

TARO LEAF
24th Infantry Division Association
Kenwood Ross, Editor
120 Maple Street
Springfield, MA
01103-2278



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Stock, Rodney F. Jr.
4551 Azalea Drive
Reno, NV 89502

WHAT IF WE NEVER DROPPED THE A-BOMB?

In April 1945, the Nazis surrendered. And Japan was the final enemy. The United States didn't drop the bomb. They invaded. And started one of the bloodiest confrontations in history.

This novel is based on the actual war plans; documents from both countries that prove a U.S. invasion of Japan came dangerously close to taking place.

Alfred Coppel's brilliant story mixes these facts with fiction. To create the most compelling, powerful book you'll read this year. \$15.95

"This is surely the most important and suspenseful novel of combat written since the end of World War II."

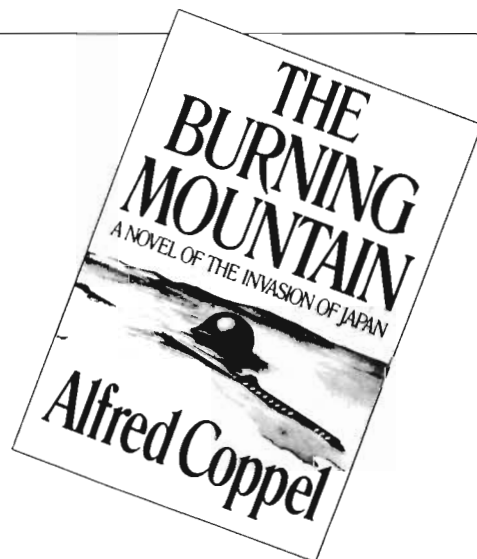
- Colin Forbes

"The Burning Mountain is eventually a 'missing chapter in history,' an essential part of the fateful decision that changed the world..."

- Sir William Stephenson

"An imposing feat of narrative power and startling imagination."

- Jessamyn West



(HBJ) HARCOURT BRACE JOVANOVICH

TARO LEAF



*"Does not beauty confer a benefit upon us,
even by the simple fact of being beautiful?"*

*Victor Hugo
The Toilers of the Sea
Pt. 1, Bk. iii, Ch. i.*

The PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vol. XXXVI — No. 4

1982-1983

Dear Taro Leafers:

The time is approaching rapidly when we meet again in Savannah. Because we are "getting short", I would suggest that you formulate your plans to attend the Convention of the 24th Infantry Division Association immediately, if you already have not done so.

You know the dates, of course, the 18th, 19th and 20th of August. Why not come early -- make a week of it. This would be a great time to renew friendships, make new friends, put a little icing on old stories and fraternize, fraternize, fraternize!

The City of Savannah has so much to offer its visitors. Being a traditionally Southern City, its people are congenial, and it is rich in the historical sense.

Come early, enjoy all of the above! I'll be looking for you.

Sincerely,
Chet

HARRY BUDNIAK, (M 21st '38-'40), of 172 Laurel, Whiting, NJ says this:

Reference Page 4, Taro Leaf, Vol. XXXVI, No. 3, 1982-1983 - Who's The Greatest?

I have to vote for my Platoon Sergeant Felix Michaelson

- The best shortstop
- the best quarterback
- the best basketball player
- the best fighter

A terrific "contributor" -- one who sends in an extra 5 or 10 every now and then -- is faithful ALVIS "Slim" ROCK, (B & Sv. 21st '44-'46), of Box 203, Stilwell, OK. We're grateful Al -- exceedingly so. See you in August.



Many people think Savannah is on the ocean, but in truth it is 19 miles from the sea, protected by the marshland of Wilmington Island, Thunderbolt Island and the Isle of Hope, plus 13 major barrier islands. Tybee Island, one of the barriers, is also Savannah Beach, only 15 miles from the heart of the city.

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:

President:

Chester A. Andrezak, 3225 N. Natchez Avenue,
Chicago, IL 60634 Tel. 312-685-7965

Vice President:

John R. Shay,
1129 Shermer Road, Glenview, IL 60025

Sec'y.-Treas.-Editor:

Kenwood Ross — 120 Maple Street,
Springfield, MA 01103 Office Tel. 413-733-3194
Home Tel. 413-733-3531

Convention Chairman:

Harry Rubin
Box 774, Hinesville, GA 31313

Membership Chairman:

Lee B. List — 115 Ronald Road,
E. Peoria, IL 61611 Tel. 309-694-1681

Chaplain:

Joseph I. Peyton — 1405 Belmore Court,
Lutherville, MD 21093 Te. 301-321-6448

...

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

Target date for publication of "History of a Division, 1981-1983" is the Savannah Convention, August, 1983. Only Association members will be allowed to purchase copies. The price? Are you ready for this one? \$20 per copy. Closing date for orders — April 15, 1983.

When we first saw the picture of the very lovely lady who graces our cover for this issue -- we've released over 200 issues with over 200 covers -- and of this one we are most proud -- we were seized with an idea. Why not feature more pix of our children, of our children children's children as the case may be? So we're off and running with this issue -- in which we introduce Marlene SHOWN, the daughter of our own BILL SHOWN, (21st '41-'43; 24th Rec'n. '43-'44), of 1911 Francis, Waukesha, WI. Bill is right proud and we can only say "And why not?" Thank you, Marlene, for helping us to get our "family program" underway. We can't think of a lovelier way to start.

One of your hardest decisions will surely be where to eat. Savannah's reputation as a gourmet's delight is well deserved. Succulent "catch of the day" seafood specialties rival impeccably served continental cuisine as nationally acclaimed restaurants seem determined to outdo one another -- all to your benefit. Just resolve to diet when you return home, let your belt out another notch, and enjoy!

ON THE HISTORIC RIVERFRONT

For Revisions or Cancellations
Please call our Toll Free
Number (800) 228-9000 or
Dial Direct (912) 238-1234

Guest Information Below

Name _____
Company Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Arrival _____ At _____ M
Check-in Time 3 PM Date _____ Time _____
Departure _____ At _____ M
Check-out Time 12 Noon Date _____ Time _____

CHECK IN TIME IS 3 P.M.

Accommodations Prior To This Time Cannot Be Assured
Limited Valet Parking Available

Reservations will be held until 6 P.M. unless
accompanied by a deposit or an accepted
credit card number and signature

Please hold my reservations for
(Check one)

_____ 6 P.M. arrival

_____ Guaranteed by first night's deposit

_____ Assured by my credit card
(American Express, Diners, Carte Blanche, VISA, Master Charge)

Credit Card and Number _____

Expiration Date _____

FOR GUARANTEED RESERVATIONS ONLY

I understand that I am liable for one night's room and tax which will be
deducted from my deposit, or billed through my credit card in the
event that I do not arrive on the arrival date indicated or cancel at
least 24 hours in advance

Signature _____

PLEASE CIRCLE RATE REQUESTED

No. of Rooms	Standard	Superior	Deluxe
Single(s) 1 Person	50		
Double(s) 2 Persons—1 Bed	50		
Double(s) 2 Persons—2 Beds	50		
Suites	125	to	450

Suite Rates Available Upon Request.
Please Contact Hotel Directly For Suite Reservations.

SPECIAL REQUESTS:

Reservations must be received at hotel by: Date 7/24/83

If rate requested is not available, nearest available rate will be confirmed.

No charge for children under 18 years when sharing room with parents

Additional person in room \$15.

Name(s) of additional person(s) sharing room _____

The Chaplain's Corner

LOVE..."I may have all the faith needed
to move mountains -- but if I have not
Love, I am nothing."

Why do we write of Love? It is to
remind us that we were all at one time
(or at present) part of a great
Fighting Team. To be part of that Team,
we had to Love our Country, and were
called upon to protect it. To protect
it, or serve it, it was necessary for
us to train together, and get to know
one another. With this togetherness,
we learned to Love one another, and
became Friends. Many times this
required Patience, Understanding, and
Unselfishness, all branches from the
tree of Love. Later in combat, Love
required many of our Friends to make
the Supreme Sacrifice -- the giving of
their lives. And greater Love, no man
hath.

Now we are a Team of Veterans. Love
is still part of us. We share this Love
with a Peacetime togetherness through
our Division Association. Like our
many friends who made the Supreme
Sacrifice, and cannot be with us, we
miss the Love of others who do not know
of our existence, or for one reason or
another, do not share their Love with us.

As we pray each day, let our prayer
contain a special request, that all of
those Friends of yester-year, become
part of our Love once again.

Savannah is truly a Southern Belle.
She's insouciant and unpredictable --
and totally charming. Just when you
think you have her all figured out,
she'll throw you a curve and you'll
realize that you don't really know
Savannah at all.

Chatter

This will be good news for BILLY
SANDERSON who is recovering nicely from
a slight heart problem at 57 Peck St.,
Attleboro, MA. It seems that a drug
derived from the papaya tree is proving
useful in the treatment of slipped discs.
Its injection into the disc is success-
fully relieving disabling back, hip and
leg pains. No one loves papaya more
than Billy.

Up Front

Sue MCNEELEY is selling her home in
Crossnore and is moving to the Asbury
Care Center, 3600 Shamrock, Charlotte,
NC. You might card her there.

