

TAROLLEAF

24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

VOL. VIII JULY, 1955 NO. 3



DON'T
FORGET!
NATIONAL
DUES
ARE NOW PAYABLE

Just as we were about to go to press, an exciting report arrived from Lt. COL. E. HARDING, JR. (Div.Hq), who is Comptroller of the Southern Area Command, arrived. So important did we consider it that we tore the paper down to include it in this issue.

Harding's report gave the details of the 24th Division reunion in ETO held in Garmisch on April 22-25.

Here's how it went:

"I am happy to report that approximately 650 veterans of the Division and their dependents attended the four day reunion held at the Garmisch Leave and Rest Center. Unfortunately, a last minute decision by Headquarters United States Army, Europe, rulling out administrative absences, resulted in several hundred veterans cancelling their plans to attend due to the distance involved in traveling to and from Garmisch, Germany. Furthermore a number of the major units were on maneuvers during this period as evidenced in the case of one division that was unable to release anyone to attend the reunion. In spite of this, General Watson is very pleased with the enthusiastic turnout of the veterans.

"The membership drive was very successful in that we have acquired 259 new members for the association. The balance of 19 veterans stated that they were current members of the association. This makes the drive a 100% success. I have also forwarded a mimographed letter to each veteran who indicated interest in this reunion but was unable for various unanticipated reasons. I urged them in this letter to join the association and to return their application blanks and membership fee to me. I will pass them on to you after I feel that those who intended to respond have had sufficient time to take this action.

"I am inclosing an American Express Company cheque payable to your association. This remittance covers the membership fees and the remainder of the \$92.00 represents the major portion of the unexpended balance of the registration fees which is to be considered as a donation by the Reunion Committee to your Association.

"The distinguished guests and speakers at the reunion were MAJOR GENERAL GUY S. MALOY, JR. Commanding General, 1st Infantry Division, and MAJOR GENERAL AUBREY S. NEWMAN, ACofS, GI, USAREUR. MAJOR GENERAL NUMA A. WATSON, Commanding General, Southern Area Command, was the host. Our opening ceremonies were held at the famous Casa Carioca Club and were very impressive. I opened the ceremonies as general chairman and was followed by the Chaplain who gave the invocation which was followed by a minute of silence. The buglers of the 5th Division band then played taps in honor of those members of the 24th Infantry Division who made this supreme sacrifice. I assure you that there were very few dry eyes at that time. Although the three generals referred to above made interesting speeches, it was generally agreed by the committee that BRIGADIER GENERAL FRANK A WATSON USAR-Retired, father of MAJOR GENERAL WATSON, stole the show. He was formerly a 2nd Lt. in the 19th Infantry Regiment from 1895 to 1901 and his reminiscing amused everyone. He is approximately 80 years old and is very well liked by everyone in this command. I believe that all were particularly impressed by his excellent physical condition and ability to deliver a very effective speech. General Watson read letters from 16 general officers who sent their best wishes and expressed regret that they could not attend.

Below: MAJ. GEN. AUBREY S. NEWMAN, Asst. G-1, USARUEUR, delivers an address to former 24th'ers at the opening ceremonies at the Casa Carioca, 23 April 55
US Army Photograph.



"The next scheduled events were organizational luncheons held at various hotels. Each location was appropriately decorated and everyone appeared to enjoy themselves tremendously. These luncheons were designed to afford each veteran with an opportunity of meeting the veterans from his former unit.

"The only other scheduled events were the famous Casa Carioca ice review which was held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. The club was also decorated with 24th Infantry Division colors and insignia and I believe that this was the feature attraction of the reunion.

"We did not receive the 500 copies of the April issue of the Taro Leaf until the morning of April 26 which was the day after the reunion ended. I disseminated copies to our local veterans and also sent copies to each veteran who did not attend the reunion. If I can find the time I will try to dispatch the remaining ones to the veterans who attended the reunion. This may take some time as it is quite a job to address the envelopes for such a large number of people.

"I have recently decided to apply for voluntary retirement effective August 31, and will probably pass through while enroute to California. I will try to call on you at that time and give further details about the reunion."

