



The BOBCAT Bulletin

5th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, Inc.

25th INFANTRY DIVISION & 1st ARMORED DIVISION

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

The US Army's 3rd Oldest - Established 1808

"I'll Try Sir"

Spring 2015

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

Volume I



2015 Reunion New Orleans LA

MON May 4th - FRI May 8th

**For details and a Registration Form
see pages 20-22**

One of the Most Decorated Bobcats Dies

Lt. Gen. Henry Everett Emerson

"Henry Everett "Hank" Emerson a retired United States Army Lieutenant General, best known for being the commander of the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea during the mid-1970s when Colin Powell served as a battalion commander, passed away February 4, 2015.



General Emerson was born in Washington, D.C. on May 28, 1925, the son of Brig. Gen. Governor Vincent Emerson

(See Hank on page 10)

NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Denis McDonough who died in January was our Membership Chairman. When he became ill Fred Deverse temporarily took over those responsibilities.

The Membership Chairman has the responsibility to maintain and update our Membership Roster He also is charged with recruiting new members and trying to keep members whose dues expire.

After careful considerations your Board of Directors has chosen Paul Robinson to replace Denis. We thank Paul for being willing to take on this important job.

2015 Winter Social

Our 14th annual Winter Social was held February 20-22 in Clearwater Beach Florida. With all the snow and bitter cold weather in the North you would think we would have a big turnout. Last year the turnout for the Social was the largest ever but this year we had one of the smallest. We did loose some



who were planning to attend due to un-

(See Florida on page 4)

Denis McDonough Dies

Denis McDonough our Secretary and Membership Chairman from 2006 until he resigned because of health this past (2014) summer died in the early morning hours of 23 January 2015.



Denis was a member of B Company's 1st Platoon, 2nd Squad from March of 1967 until being wounded in April 1967.

His longtime very special companion and soul-mate Teri Tringali posted the following message on 23 January, "To all are wonderful friends n family Denis is finally at peace. I fell to sleep holding his hand. His daughter Kristine, son Denny n future daughter in law Mary were here praying that he would soon be at peace. Thank you all for your prayers n for being with me through this sad journey. I love you all as did Denis."

Denis's Obituary: "Denis James McDonough, Sr., 68, of Dunedin, Florida died Friday, January 23rd, 2015 at

(See Denis on page 2)

(Denis from page 1)

Suncoast Hospice Center in Palm Harbor. Denis was born on November 8th, 1946 in New York, N.Y to the late Michael and Florence McDonough. He served with the 1st Platoon Bravo Company 1/5 Infantry (Mech) in Vietnam from 1967-68. He was also a member of the American Legion, Order of the Purple Heart, and Bobcat 5th Infantry Regiment Association where he was membership chairperson."

Denis was tireless in his goal of trying to put a "face" with everyone of our killed-in-action Bobcats. In order to accomplish this he doggedly searched the internet looking for pictures of our KIA's. He was able locate many.

Another skill of Denis was searching for former Bobcats. He seemed to have the knack for finding someone using the internet. When someone asked him for help it would become his mission to locate them and he would many times be successful.

As editor of the newsletter Denis was of a great help. He would, especially with new members, check the "Tropic Lightning News" from the Vietnam era and find articles about a member and send it to me. In the same Tropic Lightning News would be listed awards soldiers had received and he would also send me that information. Denis' passing will make my job of producing the Bobcat Bulletin more difficult without his contributions. I will miss you Denis!

Denis' longtime companion and soul mate Teri Tringali kept everyone informed of the situation during his illness and eventual death by postings on Facebook. Some of those posting are below.

Fred Deverse

26 JAN 14

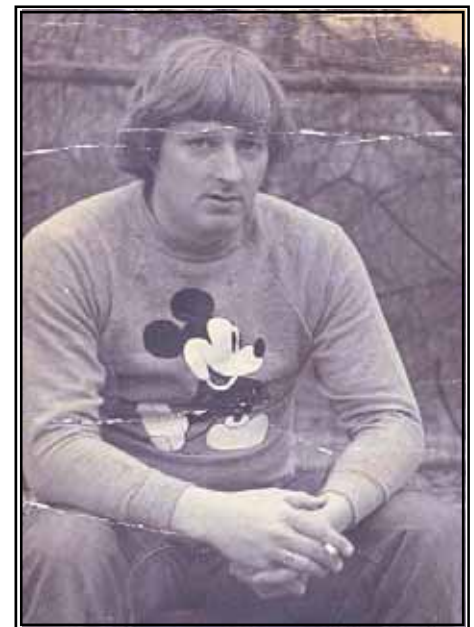
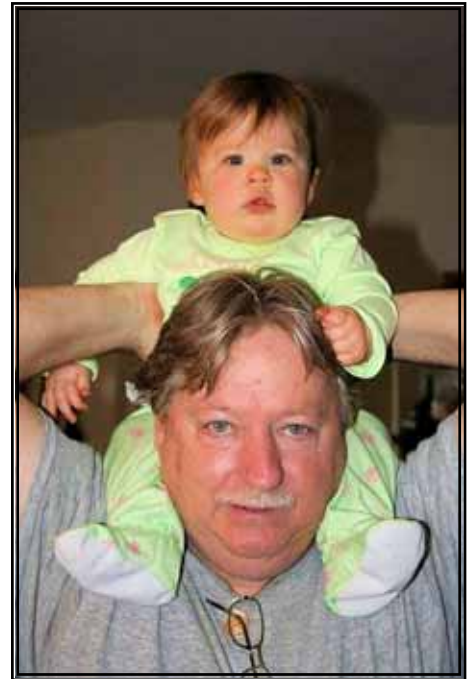
"I am a little calmer now and want to Thank All of You for the emails and comments on line...I always knew Denis touched so many hearts...he did his best to make everyone know how special they are...but actually he was the "special" one...his love for life and his fellow Bobcats was beyond belief ! There was one last favor he asked of me ...he asked me to go to the Bobcat Winter Social and make sure all of you know how much he wished he could be there too! This is going to be one of the

hardest things for me to do but I told him I wouldn't miss being with you for the world.... You all were all a very important part of his life and I want to thank you for your kindness and concern during Denis' journey these past four months. I love all of you and will see many of you on Feb. 20th (Winter So-

(See Denis on page 4)



Denis with Eusevio Alvarado



Andy Gimma's picture of Denis with Jack Czilli

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



"Since my last article the Association has lost a dedicated and ardent member, and a good friend. Denis McDonough passed from our Bobcat ranks. Denis was our Membership Chairman and Secretary and had the knack of finding many Bobcats who members were looking for but were unable to locate on their own.

We were fortunate to have Fred Deverse step up and volunteer to handle the duties of this position; this in addition to the numerous other jobs he does for our Association. We now have Paul Robinson assuming the office and the Board of Directors feel confident that he will do an outstanding job. We thank both of them for their continuing dedication to the Bobcats.

The Winter Social was again held in Clearwater Beach in February, but was a more subdued outing than in the past.

We are now closing in on our 2015 Reunion in New Orleans and the block of rooms has either been sold out or very close to it. I hope that all who wished to attend made their reservations. It promises to be great time with the events that are scheduled. Once again Carolyn has been hard at work to organize our get together. Thanks.

Soldiers in the 2-5 Bobcats have, by this time, been all reassigned to other units. LTC Edward Brady has contacted us regarding the return of their Bobcat Mascot. Sam Kier is looking into possibilities for storing this figure and other Regiment artifacts to preserve them as part of our history.

The 1-5 Bobcats could possibly find themselves in a similar situation as the 2-5 Bobcats, as reports of future reductions in the military will take place.

Both Fort Wainwright and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska are mentioned in the approximately thirty bases named for troop downsizing, and this could mean the loss of the two Infantry Brigades stationed there.

I mentioned the bi-annual 3rd Platoon reunion in the last newsletter and it is scheduled for June 12-13 in Fargo, ND. It is a small affair, basically, and I will have its information posted on our site.

We have also received an invitation, which is open to all Bobcats, from LTC Thomas Hough, 1-5 Infantry Commanding Officer, to attend what they are calling a "Dining Out" night, set for July 16, 2015, in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Particulars for this event will be posted on our website. LTC Hough also notified the Association that six active duty soldiers will be attending our New Orleans Reunion and they will be the Color Guard for the Memorial Service and the Banquet. I look forward to meeting our "finest".

I close for now with a "God protect our troops" and "God bless America".

