

October 2019

## *Fifteenth Infantry Regiment*



*“The Old China Hands”*

<http://www.warfoto.com/15thInfRegt.html>

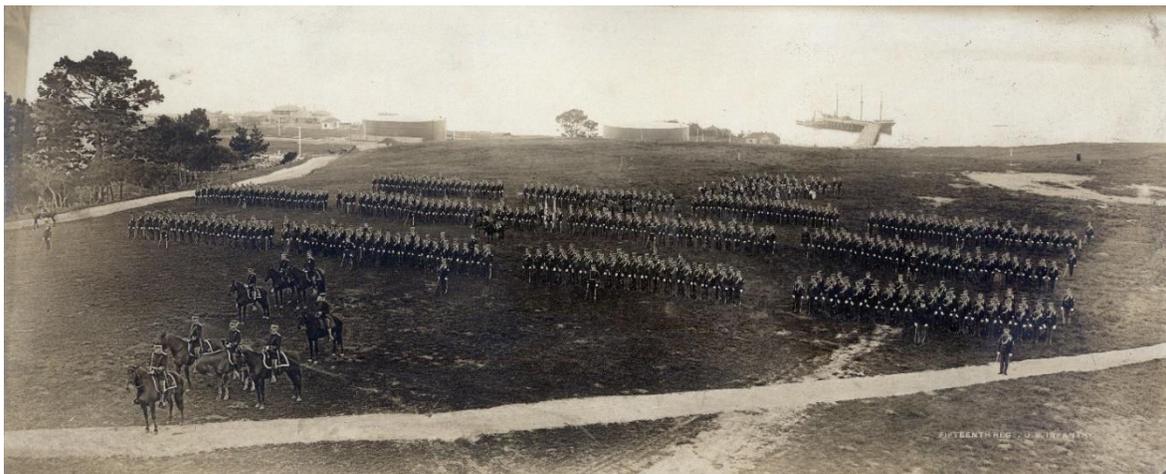
Dear Fellow Old China Hands,

I am saddened to report that MSG, US Army, retired Henry Burke, died on 28 September at his home in Columbia, South Carolina. He served in G Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in the Korean War. Henry was a long-time fixture in our Association serving in numerous positions and was a Distinguished Member of the Regiment. He will be sorely missed. Henry was a great recruiter for our Association as well as the Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. I will attend his funeral on 4 October.

Speaking of membership, the Association continues to struggle attracting new members and I ask you all again to recruit your friends from your service with the Regiment. We also continue to have numerous important positions in our leadership vacancies—please volunteer to make our Association stronger. Actually, it is a matter of our survival as a legally recognized entity.

LTC McGrue's report on our active battalion's activities is, as always, informative. Our Can Do Soldiers continue the proud tradition of excellent service which has always been our Regiment's hallmark. Tad Davis, David and Shirley Mills, Mike Horn, Monika, her mom, and I attended the Battalion Ball and were impressed with the high energy and esprit of the Soldiers, especially during the Punch Ceremony! The battalion included David Mills representing not just Korean War veterans but also ex-POWs in the toasts. Congratulations to Mike Horn for his induction into the Order of Saint Maurice by LTC McGrue during the Ball—long overdue and well-deserved for all he has done for the Regiment!

In the July issue, I mentioned we had visited the Presidio at Monterey in June. I have been able to purchase from the Monterey Public Museum photographs from their archives from the Regiment's service at the Presidio, including the below panoramic photo of the Regiment in formation on the parade ground, now known as Soldier Field. We will have this photograph enlarged and mounted in the China Room.



Also, in connection with the Regiment's time at the Presidio, I am including an article on Brigadier General Henry C. Ward, who was the Regimental Commander during the Regiment's service in Monterey. I believe he may have been the last Civil War veteran to command the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He served 44 years in the Army! **Can Do! Tim**

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## Taps

<b>Robert F. Scanlan-LM</b> Ankeny, IA CPL, I CO, 3 BN, KW, 1952-53 DOD 11/13/2018 Reported by Tom Heitzer	<b>Henry H. Burke-LM-DM</b> Columbia, SC MSG, G CO, 2 BN, KW, 1951-52 DOD 09/28/2019 Reported by Pennie Burke
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## New Members

<b>Christopher Wacott</b> Chandler, AZ SSG, HHC, 1 BN, GWOT, 2002-06	<b>Douglas Overbey-Associate</b> Richmond Hill, GA Infantry Brotherhood	<b>Kyle L. McKelvey</b> Fort Stewart, GA 1SG, B CO, 3 BN, GWOT, 2019-
<b>Mark E. Green-LM</b> Ashland City, TN 1LT, A & HHC, 1 BN, CW, 1987-90	<b>Frank J. Cotoia-LM</b> Swampscott, MA CPL, HQ, 1 BN, II, 1943-45	

## Membership Report

NUMBER OF MEMBERS BY PERIOD		CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE	
NUMBER OF CHINA HANDS	0	REGULAR LIFE	236
NUMBER OF WWII MEMBERS	28	REGULAR ANNUAL	52
NUMBER OF KOREA MEMBERS	117	ASSOCIATE LIFE	18
NUMBER OF COLD WAR MEMBERS	80	<u>ASSOCIATE ANNUAL</u>	<u>8</u>
NUMBER OF PEACETIME MEMBERS	17	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	314
NUMBER OF OEF FORCES	1		
NUMBER OF OIF FORCES	9		
NUMBER OF GWOT FORCES	36		
<u>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</u>	<u>26</u>		
TOTAL MEMBERS	314		

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**Application for Membership in the  
15TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**

Please Print Clearly

☺New Member \_\_\_\_\_  ☺Renew Membership  
(Today's Date)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (MI)

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City-State-Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit (Co & Bn): \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Served: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you serve in Afghanistan with the 3-15th Infantry \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP DESIRED**

Regular Annual \$10.00  Associate Annual \$10.00  On Active Duty Annual \$5.00  Life (see rates below)

**LIFE MEMBERSHIPS ARE BASED ON YOUR AGE AT YOUR LAST BIRTHDAY**

Up to Age 60 = \$150.00; Age 60 – 69 = \$120.00; Age 70 – 79 = \$100.00; Age 80 and over = \$50.00

**You can sign up and pay online by going to [www.warfoto.com/15thInfRegt.html](http://www.warfoto.com/15thInfRegt.html) and clicking on the “Pay Dues” tab or make check payable to “15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association” and mail to the following:**

Tom Heitzer  
231 Normandie Drive  
Bonne Terre, MO 63628

☎(314) 650-4692

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15<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

DUES NOTICE

Annual Members,

Annual membership fee for 2020 is due starting in the month of October. Check your mailing label and if you have 2019 after your name your dues need to be paid for 2020. Send your check or money order and the form below to Tom Heitzer at 231 Normandie Drive, Bonne Terre, MO 63628 or go online to www.warfoto.com/15thInfRegt.html and find the "Click Here to Pay Dues" button.

Regular annual membership dues are \$10.00 (Current Active Duty is \$5.00). Multiple year payments are welcomed. Life membership rates are: To age 60--\$150; age 60 to 69-- \$120; age 70 to 79-- \$100; age 80 and above-- \$50. **If you are on active duty and deployed at this time contact us and we will extend your membership until you return, but you need to let us know of your deployment status.** Email Tom Heitzer at theitzer001@charter.net to let him know of your deployment and we will extend your membership.

Several members have recently sponsored memberships for active duty soldiers of the active battalions. This is an opportunity for all members to express their appreciation for the service to the nation of today's Dragon Soldiers. The form below provides a space (Sponsor Active Duty) for sponsoring these memberships. A two-year membership is only \$10.00.

Contributions to the Awards and Monument (A&M) Fund or General Fund are also always appreciated and may be included with your payment. Please complete and detach the form below and submit with your dues. For those with email capability, please provide the address to update the Association database.

