



TARO LEAF  
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



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1984 - 1985



The Association's devoted friend and member, the Division Commander, was especially sensitive to our troubles. His was the order which lowered the post flag to half staff.

CHARLES A. and JUNE CLARK  
Tustin CA  
Hq. Btry. 52nd FA Bn. 10/41 - 12/15/43

CHARLES M. and JOSEPHINE DELAMETER  
Vacaville CA  
19th Inf., 9/40 - 1/45

WILLIAM T. LLEWELLYN and JOSEPH P. LLEWELLYN  
Western Springs IL and LaGrange IL  
Hq., 2nd Bn., 34th Inf. '44 - '46

HAMILTON and LUCILLE COSNAHAN  
Dallas TX  
96th Inf. Div.

GODOFREDO "Fred" LATOGA  
Manila PI  
Tour guide

There is something especially poignant in the holocaust of Baguio. Our colleagues traveled west in celebration. Their holiday ended in disaster. What bitter irony. Those of their number had survived the meanness of war 40 years earlier -- only to come to this.

We are having trouble -- unbelievable difficulty -- in setting pen to paper for reporting the best and the worst.

Will you forgive us if we quote liberally from a very fine first hand report sent to us by BOBBY BRABHAM, Div.Hq. '42-'45, after he and Inez had returned home? He started thus:

"Our first day, Sat. 10/13, was spent in arriving in Manila and transferring to the Holiday Inn. That evening, we were hosted with a banquet by the Mayor of Manila, Ramon Bagatsing, and were each awarded the Philippine Liberation Medal.

"On Sunday, we Hovercrafted to Corregidor -- and remembered our 34th'ers who came ashore on South Side and stormed Malinta Tunnel. Lots of memories.

"On Monday, we went to the American Cemetery. Wreath laying ceremonies -- at the Tomb of the Unknown Filipino Soldier and our own departed as well. Here among the graves of some of our very own, we were deeply moved.

"On Tuesday, the 16th, we toured Manila and the countryside.

"The next day, Wednesday, the 17th, we flew to Tacloban. Great welcome. Toured Palo and Dulag. Were billeted in the Leyte Park Hotel.

MLP102410 10/24/84-BAGUIO, PHILIPPINES: Onlookers pass by the gutted ruins of Pines Hotel 10/24 in the mountain resort of Baguio hours after a devastating fire was put out. At least 17 people killed including nine American War Veterans and injuring 51 others. (Hotel) UPI wv/STR



"Oct. 18th -- we toured Tacloban. Banquet hosted by the Governor of Leyte and Mayor of Tacloban. The people were great. Wherever we went people were waiting -- and the music -- everywhere. Some nights it meant two parties -- and I am not a two party man.

"Oct. 19th. To Jaro, Carigara, Breakneck. Fine lunch on the beach at Carigara. I remembered living in a 2 story house at Carigara. Div.Hq. was upstairs. We lived downstairs. Met a man whose father was the Mayor in '44. He took Inez and me around to the house. Much nostalgia. The next day he had come the 35 miles to bring me a gift -- seashells from the beach at C.

"Sat. the 20th -- the day -- but Marcos had been delayed due to a typhoon on Luzon. Rain? Yes. Sound familiar?

"Sun. the 21st -- the big day even if late by 40 years and one day. The simulated landing. A parade. Speeches, of course. The heat was torrid. Simply overbearing. And late in the day, back to Manila.

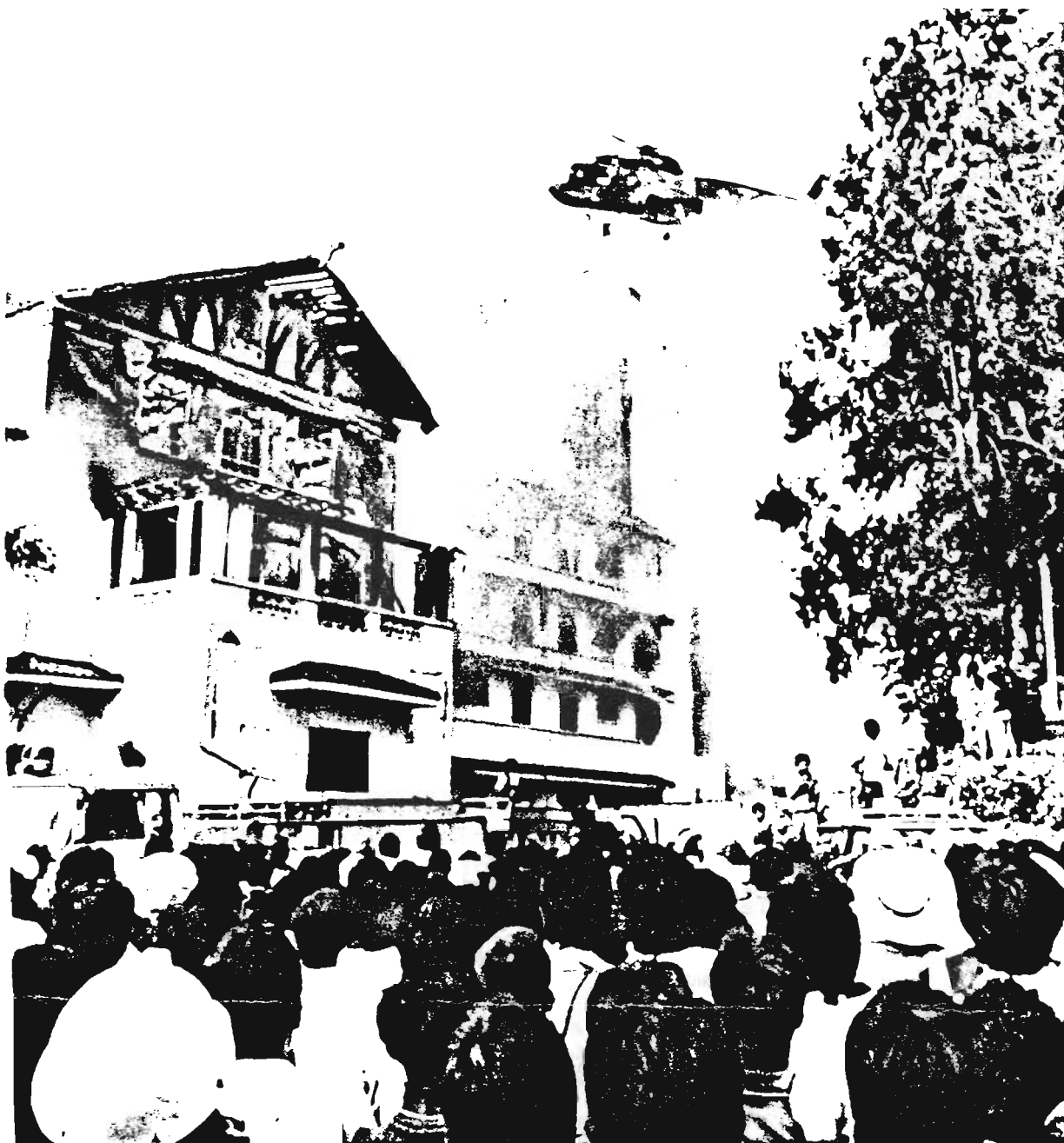
"Mon. the 22nd. The bus ride to Baguio. Stopping for Clark and the Death March Monument, along the way -- finally ending the day with registration at the Pines Hotel."

Bobby's report was brief, stacato style, wonderfully informative.

We experienced unbelievable difficulties in obtaining reports on what followed -- and most understandably so.

Let's start with Bobby's check list on the room assignments:

Rm. 263	Paul & Lela Nelson	G21st
	RR 4, Box 12, Forsyth MO 65653	
	Tel. 417-546-4875	
Rm. 301	Ms. Donna Wickes	
	of the Heaberlin party	
Rm. 302	Ms. Paula Lamb	
	of the Austin party	
Rm. 303	Paul and Lynn Austin	F34th
	4141 6th Ave., Ft.Worth TX 76115	
	Tel. 817-924-1014	
Rm. 306	James and Louise Frederick	E34th
	2116 Menefee Dr., Arlington TX 76010	
	Tel. 817-261-5278	
Rm. 320	Horace Hoggatt	3rd Eng.
	Richmond IN	
Rm. 323	William Dougherty	F21st
	Exton Road Apts., Somers Point NJ 08244	
	Tel. 609-927-5613	
Rm. 324	Vicente Sydiongco	
	Tacloban, Leyte PI	
Rm. 325	Ms. Barbara Kinderman	
	of the Hofrichter party	
Rm. 326	Ms. Katherine Broadwell	
	of the Frederick party	
Rm. 327	Col. Frederick Weber	21st & 19th
	Lumber Bridge NC	
Rm. 331	Valentine & Jean Schaaf	H21st
	6850 N.W. Helvetia Rd., Hillsboro, OR 97123	
Rm. 332	Robert and Roberta Ender	H21st
	110 E 9th St., Los Angeles CA 90015	
	Tel. 213-622-4690	
Rm. 333	Thomas Grady	H21st and Ray Partington 5th RCT
	Grady: 182 Barker St., Hartford CT 06114	
	Tel. 203-522-4095	
	Partington: 27 Scott, Rockledge, FL 32955	
	Tel. 305-632-4162	



MLP102404-10/24/84-BAGUIO CITY, PHILIPPINES: A rescue helicopter hovers over the still burning four-story government-owned Pines Hotel. At least 8 people were killed and 51 others injured, most of them American War Veterans. (Hotel) UPI rr/STR

- Rm. 336 Roy and Louise Brown G21st  
Rt. 2, Box 193, Von Ormy TX 78073
- Rm. 337 Gennaro and Louise Fischetti 34th  
42 Rose Court, Staten Island NY 10301
- Rm. 339 Melvin and Roselyn Butrica B52nd F  
33 E. Foch Ave., Milltown NJ 08850
- Rm. 340 Robert and Inez Brabham Div. Hq.  
Box 1001, Sumter SC 29150  
Tel. 803-773-2639
- Rm. 341 Allen and Genevieve Coffman M21st  
Box 323, Cherokee, OK 73728

Rm. 342 Ralph and Ora Clark  
of the Coffman party

Rm. 344 Louis Duhamel Cn. 21st and Richard Duhamel  
509 Wentworth Ave., Lowell MA 01852  
Tel. 617-454-4374

Rm. 346 Henry and Elsa McCumbie L19th  
4417 Poplar Ave., Baltimore MD 21227  
Tel. 301-242-5144

Rm. 347 Col. Urban Throm, 34th & Div.Hq.  
and Richard Seaver, 34th  
Throm - 9943 E. Cornell Ave., Denver CO 80231  
Tel. 303-755-0488  
Seaver - Los Angeles CA

Rm. 348 James Mathis 34th and Jackie Jenson  
Rt. 2, Box 826, Parker AZ 85344

Rm. 349 Joseph & Margaret Peyton Sv.19th  
1405 Belmore Ct., Baltimore MD 21093  
Tel. 301-321-6448

Rm. 350 Domenic and Mathilda Nucci 3rd Eng.  
East Pittsburgh PA

Rm. 353 Sal and Lucy Gomez 3rd Eng.  
Sacramento CA

Rm. 355 Maj.Gen. William and June Bradley 3rd Eng.  
Monument CO

Rm. 356 Donald and Angeline Knapton C21st  
46 Sylvester St., Rochester NY 14621

Rm. 357 Dr. Philip and Helen Hosteter 19th Inf.  
821 Poyntz, Manhattan KS 66502  
Tel. 913-539-2913

Rm. 358 Jack and Mona Brown E34th  
2921 Klark Dr., Lake Viking, Gallatin MO

Rm. 360 Peter Crombie 3rd Eng. and William Hartman Cn. 34th  
Hartman - 204 Mary St., Washington, IL 61571  
Crombie - Chicago IL

Rm. 362 John and Hilda Klump E34th  
Rt. 1, Box 256, Guilford IN 47022  
Tel. 812-623-3279

Rm. 363 Joseph and Thelma Klump  
of the Klump party

Rm. 401 Wendell and Annale Pittman K34th  
Balko OK

Rm. 402 James and Sally Postma 21st  
723 Louisiana, Lawrence KS 66044  
Tel. 913-843-7728

Rm. 416 Hugh and Sue Spiller C 34th  
Menard TX

Rm. 419 Charles and Josephine Delameter 19th  
507 Ridgewood Dr., Vacaville CA 95688  
Tel. 707-447-2449



Rm. 421 Col. Kemuel and Agnes Blacker 52nd F  
2253 Creekstone Ct., Marietta GA 30062  
Tel. 404-992-3745

Rm. 422 Col. Kermit and Marilu Blaney 21st  
801 Peachtree Dr., Columbus GA 31906  
Tel. 404-323-5510

Rm. 423 William Llewellyn 21st and Joseph Llewellyn  
4154 Central, Western Springs, IL 60558

Rm. 425 Joseph and Gladys Dawson 34th  
17500 Stout, Detroit MI 48219  
Tel. 313-537-7415

Rm. 426 Donald and Janice Hinkle L34th  
221 N.Walnut, Philippi, West VA 26416  
Tel. 304-457-4164

Rm. 427 George and Mildred Waggoner F19th  
1448 Kent, Baltimore MD 21221  
Tel. 301-686-4224

Rm. 428 Mrs. Ernestine Grube  
Widow of Harry T. Grube 34th  
8077 Lieber Rd., Indianapolis, IN

Rm. 429 Roy Schroeder L34th and John Lawatsch F19th  
Schroeder - Box 585 Bacliff TX 77518  
Tel. 713-339-1492  
Lawatsch - 33043 Sherwood Forest, Sterling Hts., MI

Rm. 444 Stanley and Dorothy Gross 63rd F  
375 W.Fremont, Galesburg, IL  
Tel. 309-343-6648

Rm. 445 Lloyd and Neome Potterton 19th  
222 Balsom, Spooner, WI 54801  
Tel. 715-635-2464

Rm. 446 Ernest and Alberta Hicks 21st  
100 Stewart, Mansfield OH 44906  
Tel. 419-524-0136

Rm. 447 Albert Brandesky I21st and Bruce Price B19th  
Brandesky - 3321 Casa Bonita, Corpus Christi TX  
Tel. 512-852-2758  
Price - 214 Bedford Forest Ave., Anderson SC 29621  
Tel. 803-224-4353

Rm. 449 Bobby and Hazel Myers Cn 34th  
2430 Opal Ave., Orange CA 92667  
Tel. 714-637-3808

Rm. 450 Arthur and Clarys Kemp C21st  
411 Remington St., Suffield CT 06078  
Tel. 203-668-0607

Rm. 451 Brig.Gen. Robert and Sally Spragins 19th  
5458 N 78th Place, Scottsdale AZ 85253  
Tel. 602-946-1802

Rm. 452 Vernon and Lavina Grossheusch 52nd F  
2228 Woody Dr., Billings MT 59102  
Tel. 406-656-5631

Rm. 453 Charles and June Clark 52nd F  
14761 Holt Ave., Tustin CA 92680  
Tel. 714-544-2447



Rm. 501 Jack and Mary Hellman 24th QM  
5401 W. 25th, Topeka, KS 66614  
Tel. 913-272-2778

Rm. 502 Robert and Virginia Wilson 24 Med.  
2482 Ayrshire Cove, Memphis TN 38119

Rm. 508 Joseph & Charlotte Hofrichter F34th  
1718 Bird Dog Ct., Loveland OH 45140  
Tel. 513-677-0267

Rm. ? Gilber and Lawanda Heaberlin A34th  
307 Wildwood, Daingerfield TX 75638

Rm. ? Neal Hoff B19th  
Box 336, Walden, CO 80480  
Tel. 303-723-4261

Rm. ? David and Jeanette Rivers 52nd F  
Anderson S.C.

## 10 Americans missing in Philippines hotel fire

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Americans who escaped a fire that engulfed their hotel said yesterday they wept, screamed for help and prayed during the blaze that killed at least 24 people in the mountain city of Baguio.

Catherine Do Lembo, of Indianapolis, Ind., crawled on her hands and knees to a fourth-floor ledge during the midnight fire on Tuesday. Ernestine Grube, also of Indianapolis, leaped into the arms of a fireman. Walter Kleinschmidt, 63, of Jacksonville, Ill., hobbled along with his cane, afraid he would trip and fall before he could escape.

Two Americans were confirmed dead and 10 other Americans were missing and feared dead. Officials

said they had 14 unidentified bodies — 10 believed to be Americans — and that five Filipinos, two Malaysians and a Chinese from Hong Kong were among the dead. More than 60 people were injured in the fire that destroyed the four-story Pines Hotel in Baguio, 125 miles north of Manila.

Most of the Americans were World War II veterans or wives of veterans who had come to the Philippines for last weekend's 40th anniversary of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's liberation landing.

Filipino officials said the only American fatalities identified were Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Cosnahan, in their 70s, from Dallas, Texas.

The 10 bodies believed to be of

Americans were taken to Clark Air Base for identification, but U.S. military authorities said they would not identify dead or injured until relatives in the United States were notified.

In an interview in Manila, James Breland, 61, of Birmingham, Ala., said he and his wife smashed a window, scrambled onto a ledge and screamed for help.

Mr. Breland said he saw fellow veterans crowded on a stairway. "They were crying and screaming and praying, they were screaming for help," he said.

Mr. Breland said he and his wife perched on a ledge. "The fire and smoke was billowing from the fourth floor and it was hugging the

building. Then, by the grace of God, the wind changed and shifted the smoke back so we could get some air and I think that saved our lives."

Mrs. Do Lembo, an Army nurse during the 1944 Leyte invasion, and Mrs. Grube were sharing a room. Trapped by thick smoke in the hallway, Mrs. Grube, 64, broke their window with a water pitcher and they lowered themselves onto the ledge.

"There were a whole lot of people in the windows, about 50 of them. They jumped to save their lives," Mrs. Do Lembo said in Manila. "There wasn't a window that wasn't burning. . . . People were screaming at the top of their voices to get out."

If we've missed anyone in all of this, we ask you to forgive. Utter confusion has reigned on this sad story.

Significant Quote: "Forty years ago, I fought for my life in the Philippines. Forty years later, I did it again."

ART KEMP

President RAY KRESKY and P.P. JAMES O'DONNELL attended the memorial service for WILLIAM T. and Joseph P. LLEWELLYN on Saturday, Nov. 3rd at the First Congregational Church in LaGrange IL. Bill is survived by his beloved, Sherry, and his daughter, Karen Wright, and son, Kent.

One reason for avoiding too much reportage on the P.I. tragedy. Emotions concerning Camp John Hay, Clark Field, the American Embassy, and the Philippine Government et al have been mixed -- some reports most praiseworthy, some reports most bitter. Ergo the decision to stay out of the confusion.

Words have simply failed us as we have tried to come to grips with the painful task of reporting the facts of the tragedy suffered by our friends on their "return." What started as a celebration ended in the holocaust at the Pines Hotel. How bitterly ironic that those who 40 years earlier had endured so much had come back to the islands -- for this.

It was a troubled month for the Filipinos -- in many ways.

Typhoon Agnes raged through the islands with 125 mph winds. The death toll at last report was 441.

Then, actually before Agnes hit, a ferry boat sank off Marinduque. Buffeted by a stormy sea, the passengers were ordered to abandon ship. More than 100 people were lost.

# BULLETIN TODAY

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THURSDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 25, 1984

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## 10 foreigners, 4 Filipinos killed in Pines Hotel fire

By ISIDORO M. CHAMMAG  
Correspondent

BAGUIO CITY — Fourteen persons were killed, 10 of them foreigners, while scores of others were injured when fire of undetermined origin raged for more than eight hours and razed the government-owned Pines Hotel here yesterday.

Damage to property was estimated at P300 million.

Nine of the fatalities and 37 of those injured were American war veterans who came here for a vacation after attending the celebration commemorating the

landing in Palo, Leyte, of Gen. Douglas MacArthur and other liberation forces last Oct. 21.

Only four fatalities have so far been identified. The four were Hamilton Cosnahan, 77, of Houston, Texas; Chan Sheung Kua of South Korea; and Godofredo Latagan, a Sarkies Tours guide who reportedly jumped from the seventh floor of the hotel at the height of the fire.

Hotel officials said that the hotel had 360 registered guests when

the fire broke out at about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday. Most of the guests were American war veterans and Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Malaysian delegates to an Asian conference on technology for women here.

The injured guests were taken to the Saint Louis University Hospital, Notre Dame Hospital, the Baguio General Hospital and the Camp John Hay Hospital.

Lt. Col. Eric Gilberg, commanding officer of

## FOREIGNERS

(Cont'd from page 1)

the Camp John Hay where most of the American veteran guests were taken, said that two Americans had not yet been accounted for as of yesterday afternoon.

The bodies of the Cosnahan couple, Chan, and Latagan were recovered from the hotel debris yesterday morning. Ten more bodies were recovered in the

afternoon.

Firemen said more people may have perished in the eight-hour blaze as many of the guests have not been accounted for.

Most of the guests marooned on top of eighth floor of the hotel annex were rescued by two helicopters from Clark Air Base.

Some of those rescued by the helicopters were Tong Sik-keung, Susan Can, Ivy Chung, Sang Cheng, Sat Lun, Norberto Acaya, Richard Seaver, Kamsi Siu, and Col. Urban Thron.

Flor Garcia, manager of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) branch here which now manages the Pines Hotel, estimated the damage at P300 million.

Initial investigation disclosed that the fire started from the fourth floor of the hotel's front wing at 11:30 p.m. Tuesday and immediately spread out to the different wings of the hotel building. The Baguio fire station received the alarm at 11:44 p.m.

Investigators are looking into the possibility of arson as some witnesses said

an explosion was heard immediately before the fire started.

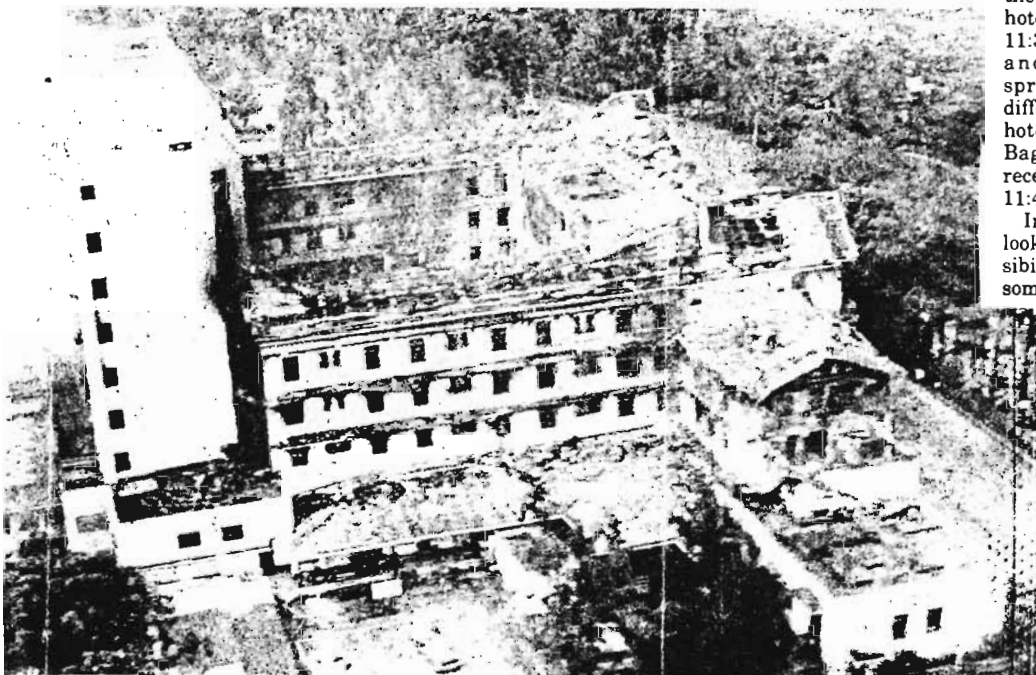
The 247-room Pines Hotel is one of the oldest landmarks of Baguio City. It was opened in the 1930s by the government. In 1976, a private group bought it from the government which foreclosed it last year. The hotel also houses a gambling casino.

BAGUIO CITY — Philippine Air Force and the US Air Force helicopters played hero yesterday morning as they rescued ten persons who were marooned on top of the eighth floor of Pines Hotel while the building was burning.

A PAF helicopter sent by Maj. Gen. Vicente M. Piccio Jr., PAF chief, piloted by Capt. Ting Suarez and Lt. Joe Cabanela flew to the city with a paramedic team to give assistance.

Baguio City Mayor Ernesto Bueno told the Bulletin that some 330 guests were booked at the Pines Hotel when the fire broke out late Tuesday night.

The fire broke out in Room 405 and spread wildly to adjoining rooms. (LP)



THE BURNED Pines Hotel as taken yesterday afternoon from an Air Force helicopter.

M. Silva

# Pacific Stars and Stripes



昭和54年12月20日 第三種郵便物認可(日刊但し1月2日休刊) 昭和34年1月22日 国鉄東局特別扱承認新聞紙第175号 発行所 〒106 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 発行人 DENIS M. MEHIGAN

Friday, October 26, 1984

AN AUTHORIZED UNOFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND AUTHORIZED U.S. PERSONNEL WITHIN THE PACIFIC COMMAND

## Pines fire toll 20; arson suspected

Compiled from PS&S and wire services

BAGUIO, Philippines — Philippine authorities investigating a \$1.5 million blaze which gutted the landmark Pines Hotel here Tuesday and Wednesday, killing at least 20 people — at least eight of them American — may have been set by arsonists.

U.S. sources in Manila said at least eight Americans were confirmed dead but the number could go higher. Six Americans and eight people of other nationalities also remained unaccounted for, officials said.

The reports contradicted earlier statements by U.S. military officials who had said all of a nearly 200-member American Legion delegation at the hotel were accounted for.

U.S. Marine Sgt. Willie Dennis, from Camp John Hay near the hotel, said a check of the hotel's registry showed rooms where 10 unidentified bodies were found were rented to Americans.

