

TAROLEAF

24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

VOL. VII MAY 1954 NO. 3



" I served as a lieutenant in the old Hawaiian Division after World War I. It was a privilege to return. . . . You who have built the reputation of the 24th Division have made it easy for us to instill that pride in each man now in the Division. I cite your achievements to each of the increments of troops that join us. The unit commanders teach their soldiers the history you have made. You have left behind a contribution to the service of your country which will endure as a heritage in the Regular Army long after your active service has terminated. "

CARTER B. MAGRUDER

Major General, United States Army

Commanding General, 24th Infantry Division

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

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first and get it over with. Here's
more of that DIRECTORY of MEMBERS.

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LOOKING FOR
YOU AT OUR
7th ANNUAL
GET-TOGETHER

AUGUST
13th AND 14th

STATLER HOTEL
WASHINGTON,
D.C.

Editorial

It'll be short, so don't worry.

Wondering where we've been and
why we skipped November and December
and February and March?

Over nine hundred of our members
are behind with their dues, that's
why.

'nuf sed?

DON'T
FORGET!
NATIONAL
DUES
ARE NOW PAYABLE



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The magic whispers...

In case you missed any of the chapters of BILL DEAN's story, "My Three Years as a Dead Man" as they appeared in the Saturday Evening Post, you can catch the entire story when it appears in book form in May. The Viking Press is publishing it. Each one of us should have a copy of it on his shelves.....FRED SHINKLE (D-21) took ten over at the steel mill the other day to hit us five times as a member of the "Loyal 100". Doc GEORGE MORRISSEY (34th) also hit the line. We're grateful to them and to the many others who answered the call. We're not mentioning each one by name; after all, we promised that we wouldn't..... By the by, here's an interesting piece of news: it costs us over \$100 to mail out each issue of the Taro Leaf.Sue McNeely, widow of JOHN C. McNEELY (C-19th) who gave his life on Red Beach, Leyte on 10-20-44, has written us that she has started a memorial honoring Maj. Gen. KENNETH F. CRAMER (Div Hq). Tell us more, Sue. This sounds just like you.....MARVIN DAGGETT (52 F) of the "Loyal 100" bemoans the fact that there was no one from the 52nd Field at the St. Louis party last August. We're expecting you to get away from Remington Rand long enough next August to correct that situation at Washington, D.C., Marvin.



Do you remember this one? Gimlets crossing the Kumho River on Sept. 18, 1950. U.S. Army photo.

Still with us? It's still that D...
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(To be continued in our next issue)



We're throwing this one in to make some of you chaps "homesick". Those of you who will so react need not be reminded that this is a typical entrance way to a typical home in Japan. Mamasan has just stepped inside to put the ocha on.

NOTICE !!!!! To the hundreds who remembered us with Christmas cards, our humble thanks. Please don't look for individual replies. Of getting one, you've got about as much chance as a puppy dog with tallow legs chasing an asbestos cat through Hell. Don't fight it. This job is bigger than the both of us.

Please note, WALTER DELPH: Walt is in Clifton, S.C. and writes the Editor, "If you were with Co. G of the 21st Inf., write me." We don't know whether this is a friendly note or this is the end of a trail on the part of Walter Delph who has been looking for lo, these many years for a guy by the name of Ross who served with him in G of the 21st. For the record, Walt, we never had the pleasure of being assigned to George Company. In fact, we were never a "Gimlet." Our 3-year tour in the Division was in Division Hq. We liked to keep close to the "Old Man", Walt....

Question and Answer Department (we do our best Division): Q. My brother was in the Army 3 years and has just been put in a mental hospital. Is he entitled to compensation? A. If your brother developed a psychosis within two years after his discharge, the ailment is automatically ruled service-connected and he is entitled to compensation and admission to a VA hospital. If the trouble developed more than two years later, he can apply for compensation or a pension.

Over ETO way, Col. MAX CIZON (Div.Hq.) is lining up new members for us. He just recruited Lt. WENDELL LONG (Hq. 11F from 6-48 to 4-51) and Pfc. LYNN DUCKWORTH (11F from 6-49 to 6-51). We are happy that we're growing and we're doubly happy that good people like Max are helping to make it so.

It's the STATLER in Washington, D.C.
 August 13th & 14th



Why not pass this copy on to a friend who does not know about us? Do that and then write and tell us about it and we'll send you a replacement copy with our compliments. The desideratum (how do you like that one?) is to get this Taro Leaf around. Write the Editor today and get your replacement copy.

RALPH SHAMSHOIAN (34th) out in Fresno, Calif., is one of our most active officers. He has just enlisted HARRY BELLOW (Div.Hq. from 10-42 to 12-45) RUBEN SAROYAN (19th) and WILBUR BALCH (Div.Hq.), all from Fresno..... Women are like newspapers; they all have forms, they always have the last word, they have great influence, you can't believe everything they say, they're thinner than they used to be, they get along by advertising, and every man should have of his own and not try to borrow his neighbor's.

