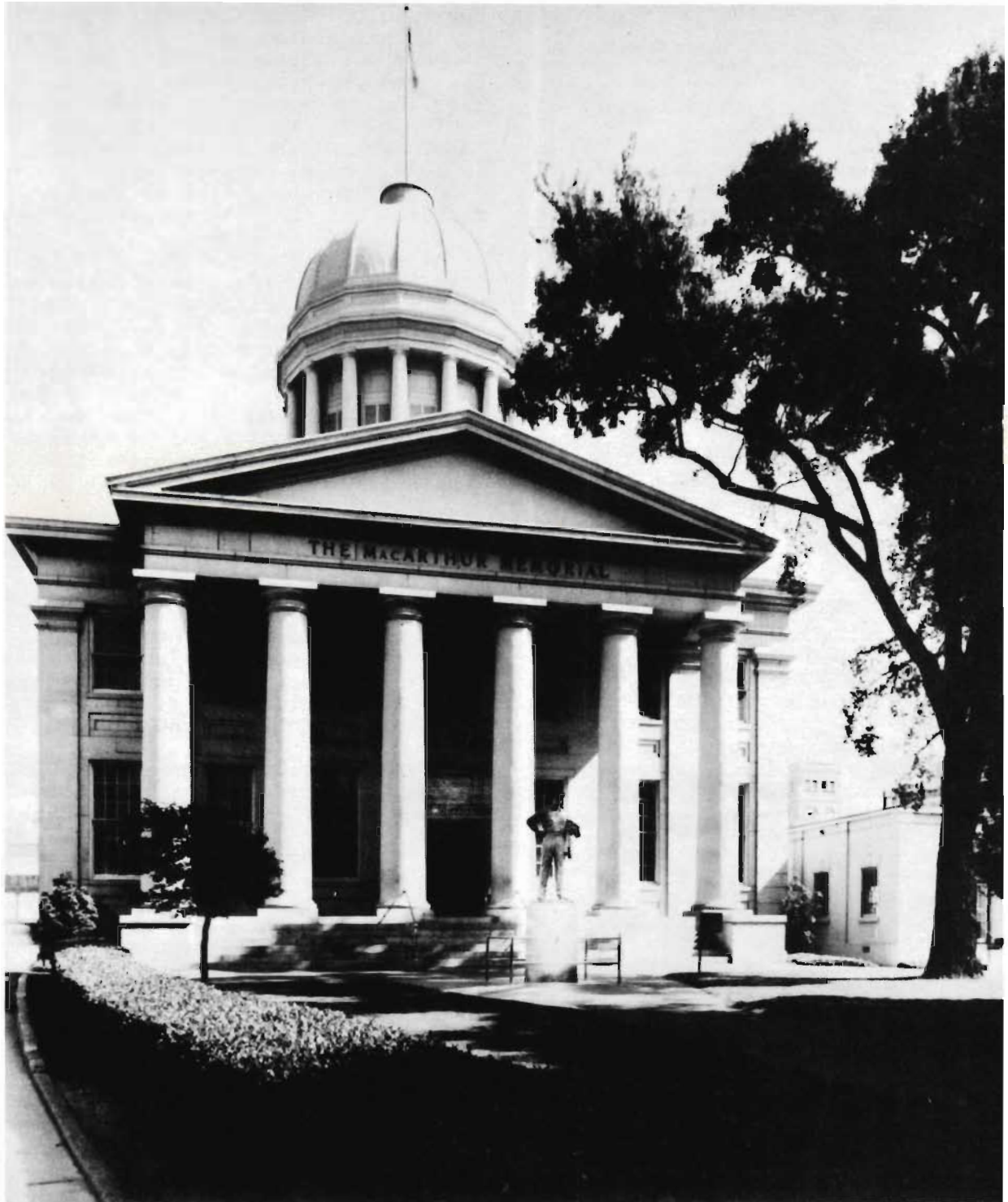


Taro Leaf



24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XXX

NUMBER 5

1976-1977

TARO LEAF

The publication "of, by and for those who served" the glorious 24th Infantry Division, and published frequently by the 24th Infantry Division Association, whose officers are:

President:

Howard R. Lumsden Tel. 618-259-5771
167 Hickory Street, Wood River, Illinois 62095

1st Vice President:

John E. Klump Tel. 812-623-3279
R.R. #1, Gullford, Indiana 47022

2nd Vice President:

Michael J. Rafter Tel. 312-282-1965
3131 N. Keating Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60641

Sec'y.-Treas.-Editor:

Kenwood Ross Tel. 413-733-3194
120 Maple Street, Springfield, Mass. 01103

Chaplain:

Fr. Christopher J. Berlo Tel. 717-347-5691
1239 St. Ann Street, Scranton, Pa. 18504

Convention Chairman:

Brig. Gen. Lester L. Wheeler, USA Ret., Tel. 703-360-7597
2108 Stirrup Lane, Alexandria, Virginia 22308

Membership Chairman:

Fondo J. Finley, Jr. Tel. 614-746-8288
RFD #2, 8255 Barney Road, Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Association membership is open to anyone and everyone who wears or ever wore the Taro Leaf. Dues are \$10.00 per annum inclusive of a subscription to the publication, Taro Leaf.

The Association is a strictly non-profit, non-military, non-rank organization of men and women who serve or once served together and desire only to keep alive the warm friendships formed in that service.

Long lost soul - MITCH BURSON of A of the 19th circa '41-'42. We can't locate him. Can anyone help? Seems JOE HALEY, (A 19th '41 and AT 19th '42-'43), of 1796 Milton, Napa, Calif., is looking for him. Scouts out!!!

CLARENCE COLLETTE has recruited RALPH LANDRY, (19th & MPs '50-'51), of 1816 S.Figueroa, Los Angeles. Ralph is with the American Society of Military History, Inc. - now there's the man who should be writing our history. Ralph and Frances, parents of 4 (Karen, Susan, Gloria and Richard).

"He could talk your arm off, then curse you for being crippled". That's an old one. Neighbor of ours got his bill for car insurance the other day. \$1644 for the insurance. Car only valued at \$1600. Where will it all end?

25th Division Assoc. is also getting a history into print. They're calling it "Lightning Forward" (we haven't found a "best" name for ours yet; suggestions still welcomed). The Assoc. meets, by the way, next July 29th - 31st at Minneapolis.

A dyed-in-the-wool baseball fan went to his first horse race and placed a small bet on a long shot. As his horse came down the homestretch neck-and-neck with the favorite, he hollered, "Slide, you dummy, slide!"

Thoughtful memo in from BILL LOWDEN. Considering high production costs in putting out this rag, Bill suggests cutting out the envelope. There's a history there. We tried for several years using the last page for the mailing label and stapling the pages sans envelope. The P.O. Dept. kinda P.O.'d us because they managed to do such a thorough job in crumpling so many of our copies in transit. Requests began to come in to see what we could do about it and recourse to the envelope was the result. Good try, Bill. Thanks even for thinking about us. As to "bulk pamphlet or magazine rate", forget it. By the time you get through separating and labeling bundles to their requirements, you've wasted the cost of postage in labor time. O.K. if you're mailing 100,000. Makes sense then. But not for 1500, if you count TIME as the key factor - and the TIME happens to be ours.

AL and Alberta MONACO, (D 19 '40-'44), live in Chester, Pa., dock their boat in Maryland - on Chesapeake Bay - and plan to boat to Norfolk. Believe you can dock right at the hotel, Al - and Al. Mention of "Chesapeake Bay" reminds us of the billboard just outside of Baltimore. For years, it read "the crabs you eat tonight slept last night in Chesapeake Bay". Just wanted to mention it, tha'sall.

In Norfolk, writes Chairman Brig.Gen. LESTER "Les" WHEELER, "we'll welcome you into the circle of equality - the timid, the strong, the poor and the rich - where titles are forgotten and all of us are as one - as eyes meet, as hands touch, as words flow - and joy which only you can feel - feel it to the fullest as you revel in the gloriousness of nostalgia and brotherhood. See you there."