Members of the American Legion group said some of their elderly companions were trapped in their rooms.

Police said three Americans, five Malaysians, three Filipinos and one Indian were still missing, however.

Reports said up to 72 people were injured in the fire.

Fire officials were still uncertain as to the cause of the blaze. They said a faulty electrical installation was suspected but the state-run Philippine News Agency, quoting local officials, said there were reports the fire began in several rooms simultaneously.

"The possibility of multiple fires raises the question of arson," Col. Benjamin Villaneuva, Baguio fire chief, said. Villaneuva said if explosives had not been used to start the fire "it would be impossible for it to spread so rapidly."

American survivors of the blaze, interviewed at the Clark AB hospital Wednesday night, said they heard one, possibly two, explosions in the hotel moments before smoke began filling corridors and rooms.

One survivor, who asked not to be identified, said he heard an explosion

at about 11:30 p.m. as he was preparing for bed in his fourth floor room.

"I opened the door, and the hallway was filled with smoke," he said.

Janice Hinkle, of Philippi, W. Va., said she heard an explosion at about 11:45 p.m. She also was on the hotel's fourth floor.

Other survivors who were in rooms in other parts of the building also recalled hearing what sounded like explosions. Richard Deutch of Garrettsville, Ind., said he saw three women who appeared to be Indian, coming from the hotel bleeding from head, face and upper body injuries.

"They told me the ceiling of their third floor room exploded," Deutch said.

Survivors who had been sleeping in both the four-story main building and the seven-story annex behind it said they discovered fires in both buildings almost simultaneously, about 11:30 p.m.

Villaneuva said the fire was reported at 11:34 p.m. Tuesday and the first of 10 fire trucks was on the scene two minutes later. Trucks and firemen from Baguio, Camp John Hay — a U.S. military recreation center — and the Philippine Military Academy fought the blaze for more than eight hours before bringing it under control.

Villaneuva said all the rooms in the gutted hotel had been entered by Thursday morning by officials searching for more bodies. A total of 20 bodies have been recovered, he said.

Irma Unson, front office manager at the hotel, said 175 of the facility's 221 rooms were occupied at the time the fire broke out.

Officials estimated there were some 330 guests in the hotel.

American officials could not say if any of the bodies have been positively identified, but Villaneuva said four have. They are Hamilton Gosnahan, 77, and his wife, Lucille, 70, of Houston, Texas; Chan Cheung Kau of

South Korea; and Godofredo Latagan, a tour guide who had been accompanying a group of World War

II veterans who were in the Philippines for last weekend's observance of the 40th anniversary of the Leyte landing and the return of Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Lt. Col. Eric W. Gilberg, commander Camp John Hay, said many of the bodies were charred beyond recognition. He said 10 bodies were flown to Clark AB Wednesday, where medical experts will attempt to identify them.

Forty-two Americans injured in the blaze also were flown to Clark Wednesday for treatment for smoke inhalation, fractures, cuts and bruises. An Air Force spokesman said Thursday that only 17 of the 42 are hospitalized and that none are in serious condition.

Other American survivors were brought to Clark Wednesday night in buses and were housed on the base, where officials opened the base exchange, the Pacific Stars and Stripes bookstore, the American Express

Bank and Alaska Federal Credit Union for them.

American authorities also said arrangements were being made to obtain new passports and return tickets to the States for survivors who lost all their possessions in the fire.

"We're doing absolutely everything we can to help them" an American Embassy official said after meeting the 42 injured on the Clark flight line Wednesday afternoon.

Villaneuva said the hotel was equipped with a fire alarm and smoke detectors and that it met all requirements of the city fire code. The last fire inspection was completed in July, and "it passed 100 percent," he said.

American survivors, however, said their rooms were not equipped with fire safety devices and that they never heard a fire alarm.

Several survivors said they were awakened by hotel employees banging on their doors, while others said they were awakened by explosions, screams and shouts in the hallways.

# Pacific Stars and Stripes

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## Pines fire survivors laud rescuers

By Jim Lea

PS&S Okinawa Bureau Chief

CLARK AB, Philippines — American survivors of the Pines Hotel fire in Baguio have nothing but praise for the U.S. military and other American officials.

The treatment received, says Karel Knutsen, has been "great . . . just great."

"The general (Maj. Gen. Michael Nelson, 313th Air Division commander) flew up to Baguio Wednesday morning and told us they were going to do everything they could for us," said Knutsen, of Puposky, Minn.

Knutsen and his wife, Delores, escaped the fire which killed at least 25 people, including eight Americans. The Associated Press reported that

*American survivors recall their night of terror, Page 6*

investigators said the fire, which started late Tuesday, may have been started by an arsonist.

The Knutsens made it to safety by tying together bedsheets and climbing down from the top floor of the seven-story hotel.

At Clark, the Knutsens and other American survivors discovered that help was abundant. Airmen and their wives offered clothing, money, space in their homes and comfort.

The Air Force sent an HC-130 to Baguio to pick up 42 injured Americans, and U.S. Embassy officials from Manila and Col. Barry Howard, 313th Air Division vice commander — who had portrayed MacArthur in the Leyte landing reenactment only four days earlier — met them on the Clark flightline.

The base opened its arms to them.

Signs were posted in the transient billeting facility, asking for volunteers to move to downtown hotels to make room for the survivors.

The base exchange was opened for them, along with the base bank, credit union and Pacific Stars and Stripes bookstores.

At the hospitals, tables set up by the base personal affairs section, Red Cross and other organization lined a corridor, manned by people waiting to help.

When buses arrived late Wednesday carrying uninjured survivors of the fire, members of the base wives' clubs swarmed around them, offering



*A rescue helicopter hovers over the burning Pines Hotel Tuesday.*



# Rescue

## ● From Page 1

friendship and comfort.

Members of the 374th Organizational Maintenance Squadron collected seven boxes of clothing for the survivors. The Knights of Columbus, Senior Noncommissioned Officer Association and other organizations donated money and clothing.

As Charlotte Hofrichter was being interviewed, a young woman approached and handed her a piece of paper.

"I'm Julie," she said. "That's my telephone number. If you need anything while you're here, please call me."

An Air Force medical technician was assigned to each injured survivor, offering help in working their way through the long-forgotten — by the vets — routine of a military hospital and to give comfort to those who needed it.

Hospital commander, Col. John T. Dyer, and director of administration, Col. Ken Green, made endless rounds, asking if there was more that could be done. Whatever that might have been, there were plenty of volunteers to do it.

Karel Knutsen had something to say about all that.

"This was a terrible thing to have happen. It's something we'd all have much rather avoided.

"But I'm sure glad if it had to happen, it happened here. Everyone has been wonderful and it's sure nice to know that you have friends like this when you need them."

Hofrichter added a footnote.

"Tell everyone we're so appreciative of what they've done for us," she said. "And tell them we thank them a thousand million times."

## U.S. Veterans Heading Home After Philippine Hotel Blaze

MANILA, Oct. 25 (UPI) — A group of American veterans of World War II were leaving for home today after a visit to the Philippines ended in a hotel fire that killed 25 people and injured 67.

The United States Embassy in Manila said two members of the American Legion delegation were confirmed dead and six were unaccounted for in the Tuesday night blaze. Two of the missing were brothers from Illinois. Eight people of other nationalities also remained unaccounted for in the fire at the Pines Hotel in Baguio, 125 miles north of Manila.

The American group was at the Pines during a tour of the Philippines to mark the 40th anniversary last weekend of the return of Gen. Douglas MacArthur to the Philippines to liberate the country from Japan.

The embassy identified the American dead as H. M. Cosnahan and his wife, Cindy, of Dallas.

The missing were identified as Charles and June Clark of Tustin, Calif.; Charles and Genevieve Delameter of Vacaville, Calif.; Joseph Llewellyn of LaGrange, Ill., and William Llewellyn of Western Springs, Ill.



## Victory Division retirees mourned

The national colors will be flown at half-staff next Tuesday on Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield in honor of members of the 24th Infantry Division Association killed recently in

a hotel fire in the Philippines. The former Victory Division members were visiting the Pacific islands where many comrades were left behind after World War II and old memories were abundant.

Page 16 PATRIOT Thursday, November 8, 1984

## Fort Stewart



# 'There was an inferno out there'

By Jim Lea

PS&S Okinawa Bureau Chief

CLARK AB, Philippines — Roy Schroeder bought a pair of suspenders Tuesday. "... I haven't been eating much and my pants keep falling down," he explained.

But, he adds, he bought the suspenders as much because of a premonition as necessity.

"I thought, if somebody hollers 'fire!' in some hotel where we're staying, I don't want to get caught with my pants down to my ankles and tripping me."

Tuesday night, Schroeder left his new suspenders on the dresser in his fourth-floor room of the Pines Hotel. He says he didn't even think about them as he went out the window to escape a \$15 million blaze that reduced the 50-year-old building to a smoldering shell.

Schroeder, from Bacliff, Texas, has spent the last week in the Philippines with other former members of the Army's World War II 96th, 77th and 24th divisions.

**FORTY YEARS AGO**, he followed Gen. Douglas MacArthur from Leyte to Manila, stopping on Corregidor long enough to get blown off the side of Malinta Hill by a Japanese mortar shell explosion.

Sitting on the edge of a bed in the Air Force hospital here Wednesday night, dressed in a T-shirt, borrowed hospital pajama pants and robe, he recalled how he was preparing for bed about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday when he heard a commotion in the hallway.

"I opened the door and the hall was full of smoke," he says. "I knew where the fire escape was because I had checked that out earlier. But I needed something to help me get through the smoke, so I went back into the room to get a wet towel to cover my face."

"The next time I opened the door, there was an inferno out there."

"I slammed the door and told the guy who was in the room with me, 'John, we can't get out that door.'"

"He kept saying, 'We gotta go out the door. The

*'I walked down the ledge looking for something to tie my sheets onto and finally came to a drain pipe. I shook it and it was shaky, but I figured it would hold. ... As I crawled past a third-floor window, I saw this little Filipino girl standing on it. She just jumped astride my neck and rode me down.'*

only way we're gonna get outa here is down the fire escape."

"I said, 'I'll be damned! I'm going out the window!'"

Like many of the other 180 Americans registered at the Pines, Schroeder crawled onto a two-foot-wide, tile-covered ledge just beneath the window and began tying bedsheets together into an escape rope.

"I walked down the ledge looking for something to tie my sheets onto and finally came to a drain pipe. I shook it and it was shaky, but I figured it would hold."

His trip down the side of the burning building was not uneventful.

**"AS I CRAWLED** past a third-floor window, I saw this little Filipino girl standing on it. She just jumped astride my neck and rode me down."

Other members of the veterans' tour to the Philippines also had premonitions of dark events ahead as they checked into the Pines Hotel Tuesday.

"I have no idea why, but the minute we walked into the hotel, I told my husband, 'Don, I don't like this. I'm afraid of it. Something horrible's going to happen,'" recalls Janice Hinkle of Philippi, W. Va.

"He said, 'Oh, maybe not,'" she recalls, but as they made their way to their fourth-floor room, he did look for a fire escape.

At 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, they needed one.

"We heard an explosion and I looked outside and all I could see was smoke," he recalls. "We opened the door but there was no way to get out because of the smoke and fire."

Don Hinkle crawled onto the ledge beneath the window of their room and walked to the end of the building.

"He came back and said there was someone there with a ladder and he helped me down there. He stayed on the ledge but the roof gave way and he managed to pull himself out, but some men on the ground floor were carrying me off, away from the building, and we got separated. I didn't find him until 3 a.m.," Janice Hinkle said.

**AS SHE WAS** being guided away from the now blazing hotel, she watched a horror unfold.

"I heard someone yelling above us and I knew (from the sound of the voice) it was Fred," she recalls. Godofredo (Fred) Latagan was a tour guide, escorting the veterans around the Philippines.

"I looked up and he was standing on the sixth-floor ledge. Then he jumped."

"He fell right on top of one of the men who were helping me and knocked him against the side of the building. Then he just hit the pavement and I knew he was dead."

Forty-three years of marriage creates a lot of trust between people, and Mrs. Hinkle says that trust is probably what saved her.

"Don's somebody who doesn't lose his cool," she said. "I just did what he told me to do and I made it."

Charlotte Hofrichter, from Loveland, Ohio, who, with her husband Joe, had led the tour group to the Philippines, sat in the hospital dining hall Wednesday night, her gashed right hand heavily bandaged.

"Joe set the alarm (Tuesday night) and we went to sleep about 10:30 p.m.," she says. They were on the seventh floor.

Sometime later, the Hofrichters were awakened by shouting in the hallway.

"People were shouting and running and I thought there was a crazy man out there and someone was chasing him."

"I turned on the bed light and dialed the front desk to complain. It was ringing when I smelled smoke."

"We opened the door and it was pitch black and there were people running around the hall and it was filling with smoke. We were only three rooms from the elevator and stairwell, but when we got to the stairwell it was filled with smoke and my husband said we should go back to the room."

**THERE, THEY STUFFED** wet towels against the bottom of the door to slow the thickening smoke and began looking for an escape route. That, again, was the 2-foot-wide, tile-covered ledge beneath the window.

## 17 die, 57 hurt in Pines hotel fire

By JOSE DAWI

**BAGUIO CITY** — Seventeen persons died while 57 others were injured in a fire that gutted Pines Hotel here Tuesday night.

The fire, which started at 11:34 p.m. Tuesday, was initially reported to have been caused by faulty electrical wiring in Room 432. The fire raged until 8:30 a.m. yesterday.

Only five of the fatalities had been identified. They were Hamilton Cosnahan, a war veteran, and his wife, Lucille, both of Houston, Texas; Cheng Sheune Kao of Hongkong; Godofredo Latoga, a tourist guide of Sarkies Tours and Cecille Perez.

The other bodies were charred beyond recognition.

**POLICE SAID** more bodies might still be trapped in some of the rooms and elevators of the eight-story hotel.

Two bodies were recovered at 11:30 a.m. yesterday and five more in the afternoon.

Most of the bodies recovered in the afternoon were found on the fourth floor lobby.

**MAYOR** Ernesto H. Bueno, who personally led and coordinated rescue operations, said two bodies were found in Room 415, two in Room 419 and one in Room 417.

Lt. Col. Eric Gilbert, commander of John Hay air station, said the bodies found late yesterday afternoon could be those of the seven American veterans reported missing.

Three of the recovered bodies were believed to be those of delegates to the Asia Fiete regional women's conference.

**NINE OF** the injured were rescued from the top of the burning hotel by a helicopter team from the US air force in Clark and regional command 1 in Camp Dangwa.

Of the injured, 15 were taken to the Notre Dame Hospital and 13 others to the Clark Air Base Hospital in Pampanga.

Seventeen hotel guests were confined at the St. Louis University Sacred Heart Hospital while 38 were taken to the Dr. Efraim Montemayor Medical Center.

"I threw our bags and the tour records out the window and we crawled out on the ledge. I heard people screaming, 'Don't jump! Don't jump!'"

They and three more people in an adjacent room tied sheets together, then attracted the attention of people on the first-floor roof who tied a rope to the sheets.

"We tied the sheets and the rope all together and tied it to the window casement and to things in the room.

"Joe said he'd go first to make sure it would hold. Then the other man told me to go and told me not to hold the rope with my hands because it would burn, but to wrap my arms around it like they'd taught him in World War II. I did, but on the way down, I gashed my hand on one of the ledges."

They made their way from the first-floor roof to the ground and picked up their bags and were taken to a Baguio hospital.

"Joe had inhaled a lot of smoke and they were trying to give him oxygen but the threads were stripped on the oxygen bottle and they couldn't attach the regulator.

"They were trying to fix my hand when somebody came and said there was a bus to take all the Americans (there were a dozen Americans at the hospital) to Camp John Hay.

"We got the tour documents out and made a list of people and held roll call." Many people were missing at the first muster, but some turned up later.

**"THERE WERE TWO** young girls on the tour with their parents. One of them works for the telephone company in Dallas. She got a list of everybody's phone number in the States and somehow got through to the Dallas operator and started feeding telephone numbers. The Dallas operators were calling all over the United States telling relatives that their people were safe."

Karel and Delores Knutsen, of Puposky, Minn., also awoke to the sounds of shouting in the hall outside their sixth-floor room, and made their way to a stairway.

"We couldn't go down all the way because people below us had panicked and were coming back up," Knutsen recalls. "On the way back up, we missed the sixth floor somehow and I think that's what saved us."

On the seventh floor, Knutsen pounded on the first door he came to until it was opened.

"There was a Filipino man there and there wasn't much smoke — yet — so we tied sheets together and started down to the ground.

"By the time we left the room the flames were a full seven floors high and they were moving in from each end. They were within a room of us on both sides. We were absolutely doomed and decided we had to get out now or never.

"Fortunately the good Lord was with us and we're here, we're safe, we're sound. My wife has a sprained ankle and I've got a few bruises, but we're alive."

## Arson suspected in Manila

MANILA, Philippines (UPI) — Arson investigators searched for the cause of a pre-dawn fire Thursday that swept through a Manila hotel where Halloween revelers were dancing on a revolving rooftop disco. At least 10 people were killed. The blaze erupted eight days after a fire gutted the Pine Hotel in the northern mountain resort of Baguio, killing 25 people — eight of them Americans on a World War II veterans tour.

BAGUIO CITY — Six more bodies were recovered yesterday afternoon at the fire-gutted Pines Hotel in Baguio City, bringing to 14 the total number of fatalities in the blaze.

Earlier reports said eight people were confirmed dead. Four of them had been identified but the other four were charred beyond recognition.

Aside from the 14 fatalities, 51 others were injured in the six-hour long fire which started shortly

# Hotel fire kills four in Philippines

Baguio, Philippines (UPI)—Fire swept through a hotel in this popular mountain resort yesterday, killing four persons and injuring 44, most of them American veterans here on the 40th anniversary of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's return to the Philippines, officials said.

Among those killed were Lucille Cosnahan of Dallas and her husband, whose first name was not learned, according to a Baguio General Hospital spokesman.

The injury toll was expected to rise, hospital officials said.

Guests leaped from windows of the four-story government-owned Pines Hotel, and others were seen slipping from rescue ropes, officials said.

It was not known how many people were in the hotel, which was evacuated.

Reporters said the Americans were attending a convention of World War II veterans.

The hospital spokesmen said the other dead were a Filipino and a Chinese. All four had suffered chest injuries in leaping from windows.

## 14 DEAD, 51 HURT IN PINES HOTEL FIRE

before midnight Tuesday and raged until 6 a.m. yesterday.

The bodies were recovered from the fourth floor of the four-star hotel. They were charred beyond recognition. One was found slumped on the first step of the fourth-floor stair leading to the fifth floor of the hotel annex.

Four bodies found earlier were identified as those of Chen San Tao of South Korea; Hamilton and Lucille Cosnahan, 70 and 77 years old respectively, of Houston, Texas;

and Godofredo Latoaga, a Barkies Tours guide.

Firemen conducting mopping-up operations fear that more people may have perished in the six-hour fire.

A helicopter rescue team from Clark air base ended a dramatic rescue of nine hotel guests at 8:30 a.m. yesterday.

The guests, marooned on the top of the eighth floor of the Pines Hotel annex, were ferried in twos by two helicopters, deposited at the Burn-

ham Park football grounds, and brought to the Hospital of the Sacred Heart of the St. Louis University here by a Red Cross ambulance.

City councilman Bert Floresca, said the hotel had 330 guests in its 217 rooms.

Most of the guests were not readily accounted for because they moved to several other hotels in the city during the fire.

Initial estimates put the damage at about P50 million.

To Page 6



# Local attorney, wife narrowly escape Philippine blaze

By DOUG HITCHCOCK  
J-W Staff Writer

Nobody could fault Lawrence's James Postma if he doesn't visit the Philippines a third time.

Postma, a 68-year-old local attorney, first saw the islands in 1944 during the thick of World War II. Forty years later, back in the Philippines last week, he and his wife, Sally, 59, had to escape from a hotel fire that killed at least 26 people and injured more than 60.

"Every time I go to the Philippines somebody kicks the hell out of me," Postma said today. "I was wounded the first time around and this time my wife was wounded."

With the benefit of hindsight, the couple can now talk about the experience, even laugh about it. But it was no laughing matter when

they smelled smoke seeping beneath the door of their fourth floor room in the Pines Hotel, or watched flames licking at adjacent windows.

"While we were in the room, Sally told me we're going to die in this hotel," Postma said. "I said no, no we aren't. I don't know why, but I just knew we weren't going to die."

**THE POSTMAS** left for the Philippines Oct. 11 to take part in last weekend's 40th anniversary commemoration of the Allied landing on the island of Leyte, which led to the liberation of the Philippines from Japan.

The veterans were sightseeing in Baguio when fire struck the hotel just before midnight last Tuesday.

"We went to bed about 9:30. At about 11:30 Sally woke me up. There was smoke in the room and

there was a lot of shouting and people running up and down the halls.

"I thought it was guerrilla warfare at first," he said.

"At first when I woke up I thought there was some kind of party going on," she said.

They stayed in the room and kept the door shut. They put wet towels at the crack below the door to stem the smoke. After 10 or 15 minutes, the situation was too threatening to stay.

"**THE FIRE** was obviously getting closer to our room so we decided we'd better get out," he said. "Fortunately, there was a ledge outside our window, about 10 or 12 inches wide, it served as an eave. We climbed out onto that."

Soon, two other couples had joined the Postmas on the ledge, but they were separated by flames shooting out the hotel windows. They waited 30 to 40 minutes, "wondering what was going to happen next."

"There were lots of people on the ground taking pictures of us, which was somewhat disconcerting," he said.

Finally, someone in the crowd got a ladder and made their way up a series of canopies from the front of the building. There, they managed to extend the ladder to the fourth floor ledge.

**TO GET DOWN**, the Postmas had to go right through flames leaping out a window. She was hesitant, so he went first.

"Somehow I got around Sally and ducked beneath the flames," he said. "I just got singed, no injuries, but my wife got burned on the side of her face. First- and second-degree burns." Third-degree burns are considered the most serious.

The fire took nearly everything they had, except their passports and some traveler's checks.

"Nothing material seemed important," Postma added.

One of their tour guides, a Filipino, died in the fire, Postma said.

"He had left a pair of fine leather shoes inside and he went back to get them. He perished in there," Postma said.

From the hotel, the Postmas were taken to Clark Air Force Base where their injuries were tended. Military officials helped them get organized and on their way. They returned to Lawrence early Friday.

"When it was all over you began to quiver and shake," Postma said.

Two Americans are known to have died in the fire. Six other Americans are missing and presumed dead.

SAN CLEMENTE, CA

A2—The Daily Sun/Post Wednesday, October 24, 1984

## Nine from U.S. die, 36 hurt in hotel fire in Philippines

**BAGUIO, Philippines (UPI)** — Nine Americans attending the 40th anniversary of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's return to the Philippines were among 17 people killed in a fire that ravaged their hotel.

At least 51 people were injured, 36 of them Americans, officials said when the fire at the wood-frame Pines Hotel was brought under control nine hours after it erupted Tuesday night. None of the injured Americans — many of them elderly and infirm — was seriously hurt, they said.

"The Americans have all been accounted for," said Maj. Barry Glickman, a spokesman at the Clark U.S. Air Force base, where the injured Americans were airlifted.

"I was awakened by a knock on the door and all I saw was smoke," said Henry Callihan of Houston. "We had to get two roomboys to break down the door of a crippled

friend to get him out."

Lorraine O'Connor of Green Valley, Ariz., said she was amazed because despite escaping the flames "not a hair was singed." She said she did not recall hearing a fire alarm.

Firefighters found 13 bodies in the smoldering ruins of the four-story hotel in Baguio City, a mountain resort city some 125 miles north of Manila. Four bodies were recovered earlier.

Some of the dead and injured were hurt leaping from windows to escape the thick smoke and flames, hospital officials said.

The dead included Hamilton Cosnahan, 70, and his wife, Lucille, 77, of Houston, the Philippine News Agency said.

Glickman said seven more of the dead were members of an American Legion group. The U.S. Embassy in Manila was notifying

relatives and identities of the other dead were not released.

The government-run, Philippine News Agency said that along with the American delegation, 110 members of an Asian women's delegation and an undetermined number of tourists were in the hotel.

Glickman said the Air Force dispatched an H-3 Jolly Green Giant helicopter to hoist eight trapped guests who spent the night on the roof.

A C-130 Hercules transport flew from Clark to the civilian airport at Baguio with medical and general aid teams aboard and returned to base with the Legion group, Glickman said.

"We're going to make sure they get whatever they need. Some of them lost everything and they'll need clothes, passports and such," Glickman said.

### 2d American couple among Manila victims

Associated Press

**MANILA** — A second American couple has been identified as among the fatalities in a fire that burned down a mountain resort hotel, killing 23 people, the US Embassy said today.

An embassy spokesman, Mike Anderson, said the remains of Charles and Genevieve Delameter of Vacaville, Calif., were positively identified at the nearby US Clark Air Base. Earlier, the embassy identified Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton M. Cosnahan of Dallas as among the dead.

The Delameters were among 11 badly burned bodies which Filipino officials said were brought to Clark for identification after they were retrieved from the ruins of the Decades-old Pines Hotel in Baguio City, 125 miles north of Manila, which was destroyed by a fire last Tuesday.

# 9 From U.S. Among 17 Dead in Philippine Fire

BAGUIO, the Philippines, Oct. 24 (UPI) — The authorities today retrieved the bodies of more victims of a blaze that swept through a luxury hotel and killed 17 people, nine of them Americans visiting for the 40th anniversary of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's return to the Philippines.

At least 51 people, including 36 members of the American Legion tour group, were injured in the blaze, authorities said. The Pines Hotel, a wood-framed, four-story structure situated in this hillside tourist resort 125 miles north of Manila, was gutted.

"The Americans have all been accounted for," said Maj. Barry Glickman, a spokesman at Clark Air Force

Base, about 80 miles to the south, where the injured Americans — many of them elderly and infirm — were airlifted, along with unhurt members of the tour.

