

July 2019

Fifteenth Infantry Regiment



“The Old China Hands”

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

Fellow Old China Hands,

I hope you had a great Independence Day holiday and are enjoying the sunny weather with your families wherever you are.

This issue of the Dragon includes details of 3-15 Infantry's Regimental Ball on 2 August in Savannah, GA. Please make every effort to attend—the opportunities to meet our current Can Do Soldiers are few and far between thanks to the high operational tempo the battalion continues to experience. This will be the chance to hear about their successful transition to mechanized Infantry and their successful training rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA.

On 7 June, I was privileged to attend the graduation ceremony for the US Army War College at Carlisle, PA. Former 3-15 IN Battalion Commander, LTC Fran Marks, was in the graduating class. Congratulations, LTC Marks! He is heading to Afghanistan to work with a former 3rd Infantry Division Commanding General, LTG Rainey, in advising the Afghan Armed Forces. Fran convinced his classmates to make their class gift the rehabilitation of Lincoln Cemetery, an African American cemetery in Carlisle in which at least 30 veterans of the Civil War are buried. The cemetery had been converted into a park by the borough and sadly only one headstone remains, but several tablets in the cemetery include the names of the veterans. It is a historically significant project! Well done, LTC Marks!

Monika and I just concluded a ten-day trip from Northern Virginia to Arizona for a funeral, then a leg to Northern California, then a return through Nevada, Wyoming, and further points east. We were accompanied by former OP Harry Survivor's Association President David Mills. We had the opportunity to visit several former stations for the Regiment—Fort Wingate outside of Gallup, New Mexico; the Presidio of Monterey in Monterey, CA; and Fort Douglas, Utah. Fort Wingate has been inactive for quite some time but was home for two companies from the Regiment from 1869 to 1881. The Presidio of Monterey is still open and serves as home to the Defense Language Institute. The Regiment was there from 1902 to 1905, after its service in China and the Philippines in 1900 to 1902. There is a 15th Infantry Regiment Street on post due to the fact the original buildings on post were built by the Regiment! Fort Douglas was turned over to the Oregon National Guard and the University of Utah in the 1980s. They have done a wonderful job of preserving the post's character. Officers' quarters are now homes for professors and the barracks appear to be dormitories. There is also a very nice museum.

While in California we stopped in Anaheim to visit my West Point classmate Greg Gerovac. His father served in Cannon Company in WWII. Greg presented the Association his father's WWII uniform which I will take to Fort Stewart in August for display in the China Room. The uniform is in great condition and it is an honor to have a named uniform in our collection. His father served in the Regiment from North Africa until the end of the war!

Driving the wide expanses of the American West, I could imagine what our Can Do ancestors experienced in such small posts as Wingate. The views of Monterey Bay after the hard fighting in Philippines must have been wonderful for the men. Fort Douglas, right on the outskirts of Salt Lake City, must have been a great breath of fresh air for the men returning from the Philippines in 1907. Our Regiment has a tremendous history which each of us should remember and honor.

The Association continues to struggle with membership, and I ask you all again to recruit your friends from your service with the Regiment. We also continue to have numerous important positions in our leadership vacant—please volunteer to make our Association stronger. I welcome any ideas toward that end. Have a great summer! **Can Do! Tim**

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

July 2019

Taps

Walter A. Bik-Non-Member Pittsburgh & New Jersey CPT, 15th Infantry, Korea DOD July 9, 2018 Reported by Tim Stoy	Roy A. Brumfield-LM Bluefield, WV CPL, C CO, 1 BN, II, 1944-45 DOD October 22, 2018 Reported by daughter, Carolyn
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

New Members

Dwight B. Swacina-Assoc Member Beloit, WI Father is Howard Swacina	Pat J. McGill-Assoc Member Magnolia, DE Father served with Audie Murphy
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Membership Report

NUMBER OF MEMBERS BY PERIOD		CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE	
NUMBER OF CHINA HANDS	0	REGULAR LIFE	236
NUMBER OF WWII MEMBERS	27	REGULAR ANNUAL	50
NUMBER OF KOREA MEMBERS	119	ASSOCIATE LIFE	18
NUMBER OF COLD WAR MEMBERS	79	<u>ASSOCIATE ANNUAL</u>	<u>7</u>
NUMBER OF PEACETIME MEMBERS	17	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	311
NUMBER OF OEF FORCES	1		
NUMBER OF OIF FORCES	9		
NUMBER OF GWOT FORCES	34		
<u>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</u>	<u>25</u>		
TOTAL MEMBERS	311		

3-15 Infantry Battalion Ball

The 3-15th Battalion Ball is scheduled for Friday, August 2, 2019 at the Savannah Marriot Riverside Hotel, 100 General McIntosh Blvd. Savannah, GA 31401.

There will be a cocktail hour from 1700 to 1830, followed by dinner and dancing. Please join in celebrating a job well-done and all of the Soldiers who made this possible.

