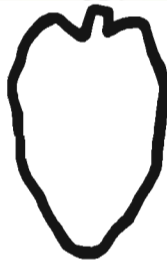


TARO



LEAF

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

VOL. XXI NUMBER 5 1967-1968

"NO SWGT"

... More or Less

A collection of Jake Schuffert cartoons



"... and finally ... for conspicuous and gallant devotion to duty while serving in Vietnam as the Awards and Decorations officer ..."



"I wish you'd refer to it as a 'dripping pipe' rather than a 'leak in security'!!"



"But Sarge, on TV, all the good guys wear white hats!!"

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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"Just like in the service, Al. We do all the work and the jackasses get the stripes!!"

BEACH, Gen. DWIGHT E. Our Commander in Chief, US Army Pacific, will retire come August 1st. Thus endeth another brilliant career of a one-time wearer of the Taro Leaf. Our warm good wishes go forward to you, Dwight.

PLEASE

PAY

YOUR

DUES

NOW!!!

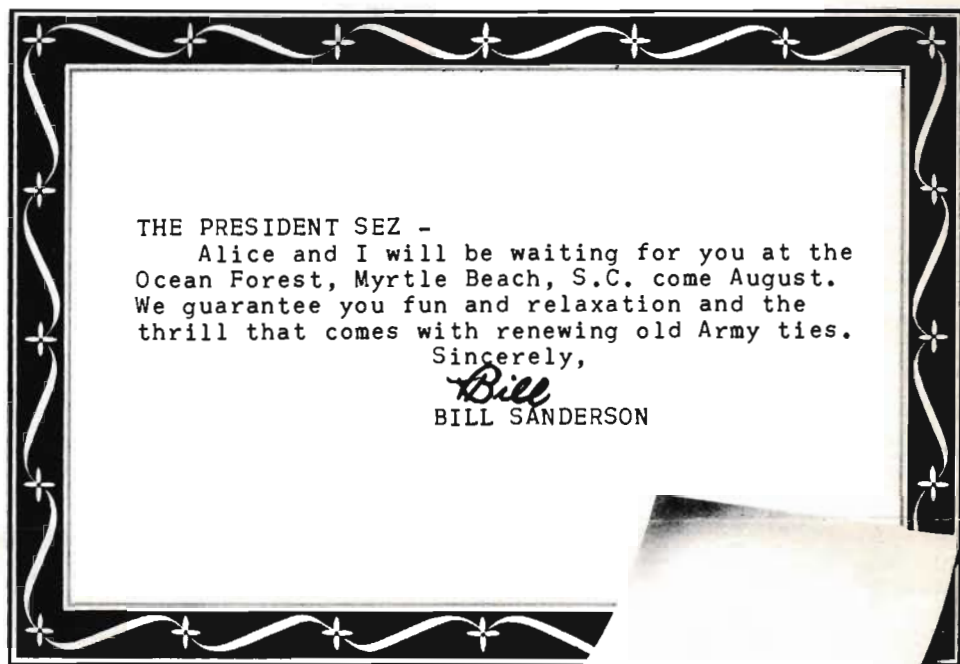
WOODRUFF, Maj.Gen. ROSCOE B. Gen. Woody writes us of having recently met a Catholic Padre, Rev. Cullen F. Deckert at an affair and it developed that he was in charge of his church's educational activities in the Philippines. Gen. Woody later sent him a copy of his own report on the Mindanao operation and in reply Fr. Deckert wrote: "Permit me to thank you very, very much for that brochure and map on the Mindanao campaign of 1945....I know almost every inch of the way that your map portrays. It is like reviewing journeys that I have taken off and on, through the years, to that same area. I am thoroughly familiar with all the poor moros, the little villages around Midsayap and Parang. We have a fine high school with about four or five hundred children at that place. It is called the Notre Dame of Parang and Bob Callahan is the Padre at the head of the school. This high school is located right on the heights where the old medical center used to be during the insurrection. The flagstaff is right there where the old grandstand used to be. You look out over that gorgeous bay.....I know Pikit very well. We have another little Notre Dame High School there. It is a great moro center. It has that fort on the hill. Many is the time that I have ridden through that area, along that old highway to Kabacan where at present there is the M.I.T., Mindanao Institute of Technology. We also have a high school there.Then, carrying on to Kidapawan...You would never believe the development around Kidapawan. There are many rubber plantations-Goodyear people. The road up through Kisante to (around Mt. Apo) Davao and that area is quite a developed place. We have one high school at Makilala, which I am sure did not exist when you went through there. So, things are really picking up. Even the old Bagobas of the mountains are improving.....I read thoroughly the entire account of the campaigns, the battles. It is quite a thing. I had no idea the Japs put up that much resistance. I have a lot of photographs that I have taken around Mt. Apo, with the pagan tribes, and also quite a number at Mt. Matutum down south toward Lanao and Sarangani Bay. I was in those parts about 1948 and it still showed some evidences of the war." Wonderful report, Fr. Deckert and Gen. Woody. Woody, by the way, reminds us that Mrs. Woodruff beat us all to Mindanao by many years. She lived in the Cotabato vicinity circa 1904 when her father was stationed there. We'll print your memoirs of Mindanao, Mrs. Woody, if you'll write them. 'T would make fascinating reading.

