



TARO LEAF

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION
VOLUME XVI NUMBER 2

ASSOCIATION
MARCH 1963



"ANY OF YOU GIRLS SING SOPRANO?"



"DRESS UP THAT LINE!"

ARE YOU READY?



The annual meeting of the Association was held Aug. 11th at that Chicago caravan-serai, the Morrison, where we were on a 3-day bivouac.

Past President VICTOR BACKER (34th INF '41-'45) as Chairman, ordered the smoking lamps lighted and the sweepers responded beautifully at manning the brooms.

Vic's first announcement was a serious one advising the membership of the tragedy in the passing of President JAMES N. PURCELL (24th SIG, '42-'48) on the day previous, Aug. 10th, and invited Monsignor ROMAN J. NUWER (DIV CHAPLAIN '42-'44) to offer a prayer.

Therefollowing, Vic announced that Vice-President RICHARD T. LIGMAN, who normally would have succeeded to the duties of the deceased President, was hospitalized in a Chicago hospital. His illness, although untimely, was not critical and it was expected that he would be able to appear at the banquet later in the day - which he was.

Incidentally, arrangements had been made by the Convention Committee to tape the meeting minutes. Technician in charge was WILLIAM SANDERSON (19th INF ?).

Chairman Backer next called on Sec'y. Henry to read the minutes of the last annual meeting, held Aug. 12, 1961, at the Louisville Ky. Brown. On motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were accepted as read.

Backer then asked Henry, wearing his other hat, to read his annual Treasurer's report which was done. Ed had mimeographed copies of the financial report available to



SINCE THE CIGARETTE SHORTAGE, ONLY THE FIRST-THREE-GRADERS ARE ALLOWED TO POLICE THE AREA."

-S/Sgt. Bradford W. Long

anyone who wished same. There were few takes, proving quite possibly - and reasonably - that everyone trusts our good Treasurer. He summarized the pertinent parts of his report, explaining that the Treasurer has two accounts - one being an operating account (a checking account, in which the dues are deposited and from which expenses of the Taro Leaf, stationery and postage, and the like are paid), and the other being a reserve account in the Attleboro, Mass. Savings Bank and in

which are held the receipts from life memberships. Ed pointed out that the balance in the checking account was \$301.36. He went on to indicate that we had about 225 dues-paying members (including the life members), that, in round figures, these represent receipts of about \$1000 a year, and that this \$1000 just about covers the costs of 4 issues of the Taro Leaf, stationery and postage, our only expenses. He went on to say that, if we maintained this membership, we could keep alive, but that this was the absolute minimum. And that's all we care to report on money. When we took this job, we did it on the proviso that we weren't going to harp on money and our need for same in these pages.

On motion, duly made and seconded, the vote to approve the Treasurer's report as read was passed.



-John H. Dempsey CMSA

Chairman Backer then announced that Vice-President Ligman had appointed an Auditing Committee comprised of Richard Goiny and John Guistino, both of the Chicago Chapter. Dick reported for the Committee that it had examined Ed's records including the saving bank book (the balance coincided with the balance in the financial report), the check book (the balance shown was as stated in the financial report) and the shares of Revere Fund (they numbered 297). The Auditing Committee had found things in perfect order.

Vic next called for a report from the Convention Committee. Chairman Pat Ciangi was called to the rostrum where he was given a round of well earned, enthusiastic applause. Pat acknowledged the help he had received from various Chicago Chapter people and said he hoped everyone was having a thoroughly good time. We were!

Chairman Backer then called for a report from the Chicago Chapter President, Dick Goiny, who described briefly the Chapter's activities of the year. All of his officers were present by the way: Chet Andrezak, 1st Vice-President; Spike O'Donnell, 2nd Vice-President; Pat Ciangi, Secretary-Treasurer; and John Guistino, Editor.

Along about here, a side door to the meeting room opened and Bozo, the Clown, in the person of John Trinca, longtime Chicago Chapter member, poked his head in. John was on his way to entertain the kids in an adjacent room. Dick Goiny said that Bozo, the Clown, has been a feature of the Chicago Chapter meetings for a long time. The kids are always delighted to see him. It represents real work - but fun - for kindly Johnnie T. Bless him!

During this meeting, the ladies were in the adjacent Cotillion Room at a fashion show. Moral: next year, separate the two meetings by more than a paper wall.

A report was given by Fred Wehle (3rd Eng.) President of the Detroit Chapter who said that he and Ross Pursifull (34th INF) had arranged a group meeting at the Wehle home in Birmingham, Mich. for organizing, which meeting had been attended by C.G. Hanlin, of Indiana, and Dick Ligman,



Reunion. Why do they come? For sentiment mostly. The serious issues of the day are only lightly touched. Rather they come for the uplift, to relieve the days of glory. He's not there to see everybody: he's there especially to see the small circle that lived (and survived) in the adjoining hole.

Pat Ciangi and Angelo Strada, all of the Chicago Chapter, for whose attendance they were grateful. Fred as President and Don Williams as Secretary Treasurer headed up a sizeable delegation from the chapter which was present at this business meeting. Fred was hopeful that the Assoc. would meet in Detroit in 1964 and read the usual Mayor's letter telling us that he'll be tickled silly if we show up there, et cetera.

Bill Muldoon, President of the New England Chapter, next spoke concerning General Bill Verbeck's party at Ft. Devens, Mass., an annual July 4th event, which had to be passed up this year, inasmuch as Bill was on duty elsewhere. He reported that a small group had been able to arrange a luncheon meeting with General Red Newman during May on his trip to "Kennedyland", meaning Massachusetts in case you're a Republican. At last count, we could only find two in the Association.

The report of the Taro Leaf Editor had to be omitted since Red Newman was unable, for personal reasons, to come to Chicago. On motion of C.G. Hanlin, properly seconded, it was enthusiastically voted to direct the Secretary to express to Red the sincere thanks of the Association for his tour of duty as Editor of the Taro Leaf during the past year.

Chairman Backer then reported the presence at the meeting of Generals Bill Verbeck and Fred Zierath, who were asked to stand while we cheered - which they did - and which we did.

Vic also called on all Korean veterans to stand; seven arose. And we cheered some more.

Backer also called our attention to the presence of Ah Lee Leong from Honolulu, who arose and made a graceful "glad-to-be-here" kind of speech and then pulled a sneaky bid for Honolulu in '65. That boy really thinks ahead.

