

TARO LEAF

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

VOL. V

APRIL 1952

NO. 6

DICK LAWSON REPORTS

A SALUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL LAURENCE B. KEISER

24th Division Leaves Korea After 20 Months

Old Professionals' First U.S. Unit to Fight; Drove Across Parallel 3 Times

Here is the way Colonel Dick Lawson reported the results of the Indiantown Gap meeting:

"To my surprise, I found an assemblage of more than 200 Korean veterans - all from the 24th. General Keiser informed them in a 2-minute talk that he had already organized a local chapter of his 2nd Division vets, and was now sponsoring similar actions by vets of other U.S. divisions which fought in Korea - hence the assemblage of 24th Division vets. Whereupon, he turned the meeting over to me and two officers on his staff.

"This is what we did:

- I gave them a few words on what the Assoc. had meant to me, on the 'Taro Leaf', on the conventions, and on the dues;
- Had a majority showing of hands on whether they desired to form a local chapter;
- Appointed a temporary organizing committee and a nominating committee to prepare plans for the next meeting;
- Collected over 175 signed slips from those who were interested.

"Major Robert M. Miller was appointed chairman of the organizing committee and will be writing to you directly for your help."

There was more to the letter than is quoted above but this will, we trust, give you an idea as to just what was accomplished there at Indiantown. We will give you additional details in our next issue.

CAPT. CLAIR M. WOLFE

We are also indebted to Capt. Clair M. Wolfe, General Keiser's PIO, who has kept us fully informed of the progress being made in the formation of the local chapter at Indiantown. We were about ready to close the books on this issue when we received through the mails from Capt. Wolfe the picture which we take pleasure in reproducing on this cover page. We realize also we must acknowledge that the picture is an official U. S. Army photograph. This we do willingly and gladly. And 1000 kudos to you, Capt. Wolfe for being in there "pitchin" for us.

IS AN ITEM OF GOOD NEWS

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You get scores of items of good news every month of the year by subscribing to the

TARO LEAF

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KIM JANG HWAN

Kim Jang Hwan, Korean refugee from Suwon has come to America and is visiting at the home of the parents of Lt. Robert Heim, 1066 May Road, Richmond, Calif. In true fashion, the boys named him "Billy". Billy followed the 24th for nearly a year. Only through Bob Heim's effort was it possible to get custody of Billy that he might be educated in America. Billy reads, writes and speaks the Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages rapidly. He is learning the English language rapidly.

We dedicate our cover page this month to a nonwearer of the Taro Leaf, and all for the reason that the gentleman concerned has done and is doing so very much for us in his present capacity as Commanding General of the 5th Infantry Division at Indiantown Gap, Penn. Our Man-of-the-Month is Major General Laurence B. Keiser who started the ball to rolling in the move to form local associations of comrades who served together in combat when he decided to launch an Indiantown chapter of the 2nd Infantry Division Association. As we well know, General Keiser was CG of the Indian Head boys during some of their most brilliant days in Korea. In so moving at the "Gap", he was not forgetful that veterans of other combat divisions should also be given an opportunity to band together to renew the friendships formed in battle.

General Keiser wrote to Ken Ross inviting him to be present at an organizational meeting for former 24th'ers on Thursday, Feb. 28th. Up until the last minute, Ken had plans to be there. At H-5, another call to Boston made the "Gap" visitation impossible for him, whereupon he called upon Colonel Dick Lawson to act in his behalf. Loyal and enthusiastic Dick took time out from his faculty assignment at the Army War College (40 miles away at Carlisle Barracks) and motored over to attend the meeting.

General Keiser, we salute you, sir, for the thoughtfulness in permitting and encouraging our comrades to give vent to their emotions and sentiments in the formation of a chapter of our Association at the "Gap".

As for you, Dick Lawson, it's an old story; you've done it again. We've decided that we can't thank you enough so we shan't even try.



Speakers at the organization meeting of the Indiantown chapter of the 24th Infantry Division Association at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Indiantown Gap, Penn. Major General Laurence B. Keiser, CG, 5th Infantry Division and CG Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, is speaking. In the background, reading from left to right, are Major Robert Miller, Colonel Richard H. Lawson, and Master Sergeant Edward L. Kidd.

Howard Cross (52F from '42 to '45) is Club Manager of the American Legion post at Bozeman, Mont. He gave us a little publicity in the "Observation Post", the publication of Gallatin Post #14 of the A.L. and is getting us other publicity in Montana. Our big problem is getting the word of our existence out "to the troops". Howie recognizes this and is doing his best to help us along. Thanks, Howie.

Rest assured that your Association will give Maj. Bob Miller and his committee every help possible in getting organized at the Gap. Our best wishes go out to every Taro Leafer at Indiantown.

SEOUL, Korea (AP)—The gallant 24th Infantry Division, first to fight and first to lose a man in the Korean war, served almost twenty months in Korea before being sent back recently to duty in Japan.

Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, now a prisoner of the Communists, led the division into the war early in July, 1950.

During the fighting the 24th, which came to be called "the Old Professionals," earned a distinguished unit citation, six Medals of Honor and hundreds of other decorations.

Now on Honshu Island, the 24th, with the battle-seasoned 1st Cavalry Division, is charged with the defense of Japan. The 1st Cavalry also was returned from Korea recently.

The 24th Division's last shot in the Korean war was in Communist territory north of the 38th Parallel, southwest of Kumsong. The division captured the area in October in its last big fight.

The grueling battles came earlier. In the first months of combat against staggering odds, the men of the 24th proved themselves daily in pitched battles.

First to Battle Reds

Elements of the 24th were flown to Korea from Japan on the last day of June, 1950. They made the first contact with the North Korean Reds near Osan early in July.

At 5 p. m. July 5, 1950, Pfc. Kenneth Shadrick, of Skin Fork, W. Va., was killed by a Korean Red machine gunner. He was the first American killed in the war.

Within a month, the 24th was fighting for its life near Taejon. The division was ordered to hold for two days as withdrawing Allied forces dug in and fresh units were landed. The 24th held for three days, then counter-attacked to gain more time.

Gen. Dean, who fought alongside his front-line troops at Taejon, was awarded the Medal of Honor while listed officially as missing in action.

The division's 34th Regiment was so badly mauled it was pulled out of Korea. The 5th Regimental Combat Team from Hawaii took its place.

