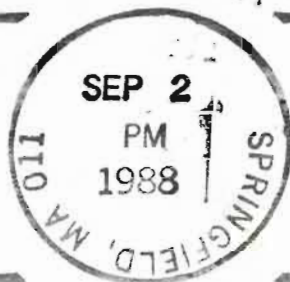


TARO LEAF  
24th Infantry Division Association  
Kenwood Ross, Editor  
120 Maple Street  
Springfield MA 01103-2278

VOL. XXXXI - NO. 4 - 1987 - 1988



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Wells, Richard H.  
102 W. Pike St.,  
Attica IN 47918

*We're on our way*



Graphic by Joe Ash  
With our thanks to the  
32nd Division Association



# •FAELORAT

## HOW TO SURVIVE A REUNION

Adjust Your Toupee in Private and  
Keep Your Room Number to Yourself



*24th Infantry Division Association*

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Having been a long time resident of Savannah, and having been closely associated with our great Division, Stewart and Hunter for many years, I can speak with some authority on the area and its facilities and accommodations for our upcoming reunion. I join General Mike Spigelmire in putting out the Welcome Mat, and rolling out the Red Carpet for our honored guests. All of us here in this closely knit group are looking forward to your arrival and assure you that we will leave no stone unturned in order to make this the "reunion of all reunions"! The Division want us here; the hotels want us here; the City of Savannah wants us here. So you can really expect "Southern Hospitality" at its very finest.

The Mulberry, where our overflow registrants will be accommodated, is a very upbeat/upscale Victorian type hotel. It is very intimate; has won Four Star and Four Diamond awards, and is the very finest smaller hotel in our city. The special \$60 single/double rate covers rooms and suites that regularly rent out at \$90 to \$125. The only reason that we could not consider the Mulberry as our prime hotel is that the facilities are not adequate to host a convention of this size. Also, the Ramada Inn is in close proximity to the Mulberry and the rates for our members are \$35 single/\$40 double. We are trying to arrange adequate complimentary transportation between the three hotels.

Thursday night, we're all going to go over to Hunter for a sit-down dinner. Transportation to and from will be provided. Casual dress is the order of the day. Hawaiian gear is preferred - the wilder the better.

About the activities at Fort Stewart on Friday. These are being coordinated with the Birthday celebrations of the Division. We will board busses at 0800 so as to arrive at Cottrell Field in time for the 1000 Memorial Service. Following this sentimental service we will have the opportunity to view static displays and observe competition among units at various events. We will prepay our own lunch, and at 1230 will be escorted to various dining facilities by unit representatives. A tour of the museum is scheduled for 1400. To cap off the day, a live-fire demonstration is scheduled for 1500 using as many weapon systems as are available for this purpose. After this, take out your ear plugs, replace your hearing aids, then board busses for return to the hotels. The "On your own" dinner can be at the hotel(s) or at nearby fine restaurants. The hospitality room will be open late Friday afternoon and evening.

Saturday morning, of course, will involve us in our annual Business Meeting and we're developing ways to keep our ladies busy while we men decide on les affaires de Association 24th.

Saturday night: The Memorial Service will precede our banquet. The guest speaker will be none other than General Mike Spigelmire, whom by then most of you will have already met personally. I wish it were possible for me to fully convey to you all my personal feelings about this fine officer, and I wish it were possible for me to tell you about all of the effort and enthusiasm General Mike has put into making our Savannah/Stewart reunion the success it is going to be.

We have cut prices down to a dangerous level in the hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend our gala affair.

In addition, there are going to be numerous tours available -- especially for our ladies.

Once again we have undertaken the suicide mission of operating our own bar in order to serve the what-have-you's at minimal prices.

Laura and I look forward to greeting you in Savannah.

Fraternally,

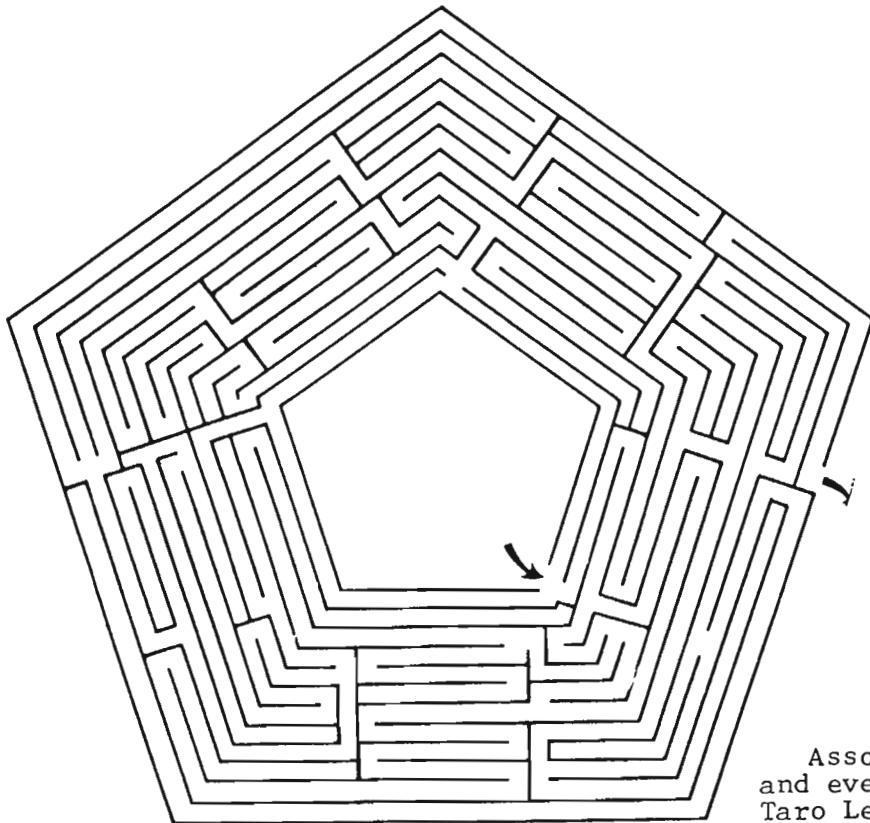


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# See you in September

# Give it your best shot.

Aren't you amazed at some of the stuff we inject into our issues - or are you just mazed? Oh go ahead, give it a go.



Some of our new friends may not be able to figure out what in --- we're doing. Everytime we print a name, we try to include his unit and time as well as his address. That's to help you recognize and locate a buddy in case you spot one. That's all brother. We do it to help you.

JOHN and Lorraine McKENNEY (AT 21st '43-'45) over in Millbury MA will be at S. Johnny writes about the funeral of the Australian boomerang grenade. "It'll destroy anything for a mile around. Only trouble is they can't find anyone to throw it." Johnny you're putting us on. One I've been telling for years is about the champion boomerang thrower in Australia. At Christmas, all of his friends chipped in and gave him a new boomerang. Only trouble is he can't get rid of the old one.

TARO LEAF

VOL. XXXI - NO. 4

1987 - 1988

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:

LG DONALD E. ROSENBLUM,  
USA, Ret.  
(Div. Hq. '75-'77)  
310 Lee Blvd.,  
Savannah GA 31405  
Tel. 912-233-6717

VICE PRESIDENT:

ROBERT R. ENDER  
(H21st '42-'45)  
1864 El Paso Lane  
Fullerton CA 92633  
Tel. 714-526-6860

SEC'Y. - TREAS. - EDITOR:

KENWOOD ROSS  
(Div. Hq. '44-'47)  
120 Maple St.,  
Springfield MA 01103-2278  
Office Tel. 413-733-3194  
Home Tel. 413-733-3531

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

ROBERT A. JOHNSON  
(19th, 21st & 34th '51-'53)  
24 Whipple St.,  
Somerville MA 02144  
Tel. 617-666-0269

\* \* \*

1988 CONVENTION  
Sept. 28 - Oct. 2, 1988

Sheraton Savannah  
Resort & Country Club  
612 Wilmington Island Road  
Savannah, Georgia 31410  
Tel. 912-897-1612

\* \* \*

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.

We have asked for passport type photos of members and brides for our files -- to use in our Taro Leaf. HARRY and Reah HEILAND of 1685-A Devers, York PA, responded nicely, thank you. You'll meet 'em in S.





CLEM HARRIS spotted this in a recent publication and sent it to us along with dues for the writer. The letter to the editor went like this:

Dear Sir:

I am a patient here at the Bath VAMC in in Bath, New York, and was reading the September issue of Paraplegia News.

I was with the 24th Division, 19th Infantry Regiment...I was wounded in February 1951 and was also a prisoner of war for a year in North Korea.

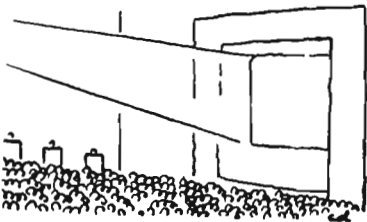
I have no family but sure would like to hear from someone. My address is Bath VAMC, Bath NY 14810.

Thank you for printing my letter. It sure gets lonely here.

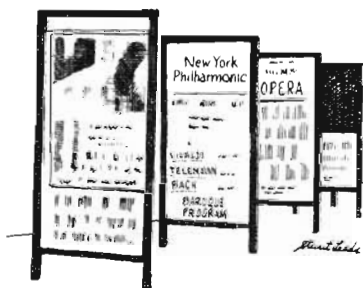
Elles Reed

Bath VAMC, Bath NY 14810.

So for our lonely new member, Elles Reed, how about a postcard -- please.



People are petitioning for a postal stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the airborne soldier 1940-1990. Can you believe it? How about one commemorating the 213th anniversary of the soldier, 1776-1989.



Our good member, Col. RALPH MELCHER, who just happens to have been Prexy. of the 25th ID Assoc. last year, will be with us in S. - with his lovely Anita, of course. Ralph will be testing the waters for a joint 24th/25th gathering of the clan -- Where? -- on Wahoo around Dec. 7th, 1991. And where were you exactly 50 years earlier?

IS YOU  
DUE?  
OVER  
DUE?  
UNDER  
DUE?  
PAST  
DUE?



There are more than a few in this little club who sizzle at every mention of our government paying out more than \$1 billion in reparations to those interned in camps during WW II. BEN WAHLE (E & G 34th '43-45) of 1132 Killarney, Burlingame, CA, is one of them. Says he: "The very thought of this sends me up a wall." To make matters worse, Ben, consider this - over one half of our people weren't even born when this business took place. Consider, too, this recent statistic -- less than half of the student body in a NY City school, when polled, knew what Pearl Harbor stands for. Cool it, Ben - our politicians are determined to put this one through, come H--- or high water.

The Museum Curator at Stewart wants to interview "the guys with the good stories" for the museum archives. We're inviting him to spend Thursday and Saturday with us at the hotel. He'll fill a couple of books.

BOB CISSELL (78th Tank Bn '49 - '51), in Shively, KY, has signed up FRANK PETERSON (C21st 4/51 - 2/52), of Lebanon, KY. Bob says a mention of this in Taro Leaf would be appreciated. Bob, you got it! Thank you so very much.



## YOUR KEY TO

# Grande Classe

GREGORY JELINEK (3rd Eng. '49-'51) of 5167 Sherrill, Sherrill, IA 52073 writes: "Would like a list of members who were in C or H&S when I was." And we have an answer - at this moment we cannot supply that information without manually running through 2200 files - a monumental task. Time estimate: easily 8 hours. BUT - through the good offices of JOE MCKEON, with whom we are cooperating we soon shall have our data computerized. Then following, we'll be able to punch a key and print out information such as members in any unit, members in any state, etc., etc. And we'll certainly print out a complete roster or directory of members and release it as a supplement to Taro Leaf. Please bear with us.

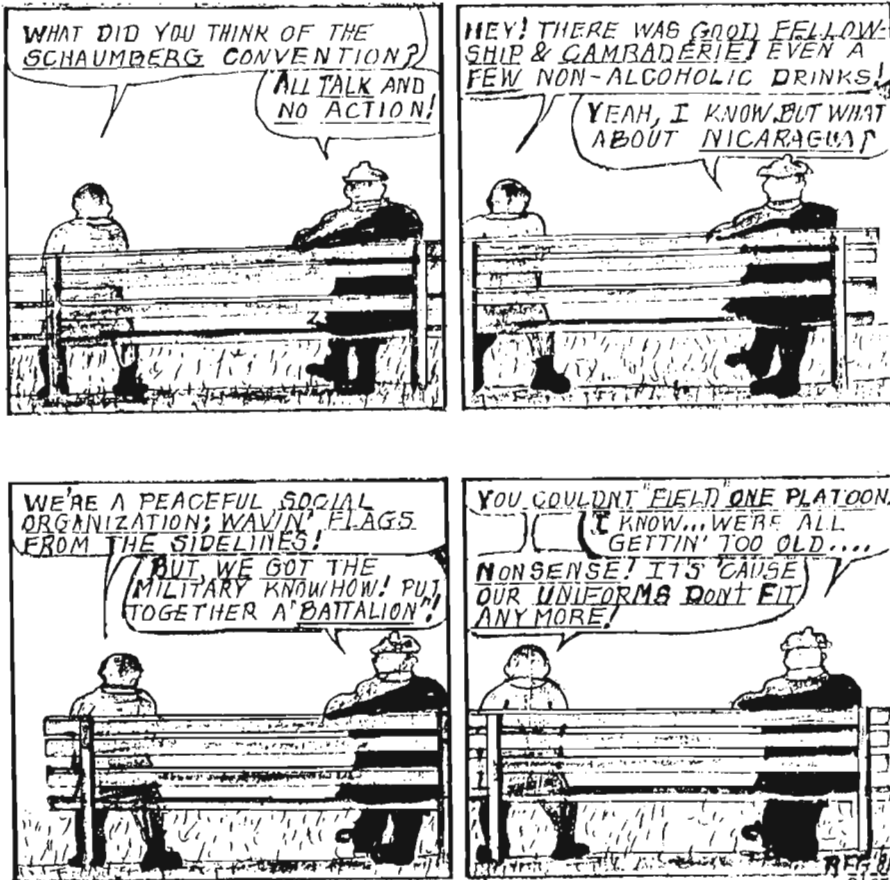
George Burns' doctor told him to slow down - so now he's chasing older women.



When a retired railroad railroad conductor (37½ years) writes you and says, "Your reunion. I am for it, 100%", then you jump right up and sign him up. CARL DUNBAR, Box 158, Canvas WV was 5th RCT, 5/52-10/53. Has had a heart by-pass but adds, "I am okay. Feel fine." Carl signs off with: "I think it will be nice to have a time and place where we can talk again with friends who served this good country we live in."

Amen, Carl, amen.

Col. RICHARD C. BIGGS and good wife, Katie, are in Turkey for Holmes & Narver Services. They provide base maintenance support to US Army and Air bases in Turkey. Coming home to join us in S. Dick was (Hq.S-3, 1st and 2nd Bns., 19th '41-'45).



BOB GARDNER (Hq.Co. 31st '42-'45) of 4061 55th Way, Kenneth City FL has just been appointed Official Taro Leaf Cartoonist:



From the June '88 issue of *The Retired Officer*, and presented here for obvious reasons. Jack, we're right proud of you.

With a knowledge of NATO defense planning gained from many years of experience in the region, Gen Galvin (right) is uniquely qualified for the two positions he now holds.

# An Interview with SACEUR



**N**INTH IN A SERIES of distinguished American military officers serving in the position, beginning with General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1951, Gen John R. Galvin, USA, has been Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) since Jun. 26, 1987.

The strategic area covered by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is divided among three commands: Allied Command Europe (ACE), under General Galvin; Allied Command Atlantic, under U.S. Admiral Lee Baggett Jr.; and Allied Command Channel, under British Admiral Sir Julian Oswald. SACEUR's Headquarters, known as SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe), has been located near Mons, Belgium, south of Brussels, since its move from Paris in 1967.

In wartime, Galvin would control all land, sea and air operations in the area extending from the North Cape to the Mediterranean and from the Atlantic to the eastern border of Turkey. Commanding forces of the member countries, SACEUR would have full authority to carry out such operations as he considered necessary for the defense of any part of the area under his command—nearly two million square kilometers of land and more than three million square kilometers of sea—including more than 200 million people of NATO Europe.

Galvin was interviewed by Col Minter L. Wilson Jr., USA-Ret., editor.

**Wilson:** General Galvin, you have been SACEUR and Commander-in-Chief U.S. European Command (CINCEUR) for just under a year now. You are uniquely qualified for the two positions you hold. Your service as assistant secretary of the general staff at the European Command Headquarters, military assistant for two previous SACEURs (Generals Andrew Goodpaster and Alexander Haig), command positions in the 8th and 3rd Infantry Divisions in Germany and command of

the VII U.S. Corps certainly must have been great preparation for your present responsibilities.

**Galvin:** It was a welcome assignment for me to return to Europe. In the last 16 years, I've only had three assignments outside Europe—command of the division at Ft. Stewart, Ga.; a brief stint at the Army's Training and Doctrine Command Headquarters at Ft. Monroe, Va.; and two years as Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Southern Command, headquartered in Panama. I feel I know Europe, and I'm very familiar with the defense planning on our side and the situation in the Soviet Warsaw Pact.

**Wilson:** You're the SACEUR who has spent the most time in Europe prior to assuming command.

**Galvin:** I believe that's correct, and I'm grateful for that background. I feel I understand European attitudes, ambitions and fears. There has been ample opportunity to know the people, geography and ambiance. That knowledge is invaluable as we tackle the challenges that face us.

**Wilson:** Since World War II, the United States has been committed to defend Europe. In a period of declining defense spending, some Americans are beginning to wonder, what's in it for us?

**Galvin:** First, our contribution to NATO is not simply an act of good will. In America's national security strategy, the defense of Western Europe is second only to the defense of North America itself. Indeed, the defense of North America begins at the borders of NATO Europe. American forces defend vital U.S. interests there, not the least of which is the fact that 46 percent of our overseas investments are located there.

**Wilson:** Even so, what do you say to people who question our commitment? Is it worth the cost?

**Galvin:** Twice in this century our country has gone to war to ensure that a government antithetical to American interests did not dominate Europe. The

NATO Alliance has kept the peace in Western Europe for almost 40 years—the longest period of peace Europe has ever enjoyed. The potential costs of a conflict there are unimaginable. U.S. and allied efforts to deter aggression and intimidation have been worth every penny spent. We and our NATO partners face a common challenge. It is in NATO's and our own interest that the United States continue to provide strong leadership within the Alliance.

**Wilson:** Some members of Congress have suggested we should bring troops home, reduce the forces in Europe.

**Galvin:** A unilateral reduction of American troops in Europe would be viewed by our allies either as reflecting a U.S. perception that the Soviet military threat is reduced or there is waning American interest in Europe. Neither message would be accurate and neither would contribute to U.S. objectives. A unilateral withdrawal would sap Alliance resolve and undermine efforts to achieve negotiated reductions in Soviet forces. The most visible U.S. commitment to the collective defense remains the 326,000 American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines standing shoulder to shoulder with their NATO counterparts in Europe.

**Wilson:** And their presence will be even more important as the Pershing and cruise missiles are withdrawn.

**Galvin:** Absolutely. And, I want it to be clear that I support the ratification of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear

Forces (INF) Treaty. It has a number of positive points. It will eliminate the Soviet SS-20 missile, with its three-warhead carrying capability, and will prevent deployment of the new Soviet ground-launched cruise missile altogether. The destruction of the SS-12 and SS-23s—capable of carrying conventional and chemical as well as nuclear warheads—will mean that wartime reinforcement of my command from North America will be less threatened. And although the treaty will by no means eliminate the Soviet nuclear threat to Europe, Soviet flexibility will be reduced.

**Wilson:** The asymmetric reductions—they are destroying more INF missiles than we to get to zero-zero—must be pleasing, too.

**Galvin:** They are precedent setting. The Soviets will destroy deployed missiles capable of carrying about four times as many warheads as could be carried by the deployed American systems. Important, too, is that the agreement includes the most extensive verification measures ever accepted by the Soviet Union. The provision for on-site inspection will not only provide means to detect Soviet treaty violations, it will also serve as a useful model for future negotiations. Most important, the INF Treaty represents the first negotiated reversal of the Soviet buildup of nuclear weapons and thus offers grounds for hope that we can achieve greater security and a more stable relationship at a lower level of armaments.



I would add that in our pursuit of arms reductions, our objective must be greater security, not merely reductions for their own sake.

**Wilson:** Do you see any risks in this whole process of arms reductions?

**Galvin:** Certainly. If the Soviets succeed in generating a euphoria that stops NATO's ongoing process of modernization of weapons and equipment, or if the treaty leads to a withdrawal of all nuclear weapons from Europe, or if the Soviets come to believe that NATO is somehow less cohesive and less committed to making the sacrifices necessary for defense, then we've created a new, different problem for ourselves. We must avoid that.

**Wilson:** You mentioned earlier the formidable challenge we face in Europe from the Soviets.

**Galvin:** Despite the conciliatory rhetoric of the Kremlin, there has been no decrease in the conventional forces facing us, nor has there been any slowdown in the rate of Soviet military modernization. To the contrary, in the last five years the Soviet Union has out-produced the United States more than 2-to-1 in tanks and infantry fighting vehicles, 4-to-1 in artillery and 1.3-to-1 in fighter aircraft. Indeed, the Soviet Union alone has out-produced all the NATO nations together in every major category of ground weapons system over the past three years. Warsaw Pact force levels far exceed reasonable requirements for defense, yet there is no sign of slackening in the Pact's efforts to build its military power.

**Wilson:** The West has always prided itself on the quality of its military equipment as compared to the East. Are the Soviets catching up?

**Galvin:** They have made great strides in improving the quality of their equipment, thereby eroding the traditional advantages the West has enjoyed. In the air, Soviet fighters (MiG-29 and SU-27) are equipped with look-down, shoot-down radars and beyond-visual-range, air-to-air missiles. They are controlled by a newly deployed airborne early warning aircraft. On the ground, NATO's qualitative advantages in anti-armor systems have been virtually eliminated in some areas. Well over 1,800 of the new T-80 tanks have been deployed in Eastern Europe. These tanks have a 125mm gun, a laser range-finder and special armor that reduces the effectiveness of NATO's anti-tank weapons. There are reports of an even newer tank with improved armor and other advances. Older tanks and armored vehicles are being fitted with reactive armor that provides increased protection against chemical energy warheads. This is of particular concern because of our heavy reliance on anti-tank guided missiles to offset Soviet tank superiority. New Soviet submarines are putting to sea. They are quieter, faster and more difficult to locate and counter. And, fitting out of the 65,000-ton aircraft carrier *Leonid Brezhnev* continues, as does construction of a second carrier of this class.

**Wilson:** Is there any evidence of offensive deployment or organization in the field?

**Galvin:** Yes, and it's most disturbing. In the past decade, we've seen the development of doctrine, organization

***"The deterrence of war is our paramount goal. To do that we must have a credible capability for effective military response across the full spectrum of conflict. Strategic nuclear forces are the cornerstone of NATO's strategy of flexible response...."***

and equipment designed to enhance the Soviet Union's ability to conduct rapid, sustained attacks over long distances with large units. The formation of new high-level forward headquarters, the creation of Operational Maneuver Groups (large, highly mobile, self-contained armor units designed for deep penetration), the stockpiling of 60 to 90 days of fuel and ammunition, the high density of tank deployments near the inter-German border, and the forward basing in Eastern Europe of a new air superiority fighter (*Fulcrum*), a new long-range attack aircraft (*Fencer*), and a new close air support aircraft (*Frogfoot*) have all contributed to the Soviet capability to conduct massive offensive operations on short notice.

**Wilson:** How do you assess the continuing forward deployments in light of General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's campaign to put a different face on Soviet policy toward its neighbors?

**Galvin:** That posture and the prevailing military imbalance, particularly in conventional forces, should cause us to be careful not to equate the rather delphic indications of greater Soviet domestic reorganization and openness with a true and lasting diminution of Moscow's geopolitical aggressiveness. Until we see a shift from the offensive orientation of Soviet Warsaw Pact doctrine and organization, we must question the overall aims of our adversaries.

**Wilson:** Following the signing of the INF Treaty, there seems to have been considerable Alliance reiteration of NATO's plans to modernize its nuclear forces. Some people look at that as a subversion of the treaty.

**Galvin:** Not at all. The updating of our weapons systems is fully consistent with the treaty. In no way is there any circumvention of the INF accord; we would not accept the Soviets doing that, and we will not do so ourselves.

But in a world of rapid technological changes, there is no alternative to the updating of our forces. We must modernize. We have to run fast just to stay even. What you're seeing now is a determination to keep current our forces that will remain after the treaty is implemented. We are merely carrying through with the modernization plans based on the study of 1978, the NATO defense ministers' Montebello meeting of 1983 and the SHAPE nuclear weapons requirements study of 1985.

**Wilson:** In NATO's strategy of flexible response and forward defense, is there any one overriding objective?

**Galvin:** Yes. The deterrence of war is our paramount goal. To do that we must have a credible capability for effective military response across the full spectrum of conflict. Strategic nuclear forces are the cornerstone of NATO's strategy of flexible response and the basis of our capability at the ultimate

level of combat power. Even if we are able to obtain an agreement for the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons, essential updating of our force should continue. We must do the same with our remaining theater-based nuclear forces and our conventional forces.

**Wilson:** With the prospective elimination of the *Pershing II* missiles, what are the current plans for modernizing American nuclear forces based in Europe?

**Galvin:** I attach special importance to several programs. Foremost is the development of a standoff air-to-ground nuclear missile. Also important is the enhancement of aircraft that can deliver nuclear weapons. It is essential that we improve their ability to penetrate Warsaw Pact air defenses and also to survive Pact attacks against their bases. We can do this through upgrading avionics and electronic warfare equipment, by construction of more aircraft shelters and through other active and passive measures.

**Wilson:** There has been some discussion of the *Lance* missile and nuclear artillery, too.

**Galvin:** That's correct. In order to maintain a broad spectrum of possible responses, we should replace the *Lance* short-range ballistic missile and make improvements to our nuclear artillery. To pursue these programs, Congress should lift the restrictions on the overall number of modernized artillery munitions and on the use of the Army tactical missile system as a dual capable follow-on to *Lance*. The majority of our 8-inch and 155mm artillery rounds were deployed some 25 years ago. It is important that we not delay in replacing them.

**Wilson:** NATO has never had sufficient conventional military capability for stand-alone deterrence. There has been heavy reliance on nuclear weapons even though the Soviets achieved nuclear parity with the West and continued to build ever-stronger conventional forces.

**Galvin:** We do not need to match the Warsaw Pact man for man or tank for tank. What we do need is a conventional capability strong enough to frustrate aggression and increase the time before nuclear weapons would have to be used. Such a capability would preclude hasty decisions to use nuclear weapons and enhance NATO's strategy of flexible response. Deterrence would be more credible because Soviet planners could not be sure of gaining their attack objectives so swiftly that NATO would be unable to consider the use of nuclear weapons.

**Wilson:** Are you thinking of the intimidation factor?

**Galvin:** Yes, in two ways. Conventional improvements would demonstrate the collective will of Alliance members to make sacrifices necessary to ensure Western security, thereby adding to the credibility of NATO's overall deterrent posture. Furthermore, conventional improvements would bolster NATO self-confidence, making it more difficult for the Soviet Union to intimidate or coerce Western Europe to obtain political, economic or military concessions.

**Wilson:** It seems to me that the NATO forces have seen considerable conventional progress in recent years.

**Galvin:** That's true. We have de-



Sep. 15, 1987, Gen Galvin (center) confers with participants in the CERTAIN STRIKE exercise, which is part of REFORGER, near Osten Holtz, Germany.

played a variety of new weapons. They include the *Tornado*, F-15 and F-16 aircraft; the M-1, *Challenger* and *Leopard II* tanks; the *Patriot* and *Roland* air defense systems; and the NATO AWACS. Support agreements for deploying U.S. forces, common-funded infrastructure projects and higher levels of ammunition stocks have helped improve readiness in recent years as well. I should mention, too, that NATO nations are pursuing a number of cooperative efforts encouraged by the Nunn-Warner Amendment, including the NATO frigate replacement program, the anti-tactical missile system, a family of surface-to-air missiles and a variety of improved anti-armor systems.

**Wilson:** Despite negative comments of some political figures, the buildup of the 1980s has benefited the forces in the European Theater?

**Galvin:** Yes, definitely. Each of the service components is stronger. Our ground forces have benefited from the deployment of new tanks, armored fighting vehicles, multiple launch rocket systems and attack helicopters. There has also been significant modernization of our tactical air. New aircraft and improved missiles are exploiting our technological advantages. There is, however, an intra- and inter-theater airlift shortfall so we look forward to the initial operational capability of the C-17 aircraft, which will be

able to carry the full range of military equipment, including all our armored vehicles.

Several naval programs also are important to our theater capabilities. The completion of the SL-7 roll-on, roll-off ship program has increased the ability to reinforce Europe with fast sealift. The Surface Effects Ship program, under development for the late-1990s, will further enhance fast sealift and cut time in transit from the United States to three days, down from the current 10 to 19 days. In addition, we hope for completion of five LHD-1 amphibious lift ships by FY 1991. They would provide increased lift needed for Marine forces committed to Europe.

**Wilson:** It is obvious that our partnership with the NATO nations is a dynamic one. Our weapons systems are being modernized. There is constant coordination on many levels. But, can we sustain our forces at a high level of readiness?

**Galvin:** It is one thing to update our weapons systems but quite another to ensure that they will be ready and can be sustained sufficiently for extended combat. I would stress the continued need for a balanced program to achieve this. Our forces occupy forward defensive positions and might have to fight

heavily outnumbered against the attacking Warsaw Pact. Our programs are at only marginally acceptable levels of support. We are unable to meet fully our reinforcement commitment to NATO. This is the result of continuing shortages in a number of areas to include: readiness and availability of support units; strategic lift; theater war reserve stocks of preferred munitions, equipment, spare parts and medical supplies; availability of warehousing to support repositioning and other theater storage programs; and host nation support. We need the support of Congress to preserve the progress made during the past few years.

**Wilson:** Important in all these discussions are our deployed forces and their families.

**Galvin:** No question about it. They must have adequate compensation, medical care and housing. We must ensure reasonable working, living and recreational facilities. And of great importance, we must afford them the satisfaction that comes from being a part of an ably-led team and from knowing that their country and its leadership truly care about them.

Recent budget cuts have forced us to take a number of difficult steps. We've extended tours, delayed promotions, diverted some troops from training to base operations activities, reduced family support programs, cut morale, welfare and recreation funds and delayed or canceled some school construction projects. In addition, the troops have had to contend with a falling dollar, which in the last two years, has cut in half their discretionary income.

