

January 2020

## *Fifteenth Infantry Regiment*



*“The Old China Hands”*

<http://www.warfoto.com/15thInfRegt.html>

Dear Fellow Old China Hands,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and that you have a great 2020.

Our webmaster, Rich Heller, is stepping down due to health problems. We need a member to step up and establish a new web presence for the Association. Our website needs to be our main recruiting tool—it reaches the largest audience on the internet. The quality of the presentation as well as the extensiveness of the information on the Regiment and Association that gets posted are critical. If you are interested in taking on this job, please contact either me or Tom Heitzer and we can work the turnover with Rich. Thank you.

I will be attending commemorative events in Colmar, Alsace, France and villages around Colmar in late January and early February commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Colmar and the end of the Battle of the Colmar Pocket. This battle looms large in our history with the following Regimental members receiving Medals of Honor—Gus Kefurt, Keith L. Ware, Eli Whitely, and Audie L. Murphy and the Regiment receiving both the Croix de Guerre, Fouragerre, and the Presidential Unit Citation as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.

The Association continues to bleed members. We are losing our WWII and Korean War veterans due to age and our remaining membership remains apathetic. Tom Heitzer continues to diligently scrub our membership roster and find deceased members whose families did not notify the Association. We are lagging significantly in active duty membership. We basically have two members who are carrying the Association—our Dragon editor, Andrew Lerch, and our database manager and acting treasurer, Tom Heitzer.

The Association needs all of our members to step up. We need members to fill our many open positions. We need members to actively push recruiting. We need members to submit articles for publication in the Dragon. We need members to contribute to the website. We need members willing to donate memorabilia from their time in the Regiment to the China Room. The Association cannot exist in a vacuum and, without active membership participation in our activities, we will not survive. It is a sad commentary the Association of one of the Army's greatest infantry regiments is unable to continue our Regiment's proud heritage.

It is not too late. We can recover and keep driving on to our objective, the continued top-class maintenance of the China Room and the preservation and promulgation of our Regiment's great history. As part of keeping our Regiment in the public eye, Monika and I have purchased a tree at the soon to be opened National Museum of the United States Army in honor of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. The plaque will honor the Regiment and we continue to look for other opportunities in the National Capital Region to promote the Regiment—millions of tourists pass through this area annually. We are only limited by imagination and funding. Please donate to our Association so we can continue to improve the China Room and emplace plaques and monuments.

The 3ID Assistant Division Commander-Support, COL Larry Burris, recently visited the China Room and noted that there are very few artifacts from 3-15 IN from the Iraq War period when he was with the battalion in the collection. If any of our members are aware where some of those important items please come up on the net!

Once again, Happy New Year! **Can Do! Tim**

<b>Association Officers and Staff</b>		
<b>President</b> Timothy R. Stoy 6531 Milva Lane Springfield, VA 22150 (703) 912-4218 timmoni15@yahoo.com	<b>Commander, 3rd Battalion</b> LTC Arthur L. McGrue III 594 Vanguard Road Ste 3071 Ft. Stewart, GA 31314 (912) 435-7697 arthur.l.mcgrue2.mil@mail.mil	<b>Editor, The Dragon</b> Andrew G. Lerch 15302 Iris Lane Montclair, VA 22025 (706) 325-3705 andrew.g.lerch.mil@mail.mil
<b>Vice President</b> Addison D. (Tad) Davis IV 2104 27th St S Arlington, VA 22206 (703) 772-4558 tad.davis117@gmail.com	<b>CSM, 3rd Battalion</b> CSM Andrew R. DeUnger 594 Vanguard Road Ste 3071 Ft. Stewart, GA 31314 (912) 435-7698 andrew.r.deunger.mil@mail.mil	<b>Trustee</b> Leonard L. Lassar 690 Salman Fall Road Rochester, NH 03868 (603) 335-3554 lenlassor@myfairpoint.net
<b>Secretary</b> Position eliminated (Nov 2018)	<b>Chaplain</b> Charles C. Trout 10191 Birchwood Drive Huntington Beach, CA 92646 (714) 836-4981 chaptrout@aol.com	<b>Trustee</b> Warren E. Sessler 4591 Bigford Street Las Vegas, NV 89122 (702) 617-7022 sessler1@aol.com
<b>Treasurer (Acting)</b> Tom R. Heitzer 231 Normandie Drive Bonne Terre, MO 63628 (314) 650-4692 theitzer001@charter.net	<b>China Room Custodian</b> SSG Tyrone Love 594 Vanguard Road Ste 3071 Ft. Stewart, GA 31314 (706) 987-0127 tyrone.g.love.mil@mail.mil	<b>Trustee</b> Vacant
<b>Membership Chairman</b> Tom R. Heitzer 231 Normandie Drive Bonne Terre, MO 63628 (314) 650-4692 theitzer001@charter.net	<b>Webmaster</b> Rich Heller 1515 Ramblewood Dr Hanover Park, IL 60133 (630) 837-8871 rheller@warfoto.com	<b>Trustee</b> Vacant
<b>HSGMOR</b> Mark T. Baker 5415 Roaring Branch Road Columbus, GA 31904 (706) 566-5165 ultimabake47@gmail.com	<b>Historian</b> Timothy R. Stoy 6531 Milva Lane Springfield, VA 22150 (703) 912-4218 timmoni15@yahoo.com	<b>Database Administrator</b> Tom R. Heitzer 231 Normandie Drive Bonne Terre, MO 63628 (314) 650-4692 theitzer001@charter.net
<b>HCOR</b> Jerry Bates 3017 Margaret Jones Lane Williamsburg VA 23185 (757) 645-4765 jerrybates41@cox.net	<b>Public Relations Chairman</b> Vacant	<b>C &amp; BL Chairman</b> Vacant