You must purchase your tickets for this event in advance by July 19, 2019 (note this may have passed by time of mailing) and can be paid by using the PayPal button for "3rd Battalion Ball Tickets" on our website at <http://www.warfoto.com/15thInfRegt.html>. You will click on the dropdown box and pick the option per your rank. 15th Infantry Association Members, who are civilians should use the first option. Once you

July 2019

do this, click on the "Pay Now" button, and it will take you to a box where you will click on "Pay by credit or debit card." Once you enter your credit card information you will click on the "Buy" button and will receive a confirmation e-mail of your purchase. If you want to purchase a second ticket you will need to enter a second transaction after completing your first one.

Soldiers at Ft. Stewart can also purchase your tickets through your company representatives or 1LT Nathan Sutherland in the S3 shop by either cash or check. The cost per ticket is below:

15th Infantry Regt Assoc Members: \$55 **O4 or higher & E9:** \$100 **O3 & E8:** \$80
O1-O2, CW2, & E7: \$70 **E5-E6:** \$55 per ticket **E4:** \$45 per ticket **E1-E3:** \$40 per ticket

If you want to stay at the Savannah Marriott Riverside Hotel the Battalion has secured a special rate of \$129 per night with \$8 per day parking. For your convenience, you can book the hotel and secure the group rate by visiting <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1551466825707&key=GRP&app=resvlink>. The hotel does not have an airport shuttle so you will have to make a reservation in advance at K-shuttle.com. The cost of this shuttle is \$20 one way. You can also take a taxi from the airport to the hotel for \$28 one way.

Application for Membership in the 15TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Please Print Clearly

☺ New Member _____ ☺ Renew Membership
(Today's Date)

NAME: _____
(Last) (First) (MI)

Street Address: _____

City-State-Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Birth Date: _____ Spouse Name: _____

Rank: _____ Unit (Co & Bn): _____ Dates Served: _____

Did you serve in Afghanistan with the 3-15th Infantry _____

E-mail Address: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP DESIRED

Regular Annual \$10.00 Associate Annual \$10.00 On Active Duty Annual \$5.00 Life (see rates below)

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS ARE BASED ON YOUR AGE AT YOUR LAST BIRTHDAY

Up to Age 60 = \$150.00; Age 60 – 69 = \$120.00; Age 70 – 79 = \$100.00; Age 80 and over = \$50.00

You can sign up and pay online by going to www.warfoto.com/15thInfRegt.html and clicking on the "Pay Dues" tab or make check payable to "15th Infantry Regiment Association" and mail to the following:

Tom Heitzer
231 Normandie Drive
Bonne Terre, MO 63628

☎ (314) 650-4692

July 2019

Active Battalion Update

From the Desk of China 6 (June 17, 2019)

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

I sincerely hope that this letter finds everyone doing well as 3-15 Infantry recovers our vehicles and equipment from our recent training at the National Training Center. The battalion has accomplished great strides over the past few months with our rotation at the National Training Center being both the culmination and highlight of our training. Task Force China was an integral part in the brigade's success and helped the brigade achieve feats that have not been accomplished at the National Training Center in years. Three large parts to that success, was anchored in China's ability to quickly seize and maintain the high ground in the initial operation; the ability to closely follow the breach and then assume the lead as we cleared portions of the largest city in the training area; and then the live fire defense where the battalion alone destroyed over 78 percent of the enemy force. Many of the Soldiers displayed true grit and determination in defeating the enemy, and I continue to remain proud of this legendary battalion.

Next up for the battalion is to continue to get ready so that we are postured in the event that our Nation calls. After some of our key leaders have changed positions or departed for schools or other assignments, we will return to another round of crew gunnery followed with ramping up the scenarios for our platoon level training. We will continue to push ourselves to go farther, further, and faster, so that when the time comes we will win.

To our family and friends of the China battalion, a continued thanks for your support to your loved ones and this battalion. Your support is the strength that feeds our Soldiers to accomplish the many tasks that we are assigned, and it allows them to accomplish those tasks without worry, qualm, or fear. You continue to be that shining beacon that lets us know we can continue to move forward and we are forever grateful.

For those of you that are not aware, the battalion will host this year's ball on August 2nd at the Marriott in Savannah. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/293144918237861/> for more information on the ball and how you can reserve a room at the Marriott.

In closing, I want to continue to thank the China Soldiers for all of their hard work and commitment to achieving excellence. By the time this article is released, you will have returned from block leave and I will begin to lean on you for three things. 1) Maintain your equipment. As we receive our equipment back from NTC, we must service our equipment to ensure that it is ready and at 10/20 standards. 2) Maintain yourselves. We must continue to ensure that we are taken care of physically, medically, and spiritually. Now is the time to get ahead on SRP and PHA related tasks. And finally, 3) let's get ready to ramp up our scenarios and create more challenges within our training so that we can go faster and fight harder than our enemy. Can Do! V/R, Arthur L. McGrue III China 6

Historian's Corner

Colonel Horace Jewett, 15th Infantry Civil War and Indian War Veteran

Submitted by Tim Stoy



Continuing our series on notable members of the Regiment, I would like to write about one of the Regiment's original Lieutenants from the Civil War, Colonel Horace Jewett. His career began in the Civil War and ended when he died in command of the 21st Infantry in 1897.

