Fellow China Hands,

I would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year. I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and hope that 2012 brings you all joy, happiness, and good health.

I had the great pleasure to join the 1st Battalion for their holiday ball 15 December at the National Infantry Museum. It was great for Monika and me to enjoy the spirit of our Can Do soldiers and leaders! The following day we visited Colonel Lee Mize, our sole-surviving 15th Infantry Regiment Medal of Honor recipient, in his home in Gadsden, AL. It was a great experience to spend a wonderful day with this great American soldier and his wife Betty. We also visited Major General Singlaub in Franklin, Tennessee the next day where I presented him with the Department of the Army Certificate designating him a Distinguished Member of the Regiment. MG Singlaub suffered a stroke in April while traveling to the Outpost Harry Survivors’ Reunion – I am happy to report he is recovering well.

Between visits to these distinguished veterans Monika and I stopped at the Stones River National Battlefield and Cemetery outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The monument to the Regular Brigade there is impressive, and treading the ground where this momentous battle was fought almost exactly 149 years ago was a moving experience for me. Four 15th US Infantry soldiers are buried in the cemetery.

The coming year has great historical significance for our Regiment as the 150th anniversaries of the Battles of Shiloh (April 6-7) and Stones River (December 31 2012-3 February 2013 will be commemorated by the National Park Service, as well as by reenactment groups in adjacent locations. As a historian I am excited to delve more deeply into these battles and I plan to share the interesting stories I discover in my research with you.

I am happy the 3rd Battalion will host the Rendezvous at Fort Stewart/Hinesville 11-14 April. These dates synchronize well with a commemoration of the Battle of Shiloh. We are still working details, but please plan on these dates for what will be a great Rendezvous.

We are considering changes to the constitution and bylaws to raise membership dues from $10 to $15 for a Regular Member and from $5 to $10 for an Active Duty Member starting in October 2012. This is necessary due to declining membership and increased mailing costs. We will be voting on these changes at the Rendezvous in April.

Thank you Whit Mullen for sharing your memories of the Association’s Founding and your war remembrances with us. We owe our founding members a debt of gratitude for getting the Association off the ground. We also owe it to them to keep it going and growing. To do so we need members to actively recruit, as well as dedicated members to fill our open positions within the Association. Finally, it is your Association, don’t be disinterested and passive, we need your active participation. Give me and our officers your ideas on how we can be a better Association!

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.

ASSOCIATION OBJECTIVES

• 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 perpetuate and foster the history and traditions of the Regiment.
• 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

Annual dues $10 for regular members and $5 for active duty members, due October 1 each year.
Life membership: To age 60 = $150; Age 61-79 = $100; Age 80 and above = $50.

Send or Email news items to:
EDITOR, THE DRAGON
MSG Ed Holt
17200 Park Circle
Eden Prairie, MN 55346
952-937-8116
edwin.holt@us.army.mil

PRESIDENT
LTC Timothy Stoy
6531 Milva Lane
Springfield, VA 22150
703-912-4218
Timmoni15@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Addison D. (Tad) Davis V
78 Spring Pond Lane
Spring Lake, NC 28390
910-814-1208
Tad.Davis@us.army.mil

SECRETARY
Robert Faulkender
813 Dalrymple Rd NE
Atlanta, GA 30328
(770) 913-0400
bobfauk1@comcast.net

TREASURER
Bart Viruso
116 Harriett Road
North Babylon, NY 11703
631-587-0587
Biruso8@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP
Michael Friend
6018 Old Dominion Road
Columbus, GA 31909
706-568-6436

COMMANDER 1st BN
LTC Nelson Kraft
HQ, 1-15
Fl. Benning, GA 31895
706-544-1633

COMMANDER 3rd BN
LTC Joel Smith
HQ, 3-15
Fl. Stewart, GA 31314
706-767-2791

CSM 1st BN
CSM Angel Ortiz
HQ, 1-15, Bldg 9161
Fl. Benning, GA 31895
706-644-1228

CSM 3rd BN
CSM Mark Barnes,
HQ, 3-15 Fort Stewart, GA 31314
796-767-2791

CHAPLAIN
Charles C. Trout
10191 Birchwood Drive
Huntington Beach, CA
92646-5432
706-544-1735
chaptrout@aol.com

HSGMOR
Tom Twomey
1923 Wendover Dr
Fayetteville, NC 28304
910-484-8886
ttwomey@nc.rr.com

