



TARO

LEAF

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XXI NUMBER 2

1967 - 1968

DON'T PUT IT OFF ANY LONGER--SEND IN YOUR 1967-68 DUES NOW!

— Just A Reminder —
DUES IS DUE

(Ed.Note. Because of the demand for its continuance, we have prevailed upon JAMES "Spike" O'DONNELL, G-21st, to favor us with more of his "Advice" column.)

Dear Spike: I am 19. My Daddy served with the 3rd Eng. in Korea. To help pay my expenses through school, I baby-sit. One of my customers is a young father of two. He hires me every Wednesday night to sit. His wife and children went away for the summer. He still hires me to sit for his collie dog. Now he has given the dog away, but he still hires me to sit with him. Last Wednesday night, I sat from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. We had a nice dinner by candlelight, and danced to his stereo. However, something has been preying terribly on my conscience. Am I justified in charging him my usual rate of time-and-a-half after midnight? Please answer before Wednesday night. CONCERNED COED.

Dear Concerned: Oh, you know how helpless men are about domestic matters. Why don't you call his wife and ask her what her policy is in a case like this. She'll straighten things out, I'm sure.
Spike.

Dear Spike: I have found a way to improve the quality of TV. First, you need a second set. Turn the sound down on one set, and leave the picture on. Turn the picture off on the other set and turn the sound up. The programs are much better this way. I sit around and laugh a lot now.
B.G., 24TH RECON.

Dear B.G.: They won't let me have a second set. They just insist I keep weaving these stupid baskets.
Spike.

Dear Spike: You said it wasn't sissy for men to wear deodorants. But if nature had intended men to smell dainty, I'm sure she would have taken care of it. I suppose you think it's O.K. if a man wants to wear lipstick and rouge.
SAM, 34th

Dear Sam: Wearing lipstick has nothing to do with deodorant, as far as I can see. In fact anybody who puts lipstick under his arms has gotta be some kind of nut.
Spike

Dear Spike: The house next door used to be occupied by a very fine conservative family. They put in a swimming pool. Three months ago they moved to another city. The house has been rented by 4 young gals who splash around in the pool all day long. They wear skimpy bathing suits and sometimes sunbathe wearing nothing at all. What do you think of this? This is a nice neighborhood. B.J.C., 24th Sig.

Dear B.J.C.: My. It certainly is! Congratulations!
Spike.

Congratulations To Chicago Chapter For A Most Wonderful Reunion

DAHLEN, Maj.Gen. CHESTER A. gives us a few names and addresses as follows:

Captain Kingsley W. Hawthorne, Chaplain
now: Colonel - assigned to:
Control Group, US Army Admin. Ctr.
St. Louis, Mo.
(3406 Deal, Houston, Texas 77025)

LTC Charles E. Oglesby
now: Colonel - assigned to:
U.S. Army Defense Attache's Office
New Delhi, India (American Embassy)
c/o Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20521

Captain Jack B. Matthews
now: BG - assigned to:
Director, Organization, Unit Tng. &
Readiness, OACSFOR, Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310

LTC James F. Pearsall, Jr.
now: Colonel - USA, Retired
Retired and living at 821 Empress Court,
Alexandria, Va. 22308

LTC Edward M. Postlethwait
now: Colonel - assigned to:
HQ Co., USA Garrison
Ft. Bragg, North Carolina 28307

Captain John W. Callaway
now: Colonel - assigned to:
HQ CONARC ODCSOPS
Ft. Monroe, Va. 23351

Col. George Dickerson
now: BG - assigned to:
HQ CONARC
Ft. Monroe, Va. 23351

STAHL, BILL, an old B of the 13th man from '48 to '51, and who hangs his hat at 473 Buena Vista, Alameda, Calif., suggests that every one of us stick a Taro Leaf decal in the rear window of his car. Bill says it draws attention. We know you're right, Bill. Say you'll use it and we'll send you the decal.

FASULES, LT.COL. POMAS B. Writes he: "I truly hope to make next year's reunion as I'm retiring". Try Pomas at Box 1574, Eglin AFB, Fla. He tells the delightful story about Heywood Broun who went in to the Algonquin Hotel one evening in the twenties to see Alexander Woollcott. It was a rainy night and having been served some indifferent wine, he remarked, "Oh well, any port in a storm".

From the Secretary's Desk

LIVINGSTON, WILLIAM. Here's the V.P. and Mortgage Officer of the Cambridgeport Savings Bank of Cambridge, Mass., who crisply signals: "No news - enjoy T.L." As to Bill, as so many other good and faithful members who pay their dues, we regret that we simply do not have the time to write each a personal note as we mail out our acknowledgements.

