

Fifteenth Infantry Regiment



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15th Infantry Regiment Association Newsletter

January 2003

1st Battalion to Redeploy to Kuwait

by LTC John W. Charlton

The last of the Can-Do Battalion Task Force redeployed from Kuwait on 1 December 2002 bringing to a close an extremely successful Operation Desert Spring rotation. It was a long six months but the achievements of the Can-Do soldiers were tremendous. Here are just a few of their many accomplishments:

- Multiple live fire exercises from squad to brigade level
- Multiple force-on-force exercises from company to brigade level
- A tremendously successful Expert Infantryman's Badge test with a 50% pass rate
- Two full gunnery exercises resulting in qualification of every individual and crew in the battalion task force
- Combat Lifesaver Training/Certification for hundreds of soldiers
- Daily maintenance operations including a complete combat regeneration at the completion of the rotation
- Daily operations and force protection of a desert base camp that supported over 800 soldiers
- Javelin Anti-armor system fielding and training

This training was done during the hottest part of the year in one of the most grueling environments on Earth. The fact that the Can-Do Task Force was able to train and excel in this environment is a testimony to their toughness and dedication. I am also extremely proud of the fact that we did all this without a single serious injury throughout the entire rotation! That is truly the mark of a great organization and professional soldiers.

The Task Force has just returned from a well-deserved block leave and we now are faced with the task of having to deploy again back to the desert. The Brigade has received a deployment order and we will have to deploy back to the desert in early January 2003. The Task Force will be deploying as part of Operation Enduring Freedom- America's ongoing war against terrorism. We will be conducting intra-theater security missions, maintenance of pre-positioned equipment, and mission-essential training. There has been no decision on going to war with Iraq and that decision will only be made by the Commander in Chief. If America goes to war against Iraq, it is almost certain that Task Force 1-15 Infantry will be part of that combat force.

Nobody wishes for war, but if it comes you can be certain that there is no force that is better prepared for combat than Task Force 1-15 Infantry. Our soldiers know that desert, their equipment is in perfect condition, and they have honed their warfighting skills to a fine edge over the last several months. I have no doubt our soldiers will defend our great nation proudly and with distinction.

One key question everyone has is how long the deployment will last. Unfortunately, nobody knows for sure. Obviously, the duration of our stay is based on the situation in Iraq. I would estimate that our deployment would last between 3 to 6 months depending on the situation. We all hope it will be shorter rather than longer but I don't want to promise a short deployment and then have to disappoint families with bad news.

We are still planning on conducting the 15th Infantry Regiment Rendezvous 16 – 17 April 2003. Our deployment could impact that and we will make a decision in February if it doesn't look like we will be able to get back in time to stick with those dates. If we are not able to conduct the Rendezvous in April, we will probably postpone the event till fall of 2003. We will work with the association to send out a letter giving and update on the situation in February so everyone can make plans accordingly.

We just moved into our new battalion headquarters here at Fort Benning. The old building was literally falling apart and we are

1st Battalion continues on Page 5.

The Dragon

Officers

The Dragon is the quarterly publication of the 15th Infantry Regiment Association. It is published in January, April, July and October. Neither its editorial nor articles content carry official endorsement of the Association. Input for the Dragon is due the 15th of each month prior to publishing.

Lenny Lessor.....President
 Michael J. Horn.....Editor
 Lloyd D. WhitmerTreasurer

Objectives of the Association

- To perpetuate and foster the history and traditions of the Regiment.
- To provide opportunities for uniting past and present members of the Regiment into a close and cooperative alliance.
- To promote morale and high esprit de corps among members of the Regiment.
- To acquire and maintain a repository of regimental historical memorabilia.
- To assist in the maintenance of monuments dedicated to the units of the 15th Infantry Regiment.

Send dues and new addresses to:

Lloyd D. Whitmer
 7500 Mose Road
 Navarre, Ohio 44662
 ☎ 330-756-2803

Annual dues \$10 for regular members and \$5 for active duty members, due October 1 each year.

Life membership: To age 60 = \$150; Age 61-69 = \$120; Age 70-79 = \$100; Age 80 and above = \$50.

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President's Message

By Ed Dojutrek

I'd like to begin by saying that the Board of Trustees of the Association want to wish both the 1st and 3rd Battalions a safe and successful deployment and a safe return home.

