The 15th Infantry Regiment has had its share of extraordinary men serve in it throughout its service to the Nation. We know of our most famous men, our four-stars, president, and Medal of Honor recipients. This is an interesting story of a less well-known former Can Do officer whose legacy was carried on by the United States Navy in support of our Army during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. There may even be some of our members of the Korean War and Vietnam era that traveled on the US Navy transport named the General Edwin Davies Patrick!

Major General Edwin Davies Patrick - the Man

Edwin Davies Patrick entered the Indiana National Guard 11 February 1915 and was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the Infantry 21 March 1917. After duty in Kansas, California, Oklahoma, and North Carolina, he joined the 14th Machine Gun Battalion in France to participate in the St. Miachel and Meuse-Argonne offensives. Following his return to the United States in July 1919, he was stationed at various posts until May 1926 when he went to Tientsin, China, to serve with the 15th Infantry. (this would have put him in the Regiment while Marshall was there) He commanded the 2-15th Infantry beginning May 1927, taking over from Major Joe Stilwell. He returned to the United States in July 1929 joining Marshall and Stilwell at the Infantry School at Fort Benning. Assigned to the Southwest Pacific in December 1942, he was promoted to Brigadier General 26 April 1943, and in June was appointed Chief of Staff of the 6th Army. Appointed commander of the 158th Regimental Combat Team in May 1944, he participated in the conquest of New Guinea. In September he assumed command of the 6th Infantry Division and in January 1945 joined in the battle to liberate Luzon. Major General Patrick was mortally wounded by Japanese machine gun fire near Mountain Mataba, south of Montalban, Luzon, 14 March 1945. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He is one of the few division commanders to die in combat during WWII.

The General Edwin D. Patrick

Admiral C. F. Hughes (AP-124) was laid down under a Maritime Commission contract (MC hull 682) on 29 November 1943 at Alameda, Calif., by the Bethlehem-Alameda Shipyard, Inc.; launched on 27 August 1944; sponsored by Mrs. Louise Nimitz, the wife of Capt. Otto Nimitz and the sister-in-law of future Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz; delivered to the Navy on 31 January 1945; and commissioned that same day, Capt. John Trebes, USCG, in command. She was decommissioned on 3 May 1946 and returned to the War Shipping Administration which, in turn, transferred her to the Army. Her name was struck from the Navy list in June 1946. She was reacquired by the Navy from the Army Transport Service as General Edwin D. Patrick 1 March 1950 and assigned to Military Sea Transportation Service MSTS. Manned by a civilian crew, she operated in the Pacific out of San Francisco. She carried troops and supplies to American bases in Japan, Korea, Okinawa, the Marianas, and the Philippines to make more than two dozen round-trip voyages to the Far East while supporting the effort to repel the Communist aggression in Korea. After the armistice in Korea, she continued transport operations in the Western
Pacific; and between 1953 and 1965 she steamed to the Far East some 110 times to provide American bases with men and supplies.

In response to America's determination to protect the integrity and independence of South Vietnam from continuing Communist aggression, General Edwin D. Patrick departed San Francisco for Southeast Asia 16 August 1965. Steaming via Pearl Harbor and Guam, she touched at Manila Bay 4 September and reached Cam Ranh Bay, South Vietnam, 7 September. Proceeding the next day to Vung Tau, she steamed to Yokohama before returning to San Francisco 27 September. Between 1 October and 18 November she completed a deployment to the Far East that sent her to Okinawa and to Da Nang, Qui Nhon, Cam Ranh Bay, and Vung Tau, South Vietnam. During the first 7 months of 1966 she completed five Far East deployments, operated out of ports in South Vietnam, Okinawa, Japan, Korea, and Formosa while supporting the forces of freedom in the Western Pacific. General Edwin D. Patrick continued this vital duty until arriving San Francisco on the last day of 1966. After overhaul early in 1967, the transport was placed in ready reserve status. My research shows that the ship supported deployments of elements of the 25th Infantry Division among other units.

