

TAROLEAF

24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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CHICAGO — 57 MEETING PLACE

T A R O L E A F

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

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President, ROSCOE CLAXON (724thOrd)
Stamping Ground, Ky.

Sec'y.-Treas., EDMUND HENRY (Div.Hqs.)
21 Park St., Attleboro, Mass.

Editor, KENWOOD ROSS (Div.Hqs.)
1387 Main St., Springfield, Mass.

We take particular pride in this "Hail to the Chief" for ROSCOE CLAXON was one of our boys during the days when together we wore the Taro Leaf.

Roscoe is now our President and we look forward to a vigorous and prosperous administration.

The presidency is an executive office.

How any president, be he president of this Association or president of these United States, will carry out his duties must depend on his own concept of the right way to manage affairs.

From what we know of Roscoe, and we know him quite well, his concepts are sound.

There are all types of presidents--those who generate white heat and high pressures. Those who subscribe to the calm school of efficiency, and good and bad compromises therebetween.

First rate men get things done in various ways, each according to his temperament. Mr. Churchill as Britain's Chief Executive was never one to appear to be in a hurry or to seem the least agitated, at least on the surface.

Abraham Lincoln was not much on ranting and chewing the scenery.

Other executives seemed incapable of functioning except in the midst of alarms where every difference of opinion had to become a knock-down and drag out fight with the devil ending like an Elizabethan drama with political bodies littering the national stage.

In the past there have been executives of various types in the White House and in the high chair of leader of our Association.

We look forward to an excellent stewardship during Roscoe's year. He will be an excellent executive, thoroughly well liked by all who know him and one who will consistently underplay his role.

His steady patience and his refusal to get excited will stand him in good stead.

Here is a rather mild character who never seems particularly busy, but who has a talent for getting things done.

Mr. President, we salute you and pledge you our all.

FM FAIRLY STUPID MYSELF,
BUT I HAVE A LOT OF VERY
INTELLIGENT HELP

Loretta Rafter, wife of MIKE RAFTER cochairman of the '57 Chicago convention has agreed to function as Convention Correspondent, for which we are very, very grateful. You can reach her at 3901 W. Belden Street, Chicago.

We're so sure you'll like it-

At the recent observance of the Philippine Republic's 10th Independence Day, Defense Secretary Jose Cristal offered a good-natured code of behavior for Americans toward his country.

To U.S. military advisers: Don't "inspect" our operations, "observe" them.

To economic advisers: Don't "approve" a project, "concur" in it.

To tourists: Don't call us "Asiatics," because we are "Asians"; don't call us "natives," because we are "Filipinos."

To historians: Don't say Magellan "discovered" us, say he "visited" us. Don't call the Philippine-American war an "insurrection," and don't call the patriots who fought it "bandits."

To Congressmen: Don't "give" aid, "offer" it.

To Americans in general: Don't talk to us about the "strength" of the U.S., talk to us about "heart."

Going to
the '57
Convention?



"And then, about six months ago,
my wife's yakkity-yak started making sense to me."

ART HORNBECK (52F) really carries this thing to the limit; he lives at 24 Division St., Amsterdam, New York...BILL HINTERHOFF (Div. Arty) is off to Formosa leaving lovely wife Lynn and those wonderful kids in Detroit. The family will get together again at Christmas--in Formosa. We missed a wonderful opportunity to spend a day with them while they vacationed in Vermont this summer. And now they won't be back for two years...Plan now on being with us in Chicago next August, all of you who can make it...GENE PAPI (Div.Band) is now retired and is living at 116 Broadhead St., Duryea, Pa. We're wishing you a long and happy retirement, Papi.

IN BASKET

Major ED FARMER (21st) is back from Hqs. V Corps and is now stationed with the Calif. Mil. Dist. with Hqs. at The Presidio, S.F. We're glad you're back home again, Ed...BILL MCKENNA writes us from Albany, Calif. on the stationary of Canada Dry Ginger Ale, Inc. of Berkeley, Calif. We don't know for sure but either Bill is working for these people or he stole the stationary. In either event Bill, thank for the note and give your very lovely wife a "Hello" for us. Bill's at 1036 Evelyn, Albany, Calif. in case you want to write.

REPORTER AT LARGE

"The past is prologue". August in New York came and went but not until a good group of us had taken over the Hotel Biltmore to pay our deserving respects to outgoing President VICTOR BACKER (34th) and to name his successor for the year ahead in the person of ROSCOE CLAXON (724th Ord.).

Generals FREDERICK IRVING and ANTHONY McAULIFFE graced the get-together with their presence and brought to us glowing reminders of the Division's past.

