TARO

LEAF

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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"Don't ask foolish questions. Th' schedule calls fer calisthenics. We'll start with th' left eyelid."

TARO LEAF

The publication "of, by and for those who served or serve" the glorious 24th Infantry Division, and published frequently by the 24th Infantry Division Association, whose officers are:

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Mrs. Eleanor Fischer, secretary to BILL VERBECK during his Fort Devens days and presently secretary to the present XIII Corps commander, Maj.Gen. CHARLES S. O'MALLEY, JR. (C/S, Div.Hq. 1/51-9/51), sends us a Verbeck story. Let's read it just as she wrote it: "One day the Aide-de-Camp, and I were sitting in the office when one of us noticed through the partially opened door, Gen. Verbeck slipping a dollar bill under his rug just beside the door leading to his Deputy Commander's office. We were all mystified. A little later, when he walked down the hall to get a drink of water, we peeked and found that it was a bill torn in half. We quickly replaced it with a whole bill and left part of it exposed, as the one torn in half had been. Sometime later, I had occasion to bring some papers into General Verbeck's office, and I brought to his attention that there was a dollar bill under his rug. He looked up with great surprise and said I could have it. When I pulled out the whole bill, he roared!" Bill Verbeck could take it as well as he could dish it out.

Financial note: Wise guy, whom we were trying to entice into joining, asked: "What do you get out of it?", meaning, of course, the Editor. We replied: "\$0.00 per week and carfare."

Overheard: he's the kind of friend you can depend on - always around when he needs you.

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24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 120 Maple Street, Springfield, Mass., OllO3
Enclosed is:
\$ 5.00 for 1 yr. dues
\$ 9.00 for 2 yrs. dues [(Check one)
\$13.00 for 3 yrs. dues
Name
Address
Zip Code
My unitto

ALVIS L. ROCK (B21 '45-'40), of Rock's Iron & Metal, Stilwell, Okla., has joined our ranks. Al calls himself "Slim-the-Junker". He and Esther have 2 sons, 26 and 24 and 2 daughters, 21 and 12. They're at Box 203, Stilwell, Okla. Al was in Baker of the 21st from '45 to '46. Al and we have a friend in common (not a Taro Leafer, by the way). When we wrote Al about him and asked if he still had the old prowess with the ladies, Al answered: "Him, a ladies' man? Why he couldn't get kissed in a woman's prison with a fistful of pardons." Nicely put, Al.

STEPHEN SCALIONE, (Hq.Div.Arty. 3/42-9/45), with Yvette, at 110 Lakeview, Liverpool, N.Y., seek word from Hqs.Div.Arty. men. So do we, Steve, so do we. Steve tells us of the father who was having a heart-to-heart talk with his son just before the son's marriage. "Son", said the father, "I have two bits of advice. First, insist right from the start on spending one night each week with the boys." "And what", asked the son, "is the second bit of advice?" His father smiled and answered: "Don't waste it on the boys!"

Like the TV repairman said to his wife: "Ever have one of those days when nothing seems to go wrong?" HENRY and Dorothea SCHUBERT complain: "....but I have yet to read about any of my former buddies." This is what we keep talking about, Hank. He who doesn't write may never get letters. It's as simple as that. Too many of us look to this little one cylinder outfit as though it were the answer to all problems. Tell you what we'll do, Hank; you tell us who your buddies are and where they live and we'll get you action. How's that? Believe us, we print everything we latch on to. Henry was with George of the 19th and he and Dot are at 48 Rustic, Bristol, Conn.

Other Associations meeting this year: 5th at Knoxville; 6th at Des Moines; 29th at Atlantic City; 32nd at Milwaukee; 36th at Austin, Tex.; 42nd at French Lick Springs, Ind.; 63rd at Washington; 76th at New York; 24th at Myrtle Beach, as if you didn't know.

Col. MILTON SKELLY, (Div.Hq. 1/46-2/48), 713 Eastern, Brooklyn, N.Y., is like the chorine who complains, "He's the type who likes to keep in touch - all evening long." Milton faithfully keeps in touch. He is active (Sec'y.Treas.) in the United War Veterans of Kings County. At a recent exercise of the VFW, he spotted an honor guard member - SYLVESTER KRUITHOFF of 106 Van Dyke, Brooklyn, N.Y. - wearing a Taro Leaf. You know the rest. Milt gave Sy the pitch and gifted him with a year's membership. Sy was with the 13th in Korea in '50. Milt was the second 24th man he had met since he left Division, said Sy. Welcome aboard, Sylvester Kruithoff; now you've met a thousand more.

