

Lt. Wilson is married and has two lovely children, Susan, eight, and Gerard, five.

We'll See You In Columbus, Ohio
on August 15th, 16th and 17th.

Milton R. Metz (1st Bn., 34th) has just completed 5 years with Sears Roebuck as Credit Mgr. of their Galesburg, Ill. store. Milt is credited with the philosophy:

"Women are not much but they are the best other sex we have...."

Howard Piehl (21st from 7-42 to 9-45) left N.D. to spend the winter at Anaheim, Calif. Howard, we don't blame you.... We have a membership card awaiting Ted Langman. Ted sent in his dues and gave as his address, "Rt. 2, New Carlisle, Penn." Mail sent to that address comes back to us. Come out of that closet, Ted, and tell us where you really are.... Mrs. Lloyd Price, wife of our one-time P.I.O., is addressing cards for us. We don't know that we could operate without the ladies. When we got your letter, Mrs. P., our eyes sparkled, our lips grinned, and our ears wiggled in unison. In short, we were happy. Thank you for your help.... Heard at the Detroit Convention: Some people get a lot of fun out of their homes -- but it's much better to get it in them....

BLESS YOUR LITTLE HEARTS

Sgt. Harold C. Noll, who was with the 24 Sig. Co. from the day of its organization (Oct. 1, 1941) to June, 1944, was with the 2nd Div. in Korea, more recently has been on Operation Desert Rock. His address is Co.A, 303 Sig. Svc. Bn., Cp. Cooke, Calif. Harold wants an information column where one can find out about former 24th'ers. Just write in your question and we'll print it for you, Harold. That goes for everyone else, too... Doug Montes (24 QM) writes us from 1013 Jameson St., St. Paul, Minn. asking why we don't send out reminders when membership dues are due. Doug, are you kidding? We sent a statement early in September to every single member who owed dues. We followed it up with a letter to every delinquent member in November. Dues are payable annually on August 15th. Doug was in the Div. from July 42 to Oct. 44. He was evacuated stateside with jungle rot and malaria. He wants to hear from John Cusak, Bill Hocker, Joe Logson, and Norm Erlen, all beancounters.

"THEY HAVE MET ALL TESTS THERE...."

With 24th Div. in Korea-- An American and a Chinese machine-gun crew fought a long and bitter duel of fire power and maneuver, with the Chinese coming out a poor second after hours of day and night battling.

The doughboy crew of gunner Sgt. Earlwin Deer With Horns and assistant gunner Cpl. Ralph T. Vaughan outlasted the Reds in a six-hour battle of shifting machine guns.

After a savage struggle a company of the 21st had beaten the stubborn Reds from a hilltop position and quickly dug in. Meanwhile, the Chinese dug in on an opposite hill. "They opened up with their machine gun first," said Sgt. Deer With Horns. "We spotted their position and answered with our thirty." The Reds started changing position after firing a few bursts, and so did the doughboy team. Other UN soldiers took an excited interest in the machine-gun battle as the guns were maneuvered all over the hills. As darkness fell the guns set up a weird, cries-croes pattern of tracers. "That's really when the battle got hot," said Cpl. Vaughan. "One Red bullet hit an ammo box and another bounced off my helmet." Flickering tracers gave away the positions of both machine-gun crews. The Reds' aim was getting better as bullets hit closer and closer to the doughboy crew, who kept firing back.

"Then the Reds made their big mistake," said Sgt. Deer With Horns. "They stayed too long in one spot. I had them zeroed in perfectly. I fired a long burst. We heard faint cries, and after that we got no return fire." The machine-gun crew's buddies set up a cheer as the long duel ended in victory.



Oscar "Ed" Holder (The Div. PX King in Japan) is still in Japan. He writes: "A lot of water has passed under the bridge since I last saw you. As you can see, I'm still with the Exchange Headquarters here in Yokohama. My job as general manager keeps me nose pretty much to the grindstone, and particularly since the outbreak of the Korean 'incident' there hasn't been a let-up. We have two distribution points in Korea now -- one at Pusan and one at Inchon -- and are pouring something over a million dollars worth of merchandise every month into Korea for the troops there. I will probably be here for the duration."

Ed has the Division record, we think. He's been over there since '42. Better come home, Ed!



