

## *Fifteenth Infantry Regiment*



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

April 2002

# 2002 Rendezvous Cancelled

## **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion News** by LTC Dennis Smith

It is with our deepest regrets to inform you that the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion must cancel the Can Do Rendezvous 25-27 April. The Battalion has worked very hard preparing to host the Can Do Rendezvous this year. However, due to operational deployment requirements, the Battalion unfortunately cannot host this year. The officers, non-commissioned officers, soldiers, and family members were very excited about hosting this time-honored event. All monies will be returned by March 29, 2002

## **Regimental Monument Update**

As reported in the January Dragon, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion is involved in improving a significant historical monument presented to the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and currently located at Fort Benning. The monument was presented by the citizens of a city in China for assuring their safety in the 1920s and 1930s. It is configured to depict a gate to a city and is referred to as the China Gate. The monument was dedicated to the US Army Infantry School at Fort Benning in 1939, after the Regiment's return to the US.

The objective of the Battalion continues to be to restore the monument to the prominence it deserves and erect a proper shelter. The initial effort is to build a Chinese style roof over the monument. Other improvements envisioned are appropriate descriptive plaques, benches and improved landscaping. The unit is constrained in the amount of funds it can acquire and use for the upgrade. The Association has a monument fund obtained from periodic member's contributions. Currently the fund is just over \$1200. Occasionally expenditures are made from the fund to maintain and upgrade other monuments previously dedicated to the Regiment. This is a second appeal for members to contribute donations to increase the fund balance in order for the Association to provide some monetary assistance to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in their worthy effort.

Please send your contributions identified as "Monument Fund" to Lloyd Whitmer, Treasurer, 7500 Mose Road, Navarre, OH 44662.

## **Lenny's Message**

When my wife and I were at Ft. Benning in November. LTC Dennis Smith was hard at work. He was planning the Rendezvous in great detail. Unfortunately, the last minute mission change of the Battalion does not support the great event he planned! We regret this because we know this would have been a memorable event.

Now I'd like to move on to Buffalo, N.Y. and the Society of the Third Infantry Division reunion. The Officers of the Regimental Association invite you to attend our Regimental Dinner at the Division reunion, in Buffalo, NY on September 13, 2002. I suggest that you make your reservations early for two reasons. First, we would like to have the time to seat the membership with their friends. And second, our speaker for the dinner is Mr. Richard G. Stilwell, Jr. He is the son of Colonel Richard G. Stilwell our Regimental Commander from October 1952 to mid-March 1953. COL Stilwell was a soldier's soldier. His men always came first. We have several members of the Association who served with COL Stilwell. Dr. Harry Lee-Medical Co., MG Boatner-B Co., LT Emory Walker and LT Dan Braucher-G Co., CPT Martin Markley and Charles Randolph -K Co., and many more of us. I'm looking forward to everyone meeting with the son of COL Stilwell. Currently we're arranging the menu with the Adams Mark Hotel in Buffalo. Our thanks to Joe Poggi for coordinating a very reasonable price for our Regimental Dinner at the Reunion. By purchasing your activity tickets soon, you are giving Joe Poggi and his committee a vote of confidence for their hard work. September 2002 isn't too far in the future. Come to Buffalo. Have fun. Visit with your friends. It's not too early to make your reservations.

Can Do!

*The Dragon***Officers**

The Dragon is the quarterly publication of the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Lassar.....President  
Michael J. Horn.....Editor  
Lloyd D. Whitmer .....Treasurer

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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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### 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion News From Fort Stewart

by LTC Stephen Twitty . The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the China Regiment proudly bears a heritage filled with rank upon rank of heroes, both famous and possibly unsung, yet never forgotten. The year 2001 in review, especially the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, began a new chapter in the history of America and the Regiment. Every generation has fought its own kind of war, a great campaign that helped define and direct our nation for the next generation. Our grandfathers fought against tyranny in WWII and Korea, and our fathers against Communism in Vietnam. September 11<sup>th</sup> heralded the advent of a new type of global, protracted war—Terrorism. The campaigns of the future will be defined by our Nation's desire to protect its citizens, secure a stable future for our children, and strive for a world where wars and units like the 3rd Bn are nothing more than faded memories and peace has the world in her hands.