NADOLSK, JOHN F. wants to join. An "Item" of the 19th man from 5/51 to 9/53, Johnny is to be found at 429 Broadway, Bayonne, N.J. 07002.

BEST, CHARLES, reports that he missed Chicago as he was in Alaska at the time. Says he made Anchorage, Nome, Fairbanks and some remote Eskimo villages up within the Artic Circle. We always say, Charley: show me a Peeping Tom in Alaska and we'll show you a man with frozen eyeballs.

LAINE, LAWRENCE E., (21st Inf. Band '43-44 and 24th Div. Band '44-'45), will have been to Los Angeles and back by the time this appears. You were going to contact some of the old band buddies, Larry; did you? Larry's at 2939 Van Ness, Washington, D.C. and he tells us that it was Confucius who said that "Woman who put up false front keep man from knowing what he's up against".

MANLOVE, Col. ALMON W., saw our listing of LOUIS BERDAMI in a recent issue under "whereabouts unknown". Whitey says he served with Lou in '51-'52 at Leavenworth. Both were on the C&GS faculty. Whitey adds that he heard that Lou was killed in '53 or '54 in a plane crackup. Lou flew light aircraft, you'll remember.

MILLER, JOHN H., of E34th, couldn't make Chicago as good wife Ramona had just got out of the hospital. Hope all is well now John.

CARTER, HENRY H., JR. is here introduced as one of our latest Life Members. Hank is 24th CIC from 11/49 to 11/51 and lives at 104 Alpine, North Augusta, S.C.



We've got a real fire-ball in this man. He's bubbling over with ideas and enthusiasm. Hank says that an expert is someone who knows no more than you do, but who has it better organized and uses slides

LENSKY, BERNARD has bought a house at 1777 N.E. 177th St., N. Miami Beach, Fla. Berny hopes it will be permanent. Says he wants to hear from Charley Battery men of the 52nd F of '41-'45 vintage.

CHOUINARD, MARC, returned to a convention after too many years of absence, only to go out Saturday night after the banquet and have his pocket picked a block away from the hotel.

SKINNER, FRANKLIN E., has sent us a copy of "The Mortarman's Song" which he tried to sing at the Chicago clam-bake. The words, sung to the tune of "Bless 'Em All", go like this:

We own the weapon that nobody loves,
They say our gun's a disgrace,
We come up two hundred and two hundred more,
It lands in the very same place.
There's many a gunner who's blowing his top;
Observers are all going mad,
But our devotion has lasted for the
big iron B-----,
It's the best gun the world's ever had.
Chorus:
Bless 'em all, Bless 'em all,
Shells heavy, light, big and the small.
Bless high explosives and pull out the pin,
Check all your charges and drop the shell in.
Oh, it's out of our gun with a wham,
Where it lands, we don't give a damn.
It'll be over or under,
If it's on - it's a wonder,
That's the life of a poor mortarman!

HENDERSON, ARTHUR, and Marie (Exec.O. 21st '45-'46) are now at 4029 Old Hickory Rd., Fairfax, Va.

PLEASE
PAY
YOUR
DUES
NOW!!!

An Unknown Soldier Wrote On the Eve of His Last Battle...

"To some is given to make the fight, to others not. Some will live and some will perish. If I am one of those who fall it matters little, for after all it is of less consequence when we die than how. And it is better far to have gone out, with honor, than to have survived, with shame."

We, the living, dedicate this issue of TARO LEAF to all members of the Victory Division.

The proud record of the sacrifices of its members have been left on the fields of battle.

May those who are to follow be ever ready to carry on the proud record and heritage when and where needed.

And we dedicate it, too, to those of the Association who have worked so long and so hard to preserve the comradeships known only to them who have endured common hardships and sacrifices in times of stress.

SLOAN, Col. NICHOLAS E., couldn't make Chicago; "was in Vietnam on a trip". Catch Nick at 1807 Susquehannock Dr., McLean, Va.

HOLFORD, LESTER W. Les and Thelma would like to hear from Easy of the 21st men of Leyte days. If they're out this way, 9527-171st Ave., N.E., Redmond, Wash., they'll be welcome there. Sez Les, "lots of salmon fishing off our coast, caught some up to 25#". Les got a charge out of our recent picture showing the officers of E of the 21st. He was talking to Lts. Halderson and Haas "when two knee mortar shells came in and killed them. Halderson had a bullet wound in the chest and I had been trying to persuade him to get treatment. Haas had been up forward observing for his 81 mortars and was on his way back to the company area when he stopped to talk to us. I lost many good friends that day on Breakneck Ridge".

