Officers for 97-99 elected at ‘Rendezvous’

Election of officers was the major item of business at the annual meeting of the 15th Regiment Association’s Can Do Rendezvous at Fort Stewart, Georgia, April 30 to May 2.

Officers elected for 1997-99 will be installed at the annual dinner 19 September 1997 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, Tex., with the annual reunion of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division. The new officers are:

President George Doyle
Vice President Edwin K. Adam
Secretary Whitney Mullen
Treasurer Edwin K. Adam
Trustees John Burke, Henry Burke, Mike Halik and Patrick Heagerty.

The Burkes (not related) were reelected. Halik and Heagerty succeed Charlie King and Jerry Cunningham who have served two two-year terms.

In other business, members voted to purchase a bronze plaque for the China Room at 1/15 IN Battalion Headquarters at Fort Benning, Ga.

This was the largest turnout at a spring meeting in the six-year history of the association — nearly twice the attendance of recent spring meetings. Veterans and wives totaled 85 for the dinner which was also attended by several officers, NCOs and wives of the 3/15 IN.

A third regimental plaque listing 15th battle honors and dates was presented to the 3rd ID for the Marne Garden when it is developed at Fort Stewart. The plaque, which will be on display at 3/15 Bn Hq until the Marne Garden is built, is identical to those at the Fort Lewis (Wash.) main gate and the China Gate at Fort Benning.

Maury Kendall and Jerry Cunningham were presented the Order of St. Maurice by LTC Tad Davis, 3/15 CO, on behalf of the National Infantry Association. (Details in report from LTC Davis.)

Installation of officers at annual dinner September 19

One of the highlights of the annual reunion of the Society of the Third Division at Fort Worth in September will be the annual dinner of the 15th Infantry Association.

Officers elected at the Can Do Rendezvous in Fort Stewart will be installed at the dinner. Members and guests have a choice of roasted pork loin or wood grilled chicken breast. The dinner, preceded by a cocktail hour, will be at 7 p.m. Friday 19 September 1997 in the Radisson Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas.

A registration and reservation form for the dinner is on Page 14 of this edition of The Dragon.
THE DRAGON

The Dragon is the quarterly publication of the 15th Infantry Regiment Association. Neither its editorial or articles content carry official endorsement of the Association.

John B. Shirley .................................. President
Howard W. Quick .................................. Editor
Edwin K. Adam ................................. Treasurer

Annual dues $10.00 for Regular Members and $5.00 for Active Duty Members due October 1 at the start of the Association's fiscal year.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

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

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Ph: 317-252-6884

Past HCOIR ..................................... Maurice W. Kendall
625 S. Barcelona Ct, Satellite Beach, FL 32937-3907
Ph: 407-773-5349

MAIL CALL

(Letters in this edition of The Dragon were not sent to our Treasurer. Excerpts follow.)

Enclosed you will find a $50.00 check for '95, '96, '97, '98 dues and a $10.00 donation. Recently had open heart surgery with an aorta valve and two by-passes. Hurting pretty bad. Yours in the 15th (CAN DO). Tom Burns.

What I would like to know is how do you go about winning any medal in the Army? Writers for papers use it and it makes my blood boil. Note I have changed my address so when you write Edd Adam give it to him. (Extracted from a letter to John Shirley) John J. Sayeski. NOTE: Awards (medals) and decorations are earned and awarded not won!

Please be advised of my new mailing address: P.O. Box 35385, Richmond, VA 23235-5385. Edward L. Tomlinson.

Just a note to state that you and Howard Quick did one fine job on Vol 5, No 1 Feb 97 The Dragon Newsletter, and the format was easy to read. I just sent our 59 Mortar Battery newsletters (I am No. 60). Sent everyone a 15th Inf Regiment Association membership application. Once I can confirm that we will meet at Ft Benning in 1998, I will write a brief article for Mr. Quick and contact the CO of 1-15th Inf with a copy to you. Don Wilcox.

Your inquiry for thoughts of "A" Company - WW II. In our soldier days we were involved in a cause greater than ourselves. A cause that could not fail. During that time it was my great good fortune to be part of "A" Company, 15th Infantry surrounded by many outstanding soldiers. Many were lost and they must stand with the Angels. They sustained me then just as their memory sustains me now. Michael 'Mike' J. Daly.

Just a brief note to advise you that Mortar Battery, 15th Infantry Regiment will be joining you at the
Boatner: Our regiment in good hands

By Jim Boatner
Honorary Colonel, 15th Infantry Regiment

The Honorary Sergeant Major, Jerry Cunningham, and I were very pleased to be able to attend the very successful Can Do Rendezvous so ably hosted by LTC W. C. Garrison's 3rd Battalion 15th Infantry in early May at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Our very sincere thanks to LTC Garrison, Maj. Everson, Capt. Brown, Capt Newton and all the others who did such a great job.

The important fact to me coming out of our recent Rendezvous is the U.S. Army Regimental System, as outlined in AR 600-82, is very much alive and well at least in our own 15th Infantry.

The meeting brought together all elements of our Regimental family. The active Army showed us very clearly over several days from the newly joined soldier up to the Battalion Commander and Command Sergeant Major that they are very highly trained, dedicated and spirited soldiers capable of performing any number of tough missions on literally a few hours notice. We came away with the clear knowledge that they will certainly live up to the great traditions of our fine regiment.