The conditions of the other injured people, some of whom were hospitalized in the Baguio area, were not known.

## Fire Burned Through Night

The fire broke out at about 11:30 P.M. Tuesday and burned through the night. Officials estimated that some 330 guests were inside the 423-room hotel at the time, including the American Legion group and a 110-member Asian women's delegation.

A number of the victims jumped from windows to escape the thick smoke and flames. Eight guests fled to the roof, where they were trapped for hours until being lifted to safety by a United States Air Force helicopter, officials said.

"I was awakened by a knock on the door and all I saw was smoke," said Henry Callihan of Houston. "We had to get two room boys to break down the door of a crippled friend to get him out."

The police said the fire appeared to have started in a fourth-floor room and might have been touched off by a broken light bulb. The cause was under investigation.

Thirteen bodies were taken from the fire-blackened ruins early Wednesday, but identification was not immediately available.

## One American Couple Identified

Four bodies were found Tuesday night, including those of an American couple identified as Hamilton Cosnahan, 70, and his wife, Lucille, 77, of Houston, the Philippine News Agency said.

Major Glickman said nine of the dead were from the 188-member tour of American Legionnaires and their wives, but declined to release other names until the United States Embassy in Manila could finish the process of notifying relatives.

United States officials said the American Legion tour group was in the country to attend ceremonies last weekend marking the 40th anniversary of the

landing of General MacArthur's forces on the island of Leyte to begin the liberation of the Philippines from the Japanese.

The Pines Hotel has been among the most famous in the Philippines and the grandest in Baguio, a city designed by an American architect based on the development plan of Washington, D.C.

## 17 die, 57 hurt in Pines hotel fire

By JOSE DACAWI

BAGUIO CITY — Seventeen persons died while 57 others were injured in a fire that gutted Pines Hotel here Tuesday night.

The fire, which started at 11:34 p.m. Tuesday, was initially reported to have been caused by faulty electrical wiring in Room 432. The fire raged until 8:30 a.m. yesterday.

Only five of the fatalities had been identified. They were Hamilton Cosnahan, a war veteran, and his wife, Lucille, both of Houston, Texas; Cheng Sheune Kao of Hongkong; Godofredo Latoga, a tourist guide of Sarkies Tours and Cecile Perez.

The other bodies were charred beyond recognition.

**POLICE SAID** more bodies might still be trapped in some of the rooms and elevators of the eight-story hotel.

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Three of the recovered bodies were believed to be those of delegates to the Asia Fiete regional women's conference.

**NINE OF** the injured were rescued from the top of the burning hotel by a helicopter team from the US air force in Clark and regional command 1 in Camp Dangwa.

Of the injured, 15 were taken to the Notre Dame Hospital and 13 others to the Clark Air Base Hospital in Pampanga.

Seventeen hotel guests were confined at the St. Louis University Sacred Heart Hospital while 28 were taken to the Dr. Efron Montemayor Medical Center.

**HOTEL OFFICIALS** could not give the exact number of people who checked in the 231-room hotel. Investigators said at least 180 hotel guests had been evacuated.

Some 180 Americans checked in at the hotel after attending the Reunion for Peace celebration in Leyte last week. They were part of the 200-strong American Legion delegation on a tour of Baguio organized by the tourism ministry.

## 9 Americans among 14 dead in hotel fire that also hurt 51

United Press International

BAGUIO, Philippines — Firefighters recovered 10 bodies today from a hotel destroyed by fire, raising the death toll to at least 14, including nine Americans in town for the 40th anniversary of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's return to the Philippines.

At least 51 people were injured, 36 of them Americans, officials said after the fire at the wood-frame Pines Hotel was brought under control nine hours after it erupted Tuesday night. None of the injured Americans was seriously hurt, they said.

"The Americans have all been accounted for," said Maj. Barry Glickman, a spokesman at the Clark U.S. Air Force base.

Firefighters found 10 bodies in the smoldering ruins of the four-story hotel in Baguio City, a mountain resort city some 125 miles north of Manila. Four bodies were recovered earlier.

Some of the dead and injured were hurt leaping from windows to escape the thick smoke and flames, hospital officials said.

The dead included Hamilton Cosnahan, 70, and his wife, Lucille, 77, of Houston, the Philippine News Agency said.

Glickman said seven more of the dead were members of an American Legion group.

The government-run Philippine News Agency said that along with

the American delegation, 110 members of an Asian women's delegation and an undetermined number of tourists were in the hotel.

Glickman said the Air Force dispatched an H-3 Jolly Green Giant helicopter to hoist eight trapped guests who spent the night on the roof.

A C-130 Hercules transport flew from Clark to the civilian airport at Baguio with medical and general aid teams aboard and returned to base with the Legion group, Glickman said.

# Essex couple injured escaping fatal fire in Philippine hotel

News American Staff and Wire Services

An Essex man and his wife were among the injured in a hotel fire in the Philippines.

Mildred and George Waggoner were in a fourth-floor room at the Pines Hotel when the fire broke out at about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, according to Elma Waggoner, the couple's daughter-in-law.

Firefighters Wednesday retrieved the bodies of the 17 victims of a blaze that swept through a luxury hotel in the resort of Baguio City, 125 miles north of Manila.

When George Waggoner, 62, couldn't open the door to the hallway, he tied bed sheets together and hung them out the window, his daughter-in-law said.

He escaped by climbing down the side of the building, she said.

But Mildred Waggoner, 56, fell 1½ stories while making her way

down the make-shift rope. She suffered six broken ribs and a broken leg, Elma Waggoner said.

She is resting comfortably in a hospital. She will not be released for two weeks, however, her daughter-in-law said.

George Waggoner, who survived the Pearl Harbor attack and served in the 24th Infantry, has a cast on one leg for a minor injury, she said.

Nine of the dead were Americans visiting for the 40th anniversary of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's return to the Philippines in World War II.

At least 51 people, including 36 Americans, were injured in the blaze that gutted the wood-frame, four-story Pines Hotel.

Police said the fire appeared to have started in a fourth-floor room and might have been touched off by a broken light bulb. The exact cause was under investigation.

## More bodies retrieved from Philippines blaze

**BAGUIO, Philippines** — Firemen yesterday retrieved the bodies of more victims of a blaze that swept through a luxury hotel and killed 17 people nine of them Americans visiting for the 40th anniversary of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's return to the Philippines.

At least 51 people including 36 members of the American Legion were injured in the blaze that gutted the wood-frame, four-story Pines Hotel in the Baguio tourist resort of Manila.

The injured Americans, many of them elderly or infirm, were taken to Clark U.S. Air Force base.

Police said the fire appeared to have started in a fourth-floor room and may have been touched off by a broken light bulb. The exact cause was under investigation.



# Yanks wept, prayed in killer hotel fire

**MANILA** — Americans who escaped a fire that engulfed their hotel said yesterday they wept, screamed for help and prayed during the blaze that killed 24 people.

Catherine Do Lembo, of Indianapolis, crawled on her hands and knees to a fourth-floor ledge during the midnight fire in the Philippines mountain city of Baguio on Tuesday.

Ernestine Grube, also of Indianapolis, leaped into the arms of a fireman.

Walter Kleinschmidt, 63, of Jacksonville, Ill., hobbled along on his cane, afraid he would trip and fall before escaping.

Two Americans were confirmed dead and 10 other Americans were missing and feared dead.

Officials said they had 14 unidentified bodies.

More than 60 people

were injured in the fire, which destroyed the four-story Pines Hotel, 125 miles north of Manila.

Most of the Americans were World War II veterans or wives of veterans who had come to the Philippines for last weekend's 40th anniversary of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's liberation landing.

# Couple escapes Philippines hotel holocaust

By STAN FREEMAN  
Union staff

SUFFIELD, Conn. — A Suffield woman was injured in a fire that killed four people as it swept a hotel late Tuesday in the Philippines mountain resort of Baguio where a group of U.S. World War II veterans was staying.

Clarys Kemp of Remington Street apparently suffered a broken ankle and a broken shoulder as she and her husband, Army veteran Arthur Kemp, made their escape down a rope of bedsheets and blankets from the fifth floor of the government-owned Pines Hotel, which was destroyed in the blaze.

"You just wouldn't believe it. People were running around and screaming. There was no way out," Kemp told his son-in-law Norman Roy, also of Suffield, during a telephone interview from the Philippines. Roy is photo editor of the Springfield Newspapers.

The veterans had returned to the Philippines to attend ceremonies marking Gen. Douglas MacArthur's return 40 years ago to liberate the country from Japan in World War II.

Two of those killed were a husband and wife from Dallas. They were identified in news dispatches as Lucille Cosnahan and her husband, whose first name was unknown. The other two dead were identified as a Filipino and a South Korean.

All four had suffered chest injuries apparently when they leaped from windows, Baguio hospital officials told the Associated Press.

Some 45 people were injured and nearly all were older Americans and some Japanese, many of whom had also returned to the island for the ceremonies, the hospital officials said.

The entire 423-room hotel was evacuated during the fire but it was unknown how many people were in the hotel at the time.

Kemp told Roy that hotel officials "weren't prepared" for a fire.

"There were only two stairways and both were blocked (by fire)," he said. "We had to break glass (windows) to get air. We tied towels and blankets together. Then we got a little rope and slid down."

Kemp said his wife, who was admitted to Notre Dame Hospital in Baguio for treatment, fell from the rope somewhere below the fifth floor where their room had been.

Baguio Fire Chief Lt. Col. Benjamin Villaneuva told the Associated Press the fire broke out at 11:34 p.m. on the fourth floor of the hotel.

Some 300 American World War II veterans traveled to the Philippines for the re-enactment Sunday of MacArthur's historic invasion of the Philippines 40 years ago that fulfilled his "I shall return" pledge.

The 25th Division at Schofield had been working closely with Gen. SCHWARZKOPF in arranging for a visitation by our homeward bound people as they were to pass through. Of course, it was all for naught.

The Division Commander had written:

"We would be delighted to support the 24th on 2 November 1984. We recently hosted over 300 members of the 25th for their 35th Reunion and will be able to duplicate some of the same events that we arranged for our returning warriors."

"Our current plans call for the Division Command Briefing to be given at the Officers' Club, a special display by members of the 19th Infantry, who will present a review of today's rifle squad, a demonstration of our Air Assault School and a tour of the post. Of course, visiting their old quads and an equipment display set up in the Gimlet Quad will be included."

"We've known about the 24th visit for some time. We look forward to supporting the veterans."

"Tropic Lightning - On the Road to Excellence."

Sad it is that this thoughtful conclusion to the trip was not to be.



WELCOME INTERFERENCE: Two Seahawk SH-70 cargo helicopters from Clark Air Base were called in by John Hay Air Base Commander Lt. Col. Eric W. Gillberg to rescue nine survivors marooned on top of the eighth floor. Hundreds of people gawked at the massive size of the Clark choppers which made the Baby Hueys of the PC Regional Command seem like babies. "nea



# THE GOLD ORE

The people's newspaper

1974 - 1984 No. 42

BAGUIO CITY, PHILIPPINES

October 27, 1984

## Search continues for missing Pines Hotel guests

THE SEARCH for casualties of the Tuesday midnight blaze which gutted down the Baguio Pines Hotel continues as the Baguio City Fire Department (BCFD) and the Investigation Division of the Baguio City Police Department (BCPD) are gathering samples to determine the cause of the fire.

City Fire Chief Lt. Colonel Benjamin Villanueva said the search for more charred bodies is continuing even as there are conflicting reports as to the actual number of fatalities.

Twenty-one bodies were reported found as of Thursday morning by search units of the city government and John Hay Air Base. Some bones found by a team led by F/Sgt. Gaspar Copes Thursday afternoon which seemed to belong to two couples were airlifted to Clark Air Base for possible identification. Eleven charred remains were earlier brought to Clark.

Col. Villanueva said the official count stands at 21 since the bones found Thursday afternoon might be remnants of bodies found earlier.

The BCFD and the BCPD Investigation Division Arson Section, on the other hand, are jointly conducting a probe into the cause of the fire.

Corporal Melencio Santos said they have conducted interviews of occupants of hotel rooms among them was a certain Mrs. Banzon who reported seeing sparks on the ceiling and hearing crackling sounds just before the fire started. An electrical expert was called from Manila to conduct tests, Cpl. Santos said.

Initial investigations tended to show an electrical cause but Col. Villanueva said they are not discounting the possibility of arson. . . but this would depend on findings," he added. Samples of ashes, charcoals and other debris from the place where the fire started at the fourth floor of the southwing of the hotel will possibly be sent down to the PC Crime Laboratory in Camp Crame for tests.

AFP Fire Marshall Brigadier General Primo Cordeta, Jr. and his deputy Lt. Col. Remigio De La Cruz came around Friday morning and inspected the surroundings of the hotel. Arson experts were reportedly with them but Lt. Col. Villanueva did not confirm this.

According to records, the fire was tapped in at 11:34 p.m. Tuesday evening. The fire was already spreading when the BCFD was called in since reports reaching the Gold Ore have it that some of the guests and a number of hotel employees tried to put off the fire. Extinguishers, however, were faulty thus some employees started to knock at the guests' rooms.

Three units of the BCFD initially responded to the alarm and were followed by the other eight units shortly after. John Hay Fire Chief Florentino David said they received the alarm around 12:00 midnight and sent two pumpers and a command pick-up to the fire scene.

The blaze was so massive that it spread faster than the firefighting units could contain it. When trucks left the scene to refill their tanks

from a fire hydrant near the UP Baguio Dormitory, the fire would spread to other sections of the hotel.

Further, the winds fanned the flames from different directions causing it to spread into almost all parts of the hotel at around 3:00 a.m. "This is the wind of death," retorted one onlooker.

The fire continued to rage up to around 8:30 Wednesday morning just as some nine survivors were being rescued from the top of the eighth floor by two helicopters from Clark Air Base.

The search for charred bodies commenced in the afternoon after the walls cooled down a little to allow teams to go around the fire ravaged hotel.

At the time of the fire, Pines Hotel with 220 rooms (181 rooms occupied) had the highest occupancy rate since the DBP took over last April. It had 310 guests or 77.67 % occupancy

Of the guests, 181 were US war veterans accompanied by three Filipino Tour guides belonging to the Reunion for Peace. They were separated by divisions -131 were with the 24th division and 50 with the 96th division. They came from Leyte to witness the 48th anniversary of the landing of Mac Arthur during the World War II. They came to Baguio for a sentimental visit.

### CASUALTY LIST

- Dead on arrival at the Efrain Montemayor Medical Center: Hamilton Cosnahan, 70 and wife Lucille, 77 of Houston, Texas; Cheng Sheung Kao, reportedly a Korean of Hongkong registry, Godofredo Latoga, Sarkies Tour guide.

- Charred bodies identified by their belongings: Cecille Perez, Crispina Cappal, Evelyn Evangelista, a Filipina reportedly Vice-President of the FIET; Alberto Cristobal DBP Security Office head; Sarazoni Devi and Cheng Yiong Ying both Malaysians and delegates to the Asian FIET Regional Women's Conference.

- Reported missing according to a Mr. Chua of the FIET: Sirkar Manjushree, Indian; Nor Hayati Btlawi, Salbiah Btdaud, and Winifried Chee Chiewha, all Malaysians and Betty Bascillo, Filipina. A certain Mrs. Hindle was also reported missing as her husband Don Hindle went around the hospitals looking for her.

- Eleven cadavers were airlifted to Clark Air Base for identification along with the bones of what seemed to be two couples. As of Saturday morning, John Hay authorities could not be reached to comment on whether Clark had already established identities of the charred bodies recovered. \*\*\* Nor Hayati Btlawi, a Malaysian was found at 4:30 p.m. Saturday.



# COUNTERPOINT

• PEPPOT L. ILAGAN



## An eyewitness report

• FELIX CABADING

THAT NIGHT of October 23, sometime before midnight, the casino patrons at Pines Hotel were told to leave because of a fire at the third or fourth floor. Nobody panicked. We calmly trooped out to the main entrance. Black smoke wafted to the main door and charred debris were falling at the little quadrangle. This suggested that the fire had already gutted up a great portion of the connecting wings of the hotel complex and was already eating up the front building. A guest in scant attire walked down the main stairway lugging a suitcase.

Two firetrucks from the Baguio City Fire Department arrived; no sirens wailing. One stopped in front of the left main building and the other drove to the back of the right building. Heavy smoke from the left building rose in the wind. Another firetruck was stuck near the swimming pool. A fireman dragged a hose and climbed up the main stairs. Not long thereafter he came out of the building; he had used up the water from his firetruck.

Outside, there were no measures at crowd control. A police patrol car came and went back. People gathered along the front road and gawked at the spectacle. It was drizzling.

Then angry orange flames took over the smoke and leaped out the windows of the leftmost rooms of the top floor. Occupants of the two rooms started breaking screens. A girl climbed out the window of her room above the main entrance and crawled down the roof's edge. She couldn't get down any further. It was sheer drop to the top of the hotel's entrance shed. As the fire got closer to her room she cried out, "Patay na ang kasama namin sa loob. Anong gagawin namin?" The people inside the rooms must have choked and passed out. The girl remained at the roof's edge.

It was now thirty minutes since the firetrucks arrived. No firemen's ladders to scale the building were in sight. A fireman with an oxygen tank trudged back and forth the hotel frontage, at a loss on what to do. There wasn't even a net for people from the roof to jump into.

Screams of "Diosko, mamamatay na kami rito." "What shall we do?" "We're choking up here." came from the building. At the crowd below Norberto Bello, a local businessman, drove his pick up to call the John Hay Air Base.

In the two extreme rooms of the right side building, the occupants opened their windows and smoke raced out of them. An elderly couple tied their sheets and gingerly made their way over their room's ledge toward the main entrance roof. The

front building rooms had no fire escapes. The woman made it to the roof sliding down the sheets. The old man did not. He slipped, fell to a concrete ledge some ten feet below and bounced further down to the awning. He rolled to the edge and almost fell over to certain death at the concrete pavement.

He half rose in pain. The crowd frantically shouted, "stay". He fell and lay back precariously at the edge. The pain he bore as he held himself still from falling and resist the temptation to move to a more comfortable rest was evident. He laid there for some thirty minutes. His wife at the roof pleaded to the helpless crowd, "Please help him".

Meanwhile, the firemen couldn't get the stuck firetruck out. It was the firetruck with a boom. The firemen were asking everybody to call for a bulldozer. A man in the crowd suggested the use of the other firetruck standing idly by and the crowd would help push. The firemen gave no reply. He suggested again that the firemen suction the water off the swimming pool. Again there was no reply. The fire raged on.

The hotel guests, shaken and shivering, some with barely nothing on but sheets wrapped around them headed for the buses near the exit security outpost but not without a glance or two back at the burning hotel. A major portion of the main building was already in flames.

It is to the credit of Dr. Francis Busacay and four others to have seen at this point the futility of waiting for somebody else to move. They took a ladder, had two vans park below the awning, climbed up them and pulled the ladder up using the vans' tops as piers. They managed to bring the old man slowly down and later saved the women at the entrance roof. The old woman was at first hesitant to leave the rooftop. Perhaps she thought her husband was dead. This brave crew raced with the fire. They ran to the back building, clambered up a firetruck, pulled up the ladder and held it in place for a trapped couple at the roof of the right side building. One of them saw a woman at the main roof barely moving. He climbed up, held on to the gutter but could not get himself up the roof. He hang on, dangling from the gutter, until the couple who carefully picked their way down the ladder were clear of it and another in the group went up, gave him a push, enabling him to manage a purchase of the roof. The fire was getting closer. It took some time for the rescuer to pry the woman loose from what held her. They took her down the ladder to the waiting firetruck which brought her to the hospital.

There was nothing more that could save the hotel and people yet inside from the fire.

One asks himself, could more people have been saved? The absence of fire escapes, untrained firemen, insufficient and ill-maintained firefighting equipment and other misgivings spring from the larger question: Do the authorities care? To Dr. Busacay and that brave group who dared, I hope that their courage will be given due credit.

I went home with disgust and despise in my heart. At Barangay Tabora, I passed by a firetruck watering up. What a waste.

## INSIDE BAGUIO

• EDNA ANTON



### Tuesday's Heroes

DISASTERS usually bring out the best in people, as we have seen in last Tuesday's tragedy which struck Baguio's well known landmark, The Pines Hotel.

The heroes in the drama were the nameless firemen, police and military who risked their lives to save hotel guests and employees from the blazing inferno. They were also the volunteers from the BB-PICAG who at the height of the conflagration pushed, carried and removed the cars from the parking area. They were the helicopter crews who plucked the survivors from the top of the burning building and brought them to safer grounds. They were the Red Cross volunteers who went the rounds of the hospitals looking after the welfare of the fire victims.

They were the doctors and nurses from various hospitals who worked round the clock saving lives and doing their best to ease all pains. They were the hotel employees who ran from room to room knocking on doors, waking up people and guiding them out of the burning building. They were the concerned citizens, who, upon hearing the news on Saranay patrol prepared hot coffee and sandwiches for the volunteers who worked non-stop until dawn of Wednesday.

They were the City Hall employees who came with their spades and hard hats to help in any way they could. They were the City Hall officials who coordinated the rescue operations and checked on various hotels in the city to establish the where-

abouts of guests who sought refuge. They were the Hotel personnel who took them in, and the John Hay employees who did the best they could to make them comfortable, since majority of the tourists had no luggage, proper clothing or money.

As the search for more survivors or victims continues, let us not forget the other victims of the hotel tragedy, the 320 or so employees who at this time of severe economic crisis find themselves without any income whatsoever. We know the Mayor has looked into this, and foremost in his priorities is finding employment for them.

Although this is a period of retrenchment for most hotels and restaurants, as the tourism business has been in the doldrums for many months now, we heard that members of the association are willing to take in a few more employees if only to tide them over until things settle down a bit. Perhaps the numerous civic clubs in the city, who for many years have patronized the Pines Hotel can also come up with something for the two thousand or so dependents who definitely face a bleak Christmas, this year.

As some people who were at the scene of the fire said, the employees were among those who worked hard that night trying to save the hotel, and there were tears in their eyes as the building was finally engulfed in flames. For us, it was the end of a landmark. For them, it was the end of a lifeline.

## The 6th column

BLACK WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 24 is definitely a date hard to forget.

While the rest of the nation was glued to TV and radio to follow the proceedings at the SSS building where the second and final installment of the Agrava Report would be read, those of us in Baguio were torn between which momentous event to witness. For simultaneous with the live media coverage of the Agrava Five-Minus-One Report was an unexpected tragic happening at the Pines Hotel which was transformed overnight into a raging inferno.

Thank technology for radios, many managed to keep up with both events, with ears tuned to the radio broadcast of the brilliantly written "majority" report with its classic of an epilogue, while eyes were focused on rescue operations particularly the breathtaking sight of the helicopter lifting up survivors trapped on the rooftop of the hotel's annex.

Talk about one advantage of having American bases in RP (sudden attack of foot-in-mouth disease for those of us who have been critical of their presence.) This time, nobody complained about "American intervention." It's exactly in emergencies like this where they show in no uncertain terms what good they are to us. They came

from John Hay, Wallace, and as far down as Clark Air Base. What our local units lacked, they complemented. Where we failed, they took over.

From what we're told, our local firefighting crew — hard as they worked — had to do without basic equipment like ladders. If this is true, perhaps our civic-spirited citizens can start donating basic equipment to our local fire department. What's the use of fancy fire-trucks if they're ill-equipped.



# A Lousy way to treat a hero

• GEORGE JULARBAL

NORMALLY, 31 year-old Ramon Matabang of the Philippine Commercial and Industrial Bank lives a quiet life.

He deals with people, being Executive Vice-President of the PCB Employees Union.

He was dripping with sarcasm about the service rendered him by doctors of the Doctor Efrain Montemayor Medical Center, formerly the Baguio General Hospital, as he talked in his bed at the Sacred Heart Hospital of the St. Louis University.

Bleeding on both arms, he was brought to the EMMC from Pines Hotel in the wee hours of Wednesday and the treatment he received was far from civil.

"Hugasan mo ang kamay mo," said the attending doctor in terms not very polite as he was brought to the emergency room bleeding. Then, just a few minutes after an injection of local anaesthesia on his arms, they started sewing him up. He objected, then transferred to the Sacred Heart Hospital. "Kaya ko naman ang magbayad a," he told the doctors.

He has reason to get mad. He saved seven Malaysian women from possible death at the height of the Pines Hotel fire, one of several persons whose heroic acts reduced the number of fatalities.

Matabang was in Baguio guiding several ASEAN delegates to a conference being held at the hotel.

Checking in shortly before midnight, he was awakened by shouts and cries. He looked out of his bedroom door on the fourth floor and saw smoke coming out of the elevator. He could not see any fire escape.

He ran out and knocked at doors, rousing hotel guests, including the Malaysians he was guiding. They all converged to his room, crying in desperation.

"The fire was probably spreading as my room was filled with smoke, and we had to get the towels, soaked

them with water, and put it on our noses to prevent suffocation," he said.

Desperately crying for help, they ran down to the ledge on the third floor. It was still too high to jump.

With his arms he broke the window panes and jumped to another ledge on the second floor. Rescue workers threw him a rope, which he was able to grab only on the ninth excruciating attempt because of the thick smoke.

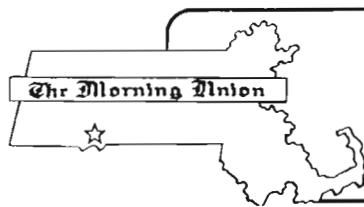
"Women first!" Cried the women when they saw him on the rope. He called back and told them that he was just testing the rope to check if they could jump from where it ended, a good 15 feet.

One of the women was identified as Cynthia Ramirez. She was also rescued.

The seven Malaysian women may not have time to thank Matabang. But like a true blue hospitable Filipino, he just proved that hospitality is beyond the call of duty.

He just rues the fact that he got lousy treatment by his own doctor-countrymen.\*

Our local paper played it thus upon the return of our neighbors, the Kems. We are thankful for their return and for the return of each and every one who escaped.



# Opinion

14 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1984

## Veteran survives war, fire

By DAVID LaCHANCE  
Union bureau chief

It has been more than 40 years since Arthur Kemp survived the first landing on the Japanese-held Philippines during World War II, and less than a month since a narrow escape from the same islands made him a veteran twice over.

Kemp, who lives in Suffield, Conn., recalled Saturday how he was one of hundreds of Army infantry troops who stormed ashore on the beaches of Leyte in 1944, and how a hotel fire during his return to the islands 40 years later nearly cost him and his wife, Clarys, their lives.

At dawn on Oct. 20, 1944, Kemp was aboard a small landing craft off the coast of Leyte, thinking about statistics.

"During basic training they told us that the statistics were, of four people (in the army), three go overseas, and of those three, one is killed, one is wounded and one gets through all right," he said.

So on that morning, Kemp was trying to remember all the precautions he had been taught, all the mistakes he had been trained to avoid.

His landing craft ran onto the sandy beach of Leyte, and, as the ramp at the front of the boat descended, Kemp and the others ran out onto the beach, their rifles ready.

"You've got to work in — you've got to make your way inland as fast as you can," he recalled from his



**No. I'm done. I don't hold it against the Filipinos, but I don't like hotel fires.**

**Arthur Kemp  
World War II veteran**



Union file photo

**Arthur Kemp, holds Philippine Liberation Medal awarded by the Philippine government during a reunion of his military unit in that country last month. His wife, Clarys, looks on.**

training. "You've just got to kill and get rid of the enemy in front of you — that's the whole idea. You certainly have mixed feelings going in there — most of us don't like to kill, but it's a situation where you've got to kill or be killed."

Kemp and the rest of the troops spent that first night in foxholes ("There's only one way to dig a foxhole — that's straight down and fast as hell"), trying, without much success, to get some sleep.

Kemp survived many nights in foxholes, and was still in the Philippines when the war ended.

Last month, the Kems were two of scores of Americans who visited the Philippines to celebrate the anniversary of the islands' liberation with parades and ceremonies. "The people there on Leyte were so

friendly, with open arms to the veterans," he recalled.

But late on the evening of Oct. 23, the couple's pleasant stay nearly became a disaster when a fire broke out in the government-owned Pines Hotel in Baguio, where they were staying.

Kemp said he and his wife tried to make their way down from their fifth-floor room by two stairways, but found both were filled with smoke. The two then made their way back to their room and made a futile try to block the smoke that was pouring around the door and through ventilation grills.

Seeing the window as their only escape, Kemp smashed the glass with a suitcase, and he and his wife began tying bedsheets together to make their descent.

Looking out the window, Kemp spotted a firefighter with a rope. He used the knotted bedsheets to haul the rope up to the window and, tying the rope to the window frame, helped his wife out the window and onto a small ledge.

They walked along the ledge to the end of the building, where they had to descend a rope to the roof of a four-story wing of the hotel. Mrs. Kemp lost her grip on the rope and fell, Kemp said, injuring her ankle and shoulder and suffering internal injuries. Kemp was unhurt, but had made a decision about the Philippines: that he would never go back again.

"No. I'm done," he said. "I don't hold it against the Filipinos," he continued, "but I don't like hotel fires."



## Tragedy in Philippines

# 'A Rendezvous With Destiny'

By MARK I. PINSKY, Times Staff Writer

Charles and June Clark, a Tustin couple now presumed to have died this week in a hotel fire in Baguio, the Philippines, were part of the generation that Franklin D. Roosevelt said had "a rendezvous with destiny."

The Clarks were staying at the Pines Hotel, which was gutted by fire Tuesday night, in a group of former U.S. military personnel who went to the Philippines to observe the 40th anniversary of the return of Gen. Douglas MacArthur to the islands during World War II.

Four other Americans are missing and eight are confirmed to have died in the blaze.

The couple's dental records have been sent by courier from Santa Ana to Clark Air Force Base, where the remains are being held.

"We are convinced they are gone," said Susan Gallant, one of the couple's two daughters, who was interviewed Friday in her Corona living room, surrounded by family members.

"We take a lot of consolation in the fact that they were together," said Mary Jo Davis, the other daughter.

The Clarks, Gallant said, "were Depression children" from large, neighboring families in Harrisburg, Pa., who met as young adults and "worked very, very hard all their lives."

By far the most important experience in the life of Clark, 66, apart from his family, was his experience as an infantryman in World War II. He joined the Army early enough to be at

Please see COUPLE, Page 13

Charles Clark, upper right, as he looked during World War II, and Mr. and Mrs. Clark pictured during an outing.



pression of the performance from a nearby kitchen stool.

"He was quite a student of war history," as well as a sports enthusiast, said Ann Stewart, an office secretary at Standard Register. She said that Clark, whom she had known for 20 years, was an excellent public speaker, adding that he

was scheduled to deliver his MacArthur speech to another community group next Friday.

"My father was a great teller of war stories," Gallant said, and one of his most devoted listeners was Gallant's older son, Jeremy. The boy, 13, sat next to his mother on their living room couch during the interview, fingering his grandfather's unit patch, a green taro leaf, and frequently interrupting to add details of Chuck Clark's wartime experiences. Less than a month before, Jeremy and his brother had discovered Clark's army footlocker in his Tustin garage and had persuaded their grandfather to open it and show them the contents.

### Fascinated by War

"Jeremy was fascinated by it all," Gallant said.

Clark also wrote, duplicated and distributed a poem entitled, "The U.S. Infantry," which paid tribute to "The blue-braided, downgraded, dogfaced" GI with "nothing in front of him but the front sights of his rifle and our enemies." At the time of his death, he was working on a projected television mini-series based on his wartime experiences.

In 1981, the Clarks traveled on their own to Honolulu to observe the 40th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Gallant said her father was upset that there was no plaque honoring his fallen buddies.

### Ran Into Old Friends

While there, Clark ran into some of his old friends from the 24th Division and kept in touch with them after he returned to Tustin. When he retired two years ago, the Clarks began to do more traveling, and some of this was related to his newly rediscovered army friends, the family said. They attended a division reunion in Atlanta, Ga., where Mrs. Clark rode for the first time in a helicopter.

Initially, Gallant said, her parents were not especially enthusiastic about joining the unit's "Reunion for Peace" in the Philippines, which was jointly sponsored by that government to commemorate the 40th anniversary of MacArthur's promised "return" to the shores of Leyte Gulf, at the head of invading Allied and American forces.

### Gradually Became Excited

But after discussing it with Clark's service friends and between themselves, Gallant said, "the more they talked the more excited they got" about the 15-day tour of old battle sites. The Philip-

## Los Angeles Times

# COUPLE:

Continued from Page 1

Schofield Barracks in Honolulu when Pearl Harbor was attacked and he served throughout the conflict with the 24th Infantry Division, earning the rank of sergeant.

"He was extremely proud to have served," Gallant said.

June Clark, 65, joined the Women's Army Corps (WAC), serving as a pharmacist's assistant in New Orleans and Baltimore until an attack of pneumonia forced a disability discharge.

The couple married after the war and, in 1952, moved to Tustin.

Eventually, Chuck Clark, as he was known, went to work in the sales department of the Standard

Register Co., a Fountain Valley firm that manufactures printed forms, and, with his wife, raised two daughters.

But over the years of quiet family life, Susan Gallant said, her father's thoughts continued to return to his years as a combat soldier in the Pacific. He persuaded her to name her second son after two buddies who had been killed at

Charles Clark 'was a devoted MacArthur fan.'

— Daughter Susan Gallant

Pearl Harbor, and memorized Gen. MacArthur's farewell speech at West Point, which Clark delivered

to Kiwanis groups in Tustin, Santa Ana and Laguna Hills.

Although the only Democrat in his Kiwanis Club for many years, "he was a devoted MacArthur fan," Gallant said, recalling that Clark was so taken with the speech that "he would stand at the kitchen counter and give it at the drop of a hat."

Her mother, June, was a homemaker "of the old school" who was a kindergarten assistant for the Tustin school system for several years after her daughters were in high school.

### 'Student of War History'

She was "a mother to all children" who had a great sense of humor, as did her husband. Often when Chuck Clark would launch into an impromptu MacArthur recitation in the kitchen, Gallant said, her mother would do a mute im-



## Fire in Philippine Hotel Kills 20; at Least 8 From U.S.

BAGUIO, Philippines (UPI)—At least six Americans were still unaccounted for today in a fire that destroyed a mountain resort hotel crowded with American Legion members, killing 20 people and injuring 67, officials said.

U.S. sources in Manila said at least eight Americans were confirmed dead but the number could go higher.

The reports contradicted earlier statements by U.S. military officials who had said all the members of a nearly 200-member American Legion delegation at the hotel were accounted for.

First reports said nine of the 20 dead were Americans. But this toll was later reduced to eight, with six still listed as missing.

The sources said there were at least six bodies burned beyond recognition that could be those of U.S. citizens.

The fire broke out late Tuesday at the historic wood-frame Pines Hotel, racing through its four floors.

The Legion members were in the Philippines to take part in last weekend's commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the World War II return of Gen. Douglas MacArthur.



United Press International

A rescue helicopter hovers over the burning Pines Hotel.

## Marcos, U.S. vets mourn fire victims

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Ferdinand E. Marcos joined American war veterans in prayers yesterday for the victims of a fire that swept through a Baguio resort hotel, killing at least 21 people. Twelve of the dead are believed to be Americans from a group of visiting World War II veterans.

Authorities lowered the known death toll from 24 to 21.

In an interview, Baguio Mayor Ernesto Bueno explained the change in the death toll, saying volunteer workers found three piles of ashes different in color from surrounding debris in the ruins of the city's Pines Hotel, and prematurely listed them as human remains without confirmation by chemical analysis. That confirmation is still pending.

More than 60 other people, mostly U.S. World War II veterans, were injured in the eight-hour fire that burned down the hotel, 125 miles north of Manila late Tuesday night. At least six Americans, three Malaysians and an Indian were reported missing.

Of the 21 bodies recovered, only 10 have been positively identified: those of Hamilton and Lucille Cosnahan of Dallas, Texas, five Filipinos, a Hong Kong resident and two Malaysians.

The 11 other bodies were charred beyond recognition, and 10 of them, believed to be those of Americans, were sent to U.S. Clark Air Base, north of Manila, for identification.

piners government struck special "Liberation Medals" to be presented to the veterans during their visit.

At Los Angeles International Airport, where the group of about 150 gathered, Chuck Clark made a point of introducing grandson Theodore Nicholas Gallant and explaining to his friends that he was named after their two fallen comrades. In postcards to various family members, some of which arrived after the fire engulfed the hotel, June Clark said the group was having a great time, especially the men.

"The irony of the whole thing is that he survived this battle in the Pacific," said Richard Gallant, Clark's son-in-law. "It almost makes you think that there are some things that are destined to happen."

"It's a tragic thing to go all through the war, Pearl Harbor and that," said Clark's longtime friend, Bailey Edgerton, "and have this happen."

SANTA ANA, CA

A4 The Register

Wed., Oct. 24, 1984

### BRIEFLY WORLD

## 2 Americans reported dead in hotel fire in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines — Fire raged through a luxury hotel in the northern resort city of Baguio for more than eight hours Wednesday, apparently killing an American couple from Texas and two other people.

Fifty people were reported injured.

Investigators said they had not determined the cause of the blaze, which began shortly before Tuesday midnight in the Pines Hotel, a six-story wooden structure in Baguio, 125 miles north of Manila.

A U.S. Embassy official said helicopters from nearby Clark Air Base were used this morning to rescue the last nine people trapped on the hotel roof.

An intern at Baguio hospital said the Americans — who he identified as Mr. and Mrs. Cosnahan of Dallas — were pronounced dead of suffocation on arrival at the hospital, and the other two died of chest injuries suffered when they jumped from upper floors.

The Pines, one of the Philippines' best-known resort hotels, included a government-run casino and several restaurants.

# Tustin couple among 14 people missing in Philippine hotel fire

From staff and news-service reports

BAGUIO, Philippines — A Tustin husband and wife were among 14 people still missing Thursday in a fire that killed at least 25 people in a hotel crowded with U.S. war veterans commemorating Gen. Douglas MacArthur's return to the Philippines in World War II.

U.S. sources in Manila said Charles Clark, 66, and his wife, June, 65, were among six missing Americans. The other missing Americans were identified as Charles and Genevieve Delameter of Vacaville, Joseph Llewellyn of LaGrange, Ill., and his brother, William Llewellyn of Western Springs, Ill.

At least eight Americans were confirmed dead in the Tuesday night fire but the number could climb, U.S. sources in the Philippines said. The report contradicted earlier statements by U.S. military officials that the nearly 200 American Legion members staying at the hotel had been accounted for.

The embassy identified two of the American dead as H.M. Cosnahan and his wife, Cindy, of Dallas.

Firefighters recovered more bodies from the debris Thursday, pushing the death toll to 25. Officials said many bodies were charred beyond recognition, confusing the identification process.

Sixty-seven people were injured in the blaze, including 36 Americans. The 36 were hospitalized briefly at U.S. medical facilities at Clark Air Base, 60 miles north of Manila. Officials said none appeared seriously hurt.

The Legionnaires were in the Philippines to participate in last weekend's ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of MacArthur's World War II return to the Philippines to liberate the islands from the invading Japanese.

Most of the American survivors returned to Manila today to await a trip home, officials said.

Kermit Blaney, 67, of Columbus, Ga., said he, his wife and a dozen others clambered from their fourth-floor window to an 18-inch ledge and edged sideways sitting down to where firefighters could reach them with a ladder.

"We were moving on our butts and praying," he recalled. "It seemed like an eternity. We were

yelling but the firemen couldn't see us in the smoke until we finally got to the other side of the building."

First reports said nine of the 20 dead were Americans. But other U.S. sources said today eight Americans were dead and six were listed as missing.

Eight people of other nationalities also remained unaccounted for. Sources said at least six more victims — burned beyond recognition — could be U.S. citizens.

The confusion apparently stemmed from the evacuation of some guests to other hotels, officials said.

Baguio Fire Chief Benjamin Villanueva said a preliminary investigation blamed the fire on a faulty electrical fixture. The hotel management raised its estimate of the damage to the colonial-style building, whose entire older portion was gutted, to \$15 million.

Officials estimated there were 330 guests in the 423-room hotel when the fire broke out late Tuesday at the historic wood-frame Pines Hotel and raced through all four floors.

Many guests jumped from windows to escape the flames.

Friends who were traveling with the Clarks told Gallant Thursday that they did not see the Clarks after both couples retired for the night in rooms across the hall from each other. The other couple escaped through a window when awakened by fire that engulfed the hallway, Gallant said.

According to The Associated Press, two Americans were confirmed dead and at least six were missing. Filipinos, Malaysians, and a Chinese from Hong Kong also were killed in the blaze that injured 60 and destroyed the Pines Hotel in Baguio.

The hotel had been full of American veterans there for a commemoration of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's return to the Philippines during World War II. The members of the 24th and 96th Infantry Divisions of the U.S. Army were honored at the presidential palace Friday.

Gallant said her father was very proud of his service in World War II. She and her sister, Mary Jo Davis, also of Corona, were taking a lesson from their father's spirit, Gallant said.

"We are his children and we have a job to do and we will do it," she said, her voice cracking. Despite the occasional falter, Gallant spent several hours Friday telling reporters about her parents.

Clark, 66, who was known as Chuck, was a World War II buff, an

avid golfer and sports fan, a retired salesman, a faithful Kiwanis club member. He was known for his regular appearances before service clubs delivering a famous Gen. MacArthur speech, his daughter said. He also had proposed an alternative method of deriving baseball batting averages, Gallant said.

Mrs. Clark, 65, a homemaker who never learned to drive, worked as a school secretary substitute and later as a kindergarten aide in the Tustin Unified District. She also loved golf and children, especially her four grandsons, Gallant said.

Clark, a native of Iowa, and Mrs. Clark, a native of Pennsylvania, met as youngsters growing up in Harrisburg, Pa., Gallant said. They married after the war.

"My mother was the backbone of the family," her daughter said. "She held us all together."

She said her father was a man with a great sense of humor. "We laughed a lot," she said.

"He was a very outgoing, very humorous type of person," said Don Gould, a close friend of the Clarks. "He loved life. He loved people."

Bailey Edgerton, a longtime friend and fellow member of the Santa Ana Kiwanis Club, said Clark was very well liked. He described him as "a brilliant con

versationalist. We'd always get a wisecrack from him."

Friends said Clark was well known for his faultless delivery of the MacArthur farewell speech he had memorized. He had been scheduled to deliver it Friday to the First Friday Friars Club in Santa Ana.

"Believe me, it really makes the goose flesh stand up," Edgerton said. "You thought he was MacArthur."

Gallant said her father had recently finished writing a screenplay for a World War II-era miniseries or film, drawn from his own life and his studies of the period. She said she and her sister hoped to find it and see if anyone was interested in producing it.

After retirement two years ago from a 27-year career at the Standard Register Co. in Huntington Beach, Clark and his wife began traveling. The family had never been wealthy, but thrifty habits had made their retirement comfortable, Gallant said.

Mrs. Clark had been hesitant to take the Philippine trip because it meant an 18-hour airplane ride and she disliked air travel, friends and her daughter said. But they left Oct. 11 and had planned to fly to Hawaii today and then return on Halloween.

"Finally, she did go and it was the last trip," Edgerton said.

Edgerton said it was ironic Clark might have died on a pleasure trip after surviving the devastation of Pearl Harbor.

"He was right at Scofield Barracks, right where it all happened and he made it through all the war and then to go to a reunion and get it," Edgerton said. "It hurts."



# Chicago architect, brother missing in Philippines blaze

By Bob Olmstead

A Chicago architect and his brother are among the missing in a fire that killed at least 25 people in a hotel crowded with U.S. war veterans commemorating Gen. Douglas MacArthur's return to the Philippines 40 years ago.

Fourteen people died after the Tuesday night fire in the hotel packed with nearly 200 American Legion members in Baguio. Eight U.S. residents

are among the confirmed dead, and six more are missing.

The missing architect is Joseph Llewellyn, 56, head of Joseph C. Llewellyn Co., 100 S. Wacker, a firm founded by his grandfather that has designed many area schools.

Llewellyn, of 141 N. La Grange Rd., La Grange, was traveling with his brother, William, 59, of Western Springs, who, as a GI, landed at Red Beach on Leyte during World War II. William

has worked for 34 years for Joseph T. Ryerson & Son, Chicago.

William's son, Kent, said the State Department had asked that dental charts of both men be sent to the Philippines to try to determine whether theirs are among the eight unidentified bodies.

"My dad was a member of the invasion force, in the 24th Division," said Kent, manager of a store in Calumet City.

"He attended reunions here every year, and when

he saw a pamphlet offering this trip, he was very interested. My dad had always wanted to go back.

"My uncle [Joseph] decided to go along with him because he hadn't really had a vacation since he took over the [architecture] firm from his father 10 years ago."

Kent said his mother, Sherry, did not want to make the Philippine trip, so instead she vacationed in Florida with her father. She has been reached and is preparing to return.

## Veteran escapes death second time in Pacific

By JANEEN CROWLEY  
of the Journal Star

WASHINGTON — A Sunnyland man narrowly escaped a fire that swept through a resort hotel in the northern Philippines and killed at least 17 people early Tuesday.

William Edwin Hartman, at the invitation of the Philippine government, was taking part in celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the U.S. Sixth Army's landing on Leyte Island in the central Philippines.

On Wednesday, he also celebrated his 66th birthday.

Hartman, a member of the 24th Division, was one of about 200 American World War II veterans and their wives who participated in last week's anniversary celebrations of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's return to the Philippines.

The fire erupted in Baguio City, about 120 miles north of Manila, at the The Pines Hotel, one of the Philippines' best-known resort hotels. It claimed the lives of at least two Americans — a couple from Dallas, Texas — and injured 60 people. Another 16, including seven more Americans, still were missing Wednesday nearly 24 hours after the fire broke out.

The fire was believed to have started on the fourth floor of the wooden building and apparently was caused by faulty electrical wiring, firefighters said.

A Pekin man, John Kriegsman, president of KMI Ware-

house, who was a major in the 77th Artillery Division, also was taking part in the Philippine celebration but was not staying in The Pines Hotel at the time of the fire. A nephew, Philip Kriegsman of Pekin, said his uncle had The Pines on his itinerary, but it had been crossed out and he apparently was staying in another city.

Hartman's wife, Kathleen, who stayed home, said she first heard the news about the fire after dining out Tuesday and upon arriving home. Her children had heard of the fire on the tail end of the evening news, realized that it was the hotel their father was staying in, and met their mother at her home. The Hartmans have four children, all living in the Peoria area.

By that time, however, Hartman already had called one of his sons to tell his family he was safe. Hartman then called his wife Wednesday morning.

Hartman told his family that he had a bag partially packed because he was going to accompany some of the other veterans on a side trip the next day. He stayed up a little later than usual and just around midnight in the Philippines he was in his hotel room preparing to go to bed when he became aware of the fire.

He grabbed his bag and left the hotel, but his wife was unsure how. His glasses, a shaving kit and some clothes that

were not packed were burned in the fire.

Kathleen Hartman said she thinks, by putting together parts of conversations her husband had with all the family members, that he was able to assist some of the other victims.

It's not the first time Hartman has aided others.

He received a Silver Star for gallantry while he was serving in the Philippines. According to his citation, on Feb. 17, 1945, the parachute regiment that had landed atop "The Rock" on Corregidor was badly in need of blood plasma and water.

"The road from the beach to the summit was known to be mined and to be covered by enemy machine guns and no vehicle had yet traveled it successfully. Fully aware of the extreme danger, Staff Sgt. Hartman voluntarily undertook to accomplish the dangerous trip."

After the hotel fire, Hartman was taken to the U.S. Clark Air Base, and he expects to continue with plans to visit Hong Kong and Hawaii before returning home about Nov. 6.

# Philippines typhoon kills 155, strands thousands

From Wire Services

MANILA, the Philippines — Typhoon Agnes, which pounded the central Philippines with 127-mph winds, has killed at least 155 persons, left 200,000 homeless and stranded others on the roofs of their flooded homes, government reports said yesterday.

**Typhoon Agnes flattened houses, caused neck-deep floods and knocked out power and communications.**

At least 48 persons were reported missing.

The typhoon hit 10 central provinces Monday. It flattened houses, caused neck-deep floods and



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Residents of Tacloban, on Philippine island of Leyte, salvage belongings from wind-felled homes.

knocked out power and communications, government reports said. Many rural towns were isolated. Bodies, apparently of drowned

fishermen, yesterday bobbed near the shoreline of Roxas, capital of Capiz province, the Philippine News Agency said.

Air force Brig. Gen. Avelino America, who flew on a relief mission to the most stricken areas, reported 100 persons dead in Roxas, on the northern tip of Panay island, and 24 killed on Leyte to the east.

Col. Victor Pagulayan, Philippines civil defense administrator, said he feared the death toll would increase once communication was restored to remote areas.

Colonel Pagulayan, who flew with air force authorities over the devastated areas, said about 80 percent of the houses in southern Capiz were either destroyed or damaged. "In Roxas City, from 40 to 50 percent of the houses were either destroyed or partially damaged," he said.

More than 1,000 people were killed and thousands more made homeless by Typhoon Ike in September. The worst-hit areas were in Surigao del Norte province, on the northeast tip of Mindanao island in the southern Philippines.

THE SUN  
WORLD

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1984



ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Rescue from a burning hotel

Fire fighters carried a boy from Manila's eight-story Las Palmas Hotel early today as flames swept its upper levels. At least five persons were killed — two of them in jumping from the building — and 14 were injured in the third major Philippine hotel fire in 16 days.

## Ferry sinks; 100 missing

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A ferry sank in storm-whipped seas, the coast guard said Monday, and more than 100 people were believed missing. The bodies of two children were recovered and 115 people were rescued. Authorities said the 700-ton M.V. Venus went down off Marinduque island at about noon Sunday.

## Philippine fires probed

MANILA — President Ferdinand E. Marcos ordered the military yesterday to look into what he called "intelligence information" that terrorists were responsible for two recent hotel fires in the Philippines. The fires killed 33 people, including several Americans. He said he ordered the investigation after receiving information that the fires were the "handiwork of urban terrorists."



# The Washington Post

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12

1 V



BY WILLIAM BRANIGAN—THE WASHINGTON POST

Statues recall Leyte invasion. At left, President Osmeña and MacArthur. In the center is Carlos Romulo.

## Veterans Mark Leyte Battle

### *MacArthur's 'Return' to Philippines to Be Reenacted*

By William Branigin  
Washington Post Foreign Service

TACLOBAN, Philippines—To Vicente Sydiongco, the first shells sounded like thunder. It was Oct. 20, 1944, and a typhoon had struck the central Philippines island of Leyte the night before. Then Sydiongco heard the secondary explosions, and he realized this was no typhoon. He knew then that, true to the promise of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the Americans had returned.

Capt. Paul Austin of Fort Worth, Tex., was one of those Americans who hit the beaches of Leyte Gulf 40 years ago as part of MacArthur's drive to recapture the Japanese-occupied Philippines and split Tokyo's World War II empire in half. The operation, the general wrote later in his memoirs, would become a springboard "for the final assault on Japan itself."

Austin's unit came under heavy Japanese artillery and machine-gun fire that day as the Americans established their beachhead, but the hardest fighting was yet to come. Austin, then a company commander, would later lead a bayonet charge and engage the Japanese in hand-to-hand combat.

Today, he and about 400 other veterans from the United States, Australia and Japan gather

here with Sydiongco and thousands of Filipino veterans to mark the 40th anniversary of the Leyte landing.

For the Americans it was "A-Day," a day of triumph for MacArthur and the culmination of a 1,500-mile seaborne jump by about 200,000 troops that has been described as one of the most daring amphibious operations ever conceived.

It was also the prelude to what American historian William Manchester has called "the greatest naval battle in history," the Battle of Leyte Gulf, in which an American armada routed the Japanese fleet a few days later.

By the time it was over, the Japanese had lost four aircraft carriers, three battleships, eight destroyers, six heavy cruisers and three light cruisers in an unsuccessful bid to trap and bombard the American landing force. By comparison, the U.S. naval forces under Adms. William Halsey and Thomas Kinkaid had lost one light carrier, two escort carriers and three destroyers in the battle, which had involved a total of 282 warships on both sides.

For the Japanese, Manchester wrote, "Leyte had been a catastrophe." They lost 65,000 crack troops, the backbone of their fleet and virtually all of their Air Force except for kamikazes,

which made their debut during the Philippine campaign.

In commemoration of the events at Leyte, veterans of the U.S. 96th and 24th divisions, Australia's Allied Land Forces and the Japanese 16th Division will tour battle sites, lay wreaths to honor their fallen comrades and watch a joint amphibious landing exercise by combined units of the U.S. and Philippine armed forces.

MacArthur's landing, in which he waded to shore accompanied by Philippine President Sergio Osmeña and top generals and aides, is to be reenacted with an American officer playing the part of the U.S. commander in the Pacific, who died in 1964.

Vice Adm. James Hogg, the commander in chief of the U.S. 7th Fleet, has been chosen to represent the Pentagon at the ceremonies.

According to James Hofrichter, 63, one of the organizers of the veterans' trip here, more than 180 U.S. officers and men who fought in the Philippines are taking part in the ceremonies.

Many American veterans feel the Leyte landing anniversary has been overshadowed by the commemoration earlier this year of the 40th anniversary of the Allied invasion of France at Normandy beach that helped defeat Nazi Germany, Hofrichter said. But the memories of the U.S. Pacific theater veterans are no less vivid, and the suffering of many of them at the hands of the Nazis' Japanese allies no less real.

Conversations this week with 10 American veterans who fought under MacArthur also show that forgiveness does not come easy. Some want nothing to do with the Japanese veterans here and never have reconciled themselves to the postwar partnership between the United States and Japan.

"When I'm over here and I think about the buddies I helped bury on Leyte, I can't help it," said James Frederick, 59, of Arlington, Tex. "It's still embedded in my mind."

Filipinos also suffered severely, especially after MacArthur began his drive to recapture the Philippine





BY DAVE COOK—THE WASHINGTON POST

Islands and was welcomed by the populace as a returning hero.

According to Manchester, nearly 100,000 Filipinos were murdered by rampaging Japanese troops in Manila after MacArthur's forces put the Philippine capital under siege. Hospitals were set afire, women of all ages were raped and even babies were mutilated or slaughtered by the Japanese, he wrote.

## *Some American veterans never have reconciled themselves to the postwar partnership between the United States and Japan.*

When the siege ended, Manila lay in ruins. Of allied cities during World War II, only Warsaw suffered greater devastation.

"The young people of today don't know about that anymore," former foreign minister Carlos Romulo said in a recent interview. "They don't know what we went through."

Romulo, now 85 and in poor health, was with MacArthur on the small fortified island of Corregidor at the entrance to Manila Bay in March 1942 when the U.S. general, facing capture by the Japanese, left the Philippines with the promise, "I shall return."

Then a young brigadier general, Romulo also accompanied MacArthur during his triumphant landing at Leyte. Like many other Filipinos, Romulo still reveres the U.S. general. Today his figure can be seen behind MacArthur's in a group of statues that form a monument to the Leyte landing at the stretch of shoreline code-named "Red Beach" near Tacloban.

"I had bought a pair of boots in San Francisco to wear upon my entry in the Philippines," Romulo recalled in the interview at his Manila home. "But I didn't know MacArthur would make us jump in the water and make all of us wade. My main worry was my new boots." The boots are now in a museum.

Romulo, who stands about 5 feet tall, also recalled the joke of an American columnist at the time that if it were true MacArthur waded into waist-deep water with Romulo behind him, then Romulo must have drowned.

Another who remembers that landing is Col. Lee Telesco, an American intelligence officer who arrived on Leyte by submarine two weeks before MacArthur. He now serves as a senior executive in a large Philippine corporation. His most vivid memory, he said, was the "massive firepower of the more than 600 ships of MacArthur's fleet as they bombarded Red Beach" before the landing. When the troops came ashore, he said, he and his comrades among the Philippine resistance guerrillas wept tears of joy.

One of the guerrillas, Silverio Vergara, now a 61-year-old worker at a Tacloban ice plant, recalled that overjoyed Philippine civilians ran down to the beaches to help pick up the wounded while the outnumbered Japanese retreated inland to Buga Buga hill to make a last stand.

"After all the killing by the Japanese, we were liberated by the American forces," Vergara said. "The new generation doesn't understand, but the Filipinos who were there can never forget what happened."



"Maggie" PEYTON at the American Cemetery.

When it came to reporting the tragedy at Baguio and/or the trip in general, we just couldn't. We have written the story at least a dozen times -- and have been ashamed of every pass at it. Have torn each to shreds and tried anew. We simply cannot rise to the occasion. We beg of you to understand -- and to accept these clippings as a substitute.

In all of this, we found in our files this item sent in to us by poor BILL LLEWELLYN some years ago. We are pleased that we had saved it:

"Written on board ship prior to 2nd landing on Luzon (Zambales Province) February 1945.

### BEACH HEAD

Across the water the moonlight's glaze,  
In contrast to the cannon's blaze,  
Battleships, cruisers, destroyers  
banding,  
To pave the way for another landing.

At dawn, the first wave heads towards shore,  
Followed closely by two, three and four,  
The beach looks mighty far away,  
As you move forward midst the spray.

As the first wave hits the sand,  
Five, six and seven head towards land,  
With mortar shells dropping all about,  
You really sweat the beachhead out.

Amid fire and confusion comes a shout,  
"Aid man, aid man, get this man out!"  
And later as newspapers play it in glory,  
You know that most of it is an untold story.

William T. Llewellyn, 34th"

Chaplain JOE and Margaret PEYTON visited the American Cemetery in Manila on the 40th anniversary trip and found 9 gravesites. As you may know, all that appears on the marker are the name, rank, unit and date of death. Joe found these:

Pfc. JAMES M. COLLINS	34th	10-21-44
Pvt. JAMES W. SULLIVAN	21st	5-03-45
Pvt. JOHN L. ERNST JR.	21st	11-06-44
Pvt. WILLIAM ROCKHILL	19th	10-20-44
Pfc. STANLEY S. SMAGAI	21st	5-08-45
S.Sgt. JOSEPH H. STUKE	21st	6-04-45
Pvt. RICHARD J. KILCOYNE	19th	11-27-44
2nd Lt. MERLIN H. WARD	21st	6-20-45
Pfc. EDISON E. THOMPSON	19th	10-23-44

We hardly need add that sainted Joe said a few prayers for these gallant men. He wouldn't forget!!

# 40 Years Later, Memories of MacArthur's Return

By STEVE LOHR

Special to The New York Times

PALO, the Philippines, Oct. 17 — It was 40 years ago Saturday that Gen. Douglas MacArthur honored his famous pledge — "I shall return" — by landing here with 200,000 troops.

Today this palm-fringed beach is a picture-postcard version of tropical calm as local children play in the surf and the horizon is dotted with a few fishing boats against an azure sky.

But on A-Day, Oct. 20, 1944, this portion of the eastern shore of Leyte island, code-named Red Beach, presented a very different picture.

"As we came into the beach, there were shells exploding all over the place," recalled Paul Austin, an infantry commander who came ashore in the second wave of the landing.

## A Direct Hit

Mr. Austin, now a 63-year-old resident of Fort Worth, said he remembered hearing a tremendous noise behind him. Looking back he saw the aftermath of a direct hit on a landing craft by Japanese shelling.

"Just helmets floating in the water," he said. "I'll never forget that."

Yet most of the casualties that morning and in the weeks of fighting that followed were on the Japanese side. The combat ashore, combined with the sea battle in the Leyte Gulf, was a turning point in the Pacific campaign of World War II. It was Japan's last gasp, its final effort to stop the island-hopping Allied advance toward Tokyo. Without control of the Philippine archipelago, the Japanese would be denied access to the oilfields of Indonesia, the lifeblood of the Japanese war effort.

## All-Out Japanese Drive

Because of the landing, the Japanese imperial headquarters launched an all-out drive by its navy, army and air force to prevent MacArthur from establishing a solid base in the Philippines. Thus the Leyte Gulf became the scene of one of the great naval battles in history.

Both on land and at sea, Japan lost decisively. Its air force and navy were hobbled, never again to present a serious threat to the Allied forces.

Still, for all its historic significance, the ceremonies to mark the 40th anniversary of A-Day will be modest, certainly compared with the fanfare in France last June for the commemoration of the Normandy invasion, which was attended by President Reagan, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President François Mitterrand.

The Leyte anniversary this year, however, will be the most ambitious of the observances held here annually since 1948. About 400 American, Filipino and Australian veterans and their families will watch a scaled-down reenactment of the amphibious landing on Red Beach.

## Strategy and Execution

The invasion of Leyte, military experts agree, was brilliant both strategically and in its execution. But the landing and the sea battle were filled with confusion, happenstance and near-tragedy for the American forces.

On the evening of Oct. 19 MacArthur loaded his father's derringer and shoved it into his hip pocket, to assure that he would not be taken alive. At dawn the next morning, United States warships began firing on the beach. The Japanese were surprised at first by the Leyte attack; they had expected MacArthur to try for a foothold on the southern island of Mindanao. Still,



Associated Press

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, center, wading ashore with his aides at Leyte island, the Philippines, on Oct. 20, 1944, to fulfill his famous promise to return.



Japanese resistance was fierce, especially from fighter planes.

Four hours into the invasion MacArthur climbed into a landing barge with his staff and a few foreign correspondents and then picked up the exiled Philippine President, Sergio Osmeña, and Gen. Carlos P. Romulo from a nearby transport ship. The group headed for the beach, where MacArthur intended to dock and step ashore dry and unruffled.

But about 50 yards from the shore, they ran aground. This minor miscue was responsible for one of the most famous photographic tableaux of the war: MacArthur wading ashore at Leyte, all set-jawed determination and grit. More likely, according to William Manchester, the author of "American Caesar," a biography of the general, is that MacArthur's flinty scowl reflected his anger at the landing craft captain who, when his boat hit bottom, shouted, "Let 'em walk."

## Vivid Recollections

In Tacloban, the provincial capital, a few miles from Red Beach, residents vividly recall that day. Uldarico E. Mate, the 55-year-old Vice Mayor, remembers climbing out of his underground hiding place and seeing American soldiers crouched behind a tank, guns at the ready, coming down the street. "I will never forget that sight," Mr. Mate said. "It was beautiful."

For months, American submarines had been clandestinely dropping off cigarettes, chewing gum and chocolate with the wrapping bearing MacArthur's likeness and his promise, "I shall return."

"We all had faith that MacArthur and the Americans would return," said Roque Yutango, a 58-year-old physician and city council member.

A cluster of Filipinos had gathered on the beach to greet MacArthur, recalled Mr. Romulo, who was later Foreign Minister.

"It is impossible to adequately record the joy of the Philippine people at MacArthur's return," he said. "The people who met us at the beach, with tears in their eyes, some of them starving skeletons in rags, saw the Americans as a godsend."

But all that kept the Japanese fleet from prevailing in the naval battle that ensued, Mr. Manchester writes, was confusion.

Vice Adm. Takeo Kurita, misreading some American aircraft movements and two intercepted messages, mistakenly thought Adm. William F. Halsey's Third Fleet was about to trap him in-

side San Bernardino Strait. So Admiral Kurita turned and fled. As it happened, the Third Fleet had been drawn out of the strait by a decoy flotilla and was three hours away. The strait was unguarded.

In the four-day naval battle in the Leyte Gulf, the American side lost three destroyers, two escort carriers and one light carrier. The Japanese lost eight destroyers, three light cruisers, six heavy cruisers, three battleships and four carriers. The battle involved 282 ships, compared with 250 at Jutland in 1916, according to Mr. Manchester.



They're getting close. Note the helicopter. Don't remember a single one 40 years ago, do you?



# 40 years ago, MacArthur kept promise to Philippines

By Bob Sexter  
Los Angeles Times

TACLOBAN, Philippines — He returned. He came back with 200,000 fighting men and an armada of more than 700 ships. Before it was over, they would plunge headlong into one of the war's greatest naval engagements — the battle of Leyte Gulf — and Japan's fate would be sealed.

But on that morning of Oct. 20, 1944, the ships hurling fire onto the Japanese fortifications and the troops storming the palm-fringed beaches of Leyte Island seemed to be no more than bit players in a drama without parallel in World War II.

All else was overshadowed by the imposing figure of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the vain but brilliant American commander who had been driven out of the Philippines 31 months earlier. After escaping in a torpedo boat to Australia, he promised, "I shall return," and his words became a rallying cry for the 180,000 men and women of the Philippine resistance.

With a pistol in his hip pocket and a fiery scowl on his face, MacArthur waded ashore in knee-deep surf, and the moment was captured in one of the war's memorable photographs.

By the thousands, Filipinos had braved the naval barrage and sniper fire to greet the invaders, but when MacArthur appeared an eerie silence fell over the crowded beach as the awestruck people stared in reverence at the man who had become their symbol of hope.

"People of the Philippines, I have returned," he barked into a Signal Corps microphone, broadcasting a stirring call to arms. "The hour of your redemption is here. . . Rally to me. . ."

"Let no heart be faint. Let every arm be steeled. The guidance of divine God points the way. Follow in his name to the Holy Grail of righteous victory."

MacArthur's return helped sound the death knell for the Japanese empire, but the American public, preoccupied with the four-month-old Allied invasion of Europe, took relatively little notice.

It was a familiar story. Before the United States got into the war, U.S. political and military leaders watched warily as Nazi Germany overran most of Europe but ignored pleas from MacArthur, who at the time was the local military commander in the Philippines, for additional strength in the islands, then an American territory.

Even after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the U.S. surrender of the Philippines five months later, Allied strategy concentrated on Europe.

Frustrated by his countrymen's seeming indifference to the plight of the Philippines, a top MacArthur aide complained that most Americans "don't know whether the Philippines is a country or a canned fruit."

The attitude persists.

In June, President Reagan joined British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and French President Francois Mitterrand on a beach in Normandy to commemorate the 40th anniversary of D-Day in France.

But for today's celebration of A-Day, as the Leyte invasion was designated, the highest-ranking U.S. officials will be the ambassador to the Philippines and the commander of the Seventh Fleet.

About 400 Australian and American veterans of the invasion who have returned for the festivities will witness a re-creation of the landing by Philippine and American troops on a beach that has been much transformed.

Larger-than-life iron statues of MacArthur and his landing party stand on the spot where they came ashore. The memorial is situated in a pool equipped with a wave-making machine.

Today's placid setting belies the strategic importance of the battle and the critical nature of the Philippines to the war's outcome.

Control of the 7,100 islands that make up the Philippine archipelago meant domination of the sea lanes between resource-poor Japan to the north and the oil fields of Indonesia to the south. Without the Philippines, Tokyo would soon be cut off from its principal source of fuel and food.

MacArthur, who had spent years in the country and enjoyed wide respect, began planning his return even before he left.

Soon after the Japanese invaded the Philippines in December 1941, MacArthur withdrew his badly outnumbered Philippine and American troops to the Bataan Peninsula and the nearby island fortress of Corregidor, called "the Rock," in Manila Bay. They held out there for months against a Japanese siege.

But in March 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered MacArthur to leave the remnants of his troops and take command of the Allied army forming in Australia.

Before departing, MacArthur and his staff mapped out strategy to keep Philippine morale from sagging once the inevitable surrender took place. The group had all but settled on a plan to airdrop cigarettes, chewing gum and other supplies marked, "We Americans will not let you down." But objections were voiced by Carlos Romulo, one of MacArthur's Filipino aides who would later become the country's foreign minister.

"You can't say that," Romulo, now 85, recalls telling the Americans. "No help came for our soldiers on Bataan. The Filipinos have lost faith. That will mean nothing to them. But if MacArthur says, 'I shall return,' that will be different. The guerrillas will continue fighting."

From his base in Australia, MacArthur launched counterattacks in the rain forests of New Guinea, substituting bold and imaginative stratagems for brute force. He picked through stiff Japanese defenses with casualty rates far lower than those suffered by the Allies in the European theater.

Meanwhile, a separate force of Marines and sailors east of the Philippines and New Guinea and under the direction of Adm. Chester Nimitz and Adm. William F. Halsey carried out a

series of fierce battles for islands and atolls with unfamiliar names like Tarawa and Kwajalein.

That force and MacArthur's troops eventually converged near the Philippines, and the combined Army and naval units were left under a split command structure to soothe egos. It was a decision that had near-fatal consequences at Leyte.

Initial plans called for an assault first on the large southern island of Mindanao before moving up the chain to Leyte and then on to the real prize, the northernmost island of Luzon, with its excellent ports, airfields and the capital, Manila.

But in early September, Halsey, commander of the Third Fleet, reported that his scout planes had found Leyte to be lightly defended. The Mindanao landing was scrapped, replaced by plans to come ashore just south of Tacloban, Leyte's provincial capital.

MacArthur assembled his force at Hollandia, his headquarters in New Guinea, and set sail for his target more than 1,000 miles away. The voyage took seven days and eight nights to reach the objective.

Before dawn on Oct. 20, U.S. ships began a massive artillery barrage to soften the invasion beaches spread out for 19 miles.

Late in the morning, MacArthur left his headquarters ship, the cruiser Nashville, for the historic trip ashore. He packed a pistol in his pocket, the first time aides had ever seen him armed.

Fifty yards from shore, their landing craft scraped to a stop on a sandbar.

According to William Manchester, MacArthur's biographer, the naval beachmaster was too busy to direct the general's party to the beach and growled, "Let 'em walk." MacArthur did, wading through the water in a scene captured by photographers.

The scene on land was not what the invaders had expected. Enemy air activity was heavy, but more of a problem was the crowd of joyous Filipinos who braved the naval bombardment and sniper fire to greet the returning Americans. On that first day, Army medics treated more Filipino casualties than GIs.

"Their ribs showed through their rags," recalled Romulo, the MacArthur aide. "Their eyes were pits of

suffering. The American flags they waved were gripped in hands like the claws of birds."

MacArthur strode around the beach, ignoring snipers, stopping frequently to relight his corn-cob pipe, and even pausing to write a letter to Roosevelt before taking the microphone for his now-famous speech.

Meanwhile, Tokyo dispatched the main Imperial Navy force from Singapore, to the southwest of the Philippines, and split it in two.

The larger and more powerful element, under the command of Vice Adm. Takeo Kurita, was to head for San Bernardino Strait, northwest of

Leyte, and steam around the island of Samar toward MacArthur. The second element, under Vice Adm. Teiji Nishimura, would approach from the south through Surigao Strait.

The key to the Japanese plan was a third element, a decoy, composed mostly of crippled and undermanned aircraft carriers, sent from Japan to lure American strength away from one of the two straits and facilitate a breakthrough for either Kurita or Nishimura.

This force lay out in the Pacific, several hundred miles northeast of Leyte, and did everything it could to call attention to itself.

The American defense plan was flawed. Because of the split in commands, Adm. Thomas Kinkaid's Seventh Fleet, which guarded Surigao Strait, was under MacArthur's control, while Halsey's Third Fleet, protecting the San Bernardino flank, was answerable to Nimitz in Honolulu.

On the morning of Oct. 25, three major sea engagements broke out in an area that extended over 600 nautical miles. In the south, Kinkaid's forces corked the strait and mauled Nishimura's fleet. All but one Japanese ship was sunk; the Americans lost none. Nishimura drowned.

In the north, the story was different. Impatient at the slow pace of developments, Halsey took the bait and steamed off after the decoy fleet, failing to coordinate his movements with Kinkaid or MacArthur.

By the time the other American commanders realized what had happened, Halsey was 350 miles away and starting to attack the helpless decoy. At first he ignored Kinkaid's frantic pleas to turn around, finally doing so only on orders from Nimitz.

Meanwhile, Kurita was closing fast on his objective of Leyte. To his surprise, Kurita had found San Bernardino Strait wide open. All that stood in his path was a screen of



The simulated landing 10/21/84. Not quite the same as the real one.

Webster says of "hodge-podge" -- a heterogeneous mixture, jumble. He might have added "mess." This issue is a hodge-podge. We warned you: we were resorting to news clips -- in self-defense.



So this is Red Beach today!!!

Arriving at Leyte with President Marcos and First Lady Imelda for the 40th celebration was Gen. Fabian C. Ver, the army C/S, who shortly thereafter was to be named in the long-awaited report of the civilian inquiry commission as being a participant in the August '83 murder of the popular opposition leader, Benigno Aquino.

destroyers that dodged and weaved and even attacked the much larger Japanese force.

After a few hours, the badly damaged American ships moved off. MacArthur's beach head, only 30 miles away, lay open to Kurita's big guns.

Then occurred one of the strangest -- and for the Americans, luckiest -- miscalculations in the history of naval warfare. Although Halsey was still hours away, Kurita wrongly assumed that the American admiral had long since turned around and was ready to pounce. Instead of attacking MacArthur, Kurita turned and withdrew through San Bernardino Strait.

The Battle of Leyte Gulf, which involved 282 warships and more firepower than had ever been, or has been, unleashed at sea, ended with a whimper.

It took MacArthur until February 1945 to battle to Luzon and retake Manila. Although the fighting continued for islands to the north, many historians believe the knockout punch was delivered here.



Ad libs JOE PEYTON: Bridge at San Jose. Look what they've accomplished in 40 years.



# JIM POSTMA's letter says much:

Law Offices Of  
JAMES L. POSTMA and JOHN W. NITCHER

Suite 501  
First National Bank Tower  
P.O. Box 507  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044-0507

(913) 843-4321

XTC JL

November 9, 1984



ERNIE and Alberta HICKS on "The Rock." Both injured in the fire. Sat on a ledge for almost an hour, surrounded by smoke and flames. Lucky they made it. Photo by Joe Peyton.



Our photographer and Margaret at the entrance. Looks like CHARLEY and Genevieve DELAMETER right behind Maggie.



Marker honoring the 503rd who dropped onto Topside and the 34th who came ashore near the Malinta Tunnel entrance. Photo by Joe Peyton.

Mr. Kenwood Ross  
120 Maple Street  
Springfield, Massachusetts 01103

Dear Ken:

I appreciated your call Friday afternoon, October 26, 1984, the day we had returned from the Philippines.

I enclose clippings from the Lawrence Daily Journal-World, dated October 27, 1984 reporting our account of the fire, and from California newspapers, sent us by Mrs. Gates Burrows, a cousin of my wife's, concerning Charles and June Clark of Tustin, California, who died in the fire; also, copies of pictures of the hotel, from various angles, published in the Manila paper. [We locate our room in the picture above the caption "Fatal Fire" as being the left corner room on the fourth floor. We escaped by following the ledge to a ladder extended from the roof between the second and third floors extended from the center portion of the hotel.]

The deaths of the Clarks, Godofredon Latagan, Joseph and William Llewellyn, Charles and Genevieve Delameter, and H.M. and Cindy Cosnahan, and others whose names I do not have, have diminished our lives.

I will never forget the recitation by Chuck Clark of his poem "The U.S. Infantry" which he gave at the dinner for the 24th Infantry veterans and their wives in Tacloban October 18, 1984, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Vincente Syndiongco. It was a most dramatic and eloquent presentation. The audience listened in hushed silence, a silence which continued for a moment after Chuck had completed his presentation; a silence which was ended with a thunderous applause of appreciation.

After the dinner, I told Chuck how much I had appreciated the poem and presentation and asked if I could get a copy of it, not realizing at the time that he had written it. The next day, he sought me out and gave me a copy, which I lost in the fire. So if you have a copy, you might consider publishing it.

I don't know when Chuck wrote the poem or whether it had been copyrighted. I note from the enclosed articles that he had two children, Susan (Mrs. Richard) Gallant and Mary Jo Davis of Corona, California. I am going to try to contact them, and see if I can get another copy.

As reported in the enclosed Journal-World article, Sally and I escaped by getting to a ledge beneath our window, from which we were able to reach a ladder supplied by a person, an Australian or New Zealander, and 2 or 3 Filipinos, who apparently were bystanders at the fire. When we reached the roof over the front center of the hotel, we met Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hicks of Mansfield, Ohio and Mr. and Mrs. Stan Gross of Galesburg, Illinois, who had made a similar escape from the other side of the hotel front. Later I learned that Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Blaney of Columbus, Georgia and a number of others also escaped by the same means.

Urban Throm of Denver, Colorado and Richard Seaver of Los Angeles, California had what seemed to me to be the most harrowing experience of those of us who survived: they made their way to the roof of the hotel where they had to wait until daylight when they were rescued by helicopters.

We must make note of the compassionate help we received after the fire from the medical and other military personnel at Camp John Hay and Clark Air Force Base and from the American Embassy.

We were fortunate to have two members of our party: Paula Lamb and Donna Wickes, who were employees of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. These young ladies, at the first opportunity after the fire, phoned the names of all of the survivors, with names and telephone numbers of persons in the United States to be contacted on their behalf, to the company's headquarters in Dallas, Texas. The company then called all of the persons to be notified, before stories of the disaster were published by the media.

Until the fire, the trip had been very fulfilling and rewarding: in fact, Sally remarked that it was the most interesting trip we had ever taken. Unfortunately for us, our loss of possessions included some 430 pictures that she had taken during the trip. These included not only Breakneck Ridge, but the cathedral at Palo who had been used as a hospital, and numerous pictures of the wonderful Filipino people in their villages and along their tracks.

I would describe the trip as: Heartwarming, heartbreaking and unnerving. Heartwarming because of the outpouring of welcome and hospitality we received from so many of the Filipinos; heartbreaking because of the economic, social and political conditions in which they live; and unnerving when one contemplates that the tremendous



## COMMEMORATION

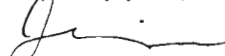
The site of the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial covers 152 acres. Here are buried 17,206 of our own.

reservoir of good will which exists toward the USA in the Philippines could be lost if our government does not properly manage our relationship with that country.