The Chairman also called on the person who had come the farthest distance, John Christopher (19th Inf.) all the way from Yokahama, Japan, who came to the rostrum and made a glowing speech in which he expressed his pleasure with being at his first convention. John did not pitch for Tokyo in '66 proving only that he probably forgot to make the point.

Also recognized was John Firtko, former 1st Sgt. 19th Inf., who had come down from St. Paul, Minn., particularly to meet Fred Zierath. Friendships identify themselves at

clambakes like this; that's why we have them.

It was noted by the Chairman that all of our living Past Presidents were physically present at the meeting.

Vic then called for the report of the Nominating Committee chairman, Past President Tom Compere, who placed in nomination the following for the year '62-'63:

President:

Richard T. Ligman (3rd Eng.)

Vice-President:

William J. Verbeck (21st)

Secretary-Treasurer:

Edmund F. Henry (Div. Hq.)

Editor of Taro Leaf:

Kenwood Ross (Div. Hq.)

Chaplain:

Emil M. Larson (19th)

Further nominations from the floor were invited. There were none and it was then voted that the Secretary cast one vote for each of the officers nominated, which he did and we were "in like Flynn".

With our thusly elected Prexy, Dick Ligman, not present, Vic continued to preside.

Along about here was when the meeting began to look like something engineered by the Marx brothers. Vic invited nominations for the '63 convention site. C.G. motioned for Louisville, Ky. and asked Don Eckhard, representing Louisville's Brown Hotel, to make his pitch. Vic gavelled him down. Then followed a lot of speeches - pro Louisville and anti Louisville - and whether should Eckhard speak at all. Bill Muldoon wanted Boston, Don Eckhard wanted to speak, and Vic pounded some more. Spike O'Donnell wanted Louisville, Ed Henry wanted Boston and Eckhard still wanted to speak. More pounding with the gavel. Roscoe Claxon wanted Louisville, your editor wanted Boston, and Don Eckhard was ready, willing and able, but Chairman Vic wasn't to be budged. The nominations were finally all in - as was Don Eckhard. The vote was taken. Louisville won and, at long last, Don Eckhard spoke. It was good fun though. Chairman Backer continued in his recognizing mood and recognized Edward Wiegman (Cn Co. 19th INF) who indicated his opposition to the merger of the Pennsylvania and the New York Central Railroads. And with that Vic switched into his not recognizing mood and gavelled Ed down.

Fortunate indeed is it that our Association is prosperous enough to afford two gavels. You may conclude, with some justification, that we need 'em.

Vic hammered out, in his eloquent New Yorkese: "No, the matter is foreign to Association business". Discussion followed - oh how it went on - Ed was allowed to finish reading a resolution. More discussion, and then came a motion that the resolution, being not germane to the Association's interests, be tabled, which resolution was passed - all of which proved, 1) that the sorry plight of the railroads isn't going to spoil the fun of a lot of reuniting Taro Leafers; 2) that Vic Backer is usually right and proper, an admission which we make with the greatest of reluctance; and 3) that everyone loves Ed Wiegman, an assurance which we give with enthusiasm and certainty because of the fear that Ed may see it otherwise.

Chairman Backer then called on all the officers present to stand and receive a round of applause proving that noone was really mad at anyone.

Newly elected Chaplain Larson next gave the benediction, followed by a motion made and seconded and passed to adjourn at 3:45 p.m. which we did.

The conventioners adjourned to the nearest bar, closed ranks once more, and signed heaving sighs of relief that we only have to do this once a year. After all, we're each getting older; we can't take it the way we used to.

JAMES B. JONES (19th INF & DIV HQ) says that this is a true story. Two brothers, whose names escape him, were assistant cooks in the same 19th company at Rockhampton. A well-stocked stream meandered along the edge of the camp, and every afternoon, the mess sergeant would encourage the brothers to go fishing and bring back a few trout as delicacies for the evening mess. The brothers would sit right next to each other and use the self same equipment. By some odd chance, however, one of them always succeeded in coming home with a plentiful catch, while the other, try as he would, would never catch as much as a nibble. In complete disgust, the second brother decided one day to go out by himself. He took the very rod and hook with which his brother had caught twenty fish the afternoon before. He sat on the same rock that his brother had used as a base of operations. All these preparations, alas, did not help him at all. He sat on the rock for two solid hours in the broiling-hot sun and got not a single nibble. Finally, he reeled in his line and disgustedly prepared to return to camp. Just as he was turning away from the stream, a huge trout jumped to the surface. "Hey", called the trout. "Where's your brother?" Thanks, JB, - and we believe every word of it.



Here is a group inhaling once again the rose-pink vapors of sentimentalism - for the military fraternal season reached its zenith in Chicago in August.

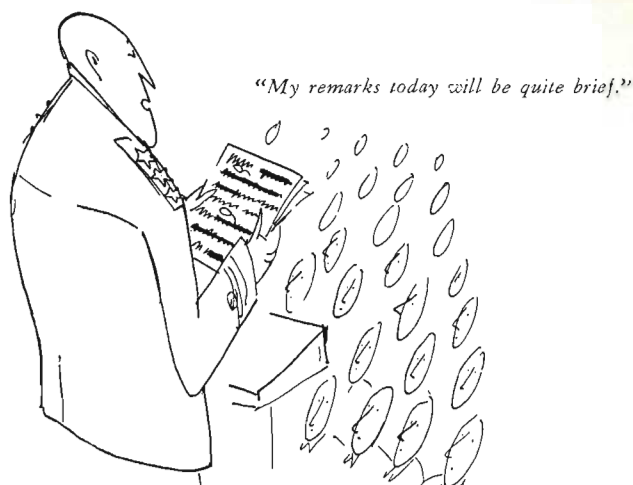


LEON HOWARD, our wonderful Finance Officer on Mindoro and Mindanao recounts about the many romances that sprang up between our boys and the attractive native lasses in Australia. LEON chuckles as he remembers the irate Minnesota maiden who wrote to her steady in the 11th Field to demand, "What have those Australian girls that we haven't got?" "Not a single thing," replied our boy, "but they've got it here." Thanks, LEON: we still proudly display your painting of the Filipino washwoman sitting in that stream near Palo.

the pause before the applause



Lt. Gen. RUSSELL L. VITTRUP (DIV HQ) who was the "Old Man" for a spell is now Deputy C/S for Personnel at the Pentagon. Here he is, second from the right, with Army Sec'y. Stahr, C/S General Decker, Col. Farnell and Maj. Gen. Fitch, Deputy C/S, Intelligence.



