

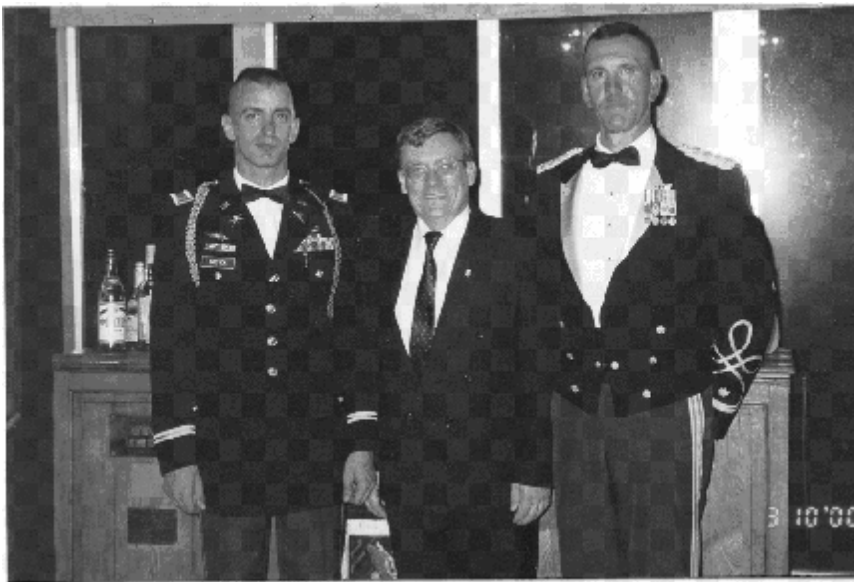
Fifteenth Infantry Regiment



15th Infantry Regiment Association Newsletter

April 2000

1-15th Infantry Dining In—March 10, 2000



Above - L to R: LT Bostick, the Dragon Editor and LTC Pricone
Below - The Commander with his commanders and staff in a song and dance routine.

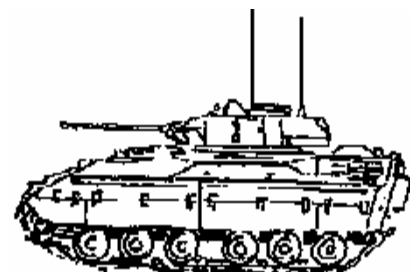


The Year 2000 Dining In for the 1st Battalion was held at Fort Benning on March 10, 2000. This is traditional night of camaraderie among the Battalion officers. LTC Bob Pricone along with his commanders and staff were joined by COL Tony Cuculo, 3rd Brigade Commander and Guest Speaker for the evening. The Battalion Sergeant Major, CSM Padin attended to ensure that the officers displayed appropriate decorum. Also attending were John Burke and Mike Horn from the Regimental Association. Mr Vice, the center of attention for the evening, was none other than LT Bostick.

LT Markiewicz did an excellent job organizing the event and leading the Punchbowl Ceremony. The Punch Bowl Ceremony produced a hearty brew with a flavor unlike any I've tasted previously. It was best approached with caution due to its highly volatile state.

COL Cuculo's remarks were short but direct and true. Those in uniform in the room really are the backbone of our Nation. And their continued willingness to serve is what keeps us strong.

The Color Guard completed the posting and retiring of the Colors flawlessly. I will never cease to be amazed at how sharp our noncommissioned officers and men perform this duty.



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.

Edwin K. Adam.....President
Michael J. Horn.....Editor
Richard R. Guimond.....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 15th Infantry Regiment.

Send dues and new addresses to:

Richard R. Guimond
845 S Yates Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901-4858
☎ 815-932-4858

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.

Send or Email news items to:

Michael J. Horn
Editor of The Dragon
6122 Chrisbin Drive
Columbus, GA 31909-3739
☎ 706-323-6403
Mhorn6122@knology.net



President and Asst. Treasurer
Edwin K. Adam
P.O. Box 2171
Clarksville, IN 47131-2171
☎ 812-945-1166
Eddadam311@cs.com

Vice President and Membership
John T. Burke
5704 Hastings Square
Columbus, GA 31909-4737
☎ 706-563-8909

Secretary
Leon Lebowitz
3403 Cascadera Dr.
Austin, TX 78731-5811
☎ 512-452-8601

Treasurer and Publicity
Richard R. Guimond
May to Nov
845 S Yates Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901-4858
☎ 815-932-4858
Richardg@colint.com

Nov to May
7001 – 142ND Ave #324
Largo, FL 33771-4709
☎ 727-530-5342
Richardg@ij.net

