



## NEWSLETTER OF THE 31ST US INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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### FIRST AN APOLOGY

This edition of the Newsletter was planned to be published and distributed by the end of July. Due to medical issues, other commitments, and incomplete coordination/follow-up it did not happen. For that failure all of us responsible for making it happen ask for forgiveness. This updated edition has the first details of the Reunion 2020. The next edition of the Newsletter will be in February 2020

### OUR COMMANDER SAYS: "IT'S GETTING CLOSER"



Our ever capable, ever ready, and always smiling Commander Charlie Tapp has done it again. He has been busy doing the important leg work to build a reunion program for next year's 2020 Reunion in September at the Quad Cities along the Mississippi. Not only has he found a wonderful hotel that can accommodate our reunion needs but he negotiated a really great rate. In addition, he has put together a schedule of events that will ensure that everyone who attends will have a grand time. The registration

form and a flier about Reunion 2020 are in this edition of the Newsletter. More details of the Reunion will be published in the February 2020 Newsletter. So, put the dates of 19-23 September 2020 on your calendar and get ready for a great reunion of current and former Soldiers of the 31<sup>st</sup> US Infantry Regiment and their families at the Quad Cities of Moline, IL; East Moline, IL; Rock Island, IL; Bettendorf, Iowa; and Davenport, Iowa. **You All Come Now, You Hear!**

#### Highlights in this Edition

Bringing Them Home	- Page 2	The Other Polar Bears	- Page 3
Reunion 2020 Flier	- Page 4	Reunion Registration Form	- Page 5
Farrell Lowe the Oldest Member	- Page 6	4/31 Redeploys Home	- Page 7
A Bataan Soldier Comes Home	- Page 7	QM Sales Order Form	- Page 9

## BRINGING THEM HOME

During the Polar Bear deployment to Siberia, 32 soldiers became combat casualties. Another 59 members of the Regiment died from other causes, almost all from disease--victims of the influenza pandemic of 1918-19. The dead were buried in Siberia and remained there when the last 31st contingent left in April 1920. But based on the Army's tradition of bringing all our troops home, the remains were soon returned, in October of that year.



Bringing our KIAs home is a long-standing tradition, no matter how long it takes. As reported in an earlier Newsletter PFC Morris Worrell, F Company, 2-31 having survived the Bataan Death March, died in the Cabanatuan POW Camp. At the end of the war his remains couldn't be identified, so he was buried in a common grave in the Manila American Cemetery. Over seven decades later, with new identification methods available, his remains were exhumed. In 2018 he was positively identified and interred with honors in his hometown of Wisner, NE.

Perhaps the 31st Infantry's best known example of delayed identification is the return of LTC Don Faith's remains. LTC Faith was the commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry attached to the 32nd Infantry Regiment for operations at the Chosin Reservoir in the Korean War. LTC Faith became the commander of the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment during the battle and was killed leading counterattacks to keep the withdrawal route open for elements of the Regiment and the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division. For his actions he won a posthumous Medal of Honor. He was declared KIA, Remains Not Recovered. Sixty-three years later, North Korea released his remains and he was interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

The work goes on. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has the lead and continues to seek the remains of 16,724 soldiers from WWII, 5,823 from Korea, and 512 from Vietnam. The searchable website, with names, is [www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil).



## THE OTHER POLAR BEARS

Recently, one of our members gave a talk at a local library on the history of the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment. The librarian put out some books on the Army including one that was brand new. This book was called *The Polar Bear Expedition: The Heroes of America's Forgotten Invasion of Russia, 1918-1919* by award-winning historian James Carl Nelson. Our member was confused when he saw it as he had no idea of what it was about. It turned out to be about the 339<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (Detroit's Own) of the 85<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.



The 339<sup>th</sup> trained thinking they would be joining the war on the western front but instead were sent to north of the Arctic Circle to Archangel, Russia. There they were put under the control of the British Army who were under the false impression that all the allies had to do was show the flag and the people of Russia would rise-up and turn on the Bolsheviks. To accomplish this the British ignored one of the basic principles of warfare and pieced out the regiment in small units, often as small as platoons. During the summer and fall they British had gunboats to support and supply the troops. However, when the cold came and the rivers froze the allied troops were left cut off while the Red army, using superior internal lines of communication, eventually grew to an army estimated at 60,000.

