



Second Infantry Regiment Association

2016 Fall/Winter Newsletter



WJ MULLEN III, BG USA, RETIRED

HONORARY COLONEL, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT

Dear Comrades and Friends,

Every year on 11 November, the anniversary of the armistice that ended the fighting of the First World War, the United States of America celebrates military veterans who served in times of war and times of peace. On behalf of all our fellow citizens I thank you for your contributions to the security of our Nation. I honor your service as citizens and as soldiers. You are patriots in every sense of the word.

November is also the time for Thanksgiving. We have much for which to be thankful. We have our families and friends. Many of us survived the hazards of infantry combat. We had the good fortune to soldier in a famous regiment. So, take time on 24 November to hug those you love and tell them how much each means to you. Take a little bit more time to call a friend with whom you once walked in harm's way. Tell him what he and how he lived his life in combat mean to you.

The Second Battalion continues to excel in training. Today's Ramrodders will be ready to undertake any mission assigned to them. They are writing another great chapter in the illustrious history of the Second Infantry Regiment.

Inside this issue:

Presidents Report	2
Update on Battalion 2/2	3-4
2d Battalion Ball	5-6
2d IN Monument Tapes	6
Chaplains Corner	7
Ramrod Reunion Info	7
1st Division Report	8
2d IN Reg Holidays	9-10
Fenner Part 2 of 2	11-12
Poem by Bob Fulps	12
"Battle of the Straightlegs"	13
Board Members Info	14
1st Division Monument	15-16
Membership Form	17

Those of us who served in the First Infantry Division know that that the Division has a monument to honor BRO soldiers who were killed in action. The monument is in Washington, DC, located next to the White House. There are 12,947 names on that monument. Some of those names are of men we knew who fell at an ugly time in a beautiful place. The Society intends to modify the monument in order to add the names of those killed in action since Desert Storm. The Society has initiated a campaign to raise the necessary funds. Kathy has included a form (on pages 15-16) and other information that can be used to make a contribution. Please consider supporting this project to remember fellow soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Our reunions continue to be the best opportunities we'll ever have to be with comrades with whom we served, as well as, to meet other veterans whose experiences are similar to ours. I look forward to joining you in Pigeon Forge, TN (May, 2017) and, in Kansas City during the Society of the First Infantry Division Reunion (July, 2017), when the Big Red One marks one hundred years of putting Duty First. The Second Infantry Regiment is part of that proud tradition.

In closing, I wish each of you and your loved ones all the blessings of the Christmas Season – now and throughout the New Year.

BOB "FO" DOUGLASS

PRESIDENT, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

My Fellow Ramrods and Associate Members:

I hope that this newsletter finds all of you in good health and good spirits. Wishing everyone a happy Veterans Day. All little bit of history about Veterans Day. Veterans Day formerly known as Armistice Day was originally set as a US legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day. As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I Veterans.

In 1954, after having been through both World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd Congress at the urging of different Veterans Organizations amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word Armistice and inserting the word Veterans. With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to honor American Veterans of all Wars.

While the holiday is commonly printed as Veteran's Day or Veterans' Day (spelling that is grammatically acceptable). The United States Department of Veterans Affairs web site states that attributive (no apostrophe) is the official spelling. Because it is not a day that 'belongs' to Veterans, it is a day for honoring all Veterans. And show respect for those who were willing to give their lives to their country, and serve their country. (All of the above info is from different articles about Veterans Day.

It is with sadness for those of you that do not already know that Monday, 15 August 2016, we lost Major General Richard Anson. MG Anson served as our HCOR for many years and stepped down more than 4 years ago due to health issues. He also served as 1/2 Battalion



Commander in Vietnam from January 1970 thru June 1970. His funeral will be on Wednesday, 21 December 2016 at 1PM. It will be held at the Old Post Chapel, Fort Meyer. Burial to follow in Arlington National Cemetery.

For those of you who served in 1/2 and know John Harold Johnston he has recently passed away from terminal cancer. Please keep him in your prayers.

Well we do have some good news LTC Eric Lopez was just promoted to Colonel. Congratulations Eric you are very well deserving of your promotion. He is now the fifth past commander of the 2nd Infantry Regiments that has been promoted to Colonel. In the past 1/2 Commanders that were promoted is Colonel Steven Miska (retired) and Colonel Earl Higgins. Past Commanders of 2/2 Colonel Daniel Hurlbut, Colonel Alan Streeter and Colonel Eric Lopez. All of them took our brothers for a down range tour, and provided excellent leadership they are also listed in the order that they Commanded their Regiments. Also we can't forget about CSM Noe Salinas (retired), CSM John Morales (retired) and of course CSM Walter (Tag) Tagalicud who now is Division CSM 3rd Infantry Division. These fine men took young men, trained them and Commanded them to keep our lineage going. And presently we have excellent leadership such as LTC Aaron Coombs, CSM Tom Abbott and CPT Kristopher Farrar that are leading our young Ramrods, to ensure that the legend continues.

Now also we have just elected a new President of the United States. Mr. Trump has made a promise in the past and also again in his victory speech that he will make America great again.