The U.S. Atlantic Command, Norfolk, Va., conducted a joint training exercise in May at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield and in the area of Camp LeJeune, N.C. More than 9,000 troops from Division participated in Solid Shield 77, tenth in a series of annual exercises which emphasized command and control in an inter-service environment. Almost every unit on post participated and in the exercise, including the 48th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized), which is the 24th Division's 3rd or "round-out" brigade from the Georgia Army National Guard. Over 40,000 men from the U.S. Army Forces Command, the Navy's Atlantic Fleet, the Fleet Marine Force Atlantic, and the Air Force's Tactical Air Command and Military Airlift Command joined in the massive exercise at both installations.

Did you know that, when Raquel Welch was a little girl, she had a toy chest?

Talent is like good grammar. You've either got it or you ain't.

**24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 8-14, 1977**

PLEASE RESERVE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AS CIRCLED

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Company _____ Telephone _____
 Sharing room with _____
 Method of Payment _____ Credit Card No. _____

Arrival Date _____
 Arrival Time _____ Guaranteed
 Reservations will be held until 6:00 p.m. unless
 guaranteed or covered by deposit.
 Length of stay _____ nights.
 Reservations received after 7/25/77
 will be accepted on space available basis.

	Standard	Medium	Deluxe
Singles:	\$24	\$28; \$30	\$32
Doubles:	\$30	\$32; \$34	\$38
Suites from	\$55.00		

"Slick as a wax snake on a marble floor".
 That's an oldie - and it fits the situation
 with the reservation card which we supply
 herewith. Clip it and mail it in to the
 Omni.

With Sgt. Mike



"Misunderstood, my foot! I distinctly said 'I' issue each man a case of gear!"

"The hen was so tough, you couldn't stick a fork in her gravy" - an expression finding favor in Virginia, they tell us. But they also tell us that the food at the Omni is exceptionally good - not the usual hotel fare.

Norfolk man has joined, well actually KEN CARROW, (24 MP '48-'50, B21st '50-'51) and Misako live at 456 Wood Lake, Virginia Beach. But everyone knows Va. Beach is right next door to Norfolk where Ken is a postal clerk.

"As low as a snake's belly in a wagon rut". No sir, not us. We're happy - 'cuz HOWIE STEVENS, (Hq. 52F and C 21st '50-'51), of Eveleth, Minn. has joined.

八案昔二店森や頭鹿十弁顔

切

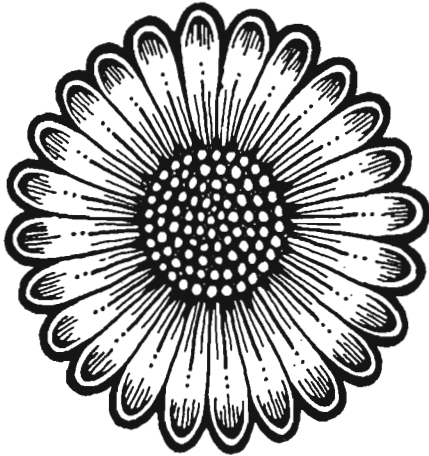
FAITHFUL DOG MOURNS
 PASSING OF MASTER

Kanji: Kiru, verb, to cut

"When it comes to eating chicken, he's the tall hog at the trough." We tie that one in with WARREN AVERY, (G21st), of North Haven, Conn., who has become Life Member 153. Maybe we're doing Warren an injustice. We don't even know if he likes chicken.

"The squeaky hinge gets the oil." That's an oldie. Sen. Sam Nunn (D.Ga.) during Armed Services Committee's Manpower and Personnel Subcommittee recently asked Lt. Gen. Edward C. Meyer, Dep. C/S for Operations, which Divisions were the least prepared. Meyers said it would be either the 24th (at Stewart) or the 5th (at Polk). The 7th (Ord) will be combat ready in September, Meyers said.

"If he ever became a bigger liar, he'd have to put on weight" is an old Southern expression, they tell us. But it has nothing to do with the fact that the big event of our Norfolk weekend will be the Saturday evening, Aug. 13th, cocktail hour and banquet at the Omni Hotel. Evening dress will suffice; that is short of formal, but means ties and shoes for the men and cocktail dresses for the gals.