Maj. Gen. FRED R. ZIERATH (19th '41-'45) flew in from as CP (4th Inf. Div., Ft. Lewis, Wash.) to inspire us with the Saturday night banquet address. It started with a sharp, crisp "Mabuhay", a real pace setter for what followed.

Following the expected, but pleasurable, "Glad to be here" opening, Fred went on:

"I accepted without any equivocation, because I have such high regard and deep respect for you in what you have accomplished, what you represent, and the fact that you are an important part of Americana. I believe that the Division Association through the years has maintained a spiritual strength of comradeship, typical of some thoughts expressed by one of my former commanders, as follows: 'There is no more select fraternity in the world than that of men who have faced death together on the battlefield ---there are no friendships more cherished or lasting.'

"I would like to tell you a story and any semblance herein to persons living or dead could be purely coincidental.

"This is about a fellow from down CLAXON-way who had quite a big acreage known far and wide as CUNNINGHAM-flats. He had a fine kennel of dogs and lots of good bird shooting on the place. He was frequently visited by hunters that came back year after year to shoot. One day, one of the hunters returned and said, 'I would like to take out Corporal to shoot some birds'. The owner said, 'You can't have old Corporal'. The hunter protested quite vehemently and said, 'Why, that is the dog I hunted with last time and he did a wonderful job.' The owner just shook his head. He said, 'I got some other fine bird dogs here, though. I have UP AND ATOM PAT, and jovial SPIKE and Work-Horse ED. I got an old K-ROSS dog here and his litter-mate ROSS-P and I got old VIC, who's staunch on point and a swell BACKER, and I got old JOE-P here too. He's got lots of get up and go. I've got some newer dogs too. MAN-I-LOVE them dogs of mine!'

"The hunter allowed as how they were all good dogs but he did not believe they could COMPARE with old Corporal. 'Well', said the owner, 'I will tell you how it is'. There was a NEWMAN around here last week and he brought along a hunting partner. Never did know his real name because the other fellow just kept calling him J.C. Well, sir, they did real well and old Corporal was a-hunting like blazes but then one of these here fellows called him GENERAL and that there dog got completely spoilt and since that time he just sits around the porch on his DUFF, with his nose uppity in the air-like and he won't take orders from nobody.'

After a sly but pungent reference to the muzzling of the military, Fred carried on:

"I shall be brief, but I believe that a speaker should at least do two things: Bring you some new information and a philosophic message as well...if he is at all worth his salt.

"Many of us live with our memories of the past --old ways, old ties--old friends. We believe these friends might be interested in learning about the Army of today and its principal differences from the days when we knew it in the past.

"This is my information aspect and it deals with three elements - The Call Up of last autumn: STRAC - and its reason for being and the major reorganizational changes taking place in the Army today.

"The subject of the CALL UP in the autumn of '61 affected many homes and the separation of families disrupted the normal pattern of life. Yet this has been the characteristic trend in the pattern of our history when faced with threats. As a matter of fact, today we survive because of the MINUTE MAN CONCEPT. It is interesting to note that this is the CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF THE CIVIL WAR and I should like to condense a conglomeration of the causes and effects which have pervaded our history as a nation during the past 100 years, and the rallying 'round the flag by each succeeding generation to insure that our way of life and the preservation of our free institution prevails.



"Never have any of our wars been fought for aggrandizement, territorial gain, or sheer power influence. They have been fought on the basis of principle--to-wit: The Civil War to settle the sanctity of the rights of man and the validity of whether the Union should be divided by secession: The Spanish American War for the principle of Manifest Destiny; World War I to make the world safe for democracy; World War II to destroy the master race philosophy of Nazi aggression and also Japanese imperialism; Korea, to assure the principle of collective security and the right of smaller states to choose their own form of government; and today in the Cold War we are again involved in principle -- we are, in essence, the champions of Christian civilization.

"You will recall that last August 13th a wall was erected in Berlin. Think of that anomaly in this 20th Century wherein a physical barrier is used to separate human beings---the same Nationals as a matter of fact---and relatives are denied by physical force to associate with each other. What a damnable indictment of man's inhumanity to man! This is appropriately referred to as 'The Wall of Shame'. This was a symbol of tyranny but it was also accomplished by



Division reunion is where old soldiers never really die. It is where arms yield to the toga and laurels to eloquence. It is where the ability to retell the battle is much more important than the wartime objective of surviving it.

menacing threats, innuendo ultimatums, and it forced the hand of the United States. This tension required responsive action and you will recall that the President saw the need for increasing our position of readiness to reinforce our determination that roughshod tactics and hostile behavior would not prevail. Determination and the strength to back it up without bluff begets respect. The Commander in Chief initiated the CALL UP of Reserve Component Forces for the purpose of 'preventing a war not fighting one'.

"Historians of the future may well point back to this period of strained relations as one in which reaction achieved the desired results. It was a quick reaction and its responsiveness added to the resiliency and strength of our defense posture. Some 119,000 Army men were called to active duty for a year, and some 36,000 Naval and Air Reservists were likewise called up. This was still over 100,000 less than the President was authorized to call up from the Ready Reserve. The organizations of the Ready Reserve existed at various levels of strength and in order to build them up to a full operating level it was necessary to call in certain Reservists possessing critical skills and specialties from reinforcement pools. It was from this group that a small vocal minority of complainers unfortunately drew a certain amount of unfavorable publicity toward the program. These were individuals in the Control Groups of the Ready Reserve who had no training drill obligations except two weeks of active duty training yearly to maintain their proficiency. It was our experience, however, that those men affiliated with units completely understood their mission, were sympathetic to the national objectives, and responded magnificently. It is unfair to this vast majority to bear the stigma of being complainers. This illustrates a very interesting point that should intrigue psychologists - that an individual identified with, and affiliated with, a group organization is responsive to and loyal to group goals and reputation. The individual not so associated had nothing but his own personal motivations and selfish viewpoints to wrap around himself. I would not want the sacrifices of the many men of organized units in the Reserve program to go unnoticed or unappreciated and thus my purpose in mentioning it here to you. The fillers, likewise, as a whole responded magnificently. Like a squeaking axle, unfortunately, a loud squawk does not mean the carrier or the system is inadequate or about to fall apart.

"Let every American today offer a silent prayer of thanks - that, but for these MINUTE MEN, we might be at war. These people should be warmly welcomed back to their communities and publicly praised for their contribution toward preventing war.

