

# TAROLEAF

24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

VOL. IX JULY, 1956 NO. 1

## AT LONG LAST....



WE'VE COME ALIVE  
IN TIME TO  
INVITE  
YOU TO  
THE 24TH  
INFANTRY DIVISION  
REUNION  
AT THE  
HOTEL BILTMORE  
NEW YORK CITY  
ON  
AUGUST 11, 1956



# TARO LEAF

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

VICTOR BACKER, President  
480 Lexington Avenue  
Paul Wing Studios  
New York, N. Y.

Edmund Henry, Sec'y.-Treas.  
21 Park Street  
Attleboro, Mass.

Kenwood Ross, Editor  
1387 Main Street  
Springfield, Mass.

\*\*\*\*\*

## EDITORIAL

Yes, we've been away - away from the scissors and gluepots and other necessities which contributed their share to the publication of the Taro Leaf - away for quite some time. Our last issue appeared under date line of July, 1955.

We shan't bore you with the what, when, where, why of it all.

Suffice to say, there were other pursuits which demanded attention - temporarily at least.

Too, there seemed to be other good reasons for knocking it off for a while. There was an issue at stake.

Our absence seems to have netted only a few complaints if our mail bag is an indicia.

The merits and demerits of the issue no longer can be argued rationally. Minds are closed and a discussion of the matter would be about as fruitful as a Methodist-Baptist debate on the efficacy of sprinkling versus total immersion.

Let's leave it at this - we're back - and now, on with the show.

"And I always thought butterflies had wings!"



The annual 24th Division Convention will be held, this year in New York City. The planning committee is headed by the President and good 34th-er Vic Backer. Everyone knows that when Vic does anything, he does a big job, so expect something special this year. Plans are underway for a big banquet on the eve of Sat., Aug. 11th. Among the honored guests will be Gen. Romulo of the Philippines-Gen. Irving and Gen. McCauliff. Make sure to bring the wives, as New York is a fine place to visit. Plenty of stores, shows, and points of interest. For the baseball fans, the Yankees will be at home to Baltimore with a nite game the 10th and a double-header the 12th. Arrangements are being made for tickets to TV show and other events. The Biltmore is located at Madison Avenue & 43rd Street with an entrance right in Grand Central Terminal. It is centrally located within walking distance from Times Square and the large stores. It's a 15 minute subway ride to the Yankee Stadium and a 10 minute walk to the U.N. They have a 1000 rooms and plenty of facilities. If you attended any previous conventions you already know what it's all about. To you neophytes, all we have to say is get to New York for the convention and we promise you won't regret it. Come down in a party, or come alone and join the party....but most of all get there. We are looking forward to seeing many of you again. It's New York in '56....we will meet at the Biltmore.



He was a 5th Infantry man and they dragged him down to Police Hqs. "What am I here for?", he asked the desk man. "For drinking", the officer of the law sternly replied. "Good. When do we start?" was his retort.

Two 11th Field boys were talking and it went like this: "Have gooseberries got legs?" "Nope." "Heck, then I just ate a fieldmouse."

'The guys who think our jokes are rough Would quickly change their views, If they'd compare the ones we print With those we're scared to use.'



Our Convention this year is scheduled for Saturday August the 11th. Be sure to reserve a room at the Biltmore, if you're coming.



**M**agnificent

THIS ITEM COMES FROM FT. DIX.

For your info, the mere printing of the last issue of this little poop sheet set us back \$161.50. The 16 page insert that went with it cost another \$216.81. And on top of all this, we had one h... of a postage bill. That's where your money goes.....We regret any inconvenience caused by this issue being addressed to former Taro Leafers who are deceased. It happens once in a while and it hurts us every time it does. Our fallen comrades are ever in our hearts. Far be it for us to cause their loved ones greater anguish.....Great plans are underway for our 1956 Convention. We do hope it will be possible for you to make it this year. Try hard to be there, will you please? And be sure to bring the Mrs.

24th Division - A Japanese youth who is credited with risking his life to assist American prisoners of war in North Korea is now employed in a job he's spent his entire life dreaming about:

Kiyohito Tsutsui is a solder in the U. S. Army.

Five years ago, Mike...his GI given nickname...was employed as a cook with the 24th Infantry Division in his native Japan. When South Korea was invaded, he volunteered to accompany "his outfit", Headquarters Battery, 63d Field Artillery Battalion, and continue kitchen duties. Within eight days, the unit was overrun, and he was among those taken prisoner.

