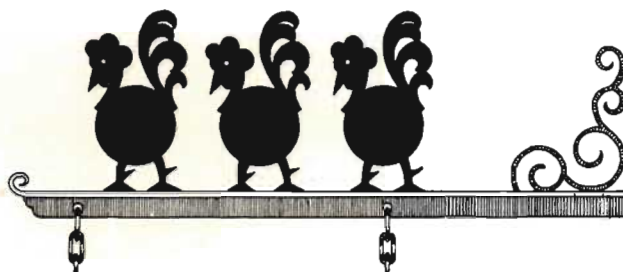


Sgt. James L. Brodie
95



TARO LEAF

Published by the 24th Infantry
Division Association -

President:

Paul A. Harris, Jr.
3817 Yanceyville Rd.,
Greensboro, N.C. 27405

Vice President:

Paul F. Wisecup
1741 Lanbury Dr.,
Kettering, Ohio 45439

Vice President:

William H. Muldoon
643 Trapelo Rd.,
Waltham, Mass. 02154

Vice President:

CSM Carroll J. Griffin
Div.SGM-Div.Hq.
24th Infantry Division
Ft.Riley, Kansas 66442

Sec'y.-Treas.-Editor:

Kenwood Ross
120 Maple St.
Springfield, Mass. 01103

OUR COVER!

Howard Brodie enlisted in the Army in '42. He was assigned to Yank and covered the end of the Guadalcanal campaign, the Central Europe and Rhineland campaigns as a sergeant. He carried his pencils and sketch pads, but no weapons. In the fall of '50 and early '51, he covered Korea for Collier's as a civilian.

He frequently lived with companies of infantrymen, observed their activities, sometimes joined them on attack, and sketched from life and memory. He occasionally wrote accounts of combat to accompany the sketches.

After Korea, Brodie, through National Press, Palo Alto, Calif., published a collection of his works titled "Howard Brodie War Drawings".

We couldn't resist buying a copy.

Then, the other day, we wrote him and begged his permission to use some of his drawings.

The response was - immediate - and favorable.

We are grateful to this talented man for his kindness to us.

Comrades-in-arm need great days to remember and embroider. With Henry the Fifth, we could say, at St.Louis in mid-August, "He that outlives this day, and comes safe home, will stand a-tip-toe when this day is nam'd". It was the communal atmosphere, that whiff of sociability, that we needed to feel united and at peace. We came, it seems, to enjoy our own society, free to exult in a life style that is its own declaration of independence. There was a warmth that came from the knowledge that all present wore, or were related to men who wore, the Taro Leaf. We were amongst our own for a few fleeting hours. We enjoyed every minute, as did those two gentlemen who came on from the U.S.Soldiers' Home in Washington - EDGAR S. ANDERSON (19th '49-'50) and HARRIS B. HERNDON (19th '48-'50).

"Air Force 24" sat down smoothly at St.Louis AP at mid-morning on Friday of the convention, an augury of things to come.



The flight brought most of the Riley contingent. The sight of all those Taro Leafs glistening in the sun "was a wonderful sight to behold" said JACK and Mona BROWN, (34th '43-'44).

Of all Association presidents, none worked more diligently during his 12-months reign than the now-retired DON WILLIAMS (34th). No tenure was more productive for it saw the "marriage" of Division and Association. It was Don's forward impetus that brought it all to pass. Kudos to you, Don, and these are the particular sentiments of ALVIN BRYANT, (Hq.Btry. 6th (C/U) Bn.) who came on from Riley for our annual melodrama.

The treat of the annual banquet was the address of the Division Commander, Maj.Gen. LINTON S. BOATWRIGHT, who gave us a colorful word picture (complete with slides) of "Life in the 24th Division at Riley Today". It was a first class presentation and we were right proud of the old outfit and of the man who was in charge.

FRANK GORSKI, (21st '42-'45) and his perfectly charming, Irene, made the St.Louis rounds.

Our issue is overflowing, what with the departure of one Div. CG, the arrival of the next, and the coverage on the Assoc. Convention. We'll do our best. What we don't get to include now will flow over into the next issue.

On hand to greet the contingent at the "drome" was Past Prexy EDMUND F. HENRY, (Div.Hq. '43-'46), on the left, and that jack-of-all trades GERALD LIEBER, (Div.Hq. '42-'45), on the right, with the Division CG, Maj.Gen.LINTON S. BOATWRIGHT, caught



in the middle. On this day, Gerry was winding up some 6 months of unbelievable cyclonic energy readying things for our fiesta. With Convention Chairman HOWARD and Glad LUMSDEN (21st '50-'51), the trio really put out. You have to get involved in order to appreciate the effort that one of these gatherings demands. Our most fulsome compliments to you folks.

Bending the Division Commander's ear at the airstrip is DARRELL MILLER, (E 19th), who served with him, in '48-'50, in V Corps. Prexy DON C. WILLIAMS, (34th '43-'44),



stands idly by, waiting for the private talk to terminate. HENRY and June BURGER, (21st '42-'45), didn't think Darrell ever would get through with his pitch. But then, that was one of the reasons Darrell came.

Just dropped in to the Chase Park on his way home from the Opera in the park across the street did CHARLES F. MILLS, (Div.Hq. '58-'60). Along with his First Lady, Charley, a retired Major, lives in St.Louis.

At the risk of alienating readers wholesale, we submit a précis of the proceedings at the annual business meeting.

Perhaps we should report it as it was: like something organized by the Marx Brothers.

At any rate, Prexy. DON WILLIAMS held forth while the membership elected: as President, PAUL A. HARRIS, JR. (21st); as Vice Presidents, WILLIAM MULDOON, (19th), PAUL WISECUP, (34th), and Sgt.Maj.CARROLL J. GRIFFIN; and as Secretary as well as Treasurer as well as Editor - oh, to H--- with it!

