

TARO LEAF
24th Infantry Division Association
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Springfield, MA
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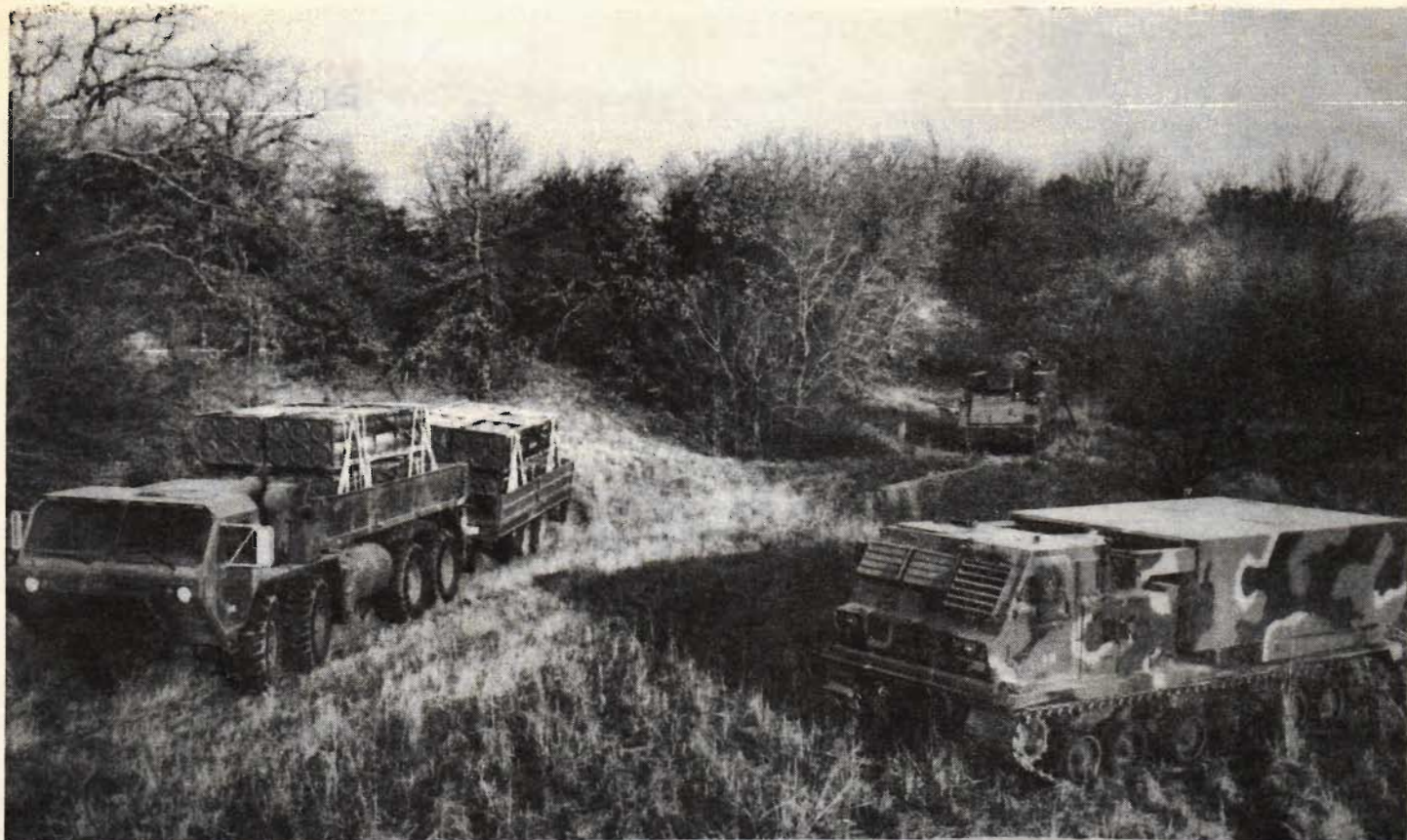
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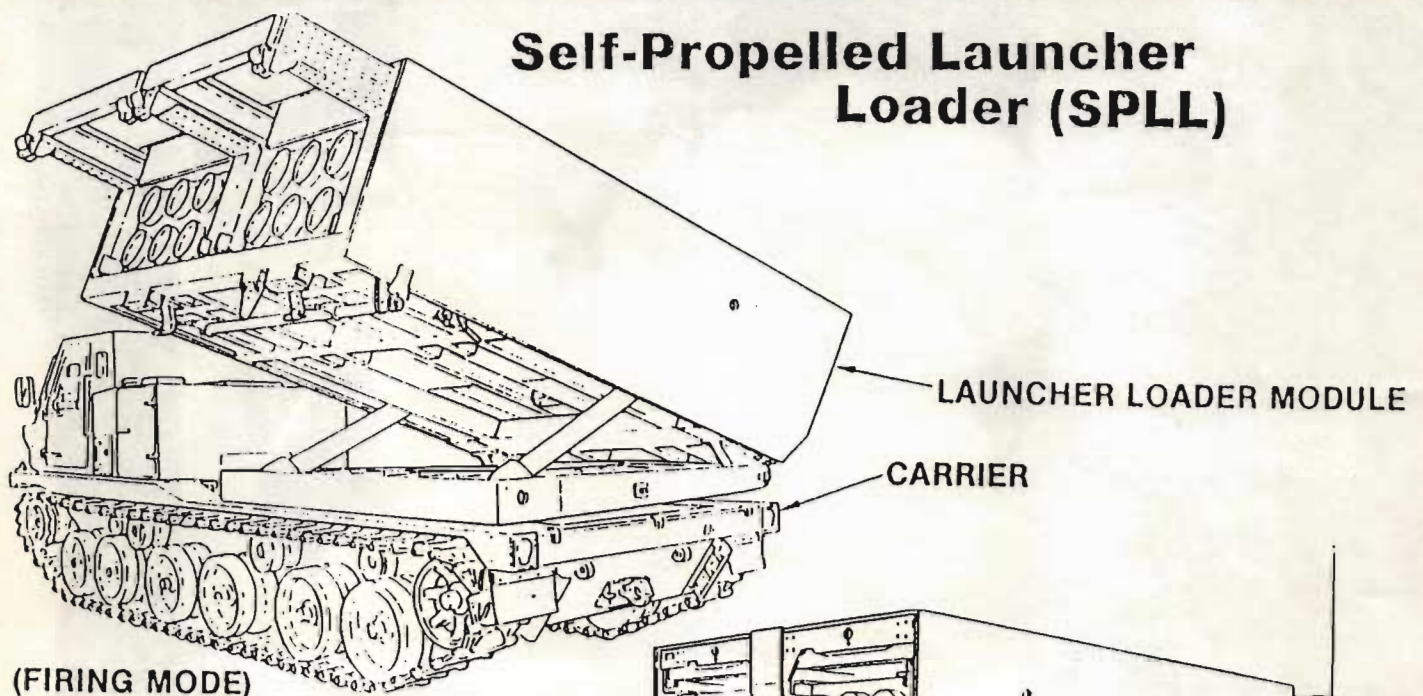


