



The BOBCAT Bulletin

5th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, Inc.

25th INFANTRY DIVISION & 1st ARMORED DIVISION

For all who ever served with the "5th Infantry Regiment"

The US Army's 3rd Oldest - Established 1808

"I'll Try Sir"

Spring 2014

Web Page Address: <http://www.bobcat.ws/>

Volume I



2014 Bobcat Reunion Niagara Falls NY

22-27 July 2014

Our 2014 reunion will be held at Niagara Falls NY an enormously popular tourist destination — from both the American side in New York and the Canadian vantage point in Ontario. Known as the honeymoon capital of the world, the Falls at Niagara are about 12,000 years old.

A big reason for choosing Niagara Falls is because of its close proximity to Lundy's Lane where the 5th Infantry Regiment earned its motto to "I'll Try Sir". The dates of 22-27 July were chosen because it was during this time period 200 years ago that the battle of Lundy's Lane took place.

(See NY on page 20 & 21)



Niagara Falls in the winter - Not a view you'll see in at the reunion in July

12th Florida Winter Social

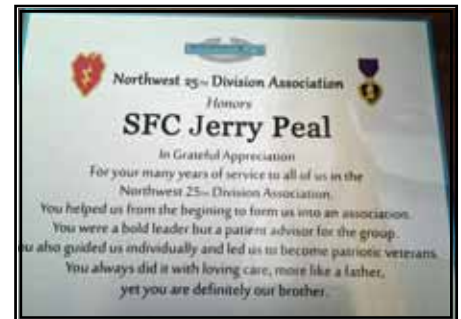
Our 12th Annual Florida Winter Social was a big success. It was a success in terms of numbers with 39 attending the Saturday evening dinner cruise and also successful in terms of an event that was enjoyed by all in attendance.

It seems the socials get a little bigger each year. I suggested the idea to Ralph Laubecher and he made it happen. After planning the socials for about the first six or seven years he gradually turned it over Honorary Member of the Regiment Teriann Trikali. And Teriann did a great job of finding a nice hotel and a restaurant that would give us a private room and individual checks on Valentine's day which also was a Friday.

(See Social on page 2)

Jerry Peal's Dedication to Veterans Recognized

Jerry Peal for years worked very hard to organize the group of 25th In-



fantry Division Veterans who live in the northwest part of the United States - primarily the southern part of Washing-

(See Jerry on page 26)

Ron Henry laid to rest at Arlington

On the third of January 2014, a cold blustery day, at Arlington National Cemetery Ron Henry was laid to rest with full military honors. Early in Ron's Army career he was a member of the 3rd Infantry's Honor Guard that helped honor him at his burial.

Many Association members along with family and friends were present for a final salute to Ron. Many who attended stayed at the same very nice, reasonably priced, four star hotel in Arlington the night before. Six members of the Wilson County Vietnam

(Continued on page 35)

Two Bobcats to Receive the Medal of Honor

"The Medal of Honor will be awarded to 24 people, three of them living, who served in wars of past decades, the White House announced today (21 FEB 14).

In recognition of their valor in World War II, Vietnam and Korea, President Obama will present the awards on March 18, according to a statement from the White House.



(See MOH on page 32)



(Social from page 1)

Finding a restaurant that was on both a Friday and Valentine's Day was quite an accomplishment considering both days are busy days during Florida's busiest month.. Thank you Terriann for a great job!

The weather during this weekend was a little on the cool side but was not bad being in the 60's and sunny. I'm sure that those who traveled from northern states thought the weather was great.

The Social started with most people arriving at the Quality Inn Hotel on Friday afternoon and gathering at the outdoor Tiki Bar for get acquainted extended social hour.

That evening 33 of us traveled about 10 miles south to St John's Beach to have dinner at Bubba Gump's Seafood restaurant.



On Saturday many traveled to the nearby shopping areas to spend some money. But by afternoon most again were drawn



back to the beach area Tiki Bar for another session of getting to know each other better and telling "war stories".

Saturday evening we all boarded the Sarlita Majesty boat



for a dinner cruise. And again the food on this boat was excellent. After dinner some tried working of some of the excessive calories they consumed by dancing. After the cruise some who were not too tired continued socializing in the hospitality room the hotel provided us.

Sunday morning a large number of us showed up for breakfast at International House of Pancakes (IHOP) located in the ho-

tel. At the breakfast four lucky people won a Tervis Tumbler insulated drinking glass with 5th Infantry crests imbedded between the glass. These great glasses were donated and raffled off again this year by Rich Soja.

Thank you Terriann for planning a great 12th Winter Social!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The Bobcats have had another busy and exciting quarter. Among the most significant events is the deployment of the 2nd Battalion to Afghanistan, again standing in the forefront of our defense of this great Republic. They deployed during December and January, and expect to return to Ft. Bliss in mid-year, if all plans are followed. We feel justified pride in their service and sacrifice. Their pride in being Bobcats is reflected in the fact that the Association recently received more than fifty new memberships from the battalion. In this regard, the Rotary Club of Sebring, FL is organizing to send boxes of goodies to this unit, with our association footing the postage bill. By the time you get this, the first packages will arrive in Afghanistan. As you may remember, this Rotary club also supported the Association in welcoming the troops home when 2-5 Infantry returned from their last deployment to Afghanistan.

As always our Winter Social in Florida went very well, with a good crowd and great weather. Thanks to TeriAnn Tringali for all of her efforts in making the arrangements. Thanks is also due her for her work in arranging the Bobcats cruise aboard the Norwegian Dawn immediately following the social. Those who "cruised" had a great time. The only downside was that more Bobcats and wives were not able to attend.

Quite a number of our members and their wives are very involved in

planning for the Niagara Falls reunion in July. This promises to be an exciting event, with a real connection to the history of our regiment. The schedule includes a Memorial Service at Lundy's Lane, where the battalion earned its motto, "I'll try, Sir", and the dedication of a plaque by the Association at the battlefield park. A number of other exciting ceremonial events will take place, including adding the streamers to our colors which have been earned by 1-5 and 2-5 in Iraq and Afghanistan. Due to Sam Kier's efforts we have been able to identify and obtain nine new streamers that will be added in Niagara Falls, reflecting the service of Bobcats since Vietnam. I would be remiss if I did not make note of the fact that we will again be able to present a Bronze Star Medal to a Bobcat who earned the award for actions in 1969 in Vietnam. Obviously we will recognize one of our members as the Bobcat of the Year, and another special recognition that I will not mention at this time.

As shown by the fact that two Bobcats, Specialist Ardie Copas and Pfc Leonard M. Kravitz, have been approved for the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam and Korea respectively, efforts continue to assure that deserving soldiers are recognized for their service. In this regard, General Anderson has recently initiated an effort to gain recognition for soldiers serving in Korea and Vietnam who were presented the CIB or CMB. His letter to General John F. Campbell, Vice Chief of Staff, US Army is included in this Bulletin. We each owe Andy a great "Thank You" for his continuing efforts on behalf of veterans.

One final comment before I send this to Fred Deverse. We are in the process of communicating with a number of Bobcats who have not renewed their memberships to urge them to do so. I ask each of you to contact any Bobcats who may not be members and encourage them to join this great organization. Our ability to support our battalions and to advance the goals of the Association depends on a strong, vibrant membership. I challenge each of you to do your part in adding to our membership.

Bob Wood

5th Infantry Association

President - *Robert (Bob) Wood*

Vice President - *Bart Stanzione*

Treasurer & Quartermaster - *Jim Caudle*

Secretary & Membership Chairman -

Denis McDonough

Historian - *Sam Kier*

Media (Newsletter) Editor - *Fred Deverse*

Webmaster - *Randy Kethcart*

Past Presidents - *Paul Robinson and*

Jon Cartwright

Bobcat Board of Directors consists of the above and the following 4 elected directors:

Jon Blickenstaff Joe "Red" Burdick

John Snodgrass Tom Frame

Chaplain (Appointed) - *Myron Peterson*

Reminder !

1. Notify Denis McDonough about changes in address and phone number etc.

2. Check your membership - If there is a **red 13** (only or the last two numbers) on the address label your dues expires 31 DEC 13. Please renew now!

Reunions

Niagara Falls NY 22-27 July 14

25th INF DIV ASSN - Seattle

9-14 SEP 14

HONORED BOBCAT MEMBERS

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

Andy Anderson (MG-R)

Honorary Command Sergeant Major of the Regiment - *Ray Barrett (CSM-R)*

Distinguished Members

of the Regiment

SSG Eddie Barba(1/5), Jon Blickenstaff,

Joe "Red" Burdick, Jon Cartwright, Jim

Caudle, Fred Deverse, James Garner,

Ron Henry(1SG-R), Randy Kethcart,

Sam Kier, Ralph Laubecher, Denis

McDonough, Victor Mercado (CSM -R),

SGT John Paul Morgan 2/5, Daryl Niles

(CSM-R), Jerry Peal, Paul Robinson,

Roger Smith, John Snodgrass (MAJ-R),

Bob Wood (COL-R)

Honorary Members of the Regiment

Sue Caudle, Carolyn Deverse, Shannon

Henry, Carolyn Kethcart, Teri Tringali

Bobcat of the Year

Roger Smith 03, Ron Henry (1SG-R) 04,

Denis McDonough 05, Randy Kethcart

07, Hank Engelke 08, Gary Young 09,

Joe "Red" Burdick 10, Paul Moir 11,

Bart Stanzione 12, Jerry Peal 13

ROSTER **ADDITIONS, CHANGES &** **CORRECTIONS**

The information provided below is new since the last Newsletter was printed.

(Please let me know when any of your information like phone # , address or E-mail address changes or is incorrect)

E-mail Changes & Additions:

>>> If your E-mail address changes you need to notify us if you want to continue to receive Chapter E-mails and to have your correct E-mail address on the roster.

Commander, Thom - Change
ThomCommander@gmail.com

O'Hara, Mike - Change
kto4221@gmail.com

Roster Changes/Corrections:

Cochran, Robert "Mickey" - Changes
 18 Peteman Road
 Seneca Falls NY 13148
 New phone # = 315-257-0032
 New E-Mail address -
4276@sbcglobal.net

Freeman, Bill "Doc" - Change
 4001 Bell Ave - APT 124
 Billings MT 59106

Curry, Jerry - Change
 6212 Algonquin RD
 El Paso TX 79905-2121

Grindstaff, Wayne - New Phone #'s
 Home: 516-735-2541
 Cell: 516-655-3291

Seftick, Ronald - Change
 65 Snowbird LN
 Clarksburg, WV 26501

New Members:

53 New Active Duty Members from the 2/5th

We received 53 new members who are from the 2nd battalion 5th Infantry which is presently located in Afghanistan. Go to page 15 to see the list.

Ferrari, James (Jim) F. - (Paula)
 306 Miller ST
 New Haven MO 63068-1122
 573-237-4855
 A Co. 3/66 -9/66
ferrari722@hotmail.com

*Served in and around Cu Chi, Hobo & BoLoi Woods and other areas. I remember Black Virgin Mountain like it was yesterday. I wish I could remember guys in my platoon. Maybe this membership will fill voids in my memories. My last wound was on 11 SEP 66. I was an M-60 gunner in my squad.

After the army I took a job in law enforcement in December 1968. Served as an undercover officer, Patrolman, detective and Chief of Police. Retired in 2000 after 31 years.

I have 6 wonderful kids all grown and gone. I have 16 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Paula has put up with me for 25 years this July. It took me three tries to get it right.

Wright, Ronnie - (Suzanne)
 1209 E Brown LN
 Deer Park, TX 77536
 713-725-4169
 A Co. 11/70-4/71
harleyman2007@yahoo.com

Porter, Ronald J.
 150 Porter Way
 Fries, VA 24330
 193rd INF BDE Co. C
 3rd BN 5th INF REG FT Kobbe
 Canal Zone

Levy, DR Harold (Arlyne)
 47 Longleat DR
 Buffalo, NY 14226- 4114
 716-833-2028
hjlevy@verizon.net
 Medical Co. 5th RCT
 1949-1950 Hawaii, Korea
**See biography on page 30*

Baehr, Ron
 6576 Mann Rd
 Akron, NY 14001-9022
 716-542-2364
 Co. A 2nd PLT 1/5th 3/68-3/69
bobcats15@aol.com

Taps:

Hohmann, Alfred - Died 25 DEC 13 - HQ Co. 65-66 (Vietnam 66) from Solingen Germany
**See article & pictures on page 8.*

Planthaber, Edward - Died 3 JAN 14 - Recon 67-68 from Lake Ariel PA (Retired from the Army after 22 years with the rank of Sergeant First Class.)

Hi guys,
 "I received a call from Brian Plan-

thaber, Ed's son. He informed me that Ed Planthaber died last Friday. He had been in the hospital for a couple problems and had some infection. They opened him up to work on him and found he was full of cancer and there was nothing they could do so they closed him up. Brian said he seemed to just quit fighting after that. He will be buried in a national cemetery in northern PA but I didn't find out where. He will receive full military honors.



Ed Planthaber



You can contact Brian:
 Brian Planthaber
 11 Hickory Lane
 Chester Springs, PA 19425

610-469-1076 Home
 484-716-1393 Cell

Rest in peace Brother!"

Howard Craig

**See pictures of Ed and others on page 7 sent by Howard Craig.*

Garcia, Benja - Died 7 FEB 14 - Wife of Roberto Garcia
 "Roberto just called to say his wife, Benja, passed away yesterday. (She had gone to Baylor University hospital.... for bone surgery and was just too weak, but they did the surgery anyway. Then three days ago they told Roberto there is nothing they could do for her so Roberto agreed to place her in hospice. She had been in Hospice since 1 FEB) They just celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary this past December 31st, plus they had three years together dating. Betty and I were going to go to her funeral but Roberto said no, her wishes were to have only immediate family there. He also said she didn't want flowers or a donation made to any organization on her behalf, so we'll honor her wishes. He made the final funeral arrangements yesterday after she passed away and she'll be buried in a National Cemetery up around their home. I'm so sorry to hear of her passing, she was a sweet lady who has suffered with her illnesses for

(See Roster on page 19)

Members' Comments, Letters, E-mails & Information

Please send me your thoughts, comments, impressions, criticisms & suggestions etc. along with pictures for "your" Bobcat Bulletin!

Halpin was our Santa

"Michael Patrick Halpin, we called



him Hippie! He was our Santa, he made us smile, he brought us joy,



Christmas Day, 1967, and he left us in tears (KIA) on January 19, 1968!! Hippie's presence is with us today, he will never be forgotten!! 1st Platoon Bravo Company 1/5 INF (Mech) 1967-68."

--**Roger Smith**

* Sent to me by Randy Kethcart

Do you remember Rene "Skip" Pelletier?

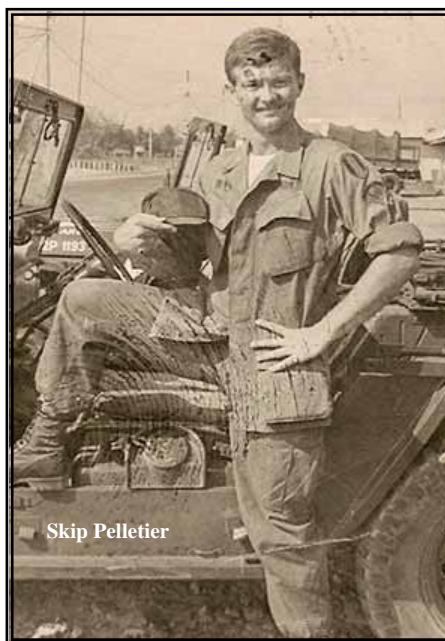
Was with Jesse Uptigrove on 08 July 1969 when Jesse was KIA.