Without getting political America is already great, but there is room for a lot more improvement. He says that he will build up our military, take care of our Veterans and bring jobs back to the USA. We definitely need to hold him to this. We have all heard promises before, but after they get elected they seem to forget. This election has caused a division among many Americans, but we all need to reach out to each other to help make all of these good things happen. And let's help each other to make America Greater!!!

Pigeon Forge reunion will be May 18-21, 2017. You can get your registration forms on Facebook page: **2-2 INF Reunion** or on our website <http://www.secinfreg.org/> and hope to see you there.

So keep your head down and your powder dry. If you can't do that then move out and draw fire!

UPDATE ON BATTALION 2/2

LTC AARON K. COOMBS, MAJ SCOTT L. BRANDT

By 1LT CONOR H. WILSON 2-2 IN, 3/10 MTN IBCT, FORT POLK, LOUISIANA

Since last quarter, the Ramrod Battalion has continued to train hard. As always, the Ramrod Battalion continues to focus on training to fight and win in complex environments around the world, carrying forward the 2-2 IN legacy of excellence in combat.

The first major training event last quarter was a training deployment to Fort McCoy in support of the CSTX Army Reserve training event. This event marked the first time the Battalion conducted a large-scale movement of personnel and equipment. Ramrod Soldiers served as the enemy OPFOR to build on small unit tactics and provide training to our brothers and sisters in the Army Reserve. The battalion utilized the training event to test deployment readiness, and successfully moved all personnel, vehicles, and equipment to the other side of the country in under a week. Ramrod Soldiers hit the ground running, conducting land navigation and marksmanship before breaking down into small teams and squads to conduct raids and ambushes Army Reserve convoys and patrols. Delta Company, the Battalion Anti-Armor asset, also conducted a live-fire TOW missile range, marking another training opportunity capitalized upon by the Battalion.

The major training highlight at Fort McCoy was a Platoon live fire exercise. Light infantry platoons, supported by mortars, snipers, and unmanned aerial reconnaissance, conducted a deliberate attack on an enemy trench line during both day and night conditions. Platoon Leaders and below were evaluated in their ability to receive a mission, conduct planning and rehearsals, disseminate an order, and successfully conduct a deliberate attack. This training event marked a significant increase in complexity, and the Battalion demonstrated a high level of proficiency in effectively integrating all elements of combat power at its disposal.



Soldiers from Bear Company conduct move to contact in the mountains of Wisconsin



Dingo Company Soldiers conduct final pre-combat checks before firing live TOW missile



SPC Cooper and SPC Hopper prepare to ambush a BLUEFOR convoy during CSTX



SPC Goodman fires a live AT4 rocket during platoon live fire exercise



Scouts provide sniper over watch during a live fire exercise at Fort McCoy, WI



SSG Hubka and PFC Evans from Wolf Company train on the claymore mine to prepare for EIB



A gun team from 1st Platoon, Wolf Company reloads on the platoon live fire lane

(Continued on page 4)

Upon returning from Fort McCoy, Ramrod Soldiers immediately tackled the gauntlet of EIB testing back at Fort Polk. The strong NCO Corps in 2-2 tirelessly trained and mentored young Infantrymen for a week prior to testing, setting the Battalion up for success. Ramrod Soldiers first tested on physical fitness, needing a minimum of 80 points per event in push-ups, sit-ups, and the two-mile run. Following a hurried breakfast, Soldiers then tackled day and night land navigation before progressing to three days of grueling weapons and infantry skills testing. The event culminated with a 12-mile foot march and a final battery of tests. 2-2 Infantry had 19 Officers and Soldiers earn their Expert Infantryman Badge, the most in the entire Brigade!

Following a series of hard training events, the Battalion had a chance to unwind and celebrate its accomplishments, lineage, and bright future. Over 400 Soldiers and guests attended the ball at L'Auberge Resort and Casino in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The Battalion was honored to have CPT (Ret) Wilmer Benson and his wife Carol, Jim and Pam Leslie, and Mr. John Kerins as special guests at the event. LTC Coombs and CSM Abbott presented an additional campaign streamer for the Battalion Colors for the units bravery and service during the Transition I campaign of Operation Enduring Freedom. Other highlights included the traditional "Grog Ceremony," an address by LTC Aaron Coombs, and dancing.

Unit pride remains strong in 2-2 Infantry. 9 Ramrod Soldiers graduated Ranger school, and the Battalion continues to lead the Brigade in Ranger School graduations. Soldiers from the Battalion competed at both Brigade, Post, and FORSCOM level in Soldier and NCO of the Year competitions as well.

Looking forward, 2-2 IN prepares for a sprint to the finish, with several live fire events and air assault operations leading into a Battalion live fire exercise prior to going on a well-deserved Holiday break. Ramrods, Patriots, Climb to Glory, In Spite of Hell!



Soldiers from Juliet Forward Support Company entering the roll-over training simulator at Fort McCoy



A Ramrod Soldier tests on the Javelin missile during EIB at Fort Polk



LTC Coombs and CSM Abbott put the final touches on the Grog at the Battalion Ball



Ramrod Soldiers raise their glasses in a toast

2016 RAMROD BALL, 2D BATTALION, 2D INFANTRY REGIMENT

NOVEMBER 10, 2016—L'AUBERGE CASINO AND RESORT IN LAKE CHARLES, LA.