Perhaps we didn't read it correctly, but we thought the recent press release out of the Pentagon read as follows: "Army generals, after months of indecision over a new uniform for soldiers, decided today to ask GI Joe what he would like to wear. It said a 'uniform preference survey' would be conducted this month among officers and enlisted men throughout the world."

Well, what do you know? we have but one suggestion, in case any general is listening: Eliminate the colored scarf as T/O & E for the American Army soldier.

Many new members are joining our outpost at Benning including Capt. DALE W. ROBY (Div.Hq.), Sgt. BILL FISHBURN, Cpl. TOM FOREMAN (24 MP), Capt. JIM SMITH (19th) and Sgt. DAN DONAHUE (19th)..... A friendly little girl in Detroit, now entangled with the law because she's had five husbands and only three divorces, says, "I still like men." Obviously !!!!!

A new 50-bed hospital soon will be built for the poor in Sendai, Japan, with funds donated by Francis Cardinal Spellman and American servicemen, Rev. (Lt.) Timothy J. Carmody, Chaplain of the Division, announced. Cardinal Spellman donated \$25,000 to the building fund to match \$25,300 collected by Army chaplains from service personnel in Japan and Korea. Last year Cardinal Spellman told Army chaplains he would match dollar for dollar the money they collected in a year up to \$25,000.

Do you blame us for being proud of the old Division?.....

Dues, if owed, are payable to
 BILL SAVELL
 P.O. Box 268
 Blountstown, Fla.



Do you remember Aug. 28, 1950? Capt. John R. Burns, Minneapolis, Minn., Sgt. Frank Walters, Pittsburgh, Penn., and Cpl. Murrel R. Childers, Hialeah, Fla. out to set up an OP north of Kyongju.

We like the Jonathan Wainwright story which the General told about himself. The Japanese were leading him away from Corregidor following the surrender and they marched him through a corral of his captured men. As he moved slowly through them, a soldier impulsively put his arm around his shoulder and whispered: "Don't worry, General, you did the best you could." The General considered it one of the greatest tributes of his long and colorful career..... A fashion model in Washington, D.C., recently demonstrated a new swim suit with a sponge rubber lining that keeps the wearer afloat. A woman shopper, asking the purpose of the rubber lining, got this reply: "Confidentially, she sinks."

HARRY BELLOW (SV-63) of Fresno, Calif. is racing and recently won the state hardtop championship at Clovis..... We're happy to welcome WILBUR BALCH (Div.Hq.) into the club. We recall well when he was helping them run the IG office back in Kokura. Wilbur runs a drive-in in Fresno right next door to RALPH SHAMSHOIAN'S (34th) clothing store. Things are popping in Fresno when it comes to the Taro Leaf.... As one can of paint said to the other can: "Darling, I think I'm pigment."

Those who remember the Okayama days around Div.Hq. (Feb-June 1946) will probably recall Capt. Ronald Filante of the BR-R-R-R-R-I-T-I-S-H-H-H-H Army who moved in and out amongst us as his colleagues prepared to move in as we moved out. Ronnie was an especially friendly one among the many friendly fellows of BRINDIV. We have at last found him living back in England and have struck up a very fine correspondence with him. We're asking him to write something for our next issue including information, if he can give it, as to the present whereabouts of some of those wonderful Queens Own Cameron Highlanders who "fired" their way into the hearts of some of us just about eight years ago this time.

Rumor has it that "KP" is on the way out as a way-of-life for Air Force personnel. To make the service more attractive, the AF is considering hiring civilian caterers to serve and clean up after meals at air bases. Well, what do you know!

Kudo's to Doc AL BRADEN (34th) for helping us locate Sgt. ED VOLLEERS (L-19). Ed, a returned POW, can be found at 7129 Moline, Houston, Tex..... From time to time, we get word relayed to us that someone's name has been spelled wrong. No one likes to think he's an unknown and we're trying to avoid these little errors. But errors do happen; they still put rubber mats under spittons. We'll try our best, but please help.



You'd better be getting your shoes on; we've got a CONVENTION coming up in August in WASHINGTON, D.C. and we'd like to see you there. Vic Backer says that the Statler is air-conditioned, too.



We regret that we don't have a better picture of General KENNETH F. CRAMER available than the one that we have used here. The picture is a particularly fitting one however for it shows him in conference with ED HENRY at the New York Convention in 1949. The Association and the Division for which it stood were close to Ken Cramer's heart, for here were men who knew him and loved him.

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH FOX CRAMER

1895-1954

Close proximity to Connecticut and Rhode Island has enabled us to quiz hundreds of uniformed men and officers who served at one time or another in the 43rd Division under Maj. Gen. Kenneth Cramer's command. In a matter of months, we have run across dozens and dozens of men-from privates to generals-who knew the "Old Man" and worked with him and for him during the days he was "under fire" in Virginia and in Germany. We have yet to meet a man who wouldn't defend him, who wouldn't argue that the whole affair was much overplayed by the press.

