

Fifteenth Infantry Regiment



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15th Infantry Regiment Association Newsletter

October 2004

Presidents Message By Ed Dojutrek

Just a little post Reunion message to bring everyone up to date on current events. Well, again, we pulled off another resoundingly successful Regimental Banquet at the Society Reunion. And I must say, it was the result of a cumulative effort on the part of everyone involved in the planning and execution of the affair. My plea for help at the reception desk was answered by a number of people namely, Henry Burke, Nile Stuart, John Burke, (as usual) Tom Twomey, Richard Guimond, Mike Horn, and Roger Lochman. We had a few cancellations (LTC Brito was unable to attend due to a last second commitment) as did our Chaplain, Chuck Trout, whose wife, Joan, underwent eye surgery. We will pray for a safe and speedy recovery. However, they were offset by a few latecomers that more than made up for the cancellations. All told, we had 130 people for the Regimental Dinner. LTC Luck provided the color guard as well as a nice multimedia demonstration and a very fine speech about the 3rd Battalion during the War in Iraq. For that, we thank him sincerely.

Long time member and Trustee Whit Mullen was our guest speaker and gave a stirring speech on "What the Association means to me." He also made an award of the Pvt. Joseph F. Merrell Award to the Soldier of the Year, Sgt. Brian McDonald. Pvt. Merrill was a member of Company I, the same Company as Whit Mullen, who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor (posthumously) for action near Lohe, Germany, on April 18, 1945. Upon the conclusion of Whit's speech, he too, was awarded a Regimental Wall Clock in appreciation for his long, dedicated (Founding Member) service to the Association.

We were entertained with the lovely singing of Penny Burke (wife of Henry) who sang a number of patriotic songs to the delight of the audience. Penny, I personally want to thank you for contributing your talents to our evenings festivities.

Dick Guimond conducted a raffle (as usual) of eight \$25.00 cash prizes. I don't know for certain, but I was told afterward that half the winners donated their prize money back to the Association. How's that for good will and generosity.

John Burke acted as our Master of Ceremonies and again, did an outstanding job. I was called upon to make a speech on the subject that I am always thankful for. And that is the exceptional support that I have received from all members of our Board, the general membership, and above all, the two Commander's and the men of their respective Commands. I also made a plea for the membership to step forward and take positions of responsibility on our Board of Trustees. We can only function well if we have the participation of many members of our group instead of only a few.

On the suggestion of one of our members we have embarked on a project to give thanks to our two Active Duty Battalions by presenting some sort of a gift to them prior to their upcoming re-deployment back to Iraq. It was suggested that we give a gift that the soldiers could use while overseas. Some suggestion were; heavy socks, telephone credit cards, t-shirts, scarves, or a metal dog tag with appropriate wording. I have asked both Battalion Commanders for their initial input into the project. Upon receiving their remarks I will notify the membership so we can proceed with the project. More news later.

As it appears that our two Battalions will be re-deployed back to Iraq our Can Do Rendezvous may be postponed. If so, we will plan to have our General Meeting at the Annual Reunion of the 3rd Society which is scheduled for September of 2005 in San Diego, California. More to follow on this.

In the meantime we will make preparations for our upcoming election of new officers for the years of 2005 to 2007. You'll see info about Candidates for Office in this issue of the Dragon as all of our Officers are up for election next year. I urge all members to nominate credible candidates for all positions on our Board of Trustees. From my own personal experience you will have an opportunity to meet and make many new friends and enjoy the camaraderie of the entire group.

I want to remind everyone that we want and need articles in the Dragon from each of you. This is your publication and you're encouraged to get the word out on any worthy subject that you feel the general membership might enjoy. Our Editor is eagerly awaiting your articles of interest. The deadline for submitting articles to the Dragon is the 15th of the month prior to

Don't Forget

Annual Dues were past due on October 1st

President continues on Page 5.

The Dragon

Officers

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

Edward Dojutrek.....President
Michael J. Horn.....Editor
Lloyd D. WhitmerTreasurer

Objectives of the Association

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

Send dues and new addresses to:

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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Maurice Tong

Maurice E. Tong died, Saturday, April 26, 2003. He was a member of K Company 15th Infantry Regiment during the Korean War. Reported by Martin Markley.

George Raymond Lawlor

Colonel George Raymond Lawlor, 85, died on July 4, 2004 in San Diego. From November 1951 to November 1952 he served in Korea on the front lines in the Can-Do 3rd Battalion. His military awards include the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. Reported by Martin Markley.