After Gen. Dean's capture Maj. Gen. John H. Church took command and led the division in the Pusan fighting and the drive north; then back along the route the men called "Heartbreak Highway."

Broke Out of Pusan Lines

The 24th broke out of the Pusan perimeter at Waegwan and moved up the western front. By Nov. 26, 1950, it stood within fourteen miles of Sinuiju and the Manchurian border. Then the Chinese struck.

During the withdrawal Maj. Gen. Blackshear M. Bryan took command. A new defense line was set up north of Seoul. When the Chinese smashed headlong to drive the Allies out of Korea, Jan. 1, 1951, the 24th held open the main escape route from Seoul.

By the middle of January the Reds were spent. The 24th moved northward again, again crossing the 38th Parallel.

April 23, 1951, the Chinese spring offensive broke on the western front, with the 24th and the flanking South Korean 6th Division barring the way. The South Koreans collapsed and for five days the 24th pulled back to protect the exposed flank.

The division withstood massed attacks and by April 28 the Red drive was blunted.

The next Red offensive in May hit the eastern front. The division was ready for the quick Allied counterpunch and carried north of the 38th Parallel for the third time.

There, dug in on the spiny ridges of the central front, the 24th ended its Korean fighting.

Of all its men, only two remained of those first handfuls of green soldiers who met the on-rushing Reds in the dark days of July, 1950. The others were dead, wounded or home on rotation.

ESCAPE

from the commonplace

Come to Columbus and discover America

TARO LEAF

* 24 * 24 * 24 * 24 * 24 * 24 * 24 * 24 *
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* lished 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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* Ross Pursifull
* James E. O'Donnell

where
the sun
shines
brightly
365 days
of
the year



What

What Times Square is to New York, what the Loop is to Chicago, the intersection of Broad and High is to Columbus. It's the heart of the city. The center of its business, shopping, and entertainment activities. Site of the State Capitol. Meeting place of all townfolk, destination of all visitors. Starting point of direct transportation to rail and air terminals.

It's the most important location in the city. And towering above it all is the new DESHLER.

Do you realize how conveniently located Columbus is? Almost dead center in Ohio, it's within 500 miles of two-thirds of the population of the entire United States! Accessibility is important to good convention attendance. That's one reason why Columbus is among the top three cities in the country in number of conventions served.

The Deshler - WALLICK

For those who make the trek to Columbus this August, we positively guarantee that there will be nightly (unexpurgated) renditions of such never-to-be-forgotten "classics" as "The Old Monk", "The Ball of Kerry Muir", "I've Got Sixpence" and "Waltzing Matilda". Get that larynx greased up, fella, there's a bright day coming.



REUNION REGISTRATIONS

Early pre-registration for the annual reunion at Columbus, Ohio, indicates the attendance will surpass all previous gatherings of the Association. If you haven't done so, won't you send in your registration today? Don't stay away from the biggest 24th Division event yet held in the United States.

Here is a listing of the first registrants:

Bill Davidson, Div. Hq.
Ken Ross, Div. Hq.
Joe Peyton, 19th
Charlie Seibert, 19th.

5 O'CLOCK FLASHES

Here are a couple of news flashes that came in just before prestime. Mildred Purcell writes us that that man she married, one James "Chum" Purcell has sneaked back over to "that place". "Chum" is now Advisor to the Korean Army on Signal Matters with headquarters at Taegu. Thanks for the information, Mildred. But we thought you were not going to let him get out of your sight again..... It is with deep regret that we announce the death of George H. Nee, father of our own Joe Nee (Div. Hq. 5/45-6/46). George Nee was a holder of the Medal of Honor, awarded to him for bravery at the battle of Santiago, Cuba on July 1, 1898. As well as we knew Joe, he never once referred to that honor which had come to his Dad, except one evening on the way home from one of those parties that "Chum" Purcell would once in a while throw during the "Matsuyama period" in Japan. A new shipment of Suntori must have just arrived that day because Joe, like all the rest, was unusually talkative that night on the way back to quarters. The subject of the Medal of Honor somehow came up and Joe simply stated: "My Dad has one." Neither before nor since has the matter been mentioned in any way. Great guy, that Joe, and great man also was his Dad. We are proud to be able to say that we have known them both. Our deepest sympathies go out to you, Joe..... Col. Fred H. Stoll (21st) has moved from Indiana to Beatrice, Nebr. It's 915 North 12th Street in case you want to note the change. What is our Army doing out there, Fred?

GUESS WHO 'TIS

With this issue, we introduce another novelty feature. We reproduce below the picture of one of our very popular officers with his family. We'll give you two clues: he was a staff officer at Div. Hq.; he served with the Division from October 1944 to June 1948. Who is it? The answer will be found elsewhere in this issue.



"Keep Your Powder Dry"

C/O POSTMASTER

We had the pleasure of a tour of duty recently at Fort Leavenworth with Walter Cunningham, never-to-be-forgotten Div. A.G. Walter is now based at Columbia University where, he says, he is indulging in his twin hobbies: (a) cadging drinks from the local bar flies, and (b) counterfeiting postage stamps. Walter adds: "I used to forge ordinary stamps but have now graduated to air postage exclusively -- thereby gaining that comfortable feeling of advancement in one's chosen field."

Larry Selkowitz (Div. Band from 2-43 to 11-45) is toying with the idea of rounding up as many as possible former 24th Div. bandmen at Columbus next August for a little rag-time session of their own. If they each will bring their instruments, it threatens to be the most musical reunion we've had.

Larry has a spare orchestra in Washington in his spare time from the State Department.

Quick as a bunny...



Col. Charles Jones (19th) writes us from University Park, Md. It's 6503 Queens Chapel Road, if you want the full address. Charlie writes, "Three new grandchildren, a sick wife, a son leaving for Korea and his family moving up here and getting settled are just a few of the things that have kept me busy. Was chief cook, nurse and house-keeper while the wife was sick. My son, a Lt. Col. of Marines is in command of the 11th Marines in Korea. Col. Chapman stopped in for a visit a couple weeks ago. Will be relieved from Armed Services Staff College, where he is Instructor, this summer. I enjoy the Taro Leaf. You boys are doing a fine job and you deserve better support than have been giving you. Will promise to do better in the future. Sincere regards and best wishes to you and all the gang."

Thanks for that very fine report, Grandpa enjoyed hearing from you.