BELL, DONALD E. (63 R and G-3, Div. '43-'46) Don wants to hear from CUSTE SWERSKI of Div. Hq. ('42-'45)

CARLSON, CARL S. This D of the 19th man ('44-'46) is now at 173 Eden Rd., Stamford, Conn., with good wife, Louise, and children, Christopher and Nicoline. Carl has been absent for 4 years and is back in the fold, thanks to BILL MULDOON. Welcome back, Carl and Louise.



"There's one thing I don't understand on your Paris per diem voucher, Lt. Couche . . . What's this expense item labeled 'Fifi, \$20.00'?"



THE PRESIDENT SEZ -

Alice and I will be waiting for you at the Ocean Forest, Myrtle Beach, S.C. come August. We guarantee you fun and relaxation and the thrill that comes with renewing old Army ties.

Sincerely,

Bill
BILL SANDERSON

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

KAHN, LAWRENCE H. Larry, former C.O., Cn. Co., 19th Inf. '42-'44, has died. Larry, 55, was a planner with the City of Miami at the time of his death. He had been an attorney, supervisor of transportation for the city and assistant for the city attorney. He had been in Miami for 15 years, having moved there from Boston. We were informed of the sad fact by TOM ZALEWSKI of 19811 Gulfstream Rd., Miami, Cuttler Ridge, Fla. Tom was a pallbearer for Larry. Wrote Tom: "Larry's son, Stephen, is presently on active duty as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General Department, stationed at Fort Lee, Virginia. In going through his father's things, Steve found Larry's old World War II helmet that he wore in the Islands; also the last publication of the "Rock", which was a book of the 19th Infantry. It was the last issue put out in June 1941, and it contains Company pictures of all the members of the Regiment at that time. It also has some very excellent pictures of various activities throughout the Island of Oahu. Steve was very good to have presented me with these two items as keepsakes. I would appreciate it if you would publish it in the next edition of the Taro Leaf to inform the former members of Cannon Company."

DON'T MISS

the

REUNION

DUSSEAULT, FRANCIS A. Frank and Arlene are at 2 East Highland, Lynn, Mass. Frank, in the



13th Field from July '40 to Feb. '43 is an electric meter installer with Mass. Electric Co. Frank and Arlene have 2 - Dan 24 and Zon 19 in the Army in Texas. He writes: "Never knew you existed. Count me in." This is the story of our life. He's completing 19 years with the Mass Air National Guard and is secretary of the Mass. Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Assoc. He sez he's looking for survivors from Mass. Anybody got any ideas?

THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST TARO LEAF!!! After this issue, those who have not renewed membership for 1967-1968 will be removed from the mailing list. If the shoe fits, why not send your fiver to the Sec'y.-Treas., 120 Maple St., Springfield, Mass. 01103. We don't want to lose you.

HOGUE, ROBERT. Bob who is planning to join our Chowder and Marching Society at Myrtle Beach in August wants to hear from any '43-'45 men of Baker Company of the Gimlets.

