

TARO LEAF

24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

VOL. IX AUG., 1956 NO. 2



**MISSING
SOMETHING?**

MR. & MRS. TARO LEAFER . . .

You can't afford to miss
the 24th Reunion
HOTEL BILTMORE
NEW YORK CITY
Saturday, August 11, 1956

T A R O L E A F

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.

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Lt. Col. JAMES B. JONES (19th & Div. Hq) at the docks in Mitsuhamu, Shikoku, Japan. J.B. couldn't get enough; he had to go back for more.

One man presently with the Special Service of the Division has had some stage experience. Capt. CHUCK WASSIL has been on the Chicago stage since his teens. He has had feature roles in productions of Stalag 17, Mr. Roberts and a major role on the Hawkins Falls TV program.

As a member of the Salt Creek Summer Theater of Chicago, WASSIL has worked and appeared with such people as Debbie Reynolds, Jack Palance, Judith Anderson, Buddy Ebsen and Carleton Carpenter.

His career has been centered in Chicago, where he attended the Goodman Theater, receiving his BFA in 1953. While at the drama school, WASSIL assumed the stage name of Greg Sherwood and sang in summer stock productions of Carousel and Guys and Dolls.

The six-footer had been signed for a part on the Philco Television Playhouse prior to entering the service.

HOTEL BILTMORE
NEW YORK CITY
AUGUST 11, 1956

Here are the Korean battles and campaigns:

- a. U. N. defensive.
 - (1) Combat zone.--Territorial limits of Korea and adjacent waters.
 - (2) Time limitation.--27 June to 15 September 1950, inclusive.
- b. U. N. offensive
 - (1) Combat zone.--Territorial limits of Korea and adjacent waters.
 - (2) Time limitation.--16 September to 2 November 1950, inclusive.
- c. CCF intervention
 - (1) Combat zone.--Territorial limits of Korea and adjacent waters.
 - (2) Time limitation.--3 November 1950 to 24 January 1951, inclusive.
- d. First U. N. counteroffensive
 - (1) Combat zone.--Territorial limits of Korea and adjacent waters.
 - (2) Time limitation.--25 January to 21 April 1951, inclusive.
- e. CCF spring offensive
 - (1) Combat zone.--Territorial limits of Korea and adjacent waters.
 - (2) Time limitation.--22 April to 8 July 1951, inclusive.
- f. U. N. summer-fall offensive
 - (1) Combat zone.--Territorial limits of Korea and adjacent waters.
 - (2) Time limitation.--9 July to 27 November 1951, inclusive.
- g. Second Korean winter
 - (1) Combat zone.--Territorial limits of Korea and adjacent waters.
 - (2) Time limitation.--28 November 1951 to 30 April 1952, inclusive.
- h. Korea summer-fall 1952
 - (1) Combat zone.--Territorial limits of Korea and adjacent waters.
 - (2) Time limitation.--1 May to 30 November 1952, inclusive.
- i. Third Korean winter
 - (1) Combat zone.--Territorial limits of Korea and adjacent waters.
 - (2) Time limitation.--1 December 1952 to 30 April 1953.
- j. Korea summer-fall 1953
 - (1) Combat zone.--Territorial limits of Korea and adjacent waters.
 - (2) Time limitation.--1 May 1953 to a date to be announced.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Ed Henry
21 Park St.,
Attleboro, Mass.

Dear Ed:

Here's \$3.00. Please sign me up for my year's dues in the Association.

I was in _____ from _____ to _____
unit date date

Name

Address



Yes, we're meeting at the Biltmore.

When you come to the Biltmore at Madison Avenue and 43rd Street, you enjoy the best location in midtown Manhattan. The most important business, shopping and entertainment areas are nearby, with Park and Madison Avenues just one block away. Rockefeller Center, the United Nations and Times Square are within walking distance. The new Coliseum and Air Terminals and Penn Station are a short taxi ride from the hotel. A direct passageway takes you to and from Grand Central Terminal. The subways are right at hand.

