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Vol 1
78-79

TARO LEAF

Vol. XXXII — No. 1

1978 - 1979

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The publication "of, by and for those who served or now serve" the glorious United States 24th Infantry Division, and published frequently by the 24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION whose officers are:

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Association membership is open to anyone and everyone who wears or ever wore the Taro Leaf or served in any unit ever formally "attached" to the 24th Infantry Division. Dues are \$10.00 per annum inclusive of a subscription to the publication, Taro Leaf.

The Division History covering 1941-1979 will be released before the Lexington Convention in August of '79. The History will be available only to those Association members who pay \$20.00 per copy.

Ah, what a sweetheart of a reunion. An early August gem it was, to polish up and roll around in the mind this winter when the snow is eyebrow-deep and the furnace is chewing up dollar bills.

We're talking about the opus at Savannah - Savannah II we'll call it as it was our second time around.

We've jotted down the affair as a mini-classic in a notebook we keep just for the purpose of jotting down mini-classics and have voted it the event of the year on a special ballot we handed to ourselves as soon as the party was over.

We don't dish these accolades routinely. Loyalty to the cause has nothing to do with excellence and merit. This one was a dilly - and due in great part to the effort which President JOHN KLUMP, Chairman HARRY RUBIN, Registrar BERT LOWERY, Mixocologist JOHN SHAY, and the entire Stewart/Hunter gang put into it. We are humbly grateful to them all for a grand gathering of the clan.

Back in the fold is WOODSON TUCKER (Div.Chem.O. 12/41-3/44), of 10 Nacozari, Hot Springs Village, Ark. Woody has retired as Asst. Vice Chancellor of U. of New Orleans and has settled in Ark. Nice to have you back Woody.

Spotted in "Majesty", Robert Lacey's best seller about the House of Windsor. The time was June 2, 1953. The place: Westminster Abbey. The colonial rulers, prime ministers and heads of state are already seated, awaiting the Queen for her coronation. One of the first heads of state to arrive was Queen Salote of Tonga, with a bright red feather rising high out of her hat. Beside her is a frail little man in white, the Sulton of Kelantan. "Who can he be?" asked one of the men attending with Noel Coward. The playwright scrutinized the little figure sitting beside the monumental Polynesian lady. "Her lunch", he said crisply.

The aging process is considered bad. But when it stops, it's worse.

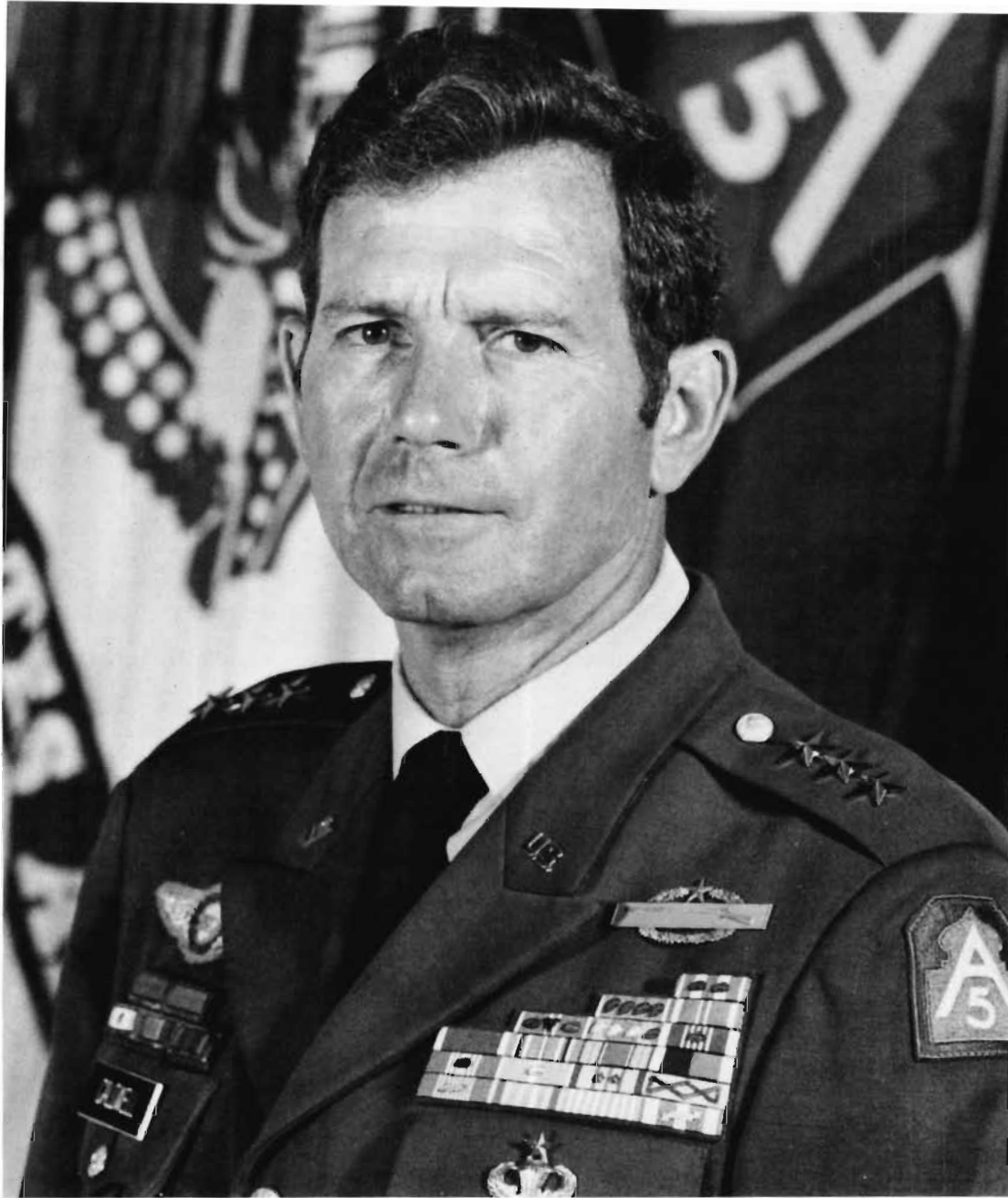
Life Member HARRY RUBIN did a thoroughly beautiful job as Convention Chairman for Savannah II and as we read this he and his lovely gal Dee will be off to England to visit their first grandchild, due any minute.

Someone gave us this showing ?, ?, ? and ? at The School Center, Kokura, Kyushu, Japan. We don't know the time. It would have been between '46 and '50.



BERNIE LENSKEY, (C 52nd F '41-'45), of N.Miami Beach, Fla., our latest Life Member, writes: "I wish I had known how easy it is to become a Life Member-I'd have done it years ago". Easy does it. Just say you want to become a Lifer. Pay \$20.00 a year for 5 years or \$100 in one swoop and you're "in" with dues paid up for life.

TARO LEAF



By which we introduce the Fifty Army Commander, Lieutenant General WILLIAM B. CALDWELL III who wrote us, saying: "Thank you for the membership in the 'exclusive fraternity' of the 24th Infantry Division Association. It is indeed an honor to be included with this group.

"I served with Co. C and Co. A of the 34th Regiment in Sasebo, Japan in 1949 and 1950. In July 1950 I was a platoon leader in Co. A as the 1st Battalion of the 34th was committed to combat in Korea. From July 1950 to July 1951 I served as a platoon leader, company commander and battalion executive officer. PVT Shadwick, the first soldier killed in action in Korea, was on patrol with me at the time of his death.

"I am now at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where I have assumed command of Fifth US Army.

"Best wishes to you and the fellow 'Taro Leafs' of the 24th Division.

"Sincerely,

Bill Caldwell
WILLIAM B. CALDWELL III
Lieutenant General, USA"

Wanted...A Pearl Harbor Vet

Lester Buckley, The 24th Wants To Shake Your Hand

Biggest mystery of Savannah II. We will read the way the lead item in the Aug. 2nd DeLand (Fla.) Sun News wrote it up under the headline: "Wanted... A Pearl Harbor Vet - Lester Buckley, The 24th Wants To Shake Your Hand". The article read:

The fledgling U.S. infantry unit had just returned to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii from maneuvers on a remote portion of the island.

They were settling in for a well-earned rest, enjoying the lush tropical setting, the warm breezes that lulled their senses.

But that longed-for rest was not to be.

It was Dec. 7, 1941, and the 68-day-old 24th Infantry Division was to be the first to feel the wrath and destruction of the Japanese attack that launched World War II.

The unit, that later that day brought down five Japanese fighter planes in a spate of small arms fire, included a man who is now a Deltona resident.

Friday, the unit will be honored at Fort Stewart, Ga.

There will be a parade and parachute-jumping demonstrations and the current crop of infantrymen who look forward to meeting their predecessors who set the standard for the valor of the 24th.

Today, the Sun News was contacted by Harriet Carey of the Public Affairs Office of Fort Stewart.

"We've got a letter from a World War II veteran of the 24th who wants to be at the reunion but needs further information about it," she said.

The problem, explained Miss Carey, is that the name is undecipherable and there is no phone number and no address other than a post office box in Orange City.

Even with the proper information, Miss Carey said, a letter wouldn't reach the veteran in time.

Who said there's never a policeman around when you need one?

Not the Sun News, who relayed the story to Orange City Police officer Steve Gregory.

Within minutes, Gregory had the information.

"The man's name is Lester Buckley, of 2678 Kimberly Drive, Deltona," Gregory reported.

Unfortunately, Mr. Buckley is not listed in the phone book.

So, Lester Buckley, this story is for you.

You're eagerly awaited at Cottrell Field Friday.

There'll be a parade and parachute-jumping demonstrations. And the current crop of men in the 24th Infantry Division who are waiting to shake your hand.

C.A. "Bud" COLLETTE (63rd Bn 5th RCT '51-'52) and Jean, out of LaCrescenta, Cal., made son David's wedding in Amherst, Ohio. Here is the young couple, David C. and Cynthia Collette. Cindy was Miss Cynthia Dawn Haff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond E. Haff of Amherst, Ohio. They'll be living in Vermilion.OH.



TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What was the name of the long-run radio serial that featured Larry and Mary Noble, and what was Larry's occupation?
2. In the movies, identify Bonnie Blue Butler.
3. Where was the first subway in the world?
4. In the children's story of "Jack and the Beanstalk," how does the big beanstalk come into being?
5. Willie Mays was a major league baseball player from 1951-73, hit 660 home runs and made 3,283 hits during regular-season play. What was his lifetime batting average within 20 points?

eLand Sun News Arranges Flight For Deltona's Lester Buckley

Pearl Harbor Veteran Off To Infantry Reunion

The next day the lead item read under the headline DeLand Sun News Arranges Flight for Deltona's Lester Buckley". The item read:

Mary Buckley says her husband is the kind of guy who can sleep standing on his head.

But he didn't sleep a wink Wednesday night.

The reason for Lester Buckley's Wednesday night insomnia is his excitement about attending a reunion of the Infantry Division with which he served in World War II.

