

◆ THE BLUE BADGE ◆

Volume 16 Issue 1

Dedicated to all Combat Infantrymen

Jan-Feb-Mar-Apr 2012



What's Hot This Issue??

- *2012 Convention News is the cover story*
- *Commander's Column can be found on page 5*
- *Fr Hetzler says goodbye; the Editor speaks on page 6*
- *Correction and National Infantry Monument are on page 7*
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- *Personal Stories begins on page 15*
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- *TAPS is on Page 18*
- *The Welcome Mat begins on Page 21*
- *Brothers in Arms, forms and applications make up the rest of the issue*

2012 Convention Set for Nashville, home of Grand Ole Opry

The 2012 Combat Infantrymen's Association National Convention will be held in Nashville, TN October 17-21 at the Holiday Inn Opryland. The Holiday Inn is a first class hotel with all of the amenities, including complimentary airport shuttle, needed for a quality convention.

The complete agenda has not been finalized at this printing, but we do know that a visit to Ft Campbell, KY for a tour of the post has been authorized but Campbell authorities, have not yet completed our itinerary. We do know that you'll be able to have lunch with the active duty troops in one of the mess halls "or dining facilities" as they are now called. If you haven't eaten in a chow hall for a while, you are in for a major surprise.

On the subject of Ft Campbell, the visit there has necessitated a change from our normal pattern. Because of the extended number of deployments and time away from home, Friday's at

Ft Campbell have been declared a "minimum duty" day whereas only the ready force and essential persons are on duty. What this means to us is that our tour must take place on Thursday—the day most of our members would ordinarily arrive. Consequently anyone wanting to go on the Ft Campbell trip must arrive Wednesday night or in the wee hours (0630 hrs) on Thursday. The only additional cost will be Wednesday night's lodging. So when making your plans, be sure to take into account your Wednesday arrival. There will be no planned activities on Wednesday—you'll be on your own for meals, except for breakfast on Thursday (breakfast is included in the room rate). There will be no hospitality room on Wednesday.

Also, arrangements have been made to attend the Saturday night Grand Ole Opry—provided we meet the minimum number requirement.

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STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Blue Badge is the official publication of the Combat Infantrymen's Association. It is published three times a year in March, July, and November. All official information pertaining to the Association will be found here. The Blue Badge's intent is to keep you informed about the activities of the Association, not necessarily the entire veterans' community. So, even though such items may be of interest to some members, you will not normally find articles pertaining to veterans' benefits or other veterans' issues in the Blue Badge.

Each member is encouraged to communicate with the Blue Badge. Give us your ideas, comments, and complaints. Give us your human interest stories, share personal memories from your days in combat and the aftermath. Tell us what your unit is doing. Because of the volume of mail received, sometimes we cannot print all of the letters. But be assured that every letter is read and considered. Space is also a consideration. The Blue Badge must be printed in multiples of four, i. e. 8 pages, 12 pages, 16 pages, etc. Sometimes we have too much for, let's say 20 pages, but not enough for 24 pages, some things may have to wait.

The Blue Badge is not a political tool. Articles portraying a political position or negative or demeaning to another member will not be printed. We do not accept any type of advertising, and we will not promote commercial products. Finally, articles, poems, etc which are not the original work of the sender, must be accompanied by the author's permission before it can be published in the Blue Badge.

Remember there is a cutoff date for items to be published.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION

All items for publication in the Blue Badge must be received on or before the 15th of the month before the publication month. The Blue Badge is published three times a year in March, July, and November This means your items must arrive at the Blue Badge on or before the 15th of February, June, and October. Items received after those dates will be held until the next issue is published. **ALL ITEMS INTENDED FOR PUBLICATION IN BB SHOULD BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE EDITOR**

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

One of the delays that cause some confusion and aggravation among members is sometimes perceived as a lack of response to the member needs. The staff works hard to answer your questions, act on your requests, and in general be responsive to your needs. One of the problems encountered is requests being sent to the wrong place. In order to simplify the process, the following **GUIDELINES** have been established. **Please use them:**

- Articles to be printed in the Blue Badge including letters to the editor; poems, personal stories, etc,
- Items pertaining to the annual convention
- Taps notices
- Address changes
- Failure to receive a Blue Badge
- Requests for additional Blue Badges

Send to:

Larry Eckard

Editor, Blue Badge

PO Box 11438

Hickory, NC 28603

FAX: 282-256-6559 E-mail: larry@mlrsinc.com

When corresponding, please give your name, CIA #, address, phone number, and e-mail address.

This type of information should only be sent via e-mail, fax, or thru US Postal Service, **not via telephone**

<DO NOT SEND THE BLUE BADGE MATERIALS YOU WANT RETURNED>

A Little Humor, Very Little

The other night my wife and I ventured out after dark for a quiet dinner at a local restaurant. The hostess was young, pretty, and well proportioned. She looked at the two of us and asked, "How many?" Before I could speak my wife gave me this, "Don't say a word look" so I didn't. As the hostess sashayed away from the hostess stand she looked over her shoulder and said, "Walk this way". My wife got into the spirit of things and said, "No thank you, I'll walk my normal way." It went right over her head.

Don't you wonder who was the first person that saw a cow and said I believe I'll squeeze those dangly things and drink whatever comes out of it?

With all of today's science, technology and gadgets galore, I wonder why the Chinese still eat with two sticks?

Insure You Receive Your Blue Badge!!

A continuing complaint is, "I did not receive my Blue Badge." This is not a new problem; it is the same one that has plagued everyone who ever been involved in the Blue Badge.

The single most reason that Blue Badges are not received is the simple fact that members do not notify us of an address change. If you don't care enough to notify the BB of an address change—don't complain about not receiving your copy. The responsibility is entirely yours! We don't know when you move.

The second most common reason is you did not sign up to receive the BB by mail. You are not automatically put on the BB mailing list, you have to tell us. If you are not receiving your Blue Badge—and for some magical reason are reading this, let the editor know you want to receive yours by mail. For annual members, when you get your renewal notice there is a block on the application for you to indicate whether you are willing to help the association by receiving your Blue Badge electronically or whether you want it by mail. If neither block is checked it will be assumed you want it electronically.

The Blue Badge is not forwarded. Undeliverable BB's are returned to the data base manager. It costs the Association \$1.68 for each BB returned, but in the long run, that is cheaper than not knowing how many incorrect addresses we have in the data base and continuing to print and mail a copy to an incorrect address.

If a Blue Badge is returned as "undeliverable", "no forwarding address" or "forwarding order expired" you will be removed from the Blue Badge mailing list—not the membership rolls—until a change of address or membership renewal is received.

To a lesser degree the same is true of e-mail addresses—don't let yours bounce—report your new e-mail address.

The editor/data base manager has no way of knowing when your address changes; it is up to you to keep your address current.

Blue Badge Status

Article IX "Publications" of the Combat Infantrymen's Association Constitution provides for the publication of the Blue Badge. Frequency of publication is not addressed. Since the first issue of Blue Badge was printed years ago, it has been published quarterly. In looking at the association finances, both in house and projected, beginning with this issue the BB will be published three times a year—in March, July, and November — instead of quarterly. Cut-off dates for submitting items for publication will be in February, June

and October. These months were chosen because the Convention information needs to be in the July issue and the Convention wrap-up in the November issue.

This is purely a financial move because so many new members are opting for Life Membership and many annual members are switching to the Life option further reducing our income. Also more and more members are requesting their BB by mail driving up the printing and postage costs significantly. Donations from life members are not being received as we had hoped for. If there is an increase in annual memberships or donations from life members that appears to be sustainable, then we can consider resuming quarterly publication. This new procedure will not change the way anyone receives the Blue Badge, if you get it by mail now, you will continue getting it by mail.

Members who are willing to read the Blue Badge on line and print their own copy—which by the way is now over half of the membership—are saving the association a great deal of money. All you have to do is tell the Editor (larry@mhrsinc.com) that you will receive your BB electronically.

The on line Blue Badge is posted in color and is posted about three weeks before you can expect to receive the mailed copy. We know that many members do not have a computer so we don't expect you to download and print your own copy.

This was discussed at the business meeting in Myrtle Beach and did not generate any opposition.

Nashville

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Because you'll be attending the Opry on Saturday night, it will be necessary to have the annual banquet on Friday night. A guest speaker and Honor Guard have been requested but as of this date confirmation has not been received.

Another important action will be the election of a new Deputy Commander. As you will read elsewhere the call has gone out for candidates.

Nashville is a really great reunion city. Contrary to popular belief, there is much more to this city than country Music - although unquestionably country music is a major contributor to the local economy. While they may not be included on the tour agenda, the General Jackson Riverboat offers some of the best entertainment in Nashville—variety of shows—not just Country. Then there is The Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson. Here you can see life as it was in pre/post Civil War days. If you come a day early to make the Ft Campbell trip, why not explore a little, see some of what Nashville has to offer. You won't be disappointed. If there is enough interest an additional day's tour can be scheduled.

National CIA Command Structure

CORRECT AS OF 15 Feb 2012

National Headquarters is historically located in Asheville, North Carolina. Administratively HQ is located at the National Commander's residence.

National Commander
Zalph T. (Bill) Cross
14571 Grande Cay Cir, Unit 3204
Fort Myers, FL 33908
708-209-6193
sandzc@aol.com

DEP CO-JAMES BOURGEOIS
253-224-0817
Jabemk32@aol.com

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VENDOR**
239-398-7855
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colulmer@aol.com

COL RALPH L. SMITH-CHAPLAIN
972-255-4537

penwest2001@yahoo.com

**EARL KENNEDY— IMMEDIATE
PAST COMMANDER/NATIONAL AD-
MINISTRATIVE ASSISTNAT**
239-2926854

**(NOTE-ALL ELEVEN ABOVE COM-
PRISE THE VOTING EXECUTIVE
BOARD)**

**NEW POSITION (non-voting):
SUPPORT GROUP CDR**
O. H. "SGT" HUBBARD
903-815-3890 (no e-mail)

On the Horizon

Looming on the horizon is the election of a new National Deputy Commander. He will be elected at the next CIA convention in Nashville, TN this fall. If you are interested in becoming the next DC, submit your name to the National Commander to be placed on the ballot. Also, we'd like to have a recent photo of you and a short bio to publish in the Blue Badge. The membership needs information to select the best qualified candidate. This is an important and responsible position. If you are willing to come forward and join the command team, submit your name to the Commander. As a word of caution, as with all positions on the commander's staff, this is not just a title; it is a huge job requiring a lot of work but with huge self-satisfaction rewards.