Bart Stanzione

Former Bobcat CDR Gets New Assignment

"The Chief of Staff, Army announces the following officer assignments: Major General Todd B. McCaffrey, Chief of Staff, United States Army Pacific, Fort Shafter, Hawaii to Deputy Commanding General, United States Army Pacific, Fort Shafter, Hawaii."

**From MG-R Andy Anderson*

Coming to the New Orleans Reunion

Auction - If you are coming to the new Orleans reunion then you are reminded to bring something for the auction. We are able to keep the cost of the reunion low because of money made at the auction. Please help!

Fragging - You are also reminded to bring an inexpensive gag type of gift to be presented to the person being fragged. No need to wrap the gift just put it in a paper bag etc.

5th Infantry Association

President - *Bart Stanzione*

Vice President - *Tom Frame*

Treasurer & Quartermaster - *Jim Caudle*

Secretary & Membership - *Paul Robinson*

Historian - *Sam Kier*

Media (Newsletter) Editor - *Fred Deverse*

Webmaster - *Randy Kethcart*

Past Presidents - *Robert (Bob) Wood and Jon Cartwright*

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

Jon Blickenstaff Andy Gimma

John Snodgrass George Bates

Chaplain (Appointed) - *Myron Peterson*

Reminder !

1. Notify Paul Robinson about changes in address, E-mail and phone number etc.

2. Check your membership - If there is a **red 15** (only on the last two numbers) on the address label your dues expires 31 DEC 15. Please renew now!

Reunions

New Orleans LA 4-8 May 15

25th IDA -Springfield IL-28 SEP- 3 OCT 15

Columbus/FT Benning GA ... 17-22 May 16

HONORED BOBCAT MEMBERS

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

Andy Anderson (MG-R)

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

Distinguished Members of the Regiment

SSG Eddie Barba(1/5), Jon Blickenstaff, Joe "Red" Burdick, Jon Cartwright, Jim Caudle, Fred Deverse, James Garner, Ron Henry(1SG-R), Randy Kethcart, Sam Kier, Ralph Laubecher, Denis McDonough, Victor Mercado (CSM -R), SGT John Paul Morgan 2/5, Daryl Niles (CSM-R), Jerry Peal, Paul Robinson, Roger Smith, John Snodgrass (MAJ-R), Bob Wood (COL-R)

Honorary Members of the Regiment

Sue Caudle, Carolyn Deverse, Shannon Henry, Carolyn Kethcart, Teri Tringali

Bobcat of the Year

Roger Smith 03, Ron Henry (1SG-R) 04, Denis McDonough 05, Randy Kethcart 07, Hank Engelke 08, Gary Young 09, Joe "Red" Burdick 10, Paul Moir 11, Bart Stanzione 12, Jerry Peal 13, Jim Caudle 14

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

ROSTER

The Denis McDonough MORNING REPORT

Additions, Changes & Corrections

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

(Please let me know when any of your information like phone #, address or E-mail address changes or is incorrect. Contact Fred Deverse at fpd@bobcat.ws or 138 Glenrise RD, Swanton MD 21561 or 301-387-5011)

E-mail Changes & Additions:

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

Burdick, Linda - Change
injdodge@hotmail.com
Stanzione, Bart - Change
bstanz4343@gmail.com

Lost Members:

We have no information on these members. Please contact us if you have information.

Anderson Jr., John "Andy" - He was a LT in Vietnam and is a life member

Roster Changes/Corrections:

Smith, Billy - Phone # change
804-892-2549
Cook, Gregory - Phone # change
772-200-0304
Lowe, James "Jim" E. - Change
1904 Casual CIR
Waco TX 76712-8591
Soppe, Ronald "Doc" J. - Change
208 Scenic Heights DR
Elgin IA 52141-9318

New Members:

Dutmiers, Gerald "Jerry" L. (Virginia)
5185 Hartwell AVE
Rockford MI 49341-9004
616-883-6058
C Co. 1st PLT 6/68-9/68
gldutmiers@comcast.net
* My duty with the 1/5th Mech, 1st Platoon began in June 1968 at Dau Tieng. I was only with the 1/5th for about 3 months, but enough to have been wounded twice. The 2nd time I was

wounded was on August 21, 1968 at the Battle of Ben Cui. I survived that day because Jim Harbottle and Gary Robinson made sure I was evacuated. From Ben Cui I was medivaced to Long Binh where I spent three weeks before I was transferred to Yokohama Japan. From Japan I went to Letterman Hospital in San Francisco and eventually to Great Lakes Naval Hospital. After nine months I was medically retired from the Army in May 1969.

After two years additional recovery at home in Michigan, I began college and graduated in 1973 with a BS in Business. I have worked since that time primarily as an accountant, retiring in 2009.

I am currently married to my 2nd wife and we have one child, a son who is old enough that I lie about his age. ☺

Postovoit, Andrew (Ashley)
1150 Isabell Marie Court Unit 2
North Pole AK 99705
254-383-0415
S2, HHC/ 1-5 IN
andrew.p.postovoit.mil@mail.mil

Knudtson, Nicholas (Amanda)
PO Box 35436
FT Wainwright AK 99703
314-550-5640
Active Duty
1-5IN, A Co, Commander
nicholas.j.knudtson.mil@mail.mil

Taps:

Kohler, Terry - Died 24 FEB 14 - C Co.
2nd Platoon 67-68 (See picture on page 5)

McDonough, Denis J. - Died 23 JAN 15
B Co. 1st PLT 2nd SQD 3/67-4/67
Denis was our Secretary and Membership Chairman from 2006 until 2014.

Mina, Fred of Waipahu, HI, who served with Company L, 5th RCT in Korea died on 3 January 2015.

His final wishes were to be buried in his 5th RCT uniform, the white shirt w/all of his medals attached along w/his hat that matches that shirt.



(Florida from page 1)
expected illnesses.

None the less I think all who attended had a good time. Most showed up Friday afternoon and started enjoying the Florida sun at the outdoor Tiki Bar.

For dinner that evening we had an excellent reasonably priced meal at the nearby "Island Way" restaurant.

On Saturday many spent time visiting nearby attractions and again ended up at the Tiki Bar enjoying the scenery and socializing.

Saturday evening we again went on a dinner cruise on the Starlite Majesty yacht. The food on this boat always seem to amaze everyone with how good it is. At both this dinner and the Friday night dinner we raised a toast to both Ralph Laubecher and Denis McDonough who were both instrumental in planning these Socials when they were alive.

**Pictures of the Florida Winter Social are on the back page.*

(Denis from page 2)

cial)! I will bring the book I created of the "thank you" from the families of so many of the lives he touched! God Bless!"

"Denis' Military Memorial was held at the Dunedin American Legend Post 275 on February 15th. It was attended by 60 Family and Friends as well as his close friends from the 5th Infantry Regiment Assoc. We were surrounded by the Patriot Guard, soldiers holding flags, taps was played and 21 gun salute which was actually only 4 and The Purple Heart Chapter attended with Father Bob officiating the service. I couldn't have been more proud when the "Flag" was presented to his daughter Kristine. They even folded the flag I had received from the Funeral Home and then they presented it to me! At that point I couldn't hold back the tears. The most moving part for me was when all 68 balloons (1 for each year of his life) were released into the sky by all the guests...what a beautiful and colorful sight to behold as I yelled..."Denis, these are all for you" and many shouted... "Denis, catch one!" Thank you Denis for helping me create a Day to Remember....I will miss and love you for the rest of my life!"

Teri Tringali

Members' Comments, Letters, E-mails & Information

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

Terry Kohler Dies

Roger Hayes posted on Facebook on DEC 17th. "I received word today from Bob Ordy Charlie Company 2nd Platoon 67-68 that Terry Kohler of Lykens PA died recently. Terry also served in C Co. 2nd Platoon in 67-68."



A picture posted on Facebook by Andy Gimma on 17 DEC. "A picture taken in 1988 in DC at the Wall all C Co. 2nd Platoon guys. L to R: Standing Terry Kohler, Andy Gimma, Bob Ordy, Roger Hayes & Ted Chadwick Kneeling: Dennis Hackin, Jerry Yasher & Steve Solomon. Rest in peace Terry!"

Holiday Greeting

"Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Independent State of Louisiana to everyone (This is better than being on an ambush that I was on in 1969).

All is well here in the deep south. I understand some of you are getting some bad weather.

But, it does not matter what the weather is here, it is good to be where I am. We just had a hail storm with some of the falling matter almost the size of my grandson's hand & some had what looked like "combs on a chicken's head."

I can not wait to see all in ND. As the years go by, it seems I think of each

of you more & more and what we had to deal with. My VA councilor says that is normal & it will continue to be more on my mind as I get older. At least I can always fall back on the life long, great friends that I developed thru the experience.