"Let me proceed now to the subject of STRAC. This stands for STRATEGIC ARMY CORPS - a military force constantly prepared to put out brush fire wars anywhere in the world. From its initials came the descriptive and meaningful words: Skilled, Tough, Ready Around the Clock. Of course, soldiers today have the same ready wit as always and very quickly some members of STRAC dubbed it: Sick and Tired of Running Around in Circles.

"Let not that dismay you, however, because the forces are mission-oriented, their training is vigorous, incessant and progressive. Their abilities improve constantly as new and better equipment comes into being, its versatility demonstrated by a capability to react on short notice. Within the past six months, reinforced battle groups of the Famous Fighting Fourth Infantry Division have been airlifted to Germany for rotational duty where they married with their equipment previously prepositioned and were immediately able to augment the European Defense Forces. In just ten hours, troops departing from Fort Lewis, Washington, on the West Coast were debarking from planes in Germany. Quite a far cry from the day when you and I together island hopped from Hawaii to Australia and finally to Japan over a period of many, many months. Perhaps if this capability to react quickly by air mobile means had existed at the time of the Korean outbreak, the rapidity of response might never have permitted the Korean war to gain momentum and drag on for three years.

"The members of the STRATEGIC ARMY CORPS believe themselves to be an elite force and this pride and confidence in their mission keeps them on their toes. I am grateful for the opportunity to command the 'IVY DIVISION' and to be a part of the able and ready STRATEGIC ARMY CORPS.

"Since the Korean war, we have reorganized the divisions on a Pentomic basis with a dual capability to fight either in a conventional or nuclear environment. On the basis of experience as well as the visualization of future combat, a new series of division structures is emerging, known as ROAD (Reorganization Objective Army Divisions). This organization provides for several type divisions, including Mechanized and Armored divisions which are flexible in composition



Here is another group reminding each other of the days when it was wine, women and song, and admitting that today it's Metracal, same old woman, and Sing Along With Mitch.

Those sounds of bottles clinking are "the boys" in town once again. Once a year, they hold a division reunion to recount the stories which, unlike some of the tellers themselves, never seem to fade.



and can be altered by tailoring or organizational weighting, depending upon the environment in which they are liable to be employed. The division base for all types of divisions is the same. It includes Command and Control, Reconnaissance, Combat Support and Administrative Support elements.

"Various types of divisions are constructed by combining different combinations of the tactical maneuver battalion building blocks with the common division base. The strength of a typical division will be 15,000. Its flexibility will permit the incorporation of new weapons now under development as they become available without the necessity for major reorganization. The lightweight Armored Personnel Carriers play a prominent role in the mobility aspects of all divisions.

"40% of our Army today is overseas, committed to the strategic concept of upholding the torch of freedom and America's determination that tyranny shall not rule and dominate the globe.

"In the few remaining minutes - my philosophic message - and I should like to bring an optimistic tone to the "horizons of the future" - even though we know that many refer to the era we are living in as the "age of anxiety" - in my own mind I correlate this

with the age of progress and the advancement of human welfare. In the measurement of time, man's greatest achievements, greatest scientific and social advances have reached their fruition within the past 50 years. This is an infinitesimal duration in the period of recorded history. May I highlight two examples?

"Just a few short years ago, Edgar Ansel Mowrer wrote a book called, "A Good Time to Be Alive". A central theme that Mowrer brings out from his title is that this is the time when great challenges and decisions face mankind and that it IS a good time to be alive because the FUTURE of mankind rests in the hands of people who are alive today. Our responses, our decisions, our determination, our will to persevere, will determine mankind's future. He pleads that Americans should fear slavery more than war and love freedom more than peace.

"When we are beset by gloomy headlines, by frustrations, by the apparent lack of finite decisions and results, when we have to speak in terms of nuclear threat and survival, when we face the seemingly implacable and hostile attitude of another nation, then I think we can take a certain



Unlikely prospects for a recruiting sargeant. Who are they? They are those who "have had it". The uniform of the evening: a plain business suit. And not a single "ruptured duck" in a lapel.

As the Preconvention notices read: "Beer will be available". But do veterans really cry in it?



amount of comfort from the wisdom of a great American - CHARLES KETTERING - in this statement: 'Civilizations have failed and will continue to fail when they are sufficiently satisfied with their environment. ****The more suitable environment for the progress of man, apparently, is the worst environment. Man is at his very best under pressure. Take the pressure off and he loses interest in progress, in himself, becomes soft, and finally, is no longer able to defend himself from enemies within or without.' This philosophy, I believe, expresses the salvation of our future: that as long as we have determination, resoluteness, and confidence - we have nothing to fear. This was very beautifully expressed by a General Officer of the Army recently in this public statement: 'WE MUST REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE UNEQUIVOCAL BELIEF THAT DEMOCRACY HAS ITS OWN MANIFEST DESTINY IN THE WORLD AND THAT WE ARE STILL IN THE FORENOON OF THE SWEEP TOWARD THE ZENITH OF ITS ATTAINMENT'.

"I close with an old Gaelic saying, which expresses very beautifully my sentiments for you:

'May the roads ahead rise with you
May the wind be always at your back
And may the Lord hold you always
In the palm of His hand'."

Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you. EMERSON

THE INSIDE EDGE

PAT CIANGI (724th ORD) found time during the Chicago Convention - how, we don't know, as he was by far the busiest man there - to recall the story of the company's clumsiest recruit who was experiencing his usual difficulty in executing "Present Arms." His sergeant studied him with disgust, then snarled, "Where's the balance of your rifle?" "Honest, Sergeant, I don't know," stammered the rookie, "This is all they gimme!"

Setting the Table

Old faithful ED HENRY received \$1093.20 during the year (8/61-8/62) - \$897.00 of this came from dues, \$132.00 came from advertising, \$36.35 came from donations and \$27.85 came in the form of stock dividends. And through the other end of the funnel, he spent \$890.44 for 4 Taro Leaf issues and \$301.45 for postage, stationery and miscellaneous expenses. So it was \$1093 in and \$1191 out, in case you're still with us.

The hen is an egg's way of producing another egg. SAMUEL BUTLER

The President's Page

An open letter to the men of the 24th. Infantry Division

With the coming of the New Year 1963, I find myself looking not behind, but ahead.

It is important for all of us of the 24th. Infantry Division Association to ponder what lies before our group in this coming year and years ahead.

