

## *Fifteenth Infantry Regiment*



[www.sergeantsmajor.org/cando](http://www.sergeantsmajor.org/cando)

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

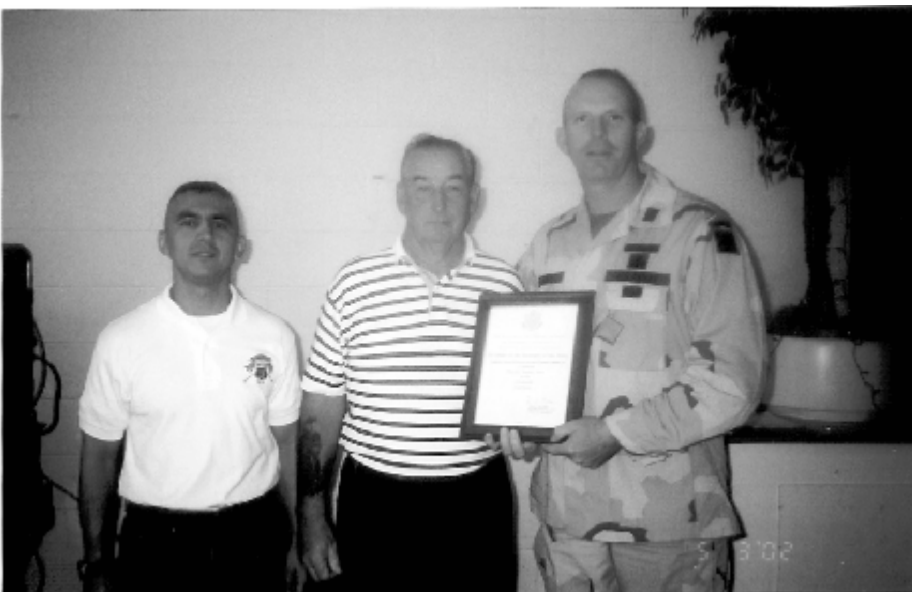
July 2002

# 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Deploys to Kuwait

Company C led in the deployment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion to Kuwait on March 30, 2002. On the evening before the flight out, Acting 1SG Martin Celestine formed the company one last time for final preparations and issuance of the operations orders. CPT Greg Hetzel addressed the Company and in a special ceremony promoted Sergeant Jorge Nunez to the grade of Staff Sergeant. SSG Nunez's wife, Leah, assisted in pinning on the new stripes. At right, members of Company C congratulate SSG Nunez as the remainder of the Company looks on. Other photos of the troops preparing for deployment are found on page 6.



## **REGIMENTAL HONORARY SERGEANT MAJOR APPOINTED**



At left, in a special ceremony at the 1st Battalion on May 3, 2002 Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Thomas Twomey was appointed Honorary Sergeant Major of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. LTC Dennis Smith (right) presents The Certificate of Appointment to CSM Twomey (center) with CSM Gabriel Ossa (left) assisting. The appointment to the honorary position was recommended by the active battalions under the guidelines of Army Regulation 200-28 and was made by the Chief of Infantry, Fort Benning, GA. The position is designed to promote and enhance the history and traditions of the regiment, promote warfighting ethos among soldiers, and create cohesion among members of the regiment. The term of the appointment is for three years. Command Sergeant Major Twomey joins and will serve with Lieutenant General (Ret) Jared Bates, the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

**CSM Twomey continued on page 7.**

*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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month prior to publishing.

Lenny Lessor.....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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406 1st Division Road  
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## Invitation to a Patriotic Party in the town Audie Murphy called home Farmersville, Texas June 20, 2002 6:00--9:00 p.m.

WWII's most decorated combat soldier, Audie Murphy, will be honored with a birthday celebration in his hometown, Farmersville, TX, Thursday, June 20 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The town is paying tribute to him and all military personnel. It's a family party you won't want to miss--a parade honoring WWII veterans, T38 and T39 Fly Over from Shepherd Air Force Base, patriotic music performed by the Garland Chorale and Caledonian Pipes & Drums Band, great food, and no admission charge at Freedom Plaza on the downtown square of this small, rural town 1 hour northeast of Dallas. (To let us know you are coming or for more information, call the Visitor's Center at 972-782-6533 or [mainst@farmersvilletx.com](mailto:mainst@farmersvilletx.com). Please identify yourself as a member of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry.)