Officers and men of the two brigades of the 24th Inf.Div. scheduled for redeployment to the U.S. should all be in their new Fort Riley, Kans., homes by July, says Maj.Gen.Roderick Wetherill, division CG.

The move of the two brigades of the 24th, which will involve about 10,000 soldiers and 3000 dependents, will get under way in April.

With the shift, Wetherill will move his headquarters from Augsburg to Riley, marking the first time in its history that the 24th has been headquartered in the States.

The third brigade with its 3400 soldiers will be headquartered in Munich under the command of Col. George W. McCaffrey, Wetherill's assistant division commander. McCaffery is a brigadier general designate.

The division will remain under the operational control of Gen. James H. Polk, commander-in-chief, European Command, and every six months, beginning in 1969, one Stateside brigade will rotate back to Germany to replace the brigade stationed there.

Wetherill and McCaffrey also will organize a yearly reunion of all three brigades for combined training and exercises in Germany.

Wetherill, 50, CG of the Victory Div. since October, 1966, foresees no insurmountable difficulties in commanding the split division.

"Our mission as of this spring continues to be what it has always been", he said, "to remain combat ready as an integral part of the NATO force structure in Germany.

"I sincerely believe that all three brigades, though dually based in Munich and at Riley, will be able to combine forces in Germany promptly and effectively with our Allies should any tensions arise," the general added.

Wetherill was also quick to point out what he termed to be a difference between troop withdrawal and redeployment.

"The newly announced plan is not a reduction of troops in our continuing commitment to the NATO forces structure in Germany," he said.

"Although in many ways I wish that the division could remain together, I also feel that a dually based force will work out. Physically, it can be done."

Wetherill says that the new setup means that the troops will merely be training at two widely separated locations.

The shift will also demand two sets of equipment for the infantry units stationed at Riley and Munich.

Military equipment of both Army and Air Force units returning to the U.S. will remain in storage in Germany.

The Pentagon decision to redeploy the 35,000 troops from West Germany to the U.S., a move which grew out of official agreements at NATO ministerial consultations in Brussels during mid-December, also affects the 3d Armd Cav.Regt. in Baumholder, Germany, which will be dually based at Fort Lewis, Wash., beginning April 1, plus smaller Army units.



"This is the part of being a cook I don't like."

BOB SANFORD, North Carolina. Department Commander of the VFW sends us this photo taken



while on a trip to Hawaii. Sez Bob, "I'm sending this because it's a pretty good shot of a Taro plant". We know, Bob, we know. We know too that you are going to be with us at Myrtle Beach.

FLETCHER, PSG JACK F. and HAMILTON, PSG DEAN S., both of Easy Company, 4th Bn., USArmy Medical Training Center, Ft.Sam Houston, Texas were at our Chicago clambake.

EDWARD M. VASQUEZ of the 3rd Eng. ('44-'46) is a binderman at Commercial Printing Corp. in Hollywood. "Vass", wife Irene and Marcel, 7, and René, 5, live at 4949 Denny, N. Hollywood, Calif. Vass is especially anxious to hear from men of Able of the 3rd Eng.





Proudly do we reproduce Doc. PHIL HOSTETTER's Xmas card. Doc is at 821 Poyntz, Manhattan, Kans.

LARSON, EMIL M. Our old H Co. man of the Chicks, Emil writes us from 706 S. Walts, Sioux Falls, S.D. He tells us that a canvas painting (500' by 8') of the Battle of Chickamagua has been recently found in a basement in Michigan. It has been turned over to the Smithsonian. We're writing the Institute for more details. Yeah, you Chicks. Thanks for the tip, Emil.

Seems that the fellow was justifying the miniskirt, quoting steamboat inventor Robert Fulton as his authority. His argument was that the miniskirt is a technological development on a par with the steamboat. It was Bobby Fulton himself who observed as his boat got underway, "Now we no longer have to wait for the wind to blow."

We have just enough room for a Spike O'Donnell letter and reply:

DEAR SPIKE: My brother-in-law used to be a very quiet man. However, during the past few weeks he has changed oddly. When he goes to a party he suddenly puts a lampshade on his head and the other night he swung around on a light fixture, saying he was a chimp. Another time he pinched our 20-year-old baby-sitter and tried to date her. Only recently he filled my purse up with ice cubes, saying he was giving me a do-it-yourself igloo, and last night he came in singing at midnight, on roller skates. Does this mean he is an alcoholic? Joe, 24th Sig.