At the general business meeting, the old staff gracefully bowed out and the new staff moved in. The clambake, coinciding with the month of making presidential candidates, it put us in mind of the wit who wrote that the making of a President is like the making of a sausage: it's all right so long as you don't see either made.

The making of Roscoe Claxon as our new president was all part of a turbulent and exciting drama, replete with secret comings and goings, strategems and wiles, midnight caucuses and sub-rostrum huddles.

When the time for the voting arrived, to a man the choice was heartily and unenthusiastically endorsed. No one thought of nominating a Joe Smith to give Roscoe a run for it; no former president had the audacity to charge that Roscoe couldn't win if he ran. There was complete unanimity throughout the convention hall. The position of the assembled brethren was pristine clear.

Roscoe--that lovable farmer from Stamping Ground, Kentucky--who probably has more genuine friends in the Association than any other member thereof, was--and IS--our boy for the year ahead.

He will be aided and abetted by ROBERT GEARY (21st) as Vice President, EDMUND HENRY (Div.Hq.) as Secretary-Treasurer, and a Taro Leaf Editor who can best be left unmentioned.

There's the team: now watch us move out to make this one the most glorious in the Association's history.

We could trot out our adjectives and line them up into sentences, two by two, like Noah's animals entering the ark and they would not begin to describe the New York gathering.

Space doesn't permit too much lingering on the event. We started this little report with "The past is prologue"--and so it is with the '56 convention. Those of you who were there know who was there, who said what to whom, who has "aged since we last met," who has "grown fet", etc., etc. Those of you who weren't there, we suspect, would prefer to look ahead to the August '57 reunion which you might make, God-willing, when we collect ourselves together in Chicago.

HAVE YOU
SIGNED UP A
NEW MEMBER?

ive suggestion for improvement that we may continue to hope someday to produce a Taro leaf acceptable to all.

Don't be
OBNOXIOUS
leave that to me---

FRESH IDEA!

"Bartender," said the man at the rail, "this is my talking dog. I'll sell him to you for \$10."

"Will you stop with that talking dog stuff?" growled the bartender. "Who do you think you're kidding?"

Suddenly the dog looked up, tears in his eyes. "Please buy me, sir," he pleaded. "This man is cruel -- never buys me a decent meal -- never gives me a bath -- why, I was once the richest trick dog in America."

"I performed before kings. I was in the WAGS during the war and was decorated five times!"

"Hey," cried the bartender, "he does talk! Why sell a dog like that for \$10?"

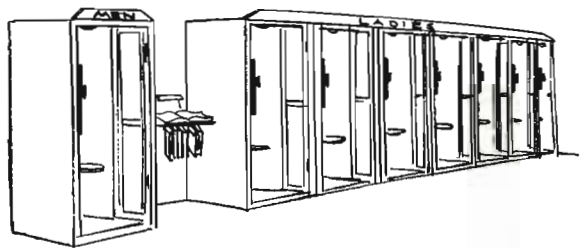
"Because," said the customer, "I'm sick to death of his lying!"



At New York, it was suggested that we commence "immediately with the next issue of the Taro Leaf" and tell you about the next convention. A check of the record shows that we've been doing precisely that every year since 1948. Be that as it may, we're now directed to start "talking-up" without delay the next gathering of the clan. OK. For the record therefore, and more because we're enthused and want to pass some of that excitement on to you, be advised that the 24th Infantry Division Association meets next in Chicago--at a time and a place to be announced.

PERSONALIA

JAMES M. O'DONNELL (21st), better known to us all as "Spike, God's gift to the working girl" will chairman the event. Need we really say any more. For doubtees, however, we would repeat Spike's own promise that JUNIOR HARRIS (21st) will be on hand too. That should settle it right there: Chicago in '57 is a must.



advance. Captain DENHAM'S exemplary courage, perseverance, and gallant leadership reflect credit on himself and uphold the esteemed traditions of the military service





HIGHLIGHTS

To put this issue to bed without a reference to our two-time President VICTOR BACKER (34th) who has now gone out to pasture in Grand Central Palace, N.Y.C., where he resumes the habit of ~~being~~ would be to show an utter lack

Views of Our Readers

Members of our Association are invited to submit short communications expressing their opinions, or giving information, as to any matter of possible interest to our members. The right is reserved to select the communications which will be published and to reject others. Participation in this program is encouraged.