He had come to be identified as an austere and unflinching disciplinarian with an extraordinary sense of duty, obligation and responsibility. Was there so very much wrong with that? Thanks to a press that had found in him a whipping boy, he was, in the eyes of millions who did not know him, a man single-minded of purpose, devoid of a sense of justice, hated by his troops.

It was never quite possible for us to reconcile the bad press of our much loved friend-a longtime Deputy Division Commander under two of our Generals and in due time himself the Commanding General of our own Division. The facts as we had known them and the more recent reports on the man as they filtered in to us through the press never seemed to jibe.

Our issue had gone to press when the tragic news of his passing reached us. We had devoted two entire pages to the remainder of "The Ken Cramer Story" in what appeared to us to be a complete vindication of the man.

We will not do the malicious gossips the honor of rebutting their reports, now that Ken Cramer has passed on.

In death, all wounds are healed, all bitterness forgotten.

We have lost a very dear friend, a good and kind man, with whom we worked and who worked with us, side by side, when the going was most rough. It was the memory of those hours in the 24th that must have given rise to the much misunderstood orders which emanated from the 43rd's CP and aroused an excited and irritable populace.

As his enemies pricked him with needles, we stood helplessly by and watched the painful operation. We, with a bit of that thing called experience, understood; others did not. We who knew the Hell of War knew that Kenneth Fox Cramer was right; others did not.

It has been written that "The only lesson that man seems to be able to learn from the lessons of history is that man is not able to learn anything from the lessons of history."

Those words had special meaning for the much misunderstood Ken Cramer. He added them in a longhand postscript of a letter which he wrote to us just a week before he died.

As it comes to all men, death has come to KENNETH FOX CRAMER (Div Hq). May he rest in peace. Never before have these words had the meaning which they have taken in the few hours since the news of his passing reached us. We know of no other military man who has taken the beating at the hands of the American press that Ken Cramer has taken since he moved his 43rd Division into Camp Pickett during that summer of the great slaughter-1950. Now that he has passed on, we pray that the dogs will leave him alone. If need be, we have every assurance that in a matter of weeks-perhaps days-another whipping-boy can be found. As for Ken Cramer, we think he has endured more than his share. We repeat, as it bears repeating, MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

The information concerning General Cramer's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery came so late that there was no opportunity for the fulfillment of the plans President VIC BACKER had for the Association's representation thereat. Your Editor signalled Vic just as soon as the information was received and Vic in turn hurriedly called BILL CRUMP (Div Hq) at the Pentagon. Bill was only too anxious to oblige us and did not fail; the result was that Bill was at the funeral that afternoon in his official capacity as representative of the Division Association. Thank you kindly, Bill; we would never have forgiven ourselves if we had not accomplished at least that much.

THE CHAPLAIN's CORNER is back again, we are pleased to report. When Assoc. Chaplain CHRIS BERLO (19th) made the jump from Fitzsimmons to Shafter, things became a little confused-you know how it can become in the Army-with the unfortunate result that we missed his cheery and thought-provoking words for a couple of issues. But now the watches are synchronised, so let's move out men and see what the Padre has got to say.

Now!

Mary & BILL MULDOON (19th) announce the arrival of Patricia Ann last Oct. 30th. Nice going, Mary.....If you move or change address, tell BILL SAVELL, will you please?.....The poop is that the Division is replacing the 45th in the forward positions in dear old Korea. It seems as though we've seen this act before..... Another hob rumor has it that they're going to change the name of the old outfit. When they do, we march to the White House en masse.....Who knows where Lt. RALPH BALESTRIERI (13th F) went when he left Chaffee? His mail is coming back to us.....GIL DENSON (24th QM from '43 to '46) would like to hear from any of his old friends; he's at 7726 Wedgewood, Houston. It takes a letter to get a letter, Gil; we'll plug it anyway. It's been our experience, however, that it does little good to tell someone else to write you. If you want to hear from him, write him first.... It's Brig. Gen. HUGH CORT (Div Arty & Div Hq) once again and we're right proud and happy. It never seemed quite right when he stepped down before and we're glad to see those stars back up there, General Cort.....By the time this is read, BILL VERBECK (21st) will be back in the 48's once more. Welcome home, Bill. It's 2320 North Florida St., Arlington, Va. In case any one wants to contact him, Bill has been doing us a great service over there.... Cpl. DONALD K. LeGAY, one of the first POW's to be returned from N. Korea was recently married to Miss Constance M. Martin of Fitchburg, Mass. Congratulations, kids.....We hope to see you in Washington, D.C. come next Aug.....



WHOLESONE THINKING

Words and deeds, in conscious and sane human beings, are the direct result of thoughts and ideas. Deeds are nothing else but the putting into execution, the translating into action, of what has first taken place in the mind. It is therefore impossible to overestimate the importance of our thinking. Every great human achievement; impressive works of art or science or engineering; religious, social or political accomplishments; also outstanding examples of crime and evil-doing; even conflict on an international scale known as war - all these things are the realization of ideas conceived in the mind of man long before any attempt was made to translate them into action.

