

TARO LEAF

24th Infantry Division Association

Vol. VII August, 1954 No. 5

THIS IS YOUR INVITATION
TO BE WITH US IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
AT THE HOTEL STATLER
ON AUGUST 13, 14 AND 15 . . .

You are most cordially invited—

Washington is set for the explosion . . .

You may have thought that the old place rocked when G. David Schine flew into town with a picture under his arm — wait'll the 24th lands!

This is the last call — the clock is ticking off the final seconds before the jump off — History is just around the corner — Will you be a part of it? It lies in the presence of your old buddies sitting with you in the fulfillment of a celebration pledge you never believed you'd be able to keep.

It reaches out and takes you to the Statler where Taro Leafers will establish a CP for all who served with the Victory Division.

Please make it if you can.

Aloha,
"VIC" BACKER

T A R O L E A F

The official publication of the 24th Infantry Division Association, published regularly in the interests of all men who have served and/or continue to serve the 24th United States Infantry Division

 Kenwood Ross, Editor

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\$\$\$ WHO HAS THE \$\$\$

Here's a teaser -- one you may be able to work out with toothpicks or dollar bills if you have enough.

Three men entered a hotel and paid \$30 for a room. Later the desk clerk decided he had charged the men too much and sent a bellhop with \$5 to return to the men, thus charging \$25.00 for the room.

The bellhop decided to keep \$2 of the \$5, thus returning a dollar each to the three men. That made their room cost them \$9 each or a total of \$27.00. The bellhop had \$2, making \$29. What happened to the other \$1?

(Editor's note: In keeping with Taro Leaf policy, we don't answer the questions. We merely present the facts, just the facts.)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To Bill Savell, Treas.

24th Inf. Div. Assoc.

P. O. Box 268, Blountstown, Fla.

Here's \$3.00. Please make me a member.

 Name

 Address

 Unit

Word in from DON ZIMMERLIN (21st) at Ft. Benning concerns the Ft. Benning Chapter. Don writes:

"At our last meeting new officers for the Ft. Benning Chapter were elected. They are: President, MAJ. ROBERT P. McDERMOTT (5th RCT), Headquarters, 1st OC Regt.; Vice President, SFC ROBERT W. COMPTON (34th & 19th) 20th OC Company, 1st OC Regt.; Corr-Secretary, 1st LT. DONALD J. ZIMMERLIN (21st), office of the Comptroller, Hdq, TIC; Sec-Treasurer, SFC KENNETH R. HOUSE (26th AA) Main Post Theater, TIC.

"During the course of this meeting 5 new memberships were procured. Inclosed is my check of \$10.00 for the yearly dues of the new members who are: LT. COL. EUGENE COOK, (19th) 1st OC Regt., Ft. Benning, Ga., LT. COL. EDWARD O. LOGAN, Off. of the Dir. of Instr., Ft. Benning, Ga., MAJOR DENNIS J. SHAW, AG, TIC, Ft. Benning, Ga., 1st LT. DONALD J. ZIMMERLIN, Off. of the Comptroller, Ft. Benning, Ga., 2nd LT. RICHARD H. STOWERS, 20th OC Company, Ft. Benning, Ga.

"That's about it for business. In mid-January the Chapter gave a dinner in honor of General Dean who was visiting the installation. Several of our members served close to the General in Korea and helped make his evening enjoyable. In fact, if the height of the war stories being told and the mood of the members could be registered, the rating for the entire evening would be -- very successful."

That a good report, Don -- many thanks. Here are the Ft. Benning members as of the moments:

BEWLEY, MANVIN, Sfc, (19th Inf)
 BRANNON, CLAYTON R., Sgt. (5)
 CECIL, JAMES B. (M/Sgt) (21st Inf.)
 CLARK, RAY G., Sfc (19th Inf.)
 COMPTON, ROBERT W., Sfc (34 & 19 Inf)
 CALDWELL, WM. B., Capt. (3rd Bn, 19th)
 CRAWFORD, CHESTER H., Capt. (21st)
 COOPER, CURTIS., Lt.Col. (3d Bn., 19th)
 COOK, EUGENE, Lt.Col. (19)
 DAVIS, EARL L., 1st Lt. (ACO 5 RCT)
 DICKSON, WM. M., Capt., (19-34)
 DONAHUE, DANIEL, Sfc (19th)
 EDRIS, EDWIN N., Lt. Col. (34th)
 DICKERSON, CHARLES F., 1st Lt. (F Co. 21st)
 FRENCH, DANIEL L., 1st Lt. (1st Bn, 34th)
 FISHEBURN, WM. H., Sgt.
 FORMAN, THOMAS J., 1st Lt. (21st Inf.)
 HAWKINS, HIRSCHLE H., Maj. (21st Inf.)
 HOUSE, KENNETH R., M/Sgt (26th AA)
 HALE, LINDSEY, Capt. (34-19)
 JAMES, EDWARD, 1st Lt. (3d Bn, 21st)
 LOGAN, EDWARD O., Lt.Col. (19th)
 MUDGETT, CHARLES F., Col. (21st)
 MELOY, GUY S., Maj.Gen. (19th Inf.)
 MILLER, HOWARD P., Maj. (21st)
 McDERMOTT, ROBERT P., Maj. (5th RCT)
 NAUDTS, MORRIS J., Lt.Col. (19th)
 NEWMAN, AUBREY S., Brig.Gen. (34th & Div.Hq.)
 PETTY, EDGAR L., Capt.
 PEREZ, GINES, Col. (34-19)
 ROBY, DALE W., Capt. (Div.Hq.)
 STUHRMANN, ALFRED H., Sfc (24th MP Co.)
 SHAW, DENNIS J., Maj. (Div. Hdq.)
 SCHILLER, MELVIN D., Capt. (34th & G-3)
 SMITH, JAMES E., Capt. (19th)
 STOWERS, RICHARD H., 2d Lt. (5th)
 VANDER HEIDE, HERBERT J., Col. (21)
 VAUGHN, BILLY M., 1st Lt. (21st Inf.)
 WINGATE, EDWARD E., SFC (19th Inf.)
 ZIMMERLIN, DONALD J., 1st Lt., (21st Inf.)

NOW HERE ARE THE DETAILS . . .

FRIDAY — Registration for the reunion will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. After you register your time is your own. Wander around and renew old friendships, take a sightseeing tour of Washington. Sightseeing data and information on sports events, movies, plays, etc., will be available at the registration desk.

FRIDAY NITE — Beginning at 8:00 p.m. there will be a "Get Together" party with cold beer, soft drinks, potato chips, etc., served. This will be the start of a good old story telling and the time to catch up on the doings of your buddies for the last few years.

SATURDAY MORNING — Starting at 10:00 a.m. (hope you took an alka-seltzer) the business meeting will be held in the Assembly Room on the Mezzanine Floor. Be sure and attend, so that you may be able to take an active part in the discussions. The management of the Association and the course that the Association is to take in the future rests in your hands. Let's have your ideas!
Of course, all day long the Registration Desk will be open.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON — Past experience on trying to set up something definite for you to do on Saturday afternoon has not been too successful, since so many wanted to do so many different things. Therefore, you will be on your own, to gang up as you please, and do what you please. For those who want to go to the ball game, see a show or movie, go on a sightseeing trip, or what have you, we will have information available at the Registration Desk.

SATURDAY EVENING — This is it. Cocktails starting at 7:00 p.m., and a grand banquet at 8:00 p.m. Following dinner we will hear from our distinguished guests. For the ladies, this whole affair is strictly informal. However, for the men, coats and ties will be necessary.

SUNDAY MORNING — Beginning at 10:00 a.m., we will have our Memorial Service in honor of those of our comrades-in-arms who have made the supreme sacrifice. This service alone makes it worth while for us to get together.

Perhaps of greatest importance, is the business end of the Association. At this meeting decisions of great importance will necessarily have to be made. Decisions that may well have a bearing on the future of our Association as an organization. It is important, therefore, that YOU be on hand to have a voice in the rendering of those decisions!