Commander, 1-15 IN
LTC Robert O. Pricone
HQ 1-15 IN, Bldg. 9055
Ft. Benning, GA 31905-1641
☎ 706-544-1633

Asst. Secretary-Treasurer 1-15 IN
CPT Christopher Hollifield
HQ 1-15 IN, Bldg 9055
Ft. Benning, GA 31905-1641
☎ 706-544-2918

Commander, 3-15 IN
LTC Steve J. Banach
HQ 3-15 IN, Bldg. 522
Ft. Stewart, GA 31313
☎ 912-767-7720

Asst. Secretary-Treasurer 3-15 IN
1LT Jefferson S. Redfern
HQ 3-15 IN, Bldg. 522
Ft. Stewart, GA 31313
☎ 912-767-9923

Chaplain.....Charles C. Trout
10191 Birchwood Dr.
Huntington Beach, CA 92646-5432
☎ 714-836-4981
Chaptrout@aol.com

HCOR.....James G. Boatner
3008 Sevor Ln.
Alexandria, VA 22309-2221
☎ 703-360-9279

HSMOR and Custodian of Memorabilia
Jerry Cunningham
501 Chilhowie Rd.
Columbia, SC 29209-5506
☎ 803-783-4491
HSGMOR@aol.com

Historian.....LTC Timothy Stoy
PSC 46, Box 939
APO AE 09469
Tim@stoy.freeserve.co.uk

Past President.....George W. Doyle
3809 Sandra Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28304-5049
☎ 910-483-8267

Past HCOR.....Maurice Kendall
625 Barcelona Court
Satellite Beach, FL 32937-3907
☎ 407-773-5349
Genken@aol.com

Trustees

Patrick D. Heagerty
4837 Carey Drive
Manlius, NY 13103-1606
☎ 315-682-6459

Michael Halik
5 Mountain Trail
Sparta, NJ 07871-1530
☎ 201-729-7427

Roger Lochman
1616 Frederick
Collinsville, IL 62234-1067
☎ 618-345-1067

Application For Membership
15th Infantry Regiment Association

___ New Member _____ Renewal
 (Date)

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Middle Initial _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ - _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Rank _____ ASN _____

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 Richard Guimond
 Use the appropriate seasonal 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.

SNOW BIRDS

There are several members of the Association. who are blessed and spend the winters in warmer climes. This requires actions on their part in order to continue receiving their mail. We know some simply place a change of address with their local post officer which is good for six months. Others notify their mailers of their temporary change of address. So that we can ensure that you receive all mail communications in a timely manner, please send any permanent or temporary changes of address to Edwin K. Adam, P0 Box 2171, Clarksville, IN 47131-2171 or email Eddadam311@cs.com.

E MAIL ADDRESS

As we are in the electronic age and many of us are using e-mail, it would be very helpful if the Association had a record of your e-mail address. Please, those of you who have e-mail or a fax number, please send to Edwin K. Adarn, P. O. Box 2171, Clarksville, IN 47131-2171, e-mail Eddadam311@cs.com or phone 812.945.1166. We will record your information on our data base and include it on the membership rosters.

Military Trivia

1. The WW I Selective Service Act expired in what year?
2. In what year did the Army end its occupation of Germany following WW I?
3. What Army Reserve Division was operating an Army training center three weeks after being mobilized during the Berlin build up?

Answers on page 10.

Web Site Worth a Peek

www.defenselink.mil/-- The official web site of the Department of Defense. From here you can link to all kinds of neat stuff related to all the Services and lots of sites of interest to veterans.



Harold Taylor
6641 Hazelett Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46835-9799

There is a new book out about WWII by Gerald Astor of Scarsdale, NY called *The Greatest War*. He is also the author of several other books, one of which is *African Americans in the Military*. The new book *The Greatest War* is a most complete book of the War containing 1060 pages and 3 years in the making. There were over 120 war veterans providing sources of information for the book. Recently I received a letter from the author advising that he had completed the book. It is being published by the Presidio Press of California. The ISBN is 0-89141-695-1. This is a great book and I am honored to be a part of it. I purchased my copy for \$39.95 from the publisher.



Miller, Vincent F, PVT, C Company, 15th Infantry, from Massachusetts, Killed In Action August 28, 1944. Family seeking information concerning circumstances of his death. Anyone with information please contact: LTC(Ret) Hugh F. Foster III, 821 Dunbar Rd., Carlisle, PA 17013, Phone:(717)249-6219, Email: hfooster3@earthlink.com Note: LTC Foster was provided a list of all C Company, WWII members of the Association.