It is therefore definitely worth our while to give attention to the matter of our thinking. The realization of this important fact has given birth in our times to what is called the art or science of propaganda. All nations, especially the totalitarian states, are aware of the importance of the thinking of their people and therefore they make sometimes very extensive attempts to mold that thinking according to their own wishes. When this attempt goes beyond the limits of right reason it is known as thought control and is almost always unsuccessful when it has for its object the cultivation of irrational or immoral thinking. The object of the human mind is truth and every attempt to inculcate ideas at variance with the truth is contrary to nature and therefore doomed to ultimate failure.

If we would be men of character, there must be shape and color and morality to our thinking. It is time we bury our emotional spooks, get busy and size up the things we represent, think them through and come up with convictions that have shape and substance. A man's character can often be measured by the size of the thing he will rise up to defend. When morality goes out of our thinking and out of our lives, then we open the floodgates of personal and national disaster. We owe it to ourselves and to our country to keep our thinking wholesome and constructive.

MOVING?

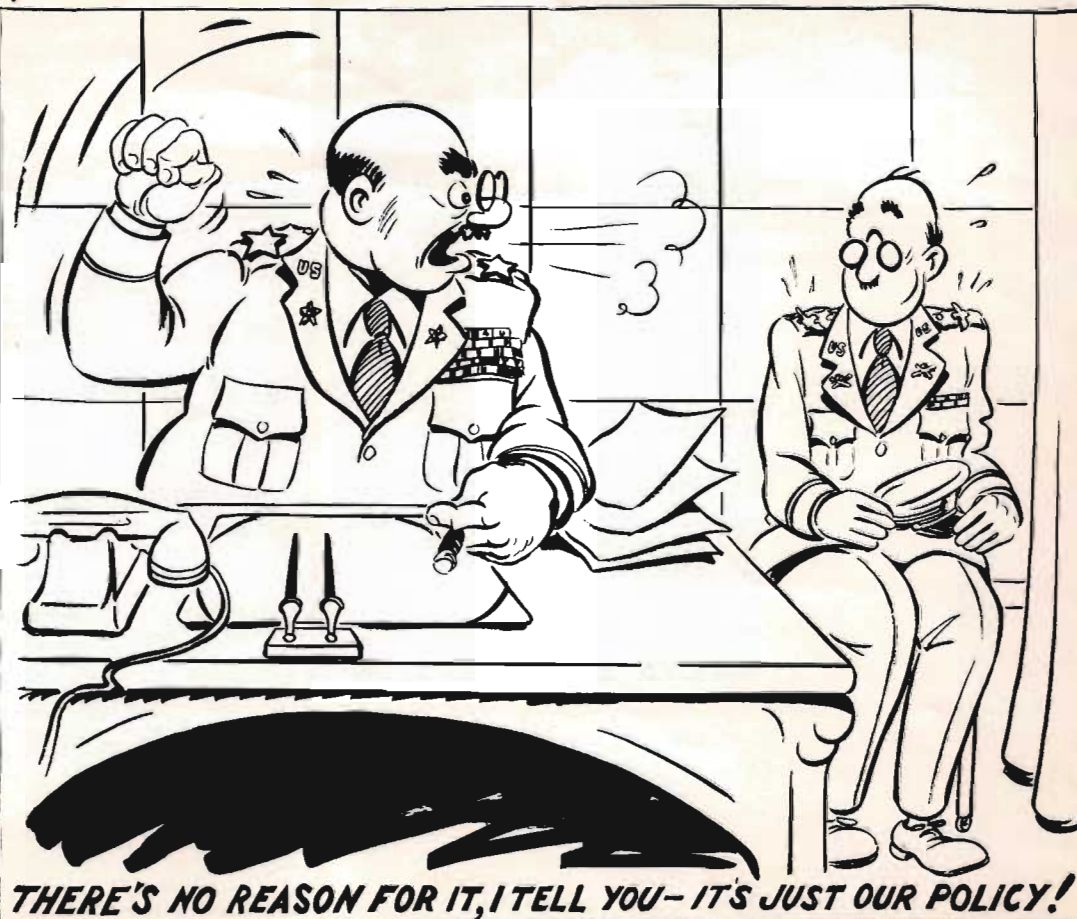
If you are changing your location-and many of us do from time to time-please drop Secretary Bill Savell a postal telling him of your new address so that we can correct our files and keep in contact with you. THANKS!

DIVISION GATHERINGS

◆
"Pacific Division"
HOTEL
MARK HOPKINS
San Francisco,
Calif.
MARCH 27th

◆
"Atlantic Division"
HOTEL STATLER
Washington, D.C.
AUGUST
13th and 14th

◆
All Taro Leafers
and Their Friends
Are Invited



(Ed. Note: The officers in this cartoon are not Taro Leafers.....we don't think. Any resemblance to any Taro Leafeer is purely coincidental and can't be helped.)