BY PAM LESLIE, ASSOCIATE MEMBER, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Jim and I had the honor of attending our first military ball for the 2d Infantry Regiment. We flew into New Orleans on November 7th, spent 2 days there, then on Wednesday the 9th we rented a car to drive the 3 hours to Lake Charles.



The L'Auberge where the ball was being held had lovely accommodations. Shortly after arrival, we contacted and met up with 1LT Tyler Haslam who was heading up the ball. He showed us the ballroom and asked Jim to be involved in the "grog ceremony" which would take place at the ball. Of course Jim felt honored to do so and said yes.

Prior to the start of the ball that Thursday



evening, there was a ceremony where 7-8 second lieutenants were promoted to the rank of first lieutenant.

They then opened up the receiving line and the head of it was LTC Coombs whom I was so happy to see. The last time I saw him was at our reunion this past May in Pigeon Forge where we did karaoke



together and had a ball (excuse the pun). It was so lovely to see the dressed up soldiers and the women in their formal attire. Even Jim and I got fancied up, me with a long gown and Jim in a tuxedo.



They also had a professional photographer set up in a room outside of the ballroom. Bill Benson along with his wife Carol and John Kerins along with his niece Lily were also in attendance so it was great to see them there as well. There were over 550 people in attendance which was a sight to behold.

Once inside the ballroom, we were seated at Table 23 in the front row. Seated with us was CPT Feroli who is Company A's Commander which Jim was also in Company A in Vietnam, along with his beautiful wife Elizabeth. Seated at another table was one of my favorites, CPT Kris Farrar along with his lovely wife Nicole.

The introduction was given by Major Brandt followed by the posting of the colors. The National Anthem was sang by SGT Hwang with the Invocation from Chaplain Payne. Following this were various toasts by Company Commanders then came the Grog Bowl Ceremony headed up by SGM Wise. Jim's job was to



represent 2d Infantry veterans from the past as he was the first to add his gallon of wine to the grog bowl after he chugged some. Many others followed this tradition



of adding to the grog including our John Kerins. It was so animated and fun to watch as each person went up there with their bottle, chugged then poured. After all the liquor was added, a replica ramrod was used by LTC Coombs and CSM Abbott to stir the pot. They then drank a sample to make certain it was fit to drink before the attendees at the tables were invited to go up and fill their pitchers.



A delicious buffet dinner was served followed up by remarks and retiring of the colors by LTC Coombs. Then the dance floor opened with music playing and all hell broke loose. I'm just kidding. Everyone including us had a great time dancing. Of course the young soldiers and their dates with all their energy, spirit, and awesome dance moves were a blast to watch!

The next day L'Auberge hosted a fabulous and extensive Veteran Days Buffet complimentary to our veterans. Jim and I then headed back to New Orleans to take our flight home.

It was a wonderful time and I highly recommend the veterans I revere so much to at least attend once in their lifetime. This was definitely memorable for both Jim and I and we both hope to attend future balls.

DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA (DUI)

BY JOHN KERINS, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, 2D IN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

John Kerins, Bravo Company 68-69, and CPT Kris Farrar, current Bravo Company commander are pictured with the plaque made to display the original medal DUI that first hung on a similar plaque in the B/2/2 orderly room at Lai Khe, Viet Nam. Plaques like this had been issued to every company in the 1st Infantry Division when they deployed to Viet Nam in 1965.

Several times incoming rockets had knocked the plaque off the wall. And once the plaque suffered several cracks wood-rot set in. When leaving in January '69, SGT Kerins noticed the plaque, cracked and wood-rotted, laying on top a cabinet in the corner of the orderly room.

Since no one else seemed concerned about the condition of the plaque, Kerins decided to take it home and refurbish it.

The wood plaque was beyond repair. And soon the metal DUI slipped the glue holding it to the plaque. John Kerins held on to the DUI for over forty years. And returned the DUI to CPT Farrar last summer at the Second Infantry Regiment Memorial dedication.

CPT Farrar had the plaque made with it's the history engraved and shared it at the Battalion Military Ball.

The metal DUI over fifty years old, once again has a place of honor in B-2-2 orderly room.



SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT MONUMENT DEDICATION TAPES

JUNE 9, 2016 FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

BY JIM LESLIE VICE PRESIDENT, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Tapes are now ready for shipping after a long problem with Columbus videos and tapes. Tape run is about 55 minutes and are very well done. Once the dedication was done, they were asked to interview veterans' from the Second and shoot more video in the museum. When I finally got the tapes, they did not do the museum and edited out over half the interviews. I asked for the raw cut which also did not include all of the interviews or museum. Anyway it still looks good.