HISTORIAN
LTC Timothy Stoy
6531 Milva Lane
Springfield, VA 22150
703-912-4218

TRUSTEES
Richard N. McKiddy
9520 N. Twinkling Shadows Way
Tucson, AZ 85743
520-572-3772

Charles R. Crain
312 Don Drive
Greenville, SC 29607
520-744-6197

Lloyd D. Whitmer
7500 Mose Road
Navarre, OH 44662
330-756-2803

Charles C. Trout
10191 Birchwood Drive
Huntington Beach, CA
92646-5432
706-544-1735

WEBMASTER
Tom Twomey
1923 Wendover Dr
Fayetteville, NC 28304
910-484-8886

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR
Tom Heitzer
231 Normandie Drive,
Bonne Terre, MO 63628
573-358-1830
theitzer001@charter.net
A Founder provides valuable information

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HISTORY

Our July issue of the DRAGON expanded on the list of Founders as a result of extensive research. As a result, several Founders names were added to the Association Founders’ list published in the July issue. It is exciting that this research continues and now we add several more names to our list of Founders as a result of the efforts of Whitney Mullen.
Whitney is one of the Founders and provided the following historical information shortly after the July DRAGON went to press:

After seeing the update on the list of Founding Members in the July DRAGON, I very fortuitously found my original list. Two additional names need to be added to the list. They are Jesse Anderson and Lindsey Nelms.

**From a historical perspective:**

The Founding Members were inducted at the second of two annual meetings on 05 May 1993. It was at that meeting that a proposed temporary Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. That day, those 22 members were handed framed certificates by MG Maury Kendall. He and Col. John R. S. Batiste, commander of the 3/15th IN were most instrumental in seeing the formation of the Association.

General Kendall, subsequent to the 1993 founding, asked me if I would be willing to serve as Treasurer. I readily agreed. General Kendall also recruited the following veterans to serve as officers: President – William Jackson and Trustee – Jerry Cunningham.

Active Duty persons continued to serve in positions they filled during the formative period of the Association. They were: Secretary - Joe Venezia and Historian – Melvin Bricker.

One of the first things required was signing up new members. Martin Markley supplied me with mailing labels for all known persons having served in the 15th Regiment. With the help of my wife, we got out a crude facsimile of the DRAGON announcing the formation of the Association and soliciting members. Of the nearly 600 mailings, only 12 were returned as undeliverable.

The Society of the Third Infantry Division met in Bloomington, Minnesota on 02 October. All those joining the 15th Association by the end of that meeting were considered “Founding Members”. Exactly 80 veterans were included in this distinguished group. We were off to a good start. As of 12 September 1994, our membership rolls stood at 262.

Listed in the chart below is an update of the 15th Association Founders list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15th INF Regiment Association Founders – 22 Founding Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jesse Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Dojutrek*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitney Mullen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond Taylor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) denotes deceased member
Chaplain’s message

“We fought to obtain our freedom: now we should vote to keep it”

Regardless of your political association, there are certain facts that you should know before you vote. You should review and understand the principles on which this nation was founded. Our fore-fathers were brilliant men. I researched several historical records to find the following statements made by some of the writers of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and early Statesmen.

• Without a religion that believes in a creator, the government of a free people cannot be maintained.

• The proper role of government is to protect equal rights, not provide equal things.

During a recent trip to the East coast, I met a college student who took part in the New York demonstrations. I asked him why he took part. He explained that others had more money and he felt they should share it with him. Knowing he would graduate in a few months, I asked him his grade point average. He said it was a 4.0 I asked him if anyone was failing in his class. He said that one person would not graduate due to low grades. I suggested he give some of his grade point average to the failing student. He said that would not be right as he worked hard for his grades. Then he saw the light. President Cleveland said, “Although the people support the government, the government should not support the people.”

Some say we are a Christian nation. History proves otherwise:

George Washington said in his farewell speech, “It is impossible to govern without God and the Bible.”

John Adams said, “Our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people. It is inadequate for any other.”

In 1782, congress passed the following resolution: The congress of the United States recommends and approves the Holy Bible for use in all schools.

The highest prosperity for a nation and therefore for the people, is when there is a free market economy and a minimum of government regulations.

The core unit which determines the strength of any society is the family.

Of the first 108 Universities, 106 were Christian.

Harvard had a requirement that students seeking entrance had to know Latin and Greek so they could study the Bible in more detail.