Maj. Gen. JAMES A. LESTER (Div. Arty. & Div.Hq.) and Mrs. Lester now at 2375 Bay St., San Francisco, sent a lovely note in the familiar Lester hand-writing. We always liked the way the General made the letter "L". And you could usually tell whether he was running hot or cold by the length of it, too. Today the "L" was a short one so we know he's in a good mood enjoying his retirement days in 'Frisco. For that we are sincerely happy for them both.

SOLOMON, BOB that is, of the 34th, writes an enjoyable "Remember" column in the 34th little mimeographed paper. Bob has given us permission to use some of his recent material on Goodenough Island. For those who were there, it will bring back memories. Here's part of what he wrote:

"We were getting closer to the front and no one knew what to expect. Upon our arrival everyone was anticipating a mystery. We were loaded on trucks to take us to the bivouac area. The advance detail had put up tents for us. The area was grassy plain at the foot of a mountain with densely wooded areas to our rear, through which a stream flowed. We were all anxious to see the natives, but were told the women were all sent to another area....I wonder why? The men were known as fuzzy-wuzzies, named for their hair. Most of them had their hair dyed red and what teeth...they were black; they made an eerie sight. The black teeth were caused by their chewing of beetle nuts, they use the nuts as we chew gum. The hair was dyed from the nut also. We all wondered what the women looked like. We must remember that when we were in Hawaii, the only time we got pineapple was during our night hikes through the pineapple fields. Here on Goodenough...was all the canned pineapple from the Five Islands. Remember eating pineapple in every form imaginable? On Goodenough we were supervised in taking our atabrine tablets. After the evening meal, we had to line up in front of an Officer and swallow our pill; that was before they were coated, and how bitter they were. I will always remember the waterfall high in the mountain, always wanting to get up there, but never being able to. There was the nightly practice session by the A.A. Batteries, giving us fireworks. Do you remember?"

From PETE CRESCENZO (724 Ord) in Southbridge, Mass., from J. E., Lois and Susan JONES (19th), Clemson House, Clemson, S.C., and from the FORD BARON (724 Ord) family in Salt Lake City, came Christmas wishes a few weeks ago. Thanks folks. Likewise to ELMER and Bertna VAN ZANT (24 MP) out in Ankara, Turkey.

When the corporal was asked how the UN General Assembly had reacted to a recent speech by one of the delegates which he had happened to hear, he replied: "Everybody praised it but Madame Pandit."

Second Army's Deputy CG is our own Maj. Gen. GEORGE W. SMYTHE. We're glad you're close by, General. We hope we can drop in on you down there at Ft. Meade one of these days.

Xmas card from O. E. TRECHTER, Jr. and family June, Sherry and Tom, at 1401 W. Valeria, in Santa Barbara, Calif. They kidded us by telling us they wished they were enjoying the New England winter with us. Treck, you've got a hole in your head. And sister Peggy out in Chicago remembered us, too, telling us that she hopes to join her Mother and Dad in La Rochelle, France in the Spring. Give them both a hug for us, Peggy, please.

General Orders No. 67 of 1 Sept. 53 lists the following battles and campaigns of the United States Army: (Combat Zone is territorial limits of Korea and adjacent waters) UN Defensive - 27 June to 15 Sept 1950 incl. UN Offensive - 16 Sept to 2 Nov 1950 incl. OCF Intervention - 3 Nov 1950 to 24 Jan 1951 incl.; First UN Counteroffensive - 25 Jan to 21 Apr 1951 incl.; OCF Spring Offensive - 22 Apr to 8 July 1951 incl.; UN Summer-Fall Offensive - 9 July to 27 Nov. 1951 incl.; Second Korean Winter - 28 Nov 1951 to 30 Apr 1952 incl.; Korean Summer-Fall 1952 - 1 May to 30 Nov incl.; Third Korean Winter - 1 Dec 52 to 30 Apr 1953 incl.; Korean Summer-Fall 1 May to 27 July 1953.

Despite the fact that the world wasn't made in a day, it kind of looks as if it might end in one.

GENE PAPI (Div.Band) whom most will remember as the leader of the Division Band, is doing the same kind of a job with the 8th Div.Band at Ft. Jackson, S.C. We're glad you're home again, Pappy. Thanks for that Christmas wish. Pappy is a Chief Warrant now. Congratulations!

Especially thoughtful among the many who remembered us with Christmas cards were DICK LAWSON (Div. Hq.) from his post on the Faculty, Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa. and Helen and LEON HOWARD (Div. Hq.) out in Pasadena who advises that he's still trying to learn what comes after 75. (It's 76 Le. that's the spirit!).

Here for the first time are the names that insiders used for the only two A-bombs dropped in anger: The Hiroshima bomb was fondly dubbed "Fat Man" after F.D.R. The Nagasaki bomb was called "Fat Man" after Sir Churchill.