**Wilson:** Those of us who have been through similar situations over the years know the problems.

**Galvin:** Precisely. Your members are in a position to explain the need for continued support for America's contribution to Western security. I would urge them to do so. The 326,000 Americans serving their country in Europe deserve the gratitude and support of all of us.



THE RETIRED OFFICER / JUNE 1988



How come the only two cars going under the speed limit anywhere on the Interstate are doing it side-by-side ahead of you?

People now vacation in places they once got to only by being drafted or shipwrecked.

The tourist stopped his car on a road and asked a country boy how far it was to Smithville. With a twinkle in his eye, the little boy smiled and said, "It's about 24,996 miles the way you're going, but if you turn around, it's about four."



Guess you knew we exchange papers with the other Divisions. Comes this from Roy Livengood of the 91st Inf.Div.Assoc:

"Would you do me a favor? My kid brother, Dwight, served with the 2nd Bn. Headquarters, 19th in Korea in '52-'53. To my knowledge he has never been a member of your association. Would you put his name on your mailing list and let me know what your dues are.

"I just returned from a month in Italy where I did some research for a forthcoming book which will be titled THE SUMMER IS ENDED. It's a detailed account of the war in Italy from September to November, 1944, when the Germans stopped us in the North Appennine mountains. It will be published by the University Press of Kentucky.

"I guess all combat is basically the same. Men suffer and die. The war in Italy was, above all, a mountain campaign from the beginning to the bitter end. Going over those mountains once again, I had to wonder how in the hell we did it. I know that in WW II the 24th saw most of its action in the islands. No man I ever talked to wanted to go over there! I'm not prepared to say which theatre of war was the worst. Ours was fought in the cold and snow, yours in the heat."

Brother Dwight, (19th) is now a member. Food for thought there in what Ray wrote. Right?

JACK and Violet GOODWIN (C 21st '49-'53; POW 7/6/50-8/31/53), of 1521 N.15th, Waco TX join up with \$100 for a Life Membership -- and then send along another ten for LAWRENCE and Flossie HEARD (63 Field 7/49-10/53; POW 7/50-8/53) of Rt. 3, Box 210, Seagoville TX. What wonderful people.

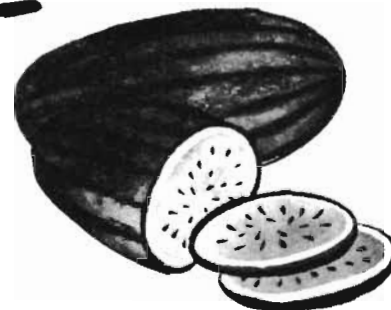
Hattie and PAUL FRITSCH (24 Sig. 1/43-12/45) of 4915 Dover, Beaumont TX, brought tears to our eyes in their long description of their return to Wahoo where Paul served 47 years ago. The trip was an anniversary present (their 46th) from son, David, and daughter-in-law, Diane. Wonderful "kids".

# REUNION

Junk is something you keep and then throw away two weeks before you need it.



KEN and Doris FENTNER were down in KY to see their daughter (Louisville). New granddaughter. Happened to pass through Gravel Switch - thought of FLETCH HOLDERMAN - tried to look him up. Fletch was out planting tobacco - so no see. Anyway he had his picture taken to prove he was there.



Quote from RUSS PYLE (B & Hq. 34th '42-'45) of 194 E.Greer, Newark OH: "Men are strong, but women are powerful" - and he underlines powerful. Russ reports "several set-backs to the old body - if I improve, will see you in Sept."

Change of assignment: Maj.Gen. DANIEL R. SCHROEDER, from C/S, XVIII Abn.Corps to Commandant, US Army Engineer School, US Army Training Center - Engineer - Ft.Leonard Wood MO. Wow! What a mouthful, Dan. The abbreviated version goes Comdt., USAES, USATC-EFLW.

# 'HANOI JANE' TO VETS: I'M SORRY

So we asked several of our members whether they were accepting the apology.

Their answers follow:

Says JOE CENGA, 206 Cedric, Centerville MA: "Yes, I forgive --

1. Jane Fonda has admitted she was wrong.
2. She has apologized to the Vietnam Veterans.
3. She acted under misguided precepts and thought she was a spokesperson for a great many Americans.

If she were guilty of "Consorting with the enemy" why weren't charges brought against her at the time? Evidently the Government didn't think so.

I recall during WW II when the coal miners went on strike and there was talk that John Lewis, the Union Leader at the time, should be charged with sabotaging the war effort, but, nothing was ever done."

Says DON CHASE, 46 Cochituate, Framingham, MA: "Outwardly leftist, inwardly a closet commie red. Her apology is as meaningless, and as worthless as she is. Too bad that while she was in Hanoi, a B-52 didn't drop a load in her area. What a morale booster that would have been for our troops."

Says JIM CLOCHER, 48 S. Fairview, Roslindale, MA: "No. I believe her action was treasonable; just as bad as the actions of some of our career military people who were found guilty of selling secrets to Russia. Made Benedict Arnold look like a piker."

Says LAFAYETTE COCHRAN, of Farmington, ME: "Do I forgive Jane Fonda? No! Not for the statements she made, and the moral she caused to drop. I feel they should still give her a trial now, and imprison her for the aid she gave the enemy."

Says CHARLEY M. CLARK, of RR 1, Box 34, Searsboro IA: "I can answer in less than 30 words. Try Jane Fonda for Treason. You may use my name and address. You may send dear Jane a copy of my answer."

Says DONALD G. CLARK, of 5316 53rd Av., Bradenton FL: "Forgive, maybe; Forget, NEVER! At the time Jane Fonda performed her dastardly deeds she should have received the same 'preferential treatment' afforded Ethel and Julius Rosenberg."

Says PATRICK CLINTON, of 5826 W. 8th, Tulsa OK: "Jane Fonda was nothing short of a traitor. She did more damage to the men in Vietnam than Axis Sally or Tokyo Rose in WW 2. We tried them for treason. So why not Jane?"

Says JOHN CERNANSKY, 115 Main, Conemaugh, PA: "Within a ten mile radius of my home there are 7 American Legion, 5 Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1 Disabled American Veterans and 3 Catholic War Veterans Posts, all with hefty active members. We love our country. We don't like Fonda type of people."

"No, I do not forgive Jane Fonda 'Alias Hanoi Jane'."

"People who buy her aerobics tapes innocently support this Commie (deleted)."

"They ought to ship her (deleted) over to Hanoi."

"Print my quote loud and clear! And put my name beside my quote!"

Says ROBERT CHASTAIN, of Rt. 5, Box 438, Salisbury NC: "As long as there are broken-hearted mothers, P.O.W.'s, M.I.A.'s, and as long as there are wars, then people who commit acts of treason should be tried for such. Jane Fonda is one of these people."







From the files of FRANK GENOVESE (3rd Eng. '41-'44) of 50 Granger, Buffalo NY, comes this picture of AL SOUSA, on the left, and his nibs, on the right. And he also includes a shot of that sign. You fellows carried that with you wherever you went. Missing is "Mindanao". May we safely assume that this was shot on Mindoro?

TAGGETT ALLEN (Hq. 1st Bn. 34th '48-'53), of RR 4, Box 196, Warsaw IN, graciously sends in dues to place his pal, GEORGE ROGERS, of 112 Jean Ellen, Houma LA in our club. Like Taggett, George was a POW from 7/50 to 8/53. Taggett says he'd like to place an ad in Taro Leaf. Forget it, Tag; we'll give you the space - right here. Tag is looking for anyone who went with Hq.Co., 1st Bn. 34th from Japan to Korea. There you are Tag. We'll see if it pulls.

DICK DRAUS (Hq. 2nd Bn. 19th '51-'52) was only 40 miles from S -- in South Holland IL at 16428 Woodlawn - but his job kept him away. Better make Savannah, Dick.

## PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT...

JIM HILL of 3224 Wakefield, Decatur, GA



this is he - writes a swell letter: "I recently received the latest edition of Taro Leaf and it brought back many memories of the summer of 1950 on the Kum River and at Tajon. My regiment (19th) was involved in much of the fighting north of Tajon and my battalion (the 1st) was in Tajon during much of the fighting there. I still recall very

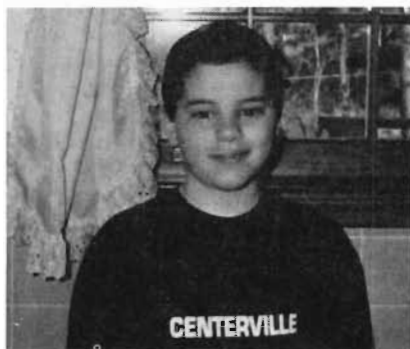
clearly seeing General Dean and his 'tank squad' in the streets of Tajon during that time. I later had an opportunity to serve with General Dean at the Presido of San Francisco. After he retired I flew him on numerous occasions and he always remembered me as one of the 'Chicks' who was there with him."

This one, from JERRY LONSKI, who hangs his hat at 4669 W. Peterson, Chicago IL, has to be copied in full, it's so intriguing: "I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw your little blip in the reunion column in the VFW magazine. It was like going back in time thirty-five years. I work in a legislative office and the assistant director of veteran affairs for Illinois also kind of hangs his hat here and he gave me the magazine. I am a Legislative aide for the Republican Illinois House of Representatives. I am really interested in attending the reunion not that I would even remotely remember anyone. I want to go back to Savannah because I was a Merchant Seaman during WW 2, and spent 89 days in the Savannah shipyard on a Victory ship that was being converted to a troop carrier. The fact that I was fifteen years old when I went to sea did not keep my friends and neighbors from drafting me in 1950, as we were civilians during WW 2. I understand that the Triple Nickel was overrun shortly after I left, and just about everybody in A Battery was either killed or captured. I hope that was just a lot of bull. From what I can remember the guys were a hell of a good bunch of joes to serve with."

It's no secret that we are trying to generate enthusiasm among our "Germany contingent." M/Sgt. ED KROM, Ret'd., (A 19th Korea; B 21st Germany), out of 110 W.9th, Homestead, PA, thoughtfully senses what we've got in mind and sends us a couple. In one it is B of the 21st on regular Friday retreat at Warner Kaserne in Munich. Time? May '61.



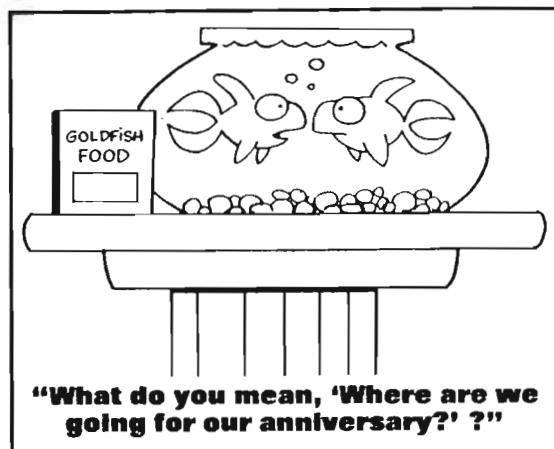
In t'other, it's Col. Bone giving the outstanding company award to Capt. ROBERT E. THEW, B Company Commander. Time July '62. Tell you what, Ed Krom. We're gonna crop that picture and cut the guidon right out of it -- all to save space. Okay?



Who's the 9 year-old young man? None other than Jeffrey CENGA, son of proud papa, JOE (AT 19th '40-'44) of 206 Cedric, Centerville MA. Whoops, there's a second shot of the pair.

Glad (Mrs. HOWARD) LUMSDEN has asked us to relay her appreciation for the many kindnesses of our members during and following her recent mastectomy. "All's well" there -- thank fortune.

*2005*





# PIT STOP

For reasons of space, we have to go without sharing with you some of the wonderful letters we receive. But not so this one. You've got to see the whole shebang this time. Seems a fellow named Charlie Inman (87th) has a hobby - he puts old veterans he happens to meet in touch with their associations. Well, Charlie met DONALD and Virginia BAYLES (C 34th '44-'46) on a flight back from Europe. Soon as he got home Charley wrote us - and presto, Don and Ginny were on board. In due course came this newsy letter from Don. After you've read it, you'll understand why we decided to give it to you just as Don wrote it. Almost forgot: Don and Ginny are at Box 396, Southold NY 11971. And Charlie Inman at PO Box 932, Union SC 29379 will surely get a copy of this issue.



**How ya gonna find out if they're fresh troops if ya don't wake them up and ask them?**

24th Infantry Div. Assoc.  
120 Maple St.  
Springfield, Mass

Dear Mr. Ross:

Last Oct. my wife and I were flying back from a visit to Great Britain and Holland when I found myself seated next to Charlie Inman, a retired Army man. When I mentioned that I had been in the 24th in the Philippines during WW II but had no knowledge of any association or reunions he promptly informed me that there had been one that year in Los Angeles. He requested my name and address saying that he would have the 24th notified. Since that time I have received several copies of the Taro Leaf. The odds are pretty slim that I will see the name of anyone I might have known as out of a total Army service of 35 months only 7 months were with the 24th. Although my ties with the 24th are not as strong as many other veterans in terms of longevity my experiences with the 24th are the most memorable.

The first 6 months of my Army service in 1943 was in an anti-tank company of the 87th Inf. Div. taking basic training. Someone in Washington must have decided that the Army was going to need a lot of engineers and my year and half of engineering college qualified me for advanced courses which I took along with others at Auburn, Ala. In April of 1944 there apparently was a change of thinking in Washington because the program was terminated and we were returned to the infantry. This time it was training with the 86th Inf. Div. In Aug. 1944 I was sweltering in the heat on army maneuvers in Louisiana when we received a notice asking for non-coms to volunteer for overseas duty. I did the unthinkable - I volunteered. In a couple of days I was on a troop train headed for Calif. After a months welcomed light duty with other non-coms at Ft. Ord I was aboard the S.S. Monterey on a Pacific cruise. Another month was spent in New Guinea just missing the departure of the Philippine invasion fleet and finally joining up with "C" Company of the 34th Reg. on Leyte just after their ordeal on Kilay Ridge (about Dec. 7, 1944).

There were many memorable and unusual experiences with Charlie Company during the next 7 months. Our patrol riding water buffalo back across the peninsular to Calubian; the dry beach landing on Luzon near San Antonio; the trip up the Mindanao River on landing craft; taking my squad to secure a hilltop south of Davao and finding two 5 inch naval guns commanding a beautiful view of the coast. I remember being left to guard supplies on the beach on Mindoro with nothing to eat for the day. All I could find were cans of peaches and condensed milk, so my menu for that day was peaches and cream. There was the day in Zig-Zag Pass, on Bataan, when everything was being thrown at us that I looked up and saw a mortar shell tumbling end over end and coming down right at me. I dove into a foxhole about 2 seconds before it landed showering me with dirt but not a scratch. Several months later, on July 2, 1945 I wasn't so lucky somewhere beyond the Davao River on Mindanao when a surprise shell landed nearby. As I was being carried away supplies were being dropped from C 47's and I told the stretcher bearers that I hoped we wouldn't get clobbered by a case of 10 in 1 rations. That was my departure from the 24th. I was evacuated to a hospital on Leyte and 3 months later to one in the states where I persuaded someone that I was well enough to be discharged just in time for Christmas. My discharge states that I was "separated from the service on a partial service record & affidavit from the soldier". The blanks for battles, campaigns, decorations, wounds are all marked "unknown". I suppose that this was common practice.

I am proud to have served with the 24th. Because of the short time involved and the turnover of personnel during combat I did not make any lasting friendships. Several months after my discharge there was some communication from someone in the Division because I learned about and purchased a copy of "Children of Yesterday" by Jan Valtin. I thought that the book did a very good job of capturing life in the 24th during that period. In 1976 I was on the island of Oahu and recalled that Herb Eggleston of "C" Company had been living there before the war. I looked in a phone book and, sure enough, there was a Rev. Herbert Eggleston in Pearl City. I tried to call but got no answer so I wrote a note before I left. A few weeks later I received a letter from Mrs. Eggleston stating that Herb had died a couple of years earlier. I remember Herb leading us in prayer more than once so the reverend title was not surprising. One time was while we were in a landing craft about to head for the beach on Luzon. A few minutes later we passed the guide boat and someone shouted "friendly beach". I think Herb was given a field commission.

Please excuse my rambling but I haven't communicated with anyone from the 24th in 42 years. That seems like two lifetimes ago but it will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,

*Donald M. Bayles*  
Donald M. Bayles

# REUNION

WHERE: Ramada Inn, 1879 Stringtown Road (Jct. I-71 south of Columbus)  
Grove City, Ohio 43123

CONTACT: Glen Colegate  
517 Calvin Street  
Harrison, Ohio 45030

or

Daryl McClenathan  
4509 Co. Rd. 134  
Cardington, Ohio 43315

Make reservations by calling or writing:

The Ramada Inn  
(614) 871-2990: refer to "B" Co. 3rd Engrs.

Bring with you all old photos of the times.

Would you please call or write anyone you still have contact with and give them this information and encourage them to attend too. If you remember a name and what town they were from, write the Chamber of Commerce in that town and ask if they can help. Please do whatever you can to help contact all members.

# Gulp.



**HERE  
AND  
NOW**

And this time the gulp is all ours. Let's begin at the beginning. A letter arrived from STANLEY C. KAISER, the friendly dentist over at 95 Dixwell, Quincy MA. Wrote Stan: "There have been faint murmurings that Div.Arty. doesn't command the attention that it should."

Look -- you don't have to hit us over the head with a shovel. If it's space in these pages that you want, space is what you're gonna get. But first, we've gotta have the news from you artillery folks; we report it -- we don't invent it.

So let's start the new "program" with this little story.

GEORGE KING, of 64 Lawndale, E.Greenwich RI spotted our promise to print Field Artillery items if the boys would send 'em in. Wrote George: "Well here is something you can print concerning Artillery. Some former members of the 11th Field (Btry.B WW II) have gotten together and formed an Assoc. to help us keep track of each other. We write to a member in Texas and he sends out a newsletter to the members. So far through the efforts of HOWARD WAGNER, LEE ROY TEAGUE, A.E. BYRD and KEN LEACH, we have contacted 27 former members of B Btry. Our hope is to have as many members as possible attend the Division reunion in October. We have 27 members with more coming in through the efforts of the members bird-dogging old addresses. We hope to have at least 20 members and their wives attend the 24th Reunion. Most of these guys haven't seen each other in years, so it should be a great time for all concerned.

"I will keep you informed as to what we are doing and how many are planning to go to Savannah."

Terrific, Georgie, terrific.

Troubles? You think you've got troubles! Consider LOU DUHAMEL of 509 Wentworth, Lowell MA. Let Lou describe it: "Claire and I will not be attending the reunion. Last year was my worst year with the heart. Went through my second by-pass operation. This time it was five by-passes. The first time around it was four for a grand total of NINE in a lifetime. Since then things are not as well as I would like them to be. I keep in touch with some of the men and enjoy getting the news from the Taro Leaf. Extend our very best to everyone there. You can bet that we will be there in spirit."

Told ya some of us are more lucky than others.

## talking to...

Alaska heard from. Capt. LEE OWEN of 9920 Annette, Eagle River, calls in. Was C 21st and E 21st '84-'87. Lee, you're as much a part of us as any other Taro Leafer. Stop worrying about "eligibility". You're IN, podner.

## AT THE LAST MINUTE

JOHN HOAG, of H & S, 6th Tank Bn., '50-'51, wants to know if any other Tankers are coming to S-IV. John's at R2, Box 2556, in Manistique, MI., in case you Tankers wanna reach him.

Now a fully paid-up member of our triple-by-pass club:

HAROLD "Wild Hoss" JONES, D21st '42-'45  
8304 Templeton, Omaha, NB  
Quote: "getting along real good - back to full workload shortly."

"I am proud to be a member. Terry and I will see you in Sept." So wrote ODD JOHANSEN (C 21st 9/40-4/45) of 61 Burnside, Staten Island NY. Can't get mad at a guy like that, can ya?

Old faithful LOU BROWN (B & Sv. 34th '40-'44) will make S-IV. Incidentally, in case you don't know, S-IV means our fourth reunion in Savannah.

# Jack Leo Walker

The story began last November with our interception of a UPI news release. No, that isn't so; the story began a long, long time ago when JACK LEO WALKER in his 16th year volunteered for the Army from Swiss, West Virginia. He was sent home after 10 months; the Army found out how young he was. Back home in Swiss, Walker again signed up for the military. He was last seen during the battle in and around Chinju on July 31, 1950, and was reported MIA. Two years later, he was presumed dead; his name did not appear on any list of prisoner exchanges.

South Korean officials discovered the remains of a soldier as they were moving a cemetery in Chinju City last October. A friend of the Walker family read in a Kansas newspaper that dog tags bearing the name of Jack Walker had been found with the remains. Walker's belt buckle, boots, helmet, toothbrush and comb were also found. The friend sent the clipping to members of the family, who contacted the Pentagon. After checking dental records and bone structure, officials determined the remains to be those of Jack.

Walker had been the sixth of seven children in a tightly knit family. At 16, he had dropped out of high school to join the Army. He told Army officials he was born in 1931 instead of giving his real birth date, 1932. When the Army discovered his real age, they sent him home.

"He liked it so much, he talked my mother into signing for the second time. She regretted it all her life," so said Kathleen Lacy, Jack's sister. This time Walker went to Okinawa. Lacy received the last letter from her brother, who wrote about how much he enjoyed military life on the island.

After North Korea invaded South Korea, the 29th was shipped to Pusan and almost immediately was ordered to Chinju City.

The family presumed Walker had been killed, but Kathleen said there was a gnawing feeling due to the lack of hard evidence. The discovery had been a relief, but it also brought back some of the tears shed when they first found out their 17-year-old brother was missing. "I've always prayed I would find out what happened. I don't know if we'll ever accept it. It's been a long time, but time doesn't erase it all. It simply brings the hurt back."

Jack's remains were buried at Sunset Memorial Park in Charleston, near where his mother had been buried just five years earlier.

Jack's sisters had stood by and watched tearfully as the flag-draped casket had been carried off an airliner, 37 years later.

"My prayers are answered at last. We're bringing him home for a decent burial," said Kathleen Lacy at the time.

Lacy, who lives in Charleston, recalled her younger brother swimming in the Gauley River near their Swiss home and playing sports with his friends.

"He was an ordinary boy. He loved sports. He grew up in a small town and did things boys do in a small town. He probably played marbles. He really didn't have a grown-up life. He was still a boy at the very end," she said.

We chanced to spot a news item about all of this after the fact -- after the fact of Jack's burial in November.

That was our starting point. We took pen to hand and wrote the Editor of the Charleston Gazette; telling him that we were bothered that "37 years after the fact, the body of soldier, Jack Walker, could be returned for burial without so much as a recognition by us of what this poor chap had done for us -- given his very life."

Don Marsh, the Gazette's Editor, responded beautifully. In time we were in correspondence with Kathleen Lacy.

We had, at that moment, no hint of Jack's assignment to the 29th, but we did know something of the Division's deep involvement at Chinju. As we wrote Editor Marsh:

"This I do know -

"The 29th Infantry arrived in Korea on 7/24 from Okinawa and was immediately sent to Chinju, due west of Pusan, where it was attached to the 24th Division's 19th Infantry which was

then trying to hold the line in and around Chinju against the stronger North Korean 6th Division advancing eastward.

"Lt.Col. Harold Mott was commanding the 19th Infantry at that moment.

"On 7/25, he ordered the 3rd Battalion of the 29th, supported by Battery B of our 13th Field Artillery Battalion, to move to Hadong, 35 miles SW of Chinju. Elements of North Koreans were supposedly coming northeastward toward Hadong. 3/29th was to hold Hadong against this advance.

"But 3/29th never got as far as Hadong.

"By 7/27th, they were encircled in an entrapment. In singles and small groups, they found their way back to Chinju, with over 100 lost as POW's and 1/3 of the battalion, about 250 men, KIA or WIA. It was a complete rout.

"So by 7/28, we had in and around Chinju, defensive positions formed of 19th Infantry troops and 'remnants' of the 29th.

"The serious assault on Chinju by the North Koreans began on 7/29.

"By the next day, 7/30, our troops were clearing Chinju by eastward retrograde movement, retreating first to what was called Chinju Notch, a pass halfway between Chinju and Masan.

"Reinforcements arrived at the Notch in the form of elements of the 27th Infantry of the now-arrived-in Korea, 25th Division. This 27th regiment incidentally was the one commanded by the famous Lt.Col. Michaelis.

"By 8/2, a tank battalion, the 8072, also newly arrived in Korea, was moved to the Chinju Notch, east of Chinju.

"The fighting around Chinju lasted for several days, our units making retrograde movements, finally settling in on what history records as 'The Pusan Perimeter' where we held."

After this awkward "beginning," there followed weeks of agonizing over the questions of how and when best to show our respect for poor Jack. Same was interrupted by a telephone call in April, advising that a Memorial Day service was being planned; would we participate.

At once, letters were dispatched to our West Virginia brothers, asking if they would lend their presence at the ceremony, realizing full well that we were asking each to give up his holiday for which he well might have other plans.

The response was wonderfully heartwarming.

DICK LEWIS (11th Field - 555 Korea), in Charles Town (not Charleston we learned with a red face) wrote, "I am honored that you asked me. Thank you." Dick thoughtfully drew a little outline of West Virginia showing capital Charleston down in the western part of the state and Charles Town up in that little northeast neck which West Virginia defines, just before it bumps into Maryland.

DICK FISHER (34th WW II), in Parkersburg, wrote that, "I would be honored to represent the Association."

BILL FOSTER's wife called from Oak Hill, advising that Bill had been unable to walk for the last two years -- heart problems. Of course, we understood poor Bill's regretted inability to help us.

DANA CURRY (21st WW II), called us from St.Albans advising that he'd go and offered to meet us at the airport. Early on we were going to fly down -- only a call that a hospital bed was waiting for us precluded it.

DON HINKLE (L 34th WW II), called from Philippi advising, "I'll make it."

CARL DUNBAR (5th RCT Korea) of Canvas, asked his lovely wife to write us from Canvas. Carl's message was, "I wish I could, but I just can't." Carl recently endured a series of heart by-passes. Of course, we were understanding.

Old Faithful HARRY WITTMAN (G 21st Korea), from Keywer, wrote, "Of course I'll be glad to help."

So we were assured of representation as respects were to be paid to poor Jack.

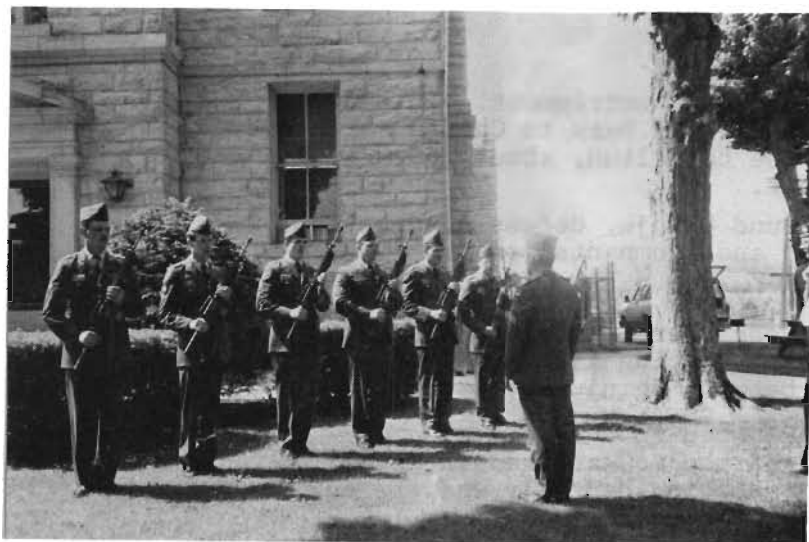
The American Legion was in charge of the ceremony on the Court House lawn, not in Charleston, but in Sommersville, an hour and a half distant.

Circuit Judge James Wolverton read a great message that had arrived from Helsinki where the President had stopped over on his way to Moscow.

Governor Arch Moore couldn't be present but his warm proclamation, declaring May 30th to be Corporal Jack Walker Day in West Virginia, said it all.

State Treasurer, James Manchin, the guest speaker, made a most thought-provoking statement, and, as well, presented the Golden Star to each of Jack's surviving sisters.

Harry Wittman placed our wreath on the town's war monument.



A National Guard fired the volley. We are grateful to you Fran Wittman for taking the shots for Taro Leaf.



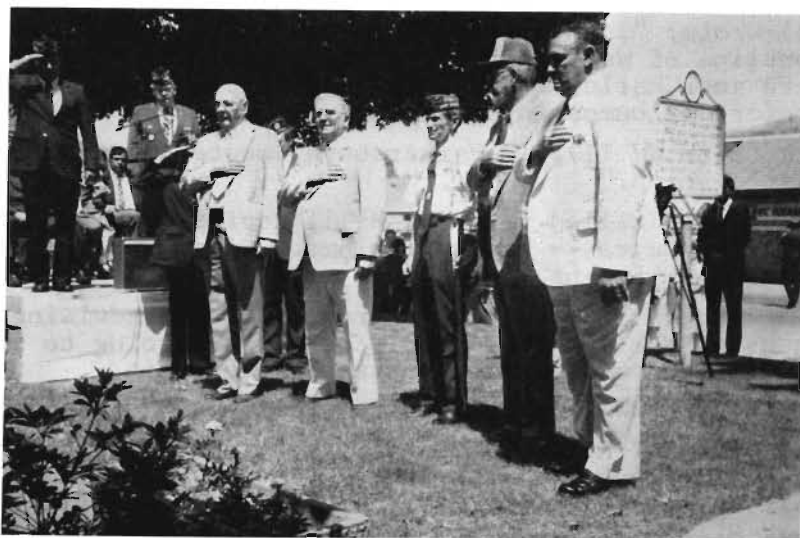
**CPL. JACK WALKER**

The children of the Tipton United Methodist Church choir were beautiful in their renditions.

State Attorney General Charles Brown asked that we all remember that South Korea is a free country today, in part because of what Jack and others like him did there.

State Senator Lawrence Tucker read statements honoring Jack and placed in the Congressional Record by the two West Virginia Senators, Robert C. Byrd and Jay Rockefeller.

Treasurer Manchin made one statement, among several, which impressed us. He said: "War is not the ugliest thing. The ugliest thing is not having anything to die for." Think it over.



Taro Leafers as the 21 gun salute was fired and "Taps" was sounded - l. to r. DON HINKLE, DICK FISHER, William Riggleman from the local VFW, DICK LEWIS and HARRY WITTMAN. Photo by Francis Wittman.