Then again, there is that firm hand-shake, that warm glow that you feel all over, in greeting an old comrade you haven't seen since the war's end. The bond that exists between you, as you go off to some corner of the room and perhaps relive the moments, days and years that you shared together. The laughter and the sorrow, the muck and the grime, the heartaches and the victories, Hollandia, Biak, Leyte, Mindoro, Bataan, Corregidor, Japan, Osan, Taejon, and all the others.

To many, just names and expressions, but to you, firmly and indelibly impressed, never to be erased! Need we say more?

With our membership now at 2,721 as we go to press, we can't miss breaking all attendance records. Will you help us to make it so?
Form 3547 Requested

And if you want to be sure that your best friend is coming — or that other fellows from your old outfit are coming, WRITE them yourself — THEN YOU'LL BE SURE — and we don't mean Westinghouse.

And remember, *all* 24th Division members, past or present, EM's or O's, are encouraged to attend.

You don't have to be a member of the Association.

And by all means, bring your wives and sweethearts — and pass the word around to your buddies so that we'll miss no one.

We are in receipt of a sad report from Mrs. Pearl B. Holman, wife of M/Sgt. CLARK L. HOLMAN (B-21st) who writes:

"I regret very much to tell you that several weeks ago the Department of the Army declared my husband 'presumed dead' inasmuch as he has not been heard of since July of 1950 when he served with the Division.

"For over 3½ years I have been endeavoring to seek word concerning my husband's disappearance. The Army is unable to supply me with any information. From a photograph taken in an enemy prison camp, and released in 1951 I am able to identify him. I am eager to find out anything I can about him. The attached newspaper clipping relates the story. Is there a possibility that it could be circulated in your publication so that anyone with knowledge of my husband could contact me? My gratitude would be so great.

"I would be most happy to assist in any way I can toward making your convention a success. At any rate, I do want to continue my husband's membership in your organization despite the Army's recent action."

The newspaper article to which she refers states in part:

"Mrs. Holman knows her husband at one time was a prisoner of the Communists. Although the Army doesn't consider it proof that her husband ever was a prisoner, Mrs. Holman, brown-haired mother of two sons, bases her hopes and prayers on an enlargement of a photograph taken somewhere in Korea. In the front row of a group of American prisoners in the photo is an unshaven, grim-faced GI, glowering insolently up at the camera.

"I've never had any doubt that's Clark," Mrs. Holman said. "His parents have no doubt and I could name 100 friends who recognized him without even consulting me. I've seen that look in his eye too many times to ever forget it. That's his mad look."

"Holman, a graduate of Carson Long Military School at New Bloomfield, Pa., of which his father, Col. Edward L. Holman, is president, was a Purple Heart veteran of WWII. In 1949 he was transferred to the 7th division in Japan, and Mrs. Holman and their eldest son, Clark Jr., now 6, joined him there.

"With the invasion of South Korea, Holman was among the men transferred from the 7th to the 24th Division and shoved in to meet the Red advance.

"It's the uncertainty that's so hard," Mrs. Holman said. "If we could just find out one way or the other. Some of those prisoners may be straggling back 10 or 15 years from now."

"Holman would now be 32 years old."

POINT OF ORDER

We have a problem too.

The old memories are waiting to be relived. So why not plan on spending Saturday, August 14th at the Hotel Statler in Washington, D.C.? Some will come early -- possibly Friday the day before -- others will stay late -- possibly Sunday the day after -- in any event, let's all be sure to make Saturday, August 14th, the big day at least.

BOB ENDER writes us this interesting letter from Honolulu:

"Came over here on a business trip for the first time since '43. Made a thorough reconnaissance of the Northern Sector. Thought it would be of interest to some of the old timers.

"Schofield and Wheeler Field are like morgues, except for the families of service personnel occupying living quarters. Hawaiian Pine have done away with all of the various camps and have grouped them all in one large village of nice homes just outside Wahiawa. Kemoo Camp is overgrown with tall grass; there are a few remote signs remaining of our installations and bunkers. The same is true of Brigade Woods, now being used partly by the Agriculture Dept. as an experimental station (some cattle were grazing there). I attended a nice beach party one night at Mokuleia. It seemed strange to have a bon fire going, also no barbed wire. I met SOL McCURDY of 52nd Field and his wife; they have three lovely children.