FIRST CLASS MAIL

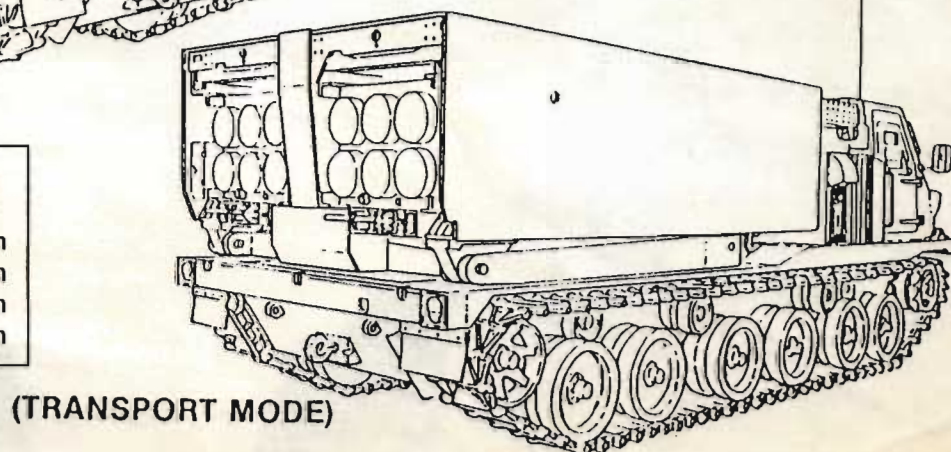
Wittman, Harry L.
1385 Terri St.,
P.O.Box 118
Keyser, WV 26726



Self-Propelled Launcher Loader (SPLL)



WEIGHT (EMPTY)	20,000 kg
WEIGHT (LOADED)	24,564 kg
LENGTH	6,832 mm
WIDTH	2,972 mm
HEIGHT (STOWED)	2,597 mm
HEIGHT (ELEVATED)	5,920 mm



TARO LEAF



**MLRS-FORERUNNER OF
THE FUTURE FIELD ARTILLERY**

24th Infantry Division Association

TARO LEAF

Vol. XXXVII — No. 6

1983-1984

The publication "of, by and for those who served or now serve" the glorious United States 24th Infantry Division, and published frequently by the 24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION whose officers are:

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. . .

Association membership is open to anyone and everyone who wears or ever wore the Taro Leaf or served in any of its attached units. Dues are \$10.00 per annum, inclusive of a subscription to Taro Leaf.



This issue is an experimental one.

We acknowledged at Cincy that we would be trying out something new. In fact, this issue has actually gone to press before Cincy, ergo the absence of Cincy news. Wanna cut in on the secret? Okay -- new printer. Criticisms welcome. Praises -- don't bother.

Almost 3000 men from Stewart will participate in Gallant Eagle 84 at Ft. Irwin, CA from Sept. 5-11, some deploying by air and some with equipment by sea from Savannah to LAX via the Canal then making a 150 mile night move to the desert. Redepolyment via the same route.

This issue is filled with shots of the multiple launch rocket system, now sited at Stewart. We couldn't resist the temptation to give the subject so much space, so impressed were we with the material.



