

PARADE

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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A SERIOUS WORD

Please read this article carefully. It is not an appeal for money.

We are devoting our entire cover page this month to business, as we believe you are entitled to this so-called mid-year report concerning our biggest problem -- membership.

You will recall that at Detroit last August, we had increased our strength to just under 1000; 987 to be exact. By then, we had built up a file of approximately 3000 additional names of prospects.

At Detroit came the windfall. We came into possession of lists containing approximately 50,000 names. These were the company and battery lists which were made up in Japan during 1946 and 1947.

We took to those lists the way Einstein touched on to long division.

At once, we undertook a very ambitious program. We started on September 1st to write to every single one of the 50,000.

We were determined to get our message out to all known one-time 24th'ers.

It was a long, slow undertaking but by New Year's Day, we were able to write "COMPLETED" on the project. We were striving to beat the Postmaster General who upped his postal card rate on January 1st. We just got under the wire. It was a close race -- as close as two coats of paint -- but we made it.

Not only have we contacted -- or tried to contact -- the 50,000 men on these lists, but we have also established a card file system. We now have separate file card on every known 24th'er. As new names come in, they are added to the system, either as members or as prospects.

Our indexing is arranged by states and not by units so if you want to know where "Joe Blow" is these days, please bear with us. We'll try to locate him for you. But, we may have to look in 48 places for him. But we'll do it! You give us the problem and we'll try to locate your friend for you. That's one of our functions.

In column 1 of the table below, we list the number of paid members as of press time. In column 2, we list the number of prospects (non-members).

Members Prospects

Alabama	7	692
Arkansas	10	184
Arizona	3	621
California	86	2246
Colorado	7	421
Connecticut	18	655
Delaware	1	83
D.C.	8	152
Florida	14	462
Georgia	24	791
Idaho	3	206
Illinois	93	1971
Indiana	30	955
Iowa	39	756
Kansas	40	586
Kentucky	15	1101
Louisiana	6	389
Maine	6	250
Maryland	42	336
Massachusetts	86	856
Michigan		1247
Minnesota	27	750
Mississippi	3	295
Missouri	36	962
Montana	3	205
Nebraska	12	307
Nevada	0	74
New Hampshire	3	115
New Jersey	46	1452
New Mexico	1	156
New York	120	2621
North Carolina	10	695
North Dakota	7	253
Ohio	73	1945
Oklahoma	18	776
Oregon	12	654

Pennsylvania	92	2676
Rhode Island	7	175
South Carolina	9	403
South Dakota	5	175
Tennessee	7	492
Texas	33	1334
Utah	5	106
Vermont	1	101
Virginia	32	490
Washington	13	264
West Virginia	13	656
Wisconsin	31	621
Wyoming	2	111
Hawaii	15	501
Overseas	56	78

We call your special attention to the obvious fact that the preponderance of our strength (actual and potential) lies east of the Mississippi River. That is why each of our conventions has been held east of "Old Man River".

About 4000 of the cards mailed out have been returned to us for bad addresses. That is, the prospects have moved leaving no forwarding addresses. We have just set these aside for the present. They are not included in the above totals.

Of the 50,000 names in these lists, many were listed twice or three times, the lists originally coming from many different sources; duplication, therefore, was inevitable. Because of the duplication and even some triplication, the sum total of the names on hand does not equal the total of the 50,000 new names which we had when we started this drive last Labor Day. As aforesaid, we now have a separate card on every single member and prospect. It was while in the process of making up this card system, and not until then, that we discovered this aggravating duplication. Nevertheless, we would rather have had a man's name twice than not at all.

However, the master file is growing by leaps and bounds every day. We are particularly fortunate in that we are adding to it not only the names of World War II veterans which the above lists of 50,000 largely represented, but also the names of Korean veterans which are coming to us from various sources, principally from the companies and batteries in the Division in the Far East.

Please stay with us. We are steadily growing. We'll make it yet!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ASSISTANTS

This is a note of thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

When we started the big Membership Drive last September 1st, we called on a few of the more interested members to give us a hand in addressing post cards. The enthusiasm put into the effort by these members was overwhelming. Without their help, we could not have accomplished what we did.

For lack of time, we aren't even going to try to send out individual notes to these men (and in many cases, to their wives, because they were in there pitchin' too). Rather we would like to acknowledge our debt to them publicly here. The willing workers were:

Dick Amerman, of Wethersfield, Conn.
Paul Belisle, of Bristol, Conn. (19th)
Chaplain Chris J. Berlo, our faithful Assoo. chaplain, of Denver, Colo. (19th)
Bernie Bjorkman, of Ft. Smith, Ark. (19th) and his ever loving wife, Nadine, who helped us out in addition to her pressing duties as secretary to the pastor of one of the largest churches in Arkansas. Nadine wrote us once "But I love it". A special vote of thanks to you, Nadine!
Bill Blanchard, of Denver, Colo. (724 Ord)
Tony Blanco, of 'Frisco (724 Ord)

Doc Braden, of Houston, Tex. (34th)
Bill Byrd, of Ft. Smith, Ark. (21st) who rounded up all 24th'ers in his area and made a party out of the work.
Joe Caskey, of Des Aro, Ark. (13th F)
Roscoe Claxon, of Stamping Ground, Ky. (724 Ord) who just won't quit when it comes to labor.
Bill Daberbo, of Uhrichville, Ohio (24 Sig) and wife Lucy for whom we would do anything up to and including robbing the First National Bank. We'll write you from the Bastille, Lucy.
Robin and Doty Daniels (Div. Hq.) who took time out from their busy days at Ft. Benning to give us a friendly lift.
Ray Dende, of Wilkes Barre, Pa. (724) who not only printed the cards but addressed hundreds of them as well.
Joe DeMichele of Washington, D. C. (19th)
Paul Duncan of Oklahoma City, Okla. (63F)
Sgt. Gerry Elaim of Ft. Benning (19th)
Bob Ender of Los Angeles (21st)
Dean English of Jackson, Mich. (63F)
J. N. Froome, Jr. of Red Bluff, Calif. (21st)
Frank Hammer of North Hollywood, Calif. (21st)
Chief Hancock of Cp. MacArthur, Calif. (div. Hq.)
Glenn Harrill of Richmond, Calif. (21st)
Johnnie Healy of Cincinnati (19th)
Ed Henry of Attleboro, Mass. (Div.Hq.) one of the most loyal 24th'ers on earth.
Leon Howard of Pasadena, Calif. (Div. Hq.) our official Assoo. Artist and my very good friend.
Les Ingelson of Moline, Ill. (24 Med.)
Doc Jones of Little Rock, Ark. (21st)
Julius Jozs of Detroit (19th)
Pappy Kaye of Berkeley, Calif (Div. Hq.)
Jack Leahy of Chicago (3rd Eng.)
Johnnie McCabe of 'Frisco (34th)
Bill McKenna of Albany, Calif. (34th)
Doug Mentas of St. Paul (24 GM)
Al Miller of Columbus, Ohio (21st) who addressed 2501 cards
Jim Mims of Midland, Tex.
Johnnie Monzella of Berkeley, Calif. (34th)
Earl Myers of Gardena, Calif. (19th)
Joe Nee of Flushing, N.Y. (Div.Hq.) who pushed the work over onto his beautiful wife, Marion, but who we like just the same because we think he's one of the finest men who ever wore a "Taro Leaf."
Lloyd Neff of Kansas City (24 Med.Bn.)
Harold Noll of Cp. Cooke, Calif.
Earl O'Grady of San Luis Obispo, Calif.
Howie Piehl of Anaheim, Calif.
Fran Poirier of Annapolis, Md. (19th)
Lloyd Prioe of Dallas (Div. Hq.)
Johnnie Riccardi of Montgomery, W.Va. (19th) who wants to hear from men of B of the 19th.
Roger Richardson of South Bend, Ind. (21st)
Johnnie Rogers of Mt. Laguna, Calif. (21st)
Walt Rogers of Modesto, Calif. (21st)
J. B. Romo of Douglas, Ariz. (19th)
Carl Schank of Middlesex, N.J. (19th)
Charlie Seibert of Rego Park, N.Y. (19th)
Dick Senker of Army Chemical Ctr., Md.
J. A. Snyder of Inola, Calif. (19th)
Al Stewart of Ft. Ord., Calif. (21st)
Fred Thress of Euclid, Ohio (34th)
Urb Throm of Army Hosp., Hot Spring, Ark. (34th)
Dan Wegley of Fresno, Calif. (19th)
Ed Weigman of Ft. Wayne, Ind. (19th)
Bill Willmot of Avenal, N.J. (21st)
Woody Woodward of Los Angeles (19th)

And there they are, all sixty of them. Every one of them contributed to making this Association grow. Again, the thanks of all of us go out to all of you.

