

April 2017

Fifteenth Infantry Regiment



“The Old China Hands”

www.15thinfantry.org

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Old China Hands,

I have had a busy early spring with two trips to Europe already— one to Germany, Belgium, and Luxembourg and the other to Southern France. Both trips were in connection with military history and touched on aspects of the Regiment’s service in WWII and the Korean War. I am submitting a separate report on the trip to Belgium and Luxembourg in this issue.

We are excited over the Regimental dinner being hosted by 3d Battalion in Savannah on 12 May. It gives us a chance to meet and get to know our soldiers and leaders in this great battalion. We have tried to get the word out through our website and through our email distribution— hopefully a good number of you are able to attend. I would like to thank Mike Horn for making our PayPal service available to the battalion for reservations and payments.

With the announcement that 2nd Brigade Combat Team is reorganizing from light Infantry to Armored, 3-15 IN will be fielding the Bradley and Abrams this coming year and will not be deploying. This provides us the opportunity to work with the leadership in strengthening ties between our active duty soldiers and the Association. Our younger members, who are veterans of Iraq, will have the opportunity to provide useful advice to our light fighter Can Do soldiers as they learn the ropes on these awesome weapon systems!

This year marks the 100th birthday of the 3d Infantry Division in WWI. Your Association leadership made the decision last year that we will hold our annual Regimental dinner at Fort Stewart/Savannah in conjunction with Marne Week activities at Fort Stewart in November. Tad Davis is already working coordination so that we can take advantage of events and activities being hosted by the division that week. This means we will not have an official Regimental Association dinner during the 3ID Society Reunion in San Antonio this September.

We have received some exciting news from Los Angeles— a high-powered production company is producing a docudrama series to be shown on Netflix on Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. One of those recipients is Sergeant Sylvester Antolak, who served in Baker Company, 1st Battalion and received his medal posthumously for actions on 24 May 1944 during the breakout from the Anzio beachhead! As Association historian, I have been assisting them with information and trying to arrange interviews with surviving veterans. We should all be thrilled one from our Regiment will receive some popular recognition. I recommend you read his citation— it causes me goose bumps!

As of 1 April, we are operating without a treasurer as Bart Viruso stepped down effective that date. We are in dire need of a dedicated Can Do volunteer to fill this critical post. We are a small association and aren’t operating with huge sums of money, but the function remains critical as our IRS status depends on proper accounting of whatever funds we have. We must surely have someone in our ranks who can handle this for us! Please contact me if interested.

On 20-22 April I am co-hosting, under the auspices of Outpost International of the Society, a Korean War historical seminar here in Northern Virginia and I am exceedingly happy Association member Bob Baker will deliver a presentation on the Battle of Outpost Harry along with showing selected excerpts from the documentary that he produced. We will also be joined by Association members Joe Hampton, Jerry Cunningham, and David Mills. It should be a great event!

This will be another great year for our Association. I look forward to hearing from you on how we can improve and grow the Association, but we need more than just good ideas. We need helping hands!

Can Do! Tim

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Taps

Raymond E. Hill Guntown, MS T/4, L CO, 3 BN, II, Nov 1944-Apr 1946 DOD 10/12/2016 Reported by T. Heitzer	William H. Henry-LM Oxnard, CA LTC, F CO, 2 BN, KW, Dec 1948-Apr 1951 DOD 11/08/2016 Reported by T. Heitzer	Joseph G. Kennelly River Edge, NJ CPL, E CO, 2 BN, KW, Oct 1951-Aug1952 DOD 11/21/2016 Reported by T. Heitzer
James N. Nikola-Former Member-OPH Winter Haven, FL CPL, A CO, 1 BN, KW, Mar 1953-Nov 1953 DOD 12/16/2016 Reported by Wife Sherrill to J. Campbell	Robert R. Larsen-Former Member Janesville, WI MSGT, F CO, 2 BN, KW, Apr 1952-Apr 1953 DOD 02/18/2017 Reported by T. Heitzer	