This is my first news release since taking over the Presidency due to the illness of our President, Leonard Lassar. In the interim we have held our 15th Regimental Banquet in conjunction with the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division's Annual Reunion in Buffalo, New York.

The Banquet was well organized, well attended and a complete success. Upon the conclusion of the Reunion we all departed for our homes and looked forward to upcoming events of the Regimental Association and began making plans for our annual "Can Do Rendezvous" which is held in the Spring of each year hosted by one or the other of our two Active Battalions. Contact was soon made with LTC John W. Charlton, Commander of 1st Battalion at Fort Benning, and he confirmed that he desired to host the Rendezvous at Fort Benning.

The initial dates of April 16-17, 2003 were determined with a schedule of events to be developed upon redeployment of the Battalion from Kuwait and a few days of well-deserved leave. The Battalion completed its redeployment on December 1, 2002 and became operational December 17, 2002. The plans for the Rendezvous were cut short however when the Battalion received orders for re-deployment back to the Desert in early January 2003.

LTC Charlton has submitted his report on the activities of his unit and the future plans for the Rendezvous on separate pages of this publication. In his message he firmly states his intentions of conducting a "Can Do Rendezvous" scheduled for April 16-17 2003, if conditions are favorable.

The Board Of Trustees of the Association is placed in a holding pattern in view of the situation with the active Battalion. As the primary purpose of the Rendezvous is to reunite both inactive and active members for a social and cultural exchange in a spirit of camaraderie we have no other alternative but to wait until sometime in February when a final decision is made whether we will have a Rendezvous in April of 2003. Upon receiving the information, pro or con, we will notify the membership as soon as possible by U.S. Mail if not possible thru the Dragon.

In closing, I want to wish the Board of Trustees and the General Membership a belated Happy Holidays and a Healthy and Happy New Year and express my thanks to all for the great support that I have received in conducting the affairs of our highly successful and recognized Association. You all exemplify the true meaning of our well-known Motto, "Can Do."

Chaplains Corner

By LTC Chuck Trout, Sr.

Dear God, We ask that You would be with us as we begin another year. We thank You for all You have given us in the past. For this great country, for our freedoms, and for the men and women who protect our country today. We ask a special blessing for the many veterans that have served their country so unselfishly and so honorably. My personal prayer is that some how, some way, we can relay to our children and grand children that the freedoms we currently have are not automatic, but were paid for by men and women they have never known. Finally, dear Lord, we ask that you be with this great country we call America. May we all mean it when we day, "God Bless America." Amen.



Gustave Koczman

Gus died November 8, 2002 in Saline, Michigan. He was born September 14, 1914 in Milan, MI. He entered our Army in 1941. At the end of World War II he was serving as a corporal in Company L. Gus was a member of the Association since 1994. Reported by his wife Elizabeth.

Raymond Thomas Stephens

Ray served with the Regiment in Korea from April 1951 to February 1952. He died September 29, 2002 in Ashtabula, OH. Reported by Martin Markley.

Alvin McFate

Alvin died on November 17, 2002 at his home with his family. He was 84. SGT McFate served in the Regiment during WWII. He was originally from Tacoma, Washington. His awards and decorations included the ETO Medal with four campaign stars. Reported by Frank Reynolds.

Richard G. Stilwell, Jr.

COL Stilwell died November 23, 2002 of injuries sustained in an automobile accident in Los Angeles, CA. Richard was the Guest Speaker at the Regimental Dinner in Buffalo, NY September 13, 2002. Richard's father commanded the Regiment in Korea from November 1952 to May 1953. Reported by his daughter, Karen Bralove Stilwell.

Mail Call



Barbara Donish
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My father (who is now 88 yrs old) had a brother, William Donish who was killed, as he stated, "the day before the peace treaty was signed." The only information my Dad can remember currently is William entered the Army in March, 1942 and was in the 15th Infantry. He was killed after the Battle of the Bulge; and said that the government at one time told the family William was killed in Germany after stepping on a landmine and another time stated he was shot dead in France. I would love to gather any information possible for my Dad; and also my family. Dad is so happy that I am interested enough to request information. Please help.

Wayne Guy
7622 North State Street
Lowville, New York 13367
guy@northnet.org

My uncle, Lt. George W. Guy, was in I Company. He was killed in action in Italy Dec. 22, 1943. I would like to hear from anyone who may have met him.