Again, Merry Christmas & what as we say in the West Monroe, La. area a "Happy, Happy, Happy New Year".

Gregg & Pat Wilbanks

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"Exactly 44 years ago I spent Christmas on the back of an armored personnel carrier on the edge of a rubber plantation in Southern III Corp South Vietnam. My parents sent me a care package from Hinsdale in late October

so that I would receive it by Christmas. In the package were two Christmas trees, a football, many family pictures and a box of cookies that had melted into one big cookie due to the 100 degree heat. Unbeknownst to my mom my Dad had snuck in a fifth of Jack Daniels and the most recent copy of Playboy magazine just before the package was mailed. The



case of beer under the tree I found myself."

John Mavon

"Chest Was Burning"

31 DEC 14

"4:32am Dec 31 JULY 10 or 12 1968. Company C is conducting a battalion size S & D operation just out side the old Tay Ninh city The enemy had taken control of that area As we approached the outer limits of the village all the inhabitants were evacuating the village I told Jerry Combest, 'Jerry this is no good. We better keep alert.' We were in a tobacco field & in between the tobacco rows the farmers had planted seeds of chili peppers, identical to the ones back home. As you well know we love hot peppers. The plants were about 3 to 4 feet high. I asked Jerry to cover me as I collected 2 upper pockets full of peppers. At that time the enemy opened fire We hit the ground & returned fire. About 2 minutes latter my upper chest is burning real bad. We kept firing & I was thinking

(See Comments on page 6)

Treasurer's Report

2nd Quarter Financial Report

(1 OCT - 31 December 2014)

October

Income:

Dues	\$25
Quartermaster Sales	\$45
PayPal Deposit Internet sales	\$1840.19
2/5 Home. Ball Registration	\$150
Deposit Error	\$50
TOTAL	\$2110.19

Debits:

Bank Charges	\$4
Postage (SUM Newsletter)	\$156.30
Postage - Quartermaster etc.	\$6.97
Fall Newsletter Printing	\$657
2/5 Home. Ball Donation	\$6500
PTSD Project Donation	\$500
Miscellaneous Paper etc.	\$145.86
TOTAL	\$7970.13

November

Income:

Pay Pal Deposit Internet sales	\$1451.07
TOTAL	\$1451.07

Debits:

2/5 Home. Ball Representative sent	\$1181.08
2/5 Home. Ball Representative sent	\$984.83
Postage Quartermaster etc.	\$80.19
Quartermaster	\$85
Ink Cartridge	\$46.28
Bank service charge	\$11.50
TOTAL	\$2388.88

December

Income:

Dues	\$310
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Quartermaster sales	\$150
Pay Pal (Internet sales)	\$510.54
Donation	\$50
TOTAL	1020.54

Debit:

Membership Roster printing	\$526.03
Quartermaster sales	\$785
Business cards for Pres.	\$13.98
TOTAL	\$1325.01

Assets

Checkbook balance	\$2709.37
Business account - Savings	\$48690.34
TOTAL	\$51399.71

Jim Caudle,

Treasurer/Quartermaster

Donations to the Association

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

Anonymous - In honor of Denis McDonough	\$100
Patrick Stankevitz	\$200
George Bates	\$50
Donald Fuller	\$25
Ronald Baehr	\$50
Carl Gilbert	\$25
Jeffery McGrath	\$50
Andrew Gimma	\$50
Jenny Diaz	\$50
Jerome Yasher	\$50
Ronnie Wright	\$25
Richard Swanson	\$100
Ed & Ellen White	\$300
Bart Stanzione	\$100
Chris Sharpe	\$50
Donald Elverd	\$25

(Comments from page 5)

I don't believe this. Lord, I got hit again! I finally had the courage to inspect my chest & discovered the burning pain was from when I got in the prone position I had smashed the hot peppers & the juice of the hot peppers burnt my chest area. I begun laughing out loud. Jerry thought that I had gone bananas; he did not know what had happened until later. The enemy broke contact & we started mop up operation. Enemy losses: 6 KIA's, 2 prisoners & plenty of war material our loses; 1 KIA 3 walking WIA it was a good day & for me no more picking hot peppers for the rest of my tour of duty. For about 2 weeks my chest was very red & painful but I was very happy! Love you

Abe Cardenas

Robert Ordry C Co.

Bronze Star Medal 11/18/68



Roger Hayes writes;

"On the left is an "instant NCO," and E-5 whose name I've forgotten. I've posted the photo on FB asking if anyone recognizes him, but haven't received any responses. On the other side of the footlocker in the hat is Bob Ordry from Butler, PA, about 30-miles north of Pittsburgh. In the olive-drab t-shirt, I believe, is Frank Harvey.

I took the photo in late February or very early March 1968 as we were recuperating in our platoon hooch in Cu Chi from wounds incurred during a battle on 19 February, when, after ten successive days in contact, members of our platoon--14 standing--were sent in to mop up after an air strike on an enemy position

(See Comments on page 9)

Present When A “Medal Of Honor” Was Earned

Medal of Honor 12 May 1970.

“It was not my desire to be anywhere near a battle where someone could be posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. However after arriving “in country” and processed through the 90th replacement battalion, I was strapped to the floor of a cargo plane bound for Cu Chi and the 1/5th Bobcats. The 1/5th Bobcats, a roll up the sleeves “Git R Done” outfit placed dangerously between the enemy and his objective.

Not being cut any slack, I was assigned to 1st platoon Bravo Company where training continued between enemy engagements. Squad, platoon and company mechanized maneuvers built teamwork that was not part of our stateside infantry training. A mini-gun was added to our track. When the Cambodian offensive began we were as ready as we were going to be.

In Cambodia, near constant enemy engagement could be expected daily and every night our patrols made heavy contact that required response and extraction. The original plan was for each platoon to respond to its own patrols. The first two nights 1st platoon patrols initiated contact and our tracks rapidly responded. No good deed goes unpunished so for subsequent engagements, 1st platoon was expected to be the response platoon for the rest of the company as well.

12 May 1970 in the early morning darkness the fierce roar of companies fully engaged alerted us from about 5 Km away. As had become our habit 1st platoon mounted up in seconds. We were held back waiting for information. Charlie Company was calling for help. The other platoons were also mounted and Bravo Company’s response was soon coordinated. We rolled out into the night feeling very exposed and hoping that Charlie Company gunners would be expecting us. On arrival we filled in the gaps blown in Charlie Company’s perimeter and returned enemy fire with fresh guns and full ammunition loads to settle the issue. The enemy was not expecting us.

Dawn came rapidly and a counter attack finished the job. Bravo Company medics worked the perimeter while Charlie Company medics prepared the seriously wounded for evacuation. I assisted with the “fighting wounded” on the perimeter to let them know that it was now safe to release their weapons and allow themselves to be treated. Could Charlie Company have been overrun without us? Not from the look in the eyes of those on the perimeter that morning. Heroism was everywhere.

Forty four years later the upgrade of Ardie Ray Copas ‘ DSC to Medal of Honor reflects the spirit and intensity of the battle, the campaign and the Bobcats who fought it. At Ardie Ray Copas’ memorial rededication service November 8th 2014 in Ft Pierce Florida a member of the press asked me what the Medal of Honor upgrade means to the Bobcat veterans. I told him that at the very least it lets everyone know that the 5th Infantry Bobcats are not a rear echelon typewriter and logistics unit. I’ll try sir.”

Roger Sperl

Hello Fred,

“I thought I would submit an article to you for use in the newsletter. In Ft. Pierce Bob Wood suggested some current event articles would be appreciated and I plan to do some research here locally on Bobcat volunteers at the elementary school that is sponsored by the 1/5th, especially since both my wife and my daughter have made use of them. I wanted to catch up on Novembers events first, so I hope the Ardie Ray Copas MOH background information will round out Bob Wood's article and picture in the last newsletter.

Thanks for all you do.”

Roger Sperl

*Roger who live in Fairbanks, Alaska, traveled to Florida to attend this Medal -Of-Honor ceremony.

Bobcat Cub opens Children’s Museum

Saturday January 31, 2015

the Fairbanks Children's Museum's grand opening drew hundreds of children to downtown Fairbanks Alaska. Over 1640 people attended. The permanent location of the museum was a long-term dream of (Bobcat Cub) founder and director Brenda Sperl Riley, and many volunteers including volunteers from the 1/5th Bobcats.