It appears to me that there may be two serious threats to this relationship: the Marcos government and the Communists. I think every effort should be made to determine whether there is a viable alternative and if there is, to give it appropriate encouragement. In talking to natives of the country, I have reason to believe that such an alternative does exist.

I don't presume to be any kind of an authority after two weeks in the Philippines, but what I saw and what I heard while there raises serious questions in my mind. Politics aside, the Filipinos are a wonderful people who appear to be quite prepared to be effective and loyal allies of ours provided they have the proper leadership.

Very truly yours,

  
JAMES L. POSTMA



Those palms weren't standing 40 years ago.



Billy J. Robertson, an American World War II veteran, cries Friday in Leyte, Central Philippines, during commemoration services for the 40th anniversary of the Oct. 20, 1944, Allied invasion that tolled the end of the Japanese military empire in Southeast Asia. Scores of veterans from the United States, Australia and the Philippines commemorated the landing yesterday by watching a rehearsal of a re-enactment of the invasion to be staged officially today. The re-enactment had been scheduled for yesterday but was postponed after a tropical storm prevented President Ferdinand E. Marcos, the main guest, from attending. Beside Robertson is his wife, Carmen. The couple lives in Sherman, Texas.

AP PHOTO





President Marcos, in his remarks to the gathering at Leyte, said in part:

"Forty years have now passed since this beach and this island rang with the din of battle. But for this impressive memorial, there is little here to remind us now of the many forces that were once decisively locked in battle here. In place of the old devastated battleground, we see again this land green with new life and growth, and the waters once more silvery and clear.

"All of us who have truly known war and its furies could not cherish more this sight of life and peace reigning now upon grounds where conflict once transpired. But if we are thrilled and gladdened by such a sight, we do not value the less and we do not forget the price that had to be paid for all this.

\* \* \*

"In the history of war, there are certain events that stand forever in the memory of men and nations because of their decisive importance to the outcome of conflicts, and their contribution to the cause of peace and freedom. Such is the Leyte landing.

"Considered solely in the context of warfare and conflict, the battles that raged in Leyte in 1944 -- the battles in the sea, in the air and on land -- already stand as an imperishable part of the annals of war. For truly, as military historians tell us, here was staged the largest naval battle in history. Here was demonstrated by men and armies in battle courage, heroism and daring unrivalled in the Pacific theater of the last war. And here began the irrevocable march of the allied cause to victory in the Pacific.

"But we also know that the Leyte landing was more than just an episode of battle. In an even more important way, for our country and our people, this was the signal for our long-awaited liberation. That moment when Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his forces landed on the beaches of Leyte marked the irreversible turning of the tide of the war in our country. At that moment were vindicated all the many sacrifices we had made in Bataan and Corregidor, and all the burdens we had borne during the long night of occupation by enemy forces. And at that moment too was redeemed the pledge of General MacArthur to return to the Philippines."



# TARO LEAF



## VICTORY DIVISION

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION:

We enter this Christmas season with mixed emotions. We all share the deepest sorrow for those whom we lost at Baguio and for those who even now are recovering from extremely painful injuries. We can never regain those dear comrades, nor can we ever do enough to console their families. I ask that each of us make a dedicated effort to remember and care for those families not only now, but during the years ahead as well.

We can still find things for which we can be grateful during this Christmas season. Your Division is prospering. Our equipment, our training and our magnificent young soldiers continue to get better and better. We are prepared to defend this nation, and we are prepared to defeat Communism or any other foe of freedom.

We can be consoled with the knowledge that God is with us. When He sent Christ to this world to ensure our salvation, He knew that we needed Christ to give us faith to overcome adversity. With that faith, we can all triumph.

I wish for all of you that you will find peace and comfort in this holiday season.

Sincerely,

  
H. Norman Schwarzkopf  
Major General, USA  
Commanding



## TARO LEAF

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1984-1985

The publication "of, by and for those who served or now serve" the glorious United States 24th Infantry Division, and published frequently by the 24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION whose officers are:

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• • •

Association membership is open to anyone and everyone who wears or ever wore the Taro Leaf or served in any of its attached units. Dues are \$10.00 per annum, inclusive of a subscription to Taro Leaf.



An optimist is a guy who expects his wife to help him with the dishes... He keeps going down to City Hall to see if his marriage license has expired... Another optimist is the woman who thinks the man she is about to marry is better than the one she has just divorced.



EUGENE B. LEW (13th FA Bn. 7/40-9/44) of 78 Victoria, Cheektowaga NY 14225, is trying to locate EDDIE GRIMES and RAY FORD. We have nothing on either. Eddie was last known to be in Salem, MA., Ray in Boston. Any clues?

Cincinnati Complaint. "Parking facilities" -- this one from CHARLES KAEFER. You weren't the only one, Chuck.

Word from IRA DEFOOR (B 21st & Div. Hq. '42-'45), of 140 Kendolph, Denton TX 76205 is that HOMER L. WIESEU (Div. Hq. - G2 and IG '41-'44), of 1009 Panhandle, Denton TX suffered a stroke and is slowly walking once again, for which our thanks. Homer had retired from the Denton County Tax Assessor's Office. Ira, by the way, just retired after 25 years of teaching at North Texas State University.



Edwin E. Marsh of 824 Grand, Ravenna, Nebraska, is the brother of BARTON B. MARSH (M 34th '42-'44) who was killed on Leyte. Ed has been trying to locate anyone who might remember his brother. He advises that he has learned that an A.C. WHITE was a buddy but he has no address on him. Believes he was from Georgia. Anyone remember Marsh or White?



Traveling in Russia and Scandanavia at Cincinnati time was Life Member 556 LES JOHNSON (K 21st '51-'53), of 10769 S. Pulaski, Chicago. Sez Les: "Russia is still years behind us."



JEROME E. CASSIDY (19th), of 7203 W. Carmen, Milwaukee, sez: 'In your next issue, please extend my warm greetings to "Pineapple" JACK FINAN and CHARLEY MCBRYDE.' Your wish is our command, Jerry. That's what we're here for.



From old faithful Gimlet, AL RIDGE of 18 Hamilton, Readville MA comes this: Here's \$20 for an old b-----, BUFORD E. POLK, of 710 Currie, Nashville TN, who was "the best drill instructor of the 21st in the '40-'44 era". So we now welcome Buford to the fold. Thank you Al for your thoughtfulness.





A lovely young thing decided to confide in her roommate. "The strangest thing has been happening to me," she said, "Everytime I sneeze, I'm overtaken by an unbelievable sensation of wild passion"... "I've never heard of such a strange illness," her friend answered. "What do you take for it?"... Came the smiling reply: "Black pepper!"



Eat, drink and remarry.



BILL WILLMOT reports on the success of his Oct. 20th Special Event Amateur Radio program. Here's what this enthusiastic Taro Leafer wrote:

"October 20th has come and gone and is now history. We were on the air for a total of 10 hours on Saturday, Oct. 20, 1984. During that time, we made 114 contacts with other stations around the country and Canada. In total, we contacted 26 different states and 2 Canadian provinces. We also received reports from 4 listeners around the country.

"My greatest thrill was in making contact with two stations, the owners of which had landed on Leyte with the 96th. Several other operators indicated that they were there supporting us from offshore (they were in the Navy).

"One lady operator from Arkansas stated that her husband had been at Leyte but she did not know which outfit he had been with.

"I only ran into one Taro Leafer. He was George Bartholomew of S.Haven, MI. He was with the 5th Infantry Regiment in Korea. You might check and see if he is a member of the Association. (Ed.note: George is a member.) Because of the many stations operating at the time, I could not get involved in any single contact.

Our sports trivia for today: Name the only NBA #1 draft pick who never started a college game.



"THEY CALL HIM RADAR, HE'LL PICK UP ANYTHING."

"Numerous operators praised the Association for putting on the Special Event and commemorating the landing. Without exception, all stations indicated their delight at being able to participate.

"Since we have a large number of certificates left over, perhaps a few of our members might like to have one as a souvenir. If you think the idea has any merit, you might put a blurb in the next issue of the TARO LEAF. Perhaps a blurb as follows:

The Association sponsored a Special Event Amateur Radio Station on October 20, 1984 to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the landing on Leyte in 1944. The Association printed up certificates to be made available to all stations making contact on that date. We have a number of certificates left over and if any of our members would like to have one as a souvenir, send an SASE to Bill Willmot, 1630 Venus St., Merritt Island FL 32953.

"Well, that is about it for the moment. I think the Association and the Division got a lot of publicity. I just hope that it will also produce some new members for the Association."

You're a wonder Bill. We are deeply indebted to you.



RAND, Sp4 Wayne, last known station 24th Infantry Division (Forward), HHC, APO NY 09137 in April 1970, and was reassigned to 502d Administration Company, Fort Hood, TX 76544, in March 1970. Anyone knowing his whereabouts contact SFC Robert Lee Collins, 1 Forrest St., Fort Stewart GA 31314. We spotted this one in "Locator" of a recent issue of "Army Times".



We lost ALLEN GARNER, the old Recon Trooper. He moved without telling anyone. An old retired mail carrier at that. LEE LIST finally found him at his new address and we've given him a new life. "Retired mail carrier". Maybe this is one reason the mails are having so much trouble getting through. Saw the other day where one carrier out in California, think it was. He'd been throwing mail in the local dump for 3 or 4 years. Small wonder he had the lightest load in his post office. JULIUS and Stephanie JOSZ sent us a Xmas card last Dec. 19th. It arrived a week ago. Not bad eh? And they're talking about raising the rates!!!



A "Hello" note from Life Member #600 CHARLIE NEWKIRK, (G 21st '38-'40), of 1316 Tecumseh, Indianapolis, IN., goes this way: "Hello - enclosed find a check for my "Life Membership". So, that is that -- and I am very happy to be included in such a fine group...Not much new from the middle west -- I am starting to make plans for our Dec. 7th Memorial at our World War Memorial here in Indy -- we hold that service on the Sunday that proceeds Dec. 7th and at 7:55 a.m. a minute of silence, Taps, perhaps a speaker, present the colors and then we all go to eat breakfast together. Things are beginning to fall into place -- I guess you know how that goes...By the way - if there's anything that I can do for you, please feel free to call on me, perhaps at that time I might not be able to help, but I would sure let you know. I know how it goes when everyone says, 'We'll help,' that is until you call on them...So, I just go ahead and do my best and let the flack fall where it may - but I am most careful in knowing how far I am able to go. (Now that's training from Gen. Newman). Well, anyway, drop me a note if I can ever be of any help."

Thanx, Charlie. Just having you with us is support enough. But thanx for the offer.

Moved: JAMES E. MOYER, (F 21st '40-'44) from Barnhart MO to Rt. 1, Box 419, Cadet, MO 63630.



Quote from a recent MILT JURY (19th and MP '46-'47) letter (Milt is with the nuclear engineering dept. of American Electric Power): "I am back from South Africa (652 S. Hempstead Rd., Westerville OH 43081). It was a wonderful experience. A beautiful country with some serious political, social and religious problems. They have worked hard to become almost self-sufficient. They manufacture all their own material for military including aircraft. It is the last white controlled country on the African Continent and they have no place to go except the Atlantic/Indian Ocean. They like U.S.A. and are one of few countries left that is 100% anti-communist. Their internal problems are frustrated by the Dutch-English conflict (still fighting the Boer War). Their potential is good and they have 10 years to make it or it will be another Rhodesia becoming Zimbabwe. I enjoyed the 'Taro Leaf' while I have been gone. Enclosed is a check for my 1985 dues and a little extra to help you out in mailings etc. Will be in touch."

Nice report, Milt.

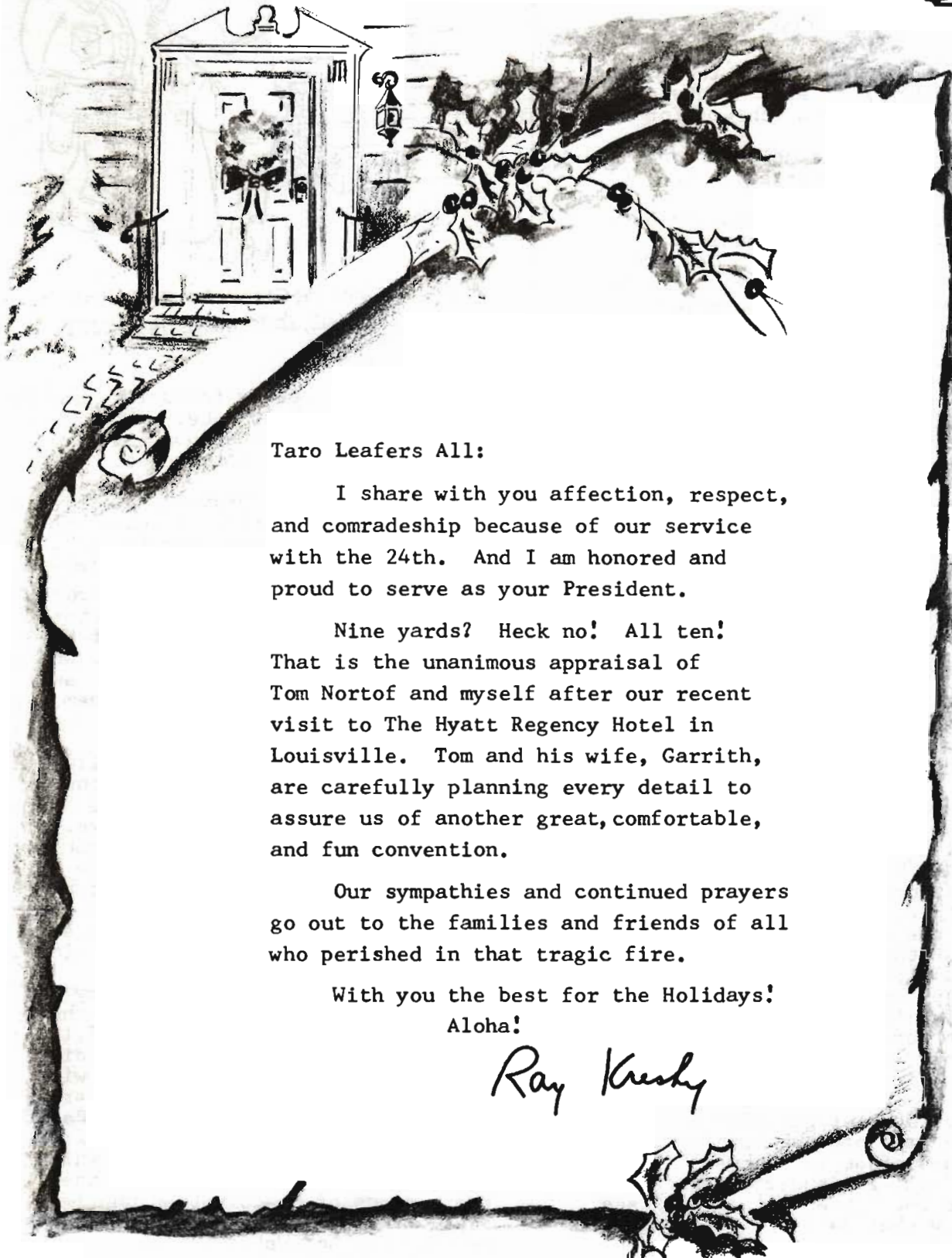
By the way, Milt retired from the Mich. State Police in '75 as a Lieut. Picked up a BS and MA at Mich. State, taught criminal justice at Delta College, Midland, Mich. for 2 years. Hired on with Consumers Power of Mich. in '77, then to Johannesburg as corporate nuclear emergency planner for the Electricity Supply Commission.

This guy has never missed a stroke in a busy life schedule.



Trivia answer: Swen Nater who played his entire UCLA career as backup center for Bill Walton.





Taro Leafers All:

I share with you affection, respect, and comradeship because of our service with the 24th. And I am honored and proud to serve as your President.

Nine yards? Heck no! All ten! That is the unanimous appraisal of Tom Nortof and myself after our recent visit to The Hyatt Regency Hotel in Louisville. Tom and his wife, Garrith, are carefully planning every detail to assure us of another great, comfortable, and fun convention.

Our sympathies and continued prayers go out to the families and friends of all who perished in that tragic fire.

With you the best for the Holidays!  
Aloha!

*Ray Kresby*



Division recently saluted its 43rd Anniversary (10/1/41) with a show of respect for its past and cheers for its future.

At the close of the celebration, the commanding general referred to the troops as "a family."

The day-long commemoration did have the markings of a family reunion, except the family has 14,000 members. There was barbecue, three-legged races and volleyball. There were remembrances of family history and thoughts of family members now gone.

And there was pride.

The festivities began before sunrise at Cottrell Field with a memorial service presented on a stage in front of a huge American flag illuminated by back-lighting.

Along with prayers from the division chaplain and patriotic music by the 24th Infantry Division band, the more than 10,000 soldiers who marched from their unit headquarters heard an account of the history of the division, which saw extensive action in World War II and the Korean War.

The soldiers, standing at ease or resting on the dew-covered ground, were brought to a roar by Maj.Gen.H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF, commander of Fort Stewart and the Victory Division.

Schwarzkopf told the troops the anniversary is a celebration of country, soldiers and pride.

Combining the three themes quickly, Schwarzkopf told the soldiers that they are the "best in the world," and he reminded them of their duty to the nation -- to be willing to defend the country in the event of armed conflict.

"Just ask the Cuban soldiers if the American soldiers are ready to fight, as we did just a year ago (in Grenada)," Schwarzkopf said.

Loud, guttural cheers rose in the dark from all sides as the general said that if the division were called upon, "Our artillery will thunder, our tanks and our cavs and our gunships will wipe (the enemy) off the battlefield.

"Then our infantry," Schwarzkopf bellowed, "will fix their bayonets and we'll carve the letter 'V' in the face of any enemy that dares to challenge us."



*"SIR, IF YOU'D BE GOOD ENOUGH TO HOLD ONE OF THESE, I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO SALUTE YOU."*

A division review featuring some 20 battalions was held later in the morning, and the afternoon was given to food, music and a series of athletic contests.

With an hour of prayer, remembrance and pride, the day-long celebration opened with a predawn memorial service attended by more than 10,000 soldiers.

After marching in formation from their various battalion headquarters, the soldiers heard an account of the history of the Victory Division, which saw heavy action in World War II and the Korean War before most of them were born.

Narrators were silhouettes in front of a huge American flag illuminated by back-lighting, while another flag on a pole next to the stage flapped in a cool easterly breeze.

The troops stood at ease or sat on the dewy grass during much of the ceremony, coming to attention at the close as two buglers played Taps. The soldiers, still shrouded in darkness, finally marched off with their units in cadence.

Most of the division's history was familiar to the soldiers -- the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, when the division lost eight soldiers but downed five enemy airplanes with rifle and machine gun fire and earned the motto "First to Fight;" the Pacific campaigns throughout World War II; early entry in the Korean War, which reaffirmed the division motto; then the periods of deactivation until Sept. 21, 1975, when the division was permanently activated and stationed at Fort Stewart.



Change of address for EARL ADAMS, (Sv. 21st '41-'44). Give up on Dayton, OH. Earl has flown, like the ducks, to 5185 Flamingo, St. James City, FL 33956. Smart, Earl, smart!!!



An optimist is a husband who comes home and finds the place littered with cigar butts and exclaims, "Thank God my wife has given up cigarets at last." ...A pessimist thinks all women fool around -- an optimist hopes it's true... A pessimist is an optimist on his way home from the honeymoon.



Clara and CHARLEY JAMESON, (F & AT 21st '44-'45), of Rt. 2, Box 254, Bridgewater VA report all's well. Charley made hospital in October to have his hernia herniated. Had as a roommate, one WESLEY F. FLIPPEN, of 209 Ingram, Colonial Heights, VA, who has never heard of us. Wes was CWO in 724 Ord. '50-'51. A 30 yr. man, he was on Wahoo on that fateful Dec. 7th. It goes without saying that Wes is now "In". Welcome aboard, Wes, and it all happened because of Charley's hernia. Thank you Charley - and Clara.



Last issue - #1.  
Printing bill for 1800 copies - \$997.50. That's 55¢ per copy.  
Mailing cost - 37¢ per copy.  
That's 92¢ to get that copy into your hands.



ED VASQUEZ (A 3rd Eng. '44-'46), of 4949 Denny, N. Hollywood, CA, back from London, Germany and Spain, visiting relatives. Made the October beer fest in Munich - says he, "Great beer - 2nd only to Nip beeru." Reports that son, Rene, is starting college in Pasadena -- "so I'll be poor for the next 4 years."

Behind every successful woman is a man who's surprised.



Richard Franklin was a sailor on the USS Case DD-370 in the Pacific. While at anchorage off Iwo Jima, he wrote these delightful lines which we want to share with you. Possibly they'll "get" you as they "got" us.

#### O CAREFREE LAD

O carefree lad, I wish that I  
Were but your age again,  
I'd walk with you 'neath sunny skies  
Thru fields and shady glen.  
We'd walk along the road and kick  
The sand between our toes,  
And leap across the shallow crick,  
Where the old oak tree grows.  
We'd take the short-cut o'er the hill,  
And down the other side,  
And listen to the bluebirds trill,  
That echos far and wide.  
O'then, we'd route a garter snake  
From 'neath a nearby rock,  
And, then, again, for mem'ries sake,  
We'd sit us down and talk.  
We'd talk about the sweet corn roasts  
We had out on the farm,  
Of hide-and-seek about the posts  
In Uncle Charlie's barn.  
We'd talk about the country church,  
Beneath the knotty pine,  
Of chewing on a stick of birch,  
When we were lads of nine.  
And, then, about the old schoolhouse  
That nestled in the woods  
Of playing truant, hunting grouse;  
They caught us with the goods.  
We'd talk about most everything,  
And then we'd cut a pole,  
And hand-in-pocket, whistling,  
Find our fav'rite fishing hole.  
O, then we'd fish to heart's content,  
And when we had a string,  
We'd figure it a day well spent;  
Our hearts would fill...we'd sing.  
But carefree lad, I'm not your age,  
These words are all too true,  
But, here, I find on mem'ries page  
Another lad, like you.  
Yes, I once walked, and I did kick  
the sand between my toes,  
And leaped across the shallow crick,  
Where the old oak tree...still grows.

LAURENCE ROBINSON, (L 21st '30-'32), of 511 S. Willomet, Dallas, TX, checks in. Says he was the first white boy born on the Winnebago Indian Reservation in Nebr. "That was in 1906 so you can see I'm a little old." That's not old, Roby. Ya gotta think young.



With such magnificence—  
in so rare—  
I know not what to say  
The Winter's Tale, Act 1, Scene 1

Since our last report on contributions received, we've received these (that is since June 30, 1984), for which our deepest thanks:

David M. Lopera	\$ 20.00
Jesse L. Foster	25.00
Bessie O. White	10.00
Joseph A. Cenga	10.00
Robert Longfellow	5.00
Donald A. Chase	5.00
John E. Brown	10.00
Edward J. Voso	25.00
Francis H. Heller	10.00
Richard Rosenbeck	5.00
Salvatore A. Nicoletta	5.00
Michele Guerrera	5.00
Harry Strasen	5.00
Fred R. Zierath	15.00
Walter S. Wyand	5.00
Milford A. Olson	5.00
Ernest Hicks	2.25
Harry J. Owens	10.00
Charles Noto	15.00
Frank A. Smith	5.00
John E. Rogers	1.00
Samuel Marinaro	5.00
Joseph I. Daigle	10.00
Bernard Skrzydlewski	10.00
Joseph Marcinko	10.05
Louis Perry	5.00
William J. Romz	2.00
Robert T. Nelson	5.00
Martin E. Muske	5.00
John Eadie	10.00
John L.M. Sullivan	10.00
Kenwood Ross	95.00
Aubrey S. Newman	47.70
Aubrey S. Newman	5.00
Louis Rochon	5.00
Len H. Ellison	10.00
John P. Leahy	5.00
Lorna Davidson	25.00
Eugene Coyle	10.00
Charles M. Delameter	5.00
C. Rucker Ford	15.00
Robert R. Ender	67.05
V.F. Smith	2.05
Cecil French	5.00
H.Gordon Behrel	15.00
Kemuel Blacker	5.00
Dallas Dick	80.00
C.W.Hood	15.00
Frank P. Mankowski	5.00
Creighton Bryson	5.00

John R. Macnider	\$ 10.00
Walter Mulla	15.00
Fredrik Olsen	10.00
Michael J. Tino	5.00
Joseph L. Subsak	5.00
Paul Austin	5.00
W.B. Barton	5.00
Kenneth McNabb	3.00
William M. Slataper	15.00
Thomas F. Upton	50.00
John A. Venezia	4.75
Lester L. Wheeler	100.00
William V. Dickerson	5.00
George B. Cullison	30.00
Valentine Schaaf	100.00
Herbert Kingsbury	\$ 2.00
John Kilmartin	10.00
James D. Mack	10.00
J.A. Von Mohr	20.00
William Keyes	7.00
Kenwood Ross	704.51
Nicholas Marasco	10.00
John A. Sanger	10.00
Roy C. Brown	10.00
Wheeler H. Reynolds	10.00
Richard E. Reinke	10.00
Thomas Minnella	10.00
Vann G. Todd	7.05
Rudolph Ronning	5.00
Joseph Buckovich	5.00
Frank J. Beesley, Jr.	10.00
Richard L. Nelson	8.00
Raymond J. Raszkowski	5.00
Jack W. Kirk	10.00
J. L. Janzer	10.00
John A. Ambrose	2.00
Donald R. Hinkle	5.00
Mrs. William M. O'Keefe	25.00
John Kilmartin	5.00
Ed Smigel	10.00
D.C. Packard	15.00
George A. Abbas	2.00
Lee List	100.00
Robert J. Stratton	10.00
Raymond D. Cooley	20.00
John E. Brown	10.00
Lloyd E. King	5.00
Milton J. Jury	15.00
Theodore Geelhoed	50.00
Paul W. Hartley	25.00

- as of 10-26-84 -





Sad news from Col. HOWARD BALLIETT (A & I, 21st '40-'44), of 3628 Inverness, Sarasota, FL. We clipped this from his last memo: "The meeting in Cincinnati was top grade all the way although I don't think much of the city's hospitality -- our car was stolen from a city operated parking lot at Fountain Square, along with our golf clubs, baggage, clothes etc. -- left a bad taste in our mouths. We have finally settled with the insurance and have wheels again -- Thanks again for a great get together."

