

Pro Patria Press



#89 May 2018

Newsletter of the 31st Infantry Regiment Association

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Polar Bear Stephen J. Townsend Receives Fourth Star, Takes Command of TRADOC



Daily Press Photo by Joe Fudge

GEN Stephen J. Townsend receives the Colors of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command from Chief of Staff of the Army GEN Mark A. Milley as the outgoing commander, GEN David G. Perkins looks on.

Sixteen years ago, then LTC Stephen J. Townsend commanded the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry on its first combat deployment following 9/11. On his watch, in Afghanistan, Polar Bears drew their first enemy blood since Vietnam.

In August, 2016, LTG Townsend, CG of XVIII Airborne Corps and Ft. Bragg, was scheduled to be the main speaker at the Regiment's centennial Shanghai Bowl Ceremony. But duty called him away. He had to cancel. The morning after the centennial banquet, he was in the Middle East assuming command of Combined Joint Task Force—Operation Inherent Resolve, operating in Syria and Iraq. He returned to Ft. Bragg in September, 2017 and immediately wrote the Afterword for our history, *The 31st Infantry Regiment: A History of "America's Foreign Legion" in Peace and War*.

On March 2nd General Townsend pinned on his fourth star at Fort Eustis, and took the helm of the Training and Doctrine Command. TRADOC oversees the training of all Army forces and the development of the Army's operational doctrine. Simply put, its function as an organization is to design, develop, and build the Army—a huge responsibility.

Association Commander Mike Strand is trying once again to schedule GEN Townsend as reunion banquet speaker, this time at Myrtle Beach. Hopefully Polar Bear Townsend will be able to make it this time.

LATEST REUNION NEWS IS AT P. 3; REGISTRATION FORM IS AT P. 4 31st IR History Book \$25 to August 35\$ Thereafter, See Page 6-7

LTC Isaac Rademacher's Final Commanders Corner

On 4 May 2014 LTC Rademacher turned command of the 4/31st to LTC Steve Wallace. The following is a list of LTC Rademacher's accomplishments:

- 4th BN Colors framed and mounted in Foyer (Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and 100th Anniversary
- Uniforms displayed on mannequins representing every era of the Polar Bear lineage - 7 total (New ones include CPT Noah Halfacre, MAJ Piatt - current CG, SPC Belasco - current 1SG and ARCOM w/ V in OIF, CPT Finn - Silver Star in OIF)
- CPL Stark's POW uniform encased and displayed next to the Shanghai Bowl-Patch board rebuilt and hung above uniform display
- Valor Boards for every campaign
- Campaign Boards for every campaign (to be hung end of May)
- All unit citations hung (previously only had half on display)
- Renovation to Shanghai Bowl presentation Cup log built for presentation and reframing of recovery artifacts (late May)
- Restoration of George weather has taken its toll on him, but we are contracting to spend several thousand dollars to have him fully restored at some point this summer when the weather conditions best support it

Long term we are also designing a renovation to a space that is currently a closet. I wanted to make a memorial room/space to recognize all of the Polar Bears who made the ultimate sacrifice during combat. Intent is to have a roll call posted for each campaign.

Investing in the history of this organization has been extremely rewarding. The lineage is so rich and noble, the Association is very active, and the Soldiers were longing to be a part of something bigger than themselves. It really only required a little emphasis from me and the leaders were sold on the importance of embracing our history. It would not have been possible without all you and your comrades have done to keep the lineage over the years, so thank you for your service on that front.

Serving in this Regiment has been my greatest honor and I am truly humbled. I will remain in touch through the Association though and will definitely leverage an opportunity in the future to reconnect with everyone.