The record turnout of veterans, to include a number of new faces, demonstrate that former Can Do soldiers remain proud of their association with the regiment, are still vitally concerned in the welfare of today's Army and are interested in passing on to future generations the Can Do spirit. A manifestation of that spirit is the smaller mini-reunions that take place at these gatherings. Most noteworthy this year was Wilbur Sidney's effort in getting together so many L Company veterans of Korea. Sid, as many of you know, is a 3rd Battalion veteran of both World War II and Korea.

Although family members are not specifically mentioned in the AR, they are very much members of the regimental family and always have been. The presence of wives of both active and former members who have themselves contributed so much support to the regimental ethos is an important element in our gatherings. During previous wars, family members have been generally scattered throughout the country while the soldiers were deployed on their missions. In the recent past and probably in the future, it is more likely that the families will remain together at their home station during an emergency. This clearly opens up an increased need for supporting families by the active Army with help from associations such as ours to assist these families while their soldiers are away on dangerous missions.

Additional evidence that our regimental system is functioning well is the obvious vigor and strength of the 15th Infantry Association. The years of hard work put in by the previous and current officers have certainly paid off. With a growing membership of over 500 members, a yearly Rendezvous, a regimental dinner at the annual 3rd Division Society meeting, a strong bank account, a very solid newsletter and an excellent slate of new officers taking the helm, the association is clearly healthy. The fact that the stated objectives of our association as outlined in Article II of its constitution are so parallel to the purposes of the regimental system shows how central a good association is to the overall welfare of the system. We can all be justifiably proud of being a part of the continuing tradition of the 15th Infantry Regiment, and we owe a debt of gratitude to the founding members of the association who have accomplished so much in a relatively few years.
Davis presents St. Maurice awards to Gen. Kendall, 1SG Cunningham

(From LTC Tad Davis)

05 May 1997

Greetings from Fort Benning and the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment. I have just returned from the 1997 “Can Do Rendezvous” at Fort Stewart and must say that our sister battalion did a fantastic job in hosting the event. It is quite obvious that the 15th Infantry Regiment Association is alive and well as shown by this year’s strong turnout. It is always a privilege to meet with the former members of the regiment and discuss not only the regiment’s past, but its future as well.

One of the highlights for me during the “Can Do Rendezvous” was the honor I had in presenting Major General (ret) Maurice W. Kendall and 1SG (ret) Jerry Cunningham with the Order of Saint Maurice Medallion in recognition of their achievements in and contributions to the United States Infantry. The Order of Saint Maurice Medallion is an award from the National Infantrymen’s Association of which 1-15 Infantry’s “Old Hands Chapter” is the second oldest in the organization.

Saint Maurice, the patron saint of the Infantry, was Primicerius of the Theban Legion which was comprised entirely of Christian soldiers. Serving under Augustus Maximian Herculis against the revolt of the Berguaude Gauls in 287 AD, Saint Maurice was ordered to offer pagan sacrifices before entering battle. Saint Maurice and his men refused. When given the choice of participation in the ceremonies or death, Saint Maurice still refused. At this, Maximian ordered the butchery of the Thebans and the martyrdom of Saint Maurice. Devotion to principle was Saint Maurice’s strength and is the continued heritage of United States Infantrymen.

Since the last issue of The Dragon, 1st Battalion has completed a rotation as the 3rd Infantry Division’s Readiness Force and is now preparing for our trip to the National Training Center this August. We will be spending the month of May in the field at Fort Benning focusing on company-level tactics before firing yet another Bradley gunnery in June. By August, our battalion will be more than ready to square off with the Opposing Force (OPFOR) at Fort Irwin.

Amidst our demanding training schedule, we are continuing to make improvements in our China Room. We have just completed installing new air conditioning and lighting units and have plans for a new security system in the near future. We have also added displays in our battalion headquarters dedicated to 1-15 Infantry’s deployments to Macedonia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. When in the Columbus / Fort Benning area, please feel welcome to stop by and visit us. Our soldiers will be happy to give you a tour of the exhibits.

Can Do
Davis

Financial Report
(By Treasurer Edd Adam)

With members renewing their memberships, new members and donations to the Awards & Monument Fund and the Memorial Fund, our financial status continues to improve.

Following was our status in mid-May:

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<td>Net Worth</td>
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Shirley: Can Do Rendezvous was outstanding
(From John Shirley)
Dear veterans and members of the 15th Inf Assn:

I am very pleased to report the 1997 Can Do Rendezvous was outstanding. The officers and men of the 3/15 IN at Fort Stewart were our hosts. They couldn't have treated us better. Eighty-five members and guests joined members of the battalion for a wonderful reception, retreat ceremony, tour of Fort Stewart and the 3/15 headquarters and motor pool, a visit to the Marine Museum, a tour of Savannah and a delightful dinner with officers and NCOs of the battalion.

We are especially grateful to LTC W. C. Garrison, Bn CO; Maj Bob Everson, Bn XO; CPT Alvin Brown, Bn Signal Officer and officer in

Chaplain's Corner
I shall not want

Part of the 23rd Psalm reads as follows:

Verse 1. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Verse 2. ...He leads me by still waters.

In this busy and stressful world in which we live the Good Shepherd can lead us beside still waters. Here we will find peace and harmony with our fellow men, with ourselves, and more importantly with God. This is so important in our busy lives.