One interesting item was the fact that the Reds had to take off some of the pressure on the 339<sup>th</sup> to move to another trouble spot in Siberia. So there was a definite tie between the two regiments even if they did not know it. While the west has forgotten that once a hundred years ago Americans fought Russians on their soil the Russians have not and have brought it up at various times up to the present. It appears that most Americans have forgotten, but Russia has not.

A lost chapter of American history—the invasion of Russia one hundred years ago during the last days of the Great War. In the winter of 1918, 5,000 U.S. soldiers, nicknamed “The Polar Bears,” found themselves hundreds of miles north of Moscow in desperate, bloody combat against the newly formed Soviet Union’s Red Army. Temperatures plummeted to sixty below zero. Their guns and their flesh froze. The Bolsheviks, camouflaged in white, advanced in waves across the snow like ghosts. This group of Polar Bears, hailing largely from Michigan, heroically waged a courageous campaign in the brutal, frigid subarctic of northern Russia for almost a year. And yet they are all but unknown today. Indeed, during the Cold War, two U.S. presidents, Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon, would assert that the American and the Russian people had never directly fought each other. They were spectacularly wrong, and so too is the nation’s collective memory.

The American Expeditionary Force, North Russia, had been sent to fight the Soviet Red Army and aid anti-Bolshevik forces in hopes of reopening the Eastern Front against Germany. And yet even after the Great War officially ended in November 1918. More than two hundred Polar Bears perished before their withdrawal in July 1919. But their story does not end there. Ten years after they left, a contingent of veterans returned to Russia to recover the remains of more than a hundred of their fallen brothers and lay them to rest in Michigan, where a monument honoring their service still stands. More than two hundred Polar Bears perished before their withdrawal in July 1919. But their story does not end there. Ten years after they left, a contingent of veterans returned to Russia to recover the remains of more than a hundred of their fallen brothers and lay them to rest in Michigan, where a monument honoring their service still stands. In the century since, America has forgotten the Polar Bears’ harrowing campaign. Russia,



## 31<sup>ST</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION TO THIS MUST-SEE RIVERFRONT DESTINATION



### Reunion Highlights!

- Mississippi Riverboat Cruise
- Special Access at the Rock Island Arsenal Military Installation
- World's Largest Truckstop and Trucking History Museum
- John Deere Factory Tour
- Walkable Downtowns on the Riverfront and Walking Paths
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**REGISTRATION FORM REUNION 2020**  
**31<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment Association**  
**Quad City; Rock Island; IL**  
**Sept 19-23, 2020**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Company & Battalion of the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry: \_\_\_\_\_ When: \_\_\_\_\_

If active duty, Current Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Post stationed at: \_\_\_\_\_

Served in Combat Zone: Yes / No (Circle)      If Yes, where: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be staying at Holiday Inn Rock Island Yes / No (Circle)?

Have a car at the reunion? Yes / No If needed, are you willing to assist in local driving? Yes / No

<u>Reunion Activity</u>	<u>Cost per Person</u>	<u>X # Participating</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>Event Cost</u>
Reunion Registration	\$40	x _____		\$ _____
Reunion Arrival Dinner	\$27	x _____		\$ _____
Rock Island Arsenal Tour	\$15	x _____		\$ _____
Celebration Dinner Cruise	\$60	x _____		\$ _____
Reunion Banquet	\$40	x _____		\$ _____
John Deere Factory Tour	\$15	x _____		\$ _____
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$ _____</b>

Make checks payable to: **31<sup>st</sup> US Infantry Regiment Association Attn: Joe DeAngelis 3035 El Rio Dr Meridian Idaho 83642**

**Hotel and Travel Information:**

**Holiday Inn & Conference Center**

**226 17<sup>th</sup> Street**

Rock Island IL 61201 Airport serviced by all major carriers. [www.holidayinn.com/rockisland](http://www.holidayinn.com/rockisland)

**Reserve Room at (309-794-1212)**

**\$85.00 all In Daily Hot Breakfast**

**Quad City International Airport (MOL)**

Free airport / Hotel Shuttle

## **The Story of Farrell Lowe**

### **Once the Oldest Living Association Member - Part One**

Composed by Ron Corson; Narrated and Lived by Farrell Lowe  
This is a re-edition of a piece first published 5 years ago. Farrell Lowe has since passed on.