In addition to the high standard of service you naturally expect from a high calibre hotel, the Biltmore also offers us the cooperation of its cordial and efficient convention and banquet staff. Our entire meeting will take on added importance and prestige when we hold it at the famous, friendly Hotel Biltmore.

The delegates will applaud the comfortable inviting guest accommodations. A good day's work depends on a restful night...and Biltmore beds are designed to provide a good night's sleep away from home. You'll find the meals at the Biltmore are tops, too. There are five attractive restaurants serving meals that satisfy every taste and meet every budget. Without question, the Biltmore is an ideal convention headquarters. We look forward to seeing you there and making the gathering the best one we've ever had.



Retirement of an infantryman. Gen. Taylor pins the Combat Infantryman Badge on Medal of Honor soldier, Maj. Gen. William F. Dean at retirement ceremonies at the Presidio of San Francisco.

Some Sober Facts

If all the professors in the world joined hands they would reach half-way across the ocean. We are in favor of this arrangement.

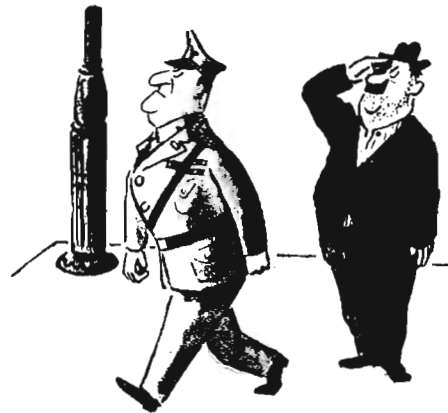
By adroit double-dealing, one appliance store has increased its sales this way: Housewife is invited to bring in soiled clothes which are washed while she looks on. The washed clothes then are tossed into the dryer and the housewife is invited to go out and do the remainder of her shopping. That evening the store delivers the washed and dried clothes to the home free. That usually gets the salesman into the home while the husband is there. (Uh-huh: you can pick it up from there.)

We'll see you at the Biltmore on Saturday, August 11th...If you're coming, how about dropping VIC BACKER a line?

Near miss!

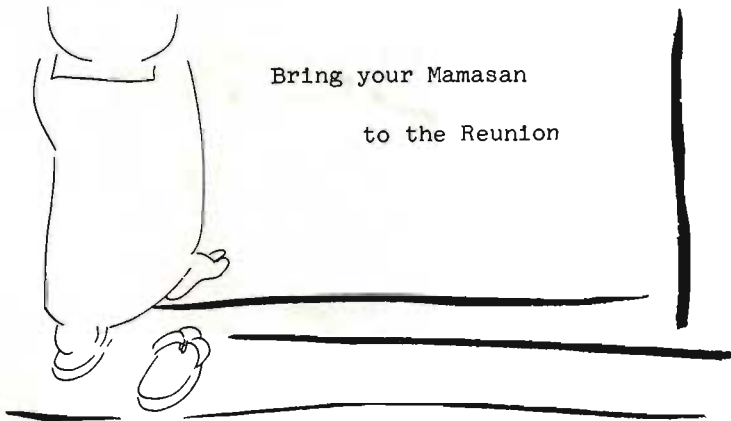


In this business, misses of any kind, near or otherwise, are no good. Let us know if we don't have your correct address, please.



It pains us to have to report the death of Brig. Gen. FRANK B. WATSON (Retired) who resided with his son, Maj. Gen. NUMA A. WATSON (Div.Hq.) where he was commander of the U.S. Army's Southern Command in West Germany. Both of the Watson's were pictured in our last issue, you'll recall...Lt. Col. WILLIAM E. CRUMP, JR. (Div.Hq.) has been in Walter Reed Hospital. Bill would be happy to hear from you if you get a minute or two for a letter....MILTON SKELLY (Div.Hq.) is now at 767 Park Place, Brooklyn 16, N.Y. Milt says "I am now a resident of Brooklyn-on-the-subway". We'll be dropping in on you, Milt.... Shirley Townley, wife of SAM TOWNLEY (E 19th from '44-'45) writes us from their new hom on Woolman Ave., in Masonville, N.J. Shirley reports that Sam is a Lab Technician at Lower Buck's County Hospital in Bristol, Pa.....DICK THEISS (11th Field) is asking if we have any decals showing the patch. By the time you read this Dick, you will have received a couple from us....Ruth Schmitz, wife of TOM SCHMITZ (19th) sends us Tom's dues. Ruth and Tom now have four children....Each time we have thrown out the crying towel, WALTER J. PETERS (19th) comes through with a great big assist. You're a wonder, Walt. We don't think you should do more than your share; if each would pay us the \$3 per year, we'd get along mighty fine. Thanks anyway, Walt. Walt's daughter Jane is 9 now and his wife just this summer gave him a baby boy. Guess that 40 months overseas didn't slow you down at all, Walt....