For those intrigued with how an 5'5" 112 pound 18-year old from a poor sharecropper family with less than an 8th grade education could distinguish himself so brilliantly on the battlefield and have such passion for freedom, come to the party and get to know his home town folks. His parents and grandparents are buried in nearby cemeteries. Farmersville lost 1.5% of its population in WWII--about 6 times the U.S. average.

"Freedom flies in our heart like an eagle.

Let it soar with the winds high above  
Among the spirits of soldiers now sleeping,  
Guard it with care and with love."

A stanza from Audie's poem Freedom Flies in Your Heart Like an Eagle.

The purpose of Farmersville's tribute is not to glorify war or killing but to honor those who through their personal responsibility and sacrifice have taken on the burden of our freedom. Some survived and some did not. Everyone who loved them also paid a price. To know more about Farmersville and read about last year's Audie Murphy Day Ceremony, go to [www.farmersvilletx.com](http://www.farmersvilletx.com).

In 1996, the Texas Legislature officially designated Audie's Birthday as Audie Murphy Day in Texas. On June 20, 1999, which was Audie's 75th birthday, as Governor of Texas, George W. Bush underlined the importance of the day with an Official Proclamation. This material and other information about the Audie Murphy Foundation is available at [www.audiemurphy.com](http://www.audiemurphy.com)

The Life Magazine issue for 1945 covering Audie's return from WWII was shot here in Farmersville and things probably look pretty much the same. Our town is a lot like Audie was when he went to the war--small, rural, and scrappy but intensely loyal to friends and kinfolk. It would be a special treat if your members could join us on this occasion. If I can be of any further assistance, please contact me at 972-784-8619 or [loisoneal@fni.com](mailto:loisoneal@fni.com).

With great appreciation, Lois O'Neal

## Mail Call



Sabine Zastawniak  
Vogesenstrasse 29  
68229 Mannheim - Germany

I am searching for information about my grandfather, William Walter Pierce, Serial Number 83539913. He was in Bad Wildungen, Germany at the end of the WWII. We know he served with the Can Do Regiment. My grandmother was Erika Porges. I'd like to hear from anyone who knew my grandfather. In addition, I'd like to hear from anyone who knows in which Company my grandfather served.

Jim C. Mount  
241 Rocky Creek Farm Drive  
Woodstock, Ga  
770-924-3856  
carabellejim@aol.com

My father, Henry F. Mount, Jr. is 77 now and in good health. He served with the I&R Platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. He is looking for anybody that he served with at Nompatalize-Anzio-Colmar-etc. Any info would be greatly appreciated. Thank You

Edward Wabeck  
150 Merrifield Rd  
Bernardston, MA  
413-648-9745  
luckyeddee@mtdata.com

I have been trying to obtain information on an uncle of mine killed in Germany during WWII. He was in G Company. He died April 10th 1945. I haven't been able to get anything from the records office in St. Louis as of yet. His name was Stephen S. Warbeck (actually Wabeck but our Army got it wrong I guess). ASN 31285030. I've managed to get some information here and there but nothing much official except some certificates from the state and federal govt. from right after his death. He was from Conway, Massachusetts and if anyone has any helpful ideas of information I'd greatly appreciate them. Thanks in advance.

**Mail Call continues on the next page.**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Bn LT SETS BURGER RECORD

Just east of Fort Benning is a restaurant that is noted for burgers of humongous, size and prepared to suit any palate. The eatery names the burgers for the various type troops training at the Post. One such burger, the Ranger Burger, is likened to a Big Mac or a Whopper on steroids. Recently during filming of a movie, superstar Mel Gibson was hard put to down just one of the Ranger Burgers. From time patrons attempt to set a record for the most Ranger Burgers devoured at a setting. As of May 2, 2002 that record belongs to 1 LT Jathan Payne.

Payne (below), from Kennesaw, GA, made his way midway through a fifth burger before drawing the line. When he stopped he had consumed

**Burger Record continued on page 6.**



## Lenny's Message

This issue of *The Dragon* will be your last issue before the Regimental Dinner. This will be our first Business Meeting because of the cancellation of the Rendezvous at Fort Benning this past April. The Business Meeting will be held at 1:00 PM, on September 12th, 2002 in the Adams Mark Hotel. All members are welcome at this meeting. We will have a Registration Table set up in the Hotel. Members may pick up their tickets for the Regimental Dinner and other items the Association has for sale.