Many of these enthusiastic members have written in asking about the response from their particular cards. It has been impossible to keep track of it in that way, fellows. The job has been overwhelming as it is without keeping records such as would be necessary to answer that question for you. Furthermore, the way memberships continue to roll in, the picture is changing every day. Thanks to you, the change is for the better.

TARO LEAF

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TELL YOU WHAT I'M GONNA DO

Hy Bohmer (K Co. 34) has recently been given a boost in the VA. Congratulations on that promotion, Hy.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

John Ross (Sv.Co. 34th) is a teacher out in Fairfax, Okla. He's also coach of the Fairfax Red Devils, a class B eleven out there. We haven't word on what kind of a season the team had this year. Anyone know?

MEL, WHERE ARE YOU?

Mail addressed to member Mel Thibault (34th) at V.A. Hospital, Bronx 68, N. Y. is being returned. Mel, where have you gone?

Major Bob Malone (21st) is Exec. Off. of the 38th F.A. Bn. of the 2nd Div. in Korea. Bob says it's lots colder there than it was in New Guinea and adds, "It's just as dirty, however. The big problem of the hour is how to take a bath without freezing. We have lots of warm clothes and sleeping bags but, as usual, the doughboy suffers. He is way out in front again with very little." Thanks for the memory, Bob. May God keep you safe and send you home soon.... Varian Hoover is certainly working hard for the Assoc. He just brought another member into the club.



WHOOPEE

The thoughts of Special Services and their so-called "V-Discos" brings to mind the memory of one popular recording that was heard over and over during 1945 days. It was Tony Pastor's recording of the Eddie Cantor tune, "Whoopee". Around Div. Hq., it was particularly popular until "Red" Newman one day decided that he had heard it for the last time. We were more or less in agreement with Red's ultimatum at the time. However, we chanced to find a copy of the recording recently and the replaying thereof conjured up such pleasant memories of certain times past that we wanted to share the words with you. You'll have to supply your own tune. The words went like this:

The robin calls, -- his little mate,
She whistles back, -- and gets a date,
They fly through tree tops, -- with two or three stops,
To make some WHOOPEE.

The coddle fish, -- are very shy,
When other fish, -- go swimming by,
But then with great speed, -- they head for seaweed,
To make some WHOOPEE.

They leave the flirting swallows,
Head for each country barn,
Surely they know what follows,
But they don't give a darn.

And need I mention, -- the crazy stork,
Who has a passion, -- for causing talk,
If he's about you, -- beyond a doubt you've,
Been making WHOOPEE.

The parrot is, -- the strangest bird,
In words so wise, -- you must have heard,
He says it's normal -- to be informal,
When making WHOOPEE.

He used to raise the dickens,
Way down in Old Brazil,
He had at least six chickens,
Who always paid the bill.

But in his case now, -- our feathered friend,
Is out of luck now, -- for to the end,
He has his heart in, -- but can't take part in,
This making WHOOPEE.

Up in Vermont, -- when winter comes,
The fellows don't, -- just twirl their thumbs
And girls attractive, -- are very active,
At making WHOOPEE.

Way down in Maine, -- where pine trees swish
And it's too cold, -- for folks to fish,
The men start spruicing, -- and go producing,
A lot of WHOOPEE.

Think of the joy of skiing,
In each New Hampshire town,
Think of the he and she'ing,
After the sun goes down.

We know two girl friends, -- away up North,
Who once were snowbound, -- 'til March the fourth,
One knit a sweater, -- But one did better,
She made some WHOOPEE.

It was a great tune and we still like it.
Somehow we suspect that "Red" really liked it too.

ANOTHER MAN WITH KEN CRAMER

Ed Nickerson (34th) is back in again, so writes Nancie, his very lovely wife. He's now with Hq. Btry., 43 Div.Arty. in Augsburg, Germany. Nancie plans to join him as soon as possible. It looks like a junior edition of the 24th is developing with Ken Cramer's 43rd.

Roger Heller (19th) writes us from Oakland as follows:

"I am doing graduate research in history at the Univ. of Calif. and when I have spare time I scrounge around for information on the good old 19th Inf., some day I would like to write a history of the unit but that is surely many years off. They also keep me busy as h--- being exec. off. of Co E, 361st Inf., 91st Inf. Div. ORG. tis a far cry from the Chicks. Thought I would enclose sample of the type of stuff that is available on the 19th here, it briefly covers the period 1861 to 1890, but the only way to do a decent job would be to work in the National Archives, Wash. D.C. The 21st Inf. has the start of an excellent history beginning with the old 21st of the War of 1812 in the Infantry Journal, I think it begins with Volume 6 (Bound) 1906, but I wouldn't stake my life on that. If anyone is interested I can furnish them with the exact info.

"As for blunders in the Taro Leaf, to h--- with them and the critics, you are doing an excellent job and I only hope you can keep it up."

There are times when even to comment on an act of friendship and loyalty is to make a lugubrious ass of yourself. This is one of those times.

NAT IS FREE

Nat E. Smith, of York, S.C. (Surgeon for 6th Tk.Bn.) was recently separated from the Army at Fort Jackson. A bright little cluster of exclamation points is reported to have settled just over Nat's head when he was handed that paper.

"GUMSHOE" FULLER STILL A "GUMSHOE"

Maj. John E. Fuller (Div.Hq.-G-2) writes us from Taegu, Korea, where he serves with Hq., EUSAK, G-2 Section. We spent many pleasant hours in the company of John and others of Div. Hq. in the "good ole days" in Japan. "John-san" reports having returned to some of the old "haunts" while back in Japan recently on a rest leave. We're glad you took the time to give us a thought or two, John. We find it difficult to couch our comment in these pages so we'll just stuff our crusty old brier with shag and move on to the next item.

Sign seen in a 24th Div. CP recently:

We get so soon old
Und so late schmart.

Ed Shakalis (24 Sig) writes us from Cambridge, Mass. He married an Army nurse -- an E.T.O. alumnus. (Yes, they fought a war in Europe too). Ed reports having two children, Christine 3 1/2, and Bill 1 1/2. Rumor has it that there'll be another one in May. What some guys won't do to avoid the draft! Ed is an electrical designer with Stone & Webster Eng. Corp. Ed still thinks about Jim Purcell's parties when the outfit was on the beach at Mitsuama on Shikoku. We recall those parties, too, Ed. The very mention of the name "Chum" Purcell sends random thoughts churning around in this stream of consciousness I call my mind like rampaging underwear in a new Bendix. Who could ever forget Purcell? For that matter, who would want to?

MILTON BUTLER

We hear about Milt Butler (A-21 from 1-43 to 1-46) from his very thoughtful and devoted sister, Juanita. She writes that Milton is employed as a roughneck in the oil fields of Hobbs, New Mexico. He is married and the father of two boys. Juanita, who has ambitions to be a writer, is employed by The Olsen-Stelzer Boot Company in Henrietta, Tex. She is trying to locate Eugene Demarest who was one of Milton's buddies. Can anyone help?

We'll See You In Columbus, Ohio
on August 15th, 16th and 17th.