In review, 2001 was a year of renewed focus on warfighting for the China Battalion. After returning from a security mission in the Balkans, the Regiment planned and executed a series of training events to hone the Battalion's skills in the basics of fire and maneuver warfare. A series of live fire exercises, squad operations and company level force on force battles helped to prepare the Battalion for our primary mission to fight and win our Nation's wars.

The culminating training event of the year was code named, "Spartan Focus" and took place over most of November. The Battalion trained as a combined arms team integrating the Infantry with Tanks, Field Artillery, Engineers and Aviation assets. The event tested the knowledge and skills of every man in the Battalion from the newest rifleman in the lead squad to the Battalion and Brigade Commanders. It was a tough, realistic event that utilized some of the Army's newest technology and doctrine. The Battalion approached the event with our Nation already in the process of beginning the war in Afghanistan, and with the distinct possibility we would soon be called to fight, not with lasers and refereed "kills", but with bullets and stark realities. Spartan Focus greatly increased our warfighting ability and helped to ensure we are ready for whatever may come.

LTC Twitty, the newest 3rd Battalion Commander, worked hard to build in peace the steely bonds of brotherhood that in wartime hold units together in the most difficult moments of combat. In order to help pass on the experiences, knowledge and traditions of the Regiment, throughout the year LTC Twitty invited three distinguished guests to the Battalion; Mr. Len Lessor who served as a medic in the Regiment during WWII; Mr. Whitney Mullens, who served as a Infantryman in WWII; and 1SG Jerry Cunningham who served in the Regiment twice during his 36 year long career and fought with the Regiment during Korea and returned to the Regiment to retire more than 30 years later. The common thread shared by all three guests and the current crop of China soldiers is their commitment to their duty and each other.

On November 2nd, Mr. Lessor, was a surprise speaker at the Dining-In. He reiterated to the officers and senior NCOs of the Battalion the absolute need for every man to be properly trained and prepared to fight on a moments notice. He drew from his own combat experiences to inspire the Battalion's leadership to make every effort to increase the combat readiness of the Battalion now before the Battalion pays for any oversights in training with the deaths of our soldiers. At the All Ranks Regimental Ball, Mr. Mullens shared a wonderful slide show of many of the photographs he took during WWII and related many of his experiences and deep feelings for the Regiment. He really helped show how the Regiment's history of being a cohesive unit has contributed to the numerous awards and decorations bestowed on the Regiment.

1SG Cunningham was invited to the Battalion for a very special event. He was awarded the Korean War Service Medal nearly 50 years after the War's end. He returned to the Regiment to share his award with the Regiment. In a ceremony LTC Twitty presented the award to 1SG Cunningham, who expressed his gratitude and great pride, "It is a great honor to receive this award for myself, and there are a lot of soldiers who earned this award who are not here today. To be appreciated for what we did makes me feel proud. The suffering and pain we went through makes me proud. Especially to be with the unit I began and ended with."

The Bradley Fighting Vehicle may very well be the greatest infantry weapon ever forged by man, but it will never win a war. Hard men with unity of purpose who trust in each other their very lives win wars. They win wars through determination and a force of will only unified cohesive units can muster. The year 2002 will test the China Battalion with hardship and new challenges, and the men of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion will answer as they have always answered with stoic resolve and their battle cry and motto, "Can Do!"

### NEW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

William E. Dickens  
209 Cherokee Trail  
Hinesville, GA 31313  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, 94-95

David A. Morrissey  
19 Kendall Ave  
Rutland, VT 05701  
1<sup>st</sup> Battle Group, 61-63

Bernard E. Perry, SR  
1547 Lakeshore Rd  
Chazy, NY 12921  
K Co, Oct 52- Jul 53

Jesse Sanchez  
4300 Via Marisol #739  
Los Angeles, CA 90042  
A Co, Feb 51-May 53

David C Adams  
2409 Abercorn Ave  
Dunwoody, GA 30346  
B,C,HQ Co, Mar 67-Mar 69

Lewis E. White  
1630 Drexel Lake Dr  
Columbia, SC 29223  
Co B, Jan 50- Jun 51

George W. Flowers  
11582 State Hwy 72  
Millersville, MO 63766  
Co H & Sv Co Jun 44- May 46

Mark L. Beauchamp  
PSC 7  
APO AE 09104  
Associate

## Mail Call



Ramon Jimenez  
1248 N. Somers Ave  
Freemont, NE 68025  
402-721-6597

I'm trying to contact anyone that served with me in Company L from Aug53 to Dec54 in Korea. I'd especially like to find anyone who knows or knew Jim Cooper. Please contact me if you served in Korea at that time, you know me or know anyone that served in L Company at the same time I did.

