

Fifteenth Infantry Regiment



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15th Infantry Regiment Association Newsletter

April 2003



LTC John Charlton, Commander of 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, surveys his troops before addressing them early Monday March 17th at Assembly Area Hammer, Kuwait.

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO
Stars and Stripes

ASSEMBLY AREA HAMMER
Kuwait

With war looming, Charlton urges soldiers onward

Nine months of waiting in the desert will soon be over, and the shortest road home is directly through Baghdad, the commander of 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment told his troops at a sunrise formation Monday. Amid a growing sense that G-Day—the time when a ground offensive begins—is right around the corner, Lt. Col. John Charlton reminded his troops of their mission and urged them to stay sharp. “If they want a fight, you finish it. And you finish it fast,” Charlton said, to a chorus of “hooah” replies. “You take the fight to the enemy and you crush them. Don’t go in half-steppin’.”

The 1st Battalion has been in Kuwait since May 2002, with a four-week break around Christmas. They returned in early January and, for the past two weeks, have lived in a temporary desert camp just south of the Iraqi border. On Monday, Charlton told his troops he had hoped to give them the order to move forward to attack position, the final temporary camp before crossing the Iraqi border. But he does not expect the delay to be long. “I heard that some of you don’t like this place we’ve got here. So I’ve been doing some real estate shopping and I think there’s some better places up north we might want to go check out,” he said. “And after we check out those places up north, we’re going to take a nice, long trip to a place called home. It’s coming very quickly.”

The soldiers have endured sandstorms, almost a year away from their families and the uncertainty of when an invasion would kick off. Many were a little disappointed that Monday’s formation wasn’t the word to move forward. “We’ve had formations at least once a month, and it’s almost the same thing that’s been said each time,” said Spc. Clay Cadwalader, a 22-year-old from Lehman, Pa. “But this time everyone is more than ready. We’ve been out here so long, we’re ready to go home. If the shortest way is north, let us go north.” Others agreed. “Either way, something’s fixing to

Heroes continues on Page 6.

*The Dragon***Officers**

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

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

Objectives of the Association

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

Send dues and new addresses to:

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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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Chaplains Corner

By LTC Chuck Trout, Sr.

Many times I am asked if there is anything God cannot do. To the surprise of many, I answer, "Yes! God cannot learn anything new about you." As His creators we can only see a "snap shot" of time that we call the present. God, on the other hand, knows the beginning from the end; the Alpha from the Omega. He knows everything we will do tomorrow and through out eternity. This is called the Providence of God. We have gotten so used to having everything within seconds. We microwave our food, get a fifteen minute lube job on our vehicle and use drive through fast food restaurants. Many times we cannot understand why God allows some things to happen. Never lose sight that He sees the whole picture. What this means is that God has a plan for your life. You are important to Him. In other words He loves you. If He had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. How should we respond to God. One way is with prayers. God longs for us to pray to Him about all things. With this in mind may I suggest we pray for the soldiers wearing that familiar blue and white shoulder patch that we frequently see on television news channels. Remember when we wore the patch?. Whether you knew it or not, many of your loved ones were praying for you at that time. God Bless all of you, our Third Division comrades and all the other brave individuals fighting for our freedom.



William Bryan

Bill Bryan died January 15, 2003. Born August 6, 1932 he was a Medic from October 1950 to October 1951 during the Korean War. Bill was an Association member since 1996. Reported by his wife Clarice.

Willie Hawthorne

Willie Hawthorne served in Company I in WWII from October 1942-October 1945. Willie was a Life member since March 1994

Howard Sims

Howard Sims died December 6, 2002. He was a Cold War veteran of HHC, 3rd Battalion serving from April 1959 to April 1965. Howard was a member of the Association since 2001. Reported by his wife Geri.

President's Message

By Ed Dojutrek

Since my last message, our Association has been beset with some minor disappointments. Despite our best efforts, our scheduled "Can Do Rendezvous" for April had to be postponed due to the deployment of our two active Battalions back to Kuwait and the commencement of combat operations against Iraq. Now our attention is focused on the brave young men of the 3rd Infantry Division who are now called upon to take up arms against an enemy that has become a threat to World peace.

We elders of the Association know full well the horror of war and its deadly toll. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the members of the 15th Regiment Association, I want to convey to MG Blount, LTCs Charlton and Twitty, and all of the members of their respective commands our best wishes for a brief and safe encounter with the enemy. Our heartfelt feelings, thoughts and prayers are with you.