The 2013 convention site is also on the horizon. At the last business meeting in Myrtle Beach the assembly voted to allow the National Commander, Deputy Commander and the Blue Badge Editor (also the convention manager) to select the sites for future conventions— with input from the membership.

Last issue it was mentioned that a couple of places had been recommended for 2013—cities near Ft Hood, TX; Ft Stewart, GA; Fort Drum, NY; Ft Jackson, SC. No other selections were received so the committee reached a decision selecting Columbia, SC (Ft Jackson). More on that in future issues. If you have a suggestion for the 2014 convention site let it be known, your

suggestions will be welcomed and considered. Along with your suggestion, include some reasons why you feel your recommendation would be a good site. Consider things like transportation (air service, major highways, amtrack, etc), number of full service hotels (hotels with adequate meeting, hospitality, and banquet space, on site restaurant, cocktail lounge). A Days Inn, Comfort Inn, Hampton Inn type motel is not adequate. Attractions, what is there to "draw a crowd"? Although the preferred location is near a military post housing infantry or Special Forces units. Please, if you have a suggestion let the Commander know and he will bring it to the committee for consideration. Your input is important!

Finally, it is not too early to consider candidates for the National Commander election to be held in 2013. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, let the present Commander know. Get your name out there, come to the convention and get some name recognition.

Not so much on the horizon but now in its infancy is the new way of sending renewal notices. In the past Division Commanders and National Deputy Commander James Bourgeois were the sole source for notifying members when their annual dues were due. The first step already in place is to gradually get every annual member with a March expiration date. We realized that in some instances a member would not get credit for a full year, but that was the only way to get all members the same expiration date. So far members have responded positively and have not complained. The original intent was to provide each division commander with a roster of his members so he could track the renewal but that was not working because some division commanders lacked the resources to notify members of their due dates. Consequently many, many members did not receive renewal notices and never renewed. It became obvious

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Horizon

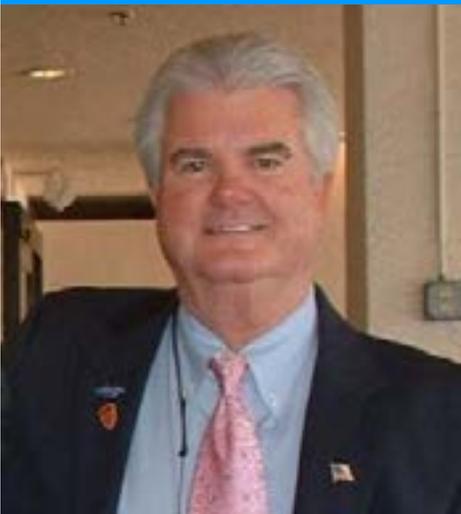
(Continued from page 4)

that something had to be done. A recommendation was presented to the membership (and approved) at the Myrtle Beach business to hire a vendor to handle the renewals. The Data Base Manger will provide the entire data base to the vendor who will be responsible for sending out all renewal notices (except where special provisions have been made.) Annual members can expect to receive their renewal packet in the near future.

To be sure everyone is on the same page, the following guidelines will be followed.

- A) If a renewal packet is returned marked "no forwarding address", "undeliverable", or "forwarding order expired" the member will be removed from the active roster.
- B) If there is no response at all to the renewal packet it will be assumed the member is not interested in maintaining his membership and he will be removed from the active roster.

Commander's Column



Good Day Combat Infantrymen thru out the organization. My sense of humbleness and humility are more

profound now that I have had a short period as National Commander. My respect and fondness for the members was strong before but has multiplied greatly having come into daily contact with so many of you. I hope the channels of communication continue to open broadly as we move forward into the future. I am not yet off the learning curve but feeling more confident each day and still extremely happy to be in communication with all our veterans. I have received some wonderful notes of encouragement from many areas of the country, members who served in many units with different experiences but still maintain the commonality of having saddled up every day in a theatre of Conflict (as our politicians say) and gone out in search of armed aggressors, taking the fight to the enemy, performing heroic acts with and for their buddies, all as if it were just another day. And it was anything but.

Several of our Division have spent many hours working on trying to bring expired members back into the organization. Some of our Divisions do not have sufficient volunteers to assist with this, as well as renewals and there have been lost opportunities with lost membership. Many of our renewals slipped into expired status because the members did not react to the dates on there current cards. Our Data Base Manager, Larry Eckard, recently spent untold hours preparing the data base into a workable format that would allow us to reach out to all expired members in a short period of time, to ask those members to rejoin our organization. We will give the expired member until June of this year to respond and then purge them from the data base if they have not responded. These members were languishing on the data base and we wanted one last opportunity to recapture them.

We will monitor the success of the vendor program and then do the same with renewals. There is

expense involved up front but we believe we can recoup the expense with return members. The outgoing packet of information will contain a cover letter from me, a renewal card, a self-addressed, but not stamped, return envelope, and one each Business Group, and Individual Support Group applications.

The Support Group program is finally underway. Our web site, www.cibassoc.com has these forms available for filling out on line or downloading.

We are searching for an individual to Command the support group. The dues for an Individual is only \$20.00. A business may join in any of three categories, Bronze, Silver and Gold that will allow them a plaque from the CIA and advertising in the Blue Badge. We will also accept donations from individuals and businesses. We are considering a prize for the first regular member to bring in 5 business supporters. Please take a look at the applications and use them to help us grow our organization. Our biggest success will come from locations where Division and Company units are a part of the community, are well known and are participating in the charity and social events of their communities. Please lets all try to grow this part of the organization. The growth will help our solvency, strength, and identity as we move forward.

We are pleased to report construction and installation of our National Memorial on the "Walk of Honor" at the National Infantry Foundation is completed. We will be posting pictures on the web site. The monument is located next to the Prisoner of War Memorial and adjoining the Memorial for Rick Rescorla, a 1st Air Cav veteran, who perished in the World Trade Twin Towers attack. Special thanks to Division Commander Jack Wagner who worked with the NIF and Columbus Monument Company to select one of the best sites for this prestigious memorial. There were some delays this winter due to weather problems, but Columbus Monument persevered.

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Fr Hetzler Leaves Chaplain's Post

Fr Leo Hetzler resigned his position as National Chaplain following the last convention in Myrtle Beach, SC. He has served in this position for more than 10 years; and in fact the only National Chaplain the Association has ever had. Fr Hetzler earned his CIB with the 86th Infantry Division in WW II and had the distinction of fighting in the European and Pacific Theaters. After the war in Germany ended, the 86th was sent to the Philippines where they saw combat action also. We will miss you Father and may God go with you.

A FAREWELL

Fr. Leo Hetzler

It has been an honor to serve you, dating back almost to the time when the Association first began. What great friends I have made! Jim Bourgeois, at our last gathering in Myrtle Beach, mentioned a wonderful former Vietnam War Chaplain who would be a perfect successor when the time came for me to retire. That led me to think of just how many chaplains are out there who would bring to our members a new wealth of experiences and insights. So I thought this would be an opportune time for me to resign.

Bill Maudlin, creator of the famed WW II Willie and Joe cartoons, remarked that "for the infantryman, living from minute to minute and wondering if each is his last, life is stripped down to its bare essentials—and one of those essentials is his friends around him." I found those friends were human nature at its best.

I write a lot of articles on Max Brand's westerns and other writings.

He died in an attack on Italy's Gustav e Line. His son-in-law, Robert Easton, was a lieutenant of an anti-tank platoon on guard duty in the French Riviera when a call went out for volunteer transfers to the Infantry and he answered the call. Towards the end of the War, he wrote to his wife, "Becoming an infantryman has enriched me, mind and soul, in ways that I had never foreseen. Although I was thrust into war at its worst, I unexpectedly found in the men of my Company human nature as it was meant to be. I shall never find their like again. This I know"

Tim O'Brien has filled the pages of his *The Things They Carried* with all the stark realism of the horrors that battle brings. Yet he added, "The proximity to death brings with it . . . the pleasure of aliveness. . . . You feel an intense out-of-the-skin awareness of your living self—your truest self, the human being you want to be and then become by the force of wanting it. In the midst of evil you want to be a good man. You want decency. You want justice and courtesy and human concord, things you never knew you wanted. There is a kind of largeness to it, a kind of godliness. . . You recognize what's valuable. Freshly, as if for the first time, you love what's best in yourself and in the world, all that might be lost, . . . You feel wonder and awe at the setting of the sun, and you are filled with a hard, aching love for how the world could be and always should be, but now is not."

What has been evident to me is that we Combat Infantrymen are bonded together by the same experiences, the things that sear and consume the heart and memory. Here, too, are men who could say, "I felt bound by duty, and I answered. Honor held me, and I followed. My country asked, 'Defend me,' and I took up a rifle." When the poet Stephen Spender lost his brother-in-law in Germany, he paid us infantrymen tribute in "The Truly Great": "Born of the sun, they travelled, a short while, toward the sun,

and left the vivid air signed with their honor." God bless you.

Our View

By

Larry Eckard, Editor Blue Badge

Many of us embrace change as the way to future greatness, others of us see change as a waste of time, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" I think we can all agree that some parts of the Association were broke and needed fixing. With a few exceptions (nothing is ever accepted by 100% of the membership) the changes of the past couple of years have been well received and much needed. The data base was in shambles—hundreds of renewals and membership applications had never been entered into the system. There was no system to ask members to renew their membership, hundreds never received renewal notices. Deputy Commander James Bourgeois recognized the problem and did something about it. He used a copy of the national data base and sent renewal notices to hundreds of members. Some responded by renewing their membership, others ignored the request. But James couldn't do it alone—thus the vendor system was put into place. We'll monitor that as see how it works.

The next convention is just around the corner so it is not too early to make your plans to be there. Nashville, TN is the place. Read some of the details elsewhere in this issue.

Fort Campbell is going all out to welcome us there. We have a tentative schedule from the post, but a few wrinkles need to be ironed out before publishing it. As all of our reunions near an Army Post have been, this one promises to be another great one.