Host

To watch the water traffic on the
river, visitors and Savannah folk, too,
have taken a shine to the Windows
restaurant at the Hyatt Regency, which
nurtures the soul and the body with
decent fare and riveting, always changing,
river views. Hyatt Regency? Why that's
where we'll be come August.

On the front inside of our mailing
wrapper we ran an ad for the book,
"The Burning Mountain". Don't buy it.
It's not worth the asking price. We
fell for it, and regret it. It's a
bust. Save your pennies. Drop us a
line and borrow our copy if your
curiosity is piqued.



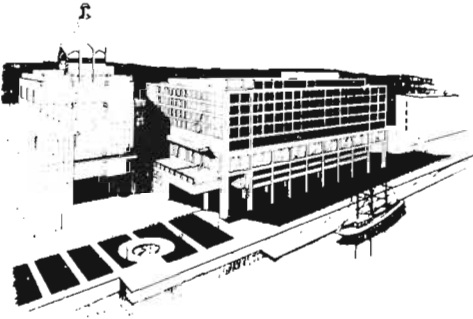
NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS

PERMIT NO. 1286

SAVANNAH, GA.



POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

RESERVATIONS DEPARTMENT

HYATT REGENCY SAVANNAH

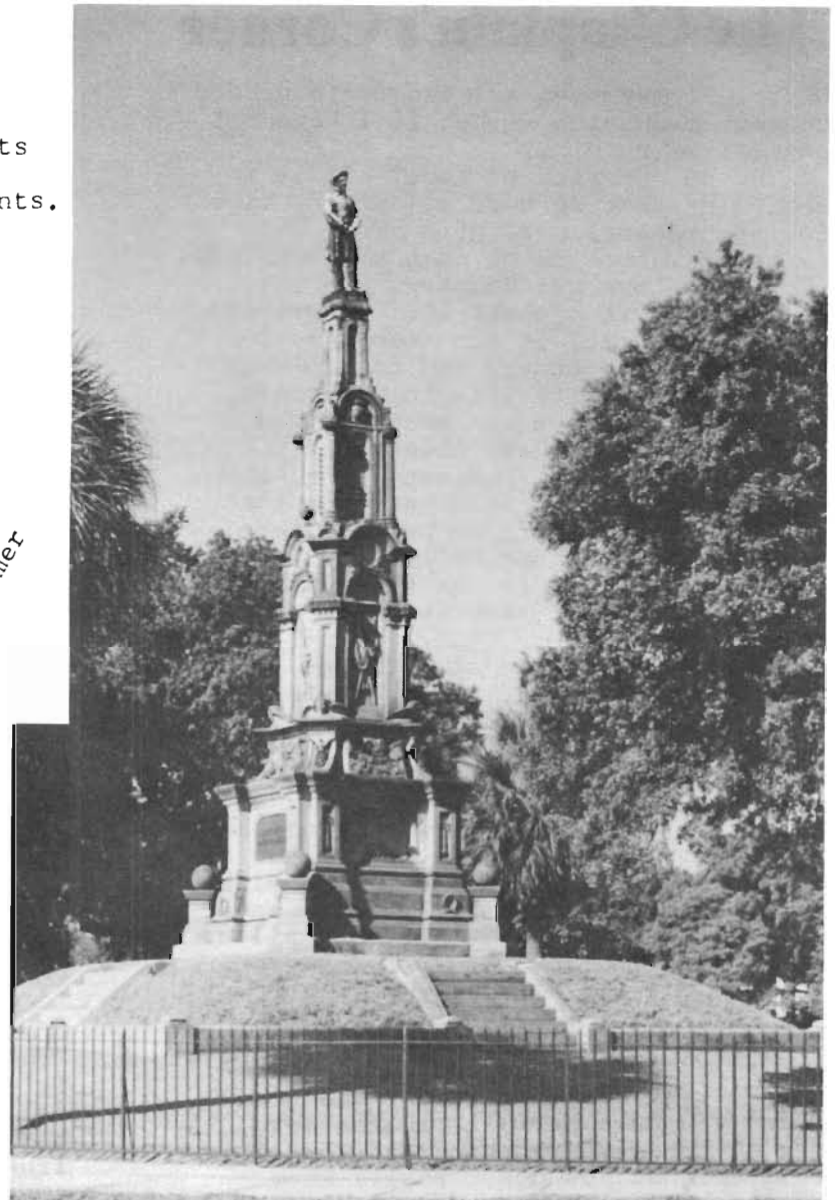
ON THE HISTORIC RIVERFRONT

TWO WEST BAY STREET
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402 USA
912 238 1234



In Savannah -- a large, ornate fountain dating back to 1858 graces Forsyth Park which signified the southern boundary of General James E. Oglethorpe's original city plan. Azaleas and flowering trees set off its natural beauty, the Park serves as a recreational center for nearby residents.

We had already sent this issue to our good friend, the printer, when our telephone rang. It was Rita BACKER with bad news. VIC fell on the street in the mid-afternoon of Monday, March 28. Heart. No visitors. No hospital. No calls. He's in the NYC hospital. Why not send your good wishes to Rita at Lake Success, Long Island, NY 11100 (Tel. 516-482-5055). And your prayers can be handled privately. Vic, bless him, is deserving of your concerns. This Association has no warmer friend.



LINE S

DIDJA KNOW? Did ja know that Speaker Tip O'Neil, D-Mass has spent only 5 months of his entire working life (he is 69) in the private sector. And he's telling us how to live?

Why Not The Best!

MELVIN MUELLER, (AT 21st '43-'45), of 3180 Portis, St.Louis, MO, is looking for ALEANJDRO ABIZO. Mel thinks he's in the southern Calif. area. Mel, a flame thrower himself, says he was "a BAR man with a chest full of medals".

Thanks, JIM MOYER, over there at 8401 Running Mill, Barnhart, MO, for the item on the Army's change of helmets. We too mourn the passing of the venerable steel pot.



PLEASE SEND US DUES!

The Association fiscal year commences on August 1st and ends on July 31st.

If you have not paid dues, you are in arrears.

YOUR ANNUAL DUES ARE \$10.00.

**IF
YOU'RE
TORN
BETWEEN
GOING
TO
SAVANNAH
AND
NOT
GOING —
TRY
GOING.**



SAVANNAH

GEORGIA
250
1775-1975

Bob Green, Chicago Tribune Columnist reports that in Schraumburg, IL, a surprise is awaiting the unwary male who steps into the men's room in the Hyatt Regency Woodfield Hotel. An electric eye is tripped as he steps up to the you-know-what starting one of several 10 to 30 second films featuring scantily clad gals delivery one-lines such as "Nice try" and "Aren't you the Lincoln Park flasher?" We can't believe it -- and at a Hyatt Regency operation too. Don't forget we're going to The Hyatt Regency -- in Savannah. Wonder if they'll have them operational there -- by August.



SPRING FOLLIES

We started something in our last issue when we carried ED VOSO's comments about who was the greatest. Wrote "Pineapple" JACK FINAN, a Chick as if you didn't know: "Felix Michaleski made the grade in football, baseball and boxing. Steady Jackson did it all in football, basketball, baseball, track and field. Member of the Chicks Basketball Championship Team as a guard. Javelin Champ of Schofield for many years. I will admit that Iron Mike led the Gimlets to a First Place Title in Football under the fine coaching of Jock Clifford. Boggey Bogardus was an All-Schofield baseball pitcher. Perhaps he played on other sports teams but I don't remember. I will give credit where credit is due. The above gents were top flight soldiers and excellent NCO's."

Marion TURNER, WARREN's beloved, called us and we rushed over to our printer with a "stop the press" cry. It seems that Warren (D19th, 40-45) was taken to the Ft. Jackson Hospital for surgery last Feb. 21st. They started C. You might card him at home -- 3906 Capers Ave., Columbia, SC or telephone 803-781-6041. It's not a good story in any way. Warren needs your prayers.

SAVANNAH

Hear about the guy who was so dumb he thought Remedial English is what Prince Andrew does on shore leave?

ON THE GO

In our last issue, we gave the pitch for a Shy Lum Fund to help bring Shy from Wahoo to Savannah next summer. If you want to contribute, write either

EDDIE ROBINSON
605 Truman Hwy., Apt. B1
Hyde Park, MA 02136

or

JOE CENGA
206 Cedric Rd.,
Centerville, MA 02632

Make checks payable to "Shy Lum Rund".

Wrote JACK FINAN about this endeavor: It is high time that Eddie Robinson and Joe Cenga came out of their foxholes. Many Taro Leafers have visited Colonel Shy Lum in Honolulu. Way back yonder in the fifties, Charlie (Cowboy) McBryde and I were trying to locate Shy. We didn't know his full name and we didn't know if he was living. I got in touch with Captain (Ret.) Marion K. Weatherly of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Marion and Frankie came to the rescue and Shy came to Fort Bragg during September 1960 for a small Chicks reunion. Marion is now deceased. He was one of General Red Newman's troopers in Co. F, 19th.



Belt buckles like the above being offered by Heritage Buckles, 2049 Phoebe Drive, Billings, Montana 59105. Price \$11.95 each. Don't write us; we're not selling 'em. Write Heritage. BILL WILLMOT referred Heritage to us and we're giving them this space out of our respect for Bill. Frankly we're not jumping over the rainbow on this one.