All Able Gimlets here. They recently had a company reunion in Reno, NV. It's another Kodachrome which gives us such fits -- but into the pot she goes. Where she'll come out nobody knows. Meet from left to right, DAVID LOPERA of 1830 Catalpa Av., Anaheim CA 92801, GEORGE JESTER of 8 Bishampton Ln., Bella Vista AR 72714, ROY ZARUBI of 155 Jacqueline Av., Sparks NV 89431 and HECTOR COMO of 16524 Terra Bella Dr., Mt. Clemons MI 48044. The smiles are easily explainable says Dave Lopera: "We had just made it big in one of the casinos. We were quitting while we were ahead."

A potent weapon new to Stewart was recently unveiled at a public live fire exercise. The Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) is capable of firing up to 12 rockets in less than a minute.

A large crowd witnessed the first firing of the new system to be held east of the Mississippi River. The Army has two MLRS units in Texas, two in Germany and one in South Korea.

The live fire exercise was the culmination of 11 weeks of intensive training for about 120 new soldiers at Fort Stewart.

Lt.Col. James Askew, assistant to the chief of staff for force modernization, likened the rocket system to a sort of sophisticated shotgun. "It will hit every square inch within a square kilometer (60 per cent of a square mile)," he said, when all 12 are fired.

"If the enemy is massing his troops for a counter-attack, the MLRS can ruin his day," said Askew.

The warhead explodes above ground and completely covers an area with shrapnel. Each rocket head is loaded with 644 bomblets, which are scattered over a wide area.

The MLRS is assigned to C Battery, 1st Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, commanded by Capt. Kelley Griswold. The unit has 10 of the MLRS systems.

Soldiers of C Battery attended an eight-week course at Fort Sill OK, before coming to Fort Stewart. Upon arriving here, they went through 11 weeks of intensive collective training to learn operations, supply, logistics and command and control, to insure that the battery functions effectively as a unit.

The MLRS is mounted on a fully-tracked vehicle capable of traveling about 38 miles per hour on the road. The vehicle is called a Self-Propelled Launcher Loader (SPLL). Maximum range of each rocket is about 18 miles.

The rockets can be fired individually or in ripples of two to 12, with unmatched accuracy because the computer re-aims the launcher between rounds during ripple firing.



Pvt. Lee Keffer fires the M203 grenade launcher during a recent qualification. Keffer is a Scout platoon driver with the 2d Battalion, 70th Armor. (Photo by Pvt. Pat Burke)

Ammunition resupply is provided by a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT), which is accompanied in its resupply mission by a Heavy Expanded Mobility Ammunition Trailer (HEMAT). The truck and trailer together can carry a total of eight launch pod/containers, each pod/container holding six rockets, for a total of 48 rockets. Two pods are mounted on the launcher-loader at a time.

Command and control of each subordinate launcher is provided by a Command, Control and Communications (or C3) system, which is made up of three major components. They are fire control system, located on the launcher; the firing platoon leader's digital message device; and the fire direction system.





Old Faithful News: Every July in come the dues from GLENN F. MURRAY, of 430 Davis, Newton NC. He has been a member since '65 -- never a word, never a gripe, never a complaint.

Heart attack June 10th -- By-pass surgery June 13th. That's the sad report on JOHN E. BROWN (D21st '39-'44), of 6002 Sudbury, Jacksonville, FL. You know d----- well that John and Charlotte would appreciate a card or a tel. call - 904-771-1995. Charlotte reports, "He's home and doing real well -- just having to take it easy."

Travel News: Maj.Gen. and Mrs. CHESTER A. DAHLEN, (21st & 34th), of 902 Farmington Commons, 2611 Eisenhower, San Antonio, TX -- Rhine River Cruise in June. Sailed past the remains of the Remagen bridge.

Medical News: HARRY STRASEN (34th, '45-'46) of 6209 E.31st, Tucson, AZ. Gall bladder operation last Feb.

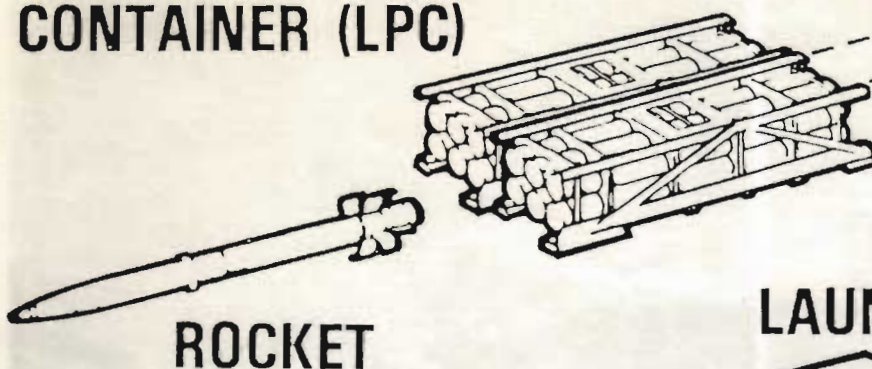
During the physical exam, the doctor noticed the patient's hands shaking demonstrably. "You drink a lot, don't you?" He asked.