Despite the setback of our Rendezvous, we are, nevertheless continuing with our business matters which will be addressed at the upcoming 3rd Infantry Division Reunion scheduled for September 18 to 21, 2003, in St. Louis, Missouri. A time and place of the annual business meeting will be announced at a later date.

At this time I want to express my sincere thanks to all of the members of the Association who took the time to read, evaluate, and respond to our By-Law change and to vote on our new slate of officers. It is very gratifying to your elected officers when they have the support and input from the entire organization. It is another example of the "Can Do" spirit.

All business matters of the Association are being conducted in a very smooth and efficient manner. Our Raffle Chairman, Richard Guimond, reports that the response to the raffle sales are coming in at a nice pace. We enjoy an excellent Financial position and are very solvent as reported by our Treasurer, Lloyd Whitmer.

In closing, let me say that I am enjoying my present position as your President due to the fact that I am working with a fine group of individuals who work for the betterment and continued success of our great 15th Regimental Association.

Can Do

Mail Call

SGT Haden
A Company, 1-15 IN
Kuwait
23 January 2003
0850 hrs.

Greetings from the Kuwaiti Desert! As a Sergeant assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, I thought our other members would like to know how we are doing here in the Operational Theater. At present, we are awaiting orders, as are most Americans. We train hard to fight a hard war, but we pray to be home for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. Our other sister battalions were not as fortunate. However, we are still standing ready to execute any orders that may come. My Battalion spent from May until November here. Then we got a brief respite only to return. People ask how we can do what is almost impossible, well we can only do so much, but that is all that is needed. As more events unfold, I will try to keep all at home informed. Until then.....CAN DO!

Al Brown
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I am a WWII veteran from the 30th Infantry. I have made friends with a German that was a soldier in the Nineteenth Army that opposed us from St. Tropez to Austria. I met him at the 2001 ceremony in Jepsheim. He is a very nice fellow, and very pro-USA. He has asked for my help in getting information regarding the first American troops to occupy Freudenberg.

The Mayor of Freudenberg is writing a history of his town, and he is very interested in documenting the capture of Freudenberg. He wants to know as much of the details as can be documented. He especially wants to know the Company, Battalion, and Regiment that captured Freudenberg. He also wants to know the extent of fighting that took place, or if it was surrendered peacefully.

From my copy of "History of the Third Infantry Division in World War II", I have determined that the 1-15th Inf., occupied Miltenberg which is about 4 miles SW of Freudenberg, and that the 2-15th Inf., occupied Reistenhausen which is about 2 miles NE of Freudenberg. There is no mention of Freudenberg in the 3rd Div. History. Please refer to Pgs 345, 346, & 347 of the 3rd Div History.

Knowing the battle experience of the 15th, I know that patrols would have been sent out to scout for possible enemy counter

MEMBERSHIP REPORT**AS OF 15 MARCH 2003**

Membership rolls have increased over the past 3 months. This increase reflects 12 new members and 12 members reinstated to rolls. The new members are show at another section of this newsletter. Those reinstated were the result of a special invitation from the Board of Trustees to those delinquent in 2003 dues. The invitation was sent along with the letter with the annual raffle tickets. Regretfully the losses were deaths reported in the TAPS section.

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

MEMBERS BY TYPE

REGULAR LIFE	172
REGULAR ANNUAL	385
ASSOCIATE LIFE	1
ASSOCIATE ANNUAL	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	564

PERIODS REPRESENTED

CHINA HAND	6
WORLD WAR II	172
KOREAN WAR	269
COLD WAR	57
READY FORCES	50
ASSOCIATE	7
UNKNOWN	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	564



Mail Call continues on Page 6.

Regimental History during The Korean War

By Tim Stoy

In August 1950 the Regiment shipped out for Korea, landing at Wonsan and immediately moving against the North Korean Army. It fought its way north to Hungnam by November, then covered the retreat of the Marines southward from the Chosin Reservoir in the aftermath of Chinese Communist Force intervention. It remained in rear guard at Hungnam, departing as one of the last units out of that port, leaving the beach on Christmas Eve. After landing at Pusan on New Year's Day, the Regiment moved to occupy fighting positions on the Pusan Perimeter. On 25 January 1951, the Chinese advance had been halted; the regiment, along with the remainder of the division, , attacked north and eventually crossed the Han River at Seoul on 7 March.