The last known location I could find for the ship was Suisin Bay, Benicia, California. It was due for scrapping in 2007, but I have not found out for sure that has been started yet. –submitted by Tim Stoy, Association Historian.

The General Edwin D. Patrick received three battle stars for Korean War service.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all! I sincerely hope that all our members have had wonderful holiday seasons great beginnings to the year 2008. I also hope we are all recharged and refreshed for what promises to be a full year. On 21 December 2007 the Secretary and the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army announced the Army’s new stationing plan. The plan envisions, among numerous actions, the stationing of the 5 new Brigade Combat Teams slated to enter the active duty force structure between now and the end of fiscal year 2013. Of immediate interest to us is that the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart will receive another Brigade Combat Team, to be stationed at Fort Stewart. This is scheduled to happen in Fiscal Year 2011. This will be an Infantry BCT with two Infantry battalions. Additionally, one of the existing BCTs at Fort Stewart will be converting from a heavy configuration to an Infantry configuration. This is slated to happen in FY 2010. In my analysis, the Division will have two brand new Infantry battalions, a reflagged and reorganized armor battalion becoming an Infantry battalion, and a mechanized Infantry Battalion converting to Infantry. Depending on the Center for Military History and the Institute of Heraldry, we have a very good chance of having another of our battalion flags return for service in the 3rd Infantry Division. I have been actively engaging the Center for Military History to ensure our Regiment is given the due consideration it deserves to have at least one more of its battalions return to active duty. Which battalion returns, should one be activated, is up to question.

This is going to be a great year for the Association and the Regiment. As I covered in my last message, the Regiment returned to the United States from China 70 years ago this year. The Association leadership is planning and preparing for a superb celebration of this anniversary and our great Regiment during the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division’s Reunion at Fort Benning in 18-21 September. I ask all of our members to put this event on their calendars and to make every effort to participate in what promises to be a great and meaningful event. For preliminary planning purposes we expect our Regimental Dinner to be the evening of the 19th, with Regimental events in the afternoon. Much depends on the status of the 1st Battalion at that time. I would also like to ask all of our members to consider volunteering for one of our open Association staff positions. We do not want our Association to exist in name only, but it takes the active participation of our membership to make it more than just ink on paper. Especially critical is the position of Dragon Editor, our prime means of getting the word out to all of you. We need a new membership chairman, a new public relations committee chairman, and a new constitution and bylaws chairman. Another absolutely critical need is a new webmaster. In today’s world, our internet presence is critical in representing ourselves to those who have an interest in our great Regiment and are our potential new members. Last but not least, I continue to follow closely the outstanding performance of our valiant Soldiers deployed in Iraq and our hardworking Soldiers in the Rear Detachment at Fort Benning. Those of us not currently with the Regiment, whether still active elsewhere in the Army or former Soldiers, have every reason to be extremely proud of them. CAN DO! Tim
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.

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 Espirit 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:
Bartolo Viruso
116 Harriett Road
North Babylon, NY 11703
631-587-0587