GETTING THE LEAD OUT

Floyd W. Murohy (Cannon 19th from 9-42 to 12-45) writes that he married in '46 and now has a three year old daughter Patricia Sharon. He is a fireman on the railroad working out of Logansport, Ind. Herman Henke (AT-19th) writes us from New Haven. Hank sends best regards to the A.T. boys. Bill Trulock (19th from '42 - '45) is working with the National Cash Register Company at Columbus, S.C. Bill says, "I love the 24th Div. Assoc. just as I love the old 24th and the Rock of Chickamauga." Them's sweet words, Bill. Max Currie, another "Chick," has also written in. Max is living in Little Valley, N.Y. He advises that he'll see us all in Columbus and also that he's rounding up a couple of new members for us.

Harris Chamberlain (724 Ord) is running a large Shell service station in Louisville, Ky. Roscoe Claxon (724 Ord) reports that Harris "is married, has a pretty wife and a 3 year old daughter that's a doll."

We've been asking some of the boys to write and tell us what they remember best, liked the most, liked the least, etc., etc., about their 24th days. We're delighted to pass some of them on to you. Ed Henry (Div. Ho.) remembers those sundry blanks and forms that were continually being handed out to you to fill in. Ed adds, "Incidentally, those words 'next of kin' appeared on all of those blanks with what seemed to me a thoroughly discouraging and unnecessary prominence." Angelo Lorio (724th Ord.) says the one thing he remembers best about the army was the "count off" business. He recalls that any time a truck load of soldiers would move out in a convoy they would stop at least three times en route so that a lieutenant could stick his head over the tail-gate and count the men. This counting was an important part of all troop movements, there being an unfounded belief that in any given number of soldiers being moved from A to B ten percent will, without even trying, become "lost" unless closely watched and carefully counted. He adds that the fact that on arrival two trucks would invariably be missing could not be considered as proof of anything. All of which is the kind of thing soldiers mean when they call it "the old Army game." Mike Lembo (724 Ord) still remembers Australia days when he had to learn about fish and chips, about tea and scones. He remembers discovering that ice cream was an "ice", that liquor was "plonk", and that hard candy was "lollies". He recalls to mind also learning that the way to say "Who do you think you're kidding?" was "Aw, break it down!" and that Koala beer was no beer at all, but a kind of glorified strawberry pop.

It may be destiny that shapes our ends, but many a society deb has found that these electric reducing machines help.

A man appeared in a newspaper office to place an ad offering \$100 for the return of his wife's cat.

"That's an awful high price for a cat," the clerk suggested.

"Not for this one," said the man. "I drowned it."

"I sent my husband to the hospital today because of his knee."

"Did he have water on it?"

"No, his private secretary."



scuttlebutt

With 24th Div. in Korea-- This is a story of UN teamwork.

Units of the 2d ROK Div., driving against the retreating Chinese but cut off from supports, sent out a call for more ammunition.

The ammo was furnished by the 24th "Victory" Div.

It was delivered by helicopters of the 1st Marine Div.

A castaway on a desert island rescued a beautiful girl who was washed ashore clinging to a barrel.

Girl: "How long have you been here?"

Castaway: "Fifteen years."

Girl: "Then I'm going to give you something you've been missing all those years."

Castaway: "Gosh! Is there beer in that barrel?"

We're mighty happy to welcome aboard Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Wm. D. Kirkpatrick, (Div. Chaplain from 6-51 to 10-51). Chaplain K. is now Post Chaplain at Camp Polk.

Flash

Yokohama-- The Japanese widow of an American Nisei serviceman, killed in action in Korea, received his Purple Heart Medal in a ceremony at Central Command headquarters.

Mrs. Yoshiko Kusuda, widow of Sgt. Shigetoshi Kusuda, who died while serving with the 34th Inf. in Korea, was presented the citation by Brig. Gen. F. W. Farrell, commanding general of Central Command, JLC.

ALVIN R. BELT

Mrs. Ala Belt of 122 E. 4th St., Claremore, Okla., writes us as follows:

"I am the mother of Alvin R. Belt. We appreciate the sympathy of Alvin's company and I would like very much to hear from any of his old buddies. Alvin never quite recovered from his injuries he received on Leyte, but he had been working for about 2 years previous to his death, with the Bell Telephone Co., of Oklahoma City. He was on a two week vacation and was fishing on a railroad bridge at Lake Texoma near Durant, Okla. A train struck him across the back, where the old wounds were, that he received on Leyte. He lived one week, but never fully regained consciousness. He died Feb. 19, 1948. He is buried in Fairlawn Cemetery Oklahoma City, Okla. Alvin was reared near Ardmore, Okla., finished all his schooling there. He is survived by two brothers, and three sisters. The youngest brother Garland was killed in a car wreck May 1951. I would be glad to receive your paper."

"We have made Mrs. Belt an associate member of the Association as we feel sure that Al Belt would want it that way. Our deepest sympathies go out to this brave woman."

A retired "Taro Leaf" colonel, dressed in disreputable gardening clothes, was raking leaves on his lawn one day when a big, shiny car stopped and a throaty feminine voice inquired:

"My man, what do you get for doing garden work?"

The colonel glanced quickly toward his house, then back to the car.

"The lady of the house lets me live with her," he said.

Wife: "How helpless you men are! What would you do if there were no women to sew on your buttons for you?"

Husband: "Has it occurred to you, my dear, that if there were no women we men would need no buttons?"

"A" BAGS AND "B" BAGS

Sgt. Bill Price (5th RCT from 7-50 to 5-51) writes us from Camp Kilmer, N.J. as follows:

"I received my Jan.-Feb. issue of the Taro Leaf and I'm writing to let you know how pleased I was when upon turning page three I sighted a story about the Fighting Fifth."

"It sure did my heart good to see and read some past exploits of the 5th. It's the first I've seen where the facts were laid down. I'll always feel I'm there with the Inf. even when I'm now in a Post Office."

"Ah, well, everyone wants a soft job, now don't they? Please keep up the fine work. As I show my Taro Leaf around I find more men who want to be a part of it."



Look applauds.

In case you missed it, we reproduce the item, "Look Applauds" from the Jan. 29th issue of "Look". We are more than proud to claim Dave Broad as one of our own:



THE AMERICAN SOLDIER IN KOREA

Look closely. In this picture you can see a bit of what war is like for one soldier.

He is M/Sgt. David K. Broad of the 5th Regimental Combat Team resting after 43 straight days up front in Korea; 43 days and nights of living in a hole, washing from his helmet, eating C rations and fighting.