For several years the “Museum Without Walls” loaded up its trucks and set up in various venues such as elementary schools and car dealerships. This was a labor-intensive endeavor and the assistance of the Bobcats and other volunteers was greatly appreciated. With the membership and support gained through the “Museum Without Walls” a building was found and remodeling could begin.

With the grand opening, children in interior Alaska including Fort Wainwright have an outlet for their energies when today's 30 below temperatures would have otherwise kept them indoors. There was a lot of energy and happy chaos on display. There is a water table, climbing wall, indoor Nerf-gun range and many other activities designed for the high energy 2-8 year old demographic. After hours, rooms are available for birthday parties and other celebrations.

The museum's mission is to inspire and connect families with discovery and the power of play. The museum was a result of the entire community coming together to meet a need that makes Fairbanks and Fort Wainwright an even better place to be.

Roger Sperl

A French Soldier's View of U.S. Soldiers in Afghanistan

"This stirring article was forwarded to me by COL (Ret) Nevin Williams, Hq Co, 1967. I'm sure that all of us who have had the privilege of meeting with today's young soldiers at our reunions and elsewhere would agree with the sentiment expressed by this French infantryman."

Sam Kier

Edited by Wes O'Donnell

What follows is an account from a French ISAF soldier that was stationed with American warfighters in Afghanistan sometime in the past 4 years. This was copied and translated from an editorial in a French newspaper.

A NOS FRERES D'ARMES AMERICAINS (To Our Brothers in the American Army)

"We have shared our daily life with two U.S. units for quite a while—they are the first and fourth companies of a prestigious infantry battalion whose name I will withhold for the sake of military secrecy. To the common man it is a unit just like any other. But we live with them and got to know them, and we henceforth know that we have the honor to live with one of the most renowned units of the U.S. Army—one that the movies brought to the public as series showing "ordinary soldiers thrust into extraordinary events". Who are they, those soldiers from abroad, how is their daily life, and what support do they bring to the men of our OMLT every day? Few of them belong to the Easy



Company, the one the TV series focuses

on. This one nowadays is named Echo Company, and it has become the support company.

They have a terribly strong American accent - from our point of view the language they speak is not even English. How many times did I have to write down what I wanted to say rather than waste precious minutes trying various pronunciations of a seemingly common word? Whatever State they are from, no two accents are alike and they even admit that in some crisis situations they have difficulties understanding each other. Heavily built, fed at the earliest age with Gatorade, proteins and creatine (Heh.... more like Waffle House and McDonalds)—they are all heads and shoulders taller than us and their muscles remind us of Rambo. Our frames are amusingly skinny to them—we are wimps, even the strongest of us—and because of that they often mistake us for Afghans.

And they are impressive warriors! We have not come across bad ones, as strange as it may seem to you when you know how critical French people can be. Even if some of them are a bit on the heavy side, all of them provide us every day with lessons in infantry know-how. Beyond the wearing of a combat kit that never seem to discomfort them (helmet strap, helmet, combat goggles, rifles etc.) the long hours of watch at the outpost never seem to annoy them in the slightest. On the one square meter wooden tower above the perimeter wall they stand the five consecutive hours in full battle rattle and night vision goggles on top, their sight unmoving in the directions of likely danger. No distractions, no pauses, they are like statues nights and days. At night, all movements are performed in the dark - only a handful of subdued red lights indicate the occasional presence of a soldier on the move. Same with the vehicles whose lights are covered—everything happens in pitch dark even filling the fuel tanks with the Japy pump. Here we discover America as it is often depicted: their values are taken to their paroxysm, often amplified by promiscuity and the loneliness of this outpost in the middle of that

Afghan valley.

And combat? If you have seen Rambo you have seen it all—always coming to the rescue when one of our teams gets in trouble, and always in the shortest delay. That is one of their tricks: they switch from T-shirt and sandals to combat ready in three minutes. Arriving in contact with the enemy, the way they fight is simple and disconcerting: they just charge! They disembark and assault in stride, they bomb first and ask questions later—which cuts any pussyfooting short. Honor, motherland—everything here reminds of that: the American flag floating in the wind above the outpost, just like the one on the post parcels. Even if recruits often originate from the hearth of American cities and gang territory, no one here has any goal other than to hold high and proud the star spangled banner. Each man knows he can count on the support of a whole people who provides them through the mail all that an American could miss in such a remote front-line location: books, chewing gums, razorblades, Gatorade, toothpaste etc. in such way that every man is aware of how much the American people backs him in his difficult mission. And that is a first shock to our preconceptions: the American soldier is no individualist. The team, the group, the combat team are the focus of all his attention.

(This is the main area where I'd like to comment. Anyone with a passing knowledge of Kipling knows the lines from Chant Pagan: 'If your officer's dead



and the sergeants look white/ remember it's ruin to run from a fight./ So take open order, lie down, sit tight/ And wait for supports like a soldier./ This, in fact, is the basic philosophy of both British and Continental soldiers. 'In the absence of orders, take a defensive position.' Indeed, virtually every army in the world.

The American soldier and Marine, however, are imbued from early in their

training with the ethos: In the Absence of Orders: Attack! Where other forces, for good or ill, will wait for precise orders and plans to respond to an attack or any other 'incident', the American force will simply go, counting on firepower and SOP to carry the day.

This is one of the great strengths of the American force in combat and it is something that even our closest allies, such as the Brits and Aussies (that latter being closer by the way) find repeatedly surprising. No wonder it surprises the hell out of our enemies.)

We seldom hear any harsh word, and from 5 AM onwards the camp chores are performed in beautiful order and always with excellent spirit. A passing American helicopter stops near a stranded vehicle just to check that everything is alright; an American combat team will rush to support ours, before even knowing how dangerous the mission is—from what we have been given to witness, the American soldier is a beautiful and worthy heir to those who liberated France and Europe.

To those who bestow us with the honor of sharing their combat outposts and who everyday give proof of their military excellence, to those who pay the daily tribute of America's army's deployment on Afghan soil, to those we owed this article, ourselves hoping that we will



always remain worthy of them and to always continue hearing them say that we are all the same band of brothers".

Much of this the various veterans reading will go 'Well, duh. Of course we do our 'camp chores' and stand our posts in good order. There's a reason for them and if we didn't we'd get our heads handed to us eventually. And, yeah, we're in shape. Makes battle easier. The more you sweat, the less you bleed.'

What is hard for most people to comprehend is that that attitude represented only the most elite units of the

past. Current everyday conventional boring 'leg infantry' units exceed the PT levels and training levels of most Special Forces during the Vietnam War. They exceed both of those as well as IQ and educational levels of: Waffen SS, WWII Rangers, WWII Airborne and British 'Commando' units during WWII. Their per-unit combat-functionality is essentially immeasurable because it has to be compared to something and there's nothing comparable in industrial period combat history.

This group is so much better than 'The Greatest Generation' at war that WWII vets who really get a close look at how good these kids are stand in absolute awe.

Everyone complains about the quality of 'the new guys.' Don't. The screw-ups of this modern generation are head and shoulders above the 'high-medium' of any past group. Including mine. So much of 'The scum of the earth, enlisted for drink.'

This is 'The Greatest Generation' of soldiers.

They may never be equaled"

(Comments from page 6)

in a woodlot in a huge, dried rice paddy. Unfortunately, the enemy had come forward to fire at us, and then retreated to their hundred or so bunkers toward the rear of the woodlot. The air strike didn't touch them, and we approached

them on line. In the subsequent battle Lt. James Marschewski and his RTO Lynn Pruitt were wounded and were laying in a pool of blood. Bob Ordy took cover behind an earthen well, and a round from an AK penetrated and went through the well, striking him in the chest. A hint of the bandage on his chest is visible in the "V" of his shirt."

Denise McDonough commented,

"During our recuperation my bunk with the Kerosene lamp being the only light in the hooch, became the center of activity."

Did you know Frederick "Bull" Bullington

Please help!

"I would appreciate anything that you could do in a newsletter about my brother **Frederick C. Bullington**. (B Company from Spenser VA - He was killed by small arms fire on 30 May 1966) We were so young when this happened and we could learn things because we were so proud of him, and all that served during this terrible time. My address:

Janice Plaster
29019 Jeb Stuart Hwy
Stuart, VA 24171.

276-694-7662.

Thank you so much, "
Janice Plaster



Solly's Squad - That's Joe Gallagher on the left. He was KIA on 19 February 68, the same battle in which I was wounded, and led to the poker game on my footlocker. Next to him with a C-ration spoon in his pocket is Andy Gimma. In the center wearing the OD t-shirt is Kellum (Kelly) Grant, KIA on 4 May 68. Steve (Solly) Solomon is next, and on the right is Dennis (Hack) Hackin who is delivering some type of hand signal. Kneeling is Jimmy Sutton from Georgia, the guy who taught me everything I knew about enemy bunkers and tunnels.