"Nope," replied the man. "Spill most of it."

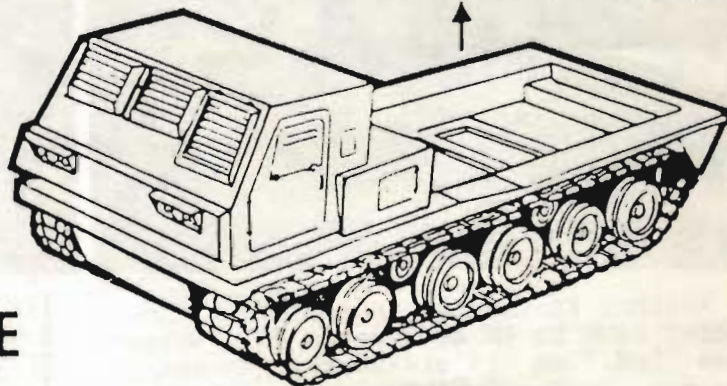


LAUNCHER LOADER MODULE (LLM)

LAUNCH POD CONTAINER (LPC)



SELF PROPELLED LAUNCHER LOADER (SPLL)



MLRS VEHICLE

You know we are making a compendium of one of the most colorful American idioms -- that spoken by the folks of the U.S. Army -- with some Navy and Air Force gems thrown in for good measure.

Entries will range from the technical to the obscene. It will offer good evidence of how vigorous a medium the spoken word can be -- especially in a setting where the accepted philosophy is "never call a spade a spade when you can call it a --- ----- shovel". We who have served or now serve will relish the vivid argot here preserved.

Try these on your piano:

Balli-balli -- From the Korean balli meaning quickly. Based on the American theory that you must repeat anything twice, at least, before the Korean will understand it.

To be in deep s--- -- To be in real serious trouble as in "Men, we're in deep s--- up to our eyebrows."

Jungle juice -- In the Pacific theater, any available alcoholic drink, especially if improvised or locally produced.

New Guinea salute -- The constant waving of a hand over one's mess kit at mealtime in an attempt to keep away the bugs.

Nervous in the service -- A catch phrase meaning "Don't get nervous" or "Take things as they come" etc.

Sinatra, in introducing Sophia Loren and his wife Barbara from the audience, at a recent performance, adding "What a pair of cuff links".





Another Postmaster in our midst. HUBERT SAMM is PM of Hyneria IN. Hubie uses "Ind." on his stationery and not the new, "modern" "IN". We hate it too, Hubie. He's asking for info on CHARLEY CONNELL, 19th mail clerk out of Akron OH. Hubie was AT 19th in '44-'45. He got out of the service and then reentered in '48, retiring as a Command Sgt. Maj. in '66. Hubie, the line is out on Charley Connell. We'll let you know if we get a bite.

Philatelist's Corner: Don't throw away those stamps which you receive in your mail, especially if they're foreign stamps. Life Member CALVIN GARRETT (Div.Hq. '44-'45), of 806 Linden, Hanover PA - Tel. 717-632-2806 -- has been collecting them for years. We're able to send him a bunch now and then.

Teacher: "Now spell 'straight.'"

Pupil: "S-t-r-a-i-g-h-t."

Teacher: "Correct. Now what does it mean?"

Pupil: "Without water."

A gambler died. The funeral was well attended by his professional friends. In the eulogy, the minister asserted: "Spike is not dead. He only sleeps."

From the rear of the chapel came the interrupting words: "I got \$100 says he's dead!"

Gladys DAWSON, Joe's better half, gifted him with a birthday present -- a Life Membership in the Assoc. You're a wonder, Glad -- and we all appreciate it. They're at 17500 Stout, Detroit, MI, by the way. Joe was D34 from '40 to '44.

From NEIL JEFFREY, (Div.Hq. '45-'46), of 7220 SW 53rd, South Miami FL comes \$100.00 for a fully paid up Life Membership. Neil passes his Taro Leaf on to a very good friend, Bill Carothers, who was a Marine Combat Photographer in the Pacific. Small wonder those chaps got all the good shots; they took their own photographer right with them.



SHORTS 'N OVERS

One refreshing note about our conventions -- and we've seen quite a few -- is that our gang shows none of the signs of being shaggy, ragtag veterans. Our members are without those types having that bond of unity and ethic expressed by the prefix "anti" -- meaning antidiscipline, antigrooming, antiuniform, antihero, anti-everything. Our gang, gentlemen all, represent the "right bunch" and it makes you feel proud to be one of them.

Today's trivia: Name the one player in major league history who homered in his first at-bat, then never hit another over a 21-year career.



"SAY BOY, I'LL GET YOU A COUPLE OF COCONUTS FOR A CIGARETTE."
Sgt. O. F. Johnson, Australia

The darkest suspicion of the times is that the financial experts don't know what to do, either.

"Before Pearl Harbor." That's the way Life Member LEO MACNEIL (F Co. & Band 19th '39-'45) put it. He wants to contact men of that vintage. So drop Leo a line if the shoe fits. Postman drops off his mail at 47 N. Wisconsin, Hobart IN 46342. (Tel. 219-942-6804).