Fred,

"My father Skip Pelletier passed away a week ago. According to his service record, he was in Vietnam from 11 June 1969 to 9 June 1970. Rene

("Skip") Fredrick Pelletier. [Name was pronounced "Rainy"] He was in Special Forces and did recon work with the 525th Military Intelligence Group of the Armed Forces. We are unable to find any information about what he did or where. His group had a 75% casualty rate. I believe his military records may be sealed. We have his DD214 discharge form.

We know that he was with Jesse Uptigrove on 08 July 1969 when Jesse was KIA, it is the one story and one person he talked about from Vietnam (only when drinking heavily). Jesse was a friend that he had a hard time letting go of. The report on this event does not mention that Skip was in the jeep, but he actually had shrapnel in his



hand from this event for the rest of his life. I am curious as to why he was working with you guys in the 1/5th.

I will be out of the country, so please contact my mom:

Heather Pelletier
PO Box 2268
Palmer, Alaska 99645

(907) 841-7274 cell or
(907) 745-7274 home/office

E-mail:

the_science_teacher2000@yahoo.com

Thank you for any information you

can come up with."

Rose Pelletier

Visiting With The Robinson Family

"This picture was taken on December 7th in Boca Raton FL, while visiting with Roger Robinson's wife Sue and



son Kevin. In the picture is, myself, Russ Taylor, Jerry Rudlaff, and David Daugherty. We had hoped to be there to see Roger, but he had lost his battle with cancer and passed away on 11/10/13."

Denis McDonough

9 DEC 13

"Home from the hospital and resting comfortably. Thanks for all the prayers and good wishes. I do appreciate them all, even big Ed's words of wisdom. I will be at Niagara Falls this coming summer."

Bob Drake

"A Salute to Cork"

"Big thanks to Cork Sandor for coming out to the course and cele-

(See Members on page 6)

Treasurer's Report

4th Quarter Financial Report

(1 OCT - 31 DEC 2013)

October:

Income:

Membership Dues	\$25.00
Pay Pal (Internet Sales)	\$1988.05
Quartermaster Sales	\$103.00
25th INF DIV Scholarship Fund Donation	\$50.00
Lundy's Lane Memorial Donation	\$50.00
NY Bobcat 2014 Reunion	\$144.50
TOTAL	\$2360.55

Debits:

Bank Charges	\$3.00
Postage	\$184.00
Quartermaster	\$118.20
Reunion Coordinator Expenses (Advance party NY)	\$407.71
P-38s (New member's gifts)	\$27.97
25th IDA Scholarship Fund	\$1500.00
Postage Fall 13 Newsletter	\$176.19
Book Sale (Author)	\$33.64
Plaques	\$84.80
TOTAL	\$2335.51

November:

Income:

Membership Dues	\$65.00
Quartermaster sales	\$10.00
Lundy's Lane Donation	\$25.00
Pay Pal (Internet sales)	3553.47
TOTAL:	\$3655.47

Debit:

Fall Newsletter	\$645.00
Bank Service Charge	\$3.00
Postage	\$97.17
Host Website	\$253.73
Printer supplies	\$42.15

Wilson Co. Veterans - In memory of Ron Henry \$1000.00

TOTAL: \$2045.05

December:

Income:

Membership Dues	\$1157.00
Pay Pal (Internet sales)	\$988.85
TOTAL	\$2145.85

Debits:

Misc. Supplies (Ink etc.)	\$43.31
Bobcat Roster printing	\$358.00
Bank Service charge	\$3.00
Postage Winter Newsletter	\$313.57
TOTAL	\$718.78

Assets:

Checkbook Balance	\$7789.48
Business Account	\$49949.72
TOTAL	\$57739.20

Jim Caudle,

Treasurer/Quartermaster

Donations to the Association

We are a 501c19 organization. Donations to our Association are tax-deductible.

Anonymous - for the Scholarship Fund - In honor of the Recon Platoon	\$300
Brian & Katie Payne	\$20
Bob Wood - for food and events at the NY Reunion	\$340.50
Bob Wood - for the 25th Scholarship Fund	\$259.50
John Helget	\$100
Robert "Mickey" Cochran - \$50 for Scholarship Fund & \$50 for Lundy's Lane Plaque	\$100
Robert Drake - For Reunion	\$25
Charles Kennedy	\$11.25
Peggy Daniels - For Reunion	\$25

(Members from page 5)

brating Patriot Golf Day after visiting the LO War Memorial. Cork was a Vietnam Veteran 1966-67. In that time he received 2 Purple Hearts and bronze Star. Cork Sandor we salute you!"

Dennis McDonough

=====

Jerry Wayne. Combest

KIA 21 AUG 68 - C Co.

"Hello Denis. Yes I did know Jerry. We lived in the same small town and our dads worked together.

I wrote a book about the guys from my home county that were killed in



Vietnam and in the process met a lot of guys from your outfit: John Snodgrass for one. Have you been in touch with him?

Attached is the chapter I wrote about Jerry.

Here is the link to a webpage I have on Jerry. <http://www.ccfreedomfighters.com/combest.htm>

Thanks for contacting me and welcome home, bro."

RD Foster

I wish I could publish Ronnie D Foster's chapter from his book "One Day as a Lion" True stories of the Vietnam war that he wrote about Jerry W. Combest but it is 21 pages.

The chapter is part of the book he wrote about all of the Vietnam Veterans killed in action from Collin County

(See Members on page 18)

Remembering SFC-R Edward Planthaber

Died 3 JAN 14 - Recon 67-68



"Richard Myers Picture. - That's Vincent R. Langen behind Planthaber, the others ?"



Roger Smith Picture - Recon ready for ambush. Front row: James Fitzgerald, James D. Kelly, "Louie", Edgar Spence, Curtis M. "Country" Hardwick, Vincent Langen(?), William "Bill" Hachey
Back row: Vic Larkins, Junior Burns, Horst Adams, Edward Planthaber, Don't know, McVey "Zipper", Howard Craig, (don't know?), Larry "Radar" Wilbanks, Arnie Queener.



Roger Craig picture - Left to right: Curtis "Country" Hardwick, David Dela Torre, Doughnut Dolly, Horst Adams, Anderson Turner, Edward Planthaber, "Louie"



Edward Planthaber, In the PC: L to R; Edward E. Volcheck (I thought his name was Pete. The roster I have shows him as HHQ with a 11D Recon MOS. I remember he was hurt when a Recon PC threw a track and ended up in a rice patty. The moved him to the rear after that. Got to be the same guy. Edgar Spence about my best friend over there. KIA 2/29/68



Howard Craig picture - L to R: Robert (Doc) Jones, Edward Planthaber, Unknown ARVNs, Sgt Long, Interpreter.



Vic Larkins Picture. Crew of 005 track. Left to right: Edward Planthaber, Vincent Langen, James "Fitz" Fitzgerald, "Louie", Curtis "Country" Hardwick.



From L to R: "Smitty" don't know his name, Edward Planthaber, Vic Larkins, the TC is Arnie Queener.

Alfred Hohmann Dies

Alfred Hohmann who may have saved the lives of many Bobcats died Christmas Day 2013.

The following message was received by his friend Jerry Goglin:

He has gone !

Dear Friends of my father Alfred Hohmann,
yesterday was an hard Christmas day for all of our family. Alfred died after 9 years disease at 8:00 pm in a hospital.

We will miss him our husband, father and grandfather.
Please excuse that I do not find more words because it is hard for me even in German.

Your Thomas

*Thomas is Alfred Hohmann's son

I started by saying that Alfred may have saved many of our lives. That is because he was the one who suggested that the M-113 armored personnel carrier that we all rode in should have a protective shield to protect the 50 caliber gunner.

When the 1/5th was alerted that they would deploy to Vietnam in, I think December of 1965, Alfred felt that the 50 gunner needed protection and told those in charge. They said OK then design something. He designed a model out of cardboard. His design was accepted. It was decided that the protective shield should be made of titanium. This shield had to be welded to the M-113. Alfred being a welder worked day and night for almost 30 days prior to the deployment welding and installing a shield on every track.

You will notice that his son in the notice above mentioned that he died after an illness of nine years. He was ill with lung disease. My guess is this is what killed him. In talking with him he said he thought that all the fumes from the welding of these shields either caused or contributed to his lung problems. So it is possible that his concern for the safety of the soldiers of the 1/5th, resulting in his suggestion and design of the protective shield and his long hours of welding to get the tracks ready for their deployment to Vietnam,

resulted in or at least contributed to his illness and early death.

No one traveled further to attend our reunions traveling from his home in Solingen Germany twice. He attended



Alfred & Christa at the Hawaii reunion in 2006.

a reunion in, I think in Valley Forge and then again in 2006 in Hawaii. At the reunion in Hawaii MG-R Andy Anderson, who at the time was the 25th



Fred Deverse, MG-R Andy Anderson and Alfred Hohmann with his "Certificate of Appreciation"

Infantry Division Association's president presented Alfred with a "Certificate of Appreciation" for his life saving shield design.

Alfred was very proud to have served in the United States Army. You



Alfred and Christa in front of their home in Germany proudly flying the American flag.

can see that pride in the picture on this

page taken in front of his German home with an American flag flying.

Alfred migrated to the United States and was living in New Jersey in the 1960s when he applied for American citizenship. His citizenship application may have alerted the Selective Service (Draft Board) because that was when he was drafted.

After training he was assigned to the Maintenance Section of the 1/5th, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks as a welder. His expertise as a welder is evident in the article that appeared in the Tropic Lightning News in 5 AUG 66. In the article, "When Sp4 Alfred Hohmann joined the 5th Mech. motor pool he was asked if he could weld. He said, 'I'll try, sir.' Hohmann is now saving the Army \$600 to \$1000 a day repairing damaged engine blocks." (See the complete article "Motor Pool Fights Big War of Repairs" from the Tropic Lightning News on Page 25)

I can't remember the details of how he was able to do it but he was able to keep from his then girlfriend, later wife, Christa who was in Germany that he was in Vietnam. He did not want her to know and worry about him.

After Vietnam he was discharged from the Army and spent a short time in the US before returning to Germany to marry Christa and spend the rest of his life there.

About twice a year Alfred would call me and we would talk for a while. I always enjoyed talking with him. The last time he called he could not talk very long because of shortness of breath caused by his lung disease. He always asked me to come visit him in Germany which I am sorry to say I was never able to do.

Alfred was a positive person who always seemed to be smiling.

Alfred, I will miss you and on behalf of the United States I want to thank you for your service in the United States Army.

Fred Deverse



ALFRED HOHMANN

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 5TH
INFANTRY REGIMENT
JUNE 6, 1941 – DECEMBER 25, 2013

“THE REGIMENT HAS LOST A HERO, WHO SERVED OUR REGIMENT WITH DISTINCTION AND LITTLE FANFARE OR PUBLIC NOTICE. ALFRED HOHMANN WAS A MEMBER OF HEADQUARTERS COMPANY AND HE HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON OUR ABILITY TO CONDUCT COMBAT OPERATIONS. ALFRED WAS THE PRIMARY INNOVATOR AND DESIGNER OF THE PROTECTIVE SHIELD FOR THE COMMANDER’S CUPOLA ON THE M113. IT WAS DETERMINED, EARLY ON, THAT A TRACK COMMANDER (SQUAD LEADER TO BATTALION COMMANDER) NEEDED SOME FORM OF PERSONAL PROTECTION, WHILE CONDUCTING COMBAT OPERATIONS, FROM HIS EXTREMELY EXPOSED POSITION ATOP THE TRACK. ALFRED TOOK ON THIS TASK AND EMPLOYED HIS SKILLS AS AN ACCOMPLISHED WELDER AND THE RESULT WAS WHAT WE ALL, AS TRACK COMMANDERS, CAME TO RELY UPON AS OUR PROTECTIVE SHIELD AGAINST ENEMY FIRE.

ALFRED CAME TO THE STATES TO HELP IN SETTING UP A VOLKSWAGEN PLANT AND AS SUCH WAS REQUIRED TO HAVE A GREEN CARD. THIS RESULTED IN HIS BEING DRAFTED INTO THE ARMY. HE SERVED PROUDLY WITH THE REGIMENT AND THE 25TH DIVISION. HE WAS ALWAYS PROUD OF HIS SERVICE AND HAVING BEEN A MEMBER OF THE TROPIC LIGHTNING. HE DISPLAYED THE 25TH DIVISION PATCH ON THE FRONT OF HIS HOUSE. ALFRED WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION IN GERMAN. HE ATTENDED ONE OF OUR REUNIONS IN THE MID 1990’S AND ALWAYS SAID THIS WAS A TRUE HIGHLIGHT IN HIS LIFE. LIKE MANY UNSUNG HEROES, HE WAS A QUIET, UNASSUMING

MAN WHO WAS PROUD OF HIS SERVICE TO OUR NATION AND FELT A SPECIAL KINSHIP TO HIS FELLOW BOBCATS.”

Vic Vickery

Hi Fred,

“I had spoken with Alfred a few times over the last few years and hoped he might have more time but even talking was a strain for him. He sounded terrible. We exchanged occasional e-mails and I had received a Merry Christmas e-mail just a few days before he passed. I had returned the e-mail wishing good health. Thomas' e-mail less than a week later was a shock.

I forwarded the body of Thomas' notification to some of the guys I correspond with along with the following: ”

A brother lost!

“Alfred helped design and build the cupola shields for the PCs before they shipped from Hawaii and then served in the motor pool in '66. A hell of a nice guy who has struggled with terrible damage to his lungs from a lifetime of welding fumes. Every time I talked to him on the phone he sounded like he had just run a mile.

I got a Christmas e-mail from him just three days before he died and I e-mailed back and wished him good health - it didn't work. Truly a good guy. Sadly,

Bob Whaley

Then I sent the following to Thomas.

“Thomas Hohmann, thank you very much for the very sad news of

your father's passing.

His family and friends will certainly miss him, but also his Army brothers from his Vietnam service mourn his passing. He was, indeed a kind, hard working, true gentleman.

I'm sure you know that those of us that served with your Dad in Vietnam give him credit for saving many lives with his contributions to the design and building of the armored shields on the cupolas of our armored personnel carriers. I am one of those he saved! I took a shot to the head on May 7th 1966, but if I had not had the protection of the shield I likely would not have survived.

I told your Dad several years ago that the small Solingen kitchen knives which gave to many of the wives at our Vietnam reunion group was my wife's favorite knife. And that since cleaning the kitchen after dinner was my job, I thought of him every time I washed that knife. I will continue to think of Alfred every time I wash that knife and honor his service to the United States. He is among my personal heroes.

God bless you, and your family, especially Christa, and know that there are many of Alfred's friends here who also will miss him.”

With great sadness,

Bob Whaley

Sad to Loose a Good Friend

I am sending you a copy of Alfred Hohmann's funeral arrangements sent to us by his wife Christa....

He was a welder.... He did a lot of repair work on personnel carriers as the tracks were blown off often by land mines.

We are sad to loose a good friend.

Bob & Margie Bastyr

“Smile well and often. It makes people wonder what you're up to.”

