

TARO LEAF  
24th Infantry Division Association  
Kenwood Ross, Editor  
120 Maple Street  
Springfield MA 01103-2278



VOL. XXXXIII - NO. 2 - 1989 - 1990

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Cain, Paul J.  
PO Box 3092  
Urbana IL 61801

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN UNTIL JULY 1...

4061- 55 th Way, North, Apt. 940  
Kenneth City, Florida 33709  
February 17, 1990

# FUN FUN FUN

Mr. Kenwood Ross, Editor  
The Taro Leaf  
120 Maple Street  
Springfield, Ma. 01103

Subject: Convention Cartoons

Dear Ken:

I figured that I had better send you a selection of convention cartoons well in advance!

Last year I goofed and did a lot of work for nothing as I did not allow sufficient time for pre-publication preparation!

So this year I'll get smart and allow you some time for a selection process! ( Or if you decide not to use any of the three it is O.K. by me, as I realize that I tend to be a "little far out" most of the time!).

I sometimes wish that my attempted humor was more normal, but I can not seem to come up with the run of the mill jokes! Sorry! Anyway, I appreciate your understanding and patience with me. Thanks for giving me Taro Leaf men such a fine publication! As an old advertising and sales "worker", I can sympathize with your ongoing problems in putting out such a fine paper. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,  
  
Bob Gardner



# TARO LEAF



1990 Shuffle off  
to Buffalo -

# TARO LEAF

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

## PRESIDENT:

THOMAS F. UPTON  
(Div.Hq. '42-'44)  
4 Dartmouth St.,  
Forest Hills NY 11375  
Tel. 718-263-0726

## VICE PRESIDENT:

HERBERT C. CARLSON  
(B 19th '48-'50)  
PO Box 66  
Pittsburgh NH 03592  
Tel. 603-538-7797

## SEC'Y.-TREAS.-EDITOR:

KENWOOD ROSS  
(Div.Hq. '44-'47)  
120 Maple St.,  
Springfield MA 01103  
Tel. 413-733-3194  
FAX 413-733-3195

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

WALLACE F. KUHNER  
(24th Recn.Co.)  
1637 Falmouth St.,  
Charleston SC 29407  
Tel. 803-766-8890

\* \* \* \*

1990 CONVENTION  
Buffalo, New York  
Hyatt Regency  
Two Fountain Plaza  
Buffalo NY 14202

## DIRECTORY CHAIRMAN:

JOSEPH J. MCKEON  
(19th '49-'51)  
12733 Muscatine St.,  
Arleta CA 91331  
Tel. 818-768-1704

## CHAPLAIN:

JOSEPH P. HOFRICHTER  
(F 34th '44)  
1718 Bird Dog Ct.  
Loveland OH 45140  
Tel. 513-677-0267

## CONVENTION CHAIRMAN:

VINCENT VELLA  
(K 21st '44-'46)  
107 Homer Av.,  
Buffalo NY 14216  
Tel. 716-873-7129

\* \* \* \*

## PAST PRESIDENT:

ROBERT R. ENDER  
(H 21st '42-'45)  
1864 El Paso Lane  
Fullerton CA 92633  
Tel. 714-526-6860

A good newshound  
can always sniff  
out a good story

BOB ROY, SR. (M 21st '49-'51) of RD 4, Box 402A, Wynantskill NY 12198, has printed up 5000 of these. He'll mail you any quantity you may ask for.

## TO HONOR A KOREAN WAR VETERAN

There were 5,500,000 men and women who are veterans of the Korean War. They served their nation from June 25, 1950 until January 30, 1955. One Million, Five Hundred Thousand served in Korea, but the service of others in the United States or in Berlin or in Alaska was no less vital, and helped this nation survive one of the most destructive of wars. Seventy-five per cent of those on the front lines in Korea were wounded.

A memorial is being built and funds for the construction are needed. If 300,000 people each donate only Ten (\$10.00) Dollars the goal of \$6,000,000.00 will be reached, for \$3,000,000 has already been collected.

All contributions for the memorial are earmarked exclusively for the Korean War Veterans Memorial and will be deposited in a special, interest earning escrow account with the Treasurer of the United States and invested in accounts guaranteed by the United States Government. All funds are administered under the oversight of Congressional committees.

Your check should be made payable to the KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND. Please place the letters "KWVA" on the lower left corner of your check (on the memorandum line). Your check is tax deductible.

Please send your check or money order to:

KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND  
% KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
POST OFFICE BOX 65330  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20035

I am honored to contribute my check or money order of \$10.00 (or more) to the Korean War Veterans Memorial in the Nation's Capital in honor of

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Unit of Service in Korean War (if Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Military Service and years served (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

A one-year subscription (5 issues, maybe 4, maybe 6) costs \$10.00; outside U.S. \$25.00.

All correspondence (manuscripts, pictures, federal grants, plaudits, threatening letters, etc.) should be addressed to the Editor.

In accordance with the rights granted by the First Amendment, the opinions expressed in the magazine are those of the authoros and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Association.

Published remarkably without regard to sex, race, color, creed, lifestyle, national origin, political orientation, physical handicap, or age.

**Are Your Current 1989-90 Dues Paid?**  
**Subscription /Membership Year**  
**August 1, 1989 - July 31, 1990**

**Check your card TODAY!!!**

It will cost your association time and money to bill you.

**Please pay dues promptly!**

# BULLETIN BOARD

Mail Returned - JOHN R. MACNIDER (HV Mort.Co. 19th '50-'51) Life Member 489, was at 3301 Yorba Linda Blvd., #207, Fullerton CA 92631. Can anyone help us in locating him.

BOB HARPER (34th and 19th - Korea), of 1293 Ruby Ann, Saginaw MI, noted our bit about naming buildings, streets, etc. at Ft. Stewart after our heroes. He asks if there is anything there named after Maj.Gen. BILL DEAN. We dunno, Bob - but we're gonna find out.

A bunch at FW were kicking around a problem in close-order drill. It went like this: As commander of a platoon that is facing a building, march it completely around the building, returning it to its original position without giving the same preparatory command twice.

Our September party in Buffalo is not for bankers, brokers, bakers, or candlestick makers -- only Taro Leafers!

That history - "The History of the 24th Infantry Division 1941-1991" - has yet to go to press. In fact it is still being edited. The price - \$45.00 per copy. Send your \$ to the Secy.-Treas. should you want a copy. But please be patient; we're moving as fast as we can. Honestly!!!

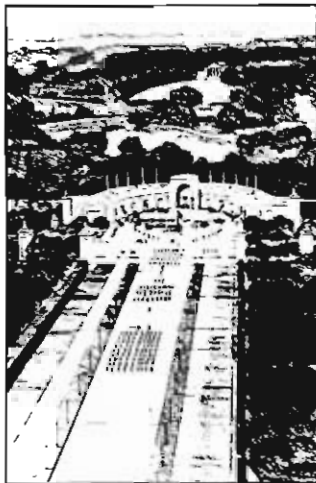
### Women Veterans Not Forgotten

There are hundreds of memorials scattered throughout Washington, D.C., but none that honor our nation's 1.6 million women veterans, both past and present. A group of volunteers led by a retired Air Force general is determined to change that and to tackle what some consider an impossible task—raising \$15 million in non-federal donations by November 1991 to fund construction of a memorial at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.

BGen Wilma L. Vaught, USAF-Ret., is president of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, a non-profit organization mandated by Congress to raise funds and construct the memorial. To date, the group has raised about \$1 million, the majority of which has come from publicity in national circulation magazines, such as *Good Housekeeping*, *Modern Maturity* and *DAV Magazine*. A national network of field representatives also has been established to promote the memorial, and at present there are 225 field representatives in 36 states and Washington, D.C.

The design incorporates the existing Hemicycle near the Memorial Bridge and features 10 triangular prisms of glass that commemorate the role of women who have served in the military and symbolize their collective contribution. At night, the prisms will glow softly from inner lights. The completed project will include a cultural/educational center and an auditorium where films will chronicle the contributions of U.S. servicewomen throughout history.

A unique feature of the memorial will be a computer register listing the names, records of service, photos and memorable military experi-



ences of each registered woman's service. The registration process makes it possible for every woman who is serving or who has ever served to be identified and registered, thus giving her a permanent visible place in America's history and heritage. Women veterans can register for a minimum donation of \$25. Donations can be made in memory or in honor of someone else. For example, many families have registered deceased women veteran relatives who served during World Wars I and II.

Send donations and registration payments or inquiries to Women in Military Memorial Foundation, Dept. 560, Washington, DC 20042-0560. The toll-free number is (800)222-2294. In the Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., areas, call (703)533-1155. Please mention that you read about the memorial project in *The Retired Officer Magazine*.



LARRY GUMP (24th Med '51-'52) of 23008 Hilse, Santa Clarita CA, 91321, met BOB ENDER at this ground-breaking for the west coast Korean War Memorial. Larry had never heard of us; Bob was the only Taro Leafer he had ever met. He sends us this picture of self and Baron adding "Baron is the one on the left." You're one of us now, Larry. So's Baron. Welcome aboard.

### OUR THANKS TO YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE

Would like to thank all of you for your patience during our deluge of new memberships. We're still trying to catch up and will as soon as possible.

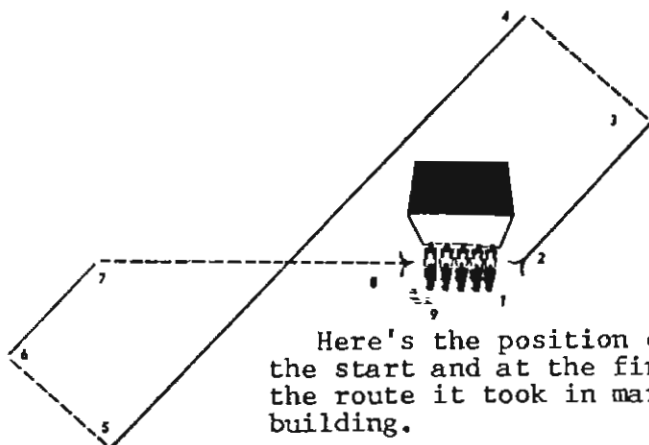


"Where on earth does all your grocery money go?"

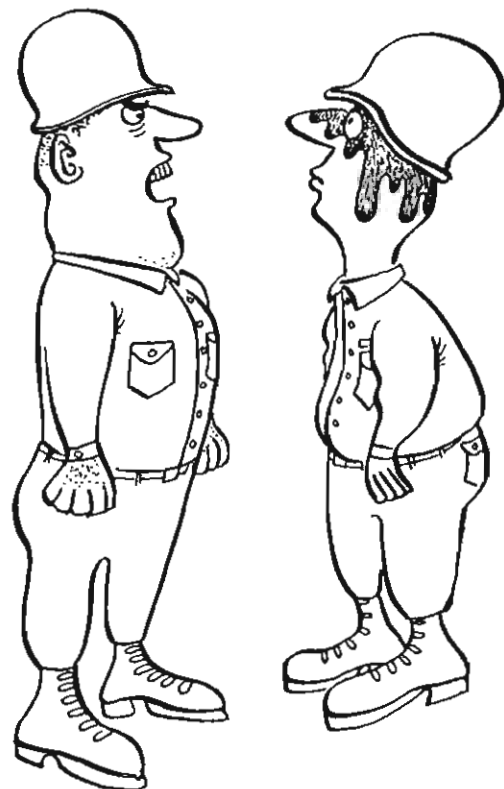
That problem on how to march the platoon around the building without repeating any preparatory command?

'Twas easy.

Try these: (1) Right Face. (2) Column Half Left. (3) Column Left. (4) By the Left Flank. (5) By the Right Flank. (6) Column Right. (7) Column Half Right. (8) Platoon Halt. (9) Left Face.



Here's the position of the platoon at the start and at the finish and here's the route it took in marching around the building.

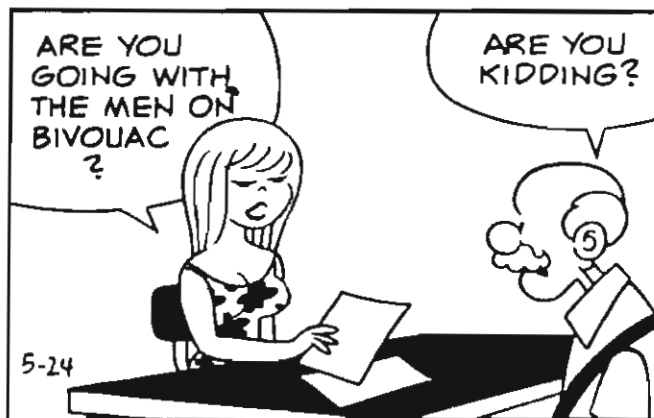


"NORD, ARE YOU HIDING CHOCOLATE BARS IN YOUR HELMET LINER AGAIN?"

Where we've been in times past:

1948 Baltimore I  
1949 New York City I  
1950 Chicago I  
1951 Detroit  
1952 Colombus  
1953 St.Louis I  
1954 Washington  
1954 San Francisco  
1955 Garmisch  
1955 New York City II  
1956 New York City III  
1957 Chicago II  
1958 Chicago III  
1959 Philadelphia  
1960 Atlantic City  
1961 Louisville I  
1962 Chicago IV  
1963 Louisville II  
1964 Boston  
1965 Hawaii  
1966 Myrtle Beach I  
1967 Chicago V  
1968 Myrtle Beach II  
1969 St.Louis II  
1970 Nassau  
1971 Louisville III  
1972 Chicago VI  
1973 West Point  
1974 Clearwater  
1975 Peoria  
1976 Savannah I  
1977 Norfolk  
1978 Savannah II  
1979 Lexington  
1980 Pittsburgh  
1980 Irvine CA  
1981 St.Louis III  
1982 Baltimore II  
1983 Savannah III  
1984 Cincinnati  
1985 Louisville IV  
1986 Los Angeles  
1987 Schaumburg  
1988 Savannah IV  
1989 Fort Worth

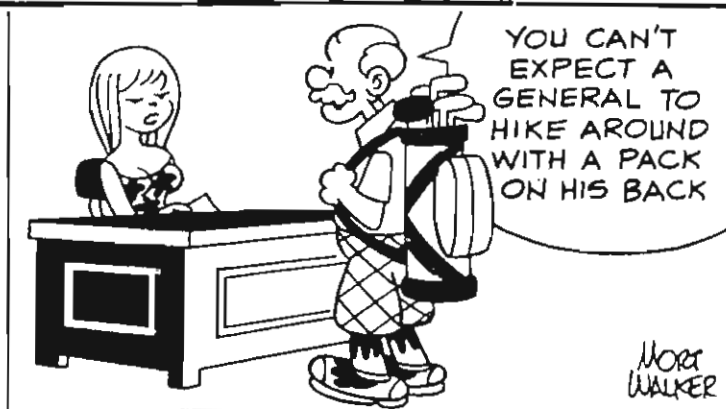
### Beetle Bailey / By MORT WALKER



ARE YOU GOING WITH THE MEN ON BIVOUAC ?

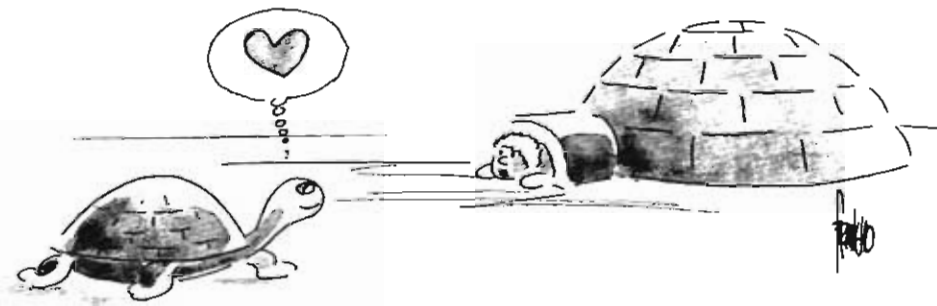
ARE YOU KIDDING?

5-24



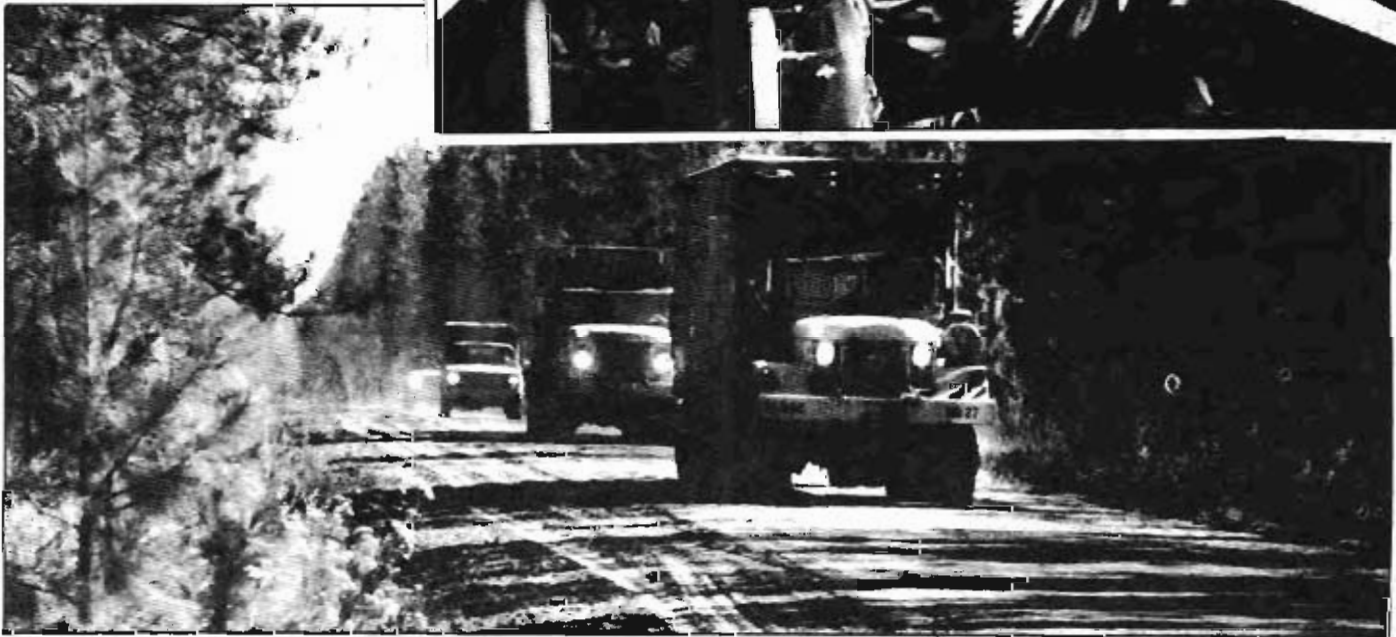
YOU CAN'T EXPECT A GENERAL TO HIKE AROUND WITH A PACK ON HIS BACK

MORT WALKER



Division's main logistical computer (all \$800,000 worth) has taken to the field in a 40-foot trailer. It is used to process all of Division's logistical data. M/Sgt. LARRY BANKS, NCOTC System Support Office says "The operation is essential to the mission of the Division. If it is down, then logistics just stops. It's the heart of the Division's logistics system."

After a successful move to the field, CWO 3 Tyrone Billingsley, technician, Logistical Automated System Support Office, DISCOM, and Sgt. Scott Brown, shift supervisor, LASSO, DISCOM, run a logistics data cycle on the DAS-3 computer.



The DAS-3 computer, housed in a 40-foot trailer, makes its way down a tank trail on a seven-and-a-half mile road march. The road march was designed to put the field

worthiness of the DAS-3 to the test. The DAS-3 has not gone to the field for three years.

Move over, Ms. Buxley; the competition is a-building.

#### BEETLE BAILEY



If women will fight as they drive, they ought to make great infantry people - absolutely fearless.

Postcarded: BRONKO ATKINSON (24th MP & Hq.Co. 63 FA '41-'45) hails us from Fiji - is sailing around the world. BILL BROOME (I 21st '38-'40) hails us from Thailand with a picture of a bridge over the River Kwai.

The cost of running and renovating schools for military dependents outside the United States in 1991 will top \$1 billion, according to President Bush's budget. These are schools for the kids - the dependents - not military personnel.



VINNIE and Fran VELLA are heading up the committee planning our September Fiesta in Buffalo. Say they, we'll find a warm reception from the friendly people of their "great city".

And this is the way the cookie crumbles. Problems with Japanese customs officials that barred a shipment of Girl Scout cookies from reaching sailors aboard the USS Midway have been resolved.

Japanese customs blocked the first shipment of 402 boxes from a Corpus Christi TX troop and assessed a \$2000 duty, which Brownie officials said was too steep for the children.

But the Japanese have relented and the cookies finally reached the Midway.

Makes you wonder, once more, just who won that war, doesn't it?

# Batteries included.

No sooner is Taro Leaf on its way to you than we are at work on the next issue. Reminds us of that lovable sports columnist Red Smith who had an idea about the problem. Sayeth he: "Editing is like being married to a nymphomaniac - once you're done, you have to start right over again."

One weekend in February, BOB ENDER and the Editor flew to Seattle (at their own expense, by-the-by) for a meeting of the officers of other division associations for an exchange of ideas. ADA is the name of the organization - Army Division Associations. They meet once a year - very, very profitable!



Vice President HERBERT C. CARLSON (B 19th '48-'50) of PO Box 66, Pittsburgh NH 03592, writes us from his home at the very northern tip of NH, right astride the Canadian border. Says "It's cold up here."



# Need We Say More?

24th Division Artillery will reunite again in Reno

24th Div.Arty.  
Reno, NV - May 22-25, 1990  
Contact Mel Pasta  
6233 Rampart Dr.,  
Carmichael CA 95608

BUD COLLETTE (5th RCT '51-'52) wrote us from 507 E.Timber, Payson AZ, with request that we print this one - which we gladly do:

Korean War Veterans and Era Reunion  
Oct. 18-21, 1990 - Phoenix, Arizona  
Contact: Jim Bork, (Tel.602-272-2418)  
3301 W.Encanto, Phoenix AZ 85009.

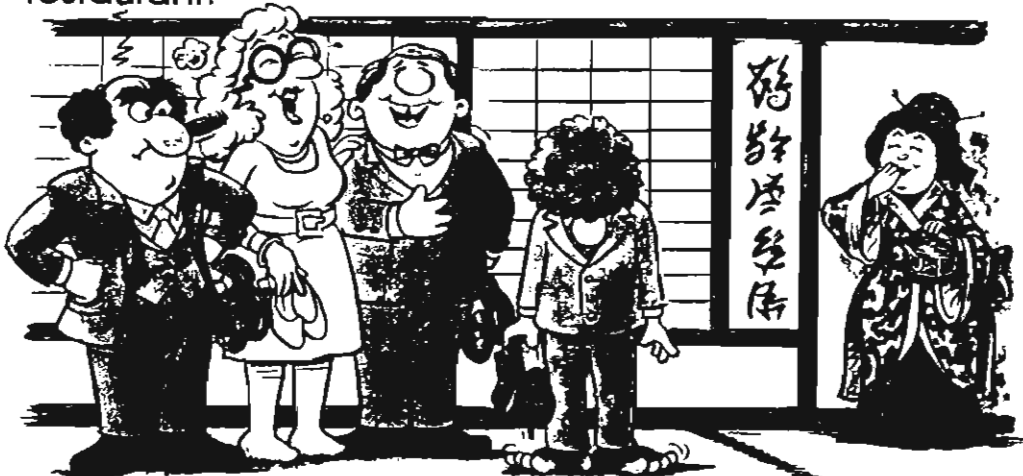
## Never Say Goodbye.

The following up graded address concerning the Liberation Medal is: Adjutant General, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Camp General Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines and do NOT FORGET to include the substantiating papers for your proof...Please be very patient as our medal took up to three months to arrive!

(Editor's Note: For further "INFO" contact the above NOT - we REPEAT - NOT US)

### MURPHY'S LAW NO. 1

The day you are down to your shabbiest pair of socks is the day your boss takes everyone to a Japanese restaurant!



Have YOU Renewed Your Membership? 1990 Dues are Due ...

## CONSPICUOUS SUBTLETY

A staid-looking gentleman was upset at the dress of some young people on the street. "Just look at that one," he barked to a bystander. "Is it a boy or a girl?"

"It's a girl. She's my daughter."  
"Oh, forgive me," apologized the man. "I didn't know you were her mother."  
"I'm not," snapped the bystander. "I'm her father."

BOB BRABHAM (Div.Hq. '42-'45) of Box 1001, Sumter SC made a nice contribution in memory of WALTER CUNNINGHAM, "a great man and a great boss during my tour". And that was followed by a thoughtful note and check from Col. HARRY and Deloris RUBIN (Div.Hq. '76-'79) of Box 774, Hinesville GA 31313.

MINUTES BEFORE GOING TO PRESS BOB HOLLOWAY (G 21st '42-'45; L 21st '48-'50) writes from VA Hospital, Livermore CA. "Am in hospital at present; been here 10 days; doing much better." If you write him, it's Box 393, Keyes CA 95328.

Jack Carter says: "What a date I had last night! Wow! I took this great looking blonde up to my apartment to see my etchings and it worked - she bought three of them."

# DON'T FORGET!

## MAIL TODAY

HYATT REGENCY  BUFFALO

IN THE HEART OF THE THEATRE & FINANCIAL DISTRICTS

TWO FOUNTAIN PLAZA  
BUFFALO, NY 14202 USA

NAME OF GROUP <b>24th INFANTRY DIVISION</b>		CONF CODE <b>I6</b>	ARRIVAL DATE:	DEPARTURE DATE:																																				
DATES OF FUNCTION <b>SEPTEMBER 26-29, 1990</b>			TIME OF ARRIVAL:																																					
FULL NAME LAST FIRST MIDDLE			<b>GUARANTEED RESERVATIONS*</b> INDICATE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: A. ASSURED RESERVATION CREDIT CARD NAME _____ CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____ B. FIRST NIGHT DEPOSIT ENCLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____																																					
COMPANY																																								
STREET PHONE																																								
CITY STATE & ZIP CODE HYATT GOLD PASSPORT #																																								
ROOMMATE'S NAME (OTHER THAN SPOUSE)	DATE OF ARRIVAL	DATE OF DEPARTURE																																						
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">PLEASE CIRCLE RATE DESIRED</th> <th>REGENCY CLUB LEVEL</th> <th>SUITE TYPE</th> <th>PARLOR &amp; ONE BEDROOM</th> <th>PARLOR &amp; TWO BEDROOM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SINGLE 1 Person, 1 Bed</td> <td>\$67.00</td> <td>REGENCY CLUB LEVEL (Upon Availability) SGL DBL</td> <td>HURON (280 sq. ft. parlor)</td> <td>\$165.00</td> <td>\$240.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DOUBLE 2 People, 1 Bed</td> <td>\$67.00</td> <td>\$115.00 \$125.00</td> <td>GENESSEE (264 sq. ft. parlor includes wet bar)</td> <td>\$165.00</td> <td>\$240.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DOUBLE/DOUBLE 2 People, 2 Beds</td> <td>\$67.00</td> <td></td> <td colspan="3">NOTE: SUITES ARE BASED UPON AVAILABILITY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TRIPLE</td> <td>\$67.00</td> <td></td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>QUAD</td> <td>\$67.00</td> <td></td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					PLEASE CIRCLE RATE DESIRED		REGENCY CLUB LEVEL	SUITE TYPE	PARLOR & ONE BEDROOM	PARLOR & TWO BEDROOM	SINGLE 1 Person, 1 Bed	\$67.00	REGENCY CLUB LEVEL (Upon Availability) SGL DBL	HURON (280 sq. ft. parlor)	\$165.00	\$240.00	DOUBLE 2 People, 1 Bed	\$67.00	\$115.00 \$125.00	GENESSEE (264 sq. ft. parlor includes wet bar)	\$165.00	\$240.00	DOUBLE/DOUBLE 2 People, 2 Beds	\$67.00		NOTE: SUITES ARE BASED UPON AVAILABILITY			TRIPLE	\$67.00					QUAD	\$67.00				
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QUAD	\$67.00																																							
SIGNATURE _____			DATE _____																																					
*I understand that I am liable for one night's room and tax which will be deducted from my deposit or billed through my credit card in the event that I do not cancel or arrive on the date indicated.																																								

**SPECIFIC ROOM REQUESTS WILL BE HANDLED TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY, BUT CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.**

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN AUGUST 26, 1990.**

**RACK RATES WILL BE QUOTED AFTER THIS DATE, AND ROOMS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.**

FOR FURTHER INQUIRY ON RESERVATIONS,  
PLEASE CALL 716/856-1234 or 1-800-233-1234  
or FAX YOUR RESERVATION TO US: 716/852-6157

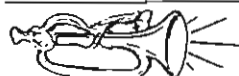
THE HOTEL'S CHECK-IN TIME IS 3:00 P.M. ROOM ASSIGNMENTS PRIOR TO THAT TIME ARE ON AN AVAILABILITY BASIS.

THE HOTEL'S CHECK-OUT TIME IS 12:00 NOON

### REGENCY CLUB LEVEL

THE REGENCY CLUB LEVEL PROVIDES OUTSTANDING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR VIPs AND FOR THOSE WITH DISCRIMINATING TASTE. IT'S LITERALLY A HOTEL WITHIN A HOTEL. SPECIAL ELEVATOR KEYS ALLOW GUESTS ADMISSION TO THE PRIVATE FLOORS. UNIQUE SERVICES INCLUDE A PRIVATE LOUNGE AREA, COMPLIMENTARY CONTINENTAL BREAKFASTS, MORNING NEWSPAPER AND TURNDOWN SERVICE. COMPLETE WITH COMPLIMENTARY CORDIALS AVAILABLE IN THE LOUNGE AREA.

# IF ONLY THESE PICTURES WERE LIFE-SIZE



"You can hear a bugle call  
like you never heard before..."



This one goes into this issue, Kodachrome or no.

It's the beautiful daughter, Marilyn Dahm, and equally beautiful grand-daughter, Shelly Dahm, of the late GERALD STEVENSON (Div. Hq. '42-'44) and his lovely widow, Isabelle. We're not telling you which is which in that photo; you've got to figure it out. Mother and daughter represented Illinois in the National Mother-Daughter Pageant finals in California a few weeks ago. Marilyn lives in Lake Zurich IL where she is a

landscape designer, coaches a gals softball team, and was a teacher. She has 4 young people, Lisa, 21, now living in Maui, Shelly 19, pictured here, summers at Disney World, and is a junior at Southern Illinois U., Tony 17, a senior at Lake Zurich H.S., and Ryan, 12, coming through the Lake Zurich grades. How'd the ladies make out on the west coast, you ask. We saved this for last. Alas, they came so very close, but didn't win. How it hurts to have to report that.

33rd Division Assoc. flying to Japan in October. Going down to Miyasaki (Kyushu) to see the spot where they would have landed on Oct. 1, 1945 had we gone in with the "Charge!!" \$2393 - 10 days includes stops in Osaka, Kobe and Hong Kong.

"I was the last regimental sergeant major when the 19th was disbanded on the DMZ and became battle groups in the 1st Cav. At the time 2nd BG 19th was with the 25th in Hawaii. I delivered the colors to the 2nd BG 19th. I remember Capt. SAM WALKER well. A helluva fine officer and so was his father." Those were the words of B.J. HUNT, Rt. 1, Box 508, Payson AZ.

The columnist, Col. HARRY SUMMERS, and our very good member, is intimidated by noone. If he met Satan, he'd ask him if it was warm enough for him.

Writing on the issue of our withdrawing our military forces from Europe, Harry writes:

"Give a German a gun and he heads for France." So said a French Army student at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College some 20 years ago during a classroom debate on the then-popular Mansfield Amendment calling for the withdrawal of all U.S. military forces from Western Europe.

"The remark was part of his reply to a debater's point that the United States ought to withdraw its military forces from the continent because former French President Charles de Gaulle had made it plain some years earlier that France wanted the United States out of Europe.

"Non, non," the French officer said. 'We don't want the Americans out of Europe. We only want them out of France. After all, someone has got to keep the Germans honest.' Although it would be most gauche to say so, this is a sentiment much on the minds of both our allies and our erstwhile adversaries today, as pressure again builds to withdraw U.S. forward-deployed military forces from Western Europe.

If women will fight as they drive, they ought to make great infantry people - absolutely fearless.

From JIM SNOW of 127A Marine Lake, Hollandale FL, comes this notice, clipped, we assume, from the DAV Magazine - are we correct Jim?:

"Prisoners of war who were within 150 miles of Nagasaki, or 75 miles of Hiroshima should be under constant observation by Veterans Administration clinics or hospitals.

"Occupation forces who were within 10 miles of either city during the period from Aug. 6, 1945 to July 1, 1946 should also get into the Ionizing Radiation Program of the V.A. Medical system."

If our speedometer is right, that second paragraph includes the 24th Division. This will provoke some comment.

Ours, of the moment, is that they're about 45 years late in springing this one on us.

What say you?

With his check, GEORGE FALSO (G 21st '51-'53), writes us from Box 51, Greig, NY: "Susan and I are looking forward to Buffalo."



# From the CROWS' NEST

We'll likely offend someone for publishing this list but we'll risk it.

Olive GRIFFIN, JOHN's lovely wife (3rd Bn. 19th '44-'46) of 1520 Seling, Baltimore MD is now on Oxygen. A prayer for this lovely gal will help.

Triple-by-pass for Col. EDWARD M. MUELLER, JR. (Chaplain, 2nd Battle Group, 21st Inf. and Div. Hq. - Germany '59-'60) of 3141 Rockwell, El Paso TX.

JACK "Pineapple Jack" FINAN (19th '35 - '42) of 758 E. Whitaker Mill, Raleigh NC calls himself a wheel chair jockey. Says he, "If my legs were strong, I'd be fit as a fiddle." Swims every day but has "trouble getting out of the pool". Postcard Jack, will you please, and don't forget an honorable mention for Mary, his old faithful, who is with him every bit of the way. You're terrific, Mary.



KEN and Doris FENTNER live in Amherst, not Buffalo, but Amherst is right next door. Matter of fact, isn't the airport in Amherst, Ken? Ken and Doris tell us that the Hyatt Regency Buffalo has just spent a few million updating it - all for our delectation.

"My husband's always under my feet."  
"Oh, he's retired?"  
"No, he's a midget."



"Yes, we *do* still have a dress code."

Human nature is something that makes you swear at a pedestrian when you are driving and at the driver when you are a pedestrian.

Nice words from BILL WHITMAN (Lt. Col. Ret.) of 128 Funston, San Francisco: "Taro Leaf has been received. It is not gratifying to know that to my knowledge there is only one (1) Infantry Division who appreciated the use of the 5th Regimental Combat team (General Maxwell D. Taylor's 8th Army FIRE BRIGADE in Korea.

"I believe that we were either attached to, or supported every American Division in Korea to include holding the line when the ROK so called troops "bugged" out on us, plus fighting alone.

"I fought under Colonel LESTER L. WHEELER, Combat Team Commander in Korea.

"With the above in mind, I would like to joint the 24th Infantry Division Association.

One John Blodgett, behind bars serving a life sentence for murder in Massachusetts is running for state representative. Only in Massachusetts! Here a convicted murderer has the right to vote, and the right to run for public office as well. Just more of our recycled liberal drivel.

## NOW AREN'T YOU SORRY YOU PEEKED?



## REPORT ON MEETING OF ARMY DIVISIONS ASSOCIATION

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 9 - 10, 1990.

(24th I.D.A. Represented by: Ken Ross - Bob Ender)

This association is composed of various veterans associations, such as ours, for the purpose of exchanging ideas and clarifying situations in the hope that all will participants will benefit from each others experiences and be helpful in administering the operation of each unit. There are about twenty associations involved in this organization, and about sixteen were represented at the Seattle conclave, including our sister division, the 25th. Some of the topics (but not all) were as follows:

Membership: Aside from the units who have a very high percentage of members from the active division (we do not) the average group reported a roster of paid up members ranging from about 1,300 to 3,300. The 1st Cav., 1st Div., 82nd a/b, 101st a/b and 4th Div. reported about 25,000 22,000, 21,000, 8,000 and 6,000, in that order. Naturally, all units are deeply interested in increasing membership using various methods, the latest of which is advertising as a group in veterans magazines. The main cause of decrease is due to individuals failing to renew annual dues. In our case we do not have a paid bookkeeper, and the members are lax on this point. We are at the point where we gain two new members, then lose one for non-payment of dues. The \$10.00 barely covers the cost of mailing the TARO LEAF!

Advertising: Last year we budgeted \$1,800 for ads in VFW, American Legion, Vietnam and Modern Warfare magazines, the first mentioned being the most productive. There were 450 responses resulting in 250 sign-ups, about the same proportion as other participants. We agreed to sign up in a group ad in a new magazine "World War II" at a cost of \$225.

Dues: Several units run high powered money making sales promotions and charge very little dues; however, most operations are similar to our 24th with dues ranging from \$12.50 to \$15.00 annually and \$150 to \$200 Lifetime. Our 24th I.D.A. has 1,008 Lifers from an enrollment of about 3,000 members.

Insurance: Last year none of the ADA assns. carried liability insurance due to the cost being prohibitive, but now a few of the units have taken on such a program in order to protect themselves. We will look into this matter for our group. (To illustrate, one carrier quoted 82nd a/b \$14,500 annual premium covering \$1,000,000 per incident/\$2,000,000 maximum annual claims). No small potatoes! Tour insurance was also discussed mainly pertaining to European tours as the majority of this group fought in the ETO.

Transportation: Coded discounted air fares to reunion sites (such as we had last Sept.) are sometimes higher than last minute promotional fares caused by price cutting competition among carriers. PLEASE NOTE: In such cases take your ticket to the travel agency and have them rewrite it for the new lower fare. They have to (and will) do this.

PR: Press Releases and Letters to the Editor are excellent sources of ground roots approaches to getting new members.

Now, mainly for the information of our newer members: Several assns. have full time salaried administrators, to include an office staffed with a full time secretary, and nothing wrong with that. Also, practically all these organizations draw money from their treasury to cover the expenses of their representatives attending meetings and conventions, similar to this one, held in various parts of the country, and nothing wrong with that, either. The officers and committee members of the various segments of the 24th I.D.A. pay their own expenses out of their own pockets since we do not have the luxury of expense accounts. Also, our treasurer is heavily bonded for the financial protection of our esteemed group of veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bob Ender*

# YESTERYEARS

## - WANTS TO HEAR FROM -

RONALD W. DEFRANKS,  
Box 362,  
Brownsville PA  
(not a Taro Leafer)  
looking for  
BRUCE R. HEARNE.  
Not much of a lead,  
is it?

EDWARD HEALD  
(C 21st '39-'44)  
Box 5316,  
Galveston TX  
is looking for  
SELLERS B. BROWN  
3rd Bn. 19th '39  
Lost track of him  
after New Guinea.

BOB HEATER  
F 19th 1/51-4/52  
of Box 490  
Appomattox VA  
is looking for  
EDWIN DAVIDS  
B 19th  
with whom he  
served. Was  
living in TX  
originally from  
NJ.

MARSHALL F. GILBERT  
24th Recn. 6/51-3/53  
of 9547 Rocky Fork Rd. NE  
Rt. 1, St. Louisville OR  
looking for anyone.  
Tried it with KWVA and  
raised not a whisper.  
Can we do better?

GERALD KRISSELL  
Hv. Mtr. 21st 6/50-4/51  
of 24 Winding Way  
Binghamton NY  
looking for  
CECIL HARDWAY  
believed to be from GA.  
Gerry wounded on  
4/25/51 and lost  
track of Cecil.

LUTHER BROOM  
D 19th '44-'45  
of 3444 O'Hara  
Sedro-Wooley WA  
looking for his  
"Sgt. from one of  
the Dakota's -  
Polish name -  
nicknamed "Chippy".

BILL SALSBUURY  
SV & AT 19th '42-'45  
of 1603 N. 1st St.  
Yakima WA  
looking for  
EDWARD C. TOMPKINS  
AT 19th -  
last address was  
1223-B Port Arthur Terr.  
Louisville LA.

RAYMON ECKARDT  
B 19th in '47 (Beppue)  
of RR 2, Box 191  
Birnhamwood WI  
looking for anyone

DALE HALL  
real name is  
NORMAN DALE HALL  
but he hates Norman  
so, okay, we go with  
"Dale" B 34th '45-'46  
of 3008 Wildwood Rd.  
Edmond OK  
looking for  
JESSIE A. MCCORMICK  
of Cookville TN.

## Up Front with Willie & Joe

© by Bill Mauldin, Reprinted in The Stars and Stripes Courtesy of Bill Mauldin



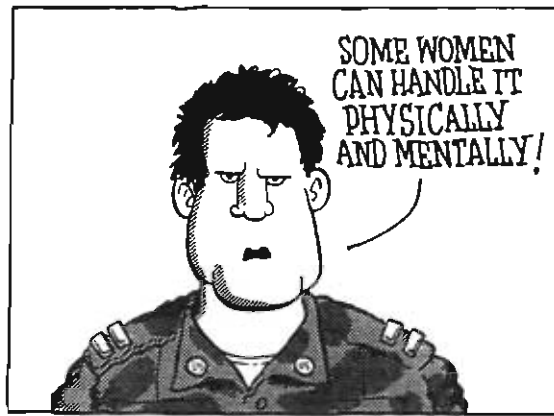
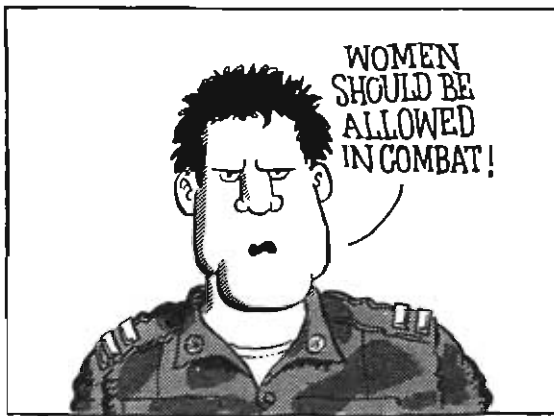
"My son. Five days old. Good-lookin' kid, ain't he?"



Group of 5th Air Force airmen returning in April to New Guinea "for old times sake". They start at Biak, and then Jayapura (that's modern Gook for Hollandia) then Wewak, Madang, Goodenough I., Milne Bay (remember the ships docking right astride the shoreline), and finally Port Moresby. Part of the trip will be by a 110 ft. catamaran. \$4600 per person. Wanna go?

Thanks go to FRANK WILCZAK for this one. At the moment of the death of a Florida dentist, Dr. George Foster, it was brought out that he got himself a bit of trouble. He was a dentist for Tokyo's Sugamo Prison in '47. His patient was General Hideki Tojo, who had asked for new teeth so he could talk better at his trial. As a practical joke, Doc engraved Tojo's denture with the legend "Remember Pearl Harbor" in Morse code. We're not sure of what Doc's punishment was, but we do recall that when the word leaked out, the nation was tickled.

And this is about all we're gonna devote to this subject.



*Engelhart*  
THE UNITED COURANT

Have YOU Renewed Your Membership? 1990 Dues are Due...

## THE RIGHT IDEA.

OLLIE SIMMERS (G 21st '53-'54) of 19 Kenalco Dr., Phoenixville PA, tells us how 480 members of the 82nd A/B Div. Assoc. arrived at Valley Forge for their annual get-together. They parachuted in.

## JOIN THE CLUB

Married: URBAN L. THROM (34th and Div.Hq. '44-'47), of 9941 E.Cornell Av., Denver CO 80231 to Ms. Theodora T. Nead, at Denver CO on January 13th. The announcement read: "No gifts please." That's Urb; puts it right on the line. Congrats to Urb and Theodora.

Fellow who invented the Lifesaver made a mint.



CHARLEY KAEFFER tells us about the airlines serving Buffalo. Would you believe - American, Continental, Delta, Eastern, Northwest, Pan-Am, Piedmont, United, and US Air. Note, please, that Charley gave them to us in alphabetical order.

A wise teacher sent this note home at the start of the term: "If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he says happens at home."



# Iron Curtain's crumbling leaves Pentagon at a loss

By William Matthews  
Times staff writer

WASHINGTON — After 45 years of building a military to defeat the Soviet Union, events in Europe have left the Defense Department struggling to define the current threat.

North Korea? The internecine battles in the Persian Gulf region? Insurgencies in Central and South America? Modern missiles and chemical weapons in the Third World?

All have been proffered as dangers that require continued high levels of U.S. military readiness and spending. But the specter of a Soviet invasion of Europe is a hard act to follow. The new threats lack the menace of the old.

"There is no threat nearly as demanding" as the Soviet threat, said Thomas McNaughton, military policy analyst for The Brookings Institution.

"All of the studies show that South Korea is quite capable of handling the North Korean threat on its own," he said. And the struggles among the nations that border the Persian Gulf are in no way equivalent to the Soviet threat that once overshadowed the region. "It's hard to come up with a plausible scenario" that would require sending in a lot of American troops to the Persian Gulf area, he said.

As for the dozens of hostilities boiling or brewing from Central America to Southeast Asia, "It's not in our national interest to get involved in all regional conflicts," said Piers Wood, chief of staff at the Center for Defense Information.

The collapse of the Eastern Bloc and the decline in the Soviet threat offers the United States a rare opportunity to rethink the military's worldwide role and reconsider the kind of forces needed, he said. "Conventional forces are becoming less and less effective." But, he said, there is distressingly little evidence

that the military is thinking about the kind of radical alterations that are necessary.

If the new threat consists largely of regional wars and insurgencies, conventional fighting forces may not be the answer. "What are conventional... infantry and air forces going to do against guerrillas and insurgents?" he asked.

A West Point graduate and veteran of Vietnam, Wood argues, "We ought to ask ourselves: Are these forces useful? Can they solve the problem?" He contends that the forces likely to be effective in Third World conflicts might rely on psychological and political tactics rather than firepower to influence events.

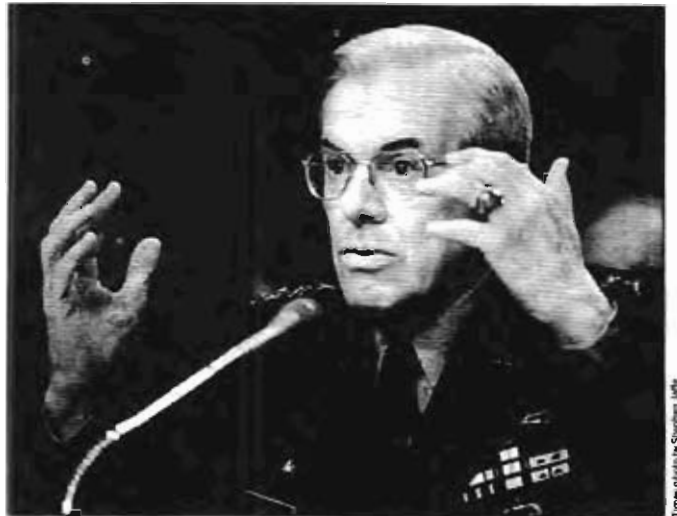
"Perhaps the strategy of the future for the United States is not to police areas around the world, but to support the regional powers" whose interests most closely correspond to ours, said Dalton West, vice president of the U.S. Global Strategy Council, a military policy think tank.

But there was no such discussion when the military commanders in chief met with the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"The Defense Department is trying to pretend that the world is no different than it was a year ago," said Natalie Goldring, a senior analyst for the Defense Budget Project, a self-described Pentagon watchdog organization. But in defense of the military's cautious reaction to global change, she said, "their perception is they don't get penalized for acting too slow."

Top defense planners don't want to be surprised by a sudden return of the Soviet threat, although they admit that prospect is remote.

"It would be very difficult for the Soviet Union to pull together to do anything militarily," said Army Gen. John



Times photo by Stephen Jaffe

**Doubts:** "It would be very difficult for the Soviet Union to pull together to do anything militarily," Gen. John Galvin tells the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Galvin, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

Yet Galvin told the Senate Armed Services Committee that he initially opposed President Bush's plan to cut American troop strength in Central Europe to 195,000 and that he adamantly opposes reducing U.S. forces any more than that.

"For the first time in decades we see more opportunities in the world than threats," said Adm. Huntington Hardesty, Pacific commander in chief.

But Hardesty said the United States must maintain a strong "deterrent posture" in Asia. "We must have forces that are combat ready," able to move swiftly to intervene in "any crisis or threats to U.S. interests or citizens," he said.

The chief threat in the Pacific is North Korea, and "our assessment of

the potential threat from the North is unchanged," he said.

Although twice as large in population and six times as strong in economy, South Korea needs 44,000 U.S. troops to protect it from the North, according to Hardesty and Gen. Louis Menetrey, commander of U.S. Forces Korea.

Korea doesn't need the help, but U.S. troops have been there so long that pulling them out of South Korea would send the wrong message to China, Japan and other nations on the Pacific rim, McNaughton said. Keeping U.S. troops in Korea "is an important symbolic and credibility issue. I'm a little reluctant to see troops pulled out of Korea," he said.

Goldring said at least half of the American troops in Korea should be brought home during the 1990s, but reductions should be made through negotiations that ensure cuts on North Korean forces as well.

Interesting note from BILL ROSEBORO, (G 19th and A 11th F. '50-'51) of 605 Marlboro, Hamlet NC. Bill met one RICHARD W. LUNCEFORD, also of Hamlet. He's at Rt. 1, Box 405. This is how Bill reports it: "Richard works at a local business where I often trade. Recently, he noticed the Taro Leaf decal on my station wagon window. Turns out he was with the Division in the late '60s, stationed at Ft. Riley, KS. He was a member of A Btry, last Bn., 13th FA in '69 when they served as honor guard and fired the 21-gun salute at the funeral of President Eisenhower."

Heading north from Buffalo on I-190, you'll come upon lovely Grand Island -- home of Beaver Island State Park. Beaver Island features a challenging 18-hole golf course. Grand Island is also the home of Fantasy Island Amusement Park, one of Erie County's most popular family attractions.

Heart by-pass for BOBBY J. HUNT (B, C, Hq. 19th '50-'51, '52-'53 and '59-'60) of HCR Box 508, Payson AZ 85541. Doing nicely. Will make Buffalo.

Cheers to Lt.Gen. HERBERT R. TEMPLE, JR. upon his retirement as Chief, National Guard Bureau. Herb completed more than 40 service years, a modest portion of which was with the 5th RCT.

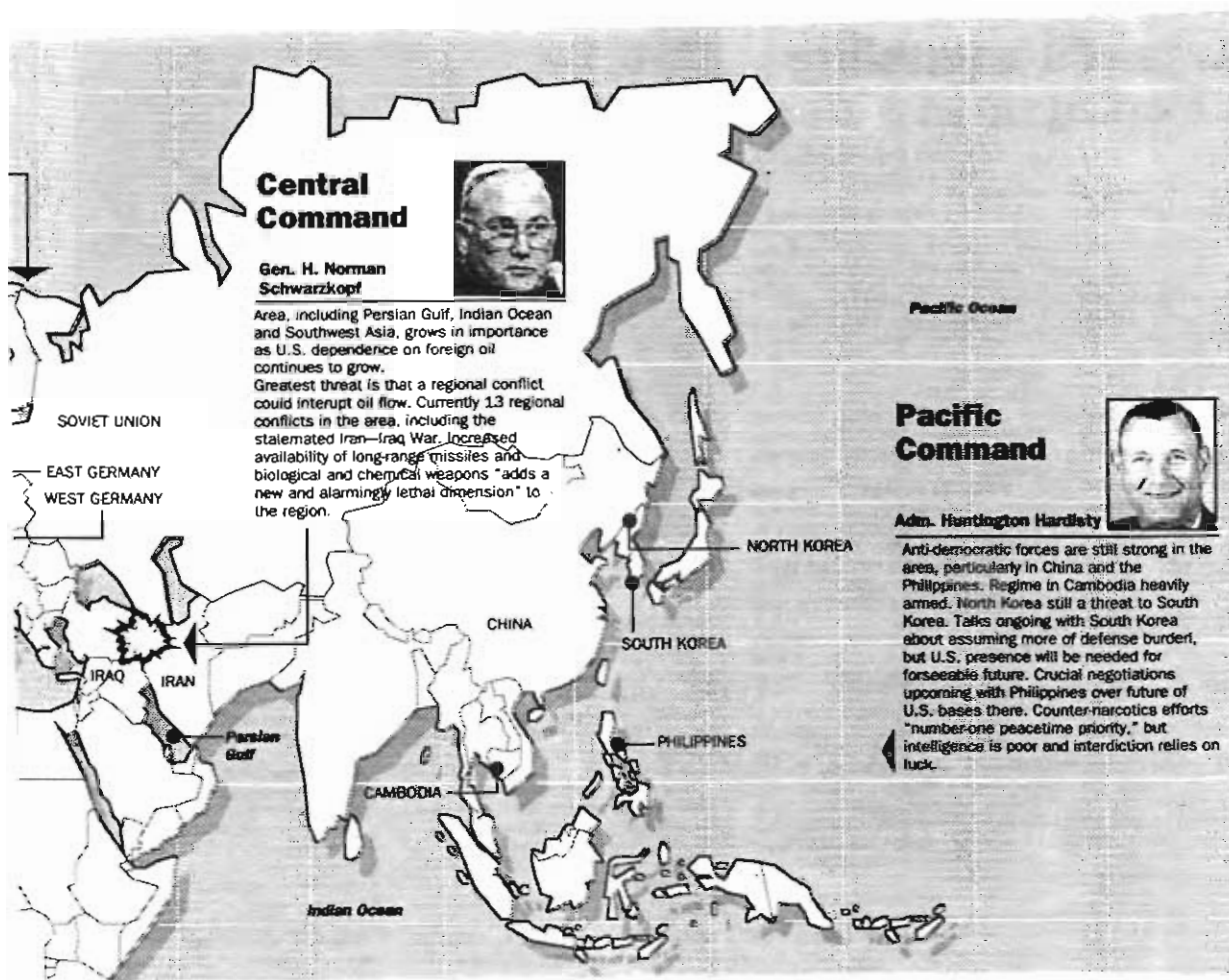
The JOHN PORTERS (2nd Bn.Hq. 21st '42-'45) of Box 342, Claude TX flew to Wahoo on the AA tickets they won at Ft.Worth.

The teen-ager at the library wanted a play by Shakespeare. "Which one?" asked the librarian.

The young man frowned in concentration. Finally he replied, "William."

Phyllis Diller was saying, "I don't ask much from life. I just want my children to have all the things I never could afford to have - then I want to move in with them."





On the professional sports front, there's the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League, the Buffalo Sabres of the National Hockey League, and Triple-A American Association Buffalo Bisons Baseball. The bisons just completed their first season in the 19,000-seat Pilot Field - a spectacular new stadium in the heart of downtown Buffalo. Pilot Field has captured the imagination of athletes and fans alike - as well as the national news media - with its stunning architecture and ultra-modern facilities and amenities.

Cher tells about "This guy wanted some old-fashioned loving - so I introduced him to my grandmother."

ED and Carolyn FARMER made it to Berlin - and thoughtfully brought back for us a piece of "the Wall".

Danny Thomas said, "Growing old means never having to walk into a maternity ward and say you're sorry."

Division is sponsoring a "Military Family Member Scholarship Fund." In the last 3 years, they have awarded 53 scholarships totalling \$43,000. Yes, your Association is represented.

Yes we're represented with \$ at both the Washington, D.C. and California Korean War Memorials. When noone is helping you to distinguish between the two, you help out each. Seems like an amazing DUPLICATION to us.

A federal judge in Boston has tossed out a lawsuit filed by the Governor of Massachusetts by which he hoped to prevent some Massachusetts National Guardsmen from being sent for training to Panama and Honduras. The judge made quick work of the suit, citing the Montgomery Amendment of 1986 in which Congress forbade governors to decline assignments for National Guardsman unless the troops are needed at home for an emergency purpose. Politics, pure and simple - but it didn't work.

# Need We Say More?

JAMES "Spike" O'DONNELL (G'21st '42-'45)  
1025 Pleasant Place, Apt. 12J, Oak Park  
IL 60302, by telephone, advises that he  
"cannot go outside unless someone is with  
me." We asked no questions - but resolved  
to include this sad news in this issue  
that you might note or card this oh-so-  
loyal Taro Leaffer. You might try calling  
him at 312-386-0254.

DUES - DUES - DUES - DUES

Please check your membership cards!  
Dues for year ending August 1990 should  
have been paid by now. If your card  
isn't up to date, please send your  
dues to 24th Infantry Division Assn.  
120 Maple St., Room 207  
Spfld. MA 01103-2278.

Wonderful sense of humor shows through  
in everything "Bronko" ATKINSON (24th MP  
and 63 FA '41-'45) writes. His postcard  
from Hong Kong reads: "7 million people  
and they all must own a store, a stall,  
a push cart, or walk along the street  
trying to sell you. Everyone should fly  
here for a week, but bring \$!"

From Grand Island via the Robert Moses  
Parkway, it won't take you long to reach  
New York's "Wonder of the World" -- the  
Niagara Falls. Spectacular adventure-  
filled views of the famous cataract can be  
enjoyed from the Maid of the Mist boat  
tour, or above the action in a Niagara  
Tours' helicopter!

This delightful contribution in the March issue of "Proceedings", the journal of  
the U.S. Naval Institute warmed the cockles of our heart. Hopefully it'll tickle  
your fancy.

## Pass the Word

Flag Officer Commanding the Western Fleet (FOCWEF) of the Indian Navy sent the following  
message to the commanding officer of the INS Ranvir:

I WILL ARRIVE ON BOARD YOUR SHIP AT 1000 TOMORROW TO INSPECT YOUR SHIP'S COMPANY AND  
THEREAFTER TALK TO THEM.

The word moved quickly down the chain of command:

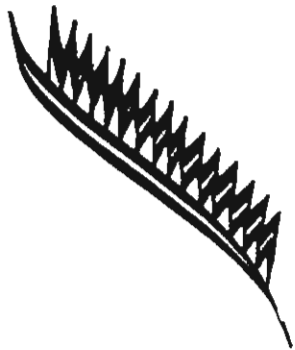
- ▶ *Commanding Officer to Executive Officer:* FOCWEF will inspect the ship's company at quarters tomorrow and talk to them afterward. This is his first visit to our ship. Please ensure the men are smartly turned out. Muster them at 0930.
- ▶ *Executive Officer to Chief Boatswain's Mate:* FOCWEF will inspect the ship's company at quarters tomorrow. All hands will be smartly turned out. Muster at 0900.
- ▶ *Chief Boatswain's Mate to Divisional Petty Officers:* FOCWEF will inspect tomorrow. All hands to be neatly dressed. Muster your divisions at 0830.
- ▶ *Divisional Petty Officers to Leading Hands:* FOCWEF is coming aboard tomorrow for inspection. Muster your men at 0800.
- ▶ *Leading Hands to Junior Sailors:* You will have the opportunity to meet FOCWEF tomorrow, and also be inspected by him. Muster on the main deck at 0730.
- ▶ *And the scuttlebutt on the mess decks:* FOCWEF is inspecting tomorrow, and the entire chain of command is scared silly. Better be squared away and up on deck by 0700 or there will be hell to pay.



"Awright, awright--it's a general! Ya wanna  
pass in review?"

And just received a call from  
LEE LIST, 115 Ronald Rd., E. Peoria IL  
61611, to tell us that, today, Mar. 5,  
wife, Ceil, has gone back to work after  
her terrible accident when a snow plow  
hit her car as she had just left her  
home. Wonderful news, Lee and Ceil. We're  
so happy that things are about back to  
normal for you both.

# Turning back the pages of history



**We Interrupt This Picture  
For An Important Message.**



## **Flying Time From Major Cities To Buffalo, New York**

Atlanta	1 hr., 45 min.
Boston	1 hr., 20 min.
Chicago	1 hr., 20 min.
Dallas	5 hrs., 30 min.
Denver	4 hrs., 20 min.
Los Angeles	6 hrs., 30 min.
New York	1 hr.
Philadelphia	1 hr.
Pittsburgh	1 hr.
San Francisco	6 hrs., 30 min.
Washington, D.C.	1 hr.

The message is that the picture comes to you by courtesy of CARL L. CONNER (3rd Eng. '41) of 1025 Center, Mableton GA. Figured it out? Want another minute? Give up now? It's the railroad running around the island - here it's Wainae - or is it Waimanillo, Carl?

## **RALLY 'ROUND THE FLAG, BOYS.**

1725 troops out of Stewart provided assistance in S.C. following Hugo's wild dash through that state. We're right proud, men.

## **ALL FOR LOVE**

Adam and Eve had the ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married and she didn't have to hear about his mother's cooking.



DON and Angie KNAPTON tell us that, if you can possibly squeeze it in, you should be sure to catch Buffalo's famous Albright-Knox Art Gallery, one of the nation's premier artistic showcases. Modern art, its specialty. Picasso, Degas, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Rodin, Dali, Pollack, and Miro are represented theret.

Open heart surgery for HARRY RUBIN (Div.Hq. '76-'79) of Box 774, Hinesville GA 31313. "Great recovery and now up to speed", says lovely Dee. Tell him about 15 mph for awhile, Dee.



BOB ENDER recently visited VAL and Jean SCHAAF in their Hillsboro OR home. They had to show off their RV. Jean named it "Costa Tumucha". Got it?

In case you can't read the printing on Jean's sweatshirt, we'll read it for you: "If you lead a good life. Work hard. And say your prayers. When you die you will Go to Oregon."

Bob says that the bus is a beauty. "Val did most of the interior himself."

We're looking for "Knob" HILLEN of H 21st '42-'45. Haven't got a better name! Not much to go on, is it?

Former President Reagan tells about the time years ago when a fan rushed up and said "God, it's you. I can't believe it's you." He then called to his wife, "Honey, come over here. Look who's here. It's Ray Milland." The former president says he signed an autograph, "Best wishes, Ray Milland."

In your cultural sojourn around Buffalo, make a trip to the Erie County Historical Society, located in the only building remaining from the 1901 Pan-American Exposition, the Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo Botanical Gardens, Tifft Farm Nature Preserve, Our Lady of Victory National Shrine and Basilica, Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site/Wilcox Mansion, and the newly-modernized Buffalo Zoological Gardens.

Here's an item out of Army Times where we'd like to be of help if we can: GALLO, Genara R., served during WW II with Army Philippine Scouts, taken prisoner Apr. 9, 1942, also served in Korea with 24th Inf.Div., or anyone knowing his whereabouts. Contact Maj. Robert M. Gallo, 84 Hopkins Rd., Aberdeen Proving Ground MD 21005, phone 301-272-7029.

25th I.D.A. has raised its annual dues from \$10 to \$15.00 - and its Life Membership from \$100 to \$150.00. Any thoughts?



Meet new members BILL and Ruth MULLIN (H 21st '42-'45) of 64 Milford, Medway MA. Where these good folks have been for 45 years, we don't know. Welcome aboard, anyway.

DAVE ECKERT (5th RCT 4/50-11/50) 1826 Armstrong Valley Rd., Halifax PA 17032, has written. Between moving and cleaning up new quarters for himself and Beth Anne, and spending time with her while she was in hospital, he's about beat, but happy that things are going so well for her.

"Beth Anne was in surgery for Scoliosis (curvature of the spine caused by very rapid growth in a young person) correction. Her surgery lasted 6 hours and she was in hospital 17 days from 1/10 - 27. Dave wants to thank everyone for caring. Says ..most of the cards Beth got in the hospital came from you guys in the 24th Association...She got flowers from several people and GUY and Grace SEE sent her a stuffed bear...and, of course, the Association sent flowers...And I want you to know I will never live long enough to express my gratitude to you and all the others who were so kind to her...and would be grateful if you would put a word of appreciation from us both in your next Taro Leaf. It was really something to see her face whenever she'd get a card from someone. Hopefully Beth will be able to go back to school by the middle of February."

We're happy for both of you, Dave and Beth Anne.

We are in receipt of an appeal for \$ for "building a war memorial dedicated to all the Airmen who died during World War II." There seems to be no end to these appeals - or these monuments. We're being stoned to death. Didja get it? - "stoned to death."

# Turning back the pages of history

After reading the recent issue of the Taro Leaf, I felt that I should respond to the apparent controversy concerning Kenneth Shadrick being the first American KIA in Korea. It appears that mis-information tends to perpetuate itself, especially when it is in print. However, you can't always believe everything you read. We here at the 24th Infantry Division (M) and Fort Stewart Museum were the ones who initially wrote concerning the identity of the first American KIA, since we know that Shadrick actually was not and could not have been the first.

The facts do not support the claim that Shadrick was the first. For one thing, Task Force Smith was composed of members of the 21st Infantry Regiment and were engaged by the North Koreans early on the morning of 5 July 1950. Shadrick was a member of the 34th Infantry Regiment and was killed about 4:20 PM on the afternoon of 5 July 1950. It seems inconceivable that the members of Task Force Smith could have been engaged all that morning without taking any fatalities, and that the first fatality occurred six hours after Task Force Smith was engaged and was not even one of their members! If this was the case, then either the North Koreans were incredibly poor shots, or the members of Task Force Smith were extremely lucky in avoiding the incoming fire.

According to the official Army History of this action, the first casualty was incurred between 0815 - 0845 on 5 July 1950 when Task Force Smith engaged a column of enemy tanks which was bearing down the road upon their position. They damaged two NK tanks which pulled off the road. Two men emerged from one tank with their hands up. A third man then emerged with a burp gun and fired a burst into an American machinegun position, killing the assistant gunner. This man was not Shadrick. We wanted to know who he was. Was he David Ransome, as Mr. Passwater asserted in an earlier issue of the Taro Leaf?

Now, how did Shadrick become identified with this dubious distinction of being the first American KIA in Korea? After the North Korean breakthrough north of Osan, they advanced upon Pyongtaek, closing on the 34th Infantry Regiment which was locating there. General Bittman Barch, who had left the Osan area as the breakthrough was taking place, arrived in Pyongtaek to alert the 34th Regiment to the enemy's approach. He ordered a bazooka patrol sent toward Osan to intercept the enemy tanks in an attempt to slow their advance. This patrol found the tanks, but also found that their bazooka ammunition was faulty and would not explode. During this engagement Kenneth Shadrick was killed. What immortalized his death was the fact that this patrol had been accompanied by a small contingent of war correspondents, which included LIFE photographer Carl Mydans and Marguerite Higgins. She wrote of this action later and erroneously identified Shadrick as the first American KIA. This information was soon published in LIFE magazine and widely circulated in the U.S. This particular incident is also well documented in Clay Blair's book, The Forgotten War, and he points out that Shadrick was erroneously identified as the first American KIA.

Higgins can not be faulted for perpetrating this misconception, since she was only aware of a small facet of that day's combat. She had no knowledge yet of what had occurred with Task Force Smith earlier. The 34th Regiment was anticipating the enemy, and the bazooka patrol sent out to make contact with the enemy tanks was apparently the first combat the 34th engaged in that day. Hence, it was easy to see why Higgins might deduce that Shadrick was the first casualty. However, once this information was published and circulated, it was given credence, because of the medium the information appeared in. As an example of how unquestioning this information was accepted, one merely needs to look at the 24th Infantry Division's pictorial history publication of their service in Korea. Mr. Toomey submitted a copy of the page from that publication which speaks of Shadrick being the division's first casualty. Not only is the information in error, but it is dated as having occurred on 4 July 1950, which is incorrect since Task Force Smith was not even engaged until 5 July 1950.

Someone from the Division, or at least, survivors of Task Force Smith should have caught the errors in this publication before it was circulated. And, once it was in print, it was accepted as fact. Actually, it was a Division veteran who first brought this error to my attention, and as Curator of the Division Museum, this prompted my investigation, which lead to my inquiry being published in an issue of the Taro Leaf. Mr. Passwater kindly responded, which at least gave us a name. But was David Ransome the first KIA? Can anyone else substantiate this information?

For the sake of our history, we need to be certain that the information we pass down to generations yet unborn, is correct. It is not fair to the sacrifice of the real first KIA of the Korean War to allow a mistake to stand as fact. This in no way detracts from the sacrifice which Kenneth Shadrick made, or any of the others who gave their lives in Korea. As a professional historian, it is my responsibility to question, research, and document. It is my responsibility to you, who lived and wrote the history we interpret at this museum, and to those who seek to learn and understand that history.

I do hope that this clarifies the matter of the Kenneth Shadrick incident, and that someone may yet definitely identify who that first casualty was. Thanks for your time and consideration in this matter. We here at the 24th Infantry Division (M) and Fort Stewart Museum take our responsibilities seriously and would enjoy hearing from any Division veterans about anything they think may be of value to us in collecting, preserving, and interpreting your history.

Sincerely,



ROGER S. DURHAM  
Curator

ALBERT BELMONTE (L 21st '53-'54), of 264 Shrewsbury, Worcester MA, is one proud chap. Seems that the Governor of Massachusetts - his name escapes us at the moment - recently honored the six Belmonte sons with words that went, "The military services of the six Belmonte sons, spanning 3 wars is indeed a credit to the Commonwealth and to your family. While there are some who fail to answer the call to military service when our nation needs them it can never be said that the Belmonte family failed to hear the call to duty. The Commonwealth is indeed justly proud of this fact."

Here's a clip out of the Worcester Sunday Telegram:

## Belmonte brothers honored

By GEORGE B. GRIFFIN  
OF THE GAZETTE STAFF

Gov. Dukakis has honored six Worcester brothers for their military service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Albert J. Belmonte, 55, of 264 Shrewsbury St., received a certificate of appreciation from Dukakis after sending the governor a letter outlining the military service of the Belmonte brothers.

The certificate is signed by the governor and Secretary of State Michael J. Connolly Jr.

It is written to the Belmonte family "with appreciation for the valor and sacrifice shown by the six Belmonte sons, who have answered to the call of military service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam."

### KOREAN WAR VETERAN

Albert Belmonte, the youngest of the Belmonte brothers, is an Army veteran of the Korean

War and served in the 24th Infantry Division at Heartbreak Ridge. He is a disabled veteran.

His brothers are:

● Nicholas Belmonte, 59, of 2 Buckley Road, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of World War II, who served with the 6th Division at Tsingtao, China.

● Manuel Belmonte, 56, of New York City, a Navy veteran of the Korean War era, who served on a destroyer in the Mediterranean.

● John Belmonte, 62, of 9 Edgemont Road, Shrewsbury, a Navy veteran of World War II, who served on amphibious assault ships in the Mediterranean.

● Bruce Belmonte, 63, of 22 Plantation St., an Army veteran of World War II, who served with the 7th Army artillery in France, Belgium and Germany.

● Alexander J. Belmonte, 65, of Escondido, Calif., a career Army officer and West Point graduate who was a battalion

commander in Korea and executive officer of the U.S. Second Field Force in Vietnam.

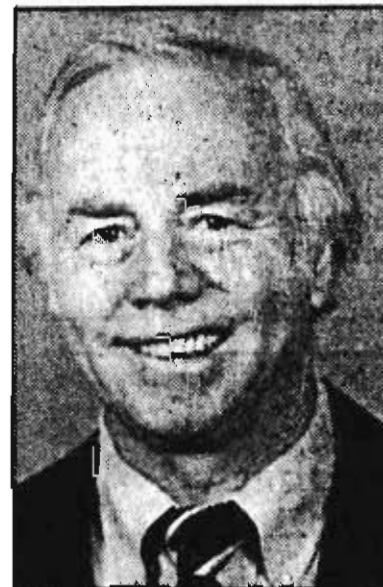
John Halachis, Massachusetts commissioner of Veterans' Services, in a letter to Albert Belmonte, said he was writing at the request of the governor to thank the Belmonte family for its contributions to the armed services.

### SERVICE SPANNED 3 WARS

"The military service of the six Belmonte sons, spanning three wars is indeed a credit to the commonwealth and to your family," Halachis said.

"While there are some who fail to answer the call to military service when our nation needs them, it can never be said that the Belmonte family failed to hear the call to duty. The Commonwealth is indeed justly proud of this fact."

He said the governor's certificate of appreciation "in a small



Albert J. Belmonte

way expresses his sincere gratitude for the Belmonte family's service and sacrifice in time of war."

The Belmonte brothers are the sons of the late Manuel and Angelina Belmonte, who immigrated to the United States from Italy, settling in Worcester.



# Unforgettable

It has become a postwar Japanese tradition. Every decade or so, a grizzled imperial soldier emerges from a remote Asian jungle, smartly salutes the press cameras, and inquires, politely, whether old Nippon has changed much.

In some cases, the holdout fighter insists he had no idea World War II was over.

That is not quite the case with the pair of septuagenarians who arrived home recently after 46 years in the hinterlands of Malaysia, fighting first against Japan's World War II enemy, the British, and then against the independent Malaysian government.

Theirs is a curious tale of duty, discipline and, some might say, peculiarly Japanese loyalties.

Both Shigeyuki Hashimoto, 71, and Kiyooki Tanaka, 77, were aware that the Pacific conflict was over and that Japan had lost. They just stubbornly refused to accept it, casting their lot with communist partisans struggling against the British who reoccupied the colony - then known as Malaya - after Japanese forces withdrew in 1945.

Upon reaching Tokyo, they were greeted warmly.

Still, it was not the extraordinary national celebration that erupted in 1972 when Lt. Hiroo Onoda emerged from Lubang - laying down his vintage rifle only after his former commander traveled to the region and gave him explicit orders to surrender. In 1945, the same officer had told him to remain in the jungle and spy on the 21st.

"This is a different Japan, even from the 1970s," said a Foreign Ministry official. "Many Japanese have no memory of the war. To us, these old soldiers of the emperor seem a little foolish, not true heroes. They are a reminder of past aggression against countries, now our good friends."

Tanaka's wife, Haruse, 72, awaits him in Kobe. "She is looking forward to being reunited with him," said his daughter, Seiko, 51, who was 5 when she last set eyes on her father.

According to the Japan Health and Welfare Ministry, there may be as many as 48 other former Japanese soldiers still hiding out in the vastness of Asia conquered by Japan during the war.

"Some are probably dead," said a ministry official. "But perhaps a few more of these old men will find their way back."

Was Stewart involved in Operation Just Cause? Division wasn't but Hunter sent the 1st Bn., 75th Ranger Regt.

**But OH, THAT  
FEELING!**

KEN MCNABB (Hq. & Hq. 34th '46-'48) of Box 205, Oblong IL is not for mincing words. He puts it on the line with: "If they would put all the dopers and sellers in the old stype Jap internment camps, would we have to pay them 48 years later?"

## The President's Corner

At the time of Buffalo 90, we'll be sending the message. And that message is TARO 91! Everyone will be geared up, wanting to know about the FIFTIETH. We will have touched all the bases by that time, and can take ourselves step-by-step through the whole enterprise.

Incidentally, I just called it TARO 91. The thought passed through my mind that the one thing we have in common - the 24th and the 25th - outside of being birthed on the same day, is the TARO LEAF! That's the symbol on the old Hawaiian Division's insignia, and it's on both of our insignia. So we'll both be going back to the original.

Sincerely,



THOMAS F. UPTON

Your Association is a \$ contributor to the New York Korean Veterans Memorial Commission. You can reach them at 280 Broadway, NY, NY 10007.

Didja know that Buffalo is New York state's 2nd largest city? - the 50th largest city in the U.S.?

BILL SHOWN (21st & 24th Recon. '41-'44) of 1911 Francis, Waukesha WI, makes sense - as always - in a letter to Senator William Proxmire wherein he politely suggests that, if the US is going to pay for the internees, the Congress should submit a resolution to the Japanese government suggesting that they pay a similar amount for the American prisoners they held in WW II. Bill you are so logical that it's disgusting. Being the patsies that we are, it will never come to pass. One thing more, Bill, we can and do expect an avalanche of mail just for agreeing with you.

Edwin E. MARSH, brother of Cpl. BARTON B. MARSH, M 34th, who was KIA on Leyte, is trying to locate someone who can tell him something - anything - about his brother. There's a story (pg.236) in Children of Yesterday that tells us he was one of 3 killed on a rescue mission to pick up some wounded. Ed has been a loyal Association member for the last 5 years and we'd surely like to help him find someone who may remember his brother. Each of you can appreciate what's involved here. If we ring a bell, please give us a call.

Right smack in the middle of Christmas came this complaint: "Just received the Taro Leaf; it's all about you WW II guys; nuttin about Korea." So, with that, we got up from our turkey dinner and went to the issue in question. A quick score reveals 78 WW II "guys" mentioned; 128 Korea "guys" mentioned; 20 "guys" of "after Korea" vintage mentioned. The ball's in your court, Mr. Complainer. ---- it; we break our ----- back to give everybody and every era a break.

ARMY VANDER MEER (K 19 '50-'51), of 1411 Madison, Tracy CA is active in his VFW post. They've sent a bunch of ribbons to the White House urging action on the POW/MIA issue. Army has asked us to suggest the thought that the idea might catch on in your venue.

WALLY KUHNER (24th Recn '43-'45) of 1637 Falmouth, Charleston SC 29407, helping out in our membership drive with some beautiful results. Says, "Maybe I missed my calling; Swaggert, Tammy and Jim might be able to use me."

After their cars collided on a curving country road, the two drivers got out and exchanged data in a gentlemanly fashion.

"You look pretty shaken up," one driver remarked. "How about a drink to steady your nerves?"

The other driver gratefully took a big swig from the offered flask. "Aren't you going to have any?" he asked.

"Not now," the first driver replied. "Not till after the police get here."

From ROY ATKINS (H 21 '52-'54) of Box 1588, Orleans MA comes this inquiry: "If the Association can meet in Buffalo, why not consider meeting on Cape Cod in September? I can assure you that it is a great time of the year, and there are not that many of the Summer vacationers still around. And, there is the Sheraton and the Holiday Inn, etc. to choose from. Expect that many reservations would have to be made at least a year or more in advance. Why not at least consider it?" Any rebuttal? Roy's hometown, Orleans, is plunk in the middle of old Cape Cod.

The invention of the safety pin is 146 years old. There've been a lot of changes since then.

## Theme and variation

I'LL BET BUFFALO IS  
A GREAT TARO LEAF  
REUNION LOCATION  
FOR  
SEPTEMBER 27-30TH!

HEY!... FISHING AND SWIMMING  
IN THE GREAT LAKES. NIAGARA  
FALLS FOR A SECOND HONEY-  
MOON, MAYBE A BOAT RIDE ON  
LAKE ERIE....

GOT ANY BREWERIES THERE?



- The Taro Leaf Men -

### Sad Sack's Catechism

It it moves, salute it.  
If it doesn't move, pick it up.  
If you can't pick it up, paint it.





We're gonna try with this one 'cuz we want you to meet DON MCHALE's new bride, Nancy - and here's part of Don's wonderful message to prove it:

"Tomorrow - I said to myself I would write tomorrow!

"I said I would visit a sick friend of mine in the hospital tomorrow - He died last night! Now I will go to his funeral and think of the things we would have talked and laughed about. I will tell his wife I was going to visit him in the hospital, but I will see her at the funeral (tomorrow!). She had called last week to let me know he was in the hospital and I said I would visit tomorrow. But tomorrow became today and I was busy, and today became yesterday and I forgot. I won't forget his funeral tomorrow.

"A couple of years ago, you published 'SOLDIER. I was that which others did not want to be, etc.' I keep a copy in my study and when friends ask what I did in the service, I proudly show them and ask them to read aloud, 'SOLDIER'.

"That is what I did and I still live in my heart and fondest memories, the life of a Soldier!

"I was with the 15th - 17th and 19th Inf. Regts. One of my younger brothers (deceased) was with the 18th Inf. Regt. and my other youngest brother (deceased) served with the 16th Inf. Regt. So you can see the McHale family are on the 15th-16th-17th-18th and 19th Inf. Regt. Morning Reports. I know it is trivia, but I thought you'd like to know.

"When Shirley passed away in Aug. '76, after 29 wonderful years, regardless of her handicap, I went into a state of shock and helplessness. I was lost in a fog of Jim Bean and other unfriendlies. It took a few years, but I finally realized I needed someone.

"I set my mind to the fact that 'Somewhere - someplace - somehow - sometime - someone' would come along and things would happen if it was meant to be. It did! I had been going to my doctor in Jupiter FL since Jan. of '85 for treatment of congestive heart failure and related troubles when their office hired in a very attractive divorcee, Nancy. We would talk and acknowledge each other's presence, but

it wasn't until Apr. '87 that I fully realized Nancy was the woman I had been looking for all the time. So - she was checking me out of the office one day and I said to her, 'Do you know what a beautiful woman you are?' She smiled and things progressed day after day from there. We were married on Dec. 26, 1987 at her sister and brother-in-law's place in Orlando FL. It was a complete surprise to the rest of Nancy's family, who were there for the Holidays. Her mother and step-father and three of her four grown children plus a daughter-in-law. We did not announce our plans until breakfast on the 26th. We had a beautiful wedding at 4:00 p.m. in the living room of the house with the Pastor from the family church in Orlando officiating.

"Nancy and I have celebrated our First Wedding Anniversary this past Dec. 26th and we happily and very much in love look forward to many more.

"I like to kid Nancy that I robbed the cradle in that she was only 1½ years old when I enlisted in the Army in Dec. '38 at White hall Street in NY City.

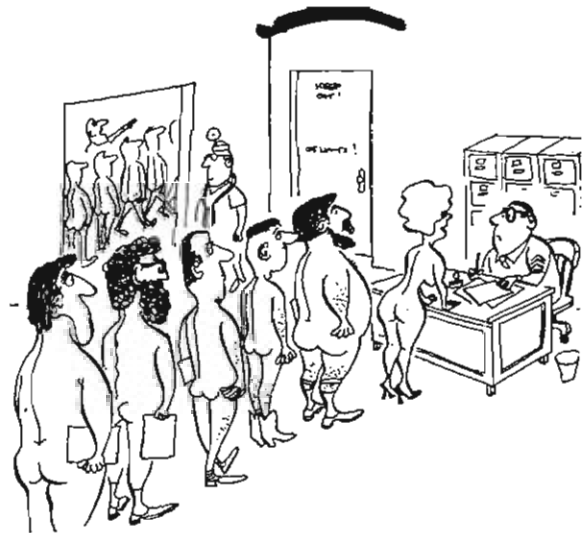
"I never thought I was going to have as much happiness and love as Nancy has given me; I know God saw two lonely people who needed each other - We have been blessed!

"Holy Cow, I started out to fill you in on a few happenings and when I look at what has been written, I should have closed hours ago.

"Thank you for your letter of acknowledgment for the card I sent to you. It wasn't necessary but it is one of the things we all appreciate about you - 'you take the time to do nice things'.

"Aloha - Don."

Let's each one of us "Take two" - point toward Palm Beach - and direct a silent good wish for Don and Nancy and their happiness together.



"YES, MY NAME REALLY IS RALPH. MY FATHER ALWAYS WANTED A BOY."

THIS FORM WILL GET YOU YOUR  
MEDALS, AWARDS AND DECORATIONS FREE!  
Takes about 6 months.  
Anything from the Good Conduct Medal  
on up will have your name engraved on it.

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Military Personnel Records Center  
9700 Page Boulevard  
St. Louis MO 63132

Sir:

1. It is respectfully requested that my  
Military Records be checked for the MEDALS  
that I am entitled to - and that such be  
mailed to me at the address given below.  
I know that I am entitled to the following:  
(however, I may be entitled to some that  
I am not aware of: (Please print))

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

2. The following information is furnished  
to check my personnel records as requested  
above:

Last name First Name Middle Name

HOME OF RECORD at time of entry into  
the Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Enlistment \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Discharge \_\_\_\_\_  
(If more space is needed please put the  
information on reverse side of this  
letter)

Serial or Service Number \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(State) Zip \_\_\_\_\_



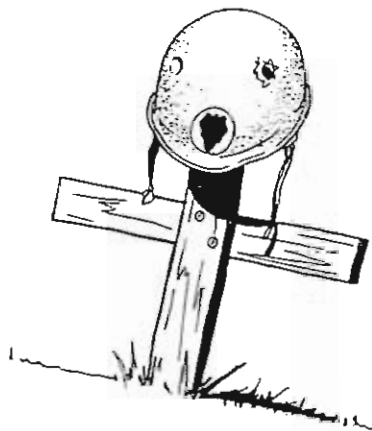
# ACTING UP

From good friends WILSON and Lucy  
DABERKO of 929 Parrish, Uhrichsville, OH:  
"One small item about the WW II History.  
I was stationed at Schofield - close to  
Wheeler Field - on the morning of the  
start. I was standing on the highway at  
the end of Wheeler Field when this group  
of planes came over my head very low.  
Strafed the light bombers lined up,  
wing-tip to wing-tip, facing the runway.  
I observed the complete strafing and  
destruction of all visible twin motor  
bombers. That was the start of everything  
- and I was there - also with 24th to the  
end of it!! Hopefully I can make it to  
the next get-together."

Thank you, Bill.

We once wrote in these pages that it  
was our opinion that the Army and Navy  
on Wahoo goofed badly - regardless of what  
secrets Washington did or did not share.  
And did the roof ever fall in on us! We  
repeat the opinion. And save your letters,  
friends. We know your opinions - and  
we'll simply never never never see eye-to-  
eye on that one.

Alan King asks: "Did you know that  
sex improves your memory? It's true -  
but I can't remember who told me."



Several recent letter writers have suggested that we devote a little less "time", "space" and/or "attention" to our deceased. Ergo the necrology for this issue:

JOSEPH BLASCHE  
In 1989  
I 19th 41-43  
Informant: JACK FINAN

B.G. CHARLES C. BLANCHARD  
C.G., Div.Arty. '45-'48  
Died Apr. 7, 1989

Lt.Gen. ARTHUR W. OBERBECK  
C.O., 3rd Eng.Bn. '42-'44  
Died Sept. 7, 1989

Col. JAMES W. STRAIN  
21st Inf. '46-'48  
Died Feb. 8, 1988

Maj. LOUIS N. ROBERTS  
Div.Arty.  
Died Jan. 13, 1986

ZILLMAN W. WILLIS  
July 18, 1989  
A 52nd '49-'51  
Informant: EZRA P. BURKE

Velmat SALSBUURY  
wife of WM. B. SALSBUURY  
Sept. 4, 1989  
was 1603 No. 1st St., Sp. #19,  
Yakima WA 98901  
Bill was 19th Anti Tank & Service  
6/42-5/45

ALFREDO F. MARCANGELO  
died January 11, 1990  
Was C 34th & G 3 Oiv.Hq. '45-'46  
Informant: RAY KIRBY

ARTHUR F. KMIECIK  
Oct. 7, 1989  
19th '44-'45  
Informant: JOSEPH P. HOFRICHTER

Mary SMIGEL  
wife of EDWARD R. SMIGEL  
Sept. 5, 1989  
was 14 Liberty Av., Agawam MA 01001  
Ed was A34 and I 19th 8/50-7/51  
Informant: Roderick Owens

RAYMOND W. WEBB  
died January 25, 1990  
was B 21st '40-'43  
Informant: ROBERT M. CHURCH

WALTER R. ROESSLER  
29th Inf. and a POW  
died August 12, 1988  
was "good friend" of  
JOHN L. GALLEGOS,  
29th Inf. '50-'51)

FRANCIS "Randy" RANGLES  
Died January 19, 1990  
34th 9/44-12/44

LEONARD R. MITCHELL  
Dec. 11, 1989  
F 34th '44-'45  
Informant: Son, Glenn Mitchell

FRANCIS J. NOLAN  
died Oct. 1, 1989  
C 19th '43-'45

JOHN F. LEDDY  
died Feb. 2, 1990  
24th Med.Bn. '43-'45

Col. JAMES D. GREEN  
19th Inf. '56  
Died Apr. 28, 1988

Col. JOHN S. CROWDON  
6th Tk.Bn. '50-'52  
Died July 31, 1987

WALTER RANDALL  
52nd FA Bn  
Died Apr. 14, 1989

DALE TERWILLIGER  
21st '50-'51  
Died Oct. 10, 1989  
Beautiful eulogy by DICK BEARD too;  
sorry we can't use it.

ALBERT R. FOURNIER  
Div.Hq. '41-'44  
Died Nov. 13, 1989  
BILL SHOWN gave us a beautiful  
tribute we wish we could have used.

ROBERT P. LAVENDER  
Died June 4, 1989  
E & Hq. 2nd Bn. 34th '50-'51

ANTHONY S. MALINA  
Nov. 22, 1989  
Hq. & Hq.Btry, 13th FA '31  
Hq.Btry. 13th FA Bn. '41-'43  
Informant: ANDREW SIMPSON

# In Memory of Albert Brandesky

I 21st '44-46

Died Dec. 26, 1989

His loving Helen

(Ed.Note: It all started with a telephone call. Michele Zamboni was on our line, reporting, sadly, the passing of her beloved grandfather, "our" FRANCIS J. NOLAN, (C 19th). Quickly, she regained her composure with a simple request -- which was not to be denied. Would we print, if she wrote, a few of her thoughts? The answer, dear Michele, is "Assuredly Yes, the page is yours.")

#### A LETTER TO MY GRANDFATHER

It is February and the Berkshire snow has since covered your lonely grave. Only four months ago I can remember lying by your bedside after your soul had just escaped your tired body. If only you could have held on a little longer I would have told you one last time that I loved you.

If there was ever a moment in my life when I needed you the most, it certainly would be now. To embrace your "barrel" chest again would give me the strength to go on. To feel your rough warm hands in mind would give me the reassurance that you will always be there. To hear your deep voice telling me you loved me would soothe all of life's problems. But as reality sets in, I am faced with the fact that I will never see, hear, or touch you again.

Only those precious memories I have to keep you alive.

Now as the grief and sorrow slowly pass, I lie awake nights thinking of special moments we had.

Twenty-two years I spent with you. Childhood days holding your hand.

Grandpa, you were the one who built me a swing, showed me the mountains and taught me to sing.

In your eyes, I knew I could see; the kindest of eyes there ever could be.

Stories of the war, I'll never forget, and the love we gave you, we'll never regret.

Oh, how I miss you grandfather mine; if only we could go back in time.

You were a strong and able man capable of conquering any obstacle that came your way and your bravery during World War II captured the admiration of your comrades.

Your love for carpentry was like that of a surgeon painstakingly using each tool with perfection. Every room you reconstructed in our home symbolizes a part of you.

Now as I lie awake nights thinking of the past, I begin to understand you Grandpa, for you were not always a happy man. Your headstone displays a broken column symbolizing an unfulfilled life. A life filled with turmoil and despair. A child of broken dreams desperately seeking someone to love. I truly believe the only real and solid love you ever found was in the hearts of your grandchildren.

The feelings we have for you and the timeless moments we spent together will remain in our memories forever.

As I end this letter, Grandpa, I want you to know how much you are loved and missed.

God's greatest gift of all was to have you for a Grandpa to call my very own.

Love forever and always,  
Michele.