STEPHENS, CLINTON, is wanted. General Woodruff's aid in the P.I., Clint can't be located. Last known address was 5600 Roxbury Place, Baltimore, Md. Anyone got any dope?

THORNBURG, JOHN W. It's a change of address for this good man; make it 351 Edmore Rd., Akron, Ohio. Best of luck in the new house, Johnny.

SAROYAN, RUBIN. Out of 1353 Palm (sounds like a song title!) in Fresno, Calif., comes the happy word, "I enjoy the fliers - thanks". Our boys are writing less and less with the passing years. Rube tells us about Joe E. Lewis' latest gag about the Israeli Middle East war. Sez Joe: "I've seen better wars in the Middle West."

CHAMPION, JAMES, out of 622 Euclid, Erie, Pa., sends us a picture of his lovely daughter, but then goofs off by not telling us her name. Those



13th Field men never change; do they? Jim also sends us a picture of himself taken last summer at Camp A.P. Hill, Va. We hope it will show up Jim; it is pretty dark. We'll get the pictures back to you, Jim, and thanks a bunch.

SKINNER, FRANKLIN, sends us a clipping and we are exceedingly grateful to him. It seems that Life Magazine paid tribute to the 19th Inf. in its issue of Feb. 5, 1951. The item appeared on the editorial page under the headline, "A Card from Korea". Here's the editorial: "The card was from Korea and it was late in arriving. On the outside was the regimental shield. A simple legend inside conveyed 'best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - From the Officers and Men of the Nineteenth Infantry'. In reply we cannot very well wish the officers and men of the 19th Regiment a happy 1951, for we know they are not going to have a happy year. Not a happy start of the year, anyhow. They are going to have more fighting and killing and dying for their country. And they are going to have it without much thanks from their country or notice in the press. Theirs is the kind of Regular Army outfit which gets the mean jobs, and little else besides. Just a so-so outfit with a homespun sort of fellow (Colonel Ned Moore of Guthrie Center, Iowa) for a commander. The 19th has been getting mean jobs since the first week of the war, and not many of the men and officers who first went into battle are left now. No, there isn't much to say about or to the 19th Regiment. Except this, from the heart - God bless you and keep you. Others may win the laurels. You win the wars."

KLUMP, JOHN, has just come out of the hospital; had to have a stainless steel ball placed in his hip. Hope you're well on the mend by now, Johnny. We daresay that Hilda is taking good care of you. Remember, Johnny, that "Girl, who doesn't marry in spring, usually looks for a fall guy".

Dead at 86, General Walter Krueger, CG of Sixth Army.

More from the Division's annual brochure



PEARL HARBOR
HOLLANDIA AIRDROME
RED BEACH, LEYTE MINDORO
CORREGIDOR, BIAK, MINDANAO
TASK FORCE SMITH TAEJON SEOUL

PLEASE
PAY
YOUR
DUES
NOW!!!

June 25, 1950: Hordes of communist-trained troops were streaming across the 38th parallel in Korea, committing the most blatant act of aggression since Pearl Harbor. The Taromen were closest to the combat.

On June 30, Lieutenant Colonel Charles B. Smith was awakened late at night by his wife: Colonel Stephens, his commanding officer, was on the phone. Grabbing the phone with sweat-streaked hands, Smith heard the news.

"The lid's been completely blown off. We're going. Get your clothes and report to the CP." The words of Colonel Richard Stephens, CO of the 21st Infantry Regiment, would become historic: Task Force Smith had been formed.

At the command post, Smith was told to take his 1st Battalion, less Bravo and Charlie Companies, to Itazuke Air Base. They would be the first United States troops to land in Korea. Their mission: hold back the North Koreans long enough for the rest of the division to land at Pusan.

Crammed into narrow-gauge Korean boxcars at Pusan, the men moved north. Colonel Smith opened his orders: "When reaching Taejon, move north. Stop them where you find them."

Facing the understrength battalion that was Task Force Smith were more than 50 Russian-built T-34 tanks and 20,000 crack North Korean troops who had cut through the Suwan and were rolling down the western corridor of the Peninsula.

On July 4, 1950, a festive day for Americans at home, Task Force Smith made contact with the enemy near the small town of Osan. At 4:26 p.m., in a torrential downpour, PFC Kenneth Shadrick was struck in the chest by an enemy machinegun burst. He died seconds later. Shadrick was the first casualty in a new and terrible war that would echo around the world for three years. Again, the 24th was first to fight against aggressor forces.