-Satchel Paige

Some Pictures and Comments From the 5th Infantry Facebook Page

A number of months ago Randy Kethcart set up a 5th Infantry Association Facebook Page. Some great pictures have been posted by many. If you are not participating in this page you should take a look at it at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/468555973188533>

Abe Cardenas Reflects on His Rewarding Life And Thanks Many

21 DEC 13

"I would like to thank the Lord for giving 68 years of such a rewarding life. I have a loving wife, 4 children and 9 grandchildren. I'm surrounded by a great church family, lifetime friends and Vietnam Veteran soldiers. I couldn't have survived without your protection Lord and guidance of my brother soldiers in Vietnam. This day is a great day to reflect on my many blessings. Thank you- "

"TO MY OFFICERS, NCO'S, FELLOW SOLDIERS, DOCTORS, NURSES, COMBAT MEDICS, & MY BROTHERS & SISTERS OF MY BATTALION, FOR THOSE THAT I CAN NOT REMEMBER YOUR NAMES, YOUR FACES ARE FOREVER ETCHED IN MY MIND, EVEN IF WE JUST EXCHANGED A GLANCE, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE PART OF MY LIFE, FOR THOSE WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE BY GIVING YOUR LIFE I THANK YOU, & SALUTE YOU."

Abe Cardenas

Coffee Adds Comfort When Pulling Guard Duty

20 DEC 13

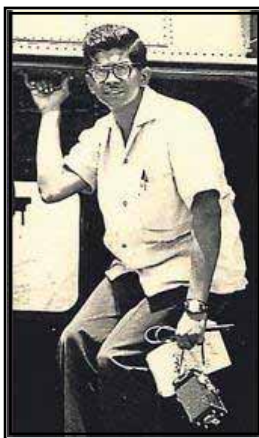
"Hey, Shannon Schroeder Speaking of coffee, I have fond memories of pulling guard in the company perimeter in the middle of the night and going to the center of the perimeter, where the cooks were sometimes set up, to get a cup of coffee with evaporated milk added. It added a little comfort to the shift."

Roger Hayes

8 Men Killed in Ambush

=====

"On 2/14/66 A Co. was ambushed. Eight men were KIA. Four were Bobcats, two were reporters/journalist and two were Forward Observers (FO) from 8th Artillery. The 1st picture is the UPI reporter, Charles Chellappah. The 2nd picture is FO Bobby Braswell, the 3rd picture is John Groover, the other FO. The only picture we don't have is Walter Ammons of A Co. from Chester VA. In 2 weeks, Teri and I will meet up with Sally Shumaker. Sally was a high school



friend of Terry Reed, who was the oth-

er reporter with the 25th Inf Div. killed on 2/14/66. That's when I decided to



try once more to track these pictures down. After 4 years, I find three in 1 day...go figure."

Denis McDonough

"Christmas '67 at Katum.

=====

Wishing all Bobcats a Happy Christmas and a Happy Holiday."

"I think I had LP Xmas night. I know I had LP on New Year's Eve. While out in the boonies I could see green flares shot off by the guys in camp at midnight."

Frank "Tom" Goins (21 DEC 13)



Daugherty, Rudlaff & Taylor

9 DEC 13

"Got back from Boca Raton last night. Below in the left picture is C Co's CPT David Daugherty, and Medic Jerry Rudlaff. Below is Roberson's best buddy in Nam, Russ Taylor. Three true Bobcats. We had a nice time visiting with Roger Robinson's wife Sue, and her son Kevin. David Daugherty will post some more pictures, or he'll send



them to me to post."

Denis McDonough



Remember John Wilhelm

"Does anyone remember the Medic, Spec 5, John Lester Wilhelm ? He was 44 years old when he was KIA on 1/21/67. He got to the Mech on December 5th."

Denis McDonough

Dirty Stinky Clothes

"Recon! Did any of you guys ever wash your only dirty sweaty stinky fatigues in a dirty stinky stream ?



Recon 67-68

Eusevio Alvarado

Lee Russ KIA

"Billy Brown informed me that Lee Russ, in the picture below, is buried at Macedonia Cemetery in Columbia County, Arkansas.... James Flickinger, Glendell Morgan and Chester Jordan were the other Bobcats KIA on the 12 track. I was wounded a week



earlier, or I would have been on that track with them."

Denis McDonough

*Do you have a
Vietnam Picture of Walter Type
KIA 4/27/66 - B Co.*

Back in July 2013 Betty Jane Lannham, the sister of Walter John Type

posted this request on our Facebook page:

My dream is to find someone who has a picture of my brother in 'Nam. I know it may never come to fruition, but if anyone can make it happen, it's my friend Denis McDonough. Denis, all that you do to honor and remember the veterans will be forever appreciated."

She still does not have a picture of her brother taken in Vietnam. If you knew Walter or served with him please



search your pictures to see if you have one. Walter spent only 12 days in Vietnam before he was killed.

Betty Jane Lannham is an Associate member of our Association and she can be contacted at:

kollector53@yahoo.com
or 904-259-7847

Fred Deverse

NOVEL BY PAUL MOIR

"I've written my first novel, it's in the hands of a publishing company that will have the book on shelves this September.

The Most Beautiful Women in the World is a story about twins that grow up on a Missouri dairy farm, one is chosen to be a teen model and is whisked off to NY, NY to become a super model, her sister being left behind has an inherent resentment toward her sister which leads her into a dark world that threatens not only her lifestyle but the lifestyle of her now famous sister. This leads the two sisters on an adventure that takes them all over the world into events that are, at times, life threatening."

1-5th INFANTRY - ARCTIC BOBCATS - FT WAINWRIGHT AK



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
1ST BATTALION, 5TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
3214 SANTIAGO AVENUE
FORT WAINWRIGHT AK 99703-8000

March 26, 2014

Fellow Bobcats,

I hope that the first few weeks of spring find you as happy and as healthy as the Soldiers of 1-5 IN. As our Alaskan winter nears its end, temperatures are reaching 40 degrees and our thick blanket of snow is beginning to dwindle. Bobcat Soldiers are eagerly anticipating the coming summer and, no doubt, look forward to the pleasant weather, endless daylight, and myriad opportunities for outdoor recreation Alaska provides.

Over the past several months, the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment have been extremely busy training to increase their proficiency in the individual and collective tasks required to deploy our Battalion across the globe at a moment's notice. In February, the Battalion staff traveled to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California to take part in a rotation of the Enhanced Leader Training Program. This exercise served to refine and test the staff's ability to run Battalion-level operations. By the conclusion of the mission, the staff had identified many new tactics, techniques, and procedures to use in future operations.

The Battalion spent the majority of March at the Yukon Training Area, located 20 miles south of Fort Wainwright. All vehicle crews were run through Stryker gunnery, while the remainder of the Soldiers rehearsed and refined their room clearing techniques as part of a squad-level situational training exercise. The Soldiers did extremely well as each Stryker crew was able to earn its live-fire qualification and take part in a section-level gunnery exercise and each Infantry squad was able to build cohesion, confidence, and proficiency.

Throughout the harsh winter months, the Battalion was able to maximize opportunities to train on the specialized skill-set needed to operate in an Arctic environment. With the multitude of highly trained, Arctic Tough leaders in our formation, we were able to conduct extended field training exercises in temperatures as cold as -50 degrees. To do this safely requires not just extensive training and experience, but also extremely tough and resilient Soldiers.

The Bobcats prove daily that they can be counted among the very best Soldiers in today's Army. Our Bobcat Combatives Team continues to dominate the competition at local Brazilian Jujitsu tournaments and has won dozens of medals throughout the season. CPT Andrew DaRonco, the commander of Bravo Company, recently broke his own Alaska state record for deadlift. The commander of HHC, CPT Cody Grimm, received the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award, a distinction awarded to only a select few of the top company-grade officers across the Army. In February, CPL Joshua Knight graduated from Ranger School, making him the only Ranger-qualified E-4 on Fort Wainwright. These are but a few examples of the amazing things happening in the Battalion. I am extremely proud to lead such an amazing group of Soldiers, NCOs, and Officers.

Jason A. Wesbrock

Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Brigade training emphasizes coordination, planning

Staff Sgt. Mylinda DuRousseau, 1/25th SBCT PAO "Alaska Post" 21 MAR 14

A lot of training is involved in developing Army leaders. Many newly-commissioned fires Army officers have a lot to learn and are often not presented with an opportunity to simultaneously integrate the multiple fires support platforms along with the additional enabling components in a maneuver company, an issue Maj. Matthew Hammons, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division Brigade fires support officer, hopes to address head-on with a Digital Fires Support Coordination exercise.

"My goal is that they walk away with an appreciation of how to plan so that they integrate their fires support assets and capabilities," said Hammons.

The program includes representatives from multiple units to advise each company on the implementation and application of their assets in order to achieve the brigade commander's intent.

Pilots, field artillery, electronic warfare, mortars and Joint Tactical Air Controllers use a Virtual Battle Space Simulation System workstation during the simulation to engage targets in support of the company participating in the exercise.

"We have junior Soldiers; we have junior officers (participating). It has really been great for those younger guys to figure out how to work these systems and how every part helps the other part," said Hammons.

One of those young Soldiers, **Pfc. Josh Caprarello**, a forward observer with B. Co. 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, participated in the DFSCE for the first time last year, almost immediately after completing his advanced individual training.

"It threw me into a new experience and helped me get a running start on my job and what I should know," said Caprarello who is participating in the training again this year.

Over the three-day training the company commander, platoon leaders, fire support officer and company fire support team work together to develop a plan and execute a company mission. The plan is executed on the third day using the V2VBS2.

The simulator allows the maneuvering of formations and engagement of targets with direct fire, indirect fire, fixed wing aircraft and rotary-wing aircraft.

"It's not often that you're able to plan and coordinate so many resources at one time and utilize them on the battlefield simultaneously," said **Lt. Ruben Morris**, 1st platoon team leader, B Company, 1-5th. "The higher you go up (in position) the more planning considerations you have to take in and the more you have to factor in to your plan.

Going forward as platoon leader to company commander and on the brigade staff, it gives you a very realistic idea of how to utilize those assets on the battlefield."

Hammons said having young leaders participate in the exercise will enable them to see the systems used to their fullest capabilities and they will be able to carry it forward with them throughout their career.

"We continue to grow next month, next year's leaders; this is just another way to do that but the beauty of this particular exercise is that early on in these leaders careers their seeing how these things can and should be integrated to make the most synergistic, most coherent fight possible," Hammons said. "Fires support is only as good as maneuvers Soldiers who are out there executing - they should not be anywhere separate in planning or in execution, that's what we're trying to teach."



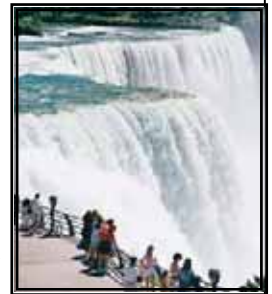
Soldiers recognized

"Members of The Sergeant Murphy Clubs Farthest North Chapter presented certificates to 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division Soldiers, Sgt. Ryan Schwartz (left center), 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, and Pvt. Mark Harrison (right center), 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, during the Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Quarter recognition luncheon. Soldier of the Quarter, Harrison, joined the Army in February 2013 and became an infantryman. He won his battalion's Soldier of the Month and Soldier of the Quarter competitions, as well as the 1-25th SBCT Soldier of the Quarter competition. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Intelligence Studies with a focus on counter-terrorism from the American Military University." (Photo by Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO)"

*From the 17 JAN 14 Alaska Post

2014 Reunion - Niagara Fall

"Just an FYI to all the Bobcats and their spouses or significant others who plan to attend the reunion next July in Niagara Falls, NY.... We will be having our Memorial Service at Lundy's Lane on the Canadian side and you will need a passport to attend the service. If you



don't have one, apply and get it taken care of. If you have an expired one, get it renewed. If you have one, check the expiration date and make sure it will be good through the end of July, 2014.

This message was brought to you by someone who wants everyone to be there next year and be able to go to Canada with the group to attend this eventful Memorial Service."

Carolyn Visage - Kethcart
Reunion Coordinator

2-5th INFANTRY - 3rd BRIGADE/1st ARMORED DIV - FT BLISS TX

Message from Bobcat 6 & Bobcat 7

As we write this, the Bobcats of 2-5 Infantry are about to pass the milestone of 100 days in combat. For those of us that have deployed a few times in the last 13 years, this is the period when a unit makes most of its mistakes as it

“watching our six.” Whether sending packages, well wishes on Facebook, or simply remembering us in your prayers, every little bit contributes to the team effort here. We are also extremely proud that on the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Lundy’s Lane and the utterance of “I’ll Try, Sir” that the Bobcats of 2-5 Infantry will have the privilege of being in harm’s way and continuing to defend our way of life. Thanks again for all that you do.

“I’ll Try, Sir.”

*LTC Brady and
CSM Barreras*



Demon 3rd Platoon on Patrol in a local village

learns its area of operations and the enemy’s latest tactics. We’re proud to say that the aggressiveness displayed during our first 100 days by your current crop of Bobcats has established a reputation here in Afghanistan that continues the exemplary lineage of our regiment.

During our first major enemy engagement, our higher headquarters was amazed by the number of enemy we killed by an assault reminiscent of tenacity displayed by COL Miller’s men almost 200 years ago. In our area of operations, we’ve also been impressed by our brothers in the Afghan Army that are fighting alongside of us. They continue to get better as an army and their junior leaders are displaying great initiative on the battlefield. We are helping to provide the time and space they need to continue their improvement as an institution.

We’ve still got a long way to go on this deployment, but one thing is for sure, the support shown to us by almost every member of the 5th Infantry Regiment Association has been truly amazing. It means the world to every one of our Bobcats to know that you are

Combat Patch.

During the ceremony, the distinctive insignia of the 1st Armored Division was explained in detail so that all Soldiers could appreciate the proud traditions and lineage with which they are forever linked. The high sense of pride was easily recognizable in each Soldier’s face as the design of the 1st AD SSI was explained during the ceremony. The Battalion leadership presented the Soldiers with their individual patches, congratulating each of them on their achievement as part of the



SPC Bravo receiving his 1AD SSI-FWTS

Combat Award Ceremony

On 17 January 2014, Bobcat Soldiers conducted a ceremony to present the 1st Armored Division Shoulder Sleeve Insignia-Former Wartime Service (SSI-FWTS) and Combat Service Identification Badges (CSIB) to those Soldiers who had earned them. For those Bobcats for whom this was their first deployment or for whom this was their first deployment with the 1st Armored Division, earned the right to wear the SSI-FWTS or also known as a



CPT Morris receiving his 1AD SSI-FWTS

Bobcat Battalion, the Bulldog Brigade, and the Old Ironsides Division. Also among those who earned the SSI-FWTS, some Bobcat Soldiers were presented their Combat Infantry, Combat Medical and Combat Action Badges for their brave actions in combat.

LTC Ed Brady, Battalion Commander and CSM Martin “Gunny” Barreras closed the ceremony with a motivating speech, relaying how each and every Soldier standing in formation was hand selected for this mission, potentially serving as one of the last Army units in Afghanistan.

Combined Joint Task Force at TF Bobcat

Task Force Bobcat has greatly benefited from being a part of a Combined Joint Task Force while deployed to Shindand Air Base (SAB). The attachment of Italians (SECSAB – ITA-COY) and Air Force (TF Defender) has allowed TF Bobcat to expand in

the mission of defending SAB. Both units provide force protection for the base inte-



rior, which allows TF Bobcat to expand and assist surrounding villages. The Italian company and Air Force attachments have been very effective liaisons, which allow information and supplies to move more efficiently to support TF Bobcat. Most recently, TF Bobcat welcomed the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force (METF),



who will be taking the reins from the Italians and Air Force and continuing the excellent joint relationship with TF Bobcat. LTC Brady, CSM Barreras, and the rest of TF Bobcat thank the Italians and the Air Force for their contributions and look forward to working with the Mongolians.