Somewhere back in the history of the Association the authority for deciding what is published in the Blue Badge is delegated to the

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Clarification



Commander Kennedy explaining the streamers on the CIA Flag.

In the last issue of Blue Badge (Oct-Nov-Dec) the above photo shows Commander (at that time) Earl Kennedy holding the CIA streamers. The caption which reads “*Commander Kennedy explaining the streamers on the CIA Flag*” is misleading. Earl is not explaining the streamers, he is simply holding and displaying each streamer as Deputy Commander James Bourgeois explains them from the podium. The streamer idea and all of the work done to produce the streamers is solely the work of Mr Bourgeois. The Blue Badge apologizes to him for not making it clear in the previous issue.

New Staff Position

Earl Kennedy has accepted a position on the national staff as "National Administrative Assistant" in order to assist me with duties as assigned. This will greatly aid the early transition of my National Commander duties and responsibilities. Earl's unsurpassed re-organization of the CIA speaks volumes and his assistance will result in improved communications thru out the Combat Infantrymen's Association. Please look forward to communications with Earl. All that everyone is doing is greatly appreciated. Thank you,
Bill Cross, National Commander

CIA Monument Dedicated at Ft Benning

As all of you know, there has been an effort to raise funds for a Combat Infantrymen's Association Monument to be located at the National Infantry Center, Ft Benning, GA. We successfully raised the funds and the monument

is now in place at the National Infantry Center. This once illustrates the will and drive of the Combat Infantrymen. Our monument is a tribute to all combat infantrymen from all wars. It has found it's home at Ft Benning where thousands of visitors will see and pay respects to the combat infantryman. It is a monument we can be proud of. Thanks to all contributors. See photos below.



Past National Commander Earl Kennedy Awarded Order of St Maurice



In a recent ceremony immediate past National Commander Earl Kennedy received the prestigious Order of St Maurice award from the National Infantry Association. A nominee for the Order of Saint Maurice must have served the Infantry community with distinction; must have demonstrated a significant contribution in support of the Infantry; and must represent the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence, and dedication to duty. The Order of St Maurice is named after St Maurice, leader of the Roman Theban Legion in the third century. Commander Kennedy was nominated by Ltc (Ret) David Shepard of Shelton, WA (Div 1 WA). The entire Association congratulates Earl for receiving this well deserved award. The photo above shows Earl wearing the Order of St Maurice at the Div 6 FL annual banquet.

Div 6 FL A 1 1 Holds Annual Party

Div 6 FL held their 11th annual anniversary party on February 12 at the CALUSA Harbor, Ft Myers, FL. This annual event began with a get acquainted "ice breaker" and cash bar.

The formalities began with Co A commander Jack Wagner asking everyone to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Earl Kennedy gave the invocation and immediate following Commander Wagner introduced the other Co A officers: Bert Kurland, Executive Officer; Dan Sankoff, Adjutant; Melvin Stople, Operations Officer; Earl Kennedy, Chaplain; Steven Huff, communications Officer; Don Tallon, Sgt-At-Arms; Steven Huff (South Area); Vernon Ellis (North Area); Dan Sankoff (SW/FL); Bill Cross, Historian and Photographer; Jay G. Goodman, 50/50 Officer.

Following the opening either a prime rib or chicken marsala dinner was served.

As evidenced by the loud and boisterous conversations that filled the room a good time was had by all. See photos of the event on page 11.

Our View

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Editor. We don't have an editorial board to review the material and decide what is printed and what is not. All past Commanders have honored this guidance and never—not once—has a commander interfered with the content.

As everyone in the association knows, the issue of expanding membership to non-CIB holders (Combat Medics for example, Marine Infantrymen, the list goes on) has been raised numerous times—and voted down each time. The last attempt resulted in the formation of the Combat Infantrymen's Association Support Group—open to individuals and businesses who want to be part of this great organization. That would include holders of the Combat Medical Badge, Combat Action Badge, sons, daughters, friends of members, businesses interested in supporting us or advertising their business, to name a few.

So far as the Blue Badge is concerned this is a closed issue until it is brought up from the floor of a business meeting. Letters designed to reopen the discussions—pro or con—will not be printed. Thank you for understanding the reasoning behind the decision.

Div 5 OK

The major activities of the 5th Division during the months of January and February were to make contact by telephone with CIA annual members and CIA Life 1, 2, and 3 members to inform them it was again time to pay their CIA dues. In addition to the telephone calls CIA renewal application forms were mailed as well. The CIA members assigned to HQ Div 5 responded really well. I am certainly pleased in the manner in which they responded in paying their 2012 dues. I want to thank each members for their quick responses.

In November of 2010 I mailed 755 letters to all members assigned to Div 5 Hq. In that letter I stated that I would provide a financial report as to the status of the finances of this headquarters. IN the latter part of January 2012 I submitted to both annual and life members a cash flow statement for the 2011 calendar year giving the status of the division's finances.

So far this year several annual, life 2 and 3 members have renewed their memberships, plus there have been new members join Hq Div 5. I am also pleased to announce that Ross Bryant of Fort Scott, KS has agreed to take command of Div 5 KS Hq 1 1. The previous commander, Charles Klenklen passed away in 2011. XO Gary Reed provided leadership to the company until Mr Bryant assumed command. I am looking forward to a long association with Mr Bryant. Thank you Gary for your help in the absence of a commander.

I also want to thank the Commanders of Div 5 CO Hq 1 1, William B. Mounsey; Div 5 KS A 1 1, Lee Horton; and Div 5 OK Hq 1 1, Louis Dunlap for their dedication and loyalty to this division and to me personally.

The following personnel changes have been made within Div 5.

OK Hq 1 1 (New XO)
Richard (Rich) Putman
14584 CR 3592
Ada OK 74820
Tel # (580) 310 - 4115
H I I CO (New XO)

Malcom R. Giles
800 S. Eliot St
Denver, CO 80219 - 3533
Tel # (720) 857 - 6400

H I I KS (New Commander)
Ross Bryant
724 East National
Fort Scott, KS 66701 - 2939
TEI # (620) 223 - 4733

A I I KS (Updated Info)
John W. Halladay
2403 Manchester Rd
Lawrence, KS 66049 - 1646
Tel # (785) 766 - 1941

J. R. Rhoades
Commander, Div 5

Div 7 SC

Hello Division 7,

I would like for all members to read what I consider is an important message of patriotism and the security of the association as Combat Infantry Soldiers.

Well, the 2011 convention, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year have come and gone, and I must tell you that they were all events I will cherish for ever. I talked to each of you by email, letters, and telephone during this period. I felt so proud communicating with you and thanks for your responses and hearing you voice of gratitude.

Your combat infantry buddies, John Bauer PA, Norman Saunders MD, Steve Lynch NC, Norman Saunders MD, Blaine Freidlander VA, and I laid the Combat Infantrymen's Assoc wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown on 10 Nov, 2011. It was an honor and privilege to represent our Association and Region 7 at Arlington, VA. Pictures are located in the last issue of the BB in Jan, 2012. Those of you with computers can see them on our web site at cibasoc.com and follow the links at pictures. I am putting a bid in for Region 7 to place it again next year. If so, please come out and let your heart pump, pride beam, and spine tingle.

You owe it to yourself, whether with your region or as an observer for another event, please come and pay your respects for our fallen heroes this Nov.

The 2011 Convention at Myrtle Beach, SC was a masterpiece. Larry Eckard did a tremendous job of giving the attendees a banquet to remember. Your commander left with the pride of helping to keep the Combat Infantrymen's Assoc intact with combat Infantry Badge awardees the only authorized member. An offspring of the association was created as the Combat Infantrymen's Support Group comprised of spouses, children, lineal kin, other combat infantry supporters of all services, and co-operate business. The latter being the most important in my mind in that it creates funds to aid the association in an upward spiral. The other members are supporters in fund raising, charitable duties, aiding in paperwork, etc... It will have its own accounting system completely separate from the association. A membership application is included in this issue. Please utilize both in finding businesses to join and find supporters. Your assistance in the program will mean success or failure in an all out effort to gain supporter membership and finding businesses that will participate with a donation for membership and a discount for CIA card holders only. I am proud to have represented you in this endeavor. "Together we stand, separated we fall." The next convention will be in Nashville, TN 18 -21 October 2012. It is centered pretty well in the region. A tour of Ft Campbell is planned to see how todays army "fights to win." The only day available for the tour is on Thursday and is the reason for an extra day of the convention. Please mark it on your calendar and join us in making this one the best ever.

New Year is a day for dreams of the future, for good health, love of spouse and children, plenty of money, and unfortunately those who are jobless hoping for better days ahead. My wish is that the Combat

(Continued on page 10)

Division 7

(Continued from page 9)

Infantrymen's Association finalizes its recovery from the past and slams a bases loaded home run. We are on the threshold; please do not let it falter. Your help in membership, spreading the word of the association, and getting that most important co-operate businesses placing funds in our treasury, at every level is our beacon for this fine association.

Region 7 is the largest and most productive in the association. You contributed about half of the funds raised in the entire Assoc for our monument at Ft Benning, GA., There has been contact made with every Div 7 member, and I do hope that all of you now have a membership card and receiving the Blue Badge. If you do not have a membership card issued for joining or renewing this past year, please let me know.

If you would like you write an article for the BB of your experiences in gaining the Combat Infantry Badge, write it up, and send to me. *Ed Note: You may also send articles directly to the Blue Badge. It is not necessary to go through a third party.*

I will talk to you in the next issue, in the meantime, may your wishes be granted, your dreams come true, and your association prospers.

An Infantryman to Infantrymen,
Jim Kyzer

Division 9 NE

We feel quite fortunate to have so far escaped the harsh winters New England can be noted for. Even with the busy Christmas season our monthly meetings have been well attended and very constructive. Future membership remains our top agenda as we go into the New Year. Plans are now being formed in the pipeline for our summer and fall "membership building" events.

One of our very popular and well attended events occurred in mid July with a Memorial Stone dedicated to the men of the 29th Infantry Regi-

ment who fought so valiantly during the early days of the Korean War against overwhelming odds. In less than two days in July 1950, the men of the 29th RCT lost 424 KIA's..... 689 WIA's.... and 169 MIA's which virtually rendered them ineffective as a fighting force.