Let us follow the Good Shepherd, our Lord. When we follow Him, living according to His will, we shall not want. He promises us that.

There is a helpful message in reading the entire 23rd Psalm.

Hugh H. Bruner
15th Inf Assn Chaplain

President's Report

charge of our visit, and CPT Brandon Newton, Bn S-1, MC for the retreat ceremony and the dinner and genial host. Everyone who attended had a fine time and are looking forward to the 1998 Can Do Rendezvous at Fort Benning.

We had a fine business meeting. George Doyle was elected president, Edd Adam was elected vice-president and treasurer, Whitney Mullen, secretary, Pat Hegarty, Mike Halik, John Burke and Henry Burke were elected trustees, all for two-year terms starting in September. They will be installed at our regimental dinner in Fort Worth. We voted to purchase a bronze plaque to identify the China Room. The plaque will be presented to the 1/15 IN at the regimental dinner. It will be in place at the China Room when we meet at Fort Benning in 1998.

Our membership is growing and all are urged to recruit new members for the association. A number of active duty soldiers joined while we were at Fort Stewart. Walter Garceau and Howard Smith were especially active in signing up young soldiers.

We presented our third plaque listing our battle honors and dates to the 3rd ID (mech) for placement in the Marine Garden when it is designed and developed. In the meantime, the plaque will be on display at 3/15 IN Headquarters. It is a beautiful plaque just like those at Fort Lewis and the China Gate at Fort Benning. Our members have been generous in providing funds for these plaques. We continue to need money in the fund for awards for the active battalions and future plaques. Send contributions to Edd Adam.

Our next gathering will be our annual regimental association dinner in conjunction with the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division's annual reunion. The dinner will be on Sept. 19 at the

Turn to Page 13
LTC Garrison tells troops of 3/15th:

This report on the 3rd Battalion was compiled with excerpts from the Dragon Fire, quarterly newsletter for members of the 3/15 IN and their families at Fort Stewart.

From Commander’s Corner (LTC W. C. Garrison):

I am convinced beyond a doubt that the 3-15th Infantry has the most motivated, best trained soldiers I have ever seen. I think it’s important to let you know that up front. You have completed some tough missions this past quarter and have executed them all to standard. In January, we stood post support for the Division while working hard enough to place on the Division Maintenance Honor Roll. February saw us fighting the World Class OPFOR as part of the Division Warfighter Exercise; make no mistake, we gave the WCOPFOR a beating they won’t soon forget. The 3-15th was integral in the Division’s victory during this exercise. Gunnery was our focus during March and you all performed well, during the first ODS Bradley Table VIII in history. The Bn sets the standards for the Army.

Can Do soldiers are the best in the world. From maintenance, to administration, to field training, you make it happen. Our families deserve special recognition as well. Our families share the responsibility for our success. Our mothers and fathers, wives and children should be proud of themselves, and deserve thanks for their daily sacrifice.

We move ahead with new challenges. We will send the mighty Black Lions to the JRTC to do battle alongside our light brothers. We will test our skills as leaders and administrators during our preparation for the Marne Inspection. Finally, we will meet the challenge of the Expert Infantry Badge. I charge each of you to perform to the best of your ability in the coming quarter. I know that we will rise to the occasion and perform spectacularly.

Can Do! Hooah!  

Company Highlights

Bravo Barbarians: Bravo Company has had a few welcome additions. CPT Daniel and Mrs. Tracy Hurlbut took over as the Barbarian Command Team. 1LT Michael Abell is the new XO and he recently married Miss Aline Denoncourt on 1 March 1997. The Roubhnecks of the 1st Platoon have a new platoon leader, 2LT David Hale. Early May training will be a ramp up for Expert Infantry Badge training and preparation for the Marne Command Inspection.

Charlie Rock: In January, Charlie Company welcomed the new CO CPT Gregory F. Sierra and his wife Tina Sierra and said farewell to outgoing CO CPT James A. Harrington, his wife Teresa and daughter Rachel. February began with a bang...hand grenade range, T-4 range, 9mm range, and M249(SAW) range. We conducted a successful gunnery in March. Awards: AAM, SPC Miramontes, SPC Chia, SPC Griggs, SPC Perez and SPC Thornhill. ARCOM, Sgt Metcalf, Sgt Dunbar, SPC Newago.

Staff Stuff

This is a time of transition in the 3-15th Inf. We have said good-bye to our Adjutant, CPT Hurlbut, and welcomed CPT Newton as the new battalion adjutant. SSG Lingard from C Co has assumed duties as the mighty PAC supervisor.
‘Can Do soldiers best in the world’

We have modified the PAC hours so we are now open every afternoon for soldier service. A good time for soldiers in the battalion to check their records -- make sure you update your SGLI, emergency data, wills and dependent information.

S-2

The past quarter has been a furious sequence of CPXs, inspections, and long days in the motor pool trying to stay off the 2406. SGT James E. Stevenson has made the workload a lot easier since he arrived in December ’96. He is a seasoned analyst who is not afraid to get his hands dirty and is personally responsible for raising HQ 504 from the dead. Unannounced security inspections are being conducted on a weekly basis to make sure we continue on the path of righteousness as the pre-CIP inspection approaches.