The Dragon is the quarterly publication of the 15th Infantry Regiment Association. Published in January, April, July, and October, neither its editorial nor article content carries official endorsement of the Association. Input for the Dragon is due the 15th of each month prior to publishing to [andrew.g.lerch.mil@mail.mil](mailto:andrew.g.lerch.mil@mail.mil).

January 2020

## Taps

<p><b>Corbin J. Davis-LM</b> St. Simons Island, GA CPT, L CO, 3 BN, KW, 1949-51 DOD 08/26/2019 Reported by Tim Stoy</p>	<p><b>John F. Hamilton-LM-OPH</b> Carpentersville, IL 1LT, HVY TANK, REG, KW, 1952-53 DOD 10/29/2018 Reported by James Hafer</p>	<p><b>Oscar F. Konnerth</b> Erie, PA CPL, L CO, 3 BN, KW, 1952-53 DOD 09/22/2018 Reported by Diane Konnerth</p>
<p><b>Bill C. Bowers-LM</b> Lebanon, TN SFC, Tank CO, REG, KW, 1951-52 DOD 10/03/2012 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>Walter C. Bucher-LM</b> Iselin, NJ PVT, A CO, 1 BN, II, 1943 DOD 07/01/2017 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>Patrick W. Burke-LM-OPH</b> Pensacola, FL LTC, A CO, 5th RCT, KW, 1953 DOD 12/13/2017 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>
<p><b>James J. Davis-LM</b> Mason, OH SGT, MED CO, REG, KW, 1952-53 DOD 1/20/2019 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>Nicholas J. Dick Jr-LM</b> Council Bluffs, IA PFC, D CO, 1 BN, KW, 1953-54 DOD 07/27/2018 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>Wilber L. Dirksen-LM</b> Yuma, AZ SSG, B CO, 1 BN, KW, 1948-51 DOD 06/28/2019 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>
<p><b>Egan M. Fehnel-LM</b> Allenton, PA SFC, H CO, 2 BN, KW, 1953-54 DOD 08/07/2019 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>John F. Ferrara-LM-OPH</b> Westfield, VT SFC, F CO, 2 BN, KW, 1952-54 DOD 10/20/2017 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>John L. Fitzgerald-LM</b> Vandalia, MO TSG, A CO, 1 BN, II, 1941-44 DOD 05/07/2015 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>
<p><b>Robert Gann-LM</b> Mascot, TN CPL, SVC CO, REGT, KW, 1950-51 DOD 08/03/2019 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>Constantino Grasso-LM</b> Everett, MS SGT, I CO, 3 BN, II, 1943-45 DOD 02/06/2005 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>Wayne D. Hubbard-LM</b> Tulsa, OK T/4, HHC, 2 BN, II, 1942-45 DOD 11/17/2014 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>
<p><b>Bob G. Kent-LM</b> Georgetown, GA SGT, B CO, 1 BN, KW, 1949-51 DOD 06/11/2018 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>Edward D. Koleske-LM</b> Appleton, WI SFC, HHC, 2 BN, KW, 1951-52 DOD 06/22/2019 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>Robert A Little-LM</b> Manchester, CT CPL, HHC, 2 BN, KW, 1949-52 DOD 11/28/2016 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>
<p><b>John C. Mackinnon-LM-CM</b> Norwood, NJ PFC, L CO, 3 BN, II, 1944 DOD 02/15/2016 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>Edwin C. Marion-LM-OPH</b> Forks, WA 1LT, M CO, 3 BN, KW, 1953 DOD 11/06/2016 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>James Hunter Pugh Jr-LM</b> Frederick, MD PFC, A CO, 1 BN, CW, 1955-57 DOD 05/18/2019 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>
<p><b>Vincent A. Randazzo-LM</b> Largo, FL PFC, M CO, 3 BN, II, 1945-46 DOD 03/16/2018 Reported Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>Ted Rowland-LM</b> Richmond, VA 1SGT, C CO, 1 BN, KW, 1950 DOD 10/17/2019 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>Frank J. Scarcella-LM</b> El Cajon, CA SGT, G CO, 2 BN, KW, 1952-193 DOD 02/17/2017 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>
<p><b>Jack R. Siewert-LM</b> York, PA LTC, C CO, 64th TNK, KW, 1951-52 DOD 09/13/2019 R Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>Anthony S. Sorbero-LM-CM</b> Amsterdam, NY T/5, I CO, 3 BN, II, 1944-45 DOD 02/13/2019 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>	<p><b>Charles E. Tart-LM</b> Fayetteville, NC MSG, C CO, 1 BN, KW, 1951-52 DOD 10/17/2019 Reported by Tom Heitzer</p>