Two years goes by fast. I remember taking command of 4-31 IN on 6 June 2016 as if it were yesterday. Although a much more memorable experience occurred just a couple months later when we celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the 31st Infantry Regiment. The Centennial Anniversary nested perfectly with my desire to bring the prestigious history of this Regiment to life and share it with the Soldiers of tomorrow. But that effort would have been little more than a history lesson if not for the outpouring of loyalty, honor, and appreciation by over 200 of the Polar Bears that helped build this legacy in decades past. The anniversary celebration was the catalyst to fuel a series of renovations to our HQ, our museum to the Polar Bear history. Enter and you find Little George in front of our colors and the American flag. To the left is a series of mannequins wearing every uniform worn by Polar Bears over the last 100 years (all were actually worn by Polar Bears), and above them a timeline of the various patches describing the ever evolving missions throughout the years. To the right, priceless artifacts of the Regiment – the Shanghai Bowl and CPL Darrell Stark's POW uniform from the Philippines. A walk through the HQ hallway is now an instructional walk through time, with graphic campaign boards detailing the operational contributions of the Polar Bears through their various campaigns, and accompanying valor boards which highlight some of the significant sacrifices made by those who came before us, or walked alongside us. Every Polar Bear in uniform today knows well the epic history of the Regiment of which he or she is now a part. There are more projects underway that will be complete in the coming years, because as it turns out, two years was not enough time.

It has been the most prestigious honor of my life to serve as the commander of this historic unit. While I am very proud of the tactical achievements and the culture of this battalion, I am most proud of our renewed interest and lasting investments to displaying our history. The Polar Bears of tomorrow will draw purpose and strength through reflection on the courageous accomplishments of Polar Bears past. Our history is the foundation of our legacy.

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Myrtle Beach Reunion Coming Up in September

The first Regimental reunion in two years is almost upon us, scheduled for Sunday September 16 to Wednesday the 19th. Our gathering this year will happen right after the 102nd anniversary of the 31st Infantry's activation in the Philippines in August.

The site for the reunion is a great one for relaxing and having fun—the Beach Cove Resort in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Besides the obvious ocean front activities, golf is a major attraction in the area. Known as the "Golf capital of the World," the Grand Strand is home to over 80 golf courses.



In addition, the Pirates Voyage Dinner and Show will be available, featuring Captain Blackbeard and his quartermaster, Calico Jack—with acrobatic competitions, aerial feats, sea lions, tropical birds, beautiful mermaids and a lot more. Also available will be many local tours, with signup at the reunion registration desk.

One of the first big events will be the Welcome Barbecue Dinner. But the reunion highlight will as usual be the Banquet and Shanghai Bowl Ceremony, with presentation of the colors and the traditional toasts. During the entire reunion, Dale Mills our quartermaster will have the Regimental store open, and in addition to the usual items for sale, the book *The 31st Infantry Regiment: A History of "America's Foreign Legion" in Peace and War* can be purchased or, if you saved ten dollars by preordering with the form elsewhere in this issue, your copy will be available for pickup.

Other reunion events: the annual membership meeting, and the memorial service to commemorate those who have passed on since our last gathering.

September will be a great time to renew old friendships and tell a war story or two over something cold to drink. The registration form is in this copy of the newsletter.

Special pricing is available at the hotel not only for the dates of the reunion, but also for several days before or after the event thanks to the great work done by Charlie Tapp who is the coordinator for this reunion.

This resort and the entire Myrtle Beach area is kid friendly so those of you with children or grandchildren you would like to bring along will not have to worry about keeping them busy.

For more information go to https://www.visitmyrtlebeach.com/



Name: _____



REGISTRATION FORM REUNION 2018

31st U.S. Infantry Regiment Association Myrtle Beach, South Carolina Sept.16-19-2018 Sun- Wed

Guest(s):					
Home Street Address:					
City:		State:	ZIP Cod	e:	
E-mail:		_ Phone:			
Company & Battalion of the 31	.st Infantry:		_ When:		
If active duty, Current Rank:		Post statio	ned at:		
Served in Combat Zone: Yes /	No (Circle)	If Yes, wh	iere:		
Will you be staying at Beach Co	ove Resort: Y	es / No (Circle)	?		
Have a car at the reunion? Yes	/ No If neede	ed, are you will	ing to assis	t in local dr	iving? Yes / No
Reunion Activity	Cost per Pe	erson x #Partic	ipating	=	\$Total
Reunion Registration	\$35	х			\$
Welcome Barbeque Dinner	\$27	х			\$
Reunion Banquet: (by 9/7/18)	\$45	х			\$
Pirates Voyage Adventure <u>ww</u> y	w.piratesvoya	<u>ige.com</u> \$42.00	O x		\$