Stray statistic: 100 AT&T stockholders die every 24 hours....ARNOLD PETERSON, (Hq.19) of Rt 2, Griswold, Iowa describes the difference between French and English girls: "They both know what men are like, but the French girls don't mind."



Bring your Mamasan
to the Reunion



Bill Crump (Div. Hq) sends us this one"

During the course of the lesson, I asked my Sunday School class of small children who Saint Mark was. Receiving no answer, I tried them with Matthew. When there was still no answer, I said, "Surely someone knows who Peter is."

A hand went up at the back of the room, and a shy little voice said, "Please, teacher, I fink he was a wabbit."

LET'S NOT QUIT

BOB MILLER (19th) is now a Lt. Col. with TUSAG - JAMMAT, APO 206, New York, N.Y. We don't know what it means but it sounds good.... When we received a member's report that our copy was "the very worst", we rushed off this telegraphed reply: "We take the long view expressed by the poet, JOHN WALCOT, thus, 'what rage for fame attends both great and small. Better be damned than mentioned not at all'..." COL. GLENN A. FARRIS is a member NATO Defense College (shape). APO 55, New York, N.Y..... MAJ. GEN. PAUL D. HARKINS (Div. Hq) can be located at Room 3E514 in the Pentagon..... BRIG. GEN. WILBUR DONKELBERG (Div. Hq.) recently retired. His last assignment was as ADC of the 6th Inf. Div. at Fort Ord, Calif..... We like the story in from Germany. It seems that Hitler dropped into the biggest department store in Berlin one day and bought the biggest rug in the place for his Reichschanelery or something. Anyway, the clerk said: "Shall I send it, Fuehrer, or will you eat it here?" DON WILLIAMS (SU34 4-44 to 1-46) wants to know "what's cooking?" Not much, Don, not much! We're doing the very best we can.

Mother: (putting Junior to bed)
"Shhh . . . the sandman is coming."
Junior: "For fifty cents I won't tell daddy."

We are moved by a bit of the commentary out of the motion picture "Victory at Sea", you may be too. It goes:

"-----And the light cruiser Juneau went down off Guadalcanal and, being in a moving battle line, many of her men were run down in the water by our own ships. There were five boys from one family on the Juneau, the Sullivans, and their mother had to hear the news of their death at one time.

"And there was a lad on the Juneau, still in his teens, who survived. He lived for so many days on a raft that the exact time has been forgotten in wonderment. At first, there were others on the raft and others clinging to it. Some just slipped away in the water. Some died of exhaustion. The sharks got some.

"And, months later, our young man, the sole survivor, told his story to an audience of people in a New England mill town. He told particularly of the last boy to die; how this chap had seen another of their companions dive deep to his death in order to get back on board the Juneau, which he claimed to see far below on the bottom with all her lights on. And this boy was bemused by the image of the ship and, as a sailor will, thought not of her guns, but of her post office and her ice-cream counter. Finally one night he looked across the phosphorescent sea and spied a hot-dog stand some distance out. There was no arguing with him, he would simply have to eat a hot dog. Only one thing held him back - he had no money. So he borrowed a dollar from our man. He was still holding it in his hand, in fact, swimming with eyes on the blazing hot-dog stand, when the wicked dog teeth of the sharks started in on him.