During the next 37 bitter months, Mike distinguished himself by tending the sick, giving them his food, defending them from harsh treatment by their captors, and serving as interpreter to communicate their requests.

He was repatriated in August, 1953, and was sent to a hospital in Japan for recuperation. He came to the States in August, 1954, on a student visa, sponsored by officers with whom he had been interned, and entered Tennessee Tech to study engineering.

But the Army ties, strengthened by the shared hardships of imprisonment, proved too strong, and Mike, unable to enlist, volunteered to be drafted. The call came this past summer.

As well as many grateful letters from his ex-comrades, Mike has also received a letter of commendation from the commanding general of the 24th Division, Maj. Gen. CHARLES L. DASHER, JR., and has been recommended for the Freedom Medal.

After the rigors of a POW camp, Mike expects to take basic training in stride. For him--and the Army--it's just like renewing an old friendship.



**No matter how you get there-DON'T MISS THE CONVENTION!**

Servant: There's a girl outside without food or clothing.

Master: Feed her and bring her in.



CAPT. BILL PATCH (19th 3/50-10/51) suggests that we publish a list of the Division activities of today. Bill, we publish every item which we can get out of the active Division today. It isn't much, we'll grant but we're doing the best we can with what is fed to us. We agree with you that the current news makes good copy. We'll keep at it. Bill ends his letter with this good note: "At present, I'm a member of the 1st Division, but, in my opinion, I have yet to serve in an outfit that has seen more or accomplished more than the 24th." We agree all the way, Bill.

# IT'S HERE!

Brig. Gen. BILL VERBECK (21) is C.G. U.S. Army Forces Anteles and the Military District of Puerto Rico. Bill regrets that he won't be at New York with us.

True, it costs only two cents to mail "The Taro Leaf". But the total for all the boys who neglect to send us their correct addresses mounts to uncomfortable proportions. Thus, when you move, please send us a notice of your new address.

A hypochondriac on vacation sent a card to his psychiatrist: "Am having a swell time. Why?"

A/2c ANTHONY QUAGLIESI (21st) is now at Chanute AFB, Ill. Tony is looking for RAYMOND J. RITTER of Newark, N. J. who buddied with him in the 21st. Can anyone help him out?

## MAKES A DIFFERENCE

From Hollandia, Netherlands New Guinea, came this report which the New York Times recently gave space: "The 100,000 or more United States service men of World War II who were hot and miserable in their camps here have long since gone.

In most unpleasant places where the last war passed, even though everyone professed an undying hatred for the country, some service men later returned, settled down and made the place their home. Even on wretched and unpopular Guadalcanal one marine built himself a house and opened a hotel.

But it is a tribute to the sincerity of the United States service man's hatred of Netherlands New Guinea that not one of them has returned here to settle. Only remnants of equipment and memories of the vast force that launched the invasion of the Philippines from here remain. Even those remnants and memories are fast fading.

A lot of the names that the soldiers and sailors gave to places in Hollandia are still in use—Dock Five, Base G, Skyline, Waiwaki Beach, MacArthur Hill, Happy Hill, Invasion Beach, Pancake Hill and Camp Walker. The place where the old A.P.O. (Army Post Office) used to be is now called Apo although few people know where it got its name.

After the Americans had been here for a while the natives began to speak at least a few phrases of English. All that is forgotten. Most of the natives have not seen an American in years.

Grass is growing on the road that led up to Gen. Douglas MacArthur's home in the hills. The house itself has been moved down into town, where it is now the residence of the Dutch Governor here.

As usual, the natives have salvaged much of the material and put it to their own uses. Some of it has even been traded into the interior and can be found there in remote villages.

In one native village the walls of the homes are adorned with checker boards and charts showing how to disassemble German anti-tank mines. The Papuans also noted that the soldiers put up pictures of pin-up girls in their tents and barracks. The natives have followed suit. They have taken those faded pin-ups and given them places of honor in their homes.

Bits of G.I. uniforms are occasionally worn by the Papuans, too.

There is no question that the natives remember those times. For example, when a cloud hangs low over a particular bend in the road leading from the dock area here, it is called "Jacqueline's cloud" and the natives think it is bad luck to look at it. A Wac, whose name was Jacqueline, was killed in a jeep accident at that bend and her spirit is said to hover there.

Other soldiers and sailors are remembered too. The natives still number among their prized possessions snapshots of American service men who were their particular favorites. The Papuans hope that some day they will return.

With each year in Hollandia, the Dutch are rebuilding and the marks of the war are disappearing. Weeds are overrunning the once busy air strips, the rotting hulks of the amphibious landing craft are flaking away and becoming one with sea and coral.