BMO

The BMO would like to thank the entire Maintenance Platoon for all the hard work and dedication during the last quarter. The Maintenance Platoon is always busy especially with the beginning of ODS services. Semi-annual services are the cornerstone of a good maintenance program and thanks to hard work from the Service Section we are executing exceptional services. Team Delta will be deploying to JRTC for 3 weeks to kick some OPFOR butt! We have the MCIP in June so let’s show the COMET Team that this Maintenance Platoon is the best in Division. MSG Cornelius will PCS to Germany. We can not thank him enough. He has definitely left an everlasting impression on not just the platoon but on the entire Battalion!

(Editor’s Note: We used the abbreviations in the 3/15 newsletter to give veterans a feeling of the “lingo” in today’s Army. [Editor’s PS: Also, we don’t have the slightest idea what the translation is for some of them!] — H. W. Quick)

Congratulations

To Captain James Swanson, S-2 1/15 Inf on his recent promotion.

To Sergeant First Class Hideo Poindexter on his recent promotion and return from Egypt to the United States.

To the United States Air Force on their 50th Anniversary. Part of the celebration was conducted during the Kentucky Derby Festival, Thunder over Louisville, and they were billed as Wild Blue Yonder.

Taps

Louis E. Brascher, 1st Sergeant Co. F 15th Inf in WW II, Fort Lewis to French Morocco through Anzio, died on 27 Dec 1996. Was living at 801 Townsley Ave., Bakersfield, Calif.

(Submitted by Robert J. Kleinschmidt, 3372 S. 69th St., Milwaukee 53219 and John F. Ethen, 1036 Seminary Ave., St. Paul MN 55104-1527; John was a S Sgt with F-15th from Ft Lewis to Anzio.)

A little fun, too

We slipped in a few laughs, chuckles or smiles here and there in this edition of The Dragon.

How many Quicks are on this staff? When we have a “slow news day” we will look for the answer to this question: Doesn’t this guy know what his name is?
Editor's Notes
3/15 IN did a great job hosting Can Do Rendezvous

By H. Wilbert Quick

The battalion commander of the 3/15 IN and his staff did a fine job hosting the Can Do Rendezvous of the 15th Infantry Regiment Association at Fort Stewart, Georgia, April 30 to May 3. There were similarities to programs at previous meetings in conjunction with Organization Day activities of the 15th -- there are only so many things one can do to show veterans what today's soldiers are doing -- but enough differences to make the event interesting.

Besides LTC W. C. Garrison, kudos are due Major Bob Everson, Bn XO; CPT Brandon Newton, S-1 and CPT Alvin Brown, Bn Signal Officer, the officer in charge of the nuts and bolts of the operation.

Though we have seen Motor Pool exhibits and demonstrations before, this one was impressive because of the articulate crew answering questions and discussing operation of the tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicles. The flash cards with statistics and data were especially helpful.

***

Golfers with four times the turnout of a year ago missed an interesting afternoon at 3/15 Bn Hq and the Motor Pool.

What's an AAR? The large-type sign at the front of the 3/15 Bn Classroom indicated AAR was some type of critique. Colonel Garrison answered the question (After Action Review) and discussed what the leaders and soldiers look for in such a review. (How to do it better next time.)

In touring Bn Hq we witnessed an especially interesting exchange as Garrison and Col (ret) Wilbur A. Sidney presented a dialogue that could not have been more telling if it had been rehearsed.

Sidney asked about organization of a Battalion staff today and supporting fire available to a Bn CO. In a nutshell, tanks and artillery are more readily available today than they were in Europe in 1942-45 or in Korea in 1950-53.

Sidney was the I Company soldier who volunteered to be the machine gunner on a tank supporting an attack when the tank commander told the I Co CO “I don’t have a machine gunner.” That episode was reported a couple years ago in the I Co newsletter edited by 15th Inf Assn secretary Whitney Mullen and mentioned in The Dragon. The tank was hit by a German 88 but Sidney was unscathed. Sidney commanded L Co in Korea in 1953.

***

A Battalion TO&E in World War II called for a captain as adjutant and a warrant officer for personnel officer. The job of adjutant and S-1 has been combined and the captain in that role now is referred to as the S-1 more often than “adjutant.”

The S-3 (operations) who was a captain “in our days” is now a major. The S-2 (intelligence officer) and S-4 (supply) are still captains. The XO (then “exec”) is still a major.

***

CPT Donald J. Arthur was leading an attack by E Co in October 1951 in Korea when a Chinese grenade blew up in his face. He lost his sight and was not expected to survive.

We reviewed a number of stories from Fort Benning in 1949-50, maneuvers at Fort Bragg in April 1950 and, of course, Korea in 1950-51.

Arthur’s favorite observation of the 15th in 1997: “The more things change, the more they are the same.”
3rd Div evacuated 105,000 troops, 91,000 refugees, 17,500 vehicles from North Korea

This report on “who left when” in the X Corps and 3rd Division evacuation of North Korea on 24 December 1950 may have started with an eye on “evacuation bragging rights.” However, we are publishing these accounts primarily because the editor believes they are interesting. There is also a historical element. This was a significant event in the history of the 3rd ID and the 15th Infantry Regiment.

We consulted the Korea section of the “History of the Third Infantry Division” (c) 1994 Turner Publishing Co., Paducah, Ky., pages 50 to 58. The December 1950 evacuation of North Korea included 196,000 people – 105,000 troops and 91,000 civilian refugees. It was no Dunkirk. Orders were to take all weapons and equipment which included 250,000 tons of supplies and equipment and 17,500 vehicles.

Nearly everything except stockpiled ammunition was taken to Pusan. (We do not present these excerpts from the Division history as “the last word.” Division histories have been known to have errors.)

The division history included a section on each regimental combat team. Excerpts from the North Korea evacuation part of each RCT:

7th RCT left the Port of Hungnam at 1230 hours 24 December.

15th RCT -- last unit to clear the beach was 15th RCT at 1400 hours. On arrival in North Korea (Wonsan) in early November 1950 attached units were the 39th FA Bn, 3rd AAA AW Bn, B Co 64th Hvy Tank Bn, C Co of 10th Engr Bn, Det of 3rd Sig Co, 3rd Bn Korean Marine Corps, 5th Bn Korean Marine Corps. Most of these units were together as the 15th RCT throughout the Korean War.

65th RCT -- The 65th “headed seaward just after noon on the 24th of December. It had fought continuously against great odds for 48 days without relief.” One example of 65th action from the 3rd Division history: “On 10 December, 200 Chinese attacked G Company as it withdrew northwest from Wonsan, it was a big mistake for the enemy as he lost 150 KIA of his 200 men with no casualties to G Company.”

One participant in the Christmas eve evacuation, Capt Donald Arthur, then assistant S-3 of the 2/15 Inf, said he believed that it was likely the last Americans on the Hungnam beach the afternoon of 24 December 1950 were Marines or Navy Seals.

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Midwest Korean War vets to meet in July

Korean War veterans of the 15th Infantry living in midwestern states will hold their sixth get together July 18 to 20, 1997, at the show grounds of the Central Hawkeye Antique Power Show.

The grounds are west of Des Moines, Iowa just south of I-80. To reach the grounds: At exit 117, turn left (south), go about 1/4 mile to motel, turn left under overhead sign “Antique Acres.”

A flyer from George Pilkington, 19544 N Ill 97, Cuba, Ill. 61427 (309-785-2863) includes: $5 entrance fee, primitive camping, food at food stand, motels and hotels in Des Moines, large flea market with show which features antique farm machinery.

“Bring pictures and video to share with others,” George suggests.
Amendments proposed to Constitution and By-Laws

The following amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws were submitted by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and reviewed by the members present at the business meeting at Fort Stewart. Following publication in The Dragon the board of trustees will vote on the recommended changes. Comments from members are welcome and can be made to any elected officer or trustee. If these amendments pass, they provide for a vote by all the members to make amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws by the use of ballots published in The Dragon. It was decided that we will keep our election of officers process as prescribed in our By-laws. It is very important that members make nominations when called to make nominations to be included in the published ballot. Write-in votes or nominations from the floor are not allowed. By staying with the process it insures all members will have a chance to vote for all who are nominated for office.

-- John Shirley.

REVISIONS OF CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS
(By Martin A. Markley)

Following are proposed revisions to our Constitution and By-Laws to be considered at the next CAN DO RENDEZVOUS.

Following revisions to the 15th Infantry Regiment Association Constitution and By-Laws are recommended.

CONSTITUTION

6.2a Change to read: ELECTED OFFICERS: Elected officers of the Association are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and four (4) Trustees. They must be members in good standing at the time of election.

6.5 Change to read: BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The Board of Trustees will consist of all elected officers and the immediate Past President.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

Change to read: This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended, altered or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all regular members present and absentee ballots, at an annual meeting, provided notice thereof have been published in one issue of The Dragon. Proposed amendments may be submitted by any regular member in writing to any elected Association officer. All proposed amendments shall be reviewed by the Board of Trustees and those warranted to be essential will be forwarded by the President to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee for organizing and preparing them for membership vote.

BY-LAWS

1.4 (Added) ABSENTEE BALLOTS: Absentee ballots may be used by any regular member unable to attend the annual meeting to elect Association Officers and to vote on proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws.

4.1.1 (Changed to read) The Chairman shall not be a member of the Board of Trustees or a candidate seeking elective office. The Chairman shall call for nominations of Association Officers in The Dragon in sufficient time to allow publication and return of the absentee ballot before the annual meeting. Nominations will be accepted December 1 through January 31.

4.1.3 (Added) The Chairman will, with the Treasurer, verify the validity of absentee ballots, tally the votes, and present a report at the annual meeting when the elections i conducted.

4.1.4 (Added) During the annual business meeting when elections are held, if there is an office without a nominee, nominations may be accepted from the floor. Under unusual circumstances, as determined by a 2/3 vote of the members present at the meeting, nominations may be accepted from the floor.

4.2.1 (Added) The Chairman shall at the direction of the President through coordination with the Board of Trustees, prepare proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws.

4.2.2 (Added) The Chairman shall submit all proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws to the President for review with the board of Directors in sufficient time to allow publication and return of the absentee ballot before the annual meeting..

4.2.3 (Added) The Chairman will, with the Treasurer verify the validity of the absentee ballots, tally the results and present a report at the annual meeting.

Delete SECTION V - NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS.

Renumber SECTION VI - DUES as SECTION V

Renumber SECTION VII - METHOD OF FINANCING as SECTION VI

Renumber SECTION VIII - AWARDS as SECTION VII

Renumber SECTION IX - RECORDS as SECTION VIII

Renumber SECTION XI - HISTORICAL REPOSITORY as SECTION IX
Vets tell of last day in North Korea on 24 Dec 1950

(After 40 years of thinking a detail of the 2/15 Inf P&A Platoon were "the last infantry troops to leave" North Korea in the December 1950 evacuation of Hungnam, two things caused me to look into the operation. 1, a statement at the 1990 reunion of the 3rd Division that "50 guys claim to be the last guy off the beach," and 2, a letter from LTC (ret) Edward L. Farrell Jr. that his 3/15 Inf and a battalion from the 7th Inf were the last troops to leave Hungnam on 24 December 1950.)

Continued from Page 9

In the October 1996 (Vol. 4, No. 3) edition of The Dragon we asked for members of 3rd Div units who boarded ship at Hungnam on 23 or 24 December 1950 to "include your name, rank, unit and time you recall boarding ship."

We received a half dozen letters and a couple phone calls. It is now a little more than 46 years since the S-3 of 2/15 Inf briefed me the afternoon of 23 December 1950:

"After the line companies clear their position in the morning, you will have details from the P&A Platoon blow the company ammo dumps (we had been building big piles of ammo at the final Hungnam MLR since mid-December). After that, blow your Battalion dump and head for the beach. You will have the last infantry troops on shore. Engineers will blow the X Corps dumps after you board ship."

(Rifle platoons also had ammo dumps and were responsible for blowing them on the 24th.)

My P&A detail boarded ship about 1420 on 24 December for the one day trip to Pusan. There was a huge explosion a hundred yards or so from the dock about 1425. Armed Forces Radio and Stars & Stripes reported that X Corps had announced that the evacuation of North Korea had been completed by the 3rd Division at 1430 on Christmas Eve.

I assumed that to be the story of the Christmas Eve 1950 evacuation of North Korea for 40 years.--by Howard W. Quick

**

(The March 1996 [Vol 4, No 1] Dragon, we published a letter from LTC [ret] Edward L. Farrell Jr., 3/15 CO in 1950 in North Korea. We will reprint the part of his letter dealing with the Hungnam evacuation.)

"The 3/15 then was a Negro battalion and other Negro battalions in the 8th Army had not exactly covered themselves with glory -- not because the men were not capable of doing the job but essentially because the company, battalion and regimental commanders were totally inexperienced in their roles when the war started in June, 1950. I relieved a WW2 Corps G-2 who was an outstanding officer and eventually made MG but a battalion was not his bag.

"General Almond, the X Corps commander, had commanded the 92nd Inf Division in WW2. He was a nervous Nellie with a Black Battalion whose right flank was on the Sea of Japan and the left flank 5,000 yards inland. He visited my CP every afternoon and eventually became a believer -- of sorts. I was not worried as we had the finest artillery and naval gunfire support imaginable including destroyers in direct support and first call on other ships' fire. It's most comfortable to have such close support firing from your flank across your front.

"The crowning achievement of the Battalion, as a part of X Corps, was its role in the final evacuation of Hungnam on Christmas Eve 1950. The perimeter had been gradually reduced to the 3rd Division and eventually to a battalion of the 7th Inf and the 3/15 Infantry. On the morning of the 24th half of each battalion boarded small landing craft and ferried to the transports offshore. The remainder of us took our little boat rides later that day. Strategically and logistically it was a masterful operation.

**

Dean Hutter, now of Manassas, Va., then CO of A Company 1/15, reported:

The last officer to leave was Herbert E. Wolff, CO of the 15th Inf 4.2 Mortar Platoon. He blew up a large ammo dump the afternoon of the 24th. We loaded on the troop transport Darby.

(Wolff was a major general and Army commander in Hawaii before retiring. He is now corporate secretary of the First Hawaiian Bank.

Turn to Page 12
Ox cart helps last F Co platoon leave North Korea

Continued from Page 11

Hutter retired in 1972 after a 30-year infantry career.)

* * *

Ed Austin, then platoon leader of the D Company 1/15 81 mm mortar platoon, reported:

We boarded ship about 2 the afternoon of the 24th (of December). The smokestacks at the brick factory were blown when we were in the harbor. We were told to fire as much ammo as possible the 23rd and fired all night that night. We had 8 or 10 targets.

* * *

Col. (ret) Marion T. Wood of Smyrna, Georgia, sent a more detailed report of his recollections:

I wasn’t the very last man off but I was one of those. I was a 1st Lt, platoon leader, 2d Plt, F Co, 15th IN. On 22 or 23 Dec., our Company CO, CPT Caleb Cole, briefed us on how the evacuation would go on the 24th.

Each rifle company would leave one platoon to cover the company front. It was my platoon’s assignment for F Co. We would be notified when to withdraw on 24 Dec -- then, on a specified route we would pass through our I&R Platoon (Lt Ed Irick) which had out-posted the edge of the beach.

In the meantime, my assistant platoon sergeant (Revelle) scrounged an ox cart with ox and we loaded up the cart with packs, etc. My Platoon Sgt (Bill Nance) and I booby-trapped a number of holes, including the platoon CP.

We began to withdraw about 12 or 1 p.m. on 24 Dec. The only “casualty” was that my inexperienced ox driver turned the cart over in a shallow creek at the foot of the hill. We hurriedly picked things up and got the hell out.

