

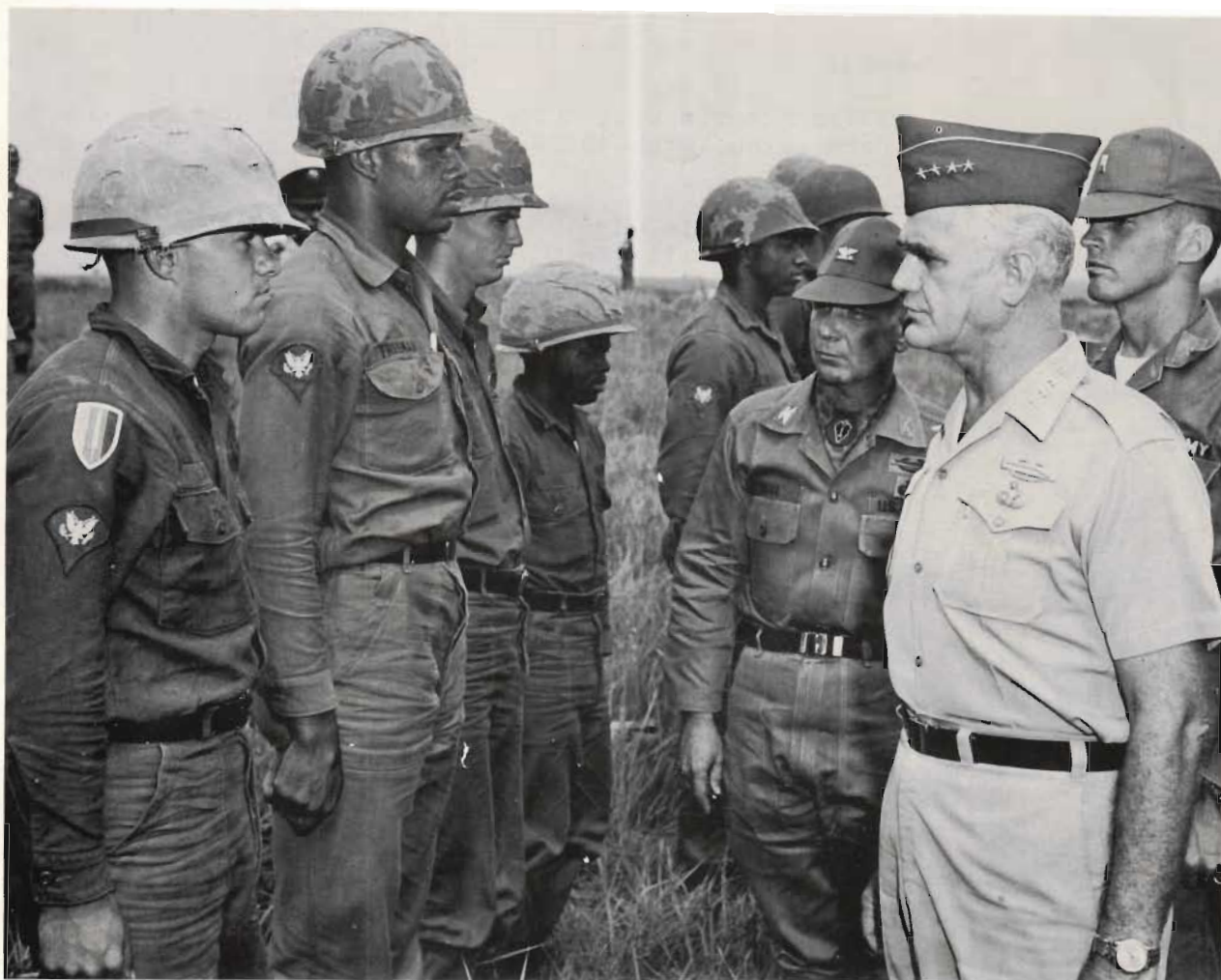
TARO LEAF

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

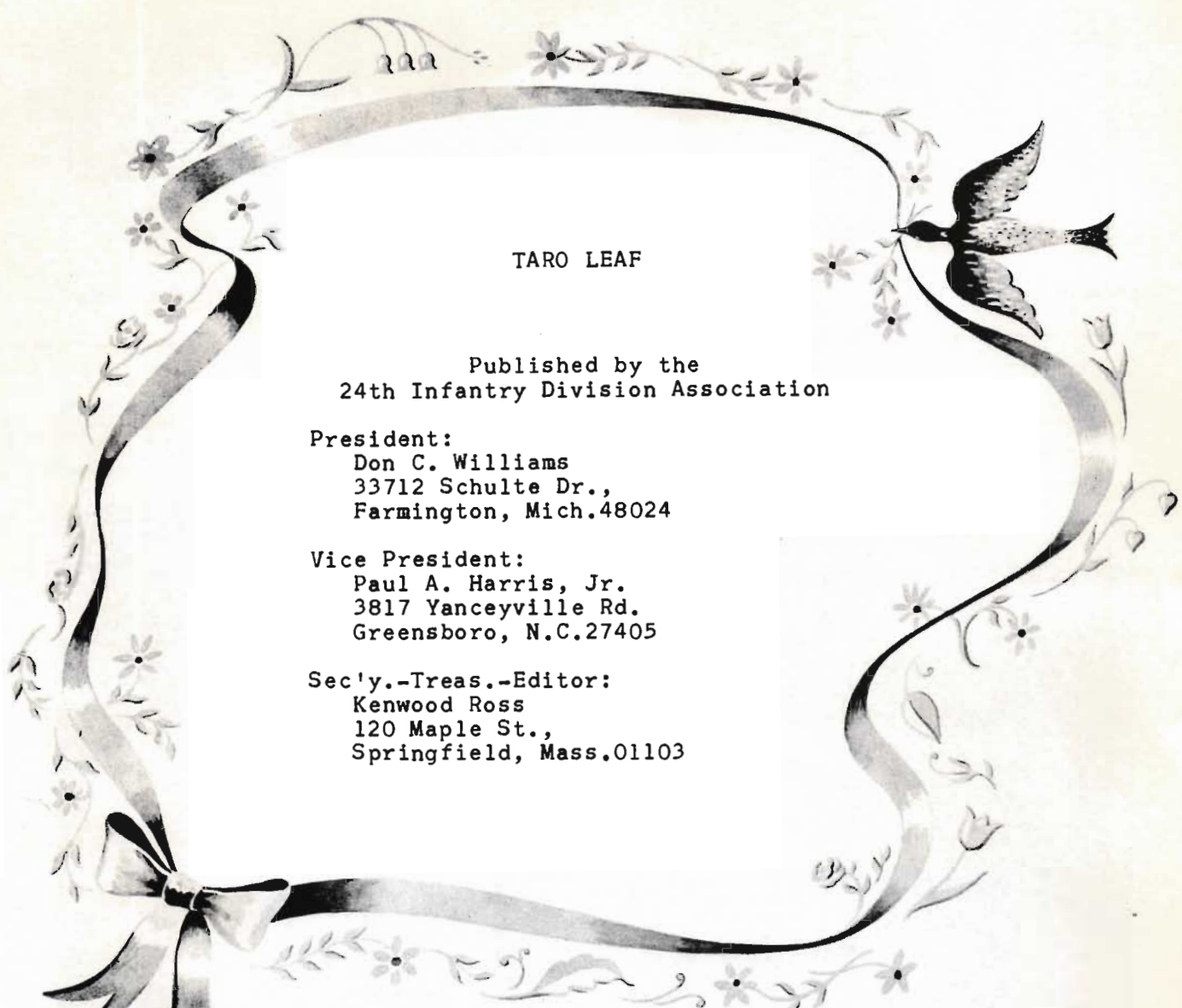
VOLUME XXII

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1968-1969



Gen. William C. Westmoreland inspected Division troops at Riley on August 9th. Here he talks to Sp. 4 SHERMAN R. FREEMAN, Co. B, 1st Bn., 19th Inf. Grateful acknowledgement is made to Sp. 4 Paul D. LaBounty of Fort Riley Photographic Laboratory.



TARO LEAF

Published by the
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FREELAND, JOHN, (63 F. 1/42-4/45), of 5592 Lafayette, Newark, Calif. John and Mary recently sent us a bunch of names of prospective members.