53 New Active Duty Members from the 2/5th

We received 53 new members who are from the 2nd battalion 5th Infantry which is presently located in Afghanistan.

We received the list of members along with a check paying their dues for one year. We did not receive home mailing addresses but did receive E-mail addresses. Since we can't mail them a newsletter without a mailing address and we have their E-mail address we decided to electronically E-mail them their copy of the newsletter. In order to make it fair they will receive

a two year membership.

Since most of our members are getting "old" we are hoping that many of these active duty members will remain a member for a long time and infuse some "new blood" into the Association.

The new 2/5th member are:

ASTORGA, 1SG SESILIO
BACA, 1LT JOSEPH
BARRERAS, CSM MARTIN
BLANTON, 1LT CARL
BRADY, LTC EDWARD
BRUTSCHE, 2LT MAXWELL
BUCHANAN, 1LT DINO
BUSHONG, 2LT BRENT

CARR, 1LT BRIAN
CUCINOTTA, 2LT MITCHELL
DAVIS, 1LT STUART
DODGEN, 1LT GARRETT
FIELD, 2LT AUSTIN
FOX, SFC (P) REGGIE
GLASBRENNER, 1LT EMMETT
GREENBERG, 1LT DENNIS
HARNES, CPT MARCUS
HATCH, 1LT KRISTAN
HAYES, CPT JOCELYN
HERBISON, 2LT AVERY
HUISS, 1LT JOSHUA
JAKUBIEC, 1LT DAVID
JAMES, 1LT RYAN
KIM, CPT YOUNG
LAWBURGH, CPT DAVID
LAWLESS, 2LT AARON
LEARY, LT HARRISON
LILGA, 1LT AARON
LLANEZ, 1SG CEASAR
LOPEZ, 2LT FABIAN
MARTIN, 1LT SEAN
MATTHEWS, 1LT JOHN
McCANTS, 1SG ERIC
McCOY, 2LT BRYAN
McKAY, 1SG CHARLES
MEINJUEIRO, 2LT JOSE
MILLER, 1LT JONATHAN
MORRIS, CPT ZACHARY
NEUKIRCHEN, 2LT ZACH
PAGE, 1LT BRIAN
PIZZO, 2LT CHRISTOPHER
RITTER, 2LT TIMOTHY
ROGOWSKI, CPT NATHAN
SHERIDAN, CPT JOHN
SMITH, 2LT JUSTIN
STENBERG, CPT ADAM
TOHOLSKY, 2LT PRESTON
URRUTIA, CPT JESUS
VAN VELZER, 1LT DONALD
VANDEBURGH, 1LT NICHOLAS
VANDYKE, 2LT MICHAEL
WALDEN, CPT MARK
WELTER, CPT RONALD



Ten More Streamers For Our Regimental Flag




"I was tasked, at the Bobcat's June board meeting, to identify those campaign and awards streamers that have been garnered by our two active battalions during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in order to bring our set of streamers up to date. Since then I've completed an online search, contacted the current battalion commanders and conferred with Jennifer Nichols at the U.S. Army Center of Military History. The results are attached. We will need to purchase six campaign streamers and four unit award streamers. I've written the appropriate inscriptions in capital letters and have included the qualifying battalion in parentheses. The streamers depicted on the attachment are just general examples of those that we will need to order. I believe that these campaign streamers supersede (old Army word) those two generic Iraq and Afghanistan ribbons that we currently display. Perhaps Fred can advise us where to go from here. There seem to be several companies that embroider and sell these items."

Sam Kier



**Your Association's Board of Directors has voted to purchase these "Campaign and Award Streamers".*

5th Infantry Regiment
Campaign and Awards Streamers, 2004-2013

A. Campaign Streamers

1. Global War on Terrorism – represents the 5th Infantry's two deployments to Iraq and four (including the current one) to Afghanistan.

2. Afghanistan campaign – Inscribe: CONSOLIDATION I 2004-2005 – (2nd Bn, Oruzgan Province)

3. Iraq campaign – Inscribe: IRAQI GOVERNANCE 2004-2005 – (1st Bn, Nineveh Province)

4. Iraq campaign – Inscribe: IRAQI SURGE 2008 – (1st Bn, Diyala Province)
5. Iraq Campaign – Inscribe: IRAQI SOVEREIGNTY 2009 – (1st Bn, Diyala Province)
6. Afghanistan campaign – Inscribe: TRANSITION I 2011-2012 – (2nd Bn, Wardak Province and 1st Bn, Kandahar Province)

B. Unit Award Streamers

1. Valorous Unit Award – Inscribe: NINEVEH PROVINCE 2005 – (1st Bn, Mosul, Iraq)

2. Meritorious Unit Commendation – Inscribe: AFGHANISTAN 2004-2005 – (2nd Bn, Oruzgan Province).

3. Meritorious Unit Commendation – Inscribe: IRAQ 2008-2009 – (1st Bn, Diyala Province)
4. Meritorious Unit Commendation – Inscribe: AFGHANISTAN 2011-2012 – (2nd Bn, Wardak Province)

Our Historian At Work

**In the E-mail below dated 14 JAN 14 Sam Kier is writing to C. Douglas Sterner, Curator, Military Times Hall of Valor who had sent Sam a list of 5th RCT guys who had received awards.*

Doug,

"For example, the list does not include my late friend, LT James W. Evans, who commanded Company A, 5th RCT on Outpost Harry on the night of 12-13 June, 1953 and those of his subordinates. Colonel Wheeler told Jim that he put him in for the DSC but that it was apparently downgraded by some rear echelon functionary.

The following men from Company A received awards related to that engagement:

1LT James W. Evans, Silver Star, G.O. No. 819, HQ 8th U.S. Army (so apparently COL Wheeler's recommendation was bucked up to army headquarters where it was denied)

1LT Delbert F. Tolen, Silver Star, G.O. No. 222, HQ 3rd Inf Div
CPL John M. Ross, Silver Star, G.O. No. 383, HQS, 3rd Inf Div

PFC Joseph M. Gallo, Silver Star, G.O. No. 222, HQS, 3rd Inf Div
SGT Arlie Hall, Silver Star, citation not found

LT William F. Bradbury Jr., Silver Star, citation not found

PVT Alonzo Nero, Bronze Star w/ V Device, citation not found

PFC David H. Gulbraa, Co. D, Bronze Star w/ V Device, G.O No 282, Hqs 3rd Inf Div

I believe that you don't include bronze stars w/valor on your website, but Evans through Bradbury should be on there if the two missing citations can be located.

Company A, two machine gun sections from Company D, and the FO team from the 555th FAB received the Distinguished Unit Citation for defending Outpost Harry."

Thank you,

Sam Kier

Historian, 5th INF REG Association

1962 Bobcat Baseball Team

Signed Baseball

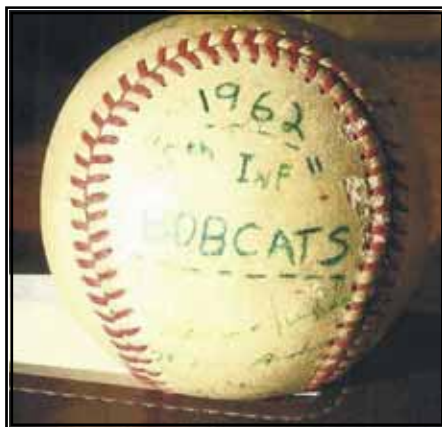
18 FEB 14

"Hi, I have a team signed baseball from the 1962 Bobcats 5th Infantry. Most names are readable. I was wondering if anyone was interested in this baseball to maybe put in a showcase or something. I acquired it at an estate here in north Florida, and would like to donate it..... I am retired Navy, and I know this must have sentimental value to the 5th infantry, or any team member/family member of the 1962 Bobcats. Thanks, and take care."

Doug Pribyl

Hello, Doug,

"Thank you for contacting us. I would very much like to add that base-



ball to our collection of historical artifacts. I'm the historian for the 5th Infantry Regiment Association and, until we have a permanent exhibit arrangement with an army museum, I have been the custodian of several historical items. They go on display at our annual reunions. Just a little history – when the 5th Infantry returned home to Ft. Lewis, WA, from Korea, in 1954, the regiment was able to revive its baseball team. I was there, as a PVT E-2, and I remember envying the ball players because they didn't have to turn out for morning formations and were exempt from KP and guard duty.

In the late 50's, when the regiment was stationed in Germany, the baseball team adopted the name "5th Infantry

Bobcats." By the early 60's the Bobcat nickname had generalized from the baseball team to all members of the regiment. On behalf of the 5th Infantry Bobcats, I thank you. I will be glad to reimburse your mailing costs."

Sam Kier

7 MAR 14

Dear Eddie,

"I'm the historian for the 5th Infantry Regiment Assn. This morning I received a baseball, in the mail, that was signed by the 5th Infantry Bobcats baseball team of 1962. It had been purchased at an estate sale in Florida by a retired Air Force officer. He donated it to our association. The signatures on the ball are fading and were probably borderline legible when the team signed the ball. Were you assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battle Group, 5th Infantry in that spring of 1962 at Ft. Riley?

I know it's a long shot but these were the names as best as I could determine: Dinky Fine, Jack Cantrell, Ellswood _____, William Andrews, L. Chule, Fred _____, Bruce Quagle, Moose Casper, Don Pressel, R. Macy, Virgil Cook, W.C. Kay, Larry Elias, Wayne Lucas, Wilberto Dominguez, Jr., LT Bey Benzinger, "The Kid" Testa. Do any of these names ring a bell? Do you recall the correct spelling for those name fragments that I've included? Do you happen to have a year book for 1962 that would give us this information?

Do you happen to know if the team was any good in 1962? I wouldn't blame you if you can remember nothing about the baseball team? When the 5th RCT got home from Korea in the fall of 1954, the baseball team was re-established. The players lived in a barracks a couple of doors down from mine in Headquarters & Headquarters Company. I remember resenting them because they were exempt from KP and guard duty and I didn't really get to know them. They slept in while we stood morning formations."

Sam Kier

(See "Invade Cuba" on page 22)

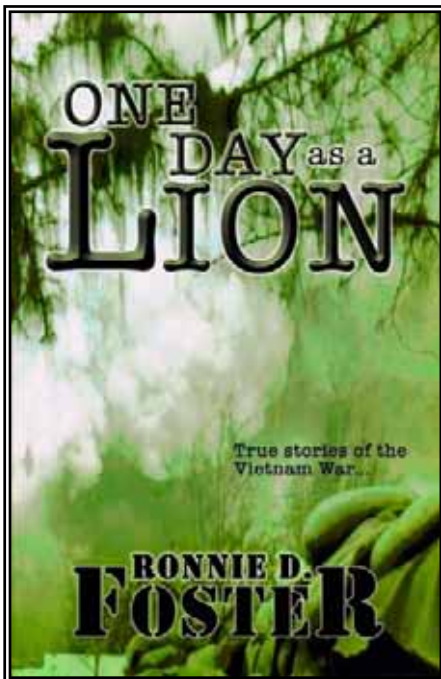
(Members from page 6)

Texas. The 21 pages are about Jerry. RD Foster includes some of the history of the 5th Infantry Regiment and de-



tails about the action in which Jerry was killed.

Many of our members to include



Paul Moir, Randy Kethcart, John Snodgrass, Eusevio Alvarado, MG-R Andy Anderson and Tom Frame are mentioned or quoted in the book.

Fred Deverse

Purple Heart

When James Ferreri joined our association he sent a copy of the orders that awarded him a Purple Heart. Also listed on that set of orders were the following Bobcats who were also awarded a Purple Heart.

B Company

Bennett, Robert - 3rd award
Thompson, Daniel Jr. - 2nd award
Lewis, Christopher

HHC

Franklin, Joseph E.

A Company

Dickie, James A.
Bartlett, Dennis L.
Lewis, Christopher
Honsinger, Timothy L.
Becerra, David R.
Bond, Bobby C.
Baruzzi, Marco J.

curious about the tag. I asked him "Were you in Vietnam and secondly were you a Bobcat?".

He told me that he was in Vietnam in 1964 but that he didn't know about any Bobcats because he was in military intelligence.

He stated that he was Bob and his wife's name was Cat. What a letdown but what a hoot at the same time..

All said the tag spurred me to remember my Bobcat comrades and I got the opportunity to meet another Vietnam veteran.

Please feel free to use this photo and story in any way you would like. Alter the story if you think it is necessary."

L Mac Pusey

Randall W. Arbogast

KIA 31 May 67
Valley Head WV

"Just got off the phone with Kaleen Arbogast, sister of Randall. I found her through the obits for Randall's parents on "Find A Grave". She lives in Oswego NY. I told her about the reunion in Niagara Falls in July. She's about 3 hours away. She told me that Randall was burnt by a phosperous grenade on may 2nd of 67, and died in San Antonio hospital on May 31st. . She is going to send me a picture of him in uniform."

Denis McDonough

When Is A Bobcat a Bobcat?

Hi Fred,

"I was wasting some time at a local shopping center the other day, when I came across this Toyota with the tag that you can clearly see is Bobcat 1. I looked around immediately to see if I could find the car's owner. There was no one around. After waiting about ten minutes I decided my effort to find the owner was fruitless so I left. After getting about a mile down the road the Bobcat tag began to play on my mind. I realized that I still had some time left before I had to pick up my grandchildren from school.

Upon returning to the parking lot I cruised around the lot and finally saw an older gentleman about my age with a limp exit the Michael's Craft Store that you can see in the top left of the photograph. I pulled up alongside the curb next to the man, rolled my window down, and said "Excuse me sir is that black Toyota by any chance yours?"

He replied "Actually it's my wife's and I really hope you or someone else hasn't put a ding in it."

I told him no, no dings, but I'm

Presidential Unit Citation Commemorative Medal

23 FEB 14

Sir

"Any knowledge of this award? Thanks!"

Lt. Dan Curran

Dan asked Robert Wood this question and Bob didn't know the answer so he referred the question to Sam, our Historian.

"Apparently, the PUC Commemorative Medal is not the same thing as the PUC award. The ribbon is visually

different. Instead of a solid navy blue bar in a brass frame, the navy blue Commemorative Medal ribbon has gold stripes on the ends and is frameless. It came along in 2004 to honor all US military personnel who were assigned to units that were awarded the US PUC during any period of service. In our case, it would still be in-



tended for those men who served with 1st Bn, 5th Mech during the period 18 Aug -20 Sep 1968 or to 3rd and 1st Battalions in Korea for the engagements at Bloody Gulch and OP Harry. It seems to be just another way of honoring the same warriors and the same event. There are a number of other "Commemorative" medals. They often honor a particular event like D-Day or the Battle of the Bulge, irrespective of units, and have little or no relation to the Distinguished Unit Citation (Korean War) or Presidential Unit Citation (Vietnam to present.)

That's my take on it, anyway."

Sam Kier

"If you hear of someone who is speaking ill of you, instead of trying to defend yourself, you should say: 'He obviously does not know me very well, since there are so many other faults he could have mentioned.'"

(Roster from page 4)

a long time. Now God has welcomed her to heaven!"