Horace Jewett was born 31 March 1834 in South Berwick, Maine. He was working as a merchant in his hometown when the war broke out. He was in the initial group of Lieutenants appointed in the Regiment on 14 May 1861.

July 2019

He commanded A Company, 1st Battalion at Shiloh and Stones River; B Company, 3rd Battalion at Resaca in May 1864; and the 1st Battalion at Jonesborough on 1 September 1864. He was not present at Chickamauga or Missionary Ridge, reasons unknown.

Jewett was promoted to Captain in the 15th Infantry on 31 December 1862. He was promoted to Major in the 16th Infantry in 1882. He received brevets to Captain on 31 December 1862 for his performance at Shiloh and Murfreesboro and to Major for his performance for the Atlanta Campaign and Jonesboro on 1 Sept 1864. Despite his very dangerous combat service throughout the war he surprisingly was never wounded.

The Regiment was withdrawn from combat and garrisoned at Outlook Mountain, Tennessee from September 1864 until the end of the war. Jewett served there and continued to serve with the Regiment through Reconstruction. He commanded D Company in Montgomery, Alabama then moved with his company to Nacogdoches, Texas in August 1868. The full Regiment displaced from Texas to the New Mexico Territory in 1869 with Jewett and his D Company initially posting to Fort Bascom, New Mexico, then to Fort Union, Northwest in 1870. By 1874, Jewett and Company moved to Fort Garland, Colorado and remained there until 1877. They then moved to Fort Wingate, New Mexico, remaining there until 1881 when the unit moved to Fort Cummings, also in New Mexico.

He remained in command of D Company until his promotion to Major in 1881 whereupon he moved to the 16th Infantry. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the 3rd Infantry in 1886 and then Colonel of the 21st Infantry in 1892.



He married Harriet Tingley of Germantown, Pennsylvania in 1866 and they had two daughters. His wife must have been a hardy woman following him from post to post in the South and Southwest with two children.

He died on 30 April 1897 in Plattsburgh, New York while commanding the 21st Infantry and is buried in the USMA Post Cemetery at West Point.

Jewett's story is emblematic of his generation of officers who began their careers in the Civil War carrying major responsibilities, later in the South during Reconstruction, and then on isolated posts on the Great Plains or the desert Southwest as company grade officers throughout the Indian Wars. Combating soldier boredom in those isolated company posts must have been challenging.

Chaplain's Message

Submitted by Chaplain Chuck Trout

No day is more significant than the Fourth of July, in which we celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. That Declaration proclaimed to the world our separation from Great Britain and our emergence as a new sovereign nation, as we state in the pledge to our flag, "under God, with liberty and justice for all."

Recently, some politicians have favored socialism, a political and economic doctrine contrary to the political beliefs of our Founding Fathers by pushing for government control over every area of our lives. How have we managed to keep our freedoms? It's largely due to the appetite for freedom still spread by the ringing words of the Declaration of Independence. Yet, the New World Order socialists would prefer that we write a new Declaration of Interdependence, and joyfully accept the chains of tyranny.

That is why we must celebrate the Fourth of July—Independence Day—with all the fervor and joy that the American people can muster. We do so to inform our would-be masters that we are not interested in the collectivist utopia based on atheistic Marxism they wish to impose on us. And that is why we humbly thank the men who gave us our Declaration of Independence. Its words must be written in the hearts and minds of our citizens, so that we never forget the price paid for our freedom—and the reasons why freedom is worth paying the price.

July 2019

Independence Day is so much more than a day off from work—it's a day to remember those who have lived before us and what they endured, lived through and fought for so that we can be where we are today. Independence Day is an American holiday because of what it means about the present. Independence Day is important and should always be celebrated with its historical significance in mind.

Each Fourth of July, please take a moment to remember those who died so that you can live in the country you do now with all of the privileges we have.

Independence Day to me can be briefly summarized as the social, political and economic freedom to achieve or fail at whatever daily endeavors we choose, without the physical fear that our choices will be controlled and judged by others who do not represent our own best interests.

Photos

Submitted by COL(Ret.) Nelson Kraft



Former 1-15 Infantry Battalion Commanders MG Gary Brito ('04 to '06) and COL(R) Nelson Kraft ('11 to '13) link up at Georgia Military College (GMC) Graduation in Milledgeville, Georgia on May 24, 2019 where Brito served as the keynote speaker. Brito currently serves as the Commanding General of the US Army Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning, and Kraft serves as the Executive Director of the GMC-Milledgeville Campus.

Can Do Bumper Stickers



John Campbell came up with the below bumper sticker design. The price is \$3.00 with checks made payable to the '15th Infantry Regiment Association.' Send checks and recipient addresses to Andrew Lerch at 15302 Iris Ln, Montclair, VA 22025-1015 and he will send out all bumper stickers via the U.S Postal Service.

July 2019

15th 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

