

January 2016

*Fifteenth Infantry Regiment*  
*"The Old China Hands"*



The DRAGON

[www.15thinfantry.org](http://www.15thinfantry.org)

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Fellow Old China Hands,

Happy New Year! I wish all of you a happy, healthy, and rewarding 2016.

Our Regiment starts the New Year short-handed. 1-15 IN was inactivated in a short ceremony on Kelley Hill at Fort Benning the afternoon of 15 December. I am including a report on the events of 15 December elsewhere in this issue. 3-15 IN is assuming the duties of Regimental HQ and is preparing to receive the China Room, which at the time of my writing is scheduled to be transported to Fort Stewart on 5 January.

In response to my call to action, John Campbell is now our Constitution and By Laws Chairman and has pretty much assumed the job of publicity chairman and membership chairman, until we find other members willing to take those positions! Major Andrew Lerch has volunteered to take over the Editor's duties beginning with the next issue of the Dragon. We still have other open positions!!!

I was honored to deliver a presentation on the Battle of Chickamauga to CPT Jason Briscoe's Crusader Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, on 9 December. Afterwards Monika and I visited Shiloh National Battlefield Park on the Tennessee River near the Mississippi border on 13 December. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion saw its first combat action of the Civil War there on 7 April 1862. The battlefield is well-tended, well-marked, and the introductory video at the visitors' center well-done. Walking the ground where our Regiment fought was truly inspiring, and it was made more so by having "That Body of Brave Men" by Mark Johnson there with me for reference!

I reported on my visit to Colonel Ben Hamilton in Hampton, VA in the last issue. As reported then, he passed away in August. Monika and I had the great honor to be present for his burial at Arlington National Cemetery on 28 December. We received the greatest compliment from Mrs. Hamilton as she introduced to everyone present as "the Can Do people!"

Mike Horn continues to administer our outstanding website. Please recommend it to your friends and use it as a recruiting tool. We need new members to keep the Association going! Also, the time has come to choose new Association leaders. We have not held an election in many years and are operating well outside our Constitution and By Laws. Please consider running for one of our elective offices – President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustee (there are four trustees). I plan for us to conduct the election over the summer so new officers may be inducted in September at the Association Business Meeting to be held in conjunction with the reunion of the Society of the 3d Infantry Division in Gettysburg. Do we have any volunteers to serve as the Nominations and Elections Chairman? Can Do! Tim

| <b>Association Officers and Staff</b>  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>President</b><br/>                     Timothy R. Stoy<br/>                     6531 Milva Lane<br/>                     Springfield, VA 22150<br/>                     703-912-4218<br/>                     timmoni15@yahoo.com</p>                      | <p><b>Commander 3rd Battalion</b><br/>                     LTC Nathan Minami<br/>                     594 Vanguard Road STE 3071<br/>                     Ft. Stewart, GA 31314<br/>                     912-435-7697<br/>                     nathan.a.minami.mil@mail.mil</p>   | <p><b>Editor, The Dragon</b><br/>                     Major Andrew G. Lerch<br/>                     15302 Iris Lane<br/>                     Dumfries, VA 22025<br/>                     76-325-3705<br/>                     andrew.g.lerch.mil@mail.mil</p>  |
| <p><b>Vice President</b><br/>                     Addison D (Tad) Davis IV<br/>                     78 Spring Pond Lane<br/>                     Spring Lake, NC 28390<br/>                     703-772-4558<br/>                     tad.davis117@gmail.com</p> | <p><b>CSM, 3rd Battalion</b><br/>                     CSM Shawn Carns<br/>                     594 Vanguard Road Ste 3071<br/>                     Ft. Stewart, GA 31314<br/>                     912-435-7698<br/>                     shawn.f.carns.mil@mail.mil</p>  | <p><b>Trustee</b><br/>                     Richard N. McKiddy<br/>                     12105 East Court<br/>                     Kansas City, MO 64133<br/>                     816-509-7633</p>  |
| <p><b>Secretary</b><br/>                     SGM Sam Aarons<br/>                     8747 Marne Road<br/>                     Ft. Benning, GA 31905<br/>                     706-544-3843<br/>                     samuel.aarons@us.army.mil</p>                 | <p><b>China Room Custodian</b><br/>                     CPT Dennis k. Helms<br/>                     Battalion S-2, 3rd Battalion<br/>                     1110 E Victory Drive Apt 2<br/>                     Savannah, GA 31404<br/>                     850-559-5535<br/>                     dennis.k.helms4.mil@mail.mil</p> | <p><b>Trustee</b><br/>                     Leonard L. Lassar<br/>                     690 Salman Fall Road<br/>                     Rochester, NH 03868<br/>                     603-335-3554<br/>                     lenlassor@myfairpoint.net</p>            |
| <p><b>Treasurer</b><br/>                     Bart Viruso<br/>                     116 Harriett Road<br/>                     North Babylon, NY 11703<br/>                     631-587-0587<br/>                     viruso8@verizon.net</p>                      | <p><b>Webmaster</b><br/>                     Michael J. Horn<br/>                     1833 Walker Ridge Drive<br/>                     Marietta, GA 30064<br/>                     678-581-0392<br/>                     mhorn@15infantry.org</p>   | <p><b>Trustee</b><br/>                     Warren E. Sessler<br/>                     PO Box 938<br/>                     Ft. Leonard Wood, MO 65473<br/>                     sessler1@aol.com</p>  |
| <p><b>Membership Chairman</b><br/>                     John C. Campbell<br/>                     716 Flatwood Drive<br/>                     Clarksville, IN 47129<br/>                     812-949-2549<br/>                     campbell-j@twc.com</p>         | <p><b>Chaplain</b><br/>                     Charles C. Trout<br/>                     10191 Birchwood Drive<br/>                     Huntington Beach, CA 92646<br/>                     706-544-1735<br/>                     chaptrout33@gmail.com</p>  | <p><b>Trustee</b></p>   |
| <p><b>HSGMOR</b><br/>                     Mark T. Baker<br/>                     5415 Roaring Branch Road<br/>                     Columbus, GA 31904<br/>                     706-566-5165<br/>                     ultimabake47@gmail.com</p>                  | <p><b>Historian</b><br/>                     Timothy R. Stoy<br/>                     6531 Milva Lane<br/>                     Springfield, VA 22150<br/>                     703-912-4218<br/>                     timmoni15@yahoo.com</p>   | <p><b>Database Administrator</b><br/>                     Tom R. Heitzer<br/>                     231 Normandie Drive<br/>                     Bonne Terre, MO 63628<br/>                     314-650-4692<br/>                     theitzer001@charter.net</p> |
| <p><b>HCOR</b><br/>                     Jerry Bates<br/>                     3017 Margaret Jones Lane<br/>                     Williamsburg VA 23185<br/>                     757-645-4765<br/>                     jerrybates41@cox.net</p>                     | <p><b>Public Relations Chairman</b><br/>                     John C. Campbell<br/>                     716 Flatwood Drive<br/>                     Clarksville, IN 47129<br/>                     812-949-2549<br/>                     campbell-j@twc.com</p>  | <p><b>C &amp; BL Chairman</b><br/>                     John C. Campbell<br/>                     716 Flatwood Drive<br/>                     Clarksville, IN 47129<br/>                     812-949-2549<br/>                     campbell-j@twc.com</p>        |