-Roger Hayes Picture

"He is on the right in the white T shirt.
(Picture on page 12) He was hit on the 7th of May in Boi Loi Woods. He died of wounds 5/30/66. (e were the 1st unit to penetrate the Boi Loi as a unit on the 7th of May) B Co 1st Platoon 3rd Squad .

His nick name Bull. This was taken in Hawaii just before he went in country."

(See Roster on page 12)

Historian Sam Kier Trying To Help Others

He Should Have Received 10 Bronze Stars For The Lives He Saved

9 JAN 15

Carl,

"Thank you for supplying Donald Bissonette's name. I learned about the extensions from the 5 January 1970 issue of the Tropic Lightning News and mentioned them in my book but the very brief photo caption didn't identify the inventor. I assume that Bissonette survived Vietnam. He's not a member of the Bobcat Assn. Do you have any idea where he is?"

Sam Kier

"Question Comment: in late '68 I befriended our battalion welder. He was one of those guys with a great sense of humor, gold for us guys on line. After several visits, I told him bout how the drivers were being slaughtered by mines. He told me, "let me see what I can do." The next time I came in to Cu Chi, he handed me the first set of laterals/gas pedal extensions. Told me to field test them; I did, and he started to build them for us. His name was Donald Bissonette, Spc 5. I was told he got the Bronze star for meritorious service. Thought he should have gotten 10 bronzes for the lives he saved.

Recon was the first platoon to receive them."

SPC 4 Carl D. Amedio, '68-'69

Father Wishes When Buried

"Sir, thank you kindly. My father's final wishes were to be buried in his 5th RCT uniform, the white shirt w/all of his medals attached along w/his hat that matches that shirt. Unfortunately we cannot locate that hat. Is there a way you can assist in helping us replace that? Please let me know. Thank you again."

(See Historian on page 18)

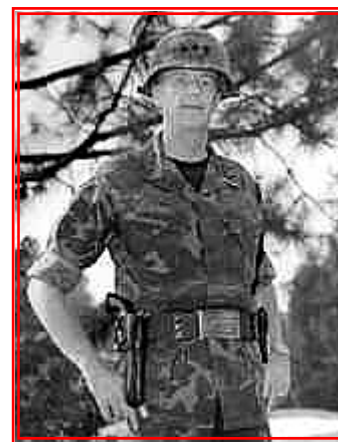
(Hank from page 1)

M.D. and Marie McLaughlin. He graduated from West Point in the class of 1947 as a Second Lieutenant of infantry and served as a company commander with the 5th Regimental Combat Team during the Korean War. He then served on the staff and faculty of the infantry school followed by an assignment as a tactical officer at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was a graduate of the Navy Command and



Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College and the Army War College. General Emerson was best known as a combat commander in three wars: a Company Commander in the Korean War; a Battalion Commander in the Dominican Republic and Brigade Commander in the Vietnam War. His General officer assignments were as the Assistant Division Commander, 82nd Airborne Division; Commanding General 2nd Infantry Division; Commanding General, John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance and the Commanding General, XVIII Airborne Corps. According to those that knew him best, such as Colin Powell, who would go on to become the U.S. Secretary of State, what set him apart as a combat commander was his great love for his soldiers and his concern for their welfare. During his command in the Vietnam

War, he conceived aerial reconnaissance and combat methods that employed effectively against the Viet Cong. These included a checkerboard concept that involves small groups covering grid squares to seek out an enemy, and jitterbug tactics which are complex maneuvers using helicopters to surround an enemy. This would seem jittery like the dance when Eagle Flights, which were helicopters loaded with local soldiers, were flown in quickly to assist foreign troops in certain situations. He demonstrated that American soldiers could effectively "out-guerrilla" the Viet Cong. Emerson also developed the "seal-and-pile-on technique" (the rapid build-up of combat power to surround and destroy an enemy force). General Emerson, who was fraternally called "The Gunfighter"



Emerson in 1975, with his non-standard six-shooter revolver.

by his troops, was one of the most decorated officers in the history of the United States Army. He received a Master Parachutist- a Combat/Infantry Badge with a Star- two Distinguished Service Crosses, three Distinguished Service Medals, five Silver Stars and two Purple Hearts among others. General Emerson had a saying on his wall "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away". Today, the General has "Faded Away" and we salute him. one last time. General Emerson is survived by his nephew, Richard Emerson Wilkins of Wilmington, NC; a niece, Marie Page Riggle, of Towson, MD; a grand niece, Elizabeth Page Wilkins of Melrose, MA and her husband, Lt. Colonel Joseph G. Marine, USMA and two great grandnephews, William

(See Hank on page 12)

Might We Merge With Another 5th Infantry Veterans Organization?

Hello, Don,

"I was about to give you a jingle because I hadn't heard from you for a while. I hope your ankle is healing properly. There has been some limited sharing of information between the 5th Inf Regt Assn and the 5th RCT Assn, albeit on an informal basis. I read each issue of the 5th RCT newsletter and send some information to Fred Deverse, the editor of the Bobcat Bulletin. Admittedly, the information I send is mostly about 5th RCT vets who have recently fallen from our ranks. I have access to the 5th RCT newsletter on-line because I'm also a member of the 24th Inf Div Assn and I usually receive a hard copy from Paul Garland, who is a member of all three organizations. Former 5th RCT Battle Stars editor, Hugh Ruchdeschel, is a member of both organizations so he receives the Bobcat Bulletin each quarter.

I would imagine that there will, eventually, be one 5th Infantry Association and would anticipate that it will welcome vets of the 555th FAB, the 72d (C) Engineers, and any other unit that has been attached to the 5th at some point in history. Several years ago, I attended the 5th RCT reunion in Reston, VA, as a guest of Jim Evans, because I was ineligible to join the association. (You may recall that I reported to HHC/5th Inf on the weekend following 31 Oct 1954). One of the topics discussed was what was going to happen to the 5th RCT Assn when the last member "turned out the light." The discussion involved mostly the distribution of the balance in the bank account but it did make it clear that an organization devoted to veterans of a five-year period in the history of a 207-year-old regiment has a short shelf life.

The 5th Infantry Regt Assn began as an gathering of Vietnam vets. It still is, largely, but men from WWII, Korea and the Cold War were soon welcomed. Thankfully, the octogenarians, like I am, are outnumbered by incoming 5th Infantry veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are the key to the survival of our organization. I'll be long

gone before the last member of the 5th Inf Regt Assn has to turn out the light.

Well, I'd better quit before this turns into an essay. What are you reading these days?

All the best,"

Sam Kier

P.S. I mentioned the May 4-8 reunion in New Orleans, earlier. I am sending you some info via snail mail.

Hi Sam,

"I am remiss in having not communicated with you earlier but I have not been in too good a shape, latest misadventure being a busted ankle.

My observation as derived after a phone call to Frank is that the subscriber census of both newsletters is shrinking due to the aging of our veterans, that an attempt of cross seeding mailings or solicitations to each list to try and increase the sizes of respective newsletters. I hope this isn't confusing.

As I recall Frank said his mailing is only about 1000+-,

I ask you Sam, to consider this idea and communicate with Frank. The Fifth INFANTRY Regiment AND THE 5TH RCT are all brethren and kindred spirits. We should be joined since our origins are the same.

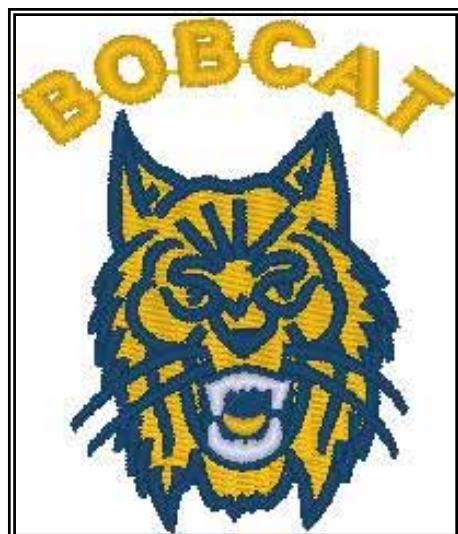
With kind regards and a Happy New Year,"

Don Shipman

The 5th Infantry Regiment Combat Team (5th RCT) is a group made up of and limited to those who served with the Regiment during the Korean War whereas our group is open to anyone who ever served with the 5th Infantry Regiment. The idea of the two groups merging was rejected by the 5th Infantry Regimental Combat Team.



Picture sent by Tom Frame



You could have this Bobcat and lettering placed on the lower left sleeve of the shirt, jacket or sweat shirt that you order from our Quartermaster for a \$5 charge. This Bobcat measures 2 1/4" long by 1 3/4" wide.

Our Quartermaster Jim Caudle made arrangements with our supplier to make this Bobcat available.

To order a shirt, jacket or sweat shirt with this Bobcat on it see pages 26-27.

25th Infantry Division Association's 2015 Reunion

Springfield Illinois
SEP 28 - OCT 3 2015
Hilton Hotel - \$99 Per night - 800-445-8667

Historic Joint Reunion with the 4th Infantry Division Association

(Hank from page 10)

Quinn Hardisty and Joseph William Marine. Memorial Services and Interment will be held at the Arlington National Cemetery later this spring and will be announced at a later date. Donations should be made to the Fisher House at 12 Bassett Street, Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28307."

Published in *The Boston Globe* on Feb. 8, 2015

"I received a phone call yesterday from MG (Ret) Jim Johnson (72nd Engr and B/5RCT, 1950) informing me that LTG Hank Emerson (A/5RCT, 1950) passed away on February 4. I have attached yesterday's obituary from the Boston Globe. General Johnson said that Emerson had recently talked to him about renting a house in Virginia for a month so he could visit with him and other old comrades. The cause of death was not mentioned in the obituary but General Emerson has had a bout with cancer in recent years."

Sam Kier

Historian, 5th Infantry Regiment

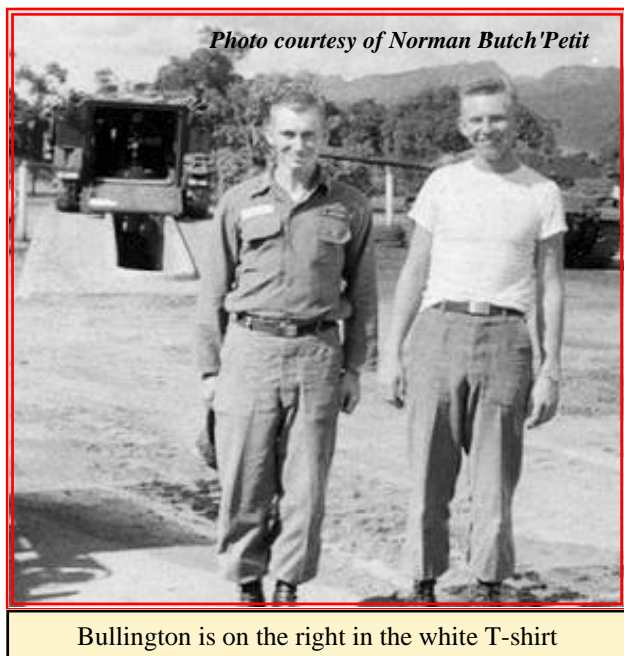
Association Membership has had A Profoundly Positive Effect

1 MAR 15

"Fred, Rest assured that you guys are not doing anything wrong. You, Carolyn, Denis, and all the other officers have always been gracious, efficient, and helpful and I commend you all for your dedicated service to the Regiment over the years. I've just got some personal issues I'm dealing with that are causing me to slow down, limit my outside activities and focus more on my family. I won't be coming to any more reunions, for example. However, my involvement with the association and reunion with some of my combat brothers has had a profoundly positive effect on my life, and it would not have happened had it not been for your work. For that I thank you again, and wish you continued success." **John Theologis**

**John wrote saying to cancel his membership and I wrote asking why. We wish him all the best.*

(Roster from page 9)



Platoon Sargent Looking For Some He Served With

18 MAR 15

TO: Fred Deverse

"First of all, I would like to apologize for not keeping in touch for a little over a year, but life gets in the way. I have been doing more thinking about getting in touch with old friends. This time I took the time to read through your fall issue of the Bobcat Bulletin from 2013 and saw a picture of the John Cook that I have been trying to get in touch with. It was posted by Robert J. Ciolek and is on page 10 of that issue. If there is a way I could get in touch with Mr. Ciolek, it would be great. Also, Robert Ciolek must have been in my platoon when I was there. I don't recognize the name, but as most of us know, we usually went by nicknames instead. I'm sure I would recognize a pic of him from that time period. He can contact me either by the phone number or the email from the prior note you sent me.

I would appreciate your help, and thank you."

Lloyd Lee

Information from the day Frederick was hit copied from the History on our Website:

"On **May 7, 1966**, Company B, with one platoon of tanks attached, conducted a one day reconnaissance operation in the southern Boi Loi Woods code named "Sitting Bull." At 1205 hours, the force engaged some VC in a trench line. At the end of the engagement 1 Bobcat was killed and 22 were wounded. 12 of the WIAs were evacuated and the others were treated and returned to duty.

Also on **May 7, 1966** another Bobcat who was wounded in the Claymore class incident died from the wounds he received."

Lloyd:

"You contacted Fred who sent your e-mail on to me.

At the time of the photo I was either 1st Platoon Leader or company XO....can't remember exactly when it was taken. I was initially with the 1/5 in part of May and June of 1968, TDY from MACV. I was responsible for field testing an experimental weapon system and was fortunate enough to find myself attached to the battalion for six weeks....I later spent six weeks with the 4th Infantry up in the highlands and six weeks with the Green Berets in the Delta. After field testing I was asked where I wanted to go for my final six months in country....I chose the 1/5 as I thought they knew what the heck they were doing. I was briefly Battalion S-2, then 1st Platoon LDR., then XO. I

think I took the picture around February of 1969, though could be wrong. We went through a number of experiments with arming APC's with various weapon systems...recoilless rifles, mini-guns, rockets; in retrospect, I wonder what the hell we were thinking as most were more dangerous to the user than anyone else. We were young, I guess.

I left in April, 1969.

I really did not know John Cook well...I believe it might have been his track we mounted the RR. After so many years some of my memories are quite sharp and others not so much. Let me know if this helps in your search."

Bob Ciolek

"Bob, I am Lloyd Lee and I was the Platoon sergeant during the time you are talking about. I'm trying to remember what you look like. I had about 5 different platoon leaders during my time(Oct. 1968 thru Sept 1969).I'm sorry but the only ones I remember are Lt. Guzzo and Lt. Carter. As you say, "it was a long time ago" . I would be interested in talking more with you if you are interested. My phone number is 734 429-9552 and I'm home most afternoons until it gets warm enough here in Michigan to play golf. If so, please send me your phone number so I will know what it is so that I will answer it (because of all the solicitors)."

Lloyd:

"I remember the names of Guzzo and Carter, the latter in particular. At home I have the names of all of the officers who served from roughly September 1968 to April 1969 and no doubt they are on it. I am not at home, however, as my wife and I are vacationing in Florida so cannot look them up. My Platoon Sgt. Was Jim Logan. Capt. Hayward, and Lts. Bill DeBoer, Ron Clary and Stephen Doane were all close friends.

I am not sure how much more I can add, but will give you a call tomorrow or Wednesday....."

Bob Ciolek

"Bob, my mistake, you said , May 1968 and I thought 1969. I follow Logan as Platoon Sgt. I remember Capt.

Bob Hayward. His XO was Lt McGrath, who was killed while Capt Bob was on vacation . Were you after McGrath? I have a book of the company pics. but it doesn't show everybody. It shows some guys that were there early in my time there and some who were later, but some in the middle are not shown.

Anyway, enjoy your vacation."

Lloyd:

"No...I was after Bill DeBoer. Do you know whatever happened to Jim Logan?

Thanks...will be home (Cape Cod) at the end of March. Glad I missed most of the winter."

Bob Ciolek

Lloyd:

"PS....you can get a lot more information by joining the Battalion association, too.

One's memory does play tricks over the decades. I went back and re-looked at your e-mails. The Captain was "Greg" Hayward, who died in a civilian plane crash many years ago; the XO was Bill DeBoer, who was killed in December along with several of my platoon in an IED attack. But, you are right, Bill was filling in for Greg who was on R&R in Hawaii. I succeeded Bill DeBoer. When I get home I will look up McGrath, but I vaguely recall he made it through (though I could be wrong)...now you understand why eyewitness testimony can be wrong! "

Bob

Bob

"Now I'm beginning to think PTSD (or CRS) is catching up with me. I looked on the virtual wall and did not find Lt. Jeffrey McGrath listed there . Was it the Captain or was it his RTO who was "called" Capt. Bob? or am I wrong about that too "

Lloyd

"I think it is more likely just the passing of time. I can remember some

things like it was yesterday; other memories are simply too distant. I don't recall the nickname...but you and I did not totally overlap in terms of our tours. No doubt, though, my nickname was "the green lieutenant who probably is going to get us all killed."