JIM HOLLINGSWORTH is the new President of the Camp Gordon Outpost. JACK FURMAN is the Executive V.P., AL FLOYD is the Second V.P., and LOU STICKNEY is the Secretary. The crowd there is slowly but surely developing a splendid chapter down there in Augusta.

Brig. Gen. and Mrs. AUERAY S. NEWMAN (Div.Hq. & 34th) sent us their good Xmas wishes from Ft. Benning for which we are both grateful and happy.

In Indiana, Mrs. Goldie Conlin of 625 Wolfen St., Mt. Vernon, desires to hear from anyone who was with her son Lt. PAUL D. CONLIN before he was reported MIA in Korea on January 3, 1951. Can anyone help Mrs. Conlin?.....





1
Maj. Gen. R. B. WOODRUFF (Div. Hq.) continues to be a faithful correspondent. Here's part of his latest memo:

"The selection of Washington as the next Convention was a happy one. There are lots of former members of the Division stationed there and there ought to be lots living nearby.

"The installment of the Directory was welcome. I had a time trying to find Vic Backer's address in order to thank him for the very cordial greeting sent from St. Louis. Since leaving active service my once well kept files have gone to pot and I couldn't locate the old Taro Leaf which contained that information.

"I have been going into some of my personal treasures in the way of souvenirs of the late war and am wondering if there is any possibility of the Association ever having a trophy room or similar place in which such stuff might be on display, primarily for the members themselves? Do you have any ideas on the subject? My stuff consists of Jap flags, some sabers contributed by senior Japanese officers, etc., not a large collection but it may be that others of the Division have some similar items that eventually could be built up into something worth while. (Just a thought in passing)."

That idea on a trophy room ought to provoke some comment and we'll throw it to the boys to let them chew on it. We like it. What do you say, members? Let's synchronize watches and move out.



"You happen to remember what I called this formation for?"

The Society of the 28th Division claims to have 2977 members in its latest issue. We are going to beat that record. Watch our dust, you Keystoneers!.... The 32nd Division Veterans Association put out a beautiful July-August issue of their "Red Arrow News-Record" consisting of 34 pages. It included 177 advertisements. We've consistently avoided the question of soliciting ads believing that we could pay our own way. So far, so good.....

RAY SIMPSON (C-21), a recently returned POW, is at ward 3 East, Fitzsimmons Hosp. in Denver. Ray has TB and expects to be there for the next year. Thanks for your letter, Ray, and here's wishing you a speedy recovery.

DON BRIZZI (A 52F from 6-42 to 9-45) is National Service Officer for the DAV at 252 7th Ave., New York.

Lt. Col. FLOYD MARTIN (21st from 7-46 to 3-51) is with us. Floyd is at 874 Main St., Newington, Conn.



2
We are grateful to Vivian Meyer, not only for the Division song, printed in our last issue, but also for her free verse which we reproduce below. She writes that this was prompted by the enthusiasm for the Division which she felt at the St. Louis gathering. Here's her way of expressing it:

Let's propose a Taro-Toast
And with every good intention
Draw a crowd from coast to coast
To our fifty-four convention.
So easy now to see how this
Can mean so much to our dear boys
A shame so many had to miss
The jolly fun and happy noise.
Now's the time to get to work
Making plans for next year's meet
Let not any of us snirk
Before the program is complete.
Some of them had worked so hard
With precious little time to rest
Attendance would have been reward
Assurance they had done their best.
Why should we allow a few
To shoulder this tremendous task?
Seems the least that we can do
To share the burden -- all they ask.
Thoughts will linger, through the year
Of so many different things
Now a chuckle -- now a tear
Mixed emotion memory brings.
Nothing too good for a "vet"
Fills our hearts with aching pride
Knowing they will not forget
Their buddies on the "other side."
Spike O'Donnell, bless his heart
(Though he kissed the Blarney twice)
Did so much more than his part
To welcome us -- and break the ice.
In his charming Irish way
(and we hope there is no cure)
He would yakky-yak all day
He's the veterans' friend, for sure!
Then the president-elect
Surely he is not a slacker
Smiling manner -- so direct
Tireless workhorse -- "Mister" Backer.
Joe, the jitterbug M.C.
Doubled us with hearty laughter
We enjoyed all this for free
Happiness is what he's after.
It would take a lot of space
Giving credit where it's due
To recall each friendly face
Friends indeed -- tried and true.
One very special GI Joe
Ole' Doc C -- From Company "G"
Might decide to let me go
Next year, to Washington, D. C.
One night I will never forget
So whatever his decision
Finest group I ever met
Was from the 24th Division!

1000 Kudos to you Vivian. Keep writing 'em and we'll publish 'em.



LAUREL GEISZLER (3rd Bn. 34th from 12-45 to 12-46) has been separated from the Air Force and is now back in Fargo, N.D.....