GEORGE B. CHINN (724Ord) is buyer for Richard's Food Market in Yuma, Ariz. He writes us a fine personal note and then goes on to say:

For the past eight years Frosty Cravens and the Mrs. have always stopped by our house in Yuma on their way to California for their vacation and in every instance we fought the war all over again. He should be taking his vacation soon in September so we should hear his pounding on the door one of these nights (here in the desert country we do our travelling by nights). Someday both of us hope to attend one of those 24th Reunion with our Mrs. I am waiting for the children to grow up a little more before we head eastward for our summer vacation.

Dean was a guest speaker last year at one of our Chamber of Commerce's luncheon in Yuma. The two military bases here keeps the town going so as a business man I certainly appreciate the trade and the influx of the military population.

AL MILLER (A-21) writes that he's ready and willing to go out and beat the bushes for new members. He's been visiting various legion posts in the hunt. Thank you Al.

BOB ENDER, 629 S. Hill St., Los Angeles writes: "I want to suggest something. Everyone clamors for a reunion in Florida, Texas, Calif., etc., but only a few know the rigors involved, and also of the hundreds of hours of sweat that an active officer of the Association must donate. Because of the unstableness resulting from the Division Association touring around the country, I strongly suspect that we are falling apart at the seams. You have a good nucleus of members and workers in and around New England and I suggest that the reunion be held in New York City every year. I feel this will give us something concrete, and a backbone of members to hold the organization together. In bringing this suggestion forward I have in mind the welfare of the Association as a whole, not any particular group.

Ray Fies (H-21) who had one leg amputated as a result of Breakneck Ridge, drove from his home in Reading, Pa. to Calif. and back this past June and visited many former members of H. Co. along the way. He took four members of his family, but he did all the driving."

The big difference

We like the reply of that blond Aphrodite, Marilyn Monroe Miller when asked by a clucking newshen about that famous calendar picture: "You mean you didn't have anything on?" Mon's retort: "Oh yes, I had the radio on."

Do you let these situations bother you?

MISCELLANY

To retirement has gone BILL CRUMP (Div.Hq.) and you can reach him at 255 Brahan Blvd. San Antonio 2, Tex. We aren't sure of Bill's disability, but we know he was laid up at Walter Reed for a long while before he was boarded. We're pulling for you, Bill -- and Betty and the kids too. Best of luck.....

DO YOU KNOW

We're initiating a membership renaissance under the spirited leadership of Prexy Roscoe Claxon. His own words set the theme of this move: "The Association is embarking on a long overdue campaign to increase its membership--to bring the rank and file into its various enterprises. We want every one time 24th'er eventually to be an active member."

Quotas are being adjusted and assigned to each state and territory. Of course, this is an optimum outlook, but our sights are being set on a realistic level. We can do it. We will do it.

The month of January, 1957 is being identified as "Join 24th Association Month". By that time, state chairmen will have moved out to assure the 5000 goal by February 1st. The impact of the campaign will be felt for months to come.

The campaign promises to elevate the Association to an unprecedented level of memberships; it will pave the way for continued growth as well.

IT'S NEW

JULIAN and Carolyn MASON have a new baby girl named Jacquelin, born 3-10-56....JIM and Mary RUSSELL, 357 Grotto Ave., Pawtucket, R.I. have likewise and theirs will be known as Beth, born 2-23-56



"Listen, bud—I'm just visiting here, too. I was born and educated in Frisco!"

Twice Told Tales

Here is another of BOB SOLOMON'S (34th) chapters on "Life in a Barracks Bag with the 34th Infantry"

How many of us had been on an ocean voyage, prior to our days with Uncle Sam? Not too many, I think! To most of us the trip to Oahu was our first experience. On Dec. 15th, 1941, we boarded the Matson Lines, S.S. Matsonin and S.S. Monterey and spent the night in Frisco Bay. We were in the lap of luxury. Many of us had the standard six-decked bunks but there were still many in cabins, containing three to eight men. There was towel service and waiters in the spacious dining room. The five day trip to Oahu was a vacation to those of us who didn't let the ocean go to our stomachs. The weather was good and the General walked his dog on the tennis deck of the Monterey each afternoon. There were movies in the salon, depicting the charms of Hawaii, and plenty of reading matter. About halfway out, we had a gun-drill and there was the usual talk about sinking a Jap Sub. It was a good thing the trip was a short one, as our future voyages were typical of the ocean travel of the armed services. After enough time to become PINEAPPLE (19mos), we left Oahu to go to Australia. Our convoy consisted of 3 ships, the Republic, Sea Pike and another reported to have nurses aboard. Our accommodations were typical troopship, bunks in the hold...six high, details for all..G.I. food with serving means practically all day long. Time was passed by playing cards, reading during free time and the usual scuttlebut. We were all pretty good seamen by the time the trip was over. Everyone enjoyed the ceremonies (SHELLBACK), when we crossed the equator and the "NOWHEARTHIS" A COMPLETE SWEEP DOWN, FORE AND AFT....greeted us each morning. It was a shame the card players had to move. There was a boxing show one afternoon, but all in all it was a bit tiresome. The trip was a long one, and the typical short-arm before debarking. One wag was noted to ask what they were looking for, finger-prints? There were many more voyages prior to the one that took us home, but one was like the other except for the destination and end... you must remember....