Michael Prestianni, Commander of Division #9 New England, after guarding many of the most notable prisoners at the Nuremberg trials in Germany, was later one of the few survivors of that appropriately named "Hadong Massacre". He was found wounded, three days later behind enemy lines, and immediately shipped to Yokohama for hospitalization. Returning to Korea he was promoted to a Sergeant First Class and assumed the duties of a platoon sergeant. He was wounded again in Sinaju, North Korea by the Chinese, and was awarded the Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, as well as the Bronze Star with V device /oak leaf cluster after participating in five major campaigns. After returning to the States he was assigned to Fort Dix, New Jersey as a drill instructor; then he was assigned to Massachusetts as an advisor to the National Guard.

Commander Prestianni designed, purchased, and installed this beautiful Memorial at a park in Framingham, Massachusetts. This he did, so that all generations may pay tribute to his fallen "Brothers in Arms".

As you can see by the picture, the Memorial Stone not only pays fitting tribute to his fellow Regimental Combat Team members, but also to all those who have been awarded the prestigious Combat Infantryman's Badge. Commander Michael Prestianni believes strongly in the words included in the CIB Charter, "To keep alive the patriotism, accomplishments, and memory of our service and the service of those with the Combat Infantryman Badge, and to consecrate all of those who've gone before us". Michael and June Prestianni have indeed accomplished their mission and we were proud, as an Association, to be part of this great Memorial. (see to the right)



Division 6 FL

Jack Wagner, CO Div 6

Division 6 is in the process of trying to help resurrect Company B of West Palm Beach, Florida. In doing so Company A of Southwest Florida is going to give \$200.00 to Company B. George Fisher, one of the original founders of Company B, will take on this task. We are hoping by assisting George, this start-up will again make this an active company in the Combat Infantrymen's Association.

Even though national is placing the task of informing members of their upcoming dues renewal to an outside vendor, the company commanders' or designated membership officer should also do a follow up check on these renewals. Check your rosters..... Company commanders have complete control over their company. Being under the umbrella of the Division does not take away any authority from your company. Division 6 is here to assist the needs of the company.

Here in Company A of Southwest Florida on Sunday, February 12th we had our 11th Annual Anniversary Party. The event, at our regular meeting place, Calusa Harbour, began with a 3:30 - 4:30 PM Cocktail Hour followed by a dinner choice of

(Continued on page 12)



Dan Sankoff, Adj of Div 6 FL A 1 1 introduces the three National commanders \from Co A. (l - r) Jack Wagner, Bill Cross (current commander, and Earl Kennedy.) Bill Cross is preparing to explain the significance of the streamers (shown in the background) and commend Deputy Commander James Bourgeois is responsible for all of the work that went into this project.



The food looks pretty good. Dessert anyone?



The Oldest and Youngest (at least in terms of conflicts). Col (Ret) Bert Kurland WW II and Viet Nam shown with Jeremy an Iraq veteran—both members of Co A.



Where there is a pretty girl, (pianist Peggy Flannery) there is a Jack. Our own Jack is just like the good Lord, he loves them all; he is like the devil, he wants them all; and he's like the Editor, he can't get any of them! At least he didn't sing! (Joe Barca Div 9 NE will understand that!)



What more evidence do you need? Wherever you find a pretty girl you'll find some old infantry guy.



Co A members and guests enjoying conversation and perhaps a pre-dinner beverage.

Div 6 FA A 1 1

(Continued from page 10)

Prime Rib or Chicken Marsala....Dan Sankoff, our Adjutant, again did a fantastic job of coordinating this party. Piano music, plaque presentations and a valentines rose coupled with baby's breath for all the women in attendance was presented by our National Commander Bill Cross. It is my understanding we had 74 attendance.....A really great time and enjoyed camaraderie.....

Div 6 FA A 1 1 (SW FI) accomplished many things during the past year (2011). Highlighting the year's activities several significant accomplishments come to the forefront.

The flagpole at the CIB monument was replaced with a 30 foot one. This will give our country's flag more visibility and hopefully draw attention to our monument.

Co A also donated \$500.00 to the Lee County Pride & Patriotism Program. This program was founded in 2003 by Elinor Scricca. Their mission statement "Youth Celebrating the Arts and Honoring our Veterans" sums up the organization very nicely. Former National Commander and current commander of Div 6 FL A 1 1 is a committee member of the organization.

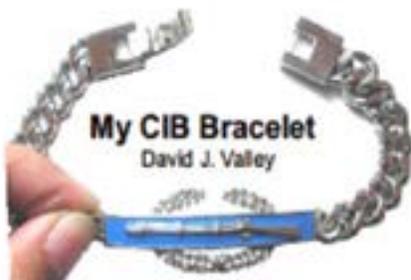
Other donations included \$200.00 to the "Take A Soldier Fishing" program and \$250.00 to the SW/FL Museum of History.

At the recent business meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC the third member of Div 6 A 1 1, Bill Cross, to hold the office of National Commander was elected. Immediate Past Commander Earl Kennedy and current CO of A 1 1, Jack Wagner are former CO's.

Back Talk

The Readers Write

The two articles below are not an advertisement or endorsement by the Blue Badge or the association. Two of our members, Mr David Valley and Joe Barca, ran across these items, not currently available thru our own QM and they felt these items may be of interest to some of you. Thank you Joe and David for sharing this information with us.



My proudest possession is the Combat Infantry Badge which I was awarded for service in the Korean War where I served with the 24th Infantry Division. I have a miniature version I wear in the lapel of my jacket. Sometimes a person might ask, "What's that?" and I explain briefly without elaborating on its significance. Once in a while a veteran will say, "I've got one of those too," which always invites an interesting conversation. Frequently the veteran will comment on how much the badge means to him.

A few months ago I came across a CIB bracelet advertised for sale on Ebay. It was a genuine CIB badge that someone had bent and drilled a hole into each end to attach a chain. While I thought the idea of a CIB bracelet was a good one, I was appalled to see a real badge desecrated in the process. Since I had experience designing jewelry I decided to design an attractive CIB bracelet without sacrificing a badge.

It has taken a couple months but I finally got something with which I am satisfied and will be proud to wear myself. The badge itself is 2/3 the size of an original. The bracelet is entirely made of durable stainless steel. It is virtually bulletproof. It is guaranteed for a lifetime. The back of the badge can be laser engraved with name, rank, and serial number.

The bracelets sell for \$35, or \$45 with engraving. They may be ordered from:

Sektor Co., Post Office Box 501005
San Diego, CA 92150. You may make inquiries at sektor.rings@yahoo.com

Editor: I would like to call attention to the new Infantry coin to be released on Feb 16. A \$10,00 surcharge from the sale of each coin would go to the TRY FOUNDATION to establish an endowment to support the NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM and Soldier Center. This coin is a silver dollar.

I was wondering if you could insert a blurb in the BB to. I'm sure a lot of our people would like to support the museum in this manner. I plan to buy at least 10 myself to use as gifts.

I found out about this in the current issue of the "Bugler", the magazine of the National Infantry Association.

After I had e.mailed to the Bugler expressing my desire to buy ten coins, I received a request from a writer from the magazine asking if I would mind being interviewed.(I had signed my e.mail as Past Nat. Adj. of the CIA). I replied an interview was OK and I was asked if I could help the cause by bringing the coin to the attention of our people, which is what I am doing now. I think its a very good cause myself.

I haven't seen the museum yet but I've heard it is beautiful and I would like to help the cause. I attached a scan of the coin. See below.

Thanks for any consideration you can give to this.

Joe Barca
Former National Adjutant

(Continued on page 15)



Commander's

(Continued from page 5)

This is a memorial for the entire membership and we would encourage all of you to visit the site when possible. In line with that, there is consideration for holding a CIA ceremony at the site sometime in the spring. At this point, we are looking at early May of this year, when the weather will be more cooperative and members have time to plan a trip to Fort Benning for this auspicious occasion. We will notify all as soon as plans come together. We need to mention all the many of you who gave so freely of donations to help build this memorial. Your donations made it happen. A special thanks to Divisions 7 and 9 for their generous contributions.

Our organization continues to need volunteers to help at National, Division and Company level. Any level of volunteer work or hours is appreciated. Please take a look at your schedule and see if you can donate some time to improving, growing and helping us move into the future. A small amount of help goes a long way. I highly commend our Division Commanders for the time they work to keep the Divisions viable. There would be no local unit activities if members did not donate time to keeping the units healthy, active foremost in the eyes of their communities. Please help.

I have mentioned the rising costs of Blue Badge publication. It is no longer cheap to produce. It is imperative that we convert as many members as possible to the e-mail version which is free of costs. Open up the web site and place the cursor on Media to the far right of the home page. A drop down menu will appear and you will see "LINKS". Click on Links, then click on Blue Badge when the links opens up. When you click on Blue Badge, you will see the last three or so years of Blue Badge issues available to open and read. Please give it a try. We still have way too many Blue Badges returned due to non delivery. We have incorrect ad-

resses which have not been updated. Their are also deceased members that we are not made aware of. We use the cheapest postal rate allowed by Charitable organizations but there is still a lot of waste. Please help lower our costs in this arena.

I felt it necessary to recognize our National Executive Officer, Jim Bourgeois. Jim has been working very hard to bring expired and renewed members up to date in those Divisions who have not had the help to maintain a regular program of renewals. Some members pay attention to their cards and know to renew on their own thru their Divisions. Many do not. Jim has had great success by reaching out to those members who have not been contacted. We thank him for all the hours he has spent in mailing cards and processing returns. He has been on top of it and we are grateful for his assistance.

One other person needs recognition and that person is former Commander Earl Kennedy. Earl has volunteered his knowledge, experience and desire for continued CIA success by helping me transition thru the early days. Without Earl's unselfish attention and willingness to assist in every way, I would have been off to a slower start. I thank him for his devotion to this wonderful Band of Brothers, and his continuous availability. He has demonstrated the utmost in personal concern and it has helped a great deal. Thank you, Earl

And thank you all for your service to our country and your fellowship in the Combat Infantrymen's Association.



The Deputy Commander's Column will resume.

New Staff Members Added

In his difficult task of finding volunteers to fill vacant staff positions, Commander Bill Cross announces two recent appointment to fill the position of National Support Group Commander and Quartermaster. The Association sends our thanks and appreciation to Fred Feilder for his term of service as Quartermaster.