Division was represented in force and made the music-to-our-ears pitch for real participation in our organization. They received only genuine enthusiasm for and agreement with their ideas. Dues for Active Division people will be \$2.00 per annum, a Division Chapter (undergoing organization) to retain \$1.00 with the other \$1.00 to be forwarded to the Association to help underwrite Taro Leaf publishing expenses.

The time and place committee recommended Kansas in August of '70 as the next convention site for the obvious reason that a visitation to Division on the site is a desideratum. In the unhappy event that Division will have been mothballed before that time, alternate plans call for a New York site.

The meeting lasted just short of two hours, the membership adjourning to the bar following what can only be reported as "a cataclysmic occasion".



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

REUNION A SUCCESS

MEET OUR NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT

To All Fellow Taro Leafers -

You have done me a great honor in electing me to the Presidency of this wonderful organization, and I am humbly proud.

Now to get on with the business of growing and making our work worthwhile.

My thanks to you for helping me to be the one who will lead us into better and more fruitful times.

Sincerely,

Junior
Paul A. Harris, Jr.

Riley Quickie: DONALD HALL, (Sv.Bn., 3rd Bn., 11th Art.), and FREDERICK B. YEAMAN, (Co. C, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor), have each been promoted to Staff Sgt.

Cartoons in this issue are those of "VIP", one Virgil I, Partch, whose hilariously irreverent drawings may cause panic down along the Potomac, but will surely bring tears to a few of our members' eyes.

VFW has written us asking for info on JOSEPH W. HELWIG, (M 34th). Writes VFW: "As you may or may not be aware, Mr. Helwig, a Sergeant, was credited with killing some 27 Japanese while leading a patrol of 25 men near Davoa City, Mindanao, The Philippine Islands, on or about 13 June 1945. Newspaper articles at the time indicated that Sgt.Helwig had been recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross for this action. Also, Sgt.Helwig was interviewed by Merrill-Mueller of NBC at Manila on Wednesday, June 20, 1945 on "The G.I. Microphone". Unfortunately, Helwig's military records contain no evidence, whatsoever, that he was ever recommended for any decoration for this valiant action. Therefore, if while at your reunion you are able to contact any of the personnel of Company "M" or in the Regiment, or Division who may have been involved in this action or had personal knowledge of it and whether or not a recommendation was prepared or contemplated, the names and addresses of these people should be furnished either Mr.Helwig or the undersigned so that we may pursue this matter further with the Department of the Army." Does anybody know anything?

TOM and Margaret MINNELLA, (34th '43-'45), were at St.Louis and found interest in the gossip running through the crowd that Maj.Gen.CHESTER A. DAHLEN, (21 & 34th) lastly DCG of Fourth Army and CG of Ft.Sam Houston was retiring in October after more than 36 years of service. Dahlen, a 1933 graduate of the U.S.Military Academy, earned two Silver Stars during World War II. He also saw service during the Korean War and served as senior advisor to the Republic of Korea I Corps after the armistice. From 1954-56, Dahlen was deputy chief of staff at 4th Army headquarters. He later served as deputy chief of the military assistance advisory group at Madrid, Spain; chief of the military assistance advisory group for the Republic of China; commanding general of U.S.Army forces, Taiwan; commanding general of the 7th Infantry Division in Korea; commander of the XIV Army Corps, Minneapolis, Minn., and chief of staff for Allied Forces Southern Europe in Naples, Italy. He returned to Ft.Sam Houston in October 1966.

If air conditioning is your problem, try FRANK ALLO's Air Conditioning Sales & Service at 360 County Center, White Plains, N.Y. Frank is I-21st from 3/41-11/44 and couldn't make S.Louis; August is his "busiest season".

MATT SLOWIK, (19th '42-'44), enjoyed the Chase Park. One of our few bachelors, he's also one of our few Republicans.



It was good to see LEO CRAMER at our St.Louis bash. He's working on a Life Membership. We warned Leo that some of the pictures we'd print in these issues would likely be too small and too dark but that we'd use them anyway.

TAPS

Jeffrey M. PARENT, 20 year old son of JAMES M. and Marguerite PARENT (G 21st), a Marine lance corporal, was KIA on a patrol north of Khe Sanh when he stepped on a mine.

LEO GOGOLATSE, (24th MP '40-'45), died, following the death of his wife, Lorretta. Leo was a great friend of Life Member GERRY STEVENSON and SHORTY SCHERER.

BARLOW FARMER, WW II Topkick of 724 Ord.

CARDEN R. POWERS, JR., of Marshall, Mo.

Comes word of the passing of JOSEPH A. CAREY, (B 34th from Oahu to Matsuyama). Jeannette, his lovely widow, writes us from Box 110, Kingston, Mass: "He passed away Easter Sunday 1968. The sun shines every morning, so life goes on." Jeannette



encloses this one of (l. to r.) Lt. WALKER, Capt. BABB, Lt. COLB, Lt. McCORLEW, Lt. FROST and Joe. Adds she: "Needless to say, Joe was extremely proud of the 24th." Enclosed was a check to "continue the tradition of finding the Taro Leaf in our mail box." The tradition will continue but the check was returned with our condolences.

Maj. Gen. GEORGE B. BARTH, at the age of 71, at Ticonderoga, N.Y. Wrote the New York Times: "He was the first general officer to arrive in Korea from Japan with troops after war broke out in July of 1950". The times was slightly in error on that one.

CURT and Dorothy PACKARD, (Div. Hq. '44-'46), St. Louis'd it and we're right happy that they did. They reported the promotion of WILLIAM P. BADER, (H & H Co., 1st Bn., 19th), over at Riley and, unisonly, they start the chorus of good wishes from us all.