For a while it looked as though the 59-year-old Deltona retiree wasn't going to make it to Fort Stewart, Ga. He wrote to Fort Stewart where the reunion events will be staged, asking for further information about the event.

But public affairs officers there couldn't quite make out his signature and his address was a post office box in Orange City and a letter wouldn't reach him in time because the reunion begins Friday at 9:30 a.m.

The Sun News enlisted the aid of Orange City police officer Steve Gregory who came up with the name of the World War II veteran who was stationed in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941.

It was not Burchley or Beechley, as Fort Stewart's Harriet Carey suspected.

It was Lester Buckley of 2678 Kimberly Drive, Deltona.

Lester Buckley's name is not in the phone book.

Sheriff's Investigator Bruce Scott took care of that problem by personally visiting Buckley at his home.

"We didn't know what to think when we saw a deputy," said Mrs. Buckley.

Buckley says the last time he drove it was in a Model T Ford.

Doctors have forbidden him to drive as a result of injuries he sustained when he slipped in Hawaii's adobe mud during an enemy attack, and plunged 100 feet from a cliff.

So the Sun News and its sister newspaper, the DeBary-Deltona Enterprise, made arrangements for Buckley to fly to the Savannah Airport today.

He will be met at the airport by Miss Carey who phoned the Sun News this morning to say that Buckley will be her guest.

"He's just bubbling over," Mrs. Buckley said.

She was called from the phone for a moment.

"It's like packing for a little kid going off to camp," she said returning to the telephone interview.

Of Wednesday's Sun News story about the search for her husband, Mary Buckley said she was completely "taken aback."

"He's the kind of guy who goes around doing things for everyone else and here's someone doing something for him," she said.

'WE THINK OF THEM IN PRIDE'—Lester Buckley, Deltona, will leave tonight for a reunion with the 24th Infantry Division unit that first felt the fury of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that launched World War II. Buckley, in a poem about the attack on Oahu wrote: "...of how they fought and died, for liberty, freedom and justice, we think of them with pride." Mrs. Buckley says her husband is the "kind of guy who is always helping someone else," and is elated at the efforts of those who have helped him make the visit to Fort Stewart, Ga., a reality.



Well Lester Buckley was on hand, but it was a strange homecoming. Lester was uncommunicative. He didn't have much to say. No one succeeded in drawing him out. When it came to unit or time served, we drew a blank. There'll be more on this. Stay tuned.

As we go to press, we have had dual telephone calls from Prexy MIKE RAFTER and Convention Big Wig that the decision on the '79 Convention site has been made. It'll be the Hilton Inn in Lexington, Ky. on Fri. Aug. 10 and Sat. Aug. 11 with early arrivals on Wed. Aug. 8 or Thurs. Aug. 9 being most welcome by ourselves and by the house.

The Hilton is a 4 year old hostelry, right in the heart of that gorgeous bluegrass country circumadjacent Lexington. In fact, it's not downtown - which is the reason why Mike and Roscoe selected it over the other 4 contenders; it's 3 miles from downtown, 7 minutes away if you want to jump the red lights. It's right across the street from Kentucky U's beautiful experimental farm, and smack amid 30 picturesque horse farms and training centers.

Two interstates bisect Ky. in two ways. I75 is the north-south pike and I64 is the east-west speedway. As you might expect, these routes intersect. In fact they do meet, run together or combine for about 5 miles on the north side of the city and then separate. Halfway along the joint I75-I64, the road crosses Newtown Pike, the main artery running straight north out of downtown Lexington. The Hilton Inn lies astride that junction. You couldn't miss it, if you tried. Incidentally, Lexington airport is just west of the town on Route 60. If you drop down on the field from the northeast, you'll be about 500 feet above the beautiful Calumet Farms about 1/2 mile east of the A/P. Look for it. From the A/P, take route 60 east for just a mile to the so-called New Circle Road, Lexington's outer belt drive. (Calumet Farm will be on your left, it's just west of the junction of 60 and New Circle). Go left (northeast) on New Circle and follow it for 4 miles. Get off on the Newtown Pike exit and go north for just one mile to the Hilton Inn. See you there.

Congress is near final enactment of a measure authorizing \$4.6 million of new family housing units at Stewart... Pentagon is proposing boosting cash bounties up to 3 times the present payments to civilian police for catching military deserters. Current rate is \$15. for arrest of a deserter, \$25. for arrest and delivery to military control.

LTG VOLNEY WARNER, Cmdr, XVIII Abn Corps, Ft. Bragg, NC, chats with Col. CLAUDE WHITE Cdr, MEDDAC Ft. Stewart and MEDDAC SGM JAMES SCURRY while in the background 24th Inf. Div. CSM JOHN HUMMER and our JOHN KLUMP, converse after the review.



Trivia Quiz Answers

1. "Backstage Wife," actor.
2. She is the daughter of Rhett Butler and Scarlett O'Hara in the film classic, "Gone With the Wind."
3. London, England, in 1863.
4. Jack sells the family cow, Milky-White, for five magical beans. In anger, his mother throws them out the window and by morning a beanstalk reaching to the sky had grown alongside the house.
5. He batted .302.

We can't imagine its happening - but it did. Curator Ray Kinder of the Division's Museum has asked for contributions. Some were brought by some of you to Savannah II. The Museum people picked them up at our motel, sans names and addresses of the donor. Ray wants these names for his records. If you were one of the guilty ones, will you please write Ray, describing in detail your artifact and giving any history on it if you can. Whatta mess!!!

Life Member GEORGE RUTLEDGE, (5th RCT), has made up a delightful pin and has asked us to include this card in our next issue, which we do:

Assoc. Lapel
Pin or Charm



Full Color
Approx. 1/2"
Dia. Safety
Catch Pin.
CHARMS also
available for
the LADIES

Check One

☐ Pin ☐ Charm \$_____ Total Enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____

How many ordered _____

Send Cashiers check for \$ 3.00 @
Postage & Handling Included TO:

George W. Rutledge
1104 No. Park St.
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Ethel, better 1/2 of HUBERT
KINGSBURY, (C34th '43-'45), sends us
this one she wrote and titled
"A Soldier Dies":

"He is gone -
He died a hero.
He may have been a gunner
who shot down a 'Zero' -
Or fought in the infantry
and died for all eternity.
But God knows -
He died a hero."

Thank you Ethel!

The Army has relaxed the policy requiring West Point dropouts to do a service hitch, a move it calls a progressive reform. Cadets who drop out after their sophomore year will no longer face automatic two-to-four year tours as enlisted men. Instead, they may have their cases individually reviewed with some prospect of escaping the service requirement. The policy change has aroused fears in some quarters that the academy, a major football power in the 1940s and 50s, might once again start attracting star athletes.

SAM's wife Elspeth, these are the Tiburon, Calif. UMPHREYS (Hq. 3/46-11/47), is in ETO so Sam has to stay home and mind the 2 parakeets. Believe us, that's what Sam writes. Sam was Div.Chem O. during those blissful days between the wars.

We'll quickly dispense with the Savannah II news on the election of officers, that annual event that helps to insure our continuance. Our crown prince, MICHAEL RAFTER, (34th '41-'44) was elected President; Brig.Gen. LESTER L. WHEELER, (19th, 21st, 34th, Div.Hq., 5th RCT) became our new crown prince; KENWOOD ROSS (Div. Hq. '44-'48) was elected Secretary-Treasurer-Editor; and Fr. CHRISTOPHER J. BERLO (19th '43-'48) was elected Chaplain. Rafter immediately appointed HOWARD R. LUMSDEN (21st '50-'51) as his Membership Chairman, and ROSCOE C. CLAXON, (724th Ord. '42-'45), as his Convention Chairman.

HUGH BROWN, (L 21st), of Athens, Ga., made another Savannah convention wearing those Chinese red suspenders.



"Good news, Colonel — You're not ready to fade away yet."

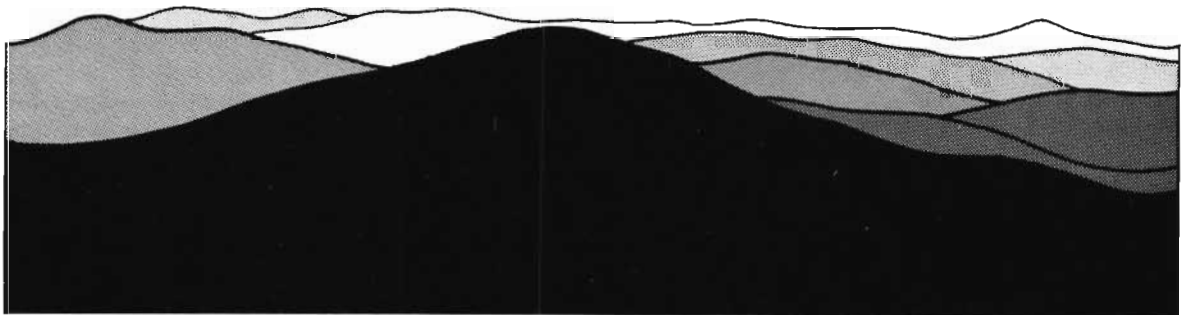
For 31 years, past president ROSCOE CLAXON has come to our annual celebration and as the occasion would permit has sung the praises of the blue-grass country, all in his untiring effort to persuade our gang one day to reunite in Lexington, a few miles away from his beloved Stamping Ground. For 30 years, Roscoe has returned home, head bloodied but unbowed - determined to try anew next time 'round. He flew into Savannah II, full of his usual zest for life, and ready again to try to rally the boys around the flag. And wonder of wonders, in this AD 1978, the Year of the Horse, it worked. Lexington once nominated, as usual, by Roscoe, received a resounding majority vote. So when next we meet, it'll be, as Roscoe's guests, in Lexington, Ky. Roscoe thanks you - humbly and with great pride. He'll keep the faith - and that's a promise.

PAUL "Junior" HARRIS had lost his brother just 4 weeks before S II, but he was with us, determined not to let his personal tragedy spoil the party for anyone else.

GERALD R. STEVENSON HONORED WITH MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM JORDAN VERBECK AWARD



Nothing delights us more than to set up this page in tribute to one for whom we have such an affectionate (manly) regard. One of the finest gentlemen we have ever been privileged to know, this chap. Our mind frequently hearkens back to that October 20, the day 4 years ago, when following appropriate observances at Red Beach, four of us (ED HENRY, BILLY SANDERSON, GERRY and ourselves) in the company of some of our good Palo friends, made it by "Jeepney" along the route through Alangalang, Jaro, Tunga, Carigara and Pinamapoon to Breakneck Ridge. Happily we recall the thrill that was Gerry's as, at Jaro, he stood on the exact spot where earlier, almost 30 years to the day, he had set up his Div.Hq. Mess. It was worth the effort of those 12,000 miles just to see the excitement exuding from Gerry as he groped for - and found - that very spot. And now 34 years later, this Association made known its respect for Gerry and all that he stands for when it comes to the Division and her people by presenting to him its annual WILLIAM J. VERBECK AWARD in recognition of what he has done in the last 30 and more years to keep alive this Association and what it represents. ED HENRY with customary dignity, made the formal presentation at the SII banquet with words like these:



Joe Namath has sworn off butts and booze. Asked when he is going to give up women, came the retort: "When the U.S. Health Commissioner publicly declares them to be injurious to health."