Bob Douglass and the monument board have decided to offer the tapes this way:

1. If you gave a donation of \$500.00 or more you get a free tape with free shipping.
2. If you are on the monument board you get a free tape with free shipping.
3. If you would like a tape shipped to you, please send to Jim Leslie a check made out to the **Second Infantry Regiment Association for \$15.00, c/o Jim Leslie, 3540 Timberline Drive, Clyde, MI 48049, email address is gripfast@ameritech.net**
4. I also had Columbus Monument Company save about 20 black chipping or chards when they made the cuttings. Sizes are about the size of a large silver dollar. It makes a nice paper weight and the cost is \$10.00 and can be shipped along with the tape.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

BY RICH MALING, CHAPLAIN, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Isaiah 9: 6-7 would be a wonder reminder of Christ's coming:

*For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a son is given;
And the government will be upon
His shoulder.
And his name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of His government
and Peace
There will be no end
Upon the throne of David and over
His Kingdom,
To order it and establish it with
judgement and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will
perform this.*



SONG OF PEACE

Finlandia by Jean Sibelius

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine;
this is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine:
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine:
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

http://prometheusli.com/musings/a_song_of_peace.htm

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OxSYe8_e4Y

2-2 INF REGIMENT REUNION - MAY 18-21, 2017 PIGEON FORGE, TENN.

BY BRIAN LAKE, WITH JAMES RIGGS, RAMROD REUNION COORDINATORS

Hello Everyone! I hope that everybody had an awesome Veterans Day! I would personally like to thank each and every one who served, and their families as well! I would like to put some information about the upcoming Reunion in Pigeon Forge, on May 18-21. I would like to thank Chuck and Karen Mundahl for their support, while James Riggs and myself (Brian Lake), are going through this transition of taking over the reunion. We have been talking to Shoney's, who is the restaurant who has been catering the reunion in the past. We will definitely retain their business, as they have done a tremendous job every year. The one thing we were looking at, is to change the menu up a little bit. For instance, we were talking about doing a Taco Bar on Thursday, and possibly changing up some of the breakfast items, as well as some of the banquet items. We would love to have everybody's input on what they think about this?



Another thing that we would like to do, is put together a slide show, which will be running on a projector the entire time we are there. That way everyone can enjoy watching it together. In order to do that, it would be very helpful if we could get pictures scanned over to us that anybody has. Also, James Riggs will be doing Facebook live, so that whoever will not be able to come, will be able to see everybody in Live Time at the reunion. James has set up a Facebook Page called 2-2 INF Reunion, which will provide you with the most recent updates to the reunion. There will be a lot more to come in the near future, so we will be looking forward to seeing everybody in May!

My email is bnalake@yahoo.com, and James is jamesriggs@rocketmail.com.

Please don't hesitate to email either of us with any questions you may have! Thank You All!

FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION BOARD REPORT

BY JIM LESLIE, VICE PRESIDENT 2D IN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION AND FIRST DIVISION BOARD MEMBER

The division meets once a year at the Division Convention and also by email during the year. As you all know, Executive Director Buddy Wallace was replaced last year by General Ron Watts and Anna Gregory was made Executive Director at the Atlanta convention this year. She was asked to resign and did with a letter of resignation this past October. General Watts and Jen Sanford are running the Division and looking for a new Executive Director. General Watts is doing an outstanding job in all areas. The Board and General Watts have been trying to cut costs for the C.P.'s at the conventions. Sad to say the only way liquor or any food sales can be cut is by attendees spreading out and staying in two or three smaller hotels with the convention being held at one of them. The vote by the board was for one hotel. We were able to lower costs for other services which will help a great deal.

The Division is looking to raise funds to add additional names to the 1st Division Monument in Washington D.C.. The names that would be added would be for those lost in Iraq/Afghanistan wars. The goal is to raise \$400,000 to add their names and so far \$100,000 has been raised.

Bob Douglass sits on the Scholarship Foundation and now grandchildren have been added to the scholarship fund. You can contact Bob Douglass for more information regarding submission of the proper applications.

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the First Division a one of a kind print will be offered to the membership. The board has been discussing what we would like to see on this special 100th Anniversary print. General Ron Watts is heading up this committee. At this time we have no price (talking about \$90, no size decided as of yet but something to fit into a low cost frame), and no name for the print has been decided on although the name Victory has been discussed. The artist has done some renderings and the board has chosen one. It is in black and white and is now being done in color for final approval by the board.

The drawing looks like this. A large group of standing First Division soldiers about 13 in all representing WWI to present day. All in battle/combat gear with weapons. The background is dark clouds with different types of aircraft. In the center is the American flag and the Division flag with battle streamers. At bottom center is a crest with the wreath and Division patch and a ribbon which says "1917-2017". The print will be available next year at the officer's dinner April 29, 2017 and at the convention. There will be a limited number of prints available.

Upcoming events for 2017 are:

- * **15 April:** 47th Anniversary of the Division's return from Vietnam (Fort Riley, KS)
- * **29 April:** Officers of the First Division Dinner (Junction City, KS)
- * **8 June:** 1st Infantry Division's 100th birthday
- * **29 June:** Cantigny Museum reopens (Chicago, IL)
- * **4 July:** Sundown Salute (Junction City, KS)
- * **24-30 July:** Society of the First Infantry Division Reunion (Kansas City, MO)
- * **August:** Victory Week - celebrating 100 years of the 1st Infantry Division (Fort Riley, KS)
- * **11 November:** Veteran's Day Parade (Manhattan, KS)
- * **The 2018 Convention will be at the Westin Hotel in Lombard, IL.**

Noli Me Tangere

2D INFANTRY REGIMENT AND THE HOLIDAYS

BY LARRY GRZYWINSKI, HISTORIAN, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

When we think of the Holidays we think of where the 2d Infantry Regiment may have been and what they were doing. In the 200 plus years that the 2d Infantry has been in existence it has never been able to claim any one place as its "permanent" home. From 1815 until 1957 it was an actual regiment consisting of headquarters, staff, band and from ten to twelve companies of infantry. From 1815 to 1898 there were no battalions, regiment and battalion being one and the same. It was very rare that the entire regiment was together in one location. From 1957 until the present it has been two battalions with three or more companies each.

