



The Taro Leaf



24th Infantry (Victory) Division Veterans' Association

VOLUME II

MAY 1949

NUMBER 1

NEW YORK CITY SCENE OF NEXT CONVENTION

LT. COL. MAX N. CIZON CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

President Edmund F. Henry made certain that our second annual convention would be an outstanding success when he appointed Lt. Col. Max N. Cizon as the General Chairman of the committee in charge.

Lt. Col. Cizon, in sixteen years of military service, has established himself as one of the most energetic executives within the Regular Army. Proof of that is the fact that although his background is not military, Col. Cizon has been integrated into the Regular Army and now holds the permanent rank of Lt. Col. as of 1st of July 1948. Our committee chairman was born in Chicago on 21st of April 1903, obtained his early education in the local schools there and received his B.A. degree in the University of Wisconsin, February 1927. During his college days at Wisconsin Lt. Col. Cizon was in the R.O.T.C. and was commissioned 2nd Lt. of the Field Artillery Reserve in 1926. After the customary tour of duty as a shave-tail, he was promoted to a First Lieutenantcy in the Field Artillery Reserve on the 21st of June 1931. In November of 1935 he was transferred to the Adjutant General's Department Reserve, promoted to Captain on the second of April 1936, advanced to Major on the 14th of April 1941, appointed to Lt. Col. in the Army of the United States on the 12th of April 1942, and to Col. in the Adjutant General Reserve on the 29th of October 1946.

Five months before Pearl Harbor Lt. Col. Cizon (then Major Cizon) entered upon extended active duty with the 6th Corps Area Headquarters in Chicago. Then on September 1942 our chairman was transferred to the 24th Infantry Division in Oahu and he served with us for better than two years from September 1942 to October 1944, returning from Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, in October of that latter year. Following his return from overseas he was assigned to the Second Army detachment of Fort Jackson, South Carolina as Adj. Gen. and later as Executive Officer. While at Fort Jackson Cizon was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for service with our 24th Infantry Division.

Perhaps the outstanding indication that Lt. Col. Cizon knows his way around is that he has been stationed in the Pentagon Building since November of 1947 and he has not yet failed to find his way in and out at the proper times, and that certainly ought to be an indication that the General Chairman of our second annual convention committee is a man who knows where he's going and how he's going to get there. During his service at the Pentagon he has been assigned to work out the details of the Regular Army Warrant Officer Program. There is, however, no indication that the fact our President served in the Division as a Chief Warrant Officer had anything to do with the selection of Cizon as the chairman of the general committee. After the Colonel had wrapped up the Warrant Officer program, he was assigned to the Security Classification Review Branch of the Adj. General's Office, and at the conclusion of service there he was appointed Chief of the Office Service Branch, Administrative Services Division A.G.O. He is presently serving in that position.

From the foregoing it may be seen that our Committee Chairman is a real go-getter and that the comrades of the 24th Infantry (Victory) Division Veterans' Association may look forward to a convention which will certainly equal and possibly surpass the grand festivities which we had at Baltimore in August of 1948.



Lt. Col. Max N. Cizon

TAPS FOR HERO

Final commitment services for CAPT. JOHN C. McNEELY, JR. took place in Elmwood Cemetery, August 29, 1948, after services at First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. Capt. McNeely died on the 20th day of October 1944 while leading his troops on the beachhead at Leyte. He left a widow, Mrs. Sue DeArmon McNeely, whom we are proud to have as one of the honorary members of our Association. Mrs. McNeely attended our first annual convention in Baltimore last August. She came, in part, to obtain what comfort she could from mingling with those who were comrades in arms of her husband. You will find her pictured in the Supplement surrounded by a group of men and officers of the 19th Infantry Regiment in which her late husband so gallantly served.

THREE DAY MEETING DUE AUGUST 12th, 13th and 14th

The second annual convention of the 24th Infantry (Victory) Division Veterans Association will be held in New York City, August 12th, 13th and 14th, 1949.

Decision to hold our second annual meeting in the Big Town was reached at a meeting held in Swedesboro, New Jersey over the week-end of May 21st. At this meeting were Wm. V. Davidson (Div Hq), Lt. Col. Max N. Cizon (AG), Lt. Col. Richard A. Lawson (G-2 and C/S), Harry Snavelly (34th), Wm. Willmot (21st) and Edmund F. Henry, President of the Association.

At our first convention at Baltimore in August of last year some discussion developed from the floor concerning the proper site of the next convention. It was decided at that time to delay decision until we determined the further development of the organization and the question of whether or not there might be a change in the geographical preponderance of the membership.

A check of our most recent membership list indicated that the bulk of our membership is in New York and in New Jersey. So what more desirable than our second convention be held in Gotham?

As far back as August of last year in Baltimore, Victor Backer of the 34th did yeoman service in an effort to get our convention to the big town. In the ensuing months we have found no better argument advanced for any city than were advanced by Backer at Baltimore.

Members of the committee which met in New Jersey contacted Backer by telephone and he assured them that he will exert every energy to see to it that the 24th Veterans have the greatest time of their lives when they arrive for the Convention. Backer has been made a member of the convention committee as well as Robert R. Ender of 425 Tenafly Road, Englewood, New Jersey. These with the above-mentioned Davidson, Cizon, Lawson, Snavelly, Willmot, and Henry will constitute the Committee. But that does not mean that the membership of the committee is closed. Anyone who has a desire to see to it that all possible is done to make this second convention the greatest in our short history may communicate with President Henry, First National Bank Building, Attleboro, Mass., or with William V. Davidson, Treasurer, Swedesboro, New Jersey, or with Lt. Col. Cizon, Rm 1A-885, Pentagon Building, Washington, D.C.