Only the rifle in his lap is dirt-free, spotlessly clean. His combat boots and fatigues are caked with the dirt he sits on and lives in. There's dirt deep under his fingernails.

Weariness and confidence speak in the angle of his helmet. His eyes are hard and clear but the corners of his mouth sag. He'll feel better when he can shave.

The tattoo on his right arm and the wedding band on the finger of his left hand suggest a tough guy with something to fight for back home—and that about sums him 'up.

We salute this man and all those in Korea with him since American soldiers first went into action 574 days ago.

FRIENDS OF JOHN J. METRO

Friends of John J. Metro will be sorry to learn that he passed away on August 16, 1948 at Deshan Veterans Hospital in Butler, Pa. A friend of his wrote us the news and reminded us that "Johnnie sure was proud of the 24th."

Russ Schiefelbein (Med. 19th from 2-45 to 2-46) wants to locate Carl Gassert (Med. 19th from 6-45 to 8-46). He's at R.R. #3 Madison, Ind., Russ. Bill Lingle (24th Sig. from 6-42 to 9-45) is back in it. He's with the Sig. Sect., Hq. EUSAK, APO 301 c/o PM, 'Frisco., so writes Florence, his very thoughtful wife.

COVER OFF! SOLDIER UP!

Albert V. Butterfield, of 30 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill. joined up as a new member on Jan. 2 of this year. Mail sent to him has been returned with the old familiar notation, "Address Unknown". Al, where are you?

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FAITH is freedom's

strongest force.

That's why the Reds

are so eager to

destroy it.

They know that people

who have lost faith

can be swayed to

Communism.

American freedom,

was born of faith . . .

good, old-fashioned,

honest-to-goodness faith.

FAITH is our greatest

source of national

strength.

With 24th Div. in Korea-- A hunch paid off for a tank driver when he drove around a dangerous-looking object and as a result saved his men and his vehicle from destruction.

The tank, driven by Cpl. Holly C. Moore, was part of a task force smashing forward against well dug-in enemy positions.

"There were plenty of tank traps," said the corporal, "but we managed to get by them." As Cpl. Moore's tank neared one trap he saw a 55-gallon oil drum behind a mound. "It looked like a discarded drum," he said, but I was a little wary of it, and at the last minute I swerved my tank."

After the action was over and the tanks had chased the Reds from their positions, the men in the tank driven by Moore relaxed until a passing group of engineers made the tank crew's jaws drop by casually mentioning to the tankers that they had removed a strange booby trap near the road.

"You should have seen the oil drum we took away," they remarked. "It was filled with about 200 pounds of TNT. Anyone who hit that would have had it."

The tankers changed the conversation.

JUST UNDER THE WIRE

Our Hollandia correspondent has just written in to tell us: "Dispela toktok ino olsem m pela i tokim yupela long noken mekim ol dispela samting." Well, that's an interesting piece of news!

Can anyone help us locate John I. Lowe (19th)? Mail addressed to him at 4829 N. Damen Ave., Chicago, is returned to us.

The greatest love, the love of loves,
Even greater than that of a mother,
Is the tender, passionate, infinite love
Of one drunken soldier for another.



ELEMENTS OF THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION LEAVE KOREA

Mixed emotions show on the faces of 24th Infantry Division troops leaving Korea as they are carried out to their ship in Inchon Harbor. (Picture sent to us by courtesy of Sgt. Ted Peay, 24th Div. PIO - Army Photo by Cpl. Mervyn Lew)

MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!

We've been itching to get this story on our finances out to you for sometime as we believe you have the right to know what is being done with your money.

We submit herewith a report of the receipts and expenditures of the Association since the Detroit 1951 Convention. That is to say, this report does not include the expenses of the Detroit Convention, but rather includes only monies received and expended since August 15, 1951 following the closing of the Convention.

The report follows:

Cash on hand, 8-15-51	\$ 645.36
Total receipts 8-15-51 to present,	1938.00
	2583.36
Expenditures 8-15-51 to present,	1660.51
On hand,	\$ 922.85

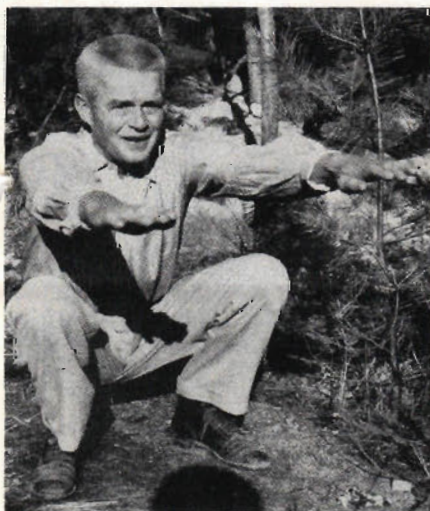
Following is a breakdown of expenditures into the three main categories of expenses:

Secretary's expenses,	\$ 257.65
Membership Drive expenses,	1003.29
"Taro Leaf" expenses,	399.57
	\$1660.51

What may appear to you to be a large item of expense is the Membership Drive and admittedly you are right. The better portion of this \$1003.00, however, was disbursed for postage. It takes money to reach people, know. For the \$1003.00 we attracted over members so we believe that if nothing else the drive paid for itself and what's more, we are the richer by 350 members.

OUR FINGERS ARE CROSSED

The Feb. 25th issue of "Life" carried this wonderful picture of General "Bill" Dean. We use "wonderful" advisedly. The picture was wonderful in the sense that it offered renewed hope that this magnificent gentleman is alive and in improving health. We continue to pray that, as of the time you read this, the worms will have turned, and he and his fellow "Taro Leafers" and all of the other servicemen claimed by the Reds to be POW's will have been released.



PRISONER OF THE REDS

The latest picture of Major General William Dean, the Korean Reds' prize prisoner of war, shows him slowly regaining his health. Dean, who suffered a broken or dislocated shoulder and malaria when he was captured after 30 days behind enemy lines, has aged considerably during his 18 months' confinement but is healthy enough to do calisthenics.

THRU CHANNELS

George H. Pierce (Sv. 34th from 9-45 to 10-46) has sent in a membership for his brother-in-law, Carroll M. Richardson (H-34th from 8-45 to 10-46). They both would like information on the name of a newspaper in Saseko, Kyushu. Does anyone have that information? If so, send it in to us and we'll relay it on. George and Carroll both promise to "see everyone in August in Columbus." We look forward to it, fellows.