1000 thank you's to you COLONEL HARDING and to you, GENERAL WATSON. For our money, this is just about the most outstanding contribution which has been made to the Association in its long and difficult history.

Words fail us. We can't really express our deep appreciation to all who made this gathering a success so we won't even try.

We're a little touchy about cropped pictures. We've done some cropping here but only due to space limitations. We doubt that the Senate will investigate us. Regrets to you who are left out.

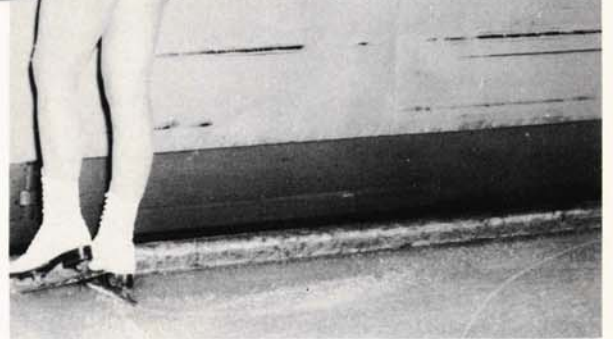


During the finale of the Casa Carioca Ice Show at Garmisch, 23 April 55, veteran Taro Leafers received champagne. Some reunion, eh?



And others received cakes!

When the gang gathered at the Garmisch Leave and Rest Center for the clambake, they found that "This Week", the center's periodical had been dedicated to the 24th Division. The Taro Leaf was prominently displayed upon the cover in full - and accurate - colors. We were wonderfully impressed.



And others -----oh! oh! oh! to be a kid again

For four years now a crusade, run by some very dedicated people, has been going on. The purpose of the crusade has been to reunite the members of the Division into a mammoth, functioning association -- to reunite them in peace as they had been united in war. The men who conceived and executed this crusade, the ones who thought it up, worked out methods and procedures, met and planned, wrote and typed, spent their time, energy, and money, did this without thought of gain, but with thought only of the good that they might do.

The result is the Association, one of the nation's best. A quarterly newspaper, a yearly reunion held in one of the country's great cities, local and regional chapters -- these are some of the major activities and achievements. But after these years of dedication and hard work, successful as the organization is, less than three thousand have become members. Thousands of dollars have been spent to try to reach the scattered thousands of men from the division thousands of these men, continually receiving the paper have made no acknowledgement of it -- to say nothing of their not joining the association.

By dint of hard work the association accumulated 76,000 names and addresses. Several thousand of the addresses proved incorrect. This was to be expected after years of postwar relocation. LESS THAN 2% BECAME MEMBERS OR CAME TO THE REUNIONS.

Some 73,00 men in no way acknowledged the organizational efforts, the receipt of the newspaper, etc. It can now safely be assumed that these men are not interested in our activities -- or that they are so negligent or apathetic as to be virtually uninterested. All right, we attach at dawn. Unless we hear from these men, we must drop them from our mailing lists. No more free papers, no more handouts. Here is what we are asking those who are interested and have not yet become members of have not been in touch with us to do:

- A. FILL OUT THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND MAIL IT IN WITH DUES, OR
- B. WRITE US THAT THEY ARE INTERESTED BUT CAN'T ATTEND THE REUNIONS DUE TO OTHER OBLIGATIONS, BUT STILL WANT TO HEAR FROM US, OR
- C. TELL US FRANKLY THAT THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED.

The Association wants members and friends. It solicits them. But it cannot go on spending its limited membership funds, paid by those who are interested, to try to convince others who are not and who haven't even the courtesy or intelligence to respond that they are not. It must use its funds in a more positive fashion.

The association is now going into a phase of consolidation, but with still - continuous expansion. The growth of local and regional chapters opens a whole new world of activity and brotherhood. Other division functions will expand accordingly. No true 24th man should fail to be a part of this.

So take action now - and make an effort to become a member by mailing your application. Take advantage of the special Offer in This Issue. Show us in this way that the majority of the 24'ers were not ungrateful as buddies in war and will not be as veterans at peace, remembering their contribution and sacrifice in World War II and Korea.