New Members

Eric L. VanDunk-LM Hinesville, GA SFC, HHC, 3 BN, GWOT, Jul 2015-	Leon J. Bosquet Battice, Belgium CPL, B.U.N.C., Belgium BN, KW, Nov 1951-May 1952, Jul 1953-Jul 1954	Thomas E. Donegan-Reinstated Bend, OR SGT, C CO, 1 BN, GWOT, May 2000-Dec 2003
James J. Davis-Upgraded to LM Mason, OH SGT, Med CO, REGT, KW, Apr 1952-Mar 1953	Michael W. Dwyer West Hartford, CT LT, C CO, 3 BN, GWOT, Jul 2016-	Calvin W. Farlow III Richmond Hill, GA, 31324 2LT, HHC, 3 BN, GWOT, Jan 2017-
Frank R. Machuga Daytona Beach Shores, FL 1LT, D CO, 2 BN, CW, Oct 1960-Oct 1964	Roman P. Sendrowski-LM Willseyville, NY CPL, K CO, 3 BN, KW, Nov 1952-Sep 1954	Bridget A. Ryan Savannah, GA 2LT, HHC, 3 BN, GWOT, Jan 17-
Jamie L. Mills-LM Owosso, MI SGT, HHC, 1 BN, PT, May 1993-Feb 1997		

Membership Report

NUMBER OF MEMBERS BY PERIOD

NUMBER OF CHINA HANDS	0
NUMBER OF WWII MEMBERS	40
NUMBER OF KOREA MEMBERS	138
NUMBER OF COLD WAR MEMBERS	92
NUMBER OF PEACETIME MEMBERS	13
NUMBER OF OEF FORCES	2
NUMBER OF OIF FORCES	22
NUMBER OF GWOT FORCES	45
<u>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</u>	<u>32</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS	384

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE

REGULAR LIFE	250
REGULAR ANNUAL	102
ASSOCIATE LIFE	16
<u>ASSOCIATE ANNUAL</u>	<u>16</u>
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	384

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Database Change

The 15th Infantry Regiment Association did a little tweaking in the designation by 'Period' for our members. We will now use the below categories to designate which period each member is assigned when joining the Association by their dates of service. This change affected mostly those who we previously characterized as RF (Regular Forces). The breakdown is as follows:

WORLD WAR II	1940-1946
KOREAN WAR ERA	1948-12/31/1954
COLD WAR ERA	01/01/1955-08/01/1990
PEACETIME	08/02/1990-09/17/2001
OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM	09/18/2001-12/31/2014
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM	1/29/2002-05/01/2012
GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR	09/18/2001-TO PRESENT

You will notice that Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and the Global War on Terror (GWOT) timeframes overlap. Those who served in Iraq during those dates will be designated as OIF. Only those who served with the 3-15 Infantry in Afghanistan will get the designation OEF. All others from 09/18/2001 to the present will be given GWOT. This change is more in line with how the Army designates Soldiers and it will make it easier to find those you served with when looking at our membership roster. According to our records, there are nine members who could have served in Afghanistan that we tried to contact by e-mail to see if we needed to change their designation from GWOT to OEF. If any of our members served with 3-15 Infantry in Afghanistan, please contact Tom Heitzer at theitzer001@charter.net so we can make the change.

15th Infantry Regimental Ball

On 12 May 2017 LTC Marks, CSM Dow, and the 3rd Battalion will host the 15th Infantry Regimental Ball. The battalion looks forward to a fun evening of traditions and comradery with the Soldiers, Spouses, and Friends of the 15th Infantry. It will be held at the Savannah Marriot Riverfront, 100 General McIntosh Blvd., Savannah, GA 31401. Please visit <http://www.15thinfantry.org/ball2017orderform.html> for more information and to register for this event in historic downtown Savannah. The website will be updated as more information becomes available. Attendee registration must be completed before 1 May 2017.

Active Battalion Update

3rd Battalion Defeats Enemy Forces during China Focus

The Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment wasted no time in 2017 before beginning their first field training exercise (FTX) on Fort Stewart, Georgia. On January 12th, 10 days after returning from holiday leave, the battalion began deploying companies to conduct platoon collective level training.

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The training event, named Operation Red Boxer, was designed to stress our deployment systems and ability to execute combat operations in an austere environment. The four-day training event also confirmed subordinate units' ability to successfully complete 96 hours of continuous operations. During the training event, platoons conducted hasty and deliberate attacks as well as reconnaissance missions. The culminating event was a platoon combined arms live fire exercise on an unfamiliar piece of terrain.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) was responsible for the overall planning and resourcing of the training event and was the first to deploy. In order to test go-to-war systems, HHC executed an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise (EDRE), rapidly established the battalion tactical operations center (TOC), and facilitated mission command over the training event.