"BILL and Doris WEBER, of Hawaiian Pine., Wahiawa (who entertained so many service men during the war) had the welcome mat out for me. I'll have to go home to rest up!

"Downtown Honolulu is pretty much the same, but comparatively few military men on the streets. Waikiki is built up with additional plush hotels and new shops.

"Would be a wonderful place for a Division reunion if we can just find someone with a few dozen DC-7's to spare for a week or so!

"That's about all. Kindest regards. Aloha! P.S. No signs of the pack train operating up the mountain. The mud is just as red as ever."

Thanks for the fine report, Bob!

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

Word in from Maj. Gen. PAUL D. HARKINS, the new Div CO is as follows:

"Inclosed please find my check for five dollars for enrollment in the Division Association.

"The 24th continues to be a great division and the present members who carry the colors continue to add to the rich heritage that the division has already gained. My best wishes to you on your reunion in August. I hope it is a very successful and enjoyable one."

We thank you for the salute, General Harkins, and respectfully "pipe you aboard."

THE BIG ONE GOT AWAY.

When you ask the question, "Will my buddy be there at that Convention?", our only answer is that "we don't know; why not contact him yourself and make certain that he is there - with you?"

FOR UNITS ON ACTIVE DUTY

Date.....	UNIT OFFICERS AND NCO's —
From.....	Your platoon, company, or unit can enroll together.
Unit	EACH will receive his membership card and regular subscription to our magazine.
Please enroll all of the men on the attached list as members of our association. I am enclosing \$3.00 dues for each, a total of \$.....	
Signed	
Unit Address:	
c/o PM, San Francisco, California	

CRANFORD DUKE (19th) dropped in to see us recently on his way from Ft. Devens to Ft. Lewis. Cranford's address is Box 752, Troy, N.C..... The 34th boys in the New York area are planning a special train to get themselves down to our Convention in August.

BOB SOLOMON, 34th, wrote in his memories column of "The 34th Infantry Informer," the following bit about Corregidor:

"Do you remember???? Corregidor Island, P.I.

"Perhaps this month, this article is a memory for only a few of you, but you others have heard the tale enough to make it not too strange. While we were still on Luzon, the 3rd Bn., augmented by part of the 1st Bn, were informed that they were chosen to assist in retaking of Corregidor. Here it was 1945 and we were ready to return. During the briefing, photos were displayed showing the bastion sitting in the mouth of Manila Bay. An ominous rock blocking the way of all shipping into the Bay. It was rock and all we knew of its armament and personnel was just guess work from way back when Skinny Wainwright was there. It wasn't long before we found out! In order to hide our aim, we joined another assault team in an attack on Bataan, across the bay. We spent a restless night on the beach in anticipation of the work on hand. When the sun came up we loaded into LCM's for the trip. Everyone stretched their necks to see what was going on, and there was plenty to see. The Island lay lengthwise in the Bay, shaped like a giant polywog with its tail pointing to Manila. The large round head was a high plateau with its sides dropping sheerly into the Bay. It was called TOPSIDE. In the middle of the Island was a saddle about two blocks wide and three long, with another hill sloping sharply up and then down into the tail of the Island. The second hill was called Malinta Hill and it was honeycombed with the famous caves of the island. It was this little saddle we were headed for. The enemy had used the tail for its assault and lost a lot of men. We were not going to make the same mistake. The trip to our destination took over an hour, but it was not uneventful. The air force and the navy were giving the Island a going over, before the sky filled with paratroops and their equipment fell upon TOPSIDE. It was a small target and some didn't quite make it, but there were PT boats to pick up those who missed. We arrived on schedule and were greeted accordingly. Part of the team scooted up Malinta Hill to bait the enemy out of their holes, while some went out to contact the paratroops, and the rest of us took over the saddle." (continued next month)

Thanks, Bob. We'll reprint your continuing article too, with your kind permission.

A doctor's 74-year-old patient said he was getting married. The doc asked, "How old is the bride-to-be, John?"

"Twenty-two," replied the old man.

"Well," said the doctor with a sly twinkle in his eye, "Maybe you'd better take in a young boarder."