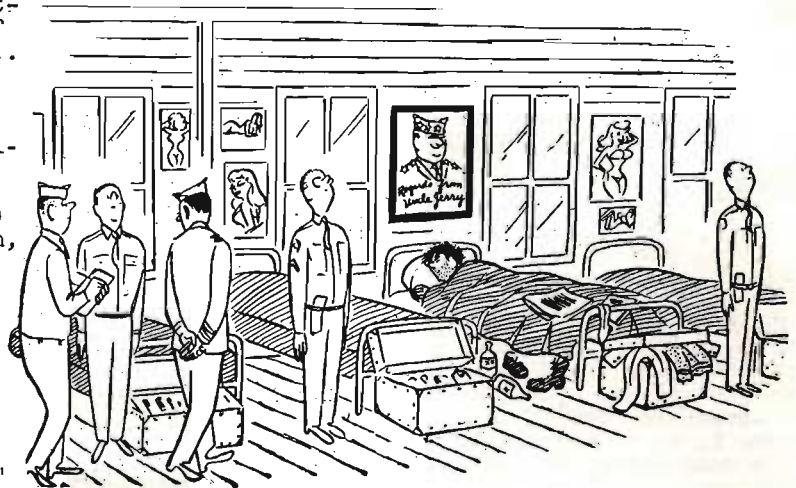
"After our friend had finished his stark story a little woman in black detached herself from the crowd and timidly spoke to him in broken English. She did not cry. She explained quite simply that her son had been on the Juneau, that hot dogs were his passion, and that she had often wondered how he died. Now she knew in her heart and she was grateful. The young sailor said nothing, but kissed her on the cheek.

"And then she gave him a dollar.

"He kept it; he kept it when we or you, might have returned it.

"The debt had been truly paid.

"The question no one had asked was answered, at last."



Puerto Rican soldier, already known as "The One-Man Army" of the Korean War, has been nominated for the Medal of Honor.

He is SFC Modesto Cartagena of the 34th Infantry, whose exploits while with the 65th Infantry in April 1953 have won him consideration for the nation's highest battle award. He already holds the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, three Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart.

The recommendation is still being passed up the chain of command, a check indicated this week. It has not yet reached the Pentagon.

A platoon leader in Charlie Co., 1st Bn., Cartagena was given the job on April 18, 1953, of wiping out an enemy emplacement which was taking a heavy toll of Americans. With his nine-man patrol he circled the hill on which the enemy was entrenched, and charged.

The entire patrol was wounded or killed. Cartagena, wounded five times by grenades, his rifle damaged so that it would not fire, continued the charge with fixed bayonet.

Leaping into the midst of the enemy, he wiped out the entire force. He was still standing, though weak from loss of blood, when other Americans arrived. Around him were 23 enemy dead who had been armed with three 60mm mortars, five automatic weapons and side arms.

Cartagena is now a platoon sergeant in the Heavy Mortar Co. of the 34th. He entered the Army in 1940 and earned two Bronze Stars during World War II.



GEO. B. CHINN (724th Ord) down at 1526 11th Ave. Yuma, Ariz, has discovered a sentence that can be made to have eight different meanings by placing the work "only" in all possible positions in the sentence. "I hit him in the eye yesterday."



J. B. and LOIS JONES (19th and Div. Hq., '42 - '45) send us this snap from Matsuyama, Shikoku, Japan. Reading left to right: City Hall, Library (old Div. Hq.) and a new bank and office building. The mamasans in the foreground were not identified.

"When a man doesn't have any etchings and a girl goes up to his apartment, she can usually see the handwriting on the wall."

FREE!

The 5th RET has received the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation from President Syngman Rhee. It reads: The 5th Regimental

Combat team, during the defense of Taegu, 31 July to 1 September 1950, demonstrated the highest degree of initiative in developing the defenses of the Masan area and later advanced successfully against the enemy to Chonju and Sobuk-sun as part of Task Force Dean.