Walking Wounded Report: LES "Larry" OLDS, (Sv. 19th '44-'46), of 2659 Fletcher, Canton, OH has had a second hip replacement. Gets "around fairly well." Carmel has been "in and out of hospitals."

Best one of the month -- Stephen Sacks, Maryland's attorney general, calling N.Y. Governor Mario Cuomo: "An Adlai Stevenson with garlic."

ALFONSO CHAVEZ, (K 21st '44-'46), of 6232 Virginia, Paradise, CA -- Paradise? Ah, there's a name for you -- is trying to locate these fellows -- and not a one is a member. Clues anyone?

Victor "Gus" Burdick	Jerry Olivo
Tony Jaskiewicz	Edgar St. John
James C. Cochran	Joe Morreale
Charles Hoagland	William Tushar
Dan Tonubbee	



"COULDN'T USE A CLEVER LITTLE SABOTEUR, COULD YOU?"

—Cpl. Ernest Maxwell

Hear about the wealthy termite. He lived high off the log!



It's BILL HOSLER (F 19th '49-'51) on the left, and ELWOOD FOLTZ (B 21st '50-'52), on the right, at Memorial Day services at Indiantown Gap Nat. Cemetery. Sorry the picture is so dark. We've warned you about those Kodachromes.



Hiroo Onoda is reunited with his parents (backs to the camera) on his return to Tokyo in 1974.

We spotted a news release in a recent issue of the Baltimore Sun. You'll be interested.

Here goes:

Next week, a small group of Japanese youngsters will gather at a summer camp in the shadows of Mount Fuji to try and learn a little bit about physical fitness and mental toughness and about the spirit of "futo fukutsu," which might be translated as "never say die."

Among their teachers will be a shy, wiry 63-year-old man with a craggy face and genial manner whose expertise in these matters is considerable.

His name is Hiroo Onoda, and it is only 10 years since he stepped out of the jungle and into a small place in the history books as the last holdout in the Imperial Japanese Army to surrender after World War II.

"Regrets? I don't have any regrets," he said. "It was a war, and I was lucky to come back at all...I didn't waste those 30 years."

They were 30 years -- from 1944 to 1974 -- spent mostly in nameless places on Lubang Island in the Philippines, hiding from enemies that no longer were enemies, carrying on alone because he saw it as his duty.

They were 30 years also of experiences and hard-learned lessons that Hiroo Onoda is now eager to pass on to a younger generation that he fears is growing up physically soft, mentally weak and taking the country's security and prosperity too much for granted.

"Children in Japan today seem to believe that when dinner time comes, food automatically appears on the table," Mr. Onoda said.

"Because they are given everything, they don't rely on themselves...they

don't have the mental toughness to overcome difficulty. It's something they've got to acquire."

When he returned from the Philippines in 1974, it was to instant celebrity and wild acclaim.

But he didn't stay. Japan had changed immeasurably since 1944, but Mr. Onoda had not. He still dreamed of owning a cattle farm.

Since farmland was expensive, and large tracts impossible to find, Mr. Onoda went to Brazil, where he has built what he calls a Texas-scale ranch of 2700 acres and 1500 head.

"My life is there now," he said during a recent conversation arranged by friends in Tokyo. "But I don't plan to develop any more...Most of the work is done, and I haven't got that much to do."

So now he has decided to return to Japan for three months every year to discharge a debt he feels he owes his country.

It is a country whose changes Mr. Onoda sees not so much in the obvious physical terms as in the more subtle spiritual ones. First and foremost is the fact that Japan is at peace, prosperous and seemingly secure -- factors producing a kind of complacency in the younger generation that he finds disturbing.

"The Japanese people are accustomed to peace, and this, of course, is not something I dislike" he said. "I don't want another war, but who can say it will never come? It is important...to have the mental toughness to face any adversity."

This message is vaguely disturbing in Japan, a country almost obsessively careful to avoid giving even the

Col. JIM OGLETREE (24th QM '48-'52) of 1002 Mayberry, Tahlequah, OK, puts a glaze like a Song vase on our eyeballs. He has an idea concerning what to do with the flag given to the nearest of kin at the conclusion of a burial service. The recipient normally has the problem of what to do with it. Let's be frank. It's a problem. Says Jim, "Why not give the flag to the local American Legion post?" We're all for you and your idea, Jim; we're passing it on.

We interrupt this marriage to bring you the football season.



slightest hint of resurgent nationalism. Yet it is also a message with great appeal in a small nation almost totally lacking in natural resources and with a strong sense of its own vulnerability.

While on Lubang, he learned to tell time by the sun and keep track of the month by the moon. When he came out 30 years later, he guessed the date within six days.

Photographs of that day, March 12, 1974, show Lt. Onoda standing at attention before a former commanding officer who had come to the Philippines to find him.

"Lt. Onoda reporting for orders, sir," he is quoted as saying.

His orders were to lay down his arms and return to Japan.

He said that he had stayed simply because he had received no orders to the contrary.

Such stories still hold immense romantic appeal in Japan.

