

# TAROLEAF

24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

VOL. VIII NOVEMBER 1954 NO. 1



Each, a proud wearer of the Taro Leaf: MAJ. GEN. FREDERICK A. IRVING, U.S.A., Retired, JOSEPH I. PEYTON, and VICTOR BACKER on the occasion of Fred's "Farewell Review" at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York on August 30, 1954

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WHICH APPLIES TO YOU--if any at all?

If your August '54 - August '55 dues have not been paid, here's a check. Can we have one for \$3, payable to the Association, in return? Please.

If your current dues, and last year's dues too, have not been paid, the double check is yours. Over 1093 of you qualify here. That's over \$6000 when you figure it at \$6 each. We need your support, and more, we need your money, if we are to survive. A most respectful PLEASE.

A triple check means Dues, Dues, and Dues. Triple free loaders are reminded that \$9 will help to keep us going, and further, that this little old club doesn't run on pineapples and Suntori. \$\$\$\$\$\$ is what it takes.

Free loaders get the axe within 72 hours of the receipt of this issue of our poop sheet, and if you don't think we mean business this time, try us out. We'll likely be a smaller group from here on out but we'll be the better for it.

354  
Fla Grapefruit  
Bot 1811  
Cinn Ohio  
Short cutter Knife



The official publication of the 24th Infantry Division Association, published regularly in the interests of all men who have served and/or who continue to serve the United States 24th Infantry Division.

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Kenwood Ross Editor  
1387 Main Street, Springfield, Mass.

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Robert J. Duff (Div Hq)  
Victor Backer (34th)



Another convention has come and gone and this year's gathering of the clan at Washington, D.C. will be long rembered. There, in mid August, history came alive in vivid fragment and with poignant meaning for Taro Leafers.

From the most impressive ceremony on Friday afternoon, led by REV. LAMAR S. CLARK (19) at the grave of the beloved MAJ. GEN. KENNETH F. CRAMER (Div Hq) to the official convention closing following the Saturday evening banquet, things were popping.

On Saturday AM, Prexy VIC BACKER (34) led his cohorts through the White House, just three blocks away from the Hotel Statler, the CP for the conventioning 24th'ers.

At the Saturday evening "formal session" in the Statler's Congressional Room, all hands felt no little pride as our own MAJ. GEN. FRED IRVING (Div Hq) accepted the Netherlands Government's award from the hands of Rear Admiral William Koudys, the Naval Attache at the Netherlands Embassy. The feeling was deeper, if such was possible, as Fred Irving accepted the award in the name of those veterans of the Division who had made the New Guinea invasion back in April of '44.

To the convention committee, ably chairmanned by JOE PEYTON (Sv 19th), and including HARRY ANAMATERO (34th), BILL CRUMP (Div Hq), CECIL SISK (34th), TOM CHACONAS (34th), JOE DEMICHELE (19th), NICK SLOAN (21st), JIM THOMPSON (21st), and BILL VERBECK (21st), we toss our best salute for trying to anticipate our every need and for →

## COAST TO COAST

Prexy JOE PEYTON (19th) wants to talk and, he being the boss, of course we're letting him. Here's what he has to say: "As my first official act, as President of the Association, I want to take this occasion to thank each of you, who took part, in bestowing this honor upon me.

"As your President, it will be my duty to make decisions, that will further advance our organization. This year, the slate of officers that you selected is a completely new slate. I beg your patience with us, and trust that you will give to us, the same whole-hearted support that you have given your officers in the past. If we all do our share, no matter how small, I know, that the Association will be stronger by next Convention time.

"I want to congratulate your '53-'54 officers. Their job was "well done". All of you who attended the "7th" in Washington, D. C. will agree with me on that score. I was thrilled by the turn-out. My biggest thrill was, when over 50 of our members journeyed to Arlington Cemetery, and held services at the grave of our First Association's President, Major General KENNETH CRAMER. That act of honor, to one of our Division's former commanders, proved to me that our Association is a great one. It further proved that the forming of our Association was a great accomplishment. It has encouraged us, to keep alive the friendships that were welded during combat years with the Division.

"That we may keep our Association growing, it is necessary that each of us do our part. Many of you have asked various officers just how you could help out. The best way that you will be helping your organization, is to be loyal in your membership commitments. Pay your little fee, please. Let this year be a year, that everyone pays his way--the same as each of you did your share, along the "road" from Hawaii to Korea.

"I am ready at any time to assist you. Just drop me a line with your problems, and I promise I will answer and help in any way possible."

OK, at ease men, it's all over. Thanks, Joe. We're right proud of you. Anyone who knows you knows how you love this little old outfit. We appreciate you all the more because of it.



The nervous young fellow was visiting a psychiatrist.

"What do you dream about at night?"

"Baseball," replied the lad.

"Don't you ever dream about anything but baseball?"

"Nope, just about baseball, night after night."

The doctor was very puzzled. Finally he asked: "Don't you ever dream about a pretty girl?" "What!" replied the young man, "and miss my turn at bat?"