From 16 September to 2 November 1950, the unit spearheaded the breakout of the Pusan perimeter, and followed this action with a pushing defeat of enemy forces in the Waegwan area between 25 November 1950 and 24 January 1951. Maintaining contact with the retreating enemy, the unit engaged in a spirited and effective pursuit from Kimchon north of Chonju.

Preparatory to offensive action, the 5th Regimental Combat Team conducted a successful retrograde movement and rear guard action under difficult circumstances. Having achieved a superlative degree of discipline and control in this operation, the Unit counterattacked and seized positions south of Kimsung, consolidating them during the period 25 January to 5 April 1951. The unit then engaged in a holding and rear guard action subsequently launched a brilliant counterattack against the Chinese Communists.

Between 9 July 1951 and 27 November 1951, the Unit performed superbly in securing line Nomad, then, from 16 January 1952 to 15 April 1953, line Minnesota, and in duty with Prisoners of War encamped on Koje-do.

During the almost three years cited, the 5th Regimental Combat Team fought almost continuously as a unit superlatively organized with a high sense of responsibility and standards of performance. Worthy of special commendation is the exceptional versatility displayed by this command in its ability to execute with brilliance and aplomb the highly difficult sequence of tactical operations in the face of a numerically superior and ruthless enemy.



"Let's go through that drill once more, Coogan!"

衣色付立で
なり丸知着
色取

TRANSLATION:

VIC BACKER hopes you'll be able to make the convention in August.



Versatile Chaplain (Lt.) ROBERT M. WATSON, Protestant chaplain at the 34th Rgt., is a minister with a mechanical turn, a combination inventor, photographer, printer, machinist and architect.

Chaplain Watson is an avid hobby enthusiast who has invented a secret process, rapid-action clothes drier and is now working on plans for a typesetting machine which will "eliminate the linotype." Chaplain Watson is also an architect a "finish silver" lathe operator and an astronomer who has built his own telescope.

The Dragon chaplain, who has already spent a year in Korea at Mansan and Yongdungpo, intends to train missionaries when he returns to the states and take a PhD in anthropology.

Chaplain Watson's latest sideline is a USAFI course in plumbing.

Upon his discharge he plans to build his own home, to include a printing press and a photo engraving lab.

"I'm anxious to test my ideas for air conditioning" he said "and try grinding my own camera lenses."

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Gen. HENRY I. HODES (Div. Hq.) has succeeded Gen. ANTHONY C. MCAULIFFE as C in C of the U. S. Army in Europe. He had been commanding the 7th Army in Europe.

Gen. Hodes, 57, is a 1920 graduate of the Military Academy.

After graduation from the Army War College here in 1940, Gen. Hodes was assigned to the War Department General Staff where he became assistant to the Chief Operations Branch and then was made chief of the Troop Movement Section.

In 1944 he went to Europe to command the 112th Infantry Regiment which he served in France, Luxembourg and Germany. Later he was in the operations division of the general staff and later became assistant deputy chief of staff.

In 1949 he moved to Japan to become assistant commander of the 1st Cavalry Division and afterward assistant commander of the 7th Infantry Division. He moved with that division to Korea when it went into action.

During the Korean war Gen. Hodes became chief of staff of the 8th Army. As deputy commander of that outfit he served as a member of the United Nations delegation. Later he was in command of the 24th Infantry Division in Korea.



Lt. Gen. BLACKSHEAR M. BRYAN (Div.Hq.) is no longer West Point Superintendent; he's now CG, US Army, Pacific with Hqs. at Ft. Shafter, T.H.....The government has spent \$81.5 billion on veterans benefits from the time of the Revolution War to Korea. Benefits for veterans of WW2 so far have cost \$45.7 billion and WW1 benefits \$19.6 billion. Spanish American War benefits \$4 billion and Korea's tally so far is \$2.2 billion.

Brig. Gen. WILBUR E. DUNKELBERG, CG of the 6th Infantry Division, retired November 30, ending 39 years of active service. A division review at Ft. Ord, Calif, his last station, honored the 57-year-old soldier. Henceforth his mailing address will be Pipe Creek, Tex., for the benefit of cronies who wish to keep in touch.