The 1st Cavalry Division Assoc. follows us into Washington, D.C. on Sept. 3-6, 1954. 550 members attended their '53 reunion in El Paso, Tex. They have no annual dues. A life membership costs \$10. We don't know how many members they have.

MAJ. RUSSELL B. SEMIS (21st) is now living at 2100 Cameron Drive, Dundalk 22, Md.

VIC FRITSCH out in Hamilton, Ohio has been doing some missionary work for us. Thanks, Vic! And thanks also for the pictures which you sent along.



3
Hanson Baldwin of the New York Times recently said of BILL DEAN (Div. Hq.):

"General Dean's description of himself at a news conference as 'not a hero -- just a dogfaced soldier' might well be used as a text in the Pentagon, which could benefit greatly from more 'dogfaced soldiers' and less staff officer experts.

"General Dean has demonstrated by his bearing and conduct prior to, during and since his imprisonment that he is a leader of men; he understands the art of command. This is a quality, always rare, but far too rare in our present Army, which has tended too much to extol the staff officer and specialist at the expense of the troop leader."

"General Dean's homecoming and his modest but revealing remarks should serve to emphasize once again the major problem of our armed forces today, a problem particularly acute in the Army, the problem of service morale, service incentives and attractiveness and service leadership."

You'll get no argument out of us, Mr. Baldwin. We're on the same team.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

The word in from Fr. BERLO (19th) at Ft. Snafier goes like this:

"Early this morning, it suddenly occurred to me that I had not paid my dues. Usually I take care of this matter at the Convention but this past summer it was impossible for me to be present. So I am holding up my usual duties for the day to take care of this at once.

"Rumors have been flying around that 'a Division' would come to Schofield Barracks again and of course everyone knew reference was being made to the 24th. Well, we all know that every time we made a new landing in the Sa Pacific the rumor started up again that 'after this operation' we would go back to the old home base. As far as I have learned, it's still in the 'rumor' stage.

"Naturally, one sees the Taro Leaf patch all over the place around here on Oahu and I am certain that not very many of them belong to our Assoc. Getting them in is a touchy and difficult matter. Allowances and such were cut, many civilian employees were laid off in the recent RIF (reduction in force) and all are complaining of the shortage of money, as I found out this past month because I was Area Chairman for the Community Chest Drive.

"On Oct. 1st, I received a 'permanent appointment' in the Reserves in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Active duty status of course remains in the rank of Major."

We enjoyed the report, Fr. Berlo, and the check. Many thanks.



"BUT I AM READJUSTED TO CIVILIAN LIFE, POP"

TARO LEAF
William Savell
24th Division Association
P.O. Box 268
Blountstown, Florida



Elvin E. Shack
2520 Cedar St
Richmond 28
Va

POSTMASTER
Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed

Col. GEORGE CHAPMAN (19th) writes us from the Language School in Monterey, Calif.:
"I've been doing so much running around lately, I've lost track of my membership standing, but I'm reasonably sure that I owe the Association one year's dues. I am further embarrassed by the fact that I lost my last Taro Leaf to some Korean 24th Vets here trying to drum up a bit of business and hence don't know to whom I should send this. However, knowing that you and JOE PEYTON, along with BILL SAVELL, will definitely be in there pitching, I will refer it to you with the assurance that it will get to where it should."

"It might be of interest to you that I am presently studying Portuguese to take over the job that BILL VERBICK (21) started in Brazil back in '48. I plan to go to Rio some time in March. Last spring I was in Salzburg Germany, and had the pleasure of seeing RALPH DALTON (19th Inf) and GEORGE ASERT (Div. 34). Their address is Headquarters USFA, APO 166, c/o PM, New York, N.Y."

"I regret that duty and miscalculations have resulted in my missing so many of your reunions. I know that you know my thoughts have been with you."

Thanks for the message, George.

In New York recently, VIC BACKER (34th) took ED HENRY and your Editor over to the 77th Division Clubhouse on 39th St. (28 East, in case you're in town). With only 1083 members, they have a clubhouse, complete with restaurant and bar, that is a dream.... In London, when eggs were very hard to get, a grocer had a strenuous time. Many women formed an egg-line every day. A beautiful young woman asked for a dozen, to which the clerk replied: "Sorry, but these are only for expectant mothers." After a little hesitation, the young lady said, "I would consider it a favor if you would put a dozen under the counter. I will call for them in the morning."

JOHN WHITING (24th Sig. Co.) and DAN FYE (Div. Hq.), both presently at Cp. Gordon have just joined the Assoc. John is a Sergeant with Co. B, TSESS. Daniel is a Warrant Officer with the 95th Army Band welcome aboard, gents..... Perplexed wife, at dinner table, to angry husbands: "Monday you liked beans; Tuesday you liked beans; Wednesday you liked beans. Now all of a sudden on Thursday you don't like beans!"