Mr. Onoda has visited Japan frequently during the past 10 years and is married to a Japanese woman, but, for the most part, has made a new life in Brazil.



Hang! Fire! Even as the words are shouted, assistant gunner Pvt. Michael Horton, HHC, 2nd Bn 34th Inf., drops the high explosive round down the tube, jerks his hands up away from the tube and the 4.2 inch mortar round soars out the track-mounted indirect fire support weapon. (Photo by Adolph Mallory)

Stewart soldiers and residents now have their own on-post Burger King. Stewart may be the first Army post to have such. The Pearl Harbor Naval Base has had one for about a year. Other franchised outlets are promised for Benning, Gordon, Bragg, Ord, Leonard Wood, Polk, Schofield and Casey in Korea.

We can resist anything but temptation.

26 men of 1st Plat., 24th Mil. Police Co., went to Grenada in late May to provide law enforcement support for the 65th Mil. Police Co.

Wish the Army would come to grips with that Agent Orange problem. It certainly doesn't look good to allow it to drag on this way.

More on the MLRS:

The weapon which costs about \$2 million per unit, is a vehicle tracked like a tank, upon which are mounted two computer-controlled launchers. Each launcher holds six rockets.

In midair above the target, the rocket peels off an outer skin to release 644 "bomblets," which are similar to hand grenades. The net result is a shrapnel spray covering every inch of an area the size of six football fields.



"THEY AREN'T EVERYTHING THEY'RE CRACKED UP TO BE"

—Pvt. Tom Flannery

LYMAN and Maurine J. MILLER, (B 21st '43-'45) of RR2, 63A, Parker SD were hit hard by the spring floods. Their farm went under 4 feet of water. They took their troubles in stride however. Lyman reports that they're slowly recovering.

CSM Edward E. Garrett, a native of Charleston SC and a soldier for nearly 28 years, assumed the position of command sergeant major for the Division.

Maj.Gen. H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF presented the division colors to Garrett during rain soaked ceremonies held in front of the post headquarters here. Garrett fills the job vacated by CSM Clarence Wilhelm.

Muriel TINO keeps us informed about MIKE, (They're at 110 Cottage, Jersey City NJ). Mike suffered a stroke in '71. Is paralyzed on the left side. Reports Muriel, who won \$10,000 in the N.J. Lottery a few years ago, that Mike listens on his shortwave, has received letters from over 100 countries, all over the world. Bravo, Mike and Muriel.

Trivia answer: Pitcher Hoyt Wilhelm, who homered in his first major league at-bat on April 23, 1952, then went homerless for the rest of his career (432 official at-bats).

BULLETIN

When you move and change your address, PLEASE send me your change of address. It does no good to mail you a "Taro Leaf" at your old address. It will just go to waste. With the cost of printing and postage this is very costly to the Association to have even one go to waste. Send your address change to the Association Office and not to someone else. Thank you all for your cooperation. Send both, the old, and new address.



Pvt. 2 John Bradford, HHC, 2nd Bn., 34th Inf., carries two 4.2-inch white phosphorus mortar rounds to his team's position on Mortar Point Five. (Photo by Adolph Mallory)

Couldn't make Cincy, reported MOE and Dora FINEGOLD, (Sv. 19th '43-'45), that wonderful couple out of 475 50th Terr., NE, Miami, FL. They did so want to see old friends once more, "esp. VINNIE VELLA, JIM MURPHY, ED HENRY and TOM COMPERE."

More on the MLRS:

The system can fire single rockets or as many as 12 in less than a minute. After each launch, the computer refigures launch data before firing again. The computer controls allow the crew to ready-aim-fire all within the relative safety of armored vehicle, which can move faster than 60 miles an hour.

Nothing improves your driving like having a police car following you.



"OH, SO THAT WAS THE TOOTH HE MEANT!"

—Sgt. Paul RUSHLOW

Retired Army Maj. Gen. JAMES F. COCHRAN III can sue the government for public disclosures of a 1981 administrative action against him, but cannot challenge the constitutionality of the Army's actions, U.S. District Judge B. Avant Edenfield has ruled.

The ruling rejected efforts by the government to throw out a \$15.8 million suit for damages by Cochran, former commander at Fort Stewart.

The suit grew from a July 8, 1981, Army press release disclosing a non-judicial disciplinary action against Cochran.

Cochran was fined \$2000 and given a written reprimand July 6, 1981, on charges he misused government resources during his tenure as post commander of Fort Stewart. The non-judicial disciplinary action was imposed July 6, 1981, by Gen. Robert Shoemaker, commander of the U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort McPherson in Atlanta.

Shoemaker's action came after Cochran allegedly violated policy by allowing his wife to accompany him on an Army airplane for a May 1981 flight to Newburgh, NY to see their son graduate from West Point and the alleged unauthorized use of Fort Stewart personnel, facilities and material to repair a small stove on Cochran's private boat.

Cochran, who retired July 31, 1981, after a 30-year career, has denied any wrongdoing in the case. He commanded the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart from August 1979 through May 1981.

Cochran's suit, filed by attorney Charles M. Jones of Hinesville, charged the press release violated the Privacy Act by wrongfully announcing the results of the non-judicial punishment, violated Army regulations and was intended to harm him.

He contended the Army failed to establish adequate safeguards for Army records.

With protestations of verisimilitude et al, we spoke to Col. DANIEL R. SCHROEDER, the Division Chief of Staff, complaining with a high-pitched plaintive whine that we can't seem to get any pictures or copy out of Stewart. No sooner said than -- the deluge. We're soaking wet -- and enjoying every minute of it. We only hope we do well by "our Nell". We like keeping in touch, learning from time-to-time what you "young fellas are up to." It's what we're all about.

The nickel-nursing Smiths took their infant son to a movie. However, the usher warned them that, if the baby cried, the management would refund their money and ask them to leave.

Near the end of the feature, Smith nudged his wife and whispered, "What do you think of it?"

"Terrible," she replied.

"Check," agreed Smith, "Pinch the baby."

Pessimistic Commander

There is no chance of improving NATO's conventional military forces unless the message can be made clear to the people of Western Europe that there is a threat to their freedom of action down the road, says supreme commander of NATO forces, Gen. BERNARD ROGERS (19th).

The major menace, as General Rogers sees it, isn't a Soviet attack "out of the blue. The Soviets don't want war. They're patient and cautious." While NATO must be able to deter overt aggression, he says, the more likely threat is being intimidated by massive Soviet military might.

The outlook for spending on conventional NATO forces in the next five or six years is not good, says Rogers, unless you can convince the people there is a threat. But, he says, in a country where you've got a coalition or minority government it's very difficult, if not impossible, for the political leaders to go out and talk about defense.

Because of inadequate stockpiles of weapons and ammunitions, he would have to request the release of nuclear weapons fairly quickly in event of a conventional attack by the Warsaw Pact, Rogers says. "And I'm talking about in terms of days, not in terms of weeks or months," he said.

Fort Stewart's new C Battery, 1st Battalion, a unit specially trained to accompany the MLRS, has 10 of the new weapons. So do each of the Army's five other MLRS units, two of which are stationed in Texas, two in West Germany and one in South Korea.

JOHNNY A. BONTJE, (A 19th '49-'50), of 409 Brown, Larchwood IA, says he's "still looking for anyone who was in A 19th in 1950". Johnny was wounded on New Year's Day '51 and was a POW. If you can help Johnny in his search, telephone him at 712-477-2217.

EDWARD J. OLENDER, a retired CSM, of Box 9A, Springtown Rd., Tillson NY, was one of those honored at the "Three-time CIB Award" ceremonies held in May at Benning. As far as they can tell, only 230 infantrymen are triple CIB recipients. We are proud to report that Ed is one.



"WHO'S THE NEW DRILL SERGEANT?"



We'll excuse BRUCE PRICE, (C & B 19th, '42-'45), of 214 Bedford Forrest, Anderson SC, for sending us this picture because he's a brand new member. But it's a print that is hardly readable. Only God knows how it will reproduce. But we'll give it a go. It's of one (there are several) of the 19th Inf. monuments at Chickamauga, 9 miles south of Chattanooga, TN. Thanks, Bruce, and welcome into our little club.



Life Member WALLACE F. KUHNER, (24th Cav. Recn. Troop (Mecz) '43-'45) of 1637 Falmouth, Charleston SC gave us a challenge -- to use his pic, vintage PI 1945. We accept the challenge. H-e-e-e-e-r-r-r-r-e-e-e's Wally. He adds, "Maybe somebody will remember me when I was lean and mean." You don't look mean to us Wally. Bet there's a story behind that flag. You weren't one of the guys who made the things for sale purposes, were you? That was a real story. Can anyone add a chapter or two. We'll print it if you'll write it.

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE men, now hear this!!! ED OLENDER, (I 21st '41-'42 and C 34th & L 19th '50-'51), of Springtown, Tillson NY, recently attended a ceremony at Benning. 230 of the awardees are honored on plaques at Benning. Ed is one of the 230. We're right proud of you, Ed.

Writes wonderful BOB JOHNSON, (19th, 34th and 21st '51-'53), of 24 Whipple, Somerville MA. "Been thinking about one of our sick comrades who are moving in and out of hospitals. Maybe some of them can't swing their dues this year. The enclosed will help to tide some of them over. Use it to keep up a few memberships. You select them." What a spirit!! Thanks Bob.

Lt.Col. WOODSEN and Lovena TUCKER (Hq.Div.Chem. Off.), of 53 Tomino, Hot Springs Village, AR, missed Cincy; they were cruising the Alaska Inside Passage.



William (Bill) Byrd

And the tear that we shed,
though in secret it rolls,
Shall long keep his memory
green in our souls.

Oh, Breathe Not His Name

Moore.

Margaret called at noon, Friday, July 27th. Bill had died at 6:00 a.m. that morning. He had been stricken on the Monday before, massive cerebral hemorrhage -- Coma. And Bill finally breathed his last.

We were stunned by the tragic news; the more so because a few of us had been with Bill on the preceding Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There was unanimity that Bill was looking great, acting like his old self.

And now this.

A few days previous, Bill had sent us a "news release" -- he was an acknowledged publicity hound -- and in this one Bill was writing about death. A friend had died and Bill had eulogized at his funeral. We want to use some of it here because it says so much, in Bill's own words, about the stuff of which Bill was made.

The news release headed "Soldiers Don't Cry" read this way:

"Harold had died three days earlier in an army hospital at Fort Polk, LA. He was 63. An unassuming man, Harold had requested a simple military funeral -- a brief eulogy, and a reading of the 23rd Psalm and the poem, "No Tears."

"It was unseasonably warm that day. A passing train shattered the quiet as people gathered at the National Cemetery in Fort Smith, Ark. I looked at my watch; a few minutes more.

"As I waited, my thoughts drifted back to a night in New Guinea and how the rain had seemed to extinguish the life of a comrade as I had clutched his bullet-riddled body in my arms. The waiting for me was not good, this day.

"My thoughts turned to Harold. A typical regular army 1st sergeant...loud and clear. The more you looked at him, the meaner he looked, but his heart was as big as the ocean. I remembered how he stood 6 feet, 2 inches tall, how he weighed 255 pounds before illness had degenerated his massive frame.

"What I had to do would not come easily...I was to conduct his services...the hairs on my neck stood up.

"Harold was as near a brother as I would ever have. I had never told him this... he knew.

"We had spent a great deal of time together, just two old Infantrymen sharing private memories about war and death.

"Few really knew of Master Sergeant Harold Schorg's combat gallantry, of his Distinguished Service Cross, two Purple Hearts, Bronze Star with 'V'. No, he never talked about those things; rather he preferred the present.

"His accomplishments were many. My words about him were few, as he had wanted. As I eulogized, a love swelled inside of me. Harold would have been proud -- I did not cry, but shed only a secret tear...Soldiers don't cry."

That was the story, in Bill's own words. It says so very much about the man, Bill Byrd.

He was a dedicated military man who loved the Army, his Division, this Association.

He was a loyal friend -- and among us his friends are legion. He made us proud.

By all of us he will be missed but by none so much as by his lovely wife, Margaret, and her precious family.

TAPS

Deceased: Life Member EDWARD E. HYDE (L 34th '44-'45), of 112 W. 6th, Port Clinton OH leaving his beloved wife, Amie. Ed died on Feb. 16, 1984 following a stroke a month earlier.

Deceased: Life Member and Past President WILLIAM BYRD, (24 Recon. and 21st '42-'45), of 205 Georgetown, Ft. Smith AR on July 27, 1984, leaving his beloved wife, Margaret, daughters Sharon, Brenda and Cindy and son, William Jr. The Association was represented at the funeral by Life Member MICHAEL CULLEN, (24th Recn. '42-'44), also of Ft. Smith.

Died, on June 14, 1984, Robert G. Collette, beloved brother of our own CLARENCE "Bud" COLLETTE. May he rest in peace.

Died: Aug. 5, 1984 - FRED J. DALLOWITZ, 72, of 3227 N. California, Peoria IL, at Danville Veterans Hospital.

Born Aug. 6, 1911, in Peoria, to Fred B. and Margaret McKee Dallowitz, he married Guida Kincaid Dec. 1, 1945, in Peoria.

He was a cement finisher, working out of Local 12, and was an Army veteran as a member of H 19th from Nov. '42 to Sept. '45. He was a member of Peoria Moose Lodge and the VFW.

Surviving are his wife; one son, Fred of Sanibel Island, FL; three stepdaughters, Joann Herbstrith and Karlene Casebeer, both of Peoria Heights, Mrs. Kenneth (Bonnie) Ingram of Peoria; and four grandchildren. One sister preceded him in death.

MONTGOMERY, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert E., 67, died May 1 at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora CO.

Lt. Col. Montgomery served with the 90th Inf. Div. in Europe during World War II; our Division in Korea; the Eighth Army Hq. in Yokohama, Japan, and with USARAL at Fort Richardson, Alaska. He retired in 1957 as post signal officer at Fort Campbell, Ky.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn, and two sons, John and Joe.

Deceased: HAROLD E. ALLEN, of 3450 Fruitvale, Oakland, CA. Yolanda, Harold's widow, advises that he passed away last Apr. 28th.

Died: ROBERT JAY REED, (C Co. 5th RCT) on Apr. 21, 1984.

Word received from EUGENE B. LEW is that WALTER KAMINSKI of Kearney, NJ passed away last March. We are without details. Walt was not a member.

EDDIE MACADLO and EUGENE B. LEW attended the funeral of WILLIAM L. GREGORY (24th Sig. '42-'45) of Randolph, NY last July 12th. JIM CHAMPION (A 13th F), of 622 Euclid, Erie PA and GENE LEW had visited while a patient at the Erie, PA VA Hosp. before his untimely death. We are grateful to Eddie, Gene and Jim.

Yolanda G. Allen has written telling us of the passing of her beloved husband, HAROLD E. ALLEN, last Apr. 28. We are trying to help her identify some of his old army materials. She called for help and we're trying to be of help.