ALL IN FUN, OF COURSE

The following letter was recently sent in to us and it so warmed the cockles of our heart that we want to share it with you:

"I have a problem. I have two brothers and two sisters. One brother was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division. The other has just been sentenced to death in the electric chair for murder. My mother died from insanity when I was only 3. My two sisters are prostitutes. My father sells narcotics. Recently, I met a girl who was released from a reformatory where she served time for smothering her illegitimate child. I want to marry her. Now, my problem is this....if I marry this girl, shall I tell her about my brother who once belonged to the 1st Cav.?"

I'm all packed and ready to go to Columbus in August with my Mama and Papa!



DRAFTEE BECOMES OFFICER AFTER 67 DAYS IN KOREA

With the 24th Inf. Div., Korea- From PFC to a battlefield commission in 67 days is the record advancement of 2d Lt. Louis Falvey. This makes him one of the first draftees to be commissioned in the Korean War.

Lt. Falvey arrived in Korea on March 25 as a Pvt., and was assigned to the 19th Inf. Reg.'s Heavy Mortar Co. as a computer in the Fire Direction Center. Six weeks later, he was given the job of horizontal control operator, and made a PFC on May 9. On July 13 he was promoted to sergeant and chief computer, simultaneously.

On Aug. 1, he was approached by 1st Lt. Paul V. Ryan, gunnery officer and probable rotatee, and offered a commission and the job of gunnery officer. "I accepted and shortly afterward took off for Ascom City where I was commissioned," said Lt. Falvey.

"I took artillery training during my basic training at Camp Atterbury and that's where I became interested in FDC. Out of curiosity and on my own time I studied how they could be so accurate. In fact, I attribute my present status to the training that I received at Atterbury. I'm still drawing on, and applying here, what I picked up in basic."

The 25-year-old lieutenant attended three universities before being drafted into the Navy, in which he served 11 months and two days.

ANOTHER BARRISTER REPORTS IN

Guerson D. Silverberg, (Div. Ro.) attorney at law at Norwich, Conn. has just sent in greetings and good wishes. Thanx, Guerson, and if we ever get hit by a truck in or around Norwich, we'll let you chase our ambulance.

Allan Wirz (52 FA Bn.) is in the bolt and nut business in Brownstown, Ill. Al writes "If any of you get on U.S. 40 east from St. Louis, stop in at the hardware store and we'll swap a few old ones." We're passing the word along, Al.



Wonderful feeling

We are grateful to Sgt. Ted Peay for rushing the photos used in this issue showing the Division movement from Korea back to the land of the "Dozo" and "Arigato." Here are some happy Taro-Leafers on their way. They have good cause to be happy. We are glad you're out of there, men.

Bob Gicker (Div. Hq.) is Asst. Manager of the Fillmore-O'Farrell office of the American Trust Co. in 'Frisco. He very thoughtfully sent us a collection of press releases written from 24th Div. Hq. during the P.I. days. Bob wants us to have them for record purposes. He writes: "I was saving them for my boy's future reference but methinks the way events are proceeding they'll be eclipsed by erstwhile events. The Assoc. may be able to use them to chronicle our past efforts as a fighting unit." Thanx again, Bob, and into the History they'll go.

David M. Cook (63F) is a practicing attorney in Wewoka, Okla. David says: "Only a week ago last Saturday my telephone rang about midnight to remind me of the best outfit in the army. The call was from Lt. Jamison who now lives with his wife and two children at Greensburg, Penn. He joined the division at Hawaii and was in the 63rd until Japan. Maj. David E. Wright, Jr., formerly of the 63rd recently returned from Korea and is now stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. I hear from him now and then. He served with the 1st Cavalry in Korea. I'm proud of the 24th as are all of its veterans. I'm happy to be a member of its association. As Lt. Jamison said when he called a few days ago, 'I just want to know how fellows with whom I lived and died are making out in civilian life.' It is a great outfit and its men are great soldiers." We agree 100%, Dave. Thanks for the good word.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS.....

With 24th Div. in Korea-- "Bandits in the trench, Ray," yelled 1st Lt. Robert Herbert, CO of Co. H, 19th. "Right," said 2d Lt. Raymond Roecker, as he lifted himself out of his foxhole.

Moving in a crouching run, he dropped into the first machine gun emplacement to his right. Seconds later the weapon sputtered and tracers seemed to float in a curving arc into the Chinese-filled trench. Immediately the four other machine guns of Row Company zeroed in. A 75-mm recoilless rifle roared and bucked as it began slamming round after round into the Chinese now scurrying frantically in an attempt to escape. Row Company's mortars straddled the trench and began stepping up the finger toward the peak.

Down in the valley quad 50's chimed in and soon the entire trench was hazy with dust and smoke.

When the firing stopped and the smoke cleared, no sign of life was visible in the trench. "Some of them got back to their oaves, but damn few that time," said Lt. Roecker.

For a matter of some five minutes, Co. H had put on a crushing display of fire power, taking a heavy toll of Chinese Reds, in support of assaulting troops.

"I've always dreamed of pouring out as much fire power as we're capable of," said Lt. Herbert, "and in the last six days, we have done just that."

"My machine guns alone have burned out 14 barrels since the push started," added Lt. Roecker. "That 75 over there has fired 300 rounds from the same position, and the Reds have been after it with mortars ever since we set it up."

ZERO HOUR

Walt Bridgeforth (2nd Bn., 19th) recently wrote in to us. He's a lawyer in Yazoo City Miss. We were mighty pleased to hear from you, Walt.

FIRST AID TO KEN CRAMER'S PEOPLE

We're proud to be able to report that we're in close touch with Brig. Gen. George E. Cole, National Secretary of the 43rd Inf. Div. Assoc. at the State Armory, Conn. The Assoc. is attempting a publication similar to ours and has called on us for help. We have assured Gen. Cole that because of the warm spot in our hearts for Ken Cramer, the 43rd can expect us to go all out in helping them get their publication underway. Publications of this type are innocent-appearing at first blush. Only those who roll up their sleeves and "get them out" have a full realization of the effort which they represent.