Riley Quickie: 17 Riley folks attended the annual AUSA meeting in Washington in October.

LOU and Vicki TACCHI, (E 34th '43-'45), were especially interested in St. Louis, in the Treasurer's Report for the Year 8/1/68 to 8/1/69. We explained to them how we keep two accounts, one, an Operating Account, which we use to run this ship, and the other, a Reserve Account, whose title makes it self-explanatory.

A breakdown of the Operating Account follows:

Balance on hand, Security National Bank, Springfield, Mass. as of 8/1/68	\$1,395.03
Receipts from dues, contributions, convention rebate, and sale of decals and books 8/1/68 - 8/1/69	<u>2,706.05</u>
Total	\$4,101.08

Disbursements for Taro Leaf, and administrative expenses 8/1/68 - 8/1/69	<u>2,432.47</u>
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Balance on hand, Security National Bank, Springfield, Mass. as of 8/1/69	\$1,668.61
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A breakdown of the Reserve Account follows:

Balance on hand, First Federal Savings and Loan Association, Attleboro, Mass. as of 8/1/68	\$10,671.49
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Receipts from 8/1/68 to 8/11/69	
Life Memberships	\$350.00
Bank Interest	<u>524.83</u>
	874.83

On hand, First Federal Savings and Loan Association, Attleboro, Mass. as of 8/11/69	\$11,546.32
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Lou and Vicki may appreciate this breakdown of the sources of all monies deposited in the Reserve Account:

\$2,653.37	came from Savings Bank Dividends
102.90	came from Stock Dividends
45.00	came from Contributions
1,326.95	came from Royalties, "C of Y"
134.75	came from Sales of "C of Y"
6,635.00	came from Life Memberships
653.35	came from Profit in Sale of Stock purchased at \$2502.00 plus \$1459.00 for a total of \$3961.00 and sold at \$4614.35.

Riley Quickie: Lt. Col. JAMES G. HUMPHRYS, Div. IG, was recently presented the Legion of Merit by Col. ARLAND H. WAGONHURST, ADC.

Eighth Army has a new commander, Lt. Gen. JOHN H. MICHAELIS, replacing our own Gen. CHARLES H. BONESTEEL who has retired.

By Which We Address Ourselves to the People of Riley

Who Are Now Active Members of the Greatest Division of the United States Army.

Not until a few weeks ago did Division and Association "meet" in the precise meaning of that word.

Until relatively recently, Division was living up to its name of "the Division that has never been home to Continental U.S.". And Association, comprised, in the main, of has-beens of the military, now occupied with the civilian pursuits of happiness and earning a living, was never quite able to establish a practical working "liaison" with Division.

So firstly, we extend to you - GREETINGS!!!

Understand, above all else, that the Association IS:

a private, social organization - not in the Army chain of command - owned and operated solely by its own members, and is

open to ALL men who now, or ever did, wear the Taro Leaf, without regard to rank, race, creed, color, age, height, weight, or collar size, and is

dedicated to but a single cause - to keep alive the friendships forged through service in the Victory Division - and is

committed to the proposition that it seeks "nothing from nobody", has no design on selling anyone anything at any price, aims not to convert anyone to any new or different philosophy, lest it be a philosophy of brotherhood having its roots in that comraderie which develops between men who have experienced the common bond that comes of serving together or separately in a fine military unit.

Division - 28 years old - has seen some over a half million men fill up her morning reports - and pass beyond. Association - 24 years old - has served as the agency facilitating maintenance of the friendships generated by and between the John Doe's and Joe Blow's.

That day surely comes - sooner or later - when one looks back with warm realizations that those days of service in "the Pineapple Army" were worthwhile, if for no reason than that at least a smidgeon of personal friendships were formed, each deserving of being remembered and kept alive for the rest of one's days in this vale of tears.

Therefore, our invitation to you - to share with each of us - the privilege of membership in our Association, to the end that you too may enjoy the satisfaction that comes from remaining in touch with good friends, even as the cycle of life moves ever onward and these people go their separate ways. We ask you to signify your wish to join the Association NOW by accomplishing the form below and forwarding it to the Division Chapter of the Association:

CSM Carroll J. Griffin,
Div.SGM-Div.Hq.
24th Infantry Division
Ft.Riley, Kansas 66442

Count me in as a member of both the local chapter of the Association and of the national organization as well - for which I enclose \$2.00 for annual dues - all with the understanding that membership entitles me to a subscription to the Association's publication, "Taro Leaf", and all of the privileges of membership in the 24th Infantry Division Association.