We are a Christian nation! Political scientists conducted a 10-year study where they analyzed over 15,000 writings. The research revealed that the single most authority in writing the Declaration of Independence was the Holy Bible. The most quoted principle was Proverbs 29:2: “When the righteous rule, the people rejoice. When the wicked rule, the people groan.”

Just as our brave men and women fight and sacrifice for our freedom, we as citizens must also fight by voting. No longer is the enemy of this nation only located in foreign countries. No longer are the weapons of war just guns and bullets. They are word and beliefs which are in opposition to the principles on which this nation was founded. We need out military more than ever and we must support them with our votes. We must vote for people who believe in our nation and the values on which it was founded.
Allow me to quote from a book written by a famous French writer after he visited America. “I looked for the greatness of American in her beautiful harbors and her ample rivers and it was not there. I looked at her fertile fields and boundless prairies and it was not there; in her rich mines and her large world of commerce and it was not there. Not until I visited the churches of American and heard pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her greatness and power. American is great because she is good and if American every ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”

May God continue to bless America and all who defend her.

Your Chaplain, Chuck Trout

---

**DRAGON 6 SITREP**

**CAN DO!** It has been a very busy time for the 1st Battalion here on Kelly Hill. We have been training very hard and making great strides in increasing our mission-readiness and tactical proficiency. As we move into the holiday season, we aspire to continue in the great tradition of the “Can Do” Regiment. We greatly remember the dedication and sacrifices of those that served before us to preserve our freedom and pave the way for our continued success as highly trained, well-disciplined fighting force.

Sixty-seven years ago, Dragon Soldiers were heavily engaged with the enemy in the Colmar Pocket in France. They spent the holidays putting their lives on the line daily in what has since been called “The Forgotten Front.” This Christmas season, I encourage all Dragons to remember the Warriors of this Regiment from the past, honor them and never forget. On behalf of the 1st Battalion, thank you all veterans of the 15th Infantry Regiment for your sacrifice and your example.

Since September, 1st Battalion has been in overdrive getting ramped up for our deployment to the National Training Center (NTC) this coming March. Starting with crew and platoon-level gunnery in September, we have built upon that foundation and focused on both Platoon and Company-level training during Dragon Focus, our Battalion field training exercise in October.

In rapid-fire fashion, we moved straight into Hammer Focus in November, the Brigade-wide training exercise where the Battalion was able to come together and integrate all we have learned as a combined-arms battalion in coordination with other battalions and brigade assets.

Hammer Focus culminated with each Company’s execution of the Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise. Our armor, infantry, forward support and headquarters companies came together in coordination with aerial support in a unified effort to destroy the enemy with smooth efficiency and precision. The Can Do Battalion absolutely set the standard in tactical proficiency and combat effectiveness.

Following this extensive field training, we are maintaining the momentum to ensure that the unit is continuing to increase our combat readiness and preparing for our mission at the NTC. Our dog face Soldiers have been putting in tremendous effort. Motivation in the Battalion is high as we move into two weeks of block leave for the holidays.

The CSM and I are proud of what the Soldiers have accomplished this year and fired up for what we will encounter in the next year. We are fully confident that this organization is ready to meet the challenges of 2012 with a boldness that
January 2012

is characteristic of the “CAN DO” spirit. On behalf of the entire Battalion, we sincerely wish the members of the Regiment and your families the best Christmas ever and a very happy New Year! CAN DO!

Dragon 6 and Dragon 7

LTC Kraft – CSM Ortiz

B/1-15 IN M4 qualification

Chickamauga Staff Ride
Greetings Fellow Association Members.

I am extremely proud to have joined your ranks. It is a great honor to command the 3rd Battalion, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my first ninety days here. Thank you for your warm welcome and for your continuing support of the currently-serving CAN DO Soldiers.

The 3rd Battalion has now completed the reset phase of the Army’s Force Generation cycle. We returned from Operation New Dawn in Iraq last summer and embarked upon the task of resetting our personnel and equipment. We turned in over six thousand pieces of equipment, spanning everything from M4 Carbines to Field Kitchen Trailers. We conducted fifty small arms marksmanship ranges firing over 350,000 rounds. We also moved into a brand new Brigade Complex which we will be proud to show you around when you come out for the next Regimental Rendezvous.