-----Detach-----

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(To Update Association Database)

<u>Dues Amounts:</u>	<u>Payment:</u>	
Regular Annual..... \$10.00	Dues.....	\$-----
Associate Annual..... \$10.00	Sponsor Active Duty	\$-----
Active Duty Annual..... \$ 5.00	A&M Fund.....	\$-----
Life: See above	General Fund.....	\$-----
	Total Payment.....	\$-----

**Make check or money order to the Treasurer, 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association. Mail to Tom Heitzer at 231 Normandie Drive, Bonne Terre, MO 63628**

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## Active Battalion Update

### **From the Desk of China 6 (24 Sep 2019)**

Greetings, China Team and the Regiment!

With the constant pace to maintain our readiness across the board, it feels like eons ago that I last wrote a letter. Nonetheless, I want to take a quick moment to share a few words to ensure that all know the China battalion continues to make great strides.

The last time I addressed everyone, I detailed our recent accomplishments at the National Training Center. Since then, we have continued to move forward as we experienced the normal transition that usually occurs during the summer. We did bid some of our great leaders and Soldiers farewell, but we also welcomed new leaders and Soldiers who eagerly slid into their new positions and ensured that the battalion did not miss a beat. Some of our recent newcomers include our new battalion Chaplain, Chaplain (First Lieutenant) Grady Pennell, who has been an awesome addition to the team. We've also welcomed our first female Infantry Officer, Second Lieutenant Amber Withrow, who just completed her first Bradley gunnery where her and her crew are now qualified on their Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Also since the last letter, the battalion held a formal ball at the Marriott downtown Savannah. The ball was a huge success and we are truly grateful for the support shown by the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regimental Association.

Speaking of training, the battalion has completed two company level crew gunneries with Apache Company and Bandit Company, and Charlie Rock Company will begin their company level tank crew gunnery in the coming month. Our Iroquois Company continues to support all facets of the battalion while training their Soldiers as well, as they've recently qualified on their various weapons systems and are eagerly looking forward to participating in the brigade's mounted machine gunnery. Finally, not to go unnoticed, our Headquarters and Headquarters Company (Hellraisers) also recently completed individual weapons training, our mortar platoon certified on 26 September, and the company is now focusing on certifying our scout platoon and our medical platoon. We have two key training events on the horizon. First is Bandit Company traveling to Fort Polk, LA, to participate in a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) with a brigade out of Fort Drum, NY. Based on their recent training with the brigade up in NY, I am confident Bandit Company will succeed at JRTC. Second is the opportunity for our infantry Soldiers to earn their Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB). This December, our battalion will host the EIB train-up and testing in an effort to allow Soldiers an opportunity to earn the coveted badge.

I want to send a special congratulations to our noncommissioned officers who were recently selected for promotion to the rank of Sergeant First Class: SSG Love (HHC), SSG Martinez (C Co), SSG Meyer (I Co), SSG Reynoso (HHC), SSG Rodman (B Co), SSG Shoup (I Co), and SSG Yates (B Co).

A few Soldiers to highlight: SPC Hayley, HHC, a recent Sniper School graduate; SSG Love, 2LT Gonzalez, and the rest of the battalion softball team for earning 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Fort Stewart Softball Competition; and SPC Price and the rest of the battalion volleyball team for having an undefeated season and winning the volleyball championship. We currently have three Soldiers in different phases of Ranger School, a few Soldiers attending Drill Sergeant School and Recruiter School, and a few more attending other professional developmental schools. I wish them all the best and look forward to seeing them return as graduates.

Our families continue to be our strength. Recently, we adjusted our Battalion Steering Meeting to coincide with a Battalion Family Readiness Group (FRG) Spouses Potluck, and based on the success of that event, along with several attendee recommendations, we will continue to hold this merged event on a regular basis. The event was great from start to finish and having an opportunity to speak with our spouses firsthand was truly astounding.

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To our family and friends of the China battalion, a continued and sincere "thank you" for your support to your loved ones and to this battalion. Your unyielding support continues to be the strength that feeds us as we accomplish the many tasks we are assigned without worry, qualm, or fear. You are continuously a shining beacon which lets us know that we can continue to move forward, and for you, we are forever grateful.