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:
Dave Adams, Editor, the Dragon
1769 Highlands View Drive SE
Smyrna, GA 30082-5223
678-556-9714
david_adams_atlanta@yahoo.com
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>WILLIAM F. STROBRIDGE</td>
<td>1 THOMAS MOORE WAY #222, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94132</td>
<td>1954-1955</td>
<td>DOD 2006 (REPORTED BY 3ID WATCH)</td>
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<td>VERNON K. WRIGHT</td>
<td>1902 AZELIA ST., DENTON, TX 76205</td>
<td>JAN 53- AUG 53</td>
<td>DOD UNKNOWN (REPORT BY RETURN MAIL)</td>
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<td>JOE MAYRAND</td>
<td>763 ELLIOT AVE, ISHPEMIG, MI 48849</td>
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<td>WILLIAM D. SCATES</td>
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<td>SEP 2002- SEP 2006</td>
<td>DOD 8/11/2007 (REPORT BY RETURN MAIL)</td>
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<td>DIO P. RICHARDSON</td>
<td>6614 NE WINDERMERE RD, SEATTLE, WA 98115</td>
<td>JUN 1941- JUN 1944</td>
<td>DOD 10/06/2007 (REPORT BY RETURN MAIL)</td>
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**ARTHUR J. LOCKE**, ORIGINAL “ÖLD CHINA HAND”. DOD MAY 7, 2007 and interment took place at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH. Mr. Locke served with the 15th Infantry Regiment in China from 1935 to 1939. In 1941, he was transferred to Clark Airfield in Manila, The Philippines. He was a survivor of the infamous Bataan Death March and was transported to Kobe, Japan as a POW laborer until he was liberated on August 9, 1945. In 1998, He published a book of his POW experiences entitled, Kobe House P.O.W. No.13. After the war, Mr. Locke served 4 terms in the New Hampshire State Legislature. (Reported to Dave Adams by his Daughter, Lin Parkin)

**EMIL TRAUTMAN**, 93, 6030 Chardonney Lane 103, Naples, FL 34119, 1SG, HHC, WW II. DOD January 6, 2008. On December 7, 1941, Emil was awaiting his discharge papers at Ft. Lewis, WA after 2 years with the 15th. Events at Pearl Harbor that day changed all that. Emil served with the 15th throughout the entire war and fought in the North African, Sicily, Italy, Southern France, and Rhineland Campaigns including 3 amphibious landings. On one occasion, Ike and George Patton personally came to his unit to hand out battlefield promotions. Emil never wanted one and went on sick call that day. Emil was featured in the OCT 2006 Operation Recollection column. We became good friends after that and would talk often. I will miss him. (Reported to Dave Adams by his Wife, Joyce Trautman)
DRAGON EDITOR POSITION OPEN

The position of Editor of the Dragon will be vacant after the January issue. It is imperative that we fill the vacancy by April 1st. The requirements include giving about 10 hours per month, owning a good computer, having above average computer skills, and the dedication to work with the Association officers and general membership and meet deadlines. If you think you can handle the job and have a flair for creativity, then you are urged to contact our President, LTC Tim Stoy, the current Editor, Dave Adams, or past Editor, Mike Horn. I and Mike (When he can due to his heavy travel schedule) will be there to guide and mentor you until you feel comfortable and confident. While this position not only requires dedication and hard work, you’ll find it can be very enjoyable and, eventually, become a labor of love. There is a tremendous working relationship and exchange of information with Cath Bacon, Editor of The Watch on the Rhine, and that relationship needs to continue to be cultivated and to grow. We have many talented writers in our ranks. I know because I read each and every email and letter. We even have two published authors among us. So, I know the talent is there. We need someone to step up to the plate NOW. We get many letters and emails full of praise, criticism, and suggestions of the Dragon and for its content. Now, it’s time to put your money where your mouth is as the old saying goes. If this position is not filled by April future issues are in jeopardy. Thanks and Can Do. Dave

THE CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

To one and all,

The Holidays are behind us and this is the beginning of a new year. What an excellent opportunity to start the New Year with a positive attitude. The Association of the 15th Regiment has a new president, an outstanding staff and they are moving us in the right direction. We live in the best nation in the world, we are blessed in so many ways and I truly believe that 2008 will be the best year ever. In addition to the many blessings you all have, I have one additional, and that is to be your chaplain. It is quite an honor and I do not take that responsibility lightly. Each day I make it a point to pray for our brave troops in Iraq and elsewhere serving our country, and I also say a prayer for each of you and your loved ones.