January 2020

<b>Benjamin Walker-LM</b> Columbus, GA SSG, C CO, 1 BN, KW, 1952-53 DOD 12/14/2018 Reported by Tom Heitzer	<b>Warren G. Langley-LM</b> Colorado Springs, CO LTC, HHC, 3 BN, KW, 1953 DOD 07/31/2017 Reported by Tom Heitzer	<b>James G. McCray-LM</b> Tucson, AZ COL, HHC, 1 BN, CW 1965-66 DOD 11/12/2019 Reported by family member
--	--	--

## New Members

<b>Timothy Allen</b> Georgetown, CO SP/4, HHC, 1 BN, CW, 1972-75	<b>Tom Underwood-Upgraded to LM</b> Coatesville, IN SP/4, B CO, 1 BN, CW, 1959-61	<b>Joseph P. Cronin-Reinstated</b> Lakewood, OH SGT, HHC, 1 BN, CW, April 1967-69
--	---	---

## Membership Report

NUMBER OF MEMBERS BY PERIOD		CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE	
NUMBER OF CHINA HANDS	0	REGULAR LIFE	234
NUMBER OF WWII MEMBERS	29	REGULAR ANNUAL	53
NUMBER OF KOREA MEMBERS	114	ASSOCIATE LIFE	18
NUMBER OF COLD WAR MEMBERS	81	<u>ASSOCIATE ANNUAL</u>	<u>8</u>
NUMBER OF PEACETIME MEMBERS	17	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	313
NUMBER OF OEF FORCES	1		
NUMBER OF OIF FORCES	9		
NUMBER OF GWOT FORCES	36		
<u>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</u>	<u>26</u>		
TOTAL MEMBERS	313		

## Active Battalion Update

### From the Desk of China 6 (13 Jan 2020)

Greetings, Family, Friends, and Associates of the Regiment!

Happy New Year from the China Battalion. I sincerely hope that this letter finds everyone doing well following the holiday season. 3-15 Infantry has returned from opportunity leave feeling refreshed and ready to answer our Nation's call. We went into the holiday season full steam ahead, as the battalion executed the first Expert Infantry Badge training and testing on Fort Stewart in over four years. It was a great way to end the year, and I'm overjoyed for our Soldiers that earned the coveted badge.

Next up for the battalion is Defender 2020. The battalion will deploy with the brigade into the European theater to participate in the largest training exercise in the European Command in over 20 years. We will get the opportunity to test our deployment readiness and processes, and become qualified and/or certified on all of our tactical equipment. We will use this exercise not only for

January 2020

certification, but to reassure our allies that we are ready to assist them when we are called. I'm ecstatic about this training exercise and I look forward to seeing our Soldiers perform wonders alongside our NATO brethren.

To the association, family, and friends of the China battalion, a continued thanks for your support to your loved ones and this battalion. Your support is the nourishment that continues to feed our strength, giving us the endurance to accomplish the many tasks that we are assigned, and assures us that we can accomplish any future mission. You have been that steady shining beacon and we remain grateful.