Name _____ Rank _____

Division Unit: _____

Date joined Division: _____

Home address other than Division address: _____

HENRY HONORED WITH VERBECK AWARD

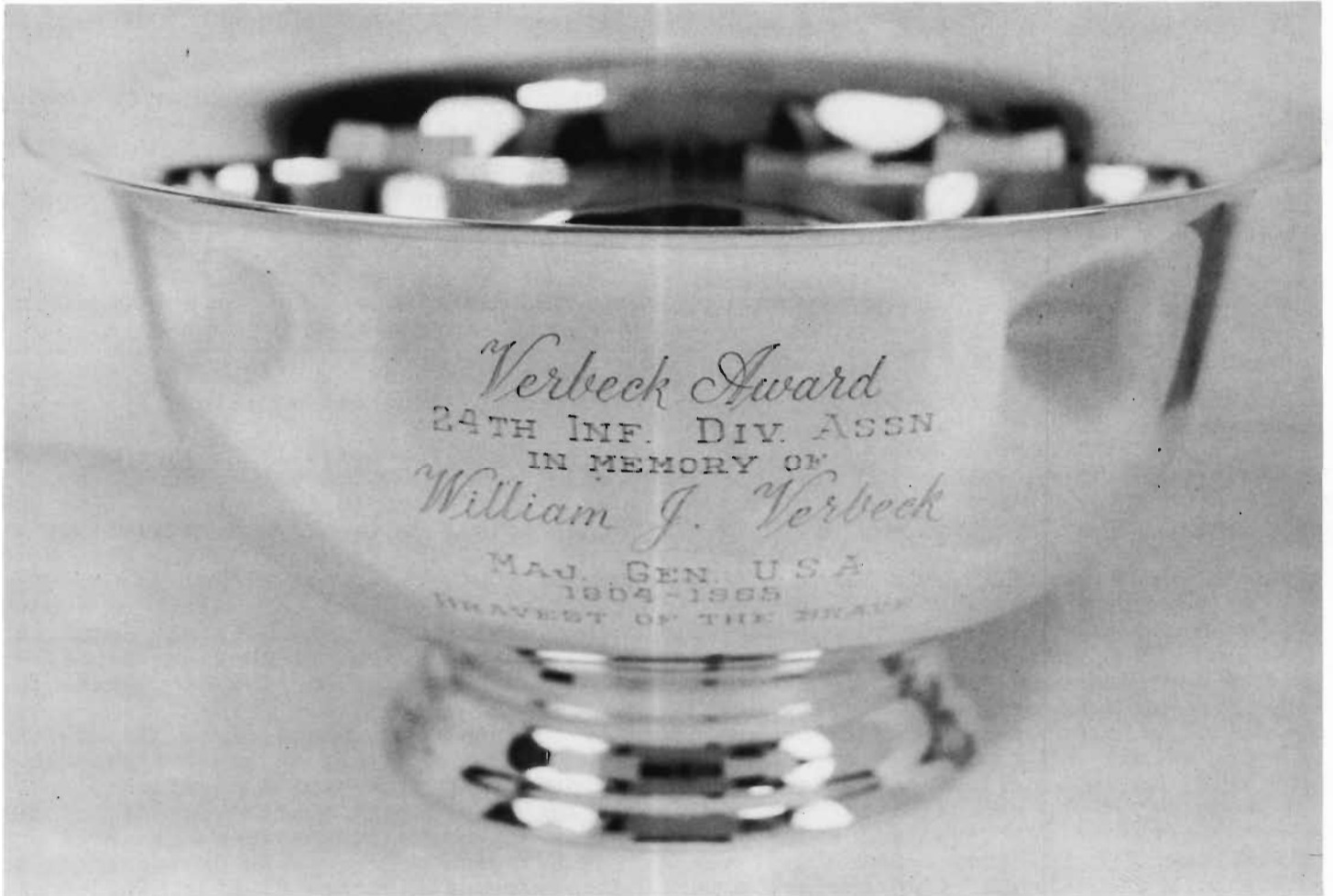
(Ed.note: The request was made that your Editor's remarks, during the annual banquet, be recorded in this issue. We comply. The statement itself tells the story.)

* * * * *

Mine is the happy assignment of acting in your behalf as tonight we pay homage to one of our number with the presentation of the Association's highest and most coveted honor, the William Jordan Verbeck Award.

This award had its genesis years back in our Executive Council which felt a compelling desire to demonstrate appreciation for exceptional dedication to our cause. Thinking as to the form which such an expression might best take miraculously gelled one day when one of our members stepped forward with the gratuitous offer of a Paul Revere bowl. The donor of that bowl requested anonymity; and anonymity he receives.

Ask 500 Taro Leafers to name 2 or 3 of the most dashing men who ever served the Division and you will naturally receive some 500 different answers.



In any balloting, there will be those of the Medal of Honor cult, justly persuaded by the heroics of JAMES DIAMOND of the 21st, HAROLD MOON and CHARLES MOWER of the 34th, STANLEY T. ADAMS, NELSON BRITTIN and MITCHELL RED CLOUD of the 19th, CARL DODD of the 5th RCT, MACK JORDAN and ROY DUKE of the 21st, GEORGE LIBBY of the 3rd Engineers, and WILLIAM F. DEAN of Headquarters.

Others will nominate a Division Commander or two and - FRED IRVING, TONY McAULIFFE, JOHN CHURCH and LINTON BOATWRIGHT will be found on many lists.

Some will lean to lesser lights - RED NEWMAN - GEORGE ODOM - BILL VERBECK - FRED ZIERATH - STAN MELOY - NICK SLOAN - GERALD DAVID - JOCK CLIFFORD - JACK GRIFFIN - among others.

Others will include individuals who stand out because of an exceptional story of heroism - BRAD SMITH of Osan fame, to name but one.

One's selection naturally goes according to his own point of view, influenced by the view from his particular foxhole.

One fact, however, is most certain; there is a definite consistency with which the name, BILL VERBECK, appears somewhere on the balloting of nearly everyone who votes.

Continued bottom next page.....



"DON'T YOU THINK I KNOW A
FRIENDLY NATIVE WHEN I SEE ONE?"

At the annual Executive Committee meeting - the E.C. is comprised of the President and all Past Presidents - 13 of the 15 living Prexies were back, including RICHARD LIGMAN, (3rd Eng.), after a much-too-long absence. Also present were DON WILLIAMS, (34th), EDMUND HENRY, (Div.Hq.), JAMES O'DONNELL, (21st), KENWOOD ROSS, (Div.Hq.), ROSCOE CLAXON, (724 Ord), JOSEPH PEYTON, (19th), CLIFFORD HANLIN, (L34th), WILLIAM SANDERSON, (19th), VICTOR BACKER, (34th), THOMAS COMPERE, (Div.Hq.), GERALD STEVENSON, (Hq.Co.Div.), PATRICK CIANGI, (724th Ord), and SAM GILNER, (13th Art). We missed you, ROSS PURSIFULL, (34th), building a new summer camp up there in Mich., and BOB DUFF, (Div.Hq.), laid up with a spinal injury concerning which we want to hear more.