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Grand Total

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checks payable to: 31st US Infantry Regiment Association Att. Joe DeAngelis S El Rio Dr. Meridian Idaho 83642-6741. Currently, no local tours are planned require buses or advanced fees. A list of possible local tours will be available at registration table for attendees to sign up for when they arrive. Tour transportation will be coordinated using private vehicles available at the reunion. Presentations centered on the history of the Regiment and the new "America's Foreign Legion" are planned during the reunion.

book

Make **3035**

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Hotel and Travel Information: Rates are good 3 days before or after.

Beach Cove Resort Myrtle Beach International Airport (MYR)

4800 South Ocean Boulevard 13.2 Miles from Beach Cove Resort

North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582 Free pick up from hotel. 8:am -7:pm Must prearrange with hotel.

\$114.24 All in Free parking. No resort fee added.

Reserve Room at (843) 918-9000 MYR serviced by Delta, American, United, Spirit, & others Cut-off for guarantee: Aug.15th 2018 Will try to accommodate late registration where possible

<u>www.BeachCove.com</u> <u>www.flymyrtlebeach.com</u>

Change of Command Ceremony

On Friday afternoon 4 May the colors of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment were passed from LTC Isaac Rademacher to the new commander LTC Steve Wallace. The ceremony was held in the Fort Drum Field House due to rain and the threat of a tornado. When the Colonel of the Regiment, LTG (Ret.) "Sam" Wetzel, walked through the barracks he talked and listened to some extremely sharp Polar Bears. They wanted to know about the battle of Nui Chom Mountain where Sam commanded the 4-31 and Michae3l Crescenz won his posthumous Medal of Honor. Some also asked him about leading patrols during the Korean War Change of Command day was a day for soldier's talk with each other about the Regiment's history

New Commander 4-31 IN BN: LTC Steven S. Wallace (left) with family: wife, Rose "Rocky" Wallace, and sons, William, Quentin, and Matthew. Former Commander, 4-31 IN BN: LTC Isaac Rademacher (right) with family: wife, Jennifer Rademacher, and children Hunter, Logan, and Samantha. The Colonel of the Regiment, Robert "Sam" Wetzel, LTG (Ret) at center

WWII Purple Heart Presented

PVT Jasper Davis, Jr., from North Carolina, was serving in Co. F, 31st Infantry Regiment when the Japanese attacked the Philippines. He fought through the defense of the islands, and after the surrender survived the

Bataan Death March.

Even before that surrender, Davis had developed dysentery, a parasitic infection of the intestines. While interned in Cabanatuan POW Camp, he also developed malaria. He died on 3 October 1942, and was buried with eight others, all of whom had died within a 24-hour period. After the war, Graves Registration was unable to identify Davis from among the other comingled skeletal remains. He is memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery.

Over the years, PVT Davis's nephew, Kenneth, became increasingly interested in his uncle's combat experiences. When he realized his uncle had never formally received the military awards to which he was entitled, he requested that they be given to him. On April 9 2018, PVT Davis's Bronze Star and Purple Heart were duly presented to his nephew and the family. The ROTC unit at Wake Forest did the honors during the seventh inning of a game with Duke University. The 31st Infantry Association added one of its unique Centennial Coins as a form of memorabilia for the family. By fighting and dying in the Philippines, PVT Davis had made himself a part of the hundred-year history of the 31st Infantry Regiment.



Kenneth Davis, nephew of PVT Jasper Davis, Jr., F Co., 31st Infantry Regiment, receives his uncle's Bronze Star and Purple Heart at Wake Forest University during a baseball game with Duke.



An Excerpt From

The 31st Infantry Regiment: A History of "America's Foreign Legion" in Peace and War



Officers of A Company, 31st Infantry at mess. New rolling kitchens are being tested. Vladivostok Siberia December 3, 1918. National Archives photo.