In closing, a heartfelt "thank you", to the China Soldiers for all of your hard work and daily commitment to achieving excellence. You impress me every day with your sense of duty and selflessness, and I am truly humbled and honored to work side by side with you all. Rock of the Marne! Send Me!

**Can Do! Arthur L. McGrue III China 6**

### Historian's Corner

Brigadier General Henry Clay Ward  
Submitted by Tim Stoy



Continuing our look at former 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment personnel, I am writing about another of our Regimental commanders, Henry Clay Ward, who commanded the Regiment at the Presidio of Monterey 1902 to 1905. As Regimental Commander he oversaw the construction of the post by the Regiment in those years immediately after its return from its first tour in the Philippines 1900 to 1902.

His military career began on 12 July 1861 when he mustered into service with the 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry as a private. He was 17 years, 10 months and 2 days old. His older brother, George H. Ward, who was 17 years older than he, was the Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment at that time and later rose to be its commander as a Colonel. He rose from Private to Regimental Sergeant Major by April 1863. He was mustered out of service in September 1863 but was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, 57<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry in March 1864 and was promoted to Captain in July of the same year. He served throughout the Civil War in the Army of the Potomac and fought in the battle of Ball's Bluff, the siege of Yorktown, and other engagements. He was wounded several times. Ward was captured while taking part in the siege of Fort Stedman, Virginia, and was confined in Libby Prison from March 25, 1865, until the capture of Richmond, when he rejoined his regiment and continued with it until Lee's surrender. He was brevetted Captain for bravery in the action about Fort Stedman.

His brother, George, was serving as a Brigade Commander at the Battle of Gettysburg when he was mortally wounded on the second day when his brigade was trying to stem the Confederate attack. He died the next day in a Union field hospital. On March 13, 1865 he was posthumously brevetted Brigadier General, US Volunteers for "gallant and meritorious services in the battle of Ball's Bluff, Va., October 21, 1861, and in the battle of Gettysburg, Pa., where killed". In 1886, surviving members of his regiment erected a small monument to him on the spot where he was wounded. It now stands in the fields just North of the Codori House in the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Henry C. Ward was mustered out of service again on 30 July 1865 but was accepted into the Regular Army in 1866 as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He was quickly promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and was transferred to the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry in April 1869. He stayed with that regiment until May 1900, having attained the rank of Major. He transferred to the 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry that month and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry in December 1900. He was made Colonel of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry on 31 January 1902. Ward retired in 1905 and was promoted to Brigadier General on the retired list.

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BG Ward died on 16 November 1925 aged 82 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He was twice married, first to Susan Maria Denny, 23. She died in 1873 after the birth of their two children. He married Frances Crutcher Maney, 22, daughter of Brigadier General George Earl Maney C. S. A. and Elizabeth T. Crutcher in December 1876. She died in 1923. Frances C. Maney's brother, James Alison Maney, graduated from the US Military Academy in 1877 and was commissioned into the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in which he served until June 1902 when he was promoted to Major and transferred to the 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry. It appears he served in the Regiment under his brother-in-law for four months. Maney would later return to the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment as Lieutenant Colonel in 1911 before being promoted to Colonel the end of year and shortly thereafter retiring.

### **Chaplain's Message**

Submitted by Chaplain Chuck Trout

### **HAPPY VETERAN'S DAY**

There are three main days to celebrate veterans: Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, Memorial Day honors those who have died while in military service and Armed Forces Day honors those currently serving in the U.S. military.

There are 18.2 million veterans in the United States. That is 7.6 percent of the population. Of these, 37,878 veterans are homeless.

Without getting political, I would like to suggest that anyone who wants to be an elected official, for any position or party, should have served honorably in the military for at least four years.

The current requirements set a minimum age and require the one running for office to be a United States citizen. That is good, but it does not weed out those who do not love their country and just want to advance themselves in position and power.

As veterans, we all served to defend the Constitution of the United States. Some gave all, while all gave some. Why did we do it? We did it for the love of our country. Each service member literally signed a check that they would give his or her life to protect our rights and keep our citizens free. Many cashed that check!