# Taps



|   |  |
|---|--|
| Finton D. Cordell-LM<br>Lutherville, MD<br>SPC, MORT BTRY, REGT, CW, Oct 57-Sept 59<br>DOD 10/04/2015<br>Reported by Don Wilcox to John Burke | Michael Halik-LM-FM<br>Sparta, NJ<br>PFC, F CO, 2 BN, WII, Feb 43-Aug 45<br>DOD 11/02/2015<br>Reported by Debra Halik to Rich Heller |
| Jane Dojutrek-Assoc. LM<br>Austin, TX<br>DOD 11/26/215<br>Reported by Rich Heller   | Mahlon Taylor-LM<br>Murrells Inlet, SC<br>SGT, D CO, 1 BN, WII, Jan 45-Jul 46<br>DOD 11/19/2015<br>Reported by John Burke            |

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS BY PERIOD**

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| NUMBER OF CHINA HANDS           | 0   |
| NUMBER OF WWII MEMBERS          | 45  |
| NUMBER OF KOREA MEMBERS         | 144 |
| NUMBER OF COLD WAR MEMBERS      | 79  |
| NUMBER OF OPERATION IRAQ FORCES | 28  |
| NUMBER OF REGULAR FORCES        | 72  |
| ASSOCIATE MEMBERS               | 15  |
| TOTAL MEMBERS                   | 383 |

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE**

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| REGULAR LIFE     | 248 |
| REGULAR ANNUAL   | 120 |
| ASSOCIATE LIFE   | 11  |
| ASSOCIATE ANNUAL | 4   |
| TOTAL MEMBERSHIP | 383 |

| <h2>New Members</h2>  |  |
|---|--|
| Donald E. Carlson-Reinstated<br>Joliet, IL<br>E-4, A CO, 1 BN, CW 1966-1968 | Jason G. Briscoe<br>Upatoi, GA<br>CPT, C CO, 1 BN, RF, July 2015-                |
| Joel K. Niemann<br>Canterbury, CT<br>SPC, B CO, 1 BN, OIF, Jun 2-Nov 05     | Matthew B. Buglehall<br>Greenville, TX<br>PFC, HHC, 3 BN, CW, Jan 90-Aug 91      |
| Dennis K. Helms<br>Savannah, GA<br>CPT, HHC, 3 BN, RF, Nov 15-              | Timothy A. Litwin<br>Fort Benning, GA<br>SPC, C CO, 1 BN, CW Jun 94-Feb 96       |
| Gregory Hill-LM<br>Phenix City, AL<br>SGT, B CO, 1 BN, RF, Nov 11-Feb 15    | Anthony Shuta-LM<br>Phenix City, AL<br>SSG, D, HHC, C, 1 BN, OIF, Aug 04-Sept 15 |