The Golden Star was presented to each of Jack's sisters: Ms. Louise Jones of St. Albans, Ms. Betty Lucas of Charleston, Ms. Kathleen Lacy of Charleston, and Ms. Peggy Wynock of Myrtle Beach SC. Brother Lovell Walker of Chestnut Gap, VA was unable to attend.

All in all, it was a beautifully dignified ceremony.

Wrote Harry Wittman, among other things, after it was all over:

"Each of the speakers referred to us as the FAMED 24th Division.

"Incidentally, don't forget the wives who made the trips with we men -- Janice Hinkle, Betty Fisher and Francis Wittman.

(Ed. Note: Incidentally, poor Dick Lewis had lost Ditty only last February. Brave soldier that he was, he showed up alone.)

"Francis, by the way, was our official photographer. She took the pictures.

"In my 60 years in West Virginia, this was one of the greatest moments I've ever seen.

"Thanks for asking me to help."



Here are our wonderful pals -- DICK LEWIS, DICK FISHER, HARRY WITTMAN and DON HINKLE before the War Memorial, Sommersville WV. A wreath was placed there in our behalf by Harry. Harry's good wife, Francis Kodak'ed as she went.

We had asked Dick Lewis for his review following the holiday and return home to Charles Town. Came these pithy comments:

"The politicians took the whole stage and all the talk to go with it. You'd have thought that the 24th Infantry Division was the only unit anywhere anytime. Not a single mention of the Marines. Wow! The Legion Post Commander quoted Harry Truman's statement that the 24th was the greatest Division in the Army -- made following Task Force Smith time, you'll remember. The wire from RR was great. Can you imagine his mentioning Jack Walker, the 24th, and Sommersville's Memorial Day observance all in one single cable? This alone was well worth the trip. Terrific! And we four represented the Association and the Division with pride and with honor. Thank you for the opportunity to represent all Taro Leafers. It was an inspiring service -- and did real honor to Jack Walker."

Dick had these very meaningful words in mind as he stood in Jack's memory on the Sommersville green:

I watched the flag pass by one day  
it fluttered in the breeze.  
A young soldier saluted it and then,  
he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform  
so young, so tall, so proud;  
with hair cut square and eyes alert,  
he'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him  
had fallen through the years.  
How many died on foreign soil?  
How many mother's tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?  
How many died at sea?  
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?  
No, Freedom is not Free.

You've touched each of us, Dick.

Thank you Dick Lewis -- Thank you Dick Fisher -- Thank you Don Hinkle --  
Thank you Harry Wittman --

Thank you Janice and Betty and Francis too -- for doing so very much for each of  
we 24th'ers at this sad but significant moment in our history.

And Jack Walker, nous ne vous oublierai jamais.

I heard the sound of Taps one night,  
when everything was still.  
I listened to the bugler play,  
And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times,  
that Taps had meant "Amen."  
When a flag had covered a coffin,  
of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,  
of the mothers and the wives,  
of fathers, sons, and husbands,  
with interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard,  
at the bottom of the sea,  
of unmarked graves in Arlington.  
No, Freedom is not Free.



This was taken in front of the motel when the  
WITTMAN, HINKLE and FISHER couples billeted the  
night before. Great shot by our photographer  
in the field, Fran Wittman.



ZOWIE! Ya gotta admit one thing -- no Taro Leafer ever turned his back on a news reporter. Nice going, Joe, out there at 1116 Mass St., Pueblo CO. Beautiful country around Pueblo, too.

## The Pueblo Chieftain

Wednesday, November 11, 1987

5A

# Hero just did what he had to do

By MARJORIE CORTEZ

*The Pueblo Chieftain*

It takes a bit of coaxing to get Puebloan Joe Nicksich to talk about his stint in the U.S. Army during World War II.

And it takes more encouragement to get the former first sergeant to reveal that he was decorated with the Silver Star and twice awarded the Bronze Star.

"You do what you have to do without regard for anything else. You do your job and you have to perform it," he said, matter-of-factly.

Part of Nicksich's military service is documented in a book, "Children of Yesterday" by Jan Valtin. Published in 1946, the book depicts some of the battles fought by the men of the 24th Infantry Division.

Nicksich said he was unaware that a book had been written about some of the battles he fought.

"When I got home I saw a flier that said 'Read about the exploits of Sgt. Joe Nicksich.' So I sent away for it. It's basically pretty accurate, but it's flowered up," he said.

Eight pages of the book are devoted to battles led by Nicksich, who was described in the book as "six feet of upright bone and muscle, (having) dauntless cheer and panther strength."

While stationed in the Philippines, Nicksich led a mortar section of 12 men and an assembly of guerrillas on a five-

week trek through the island of Mindoro.

Nicksich described the guerrillas as "civilians who took up the fight themselves." Most of them were farmers, painters and welders and had never held rifles, let alone fought in combat.

"They were a big help to our cause. They were willing to take orders and respected all servicemen," Nicksich recalled.

The journey began on the southern shore of the island. The contingent was not heard from until it reached Calapan, located on the northern shore.

On the way to Calapan, the group invaded a village, killed 40 Japanese soldiers and managed to stave off the advance of 60 others.

When the expedition reached Calapan, the soldiers were told of a conflict arising on Verde Island, a tiny land mass about 10 miles to the north.

The Japanese had shipped

artillery to the island and threatened the United States' shipping activity through the Verde Straits that separated Mindoro from the smaller island.

On Feb. 23, 1945, a task force of the infantry regiment invaded Verde. Assisted by guerrillas, the teams scoured the island, fought a number of skirmishes and departed two days later.

Local guerrillas were left in charge but could not hold the island alone. They messaged for help.

Led by Nicksich, mortar men were ordered to go to Verde and destroy the Japanese artillery.

No ship was available to transport the troops so Nicksich and his men made their way to the island in hollow-log canoes.

By March 2, 82 Japanese soldiers were killed and a substantial amount of ammunition, weaponry and supplies were captured by American soldiers.

About six months later, Nicksich was honorably discharged from the Army. He was awarded the Silver Star for his bravery and leadership at Verde Island.

Nicksich served from February 1942 to September 1945.

He had volunteered to serve a few years before he was drafted but was rejected.

"Actually I wanted to go but they wouldn't take me because of my eyesight. But when the war started, that changed real quick," he said.

He was drafted at age 25 and began a stint that would take him to the Hawaiian Islands, Australia, the Philippines and New Guinea.

Although Nicksich did not have one day's furlough while he was in the service, the U.S. Army opened up a new world for him.

"Heck, I'd never been out of Pueblo before the service. It was the Depression days. We couldn't afford it."

Nicksich says he has fond memories of the war. Perhaps his greatest treasure is his 40-year friendship with Maria Ylagan, a Philippine girl he met when she was five years old.

"She was just a kid. We used to give her our rations -- you know gum and stuff," he said.

It's been more than 40 years since Nicksich was discharged from the Army. Yet, each Veterans' Day, he takes time to remember the men he served with and the battles that were fought.



Chieftain photo by David R. Roscover

Joe Nicksich is modest about his military decorations ... says account of battle he fought is 'flowered up'

What can you do when a member sends an editor a press release. Well, no, not really. This one didn't come from ELMER "Dusty" RODES (Div.Hq. S.O. '45-'46), of 3030 Hemlock, Roanoke VA. It came from the Consulting Engineers Council of Virginia - so you're forgiven, Dusty. Anyway, read what they say about our little friend -- gee all the time we thought you were just building roads, Dusty:



Consulting Engineers Council  
of Virginia, Inc.

411 RESEARCH ROAD  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23234  
TELEPHONE (804) 796-6822

July 11, 1988

Reply to:

CHARLES S. WHELAN, JR., President  
WESLEY C. HARRIS, III, President-Elect  
RON D. JONES, 1st Vice President (General)  
EDWARD C. TIERNEY, 2nd Vice President (General)  
BONNIE J. OWELL, 1st Vice President (Women)  
H. WOOD HERRINGTON, 1st Vice President (General)  
EDWARD R. WATKINS, Secretary  
LAWRENCE S. TURNER, III, Treasurer  
HARRY W. KINCAID, Executive Director

News release  
Tara Leaf

For information:  
Harry W. Kincaid

Roanoke Engineer Elmer O. Rodes, Jr.  
Receives National Engineering Award

Elmer O. Rodes, Jr., a principal in the Roanoke consulting engineering firm of Whitecarver-Rodes & Associates, Inc., has received the prestigious Past Presidents award from the American Consulting Engineers Council (ACEC). He is a 1940 graduate of Harrisonburg High School, and was graduated from VPI, class of 1944, with a B.S. degree in engineering. During World War II he served with the 24th Infantry Division U. S. Army. He has been in the private practice of engineering for almost 30 years.

Rodes received the award, which is infrequently given, for his "commitment and dedication, both technically and professionally, to the advancement of the business and science of consulting engineering." The award was presented recently before 500 of Rodes's peers at a special luncheon during ACEC's annual convention in New York City.

As a charter member of the Consulting Engineers Council of Virginia (CEC/V), the Virginia affiliate of ACEC, Rodes was cited for having served on most of CEC/V's committees, either as a member or chairman, every year since the organization's founding in 1959, and for serving as its president in 1968-1969. In 1969, he was the first recipient of CEC/V's Past Presidents award, and is one of only seven members so recognized in CEC/V history.

In addition to the key role he played in helping organize CEC/V, Rodes was recognized for bringing so many firms into the state organization and hence into ACEC. Included among his almost three decades of continuous service upon which his ACEC Past Presidents Award is based are: Two terms as a member and five terms as chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee; two terms as treasurer; two terms as chairman of the Management Advisory Committee, and one term as director of the Research and Management Foundation.

Rodes also served successively, as chairman of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, and as a member of the Interprofessional Relations, Contract Documents and ACEC/AIA Documents committees.

In presenting the award, Lester Poggenmeyer, former ACEC president and chairman of the Past Presidents Committee, thanked Rodes for his long-time consuming interest in and commitment and contributions to ACEC and the consulting engineering profession.

ACEC, headquartered in Washington, D. C., and CEC/V, headquartered in Richmond, are the only organizations which serve exclusively the business needs of professional engineers in private practice.

# PUT YOURSELF IN THE PICTURE

BOB & Carolina CHURCH (B 21st & Div.Hq. '40-'43) of Rt. 2, Box 817, Suttons Bay, MI, report that RAY WEBB (B 21st '40-'43) of 209 N.Warren, Greenville NC is recovering from surgery - the Big C - is holding his own reports Ray's faithful Evelyn.

Letter from JAMES "Hap" EASTER (TK 5th RCT '50-'52) asks when dues are due. Our new year starts Aug. 1st - so all owing dues for '88 - '89 should pay their dues now. Okay, Hap?

# ROOMS WITH A VIEW

Don't forget - if you're flying AA to and from Savannah, ask your travel gal to use the AA Code - "Star File 594248". That is supposed to be the key to your getting a discount - and we (the Assoc.) will get a credit - a freebee for every 20 tickets so booked. Of course, we'll not know how many freebees we'll get until reunion weekend. The only FAIR way seems to be to raffle them off as prizes for our members. Got a better way? Let's have it.

A call from ARNOLD "Army" VANDER MEER (K 19th Korea), out at 1411 Madison, Tracy CA. He was wounded on Mar. 10, 1951 near YANGPYONG. Says he can't find it on a map. Says it's south of the Han. That's all he knows. Ideas, anyone? He'd like to locate his platoon sergeant (K 19th) - KELLER or KELLEY by name.

Past President JOHN KLUMP (E 34th '45-'46) recovering nicely from serious hip problems. Back to Mayo in mid-September for a checkup and "On to Savannah". Johnny grateful for "the thoughts, prayers, cards, flowers and telecons of all of my 24th friends."

ONE OF OUR RAISONS D'ÊTRE

July 24, 1988

Dear Bob,

I got your name and address from Don Jablonski who was in Co. D.

My brother Jack E. Brooks was in the 24th Inf. Div., 19th Reg., Co. D. Jack died in Osaka Army Hospital Oct. 1, 1950 from wounds he received in Korea, around Sept. 20, 1950. He had earlier been in the 118th station hospital.

I have been trying to locate someone that might have known my brother. Would it be possible to take Jack's picture to your reunion and place it on a bulletin board where your friends would see it? Did you happen to know my brother?

I would like to talk or hear from anyone who might have any information concerning Jack. They could call me collect 315-682-5789

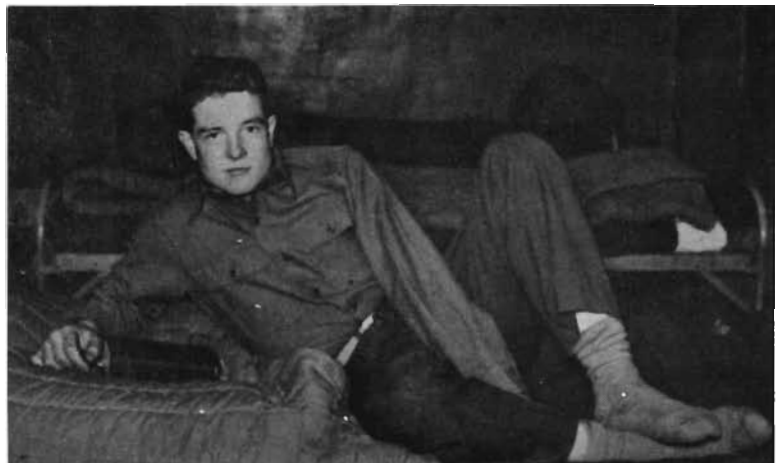
Sincerely yours

Edward H. Brooks

When Membership mogul BOB JOHNSON received this letter, photo and tag, he sent it over to us. We said: "This one gets a full page, Bob" -- and after reading it, you will agree, we are certain. Doesn't the very thought of brotherly love give you an all-over feeling of warmth? We hope and pray that, out of this, some consolation will come to E.H. Brooks.

DID YOU KNOW THIS SOLDIER?  
HE WAS JACK E. BROOKS RA12114345,  
24th. INF. DIV. 19th REG. CO.D.  
HE WAS KILLED IN KOREA.

PLEASE WRITE TO E.H. BROOKS,  
205 EUREKA DRIVE  
MANLIUS, N.Y. 13104 OR CALL COLLECT  
315-682-5789



# COMING ATTRACTIONS

Greetings from the Distaff Side!

Historic Savannah Foundation offers several tours during our convention. If you are interested, please fill out the form and return it to Carolyn Viafora, Historic Savannah Foundation, PO Box 1773, Savannah GA 31402 or send to me at my address below and I'll get it to Carolyn. She needs these responses by Aug. 29th in order to plan tour buses, guides, etc. We will have our own private tour providing we have enough to fill the bus, or buses. Guests will be picked up by bus at our hotels and returned at the end of the tour.

Thurs., Sept. 29th  
Landmark Historic District Tour \$12.00  
8:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Thurs., Sept. 29th  
Low Country Tour \$15.50  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Charming countrysides, coastal islands, elegant suburbs, historic sites and a cooling drink served with cookies made from the famous benne seed.

Sites of interest:

Bonaventure Cemetery: A paradise of natural beauty, antebellum Bonaventure features one of the nation's most photographed riverfront gardens. Two hundred years old, moss-covered live oaks guard the final resting places of many of Savannah's heroic statesmen and their ladies.

Thunderbolt: Once an Indian village, this small picturesque riverfront town is headquarters of our low country's shrimp fleet.

Isle of Hope: On a bluff overlooking salt rivers and endless marshes on the Intra-coastal Waterway is Isle of Hope, with its columned, white wooden coastal cottages and pleasant breezes.

Wormsloe Historic Site: A 1½ mile oak-canopied driveway leads to the tabby ruins of a pre-revolutionary fort and a small museum focusing on early Georgia history.

Bethesda Orphanage: Founded in 1740, the Bethesda Home for Boys is set in a fine sweep of land. Guests will tour the grounds and may visit a lovely chapel, the Whitefield Memorial.

Ardsley Park: Your tour will return through fashionable Ardsley Park, created after World War I for "gentlemen of leisure."

Saturday, Oct. 1

Same tours. Same Times.  
Same prices.

If interested, please fill out the form and return with your check. Note: These tours are not restricted to ladies. Gents invited. As you see, same tours are offered on Thursday and Saturday for early arrivals and late arrivals. You might even want to take one on Thursday and the other on Saturday.

Also, Shopping Sprees can be arranged after your arrival. With guide @ \$6.00 per person, minimum of 6 people -- about 2 hours or less.

Deep Sea Fishing Trips can be arranged on any day that week. Six persons per trip @ \$47.50 per person (Can't beat that) for a 4 hour trip. Coolers provided on boats but bring your own beverage. This wounds like a winner for you guys. So if you're interested send us your names. It's best if you can get your own group of six together. If not we'll try to arrange a group for you if we get enough responses. Send check and names to:

Recreation Director, Savannah  
Sheraton Hotel, Wilmington Island,  
Savannah GA 31410,  
or to me at my address below - and I'll get it to the right person. This deep sea fishing trip would be great for "early birds" or through Thursday - or on Saturday.

Also, Golfers! We didn't forget you! Golf @ \$15.00 per day plus cart fee will be available each day. The Sheraton golf course is currently ranked No. 2 in state (only behind the Augusta course) and is immensely popular. Therefore I've taken the liberty to reserve tee times on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday to be safe - for three to five groups of four each day. Tee times







begin at 8:05 a.m. each day, except Sunday (for those who'd like to remain over, tee times are reserved that day too. If you'd like one of these tee times, please call 912-897-1612 and ask for pro shop and reserve your time. Try to get your group of four - they will hold these blocked out times for you until the week you arrive but the earlier you let them know the better. You do not need to send money ahead of time. Upon wise advice from the pro shop, I blocked out these times as she assured me all tee times will be gone if we wait until the day you want to play given the popularity of the course. I negotiated these special rates, so I do hope you will take advantage. This is the bargain of the century!

We hope to leave some time for those of you downtown to stroll River Street and Shops and those at the Sheraton to stroll the lovely grounds of the hotel -- maybe watch the beautiful sunset over the Wilmington River. If you saw the movie "Gator" with Burt Reynolds you might be interested to know some of the scenes were filmed at the Sheraton. The hotels downtown have their interesting points too. The Mulberry Inn was the old Coca-Cola bottling company restored to its present charm about 10 years ago.

In any event, we are looking forward to seeing everyone. Come as early as you can - and please feel free to let me know if I can help you in some way.

Affectionately,

Laura Rosenblum  
310 Lee Blvd.  
Savannah GA 31405  
Tel. 912-352-9918  
Don's Office: 912-233-6717



#### FORM FOR TOURS

Tour Preference \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_  
Hotel Pickup \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Check in amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to  
Historic Savannah Foundation.

#### FORM FOR DEEP SEA FISHING TRIP

Preference: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Six persons:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Check in amount of \$47.50 for each person  
should be made payable to:  
The Sheraton Savannah Hotel

# DOUBLE EXPOSURE

Hope you don't think we're "boiler plating" our issues with reproductions of letters actually received. Au contraire, we print a few, like this one from TED SHIELDS (19th '45-'46) of 617 W. Granger, Modesto CA because a bona fide belief that you'll be interested in his memo to us and the enclosure that went with it. The enclosure is reproduced in the next column over. Are you ready? Here goes:

## MEMO:

TO Kenwood Ross

7/8/88

I clipped this column from our local paper, the Modesto (CA) Bee, re a Ray Simpson, formerly of the 24th in Korea. Thought it might be of interest to you. You might even know of him . . . he lives in the Los Angeles area, according to the article.

Always enjoy greatly your prodigious work with the bulletin. Don't know how you can do it, sorting through all the mail, 24th history, news items, you name it, and still handle the secretary's chores. Well, I guess once a man becomes a part of the 24th he can do anything!

Take good care of yourself . . . we need you to hold everything together!

Best regards,

Ted Shields  
617 West Granger Avenue, No. 23  
Modesto, California 95350



Yesterday, this interesting letter landed on our desk:

"I am a mathematics teacher who is researching Co. F 34th Inf. during WW II. More specifically, I am attempting to fulfill a death-bed request made of me by Staff Sergeant George J. Dumler who expired on Feb. 29, 1988 in Miles City MT. He died from complications associated with throat cancer. He is originally from Custer MT.

"Staff Sergeant Dumler served from Nov. 11, 1944 through Nov. 1946. He was squad leader during the Liberation of the Philippines and later his Company occupied Japan after Japan's surrender.

"In order to write of Dumler's war-time experiences, I need to contact surviving members of the Co. F 34th. Could you please do the following things for me?

1. Publish a notice of Staff Sergeant George J. Dumler's death and place a plea for anyone who knew him to contact me:

Faye Jordan, PO Box 172  
Gonzalex FL 32560-0172.

2. Send me a list of the men of Co.F 34th who served their country during the Liberation of the Philippines. I need their addresses and telephone numbers so that I may contact them. In addition, I need to have names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all the other men in the 34th Infantry's other companies."

That's a bit of an order, Ms. Jordan, but we're gonna do our very best.

For starters, let's not forget the "Old Man" of Company F, PAUL AUSTIN. After that, things get a bit slowed down.

Here's one where we may be able to help. FLOYD WELCH (Hq. 34th '46-'47) of 59 Alta, Ft. Madison Iowa, is looking for Sgt. BILLY WOODS and ROBERT WORTH. Do we ring a bell, anyone out there in the cold cold world?

Hear about the cop who stepped into a diner, tucked a napkin in at his throat, and was halfway through stuffing himself on a baked goose when his sergeant walked in and surprised him. "I just came in for a quick gander," faltered the flatfoot.



**Glenn Scott**

## Recollections of a living hell

**R**aymond Simpson was nothing but a 19-year-old kid who'd dropped out of Modesto High to join the Army. But he grew up in a hurry on that day 38 years ago when he stared up the pass in South Korea and saw them coming.

He saw the 57 tanks and the never-ending columns of the North Korean infantry.

Simpson and his American buddies were grossly outnumbered as they settled into a cold field outside Osan to stop the advance. But they weren't afraid.

"You didn't have time to be afraid," he told me not long ago, remembering.

Ray Simpson was there with the 24th Infantry Division on the lonely day when North Korean troops first confronted Americans. It was July 5, 1950. A week earlier, Northern troops had moved down and taken Seoul, the South's capital.

Dispatched quickly from Japan, the Americans met them at Osan, 30 miles south of Seoul. Despite the fact that the South's troops were fleeing, Ray Simpson had hoped the Northern advance would halt when troops came barrel to barrel with the Americans.

Instead, the tanks simply blew past.

The Americans didn't have the anti-tank weapons to stop them. Then came the infantry. And the fighting. Simpson lay prone in the mortar section, firing almost straight up.

When the inevitable order to withdraw came, most of the Americans — at least those who survived — worked back over a ridge and re-united. But some splintered off in the heavy rain. Simpson was part of a group of 10 who slogged into a deserted village.

Machine gun fire startled them at dawn. They were surrounded and taken prisoner. In a way, they were lucky. They had survived that first day of fighting. And later that day, a North Korean officer would stop what looked to be a mass execution in the works.

But they were still prisoners of war — prisoners even before the U.S. Army had committed any more troops. Simpson would endure life as a POW until peace was finally negotiated three years, one month and 24 days later.

**R**ay Simpson stopped in Modesto the other day. He lives in the Los Angeles area now and works for Rockwell International as a maintenance engineer. An old friend who grew up with him at Fourth Street Park and Dainty Maid's and the other long-gone West Modesto hangouts dragged him

down to the paper to tell me his stories.

Not a lot of American GIs lived through that first day of fighting in Korea or lived through three years of suffering as a POW. But this effervescent man of Filipino descent had managed both.

He smiled; I listened.

He recounted the brutal treatment, how they slept in small huts with only burlap sacks for blankets, their legs stacked like dead branches to save room.

Escapees were literally beaten back to camp. No mail ever arrived. They were moved constantly and bombed by mistake. They stole from farm fields, ate grasshoppers and lost weight.

Indoctrination: Once they were shown an ant that had supposedly been poisoned. The idea was to demonstrate that the U.S. was using germ warfare.

"So one of our guys stepped up and ate it to prove there was no poison," said Simpson. "They rushed him away. We never saw that guy again."

**P**risoners were kept segregated in different camps so they couldn't compare information. Also with Simpson were two others from Modesto: Louis Howard and Anthony Fontana.

Finally one day, a truck passed carrying other American POWs who were yelling about going home. They ignored it. To think about getting out would make each day unbearable.

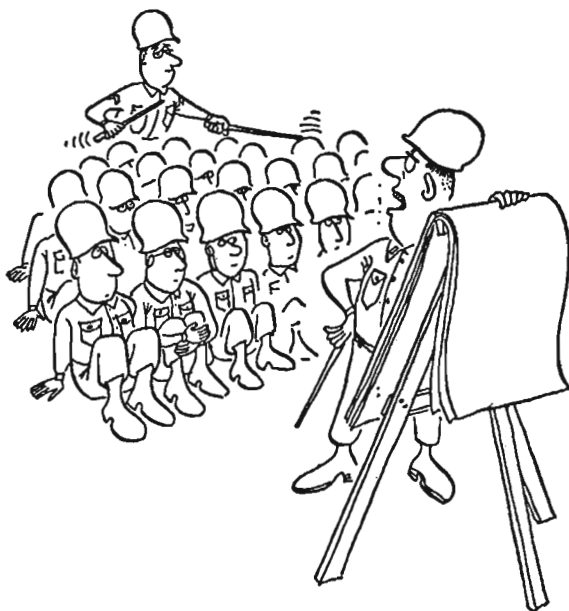
But a week later, it was their turn. As they crossed the 38th Parallel, American soldiers waited with candy and ice cream. Simpson had spent the entire war minus one awful day as a prisoner. He had a banana split.

He told me he is fine now as long as nobody barks out orders at him. When that happens at work, he might blow his stack and instruct some boss, "I haven't taken orders like that since I left Korea."

(In a later conversation, Howard said he once was excused from jury duty because the questioning felt too much like the POW interrogations.)

But don't think that Raymond Simpson is taking it easy at age 57, either. Having survived the Korean War, he is not likely to overlook this wonder called life.

In fact, he was married for the second time not long ago. And his 35-year-old wife just had a baby.



"CORPORAL, I DON'T MIND YOUR KEEPING THEM AWAKE, BUT MUST YOU PLAY TUNES?"



May 2  
KOREA '52

Glenn Scott's column appears Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday in Metro.

30

# WINNER TAKE ALL

A copy of the Taro Leaf including the references to Clay Blair's "Korea - The Forgotten War" went to the author, of course.

It provoked this very cordial response:

Clay and Joan Blair  
Washington Island  
Wisconsin, 54246  
414-847-2071

July 5, 1988

Mr. Kenwood Ross  
120 Maple Street  
Springfield, MA 01103

Dear Ken,

Many, many thanks for the splendid coverage of Korea: The Forgotten War in Taro Leaf.

Your letter makes me pleased - and proud - that I undertook to commemorate the services and sacrifices of so many in the Korean War.

Sincerely,

*Clay Blair*  
Clay Blair

**made  
for  
each  
other**

How do you answer this letter from LUKE FOGLIANO of 970 Great Neck, Coplague LI, NY, that goes like this: "I served in the 24th Inf. Div. 5th RCT from 4/51 to 10/51. I was in the Hvy. Mortar Co. I was taken off the line and sent to Kobe Japan. I then served in

the Quartermaster after my service in Korea. Please notify me as to time and place of the reunion. If I can come I will try to be there. Very truly yours in comradeship."

We joined Luke up, that's what we did. Sure hope we see you in Savannah!

Scuttlebut: that DON MCHALE (Hq. 19th '39-'41) of 414 - 4th Ct., Palm Beach Gardens, FL, has remarried - honeymooned in Hawaii.

Marines have a video tape out: "Okinawa - The Last Battle of WW II" Any comments?



'AT EASE! PIPE DOWN! IF YOU GUYS WILL SHUT UP FOR A FEW MINUTES MISS HART WILL ENTERTAIN YOU.'  
—Pvt. Tom Flannery

## NOW THAT'S USING YOUR NOODLE

Nagging questions:

How can you be sure the lobsters in a Twin Lobster Special are actually twins?

Why do they call it white wine when it's yellow?

Does anybody ever walk into a Tru-Value hardware store and say, "Willard Scott sent me!"?

Why do they say something is "the greatest thing since sliced bread"? What's so great about sliced bread?

Why do they call them collectibles when nobody in their right mind would want to collect them?

Does one size ever fit all?

Are batteries ever included?

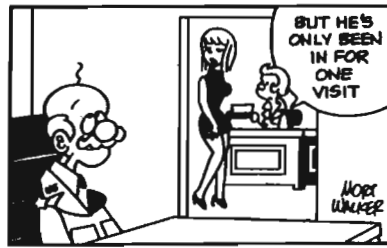
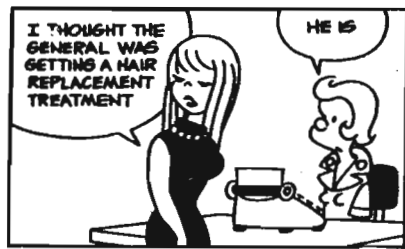
What did we all do before there were food stylists?

How much faster can fast food get?

Isn't Hugh Hefner a little old to be acting like that?

Is the phrase "free gift" redundant? Or merely stupid?





# four-star

We like the story about the Frenchman, the Japanese and the American who were facing a firing squad.

Each was being granted one last wish.

The Frenchman asked to hear La Marseillaise.

The little fellow from Japan asked if he could give a lecture on Japanese management.

The American asked to be shot first adding, "I don't think I can stand one more lecture on Japanese management."

The kind of letter we love to receive. BILL HAURILAK (Med. 2nd Bn. 34th '41-'44), of 125 Southworth, Milford CT, authored this one: "I am receiving the Taro Leaf and enjoying it very much. I don't know how I missed it all those years gone by. Perhaps not knowing where to subscribe for it.

"I'm taking life easy now having had cardiac problems the last few years. Doing pretty good, swimming and some square dancing and caring for the home. The cadence has been slowed a bit with a great deal of goofing off.

"Capt. Ross was company commander of Co. E, 34th Inf. A fine and able leader and I can say being one of Co.E's first aid men throughout all the campaigns. He later was promoted to Major near the end of the Philippine fighting. He was from Georgia.

"You might be able to use this one:

Just a line to say I'm living  
That I'm not among the dead.  
Though I'm getting more forgetful,  
More mixed up in my head.  
Sometimes I don't remember  
When I stand astride the stair,  
If I must go up for something  
Or I've just come down from there.  
And before the frig so often  
My mind is filled with doubt,  
Have I just put food away  
Or have I come to take it out?  
There's times when it is dark out,  
With my nightcap on my head,  
I don't know if I'm retiring  
Or just got out of bed.  
So if it's my turn to write you  
There's no need for getting sore  
I may think that I have written  
And don't want to be a bore.  
So remember I do love you  
And wish that you were near  
But now it's nearly mail time  
I must say Goodbye dear.  
There I stood beside the mailbox  
With a face so very red.  
I did not mail your letter  
But opened it instead.