FINEGOLD, MAURICE J., (Sv. 19th), of 475 NE 50th Terr., Miami, Fla. Mo is Prexy of South Florida Council of B'nai Brith Lodges.

EMERSON, RICHARD D., (B13th F), of Rt. 3, Sturgis, Mich. Dick says that there's a new organization in Detroit called "Hippies Anonymous". If a hippy decides to wear a clean shirt, a friend comes over and talks him out of it.

DOBSON, DAVID, (Band 11/66-12/67), of 940 Main, Reedsburg, Wis. Dave and Pauline have Charryl Ann 11, Dave 10, John 6 and Gerald 5 and want to hear from Band members. Dave is Chief of Police there.

DONAHER, ROBERT F., ('41-'45), of 34 Burnham, Westport, Conn. Bob likes to recall the words of that brilliant military strategist, General Custer, who said, "Don't take any prisoners, men".

GAUPP, ALVIN G., (52 F '41-'44), of 239 Coolidge, Absecon, N.J. Al and Myrtle ask us if we've heard about the Medicare patient who, following surgery, awoke to find a placard on his incision reading: "This is a federal project showing your tax dollars at work".

THORNBURG, JOHN W., (34), of 351 Edmore, Akron, Ohio. John and Pauline write: "Sorry we couldn't make the convention this year as planned. Our son has returned on a 30 day leave from Germany and we were busy entertaining him, his wife, and our new grandson - John W. IV, born in Germany in April. Our son, Captain John, returns to Germany to close out his affairs there and returns to the States where he is going to be trained as a Missile Launching Officer. Needless to say, we are quite proud. Our No. 2 son, Bob, is a senior at Akron U. and plans to be a teacher after he has completed his responsibility to Uncle Sam. Give our regards to the gang. Tell them we think of them often and will plan to attend the '69 Convention - be the good Lord willing!"

LETTERS

TO THE
EDITOR



BORZILLERI, JOHN G., wants to know the story on the Division History. It's coming, Johnnie. John sends us a story on the origin of Tappan Zee. Seems that in the 1700's, many, many people who had lost their teeth had to be content wearing ill-fitting dentures made of wood which were very painful. George Washington was one of them. A Dutchman in Tarrytown named Rudolph Flugel fashioned metal dentures which were kept firmly in place by magnets imbedded in the gums. To demonstrate their secureness he would, with Dutch dialect, invite prospective customers to "tap an' zee". He formed the Tappan Zee Bridgework Co., which became nationally known, and the span over the Hudson River was named after it. The product had one defect. When denture-wearing couples osculated, if one of the individuals had stronger magnets, he or she might inadvertently dislodge and withdraw the other's dentures. We dunno, John, but we suspect that this whole story is as false as the teeth old Flugel made or didn't make. We're running it down.



"He'll do anything to meet his quota; I know, I'm his Mother!!"

EDITORIAL COMMENT

WHAT'S YOUR THOUGHT?

We like to think of the Taro Leaf as being your newspaper.

With this in mind, we would like to know what you like - and don't like - about the paper. This is an invitation to let us know what you think.

We are most interested in finding out your ideas on how we could improve. What type of story or news articles you enjoy most? What aren't we doing that you would like to see us do?

Perhaps you could think back over several recent issues and tell us what you liked most - and least. We'd be glad to hear from you.

CREIGHTON, MELVILLE R., (724 Ord), of 1801 Wren, Harrisonville, Mo. Mel likes the one about the two Jewish mothers whose children grew up together. They hadn't seen one another for years when they met on the street and decided to chat.

"And how are your two boys, William and Bernard?", inquired the one of the other.

"William is an attorney, a partner in a big law firm", the second woman responded with pride. "And it's Doctor Bernard, if you please, with lots of patients...And your son, Herman, how is he?"

The first mother's eyes dropped, but only for a second, when she answered, "Herman is a homosexual".

"That's wonderful!", exclaimed her friend, "And where's his office?"

REUNION COMMITTEE DESERVES PRAISE

Many thankless hours of behind the scenes details go into the planning of any reunion. However, when the culmination of this effort results in success, it is reward enough. But we still want to express our appreciation and extend our praise to all who took part in the planning and execution of this Reunion - it was a job well done!

