

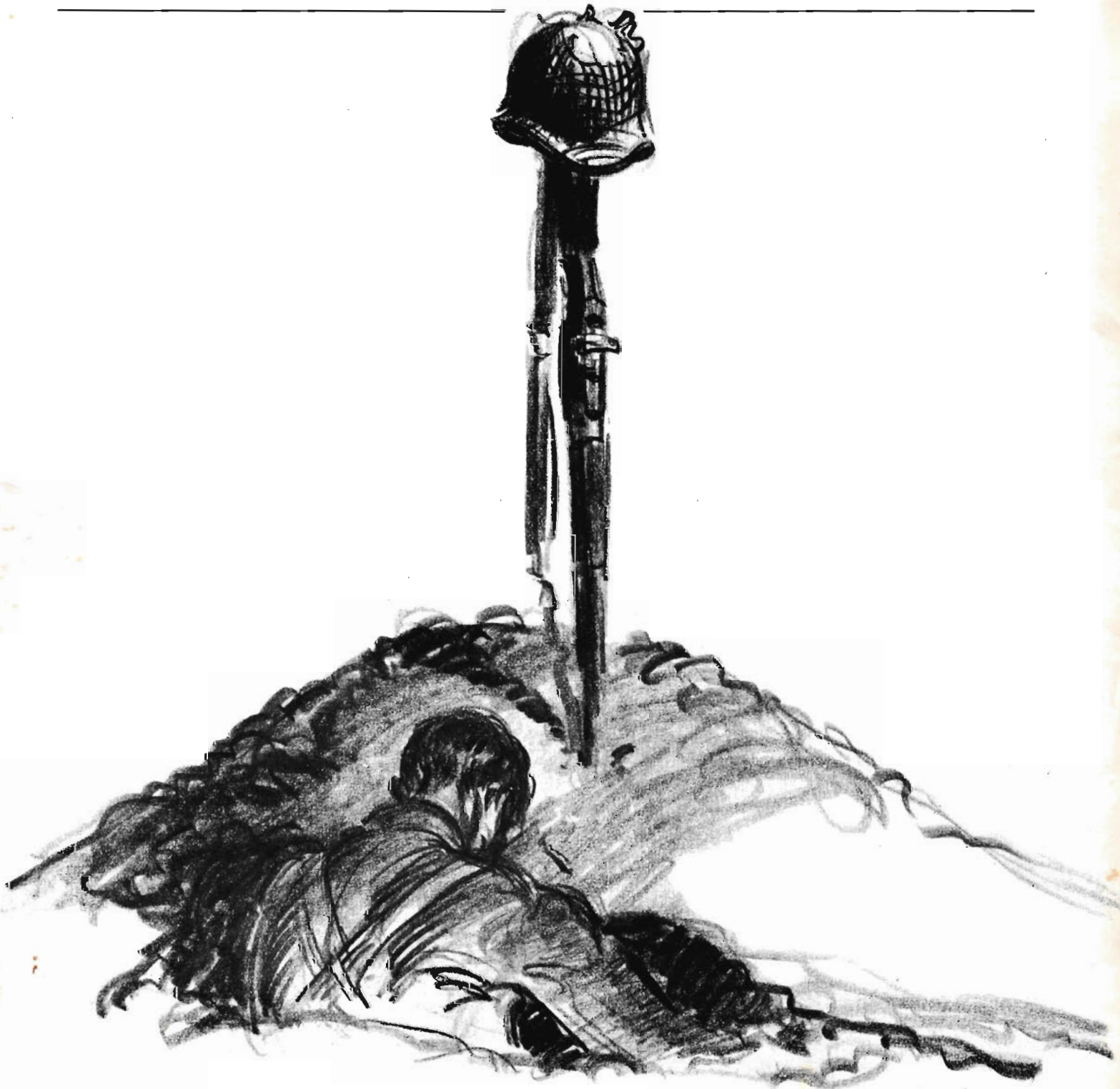
TARO LEAF

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XXVI

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1972-1973



*Dead GI - slumped from his last living position -
foxhole too narrow to allow body to settle.*

*Sgt. [unclear]
[unclear]*

Twenty Fourth Infantry Division Association

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73
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July 13-14-15, 1973

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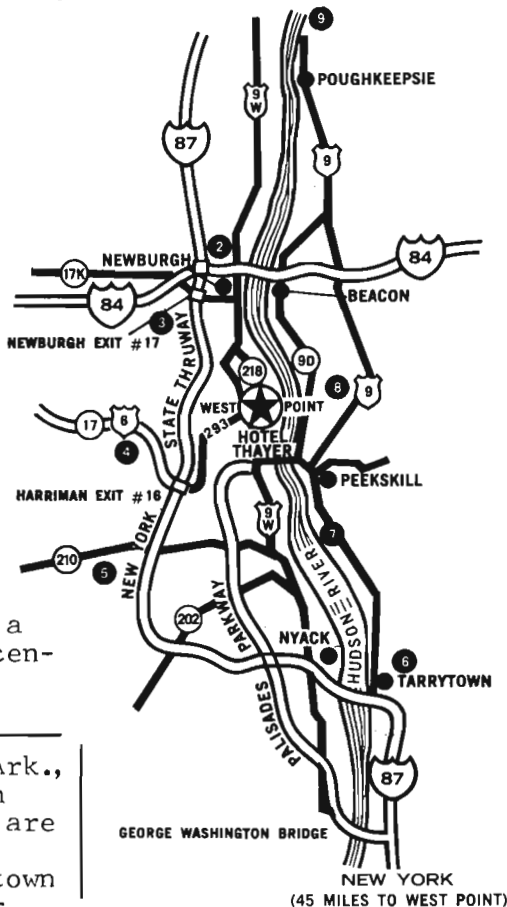
Don't forget
the dates -

Friday,
July 13th

Saturday,
July 14th

Sunday,
July 15th.