Johnnie Healy (19th) sent us the pictures taken at Schofield Barracks in 1941 which are to be found in this issue. We are grateful to Johnnie for loaning them to us. The above shot is of Headquarters, Hawaiian Division.

Incidentally, in the September issue, we thanked a John Henly for helping us in last Spring's membership drive. We were in error. The hard worker was Johnnie Healy. Our apologies, Johnnie.

"YOU CANNOT APPEASE OR OTHERWISE SURRENDER TO COMMUNISM IN ASIA....."

The heaviest infantry weapon to be lugged to the top of Korea's famous hills -- the 75mm recoilless rifle -- fires with "Kentucky windage" just as effectively as the frontier weapons of the pioneers, recent action of a 5th RCT platoon indicates.

Here's how 1st Lt. Thomas S. Walker, leader of the recoilless rifle platoon of Co. M, 5th RCT, explains it:

"We had spotted Chinese digging in on a hill, two or three at a time. The only trouble was that the sights on our guns only went up to 2100 yards, and they were 3000 yards away. The men were making bets on the accuracy of the guns. We opened fire and corrected with Kentucky windage from the burst. We know we got seven Red KIA that way and probably got more when we fired WP rounds into some underbrush we knew they were in."

Sgt. Vidal R. Hernandez, who gunned on one of the two 75s said Chinese a little way off from the blast ran, "but come just plumped over."

The operation the 75s were supporting was proclaimed one of the most effective in division history from the standpoint of using the big cigar shaped guns. Walker's guns were set up on a 400 meter hill. Company CO Capt. Nelson A. Lincoln made a carrying rack for the guns out of a stretcher.

"HE NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD"

Bob Berk (C-34th and G-3 Sect., Div. Hq.) is working with J. Berk, Inc., 142 Front St. New York, N.Y. They sell coffee. Bob was selling coffee before the war, if we remember correctly.

In a letter to us, Bob says: "I would like to say I really look forward to the Taro Leaf each time. It brings back fond memories which we all have. Keep up the good work. I wonder if you could possibly send me the address of Capt. Claude Hall. We were corresponding up to the outbreak of the Korean War."

We've lost track of Claude, Bob, but someone in the gang may know. Chew on that one, boys.

The Fighting Fifth Infantry, third oldest regiment in the United States Army, is the youngest outfit in the 24th family, but its battle record in Korea makes the regiment a worthy veteran of the "Victory" Div.

A natural bond of heritage ties the 5th closely to the Taro Leaf Division. Prior to the Korean campaign, the new addition to the ranks, garrisoned at Schofield Barracks Hawaii. Known as the Hawaii Regiment to many Islanders, the outfit wears well the distinctive red, gold and green Taro Leaf patch of the Hawaii Division.

Attached to several other divisions in the first few weeks of the fighting in Korea the 5th found its home with the 24th in August, shortly before the first United Nations counterattack up the roads that were the scene of the division's bitter delaying actions only a month earlier.

Commanded by Col John L. Throckmorton, Kansas City, Mo., the Fighting Fifth drove a wedge into North Korean forces and broke the iron ring of the Pusan Perimeter. "The 5th smashed through strongly held defenses and provided the impetus that started us rolling," said Maj Gen John H. Church, former Division Commander.

The Communist bastion city of Waegwan fell to the driving Second Battalion of the 5th early on the morning of September 19th. A few hours later the First Battalion forced the Nakdong River to push for the key communication center of Kumchon.

Spearheaded by the fire spitting M-4's of the 5th Tank Company, and backed up by the pounding of the 555th "Triple Nickle" Field Artillery Battalion, the regiment flushed the Communist forces from their strong-point positions and set them fleeing northward.

Leap-frogging one another, the three infantry battalions of the 5th pressed their advantage. At breakneck speed, the "Fighting Fools" took one objective after another, fighting in some of the roughest terrain in Korea. "We never fail to take our objective said Colonel "Rocky John" Throckmorton.

As the 5th rolled toward the 38th Parallel for the first time the winding convoys and columns of foot soldiers passed under high evergreen arches, erected across the dusty roads, by welcoming South Korean civilians. The Korean nationals were showing their gratitude to the Fighting Fifth which made many friends for the U.S. during its peacetime occupation of the tiny country.

Communist resistance crumbled before the "Victory" Division as it moved farther north. Only as the hummed-in remnants of the broken North Korean Army tightened itself for a last ditch stand in the northern reaches of the country, did resistance stiffen.