"I was on my way home from the office when--you're gorgeous!-- I ran into an old army buddy . . ."



"WATAKUSHI NOW LOOK LIKE SAILOR, NE?"

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Bill Muldoon
212 Webster
West Newton, Mass.

I desire to start/renew my membership in the 24th Infantry Division Association and thereby enjoy the many benefits of continuing to be associated with other members and former members of that Great Outfit.

Enclosed please find \$3.00 for my yearly dues.

Name _____

Street & No. _____

City and State _____

Former Organization _____

Remarks _____





NATIONAL CONVENTION

First it was Baltimore, Md.
 Then it was New York, N. Y.
 Then Chicago, Illinois
 Then Detroit, Michigan
 Then Columbus, Ohio
 Then St. Louis, Missouri
 Then San Francisco, California
 Then Washington, D. C.
 And now - on October 22, 1955, it's

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

for our 9th "Clambake"
 at the
 Hotel Sheraton - Kimball

We calmly predict that this will be the biggest, most gala and successful reunion since the Association was formed in Taloma Beach in Mindanao.

Task Force 24 is scheduled to arrive on the beachhead at Springfield, Mass. Saturday, 22 October 55. Early birds will get there a day ahead of time on Friday, 21 October 55. Late sleepers will break camp on Sunday 23 October 55

But the attack in force will be Saturday, 22 October 55.
 Come one! Come all!

IT'S NEW

An air force recruiting sergeant out in Ohio was recently stunned when mothers of some of the youngsters who had enlisted refused to let the boys fly to their training base. What did they think the air force was - a debating team?..... JIMMY DODD (19) a rancher out in Alzada, Mont. was out on the west coast last summer and went up to Tacoma to call on LEROY SWENSRUD who used to be dispatcher at the 19th's motor pool. Leroy had just seen VIC SATUR (Sv.-19). Vic is driving trucks for FRANK KOSTER out of Phoenix, Ariz. Jimmy adds that onetime coporal E. A. LAWRENCE (19th) is now a C.I.D. Major in Korea. Jimmy has also seen ED MULLINS (Sv-19) at Buhl, Idaho and has hear from CLARENA FERRY, HAROLD ALEXANDER and EDGAR WILCOX (all of Sv. 19). Jim wants to hear from his old buddy, BILL C. BALL..... CAPT. EARL E. REYNOLDS is a patient in the hospital at Camp Gordon, Ga. and would like to hear from his friends in the Division.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Q. I'm a veteran who needs a new partial plate. Where should I inquire as to whether the VA will provide a replacement for me?

A. Your partial plate replacement is a matter that would have to be adjudicated by the nearest VA regional office.



Picture
OF THE MONTH

We snatched this from "Tropic Lightning Flashes", the 25th Div. Assoc. publication. It shows Maj. Gen. Herbert B. Powell, 25th Div. C.O. and Brig. Gen. Philip F. Lindeman, 25th Div. Assoc. President visiting the 3rd Engineers Marker at Kolekole Pass, Oahu.

COMING!

To assist in the campaign to increase esprit de corps among present 24th Division troops, Division headquarters has announced the development of a project called "Taro Treasures" to lead to the establishment of a 24th Division museum.

Designed to house battle trophies and relics of past engagements involving the Division, the museum will be a gathering place for the many mementoes that have been collected during the Division's 14 year history.

Major purpose of the museum, which will accompany the Division wherever it goes, will be to orientate replacement forces. By viewing such things as the first alert received by Major General William Dean prior to start of the Korean encounter, or the casing of the first shell fired during the Phillipines campaign, new troops will become familiar with the Division's history.

Many categories of items are scheduled to be included in the proposed museum. On display will be enemy weapons, clothing, battlefield souvenirs, flags, maps, photos, sport trophies, awards and citations, and other classifications

**A suitcase,
 A flower,
 A promise**

The codfish lays a million eggs,
 The little hen but one;
 But the codfish doesn't cackle
 When her little stunt is done,
 And so we praise the artful hen,
 The codfish we despise;
 Which makes to plain to thoughtful men
 It pays to advertise.