We certainly did not serve to get wealthy. In 1952, many of us went to Korea. As a Private, our monthly salary was \$ 85.80. Divide that monthly salary by 30 days to calculate our daily pay of \$ 2.77. We did not work eight hours and then have the remainder of the time off duty. We lived and fought in the trenches and fox holes 24 hours a day. When you divide our daily pay of \$ 2.77 by 24 hours a day the result is less than 12 cents an hour.

War is ugly, but not the ugliest of things. Uglier yet is the man who will not fight for his country and let the fighting to others.

God bless all of your who served and all of your loved ones who remained true while you were defending your country. I believe we should honor our veterans, and their families, every day.

**Blessings, Your chaplain, Chuck Trout**

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### In Memory



MSG Henry Hilton Burke COLUMBIA - MSG Henry Hilton Burke, US Army (Ret), 87, of Columbia, died Saturday, September 28, 2019. Born in Burlington, NC, to Claude and Flora Nicks Burke, Henry was married for 23 years to Pennie Foley Vance Burke. He was the tenth child out of 12 siblings with the youngest child, Raymond Burke, now the sole survivor. Henry was promoted to glory following a nine-year illness. He passed away at home. A home he had lived in for 60 years. In 1951, Henry joined the US Army and retired in 1974 with combat service in Korea (1951-1953) and Vietnam (1966-1968). He served in Panama at Ranger school and ended his military service career as a recruiter (1968-1973). Henry loved to say, "I got my degree in common sense from the US Army," and his 15th Regiment's motto, "Can Do!" After the Army, he worked for Pulliam and Bob Bennett Ford, selling his beloved Ford automobiles for 20 years. Henry was a member of North Trenholm Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon. He was also a member of The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division (Membership Chair), the 15th Infantry Society, American Legion Post 182, Combat Infantry Association, Korean War Veteran's Association and Greater Woodfield Community Association, as

Beautification Chairman. In 2017, he was awarded the Audie Murphy Award (the top honor given by the 3rd Infantry). Henry loved his big family, and anything related to Ford or car racing. When he was a young teenager, he won the Burlington, NC Soap Box Derby and went on to compete in the Nationals. That began a lifelong love for car racing. For many years, he took groups to Darlington to watch the race and have a picnic. In addition to his wife, Henry is survived by his daughter, Heather Keys (Jim); two stepchildren, Jennifer Tysinger, Derek Vance (Tanja); daughter-in-law, Nancy Burke; stepdaughter-in-law Brenda Register; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; two great great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and a very special granddog, Gabbie. He was preceded in death by his first wife of 40 years, Peggy Coleman Burke; son, David Burke; stepson, Allen Register; stepson-in-law, Jeff Tysinger; and ten brothers and sisters. A service will be held at 12 o'clock, Friday, October 4th, at North Trenholm Baptist Church, with the Rev. David Knapp and the Rev. Joe Copeland officiating. The family will receive friends prior to the service beginning at 11 o'clock. Following the service, the burial will be in Fort Jackson National Cemetery with full military honors. Pennie would like to say a special "Thank You" to Jennifer, for more than I can say; to Angie, for keeping me together and helping me get things together that's what friends are for; to Heather and Jim for being Thursday night supper buddies with Henry, and thanks to Raymond for being his daily lunch/exercise buddy with brotherly love. Lastly, to the Howle Sunday School Class for their willingness to step in where needed. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to North Trenholm Baptist Church, 6515 North Trenholm Road, Columbia, SC 29206, MSA Hospice, 166 Stoneridge Drive, #100, Columbia, SC 29210, The Society of the 3RD Infantry Division, <https://www.society3rdid.org/donate/memorial-fund>.

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**Can Do Bumper Stickers**



John Campbell came up with the below bumper sticker design. The price is \$3.00 with checks made payable to the '15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association.' Send checks and recipient addresses to Andrew Lerch at 15302 Iris Ln, Montclair, VA 22025-1015 and he will send out all bumper stickers via the U.S Postal Service.

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15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association  
**Tom Heitzer, Database Administrator**  
231 Normandie Dr  
Bonne Terre, MO 63628

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