Those of us who served in World War II are fast becoming the "old men" of the 24th.

It is time now to place more and more emphasis on those men who have served since the end of that holocaust.

You men who have been members of the 24th. Infantry Division in peace time symbolize the preparedness of America - the deterrent to war.

Those of you who served in Korea and tasted the bitter fruit of defeat, only to fight back valiantly to victory stand as a group apart. You were a courageous group who fought, not directly to defend your own beloved country but to check the relentless progress of communism, the foe of all free men.

You later men have earned our respect and admiration, as have those who served in Lebanon and those who now are in Germany, prepared to die if need be for us and our loved ones.

These men are fast swelling the ranks of our Association and will be here long after we "older men" are gone.

The future of our organization lies with you - the young men.

Those of us who are veterans of World War II tend perhaps to dominate the scene, and reminisce about Hawaii and all the South Pacific fighting - but that is all long since past though never forgotten.

The younger men have their tales, their memories, the areas of the world in which they served - never having been to Hawaii, the Phillipines, New Guinea, Australia or Japan.

As we enter this New Year let us look ahead, let us think of the future of our beloved Association of the men yet to serve in the 24th. who will one day be members.

The time to prepare for the future is now. The time to think of "fading away" is now - for many of us are the "old soldiers" who never die - MacArthur's men.

The vigor of youth combined with the wisdom of age can make ours an unbeatable group. Look ahead.

Richard T. Lignan
Dr. Richard T. Lignan,
President

In recent months, we've been brought up short by the unavoidable facts that time is fleeting and that we are getting older - and weaker. There was the passing of beloved president JIM PURCELL (Sig Co), the hospitalization of DICK LIGMAN (3 ENG) and the incapacity of PAT CIANGI (724th Ord), all during the convention weekend. And almost immediately thereafter, following, we were numbed by the news concerning Veep BILL VERBECK (21st INF) and his serious surgery at Walter Reed. PAT CIANGI has been in hospital for an ulcer and a colon problem, but this had its happy side too. JAMES M. O'CONNELL (21st INF) ("Friend of the Working Girl") was a daily visitor but Pat confides that Spike had his eye out for "Charlie" (believe it or not, this was Pat's nurse - a gal, let us quickly assure you). And as if we weren't having enough troubles, BOB DUFF lost his father and BOB ANDRE lost his mother. Our Sympathies go out to these loyal members.

It was Friday at 5 p.m. and the office staff was about to leave for the weekend, when the boss rushed out and asked his secretary, "What are you going to do this Sunday night, Miss Jones?"

"Why, nothing, nothing at all," she replied excitedly.

"Wonderful!" he said. "Then maybe you'll be on next Monday morning."



One of our number had a drinking man's definition of outer space: "It's any place more than 20 feet from the bar".





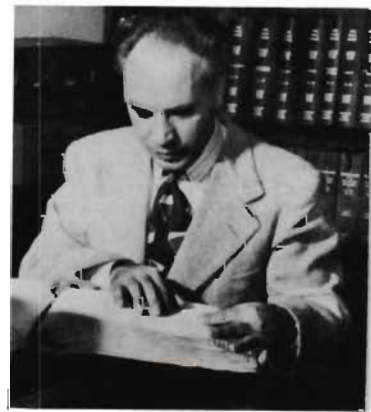
Conversation was aplenty. The initial talk usually concerned marriage, just as it eventually got around to women when we were last all together under one roof (During some of our last togetherness, we didn't have a roof, if you'll recall). Recollection was the effort: the pinning down of the subject, that elusive ball of mercury which is the ego, and which slides, rolls, splits and recombines crazily as the conversationalist tries to contain it within his narrow vial of words.



The Association has not had a Chaplain for several years. This year, the Convention filled the post for the coming year. We are, happy to report the election of Emil M. Larson (H., 19th INF), 706 So. Watts Ave., Sioux Falls, S.D. Emil has been a familiar figure at our Conventions and is a Life Member. He served 42 months in the Army, 30 months of this in SWPA. He was with us in Oahu, Australia, Goodenough, Hollandia, Leyte, Mindoro, Luzon, Lubane, and Mindauro. Since 1, June, 1945, Emil Larson has been blind. Let him tell you about it:

"I am thankful to God, for the spiritual and material blessings, which He has given to me. I am grateful to God for the spiritual life which He has kindled within my heart. I am also grateful to God for the physical life which He has given to me. For I well remember the day on a hot and dusty road in Mindoro - HE gave me strength, to rise from the dust with a oursose in my heart. That June 1, 1945, I was hit by a Japanese land mine. The force of the exolusion lifted me off the ground and hurled me backwards through the air, to the opposite side of the road. When I began to regain consciousness, the first thought that came to me was - breathe hard, Emil, you are not going to die. God has a purpose for you. After my discharge on May 26, 1946, I enrolled in January 1947 at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D. I graduated in June 1950 with a B.A. degree, and applied for admission to Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul,

Minnesota. I was accepted, and began my theological studies in the fall of 1950."



Emil has done graduate work at Biblical Seminary in New York, in '57 received a Master's Degree in the field of Religious Education from N.Y.U. He is eager for ordination in his church, the American Lutheran, inasmuch as he feels that only in this way he completely can fulfill his calling. His blindness however has so far been an obstacle. He hopes and prays that eventually he will have the joy of ordination in his Church.

His awards - Purple Heart, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon (3 stars), Victory, American Theater, Good Conduct Ribbon, Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Presidential Unit Citation.

We are proud of Emil Larson and are honored that he is serving us as our Chaplain.



"Aren't you Artillery men?", someone asked this group. "Hell, no, we're infantry. Your artillery men are over there behind us - as always", came the reply.

"Conversation Pieces"

Prexy DICK LIGMAN supplied a superb Taro Leaf key chain to each conventioneer at Chicago. You're wonderful, DICK, and you may quote us....GERALD STEVENSON was around the convention area throughout the full 4 days of festivities, though he was as quiet as a mouse....BOB and ANNE DUFF want to assure us that things look bright on rates at Louisville come next August. Room rates, they say, will be in the \$6 area (for 2) with free parking thrown in. And if you arrive by train or plane, BOB says, your cab fare to and from The Brown Hotel will be paid for you. Oh The Brown will be going all out for the next one....CHET ANDREZAK did a nice job at tending bar during the Chicago confab. CHET is always on hand when there's work to be done.... ALLYN MILLER, who missed last year's meeting, due to illness, was on hand this year in the "Windy City". It was good to have you back, AL. Here is one of our most generous members. A Life Member, he insists on throwing more money to Sec'y. ED HENRY to keep this Assoc. alive. We will long be indebted to ALLYN MILLER of Co. A, 21st fame....