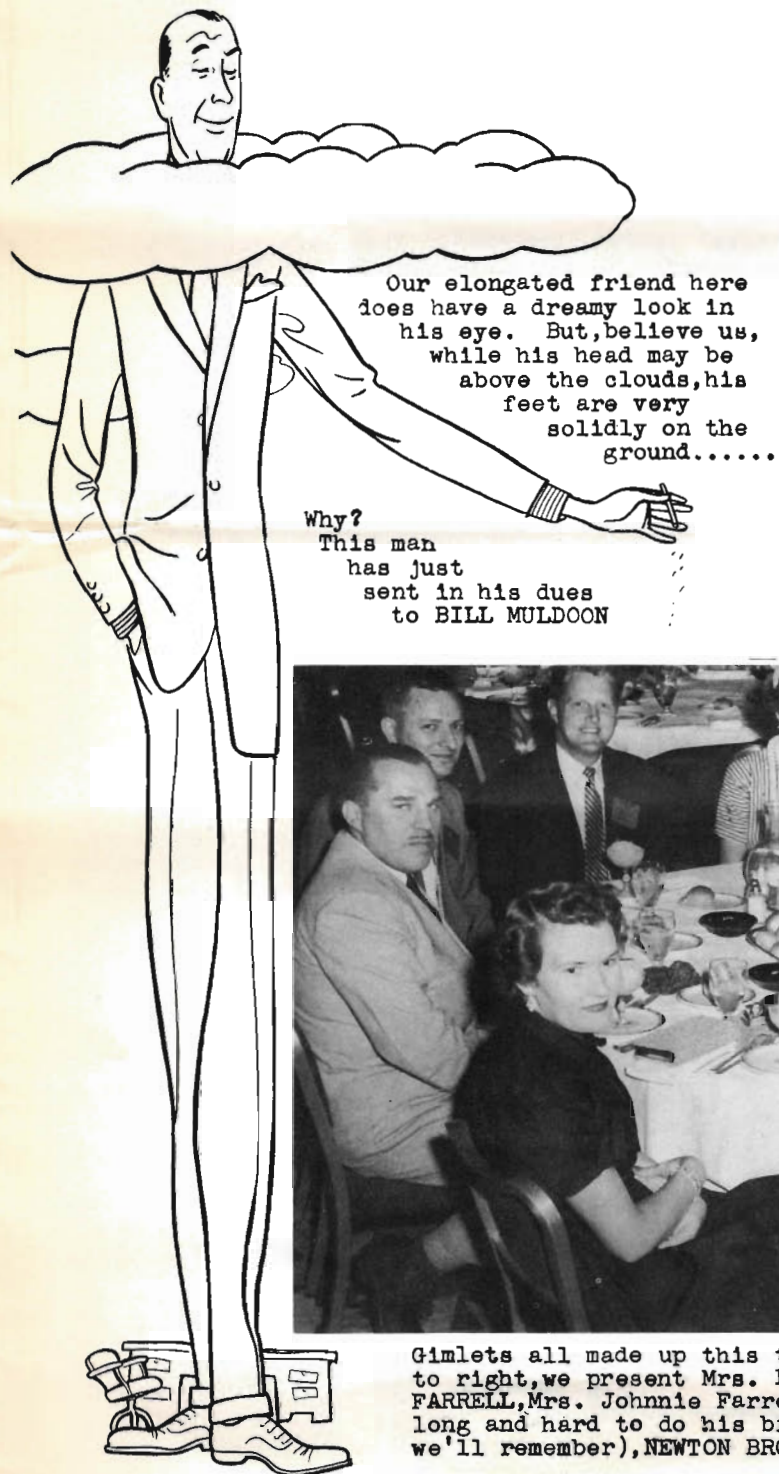
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coming so completely close to succeeding in the mission.

A special highball is due AH KEE LEONG (3E), who loaded us down with leis, woodroses, tulip boats, anthuriums, birds of paradise, and all of the other Hawaiian flowers which he brought with him from the "... .... Rock".

In a few words, the party was a great success.



FRANCIS W. POIRIER (L-19) wrote us recently and in his friendly way inquired as to why he hadn't heard from us by direct mail. The answer lies in the fact that we simply can't answer every letter that comes over our desk. We try to handle some of our correspondence by way of of news items such as this. It's nowhere near as intimate, we'll admit, but it just can't be helped. Francis is a Loyal 100 member by the way. Are we forgiven, Francis? Yes we did receive your contribution and your papers for the history. We appreciate both.....DAVE DILLARD ( Div. Hq. from 5/46 to 1/47) tells us about the Taro Leafer who approached a friend. "We're having a raffle for poor Widow Flynnn." "Will you buy a ticket?" "Nope," hiccupped the friend sadly, "My wife wouldn't let me keep her if I won."



## "Doesn't everybody?"

Hungarian actress Gabrielle D'Arcy, complaining that English is a hard language, says: "I am still haffing troble wid my propositions." That's nothing, honey. So are we.....PAUL C. DUNCAN (63rd), now practicing law in Oklahoma City writes: "Major Everette Woodruff, formerly Captain Woodruff of the 52nd dropped in on his way from civilian life to active duty status at Fort Sill for a two weeks tour of duty. As a civilian he owns and operates a drug store at Crawfordville, Ark. From his conversation, I gathered that he spent most of his time fishing. "David Cook, formerly Captain in the 63rd, recently won the nomination for County Judge in Seminole County, Okla. Since they don't allow Republicans around there to vote, this means that David will soon be Judge. His home town is Wewoka.

"Joseph Berna, formerly Warrant Officer, 63rd, has been with my law firm for a number of years, but I don't know whether his whereabouts have ever been made public. He is our Office Manager.

"Everette Woodruff said he had never received the "Taro Leaf" so I am taking the one that just came in and mailing it to him because he promised to sign up as a member as soon as he got the necessary information."

That's a peachy report, Paul; many thanks.. ....A professor assigning homework told his class to read chapter 12 but skip chapter 13. The next day he asked a coed if she was prepared to recite. "Well," she answered, "I didn't read chapter 12, but I skipped chapter 13."



Gimlets all made up this table at the Statler. Reading from left to right, we present Mrs. Phil Irons, JIM THOMPSON, NICK SLOAN, JOHNNIE FARRELL, Mrs. Johnnie Farrell, JOHN D. MAYER, BILL VERBECK (who worked long and hard to do his bit to help make the Washington meeting one we'll remember), NEWTON BROWNING, Mrs. Newton Browning, and PHIL IRONS.





A happy group of banqueting "Chicks" looked like this. From left to right it's BILL SAVELL, FISHER AMES, BILL GRESKO, Mrs. William Gresko, Mrs. Leo Davignon, LEO DAVIGNON, Association President JOE PEYTON, BOB LUHRSON, WALT REDFIELD, and CARL SHANK.