The "jolly grocer", JOHN HORVATH, (3rd Eng. '42-'45), had a tremendous smile on his face as he received his Life Membership card at the banquet. Johnny, we'll meet in Detroit again yet.

FRANK and Louise KUBA, (3rd Eng.), joined in the fun at the Early Bird Show. Close by, Florissant, the Chase Park was but a skip and a holler for them.

WILLIAM JORDAN VERBECK, World War II commander of the 21st, and subsequently Chief of Staff, was a noble, bred-in-the-bone American, one of the great captains of the American army.

Nor was it just that magnificent display of courage as he wrestled in the agony of his last fight that so endeared him to us. We were "sold" long before we stood the helpless watch for those three agonizing years as he demonstrated for the last time that unbelievable tenacity which was his. In his final battle, as in all his battles, he was inspirational. Suddenly, one day, we were left with only the legend; but the Bill Verbeck legend is as secure with us as that of any hero of any war of any time.

Bill Verbeck understood his warriors and therein lies a clue. His warriors admired him for his generalship, his competence, his keen military sense, his uncanny intuition, his love of fun, his restless energy, his honesty, his fairness; but they worshipped him for his understanding, his gentleness. It was the understanding and the gentleness that enshrined him forever in our hearts.

William Jordan Verbeck consistently demonstrated, in myriad ways, from his Division days of '44 and '45 to the day of his death almost four years ago, an unparalleled love for the Division and its Association. It was an obsession with him, a magnificent one.

Some of us who were close to him during his last assignment at Fort Devens had the unique experience of travelling with him on some of his goodwill missions when Bill would deliver the typical "Army message". I remember the speech well - as he delivered it to a Portland, Maine, Chamber of Commerce, a Burlington, Vermont, Rotary Club, a Hartford, Connecticut, American Legion Post, a Concord, New Hampshire, Knights of Columbus group, a Martha's Vineyard Kiwanis Club. Martha's Vineyard, in case you don't know by now, is but a swim away from Chappaquiddick.

The devilry in Bill would come out in those speeches as he would slyly - but surely - bring his listeners around to his days in the 24th Division. Never would he fail to drive home that it was the greatest fighting force ever assembled, that his happiest days were those when he served her. He said these things because he felt them in his heart.

It was no happenstance, therefore, when it came to designating an Award for exceptional service to the Association, that it would bear Bill's name.

It is his enthusiasm, his spirit, his zest, which the Executive Committee sought to memorialize by way of the William Jordan Verbeck Award.

Any honor bearing his name carries its own ready acknowledgement of that for which it stands. The name "Verbeck" is synonymous with "Excellence". To us particularly, it stands for exceptional excellence in all matters germane to the Division and its Association.

Tonight, I have the honor to make - in your behalf - the presentation of this award to a member of this Association.

Continued bottom next page.....

On October 19th, a letter was dispatched in the name of the Association. Regretfully, limitations of space dictate not dwelling more at length on this particular anniversary. The letter, hopefully, expresses the real message of the hour. It read:

Maj.Gen.Frederick A.Irving
2619 Ft.Scott Drive
Arlington, Virginia

Dear General Irving:

As the silver anniversary looms but hours away, we, the members of the Association, "take ten" to direct our thoughts intermittently up Leyte Gulf towards Red Beach and down the Potomac toward Arlington. That way, we recall to mind the return to the Philippines and the much revered gentleman who led our way.

Be assured by we who served you, if assurance there need be, that the events of those hours can not be yours alone - they were events, the good and the bad, which were shared by each of us - and the private gains and losses were the gains and losses of us all - then and now.

Leyte days only brought closer together those of us who served that common bond.

Our fervent prayer is that your personal reflections at this anniversary time be happy ones, safe in the knowledge that we of Division were behind you in every sense of that somewhat indelicate phrase.

Memories of Hawaii, Rockhampton, Good-enough and Hollandia were too much with us for it to be otherwise.

We admired you then; we love you today.

Most Respectfully -

THE 24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

By: Paul A. Harris, Jr.
Paul A. Harris, Jr.
President

On from Riley came RANDY KURTH, (21st), who observed that he was pleasantly surprised; we weren't all on the weather side of forty. Like a delayed-action mine, the full impact of that assessment didn't hit us until later. We ARE beginning to look younger! Thanks, Randy.

If we live to be 100 years old (a possibility that must have actuarial circles sick with fear), we doubt that we shall ever cease to marvel at Life Member EMIL LARSEN (H 19th) who so thoroughly enjoyed the St.Louis bash. Though sightless, Emil is most happy when he's back with his 24th friends - and they are legion.

Our Chase Park meeting room was small - too small - and the conversing groups, the dramatis personal of our convention, were fitted so closely together that the tall story of one was contrapuntal with the raucous sound of the next. It was good music nonetheless and BILL BYRD's Margaret made such a lovely appearance - a veritable orchid among we thistles - that all of our complaints just melted away. Margaret was so delighted with our entire circus that she is already planning to attend again next year, admitting that she might even bring Bill again. Life Member JAMES "Spike" O'DONNELL, (G 21st '42-'45) asked her why. Bill, by the by, was 24th Recn. and 21st from '42-'45.