The 2d Infantry Regiment or battalions/companies of the regiment have been assigned to nine divisions and one infantry brigade. It has been located in thirty-nine states and seventeen countries, some more than once. What follows is a partial run down of what and where the 2d Infantry spent the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays over the years.

In 1848 the regiment was aboard ship sailing around Cape Horn heading to California. From 1849 to 1853 the regiment was in California patrolling the entire state, Christmas 1853 the regiment was sailing back to New York.

From 1854 to 1861 it was located at various forts throughout the western plains. At the start of the Civil War in 1861 companies of the regiment were located in Missouri and Washington D C. During the Civil War from 1862 to 1865 it was in numerous battles and at various locations assigned to the Army of the Potomac.

From 1866 to 1877 companies were in various locations in the southern part of the U S, then from 1877-1898 companies of the regiment found themselves in various locations throughout the Plains Indian fighting and patrolling. From mid-November to the end of December 1890 the regiment was camped on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.



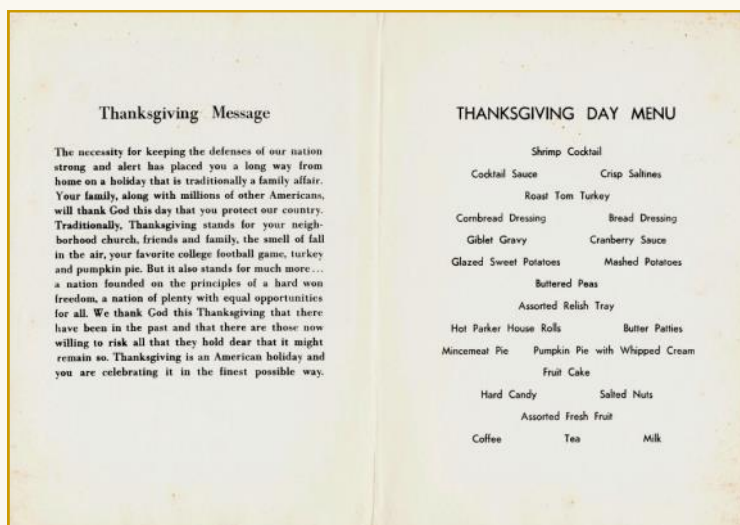
Chaplain Tom Carter - Thanksgiving Day
November 1966 Phu Loi, Vietnam



Jim Leslie—Thanksgiving Day Menu
1968 Lai Khe, Vietnam



CAPT Wm. J Mullen, receives DSC from
GEN Westmoreland on Thanksgiving Day
in 1966 Lai Khe, Vietnam



(Continued on page 10)

From October 1900 to January 1903 the regiment was in the Philippines fighting the Insurrectionists then returned to the U S for a brief period. Then from February 1904 to March 1908 returned to the Philippines.

During the holidays of 1908 to 1910 the regiment was stationed at Fort Thomas, Kentucky and Fort Assiniboine, Montana. From September 1911 to July 1918 the regiment was stationed in Hawaii. From 1918 until 1943 two of the twelve companies of the regiment were located at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, Forts Brady and Wayne in Michigan.

In 1942 the regiment was in Iceland and then in 1943 it was in Ireland during the holidays, From July 1944 the regiment was fighting in France and Luxemburg during the Battle of the Bulge.

From October 1965 until April 1970 the 1st and 2d Battalions were in Vietnam. Since 1946 the two battalions of the 2d Infantry have been active and inactivate several times and located in the U S, Germany, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

One of the longest periods of time from April 1970 to October 1983 the 1st Battalion was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas with the 1st Infantry Division.