Bob

=====

Sending Pictures/Artifacts to the 1/5th

"In the latest issue of the Bulletin you reprinted a request from a 1LT Seth Williams regarding memorabilia for the Battalion's use in Alaska. You did not, however, print any contact information for him. Do you have one you can make available? I have some stuff I'd like to offer but have some questions about whether or not they would be interested or what the longevity would be if the 1/5 was to be deactivated.

As a note, I just had a friend who was with the 1st Aviation Brigade die without children or a wife and with a disinterested brother and two less interested nephews. He was bordering on obsessive about his tour, but most of the stuff he didn't have a chance to distribute himself has already been trashed, I'm sure. We seem to be getting to the age where the stuff we hung onto for so long is in danger of losing it's meaning to anyone but us.

Likewise, to your knowledge, does the Association or the 25th Infantry have any interest in this kind of stuff?

Bob Potter

Contact information for LT Williams is:
seth.m.williams@us.army.mil

Words of wisdom:

"When we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves."

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."

"To make mistakes is human; to stumble is commonplace; to be able to laugh at yourself is maturity."

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



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

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

March 13, 2015

Bobcats,

The winter just keeps going here in Alaska as the Bobcats continue our training in the Arctic after an exceptional deployment to the lower 48 States. The 1st Battalion Soldiers performed beyond expectations through events such as the National Training Center Rotation 15-03 as well as competing in the United States Army Marksmanship Competition at Fort Benning, Georgia. We now look forward to continuing our success through the final months of winter as we prepare for the summer months. It remains the goal of the Arctic Bobcats to maintain high morale in families as we continue to establish the best trained Soldiers in the Army.

Upon the arrival of the New Year, 1st Battalion descended upon the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California to complete numerous missions against the Donovians in Atropia. The Bobcats completed many missions to include: Task Force Combined Arms Live Fire Exercises with over 800 Soldiers, Airmen and Marines; Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations; Integrated Air Assault Operations; Defensive/Offensive Operations and Brigade Level Situation Training Exercises. These exercises included Joint Fire Mission Command, Aerial Targeting, Advanced Reconnaissance Surveillance, Stryker Company Maneuvers, and digital systems communications. The Bobcats performed exceptionally throughout the National Training Center Rotation 15-03, being awarded over 10 Army Commendation Medals, 50 Army Achievement Medals and 48 Brigade Coins for their efforts.

In addition to the National Training Center, the Bobcats also participated in the United States Army Marksmanship Competitions at Fort Benning, Georgia. Hawk Company's SSG Jean-Noel Howell from Stowe, Utah took 1st Place in the Pistol Category, 3rd Place in the Rifle Category, and 4th Place in the Overall Individual Marksmanship Category out of 184 competitors. The 1st Battalion sent 3 of the 4 representatives from the United States Army Alaska's Team that took 1st Place in the Active Army Competitive Category and 3rd Place in the Overall Army Team Competition out of over 70 Teams from throughout the Army.

In the upcoming months, the Arctic Bobcats will complete Squad and Platoon Situation Training Exercises and Stryker Gunnery Skills Test as we prepare for ICV/MGS Gunnery. We look forward to concluding this training with the celebration of our illustrious history and beginning the 3rd Century of defending this great country's frontier at our Dining Out currently scheduled for 10 July 2015. We look forward to meeting some of our fellow Bobcats during this event here in Fairbanks. If anyone is interested in attending, please let us know by contacting the Battalion Adjutant @ seth.m.williams.mil@mail.mil, 907-353-2553 or sending an instant message to our Battalion Facebook Page.

Thomas M. Hough
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding



LTC Thomas Hough & CSM Arvento Collins



Bobcat Winter Games



Berserker Brick Hill PT



Iditarod Start Line



M320 Range



Soldiers qualified on M4 Weapons, M9 Pistols, and familiarized on the M320, M249 and M240 during the week of ranges



Snowshoeing



MGS Platoon in AGST



Return Maintenance Operation



Return Railhead Operations



Volunteer Program



Recon Rappel



Vehicle Crew Evaluator Certification



SGST Preparations

Pictures from the Bobcats' 1st place finish in the US Army's Winter games. Additional picture and story on page 25.

LT Sandler →



1st Place Layouts ↓



THANKSGIVING 1935 AND OTHER STUFF

by *Sam Kier*

“For many years, I’ve been interested in the organization of the infantry company from the four officers, 68 privates and fifer and drummer of 1812 to today’s Stryker configuration with its extraordinary mix of weapons delivering more firepower than the 200-man rifle company of my Army days. So when our associate member, George Hazel, sent me a copy of Company D’s Thanksgiving menu from 1935, I glanced quickly at the dinner menu but was much more interested in the 63-man company roster. George’s father, then CPL Richard Hazel, was a squad leader in that reduced-budget, Depression-era infantry unit that was garrisoned at Ft. Preble in South Portland, Maine.

At that time, Companies D, H, and M, the fourth companies in each battalion, were designated machine gun companies, a first step toward becoming the weapons companies of subsequent eras. There were two commissioned officers. Company D was commanded by CPT Dorr Hazelhurst assisted by 2LT William Quinn. Seventeen enlisted men were assigned to company headquarters. Four of them, a stable sergeant, saddler, stable orderly and blacksmith took care of the company mules.* The forty-three non-headquarters personnel constituted a single platoon divided into four 10-man squads led by corporals.

Just nineteen years later, my own buds in Dog, How, and Mike Companies served in weapons companies. Each company was composed of four platoons; one to staff company headquarters and three others to provide weapons support to the nine rifle companies by deploying 50-caliber machine guns, 81mm mortars and 75mm recoilless rifles.

Some of you may recall that Company D was born again in late 1968 by diverting several squads from Headquarters Company. Its “tracks” were armed with mounted M132 flame throwers with a range of 200 meters.

Having noticed that there was a “Demon” Company with 2nd Bn, 5th Infantry during the unit’s 2014 deployment to Afghanistan, I contacted the battalion commander, LTC Ed Brady.

He verified that the fourth company in today’s “straight” infantry battalion is an 87-man heavy weapons company. It is armed with 50-caliber MG’s, TOW missile systems and MK-19 automatic grenade launchers. This is not true of the infantry battalion in a Stryker brigade combat team, a situation where the three rifle companies are not only supported by a brigade field artillery unit but have their own mortars and a Stryker-mounted 105mm howitzer.

Today’s commanders can use the weapons company in a mission-specific manner. During Second Battalion’s 2011-12 deployment, LTC Horney used Demon Company in the traditional manner, providing weapons platoon support to the line companies. During the 2014 deployment, Demon Company was expanded in numbers and fought as a rifle company augmented with heavy weapons.



Meanwhile, back to the Thanksgiving menu. In a recent Bobcat Bulletin article about the Soldier’s Medal, I mentioned that Fritz Gaebler of Company D was the first member of the 5th Infantry to receive the Soldier’s Medal for his involvement in a water rescue in 1933. CPL Gaebler was listed, on the menu, as the company’s stable sergeant. George Hazel sent me some interesting documents provided by Ancestry.com relative to Gaebler.

Fritz Otto Gaebler was born in Germany in 1903 and came to America as a very young child to live with his grandmother in Massachusetts. Armed with an 8th grade education, he joined the U.S. Army in Portland, Maine sometime after 1922. Prior to America’s entrance into World War II, Fritz transferred to the Coast Artillery. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in March of 1941.

When Japanese forces invaded the Philippines, Staff Sergeant Gaebler was serving with the 60th Coast Artillery, an anti-aircraft unit located at Fort Wint, near Subic Bay. The 60th CA had been deployed to provide air defense over Manila Bay and the southern tip of the Bataan Peninsula. When Manila fell, the 60th withdrew to Corregidor Island. There, the unit surrendered to the Japanese on 6 May 1942.

In January, 1945, it was becoming apparent to the Japanese that they were losing the war in the Pacific, so they began transporting their prisoners of war to Japan to augment their supply of slave laborers. Fritz Gaebler’s transport, the *Enoura Maru*, was either torpedoed or bombed by our naval forces and Gaebler did not survive. His name appears on a monument at Ft. McKinley in Manila.

So, if you should ever run across an old Army holiday menu or a change-of-command program, hang on to it. You can learn a lot from it.

