Letters to the Editor

Published in the Evening Star

DOWDRAGING OF MILITARY

Sir: I am seriously concerned that the progressive downgrading of our military officers is again raising the specter of us going to war. Of course, it all started many years ago with the retirement of officers, due to age and ambition, of our military peacetime, not wartime, officers. Then the Air Force was disestablished, the quarters of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Naval Academy moved to Annapolis, and the famous day and night called "cold or shooting, into which our service will be called upon to go." Then there was the case of the Secretary of Labor, and even the Naval Academy. If a captain in the Naval Reserve was appointed to the Naval Weapons Station at Batten, New Hampshire, he was turned into a private golfer and disappeared as a member of the observatory who was a captain in the Navy. Hardly anything since then has changed. It is getting shot at - except the cold or shooting, into which our service will be called upon to go. Now I read with considerable alarm that the Navy is going to spend its last unit of support for converting the quarters of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Naval Observatory into an official residence for the Vice President. Long ago the Vice President was restricted to a somewhat smaller building. Now the Navy is going to relieve the superintendent of the observatory who was a captain in the Navy. The military disparagement, which is all you can call it, is getting shot at - except the cold or shooting, into which our service will be called upon to go. While the military has been getting shot at, nobody has been allowed to discuss the subject with the Vice President. Nobody has been allowed to discuss the subject with the Secretary of Labor. If a captain was that important, the Navy would have been turned into a private golf course and disappeared as a member of the observatory who was a captain in the Navy. Hardly anything since then has changed. It is getting shot at - except the cold or shooting, into which our service will be called upon to go.

Leutens to the Editor

CIVIL CONVENTION

Enclosed with this issue of the QUAN is a Pre-Paid Reservation Card for the Statler Hilton Hotel. It is important you use this card as we are receiving a special price for the rooms. If you fail to return this card, you will be sure to call the hotel register when you register that you are with the A.D.B.C. Again we ask the members to pre-register. Save yourself time and expense. The Convention Committee extends an invitation to all members to spend four days with your old buddies.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Wednesday, May 4 -

8:30 A.M. - Early Birds Get Together

Thursday, May 5 -

10:00 to 4:00 - Registration
2:00 - Executive Board Meeting
2:00 to 4:00 - Membership Meeting
8:00 P.M. - General Blument and Past Commanders Night

Friday, May 6 -

9:00 - Membership Meeting
10:00:12:00 - Membership Meeting
12:00 - Lunch Break
1:00 - Membership Meeting
6:30 P.M. - Banquet, Speeches and Dancing

Saturday, May 7 -

9:00 - Membership Meeting
10:00:12:00 - Membership Meeting
12:00 - Lunch Break
1:00 - Membership Meeting
6:30 P.M. - Banquet, Speeches and Dancing

Sunday, May 8 -

11:00 A.M. - Service of your choice

We have planned Thursday as shopping day for the ladies. Friday, May 6th, we are planning a fashion show with Philippine chocket, and a jewelry display together with a commentary on precious stones.

SIR:

If you return the envelope attached to the February issue, we will send you a copy of the March issue.

Buck Spurlock,

Pittsburgh, Pa.

April 16, 1966

The QUAN

Volume 20

PITTSBURGH, PA. APRIL, 1966

Number 5

CONVENTION SPEAKER

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ALVA REVISTA FITCH

Alva R. Fitch was born in Amberst, Nebraska, on September 10, 1907. He graduated from high school in Beatrice, Nebraska, and was appointed to the U. S. Military Academy by the late Senator Howell of Nebraska, graduating in 1929. He served as Aide de Camp to the late General Leslie J. McNair from 1937 through 1939.

General Fitch was stationed in the Philippine Islands at the outbreak of World War II. He commanded a separate Pack Artillery Battery in support of General Wainwright's forces, covering the withdrawal into Bataan. During the delaying actions, immediately preceding the occupation of the final defensive positions in Bataan, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for actions in delaying the Japanese development of the Philippine position.

Following the withdrawal of the Bataan forces to its final defensive position along the Orinon-Bagac line, Fitch was given command of the Provisional Artillery Group supporting the 91st Philippine Army Division and protecting the Chita Sea coast along their flank. He retained this command until the fall of Bataan in mid-April of 1942. During this period, he was awarded the Silver Star for organizing and leading an improvised force to drive Japanese invaders from a point on the coast to the safety of the 91st Division front lines and recovering the guns of a Philippine Army Artillery Battalion.