CUSHNIE, JOHN D., (M 21 '39-'41), of 15590 Hanfor, Allen Park, Mich. John and Jean warn us that "it will soon be wintermission".

BLANEY, KERMIT B., (B, C and L 21st), of 4126 Olympic, Columbus, Ga. Kermit and Irene are enjoying retired - from-the-army life.

MACALDO, EDWARD, (24 Sig.), of 141 Pierce, Buffalo, N.Y. Ed is treasurer of the N.Y. Dept. of Army and Navy Union, also county treasurer, past C/S, and past Dept. Commander of his Amer. Legion Post. You're a busy fellow, Ed.

MILLIGAN, Lt. Col. GEORGE, III, of 727 Appleberry, San Rafael, Calif. Fran is at San Rafael; George is in V. as TO w/ Field Forces II.

MULLINS, WILLIAM L., (C 13th F '42-'44), of 3412 Logan View, Baltimore, Md. Bill and Lois were at Glacier Nat. Park as we were at M.B., then the west coast and the southwest. Son, Bill Jr., is in the army in Thailand.

1968-1969
DUES
ARE DUE



What's wrong with our Army?

We have a prejudice, not against the U.S. Army, but against its bureaucrats.

Take the item of the "division slice".

The U.S. Army has upwards of 60 - 70,000 men to support each of its 16 divisions of around 13,000 men each. This is more than double that of the Red Army.

Why the extravagance? Too many officers. The O-EM ratio is the highest of any army in the world.

The oversupply of officers means that there are just not enough command and combat jobs to go round. There are 5,000 full colonels and jobs for less than 200 of them in the organized units, at divisional level and below, which actually shoot at the enemy. There are more than 35,000 field-grade officers - major and up - and jobs in combat units for less than a tenth of them.

With so few real combat and command jobs, there is immense bureaucratic pressure to create headquarters and staff jobs, which provide "slots" for officers. This leads to the tendency of "staffs and headquarters to multiply and remultiply, blooming ever more luxuriantly the farther you get from the combat area".

This is precisely what Parkinson had in mind when he wrote his first "law".

It's the elephantine staff system that follows the U.S. Army wherever it goes, be it V., or Europe, or wherever.

Never are so few commanded by so many.

The proliferation of headquarters results in too many officers being, in essence, bureaucrats in uniform, performing duties having remote, if any, relationships to the essential function of an army-winning wars on the ground. But then, since 1945, our army apparently hasn't been supposed to win its wars. Ho hum, back to the drawing board.

COVOTSOS, CONSTANTINE, (34th & Div.Hq.), of 3142 Lockwood, Sarasota, Fla. Gus and Anne, domiciled in that Paradise, Sarasota, put us in mind of that verse that goes:

"When icy wind storms blow me in
And nasty blizzards snow me in,
There's simply nothing horrida
Than cards from friends in Florida."

BURGER, HENRY A., (H 21st), of Home, Kans. Hank and June Lee say that they have a neighbor who's a big gun in the automotive industry; he's been fired 16 times.

BRADY, ODAS L., (Hq. 13F), of Rt. 1, Box 160, Vilonia, Ark. Six years ago, Odas suffered a total disability. Anything we might do, Odas?

WRIGHT, JAMES N., (21 '43-'45), of Riverside Trailer, 1197 S. 2nd, Coshocton, Ohio. Jim has been out of work since March of 1964. In addition to other problems, he's having trouble with his vision. Jim still thinks of all of us however.

"I feel ridiculous referring to him as a 'light colonel'!!!"

PHILLIPS, VOLNEY M., (24 Sig. '42-'45), of Harris, The Forks, Me. Mildred writes us that Volney has completed 30 years with Central Maine Power where he is Supt. at Harris Station. These folks are really in the woods - near Jackman. Sez Mil: "One of our biggest forms of entertainment is watching the bears, deer, and moose". They love it there.

POSTMA, JAMES L., (21st), of 15 E 7th, Lawrence, Kans. That's a new address for attorney Jim and Sally.