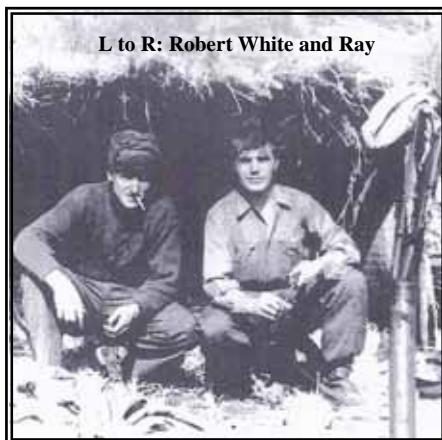
Gary Young

Warner, Raymond - Died 9 FEB 14 - G Co. 5th RCT 1950-51 from Port Crane NY -
*Information provided by Paul Garland

Farewell to Prominent 5th RCT Vet

"Raymond J. Warner of Port Crane, New York died on February 9, 2014. Ray Warner was the 5th RCT Association's equivalent of our 5th Infantry Association's Denis McDonough. The Korean War casualty lists on our Bobcat website are based on lists that Ray compiled and maintained while serving as membership chairman for the 5th RCT Assn.

Ray was born and raised in Binghamton, New York. He entered the



Army shortly after World War II and served with the 524th M.P. Battalion in Austria and Germany. When the Korean War broke out, he was in Hawaii and assigned to Company G, 5th RCT. Ray was wounded during the so-called "Home by Christmas" Offensive in November 1950 but recovered in time to experience one of the darkest days in 5th Infantry history; the day that 1st and 2nd Battalions were caught in an ambush near Pisi-gol and the combat team lost 23 KIA, 340 WIA and 291 missing in action. This encounter, generally referred to as "Death Valley" occurred on 25 April 1951. CPL Warner, with a small band of stragglers, was able to slip through to safety.

Ray was retired from a career as a letter carrier with U.S. Postal Service. He was a life member and past commander of American Legion Post 1596 and a life member of VFW Post 478. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal with five Battle Stars, the U.N. Service Medal, the CIB, the NDSM and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation. He was a member of the infantry honor society, the Order of St. Maurice. At the time of his death, Ray was serving as vice-president of the 5th RCT Association and was slated to assume the presidency in May of this year.

Ray was preceded in death by Dawn Warner, his wife of 52 years. He is survived by his daughter, Rae Marie Warner, seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

From all reports, Ray was the king of karaoke in northern New York State. He met a lot of people while enjoying this pastime. Ray Warner was devoted to his 5th RCT brothers in arms and worked hard to help all of us remember the fallen. He lived a good life."

Sam Kier,

Historian, (5th INF REG ASSN)

Thrush, Ralph G. -From Mechanic

burg PA died on 27 DEC 13. Ralph served with the 555th FA Bn and was captured on 14 July 1953 and returned to military control on 24 August 1953.

Fred,

"When I read this announcement and looked at the capture and release dates (14 JUL 53 – 24 AUG 53) for this young Pennsylvanian, my first thought was that someone had made an error since the date of capture was just 13 days before the truce took effect and the 5th RCT was in the X Corps reserve area near Inje. But then I remembered that the 555th FAB had remained on the line, south of Kumsong, to support the Capital ROK Division. For some reason, with peace almost at hand, the Chinese decided to launch an attack. The ROK Division packed up and ran leaving the 555th without infantry support. After firing point blank at the attacking Chinese, the gunners threw magnesium grenades into their 105mm howitzers, to render them inoperable,

(See Roster on page 24)

(Continued from page 1)

Niagara Falls, New York July 22nd - 27th 2014

Hotel: **Days Inn at the Falls**
433 Main Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14301



Rates ** :

TUE 22 JUL - THU 24 JUL
2 Queens \$95

FRI JUL 25 - SAT JUL 26
2 Queens \$135

*Average price for 5 nights \$111 plus
Taxes*

(Free Parking)

Room Reservations must be made by
June 22, 2014

*\$95 rate applies 2 days before and 3
days after the reunion dates.*

For reservations, call the hotel direct
number: (716)-284-8801 and identify
yourself as "5th Infantry Regiment
Association" or "Bobcats"

Schedule

Hospitality Room: July 22-27 (no fee)
You can bring in snacks, non and alco-
holic beverages.

Tuesday July 22

4 pm Board Meeting

Wednesday July 23

Explore the Niagara Wine Trail

10 am – 5 pm \$70 per person

This tour will begin with a tasting
at Vizcarra Vineyards featuring red,
white and fruit wines grown, produced,

and bottled at Becker Farms. The facili-
ty also features the Becker Brewing
Company and a farm market.

Following the tasting you will
enjoy a barbecue lunch featuring sea-
sonal green salad, petit red potatoes
with fresh parsley from the garden,
Becker Farms BBQ Chicken, macaroni
salad, soft drinks, and
cookies.

Then it's off to
Schulze Vineyards and
winery to taste their
award-winning whites
and sparkling wines.
The next stop will be
Eveningside Vineyards
followed by another
tasting at Freedom
Run. All wineries visit-
ed are locally owned
and operated and offer
unique shopping op-
portunities at their re-

spective gift shops.

This tour includes deluxe coach
transportation, tastings at four wineries,
lunch including meal gratuity and tax-
es, and services of a driver and a step-
on guide.

Thursday July 24

**Lockport Locks / Erie Canal Cruise w/
Old Fort Niagara**

9 am – 4 pm \$85 per person

Take a leisurely and informative
two hour cruise on the Erie Canal while
traversing the only set of double locks
on the canal. Next you will enjoy a
delicious buffet lunch at Erie Canal
side overlooking the canal. Following
lunch you will journey along the shore
of Lake Erie on the way to Old Fort
Niagara where 300 years of history will
unfold before you. Built in the 1700's,
the fort has been under French, British,
and American control and played a
major role in the War of 1812.

This tour includes deluxe coach
transportation, two hour canal and
locks cruise, buffet lunch including
meal gratuity and taxes, admission and
tour at Fort Niagara, and services of
driver and a step-on guide.

Friday July 25

Memorial Service - The Lundy's
Lane, Drummond Hill Cemetery
3:30 PM - 10:30 PM Charge (depends

on dinner option) - Donations Wel-
come

Passport or Passport Card required & mandatory for border crossings

To apply for a Passport or Passport
Card (a less expensive alternative to a
Passport) go to:

[http://travel.state.gov/passport/
ppt_card/ppt_card_3926.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/ppt_card/ppt_card_3926.html)

Schedule of Events: (tentative)

4:30 - 5 pm Start of Memorial Service
(depending on time it takes to cross the
border)
6:00 pm (Subway dinner- See page 21)
7:30 pm Lundy's Lane Ceremony 200
year celebration begins
8:45 pm Wreath Laying Ceremony
9:00 pm Board buses for the night
viewing of Niagara Falls
10 - 10:30 pm Approximate return to
hotel

Saturday July 26

9:00 am: **Ladies Breakfast** in Banquet
Room \$14.50 per person
9:00 am: **General membership meet-
ing** in the Hospitality Room
10:30 am: Fraggging in Hospitality
Room (following the meeting)
6:00 pm: **Cocktails Hour** (cash bar)
7:00 pm: **Dinner Banquet**
1. New York Strip Steak \$35
2. Chicken Marsala \$30 or
3. Broiled Salmon \$30.

*All entrees include Salad, Rolls, Butter,
Potato, Vegetable, and Desert.*

Cash Bar and Auction to follow Ban-
quet.

Discovery Pass \$33

This can be used in any of your
open time. It includes the following
attractions Maid of the Mist, Cave of
the Winds, Niagara Adventure Thea-
ter, Aquarium of Niagara, Niagara
Gorge Discovery Center, as well as a
day of unlimited rides on the trolley
that will take you through the park to
include Goat Island, Luna Island, Ter-
rapin Point and Three Sister's Island.

**Important Reunion Infor-
mation in pink (gray on paper
copy) on Page 22**

Registration Form

Bobcat Niagara Falls Reunion

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-mail: _____

Number attending _____ Date arriving _____

	Number	Cost
Registration fee - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple		
WED 23 July - Niagara Wine Tour - \$70 Per person		
THU 24 July - Erie Canal Cruise & Old FT Niagara Tour - \$85 Per person		
FRI 25 July - Memorial Service Subway Dinner - \$7.50 (From Form on Right)		
SAT 26 July - Ladies Breakfast - \$14.50		
SAT 26 July - Bobcat Banquet		
1. Broiled Salmon - \$30		
2. Chicken Marsala - \$30		
3. 10oz New York Strip - \$35		
Discovery Pass Adults - \$33		
Discovery Pass Children Ages 6 to 12 - \$26 (Under 5 free)		
Reunion Donation (Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.)		
TOTAL		
I/we plan to attend Friday's Memorial Service (Passport Required)	#	No Cost

Make check payable to 5th Infantry Association and mail to:

Carolyn Kethcart
16054 Pine Drive
Tinley Park IL 60477

Memorial Service "Subway" Dinner Selection

Make a choice below and add the cost to "Registration Form" on the left.

FRI 27 JUL - Memorial Service "Subway" Dinner - \$7.50 each - Circle below your choice of Sub, Chips, Cookie and Drink (**Circle your choice in each category below**)

Name: _____

Sub: Roast Beef - Turkey - Ham

Bread: Italian - 9 Grain Wheat

Chips: Baked Lays Crisps- Doritos Nacho's Cheese - Potato Chips

Drink: Coke - Diet Coke - Sprite - Dasani Water

Cookie: Chocolate Chip - M&M - White Chocolate Macadamia Nut

2nd Person's choice

Name: _____

Sub: Roast Beef - Turkey - Ham

Bread: Italian - 9 Grain Wheat

Chips: Baked Lays Crisps - Doritos Nacho's Cheese - Potato Chips

Drink: Coke - Diet Coke - Sprite - Dasani Water

Cookie: Chocolate Chip - M&M - White Chocolate Macadamia Nut

2014 Memorial Service

Our Memorial Service at the Niagara Falls Reunion will be held at Lundy's Lane pictured below.



Hotel Rooms Almost Gone

18 DEC 13

"Great news regarding the Niagara Falls reunion. We have 126 people registered The bad news is this hotel is filling up fast and we do not have a back up hotel for over flow. We have 19 people registered with the association that have not reserved a room. I highly suggest you do not procrastinate. If you are attending or think you may attend call the hotel and reserve now. We pro-

ject with the early registration that we will top the 150 mark for this reunion. Many of the regular attendees still are not reserved. The cost to stay at another hotel will be very pricey and inconvenient. I repeat this is the peak Niagara Falls season. Please do NOT delay in reserving or you may find rooms sold out, as there are only 20 rooms left of our promised block for Friday and Saturday night left. Call (716)-284-8801 today"

Randy Kethcart

(Invade Cuba from page 17)

5th Prepares to Invade Cuba

Fred,

Douglas Pribyl, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, sent me a baseball signed by the members of the 1962 5th Infantry Bobcats baseball team. Doug, an Air Force retiree, purchased the ball at an estate sale, and donated it to us for our slowly growing collection of historical artifacts. Most of the signatures are fading and semi-legible, at best, so I'm trying to find out more about those 1962 Bobcat ball players. Two days ago I talked to Eddie Vass of Moore, OK, who is, I believe, our only association member that served with that 1st Battle Group, 5th Infantry, at Ft. Riley. Eddie reported to 1st BG/5 of the 1st Infantry Division in March 1962, right after basic training at Ft. Carson. He arrived just in time for a long period in the field preparing for a field exercise labeled FTX "Red Arrow", so he was unaware that the Bobcats even had a baseball team.

You kids may recall that in October, 1962, after negotiations failed with the Soviets, President Kennedy announced plans to blockade Cuba, unless Mr. Khrushchev withdrew his ballistic missiles from Cuban soil. Unbeknownst to most Americans, a plan to invade Cuba had been in the works for some time as a follow-up to the Bay of Pigs debacle. When the president informed the public that a "quarantine" of shipping to Cuba was to commence immediately, the 1st Division's signal battalion deployed forward to Florida and readied communications for the assault. According to Eddie Vass, his 5th Infantry boarded deuce-and-a-half trucks and moved to an assembly area to prepare for "hitting the beach." The 101st Airborne would spearhead the invasion. Fortunately, Soviet Premier Khrushchev blinked and the invasion force stood down. Neither of the two 1st Division histories on my bookshelf mention this moment in the life of the division. I would have no knowledge of it if I hadn't wanted to know more about a baseball.

In February, 1963, the men and assets of the 1st Battle Group, 5th Infantry, including Eddie Vass, became the 3rd Battalion, 26th Infantry and de-

ployed to Germany. The 2nd Battle Group, 21st Infantry at Schofield Barracks became 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. At that point, many of you know the rest of the story.

Sam Kier

Historical Artifact

Important Notice for Anyone Attending the SF Reunion

You need to:

Auction - Bring something of value for the auction. We are able to keep the costs/registration fee low because of the money we make from the auction. What you bring could be something related to the 5th Infantry, Army or non-military. But it should be something that you think someone else would be willing to bid/pay for. Help us - bring something!

Fragging - Andy Gimma does not know it but he is being fragged. His newsletter will say that it is Tom Frame.

Help make it a fun event by bringing a small/inexpensive gag type gift. It does not need to be wrapped. If you want just put it in a paper bag.

His interests are photography. A suggested type of gift related to this interests might be appropriate.

1st Platoon Cobra Company

Graduating from "CROW" training in Afghanistan.



All World War CIB & CMB Were Awarded the Bronze Star

If you read paragraph d (2) below you will see that every World War II soldier who was awarded a Combat Infantryman's Badge or a Combat Medic's badge was awarded a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service.

Korean War and Vietnam War Veterans experienced, in many cases, more days in combat and combat that was just as brutal as WW II infantryman. So why should they be discriminated against by not being also given a Bronze Star.

You can help Andy Anderson in his quest (See letter on page 23) to get a Bronze Star for Korean and Vietnam Veterans by contacting your congressman and senators and ask them to support this cause.

Fred Deverse

Bronze Star Medal

a. The Bronze Star Medal was established by Executive Order 9419, 4 February 1944....

b. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States after 6 December 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service,... in connection with military operations against an armed enemy;....

d. The Bronze Star Medal may be awarded for meritorious achievement or meritorious service according to the following:

(1) Awards may be made to recognize single acts of merit or meritorious service....

(2) Award may be made to each member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after 6 December 1941, has been cited in orders or awarded a certificate for exemplary conduct in ground combat against an armed enemy between 7 December 1941 and 2 September 1945, inclusive, or whose meritorious achievement has been otherwise confirmed by documents executed prior to 1 July 1947. For this purpose, an award of the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge is considered as a cita-



1 March 2014

General John F. Campbell, USA
Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
200 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0200

Dear General Campbell:

In view of the comprehensive review of military awards policy directed by Secretary of Defense Hagel, I am writing to ask you to champion a cause for which you are uniquely well positioned as a career infantryman with combat experience and your present senior Army leadership position. What I am suggesting is that, upon individual application, the Bronze Star Medal be awarded to soldiers who received the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge during the Korean War and the Vietnam War as it has been authorized since 1947 for those who earned the CIB or CMB in World War II.

By way of background, I am a veteran of 7 years of service as a military reservist, followed by 33 years of active duty, culminating in assignment from 1984-86 as commanding general of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command and Aberdeen Proving Ground. After retiring from the United States Army I served on the Talbot County (Md.) Council for eight years, and I remain active in local civic and military affairs.

The basis for the suggested action is simple fairness and equity. The Korean War is often called "the forgotten war," and I fear the Vietnam War is not far behind in this regard. In Vietnam I was commander of the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division until I was wounded in action and medically evacuated in October 1968, and in recent years I have been president of the 25th Infantry Division Association and honorary colonel of the 5th Infantry Regiment. I have also served as president of the Upper Eastern Shore Chapter of the Maryland Military Officers Association of America and as state commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. In all these ways I maintain close contact with many veterans whose honorable and valiant service in Korea and Vietnam was all-too-often overlooked by commanders and administrators who should have been more attentive to taking care of the troops. I believe this simple policy change would go a long way toward redressing this shortcoming in a way that would cost little in dollars but have boundless rewards in the gratitude and morale of those affected as well as to their families and communities.