SMOKES PRISONERS IN

With 24th Div. in Korea-- Cpl. Howard Giles, of the 21st, has worked out a method for keeping prisoners docile while leading them back to a UN command post. He gives each one a cigaret, but no light. After he gets them back to the CP he pulls out his lighter and the prisoners get their first smoke.

WELL -- WHAT DO YOU KNOW!

Arnold Peterson (Hq.Co. 19th) of Rt. 2, Griswold, Iowa, has had his gall bladder removed but sends greetings to the gang in spite of it.

Some very definite effort is being made to determine if the Assoc. cannot afford to reduce its dues. The reason for even thinking of such a possibility is that it might be one way of increasing our membership. We are fearful that many possible members are not joining because of what they consider to be an excessive membership fee. We want to present facts to you between now and August in support of and in argument against such a proposition. More on it in subsequent issues.



Business Briefs

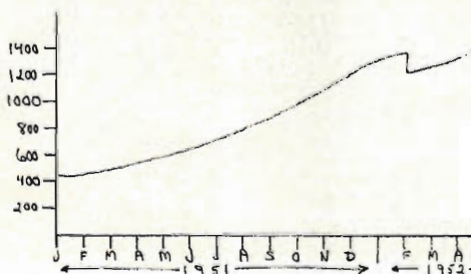
When Ken Ross assumed the job of Membership Chairman in February 1951, the Association enjoyed a membership of 491. Under his leadership, a Spring 1951 Membership Drive was opened in February and closed at the Detroit Convention in August. By then, the membership had increased to 987.

The Fall 1951 Membership Drive was opened by Ken who doubled in brass as Association President and Membership Chairman. The drive was opened on September 1, 1951 and closed on December 31, 1951. This drive was directed at contacting every single one of more than 50,000 prospects whose names and addresses were finally made available to us at the Detroit Convention.

The accompanying chart graphically depicts the growth of the Association from February 1951 to the present, the period covered by the two drives.

The sudden drop on February 1, 1952 is due to the fact that on that date, 188 members who were in arrears in their dues were dropped. These were members whose dues became payable on August 15, 1951. Subsequent to that date, at least four determined efforts have been made to induce these delinquent members to pay their dues. Meanwhile their "Taro Leafs" continued to be sent to them. Failing to hear from these members, we finally decided on Feb. 1st that we could take a hint -- that they didn't have to hit us over the head with a shovel to make us realize what was what. They just weren't interested, so we dropped them. The free rides were declared at an end. We will make up that loss and then some before we get through.

Look below and get the picture of our growth as a statistician portrays it. We're right proud of it!



"GIMLETS" CLEAN GUNS WITH CHINESE COOKING-OIL

A platoon of the 21st is now oiling its weapons through the courtesy of the Chinese. Bradley's bandits of Fox Co. led a savage assault on an enemy occupied hill and soon forced the Reds to abandon their defenses.

"The Chinese did not offer too much resistance," said PFC Joe V. Castellano. "When they saw us coming at them they bugged out fast."

When the men occupied the hill they found it honey-combed with bunkers connected by tunnels. "It looked as if the Reds planned to stay there a long time, but I guess we changed their minds," said PFC Ed Terriault.

"The Chinese must have really left in a hurry," said PFC Chauncy Stewart. "We found their mess dugout with rice still cooking."

After pouring out a withering fire that melted the Reds' courage to make a stand, the soldiers found their weapons in need of a cleaning but found they were short of gun oil. "The Chinese solved our problem for us," said PFC Castellano. "We found cooking oil in their mess dugout that was an ideal substitute."

FULLER-SAN REPORTS

MaJ. John Fuller (Div.Hq.) writes us from Korea as follows:

"And best wishes from dear old Korea, land of mystery and intrigue. Never realized just how good we had it back there in Japan compared to this country."

"Thanks for taking care of my financial obligations to the 24th Div. Assoc. Will inclose a money order as I doubt if this military script will cut much ice there in the Z/I. Will also inclose a thousand which you might pass off on some unsuspecting bartender. The Taro Leaf is interesting and wish that I could make it out to Columbus. Certainly remember the big time we had up at the New Yorker."

"I continue to run into numerous individuals over here that I have known from other outfits. I was assigned G2 with Eighth Army which I consider a good deal in that I have always found the higher the Headquarters the better you live and this has proved no exception."

"Made a little staff visit up to the 1st Cav. Div. a couple of weeks ago so spent an enjoyable couple of hours with George Gaynor who is now Div.IG."

"I do not know if you knew it or not but Lt.Col. Hathaway is here in this G2 Section as Ex.O. so we get along pretty well. I'm with the MIS DIV as Ex.O. and am engaged in Technical Intelligence and Linguists along with numerous other projects which get tossed to us."

"These Koreans are not prizes. However, some of the boys have gone all out on fraternization and our Hq.Co. has a pretty high VD rate. All of which proves, that you can't keep the boys down on the farm forever."

"This place is not like the Philippines but we do live in buildings and have pretty fair ohw. Get fresh vegetables from hydroponic farms over in Japan. Have a system of R & R over to Japan which I hope to catch pretty soon. Good for a short week's vacation."

"Will be looking for you,"

"John-san"

COME AND GET IT

Plans are already underway to have a lei flown in Hawaii for every single woman present at the Columbus reunion. It should be obvious, therefore, that it is most imperative that we know beforehand just about how many guys and dolls will be with us come August 15th, 16th, and 17th. We're going to look terribly silly if we end up with those necklaces strung around our own necks.



OCTOBER 20, 1944

T. R. Kneeland (34th) of 49 Cloud Ave., Franklin Square, Long Island, N.Y. writes this interesting story of the Leyte landing. We submit it in full herewith.

"A great deal of publicity both newspaper, magazine, radio and motion picture, has been given to the planting of the American Flag by the Marines on Mt. Surabachi. This has been played up from all angles and rightly so. However, in case there is no Division record that such a flag was planted during the first Philippine Island invasion on the island of Leyte, I should like to report this event.

"October 20, 1944, was designated as 'D' Day when the initial landing by the first troops to set foot on Philippine soil was made at the island of Leyte. At 'H' hour plus 27 minutes, the third combat assault wave of the 34th Infantry Regiment landed on the Leyte Beach and a non-commissioned officer with the rank of Sergeant proudly planted the American Flag on Philippine soil. He was accompanied by a Private Philippine soldier attached to the 34th as an interpreter for Intelligence purposes. These flags were planted simultaneously and 't was reported to me that the Philippine, after planting the flag, was hit by a sniper. Both of these men were given orders before landing to guard the flag with their lives and to the best of my knowledge, this flag was proudly waving in the breeze for the rest of 'D' Day.