POWERS, JOHN F., (19th '42-'45), of 4 Kittredge, S.Peabody, Mass. Welcome aboard to newcomers, John and Virginia. Johnny's an electronics teacher. They have one, Leslie, 21, and married.

ROGERS, JOHN E., (L 21 '43-'45) of 308 S.Cedar, Little Rock, Ark. John sends 5 and an extra 5 "for the kitty".

O'MALLEY, JR., Maj.Gen. CHARLES S. As CG, Hq.Military District of Washington, Gen. O'Malley writes us: "I left the XIIIth Corps, Fort Devens, Mass., in May '67 and took command of the Military District of Washington, Washington, D.C. on 1 June 1967. Here in my office I welcome the opportunity to chat with former members of the Twenty-fourth Infantry Division. I assure you that you have my continued support." Those are warm words, Gen. O'Malley. We salute you!

POCHAL, JOHN, (24th Sig.), of 115 Murray, Beaver, Pa. John has been unemployed for the past year and a half. With a wife and 4 daughters, that's trouble. Has been in personnel work with Westinghouse. Anyone got any ideas?

NEWMAN, Maj.Gen. AUBREY, (34th and Div.Hq.), of 612 Juan Anasco Dr., Longboat Key, Sarasota, Fla. Red spotted a news-item on New Guinea. Seems they have shopping centers in Port Moresby now, complete with supermarkets, department stores, air conditioned hotels, and even a 12 story office building. Today it's a city of 50,000. Olympics of the Pacific Islands are scheduled there for next August. The natives are wearing the dress of the whites now - in Port Moresby, that is. Remember when the bare breasted gals wore the grass skirts? Some were the first miniskirts we were to see. One advantage of an Army experience - we saw them first. Red reminds us that a plebiscite is supposed to be held next July in what we knew as Dutch New Guinea, now West Irian, under the tender mercies of the Indonesians. Imagine the Fuzzy Wuzzies voting? They could vote for independence. Red says its almost inconceivable that a government could be formed capable of undertaking even the most rudimentary functions of a state, let alone of maintaining a tolerable economy.

HAGEDORN, RALPH H. (B 34), of Ral-Mar's, 405 Main, Manning, Iowa. Sez Ralph: "I joined the 24th in Hawaii in '42. We did like the rest of the boys did; we were being trained for jungle fighting and landings. We sent into New Guinea and then to Biak and then into Leyte. After fighting on Leyte for over a month, I was wounded and went to the hospital two or three times and then I go to go home. I was just like the rest of the boys that did the same thing and some did more. I am more than proud for what I did for the U.S. and give thanks that I'm still here. After I got out of the service in 1945, (I spent nearly four years there, which thirty-seven months of it was spent over-seas), I cam home to no one but my mother and again I was thankful I was back in the States. I found a good job and worked until I went into business for ourselves. We started our Variety Store back in 1955 and have done pretty good ever since. I'm 48 years old now and married the best little gal in the world (aren't all women like that) and she is the champion pie maker. We have one child, a boy, Mark, seven years old. We have only three in our family but we have lots and lots of fun and enjoy every day of life. We are all three great ones for bowling and fishing. In fact, we go fishing every Sunday and in the fall and winter we go bowling. My wife and I have won a few big tournaments last year and really enjoy it. We love to bowl."

BERNA, JOSEPH, (63 F '41-'45), of 1712 Andover, Oklahoma City, Okla. Joe has asked about other division associations. We secretaries keep in surprisingly close touch with each other by mail, exchanging ideas and copy. As we write this, we have a letter from C.D. Steel of the 90th Div. Assoc. He's at 4255 E. 62, Kansas City, Mo. and asked us if any Taro Leafers have any friends who served in the 90th. They're on the prowl - too - it never stops. They have 5300 prospects and 800 members. We have 20,000 and 1200.

BAKEWELL, THOMAS W., (724th Ord. '43-'45) of 1007 Beachside, Huron, Ohio. Tom and Polly sent along a hefty \$ contribution for which much gratitude.