Avondale, Ariz., April: HERB PEARCE, of Hq. Btry., Div. Arty. from '49-'51, has let us hear from him when he asked for a map showing how to get to West Point, we looked around and stole this one from something the Thayer puts out. We'll tell you one thing, Herb; this year's reunion is going to see a terrific concentration of Korean vets.



Ft. Smith, Ark., April: Enough Taro Leafers are appearing in this little town to form their own platoon. Latest to make the scene is CLYDE STRINGFELLOW, 2302 South 22nd St.

Unionville, Conn., May: Gimlet BOB SCHLATTER (George Co. '43-'45), has a couple of copies of "A Regiment in Action" in case anyone is interested. It's the history of the 21st, you know. Write Bob at Box 374, Unionville, Conn.

Livingston, N.J., May: Coming to West Point are CHARLEY and Ruth CRAW (L 34th '41-'44). A retired printer, Charley got "bumped" on Leyte and has the markings to prove it. They hope to see some other Love Company men there. So do we; lots of them.

Fayetteville, Tenn., May: CLAUD R. BARNES, (K 21st '40-'45) and Annie Sue have retired. Address them at Rt. 4, Fayetteville. Claud tells us of another conglomerate; says that Skippy Peanut Butter is merging with Scotch Tape: it not only will stick to the roof of your mouth, but you can write on it as well.

Macon, Ga., May: We have been caught in our first Editor's error since 1952. In a recent issue, we listed BOB FOUNTAIN as Hq. & Hq. Co., 21st. We were wrong, as wrong as wrong can be - and we all know how much wrong that adds up to. It should have read Hq. Co., 1st Bn. 21st. O.K., gang? Sorry Bob.



Sussex, Wis., May: Our most persistent letter writer is LeRoy R. Crucius, ye old Able Co. Med. Bn. 1st Sgt. ('43-'46). Lee will write on the drop of a hat. Not making fun of you, boy - just grateful to you for your long and continued interest. Lee is trying to reconstruct the full roster of Able Co. of the 24th Med. Bn. That's some goal.

Little Rock, Ark., May: Brig. Gen. HUGH CORT, (CG Div. Arty. '44-'45) recovering nicely from a November prostate operation.

Eatontown, N.J., April: RALPH BALESTRIERI, (C & Sv. 13th F 11/50-6/51), writes us that he is still working for Uncle at the Signal School, Monmouth, as an instructor in Strategic Microwave Systems. Here's himself with wife Mutsu (married 8/51), son Ralph (at Lehigh) and step-daughter-in-law Myumi (on visit from Nippon.) Step-son is a news reporter for NHK Osaka.



Writes Ralph:

"I was in Signals between WW II and Korea and after Korea until I retired in '60. Always with Strategic Communications. While in Okinawa in 50's in charge of a site one of the companies of the 29th Regt. came over to give us local security during a practice alert. The CO was one I had been attached to as an FO in Korea (can't remember his name). (19th) Do remember he had all my people shook up a little when he greeted me and said I must have a security plan all set up for him, or words to that effect. The knob twisters (station operators) couldn't quite figure out how an Infantry Capt. knew me and was trusting my judgement on security. (Of course it was after dark when they moved in and he hadn't had time for a recon.)"

We'd have liked to use your Korea pictures, Ralph but they were too dark.

You are looking for a Sgt. NOBLE of C, 13th during '51. We don't have a bead on him; we'll send out a feeler by doing it this way. Anyone know Noble?

You also are wondering about a Maj. GREY of 3rd of the 19th during '51. It could be ARTHUR W. GREY, an M Co. Chick from 9/50 to 2/51. He's running an inn at 42 S. Main, Wallingford, Vt.; is divorced, but not before there were Katrina 15, Tanya 13, Sonya 11 and Viktor 6. Art calls himself "The Virginian".

Fruita, Col., May: LARRY WHITE, (A 13th F 6/42 - 10/45), signals that he has had to give up his dairy farm and retire. He's had 2 cancer operations in last 3 years. "But am doing fine now", Larry adds. Chin up, soldier; we're pulling for you.

Raleigh, N.C., May: JACK and Mary FINAN, are back at Raleigh from Atlanta, Ga. We infer that they both are tremendously happy to be back at 758 E. Whitaker Mill Rd.