"I can, however, personally testify that this event was photographed by the Official Associated Press, International News and the News Photographers attached to our combat landing team and I can also personally testify that at the time of the landing, the flag planting was covered by photographers.

"During the initial planning stage for the Philippine-Leyte operation, I served as Battalion S-2, for the 3rd Battalion 34th Infantry.

"As soon as the news was received in advance of our next operation and plans made covering this landing on Leyte Island, the idea of making such a flag planting was conceived. At that time the suggestion was made directly to Colonel E. M. Postlewaite, Commander of the 3rd Battalion, and in turn, passed on to the Regimental Commander, Colonel William Jenna. Evidently authority from higher headquarters was received as the suggested plan was approved and put into operation.

"During the voyage by a convoy from Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, to Leyte, an official presentation of an American Flag and a Philippine Flag donated by the ship bearing the 34th Infantry landing team was made by the Captain of that ship to Colonel Red Newman, then commanding the 34th, and Colonel Postlewaite. At this formal ceremony, the flag was then presented to the flag bearers (to the best of my recollection a Staff Sergeant by the name of White from Company 'G', 34th Infantry Regiment) and an unknown Philippine Private. Prior to this flag presentation, a drawing had been conducted on board ship at which time this particular NCO had drawn the lucky ticket and was instructed in his sacred duties of carrying the flag ashore and defending it at all costs.

"When General MacArthur's famous 'I have returned' speech was made on the island of Leyte to the President of the Philippine Islands, no mention was made of this flag planting and to the best of my knowledge no mention was ever made in any newspaper, film, or other means of public communication in the United States."

Louis H. McKey (5th RCT) writes us from Modesto, Calif. He was with the 5th in Korea from July '50 to Nov. '51). He is planning on being in Columbus in August. Lou wants a list of all the 5th men who are Association members. Can you give us a little time on that order, Lou? We're going to publish the directory very shortly and you'll get a copy.... S/Sgt. W.P. Land, of 3380 Mtr. Veh. Sqdn., Keesler AFB, Miss. wants to hear from friends in Hq. Co., 3rd Bn., 34th where he served from Hawaii to New Guinea. He writes: 'I lost all contact with the men after that but have never forgotten the memories of my associations with a wonderful bunch of guys.' There's your letter, Sergeant, and we hope you get a lot of mail.

5th Division Reunion--Don't forget.
Columbus, Ohio--August 15, 16, 17, 1952

PLEASE!
PLEASE!
PLEASE!



In order that we may know which end is up in planning for this Convention, won't you please fill out this form, if you haven't done so already, and mail it to Joe Peyton? We want to be ready for you when you get there, that's all.

OVER THERE

With 24th Div. in Korea-- Infantrymen turned fire fighters when an anti-personnel mine was accidentally detonated, setting off a chain of brush fires in an area under close Chinese observation.

Knowing that Chinese forward observers could easily spot the thick smoke and thus zero in mortar and artillery pieces, the infantrymen fought to extinguish the fire with dirt and burlap bags.

The heart of the fire was in an area heavily sown with anti-personnel mines. Soldiers and Korean bearers threw shovelful of dirt into the area in a futile attempt to smother the blaze.

At last they abandoned the mined area when the outer blazing fringes of the brush were blown toward a heavily wooded glen.

Cpl. Anthony Baker recalled seeing movies and newsreels where Rangers employed blasting powder in curbing forest fires. With PFC Maurey Clinger, Cpl. Baker cleared the area of personnel and threw a "line" of grenades that partially extinguished the outer blaze and set up a kind of dirt embankment that halted the fire's path.

The men then returned to the mined core of the fire. "We tried to figure out some way we could get the thing stopped," said Cpl. Baker, "but not being able to enter the area we couldn't figure how to stop it."

"We were about to let it burn itself out," said PFC Clinger, "then this little Korean came up with a wet sand bag and let it go into the fire. We all started grabbing bags, soaking them in the creek nearby, and letting them fly into the fire."

After three and a half hours, the fire-fighting infantrymen had the fire under control and continued on their way to rout the Chinese.

WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT?



"Had a swell day. I was never happier."

Are You moving? Have you moved? Please notify the Secy. of any change of address, as it costs the Association five cents, 15c for each copy forwarded or returned.

\$1.00 PRE-REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Attached find \$1.00 to cover my REGISTRATION fee for the 1952 REUNION, to be held in Columbus, Ohio, August 15, 16 & 17, 1952:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & STATE _____

SERVICE UNIT _____

(Co., Btry, Bn., and Regt.)

I will bring with me _____ other people.

Mail to Joseph I. Peyton, Sec'y., 131 N. Culver St., Baltimore, Maryland

ALABAMA BOYS

Rather than going to the far greater expense of publishing our proposed Directory of Members (a project of questionable value as far as some members are concerned and with whom we are inclined to agree), we are beginning an experiment in this issue. During the next few months, we plan to include the names and addresses of certain of our members. These will be arranged according to states, just as we classify them here at GHQ. If the idea is worth anything, we know you will respond in the usual manner and tell us so. And if you think it's worthless, we know you'll sit right down and write us a letter about it, also in the usual manner. Either way is OK by us boys, just so long as you write. In the meantime, we list herewith the names and addresses of our Alabama brothers:

Robert W. Beasley
Hq. Co., 21st from 9/44-11/46
P.O. Box 73, Grove Hill, Ala.

H.S. Brewster
Unit unknown
Tax Assessor, Scottsboro, Ala.

Lt. Col. H.P. Easley
19th
Quarters 4A, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Jamie G. Espy
Hq. Bn., Div. Arty. from 5/42-Aug. 45
328 Cherry St., Eufaula, Ala.

David A. Gray
19th
315 S 85th St., Birmingham, Ala.

Andrew Howard
Btry B, 52 F from 2/42 to 10/45
Hissop, Ala.

Robert J. Rentschler
34th
1901 Leighton Ave., Anniston, Ala.

Arthur C. White, Jr.
Unit unknown
Clayton, Ala.

GENERAL HODES RETURNS

Maj. Gen. Henry I. Hodes, 24th CG, has been reassigned to the '48's where he will become Commandant of the Command and General Staff College at Leavenworth. We all welcome General Hodes back to the states and wish him well in his new assignment.