S/Sgt. John E. Rogers (L-21st from 1-43 to 9-45) says he's about to see some of the old territory again. He's about to ship out again. Right now he's with the 751st AC & W Sqd. at Mt. Laguna, Calif. Before he pulls stakes, however, he's doing a terrific job for us in contacting some former 24thers. Best of luck to you, Johnnie.... People are always anxious to pass the buck unless it has a picture of Washington on it.... John W. Riocardi (from 3-44 to 9-45) writes us that he was a Lt. in the ORC but was physically disqualified last June. John doesn't say what his trouble is. We hope it isn't too serious, John. He's with Montgomery Motors, Inc., the Pontiac agency in Montgomery, W. Va. A woman can usually cure her husband of snoring by kindness, patience, and stuffing a sock in his mouth.... Francis W. Poirier (from 9-44 to 11-45) is totally disabled. He has spent 3 years at the Martineburg, W. Va. VA Hospital. He was discharged in April and is now living at 41 Bloomsbury St., Annapolis, Md.

JAMES C. WILLIAMS

Mrs. Ward Williams, of 620 Leonard St., Alton, Ill., mother of James C. Williams (Med. Co., 34th) writes us as follows: "On July 20, 1950, he gave his life for us. He was with the 34th Medical Co. The government tells me that they have no proof in Washington that his body was ever recovered. They do know that he was transporting wounded boys in a jeep when he was killed. If anyone in your club was in Korea in July 1950 who knew him, would you ask him to write to me? He had started home for the U.S. after 29 months overseas when his ship was turned around and sent back just as the war started. He lacked one month of being 20 years old."

There are days when opening our mail is a far from pleasant assignment. This is the kind of letter we would rather not receive. However, having received it, we want to do what we can to help to soothe a lady's aching heart.

"IN WAR THERE IS NO
SUBSTITUTE FOR VICTORY"

With the 24th Over There-- Men of the 5th RCT have won a total of 516 decorations, including two Congressional Medals of Honor, in 14 months of action in Korea. The total does not include Purple Hearts.

Included in the decorations awarded to men of the 5th, now attached to the first U. S. Division to fight in Korea, are 15 Distinguished Service Crosses, 180 Silver Stars, 317 Bronze Star Medals and two Commendation Ribbons.

Of the 516 decorations, 142 were awarded to commissioned officers, three to warrant officers, 374 to enlisted men and one to a public of Korea enlisted man attached to the 5th.

Ed Nickerson (34) has gone back into the Army as a M/Sgt. As of press time, we don't know his new address. Mail sent to 28 Lincoln St., Hingham, Mass. will reach him.

"IT IS FOR US TO COUNTER HIS EFFORT"

With 24th Div. in Korea-- Acting as a rifle company commander in the 34th Infantry is a habit with Wilson Sweeney, a veteran first sergeant from Lilly, Pa. It happened in the last war and again in Korea.

The latest episode took place during an attack on a group of Reds who had infiltrated across the Nakdong River in the regiment's sector. Sweeney's company was assigned as the leading element for the attack and they moved out.

In a draw leading to the village, the Reds pinned down the entire company. The company commander and the executive officer were wounded and the company disorganized. Sweeney reorganized the men into an effective fighting force and pressed the attack, beating off several counterattacks before the company following them passed through the position.

After 21 months' service, six of which were spent as a BAR man with the 34th Regt. in Korea, 18-year-old Bobby Gene Willis finally joined the Army officially. The young warrior was sworn in here for a term of six years--less than 24 hours after he had been separated from the Army with a minority discharge.

PFC Willis, a veteran of bloody campaigns against North Korean and Chinese communists around Seoul last winter, first joined the Army at the age of 15 in November, 1949.

His 21 months of service included basic training with the 5th Div. at Fort Jackson, occupational duty at Camp Drake, Japan, and six months of combat in Korea before being hospitalized with a shrapnel wound in the leg. It was while recuperating at Tokyo General Hospital that Willis learned his mother had requested his discharge on the grounds that he was under-age. By the time he was brought back to the States for discharge, however, Willis had reached his 17th birthday and wanted to sign up legally. So Fort Jackson officials granted him a three-day pass, during which time he persuaded his mother to sign his enlistment papers.

Being in the Army has been the one ambition of the Poulan, Georgia youth ever since his uncle went off to World War II. "It sure feels good to be back," Willis said. "I want to stay with the infantry."

RECONNOITERING

Mail has been returned from Sfc John E. Reichard, Co. E, School, Det., and Cpl. John Easterling, Co. F., School Det., both at Ft. Benning. It's too bad; they're paid up members. Can anyone tell us where they've gone to?

"WAR'S VERY OBJECT IS VICTORY,
NOT PROLONGED INDECISION...."

With 24th Div. in Korea-- Thirteen is a lucky number for Sgt. Robert Early ever since a blazing Chinese burp gun "outlined" him in his sleeping bag with exactly 13 rounds. Sgt. Early had just ooked the guard and was getting back in his bag when he heard yelling. He saw a Chinese soldier clutching a burp gun running down the trail toward him. "He kept coming and jumped right over me," said Sgt. Early. "Then he turned around and fired his 'burp' at me from five feet away. I couldn't move and I was lucky that somebody else dropped him." Crawling unsteadily from his bed, Early found that he had eight holes in his blanket, two in his air mattress, one in his cartridge belt and two in his field jacket.



Mintal, Mindanao-1951
Need we say any more?

ICHI-NI-SAN-SHI-GO

Lt. Bob Wilson has had two hitches with Div. Arty. From Sept. '49 to Mar. '50 he was with the 52nd Field. From Jan. '51 to the present he has been with the 13th. Bob writes in saying that he feels "honored to join such an organization." Bob says he liked the old outfit so much he "went back for more." Good luck to you, Bob.

Glenn E. Harrell (from 5-45 to 5-46) is a journeyman carpenter out in Richmond, California, and is getting ready to start out for himself. Good luck to you, boy. Glenn says that a parking space is a good place to scrape up an acquaintance.... Dean English (63F) of Jackson, Mich. wants Ross Pursifull's address. It's 19462 Sunderland Rd., Detroit, Mich. Pardon us, folks, while we answer our mail. Speaking of Ross, he told us when we saw him in Detroit that "man may not live by bread alone but some are trying to keep going on crust alone." We like that, Ross.... Joe Caskey (13th F. from 12-41 to 1-45) has his law degree from the Univ. of Ark. and has his shingle out in Des Arc, Ark. Good wishes to you, Squire....

THEY'VE GONE BACK OVER

Max Cizon, our one-time A.G., has gone to Europe with VII Corp.... Ed Corcoran (19th) formerly at Ft. Knox is with the 102 Inf. of the 43rd Div. in Europe.... Milton Skelley (Div. Hq.) has a new APO-- it's 205, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y. Where in the devil are you, Milt?... John Tamalis (24 Sig. from 7-45 to 11-45) is with the 109th F.A. Bn., 28th Inf. Div., APO 111, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.

ROBERT R. FUGGITI

Mrs. Ruth E. Fuggiti, widow of Lt. Robert R. Fuggiti, who was killed in action with the 24th on Mindanao on May 21, 1945, has written to us telling about herself and her lovely son, Robert R. Fuggiti, named after his Dad. Young Bob is now 7 years old and is the proud owner of his Dad's ribbons. His Dad's body was brought back to Philadelphia. Mrs. Fuggiti is living at 917 W. Butler St., Philadelphia.

SAD NEWS

Cpl. Donald P. McDewell (H-19) was KIA in Korea on Oct. 25th. He was with us at Schofield in '41 and when he went to Korea he was once again with the same company, same regiment, and same division. His wife of 108 Greenfield Ave., San Rafael, Calif., has just sent us the sad news.

John H. Riley, Pound, Va. wants to hear from any of his old pals in L-34th.

21st WOUNDED FED BY OWN "TOOTS SHOR"

With the 24th Inf. Div., Korea-- Bearing the honorary title of "Toots Shor of Korea," is SFC James "Andy" Anderson. If his large size and fondness for eating is an indication of his cooking skill, then he is a culinary expert.

Through his mess hall pass the sick, wounded, and walking wounded of the 21st, as they move South for more medical care. With them, the injured men carry praise for Andy's culinary magic, and help spread the fame of "Andy's Kitchen."