Task Force Smith succeeded in slowing the enemy momentarily, and the division was landing at Pusan. The odds still were heavily against it. The understrength, undertrained division represented the peacetime economy of a nation tired of war. Military spending had been cut to the bone.

In the sudden shift from garrison duties in Japan, few Taromen could comprehend the possibility of combat. None expected to stay there long. High-ranking officers and riflemen alike shared the belief that a few Americans could restore order within a few weeks.

It took much longer...

By July 20, the whole of the Korean campaign rested on the back of Major General William Dean, 24th Division CG. The United Nations was entering the war, but General Dean had to buy back the land and the intangible time that would assure enough of Korea being left for the UN to land. Dean was told to hold the small town of Taejon for two days. He held for three before he was so completely encircled he had to slug his way through the enemy in order to gain fighting room.

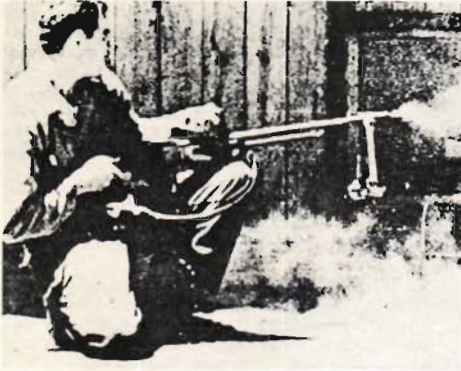
In the following days, General Dean became a legend. He was seen everywhere: in the front lines personally knocking out a T-34 with a rocket launcher; amidst the troops helping the wounded; back in headquarters guiding every move of the division. On July 21, he became separated from the retreating columns while fetching water for the wounded. For the next 35 days he lived off the country until he was betrayed by natives. He was sold to North Korean troops for a paltry five dollars.

For three years General Dean was held captive, subjected to inhuman punishment and harassment. He did not break. While he was in prison, the Medal of Honor was presented to his next of kin.

As the first weeks dragged into months, it became clear that the 24th Division had succeeded in its primary mission: the tide was turning. The Victory Division had bought the time for the UN to get a foothold on the torn peninsula. The 24th Division pushed forward as the UN marched toward the Yalu River.

And it fought for every ridge and hill as the Chinese Communist troops rushed in from Mongolia, pushing the United Nations back to the 38th Parallel.

The twilight war began in the summer of 1951 as the Panmunjon peace talks brought hope into every sol-



"Hold Taejon two days!" We hold for three, street by street.

dier's life. Still the Taromen fought, as they had been doing since the first days of Task Force Smith more than a year before.

In January 1952, rumors filtered slowly up to the front lines. Then it was fact: the 24th Division was to return to Japan. The men who had been fighting constantly for more than a year were going to get a rest.

By the end of January, all units of the 19th and 21st Infantry Regiments were in Japan. The 5th Regimental Combat Team had stayed in Korea with IX Corps Headquarters.



"The Twilight War"... Rest when you can, but don't close your eyes.

Eighteen months later, the 24th Infantry Division was back. The shooting had ceased, but it was an uneasy peace. Victorymen moved into the vital DMZ line posts, staying there until 1957 when it was announced that the 24th would join the honored list of inactive Army divisions.



January, 1951: The hills are cold and bitter, full of death.

TARO LEAF INSIGNIA DECALS NOW ON SALE.

So many have requested our 24th decals that we have now purchased 500 of them. Inclusive of postage and mailing fees, we now have them on sale at 50¢ each. These colorful and distinctive decals may be applied to your rear windshield so that you may be easily recognized as a former 24th man. Simply mail the enclosed blank with your request to the Editor:

Kenwood Ross, Editor
24th Infantry Division Assn.
120 Maple St.
Springfield, Mass. 01103

Please send me _____ 24th Insignia Decals
@50¢. I enclose \$ _____ cash/check/M.O.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____

— Just A Reminder —
DUES IS DUE



You're getting older if you remember when LSD was an amphibious boat used by the Navy in a big war....You not only read Horatio Alger but believed in him....You drove to Bear Mountain to get away from the crowds....a 145-pound football player could be All-American....You can remember the cry "Break Up the Yankees!"... Your house smelled of starch all day Monday.... Kicks were what you did in dancing school.... There was a drip pan under the icebox....Doctors prescribed cracked ice for a stomach ache.... You found out who was winning the ball game by hanging around the windows of the newspaper, the barber shop or the poolroom which posted inning by inning scores.

