

July 2017

Fifteenth Infantry Regiment



“The Old China Hands”

www.15thinfantry.org

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Fellow Old China Hands,

Our Regiment experienced a great loss with the passing of MG Maurice Kendall. He was our first Honorary Colonel and an important founding member of the Association. I first met him in 1995 as the XO of the 1st Battalion in Schweinfurt. MG Kendall and Honorary SGM Jerry Cunningham visited the Battalion while it was at Grafenwoehr for gunnery. They both donned kevlar vests/helmets and went down the squad lanes with several of the squads in the August German heat, making quite an impression! Since, he remained deeply interested in all aspects of our active duty units, fully dedicated to the Association, and indispensable in the maintenance of our history and traditions. I always relied on him for guidance, support, and will sorely miss him.

One of our Regiment’s illustrious Honorary Members, GEN Dan Allyn, retired on 30 Jun in a ceremony at Ft. Bragg. Dan is my West Point classmate and has had an exemplary career as a superb leader. He served as 3rd BCT Commander at Ft. Benning and commanded the brigade in Iraq during the initial campaign.

Monika and I just returned from four weeks in Korea participating in commemorations and conducting research. We stayed in the Koreana Hotel in central Seoul and one morning I passed a permanent exhibit on the Korean War in a small square next to the hotel. Imagine my pleasant surprise when I found a panel which credits the 15th Infantry Regiment with entering Seoul first in Mar 1951! I have known this through research, but it was great to find it so prominently displayed in downtown Seoul! We also attended the change of command ceremony for the US Army Garrison in Pyongtaek. COL Scotty Mueller, former 1-15 IN CO, took command of a garrison which has grown to be the largest US base in Asia! Good to see Can Do Soldiers filling such responsible positions in our great Army. Please see the enclosed photos on pages 6-7. We also met with a Korean author, film producer, and screen writer who is working on a film on the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir battles and were happy to hear that he is fully aware the last unit off the beach at Hungnam was the 15th Infantry the afternoon of 24 Dec 1950!

We hosted a Korean War historical seminar here in Springfield, VA in mid-Apr and had several Association members participate, including David Mills, John Insani, Jerry Cunningham, and Bob Baker. Bob gave a presentation on OP Harry/the OPHSA, while John spoke about Task Force Dog, the 3d ID mission to extract the Marines from the Changjin Reservoir in Dec 1950. We are hosting another Korean War seminar in Oct and hope we will be able to get even more Can Do Soldiers to participate!

I am appealing to you again to become active in the Association to ensure it has a vibrant future. Contact me or VP Davis should you be willing to fill a position and to stand for election to one of our positions. Our forebears would be appalled at the lack of participation by our members. We need to address this problem urgently! **Can Do! Tim**

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Taps

Joseph T. Stippick-LM Pine Hill, NJ SGT, A CO, Tank CO, 1 BN, KW, 1952-53 DOD 07/04/2016 Reported by Sonya Frickey	Herbert Pichler-Non Member Kempner, TX SSG, A CO, 1 BN, CW, 1967-69 DOD 04/30/2017 Reported by Heidi Pichler to Tom Heitzer	James Curry-Non Member Greensboro, FL SSG, HHC, 1 BN, CW, 1967 DOD 2014-2015 Reported by Michael LePeilbet to Andrew Lerch
Maurice W. Kendall-LM-FM-DM Melbourne, FL MG, I CO, 3 BN, WII, 1944-46 DOD 05/17/2107 Reported by Tim Stoy	John F. Ethen-LM Saint Paul, MN SSG, F CO, 2 BN, WII, 1940-43 DOD 05/16/2017 Reported by Tim Stoy	Mayor Maire Charles Sparr-HM Sigolsheim, France, 1997-2000 DOD 02/07/2017 Reported by Tim Stoy
William D. Boleman-LM Carrollton, GA PFC, C CO, 1 BN, II, 1943-45 DOD 06/13/2017 Reported by Tom Heitzer		