Sgt. "Andy," a truck-driver in civilian life, found himself behind a GI stove when he reached Korea. Carrying with him a rifle, 218 pounds of brawn, and a memory of hundreds of recipes, Andy was well-equipped for his new job. He has compounded a sure-fire formula to help men along the road to recovery.... good food served Southern style, plenty of it, and a genial smile. So well has this method worked, that Andy rose from Pvt. to SFC in less than six months.

The secrets that make a good cook are few, believes Andy. "It's all in your upbringing. When there are eight in the family, you learn that when you miss a meal, you miss it forever. You find yourself cooking to survive. Besides, a man of my stature loves to eat. A nightmare to me is the sight of 16 hands reaching across the table!" Andy, happily married, occasionally boils some water for his wife, Lottie.

Line up a new member today and
Help us grow, please.

".....THE FOREST FOR THE TREES"

"For killing 20 enemy soldiers and destroying four automatic guns before he fell under enemy fire in Korea, SFC Nelson V. Brittin (Co. I, 19th Inf.) has been awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously."

By
M/Sgt. Charles Willeford,
USAF

There are not many men in the Army today who remember SFC Nelson V. Brittin, for he wasn't the kind of soldier who made a deep impression at first meeting. In fact, you didn't recall the things he said, but remembered rather the way he said them, and he said them very well.

He wasn't very tall, only about 5 feet, 7 inches, and couldn't have weighed more than 130 pounds, with a rook in each hand; but his movements were quick and he had the wiry toughness of the well-trained infantryman who is kept in shape in spite of himself. He wore G.I. glasses, and what little hair he had left was cropped to less than an inch. His right arm was much longer than his left. When he walked, springing along on the balls of his feet, he leaned forward, his arms swinging hardly at all.

The first time I saw Sergeant Brittin was at the weekly, mandatory Troop Information hour at the Clifford Theatre in Kokura, Japan. He was the 24th Infantry Division's I & E NCO. As a rule he presented the topic himself, rarely delegating the lecture to anyone else. He was gesturing feverishly, and his eyes bugged out like two neon tubes.

The subject concerned the Marshall Plan, and I failed to see what there was to get excited about. I turned to the soldier sitting next to me.

"Who is that character?"

"Sergeant Brittin. I don't know anything about him except that since he's been here the last month, nobody sneaks out of the lectures at the break anymore."

"You mean he's that good?"

"Not at all. He doesn't allow it, and if you're caught, you've had it."

I settled back and tried to ignore his fervor. He was a good speaker, knew his subject well, and when he finished I, too, knew the purpose of the Marshall Plan. After the lecture he started a discussion, and in no time had heated pro and con men leaping up and down from different sections of the theatre; interested to a degree that I had never seen before at a Troop Information period. After the session was over I thought to myself that there was one time the Army had put the right man in the right job.

Not long after that I got to know Brittin very well. I was station manager for WLKH, the Armed Forces Radio Station covering the island of Kyushu and the 24th Div. Armed Forces Radio was under the supervision of the I & E Section and, Brittin being chief clerk, all of my paperwork and reports had to go across his desk. I liked the man from my first contacts with him. I had him pegged as the "non-soldier clerk-type" in my mind. This was understandable since his desk was stacked so high with papers and reports he was almost hidden.

I talked to him about it one day.

"Brittin, you'd better check your workload. It looks to me like you've got too much work for an eight-hour day."

"This isn't all mine," he said. "These are all reports from the regiments and Divarty. They do their reports wrong all the time, then when they hit here, I have to do them over."

"Bounce the stuff back, then. You don't have to do their work. Just write a nasty indorsement telling them to get on the ball."

"I've sent memorandums down on how to do all these reports, so it's probably my fault. Besides, if I do them they are right, and none come back from Corps."

I didn't argue with him. There are several guys like him in the Army. It's too bad there are not more. He was that way about everything he did.

It was torture for him to memorize anything, yet he memorized the 50-minute speech he delivered each week. I discussed that with him too.

"Nobody expects anybody in the Army to memorize an hour's lecture every week. All you have to do, trooper, is take a few notes, and glance at them from time to time. Either that, or break the subject into sections and detail three or four men from the company to give each one."

Continued next column

"I know all that," he said. "But this way I know that the men who listen to me will go away knowing what the subject is all about. And when I look them in the eyes, they don't fall asleep."

He was right, the hard way, but he suffered while getting his speeches down. Monday and Tuesday nights he wrote his speech, then memorized it the remaining nights before Saturday morning. This was all done at night, on his own time, after putting in a full day at the I & E office. I have never seen any Army enlisted man work harder than he did so consistently.

Perhaps I have put over my point. Sergeant Brittin was sold on the idea of the American soldier being the best informed soldier in the world. It was his job to sell it to others. He was being paid for it. He did it.

I wish I knew more about his family background, but I don't. Brittin never spoke of his family and never received mail from anyone.

He finally found a Japanese girl who suited him, and he entered into which was probably the happiest period of his life. He rented a small house five miles away from the compound and rode back and forth each morning and evening on a bicycle. I didn't see him much after that and I never met the girl.

I saw her once in a while waiting for him in front of the post exchange. She wasn't pretty, even by Oriental standards, but her figure was good, and she had the shy old-fashioned look that is quickly disappearing from the modern Japanese girl. I hope she was good to him. I know she was good for him.

A few days before I left Japan I ran into Brittin at the bar in the NCO club. He was drinking a double shot. I bought him another.

"On me. I'm going home next week."

"Home? Where's that?" he asked.

"I mean the states."

"You should stay here. There's nothing in the states. Anything that will happen will happen here. You'll miss out."

"Thirty months is enough for me."

"I'm never going back."

"Why not?"

"I like it here. There's nothing in the states for me."

That was the last time I saw Sergeant Brittin.

I returned to the states and re-enlisted in the Air Force. Knowing that Brittin never got any mail, I wrote him a couple of times. My letters, as I expected, were never answered. The Korean fighting came along and I read everything I could concerning the 24th Infantry Division.

The other day I read where Sergeant Brittin got the Medal of Honor. As a squad leader he killed 20 enemy soldiers and destroyed four automatic guns. As he charged the fourth heavily defended position after destroying the first three he ran into a burst of automatic fire and was killed instantly. After I read the piece in the paper I wept. I wept and I don't know why.

If any soldier in Korea knew what he was fighting for, Sergeant Brittin knew. Perhaps I wept because I didn't know, and never will.

***** RAY DENDE

One of our most faithful members is Ray Dende (724 Ord. 8-46 to 10-47). We asked Ray to send us a family picture as we want to start featuring groups in the "Taro Leaf". Ray sent us a family group, only it was a family minus Ray. At any rate, we reproduce it herewith. It includes Helen, Ray's lovely young wife, and their first born, Christina. We hope you like it as much as we like being able to show it to you. We're looking forward to meeting you in Columbus, Helen.



POW'S

As fast as we are able to determine the home address of each of the 24th Div. POW'S in Korean, we are sending his parent or wife an honorary membership in the Association. So far, the following memberships have been presented:

Mr. & Mrs. Paul A. Beckwith, Meriden, Kans.
Son - Harold W. Beckwith

Mrs. Sylvia Banister, Arkansas City, Kans.
Son - Kenneth A. Banister

Mr. & Mrs. Fred J. Butler, Marston, Mo.
Son - Frederick J. Butler, Jr.

Mrs. Nellie Hurd, Great Bend, Kans.
Son - George H. Calvin

Mrs. Henrietta A. Saunders, St. Joseph, Mo.
Son - Charles E. Corey

Mr. & Mrs. Millard H. DeGraw, Portageville, Mo.
Son - Bobby R. DeGraw

Mrs. Julia C. Field, Holsington, Kans.
Son - Maurice E. Field

Mrs. Myrtle Snider, Brosley, Mo.
Son - Coy D. Forest

Mrs. Minnie Woody, Carthersville, Mo.
Son - Robert H. Ghyers

Mr. Robert L. Harp, Chillicothe, Mo.
Brother - Edward G. Hays

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher C. Hewitt, Council Grove, Mo.
Son - Roy E. Hewitt

Mr. & Mrs. Riley G. Hawkins, Willow Springs, Mo.
Son - Harold L. Hawkins

Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Henson, Elvins, Mo.
Son - Delbert C. Henson

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Kaczorek, St. Louis, Mo.
Son - Chester A. Kaczorek

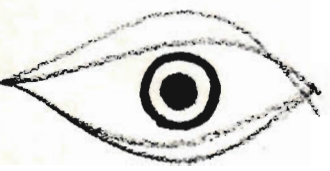
Mrs. Dorothy S. Moore, Topeka, Kans.
Son - James R. Moore

Mrs. Emma Slagle, Narka, Kane.
Son - Donald L. Slagle

Mr. & Mrs. Charles T. Watkins, St. Louis, Mo.
Son - Fisher Watkins

"THEY ARE SPLENDID IN EVERY WAY...."