Major Fitch was captured a few days after the surrender of Bataan and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner of the Japanese. While a prisoner he participated in the infamous death march to Bataan. He was held a prisoner at Camp Cebutan in the Philippines until the winter of 1944-45, when he was evacuated to Japan and finally to Korea, he was on two Japanese prison ships that were sunk by U. S. Navy aircraft.

Following the war, he served for a year as instructor at the Command and General Staff School, and for two and a half years, as Military Attache to El Salvador and finally to all of Central America.

He was Executive Officer of IX Corps Artillery in Korea from September, 1952 to June, 1955, participating in White Horse Mountain and Triangle Hill Battles, and the Chinese Offensive in June-July, 1953. He was awarded the Legion of Merit.

While Chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group in Belgium, General Fitch attended the Belgian Army Ecole de Parachutage and, at the age of 31, qualified as a parachutist.

He is at present Deputy Director, Defense Intelligence Agency.

WHAT TO DO

1. Send Hotel Card.
2. Come as early as you can to the Convention.
3. Send in your dues now so you can receive the Convention program on time.

GID H. SPURLOCK

Gid Howard (Buck) Spurlock, Jr. 80, formerly of Austin, died Saturday in the Veterans Hospital at Albuquerque, N. M. Spurlock, who moved from Austin to Gallup, N. M. in 1963, was a survivor of the World War II Bataan Death March in the Philippines.
Escape From Corregidor
Book Report By Christopher C. May

The great flood of war novels and memoirs based on World War II experiences continue without letup. I believe the men who served in that war may become known as the literary generation, their output is so prolific. It seems as if every year, there would be many would tell of their experiences in that conflict, but actually there have been hundreds of books published about the war and it is amazing how much has been written and how much has been forgotten.

I have just read "Escape from Corregidor" by Edgar D. Whitcomb, and I must say that it was a fabulous experience that this book portrays. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in history or war stories.

He arrived in the Philippines at Clark Field just before Pearl Harbor was attacked. He saw the few American planes there decimated by Japanese fighters and escaped to Corregidor. When that bastion fell, he was captured; but rather than suffer under the Japanese captors, he and a friend swam for eight hours to escape the prison camp. After swimming through the minefield, they attempted to find a boat, after dozens of islanders had aided him, traitorous Filipinos turned him over to the Japanese. The Japanese, he firmly searched for some way to escape the maddening attentions of his captors. The Japanese, he firmly searched for some way to escape the maddening attentions of his captors.

One of our members while in POW camps learned to read and write Japanese and speak it fluently, but he was one of those last to be repatriated. This is the incredible true story that needed to be told, for it is one of the most fabulous stories yet from the annals of World War II.

Our Topkick, Bob Parks, who made Captain, had 15 years service in the USAF, but orders were changed. So we took the Inter-Island steamer Legaspi for Cagayan, Mindanao, arriving on Dec. 1st. We occupied the Del Monte plantation between Cagayan and Tankulan, and they had a few Japanese who had gotten away just before we arrived. The Japanese, the officers taking over the Del Monte Clubhouse while we occupied the stables and outbuildings of the plantation proper. We never saw these officers again, they had gone, and we never did have a ground attack made for us against us, or we had a pretty soft war. The only thing we accomplished that night was that we were able to use our small boats on Luzon to tranship by air some bandages, quinine, and other medicines. Bill Bradford, a pilot for Philippine Airlines, piloted a Bellanca Pacemaker (single engine).

The "Footlocker Fifth"

No, it won't all of "fifth". Just what in the cat hair does this "Footlocker Fifth" stand for or mean? Well, we were one Squadron (Hqs & Hq's) of the original 5th Air Base Group which came from Hamilton Field, Calif., to Salt Lake City replacing the 85th Infantry.

We sailed from the Frisco on the Hugh L. Scott, tying up at Pier 6 in Manila on Nov. 11, 1941. We then went to "A" Range at Ft. McKinley and were told to proceed to Trincomalee, Ceylon, where we were to take the "G" section of the 85th Infantry. But orders were changed. We took the Inter-Island steamer Legaspi for Cagayan, Mindanao, arriving on Dec. 1st. We occupied the Del Monte Clubhouse while we occupied the stables and outbuildings of the plantation proper. We never saw these officers again; they had gone, and we never did have a ground attack made for us against us, so we had a pretty soft war. The only thing we accomplished that night was that we were able to use our small boats on Luzon to tranship by air some bandages, quinine, and other medicines. Bill Bradford, a pilot for Philippine Airlines, piloted a Bellanca Pacemaker (single engine).
Minutes of the Third Quarterly Meeting
The American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, Inc.
Place: The Summit of New York Hotel

April, 1966

The meeting was called to order by Commander Art Bressi at 1320 Hours with nineteen members in attendance.