Lt. Col. Cizon has been named General Chairman of the reunion committee for 1949. New York did not receive the convention nod without a struggle. There were several cities in the running notably Philadelphia and Washington, but in Philadelphia in August the national convention of The American Legion is held, and in Washington, of course, there is the difficulty presented by remoteness from the general centers of population. New York City, however, has no such disability, is readily accessible from all parts of the country, and in the last analysis the committee felt that New York was the logical site for the convention.

Further issues of The Taro Leaf will contain further details of the convention plans. For the sake of the record it perhaps should be stated here that the next issue of The Taro Leaf will not be so long delayed as the present issue. There were many valid rea-

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THE TARO LEAF

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(Victory)

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Association

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HISTORIAN

Col. A. S. Newman, 34th

CALL ME MISTER

PURSIFULL, Ross W., 34th, was a co-adventurer in the ski business last winter—at Boyne Falls, Michigan. Incidentally he was married to Lois Ellen Carter Saturday, April 30th, 1949 in St. Paul's Cathedral in Detroit. He will be "at home" after the first day of June at 19462 Sunderland Road, Detroit.

LEMBO, Michael L., 724th Ord. Co., living at 232 Nassau Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. Recruited by a Col. Kenwood Ross, former CO of the Ord. Co., now at 1387 Main Street, Springfield, Mass.

DENDE, Raymond A., 724th Ord. Co., is a senior in the University of Scranton (Pa.) business administration course, is employed in the Dende Press, Printers and Publishers, at 409-411 Cedar Ave., Scranton, Pa.

PLOWMAN, Edward M., former Medic with 19th Inf., now medical student at University of Missouri. Address: 121 N. 7th Street, Hannibal, Mo.

SORENSEN, Marben, Co. B., 21st, at 1316 Burleigh, Yankton, South Dakota, says: "Would like to hear from all my buddies."

CROXVALE, Doctor Edward F., Med. Det., 19th Inf. 34th, practicing medicine in Villisca, Iowa. Says "certainly thrilled at getting copy." Apparently too polite to blast us for our long lapse. We promise not to do it again.

McKENNEY, John F., AT Co., 21st, lived for awhile in Old Orchard, Maine, but now can be reached at 6 East Kendell, Worcester, Mass.

WISEMAN, Philip C., Btry. C. and Hq., 52nd FA Bn., now living in North Dakota—at Regent to be exact.

DONAHUE, Vincent M., 24th Sig. Co., this is his home address, 2578 Fairview Avenue, Detroit 14, Mich.

BLANCHARD, William, 724th Ord. Co., try him at 2567 West College Avenue, Denver.

MAURICE, Andre, former Gimlet (3rd Bn.) and also 24th Sig. Co., lives in Forest Hills, Long Island, at 73-37 Austin Street.

VELLA, Vincent, Co. K, 21st, writes from 576 7th Street, Buffalo, N.Y.: "I've just heard about this and am interested."

KERR, S. A., Co. H., 19th. Let's try him at Edneyville, North Carolina.

DE MARCO, Pat, Co. A., 34th, Says: "Would like info on this deal." We reached him at 15 Thompson Avenue, Gloucester, N.J.

RUTTER, Robert E., Btry. C., 13th FA Bn., lives at 455 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. and attends Northeastern University.

TACCHI, Louis, former Sgt. with Co. E., 34th; still at 2205 Sidney Street, St. Louis, Mo. He writes: "I also found out that a former buddy of ours (John Kasinski) is in the Percy Jones Hospital, Battlecreek, Mich., stricken with a sickness that was caused from over in the Pacific which the doctor didn't know much about. It hit him almost three years after being out. It is sort of a paralysis from the neck down. I'm sure he would enjoy The Taro Leaf as he hasn't much to do but read. He is an old 34th Inf. man from when they first went overseas, Co. E. I'm sure the former Co. E men who knew him will want to drop him a line."

McGINTY, James J., former Capt. and CO of the 24th Qm. Co., has moved from California to Oregon and settled in Myrtle Creek, a little town 220 miles south of Portland. He reports that "it's a pretty good spot." He's practicing law.

LINNEN, Francis, 19th, writes to us on the stationery of the Chief of Police, Pittston, Penn. He's the big wheel in the P.D.

KEYES, William T., Co. D., 21st, asks us to send back issues of The Taro Leaf to 58 Bushnell Street, Hartford 6, Conn. Back issues are about all you boys have been getting lately, but again we promise to do better. Incidentally we have quite a few back issues and will be glad to send them to anyone requesting them—as a reward for your patience.

OEDER, Carl H., former 1st Sgt. of the 724th Ord. Co., works for the Fruit Dispatch Co., 12 South 6th Street, Minn. 2, Minn.

WEBB, Roger E., 24th Qm. Co., joined the Division in May of 1932 at Schofield Barracks. Most of the time as T/Sgt. Left in April 1945 and is in the Insurance Business at 121 1/2 So. 10th Street, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

SULLIVAN, Peter, former Sgt. in AG of Div. Hq., has returned to the banking business. Just drop into the offices of the Sterling Trust opposite the Hotel Commodore in New York and you'll find him back of a big desk.

LEDDY, Capt. John F., formerly with 24th Med. Bn., after a couple of years in the banking business in Rhode Island, is back in the Army at Atlanta General Distribution Depot, Med. Section, Atlanta, Georgia.