Jumping off in another spear-heading mission, the 5th drove forward on its next major action above the Chongchon River, in far North Korea. Fifteen miles from the Manchurian Border on November 2d, the Fifth's Fighting Fools breathed the dampness of the Yalu River. Before the 5th could reach that fateful river, the entire division had to make a turnaround march to avoid a trap set by North Korean die-hards.

Facing the streaming hordes of Chinese Communists shortly after their intervention in Korea, the 5th tenaciously fought to hold rear guard positions on the Chongchon River for two days and two nights as most of the Eighth Army withdrew through it. As UN Forces continued to withdraw before the Chinese, the 5th repeated its role of rear guard defender at Yuli.

From the defense line where UN Forces halted the Chinese drive into Korea the 5th Tank Company launched armored patrols into Communist build-up areas. Carrying infantry men, the tanks jabbed daily at Red supply points north of the division sector.

Tank-softened Communist positions collapsed as the Fighting Fools raged out on the offensive as part of "Operation Killer."

In recent "Victory" Division operations the 5th has continued to take every objective as it did under Colonel "Rocky John" who left Korea in April for a Pentagon assignment, and was replaced by Lt Col Arthur H. Wilson Jr., present commander.

An all round crack fighting force, the 5th Regiment, now in its 143d year as an Army outfit, has added many fine pages to its military history and to the annals of the 24th, by its hard and fast fighting against the Communist invaders of Korea. We of the Assn humbly say. "WELL DONE!!"



The Henry Christmas card last month carried a picture of Ed and Dot which was taken at our Detroit affair last August. The kids were angularly disposed relative to the horizontal and vertical axes of the card. It was cleverly done. In order to do justice to the theme of the Henry message which was to the effect that we're living in a cockeyed world, we reproduce the picture herewith, complete with tilt.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

THE
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
AND STAFF
AND THE
GENERAL CHAIRMAN
OF THE REUNION,
EXTEND A MOST CORDIAL
INVITATION & WELCOME
TO ALL ASSOCIATION
MEMBERS,
FORMER SERVICE MEN
OF THE
TWENTY FOURTH DIVISION,
THEIR WIVES,
SWEETHEARTS AND
FAMILIES, TO ATTEND THE
5TH BIG ANNUAL
REUNION OF THE 24TH
DIVISION ASSOCIATION,
TO BE HELD AT
COLUMBUS, OHIO
AUGUST 15, 16 & 17, '52

The Monzella's (John, Maria and Sunny) (34th) sent "the gang" New Year's greetings from Berkeley, Calif. Thanks to all of you on behalf of "the gang"..... So did Elmer and Bertha Van Zant (24 M.P.) from Hq. III Corps, Ft. MacArthur, Calif. They've just moved the Corps Hqs. from Cp. Roberts, or is that a secret, Van? We only read it in Life, Time, Variety, Ladies Home Journal and the Daily Worker. Thanks for the good wishes anyway. And ditto to Van and Bertha. Bill Crump (Div. Hq.) sent us a very "Japanesey" greeting card from Yokohama reminding us that this was his fifth Christmas in Japan. Better come home, Bill; "you've had it." Carl and Ginny Neumann (21st) remembered us all from Colgate University over in Hamilton, N.Y. Ford and Mural Baron (724 Ord.) surprised us with a card from Salt Lake City. We thought they were in Chicago. What's doing out there, Ford? ... Lorraine and Frank McKenny (21st) over in Auburn, Mass. remembered us too, as did Pete Crescenzo (724th Ord.) in Southridge, Mass. Opening all of this mail made us as happy as a clam at high tide.



The Bulletin Board

SAKE AND COCA COLA

With discreet editing, of course, in order to comply with postal regulations, we include in this issue the words of the 21st RCT's theme song during their early occupation days in Okayama, 012-07-6225. The consensus seems to be that the song is destined never to be forgotten. We want to help to make certain that it is always remembered, hence its inclusion in this issue.

"As we looked over the old fantail
We saw the Mindanao girls weep and wail
They were very hard to forget
'Cause Japan was a long way off yet

(Chorus)

Drinking sake and coca-cola
Down at Okayama
We never quench our thirst
We're the thirtety twenty-first

Pom Pom Pom Pom Pom Pom Pom
Pom Pom Pom Pom Pom Pom Pom

When we land at Kure bay
There's one thing we must learn to say
"Ohio Guzalimus" let's give it a whirl.