C-rations never were the doughboy's favorite. So it wasn't surprising to learn that a large batch of the cans, stored in West Germany for our troops, had turned rotten from old age. But \$3 million worth? That was the value of the 175,000 cases that had outlived their 3-year time limit. Why the overage in the first place is in itself a \$3 million question that needs answering.

Thoughts While Shaving: Why not nominate for biggest prima donna of the year in the sporting world Cassius Clay or Baltimore Orioles' Jim Palmer.

Something unsettling about hearing Mrs. Marina Oswald Porter tell the Assassination Committee about how the great one, Lee Harvey, came home one night in '63, a few weeks before that Nov. 22nd day, to brag about how he'd just shot at Maj.Gen. EDWIN A WALKER. The General, West Point '31, commanded the Division in Germany in '61; now lives at 4011 Turtle Creek Blvd., Dallas, Tex.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honor once more to make in behalf of our Association an award which is the highest tribute that can be paid to one of our members - The Verbeck Award.

By custom, the award, in the form of a sterling silver bowl, is made by the present holder to the new recipient. By reason of the death of our dear friend, Sam Gilner, in the fall of 1976, the award to him was made posthumously last year at Norfolk, at which time his widow, Sue, was unable to be present. We rejoice that she has been able to come from her Florida home to be with us tonight. I have been asked by the Executive Committee to act as a surrogate for Sam in passing on the bowl to the man who will be the awardee for this year. He will have possession of it for the coming year and, upon surrendering it, will receive a miniature bowl for his permanent keeping.

The award was established in 1968 to honor the memory of Maj.Gen.WILLIAM J.VERBECK who died on November 4, 1965 and is buried in the National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Bill Verbeck, as he was almost universally called, especially by the Gimlets of the 21st Infantry Regiment whom he so proudly led, was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in the Class of 1927. He served in the Army all his life. There is an interesting sidelight to his career which should be mentioned. His grandfather went to Japan shortly after Commodore Perry landed. His father was born in Japan. Bill served as a Military Aide in Japan in the 1930s. He could speak Japanese quite fluently and even was able to read it to a limited extent. He was an ideal soldier - gallant in action with a gift for leadership, but with a common touch that endeared him to all of us. Bill Verbeck was both a noble and a free spirit. When he died, something went out of the lives of all of us.

The man who receives this award tonight is the choice of the Executive Committee taken by a mailed ballot so that all Committee members have had an opportunity to vote. In making their choice they have had in mind that the Verbeck Award is in recognition of service to the Association. It is not a popularity contest but the man chosen is in fact one of the best-loved men in our Association. He has served as our President. He has served as our Convention Chairman. His home has been the focal point for countless gatherings of Taro Leafers where we have seen a wholesome and an enduring family life. He is bound to us by the most intimate bond of loyalty and affection. After the deep ties of family, his real love is for this Association. He served in Division Headquarters in Hawaii, Australia, New Guinea and Leyte. He was one of four members who represented us in Leyte on the 30th anniversary of our landing. By reason of his devotion to this Association, no one comes closer to meeting the high standards of the Verbeck Award than the man I now have the honor to name --

GERALD R. STEVENSON.

Did you know that the 1st Cav. at Ft.Hood has a horse cavalry platoon - has had it for 7 years. 27 men, 20 horses, and 2 mules. The horses and mules are the property of the 1st Cav. Div.Assoc. It's a flesh and blood monument to the soldiers of 100 years ago. The platoon's equipment - clothing, saddles, firearms and sabres date back to the 1870's. It has performed throughout the U.S. Trot, ho!!

Nice note from Col. FRED WEBER, (21st '42-'44), of Lumber Bridge, N.C., reminding us of the observation once made by W.C.Fields: "It was a woman who drove me to drink. And - you know - I never even thanked her."

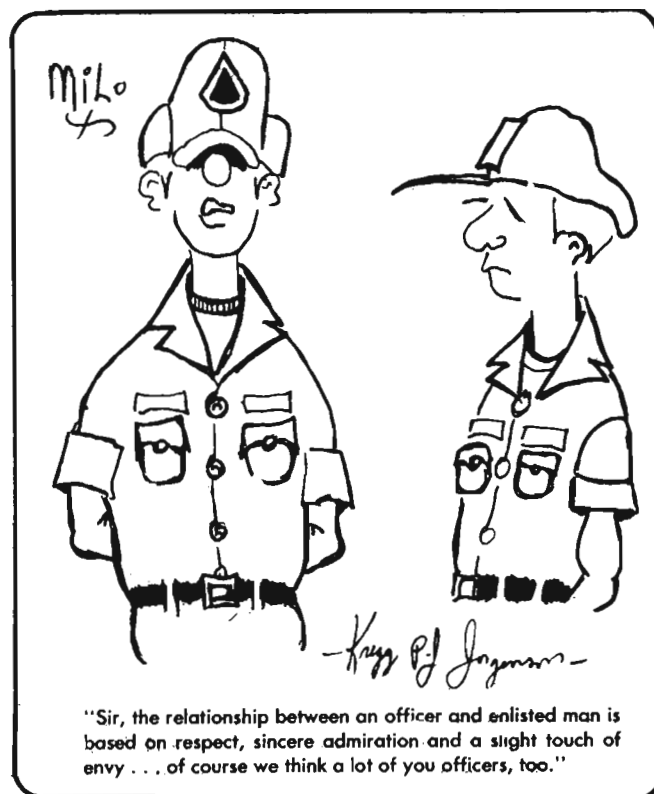
FRANKLIN E. SKINNER, (11th F), of Camden, N.Y., a retired fireman, makes buttons. Sent us a few. One read "Avoid hangovers; stay drunk". Frank, are you selling those things?



The Division and Ft. Stewart provided many activities for us when we visited the post on Friday, Aug. 4. An NCO parade and review with an awards ceremony honoring the soldier and noncommissioned officers of the year highlighted morning activities. Lt. Gen. VOLNEY WARNER, Commander, 18th Airborne Corps. and Ft. Bragg, N.C., and Brig. Gen. GEORGE MARINE, assistant division commander, presented the awards. Sp 4 JAMES WILLIAMS, soldier of the year, received an Army Commendation Medal, a \$1000 bond and a watch in recognition of his selection as soldier of the year. Sp 6 ELZE KENNEDY, the noncommissioned officer of the year, was awarded an ARCOM, third oak leaf cluster as NCO of the year. Runners-up for soldier and NCO of the year received Department of the Army Certificates of Achievements. They are Sgt. JOHN POTTS, Staff Sgt. DAVID PUKLUS, Staff Sgt. ROY NOLLIE, Sgt. ADNER BATTS, Sp 4 ROBERT MCCULLOUGH and Pvt. 1st Class MICHAEL R. BEICHLER. This is President JOHN KLUMP making the presentation to Sp 6 KENNEDY. The Association also presented a couple of defense bonds.



In '68, Leo Rosten wrote "The Joys of Yiddish" and therein defined "chutzpa" as "gall, brazen nerve, effrontery, incredible guts, presumption plus arrogance such as no other word and no other language can do justice to". While we were at Savannah II, Sen. George McGovern was calling for international military intervention in Cambodia. With his position about Vietnam fully in mind, we are drawn to the conclusion that McGovern has chutzpa.



A display of current division weapons and equipment was another of the days highlights on Cottrell Field, the site of the morning's activities and the equipment display. Musical entertainment was provided throughout the afternoon by Ft. Stewart and Hunter AAF musical groups. For lunch, many took advantage of an invitation to eat in the Division's dining halls. Afterwards, they joined members of the 2-70 Armor for demonstration rides on tanks and armored personnel carriers. For many of the members, the 24th Infantry Division museum was the final stop, where memorabilia from the division's past brought back memories, some pleasant, some not.

JOE and Ethel BLASCHE, (I 19th '41-'43), of Butler, Ga., are the proud grandparents of boy triplets - Jason, Joseph and Jon Richards - born to the Bill Blasche family in Macon, Ga. on Aug. 17th. Bill was in 'Nam. Congratulations everyone. Triplets? Wow!!

SAM MAY, (13th F '42-'45), of China Grove, N.C., has sent in \$20.00 to get himself on the way to a Life Membership. \$20 per annum for 5 years does it.

CHARLEY ANDERSON, (Hq. 19th Commo. Sect. - '43-'46), of Springfield, Ill., asks, "How much are your dues". \$10 per annum, Charley. And our fiscal year runs from 8/1 to 8/1.

This is BOB CHURCH "riding shotgun" on his beloved trailer which was prominently parked close to the swimming pool at Savannah II. Bob is trying to locate HENRY MUCCI and we're completely stumped. Wish we knew. How about it out there?



It's WILLARD "Bud" POE on the left. He's 24th Sig., 12/42 - 12/45, and now of Bannock, Ohio, where he's a mine inspector. Was recently visited by RICHARD ROSENBECK, on the right, and recruited him as a member. Dick has retired after 33 years with the VA Hosp. in White River Junction, Vt. Bud's lovely gal, Jo, writes us that "Bud is afflicted with an arm ailment since his 24th Signal days - all from writing too many V mail letters - as a result, he hasn't written a single letter since '45."



JACK ANDERSON brought with him to Savannah II a couple of bottles of North Carolina's "White Lightning". Jack says he drinks "only moderately; in fact, I've got a case of Old Moderately in my closet right now."

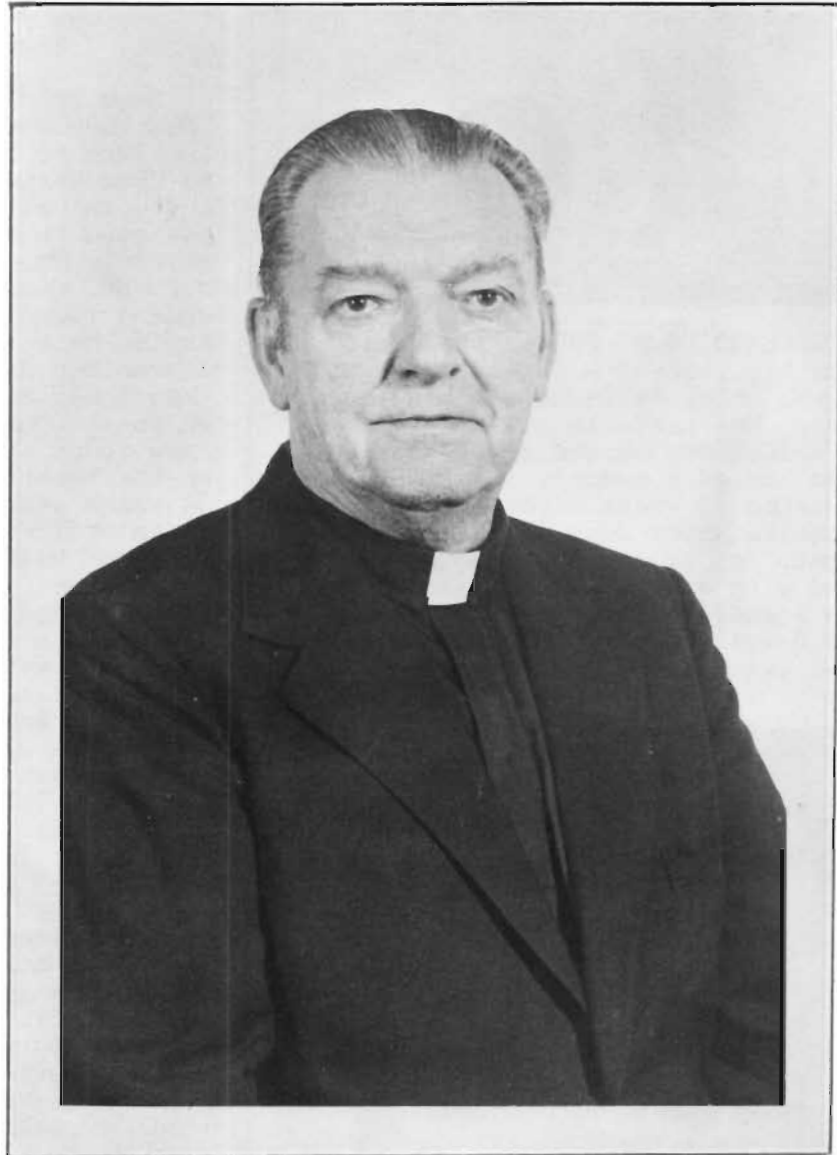
It's hard to realize that they used to call VIC BACKER "Red" back in WW II.

Wonderful letter received from JOHN WETTERAU, (Sv. 19th '34-'43), of Box 54, Grants Pass, Ore. John is in his 89th year and Estella's in her 83rd. We forwarded a message to them last Aug. 14th as they celebrated their 58th year of togetherness which went:

"The 24th Division Association salutes
John and Estella Wetterau
on the occasion of their 58th.
Our warmest good wishes go
forward to you both.
The 24th"

Says John, just as he typed it:
"When Gen. DeWitt had me return from the 19th at Schofield in '43 I was sent to Camp White and appointed Captain in the Corps of Military Police, and assigned to the North West Sector at Ft. Lewis Wn, and assigned to the 772nd M.P. Bn. Col. Conney was my C.O. and when I found that out I asked him to assign me to his headquarters, where I remained until the end of the war, then I was assigned to the Ft. Warden, Wn in the Coast Artillery, and what I know about the big guns you can place in on the back of a postage stamp. After 34 years service I asked to be released as an Officer, then re-up in my prior grade of Master Sgt, and put in for retirement. That was in June 1947. Then I moved to Grants Pass, Ore. where my wife was and the children. I got busy and saw about another job. One day Judge Millard, Circuit Court, came out to see me and said that I was recommended to be a Juvenile Officer, that he had to start this department up and I was the joker to put it in effect. I held that job for 14 years and the county put in retirement plan that all who were 65 must retire so I retired the second time. Now I am tired from being retired as the saying goes. I have five acres and some chickens and a few cows just to keep me busy. That is my story. The old Taro Leaf sure brings memories back from the old gang. (This typewriter doesn't always spell right so forget the errors. I am a hunt 'n peck guy). I'll see what I find as to pictures. Say we just celebrated our 58 years of marriage. How I made it I don't know but she is old Army same as the two daughters. One was born in San Antonio, and Joan in Ft. Warden, Cheyenne, Wyo. I wonder how old Schofield looks. I was living at Carter Gate when they hit my house and bullets went through the house. Was also Manager of the Old No. 2 Theater, and I was manager of the No. 1 Theater. This is just a few lines to say hello and your Taro Leaf is just great. Sincerely, John Wetterau."

The Memorial Service – The Text And Its Author



BOB LAVENDER spoke to us first about the idea, only to be followed by Dottie and LES WHEELER who mentioned it following the Annual Banquet. Their desire - that we publish, in full, that stirring Memorial Service which Fr. CHRISTOPHER J. BERLO, C.P. presents each year in such impressive fashion. And we are proud to oblige. Equally proud are we to tie it in with this photo of the quiet gentleman who conceived it, wrote it, and has "staged" it year after year after year over these past 30 odd - and short - years. We'll not attempt to say more about the man or his work. Our feelings toward this dedicated man are fairly well known. And the work speaks beautifully for itself. These pages, we trust, add up to a very small way of saying, "Thank you, Father," for many, many services rendered - and always with grace and humility.

Mr. President, Officers, Members, Guests, Relatives and Friends of the 24th Infantry Division Association.

It now becomes our solemn duty and privilege to devote a small part of our Convention time to the honorable memory of those of our comrades in arms whom, above all, we would like to have here in our midst today: those heroes of our Division who have laid down their lives in the service of their country.

The friendship which is engendered among those who fight together on the field of battle, risking their lives, not only for the cause for which they fight, but also for one another, is different from every other kind of friendship; different from the ties of flesh and blood, different from the ties of business association; different from the ties of social acquaintance. Once cemented, this military and combat friendship lasts forever. Our gathering here today is proof that it lasts as long as we live; our Memorial Service is proof that it lasts beyond the grave.

It is therefore most fitting and proper that as we gather each year to renew our comradeship with one another, we should also dedicate and consecrate some of our Convention time to the evergreen memory of those to whom we ministered the last rites on the field of battle.

In this spirit we have erected in this banquet hall a shrine to our fallen comrades. We will light the tapers on this shrine as symbols of their living memory which will never be effaced from our hearts. Upon this shrine we place in reverence the Honor Roll in which their names are inscribed.

And as these tapers are now lighted in memory of the various combat units, may I request the members here present who represent that particular unit or group, to rise and stand in reverence to the memory of their fallen comrades.

<i>First candle:</i>	19th Infantry Regiment.
<i>Second candle:</i>	21st Infantry Regiment.
<i>Third candle:</i>	34th Infantry Regiment.
<i>Fourth candle:</i>	The Division Artillery: 11th Field Artillery 13th Field Artillery 52nd Field Artillery 63rd Field Artillery.

Fifth candle: Division Special Troops:
3rd Engineer Combat Battalion
24th Medical Battalion
Division Headquarters
724th Ordnance Company
24th Quartermaster Company
24th Signal Company
24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troup
24th Military Police Company
24th Infantry Division Band.

Sixth candle:
The Units which were attached to the
Division in Korea:
5th Regimental Combat Team.
5th Medium Tank Battalion
6th Tank Battalion
555th Field Artillery.
26th AAA (Triple A) (AW) Battalion.
24th AVN Company.

LET US PRAY

Almighty God, we give You thanks for the glorious and heroic spirit of patriotism which You implanted in the hearts of these our fallen comrades, which enabled them to find the strength to make the supreme sacrifice, to lay down their lives for their country.

Without this supreme sacrifice, without this bravery, without this heroism, our victory on the field of combat would have been impossible. The Holy Book says: "Greater love than this no man hath, than that a man lay down his life for his friends." And by this token, these comrades, whose memory we commemorate today surely paid the highest price, not in money or perishable goods, but in flesh and blood, for that priceless gift of freedom which we enjoy today.

Grant, we ask You, O Lord, that we the living may also be inspired by a spark from this consuming flame of faith and courage, so that we may labor and strive during all our days, for the preservation of that freedom, for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.

And grant also, O God, a ray of inspiration to those men in whose hands there lie today the destinies of nations, so that they may never make a decision, either in the halls of government or at the conference table of peace treaties, which might be inimical to those God-given rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for which we have fought and for which so many of our comrades laid down their lives.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And deliver us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Taps will now be sounded.

BOB CHURCH sends us this one of a friendly group in Chicago last spring. Reading l. to r., recognize if you will JOHN TRINCA, BOB CHURCH, Cecilia LIST, LEE LIST and GERRY STEVENSON.



JIM OWENS, (34th '46-'47), of Lake City, Iowa, recently visited Ft. McClellan where he took basic, then up to N.Y. to visit his and Kate's daughter. He reports that his "85 years young" Dad was felled with a heart attack but is recovering, happily.

BILL NORWOOD, 24th QM '50-'53, was a POW in Korea '51-'53. He and Betty live in West Carrollton, Ohio. Bill asks us to set this notice up - and gladly we do: "Louisville Kentucky was the site for the 3rd annual reunion of survivors from POW Camp #3, North Korea, which was held during August 4th-6th, 1978. There were 36 members and their families present. Many of those in attendance had not seen each other since being released in 1953 and, needless to say, this was a very happy and emotional occasion. The event was well covered by television and one area newspaper. It has been decided that the next reunion for this group will again be held at Louisville, Ky. and the dates are Aug. 10 - 12, 1979. Any-one interested in attending the reunion or learning more about the event should contact William K. Norwood, 5013 Ormand Road, West Carrollton, Ohio 45449. Phone 513-294-5181". This seems stupid to us; they'll be meeting in Louisville while we're meeting in Lexington, 70 miles away. Let's get together, Bill.

Ms. Etta Abesamis, from Tacloban, Leyte, spoke to the group on behalf of the Philippine Dept. of Tourism. The pitch? Come to the P.I. for the next reunion.

In Savannah, one question asked of VIC BACKER, with reference to the banquet, was: "What's the dress?" Vic's answer: "On the right side".

The fault, dear Brutus, lies within ourselves - for not reminding the brethren that our Saturday Night Banquet, while not a formal affair, does call for uniform A. We'll mention it anew, before the next go-round, all as a gentle reminder. Also for the reminder column will be the suggestion - likewise gentle - that we not forget the Hawaiian shirts and mu-mu's ere we meet again. The number of those wearing same has been decreasing in recent years - suggesting perhaps that they've become a bit moth-eaten and haven't been replaced or that we're becoming more sedate in our declining years.

On their eastern trip, "Bud" and Jean COLLETTE visited Danville, Ill. to call on ANDY and Janice YOUHAS. They were in the same outfit, HQ CO 3rd Bn, 5th RCT. Andy was the message center sgt., part of the commo. plat. They hadn't seen each other in 26 years. This is Andy, now an Assoc. man.



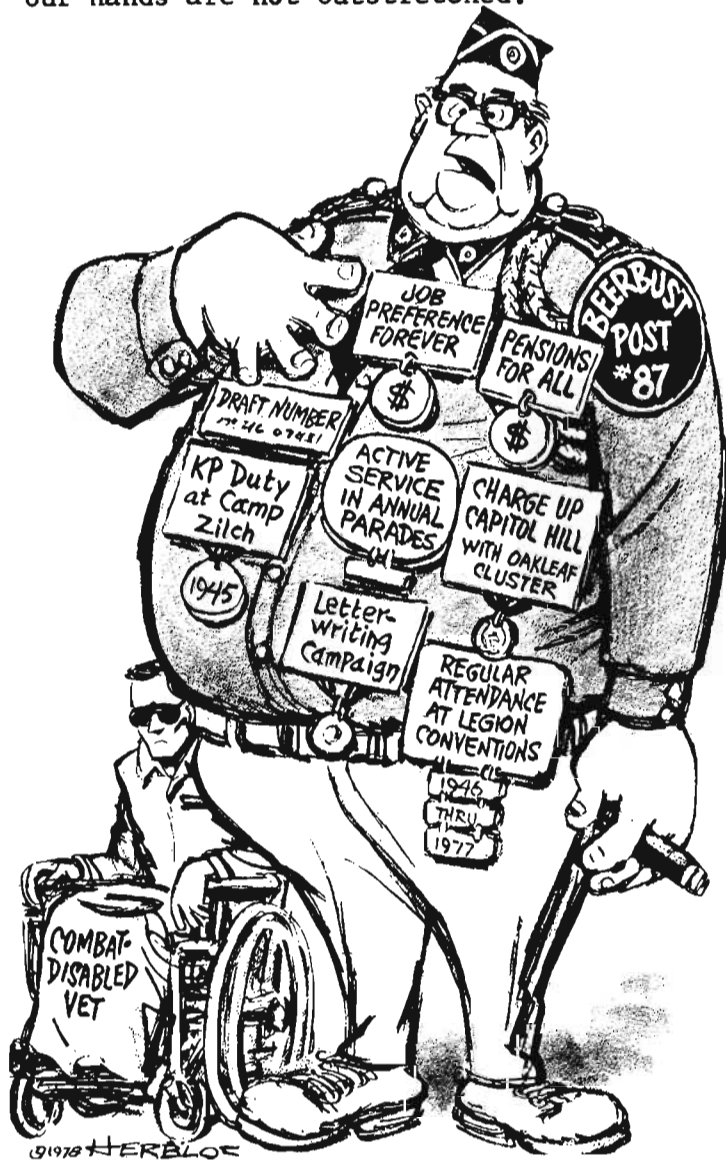
Adm. Hyman Rickover says he doubts the United States can be run as a "pure democracy" because Americans "have a pretty good life" and have become lackadaisical. During a recent stormy 30-minute interview on CBS "Face The Nation" program in Washington, the 78-year-old military leader said that the population is uninterested in substantive matters, unfair in their expectations of the President and lacking incentive and education. During one heated exchange, he denounced the panel of reporters' questions as "stupid" and "pseudo-political". Cheers, Rick!!

Not unnoticed at Savannah II was the fact that BILL BYRD seemed to change suits every hour.

Past Prexy DON WILLIAMS very quiet at Savannah II.

Xmas is coming. Gay Bob will be the first gay doll on the market. Ken and Barbie Doll, push over.

Herb Block got in a little dig recently. Fortunately, and this is one thing of which we are very very proud - our hands are not outstretched.



'You Ain't Gonna Close Your Pocketbooks to Us Veterans, Are You?'

First Lady Hilda KLUMP brought to Savannah II a lovely quilt which she had crocheted, same featuring - naturally - the Taro Leaf. Tickets were sold for a raffling of same at the Annual Banquet. Maj.Gen. VAUGHT was asked to draw for the winner - and whom did he draw? - none other than PAUL WISECUP, one of the Klump's best friends.

Wonderful listening to FRED WEBER at S II describing his days as a fencer and decathalong entry at the Berlin games in '36.

Several people inquired of us if we know the present whereabouts of HENRY "Black Magic" MUCCI. Regretfully, we do not. Anyone informed?

Pentagon's phone bill - \$725,000 a month. Its 26,000 employees use 25000 phones daily. It takes 65 operators to handle the switchboard. About 150 telephone craftsmen work full time in the building to maintain the network.

Hear about the guy who had a clone made of himself only to become very unhappy when he found that the clone frequently used obscene language. So much so in fact that one day the fellow, walking with his clone along the edge of a cliff pushed the clone off and to his death. Police arrested the fellow and hauled him into court. The judge asked what the charge was. After a long pause, one policeman said, "Your honor, this man is charged with making an obscene clone fall".

Lucian Truscott who left West Point and the Army is about to release his first novel, "Dress Gray". It's about, you guessed it, West Point. Already the paperback, film and British publication rights exceed \$1 million.

BUD and Jean COLLETTE called on HOWARD and Gladys LUMSDEN on their trip east. Here's Bud with Howard. Bud is in his 3rd year as Commander of the LaCrescenta, Cal. DAV chapter.



Thanks are due to Maj.Gen. JAMES B. VAUGHT, for many many things that made S II such a success, but special kudos are due for his inspired words at the banquet. There was a lot of meat there - much that could be read between the lines if you listened carefully as he detailed some of his problems. His outlook is cheery nonetheless. His philosophy is quite simple, but oh so hopeful - "Let every problem represent an opportunity." Thanks, Gen.Vaught for everything.

Former Div. C.G., Lt.Gen. EDWARD ROWNY, represents the Joint Chiefs at the Geneva SALT meetings.

(Btry 2nd Bn 35th FA fires the salute during the review. US Army Photo. Thanks to Sgt. ANNE HOWE who laughed when we told her that we'd heard from FRANK LOPEZ, (24th Med. '43-'45), out in 1000 E. Birch, Independence, KS. Frank wants to "hear from anyone who might care to write. I'm with the Postal Service and we need the business".



PV2 GEANA TROUTMAN shot this US Army photo of a couple of our "old timers" telling each other how it was in the old days. Taken at the Division Museum. Dr. Ray Kinder, it's Curator, will welcome any physical contribution to the Museum.

JAMES "Bill" DUPAW, (SV 34 '53-'54), is in the Vermont Veterans Home, Bennington, VT. Postcard him please. He awaits our publication with his "eyes peeled for the mailman". He'd appreciate your thoughtfulness.

MOE BERGAN, (CN 34 '42-'45), of Ridgeway, Iowa, has found BOB LINTNER of Madison, NB and has brought him into the fold. Moe says he's still farming so can't leave at convention time but adds, "when August rolls around, my thoughts always go back to '42-'45".

Great having SUE GILNER with us at S II.

Maj.Gen. FRED IRVING at S II, still looking 48 despite creeping time.

Our S II notes include this: "When the trumpet sounds uncertain, how can you go into battle?" We don't know who said it, or where, or why - but we love it.

At S II - not a single beard.

Talk about superstitions. Remember when Babe Ruth never would run in from right field without touching second base? And would never step up to the plate without touching his right knee?

Col. DICK LAWSON, Maj.Gen. FRED IRVING, Mrs. Walton Walker, and Col. ALVA "Judge" CARPENTER at Savannah II.



Past Presidents All - Maj.Gen. FRED IRVING, VIC BACKER, TOM COMPERE, and BILL SANDERSON. Another one - JOE PEYTON is pontificating in the background - just between Vic and Tom.



LTG VOLNEY WARNER, CG, XVIII Abn Corps, Ft. Bragg, NC, JOHN KLUMP, PINCKNEY BUTLER, 1st VP Coastal Empire Chap AUSA, and Brig.Gen. GEORGE MARINE, ADC 24th Inf.Div. review the troops.



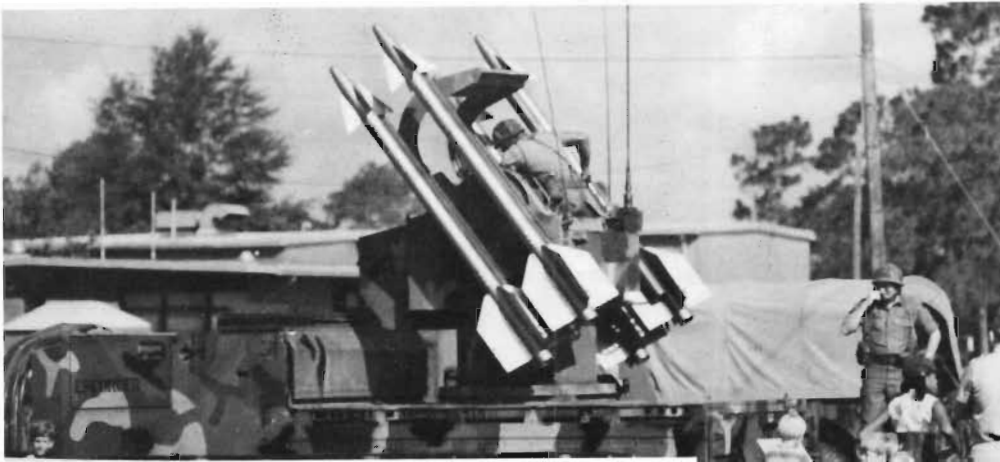
Super letter from CSM CHARLES T. JENKINS who wrote the Division Commander trying to run us down. Here's some of what he wrote: The mere mention of the 24th Infantry Division stirred up some old time good memories since I was a member from 17 Jan. '47 through 1 June '51. I saw the good life of occupational duty there in Japan as a member of the 34th ('47 and '48) then in early '48 I transferred to the 724th Ord in Kokura. I played football with the Kokura (24th Div.Hqs.) Bulldogs with Tech Sgt. Hopkins, T4 David Simeona, Maj (Doc) Peden, Maj. (Provost Marshall) Jackson, Slim Erwin, James Dury (Remember the little blond 3d string running back Tommy????who married the Japanese girl and had twins); the team was coached by CPT Robinson and MSG McDougal. We played our games at Kitagawa, the home of the 3d Eng. I went on into Korea with the Division and saw the bleak days of the first part of the "conflict" when Taejon was captured and we lost General Dean. Quite a few of those names I mentioned were lost in Korea, I know of MSG McDougal and Tommy and know that David Simeona was hit so hard he was paralysed. I am writing this letter in an attempt to re-establish some of the old acquaintances and to see if any of the old members of the "Victory Division" in the 1947-1951 era are still active. If you publish a Division paper I would appreciate being placed on the mailing list at the following address:

CSM CHARLES JENKINS
HHC 362 Civil Affairs Brigade
10031 E.Northwest Highway
Dallas, Texas 75238.

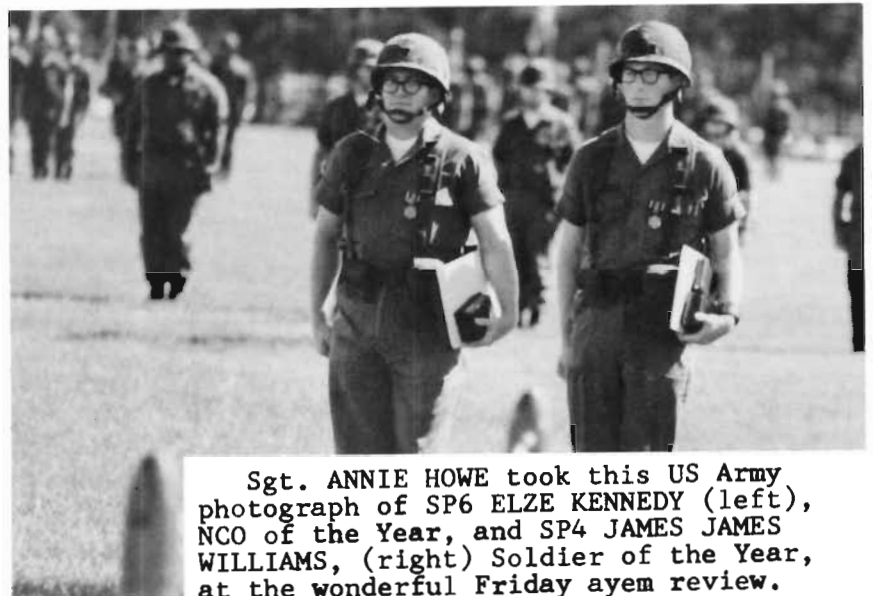
ED HENRY has an interesting theory about the gang-up on Richard Nixon. Think about it, and don't fly off the handle. The theory, simply stated, reads thus: they got spiro Agnew out first. Think on it. There's a lot of food for thought there.

Male jitterbug award for S II; do we give it to ROSCOE CLAXON or DON ROSENBLUM?

CHET ANDREZAK, (Cn 21st '43-'45), of 3225 N.Natchez, Chicago, sadly reports the passing of his good friend, Sgt. WALTER U. PRODUIT, also of Cannon Co. Writes Chet, "Spook, as he was affectionately called, was our mess sargeant and can best be remembered by those of us who were at Mintal, Mindanao in early May, 1945, as the guy who kept his kitchen going in the perimeter across the road from the Standard Oil Gas station. This was the area in which JIM DIAMOND won his Congressional Medal of Honor for his gallantry in battle." Thanks, Chet.



Troops of the 5th Bn, 52nd ADA show off the Chaparral. Thanks to ANNIE HOWE, it's a US Army photo. We told Annie that Col. SYD HOWE, (Div.Hq. '48-'51) of Columbus, Ga., has now joined. Syd was on Division staff under BILL DEAN and JOHN CHURCH. Syd wants a roster of members. Coming, Syd.



Sgt. ANNIE HOWE took this US Army photograph of SP6 ELZE KENNEDY (left), NCO of the Year, and SP4 JAMES JAMES WILLIAMS, (right) Soldier of the Year, at the wonderful Friday ayem review.

Former Div.C.G. Maj.Gen.BLACKSHEAR BRYAN, was once football coach at WP.

Favorite PAUL "Jr." HARRIS story is the one he tells on JAMES "Spike" O'DONNELL. They were both nested in their foxholes. Spike had shot a little Nip in the leg. The poor devil was out there in front of them, moaning in his misery. "Shoot him, Spike, finish him off!" pleaded Jr. Whispered back Spike, "No, leave him moan; it'll keep the other bastards away."

Observed at SII - JOE CENGA's sweatshirt reading "Last call for Schofield."

Word around S II was that they want to make Jan. 8 a national holiday - Elvis Presley's birthday - as outrageous as Tip O'Neil.

We've been thoughtfully remembered by postcard from FRANCIS "Randy" and Nancy RANGLES, (34th '44-'45), of Martinez, Ga., who went to Hawaii following Savannah II. Randy, one of our original Assoc. members, has retired from Westinghouse as a nuclear engineer. Worked Hanford, Wash. detail.

J.B. JONES - 19th and Div. G-4 - and Lois were enjoying themselves at S II. Always grand to have a few hours with these folks every convention time.

Best comment overheard at S II was one made by Chairman HARRY RUBIN: "I'm glad I did it, and I don't want to do it again."

BILL SHOWN picked us up on a matter with words that went: "Perhaps some clarification is needed. In latest Taro Leaf C.A. BUD COLLETTE is coordinating a collection of information concerning the Division to be made into a history. In the same issue, it is suggested that we contact FRED O'COIN of 33 Valley St., Spencer, MA., as he is taking part in a national effort to collect a history of the Division. Are these two gentlemen working with you on this project, or might they be collecting additional information for separate histories of the division? The answer's a simple one. Both COLLETT and O'COIN succeeded in obtaining a little free publicity in their respective home town papers. This was in response to our request that each member try it - all in an effort to spread the fact of our existence. Collette's item pulled in 3 new members; O'Coin's item captured 4. The gimmick was that a History is being written and help is needed. Of course, all of the history material is filtered to us. There is but one book.

Fort Stewart, in conjunction with our Reunion, presented the Fort Stewart Summer Festival. Maj.Gen. VAUGHT invited everyone throughout the "Coastal Empire" to attend the Saturday's activities, which featured demonstrations, the parade, displays of Army weapons and equipment, and general partying and picnicing. From 11:30 to 3:30, they could enjoy partying with some of the Army's award winning entertainers. Admission was free. On hand were, The Gathering, Fort Stewart's award winning combo, and Hunter Army Airfield's award winning Montage (a combination of rock/soul/jazz/blues group), and Just Folks (Hunter's folk group). Picnic areas were provided and refreshments were available throughout the day.

As a part of the morning parade, awards were presented to the Division's soldier and noncommissioned officer of the year. Fort Stewart's new museum, containing displays and artifacts of the fort, the Division, and the Army in its more than 200 year history, was open to the public throughout the day to complete the Festival scene.

Wonderful to have ALVA' Judge' CARPENTER with us at Savannah II.

BILL "Sandy" SANDERSON had troubles at Savannah II. A spring was sticking out through his mattress.

Tireless workers at Savannah II - never stopped - Prexy JOHN KLUMP, Bartender BOB SHAY, Registrar BERT LOWERY, and Chairman HARRY RUBIN.

HERVEY J. LEBOEUF, (Retired Lt.Col. 3rd Eng. '48-'49, Germany '58-'61) has moved from Wellfleet, Mass. to 124 Willow Lane, Naples, Fla. Lee was a "partial Gimlet" in the '48-'49 era as he was attached to the 21st as post engineer. Was with the 3rd Eng. again in Munich '58-'61.

BILL BROOME, (I 21 '38-'40) of 15100 Dacosta, Detroit, Mich., still running his own insurance agency - hopes to be retired by the time this is read. Youngest boy, David, is entering Univ. of Detroit.

Delma TEIGELER, ERICH's good wife (Erich was C of the 19th '44-'46), is recovering slowly, but nicely, from a broken hip. They're at 1103 W 7th, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Observed at S II - BERT and Ginny LOWERY's Tommy, age 10, looks like Bert - and walks like him.

Proud were we, at S II, that so many fine personal references went out in the direction of Maj.Gen.AUBREY "Red" NEWMAN - consistently with expressions of gratefulness for his "inspired leadership".

Our new President MICHAEL RAFTER shows real courage. He's the only Association member who takes a shower without a shower cap.



"That's what I like about you! You can take orders!"

Directs Vital Communications System at Monastery

Father Christopher Berlo Toils Unseen

Father Christopher Berlo, CP, is really a man behind the scenes in the truest sense.

For its his job every July to handle the controls of a public address system that is an integral part of the annual novena services at St. Ann's Monastery in West Scranton.

Without him and his talents, the hundreds of pilgrims attending the annual observance in honor of St. Ann would have a difficult time hearing the services.

And while his fellow Passionists take to the altar and

pulpit to preach the "Word of God" and lead the pilgrims in paying homage to St. Ann as the Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandmother of Jesus Christ, Father Christopher keeps his hands on the pulse of the all-important communications network sounding the messages inside the monastery and across the sprawling grounds outside.

Assigned to St. Ann's the past 10 years, it's Father Christopher's job each July to manipulate the 80 switches that beam the words and

music and control the voice volume of each speaker.

Like many other Passionists, Father Christopher is a native of Massachusetts, having been born in Boston, where he received his primary and secondary education.

He received his theological education in Europe and was ordained in 1927 in a Pilgrimage Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Styrian Alps of Austria.

Father Christopher assisted in the foundation of the Passionist Order in Austria

and Germany and while there rebuilt and renovated a 200-year-old church and monastery in Austria. He designed and built a new monastery in the Palatinate section of Germany and was assigned its first rector.

After the outbreak of World War II, he joined the Army as chaplain and served with the infantry in the South Pacific from Sydney, Australia to Tokyo, Japan, and later served with the Army occupation in Germany.

Following his retirement

from the Army in 1958, he was assigned as resident engineer for the construction of churches, monasteries and retreat houses in the Eastern United States.

Father Christopher is the oldest missionary at St. Ann's and although his life spans three quarters of a century, he is full of energy and labors for God in seeing that the wires are in tune for the Passionist Fathers to preach the Word of God in sharing the Good News of the Gospel with the people who attend the services.



Father Christopher Berlo, CP, toils behind scenes at master control of public address system that is a vital part of services at St. Ann's Monastery in West Scranton. (Photo by Michael Kovalik)

Ex-CIA officer Philip Agee and journalist Louis Wolf are releasing "Dirty Work: The CIA in Western Europe", their new book. In it, they list the dope on about 800 men and women said to be CIA officers under cover in US embassies throughout Europe. Nice boys.

ROLAND K. SMITH (D 19th '36-'37), retired Army, now at Rt. 2, Box 440, Grifton, N.C., sent in \$10 for the history in '77 and in '78 sent in another \$20 - for all of which our gratitude - He and Louise left S II for Little Rock where they attended the WAC convention. Busy conventioners.

In the old days, if a person missed the stagecoach, he was content to wait a day or two for the next one. Nowadays, we feel frustrated if we miss one section of a revolving door.

Nobody can be as persuasive as the one who's not hampered by facts or the truth.

BOB LAVENDER, (34th & 19th '45 and '50-'51), went into VA Hosp., Dallas, Tex., as a suspect. Came out with a good report. Cancer ruled out. As Bob puts it, "It's Miller Time". We're all grateful, Bob.

CHARLEY TARRANTS, (34th), of Montgomery, Ala., forwarded \$100 for the History. About 900 of our members haven't contributed a single red copper penny. They've been harder to pin down than Bonnie & Clyde.

Our new convention chairman, ROSCOE CLAXON, uses this one upon appropriate occasion: "He's not heavy; he's my brother". Think it over. There's a lot of good living in that one.

Welcome to LARRY HUOTARI, retired Army, now of Oxnard, Calif. Larry was with us from the beginning ('41) to Apr. '43 - in the MP Plat. Wants names of MP men of that vintage. We are trying to organize a directory of members showing unit and time for each, Larry. Can you wait a couple of months? Also wants address of Gen. Schorr, Div. P.M.

Thoughtfully postcarded were we by LARRY and Margie DALEY (M 21 '41-'45), of Yonkers, N.Y.; they were in Morocco.

Did you ever notice when you pull into a gas station in a small town, the cash register is wide open and the rest room is locked?

Bert Lance, a year later, is collecting as much as \$5000 per speech as he makes the banquet circuit.

Who's winning weapons war in Europe?

/Ed. Note: Early on in the summer, Arthur T. Hadley, a Washington correspondent for New Times magazine, wrote an article on his "recent look at NATO personnel and equipment." Whether or not you know anything about Hadley as a reliable newsman (and he's nothing but a name to us), what he wrote deserves at least your review. You don't have to agree with it, but we think you owe it to yourself to read it. We're not asking you to draw any conclusions; and we're not making any editorial comment of our own. We give it to you just as Hadley wrote it, sans the cartoons._7

The conventional wisdom in Washington is that NATO, outnumbered in tanks and planes by Soviet and Warsaw Pact forces, nonetheless can defend Western Europe because of its superiority in electronic warfare, computer-guided weapons and better-trained personnel.

"We need not match the enemy tank for tank," says Defense Secretary Harold Brown. "We retain a qualitative edge."

As a society, the West is far ahead of the Soviet Union in computers and electronics. But in the application of technology to warfare, it is the Russians, not the Americans, who have the most sophisticated weapons and communications systems now deployed in Europe. Many of our most modern systems either are still on the drawing boards, don't work as advertised or are so complex that the troops can neither use nor maintain them and the generals don't understand them.

There are three main areas in which NATO must have a "qualitative edge" to offset the Warsaw Pact's numerical advantages; electronic warfare, tanks and guided anti-tank weapons, and control of the air. In all three areas, the Soviet forces are qualitatively as well as quantitatively ahead.

We have been forced back into the world of John Foster Dulles, where we must rely on nuclear weapons to check a Soviet advance into Western Europe. But the Soviets now also have quantities of nuclear weapons. So Western Europe, and even the American heartland, are placed

in jeopardy from nuclear war because our conventional forces are inadequate for the new electronic precision warfare.

The key to an understanding of the present military balance in Europe lies in the 1973 Middle East war, when Soviet and American weapons were last used against each other in combat. I went to Europe this spring for a month of intensive reporting to see how NATO and the US Army and Air Force were absorbing the lessons of that war. I expected to find new precision-guided weapons being used to hit distant targets, new methods of controlling and massing forces, new systems and tactics for surveying the battlefield so that commanders could locate the enemy and select targets accurately. I found none of this. In fact, I found that the newer weapons and tactics were on the enemy side.

I made few "official visits" to any headquarters. By and large, I traveled along an old-boy network, which has dangers as well as advantages. These were people I had known since they were young majors or captains, when I covered the Pentagon during the Korean War, or instructors or cadets at West Point, when I lectured there, or officers whom I had met and come to respect in Vietnam. I have taken great care in this article both to protect their identities and to check everything I was told.

The first area in which NATO has fallen behind is electronic warfare. Electronic warfare (EW for short) includes a variety of weapons and weapons systems. There is radio and radar jamming so that the enemy can't communicate with his units or locate your tanks and planes. There is eavesdropping on enemy radio communications and finding targets by various means. EW also includes our ability to get our own radio messages and other forms of data transmission through so we can control our outnumbered unit more efficiently than the Russians control theirs.

In this field of electronic warfare, the experience of the 1973 Yom Kippur War points to a surprising and unpublicized edge for the Russians. Within the first half-hour of their attack, the

Egyptian forces had stripped the Israelis of virtually all their radar and air-ground communications and most of their long-range ground communication. The Israeli radars and radios either were destroyed by Soviet-made beam-riding missiles or jammed by both ground-based and airborne equipment. After that, the Israeli pilots could not be guided to targets from the ground, or hear the cries of ground commanders for help.

Yet, in spite of the fact that one of the major lessons of the Yom Kippur War is that ground-based radars and ground-to-air communication will not be present, NATO continues to maneuver and plan as if there was no threat from beam-riding missiles or Soviet jammers. Front-line Army and Air Force commanders know this planning is foolish, and it makes them both apprehensive and angry.

The basic unit of US combat communications is the Fire Support Team, or FIST team - six or seven men with special radios deployed at Army company level all along the front lines to direct artillery fire, missiles and aircraft at attacking enemy tanks and artillery. Because the radios they use for air-ground communication operate on a unique set of frequencies, the Russians will have an easy time locating them.

Do you really expect many FIST teams to be alive after the first day?" I asked one officer, walking through his brigade area late at night.

This is a complicated question, he replies. Since our published doctrine calls for the FIST teams to be at the front lines with each infantry and tank company, the Soviets know that by locating our FIST teams they know just where our front is. Indeed, he adds, with our poor

communications, the Russians will probably have a better idea of where our front is than we will. (He was not the only commander to say this.) So it is to the Russians' advantage to keep the FIST teams alive and merely jam their radios so they can't communicate. On the other hand, the teams' artillery radios are good enough so that some artillery communications may get through. So it may be to the Russians' advantage to kill FIST teams. He doesn't know which they will do.

Because the Defense Department has kept quiet about the Soviet lead in jamming equipment and beam-riding missiles, the public is unaware of other areas of Soviet excellence.

For instance, the United States has maintained that the electronic warfare equipment on the MIG-25 flown to Japan by a defecting Soviet pilot in September 1976 was markedly inferior to our own. In fact, its electronic equipment performed better. While its radar uses tubes, not modern transistors, it puts out more power to penetrate enemy jamming than does the radar carried by our fighters. The "black box" used to separate friend from foe was so sophisticated that it stumped our code-breakers, and only after months of work did the Japanese crack its secrets.

Our fighters are still guided to their targets by words over radio. The "inferior" MIG doesn't rely on words from the ground; its information on where to go and what to attack comes in a data burst, brief enough (less than a second) and powerful enough to burn through jamming. The data is displayed on the pilot's windshield; an arrow for the direction to fly, a symbol for the target and numbers for the target's direction and speed. The pilot's acknowledgment of the message also is data-coded.

Another area in which NATO, with its access to the West's advanced communications industry, should be decisively ahead of the Russians is electronic target location. In fact, we are decisively behind - by "five years," as two generals, one at NATO headquarters, the other at a forward airbase, put it.

The Russians have two mobile radio direction-finding units in each division and are about to go to four. These vital pieces of equipment locate the radios being used by enemy headquarters, artillery batteries, or FIST teams, so that fire can be dumped on them. We have none.

The Russians have several mobile radio and radar-jamming units with directional antennae in each division. More primitive models of these tied up the Israelis in 1973. We have none. The Russians have mobile listening stations and have trained



The NCO's ran the Division review on Cottrell Field that Friday. Here's CSM JOHN HUMMER and the senior staff section NCO's waiting for the troops to come on line.

their crews in how to distinguish between targets, like tank battalions, and intelligence sources, like brigade headquarters. Our equipment is mostly static and many of its operators understand Vietnamese, not Russian.

"I have no one in this headquarters who can tell a tank battalion headquarters from an artillery battery," says a division intelligence officer.

In a maneuver in Texas last summer, the 1st Cavalry Division was loaned special electronic equipment so that it could fight like a Soviet division. Its opponent, the 2d Armored Division, relied on its regular electronic warfare equipment. The 2d Armored was wiped out.

When asked about such problems, even on background, senior officials at NATO headquarters and the Pentagon do what I have come to call the "rain dance." They compare the weapon the Russians now have in use in Europe to some American weapon still in the design stage, and the American weapon always beats the Soviet weapon hollow. The trouble is that the American weapons' actual production date is three to five years away, and by then the Soviets may be fielding something better. Any many weapons systems when put in the field don't work as well as claimed.

Even when the tools of electronic warfare are available, they are so new and their operations often so complex and expensive to practice that people from privates to generals rarely understand how to employ them.

NATO has as its No. 1 scientific priority a highly classified project to develop secure voice communication for commanders. All the scientists I talked to regard this project as a waste of time and money. Voice communication is expensive, difficult to make secure, relatively easy to jam and takes up a large portion of the radio spectrum. It also relied on language, and there are many languages in NATO. Data is universal, it is transmitted in short bursts that cut through jamming, is so quick that it can't be located by direction finding, and has no voice signature to tell the enemy who is talking to whom.

Yet the senior US commanders, both in NATO and the Joint Chiefs, have insisted on voice. They claim they want to get the "feel" of their subordinates.

In tanks, NATO is outnumbered, 3 to 1. Here again, the Warsaw Pact forces also have a qualitative edge. Here again, the American forces in NATO are not well enough trained to use effectively the weapons they do have.

Troops of the 5th Bn, 52d ADA show a youngster how the CHAPARRAL weapon system works during the open house.



In no other area is the rain dance - the technique of comparing drawing-board US weapons to actively used Soviet weapons - as prevalent. The entire military and civilian high command of the 2d Defense Department compares the Soviet T-72 tank, which is now in the field, to the US XM-1 main battle tank, which will not arrive in NATO until 1982 at the earliest, and whose gun will not have the killing power of the Soviet tank's.

Even the tanks we do have are so complicated that today's volunteer Army does not use them very well. On a recent three-day maneuver, the 3d Armored Division had mechanical failures on 150 major systems on its tanks, almost one-third of its total. The problem, as a German staff officer put it, is that "today's weapons are too complex for today's soldiers."

Turnover is another part of the problem. A high school dropout comes into the Army, matures and develops into a leader and a great tank commander. After three years, or maybe five, he gets a high school diploma and says to the Army; "Thank you for what you have done for me. I'm getting out now, going to college, to make something of myself."

Although both the Army and Air Force put heavy pressure on junior officers to talk their men out of leaving the service, the incentives for the ablest to use the GI bill to go to college are greater than the rewards for staying in.

The results are predictable. In a recent NATO tank crew competition, the best American crews finished last in gunnery behind such minor powers as the Dutch and the Belgians. The Germans point out, and honest American commanders admit, that the level of tank-driving skill in the US Army is so low that the tanks don't know how to maneuver individually and can only charge in massed formations.

Another paramount lesson of the Yom Kippur war is the importance of precision-guided infantry anti-tank weapons; like the Soviet Saggers with which the Egyptian infantry destroyed charging Israeli tanks.

The primary US infantry weapon in this field is the wire-guided Dragon. The infantryman has to keep his Dragon sight on the target and the missile will automatically correct its course to make a bull's-eye. I never found a single soldier in NATO who had fired a Dragon, though commanders were always assuring me that most of their men had qualified.

Furthermore, the Dragon has grave problems. It is too heavy to fire standing up, and if it is fired the best way, lying down, its blast burns off the firer's buttocks. Its sight is so delicate that it must be sent to the rear for recalibration every seven days, and there is no device on the weapon to tell the soldier whether the sight needs adjustment.