HELLER, Francis H., former aide to General Hugh Cort, is a PhD from the University of Virginia as of 1948. He is now on the faculty at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

HENNESSY, Joseph P., former non-com in the AG Section, Div. Hq., is employed by the Army as a civilian, assistant to the Chief Clerk in the Enlistment Section, 39 Whitehall Street, New York City. Reported having seen W. O. Devereaux, formerly of IG Section, who was planning to re-enlist as a non-com. of the first grade.

SNYDER, Sam, Co. I, 34th, Corresponding Secretary of the 34th Inf. Association of New York City, announced the arrival on September 7th last, of Susan Marcia at 1356 Walton Avenue, Bronx 52, N.Y. Weight 6 lbs., 7 oz.

DAUBENHEYER, S. B., former Major and Regt. Surgeon of 21st, is at 504 Broadway, Gary, Ind.

ON DUTY IN CAPITOL AND NEARBY . . .

Name and Address	Former Assignment in 24th Inf. Division
Lt. Col. George C. Abert 5C-722, Pentagon	Div QM
M/Sgt. Raymond Allen 21 Park Place, Fairhaven, Alexandria, Va.	21st Inf
Lt. Col. Wilmot T. Baughn 3C-461, Pentagon	Div JA
Lt. Col. Borleis (Chap) M/D of Wash., Ft. Myer, Va.	21st Inf
Lt. Col. Max N. Cizon 1A-885, Pentagon	Div AG
Maj. Gen. Kenneth F. Cramer 2E-400, Pentagon	CG (in Japan)
Lt. Col. George H. Chapman, Jr. Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.	19th Inf
Major Burt N. Coers 2B-525, Pentagon	Surg 21st Inf
Capt. Cecil M. Curles T1218C, Ft. Meade, Md.	21st
Major Francis Dice 208 Oak Ave., Pikesville 8, Md.	21st Inf
Capt. Dallas Dick Fort Meade, Md.	19th Inf
Major Horace P. Easley 1E-470, Pentagon	19th Inf
Mr. John Farrell PO Box 12, Riderwood, Md.	21st Inf
Capt. H. N. Gilbert 4E-816, Pentagon	Tk Bn & TD Bn
Capt. Claude H. Hall 2D-838, Pentagon	21st Inf
Mr. Francis Harrell 3339 Nichols Ave., SE, Wash., D.C.	21st Inf
Maj. Gen. Frederick A. Irving 2E-728, Pentagon	Div Commander
Col. H. C. Johnson 3E-779, Pentagon	3d Bn, 19th Inf
Col. Charles H. Jones 6503 Queen Chapel Rd., University Park, Md.	19th Inf CO

Maj. J. B. Jones 2d Army, Ft. Meade, Md.	Inf
Major Harry L. Jones Gravelly Point, Va.	Div Fin O
Col. W. J. Klepinger 4C-761, Pentagon	Div G-4
Mr. James L. Lancaster 531 Hawthorne Road, Linthicum Heights, Md.	21st Inf
Col. E. W. Leard 4B-934, Pentagon	21st Inf
Lt. Col. Richard H. Lawson 3C-862, Pentagon	C of S
Lt. Col. D. C. Little Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.	11th FA Bn
M/Sgt. W. H. Little Ft. McNair	724 Ord Co
Lt. Col. Almon W. Manlove Industrial College	Div Ord O
Major Thomas H. Major 2D-844, Pentagon	CIC Det
Mr. L. Edward McGuire 521 Bashford Lane, Alex., Va.	Hq. Co.
Pfc. Richard P. Perkins 1A-869, Pentagon	Co A, 21st Inf
Lt. Col. Thomas J. O'Connor 2E-689, Pentagon	Div G-3
1st Lt. S. Redd 2d Army, Ft. Meade, Md.	Div. Hq.
Capt. W. R. Tkach Pentagon Dispensary, 2D-201	Off, Div Surg
Capt. Williams P. Waters Rm 1435, Temp A, OQMG	11th FA Bn
Lt. Col. John T. West 4D-765, Pentagon	21st Inf
Major W. H. Willoughby 5E-823, Pentagon	Hq Comdt
Lt. Col. Fred R. Zierath 3D-827, Pentagon	19th Inf
Maj. W. P. O'Neal 3D-442, Pentagon	Ord

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CLIFFORD OF THE CHICKS

The Taro Leaf takes great pride and pleasure in presenting the following profile of Col. Jock Clifford written by Col. A. S. Newman, who knew him intimately during his service in the armed forces of the United States. Jock Clifford was one of the fabulous figures to emerge from World War II. His life is of particular interest to members of the 24th Infantry (Victory) Division Veterans' Association, because of the fact that he held commands in each Regiment making up our Division and at the time of his death he was Colonel Commanding the 19th Infantry. Col. Clifford came to his death in a burst of mortar fire at Tamogan, Mindanao, P.I., while leading his troops on the slopes of Mt. Apo. This appreciation of one of the real heroes of our Division appeared in 1947 in "Assembly," the literary publication of the cadets of the United States Military Academy at West Point. The Taro Leaf has obtained permission to re-print it. Incidentally Col. Newman is now with the 11th Airborne at Camp Campbell in Kentucky.