Please register for the Regimental Dinner in advance -There will be no meals sold nor purchased at this dinner. Our treasurer, Lloyd Whitmer, must have your Reservations by the cut-off date, September 6, 2002.

Please advise your friends in the other units of the Division that they are also welcome to attend our Regimental Dinner. In fact, All Marnemen, their guest(s) and visitors are welcome at our Regimental Dinner.

July 2002

Ruth Whiteley  
911 Ashburn  
College Station Texas 77840  
ruthltx@yahoo.com

My father, Eli L. Whiteley, served in Company L in France during WWII. I am trying to find as much information on him as possible. He was severely injured in December 27, 1944 in Sigolsheim, France. Later, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. I would like to know more about his life as a soldier. If you have any information, please contact me.

Junius S. Clemmons  
3 Shawnee Valley Drive  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301  
(570) 420-1404  
kikste@chilitech.net

I am looking for information concerning Herman Osofsky. During WWII he was in the 15th. Was wounded in the invasion of Southern France. Was sent to a hospital in Italy and later transferred to a hospital in Walla Walla, Washington. He is from North New Jersey. Any information would be deeply appreciated.

Paul Zoellner  
2601 Brookdale Avenue  
Ashwaubenon, WI 54313  
pzoellner@milwpc.com

I'm still trying to find any information or old photographs of my dad, Dick Zoellner. He served in both the 7th and 15th Infantry Regiments. He was also nicknamed "Swede" because of his white/blond hair. I know he participated in the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, and Naples/Salerno, and Anzio. I know the chances are getting slimmer that I may find anyone that would remember him or have a photo of him, but its worth the try!

Holly Gaddis  
3284 US Hwy 441 South  
Commerce, GA  
LuvBugXTC@aol.com

I am looking for anyone who might have served with my grandfather Carl Edward Gaddis. He served in the Regiment around 1944. Please, if anyone knows anything about him contact me. He died in 1969 before I was born, and I never got a chance to know him.

Sharon Dorrough Dickey  
110 Windsor Cove NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30328  
hogs44@earthlink.net

My father, Capt. Richard P, (Dick) Dorrough served with the Regiment during World War II. He received a battlefield commission, I believe, Oct. 13, 1943. He was with the invasion forces at Casablanca, Tunisia, Sicily, Salerno, Anzio, Southern France, the Colmar Pocket, and the Rhine River. He received the Purple Heart, 8 Bronze Stars, Bronze Arrow Head, and the Silver Star. I would like to hear from anyone who may have served with him. He passed away in 1987 and is still my hero.

George W. Flowers  
11582 State Hwy 72  
Millersville, MO 63766-6124

During WWII, I served in H Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, and June 44 to March 45. I was then transferred to Service Company where I served until May 46. After the war, while with Service Company in Wursburg, I spent 2 weeks in the hospital. During the stay in the hospital there was a fire. I have been unable to find a record of the hospitalization. I would appreciate contact with anyone who may have known me or the circumstances of the fire.



### **George William Mohr**

George was a Founding Life Member of the Association. He served in A Company as a First Lieutenant during WWII. Mohr died 19 April 2002. He was interred at Arlington with full military honors. Reported by MG Kendall.

### **Raymond H. Ahrens**

Ray was a member of the Association since 1999. At the time of his death he lived in Concord, CA. He served in Korea with Co H 2nd Bn. Ray died Feb 20, 2002. Reported by his wife, Debra.

### **Andrew Leaming**

Major Leaming served with the Regiment during WWII in Company L. At the time of his death on Jan 22, 2002 he resided in Spokane, WA. He was a member of the Association since 1995. Reported by John Wiess.

### **Walter N. Harman**

An Association member since 1994, Walter served in Company L as a PFC during WWII. At the time of his death, in April, he resided in Allentown, PA.

Hurry up and wait.