IN BASKET

DICK AMERMAN (D-21) of 83 Reed Drive, Wethersfield, Conn., was describing the new and fabulous Beverly Hilton Hotel: "It's so exclusive," he said, "when I tried to phone room service, I was told it had an unlisted number."

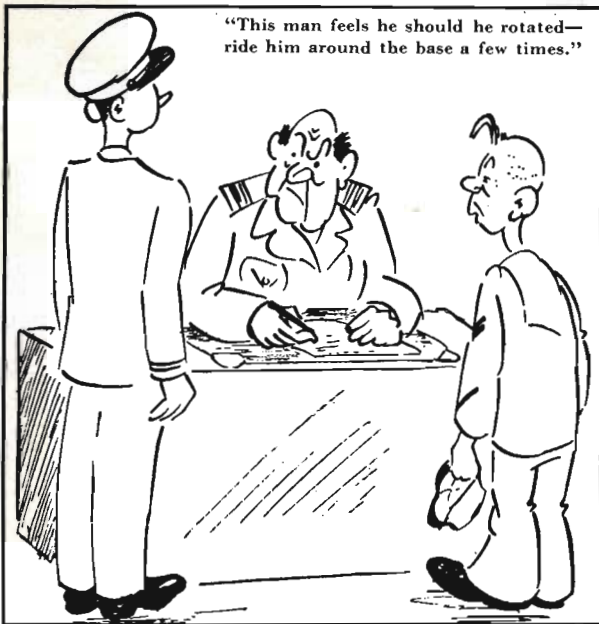
Today's favorite gag: YOUNG HOUSE-WIFE..... "Are these eggs strictly fresh?" GROCER(to his clerk)... "Feel those eggs, Joe, and see if they are cool enough to sell yet."

JAMIE G. ESPY (Hq.-Div. Arty from 5/42 to 8/45) is a member of the Seale, Ala, high school facility. During the summer he works for Hamilton Stores at Old Faithful Yellowstone Park, Wyo.

MIKE BURCH (Div. Hq. from 2/44 to 12/44) is up in Greenland these days.....Maj. Gen. GEORGE W. SMYTHE is now with MAAG, Formosa having left his old Second Army command at Ft. Meade.....RAY & OPAL KOEHR (SU 52F) have left Waterloo, Ind. and are now in Albuquerque, New Mexico.....

to be sure

Remember, please, that the editors are keenly interested at all times in making the magazine as interesting as possible. Your tips, suggestions, clippings, and news material generally will help us heighten interest and better serve the assoc.



Reprinted from "The Korean Republic" (January 17, 1955)

On the fifth of July 1950 - just one day after the anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence, American troops first went into action in the Korean War. These troops were elements of the famous 24th Division of the United States Army. Joining this small and pitifully underarmed Republic of Korea forces, the 24th Division shared with them the terrible series of battles that followed as the gallant troops of both forces fought desperately to delay the overwhelming onslaught of the Communist invaders. Outnumbered and outgunned ten, twenty at times even one hundred to one - the combined forces stubbornly contested every inch of ground and inflicted terrible losses upon the enemy. During the course of the continuous battle down the length of the Korean Peninsula, the commander of the 24th Division, General Dean, was captured by the enemy as he made a heroic personal "bozooka" attack against enemy tanks.

Such personal valor was typical of the officers and men of this world-famous American infantry division. From the steaming jungles of New Guinea to the desperate battles against the Japanese in the Philippines, the 24th Infantry Division earned its nickname, "Victory Division," the hard way. After the Japanese defeat and surrender, the 24th Division became a key unit in the Allied Occupation Forces in Japan, until the invasion of Korea by the Communists.

For the Victory Division, accustomed to advancing aggressively against the enemy, the early "delaying actions" of the Korean War must have been bitter pills to swallow. Yet the daring piecemeal commitment of the units of the Division probably made the later establishment of a secure "Pusan Perimeter" possible, and prepared the way for the breakout. The same indomitable courage that enable a task force of only four hundred Taromen to stop in its tracks an attack by twenty thousand fanatical, battle-hardened Communist veterans, carried the Victory Division from Pusan to the Yalu in later stages of the war. Its right to its nickname was vindicated.