It's been more than a year since Jock and I were in the Mindanao campaign together, and the day when I stood on Tolomo Beach and heard the word that the shell with his number on it had arrived in the Tamogan area where he and the 19th Infantry were putting the final touches to the campaign. I just stood there and couldn't believe it, because he had always seemed so indestructible. My first thought was of Brownie, and I remembered the day I first saw him with her in Hawaii in 1940 as they sat in their car eating ice cream in front of the post exchange at Schofield.

Then I briefly reviewed my five year friendship with Jock. First there was that officer's basketball team we had in Hawaii. Of course I had known about him as a famous football player at West Point, and had also seen him coach the 21st Infantry football team—but the basketball court really brought us close together.

Then came the war on December 7, 1941, and he was soon a battalion commander in the 21st Infantry of the 24th Infantry Division—finally leading his battalion in the Hollandia Campaign. Later, after I became regimental commander of the 34th Infantry, he joined us on Leyte as one of my battalion commanders—and then as a result of his magnificent battle performance he was promoted to full colonel and given command of the 19th Infantry, while I went back later as division Chief of Staff, and thus remained in close touch with him and watched the brilliant climax of his career in Mindanao.

And now, more than a year later, the feeling of shock and unbelief I had on Tolomo Beach still persists—for he still seems so indestructible. In my mind's eye I can see him standing as he always did—so superbly erect, yet relaxed and unaware of his own magnificent presence.

In the past months, however, I have come to realize that Jock really is indestructible—that his name and place in history and in the hearts of all of us who knew him will live and grow with time.

For much of Jock's story I want to call on the aid of a mutual friend of ours to help me, Boyd Stutler, for he feels as I do about Jock. In June of 1945 Boyd published a story about Jock in the West Virginia Review—a story Jock never saw. Boyd was with us on Leyte, and I know will not mind if I use his words directly and freely when my own fail, or in those places where my inability to digest a piece of Jap steel left a gap in my knowledge.

The title of Boyd's story was "Colonel 'Jock' Clifford—Regimental Commander." That title expresses him to me, for I look upon Jock as the model of everything a regimental commander should be—and as an infantryman I can pay him no higher accolade.

"Hell Roaring Jock" (this is a quote from Boyd) the men called this tall, rangy, barrel chested West Virginian who led elements of each regiment of the 24th

Division into and out of so many scrapes that he became a legendary character. He was not called "hell roaring" because of his bellow, but because he had a way of roaring right through to his objective, whether on the football field or fighting the Japs.

He was a grim, determined leader, a stark fighter who pushed his men to the utmost of their endurance, but did not spare himself. In battle he had the dash and audacity of an armored knight, the tough endurance of seasoned hickory, with just enough of whimsy in his make up to make him a very human sort of person. That's why the men in his outfit respected and admired him—repeated little incidents about him—and followed him to the death.

Jock fulfilled the early promise he gave on the playing field at Greenbrier Military Academy at Lewisburg and at West Point, where he starred as an athlete and gained his first national fame as an All-American football center in 1935. The same characteristics which gained him renown in athletics later made him bad news for the Japs in the SWPA—and gained him national acclaim as a battlefield leader.

He was born in Ronceverte, West Virginia, where his mother, Mrs. Mary Clifford, and his sister, Mrs. Charles Huffman, still live. His wife, the former Miss Brownie Peters, and Kris, their five year old daughter, spent the war at Ceredo, West Virginia. Actually, he had no home but the army and military schools since 1928.

Overseas in 1939—under fire at Pearl Harbor—Jock fought the whole war in the Pacific. After a period of service in Hawaii, he fought his first battle in New Guinea at Hollandia in early 1944, where he commanded the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry.

His daring landing with his battalion at Depapre in Tanehmerah Bay without naval fire support, followed by an almost incredibly rapid drive through a mountainous jungle defile on the first day, were decisive factors in the success of the whole campaign. It was his personal courage and dynamic leadership that made possible the spectacular success which culminated in the quick seizure of the main Hollandia Airdrome.

After Hollandia, Jock took a mainland leave for the first time since the opening of hostilities. While on leave he learned that the date of the initial landing in the Philippines had been set forward, and that his outfit was one of the assault divisions. He wangled quick transportation back to New Guinea—but the convoy had sailed. He boarded a fast naval vessel for Leyte which was scheduled to catch up with the slower moving convoy, but his ship was torpedoed. Rescued by a Navy PBY Catalina plane, he finished the trip by air, but arrived two days after the landing—and found another officer commanding his battalion in another area.

However, he was not out of a job more than a few hours.

I learned of his presence and requested his assignment to my regiment. Thus, commanding the 1st



Battalion, 34th Infantry, he plunged forward with his characteristic aggressiveness as our battalions leap-frogged in a breakthrough. Pushing on through Leyte Valley by way of Jaro to Carigara, and on to Capocan and Pinamapoan, splitting the enemy defenses, Jock's dynamic presence added greatly to the power of the spearhead—though his unit of necessity suffered heavy casualties.

It was on November 10th that Jock's 1st Battalion, already exhausted by twenty-one days of unrelieved combat, was committed to a flanking movement in the Pinamapoan area to seize and hold Kilay Ridge far behind the Nip lines. That was the beginning of the fight for the Ormoc Corridor—a slow, heart-breaking, man-killing job—the deciding factor in the Leyte invasion. Possession of the ridge was of the utmost importance.

"Hold that ridge at all costs" was the order given the battalion. And there Jock and his battalion held at a terrible cost in blood and suffering and courage. They stood for nineteen days of tooth and claw fighting in a constant downpour of rain, and against hunger, exposure, disease, wounds, and death.