Reset also means we have to say farewell to many great CAN DO warriors. Major Mark Olsen gave up the China 5 call sign to move up to be the 4th IBCT Operations Officer, Captain Steven Pierce gave up command of the Delta Company Black Lions; and Sergeant Major James Stallworth, our Stability Training Team Sergeant Major from Iraq, departed 3rd Battalion. Our loss is 1st Battalion’s gain as SGM Stallworth moved over to Fort Benning to become the Operations Sergeant Major for 1-15 IN. We also said goodbye to a great group of First Sergeants in Robert Keith from Alpha Company, Kevin Bullock from Bravo Company, Marcus Brister from Delta Company, and Curtis Singleton from the Forward Support Company.

The good thing about farewells is that we get to welcome newcomers. We have been fortunate to introduce some new key leaders to the Regiment. Major John McLaughlin joins us as the new Battalion Executive Officer, and Captain Bill Bader assumed command of Delta Company. New First Sergeants include Apache 7, Kieron Vernon, in Alpha Company, and Spearhead 7, Doug Norton, in the Forward Support Company. I would also like to give special recognition to Master Sergeant Juan Serrano, the former Rock 7, who retired after thirty-two years of service.
January 2012

Having finished the reset of personnel and equipment, the 3rd Battalion is now on a great footing to rebuild our combat readiness through an intense training progression in the New Year. We will begin with Expert Infantry Badge training and testing in January. Throughout the winter and spring we will progress through squad and platoon collective training focused on fundamental light infantry operations. By the summer of 2012 we will have conducted squad and platoon live fire exercises, company fire support coordination exercises, and battalion command post training.

I trust you all had a great Holiday season. We look forward to the challenges that lie ahead in the New Year and are excited about the opportunities to interact with veterans, young and old, of this distinguished regiment.

CAN DO!

LTC Joel Smith

China 6

Soldiers from B CO doing Short Range Marksmanship drills in the motor pool prior to heading to the range.

SFC Joseph Wertz gets inducted into the Audie Murphy Club by MG Robert B. Abrams the 3rd ID Commanding General
One Soldier’s Story

A summary of my time with the 15th Infantry Regiment

By Whitney P. Mullen

Whitney Mullen near Oberweissenbrun, Germany (German Panzerfaust) north of Wildflecken
PART 1: Welcome to the 15th Infantry Regiment

A shipment of replacements left Epinal France headed eastward through St. Die toward Selestat. (All locations will be in France until those in Germany appear.) We essentially followed the same path that our forces used in making the first conquest ever over the Vosges Mountains.

There were two truckloads carrying 35-40 men each; we were packed in so tightly that one could not turn around. The temperature was on the order low teens. The trip took about five hours as most of the mountains, and roads, were snow covered. Total distance was approximately 100 miles.

Finally, we arrived at an elevated bombed out village. The trucks pulled up parallel to each other; someone dropped a tailgate and several men jumped off. There was a shout, “Get back on the goddamned truck, nobody gets off the goddamned truck until I say so!”

This was our first contact with the 15th Infantry Regiment; 1st Sgt. Czech of Service Company endeared himself to us, “Newcomers.” I, personally never liked the man, more about him much later. Several of the men had frozen feet from the trip; all we could do was occasionally stamp our feet. Here we were issued Steel Helmets filled with some goodies.

From that location we moved southward a few miles to a building that, for the entire world, looked like a chicken house. It turned out to have been a German barracks, probably recently occupied by German troops. We were just in time for supper which consisted solely of a mess kit full of Vienna sausages and splat of ketchup. I ate every last one. We had been instructed to wash out our mess kits and hang them on the wall as there were men coming in to be fed – we all griped about this. Shortly the other men came in; we, the gripers, felt very ashamed about our complaining, the men were fresh off the battlefield and looked it!

During that night I got little sleep; my stomach objected to the Vienna sausages, and there was a constant rattling of the building as there was artillery fire directly overhead toward the Colmar region. Found out later they were 240mm Howitzers.

The following morning we all went outside to see the dead German soldiers who had been running from our machine gun fire. They were dressed in, “Spook Suits,” and frozen solid. There must have been on the order of 30 men. We had seen our first dead enemy. Funny, except for the uniforms, they looked just like us! We were at this location for two days.

We next moved to the village of Rappoltsweiller (now Ribeauville) where we were quartered with 15th Service Company in a large house, big enough to hold about 100 men. The grounds surrounding the house with a wall around four sides. The second evening we were called out and told to form in two rows and face left; orders given instructed those whose names were called to take one step forward. Then ordered to “Right Face, Forward March”!