Rise and shine

GEORGE K. MOODY (Div. Hq. from 7-46 to 7-48) has returned from Turkey and is now at Cp. Polk. George, Anne and the kids are at 301 N. Royal St., Deridder, La. George reports that he left our international relations with Turkey in the good hands of SLEWER "Snerriff" VAN ZANT (24 ME from 12-46 to 12-47). He reports that he's now living in a southern mansion, commands the 145th Inf., has a few spare beds and would welcome a visit. We'll be down, George, and when we do we'll go over to Antoine's in New Orleans. The oysters Rockefeller will be on us....

PAY YOUR DUES PROMPTLY



Please check your address as it appears here. If it is incorrect, we will appreciate your printing your name and complete address on this page and mailing it back to us. That will help us save paper, postage, and extra work on the part of the postal service and will assure you prompt delivery. Thank you.

..... PAUL DUNCAN (83F) is working for us in the Oklahoma City area and we are much indebted to him. He's an attorney with Pierce, Mack and Duncan there..... DICK BIERING (19th) has been doing some missionary work for the Assoc. which we acknowledge gratefully. Dick is Sales Manager of The Blace Company (heating and air-conditioning) in San Antonio.....

In locating these POW's, we don't know what we'd have done without the help of people like JULIUS JOSZ in Detroit, PAUL DUNCAN in Oklahoma City, and TOM CHACONAS in Washington, D. C..... Word in from M/Sgt CAL CRZESON, a recently returned POW. We gave him a year membership in the Assoc. Just as we gave 639 other returned POW's. Here's what Cal writes from his home in Winston-Salem, N.C.: "Thank you so very kindly for your nice letter. It was with heartfelt joy to know that so many people were thinking of us while we were prisoners of the Reds. Any news of former members of the 24th Div. and activities of the Div. will be highly appreciated. I have about 11 years service with the organization and I have come to regard it as home. Thank you again for the membership and I sincerely hope that the association is a big success with many new members to join you in the future."

We like the letter, Cal. As for news of the Division, that's what this paper is for. We'll give you every bit of news we can put our hands on.

A. E. RODRIGUEZ, of 614 Oakdale Ave., Chicago, Ill. is Secretary of the 94th Division Association. He is plugging us in their paper "Attack" and we are reciprocating right here, now, this very minute. If you know any 94th Division people, won't you have them contact the Secretary, please:



"I came up through the ranks."

FRANCIS HELLER (Hq. Stry. Div. Arty. 1942-7) now Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Kansas, writes us a most interesting letter. He has been checking on the whereabouts of one M/Sgt. AUSTIN D. FLACK. Writes Francis:

"M/Sgt. AUSTIN D. FLACK was in the Division as Sgt/Major of the 52nd when I got to Oahu with the first draftees. Later he had a slight run-in with the powers-that-be that resulted in his being reduced and transferred into Div Arty Hq Btry as a PVT. That's when I got to know him well: our names being adjoining on the duty roster, we used to do pots and pans together. After six months of this activity, and by prearranged consent of Gen. Lester who was Div Arty CG at the time, Flack went to the 63rd where he was at once promoted to M/Sgt and placed in his old job. He did a fine job under rather trying circumstances. In the summer of '45, Flack was sent back to the States on 45 days R&R. The war ended while he was there and he was told that he need not return overseas. He fought and fought to get back. In any case, one beautiful spring day in 1946, the Div Arty adjutant came into my office -- I was Div Arty S-2 by that time -- and asked me if I had ever known a M/Sgt Flack. So he was back again, but by late fall he was again on his way to the States: GHQ had dreamed up a recruiting drive and none but the oldest regulars would qualify. He had only three real old-timers left in Div Arty and Flack was one of them. Gen. Blanchard (now at Camp Gordon) told me later that Flack was the only one of the three who came back overseas to rejoin his unit. He was still there when Korea started out and after the 34th RCT got chewed up he was listed as missing. Then, on the last Sunday before the prisoner exchange ended, the NY Times carried a lengthy story quoting the newly released Sgt. Flack on camp life, etc. I don't recall that he was identified as having been a 24th Div. man. But to my way of thinking there are few others who would qualify as well as not "a" but the 24th Division man. As far as I can recall, Flack never spoke much about any family. He seems to have no other attachments than the 24th; it shouldn't surprise me if he did not even return from Korea but went back to the Sgt/Major's desk. I guess he would have to be content with some other battalion now but it would still be the 24th."

"You can see that I consider Flack quite a guy. I think you may have to run a check on him through AG but his name ought to be included on our rolls."

"I can't say that I get very much accomplished on this last Active Duty hitch. Uncle Sam would not let me go overseas, on account of some 4 1/2 years spent there during WWII, so I languished at Ft. Bragg, engaged primarily in the happy pursuit of keeping my boots as shiny as the Airborne boys'. About the only facet of interest was that as S-3 of a very heavy artillery unit (240s) I got to train the first cadre for the atomic artillery units. But that, too, was a rather vicarious feat."

Many thanks for the lengthy report, Francis, and if anyone can give us a run-down on Austin Flack, please contact the Editor.

SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER