

Fifteenth Infantry Regiment



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15th Infantry Regiment Association Newsletter

October 2001

REGIMENTAL DINNER – PHOENIX, AZ

By John Burke. The Ninth 15th Infantry Regimental Dinner in conjunction with the Society of the Third Infantry Division Reunion was held September 14, 2001 at Phoenix, AZ. On September 11 there were over 120 confirmed reservations. The cowardly terrorist attacks of that day impacted severely on the travel arrangements of many of those planning to attend the event. The Society of the Third Infantry Division initially considered postponing the reunion but after consideration of several factors decided to carry on even though it was expected that attendance would be considerably less than planned. The same situation applied to the Regimental Dinner. During the next couple of days there was a flurry of phone calls and emails to the Association President and Treasurer from members who had made reservations for the dinner. Most of the communications were regarding their efforts to secure air transportation flights. Although many were faced with no possibility of flights many others were able to complete the travel by ground transportation. Consequently, the dinner was held as scheduled and although with a less than planned attendance and the sadness of the week's events, it was a memorable Can Do affair.

Owing to the terrorist attack, some key changes were necessary to the planned dinner program. The Third Infantry Division advised that the Color Guard support could not be provided. Likewise the 1-15 Infantry and the 3-15 Infantry Battalions from Fort Benning and Fort Stewart reported that they would be unable to participate in the event. Although the attendance and participation by the active units is looked forward to from past veterans it was certainly understood where the priorities were.

Even with a reduced event schedule and attendance the dinner was considered a memorable occasion. There were 62 Can Doers and guests in attendance representing WWII, Korea, Cold War and recent Ready Forces. In addition at the dinner, as a result of invitations to other units in attendance at the Reunion, there were 18 attendees from the 9th, 10th, 39th, and 41st Field Artillery and 8 from the 7th Infantry Regiment. And after dining and just prior to the program portion of the event, 28 members of the 30th Infantry Regiment joined the assemblage. As always, the Can Do regiment leads the way and when throwing a party, others like to join in.

The President welcomed all the attendees. The President also relayed messages of regret from two special members who were unable to attend. Major General Maurice Kendall, who is the key individual credited with the founding of our great brotherhood, extended his regrets and best wishes to all attendees as well other members of the Association. Michael Halik, who had to miss his first reunion in 17 years, sent his regrets and best wishes also.

Program events of the evening included inspiring music from Wade and Cindy Hoff, the son and daughter in law of member Richard and Vera Hoff from Rapid City, SD. Richard served in G Company in Korea 1951-52. Wade and Cindy reside in the vicinity of Phoenix and were not impacted by travel restrictions. Unfortunately, Richard and Vera were unable to travel from SD. To commence the event Cindy Hoff, with her beautiful voice, led the attendees in rendering Honors to the Nation with singing of The National Anthem. During the meal, selected patriotic music was provided by the Hoffs. Later in the program Wade Hoff performed "God Bless the USA". Towards the end of the program Wade and Cindy led in the singing of a medley of patriotic songs that brought many a tear and a rousing round of applause.

The Association Chaplain, Charles Trout, delivered the Invocation at the commencement of the dinner as well as the Benediction at conclusion. In each he addressed the grief and losses of families and friends earlier in the week brought on by the terrorist attacks as well as asking God's blessings on our Association.

Regimental Dinner continued on page 3.

Check Your Address Label

This may be your last Dragon

If your address label shows 2001 your dues are paid to October 2001. If so, this is your last Dragon. Contact the Treasurer and renew your membership



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.

John Burke.....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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patoconnor2@juno.com



NEW ASSOCIATION MEMBERSNew members from the 1st and 3rd Battalions

ALEXANDER	GEORGE	T
ANSARI	KELVIN	B
BEDARD	SCOTT	J
BROOKS	LESLIE	L
BRUMFIELD	JAYHOID	O
CAMPBELL	BRYANT	
CHESHER	WILLIAM	D
FARRELL	MICHAEL	L
FREDRICK	GEORGE	L
GREENSLET	DAMIEN	H
LAFAYETTE	WILLIAM	J
LEWIS	RUSSELL	S
MERCER	JACOB	I
REYES	BENJAMIN	F
RICHARDSON	LEON	J
ROARK	TRAVIS	E
ROMAN	JOHNNY	
SHEPPARD	TYRELL	M
SMITH	ELWARNER	Q
WHITTINGTON	RICHARD	T
BIDDISCOMBE	WILLY	J
BRADLEY	KERRY	T
BROCK	JODY	E
BUCKLEY	JASON	E
CARTER	WILLIAM	A
HALEY	DARRELL	K
HEARN	KELVEN	D
JORDAN	LAWRENCE	D
MARSHALL	WOODROW	
MILLER	CARL	E
MOODY	JOSHUA	M
OSSA	GABRIEL	J
PLUMMER, JR	TERRY	D
PRAMUK	CHRISTOPHER	A
ROUTHIER	SHAUN	M
SCARVILLE	MARVIN	A
SWICEGOOD	JOHN	V
ATEN	MICHAEL	C
COMBS	DAVID	B
CONLEY	JOSEPH	E
CRAIG	JEREMY	F
FAULK	JAMES	
GUERECA	JOSE	R
HARJO	AUSTIN	A
HOPKINS	ANDREW	L
LAMAR	CHRISTIAN	N
LANDER	JEREMY	E

Regimental Dinner continued from front page

The President recognized several distinguished members who have contributed to the growth and traditions of the Association: Martin Markley, Past President of the Society of the Third Infantry Division; John Shirley, Past President of both the Society of the Third Infantry Division and the 15th Infantry Regiment Association; Jerome Sapiro, Society Chaplain, and Jim Drury, Editor of *The Watch*. Recognition was also made of the members representing various periods of service; WWII, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam, Gulf War, and Ready Forces.

Since the active units were unable to attend, for obvious reasons, The President presented an update of activities of the active units, 1-15 and 3-15 Infantry Battalions. The update was derived from reports submitted by each battalion and addressed training and operational activities conducted since the last Regimental Dinner as well as those programmed for the future. Of course the events of the past week will impact the future.

The featured speaker for the evening was Denzil Batson from Republic, MO. Denzil gave an address on some of his experiences from his initial entry into the Army at Fort Riley, KZ in 1950, subsequent training in the States, and combat with Company F in Korea 1951-1952. Denzil has chronicled some of those experiences in a book titled "We Called it War".

The President presented awards of the Association Certificate of Appreciation to Roger Lochmann, Trustee, and to Charles Trout, Chaplain, for their outstanding service and support over the past two years. The President also announced that awards of the Association Certificate of Appreciation had been made for Leon Lebowitz, Secretary, and Ronald "Pat" O'Connor for service over the past two years. The President announced that Plaques of Appreciation have been awarded to Michael Halik and Patrick Heagerty for service of two terms as Trustee. Announcement was made of Special Plaques of Appreciation for extended service to Richard Guimond, Treasurer and Publicity Chair and to Michael Horn, The Dragon Editor. All of the above latter awards will be presented at a time to be determined. In addition, Nile Stuart, who had been pressed into service by those officers of the Association unable to attend, presented Plaques to the outgoing President.

Installation of the Association Officers for 2001-2003 elected at the Can Do Rendezvous was planned to be made during the dinner. Obviously travel restrictions made the actual installation in person impossible. Instead, the President announced the slate of officers elected at the Rendezvous and published in *The Dragon* and wished them success in the conduct of Association business.

The outgoing President announced that the next Can Do Rendezvous would be announced as soon as possible but under the current situation may have to be altered due to commitments of the active units. The next Regimental Dinner with the Society of the Third Infantry Division will be in September 2002 in Buffalo, NY.

Mail Call



Robert Medeiros
175 College Park Road
Fall River, MA 02720
(508) 672 - 8027
Medrob@aol.com

Daniel A Correll was in Company C. He was killed in action sometime in the Spring of 1951. I would like to know where he is buried and where he lived. I'd also like to find any of his relatives.

Mike Taylor
7431 Hollywood Dr.
West Chester, OH 45069
513-779-9733
taylor_cm@excite.com

I'm looking for anyone who may have known my great uncle Sergeant William L. Wilmer. He was killed in action on Dec 26, 1944. Any information would be greatly appreciated

William H. Hine Sr
1225 Pin Oak Dr.
Perkiomenville, PA. 18074
215 234-0743
William.Hine@phl.boeing.com

My Father SFC Donald E. Hine, Sr. (Buck Hine) passed away in 1994. I think of him every moment of every day. I would like to hear from any of his buddies out there. He was in an Anti-Tank Platoon during WWII. He served in the Reg't between 1941 and 1945 in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Southern France and Central Europe. Please contact me if you knew my dad or know anyone who may have known him. Thanks.

Robert Yancy
8300 Wren Place
Laurel Hill, NC 28351
Jr-robert90@hotmail.com

I was with the S-2 Shop in HHC 2nd Battalion in Wildflecken from 70-73. I'd like to hear from anyone on the Top of the Rock at the same time. Thanks.

Application For Membership
15th Infantry Regiment Association

___ New Member ___ Renewal

Today's Date _____

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Middle Initial _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ - _____

Telephone (_____) _____

E-mail Address _____

Rank _____

Units served in: _____

Dates served in 15th IN: _____

Date of birth: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Type of membership desired

___ Regular Annual ___ Active Duty Annual

___ Associate Annual ___ Life ___ MOH

___ China Hand ___ World War I

Complete application. Mail with check or money order payable to the Treasurer, 15th Infantry Reg't Association.

Mail to: Treasurer, Lloyd Witmer at the address found on page 2.

Dues Schedule

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.

Reunion Registrants Unable to Attend

By Lloyd Whitmer

The Association appreciates each members intention to attend the Ninth Annual Dinner of the 15th Infantry Regiment Association held in Phoenix, AZ, during the 82nd Reunion of the Society of the Third Infantry Division. There were reservations for 120 individuals, however due to the curtailment of travel last week only sixty-two members and guests of the Reg't made it to the dinner - as well as eight guests from the 7th Infantry Regiment. There were eighteen from other units that served with our Regiment (9th, 10th, 39th, and 41st Field Artillery). After the dinner twenty-eight members of the 30th Infantry Regiment joined us to enjoy the program.

It is regrettable that the terrorist attack of September 11th ever occurred. I am sure that I speak for all of us, when I say, that our thoughts and prayers go out to those who are suffering due to injury and to those who have had a personal loss of a loved one or of an acquaintance. In this trying time it is incumbent on all of us to come forward, as we have in the past, and to encourage others to respond in whatever way we can. Collectively we will prove to the world that this is indeed a truly resilient country.

Thank you for your patience and accept our apology for taking so long to reach a decision on how our treasury should resolve the refund. As you can well understand there are expenses beyond just the cost of the meal alone.

The officers and trustees of the Association decided that the equitable thing is make a refund to those members who registered but were unable to attend due to the September 11th attack.

New Association members continued from Page 3.

LEEHAN	JAMES	W
O'DELL	JERRON	T
PALMER	GARRICK	S
PLUNKETT	MORRIS	E
RANGEL	DOMINIC	R
ROBBINS	JOHN	K
ROONEY	JOSHUA	W
RUCKER	DEMARCUS	D
SAWYER	ROBERT	C
TENDLER	JEREMY	S
THIDEMAN	SHANE	
VASQUEZ	MARCO	A
VELAZQUEZ	JOHN	H
WALKER	MATTHEW	A
WEBB	MICHAEL	K
WEBBER	DOYLE	L
WILLS	DAVID	R

New Association members continued on next page.

Chaplains Corner

By LTC Chuck Trout, Sr.

As soldiers, we have two senior commanders. One is the President, the other God. No matter how severe the problem that you may encounter, God will never give you more than you can handle. The birds in the air set a good example for us. No matter how severe the storm, after it's over, they always come out singing. You can too, if you put your life in His care. God's Word, the Bible, is an example of the involvement of God. Allow me to illustrate from the Bible.

The shortest chapter is Psalms 117.

The longest is Psalms 119.

The center is Psalms 118.

There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118.

There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118.

Adding these together equals 1188.

Psalms 118:8 is the middle verse in the Bible.

Psalms 118:8 states, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

A wise man once said, "God, I can't sleep, I have so many problems that I am worried about. I am going to hand them to you, seeing you will be up all night anyway." Remember, God has an open-door policy. You can go to Him anytime. Take advantage of it!

God Bless you all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT SEPTEMBER 2001

Membership rolls continue to increase, primarily due to the emphasis placed on membership by the active units. Totals by various categories are shown below:

MEMBERS BY TYPE

REGULAR LIFE	145
REGULAR ANNUAL	762
ASSOC LIFE	1
ASSOC ANNUAL	8
TOTAL	916

PERIODS REPRESENTED

CHINA HAND	6
WORLD WAR II	216
KOREAN WAR	260
COLD WAR	48
READY FORCES	377
ASSOCIATE	9
TOTAL	916



John J. Sayeski

Died May 31, 2001. A former PFC in C Co during WWII
 He resided at 9727 SW 55th Road Gainesville, FL 32608
 Reported by his son Peter P. Sayeski.

Dutch Eschenbauch

Donald R. Eschenbauch died August 24, 2001. A former member of Cannon Company during WWII. He resided in White Lake, WI where he is survived by his wife Vera, two daughters, a son and other family members.
 Reported by Jerry Sapiro

New Association members continued from previous page.

TEASTER	MICHAEL	F
DOUGLAS	BLAINE	B
BRANCH	JAMES	A
CORONADO JR	BEN	
MIMS	MICHAEL	
BIER	SCOTT	R
SMITH	DENNIS	W
ADAMS	OTHO	D
ADAMS	ANTONIO	Z
AIKEN	DANIEL	S
ALHSTROM	GRAHAM	B
ALLISON	WILLIAM	R
ALVAREZ	JONATHAN	S
ASBURY	NATHAN	L
BANK	JOHN	C
BANKHEAD	JAMES	T
BANKS	ROBERT	L
BARBIN	ANTHONY	L
BAVIRSHA	JEREMY	J
BEASLEY	HIRAM	L
BETHEA	COCHISE	A
BING	ROBERT	J
CANALES	JOSE	C
CARMAN	BRIAN	M
CELESTINE	MARTIN	S
CHANG	LUNSHE	
CHREECH	JOSEPH	F
COBB	JONATHAN	T

CORDOBA	EDGAR	E
COTTLES	FRANK	
COX	JOSEPH	D
CROW	EUGENE	JF
CURRY	SHAWN	W
DANIELS	DAVID	J
DENNISON	ANTHONY	T
DONALDSON	EDWARD	S
DONEGAN	THOMAS	E
DREW	CHRISTIAN	W
GAILLARD	JOHNNY	A
GILLING	ROBERT	J
GLASS	WENDELL	M
GREEN	WILLIAM	B
GUERRERO	MICHAEL	J
HADEN	TRACY	A
HARTZELL	GARY	W
HAWKINS	DUSTIN	
HAWTHORNE	LEVANDREW	R
HAYES	TIMOTHY	M
HOLLOWAY	MARCUS	A
HOOVER	DANNY	W
HUNT	GORDON	R
ISELL	THOMAS	C
JAMES	JEREMIAH	L
JOHNSON	ROBERT	E
JONES	THEADOPHIUS	K
JONES	ANTHONY	V
JONES, III	AARON	
KARNS	DENNIS	H
KELLER	BRYON	M
KENNEY	JAMES	A
KOPP	TIMOTHY	L
LANNOM	THJOMAS	W
LAURSEN	JAMES	N
LAWRENCE	EARL	L
LAWSON	JEFFREY	L
LENKO	ANDREW	P
LUBIC	DANIEL	S
MARGNELLI	JOHN	J
MELLOW	DAVID	J
MERRIWEATHER	CARNELIOUS	D
MONREAL	GABRIEL	A
MUMMA	CHRISTOPHER	
NAUSEDAT	WILLIAM	C
O'CONNOR-DALOSITIOS	XANDER	R
OLDHAM	RICHARD	N
OLIVER	DARRELL	A

New Association members continued on next page.

New Association members continued from previous page.

PIERSON	ALAN	D
RAMIREZ, JR	CHEPES	
RANDOLPH, JR	REUBEN	R
RASHID	JEDADIAH	Q
REDICH	JASON	S
REMICE	ALDO	M
RIGGINS	ANTIONE	D
RIGGS	JOEL	M
RODRIQUEZ	NICK	
TARPLEY	MATTHEW	A
TOWNSEND	JAN	R
TWICHELL	GEORGE	J
WATKINS, JR	LARRY	M
WAZEERUDEEN	JAAVAID	R
WEGESEND	DON	K
WELLY	LIPAN	A
WESTBROOK	CLARENCE	F
WETHERINGTON	GARY	E
WILLIAMS	LUCAS	A
WOOD	BRANDON	J
YOUNG	STEVEN	C
BRITT	GARY	M
DICKERSON	HARRY	L
DILLON	DOUGLAS	A
DODD	WESLEY	O
DOLAN	JOHN	A
GONZALES	SERGIO	A
HUNT	PERRY	L
KEMP	TIMOTHY	E
LAWRENCE	HARRIS	T
NAY	CHARLES	L
PAK	HAE	K
REYES	ROBERTO	
RHODAN	JEFFREY	A
SATTERFIELD	JOHN	E
SHAVER III	JAMES	S
SHIELDS	JASON	R
WARME	BRIAN	M
WILLIAMS	CHARLES	M
WILTSHIRE II	GLEN	G

Lenny's Message

I'm sorry my first message to The Dragon comes at this time, but we must carry on under these circumstances. I'll assume the office of your President with a heavy heart because of the terrorist attack upon the people of the United States. Because of the similarity of this attack and the one on Pearl Harbor, I know, We will recover. This new administration isn't going to change the good policy of the previous group of fine officers, but we have learned from them, and are planning on building from their experiences. The 15th Infantry Regiment Association has the privilege of being associated with the best Regiment in our United States Army, and with the situation we are in today, show the young service man of today how proud we are of them.

I joined the computer age three weeks ago, so if any member would like to touch base with me, at any time of the day or night, here is my E-mail address lenlassor@netzero.net

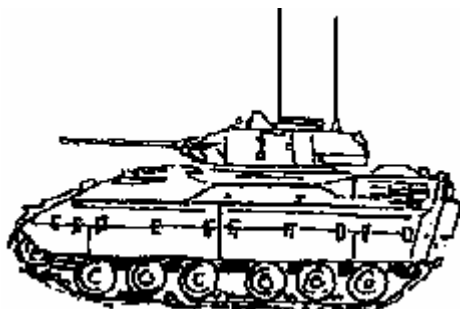
In closing Gentlemen, remember, we are Americans, we are strong, and we will survive!

Can Do
Lenny

God and the soldier we adore.
In time of danger not before.
When dangers past and all is righted.
God is forgotten, the soldier slighted

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Regimental History

By Tim Stoy

CALIFORNIA, 1902-1905

On 3 August 1902 the Regiment departed for Marivales and departed from there on the 9th to travel on to Nagasaki, arriving on the 14th. After a delay to overhaul the transport ship, the Regiment departed Japan on the 25th of August. It arrived in San Francisco on 11 September. On the 12th it disembarked and went into camp at the Presidio. At the end of the month it marched to Monterey and went into permanent camp. It would remain there until November 1905.

MORO REBELLION, 1905-1907; UTAH, 1907-1911

On 6 November 1905 the Regiment boarded the USAT "Sherman" and sailed for the Philippines. It reached the Islands on 3 December and pitched tents at Camp Overton, Mindanao on 9 December. The next day it moved to Camp Keithley, Mindanao in the middle of Moro country. Elements of the Regiment operated against the Moros throughout the period. On 15 November 1907 the Regiment sailed to Nagasaki, then further to San Francisco, arriving on 12 December. Upon its returning to the United States the Regiment was assigned to Fort Douglas, Utah. It remained there until 3 November 1911.

CHINA, 1911-1938

On 3 November the Regiment received orders to leave for foreign service. It left Fort Douglas on the 3d and arrived in San Francisco on 5 November. It went aboard the USAT "Thomas" and departed the same day. The transport arrived in Manila on 3 December and the Regiment went ashore on the 7th, taking station at Fort McKinley, Rizal. On 11 January 1912 Companies A, B, C, D and the machine gun platoon received orders for China and sailed the next day on the USAT "Logan" under the command of Major James M. Arrasmith. They arrived at Chingwangtao, China on 18 January. Detachments were at once sent to Tongshan, Kaiping, Wali, Linsi, and Leichuang to keep the Peking-Mukden Railroad open. The remaining forces proceeded to Tientsin, where they were quartered in tents. On 3 March 1912 the First Battalion and machine gun platoon, comprised of six officers and two hundred and twenty enlisted men, proceeded by rail to Peking to reinforce the Legation Guard. It returned to Tientsin on 11 March. The Regimental Headquarters, with the Third Battalion arrived in Tientsin on the 18th of March from Manila via Tongku and established permanent station. B Company was stationed at Tongshan, with the remainder of the First and Third Battalions at Tientsin. On 20 March, the 15th Infantry was raised to its statutory strength when the 2d Battalion was organized from troops already present in the Philippines. The 2d Battalion deployed from Manila to China in September 1914.

Regimental Hospital – Tientsin, China



Field Inspection – Tientsin, China



FIRST BATTALION IN PHILLIPINES, 1921-1929

The First Battalion remained in China until August of 1921, when it departed Tientsin for station at Camp Eldridge, Los Banos, Philippines. It was a small battalion then, intended to be used as a clearing house for the other battalions in China. In late 1923 the battalion moved to Fort William McKinley, Rizal which was about 10 kilometers from Manila. Officers and enlisted soldiers were placed on probation for three months before moving to China. The Battalion was inactivated on 1 April 1929 at Fort William McKinley and would remain inactive until 1940.

In 1932, Companies G and L were inactivated in China to provide personnel slots for the newly forming Army Air Corps. The 2d and 3d Battalions of the 15th Infantry remained in China until March 1938, when they were withdrawn due to the increasing belligerence of the Japanese in China. The Regiment took station at Fort Lewis, Washington. In January 1940, the 15th Regiment was assigned to the 3d Infantry Division. The First Battalion returned to active duty after an 11 year absence when it was reactivated on 23 May 1940 at Fort Lewis. This was accomplished by the reflagging the 3d Battalion, 4th Infantry. That unit had been stationed at Fort Abraham Lincoln, Bismarck, North Dakota as part of the 3d Division until December 1939, at which time it moved to Fort Lewis, Washington.

3rd Battalion News

by LTC Stephen Twitty

The 3rd Battalion is well on its way to returning to its war fighting status after the successful regeneration following the Peacekeeping Operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The battalion recently completed a gunnery density and a battalion level FTX on the ranges and training areas of Fort Stewart. The recent gunnery began in July and continued through August. In support of the 1-63 Armor preparing for an NTC rotation, 3rd Bn acted as an unruly enemy force to enhance the Armor training and hone our own skills. In short, the battalion has been busy reestablishing itself as a combat ready force.

Each company began the gunnery density with Dismounted Training, to include squad level day and night live fires on the range complexes at Fort Stewart. The squads began to overcome the lack of tactical training due to the Bosnia deployment and quickly displayed the tactics, techniques, and procedures of an experienced unit.

The Bradley Crewmen initiated their qualification training during Bradley Tables VI-VIII. These live fire ranges displayed the lethal capabilities of the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle and its powerful 25-mm main weapon system. Again, the crews overcame a lack of practice through multiple iterations and several target arrays on the ranges. By the end of the training, each crew appeared confident in their ability to identify and destroy enemy targets via direct fire.

As a culminating event, each platoon within the Battalion maneuvered its way through a platoon live fire qualification. This training included breaching of mine and wire obstacles, calling for and adjusting indirect fire, assimilation of Apache Attack Helicopters, mounted and dismounted maneuver, along with devastating direct fire from Infantrymen and the Bradley. The platoons displayed dramatic improvement during the gunnery and are already at a higher state of readiness.

The "China" Battalion looks forward to an equally busy next few months that will include additional field time, several marksmanship ranges, and consistent individual training. The soldiers and leaders have replaced their peacekeeping mentality with a combat focused attitude.

CAN DO!



John's Message

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Election of the Board of Trustees for the 2001-2003 term was conducted at the Can Do Rendezvous in May 2001. Assumption of office was effective September 14, 2001. An Installation of Officers Ceremony was planned to take place during the Regimental Dinner in conjunction with the Society of the Third Infantry Division Reunion at Phoenix, AZ. Due to major transportation problems resulting from the September 11th terrorist attacks the traditional Installation of Officers Ceremony was omitted.