On day one, Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie Companies conducted an air movement (by platoon) from Forward Operating Base (FOB) Sparta into Area of Operation (AO) China to start the exercise. The first lane consisted of a three kilometer movement across the swampy marshlands of western Fort Stewart. The first mission was a deliberate attack against an unknown number of enemy personal occupying an explosive production factory. Following the attack, each platoon conducted a two kilometer movement and established a hasty patrol base in preparation for their next mission, which was a night movement to conduct a hasty attack on a mortar firing site.



On day two, the platoons conducted a day attack on Objective (OBJ) Redskins and a night attack on OBJ Cardinals. After the attacks, they established a patrol base in order to plan and prepare for a follow-on mission. That evening, the platoons moved another three and a half kilometers to attack another mortar firing position. There were approximately nine to ten enemy personnel and various manmade obstacles at each objective. This was by far the most challenging day for the platoons.



Day three consisted of two more situational training exercise (STX) lanes. The platoons conducted two raids on OBJ Eagles, which was an attack on an enemy defensive position, during daylight and hours of limited visibility. At the conclusion of day three, each platoon conducted an in-depth after action review (AAR) which enabled leaders to refine unit standard operating procedures (SOPs) and tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs), ultimately improving their overall effectiveness.

On day four, each company executed another air movement (by platoon) to conduct an out of sector mission (the combined arms live fire exercise). This mission was significant because each platoon would be executing a live fire training event without conducting a dry or blank fire on that piece of terrain. This was the platoon's opportunity test their systems under near real life condition. Their high level of training prepared them to be successful.

While most of the Battalion was executing Operation Red Boxer, Delta Company provided opposition Force (OPFOR) support while preparing for their gunnery training event which is scheduled to take place in early April. Golf Company also played a critical role in the execution of

Operation Red Boxer; it was instrumental in providing logistical support for the entire mission. Golf Company also trained in convoy operations and delivered Class I, Class IV, and Class V supplies to the maneuver companies.

Operation Red Boxer tested not only the tactical proficiency of our Soldiers; it tested their resiliency as well. Each company faced its own, unique weather-related challenges. Alpha Company, the first to conduct the training operated in hot and humid conditions. Charlie Company faced tornadoes and severe storms which brought strong winds and rain to Fort Stewart, Georgia. Bravo Company was the last to execute the STX lanes and operated in the aftermath of the tornadoes in unseasonably cold and wet conditions. While each company faced its own set of challenges, all prevailed and exemplified the battalion's "Can Do" attitude throughout the exercise. In addition to executing platoon collective level training, each company continues to improve its combat readiness level by executing multiple small arms ranges, mortar firing tables, trauma training, and combat communication classes. Even though we have completed collective training at the platoon level, there is still room for improvement. After spending most of January and February conducting China Focus we'll continue to capitalize on the lessons learned from the exercise.



Throughout February and March, all six companies diligently trained to improve readiness; each company executed at least one qualification range or gunnery in this time frame. The scout platoon conducted a sniper known distance (KD) range and squad STX.



Medical personnel conducted a Combat Life Saver (CLS) course to certify Soldiers in this critical skill. Alpha Company trained on land navigation, small arms, heavy weapons, and completed advanced rifle marksmanship training. Bravo Company conducted small arms training and advanced rifle marksmanship. Charlie Company qualified on machine guns, M320s and M9s. It also did glass house training and validated squad and platoon movement SOPs. Delta Company qualified on M4s, M9s, and M320s and trained gunnery tables V, XI, and XII. They also

provided validation crew exercise (VCE) support to one of our sister battalions during their gunnery by sending NCOs to grade and evaluate proficiency. Golf Company completed gunnery tables III, IV, V, VI and a convoy live fire. The live fire tested their ability to react to IEDs, small arms fire, and perform a CASEVAC operation.

Historian's Corner

Belgians and Luxembourgers Can Do Too!

By Tim Stoy

In preparation for the Korean War historical seminar we are hosting in April, Monika and I traveled to Belgium and Luxembourg in late March to meet and interview veterans of the Belgian

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United Nations Command (BUNC) who were attached to the 3d Infantry Division for the majority of the final two years of the war. During this period, this battalion-sized element was attached to either the 15th Infantry or the 7th Infantry, while these regiments served in the front lines. Luxembourg also provided a platoon that served within the Belgian battalion.