We welcome O.H. "SGT" Hubbard to the National Staff as Commander of the Support Group.

Sgt. Hubbard served in Vietnam with the 1st CAV in 1966-1967 in the Hue City area. He and his family reside in Sherman, Texas Sarge is very active in the veteran's volunteer community, and brings a great deal of experience to the post.

He serves VVA as chapter Sergeant at Arms, and is a volunteer leader with the local division of Military Order of the Purple Heart. He was named "Volunteer of the Year" in 2007, by the Volunteer Service Officer unit of his local VA Clinic. He is also a Junior Commander of the DAV, a life member of the 1st CAV Division, and a volunteer chaplain in the Marine Corps League. Please all give your support and assistance to Sarge as he works to grow the Support Group.

We also welcome Steve Huff as our National Quartermaster. He has extensive experience in this field serving as QM of Division 6 FL A 1 1. Steve has been a CIA member for 9 years and served in Viet Nam 1966-67 with the 25th ID. He understands the camaraderie that only infantrymen know and understand; he is still in touch with 10 members of his platoon, five of which served on the same track with him.

He will work closely with our QM vendor, COLORGRAPHICS to assist members in finding and purchasing their CIA memorabilia.

Thank you Sarge and Steve!

Financial Report

CHECKING ACCOUNT:
\$2,185.19 SUNTRUST

BLUE BADGE ACCOUNT:
\$2,300.75 SUNTRUST

PAYPAL ACCOUNT:
\$5,200.00 SUNTRUST

MONUMENT ACCOUNT:
4,579.85 SUNTRUST (TRANSFERRED
FROM BANK OF AMERICA)

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT:
TOTAL FROM NATIONAL
\$38,041.56 SUNTRUST

DIVISIONS REPORT EARLY JANU-
ARY ANNUALLY (THIS IS A RE-
QUIREMENT)

TOTALS ALL DIVISIONS THRU DE-
CEMBER OF 2011 WERE \$56,127.97
MINUS NEW YORK (\$4,177.61). THE
NEW YORK ACCOUNT WAS FRO-
ZEN DUE TO LACK OF REPORTING.
STATE COMMANDER PERRY
MARCHIGIANI IS THE NEW YORK
TRUSTEE UNTIL A FINANCE OFFI-
CER IS APPOINTED. NATIONAL
WILL THEN RELEASE THE AC-
COUNT.

GRAND TOTAL \$98,347.14

NOTE: ANTICIPATED EXPENSES,
1ST QUARTER 2012:
\$1000.00 LOTTERY
\$6300.00 FORT BENNING MONU-
MENT
NORMAL COSTS FOR POSTAGE/
ADVERTISING, VENDOR (EXPIRED
MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL PRO-
GRAM), MEMBERSHIP CARD PRINT-
ING.

BILL CROSS
NATIONAL COMMANDER

**When submitting photos to be pub-
lished in Blue Badge, be sure the
film is no less than 400 ASA speed
or if digital, no less than 600 dpi.
Lesser quality resolutions do not
reproduce well and your photo may
not be used.**

Thanks Ann & Vicky

Several years ago when the La-
dies Auxiliary was first authorized,
Ann Yamrus was appointed as tem-
porary President. She was later
elected and remained in the Presi-
dent's chair for another term. During
her tenure she helped create the
Ladies Auxiliary By-Laws and Con-
stitution as well as membership the
applications.

Vicky Kennedy was elected as the
next LA President and carried on
the work of the auxiliary. She led a
successful recruiting drive which
increased the membership substan-
tially. She served as an effective
liaison between the Association and
the Auxiliary.

Coinciding with the formation of
the CIA Support Group, Vicky's term
of office ended.

Both Ann and Vicky can be proud
of their accomplishments as Presi-
dents of the Ladies Auxiliary. We
thank you both for your dedication
and loyalty. The support group
would not be the viable part of the
Combat Infantrymen's Association
that it is without the efforts of these
two ladies. Thanks!

CIA Song

Did you know we have a CIA
song? Probably not. No one has
ever heard it, except at the business
meeting where it was adopted. The
song, entitled "Infantry Blue-Queen
of Battle" was written by former Na-
tional Staff Judge Advocate Ray
Bethel. The song was presented and
adopted at the 2006 business meet-
ing held in Columbus, GA (Ft Ben-
ning). The idea was to provide each
CIA unit with a copy to be played at
CIA sponsored functions. Somehow,
the song never got distributed and
has more or less been forgotten.

*Ed Note: Ray, if you are out there and
read this, how about sending a copy of
the words and music—or a CD if you
have it recorded. Just send it to the BB*

*Editor and I'll see what I can do about
getting it into the hands of the Division
Commanders for their distribution to
subordinate units.*

Behind The Scenes

Many people have the mistaken
idea that planning and executing a
successful convention is merely
booking a few rooms, arranging a
meal or two, and maybe getting a
bus. False. There is always the un-
expected, the need for liability insur-
ance, and those people that God
himself could not please.

Here are just a few such inci-
dents. Ft Bragg, NC ~ one of the
members in a scooter (and two oth-
ers) refused to ride the bus to Ft
Bragg as we had been requested to
do. They beat the bus to the PX
(which allowed everyone to shop)
identified themselves as members
of the group. The number of atten-
dees was carefully coordinated with
the PX manager so everyone would
be given a valuable goodie bag do-
nated by the PX. Because these
three were not in the count, we were
three short—much to the chagrin of
three other members. On their way
out, he knocked down and ran over
a lady with his scooter and never
even stopped. Who got called by an
irate husband and MP's—who paid
the medical bills—not him—not the
CIA, the liability carrier.

Then there was the time some-
one "helped" the reunion manager
by getting a chaplain for the memo-
rial service and not telling anyone
what he had done. We of course
have our own chaplain so we ended
up with two. Our own Chaplain in a
gracious jester shared the service.
Or the time someone helped get a
guest speaker without telling anyone
then had to "uninvited him".

Then there is the time when 15
unregistered people magically ap-
peared for Friday's dinner buffet

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Back Talk

(Continued from page 12)

Ed Note: About a year ago Blue Badge published a story on the move of the armor center from Ft Knox, KY to Ft Benning and the Infantry Center. Some of our members expressed their opinion on the move. Below is a response from a Armor Soldier (also a CIB holder). Space did not allow printing the letter before this issue.

Editor: This reply is for the member who is sick of Armor. (The author of the original letter did not say he was sick of Armor, he said "I am heartsick and disappointed" referring to the move.)
July 11, 2011

I spent my year in Viet Nam in an Armored Personnel Carrier or we called them and APC. They were 13 ton coffins because of the huge gas tank in the rear where the two M60 machine gunners stood. I remember working with the 25th ID, 1st ID, 9th ID, and even the invincible at the 101st Abn Div. I know those guys were glad to see us. I got my CIB after my APC got slammed by a RPG—for that I also got a Purple Heart and lived to go home. If you get back to Viet Nam look me up. Thanks for the letter.

Rodney Emerson
Aug 67-68

P.S. Those 9th ID guys were the greatest.

Personal Story

Ed Note: Space permitting the Blue Badge will print personal experiences such as the one below. This was submitted quite some time ago by Mr Walter Pearson.

Hi, My name is Walter Pearson and I served as an infantryman in Co F, 2nd Bn, 351st Inf Regt, 88th Inf Div in Italy during WWII. (The 88th Division was the first ALL DRAFTEE division.) This whole thing started for me early in Dec 1941 when the news came over the radio that we had been bombed at Pearl Harbor. I immediately told my

wife that I was going to enlist. However, she told me I wasn't inasmuch as we had a child and they would not take me unless she agreed and she wasn't going to—so she told me anyway. So, time passed and I was drafted in Nov 1943. I was 27 years old and was earning about \$67.00 a week.

I was inducted at Ft Devens, MA and found that my earnings were going to drop considerably. Not only was I down to \$50.00 a month but because I had a wife the government was going to pull part of my pay, add a few dollars and send my wife a check each month. Then too, I was supporting my father so another chunk was taken out bringing me down to \$10.00 a month. This wasn't too bad because I ate free. But in a few days everyone was interviewed in a Quonset hut to be sold life insurance and to be assigned to a unit.

I was told that we had laundry that must be done and we would not have time to do it ourselves so there would be a \$1.50 charge each month for that and life insurance should be had by each of us. At my age I could get out for \$6.90 a month. I told them I wasn't interested in life insurance because I could not afford it until I got a pay raise. When I refused the life insurance, a lieutenant came out and took over. He explained at great length how important it was but I refused. Next came a captain and by this time I noticed that I was the only man left in the hut. I looked out and the other 200 men were laying in the grass outside waiting around. It was at this point that my sergeant came in and said, "Pearson, sign for that insurance now or your life ain't going to be worth living," so I signed.

I was interviewed the next day to see what branch of the service I would enter. My man said to me, "You are a skilled cook so we'll send you to cook and baker's school." I told him that I had had enough of that and I wasn't interested. So he suggested that inasmuch as I had done well on the wireless test he should send me there. My ears perked up at that and he went a little-

further. He said, "You did so well on the test that you probably would get a rating in short order and that would mean more money." Wow! That's what I wanted to hear, I didn't even have enough money to go to town for a highball. "How much would I get", I asked? He said you'll probably make PFC and that would be another \$4.00 a month. I snorted in disgust and said, "I'd rather fight" and that is how I volunteered for combat.

In a few days we were shipped to Ft Patrick Henry in Alabama for basic training. It was late in November and was getting cold in Massachusetts. So we all looked forward to going south for basic training. Little did we know there was a north Alabama and a south Alabama. We took our training daily from 8 to 5 and freeze in the morning and swelter at midday, and freeze again in the late afternoon. We took infantry training and anti-tank drill as well. One important part of our training was learning how to salute. This was so important that we had two half hour classes. I never received very high marks in that area.