Chameleon

M/SGT. J. J. MCKEAN (19th) of the 74th RCT in Iceland has written us as follows: "I have been meaning to write, but you know how it is when you first join a new unit. I've been jumping around quite a bit and though I have finally settled down at a new job, I have been rather busy learning the ropes of this position. I call it a position because I am being paid for doing practically nothing whatsoever. I am replacing a Pfc., will keep busy most of the time, but will do nothing. (If you get what I mean.)"

"There are quite a few people up here from the 24th. I ran into one M/Sgt Hill who was with G of the 19th in Japan and Korea. Another is a SFC Joe Bettin who was with the 5th RCT in Korea. Another is M/Sgt. R.N. Madden who was with the 21st. All in all, I would say that we are well represented here. It could well be that a couple of back numbers of the 'Taro Leaf' might excite these people into a little Assn. fervor and we might add some new members.

"It is one of those tri-service installations where the Army unit commander is trying to out do the other services. The Army walks around with starched and pressed fatigues and the Navy and Air Force walk around any way they want. I understand that it is good for morale etc. but it sure raises hell with the men themselves. Training is hard to accomplish due to our agreement with the Icelandics. About the only solution would be for us to move out. They evidently aren't going to allow any foreign nation to 'occupy' them and use them as they (the foreign nation) see fit. As a result, they have really put on stringent controls. We can have no shows of force, thus no formations for Retreat or Reveille et al. It sure drags a fellow down to be in a position where the Icelandic cops can walk in to your barracks area and without any warrant of any sort haul you out, search your area and throw you in the caboose. I guess there are reasons for this, but I for one am not satisfied that we are receiving anywhere near what might be construed as the clean end of the stick.

"I said before I came here that I could do 12 months of this standing on my head and I can. I have already made about 6 weeks of this tour now and I understand that we won't have to do a full 52 weeks. That being the case, I have already made a dent in the tour and should be able to make this up in no time to speak of."

Stay with it, Mac; it'll soon be over.



HELP PUBLICIZE THE REUNION

for a
successful
convention

HELP PUBLICIZE THE REUNION!!!

You can cooperate in getting men to the Reunion by contacting your local and State Veteran organizations, such as the Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Catholic War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, American Veterans of World War II, and Polish War Veterans. Please ask them to insert the following notice in their publications.

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION WILL BE HELD IN SPRINGFIELD SHERATON-KIMBALL HOTEL, OCTOBER 22, 1955. FOR FURTHER DETAILS, WRITE TO THE REUNION CHAIRMAN, KENWOOD ROSS, 1387 MAIN ST., SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, RADIO AND TV STATIONS. SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE AVAILABLE. TO OBTAIN COPY WRITE THE REUNION CHAIRMAN.



LOUIS D. SMITH (Hq. Co.) has joined up his law office with a couple of other lawyers down in Monroe, La. The firm is known as Hayes, Harbey and Smith. Good Luck, Lou.....



From left to right: Lt. Col. E. HARDING, JR. (Div.Hq.), Maj. Gen. G. STANLEY MELOY, JR. (19th), Maj. Gen. NUMA A. WATSON (Div Hq.) and Maj. Gen. AUBREY S. NEWMAN (34th and Div.Hq.)



Head table guests at the banquet in the Ballroom of the General Patton Hotel, Garmisch 25 April 55. Left to right: Lt. Col. WILLIAM W. QUIMBY, Mrs. K. R. COWEN, Lt. Col. F. HARDING, JR., Mrs. NUMA A. WATSON, Maj. Gen. NUMA A. WATSON, Mrs. HELEN T. HARDING, Lt. Col. K. R. COWEN.



JOHN E. KLUMP of Guilford, Ind. (RR#1, Box 98) has just joined up and has requested the home address of CLINTON QUARLES who was KIA at Mintal, Mindanao. Can anyone help him?