Okayama's quite a spot
The geisha girls run cold and hot
When we get our peeso changed to yen
We're gonna find ourselves a Joro den.

When the twenty-first wolves begin to howl
All the hahas start to scowl
They get that way because they know
It means "musume gokan suro".

Ev'ry private and the colonel
Shout benzai, go to hell
Ev're girl's a geisha now
Because they like our GI chow."

"BY THE NUMBERS"

Joe Hoffman (Sv. Co., 34th) has just become the father of an 8½ pound daughter. Wife Rose presented Kathleen Jean to him last November 16th. Best wishes to you three.

ASSOC. CHAPLAIN HARD AT IT

Chaplain Chris J. Berio, Assoc. Chaplain, is dividing his time between Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver and the Association.

We have been sending out notices concerning our Association and its activities, as you know. Quite by accident, some of these have been sent to one-time division personnel who were either killed-in-action or who have died since their return to the states.

We regret these errors, of course. Chaplain Berio is trying to make amends, however, by writing to the wife or parent who advises us of our error. Further in an effort to win faith, we are presenting each with a complimentary one-year subscription to the Taro Leaf.

We are proud to have these people "join our family."

On the occasion of the 25th wedding anniversary of Colonel and Mrs. Bill Verbeck (21st), the following wire was sent in behalf of the Association:

"24th Infantry Division Association salutes you both on your anniversary. The ties of friendship between us are exceedingly close. May we have the privilege and pleasure of adding our names to the list of friends who will wish you well on this day. Warmest regards for today and always."

"THERE WAS AN OLD MONK...."

John McCabe (Ho. Co., 2nd Bn., 34th from 8-44 to 2-45) is a postal employee in 'Priaco. Johnnie advises: "Don't cry over spilt milk; remember it's 4/5ths water...." Lloyd Price (Div. Hq.) has returned from a European trip. He's now promotion manager of the Dallas, Texas Times Herald. Special kudos for you, Lloyd.... Paul Duncan (from 4-42 to 1-45) is a member of "Pierce, Rucker, Mack, Tabor and Duncan" in Oklahoma City. Way down at the end, aren't you Paul? He says he has a "pre-war and a post-war child".... We are reminded of the old maid who told the man in the furniture store that she couldn't decide between a divan and an armchair. The clerk said, "Lady, you can't make a mistake on a nice comfortable chair like this." "OK", the old maid said, "I'll take the divan".... O.K., put your teeth back in and read on.... Don't forget, we are expecting you in Columbus, Ohio in August. We have plans underway for making this the largest and most successful gathering of Taro Lesfers ever attempted....

"ONCE WAR IS FORCED UPON US, THERE IS NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE THAN TO APPLY EVERY AVAILABLE MEANS TO BRING IT TO A SWIFT END...."

With 24th Div. in Korea-- Four heavy mortarmen of Company D, 34th Infantry, think they are the only soldiers ever served coffee by the enemy. 012-09-3633

It all happened when the heavy mortar squad was relieved from an observation post and had started back to their company. On the way back, John Weese, Brooklyn, suggested they stop in the small village nearby and make some coffee. In the village they saw several Koreans sitting in the doors of the mud huts staring curiously at them. Deciding to put them to use, Luther Champion, Prattville, Ala., asked one of them to get some water and build a fire. They complied. "They acted very friendly," stated Rodney Humanaen, Ellendale, N.D.

"Several days later we found that the North Koreans had been launching guerilla attacks from the village," stated Bernard C. Wojack, Harrison, N.J. "However, they can sure make good coffee."

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE?

Taro Leaf herewith tries a new experiment. There's nothing new in the trick though it's new for this paper. The writer of the letter below is personally known to the Editor, and is, as his communication implies, motivated by the most sincere curiosity. The chance of battle threw the lives of two men together at a critical moment. Through the years, he has occasionally pondered over what became of that other man. There are no prizes, no rewards, in this game; only the satisfaction of providing the rest of the story. If you can supply the name, please write the Editor. Here's the letter:

"Dear Sir: On the morning that Jack Clifford was killed, Rufus Pope was making an air-drop to the forward Battalion of the 19th which had been cut off. Rufe was dropping badly needed ammo. to the boys in that battalion; I think it was the 2nd. As we circled around after the 2nd pass, the Japs opened up with rifle fire on the plane. It was a C-47 that loaded and took off from Claxton's Libby Dome. Find out for me, if you can, who the enlisted man was who helped Rufe push that ammo. out of the plane. Thanx. E.C.L."