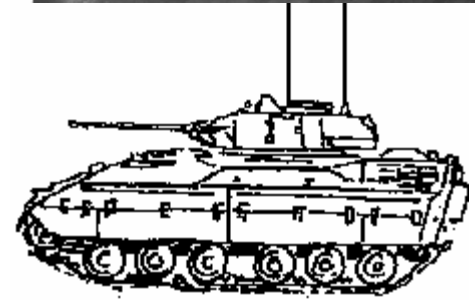


PVT Swartz and PVT Flores from the 120mm Mortar Platoon

PVT Jeremiah Wolford with the A Company guidon.



SFC Grider, Support Platoon, issuing last minute instructions.



**Burger Record continued from page 4.**

4 1/2 pounds of ground meat, 10 slices of cheese, and 10 slices of bacon, along with quarts of water. Several of Payne's fellow "Can Do" Dragons were on hand with the Battalion Commander, LTC Dennis Smith, leading the cheering. LTC Smith observed that the Battalion would be leaving for Kuwait about mid-May and burgers would be hard to find there.

Several challengers have indicated that attempts will be made to unseat 1LT Payne as Champion. The 28 year old, 260-pound veteran of 10 years service, commissioned through OCS, indicated he would have to zero in on other priorities for a few months.



### Society of the Third Infantry Division Reunion

The annual 15th Infantry Regimental Dinner will be held at 7:00 PM 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 who 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

<b>Registration/Reservation Form</b>			
Name		Guest Name	
Address			
City		State	Zip
Event	Number	Price	Total
Association Dinner			
Prime Rib of Beef		\$28.00	
Baked Haddock Platter		\$28.00	
Enclosed is my payment for			▶

**CSM Twomey continued from page 1.**

CSM Twomey enlisted in the Army in August 1947. After basic training he served in Korea with the 6<sup>th</sup> Division prior to the Korean War. In 1949 he returned to the US with the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Reg't. In 1949 he transferred to the C Company, 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Reg't, and deployed to Korea in November 1950. He received the first of two Combat Infantryman's Badges during the massive evacuation of Hungnam. He participated in all the campaigns fought by the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry until he rotated to the US in October 1951. Other assignments during his more than 30 years of service included Special Forces duty with the Berlin Brigade; with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group based at Fort Bragg; and in Thailand. Sandwiched in between was a tour with the 1<sup>st</sup> Reaction Force in Vietnam where he earned his second CIB for operations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. He was recalled to active duty during Desert Storm and served at Fort Mead, Maryland, celebrating his 61st birthday while on active duty.

### In The Shadow Of Audie Murphy Episode one: Captain Hackett

In the beginning of 1958 the 1st Battle Group, 15th Infantry gyroed into Bamberg Germany pumped up and ready to go to war. Units had signed for their TO&E and by early Spring were ready for major maneuvers at a training area called Wildflicken on the Czech boarder.

The 3rd Infantry Division had reorganized into the new pentagonal division, which was designed to fight the cold war any time it turned hot. The Division built up at Ft Benning and trained there until time for deployment to Europe. Now was the time to take over the serious business of maintaining stability in Southern Europe. The Division's sector of responsibility or General Area of Operations (GAO) was from Schweinfurt south to just above Nurnberg and east to boarders of West Germany. Units organized into the Battle Group configuration, were designated "gyro" units. Once assigned, no officer or enlisted man would be moved out of the Battle Group for three years.

"Welcome to Warner Kaserne. You'll be joining Company B." the Adjutant told me. "None of the companies have a full complement of officers. B Company has an EXO and a Weapons Platoon Leader. What they need now is a rifle platoon leader. Company B is right down the street, second building beyond our regimental museum".

I had come to Germany under individual orders to join the 15th on site in Bamberg. Now in the month of May, year of our Lord, 1958, I was about to meet my first company commander, Captain Joe Hackett. The Adjutant was right. I couldn't miss the museum. The bars on all the windows and doors were a dead give away. What on earth could warrant that kind of security?

The orderly room in Company B was a tiny little office and as soon as you stepped into the room you were immediately the center of attention. "Oh, my god, a second lieutenant". I looked over at the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant. He was a wiry built man with cold black eyes. On his shoulder was the orange lanyard designating him as part of the force that jumped into Holland on D-day. His senior jump wings carried two bronze stars. "The old man is over in the mess hall. Go on over and meet him now ... um, sir. "I was definitely intimidated. If this was a first sergeant, what must the company commander be like?