"The Autobiography of a Division" starts with this issue. A lack of money prohibited its inclusion in the last issue. Because it is written by and for enlisted men, the material in this book is nothing more or less than soldier shop talk. Shop talk, when it is overheard by somebody who doesn't work in the shop, may sound at times unintelligible since it is filled with trade terms and special within-the-family humor whose full significance is often lost on an outsider. The civilian reader will find casual reference to such things as "the line of departure" and "BAR men" which may seem somewhat obscure. (Before we go any further, a BAR man is not a vendor of alcoholic drinks; he is a soldier who carries and fires a Browning Automatic Rifle.) And the GI jokes in this book often vary from the accepted movie and radio formula for Army gags. Unlike the Hollywood comedians, the soldier of today sees nothing particularly funny about K.P. or second lieutenants. There is absolutely nothing humorous about K.P. after you have been subjected to it a few times. And the present crop of second lieutenants are former enlisted men who came up the hard way and whose job in the combat zone is too dangerous to be laughed at. The average soldier prefers to joke about things that civilians may not quite appreciate, such as K rations, the table of organization (the standard Army excuse for its lack of higher ratings), Off Limits areas, the rotation plan, Good Conduct ribbons, USO Commandos, the classification system or T-5s who wear a whistle and a brass chain draped over their shoulder.

But if the exact meaning and significance of shop talk is sometimes elusive, an outsider can often find in it a certain compensating flavor of authenticity and intimacy. We feel that this autobiography will give the civilian a clearer and more penetrating picture of life in the Army during the wars than he could get from most of the books that have been written to date on the subject. Certainly nobody is better qualified to describe life in the United States Army than the American Soldiers who are living it.

So we present - and proudly too- "The Autobiography of a Division"



Second generation Taro Leafers were thrilled by the Ice Show at the Garmisch reunion. It helps when the entertainers make of them, too.

TARO LEAF
 24th Infantry Division Assoc.
 212 Webster St.
 West Newton, Mass.



Samuel Y. Gilmer,
 78 Fallsade Ave.,
 Bogota,
 N. J.

Form 3547 Requested

to stir a lady's heart

Now! A "Double-Lifetime"

Leafing through several periodicals on Korea recently, I recall reading that the woman is becoming more and more recognized in this country. Her sole purpose is no longer to slave for her husband and bear the brunt of his responsibilities. She is now more than the bearer of his children. She now becomes his wife, his life's companion.

Sometime ago a sergeant from the 724th Ordnance Battalion was on the outskirts of Yongdong-po. There he saw a papa-san riding a mule with a mama-san, laden with an overloaded "A" frame (if that's possible) struggling along behind, on foot. The sergeant paused as the papa-san passed. The former inquired of the papa-san as to why he rode in comparative comfort while mama-san was forced to walk and carry the extremely heavy lode.

Papa-san simple replied, "Custom."

Recently the Ordnance sergeant made another trip to Yongdong-po and met the same Korean couple under similar circumstances except this time mama-san was walking ahead of the mule. The Soldier stopped again to ask the papa-san about the change. "I thought you said it was a Korean custom for the wife to walk behind," he declared. "Why the changee-changee?"

Papa-san's reply was nonchalant, "Land mine!" he retorted!

Hmmmmmm, the story might be worth keeping in mind.

The 6th Tank Battalion (90 mm gun), stationed at North Camp Fuji, Japan, since September 19, 1953 has rejoined the 24th Division

Now commanded by Lt. Col. Ernest T. Barco, Jr., who came from the post of Regular Army Advisor to the 165th Infantry, the 6th Tank boast one of the longest histories of any modern armored unit.

Initially organized in WWI as part of the 304th and 305th Tank Brigades, the 6th has participated in such famous battles as Meuse-Argonne, St. Mihiel, Algeria - French Morocco, Sicily, Normandy, the Pusan Perimeter and Pyongyang.

Reorganized and reactivated in 1949, the 6th Bn arrived in Korea in August 1950, originally assigned to the 1st Cavalry. It joined the 24th Division during the mass breakout from the Pusan Perimeter.

In the Shuffle

TARO LEAF

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

 Kenwood Ross Editor
 1387 Main Street, Springfield, Mass.

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 Kenwood Ross (Div Hq)
 Robert J. Duff (Div Hq)
 Victor Backer (24th)



BRIG. GEN. (Ret.) FRANK B. WATSON (19th Inf) speaks to 24th'ers gathered at Garmisch, 23 April 55. US Army Photograph.