## THE SOUND AND THE FURY

Maj. Gen. PAUL D. ADAMS (Div. Hq. Cg-1952) reviewed "General Dean's Story" by our own WILLIAM F. DEAN (Div. Hq.) in the July issue of Combat Forces Journal. He described it as a story "of brilliant leadership and outstanding heroism on the field of battle, combined with unflinching and enduring courage and fortitude during his years of captivity". There's nothing like keeping this business in the family; here we have the perfectly delightful experience of one Taro Leafer reviewing another Taro Leafer's book. If you haven't bought your copy, you had better do so today. The Viking Press, Inc. published it. The price: \$5.

And Now For The 5 O'Clock News Flashes-As We Go

To Press.....Mrs. Vivian Meyer sent on to Washington some very cleverly painted plates which carried the Division theme. You were thoughtful to think of us Vivian and we only regret that you couldn't make it in person. And too, friend LEO CREAMER was missed. Vivian, the plates and ash trays were displayed for all to see and the interest in them was sincere. We steered away from the idea of selling them however as we're doing all in our power to avoid creating the impression that all we do is try to work up schemes for making an extra buck. Vivian, if these members will pay their dues, that will be enough for us. Please accept our apologies for not answering directly. The mail has piled up on us and there just isn't enough time in the day to reply to each and every letter we receive. Thanks again, Vivian and Leo.

*The final word on money matters: money matters.*

# Want out?

Then don't pay those  
dues, if you owe them





Here's the head table at the Saturday night banquet (August 14th) at the Washington Statler. Reading from right to left (a little innovation we picked up in Japan), you can perhaps recognize EDMUND F. HENRY (Div Hq), onetime Association president; Mrs. John McNeely, widow of CAPT. JOHN McNEELY (19th) who gave his life to the cause on Red Beach, Leyte on Oct. 20, 1944; VICTOR BACKER (34th), retiring Association president; Mrs. Mildred Purcell, wife of Jim Purcell who is also in the picture; ALVA A. CARPENTER (Div Hq), Master of Ceremonies; MAJ. GEN. FREDERICK A. IRVING (Div Hq), Honor Guest of the Evening; Rear Admiral William Koudys, Naval Attache, Netherlands Embassy; Mrs. Frederick A. Irving, wife of General Irving; M. JAMES PURCELL (Sig Co & Div Hq), one of the Association's founders; Mrs. Mae Hardgrove, Chairlady of the Washington, D.C. reception committee; and your Editor



### You're on the right track

AL MILLER is writing all of his friends of Able Company, 21st in an effort to recruit them into the Assoc. You're aces, Al; many, many thanks.....The 21st Reg't. Ass'n. is made up of Dragonettes in the NYC area. Their annual dance this year is being held on Nov. 6th. For full details, contact VIC BACKER at 480 Lexington Av. N.Y.C. (Tel. Plaza 3-9095). Those boys will show you a time, believe me. They sent three platoons down to Washington for the party and they really tied one on. They are a grand bunch. ....We've had good word from GENE MANLEY (MP) out on Okinawa. He writes us about the time on Mindanao when his jeep blew up. Gene says we threatened to make him pay for it. The whole affair has completely gone from memory Gene. Refresh it, will you please.....A man brought a cocker spaniel to a vet and ordered him to cut off the dog's tail. "I want it all off," he said, "so that not even a hair of the tail remains."

"Sorry," the vet replied. "I couldn't do that to a dog. Why do you want to cut the tail from an innocent dog?"

"My mother-in-law is visiting us next month," the man replied, "and I want to eliminate any possible indication of welcome."

Ruth L. Lawson, lovely wife of COL. DICK LAWSON (Div. HQ) thoughtfully advises that Dick is now in Paris as C.O. of the Seine Area Command. Ruth expects to join him there. Best of good wishes to you wonderful people.....

The gal had overindulged at the party and as she and her boy friend drove along she had an attack of the DT's.

"Look! Look!" she screamed. "There's a snake crawling up the glass of the car!" Answered her sophisticated boy friend, "Yah, yah. It's a joost vun ov dem vinshield vipers."

We need pictures for the Division History. Full credit line will be given for each one used. Glossy prints, 4 x 6 or larger, are preferred... Best memories for BILL LLEWELLYN (34th) are of the fish fries put on by his A & P Platoon near Davao. They would dynamite the fish into submission and bring them in by the basketful..... For every man 85 years old, there are 7 women; but it's too late then.....

The recently enacted legislation which allows \$2.50 per diem benefits to American military personnel captured in the Korean hostilities has several application deadline dates. For example, discharged living ex-POWS have until Aug. 21, 1955 -- one year after enactment of Public Law 651 which allows the benefits -- to file their claims.

Service personnel still being held POW have one year from the date of return to the jurisdiction of the United States, whereas survivors of those in a "missing" status may file claim one year from actual date of death, or one year from the "determination of death."

Mr. L. E. Hardie of 1120 Dale Avenue SW, Massillon, Ohio writes: "I would appreciate it very much if you could give me a roster of the boys who were in Co. A 21st Inf. Reg't. with my stepson Pvt. Jack W. Baer. He was listed as missing in action July 12th 1950. There is a question about an insurance policy he had with a Co. in Texas. If you can help me in any way it will be gratefully appreciated."

We can't find any A-21 men who were in the unit on July 12, 1950. Was any member of the club an Able Company Gimlet about that time. If so, can you and will you help Mr. Hardie, please?

"Have You seen Lucille's new bathing suit?"

"No, what does it look like?"

"Well, in most places it looks like Lucille."



# The big difference is

We just caught an AP release titled "Army Needs Tougher Training and Discipline". The date line is Washington, D.C. and it begins: "Ever since Korea, a sort of counter-revolution has been going on inside the Army against nursemaiding the troops. In that bitter three year fight, the Army learned that soft, inadequately trained soldiers are the first to die. Today, the Army is seeking to translate that lesson into a program of ruggedness, tighter discipline, and hard knocks... etc...etc..." Yes sir, that's what the man said. And we've got news for the man who wrote that I'll ole piece, too; we could have told him that nine years ago. It was just nine short years ago, along about this time of the year, if memory serves, and in this instance it does, believe us, that this Army of ours started to go to pot. A chap by the name of Doolittle handed in a report on what the new Army look should look like. We have never been able to reconcile the report with the man and for a long time now we've entertained the suspicion that maybe Jimmie Doolittle never read it, much less wrote it. At any rate, it occurs to us that that's when it all began—nine years ago when, ironically enough, we had the greatest striking force the world had ever seen assembled—our insurance policy for peace—and we goofed.

What hurts us even more than the original mistake, however, is the fact that, according to the AP, it has taken the Army nine years to recognize and/or concede the error.

As aforesaid, we could have given the boys the tipoff nine years ago. The only trouble was that no one asked us.....If you're in NYC, don't miss the Museum of Modern Art. They've erected a commodious Japanese house there. It was built in Japan, disassembled and brought over here where it was reassembled. You owe it to yourself to get over and see the place if you can manage it. It kinda makes you homesick. Speaking of being homesick for Japan, one of the boys at the Washington party admitted to homesickness for Old Nippon now and then. He reports that when he gets that old, nostalgic feeling, he simply places his socks underneath his pillow before he goes to bed at night. "One or two nights of this routine", he reports, "and the old feeling goes away for a couple of months". There you have it, brother—as fine a remedy for a very common ailment as we have ever had the privilege of passing on.....Brig. Gen. HUGH CORT (Div Arty) is now at Ft. Ord, Calif. How's the weather out there, General?.....Sgt. EDGAR S. ESPLIN (F-19) is back in Orderville, Utah, his tour with a certain Division having a close connection with horses being over. Certain elements within the membership have requested that we not mention the 1st Cav. Div. by name in this paper so, as you can see, we're not.....Col. MAX GIZON (Div Hq) is back from ETO, we're happy to report. He's now with 4052 ASU, AAA & GM Ctr. at Bliss—that's in Texas in case you've forgotten. WALT OVERBECK (Div Arty Hq) writes: "If any of the fellows from Hq Btry are ever in the Cincinnati area, ask them to give me a ring. After the usual bull session, maybe we can get down to insurance which is my business." Well, that's putting it on the line, Walt; it may be scaring the very devil out of your friends as well. Let us know how many give you a ring; also how many buy.

## Periscoping the Nation

Of the many grand people who made the pilgrimage to Washington, AH KEE LEONG (3 Eng 10/41 to 2/45) travelled the greatest distance. Not only did he bring himself but he thoughtfully brought boxes of flowers all the way from Honolulu. We are very grateful to you Lee.....From D.C., the following showed up and joined in the fun: M.J. ANAMATEROS (QM from 6/50 to 9/51), FISHER AMES, ALVA A. CARPENTER (Div Hq), HUGH CLINGMAN, DICK LEWIS, LARRY SELKOWITZ (Div Band from 2/43 to 11/45), CECIL SISK (34th), and WILLIE R. SMITH (B19).

The "Suburban Urban" THROMs (34th & Div Hq) journeyed all the way from Hot Springs, Ark. to make another of the get-togethers. Urb has made every party we've had with the exception of Baltimore and 'Frisco.....And speaking of the west coast, JIM HASKINS of La Mesa, Calif. was with us to answer the roll.....BOB SCHLATTER (G21) represented Connecticut for the 5th year and faithful BILL SAVELL (Sv 19) was on hand to speak out in Florida's behalf as the necessity arose.

Yes, there was the usual enthusiasm on the part of so many conventioneers as to what work they're going to do in the Association's behalf once they get home and recoup. It's been a funny kind of chemical change that has taken place each year in the past. We've come to identify it as a "post-convention metamorphosis". We spend a few hours once a year with so many eager-beaver nice guys that we allow ourselves to be kidded into the belief that "this year, we'll go places; we've got some workers out whacking the bushes". We've pepped ourselves up again this year by virtue of the displays of vim and vigor that were so obvious on all floors of the Statler. Of course, this could be OUR YEAR. Our fingers are crossed.

More than 400 First Cav boys met in Washington two weeks after we did. They spent considerable time in letting the D/A know that one'd like their Division to be kept active when it returns to this country from Korea shortly. They want the old outfit to be retained in the active service as an infantry division. It'll likely be a come-down for them if they get their wish. They opposed making an armored unit out of the outfit that performed "such cavalry-type roles as the reconnaissance in the Admiralties, the dash to Manila, the break-out at Pusan, and the link-up at Inchon". Brother, do those boys have a smooth machine.....Illinois was represented at our Washington party by ten stalwarts: CHET ANBREZAK (Cn 21)—his 4th; TOM COMPERE (Div Hq)—who has missed only our '49 clambake in NY; JOE DISANTO (Sv 19)—his 3rd convention; JOHN KUREK (34th)—his 4th; HENRY MARINELLO (19th)—another 4th timer; F.W. MENNEMEYER (G 21)—up for his 3rd time; GEORGE NEBECK (E 34)—a first time repeater; JAMES M. "Spike" O'DONNELL (G 21)—who has made every affair except 'Frisco; ANGELO STRADA (C 21)—a four time convention man; and JOHNNIE TRINGA (C 21)—out for his third convention year. We are grateful for the Illinois gang for contributing so much to make this year's meeting the success which it was.....The assorted heiresses who have married and divorced Porfirio Rubirosa ought to have one conviction in common: Rubis are more expensive than diamonds.....We're at your service with this one: Seriously disabled war veterans discharged before October 21, 1951 have only until October 20th of this year to make application for the \$1600 automobile grants authorized by Congress.



## Shadow of Things to Come

"I always said that the Air Force was progressive", I told the old master sergeant when the news of that service's decision to do away with KP's reached me. "It's a great step forward for the cause of humanity".

"Wait a minute, sonny", he said, with seeming disregard for my remark, "You wouldn't mind givin' me a hand cleanin' out my desk this afternoon, would ya?"

"Why, no, sarge. But what's up?"

"Well, I just figured after hearin' about this KP business that the next logical step is that I gotta go. I mean, there ain't no sense keepin' me slavin' in a orderly room when what you need here is a cross between a good male secretary an' a certified public accountant. I expect the old man will be callin' me in a day or so to give me the word that somebody from an insurance company or some place is replacin' me, an' I want to get my personal stuff ready to take with me.

"An' then tonight, I got a little speech to make to the boys at guard mount. The way I look at it, they'll have their jobs taken away from 'em within a month. Pinkerton detectives is the boys to do guard jobs if you want to run an army real efficient.

"Oh yeah, one more thing-remind me to tell the cook to get ready as I got a feeling the short order cook from Max's Diner will be movin' in any day now."

"It's obvious from this not-so-subtle sarcasm," I said, "that you're not pleased with what the Air Force is doing".

"Listen, sonny," the old sergeant barked, "There's nothin' like KP to make happy soldiers."

"Sarge", I gasped, "have you gone off your three rockers?"

"No, I ain't, an' don't you get too fresh wit me, see. KP, I says, makes happy soldiers. Say a man pulls it twice a month. I admit on them two days he feels worse than a mother kangaroo with a hole in her pocket. But the other 28 days a month, he's so glad he ain't on KP that nothin' he gets told to do is too much for him. So as anybody not wearing blinkers can plainly see, KP makes soldiers happy 28 days out of the month."

"Continue", I prompted.

"Then there's the matter of grease. Pullin' KP, soldiers get to know grease on intimate terms an' there ain't nothin' like fightin' against grease to make a man of a boy", the sergeant growled.

"And somepin' else", he added, "You take a pack of soldiers in from a hard day in the field or a bunch of flyers what still got clouds clingin' to their ears, an' in they come for chow. Natchally they get talkin' an' since boys will be good rowdy boys, they cuss every four words an' talk about girls every five."

"When their own boys is totin' the trays, that's OK. But when you get a bunch of little girls runnin' aroun' the place with their pink, innocent ears hangin' out, you got trouble, son, you got trouble. Either the boys is goin' to have to sit around proper as English dooks at a badminton match or else the gals will be faintin' regular and fallin' head first into the SOS."

"Sarge", I said, "I've got to admit that you paint a rather grim picture of the prospect of female KP's. Honestly, however, think back to the time when you were a private. Wasn't KP one of the worst trials in your life?"

"Sonny", he said, "If there's anythin' worse God ever put on earth except a skinny woman, I don't know what it could be", and as he spoke, a look of painful memory swept across his face.

## APPROVED SOLUTIONS

JOE BADARACCO (Div Hq), our amiable '53 convention chairman out in St. Louis proposes that Taro Leafers in various cities group together and sponsor one of their number for the '55 gathering. The man would be drawn by lot and would represent his local group at the convention. In this way, Joe argues in his usual logical fashion, most city groups would be sure of representation. It's a right smart idea, Joe; we'll develop it....

.....Then there was the African king who had a beautiful golden throne. He had to go away for a couple of weeks to visit a neighboring tribe and was afraid that someone would steal it while he was gone. So, enlisting the help of his son, the African boosted and shoved the throne up to a position on the rafters in his grass hut where no one could see it. Forthwith, he was off to see the neighbors and was gone about two weeks. When he returned, he was so glad to be back that he threw a small ball to celebrate. The people came from all around and they sang and danced and stamped their feet until the very ground shook. The grass hut shook, too, and the golden throne came tumbling down out of the rafters and smashed six tribesmen just flatter than flounders. And the moral is: People who live in grass houses shouldn't stow thrones.....It's good news from the 101st A/B Div at Ft. Jackson where C.W.O. EUGENE J. PAPI (Div Band) is Bandmaster. We can't quite picture you jumping, Gene; that we gotta see. Gene recently won first and second place in a Third Army musical composition contest. His two marches, "Musical Progress" and "The Pentagon" (When it comes to polishing apples, this boy goes right to the top, as you can see) won him \$150 and a certificate of



C.W.O.

EUGENE

J.

PAPI

(DIV BAND)



accomplishment signed by the 3rd Army CG. Gene has written over 65 compositions in all architectural forms for both band and orchestra. Gene will always have a warm spot in our foolish heart; he proved a true friend in our hour of need years ago when we both wore the Taro Leaf. ....Want your handwriting read? Believe in graphology? Can you afford two bits to obtain a revealing outline of your personality? Send a specimen of your handwriting together with 25¢ and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Regina, PO Box 226, Allenhurst, N.J. and you'll receive a dandy of an analysis. There's something to it, boys; don't sell it short.....ED HENRY (Div Hq) and JAMES "Spike" O'DONNELL (G-21st) have made every single convention. That's quite a record; it doesn't prove such a heck of a lot but it shows that these two gents know where to go for a good time once a year.....





And below, this contribution from Chaplain CHRIS J. BERLO (19)----Waianae Avenue at Schofield Barracks

A good row of good people having a good time at our last convention banquet--l. to r.- BOB CARMODY (D and Hq & Hq 21), Mrs. Robert Carmody, Mrs. Cecil Sisk, CECIL SISK (34), and REV. CHARLES J. BRADY (21)



DOMINICK D. FALZARENO announces the arrival of a son William last March 6th. Dom and Jean, his wife, have one other son Dom, Jr., age 3. They have just moved from Herkimer to a new home in Illion. It sound like things are moving up there in N.Y. state, Dom..... EUGENE BRENNAN (C-21 '51-'52) has just joined up. He's a Sgt. at 351 AFA Bn., Wyo. NG., Rawlins, Wyo. Gene says he was delighted to hear from us and asks for news on SIDNEY GOODMAN, Grenadier Platoon, 21st in '51-'52) from Memphis. We can't help you here, Gene, but we'll print the good word for you.



A hillbilly came to town carrying a jug of liquor in one hand and a shotgun in the other. He stopped a man on the street, saying, "Here, friend, take a drink outa my jug."

The man protested he didn't drink. The hillbilly leveled his shotgun at the stranger and said, "Drink."

The stranger drank, then he shuddered, shook, shivered and coughed. "Gad, that's awful stuff."

"Ain't it?" said the hillbilly. "Now hold the gun on me until I take a gulp."



We liked the theory presented by Mr. Guy Emery, Cpl. Edward S. Dickinson's attorney at Dickinson's recent court martial in Washington. Mr. Emery worked hard on the idea that a court martial was resorted to "only after all other disciplinary measures had failed." We have seen many, many instances where it was obvious that the court was not a last resort.

# What have you got to lose

We were happy to see that ALVA CARPENTER (Div. Hq.) led the questioning as the Chief Counsel of the Jenner Committee when Gen. Mark Clark testified before it last summer, and that he also led when the committee went to Florida to talk with Lt. Gen. George Stratemeyer.

There were those who will say it would have been best to let sleeping dogs lie. We notice that those who take refuge in this old saw are usually the ones likely to be embarrassed.

It is straight talking of this kind that is needed to stop political plundering in the future. Straight thinking on the part of the American people is an equal need.



ANOTHER OF BOB SOLOMON'S  
POPULAR "DO YOU REMEMBER?"  
COLUMNS; THIS MONTH,

L U Z O N

To us, Luzon was a step toward civilization. Our regiment was chosen to spearhead a new division to its baptism of fire. The landing at San Antonio Beach was uneventful. We were greeted by an American quarilla in a native canoe. That was the first time we made an invasion and rode in trucks for the first half of the journey. I am speaking for the 3rd BN as the rest of the regiment walked and we rode, to overtake them to spearhead the rest of the way to Olongapo. What natives we encountered, spoke English quite well. The first day brought us to Subic, a desolate town. The towns here on Luzon were like those on Leyte, except larger, and the road was a good macadam. The second day's march brought us to a cemetery above Olongapo, where we met minor resistance. On the third day the new Division passed us to go on alone, and our job was done, (we thought). We spent some time in Olongapo, a former Navy Base on Subic Bay, overlooking the Island of Corregidor. While in Olongapo we lived in the vacated native houses. The continued bark of our artillery afforded us little sleep and we passed the time listening to the natives serenade us with jive on their guitars. During the day there was some swimming and fishing out of the native canoes. Bataan lay across the bay and some of us had the privilege to be the first Americans to return to Bataan. In the meantime, that new Division had its trouble in Zig Zag pass and we were sent up to see if we could help out. As the situation stood, there wasn't much we could do, but on our way up we saw our first railway tracks, since leaving Australia. After a couple of futile days we went back to Olongapo. What sticks in my memory were the chickens they sent up and had to be discarded by order of the Medics. The natives used them and were no worse the wear from them.



# DISCIPLINE AND DUTY



This poop sheet had actually gone to press when the good news was flashed to us that it's no longer Colonel WILLIAM S. VERBECK (21); henceforth, he will be known as Brigadier General William S. Verbeck. We talked with Bill shortly after the wonderful news reached our ears and we feel quite safe in reporting to you that the receipt of his first star will make no changes in Bill insofar as the 24th Division is concerned. Bill's affection for our crowd and that which we represent will be unaffected now that he moves up another rung on the ladder of success. Every Association member throws you a highball, Bill old boy, sir!!!!--and, if he can sing, adds thereto two rousing choruses of "I don't wanna be a soldier; I don't wanna go to war; I'd rather stick around, picking dillies.....etc...etc...." Every good wish, Bill.

Frankly, we're not at all certain as to just what the title "Discipline and Duty" has to do with this particular news item unless it's in recognition of the fact that Bill Verbeck was and is a shining example of understood full well the meaning of both. There'll be no One who'll argue otherwise in this crowd so we'll let it go at that. Bill, it was a pleasure to tear this paper apart in order to get this item into this issue. We trust that Parkins is very proud.



## ANNOUNCING —

The commencement in our next issue in serial form —  
our own "Autobiography of a Division" —

a pictorial history of the wars and the periods between as seen from the eyes of the men of the 24th Division.

Here's the story you've waited for — one which captures the sensations of war with clarity so as to be more vividly read and preserved than a straight text.

Beginning with the 1941 organization at Scofield, the Division story unfolds in a cascade of indelible pictures that recall with equal poignancy the sounds and smells as well as the visual scenes of battle.

The photographs are brought into focus by a running commentary of text which creates a succinct and coherent story of what happened in the 24th in the last fourteen or so years.

Most combat men saw only their tiny private areas of tension and boredom explosively punctuated by sudden death. Here vivid fragments are fitted into a monumental mosaic covering all aspects of life in the Division and putting it all in sharp, balanced, historical perspective.

Most of the impact comes from the text, written mostly by the men themselves. Closely wedded to the pictures, this text is at once sharp description and lucid interpretation.

For this magnificent panorama of Hawaii, Australia, Goodenough, New Guinea, the Philippines, Japan, and Korea, not only will acquaint the reader with the more exotic and glamorous aspects of native life and customs but also will serve as a permanent record of the many unforgettable scenes witnessed by our men during the course of the fight for freedom in the Pacific.

We reasoned long ago that if a book has to be designed deliberately to please the taste of the general reading public in order to become popular, ours was doomed right now to spend its old age gathering dust on the cut-rate bargain counters.

Ours is not intended to please civilian tastes. Ours is made to order by the men who once served the Division to please others who once served that same Division and no one else. This may sound rather snobbish; actually we have no objection to others reading our book. The point we are making is that the average reader may find that this effort lacks the conscious effort to win the attention of a civilian audience. This is a book written by the men who made the history themselves.

Be sure that your Association membership dues are paid so that you won't miss a single issue of this series. If you're not a member of the Association and served in the 24th Division at one time so as to be eligible for membership, *join today!*

The history is being sent out *free* to all members of the Association.



# T hanks for the Applause

It is with what Commencement Day speakers refer to as mingled emotions that we record the retirement of Maj. Gen. FREDERICK A IRVING (Div. Hq.) from the U.S. Army.

Many Taro Leafers gathered at West Point last Aug. 30th to pay humble tribute to Fred at a review in his honor. We have been proud of the commander who prepared us for and led us into our initial combat. His outstanding professional qualifications combined with his rare human insight and understanding have left a deep mark on each of us and have endeared him to us forever. His courageous pattern for the conduct of warfare in the orient set a high standard for the tactical employment of the Division which remained to guide our subsequent actions throughout the Philippine Islands and in due time in Korea, the results of which are now inscribed upon the pages of military history. We salute Fred Irving whose leadership forged the Taro Leaf into the "Victory Division"

We're right proud of West Point's new superintendent -- Lieut. Gen. BLACKSHEAR M. BRYAN (Div. Hq.). It takes a Taro Leaffer to replace a Taro Leaffer. All good and warm wishes to forward to you, General Bryan.....The last we heard of CHARLIE KOWALSKI (C-21) was from Monterey, Calif. He wanted an assignment at West Point. We passed the word along, Charlie, did it do an good?

BOB GERRY (21) sends us this riddle: three middle-aged women are sitting in a box at a baseball park. At their feet is an empty whiskey bottle. Question: What inning is it and how many men are on base?

Give up?

Answer: It's the end of the fifth. And the bags are loaded.

We were taken to task at the Washington party for having given play in a recent issue to some general's offer to pay \$100 to the first NCO "who punches Pvt. G. David Schine in the nose". We think we're entitled to a word in our own defense.

Firstly, don't get us wrong. If ever a private in the Army had a punch coming to him, it was (and is), in our opinion, G. David Schine of "butterscotch ice cream" fame.

We have consistently taken a dim view of G.D.S. But we have taken an even dimmer view of the general and his publicity seeking offer.

No one can deny that it wasn't conduct becoming a general. That was our point when we last wrote on the subject; nothing has happened since to force us to revise the idea.

It was raining pitchforks as a motorist stepped into a small restaurant and sat down. As the waitress came in for the order, he glanced out the window and said, "This looks like that big flood,"

"The what?" asked the girl.

"The big flood. Haven't you read about the flood and the ark landing at Mt. Ararat?"

"Gee, mister," replied the waitress, "I haven't seen a paper all week."

FRED SHINKLE (D-21) wired us just before the convention that Pittsburgh was anxious to have us come there for our '55 get together. Thanks, very much Fred--the '55 decision just hasn't been made yet. We hope to have it by the time of the next issue.....Mudpacks may be okay, but they haven't done much for pigs.....The American Legion Magazine recently published an item written by CARL C. WINERIP (19th). Carl wrote about Red Beach, Leyte, on Oct. 20, 1944. Just before he left Hollandia, he saw a movie featuring Jimmy Durante (we remember it well and for the same reason Carl did). Throughout the picture, the Proboscis sang a wistful little tune that went:

"Did you ever have the feeling that you wanted to go?"

"Then did you get the feeling that you wanted to stay?"

One of the "Doughfeet" in his outfit, "Red" by nomenclature - was a red-haired freckled kid with a sizable nose who imitated Durante. "Red" and Carl went over the side together and into an LCM. The Japs were pouring it on as the team moved in on the 5th wave. Pointing back to the APA they had left minutes before, and then pointing forward to the enemy shoreline, Red jutted forth his profile Durante style, grinned ironically, and gave forth with: "Did you ever have the feeling that you wanted to go?" "Then did you get the feeling that you wanted to stay?" They song -- and the man who sang it -- helped to ease the way.

Commencing with our next issue, a supplement will appear in each issue of the Taro Leaf. The long awaited Division History will make its appearance -- in serial form.

The size of the inserts depends on the speed with which delinquent members pay their dues. Over \$12,000 is outstanding in accounts receivable. Some will argue that in view of this, we've got a hole in the head for trying to underwrite the expense of the Division History.

But we love this Association and more, the Division for which it stands. We have an abundance of faith in the membership and believe that with this offer, this inducement to carry on with us for another year will outweigh all other considerations. If we're wrong -- if we've misjudged you, time will soon tell.

Meantime, this

"An Autobiography of a Division" written by the men themselves.



Following the convention, C.M. HOUSER (21) and Mildred stopped off to see CHARLIE BRENNEMAN and MEL GERHART, two more Gimlets, on their way back to Pittsburgh. C.M. was prevailed upon to mix up a "batch" of his specialty, creamed beef on toast. C.M. believes some of you may get a craving for S.O.S once again and accordingly sends along his recipe as his own contribution to what we hope will someday mature into a Women's Page. C.M. writes: "Delicious and easy-to make creamed hamburger is sure to become a family favorite. It is very economical too. Brown the hamburger in a little fat in a frying pan. Add seasonings, including minced onion, and cook a few minutes longer. Sprinkle a little flour over the meat, stir, and brown.

"Add milk, a little at a time, until the desired consistency is reached, stirring and cooking slowly. Serve over rice, hot biscuit, toast, boiled or baked potatoes, or sweet potatoes for a treat.".....

Elsewhere, we have carried the news that Col. OLIVER E. (for Eversharp) TRECHTER (Div Hq.) formerly Deputy CO of Base Section, Com. Z in France was retiring. We'd like to know where you are over here, Trech, now that you're back. Please let us hear from you.



#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Bill Muldoon  
212 Webster  
West Newton, Mass.

I desire to start/renew my membership in the 24th Infantry Division Association and thereby enjoy the many benefits of continuing to be associated with other members and former members of that Great Outfit.

Enclosed please find \$3.00 for my yearly dues.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street & No. \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_

Former Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

Our patricularly good friend Lt. Col. ROBERT J. DANIELS (Div. Hq.) now with the 22nd Inf. in Germany has written us a long letter which we quote liberally from as follows:

"Just a brief note to advise you that the Clan Daniels are still around and in good health. Inasmuch as the "Taro Leaf" seems to reach us from time to time over her in Germany I can only presume that all goes well with you.