Enclosed is an extract of the section of AR 600-8-22 (Military Awards) pertaining to the Bronze Star Medal, which in paragraph 3-ISd (2) says in part "Award may be made to each member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after 6 December 1941, has been cited in orders or awarded a certificate for exemplary conduct in ground combat against an armed enemy between 7 December 1941 and 2 September 1945, inclusive ... For this purpose, an award of the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge is considered as a citation in orders." Upon approval of the proposed policy, the mere addition of the beginning and ending dates of the Korean and Vietnam Wars would implement the new eligibility criteria.

Knowing of your noteworthy dedication to our service members and veterans, I urge you to endorse this proposal for approval by the Secretary of Defense. It could be a tough sell, but as a fellow former battalion commander in the 5th Infantry Regiment I would only recall our motto, "I'll try sir."

Sincerely,

Andrew H. Anderson

Enclosure

Andrew H. Anderson

OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

by Sam Kier

Last summer I renewed acquaintance with Don Shipman, a fellow with whom I served in the 5th RCT in 1954-55. Our e-mail exchanges have been devoted largely to bragging about our grandkids and to sharing who is reading what. Recently, though, we were discussing a group of recent West Point grads that joined the combat team in the early spring of 1954 when it was camped outside of Pusan, Korea, waiting for a ride home. Included among these young officers was a famous World War II general's son, Terry De La Mesa Allen, Jr. LTC Terry Allen died in October, 1967, along with fifty-seven members of his 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry during the battle of Ong Thanh. But I'll save that story for another day. At this time, I would like to honor another member of that group of West Pointers, 2LT Joseph F. Santilli Jr., with whom SGT Shipman worked in Headquarters, 1st Battalion.



It is my contention that not all noteworthy Bobcats earned their stripes (or bars) in combat. Hunter Liggett was an earlier example. (See *Bobcat Bulletin*, Fall 2011) That was also the case with Joseph Francis Santilli, Jr. from Hershey, Pennsylvania. Throughout history, the U.S. Army has profited greatly from the work of its analysts, teachers and writers. Don Shipman recalled that it was LT Santilli who taught him how to control his facial

expressions when being treated disrespectfully by a ranking officer; an important military skill. A stone-faced look doesn't reinforce the boorish CS behavior of the perpetrator.

Joe Santilli was born in Hershey Hospital, across the street from the famous candy factory, on 6 January 1930. Growing up, he was a very able student and was offered a football scholarship at Vanderbilt following graduation from high school. He chose, instead, to fulfill his army officer father's hope and enter the United States Military Academy. While there, he devoted his spare time to the track team, the French and Art Clubs, the Catholic Chapel Choir, and the student publication, *The Pointer*. In 1952, following graduation, Joe selected infantry and reported to Fort Benning, where he remained until he was shipped to Korea.

Between the wars in Korea and Vietnam, Joe completed an M.A. in French at Middlebury College and joined the Department of Foreign Languages at West Point. Then, in 1968, he was assigned to 1st Field Force Headquarters in Vietnam, a corps-level headquarters in the Central Highlands. After Vietnam and a two-year tour with the Fourth Army Intelligence School at Fort Sam Houston, Joe attended Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. He remained there for five more years as an instructor and doctrinal writer on the faculty. As the sole author of *FM 100-15, Larger Unit Operations: Echelons Above Division*, he displayed a profound tactical knowledge and the ability to clearly articulate complex ideas. His other papers and articles included: *The Division in the Defense*, a doctrinal concept paper, *Tactical Nuclear Doctrine*, and *NATO Strategy Updated: A First-Use Policy*.

Joe suffered a heart attack in 1977 that led to his retiring from the Army and relocating to Orlando, Florida. He worked with the Orange County Emergency Services for five years, designing and engineering the county's emergency operations center. He also worked for the Naval Training Systems Center, Orlando as a specifications writer and technical editor. Joe Santilli was nearing completion of an historical novel when he died on 18 June 1993.

He is buried at Sunset Hills Memorial Park in Bellevue, WA.

Joe is survived by his wife, Donna, and his five children. He lived to see two of his four sons graduate from the U.S. Military Academy.

(Roster from page 19)

and fought with small arms. After a ½ hour fire fight, the surviving members of the battalion closed station and fought their way to the rear. Just two weeks before fighting ended in Korea, Private Thrush became one of 275 casualties. Seventy-five of his buddies died that night."

Sam Kier

Garrett, Charles - Battery C, 555th FA Bn, Korea 1950 died 28 May 13 from Osceola, IA

Akerlind, Neal A. - 53d Counter Field Platoon, Korea 1952-53 died 6 JUL 13 from Northfield, MI

Akerlind, Louis - Korea, died 23 DEC 13 from Cadillac, MI

Hart, James - Company F, Sfc, Korea, POW 22 Apr 51-5 Dec 53 died 13 DEC 13 in Tulsa, OK

Kuess, Ernest - Korea, Hq Co, 1952-53, died 30 Oct 2013 in Chickasaw, OH

Tyndal, R Russell - Korea, Co M & Tank, 1951-52, died 6 AUG 12 from Holyoke, CO

Dunn, Ward B. Sr., - Korea, Hqs, 3d Bn 1948-51, died 2 DEC 13 from Emmett, ID

Cooper, Donald E. - Korea, Hq 1952-53, died 17 May 13 from Portland, OR

Gore, W. L. - Korea, Med Co, 1949-51 died 26 MAR 11 in Nakina, NC

Falcon, Nelson J. - Service Co, 1952, died 20 JAN 13 in Dusen LA

King, John Cpl - Korea, Company G, 1949-53, POW 4/25/51- 4/25/53, died 2 OCT 13 from Cochran, GA

Herskovitz, Fred - Korea, 1952-53 died 26 AUG 13 from Palm Beach Gardens, FL

*Above 12 names were sent by Paul Garland

"Someone will always be looking at you as an example of how to behave. Don't let that person down."

-H. Jackson Brown, Jr.



Below are articles/information taken from the
"Tropic Lightning News"

Motor Pool Fights Big War of Repairs

5 AUG 66

The armored personnel carriers (APC) of the 1st Bn. (Mech.), 5th Inf., have been the backbone of many division operations.

In combat these APCs get torn apart by rifles, grenades, mines and mortars. This is a story about the men who put them back together again. WO Arthur H. Alderson of Virginia, Minn., is the man in charge of the 1/5th motor pool where the APCs are kept in shape. With the 41 enlisted men working there, he is responsible for keeping the tracks ready to strike.

Correction

A big part of this job is keeping the necessary spare parts on hand and ready for use. This task falls to Sp4 Donald H. Wessel of Portage, Mich. "We go through about 1000 track shoes, 150 road wheel and 300 spark plugs a month, says Wessel, as an example of how many spare parts are needed. In addition to this, Wessel must keep track of some 1450 other parts used daily in the motor pool.

Another man with a big job is Sp5 Amos Randolph of Tampa, Fla. Randolph is suspension specialist. His job is to keep the wheels and treads of the APCs in top shape. He can change a road wheel arm in 45 minutes, a job that would take anyone else at least an hour and a half.

When Sp4 Alfred Hohmann joined the 5th Mech. motor pool he was asked if he could weld. He said, "I'll try, sir." Hohmann is now saving the Army \$600 to \$1000 a day repairing damaged engine blocks.

The 5th Mech doesn't perform all its maintenance in the motor pool. Many repairs must be done on the spot in the field.

Sp4 Bill L. Rodgers is one of the mechanics that handles this job. Rodgers is the driver of a light tracked re-

covery vehicle.

This vehicle is a new addition, smaller than the other recovery vehicles but more maneuverable.

The men in the motor pool at the 5th Mech. do not have a very glorious job, but it is a job that must be done. They neither win many medals nor make many headlines, but they are there every day, doing their job.

Bobcats Put Bite on VC Platoon

8 SEP 69

By SP4 DENNIS DIBB

CU CHI - The report said the remains of a Viet Cong company were operating in the area north of Fire Support Base Devins.

he order came for the reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry to be sent to find the estimated 20 enemy soldiers.

The unit found the enemy tunneled -in only 1500 meters from the base. The 1/5th Bobcats then put the bite on the enemy unit, killing 13.

According to reconnaissance platoon leader First Lieutenant Thomas Ward of New York City, the platoon's Kit Carson Scout (a former VC who has rallied to the government) found the first evidence of the enemy. The scout located a tunnel with a trap door.

He dropped a hand grenade down the hole and was greeted with a Chicom grenade coming back out at him. The platoon of Bobcats pulled back, and the Viet Cong tried running from the hole. Accurate small arms fire brought him down.

First one, then three more enemy were spotted moving through the brush. The Tropic Lightning soldiers fired LAW's, grenades, and M-60 machine guns into the area. The enemy kept coming.

"We had only 13 men to put on the ground and we didn't know how many enemy were facing, so we called for some assistance," explained Ward.

Help came in the form of air strikes, artillery barrages, and the 1/5th's Charlie Company. The company commander, Captain Joseph Root of

Bristol, R.I., commented, "We got there about five o'clock, after the scout platoon had been in the area since noon. We combined forces and put our tracked vehicles on line. The men dismounted and we assaulted."

"It didn't take long before we spotted spider holes. The first one we dropped a grenade into. The exploding grenade blew the trap door off, and when the smoke cleared, a VC soldier popped out and opened up on us with a machine gun," said Root.

"At about the same time," reported Private Robert Knickerbocker of Wadsworth, Ohio, "another VC shot a rocket-propelled grenade and hit one of our tracks. It burst into flame and we began receiving heavy AK fire from across a small stream bed to our front. So we could do nothing but draw back."

More artillery and air strikes were called in the area. Then the ground troops swept again. The Bobcats met with only sporadic AK fire from up the creek bed as the surviving VC fled.

The sweep located 13 Viet Cong bodies. The troops also captured five AK-47 assault rifles and two pounds of enemy documents.

5 JAN 70

Tropic Lightning Tots

The Commanding General Welcomes The Following Tropic Lightning Tots To The 25th Infantry Division - As Reported By The American Red Cross.

Born To:

PFC Ardie R. Copas, Co C, girl,
19 DEC 70

SP4 Cletus Lee, Co C, boy, 21
DEC 70

SGT Bartholome Stanzione, Co.
B, boy, 21 DEC 70

A Special Thanks!!

I want to especially thank **Randy Kethcart, Denis McDonough** and **Sam Kier** for being major contributors to the newsletter. So much of what I put into the newsletter comes to me by these three members. Thanks!!



PFC Arthur I. Okamura
CPL Rawland N. Otterstrom

Honoring Two of Our Bobcat Heroes!

Distinguished Service Cross Awarded to

OKAMURA, ARTHUR I.

Citation: The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Arthur I. Okamura, Private First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Private First Class Okamura distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Muto, Korea, on 14 October 1951. On that date, Company A was engaged in an assault against well-fortified enemy hill positions. As the friendly force advanced, it was temporarily halted by a heavy volume of enemy machine-gun fire. During this period, Private Okamura discovered an enemy minefield directly in the path of the assaulting friendly troops. With a total disregard for his personal safety, he immediately exposed himself to the intense fire of the enemy and began to clear the area of mines and booby traps. Working with unrelenting determination, under the direct observation of the enemy, Private Okamura skillfully removed mine after mine. After four hours of courageous effort, the minefield was almost entirely cleared when one of the hostile booby traps detonated and mortally wounded him. Greatly inspired by the fearlessness of Private Okamura, his comrades renewed their assault and swept the hostile force from the hill, inflicting numerous casualties among them. The heroic actions of Private Okamura were directly responsible for saving the lives friendly troops.

Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army, Korea: General Orders No. 986 (December 12, 1951) Home Town: Oahu, Hawaii

And

OTTERSTROM, RAWLAND N.

Citation: The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Rawland N. Otterstrom Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division. Corporal Otterstrom distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Sangyang, Korea, on 13 October 1951. On that date, the company of which Corporal Otterstrom was a member was engaged in an assault against a series of heavily fortified and well-concealed enemy positions. As the friendly troops advanced, they were subjected to heavy small-arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire which increased in intensity until they were forced to seek cover. At this point in the assault, the company commander was severely wounded by an exploding mortar shell and fell helpless on the fire-swept terrain. Observing that his leader was completely exposed to the fire of a

hidden enemy machine-gun, Corporal Otterstrom left his position of cover and attempted to reach the stricken man. With utter fearlessness, he worked his way through the heavy enemy fire being concentrated on him until he was hit and instantly killed by a burst from the machine-gun. His heroic action, however, had forced the hidden automatic-weapons crew to reveal their location and the friendly forces immediately converged their entire firepower on the emplacement. With the enemy positions destroyed, the friendly troops were able to renew their assault and evacuate their leader.

Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army, Korea: General Orders No. 192 (April 12, 1952) Home Town: Carbon, Utah

(Jerry from page 1)

ton state and the northern portion of Oregon. They are very active participating in events that recognize and hon-



or veterans like parades etc.

The group recently showed their appreciation by presenting him with a plaque.

(Facebook from page 11)

world that threatens not only her lifestyle but the lifestyle of her now famous sister. This leads the two sisters on an adventure that takes them all over the world into events that are, at times, life threatening."

Notice: If the address label on this newsletter has a **red 14** at the end of your name, your membership expires at the end of this year. You need to complete the form below and mail in your renewal. Do it now before you forget.

Membership Application
5th Infantry Regiment Association, Inc.
 25th Infantry Division Association

(Please Print)

Name: _____

_____ New Member _____ Renewal (Complete only items that need changed)

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Unit (BN/CO/PLT etc.): _____ Dates with 5th INF: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Membership: (Please circle your selection)

1 Year - \$15 2 Years - \$25 5 Years - \$60 Lifetime -Ages 1-49 = \$200 50-64 = \$150 65+ = \$100 Active Duty - \$5.00 per year

Donations: (Tax Deductible): General Fund _____ Scholarship _____ Newsletter _____ Reunion _____

Make checks payable to "5th Infantry Regiment Association" and mail this application to:

5th INF REG ASSN 1201 Orange AVE Dunedin FL 34698

(You can join or renew online and pay using a credit card. Go to www.bobcat.ws and follow the directions.)

Membership Application
25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit Served With _____
 in the 25th Div. _____ Dates of Service _____

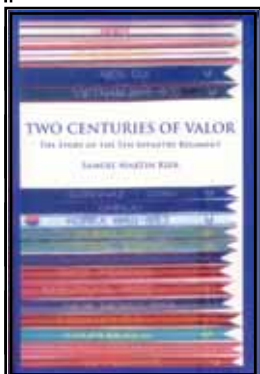
*Attach copies of your DD-214 or other documentation of service.

DUES: _____ Annual = \$30.00 Lifetime - Your age: _____ Less than 30 = \$415 _____ 31-40 = \$385 _____ 41-50 = \$305
 _____ 51-60 = \$220 _____ 61-70 = \$145 _____ 71+ \$90

Please make all checks payable to: '25th Infantry Division Association' and send to:

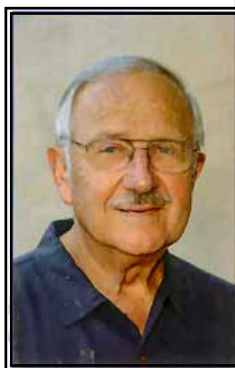
25th Infantry Division Association, P.O. Box 7, Flourtown PA 19031-0007

History of The 5th Infantry Regiment



For the first time we have an up to date comprehensive history book of the 5th Infantry Regiment. This book "Two Centuries of Valor: The Story of the 5th Infantry Regiment" traces the history of the 5th Regiment from it's beginning up to the present day.