Dan Braucher
710 73rd Ct.
Willowbrook, IL 60527-5518

I want to take this opportunity to give everyone an update on my close friend and Association President, Leonard Lassar. He has been having serious symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. As a result it was necessary to admit him in the local VA Hospital. I received this info from his wife, Dolly. I called Leonard for a short conversation ending with a holiday greeting. I'd like everyone from the Association to drop Leonard a card or letter of encouragement. I'm writing this as a short tribute to Leonard and all medics who volunteer for their tough job. As a platoon leader and company CO in George Company, I know how important a good medic is. Leonard was one of the best you could have. After the battle to hold OP Harry in June '53, Leonard was severely wounded by a mine when attending to a wounded comrade. He woke up in Tokyo General Hospital packed in ice. He has had a 100% disability ever since. Please send out a note to Leonard at the address on page 2 of the Dragon.

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I am an university student in my last year of an Economics and Business Studies degree. I am an Italian researcher of World War II. In fact I am writing a book about World War II. In particular I would like to reconstruct the events which took place in my hometown, Presenzano, a little village in the Volturno area, next to Mignano Monte Lungo (about 10 Kilometres), San Pietro Infine (about 16 Kilometres) and Venafrò (about 15 Kilometres). I am writing to you because I know that you are a good source of historical facts about military operations and units. According to my documentation the Fifth Army camped in Presenzano from November 1943. In my town there was an American field hospital. As you certainly know, Presenzano is situated in the vicinity of Mignano Monte Lungo (about 10 Kilometres) where for the first time from 8 September 1943, the Italian Army (First Motorized Group) fought with the Allied nations and Americans. I have a copy of a letter written by General Clark on 25 February 1980 to a citizen of my little village, where General Clark affirmed that Fifth Army Headquarters was at Presenzano as were the headquarters of other units before. I also have several articles about Presenzano written by Ernie Pyle on November and December 1943. From the National Archives and Records Administration I found a motion picture film with this title: "American soldiers, Presenzano, Italy (New Year's Day Meal)"; Production Date: 1944. From this Archive I have obtained 15 photos that verifying that General Mark Clark's Fifth Army camped in Presenzano during this period. On a photo there are LTG George Patton, Jr., CG, US 7th Army, and MG Geoffrey Keyes, CG, II Corps, at Presenzano area on 8 January 1944. On another photo of 29 February 1944 I can see LTG Mark W. Clark, CG, US Fifth Army, with MG Willis D. Crittenberger and MAJ Henry C. Lodge, staff officer, at Fifth Army Headquarters of Presenzano.

On a photograph of 6 November 1943 there is an American soldier, CPL John E. Iovino, Lawrence, Mass., hugging his aunt whom he discovered in the Italian town of Presenzano. The aunt and family had lived in the US until 1930, when they returned to Italy. On a photo of 27 February 1944 there is the visit of General Giraud, Commander in Chief of French Forces, to LTG

Mail Call continues on Page 6.



1st Battalion continued from the front page.

starting to get settled in the new building. We will do as much as we can before we deploy again. One key project will be the movement of the China Room to the new headquarters. As I'm sure you all know, the China Room contains 15th Infantry memorabilia and artifacts. It is a mini museum and the contents of the room are extremely valuable. It is a living legacy of the great soldiers of the Regiment and 1-15 Infantry is the custodian for the China Room. We are in the process of inspecting each item, properly cataloging those items, and moving them to the new room. This process will take 3 – 4 months and we will enlist the help of the US Army Infantry Museum with this important project. My goal is to rededicate the China Room in the new headquarters when we do the next Regimental Rendezvous. It will be a great event and I'll keep everyone updated on the China Room move.

We recently conducted an induction ceremony for the Sergeant Audie L. Murphy Club (Rock of the Marne Chapter). This organization recognizes exceptional performance and leadership of selected Non-Commissioned Officers in the 3rd Infantry Division. Only one percent of all NCOs across the Army receive this honor and it is truly a significant accomplishment. The Third Infantry Division Command Sergeant Major, CSM Kellman, was the honored guest for the ceremony. 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry inducted four outstanding NCOs (most in the Brigade!) into this elite club. The Can-Do NCOs recently inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy club are:

- Staff Sergeant Juan Guerro, A CO, 1-15 Infantry
- Staff Sergeant Tarrol W. Peterson, A CO, 1-15 Infantry
- Staff Sergeant Daniel Akens, B CO, 1-15 Infantry
- Staff Sergeant Thomas R. Morgan, B CO, 1-15 Infantry

These great Can-Do leaders set the example for the Dragon Battalion and the Army and we are proud of their efforts.