Champaign, Ill., April: A retired Sv. Gimlet, (11/41-7/43) has reappeared. Says RUSSELL MEEKER, "Years ago I attended a reunion in Chicago and then never heard anything more from them". That's a thing we simply cannot explain to ourselves, much less Russ who is with the U of Ill. at Urbana-Champaign.

Salt Lake City, Utah, April: Out of the Property Control Office of the U. of Utah comes Retired Lt. Col. RULON P. MADSEN who was a Chick in '46-'47.

Norman, Okla., April: JOHNNY BAKER, a '49-'50 Gimlet, has sounded off letting us know where he is, for which we are glad,



and in reply, we give him this picture of the front entrance of West Point's Hotel Thayer. We'd sure like to see you walk through it next July 13th, Johnny.

Ft. Smith, Ark., April: MARVIN NELSON, right in Membership Chairman BILL BYRD's hometown, has joined. Likewise for JOHN BROWN who gave Bill a telephone call and, presto, he was in.

Yarmouth, Maine, May: Gonna try to West Point it are Col. GEORGE and Bella MILDONIAN (19th 2/46-10/48), who, by the by, have a new address; try RR 1, Box 170, Cousins I., Yarmouth.

Roseto, Pa., May: Promising to W.P. it in July are MATTY and Jo SABATINE, (21st 4/44-12/45).

Cranford, N.J., May: Add to the fast growing W.P. list of "We'll be there", MIKE MARINO and his "bride", Theresa, (C 19th 2/42-12/45).

Riverside, Calif., May: Driving from California to West Point will be the HARMON MOORE's.

Longboat Key, Fla., May: Prexy RED NEWMAN, writing interestingly on West Point, has said: "General Irving plans to be there, and General Woodruff writes he plans to come with Colonel Daniel (his son-in-law). It is interesting to note that General Irving is a former Superintendent there, and General Woodruff was the Cadet First Captain in General Eisenhower's class of 1915. Incidentally, General Woodruff was quite an athlete - held the hammer throw record, and was a kicking specialist, on the great Army team that went undefeated in his last year. That year when Army met Colgate (a football powerhouse in those days), both were undefeated and a national championship was at stake. The game was scoreless until the very end, when Colgate scored - but failed to kick the point after touchdown. With about five or ten seconds left to play, Colgate had to kick off to Army - and Vernon Prichard (Army's All-America quarterback, and himself a MG in WW II) caught the ball on the goal line. As he started to run the gun sounded the end of the game - but Prichard was entitled to run out the play - and he ran it all the way for a touchdown. Now, with the game over and tied at 6 to 6, General Woodruff came in and kicked the extra point that kept Army undefeated." Good story, Red. Thank you.



Woodbridge, Va., May: VERNON MULLENGER, (D 3rd Eng. 8/51-4/52), sends us this one of himself, Margaret, his "roommate, on the left," and "half of my next door neighbor."

Naranja, Fla., May: Comes word from good 5th RCT folks, BOB and Alice HARDIN, that Korea is seeking the names of our boys who served in Korea. If you qualify, you can send your name, address, date of service, unit and rank to Korean Light, Inc., Box 36, Santa Barbara, Calif. You will receive a personal letter of thanks from the Korean government, so we're told. We thought, at first, of sending along our mailing list, thereby doing the job for you. But then it seemed a bit presumptuous on our part so we backed off. It's a program to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the armistice between the gooks (ya'all variety) and the gooks of the North.

Cartersville, Ill., May: GERRY CHOATE, (21st '43-'45), is trying to locate JIM PARKER formerly of Emporia, Va. They both were H Co. Gimlets. Can any one help here?



HOTEL THAYER
WEST POINT, N. Y. 10996

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"Let's Give It To Them Straight" says Convention Chairman VIC BACKER. And the straight talk is that if you don't register with the Hotel Thayer in advance of July 12th, you may not find lodging when you arrive. All signs point to a sell-out affair.

Erie, Pa., May: SGM JACK A. SCHELL, of 3908 Walker Road, writes us that he and his son collect Army insignia. They need something of the 19th, 21st, 13th Field and 63rd Field. We're not aware that any of these Units had shoulder patches. Jack says that they did, "during the Korean" mess. Anybody able to help here?

As to what to wear for the gals - regular street clothes - Hawaiian mumus on the Friday evening party - and semiformal (that's not ultra formal) for the Saturday night banquet. The point is: don't go out and buy a new wardrobe. Don't need it!

Salisbury, Mass., May: GUS CASCONI has made it to Fla. to see HARRY JENKINS in Ft. Myer. The two were in the Division on Pearl Harbor day. Says Gus, "When I drove into his yard, he went into happy shock; we hadn't seen each other since '45." Harry is now a member, as is AL MANGO, of Glasco, N.Y., also thanks to Gus.

Butler, Ga., May: JOE and Ethel BLASCHE, (I 19th '41-'43), are farming. Their Bill is 26 and Claire is 19.



Crossnore, N.C., April: Mail in from Life Member SUE McNEELEY includes this one of herself (far left) as chairman of her local Cancer Society. Next to Sue is Gunilla Hutton who tickles us weekly on "Laugh-In". As for the two guys, who cares; as long as we've got Sue and Gunilla.