M/Sgt Willie C. Gibson (Burlington, N.C.) took up bowling on a hill near the Nakdong River and the North Korean Army lost eight machine guns complete with crews. It all started, his buddies of A. 34th, say when the N K's tried to establish squatter's rights to a hill which was under the special protection of Sgt. Gibson's platoon. In the ensuing argument, six NK machine guns and crews permanently lost interest in the real estate business. But the remaining two balked the attempts of Gibson and his men to evict them by rifle and GAR fire. Finally with his ammunition almost exhausted, Willie took up bowling. Moving up close with a hand grenade in either hand, he made a perfect delivery down the alley to a machine gun position. It was a strike. Again Gibson bowled a grenade down the hill and the NK real estate company lost its option in a hurry. This wasn't the first argument over real estate that the 32 year old veteran has helped to settle. He spent 16 months in Europe when the late Herr Hitler had ideas for staking claims around the world. But Sgt. Gibson admitted it's the first time he's ever bowled. He said that when he goes home, he plans to learn to play the game with regulation balls!..... Since the 24th Div. led United Nation troops into embattled Korea, it has won plaudits round the world, but the highest accolade to its fighting prowess has been awarded by the enemy! Twice in recent propaganda broadcasts, Seoul City Sue has singled out the 24th for special threats of annihilation. The latest threat came after the Division liquidated more than 3,000 of Sue's compatriots in the Nakdong River bulge. According to Sue, the Korean Red Army intended to wipe out the 24th Div. regardless of the outcome of the war. Her nervously voiced threat drew broad grins from 24th Div. listeners here. Said one combat veteran of the entire campaign: "If they couldn't knock us out when we were all alone, they'll play hell doing it with all of the help we got now!....."

how
about
a
little

opener?

A RESOLUTION ADDRESSED TO THE CONGRESS BY THE 24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

We have noted with extreme interest during the past few months that the shades of Montezuma and Tripoli are once more at large. Voices echo on the floor of Congress with a remarkable uniformity of expression. These voices have provoked a flood of bills, also of remarkable uniformity -- "only the Marine Corps can provide an economical and efficient fighting force; therefore, there must be no fewer than 400,000 Marines with their Commandant seated on the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

We marvel that these voices should accept so blindly the information given to them. Yet we realize that the Marines are jealous of the record and we can look on with some tolerance.

We do wish, however, to bestow our official recognition upon the distinguished record of the United States Marine Corps and upon the individual spirit and gallantry of its members. They are comrades-in-arms. Their performance on the battlefields is of the highest order which can speak for itself without extravagant propaganda.

Accordingly, we address ourselves, on a few matters of official record, to the many voices claiming to speak for the Marines.

During World War II, we participated in six major amphibious operations. This was not equalled by any of the six Marine divisions.

We were overseas during actual hostilities from the beginning to the end; in fact, we've never been "home." No Marine division exceeded this record.

In regard to the days of actual combat, the numbers of enemy taken prisoner, and the miles of territory covered in the course of our campaigns, we so far outdistanced the Marines in aggregate that it would only be embarrassing to them to cite the figures here.

Those of us to whom Hollandia, Leyte, Mindoro, Bataan, Corregidor and Mindanao are more than geographical locations, need no testimony that the foregoing was accomplished by hard, bitter fighting every day and every mile. To any who might still suffer the delusion of one member of Congress who wrote that the Marines have traditionally done "the most difficult chores in war time," we simply direct their attention to the fact that the foregoing well-known battles are but a few of those participated in by the 24th Infantry Division -- and we haven't even mentioned the Korean War. The record of the 24th in Korea does not call for any recitation herein.

(Continued next column)

We therefore urge the Congress of the United States, in the interest of constituting an economical and efficient fighting force, to provide that the 24th Infantry Division be raised to a strength of not less than 600,000 men and that their Commander be seated as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

PAPASAN KAYE PUSHES PENCIL FOR ASSOC.

Who will ever forget "Pappy" of the Div. G-4 set up in the long run from Australia to Mindanao?

Bill, who admits that he's quite busy on "minor matters such as earning a living, etc." (Ed. Note: Pappy, true to form, is as subtle as a crutch) found time out to address about a thousand post cards to prospective members.

Should you want his address, it's 438 Boynton Ave., Berkeley 7 Calif.

We are very much indebted to you, Bill, for your much needed assistance.

SOU-DE SU KA?

Capt. Charlie Robinson (L-34 from 11-44 to 8-46) of Midway, Pa. is in Div. G-2 Section of the 3rd Div. in Korea. Hurry on back, Chick!

WELL, WHAT D'YA KNOW!

John C. McCabe (Ho. Co., 2nd Bn., 34th from Aug. 44 to Feb. 45) is a postal employee out in Frisco. Lloyd Price (Div. Hq.) returned from a trip to Europe only to find a new job waiting for him. He's now Promotion Manager of the Dallas, Texas "Times Herald." Fine going, Lloyd. Paul C. Duncan (from Apr. 1942 to Jan. 1945) is a member of the law firm of Pierce, Rucker, Mock, Tabor and Duncan, in Oklahoma City. He says he has a pre-war and a post-war child. "The family and law practice keep me on the hop," he adds. Roger Richardson has just graduated from the Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Okla. He's now back at home at 1030 Lincoln W.W., South Bend, 16, Ind.

ATTACHED FOR RATIONS

Col. George A. Mildonian (19th) up in Portland, Maine, recently sent us a list of prospects which we didn't have before. Thanks, George. Paul Belisle (L 19 from 12-42 to 1-45) reminds us of the time when he was section leader of the 60mm mortars in Love Company. Paul got it on Oct. 20th, 1944, the same night that Harold Moon (MH) got his. Paul is now working as a watch repairman for E. Ingraham Co., the clock people in Bristol, Conn. Paul has a wife and 4 year old daughter and adds: "The Bristol Savings Bank and I own our little home at 38 Jennings Rd. in Bristol. Drop in any time!"

NOW HEAR THIS!

With 24th Div. in Korea-- Regimental Commander Col. Herbert J. Vander Heide watched with pride as the 2d Bn. of the 21st Inf. plunged into bunker-filled Chinese territory. Everything was going smoothly, with the 6th Tank Bn. lending supporting fire and blasting bunkers as the infantry moved up taking ground. Easy Company took its objective in record time. Fox Company met opposition in Chinese mines. One mine blew PFC Edward Theriault 15 feet into the air, only shaking him up. BAR man PFC Bill Bethell quickly put up a walking wall of fire into the enemy. Fox Company took its objective. Then George Company met heavy opposition and bore the brunt of an angry retaliation. Col. Vander Heide rushed to the scene. The company was almost out off, ammo was low and the heavy numbers of Chinese threatened to push the company back. The colonel grabbed a carbine from PFC Chester Kalata, Kalata, who had been firing, said, "The colonel sure was mad. He started firing into them like crazy." The tide of battle turned then and the battalion won its objective.