The back-to-back deployments that 1-15 Infantry will have to endure are extremely hard on soldiers and their families. However, I assure you that every soldier in the Battalion Task Force is fully aware of the importance of this mission and fully dedicated to defending his country. They all recognize that their sacrifices are extremely important to the security of our nation. If Iraq is allowed to continue to produce weapons of mass destruction, is only a matter the time until those horrific weapons are used against American civilians. I am very grateful for the support the 15th Regimental Association gives to all the soldiers during this very difficult time. It is the combined strength and character of all 15th Infantry Soldiers, past and present that will allow us to accomplish any mission and return home safely. I ask you to continue to remember our soldiers in your prayers and look forward to seeing everyone soon at the Regimental Rendezvous. **CAN DO!**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By John Burke

Although the Association membership showed a gain in new members over the past year, the total membership number decreased. Losses over the year include those for whom TAPS has sounded and those who have become delinquent in payment of dues. Personal notices were mailed in November 2002 to each regular member not paid by the due date and urged to pay by the end of the grace period, January 1, 2002. Those still delinquent as of January 1, 2003 were dropped from the active membership rolls and the mailing list for the Association newsletter, *The Dragon*.

The Board of Trustees has extended a special invitation for reinstatement to those still unpaid. The invitation is made along with the letters distributing the annual raffle tickets. The invitation allows those bringing their dues up to date to have their membership reinstated with no break in membership.

Currently there are near 100 members for which a valid mailing address cannot be determined. Efforts to determine a forwarding address have been unsuccessful. Consequently these have been dropped from the mailing list for *The Dragon*. Efforts will continue to determine valid addresses to retain the members

on the rolls.

Shown below are the numbers of Association members by type and periods of service.

Members By Type	
Regular Life	179
Regular Annual	348
Associate Life	1
Associate Annual	<u>8</u>
Total	536

Periods Represented	
China Hand	6
World War II	166
Korean War	257
Cold War	55
Ready Forces	40
Unknown	3
Associate	<u>9</u>
Total	536

Mail Call continued from Page 4.

Mark W. Clark at Fifth Army Headquarters.

On the "LIFE" magazine of January 1944 there is a sketch of George Biddle, one of best-known US artists (that probably was with a battalion of the U.S. Third Infantry Division) of a dead citizen of Presenzano. The article on this magazine is: "A dead Italian lies in a coffin. Americans found him when they came into Presenzano. He had been put to work by the Germans digging gun emplacements and trenches. Later, on Halloween, they shot him at night behind a haystack. In spite of such cruelties as this, the Germans are usually well disciplined and committed few wanton atrocities. They are, however, ruthlessly logical, and will do anything necessary for military advantage".

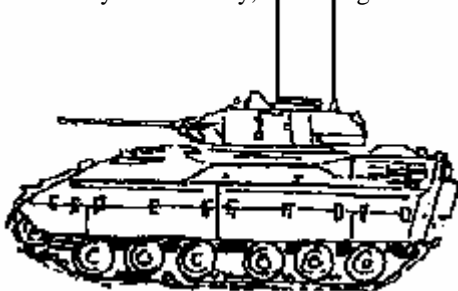
During World War II several people died in Presenzano: The Germans killed 10 citizens. I do not know which German units were in my little town or the units of other nations.

I'd like to hear from any soldiers that may have stopped in my hometown. I hope that you will be able to provide me with some materials of these events from World War II in my little town (military map, videos, images, pictures, magazine articles, any information). It would be very useful to me. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Note: Starting on page 95 in the book by Donald Taggart, *The History of the Third Infantry Division in World War II*, "...and as October ended patrols were as far north as Presenzano, where the 3rd was to assist the 45th Division in effecting another crossing of the Volturno..... On the night of October 28-29 2nd Lt Greer, S-2, of the 2nd Battalion 30th Infantry Regiment established a listening post and reconnoiter the outskirts of Presenzano, coming under enemy fire..... Early on the morning of November 1, Lt Greer met 15th Infantry Regiment troops as they entered Presenzano..."