Another lawyer, LOUIS D. SMITH, (Hq.Co. 9/45-7/46), 2305 Pargoud, Monroe, La., answers our recent "How's bayou?" Lou tells us that he and family live on the river and they are ever so grateful for the levee. Lou has been 16 yrs. at law with 3 Tulane boys and himself of L.S.U. in the firm of Hayes, Harkey and Smith. We count only 3 in the firm name, Lou. Where is #4 hiding? Lou goes on: "4 children and I care not to speak about the future." Lou throws a delightful bouquet our way (for which our warm thanks - natch!) and signs off with "fond memories of one of the grandest group of men I have ever been privileged to be associated with."

Now one of us: EDGAR H. LEWIS who resides at 1361 Judson St., in Seaside, Calif. A "Beancounter", Ed was with 24th QM from '52 to '54. He writes us the one about the little boy who swallowed the bullet. "We won't be able to operate for a few days," the doctor told the mother. "In the meantime, keep him as quiet as possible and be careful not to point him at anybody."

Back as a member is Col. HAROLD E. LIEBE, (13th F), of 7209 Interlaaken Dr. S.W., Tacoma, Wash. Now retired, Hal writes that he's still proud that he commanded "the best field artillery battalion in the whole Pacific Theatre". He considers it a delight to be back with us so as to be able better to recall and keep in touch with old outfits and old comrades. Saddened by the passing of BILL VERBECK, writes Hal: "During the Breakneck Ridge Tea Party, I delivered a good many rounds to support him and his wild gimlets. Bill was one of the most agressive commanders I ever knew." We're glad you're back, Hal.

Lola LUEDTKE writes for DONALD from RR 1, Arcadia, Nebr., Don being busy with his harvest, which, adds Lola, is a good one. For that, we are happy. Lola tried our recent "Taste Taste"; says she "missed it by a mile". Sorry, Lo. These folks promise to make S.C. in August and that delights us, too. Don did find a moment to throw in a Post Script; he says that, when Lola announced she wanted to learn how to drive, he decided that he wouldn't stand in her way.

By which we try to generate a good measure of intimacy and affection, and in the process, probably a little exasperation: 10th and 12th Arm'd. Division Associations meet in Chicago this year. Also the 33rd and 41st.

One of our very special friends, RICHARD LUM, who worked so hard to make the Hawaii thing a success for each of us, supports us with dues. Dick is so close to so many of us from old Schofield Days that he feels like one of us; and we who knew him so well enjoy the relationship. At 209 Puuhue Place, Honolulu, Dick is a steady correspondent. In his last message, he told us about the little girl in Sunday school who was paying close attention to the teacher's lecture on the power of prayer. "And what must we do before God forgives us?", asked the teacher. "Sin", answered the little girl brightly. You're O.K. Dick, O.K.

Heard from: Gladys and Life Member HOWARD LUMSDEN, (21st & 19th '50-'51), 4933 Devonshire, St. Louis, Mo. Howie says he got "the Xmas card mailing business so fouled up I didn't know who from who". Keep us out of it, Lum, we've got our own problems. You handle Glad the best way you can. The Lumsdens went to Virginia for Christmas. See you folks at Myrtle Beach? Have heart, Lum and Glad; life can't be as monotonous as the aging. Every day brings a new wrinkle. Glad gifted Howie with a paid up Life Membership in the Association at Boston summer before last and has asked us to remind each of you that a Life Membership goes for \$100.00, payable in 5 annual \$20.00 payments. Line is forming at the right, Glad.

Precious Quote: by AUBREY "Red" NEWMAN, referring to the loss of WILLIAM J. VERBECK - "Am sure that for you, as for me, the sun will never shine as bright again, now that Bill has gone."

J. FRANK McKENNEY, (AT 21st '43-'45), 14 Lake, Millbury, Mass., is having trouble with his 10 yr. old, John Jr. The youngster was playing with his toy soldiers one day and, all of a sudden, turned on his dad with: "You were in the war, weren't you?" Frank acknowledged affirmatively. Then came the next question: "Which side, the Blue or the Gray?" Frank says he knew he was getting older but "I didn't think it showed that much". Frank says: "For a few minutes, Jr. was about as popular as Nassar at a meeting of the B'nai B'rith". Frank sent in a healthy bundle of names and addresses of AT-21st buddies for us to chew on.