Their supply lines were cut by the enemy and the muddy rivers that once were roads; food and ammunition were air-dropped, with much of the supplies falling inside of the Jap lines because of heavy jungle and close contact with the Japs. Other supplies were hand carried over slippery, precipitous mountain trails by Filipinos and tired doughboys, who had to fight their way through enemy patrols and trail blocks.

The battalion stood off assault after assault. Enemy attacks, many of them in the blackness of torrential night rains, came from three sides. Each time the battalion lost ten, fifteen, twenty men—once, twice, or even three times each day. Whole companies were cut off during portions of the action. Weapons, coated with mud, refused to function, and the defenders closed in hand-to-hand combat. Many time concentrated forces of Nips forced Jock's men to give ground, but never was any of the ground permanently lost.

The ridge became a slippery, slimy sea of mud in the constant downpour. Clothing and shoes rotted; fever, foot ulcers, and dysentery were epidemic. Men grew steadily weaker from insufficient food and hardships. Ammunition was counted and carefully rationed; at times a concerted Jap attack would have finished the thin line—but they did not fall back. On one day, along toward the end, the battalion killed 250 Japs, and when fresh troops came to relieve them on November 29th, a total of 825 Jap bodies were counted in front of their lines—in addition to uncounted hundreds disposed of by the Japs in their custom of retrieving their dead.

General Yamashita drew the cream of his fighting force from other islands to stay the Yanks on Leyte. Jock's battalion faced continuous attacks of Japan's crack combat troops three full weeks . . . and, as his men were the first to say, it was Jock's indomitable will and leadership which inspired them to make their heroic stand against overpowering odds. For this they later received a Presidential Unit Citation.

With but a brief breathing spell, other action quickly came to the battalion, even before it filled the wide gaps in its ranks. While the fierce battle of the Ormoc Corridor was at its height, the enemy made a landing in force at San Ysidro, which threatened the American right flank. Guerillas reported thousands of Nips, but they had been mauled by naval and air attacks. Jock and his battalion, with a considerable force of guerillas, were ordered to make a reconnaissance and, if possible, to prevent the forces from organizing into an effective unit.

Jock's force accomplished this by a series of raids and quick thrusts from its headquarters at Calubian. So rapid were their movements, so deadly their strikes, that the Nips were never able to get together for a concerted advance.

Jock was promoted to full colonel and given command of the 19th Infantry in early February, 1945, and island landings followed in quick succession, in the mop-up of the Japs on Mindoro, Luzon, and the Visayas. In early April the division staged for a major assault on Mindanao.

The 19th was picked as the assault regiment at Parang. The battle-seasoned doughboys surged across the narrow beach and into the inevitable coconut palm grove on April 17th—but the Nips had fled. Taking up pursuit without a halt, the 19th Infantry, with Colonel Clifford at its head, slogged across the southern peninsula of Mindanao as part of a leap frogging drive from Parang to Digos, a distance of 120 miles in ten days.

That was an endurance test—a cross-country marathon under full pack. Bridges had been burned. The gravel bedded road was overgrown with wiry, cutting cogon grass; they had to wade or swim rivers, climb mountains and wade through marshland, all in scorching, searing tropical heat, halting now and then for brief fire fights with the Japs. Supply lines were cut after the second day, and air drops were made.

At Digos the division commander again placed the 19th Infantry and Jock in the lead for the final twenty mile drive to capture Davao—one of the most brilliant and audaciously executed coups by any regiment in the Pacific area. Thus when June 24th brought an end to his career in the final battles of this campaign, Jock left us as his battle spirit flared its brightest.

Jock had such a hold upon all who knew him that efforts to keep his memory fresh have continued. The men of his regiment idolized him, and every one of them will tell others of their great commander as long as they live. Down in Mindanao they named a main street after him in Davao, and the mayor and people of Davao are building a memorial park named in his honor. After the war they held a special memorial ceremony for him, with a life size photographic likeness of him displayed on the speaker's stand.

Back in West Virginia, his home state, they have proposed a memorial for him.

It is inevitable that such a great soldier would receive awards for valor. Some idea of his tremendous battle drive can be gained from these brief extracts from citations:

From the Silver Star at Hollandia: ". . . Throughout the entire period of this operation, often under enemy fire, Lieutenant Colonel Clifford performed his duties in an outstanding manner, distinguishing himself by gallantry in action above and beyond the call of duty by showing complete disregard for his personal safety under all circumstances in order to accomplish his mission."

From the Distinguished Service Cross on Leyte: "Lieutenant Colonel Clifford aggressively executed the maneuver and seized a prepared enemy position well in rear of the main hostile defenses . . . Always in contact with the enemy and frequently attacked by much larger forces, his battalion made determined and sustained harassing attacks on enemy supply lines . . . and thus disrupted a major enemy counter-offensive. Without rest . . . immediately launched a further determined attack. During this entire period, Lieutenant Colonel Clifford, by his aggressive leadership and courageous personal conduct in close contact with the enemy, imbued his men with an indomitable fighting spirit, the direct result of which was a costly and serious defeat of the enemy . . ."

From the Oak Leaf Cluster to his Distinguished Service Cross, in Mindanao: ". . . Constantly advancing with his forward elements through mountainous jungle terrain . . . heavily mined roads and bitter enemy resistance, Colonel Clifford . . . led his unit in a grueling, sustained drive to the south bank of the broad unfordable Davao River . . . After a rapid reconnaissance, Colonel Clifford personally led the advance elements of his assault company across a small, hastily repaired foot bridge and, under small arms and artillery fire, fearlessly directed the establishment of the initial beachhead . . . By his intrepid leadership, great personal bravery, and determination to perform his mission, Colonel Clifford played a major role in assuring the success of his regiment, and his outstanding leadership and courage provided a lasting inspiration to his officers and men."