Waukesha, Wis., April: This seems to be the year for Taro Leafers to surrender their gall bladders. Most recent to give his up is SID MATHES, (K 34 & Div.Hq. '46-'48), of 1405 Hawthorn, Waukesha, Wis. Sid and Mary Jean report that he is recovering nicely. Sid still works with the State School for Boys.

Parker, S.D., April: We have it on good authority that LYMAN and Maurine MILLER, (B 21st 3/43-11/45), proud parents of 6,



are going to make West Point. That's Maurine and Lyman in the front with Tiny Tim, age 3, and 1. to r. in the rear is Les, 25, Norman, 19, Harlan, 13, Ken, 21, and Marilyn, 24. Terrific group, Lyman. And thanks for the names of CARL WILKINSON, Denton, Tex., FRED RETTERATH, Austin, Minn., and LEO SMITH, Parker, S.D.

Columbus, Ga., May: New address for Chick TOM KENNEDY is 3828 Armour. Suggests Tom: "Take your wife out to the old ball game. Let the old bat swing."

Sulphur Rock, Ark., April: TOM TURNER with Baker 34th in Korea has called in. Tom, you and your family will be most welcome at our July party.

San Bruno, Cal., April: Another Korean vet, this time TED PALLAS of Hq. Btry., 52nd Field from 6/51-6/54. We're inviting you to be a part of our Hotel Thayer festival in mid-July, Ted, although we'll understand if the distance is simply out of the question. Raise enough of a holler, you Calif. members and we well could meet out on the West Coast next.

Lancaster, Pa., April: CHARLEY SHEPLEY, (A 19th '41-'45) has reported in and advises that he's close enough to West Point to be one of the gang who meets there next July 13, 14 & 15.

Akron, Ohio, April: TREVIS SHEPARD, (C 34th '49-'51), is looking for Corporal APLEGATE of the same outfit; believes he came from around Portsmouth, Ohio. Trevis was a commo man or, as BILL BYRD describes such, "a dat dat ditty man".

Palo Alto, Calif., May: Retired Chick VIC HUNGERFORD (4/39-8/42 and 7/50-2/51), signals: "Still believe an Army made up of men like those of the 24th could answer all of our problems." We agree. He adds a sad note: "I am now completely grey (or is it blonde?) after brain surgery and trials and tribulations - feel very fortunate to be alive. My memory has been affected but I still know that I recall with pleasure the outstanding officers and men of the 24th." Those are wonderful words Vic. He has 5 little people: Nikki Jean (27), Mitchell Ann (24), Victor (20), Patricia (19), and Mark (17). Grand bunch, Vic.

Westpoint, Conn., May: We finally located Greenwood Press which published "Dear Miss Em, General Eichelberger's War in the Pacific 1942-45". It's a collection of his letters to his wife during WW II. Aside from picturing himself, via his own letters to his own wife, as being somewhat petulant and jealous, what really shocked us was the type of information he was transmitting home to Miss Em while the rest of us were going through that "Somewhere in the South Pacific" bit. We have read everything we could lay our hands on that was written by WW II generals. What continually surprises us is the kind of diaries these fellows usually kept, and in places and at times when diaries were verboten. How, in the name of duty, honor, country, do you explain it?

Wyncote, Pa., May: We have received a nice \$20.00 contribution from that old beancounter, Life Member BERT KOENIG.

Longboat Key, Fla., Apr. 27-29.
(Here's a tantalizing soupcon under the
by line of AUBREY S. NEWMAN; a little
late on our part but we are determined to
use it anyway). A volunteer reconnais-
sance patrol of the 24th Infantry Division
air landed at Tampa International Airport
day before yesterday. Advance elements
were already on the ground to secure the
landing area -- C.G. HANLIN in Dunedin,
COL. BIG BILL BIGGERSTAFF in St. Peters-
burg, and RED NEWMAN in the Sarasota-Long-
boat Key region.

The main body consisted of: ED HENRY
and BILL SANDERSON from Attleboro, Mass;
DON WILLIAMS from Farmington, Mich; STEVE
STEVENSON, TOM COMPERE, MIKE RAFTER and
J. SPIKE O'DONNELL from Chicago; with a
follow-up echelon JUNIOR HARRIS landing
late the next night from Greensboro, N.C.
The initial assembly point was Holiday
Inn in St. Petersburg.

Your correspondent followed long
established policy by bellying up to the
bar with SPIKE as the initial order of
business, in which formality, the others
joined. This protocol completed, the
patrol signed into the motel and moved to
assign rooms where advance man C.G. HANLIN
had a large container of ice and other
essentials -- in assorted cans and bottles
--readily available. The patrol then
settled down to the serious business of
"remembering when."

In due cours, C.G. lead us to the
Hawaiian Village, where he arranged for
the issue of some very high-on-the-hog
rations. The next logical step was back
to the Holiday Inn and the supplies
cached there. While others resumed the
business of "remembering when", C.G.
took RED NEWMAN to Dunedin, where RED
stayed over night in C.G.'s fine home
there.