New Members

Frank J. Hull-LM-Reinstated New Hyde Park, NY SSG, E CO, 2 BN, KW, Jul 52-Apr 53	William C. Westgard-LM Winchester, VA 1LT, B CO, HHC, CS, 1 BN, CW, Nov 59-62	Martin L. Monaco-Assoc. Sarasota, FL Father served in China 1919-21
Jeffrey L. Ludwig Hinesville, GA 1SG, HHC, 3 BN, GWOT, Oct 16-		

Membership Report

NUMBER OF MEMBERS BY PERIOD

NUMBER OF CHINA HANDS	0
NUMBER OF WWII MEMBERS	38
NUMBER OF KOREA MEMBERS	137
NUMBER OF COLD WAR MEMBERS	91
NUMBER OF PEACETIME MEMBERS	15
NUMBER OF OEF FORCES	2
NUMBER OF OIF FORCES	7
NUMBER OF GWOT FORCES	61
<u>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</u>	<u>33</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS	384

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE

REGULAR LIFE	248
REGULAR ANNUAL	103
ASSOCIATE LIFE	16
<u>ASSOCIATE ANNUAL</u>	<u>17</u>
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	384

Constitution and By-laws

Article X Amendments of the Constitution and By-laws of the 15th Infantry Regiment: The Constitution may be affirmed, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds vote cast on the official ballot published in the DRAGON, of all members and absentee ballots, at an Annual Meeting conducted in November 2017. Any regular member may submit proposed amendments in writing to any elected Association officer.

Active Battalion Update

During this reporting period, the China Battalion continued its commitment to excellence and training for combat. Over the course of three months, we hosted the regimental ball, completed a best mortar competition, supported our sister brigade (48th IBCT) with pre-deployment validation requirements, and tested our junior leaders' physical fitness level.

The 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment had the distinct honor and privilege of hosting this year's 15th Infantry Regimental Ball on May 12, 2017. The 15th Infantry Regiment has a long, decorated history and the "China" Battalion was eager to seize



the opportunity to celebrate the unit's successful past and bright future. The guest speaker, COL James K. Dooghan, Commander of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, motivated the "Can Do" Battalion with his words of wisdom and encouragement as we manage the challenges of converting from an infantry battalion to a combined arms battalion. The event was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for friends and family members to celebrate the future of the Battalion. To view additional photos of the event, please visit the Battalion's Facebook page. We're looking forward to seeing each of you next year.

In May, the Battalion executed its first annual Best Mortar Competition to test the abilities of each mortar team. This extremely challenging and demanding training event tested every participant. Beginning on the early morning of May 15th, every mortarman from the Battalion participated in the competition. The three-day event started with a Physical Fitness Test, the Gunner exams, and Fire Direction Center (FDC) exams. The following day, each competitor completed a 6 mile foot march carrying a 35 pound assault pack and equipment





organic to a mortar section. Upon completion of the foot march, the competitors were required to perform multiple fire missions under live conditions with precision and accuracy. We are proud to announce Charlie Company's mortar section (SGT Mcinnes, SPC Birdsong, PFC George, and PFC Dingess) won the 2017 Best Mortar Competition.

In addition, the Spartans of Ancient Greece conducted *Agoge* as a rite of passage to produce strong and capable warriors to serve in the Spartan Army. Keeping with the spirit of the Spartan

Brigade, the platoon leadership of the 3rd Battalion completed its own *Agoge*. In May, all of the platoon leaders and platoon sergeants (to include LTC Marks and CSM Dow) competed in a two-day event designed to test their mental and physical abilities. The challenge began at 0500hrs on 9 May with a modified Ranger Physical Fitness Test (RPFT) and the Marne Mile (combat focused obstacle course). The modified RPFT consisted of 47 push-ups, 57 sit-ups, 6 chin-ups, and a five mile run.

Next, leaders completed multiple Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB) qualification tasks to test their technical proficiency. These tasks included grenade throwing, radio qualification, and



disassembly/assembly of the M4, M9, M240, and M249 weapon systems. After completing the EIB tasks, they were flown to an unknown training location on post to complete a three-hour land navigation course for time. The training concluded with each Soldier administering an IV to his buddy. By the end of the two-day event, 1LT Patrick Ellison and SSG Charles Bell of Second Platoon, Bravo Company proved to be the most physically, mentally, and tactically competent team resulting in them winning the event.