The Adjutant General is disturbed because of inquiries from former Division members relative to the authority which awarded all members of The Division the PSM for service in July and August of 1950.

'T' ain't so.

Here's what the AG writes and he (MAJ. GEN. JOHN A. KLEIN) requests that he be quoted in full:

"Requests have been received by The Adjutant General of the Army from former members of the 24th Infantry Division for the award of the Bronze Star Medal allegedly awarded by a single order to all members of the Division for service in Korea between July and September 1950. Awards of the Bronze Star Medal are on an individual basis and no order awarding the Medal to all the personnel of a division has ever been published.

"Personnel of the Division who served in Korea between July and September 1950 are entitled to the award of a Bronze Service Star to be worn on the Korean Service Medal to denote battle participation credit in the UN Defensive Campaign. This credit was originally published in General Orders 306, Headquarters United States Army Forces, Far East dated 11 August 1954 and confirmed in Department of the Army General Orders 80, 22 November 1954."

We're happy to set the record straight.



General ANTHONY CLEMENT McAULIFFE, 57, retired commander in chief of the U.S. Army in Europe, onetime (1949-41) commander of the Army Chemical Corps, famed for answering a Nazi surrender ultimatum at Bastogne with "Nuts," was recruited by American Cyanamid Co. as chief of its new Engineering & Construction Division and president of its engineering subsidiary, the Chemical Construction Corp.

"Do you know what good clean fun is?"  
"No, what good is it?"



"What! Y'all never heard of Gen'l Robert E. Lee?" *HUME*

## the Power of a Woman!

A Russian soldier arrived home after some four years of war and was surprised to find his wife with a new-born baby. He questioned her.

"Was it my friend Ivan?"

"No."

"Was it my friend Alexander?"

"No."

"Well, was it my friend Boris?"

Still all she said was "No," and in desperation he asked her who it was. She replied:

"Don't you think I have any friends of my own?"



"Get your raincoat and come on out. We're going to New York to the 24th Convention."



We are pleased to reprint herewith more of BOB SOLOMON'S (34th) "Do You Remember":

"Most of our 19 months on the Oahu we were stationed at the upper post of Schofield. Unlike the large quadrangles of the Lower Post, our homes were long, one storied, wooden shacks, each holding two squads. The main road separated the barracks from the latrines and supply rooms. On the other end of the barracks were the Co. headquarters, the company street and the mess halls. Behind the Mess Hall was a large drill field and the Officers Quarters, plus Mess Hall and Club. The PX was at the lower end of the company street, bounded by the regimental, medical and dental clinic. At the lower end was a group of smaller shacks which quartered the Regimental Hdq. Personell. At the side of each of the living quarters was a neat row of trenches, dug for protection in case of air raid. At the upper end of our area we were bounded by the Chemical Depot. There was a steady flow of large civilian trucks on the main road going toward Kole Kole Pass, only a short distance away. In front of Co. Hdq. was a small rock garden with benches. Each evening the regimental trucks would come into the street to pick up those going into the lower post for a movie. On payday the crap tables would come out on the Co. Street and the card players would wait until the evening when they could use the blacked out mess hall for a day-room. As the black out was in effect, everyone carried flashlights covered with blue celophane and the trucks used blackout lights. That was our home in Hawaii, when we weren't out in beach positions which was about 50% of the time. There were some of us who lived outside the Post at the foot of the Koolas Range of Mountains. It was called the East Range area. Here we lived in three room shacks; one room for a squad. In that area it rained almost every day and every night. We slept on cots with mattresses. When we moved into that area, we had to clean the mattresses and burn out the bedbugs. Most of us will remember that area as the place where we terminated our hike around the island of Oahu and over the Koolas Range. We all have our recollections of Schofield and we are only trying to put the picture back in your mind."

WITH 24th INF. DIV., Korea....Lt. DAVID J. FARLEY of the 11th FA Bn. had to turn down a recent invitation from his old Army Reserve unit back in Chicago.

The unit, the 725th FA Bn., Bryn Mawr Armory, decided it was time Farley was reminded to attend drills. They sent him a letter requesting his presence.

"Sorry, can't make it," Farley wrote in return, "I'm tied up in Korea."