M/Sgt. JOSEPH J. McKEON, (19th 7/49-5/51), and Nancy, have paid up on their Life Membership. Joe has left Benning for Viet Nam and Nancy has moved to Calif., where they've bought a house. After Viet Nam, it's Europe. He wants to send us movies and slides and tape commentary for our Myrtle Beach reunion and we're going to let him. You're a wonder, Joe! He postscripts his long message with this: "Give me my golf clubs, the fresh air, and a beautiful partner, and you can keep my golf clubs and the fresh air."

Tremendous crop of news items from Col ROBERT MALONE, (C & A 21 '42-'45), of Qtrs. 9, Ft. Belvoir. Ace sez that Col. JAMES F. PEARSALL, (34th & Div. Hq. '40-'46), is Dep. C/S, Combat Developments Command, Belvoir and lives at 509 Empress. Alexandria, Va. Hi, Jim, how long have you been calling me "Walker"? Ace reports the retirement of Brig. Gen. LESTER L. WHEELER, (34th & Div.Hq.), now reached at Rand Corp., 1700 Main, Santa Monica, Cal. We worked hard to find you, Les. Ace goes on to report the Combat Developments Command assignment of Sgt. Maj. BERT A. HARRIS who served us twice - the 13th Field from 10/43 to 12/45 and Div. Hq. from 3/49 to 11/49. Ace pegs Sgt. ROBERT BLOOMFIELD, a Div.Hq. man, at Richards-Gebaur AFB, Mo. and Col. KERMIT BLANEY at CDC, Ft. Benning, Ga. Col. ROY "Pappy" MARCY is retired and living at Rt. Z, Box 920, Sequim, Wash. Wunneful report, Ace; Thanks a bunch.

Tremendous Xmas message received from Anne and KREIGH MOODY (Div.Hq. '46-'48) of 2576 Lakeview. San Leandro, Cal. Son Steve and his bride are in Africa. Married in Addis Ababa, they're in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia and tripped last summer to Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Sue at UC in Berkeley, Carline in H.S. and Philip moving up fast at 14. How that family grows. Anne nicely described the wildishness of life at Moodyville with: "Kreigh may be the Captain of the Ship but more times than not, he isn't at all sure whether this ship of his is caught in a whirlpool or has just lost its rudder. One crew member has abandoned ship already. The rest threaten to do so 'ere long, but in the meanwhile seem to enjoy the wild ride. So the Captain just clutches the wheel, eyes the compass, shouts 'Belay' and hopes for the best. When that doesn't work, he calls for the chief cook and bottle washer, rolls the top down on the Mustang (looks more like a tiger) and the Captain and the chief mate temporarily abandon ship themselves." Life at the Moodys is and long has been as much fun as a barrel of monkeys.

15 miles south of Myrtle Beach, there are the beautiful Waccamaw and Pee Dee Rivers with their daily cruises past lovely plantations. Boat leaves Wacca Wache Marina daily at 10, 2 and 4. Sounds like the boat schedule was prepared by Dr. Pepper, doesn't it?



The SAVELL's - WILLIAM and Irene - of 1614 Logan, Clearwater, Fla., announce the arrival of Patricia Elaine, 8 lbs., $11\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. on December 15th and we proudly show her off to you.

GEORGE KUTI (21st), 4637 Saratoga, Omaha, Nebr., tells us "begging not necessary – the Taro Leaf is worth every bit of \$5.00." How can you

get sore at a fellow like that? George defines a fine as a tax for doing wrong, and a tax as a fine for doing O.K.

Steaming with parvenu dreams is ROSS PURSIFULL, (34th), who recently came onto a "Field Note Book" of days when he was a Cannon Co. Lieut. in the 34th. He sends us a list of the men of his Second Platoon and adds: 's funny, but as I read these names, each face came back to me as if it were only yesterday, and yet, over 20 yrs. have passed. We'll print your list, Ross (he's at 20451 Audette, Dearborn, Mich., and see how many respond. Here goes:

Platoon Sergeant HAVRIZKO BENNETT Corporal Agent T/5 Chauffer AULTMAN Pvt. Chauffer SINGSTOCK MULLIGAN Pvt. Chauffer Pvt. Messenger HAREN Pvt. Operator, Instrument NOLAND T/4 Radio Operator KENNEDY T/5 Radio Operator HANNA Sgt. Section Leader KITEN Corporal Gunner FORSHEY T/5 Chauffer BURNS Pvt. Ammo Bearer BOTKINS Pvt. Cannoneer CANALE Ovt. Cannoneer BELL SAUNDERS Pvt. Basic Sqt. Section Leader COUGHLIN Corporal Gunner MATUSZAK T/5 Chauffer FRESHOUR Pvt. Ammo Bearer BAKE Pvt. Ammo Bearer BOWLING Pvt. Cannoneer SMITH Pvt. Cannoneer KLUTE Pvt. Basic BODINE Sgt. Section Leader PERCOPO Corporal Gunner CHRISTIANSON T/5 Chauffer HA L.L. Pvt. Ammo Bearer BARBER Pvt. Ammo Bearer KOESTER BRIMER Pvt. Cannoneer Pvt. Cannoneer WONG Pvt. Basic GREGG