S.O.P.

New England Veterans in the vicinity of Boston and Providence were thrilled during the week of November 26, 1951, to see and hear General Irving on television in Part XIV of "Crusade in the Pacific." He was addressing our troops on Goodenough Island. There were also a few shots of the Hollandia landing.

FIRST ECHELON MAN MAKES GOOD

Ambrose Garlinger is working for Helm's Express driving between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.



Barracks of 3rd Engineers at Schofield, 1941

According to our figures, the 3rd Engineers have been overseas for 40 continuous years. We think it's about time they were given a rest and allowed to come home. How about it?

G.O. 36 DA 4 JUNE 1951

"The 24th Military Police Company, 24th Infantry Division, is commended for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service in Korea for a 6-month period from September 1950 to March 1951 in military operations against the armed enemy. Throughout this period, the 24th Military Police Company was confronted with and solved unusual and difficult problems of such magnitude that normally they would have been delegated to a much larger military police organization. During this period, the 24th Military Police Company posted, patrolled, and directed traffic over more than 2,000 miles of roads that were never designed to accommodate the great amount of traffic necessary to the operation of a United States division. The 24th Military Police Company received, processed, and evacuated more than 20,000 prisoners of war. They received and returned to their parent units more than 1,500 military stragglers. They directed away from military supply and traffic routes more than 1,000,000 indigenous refugees after first screening them for guerrillas and saboteurs. On many occasions the 24th Military Police Company acted as infantrymen in the defense of command posts and in establishing outpost lines. In directing traffic in the delaying actions early in the Korean conflict, they were often last to leave in successive withdrawals to new lines of defense. Under all existing hazards, the constant endeavor of the 24th Military Police Company was to get the job done. And this they did, despite the many obstacles inherent to the theater of operations. The zeal, determination, and devotion to duty displayed by all ranks of the 24th Military Police Company, 24th Infantry Division, during this period reflect credit on themselves, the Military Police Corps, and the military service of the United States."

Hats off to the MP's! They've done it again.

THIS IS IT!

With 24th Div. in Korea-- It's a new-fangled war but it still takes old fashioned guts to win -- the kind displayed by Conrad Lopez when his platoon was cut off by a Red counter-attack.

Circling a mountain, they soon ran into the enemy. Lopez ordered his men to scatter and take cover. Pinned down by machine gun and mortar fire and realizing they were in an almost hopeless situation, Lopez saw an unmanned machine gun about 75 yards from his position. He ran the distance under heavy enemy fire, picked up the machine gun and fired it at the baffled Reds.

Although wounded in the process, he soon had them running. When the North Koreans had either fled or were killed, Lopez led his platoon back to the company.

"THE ISSUES ARE GLOBAL....."

With 24th Div. in Korea-- Cpl. Ralph C. Wagner (3rd Eng.) rode his bull-dozer over a cliff in a spectacular ride as a bull-buster ever had. In the last of a series of incidents on his way down a 72-degree incline the monster machine literally stood on its nose. Yet when it was all over Cpl. Wagner not only walked away, but drove the dozer off under its own power.

The corporal was hecking a road along a mountain-side when the earth under the left track of his machine gave way. Though it seemed that the vehicle would topple and roll down the slope, Cpl. Wagner didn't abandon ship. He called to another bull-dozer operator and asked for a line. The idea was to winch Cpl. Wagner's machine a quarter around so that its nose would be pointed straight down the slope.

"We jumped her sideways, locked the tracks, unhooked the cable, released the tracks and she started going down," the engineer reported. Trees snapped at the base under the machine's impact as it slid down.

"Several times the dozer turned sideways, threatening to upset and roll the rest of the way," Cpl. Wagner said. "I'd then lock the brakes on one side so the opposite side could catch up."

"The dozer was airborne part of the way," according to the testimony of a sergeant nearby who was supervising blasting. "You could see light underneath," the sergeant asserted.