THE GRAPE VINE

Victor E. Davis (presently w/ Mortar Co., 5th in Korea) recently sent us over 300 names of prospective Association members. He flatters us with his comment: "We wish you every success in your efforts and all agree to the great merit of your endeavor." Them's kind words, Vic. Dave Payne (11th F) was back on duty for a year. He was released last October and is now in a wholesale produce firm in Springfield, Mo. He tells us that Bill Wolfrum (21st) is at Cornell University and that Bob Livingston (13th F.) is at Missouri University. He also tells us that Col. A.J. Evans (21st) is Deputy Commander at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. Thanks for all the news, Dave. Art Geiringer (AT, 19th) writes us from Cincinnati, as follows: "I appreciate the T.L. in whatever form it takes. I am sure most of us greatly appreciate the time and effort you folks are putting into the sheet." Thank you, Art. We're trying to cater to all interests, and you members certainly represent a variety of such. Alex Thomas (4 yrs. w/ 52F) writes us on a letterhead that reads: "Alex R. Thomas & Co., Growers - Packers - Shippers, Okiah, California." Alex wants to know why we don't have a West Coast convention. Read elsewhere in this issue, Alex. He advises us that "a woman is like a salad -- much depends on the dressing."

BUM ADDRESSES

Mail addressed to quite a few paid up members is coming back to us with that tragic marking all over the envelope, "Moved Address Unknown." Can anyone help us locate these fellows?

Marvin O. Reichman (21st)
6850 East End Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Robert L. Berner
3801 S. Oliver
Wichita 15, Kans.

Lt. Gene Coats
O.M.S., Box 326
Lowry A.F. Base
Denver, Colo.

John E. Quinlan
9127 S. Essex Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Sgt. Gale S. Moore
Hq. Co., 1st Bn., 21st
Inf.
APO 24 o/o PM, S.F.

Col. James F. Pearsall
Log Cabin Farms
RD 2--RT. 290
East Strandsheerz, Pa.

Sgt. Angelo Didonato
Sv. Btry. - 103 F.A. Bn.
43 Inf. Div.

James E. Purks, Jr.
Matteson, Ill.

BUNA ALL OVER AGAIN

No civilian will ever know what it is like to crouch alone or with a few companions all night in a hole in the ground in an unknown, unfriendly country where every sound may signal violence and death. The lads who go through this night after night -- and day after day -- are fighting the hardest kind of war. Yet we learned to fight it and to win it -- to beat the enemy at his own game -- first during the Buna campaign in New Guinea and then through the other Pacific islands. (Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger in "Newsweek," Sept. 11, 1950.)

ROGER, OVER AND OUT

Bob Malone (21st) is busy at Ft. Bliss, Tex. You can address him at Qtrs. 554 on the post. Thanks for the names of new prospects, Bob. Wonder why a girl waits until the kiss is over before slapping the man's face. Have you noticed any changes in editorial policy? For one thing, we are trying to refrain from too much mention of dues in every issue. It doesn't make news -- the kind of news you members want. Agree? Any girl can usually land a man if she uses some come-on sense. Julius Joz (A19) who was with us in the flesh in Detroit, along with his lovely wife Stephanie, is addressing postal cards for us. Thanks, Julius. Some fur coats are sheep at any price. Doc Erner Jones (21st from 6-43 to 11-45) is practicing at Little Rock, Ark. He states that he saw General Woodruff at Polk last summer.

SOUND AND THE FURY

It's a long and glorious history that dates the 6th Med. Tk. Bn. back to WWI days. It was constituted and organized in England on 25 April 1918 as the 1st Bn, Tank Center. It was redesignated as the 326th Battalion, Tank Corps on 6 June 1918 and as the 344th Battalion Tank on 12 Sept. 1918.

In 1921, it became the 15th Tank Battalion, 1st Tank Group. In 1929, it was changed to 2nd Battalion, 1st Tank Regiment. In 1932, in true Army fashion, it was again changed; this time to 2nd Bat., 66th Inf. (Light Tanks).

In July of 1940 it became assigned to the 2nd Armored Division. It was reorganized in March of 1946 with the addition of two companies of the 67th Armored Regiment and was redesignated 6th Tank Battalion, 2nd Armored Division with Able, Baker, Charlie, Dog and Service Companies.

It became a separate Medium Tank Battalion on 30 Sept. 1948.

It's battle honors include:

World War I
St. Mihiel
Meuse-Argonne

World War II
Algeria-French Morocco (with arrow-head)
Sicily (with arrowhead)
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Company A entitled to Silver Band on guidon staff, inscribed SOMME OFFENSIVE.
Service Company entitled to Silver Band on guidon staff, inscribed FRANCE, WWI.

UNIT DECORATIONS:

Distinguished Unit Streamer embroidered NORMANDY

Streamer in the colors of the Belgian

Croix de Guerre embroidered BELGIUM

Streamer in the colors of the Belgian

Croix de Guerre embroidered ARDENNES

Fourragere in the colors of the Belgian

Croix de Guerre

Streamer in the colors of the French

Croix de Guerre with Palm, embroidered ST. LO

REUNION TIME 1952

Reunion time for the 24th Div. Assoc. national officers covers a period of several months. The work on the '52 Reunion actually began last August when the Convention was officially awarded to Columbus at the Detroit Reunion.

Ken Ross and his Reunion Committee have been performing diligently in the tremendous task of making the necessary plans and arrangements for a successful and happy get-together of all "Taro Leafers."

During the next five months, the work of the Committee will gain momentum and as we proceed you will be kept fully informed regarding the plans for your complete enjoyment.

The headquarters of the Reunion will be at the Deshler Walleck Hotel and the program of events for the three days will far surpass any former efforts of the Association.

Plan that vacation now to coincide with the Reunion. Figure now on that weekend in August in Ohio.

You were a front line soldier -- now be a front line member and arrange to meet with us all in Columbus.

CARPENTER GETS HELD UP

Jim Mims of Midland, Tex., is not asleep. He recently wrote us: "Have a carpenter working on my house who was in the 34th Regt. Will get him signed up before he leaves the job." Either he joins up or he finds himself working for nothing, eh Jim?

5TH DIV.

Maj. Gen. Laurence E. Keiser, now commanding the 5th Div. at Indiantown Gap, Pa., is interested in all returning combat men being given the opportunity to join their combat division association. Capt. Clair M. Wolfe wrote us about this and we immediately sent a load of material down there. We hope we do some good there.

Carl and Ginny Neumann (21st) at Colgate U. sent us a Christmas card for Bill Verbeck and asked us to forward it to Bill as they didn't have Bill's address. We "dood it", kids. For the record, Bill's address is 2320 N. Florida St., Arlington, Va. After we're able to do a good turn like this in the name of the Assoc., we settle back with that pleased look, as though we had just laid an egg with a double yolk. Throw us your problems, boys!

HAL CROSSES "KAI" ONCE AGAIN

Hal Gloore (Div.Hq.-G-3 Sect.) dropped in to say "Hello" the other day. He was on his way to Greece to serve with the U.S. Mil.Aid Mission. His new address, Casual Mail Dir., APO 206 c/o P.M., New York, N.Y. Hal just completed a tour at 5th Army Hq. in Chicago where our own A.C.Smith is Army Commander.

"MELE" FROM THE PENTAGON

Mark and Elsa Kreidberg (Div.Hq.-G-3) report that Ellis Fuller (Div.Hq.-G-3 from 12-46 to 4-49) is back with Career Mgt., in the A.G.O., Pentagon, after a tour with the 2nd Div. in Korea. We're glad you made it back home, Ellis.

Jack Denny (11th F. from 4-10-41 to 3-4-45) of Lexington, Ky., has just reported in. He's a salesman for Farmer Motor Co. selling Studebakers. Jack and his wife have 2 children, both girls, ages 4½ and 1. We hope you can make it to Columbus in August, Jack. What are you driving these days, a Pontiac?

RUTH AND TOM SCHMITZ CHECK IN

Ruth and Tom Schmitz (19th) have just sent in word that they'll both be in Columbus in August. They are the first to indicate their intentions. Thanks, kids. Now let's add to the list they've started. Who will be next to say "Yes"?

ROY STOFFEL DOES IT

Roy and Alma Stoffel (19th) report the birth of twins on Sept. 30, 1951. Roy reminds us of the propaganda going around the South Pacific in the old days. He says that atabrine business was "pure bunk" and has Bobby and Barbara Stoffel to prove it.

In a P.S., Roy adds: "Upon request, I'll give you my formula for twins." That's a deal, Roy; you send it along and we'll publish it.

TALKING SHOP

We have collected together some figures on railroad fares between various cities and Columbus, Ohio. These figures represent round trip fares and include the tax. We'll be looking for you in Columbus in August.