AITKEN, MALCOLM D., (1st Bn. 21st '43-'45), of 103 Anniston, White Sands Missile Range, N.Mex. M.D. has moved, is now Intelligence Off., White Sands, a civilian position; was Chief, Intell. Div., Hq. Army Material Command, Washington. M.D. and Pat have son, Mike, a senior at U. of Nevada; the four girls, Nancy 14, Kristi 12, Penny 10, and Judy 9 are at home. They'd love to hear from any Gimlets "with whom I spent many pleasant and unpleasant hours from Mokuleia Beach to Okayama".

ANDERSON, CHARLIE R., (Hq. '42-'45). New address for Charlie. Now 2308 Santiago, Farmington, New Mex. He tips us that Col. URBAN L. THROM (34th & Div. Surgeon) and Jackie are back from Germany and are stationed in Germany.

DELONG, DANIEL B., (B13th F '44-'46), of 301 W. Cleveland, Vinton, Va. Dan tells about the two gents on safari in Africa. They were riding on horseback through a jungle. Suddenly a leopard jumped from the branch of a tree and landed on one man's back. He screamed at his friend, "What the heck is that?" Replied the friend, "I dunno; I'm not a furrier".

DABERKO, WILSON A., (24th Sig.), of 929 Parrish, Uhrichsville, Ohio. Bill and Lucy, the most powerful collaboration since E was matched with MC², were so sorely missed at Myrtle Beach that they're going to make an extra effort to be at St. Louis in August.

GEELHOED, THEODORE, (I 19th '51), of 60 North 8th, Hawthorne, N.J. Ted's at Aerospace Nylok Corp. in Hawthorne. Extra-curricularwise, he's Sr. Vice Commander of the Paterson, N.J. post of the VFW; is going for Commander, and we hope you make it, Ted.

GEARY, ROBERT E. (K-21 '44-'46), of 51 Nixon, Dorchester, Mass. Bob and Phyllis have son, Kevin, now with the 3rd Mar. Div. in V. We hope and pray that he comes home safely and soon.



"It still tastes like beans"

PLEASE
PAY
YOUR
DUES
NOW!!!

BLOOMER, TED J., (Sv. 21st), of 86-143 Kakaiapola, Waianae, Hawaii. New address. Ted sends his "Kala" for the year and advises that Schofield" is jumping again- they play just like their fathers did - for keeps". Adds Ted: "Sure this will bring fond memories to old timers who tried to capture them on East Range. I am on the Beach now at Waianae, soaking up the Sun and TRYING to catch a few fish. Aloha to all".

SALSER, LEROY B., (Hq. 34 '44-'45), of 7235 N. Oatman, Portland, Ore. Roy liked our count the triangles in the star puzzle in our last issue. It is a puzzle designed to start people thinking. In an unencumbered fashion. Yet logically. In an open minded way. But at the same time, organized. And because we think that an explanation is just as important as an answer...and because you're bound to be asked how you first did the puzzle..... here's a step by step solution.



Start by counting the smallest sized triangles.



Then count the next size.



Then count the largest triangles.



The answer: 20 triangles. For a normally perceptive person. An extremely perceptive individual may see more. If all the design elements (different lines) are utilized, up to 368 triangles can be visualized. The solution: simple. Once you know where to start. Thanks Roy.



ORGANIZATION DAY at Riley: Troops from Hq.Co., 24th Div., listen as the history of the Division is read during Organization Day activities at Cavalry Parade Field, Riley. Photo by Sp.4 Paul D. LaBounty of Post Photo Lab., Riley.

The Last Roll Call



LEDGERWOOD, HOWARD G., (Div.Hq. '46-'47) of 1364 Normandy, Deltona, Fla. Ledge and his wife, Ros, have suffered the loss of David G. Ledgerwood, a 19 year old sergeant in the 101st A/B Div. in Vietnam. In V. less than one month, he gave his life. After paying a surprise visit with his parents in March, he left Deltona on Apr. 2nd. On the 21st, in a letter written from a hospital, he told his parents that he had suffered a shrapnel wound from a grenade. In another letter, of the 25th, he advised that he was recovering and would be back in the line. He was killed two days later.

Born in St. Louis - we once visited the family there - David lived the usual army life at various posts including 3 years in Rome and 5 in France. Graduating from high school in Florida, David enlisted - in '66 - and went overseas to the 24th at Munich - and eventually this. Besides Howard and Ros, surviving David is a brother, Alan, 17. The loss is appalling and we of the Association grieve for the Ledgerwoods who are left behind to carry on - and they shall carry on.