DEAR JOE: Actually, I have no way of knowing. Does he drink? Spike

Had breakfast in a hotel dining room the other a.m. Spotted creamed dried beef on toast so ordered same. The waitress raised an eyebrow in reply and said "SOS! Army or Navy?"

ADAMS, BOB, writes that he was annoyed by the traditions that accompany Christmas. One thing that annoys him the most is "the constantly outstretched palm". Sez Bob: "So I decided on a small revenge. Seems that for months my newsboy delivered my paper at my door - or thereabouts. Mostly, he just tossed it with a come-what-may attitude and it usually didn't land anywhere near my door, wherefor I'd have to pick up the pieces and assemble them. A week before Xmas, I opened my door to find the paper neatly folded on the threshold with an envelope on top. Inside was a Merry Christmas greeting from "your friendly paper boy, Ralph Blumph." So I left a note for "Dear Friendly Ralph" which read: "Merry Christmas to you too. Enclosed please find check. If you will deliver my paper neatly folded and left at my front door for the next 12 months, I will sign the check. Mr. Adams".

Read the other day where the last movie newsreel was recently laid out. The old movie house staple has finally gone the way of the fountain pen, the street car, the dirigible, and the dodo bird. News clips for the local bijou are no more. On into 1968 and the future we tread.

Famous Last Words: All of you know, of course, the famous last words of Nathan Hale: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." Well, here are a few other famous last words, and it's up to you to link them with the persons who said them. Ready? 1. "Tell my mother I died for my country." 2. "Thank you, monsieur." 3. "Let me die in my old uniform. God forgive me for ever putting on any other." 4. "The play is finished." The answers will be found farther along, and here's a hint: Only one of the four was a good guy.

The recruit from Texas was boasting about the heroes of the Alamo who, almost alone, held off whole armies.

"I'll bet," the Texan challenged a private from New England, "you never had anyone as brave as that around Boston."

"Did you ever hear of Paul Revere?" shot back the northerner.

"Paul Revere," sneered the Texan. "Wasn't he the fellow who ran for help?"

All right, those famous last words were uttered by: 1. John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated President Lincoln; 2. Mata Hari, to the officer of the firing squad which killed her; 3. Benedict Arnold on his death bed; 4. Louis R. Agazzis, the Harvard University naturalist.

ZIERATH, Maj.Gen. FREDERICK R. Fred has retired so as to close a glorious 34-year Army career. Lt.Gen. Ben Harrell, CG of Sixth Army presented Fred with a Distinguished Service Medal at ceremonies at Ft. Lewis, Wash. It was a grand career, Fred; now sit back, relax, and please keep in touch with us.

(Ed. Note: Demands pour in for more of JAMES "Spike" O'DONNELL's advice column - so.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.:)

DEAR SPIKE: This boy simply won't take the hint when I tell him we are through. He keeps coming over and sitting around like he did when we were going steady. He just makes himself at home and ignores my protests that our romance is over. He even messes up the afternoon paper before my husband gets a chance to read it. My Daddy served with you in Hollandia and the Philippines and he says that you will tell me what I can do. SUZY.

DEAR SUZY: Messing up the paper is simply the last straw. I hate to sound stern, but I'm just afraid that you're going to have to ask your husband to speak to him sharply. Sure I remember your Pappy. He was always in trouble. I remember that he could screw up a two-car funeral easier than anyone I know. Spike.

* * * * *

DEAR SPIKE: My Dad who was in the 11th Field Artillery on Leyte through to Kyushu suggested that I write you. Seems that I'm only able to see my fiancée on a weekend about once every month. I am faithful to her, you understand, but I am puzzled by the fact that during the long drives to her town, I am constantly distracted by the girls that I see - so much so in fact, that I've come pretty close to picking up some of them. I forget all about this when I'm with her and on my way back home. Do you think my feelings en route mean that the relationship is shallow? JOHN P.