The press has borne down heavily on the story so there's little point in reviewing the history of the allegations against Maj.Gen. WILLIAM A. CUNNINGHAM, one-time Division Commander, and Sgt.Maj. WILLIAM O. WOOLDRIDGE, one time Division Sergeant Major. We'll only editorialize for a fleeting moment with the age old complaint that Senate inquiries are frequently so staged as to lead the average man-in-the-street to conclude that the proceedings of a Senate subcommittee do, in fact, constitute a trial. The alleged culprits in this one have already been through the ringer, as we go to press, and there hasn't even been a trial. It all leaves us slightly cold.

What would our whirligig have done without those always-willing-to-work Gimlets, CHESTER ANDREZAK, ('44-'46), and RICHARD GOINY, ('45-'46), who would go anywhere and do anything, to help make things succeed? Dick, still single, was put much in mind of his earliest Army days, he having served at nearby Scott Field before joining Division. Chet, on the other hand, is married. He says that Gloria spoke to him the other day for the first time since he sang at the Xmas party. Thanks to both of you boys for so much help, so generously offered.



"Aren't you Artillery men?", someone asked this group. "Hell, no, we're infantry. Your artillery men are over there behind us - as always", came the reply.

WE SALUTE MAJ. GEN. ROBERT R. LINVILL



FRAN and Ruth MENNEMEYER, (21st '45-'46) indicated at St.Louis a desire to be the ones to say "WELCOME AND BEST WISHES" to Major General ROBERT R. LINVILL, the new Division Commander. All of us join Fran and Ruth in sending forward our warmest and heartiest greetings.

Over the Sept. 21st weekend, up in Attleboro, Mass., BILL SANDERSON, (F 19th), added another feather to his cap when he was installed as Worshipful Master of his Masonic Lodge. Joined by his wonderful Alice, Bill hosted in le grande manner a large number of 24th'ers for the big event, including: DICK and Phyllis WATSON (a fellow mason), out of Daleville, Ind., PAT and Lu CIANGI, out of Chicago, GERRY and Belle STEVENSON (a fellow mason) out of Chicago, KENWOOD ROSS, out of Springfield, Mass., DON WILLIAMS, out of Detroit, Mich. "JR" and Lessie HARRIS, (another fellow mason) out of Greensboro, N.C., "SPIKE" O'DONNELL (a K of C looking for information), out of Chicago, BILL MULDOON, out of Waltham, Mass., ED and Amanda HENRY, out of Attleboro, Mass., and BILL SCHLATTER (still another fellow mason), out of Unionville, Conn. The local townfolks, who turned out in large numbers to pay honor to Bill on his "night of nights", were positively overwhelmed at the show of force made by Bill's "Army buddies". The weekend will long be remembered as a happy one.

"Doc" WALTER L. REHM, (34th '43-'46) brought Nell to the clambake. He was observed commiserating with BILL MULDOON in a Chase Parl lobby over the lack of GP's today in the medical profession. He was also observed enjoying the beer spigots on the Grants Farm tour.

As if the subcommittee hadn't conducted enough of a kangaroo Court, on about the 7th day of its hearing, following testimony by another general, Maj.Gen. Carl C. Turner, involving some guns, DD stripped his DSM ("the General's Soldier's Medal"). That maneuver might well have waited, were not the case of the Green Beret still on the back burner. All in all, 1969 has not been "a very good year" - at least for the Army.

BILL BYRD (21st) was making the St. Louis rounds, taking pledges for the chartering of a bus out of Arkansas for the '70 convention. Recon. men, JOHN WILLIAMS, MIKE CULLEN and HARTLEY KEYS, say "Count us in". Bill is going to work on the Little Rock men including Brig.Gen. HUGH CORT (Div.Arty. '44-'46), JOHN ROGERS, (L-21 '43-'45), LELAND LEATHERMAN, and ERNER JONES, (21st '43-'45).

"Double arthritis we call it", said EARL BRIDEWELL, (H 19th '38-'42), as he mingled among the St. Louis crowds. Seems that Red has been hit with the mean affliction. His ever-loving Alice has been likewise suffering. Both good soldiers, they forced themselves on through the entirety of the festivities.



This close-up of TOM COMPERE and the BOATWRIGHTS is just too good not to use. Tom is presenting the Life Membership Card to the General.



Past President TOM COMPERE (l.) and Gladys and HOWARD LUMSDEN (r) found the means to be in attendance at Riley for the departure of Maj.Gen. LINTON S. BOATWRIGHT and lovely wife, Lucille. Tom is presenting a Life Membership in the Association to this man whose deeds will surely be counted, to the power of 16, in the heaven that is bound to be reserved for 24th'ers and their families and friends.

We simply can't reproduce all of the Sept. 8th farewell remarks of Maj.Gen. LINTON S. BOATWRIGHT as he departed Ft. Riley, but we can give you some of them which went:

"There is a saying in the army to the effect that once one has commanded a division, everything that follows seems secondary. Surely this is true when the division is the 24th and the station is Fort Riley. Certainly, if I had been able to choose my own assignment, I could not have selected one which would have done me more honor or provided a greater sense of accomplishment. Therefore, Lucille and I depart today with the greatest sadness, at the same time recognizing that we have been very lucky to have been given these two years in Kansas.

"In departing, we think primarily of the many individuals and groups who have contributed toward making our tour such a complete one.

"First and foremost, of course, is the 24th Division and the Non-Divisional Units here at Riley. The men of the division have set records in the rapidity of their training for exercise Reforger I and, of course, in their execution of this most important assignment. The excellence of the performance of the division in this exercise effectively demonstrated to the world that the United States not only had the desire, but also the capability, to reinforce its NATO allies rapidly in the event of emergency.