Past Commander Arlen Patrizio moved a special meeting held around for perusal by each member and there being no amendments or corrections, were motioned and seconded for acceptance. So motioned and seconded.

A roll call was taken and a complete and full report. Little elaboration was made on the subject.

Commander Bressi gave a report for Chairman Joe Vater of the Government Relations Committee, and a current financial statement and the need for a complete and full report. Little elaboration was made on the subject.

Commander Bressi gave a report on the Overhaul of the Constitution and By-Laws for Past Commander Ken Stull. With the exception of one or two sets of past minutes, Ken is making progress.

Chairman Johnnie Ray discussed the necessity of deleting two sentences under Article II "Objects of the Constitution." The two sentences read as follows: "To establish and maintain a nucleus of steady members and perform (transact) athletic and historical activities." And the last sentence: "The primary purposes are social and fraternal in nature." The purpose of the motion to permit the ADB&G to apply for a Tax Exemption Number from the Internal Revenue Service. After a lengthy discussion, Jr. Vice-Commander Harold Feiner motioned, seconded by Sr. Vice-Commander Johnnie Ray that the motion go on record as favoring the deletion and introducing a motion before the Convention Body that the sentences be deleted. Unanimously carried. The motion to be introduced in a revised report.

It was reasoned that the other sentences under "Objects" cover sufficient ground for intent and purpose, and will not hamper our operation or success.

Past Commander Johnnie Ray discussed the Charters of the ADB&G. The ADB&G, in indicating his "address" purposes, he will use his home address so that the State of Massachusetts can contact him to preclude a delinquency in our paying our dues for the Charter.

After introduction by Commander Bressi, a discussion followed as to how we might best increase our recruiting activities. Since May, 1960, had been by Sig Schreiner and another $200.00 in membership dues at this meeting for another gain in membership.

Among other promotional factors, Past Commander Joe Vater placed at the meeting an appeal in the next edition. For the service, the ADB&G had agreed to donate $100.00 to Chit Chat. Past Commander Doctor Bloom thought we should increase that sum. It was also resolved that it would be helpful to introduce a Legion, VFW, AMVETS, and the ADB&G would surely grant favorable consideration.

Past Commander Hank Wilatty suggested we consider inviting prominent Heads of the various Brother Veterans Organizations as our guests at our convention. The body favored the suggestion and a call shall be extended to Chit Chat. It was also suggested that in line with our seeking favorable consideration for legislation that Editor Vater secure and print the names of those who have supported us on the various favorable legislation of all members of the ADB&G. The primary list shall be of course, that of the Judiciary Sub-Committee which we shall ask the President for H J. 585, declaring April 9, 1967 as Bataan Day to commemorate the Fall of the Philippines.

Secretary Treasurer Austin noted that the Clipper had handled some 1,750 pieces of mail since the second Quarterly Meeting. The Commander indicated he had handled some 250-300 pieces. Past Commander Heiliger motioned that the resolution referred to above or any other wanton or malicious word is now getting out that he is in fact our Service Officer.

Commissioner Jim Cook made a report that his publicity has been awarded the remainder of the meeting was devoted to our purposes, the Legion, VFW, AMVETS and the DAy have already printed our notices of meeting.

Treasurer Edward Patrizio and Past Commander Al Sennov covered the Ways & Means program and all seems to be progressing at a satisfactory rate. With more stringent controls applied, we should be able to account for all our efforts in this program and on that side of the ledger.

Under New Business, Sr. V/C Hank Wilatty and Past Commander John Ray discussed the tremendous potential that is ours by forming a Center at the State Capitol and that that Center would be in place to broaden the scope of our efforts.

Also it was suggested that we introduce a motion to the Body in Convention that an Auxiliary be initiated. The advantages are many, and it is felt that it can be done with the present group.

It was moved and seconded that the Convention Body be polled for a date for our States/Side Convention in August of 1967 in view of the past change in location, which was not so fortunate in making the trip with us.

Past Commander Sam Moody motioned that the Commander write to our own General Glatty requesting he consider the ADB&G as a sound and worthy group and that the cause of defender is now before the present POW's career.

It was moved and seconded that the ADB&G go on record as supporting President Johnson in his efforts to stem the tide of Communism throughout the world. Carried.

Past Commander Ken Stull informed that in addition to our past efforts in recognizing the tremendous amount of work rendered by Ray O'Day with Chit Chat, the ADB&G go on public record supporting the work of Commander Ken Stull for the benefit of the leaders of Bataan and Corregidor and that a memento be initiated and given to Ray in the name of ADB&G. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1730 Hours.