Never-to-be-forgotten Quote: "I am against government by Crony" -- Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, 1946 -- one of the biggest cronies of all.

Getting Together is Together

Will you "take ten" please -- to peek at the next page and understand the method in our madness. The reverse side of the page is in blank. You can, if you will -- and now we're begging -- get this posted on your local Legion or VFW hall bulletin board. And we have 1000 more copies on hand. If you have other places where this might be posted, just signal. We'll send you as many copies as you might feel you can use.

Want to know what happens next?

BILL SHOWN, one of our most faithful correspondents, tells of a new sign on the beach at Malibu reading, "Beware the Tides of March".

Spotlight

Last April, the wreckage of a plane with a tail number matching that of a downed bomber was discovered in the New Guinea jungle, and an Army recovery team helicoptered in to pick up the remains of what turned out to be 22 men. After an elaborate identification process that took nine months to complete, the Army officially released a list of those who had been killed in the crash 39 years ago. The plane was a B 24 Liberator and had disappeared on March 25, 1944.

LEW AHNERT, (B 13th F, '43-'45), of Box 54, Lyons, IN, has retired again. A double dipper, don't you see. Bully for you, Lew. Once from the Peru PD and once from Grissom AFB.

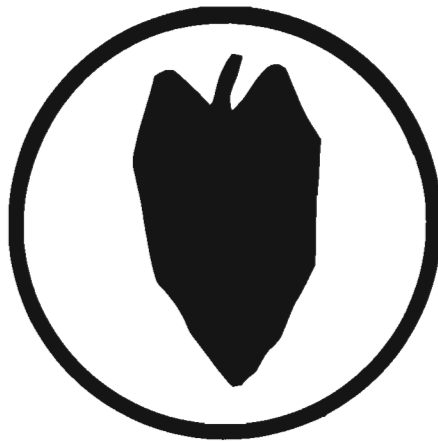
**ATTENTION WW II & KOREA & OTHER VETS
OF THE**

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION

REUNION — AUGUST 18, 19, 20 in 1983

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Bring your family! Come join the fun!



Maybe *your* "old buddies" are already among the many vets who are members of the 24th Infantry Division Association! All units of the division are represented in the membership . . . WWII vets who were with the 24th from Hawaii to Japan and Korea vets who fought from Pusan to the Yalu! And at Fort Stewart, active duty soldiers are members also!

The 24th Division is now at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, outside Savannah, its official home, and is now being maintained in its proud tradition, full strength and combat ready.

For further details of the reunion, August 18 - 20, in 1983 and of association membership, the officers invite your contact. Reunion activities are based on good family fun and fellowship and we welcome members to bring their families.

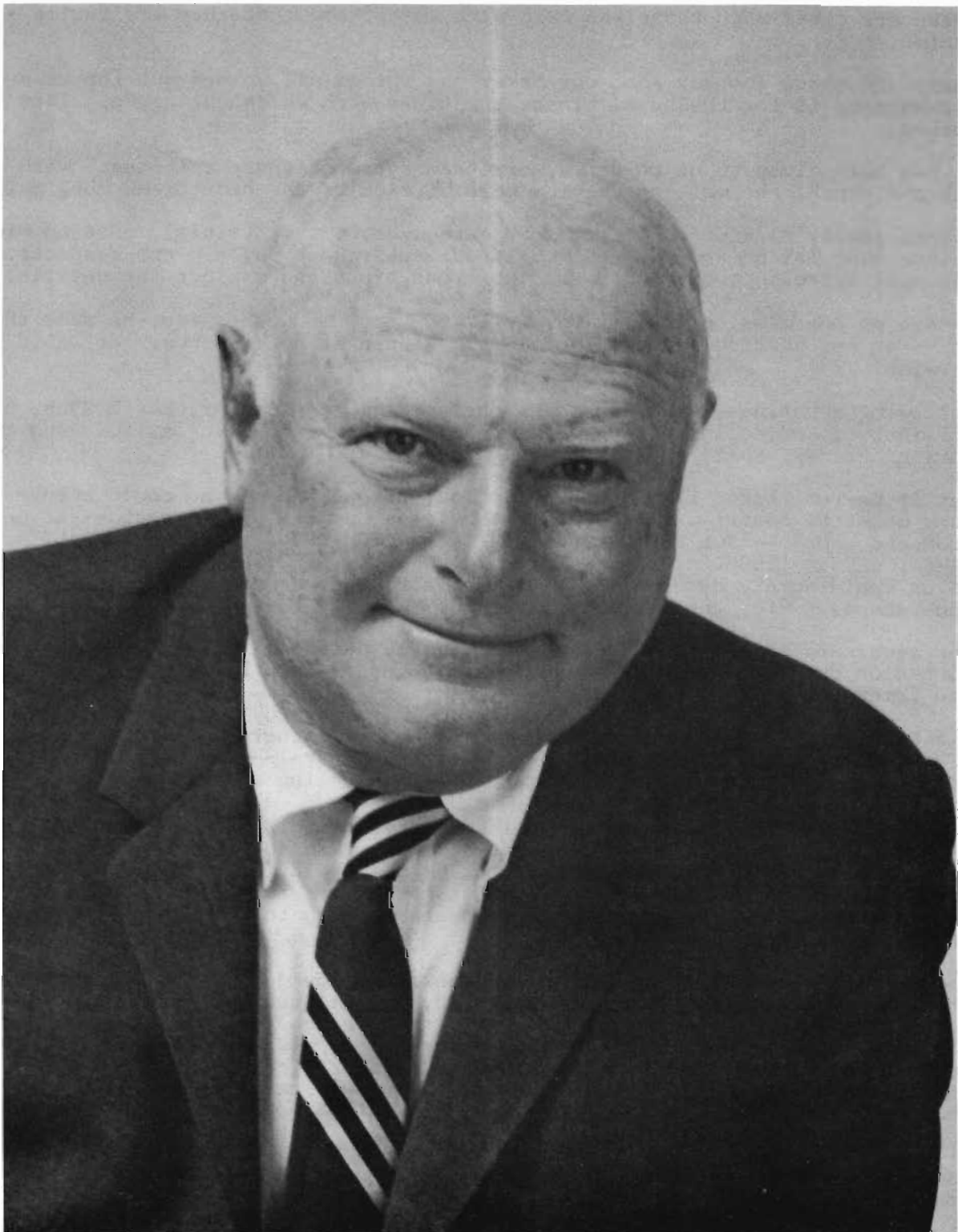
May we see you at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Savannah, Georgia, August 18 - 20, 1983.

For further information, contact:

President: CHESTER A. ANDREZAK
3225 N. Natchez Ave., Chicago, IL 60634
Tel. 312-685-7965

Convention Chairman: HARRY RUBIN
Box 774
Hinesville, GA 31313

Secretary-Treasurer-Editor: KENWOOD ROSS
120 Maple St., Springfield, MA 01103
Tel. 413-733-3194



VICTOR BACKER

March 23, 1916 – April 1, 1983

How do you say "Farewell" to an old and dear friend?

How do you write adequately of him for these pages, the journal of the Association which he so loved -- with every fiber in his little round body?

There are times when those who work with words know that they are futile -- this is such a time.

There are those who say that our Maker has things all worked out for us and that whatever happens is for the best. There are times when we cannot agree. This is one of those times.

It has been given to us to write more than a few of these tributes. With each passing week and month, the writing becomes more difficult, the heartbreak more painful.

Events involving Victor Backer, some cataclysmic, some trivial, come to mind as we drive along Long Island Sound on our way to Great Neck to pay him our respects. But perhaps the best approach today is to use the broad brush and exclude the details.

We are on our mission to say "Farewell" to Vic. Ten years ago, he made the trip in reverse -- at our particular moment of loss. We can do no less now. We would not have it otherwise.

Following a business luncheon in his beloved NYC on Tuesday, March 29th, he came out onto the street, and collapsed. A massive heart attack, Bellevue's ICU. And then in the wee hours of Friday, April the first, Vic breathed his last.

Let it be remembered that the Association, through those who could change their plans and make the Easter weekend, was with Vic as he was laid to rest -- Lt.Gen.DONALD ROSENBLUM and Laura -- JOE PEYTON and Margaret -- TOM UPTON and Anitra, WALTER CUNNINGHAM, HERBIE TISCHLER, JAMES "Spike" O'DONNELL, BILL SANDERSON, and ourselves. More of us would surely have come were it not for other commitments. And Rita, bless her, understands. Vic, too, would understand.

The good name of VICTOR BACKER is inseparably united with the Division we love and his reputation ought to be as dear and sacred to every Taro Leafer as that of the most intimate friend.

His spirit -- his laughter -- his wanting to help others -- his love for that common bond which holds us together in these fading years -- all of this comes back to us in flashback images as we try to put to pen the feeling which is ours.

In each of the fountains at Versailles, there is a pike which keeps all the carp active; otherwise they would grow over-fat and die. Vic took rare delight in performing a similar duty in the fountains of the 24th. Yet his victims seldom bore him any malice, and when they did, it was not for long. His shafts were fashioned only to stick into the outer layer of complacency, and not to penetrate through to the regions of the spirit where real injuries are done.