Moreover, throughout June, the "China" Battalion supported the Georgia National Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC). The Third Infantry Division and the 48th IBCT are partners in a pilot program that pairs active component units with National Guard brigades for training. The "China" Battalion played an integral role in



executing this exercise by supplying leaders for observer/trainer support and Soldiers for opposition forces. At any given time throughout the exercise, as many as 200 "Can Do" Soldiers were deployed to the field in support of this important mission. The medical platoon took the field time as an opportunity to do Trauma Bed Training drills and other concurrent training. Support for xCTC was a great opportunity for the China Battalion to execute field operations, practice battle drills, and continue to improving readiness.

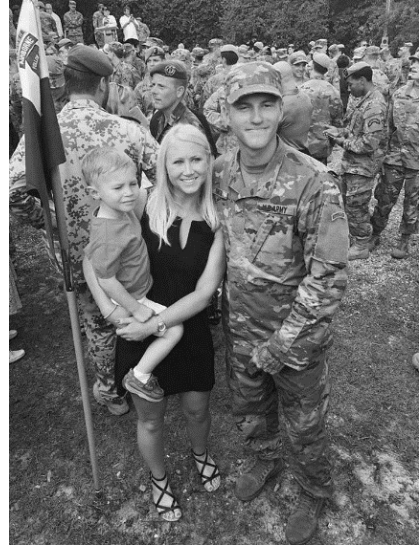
Last but not least, to develop our own leaders the Battalion deployed a small detachment to Fort Knox, Kentucky in support of Cadet Leader Training. 2LT Farlow and 25 of our most competent Soldiers from across the Battalion provided thirty days of continuous training

support to the Army's future leaders. During this training event, our Soldiers facilitated cadet learning of how to operate various weapon systems, conduct troop leading procedures/mission planning, learn drill/ceremony, and taught them what it means to be a commissioned officer. Our Soldiers were not alone during this training event. They were partnered with Task Force Rifles (3rd Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas). This was a wonderful opportunity for all and we enjoyed enabling this event.



On a final note, the "China" Battalion continues its successful lineage because our Soldiers stand out and separate themselves from their peers. Our Battalion is lucky to have Soldiers like SPC Ryan Bauer (left) and CPL Robert Smith (right) in the ranks. SPC Bauer

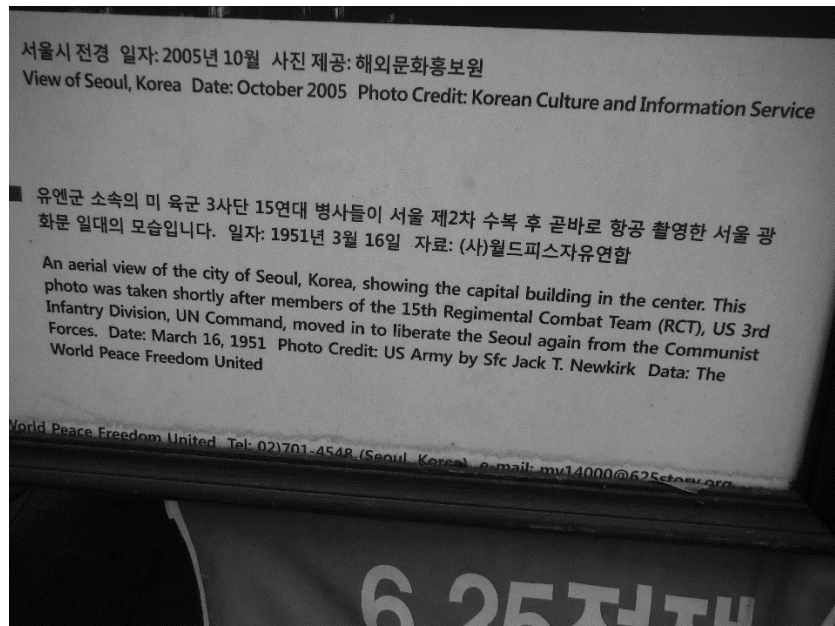
(A Co) won the 3rd Infantry Division's Best Warrior of the Year Competition. He will advance to represent the Division at the XVIII Airborne Corps Best Warrior Competition. We wish him the best of luck. CPL Smith (B Co) graduated from the prestigious US Army Ranger School in April. He was the first to complete the course in nearly a year. These two warriors embody the high standard of professionalism and performance in this proud Battalion.