Evelyn & IRWIN BISNOFF, (Hq. 19th), 3326
Mineola, Sarasota, Fla., spent 4 months in touring Spain, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, Ireland,
Pakistan, Egypt, Thailand, Malta, Libya, Kenya,
Holland, Rhodesia, South Africa, the Sudan,
Italy and India. Did you see them in that order,
Irwin? If so, better find yourself another
travel agent. Sounds like an exciting trip.
Irwin reminds us that the ratio of psychiatrists
to population is highest in Washington, D.C.,
and adds: "Even head shrinkers go where the
action is."

The tax fellow who figured out the \$600.00 exemption for a wife must have been a bachelor.

Terrific report in from WILLIAM PEACOCK who uses P.O.Box 9144, Houston, Tex. as his "drop" Bill was trying to locate JOE LADDICK of the Division Band and we helped him. The result is that Joe and Bill recently got together in upstate New York. That's what we're here for. Bill suggests that we use his favorite BILL VERBECK story and we're happy to oblige. Here it is just as Bill Peacock wrote it to us: "To the best of my knowledge, you never got the story from Bill Verbeck regarding the secret service man in Japan. I think it is most typical of Bill and you can use it if you want to. Bill asked me to look up his old friend, Dave Forsyth, who lived in Houston. I did so, and Mr. Forsyth, who incidentally died from cancer himself a few months ago, felt the same way about Bill that everyone else did. It seems that Forsyth was a civilian with some trading company in Tokyo when Verbeck was stationed there with the Embassy. Bill called Dave one day and asked Dave to meet him at the train station in a couple of hours for a quick trip to Gotemba. Dave agreed. After they were on the train, he found that Bill's tickets were for Gora, not Gotemba. Bill grinned and said, "Certainly; that was just to throw off the Japanese secret service". They made it to Gora and, at dinner that night, Bill spotted a Japanese secret service man who was undoubtedly trailing them. In typical Verbeck style, he invited the Jap over to their table and started feeding him Scotch. Later, he invited the Jap up to their room for a continuation of the party. As anyone knows who tried to drink with Bill Verbeck, keeping up with him could have been fatal. According to Dave Forsyth, the Jap wound up slobbering drunk, admitting that he was assigned to trail Bill, and asking Bill what his mission in Gora was so that he could complete his report. Dave said that the entire Japanese secret service probably went into a state of shock if the man had reported half of what Bill had told him. After they analyzed the report, the secret service man probably wound up on permanent K.P."

Joined: Maj.Gen. CHARLES S. O'MALLEY, JR. presently CG of XIII US Army Corps with Hqs. at Devins. West Point '37, he commanded the Merauke Task Force in '42, missioned to establish a base for the protection of Port Moresby's left flank. Back to the States, he taught at West Point, made C&GSC, then took to the Far East. In Jan. of '51, he joined Div. as its Chief of Staff, in which assignment he remained until Sept. of '51. Subsequent assignments included CO, 35th Inf. at Scofield, C/S 25th Div. at Scofield, Pentagon and China Republic, and for a year before coming to Devens last July, he was Asst. Div. Commander of the 1st Armored Div. at Hook. We are proud to welcome Gen. O'Malley to the fold.

Three miles south of Myrtle Beach is Pirate Land on US 17 - the finest (150 acres) adventure park in the south. Open every day. Right on the ocean. Has a real steam train, a stern wheel boat and a bos'n chair thrill ride. Ride the authentic stage coach down the historic King's Highway. Be involved in an authentic hold up. Visit the quaint old village. Yep, you're right - George Washington slept there. If you're a nut on pirate lore, the museum will get you. It's the largest collection of its kind in the world. You may decide to give the whole thing the double H - or Heave Ho. We were just asked to mention it - and we did. 'Smatta fact, we cooled on the whole business when we got to the authentic stick up part. No thanks; we've had it when it comes to hold ups - real, live or make believe.