FIRST CLASS
Permit No. 2580
NORFOLK, VA.

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

Postage will be paid by the addressee if mailed in United States

RESERVATIONS DEPARTMENT

OMNI

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

777 WATERFRONT DRIVE
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23510



"If his bull were concrete, he'd be I-95 from Newark to Jacksonville". That's not an oldie - but we like it. But we don't refer to Past Prexy BERT LOWERY who has offered to fill the void left by the late SAM GILNER in the matter of managing the convention registration desk.

In the words of Amelia Earhart, "Don't bother about me; just find my luggage". Which has absolutely nothing to do with the fact that our Friday evening, Aug. 12th, calls for a sunset cruise along Hampton Roads. Nothing but beer for sale aboard the little ship but we'll likely be operating our own bar. We can, you know. And we've never failed yet in having a bar where 'ere we've been.

"Happy as a clam at high tide" is an old WW II expression we liked well enough to try to revive. And happy we are because Convention Chairman tells us that on Friday afternoon, Aug. 12th, we'll all be at the MacArthur Memorial for some colorful ceremonies while we pay our respects.

"Happy as a hog in a wallow", we'll all be on Saturday a.m. Aug. 13th, because we're bent on getting our business meeting over and done with in the ayem while the ladies, thanks to good Dottie Wheeler, are in for a surprise.

Paid Your Dues?



You all know Margaret BYRD, BILL's lovely wife. She's on the far right. Now meet her sisters: Eda June, Juanita, and Teresa. What a beautiful family.

A super reunion has already been assured. Thanks to Maj.Gen. AUBREY "Red" NEWMAN, we have located BILL ALLEN, an old 34th'er who was with the Dragons from Ft. Jackson to Japan. Bill has never made a convention. He'll be there this time around. He's now General Counsel for Island Creek Coal Co. of Lexington, Ky. After "the Big One", he finished law school, practised in Tenn., went to AD for '51 and '52, was in Washington for 18 years as a Senator's aide, practised law there in the city of legislator's sin for 3 years, then to Lexington, Ky. We look forward to seeing him at Norfolk.

Surgery for Betty Lu (Mrs. ALBERT DELAY) (3rd Bn. 21st '43-'45), of Box 154, Tilden, Ill. Al reports, happily, that improvement isslow but steady. Great!

We asked Col. DICK LAWSON, (C/S, G2), of 104 N.Will Scarlet Lane, Williamsburg, Va., to give us a few words on side trips out of Norfolk and this is what he hurried together just before he and Ruth took off for a month in Ireland, Scotland and England - for it we are deeply grateful.

TRIP-PLANNING SUGGESTIONS

Either enroute to Norfolk for the reunion, or on the way home, some of you may want to treat your families to some side trips. Listed below are a few of the many interesting and historic places within 50 to 60 miles of Norfolk. If any of them strike your fancy we suggest that you write or telephone the

Chamber of Commerce
Williamsburg-James City County
P.O.Box HQ
Williamsburg, VA. 23185
(Telephone 804-229-6511)

OR

Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
475 St.Paul Boulevard
Norfolk, VA. 23510
(Telephone 804-622-2312)

OR

You may pick up this information in the OMNI Hotel at the Reunion Registration Desk. You might ask about those places from someone who has been there, but don't be influenced by complaints about high prices; everything today costs more than you expect. Just relax and enjoy it.

Brochures are available which are quite detailed as to locations, ticket costs, etc. Therefore the listing here includes only the types of attractions to be found in each area:

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG (CW):

- 88 original 18th century buildings, craft shops and homes
- 48 other reconstructed historically important 18th century structures
- 100 acres of landscaped gardens. Note: An introductory film at the CW Information Center will refresh your memory of colonial history. Colonial costumed hostesses and craftsmen will guide and demonstrate exhibits. Free bus service is available to ticket holders throughout the restored area.