I presume that there was almost no one who really wanted to go fight in the war but I guess most of us were resigned to our fate. However, some tried to maneuver out and some were successful. We started with four platoons but when our 17 weeks of training was over we have 5 platoons. The 5th platoon was made up of men who had qualified for limited assignment (no combat). One fellow who shall remain nameless tried hard to make the 5th platoon but was unsuccessful. It was hilarious. When the day came that we were firing for score, he told me that he wasn't going to hit the target so they would not take him into combat. I guess he told a few others because when he fired 5 shots at the target and missed each one, his score was bellowed out. He had 8 hits. On the last day before shipping out he informed us that he wouldn't be able to go into combat with us because he had "accidentally dropped his partial in the latrine and stepped

(Continued on page 19)



Combat Infantrymen's Association

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Behind Scenes

(Continued from page 14)

and had to be turned away. It wasn't the fact that food could not have been prepared—they would have exceeded the fire code allowable numbers in the banquet room. Yep, fire code maximums is another consideration, that's one (among many others) of the reasons there is a cut-off date—so the planner knows what size room to reserve.

Then there is the other side, of the coin, not necessarily "behind the scenes" but when good or fun things happen that not everyone is aware of. For example, at our West Point convention we had three generations, the grandfather, (two star general, retired CIB holder) a West Point Graduate; the Father, an active duty Colonel (a chaplain) and West Point Graduate, and the grandson, a Cadet at the Academy.

The first trip to Ft Benning where

the numbers justified an old fashioned C & W band for Friday night and one of the members who spent the day being pushed in a wheel chair won the dancing contest. Saturday he was back in the wheel chair, probably with good reason.

Then in Tucson where the Embassy Suites featured complimentary drinks for happy hour. A few members proved our theory that a few drinks (especially Jack Daniels) makes one smarter and gives you the ability to sing better, in some cases at least. Our loyal members were singing and apparently our illustrious Commander (at that time) was off key. Someone, you know how some people lack tact and diplomacy, told the commander, "I used to wish I could sing, now I wish you could."

If you were in Reno, on the Lake Tahoe Cruise, do you remember the college kids who wanted to buy Bill McClain's underwear? Seems the kids were guessing what type of un-

derwear the CIA members were wearing. As a member walked by he would hear, boxer, briefs, none; boxers, briefs, etc as they kids made their guess. Bashful Bill McCain (now deceased) refused to tell them, but offered to show them—and he did. The kids then wanted to buy them. About this time the Mrs stepped in and ruined the fun. You all know how wives are.

The point of this item is to tell you there is more that goes on at our conventions than just business—friendships are made, experiences are shared. Often emotions from the past burst forth like a fountain and it is so good to have someone who knows what you are talking about. Everyone who attends regularly has their favorite memories. What is yours? If you would like to share it send it to the Blue Badge, and see if the Editor won't publish it. Whatever you plan on doing, make the Association part of your plans. Be in Nashville.

Taps

The Blue Badge was notified of the death of the following Combat Infantrymen's Association members. The Association thanks them for their service. Only members in good standing (paid up dues) are honored in TAPS and will have their name placed on the Honor Roll for recognition at the Memorial Service. Names received after February 15, 2012 will be listed in the next issue of Blue Badge. The entire association sends our deep sympathy to the family and friends of the deceased member. Names are shown in order received.

CSM Johnny W. Gates
Columbia, SC Div 7 A 1 1
Died 12/09/11

Theodore E. Skinner
Tucson, AZ Div 3
Died 08/11

Morton Wood
Bethesda, MK Div 7
Date not reported

Joseph Keough
St charles, MO Div 5
Died 03/11/10

James H Stamm
Gilbert, AZ Div 3
Date not reported

James P. Morgan
York, PA Div 7
Died 09/11

Roy Wireman
Augusta, GA Div 7
Died 02/11/11

Jerry Mays
Tulsa, OK Div 5
Date not reported

Millard Delauder
Doylestown, OH Div 7
Died 05/11

Marshall Lewis
Seward, PA Div 7
Died 05/11

Francis L. Fisher
Columbia, SC
Died 10/07/11

Walter H. Greenwald
West Palm Beach, FL
Died 05/13/11

John F. Doyle
Nottingham, MD
Died 06/06

Mr Everett L Sowden
Warwick, RI
Date Not Reported

Leo Hernandez
Glendale, CA Div 2
Date Not Reported

Earl Zapp
Longview, TX Div 4
Date not reported

Raymond E. Meyer
Kent, CT Div 9
Died 06/30/11

Robert D. Domanico
Flushing, NY Div 8
Date not reported

Steven M. Menge
Felm, WA Div 1
Date not reported

Walter H. Morris
Magnolia, AR Div 5
Died 12/18/12

George Mack
Muscle Shoals, AL Div 6
Died 12/31/11

How can you get a sweet little 80 year old lady to use profanity? Have another sweet little old 80 year old lady yell "Bingo" !

*What does an Italian man have when one arm is shorter than the other?
A speech impediment!*

Poet's Corner

The author of this poem is a Vietnam veteran who served in Co B, 4/3rd Inf, 11th LIB, Americal Div during 1968-69. He has also written a book "A Native American Soldier's Story."

TRIBUTE TO THE GRUNTS

We leave the perimeter night or day.
You poor devils, some non-infantry point the finger and say,
"We spent a day or two inside the safety of the wire.
Now it's time to go back to uncertainty where we might even expire."

We'll continue to chase and that the war to the enemy.
The days ahead will crawl, what remains we'll count how many.
We are called Grunts, with duty others are glad they don't.
The expressions of the non-infantry are bold, for to leave the wire they won't.

For recognition, we are awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, a badge of glory.
To earn it we watch our comrades suffer and die, the badge tells the whole story.

We leave the perimeter night or day.
You poor devils, some non-infantry point the finger and say,
"We spent a day or two inside the safety of the wire.
Now it's time to go back to uncertainty where we might even expire."

The following quote and poem were sent by CIA member Calvin Harwick, copied from a public domain source. Thanks Calvin! "A veteran is someone who at one point in his life wrote a blank check made payable to "My country" for an amount "up to and including my life." That is honor and there are way too many people in this

(Continued on page 19)

Poetry

(Continued from page 18)

country who no longer understand it.”

A Soldier Died Today

Author Unknown

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
As he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war he once fought in
And the deeds he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes everyone.

And tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
For all his buddies listened quietly
For they knew of what he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer
For ole' Bob has passed away.
And the world's a little poorer
For a Soldier died to day.

He was just a common soldier
And his ranks are growing thin.
But his presence should remind us
We may need his kind again.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
A politician who breaks his promise
And cons his fellowman

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That politicians star.

If we cannot do him honor
While he is here to hear the praise
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say
OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING
A SOLDIER DIED TO DAY.

Some verses omitted due to space limits

Personal

(Continued from page 15)

on it. So he went on sick call and when he returned we couldn't wait to get his report. "How did you make out we asked?" He glumly replied the dentist had told him he would have to dunk his hard tack on the way over. Strangely enough, the first day in combat his unit was shelled and his foxhole buddy was hit but he was not hurt. He got out of the foxhole screaming, He's been hit, he's been hit." The medics classified him as unfit for service and he was sent home to L. A.

When the day came that we were shipped overseas I got word that my wife was giving birth to our second child and I wished to be there. I wandered about the port of embarkation and thought about going AWOL. I finally decided against it and went back to my hut and found everyone was gone. I picked up my gear and went out to look for our group. There were soldiers all over. I guess everyone was shipping out. Finally I found our group and when the lieutenant saw me he said, "Are you Pearson?" when I said yes he breathed a sigh of relief and said, "Get in line."

It took us 28 days to get to Naples. We had no idea where we were going until they passed out the booklets telling us what to expect which also gave us a few Italian phrases which we were told we may want to memorize for future reference. How to get to the depot or how to find a street—valuable phrases like that. The one I think we all memorized was "Datemi una bacchio" which translates in English to "Give me a kiss." After arriving in Naples we finally were put aboard a train where we rode a box car to work. After a few days we arrived at the 8th replacement depot and every few days we were transferred to a lower number. When we hit # 1, it dawned upon me that the next move was to the front lines.

Mr Pearson's story will be continued in a future issue of Blue Badge.

The following article was submitted by Robert C. Brooks.

I joined the Army in May 1942 at Oakland, CA and went by train to the Presidio of Monterey where recruits were issued G.I. clothing from underwear to uniforms. We listened to lectures about military discipline, courtesy, and conduct. I remember a corporal, who strutted back and forth on a balcony above the standing new recruits, threatening terrible, severe punishment for anyone who didn't do things right. Sometime later, a captain, giving a talk, said we were fighting to preserve freedom in our country, and in the army it was necessary to take and carry out orders, but we could get an idea how life would be a country under a dictator. Reminded me of the corporal strutting on the balcony—he acted like a little Hitler himself.

The next post was Ft Knox, KY. I was assigned to the 8th Armored Division, 49th Armored Infantry Regiment. Fireflies were new to most of us. They came out in the evening, little bits of yellow light that zig-zagged and blinked. Some of the boys caught a few in jars.

We had close order drill, marching and hikes. One hike at night was in blackout conditions. We tried to stay close behind the man in front of us, who was following someone else who led the way. In the hills and thick woods most of us became detached and lost. I was trying to find the way down a hill, when just before me in a hollow appeared a large tree stump glowing faintly a greenish yellow. I stopped for a few seconds wonder that the devil that was, then detoured around it. Finally about midnight I stopped, lay down to wait for morning.

When it was light enough, I discovered that most of the fellows had done the same thing. A couple of them had picked up pieces of wood that glowed in the dark under a coat or blanket. Something in the soil absorbed into the wood was phosphorescent.

Passes were finally available, so I was able to go to some places

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Welcome Mat

A warm welcome to all new Combat Infantrymen's Association members who joined the Association between November 15, 2011 and February 21, 2012. Members who joined after February 21 will appear in the next issue of Blue Badge. Names are not listed in any particular order.