Here they are:

To Columbus, Ohio
From -- and return

St. Louis, Mo.	\$29.84
Chicago, Ill.	23.29
Minneapolis, Minn.	44.39
Detroit, Mich.	14.19
Los Angeles, Cal.	123.63
San Francisco, Cal.	123.63
Seattle, Wash.	114.25
Boston, Mass.	56.67
New York, N.Y.	41.75
Syracuse, N.Y.	31.80
Philadelphia, Pa.	35.82
Washington, D.C.	32.55
Memphis, Tenn.	35.06
Kansas City, Mo.	44.33

H. V. Porter, National Secretary of the Society of the Fifth Division, writes us, "This is a mighty nice magazine of which you can be justly proud." Thank you, kind sir. Just for that, if we know of anyone who wore the red diamond, we'll give them your name. He's at 289 Blackhawk Rd., Riverside, Ill.. Harry Sauleen, Secretary of the Assoc. of the Sixth Infantry Division, advises us that their strength is around 2600. We'll see if we can't help you grow, Harry, by referring friends who served with you to you at 5325 Hiawatha Ave., Minneapolis 17, Minn. Our sister division, the Lightnin' 25th, has an Assoc. now. Write to Tom Badger, P.O. Box 101, Arlington, Va. for information. They put out a paper called, "Tropic Lightning Flashes." We're looking for our copy of it, Tom; where is it? The Yankee Division Assoc. (26th Div.) has about 3500 paid-up members. And we thought we were big. H. Guy Watts, is National Secretary and may be located at 200 Huntington Ave., Boston, Mass. ... These Associations are working together. Let's pitch in and give them each a hand wherever possible.

BACKSTAGE

GENERAL ORDERS ??, DEPT. OF THE ARMY,
SEPT. 5, 1951

Another Distinguished Unit Citation has been conferred in the name of the President as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The latest one of particular interest to us reads:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Medical Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division (second award), distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance in action

against an armed enemy near Sanghongjong-ni, Korea, on 27 May 1951. When forward elements of the 21st Infantry Regiment raced through enemy forces and made contact with units of a friendly division on their right, a large number of the Chinese Communists Army were effectively sealed off within the trap. Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Medical Company formed a joint perimeter defense far from any supporting rifle units of the regiment. At about 0200 hours, this perimeter was attacked by approximately 300 well-armed enemy troops trying to break through to their own lines. A hastily bolstered defense repulsed their attack with heavy losses. The brunt of the initial phase of the first attack was taken by the Medical Company. Here, such deadly fire was placed on the advancing enemy that they were thrown into confusion momentarily, but soon recovered and resumed the assault, finally being thrown back after suffering heavy casualties. Withdrawing to high ground, the enemy placed automatic-weapons fire into the perimeter, bringing the entire area under harassing fire. This fire was lifted from time to time as the enemy made repeated attacks every 30 to 50 minutes until daylight. These attacks increased in strength and determination. Men were shifted to meet each new threat as it developed, turning every attack into a bitter defeat for the enemy. During these encounters, rifle butts, bayonets, fists, and, on one occasion, an axe were used to the best possible advantage. At about 0630 hours, more enemy were observed heading down a valley toward the command post area. Every available man was alerted to stop them and this enemy force was engaged and thrown back. At this time, units of a friendly regiment arrived on the scene and scattered engagements continued until 1100 hours. Enemy casualties were 300 dead, approximately 250 wounded, and 450 prisoners taken. This heroic defense against tremendous odds was accomplished by relatively untrained men, unused to close combat, whose duties were mostly administrative. Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Medical Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, displayed such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing their mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set them apart and above other units participating in this campaign, and by their extraordinarily heroic conduct they brought great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States.



STORK PATROL

Alice and Bob Redmond (19th) announces the arrival of Edna Elizabeth on Sept. 15th. That's wonderful news, kids. Congratulations. Likewise our best to Charlie Anderson of Linn Grove, Iowa whose wife presented him with John Charles Anderson on May 24, 1951.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

Fred Putz of Lacona, Iowa, "Glem" as we knew him, now has two boys and a girl, so writes Mrs. Fred. We are carrying on some delightful correspondence with the ladies, boys. Better watch out.... Roy Flury (74th) writes us from Flint, Mich. He says he just returned from the West Coast where he ran into M. L. Cotelso (C-34) of Monterey, Calif. who had never heard of the Association. Roy bundled up his old Taro Leaf the other day and sent them to him. That's the spirit, Roy. Many thanks.... Francis X. Linnen (19th) is Chief of Police in Pittston, Penn. Speeders and all other holders of yellow tickets will form a line behind me.... I regret to advise that Ken Herring (21) was killed in an auto accident two years ago. We are sending the Taro Leaf to his mother, Mrs. Ethel Herring, 712 1/2 E. 8th St., Cheyenne, Wyo.

WE'RE SLIPPING THIS IN BEHIND JOE PEYTON'S BACK

As we go to press, our indefatigable Secretary, Joe Peyton, has just returned from the hospital. There can be no denying but that the Secretaryship has had its share in bringing him to the point where he finally had to "turn himself in." By hook and/or crook, we have carried on in his absence. The smooth working administrative team has kept moving in the words of a well known gentleman, "without the slightest slackening in its forward movement." We're grateful that Joe is back but we understand only too well the full meaning of the medic's orders which he gave to Joe when he turned him loose: "Take it easy." Joe doesn't know it but he is going to ease off as far as his duties in the Assoc. are concerned. He is because we're going to help him to do it. Our best wishes go with you, Joe. We will not forget the enthusiasm and loyalty which you have given to your work, all in our behalf.

ITCHY-NEE-SAN-SI-GO

Joe Nee (Div. Hq. 8-45 to 6-46) has just written us as follows:

"I am not aware that the Association has declared any attendance contests to bring forth the biggest outfit representation during the coming Reunion at Columbus, Ohio.

"Regardless, this is a notice to all that the undersigned, representing Div. Hq. challenges representatives, self-appointed or otherwise, of any other outfits in the Division to form ranks, in order to bring out the best showing ever made at a 24th Division Reunion.

"Div. Hq. has consistently ranked first in attendance and will do so again in '52."

We have taken the liberty of inserting your comments in the "Taro Leaf", Joe, whereby we may notify members of all other units of the Division that the race is on. We'll see you in Columbus, Joe. Be sure to bring Marion.

"Chief" M. Ray Hancock (Div. Hq.) writes us that he is busy out at III Corps Hq., Camp MacArthur, Calif. He says that Maj. George Tilber, formerly of the 21st, is in the G-2 section there as is Capt. Norman Ward formerly of our Div. Hq. Chief is with the "Who's-mad-at-who-Department" (IG Section to you) out there.

"DES" ANSWERS ADJUTANT'S CALL

Lt. Col. A. A. D'Esmond (19th) recently joined up. "Des" is now assigned to G-1, USARPAC, APO 958, c/o PM, 'Frisco. It's good to know about those silver leaves, Des. Keep it up. There'll be stars on those shoulders some day.



\$1.00 PRE-REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Attached find \$1.00 to cover my REGISTRATION fee for the 1952 REUNION, to be held in Columbus, Ohio, August 15, 16 & 17, 1952:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & STATE _____

SERVICE UNIT _____ (Co., B'try, Bn., and Regt.)

I will bring with me _____ other people.

Mail to Joseph I. Peyton, Sec'y., 131 N. Culver St., Baltimore, Maryland



Yessir, that's what the l'l old gal says-- "WANTED"--and she means it. She wants you to sit yourself right down and fill out the above form and send it in to Joe Peyton right away. It's all 'cuz some of us birds has got a lot of figurin' to do in connection with this here affair at Columbus in August. It may seem like a mighty piece away but it aint. We are most anxious to determine as early as possible the approximate number of members and wives or friends who are planning to attend the Columbus Convention. With a reasonable estimate at hand, upon which to base intelligent operational and logistical support plans, the success of the party is just that much more assured. It promises to be a grand get-together anyway; we just want to make it a little bit better than you anticipate. That means surprises--and surprises mean prior planning--and prior planning means knowing what you people are likely to be doing come next August. We want to be really ready-coops, a split infinitive; sorry--when you fellows and gals descend upon us out there next summer, that's all. To that end, wont you help us more than just a little by filling out the above form and sending it in to Joe Peyton TODAY? Thanx a million.