Once at the bottom of the cliff, Cpl. Wagner found a narrow gorge, not wide enough for his machine, between himself and the road. Once more he called upon the operator of the other dozer to winch him out of trouble. But then, as he made a sharp right turn, he hit soft ground again and made a straight drop the approximate length of his machine. It left him bracing his feet against the air cleaner in front of the controls as the dozer stood on its nose. As the tracks grabbed at more and more earth, however, the machine gradually leveled and Cpl. Wagner drove away.

TELL YOU WHAT I'M GONNA DO

Al Stewart, now a Captain with the Post Engineer at Ft. Ord., Calif. sends us a very complete report on himself. Perhaps better remembered as "Job" when he was with Easy and Fox companies of the 21st, he reminds us that he spent some time with 2nd Bn., 19th for the Mindoro operation and was with the Provisional Battalion on Marinduque for 6 or 8 weeks. Jeb got an M.S. degree from Texas A & M College, spent 6 months in '48 in Honduras with United Fruit Company and for 2 years was Professor and Head of the department of agricultural engineering at New Mexico A & M College before the "man with the whiskers" sent him another one of those letters.

A TOXSAHN STORY

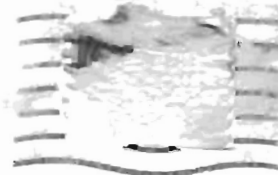
With 24th Div. in Korea-- A rifleman turned medic in the heat of a desperate battle and saved the lives of his buddies.

As elements of the 21st moved forward to engage the Reds and probe their hill defense, the doughboys were surprised to find the going easy.

"When the Reds first opened up on us, we were pretty well up the hill, which was our objective," said Col. Herbert Walters, one of the first men up the hill. "The Reds kept falling back and we pushed ahead, a little suspicious of their steady withdrawal."

The Gimbets moved on systematically, wiping out the bunkers which ringed the hill. Cpl. Curtis F. Nelson was in the thick of the battle, making things a little hot for the Reds, when the medic of the leading platoon got hit. Col. Nelson ran to his aid, bandaged his wounds and carried him down the hill to safety. After making sure the medic was okay he grabbed his first aid bag and started giving aid to his wounded buddies. As the leading squad neared the top of the hill, the enemy reason for the withdrawal showed. Red machine guns opened up on the doughboys from three ridges on the nearby ridges. The men had walked into a trap. Cpl. Nelson saw the men being cut down and quickly went to their aid. While the bullets churned up the dirt around him, the corporal dragged the wounded men from the deadly spot to safety, and then gave them first aid.

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



Kenneth P. Villan
21
Yellow Springs Ohio

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

THEY TURNED THE TIDE

Turning the tide of the fighting in Korea from bitter delaying actions to a sweeping drive against the North Korean invaders made the 19th Infantry, the "Victory" Regiment of the "Victory" Division.

Spanning the Nakdong, the 19th stepped beyond the Pusan Perimeter and rushed headlong back to Taejon, the scene of the bloodiest fighting in the desperate struggle of the 24th, to slow the enemy until United Nations re-inforcements reached Korea in strength.

The famous old "Rock of Chickamauga" Regiment was cracked in those early days of fighting with inadequate equipment and understrength units, but the cement of the regiment's fighting spirit sealed the wound. In the northward drive the 19th crushed the Communist enemy on the very ground the regiment had fought so tenaciously to hold a month before.

At the Kum River on July 13th the regiment first went on the line. Relieving the 21st Regiment the fresh troops dug their positions on the high hills overlooking the broad expanse of the river valley.

Communist forces hit the river defense line in full force the next day. Solidly dug in, the regiment concentrated its firepower on the masses of enemy troops, and filled the river with their bodies. For four days and nights the "Rock" stood firm on the few hills its meager forces could fringe with a thin line of fighting men.

A piercing attack by the enemy wedged between two companies, but counterattacks restored the line. Only by flanking the short line did the Communist forces dislodge the regiment from its clinging hold on the river hills.

Bloody Taejon was the next battle for the 19th Regiment which had suffered heavily but had inflicted extremely heavy casualties on the enemy. The second battalion of the regiment was thrown into the defense of the vital city to support the hard-hit 34th Regiment. 013-21-4210

Street by street and building by building the battalion fought the swarming enemy infantry that poured into the city behind huge, Russian-made T-34 tanks. In the street fighting six of the lumbering tanks were knocked out by infantrymen armed with the 3.5 bazooka.