Slightly bigger than the Dragon is the TOW (for tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided) anti-tank missile, which is fired from the M-113 infantry carrier or the Cobra helicopter. You can hit a target with a TOW missile, and I found quite a few people who had fired one or even two rounds (supposedly every TWO gunner gets to fire one round every other year.) But the man who fires it is my candidate for the bravest man in the world. He sits on top of the M-113, behind a tripod that pops up through the roof. He has to hold his breath as he fires, because the mount is so delicate that his breathing throws the missile off target. The Soviets fire their TOWs from inside their infantry vehicles.

The TOW fired from the Cobra helicopter is one of the most sophisticated anti-tank weapons actually deployed in NATO. A gunner in the nose of the helicopter works a small joystick about the size of an index

finger to keep the crosshairs in a 14-power telescopic sight lined up on the target, while the pilot in the rear seat maneuvers the helicopter. It is an accurate and easy-to-handle weapon. Whether the TOW Cobra system can survive under the massed artillery fire the Soviets employ is a question NATO commanders are loath to face. But then, they have so little else that works.

The pilots flying these Cobras average 110 flying hours a year. According to Air Force fighter pilots and some of their commanders, the men flying NATO's complex speed-of-sound fighter planes like the F-4s and F-15s average only 115 hours a year.

The Pentagon's computers insist that the average front-line pilot is flying 170 hours a year, but, as in Vietnam, I would rather trust the evidence from those on the spot.

Consider that both the federal government and the insurance companies believe that I, who fly a far simpler and slower aircraft here in the United States, need at least 200 hours a year in order not to be a danger to myself.

What about the final area of NATO's presumed "qualitative edge": control of the air? Even if our pilots lack flying time and can't talk to the ground, are not both they and their planes far superior to the Russians?

Again, the lessons of the Arab-Israeli war paint a dark picture. The Israelis found they couldn't get through the barrage of missiles and anti-aircraft fire protecting the Egyptian and Syrian forces until their tanks and artillery had knocked out the Soviet anti-aircraft missiles and gun radars.

The West Germans, who have been much quicker to adopt the lessons of the Yom Kippur war than we have, are particularly concerned about our unquestioned belief that we are superior in this area.

"The Soviets are decisively ahead in the air," said one of the highest officials of the German Defense ministry.

When Soviet armored divisions attack, they advance under something our pilots call "the bubble." That's a protective covering of SAM-6 anti-aircraft missiles for high-altitude work and ZU-23 self-propelled, four-barrelled anti-aircraft guns with their own radar, by far the best anti-aircraft guns in the world. There are 140 such weapons in a Soviet armored division. The way our aircraft are supposed to penetrate this "bubble" to get at the tanks is to stay below 200 feet, while the Army fires at the radars and jams them to make a corridor through which the air-

craft can fly to hit the enemy tanks and then get back out. But in the real world, the Army doesn't have the jamming equipment and the locators to find the enemy radar. The Army and the Air Force have not practiced the split-second timing necessary in this maneuver.

Many NATO fighter pilots also complain that the Air Force is building the wrong type of fighters. They don't believe that one man can operate all the equipment necessary to stay alive at 200 feet while flying 400 knots in a hostile environment. They contend that the F-15 has the space and power to have been a two-pilot aircraft, but that the old fighter types at the top of the service kept it a single-pilot plane. This is a serious charge, vigorously denied by most senior Air Force generals, who insist that the F-15 is so fully automated that it is easier to fly than a World War II fighter.

The final area of air control in which NATO falls apart is called IFF (for identification Friend or Foe). In modern battle all those planes, ours and the enemy's, are going to be mixed together in the air, attacking targets on the ground, often moving at supersonic speeds or within 200 feet of the surface. Helicopters of both sides will be everywhere. Until now, shooting at your own people didn't matter so much, because most shots missed. But modern weapons hit the target. Identification is now the ball game.

But in their last two NATO maneuvers, the German air force discovered that its own troops had shot it out of the air after two days. The British Royal Air Force is so short of funds that it has no hope of putting effective IFF equipment on its planes; as a result, the Germans, Americans and even the French have had to quietly insist that if there is a real war the RAF had better stay out of it lest it be shot out of the skies by its allies.

Finally, the US medium-range anti-aircraft missile system, the Chaparral, requires a man with field glasses to stand in front of the launcher; after the radar picks out a target, he tries to find it in his glasses and tell if it's friend or foe. That's the way it was done in 1944.

On IFF the Defense Department does the rain dance again and talks about JTIDS (for Joint Tactical Information Distribution System). The concept is brilliant, simple and workable: a network of some 600 radios is linked by computers that shift their frequencies roughly 10 times a second. Each time a radio comes on it fires off a burst of data that says roughly: "Here I am, I am doing this, I will need that." The data bursts are almost impossible to jam, the codes virtually unbreakable.

But JTIDS is already over three years late. It is so far behind schedule because the Navy is holding out for a more complicated model that will also tell where its submarines are, and no one in the Defense Department has the courage to take on the Navy and its friends in Congress.

Yet suppose all the weapons work. After two days the Russians, East Germans and Czechs have been fought to a virtual standstill in the most deadly conventional warfare in history. What happens on the third day?

The Yom Kippur war proved that in the electronic precision-guided munitions age the losses are horrendous, approaching those of nuclear warfare. NATO war plans call for each American division to fire 5000 tons of ammunition on the first day, and 3000 tons a day thereafter. At these rates of fire, artillery gun tubes will last less than a week. But there are not enough trucks or drivers to bring such masses of supplies forward. Nor does NATO have the mechanics to do the repairs. With agony on his face, one officer responsible for this problem tells me he will be 500 rounds short for every gun in his division by the third day.

At Savannah II, someone asked us to publish the names of our Prexies and their years of office. Happily, we comply:

*Cramer	'47-'48	
Henry	'48-'49	
Pursifull	'49-'50	
O'Donnell	'50-'51	
Ross	'51-'52	
*Duff	'52-'53	
Backer	'53-'54,	'55-'56
Peyton	'54-'55	
Claxon	'56-'57	
Compere	'57-'58,	'58-'59
Hanlin	'59-'60,	'60-'61
*Purcell	'61-'62	
Ligman	'62-'63	
*Verbeck	'63-'64	
*Ciangi	'64-'65	
*Gilner	'65-'66	
Stevenson	'66-'67	
Sanderson	'67-'68	
Williams	'68-'69	
Harris	'69-'70	
Muldoon	'70-'71	
Wisecup	'71-'72	
Newman	'72-'73	
Lowry	'73-'74	
Irving	'74-'75	
Byrd	'75-'76	
Lumsden	'76-'77	
Klump	'77-'78	
Rafter	'78-'79	

* deceased

Sgt. ANNIE HOWE tells us that she took this US Army photo and that the color guard at the review came from the 24th MP Co. Remember when the MP's made up nothing but a platoon?



Insanity is hereditary. You get it from your children.

Memory called to mind at S II - the time when Bob Hope and Frances Langford played the 24th at Hollandia.

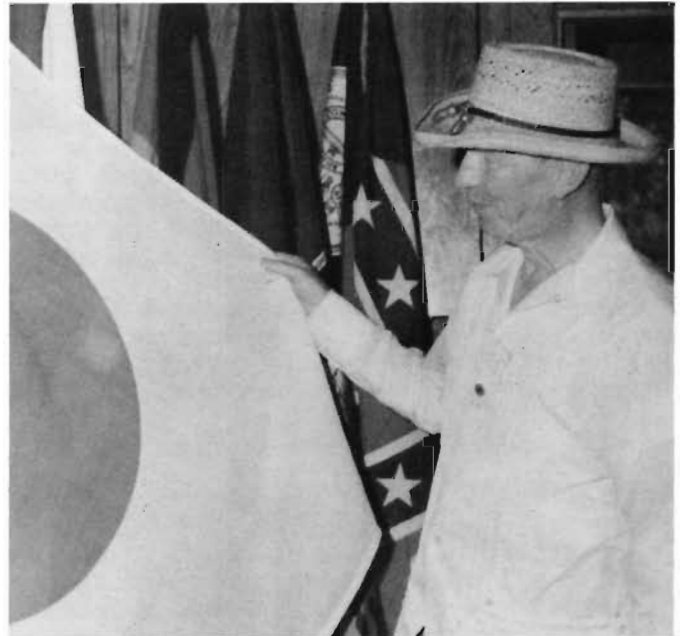
Memory brought forth at S II - actor LEW AYRES being a chaplain's assistant in an attached unit on Leyte.

Directory of members is under way; will be a part of next issue or first issue in '79.

Two caterpillars were crawling across the grass when a butterfly flew over them. They looked up, and one nudged the other and said: "You couldn't get me up in one of those things for a million dollars!"

If you tell a man there are 300 billion stars in the universe, he'll believe you. But if you tell him a bench has just been painted, he has to touch it to be sure.

Brig.Gen.LES WHEELER, with slightly non-reg. headgear, inspecting a you-know-what at the entrance to the growing Division Museum to which we are each invited to send any proper memorabilia if we have same.



Gobbledygook

This came out of a policy statement issued by the Bureau of Prisons. Can you figure it out? It goes:

"When Sunday and Monday are designated as the non-workdays, the method for constructing holidays is reversed, e.g. Sunday remains the employee's "Sunday" and Monday now becomes the employee's "Saturday." Therefore, when the holiday falls on a Monday in this instance, the preceeding workday (which is Saturday) shall be the celebrated holiday; and, when the holiday falls on Sunday, the succeeding workday (Tuesday) becomes the celebrated holiday."

An alcoholic is someone who drinks as much as you, but you don't like him.

A government clerk received a document, initialed it, and passed it on. It came back promptly with a note attached: "This document does not concern you. Please erase your initials and initial your erasure."

America has never had a lack of traitors, but never before has it had such a lack of patriots.

At the Savannah Annual Meeting, when it was announced that Alma ZIERATH, the beloved wife of Maj.Gen.FRED R. ZIERATH, had passed away last June 30th, a message was sent to Fred which read: "24th Division Association assembled, learning of your tragic loss, stood today in respectful silence, followed by unanimous vote to forward deepest sympathies. Zierath name continues to be tossed about along with those of Clifford, Verbeck, Irving, Newman, Postlewaite, Wheeler, Lester and the other quote greats unquote. The stories, like vintage wine, continue to age delightfully. You are being sorely missed. Warmly, The 24th".

Deceased: EDWARD M. FRANCO, 19th '43-'45), of El Paso, Tex.

Word in from EARL L. LEWIS, (34th) on the passing of WALTER J. FREDERICK, (D 34th '41-'45), of Detroit. Walt had been a police officer in the Windy City, retiring 3 years ago after 29 years.

We have been advised by Lt.Col. K.S. VANDERGRIFF, JR., of the death of his father, Lt.Col. KENNARD S. VANDERGRIFF. Yogi died at Tripler on Aug. 3rd, the victim of Cancer first discovered 4 years ago. He was buried at the National Cemetary of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Honolulu.

We are advised by ART McCAULLEY, (AT 34th '42-'45) of Fountain, Minn., of the decease of CLIFFORD L. STIGALL (AT 34th), of Taylor, Ky., in Feb. of 1973.