



### Ten-Yard Trapnell

It was Bruce Jacobs, biographer of America's Medal of Honor winners in Korea, who called attention to a headline in an Army paper announcing: "Fourteen More Make A Permanent BG." There followed a list of regular Army officers who had become brigadier generals, and one name looked especially big and black in print—Thomas John Hall Trapnell.

Where does one go to begin the story of Tommy Trapnell? Back to 1925, probably, and the Polo Grounds, where a West Point football team that had whipped Notre Dame 27-0 was playing Columbia. *11/25/54*

Until two weeks earlier, there'd been talk of a season without defeat at West Point, but then Yale beat Army 28-7 and on this day Columbia won 21-7. Losing Army cheered Tommy Trapnell, halfback. In 16 running plays he mangled Columbia defenses for 162 yards. His punts averaged 40 yards from scrimmage.

### For The Thirsty, Bayonets

THAT WAS for fun. On Dec. 7, 1941, Trapnell started playing for keeps. The official report describes one action in the Philippines: "Only bold action by Maj. Thomas J. H. Trapnell in blocking a bridge over a small river a few miles west of Rosario, with a burning tank, halted the Japanese and prevented a complete rout."



MAJ. GEN. TRAPNELL  
Still making yardage

Then it was April, 1942, and Bataan was lost. Concerning Trapnell, there was only silence.

First there was the death march, on which the guards found an amusing use for baseball bats. For prisoners who broke ranks to drink from artesian wells along the route, there were bayonets. Some survived to reach prison camp No. 1 at Cabanatuan on Luzon.

Trapnell was there, and Moe Daly. By the spring of 1944, word had got back to the United States that they were alive. There were letters from old West Point friends, Blondie Saunders,

Red Blaik. In December, 1,700 of them were herded aboard a freighter which the Japs didn't bother marking as a prison ship.

Twice American planes attacked. The second time, in Subic Bay, a bomb went into the hold and killed 300 prisoners. Those of the 1,400 survivors who could make it swam ashore, were moved north and loaded on to another prison ship.

Three times American planes attacked this second freighter. Five hundred men lived to reach prison camp in Japan. Three hundred lived to leave it, four years after the fall of Bataan.

### Man At Work

SO TOMMY TRAPNELL got back, but the job wasn't finished. There was that police action in Korea, and then—well, remember when the Communist-inspired Koje riots threatened the Korean truce negotiations? Guess whose outfit restored order in the seething prison compound of that island off Korea's east coast?

It was, of course, Tommy Trapnell's 187th airborne regimental combat team. He had temporary rank of brigadier then. Now he's a brigadier permanently at 51. Among his rows of ribbons there's a Distinguished Service Cross, the combat award second only to the Medal of Honor; there's a Silver Star; there are two Legion of Merits; the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart.

The ribbons do not, however, brighten the corridors of the Pentagon building. At the moment Tommy Trapnell has temporary rank of major general. He is the top-ranking United States officer in French Indo-China, the hot spot of the world.

## Korea Corps Chief Named To Gavin Post

WASHINGTON (UP)—Lt. Gen. Arthur G. Trudeau, a corps commander in Korea, was named Tuesday to succeed Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin as Army research and development chief.

Army Sec. Wilber M. Brucker lost no time in selecting a successor to the 50-year-old Gavin, whose decision to retire stirred up a furor in and out of Congress over the Army's role in national defense planning.

Brucker said Trudeau, 55-year-old former Army intelligence chief would take over the research post on April 1—the day after Gavin is scheduled to step out.

### Ignores Pleas

Gavin decided to quit despite the pleas of his superiors and Senate investigators. He charged that the Army was deteriorating and that he had been frustrated in efforts to bring about changes. *11/15/54*

Trudeau commands the I Corps in Korea. Maj. Gen. Thomas J. H. Trapnell, former commander of the 82d Airborne Division, will take over the Korean post. President Eisenhower has nominated Trapnell to be a lieutenant general.

The new Army research chief is an engineer by training, having entered the Army Corps of Engineers when he graduated from the Military Academy at West Point in 1924.

### Served MacArthur

A native of Middlebury, Vt., Trudeau served under Gen. Douglas MacArthur as an expert on amphibious warfare in the southwest Pacific in World War II. He also helped prepare for the allied invasion of southern France and Italy.

In the Korean War, Trudeau was an assistant division commander of the 1st Cavalry Division and later commanded the division. He also commanded the 7th Infantry Division in Korea before becoming Army intelligence chief in November, 1953.

He returned to the Far East Command in August, 1955, as deputy commander-in-chief for plans of both the Far East and United Nations commands. He held that post until he took over

## Vote!

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**General Give**  
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J. H. (Trapnell) ...  
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awarded an Oak L ...  
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## CHOKED

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## LOSS