Oh Vic could exasperate -- but the exasperation would come from the simple fact that his family, his friends, his photography world, his beloved New York City, yes the 24th, his nation, his word, whatever, wasn't moving fast enough for him. For Vic was the doer, the complete activist, things had to move according to his tempo -- and when they did not, tempers would sometimes explode, ergo the exasperation -- but invariably, on final analysis in the calm of the aftermath that always would prevail, we would know that Vic had been right ab initio. Action! He craved it with a passion. He had no room or time -- or use -- for lethargy.

Someone once wrote, "There are no pockets in a shroud -- the dead hold in their hands only what they have given away." Vic gave much for he was the ultimate as a doer, a mover and a shaker. Ever on the go -- never stopping. Who's to say that that very effervescence which was in him to overflowing was not one cause of his crossing the river?

We always thought of him as indestructible. We often complimented him on his resilience and durability, especially in later years when friends and acquaintances were giving up the ghost in droves. "Ah, they don't make them like you anymore," we'd say. It was a rallying slogan. Bless his heart, wherever his ghost has settled. He'll be recalled long after we are someone else's memory.

His house was a sanctuary. Within those walls, anyone, no matter who he was, could breathe easily. Vic's hospitality went far beyond food and drink. He fed a guest's spirit as well as his body, plied him with goodwill until he became drunk in the heart, if not in the legs.

And Vic was the artist, the man of empecable taste -- for craftsmanship was his life, his livelihood, and perfection was his primary goal.

Vic himself had deeply ingrained in him the idea that mourning did not become one-- that it did no good for the dead and was simply self-indulgent -- All well and good to think -- not so simple to practice.

Over all the other blessings there was his beloved Rita and Kathleen who each gave a lasting meaning to his life. Yes, Vic wanted for nothing more. He got all that he asked for out of life and more. We have no reason to feel any sorrow for him -- only for ourselves for having lost him. He is quite irreplaceable. There will never be another like him.

And to Rita and Kathleen these words. There is no panacea for this kind of loss. Just know that every day it gets the tiniest bit better -- suddenly one day you will put it in a different perspective. You'll never forget Vic -- nor would you want to. You'll just one day be able to put him in a different place in your life.

Rita, it is a lucky woman indeed who can enrich a man's life to the extent that you enriched Vic's, and now is the time to remember that. You are lucky too in the flowering legacy that Vic left you in Kathy -- a part of himself that is and will continue to be a constant reaffirmation of his life and not Death -- and it is because we believe in such affirmation that we feel that, in the realm that lies beyond your present sorrow, you will find comfort in having had those wonderful years together. They do not come to everyone, as well we know, but they came to you and Vic and to have had them is to have defeated Death and to have had Life at its best.



Forgive us, please, the notice on Vic's hospitalization, which appears elsewhere in this issue. It is now Easter Monday. We called our printer first thing this morning with our "Stop the press". Ah, too late to pull any story, the run has been made. Then can we add an insert, we asked, a 4-pager in memory of our good friend. Harry Rosen replied affirmatively. Ergo these words and pictures hurriedly put together. For any sloppiness in our effort, our apologies. Victor was deserving of better.

One last thought -- told you this was being hurried -- You can reach Rita at

73 Westminster Road
Lake Success, Long Island, NY 11020

Tel. 516-482-5055 or 516-487-6036

K.R.



Pixie is the word for "playfully mischievous" according to the book and pixie he was, as this one, taken at Tent City, Hawaii in early '42, attests. Lou Fanelli shows an air of devilry too. Taken 41 years ago, it makes us realize how thin Vic once was. Charge it to so much of the Chinese food which he loved. We use the picture with love and affection. Certainly not with any malice. May it remind you of the impishness that was ever in his heart. There he is, out of uniform, you can bet, and sans the ever useful towel thrown around his neck.

Coming Attractions



JOE and Priscilla PETRAUSKAS, (21st '40-'43) of 7 Shattuck, Nashua, NH sent for a copy of "Follow Me". By the way, if anyone thinks we're promoting this book for the benefit of General Newman's pocketbook, forget it. Whatever there is in the way of a kickback or royalty or call-it-what-you-will, it has already been received -- and not by the good Red Head but by the Association. Red bought our supply of books from the publisher at his discount price. He then turned around and sold them to us for the same price. Thus, whatever is involved in the way of a dividend has already been received by the Association. It amounts to something in the area of \$1.50 per book out of which we pay 70¢ postage in mailing your copy to you. Big business? Forget it!!

FAST FORWARD!

Buckles, buttons and bows. We've got 'em coming out of our ears. Life Member JOE CHERVINO, (Hqs. B., 11th F '41-'45), of 1716 E. Main, Peekskill, NY found a guy who makes solid brass belt buckles with the Taro Leaf outlined thereon. The colors of the patch are not present. We mention this so as not to misrepresent. At any rate, this fellow is selling them for \$10.50 plus tax for New Yorkers. He calls himself Tithe Distributors, 310 Eighth Ave., East Northport, NY 11731. We're not "pushing" sales. We have a thing against trying to sell members everything from hats to tee shirts to belt buckles to you-name-it. We're just telling you that there's a guy who... etc., etc.

Pulse

The men of the "Mosquito Fleet" -- the PT boaters of 40 years ago are organizing their own fraternity of old warriors bound together by a respect for their dead and a desire to celebrate the life that's left to them. Great. Wonderful. But where have they been for the last 40 years? By the way, John D. Bulkeley, the Medal of Honor man who carried MacArthur from Corregidor is now 72, and a Rear Admiral still on AD. One of the organizers says "our men are like dinosaurs because one of these days our membership will dwindle down to zero". Makes you think, doesn't it?

Chutzpah -- a nice little Yiddish word for supreme self-confidence, or gall. Like the fellow who hasn't paid dues in over 8 years and yet sends in a change-of-address card on himself.



We're pleased to credit old faithful JERRY VON MOHR, (AT 19th '45), of 3846 Villanova, Kettering, OH, for this one.

It seems that the Minnesota Legislature urged President Reagan to correct an 84-year-old oversight and present a Congressional Medal of Honor to an Army veteran who is 104.

The resolution zipped through the House and Senate on unanimous votes Thursday, urging Congress to authorize that the president present a Medal of Honor to Herman Miller.

Miller enlisted in the Army from Crookston, MN, and was serving with Company G, 34th Inf., U.S. Volunteers, in the Philippines in 1899.

Miller's commanding officer recommended him for a Medal of Honor. The resolution said the request was never given full and proper consideration.

We say Hurrah for Herman and Hurrah for Jerry for remembering us.

BUYLINES

You'd better believe it. We run a little store for the benefit of our members. Regimental and battalion crests go for \$3.25 each. We don't always have them -- but we can get 'em. Shoulder patches go for \$1.00 each. The "subdued" (grey and black) patch goes for 75¢ each. Decals of the Division patch go for \$1.00 each. They're good to put on luggage -- great in an airport baggage room. They also will serve on your car windshield. You'll stand out in any parking lot.

NEW MAN!



BOB and Angela SAAL, (52nd '42-'45), of 600 W. Ridgemont, Peoria, IL, recently visited GORDON MACKENZIE in Medford, OR, PAUL FRASER in Bend, OR and ALEX THOMAS in Ukiah, CA, 52nd Field men all.

Of Special Interest

See how the ROSCOE B. WOODRUFF "story" was handled in the Omar Bradley "autobiography", "A General's Life":

Overlord planners had assigned my First Army three U.S. Army corps for the Normandy assault: V, VII and XIX. V Corps was commanded by an old and good friend, Leonard T. Gerow, four years my senior in age.....He was an outstanding gentleman and soldier -- cool, hard-working, intelligent, well organized, competitive -- clearly destined for high rank and responsibility.

The other two corps commanders were question marks in my mind. One, my West Point classmate and fraternity brother (and our cadet first captain) Roscoe B. Woodruff commanded VII Corps. A noted tanker from the class of 1913, Willis D. Crittenger, commanded XIX Corps. But we soon lost Crittenger to Jake Devers, who sent him to command IV Corps in Italy under Mark Clark's Fifth Army.

The Overlord plan specified that Gerow's V Corps and Woodruff's VII Corps would spearhead the assault on France, while the XIX Corps was held in floating reserve to come ashore behind them. Neither Gerow nor Woodruff had commanded large forces in combat or participated in an amphibious landing. This was worrisome. I tried my utmost to get Lucian Truscott, but Devers and Clark made it clear that Truscott would remain in Italy.

The problem was partly solved by the arrival in England of Joe Collins, one

JIM SHIRAH, (D 34th '56-'57), of 616 47th, Columbus, GA, is trying to help BILL MENNINGER who is looking for some folks. Writes Jim: "There was a Colonel Perez running the 7th Cav. RCT during the Puson Standoff in the lead tank to be exact. Try Col. (Ret.) Robert F. Litle, Jr., 1st Cav.Div.Assn. 302 N. Main, Copperas Cove, TX 76522, a lot of Taros were grabbed for the Cav. and vice versa." Got it, Bill?