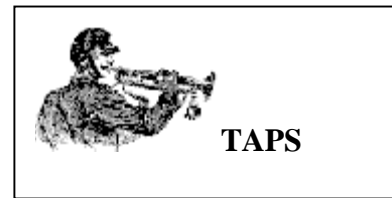
Ortega, Abel, G Company, Korea November 1950 to August 1951. Served in WWII and survived the Bataan Death March and was recalled for Korea. Was assigned to a Puerto Rican squad as the only non-Puerto Rican in the company who could speak Spanish. Now resides in San Antonio and is interested in contacting anyone who served with him. Believes his Squad Leader's name was Jose Diaz. (Note: History Of The Third Division in Korea book shows SGT Jose Masquera Diaz, G Co as recipient of Silver Star) Anyone with information is requested to contact Abel Ortega, Email address ortega1334@collectorscout.com



Tom Mason
2701 NW Hwy 101 Apt 36
Lincoln City, OR 97367

Having been published twice in the last year I feel like a junior grade Ernie Pyle So, being on a roll I have decided to push my luck further and send you another contribution. If the Lord's willing and the creek doesn't rise I am looking forward to

Mail continued on page 9



Lyle W. Dolge

From the February issue of the Watch:

Lyle W. Dodge served with Company K in WW II. He resided at 900 29th Street, Auburn, WA 98002.



Also from the Watch:

Salvatore Lano

Sal died August 8, 1999. He served with Company K in WW II. Sal was a BAR/Rifleman who participated in the Anzio invasion. He was wounded twice. Sal was captured in France and held in Stalag 2B. He was very active in veterans' organizations.



Arthur Brockway

Arthur was an Old China Hand with service in the HQ of 15th from 1936 to 1939. He was born Sep 20, 1914 and a member of OP 63, Society of the 3rd Inf Div and a Life member of the Association having joined in March 1996. He was a retired LTC. He died Jan 21, 2000 and was buried in Tacoma National Cemetery.



Jodie M. Distler

From Jerry Sapiro comes the following

Jodie M. Distler died on November 29, 1999 at Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento, CA. He was 82. His remains were scattered at sea. Jodie served in Cannon Company in WW II. He made all the landings and rose from Private to Sergeant. He was born in Blocker, OK. He was very active in community affairs in Homedale, ID. He served as an American Legion past commander, an Odd Fellows leader and a Boy Scout leader. He was a school board member, also. His wife Doris predeceased him. They had 3 children and 8 grandchildren.



Vernon L. Singletary

From Jerry Sapiro comes the following

Vernon L. Singletary from Cannon Company in WW II passed away on December 15, 1999. Vernon was a native of Grady County, GA. At the time of his death he resided in Madison, FL. Interment was at Evergreen Cemetery, Greenville, Florida.

Action On Kelley Hill

By CPT Jon Ring

Greetings to the CAN DO faithful, as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion (aka the HELLRAISERS) continue to do great things on a daily basis here at Ft. Benning and all points beyond. We made it through the recent rotation as the Division Ready Force One without incident and continued to set new standards for preparations to deploy. The boys got plenty of practice palletizing equipment, preparing vehicles for movement, and getting themselves ready to deploy. We remain confident that, whenever called, we will be able to rapidly respond. The specialty platoons have undergone some recent leadership changes, but have made the transition seamless. The Mortars continue to be the best 120mm mortar platoon around - they have recently shown their capabilities during an Infantry School CALFEX and Fergusson Range Shoot. Both are great opportunities and they get steel on target every time. The Scouts have said good-bye to 1LT Kenneth Hutchison who left for the Infantry Captain's Career Course and welcomed the former Battalion Intelligence Officer, 1LT Ben Coronado, as the new Saber 1. They will be deploying with the Brigade to the National Training Center as part of the Brigade Recon Troop. The Scouts have been training consistently to prepare for the rotation - leaving the Sniper Squad to conduct some great sniper training. Eight out of the nine snipers have now been to the Army Sniper School and they are set to offer the Battalion some significant capabilities. The Medics, Support Platoon, DFAC (aka Hell's Kitchen), Commo, and Maintenance Platoon continue to support the Battalion to the highest standard in everything we do. The achievements are many, but one notable achievement occurred during the recent Battalion Sports Day when the HELLRAISERS thoroughly dominated the King of the Pit, Tug-O-War, and Football events proving that we are a force to be dealt with. We currently are conducting testing for the Expert Infantryman's Badge for the Infantry soldiers within the Company. Our expectations are high. We are also conducting inventories for the impending Company Change of Command that will occur during the CAN DO Rendezvous. The soldiers of the Company are looking forward to the Rendezvous and hope to reunite with old comrades and meet some new ones. HOOAH! CAN DO!