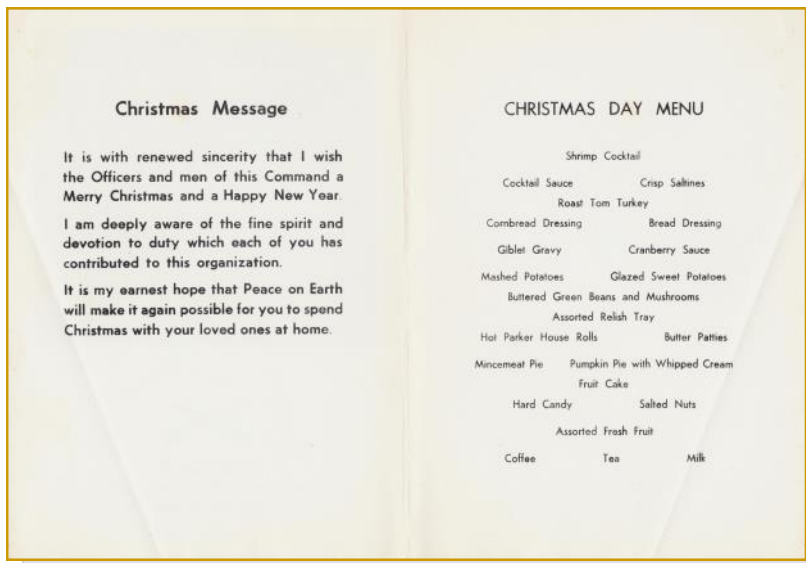
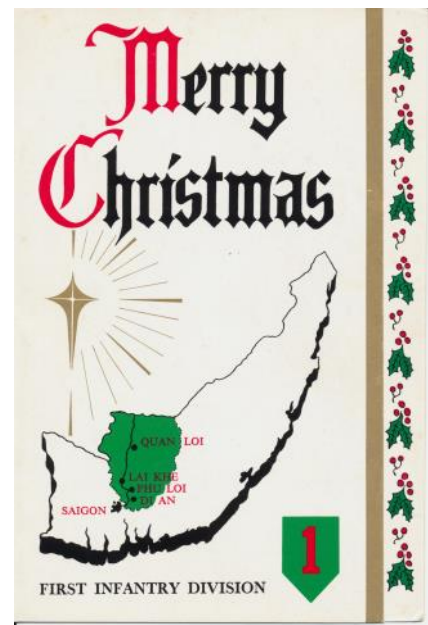
**HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING
AND A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



Photo by, Tom Copeland—Charlie Mathews Christmas Tree in HHC ground surveillance hooch—December 1967 Lai Khe, Vietnam



Jim Leslie—Christmas Day Menu 1968 Lai Khe, Vietnam





TECHNICIAN 5TH GRADE FLOYD C. FENNER, 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION 2D INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1ST BATTALION, COMPANY C

PART 2 OF 2 ARTICLES

BY JIM LESLIE, VICE PRESIDENT SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



NORMANDY, FRANCE - On the 9th of July 1944 the Second Infantry Regiment stepped onto France soil at Utah Beach D-Day plus 30. The first order of business was to off load Floyd's jeep off the large barge he came over on. His jeep was the first one off. He could hear a lot of shelling from both German and American artillery. Once he hit the beach he had 30 minutes to remove all the beeswax and degrease the jeep's waterproofing. They also welded steel bars on the front of the jeep so he could move better in the hedgerows. The steel bars were taken from four legged German anti ship water obstruction.

As C Company moved forward into the hedgerows, the company commander told Floyd he was to stay in the rear and only move forward once they make contact with the Germans. His main job was to provide 50 caliber firepower for the company. This he did during his time with the regiment. He told me he carried five different kinds of 50 caliber ammo in the jeep. He told me the worst part was fighting in the hedgerows and was glad to move forward. Where this action took place was around July 26, 1944 in Vidouville, France.

NORTHERN FRANCE- Company C was constantly on the move fighting small battles and never having time to see what they did. They were moving so fast, Floyd never had time to dig a fox hole. He talked about seeing piles of dead bodies and a mile long row of dead horses next to German equipment. At one point he was called up to take out a German sniper in a church steeple with the 50 caliber. As they liberated France towns the people came out and gave them champagne. At one time he had 13 bottles in the jeep. I asked him if we liked champagne and he said "hell no".

RHINELAND—The battle of Metz and the Metz forts were one of the biggest battles Floyd remembers. He stated it took 30 days to complete the task. The area was occupied by crack SS German troops. This was a major stronghold with hills on all sides. Floyd stated that the walls at the fort were 4 inches thick with large steel doors which they used to pull heavy artillery out of and fire on the Second. He recalls a lot of mortar and heavy artillery fire. At this time he removed the windshield from the jeep due to shrapnel hitting the glass and getting in his eyes.

Metz was captured on November 21. By December 9th all forts had been captured or surrendered.

ARDENNES—The thing Floyd remembers the most was the snow and the heavy artillery and the shelling. The snow was 2 to 3 feet deep. He told me he missed his windshield. This was a bad time for him and he did not want to talk about it. He did say having the jeep was good for finding out information when an officer rode with him or when he had to get information at battalion headquarters.

On Christmas night he was driving, but on Christmas day General Patton sent up the large trucks with stoves inside and he had a hot dinner on the hood of his jeep. They would make spam sandwiches in the morning to last them all day. He also ate a lot of cold K-rations.

There was heavy opposition for the taking of Bergdorf, Germany. Once they took the city Floyd moved into town and found the Germans left a goose cooking in a pot. Next came the crossing of the Saver River. This was done by a platoon bridge. Winter was in temperatures that dropped to 16 degrees below zero the night of January 17-18 1945. First battalion headed north capturing the town of Erpeldange, Germany.

(Continued on page 12)

PURPLE HEART— In the first part of February 1945 Floyd was driving the jeep into town and heard incoming artillery. It hit a peak on a stone building. That was all he remembered until he woke up with his rifle in his hand and four medics standing over him. He had been hit in the face on the upper left side. His jaw was shattered, he was blinded in his left eye, and his teeth were loose. He was taken to an aid station in the rear then sent to a hospital east of Paris, France.

Two doctors removed shrapnel from his face and they asked him if he wanted them as souvenirs. He told them "no way".