We first visited the BUNC museum which is located within the 3d Belgian Parachute Battalion compound in Thielen, Belgium. The 3d Parachute Battalion officially carries the lineage of the BUNC, and each of the buildings on the compound carries the name of one of the BUNC's battles or Korean War honors. This

impressive collection is co-located with the Parachute Battalion's unit museum and was dedicated with the participation of the Korean Ambassador to Belgium in 1990. The displayed artifacts have all been donated by former BUNC members, including 15th Infantry DUIs and 3ID patches. We were honored that two veterans met with us at the museum – retired Sergeant Major Louis De Clee and Mr. Cor Feyt, both of whom were members of the first contingent sent to Korea and who both remained for the entire war. Mr. Cor Feyt is the curator of the museum and I presented him with a miniature flag of our Regimental DUI for the museum. Our visit to the museum and meeting with the veterans was coordinated by Mr. Rudy Claes, a former Belgian paratrooper who is an avid historian and collector.



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Both veterans spoke warmly of their service with the 3d Infantry Division and the 15th Infantry Regiment, favorably contrasting their treatment by our men and commanders to that which they received while attached to the 29th British Brigade, under which they saw significant combat on the Imjin River in April 1951. One of the iconic pictures of the BUNC in the war was of their Chaplain's jeep which bore the motto "Belgians Can Do Too!" We learned from them that the Belgian soldiers who served in Korea were all volunteers, as there was no law in Belgium authorizing conscripts to serve overseas. Sadly, we also learned Belgian Korean War veterans were treated as poorly, or worse, than our own veterans upon return from Korea with many Belgian veterans deeply embittered over their poor treatment by their own government and citizens.

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The following day we drove to the city of Diekirch, Luxembourg to visit the National Military History Museum. The museum displays a lifesize diorama of a Luxembourg machine gun bunker on one of the hill outposts in Korea and it has a nice collection of artifacts donated by Luxembourg veterans, again including 15th Infantry DUIs and 3ID patches. We were honored to be guided through the museum by Mr. Roland Gaul, the founder of the museum and now-retired museum director. He provided us with a great deal of information on the Luxembourg soldiers who served in the Korean War. The museum grew out of Roland's personal collection of artifacts from WWII and the fighting in the Battle of the Bulge and now encompasses the full history of Luxembourg's military. I presented Mr. Gaul a miniature 15th Infantry flag in thanks for his time and support.



Our Regiment performed superbly in the Korean War, rebuilding itself after being stripped of personnel to serve as individual replacements, while on the ship from the West Coast to Japan in August 1950 and training in Japan. In the course of the war, it received numerous attachments, one of the more notable and most long-term being the BUNC. The visit to Belgium and Luxembourg brought home to us once again the importance of the bonds formed during combat service. We were honored to represent the Regiment and reconnect with some of our Belgian/Luxembourg Can Dos!



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From the Foxhole

By Mike Horn

The 15th Infantry and Jackson Barracks

As you may know, the Regiment moved throughout the western US beginning in 1866 and the years following the War of the Rebellion. Companies were spread out in many states and forts. The [Regimental Station List](#) on our website shows how far and wide the 15th Infantry served in these many outposts and forward operating bases. Needless to say, this was a command, control, and communications nightmare for the leadership team. In May 1890, Company K was sent to Jackson Barracks, Louisiana which is just east of New Orleans. The Company served there until reflagged. Jackson Barracks is a beautiful Post. Although wrecked by Hurricane Katrina, the installation was rebuilt. Today many of the original buildings used by our troops remain in use. From the Mississippi River side, here is a picture of the original 15th Infantry Barracks as it stands today. A visit to the new museum at Jackson Barracks is like a trip back in time.



15th Infantry at Fort Benning

A great number of 15th Infantry soldiers remain stationed at many posts and installations throughout the world. Here are three at the Fort Benning Club on Friday, 31 March 2017. The 316th Cavalry Brigade Ball included several 15th Infantry attendees. Here are LTC Brent Harrington (Bde XO) and 1LT Italiano (CDR, C Troop, 1-16th Cavalry). Those not pictured included SGM Cordell Gailliard, CPT Watson, CPT Montoyo, and SSG Oldaker, and others.



Editor's Note

We have been receiving a lot of great content for the newsletter. I highly encourage members to contribute articles and photos for upcoming editions. Please feel free to send material via email to andrew.g.lerch.mil@mail.mil. If you cannot digitize an item, please send through the ordinary mail to the below address:

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I will return any item upon request (i.e. photo). If you have any questions or concerns, please email me or call (703) 767-6565.

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