"It has been so long since I last paid my dues .....well, I just can't remember when. Please find enclosed a check for \$3.00. Needless to say, we enjoy the "Leaf" ever so much and I pass it from hand to hand until it gets well-worn.

"We have a new regimental commander here in the 22d Infantry. He is an old Kumamoto hand by the name of Max L. Schneider. No doubt you remember him well.....Max arrived here about 2 weeks ago from the G-3 Section of Seventh Army. We expect to do great things together. So far all we've done has been to punch around a few bottles of Old Granddad.

"Am enclosing also a clipping indicating the retirement of the grand gent, Colonel Oliver "Eversharp" Trechter. As you can see by his picture he has lost none of the fire and spirit we knew so well. And as he used to say, "Ross, let's get that buttoned up!" with a firm grip on that seegar of his! Had a note from him last week....he is turning into Walter Reed for a final physical and retirement. He sailed from Bremerhaven on 3 July so if you get down to Washington way look him up. He is a top-notch guy and the Army will sorely miss these old "fire horses".

"I read in "Stars & Strips" that Brig. Gen. Aubrey "Red" Newman is functioning over here as the Asst. Div. Commander of the 5th Division. Also Stan Meloy is now CG of the 1st Inf. Division and is wheeling and dealing. Fred Jackson, former "Sheriff" of Kumamoto is now a Lt. Col. and is in the G3 Section of Seventh Army.

"So much for the ex-24th-er's. Dottie and the kids are all quite well and happy.

"Can't say that there is much more news. They keep the troops hopping over here. We leave next week for 6 weeks field training at Grafenwohr training area.....never a dull moment!"

The New Yorker magazine never prints any cartoons about two-headed people. That's why Charles Addams' cartoon wasn't accepted. It showed a two-headed boy at a telephone, surrounded by circus paraphernalia, and saying: "Hello, Ma. I got the job."

HERMAN C. CARSTENSEN (3E) expects to be finished with his present tour in Italy in October. Where to next, Herman? Herman fondly recalls the year 1946 when the Division was building its own quarters on Kyushu. He reminds us that a total of 60,000 were employed as construction workers at Kokura, Beppu, Hakata, Saseho, and Kummomoto.....We thought well enough of this one to print it here for you and we hope you like it:

"So you met your wife at a dance! Wasn't that romantic?"

"Hell, no. I thought she was home taking care of the kids."

Forty years they had been hitched, and 40 years she had made the living; then he died. The thrifty widow instructed that his body be cremated and the ashes delivered to her. Carefully placing them in an hourglass she set it on the mantel, sat down to rock and said: "Now, you worthless bum, at last you're going to work."



TARO LEAF

24th Infantry Division Assoc.

212 Webster St.

West Newton, Mass.



Samuel Y. Gilner,  
78 Palisade Ave.,  
Bogota,  
N. J.

Form 3547 Requested

## INCOMPARABLE

In a recent Book of the Month bulletin appeared this excellent review of Maj. Gen. WILLIAM F. DEAN'S new book "General Dean's Story." So adequate a review it is that we are taking the liberty of copying it verbatim. Here it is:

"The impression one carries away from this book is of a fine personality, a man of modesty, sincerity and humility. That he is also a soldier who has won the affection of his men and the commendation of his Government is knowledge one is more likely to learn from others than from Maj. Gen. William F. Dean. 'If the story of my Korean experiences is worth telling,' he says, 'the value lies in its curiosity, not in anything brilliant or heroic. There were heroes in Korea, but I was not one of them. There were brilliant commanders, but I was a General who was captured because I took a wrong road.' His story here is told without any attempt at self-dramatization. The first part briefly summarizes his assignment to Korea, his early experience there and his capture by the enemy; the second and far greater part recounts his experiences as a prisoner of the Communists. Newspaper reports and General Dean's own statements have made his life under duress too familiar to necessitate outline here. The mere facts that he was released from prison camp hardly more than a shadow of himself, and that while there he attempted suicide (he has recently said that under similar circumstances he would try it again and this time not fail) are enough to indicate the nature of his chronicle. General Dean is not the man to indulge in heroics nor one to refuse just appraisal when it is due the enemy. 'The most important discovery to me,' he says, 'was that the ordinary Communists who guarded me and lived with me really did believe that they were following a route toward a better life for themselves and their children.' And, he concludes, if we are to prevail against them, 'we must present a better world than the Communists...and must, each of us, really know the things for which we fight.' He is in deadly earnest about it."

Dining and wining  
Dragons-- l. to r.  
SAM SNYDER, ROSS  
PURSIFULL, VIC  
BACKEE, and J.W.  
JALLOWAY



JAMES COGBURN (E-19) of Huron, Tenn. seems to live on trouble. He was a POW. When he got back, he found that wife, Ava, had married another fellow. Here was Enoch Arden all over again. Ava asked for a divorce so as to remarry husband #2 saying that she didn't love Jim, #1 boy. So -- the divorce. And now Jim is in more trouble. This summer, he ran for sheriff of Henderson County, polling only 100 out of 3000 votes. A few hours after the count, the Police Chief and a patrolman were shot down in Lexington, Tenn. The patrolman died without saying anything. "Cogburn id it" said the Chief before collapsing. Later, Jim Cogburn and his brother, Roy, were captured by state troopers. We'll give you more details as we get them.....We see where DON LeGAY (19th) was presented a son by wife, Constance, down at Valley Forge Army Hospital recently. Don was the first American POW to return a year and a half ago, you'll recall. Best wishes, kids.....A concert was being held in the schoolroom of a Scottish village, and it was Sandy's turn to give his bagpipe solo. When he had finished and the applause had died down, a voice from the back shouted: "Now Sandy, give us Annie Laurie." "What?" asked Sandy, surprised and flattered "Again?"