You have all served your country honorably, sacrificed many things that the average man takes for granted, and now, you belong to an Association that has several things in common. One being the fact that you can all say, "I've done that, been there, and have the T-shirt to prove it." I served as rifleman and BAR man with the 15th Regiment in Korea. I had not seen
any of the comrades that I served with until I joined the 15th Regiment Association fifty years later. As I mentioned in a recent article, “Years ago members of my outfit were handing me ammo and sand bags in Korea, and now, fifty years later they are handing me the butter dish at our reunion.” Some trouble may come this year, or we can say that the winds may blow. My prayer is that God will adjust our sails so we do His will and not that of our own. May you and your loved ones all have a very Happy and Prosperous New Years. Your chaplain, Chuck Trout

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN POSITION OPEN

After 9 years of indescribable dedication to the growth of the 15th Infantry Regiment Association, **John Burke** is stepping down as Membership Chairman. While this is one big pair of shoes to fill, we need one of our members to step up to the plate, under John’s tutelage of course, and take off running. John and his visionary and Can Do attitude have helped this association to grow immensely. We have had countless new members become part of our special “Band of Brothers” and we need more. Of greatest importance, we need to fill the Cold War and Peacetime ranks desperately. Sadly but, factually, we are losing our WW II and Korean War brothers and, as many of us know, you don’t win battles without fresh replacements. John has been absolutely ingenious and creative in his efforts. He knows a great deal on how to get the job done and can pass that knowledge on to his successor. John and his “helpers” have been unrelenting in recruiting members from our current active duty troopers but, these “Young Warriors” have a full plate to say the least. So, it’s time to get out of the Lazy Boy or forgo one round of 18 holes, roll up your sleeves, and “git ’er done” as Larry the Cable Guy would say. Thanks and Can Do.

Letters to Editor:

Sirs: I would very much like to find out how to obtain a book “The History of the 15th Regiment in World War II”. I believe it was published in 1946 or 1947 and was also re-printed some years later. I understand it was edited by Robert C. McFarland and published by Glenn E. Rathbun. I had the book at one time and somehow have lost it. I would appreciate very much if any readers can advise me how to find the book.

Clyde E. Hubbard
6301 Overton Ridge Blvd. Apt. 219
Fort Worth, TX 76132
817-292-2615
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Membership Status as of publication deadline December 15, 2007.

The membership increased by 121 new members during 2007. However, the rolls were decreased by 108 during the period due to 19 deaths and 91 members dropped from rolls in January 2007 for non-payment of annual dues.

As of this date there are 98 members delinquent for 2007 dues. Of these 13 have had address changes for which a current mailing address cannot be determined. Courtesy mailing of this edition of The Dragon is being made in an attempt to retain those delinquent members on the rolls.

Below is a breakdown of memberships by type and period of service with the Regiment.

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<th>Current Membership By Type</th>
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<td>Total:</td>
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SPONSORED MEMBERSHIPS

Since the last edition of The Dragon, Annual Members paying their dues submitted contributions to sponsor forty six (46) new Active Duty Soldier members from the 1-15 Infantry. These new members will be selected and identified by the Command Sergeant Major and brought on board in January 2008.

Life Members are encouraged to sponsor Active Duty members also. For each $10.00 contribution an Active Duty soldier can be brought on the rolls for two years. If interested, make contributions to the Association Treasurer, address shown on page 2.

SPECIAL NOTICE, ANNUAL MEMBERS, CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL

If your address label indicates 2007, you are delinquent. This is a courtesy edition of The Dragon.

Annual dues are payable October 1st of each year. A grace period extends to January 1st before those not paid are dropped from the Association rolls. The Board of Trustees has elected to provide this courtesy edition of The Dragon as a special opportunity for you to be restored to the membership in good standing.