January 2016

**Update on a few of our Members on Sick Call**

Tim & Monica Stoy visited long-time Association members Henry (and Pennie) Burke and Jerry Cunningham in Columbia, South Carolina on 7 December. Henry is progressing well from his stroke and broken hip and still has his contagious smile and sense of humor. Jerry is also well, staying busy being a house husband! While in Columbus, Georgia we also called on John and Elizabeth Burke in Phenix City, Alabama– both are well and recovering from their health challenges. Unfortunately these three Association stalwarts were unable to attend the inactivation ceremony and were sorely missed."

**Treasurer's Report for 2015**

**INCOME**

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 01/01/2015   | \$4,026.31 |
| DINER        | \$3,713.00 |
| DUES         | \$ 921.11  |
| DEP FROM SAV | \$1,000.00 |
| TOTAL        | \$9,660.42 |

**DISBURSTMENTS**

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| MAILING OF DRAGON AND POSTAGE | \$937.22   |
| YAHOO                         | \$155.40   |
| SERVICE CHARGE                | \$180.00   |
| PRINTING DRAGON               | \$1,593.18 |
| DINER PROGRAMS                | \$107.50   |
| DINER                         | \$4,820.51 |
| TOTAL                         | \$7,793.81 |

\$9,660.42

\$7,793.81

TOTAL \$1,866.61 AS OF 12/31 2015

WE HAVE IN CD ACCOUNT \$32,877.31

WE HAVE IN SAV \$5,692.83

1-15 IN Inactivated in 15 December 2015 Ceremony on Kelley Hill – China Room Moving to Fort Stewart



1-15 IN was inactivated in a short ceremony on Kelley Hill at Fort Benning the afternoon of 15 December. Thanks to LTC Tanner, who remains a life member of the Association, the inactivation ceremony was not followed immediately by the unit's reflagging – this kept the day a pure 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry occasion. A sizeable

number of 1-15 IN alumni were able to attend the ceremony. MG James Rainey, 3d Infantry Division Commander, was present and 3d Brigade Combat Team Commander, COL Michael Simmering, delivered farewell comments, along with LTC Tanner. After the ceremony, LTC Tanner promoted 3 battalion officers in the China Room, the last official ceremony there before it would be packed and transported to Fort Stewart. The day concluded with a very nice buffet dinner at the National Infantry Museum – a great way to end an otherwise solemn day. Association members, battalion officers, and senior NCOS of the battalion participated in a final Grog ceremony honoring the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry's long history. Association President Tim Stoy presented an Association Certificate of Appreciation to LTC Tanner for his sterling efforts to ensure Regimental tradition was observed during this trying period of transition and for sparing no efforts in ensuring there would be a safe move of the China Room to Fort Stewart. The Association also prepared another certificate for 2LT Johanna Lund, who due to training requirements was not present at the dinner or inactivation ceremony. LT Lund has been the curator of the China Room and conducted a thorough inventory of all artifacts in the China Room and within the Battalion.

I was honored to represent the Association along with Mike Horn, and happy that both our Honorary Colonel, LTG Bates, and Honorary CSM, CSM Baker, were present. Former BN Cdr Colonel Ken Harvey; Major Steve Miller, ret., a former rear-detachment commander and long time member of the battalion; and Major Andrew Lerch, another former rear-detachment commander were also able to attend the ceremony, Major Lerch flew in from Washington, DC – great dedication! Let us hope it won't be long before 1-15 IN returns to the active roles, and that 2-15 IN, inactive since 1996, also finds its way into the active force soon!

Due to binding commitments at Fort Stewart LTC Minami and CSM Carns were unable to attend the inactivation ceremony, but they did send CPT Helms, the BN S-2, to represent the battalion and to prepare for the reception of the China Room. The Army has not made the funds available for a professional moving company move so LTC Tanner's soldiers will be packing the artifacts and using rental trucks to move the China Room to Fort Stewart. We know they will spare no effort in the proper care and handling of our priceless collection. All of us have an interest as to the disposition of the collection – although it does not belong to the Army Museum System, it has been housed by our active battalions for many years. As custodians of the Regiment's proud heritage the Association remains vigilant lest the Army attempt to gain full control of the artifact collection. We are pleased 3-15 IN will be displaying the artifacts in the Battalion HQ at Fort Stewart and that the Army is paying for upgraded security in the BN HQ and is funding 1-15 IN soldiers' TDY to FT Stewart – this will allow the soldiers and officers assigned to the 3d battalion to learn from and appreciate these items representing the entire 155 year history of the Regiment.



January 2016

15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association  
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