On 24 March, the regiment was engaged in action near Hill 337. Following this, the regiment reverted to Corps reserve. It was not there long when in the wake of a CCF counter-attack out of the Iron Triangle area the regiment was called on to relieve the 7th Infantry Regiment and establish a perimeter around Seoul. After two weeks the regiment reverted to Army reserve. Near the end of April the 15th moved to the assistance of the 7th ROK Division near Hoengsong. US forces pushed the main line of resistance to the Missouri Line, with the situation remaining relatively stable for the remainder of the war.

Once truce talks began at Panmunjom, the regiment went into reserve training. For a short time the First Battalion served as prison guards on Koje-do Island. Also in 1951 the Third Battalion reverted to an integrated battalion from an all black unit, while the other two battalions were integrated. 1952 was only patrol and outpost actions in the division sector.

On 28 January 1953, the division moved forward and replaced the 25th Division on the Missouri Line. The sector included outposts Tom, Dick, and Harry at the base of the strategic Iron Triangle. Opposing the Regiment's sector were the 211th CCF regiment stationed at positions known as Camel's Back, Hill 391, and Jackson Heights; and the 212th CCF Regiment on Hills 472 and 716. The first major action of the year came in early April. G Company received a heavy enemy assault on Outpost Harry, inflicting 160 Chinese casualties in a four hour fire-fight.

On 16 April, a patrol from C Company made contact with a CCF company, resulting in a 7 hour fire-fight. The following week, F Company was attacked by a CCF battalion at Outpost Harry. Companies A, F, and HHC, 2d Battalion joined in the fight. The remainder of April saw sporadic action in the Chorwon Valley. Early in May, patrols in the vicinity of Tom and Harry ran into frequent contact with the Chinese. At this time, a battalion of the 65th Regiment relieved the 2d Battalion in sector, while the Greek Expeditionary Force Battalion replaced the 3d Battalion in the area of Outpost Dick.

In the following weeks, B Company ran into four separate engagements near Tom in one night, and a raiding party from the 3d Battalion ran into 40 Chinese on Old Charlie. On 2 June the GEF Battalion conducted a raid in the vicinity of Old Charlie. At the same time, a CCF company, with heavy artillery support, attacked the regiment's position on Tom. The 3d Battalion relieved the 65th Infantry in the Harry sector in late May.

On 10 June the Chinese conducted a major attack, feinting towards Outpost Dick, but with Outpost Harry as their main objective. By midnight they had gained the trench on Harry, engaging in close combat with K Company. Companies C and E were used as reinforcements, and turned back four assaults by the time B Company took over the outpost on 12 June. That night the Chinese attacked again. A company from the 5th RCT joined in the defense, to be replaced by another the following day. Company L also reinforced. The Chinese again were defeated. In the following days, Companies C, G, and E manned Harry and held off enemy attacks. The GEF Battalion was relieved from the Outpost Dick sector and took over Outpost Harry on the night of the 16th. They endured another Chinese attack. This was the last attack, as the 74th CCF Division had been destroyed through these relentless attacks. By 14 July all regimental units had been relieved from the sector and were moving to the rear.

A major CCF attack of 7 divisions came against the Capitol ROK Division on the IX Corps right flank. The 15th was thrown into the Kumsong salient and occupied blocking positions on the Wyoming line. For two days there were patrol activity and random contacts, but on 17 July two CCF companies attacked the First Battalion. They were driven off after a 90 minute fire-fight. On 25 July, a CCF Battalion approached Companies K and I, but were driven off by small arms and artillery fire. The final action before the truce went into effect came on 27 July, a brief three minute fire-fight between 20 CCF and a platoon from I Company. Immediately after the cease fire, at 2300 on the 27th of July, the Regiment relieved elements of the ROK Division on the Wyoming Line. The buffer zone was cleared by 5 August, when the Regiment was relieved and returned to the rear area for an extensive training program. The Regiment would remain combat ready lest the fighting break out again.

In our next installment the Regiment returns to Ft. Benning.