Loved it, Bill -- Thanks.

Div. has bid farewell to former C/S, Col. JACK L. TURECEK and has welcomed Col. STANLEY G. GENECA as the new C/S. Jack's gone to C/S, Combined Arms Center at Leavenworth. Stan comes from command of Savannah District Corp. of Engineers.

Spotted in Army Times:

RODGERS, SFC (Ret.) Louis and Ezell, stationed in 1956-59 at Fort Irwin CA, and in 1960-63 with 24th Inf.Div. in Augsburg, Germany. Contact SFC (Ret.) William H. Massey, 7301 Woodlock Rd., Louisville KY 40291, Tel.502-499-9126.

His hobby is fly-fishing for sardines. Daily limit is 10,000.

BENNY MASHAY and BOB HUNKELE have started something. They've each sent \$ in to us to be added to whatever the Assoc. might decide, at Savannah, to contribute to the Korean Memorial. Get ready; it's going to be a great discussion at our business meeting.

*Let the*

# GOOD TIMES ROLL

**WE'RE HAVING A PARTY 24 HOURS A DAY**



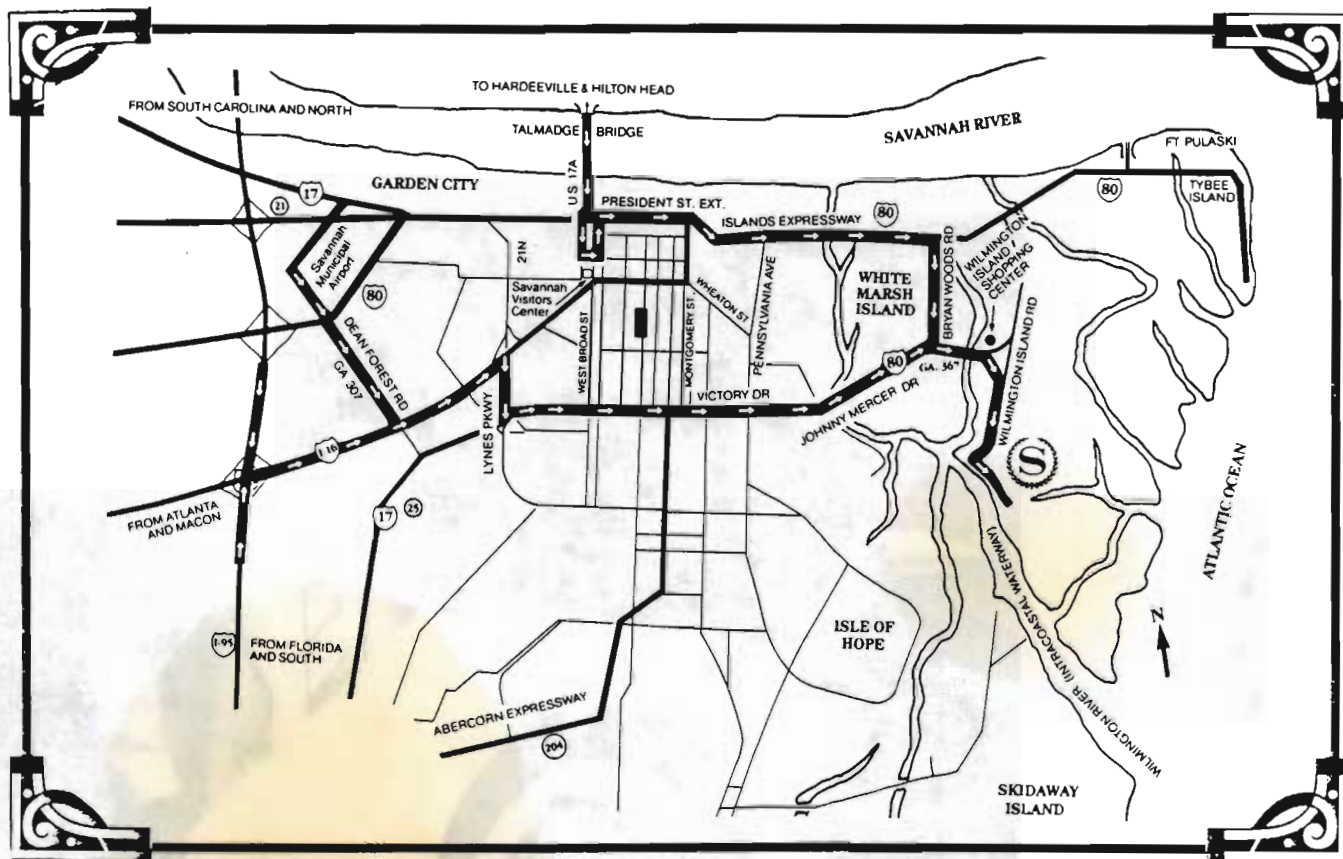
Meet Hemet, California's Park Commissioner, VIC REINICK (F 34th '43-'44), of 1042 Dixie Drive. The city has planted 20,000 trees, reports Vic, and developed two parks - one 480 acres, one 100 acres. Vic and Velma have been to Hollywood negotiating for the rights on his book, "Three Hours in Hell" - about the 24th. Vic made the front page recently. See what you think of it.



**TREE CITY** — Hemet was recently named one of three "Tree Cities" in Riverside County for its tree-planting and maintenance programs. Sally Miller of the county Parks Advisory Committee

and Victor Reinick of the city Park Committee display a plaque, road sign and flag the city received with the award distributed by the National Arbor Day Foundation. (Staff Photo by Phil Diehl)





### Driving Instructions

**From Talmadge Bridge:** After crossing bridge, bear left onto West Oglethorpe. Follow Oglethorpe a short distance and turn left onto West Broad St. Follow West Broad to Bay St. and turn right. Stay in left lane and follow Bay St. to stop sign. Turn left onto President St. Extension. Follow for approximately 5 miles to stop sign; turn left onto Hwy. 80. Continue to flashing yellow light. At flashing light, turn right onto Bryan Woods Rd. Follow to end. Turn left onto Johnny Mercer Dr. Follow Johnny Mercer onto Wilmington Island and make first right onto Wilmington Island Rd. Follow road to hotel.

**From I-95 North and South:** Take I-16 East to Lynes Parkway. Exit right onto Lynes Pkwy. to Hwy. 80 East exit. Turn left on Hwy. 80 East and follow for approximately 10 miles. Bear right on Hwy. 367 (Johnny Mercer Dr.). Follow Johnny Mercer Dr. onto Wilmington Island and make first right onto Wilmington Island Rd. Follow road to hotel.

**From Savannah Airport:** Turn right onto Hwy. 307. Follow 307 South to I-16 East. Exit left onto I-16 East. Follow I-16 East to Lynes Pkwy. Exit right onto Lynes Pkwy. to Hwy. 80 East exit. Turn left on Hwy. 80 East. Follow Hwy. 80 East approximately 10 miles. Bear right on Hwy. 367 (Johnny Mercer Dr.). Follow Johnny Mercer Dr. onto Wilmington Island and make first right onto Wilmington Island Rd. Follow road to hotel.

## Sheraton Savannah Resort & Country Club

SHERATON HOTELS, INNS & RESORTS WORLDWIDE  
The hospitality people of ITT  
612 Wilmington Island Road, Savannah, Georgia 31410

Marriage is like taking a bath. Not so hot once you get used to it.

If Mom says "No", go ask Grandma.

Sign at a local marina: "Out to Launch."

A bagful of Russian proverbs:

If you're a rooster, crow;  
if you're a hen,  
shut up and lay eggs.

If you're tired of a friend,  
lend him money.

Life may be unbearable, but death  
is not so pleasant either.



"I HEAR THE OLD MAN THREW THE BOOK AT YOU."

—Sgt. Arnold Thurm

## OFF AGAIN, ON AGAIN

Entering a hospital room, the doctor was surprised to find the nurse holding his patient by both wrists. "That's not the way to check his pulse," chided the doctor. "I'm not checking his pulse," the nurse replied. "I'm checking his impulse."

Dateline: Hanoi, April 6:

- "Vietnam turns over remains of 27 soldiers."

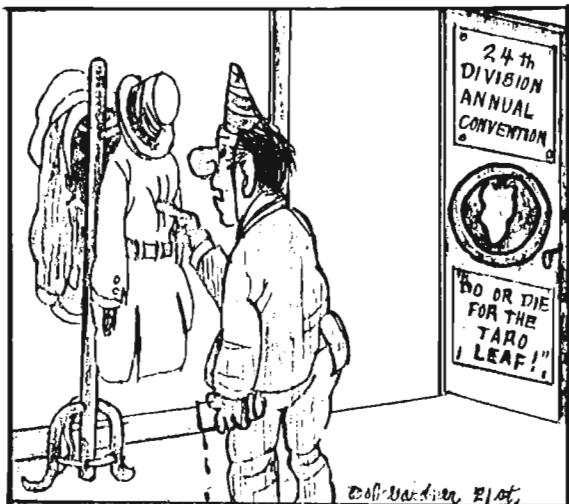
Dateline: Hanoi, April 7:

- "Vietnam, going hungry, seeks U.S. aid."

Is this circumstance or wile? Could it be mere coincidence that at the exact moment Hanoi happens to find the remains of GIs missing more than a decade, they also mention that they're having problems feeding their people and would be more than willing to welcome emergency food aid from the good old U.S.?

We think not.

MARVIN R. CLARK (D 26th AAA AW Bn.(SP) 10/51-3/52) of Box 164, Melrose New Mex -- we're supposed to use NM, not New Mex. -- but be honest, isn't our way better? -- anyway Marvin wants to hear from anyone of that vintage. Hope you get a bite or two, Marv.



"I'LL TELL YOU, COLONEL, PUTTIN' RIVER STREET IN HONOLULU OFF LIMITS LOST YOU MY SUPPORT!"

Taro Leaf Cartoonist goes way back in his memory bank. Great memories, BOB GARDNER.

Our first Christmas card this time was from WILBERT "Ray" ESTABROOK (B 19th 6/48-7/50, then POW), of 20702 El Toro Rd., El Toro CA. We like the way he addresses us - It's KENWOOD TAROLLY ROSS. And thanks for the Merry Xmas wish, Shorty.

All the world loves a lover -- except those who are waiting to use the phone.

## THE BLINK OF AN EYE

It's been 43 years since World War II ended. But in the nation's capital, there is no monument to honor those who serve in that conflict, Rep. Marcy Kaptur of Ohio has reminded Congress.

Kaptur and 65 other members of the House are sponsoring legislation that would establish a World War II Veterans' Memorial and Museum to pay tribute to the 16 million Americans who served in that war. Of those, 400,000 made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom around the world.

Kaptur said that only such a memorial can commemorate "Those valient men and women as well as give a sense of the times, the scope of the war, the numerous actors in that conflict, the multiple issues and goals that came into play in that war, and, of course, the enduring values to which our participation in that struggle was dedicated."

Now please don't get us wrong - and one or two of you surely will. We guarantee it. But we're being monumented to death. Why not one huge monument for all the men - and women - who fought in all of our wars?

Life Member #51, CLEM HARRIS (F 5th RCT '51) over at 6110 Pecan Trail, San Antonio TX 78249, has suggested that we make this appeal for "Thinking of you" cards for EARL "Red" BRIDWELL who is now bedbound and faithful Alice who, herself, has health problems. They're at 5611 Bar "S" St., Tucson AZ 85713.

The prosecutor began his cross-examination of the witness. "Do you know this man?" he asked.

"Why should I know him?"

"Did he try to borrow money from you?"

"Why should he borrow money from me?"

Annoyed, the judge asked the witness, "Why do you persist in answering every question with another question?"

"Why not?" asked the witness.

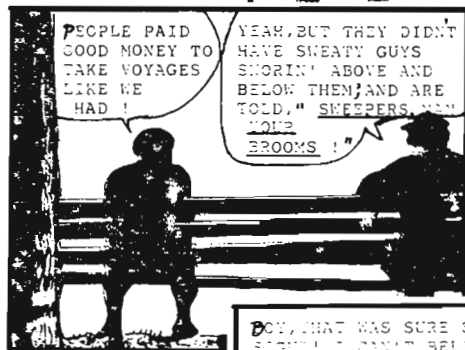
M.C. - that's Membership Chairman - BOB JOHNSON received a call from Lt.Col. ELLSWORTH "Dutch" NEWSON of 812 Orion, Colorado Springs CO. And now, this one time company clerk in the 34th in '46, who went to Korea on 7-2-50 with the 13th Field has joined our ranks. Welcome aboard, Dutch.

The parents of an eight-year-old boy who was away at camp for the first time hadn't heard from him, so they called him and were a bit disappointed to discover that he hadn't missed them at all.

"Have any of the other kids gotten homesick?" his mother asked.

"Only the ones who have dogs," replied the boy.





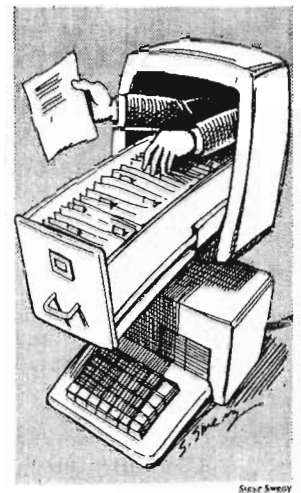
BOB GARDNER even got a squirrel in one of these frames.

We can't overlay our need for new members. One need but look at our obituary notices to come up with one reason therefor. Past Prexy WARREN AVERY understands. He just came in with the names of CLYDE A. FORE, (19th Korea), of 1208 67th NW, Bradenton FL, and JOSEPH DEMEO (ex-POW Korea), of 1830 W. Moyamesning, Philadelphia PA.

The Senate has asked the Pentagon to come up with proposals to reduce the number of dependents overseas. Bet that goes over like an iron balloon.

Does anybody care who Gary Hart is running around with now?

Is Tom Selleck's donation to the Smithsonian of his historic "Magnum PI" Hawaiian shirt tax deductible?



Gleanings from Army Times...The Bradley is being beefed up with extra armor. Designated the M-2A2, the new version of the Bradley will feature permanent applique armor that will improve protection to defeat 30mm rounds, such as those fired from the most modern versions of the Russian BMP-2 fighting vehicle; a Kevlar liner to reduce the effects of spall, hot metal fragments created by a penetrating warhead; attachment points to provide the capability to add reactive armor, an armor containing an explosive charge to disrupt the formation of penetrating warhead jets; relocation of ammunition; changes in the fuel system; and a modified fire suppression system...Microwave ovens being developed for heating rations in the field. No more heating pouches on exhaust pipes. No more scraping generators free of sticky mixtures of plastic, cheese and diced turkey with gravy. Hallelujah... Three cities - Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Washington - are the final cities being considered for the location of the memorial honoring "everyone" who helped the WW II effort. "The memorial will be a final tribute to all Americans who either served in the military land, sea and air forces or on the home front in the civilian war production and mobilization forces of World War II," said Kenneth Gaskin, chairman of the National Victory Memorial Committee. How do you like them apples?

Know the Editor of your local paper? Whether you know him or not, it will help immeasurably - if you'll give this a shot. Just ask the chap at the news desk if he'll give us a couple of inches of space in one of his next editions. Tip -- he'll be more likely to be interested if you can add a modest paragraph about yourself. They love local color - for obvious reasons. Thanx a bunch!



DATE

For immediate release

ORGANIZATION:

24th Infantry Division Assn.  
United States Army

CONTACT:

Lt. Gen. D. E. Rosenblum  
(912) 233-6717

Savannah, Georgia

On September 28th through October 2nd, 1988, the 24th Infantry Division of the United States Army will hold its 41st annual reunion honoring veterans of World War II, the Korean War and division members from Pearl Harbor through current assignment at Fort Stewart, Ga. The reunion will be held at the Sheraton Resort and Country Club, Savannah, Ga., 31410. For further information please contact:

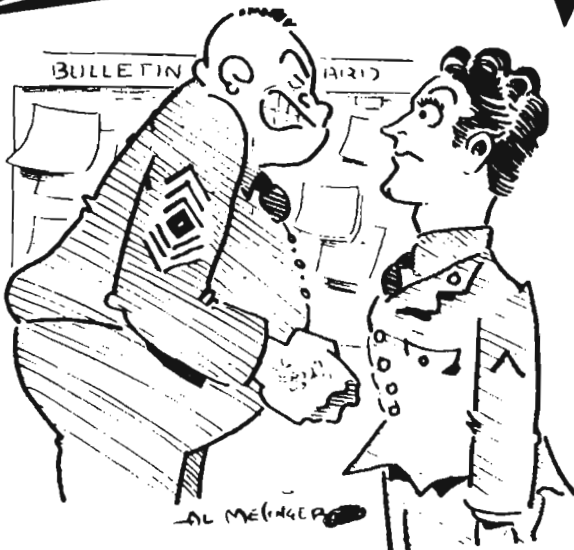
24th Infantry Division Reunion:

1864 El Paso Lane  
Fullerton, Ca., 92633  
(714) 526-6860

120 Maple Street  
Springfield, Ma., 01103  
(413) 733-3194

## THROUGH THE PAST BRIGHTLY

We were going to report the recent death of Axis Sally when in comes this note on the right from RALPH R. BALESTRIERI (13th Field '50-'51). We thought his statement to be more news-worthy by far. We delight at every opportunity to let you read it as our own members have written it. Makes the whole business a heck of a lot more personal. Ralph, you old rascal, the floor is yours.



"AND FURTHERMORE, I THINK YOUR LAST PICTURE STUNK!"

—Sgt. Al Mellinger

Some "100% disabled vet" wrote WALLY KUHNER (24th Recn. '43-'45) asking for any military insignia - patches, brassards, crests, anything! He collects same. It may be a con job but if you have anything you might give it a go. We are. Try V. Brown, 1396 Vintry Lane, Salt Lake City Utah 84121. Salt Lake puts us in mind of our favorite Mormon story. Fellow telephoned Dr. Joseph Smith complaining of a stomach ache. Advised the Doctor: "Take two wives and call me in the morning."

News out of the FRANK KUBA household -- he was 3rd Eng. '43-'46 -- isn't good. Louise tells us that they've found a spot on Frankie's lung - chemotherapy - 25 shots - 1 a day. By the time you read this, the series will have been completed. Frank and Louise are at 4035 Helmkampf, Florissant MO. Tel. 314-831-0875.

Today, 1 July 1988, I learned of the death of the person known to the news media as Axis Sally, but better known to us as Berlin Sally. Sitting in a bar in Casablanca, London, or Paris does not produce the most accurate reporting.

My organization, the 58th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, had been listening to her for awhile before I joined them in England, they having fought in North Africa and Sicily. When we could be near a radio Berlin Sally was quite often the program of choice. Sally had a good collection of recordings of music we liked. Her propaganda was excellent comic relief to most of us, though she could hurt someone who had just received a "Dear John" letter - or had reached their personal limits of combat.

One evening, not long before D-Day, a couple of our men were going around happily telling everyone they could find that Sally had broadcasted a list of organizations that had been "wiped out on the invasions of North Africa and Sicily would again be wiped out on the beaches of France". Our guys were happy because our organization was the only one smaller than a division that was mentioned. Being a separate battalion attached to various divisions that never heard of us, and really didn't care as long as we could provide more forward observers and more fire on targets, our men sometimes got the feeling that no one knew us, or cared. They should have known better, and really did, since Generals Bradley, Patton, and Hodges always managed to find us when help was really needed - like Hill 609, spearheading alone in Sicily, D-Day, Bastogne and similar situations. This news of Sally's broadcast did wonders for the morale of our guys who were naturally nervous about another landing.

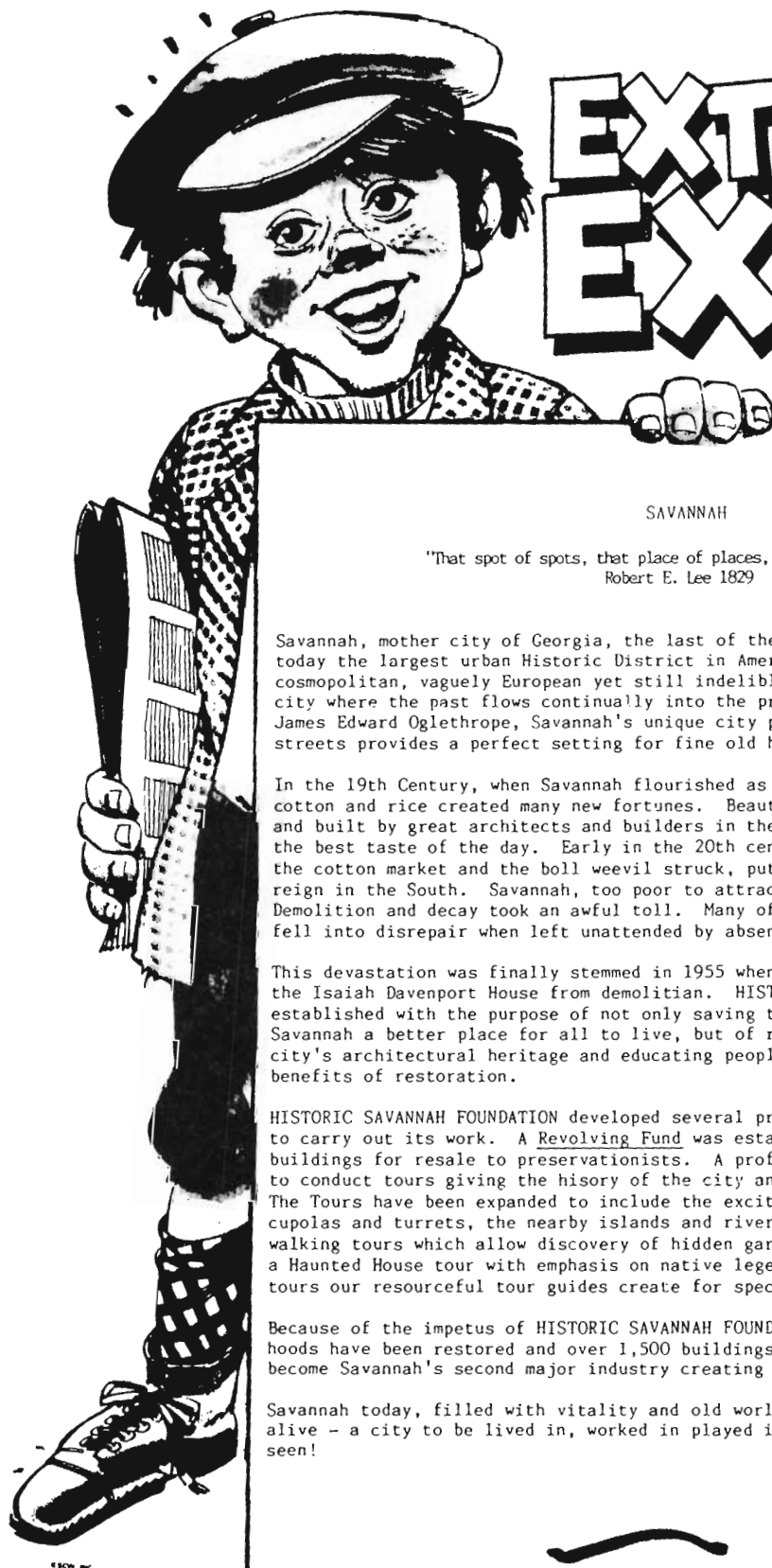
The broadcast started something else. Whenever our observers found a target instead of using the correct "Fire mission" to initiate fire on the target our observers would use "Gimme a round of smoke". We knew the Germans had good intelligence on the location of our troops. We also knew they monitored our radio transmissions. (I, for one, found out in Normandy we were aggravating them when they tried to call me on the radio. They lost that round by using a call sign out of sequence.) We were just laughing in their faces, telling them the old 58th was alive and kicking.

Of course occasionally the brass would say something about our radio procedure. But it only stopped when all six observers were casualties in one small fire-fight to gain a lousy 3000 yards late in November. Before that the turnover had been one by one and only two replacements in Normandy were left. Now all new ones would take over. The last time smoke was mentioned was when a battery was cut off at Bastogne and the commander, an old observer, said over the radio he was firing his last two rounds, one month old propaganda round and one round of purple smoke. It probably didn't matter. After that the Germans were not that well organized anymore, but I suspect they knew where we were.

Thanks for the memories, Sally.

RALPH R. BALESTRIERI  
1LT, AUS RETIRED (RA)  
41 Rose Court  
Eatontown, NJ 07724





# EXTRA EXTRA!

## SAVANNAH

"That spot of spots, that place of places, that city of cities"  
Robert E. Lee 1829

Savannah, mother city of Georgia, the last of the original 13 colonies is today the largest urban Historic District in America. Elegant, sophisticated, cosmopolitan, vaguely European yet still indelibly Southern, Savannah is a city where the past flows continually into the present. Laid out in 1733 by James Edward Oglethorpe, Savannah's unique city plan of squares and tree-lined streets provides a perfect setting for fine old houses and public buildings.

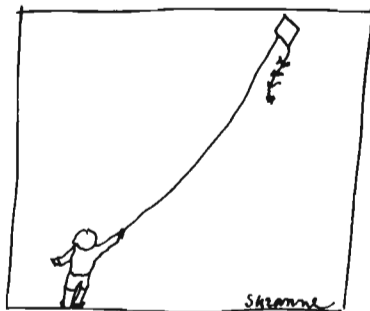
In the 19th Century, when Savannah flourished as a port, the exporting of cotton and rice created many new fortunes. Beautiful houses were designed and built by great architects and builders in the high styles that embodied the best taste of the day. Early in the 20th century, the bottom fell out of the cotton market and the boll weevil struck, putting an end to King Cotton's reign in the South. Savannah, too poor to attract new industries, suffered. Demolition and decay took an awful toll. Many of the old mansions that remained fell into disrepair when left unattended by absentee landlords.

This devastation was finally stemmed in 1955 when a few concerned citizens saved the Isaiah Davenport House from demolition. HISTORIC SAVANNAH FOUNDATION was established with the purpose of not only saving the old buildings and making Savannah a better place for all to live, but of reawakening interest in the city's architectural heritage and educating people on the aesthetic and economic benefits of restoration.

HISTORIC SAVANNAH FOUNDATION developed several preservation tools and techniques to carry out its work. A Revolving Fund was established to purchase endangered buildings for resale to preservationists. A professional Tour Service was formed to conduct tours giving the history of the city and the story of its restoration. The Tours have been expanded to include the exciting Victorian District with its cupolas and turrets, the nearby islands and rivers of the picturesque Low Country, walking tours which allow discovery of hidden garden and architectural details, a Haunted House tour with emphasis on native legend, as well as name your own tours our resourceful tour guides create for special interest groups.

Because of the impetus of HISTORIC SAVANNAH FOUNDATION, entire blighted neighborhoods have been restored and over 1,500 buildings have been saved. Tourism has become Savannah's second major industry creating jobs for many.

Savannah today, filled with vitality and old world charm, is a city very much alive - a city to be lived in, worked in played in and, above all, a city to be seen!



JOHN CERNANSKY (19th '51-'52) of 115 Main, Conemaugh PA puts it on the line:

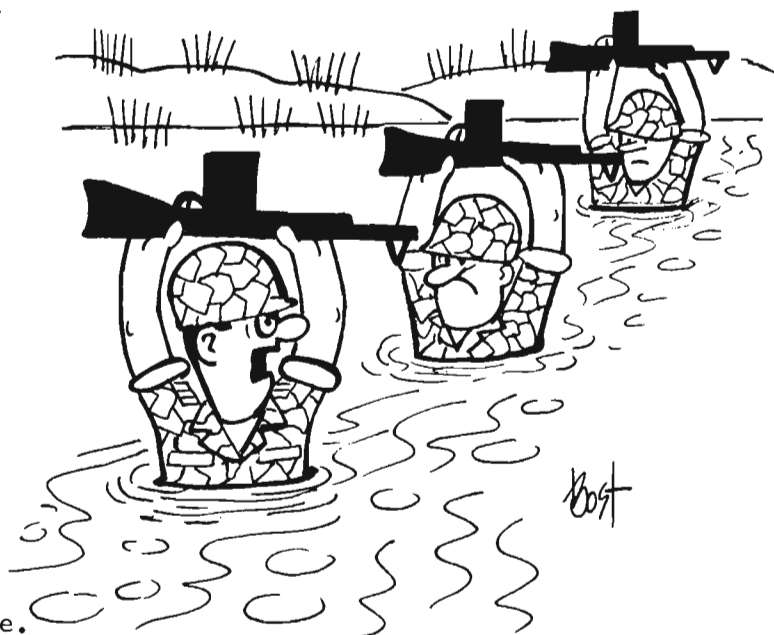
"Check the news lately? Those dirty gooks burning our flag and crying for 'Yankee Go Home' in S.Korea!

American should stop buying Hyuandi cars and other goods from South Korea, then they would shut up."

We asked John if we could use the quote.

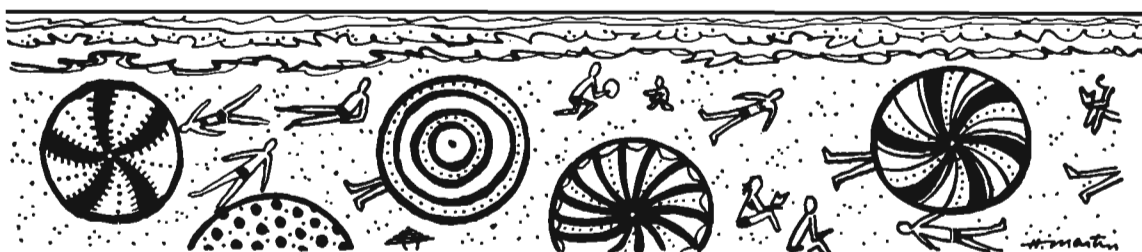
Came back, "You sure can."

Seeing the way the 10,000 students are marching 30 miles to Panmunjon makes us seriously doubt that our miseries of almost 40 years ago were worth it. It's a ----- shame, Johnny. We're in your corner.



'Get in step, Hoskins!'

Always tell people you're much older than you actually are - then listen to them tell you how good you look for your age.



We don't know whether to laugh or cry over this postcard just received: "Glad to see someone finally has something going for our outfits. I was a member of F Co. 19th Reg. from 8/1/50 through the end of June 1951 (Korea). Please send any info you have developed to date, as I would be very interested in joining up with old acquaintances for a 'get-to-gether'. Thanks - and good luck."