ARTHUR S. HORNBECK of 1503 Seymour, Utica, N.Y., thoughtfully sends us the names of 13 of his buddies. This "Get-A-Member" business is catching on. Thanks, Art: we're going to work on 'em.....ROSS PURSIFULL sends us a clip from The Detroit News reading: "Augsburg, Germany. The newest recruit for the U.S. 24th Infantry Division here was in the guard house again today. This is a special recruit. He is the division mascot. Since the division is nicknamed the "Lions" the mascot is a live lion cub. It took 21 years for the division to get a lion. But now it has just the right one. The male cub was born Oct. 1, which happened to be the division's 21st birthday. So far the young lion has no name. But he does have a serial number, L-242424. The "L" is for Lion. Tomorrow the cub will be inducted officially into the division by its commander. Maj. Gen. B.F. Taylor, in a very special ceremony. The division band will be on hand and L-242424 will review a 350-man honor guard. The cub is a gift to the division from Ron Alcorn, of Hollywood, who got acquainted with the unit while making movies in Germany. For want of better quarters, the cub was housed in a guardhouse cell. He has his own attendant - Pfc. Ference Kiraly, 27 of Oakland, Calif., who worked with lions at the Budapest zoo before he went to the United States from Hungary in 1959.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We knew we were going to hear about it. One of our readers objected to our spread from the pages of CONFLICT in the last issue. We used it, as we explained, because it involved US. We used it because we're still smarting over the infantryman's cry that it was "the war we can't win, we can't lose, we can't quit". Of all the attitudes, from juridical to political, that swirled around this miserable war on that miserable peninsula, the infuriated frustration of the GI was the one feeling common to all people, on all levels. The President was no less frustrated than the General he fired: South Korea's fanatic President Rhee no less than North Korea's neurotic Kim II Sung: the cold, confused, cursing American soldier of the 24th Division no less than the underfed, underequipped Chink he tried to blast out of a hundred barren hills. And in the end, after three years of warfare in which 1,820,000 men were killed or wounded, the real-estate markers stood exactly where they had stood, with the same nations and ideologies holding sway on each side of the 38th. That's why we used it: to help to make sure that none of us ever forgets. And because author Leckie has it in black on white that the 24th was as soft as a Japanese springtime and unable to fight any better than the South Korean troops - who could not fight at all. We thought you'd want to read it. Of course, it wasn't good reading! We warned you of that in our lead.

CURTIS R. SELBY (L 34th INF) of Russell Springs, Ky. has just joined our ranks, thanks to ROSCOE CLAXON (724th ORD). Curt works for the Kentucky State Park System as a supervisor in Cumberland State Park, Jamestown, Ky. We will expect to see our new member in Louisville next summer.... JOE 'CHESTER' LENK (Co. M. 34th) of South Milwaukee, Wis., 1229 Missouri Ave., regrets that he and his wife missed Chicago. He fell and broke his left knee cap and the convention found him off crutches but real stiff-legged. "Chester" will be finished with "GunSmoke" in time for the Louisville deal. He is, by the way, one of our old World War II faithfuls who do so much to keep the Association alive. ...ALBERT G. KERTESZ, (Hq. Co., 19th INF) of 101 W. Great Miami, Dayton 5, Ohio and proud pater of Al, Jr. (14), Joe (13) and Annemarie (11), has just send in his dues. Al is a part time disc jockey on WONE.

gossip for breakfast

Brig. Gen. J.A. Seitz, Fifth Army G/S, wrote PAT and LOU CIANGI following the Chicago banquet: "....Billie and I had much fun at the dinner last Saturday night. It was a wonderful meeting and was well coordinated in every respect. The only thing missing was Pat! However, from my observation at the head table, it would appear to me that Lou did a fine job as Chief of Staff. Thanks very much for your kindness and I hope that by now Pat is fully recovered. Sincerely, Andy Seitz, Brig. Gen. G/S Chief of Staff". Well, there are a couple of more who liked what they saw.

The Highland Kentucky ham, enjoyed by so many at the Sunday morning Convention "Brunch" was by courtesy of ROSCOE CLAXON and baked by TOM's lovely ELISE COMPERE out in Highland Park. ELISE was without a rusty lard can and the outside fire over which to cook it, but she did the job to perfection in her own indoor kitchen. Summa cum laude you, ELISE, and to you, too, ROSCOE.



"I AIN'T IMPERSONATING NOBODY, SIR. IT'S JUST THEM DAMNED CARRIER PIGEONS."
—Cpl. Ralph Newman



Major General B. F. Taylor - Commanding General, 24th Infantry Division

Major General Taylor was born in Washington, Pennsylvania, in 1912. After attending Ohio State University and Washington and Jefferson College, he entered the United States Military Academy in 1933, and graduated in 1937. He is also a graduate of the Command and General Staff School, the Army and Navy Staff College, and the Army War College.

During World War II, General Taylor served in the China-Burma-India Theater as a strategic planner for the South-east Asia Command. In May 1944, he was Secretary of the General Staff, China Theater. He returned to the United States in July 1945, and served in the Pentagon as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff War Plans Committee, as Liaison Officer between the State and War Departments, and as Assistant Chief of Plans and Policy Group, Plans and Operations Division.

General Taylor served his first tour in Europe from July 1948 to July 1952. During this time he was regimental executive officer, battalion commander, and

regimental commander with the 1st Infantry Division, and later he became Chief of the Special Plans and Policy Branch, G-3, Headquarters European Command.

Returning to the U.S., General Taylor was assigned to the office of the Secretary of Defense, and shortly thereafter was Deputy Director of the Executive Office of the Secretary. He later became commander of the 130th and 38th Infantry Regiments at Ft. Lewis, Wash.

General Taylor was then transferred to Korea, where he served as Chief of Staff, I Corps, from September 1955 until July 1956, when he again returned to the Pentagon. In September 1956 he became Deputy Secretary of the General Staff, and concurrently served as White House Liaison Officer. He was assigned as Executive to the Secretary of the Army in July 1957, and continued in that capacity until June 1959, when he was assigned to Germany. He initially was Assistant Division Commander of the 3d Infantry Division, and in October 1960 he became VII Corps Chief of Staff. On 5 April 1962, he assumed command of the 24th Infantry Division.