**Edd's Message**

By the time you read this, I will and hopefully a large number of you will be on our way to the 2000 CAN DO RENDEZVOUS! I have the planned agenda, and it is a busy and great one! LTC Pricone and his staff and soldiers have planned a great time for all. From golf to a banquet with many activities in between. I sure hope that you will be with us at Fort Benning April 26-28, 2000!

The Association has been very active since the last Dragon. LTC Tim Stoy represented the Association at dedication and memorial services in France the last part of January. Honors and thanks were paid to the veterans of the 15th Infantry Regiment, particularly those who did not return home with us and to 1LT Audie Murphy, for our part in freeing the country of France from Nazi control during World War II.

We have lost some of our members to their maker who has called them home for rest from their labors - Melvin Paxton, Wilbur Sidney Roy Lewis, William G. Locklear, Jody M. Distler and Vernon Singletary to name only a few. May our Lord continue to bless them and give strength to their survivors!

I just learned that LTC Banach and his 3-15 INF will be deploying to Bosnia in Sep 2000 thru April 2001. The best to them in their endeavors to keep tyranny down and out and freedom in! May our Lord continue to watch over them during their deployment and give strength to their families that they leave behind! I know that they will give a full measure to their duties during this period!

We are working on a program to memorialize our former members of the Regiment. This is to recognize those outstanding Americans who have contributed much towards the support and continued efforts of the Association to support our active duty soldiers in today's Army. Of course it will include many of our wartime heroes, but will be focused on those who have gave of themselves, their time, their funds and their tireless efforts for the overall improvement of the Regiment. If you have any ideas, please share them with Vice President John T. Burke. He and our Trustees are the committee to study this topic and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees and the membership.

Membership continues to be of major importance. John Burke continues to oversee the Membership Committee. He is doing an outstanding job! However, each of us can also help. If you know of a former 15th Infantry soldier who is not a member, please contact him or her and solicit their membership. Or, if you prefer, send their name and address to John or myself and we will make the contact. Also, please encourage you former buddies to keep their membership active by renewing on time. We will be dropping all of those delinquent members from our mailing list before this issue of the Dragon is published. That is the requirements of your C & BL.

I look forward to seeing many of you (I know that all of us cannot attend) at the 2000 CAN DO RENDEZVOUS! I know you will enjoy yourselves and the renewal of old friendships!

You never know who you are going to meet and where!

Let me start my story by giving some background information. In 1943 I graduated from Culver Military Academy located at Culver, Indiana. My room mate my first year, 1940- 41 was William Bentley Welch from near Mattoon, Illinois and he graduated in 1943 also. After graduation we lost track of each other by virtue of going briefly to different colleges and the intervention of WW II.

I was a member of the Enlisted Reserve Corps and was called to active duty in October, 1943. A year later I was with the 47th Infantry, 9th Division in Belgium and fought on the north flank of The Battle of the Bulge. After the attack on the Roer River Dams in Germany I was given the opportunity to attend OCS in Fontainebleau, France. After receiving a commission and serving in the Army of Occupation I returned to civilian life. For a few years, while in college, I was in an active reserve unit, but eventually became inactive.

As did many in similar positions I was recalled to active duty in 1951 and sent to Korea in the fall of 1952. My story begins at this point.

After a brief assignment to another company I was sent to G Company, 15th Infantry. The night that I joined the company I was sitting in a squad tent with the other company officers when a captain entered the tent and sat down on the cot opposite me. A number of minutes went by when he looked at me and said "Pat, don't you recognize me?" I looked at the name on his field jacket and only then realized that he was my old room mate! I learned then that he was the battalion surgeon. " While I was only in Korea from November 1951 to March, 1952 Bill and I renewed our friendship and I learned that he had been in the Navy V-12 program during WW II and had later attended medical school. Bill was actually an obstetrician-gynecologist in civilian life.

Bill turned out to be a superb combat surgeon, more concerned for the care and welfare of the soldiers in the battalion than for himself. It was not unusual for him to take a litter jeep and driver, if necessary, in front of our lines to recover a wounded GI. I remember being told that one night after picking up a casualty the litter jeep turned over on the way back to the aid station. In his anxiety to see about the wounded soldier he stepped on his driver's face!

Unfortunately, I lost track of him again after I left the service until about 1958 or 1959. One day I was reading the morning edition of the Baltimore Sun when I spotted an article about a physician in Miami who had disappeared under unusual circumstances. It was Bill. His car had been found in the local hospital parking lot with his medical bag inside. Despite my efforts to learn more about the incident the trail again ended.