DEAR JOHN P.: It seems natural to me that your general girl-consciousness should be heightened after a few weeks without female companionship. Don't start worrying about your depth of feeling for the girl until the same impulses hit you on the way home. Spike.

* * * * *

DEAR SPIKE: Has anyone ever attempted to figure out how many different cocktails can be mixed from all the standard ingredients used for that purpose? My bet is that it's in the millions. JOE BALCH, Div.Hq.Co.

HI JOE: Junior Harris and I once employed a mathematician to figure out how many cocktails could be fashioned out of the ingredients usually found in a first-class bar. He came up with a figure - 17,821,461,704. We tried 284 at random and found them all good, although some, of course, were better than others. Spike.

* * * * *

DEAR SPIKE: I have developed a mad crush for this particular salesman and occasionally I think he likes me. At least he's come back to see me five times, and this morning he called and asked to come out again. I would love to see him because he's such an interesting conversationalist. Do you think this time he is interested only in me? I really don't want to buy another vacuum cleaner - the six he has sold me are taking up too much closet space as it is. LOVELORN.

DEAR LOVELORN: The thing to do here is lead this fellow on. Act undecided about buying another vacuum cleaner. Make him come back repeatedly and look your sexy best every time. Who knows? This could lead to the alter - and if I ever hear of a guy who deserves to make the payment on seven vacuum cleaners, it's this character. Spike.

* * * * *

FORD, C. RUCKER, sends us a picture of himself beside a plastic plate on which his



good l'il wife, Jane, did the art work. It's terrific, Rucker and Jane, simply terrific. He's still at the Naval Training Device Center and is still griping that he didn't go into law or medicine. Oh Rucker,

forget it; you don't know what you've missed.

DICK, DALLAS, is going to Myrtle Beach it with us in August and wants to start a golf tournament among the members (and wives) who attend. How about it? Dallas is at 1701 Bridge, New Cumberland, Pa., in case you want to contact him.

PRODUIT, WALTER V., is now one of us. An old 21st Mess Sgt., many will remember him for his kitchen

which he kept in operation on the Mintal perimeter Sez CHET ANDREZAK who enticed Walt into the Assoc., "As a matter of fact, Walt was decorated for his part in that operation". That's Walt on the left, Chet on the right. They finally got together last summer after 22 years. Walt's at 3066 W. Denver Pl., Denver, Colo. Try to be with us at Myrtle Beach, Walt.



Recent news item in the nation's press carried a story under the headline "Mixed Bloods". It went like this:

MIXED BLOODS Whenever troops occupy a foreign land, they seek out and cohabit with the native women. The result is always a rise in the illegitimacy rate, a rise in the number of personal tragedies.

In Japan today there are approximately 20,000 Kon-Ketsuji, children of mixed blood, of unmarried parents, of Japanese mothers and American servicemen who were stationed in Japan after World War II.

These Japanese-American children are now coming of age.

One of them is a talented, voluptuous vocalist of 18, named Michi Aoyama. Michi is the fastest rising pop singer on the Tokyo scene. Two of her latest records, "Otoko Blues" and "Manhattan Blues," have sold a million copies. She is under contract to Crown Records, and, because of her sensational figure -- 40-23-38 -- is being considered by film producers for a screen career.

Michi says, however, that she would gladly trade all her new-found success for information concerning her American father.

"I have never seen his picture," she says. "And I am not even sure of his name. I do not want to make any trouble for him. If he is married and has other children, that is fine. I just want to know who he is and visit him one day and just say, 'Hello. I am your Japanese daughter.' That's all I want."

The Japanese press claims that Michi's father was a Negro serviceman from Louisiana. But Michi's mother says he was not a Negro.

"He told me," she explains through an interpreter, "that he owned a ranch in Louisiana and that his name was Frenchy Kelly and that he was a mixture of French, Irish, and Indian blood."

Michi's mother adds that she first met her mess sergeant lover in Tokyo in 1948 and that they lived together for three years. She says they were never married but that Frenchy offered to take her and the child to Louisiana. She turned him down, she claims, because she didn't want to live on a ranch.

Others say that like other Japanese pariahs of servicemen she was abandoned when the time came for her GI to leave Tokyo.