A few years ago when I was the membership chairman of the Association, I had the opportunity and tasking to routinely call a number of our members, especially some of our older members, to verify things such as addresses and membership status. While these calls were a part of my duties, they are much more than that because they have given me the opportunity to meet and know, over the phone, some really interesting and engaging veterans of our Regiment. One call that I made turned out to be to the then oldest living member of the Association and the Regiment. I called Mr. Farrell D. Lowe at his home in Kirkwood, Missouri. He served in the Regiment in the Philippines from 1932 to 1936. I first called Farrell in 2012. He announced that he knew that he was the oldest Polar Bear because he was 102 years old.

What I found out during that wonderful telephone call was that Farrell Lowe was born on November 13, 1912, in Willard, Utah. His family later moved to a farm in Parker, Idaho. Farrell had to drop out of the University of Idaho after his first semester due to bank failures which caused his father to lose his farm. He moved with his parents back to Willard. After a few months of doing odd jobs, Farrell was advised by an uncle to enlist in the Army and to apply for an appointment to West Point. Almost overnight, he was on a ship headed to the Philippines where he joined the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment. He was initially assigned to “F” Company where he received the nickname “Chick” when someone commented that “the kid would be eaten like a spring chicken” after being assigned to “F” Company.

He found out through his First Sergeant that two appointments to West Point were open to the Philippines Department. Farrell was one of five applicants – the other four were sons of West Point graduates stationed in the Philippines. The five applicants were sent to Nichols Field for a period of time to determine who would get the two appointments. Farrell was #2 but, a few days before getting on the troop transport back to the U.S., Farrell received instructions to report for a final physical examination. Having “farm boy experience”, he was in good physical condition and worried not one bit. He was surprised to receive the report of his physical examination, which he still has, stating that a hearing defect made him ineligible for West Point. The next applicant in line took his place at West Point!

One of Chick’s interesting experiences in the Philippines involved the heavyweight champion of the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, Floyd Barnhart, who decided that F Company should have another regimental boxing title. He trained Chick to enter the Regimental Day boxing tournament as an applicant for the flyweight title. When Chick entered the ring there were no other applicants for the title, so it was granted to him without a punch being thrown!

In late 1932, the Regimental Sergeant Major, Jim Screen, sent an invitation through First Sergeant Keyes for Chick to transfer to Service Company and come to work at Regimental/Post HQ. Lowe accepted, with First Sergeant Keyes advice, and was assigned to the Message Center. The Message Center was the nerve center of the Regiment. It received all the incoming and outgoing communications, published internal orders, prepared the monthly newsletter, and filed all Army Department Regulations, Regiment Regulations/Orders. Back in those days, every rank from PFC to Sergeant E-5, including specialists, belonged to the unit. When a person left the unit, they left their rank and were reassigned as Privates to their new unit. In a year, Chick was quickly promoted to PFC. Making rank that fast was almost unheard. Typically, occupants of any of non-rank holding positions stayed in the unit as long as possible. When a Soldier’s three-year appointment was completed, the occupants usually applied for an extension of their service. But this is only Part One of the PFC “Chick” Lowe story – to be continued.



## The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Redeploys to Home Station



It started in July of this year, but it took several weeks before all elements of 4/31 Infantry to return home to Fort Drum from a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan. The battalion spent its tour split between Bagram Airfield (BN HQs, HHC, Charlie, Bravo, and Hotel Companies) and Kandahar Airfield (Alpha and Delta Companies). The overall mission of the unit on its deployment was to execute rapid response missions as the Theater Response Force. The Battalion was used by GEN Scott Miller, the Commander of Resolute Support, to secure remote bases temporarily to enable SOF operations and support Advisory



Missions. The Polar Bears conducted operations throughout the country in all seven Train Advise Assist Commands (TAACs) in Afghanistan. While the mission was training and assistance, that did not mean the Soldiers of the 31<sup>st</sup> were not engaged in combat actions. The Battalion earned over 400 Combat Infantry Badges, Combat Air Badges and Combat Medical Badges. Two Polar Bears earned Purple Hearts and luckily there were no serious injuries. Since redeploying, all the battalion's companies have re-integrated into 10th Mountain training and will deploy to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk. LA in April of 2020.

