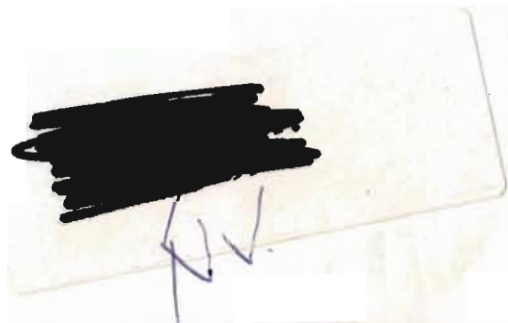




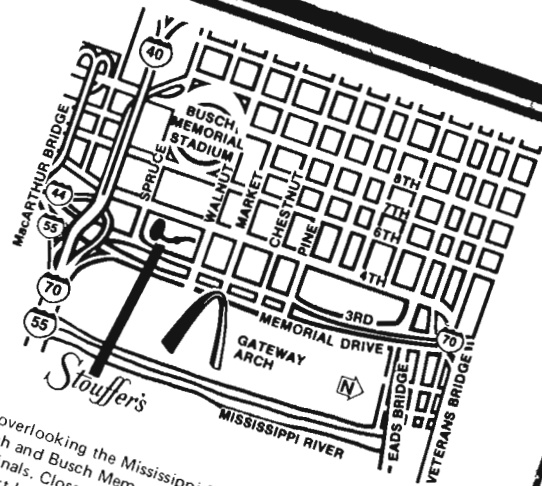
24th Inf. Div. Assn.
120 Maple St.
Spfld. MA 01103

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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XXXIV, NO 5
80-81



It was at Pittsburgh last August that a certain conversation took place. The two of us were enjoying a quiet brew. He is one with whom we feel particularly close. In a way, we were celebrating a warm friendship that has endured for well over 35 years. He would prefer that he not be publicly involved in this item - that we know. He was talking. It went something like this: "You know you have edited some 60 or 70 issues of Taro Leaf...." "Over 150," we corrected. He continued, "And you've used every gimmick in the book, and some not in the book, to bring innovation to your product, save one....." There was a pause. Finally, "What's the one?", we queried. In the manner of the Nip, or Chinaman, "you've never printed it backwardly...." WELL.....!!!!!!



Location:

Downtown overlooking the Mississippi Riverfront between the famous Gateway Arch and Busch Memorial Stadium, home of the baseball and football Cardinals. Close to excellent restaurants, fine shopping, live theater, concert halls, historic points of interest and the commercial and financial community. Regularly scheduled limousine service to and from Lambert St. Louis International Airport, only 20 minutes away.

Rooms:

900 beautifully appointed guest rooms and suites, each with individually controlled heating, air conditioning, color television and AM/FM radios. Rooms with refrigerator and Thermasol also available. Soft drink and cigarette machines conveniently located.

Dining and Entertainment:

The Top of the Riverfront, thirty stories above St. Louis, offers exceptional cuisine, dancing and a panoramic view of the city and riverfront. *The Grove*, caters to all tastes. The colorful *Xanadu*, suspended above the Atrium Lobby is our people-watching lounge. *The Grogshop*, pub-style bar serves thick, juicy deli sandwiches. Live entertainment featured. Room service 7 am - 11 pm.

Recreation:

Indoor swimming pool, health club and game room. Outdoor swimming pool, patio, wading pool and shuffleboard.

Stouffer's RIVERFRONT TOWERS

200 South Fourth Street • St. Louis, Missouri 63102 • 314/241-9500

For toll-free reservations, call 800/321-6888; in Ohio call 800/362-6100; in Canada call collect 216/248-4343





BILL SHOWN adds his bit to the M.A.S.H. saga which has run in the last 2 issues. Sayeth Bill:

"It is my opinion that the editor was correct in his original analysis of M.A.S.H. In reality, the 'Fruitcake' would have been removed and Hawkeye Pearce would have joined him for insubordination. The incompetent Major Frank Burns would not have lasted either. The program has only one saving factor; it is entertaining. But there is about as much reality to actual conditions reflected in this production as there was in the television series 'Pearl.' Both appear to be 'hangovers' from the radical 60's and early 70's with attempts to inject the morality of these latter periods into the 40's and 50's. One of many attempts by radical groups to degrade and place the military in an unfavorable light. I was in Hawaii when the attack came and I was also in Korea. Neither program portrays actual conditions or behavior of officers or military personnel of any grade."

Bill, we're pleased to observe that you read our copy, and doubly thrilled that we are 20-20 on M.A.S.H.

From "Cardiff-by-the-sea", - isn't that a lovely name? - and it's in Calif.- comes word from LEO and Mary ROGERS (I 19th '31-'41). They're at 914 Robley. Writes this retired Lt.Col.:

"Have sure enjoyed reading the Taro Leaf. It brings memories of 40 years ago. I don't see too many names of the old timers of the 40's. But did receive letters from "Shy" Lum, Elmer Peterson and Ben Kalish - all "19th Inf.Chicks".

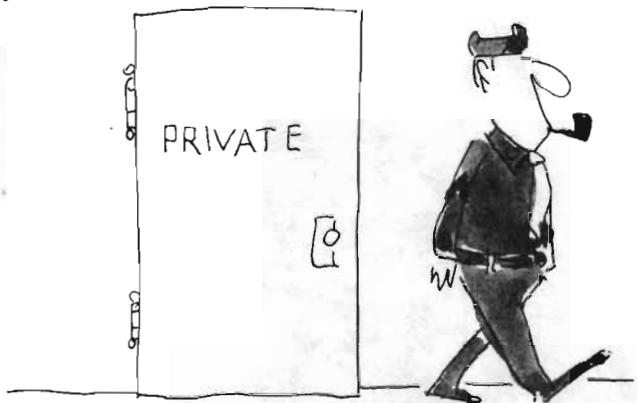
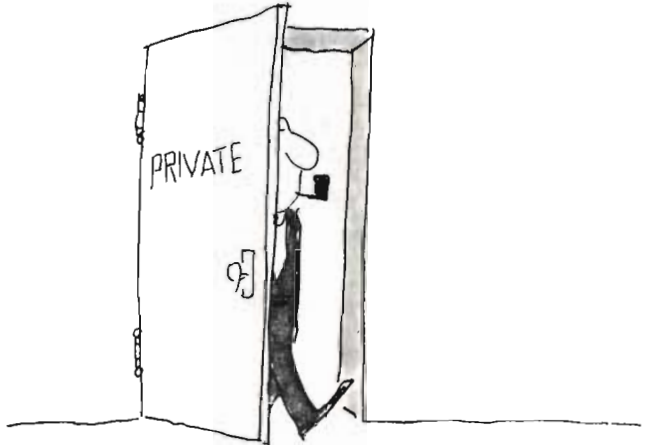
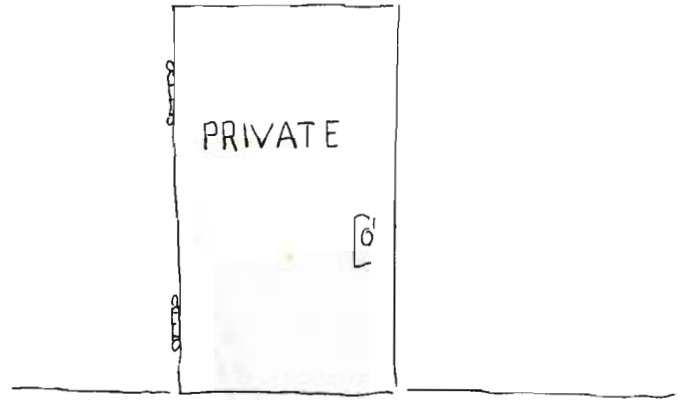
"Enjoyed seeing you at the Irvine meet, but here again not too many that I recalled.