Jock also received the Legion of Merit, but of all his citations the one that is most revealing was a Bronze Star awarded him for heroism on Leyte. It means the most to me because he was one of my battalion commanders at the time, and I gave him an order which he carried out—doing himself what he did not wish to ask another officer to do. The citation reads:

". . . Lieutenant Colonel Clifford was directed to send out a small motorized patrol in a jeep to locate the enemy position to insure the uninterrupted advance of the infantry. Knowing the danger of the mission, he chose to personally lead the six man patrol, rather than delegate the task to another. The patrol came under extremely heavy fire from combined infantry weapons and three men were wounded. Colonel Clifford skillfully withdrew with his casualties, with such detailed information that the enemy positions were destroyed that night by massed artillery fire. This bold and skillful action, undertaken himself because of its very danger, was witnessed with great admiration by his officers and men . . ."

Perhaps the last days in Jock's final campaign can

best be told in this extract from the letter written by Major General R. B. Woodruff, his division commander, to Brownie:

"Your husband had proved himself a brilliant and courageous soldier in the invasion of Hollandia, New Guinea, where he played a vital part in capturing the main airdrome there. In the invasion of Leyte, his was one of the brightest names, for he was in the hardest and most decisive battles and acquitted himself with spectacular distinction. This resulted in his early promotion to a Regimental Command over many who were senior to him.

"In the Mindanao campaign the same dash, audacity and brilliance characterized everything he did. Under Jock's leadership the 19th Infantry made the initial landing at Parang and led the way in the unprecedentedly rapid drive across the island. Later, after we reached Davao Gulf at Digos, the 19th Infantry again took the lead and drove so rapidly up the coast that he had crossed many river barriers, forced a column through a narrow corridor between the Japs and the sea, and captured the city of Davao literally before the Japs knew what was happening. This had a decisive effect on the entire campaign.

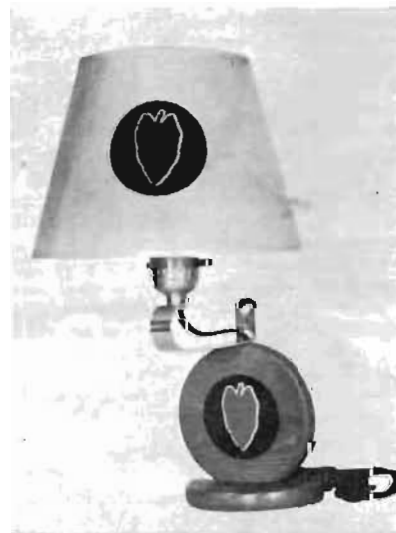
"Later, he made a sustained drive northeastward up the coast as far as Isang, clearing out the Japs as he went, and made contact with guerilla forces there. He followed this by clearing the entire east bank of the Davao River, having a particularly hard fight in the fortified Mandog area.

"After only a few days rest, his regiment again entered the battle. This time he made a wide enveloping movement north of Mt. Monoy, passing between Mt. Monoy and the Davao River. This move was made with the brilliance and drive we had all now become accustomed to in any operation he led.

"On June 24th near Tamogan he was forward most of the day with his leading battalion, encouraging and leading them against hard Japanese resistance in extremely difficult terrain. It was there, in the very forefront of battle as he encouraged his men to greater efforts, that he was caught in heavy mortar fire and killed instantly. We feel that Jock went as he would have wished to go—at the head of his regiment in the flame of battle.

"Jock was laid away in a graveside ceremony in the Tolomo Cemetery, attended by sorrowing men and officers he had so bravely led. Here at Division Headquarters we held a special evening memorial service for him, attended by my entire staff and officers from his regiment . . ."

I was present at that ceremony, and I know that my feelings were similar to those of others there: That it just could not be that Jock had left us. In my mind I could see him standing as he always had:



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Pin-up lamp with 24th Infantry

Division insignia in full colors

Solid brass brackets & parchment shade

\$3.50 each

Shipped prepaid Sorry, no C. O. D.

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15c or \$1.50 a doz.

GALLANT & WILMARTH

14 Cottage St. Attleboro Falls, Mass.

So erect and soldierly, with an aura of limitless strength held under control; with a directness of look and manner that was completely lacking in pretense . . . yet so full of force and purpose. Subconsciously perhaps, I came to a decision that has grown stronger with me since that time: That I would not accept his passing, but would keep him with me in my heart as a model, a symbol . . . which was more concretely fixed in my mind by the message that the division commander distributed to the entire division. An excerpt reads:

" . . . No finer soldier ever wore the uniform of our army. No braver commander ever led his unit in battle. He was not only a skillful and gifted soldier, but the kind of military man we would all like to be."

CALL ME MISTER

HIGHTOWER, Hugh, Co. C, 34th, is living in Newport, Tenn., P.O. Box 375. Says: "My former fox-hole buddy" (William Guthrie Howard, 217 So. Vine, Portland, Ind.) and I had to miss the Baltimore reunion but hope to be at the next one.

SVEDAS, Fr. Anthony M., formerly Regt. Chap., 21st, during Mindanao campaign, is now stationed at Marian Hills Seminary, Hinsdale, Ill.

GIRARDEAU, J. H., JR., former Gimlet is living in Tifton, Ga. Seems he has something to do with bee-raising since his application refers to "Girardeau Apiaries."