A couple of years later I attended a class reunion at Culver and talked about Bill to another classmate who lived in the Miami area. Phil told that he knew of the unusual disappearance and that it was not the only one. It seems that Bill would disappear without even notifying his wife and would be gone for as much as 4-6 weeks. It is not known for certain but it was speculated that he would go to some isolated Caribbean island where he would give medical care to anti-Castro forces. In the meantime, when home he maintained an active medical practice and, in fact, wrote numerous medical papers. Additionally, he was involved in treating and counseling at-risk teenagers. I remember thinking about how he had time to do all of these things. Unfortunately, Bill died about the age of 45. I thought that the trail of my room mate had ended there.

Let me move forward some 34 years to 1996. I had recently joined the 3rd Division Society and had been persuaded by Joe Poggi (then President of the Society) to attend their reunion in Pittsburgh. There I had a reunion with three sergeants from G Company, Henry Burke, John Burke and Nile Stewart. Through Henry I recontacted our company commander, Warren G. Reed who now lived in San Antonio. Henry asked me to try and find his platoon leader, Lt. Roger L. Peterson as well as the other officers in the company. This turned out to be a difficult assignment as no one knew any of the first names. Peterson was finally located in November, 1996 ; living in a small town in Northern California about 50-75 miles from where I was born! Just the year before my wife and I had passed through the town. In a phone conversation he told me that his daughter and son-in-law had recently moved to Washington, D.C. and that he and his wife were coming East in January. We discussed getting together after 40 years.

Roger, who had known Bill Welch in Korea, called me from his daughter's home in Virginia and we made arrangements to meet the following morning at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. I met him, his daughter, and his grand-daughter at the appointed time and we spent until 2:00 P.M. reminiscing and catching up. We said good- bye as he and his daughter were going to see the Inaugural Parade the next day, then he and his wife were flying back to California.

In the meantime, I received a letter from Culver that the school's well known Black Horse Troop of 70 mounted cadets and 15 girls of the Equestriennes would participate in the Inaugural Parade and that there would be a reception for them the night before the parade at the Marlborough Hunt Club in Upper Marlborough, MD. The cadets and horses were quartered and stabled at an equestrian center nearby.

My wife and I arrived a bit early and found about six or eight people standing in front of a fire in the fireplace. We had just arrived when a man introduced himself as Bill Welch. He was not my room mate and classmate. I told him that it was an interesting coincidence that my room mates name was Bill Welch. "That was my father," he replied! I felt like I had fallen through the floor as I did not know whether my room mate had had any children. In our discussion I learned that he was a Lt.



Bill Miller showing off his Utah plates.

Just goes to show you that the guys from Company G have real style.

That's a 3ID bumper sticker, also.

Mail continued from page 9.

nursed him during his difficult illness.

We cannot allow him to pass without listing the accomplishments that Sid earned during his military career. He was a role model and inspiration that made us perform above and beyond our expectations.

Among the numerous honors he earned on the battlefield are: 3 CIBS, 2 Silver Stars, 7 Bronze Stars, The Distinguished Flying Cross, 3 Legions of Merit, The Purple Heart, 8 Air Medals, The Bravery Gold Medal of Greece. At our last reunion, he was awarded The Order of St. Maurice Medal. In Vietnam, Sid received 2 Republic of Vietnam Crosses of Gallantry, The Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Medal First Class, Republic of Vietnam Parachute Badge and 13 Campaign Stars.

As a commander of Company L in Korea, Sid led every raid. He inspired a group of 21 year old draftees to heroism beyond their belief. By making decisions in the heat of battle, he saved many lives.

Rest in peace Sid. You have been honored by your Country and respected by the men you commanded. //s//



Curtis Warren
Holden, Missouri
email: hfd2101@iland.net

My father, Richard L. Warren, was a Sgt. in Company M. Anyone with info on him or Company M please e-mail me. I met a man that served with him once. His name was Hal Rapert.

Meeting continued from page 6.

Commander in the Navy and had been until recently an F-14 pilot. At that time he was stationed at the Pentagon on a desk job assignment. Bill, Jr. said that he would take advantage of an early out offer and retire from the Navy in the very near future. His wife and two children were with him and his son was also named after his grandfather.

I asked Commander Bill about his father and he told me that when his father died he was only 12 years old. He did not know any details about his father's Caribbean adventures, but the family came to the same conclusion about his father's involvement. He and others have since said that there may have been some CIA involvement.