Wayne C. Jackson,  
1633 Chapel SW, Wyoming MI 19509.

Well we've "finally got something going" for Wayne at long last.

Leonard P. Matlovich, 44, a former Air Force sergeant whose 1975 discharge from service following his open admission of homosexuality became a major gay rights rallying point, died last in June of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

He eventually settled out of court for \$160,000 in exchange for an agreement to give up his battle for readmission to the Air Force.

To err is human. But to have a word processor that allows you to correct things without an eraser is divine.

The medicine man at the carnival was proclaiming the merits of the elixir he was peddling, claiming that it would make men live to the age of four hundred. "Look at me," he bragged. "Fit as a fiddle, and I passed my three hundredth birthday last month!"

"Is he really that old?" asked a gullible listener of the medicine man's assistant.

"I can't really say," answered the helper. "I've only worked for him since 1824."

The Soviet Union, ending a long silence about the exact number of its casualties in the war in Afghanistan, said that 13,310 soldiers had been killed, 35,478 were wounded and 311 were missing. And just what did all of that prove?

Brand new member ODDE JOHANSEN (C 21st '40-'44) and his good wife, Terry, living at 61 Burnside, Staten Island NY, are planning on S-IV. He is an old friend of JACK ANDERSON. In fact, the Johansens and the Andersons are coming together.

# SUBMINAL LEARNING:

## TAPPING YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS POWERS

Now here's the pitch from American Airlines. They'll give us free tickets if we fly into and out of Savannah via AA. So when you order your tickets, fly American if practical. Be sure to tell your travel agent to use American's STAR FILE S94248 -- repeat STAR FILE S94248. Then our pool will depend upon how many of us use AA. We'll know sometime during the weekend and those free tickets for your later use can be raffled off. This seems to be the only fair and equitable way to handle the "prizes".

Couple of Coomoland boys coming to S-IV - ELWYN MILLER (21st & 34th Korea) from Corning, and BILL COE (B 21st '48-'51) from Cohoes.

Let's go over this again - lightly.

We are assembling on Thursday Sept. 29th at the Sheraton Savannah. Oh some will arrive on Wednesday, others on Tuesday, some as early as Monday. But by 5 p.m. on Thursday, hopefully all of us who are reuniting will be registered in at the:

Sheraton Savannah Resort & Country Club  
612 Wilmington Island Rd.,  
Savannah GA 31410

Tel. 912-897-1612

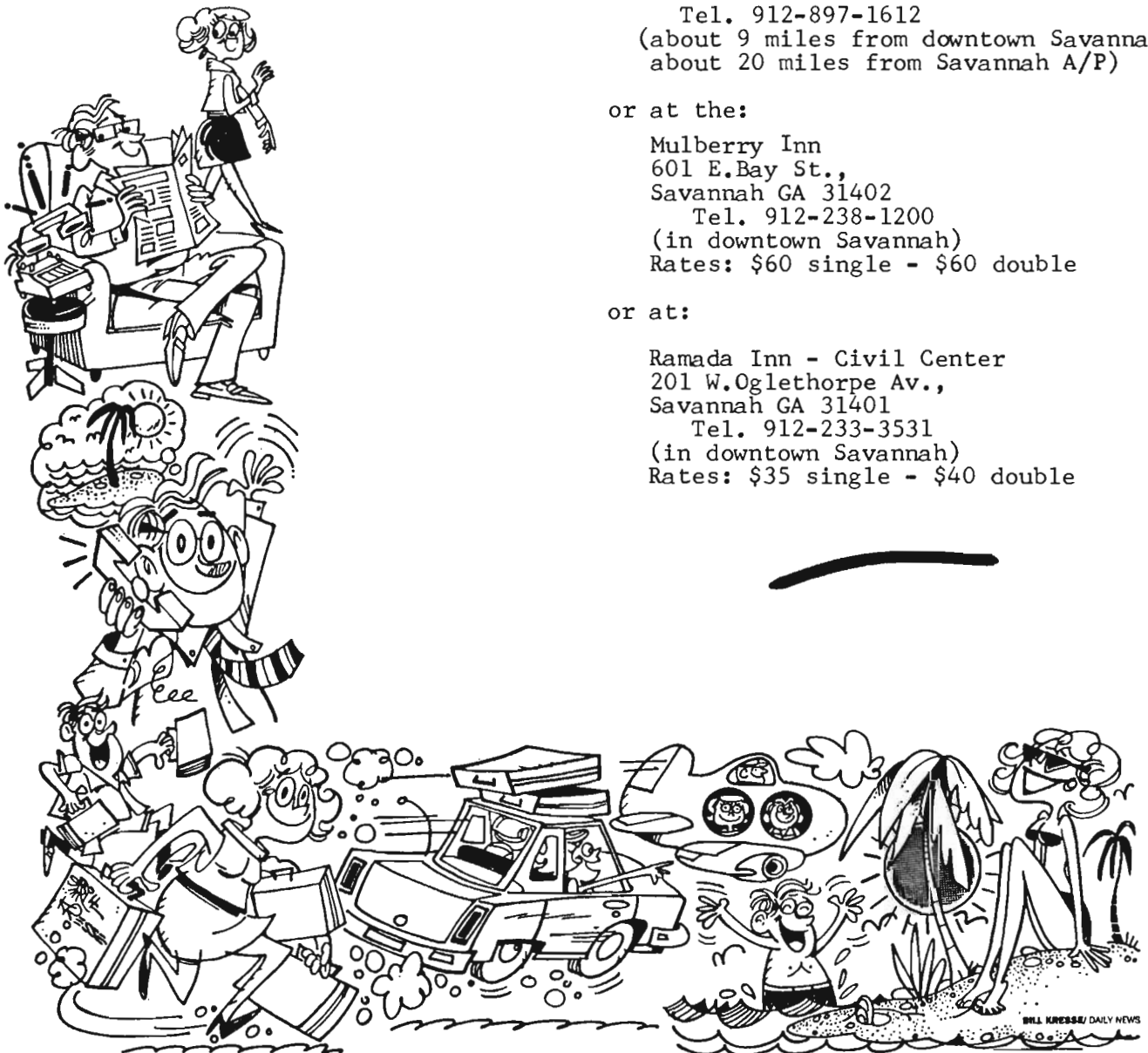
(about 9 miles from downtown Savannah --  
about 20 miles from Savannah A/P)

or at the:

Mulberry Inn  
601 E. Bay St.,  
Savannah GA 31402  
Tel. 912-238-1200  
(in downtown Savannah)  
Rates: \$60 single - \$60 double

or at:

Ramada Inn - Civil Center  
201 W. Oglethorpe Av.,  
Savannah GA 31401  
Tel. 912-233-3531  
(in downtown Savannah)  
Rates: \$35 single - \$40 double



Three old men sitting on a park bench watched a gorgeous young redhead amble by. The first one said, "Boy I'd love to kiss her." The second one said, "Boy would I love to hug her." The third one said, "I'd love to kiss her and hug her, but tell me what was the other thing we used to do?"

JOHN KLUMP has been in and out of you-know-what (back to the Mayo in Rochester MN) for another hip: Recovering nicely - but it was touch and go for awhile. Sainted Hilda kept us nicely abreast with daily telecons over the 3 week agony. Thank you, Hilda.

Adjustment is watching the Late Night Show's "Remember Pearl Harbor" on a Sony.

Whether we'll be able to edit this little paper next year is a question. We have just received word that Mr. Dukakis wants to appoint us our Ambassador to Iran, and wants us to pack and go immediately.

**Though Others  
Have Forgotten**

United States Casualties  
KOREA  
25 June 1950 — July 1953  
54,236 DEAD  
103,000 WOUNDED  
8,177 M.I.A.'s  
7,000 P.O.W.'s  
3,450 Returned Alive  
51% Died in Prison Camps  
389 P.O.W.'s Unaccounted For

**We Shall Never Forget  
Our Comrades**



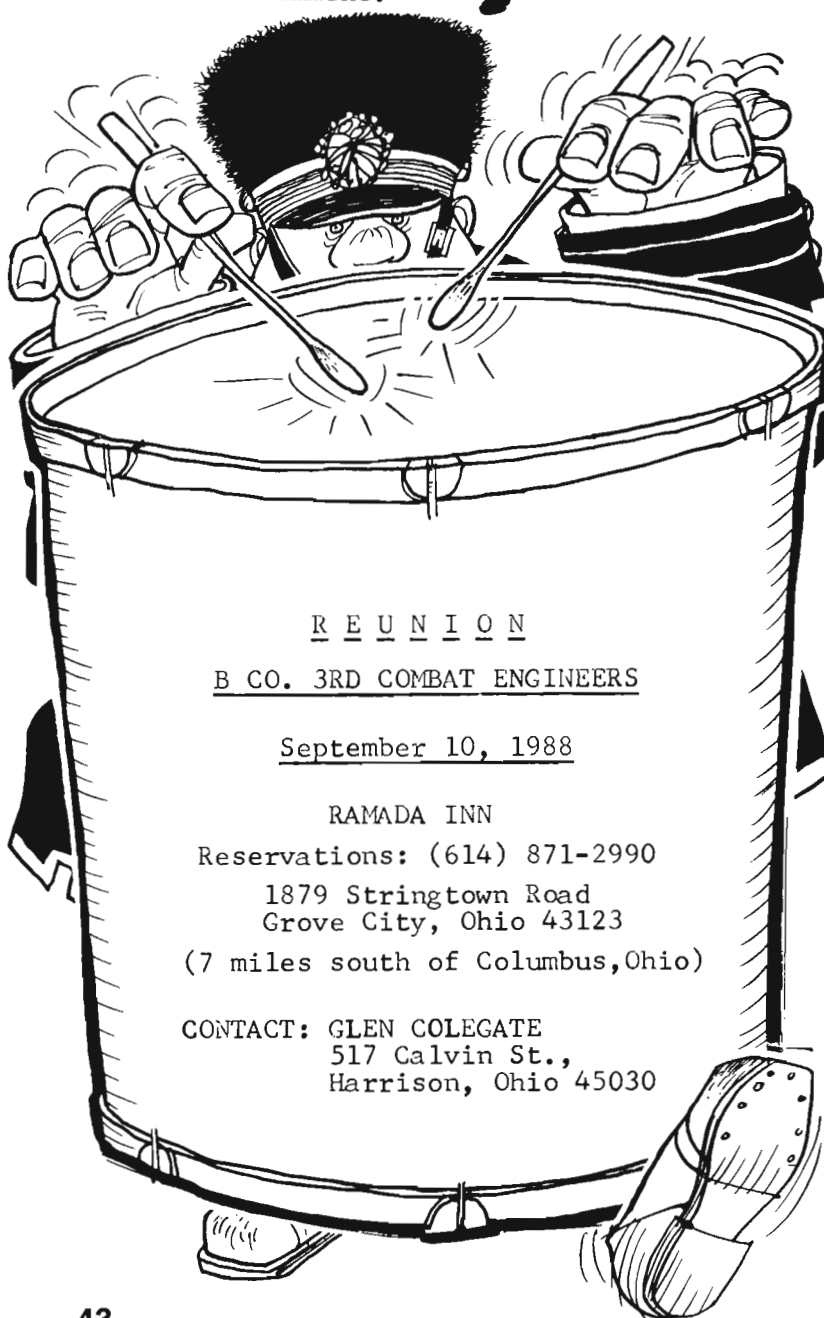
"You'd THINK THESE CLOWNS  
HAD NEVER SEEN A GUY  
BATHE BEFORE."

What a joy to "recruit" an active member of the Ft. Stewart command into our elite society. Meet CSM HASKEL L. LITTLEJOHN (HHC 5/32nd Armor - and 2d Brigade). He and Lola are on post - 7230-A Fraser Ct. - and we're looking forward to their being with us for the party.

About the only thing you can do on a shoestring anymore is trip.

New baby on the block - ADOLPH R. ETZLER, of Rt. 1, Motley MN (F 19th). Looking for contact with anyone who witnessed the ambush on Mindanao in July '45 where he caught h---, ending up with a back injury.

Kim Philby, the British traitor, died in Moscow recently. No comment. Burgess and Maclean who preceded him in defecting to Moscow each preceded Philby in death. More no comment.



# TONS OF THANKS

We'd be negligent beyond measure, if we didn't give you this report of generous contributions gratefully received since our last report. This list covers the period from 7/1/87 to 6/30/88. Thank you, gentlemen, and ladies, too.

Olsen, Fredrik T.	10.00	Finan, John J.	10.00	McNabb, Kenneth	4.00
Rosenbeck, Richard	10.00	Minnella, Thomas	5.00	McGinty, James M.	5.00
Beaver, Robert I.	5.00	Morrison, John	5.00	Ambrose, John A.Jr.	10.00
Skrzydlewski, Bernard	10.00	Hinkle, Donald R.	5.00	Potami, Joseph M.	10.00
Wagner, Howard W.	25.00	Upton, Thomas	100.00	Kresky, Raymond R.	50.00
Wilson, Robert A.	20.00	Kingsbury, Herbert	5.00	Dodd, Jack F.	5.00
Behrel, H.Gordon	5.00	Dailey, Homer E.	5.00	Nolan, Francis J.	20.00
McCall, Nathan	10.00	Brown, John A.	25.00	Spafford, Wm.	5.00
Smith, J. Fred	5.00	Tromley, Mrs. John (Violet)	20.00	Newkirk, Charles W.	20.00
Haukebo, Rudy	30.00	Calderon, Juan S.	10.00	Brown, Hugh A.	100.00
Hudson, Glen G.	10.00	Ross, Kenwood	6.00	Barget, Joseph H.	10.00
Flanagan, Charles J.	5.00	Ridge, Alfred	3.50	Hicks, Ernest W.	2.00
Bryson, Creighton	10.00	Cernansky, John	1.00	Leach, Kenneth L.	40.00
Guth, Loren	5.00	VonMohr, J.A.	20.00	Foster, Jesse L.	25.00
Brabham, Robert F.	25.00	Smith, Velmar F.	9.00	Davidson, Mrs. Wm.(Lorna)	25.00
Skinner, Franklin	18.50	Blacker, Kemuel K.	10.00	Hagerman, Russell A.	10.00
Sanger, John A.	25.00	Pyle, Russell V.	10.00	Gorman, Charles	15.00
Roussel, John S.	5.00	Jeffrey, Neil	10.00	Gazzara, Charles P.	10.00
Eustachy, Roger L.	5.00	Kerkhoff, Edward	20.00	Vermont, Renne	25.00
Gresko, Wm.	5.00	Olson, Milford A.	5.00	Kuhner, Wallace F.	1.50
Jordan, Chester	5.00	Guerrera, Michele	5.00	Phillips, Donald C.	2.00
Lea, Ben M.	10.00	Daugherty, Eugene	10.00	Stewart, Alvin	5.00
Marino, Michael	10.00	Prince, Nelson	5.00	Nicoletta, Salvatore	5.00
Whetsler, Wm. A.	5.00	Crosson, Hugh S.	50.00	Card, Charles	50.00
Anderson, Wm.E.	10.00	Schroeder, R.E.	5.00	Meyer, George	5.00
Livingston, Wm.T.	10.00	Reinick, Victor	10.00	McCool, Edward	1.00
Dybdahl, Charles	25.00	Keagy, James O.	25.00	McNabb, Kenneth	.50
Hallgren, Lauren	10.00	Loest, Dwayne A.	5.00	Voso, Edward J.	1.50
Lomax, David	20.00	Schaaf, Valentine	100.00	Olson, Milford A.	6.50
Clark, Lester L.	5.00	Subsak, Joseph	5.00	Royce, Roger	.50
Vaught, James B.	20.00	Stratton, Robert J.	5.00	Hood, C.W.	30.00
White, Carroll	20.00	Wipperman, Carl S.	10.00	Kostakis, John	5.00
Walas, Frank W.	5.00	Ten Eyck, John	5.00	Valerio, Sandy	5.00
Mayhew, Floyd N.	15.00	Smith, Sr., Bill J.	10.00	Tucker, David B.	10.00
Mohr, Henry	5.00	Juni, Elmer E.	10.00	Tacchi, Louis J.	6.50
		McKenney, John F.	5.00	Rickert, Daniel	1.50

VonMohr, Jerry	20.00
Braden, Jr., Albert	5.00
Korgie, Leonard F.	10.00
Guerrera, Michele	1.00
Johnson, Bob	3.00
McCarthy, Charles	5.00
Mullins, Wm.	10.00
Raitz, Gordon A.	5.00
Hane, Mrs. Lowell E.	10.00
Pence, Wm. L.	10.00
Cullison, George B.	50.00
Postma, James L.	11.50
Cain, Paul J.	6.50
Dick, Elmer D.	6.50
Woodman, Ernest A.H.	5.00
Rossie, Henry	10.00
Campf, Zanly	20.00
Hester, Weldon B.	5.00
Spence, Glen R.	5.00
Browne, Edward	5.00
King, Lloyd	5.00
Reynolds, Wheeler	10.00
Kirby, Raymond	5.00
Owens, Jim	10.00
Minkoff, Julius	50.00
Haywood, Major	50.00
Showen, Wm.	10.00
Lovell, B.A.	25.00
Newkirk, Charles W.	20.00
Wheeler, BG Lester L.	100.00
Dick, Dallas	100.00
Robinson, Edward	3.00
Pendarvis, Floyd	10.00
Kaefer, Charles E.	10.00
Tighe, Paul E.Jr.	6.50
Newkirk, Charles W.	1.00
Lewis, Willie T.	16.50
Simmers, Oliver	8.00
Skinner, Franklin	8.50
Nelson, Richard	10.00
Chase, Donald A.	5.00
Bender, Joseph R.	5.00
Williams, Donald	5.00
Jones, James B.	15.00
Morrison, John	5.00
Tyndal, Russell	5.00
Avery, Warren G.	100.00
Raszkowski, Raymond	6.50
Barnett, Wm. P.	20.00
Hubbard, Harry H.	6.50
Swanson, Wm.J.	1.50
Anderson, Wm.E.	10.00
Crombie, Peter B.	10.00
Goldstein, Norton	6.50
Podgorny, Gilbert	5.00
Phillips, Kenneth	5.00
Ring, Murl D.	5.00
Reinke, Richard E.	5.00
Nesbitt, Donald S.	3.00
Davenport, Leon	25.00
Ford, Buddy	5.00
Price, Frances (Mrs. Homer)	20.00
Bradley, Wm.	13.50
White, Bessie O.	10.00
Johnson, Earl W.	5.00
Ross, Kenwood	321.11
Fournier, Marcel	5.00
Llewellyn, Mrs. Wm.(Sherry)	5.00
Marinello, Antoinette	25.00
Frederick, Jr., James L.	25.00
Ross, Kenwood	20.40
Ross, Kenwood	100.00
Ross, Kenwood	2.00
Ross, Kenwood	14.62
Foster, Jesse L.	15.00
Ross, Kenwood	51.52
Ross, Kenwood	55.00
Ross, Kenwood	17.70
Ross, Kenwood	23.48
Haarn, Thomas A.	5.00
Dusseault, Francis A.	5.50
Hatmaker, Carl E.	10.00
Snow, James P.	1.00
Sabatine, Matthew	10.00
Mathis, J.E.	10.00
Kilgo, Robert	5.00
Janicek, Emil	5.00
Heiland, Harry	5.00
Froome, J.N.	23.00
Haywood, Major	50.00
Schroeder, Roy	3.50
Langone, Joseph	1.50
Selmi, Jr., Louis	2.50
Robbins, Carol	6.00
Finegold, Maurice	25.00
Cox, Cecil	2.00
Dick, Elmer	5.00
Tillis, R.W.	5.00
Love, Wayne	5.00
VonMohr, J.A.	25.00
Newkirk, Charles	20.00
Malone, Robert H.	25.00
Willis, Z.W.	5.00
Will, Mrs. James	10.00
Welch, John J.	50.00
Biggs, Richard C.	5.00
Frederick, James L.	2.00
Church, Robert	25.00
Simmers, Oliver	2.00
Club 13 -Boris Gergoff Memorial	22.00

Hardin, Robert B.	3.00
Visser, Harold	5.00
Heiland, Harry	3.50
Beier, John	100.00
Toney, Kenneth	5.00
Pederson, Hollis	5.00
Tandal, Lawrence	5.00
Rensberger, Jack R.	5.00
Mohr, Henry	15.00
Thompson, Wm.F.	15.00
Slanga, Sadie W.	10.00
Strang, Robert M.	5.00
Mack, James D.	10.00
Conway, James F.	5.00
Wilson, James Y.	5.00
Garlitz, Roderick	1.00
Smithwick, Martin	2.00
McKeon, Joe	1.00
Katz, Marshall	1.00
Watson, Richard	5.00
Mullins, Wm.	.50
Passwater, Howard	1.00
Ross, Kenwood	71.65
Ross, Kenwood	116.50
Ross, Kenwood	100.00
Ross, Kenwood	3.00
Ross, Kenwood	264.23
Ross, Kenwood	61.00
Ross, Kenwood	8.59
Ross, Kenwood	25.00
Boris Gergoff Memorial	200.00
Boris Gergoff Memorial	200.00
Grodecoeur, Francis for Boris Gergoff Memorial	20.00
Stuben, Richard A.	1.00
Flynn, Richard T.	20.00
Simmers, Oliver C.	6.50
Keyes, Wm.	30.00
Ford, C.Rucker	20.00
Wilson, Edward M.	15.00
Connolly, Richard	8.00
Bakewell, Thomas	100.00
Sesson, Michael P.	10.00
Cenga, Joseph	10.00
Ross, Kenwood	7.37
Ross, Kenwood	235.00
Ross, Kenwood	10.75
Ross, Kenwood	1.89
Ross, Kenwood	10.00
Ross, Kenwood	116.50
Ross, Kenwood	100.00
Gunn, Jack A.	20.00
Diskan, A.Elmer	5.00
Anderson, Wm.	5.00
Smith, Frank	5.00
Newman, Maj.Gen.Aubrey S.	100.00
Ross, Kenwood	97.20
Franke, Wm.A.	15.00
Owens, Jim	5.00
Irving, Maj.Gen.	100.00
Canty, Maurice J.	5.00
Ross, Kenwood	100.00
Ross, Kenwood	1.80
Ross, Kenwood	12.00
Ross, Kenwood	235.00
Wilson, Edward	25.00
Lopera, David	25.00
VonMohr, Jerry	50.00
Farmer, Edward S.	20.00
McDonnell, Josephine	20.00
Moomey, Malcolm D.	15.00
McReynolds, James L.	25.00
Smigel, Edward R.	10.00
Coffman, Allen	15.00
Johnson, Donald	15.00
Hudak, John	5.00
Summers, Col.H.G.	5.00
Walas, Frank	5.00
MacNider, John	4.75
Lane, William D.	10.00
Luedtke, Donald	10.00
Smith, Roland K. in memory of Joe Peyton	100.00
Mashay, Benny J. towards Korean Memorial	10.00
Carlson, Herbert C.	13.00
Henson, Delbert O.	5.00
Sutton, Grover J.	5.00
Wilson, Edward L.	2.00
Gardner, Robert F.	15.00
Simmers, Oliver C.	2.00
Dahlen, Chester A.	5.00
Vail, Edwin	5.00
McLawhorn, Herman H.	5.00
Phillips, Volney	10.00
Nelson, Robert T. in memory of Joe Peyton	15.00
Engstrom, Giles	2.00
List, Lee B.	50.00
Sanecki, John R. in memory of Boris Gergoff	10.00
Ross, Kenwood	56.50
Eadie, John	10.00
Boris Gergoff Memorial	200.00
Boris Gergoff Memorial	400.00
Potterton, Lloyd	5.00
Gillette, George R.	2.00
Robinson, Frank J.	41.50
Ross, Kenwood	140.00
Huff, Neal A.	70.00

Autin, Otis J.	15.00
Atkinson, Bronco	22.00
Habeeb, Victor	20.00
Robbins, Carol	5.00
Boris Gergoff Memorial	95.00
Newkirk, Charles W.	15.00
Spicer, Gene	10.00
Wallace, Dana	20.00
Williams, John E.	1.25
Hunt, Bobby J.	3.00
Wilson, Edward L.	1.25
Dailey, Homer	1.25
Luedtke, Donald	1.25
Moser, Robert W.	13.00
Simmers, Oliver	2.00
Ross, Kenwood	20.00
Lew, Eugene	20.00
Fentner, Ken	20.00
Vella, Vinnie	20.00
Fraser, Paul	25.00
Behrel, H.Gordon	25.00
Austin, Paul	5.00
Dick, Dallas	25.00
Pyle, Russell V.	10.00
Greene, Lawrence W.	25.00
Ross, Kenwood	200.00
Ackerman, Dale S.	5.00
Shay, John R.	20.00
Brown, Louis	25.00
Pacellini, Victor E.	25.00
Ross, Kenwood	23.15
Garber, Nelson H.	5.00
Card, Charles W.	20.00
Ross, Kenwood	17.85
Davenport, Leon	25.00
Heller, Francis H.	50.00
Marcangelo, Alfredo	5.00
Foster, Jesse	15.00
Bohmer, W.J.	15.00
Anderson, Jack	20.00
Keyes, William	20.00
Newkirk, Charles	20.00
Miller, Richard H.	15.00
Ross, Kenwood	32.40
Perry, Louis B.	5.00
Markow, Walter	10.00
Visser, Harold	1.75
Dougherty, William	5.25
Garofola, Sam	2.00

**IT WOULD BE A  
DREADFUL  
ERROR...**



**IF WE MISSED  
THIS CHANCE  
TO SAY  
THANK  
YOU!**



# 24th Signal uses semaphore, recalls lineage

*Soldiers are formed, called to attention, called to present arms and all the commands needed through the semaphore*

By Maurice Butler

The signalman stood in front of the formation with his arms outstretched, a flag in each hand. In swift movements as smooth as ripples in a pond, he crossed the two flags near his knees. The 24th Signal Battalion snapped to attention immediately and not an oral command had been given.

This was the way the entire 24th Signal Battalion change-of-command ceremony transpired as, in place of verbal commands, the semaphore was

incorporated. The new commander, Lt. Col. Arthur J. Hayes took over the reins of the battalion from outgoing Lt. Col. James L. Williams.

In remembrance of their proud lineage, dated to 1905, the semaphore, the use of signal flags to issue commands, was a historical twist to the changing of the guard.

The 24th Signal Battalion was organized on Jan. 6, 1905 at Bonicia Barracks, Ca. as Company L, Signal Corps.



# HELLO?

C.A. "Bud" COLLETTE thoughtfully sends us a squib on the B.S. written by Lt. Col. Harrison Lobdell, a former chief, Military Awards Branch, MILPERCEN. He oughta know.

Nice tho it is, it doesn't prove that all Taro Leafers of July - August '50 vintage, were awarded the B.S.

Here's what the Colonel wrote:

In a memorandum for President Roosevelt dated February 3, 1944, Gen. George C. Marshall, then Army chief of staff, pleaded strongly for a new Bronze Star decoration. Two years before, the Army had adopted the Air Medal to raise airmen's morale.

"The fact that the ground troops, infantry in particular, lead miserable lives of extreme discomfort and are the ones who must close in personal combat with the enemy, makes the maintenance of their morale of great importance," Marshall wrote. "The awards of the Air Medal . . . have had an adverse reaction on the ground troops, particularly the infantry riflemen who are now suffering the heaviest losses, air or ground, in the Army, and enduring the greatest hardships."

The following day, Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9419 authorizing the Bronze Star Medal to any person serving in the armed forces on or after December 7, 1941. The award recognized heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. Soldiers who had been cited in orders or awarded a certificate of exemplary conduct in ground combat were retroactively awarded the decoration.

The Bronze Star was awarded for the remainder of the war and for several years thereafter. However, a 1947 memorandum for Gen. Jacob L. Devers, commander of Army Ground Forces, concluded that Marshall's goal of recognizing infantrymen with liberal awards of the Bronze Star had not been attained. The memo, comparing statistics, showed the rate of Air Medals awarded was more than 20 times greater than that for Bronze Stars. The relative rates were: 1,000 Air Medals per 95 air corps casualties vs. 50 Bronze Stars per 105 casualties among the ground forces.

This finding led to the retroactive award of the Bronze Star to soldiers who had received the Combat Infantryman Badge or the Combat Medical Badge during the war. The basis for doing this was that the badges were awarded only to soldiers who had borne the hardships which initially sparked Marshall's support of the Bronze Star. Both badges required a recommendation by the commander and a citation in orders. On an individual basis, these awards are still being made today to veterans meeting the requirements.

World War II conversion awards of the Bronze Star Medal continued to be made in fairly large numbers throughout the Korean War. The medal, however, was not authorized as a conversion award for Korean War CIBs or CMBs.

When U.S. involvement in Vietnam became a reality, the executive order governing the Bronze Star was amended to authorize the award for "individuals serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party." The award was first authorized for use in September 1962. It saw extensive use as both a service and a heroism award.

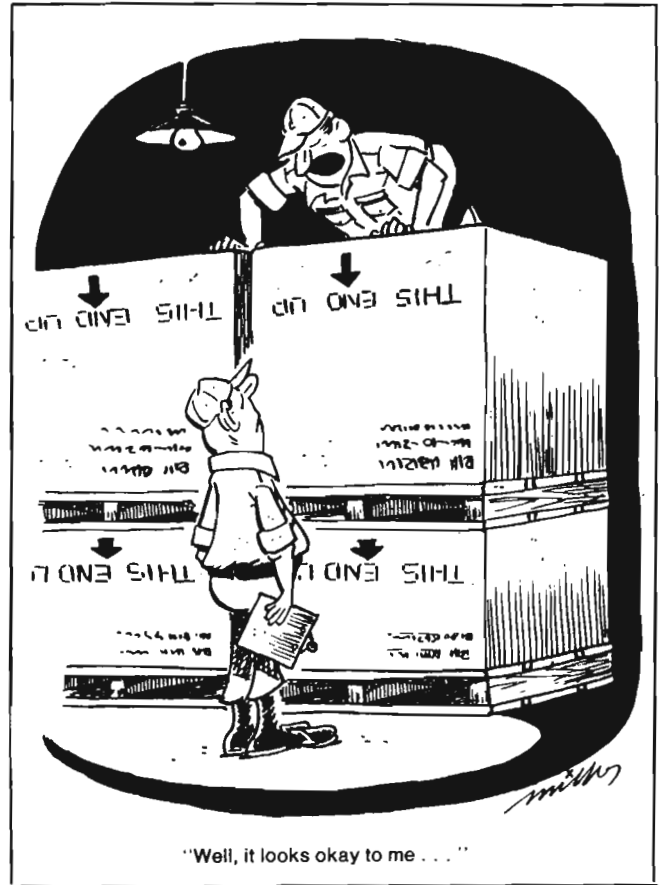
The "V" device that distinguishes the Bronze Star for heroism was first authorized in December 1945. It is not authorized for World War II conversion awards of the CIB, CMB, or citations in orders except when they specifically refer to acts of heroism.