# YOU'LL WANT TO MAKE THIS ONE!

24TH REUNION  
HOTEL BILTMORE  
NEW YORK CITY  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1956



WHAT'S IN A NAME

The VA's massive files show these names among others:

- \* 225,000 Smiths (including 800 John Smiths with no middle initial and 500 William Smiths with no middle initial)
- \* 149,000 Johnsons
- \* 109,000 Williamses
- \* 108,000 Joneses
- \* 102 Eisenhowers (including one Dwight D. Eisenhower)
- \* Omar M. Bradleys out of a total of 12,000 Bradleys



Have any time for reading? Try Agnes Newton Keith's "Bare Feet in the Palace" (Atlantic Monthly Press, Boston) Here's an American at home in the PI. You who were there will love it.

## AT YOUR SERVICE

ED DESETA (3 Eng., 4/43-8/45) of 501 N. duPont St., Wilmington, Del. gets the credit for this one: The little boy with the black eye was put to bed tenderly by his mother and was just finishing his prayers.

As his mother tiptoed out she overheard his postscript:

"And, please make Jimmy Jones stop hitting me. By the way, God, I've mentioned this before."



Sgt. VERNON E. GRIFFITH (I-21, 8/50 to 5/51) out in Clifton, Colo. says "If you think old soldiers just fade away, just try to get into your old uniform".....NICK CANTANDO of 3251 Buchanan St., 'Frisco writes: "A tourist pulled up in front of a gas tank in Vermont and ordered five gallons of gas.

"As the attendant complied, he remarked casually, "Well, sir--you're the last person to be served with gas at the old price."

"Oh, is that so?" answered the motorist. "In that case you'd better fill it up."

"As he drove away, glowing with a happy bargainer's glow, the Vermonter hung up a sign: "Gasoline reduced 5¢ per gallon."

## BRADLEY HAS HIS SECURITY!

LET'S CUT OUT VETERANS' BENEFITS AND LUMP EVERYBODY UNDER SOCIAL SECURITY-- EVERYBODY BUT ME!



LEGION'S VIEW—The American Legion's attack on recommendations of the President's Commission on Veterans' Pensions has been centered on Gen. Omar Bradley, commission chairman. The cartoon above was in literature sent to Legion posts.

Maj. Gen. GEO. B. BARTH (CG Div. Arty 6/30/50 - 7/14/50) is Deputy CG. First Army at First Army Hq..... Col A.W. MANLOVE (Div. Hq.) is comandant of the Ordnance School at Aberdeen Proving Ground. How are you, Whitel?.. SANFORD THATCHER (D-21) of RDI, Hellertown, Pa. is trying to locate JOHN A. ROBERTS of the same company during Korea days. Roberts lives in Florida. Can anyone help us?..... Chief W.O. F.B. CLIPPINGER (Hq. 12/48-8/51) is with 66th TK Bn. AP0177, N.Y..... TOM AEQUILLA (M34 '42 to '45) is at 8 Worden St. Johnstown, N. Y..... NORM NICHOLS, RR4 Crowfordsville, Ind. has just joined up, saying "I indeed am proud to have been a member of the fighting 24th". Welcome, aboard, Norm.



"Let's see, where did I stop last night... here we are  
 ... SR 345-250-40, 21 January 1952 is changed  
 as follows..."

The other day, we asked Ed Henry (Div. Hq.)  
 "How's business, Ed?" to which he replied "Well,  
 I'll tell you, it's a lot like sex. When it's  
 good, it's wonderful, when it's bad, it's still  
 pretty good". Now don't start rushing those  
 letters in....we found it in Reader's Digest.

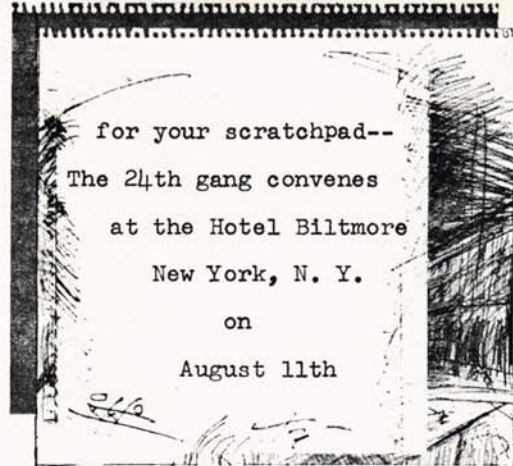


Al De Mello (B-21) of 421 Tamalpais Dr.,  
 Madera, Calif., now has 2 boys and 2 girls--  
 the latest, Doralise Anne, born last Oct. 25th.