CARPENTER, ALVA C., (Div. J.A. '41-'45), of Box 19167, Washington, D.C. If they give a Nobel prize for devotion to the 24th Division, Judge Carpenter will have to rent a tuxedo and fly to Stockholm. Judge never forgets the Division or we who were onetime parts of it.

OLIVER, PATSY, (Band '44-'45), of 454 Garden City, Monroeville, Pa. Pat and May have joined, thanks to EUGENE PAPI. Pat remained with music and has his own orchestra as well as a music store. They'd love letters from band people.

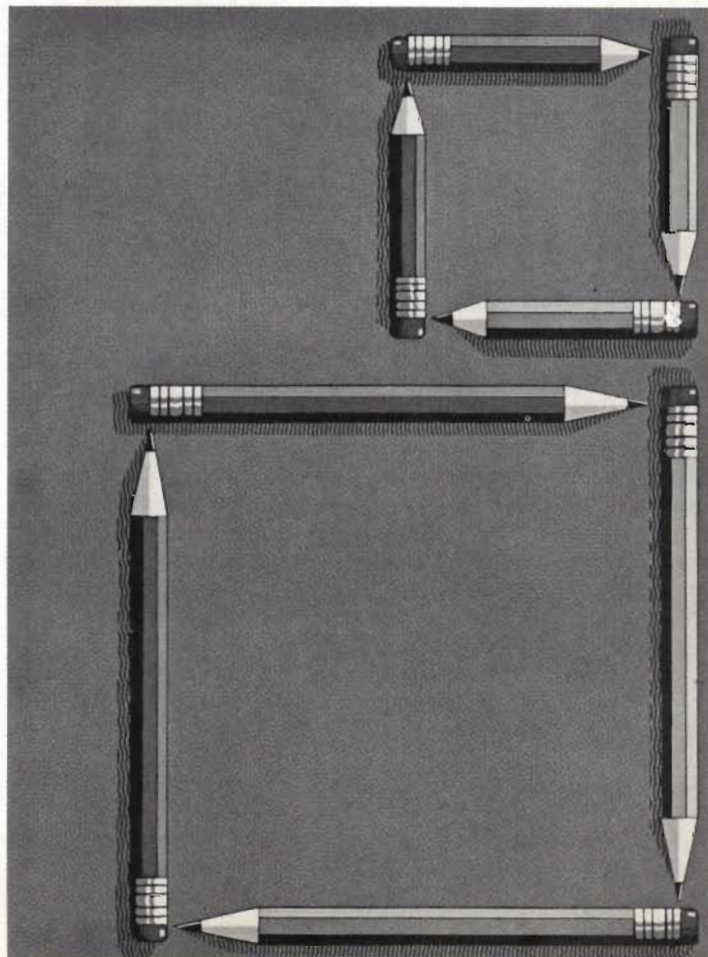
BERUBE, ALBERT J., (19th '46-'47), of Box 962, G.P.O., Brooklyn, N.Y. Al and Marie think that the tipping situation is becoming ridiculous. They sat in a restaurant for 30 minutes before the waiter showed. Asked Al, "What do you recommend?" Replied the waiter, "20% of the check".

DAVENPORT, LEON, (11th F and A21 '45-'40), of 5551 F. Folger, Ft. Knox, Ky. Actually Leon is in Vietnam, but Barbara is at Knox.

BARKER, SAMUEL, (34th '41-'45), of 47 Berkeley, Lawrence, Mass. Sam writes that he's been laid up since '63 with heart trouble. "Wonderful wife, Annette, and daughter, Kathleen, have been very understanding through these trying years", writes Sam. We're pulling for all of you good folks.

DOBSA, PAUL A., (724th Ord. '39-'45) of Box 155, New Kingston, N.Y. Paul and Betty tell about the couple in their town who recently married. He was 96; she was 87. They spent their honeymoon getting out of the car.

MARCY, ROY W., (C 21 '43-'45), of Box 860, Rt. 3, Sequim, Wash. Roy asks if you can arrange these 8 pencils to make 3 squares of equal size. Remember no part of any pencil may extend beyond the edge of any square. Want a hint? Sorry. Solution, next issue.