Greetings were earthy. "Hey, look who's here - the best damn sniper this side of Yokohama". Or "Hello, you ol' horse. You graduated from Pusan U., didn't you?" And the ol' horse drew a hearty laugh by imitating the deep voice of command, "At ease, you men".



The majority of veterans never sign a membership card in the professional organizations like the American Legion, or the others. But somehow they do go out of their way to seek out their own outfit - the only they knew well enough to grip about - and they still gripe - and love it.



MIDWEST

It's 5 kiddos at the RONALD F. SCHNUR (M, 19th INF, '51-'52) house, 142 Cedar Circle, Streamwood, Ill. They're 9, 8, 7, 3 and 2. Ronnie reports that he's a truck driver out there. Sounds to us as though Jo Ann, Ronnie's lovely wife has her hands full....The USA now has military treaties with 42 countries throughout the world: the NATO countries, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Japan, Korea, the Republic of China, and 19 countries of Latin America...We never can fail to appreciate the good nature of SAM GILNER (13th Field, '42-'45). Almost every year, and this year was no exception, Sam is the smiling helper of the girls on the Convention Registration Desk. Sue and little Sam were with him this year. However, we did miss his scrap-book in the trophy room. While Sam was in the 13th, his home-folks compiled a record of photos and various items that is a wonder to behold. Bring it to Louisville, Sam. The Gilners live at 290 N. Middletown Road, Nanuet, New York (not far from New York City). Sam is a Sunoco distributor for Rockland County

What They Are Doing Now

1st Sgt. RICHARD E. CHRAPCZYNSKI, "top sleeve" of the 13th Field has just gone to 1st How Bn, 30th Art., Ft. Lewis, Wash. Good wishes, Dick....Pfc. WILLIAM M. AVER of our 2nd Battle Group, 28th Inf. and Sp 4 FREDERICK G. STEIN of our 533rd Trans. Co. have been selected for U.S. Military Academy Prep School at Ft. Belvoir. Nice going, men....The 24th Med. Bn., commanded by Lt. Col. DOYLE R. SEIFRIED has been getting nice commendations for its participation in FTX Med Bravo. Congrats, pill pushers....

Well Done,

VIC BACKER (34th INF) says that this one really happened back here before the 34th jumped off to join us in Hawaii. The camp had been under quarantine for some time when the guard caught Mose sneaking out one night. "What's the idea?", asked the guard, "You know you're not allowed to leave camp." Mose was desperate. "Buddy", he said, "I've got a mean old uncle down below, a grand old mammy up above, and a gal in Alabama, and I've gwine to see one of dem tonight".

WHY ?

We could have had a pre-Christmas issue. We weighed the idea and threw it out: we didn't care to throw our copy in with the annual greeting card madness. We have too much respect for the faithful letter carrier who wears that haunted expression for about six weeks along about this time of year. Doctors who specialize in diseases of mailmen call it the Christmas card syndrome. There is no known cure except, of course, to abolish Christmas cards by law, and no one but a veritable Scrooge would suggest such a thing. At any rate, we decided that since our funds limit us to the number of issues per year, we'd best not mix the Taro Leaf with the 3.5 billion cards which we understand were mailed in the USA this past season. Some witless person awash in treacle has figured that more than 10,000 tons of ink were used just to sign and address them. This figure could be further subdivided into pairs of fallen arches suffered by the mailmen. We didn't want to heap any more cases on the poor letter carriers.



Stop paddling— motorize

Col. FREDERICK R. WEBER (21st INF) now retired, who served as Mayor of Lumber Bridge, N.C., for two years since retirement at Ft. Bragg, N.C., will be European Manager of the Armed Forces Department of the Standard Life and Accident Insurance Company, Oklahoma City, with his office at Reutherweg 47, Frankfurt. He has done graduate work at Yale, New York University, University of North Carolina, and East Carolina College where he was offered a fellowship to teach in the Science department this year, and where Miss Ann Kingman Weber, his daughter, is a senior and pre-medical student. Mrs. Weber former Katherine Kingman, daughter of Col. Ralph Willcox Kingman, who joined Colonel Weber in teaching mathematics at Pembroke State College this year, has accompanied him to Europe. Their son, Lt. William Ralph Weber, is completing an overseas tour with the Airborne Signal Corps in Germany, and returns to Ft. Bragg this winter. How's that for news item? We'd like to have that much on each and everyone of you. Send whatever you can: we'll use it.



WEST

If you're out in Tucson, Ariz., spend a night at El Rancho Motel with CARLTON P. GAY (24th QM) at 225 W. Drachman. He's managing it. Those bean counters do get around; he was in Virginia last we knew.

As scarce as truth is, the supply has always been in excess of the demand.
JOSH BILLINGS

Paths to pleasure

PREXY RICHARD LIGMAN, C.G. HANLIN and ROBERT DUFF have made the initial assault on the Brown Hotel in Louisville, Ky., preparatory to our coming convention - in August. You see it takes an entire year to get set for one of these clambakes. They report rooms - both single and double - will be at the \$6.00 rate, Scotch 50¢ per drink, and lots and lots of goodies. Ed Henry is thinking of moving to Louisville: he says he can live at the Brown more cheaply than he can live in Kennedyland.

Keep a cupboard full of cans

DOMINICK FALZARENO writes us: "I am trying to establish proof in getting a C Number with the Veterans' Administration and am writing to my Buddies who served the same time I did in Leyte. My injury to my neck occurred in the first 8 days of Northern Leyte before I was wounded in action. I have a defect in my neck which is giving me a lot of trouble and I have to establish proof in order to get a C Number. Please try to remember if you were on Hill 1525 near Pinamapoan at the same time I was. I was on an ammunition detail bringing mortar shells back to our Hill 1525 at night. I fell backwards, head first, with the mortar pack on my back in a fox hole and 3 or 4 fellows pulled me out. I know this is a long time ago, but do you remember? If you do, write me a letter stating you do so I can get proof for my claim as I need all the help I can get." We hope this gets you results, Dom. If you can, members, contact Dom at 59 Newton St., Ilion, N.Y.



AND ESPECIALLY

PEOPLE

Of, by and for those who served
and/or now serve the 24th Infantry Division,
published frequently by the 24th Infantry
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Authentic and Prophetic...