We are still in there pitching for the other team.... Hy Goldstein, President of the 69th Inf. Div. Assoc., 135 Broadway, N.Y.C., is looking for onetime 69th men. Do you know any of them? If so, won't you drop a card to Hy, please?.... Nat. Hqs. of the 76th Inf. Div. Assoc. is located at 6 S. Calvert St. in Baltimore. We are practically neighbors. Harry Evans is their Treasurer. If you know a 76th man, will you please pass along the word that there is a 76th Div. Assoc.? Thanx.

BE SURE TO LOOK
INSIDE!



FORM 3547 REQUESTED

SO SOLL

We were disturbed no little the other day in finding that our March issue had come off the press as the issue of January-February. The Fordham seismograph recorded that we spun like a bobbin for sixteen minutes when we saw it. The last issue sent to you should have been designated as the March issue (Volume V, Number 5). The present issue, the one you're reading right this minute, is the April issue (Volume V, Number 6).

We regret the error exceedingly. Such stupidity irks our systematic mind.

Actually, the fault wasn't ours, and to be sure, no bones were broken. For the record however, we set it up properly before the paper was "put to bed". The printer failed, however, to make the changeover from the preceding issue. The one oasis in this Sahara is the fact that our printer, New England Blue Print Paper Company of Springfield, Mass., has been more than cooperative through the year. Don Warner, of that company, who has carried the load there as far as the "Taro Leaf" is concerned has been most considerate and kind. In large measure, he has helped to make the paper the good one which we prefer to think it is. We have found it in our hearts to forgive him his sins and trust that, in view of this note of explanation, you will find it in your hearts too. And so, on with the show

PICK IT UP! STAY IN LINE

Dick Lawson (Div. Hq.) thoughtfully sends us the names of a group of former 24th'ers now serving with him at Carlisle Barracks. Thanks, Dick. He's on the faculty of the Army War College there. He also writes us about one of our boys "over there" as follows:

"The Silver Star for gallantry in action has been awarded Capt. Horace W. West (Hall Square) Nazareth, Pa., who refused to leave his men although he was wounded nine times.

"Capt. West was cited for his heroism while serving as commanding officer of the 5th Regimental Combat Team's Company A.

"When his company was ambushed in the vicinity of Pisogol last April 25, Capt. West ordered his men from their trucks and led an assault against Communist forces dug in ridges overlooking the road.

"The attack failed and his men were forced to retreat after inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Capt. West was wounded twice but remained at his post to direct defenses.

"He suffered seven more wounds when the Reds counter-attacked but refused medical aid and continued fighting. Several of his men forcibly removed him from the battle area."

Never question your wife's judgement.
Look whom she married.

SPECIAL SURPRISE FOR BETTY

We anticipate that no one will be quite as surprised over our using the picture below as lovely Betty Crump, the wife of Bill Crump (Div. Hq. 11-44 to 12-45). We have long had a particular affection for Betty and even though we correspond but little (a regretful error on our part), we still throw our thoughts her way as she struggles along in San Antonio while Bill sweats out his second tour in the Far East. Betty and Bill are the parents of Bill and Ben, two fast growing, fine youngsters who have this pretty little sister, Tansey, whom we introduce herewith. She's a cutie, isn't she? Please forgive us for not writing, Betty, but by the time we get one of these editions to press, we find ourselves up to our ears on the next one. Concerning our failure to correspond with such mighty good people as yourself, we are much embarrassed—as the fellow who looks through a keyhole and finds another eye.



With 24th Div. in Korea-- A total of 41 Chinese surrendered to a fire-man patrol from the 21st "Gimlet" Regt. The Chinese believing that they were surrounded by an American battalion. PFC Jesse Frank came upon the Chinese in the intense fog that engulfed the area that morning. "We could barely see them through the fog," said Frank, "but the big thing was, we saw them first. We asked them to surrender. I guess they believed our story about having them surrounded by a battalion," he said, "because they gave up. The fog helped us, because it took us a couple of hours to get them to our lines and they couldn't see how many men captured them. If they knew they were taken by only five men, they probably would have shot their way free. Of course, we never knew we had 41 prisoners either, until the fog lifted and we counted them."

The Editor of the Taro Leaf will give a free (absolutely free) one year membership to the person who will give us the present whereabouts of Lt. Col. David Dillard, Div. G3 from 3/46 to 12/46.

"H & 60"

Earl W. Myers (19th) writes us from Gardena, Calif. His nostalgic note is worth reprinting so we pass it to you just as Earl wrote it.

"I was a member of the Regiment from about July 1942 until June or July 1945, 1st Battalion, under Chapman and Zierath, Harold and "Punchy" Howard as exec's. Major Howard was quite a scrapper both on and off the field of battle, as you may know. Rockhampton and the 41st found that out to their sorrow.

"I'll never forget Major Howard bullying the boys of the 3rd battalion to get up and move in when we hit the beach at Leyte. Howard was in command of the 3rd at that time and those Jap snipers were wasting their time and ammo. Shooting in his direction. It made him so mad he charged around yelling at his outfit to move up.

"I was with B company at the time. We were lead company for the 1st on that show so we landed on top of the 3rd. ('The well laid plans of mice and men often go astray'—Red Beach and Wm. Shakespeare.)

"Old soldiers never die, they just lie and lie and lie, as time goes by. But that's our privilege if we desire and who can deny it. Please don't take me serious on the truth stretching. We will leave that to the Marines."

The picture is of Robert Daniels, his wonderful wife, Dorothy, and two of their three peachy children, Brook and David Gray. Robin was Div. G1. As we go to press, Robin is away from his Benning assignment on a feather merchant's trip to the Far East. We will expect the whole family to turn out in Columbus, Dorothy.

Mel Griffin, Operations and Intelligence Sergeant of 3rd En., 21st from 8/50 to 2/51, is at the AG School at Fort Ben Harrison, Ind. Mel is anxious to hear from old 24th friends while he goes through the routine of preparing to become an instructor.

24th Infantry (Victory) Division Association
131 N. Culver
Baltimore, Md.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME.....
COMPANY AND REGIMENT OR BATTERY.....
HOME ADDRESS.....
ADDRESSES OF FELLOW VETERANS.....
REMARKS.....
DUES ENCLOSED.....
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES, \$3.00
(Includes Subscription to TARO LEAF)