This meeting led to our meeting again later on and his inviting my wife and I to his retirement ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base. There, after introducing all of his guests he introduced me and told the story about his father and I. Since that time we have stayed in touch and visited he and his family in Florida after attending the reunions in Savannah this past September.

The juxtaposition of meeting Roger Peterson on Saturday and the totally chance meeting the following day of Bill's son made this one of the most memorable experiences of my life.



This is not Father Christmas, but one of the outstanding examples of the leaders in our high speed, lethal modern Army. Of course, he will remain anonymous to most of us in order to protect his identity.



CPT Jon Ring leading the Battalion officers in song. A truly memorable experience.



Society of the Third Infantry Division Reunion

Burlingame, CA
15TH INFANTRY REGIMENT DINNER

The 8th 15th Infantry Regimental Dinner will be held on Saturday, September 2, 2000 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott, Burlingame, CA beginning at 1800 hrs. There is a two entree menu selection.

CHICKEN WELLINGTON at \$36.00 or
NY STRIP STEAK at \$45.00.

Reservations must be made before August 25, 2000 by contacting Richard Guimond at 845 S. Yates Ave, Kankakee, ILL 60901-4845. Please send your name and the name of any guest along with a check in the appropriate amount. We will not be able to guarantee anyone for dinner if reservations are not received before August 25, 2000. This year the theme is recognition of the Korean War Veterans 50th Anniversary. We will have a short and interesting program. One highlight will be the introduction of a new HCOR and new HSGMOR. For any additional information, please contact either President Edd Adam, PO Box 2171, Clarksville, IN 47131-2171 PH: 812.945.1166 or Treasurer Richard Guimond PH 727.530.5342 until Apr 25 or PH: 815.932.4858 after Apr 25 or John T. Burke, 5704 Hastings Sq, Columbus, GA 31909-4737. CAN DO!

World War II Letters by Walter Cronkite

Dear WWII veterans and their friends/families:

I am researching a book entitled World War II Letters by Walter Cronkite, which is a collection of letters from soldiers to their friends and families back home. World War II Letters will have letters from soldiers from every country involved in the Second World War, including the United States, England, France, Japan, Germany, Russia, Canada, Australia, and other countries. The book will be published by Knopf.

But we need your letters! Do you have a letter from your father, husband, brother, sister, wife, mother, or friend that you want to share? If so, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me at the following address:

Ms. Tracy Quinn
Adler & Robin Books, Inc.
3000 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008
202-986-9275 Fax:202-986-9485
tquinn@adlerbooks.com
www.adlerbooks.com/wwiiletters.html

If you have any questions about this book, I would be happy to answer them. I really appreciate your help. Without your support, this book wouldn't be possible.

Mail continued from page 4.

seeing you and the gang in September. I am now using the word "seeing" with some care as that department ain't doing so good. Below is my current effort.

Clouds of War (in hindsight)

1935 In the spring of that year while performing my duties as driver for the commanding officer of the US Army troops in China I was able to see evidence of what was to come later. COL George A. Lynch and myself were standing on the pedestrian overpass in Tientsin railstation where we observed a Japanese troop train moving beneath us. It was well loaded with troops and the tools of combat including artillery pieces. COL Lynch was a gentleman who did not squander words but after the train passed he turned to me and as near as I can recall, said "Mason, if you are writing to the folks at home you may tell them that you have just seen the start of WW II".

1937 Sometime during that year and somewhere on the Yangtze River the USS Panay was bombed and strafed by Japanese fighters. That incident received considerable attention by the press in the Lower 48 but the Administration in Washington more or less swept it under the rug. Apparently international affairs in Europe rated a higher priority than an obsolete gunboat and a handful of white hats stationed halfway around the world and away from the hallowed Halls of Congress.

1938 As we all know that was the year the 15th returned Stateside. The incident I am writing about is a matter of record but outside military circles received little or no publicity. I was not there and only read of it many years later. During the last weeks in Tientsin the American compound became a virtual prison for the garrison as the Japanese had taken over the surrounding area. It also seems they were taunting our people verbally in an effort to create an incident so they would have an excuse to open fire. Obviously our people kept their cool. The next incident is the one I want to stress and it may have never been heard of by the public. A working party from Service Company was strafed by a Japanese fighter while loading outgoing gear in the Tientsin railyards. The railcars provided protection and there were no casualties. The detail was under the supervision of LT Joe Stillwell, Jr. and also present was LTC Arthur Brockway, then a PFC in Service Company. In closing let me pose a question. Is it not quite possible that this small detachment of the 15th were the first Army troops to come under enemy fire in WW II? Overlooking the fact that war was declared three and a half years later. //s//



Daniel Wolfe
10018 Fountain
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

The members of Company L, regretfully inform you that we have lost our hero and company commander, LTC Wilbur A. Sidney. We express our deepest sympathy to his family. We especially express our gratitude to Eva Griffiths and her daughter Debbie who lovingly

Mail continues on page 7

Greetings from Fort Stewart, Georgia! Our last submission ended with our assumption of Division Ready Brigade in February through the end of March. We have been on a 4 hour recall for the Division, ready to go anywhere at a moments notice.