Peter McDermott

A lifelong Staten Islander, Peter died February 14, 2004. He served in G Company, World War II, 1944-45 in France and Germany. He was a Charter Member of the Association. Reported by his wife Jeanette.

Books Worth A Look

The Thunder Run by David Zucchini. It tells the story of 3rd Battalion's battle for Baghdad. It is a hot book seller and a movie will be made next year. It is the most accurate book about what really happen during our capture of the city.

Chaplains Corner

By LTC Chuck Trout, Sr.

We, who believe in God, often get questions from people who do not. Some of these questions come from those who believe in evolution. Maybe this poem will help to straighten out the record. Hope you enjoy it. Blessings to you all.

"THE MONKEY'S POINT OF VIEW"

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree
 Discussing things as they're said to be.
 Said one to the others, "Now listen, you two,
 There's a certain rumor that can't be true,
 That man descends from our noble race-
 The very idea is a big disgrace.
 No monkey ever deserted his wife,
 Starving her babies and ruined her life;
 And you've never known a mother monk
 To leave her babies with other to bunk,
 Or to pass them on from one to another
 Till they scarcely know who is their mother.
 And another thing you'll never see-
 A monk build a fence around a cocoanut tree
 And let the coconuts go to waste,
 Forbidding all other monks to taste.
 Why, if I put a fence around this tree,
 Starvation would force you to steal from me.
 Here's another think a monk won't do-
 Go out at night and get on a stew,
 Or use a gun or club or knife,
 To take some other monkey's life;
 Yes, man descended-the ornery cuss-
 But, brother, he didn't descend from us!

Call For Nominations For Election Of Officers

In accordance with the Constitution and By Laws Association Officers are elected every two years. The next election will be held during the Annual Business Meeting in 2005. Nominations are sought for a full slate of officers as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| President | Vice President |
| Secretary | Treasurer |
| Four (4) Trustees | |

The term of office for elected officers is two years. The President is limited to one term. The Vice President and Trustees are limited to two terms. There is no term limit for the Secretary or Treasurer. A term begins with installation at the Regimental Dinner during the Society of the Third Infantry Division Reunion. As an exception the Treasurer's term of office shall begin on January 1.

Any member in good standing (current year's dues paid) is eligible for office. Only members who have accepted nomination in writing will have their names placed on the ballot.

Members are urged to give serious consideration to this important part of the Association's organization and the selection of management to carry on with future growth and the execution of day-to-day operations. If you know someone that would serve the Association well in one or more of the positions, please encourage them to allow you to place their name in nomination. If you are interested in filling any office, please come forward, ask to be nominated, or nominate yourself. We want two or more nominations for each office.

Nominations will be accepted from this date through December 15, 2004 to allow an absentee ballot to be published in the January 2005 edition of The Dragon. Under unusual circumstances as determined by a 2/3 vote of members at the annual business meeting, nominations may be accepted from the floor.

Submit nominations to the following: Bartolo Viruso
 116 Harriet Road
 North Babylon, NY 11703

Mail Call



Steve Canterbury
 4696 Empire Way
 Greenacres, FL 33463
 561-969-9939
 canterbury3213@bellsouth.net

My father served with Audie Murphy from North Africa into Italy and he got sent back stateside after getting trench foot. His last name was Canterbury so Audie used to call him Cannonball. My father never really liked to talk about the war so a piece of history died with him so I would appreciate any info that I may receive from anyone that knew my father. I also have a picture of my Dad in his uniform during this time if this will help bring back memories and I have his discharge papers.

Terry Empson
 504 N McDonald Road
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 Spokane Valley, WA 99216-0943
 509-926-1819
 tempson@msn.com

My mother in law was married to a Jack I Weber who was KIA, on July 11, 1943 in Sicily. I am seeking any information about him, where he was from, or his service in the 15th. I do have his service number 39 450 302. I know he was inducted in the Army in February 20, 1941 in Spokane, Washington, at the 15th Infantry Headquarters. I am seeking info in order to complete my wife's family tree. My mother in law was a war widow.

Ken Linder
 1302 W. Rieck Rd.
 Tyler, TX 75703
 (903)534-5707
 charlesklinder@msn.com

My wife's uncle was Charles Edward Dunn. He was a combat engineer killed Oct. 25, 1944 when a bridge blew up. He's buried at Epinal American Cemetery. His ID# is 14001770. I would like any information you might have and/or be able to direct me to, concerning him. I would like to hear from any of the soldiers that might remember him.