His jaw was wired shut and he was sent to Herford, England for 2 months. He could not eat solid foods, only liquids including eggnog. To this day he hates eggnog. He did have his first leave since Normandy and spent two weeks in England at a Salvation Army rehab center.

HOME—On May 7, 1945 he was told he would be going home by ship, but orders were changed and he went by train in a 40 and 8 boxcar back to Lenora, Czechoslovakia.

He always wanted to cross the Rhine River with this company. Now he did on his way to join the Second. Once he got to Company C he found he only knew one man. All the talk in the Company was the Second was going to the Pacific to fight the Japanese. He spent 30 days in Austria and went by 40 and 8 to Belgium and picked up Liberty ship and headed home to the USA. He got home August 7, 1945.

When he got home he saw his daughter Patricia for the first time in four years. He went back to work at Chrysler in Marysville, Michigan for 12 years. He had to leave Chrysler due to a sinus problem from his war wound. He went to work with his father and brother as a painter and carpenter.

Floyd passed away on May 10, 2016 at 100 years old. I had visited him while his daughter Kathy Polovich was with him about two weeks before. She told me he was not doing well. Pam and I were at the Pigeon Forge reunion and on the second day we were there, Kathy called me to say Floyd had passed. He was buried with full military honors. If you are reading this please say a prayer for Floyd and all World War II veterans. God bless them.



UNTITLED WRITING

BY ROBERT C. FULPS, 1SGT (RET) C2/2 66-67

LIFE MEMBER, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

There is no glory in surviving
For the guilt overshadows the shine
The real heroes are the ones who died
To pay for your freedom and mine

We've all had our heroic moments
At times we've pounded our chests
And told of significant accomplishments
Our version always being the best



When we look at ourselves as survivors
And realize we have a second chance in life
We must dedicate ourselves to the honor and glory
Of the heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice

For they gave up all their tomorrows
To pay for our freedoms today
So honor them my friends
Today, Tomorrow, and ALWAYS.

THE BALLAD OF THE STRAIGHTLEGS

SUBMITTED BY WJ MULLEN III BG USA, RETIRED

*GEN MULLEN RECEIVED THIS WHEN HE WAS WITH C/1-2 IN '66
IT IS A PARODY SUNG TO THE MELODY OF THE "GREEN BERET"*

The Ballad of the Straightlegs

(Banjo Music in background. Plinky plank, plinky plank, plinkety plunk plunk plunk.)

Hello out there in radioland, folks! This is Corporal Don Bobby Lethcoe, United States Army conventional soldier.

You folks know all about that sergeant who made up a song about them Special Service soldiers with the green hats, and then he made a record of it and sold sixteen jillions worth. The way he done it, it says in the magazine, is that he was sittin' outside of this kind of a bordin' house in Laredo or Tijuana or some place like that with a bottle of tequila and all the girls that roomed there—maybe it was a YWCA—kept saying to him, "Say, sing us that song you made up."

Well, it was just about the same with me. I was sittin' on the Post Office steps back home drinkin' Nehi and eatin Nabs crackers when the Mayor drove up in his Lincoln Continental provided by the War on Appalachia Poverty Program, and he said to me, "Say there, Don Bobby, why don't you sing that song you made up about Veet-Nam?" So I done it, and now I am here on the radio! Jeezt!

And now I'm about to sing my song, but before I commence you have to know that anybody in the Army that jumps out of airplanes on purpose calls any that don't a "Straightleg" or just a "Leg" and believe me I don't jump out of any airplanes on purpose and don't even get into one if I have my druthers.

An all that is why I call my song, "The Ballad of the Straightlegs." And here it is:

I

Plain old soldiers of the ground,
On the Sullivan Show, we're never found.
We're conventional—sneaky we're not
And we cover our heads with a plain steel pot.

Hand grenades upon our chest,
Entrenching tool, and all the rest
About our tests, we cannot brag.
It's Downright easy, to become a "laig".

II

I got a note from my draft board,
Went to camp with the millin' horde.
I'm keepin' the ground in touch with my feet
They'll never call a Leg "elite"

Hand Grenade upon my chest.
Entrenchin' tool and all the rest.
One hundred men they tested that day
And ninety-nine are Legs to stay.

III

Then they shipped me to Veet-Nam.
Didn't volunteer, but here I am.
Them Veet Congs shoot near and far.
It's a very poor place to carry a guitar.

Leech repellent on my chest,
Rolled-down sleeves and a borrowed flak vest.
No correspondent for miles around
A Leg is zilch as a publicity hound.

IV

Back at home a farm girl waits.
Her straightleg soldier has met his fate.
He has re-upped, corporal's stripes he's got,
And he still wears a plain steel pot.

Put a GI helmet on my son's haid.
For sellin' records, he'll never get paid.
He won't know judo from karate,
But he'll be a good Leg, under that steel potty.



Ramrods Reunion
18—21 May 2017

The reunion is open to all who are currently serving or had served in the Battalions of the 2d Infantry Regiment, their families and guests.