Small Fries

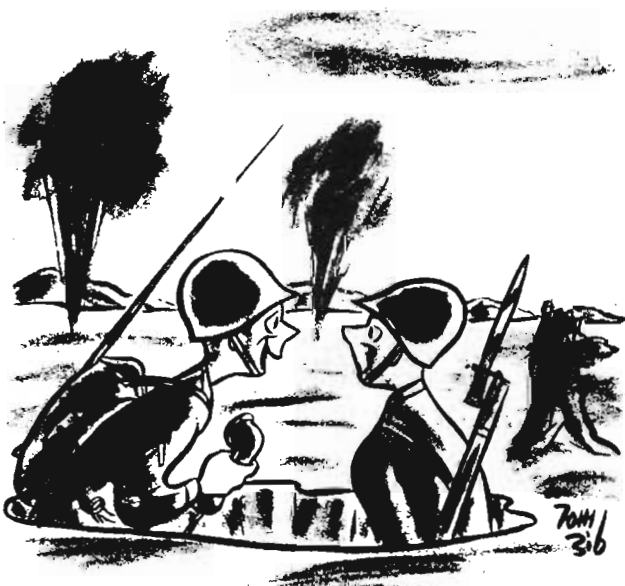
Michael Straight has written an apology, a book about his associating with the Bolshevik pantywaists at Cambridge U. who recruited him for Soviet espionage. We say, "Sorry, Mike, apologies not acceptable."

JOE and Margaret PEYTON are grandparents 7 times. Patrick and Kathleen have 2 girls. Patricia and Jim have 2 girls and Jim and Susan have 3 boys.

LEON SWEM, (AT 34 '43-'45), of Rt. 3, Carthage, NY 13619, has retired from St.Regis Paper Co.

of the outstanding members of the Class of 1917. He was fresh from command of the 25th "Tropic Lightning" Infantry Division on Guadalcanal and New Georgia. Marshall had recommended Collins for corps command. Ike and I interviewed him closely on his combat experiences. Collins spoke lucidly and modestly, emphasizing that in the attack, he always went for the high ground. When the interview concluded, Collins later wrote, I remarked to Ike: "He talks our language." We subsequently made the touch and painful decision to give Collins command of Woodruff's VII Corps.

I placed Woodruff in temporary command of XIX Corps, meanwhile devoutly hoping I would by some stroke of luck get Truscott. However, about that time another Pacific veteran, Charles H. Corlett (West Point 1913), arrived in England highly recommended by Marshall. Corlett had commanded the 7th Infantry Division in the invasion of the Marshall Islands and had captured Kwajalein. I thought, as did Patton, that Ike had gone overboard on Corlett, but we made the decision to give him the XIX Corps and send Woodruff home. Woodruff was naturally bitter, but he was a good soldier and went on to achieve a distinguished record as a division commander in the Philippines under Bob Eichelberger.



"THAT WAS HEDY LAMARR--SHE HAD THE WRONG NUMBER."

The Feb. 14th issue of U.S. News and World Report featured a report on readiness. The lead heading went:

Ready for Action— Or Are They?



After a decade of demoralization, the armed forces have been rebuilt into the best ever in peacetime. The challenge now is how to sustain the trend—with a budget under attack.

It included a few well-written paragraphs written at Stewart which went:

Army: "Training Like We Would Fight"

FORT STEWART, Ga.

As tank crews and riflemen go through their paces in a freezing rain, the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division gives every sign of being battleworthy.

In the main, orders are followed crisply, and camouflaged tanks maneuver precisely through the muck and underbrush of the Georgia woods. Timetables are kept; most objectives are met.

The judgment of senior officers: While problems remain, the soldiers slogging their way through winter exercises here rate high marks for quality and performance.

The division is viewed as a prime example of a battle readiness that is now the rule rather than the exception in an Army that not long ago was mired in post-Vietnam doldrums.

The gains are especially evident in the 24th Division, whose membership in the Rapid Deployment Force gives it a high claim on troops and arms. The RDF has the critical job of protecting

U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf area.

Manpower here is sharply improved, a trend apparent throughout the Army. With 13,600 troops, the division is at full strength for the first time in years. Eighty percent of the new recruits are high-school graduates. "In my humble opinion," says Col. Patrick Kenney, "this is the highest quality I've seen in 18 years of service."

One result is a higher skill level in key combat segments. In Sgt. Henry Davis's tank, for instance, all four crew members are high-school graduates and all plan to re-enlist.

Another benefit of improved recruit quality is better discipline and fewer cases of desertion, absenteeism and alcohol and drug abuse. "I can't believe the difference," says one officer. "Two years ago, I spent 90 percent of my time handling bad soldiers. Now, it's 5 percent."

By any standard, this unit is far better trained than ever before, the result of a doubling of training funds since 1980. That means more artillery practice and more field exercises.

There are frequent joint training exercises between the division and Air Force units. One recent drill found Army helicopter crews and Air Force pilots taking target practice together to smooth out communications that would be vital in combat. "I've been an attack pilot for 13 years," says Army Capt. Mike Borland. "We're training like we would fight."

Bigger punch. Adding to the combat power of the 24th is a major expansion of its arsenal. Not only is the division now fully stocked with weapons, but those arms are newer and more potent.

Over the past two years, older tanks have been replaced with more-accurate ones, aging Huey helicopters with more-powerful Blackhawks, and older gunships with the Cobra aircraft.

Commanders say that besides being in ample supply the weapons are well maintained and repaired. Spare parts and mechanics, once almost nonexistent, have been made available in adequate numbers. The upshot is a dramatic decline in the time required to get broken equipment rolling again—from 26 days or more to a mere 15.

The strength of the active force is mirrored in the division's designated-

reserve force—the Georgia National Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade, which would be merged and deployed with the 24th during a crisis.

With 4,300 troopers, the 48th is at 104 percent of strength. It trains regularly with active forces and actually fields tanks more advanced than those most regular armored battalions have.

No one here contends that all of the division's difficulties have been licked. A major one is the rapid turnover of combat personnel. Half of the force changes each year, and this means extensive retraining.

The 1970s exodus of highly skilled noncommissioned officers has left the division with some serious shortages, especially in missile-repair personnel.

Of greatest concern is the lack of transport planes and ships, which limits the division's ability to rush to a crisis spot quickly and sustain itself. During "Operation Bright Star," a deployment of several thousand soldiers and equipment to the Mideast, it took two weeks for the unit's equipment to reach Egypt by sea.

Still, the feeling here is that such problems are manageable and that the 24th Division typifies the new Army.



F.Y.I.

New addresses:

TOM SWENSON (I 34th '67-'68)
305 Marathon, Marshfield, Wis.

LOWELL SMITH (34th '43-'45)
RR 1, Box 463, Carlyle, IL

The Write Place

It was the right place alright -- but the wrong time. Good friend Sue MCNEELEY, widow of JOHN C. wanted inclusion in our Christmas issue with a warm greeting -- but her mail arrived only after we'd gone to press -- for which our regrets. Sue, who lives at 1720 Truman Road, Charlotte, NC, has been receiving awards left and right. For instance, here are a couple of news items:



Sue McNeely receives award from Lou Martin, President.

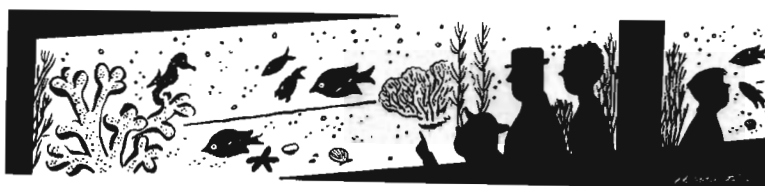
Mrs. John McNeely Honored By A.A.U.W.

Mrs. John (Sue) McNeely was honored by the Grandfather Mountain Branch of the American Association of University Women at a recent meeting. A five hundred dollar scholarship, named for Sue McNeely, was sent to the A.A.U.W. Education Foundation.

A.A.U.W. members in small towns and large cities have worked to increase the funds for fellowships and special projects to well over twenty million dollars. They have been joined in their efforts by philanthropic corporations and charitable foundations which encourage independent study by women of keen minds. New programs, initiated by the Foundation, reflect the needs of women as they respond to the demands of a

changing world.

Sue McNeely served as President of the Grandfather Mountain Branch from 1960 to 1966 and continues to give of her time for the advancement of the organization and its goals. A former teacher in this area, she is active in the Crossnore Chapter of D.A.R. and is a member of Crossnore Presbyterian Church where she sings in the choir. When there is a job to be done, Sue McNeely can always be counted on to help. It is her generous service to the Grandfather Mountain Branch of A.A.U.W. and her willingness to help that have prompted the members to proudly give this gift to the Educational Foundation in her name.



A few months ago, Savannah unveiled the Mulberry Inn in the heart of the Historic District. The inn was put together with parts of a renovated 19th-Century Coca-Cola plant and walls from a pre-Civil War livery stable. Out of those humble origins the developers have created a formal dining room hung with five-tier crystal-and-brass chandeliers. Fluted columns were salvaged from Savannah's old Cotton Exchange. Be sure to go over and take a peek.



Mrs. Ruby Nyberg and Mrs. Sue McNeely are pictured with certificates received for their volunteer work at Garrett Memorial Hospital.

Governor's Awards Given

Several Avery Countians were honored for volunteerism by Governor James B. Hunt at the Governor's Volunteer Awards ceremony Saturday in Asheville. Several hundred volunteers from 36 Western North Carolina counties received volunteer pins and certificates of recognition in a special program at First Baptist Church.

Mrs. Jennie Sue DeArmon McNeely received recognition as the outstanding Senior Citizen Volunteer for her volunteer work at Garrett Memorial Hospital. For outstanding community volunteer organization Garrett Memorial Hospital Volunteers received a certificate, with Mrs. Ruby Nyberg accepting the award on behalf of the group. Mr. Danny Shelton received the award for outstanding individual human service.



INSIDE

FORWARD MARCH

Another JACK FINAN memo: It is good to see the names of Colonel Al Hoffman, Edson Carpenter, Samuel E. Clower, Jack Morris and Edward Hagar on the membership list. First Lt. Al Hoffman took the newly formed Anti-Tank Company, 19th, in 1941 and he made it the best outfit in the Chicks. Carpenter, Clower, Robinson and Cenga were unit members along with J. J. Finan. I served with First Lt. (later Captain) Hoffman for seven months. The best company commander I had during my seven years as an EM.



Asks Past Prexy BILL BYRD, "If the kids are allowed to pray in school, what will they have to do in the evenings?"

We just finished "The Red Head Book" by Al Sacharou, a book devoted to, you guessed it, the redheads of history - Cleopatra, Queen Isabella, Columbus, Queen Elizabeth I, George Washington, T. Jefferson, John Paul Jones, Lizzie Borden -- Lizzie Borden? Yeah - Emily Dickinson, Mark Twain, et al. If you read it, you'll find included therein one Maj. Gen. AUBREY S. NEWMAN, affectionately known as -- of course -- "Red". Good book! Fun theme.

As every Taro Leafer knows, "Mabuhay" means "Welcome". And for us, it'll be Mabuhay once again -- come August -- in Savannah.



A GIANT STEP...

Former S/Sgt. William J. Wheeler ex-POW Europe, Stalag 3c. who also served in the Pacific and was a member of Company "I" 19th Infantry, at Schofield 1940-42 - would be pleased to hear from any former member of his Company. Write to him at Route 1, Box 209, Selma Alabama 36701. Bill is now a member, thanks to BILL MENNINGER, Vice Commander, San Calif.-American Ex-Prisoners-of-War.



New Life Member: HENRY J. TACKETT (Div. Hq. '52-'53), of 1008 Quarria, Charleston, W. Va. wants to hear from M/Sgt. Morgan and M/Sgt. Ripsch. He served with both of them in Div. Hq. in Korea and Japan '52-'53.

Precious words from JESSE FOSTER: "Thanks for your note and beautiful azalea plant. I will plant it soon. My old ticker is better and am so confident that I'll be up to it that I have made reservations for four. See you in Savannah. - Jesse"

RAY FOLEY, (M 21st '51-'52), of 5995 Deerfield Road, Milford, OH 45150, has found GEORGE ROBERTS of Rt. 2, Box 216, McMinnville, TN and BOB NICHOLSON, Box 214, McArthur, OH. Both were in M 21st. Another M Co. man - NOEL M. JONES, of So. Star Rt., Box 80, Northome, MN, and W. J. THIEL of 4026 Kenesaw, Columbus, GA. Writes Ray: "Say to each of these I've named that it's wonderful to have found them." We think so too, Ray. They're all members now.

Take a few minutes to call Eastern's toll free 800-327-1295 (FL call 800-432-1217) and make your airline reservations to Savannah today. The approximately 30% savings from the normal coach fare that you will receive should make your call well worthwhile. Remember, if you use a travel agent, give him the number and he will be happy to do it for you. Eastern, as the official airline of our meeting in Savannah, has offered association members a special telephone number to book reservations. Using this number will allow you to take advantage of the special fares Eastern offers.

UNWIND A WORLD AWAY.

This editorial appeared in our local paper (Springfield, MA Union). We thought it would provoke a thought or two:

New Guinea's fatal charm

Of all the combat areas in World War II, New Guinea was probably the wildest and most unexplored — beautiful as seen from the air, but a nightmare for air crewmen left to their own devices after a bailout or a crash landing.

The discovery last April of a B-24 bomber that went down between Port Moresby and Nadzab on March 22, 1944, was a long time coming, but the odds were against it being found ever again. In the great majority of such instances, no traces have been found. About 200 U.S. and Australian warplanes remain missing in the rugged land mass of New Guinea.

Staff Sgt. John J. Staseowski of Holyoke, a B-24 gunner, was among the victims of the March 22 crash 39 years ago, according to identification of remains by the Army's identification laboratory in Hawaii. While the plane was on a non-combat mission, its course was over the Owen Stanley Range, with peaks as high as 15,000 feet and weather that made flying risky at any time.

No veteran of that Southwest Pacific locale can easily forget New Guinea, 1200 miles in length and the world's second largest island — its huge, murky rivers like the Sepik and the Markham, where crocodiles live, or its sweltering, vine-choked jungles, home of the python, the kangaroo rat and the anopheles mosquito.

Sadly, many veterans of ground and air combat never did survive the "green hell" of the New Guinea jungles. In most cases, their remains will forever be a part of the island's mystique.

Wondering about eating in Savannah?

Less than elegant, but altogether memorable, is Desposito's, little more than a shack on Thunderbolt Island, which serves supreme shrimp, albeit somewhat unceremoniously, on a sheet of newspaper that passes for a plate. Frank Paris' place and Passey's Pier on Thunderbolt Island will keep you from scurvy, and so will Palmer's on Wilmington Island. Elizabeth's on 37th Street gets high marks.

In Focus

More "Soldier Talk" -- they continue to pour in -- for which our thanks. Got any more?:

Ammo - short for ammunition

Slumgullion - the army's unique way of preparing beef stew -- never duplicated, before or since - even by the most inefficient civilian cook

S.O.S. - of course; how could we miss?

Star Gazer - bird colonel bucking for a star

Hen Fruit - eggs -- cackle berries

S.O.L. - an unfortunate situation

Cot Squirrels - bed bugs

Cotton Casket - mattress cover for you-know-what

Housewife - the handy little sewing kit

Holy Joe - the Chaplain

T.S. - the slip issued by the Chaplain

Tube Steak and Pearls - franks and beans

Drop The Pick - cease firing - quit work

Torpedo Junction - lowermost compartment in a troopship

Thunder Jug - hospital bedpan

Latrine-O-Gram - latrine rumor

Dream Log - doughboy's pack

Gold brick - one who shirks a duty

Dog robber - worked in O's quarters

Old man - the CO

Topkick - the first sergeant

Kraut - German

Frog - Frenchman

Shortarm - What did you say?

Expert - the s-o-b from out of town

We shudder at the thought of using this pic, but use it we must. It's JIM CHAMPION, (A 13th F '41-'45), of 622 Euclid, Erie, PA. Betty, Jim's good wife is retiring from J.C. Penney after 30 years. Why we don't have a pic of Betty instead of Jim, we fail to understand. Sorry Betty. Jim's with Hammermill Paper in Erie, by the way. Jim and Betty celebrated their 35th anniversary a few months ago. So we've got congratulations

for this wonderful pair coming out our ears. When you see them in Savannah in August, please be sure to give them each a pat on the back.





You'll remember how HRM Elizabeth II was recently poured upon whilst she travelled up our west coast. This cartoon showed her returning to Buckingham P. We loved it so, we thought you would too -- ergo its inclusion in this issue. Perhaps it has little to do with the Taro Leaf -- but so what?

This one bubbles warmly, like Welsh rarebit. It's for our ladies, men, so skip it if you don't think you'll like it:

"REMEMBER WHEN?"

I've a queer sensation of something gone,
Of something missing today,
And all because my baby
Somehow has slipped away.

For he's made a trip to the barbers,
They've cut off his glossy bobbed hair,
And he says, "it's just like daddy's now"
It is strange that I should care.

Gone are his rompers, pink and blue,
And somehow it makes me sad,
But with this haircut, nothing would do
But unionalls -- just like dad.

He's donned a strut as he walks about,
With hands in pockets and a look of joy,
So I dry my tears for my baby lost,
And smile with pride on my great big boy.

Association members or their travel agents may call Eastern Airlines' special unlisted phone number 800-327-1295 (in FL it's 800-432-1217) to save money on their trip to Savannah. Members may expect to save approximately 30% of the cost of a normal coach ticket to Savannah when they fly Eastern to Savannah. Please make sure when you call to identify yourself as an association member and don't be afraid to ask if there are any lower promotional air fares to Savannah. The way airlines add promotional or extremely low fares, it is always best to ask for the best deal. The people at Eastern's special 800 number will be happy to tell you about the lowest fare. Call the special number; it should save you at least 30%.



We're right proud to steal the next following item from a recent issue of the Sarasota, FL Herald Tribune. If you should ask "Why?", then you haven't been around very long.

'Follow Me'

For the last word on leadership,
turn to the man who wrote the book!

By **DOROTHY STOCKBRIDGE**
Florida West Staff Writer

EXPERIENCE CAN be a pretty good teacher, insists Maj. Gen. Aubrey S. "Red" Newman, retired from the Army but busy in a second career as an author.

He argues in favor of a draft based on history's lessons. He writes about leadership techniques which are as relevant in the 1980s as when he learned them the hard way. Even though he turned 80 on Jan. 30, Newman writes six columns a year for Army Magazine and keeps busy answering mail about his year-old book, "Follow Me: The Human Element in Leadership."