Please remit your 2008 dues to the Treasurer right away. (Address shown on page 2) Annual Regular and Associate dues continue to be $10.00. Current active duty is $5.00
# NEW MEMBERS

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>DONALD E. AKERS</td>
<td>33 LEE RD 2084</td>
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<td>MAR 2004- PRESENT</td>
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<td>RODRIGO J ABREGO</td>
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<td>DEC06 TO PRESENT</td>
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<td>JOSEPH S ALLEMAN</td>
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<td>2007 JUNE TO PRESENT</td>
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<td>JEFFREY A ARNESON</td>
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<td>BRIAN F BENSON</td>
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<td>JOHN H HOUGEN</td>
<td>5900 GROVE ST</td>
<td>B,G,E,HQ, 1&amp;2 BN</td>
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<td>28925 CANYON OAK PLACE</td>
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<td>JASON M NEUMANN</td>
<td>C CO 1-15 IN, 3D BDE, 3D ID</td>
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<td>JOHN PEACHY</td>
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<td>JIM O REED</td>
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<td>OSCAR V RODRIGUE</td>
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<td>JAMES F ROSEBERY</td>
<td>302 STEWART AVE. APT D</td>
<td>F CO, 1 BN</td>
<td>3-MAR-06 TO PRESENT</td>
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JOE W SHURDEN III
HHC, 1-15 IN, 3D BDE, 3D ID
APO, AE 09308-5956
HHC, 1 BN
SEP 07- PRESENT

ANTHONY R SHUTA
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D CO, 1 BN
JUN 04 TO PRESENT

BURELY L WATKINS
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APO, AE 09308-5956
E CO, 1 BN
4/16/2004 TO PRESENT

JOHN P SLEIK
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IRON MOUNTAIN, MI 49801
A CO, 1 BN
8/1/2006 to present

RICHARD L. WARREN
100 W. ELIZABETH ST.
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ASSOCIATE MEMBER

DAVID R SHANNON
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HHC, 1 BN
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CARY M TURNER
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APO, AE 09308-5956
11-JAN-07 TO PRESENT

JAMES N VAUGHN
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F CO, 1 BN/OCT 06-Present

IVAN C WILLIAMS
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COLUMBUS, GA 31907
B CO, 1 BN
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AUG06 TO PRESENT

ROSMOND L STOKES
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April 02 to Present

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IVAN C WILLIAMS
5037 DODD DR.
COLUMBUS, GA 31907
B CO, 1 BN
JUNE 2004-PRESENT
Application for Membership
15th Infantry Regiment Association

Today’s Date

Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Street Address

City

State Zip Code

Telephone (______) 

E-mail Address

Rank Date of birth

Co. & Bn. served in:

Dates served in 15th IN:

Spouse’s Name:

Type of membership desired: ☐ Regular Annual $10.00; ☐ Regular Associate Annual $10.00; ☐ Active Duty Annual $5.00; ☐ Life membership: To age 60= $150; Age 61-69= $120; Age 70-79= $100; Age 80 and above = $50.

Complete application and mail with check or money order payable to the Treasurer, 15th Infantry Regiment Association.

Mail to: Bartolo Viruso, Treasurer
116 Harriett Road
North Babylon, NY 11703
This edition of Operation Recollection features Carmel “Mike” Solano who served with the 15th during the Cold War as many of us did.