In closing, thank you, as always, to the China Soldiers, for all of your hard work and commitment to achieving excellence. By the time this article is released, you will be postured to deploy into the European Command demonstrating our forte in support of our NATO allies. You'll be ready to conduct crew gunnery and live fire exercises, and you'll be equipped to participate in the first wet gap crossing conducted by a brigade in 30 years. We have exciting times ahead and I'm more than confident that we will continue to excel. Take care and God bless! **Can Do! LTC McGrue III, China 6**

### **From the Desk of Hell Raiser 6 (13 Jan 2020)**

Greetings Family, Friends, and Associates of the Regiment!

The past few months have been busy for HHC, 3-15 IN as we prepare for our deployment to Defender 2020. In addition to packing out all equipment and property, HHC leadership played a pivotal role in the planning, preparation, and execution of Expert Infantryman Badge certification and testing. Led by 1SG Nicholas Kreighbaum and the other Company 1SGs in the Battalion, HHC NCOs and EIB holders dedicated countless hours to the successful completion of their EIB lanes. More than 20 China Battalion Soldiers earned their EIB, to include 4 members of the HHC Mortar Platoon. The Hell Raiser team underwent leadership changes at two key leader positions. 1SG Kyle McKelvey assumed responsibilities as Company 1SG from 1SG Nicholas Kreighbaum after serving as the Bandit Company 1SG for the past 6 months. 1SG Kreighbaum served as the HHC 1SG for the past 6 months and made an immediate impact from day one. Additionally, CPT Michael Fitzgerald passed the guidon to CPT Derek Beecham after serving as the HHC Company Commander for the last 14 months. Although these leadership changes come at a busy time, the new command team is ready to lead the company to success during Defender 2020 and beyond. **Can Do! CPT Beecham, CPT, Hell Raiser 6**

### **From the Desk of Apache 6 (13 Jan 2020)**

Greetings Family, Friends, and Associates of the Regiment!

Over the past two months, Apache Company has experienced a large amount of leader turnover and preparation in anticipation of the upcoming deployments. In November CPT Blake Bucknam and 1SG Patrick Wallin took over as the new Commander and 1SG, and saw a host of new Platoon Leaders and Platoon Sergeants fill the ranks of Apache Company. Along with this change, the company worked to refresh the Family Readiness Group (FRG) and made minor changes to the company structure. Prior to Christmas Block Leave, the company held its first FRG meeting in close to a year and attended the Holiday Social. Apache Company also participated in the Expert Infantry Badge (EIB), Fort Stewart's first in over four years. Five Apache Soldiers earned their EIB, and three achieved "true blue," successfully completing the 30 assigned Infantry tasks with zero deficiencies. Apache Company began the New Year by inducting eight NCOs into the NCO Corps, and with one of its Platoon Leaders moving forward to the final phase of Ranger School towards earning the coveted Ranger Tab. Moving forward, the company continues to prepare for the upcoming deployments. As we prepare ourselves, our families and our equipment, Apache Company stands ready to move forward with this next chapter. **Can Do! CPT Bucknam, Apache 6**

January 2020

### **From the Desk of Rock 6 (13 Jan 2020)**

Greetings Family, Friends, and Associates of the Regiment!

Charlie Company has started off the New Year with preparations for its upcoming missions. The company completed gunnery in October 2019 resulting in 12 qualified crews and the top tank for the Division, C14: SFC Perez-TC, SPC Evans-Gunner, SPC Porter-Driver and SPC Garcia-Loader. On 7 November 2019, Charlie Company said goodbye to CPT Matt Symons after a successful 12 months in command and welcomed CPT Joseph Carson. On 3 December 19, Charlie Company promoted SFC Manuel Perez to the position of 1SG and saw 1SG Zachary Ingle off after a successful 2 years. The Soldiers of Charlie Rock completed services on all equipment in November and December in preparation for Poland. The Company's Soldiers and families came together and enjoyed a Potluck Christmas Party on 18 December 19 where they received educational classes from the 3-15IN Chaplain, Grady Pennell, and the MFLC representative, Kevin Tomberlin on services available to them while Soldiers are deployed. Lastly the Company instituted a new award, "The Last Round," to be awarded to the member of the team that has greatly contributed to the success or lethality of Charlie Rock. The first awardee was SFC Wayne McDougall, the Maintenance Team leader, for his consistent and diligent dedication to maintaining our fleet, keeping Charlie Rock in the fight. We look forward to the great accomplishments our Soldiers will achieve in the coming months. **Can Do! CPT Carson, Rock 6**

### **From the Desk of Iroquois 6 (13 Jan 2020)**

Greetings Family, Friends, and Associates of the Regiment!