"Got a note off to Col. Bolduc - knew him well when he commanded Co.E 19th and also when he was editor of the 'Rock' year book.

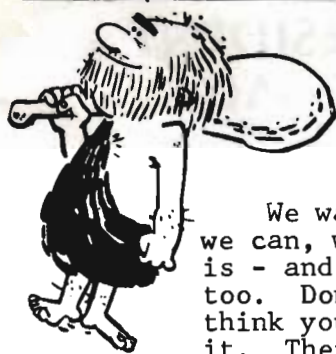
"Looking forward to seeing you at St.Louis - hope we can make it."

Wonderful to hear from you Leo and Mary.

Room rates - Stouffer's - next August. \$50 (Double occupancy) - \$40 (Single occupancy).



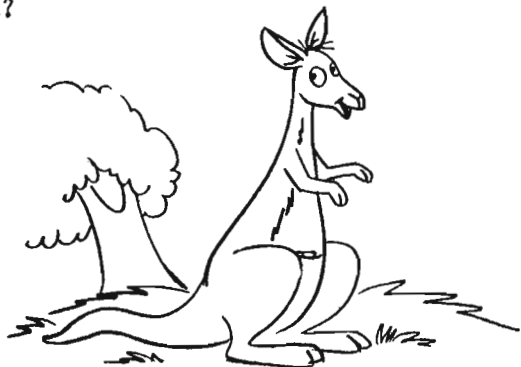
LEON and Alice SWEM ask why we don't ask the readership to send in their selections for the major league pennant races - the divisional championships, the pennants, and the World Series. It's a deal. Send in your choices. We'll run the results in our next issue and after the end of the season, each correct solution will receive a valuable prize. Deadline for sending in your selection is April 15. Send to the Editor.



We want to determine, if we can, who our oldest member is - and our youngest member too. Don't be afraid. If you think you qualify, let's hear it. There'll be surprise awards for the winners.



VINCENTE SYDIONGCO (34th I & R '44-'45) has retired from his job as City Engineer in Tacloban and is now with C.T. Main Int. Inc., Box 46 KBYT Jakarta, Indonesia. Family is back on Leyte. Is planning to make St.Louis. Isn't that great?



Man who writes us from the greatest distance! Is it BACIL STEED (24th Rec'n. '49-'51)? He gets his mail at 79 Henburg Ave., Darwin, NT Australia, but has written that he's moving to Adelaide, South Australia, for 10 months. Says Taro Leaf took 70 days to reach him.



JOE BELONOS, (B19th '40-'43), of 64 Brownell, Providence, R.I., gets the credit for this delightful bit:

A fellow walked into a doctor's office and the receptionist asked him what he had. He said, "Shingles." So she took his name, address and medical insurance number and told him to have a seat. Ten minutes later a nurse's aide asked him what he had. He said, "Shingles." So she took his height, weight, medical history, and told him to wait. An hour later, a nurse came in and asked him what he had. He said, "Shingles." So she gave him a blood test, an electrocardiogram, took his blood pressure, and told him to take off his clothes for the doctor. A half-hour later the doctor came in and asked what he had. He said, "Shingles." The doctor asked, "Where?" He said, "Outside in the truck. Where do you want them?"

St.Louis in August. The room rates are \$50 (double occupancy) and \$40 (single occupancy) - the very best Lum could manage.



"...It's—it's—Well, it's just not military!"



"You promised me moonlight and roses, evenings in Paradise. Somewhere something went wrong. I'm not asking you to explain. I'm just asking you to take me with you to St. Louis in August. I want to meet the boys too."

JOHN BRADY, (C 21st '40-'43), of 1026 Chartiers, Pittsburgh, Pa., tells about Pfc. "Cocky" Page. John can't recall his first name. Says he was in a Gimlet Company, had been a Pfc. for 25 years. Had a bit of a nipping problem. Don't we all? Says he was one who blew the Armistice in '18. John tells us that there was a strong rumor that, when Division left Wahoo, Cocky was left behind. In remorse, blew his brains out. Johnny wonders if anyone recalls this tragedy.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we look toward the fortieth anniversary of Division's founding (Oct. 1, 1941), it is thought provocative to consider the changes the years have brought in their train. The changes in our world, in the military, and most unhappily perhaps, in ourselves, all come to mind. Some things don't change all that much, however. For instance, try this on for size:

"The budget should be balanced, the treasury should be refilled, public dept should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and assistance to foreign lands should be reduced lest the state become bankrupt. The people should be forced to work and not depend on government for subsistence."

No doubt a very timely statement or policy. Only the time was 53 B.C., and the advice was that of Marcus Tullius Cicero.

That's enough for one message. Be-latedly, I send warm good wishes to all members and friends of the Association. I hope to see you all in St. Louis come August 13th. Through the good offices of HOWARD LUMSDEN, that reunion promises to be one of our best.

WALT CUNNINGHAM

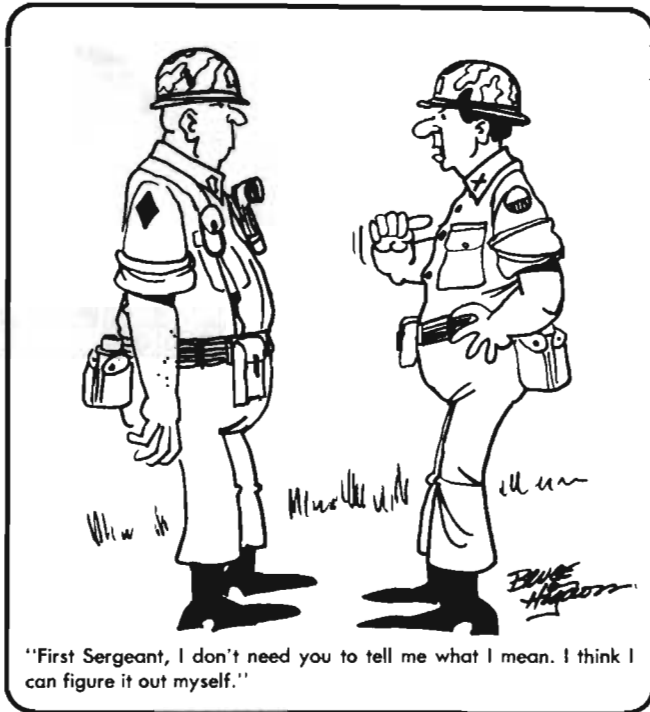


BILL SHOWEN, (Hq. 21st '40-'42), of 1911 Francis, Waukesha, Wis., is always good for a titter. Listen to what he recently wrote us:

"I have concrete evidence that there is a critical shortage of personnel in the armed forces. Recently the Office of The Adjutant General U.S. Army Reserve Components Personnel and Administration Center, informed me that I am not medically qualified for mobilization recall as a First Lieutenant. Who ever heard of a 60 year old Army Lieutenant? They have to be scratching the bottom of the barrel."