Dr. Bernhard Lehmann
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Germany
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Fax 0821/491871
zonaras@gmx.de

I am a historian and would like to write a history of Gersthofen (near Augsburg in Bavaria) at the end of World War II. I am especially interested in the last days of the war here in Gersthofen and the handing over of the city to the American troops. The then Mayor of the city, Mr Georg Wendler was a



Nazi and did not hand over the city, instead of him a doctor and a restaurant owner handed over the place to the incoming American troops from the 3rd Battalion. Gersthofen was bombarded because the mayor didn't want to hand it over voluntarily. The bombardment took place in the afternoon of April 27th, 1945. I am seeking any accounts or reports of what took place at that time. How was the former mayor treated by American troops, was he punished? Why didn't he cooperate? Who became the new mayor of the place? The relevant time is between April 25 and May 21st, 1945. I only know that it was the 15th Infantry that occupied Gersthofen on April 27th in the evening. I would be very glad if you could help me.

Dan Champagne
PSC 2 Box 10729
APO AE 09012
dvchampagne@t-online.de

I'm currently in the process of writing a biography on Keith L. Ware (1st and 2nd Battalion Commander, Regimental XO in WWII). Does anyone know where I can obtain any information on him? Also, I'm interested in conducting interviews with anyone who served with Ware during WWII. I'm looking specifically for someone who has information regarding the type of soldier, person, and/or leader he was. I would appreciate any help you could give me.

Richard McKiddy
9520 N Twinkling Shadows Way
Tucson, AZ 85716

I would like to acquaint the membership of this Association with a recently published book which chronicles a small part of this great regiment's history.

The book is entitled Patton's Bulldog - The Life and Service of General Walton H. Walker. Although the entire book is engrossing reading, Chapter 4 ("On China Station") reveals some of what it was like to be assigned to China during the period General (then Major) Walker was in command of the 2nd Battalion. I'm sure the "China Hands" will recognize some of the geography (Hai River, Tientsin, T'angshan, the American Barracks in the German Concession southeast of Tientsin's main area on the west bank of the Hai River.) There is interesting information about living conditions, recreational activities and training conducted. I believe our members will find the chapter especially interesting and informative as well as quite amusing in places. General

Mail Call continues on Page 8.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of Association Officers will be conducted at the annual business meeting held during the next Can Do Rendezvous. The newly elected officers will be installed in the office at the Regimental Dinner during the next Society of the Third infantry Division Reunion. The term of office is two years.

A Call for Nominations of Candidates for election was published in the October edition of *The Dragon*. The resulting list of nominees is shown on the Absentee Ballot below. No nominations were received for Vice President, Secretary and one Trustee. In accordance with the Association Constitution and Bylaws, during the annual business meeting when elections are held, nominations for vacant offices may be accepted from the floor.

The absentee ballot is to be used only by those members who are unable to attend the business meeting.

-----✂-----CLIP & MAIL-----✂-----

INSTRUCTIONS: Indicate your acceptance, Yes or No for the slate of officers listed.

President	Edward E. Dojutrek	Yes___ No___
Treasurer	Lloyd D. Whitmer	Yes___ No___
Trustees	Whitney P. Mullen	Yes___ No___
	Roger Lochman	Yes___ No___
	Pat O'Connor, Jr.	Yes___ No___
	Henry H. Burke	Yes___ No___

YOUR NAME _____
(Please Print)

YOUR SIGNATURE _____

Complete the above and mail to Edward E. Dojutrek , address shown on page 2. Absentee ballots must be mailed in time to arrive not later than April 7, 2003.

-----✂-----CLIP & MAIL-----✂-----

A Week of Generals By Chaplain (CPT) Steve Hommel

Editors Note: Task Force 3-15 IN distributes a regular newsletter while they are deployed to Kuwait. *The Can Do Bayonet* is assembled and edited by Chaplain Hommel. The following is an excerpt from the December 5th issue.

I knew I would see stars in the desert I just did not think to see so many of them on lapels. It has been an exciting week. General Shinseki, the Army Chief of Staff, and Major General Blount, the 3d Infantry Division Commander, both visited us on Tuesday, followed by Major General Thurman on Thanksgiving, and Chief Of Chaplains, Major General Gunhus on Sunday. One of my jobs as a chaplain is to monitor the morale of our soldiers, and I can tell you that the obvious regard that these senior leaders have for Task Force 3-15 was

a great boost for morale. Another great morale booster was the outstanding Thanksgiving Day feast that the TF cooks prepared for us in the dining facility. It was kind of heart warming to see the soldiers so excited about their dinner. We even had a live turkey penned up outside as a sort of mascot. However, the next day the turkey disappeared without a trace, and no one seems to know what happened to it, --*either that or they are not talking*. The case is still open, but as of now there are no leads, the disappearance and current whereabouts of the turkey remains a mystery. God bless you!