They were loaded onto trucks and taken to active units; we later learned that many never knew units for which they were intended – they were shot up on the way with many killed.

A few days later, the end of the Colmar Pocket Campaign was announced. Those of us remaining were assigned to various units. About four of us were assigned to Co. I, Third Platoon, the Company was in tents about 300 yards from the Rhine River; on the opposite bank was Brisach, Germany. We were shelled by German Artillery sporadically.

A few days later, we walked overnight about 25Km to the village of Jebsheim. The foot travel was memorable; I was carrying all of my belongings, a rifle, the Bazooka and 12 rounds of ammo, wearing a GI overcoat, my footwear consisted of Shoe Packs which we had received back at Rappoltsweiller.
We left the tented area about 2030hrs. Before long we encountered snow on the ground and freezing slushy roads. About an hour after leaving, we made a left turn onto a road; as I looked to my left the snow was piled up in a bank about four feet high. It was covered with dirty frozen slush thrown there by recent truck traffic. I will never forget what I saw there! There was a human form sticking horizontally out of the frozen mass, exposed to the freezing slush from the waist up with the arms grotesquely frozen in a, “hands up” position. (I didn’t eat too well for a few days – it was hard to get the image out of my mind).

We arrived at Jebsheim at about 0300hrs the next day. Upon arrival each Platoon was instructed to go to the street and pick up a Hospital tent. It was our misfortune to be last and got what was left. When it came time to place the ridgepole into position the two sections proved to be about six feet too long! The poles were lashed together and the resultant tent was anything but GI. Everyone was dead-tired so we fell asleep quickly. About 0900hrs a voiced boomed out, “Who the hell put this mess up? Get it in shape before you get breakfast!”

Staying at this location a few days, we left on trucks to begin a huge significant move.

Read about this in the next issue of the DRAGON. (See PART 2: INTERLUDE next issue)

Whitney Mullen (right) pictured with his grandson, Chief Petty Officer4 David Whitney Barthold at Barthold’s promotion ceremony last fall

Would you like to sponsor a membership for Active Duty soldiers? 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
MEMBERSHIP REPORT
January 2012

Eligibility:

Regular: Persons eligible for regular membership are those with present or prior honorable service with the Regiment or units attached or supporting the Regiment.

Associate: Spouse, parents, children or siblings of any person eligible for regular membership and any person with a special interest or affinity for the 15th Infantry Regiment.

Number of Members 584

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By Periods</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CH</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWII</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KW</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CW</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIF</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSOC</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By Type</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Life</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Annual</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assoc Life</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assoc Annual</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>584</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Members, Re-instated Members and Upgraded Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ray L. Miller</th>
<th>Craig Hobbs</th>
<th>Charles Plunk (re-instated)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fort Mitchell, AL</td>
<td>Cataula, GA</td>
<td>Colonial Heights, VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFC, OIF, 1998-2011</td>
<td>CPT, RF, 2010 -</td>
<td>SSG, A CO, 1 BN, KW, 1951 - 1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 –</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles E. Gorton LM</td>
<td>Donald R. McIrath</td>
<td>Ernest J. Buckholz LM (upgraded)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexington, KY</td>
<td>Verona, PA</td>
<td>Rio Rancho, NM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1951 – 1952</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### New Members, Re-instated Members and Upgraded Members (cont’d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>LM (upgraded)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Grades and Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herman C. Clough</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hayward, WI</td>
<td>SGT, I CO, 3 BN, KW 1952 – 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank S. Harris</td>
<td></td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>SP/4 CS CO &amp; BN, 1 BN, CW 1975 - 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvatore Difranco</td>
<td></td>
<td>Okemos, MI</td>
<td>I CO, 3 BN, KW 1952 - 1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiao A. Sessler</td>
<td></td>
<td>Henderson, NV</td>
<td>Relative of Warren Sessler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van T. Barfoot</td>
<td></td>
<td>Richmond, VA</td>
<td>COL, A &amp; C CO, 1 BN, WWII, 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard N. McKitty</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
<td>SFC, C CO, 1 BN, KW 1951 – 1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John C. Campbell</td>
<td></td>
<td>Clarksville, IN</td>
<td>1LT, B CO &amp; HQ, 1 BN, KW 1953 – 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dustin D. Dobbins</td>
<td></td>
<td>Phenix City, AL</td>
<td>2LT, B CO, 1 BN, OIF, 2011 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hany Pietro</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ft. Mitchell, AL</td>
<td>1LT, B CO, 1 BN, OIF, 2011 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel A. Smith</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ft. Stewart, GA</td>
<td>SGT, 3 BN, OIF, 2011 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernard E. Perry</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chazy, NY</td>
<td>CPT, K CO, 3 BN, KW, 1951 – 1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald H. Lane</td>
<td></td>
<td>Frankfort, KY</td>
<td>SP/4, CO A, 1 BN, CW 1966-1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roy Spanower</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lakewood, NJ</td>
<td>SFC, G CO, 2 BN, KW, 1951 - 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwin G. Heister</td>
<td></td>
<td>Norman, OK</td>
<td>CPL, L CO, 3 BN, KW 1952 – 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald J. Czeszynski</td>
<td></td>
<td>West Allis, WI</td>
<td>MSG, MORT BTRY, REGT, CW 1957 - 1960</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Monika and Tim visit with Colonel Lee Mize the sole-surviving 15th Infantry Regiment Medal of Honor recipient