The officers assuming the positions for the term are shown in the July edition of *The Dragon*.

I am taking this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the support and loyalty rendered by the Board of Trustees and Appointed Officers during my term as President. The trust you have placed in me is truly appreciated. In particular, I would like to thank those who worked with me the closest. Richard Guimond as Treasurer, and his successor Lloyd Whitmer, are "Can Do" to the bone. Mike Horn, Editor of *The Dragon* has doubled as the database manager and done a Herculean job. I am indebted to all these Can Doers. I also thank the entire membership for the impressive plaque presented to me at the Regimental Dinner. It will occupy a special place in my home as a reminder of the labor of love experienced during the term as your President.

I am sure the membership will be supportive of the Officers assuming their rolls for the 2001-2003 term. Likewise I am confident the Board of Trustees and Appointed Officers will continue to serve the membership in a commendable manner.

From the Honorary Colonel of our Regiment



For almost two hundred years the 15th United States Infantry Regiment has been responding to her nation's call. In our lifetime, brave and resolute men have followed the colors of the Can Do Regiment from North Africa to the Balkans. We all know with absolute certainty that they are prepared to do so in the present crisis.

We were all touched by the events of September 11th. Many lost family members, friends and, among our younger members, fellow soldiers. The wave of patriotic demonstrations sweeping our nation is a good and important thing but the members of this Regiment know that the words of our President point to the harder thing. We know that when both the tears and cheering have subsided, there is tough, lonely, gut wrenching work to be done and that some of it will likely be done by young men following the colors of the 15th Infantry and other proud and resolute units.

To the Can Do soldiers in uniform, you make us enormously proud. God bless our Regiment, all members of our Armed Forces and God Bless America.

Jared L Bates
Lieutenant General, US Army (Retired)



LTC Smith passes the C Co guidon to CPT Hetzel, one of four command changes in the 1st Battalion.

Changes in the 1st Battalion

By 1LT William Chesher

August was a busy month on Kelley Hill for the Dragons of the 1st Battalion. Aside from the live fire exercises, the volunteer efforts, and the constant preparation and upkeep of a mechanized infantry battalion the, Dragons are also preparing for, four command changes within the Battalion this month.

The entire Battalion, to include the Family Readiness Group, have gone to great lengths to ensure that the outgoing commanders and families were recognized for their hard work over the past year and to equally welcome the incoming commanders and their families.

The first company to change command was Charlie Company, where Captain Gregory Hetzel, assumed command of the Cobras, after serving on the battalion staff as the Assistant S-3. He follows Captain Stephen Ruth who is moving on to The United States Military Academy at West Point, where he will serve as a TAC Officer. The next change was Headquarters Company. Captain Pete Granger makes room for Captain Steve Schraeder who served at 3rd Brigade Headquarters and now assumes command of the Hell Raisers. Captain Granger will serve as an Observer Controller at the National Training Center. The latest command change is Alpha Company where Captain Russell Lewis becomes MG LeMoyne's Aide-De-Camp. Captain Mike Taylor who served on the Battalion staff as the S-4, assumes command of the Gators. Lastly, Bravo Company anxiously awaits Captain David Daniels who changes with Captain Charles Auer on 30 August.

The Battalion thanks the outgoing company commanders and their families for their efforts, and wishes them good luck on their next assignment. To those incoming commanders, all aboard the Marne Express!

New Association members continued from Page 7.

Walter P. Zolinkov
11768 Jones Rd
Woodburn, OR 97071
2ND BN CW 1962-64

Robert L. Yancey
8300 Wren Place
Laurel Hill, NC 28351
2ND BN CW 1970-73

Richard F. Simmons
50 Holland Ave
Westfield, MA 1085
CO F, WWII, NOV 44-AUG 46

John M. Bieling
3 Sylvan Lane
Wesport, CT 6880
CO A, KOREA

Francis W. Turner
58 Bill Turner Drive
McMinnville, TN 37110
KOREA 1951-53

Nathan L. Mosley
50 Tara Lane
Smoaks, SC 29481
HHC, 3 BN, NOV 98- PRESENT

George E. Ogden
400 SW Park St.
Grants Pass, OR 97527
CO H , KOREA, FEB-DEC 52

George S.Burks
432 Mountain View Rd
Englewood, NJ 07631
CO L, WWII, FEB-NOV 44



Dragons Train With The Warrior Ethos

By 1LT William Chesher

August 30th at Kiefert Gymnasium on beautiful Kelley Hill Ft. Benning GA, the Dragons of the 1st Battalion gathered to participate in the 3rd Boxing Smoker. Boxers throughout the battalion volunteered to represent their respective companies to see who was truly the toughest company in the Battalion.