Hollandia has ended one existence and found another. Dutch sovereignty is over: they're in a 7 months interim period of UN rule; then Indonesia takes over. The town's 7000 Dutch have gone. Think of it: there were 7000 Dutchmen there until recently. Why, we don't know. There's one hotel there by the way. The Indonesians are acquiring West New Guinea: the Dutch have cut loose a \$30,000,000.00 a year albatross. Look for the country to be an economic drag on its new owners who have less to spend on its development than the Dutch had. The problem hasn't been settled: it has only begun.

=====



ARE YOU MOVING?

SIX WEEKS IS REQUIRED
TO CHANGE YOUR MAGAZINE ADDRESS.

New member: ROBERT J. JONES (H, 34th INF '45 - '48) - for which our thanks, Bob. He, wife Rose, and 3 kids (8, 7 and 3), are at 18032 Albion, Detroit, Mich....As to 3 kids, Bob says he is reminded of a friend who has 7 and who goes around saying: "They're for sale, and those who aren't working are marked down".

SAM UMPHREY (DIV HQ '46 - '47) our one time Div. Chem. O., is now I Corps Post Engineer in Korea. He's a Lt. Col. retiredEARL LEWIS (34th) is now at 6709 Archdale, Detroit where he is a cost analyst for Ford. What makes those cars so expensive, Earl. Earl and Jacqueline are the parents of 3 - one 9, one 7, and one 3... HOWARD WRIGHT (19th INF '49 - '51) is a carpenter, living at 820 Carpenter (no own intended), Northville, Mich.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Remember those early days of trying to build an army from a mass of civilians - whichever war you joined up for - or peace-time between wars - it was the same confusion.

And wherever you yourself went for your first camp, you'd run into a lost private - a forgotten noodle in the macaronic red tape of the Pentagon, oblivious to the bustle of the post, and the accepted laws of military deportment. He was the poor slob who'd "been and this...camp for months". We know one who hung around Ft. Jackson for a year and a half, whittling away his days in the PX, until somebody found his brown envelope behind a radiator grill. Then they gave him his 17 weeks of basic, and discharged him. Oh happy days.

Smart strategy

MAYNARD A. BIRKHOLZ, Madison Ave., Omro, Wis., likes to tell the story of the 11th Field corporal who met a North Korean sergeant face-to-face. The artilleryman reverted to his trusty razor, and made a mighty swipe at the Korean's throat. "Ha!" gloated the Korean, "You missed me!" "Missed you, huh?" echoed our 11th man, "Brudder, jes' you wait till you tries to turn yo' head!"

THE VERY NEXT THING

Sec'y ED HENRY (DIV HQ '43-'45) took the occasion of Oct. 20th to cable Gen. Douglas MacArthur greetings on Leyte Day, to which the grand old man replied:

22 October 1962

Dear Secretary Henry:

Thank you so much for your cordial telegram. It was thoughtful, indeed, of you to send me a message and I deeply appreciate your gracious sentiments. No finer division ever donned war gear.

With best wishes to you all,

Faithfully,

Douglas MacArthur
DOUGLAS MACARTHUR.



John R. Shay
455 Bernice Court
Wheeling, Illinois



OVER THE HUMP

Maj. Gen. WILLIAM VERBECK (21st INF & DIV HQ '44 - '45) has weathered a stormy session at Walter Reed Army Med. Ctr., Washington, and is now on the recovery road. The prayers of the many who were offering them have been answered.

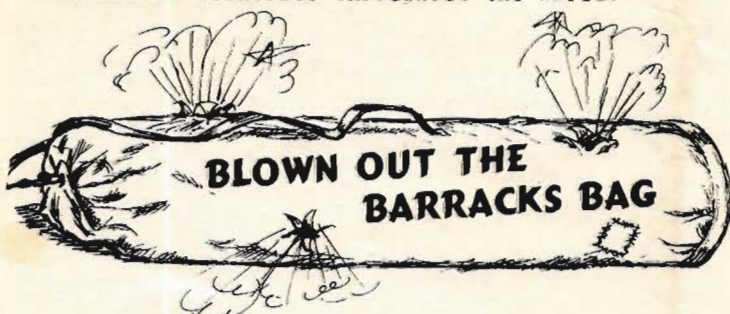
By the time this is read, he should be back on duty as CG, Ft. Devens, Mass. Write him a note when you can. No one loves to receive mail more than Bill.

We're happy that you're still with us, Bill.

...AND THEN

THERE WAS ONE

ROBERT S. PERE (I, 34th ?) now a policeman, and living with better half, Mavis, at 1270 Gerard, Bronx 52, N.Y., has just dropped us a line with a check. Thanks for both, Bob... Didia know that American forces are now stationed in 70 different countries throughout the world?



Out of the bushes in E. Liverpool, Ohio (3196 Andrews St.) oooo LOUIS J. WARD (Hq. 1st Bn, 34th INF and 24th MED, '47-'48) as a new member. One by one they're joining up. We can do it, and we will. You're not too far from Louisville, Louis: why not try to make it in August?... Approximately 769,000 American soldiers, sailors and airmen are serving outside of the U.S.A.... Speaking of missing old friends, how about PAUL WISECUP (34th INF) Xenia, Ohio, and that yea-chick, JERRY VON MOHR of Dayton, Ohio? We missed them in Chicago - and Paul's Dottie and Jerry's Mary - all wonderful people.



JAMES N. FROOME, JR. (21st INF '43-'45) of 801 Main St., Red Bluff, Calif. sends us this photo of the swimming pool at Sentani in New Guinea which the 2nd Bn., 21st boys built. Jim is V.P. of Crocker-Anglo Nat. Bank at Red Bluff and he sends this one of Lt. Maj. G. HAYWOOD (21st INF) and himself on leave in Australia.



We dislike having to report the fact of BOB DUFF's loss of his Dad, Roy R. Duff, in his 70th year at Danville, Ill. after a full life as a general contractor. Our sympathies go forward to you Bob. In typical style however, Bob, together with C.G. HANLIN and Prexy DOC LIGMAN have been to Louisville getting things ready for our coming August "Clambake". Bob likes to tell the story of the Scotchmen who came over to visit his brother and the two went hunting up in Maine. One morning, in the middle of nowhere, the Scotchman saw a large beast. Nudging his brother, he whispered, "What's that?" "That's a moose", his brother whispered back. With a shudder, the Scotchman muttered, "If that's a moose, I don't keer to see what a rat must look like in this country".