The latest change affecting the medal came in September 1983. The secretary of the Army approved a special award of the Bronze Star to soldiers assigned to units awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for service on the Philippine Islands of Luzon and Corregidor from December 7, 1941, to May 10, 1942.

This action grew from efforts by air corps veterans to obtain the CIB for their service as provisional infantry with the allied defense forces. The secretary of the Army decided that the CIB was not the appropriate award. But, he ruled, the conditions of the defense of the Philippines warranted special recognition.

U.S. law and Army policy have established limits on the time which may transpire between an act, achievement or service and the award of a decoration. The Bronze Star as a World War II conversion award or as the special award for Philippine service is not subject to the normal time limits. (The Purple Heart is the only other decoration with no time limit.)

Consequently, when newspaper articles appear about World War II veterans receiving decorations, they are almost always Bronze Stars or Purple Hearts. That such awards are still being made and are still considered newsworthy is a tribute to the high esteem and great value placed upon the Bronze Star Medal.



"WOULD YOU MIND AWFULLY WAITING A MINUTE WHILE I SLIP INTO SOMETHING MORE COMFORTABLE?"

—Sgt. Irwin Caplan, Fort Knox, Ky.

# PUZZLE

Take a close look at the magic square and see if you can place the following five numbers so that each row (across, down and diagonally) adds up to 15.

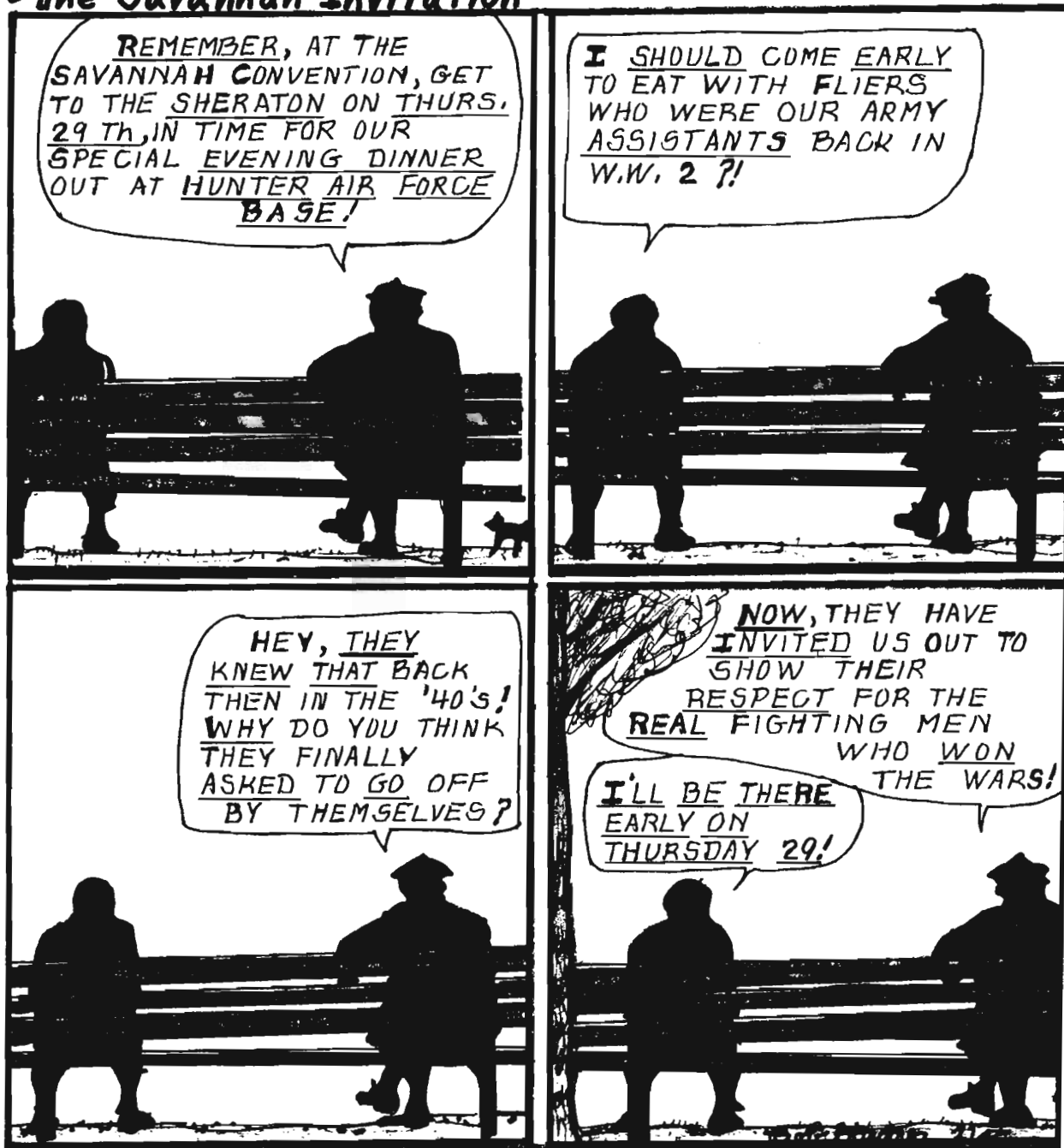
2, 6, 4, 5, 8

	1	
3	5	7
	9	

SHERATON SAVANNAH  
RESORT & COUNTRY CLUB



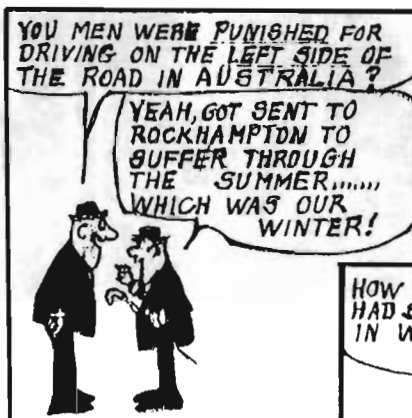
## The Savannah Invitation ~





E.C. "Andy" ANDERSON read about our coming attraction - Savannah. He didn't write, he called -- from 3028 Seeno Circle, Marina CA. He was 555 FA Bn - retired from the Army as an E-6 in '66.

As we go to press, Gladys LUMSDEN (Mrs. HOWARD) is home from hospital - recovering nicely at 167 Hickory, Wood River IL 62095 -- Tel. 618-259-5771.



Not every Division Association has its own cartoonist. Thanks, BOB GARDNER.

## ...AND INTO THE BATTLE

A news item was thoughtfully sent to us by PAUL HUNSBERGER (19th Chaplain '53-'54) of 9641 NE 24th, Bellevue, WA. Note how Paul lives on 24th St., that's loyalty for you. He's a retired United Methodist pastor. The item he sent in was about the DMZ in Korea. It went:

"Only the sound of birds comes from inside the 2½-mile-wide demilitarized zone (DMZ) that stretches 154 miles across the Korean peninsula. But on each side of the DMZ, established at the end of the Korean War in 1953, men at arms stand in a tense face-off. To the south are Americans and South Koreans; to the north, the North Korean communists, observing the world's longest-standing truce.

"The DMZ separating the two Koreas teems today with deer, pheasants, spectacular Manchurian crane and wild azaleas -- thriving unhindered on nature's bounty in a no-man's land.

"Lt. Dugald B. Campbell of the United States Navy says the zone has become an unplanned wildlife preserve. 'No one is allowed to shoot in the DMZ, and the animals know it,' he said. 'That's at least one benefit from the Korean deadlock.'"



"ENGINEER SOLDIER  
ON A SIGHT-SEEING-TOUR  
IN WAHOO!"

CARL L. CONNER (C 3rd Eng. - WW II) of 1025 Center, Mableton GA 30059, went deep into his scrapbook to come up with this one. Can't make out the artist's name but note he was a 3rd Eng. Love it, Carl.

Stephanie Bake of 7305 Pebblebrook Dr., Fayetteville NC 28314 called us with a seemingly sincere request. Says she "did not know my Father," PATRICK FLETCHER, a M/Sgt. and later a WO #1 with us in WW II and in Korea. Doesn't know his unit or units. Simply wants to find someone who knew her father -- a perfectly understandable request. Okay gang, anyone out there who can answer this call.

# SHHHH!

The VA has announced the discovery of 10 million military medical records that duplicate some lost in a '73 fire and said it would review disability claims that were rejected because of the lost files.

A fire at the National Personnel Record Center in St. Louis, destroyed or seriously damaged 18 million military personnel records. The lost records spanned the years '12 through '59 for United States, Army personnel and '47 through '63 for United States Air Force personnel.

The duplicate records cover the years '42 to '45 and '50 to '54, so will primarily affect veterans of WW II and the Korean War.

The records were collected by the National Research Council, a private research organization, during the 1950s as part of its analysis of Army hospital records. A researcher at the council came across the records.

Can you imagine not knowing that you've got more than 5 million files somewhere in your system? Some system!

The duplicate records are on computer tapes created by the council from punch cards prepared by the office of the Surgeon General from hospital admissions. The archives paid the council \$8662 for the tapes and would adapt them for cross-referencing.

The records were not listed by the individual's name, but contained the officer's serial number, grade and rank, age, date and place of admission as well as disease and diagnosis. Can you imagine not listing the records by the individual's name?

About 3.5 million files turned up for the year 1944 alone, covering about 2.4 million people. For 1945, 2 million files were discovered, covering about 1.4 million people.

But officials cautioned against the notion that millions of veterans would be affected by the discovery. R.J. Vogel, the chief benefits director for the Veterans Administration, said that most of the veterans who made disability claims did so during their initial years after service and probably would have filed claims before 1973.

Most likely to be affected by the discovery of the records are people with an injury suffered during active duty which was aggravated over the years, such as a back or heart ailment, Mr. Vogel said.

Read what ALFREDO MARCANGELO (C 34th '45 Zig Zag Pass; in Div. G-3 for Mindanao work) of 44018 Bannockburn, Canton MI has to say: "A few years ago, I gave my grandson my tarnished war ribbons which he cherished dearly. About a year later, they were stolen when their home was burglarized. It took me almost a year to get replacements. This time, V.A. sent me the actual medals. He was overjoyed.

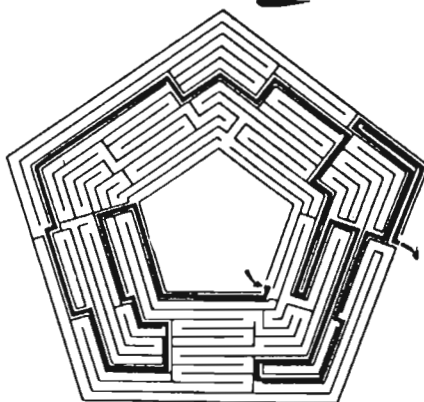
"I learned one thing from this experience. If one is entitled to the Combat Infantry Badge, he is automatically entitled to the Bronze Star which they also sent. I was amazed.

"If a person was never issued the original medals to which he was entitled, there is no charge. I ended up paying \$14.90 because I was unaware of the ruling. At any rate, it was a small price to pay to make one grandson, John V. Canar Jr. ecstatic. The medals are placed in a frame around a wartime snapshot of me and are proudly on display in my grandson's living room."

Interesting, Al. Thanx. On that BSM business, we ain't touching that with a 20' pole.

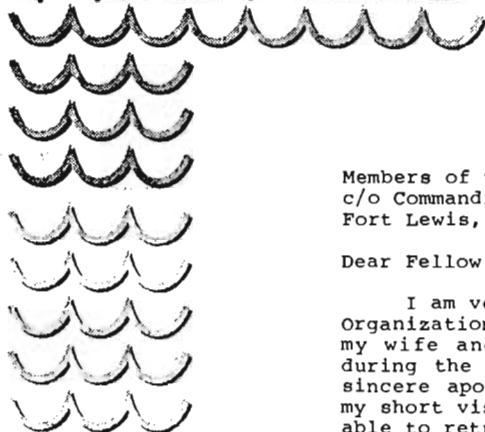
An employee who laughs at the boss's jokes doesn't necessarily have a sharp sense of humor -- but he certainly has a keen sense of direction.

You figure out the mess in Cuba. The island is in the Caribbean. The government's in Moscow. And the people are here.



Answer to that amazing maze - in case you need a solution - and, of course, you don't.

# MAKING WAVES



75 Myrtle Bank Road  
Hilton Head, SC 29928  
July 13, 1988

Members of the 11th Field Artillery  
c/o Commanding Officer, 1st Bn., 11th FA  
Fort Lewis, Washington, 98433-6621

Dear Fellow Members of the 11th:

I am very disappointed that I will not be able to attend the Organization Week activities of the Regiment during August, but my wife and I had already planned a 3-week trip into Alaska during the same period. So I must extend my deep regrets and sincere apologies for not being with you. I thoroughly enjoyed my short visit to Fort Lewis last summer and had hoped I would be able to return for a longer visit this year.

I have always had, and still have, a very special feeling for the 11th Field Artillery -- it is almost a part of me. I spent some of the most interesting years of my life and some of the most eventful years of our country's history with the 11th. At the risk of boring you with personal recollections, I would like to review briefly some highlights of those years. I think you will agree they were unique. Certainly, they were very exciting, challenging and unforgettable to me.

I joined the 11th Field Artillery Regiment as a 2nd lieutenant in 1940 and became part of the 11th Field Artillery Battalion when the 24th Infantry (Victory) Division was reorganized in October 1941. I was with the 11th at Schofield Barracks when the Japanese attacked Oahu on December 7, 1941. I commanded the 11th in its first combat landing of World War II in New Guinea and in subsequent landings on Leyte, Mindanao and Luzon (attached to the 38th Infantry Division) in the Philippines. I was with the 11th when the Japanese surrendered and when the 24th Infantry Division, along with other U.S. occupying forces landed in Japan in August 1945.

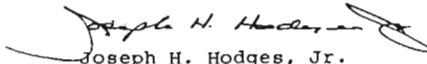
You members of today's 11th are part of a proud heritage extending back to World War I through World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Some of you are veterans of one or more of those wars and all of you have helped make the 11th an outstanding organization with a well-earned reputation for excellence. The Regiment's battle streamers and citations testify to its gallantry in combat, to include:

- 4 Army Presidential Unit Citations
- 1 Philippine Presidential Unit Citation
- 2 Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations
- 1 Valorous Unit Award
- 28 campaign streamers

But above everything else, I remember the 11th best as a remarkable group of confident, dedicated men bonded together by strong ties of mutual respect, determination and comradeship -- men of unswerving loyalty to their unit and to each other. I am sure it is the same today.

On the occasion of your Organization Week, I salute you and wish you the best of everything now and in the future. I especially want to congratulate you for being members of the 11th Field Artillery and to tell you how honored and proud I am to be named Honorary Colonel of such a distinguished Regiment.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph H. Hodges, Jr.  
Col., USA (Retired)  
Honorary Colonel  
11th Field Artillery

A nice, friendly note from Col. JOE HODGES, wonderful CO of the 11th Field in WW II. It goes:

"I know a lot of people, for good and valid reasons, do not like the new U.S. Army Regimental System (USARS) or, at least, object to some of its features. However, I believe that everyone will agree that the purpose of the program is good. Some of us directly involved, are doing what we can to carry out its objectives.

"Thought you would be interested in the attached.

Best regards,

Joe"

And the "attached," of which Joe spoke, was a copy of his recent letter to the 11th Field. Read it and you'll understand why we call good friend Joe "wonderful":



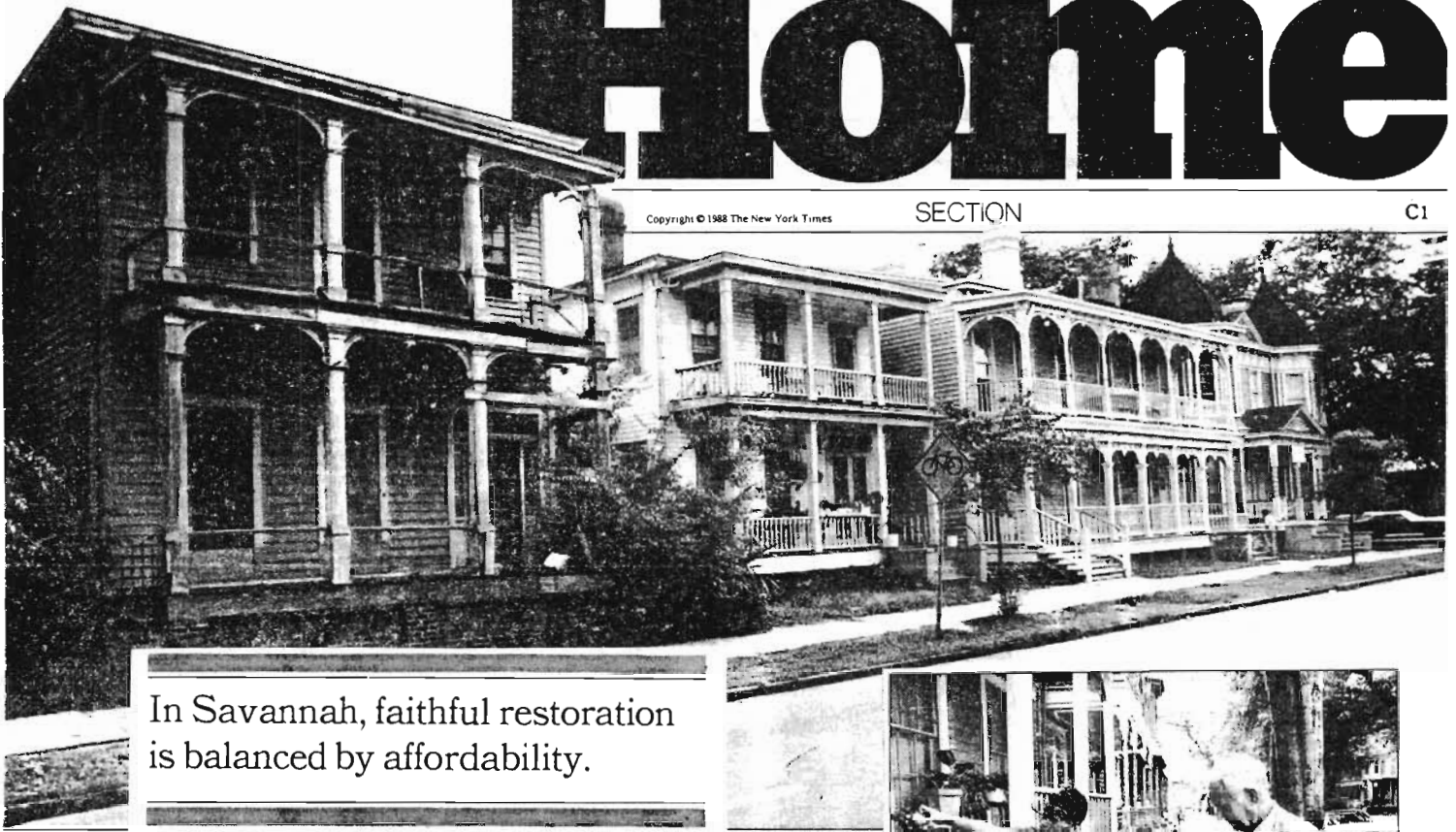


# Home

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SECTION

C1



In Savannah, faithful restoration is balanced by affordability.

Before and after on East Henry Street in Savannah, Ga.: two unrestored houses, left, next to structures restored by the Savannah Neighborhood Action Project. Lee Adler, who initiated the project, visits with residents, right.



## A Neighborhood Is Renewed While Its Residents Stay Put

By JOSEPH GIOVANNINI

**T**HESE are the hot, still days of summer that Ida Edmonson likes to spend on the front porch of her home on East Bolton Street here, in the company of a pitcher of ice water, a stack of newspapers, a sweeping electric fan and her children and grandchildren.

Potted plants line the wooden rail of her second-story porch overlooking the tree-lined street, where schoolboys on bicycles perform daring pirouettes. Teen-agers at a house across the street talk endlessly as they sit on the porch railing and lean against the clapboard.

The view from Mrs. Edmonson's porch is perhaps a common one in small towns across the nation, but for Mrs. Edmonson, a hospital and community volunteer, and 300 families in the Victorian District of Savannah, the ordinariness of it has been hard won. Fifteen years ago the 162-acre, 45-square-block neighborhood of frame and row houses was blighted — an inner-city neighborhood sliding toward overcrowding, landlord absenteeism and building decay.

Henry Fletcher, a retired city employee, pointed to a once abandoned lot on East Waldburg Street that is now occupied by a two-and-a-half-story frame building and observed, "That used to be like the city dump."

The 800 buildings of the Victorian District, many of which have bay windows, stained glass and decorative scroll and lattice work, were constructed from 1870 to 1910 just south of the core of the city, near what is now the National Historic District. Since 1974 they have been the focus of a preservation effort, the Savannah Neighborhood Action Project, that has resulted in the rebuilding of an area that Savannah's Mayor, John P. Rousakis, once described as the city's "most vexing problem."

"The project is among the most innovative in the United States, one of the first preservation projects to work at such a scale," said Stephanie Churchill, executive director of the Historic Savannah Foundation, a private, nonprofit preservationist group that started the restoration of downtown Savannah in the 1950's.

The success of the restoration of the downtown area created real-estate pressures on the adjacent Victorian District and necessitated an organized response. What developed was the Neighborhood Action Project, which is a partnership of for-profit groups and the Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project, a private, nonprofit community-development corporation.

Like similar programs in Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Shreveport, La., the Savannah project rehabilitates houses without displacing established residents. It includes building new small-scale frame structures on vacant lots in a style compatible with the Victorians, as well as rehabilitating existing houses; there are none of the large institutional buildings often associated with public housing.

Mrs. Edmonson, for example, moved to her newly renovated four-room apartment from a rundown apartment several blocks away. "I didn't want to live in a project," she said.

The rooms are generously sized. In the living room, Mrs. Edmonson chose long draperies cinched at the waist to accentuate the height of the ceiling; a portrait of the Rev. Jesse Jackson hangs prominently.

"These historic-district restoration projects have been among the best-kept secrets in America," said Carl B. Westmoreland, who headed the restoration project of the Mount Auburn Good Housing Corporation in Cincinnati. "People tend to view preservation as an elitist activity geared to historic monuments, not as a tool to revitalize inner city, low- to moderate-income neighborhoods."

According to Sally Oldham, vice president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, there are 700,000 buildings around the nation that are designated as historic, and among them are thousands that house low- and moderate-income families and that need rehabilitation. "There's a tremendous need

### In Savannah, rehabilitation is lovingly done.

to develop the buildings," she said.

Through 1982, the Savannah Neighborhood Action Project restored or built 300 units in the Victorian District. This fall, after a hiatus caused by cuts in Federal spending for public housing, the project is to start on 200 more units; 60 percent of them will be restorations and 40 percent will be new buildings.

"There is a glaring lack of Federal subsidies for housing, and what makes the project unusual and significant is the creative approach to financing," said Ghebre Selassie Mehreteab, vice president of the National Corporation for Housing in Washington. The corporation is a private development concern chartered by Congress to assist in a variety of public programs, including housing development. It is a general partner in the Savannah restoration project. "There are very few of these projects, and they're not easy," Mr. Mehreteab said.

The financial engineering that has made the work possible was undertaken by Lee Adler, a Savannah stockbroker, banker and preservationist who initiated the restoration years ago. His first step was to modify some ideas about inner-city development that originated in Pittsburgh and Cincinnati. He is president and founder of the Savannah Landmark Rehabilitation Project, whose staff of eight works in a rehabilitated Queen Anne mansion in the Victorian District.

"Lee is one of the few people who has doggedly kept up on financing to make this happen," Mrs. Oldham said of the restoration work. "The fact he's starting up in the fall is an achievement. The financing is all important; projects like this are not feasible without it. Lee looks at every source of below-market financing."

The new phase, which will cost \$7.2 million, is a patchwork of several programs: a Federal Housing Development Action grant; low-interest loans from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the city of Savannah and the Ford Foundation; loans from a national insurance company and funds raised through Federal tax credits.

Mr. Adler, who lives with his wife, Emma, in a brick town house on one of Savannah's many historic squares, seems to know each of the buildings involved in the restoration and many of their residents, too. As he showed a visitor around the district, the story of its comeback was not hard to see, as many dilapidated, sagging "befores" still stood next to sound, well-maintained "afters."

Nowhere is there a sense that the houses are owned and rented out by housing agencies: they look like family-owned homes in established neighborhoods. Neighborhood Watch signs are posted, indicating the neighbors know one another and look out for their streets. The municipal government has put in new brick sidewalks and street improvements. Since the project began, home ownership has risen to 20 percent, from 15 percent.

# A Neighborhood Is Renewed While Its Residents Stay Put

"A lot of development people would do a big building and keep it simple," said Ken Matthews, president of Historic Savannah Foundation, which oversees historic preservation work throughout the city. "Lee's acquired a lot of property and has been willing to restore rather than raze the buildings."

"I've never found a house we couldn't repair, unless it was burned," said Mr. Adler.

Most buildings have required substantial work, including new foundations, interior walls, plumbing and electricity. The per-unit cost for acquisition has averaged \$7,000 to \$10,000, and for restoration, \$35,000.

"Inside we tried to re-establish the original layout and the architectural features — the decorative trim, the high ceilings, the wooden floors," Mr. Adler said.

The two-story, five-room row house occupied by Della Gray, for example, has exposed heart-of-pine floors and stairs, and a railing and beaded-wood wainscoting that was stripped to the natural finish. Mrs. Gray has furnished her old house with old things.

"I have nothing but old-time stuff," she said proudly, pointing to a china cabinet full of antique dishes. Upstairs, in the master bedroom, she keeps two portraits of John F. Kennedy. When Mr. Adler visited the house recently, Mrs. Gray took the opportunity to point out that a column of her front porch needed repair.

"We're dealing with the responsible poor," Mr. Adler said later. "Our occupants are screened. Most come from the Victorian District, and they must need the housing."

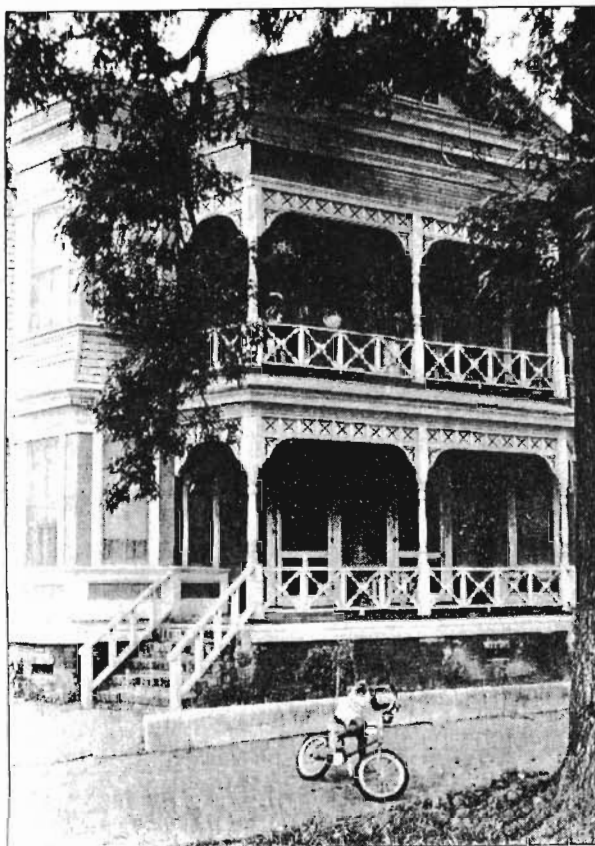
In the project to be started in the fall, the income of a family of four living in a two-bedroom apartment cannot exceed \$17,000; in the earlier projects, income had to conform to standards established by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. Residents are taught how to care for the homes before they move in, though general maintenance is done by Savannah Landmark. Tenants have their own council, which deals with community problems.

Beyond the difficulty of financing preservation is how to restore the houses themselves; their status as historic buildings qualifies them for special financing but also requires accurate restoration.

"The challenge is to balance the goals of affordability and accurate restoration," said Mr. Matthews of Historic Savannah. "We're continuing to work with Savannah Landmark on designing the project."

The goal of historic preservation, of course, goes well beyond whether to use vinyl siding. Mr. Westmoreland of the Mount Auburn project in Cincinnati said he believed preservation was a way of giving political clout to minority groups who live in older neighborhoods.

"There's a need to put money and technical assistance into the hands of minorities all over the country, to develop the preservation of their own communities," he said. "Unless we own it, we won't have political power. Ownership puts you in the political stream, and it's much more effective and lasting than the social equality of eating a hot dog at a lunch counter."



The second-floor porch of Ida Edmonson's apartment, top, overlooks East Bolton Street in Savannah. Inside, Mrs. Edmonson sits in her spacious living room, which has tall ceilings and natural wood floors.

## SHIRTS

### For the Fastidious Male

Profusely illustrated below by our own artist, Salvage-Drive Charley, are two of our most persnickily models, especially tailored in our own shops, on our own machines, with our own power, by our own craftsmen, with the taxpayers' money. Clever, we are.



#### A. THE "CASUALIER"

For the casual, comfortable life, the "Casualier" combines practicality and economy with the following features:

**ARM-PIT POCKETS.** Convenient for keeping cigarettes moist or incubating eggs.

**THE NEVER-WEAR COLLAR.** Remember our slogan: "Your neck will never touch it."

#### B. THE "STIFLER"

There is solid companionship in the shirt. It will follow you around closer than a three-day hang-over. Should be worn only under the close guidance of a competent physician.

For Shirts That Try, It's  
**ARMY SUPPLY**

# Wow!!!

## The Military

# Now Chiefs Fight for Command Nobody Wanted

By BERNARD E. TRAINOR  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 21 — Nothing perks up the Pentagon faster than news of a disagreement within the Joint Chiefs of Staff, particularly if it is a division over which service will fill a vacancy in the senior command. It's like the Army-Navy football game. The outcome is viewed as a matter of service pride by officers of all grades.

This summer has been particularly hot here, and so has the competition between the Army and the Navy to provide the replacement for Gen. George B. Crist of the Marines, who will step down this fall as commander of the United States Central Command. As Centcom's commander, he is the overseer of all United States military activities in 19 countries of the Middle East, Africa and the Persian Gulf.

A longstanding gentlemen's agreement among the service chiefs called for an Army general to relieve the Marine. But reality intervened in the form of the Iran-Iraq war. With the redesignation of 11 Kuwaiti tankers as American vessels a year ago, the Central Command was transformed from a land-oriented organization into a major naval command.