You can purchase this book by either completing the order form below or going to our website at: http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter_master.shtml where you can pay for the book using your credit card.



Randy Kethcart has made a QR-Barcode for scanning with a cell phone or mobile device that will take you to our Face-book page where you can join our Association or renew you membership.



Set aside the dates now for the 2014 reunion in Niagara Falls NY.

Tuesday 22 July through Sunday 27 July 2014

Order Form

All items are available on our website where you can pay by credit card. Go to: http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter_master.shtml

Name _____ Phone # _____

Street _____ E-mail _____

City, State & Zip _____

(Put the number of each item you want in the line to its left.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ #1 = Hats - \$12.75 | _____ #8A = License Plate at "US Army" - \$10.50 |
| _____ #2 = 3 inch Patch (Like on hat) - \$4.00 | _____ #8B = License Plate "5th Infantry" - \$10.50 |
| _____ #3 = 5th Patch (4") with Tab - \$7.50 | _____ #14 = 5th Infantry Crest - \$6.50 |
| _____ #4 = 4 inch Patch with green M-113 APC on it - \$7.50 | _____ #15 = 5th Key Chain - \$15.50 |
| _____ #5 = Window Decals - \$4.00 | _____ #16A = MIA Bracelet (Black Small) - \$4 |
| _____ #6 = Pins - \$5.50 | _____ #16B = MIA Bracelet (Silver Medium) - \$4 |
| _____ #7 = Challenge Coin - \$10.50 | _____ #17 = 25th Decal with "Bobcat" above - \$4 |

#9 = Polo/Golf 100% cotton collared shirt (Put number desired in blank and circle size and color) - Item #437M

- _____ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$29.00 - With pocket \$32.00
_____ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$29.00 - With pocket \$32.00
_____ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$35.00 - With Pocket \$39.00
_____ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$35.00 - With Pocket \$39.00

Color: (Circle Color) White Grey Black Forest Green Navy Blue

Size: Small (Without pocket only) Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large (Circle Size)

#10 = Tri-Mountain 5400 High Peak Winter Jacket Windproof/Water-resistant with Hood concealed in collar (Put number desired in blank and circle size and color) [Item 5400]

- _____ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$55.00
_____ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$55.00
_____ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$61.00
_____ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$61.00

Color: (Circle Color) [1st color Outer Shell & 2nd color is lining/collar] khaki/navy, navy/khaki, forest green/khaki or black/khaki

Size: Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large 4X-Large [4X, 5X & 6X-large & long sizes available in some colors]

#11 = Light Weight Windbreaker/Summer Jacket water-repellent with hidden hood (circle size and color) [Item 8953]

- _____ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$55.00
_____ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$55.00
_____ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$61.00
_____ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$61.00

Color: (Circle Color) Black/Black, Navy/Stone, Olive/Khaki or Stone/Navy [1st color is jacket color & 2nd color is liner/collar]

Size: Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large 4X-Large (Circle Size)

#12 = Long Sleeve Denim Shirt (Put number desired in blank and circle size and color) [Item 8960]

- _____ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$29.00
_____ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$29.00
_____ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$35.00
_____ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$35.00

Color: (Circle Color) Light Blue or Indigo

Size: Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large 4X-Large (Circle Size)

#13 = T-shirt with logo as pictured on left breast (50% cot./50% poly.) - \$19.00 (Put # desired in blank and circle size and color) [Item 29, P-131]

Color: (Circle Color) White, Oxford, Black, True Navy, Light Blue, Pink, Peribule, North Carolina Blue, California Blue, True Royal Blue, Cornflower Blue, Yellow Haze, Burnt Orange, Cardinal, Deep Purple, Forrest Green, Gold, Island Yellow, Natural, Birch, Jade, Kelly, Khaki Brown, True Red, Safety Green, Maroon, Light Orange, Aqua, Bamboo Green, Classic Brown, Kiwi, Cyber Pink, Dark Graphite, Dark Lavender, Fossil Grey & Olive Green

Size: Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large (Circle Size)

Special instructions for order: _____

All Polo shirts, T-shirts, Denim shirts and Jackets are custom ordered and will take up to 3 weeks for delivery

Prices listed for all items above include shipping.

Payment must be received before orders will be processed.

Make the check payable to: **5th INF ASSOC**

Mail to: **Jim Caudle / 5th Infantry Chapter**
1501 Baychester AVE
Norfolk VA 23503

For information or questions contact
Jim at **757-588-0056** or
E-mail: jecaudle@cox.net

5th Infantry Chapter Quartermaster

Items For Sale

Prices listed include shipping.

- 1). Hats (black) - \$12.75
- 2). 3.3" Patch Exactly like the one on the hat - \$4.00
- 3). 5th Patch & Tab (Sew on type - 4" patch + tab) - \$7.50
- 4). 4" 1/5th Patch with green M-113 APC on it - \$7.50
- 5). 3" Decals (Go on the outside of a window or any solid object) - \$4.00.
- 6). Pin - Coat of arms - For hat, lapel etc (1/2 X 3/4 inch) - \$5.50
- 7). Challenge Coin - \$10.50
- 8). (License Plate Frame (8A "US ARMY") or (8B - "5th INF BOBCATS")) - \$10.50
- 9). Polo/Golf 100% cotton collared shirt - Item #437M
 - 1). With 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge - \$29.00 - With pocket \$32.00
 - 2). Same as #1 but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$35.00 - With Pocket \$38.00
- 10). Winter Jacket with 5th Crest and CIB or CMB Badge - \$55 or \$61 with the 25th INF DIV Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - khaki/navy, navy/khaki, forest green/khaki or black/khaki
- 11). Light Weight Windbreaker/Summer Jacket with 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge - \$55 or \$61 with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve
- 12). Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - \$29 with 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge or \$35 with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve
- 13). T-shirt with logo pictured below on left breast - \$19
- 14). 5th Infantry Crest - \$6.50 each
- 15). 5th Key Chain - \$15.50
- 16). MIA Bracelet - (16A Black Medium) or (16B Silver Small) - \$4.00
- 17). 25th Decal with a "Bobcat" tab above (Size 3 3/4 X 2 1/2") - \$4.00

Order these items by contacting
our Quartermaster Jim Caudle at:

757-588-0056 or

E-mail: jecaudle@cox.net



1
2



3



4



5



6



8



7



9



Khaki/Navy

10



11



12



13



14



15



16



17

NEW MEMBER WAS 5TH RCT'S FIRST SURGEON

by Sam Kier

"Youngest medical school graduate on record!"

The Bobcats have recently received a membership application from Buffalo, New York psychiatrist, Harold J. Levy. When the 5th RCT was organized in Seoul, Korea in January, 1949, Dr. Levy was assigned to the combat team as its sole surgeon as there were too few doctors to provide a surgeon for each battalion.

Harold Levy enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942. He was a 17-year-old high school student at the time. The army, desperately in need of doctors, created an Army Specialist Training Program. Through its auspices, PFC Levy earned sufficient undergraduate credits to be admitted to the University of Buffalo School of Medicine. When he completed his M.D. degree at the age of 21, he was the youngest graduate on record, in the United States, with a four-year medical school degree. With his degree came a commission as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

Harold was assigned to the Army Reserve so that he could complete a residency in psychiatry but in 1948, before he could finish that phase of training, he was called to active duty, given a refresher course in military medicine at Ft. Sam Houston and shipped to Korea. Once there, at age 23, he was appointed Chief of Psychiatry at the 382nd Station Hospital. When the 382nd left for Japan, LT Levy was retained in Korea and assigned to the 5th RCT.

According to Howard, South Korea was no land of milk and honey buckets during that brief period between World War II and the Korean Conflict. Desperate Koreans stole unguarded supplies and equipment and American soldiers were frequently involved in fire fights with Communist guerrillas. Even medical officers were advised to wear side arms.

The 5th RCT gladly left Korea for Hawaii in June 1949. Upon arriving in the islands, Levy was promoted to captain. For most of the next year, he spent

much of his time in the field as his 5th Medical Company prepared for combat.

During this period, Harold befriended LTC John (The Rock) Throckmorton, the commander of 2nd Battalion.* Throckmorton asked him to consider applying for a regular army commission, predicting that Harold would probably wear a star on his shoulder within ten years, if he did so. Levy declined. He had become a doctor in order to heal people. He did not want a career in medical administration.

CPT Levy's two-year active-duty obligation was to end in June, 1950, but since he had two months of accu-



mulated leave time, he was offered a choice of an early separation or remaining on leave for two months. He chose the former, and returned home in April 1950 where was awarded a three-year research fellowship in psychiatry at the University of Buffalo Med School. That was followed by his first job as a civilian psychiatrist at Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo.

At age 89, Dr. Levy still goes to the office three mornings a week to provide psychotherapy and prescribe medications. During his long career in medicine, he has served as a psychiatry department chief and medical director at several hospitals and taught psychia-

try to medical students and psychiatric residents. He has been active in several philanthropic organizations that support medical education. In 2011, Dr. Levy received a well-deserved University of Buffalo Medical Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

Harold Levy lives in the Buffalo suburb of Eggertsville, New York, with his wife, Arlyne. The Levys have three sons; Sanford, a doctor of internal medicine, Richard, a financial analyst, and Kenneth, a biomedical engineer. There are four grandchildren.

Welcome to the Bobcats, Dr. Levy. May you have a long and enjoyable retirement, whenever that happens.

*See Your Bobcat Forebears, *Bobcat Bulletin*, Summer 2012

Decisions made by the Association's Board of Directors

Your Board of Directors makes decisions throughout the year using E-mail. Some recent decisions that were made are:

"The following items have been approved by the board. All were done by motions, made, seconded and approved.

1. A shadowbox with awards to be prepared and presented by Dan Curran for the Larson ceremony. Done in September, 2013

2. The identification of awards/streamers for 5th Infantry Colors earned by 1-5 and 2-5 Infantry in Iraq and Afghanistan. I added a flag cover to protect the colors to the purchase. Motion made, seconded and passed in December 2013. Streamers are \$89 each, the cover was \$25.90. Approved Dec 21, 2013.

3. A bronze plaque to be made and mounted at Drummond Hill Cemetery at Lundy's Lane at our 2014 reunion. Motion made, seconded and passed in Feb 2014.

4. We have a motion, made, seconded and passed to donate \$250.00 to Drummond Hill Church for using their facility for dinner on the date of the Memorial Service.

Robert Wood - President

My Good Luck Charm

by: Wayne Grindstaff

Prolog: A good friend who was a JAG officer in the Air Force mentioned his daughter needed input for a college course, dealing with combat veterans and if they had a lucky charm. I'm never brief in telling a story. The following is what I sent her.

My Good Luck Charm

I'm sorry but this story can't be told in a few paragraphs.

The story begins in 1957 at age 10. One Saturday my parents broke the news to me that on the next day I was going to church. Understand I had never been to one nor heard any talk about religion from my parents. The next day my parents dressed me up in a suit and handed me 50 cents with instructions to take the bus into town and go to church. The first two weeks I walked up to the bus stop area and proceeded to spend the money in the candy store. Amazing what 50 cents would buy back then! The third week I finally broke the ice and got on the bus to travel the 6 miles into the heart of town. Then things get interesting, even though my folks said "go to church" they didn't say which or even what religion. I wandered around the heart of Valley Stream and finally walked into a church because it looked liked something was about to start. I listened and followed along the best I could and was shocked when a plate was passed for the offering. I ended up throwing in all my change and only then realized I now had a 6 mile walk home. After a few weeks the congregation must have been real curios about this boy coming alone, knowing no one and leaving. They asked me why I was alone and I simply stated the truth. I was told to "go to church". They suggested that I stay for bible studies, and I did.

Now we get to my Good Luck Charm. After going to St. Paul's Lutheran Church for four years I made my Confirmation and it was the first time I saw my parents in church that day. They gave me a 18 karat gold cross to mark the event. I carried forward with, going to church, singing in the choir, and wearing that cross.

The year is 1964 when I first thought my cross and my beliefs helped me survive. I was 17 and was in a terrible car wreck that propelled me though a windshield. For my trip through the looking glass I received 300 stitches in my face, yet against all odds I survived.

It is now 1968, I'm 21 and off to Vietnam. I have been wearing the cross of gold for 7 years and I sure wasn't going to stop now, having been trained for the Infantry. I arrived in March at the tail end of the Tet Offensive and saw action from day one. From March to June we either had someone wounded or killed almost each day in my Company, and I was still intact. In June disaster struck, I lost my cross of gold! I had no choice but to carry on as best as I could. We were Mechanized Infantry and rode on top of Armored Personal Carriers a lot of the time. Late in July I found my cross on top of the APC under a hatch cover. It surely was a small miracle that it stayed on top of the track after all the miles we covered. A quick chain repair and it was back around my neck.

On August 19th 1968 that Cross came into its own. If the peace I felt having it before, the day after the 19th made me a believer in its power and what it stood for. On the 19th I was driving the track in point position as our driver was off on R&R and the company was ambushed. Driving point got me two hits with RPGs almost simultaneously and the track exploded. The explosion blew me out of the track and eye witnesses claimed I went 25 feet up. I landed dazed, wounded with shrapnel, and mostly naked on the side of the road where the firing was coming from. I must have been such a sight stumbling around with only a belt, one boot and my cross covering my skinny frame. Not one shot was fired at me while on the wrong side of the action. My guess I presented such a sight they were too busy laughing, or was it my cross? Being the biggest ambush the Company ever endured no Medevac copters could get in and they threw me on top of another track as the Company started to fight their way back into base

camp. Maybe an hour later, the top of the track I was on was sprayed with machine gun fire and two friends were killed and others wounded. I rolled off the top of that track and my men promptly threw me up on the Angel Track (Red Cross on side). The last shots fired at me that night put a bullet into me and finally after an 8 hour ambush we made it back to Dau Tieng. Of the 104 men of the Company on the 19th of August only 12 or so could take the field on the 20th because of our losses the day before. I healed up well enough to return to my squad till March of 1969, and this changed person and his cross of gold left Vietnam. Was that cross a Good Luck Charm? I'll leave that to you, but for me it was a constant reminder the Lord had other thoughts for my future.

Do you have a story? If you do please send it so others can enjoy it.

Newsletters

"Why did I get the Winter Bobcat Bulletin mailed to me?"

There are over 100 members who have elected to receive their newsletter electronically by E-mail. This saves the Association approximately \$150 each time a newsletter is printed and mailed.

The Associations thanks those who have chosen E-mailed newsletters.

Those of you who are on this list probably are wondering why you received a paper copy of the Winter 2013 newsletter last DEC/JAN. What happened was I could not get my E-mail program to mail them. Everything I tried would not work. Actually it did mail them to a few members but not everyone.

Fearing you 100+ that only get E-mailed copies get nothing I decided the only solution was to mail everyone a paper copy.

I finally got a new E-mail program and was able to E-mail everyone an electronic copy. Hopefully with this newsletter I again will be able to E-mail them.

Fred Deverse

(MOH from page 1)

Each of the soldiers was previously recognized by award of the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest military award. That award will be upgraded to the Medal of Honor in recognition of their gallantry, intrepidity and heroism above and beyond the call of duty.

Congress, through the Defense Authorization Act, called for a review in 2002 of Jewish American and Hispanic American veteran war records from WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, to ensure those deserving the Medal of Honor were not denied because of prejudice.