As my platoon closed inside the I&R perimeter, Ed Irick said I was the last of the three rifle platoons of 2d Bn, 15th IN. The Company CO, Caleb Cole, was waiting for us on the edge of the beach. We loaded an LCI which took us out to the USS Noble that had a cargo net hanging on the side.

Realizing I had to climb it to get aboard, I was more frightened than ever before. Finally, I got almost all the way up and two big, burly sailors dragged me over the edge, dumped me on the deck and said, “Merry Christmas, Lieutenant.” Our I&R came aboard shortly after. Time was about 1400 hours. Many of us stood on the deck and watched the explosions on the docks. My watch said 1430 hours -- 24 Dec 1950.

We heard later that 6 or 8 engineers had been blown into those icy waters. But no one was ever able to confirm that. (Editor’s Note: X Corps casualty reports show 0 KIA, 0 wounded, 0 missing for 23 Dec 1950 and 1 KIA, 2 wounded and 1 missing for 24 Dec.)

On 23 and 24 December there was no enemy activity along any of the 2d Bn front covered by my platoon. The only gunfire came from naval guns and the Air Force made several strikes in the distance. It was like a cover all around us. No enemy artillery or mortars dropped on us.

As we left Hungnam harbor, we joked that the Army should award us an upside-down arrowhead for the evacuation. We off-loaded in Pusan late Christmas.

* * *

We exchange newsletters with other associations. Here are excerpts regarding his last day in North Korea from a letter written by David F. Jones, editor of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association’s Cottonbaler (we will skip trials and tribulations of being an editor and his short stay at Fort McCoy, Wis., in winter 1952):

I was the sergeant major of the 2d Battalion (7th Inf) at the time. I know we boarded the ship on 24 December and believe it was late afternoon, because we were underway very shortly after going aboard. I recall the day quite clearly because someone came down into the compartment where we thought we would be bunking and moved the first sergeants and sergeants major into the Chiefs'
1950 Christmas gift: first shower in 6 weeks for 2
quarters where I was able to take my first shower in about six weeks.

Recognizing that we're talking about an event that occurred 46 years ago there is certainly some room for error, but I have considerable confidence in Fred Long's memory. (Long, a retired colonel, was assistant S-3 of the 7th Inf in 1950-51.)

* * *

Donald J. Arthur, a New Jersey native now living in Orlando, Fla., was assistant S-3 of 2/15 in December 1950. His recollections of 24 December 1950:

Dennis Moore (15th Infantry CO from 1948 to 1951 and a Japanese prisoner from the fall of Corregidor in early 1942 until the end of WWII) was sitting in a chair on the beach and every officer reported to him that all his men had boarded ship.

I believe the last four men off the beach were Marines or sailors. Shortly after we had been taken out to our ship, I saw four men running like hell toward the beach. I focused my binoculars on them and they were dressed in underwater demolition clothing like Navy Seals. They jumped in the bay as a Navy boat came roaring up and took them aboard.

* * *

A post script from your editor:

On our way to Fort Stewart in April we visited my niece in southern Illinois. She had a box of pictures from my brother's estate that included two letters that I had written to him from North Korea in December 1950. Some excerpts:

"Aboard the USS Noble"
"Christmas Day"
"Dear Bob,
"We got on the ship about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Had my first shower in six weeks last night. All our clothes were loaded on a ship a couple days ago. Sure wish I had some clean underwear."

President's Report

Continued from Page 5

Radisson Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth. A reservation form is in this issue of The Dragon. We have a menu choice and must have reservations in advance of the meeting. Your cooperation in sending your reservation and check to Edd Adam early will be much appreciated.

We had 16 members play golf in our second regimental association tournament. We played the Fort Stewart course. Lee Mize (MOH) is our new champion. Next year's tournament will be on one of the two Fort Benning courses.

A very special honor was bestowed on Maury Kendall and Jerry Cunningham for their service as honorary colonel and honorary Sgt-Major of the regiment. LTC Tad Davis, 1/15 CO, presented them the Order of St. Maurice on behalf of the National Infantry Association. Our congratulations to Maury and Jerry for well deserved honors.

Again, I want to thank all the officers and men of the 3/15 IN hosting the 1997 Can Do Rendezvous. Those who attended had a fine time and are grateful.

Respectfully submitted,
John Shirley

Company A reunion

WWII members of Co A, 1st Bn, 15th Inf Regt, will hold a short reunion during the Society of the 3rd Division reunion in September. A notice of time and place will be posted at the 3rd Division and 15th Inf Assn registration tables. If you intend to meet Co A buddies there, please notify Edd Adam, PO Box 2171, Clarksville, Ind. 47131-2171.
FIFTH ANNUAL 15TH INFANTRY REGIMENTAL DINNER
September 19, 1997
Radison Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas
(By John Shirley)

Our Fifth Annual Regimental Dinner will be held on Friday, September 19 at the Radison Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth during the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Reunion. This is the reunion headquarters hotel, and we have arranged a nice reception and dinner for the event. There will be a no host reception at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner at 7:00 pm. Program to be announced. You have a choice of entrees: Wood Grilled Chicken Breast for $25.50, or Sage Roasted Pork Loin stuffed with spinach, pinenuts and red peppers for $27.50. This price includes tax, and gratuity and all courses including coffee, tea and desert. Reservations can be made by sending the reservation form below which includes your menu selection and check to Treasurer Edd Adam.