Throughout January, February and now March, there has been a concerted effort by everyone in the battalion to closeout Charlie Company and elements of Headquarters Company in order to meet the Force 21 requirements the Division must satisfy. We will reflag D Company to C Company and D Company will be inactivated.

Within the next four months we will be handling a myriad of tasks to prepare us for the upcoming Bosnia mission. Much of the training focus in March has been geared toward EIB training. The fine NCOs of 3-15 IN (M) have spearheaded most of the efforts in the EIB train-up, leading to EIB testing the first week in April. Once EIB is complete our training for the Bosnia SFOR peacekeeping mission will begin with Individual Readiness Training. Once the soldiers master the common tasks, Division will put them to the test during Platoon and Company Lane training here on Fort Stewart. After long weeks of train-up, the Battalion will take a short leave break over the 4th of July weekend to rest up for the busy eight months ahead.

There will also be a few company changes of command the next few months. CPT Art Williams, who is currently the S-4, will take command of Charlie Company in April. The outgoing Delta Commander, CPT Glen Blumhardt will take over Headquarters Company from CPT Stephen Smith in July, and in Alpha Company, CPT Steve Stock will relinquish his command in July to CPT Eric Berdy. CPT Berdy comes to Alpha Company from the brigade operations section.

Further on down the road, we will deploy to the Joint Readiness Training Center in July and execute a rotation in accordance with the peacekeeping train-up. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting in April, at Fort Benning. CAN DO!

2nd Annual Regimental Rendezvous Raffle

By Dick Guimond

A brief report on the raffle. Reminder, please send in your donation or purchase of raffle tickets to Richard Guimond, Treasurer to 845 So. Yates Ave. Kankakee, IL 60901.

Make check out to the 15th Infantry Regiment

Assn. The response has been good for our second raffle to support publishing of the Dragon four times a year and life membership fund. Over 257 members have responded with contributions and donations to the raffle. The officers of the Assn. wish thank those 257 members for there participation. A reminder to the rest of the members, we need your assistance too. A \$1 per ticket donation towards five \$100 cash prizes. Drawing will be held during the week of the Rendezvous April 26,27, and 28th in Columbus Ga. Winners do not have to be present. Names of winners will be published in the next issue of the Dragon.

Greetings from Fort Benning and the "Home of the Infantry." The last report ended with us sending two of our companies by train to Fort Stewart to support the Third Infantry Division's Marne Focus Exercise. The Bravo Company Bushmasters and the Charlie Company Cobras fell under Task Force 2-69 Armor to represent the Opposing Force for the Exercise. As to be expected, they set the standard in a manner that would make any past or present "Can Do" soldier proud to say he is a part of the 15th Infantry.

In March we held our Dragon Sports Day. Teams representing each company participated in events such as the iron dragon individual competition, the silver dragon squad competition, football, basketball, king of the pit, and tug of war. At the close of the day the scores were tallied, and the Alpha Company Gators edged out the HHC Hellraisers by one point. "HOOAH!"

Since the deactivation of the 73rd Armored Regiment at Fort Bragg, NC, the 3rd ID (M) has become the heavy force that augments the 82nd Airborne Division during their DRF rotations. Our Battalion picked up that mission in March and will continue through the middle of July. If the 82nd gets the call, then we must be ready to push out a company team to support them in less than 22 hours. Once again we continue to be the "Tip of the Spear" for the nation.

Our squad live fire was the primary focus for the month of April. In this exercise dismounted infantrymen practiced tactical movement techniques, entering and clearing trenches, and knocking out bunkers. Squad Leaders planed and executed their missions based on the scenario first by walk-through, then blank fire, and finally by full combat speed live fire. This has resulted in qualified and confident squads, which are the base of our battalion's combat power.

In May we will be conducting our Level 2 Gunnery. Companies will maintain their proficiency by executing Bradley Tables 5-8, 11 and 12. This is a systematic approach to build confidence in their weapon systems culminating with a platoon live fire in which the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and Infantry Squads are integrated and prepared to fight and win on any battlefield worldwide.