For the Commander
Respectfully submitted,

Joseph T. Poster, Secretary

Main New Members
From May, 1965 to Date

Lalph L. Waller
777 Cypress Way
Mendocino 95450

Robert J. Houghland
1401 W. Government
Sacramento, Calif., 95822

William Herren
7315 Ave. M
Lakewood, Calif. 90733

Daniel O. Conrad
1772 Christmas Lane
Deerfield, Georgia 30092

William M. Fain
82 E. 7th Mountain Circle, A-16
Murray, Utah 84110

Jack O'Day
2226 Chiven Avenue, S
Minneapolis, Minn. 55404

New Members

Araellen Manchuk
500 N. Electric Avenue
Costa Mesa, Calif. 92627

William J. Schreiner
825 E. 10th Mountain Circle
Colo. Springs, Colo. 80919

New Life Members

Aroldo N. Vigil
P. O. Box 377
Florence, Ariz. 85929

Dr. Roy Bodine -- No. 159
Avenue A-A
Condado, Puerto Rico

Harold B. Olson
Torrant, California 92391

Joseph D. Waller
70 W. 58th Street
N. Y. C. 10021

Robert Sills
211 W. 90th Street
Deland, Florida

Mar. 8, 1966

175 Sunset Road
San Diego, Calif. 92109

Evet Lujan
340 Cordova Road
should be contacted.

Frederick Jenkins
4814 S. Colorado
Tucson, Arizona

C. W. O. Smith
C. O. S. NGA

Prostory Mascia
510 E. First Street
Los Angeles, Calif.

513 S. W. 6th Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Japanese Officer
Recalls Shelling of Oки Island

The senior officer of the only Imperial Japanese unit that took the U.S. mainland during World War II says his country's resistance was no different from that of young men of any nation or generation during a bold and unrelenting struggle.

"We were scared," recalled Capt. Nohikuji Nambu. "We fired as we would if we were children as we could." At least.

Then, the square-jawed Nambu said, the crew of the I-17 of the Imperial Japanese Submarine Fleet performed that maneuver known to sailors everywhere -- let a hail of shells go into the wind.

But before the I-17 left Cali­for­ni­a, it torpedosed two merchant ships off the San Francisco coast, the captain said.

Capt. Nambu, now 32 years old, was a vice-commander of the Jap­ani­se Navy Naval Academy for chief of staff training. Tall and stately, Nambu keeps himself in splendid physical condition and enjoys hunting and fishing with his own black hair was marked with speckles of gray, which match with the dig­ni­ty of his uniform and four gold stripes of his sleeves.

Although the attack on the home islands was not realized that not all members

Japanese Submarine Commander Namba, a former Japanese Sub­

Nambu said, Feb. 19, 1942, the saga of the I-17 and her crew of 70 actually began Feb. 4, 1942, at 0900. The crew, seven officers, and 16 enlisted men, were ordered to "keep on moving in the direction of the United States, regardless of obstacles.

"Outside of San Diego Harbor we dropped periscope, but could find no American ships to attack, and we were so far afield that we didn't notice any."

"We knew that as we got closer to the United States we were close to danger, so we moved north." Nambu recalled that the fol­low­ing day they received a radio message from the commander of the submarine, ordering them to join the I-17 and two or three other subs to "attack either a highway or a large city on the American western or to the north."

"One plan was to bomb San Diego," Nambu said, adding a box of tea to his lips. "We looked around for a logical place, but couldn't find anywhere we could get in close enough to do any damage with our cannon."

The I-17 packed one gun weighing 20 tons, that was too large to be manageable by the American five-inch howitzers.

No one aboard the sub, in­cluding the captain, Nakajima, and Nishimo, who died five years ago, had ever seen California before. They had been familiarized entirely by maps and charts.

After deciding against shou­ting at the large cities, the I-17, it finally decided to stop in at the city by the Golden Gate, the I-17 went out to sea and torpedosed the 2,600 passenger ship Santa Barbara at a place called Ellwood, located on U.S. High­way 101, 17 miles north of Ellwood, the Railroad line and site of an oil field and bulk plant.

Feb., 0:51 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 23, and back in San Diego at 0700, when Capt. Franklin D. Roosevelt was be­gin­ning a Fireside Chat. The purpose of the President's mes­sage was to warn his countrymen that U.S. costal defenses were here.

Little did Roosevelt know that
DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW
$4.00

Return Requested (Please print or type).

Please Send Correct Address When Mailing.