Of special interest are:

The Capitol
Powder Magazine
Guardhouse
Public Gaol & Stocks
20 Craft Shops
Meals (with "atmosphere") at:
Chownings Tavern
Campbells Tavern
The Kings Arms
Governor's Palace
Wren Bldg. of W&M College
Raleigh Tavern
Wetherburn's Tavern
Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Museum
Social Tours for Children

Note: Room reservations in advance are advised for the CW-operated Williamsburg Inn, Williamsburg Lodge, or the Motor House.

How do German children tie their shoe laces? In little Nazi's.

"THE OLD COUNTRY", BUSCH GARDENS:

(Just East of Williamsburg on U.S.60)

Family entertainment, lavishly provided in the medieval style of England, France, and Germany.

PLANTATIONS:

Carters Grove, a 200-year old mansion called "...the most beautiful house in America". 6 miles East of Williamsburg.

Berkeley, built in 1726 on a land grant by King James I in 1699, where the first Thanksgiving was celebrated. 25 miles West of Williamsburg on Va.Route 5.

Shirley, founded in 1613 and begun in 1723 on an 800-acre James River estate. 30 miles West of Williamsburg on Va.Rt.5.

YORKTOWN:

(10 miles East of Williamsburg on Colonial Parkway)

Here is the battlefield where George Washington, commanding the American and French forces, defeated the British under Lord Cornwallis on 19 Oct. 1781. From the National Park Service Visitors' Center and Museum you may tour the fortifications and the "Surrender Field".

Nearby is the handsome Yorktown Victory Center built by the Bicentennial Commission of Virginia, the Nelson House, Old Courthouse, Swan Tavern, and the commemorative monument.

JAMESTOWN FESTIVAL PARK:

(10 miles West of Williamsburg by
Colonial Parkway or Va. Route 31)

Here may be seen:

Foundation walls of the original
Jamestown settlement of 1607.

A replica of the James Fort of 1607.

Full scale reproductions of Captain
Christopher Newport's three tiny ships
moored in the James River.

A reconstruction of Chief Powhatan's
lodge manned by real Indians.

A fine museum called the Old World
and New World Pavilions.

HAMPTON:

(At N. end of Hampton Roads Tunnel)

Outstanding attractions are:

Fort Monroe, a once "impregnable"
fort with a moat, now headquarters of
the U.S. Continental Army Command.

Jefferson Davis Casemate, where the
Confederate President was held prisoner.

Monitor-Merrimack Casemate with
ship models and pictures.

Hampton Coliseum.

Aerospace Park.

Langley Air Force Base, Headquarters
of the Air Tactical Command.

Nasa's Langley Research Center.

St. John's Church, established
in 1610.

BEACHES:

(Nearly every coastal city has access
to an ocean beach)

Buckroe Beach (near Hampton)
Willoughby Beach
Ocean View Beach
Chesapeake Beach
Ocean Park Beach
Fort Story (Mil.Res)Beach
Virginia Beach

(Extending South from
Hampton Roads)

NEWPORT NEWS:

(Adjacent Hampton on the James River)

A Harbor Cruise would give you a quick
look at the Newport News Shipyard with
its giant dry docks, Norfolk Naval Base,
site of the Monitor-Merrimack battle, and
the endless passage of ships through
Hampton Roads.

War Memorial Museum of Virginia, with
pre-Revolution relics as well as Vietnam
weapons of all types.

Mariners' Museum has an unexcelled
exhibit of ships, models, and naval lore
of every part of the world.

Peninsula Nature and Science Center
and Planatarium.