In the fighting withdrawal from flaming Taejon the 19th waged a battle on all sides. Trying to disengage from the enemy converging on the city from three sides, the regiment ran into tight enemy roadblocks, closing off all roads to the south. By continuous punching the regiment squeezed its way through to escape.

At the Nakdong River the "Rock of Chickamauga" stood firm. The entire "Victory" Division was together on the river line for the first time in Korea. There the 24th annihilated the 4th North Korean Division, its bitter enemy in the delaying actions.



Rock of Chickamauga

In broad daylight the 19th crossed the Nakdong River to burst from the Pusan Perimeter. Heavy enemy fortifications including extensive mine fields failed to slow the regiment on its first victorious advance in Korea.

Advancing for three days running, the regiment forced the North Koreans back 50 miles. After one all night march the men of the "Rock" took the town of Songju in a surprise attack. They overran enemy command posts and captured much equipment, including artillery pieces.

In infantry and armored columns the 19th pressed on, capturing key towns on the road to Taejon. A wall of stubborn enemy blocked the entrance to the valley leading into the city. Coordinated air, artillery and tanks fire supported the 19th as its ground troops drove through the enemy-held pass. Fourteen enemy tanks were knocked out in the battle.

At daylight on September 29th the regiment entered Taejon. They liberated American prisoners that had been lost in the tragic withdrawal from the city. Hardly pausing to claim their victory, the regiment cleared the city of snipers and pushed out on three crossings of the Kum River.

In the return to Taejon the 19th killed or captured an estimated 3,000 enemy Troops.

"GIVE YOUR NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER"

Raymond Bucky Ford, Div. Arty., 181 Cabot St., Newton, Mass., is back home after a 2 weeks stay at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Boston. He is a Sub-Master at one of the Watertown, Mass., schools.

MY ACHIN' BACK

Doc Lewis J. Weller (Div. Surgeon) is still rolling pills and taking temperatures. Same 'ole business; just operating at a new stand. Lew writes as follows:

"I'm still practicing in Osceola, Wis. (about 40 miles NE of St. Paul, Minn.). We've added another girl to our family making a total of 3. It looks like no future members of the Div. from here.

"On our trip we visited with several members of the division. It was great seeing them again. Notes on those we saw: Dr. A. H. Braden, Jr., 2014 Crawford St., Houston 3, Tex. Al is practicing Internal Medicine, had a recent arrival of a boy bringing his total to 2. He's helping organize 24th men in the Southern Texas area. He was surgeon of the 34th Inf.

"When we were in St. Louis Dr. Walter Rehm from St. Genevieve, Mo. drove in with his wife and spent a day with us. He's practicing dentistry in St. Genevieve."

Thanks a million for all that news, Lew.

WILLY NILLY

Col. E. B. Weber (21st & 19th) has left West Point after a 4 year tour and has gone to the 8th Div. at Jackson where he commands Div. Arty. He doesn't explain how an infantry officer got to be in command of the artillery battalions. We're puzzled, Col. Lt. Lindsey P. Henderson is his I. & S. Officer. Lindsey commanded L-21st in Korea and wrote "Col's Four Days" in a recent issue of the Combat Forces Journal. Weber commanded L-21 in 1941. He says, "It was -- and still is -- the best in the regiment."

Carl E. Schank (19th Inf. from Aug. '43-Dec. '45) writes us that he is married, has 2 children, and is working for The Rubberoid Co. as personnel and safety supervisor. They make asphalt and asbestos building products. Carl is giving us a helping hand by writing prospective members of the Assoc. for us. Carl's address: 150 Stout Ave., Middlesex, N. J. Leo B. Romo (19th from May '42-Aug. '45) flatters us -- and we love it. He calls the Taro Leaf "Stupendous." He's associated with Jennings Lumber Co. in Douglas, Ariz. He's very modest; says that he has no news on himself. Leo's address: 861 8th St., Douglas. 015-25-5206

A LITTLE RECONNAISSANCE

James Russell, former platoon leader in Cannon Co., 19th, has just been elected National Chief-of-Staff of the Military Order of the Purple Heart at its convention in New Haven, Conn. Jim lives at 217 Rice St., Pawtucket, R.I. and is Commander of the Rhode Island Chapter. He is also one of our VPs.