Steven Wegley  
American Red Cross, Unit 15494 Box 2186  
APO AP 96218-0562  
011-82-53-470-7993  
011-82-53-470-8808  
[arc.taegu@usfk.korea.army.mil](mailto:arc.taegu@usfk.korea.army.mil)

The American Red Cross is seeking info on an ARC worker KIA. I work for the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services in Taegu, Korea. We are looking more information on American Red Cross worker William H. Baker who was killed on 2 September 1952 while interviewing a 15th Regiment soldier. Baker was killed when an enemy artillery round made a direct hit on the bunker they were in. The soldier was seriously wounded. This is the only information that the Red

Cross has. If anyone knows the name of the soldier who was wounded, their location and the unit involved, and any other details we would be greatly appreciate it being forwarded to us. Thank you

Skyler Johnston  
P.O. Box 495  
Alton, Missouri 65606  
417-778-1923  
[skylerjohnston@hotmail.com](mailto:skylerjohnston@hotmail.com)

I am in search of information on the late Raymond R. Batchelor. He was in Company H in World War II. He was a Heavy Mortar Crewman #1607. He was awarded 4 Bronze Stars and the French Croix de Guerre. I am his great-grandson and I requested his records and I was told that they burned in a fire. All I got was his discharge papers. He never talked about his wartime service. I would like to get as much information possible on him and the people he served with him. Thank you very much for your help.

## Chaplains Corner

By LTC Chuck Trout, Sr.

### "AN ANSWER FOR ANXIETY"

So many times when problems come into our lives, we do not know which way to turn. May I suggest Psalm 55:22. "Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved." One prayer that we should all pray is, "God grant me the serenity to accept things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." "Worry is the interest paid on trouble before it comes due!" So how do we handle our burdens, our worries and troubles? Trust is the answer to anxiety. We should cast our cares upon the Lord. We are not only to take our problems to the Lord; we are to leave them there. Maybe the following poem states it best:

Said the robin to the sparrow,  
I should really like to know,  
Why these anxious human beings  
rush about and worry so.  
Said the sparrow to the robin,  
friend, I think it must be,  
that they have no Heavenly Father  
Such as cares for you and me.

Pray to God and take your burdens and cares to Him, then trust Him completely for He created you and will hear your plea, "LET GO AND LET GOD!"

GOD BLESS AMERICA and God Bless each one of you.

## The Soldier

by Father Denis Edward O'Brien, USMC

It is the soldier, not the reporter  
Who has given us freedom of the press.  
It is the soldier, not the poet,  
Who gives us freedom of speech.  
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer,  
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.  
It is the soldier who salutes the flag,  
Who serves beneath the flag,  
And whose coffin is draped by the flag.  
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.

Curtis Warren  
804 S. Niagara  
Holden MO 64040  
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[cwar777@earthlink.net](mailto:cwar777@earthlink.net)

My father, Richard L. Warren was in 3rd Bn., Company M. This was a Machine Gun Co. He would have been with I, K, or L Co. I am very interested in these Companies from the landings in N. Africa, Sicily, and Italy. Dad was wounded on Nov. 3, 1943 around the Volturno River. Any info about these units and their activities would be welcomed. I welcome any comments from anyone that was there? Thank You.