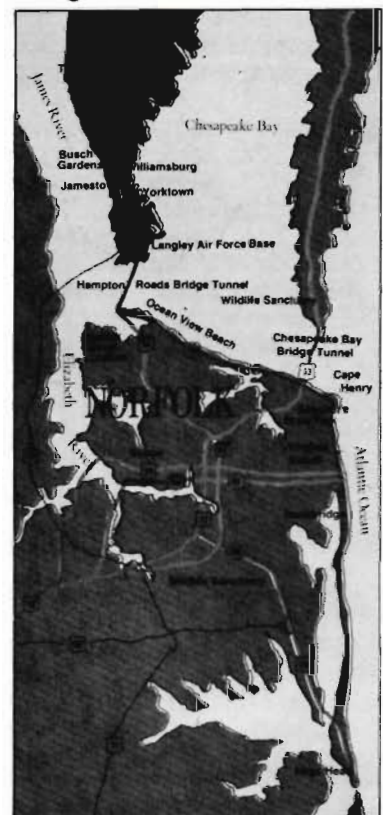
Fort Eustis, the Army Transportation
Center and a fine Transportation Museum.

SOUTH OF NORFOLK:

(Along the ocean)

You may drive south into N.Carolina
(Route 158) to see the Wright Brothers
National Memorial at Kitty Hawk and
Kill Devil Hill near Nags Head.
Further south at Manteo is the site of
the "Lost Colony"; a well-performed
pageant commemorates that event and the
birth of Virginia Dare.

You'll love Virginia!!!



Norfolk

"Eyes too big for the stomach" - we first heard that one 55 years ago. It was our eyes they were talking about too. Today all eyes are on new Life Member - GEORGE F. RYALS, JR. (3rd Bn 21st '42-'45), of Box 297B, Thomaston, Ga. He sent in a check for \$100 with no questions asked. Usually life members pay \$20 for each of 5 successive years. Enuf of that. We welcome you, George - and Alice too.

"Slow as the 7 year itch, 7 years behind scratching". That one we'd never heard before. And we're not so sure we ever want to hear it again. Likewise for ORVILLE SCHINDLER, (B 34th), of McClusky, N.D., who is in farming and is also serving in the State Legislature. He and Adeline would love to hear from anyone who served in B of the 34th.

"Still wet behind the ears." Another figure of speech which hardly suits GILBERT BERNARD, (Recn. 12/42-12/45), of Apple Valley, Cal., who went home one day to find CHRIS ARUNT and his wife waiting for him. They hadn't seen one another since Chris was wounded on Leyte. Let's get Chris joined up, Gil.

"So weak he couldn't whip his way out of a paper bag." Surely you've used that one many times. But let's think of this - The Italians call it wandering - andare a zonzo. The French call it badauder. It means ambling, allowing the eye and the imagination to catch what they can, anytime, any place. It is one of the most relaxed and amiable of travel pleasures. Try it in Norfolk this August.

"He could screw up a 3-car funeral" - an expression we easily attribute to JAMES "Spike" O'DONNELL. Spike tells us that J.H. GIRARDEAU, (21st 5/42-9/45), of Tifton, Ga., has become Life Member 161.



The Omni!! Affordable?

You bet.

"The greatest thing since sliced bread." That's an old expression we kinda like. And we'll soon be saying as much for our Norfolk convention. Convention Chairman LES WHEELER has scheduled a Commemorative Service and Tour at the MacArthur Memorial for 10, Friday a.m., 12 August. And in the afternoon of that same day, he'll whisk us off to the Naval Base for a carrier tour, if one be home - and one usually is. That evening - Friday still - he plans for a harbor tour of Hampton Roadstead.

Enter LILE STIGGE, (E & Hq. 2nd Bn 19th '45-'46), of Jennings, Mo., a new member coaxed in by Prexy HOWARD LUMSDEN.

Come to Norfolk with joy in your heart and we will magnify it many times. Come with compassion and pride and love so that these human qualities of living can be nourished and strengthened - and may these moments of reunion help to sustain you in the years ahead. As they are saying these days, "Be born again."

ED SVACH, (19th '50-'51), of Milwaukee, has been in contact with his old 34th buddy in Korea, JOE LA FLEUR. Ed would like to hear from JAKE ALEXANDER known as "Beppu Jake", (M/Sgt. E 19th '48-'50). Ed also sees Sgt. WES QUIRK of E of the 19th whenever he's in Milwaukee.