### Navy Challenges Army

After that, it was no secret around the Pentagon that many admirals were unhappy that anybody but a Navy man was in overall command of what they saw as a Navy show. So this summer, the Navy challenged the Army's turn at bat.

Army officers responded testily, pointing out that there is more to Centcom than the Persian Gulf. "How many ships can they sail into Jordan?" asked one colonel, outraged at the Navy's challenge.

Tradition, it seems, will prevail.

A senior Pentagon official said earlier this week that Secretary of Defense Frank C. Carlucci intends to recommend to the President that Lieut. Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans on the Army staff become the next commander.

But regardless of who leads it, the Central Command is viewed as something that grew like Topsy and is a misfit in the Pentagon's organizational charts.

### A Once Unwanted Command

According to those familiar with its history, it is a command the Joint Chiefs of Staff did not want. It has few military forces of its own and must call upon those in the United States or from other theaters, such as the Pacific and European commands, when it faces a military threat.

Unlike the other geographical commands, which have headquarters in their areas of responsibility, Centcom's headquarters is in Tampa,



Gen. George B. Crist, left, commander of the U.S. Central Command, and Lieut. Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, his probable successor.

## The Iran-Iraq war changed the nature of a Pentagon misfit.

Fla., because no Middle Eastern nation was willing to be its host.

The origins of the Central Command go back to 1979 when the Shah of Iran was overthrown and his country was in turmoil as a result of the Islamic revolution. Fearful that the Soviet Union would take advantage of Iranian instability and try to gain control of the Persian Gulf oilfields, President Jimmy Carter in his 1980 State of the Union Message declared the Persian Gulf of "vital interest" to the nation and announced that the United States would use force to protect its interests.

To provide a military capability to back up the President's policy in the Gulf, a command designated the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force, which was to be a precursor of Centcom, was formed.

Because the new command was oriented toward opposing a ground invasion of Iran, neither the Navy or Air Force was interested in commanding it. The Joint Chiefs concluded that an officer skilled in ground operations should run it and agreed informally

that command would alternate every few years between the Marines and the Army. The Air Force agreed to always fill the deputy billet and the Navy, lukewarm to the whole task force idea, settled for some key staff jobs.

### Hardly Any Forces to Command

Paul X. Kelley, a three-star Marine general, was the first commander of the newly formed Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force, but aside from a few small Navy ships in the Persian Gulf, there were no forces for him to command, just a small headquarters. Nonetheless, he was told to draw up plans to defend Iran against a Soviet invasion with the assurance that forces from the United States and overseas bases would be made available if the Russians or others caused trouble in the region.

When General Kelley was reassigned to Washington in 1981, Lieut. Gen. Robert Kingston of the Army took over, in accordance with the initial agreement.

Against the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who viewed the command as primarily a contingency headquarters, Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger in 1983 elevated the Joint Task Force to the status of a geographic theater command equal to the European, Atlantic and Pacific commands and assigned it the imposing title of United States Central Command. He also promoted its commander to four-star rank.

Technically the command billet was then open to nomination from any of the services, but historically each theater is headed by an officer from the service having the paramount interest in the area. The European Command is always under an Army or Air Force officer, while the Pacific Command is reserved for the Navy.

The land-oriented role of Central Command had not yet changed, but Army officers contended that the original gentlemen's agreement was no longer binding. They argued that the greatly enlarged command was the natural province of the Army, which they said was better able than the Marine Corps to conduct large-scale operations and to oversee military assistance.

### Honoring Original Commitment

The Chief of Staff of the Army at the time, Gen. John A. Wickham Jr., overrode those objections, however, and honored the original commitment in 1985 when General Kingston of the Army retired and its current commander, General Crist of the Marines, took over.

But then the situation within the region changed dramatically and with it the role played by the services. The Soviets, who seemed such a threat to the Persian Gulf region in 1980, were bogged down in Afghanistan and showed no appetite for a similar adventure in Iran.

As a result, Centcom staff officers in Tampa no longer wrestled with plans to defend Iran's Zagros mountains against Soviet mechanized divisions. Instead, attention shifted to the waters of the Persian Gulf as the tanker war between Iran and Iraq heated up.

A dispute developed soon after the Navy was involved in actual fighting in the Gulf. Stung by criticism of the Navy's performance, including being caught short in dealing with mines in the Gulf, the American admiral commanding the Pacific fleet, James A. Lyons Jr., headquartered in Hawaii, expressed doubt that Central Command had the ability and experience to command naval forces in the inland waters of the Persian Gulf.

Admiral Lyons, who has since retired, maintained that his command outside the Gulf should direct those forces. The General Crist of the Marines countered by saying that all forces in and out of the Gulf were in support of his operations and that, for the sake of unity of command, his authority should be extended seaward to include the Pacific Fleet ships offshore in the Indian Ocean.

The Pentagon solved the problem with the wisdom of Solomon. It named Anthony A. Less, an admiral serving in the Pacific Fleet, as joint commander for all forces on either side of the Strait of Hormuz. But it put him under the direct command of Central Command in Tampa.

Our hard-working Vice President BOB ENDER is holding forth "on stage" before a spellbound audience.

Lessee if we can listen in.

"Because of the Thursday night luau, 'it is desired' (to use old Army terminology!) that you arrive in Savannah by early afternoon, so that you will have time to register, then board a bus for Hunter. The reason behind switching this luau from the usual Friday night time to Thursday is due to the fact that we will be at Stewart all day Friday. Too long a day! When we were in our twenties, such a schedule would have been relished, but, now that we are in our sixties and seventies, it is necessary to 'improvise' (to use another Army expression!) when scheduling events.

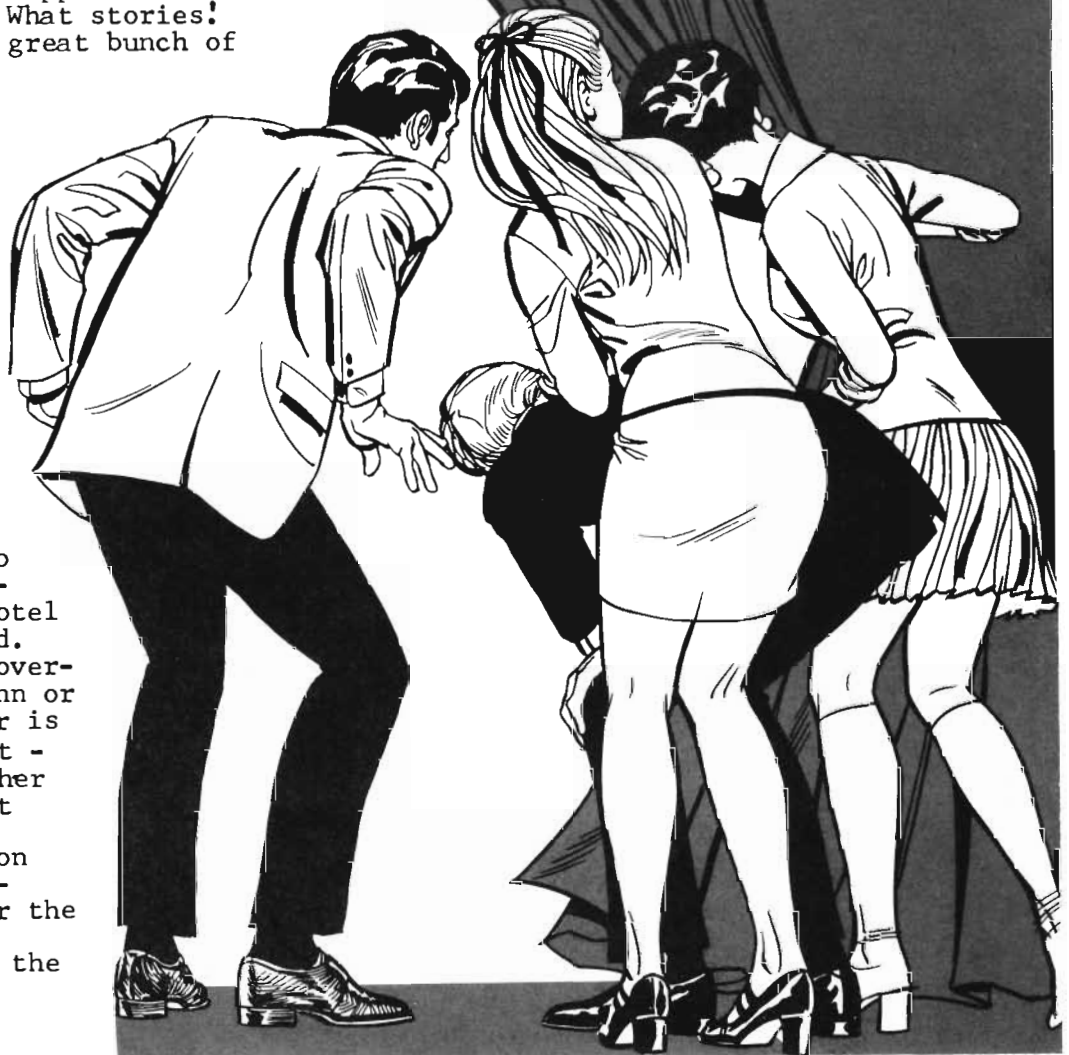
"Each year there are more early bird arrivals and, as a result, the hospitality room will start hospitalizing on Wednesday afternoon. And you know what happens in the hospitality room! Wow! What stories! What comraderie! What a great bunch of guys and gals!

"It costs bucks to attend these annual reunions, but, value-wise, we feel that you cannot afford not to attend this year. The room rates are excellent, food prices are very nominal when comparing quality, prices and service with fine hotels in other major cities. The fact is that we have the entire Sheraton Savannah, with all its facilities, all to ourselves. There will be no outside groups or individuals booked into this hotel during our reunion period.

"And the necessary overflow into the Mulberry Inn or Ramada in Savannah proper is suggestive of our biggest - and happiest - get-together ever. One hotel couldn't hold us.

"Now we're working on plans for getting you between the Mulberry and/or the Ramada and our CP, the Sheraton Savannah out on the island (Wilmington) - so don't panic."

Okay, Bob, we're giving you "the hook". You're all done. You've had it!!!









You've gotta admit - William K. Lane, Jr., writing for the 7/26/88 W.S.J. (Wall Street Journal) packs a wallop.

## Vietnam Vets Without Hollywood, Without Tears

By WILLIAM K. LANE JR.

Movies about Vietnam are the latest phase in Hollywood's nonstop assault on the American spirit. The films are often accompanied, in the print media and on TV, by advice from Vietnam veterans groups, "outreach" organizations, and the like, that we who fought in that conflict should see these movies only with a "support group." One organization advised us not to see "Platoon" alone; another cautioned us to spend time "decompressing with friends after it." We've been told about the danger of "nightmares" and warned of the ultimate horror: "flashbacks." Jane Fonda, our dart-board version of World War II's Betty Grable, claims she and a group of veterans "wept" in a theater lobby after seeing the movie.

Excuse me while I barf.

This ludicrous blubbing and psychobabble has puzzled me for 17 years. Every unveiling of a Vietnam memorial on TV news seems to star the same two central-casting vets wearing fatigues—both bearded, one with pony tail—hugging each other and sobbing. It's embarrassing.

The other image is created by the cultural termites in Hollywood: the American soldier in Vietnam as racist, neurotic, drug crazed, feral, a hopeless pawn of a rotten society sent to fight an unjust war. Even the cartoonish Rambo character is a societal misfit, a mumbling killer exorcising his demons in a revenge ritual.

The vast majority of men who fought in that war—people like me—simply do not fit any of those images. Many of us are embarrassed by them, especially in the presence of veterans of Iwo Jima and Midway and Pork Chop Hill—most of whom saw much more horror than Vietnam soldiers ever did and managed to continue their lives without whining, acting nutty, or looking for a free ride.

This is not to say that Nam was not a searing experience. Indulge me as I present some images I dredged up in an attempt to stimulate a few "flashbacks."

I arrived in Vietnam in early 1968, as green as the beret I wore, and was assigned to the Special Forces "A" team that had the dubious distinction, two weeks later, of being one of the first attacked during the Tet offensive. My memories of that battle are of the incredible roar and chaos that occurs when two rifle companies open up on each other; of a day and a night pinned down behind tombstones in a Buddhist cemetery; of picking up a terrible sweet smell for the first time and knowing instinctively that it was death.

I remember an old French priest who insisted I follow him during a lull in the battle because he wanted me to see a "bullet" in his church. The bullet turned out to be a howitzer shell that had come through an open window and embedded itself in the steps of the altar without exploding. We got "the bullet" out for him when things calmed down a week or so later, but I do remember genuflecting as I left the church in awe, and then going back to the grim work.

I can still see the terror in the eyes of the North Vietnamese prisoners brought before me. I was the first American they had ever seen, tall and blond (then), and undoubtedly going to kill them. They nearly collapsed in relief when I handed each of them a few of my Luckies and told them, "No sweat."

I remember the exhilaration brought about by extreme fatigue and our victory over the North Vietnamese regiment that had invaded our area. And I recall the curses, the hatred we felt when the New York Times clips arrived claiming the Vietnamese and American victory in the Tet offensive was actually a defeat.

There were other vignettes that haven't faded: A boy in a nearby village with a twisted foot caused by a badly-healed break. We begged his mother for months to let us take him into Nha Trang and have it fixed. Finally she relented, tearfully, not quite trusting us. Our medic sneaked the boy into an American hospital under care of a doctor who was part of our conspiracy. We gave him back to his mother, in a cast, with a leg as good as new. The whole village got drunk with us.

We got drunk on Thanksgiving day as well, after the giggling Vietnamese told us the "deer" we had eaten with them for Thanksgiving dinner was actually a dog.

I remember trying to cram a year of good times into a week of R&R in Singapore, and then landing back in Vietnam at the air base, hung over and depressed, only to be mortared in the terminal.

But many of the starkest of memories are the bad ones. A newly married lieutenant dead after less than a week in the country, a sergeant killed in a firefight when another American shot him accidentally, piles of dead North Vietnamese, dead South Vietnamese, dead Montagnards, a dead old man in his bed in a house wrecked by battle; heat, fear, concussion, the frenzy of fighting out of an ambush.

Bad things, but no worse than many other bad things in life: car wrecks, the

death of loved ones. Being fired probably can be as traumatic as being fired upon. And besides, Nam was a long time ago.

I still know where a few of my teammates are. I get a few cards at Christmas. Sometimes I see one or two and hear about others. Some did a few more tours in Nam after I left. A couple are still in the Army. Some have done better than others, but I'll bet you this: None of them would need a "support group" to go see a movie. None of them would indulge in prattle about "post-traumatic-stress disorder" and how it caused them to beat up their wives or wet their beds. None of them would be a party to the Agent Orange hustle.

And none of them would go to an Army-Navy surplus store and buy jungle fatigues and put them on and hug each other and cry for the cameras because no one gave them a parade.

The men I knew in Vietnam didn't hate each other because of race. We weren't on drugs. We didn't murder civilians. We didn't hate the Army or LBJ or our country. We didn't feel America owed us a free ride because we spent time defending it. We were our own "support group" over there. We don't need one here.

I've met hundreds of Viet vets over the years, and I've yet to encounter one who fits the prevailing stereotypes. There are veterans from all our wars who are sick or depressed or drug addicted, and by all means they deserve our help and comfort. Those who were legitimately disabled deserve a special, revered status in our society. But can't we stop the fictional stereotyping that simply doesn't fit the majority of Vietnam veterans?

Some of the bravest and best men that ever wore an American uniform fought in that war. They deserve better than to be caricatured by Hollywood and represented in the media as a legion of losers.





Are we glad to report this one --  
BG MILLER O. PERRY "went back" -- and  
here's his report:

"Here are three snaps that were taken during the May Korean Revisit Program sponsored by the Korean War Veterans. We had 24 (a good number) in our group who had five nights and four days in Seoul and vicinity visiting the Korean National Cemetery, Olympic complex, Inchon Landing Museum, Korean War Museum, Panmunjom, Imjin War Museum area, and several other places to include the Kyongbok Palace, National Central Museum, and the Korean Folk Village. The Korean Veteran Association (KVA) President, General So. ROK Army, retired, entertained the group for cocktails and dinner during one evening at the ROK Army Officers Club. Group members paid for their flight fares and KVA furnished hotel rooms, meals and bus and guides during the trip.

Korea has changed greatly in the 38 years since I last visited it. It is in an accelerated development phase and the network of freeways, plants, offices and apartments that are being constructed is truly astonishing.

I stayed on for four days and Major General Yoon, who had been a special staff officer attached to my 52 FA Bn during July and August 1950, drove me to familiar locations at Osan, Chonan, Chochiwon, Kum River, Ansong, Yondok and the Naktong River. It was a nostalgic visit and trip and brought back many memories."



Brig.Gen. M.O. PERRY, USA Ret., left, (then Lt.Col. 52d FA Bn) Korea '50-'51, and Col. Chester F. Cotter, USAR ret. (then Lt. and Comm. O. 1st Bn. 21st Inf. Regt.) Korea '51-'52, at the US War Monument, Injin War Museum area. Cotter and Perry were the only Taro Leafers in the group.



Maj.Gen. Seung K. Yoon, ROK Army ret., left (then Capt. ROK Arty. and attached to 52d FA Bn during July and Aug. 1950) and Brig. Gen. M.O. PERRY (then Lt.Col., 52 FA Bn) at the UN Monument, Suwon, the location of the initial action by the 24th Inf.Div. in Korea.



# RIGHT UP FRONT



Cataracts for  
JOHNNY CASHMAN  
(21st '42-'46)  
of 181-D Cross-  
ways, Mid-  
Florida Lakes,  
Leesburg FL.  
"So far so good"  
is his quote.  
Meet the hand-  
some chap - and  
his lovely  
Christine.

Five months of hospitalization for poor  
FRANK MANKOWSKI - diabetes, heart, by-pass,  
malignancy in bladder, amputation of 2  
toes. Marie keeps us informed from  
29 Lincoln, Kings Park NY. Frankie was  
C 21st '40-'41.

## beyond words:

Faye Jordan, a wonderful friend of poor  
GEORGE DUMLER has asked us to write this  
sad note as she has written it -- and we  
oblige -- wish it didn't have to be  
reported at all:

"Staff Sergeant, George J. Dumler of  
Co. F 34th Inf., Infantryman Squad Leader,  
Nov.44-Dec.46) expired on Feb. 29, 1988  
in the VA Hospital in Miles City MT.  
Sgt. Dumler died from complications associa-  
ted with a nine-month battle of throat  
cancer. He was interred in Custer Ceme-  
tery, Custer, MT. George was admired,  
respected, and loved by all who knew him  
in Custer, MT where he lived and now rests  
in final peace. His demise leaves behind  
heartfelt grief that is lessened only by  
the warmth George radiated to those he  
loved. To all of Co. F 34th, George spoke  
of you often and was proud to be one of  
the 24th Inf.Div. You were an integral  
part of George's life as he was mine.

"J.Faye Jordan

*Faye Jordan*



Inscription on the UN Monument at  
Suwon. This monument was dedicated  
by Brig.Gen. Smith about two years ago.  
The English translation, a bit hackneyed,  
reads:

### MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTION

As the vicious troops of the North Korean  
Army crossed the 38th parallel  
U.S. troops were ready to fight to preserve  
freedom of world  
Determined to punish the aggressors  
Lt.Col. Smith's special task force stood  
on Jonni pass  
Supported by the 17th regiment of the Republic  
of Korean Army  
The First Korean and UN Forces joint  
operation commenced  
Blood formed a stream after over six hours  
of fierce struggle  
Firing lines stretched as far as the  
Nakdong River  
While forlorn souls sleep on this hill  
How can we forget our friendship with  
Allied nations created in blood.

Thank you, General Perry,  
for representing us on your trip  
"back" -- Thank you, too, sir,  
for this fine report.

# SMART BEAUTIFUL

Smart and beautiful Kathryn Ann Lechmanik, granddaughter of former Sgt. JOHN T. BRADY of C 21st, has won the Teen Division of the Young Miss of America State Pageant for the State of PA. She will receive an all-expense paid trip in HI where she will enjoy seven days in the sun and on the beaches of Waikiki. While there she will compete for the National Title of Young Miss of America and its awards of over \$25,000 in cash, prizes and scholarships.

The winners of the Young Miss of America competitions are judged on personal interview, ability to communicate, poise, personality and good grooming. There is no score for physical beauty; the focus is on inner qualities and learning.

Although only one girl will win the National Title, many other scholarships are given: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th runners-up; Talent Winner, Miss Congeniality, Academics Winner, State Costume, Volunteer Service, and Miss Photogenic.

The most exciting aspect of the seven day stay in HI is the collection of the most outstanding young ladies in the U.S. Kathi's grandfather presently resides in Pittsburgh PA and is very proud of her. If you wish to congratulate him, you may get in touch with him at 1026 Chartiers Av., McKees Rocks PA 15136.

Kathi is looking forward to seeing first hand the beautiful Hawaii that her grandfather has told his many tales about for so many years.

Johnny, you've got a winner here. Kathy, if we could we'd give you 2600 of our votes right now. Good luck!

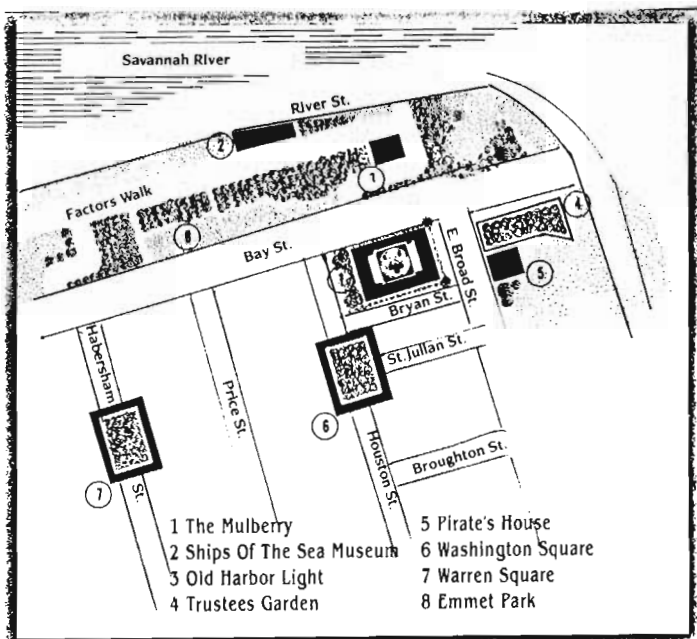
Why does RR insist that he hasn't raised taxes in the last 8 years when every department and agency under him has been raising its fees for anything and everything, such as licenses, registrations, etc., etc. Most glaring example of the lie is the Postal Service and its jump to 25¢ per iddy-biddy envelope. Remember when it was 2¢? We do. If that isn't TAXATION, what is?

Sad words out of 140 S. 25th St., Pittsburgh PA. BERNIE SKRZYDLEWSKI (C 52nd Field): "Cancer getting me down. Can't write. Only print." How about a line to this old soldier?



The Mulberry is a one-of-a-kind luxury hotel that combines authentic Savannah lodging of the late 19th century with contemporary amenities. From its richly appointed 125 rooms and suites to the beautiful courtyard, Riverview Deck, swimming pool with cabana bar, gourmet restaurant featuring fine cuisine Victorian-era Mulberry Bar, and personalized service. The Mulberry is truly an unforgettable experience.

# Nobody asked me, but...



The Mulberry is in the Northeast corner of Savannah. Their regular tariffs are singles \$85.00 - doubles \$95.00. For us, \$60.00 single or double!

How many times this story is repeated. ALLEN COFFMAN (M 21st WW II) of 414 E.7th, Cherokee OK, is driving his car in Oklahoma City when ARRON STEWART spots the Taro Leaf decal and makes himself known. The rest is history.

The world is simply moving too fast. We now have a grandfather-grandson team in our membership. Gramps is LEON B. WILSON, (M 19th '37-'42), now of 16 Kilani, Wahiawa HI. The "kid" is RICHARD A. BURKLUND (C & Hq.Co. 1st Bn. 19th '84-'87). Talk about this outfit becoming a family thing!



There's a great story here - but we want you to read it just as GORDIE BEHREL (Hq. Co., & 2nd Bn Hq. Co. 19th '43-'45), wrote it. Here goes:

In March, my wife and I were in Taro land on the island of Kauai. While playing golf, we were paired up with another couple. I asked the gentleman when the first time he was in Hawaii was. The response - 'Army 1943'. I pushed forward - 'What Div?' '24th' - 'What Reg?' '19th' 'Where were you October 20, 1944?' - 'Red Beach.' I said, 'You and I were just yards apart on the beach at Leyte.' He is PRESTON J. BAILEY of Wilsonville, Oregon. Then asst. Adj. Hq. 19th Inf. I was operation Sgt. Hq. 1st Bn 19th Inf. The talk went from golf to days of yore - 43 plus years ago. I believe he told me that, other than Lt. Magill from the 19th, I was the only person from the 24th he had met in all those years.

The enclosed picture is the two of us in beautiful Hawaii (I know you don't care for color prints) (Ed. note: You can say that again.)

The enclosed check is for postage and a small token of appreciation for another year of excellence. Thanks for the great Taro Leaf. (Ed. note: You can say that again, too, Gordon. Many thanx.)

That's Gordie on the left; Preston on the right, natch.

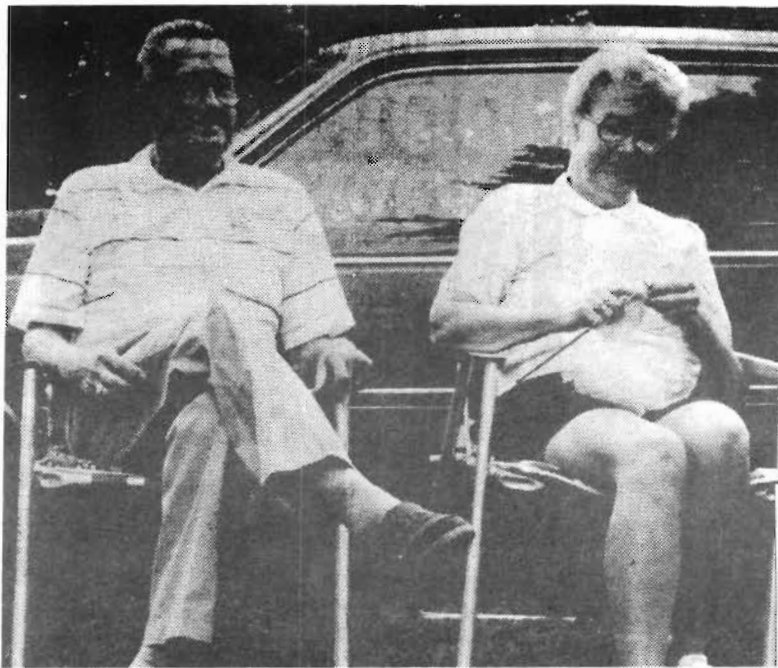
# Nobody asked me either, but...

Are rebates nature's way of telling you that you should have bought something else in the first place?

Why are so many "sports immortals" dead?

"Quadruple by-pass -- a piece of cake -- everything fine" -- that's the word from JOHNNY VENEZIA, 6724 Ord. '50-'51) of 9 Valley View Dr., Rockaway NJ.





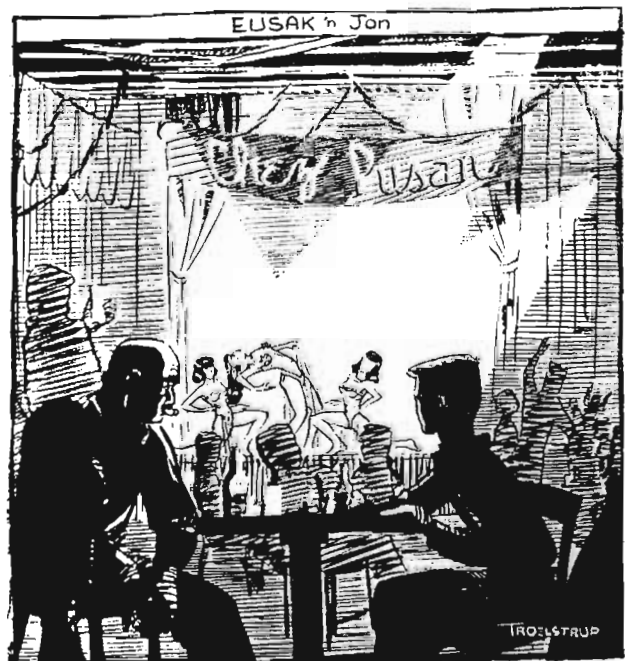
# 'THIS IS A GIANT ONE'

Members who spent some time in captivity will be interested to know that Congress has authorized a medal to be struck in memory of the suffering and deprivation through which they went. This is a military medal just like decorations and campaign medals which were earned. Any member of the Division who was taken prisoner is invited to submit a request for the medal. We have obtained a sample copy of the form and it is printed here. Note that the form has a front and a back side. The Army address shown on the back should be used, and a copy of discharge or similar paper should accompany the request.

Snatched from the Hartford, CT, Courant - It's ART and Clarys KEMP sitting on the green in Suffield CT, their hometown, listening to a summer concert. Relaxed? You better believe it. Art, you look great. Clarys -- you're knitting. Expecting?



"Me an' the whole company could go home if we had your age in points!"



"I hear they're raising hell about the can-can dancers on the docks at Seattle..."