Historian's Corner

Photos from President's Message

By Tim Stoy



Historical exhibit outside the Koreana Hotel in Seoul, South Korea

July 2017



Tim Stoy and COL Scotty Mueller at the US Army Garrison in Pyongtaek Change of Command

From the Foxhole

By Mike Horn

Did You Know

Philippine forces continue to engage in combat operations against rebels in Marawi City on Lake Lanao on the island of Mindinao. Did you know that the 15th Infantry was Headquarter-ed from 1905-07 in Camp Keithley, Marawi City, Philippine Islands?

Andersonville, Georgia

On the Sunday before Memorial Day, I visited twenty-one former members of the 15th Infantry who are interred at Andersonville National Cemetery, Andersonville, Georgia. These Soldiers were imprisoned in the POW camp nearby and died while in captivity. You can see the list of known 15th Infantry soldiers on our website in the Photos Section.

Epinal, France

Back in April, I made my annual trek to Germany. While staying with family in Stuttgart, I drove over to the 15th Infantry area of operations in the Vosges Mountains and Colmar Region. I stopped at Epinal to visit our 197 members interred at this ABMC Cemetery. Here are two of our 3rd Battalion members, 1LT Victor Kandle and SSG Gus Kefurt.



Sigolsheim, France

I spent one morning in April in Sigolsheim, France. This is the location of the December 1944 action for which SSG Gus Kefurt and LT Eli Whiteley received their Medals of Honor. The town has changed a great deal over the years. There remains only one pre-war building in town. Using the map drawn by John H. Toole in his book, *Battle Diary*, a current town map, the help of the folks in the town hall, and a conversation with John Shirley, I followed the general route of the 3rd Battalion troops through town. I was pleased to find a street and a lodge named in honor of the 3rd Battalion Commander,



John O'Connell. I visited *Place John Shirley* named in honor of John who fought through this town with his platoon. This area is full of 15th Infantry history!

Holtzwihr, France

Also in April, I drove down just north of Holtzwihr, France to the site of the action for which Audie Murphy received his Medal of Honor. This site has changed significantly since my last visit. Now there are directional markers that show you the way to the Monument that was erected by our French friends. The Monument is in the woods along a forest road that is easily traversed.

CRUISE TO WILDFLECKEN GERMANY 1966

By SGM John Peters, USA, Ret.

I had just completed ENTAC (anti-tank) Missile School in Ft. Gordon, GA. Myself and three other Soldiers received orders to go to Germany. We first went to a Repo Depo at Ft. Dix, NJ. We were initially slated to stand guard duty that night when we were advised that we would be departing for Germany in the morning from New York harbor.

The next morning we boarded the USS Rose, a troop ship. Up until this time, I had always liked boats. We were shown our accommodations, which consisted of hammocks strung 3 high. By sheer luck, I got one next to a fresh air vent. I didn't realize how fortuitous this would be until our 5th day at sea with no showers. Fortunately, the seas were relatively benign for the month of March. The food wasn't bad either; if you weren't sea sick, which fortunately I wasn't.

July 2017

Upon arriving at the port of Bremerhaven, we were taken by bus to Wurzburg to be assigned to our units. The clerk looked at our orders and advised us we were being sent to a unit in Schwienfurt. We dutifully found our transportation to Schweinfurt, which turned out to be a detachment of the 7th Cavalry. We entered the orderly room and were greeted by a crusty looking 1SG with a handlebar mustache, cavalry style blue pants with a yellow stripe down the sides and leather riding boots, I thought I was in Ft. Apache. He took our orders and looked from them to us and said in a very loud and belligerent voice "you guys are tank killers and this is an armored cavalry unit, now get the hell out of my orderly room". Which we did post haste.