The next morning, after inspecting
C.G.'s sea-going fishing boat tied up at
his dock -- and viewing some wonderful
pictures of large fishing catches made
from that boat -- RED returned to Long-
boat Key as advance man, to set up
arrangements for the patrol to visit his
home there that evening. In the mean-
time, the main body moved to the high-
rise Holiday Inn on Sarasota's famed
tourist mecca of Lido Beach on St.
Armande's Key....where the follow-up
echelon of JUNIOR HARRIS reported in
after midnight.

About two hours before sundown that
evening (Friday), the patrol assembled
at RED'S headquarters on the bay at the
north end of Longboat Key. While RED
had what he thought to be adequate can
and bottle goods available, he soon
noticed that several members of the
patrol lacked confidence in his logistic
ability -- for extra bottles appeared on
the bar, including Cutty Sark Scotch and
a green glass decanter type bottle of

special Jim Bean.

BILL BIGGERSTAFF brought along a
booklet published by the 29th Infantry
at Fort Benning, Georgia, when he and RED
served in that regiment 47 years ago.
The tow of them looked at the pictures and
shared memories of good friends and out-
standing soldiers from those long ago
years.

In due course, RED charcoaled a steak
or two and his wife, Dorothy, assisted by
Elsie from down the street a ways, issued
assorted rations. Throughout the evening,
BILL SANDERSON took pictures, and a
recent letter to Dorothy from BILL'S wife,
Alice, says the pictures took of the
patrol's activities that evening -- and
elsewhere -- show clearly that the patrol
accomplished its mission of having a good
time among friends.

The next evening (Saturday), the
patrol again assembled at RED'S patio by
the pool for a couple of hours to super-
vise the sun set -- and again lack of
faith in RED'S logistic arrangements was
demonstrated by the appearance of an extra
bottle of Cutty Sark. This time Dorothy
had no ration responsibilities, so joined
in helping the sun go down...As BILL
SANDERSON'S pictures show.

With the sun put to bed, other members
of the patrol took Dorothy and RED out
for dinner at Trader Jack's fine restau-
rant on Anna Maria Island nearby, in the
town of Bredenton Beach. Naturally,
while waiting for dinner to be served, we
couldn't just sit there -- so the waitress
served some drinks. That did not seem
to be enough for TOM COMPERE, however,
because it is reported he made a separate
foray out to the bar for an extra martini-
- or was it two?

After the chow formation -- it was
high class chow -- the patrol took the
next logical step of stopping by RED'S
patio bar for a nightcap. When they
arrived at RED'S place earlier that
evening, there was a large 24 on the
front porch, constructed of several
dozen lined up grapefruit...which indivi-
dual members of the patrol were to take
with them as emergency rations. But that
seemed an inadequate supply to TOM,
especially since he remembered that
Dorothy had pointed out to a special tree
in the yard and said it had the best
fruit.

Or maybe it was just martini inspira-
tion but, however that may be, TOM left
the rest of us occupied with our night-
caps by the pool and conducted a night
operation out to that grapefruit tree --
supervised and abetted by DON WILLIAMS.
Unfortunately, the patrol's official pho-
tographer, BILL SANDERSON, was not alerted
to the situation -- and that is why KEN
ROSS can not print a picture of TOM
COMPERE up a tree at midnight, picking
grapefruit.

El Paso, Tex., May: Long chatty letter from TOM HALL, (Sv. 34th '45-'46), which reads in part: "It was quite a thrill to see the ol' Taro Leaf on your letterhead, as it always is with pride whenever I run into it. Although I qualified for a Korean combat patch too, this is the one I preferred to wear until I retired in '68. I was not with the 24th in Korea, fortunately. I had mildly wondered for quite awhile if I shouldn't look up what may be a 24th Division Association. However, I had been a red leg since the early 30's, and my involuntary detail to the Infantry injected just enough bitterness to keep my long-time affinity for the ground-pounders at a pretty low level. Despite my inner feelings, I could not help feeling pride for that branch of the service, and now that time has mellowed it all, am happy that I was once a part of that service. After WW II ended, I wasted no time returning to artillery and remained in that branch until retirement after 24 years' service. I remember a great number of my former associates of Sv. Co. 34th Inf., although I have not remained in touch with any. Naturally, many

thousands have served with the outfit over the years. However, from the page you sent me of the Taro Leaf, the several references to "LES WHEELER" just HAS to be my old combat commander. He had eyes that could bore a hole through you. And a fine combat officer. I sure wish I was able to crawl up into the attic and dig up a long, narrative poem I wrote of the battles the 34th fought through the Pacific campaign, and send it to you. Someday I just might. It is doubtful for health reasons that I could now make any of the reunions but I'll

sure enjoy belonging to the Association, and receiving the publication at intervals. And if there are any amateur radio operators among us, I will sure look for them too - my call sign is W50PH." Nice fat report, Tom. Many thanks.



Camp Younghans, Japan, May '53: It's RICHARD E. JACKSON (I 21st '52-'53), receiving the company colors from Capt. STRAUSSER. Guidon bearer is Pfc. MARTINEZ. Rick had cut himself shaving that ayem, ergo the white plaster on that chin. Those patches look good, don't they? Rick has a Silver Star and Bronze Star with V from that mess.