## ANOTHER BATAAN SOLDIER COMES HOME

In late October, the commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, LTC Steven Wallace and the Battalion Sergeant Major, CSM Gavin Holmes, participated in a repatriation ceremony in Augusta, Maine Veterans Cemetery for a Soldier of the 31<sup>st</sup> US Infantry Regiment. While the remains were discovered in the Philippines in 2014, to took DNA Testing now available for the Army to identify the remains as those of SGT Lawrence Hanscom. SGT Hanscom served in E Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> US Infantry Regiment in the Philippines. He had fought in Bataan in World War II and survived the Bataan Death March only later to die as a POW in Camp Cabanatuan Prison in the Philippines. As part of the burial ceremony, Dave Erickson,



Hanscom's nephew, was presented with SGT Hanscom's awards by LTC Wallace – the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart. Following the service, CSM Holmes placed a regimental unit coin in the casket before it was sealed. After the ceremony, SGT Hanscom's niece, Lisa Erickson, said it was difficult to express how honored their family was to have members of 4-31 Infantry travel from Fort Drum for the ceremony. She said it was especially poignant for the command team to present their uncle's service medals to his nephew. **Pro Patria**



## TAPS

At the time this edition was assembled, no listing of those members who have passed on since our reunion in May was available. Determining who of our members have died is and has been a problematic issue. If you as a member have a buddy or know of one of our members who have died, please send that information to our Membership Chairman, Jim Tierney or Jim Simms (Their contact info is on the listing of Association Officers).

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## NEW MEMBERS - 2019

Cameran Jacques	A CO	4/31st	SP4	Active duty
Sean Petit	D CO	4/31st	SSG	Active duty
Michael S Bathrick	C CO	4/31st	SP4	Active duty
George Allen	B CO	4/31st	SP4	Active duty
Colter Guion	D CO	4/31st	PFC	Active duty
Zachary Harnish	D CO	4/31st	CPT	Active duty
Gerard (Jerry) G Keller	HHC	1/87th		Active duty Dave Wilson's Son-in-Law
John M Wylie	E CO	6/31st	SP4	4/1968-4/1969
Richard A Martinez	C CO	4/31st	SGT	1968-1969
Lynn W Folliott	D CO	4/31st	SGT	6/1968-4/1969
Timothy F Ryan	C CO	4/31st	SP4	1970-1971
David M Pruitt	B CO	6/31st	SP4	1968-1969
Isamu M Long	C CO	6/31st	SP5	1968-1970
Daniel P Rayca	HCC	4/31st	CPT	1999-2002



# 31<sup>st</sup> US INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QUARTERMASTER STORE ORDER FORM

Visit [31stinfantry.org](http://31stinfantry.org) and click on 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Store to see a full color catalogue of these and many more items