In any case, little Michi was more fortunate than many other Kon-Ketsuji who were abandoned by their mothers and raised in orphanages. Michi was raised by her mother and grandmother. But as a child she learned early from other children that she was somehow different, an outcast of sorts, a little girl not to be accepted.

"I was miserable as a child," she recalls. "The other girls called me awful names. I escaped through music and singing. I decided that if I could become a big singing star, I would earn everyone's respect."

When Michi was 12 she entered a singing contest at the Tennessee Jazz Coffee Shop in Yokohama and won first prize. A year later she began singing for money in clubs, theaters, on radio and TV stations.

Eventually a talent scout spotted and signed her, then got her a deal with Crown Records, a Japanese recording company



IN SEARCH OF A FATHER: SINGING STAR MICHİ AOYAMA.

For a while, Michi, sulky and depressed because of her origin, was recognized as an undependable performer. She would fail to show up for scheduled appearances. She even became known as "The Runaway Singer."

During one of her absences, the Tokyo newspapers said she had gone to America to look for her father. All she had really done was to write a letter to President Kennedy asking him "to please find my father." A reply from the White House indicated that she hadn't provided enough information to make possible any reasonable search.

Michi says that her father used to write after he returned to the U.S., but that her mother destroyed all the letters with the return address.

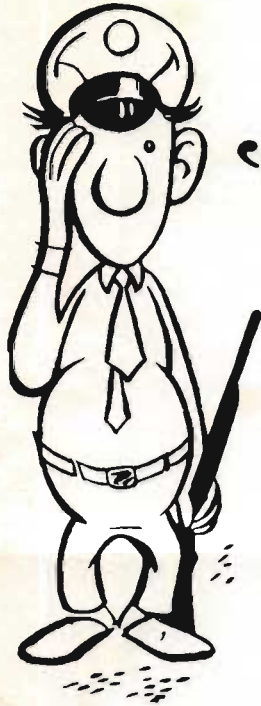
"Now," she says, "we have no way of tracing him. If there is any man in the U.S. who could



MICHİ AND HER MOTHER

possibly be my father, please get in touch with me. Just write: Michi Aoyama, C/O Crown Records, Tokyo, Japan.

SANDERSON, WILLIAM. Our new President lives at 57 Peck St., Attleboro, Mass., with his lovely bride, Alice. Bill served as a 19th Inf sergeant during Oahu days and stayed with us through Australia, Goodenough, and Dutch New Guinea. He is superintendent of Finberg Mfg. Co., Attleboro. He is also past monarch of the Nova Grotto and past high priest of the King Hiram Chapter.



TEN-SHUN!

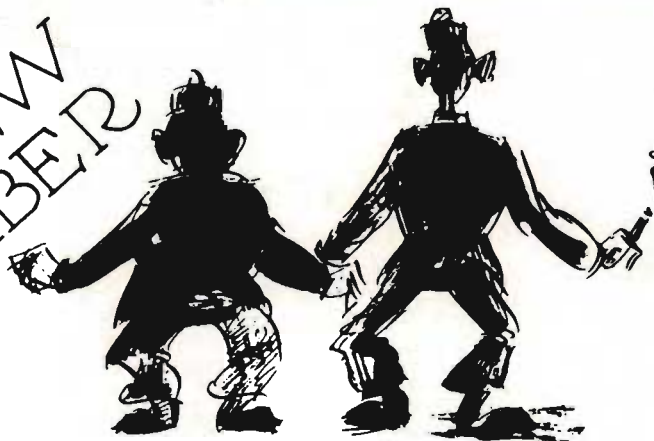
THE REUNION YOU HAVE ALL BEEN
WAITING FOR
THE REUNION VACATION WEEK
THE GRAND REUNION
THE BIGGEST EVER
PLEASE BE WITH US FOR
IT IS YOUR REUNION.

Have you sent in your dues? If not, DON'T DELAY any longer. Past Due Notices are costly and time consuming.



"Yessir, I got my Purple Heart—nossir, I ain't married—yessir, my blood is type 'A'—if I got any left after all these questions."

BRING
A NEW
MEMBER



Be there in person!