West Point, N.Y., May: This is Convention Chairman VIC BACKER telephoning in his latest report on plans for our bash at the Hotel Thayer on Fri., July 13, Sat., July 14 and Sun., July 15... For those who arrive early, they may be in time for a free boat ride down the Hudson on Thursday evening, leaving at around 6 from the West Point dock.... As to what to wear, a brilliant Hawaiian shirt (plus accessories, natch) will get you men by, save for the Saturday evening banquet when we do dress up - business suit, shirt and tie that is.

See ya at West Point!

Knoxville, Tenn., April: Moved again have CLEMENT and Jean HARRIS, (F 5th RCT & 24 Sig. '51). It's 21 North Sunset. They write, "Y'all come and see us now, heah! And remember the Alamo and Korea too". Clem - room rates for our July clambake at West Point's Hotel Thayer are \$18 for a double and \$3.50 for any additional cot and \$12 - 16 for a single. Not bad.

Dover, Tenn., April: Retired Capt. FRANK BOOTH, formerly a 2nd Bn. Gimlet in Korea, uses just plain ole "Route 1" for his address. Zip is 37058.

Catawba, N.C., April: A twenty happily received from J. FRED and Tillie SMITH (3rd Eng. '42-'45). It takes \$ to print and mail this little old poop sheet, not to mention time.

Kansas City, Kans., April: Taro Leaf gratefully acknowledges word from CHARLES BEST, (A 19th '44-'46), after too long an absence. Missed you and the little lady at our last two parties, Charlie. West Point?

Valley Station, Ky., April: We tried to spot this one on a map to determine its proximity to Stamping Ground. How about it retired CWO EDWARD M. STEWART down there? Ed was Sfc - M/Sgt - WO and CWO from 7/51 to 11/52 in L and Sv. of the Gimlets. Ed, if you're close enough to holler, point yourself toward Stamping Ground and yell "ROSCOE CLAXON"; he'll come running, we guarantee.

"Yeah... I'm in the Air Force... So what!"



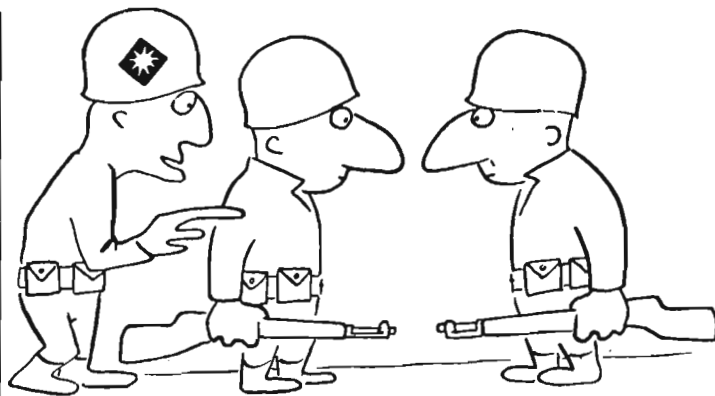
The Financial Times of London publishes its own idea of the multinational executive's pipe dream of a lifestyle:

Living in Britain
With a Chinese wife
Employing a French cook
On an American salary!!

But then there's the nightmare:

Living in France
With an American wife
And a British cook
On a Chinese salary!!

You think you've got troubles?

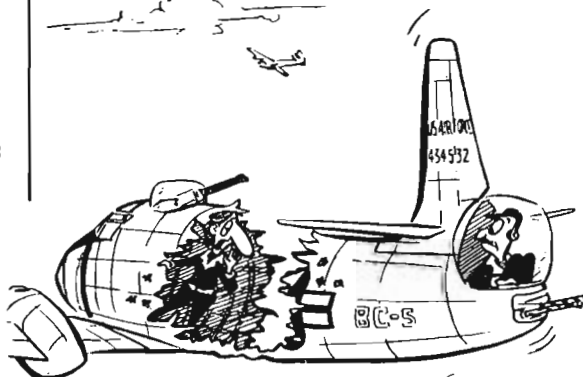


"Here's your replacement now, Roberts."

Sylmar, Calif., April: FRANCIS L. DICKEY, (19th and 34th '50-'51), is another retired Taro Leaf showing up in Calif. Try 13302 Foothill Blvd., Tel. 213-361-9649 if you want to reach him. Francis will "sure give West Point a try". You'll be glad you did, fella. It'll help to make up for the 3 times those gooks hit you. We have a news clip on Francis that tells all about his Korean wounds. We'll reproduce it in a forthcoming issue.

Berkeley, Calif., April: Calling for help to find Taro Leafers is VIC CASTRO now an Sfc. retired. Vic is looking for Lt.Col. KENNETH J. PETERSON, former PM, Maj. LAMAR HAMLETT, former CO of 24th MP and Sgt. JOHN F. WEST. We've got our feelers out, Vic. By the way, he tells us that interpreter Jim Yoshida published a book "The Two Worlds of Jim Yoshida" which was all about the Division. Where can we latch onto a copy, Vic? Next time you see BILL or Mildred DEAN at the Oakland Army Base, give them each a warm "Hello" for us.