William Donaghy
Co C, 1/20th Inf, Americal Div
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Harry Haldden
Co L, 3/15th Inf, 3rd ID
WW II NC Nat Hq

Donald Holmes
Co C, 4/47th Inf, 5th ID
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Michael McBride
Co B, 2/18th Inf
Desert Storm/Afghan NC Nat Hq

Henry Parker
MACV
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Roger Pietras
4/3rd Inf, Americal Div
Viet Nam Div 9 NE B 11

Leroy Tecube
Co B 4/3rd Inf, 11th LIB,
Americal Div
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Kyle Baer
Co B, 1/52nd Inf, 61st BCT
Iraq NC Nat Hq

Christopher Carpenter
Combat Unit not listed
Iraq NC Nat Hq

Daniel Kinsey
40th ID
Korea NC Nat Hq

Robert Bell II
HHD 20th SFG
Iraq NC Nat Hq

Robert Ellis
Co D, 1/393rd Inf, 99th ID
WW II NC Nat Hq

Henry Silas
Co E, 3/506th Inf, 101st Abn Div
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Jerome St Romain
Co D, 506th Inf, 101st Abn Div
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Barry Crossfield
Co B, 19th SFG
Afghanistan NC Nat Hq

Joseph Fennessey
Spt Co, 187th RCT
Korea NC Nat Hq

Charles Smith
C Trp, 3/4th Cav, 25th ID
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Ronald Todd
Combat Unit not listed
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Robert Wilson
1/187th Inf, 101st Abn Div
Afghanistan Div 8 NY

Anthony Zasky
Co A, 1/27th Inf, 25th ID
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Albert Zawiski
Co C, 1/12th Inf, 4th ID
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Alan Bush
Co A, 1/61st Inf, 5th Mech Div
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Johan Torres
Co A, 1/32nd Inf
Iraq Div 8 NY

Ernest Velez
1st ID
Afghanistan Div 8 NY

Robert Wilon
Iraq Combat Unit not listed
Div 8 NY

Andre' Beaufort
Co F, 2/331st Inf, 83rd ID
WW II Div 7 SC Div Hq

Tim Detray
Combat Unit not listed
Service not listed Div 7 SC Div Hq

Home Hungerford
Combat Unit not listed
Service not listed Div 7 SC Div Hq

James Jenkins
Combat Unit not listed
Service not listed Div 7 SC Div Hq

James Stoner
Combat Unit not listed
Service not listed Div 7 SC Div Hq

Miles Bradley
4th ID
Iraq Div 5 KS A 1 1

Vincent Brodeur
Co B, 2/505th PIR, 82nd Abn Div
Service Not listed Div 9 NE

John Fleming
HQ 1/327th Inf, 101st Abn Div
Iraq NC Nat Hq

Paul Glinka
Combat Unit Not Listed
Viet Nam Div 5 KS A 1 1

Floyd Griffin
Co A, 2/27th Inf, 25th ID
Viet Nam Div 5 OK Hq 1 1

Charles Hartner
161st Inf
WW II Div 5 KS A 1 1

Sean Healy
Co B 1/502nd Inf, 101st Abn Div
Gulf War Div 3 NV

(Continued on page 22)

Welcome Mat

(Continued from page 21)

Michael Holland
Co E, 1/26th Inf, 1st ID
Viet Nam Div 5 KS A 1 1

Fred Jepson
180th Inf, 45th ID
Korea Div 5 KS A 1 1

Jason Kleinman
Co B, 2/7th Inf, 3rd ID
OFI 1 & 2 Div 8 NY

Matthew Magwire
Co D, 3/172nd Inf, 86th BCT
Afghanistan Div 9 NE Hq 1 1

Ronald McVeigh
Co C, 2/8th Cav, 1st Cav Div
Viet Nam Div 7 SCA 1 1

Michael Murphy
Co B, 2/3rd Inf, 199th LIB
Viet Nam Div 7 SC Div Hq

Alan Nauman
Combat Unit not listed
Viet Nam Div 5 KS A 1 1

Crosby Powell
Combat Unit not listed
WW II Div 5 KS A 1 1

James Raymond
Co C, 1/87th Inf, 10th Mtn Div
Afghanistan Div 8 NY

Raymond Rhodd
Co E, 3rd Inf, 11th LIB, Americal Div
Viet Nam Div 5 KS A 1 1

Steven Rhodd
Combat unit not listed
Viet Nam Div 5 KS A 1 1

David Roberts
25th ID
Viet Nam Div 7 SC C 1 1

Richard Ruggeri
Co A, 1/506th Inf, 101st Abn Div
Viet Nam
Div 7 SC Div Hq

Mark Scheider
Co C, 4/503rd, Inf, 173rd Abn Bde
Viet Nam Div 5 KS A 1 1

Robert Spain
Co C, 2/27th Inf, 25th ID
Iraq Div 8 NY

Joey Schuett
Co D, 3/32nd Inf
Iraq Div 2 CA

Gino Torrieri
Combat Unit not listed
WW II Div 8 NY

Robert Ulin
Combat Unit not listed
Viet Nam Div 5 KS A 1 1

Carlo Urquilla-diaz
4/7th Inf
Desert Storm Div 5 KS A 1 1

David Valley
19th Inf, 24th ID
Korea NC Nat Hq

Richard Vasquez
Combat Unit not listed
Viet Nam Div 5 KS A 1 1

Jeffrey Von Beltz
Co A, 506th Inf, 101st Abn Div
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Jeremy Walker
Combat Unit not listed
Iraq Div 8 NY

John McKinnon, Jr
Combat unit not listed
Service not listed
Div 9 NE A 1 1 RI

Paul Phillips
Co D, 19th Inf, 24th ID
Korea Div 5 OK

James Wright
Co A, 2nd Bde, 1st ID
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Ernest Bergeron
Co G, 3/32nd Inf, 7th ID
Korea NC Nat Hq

Alvin Davis
Co D, 2/501st Inf, 101st Abn Div
Viet Nam Div 5 OK

John Ege
Co C, 4/47th Inf, 9th ID
Viet Nam Div 1 WA

Mark Ellerbrook
Co A, 2/8th Inf, 4th ID
Viet Nam Div 6 FL A 1 1

Charles Hicks
Co B, 1/503rd Inf, 173rd Abn Bde
Viet Nam Div 8 NY

Clark Hitt
Combat Unit not listed
WW II Div 4 TX

Freddy Jones, Jr
24th IB/MACV
Korea/Viet Nam Div 6 FL

Jerry Mays
Co I, 3/38th Inf, 2nd ID
Korea Div 5 OK Hq 1 1

Rudy Morton
Co C, 1/65th Inf, 3rd ID
Korea Div 4 TX

James Woodby
Co D, 1/8th Cav, 1st Cav Div
Viet Nam Div 6 FL A 1 1

John Odell, Jr
Co D, 4/9th Inf, 25th ID
Viet Nam Div 7 SC Hq 1 1

John Piazza
45th ID
WW II Div 7 SC Div Hq

Michael Trado
Co B, 1/24th Inf, 25th ID
Iraq/Afghan Div 1 WA Hq 1 1

Alfred Alvarez
187th RCT
Korea NC Nat Hq

Andrew Anguiano
1/19th Inf, 45th ID
WW II Div 2 CA

Welcome Mat

(Continued from page 22)

Thompson Armstrong
Do D, 2/8th Cav, 1st Cav Div
Viet Nam Div 7 SC Div Hq

Jankowski
Co C, 1/508th PIR, 82nd Abn Div
Iraq/Afghanistan Div 8 NY

Davie Moorhead
2/12th Cav, 1st Cav Div
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

William Vingiano
Combat Unit not listed
Viet Nam Div 8 NY

George Weiderehr
Co A, 2/16th Inf, 1st ID
Afghan/Iraq Div 8 NY

Richard Gilbraith
Combat Unit not listed
Service not listed Div 8 NY

Donald Holifield
Hq 2/2nd Inf, 1st ID
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Edward Johnson
Combat Unit not listed
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Charles Rogers
Co A, 1/23rd Inf, 2nd ID
Iraq NC Nat Hq

Frank Scholes, Jr
Co C, 1/46th Inf, 196th LIB
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Walter Stopa
Co C, 2/12th Inf, 25th ID
Viet Nam Div 9 NR

Kames Wheeler
Co D, 506th Inf, 101st Abn Div
Viet Nam Div 9 NE

Edward Williams
Co G, 19th Inf, 24th ID
Korea NC Nat Hq

Walter Ahmad
199th LIB
Viet Nam Div 6 FL

Samuel Fields
Co E, 2/23rd Inf, 2nd ID
Korea NC Nat Hq

David Flores
Co C, 2/16th Inf, 1st ID
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Amos Sutton
Co F, 2/23rd Inf, 2nd ID
WW II NC Nat Hq

William Turner
Co B & C, 2/27th Inf, 25th ID
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Hubert Walker
Hq Co. 1/32nd Inf, 9th ID
Korea-Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Robert Nichol, Sr
Combat Unit not listed
Service Not Listed Div 6 FL A 1 1

Dr Paul Baumgardner
Co A, 2/14th Inf, 36th ID
Iraq NC Nat Hq

Brian Dipasquale
FOB Gardez
Afghanistan Div 8 NY

Dale Stiller
Hq Co, 27th Inf, 25th ID
Korea NC Nat Hq

Robert Conlee
Co C, 1/32nd Inf, 7th ID
Korea NC Nat Hq

David Duhon
A Trp, 3/4th Cav, 25th ID
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Richard Gardner
3/4th Cav, 25th ID
Viet Nam NC Nat Hq

Robert Hommel
HHQ, 1/187th Inf, 101st Abn Div
Iraq Div 8 NY

David Martin
Co D, 35th Inf, 25th ID
Korea NC Nat Hq

Ralph Meader
Co C, 4/173RD Abn Bde
Viet Nam Div 9 NE

Michael Zawiski, Jr
Combat Unit not listed
Viet Nam Div 8 NY

Renewal Update

As most of you already know at the last business meeting it was decided by the membership to use the services of a vendor to send out the renewal notices. This appears to be working very nicely. First some background as to why this was necessary. We found that literally hundreds of members were not receiving renewal notices and thus were not renewing their memberships. The biggest reason was no one had been designated to send out renewal notices—everyone thought someone else was doing it—when in reality it wasn't being done. Then James Bourgeois stepped in and sent the bulk of the renewal notices that were sent, but he couldn't do it alone. Thus the decision at Myrtle Beach. Our own data base manager assembled the list of members with expired or soon to expire memberships all the way back to 2009 and provided that list to a printer (vendor) along with a renewal application and a Support Group business and individual application. The mailing and printing costs were billed to the Association. That was the only expense to the association.

We are still receiving renewals at a great pace—so far several hundred have renewed their memberships and there are more in the pipeline. We spent about a thousand dollars to get the renewals printed and in the mail, but have take in about five thousand in dues, not bad for a start.