"Since the return of the division to Riley, in spite of an almost unbelievable turnover of personnel and a shortage of many key noncommissioned officers and specialists, the division has success-

fully completed every assigned mission to include removal of its equipment from storage, support of a 3400 man ROTC camp, the state funeral for General Eisenhower, and preparation for tank gunnery training

"...Many of our men are combat veterans, recently returned from Vietnam with distinguished combat records and we are very proud of the way they have integrated themselves into the activities of a garrison post.

"I am particularly indebted to our NCO Corps whose experience and resourcefulness makes for fruitful direction to the dedicated efforts of our men. Also we have been especially fortunate to have had a talented group of officers assigned to the division and the post - men whose vision, diligence and patriotism have blended perfectly with the contributions of the NCO Corps, thus permitting proper direction to the plans and programs of the Division, the post and post activities. I include the ever loyal and exceptionally competent civilian element of our post staff and activities in my assessment of those who have contributed so much to our record and to the successful accomplishment of difficult missions.....

"....I could go on and on. There is the assistant division commander, the deputy post commander, the two chiefs of staff, my personal staff - but Washington lies fourteen hundred miles to the east and time is 'awastin'. We do hate to leave, as Eisenhower said, this "Heart of America". We shall never forget the friends, both military and civilian, that we have made here and we most deeply appreciate the unsurpassed support which we have received.

"God Bless You All."

"Departed Division" is Maj.Gen.LINTON S. BOATWRIGHT after so short a "honeymoon" with the Association. But spark something he did and we are prepared to carry the torch which he lit.

Gen. Boatwright was to be assigned to the Office of the Dep.C/S for Personnel, following his Sept. 8th departure from Riley.

Gen.Boatwright arrived from V/N in Oct. '67, in time to participate in the planning and movement of the main body of Division from Germany. Besides directing the "receiving end" of this mammoth operation, he and his charming wife, Lucille, took a personal interest in the well-being of men and their dependents being flown to Riley. They personally met incoming flights. Many individual soldiers knew Gen.Boatwright and his wife long before he took command of their division.

In Jan. '69, he led the 24th to Germany during Exercise REFORGER to participate in North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) maneuvers. He and the two brigades of the dual-based Division returned to Fort Riley in early March '69.

Gen.Boatwright was born in Washington, D.C. on 4/29/20, and graduated from Manassas, Va. H.S. in '37. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt. of Art. from USMA in '41.

He was Asst. S-3 of the XII Corps Artillery during its sweep across northern France and into Germany in '44, becoming its S-3 shortly after V-E Day. From July '45 to Jan. '47, he served on occupation duty in Germany.

During Korea, he was first chief of the Plans Division, G-3, IX Corps; then in May '51 took command of the 37th FA Bn. of the 2nd Inf.Div. The unit was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its actions during the Chinese Spring Offensive of May '51; during this action Gen.Boatwright received the Silver Star for gallantry.

After assignments at Bragg, Washington, Sill and Hawaii, Gen.Boatwright assumed command of the 1st Armored Division Artillery in '63. In Aug. '65, he was assigned to V/N.at Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam. His initial assignment was as G-4, and in Mar. '66, he became G-3.

In Sept. '66, he became Commander, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery; then from Nov. '66 until Sept. '67, he served as Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff, I Field Force. He arrived at Riley Oct. 28, 1967, to take command of the Post. With the arrival of the 24th Div., he became assistant division commander and on 20 July he assumed command of the Division.

Second place award for loudest Hawaiian shirt in St.Louis goes to LLOYD MCCANDLISH, (D 21st '50-'52). The prize? The Washington's Birthday record of Lawrence Welk, which ought to make Mary happy.

"JACK, I THINK IVE SPOTTED THE TROUBLE. EVERY FIFTH ROUND IS LIPSTICK."



At St.Louis, we prevailed upon JAMES "Spike" O'DONNEL, (G 21st), to share with us a letter and answer out of his "Dear Spike" file:

* * *

Dear Spike -

I think there is something wrong with Al, my husband. He was a "triple Nickel" man attached to the 24th in Korea. He has always been proud of this. Lately he has been sleeping in his uniform, with all of his medals, cap, and even his sword.

Should I watch him for other signs of peculiarness? He's not old enough to be getting senile.

Dottie.

Dear Dottie -

Don't try to diagnose Al's case. He needs professional help. Get him to a doctor right away - in or out of uniform.

Spike.

PAUL "Junior" HARRIS, (G 21st), our new Prexy, and Lessie, made the St.Louis scene with gusto. Jr. is happiest when he has an audience. At one point up in one of the Chase Park rooms, he was heard to expound on the business of managing. Said he, "The greatest job of management in life is self-management. And too frequently, those least able to manage themselves are best equipped to tell us what we are all doing wrong. Such people might be well advised to accept a little more responsibility themselves and find out what it feels like. Then they might know a little bit more about the business of managing." We like that kind of down-to-earth talk. Come to think of it, this fellow is going to make us a good Prexy.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442

2 September 1969

Mr. Kenwood Ross
Secretary-Treasurer-Editor
24th Infantry Division Association
120 Maple Street
Springfield, Massachusetts 01103

Dear Ken:

The recently completed Association Convention activities at St. Louis were an unqualified success and as Secretary-Treasurer of the Association I am certain you are proud of the results obtained.

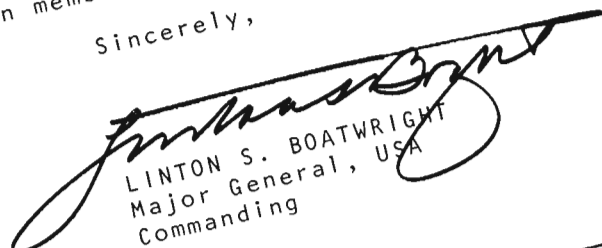
Mrs. Boatwright and I were delighted by the invitation to attend and participate in the convention activities. This was certainly the high point of our newly found relationship with the Association and we will long remember the pleasant acquaintances formed at St. Louis.