DINNER RESERVATIONS
FIFTH ANNUAL REGIMENTAL DINNER OF THE 15TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
Friday, September 19, 1997
Radison Plaza Hotel
Fort Worth, Texas

Please reserve _______ dinners as follows:

___ Chicken Breast, Wood Grilled @ $25.50 each = $______

___ Sage Roasted Pork Loin @ 27.50 each = $______

Total (inclose check or money order) = $______

NAME:________________________

GUEST NAME:______________________

MAIL TO:
Treasurer Edwin K. Adam
P.O. Box 2171, Clarksville, IN 47131-2171

MAIL CALL
(Continued from Page 2)

I was in "L" Co 15th Regt from 1941 till August 1944. My grade was T/Sgt, in the Weapons Platoon. Please enroll me in the 15th Inf Association. I belong to the 3rd Inf Div Society. Will try to be in Ft Worth. I'm now almost 78. My wife addresses letters for me. I don't do too well with pen in hand. James E. Bass.

Due to illness, I was unable to answer your informative letter in a timely manner. I am a life member of the Society of the Third Inf Division but I am not a member of the 15th Inf Regiment Association. I was on Anzio Beachhead from Feb 8, 1944 and in May we took Rome. After that we had amphibious training and made the Southern France Invasion on Aug 15, 1944. I was wounded four times and was taken prisoner of war on Dec 23, 1944. On Christmas Day o 1944 I was crossing the Rhine River. On Apr 29, 1945 I was liberated by the Best Soldiers in the World - Soldiers o the Greatest Country in the World - The United States o America! God Bless America! I received my T/Sgt, one stripe for being a POW. Marion Brzezenski, Co A, 15th Inf.

I'm not sure if my dues are payable now, but in any event, and just in case, here's my check, I assume for 97. Just received the latest Dragon from John Burke, and it mentions a membership card, which I have not received. I have made reservations for the Reunion at Ft Stewart. Hope to see you there. Sincerely, a former CAN DO soldier. Irv Kelley, Co B, WW II. NOTE: New 1998 membership card mailed along with a letter.

I am in touch with several WW II CN Co, 15th Inf men who I can tell about the 15th Association. Your new brochure is great and if you'd care to send me some extra copies (up to 20) I can
The Dragon, 15th Infantry Association Newsletter

William H. Jackson passed away Tuesday, March 25, 1997. Funeral was held Friday, March 28, 1997 at Planner & Buchanan Funeral Home, Indianapolis, IN with entombment in Lincoln Memory Gardens Mausoleum. Bill resides at 5821 N. Dearborn St, Indianapolis, IN 46220-5407.

SICK BOOK

Tom Burns recovering from Open Heart surgery at home - 872 Englewood Ave, Apt 3, Buffalo, NY 14223-2342. Prayers and cards will be appreciated.

Jeanette Craig, wife of Clayton Craig, Co F, WW II, suffered a stroke following surgery. They live at 3733 Hunter's Glen, Cibolo, TX 78108-2216. Prayers and cards will be appreciated.

Norman "Mac" MacIntyre has been on the sick list with leg and other problems but continues to get around. Mac was member of Co I in WW II. Send Mac a card today.

Vera Eschenbuech, wife of Dutch Eschenbuech of Cannon co, had a heart attack followed by open heart surgery with three by-passes. Prayers and cards will be appreciated.

Frank Kubes, Jr formerly of Co F is recovering from recent hip operation. He and wife Lydia reside at 1579 E. Broken Bow Way, Tucson, AZ 85737-9307.

Charles D. King suffered a heart attack recently and had open heart surgery. He is at home and showing improvement. Charlie resides at 24447 Pine Grove Apt 56-204, Farmington Hills, MI 48335-2356. Cards and prayers will be appreciated.

Co. L Korea vets meet at Stewart

Korean War veterans of L Company who were in Korea in 1953 held a reunion in conjunction with the 15th Inf Assn Rendezvous at Fort Stewart in early May.

Ray Flaherty, a sergeant in the company in 1953, spent about three years researching Morning Reports for the names on men in the company while he was there. He then located about 70 in the U.S. Col. (ret.) Wilbur Sidney, then Co. L CO, encouraged Flaherty and Don Wolf, who edits a bi-monthly company newsletter, to plan the reunion. More than 20 attended, many meeting men they had not seen in 44 years.
Join drive for new members

(From membership chairman John T. Burke)

Our association membership growth to 574 can be attributed to specific recruiting activities and personal efforts of members to sign up their acquaintances. The most gratifying results have come from members contacting old friends and new ones that they learn are Regimental veterans. The association ranks now stand at 574, including: Regular 497, Life 59, China hands 10, Medal of Honor 4, Associate 4

The success of a little effort to increase our ranks was shown at the Can Do Rendezvous last month at Fort Stewart. Walt Garceau challenged members to try to beat him at signing up active members of the 3rd Bn by offering to pay their first year’s dues. Several accepted the challenge. The bond created between past and present members will likely be a lasting one.

The application form (left) can be clipped out and duplicated as needed. Please identify one or more prospective members and urge them to complete an application today.

15th Inf Regt Association
Treasurer Edwin K. Adam
PO Box 2171
Clarksville IN 47131-2171

Forwarding Requested
Address Correction Requested

First Class