INTRODUCTION

Although the regiment's century-long history has been told in installments through scattered books and articles, until now it has not been available in one comprehensive work. The 31st Infantry Regiment: A History of "America's Foreign Legion" in Peace and War fills that need, providing in a single source the narrative of its hundred-year contribution to the nation.

The regiment was activated in the Philippines, in the geographical area known as the Pacific Rim. And for more than seventy years it fought every one of its battles within that same area—in Siberia, Shanghai, Korea and Vietnam. Even its post-WWII occupation duty in Japan lay within that area. Only since 9/11 have its combat missions taken it beyond, to Afghanistan and Iraq in South Central Asia. Although most of its battalions have at one time or another been stationed in the United States, the headquarters of the regiment and its 1st battalion still have never served within the nation's borders. Hence the nickname, "America's Foreign Legion."

Over the past century, joint operations with other nations have been the norm. In Siberia, the regiment worked in cooperation with the United Kingdom, Canada, China, Italy and Japan. Shanghai brought the regiment together with the British, French, Japanese, Chinese and White Russians. Jointly executed missions with the Marine Corps began early in the regiment's history as well—already stationed in the Shanghai international settlement was the US 4th Marine Regiment—the commanding officer of the 31st Infantry reported to the Marine commander when the army unit came ashore. Korea and the post-9/11 deployments echo this pattern, both with other nations and with other US Armed Forces.

The recurring presence of the Japanese should be noted. In their ultimately unsuccessful march toward empire, they had already defeated the Russians in the 1904-1905 Russo-Japanese War, and moved eagerly into Siberia in 1918. Japan had seized Manchuria in 1931, and in the following year they welcomed the Shanghai Incident as an opportunity to expand even deeper into Chinese territory. Then, in the Philippines in 1941-1942, the 31st Infantry met the Japanese again. A nominal ally became an implacable enemy.

The crosscurrents created by opposing forces and factions in Siberia challenged the regiment on its very first deployment: leftist reds, monarchist whites and Cossack warlords. And bandits—Russian, Mongol, Manchu, Korean and Chinese. And as sometimes happens, this past proved to be prologue to the regiment's present. A new swirl and mix of violent forces continues to recur in the aftermath of 9/11. Besides nation states such as Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and Pakistan among others, there are also religious, tribal and political groups. These factions cycle in and out of active combat or support it: al-Qaeda, the Taliban, Sunni, Shia, Kurds, and ISIS. Such complexity places a heavy responsibility on the entire force, both chain of command and line soldiers. Combat and diplomacy are equally the regiment's stock in trade.



Through it all, the regiment—at this writing represented by a single active duty unit, the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry of the 10th Mountain Division—has carried out its assigned missions in exemplary fashion. Seven Medals of Honor have been awarded to individual members, and across the decades the unit as a whole has earned six Presidential Unit citations. The burden of the present volume is to record how the Polar Bears accomplished all of this by narrating the century-long history of the 31st Infantry Regiment.

-Pro Patria-

Pre-publication form below. Cost per book from QM store is \$25 before 15 August and %35 after. Standard price from publisher and Amazon is \$45.

31st Infantry Regimental History book ordering information

The pre-publication price is \$25.00 per book if your order gets in by August 15, 2018. After the publication date of August 15, 2018 the price is \$32.00 per book. Shipping will be \$5.00 per book no matter when the book is ordered. We have a tentative delivery date, from McFarland Press, of September 1, 2018 so that will be the earliest I can ship the books. If you plan to attend the 31st Infantry reunion September 16-19, 2018, you can save \$5.00 per book by ordering your book(s) before August 15, 2018, and pick up your book(s) at the reunion.