A PAIR OF BOX CARS

The 34th Infantry Assoc. continues its good work under Dom Monto's leadership in bringing us members. Axel Poland, 41-13 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City, N.Y. is the corresponding secretary in case you want to contact the 34th. Bob Solomon, a loyal "Dragon", has just sent in memberships in our Assoc. for Fred Lager and Warren Leonard. We are exceedingly grateful to the 34th and those members thereof who are especially enthusiastic about our own Association.

We're in trouble when we do; we're in trouble when we don't -- so here we go again.

We had one letter of complaint because we used jokes in our September issue so we avoided them in our succeeding three issues. Then we received thirty-two letters wanting to know why we stopped.

That convinced us! We believe that this paper is for soldiers (past and present) and we've yet to meet a soldier who didn't like a good story. Try these out on your piano:

A sweet young thing entered the doctor's office. "Doc," she said, "I need an operation."

"Major?" asked the doctor. "No," replied the girl, "a darned second lieutenant."

Three salesmen were sitting in a bar. Said the liquor salesman, "I hate to see a woman drinking alone." Said the grocery salesman, "I hate to see a woman eating alone." But the mattress salesman, being a gentleman, said nothing.



A mess sergeant was trying to pacify a soldier complaining about the issue of bread. He said, "Quit beevin'. If Napoleon's soldiers had had that break when they crossed the Alps, they'd have been happy."

"Maybe," came back the GI, "but it was fresh then!"

A LITTLE POI

We have it on good author that Colonels Mooreman, Carey and Bing are hinding

We have it on good author that Colonels Moorman, Carey and Bing are hiding out in the Pentagon. How about it, boys?

BE SURE TO LOOK
INSIDE!



FORM 3547 REQUESTED

Once over lightly

"KAHUNA" AT WORK

Lt. Col. Urban Throm (Div. Surg.) wrote us from the Army and Navy Hospital, Hot Springs National Park, Ark. recently. "Suburban Urban" was active on our 1950 Membership Drive sending out several hundred invitations to join for us. He's honest about it; he says "Jackie" helped him.

Urb wants us to send sample Taro Leafs to the various military hospitals.

He also got us a lot of favorable publicity in the paper at the hospital there.

Urb is a very active and loyal member. Mahalo, Urb!

"KANAKA" GOES AUTHOR

Mark Kreidberg is writing a book in the Pentagon. He still has time to think of us, however, and pass on what news he runs into down there in the corridors. He reports that Will Willoughby (Div. Hq. - Spec. Trps. Commander) has gone to Pakistan. Rosemary and the 4 kids are staying behind on the farm near Broad Run, Va. Mark also reports that Capt. Weibel with our Div. G-2 in Japan won a D.S.C. for himself and is now an instructor at West Point. We're checking on this for more details.

"NORWEGIAN CARPENTER" IN ITALY

Lt. Col. Herman Garstensen (Div. Eng.) has moved to Leghorn, Italy, and Helen has gone with him. We hope our mail will be forwarded from Falls Church, Va. We don't know his new address over there.

PEHEA OE, CHAPLAIN?

Chaplain Sugg is reported to be at the S.F.P. of E. with Maj. Gen. James A. Lester, Port Commander.

IRVING FOR PRESIDENT

Sue McNeely, widow of our good friend John McNeely (G-19th) (KIA Oct. 20, 1944) is one of our staunchest rooters. When the Opinion Poll went out, Sue turned her answer in with a vote for Fred Irving as next President of the U.S. We smiled at first but the idea began to grow on us. The more we've thought about it, the better we like the idea.

Sue is moving into a new house at 1720 Truman Rd., Charlotte, N.C. Can't be an Irving supporter and live on Truman Rd., Sue.

LOOKING FOR

Mail addressed to Lt. Wm. C. Hadley, (G-19th) at the Division in Korea is being returned to us. Does anyone know Bill's stateide address? He's not getting his Taro Leafs; we are "vis return mail."

GENE COATS GOES TO AIR FORCE

Lt. Gene Coats (34th) is now with Hq. Sq., 2 ABG Hunter AFB, Savannah, Ga. Gene got out in '46, graduated from Ball State Teachers College (Muncie, Ind.) in '50 and went on active duty with the USAF in '50. He's statistical services officer with the 2nd Bomb Wing. Is that good, Gene?

CLYDE LONGWORTH BECOMES LECTURER

M/Sgt. Clyde Longworth, now at the Army Base in Boston, Mass., is a red hot rooter for the 24th. Clyde was with the old Division during the first 14 months in Korea. Recently at Fort Rodman he served with Ken Ross who was there for a short tour of duty. Clyde spoke one evening to a group at the Fort and told of some of his experiences. He introduced his remarks by describing the first night after they landed in Korea when they were billeted in the University of Pusan. Clyde says the boys called it "Pusan U." Clyde is an A-1 24th rooter. All of his remarks are prefaced with words of praise for his "old outfit." We like your loyalty, Clyde. You practice it; you don't preach it.

TANKER BACK

Capt. Frank Spencer went from the 6th Tk. Bn. to E-21 last October. Then he was hospitalized and our last word is that he's now back at 8833 South Elizabeth St., Chicago. We're glad to welcome you home, Spence.

PEANUTS IN CHICAGO

John "Peanuts" Ruggaber (Div. Hq. - G-4) wrote us recently. He's now at 5th Army Hq. in Chicago. He and Millie are living out in Park Forest. Peanuts gives us lots of poop which we're able to use in this issue. That's one thing about army people, they do keep informed about each other. In the army, news spreads as rapidly as a trade secret about a new carburetor in Detroit.

CHAPLAIN MURPHY AT JAY

Capt. Joseph J. Murphy (19th Inf.) of Cambridge, Mass. is the new Post Chaplain at Fort Jay.

FOR THE RECORD

A unique question came up twice in the same mail the other day so we publish the answer herewith in the hope that the information will interest more than a few. The question: "When did we begin all this business anyway?"

The first "Taro Leaf" was published in August, 1947.

Here's the complete list of publications to date:

Vol. 1, No. 1 - August, 1947
" No. 2 - November 1947
" No. 3 - February, 1948
" No. 4 - June, 1948

Baltimore Supplement - August 1948

Vol. II, No. 1 - May, 1949
" No. 2 - June, 1949
" No. 3 - July, 1949

Vol. III, No. 1 - October 1949
" No. 2 - December 1949
" No. 3 - June 1950
" No. 4 - August 1950

Vol. IV, No. 1 - October 1950
" No. 2 - December 1950
" No. 3 - April 1951
" No. 4 - July 1951

Vol. V, No. 1 - September 1951
" No. 2 - November 1951
" No. 3 - December 1951
" No. 4 - January-February 1952

We also published a mimeographed paper called the "Taro Leaflet" which went to three issues, Jan. (#1), Feb. (#2), and April (#3), all in 1951. The "Leaflet" was designed to be issued in off-months when the "Taro Leaf" was not published.

A command decision of last Fall was that we would attempt a monthly "Taro Leaf" whereby the "Leaflet" could be eliminated.

The small item of MONEY made it necessary for us to skip an October, 1951 issue. In January of this year (1952), so much effort was expended in winding up the 1951 Membership Drive that there was little time left for editing the magazine, hence a single issue identified as the "January-February Issue".

At last, we're on terra firma. It looks like smooth sailing here on in to the end of the year. Our fingers are crossed.

Oh yes, a parting thought. We have a few complete sets of old issues of the "Taro Leaf" for anyone who is saving them for any reason; and we're happy to acknowledge that quite a few of our followers are. If you want a complete set, write Ken Ross. We'll send them so long as the supply lasts.

SENKER UP A GRADE

W.O. Richard E. Senker was formerly M/Sgt. Senker. He's stationed at the Hqs., Army Chemical Center, Maryland. Congratulations, Dick.