I learned later that all the company commanders in the battle group were what was known as "professional" company commanders. This was the fifth company Captain Hackett had run. There wasn't much he didn't know about a rifle company. Even so, the battle group organization was a challenge. It had four rifle platoons made up of three rifle squads and a weapons squad. The Weapons Platoon had four 81 mm mortars and two recoilless rifles. Each of the weapons squads had two 30 caliber machine guns and two rocket launchers. Organic to the company was the mess section, which was left in direct support of the company both in garrison and in the tactical deployment. All in all, these Battle Group rifle companies had a TO&E strength pushing 300 men.

As soon as I walked in I could see him sitting at the back of the mess hall with a cup of coffee at his lips. His eyes followed me as I marched down the length of the hall. The cup of coffee remained at his lips as halted smartly three paces in front of the mess table and presented my best parade ground salute. The cup slowly moved from his lips. I held my perfect salute. "So your airborne", he said looking at the lonely novice wings pinned over my pocket. The cup moved a few inches down from his face. "Got a Ranger tab, too I see". I hold my perfect salute. The cup moves down another inch. "Next thing you'll tell me is you're out of West Point". Holding my perfect salute, "Yes, Sir". He says, "Well ... you-just forget-about-everything-they-taught-you-at-those-places and do-what-I-tell ya. Got it." WHACK. The coffee cup travels the last four inches to the table like a gavel. "Yes, Sir." Despite my still perfect parade salute, my left hand at the sound of WHACK is attempting to replicate what my right has been doing for the last two minutes. And then he said, with just a trace of a smile, "You'll take over the second platoon. Top will introduce you to your platoon sergeant. Both of you meet me after lunch and I'll lay out what I have in mind for 2nd platoon." He returned my salute and I tried to disappear.

In the following weeks the battle group focused hard on training. In June we moved to Wildflicken and were challenged by the mountainous terrain and more specifically the landmass known as Hill 924. Little did I know that the next year or so my relationship with that terrain feature would become much more personal. However, my attention was being focused daily on battle drill that only Captain Hackett seemed to know. It was certainly nothing I had ever seen or heard about at Ft. Benning. Captain Hackett claimed that he had helped develop it while working for an obscure Battalion Commander by the name of LTC Depuy. Many years later the whole Army was to learn this kind of battle drill. LTG Depuy became the first TRADOC commander circa 1974. I had a head start and didn't know it.

It seemed that not a day went by that I was not in Captain Hackett's office for close and intense guidance ... at least that's what we euphemistically called it. Then one day I missed a session. Must have been an over sight. But then, it was two days. By the third day I was feeling pretty good. After four days I was beginning to feel neglected, so when I got called in on the fifth day I reported with mixed feelings. Hackett had that trace smile on his face as he went down the list of things wrong in my platoon. I was getting mad, "Sir, I don't know where this is coming from but this not the situation in second platoon." He said, "Second platoon? Who said anything about second platoon? I'm talking fourth platoon that's the

**Shadow continues on next page.**



**Shadow continued from page 8.**

platoon you are now leading and I want that outfit tightened up starting now." I said, "What about second platoon?" He looked at me with that grin. "Hell, I only put down there in second platoon so that some day, 40 years from now you can tell the youngsters how you stared your Army career commanding Audie Murphy's old platoon."

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**Chaplains Corner**

By LTC Chuck Trout, Sr.