Name:	Telephone #				
Adderess:					
City:	State:	Zip	Email:		
31st Infantry Regimental	History Order rec	eived by Augu	st 15, 2018	books times \$25.00 = \$	
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Security code from the b	ack of the card:_	Billiı	ng zip code		
Books will be available fo	or purchase at the	reunion for \$	32.00 per book		

Association Officers

City/State/Zip

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment	Robert "Sam" Wetzel LTG Ret (LTC, 4th Bn, VN 1968)		
1425 Dartmouth Rd, Columbus GA 31904	706-576-4204	wint322@aol.com	
Commander:	Mike Strand	(LT, C/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69)	
5225 Pooks Hill Rd., #1412N Bethesda, MD 20814	240-800-4194	hrdyna@aol.com	
Vice Commander:			
		(a.a., a. (ath a	
Adjutant:	Vin Zike	(SGT, D/6 th Bn, VN, 1969-70)	
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1967-69) 3035 El Rio Dr, Meridian, ID 83642 Membership :	208-362-9468 Jim F. Tierny	jangels10@gmail.com (SSG, A/6th Bn, VN, 1969-70)	
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Historian:	Grady Smith	(CPT, D/6 th Bn, Ft Lewis & VN, 1967-68)	
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Senior Director:	Ron Corson	(CPT, A/6 th Bn, VN, 1969-70)	
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Northeast Region (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY)	Ed Bettis	(CPL, G Co, Korea, 1950-51)	
3728 Highland Ave, Skaneateles, NY 13152	315-685-3944	edbettis@netzero.net	
Mid-Atlantic Region (NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, VA, WV)	Jim Simms	(LT, HHC & C/4th Bn, VN, 1969-70)	
104 Cumberland Dr, Carlisle, PA 17013	717-243-5570	inpsim@comcast.net	
Southeast Region (NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, TN, AR, LA, PR, VI)	Noah Halfacre	(LT, E/6th Bn, VN, 1968)	
2740 Oxford Hall Ave, Murfreesboro TN 37128	615-893-9715	gimlet3a@gmail.com	
Great Lakes Region (KY, OH, MI, IN, IL, WI)	John Howdeshelt	(SGT, D/6th Bn, VN, 1969)	
788 Eagledale Dr, Kettering, OH 45429	937-435-0669	mamahowdy@yahoo.com	
Midwest Region (MN, ND, SD, NE, IA, MO, KS, OK, TX, NM, CC) John Mansfield	(LT, A&B/4th Bn, VN 1968)	
3100 Chambers St, Sioux City IA 51104	712-277-4498	arctic@aol.com	
Western Region (HI, AK, WA, OR, CA, NV, AZ, UT, ID, MT, WY)		(LT, C/6th Bn, VN, 1967-68)	
460 Pacheco, San Francisco CA94116	928-380-9577	ronbb22631@gmail.com	
400 Fucilico, Summunicisco CAS4110	320 300 3377	10HBb22031@gHull.com	
NFWSI FTTF	R CHANGE OF ADDRESS		
Cut along dotted line. Fill in requested information & mail to			
OR EMAIL James F. Tierney with this information at tier64999			
,	<u> </u>		
Name:	_ Phone number if	new:	
Old Addross		Mail To	
Old Address New Address		Mail To:	
Street or P.O. Box Street	or P.O. Box	James F. Tierney, Membership Chair 1484 Loretta Drive	

City/State/Zip

Membership Application – 31st Infantry Regiment Association



First name	nickname	middle initial		last name				<u> </u>
Street address		city		state	zip code	e pho	one number	
Email address				alternate email	address			
Please fill out as n	nuch informat	tion about your co	nnection	with the 31 st Inf	antry as	possible:		
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Make your check out to 31st Inf Regt Assn and mail it to our membership chairman James F. Tierney, 1484 Loretta Drive, Pennhills, A 15235.

31st INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QUARTERMASTER STORE ORDER FORM

	Istinfantry.org and click on 31 st Infantry Store to see a full color catalogue of th	ese and many more items
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SP	Shirt, Polo/golf w/31st INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest, r	o pocket
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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=							
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31st Infantry Regiment Association Jim Tierney 1484 Loretta Drive Pennhills, PA 15235 Newsletter 89

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME TO GET YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR THE NEXT REUNION, SEPTEMBER 16-19 2018, AT MYRTLE BEACH