All Korea was saddened some time ago when it was announced that the Victory Division would be withdrawn from Korea. The Taro Leaf Patch was known - and welcomed - everywhere in Korea, Officers and men were respected as soldiers, admired as men, and loved as friends. As the withdrawal of the Division proceeded, the Taro Leaf patch became less common in Korea but never entirely disappeared, as two regiments have never left our land. Yet it appeared inevitable that these, too, would depart, and with them would go the oldest of the comrades who stood at our side in both adversity and success.

Now the 24th Division - in whole - is returning to Korea. Some units have already arrived, and others are enroute. We are happy they are returning and we hope they are glad to be back with us again. Without detracting from the affection, gratitude, and respect that we feel for all of the United Nations military units that have fought with us here in Korea, we admit to an especial fondness for the wearers of the Taro Leaf. To each of them, we extend a hearty welcome!

It is our sincere belief that the United States has exceeded the point of safety in its troop withdrawals from Korea. But be this as it may, the presence of two American divisions in this threatened land gives us the secure knowledge that when the test comes, courageous GIs and their officers will still be at our side to resist aggression. Never again, we think shall we have to stand alone. That does not constitute victory, but certainly it is an absolutely essential pre-requisite.

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



Elvin E. Greek,
 2520 Coles St.,
 Richmond 24 Va.

Form 3547 Requested

SFC ED HUMAN is now at Army Education Center at Ft. Campbell, Ky. He is back from a 3 year tour in Germany.....MAJ. JACK F. LEDDY is at the U. S. Army Hospital at Ft. MacArthur, Calif.....BOB DUFF (Div. Hq.) is an agent with John Asher, Realtor with offices at 307 Daniel Bldg., Danville, Ill. He's getting us some radio and TV coverage on the convention out Ill. way. Thanx Bob.....We'll see you, we hope, at the Hotel Biltmore, New York City in August..... JACK ROSENTHAL (19th) is President of Buffalo Creamery, 66 West Angus St., Buffalo, Wyoming. Jack is looking for a copy of "24th Forward", the division's Korean history. We can't find out how to get a copy either Jack. That's how tough things are. Maybe some member will see this and cut us both in on the secret.....The 25th Div. Assoc., is having its '56 reunion in Washington, D. C. We're meeting in New York you know.

Using census figures to aid Cupid, the U. S. Public Health service finds that married men and women at all ages have had a lower death rate than males and females who are single, widowed or divorced. Mortality among bachelors is nearly two-thirds greater than that of husbands, and the death rate of widowed and divorced men is nearly double that of husband.

"JUST THE TICKET"

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Ed Henry
 21 Park St.,
 Attleboro, Mass.

Dear Ed:

Here's \$3.00. Please sign me up for my year's dues in the Association.

I was in _____ unit _____ from _____ date _____ to _____

 Name

 Address

Then there's the story of the champion boomerang thrower. His friends got together and decided to give him a new boomerang. The only trouble was he couldn't get rid of the old one. If an explanation is required, write the Editor.



This is a shaggy dog story to end all shaggy dog stories:

The ex-vaudeville performer down on his luck, thought he would try a new tack and link up with a talking dog. So he did and then visited an agent.

"Look," he said, "I've really got something here -- a talking dog!"

The actor turned to the dog and said: "tell me, Rags, what's on top of a house?"

And the dog let out something that sounded like "Roof! Roof!"

"Terrible!" cried the agent. "Get out! Get out!"

But waid a minute," the actor insisted. "This dog's really got something. Give him a chance." He turned to the dog again. "Now, careful, Rags, old boy. Who was the greatest ball player?"

Comes a sound from the dog: "Ruth! Ruth!"

But the agent had heard enough. He opened his office door wide and kicked both performers out into the hall. Than, sitting where they had landed, the dog looked up at his actor friend and said:

"DiMaggio?"



Forgotten Something!

HOTEL BILTMORE
 NEW YORK CITY
 AUGUST 11, 1956