TF 3-15 Infantry consists of the following subordinate units
 HHC 3-15 IN
 A Co 3-15 IN
 B Co 3-15 IN
 B Co 4-64 AR
 2nd Platoon/B Battery/1-3 ADA

Mail Call continued from Page 6.

Walker's tour covered the years 1930 to 1934.

This book is of particular interest to me, but I was only a glint in my father's eye in 1930, having arrived for duty in this world on April 21, 1931.

I was stationed in Japan from 1949 to 1951 and was a member of the 502nd Reconnaissance Platoon (Prov), 8th Army, in Yokohama. From 1949 to December 1950, the unit was a provisional cavalry unit (two M-24 light tanks, an 4-39 personnel carrier, and several scout jeeps). Our primary function, outside of training, was to provide personal security for the Eighth Army Commanding General (Gen. Walton H. Walker) during the occupation of Japan. With the outbreak of hostilities on the Korean Peninsula in June 1950, the unit was divided with part going with Eighth Army Forward to Korea. The remaining part was assigned to the Walker family in Yokohama. On December 23, 1950, General Walker was killed in a vehicular accident while en route to the front lines. And now, as Paul Harvey of radio fame says, here's the rest of the story. There were three of us in the 502nd Recon that were especially close friends. After the General's death, we three volunteered (whether from temporary insanity, or devotion to duty - probably a little of each) for combat duty. The 3rd (Division) Repo Depo was very happy to accommodate us, sending us all to Company C, 15th Infantry Regiment. Well, as wars tend to do, we found ourselves a little out of touch and rotated individually when our turns came to go home. Decades passed and in 1992, shortly after my return from a revisit to Korea, I joined the Society of the Third Infantry Division. Shortly after that I received a telephone call from Andrew Gunderson who had seen my name in the division association roster. Andrew was a founding or charter member of the 15th Infantry Association and one of my buddies who, with me, volunteered many decades earlier. I joined the 15th association and Andy and I reunited in 1992 and every year after until 1998. We decided to try to locate the other buddy - the third musketeer - George F. Shelton. We tried. For years we tried. It was our favorite topic at our mini (2 people) reunions. Then, one day in the summer of 1998, Andy called. His daughter had found George Shelton and he told me to hang up as George was about to call me.

To make an already long story short, it was like time had stood still - we were 19 again, buddies again! A reunion was planned for all three of us to attend the reunion (regimental and division) in Savannah, Georgia in September 1998. It would be the first time since 1951 that we would all be together. It was not to be. Andy Gunderson died in July 1998, of natural causes. George F. Shelton, who had just joined the 15th Infantry Association, died in August 1998, while flying his Vietnam era recon plane in an air show in his home state of Massachusetts.

Tragedy teaches many lessons. It effects us all in different ways. I was more proud of my 15th Infantry and Third Division companions (all of you, not just Andy and George) when I attended the reunion a few weeks later. I sang the "Dog

Face Soldier" a little bit more gustily. I was immensely proud of the young soldiers from Forts Stewart and Benning. I became even more aware that soldiering and combat bonds young men and women more than any other activity possibly could, save family ties. So, a final word to the young soldiers of the 15th Regiment and Third Division - Hold your banners high, keep your faith in your buddies and let them know you are by their sides in thick and thin. Trust in them and give them your trust, and, most of all, Keep In Touch! Can Do

MAJ Jon A. Ring
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I finished CGSC a couple of months ago and moved to Korea. I am the S3 for the UNCSB-JSA up in Pan Mun Jom. My family is living down in Seoul and I get to see them from time to time. I have been thinking a lot about the Can-doers since my arrival here. I'd really like to hear from everyone who served over here during the Korean War. I would like to get some good info from everyone to support some Officer Professional Development (OPD) training throughout the Korean Theater of Operations. I would just as well get the info from the horses mouth.