I served in the 3rd infantry Division from October 1957 to May 1960. I was with Charlie Company 1st medium tank Battalion Platoon 68th armor for basic training in Fort Benning GA. When the division replaced the 10th mountain Division in Germany I was transferred to B. CO, 3rd PLT, 15th Infantry Regiment in Bamberg, (West) Germany. I consider my 3 year enlistment in the army my degree in sociology because I was a migrant farm worker and quit school when I finished 6th grade. At the age of 17, I decided to join the army and make a career of it to get out of migrant work. But it did not take long to find out that I was not cut out for military life. I was inducted at Fort Carson CO on 28th of October 1957. Five of us were sent by train to Fort Benning GA for basic training. The meal tickets that the army gave us didn't cover the price of a meal in the dining car so we had to add some of our own money to cover the price of a meal. The first dinner on the train was an experience for me. I knew how to use a knife, fork and a spoon but when I sat for dinner I had a linen table cloth, linen napkin a salad fork, a cocktail fork, butter knife, steak knife, water glass, wine glass coffee cup and finger bowl. I watched with close attention to our private in command and followed his lead on how to use all of those utensils so that I wouldn't embarrass myself. In Fort Benning GA I was in a replacement company and had my first encounter with an army sergeant. I was on K.P. duty and I was sent for a mop. I made the mistake of going to the latrine for a mop and the mess sergeant saw this and got in my face and yelled "Don't you ever bring a mop from the latrine into my kitchen!" "Yes Sir" I stammered "Don't call me sir! You address me with yes sergeant! Now get back to work!" "Yes Sergeant" I answered. I believe I was put in a tank battalion because I lied on my enlistment and said I was a construction worker. At 17 years old I weighed 130lbs and stood 5’-7” so I was perfect in an M48 medium tank. A tank is a big caterpillar with guns and I actually enjoyed basic training because we rode instead of walked and I was introduced to a 90 M cannon a 45 cal pistol.
a wire stock 45 cal. sub machine gun a 30 cal machine gun and the 50cal. Machine gun on top of the cupola. Driving at night with a periscope and infrared lights was a kick in the butt. We had pride in wearing the yellow scarf or shoulder braid that identified us as a tanker. The roughest part of basic training was K.P. Duty because you worked from 3:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Our Mess Sgt, SFC Morrison had been awarded a plaque for best mess in the battalion and he was trying to achieve it again, so he was a real stickler for good food and above all cleanliness. I was stoking the pot belly stove in the dining room and dropped a piece of coal on the clean floor. He chewed me out for messing up his clean floor and I made the mistake telling him that it was just a lump of coal which was the wrong thing to do. Before I knew what hit me I was on the carpet in the Company Commander's office for back talking to an N.C.O. The C.O. informed me that under no circumstances was I ever to back talk to an N.C.O. a lesson well learned. I like everyone else complained about army chow. I think it is every G.I.'s duty to do so. But let me tell you that I thought it was great! You see, at home I was eating a poor man's diet of tacos, burritos, tortillas and beans. The army fed me pot roast, chicken, chipped beef on toast, bacon, eggs juice and milk. In eight weeks I went from 127lb weakling to a 150 lb. fighting machine.

In 1957 I wasn't able to go home on leave for Christmas. Half the men went on leave for Christmas and the other half went on New Years Day. My friend Taylor invited me to spend the holiday with him and his family in Waycross GA. His widowed mother and ten year old sister welcomed warmly into their humble country home in the GA woods. I embarrassed myself the first morning at the breakfast table. We sat down to a feast of bacon, eggs, and what I thought was cream of wheat. Taylor and his family got a good laugh when I poured cream and sugar on my grits. We don't have grits in Colorado or New Mexico where I am originally from training. For about 6 weeks. For 2 weeks worked in the mess hall and was also assigned as interpreter to a Mexican physician that didn't speak English. He stayed with us for 2 days then he left our camp.