CARTER, Thomas E., Div. Hq. Co. Supply Sgt., is still at 19 Chisum Apts., Roswell, New Mex. He says: "Attention: Gen. Cramer—I am now 1st Sgt. in A Btry. 697th AAA AW Bn. National Guard of New Mex."

ROEBUCK, Laurence, 1st Lt. in Hq. Btry., 63 FA Bn. and formerly CO of Sv. Btry., is the owner of a Bar and Grille in Brooklyn. Home address: 46 West 62nd Street, New York City 23, N.Y.

BERSUDER, Robert N., CO of Hq. Co., 1st Bn. and Hq. Co., 3rd Bn., 34th Inf., in Hollandia and Biak operations, wrote to us from 402 Lovers Lane, Baton Rouge, La.

HUTCHENS, Athol G., Co. G, 21st, is living in Missouri. Just Blue Springs will reach him.

WILLIS, Curtis C., of Co. G, 21st is running a country store in Jonesville, Va.

HASN'T LEARNED YET

SGT. BENJAMIN E. PECK of Fort Ord, California, says: "I was with Co. M, 19th Inf., went through the Philippine campaign and on to Japan and I left there in December 1945. I stayed out of the army for two years before I decided to re-enlist. I am now stationed with the Leadership School here. Came back in as a Corp. and have advanced up to Sgt. or S/Sgt. I am now an operation Sgt. Do you have any addresses of men of Co. M, 19th Inf.? Would appreciate getting them."

McCOMMON, Rodgers F., of Box 145, Sour Lake, Texas, is one of the many of Co. K, 19th to join the Association. "Let me hear from K Co. men."

STOLL, Robert S., Co. I, 21st, sends us a nice letter from Box 212, Mahopac Falls, New York. He inquires about Col. Wm. Verbeck's book "A Regiment in Action." The Colonel brought at least 200 copies to the Baltimore convention and every man who attended was offered one, and apparently took his copy. We have a half dozen left at this office and will mail them out to the first six members of the Association who request them.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

JOHN MILGATE, Co. L, 19th wrote as follows in "Foreign Service" (the V.F.W. magazine): "I wish to verify an incident that occurred in May, 1945, while I was serving with Co. L, 19th Inf. A PFC named Kneelan from Oregon was the BAR man in a rifle squad. One day while under heavy enemy fire, he tried to fire his BAR and it seemed to jam. Later he discovered that a Jap bullet had wedged in the muzzle of his gun. The weapon was returned to this country. I'd like to get in touch with others who can confirm this incident since some to whom I've told this story don't believe me."

If it's true, why not write to Milgate at 700 Argonne Drive, Painesville, Ohio?

SEGAL, Harold, former Platoon leader in 19th, should be celebrating the first birthday of Stanley Burt on June 24th of this year if all has gone well—and we hope that it has. The address of his law office is 112 State Street, Albany, N.Y.

LUCKETT, Paul, AT Co., 34th, sent us several addresses of his friends. He lives at P.O. Box 215, Waynesboro, Pa.

COINCIDENCE

FRANCIS W. POIRIER, formerly of Co. L, 19th Inf., is now at the Newton D. Baker Veterans' Hospital at Martinsburg, W. Va. The doctors there do not hold out much hope that Frank will be up and about in the foreseeable future. The official diagnosis is that he is totally and permanently disabled as a result of his war service. Poirier is one of the most ardent boosters of the Association. He has engaged in extensive correspondence with us. Recently, we sent a couple of back copies of The Taro Leaf—copies which had been returned by the post office—but it was found impossible to deliver them to the addressees.

In acknowledging receipt of the back copies Poirier wrote: "I have not been so close to the 24th since my departure on Mindanao. I noticed a very peculiar thing. The name on one of these papers which had been returned to you with the notation that the addressee was unknown was that of my old buddy in I Co. of the 19th."

Poirier, a native of Plymouth, Mass., promised to send the correct address of his former buddy in I Co. Incidentally, Poirier would be glad to hear from any of his old buddies not only in I Co. of the 19th but in any unit of the entire Division.

NOTE—The President of the Association, perhaps acting ultra vires but, he assumes, with the approval of all concerned, took it upon himself to return Mr. Poirier's two dollar membership fee and at the same time transmitted a letter in which he told Mr. Poirier that his name would be permanently inscribed upon the membership rolls of the organization and that he would receive all future copies of The Taro Leaf.

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 402-410 First National Bank Building, Attleboro, Massachusetts
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 COMPANY AND REGIMENT, OR BATTERY.....
 HOME ADDRESS.....
 ADDRESSES OF FELLOW-VETERANS.....

 REMARKS.....
 DUES ENCLOSED.....

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES, \$2.00
IF YOU WANT FUTURE ISSUES, CLIP THIS COUPON

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

EDWARD HYATT was formerly with C Btry., 13th FA Bn. The Dept. of Veterans Affairs for the State of Alabama, P.O. Box 509, Montgomery 2, Alabama, is trying to locate him. If you know Hyatt's whereabouts, will you please write to Mr. P. D. Saunders, Chief Claims Examiner, at address just given.

PRIVATE HAROLD MOON

The Division is proud that three of its members received the highest award within the gift of the nation, the Congressional Medal of Honor. One of these men was Harold Moon, member of 2nd Bn., 34th Inf. The Division record of the Leyte campaign details Moon's heroic stand on the beach-head and is quoted herewith:

"Although sniper fire and small arms infiltration attempts were scattered through the entire beach-head area during the early morning of 21 October, the only determined counter-attack in force was launched against the Pawing perimeter of the 2nd Battalion, 34th Infantry.