Please check the Website or Facebook page in the future for information and to download the registration forms:

On Facebook: 2-2 INF Reunion

<http://www.secinfreg.org/events/events.htm>

Brian Lake bnalake@yahoo.com
 James Riggs jamesriggs@rocketmail.com



2016 - 2018
SECOND US INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS

President	Bob "FO" Douglass	bdouglass1@peoplepc.com
Vice-President	Jim Leslie	gripfast@ameritech.net
Treasurer	Karen Mundahl	kmcm01@comcast.net
Secretary/Membership	Kathy Grzywinski	kjgrzywinski@gmail.com
Chaplain	Richard Maling	b_maling@yahoo.com
Historian	Larry Grzywinski	larrygrz@yahoo.com
Hon. Regiment COL	Bill Mullen	WMulleniii@comcast.net
Hon. Regiment SGM	Don "Top" Olmstead	top6roam@cox.net
Division Exec. Board	Jim Leslie	gripfast@ameritech.net
Communications Of-	John Kerins	secinfreg@aol.com

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Larry Aalbers	larryaalbers@comcast.net
Jim Clark	jac.95@mac.com
Jim Holland	jholl44122@aol.com
Chuck Mundahl	kmcm01@comcast.net
Israel Tamés	tames25@sbcglobal.net

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Larry Dahle	hldahle@cox.net
Thomas Rehm	tar221130@gmail.com

WEB ADMINISTRATOR

Bill Stafford	stafford.bill@gmail.com
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<http://www.secinfreg.org/>

SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION

2017 Reunion

Westin Kansas City
 Crown Center
 July 26-30



2018 Reunion

Westin Hotel
 Lombard, Ill.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

General Membership:
\$10. per year -or- \$100. Life Membership

Active Duty Soldier:
\$ 5. per year -or- \$25. Life Membership

Please make checks payable to:

"2ND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION"

Mail to: **KATHY GRZYWINSKI**
 2832 188th Street
 Lansing, IL 60438-3402

Email: kjgrzywinski@gmail.com

Form:
[http://www.secinfreg.org/admin/2nd_Inf_Member_form\(2016Kathy\).pdf](http://www.secinfreg.org/admin/2nd_Inf_Member_form(2016Kathy).pdf)

First Infantry Division Monument

Background Summary:

The First Division Monument sits on a plaza in President's Park, west of the White House and south of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) at the corner of 17th Street and State Place, NW. First Division. The monument was erected in 1924

The monument was conceived by the Society of the First Division to honor the valiant efforts of the soldiers who fought in World War I. Later additions to the monument commemorate the lives of First Division soldiers who fought in subsequent wars. The World War II addition on the west side was dedicated in 1957, the Vietnam War addition on the east side in 1977, and the Desert Storm plaque in 1995.

Each conflict contains the names of those killed in action while serving with the First Infantry Division. Names are listed by unit for each conflict.

- World War I: 5,516 First Division soldiers
- World War II: 4,325 First Infantry Division Soldiers
- Vietnam: 3,079 First Infantry Division Soldiers
- Desert Storm: 27 First Infantry Division Soldiers, to include one female soldier and one contract civilian

A total of 12,947 names are now on the Monument

The Society of the First Infantry Division is developing a plan to add the names of First Division Soldiers killed in action since Desert Storm, and also facilitate space for those who might be killed in action in future conflicts. Several actions are required to support this plan:

- Develop the Architectural Design for modifying the existing Monument
- Obtaining National Park Service approval of the design and construction
- Employing a contractor to complete the work
- Adding the names for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)

Goal: Dedicate the Monument updates at the Society of the First Infantry Division Reunion in August 2019.

First Infantry Division Monument Fund Drive



- First Division Monument located west of White House
- Each Conflict contains names and units of 1st ID KIAs
- 12,947 Names on Monument (WWI – Desert Storm)
- Modifications needed to add Iraq and Afghanistan BRO KIAs
- Fund Drive Goal: Raise \$400,000 for Modifications

Society Goal: Redesign, Add Names, Dedicate in 2019

I want to do my part in reaching the Society Goal:

Make checks payable to: Society of the First Infantry Division
___ \$1,000. ___ \$500. ___ \$300. ___ \$100. ___ Other: \$ ___

Donations are Tax Deductible

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: Society of 1st Infantry Division, PO Box 607, Ambler, PA 19002;
or, On-line www.1stID.org donations, check DC Monument Fund



SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM

If renewing, fill out name, address, and any information you wish updated.

Type of Membership: _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL

General Membership: Annual dues \$ 10.00 Life membership \$ 100.00
Active Duty Soldiers: Annual dues \$ 5.00 Life membership \$ 25.00

Name: _____ Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

(It is more economical for the Association to communicate electronically.
If you don't have email or if you prefer, all correspondence can be mailed to you.)

I prefer to receive correspondence via: _____ Email _____ US mail

Dates of service with the regiment: _____

(If you know the month and year please enter YRMO IE: August 1968 = 6808)

Area (s) of operation i.e. State Side, Normandy, Rhineland, WWII, Vietnam, Germany, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. _____

Battalion _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ Other

Company _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____ HHC

Other unit _____

Any information you feel appropriate, such as rank held, medals awarded, or duties performed during service:

Please mail your form, along with your check made out to: 2^D INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

c/o **Kathy J. Grzywinski**
2832 188th Street
Lansing, IL 60438-3402

Today's Date: _____