Application For Membership
15th Infantry Regiment Association

___ New Member ___ Renewal

Today's Date _____

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Middle Initial _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ - _____

Telephone (_____) _____

E-mail Address _____

Rank _____

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, Lloyd Whitmer at the 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.

1st Battalion News
by LTC Gary Brito

The Dragons of 1st Battalion recently completed an intense Mission Rehearsal Exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Fort Polk, Louisiana. The soldiers performed magnificently. Not only was this a unique rotation in that the Battalion deployed with all of its organic equipment under the new design, but the training was entirely focused on the environment in Iraq. The companies dealt with angry protestors that spoke Arabic, negotiated with village sheiks and were faced with a variety of other challenges that tested the Soldiers discipline and training. As always, the Soldiers lived the Regimental motto—Can Do.

The Battalion will now focus on conducting some well needed maintenance on our vehicles and prepping for gunnery all in preparation for our future deployment.

The Battalion also has gained several new leaders. CSM Donald Becker joined the team as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major. CPT Bob Croft assumed command of the infamous Baker Company and CPT Steve Fairless assumed command of Headquarters Company.



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion conducting a Cordon and Search mission at Takira Village at JRTC. (AUG 2004)

Check Your Address Label
Help Defray Expenses

If your address label shows 2004 your dues are paid to October 2004. "Why tell you know?" To minimize expenses, reminders are posted in *The Dragon* to reduce the printing and postage costs for dues notices to annual members. This edition will be the last publication prior to October. You can help significantly defray costs of notices by sending in your dues now. Please send your dues payment to the Treasurer, address and amount on Page 2.



Presidents Message continued from Front Page.

publication. Call, write, or email Mike Horn your articles, remembrances, and photos.

In closing, let me say that our Association is running at a very smooth pace. We have just completed our Life Member Pin project where we awarded beautiful Regimental Pins to all of our life members. The replies that I have received have been very positive and gratifying. The replies reveal an appreciation of the pins on the part of the recipients.

I'll close for now but with the reminder to keep in touch as close communications are the key to a successful organization. "Keep in touch."





Whit Mullen receives a Can Do Clock from Ed Dojutrek



LTC Gary Luck presents Dick Guimond with his Distinguished Member of the Reg't Certificate as John Burke looks on.



Dale Marker, Frank Scarpa, and Dick Guimond at Ft. Stewart

**Photos from the
85th Reunion of
The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division
in Savannah, Georgia**



Back Row(L to R) Joe Todisco, Pierce Cotter, Philip Twitchell and Joe Herron
Front Row(L to R) John Shirley, Dale Marker, Bill Tonini, Fred Scarpa and Dick Guimond

**Annual Members
Check Your Address
Label**
If your address label shows 2004 your dues are paid to October 1, 2004. This is your last notice Dragon. Please mail your dues to the Treasurer right away. Address and amounts on page 2.



The Color Guard for the Regimental Dinner in Savannah from Company E, 3rd Battalion (L to R): PVT Justin Lance, SPC Randy Moore, Dale Marker, PFC Jeremy Cotton, PFC Chad Huston, and SSG Willie Harris

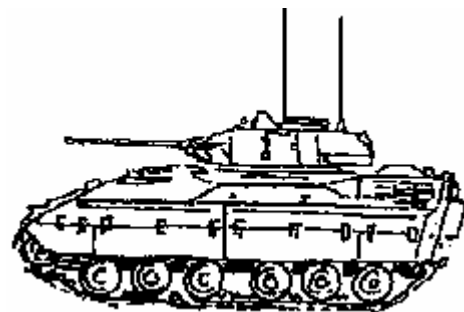
KEEPING "CAN-DO" IN THE FAMILY
by LTC Gary Brito

The Dragons of 1st Battalion recently had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Richard T. Phillips, a veteran of the Can Do Regiment. In July 1953, then PVT Phillips of the 1st Battalion fought as part of the 3rd Divisions dramatic displacement from one sector of the Korean battlefield to the Kumsong salient, where it stopped the last Chinese offensive of the War. Mr. (PVT) Phillips was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for his actions in combat.

Mr. Phillips' grandson, PFC Dustin Granger is member of the Battalion Support Platoon. Both grandson and grandfather received a tour of the famed Regimental China Room, located in the Battalion Headquarters at Fort Benning.

Attention Email User Members

To complete and update the Association Membership database all members with email capability are requested to submit and/or confirm your Email address to the Membership Chairman at johnt2u@mchsi.com.



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