New

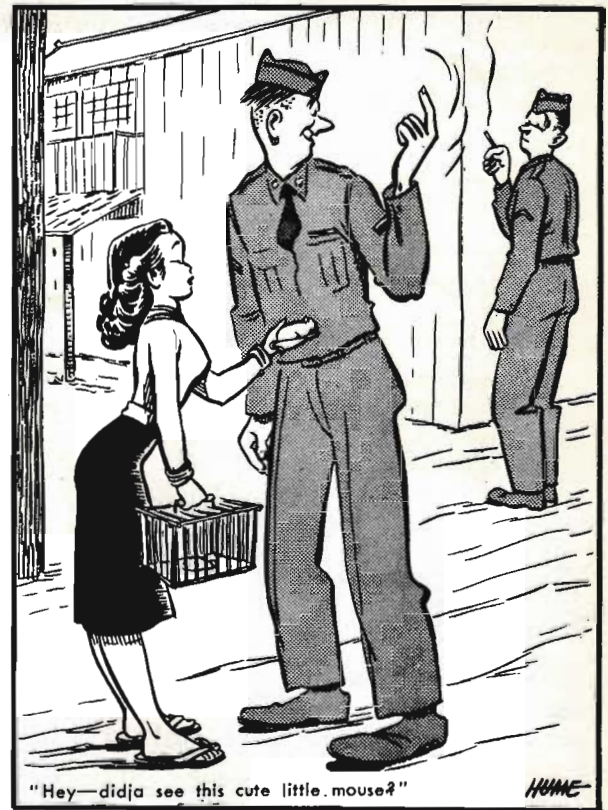
Wee Willie was walking with Wanda, his brand new girl, on the way home from grammar school. Both were eight years old.

"Wanda," said Wee Willie, with worshipping eyes, "you are the first girl I have ever loved!"
"Cripes!" said little Wanda, "I've drawn another beginner."

BOB ENDER has just returned from Honolulu and reports that "the pineapples are still growing, the cane is still being burned, the volcanos are raising hell, tourist business is flourishing."

He thought the gang would like to know that The Kaena Point road has been improved - "it is now passable". He said also - "I tripped over something on Haliewa Beach; it was a rusted iron picket from the barbed wire days."

CECIL E. ROGERS of 1417 S. 11th St., Goshen, Ind. (a new member) is trying to locate HARLEY (or HARVEY) REESE, a buddy who was wounded when he was. Cecil never heard of him or from him and is anxious to know "if he made it". Can anyone help?



PREDICTIONS

Soldiers of the 19th Infantry Regiment's Third Battalion and their relatives at home have answered another mercy call in Korea.

As a result of a vigorous fund-raising campaign initiated last September, the battalion has financed, built, and organized the New Life Boys Home in Taegu. The institution is for orphaned boys between the ages of four and 14.

Chaplain William G. Devaney, Battalion Chaplain, got the drive underway shortly after the battalion had moved into the city last summer. He visited the site where the 51 Korean boys were then living - a single Army squad tent on a 10-acre plot of land.

The Chaplain discussed his finding with battalion officials, soldiers and the Presbyterian Mission that had been supervising the boys' "home"

In a few weeks, the folks back home heard of the situation through personal letters containing appeals for funds and clothing. They answered this call to the tune of \$2,400 plus many bundles of clothing.

Building materials were obtained on the Korean open market. SFC Nell O. Piccin, one-time New York City Construction worker and now Battalion Operations Sergeant, drew up plans for the future home. Sgt. Gene S. Peters, also a former construction worker, volunteered to direct the labor details.

They worked every day, evenings, and weekends included. Two months later the home was completed, a permanent wooden structure that now houses over 50 homeless Korean boys. The home also provides living quarters, a class room and office space for Mr. and Mrs. Chae On Soon, home administrators.

Chick soldiers showered the boys at Christmastime with clothing, toys and food.

It is hoped that the institution will eventually accommodate 300 boys who will support themselves through skilled and semiskilled trades.

THE TARO LEAF
 24th Infantry Division Assoc.
 E. Henry, Sec'y.
 21 Park Street
 Attleboro, Mass.