The boxers spent close to two months preparing for their bouts. From roadwork, to the gym, and sometimes back to the roads the boxers spent a great deal of their free time preparing to defend their companies reputation. As the Boxing Smoker drew near the fighters were in the best physical condition possible. The result was clear, and the competition was tight as each fighter climbed into the ring for a three round bout, and most fights going the distance. In the end, it was the Charlie Company Cobras who won the Streamer and Trophy.

Although the key focuses of the event were to foster esprit de corps, and emphasize the Warrior Ethos, safety remained the ever-present undertone. The Battalion mandated compliance with the Safety Risks Analysis and guidance from the Ft. Benning Safety Office. For example, the Battalion provided four physicians, custom fitted mouth guards, headgear, as well as a comprehensive medical screening and weigh in process.

However, not all of the outstanding performances took place inside the ring. Additionally, the Family Readiness Group once again took the time to make sure that their Dragons had everything they needed to make the evening a complete success. The Dragons were also thankful for the immense support from the local boxing experts, the Columbus Blazers. Mr. Nate Green provided the regulation-boxing ring and his staff to referee the bouts, as well as providing the technical assistance.

All of the time and effort from the Boxers, the Family Readiness Group, the Columbus Blazers, and the 1st Battalion contributed to the successful outcome of the 3rd Boxing Smoker. For all you boxing enthusiasts out there, keep your calendars open for November 30th, for the 4th Boxing Smoker. We hope to see you there!

1st Battalion Dragons Lend a Special Hand

By 1LT William Chesher

When the Special Olympics came to Columbus for the annual State Masters Bowling Tournament The Dragons of the 1st Battalion were there to support the event. Special Olympians from around Georgia gathered at the AMF Peach Lanes for two days of music great food and of course bowling. With over 500 athletes enjoying themselves, the Dragons had their hands full keeping score of the games, distributing lunches and lending assistance wherever it was needed. The Battalion had over 40 volunteers that signed up to help. The event was great fun for everyone involved, from the volunteers to the sponsors and event organizers. A lot of time and preparation went into planning the event and it definitely showed by the overwhelming success and all the smiles.

Although Special Olympics bowling is a relatively new event to the Games, it is one of the fastest growing sports. When it

was first included at the 1987 Special Olympics World Summer Games, bowling was dominated by American athletes and hosted only 33 competitors. At the 1995 World Games, just eight years later, bowling boasted 454 athletes from 23 countries! Now Special Olympics offers bowling in every US program and in over 20 countries around the globe.

Many athletes choose bowling because it is a sport people enjoy for leisure as well as competition. Although there are some modifications made for athletes with physical disabilities, most athletes compete under the same rules and circumstances as athletes on a professional tour. As in all Special Olympics sports, bowling teams are grouped in competition divisions according to the athletes' ability level, age and gender.

The benefits of participation in Special Olympics for people with mental retardation include improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence, a more positive self-image, friendships, and increased family support. These athletes carry benefits with them into their daily lives at home, in the classroom, on the job, and in the community. Families who participate become stronger as they learn a greater appreciation of their athletes' talents. Community volunteers find out what good friends the athletes can be. And everyone learns more about the capabilities of people with mental retardation.

Special Olympics believes that competition among those of equal abilities is the best way to test its athletes' skills, measure their progress, and inspire them to grow. The organizers believe that this program of sports training and competition help people with mental retardation become physically fit and grow mentally, socially, and spiritually. So what is next for these Bowling Champions? The Nationals, and then the World Games to be held in Dublin, Ireland in 2003.



Dragons keep score during the 2001 Special Olympics State Masters Bowling Tournament

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15th Infantry Regiment Association

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