During the review, records of several soldiers of neither Jewish nor Hispanic descent were also found to have criteria worthy of the Medal of Honor. The 2002 Act was amended to allow these soldiers to be honored with the upgrade, in addition to the Jewish and Hispanic-American soldiers.

Spc. Ardie Copas

Caucasian American, Vietnam War

On May 12, 1970, near Ph Romeas Hek, Cambodia, Copas' company was attacked by a large hostile force firing recoilless rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons. Copas, a machine-gunner, began returning fire but was knocked to the ground when his armored car was hit by an enemy recoilless round. Four other Americans were wounded.

Ignoring his wounds, Copas climbed back into the burning vehicle and began firing his machine-gun at the enemy. Copas laid down suppressive fire until the four wounded were safely evacuated; he continued to fight until he was mortally wounded by an enemy round.

Help Ardie's Daughter

"My name is Shyrell Copas Herrera. I am Ardie's daughter, only child. I would love to speak to ANYONE who knew him or served with him. My phone # is (615)866-7997. I would also like to thank you all for what you've done and sacrifices you made for me and our Great country. Love to you all and GOD BLESS."

Shyrell Copas Herrera

*Shyrell can be contacted at the phone number listed above or by Email at: shyrellherrera@gmail.com



Shyrell Jean Copas accepts the Medal of Honor on behalf of her late father Spc. 4 Ardie R. Copas from President Barack Obama during a ceremony at the White House in Washington, D.C., March 18, 2014. Spc. 4 Ardie R. Copas distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a machine gunner in Company C, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, during combat operations against an armed enemy near Ph Romeas Hek, Cambodia, May 12, 1970. (Department of Defense photo by EJ Hersom)

Denise McDonough sent me a picture of Ardie's medal that he had been awarded. The medals were scattered about on a table. Best I could figure out he was awarded besides the Distinguished Service Cross, a Silver Star, Bronze Star for valor and a Army Commendation Medal.

Pfc. Leonard M. Kravitz

Jewish American, Korea

Citation summary: Kravitz, a Brooklyn, N.Y. native, on March 6-7, 1951, was serving with Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Regimental Combat Team, attached to the 24th Infantry Division, in Yangpyong. Kravitz's unit was overrun by enemy and forced to withdraw from a defensive position.

Kravitz voluntarily remained at his

machine-gun to provide suppressive fire. This forced the enemy to concentrate their attack on his own position. Kravitz was killed, but his actions saved his entire platoon.

How Did 24 Have Their DSCs Upgraded to MOHs?

"When Pfc. Leonard Kravitz was killed in Korea, his childhood friend Mitchell Libman was crushed.

But as Libman learned about what his friend did on the battlefield, he began a years-long journey that culminated Tuesday when Kravitz and 23 others belatedly were awarded the Medal of Honor.

"This is the proudest I've ever been," Libman said. "This was one of the



PFC Leonard Kravitz the namesake and uncle of musician Lenny Kravitz

most wonderful things I've ever done in my lifetime, and I'm very pleased to have had the opportunity to do it."

Libman is widely credited as the man who pushed for what would become a sweeping review of records from World War II, Vietnam and Korea to ensure those deserving the nation's highest award for valor were not denied because of their race or ethnicity.

On Tuesday, 24 soldiers from those wars —three of them still living — were recognized and honored during a White House ceremony hosted by President Obama. The Medal of Honor was presented posthumously to the families of the 21 soldiers who have died.

"For their gallantry under fire, each of these soldiers was long ago recognized with the Army's second highest award, but ask their fellow veterans, ask their families, and they'll tell you their extraordinary deeds merit the highest recognition," Obama said

during what he called a “historic” ceremony. “Today we get the chance to set the record straight.”

Each of the 24 honorees previously received the Distinguished Service Cross; that award will be upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

Congress, through the Defense Authorization Act, called for a review in 2002 of Jewish American and Hispanic American veteran war records from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure those who deserved the Medal of Honor were not overlooked because of prejudice. During the review, records of several soldiers of neither Jewish nor Hispanic descent were also found to have criteria worthy of the Medal of Honor. The 2002 Act was amended to allow those soldiers to be honored with the upgrade as well.

“Some of these soldiers fought and died for a country that did not always see them as equal,” Obama said. “With each generation, we keep on striving to live up to our ideals of freedom and equality.”

The review of thousands of veterans’ records involved “painstaking work,” but “this is the length to which America will go to ensure everyone who serves under our proud flag receives the thanks they deserve,” Obama said.

On Tuesday, Obama first honored Vietnam veterans Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Morris, Master Sgt. Jose Rodela and Spc. Santiago Erevia, the three living recipients in the group of 24.

Dressed in the Army Service Uniform, the distinctive medal draped around their necks, all three men stood together in what Obama called “a remarkable moment.” “In the thick of the fight all those years ago, for your comrades and your country, you refused to yield,” Obama said. “On behalf of a grateful nation, we all want to thank you for inspiring us, then and now, with your strength, your will and your heroic hearts.”

The ceremony then focused on the 21 soldiers who have died. Military aides read every citation as the president presented the Medal of Honor to a member of each soldier’s family.

“Every one is a story of bravery that deserves to be told,” Obama said. “When you read the records of these individuals, it’s unimaginable, the valor that they displayed.”

Libman, who also served in Korea, said he first began his quest when he read about how Kravitz died.

“When I got some of his papers and started reading what he actually did, the Distinguished Service Cross, which was the second highest award, I didn’t feel was the proper one for Lenny,” Libman said. “And I determined that award was used when they didn’t want to give someone the Medal of Honor.”

Kravitz, who was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1931, was honored for his actions March 6-7, 1951, in Yangpyong, Korea. While occupying defensive positions, Kravitz’s unit was overrun by enemy combatants and forced to withdraw, according to Army accounts.

Kravitz volunteered to remain at a machine-gun position to provide suppressive fire for the retreating troops. This forced the enemy to concentrate their attack on Kravitz. The 20-year-old did not survive, but his actions saved his entire platoon.

Libman decided he would fight for recognition for his “nice, quiet” friend. Pursuing this also helped him cope with his friend’s death, Libman said.

“I went in [to Korea] after Lenny was killed. I was stationed right close by where he spent his last days,” he said. “I was, of course, very upset over his death, and couldn’t think very much about anything else. This was the easiest way to get it out of my head.”

Now that his friend — and 23 others — have received the honor so long denied them, Libman said he’s proud but he’s also at a loss.

“It’s hard getting over the fact that it’s been 50 years and it’s finally done,” he said. “I’m wondering what I’m going to do next.”

Marilyn, Libman’s wife of 57 years, said she’s proud of her husband and the group of honorees.....”

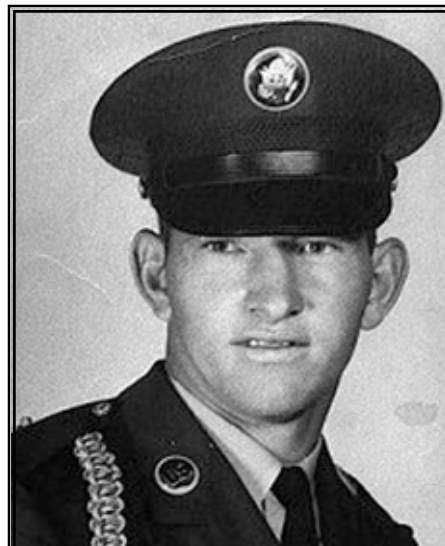
“Blaming people instead of identifying the problem is like being a dog who chases his tail and, when he catches it, bites down hard. What do you get?! Well, it hurts, and it’s still attached to you. And nothing has been done about the fleas yet.”

—SGT Jeff Hall

Putting a Face With and Remembering a KIA

Randy Kethcart and Denis McDonough have worked very hard for many years trying to get a picture to put with the information on all of the Vietnam KIA’s. There are still many KIAs without a picture. Do you have one? If you do please send it to Randy so it can be added to our Memorial page on the Website.

Here are recently acquired pictures. Most of them have been acquired by Denis McDonough



Richard M. Wise - Killed in a vehicle crash in Vietnam on 14 AUG 69 - B Co.



1st Platoon Hooch - Top row L to R: - Henry, Don, Doc, Lloyd, Ed, Heely Arrow points to: Lee Henderson Russ Front row: Jerry, Lance and Luke Picture by Tim Fyle

The **red** numbers after your name on the address label tells what year your dues expires. Need to renew?

Two Fires: One Destroys His Records and The Second His medals

27 MAR 14

Good afternoon, Mr. Kier -

"Thank you so much for signing a copy of your historical volume on the 5th Infantry Regiment for my brother and I.

As my husband mentioned in an earlier e-mail, we are researching our dad's military service in Korea, mainly to replace patches and ribbons that were lost in a house fire my brother and his family suffered at the beginning of February.

We have previously requested records through the National Archives but received correspondence that, as you may have probably already guessed, his records could not be located and were likely destroyed in the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. They did confirm his service dates and last known rank, however.

Family photos of him in uniform after his discharge show his Combat Infantryman Badge, a 3-wide ribbon bar (probably U.S. National Defense, U.S. Army Korean Service and United Nations Service) with a single bar (Republic of Korea Korean Service) centered below it. He also has the 5RCT pentagon and Staff Sergeant rank patch on his left shoulder.

My brother also claims he is sure that Dad received the Bronze Star, but we're not sure how to confirm that, nor how to determine if he is due any other medals. I had thought perhaps by reading your books (*Thirty-Six Points* and *Two Centuries of Valor*) we may be able to determine the specific company he was in, and your notes on organizational structure have been extremely helpful in this regard.

He always maintained that he was in communications and spoke of using the Browning automatic rifle in combat situations. I am sure that he was not in the communications platoon associated with HHC, but rather with the communications platoon associated with one of the battalion HCs.

A message board post on korean-war.org suggests he (or someone with the same name) may have served (sometime between the time he arrived in Korea in 1952 and April 19, 1953) with a soldier in the Heavy Mortar Platoon assigned to Company L, Third Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

So, my question here is: How were units integrated? Were they aligned letter for letter, 24th Infantry Regiment Company L with 5RCT Company L, or were assignments totally random and vary from situation to situation? (If they are

aligned, it would suggest our dad was assigned to the 5RCT's 3rd Battalion HC and may have worked at various points as a comm guy with any of the companies - I, K, L or M - in that battalion.)

We also found a group photo from "Chemical School Class 81-B." Would this have been study he completed stateside immediately after basic training at Fort Indiantown Gap, or might it have been school he was sent to in Japan after arriving in Korea? This information would help us determine the correct number of service stars (2 or 3) that should be placed on his U.S. Army Korean Service ribbon bar. If he began his actual service in Korea prior to Nov. 30, 1952, it would be three, and if he arrived after Dec. 1, 1952, it would be two.

We appreciate any additional insight you may be able to lend and thank you so very much for your time and thoughtfulness."

Sincerely,

Andrea Rose

Daughter of SSGT Wm. J. Huff, 5RCT,
1952-1954

Andrea,

"During the Korean War there were CBR (chemical, biological, and radiation) Schools. There was, and still is such a program at Fort Indiantown Gap. It's now used by the National Guard and has a fancier name. Judging by your father's term of service; 7Jul52-6Apr54, I would say that he wasn't in the Army long enough to have taken that course after serving a tour in Korea. CBR School must have been his Advanced Individual Training (AIT) or "the second eight" of basic training. Extrapolating from the timing of my own experience, I would guess that if he began basic infantry training on 9 Jul 52, finished that around 7 Sept, took ten days leave, reported to CBR School on 18 Sept and finished there around mid-November. He was probably sent immediately to Camp Stoneman, California and sailed from San Francisco on or about 25 November. He would have arrived at Camp Drake, near Tokyo, two weeks later. So it would have been well into December before he could report to the 5th RCT. By that time, the 5th RCT had already been released from the 25th Infantry Division and was under the operational control of the 40th Infantry

Division (California National Guard.)

Reconciling communications work and carrying a BAR? Your father may have been an RTO (radio-telephone operator) with a rifle company. On patrol, he would not have been expected to carry a heavy PRC-10 radio and a twenty pound BAR at the same time. RTOs usually carried a side arm like a .45 pistol or at most a .30 caliber carbine. But soldiers' assignments varied from time to time. The Army was involved in trench warfare and the 5th RCT's positions were frequently attacked. He probably used the BAR in such instances but not while serving as a RTO on recon or ambush patrols.

If he was awarded the Silver Star, there would be a citation in those 40th Infantry Division General Orders issued between December 1952 and April 1953 or 3rd Infantry Division General Orders for June and July 1953. Those documents are kept at the National Archives (NARA) in College Park, Maryland, where they fortunately have not had a fire. Since you've already contacted the archives in St. Louis in hopes of finding his DD214, you're familiar with the NARA and how it works. Finding a medal citation would also reveal the company with which he served. In the early part of your father's tour in Korea, 2nd Battalion saw most of the action, so would probably have garnered most of the medals. In the latter part of his tour, when the 5th RCT moved west to the Iron Triangle, that "honor" went to 1st Battalion. In the spring of 1954, when S/SGT Huff left Korea, the 5th RCT was camped on the outskirts of Pusan.

I'm impressed with your letter, Andrea. You've done a lot of your homework. If you would like me to try and confirm the ribbons that your father is wearing, e-mail me a scan of the picture. I assume that it is a black and white photo. Apparently your father was not re-assigned to another unit to complete the final two months of his two-year active-duty obligation. If so he would have been required to move the little red pentagon to his right shoulder and sew another unit patch on his left. Most "early-outs" that I've heard about were one month early. They were a common practice in those days because the Army wanted to get as many people off the payroll as they could before the next fiscal year began in July. They were also done to enable a soldier to become a civilian in time to enroll in school at the beginning of the semester."

All the best,

Sam Kier

Historian

5th Infantry Regiment Association

(Continued from page 1)

Veterans of America Chapter in which Ron was an active member were in attendance.

A lot of those members in attendance gathered for dinner together the night before the funeral.

We all met at the administration building at Arlington at 9:30 on the third to talk about and share stories about Ron. Major General Retired Andy Anderson and past president Fred Deverse told of the many accomplishments and contributions like paying for busses, dinners, members' attendance at reunions and our website that Ron made to our Association. Andy Anderson related that Ron as his NCO in



charge of the Operations Center contributed immensely to the battalion's success in the field in Vietnam.

At 10 AM we all proceeded to the burial site. President Bob Wood



brought with him from Florida the 5th Infantry Regimental Colors that were proudly presented at the gravesite by Vice President Bart Stanizone.

The ceremony included the presentation of the flag to Ron's wife Shannon, a 21 gun salute and the playing of taps as well as prayers and comments



from an Army Chaplain.

Rest in peace Ron!

Fred Deverse

On Friday 3 January 2013 in Facebook Carolyn Kethcart wrote:

"Well, as General Anderson so eloquently put it this morning at the Memorial Service, Ron Henry got the last laugh on us all. It was bitterly cold, winds blowing snow in our

faces, ice on the paths, but we were there none the less to pay our final respects and share some great stories about Ron and his life. It was a beautiful service, regardless of the weather and the turnout of friends and



New member Joseph Keller attended

family from all over was remarkable. Shannon was a class act in hosting us all, along with several members of Ron's family. Good-bye Ron, rest in peace, and know two things, you will be greatly missed by your Bobcat family and the General is still going to have you court marshaled



when the two of you shall once again meet in that great place called Heaven."

Carolyn Kethcart



More members had planned to attend but the weather forced them to cancel the trip.



Florida Winter Social Pictures



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