"At about 0130 the enemy struck in battalion strength from the south, aided by darkness and under cover of heavy mortar and machine gun fire. Leading elements pushed rapidly forward toward our positions, meanwhile making a double envelopment of our flanks. The main force came straight down a road and attacked the 2nd Platoon of "G" Company which was on the southern flank of the battalion perimeter. By 0200 the Japanese had pushed to within a few yards of our positions, employing mortars and machine-guns to deliver a crossfire which killed or wounded all personnel in the first two three-man positions except Private Harold H. Moon.

"Here occurred one of the most gallant one-man stands of this or any other campaign. Alone in his foxhole, Moon returned the Jap fire, shouting insults and encouraging the men of his platoon. At 0240 he was wounded in the leg, but he continued to fight. By 0300 the right gun of the heavy machine-gun section protecting Moon's position was wiped out and the gun destroyed. This enabled enemy troops to move much closer to the lone soldier. A Jap officer crawled to a point directly across the road from Moon and began tossing hand grenades. Moon boldly accepted this as a personal challenge. This duel continued for more than an hour and ended when Moon shot the officer through the head.

"Little by little the Japs inched forward, fanning out as they came. By 0500 they had completely surrounded the 2nd Platoon and the right arm of their attacking force had struck the left flank of the

Regimental beachhead perimeter to the west defended by "L" Company. Forty-five minutes later, when the platoon was running short of ammunition, and the platoon leader, Technical Sergeant Ferguson, had become a casualty, an enemy machine-gun had advanced to within twenty yards of Moon's position and was sweeping the road. No man dared to raise his head. Moon exposed himself to determine the exact location of the gun, then, remaining exposed, he directed fire from his own heavy machine-guns, shouting back instructions until the enemy gun was destroyed.

"The destruction of the gun enraged the Japs. For four hours they had attempted to take this position. Just at dawn an entire Jap platoon arose out of the grass and charged. Moon sat on the side of his foxhole, placed his machine-gun between his knees and emptied the magazine. He felled eighteen Japanese before they overwhelmed him and he died laughing in their faces."

CALL FOR HELP

We received this letter from **ELMER RAY BURTON**, Kents Store, Virginia:

"I am a veteran of the 21st Inf. I would like your help. I have been having malaria fever ever since I was in service overseas. I have been trying to get some compensation as my health isn't very good. They do not have any record where I contracted it in service. I know the doctor that tended on me every attack I had overseas. His name is Capt. Edward E. Shapiro of the Med. Corps, but I do not have his address. Do you all by any chance have his address? I would greatly appreciate your sending it to me. Name again (Capt. Edward E. Shapiro) please let me hear from you all. Thank you very kindly. P.S.—Also if you have Tom Suber's address send that too."

We sent Capt. Tom Suber's address, (Whitmire, So. Carolina) but we do not have Capt. Shapiro's. Can anyone help?

WITH THE REGULARS

BRONNENBERG, 1st Lt. William B., 24th Med. Bn., stayed in the Army as a Master Sgt. for a while. Has of late returned to the officers ranks and is on duty in the Federal Building, Detroit.

PRITCHARD, S/Sgt. Joseph A., Co. D, 19th, lives at 118 Sterling Place, Brooklyn 17, N.Y. No news of his present assignment.

HORNIAK, L/Sgt. Charles, member of 13th FA Bn. from February 1944 to August 1945. Now a member of the Air Force stationed at March Air Force Base, Calif. His job is in the Purchasing and Contracting Office. He closes his letter "hoping to hear from some members of the good old 13th FA Bn. (Clansman)."

CARMACK, Sgt. Murrell C., is now with enlisted detachment, 4011th A.S.U., Station Complement, Fort Sil, Okla. Inquires about "Children of Yesterday" by Jan Valtin. We have frequent inquiries about this book which is a semi-official history of the Division. We understand the first edition has just about been exhausted, but it may be that the Infantry Journal, 1115-17th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C., has some in stock.

BOWMAN, Lt. Wheeler G., was with Sv. Co., 21st, from January 1944 to March 1945, still on active duty and serving with the 43rd Armored Inf. Bn. at Fort Sil, Okla.

VERBECK, Col. Wm. J., former commander of the 21st and chairman of the 1948 convention committee. He is in Rio de Janeiro. His address: Army Section, J.B.U.S.M.G.—A.P.O. 676, c/o Postmaster, Miami, Fla. The last time we heard from him via Christmas card—even at that he has something on us.

THE JUDGE WEDS

ALVA C. CARPENTER, long-time Div. JA, and now chief of Legal Section, SCAP, APO 500 (Tokyo) was married in Australia in April. Just where, exactly when, and most important, to whom, will have to wait on the next issue.

THE TARO LEAF

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MEETING Continued from Pg. 1

sons for that delay which it would serve no good purpose to outline here. However, the executives in charge of publication have promised that the next issue of The Taro Leaf will be forthcoming within the month to be followed almost immediately by another issue which will bring the membership up to date on the news of the Divisional publication. So much for the preliminary announcement concerning the 1949 convention of the 24th Infantry (Victory) Division Veterans Association. Watch future editions for more detailed explanation of what we plan to do, but above all plan to be there yourself and bring your family and your friends, if you are so minded.

James W. Mine,
Box 592
Midland
Texas