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APO AP 96251-5162
RingJA@usfk.korea.army.mil

Thought that I would drop a quick note and let you know about the trip that I took my boys on over to the vicinity of OP HARRY. On 9 SEP 02, the entire operations shop from the UNCSB-JSA took a little trip to the east to visit the area around OP HARRY. As it turns out, my Assistant S3 who is a ROK CPT commanded a company in the 3 ID (ROK) that occupies that portion of the DMZ today. He set up an awesome tour to the AO for us. We were not able to visit the actual ground because there are not friendly elements occupying it now, but were able to visit adjacent OPs and receive briefings of actions during the war and recent nKPA activities. The area has become very vegetated over the last couple of decades as has most of the DMZ, but the soldiers gained a great appreciation for the terrain and the tenacity of soldiers who fought on it. I, personally, was able to more accurately visualize some of the events that I have read about and, more importantly, heard about from veterans

Mail Call continues on Page 11.

NEW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Salvatore DiFranco
1936 Danbury West
Okemos, MI 48864
I Co, Korea, Apr 52- Mar 53

Donald C. Dingee
9031 E. Seneca St.
Tucson, AZ 85715
B Co, Korea, Apr-Jul 53

Harry J. Halenda
1064 Surrey Rd.
Philadelphia, PA 19115
L Co, WWII, Jun41-Dec43

Robert R. Hood
253 Meadors Drive
Alma, AR 72921
G Co, Korea, Apr 51- Jan 53

Jushua W. Krupa
4374 Faircraft Ct.
Concord, CA 94521
A Co, Dec 01- Present

John F. Rigby
6446 Fulton Mill Rd.
Lizella, GA 31052
HHC, Korea, Dec 52-Mar 53

Gregory G. Riggs
12116 NE 164th St.
Bothell, WA 98011
1st Battalion, Mar 78-Mar 81

George M. Strodel
75 Canterbury Ln.
Kenmore, NY 14217
HHC, Korea, Jul-Oct 54

Blair M. Turner
160 York St.
Chester, SC 29706
1st Battalion, 1978-81

Stephen M. Twitty
13 Wynn Place
Fort Stewart, GA 31315
HHC 3-15
1991-93 & Jun 01- Present

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1, 2002, thru December 7, 2002

By Lloyd D Whitmer, Treasurer

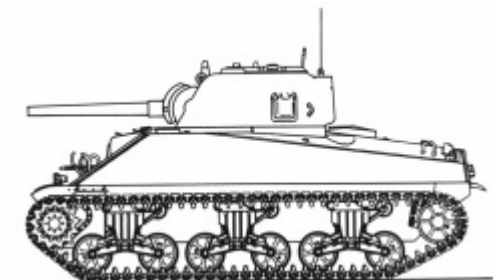
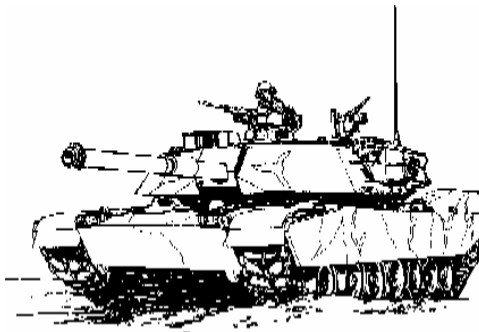
This unaudited interim report is being presented to give you an idea of the financial condition of the Fifteenth Infantry Regiment Association.

Our annual raffle conducted through the tireless efforts of Richard Guimond and his semi-volunteer staff has bolstered our over all balance by \$2,834.00. \$800.00 was paid out to five lucky winners, and as in the past \$500.00 was transferred into the life fund.

We have added **TWENTY-TWO new "life members"** so far this year. \$1870.00, the amount paid for life memberships, has been transferred to the "Life Membership" account plus a generous \$25.00 donation specifically earmarked by the donor for the "Life Fund." This money is being held in our account at Vanguard. The balance in the Life Fund is \$14,680.19. This amount plus future "Life Dues" will be held to insure that the association can carry on in perpetuity and it will help insure that the publishing of the "Dragon" will continue for years to come.

Thanks to donations from several of our members in response to the notice in the January "Dragon," our Awards & Monument fund has increased by \$545.00 bringing that fund up to a total of \$1,575.00; this is also being held in our Vanguard Fund, along with our savings of \$5480.00. The overall balance in our Vanguard account is \$21,735.19.

The officers of the Fifteenth Infantry Regiment allowed no reimbursement for salaries, travel, and food or lodging; they are allowed only "out of pocket" expenses for postage, phone, office supplies, etc.