**Thank god, I'm a veteran**

When you look at my frail body, what do you really see;  
 an old man; some one over the hill, or the real me?  
 I certainly realize that I am not as young as I used to be,  
 But don't get hung up on my age; let me identify what you see:  
 my many wrinkles that remind me of the trenches in Korea,  
 Where so many of my fellow soldiers died, serving our country.  
 My gray hair reminds me of the minus 20 degrees, the cold, the snow;  
 Then an inexperienced teenager, at the time so young, now so very old.  
 I move slower now, reminding me of how we walked in Korea, sometimes,  
 especially while on patrol, walking where we expected land mines.  
 My failing eye sight reminds me of Korea's morning mist and fog,  
 straining to detect the enemy; is that a man? No only a log?  
 Then in the evening when there was no moon, no visibility at all,  
 Is that the enemy approaching? No, just some trees standing tall.  
 Then the sound of a tank, noisy loud engines roaring from afar,  
 It's the enemy, no it's our own, we identify it by the white star.  
 A wart on my arm reminds me of the outposts where we were dwelling,  
 completely bare, no trees or any vegetation due to artillery shelling .  
 My hearing, slowly fading away, much poorer then when I was young,  
 is that really due to aging, or was it effected by some loud gun?  
 I stand, after setting awhile, I hear noises from bones in my back;  
 The same sounds as when the enemy approached caused 'twigs to crack .  
 These teeth are not mine, my real ones are some where over there ,  
 For fifty years I have eaten soft foods; a steak I wouldn't dare.  
 War can be quite ugly, but not the ugliest of things for one to see;  
 Much uglier is the man who won't fight, he leaves that to you and me.  
 So I will stand tall when our anthem plays and our flag passes by:  
 I will, be thinking of those who served, who sacrificed, who died.  
 I can look back now, and feel content, for serving my country,  
 I believe I did make a difference; yes even elderly, aging me.

May God Continue To Bless America!

**Chaplain Trout Inducted Into OCS  
Hall Of Fame**

On 5 April 2002 our Association Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel Charles (Chuck) C. Trout, was inducted into the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School (OCS) Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held in Marshall Auditorium at the U.S. Army Infantry Center with Major General Paul D. Eaton, Commandant of the Infantry Center officiating. The OCS Hall of Fame is established to recognize those graduates of the OCS who have distinguished themselves by their exemplary service and significant contributions to the U.S. Army and to the nation. The guest speaker at the event was Major General Clyde A. Hennies, who also is a graduate of the OCS and a member of the Hall of Fame.

Chaplain LTC Trout enlisted in the Army in June 1952. He served as an infantryman in Korea with Company A, 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment from September 1952 to May 1953, advancing from Private to Sergeant First Class. During his Korean service he was awarded two bronze stars with "V" device for valor.

Chaplain LTC Trout was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from the Officers Candidate School Class OC 1-59 on 18 December 1959. His first duty assignment was Training Officer for the Army Signal School, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland. He was compelled to resign in 1961 to provide care for his ailing mother who required full attention due to a serious illness. He re-entered the military through the National Guard of California in 1984 and retired in 1995. He was recalled to duty in 1998 and in March 2000 appointed by the Governor of California as Post Chaplain of the Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, CA. He currently serves in that position.

CONGRATULATIONS Chaplain Trout



## REVIEW OF WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

By John Burke

A question was recently asked as to what the Association provides to a member. Presently the only material personal items provided members are a membership certificate and a permanent membership card. More importantly though, the Association provides members a means to carry on with the Can Do spirit and comradeship that has been prevalent in the Regiment during its illustrious history. This summary of the Association's objectives and activities is intended describe how the Association currently works to serve the members.

The Association is established as a non-profit military service organization with a comprehensive Constitution and set of By-laws. The objectives are to promote morale and high esprit de corps among the members of the Regiment and to provide opportunities and facilities for uniting past and present veterans in a program dedicated to the preservation of traditions and history of the Regiment. To support those objectives the Association conducts the major activities outlined below.

A quarterly newsletter, *The Dragon*, is published to keep the membership informed on recently completed and ongoing activities as well as items of general interest. Regularly there are articles by the Association President, the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, the current Battalion Commanders and the Association Chaplain. There are special sections for TAPS announcing deceased members and SICK CALL identifying ill members who need our thoughts, prayers and cards of encouragement. A SEARCH section is dedicated to helping members locate information on past comrades and acquaintances. Members are encouraged to submit accounts of their experiences in the Regiment. Their articles have proven to be truly interesting and bring many favorable responses from the readers.

An annual CAN DO RENDEZVOUS is held each spring, hosted by one of the Active Duty Battalions. Generally, the Rendezvous consists of a welcome reception; tours; displays of weapons, equipment and vehicles; events arranged by the host and a banquet with the soldiers. The Rendezvous offers opportunities for the newer members of the Regiment to become acquainted with past members as well as time for past members to renew old friendships and swap stories. The annual general membership business meeting is held during the Rendezvous as well as every two years, the election of officers.