You're getting older if you can remember when the only Johnson who commanded national attention in Washington was the Big Train, Walter Johnson pitching for the Senators....You could buy a pound of chocolate in the 5-and-10 for 20 cents....You could buy something for 5 or 10 cents in the 5-and-10....Women carried umbrellas to keep off the hot sun....Vacant lots were filled with young fresh baseball players instead of old used cars.

You're getting older if your memory is shorter, your stamina lower and your forehead higher....If you remember when the current skirts would have been considered too indecent for lingerie....You heard the sound of rubber horsehoes on the milk wagon horses late at night....Your mother had a scrubbing board.... And a wash tub with wringers.....When long hair meant you needed a haircut....A drag race was part of the school outing in spring.... A hot rod was a poker used to stir up the fire and furnace....A heavy weight champ was the idol of millions of kids.

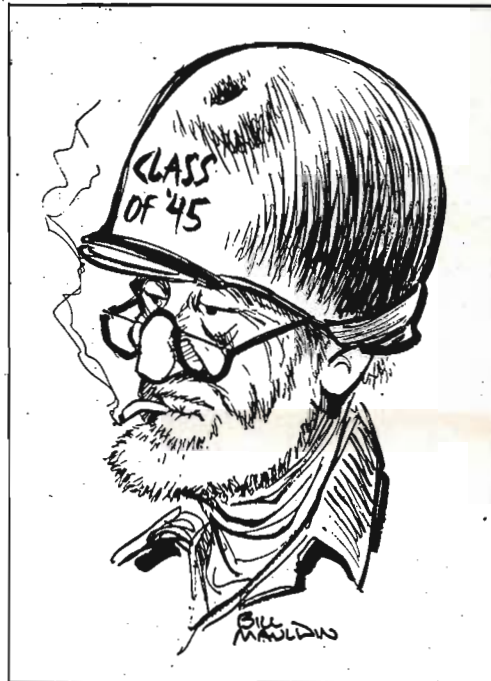
You're getting older if you remember when a miniskirt was a dress for a kid....Pot was something you put flowers in....Wiretapping was a means of sending messages by telegraph.... You helped your sister button her high shoes... People kept saying that if women got the vote there would be no more war.

You're getting older if you remember when golfers wore knickers and tennis players wore white flannels.....You could buy penny postal cards.

You're getting older if you remember when the trolley car conductor had to stop the car at crossings, get out and switch the tracks with a crowbar....The doctor would take out your tonsils on any handy table....The public laughed at modern artists instead of vice versa....Cork tipped cigarets were considered effeminate....You could live the full life with no more medical shots than smallpox and diptheria.

MULDOON, BILL, regretted that he couldn't be at Chicago. We have had a warm spot in our heart for the lad, ever since we found out that he liked Tapioca, as do we. The only other person who likes the stuff, insofar as we have been able to determine, is that man in the White House, concerning whom and which we say no more.

Former members of The Stars and Stripes recently had a 25th reunion in NYC. Bill



Mauldin, who created Willie and Joe, upon whom we smiled when in the mud, came back with this cartoon for the reunion. Why don't you gather your grandchildren around your rheumatic knees and tell them about Willie and Joe?

GERRY, BOB (K21st). Is now a sales representative for a Boston wholesale

plumbing supply business, The John E. O'Keefe Corp. Son Kevin is now in the US Marine Corps.

SEAVER, RICHARD C. Our 34th Inf. friend (5/43 to 12/45) resides, with Sallie and children, Carlton 20, Christopher 18, Patrick 17, Victoria 14 and Martha 12, at 5234 W. Second, Los Angeles. Dick is Prexy of Hydril Co., manufacturers of oil field equipment. Dick was a Lt. from Schofield to Shikoku, successively as asst. regt. commo. off., rifle platoon leader (Co.A), 3rd Bn. commo. off., 3rd Bn. adjt., hq. co. commander, regt. liaison off., commo. off., and asst. adjt. How's that for a report? He practiced law from '50 to '57 when he became counsel and sec'y. of Hydril Co., becoming its President in '64. One boy is a senior at Princeton, one a sophomore at Yale, one an exchange student in England, and the girls are in the grades in L.A. Sallie is also a graduate chemical engineer and member of the bar. What a family! He'd love to hear from anyone who remembers him.

NOTED. That the V. war has diluted the significance of the Air Medal. More than 230,000 Air Medals have been earned by soldiers. They're being given at a rate of 12,000 per month. With more than 3000 Army aircraft over there, soldiers are flying about one million sorties a month. Nothing like this was foreseen when the medal was created.