I would like to express a special thank you for the fine arrangements provided for the Division personnel who accompanied us to St. Louis. I know that they also were tendered every possible consideration and that they have a sincere appreciation of the Association and its goals.

I will be departing the Division next week for duty in Washington. My successor, Major General Robert R. Linvill, will be thoroughly briefed on the Association and the Active Division's growing participation in its activities. I feel confident that he will continue to build upon the fine relationship that has been established between the past and present members of the "Victory" Division.

Again, my sincere personal thanks for the warm courtesies extended to the Division members at St. Louis.

Sincerely,


LINTON S. BOATWRIGHT
Major General, USA
Commanding



'Round the clock once more we go, starting with DICK WATSON, (19th '42-'45), in the very front of our picture with lovely Phyllis on his left. Then Orla and John "Mac" McCarthy, friends of the Watsons who have attended our last four conventions, HOWARD LUMSDEN's sister and brother-in-law (their names escape us for the moment - sorry - okay, so we're doing a lousy job), Alice Sanderson, and her ever-lovin', Past President and Life Member BILL SANDERSON (F 19th).



"THE MONSOON SEASON IS A LITTLE EARLY THIS YEAR."

'Twas wonderful to see that VERN and Dottie SCHENKEL (34th '42-'45) could Chase Park it with us. Dottie has known a terribly rough year answering sick call. We admire the determination and grit of this beautiful little lady. Our prayers will be for you, Dottie, as you walk up the recovery road.

"The remarkable fact is that Taro Leafers have been meeting annually like this for the past 22 years without a single unpleasantness or incident of which any of us need be ashamed." ALBERT ("Alka Seltzer" SELTSAM (34th) was talking to DELMAR BABB, (724th Ord. '43-'46), on a deck of the Huck Finn as we made our Friday night cruise. Having made the boast, Al proceeded to his room later on in the evening, only to trip over a chair, ending up the next AM with one of the prettiest shiners our arbs have ever chanced to see.

In which we hail those two old timers who spent a good bit of their convention time catering to those incontrovertible devotees of Bacchus. JOHN SHAY, (21st), and OTTO KASSAK, (34th), did yeoman service tending the bar and watching as the convention mood went distinctly festive, tongues being loosened by copious draughts, tongues ever they were pouring. By the by, try spelling "Otto Kassak" backwards some. As Otto expostulates, "It'll be KASSAK OTTO".

Always happy, always smiling was - and is - MAJOR HAYWOOD, (21st '42-'45). The "Eisenhower smile", which seemed to be perpetually turned on during Major's Gimlet days, has in no way diminished over the years. He must be a pleasure to live with, Imogene. It helped to make St. Louis the cheery place that it was. "Major" is the given name, by the way. It prompted WALTER CUNNINGHAM, (Div.Hq.), to tell us about GENERAL SMITH who was a Lieutenant in Div.Hqs. back in Australia and Good-enough days. Smithy used to love to answer the mushy-mushy with "Lieutenant General Smith speaking". Walter, you're putting us on!!

A farewell review for Maj.Gen. LINTON S. BOATWRIGHT, CG, was held on Riley's Infantry Parade on Mon., Sept. 8th for formal good-byes preparatory to Gen. Boatwright's going to the Office of the Asst. Vice C/S, Pentagon for duty with the Army General Staff. Leaving Riley after nearly two years, (he arrived 10/28/67 from V.), first having been post commander and then taking command of the Div. when Maj.Gen. RODERIC WETHERILL left for V. in July of '68.

Lt. JAMES W. HOOD, (11th Art), was the junior officer present from Riley for our lachrymose doings, but it made not one whit of difference. He had fun which, translated, means, he accomplished the mission.



Your Executive Committee has resolved that the award shall be made to that member who, by reason of service to the Association, best exemplifies the Verbeck ideals. Its standards are high - as high as the standards of Bill himself. It demands an unusual quality of performance to justify its receipt.

It has been awarded only once before - three years ago.

A year ago, the Executive Committee voted to present it to another member at this, the 1969 convention.

Our honoree has been my close personal friend for more than a quarter of a century. Together, we have shared many of life's joys and a few of its vicissitudes - all helping to make the announcing of his selection a most pleasurable responsibility.

Our honoree was present at that first organizational meeting at Taloma Beach, just 24 years ago almost to the very hour. Hiroshima and Nagasaki had just been atomized; all thoughts were on war's end, and, hopefully, everlasting peace. WOODY WOODRUFF was bent on the formation of this Association that "this thing called Division and all the blood spilled in her name will never be forgotten" and that "the friendships forged in battle will last as long as life itself."

The Association was given birth and our honoree became its first Secretary. In time, he came back to the states to arrange for its first burst of operations and, subsequently, its first convention, in Baltimore, 21 years ago. That convention had the infinite wisdom to make him our second President for the truth was that he, of the tens of thousands of men of the Division, was the one who put the gears in mesh so that this organization would run and who poured the oil then - and now - to keep it running.

Tonight, we look back upon a 24 year record of unrelenting effort and concern in our behalf, over which span he has served various terms as President, as Secretary, as Treasurer, as Editor, as Historian, as Convention Chairman and, in more recent days, as Elder Statesman. He continues, to this very day, as the catalyst - the one who accelerates the reactions on the part of we, the members, all in his never ceasing effort to ensure that this Association endures so long as there are men who ever wore the Taro Leaf.

His sobriquet, "Mr. 24th Division", is richly deserved.

With singular pride, and in your behalf, I present the William Jordan Verbeck Award.

EDMUND F. HENRY.