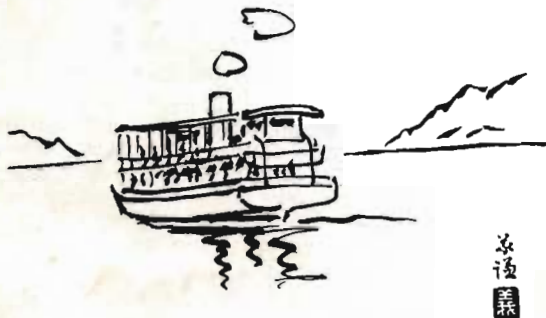
Elvin E. Greek,
 2520 Coles St.,
 Richmond 24
 Va.



Form 3547 Requested



Maj. Gen. EDWIN J. MESSINGER (Div.Hqs.) has assumed command of the 25th Div. at Schofield. Graduating from "you-know-where" in '31, he has seen all of his service in the Inf. During WWII, he served with the 17th A/B Div. as G-3 and C/S. In Korea, he was Exec.O. of the 23rd Inf. and later commanded the 9th Inf., both regts. of the 2nd Inf.Div. Following a tour in Washington, he returned to Korea to be ADC of our own Division. His last station was back to "you-know-where" as Commandant of Cadets from which assignment he left to go to Hawaii to receive a second star and the command of our sister division, safe and snug back in its and our birthplace. Good luck to you, General Messinger.



Korea Is Promising Paradise For Hunters Among Yanks

By Gene Kramer

WITH THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN KOREA—AP—The guns are booming again in Korea—but they are the guns of soldiers turned hunters.

In the hills and valleys where the guns of war were silenced two and one half years ago, American GIs are enjoying huntings such as they never knew at home.

Fat pheasants, grouse and deer abound in almost fabulous number in the new thick undergrowth which hides the war scars. And the game is so tame even the novice hunter has little trouble getting his limit.

Hunting is so good in the rugged area between the Korean truce line and the Imjin River that dinners of wild game are frequent for men of the 24th.

Dog Needed

"It is truly a hunter's paradise," Captain Robert Doughty declared. "If a man had a good bird dog, he'd have a field day. I would compare it to the Dakotas. The cover for Chinese redneck pheasant is just what you would desire. I've bagged 27 pheasants, two deer and five bucks hunting weekends since the season opened November 1st."

The red haired captain said he is one of the game wardens for the area but added quickly that when he serves in that capacity he turns his gun over to someone else. Then he checks other hunters' permits and bag limits.

All Has Gone Well

There have been no hunting violations and no accidents in his regiment. No one has strayed into the deadly minefields surrounding the hunting areas.

With approval of the Korean Government, the regiment has staked out 10 hunting areas, each one to two square miles. As many as 15 hunters are allowed in each with 24 hour permits issued on a first come first served basis.

The regiment sets a bag limit of three animals, a daily possession limit of six and a 24 hour limit of three roosters, five ducks, five grouse and eight doves.

Twelve gauge shotguns are the weapons used. The hunters borrow them from the athletics and recreation officer or they can buy them at reduced rates at the post exchange. The only shot stocked so far is bird shot so deer shooting has been limited to the small European type roebuck.

Larger deer roam the hills of Korea but Doughty said, "I hesitate to shoot and merely wound them with birdshot." One of the deer he did shoot dressed out at 51 pounds.

Particularly Good Area

Hunting is particularly good north of the Imjin River because civilians are not permitted to live so close to the armistice line. Nearly all American outfits in Korea, however, report good hunting because the game is still unafraid.

"Food and environment are ideal for the birds which are so tame they just sit and look at you," says Doughty. "I've even stepped on a rooster's tail before he'd fly."

"You've got to be a combination man and bird dog. There are mongrel dogs available but they range too far and are almost worthless."

In the course of editing some twenty eight issues of the Taro Leaf, we have come to learn some tricks of the trade. One of them is that your copy can be saved if we use newspaper and magazine copy from other sources without resetting the type. When J.A. SNYDER of 2360 Louisa St., Napa, Calif. sent us the newspaper clipping on "Korea Is Promising Paradise etc.etc" which he noticed in the Sacramento Bee, we used the precise same clipping which he sent to us. The Sacramento Bee may come buzzing around some day but we're risking that. J.A. wrote, "As I can't be sure that you'd catch this one, I'm taking no chances and am sending it to you as I'm sure you'd be interested." "Interested" is the right word, J.A., and a lot of our readers will be interested too. Thank.

"Tippens, how long have you been working here?—theoretically speaking, of course."