A Regimental Dinner is held in conjunction with the Annual Reunion of the Society of the Third Infantry Division. The event is normally scheduled in September. Generally both active battalions have attendees with one of the battalions providing the Regimental Color Guard. A short program is normally conducted at the dinner.

The Association presents awards recognizing outstanding achievements to the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year for each active duty battalion. The awards are named for Medal of Honor recipients from the respective battalion of the Regiment. These awards are traditionally made during the Can Do Rendezvous or at an appropriate ceremony subject to operational requirements of the battalions. In addition, Certificates of Appreciation are presented to those deserving individuals who contribute significantly to the attainment of Association objectives.

An impressive collection of Association memorabilia and artifacts is located with the 3-15 Infantry at Fort Stewart. Members of the Association donated these items. Through agreement with the 3-15 these items of Association property are displayed along with items belonging to the unit. A Custodian of Memorabilia is appointed to maintain memorabilia and artifacts donated to and stored in the Association's Historical Repository. The Custodian maintains a current inventory and coordinates with units on loan and return of items. In the event of deployment of the unit, or inactivation, the custodian takes possession of the items and designates a place for display or storage.

The Association is self-sustaining with no financial assistance from any source other than the membership. Annual and life membership dues, together with donations from members, are the primary source of financing. In addition, an annual raffle is held by mail. Cash prizes are awarded to winners with a nominal amount of profit going to the general fund. Association officers are reimbursed for out of pocket operating expenses only (printing, copying, phone, etc.). No payment is authorized for service performed or reimbursement for travel and lodging.

The Association commemorates the outstanding history of the Regiment by placing plaques and monuments at significant locations. In the early years of the Association the members were most generous in supporting the Awards and Monument fund. Beautiful plaques were placed at Fort Lewis main gate, the China Gate at Fort Benning, the Marne Garden at Fort Stewart and at the China Room in the 1-15 Infantry Headquarters at Fort Benning. The membership has been asked to make donations to the fund, which was nearly depleted, in order to support a 1-15 Infantry initiative to upgrade the China Gate monument at Fort Benning.

It goes without saying that the Association fully supports the active battalions, whatever their mission, wherever they serve, in defending our nation. When duty calls, the soldiers of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment---Can Do.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

In the past our Annual "Can do Rendezvous" has been held in the Spring of each year. It was hosted by one of our two active Battalions; the 1st at Fort Benning and the 3rd at Fort Stewart. During normal times we have had great success with our meetings and carried on the goals and objectives of the 15th Infantry Regimental Association. However, with the advent of 9/11 the entire Nation has been placed on alert to the threat of terrorists. The first line of defense for this threat are our Military Forces. Consequently, both of our active Battalions are required to concentrate solely on mission related duties. As a result, we were forced to cancel our Annual "Can Do Rendezvous" meeting.

As our present By-Laws do not adequately define the procedure for additional or emergency meetings the following changes to the By-Laws are being submitted for approval by the Board of Trustees and the General Membership. The contemplated changes are quoted and capitalized.

**Section 1-1.** An Annual Reunion will be held each year as a scheduled "Can Do Rendezvous" in observance of Organization Day of the 15th Regiment. Whenever possible the "Can Do Rendezvous" will be sponsored alternately by one of the active Duty Battalions. "IN THE EVENT THE ACTIVE BATTALIONS ARE UNABLE TO SPONSOR THE EVENT, AND TO ENSURE A "CAN DO RENDEZVOUS" MEETING EACH YEAR, IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTESS TO PREPARE AND IMPLEMENT CONTINGENCY PLANS AND MAKE TIMELY ANNOUNCEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS."

**Section 1-2.** One or more business meetings held in conjunction with the "Can Do Rendezvous" form the legislative base for the Association. A notice of time, place and agenda will be published in the DRAGON. "IN CASE OF TIME CONSTRAINTS, NOTICES WILL BE DISSEMINATED BY U. S. POSTAL SERVICE MAIL."

**ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Print

Please Mark One: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, For the Changes  
\_\_\_\_\_ No, Against Changes

SIGNATURE-----

Before September 1, 2002 please mail your absentee ballot to:  
Ed Dojutrek  
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