15th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2002 thru DECEMBER 7, 2002

INCOME			
BALANCE 1-01-02 in CHECKING ACCT.		\$2,765.68	
YEARLY DUES	\$2,995.00		
LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$1,870.00		
ASSOCIATE DUES	\$30.00		
DONATIONS (General Fund)	\$569.00		
DONATIONS (Monument Fund)	\$545.00		
DONATIONS (Life Fund)	\$25.00		
RAFFLE	\$2,834.00		
MISC INCOME	\$246.00		
DINNER TICKETS (10th Annual Reunion - Buffalo)			
Received	\$5626.00		
Less Refunds	\$252.00		
Total	\$5374.00	\$5,374.00	
TRANS FROM SAVINGS (8-16-02)	\$2,000.00		
2002 INCOME (to date)	\$16,488.00	\$16,488.00	
1-01-02 BALANCE PLUS INCOME to 12-7-02		\$19,253.68	
EXPENSES			
PAYMENTS TO RAFFLE WINNERS	\$800.00		
RAFFLE EXPENSES	680.36		
REIMBURSEMENTS to OFFICERS	\$1,085.63		
DRAGON EXPENSES 2002	\$2,587.86		
PAYMENTS to VENDORS	\$610.50		
OP-5 Advertisement in Buffalo Dinner Program	\$50.00		
OP-5 10th Annual Dinner, Buffalo	\$5,321.19		
TRANSFERRED to VANGUARD, Savings	\$4,000.00		
TRANSFERRED to VANGUARD, Life Fund	\$2,370.00		
TRANSFERRED to VANGUARD, Monument Fund	\$545.00		
SOC of the THIRD INF DIV (see note "a")	\$10.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES to 12-7-02	\$18,060.54	\$18,060.54	
CHECKING ACC'T BALANCE 12-7-02			\$1,193.14
AWARDS & MONUMENT FUND		\$1,575.00	
SAVINGS FUND		\$5,480.00	
LIFE FUND		\$14,680.19	
TOTAL in VANGUARD ACCOUNT			\$21,735.19
TOTALCASH ASSETS as of 12-7-02			\$22,928.33
(note "a") DUES FOR THE THIRD DIVISION SOCIETY SENT TO THE 15th IN ERROR			

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Following are changes to the Constitution and Bylaws recommended by the Board of Trustees. The purpose is to establish policy for filling vacant Association elected officer positions at times other than annual election of officers. The changes will be presented to the membership for approval at the annual membership meeting during the 2003 Can Do Rendezvous. Those unable to attend may cast an absentee ballot by completing and mailing the ballot below prior to April 7, 2003.

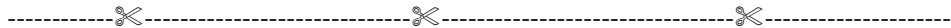
ADD TO CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE VI - MANAGEMENT

6.6 VACANCIES: In the event a vacancy occurs in an elected office position the following policy will apply:

6.6.1 The office of President will be filled by the Vice President.

6.6.2 Other offices will be filled by Presidential appointment with approval of the Board of Trustees.

6.6.3 Officers filling vacancies will hold office for the remaining term of that office.



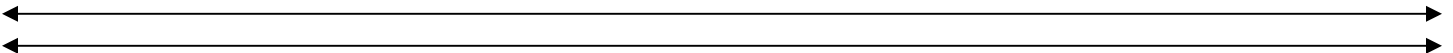
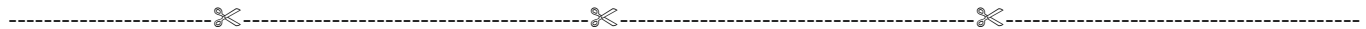
ABSENTEE BALLOT: CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

NAME: _____
(Print)

Please Mark One: _____ Yes, for the changes
_____ No, against changes

SIGNATURE: _____

Mail to:  Edward Dojutrek
(Prior to April 7) 3303 Far View Drive
Austin, TX 78730-3300



Mail Call continued from Page 8.

during the Can Do Rendezvous and other association gatherings. It boosted the already high degree of respect that I have for the 15th Regiment's veterans. We got a few digital pictures of the area and, if you would like, I can send them along. We also visited the 2d NKPA tunnel which was discovered in the area. The day was concluded with some fun - white water rafting on a local river.

15th Infantry Regiment Association
Michael J. Horn, Editor
1833 Walker Ridge Drive
Marietta, GA 30064-4193

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