Carol J. Nelson (Besch)  
4290 Lloyd St SE  
Tumwater, WA 98501  
360-943-4724  
[cbesch47@aol.com](mailto:cbesch47@aol.com)

I'm looking for any information on my uncle Philip M. Besch who was killed in action on April 13, 1945 near Bamberg, Germany. The information I have is as follows: He was guarding some German prisoners near a small German village when the German Air Force dropped personnel bombs and one landed near him killing him instantly. He was in either the 3rd or 2nd Battalion. His service number is 39475959 and he's buried at Lorraine American Cemetery in France. I believe he was either near two villages named Mulhendorf and Erlau. I would like to know exactly where he was killed and if anyone could possibly have been in his Battalion or where I can get this information. God Bless our Veterans

Claude Maddox III  
136 Central St. # C-2  
Hudson, MA 01749  
978-568-0121  
[claudetad@aol.com](mailto:claudetad@aol.com)

I'm looking for anyone who knew my uncle. His name was Pvt. James R. Maddox, 34546465, from Tallahassee, FL. He was killed on Oct.9, 1944 in France. Does anyone remember anything about him? Our family wants so much to know more.

Bill Strong  
2896 W. Telluride  
Brighton, MI 48114  
810-220-6353  
[Billstrong98@Yahoo.com](mailto:Billstrong98@Yahoo.com)

I'm looking for anyone that served with me. I must confess, I do not remember one name that I served with. I do not know

why. I am, however, interested in contacting anyone that may remember me. All the pictures that I had from Korea (about three rolls) went down with a tank that fell through a bridge while we were advancing. We were not under attack and we were not attacking, so a number of us were allowed to put our packs, pistol and belts on the tanks while we were moving to a new location (this was while I was with Co A, light weapons platoon). I do, however, have some pics that someone else took while I was in Korea and some that were taken before leaving Ft Benning. I have them out on my web site at <http://billstrong.homestead.com/page3.html> If you Can Do'ers could search your memory banks and contact me, I would appreciate it. Co A/1/15/3 Ft Benning early 1949, Trained ROK's in Japan 9/50-10/50, Korea 11/50 to 10/51, I left Co A 57 Recoil Rifle Squad around 3-51 and joined 1st Bn HQ as Section Non-com Leader of I & R until 10-51, then returned to the States for Honorable Discharge.



<p><b>Harold Emery</b> Harold was a resident of Gorham, ME. He served in Company M in WWII. He was a member of the Association since 1994. Harold passed away January 3, 2002.</p> <p><b>Matt Flint</b> Matt served from May 1958 to November 1961 in Mortar Battery during the Cold War. He was a resident of Salisbury, NC. Reported by his wife, Patricia Flint</p> <p><b>Curtis Goff</b> Curtis was a former Life Member. His was a resident of Winter Park, FL. Curtis served in Cannon Company as a TSGT in WWII from February 1944 to October 1945. He died September 23, 2001. Reported by his wife, Hilda.</p> <p><b>Richard Murphy</b> Richard was a member of the Association since 1998. He was a resident of St. Paul, MN. Served in the Korean War in the Heavy Mortars from October 1952 to July 1953. Reported by Francis Turner.</p>
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MSG J.C. Poe (Ret.)  
 928 Plains Dr.  
 Junction City, Kansas 66441  
 785-238-5259  
[jpoe@flinthills.com](mailto:jpoe@flinthills.com)

I am looking for the status and/or location of SFC Henry H. Yoda awarded the DSC for action on Hill 487 in The Iron Triangle on 29 SEP 1951. He was seriously wounded in this action. As a result, he was medically discharged from our Army. He was a member of A Company. We need to contact him if he is still with us and if not, any information on what became of him would be helpful.

Mark L. Beauchamp  
 PSC 7 Box 125  
 APO AE 09104  
[Beach@selfkant-net.de](mailto:Beach@selfkant-net.de)

I believe my father, Leonard Beauchamp, sometimes known as Wings, served with the 15<sup>th</sup> in WWII. The "History of the 3rd Division" shows him as a T-5 in the 7th but he joined them later in France I think. Anyway I am very interested in hearing from anyone that may have known my Dad or a 1LT Edward Roth - (may be spelled incorrectly) who may have also served in Company E during North Africa thru Italy. Thanks for any help you can provide.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT MARCH 2002

The Association membership numbers have continued to increase over the past year. The most significant increase has been in new members from the current active duty battalions. The majority of the members identified as Ready Forces, representing the period after the Cold War, are active duty veterans. Those who joined the Association while assigned to one of the active battalions in that period and subsequently have transferred elsewhere are still carried in this category. Currently the two battalions are nearly neck and neck in total numbers.