For that bus ride from NYC to West Point, try Mohawk Coach Lines. They operate out of the 40th St. Port Authority Bus Terminal. Tickets are at windows 16, 17 & 18. Departure is from gates 118 and 119 on the upper level. \$3.45 one way. You get there; we'll get you back on Sunday.



"Be sure to write and tell us where you're stationed!"



MOMENTS MEMORIES & MEN

Jupiter, Fla., April: Taro Leaf impressed by DONALD and Shirley MCHALE, (19th) of Jupiter, Fla., when the dues arrived the check carries the notation "Once a Chick, always a Chick". The First National of Jupiter will think you're a nut, Don. Be that as it may, here's a good shot date-lined Taejon Airport, Sept. 30, 1950. Div. CG Maj. Gen. JOHN H. CHURCH is greeting Lt. Gen. Walton H. Walker Eighty Army Commander as he arrives.

Bird colonel between them unidentified. Any ideas, Don? Within 3 months, Walker would be dead. Victim of a jeep accident. Remember?

Fairview, Pa., April: HORACE and Momoko McCLURE, (3rd Eng. '54-'55), ask about areas for campers near West Point. Good point, folks - and it so happens that one of the best, Bear Mountain Park, is just about two miles away from the Hotel Thayer. Terrific logistics. So come you campers, one and all, and especially Horace and Momoko.

Claremont, Okl., April: We're not aware of any Taro Leafer living in this town but we are aware of Judge John Q. Adams of the old home town. He recently granted a divorce to one Betty Dianne Brashear, and then married her himself 18 days later. And if that isn't enough for you, please consider the District Court judge in good old Massachusetts who put 3 members of his family on the court's payroll. Had enough now?

Jennings, Mo., May: Taro Leaf postulates that if memory serves - and there have been times when it's been known not to - we'll admit to a problem brought by we 200,000,000 people who have something like 200,000,000 automobiles from which the pollution is appalling. But asks Life Member, LEO CREAMER, (21st), "Would you prefer pollution by 200,000,000 horses and the accompanying 200,000,000,000,000 horseflies?" Good thinking, Leo.

Registration will start at noon on Thursday, July 12th. We're opening a day early inasmuch as quite a few have signalled that they want to get signed in a day early. That's fine with us.

There'll be a Thursday evening boatripe (Thursday, July 12th) for the early arrivals. It'll be a BYOL affair. In fact you'll be well advised to BYOL for the whole weekend as the hotel folks are threatening to be a little uppity on that point. Fool 'em; bring your own.

San Antonio, Tex., April: Col. BOB HALLOCK, CO Div. Arty. from 4/51 to 12/51, would remind us that, from '26 to '29, he was a Looney in the Hawaiian Division in Schofield Barracks. And we would remind you, Bob, that you'd be thrilled at who you'll meet at West Point in mid-July if you can make it. Maj. Gen. ROSCOE B. WOODRUFF and his son-in-law, Col. ROBERT DANIEL, both of your good town, have indicated that they'll be there. Why not contact them?

Westerville, Ohio, May: Another Task Force Smith man found. It's Sgt. BILLY MCCARTHY, (24 Med. and 21st '46-'51). Billy tells us of a new 23-hour deodorant. It gives you an hour to be yourself.

Dear Fellow Taro Leafers:

Vol. XXVI, Numbers 1 & 2 of the Taro Leaf are outstanding! They make me impatient for July 13-14-15 to bring us together again at West Point ... thanks, Ken.

Before you travel to a historic spot, it is good to have information about it. So here are some sidelights on Plebe year at the U.S. Military Academy. It is well known that Plebes are "braced" -- that is, required to take an exaggerated position of attention to improve their carriage. There are, however, varied little situations that take the monotony out of "bracing," like these in my Plebe year.

One morning I was nearly late at breakfast formation. Plebes had to be in place two minutes before assembly, so upperclassmen could inspect us - and this morning the last word in immaculate immaculateness, a Yearling corporal, was on the job.

The corporal discovered an unbuttoned button under the braid of the dress coat of another Plebe, and said, "Do you want that button?"

My classmate said, "Yes sir." So the corporal reached up, yanked off the button and handed it to him.

The corporal continued down the line, looking for more delinquent buttons. And in my hurry not to be late, I had one.

Having just heard what the wrong answer was, my reply to the corporal was, "No sir!"

So he pulled off my button and threw it away. This underlines the principle that when you are wrong there is no right answer.

After supper one evening our company supply sergeant made a room to room canvas for a missing, "Pistol, caliber .45 and magazines."

I had never seen a pistol or its magazines, and my report to the sergeant was, "Sir, I have a Redbook Magazine."

His face got redder than my hair as he said, "Jam your neck back, Mistuh, Newman -- you don't get funny with me!"

So I was hailed into the hallway to "sweat my shadow" on the wall, supervised and encouraged to greater efforts by a cluster of upper-classmen, along these lines:

"Suck up that horrible gut ... roll your buttocks under you ... squeeze your neck back ... tuck that chin in, more wrinkles ... knees straight ... you are not sweating yet, let's see some effort ... "

There were no smiles, but no ill nature either. We knew this was what I had come there for -- Plebe year at West Point. It is not a senseless routine, but serves the same purpose for cadets that recruit drill does for soldiers in the Army -- where sergeants are upper-classmen.