## MESS LINE

Our old Assoc. Sec'y. JOE PEYTON (19)  
 has recovered from an appendicitis operation.  
 Hope all is well by now, Joe..... JOS "TONY"  
 SNYDER (Med 19) of 2360 Louisa Street, Napa,  
 is another loyal member excused over our  
 absence. We're back in business, Tony; our  
 apologies for the long delay.... GENE ANTAL  
 (D-19) of 4513 6th St. Ecorse, Mich. says  
 he'll get us a new member if we'll give him  
 a plug. OK plug for Gene... Capt EARL WINTERS  
 is Post Transportation O at Ft. Carson, Colo.

Answers to Correspondents: JDN : "Don't  
 say it; I thought of it too".....LKT "Seattle,  
 Wash., in 1947".....BRF "That makes two of us."



The 1st Cav. Div. Assoc., has launched a  
 new membership drive. They now have 5500 paid  
 up members. We have 600.....BOB WESTERN of  
 149 Main St., Delta, Colo. wants to know if he's  
 paid up as a member. You are Bob, to Aug. '56..  
 ....VINCE J. THOMAS (21st) has just paid up his  
 dues and rejoined the fold. You haven't missed  
 any copies of the TL, Vince; we ain't had none..  
 ..The CHARLES T. STANEIL's (SV19) announce the  
 arrival of Cynthia Ann last Nov. 1st. Good  
 work, kids. Charlie is at 6704 W. Markham,  
 Little Rock, Ark.....As Charley Allen (21)  
 Rt 1, Gallion, Ala. puts it "The only bad part  
 of being a good sport is that you have to lose  
 to prove it".



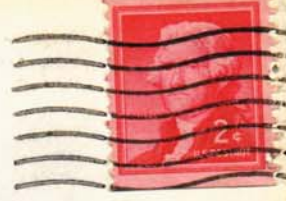
We have had some complaints that some of  
 our political beliefs have been injected into  
 our copy in the past. We enjoy the same right  
 of expression as anybody else who can use a pen  
 and find a printer. We think it a good feature  
 of democratic life that independent opinions,  
 as well as facts, should be continually present-  
 ed as a stimulus to thought and discussion.

GET YOUR NOSE OFF THE GRINDSTONE!



Come to the CONVENTION!

THE TARO LEAF  
24th Infantry Division Assoc.  
E. Henry, Sec'y.  
21 Park Street  
Attleboro, Mass.



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

Form 3547 Requested

Balance....



Balance is what we try to keep in editing this poop sheet - a healthy balance between news of O's and EM's - a healthy balance between news of people of WWII and the Korean War, etc. etc. If we've failed, we're sorry, because we have sincerely tried. And if you're real sore, you can be the editor after the next issue. The vacancy will exist. Applications are now being received.

Mrs. W.A. has just written in a ? and we're quoting it and our answer herewith:

Q. My husband served in the Army between 1950 and 1952 and received \$200 mustering-out pay for that period of service. How much more MOP will he get when discharged from his present three-year enlistment? He's now in Alaska.

A. Since \$300 is the maximum over-all allowable sum for Korea service, your husband will be eligible to draw only \$100 upon honorable discharge from his present enlistment.

One of our boys sent us this one:

When St. Peter checks our service records  
To see where we should be  
We might as well be down in Hell  
'Cause we're the Infantry.

We've been in places just as hot  
From Tokyo to Rome  
We'll dig our foxholes in the coals  
And all feel right at home.

So when Gabriel blows reveille  
We'll muster with a yell  
And the doughboys of the Infantry  
Will charge and capture Hell.

The difference between a psychotic and a neurotic: The psychotic thinks 2 and 2 equal 5. The neurotic knows 2 and 2 equal 4, but it makes him nervous.

● FREE ROOM AND MEALS -

THE ROOMS MAY BE FREE, BUT WHAT'S A FREE ROOM WHEN IT HAS TO BE KEPT SO CLEAN YOU DONT DARE LIVE IN IT!  
-AND AS FOR THE FOOD- UGH!!



Served on a Shingle

JIM WRIGHT (21st) of 1421 E. Elm Street, Coshocton, Ohio writes us the sad news that he has suffered a stroke and has been crippled for the last two years. We're sure sorry to hear that, Jim. We well remember you and the way you enjoyed yourself at the Columbus clambake a few years ago. When and if the spirit moves folks, drop Jim a line. He reports that the old trouble is beginning to affect his eyes now. Keep up that fight, Jim....

Over 200 copies of the last issue of the Taro Leaf came back to us because of bum addresses. Give us a break, will you please, and let us know when you "transfer".

Tale Ends

We'll see ya in New York on August 11th.