"In my lifetime our country has been drawn into three wars because of the lack of a draft in use," said Newman. "Before World War I our tiny regular Army, with no draft, advertised to the world an obvious weakness, which led the Axis powers to actions that drew us into war. Again, prior to World War II, our painfully weak Army gave an appearance not only of physical weakness, but reflected a softness of fiber in our nation that misled the Nazis and Japanese; and so history repeated itself once more. That was hardly five years gone when the same situation, resulting from a no-draft posture, produced the Korean invasion by communism."

"Now, sadly, history is repeating itself yet again in front of these old eyes," he continued. "An unmistakable symptom of deterioration in fiber is the widespread continuing effort to substitute money for the personal obligation of every able-bodied citizen for military service when called."

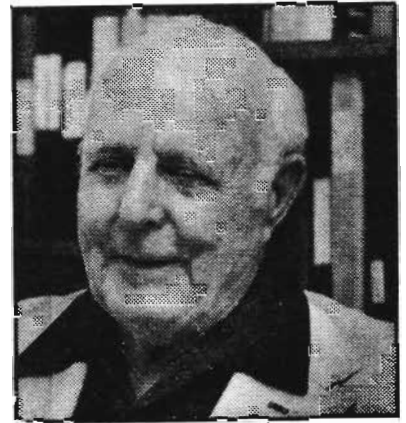
Not only is Newman chagrined by the quality of personnel attracted to the all-volunteer Army, but he fears the next generation of civilian leaders will lack any military experience.

"And it is our civilian leaders, not our military men, who make basic decisions on our national defense," he added. "Although the principle of an all-volunteer Army is a wonderful theory ... it raises a generation of young adults without the priceless will to serve and fight when called. I hope the draft comes soon to alleviate the damage already done. I don't understand why this country continues to spend the great sums of money

for an all-volunteer Army - it's a major problem in our budget."

Gen. Newman's book is a collection of soldiering recollections, anecdotes and incidents, all illustrating how to get things done. They originally appeared in his column, which has been a regular feature of Army Magazine since 1966. Although the book has been widely read on military posts and academies by young officers, it's a valuable guide for anyone in charge of people, in or out of the military. The most natural of writers, Gen. Newman has picked his anecdotes for their powerful insights and old-fashioned humor.

"I wanted to help young officers over the problems I had and the human angle doesn't change," said Newman, who lives in a Lido Beach condominium with his wife, Dorothy. "It's the kind of book that's never been written, focusing on the human element rather than the military."



Staff photo by Sally Pettibon



Newman as an MP (1934-35)



Photograph taken in 1956 of Maj. Gen. Newman in Heidelberg, Germany.

His chief source is a remarkable memory. He is also a relentless researcher. One of his most fabled sources is his shoe box, a trove often mentioned in his column. It is indeed a shoe box and it contains, in neatly filed ranks, facts, dates and notes from a lifetime of soldiering and writing.

"When I was a young lieutenant, not very many persons went out of their way to tell me what to do, so when I got some experience I decided to use it to try to help others who were in the same boat," he said. "While your memories will not have the same tone and tint as mine, it's well for both of us to realize that, for success, the different challenges each faces in his day require the same qualities of mind and heart."

He treasures letters from young readers who find his lessons useful. Newman writes and answers his mail in an office he has set up in his apartment, complete even to copy machine. On the walls are some of his medals and the poster depicting his most famous wartime feat. It happened when he was commanding the 34th Infantry Regiment during the invasion of Leyte Island in the Philippines during the fall of 1944.

The poster depicts Newman, then a colonel, rushing forward, his left arm raised, in a hail of Japanese bullets and exploding mortar and artillery shells. According to his citation, the men were confused by the loss of their key officers. Newman took charge of the situation, issued orders and literally forced his men off the beach with the words, "Get up and get moving! Follow me."

He received the Silver Star for gallantry in action and 10 days later was seriously wounded in the stomach. He continued to direct the attack until he lost consciousness. Much of the rest of the war he spent in hospitals recovering from his wound. He put in a stint at the Pentagon; was chief of staff of the 11th Airborne Division (he was 46 when he became jump-qualified); commander of the 505th Airborne Infantry; assistant commander and then acting commander of the 82nd Airborne Division; deputy commander of the Infantry Center; assistant commander of the 5th Infantry Division; and finally, chief of staff of the Continental Army Command. He retired in 1960 when the Newmans moved here.

The well-known poster was painted for the war's "U.S. Army in Action" series. The frame on Newman's poster is made from mahogany cut just behind the beach where the incident occurred. He has another version of the poster, made by a Filipino from tiny pieces of bamboo, and given to Newman in 1977 when he attended the unveiling of the MacArthur Memorial.

It was 53 years ago that Newman began writing "because I remember a professor at the Military Academy saying that an Army officer should have a hobby - an interest outside of his profession."

Newman sold his first piece to the Infantry Journal for \$8 in 1932. He didn't sell anything again until 1936 when the Journal published a piece about not scolding people all the time.

Then he decided to prove to himself that he could write a book. He spent his annual leave one year in a rented room in New York City where he started and finished a fictional manuscript that was never published. More than a dozen of his fictional whodunits turned up in the Hitchcock and Mike Shane magazines.

Newman grew up on the campus of Clemson College where his father taught and his grandfather had been the first college president. The most self-effacing of men, you'd never know from his book that he was once one of the Army's best all-around athletes, lettering in basketball and track at West Point and earning a place on the U.S. pentathlon team in the 1928 Olympics at Amsterdam. There he placed 14th in overall competition, fourth in swimming and seventh in running.

"I want to write a book about athletics, the kind I wish I'd been given when I was 12-16," said Newman. "The little things make a difference, like watching the baseball come off the pitcher's hand or seeing the tennis ball come off the server's racquet. People should be realistic about their abilities. I've seen people who didn't have it, break their necks to excel, and people with great ability who wouldn't work at it. In my case, I had fun with sports but didn't let it dominate my life. I was an Army officer first."

At West Point, Newman set a record for the mile: four minutes and 23 seconds, "which wouldn't get you anywhere today." Despite a bad knee he played football one year, was on the cross country squad, was intramural tennis champ, swam in class meets and played summer camp baseball. He broke a hip playing basketball in the Philippines in 1929, which set the stage for two hip-replacement operations during his later years. Today he keeps fit by taking walks.

He met his wife in 1940 at Pearl Harbor, where she was an operating room nurse and anesthetist and he was a major with the 24th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks. (They were married in June 1943, in San Francisco.) On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, he was reading the newspaper in bed, his black cat asleep at his feet, when the surprise Japanese attack began. Jumping from bed he could see nearby Wheeler Field. One of the first bombs had hit the oil storage area and a mushrooming cloud of black smoke boiled upward.

Among the ironies Newman noted: As a Japanese plane flew low over the barracks area, "after laying its eggs on Wheeler," one man in the division had a Garand rapid-fire rifle in his hands. He attempted to push a clip of ammunition into his rifle but the Garand was brand new in the unit and the officer didn't know how to load it. He missed a chance to be a hero.

"There were some irrational reactions too. Like the supply sergeant who wanted receipts before he would issue arms and ammunition. Or the young lieutenant who shouted to soldiers setting up a machine gun in the barracks quadrangle, 'Don't shoot - or they'll shoot back!'"

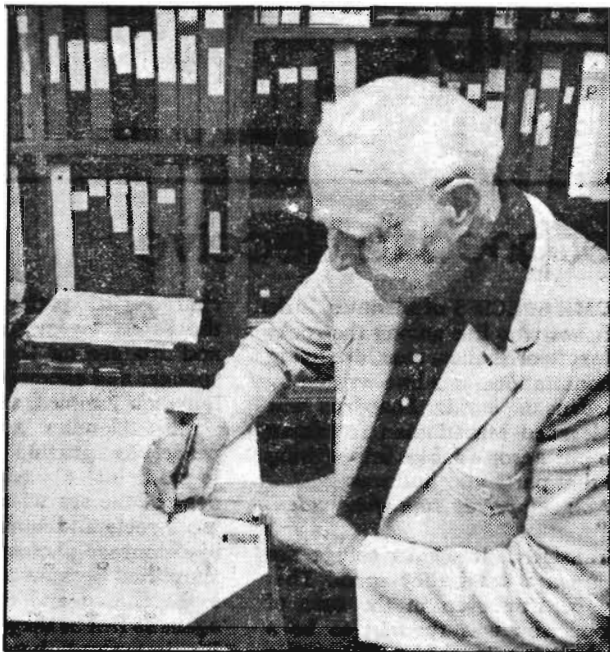
That day the Army got off easy, Newman said. The Navy had taken the brunt of the losses in lives and ships and the Army Air Corps had been hit hard too. For the Army soldiers there, Newman said, their date with destiny came later on the bloody battlefields of the Pacific.



Newman points out that the lessons to be learned from Pearl Harbor are vigilance and the need for passive defense: If the strike-back planes had been in underground hangars and the ships dispersed, there would have been no Pearl Harbor.

As Newman wrote: "This raises the multi-billion-dollar question for today's missile and nuclear era: What kinds of passive protection for our strike-back capabilities do we need - how much and where? And do we have them?"