<b>PRISONER OF WAR (POW) MEDAL APPLICATION/INFORMATION</b> <i>(Please read Privacy Act Statement and instructions on reverse before completing form. All entries should be typed or printed. If more space is needed, continue in remarks block on reverse.)</i>		Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0288 Expires Jan 31, 1991
<b>SECTION I - PRISONER OF WAR IDENTIFICATION DATA</b>		
1. NAME OF PRISONER OF WAR (Last, First, Middle)		2. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
3. VA CLAIM NUMBER	4. SERVICE NUMBER	
5. PLACE OF BIRTH		6. DATE OF BIRTH
7. BRANCH OF SERVICE	8. DATE CONFINED AS POW	9. UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT/ATTACHMENT WHEN CAPTURED
10. DATE RELEASED AS POW		
11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Place of imprisonment, disposition after release, or escape, recapture and release data)		
<b>NOTE: PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION WITH APPLICATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If available, attach copies of WD AGO Form 53-55, DD Form 214, or other appropriate separation document issued at that time confirming POW Status.</li> <li>• If available, attach copies of documents specifying POW status, i.e., telegram notification to next of kin, POW identification card, newspaper articles.</li> </ul>		
12. CURRENT STATUS (X one)		13. DATE OF RETIREMENT, DISCHARGE, OR DEATH
<input type="checkbox"/> a. Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> b. Retired <input type="checkbox"/> c. Discharged <input type="checkbox"/> d. Deceased		
<b>SECTION II - APPLICANT INFORMATION / FORWARDING INSTRUCTIONS</b>		
14.a. APPLICANT RELATIONSHIP TO POW (X one)		15. FORWARD POW MEDAL (X one)
<input type="checkbox"/> (1) Same person identified in Section I		<input type="checkbox"/> a. Directly to applicant (Address shown in Item 14c).  <input type="checkbox"/> b. To the person / organization shown below who has agreed to receive and present medal (Complete Item 16). (List Name, Organization, Street, Number, City, State, and ZIP Code)
<input type="checkbox"/> (2) Next of Kin (Specify relationship)		
<input type="checkbox"/> (3) Surviving Spouse		
<input type="checkbox"/> (4) Other (Specify)		
b. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME		
c. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (Please type or print) (List Name, Street Number, City, State, and ZIP Code)		
d. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)		16. RELEASE AUTHORIZATION, IF REQUIRED
e. DATE SIGNED		I hereby authorize release of the requested POW medal to the person/organization indicated in Block 15.b.  <div style="text-align: center;">           _____            (Veteran or Next of Kin Signature)         </div>
f. SIGNATURE		

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Use typewriter or print legibly all information when completing this form. Submit in original copy only. Complete all items. If the question is not appropriate, type or print "NONE." If requested information is unknown, type or print "UNKNOWN." Attach copies of all documentation available in support of your request.
- If space is insufficient, continue in block 17, "Remarks," below.
- All applications for POW Medals MUST show Service Number if POW status existed prior to 1970.
- Veterans organizations, public officials, etc., are authorized to receive applications from eligible individuals or next of kin, forward them to the appropriate address listed below, and ask that medals be returned to them for subsequent presentation.
- For information on the POW Medal or to obtain copies of this form, you may call the following toll-free telephone number: 1-800-873-3768.

### **MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION TO THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS LISTED BELOW**

<u>ARMY</u>	<u>NAVY / MARINE CORPS / COAST GUARD</u>	<u>U.S. AIR FORCE</u> (Including former Army Air Corps Personnel)
U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center ATTN: DARP-PAS-EAW 9700 Page Boulevard St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5200	U.S. Navy Liaison Office National Personnel Records Center 9700 Page Boulevard St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5199	Air Force Reference Branch National Personnel Records Center 9700 Page Boulevard St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5199

17. REMARKS

### Privacy Act Statement

**AUTHORITY:** 10 USC 1128; 44 USC 2907, 3101, and 3105; and EO 9397, November 1943 (SSN).

**PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:** To assist the facility servicing the records in locating those records and verifying entitlement to the POW Medal.

**ROUTINE USE:** May be used by eligible individuals, their representatives, or next of kin to request issue of the POW Medal.

**DISCLOSURE:** Voluntary; however, if the requested information is known and withheld, it may not be possible to determine an entitlement to the POW Medal.

This letter, from ED and Laura WILSON, (24th MP '47-'50) of 1827 S.5th, St.Charles IL rates a full page. It's about FLOYD and Billie PENDARVIS (I 21st '48-'54 -- POW '50-'53 Camp 3, N.K.), of 405 Morgan, Bonham TX. The joy represented here will just scream out at you.

Hello Ken,

As I said on the phone I don't think I'm going to do this well, due to the fact there isn't words to really describe how I felt. But the day started out as most 4<sup>th</sup> of July's do. I put the flag out. and when I came in the phone was ringing. It was Floyd & Billie Pendarvis.

Floyd ask me how the weather was in Illinois. We had the normal conversation we always do, Billie talked to Laura, and we wished each other a happy 4<sup>th</sup> and hung up. About 15 minutes later this car pulled into my driveway. At first I thought that somebody got lost. So I went to the front door, and at first I thought that the women looked familiar, when they stepped out



FLOYD PENDARVIS on the port, and ED WILSON on the starboard -- that is assuming they were looking aft -- oh skip it, sweepers, man your brooms.

of the car, I yelled at Laura "That's Billie & Floyd Pendarvis." The house went up for grabs, I haven't seen Floyd in 39 years. The only thing I noticed was his hair got whiter and he had glasses on. But how could I tell with tears in my eyes. It was like my brother came home. Floyd & Billie stayed two days here at the house, and made Laura & my life so much brighter. I got a phone call from George Bingham, telling me he was on his way here to. I told Laura we're having our own private little reunion of the 24<sup>th</sup> Div MP's and I was the host. As it turned out George & Floyd missed each other. By a day. But they'll get together at the P.O.W. Meeting. As for St Charles and the state of Illinois, it was a better place to be in. When they were here. How could we ask for more, the 24<sup>th</sup> association was here in 1987 and Floyd, Billie Pendarvis, and George Bingham was here in 1988. I don't think the state of Illinois knows what they had. All I would have needed was for Lou Admi & General Dabney Walk in here, and I would have been a candidate for a mental home. I could hardly handle Floyd & George. But that was a July I will never forget, for the rest of my life.

Thanks for listening to me  
Ken  
and here's the picture we  
promised you.

(Ed.Note: See what we mean?)



We've had all kinds of problems in deciding on how best to set this one up. The picture, you see, simply hogs a lot of space. Anyway, we're doing the best we can. And now that we have your deep sympathy, let's give you the "Who What When Where" bit. It's L 21st (Korea)! These folks went off and had a little reunion all of their own. They do -- every year -- this time 'round, Orlando, FL. Lots of spirit in this gang.

L to R front row: Daniel O'Conner, Leota Fine, Jim Fine, Aydit Bernard, Harry L. Tompkins, Lawrence Robinson, Boyd L. Smith, Warren Avery with Meredith & Pat Hunt  
 2nd row: Eunice O'Conner, Charlotte Gates, Deloris Thiel, Riko Yoshkawa, Helen Martin & "Dixie" Henderson  
 3rd row: James Gates, Carl Bernard, Mike Thiel, Harry Tompkins, Howard Lumsden, Floyd Martin, Peggy Avery & Ann Avery  
 4th row: Marty Gainok, Phyllis Burke, Gladys Lumsden, Mary Powers, Miss "B" Brown, Roy Powers, Warnetta Ivy, & Jesse Murga  
 5th row: Elmer Gainok, Eve Henderson, Andree Dreisonstok, Pascale Edilber, Bunny Hardy, Janice Warner, Frank Ivy, Kats Yagura, & John Shields  
 6th row: Phil Burke, Hugh Brown, Patrick Blunnie, Thomas Dreisonstok, "Short Round" Hardy, Volney Warner, John Ufner, Marilyn Ufner & Jim Hunt.



The issue was almost "to bed" when we caught this one in the August issue of "The Retired Officer". At once, we knew this one had to go in -- even though it has meant sacrificing another page. Mrs. Krepismann says it all.

## A Wife's Views

# World War II Reunions

Over time, a wife gains a clearer understanding of her husband's deep feelings toward his World War II buddies and their reunions.



By Charlotte Krepismann

**I** REMEMBER my shock when my husband said, "Those years were the most important years in my life." He was referring to the years he spent as a navigator in the 100th Bomb Group stationed in England during World War II. Where were the 38-plus years of marriage, and where were our three sons?

He tried many times to explain, but all I heard were the words, and those words really hurt. I'd say, "You were an inexperienced kid caught up in all the hoopla about the war. How can you compare that to everything we've meant to each other and all we've built over the years?" None of his analogies to my college years, admittedly wonderful, ever made me change my mind. In fact, I remember adding our years of marriage to my age quite a few years ago and weepily saying, "Do you realize I've given you the best years of my life?"

Why, then, have I begun to come in on my husband's wavelength? I attribute it to the three Air Force reunions I've attended with him—and it took all three to change my sense of insult to one of understanding. At the first reunion, I felt very much the outsider. I was confused by the names: What was a group? What was a squadron? What was a tour of duty? I was a second-class citizen: not only a civilian during those golden years but a female. I enjoyed the spooling, the camaraderie and the special events set up for the group, but was it so different from a convention of middle-aged businessmen? There was one answer to that question when I overheard an airman from another group say, "Yeah, that's the Bloody 100—they had a lot of casualties." We were all watching old B-17s simulating an attack during an air show. It had been pretty funny to me because sometimes the "bombs" would explode before the actual drop. Hearing the airman's comment took some of the fun out of the show and made me thankful once again that I had not known my husband during the war.

I had nothing to say to his buddies. I had spent the war only slightly inconvenienced by rationing and brownouts.

No one I knew well had been killed. How could I relate to stories my husband told me about waving to a friend in a plane nearby during a raid and seeing that plane spiraling to the ground engulfed in flames? During a banquet at that first reunion, I airily turned to my dinner companion and asked, "Did you ever read *Catch 22*?"

His reply, "I hated that book and couldn't finish it. Heller makes fun of a war that killed too many of my friends," surprised me. I had delighted in the satire and had taught the book many times, never seeing the reality for those who were not characters but real live fighter pilots, bombardiers or navigators. No, I was not yet on his wavelength or my husband's, who wept and applauded when old stories were told and old songs sung.

### UNEASINESS LESSONS

At my second reunion, I was more comfortable with names and people and even managed to remember a few that we had met before. The old feeling of being an outsider only returned once or twice when my husband was so involved with his fellow fliers that I felt lonely. I took pictures at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, where the reunion was held, and looking at them now makes me relive that lonely feeling: so many of the pictures show the group members circled around each other, arms slung over friends' shoulders and souvenir caps placed at a rakish angle.

We had a good time, though, because we became part of a group within the larger group. The old stories were pulled out again, and I started to really listen. Could these aging warriors remember the exploits and bombing raids of World War II? Indeed they did in full technicolor: flak mushrooming all around them, fighter pilots desperately trying to keep the enemy planes away from the vulnerable big bombers and the sad tales of the men who were shot down or parachuted into enemy territory only to be pitchforked to death by the farmers.

After the first reunion was over, we learned that one of the most popular fliers had died following a heart attack. My husband, who hadn't known him that well, was nevertheless inconsolable: One of the "boys" was gone. I, too,

was touched because I had a clear picture of him regaling us with wild stories of flying a B-17 over the rooftops of a Scottish town, wagging the wings in farewell to the shocked townspeople below. What crazy kids, I had thought. It's amazing we won the war.

I understand now that what I called childish stunts was the act of a young man challenging his own sense of immortality, who in peace time would have been seeking thrills from the speed of his father's car.

### WAR STORIES RETOLD

I listened enthralled to the oft-told story of how the amazing "Rosie," the group hero and former command pilot, had duped the German Air Force into believing he was surrendering and then caught them by surprise by evading his escort and flying to safety. To me, this was better than the war movies I had seen with John Wayne, Clark Gable or Van Johnson, handsome and victorious in their uniforms. Looking through my husband's eyes, I no longer saw a middle-aged man with gray wavy hair who stood up to wild applause when they called his name. For a while, I was part of the loving circle, and Rosie was my leader too.

But I still bristled when my husband continued his talk of those "happiest years" of his life. I granted him the deep love he felt for the men who 45 years before depended on him to get them to the target and safely home. I could even dimly realize that though these 19- and 20-year-olds faced death every time they flew a mission, they didn't reject the war as obscene or crazy. They appeared to be held together by an almost mystical bond; they had seen awful destruction, played out their parts in it all and survived to meet again at these raucous four-day celebrations of their victory over the enemy. I believe today many see the enemy as death, rather than the German planes or the flak. Was that reason enough to remember those days with such joy?

The third reunion, third for me at least, was held only two years later in Long Beach, Calif., this time only two years between reunions. I realized, as everyone else did, that the one-year difference was in tacit recognition of the

years that were going far too quickly now. Again the hugs and backslappings, the meetings and picture-taking, as well as the banquets celebrating old friends and old admirers from overseas who knew these men as boys or Yanks. I was happy to be greeted by many of the airmen themselves as well as their wives. Finally I felt I was a part of their history, though once again my husband deferred to his buddies when I would have been happy to dance when the band played the songs of the forties.

### GAINS ACCEPTANCE

The handsome pilot who had rejected my devotion to Joseph Heller's *Catch 22* gained me as an admirer when he said I looked exactly the same as I had when I met him 11 years ago at my first reunion. I sat with the other wives as the five navigators spun their tales of hair-raising adventures that to them had happened only yesterday. The years dropped away along with the thinning or gray hair and the stockier build. Their voices rose; one pounded the table; another drew pictures to illustrate his point; and they all brought back the happiest days of their lives.

I'm glad I went. I'm glad I feel part of the group now. After all, those were my years too, dancing to Glen Miller and Benny Goodman bands, singing at the war-bond rallies and listening with nervous tension to all the news from the war front. Now I feel that I can travel into the past at the next reunion with more knowledge and a sense of relief. After all, we had won the war, and I was married to some kind of a hero.



Charlotte Krepismann is a retired high school English teacher recently turned free-lance writer. She enjoys writing inspirational articles based on true-life experiences. Her works have been published in several West Coast regional magazines including *Senior Life* of Southern California and *Vintage '45*. This is her first article for *The Retired Officer*.

THE RETIRED OFFICER / AUGUST 1988

# Rolling in the aisles

From RALPH BALESTRIERI's lexicon of WW II slang:

meat wagon - ambulance  
bought the farm - KIA  
bandit - enemy aircraft (actually standard code)  
bucking for a Section 8 - acting crazy  
brown-nosing, apple polishing - buttering up seniors  
acting like a T/5 at an NCO meeting - talking or acting above capabilities  
being GI - enforcing the rules  
chicken sh-- - enforcing beyond (or invented) rules  
Little God - PFC in charge  
Jive - smooth talk  
my aching back - expression of surprise, dismay, or amusement  
Acting Jack - temporary NCO  
90 day wonder - OCS graduate  
bucking for a Silver Star - suicidal CO (DSC above Bn.CO's)  
million dollar wound - one that would get you sent stateside with no permanent damage  
flack - anti-aircraft shell bursts (which concerned us because a lot of fragments landed on us)  
ack-ack - anti-aircraft weapons

JESSE FOSTER found you-know-what in the Pentagon's Hall of Flags and proudly posed to prove it. Wrote he: "I was proud of that flag and even more so knowing I was a part of what that flag stood for."

Jess, we love ya - beautiful thoughts there.



The Association has taken unto itself the problem of providing transportation between our various hotels and, of course, to Stewart and to Hunter and back. Free too.

But it occurs that you might want to rent a car while you're there.

Read what Ann Howell wrote us. She called us and added, "When your members make reservations, be sure to mention the 24th."

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**SEARS**  
Rent a Car

Mr. Kenwood Ross  
120 Maple Street  
Springfield, MA 01103

Dear Mr. Ross:

Let me first tell you, that you could not have picked a better place to hold your reunion. Savannah is a beautiful city and the Sheraton is the perfect place to stay. I'm sure everyone will have a wonderful time.

To make your stay more enjoyable, Budget Rent a Car would like to offer your attendees special rates during their stay. Your rates will be as follows:

Economy	29.00 per day
Compact	30.00 per day
Midsize	32.00 per day
Fullsize	34.00 per day
Fullsize 4 dr.	34.00 per day
Luxury	39.99 per day
Lincoln Towncar	39.99 per day

This rates do include unlimited mileage. They do not include tax, optional coverages or gas. All charges are explained fully at time of rental.

Budget Rent a Car has two locations to serve you. 1. The Airport- for those wishing to rent when arriving 2. 305 East Bay Street- 15 minutes from the Sheraton. We do provide free pick up and return from this location. We also give each renter a direction card with all the directions to the Sheraton on it. (see attachments)

To make reservations, call 1-800-NEED-CAR, all of our locations, will be aware of your special discount. If you have any questions, please contact me Ann Howell at 912-236-5500. My office is located on Bay Street.

Sincerely,  
*Ann Howell*  
Ann Howell  
Director of Marketing  
Budget Rent a Car of Savannah



# 24th Infantry saw its first action in Hawaii

The 24th Infantry "Victory" Division was formed from elements of the old Hawaiian Division on Oct. 1, 1941, at Schofield Barracks. The 19th and 21st Infantry Regiments and a Hawaiian National Guard regiment, which was later replaced by the 34th Infantry Regiment, made up the division.

The 19th Infantry is nicknamed the "Rock of Chickamauga" for its actions in the Civil War; the 21st Infantry is nicknamed the "Gimlets" and also traces its lineage back to the Civil War; and the 7th Infantry, nicknamed "Cottonbalers," began its history at the Battle of New Orleans in 1812.

The 24th Infantry Division's first casualties were recorded on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and Schofield Barracks. The men of the 68-day-old division had just returned from a week-long field problem, and they were celebrating by sleeping in. At 7:45 a.m., the calm of the beautiful Hawaiian morning was shattered by the sounds of death and destruction. Fright was quickly replaced by action. When the day was over, five Japanese fighters had been brought down by the 24th Division's small arms fire. The fledgling division was the first Army unit to feel the fury of imperial Japan and the first to fight back.

Immediately after the Pearl Harbor attack, the 24th moved from Schofield Barracks to northern Oahu, setting up defenses against a possible Japanese invasion of the Hawaiian Islands. In September 1943, the division moved to Camp Caves, near Rockhampton, Australia, on the eastern coast, for an intensive training period. For five months soldiers of the 24th concentrated on amphibious landing and jungle fighting. It was hard work and morale suffered as many felt the



Main entrance to the 24th Infantry Division's present home at Fort Stewart.

division would train throughout the war.

They were wrong. On the last day of January 1944, the 24th moved again — this time to Goodenough Island to prepare for the New Guinea campaign. Finally the word came: the 24th Infantry Division would play a major role in the return to the Philippines. On April 22, 1944, the division stormed from landing craft at Tanamerah Bay and slashed across Dutch New Guinea. After five hard-fought days, the 24th swept from the beaches, across the jungle terrain, and captured Hollandia Airdrome, inflicting heavy casualties on its defenders. The long, frustrating months of training in Australia had paid off.

In October 1944 the division struck again, this time on Red Beach on Leyte, Philippine Islands. The Americans had returned to the Philippines. It was the hardest fighting they had faced so far, and the going was anything but easy. The leading

element of the 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry, was pinned down by heavy machine gun and rifle fire. The regimental commander, Colonel Aubrey S. Newman, arrived on the beach and, taking in the situation at a glance, shouted to his men, "Get the hell off the beach; follow me."

Seventy-seven days of unbelievable fighting on Leyte made the word "Victory" synonymous with the 24th Infantry Division. "Victory" was the radio call sign of the division and chalked on the men's helmets. But it wasn't until the natives greeted the troops by shouting "Victory" that the name stuck.

The Leyte operation over, the 24th pushed on to Mindoro. There the division met its first fanatical "Banzai" charges and Kamakaze air attacks in the battle for the Philippines. Proceeding northward up the islands, it participated in the assault on Corregidor. Then began the final thrust for Manila. When the war in the Pacific ended in August 1945, the 24th was mopping up the

island of Mindanao.

Two months after VJ Day the 24th Infantry Division moved to Japan, where for five years it was the Army of Occupation on Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's major islands.

Peace did not last long. On the morning of June 25, 1950, columns of communist-trained North Korean troops streamed south across the 38th Parallel into South Korea. Five days later, LTC Charles B. Smith and his 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry, were alerted to move to Korea. Task Force Smith was the first United States unit to land in Korea. Its mission: buy the necessary time to allow the rest of the 24th Division to arrive.

More than 50 Russian-built T-34 tanks and 20,000 North Korean troops were rolling down the western corridor of the peninsula unopposed. The task force succeeded in slowing down the enemy and the division landed at Pusan unopposed.

By July 20, the whole Korean Campaign rested on the shoul-

ders of Maj. Gen. William Dean, division commander. He was told to hold the town of Taejon for two days. He held it for three days and finally had to fight his way out. In the following days the division became a legend.

As the weeks dragged into months, it became clear that the 24th Infantry Division had done its job. The tide was turned, and the Victory Division pushed forward as the UN marched toward the Yalu River. It continued to fight when the Chinese Communist troops came out of Manchuria and pushed the UN forces to the 38th Parallel. By the end of January 1952, most of the division returned to Japan. It had been fighting for more than a year and had earned a rest.

The division moved back to Korea 18 months later to guard the vital DMZ, and it stayed there until 1957 when it was inactivated. On July 1, 1958, the division was reactivated in Bavaria, and once again the Taro Leaf was on the front lines — this time as a vital part of the NATO defense team in Western Europe should they be needed.

Two weeks after the 24th was reorganized, combat ready units of the division were rushed to Lebanon to quell a civil uprising. In August 1961, the Berlin Wall was erected and for six days the world stood on the brink of total war. The 24th Infantry Division was again called on to bolster the divided city's forces.

In its long and glorious service, the 24th Infantry Division had never been stationed stateside. In September 1968, it finally came home. Its new station was Fort Riley, Kan., where it remained until it was again inactivated on April 15, 1970.

On Oct. 21, 1974, the 1st Brigade of the 24th Infantry Division was formed at Fort Stewart, becoming the nucleus for the reactivation of the divi-

sion. On Sept. 21, 1975, the 24th Infantry Division was officially reactivated at Stewart.

The following year, soon after the provisional organization of the 2nd Brigade, the 24th Infantry Division was participating in the Joint Readiness Exercise, Brave Shield XV, in the Florida Panhandle during October.

Joining the 24th Infantry with the formal activation of the 2nd Brigade on June 14, 1977, the 24th Infantry Division, with its round-out Brigade, the 48th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) of the Georgia Army National Guard, was now at its full brigade strength.

The division was redesignated the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) on Sept. 30, 1979. This brought armored personnel carriers and additional support personnel to Fort Stewart and the division. The 24th has recently received some of the newest equipment to include Fire-finder, the Improved TOW vehicle, the Multiple Launch Rocket System, the Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks, the Black Hawk Helicopter and the Commercial Utility Cargo Vehicle. Soon to be issued are the M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle and the High Mobility Multi-purpose Vehicle.

The division became part of the nation's Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) on Oct. 1, 1980 and as such would fall under U.S. Army Central Command should that force be deployed. The division continues to train, including rotations to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Cal., for any RDF mission which may be assigned to it.

At ceremonies held at Fort Stewart on July 2, 1987, command of the division and Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield was passed to Maj. Gen. Michael F. Spigelmiere making him the division's 45th commander since its organization in 1941.

# DARE

# TO BE DIFFERENT



Who dares to be different? Our Membership Chairman BOB JOHNSON, that's who. Bob is winding up his first year as M.C. He has brought in 681 new members, our absolute best record ever. Thank you, Bob, thank you. You're wonderful.

Listen to this. We started the year (8/1/87) with 2120 members. We're ending the year (7/31/88) with 2646 members -- and this in the face of the sorry fact that during the year we even dropped 155 members for non-payment of dues - so that really figures to be a net gain of 681 members for the year. Want us to go over that again slowly?

Plans to place a memorial honoring black Revolutionary War soldiers on the National Mall has won approval from two government boards, removing the final siting obstacles for the first major memorial to blacks in Washington, the city of monuments.

The National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission on Fine Arts approved plans to build the black patriots memorial in Constitution Gardens, a grassy area steps from the reflecting pool between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument.

Have you been in Washington recently to see how they have bastardized that beautiful mall between the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial.

Now get set for one more monument.

LEO W. ZATORSKI of 319 Wilbur, Pittsburgh PA asked if we could find the space and the desire to reprint this item "about a bunch of Chicks" from the Dec. 20, 1944 Pittsburgh Post Gazette. To Leo we say we have not only the space but also the desire to use your item. Here goes:

## Lost Battalion Heroes Listed

Six Western Pennsylvanians today were identified as members of Leyte's "Lost Battalion" which played a heroic role in the island's reconquest against overwhelming odds at the critical peak of fighting for the Ormoc corridor.

The battalion was battle-fatigued from nearly a month of continuous fighting when it received orders to advance through the mountains to throw a road block against advancing enemy reinforcements.

They had to fight the enemy and tortuous mountain terrain for four days to reach the road. After 24 hours without food, the men battled savagely to establish the block. They held it four days against enemy tanks, truck columns, artillery fire and fanatical charges. Casualties were 10 per cent killed or wounded, but the battalion accounted for 600 Japs and probably scores more.

The Western Pennsylvanians were:

Pfc. Leo W. Zatorski, New Arlington Avenue; Pfc. William A. Sardon, Wilson Road, North Side; Pvt. William J. Swank, Vandergrift; Corp. Richard Marti, Washington; Pvt. Frank E. Smith, Butler, and Pvt. Joseph Carin, Oakdale.

Battling the Big C is Marilyn, beloved mate of GERRY GOULET (C 19th 7/50-4/51) of 9140 Brookshire, Downey CA. Let some of our prayers be directed Downeyway.

Double insurance!!

'Twon't do a bit of harm were you each to notify your respective hotel of your ETA at Savannah Airport if you will need Airport Pickup. Hotel vans will be available on "AVAILABILITY". Does that make sense?

**ADDRESS  
CHANGE?**

Don't keep it SECRET, let us know. Clip and Mail to: 120 Maple St. Rm. 207, Spfld. MA 01103.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
New Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit: \_\_\_\_\_



# IN MEMORIAM

Sad message from his beloved Carmon MARSALA. JOHN MARSALA (5th RCT - 555th FA Bn. 7/50-9/51) of 1216 Fairhaven, Salinas CA passed away on Apr. 5, 1988 - heart attack. Wrote Carmon: "It is a great loss for me, and our youngsters, Janet, Vicki, Carla and John. He really loved the 24th."

With profound regret do we announce the passing of Mrs. BASIL (Bernice) DONOVAN. Basil, Life Member 39, was K 21st '43-'45 and is at 1982 Neptune Dr., Englewood FL, he and Bernie having moved south after he retired from Ford Motor in '82. Of his recent tragedy, we'll let Basil tell it: "In June we went to Michigan to visit Bernice's mother. On the way back home, Bernice did not feel in the best of health. So I stopped in Cartersville GA and put her in the hospital. She spent one week in ICU and passed away. We were married just a few months less than 45 years. I will miss her."

And we have all lost a beautiful lady, Basil. Our sympathies are yours.

We were about to close down on this issue when this letter crossed our desk:

"My name is Ovid J. Sprinkle. I am a disabled veteran. I was in the Pacific in WW II and also in Korea with the 7th Inf.Div. My brother, 1st Sgt. of E Co. of the 5th RCT, Ernest O. Sprinkle is dead now. God rest his soul. He was wounded a couple of times and also was awarded the Silver Star. I hope that you knew him and will remember him at your reunion in Savannah. I saw your item in the Army Times. I do hope you will take a few minutes to write me a word or so, okay? Thank you. Ovid J. Sprinkle, (Ex-S/Sgt. US Army, 14 years), PO Box 266, Long Beach CA 90801."

Needless to say, we replied to Ovid and above all else added the name of Ernest O. Sprinkle to our Book of Dead. We respect Ovid for his quiet display of brotherly love.

From DANNY CUOMO comes this brief, but appreciated, note:

"It is with deep sorry that I inform you of the passing of HAROLD FRITZ. Harold was First Sgt. of B Co.34th. Wake was attended by Dan Cuomo and ARTHUR "Moe" MAE of B Co."

From good friend JOHNNY MORRISON (D 21st '41-'44), of 54 Chelsea, Mt.Sinai NY comes this sad report: "My beloved Ginny passed away May 24th. She was sick a long time. It was a blessing that the good Lord decided enough. She enjoyed my reading the 'Taro Leaf' to her very much. We had lots of good laughs together. She was my very brave 'Gimlet'."

From the pen of BILL HAURILAK (E 34th '41-'45) of 125 Southworth, Milford CT, comes this sad report: "This is one of those tragic events. Please insert in the Taro Leaf. Recently, I received word from the family of DALLAS JOHNSON of St.Louis MO, informing me that Dallas, 34th Inf., Med. Det. '41-'45, has passed away suddenly on June 22, 1988 while visiting friends in Los Angeles. Dallas was one of those who never had a bad word for anyone. We'll all miss him. May he rest in peace in God's place. Goodbye Old Buddy."

Sad news out of Taylors SC. His beloved Betty ROBISON wrote: "JOHNNY passed away on June 17th. He was a life member of the Association and a former (1951) member of G of the 19th." Johnny was an awardee of the Silver Star. He is survived by, as well as Betty, a son, Paul V. Robison of Greenville; three daughters, Vickie Hudson of Greer, Mary Thomas of Taylors and Martha Robison of New York NY; four stepdaughters, Aileen Brookshire and Claudia Riddle, both of Greer, Elizabeth Durham of Newberry and Judy Durham of Simpsonville; three brothers, Sam Robison of Taylors, C.D. Robison of Fort Worth, TX, and Charles Robison of Fayetteville NC, and two sisters, Cynthia Wood of Piedmont and Evelyn Duvall of Cleveland OH.

*The End*

*Amen*



We mourn the loss of another Chick -- LEO F. MACNEIL (F 19th '40-'45) died May 23rd. His beloved Carolyn, daughter, Crystal, and son, William, survive. Carolyn is at 47 N. Wisconsin, Hobart IN 46342. Leo played in the 19th band before Pearl Harbor. He was our Life Member #565. Carolyn summed it up beautifully in a sad letter to us which went:

"I'm writing to tell you of the passing of my dear Husband. He had had a long lingering illness, then congestive heart failure. He was in the 19th Infantry Co. F Pearl Harbor Survivor. He enlisted in the Army 4-2-40 at Ft. Benjamin Harrison IN, discharged 6-19-45 Camp Atterbury IN. Went to his reward 5-23-88, age 68. He had been an active volunteer at the Broadway Methodist Hospital in Mirrellville, active in Trinity Lutheran Church, Hobart IN, member of American Legion Post 454. Has two children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

"He had a military funeral at graveside (in Graceland Cemetery, Valparaiso IN) after funeral at our Church on 5-26-88.

"Our daughter lives in Merriville IN. Our son in Indianapolis. They have been a great comfort to us both, especially to me now. They'll miss 'Dad'.

"Sincerely, Carolyn MacNeil."

The long agony in the PAUL A. "Junior" HARRIS household at 114 Georgetown Road, Wilmington, NC 28401, came finally to its end. On the evening of August the 11th Lydia passed to her reward. Better known to and loved by we Taro Leafers as "Lessie", this gallant lady crossed the river following months of suffering. The Big C has struck again. By all of us, Lessie will be missed but by none so much as Junior and Al and Wes whose beloved Wife and Mother she was. To the Harris men we offer up these sometimes futile words, "We are sorry."

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In Loving Memory  
of my wife,  
Leota "Lee" Pence

William L. Pence

24th Med. 3/52-3/54