At the printing of this edition of the Dragon the Can Do Rendezvous will be complete. I hope everyone that attended enjoyed themselves. And for those that were not able to attend, I'm sure you missed one of the best Rendezvous ever. "CAN DO - HOOAH!"

Military Trivia Answers

From page 3

1. 1946
2. 1923
3. The 100th Training Division

American GI Person of the Century

.c The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - The House on Monday declared the American GI the "person of the century," saying American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines had led the struggle for freedom and democracy from World War I to the NATO efforts in Kosovo.

The resolution, introduced by Rep. Robin Hayes, R-N.C. passed 397-0.

"It's more than fitting that the Congress of the United States recognize our nation's men and women in uniform for their contributions," said Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri, top Democrat on the Armed Service Committee. "The American GI changed the course of world history in helping defeat fascism and communism."

"There's not a region of the world whose people have not benefited from the presence of the American GIs in the 20th century," said Rep. Mike Thompson, D-Calif. Thompson, who served in the Army during the Vietnam War, also sponsored a resolution, passed 399-0, honoring members of the Armed Forces and federal civilians who served in Vietnam during America's 1961-1975 involvement in the conflict.

The resolution, marking the 25th anniversary of America's withdrawal from Vietnam, urges the nation to recognize the service and sacrifice of the 3 million American military personnel who were stationed in Southeast Asia. This recognition is needed, said Rep. Steven Kuykendall, R-Calif., a Marine during the Vietnam War, because "our veterans became an easy target for those who questioned our participation in Vietnam and as a country we turned our back on them."

The "person of the century" bill is H.Con.Res. 282.

The Vietnam war bill is H.Con.Res. 228.

Regimental History In the Western Territories

By Tim Stoy

In my previous articles, I discussed the lineal and detailed histories of the regiment up until 1869. This article will cover the period of the Indian Wars until the outbreak of the Spanish-American War in 1898.

The Regiment remained in New Mexico for a little over 12 years. At the end of that time, the headquarters and six companies were sent to Ft. Lewis, Colorado; three companies to Fort Lyons, Colorado; with one company remaining in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In 1879 and 1880 the Regiment was deeply involved in operations against the Mimbres Apaches under the warrior

Victorio in New Mexico and received a campaign streamer for those operations.

In October and November 1882, the regiment was transferred to the Department of Dakota: Headquarters, A, C, D, and H Companies took station at Fort Randall; B and I Companies at Pembina; G and K Companies at Fort Lincoln; E and F Companies at Fort Stevenson.

In May 1890, four companies proceeded to new posts in the Department of the East: A and G Companies moved to Mount Vernon Barracks, Alabama; D Company to Fort Barrancas, Florida; and K Company to Jackson Barracks, Louisiana. In July 1890 Companies I and K were skeletonized. Also in July, the headquarters and the five companies remaining in the Department of Dakota were assigned to Fort Sheridan, Illinois. In August, Companies E and H proceeded to Fort Sheridan. The Regimental Headquarters moved to Fort Sheridan in January 1891. The remaining companies from Dakota and the companies serving in the South completed their moves in May 1891. The final reconsolidation of all 15th Infantry companies after 12 years of being scattered throughout the West and South was concluded on 29 May 1891. While at Fort Sheridan the Regiment played a vital role in containing the Chicago Railway Riots in July of 1894.

The Regiment remained as part of the Department of the Missouri until 15 October 1896, then served in the Department of Colorado from 19 October 1896 to 6 October 1898.

My next article will begin with the Regiment's actions during the Spanish-American War.

Chaplains Corner

By Chuck Trout, Sr.

I would like to wish all of you a very Happy Easter and invite you to visit the military Chapel in Southern California, if you are ever in the area. I conduct the Protestant service each Sunday morning at 0900 hours. Here is my prayer for each of you this Easter: Almighty God, who brings new life back again out of the darkness of the winter, we thank you for the symbol of everlasting new life You have given to us, the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. In Him we see the hope of new life in the midst of our despair over not being the people we would like to be. We pray that though Your Son, Jesus Christ, we might be able to die to our old life of hurts, frustration and sin, and rise to a new life of love, joy and peace. May we be able to rejoice with the disciples that Jesus Christ is risen indeed, and because of it, we can live also? In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Editors Note: Please inform the Chaplain of the passing of a loved one. He will send the family a card of condolences from the Regimental Association.

12 *The Dragon*, 15th Infantry Regiment Association Newsletter

April 2000

15th Infantry Regiment Association
Michael J. Horn
Editor
6122 Chrisbin Drive
Columbus, GA 31909-3739

Address Service Requested

Presorted
First Class Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Columbus, GA 31908
Permit No. 146