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 to each regular member not paid by the due date and urged to pay by the end of the grace period, January 1, 2002. The Board of Trustees then extended a special exemption along with raffle letters to those still unpaid. The exemption allowed those bringing their dues up to date to have their membership reinstated with no break in membership. Some success was realized but unfortunately 55 have been dropped from rolls.

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

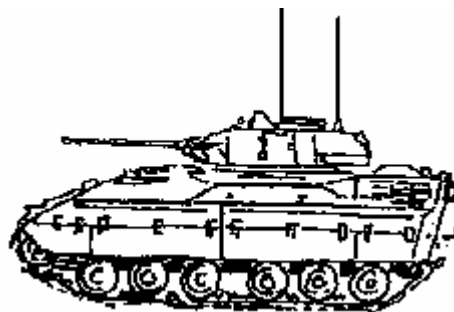
### MEMBERS BY TYPE

REGULAR LIFE	156
REGULAR ANNUAL	725
ASSOC LIFE	1
ASSOC ANNUAL	<u>7</u>
TOTAL	889

### PERIODS REPRESENTED

CHINA HAND	6
WORLD WAR II	189
KOREAN WAR	268
COLD WAR	51
READY FORCES	367
ASSOCIATE	<u>8</u>
TOTAL	889

How do you get a new member?  
Ask him to join. Can Do!



## Society of the Third Infantry Division Reunion

The annual 15th Infantry Regimental Dinner will be held on Friday, September 13, 2002 during the Society of the Third Infantry Division Reunion at the Adams Mark Hotel in Buffalo, NY.

Two entrees are available.

Prime Rib of beef at \$28.00--OR

Baked Haddock for \$28.00

Prices include all gratuities and taxes. Each entree will include fresh garden salad, fresh vegetables, a baked potato, rolls and butter, desert, coffee and iced tea.

Dinner will be served at 7:00PM and will be followed by a short program.

All Marnemen and their Ladies are welcome at this Dinner. You don't have to be a member of the 15th Infantry Regiment Association to attend. But you must purchase a meal to be assigned a seat at a table. There will be no meals sold after September 6, 2002. No walk-ins will be accepted.

Please make your reservations by sending the following:

- a. Your name
- b. Guest name
- c. Choice of Entree(s)
- d. Check or money order payable to:

Treasurer, 15th Infantry Regiment Association. Please send your reservations and payment to Lloyd D. Whitmer, 7500 Mose Road, Navarre OH 44662. Reservations and payment must be made prior to September 6, 2002.

The Marnemen and their guest whom make their reservations early and for some reason are unable to attend will receive a full refund, provided the Treasurer is notified prior to September 6, 2002. We are going to have a good time at this dinner so, make your reservations early. I hope to see you in Buffalo. For additional information call Leonard L. Lassar at (603) 742-9195 or e-mail me at [lenlassor@netzero.net](mailto:lenlassor@netzero.net).

### Web Sites Worth a Peek

<http://www.kitchentablegang.org> - The Kitchen Table Gang is a rag-tag bunch of military retirees trying to make life a little more pleasant for our hospitalized veterans, some of whom are long-term patients that really don't have much to do while they are in a VA or military medical facility and at times it can be really bleak and boring.

<http://freeweb.pdq.net/mervino/IBB.html> - Website dedicated to those who served (before 30 Sep 1952) in combat along the Imjin River and on or near Outpost Nori, Outpost Tessie, Outpost Kelly, Hill 317, or Hill 355, a/k/a Little Gibraltar, Dagmar, and Armistice Hill.

## France Honors Audie Murphy By Eric Vandroux

The French Association "Rock of the Marne" took part in a commemoration at the Audie Murphy monument at Holtzwihr on Sunday, January 27, 2002.

There were several French VIPs, the Mayor of Holtzwihr, along with the members of the French Association. The ceremony was very impressive. This event was held for a great soldier, a great Regiment, and a great Division. I was and I am very proud to belong to your Association and to the Society of the Third Infantry Division.



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