WOODRUFF, Maj.Gen. ROSCOE B. (Div.Hq. '44-'45), of 208 Elizabeth, San Antonio, Tex. Months ago, we signalled to Gen. "Woody" that we'd delight in reprinting some of the experiences of his lovely lady, Alice Gray Woodruff while she was in the Malabang area in Mindanao. It was a long time ago but we don't believe Mrs. W. will object to our pinpointing it at 1903-5. But let Mrs. Woody tell it her way. You're on, Alice Gray Woodruff:

* * *

"My father, Col. Alonzo Gray, (then Capt. Gray) was stationed in Denver when his regiment, the 14th Cavalry, was ordered to the Philippines. I was thirteen. Our freight was sent on ahead, and, arriving in San Francisco was put aboard a transport and sent over. We were in San Francisco awaiting the regiment, when the orders were revoked, so a cable was dispatched to return the freight.

"I doubt if people these days realize that until after WW I, Service families had to pay their own fare upon a change of station. And there was no allowance for packing or transportation of baggage or household goods. All this was at the personal expense of the family!

"While we were still in San Francisco, the freight was started home from Manila. Five days out, a case of cholera was found on board and the transport returned to Manila. In spite of the fact that a message had been sent to the Philippines to hold the freight there, it was put on another ship and sent back to the States. We passed it in mid-ocean. Loaded again in San Francisco it was sent back to Manila, then onto an Inter-Island transport to our station. Five ocean voyages for one freight shipment must have been a record.

"The family boarded a Spanish cattle boat in Manila for the last leg of the trip to Mindanao. It was filthy; there was no doubt that it had really been a cattle boat! I can't remember what the food was that was served to us but it was so unsanitary that we did not eat it. We lived mostly on hard tack (a very hard cracker about 4 inches square) and guava jelly from a can; and drank water diluted with claret.

"The ten day trip through the Central Islands was beautiful. We eventually arrived off Malabang and found that there was no dock. We boarded lighters and went in as far as possible, then transferred to row boats and the last few feet were carried pig-a-back to the beach.

"I can't remember the place being called anything but "Malabang". The Post was built in the usual quadrangle, barracks on one side, officers quarters on two sides and headquarters, chapel, and other administrative buildings on the fourth. All buildings were of nipa, built up on stilts, all done by native labor. The walls were of swali (a sort of matting), and the roofs were thatched with palm leaves. They were weatherproof most of the time but a bad

storn would blow rain through and we had to put kettles around, especially to protect the beds.

"We didn't take along any of our better furniture as it would be ruined by moisture and mildew. We did take comfortable beds and canopy mosquito bars which could be tucked under the edges of mattresses to keep out lizards, scorpions and other things that happened to be playing around on the roof beams.

"As little could be bought in that remote area, we tried to take along enough clothing to last two full years. I remember that my mother and sister took thirteen pairs of corsets. Everyone wanted to know who got the extra pair! We wore canvas shoes as all leather promptly mildewed and rotted. In the little village of Malabang, there were two "chino" stores, and one run by East Indians where one could sometimes buy a length of "jusi" cloth (pineapple fiber) or "grass linen" (a sheer cloth imported from China), which made very pretty dresses. But everyone else had dresses just like them."

(To be continued in Issue No. 5 - not the next one, No. 4. Sorry 'bout that, Mrs. W. Ed.)



WEIDLE, WILLIAM F., (F 21 '40-'42), of 1095 Byberry, Cornwell Heights, Pa. Bill and Pat have son, Bill, in the Inf. at Ft. Ord. Bill wanted him to wear the Taro Leaf. Bill's finishing 23 years with the Reading R.R. Think the steam locomotive will ever come back, Bill?

ZWICKER, Maj.Gen. RALPH W. (Div.Hq.), of 6131 Beachway, Falls Church, Va. Ralph has a definition of "Happiness Is..". Sez Ralph, "Happiness is discovering that your daughter is in love with an older man - J.Paul Getty." Our own definition is - Happiness is having a Doctor who smokes 3 packs a day.