Department of the Army
U.S. Total Army Personnel Command
Alexandria, VA 22332-0471

Permanent Orders 235-6 23 August 2002

RICHARDS, GEORGE E. RA 065 883 First Lieutenant,
Company K, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Republic of Korea

Award: Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for Valor (Posthumous)

Date(s): 10 June to 11 June 1953

Authority: AR 600-8-22, Paragraph 3-13

Reason: For heroism in ground combat

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

For heroic achievement in action against the enemy on the night of 10-11 June 1953, during the successful defense of Outpost Harry in the Republic of Korea. While under a massive barrage of high explosive rounds from Chinese Communists Forces, Lieutenant Richards inspired his men to fortify the company's hill position in anticipation of a forthcoming assault by a reinforced regiment of Chinese Infantry. In spite of the company's defensive fire, the enemy reached the trenches. Lieutenant Richards sounded the alarm and without regard for his personal safety, engaged the enemy in close combat, killing several with deadly carbine fire. He held the enemy at bay long enough for the forward observer to request friendly artillery to open fire on their own position. An enemy grenade severely wounded Lieutenant Richards, rendering him unconscious and was subsequently killed by an enemy soldier. Lieutenant Richards' self-sacrifice helped to ensure that Outpost Harry remained in the hands of the United States Eighth Army. His unflinching courage and good cheer in the face of overwhelming odds was an inspiration to his soldiers and in the highest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the 15th Infantry Regiment and the United States Army.

Heroes continued from Page 1.

happen," said Spc. Philip Morris, a 23-year-old from Dothan, Ala. "I'm not really nervous, because I have confidence in the people next to me. I don't have any experience in this sort of thing, so I really don't know what to expect." Charlton started the formation by shouting "Gas, gas, gas," sending his troops into an instinctive reaction to don their protective masks. The point was clear: The road ahead is dangerous. "My goal is to bring every one of you home alive," Charlton said. "You know you're going to be up front in the fight and that's where you belong. You will all go home heroes."

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

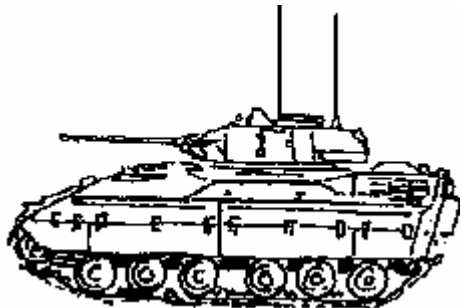
Mail Call continued from Page 4.

attack forces. I feel certain that at least one patrol would have been sent to check on Freudenberg. Since the 1st Bn was nearest to Freudenberg, it is more likely that the patrol would have come from one of its companies.

It is very likely that the History of the Fifteenth Infantry in WWII would make some mention of Freudenberg. Could you help me contact a "Can Do" Vet so that I can ask him to check the 15th History for this information? I want to help my friend as much as I can.

Thank you, Al Brown, Co. H, 30th IN

Mail Call continues on the next page.



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Mail Call continued from Page 6.

Rusty Bradley
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jrbradley2003@yahoo.com

My uncle, James Russell Smith, from Alabama, was in the 15th Infantry Regiment. He was killed on August 28, 1944. Buried in Rhone Cemetery. I believe he was also at Anzio. He is my namesake, but I know very little about him. I am seeking anyone with any information about him.

News from The Division

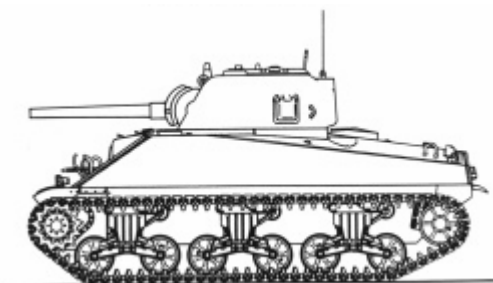
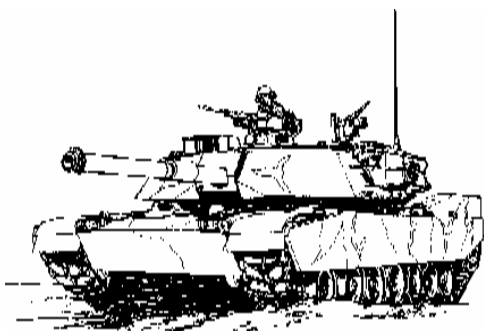
Association members with inquiries about the soldiers deployed to Kuwait and Iraq should direct questions to the homepage of the Fort Stewart website for 'Mail to Kuwait' and 'Adopt a unit' information. The website is located at www.stewart.army.mil.

The 3rd Battalion has a series of photos posted at www.candoland.org.

Write to a Soldier in the Desert

Please send a card or letter to the following address.

Any Can Do Soldier
3-15 IN
Unit # 93202
APO AE 09303-3202



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