Join the 25th Infantry Division Association



Since 1949 Soldiers and Veterans who were once assigned or attached to the famous *Tropic Lightning* Division have enjoyed membership in the 25th Infantry Division Association. We feature Annual Reunions, Chapters, Scholarships to children & grandchildren, a 40-page quarterly newsletter, a Historical Archive Project, Soldier Support, Memorabilia sales and more. For more information and a membership application please visit our website at www.25thida.org or write to:

25th Infantry Division Assn.
PO Box 7
Flourtown, PA 19031-0007

"Soar with the Eagles"



Join the 101st Airborne Division Association

All Screaming Eagle veterans are invited to link up with your former buddies and your Division's proud heritage while we support the young troopers of today as they carry out their current *RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY*.

Get involved, renew your ties, and rejoin your Band of Brothers!

Check our website at www.screamingeagle.org or contact the 101st Airborne Division Association at 101stairbornedivisionassociation@comcast.net or 270.439.0445.

101st Airborne Division Association
P.O. Box 929
Fort Campbell, KY 42223

It's Our Website, Use It

Our webmaster, Gary Ramsey, tells the Blue Badge that he no longer swears BY technology; he swears AT it.

If you have visited the CIA website recently, you'll understand just how easy that would be. He has developed and maintains this first class website as a courtesy to the association. His hard work, dedication, and loyalty, is a real credit to The Combat Infantrymen's Association.

If you have not visited the site recently now is the time. Check it out at www.cibassoc.com. You will find all sorts of interesting information about the association, photos, rosters, constitution and by-laws, convention information—just about anything you are looking for relating the association.

Some of you that are familiar with "old-time" country music stations will remember a common phrase from the "radio announcer" (they were not DJ's back then), "Keep them cards and letters coming". Well, that is what Gary says too. He is especially interested in photos of your units participating in community activities, fund raisers, or patriotic events, and the like. We know you take photos of them—if the photos are printed, get an extra copy and send one to Gary along with a description of the event. (don't forget to send them to the Blue Badge as well). If you are using film, the photos reproduce best if the film is at least 400 ASA speed. If you are using digital pictures they need to be printed with at least 600 dpi. The preferred way to get your stories/photos to Gary is e-mail cibc11sc@gmail.com, but you can mail the photos and stories to Gary at **303 Ashwood Rd, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588**.

If you think we are looking for publicity, you are right, there are literally hundreds of visitors to the site that are not CIA members. Seeing photos of and stories about the various activities our members participate in helps maintain the good name of the association—and perhaps will encourage other eligible CIB holders to join.

One more time, visit the website at www.cibassoc.com.

Mailing Address: Gary Ramsey~ 303 Ashwood Rd

Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

E-Mail: cibc11sc@gmail.com

A young soldier just home from the war went with his family to church on Sunday morning. In this very conservative Lutheran Church reverence and silence is the order of the day. There are no Hallelujahs, Amen Brothers, or Altar Calls. The new assistant pastor, fresh out of the St Louis Seminary was a real fire and brimstone preacher, not the kind the church was used to. His sermon was on the evils of drinking liquor, both to your body and soul. To illustrate a point he reached under the pulpit and brought out a bottle of whiskey and poured about half a glass full. Then he brought out a box that contained red worms and dropped a couple of the innocent creatures into the whiskey where they shriveled up and died. "Now", with a raised fist he shouted, "What does that tell you? Someone tell me what you think that means!!" Without any thought of consequences that Evil Spirit hit the young soldier and he jumped up and shouted, "If you have worms you should drink!" This normally stone-faced congregation broke all tradition and laughed uproariously. The preacher was stunned, but recovered very nicely and said in effect, "There is a perfect example of how people see things differently. The soldier's humiliated family's reaction is another story.

Soldiers who wore this patch have served with distinction in WW's I and II, in Kosovo and Afghanistan, and are serving in Iraq. Take pride in the T-Patch. Re-discover old friends and make new ones.

Join the 36th Infantry Division Association
 Request a copy of our prized newsletter, "The T-Patcher."
 Contact Membership Secretary Jacqueline Jordan
 P.O. Box 5813 San Antonio, TX 78201-0813
 Phone: 210-733-1136
 E-mail jjordan432@sb-cgibol.net



If you wore this patch



You served in the Victory Division "First to Fight" in WWII and Korea, or later in Germany.

www.24thida.com

Join the 24th Infantry Division Assoc. to share memories and experiences with your buddies at reunions and through the pages of the Taro Leaf magazine. Annual Membership \$15.00.

Send your check to:

John A. Dunn, Sec'y/Treas.
 9150 Highway 51
 Westover, AL35147-9527

The ads for sister organizations that appear on this and other pages of the Blue Badge are scanned exactly as received. Members of these organizations should periodically review them for time sensitive matters, address or e-mail changes. The Blue Badge takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information. If you find an error or wish to change your ad, contact the Editor, Blue Badge @ PO Drawer 11399, Hickory, NC 28603, or by e-mail larry@mlrsinc.com

VETERAN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/UPDATE FORM/TRANSFER SHEET 82nd AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

FORMAL NAME (No Nicknames) _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____
 STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____
 9-DIGIT Zip _____ ASN _____ (or) SSN _____ (MUST SUBMIT AT LEAST LAST 4)
 MARITAL STATUS _____ SPOUSE'S NAME _____ NUMBER OF CHILDREN _____
 _____ ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR YR _____ \$20.00 OR _____ \$21.00 (= \$1.00 DONATION TO ED FUND)
 _____ REINSTATE _____ NEW MEMBER _____ TRANSFER FORM _____ MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
 _____ LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (\$150.00 FOR 49 YEARS AND UNDER OR \$100.00 FOR 50 YEARS +) \$ _____
CURRENT VETERAN / MILITARY STATUS (Check Status below and complete the rank and date entries)
 _____ ACTIVE DUTY/RESERVE OR NAT'L GUARD – Rank and Date of Rank: _____
 _____ RETIRED MILITARY/MILITARY VETERAN – Rank and Date Departed Military Service _____
LIST AIRBORNE UNIT(S) (Be Complete; Include FROM Date and TO Date)
 --UNIT #1 _____ FROM MO/YR _____ TO MO/YR _____
 Combat Tour Location: _____ FROM MO/YR _____ TO MO/YR _____
 --UNIT #2 _____ FROM MO/YR _____ TO MO/YR _____
 Combat Tour Location: _____ FROM MO/YR _____ TO MO/YR _____
PLEASE USE THE BACK OF THE FORM IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN 2 UNITS AND/OR COMBAT TOURS
NEW MEMBERS MUST INCLUDE PROOF OF AIRBORNE QUALIFICATIONS OR SERVICE WITH THE 82D ABN DIV
 OCCUPATION _____ HOME #: (____) _____ CELL #: (____) _____
 EMAIL _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____
 Chapter Preference: _____ For a complete list visit: www.82ndairborneassociation.org

MAIL TO: 82d AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 87482, FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28304-7482

If you wore this patch



You served in the Victory Division
"First to Fight" in WWII and Korea,
or later in Germany.

www.24thida.com

Join the 24th Infantry Division Assoc. to share
memories and experiences with your buddies
at reunions and through the pages of the Taro
Leaf magazine. Annual Membership \$15.00.

Send your check to:

John A. Dunn, Sec'y/Treas.
9150 Highway 51
Westover, AL35147-9527

JOIN THE SOCIETY OF THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION



BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR
SOCIETY TODAY

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(updated 07/11)

Personal



Pvt Robert Brooks, Ft Knox, KY ~ 1942

(Continued from page 19)

around the country. On one of the trips in a bus, near Bowling Green, KY there were mostly soldiers, but a few civilians, and one of them was a very pretty girl who spoke with a deep southern drawl. When we came to a stop, as she was getting off she said, "Good-by You all". Some of the G.I.s began calling, "Oh, goodbye you all, you all, oh you all!" she stopped and turned around and said loudly and firmly, "Yes, You all." There were a couple of sighs, then quiet. Probably thoughts of girlfriends or wives.

We were kept busy in camp. Washed windows and scrubbed floors in the barracks. Picked up cigarette butts and what other small trash there was around our area. We had some practice with M1 rifles, learned the "Manual of Arms", and safe handling. One drill was to learn the proper sight picture. Sightings were marked on a paper about 50 feet away by another soldier. We tried to get the marks as close together as possible. We got out to the rifle range and fired at targets from 300 to 500 yards away. A miss of the whole target was called "Maggie's Drawers." Most of the fellows qualified and a few made expert.

New armored divisions were being organized. The 1st Armored Division needed replacements after setbacks in North Africa. In the last of November, I was assigned to the 12th Armored Division, 56th Armored Infantry Regiment, later reorganized to battalion. That was at Camp Campbell, KY near the Tennessee border.



COMBAT INFANTRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION



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Please mail your contribution to one of the following:

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date Last Name First Name M.I. Street Apt: Unit: City ST: ZIP Phone E-mail Date of Birth

Would you be willing to form a new Company in your area? Yes No Would you like you name to be included in our National Roster? Yes No

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

The applicant must have earned the Combat Infantry Badge as certified to by official notification on the applicant's DD-214, OFFICIAL ARMY ORDERS OR OTHER OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

APPLICANT MUST ATTACH A COPY OF SUCH DOCUMENTATION TO THIS APPLICATION

Do you want your documents returned | yes | no



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I hereby apply for membership in the Combat Infantrymen's Association, Inc. and I certify that I am eligible as explained above. A copy of the document verifying my eligibility is attached.

Enclosed is my []check or []Money Order in the amount of \$ PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO COMBAT INFANTRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION (CIA)

Mail your APPLICATION and DUES to: NATIONAL COMMANDER

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Note - Application is also available online: www.cibassoc.com

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COMBAT INFANTRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.
National Headquarters
Asheville, North Carolina

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None goes his way alone.
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own*
— Edwin Markham

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14571 Grande Cay Cir, Unit # 3204
Ft Myers, FL 33908

Deputy Commander
Deputy Commander, Combat Infantrymen's Association
PO Box 97033
Tacoma, WA 98497-0033

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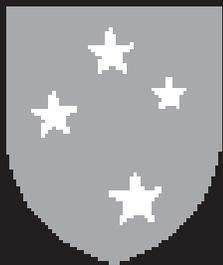
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(updated 08/11)

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The National 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division Association

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