Keep your bags packed, Bill. You never know these days.

GOOD NEWS



Jean and C.A. "Bud" COLLETTE, (5th RCT '50-'52), of 6 Cattail, Irvine, Cal., are proud grandparents. Their first son Dave and wife Cindy found themselves as parents of a baby boy on Feb. 7th. Name: Martin David Collette. Mother and father reportedly holding their own, grandmother and grandfather reportedly gloating.

MEL FAULKNER, (H&S 3rd Eng., '41-'43), of Box H7, Panhandle, Tex., wrote to ask if he might put an ad in our paper asking for contacts with any H&S Company men who served with him. We answer, "No, Mel; it can't be done. We'll not accept your ad. We want to do it for you free. This is one of the reasons we exist. So there."

Won't you please drop a card to JAMES "Bill" DUPAW, (Sv. 34th '53-'54) at the Vermont Veterans Home, Bennington, VT.

"Charter Member" ED BROWNE (D & AT, 21st), signals us from 4422 Raymar, Orlando, Fla., with this wonderful letter:

"Have doubts that I owe any dues, but it's a nagging doubt. In any case, here is a months pay, 1941 style, to insure that they are paid. Use the rest for any good cause your astute mind may deem appropriate. (Ed. note: you're taking your chances, Ed Browne.) Thanks for all your efforts. That rag is worth more than \$10.00 a year. Reference a trip to Hawaii for the 40th anniversary. Tina and I are more than just a bit interested. Went one year with PHSA. Going with a gang not so Navy (ugh) oriented may be much better. Again, thanks for all you do to keep the memories alive in a pleasant way."

Boy, we appreciate the kind words, Ed.

And now onto business - let's line up, all you folks who'd willingly fly to Wahoo next December. Give us 50 members and wives and we'll run our own charter tour. We can, you know - and what kickbacks there are - and there'll be some, you can bet your life, if you know the business - we'll dump into the pot and split between the members who actually make the trip. Can reasonably anticipate that this could amount to \$95 - 130.00 each. Let's hear from you. If we get the affirmative signals, we'll devote an entire issue to the plans, costs, dates, etc. Let's get moving. It's really not very far off.

JOHNNY BRADY, (C 21st '40-'43), of 1026 Chartiers, Pittsburgh, Pa., recruited FRANK P. MANKOWSKI of 29 Lincoln, Kings Park, N.Y. Johnny paid Frankie's dues, that's what he did, and of course, Frankie's in. Thanks so very much, Johnny.

In Memoriam

DECEASED: DONALD E. BELL
(63 FA Bn, G-3 Sec. Div.Hq. '43-'46),
formerly of 1120 E.Davenport, Iowa
City, Iowa 52240.

Died, Feb. 28, 1981: ARTHUR
HENDERSON, (Exec. O, 21st Inf. Mindoro &
Mindanao), of emphysema and cancer. The
Washington Star wrote of Arthur thus:

"Mr. Henderson was born in New York
City and was graduated from Columbia
University in 1924.

"He first was in the Philippines as
an Army officer in World War II, leading
a series of parachute and amphibious
landings to liberate the islands. He
also was military governor of Northeast
Mindoro and was a recipient of the Bronze
Star with two oak leaf clusters.

"He returned to the Philippines in
1946 as vice president of American
International Underwriters, Philippine
Islands. He had joined the parent firm
in New York earlier that year and in two
years was named president of the company
in the Philippines.

"Mr. Henderson returned to New York
in 1957 and was elected administrative
vice president of American International
Underwriters."

That bit about being "military
governor of northeast Mindoro" provokes
a memory or two.

Word has been received advising of
the death of Life Member JOE B. GRAY,
(G 21st '40-'44), of Stephenville, Tex.
The last time we saw Joe - and Ivy -
they were at the Savannah A/P. That was
in '76 following our party there. Delta
was trying to break them up, to go back
to Texas on separate flights. It was a
busy Sunday a.m. And Joe was fighting
the idea. Grand fellow - beautiful
couple. Ivy was from Sydney, Australia.

The message was from Betsy HALL
of 5544 Pembroke Lane, El Paso, Tex.
Betsy was reporting on the passing of
"Captain Tom," THOMAS J. HALL, JR.
(3rd Bn.Hq. & Sv. 34th 7/45-5/46). Her
words, written in the very midst of
her own anguish and suffering, were
so sweet and tender that we begged her
permission to let you share them:

"Dear Ken,

"Just a note to let you know
Thomas J. Hall, Jr., passed away on
Sunday, Feb.1,1981. Our time together
was short but sweet. He talked of you
and 'Taro Leaf' -- wanted to go to the
next bash! His heart was as big as he
was and it burst, no waiting, no pain.

"He loved his country and served it
well, always proud - to the end.

"The tears of the clown on the last
issue of 'Taro Leaf' moved me, as Tom
would read it cover to cover. I know I
have been loved by a man, beautiful in
soul and spirit. He will rest in peace
now and forever.

"Sincerely, Betsy Hall."

Deceased: CURTIS E. STEELE, (Hq & Hq
B. 52nd Field '45-'49), of 305 S. 6th
St., Fairfield, Ia. on Feb. 22, 1981
after an illness over the last 10 months.

9

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

AUGUST 13-16, 1981

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Registration	Daniel Boone Room
9:00 AM - 1:00 AM	Hospitality/Conviviality	Daniel Boone Room

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Registration	Daniel Boone Room
9:00 AM - 1:00 AM	Hospitality/Conviviality	Daniel Boone Room
9:00 AM - Noon	*Tour	Grant's Farm
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM	**Tour	Anheuser-Busch Brewery

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Registration	Daniel Boone Room
10:00 AM - Noon	Members Annual Meeting	Missouri Room
10:00 AM - Noon	Ladies Fashion Show	To Be Announced (TBA)
12:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Hospitality/Conviviality	Daniel Boone Room
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)	West Assembly Area
7:00 PM - 1:00 AM	Banquet & Dancing	Meremac/Missouri Rooms

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Coffee & Alohaa	To Be Announced (TBA)
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* This will be a group tour lasting approximately 3 hours including travel time (14 miles) to and from the farm.

** Brewery is only 2 miles from Stouffer's and plan to use shuttle bus system as tours are not scheduled at a specific time there as they are at Grant's Farm.

Both tours are free but if the cost of bus transportation continues to rise it may be necessary to charge \$1.00 per person in order to stay in the black.

Reminiscence

Nonmember JAMES BUMGARNER a/k/a JAMES GARNER, (5th RCT), gave Playboy an interview which appeared in its March '80 issue. The inevitable questions arose relative to his Army service, he having been grabbed for duty back in Okla. in '50. Of his Korea time, says Jim:

"Actually, I didn't trade fire with the enemy more than six or seven days, but they were really long, bad days. I got wounded the second day I was in Korea. I was bringing up the rear of a patrol and I got hit with shrapnel in my hand and the edge of my eye, so I went back to an aid station and I started picking out these little bits of metal while looking in the mirror of a jeep. Some captain ran up to me and said, 'Don't do that! Go inside the aid station and we'll get you a Purple Heart.' So I went inside and I was awarded one on my record. The second time was a lot more serious. I was part of the Fifth Regimental Combat Team and we were overrun on a ridge line one night by waves of Chinese. Out of 130 guys, I think



we had no more than 40 people left the next morning. We retreated all night long, and about 6:30 the next morning, we connected with another unit, just in time to watch our Navy fighters blowing the shit out of the Chinese positions. We were all shouting things like, 'All right, go get 'em, gang!' and right about then, an AT-6 spotter plane flew over us and because we didn't have our orange air panels, the observation plane told the fighters about this troop concentration he'd just seen. Next thing we knew, Navy Panther jets were firing 20-millimeter rockets at us. I immediately got hit in the butt and my rifle was blown up. When a rocket hits, it sprays white phosphorus in all directions, and rather than stick around, I jumped out of my foxhole and ran off the

side of a cliff. God, I must have rolled 100 yards down, end over end. I dislocated my shoulder and tore up both my knees. Meanwhile, the jets were still firing away and their rockets were hitting rocks and bouncing around the side of the hill, which made me remember the line, 'It ain't the one to whom it may concern that you have to worry about.' A Rok soldier had also rolled down there, and he was hit a little worse than I'd been; he had white phosphorus down his neck and back and you could tell it was smarting a little, 'cause that stuff burns. Because of my knees, I could hardly move, but we finally dragged ourselves back up the side of this steep hill -- and no one was there!



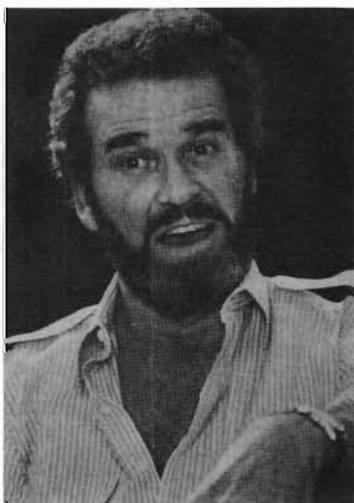
PLAYBOY: Where had everybody gone?

GARNER: That's what I wanted to know! I mean, I'd have gone with them. Me and this South Korean were now alone on top of the hill, and he didn't speak any English and I didn't speak any Korean. It didn't seem like a smart thing to stick around, so we began following the mountain ridge line south, hoping we could catch up to our retreating column. I finally recognized the valley we'd come up the day before and I looked at the Rok and said, "South, that is where we're going." He still had his rifle and I was wearing my helmet, and as we walked down the hill into the valley, I looked over to my right and maybe 150 yards away, we spotted a big group of soldiers - and they weren't ours. We saw them and they saw us, and this South Korean and I walked right by all these North Korean troops. The only thing I could ever figure out was that, since the Rok soldier was carrying a rifle, they thought he was one of them and that I was his prisoner. It took us six hours before we heard what we both knew were American tanks, and at that moment, the Rok soldier gave me the rifle and gestured for me to give him my helmet. He was obviously afraid our guys might think he was a North Korean who

had the drop on me. That guy really picked up on all of it better than I did.

PLAYBOY: How badly were you hurt?

GARNER: Oh, I had phosphorus burns on my backside, but they weren't too serious. I was more worried about my knees. When I got to the hospital, they'd swollen up like balloons. After I got out, I did nine months in Japan with a base postal office. That part of the war was fun for me because I became a dog robber, which is what I played in The Americanization of Emily. Guys in the Army like their mail and they become very unhappy if they don't get it. Well, I decided to spruce up our unit, and if they didn't give me what we needed, they didn't get their mail. The base post office was stationed in a bombed-out shoe factory, and I turned it into a showplace. In exchange for their mail, other units got us the materials to build a bar and then kept it stocked with whiskey. Nobody over there had ice except us, courtesy of the Graves Registration Unit. I built us a theater in the biggest room in the shoe factory, got a baseball diamond laid out, got us hot water and showers, and my crowning achievement was a simming pool. Now, that took genius. The smallest room in the shoe factory was the basement, so we cleaned it all out, whitewashed it, cemented the floor, put a ladder up the side and filled that sucker up with water. I went back to the States a reasonably happy man.



Now we've got a kiln operator among our members. Meet ROY MILLER, (B 21st '50-'51). Roy and Melinda are at 609 Maple, Sheffield, Iowa. He's looking for RALPH E. HARLESS, also Baker of the Gimlets, who hailed from Huntington, W.Va. The hunt is on Roy.

TARO LEAF

ADVERTISING RATES

Full page	\$300
1 column, 1 page	150
1/2 page	150
1/4 page	75

Monthly
Circulation
1500

Want something to read. Try "The Officers' Wives" by Thomas Fleming. He's the one who went up to W.P. and researched for a history of the Military Academy in the 60's. His contacts caused him to see a novel about officers wives. His latest book is the result. You may like it; you may hate him for what he wrote. You guessed it - a la James Jones, there are 3 passionate women and their duty bound men. Ah shucks, you can figure it out already. Amy Kemble is sophisticated, strongly sexed - out of Vassar and Philadelphia's Main Line. Honor Thayer is the beautiful, but dumb, Juliet. Then there's Joanna Burke, the pet, the intellectual who never adjusts to Army life. The three of them offer differing interpretations of the army code. Yes there are frenzied adulteries. Now cut it out, we're not going to tell you any more. Buy it - or write us and we'll loan you our copy. It's good reading.

Here's an item we were asked to publish:

"Would like to obtain copy of "Life" May 11, 1953 as it contains photos of my group as POW's in North Korea. Can anyone help me? Contact Wilbert R. Estabrook, 43 Pinecrest Rd., Portland, Maine 04102."

We checked our own files, Shorty, and we don't have that issue. Sorry. We're asking a friend who collects old magazines. We'll be back.

Stouffer's RIVERFRONT TOWERS St. Louis, Missouri

SEEING IS BELIEVING



Need copies of your military records? In most cases, it will be necessary for you to request copies in writing. Only copies of your retirement orders can be requested over the telephone (314-263-7882). For copies of records from your 201 personnel file, write to the Commander, US Army Reserve Components and Personnel Administration Center. Attn: AGUZ-PSE-VO, 9700 Page Blvd, St. Louis, Mo. 63132. For copies of your DD Form 214, write to the attention AGUZ-PSE-VS at the same address.



Birthday and anniversary cards from the President of the United States can be sent out to people who are 80-plus, or married at least 50 years. Send requests 30 or more days in advance, with the proper name, address and date of the occasion to: Greetings Office, Office of the President, White House, Washington, D C. 20500.



People nearing 65 who are not receiving Social Security benefits should contact a Social Security Office at least two or three months before their birthday. This is important to insure full Medicare protection the month they reach 65.

People not receiving monthly benefits have only a limited time to act to assure that Medicare protection begins at 65. If this contact is not made within a three-month period before reaching 65, Medicare medical insurance can be delayed a year or more if a person fails to act within three months after the 65th birthday month. The premium may also be increased if this happens.

Anyone contacting Social Security for this purpose should have certain evidence. This includes a Social Security card or a record of the number; proof of age, preferably a birth certificate or baptismal record made shortly after birth, and a W-2 form or self-employment tax return for the two previous years. If you are unable to produce this information, do not delay in contacting the Social Security Administration. They can suggest other suitable evidence.



"I think I see a bottle top."



AT EASE



This one comes from the very thoughtful BILL SHOWEN, (21st '41-'43; 24th Recon. '43-'44), of 1911 Francis, Waukesha, Wis. Writes Bill:

"Am enclosing a picture of Waikiki, Oahu, Hawaii as it appeared during WW II, and at the time of the activation of the Division. Note the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, left and Moana Hotel, right, the only large hotels in existence at that time. Both these hotels are now dwarfed by the many tourist hotels at Waikiki."

You're right Bill. It's far different today.

Veterans of 30th Division will hold their 35th annual reunion July 6 through 9, 1981, in Wichita, Kansas, (Hilton Inn). For additional information, write Executive Secretary, Solow, Burgundy E, 197, Delray Beach, Florida 33445.

Interesting note. Where do you think army retirees live when and if they live overseas? We spotted the answer in an Army publication. It went like this:

Where most retirees live Oversea?

<u>Country</u>	<u># of Army retirees</u>
Germany	3,206
Philippines	978
Japan	250
Korea	241
United Kingdom	209
France	185
Canada	158
Italy	154
Spain	119
Virgin Islands	111
Saudi Arabia	106
Mexico	105

Hoax

If you hear that the Veterans Administration is paying back accumulated excess insurance premiums to World War II veterans, ignore it.

The rumor was started more than a year ago that WW II veterans could apply to the Veteran's Center in Philadelphia and receive refunds of 65c per \$1000 of insurance for every month they have carried VA insurance. This cruel hoax has become so widespread that the VA Center has had to hire extra staff to write back to thousands of applicants telling them that there is no such refund.

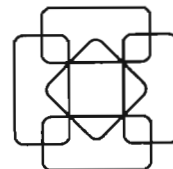
The annual dividends on VA insurance are not involved, they continue to be paid annually without application.



Brig. Gen. JAMES E. SHELTON, outgoing commander of Division's 2nd Brigade, has received his general's stars. The presentation followed the change of command ceremonies giving Colonel RONALD C. BECKER command of the 2nd Brigade. Shelton had been the brigade commander since January 1979. Prior to that, he served as Fort Stewart's Chief of Staff.

Shelton is now with the Headquarters of the Commander in Chief of the Atlantic Command in Norfolk, Va.

Here he is presented with his new one star rank insignia by Maj. Gen. JAMES F. COCHRAN, III, Division Commander.





"...But are you really sure it wuz heavy artillery?"

In our last issue, we reported JOHN WELCH's futile endeavor to shoot down a burglar in his own house. The bad news was that Johnny's bullets were NG. The good news - no, not that; none of it was "good" - the other news is that the uninvited guest turned out to be David, the son of John's neighbor. Amazingly, the bullets barely penetrated his chest and side. So much for that. Let's get down to what Jay (John's wonderful better half) and John wrote us about the aftermath:

"My dear Ken:

"Had planned to get a few lines off to you long before this late date. I do want to add my thanks to you and the others who came so far to add the dignity much needed for the west coast get-together.

"I was deeply touched by JOE PEYTON's presentation of the Memorial Service; it was outstanding.

"I feel very much a part of the Division, for our son Bill and I were in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. As time goes by, I wonder how many of us are still around.

"I am enclosing an article from our local paper. God was good, for David is the son of close neighbors and dear friends. So far, a lot of good has come out of it all.

"The police chief said he thought he was going to have to send Johnny back to the range until the boy turned himself in. J.J. is the man of the year in Napa County. So the 24th is still going strong.

"Warm good wishes. God Bless,
Jay".

"Dear Ken:

"David hadn't lived at home for about a year and had been getting into trouble, but his folks kept covering up for him. It was at 12:40 a.m. when he was trying to get in our place. That was the 4th of January and he turned himself in on the 14th.

"Probably, because of the old ammunition, there was extensive coverage on TV, radio and area newspapers which didn't help David. Even though it was the boy's first official run-in with the law, the District Attorney wanted a felony conviction. I held out for a misdemeanor to give David a chance to enlist in the service. The publicity minded DA finally agreed, if I would testify it would be because of me there wouldn't be a felony conviction. I agreed and David is taking all the necessary tests to go into the army. Think my decision is for the best, but time will tell.

"Hope we will see you at the next 'bash'.

John."

We say cheers to John and Jay for trying to save a kid - and in an aside to John, we say: "Get yourself some '81 ammo."



Blow on this square.



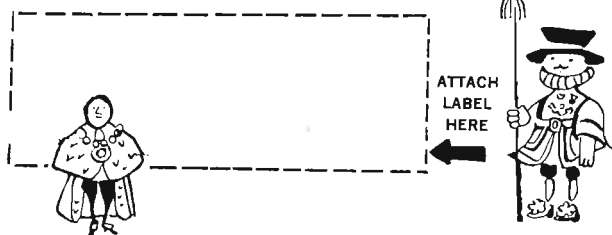
If it turns red,
SEE YOUR DOCTOR

If it turns blue,
SEE YOUR DENTIST

If it doesn't change,
MAKE PLANS TO COME
TO THE ST. LOUIS
CONVENTION

JIM ALEXANDER, Box 18399, Memphis, TN, an old L 19th man 6/51-4/52, asks "What happened to the \$5.00 I paid in Korea for a copy of that history which I never forgot?" That was apparently a sad story, Jim, concerning which we never did feel that we had the truth. Have no fear; we're reproducing the book en toto in our forthcoming history. The answer to "What happened in Korea?", we know not. We've been getting this question about once every 6 or 7 weeks for the last 25 years.

MOVING?



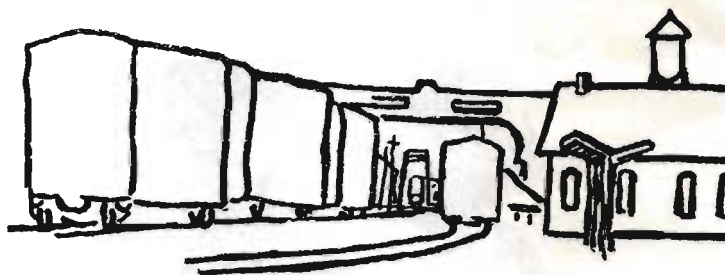
**Don't forget to notify us if
you're changing your address!**

Life Member WILBERT "Shorty" ESTABROOK, (B 19th '48-'50), of 43 Pinecrest, Portland, Maine, signs off his letter to us with "Tarolly Yours". First time we'd run into that one. Liked it. We're gonna steal it, Shorty. He asks us to publish this - so we do gladly:

EX-POW's FROM THE KOREAN WAR WILL HOLD THEIR 6TH ANNUAL REUNION AT THE HOLIDAY INN CONVENTION CENTER IN LOUISVILLE, KY. ON JULY 31 - AUGUST 2, 1981. FAMILIES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. FOR DETAILS CONTACT WILLIAM NORWOOD 5013 Ormand Road, West Carrollton, Ohio 45449 (Tel. 513-294-5181) or BILL GUTHRIE, Rt. 3, box 281, Rogersville, AL, 35652, (Tel. 205-247-5881.)

DEATH MARCH SURVIVORS OF MAJOR DUNN GROUP EX-POW's KOREAN WAR WILL HOLD A REUNION AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE: CONTACT WILBERT SHORTY ESTABROOK, 43 Pinecrest Road, Portland, ME 04102 (Tel. 207-775-0536.)

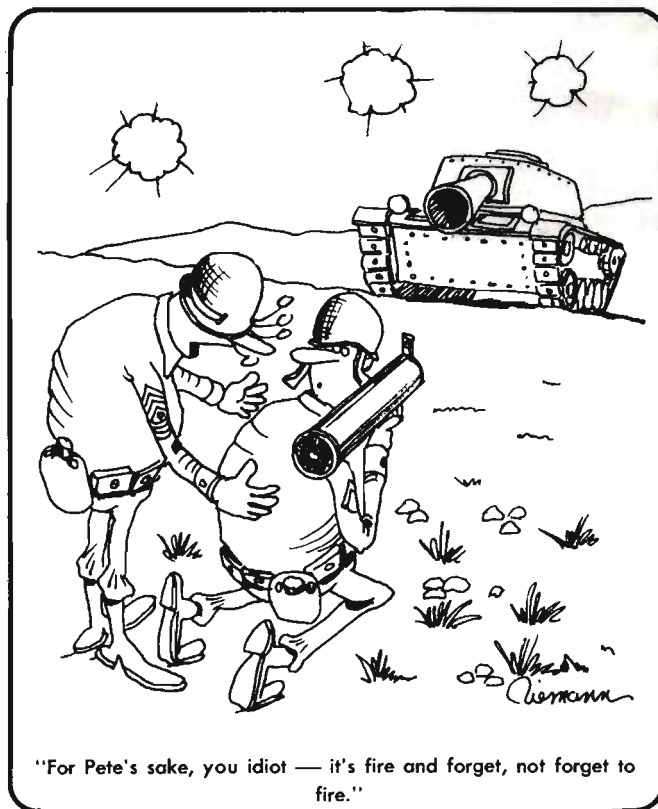
RALPH and Bonnie PFISTER (Med. 13th F '40-'42), of 2925 Softwind Trail, Fort Worth, Tex., have reported in with dues for which we offer deep thanks. Dues are what keep us going. That street name, "Softwind Trail" - isn't it a lovely name?



Does arrive faithfully - and yearly - from wonderful PHIL "Doc" HOSTETTER, (19th '43-'46), of Manhattan, Kans. Doc is in with an idea for some rules changes that would have some interesting implications:

- Hockey - erase the 3 center lines
- Baseball - have the batter begin with a 3-2 count
- Football - limit the entire squad to 18 men
- Soccer - eliminate the goalie
- Basketball - reduce the game to 2 minutes

You're innovative, Doc - haven't changed a bit in 38 years.



Rooms next August? \$50 for double occupancy; \$40 for single occupancy.

ROY BUCHANAN, (A 19th of Bakersville, N.C., is anxious to locate Sp 5 GARTH PEUE (he thinks Boston, MA), Sfc. NORMAN GARLICK (he thinks Arlington, VA), and Capt. MORGAN, his Company Commander in 1957. Any name ring a bell out there?

Japanese Diary from Biak

2nd Class Petty Officer: Koyama Rikinojo

By courtesy of Fred Naegele, Editor of "Jungleer," the 41st Div. paper, we reproduce excerpts from a Nip diary picked up by a 41st Recon. man on Biak. So we say "Thank You" to the 41st Assoc., Fred Naegele, 41st Recon, and 2nd Class Petty Officer Koyama Rikinojo, wherever you are. Kinda makes us sorry for something we said about the 41st, elsewhere in this issue.

21 May 44: At 0800 hrs. enemy planes made a thorough strafing run along the coastal strip. I expected there would be a bombing, but it did not materialize. Today, as has been the case, heretofore, we did not hear of damage we suffered. In the evening, we went to PARAI to get 1000 rounds of shells which were scheduled to arrive; but they did not come. So, came back to barracks at 2200 hrs. Rumors have it that an enemy task force consisting of 4 battleships, 5 carriers, —60 ships in all—is waiting off the island waiting to strike. I have no way of knowing how true they are; but feel uneasy because of the fact that there is not an airplane in our A/D.

22 May 44: One airplane came last night. Today enemy fighters strafed us at will. I stayed in the cave from 0800 to 1100 hrs. We have been digging pits to store our ammo. We also dug shelters for the SNLP.

23 May 44: Enemy bombed and strafed us from 0830 to 1100 hrs. We have only 12mm guns. I don't know what will become of us. The enemy task force has not made an appearance yet.

24 May 44: The enemy bombing is continuing as before. Only the time schedule has been moved up. The planes came at 0740 hrs. this morning. We suffered many casualties.

25 May 44: The enemy bombing is continuing as before. I took refuge in the cave from 0730 to 1200 hrs. to escape the bombing and strafing. Two enemy submarines are said to be off shore.

26 May 44: Ten enemy planes came over at 1000 hrs. We fired about 40 rounds. That made about 200 rounds left all told. They said that about half the enemy task force has been destroyed. Confirmation is lacking.

27 May 44: Ah! What a day today! At 0530 hrs. 8 cruisers, 8 destroyers, and two submarines opened a broadside. The enemy landed in force at BOSNEK and PARAI. We took up positions at night. The army launched a night attack, but very little was accomplished because of enemy Naval bombardment.

28 May 44: Air bombing and Naval bombardment continued. An indescribable scene of desolation was presented around our gun positions. MAGI and 4 men were killed. We became an SNLP after the completion of our duties. Seven out of nine Army tanks have been knocked out. This being Navy Day, I expected not much action to be taken. But we launched an offensive. We have no ammo, we have no food. How long will our lives last?

29 May 44: A shell from a Naval gun made a direct hit on No. 4 gun. Four members of SNLP were killed, and 10 were wounded. Two of our guns have been knocked out. Our planes have yet to make an appearance. What will be our fate?

30 May 44: The night attacks by the Army have been greatly hampered by Naval bombardment. The enemy is known to be weak in night maneuvers and will cry and flee when attacked. However, our night attacks were rendered ineffective by Naval bombardment.

31 May 44: It must be due to the rain that the enemy air activity is slackening. But the opportunity of my coming out of the cave is very slight.

1 June 44: Our planes came at last. They were only 2 or 3 in number, but they gave us great encouragement. One enemy destroyer is said to have been sunk by them.

2 June 44: Our planes came spasmodically to bomb enemy positions. May be due to this, enemy air bombing and Naval bombardment was greatly reduced.

3 June 44: It is said that two Bns. of Army reinforcements will arrive from MANO-KWARI early in the morning. The enemy seems to have landed at OWI Island and is constructing an air strip.

5 June 44: While I was on guard last night, I saw 11 enemy destroyers, 2 cruisers and 3 submarines pass under my eyes. It was not a very pleasant feeling.

7 June 44: The enemy landed at No. 3 A/D this morning. We were ordered to destroy enemy mortars tonight. But the order has been rescinded from our platoon.

8 June 44: The Demolition unit, which went out to destroy enemy mortars last night, has not returned yet. But judging from the absence of mortar fire the mission was successful.

9 June 44: Although enemy air activity has slackened, his artillery fire is increasing in intensity. Due to this our casualties are mounting.

10 June 44: Due to an unfavorable situation, the attack last night has been cancelled. The enemy, in the meantime, is strengthening his positions.

11 June 44: Due to an intensified firing of enemy heavy weapons and Naval guns, the Naval personnel might evacuate island. The Chief of Staff of the Second Area Army has returned to his post. It is only a matter of time, as our

casualties are mounting heavily. If we had had half as many weapons as the enemy possesses, this would not have happened. The majority of the Army personnel carry only rifles.

12 June 44: Although it is almost noon, the assault troops that went out to attack last night have not returned as yet. I have a feeling that the mission was not successful. The sick and wounded have been evacuated to the NW. Our fleet is said to be on the way here, but we cannot rely too much on that rumor. A direct bomb hit was scored on the CP, and Ensign KIKUCHI, HYODO, NOHARA and NAKAMURA were killed.

13 June 44: The enemy is approaching nearer and nearer. The sick and wounded were completely evacuated. Leading Seaman OTAKEUCHI dies of sickness. Enemy has made an appearance on the ridge already. Rifle shots were heard at close proximity.

14 June 44: The enemy is fast approaching near the cave. Today 7 large transports entered the harbor. Enemy planes are said to have landed on No. 3 A/D.

16 June 44: Some of the enemy troops have already invaded the ridge. A considerable number of our troops have already evacuated to the rear. This must be the end. The only course left open for us now is to make a suicidal attack.

17 June 44: Our casualties are mounting rapidly. In the afternoon we were ordered to guard the wireless station to the last.

18 June 44: All Naval personnel mobilized last night. Under a hail of bullets, we had to breach the enemy lines to get to the wireless station. At 2000 hrs. we reached the Defense Unit Hq. and waited for further orders.

19 June 44: The annihilation of our unit is imminent. In the evening, we completed the MAYEDA unit.

21 June 44: While preparing to withdraw to the hills, the whereabouts of the platoon Co. became known, so we joined up with him. A half of the MAYEDA unit also withdrew.

22 June 44: We received no food. A large formation of enemy planes circled overhead. Today we marched without food or water.

23 June 44: Shortage of food is acute. Our only hope is to wait for the rescue ships to come. In the meantime our fate is in the hands of CO. MAYEDA. We passed the night in rain.

24 June 44: Our Senior Staff Officer communicated with us, but nothing has come out of it. Men are dropping out every day. I don't know where they went. Spent the night in a cave.

25 June 44: It was decided that today we would move to a point 10km West. The purpose is to see whether the enemy has landed on the west coast.

26 June 44: Heard the Rear-Admiral SENDA is now somewhere on the North Coast. He escaped from the cave on the 20th, we set out to join him. We met his messenger on the way and retraced our way.

28 June 44: The day dawned after spending a harrowing night. Rain fell all night; mosquitoes and insects bit me all over. Set out in search of SANSARO. Here and there dead bodies were lying on the ground. Odor was terrible.

Did you know?

5 July 44: The Platoon CO., KAWAMURA arrived here.

6 July 44: The enemy planes were said to be dropping food, but we could not find any.

10 July 44: We set out today. Many dropped out on the way. Two men are in dying condition. Why do we have to go through all these hardships?

11 July 44: I returned to the garden after receiving orders from the Hq.

13 July 44: The sick and wounded left today for WAFOER. We will be departing tomorrow.

14 July 44: By the 20th, all Naval personnel are to assemble on the North Coast. What will be the subject of the conference? Our departure has been postponed for 3 days.

15 July 44: We were told to clear the tracks as the rations would come by submarine after the 20th. 1st Sec. left this morning. Selection of site to erect barracks is difficult because of the constant patrols of enemy planes.

16 July 44: We erected the barracks today and rested after their completion. A messenger came today with the order to post a sentry at SANSORA. We complied.

17 July 44: Enemy scout planes slowly circled overhead. Even the Japanese Army is made helpless on this island. How long will this thing continue? The Army units will also assemble on the North Coast on the 23rd.

21 July 44: Today, for several hours, the enemy planes made low level strafing runs. They concentrated their fire mainly at the gardens. Our platoon lost 2 men. The platoon commander escaped somewhere.

22 July 44: Beginning tomorrow, the 2nd platoon will guard SANSARO. Tomorrow, one man will go to the coast to get salt water. It appears that the Army units lost a considerable number of men yesterday.

23 July 44: Some of those who went to the North Coast are coming back because of lack of food there.

27 July 44: Our Hq. left for the North Coast on invitation of the CO.

30 July 44: Men in the areas of the water point are subsisting on 2 hardtacks and 1 potato a day. Even when they have rice, 150 men will share 15 lbs. of rice.

31 July 44: Last night, two of our planes came to attack. Was it a forerunner of our long expected August offensive?

1 Aug 44: MAYEDA Unit reorganized today. SUGITA took over the command of platoon in place of KAWAMURA.

2 Aug 44: The platoon CO., SUGITA, left for the North Coast. The army is moving out of the Water Point areas.

4 Aug 44: The CO's of the Army Units decided in a meeting that they will stick it out until October.

5 Aug 44: It appears that the enemy landed on the North Coast. At 0700 hrs., tomorrow, Navy Units will assemble at WARSA.

8 Aug 44: The natives are showing hostilities because we invaded their gardens.

9 Aug 44: Today our No. 1, 2, and 3 gardens were attacked with mortar fire. The CO. has gone to the No. 1 garden. We all withdrew to the No. 2 garden.

11 Aug 44: Although the enemy has made no appearance yet, still we are afraid to go to the shore and get salt water. Heard that the Cabinet has resigned.

13 Aug 44: At 1000 hrs. we were surprised by the enemy from the rear. The army fought back. The Army lost platoon CO. and 3 men. The Navy lost none.

14 Aug 44: On orders from Hq., we went to the No. 2 garden to guard the area. Hq. will withdraw tomorrow and we will withdraw on the 16th. The destination is unknown.

16 Aug 44: At 0800 hrs. left for WARSA. Human bones and corpses lay scattered. All men of the Construction Unit are in weakened condition. Bivouacked after walking 4 miles.

18 Aug 44: Left at 0800 hrs. Came out on the seashore about noon. Felt good despite the danger of discovery.

19 Aug 44: Left at 0800 hrs. for WARSA. Enroute we were attacked by the Natives. Our Combat Troops did not retaliate despite the fact that they were armed.

20 Aug 44: Today about 100 men went out to gather potatoes. Of these 20 were armed, because of the danger of attack by the natives. The Navy expected about 450 men to be present, however, only about 200 men answered the roll call.

21 Aug 44: Today we were fired upon by an enemy torpedo boat. Planes strafed us also. We lost over 10 men.

22 Aug. 44: Started early in the morning for the hills about 1km inland. We marched in long single file.

23 Aug 44: Stayed at the same place. Half of us went out to gather potatoes, the venture was without success because of the firing by the natives.

24 Aug 44: Started at 0430 hrs. and arrived at a point 5km west. MAYEDA Unit was an advance element and we followed in the rear, lead by the CO.