So as we walk around West Point and look at the imposing buildings, do not think of it as a humorless place, cold and unfeeling. It is just another part of the Army in which we all served. Cadets build the same kind of enduring friendships that we Taro Leafers now share from our service together in the 24th Infantry Division.

See you at the Thayer Hotel in July ...

In friendship,

Red
Aubrey S. "Red" Newman

Burlington, Mass., May: Long, chatty letter from AL WEIMER, (63rd F '50-'51), reads in part as follows: "Needless to say, I will be at West Point on 13-15 July 'with Taro Leafs On'.....This will be my first opportunity to attend such a function, so I am really looking forward to it. I may have to attend by myself since my wife will probably have to stay in Burlington to take care of our business....In any event, my lovely wife is urging me to attend, so I am making reservations this evening.

"I retired from the military last July, so I am just now becoming civilianized, although I still hold onto many of my old military habits....I am currently employed as a production controller for an electronics corporation here in Burlington, and as of this writing, my department performs similar to a military organization...The most amazing part is that I didn't start the regimentation....It was started by some of the workers, and so it continues, and they really enjoy it....Many of them who are vets never had an opportunity to get close with 'brass'....Now they realize that we are a lot different than they had imagined.....It's a great environment - for all of us.

"I am married to a Dutch-Indonesian lady who was born and raised in Java...She spent the entire World War II under Japanese occupation, so she has had a taste of the unpleasantries of both warfare and occupation...We have a great little daughter (9 years old) who is helping to keep us young..., and like ourselves, enjoys life to the utmost....We also have a business here in Burlington by the name of Garuda Inc. We retail exclusive products imported from the islands to include Indonesian Batik wearing apparel, Balinese wood sculptures, Indonesian prepared foods, etc. I shouldn't have any difficulty coming up with a Hawaiian shirt or two since I have a store full of hand printed shirts from Singapore...However, I'll probably show up at the convention shirtless, unless my wife remembers to pack a few of the shirts for me.

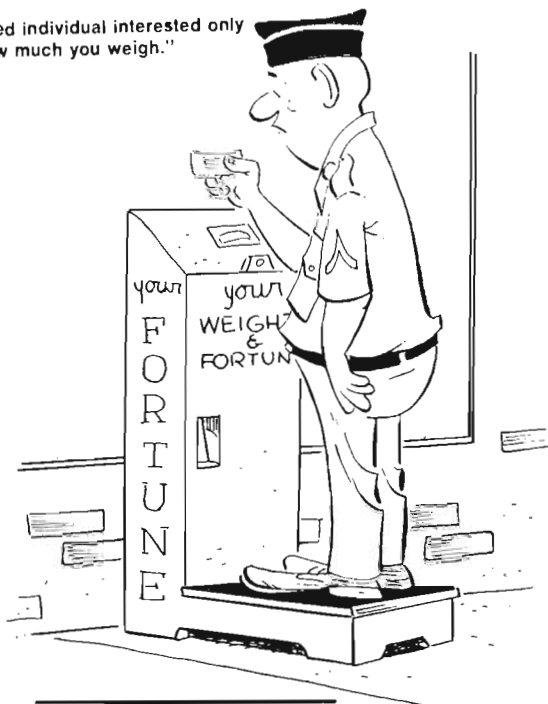
"It appears that I have had your ear long enough for one time, so I'll close this note with my thanks once again for your extended hand into the association.... I'm sincerely looking forward to meeting with you and other members at the convention."

We look forward to the meeting, Al.

To get to West Point out of N.Y. City, there's a bus every hour out of the N.Y. Port Authority Bus Terminal (40th St.) that brings you right to South Gate and the Hotel Thayer.

The West Point swimming facilities will be open to one and all anytime Friday or Saturday of convention weekend.

You are a self-centered individual interested only in knowing how much you weigh."



West Point, N.Y., May: RED NEWMAN waxes nostalgic when he writes: "As you walk around West Point, if you are like me, you will feel the unseen presence of great names out of the past - from Winfield Scott to Lee, Grant, Sherman, Stonewall Jackson; from Pershing to Summerall to MacArthur, Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley, and so many others - and will understand the meaning of the great West Point song titled, 'The Corps.' Though it has been many a long year since I sang it, perhaps these few lines quoted from memory but I think are verbatim ---

'The Long Gray Line of us stretches
Through the years of a century told,
And the last man feels to his marrow
The Grip of your far off hold.

'They are here in ghostly assemblage,
The men of the Corps long dead,
And our hearts are standing attention
While we wait for their passing tread

'Grip hands with us now though we see not,
Grip hands with us,
Strengthen our hearts.'

Memory fails me a bit here, and I would not want to say it wrong. But I think you get the idea, that the past is not dead at West Point, but a living inspiration to all West Pointers to '...tread where you have trod.' In short, I think one of the best parts of going there is to feel that we are walking where great names out of the past have trod...and that we can feel a kinship with them, because we have known the test of battle too." We look forward to all of it, Red - and as we go to press, over 100 have given us definite confirmation of plans to be with you in mid-July.