Month later the two men met again and the doctor asked, "How's the missus?"

"She's doin' fine," said the happy father.

"She's expectin'."

"The doc grinned, nudged the old man and said, "How's the young boarder?"

"Oh," replied John, "she's expectin', too."

RAY W. TATMAN (19th) of Rossmoyne, Ohio, writes:

"So far I've made just the Detroit Convention but plan to be in D.C. in August if my work permits. I'm with the Alcohol & Tobacco Tax of the Treasury Dept. and at the present time, just where we'll be in the next few months and if we can have some time off is very difficult to even guess. But if at all possible, I'll be there.

"If you happen to run into a JIM (used to be Lt.) RUSSELL, give him my regards and ask him to drop me a line and let me know how he's getting along. He was my Lt. 'over there.' Thanx.

"As far as I know, I'll be in Cincinnati for the next month or two, so if you have any address of prospective members in this area, and have the time to list them, send them this way and I'll see what I can do to erase the 'prospective' in front of the members.

"After reading the letter regarding the carrying over 600 returned POW's I feel rather guilty -- that I've done practically nothing for the Assoc. -- and should at least try.

"That's it for this time -- see you in August."

Thanks for the report, Ray.

The 3rd Armored Div. Assoc. has kindly referred a new prospective member to us. He's BOB JOHNSON, of 623 Harrison St., Lynchburg, Va. Bob was in M of the 34th. Thank you, PAUL CORRIGAN of the 3rd Arm'd..... Your comments to make ours a better Association and this, a better newspaper, will be appreciated.

BILL BYRD (21) is now president of the Jr. Chamber of Commerce back in Ft. Smith, Ark. Have you left Georgia, Bill?... AL MILLER (A-21) has written asking for copies of back issues of the Taro Leaf. We simply don't have them, Al. We used to but we have gradually depleted our stock.... DICK AMERMAN, of Wethersfield, Conn. reminds us of the day on Leyte when "Chick" MINARICK (D-21) came back from a patrol and yelled "I've got two!" "Japs?" someone called to him. "No - wounds" was Chick's reply. It'll never bring vaudeville back but at least it's good for a smile almost 10 years later. It wasn't so funny then, though.

JOE LENK, of 1229 Missouri Ave., South Milwaukee, Wis. writes:

"I just received the latest issue of the Taro Leaf and have been reading the directory of names of members and find I am listed as living in St. Louis, Mo. If it is not too much trouble please make correction in the next issue, just in case some former 24th Inf. buddy notices my name and would like to get in touch with me. My name, house number, and street are correct, but I am not from St. Louis, Mo."

Oops, Joe, sorry!!!

J. A. (Tony) SNYDER, of Napa, Calif. sent his last Taro Leaf to ARNOLD T. LEE, of Dawson, Minn. so we've sent Tony a replacement copy. Tell us about it and we'll do the same for you. Here's a part of Tony's message:

"Would like to compliment the Taro Leaf faculty on the front page cover picture of Schofield Barracks. It's enough to make a Taro Leafer homesick for the old home. Am sending my Taro Leaf to a buddy that I have been working on for several years. If this issue doesn't do the job I don't know what will. I really enjoy the directory of the members, read each and every name, here's to larger directories in the future."

TARO LEAF

24th Infantry Division Assoc.

P. O. Box 268

Blountstown, Fla.



Samuel Y. Gilner,
78 Palisade Ave.,
Bogota, N. J.

Form 3547 Requested

Your President has just returned from a trip to Washington to look things over. He reports that "we're ready to move out."

Many of you have taken the advise and have made early hotel reservations. For the others, there are still accommodations. And if the Statler doesn't suit your pocketbook, there are plenty of other places close by.

The committee is working hard and they insist this will be the largest gathering yet.

Your '54 Convention Committee, ably chaired by JOE PEYTON, and including

BILL CRUMP

TOM CHACONAS

CECIL SISK

JOE DeMICHELE

HARRY ANAMATERO

BILL VERBECK

and

NICK SLOAN

have a full program waiting for you including Memorial Services at Arlington at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and at Ken Cramer's Grave.

If you have never attended one of our reunions, make this your first and we're sure you'll never miss another.