Tim presents Major General Singlaub a Department of the Army Certificate designating him as a Distinguished Member of the Regiment
The Battle of Stones River 31 December 1862 to 2 January 1863

Contributed by Tim Stoy

The Battle of Stones River, 31 December 1862 to 2 January 1863, outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, is represented by the first red acorn on our Regiment’s Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI). The red acorn was the emblem of the XIVth Corps of the Army of the Cumberland during the Civil War, and our Regiment was part of that Corps at Stones River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and the Atlanta Campaign. Stones River counts as a near-run victory for the Army of the Cumberland and the battle was one of the bloodiest of the entire war.

The best book on the battle is No Better Place to Die by Peter Cozzens. I highly recommend this account of the campaign leading up to the battle, the battle itself, and its immediate aftermath and repercussions. Mark W. Johnson’s book That Body of Brave Men provides a detailed overview of the actions of the Regular Brigade at Stones River, of which our Regiment’s 1st Battalion was part. I also encourage anyone interested in the battle to visit the excellent website of Stones River National Battlefield Park [http://www.nps.gov/stri/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/stri/index.htm) which contains excellent information on the battle, as well as individual stories which bring the reader closer to the actual soldiers who experienced this terrible battle.

History is too often just ink on paper, words attempting to describe human experience from the perspective of a third party observer. In military history we usually read of the great decisions made by generals and political leaders. Yet war remains the most basic and elemental human experience – we are reminded of this when we read of the Battle of Stones River.

1st Battalion entered the fight with 15 officers and 304 enlisted soldiers. In less half a day of combat, 31 December 1862, the battalion lost 12 KIA, 77 WIA, and 17 MIA. The battalion commander, Major John H. King, was shot from his horse, wounded with three bullets in the arm. Three of 8 company commanders were killed or died of wounds – C CO’s CPT William W. Wise, D CO’s CPT Jacob B. Bell, and G CO’s CPT Joseph F. York. A fourth, LT William B. Occleston of H CO was wounded. Our first acorn was paid for in blood.

Four of our soldiers KIA in the battle are buried at the Stones River National Cemetery – PVT Jacob Hexamer of H CO, PVT William Kappel of C CO, PVT William McCall of A CO, and PVT John Waugh of B CO. PVT Kappel had two brothers, Christian and John, who also served in the 15th US Infantry in this battle and would survive the war. All three enlisted at the same time end of August 1861 in Chillicothe, Ohio. What did the brothers experience when they learned their brother was killed? Did they find and identify the body? How did they tell their father? Their father enlisted one month after his sons did, at age 50, and served as a PVT with an Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment – he also survived the war. For more information on the Kappel family go to [http://www.nps.gov/stri/historyculture/reqfunitedstatesregimentalfiles.htm](http://www.nps.gov/stri/historyculture/reqfunitedstatesregimentalfiles.htm).

The Kappel family’s is just one of hundreds of thousands of soldier stories from the Civil War. A great deal of blood has flowed in our Regiment’s history since that war, with successive generations of soldier stories added to the Regiment’s “book”. As the 150th anniversary commemorations of the Civil War continue the next 4 years, let’s look at our great Civil War history as the collection of human stories that it is, not just ink on paper.

SAVE THE DATE – RENDEVOUS 2012

3rd Battalion will host at Fort Stewart/Hinesville 11-14April
15th Infantry Regiment Association
Tom Heitzer, Database Administrator
231 Normandie
Bonne Terre, MO 63628

Address Service Requested