We recently ran a picture of the Kokura fire dept. (circa '46) as sent in by BILL FARVER of Caseville, Mich. Bill now identifies the men. Top row left to right: PERRY L. JONES, Spartenburg, S.C., TOM ROBERTS, Holdenville, Okla., WILLIAM FARVER, Caseville, Mich. (face in far back unknown). Left to right in bottom row: JAMES RETHERFORD, Akron, Col., GENE POLAND, Liverville, Ala., Known only as "POP". He was years older than we were. ROGER W. LUNDELL, Calif., DON LEDUC, Fla., CHARLES F. PAXTON, Okla., GEORGE BOSTICK, Texas and JOE KRUMME, Los Angeles, Calif. Thanks Bill for identifying them for us.



A new divisional concept is being readied, we hear.

More officers in charge of smaller rifle companies and tank platoons is the thrust of a major new reorganization of the Army division structure.

The reorganization will be the first major overhaul of the division structure since the Army converted to new series TO&Es five years ago.

An official said the new division structure is the first designed specifically to meet future Army weapons requirements. Division reorganizations generally have been geared to changes in tactics and doctrine.

"The idea for 200 more officers in each division is to give division commanders more control over their firepower," a Pentagon official told Taro Leaf.

He said the new division format will mean the fielding of smaller combat units on the battlefield.

The new division concept, which was proposed by Training and Doctrine Command CG Gen. William E. DePuy, will affect all 16 divisions. Plans tentatively call for the new division concept to be tested on a division in Europe before being introduced to other divisions.

But, some Pentagon officials say the concept should first be tested on a Stateside division like the 1st Air Cav Div at Fort Hood, Tex.

While the new division idea may have been approved in concept, many issues remain, sources said.

A major aim of the new structure is to transfer maintenance, administrative, and feeding responsibilities from the company commander to battalion level.

"The company commander will have to look to the battalion commander for administrative support under the new division concept," an official said.

He said the concept "will permit company commanders to spend 100 percent of their time in training. It will reduce the number of MOSs that are in a line unit. A Company commander's training responsibility will be a whole lot less complicated and more streamlined."

Under the division plan, rifle companies with 150 to 200 men would be reduced to 100-man units. Tank platoons which have five tanks and one lieutenant would become three-tank platoons, an officer said.



Friend Jack Egan, a press agent, tells a good story about himself and Dick Stabile, who's now bandleader at the Fairmont in New Orleans. As Jack tells it:

"Dick and I were both in the Coast Guard during World War II and we were stationed at 42 Broadway, the District Coast Guard Office. Dick supposedly was in charge of bands in the Third Naval District - except there were no unattached bands in the Third Naval District. So all he had to do was report in each day to the Public Information Office downtown and see what was new.

"One day I joined Dick at the Information Office and he and I and two other guys were sitting around talking in a somewhat lighthearted mood when the phone rang.

"I'll get it," yelled Dick, who always loved to play a joke or two. And he picked up the phone and said: 'Japanese Embassy.'

"Now that wasn't the very best thing to do on a phone in the official office of one of the four armed forces during a global conflict in which the Japanese weren't exactly an ally. And the voice at the other end boomed: Who is this speaking?"

"Dick then made another mistake. Instead of hanging up and jumping down the elevator shaft, he told the caller who he was. 'You stay right where you are!' commanded the voice. 'I'm coming right over.'

And in a few minutes, in stalked Commander Hall, the chief personnel officer of the Third Naval District! He chewed Dick out and had him transferred all the way from New York to Groton - where there weren't any bands, either - and he kept him there for the duration! And to this day, when the phone rings, Dick jumps a little and says to whoever's in the room: 'You answer it.'"

Here's a sample out of "Thin Veils", a book of poems published by STANLEY J. DOLAT (B 21st 9/45-10/46), of 50 Raymond Ave., Holyoke, Mass.:

STEPPING STONES

I found a profound truth
And I was alone
Desiring to share my thoughts
And my certitudes
As proof of my sincerity:
If from the lowest
I reaped their understanding
Then in their joys
Will my soul with theirs weep.

It is the thin veil we strive to perceive;
Cursing the ignominy of life we breathe.
Yet, we must willingly accept each breath
As stepping stones of life 'til death.