He wrote those words in a 1967 column. The questions, he says, are still pertinent.



Newman at work in his office.

Staff photo by Sally Pettibon

WHAT'S COOKING?

Lovely Sandi Hackney, at Stewart, has arranged for the selection of Eastern Airlines as the official carrier for our Savannah meeting in August.



We're really ashamed to put this one down: An Egyptian mummy strolled into a bar (don't ask how) and the bartender asked what it would have. "Nothing," said the mummy, "I just came in to unwind."

As we go to press, spys McLean and Blunt have just died. Burgess has already gone. Only Philby still lives -- in Moscow. Between them, we wonder how many Taro Leafer KIA's they were responsible for, indirectly or otherwise.

SAVANNAH

The Hyatt Regency Savannah in its confirmation, has written us:

RATES

We are pleased to confirm rates as follows:

SINGLES	\$ 50
DOUBLES/TWINS	\$ 50
SUITES	\$125 to 450

These rates are net, non-commissionable and are subject to City and State Taxes, which currently total 7%.

CUT-OFF DATES

Once you have confirmed with us, these rooms will be held for you until three weeks prior to the opening date of your convention. At this time we will review the pick-up with you and either release the rooms remaining in the block or decide on contingency arrangements. However, we would continue to accept reservations on a first-come, first-serve basis for as long as rooms are available.

CHECK-OUT AND CHECK-IN TIMES

Please be advised that our check-out time is 12 Noon. Should your members have reason to store luggage or other personal belongings, there are large check rooms off the main lobby of the hotel. We suggest that your attendees plan to check in around 3:00 p.m., unless prior arrangements have been made.

Did you Know ...?

1st Lt. Brian LUEDTKE, son of DON (34th '48-'50) and Lola, is Adj. of the 3/17th FA in Nurnburg. Don and Lola are at RR1, Box 5, Arcadia, NB.

Letters

It's from BILL SHOWEN, of 1911 Francis, Waukesha, WI, so if you don't care for it, call Bill. Seems there was a Herring and a Whale who had become lifelong friends. But a trim female whale came along and the herring couldn't keep up. In disgust, he entered the gulf stream and happened to run into a fellow herring from earlier times. The old friend asked, "What ever happened to that whale you used to chum with? The herrin, somewhat irritated by the question, remarked, "How should I know, am I my brother's kipper?"

As we go to press, the guy who married 105 women has just been given 34 years and a \$336,000 fine. They should have given him a plaque.

The Hunt is Over!

Sending 120,000 Japanese-Americans to relocation camps during World War II was not militarily necessary and followed "a long and ugly history" of racism against them on the West Coast, a federal panel has said.

The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians spread the blame widely in its final report, starting with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who it said did not calm the public hysteria after Pearl Harbor and 10 weeks later signed the order to round up the Japanese-Americans.

"A grave injustice was done to American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry, who without individual review or any probative evidence against them, were excluded, removed and detained by the United States during World War II," the commission said.

The commission made no recommendations in its report but will issue those separately. The recommendations are believed to include reparations, although far smaller in amount than the \$3 billion some Japanese-American groups sought. The report, entitled "Personal Justice Denied," was 467 pages long.

The commission, created by Congress in 1980, heard more than 750 witnesses during 20 days of hearings. Its members included Arthur S. Flemming, former chairman of the Civil Rights Commission, and former Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg.

We expressed our own thoughts in a recent issue and it raised more hell in the span of a few weeks than a tone deaf soloist in the middle of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Someone asked us to list the names of the awardees of The Maj.Gen.

WILLIAM J. VERBECK Bowl. Here you are:

1966 - Kenwood Ross
1969 - Edmund F. Henry
1970 - James O'Donnell
1971 - Thomas H. Compere
1972 - Joseph I. Peyton
1973 - Victor Backer
1974 - Aubrey S. Newman
1975 - Robert J. Duff
1976 - Frederick A. Irving
1977 - Samuel Y. Gilner
1978 - Gerald R. Stevenson
1979 - William Sanderson
1980 - Clifford G. Hanlin
1981 - Howard R. Lumsden
1982 - Paul A. Harris

The good word from NICK MARASCO is that L of the 34th is planning to join with us at Savannah.

Maj. EVERT "Moose" HOFFMAN, (D&Hq. 1st Bn. 19 '48-'51), of Box 268, Sunburg, PA, says he didn't mind the pollution until he happened to notice the rainbow was black. Evert and "Boots" went to Hawaii in November - "first time back". While there, met DAVID BROAD, (19th & 5th RCT '47-'51) in Laie, JAMES HOPKINS, (3rd Eng. '47-'51) of 156 Kam Highway, Kaneohe and DAVID SIMEONA, ('47-'51), of Honolulu. Thanks to Moose, they're all members. He also sent in for JOHN LADD, (Hq. & Hq. & D 19th '47-'51), of 2209 Riviera, Wilmington, Del.

IDEAS INTO ACTION

In early 42, Delfin Ducut was a medical orderly on Bataan helping to evacuate wounded American soldiers as they fell in battle.

For months before Bataan was finally conquered, Ducut helped gather up hundreds of wounded soldiers from the front lines and take them to a field hospital, often laboring around the clock while Japanese artillery shells crashed around him.

Ducut, now 63, is one of scores of Filipinos asking the US government to grant them American citizenship on the basis of their wartime service.

The US Supreme Court is scheduled in October to hear legal arguments by one of the Filipino veterans, Sergio Mendoza, a retired doctor now living in Los Angeles who participated in the warfare against the Japanese invasion of his homeland.

Mendoza is seeking to require the US government to comply with a now-expired 1942 law that awarded American citizenship to aliens living in US territories or possessions if they joined the American armed services.

When American forces began liberating the Philippines in 1944-1945, the US Immigration and Naturalization Service dispatched an examiner to the country to begin processing the applications of Filipino veterans for American citizenship.

But when US authorities learned that as many as 250,000 Filipinos planned to apply, they abruptly withdrew the naturalization offer.

At the end of 1946, after the naturalization examiner's recall, the citizenship-for-service law expired. So only a handful of Filipino war veterans ever attained wartime citizenship, he said, and only a handful more - perhaps 200 - would still want it now.

VIEWPOINTS

From ALBERT C. BRANDESKY, (21st), of Box 5161, Corpus Christi, TX, comes this puzzler: In WW I, they were "doughboys". In WW II, we were "dogfaces". In Nam they were "Grunts". What were they? Good question, Al. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary says that a "doughboy" is an American Infantryman especially in WW I; a "dogface" is a soldier or infantryman, and a "grunt" is a U.S. army or marine footsoldier especially in Vietnam war.

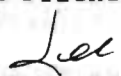
A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

As your Membership Chairman for this year -- and for last year too -- permit me to say "Thank you" to each of you who has lent a hand in making this fine organization grow.

One of the happiest experiences of my life was to find out that this Association did exist. Since joining, I've enjoyed the renewed friendships with dozens of old friends and the excitement of making new friendships at reunion time and through the year.

As beloved "Red" NEWMAN always adds at the end of his notes to us --

In Friendship,


Lee B. List
Membership Chairman

ROBERT L. ANDERSON, (L 21st '50-'51), of 4700 Stringfellow, Apt. 1307, San Antonio, TX, has announced a reunion of old L Co. 21st men in San Antonio in April.

CLARENCE "Bud" COLLETTE, (5th RCT '50-'52), of 6 Cattail, Irvine, CA, is trying to talk up formation of a California Chapter of the Assoc. Anyone interested?

Air fares like anything else these days seem to go nowhere but up. Eastern Airlines, our official airline, advises that purchasing your ticket early will protect you against any fare increases that may come along. Make sure you call Eastern's special number 800-327-1295 (in FL 800-432-1217), book your reservations and make arrangements to buy your tickets soon. Eastern's guaranteed air fare rule protects you against air fare increases as long as you don't change your reservations. If the airline has to change your reservations due to schedule changes, you are protected. Make sure you call Eastern's special number to take advantage of the discounts that are available.

Is anyone giving any thought as to where we might go in '84. The 30th Division is going this year to the Niagara Hilton, Niagara Falls, NY. We just caught their publicity, and were reminded that "the Falls" were considered as a possible when we were at Baltimore.

Changes of address:

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

OTTO WRIGHT, (L 34th '42-'45)
now Rt. 2, Box 583
Fredericktown, MO 63645

* * *

ELMER E. BRUMM (D 34 '42-'45)
now 5001 E. Apache Trail
Mesa, AZ 85205

NICK MARASCO (L 34th '43-'45) of 22 Paper Mill, Honeoye Falls, NY, thoughtfully sends us these two pix of the boys and gals of L 34th having their private gathering at Baltimore II last summer.



And the "boys of summer" are left to right, standing SAM MARINARO, JOE PRYSTAL, FRANK REIMEL, VINCE MANNINO, NICK MARASCO, FRANK DELAURO and seated, L.G. HICKS, MAX SCHINO, C.G. HANLIN and TOM MELLINGER.



And the "gals of summer" are left to right, standing Peggy MANNINO, Micky SCHINO, Alice MARASCO, Moira MELLINGER and seated Betty REIMEL, Polly HICKS and Irene PRYSTAL.