Iroquois Company had a very busy 4th Quarter of 2019. Iroquois Company participated in the 2ABCT's Mounted Machine Gun Gunnery certifying 5 new crews from the Distribution and Maintenance Platoons with one crew qualifying as Distinguished. Our Bravo-Field Maintenance Team also went to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Fort Polk, LA to support the Bandits during their training rotation with 1/10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. Iroquois Company Soldiers participated in Marne Week Sports contributing to the China Battalion's success in the Obstacle Course Competition. Iroquois Company

conducted a Holiday party on 12 December 2020 to celebrate the season with our Soldiers friends and families at the Corkan Fun Center on Main Post. Families enjoyed a traditional Christmas meal, roller skating, bouncy houses and even a visit from Santa and his reindeer. The remainder of December was filled with packing up our equipment and preparing equipment for our training rotation to Defender 2020. **Can Do! CPT Arvin, Iroquois 6**

### **Chaplain's Message**

Submitted by Chaplain Chuck Trout

Recently, a local newspaper requested readers to submit an article about how politics will affect the holidays. To follow is the article I submitted: "I am so very grateful that my happiness does not depend on who is president. I have a wonderful family, live in the best nation in the world and have my faith which keeps me in touch with reality. If I don't like the person who is now president, I can vote in the next election. I do not moan and groan like a spoiled child. When you purchase a car, television or any product, you get an operating instructions from the maker, which inform you how to take care of the product for best results. Our maker also gave us a set of instructions about life and how to live it to the

January 2020

fullest. There were called the "Ten Commandments." Written thousands of years ago, they still hold true today. One of them states, "Thou Shall Not Murder" but yet we have abortion. Another states, "Thou shall not bear false witness" which is evident with the attempt to impeach our president. "Thou shall not steal," which the government does when it takes money from one group to give to another. "Thou shalt not covet your neighbor" meaning to want what he or she has. Yet, we see people moan if their neighbor has a higher salary. It is not politics that can ruin our holidays, rather it is placing too much emphasis on the wrong things!"

**15TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION TREASURER'S REPORT 2019**

**CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 01/01/2019:** \$ 1,942.40

**INCOME FOR 2019:**

DUES COLLECTED IN 2019: \$ 9125.00  
DONATIONS: \$ 1,006.00  
BUMPER STICKERS: \$ 64.00  
INTEREST ON CHECKING ACCOUNT: \$ 2.02  
MONEY FROM SAVINGS: \$ 0.00  
**TOTAL INCOME FOR 2019:** \$ 1,997.02

**DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2019:**

PRINTING & SHIPPING DRAGON: \$ 1,400.16  
WEB PAGE: \$ 220.00  
MAILING OF DRAGON POSTAGE: \$ 239.32  
ALL OTHER POSTAGE: \$ 79.75  
OFFICE SUPPLIES, ECT: \$ 64.34  
MAILING PERMIT: \$ 235.00  
FILING IRS FORM 990: \$ 39.95  
PAYPAL FEES: \$ 13.08

**3-15TH BATTALION ACCOUNT:**

JAGUARS DONATION: \$ 4,836.40  
BALL TICKET SALES: \$ 6,084.30  
TOTAL INCOME: \$ 10,920  
**DISBURSEMENTS:**  
ASSOCIATION FEE: \$ 336.00  
3-15 BATTALION BALL: \$ 10,584.70  
BALANCE: \$ 0.00

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2019:** \$ 2,391.60

**SAVINGS:**

(\$ 1,122.80 MONUMENT FUND MONEY)  
(\$ 260.00 GIFT MEMBERSHIP FUND MONEY)  
(\$ 3,780.80 LIFE TRUST FUND MONEY)  
(\$ 21.81 INTEREST FOR 2019)  
(\$ 0.00 3-15th BN FUND)  
(\$ 394.20 GENERAL FUND MONEY)

**TOTAL BALANCE SAVINGS:** \$ 5,579.61

**PAYPAL ACCOUNT:** \$ 0.00

**CD ACCOUNT:** \$ 30,109.73 (LIFE TRUST FUND MONEY)

**RECAP FOR 2019:**

CHECKING ACCOUNT BEFORE EXPENTURES: \$ 3,939.42  
TOTAL TRANSFERRED TO SAVINGS: \$ 370.00  
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2019: \$ 2,391.60  
**TOTAL IN CHECKING AS OF 12/31/2019:** \$ 1,177.82

January 2020

15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association  
**Tom Heitzer, Database Administrator**  
231 Normandie Dr  
Bonne Terre, MO 63628

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #111  
Bonne Terre, MO

**Address Service Requested**