February of 1958 the battalion went to Fort Stewart GA for tank training. You've all heard the story of a recruit being sent to get a few feet of firing line. I got sent from one mess tent to another to get a smoke reducer for the kitchen stove. On the way back across the compound it dawned on me that 2 mess sergeants were laughing their butts off because I had just delivered a pail and a whisk broom. In the spring of 1958 our unit embarked from Savannah GA to Kitzingen, (West) Germany on the troop ship U.S.S. William O. Darby. We were packed like sardines for 10 cold rainy days. I didn't get sea sick but I sure got sick watching others get sick. The train ride from Bremerhaven to Kitzingen was a great way to see the German countryside. The scenery was spectacular and there seemed to be a lot of dorfs (villages). A comical thing happened at dinner time on the train. The mess sergeant informed us to get in line for chow. The chow hounds ran to get to the head of the line only to find out that the line moved in the opposite direction so instead of the front of the line they were at the tail end. When we arrived at Kitzingen five of us privates were told not to unpack because we were to be transferred to another unity. The five of us had been disciplined for some infractions against the rules. I drank too much Blitz beer night at the PX. at Fort Benning and the next thing I knew I woke up in MO on a Grey Hound Bus on my way to Colorado. I got court marshaled and got five months confinement at hard labor "suspended", and fifty dollars deducted from my pay check every month for five months. My monthly paycheck was $72.00. Would you believe the army lost some of my records and they never took the monthly $50.00 out of my pay? I was assigned to the 3rd platoon B Company 15th Infantry Regiment. I was 2nd to the shortest, smallest man in the company and you can guess what weapon they issued me. Yeah a B.A.R.A. tanker rides most everywhere he goes on maneuvers and an infantry man, ground pounder, gravel; alligator, worm watcher walks. I got blisters on top of blisters in a few short weeks. Our routine was a 10 mile road march every Monday. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we were out in the field or maneuvers and Friday back to camp to clean up your equipment and get ready for Saturday morning inspection.
We also spent weeks Wildflecken, Hohenfels, or Grafenwoehr. That's how we deterred the Russians from coming at us across the Iron Curtain. I had trouble adjusting to the rigid regime of military life because I didn't comply with the 30 day quarantine when I got to Germany. We were not allowed off the post for the first 30 days because through orientation we would learn how to dress properly and act properly and how to be good visitors and guests in a foreign country. Two weeks in Bamberg and I jumped over the fence and went to about three or four got drunk. I visited the Roxy Bar, Cherry Bar and the Lily Marlene and the bar the M.P.'s approached me and asked to see any pass and identification. I don't remember things that happened that night but weeks later I was told that I threw a haymaker and busted one of the M.P.'s nose. Of course, I proceeded to try to bust there Bily clubs with my head and finally wound up in the dispensary being patched up. Capt. (terrible Joe) Hackett made me polish garbage cans with steel wool for 2 weeks. Two years later I was told by the 1st Sergeant that Capt. Hackett called the Provost Marshall and admonished him about how it took 3 of his big M.P.'s to handle one of his smallest men. That was so small that I had to be weighed down with bricks to be able to fire a machine gun. In the spring I transformed into a good soldier with the excellent leadership and advice of Sergeant (Speedy) Meyers, Sergeant Binkly, Sergeant Kalinski and 1SG Moyer. They are all Korean and WWII veterans. I was super numary of bravo company a couple of times and runner up for the battalion. I visited our library and became a voracious reader. I was lacking in a formal education so I started reading school text books. A couple of friends of mine unknowingly became my tutors. McHugh, an engineer, Mauro a lawyer both draftee's helped me with math, history, English, social studies and geography. Two years later when I was about to muster out I asked if I could take the high school General Education Diploma test and was told since I hadn't been to class I probably wouldn't pass but was welcome to take the test. The last week I was in the army, I took the test and a month later I received my G.E.D. diploma from U.S.A.F at the University of Wisconsin who did the testing. I still read a lot and based on what I have learned from those 3rd Division guys I believe I would have been a good History teacher. When the division started receiving replacements, me, and a few R.A.'s became squad leaders. I got an appointment to the N.C.O. Academy in Munich and was in line for a promotion to Sergeant. It finally dawned on me that there's my way and the army's way and when I did it the army's way life sure got better for me. I took leave and saw Paris, London, Stuttgart, Frankfurt and Munich and didn't drink alcohol and I had a great time. 50 years ago I used to be a slim trim B.A.R. Man that weighed 148 lbs. But not anymore I have gained 50 lbs, and lost my thick wavy hair. Many thanks to Sergeant Meyers, Sergeant Binkly, Lt. Chicala and CPT Racket and a few other soldiers that inspired me to improve myself. If not for them and my hitch in the army I probably would not have gone to Barber school served as treasurer of our school PTA or served on some boards or commissions in our city. So, men of the 15th Infantry Regiment and 3rd Division hang in there, it does get better. Can Do!