25 Aug 44: At 1400 hrs. the enemy landed by sub-chasers and barges. We were fired upon. At 1900 hrs. the CO. returned.

26 Aug 44: Moved out 1.5km. west. Platoon CO., IMANAGE, was killed by an enemy bullet.

27 Aug 44: At 0700 hrs. left the bivouac area and came out on the coast at noon. It was high tide so we waited until low tide, then departed. We threw most of our equipment away. Slept on the beach. MAYEDA Unit arrived. MAYEDA Unit left for WARDO (the sick unit). Wireless set is rendered useless as the batteries are dead.

29 Aug 44: We walked along the coast lines. Found out that CO. MAYEDA came from the same prefecture where I came from. Bivouacked on this side of an Isthmus.

30 Aug 44: Forded a river in the morning. Platoon CO. KAWAMURA drowned. Today we walked only 2km.

31 Aug 44: One man drowned while fording the 3rd river. The water came up to our necks. We turned back and bivouacked.

1 Sept 44: At 1100 hrs. forded the river. About 1400 hrs. the enemy landed in front. As we were a party of over 100 men, we were easily discovered. CO's unit must have been discovered first. The enemy blocked our first step that leads back to Japan. We came to the last island. How many days will it take to our last place?

BOB STRANG, (Hq. 2nd Bn. 21st '51-'52), of Wheeler Hill, Wappinger Falls, N.Y. reminds us that it's cherry blossom time, the spring spectacular in Washington. We are reminded that the Nips gave them to us in 1912 - 3000 cherry trees of 12 different varieties. They were raised in Shizuoka, Japan, having been shot from the famous trees on the banks of the Arawaka River near Tokyo. Bob recalls how after P.H., many wanted the Washington trees cut down. But better heads prevailed to spare the beauty. Then ironically, Japan's trees along the Arawaka deteriorated greatly from a lack of care during '41-'45. Can't imagine why. Anyway, Japan requested cuttings from our trees in order to restore their lost plantings. Our National Park Service, in the name of friendship, obliged, thus perpetuating the original gesture. However, the story has it that there were a few smug smiles around Washington town.



"...No kiddin'—An' what's that yellow one for? Th' run-in ya had with th' marines in that bar the other night?"

Don't forget - plan to arrive on Thursday, Aug. 13th - and to depart on Sunday, Aug. 16th.

WARREN TURNER, (D 19th '50-'51), of 3906 Capers, Columbia, S.C., reminds us of the old artilleryman's saying: "Artillery lends dignity to what might otherwise be a vulgar brawl." Better bring Marion to St. Louis, Warren.

"We'll see you in St. Louis" writes Dr. W. L. REHM, (Med. Det. 34th '43-'46), of 481 S. 4th St., Genevieve, MO. Great news, Doc.

24th Infantry Division Association

TARO LEAF

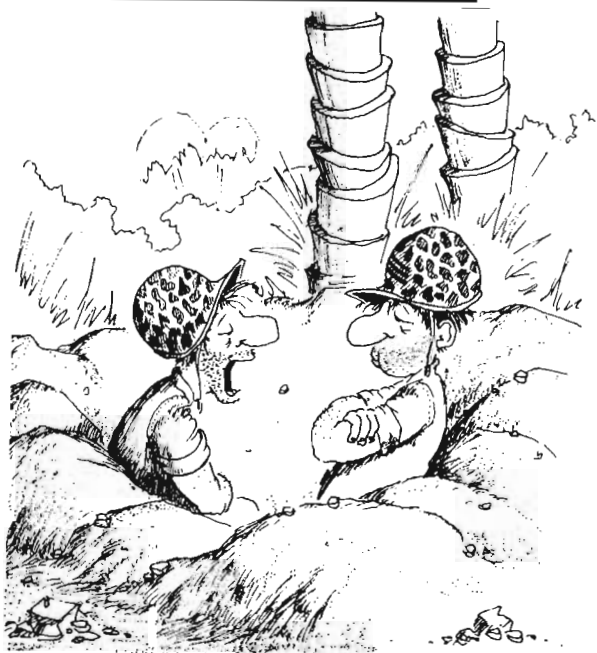
Vol. XXXIV — No. 5

1980-1981

Ex-POW ELWOOD H. FOLTZ (B 21st '50-'52), of Mt. Pleasant Hills in Mt. Pleasant Mills, Pa. How's that for alliteration? - is considerably exercised over the fact that returning POW's received so little in the way of recognition in times past. The welcome extended to the recently returned hostages from Iran brought on his outburst, of course. Admitting to having been touched by its warmth, he reflects back upon the little that was shown our returning POW's, particularly those out of Korea in '53. Writes Elwood:

"I could not avoid thinking of the reception given to the American soldiers who were captured and held in P.O.W. camps. For most, there were no ticker tape parades, no yellow ribbons. The vigil of the families and loved ones had been silent and unnoticed. I wish our men who had been taken captive had been received with such a spontaneous and exuberant welcome."

A proper response to this one could involve tons of words and hours of time in their composition. We'll just leave it alone save for two words to Elwood: "We understand".



"Actually, why I'm fightin' over here is quite cut an' dried—I'm tryin' t' stay alive."

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 1941-1980 will be released just as soon as the Editor, who is writing it, can finish it. The cost — \$20 per copy. Only members will be allowed to purchase copies.

• • •

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

• • •

Rotten news. RUSSELL DENNY, (C 21st '40-'44), of 685 Lemon Grove Ave., West Melbourne, FL 32901, back in hospital - bypass in his right leg, above and below the knee. Cards appreciated. Writes Russ: "Have been hearing from some of the guys, JOHN T. BRADY, FRANK MANKOWSKI, CASEY SALES. Casey lives about 20 miles from me and we visit quite often. The cards bring back some fond memories. I've never read in the Taro Leaf about the Filipino's we trained right before we left Hawaii. I helped train the ones on Kawaihoa. Do you have any address for SAL NICOLETTA? I think he was from San Jose, Cal. Would like to hear from him."

Rates for our August bash at
Stouffer's Riverfront Towers - \$40
single occupancy; \$50 double occupancy.

TARO LEAF

The Bulletin Board

There will be a Midwest Rally and Membership Roundup Saturday, April 25, beginning at 11:00 AM at V.F.W. Post 1308, 4445 Alby Street, Alton, IL for any and all Taro Leafers, their families and/or guests. The post will furnish us the hall, a bartender and bar and drinks of all kinds will be available at reasonable club prices. This will be an all-day get-together with conviviality being the order-of-the-day and for those desiring to stay for the evening the VFW will be having its regular Saturday night dance beginning at 8:30 PM and we are invited-no charge.

Post 1308 is located two blocks east of Alton Beltline (Illinois Route 111) adjacent to Alton Square one of the newest and largest shopping centers in the area with 84 stores to satisfy the needs of those desiring to take a shopping break. For those desiring over-night lodging the Alton Ramada one mile from the VFW offers rooms at \$34-\$38 and the Alton Travel Lodge four miles away with rates of \$22-\$25 are available. Reservations can be made by calling toll-free 1-800-228-2828 for Ramada or 1-800-255-3050 for Travel Lodge.

ALL COME AND ENJOY THE FUN. Everyone will be welcome whether you let me hear from you or not but as I have to inform the club manager not later than April 17 of how many to expect LET ME HEAR FROM THOSE PLANNING TO ATTEND BY APRIL 15. Call or write Lum at 167 Hickory, Wood River, IL 62095 (618-259-5771) if you plan to attend. Hoping to see you there.

TARO-fully

Lum