I'm not overweight; I'm under tall.



Wanna do some good? Pick up a phone and call 813-659-2021. It's DOYLE WATSON, (Hq.Co.3rd Bn. 21st '41-'44), of Rt. 4, Box 536, Dover, FL 33527. Ellen has been in a nursing home going on 2 years. They have no children. And Doyle is just plain lonely. He goes to the home everyday; says he hasn't "given up yet". He'd just love to hear from some Taro Leafers, especially wire, switchboard, messenger, radio, or line people.

We still have a few copies of "Red" NEWMAN's wonderful "Follow Me" available for sale. Soft cover edition - \$7.95 each. Write ye Editor.

While the anniversary was being observed in the P.I., the Pentagon was doing it too -- even though it was 11 days late.

Invited were Generals FREDERICK IRVING and LESTER WHEELER, Col. WALTER CUNNINGHAM, Lt.Col. ALAN MCGILL and Who Else? Invitation, shown below, was engraved too!

The program is reproduced on the next 2½ pages.



*The Secretary of Defense  
requests the pleasure of your company  
at a ceremony commemorating  
the anniversary of the Leyte Gulf Landing  
on Wednesday, the thirty-first of October  
at eleven o'clock  
Hall of Heroes, The Pentagon*

*Reception immediately  
following the ceremony*

*RVP  
(202) 697-0632*

*Military Service Dress/Army Green  
Civilian Informal*



# 40th ANNIVERSARY LEYTE GULF LANDING PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

31 OCTOBER 1984



THE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



## I HAVE RETURNED

On October 23, 1944, an historic ceremony was conducted on the steps of the provincial capitol in Tacloban, Leyte. A guard of honor from the 5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, was assembled in front of the building. General Douglas MacArthur, President Sergio Osmena of the Philippine Commonwealth, and other senior officers of the operation had come ashore at Leyte Gulf beach and assembled for this special occasion.

General MacArthur broadcast an address announcing the official re-establishment of the Commonwealth Government in the Philippines with President Osmena as its head. Osmena spoke of the determination of the Filipinos to expel the enemy and expressed deep appreciation for America's support.

A lone bugler sounded colors while flags of the United States and the Philippines were raised simultaneously at opposite ends of the capitol building. When MacArthur and his party departed after the ceremony, crowds of Filipinos lined the streets and cheered --- the Philippines had been liberated!!

The landing of the American forces three days earlier had cut the enemy's communications to the south, secured a base for further military advances, and brought to reality General MacArthur's promise to return to the Philippines two years earlier.

The Leyte Campaign was waged on land, in the air, and on and under the sea. All branches of the American Armed Forces played significant roles. It is appropriate that we commemorate this important milestone in American and Philippine history.



## HALL OF HEROES / MACARTHUR CORRIDOR

### Sequence of Events

Pre-Ceremony Concert	United States Marine Corps Band
Remarks	Secretary Weinberger
Presentation of DOD Distinguished Public Service Medal to Mrs. Douglas MacArthur	
Remarks and Introduction	Secretary Marsh
Remarks	Ambassador Romualdez
Reading of General MacArthur's Proclamation Upon Return to the Philippines	Announcer
Benediction	Chaplain (Colonel) John B. Kenney, USAF
National Anthem of the Philippines	
National Anthem of the United States	
Reception	



## PARTICIPANTS

### HOST

The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger  
Secretary of Defense

### HONORED GUESTS

His Excellency Benjamin T. Romualdez  
The Philippines Ambassador

The Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Secretary of the Army

Mrs. Douglas MacArthur

### Honored U.S. Veterans of the Pacific Campaigns

Colonel Lyman D. Bothwell, USA-Ret.  
Admiral Arleigh Burke, USN-Ret.  
Dr. George J. Cosmides  
Mr. Harold F. Duis  
General Clyde D. Eddleman, USA-Ret.  
Dr. Roger Egeberg  
Colonel Richard Hutson, USA-Ret.  
Major General Frederick A. Irving, USA-Ret.  
Mr. Leonard W. Lazarick  
Mr. Edwin W. Martin  
Vice Admiral William I. Martin, USN-Ret.  
Lieutenant Colonel Alan C. McGill, AUS-Ret.  
Mr. Charles A. Postlethwait  
Vice Admiral L. P. Ramage, USN-Ret.  
Colonel Kenwood Ross, USA-Ret.  
Captain Phillip G. Saylor, USN-Ret.  
Brigadier General Lester L. Wheeler, USA-Ret.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

### PROCLAMATION

#### TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES:

I have returned. By the grace of Almighty God our forces stand again on Philippine soil - soil consecrated in the blood of our two peoples. We have come, dedicated and committed, to the task of destroying every vestige of enemy control over your daily lives, and of restoring, upon a foundation of indestructible strength, the liberties of your people.

At my side is your President, Sergio Osmeña, worthy successor of that great patriot, Manuel Quezon, with members of his cabinet. The seat of your government is now therefore firmly re-established on Philippine soil.

The hour of your redemption is here. Your patriots have demonstrated an unswerving and resolute devotion to the principles of freedom that challenges the best that is written on the pages of human history. I now call upon your supreme effort that the enemy may know from the temper of an aroused and outraged people within that he has a force there to contend with no less violent than is the force committed from without.

Rally to me. Let the indomitable spirit of Bataan and Corregidor lead on. As the lines of battle roll forward to bring you within the zone of operations, rise and strike. Strike at every favorable opportunity. For your homes and hearths, strike! For future generations of your sons and daughters, strike! In the name of your sacred dead, strike! Let no heart be faint. Let every arm be steeled. The guidance of divine God points the way. Follow in His Name to the Holy Grail of righteous victory!

  
DOUGLAS MACARTHUR.



Here's a "trivia question" from Dragon Red BOB ERHARDT, (B, C, D 34th '44-'45), of 52½ Reid, Ft. Plain, NY 13339 asks: "Talking big guns with a sailor the other day and all of a sudden remembered the two big naval rifles the 34th liberated (from the rear) on the road to Davao. Thought they were eight inch but maybe time has made them seem bigger. Anyway they were BIG. Wonder if anybody remembers what they were?" Let us throw in a couple of cents worth. As we came onto Davao Gulf from our overland hike across the island, we came through a "town" called Digos. Weren't there navy gun emplacements there? As we recall it, there were. Answers, gang!



We have learned to spell hors d'oeuvres which still grates on some people's n'oeuvres.



Col. RAYMOND S. HAWTHORNE (HNB 11/82 - present) now at 221 Upper Riverdale Rd., Apt. 9-D, Ascot Glen, Jonesboro GA 30236.







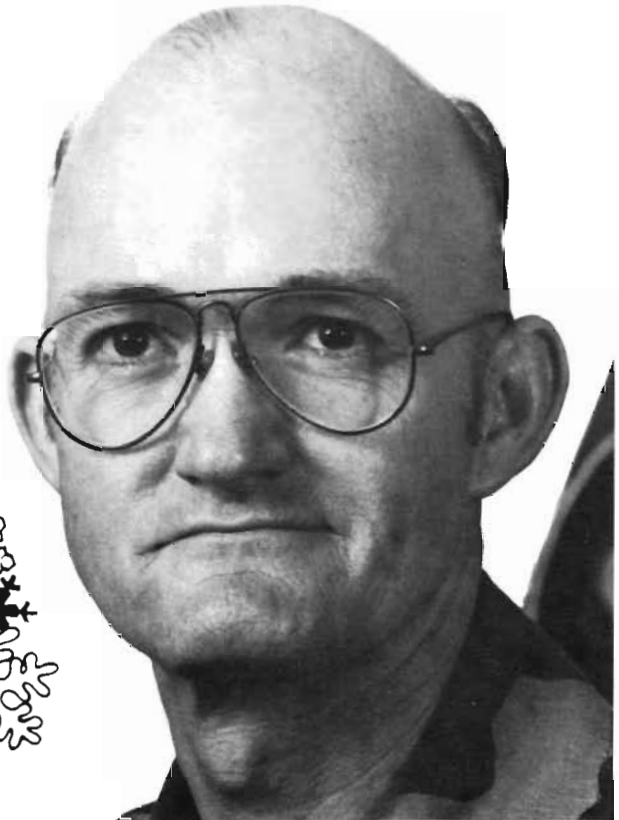
RAY MONTGOMERY (L21st '42-'45) of Rt. 4, Northview, Shepherdsville KY, sends this one of himself, 'natch, his old mess sgt. CLINTON WEIS, of 4840 St. Wendel Cynthiane Rd., Wadesville IN and JIM KLAGY of 153 S. Spencer Ave., Indianapolis IN. Great reunion for these three.



Down in Zamboanga, Moslem rebels kidnapped 2 American tourists. As we go to press, their status is still unknown.



Okay. So we screwed it up -- in issue #6 of last year's series. Had the pix in the wrong order. So we repeat the offering with this explanation (in view of 4 letters asking, "What in ---- is the point?") We will explain away any of our humor; you need only ask. Here goes. There are these 2 scarecrows, see. They are at the fence gossiping. The two farmers come out, ready to chew a little ---. The scarecrows get the idea, and retreat, each to his respective station. Easy, wasn't it?



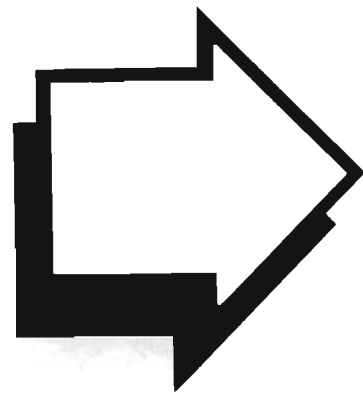
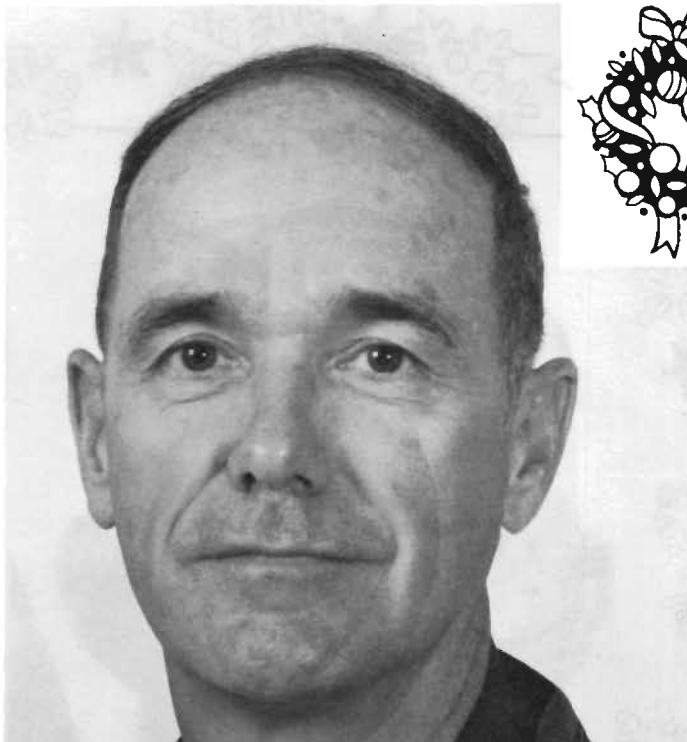
COMING: Col. DANIEL R. SCHROEDER, amiable Div. C/S whom we all were privileged to get to know in Cincinnati is a Brigadier General nominee. AND GOING: BG Dan has already moved to The Pentagon. New assgt? - Deputy Assistant Chief of Engineers (Facilities Engineering and Family Housing), Office of the Chief of Engineers. Boy, there's a mouthful! But you can handle it, Dan. Our good wishes flow your way.

Sorry 'bout the snowflakes, Dan; they just keep falling!!!



Always figured we ought to have one tugboat operator in this club. Well our "Tugboat Annie" is DON WILLMOT, (Sv. 34th '54-'55), of Box 307, Glen Gardner NJ. He's Life Member 563. Works those cute little boats in NY harbor. Ever see one of them go up to something massive like the QE2? Very saucy like!! Nothing personal intended, Don.

There's nothing quite like the cold-and-wet nose of a Labrador retriever.



Meet our new BG -- GEORGE M. BAXTER, presently ADC-Training. He has a biography a mile long. We'll use it in a later issue. For now, consider this promotion record:

2nd Lt.	Sept. 54
1st Lt.	Mar. 56
Cpt.	Oct. 60
Maj.	Jul. 65
Lt.Col.	Jul. 68
Col.	Aug. 75
B.G.	Dec. 84

Thought you'd like to see this.  
Congratulations, General Baxter.

We've long thought we should have a system for congratulating members when they go into retirement. BILL MCDONOUGH for example. He was 1st Bn., C & D, 19th, '42-'45. He was with State Farm Insurance as an agent. Now is at 93 Martera, Pittsburgh PA. So we'll at least say it here -- "Happy retirement, Bill." The sad truth is that by the time we get through with the niceties we like to perform when a member goes to Glory, there's little time left for the other niceties. Oh well.

It's a star for HORACE "Pete" TAYLOR, the former C/S of Division and presently 2nd Bde. Commander.

We'll get around to a biography later. For now, it's simply, "General Taylor, we salute you."

The readying of this issue for the printer has been the most difficult of some 175 plus issues we have put to bed. Each day has seen a new story arrive, or worse, a rumor given birth, or another rumor put to rest. It has been an unsettling 6 or 7 weeks. But one letter from the Division Commander has warmed the cockles of this tired old heart. It read in part:

"I found the poem I had in mind; it was given to me by Chuck Clark at the reunion a year ago in August. I have enclosed a copy. I use this poem only during Expert Infantryman's Badge awards ceremonies here at Fort Stewart. I think it has special meaning to Infantrymen."

We can think of no tribute Chuck might have wished for than for us to devote the next page to his meaningful work. Thank you, Chuck, again and again.



## THE U.S. INFANTRY

There have been songs written to and about our Naval, Air, Marine and Special Forces  
As well there should be as they are proud and distinguished branches of our Armed  
Services.

But -- In all the wars in which the United States has been engaged  
there is one branch of the service  
Who -- Participating in all theaters of all major conflicts  
Has -- Suffered the most casualties, inflicted the most casualties,  
taken the most ground, won the most battles and campaigns  
and is the most decorated branch of our Armed Forces.

This is The Rifleman -- The Frontline Soldier -- The U.S. Infantry.

To all those brave men who trod those troubled miles with nothing in front of him but  
the front sights of his rifle and our enemies this poem is dedicated.

Head and eyes off the ground --  
Dress is right -- Cover down.  
March proud -- Stand tall --  
Courage is your wherewithal.

This will be the story of the infantry  
To tell of all the battles that he's waged  
From the snows of Valley Forge to the jungles at Ane Khe  
He's marched and fought and bled and written U.S. History.

THE BLUE-BRAIDED -- DOWNGRADED -- DOGFACED -- U.S. INFANTRY

Two canteens of water -- four grenades -- two bandoliers  
A poncho - a G.I. rifle - and God knows how many fears  
Princeton - Chickamauga - Chateau-Thierry - Anzio  
And then again tomorrow there's another place to go.

They can sing of the wild blue yonder  
And to the shores of Tripoli  
But where the battles were fought  
More victories were wrought by the U.S. Infantry.

Two canteens of water -- four grenades -- two bandoliers  
And he'd sell his seat in Hell - for three days at the rear  
Anteitam - Buena Vista - Santiago - Porkchop Hill  
And he often seems to wonder will the cannons ever still.

81 millimeter mortars - rockets - artillery  
Sweep the draws - Take the high ground  
Fix bayonets - Follow me!  
It's a dirty job but the duty of the U.S. Infantry.

Two canteens of water -- four grenades -- two bandoliers  
And the loved ones who have waited - shed a million tears  
The Lido Road - Bataan - Dak to and Normandy  
Are places where he died - preserving liberty.

THE BLUE-BRAIDED -- DEDICATED -- PURPLE HEARTED -- U.S. INFANTRY

White crosses mark the resting place  
of buddies left behind  
He weeps - the tears inside of him  
He is that thin red line.

If mankind achieves the promise  
That all men shall be free  
The final battle will be fought and won  
By the U.S. Infantry.

Head and eyes off the ground --  
Dress is right -- Cover down.  
Duty -- Honor -- Country  
Is the U.S. Infantry.





The Atlanta Constitution in a recent column got to rambling about the Grenada "thing." It went:

"The Bear" had some trouble with the fact that his country was about to launch a military operation against Grenada.

"We were on the Guam the night before the exercise when we got word it was go," Maj.Gen. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF recalled in an interview, "and I remember the thought went through my mind, 'Grenada? Why Grenada?'."

Schwarzkopf, who got his nickname from being 6 feet 4 and weighing 220 pounds, was the Army's highest-ranking officer at the scene of the Oct. 25, 1983, U.S. led intervention in Grenada.

"I asked myself why on earth the United States was getting involved in Grenada. Then I said, 'Schwarzkopf, just let it sort itself out. You're an instrument of policy. You don't make policy.'"

"He said his doubts began to ease on the second day of the operation, when he helicoptered into the Grenadian capital of St. George's and saw in the distance red graffiti scrawled on a wall.

"I've seen that sign all over the world," he said, "in Berlin and Vietnam and Tokyo and even on the walls of the Pentagon. It always says something like 'Long live Marxism' or 'Down with the United States.'"

"As the helicopter got closer and I could read it, it said, 'God bless America.'"

"Approaching the first anniversary of the Grenadian operation, in which 19 American servicemen died, Schwarzkopf said he is now '100 percent sure we did the right thing.'"

"First of all, I think it was healthy for the military to have been involved in an operation that the American public has resoundingly endorsed. Also, it was good to be involved in an operation that was recognized by everybody as a very successful one, given the recent history of the armed forces in Korea, which some people considered a tie, and Vietnam, which others felt was a defeat."

"Schwarzkopf also said the military received insufficient intelligence before the operation, in which Army Rangers were parachuted under fire onto an airport construction site at one end of the island and Marines were



A couple of teeny-weenies from RALPH HALEY (24 Sig. '43-'45), of 6406 Eaglecrest, Charlotte, NC. Both were taken in Hollandia in '44. The top one is of the Motor Pool gang, Sig.Co. 'natch, and the other is of the Tel. & Tel. Section. They'll make tough reading, Ralph. Our system involves a size reduction and these busters are small to begin with. But we'll try.

Arnold Palmer continues to lead the sports world in pained expressions.

helicoptered onto an airport at the opposite end.

"He described an odd accident that may have saved the lives of dozens of U.S. troops, and he disputed claims that Marines had outperformed in Grenada members of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

"Schwarzkopf said he was first told of the operation on the Sunday night before the Tuesday morning action.

"Sunday was the same day a terrorist suicide bomber drove a truck-load of explosives into the Marine headquarters in Lebanon, killing 241 men.

"After being told of the pending Grenada operation, Schwarzkopf said, he flew from Fort Stewart to Atlanta, where he was briefed at Charlie Brown Airport. He then flew to Norfolk, Va., and from there to the Guam, a helicopter carrier."



This appeal has been received and we are asking each of our members please to dig down, find an extra buck or two, and send it on its way to Stewart; we did.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Office of the Staff Chaplain  
Fort Stewart, Georgia 31314-5026

November 1, 1984

24th Infantry Division Association  
ATTN: Kenwood Ross  
120 Maple Street  
Springfield, Massachusetts 01103-2278

Dear Sir:

Each year the chaplains at Fort Stewart, Georgia, home of the 24th Infantry Division, conduct a Christmas Cheer program. The program is designed to provide food assistance to primarily the families of the 24th Infantry Division whose financial limitations deny them an opportunity for a nice Christmas.

The food assistance is provided through certificates that can only be redeemed at the Fort Stewart Commissary. These certificates insure that the money donated is spent for food items and not luxury items.

Last year, the Fort Stewart community donated \$8,000 and 170 families were helped. However, many families who needed assistance were not able to receive help because of the limited funds.

As an organization with an interest in the 24th Infantry Division and its proud history, we are asking you for a donation toward Christmas Cheer. We not only want victory in war time, but in peace time, as well. Donations should be sent to the Consolidated Chaplain's Fund, Fort Stewart, Georgia 31314-5026. Be sure to clearly indicate that your donation is explicitly for the Christmas Cheer program. Victory!

*Alfred E. Brough*  
Alfred E. Brough  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Staff Chaplain

A sad note in from GENE MADDEN, (1st Bn. 34th '44-'45), of 2901 N. 14th, Dodge City, KS. It goes:

"We had a very tragic accident happen to us a few weeks ago today. Our fourteen year old grandson was killed in a motorcycle accident. He was the first of eight grandchildren and was so very precious to us. He was extra special and the best buddy an old Grandad could ever have. His death certainly leaves a void in my life. My wife, Phyllis, was admitted to the hospital and was in Intensive Care as they thought she was having a heart attack. All tests proved okay, though, and she was dismissed with some strict orders. The problem was diagnosed as coronary artery spasm. Guess a broken heart doesn't show up on an EKG. Am enclosing an item that was printed in the 'Wichita Eagle-Beacon' about Jeff. If you want to print it in 'Taro Leaf', I am okay with me."

We expressed the sorrow of each of us to Gene and Phyl and decided also to reproduce this touching item from the local paper:

They've found something that does the work of 5 men...ONE woman!

D/A is considering eliminating specialist five and six from the enlisted rank structure.

A good number of top commanders are in agreement that all grades above E-4 should be "hard stripe" grades.

The major commanders noted that while the specialist rank has been virtually eliminated in the combat arms, it still is being used in combat service and combat service support organizations.

One concern of major commanders in eliminating the specialist five and six ranks in the non-combat MOSs is that specialists do not have the same leadership background as "hard-stripe" soldiers.

"Specialists who are promoted to NCO grades are not adequately prepared to become leaders. We must develop some type of transition training program before the specialist ranks are eliminated," the commanders said.

Tuesday, September 25, 1984



## Determination and Zest Were Jeffrey Madden's Trademarks

By Nolan Walters  
Staff Writer

The determination and zest that Jeffrey M. Madden showed during his 14 years of life almost could be traced back to his birth, his mother said.

Weighing just 2 pounds, 12 ounces when born prematurely, Jeffrey "struggled through that and hadn't quit yet, until Saturday," said Patricia Madden Beran.

ON SATURDAY, the Rose Hill High School freshman — an athlete and honor student — was killed when his motorcycle collided with a pickup truck at a rural intersection.

The funeral will be at 10 a.m. today at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Wichita, and a graveside service will be at 4 p.m. today at the Hill City Cemetery. Jeffrey lived at 11431 Hallmark Drive in Derby.

Despite his youth, Jeffrey had impressed peers and adults as an even-tempered young man who mixed maturity with a love of life.

"He was always easy to get along with because he never got mad at anybody," said Chris Tapley, a fellow student with whom Jeffrey had been playing football shortly before the accident.

AT THE high school Monday, "We had a minute of silence, and everybody cried," Chris said.

Rex Henderson, who coached Jeffrey for three years on the Derby United Soccer Team, said Jeffrey "was just well-liked by everybody. I would have liked to have had him for a son. He'd just make you proud."

Jeffrey's teammates plan to attend today's funeral together, Henderson said.

Jeffrey also had lettered in wrestling at Rose Hill Middle School and was an honor student scheduled to be tested for accelerated classes.

The intersection where the accident occurred isn't regulated, officials said. Charges probably won't be filed in the accident, said Sedgwick County Undersheriff Sam Davis.

Survivors other than his mother include his stepfather, Kenneth Beran of Derby; his father and stepmother, Allen and Nancy Roberts of Hays; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Madden of Dodge City, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Beran of Victor, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Roberts of Damar and Mr. and Mrs. Ton Topper of Dodge City; great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Madden of Studley, Erma Claeys of Victor,

Iowa, Rosella St. Peter of Damar; a brother, Brock Beran of Derby; three sisters, Kristin Madden Roberts, Brianna Beran and Danielle Beran, all of Derby.

Memorials have been established with St. Paul's United Methodist Church Scholarship Fund. Cochran Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.





Nice telegraphed greetings received from Red Beach, Leyte, just prior to Oct. 20th. Signed by BOB ENDER, VAL SCHAFF, and TOM GRADY.



Living in the same apartment dwelling at 1101 S.Arlington Ridge Rd., Arlington, VA -- Maj.Gen. FREDERICK IRVING and Lt.Col. ALAN C. MCGILL (19th).



NBC News reported (on Sun. 10/21), that there were 22 more casualties in the Grenada invasion than DD reported. The Pentagon replied: "We completely deny that there were more than 19 servicemen killed in Grenada. That is all we reported and that's all there were."

NBC was quoting 3 unnamed analysts as saying, "In the pre-dawn hours, the 35 commandos were discovered and encircled by a much larger Cuban unit; that in a fire fight which lasted two hours...six of the DELTA Force were killed and 16 were wounded."

We've waited -- and waited -- for NBC to press the sparring.



To err is human...but to think of someone to blame it on is genius!



HUGO SINGER's moved the old homestead from Box 1083 Fruitland FL to 301 E. Fountain, Fruitland Park FL 32731. Hugo was Sv. 34th and B52F '50-'51.



Another retirement and move to FL. PAUL and Helen MONACO (24 Med. '43-'45), of Cliffwood Beach NJ. Now it's 1528 Mobile, Holly Hill FL 32018. We always look with interest on those who move down -- and then after one summer, move back.

Behind every successful man is a surprised mother-in-law.