We returned to Wurzburg and explained the mix up to the personnel clerk. He advised the four of us that two of us would be sent to Bad K and the other two were going to Wildflecken. It was almost like an EF Hutton commercial when he said Wildflecken and it seemed like every head in the place turned to see who the poor souls were that were being sent to "The Rock". Of course, at the time we had no idea what we were getting into. Myself and the other sad sack were sent along with 4 other soldiers to a waiting $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck and told to get in the back. We humped our duffle bags into the back of the truck and made ourselves comfortable. It seemed like the truck started to ascend almost immediately and after an hour we were opening our duffle bags and trying to find our overcoats or a blanket as the temperature dropped dramatically. We arrived at our destination at night with 10" of fresh snow on the ground. We went into the orderly room where a sleepy looking NCO greeted us less than warmly. He begrudgingly showed us to a vacant room issued us some bedding said "the coal's in the basement" (the heating system was later upgraded to kerosene heat).

The next morning we reported to the 1SG, who welcomed us to the 2nd Bn. of the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. He asked what our MOS was and we told him we were 11H ENTAC Missile. He laughed and told us they stopped the ENTAC program 6 months ago. He assigned us to the 4 deuce mortar platoon.

Wildflecken was so remote it was one of the few bases where you actually received overseas pay. It had a reputation as being the Alcatraz of USAREUR and a lot of the troops were rumored to be rejects from other units. Judging from the number of EIB's I saw, I found that hard to believe. Aside from the cold, it was truly a beautiful area, and I thoroughly enjoyed my tour and my assignments. I completed my tour as the Assistant Operations NCO in the Battalion S2-S3.

Association Staff Vacancies

The Association Staff has several vacancies that are listed at <http://www.15thinfantry.org/staff.html>. Volunteers are needed to fill these important positions, which are appointed positions on the Association staff. Active Duty Soldiers are encouraged to apply. Contact the Association Vice President, Tad Davis, as indicated on page 2 for further details or information on how to apply. Full job descriptions are found in the SOP on our website at <http://www.15thinfantry.org/documents.html>.

Treasurer, Trustees, Public Relations Chairman, Constitution & By-laws Committee Chairman

Website

We are always seeking old photos to add to the website. Please contact Mike Horn at mhorn@15thInfantry.org if you have any pictures to add to the website. The Association is seeking any photos from any era of the history of the Regiment. High quality scanned images will be accepted. Any actual photos you are willing to share for digitization will be returned.

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: (____) _____ Spouse Name: (optional) _____

Rank: _____ Unit (Co & BN): _____

Dates Served: _____ Birth Date: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Affinity if applying for Associate Membership: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP DESIRED

Regular Annual \$10.00 Associate Annual \$10.00 On Active Duty Annual \$5.00 Life (see dues 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.15thinfantry.org and clicking on the "Pay Dues" tab or

Make check payable to "15th Infantry Regiment Association" and mail to the following:

John C. Campbell
760 Flatwood Drive
Clarksville, IN 47129
☎(812-949-2549)



Association members participate in a Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremony at the 3rd Infantry Division monument, Arlington National Cemetery

July 2017

2017 Annual 15th Infantry Regimental Dinner

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Third Infantry Division, the leadership of the 15th Infantry Regiment Association has decided to host the Annual 15th Infantry Regimental Dinner in conjunction with Marne Week activities and the celebration of the Division's 100th Birthday at Fort Stewart, GA the week of 13-17 Nov 2017. That said, the Association will not be hosting their traditional Regimental Dinner in conjunction with the Society's upcoming reunion in San Antonio, TX. The Association is currently working with LTC Fran Marks, Commander 3-15 Infantry, to develop a very meaningful program for veterans of the 15th Infantry Regiment who are able to be with us for Marne Week, essentially 15-18 Nov. Details are in the very early planning stages, but the annual Regimental Dinner (open to everyone) will be on Thursday, 16 Nov with the Division Ball on Friday, 17 Nov. Other activities will be planned at Fort Stewart and in the greater Savannah area. Details will be available on the Association website and in the next edition of the "Watch on the Rhine". ROTM! Can Do! -Tad Davis, Vice President, 15th Infantry Regiment Association.

July 2017

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