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail : \_\_\_\_\_

Cat #	Description	Price	Qty	Total
B 102	Book, 31 <sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment "America's Foreign Legion" in peace and war (Includes shipping) Do not include this in shipping cost at bottom of form	\$40.00	X ____ =	_____
C 100	Coin, Commemorative, 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	\$10.00	X ____ =	_____
C100AT	Air Tight capsule for 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative coin	\$1.50	X ____ =	_____
C100EB	Easel, black <u>both the black and clear easels are for Air Tight capsule with 100<sup>th</sup></u>	\$1.50	X ____ =	_____
C100EC	Easel, clear <u>Anniversary commemorative coin or the Commemorative coin alone</u>	\$1.50	X ____ =	_____
C RB 02	Cap, Royal Blue, 31 <sup>st</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT, POLAR BEARS, and crest embroidered directly on cap and US ARMY embroidered on back.	\$17.00	X ____ =	_____
C RB	Cap same as C RB 02 above with the addition of a waving U.S. flag on the left side and a combat patch (Philippines Division; 7 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; 196 Light Infantry Brigade; 9 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; 10 <sup>th</sup> Mountain Div) on the right side. Circle the patch you want.	\$18.00	X ____ =	_____
C K	NEW CAP! same as C RB above but in Khaki with a waving U.S. flag on the left side and a combat patch (Philippines Division; 7 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; 196 Light Infantry Brigade; 9 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; 10 <sup>th</sup> Mountain Div) on the right side. Circle the patch you want. All embroidery is subdued.	\$18.00	X ____ =	_____
SP	Shirt, Polo/golf w/31 <sup>st</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest, no pocket Please circle color and size. Size S, M, L, XL White, Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$29.00	X ____ =	_____
	Size 2XL White, Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$31.00	X ____ =	_____
SP100	Same as above with 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo in <u>White only</u> Size: S <del>M</del> -(Sold out), L XL	\$31.00	X ____ =	_____
	Size: 2XL	\$33.00	X ____ =	_____
	Size: 3XL	\$35.00	X ____ =	_____
ST	Shirt, Tee, w/31 <sup>st</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest, no pocket Size S, M, L, XL Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 16.00	X ____ =	_____
	Size 2XL Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 19.00	X ____ =	_____
	Size 3XL Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 21.00	X ____ =	_____
SLSVC	Shirt, Long Sleeve, Dress in various colors w/31 <sup>st</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest above pocket. <b>Please circle color and size.</b>	Size S M L XL \$30.00	X ____ =	_____
	<b>Colors:</b> Black, Navy Blue, Light Blue, Red, White, Texas Orange, Burgundy, or Denim	Size 2XL \$32.00	X ____ =	_____
		Size 3XL \$36.00	X ____ =	_____
MS 01	Shanghai Bowl Cup, silver, 2007 reproduction of original. (Includes shipping) <b>Do not include this in shipping cost at bottom of form</b>	\$165.00	X ____ =	_____
DCL 01	Bumper sticker, 31 <sup>st</sup> Infantry crest (Polar Bear), 4-3/8" tall, 4-1/4 wide	\$3.00	X ____ =	_____
PN 01	Pin, 31 <sup>st</sup> Infantry Regimental crest (Polar Bear), regulation size, facing set.	\$ 8.00	X ____ =	_____
PN 02	Pin, 31 <sup>st</sup> Infantry Reg crest (Polar Bear), lapel/hat pin. 7/8" tall, 3/4" wide 1-1/4" wide	\$ 3.00	X ____ =	_____
PN 74	Pin, Combat Infantry Badge, regulation size, 1-1/4" tall, 3" wide	\$ 4.00	X ____ =	_____
PN 82	Pin, Purple Heart, lapel/hat pin. 1-1/8" tall, 5/8" wide	\$ 3.00	X ____ =	_____
PN 85	Pin, Silver Star, lapel/hat pin. 1-1/8" tall, 5/8" wide	\$ 3.00	X ____ =	_____
PN 71	Pin, Bronze Star, lapel/hat pin. 1-1/8" tall, 5/8" wide	\$ 3.00	X ____ =	_____
<b>Shipping Charges:</b> Orders under \$10.00 add \$2.50; Orders \$10.01 - \$25.00 add \$6.00;		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$	_____
Orders \$25.01 - \$50.00, add \$7.00; Orders over \$50.00, add \$9.00		<b>SHIPPING</b>	\$	_____

Add the appropriate shipping charge to your order

MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: 31<sup>ST</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For Credit Cards (American Express, Discover, Master Card, or Visa) or Debit card (with Master Card or Visa logo) please include

NAME (on card): \_\_\_\_\_ CARD #: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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Mail the order form and payment to: Dale Mills 337 Carillon Lane. Macon, GA 31210-9711



# Membership Application – 31<sup>st</sup> US Infantry Regiment Association



First Name Nickname Middle Initial Last Name

Street Address City State Zip Code Phone Number

E-mail address Alternate E-mail Address

Please fill in as much information about your service/connection with the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry as possible:

Platoon \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Award Earned \_\_\_\_\_

Rank & Duty Position when serving with the 31st Rank When Retired/Separated

**Where did you serve with the 31<sup>st</sup>?**

**When?**

Philippines	_____	_____
Korea	_____	_____
Japan	_____	_____
Vietnam	_____	_____
Iraq	_____	_____
Afghanistan	_____	_____
Other Overseas	_____	_____
USA	_____	_____

## Membership Desired

### Life Membership

Active Duty \_\_\_\_\_ \$25  
 Age 49 & under \_\_\_\_\_ \$60  
 Age 50 – 59 \_\_\_\_\_ \$45  
 Age 60 & over \_\_\_\_\_ \$35  
 Associate Life \_\_\_\_\_ \$25

Member (family)

### Annual Membership per Year

Current Active Duty Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$5  
 Prior Member of 31<sup>st</sup> Unit \_\_\_\_\_ \$10  
 Associate Member (family) \_\_\_\_\_ \$5

Make your check out to **31<sup>st</sup> Inf Regt Assn** and mail it to our membership chairman **Jim Tierney, 1484 Loretta Drive, Pennhills, PA 15235.**



**31st InfantryRegimentAssociation**  
**Jim Tierney**  
**1484 Loretta Drive**  
**Pennhills, PA 15235**  
**Newsletter 93**

***RETURNSERVICEREQUESTED***

**TIME TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE NEXT REUNION, 19-23  
SEPTEMBER 2020**