Switched to the Retired List: DON and Marilyn CLARK, (B 19th '51-'52), formerly of Warner Robins GA, now 5316 53rd Ave., E.Brandon FL 34203. "Please pass the word" writes Don. There it is, all right out on the table. Happy retirement, Don and Marilyn.



Recovering: HOMER L. WIESEU, (Div.Hq. - G2 and IG offices - '42-'44) of 1009 Panhandle, Denton TX, from a stroke in early summer. Learning to walk all over again. Doing nicely. Was in the County Tax Assessor's Office down there. This news came from good friend, IRA T. DEFOOR.



A true friend remembers your birthday, but not which one.



Editorializing on our anniversary, the Savannah Morning News, said it this way:

"CONGRATULATIONS!

"We'll carve the letter V in the fact of any enemy that dares to challenge us.

"Those are fighting words, of course, but they were used more as an expression of pride and confidence as Maj. Gen. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF addressed his men of the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart Friday. The occasion was the division's 43rd anniversary, a day-long celebration well-deserved by the U.S. Army division that earned the motto 'First to Fight' with its baptism of fire at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and proved itself again in campaigns throughout World War II and in Korea.

"We congratulate the 24th, hoping that it will never have to face any enemy again but satisfied that, if it must, it will do all that its commanding general says it will."

# 'TIS THE SEASON



From RICHARD NELSON, (C 21st '51-'52), of 6261 Braemar, Huntington Beach CA, comes this tragic "Soldier's Story -- with apologies to the late Omar Bradley". Here it is just as you wrote it, Dick -- and for which thanks:

"Thirty-three years have passed now but I am still haunted and fearful of the knock on the door that could take me from my family and bring shame upon my father's good name.

"Over the years I have asked myself how I could have done such a thing. After all, I came from a Christian family. I was supposed to know right from wrong!

"True, I was only a half-past eighteen Gimlet rifleman in the summer of '51. But age and/or inexperience can't explain the repugnant act I committed under the guise of making war against the North Koreans and Chinese.

"I've got to admit I've been pretty successful at hiding my evil side. Neither family or friends have ever let on that they know of the dark within me. And, of course, I've never done it again. Maybe it was due to the stress of combat...maybe a bad lot of 'C' beans and franks...maybe...maybe...

"But, try as I might, my conscience wouldn't let me forget- wouldn't let me rationalize the untold pain and suffering I must have caused. Pain and suffering that went well beyond the bounds of the rules of warfare.

"I don't mind telling you I have spent countless nights waiting for the MPs to pick me up. I now know why they didn't. They've had their hands more than full chasing the 'A-Team' across the countryside.

"Well, I've finally been able to screw up (if you'll pardon the expression) the courage to 'fess up. I just hope the Division is spared my shame. I might also suggest that the ladies (and sissies) who might be subject to swooning or attacks of the vapors STOP right here. Do not read on!

"Yes, I did it. One day when we were vacating a position, in a cowardly act of malice, I gathered up and left all the packages of 10-year-old Chesterfield cigarettes -- hoping the North Koreans and Chinese would find and smoke them...Gosh, I feel better already."



President RAY KRESKY went down to Louisville as year's end neared to "think things over."

Such brings to mind a harsh, apocryphal, but relevant story.

A liberal clergyman in a big city was mugged. He had always believed there were no bad boys, only bad societies. He would sermonize against any hint of police brutality. He favored civilian police review boards. He said "law and order" were code words for racism. You know the type.

As chance would have it, the clergyman was scheduled to speak to a group of elderly citizens a few days after he was mugged. He searched his soul to find meaning in his traumatic experience.

Standing at his podium to address the elderly crowd, he spoketh thus:

"I have gone through a great personal trauma. I have thought again about my views on crime. And, despite the harsh and ugly act of violence unleashed upon me, I still believe in my liberal principles."

There was silence in the hall. Finally a little old lady in the rear cleared her throat and rumbled, "Mug him again."

Ray Kresky says that perhaps he was mugged when he was swept into office as our President. Like the mugged liberal clergyman, Ray has been thinking things over.



Col. KERMIT BLANEY, 2253 Creekstone NE, Marietta GA 30062, has asked us to print the fact that some gracious lady loaned Marilu a pair of shoes and she'd like to return them to this wonderful lady if she'd simply identify herself. Try Kermit and Marilu at 404-323-5510.

Left handers have rights too.

NEAL A. HUFF, (B 19th 1/12/40 - 8/2/44) now at 1217 So. Latah St., Boise ID 83705.



Col. KEM BLACKER has asked us to print this one:

"A gracious lady lent me her glasses after the fire. Please notify me so I may return same. Thank you. Kem Blacker" 2253 Creekstone NE, Marietta GA 30062, Tel. 404-323-5510.



Veteran's Hospital, Danville IL has received 400 dozen Xmas cookies made by Ceil LIST, LEE's cookie. It's a Christmas thing with the Lists; they do it every year. Great people. Great grandparents too - and we don't mean grandparents who are "great" -- we mean they are real, honest-to-goodness great grandparents as of Nov. 6th -- a 9½# boy. All okay.



Born to Ronnie and David Phillips -- Ronnie is the wonderful daughter of BOB and Mary SHAY -- was Samantha Jean on Nov. 1, 1984. 8#, 4 oz., 21 inches, brown eyes, light brown hair, sleeps a lot, cries a lot. There, you've got it all. Wanted to use the picture but it was a Kodachrome and you know us on Kodachromes. Try a black and white glossy, Ronnie, and we'll give it a go. You can find the Phillips at 508 N.Piper Lane - 2B, Prospect Hts., IL 60070.



*"I'm absolutely against total war, but then I'm not for total peace, either."*



We have long entertained the hope that Lt.Col. STANLEY T. ADAMS, Medal of Honor, would join our ranks. Now retired and living at 20454 Whistle Punk Rd., Bend OR 97702, he has come into our exclusive fold. For bringing this to fruition, we are indebted to PAUL A. FRASER, (52nd F) also of Bend OR, residing at 20427 Mainline Rd. Writes Paul, with justifiable pride: "Stan was a Medal of Honor winner while serving with the 19th near Sesim-ni, Korea. After recovering from his wounds, Stan was ordered back to the Pentagon, where he received a commission. He continued his army service until retirement as a Lt.Col. Among his assignments was a two year tour as Commanding Officer of a company of ceremonial troops at Ft. Myers. This was seven day-a-week duty and a trying two year stint. In both years, Stan's company was named the outstanding company at Ft. Myers."

"Not mentioned in his citation is the fact that, when Stan rejoined the main body after the engagement, bleeding from the ears, mouth and many other wounds, he came back dragging one of his wounded men, still ready to fight anything that got in his way."

"Here is a clipping of an interview by the local newspaper that may have other details you might find useful."

Thank you, Paul. We found the clipping mighty useful and are reproducing it on the next page. Thanks.

And Stan, we're right proud to have you with us.



All it took was one Hail Mary for Doug Flutie to clinch the Heisman.



Instead of constantly naming Wayne Gretzky player of the week, why doesn't the NHL simply name him player of the century?



# War hero's life may be quiet now, but medal acts as reminder of past

By Tom Hays  
Bulletin Staff Writer

One might think to look at Stanley Adams is to know him.

On a recent warm and muggy afternoon, Adams, 62, sat in the cool and tidy living room of his home, which lies on the outskirts of the Bend Golf and Country Club.

He had just finished a morning round of golf and was wearing green-checked golf pants and a matching shirt. His full head of hair was combed back into a perfect white wave.

The Adams profile looked clear: retired, comfortable, dignified, conservative and somewhat reserved.

Yet, halfway around the world, on a February evening 33 years ago, Adams killed 50 men.

The men were North Korean and Chinese soldiers, enemies of the United States in a war fought to prevent the spread of communism.

The Army brass thought enough of Adams' heroics to award him a symbol the nation reserves for its bravest fighting men — the Medal of Honor.

Adams, a retired lieutenant colonel, moved to Bend with his wife, Jean, in November.

He is one of only three men in Oregon to hold the honor. Their exclusive club — the Congressional Medal of Honor Society — has approximately 243 members nationwide.

The group meets every other year in places such as New York and Honolulu, sharing a common bond that needs no elaboration. War stories are not on the agenda.

"When they get together for a reunion, this type of thing is never mentioned," said Jean Adams, who served as a Wave in San Francisco during World War II.

The couple married four years ago, after a blind date, but that's another story.

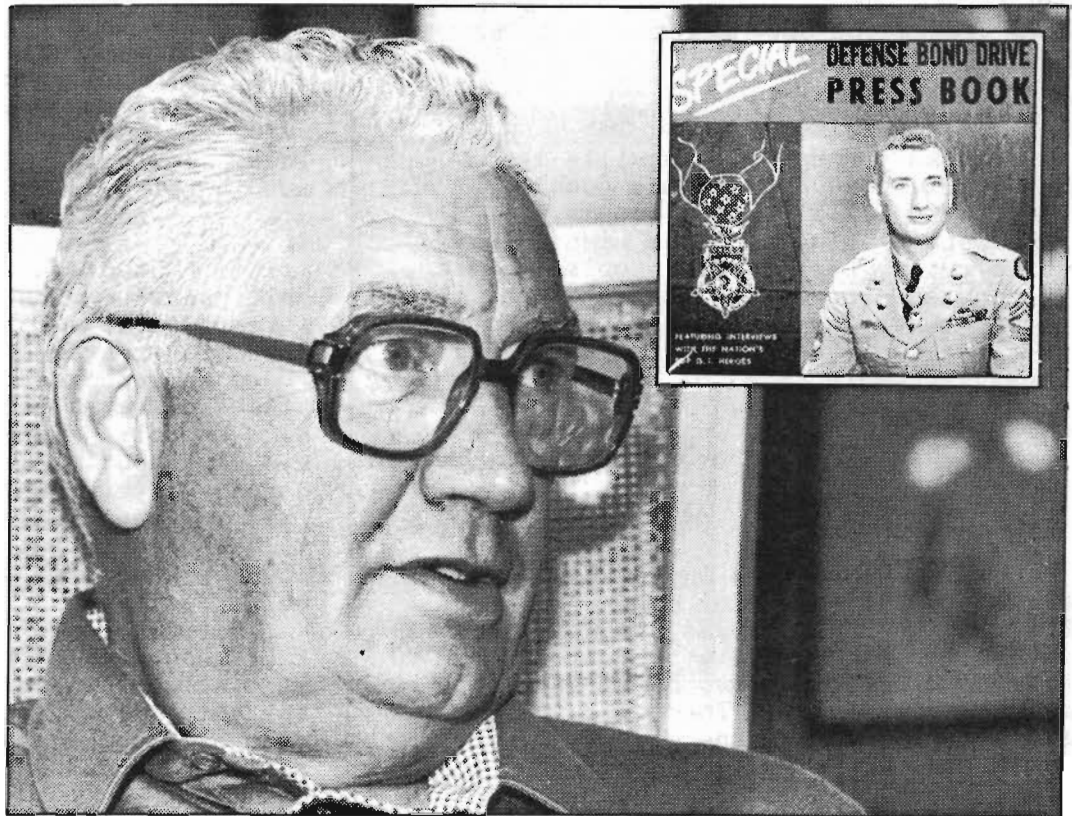
The story of her husband's heroic moment?

"You have to pull it out of him," she said.

On this day, the story spilled out, but not in a boastful manner.

It was February 1951 in Korea. Adams, then 29, was a platoon sergeant in the 8th Army, which was pushing north, trying to regain ground on a persistent group of North Korean and Chinese forces.

After Adams' battalion set up a defensive position for the night, the enemy overran it in a surprise attack.



Bulletin/Pat Casey

## Adams spent several months on road promoting sales of war bonds

In the confusion, Adams managed to retaliate by firing a couple of shots from an anti-tank gun aimed into an enemy squad, later estimated to comprise 250 men.

The shots "caught some of the clothing on fire and lit up the area enough so we could see what we were doing," he said.

"We" was 12 men — armed only with rifles fixed with bayonets — he'd rallied from a reserve platoon. The men, at least initially, didn't like the odds.

"I gave the order to move out, and at first they didn't go," Adams recalled. "Then I said, 'Okay, I'll go,' and when I started they all followed me."

His explanation of what happened next sounded like a third-person account: "We engaged in two hours of hand-to-hand combat. I was credited with killing approximately 50 of the enemy."

Seven of the 13 Americans died in the battle. The rest were wounded. Adams suffered a gunshot wound in the leg and sustained other injuries from grenade explosions.

The group's effort allowed the rest of the battalion time to withdraw.

To a television generation conditioned by the images of the Korean conflict created by the show "M\*A\*S\*H" some questions come to mind.

One: Why take on more than 200 men almost single-handedly?

Adams' answer: "I guess I took the right 12 men with me who knew how to do the right thing." Genuine modesty. Try again.

This time the response gave insight shared only by those placed in life-threatening situations.

In Adams' case, thoughts of defending democracy faded and the instinct to survive took over.

"You really don't know what power and strength the human body has until you're put into a life-threatening situation," he said. "When you're fighting hand-to-hand, you do everything in your power to stay alive. Whether it's a bullet, bayonet or rifle butt, you've got to use everything that's available to stay alive."

That still leaves the question of how you place yourself in that situation in the first place.

To this, Adams could only offer another series of automatic responses: "I was a platoon sergeant. I was a professional soldier. It was my job."

For doing his job, Adams was nominated for the Medal of Honor, based on the recommendation of four witnesses.

"I have no idea who (nominated me). I didn't think there was anybody left," he said, with a slight smile. "I never saw the survivors again."

Adams received the medal July 5, 1951, in a ceremony at the White House. The president was a World War I veteran, Harry Truman.

"It was quite an experience," Adams recalled. "Not everyone gets to sit in the Oval Office and get a personal interview with the president. Truman was quite an individual. It was one of the most interesting 20 minutes I've spent in my time."





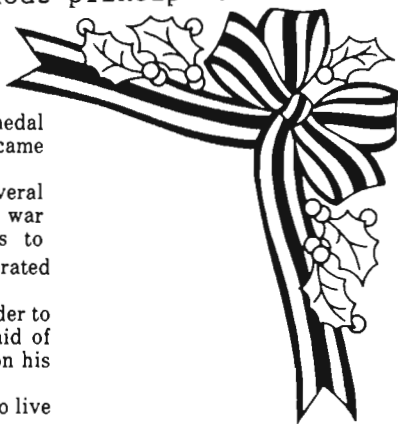
Today's trivia: Name the oldest and youngest players in the NBA.



BERT BOAK, (24th Recn '50-'51) of 728 Locust, Canal Fulton, Ohio.

### GANDHI'S SEVEN SINS

1. Wealth without work
2. Pleasure without conscience.
3. Knowledge without character.
4. Commerce without morality.
5. Science without humanity.
6. Worship without sacrifice.
7. Politics without principle.



Truman draped the medal around Adams' neck. Then came the hard part.

Adams spent the next several months on the road, selling war bonds and making speeches to crowds intrigued by a decorated war hero.

"Some have found it harder to wear than to receive," he said of the medal he has displayed on his living room wall.

"It can be a hard thing, to live up to what you have to wear on your chest."

Adams remained in the service, which took him to Panama, Iran and Italy. He retired in 1971, worked for the Internal Revenue Service in Portland and Alaska for eight years and moved to Bend after living in Arizona for four years.

Even in retirement, "I still serve my country," he said proudly.

In his spare time, Adams works for the Oregon Committee for Employment Support of the Guard and Reserve. His job is to help reserve officers who have problems gaining employer release for training.

The gunshot wound still causes him some pain in his leg. But even with that constant reminder of the price he paid for his country, Adams shies away from the hero label.

"I'm just a soldier," he said. "I'll always be one."



A chatty note from BLAKE PHILLIPS of 5631 Britannia, Sarasota, FL goes this way:

"Due to wounds and injuries received in Korea, I have been in and out of the VA hospital at Bay Pines FL. Have verification of appointment with Washington, D.C. VAMC Pain Clinic which I will attend in May '85. Had planned to attend the C. reunion but physical difficulties prevented me. Maybe next year. Am enclosing a check for my dues and also dues for an 'Ichi-bon Tamadachi' who was with me in Beppu back in '46 and '47. He was most notorious among the 'POM-POM' girls of Beppu as 'Okie Ahgo san' (Big Chin). He presently is Detective Supervisor with the Minneapolis MN police department and a swell guy. He's ROBERT E. MADRYGA, 5033 Washbourn South, Minneapolis MN 55410. Taro Leaf is outstanding, and I look forward to receiving it. Don't recognize many of the names in the paper, except once in awhile you mention HOWARD LUMSDEN who I was with in Beppu (E 19th) in '46-'47. Also ran across him in Korea in '51. I wish you, and all members of the 24th Inf.Div., past and present, a most joyous holiday season with health to us all."

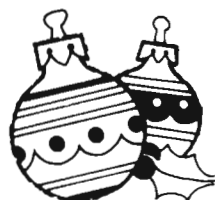
Nice letter, Bale, and thanx for the kudos.



We regret to inform you

that there

is no Santa Claus



Trivia answer: Both are former UCLA centers -- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 37 and Stuart Gray, 21.

TEE SHIRTS and BASEBALL CAPS:



ORDER FORM FOR

24th DIVISION TEE SHIRTS 7" PATCH IN CENTER

and

BASEBALL CAPS WITH PATCH

\_\_\_\_\_ shirts, size S @ \$6.00 each : \_\_\_\_\_ Baseball Caps  
\_\_\_\_\_ shirts, size M @ \$6.00 each : (one size fits all)  
\_\_\_\_\_ shirts, size L @ \$6.00 each : @ \$5.00 each  
\_\_\_\_\_ shirts, size XL @ \$6.00 each :

Please write separate check payable to "AUSA",

and send order to ACoFS, G5, 24th Infantry Division (Mech.)  
Ft. Stewart, GA 31314

PATCHES AND CRESTS:

ORDER FORM FOR

PATCHES or CRESTS

\_\_\_\_\_ Division crests (Taro Leaf), \$3.10 per set of two  
\_\_\_\_\_ Division patches, full-color, \$1.65 per set of two  
\_\_\_\_\_ Division patches, subdued, \$1.65 per set of two  
\_\_\_\_\_ CIB, metal, full-color, pin-on, 82¢ each  
\_\_\_\_\_ CIB with one star, metal, full-color, pin-on, \$1.32 each  
\_\_\_\_\_ 19th Inf. crests, \$3.70 per set of two  
\_\_\_\_\_ 21st Inf. crests, \$3.20 per set of two  
\_\_\_\_\_ 34th Inf. crests, \$3.10 per set of two  
\_\_\_\_\_ 24th Med. crests, \$3.70 per set of two  
\_\_\_\_\_ 724th Maint. crests, \$3.10 per set of two  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3rd Engr. crests, \$3.10 per set of two  
\_\_\_\_\_ 124th MI Bn crests, \$3.40 per set of two  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other current Divisional unit crests, \$3.10 per set of two  
Please identify unit: \_\_\_\_\_



Please write separate check payable to "MCSS",

and send order to ACoFS, G5, 24th Infantry Division (Mech.)  
Ft. Stewart, GA 31314

LICENSE PLATES and DECALS:

Provided free of charge when available.  
There may be a short delay in receiving these.

Send your request to: ACoFS, G5, 24th Infantry Division  
(Mech.)  
Ft. Stewart GA 31314





This one's for new member BILL LARKIN (H 21st '42-'45), of 2508 Lancers, Richmond VA:

The witness was not too bright; we'll mention this to start with. She was testifying in a criminal case involving a shooting in a bar. The district attorney couldn't resist a few leading questions to sum up.

"Ms. Brown, you were in the bar having a drink with James?"

"Yes," she said.

"Tommy Lee entered the bar and came over to where you and James were sitting?"

"Yes sir, he did."

"He yelled something at James and hit James in the mouth?"

"Yes sir, that's what happened."

"James stood back up and hit Tommy Lee?"

"Yes."

"And then Tommy Lee pulled out his gun and shot James in the fracas?"

The witness hesitated. She glanced up at the judge, looked at the D.A. and said, "No sir, just above it."



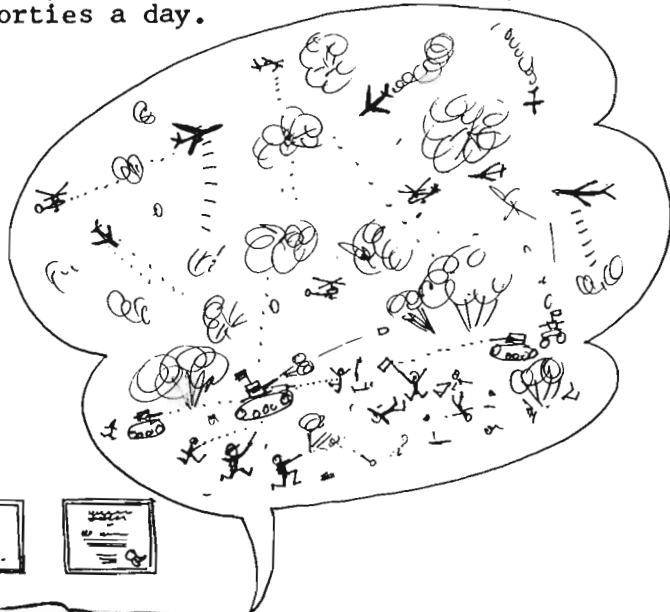
Early in December, Exercise Quick Thrust drew 18,000 soldiers to Stewart. They came from Bragg and Campbell and joined Air Force and Marine units.

Quick Thrust is a twice-a-year Air Force and Army exercise always held at Fort Stewart. This was the largest Quick Thrust exercise ever, in terms of Army participation. Nearly every unit on Stewart was involved, plus a brigade from the 101st Airborne from Campbell and a battalion from the 82nd Airborne from Bragg. Also, Bravo Battery, 3rd Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion from Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station NC participated.

The exercise scenario called for opposing forces to have taken over a friendly country, located on the Fort Stewart reservation. Friendly forces arrived on the eastern end of the reservation to protect Savannah and to force the enemy back to the west, reestablishing the borders of the country to their original position (Fort Stewart's boundaries).

Live fire of weapons was very limited during the exercise. Night-time firing of artillery was scheduled from Dec. 3-7 with some live fire set for daytime.

The Air Force used A-7, A-10, F-4, F-15, F-16 and F-106 aircraft from various Tactical Air Command units within 9th Air Force, headquartered at Shaw Air Force Base, SC. These aircraft flew up to 230 sorties a day.





# OBITUARIES

Died Sept. 29, 1984: RALPH A. GOFF, of Corpus Christi TX. Ralph was attached to Division as Air Force liaison. Was held a POW for 17 months and as he wrote it, "Was in the only unit to escape successfully from the Chinese forces." Born in 1929 in Kentucky, he lived in Illinois for years, working at Caterpillar Tractor in Peoria before enlisting. His later years were spent as a painter in Texas. He leaves his beloved wife Carol Mitchell, and sons, Charles and Ralph. We were ably represented at the funeral by our own LEE LIST who reported it thusly: "Went to both visitation and Funeral of Ralph Goff. It was military all the way. The chaplain was young and knew his job. American Legion had a firing squad and color guard. They were short one man for color guard and I filled in for them. Was a great honor to do this for the Goff family. Our flowers were beautiful. Went to the florist, told him to make up something nice for my old buddie. I think they went overboard with the flowers. The Goff family accepted them gratefully. They were sure surprised that we sent them. Carol's last request is that you send her the "Taro Leaf". Never was any family more pleased than the Goff family for what we did at their time of need."

Deceased: Shirley Ruth MITCHELL, beloved wife of our own LEONARD R. MITCHELL, (F 34th '44-'45), of 1078 Geneva, Columbus, Ohio, on Oct. 10, 1984. Wrote Len: "Shirley and I had received your letter. She sure was glad to know people were praying for her. She said she wouldn't surrender and she didn't. She just went to sleep. She had to go with her God. He wanted her. She had suffered a lot -- 14 months. I shall miss her as long as I live. Then I'll join her." Keep a stiff upper lip, Len. We all feel for you.

Cable just in as we go to press: "Inform all 24th Division BUDDY FAROLA died November 20th. Mrs. Rosa White Farola." ANICETO "Buddy" FAROLA, Chief of Police in Sto. Tomas Davao Norte, Mindanao, P.I. was Life Member 95, was our Scout on the Lubang "expedition." Through all the years, he was as loyal to the 24th as anyone of its regular members, present or past. He loved us, and we loved him.

Word received that ROBERT H. STIREWALT, (3rd Eng. '50-'51), of Rt. 2, Box 461, China Grove NC, passed away on Sept. 17, 1984.

Deceased: HERMAN E. COWEE. Details not forthcoming. Wrote JESSE FOSTER in advising of this loss: "Just received word of the passing of my old Sgt. Maj., a good old Chick from the Pineapple Army. Herman and I were together when we changed from 19th AT Co. to the 767th Tk. Bn. I saw him about a week before he died and he was in terrible pain. He held my hand for at least an hour. He cried because I cared enough to go and see him. I didn't give up trying to find him." Spoken like a real trooper, Jess.

Our condolences are extended to GLENN "Doug" WAGNER, (Sv. 19th '44-'45), of Box 11, Shaftsbury, MI 48882, on the loss of his brother.

From loyal member BOB HARDIN comes word of the death of Chief FRANK CHAPPELLA. A World War II Army Veteran who served with us, he passed away on May 26, 1984. He will be missed throughout the Indian world. The traditional ceremonies were held for the chief and religious leader of the Tewa Indians on the Hopi Indian Reservation in Northern Arizona.

Deceased: ELMER V. BROWN, (H 21st 6/42-8/45), of Osceola, Iowa, on Oct. 13th at Veterans Hosp., Des Moines. LELAND and Pat LIPPER thoughtfully attended the military service. Elmer had been in bad health for the last 14 years. He leaves his beloved wife, Viola Grace. There were no children born to this union, but Viola Grace had 2 daughters and a son whom he loved as his own. He had in Lee Lipper a warm and devoted friend.