Higher fitness level helps lower death risk

“Yet another study has made the point that the more fit you are, the longer you’re likely to live. But this latest study is unique because with 15,660 participants (all male veterans, average age 60), researchers say it is the largest to examine the link between fitness and mortality,.... About 43% of the veterans in the study were black. The findings were published Tuesday online in the journal *Circulation*. The Veterans Affairs researchers found that as fitness levels went up, the risk of death dropped for blacks and whites alike. “A little bit of exercise goes a long way,” said lead author Peter Kokkinos. “Thirty minutes a day, five days a week of brisk walking is likely to reduce the risk of mortality by 50%, if not more.”

**A USA Today article*

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

2-5 IN Bobcats Move Closer to Deactivation

"The Bobcats of 2-5 IN continue to move closer toward their 15 April Deactivation Ceremony. Like many of the Army's Divisions, 1st Armored Division is losing one of its Brigades. The 3rd Brigade of 1st Armored Division will deactivate on April 15, 2015. Since 2-5 Infantry is part of 3rd Brigade, it will deactivate on that day also. The Division's 4th Brigade will then reflag as the 3rd Brigade but will keep the designation of its current battalions.

As part of the deactivation process, the bulk of the battalion's equipment and its personnel have transferred to other units at FT Bliss, TX. By the time this newsletter is printed, the battalion will be down to a very small cadre.

LTC Brady relinquished command of the battalion on 17 February and handed the colors off to CPT Nathan Rogowski for the battalion's remaining two months. LTC Brady will remain in 1st Armored Division as the Deputy Chief of Staff until the summer when he heads off to Israel for a War College Fellowship."

Message from LTC Brady

"During the last few months, I've had to oversee the transfer of so many of our great Soldiers to other units in the 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss. I'd be lying if I didn't tell you it was extremely difficult to say goodbye to almost everyone one of them. Since 2009, what a great and proud unit we've been



able to build here; distinguishing itself over two combat deployments to Af-

ghanistan. The silver lining has been the notes and emails I have received from many of the battalion commanders at FT Bliss about the quality and training of the Soldiers we have sent them. On top of that, I run into former Bobcats everyday around FT Bliss who say how proud they were to be part of such a great unit....."I'll Try, Sir" is always yelled with pride. I'll save my final remarks for the next newsletter, but even though 2-5 will be going way, the 5th Infantry Regiment Association has had a large part in what this unit and its Soldiers became over the last 6 years. I and our Nation will always be grateful."

LTC Ed Brady

LTC Ed Brady Relinquishes Command of 2-5 IN

"In another step closer to 2-5 Infantry's deactivation at FT Bliss, LTC Ed Brady relinquished command of the Bobcat Battalion. The battalion will officially be deactivated in April with CPT



LTC Brady (Left) hands the Colors to CPT Rogowski

Nate Rogowski leading to the end.
LTC Brady thanked all Bobcats,

present and former, as well as their families for all their hard work and support over the last two years. The Soldiers and leaders of 2-5 IN exceeded the battalion's motto in everything they did and were the reason the Bobcat Battalion earned such a great reputation. He also challenged those present to live up to the values that CSM "Gunny" Barreras taught all of us."

"I'll Try, Sir!"



COL Roede, "Bulldog 6", addresses the Bobcats present for the ceremony



CPT Rogowski, LTC Ed Brady and Chester listen intently to COL Roede's remarks

Anthem Veterans Memorial

At precisely 11:11 a.m. each Veterans Day (Nov. 11), the sun's rays pass through the ellipses of the five Armed Services pillars to form a perfect solar spotlight over a mosaic of The Great Seal of the United States.

The Anthem Veterans Memorial, located in Anthem, Arizo-



na, is a monument dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of the United States armed forces. The pillar provides a place of honor and reflection for veterans, their family and friends, and those who want to show their respects to those service men and women who have and continue to courageously serve the United States.

The memorial was designed by Anthem resident Renee Palmer-Jones. The five marble pillars represent the five branches of the United States military. They are staggered in size (from 17 ft. to 6 ft.) and ordered in accordance with the Department of Defense prescribed precedence, ranging from the United States Army, the United States Marine Corp, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force and the United States Coast Guard.



Additionally, the brick pavers within the Circle of Honor are inscribed with the names of over 750 U.S. servicemen and women, symbolizing the 'support' for the Armed Forces. The pavers are red, the pillars are white, and the sky is blue to represent America's flag. The circle represents an unbreakable border. Anthem resident and chief engineer, Jim Martin was responsible for aligning the memorial accurately with the sun.

Sources:

- Anthem Community Council
- Arizona Tourisms: Anthem Veterans Memorial
- ABC Arizona: Anthem dedicates memorial to veterans

Sent by Pat Tovar

(Historian from page 10)

Crystal S. Mina

Crystal,

"The cap in the picture, an olive-drab "overseas" cap, with blue infantry braid, hasn't been issued since the 1950's. If I had kept one of mine, I'd let you have it. The 5th RCT red pentagon shoulder patch, over Fred's left eye, is still available online, if you can find a cap. Have you been to the U.S. Army Museum in Honolulu? The phone number there is (808) 438-2819. They might stock something similar in their gift shop or have an idea where you might get a similar cap."

Sam Kier

5th Infantry Regiment Freedom - Fest

July 10, 2015

*Support the 1-5 INF by Donating
Help reduce the cost for the soldiers to attend*



Defending America for Over 200 Years

You can donate two different ways:

1. Go to: <http://www.bobcat.ws/freedom-fest.html>

At this site you can pay using your credit card
or

2. Choose from the suggestions below or donate any amount you can - it is tax deductible.

Choose Individual Level Donation

PVT = \$10 PFC = \$25 CPL = \$50 SGT = \$100

Choose Corporate Level Donation

SSG = \$250 SFC = \$500 1SG = \$1000 CSM = \$2000

I wish to donate \$_____

Make your check out to "5th INF REG" with "Freedom Fest" in the "For" or "Memo" line and mail it to:

5th INF REG ASSN
1501 Baychester AVE
Norfolk VA 23503

Honoring & Remembering Denis

The Board of Directors has decided to honor and remember Denis McDonough by doing the following four things:

1. Donate \$150 to the "Suncoast Hospice Care Center of North Pinellas"
**We have received a nice letter thanking us for this contribution.*
2. Dedicate the New Orleans reunion to Denis
3. Give Teri Tringali a "Life" membership
4. Name the Roster section of the newsletter the "Denis McDonough Morning Report"

Vietnam veterans the 'greatest generation'

Author David Bellavia addressing the 2013 American Legion convention.

"Upon his return from Iraq, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. David Bellavia was walking through the Atlanta airport wearing his protective combat uniform when he was approached by two crying men- Vietnam War veterans. They said, "Welcome home," followed by, "I love you."

Bellavia - a recipient of numerous combat medals, vice chairman of Vets for Freedom and author of "House to House: An Epic Memoir of War"- explained why he thinks "the greatest generation is an 18-year-old kid, who can't even spell the country he was drafted to serve in. The greatest generation would turn on the radio and be told that they were baby killers by popular culture.

They were told by Hollywood that they were ignorant ... for doing what their country asked of them. The greatest generation was a generation that stood shoulder to shoulder and protected Iraq and Afghanistan veterans from the same unwashed ignorant classes that choose to put the soldier behind the foreign policy. The greatest generation is a generation of veterans who were treated with dishonor and shame and made sure that their sons and daughters would never be treated like they were treated."

Thank You for a "Meaningful and Healing Encounter"

Fred, attached is a scanned copy of a letter that Randy and I got in the mail today from Ellen White, sister of Kellum Grant who we honored at our reunion in Niagara Falls. She also, along with her brother Stewart, included a check for \$300 to use as a donation to the Association as you will read in her letter.

Carolyn Kethcart

Dear Carolyn & Randy,

Hello, and I hope you both are doing well. It's been very cold and blustery here in Rochester, but the majority of heavy snow has missed us. Unfortunately, that is not the case for Buffalo, where we met you last summer. They've been hit hard.

My brother Stewart and I have talked often about this past reunion of the 25th Infantry; the tribute for Kellum, meeting you, Andy, Steve and Jerry. It has been a very meaningful and healing encounter. To know that so many have remembered Kel and that he had touched their lives, means a lot!

I want you to know that the picture of "The 25th Infantry Memorial"

is hanging in our living room. It is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Stew and I both want to say thank you. We hope that our donation will help give another family the meaningful experience you have given us. May God Bless your endeavors.

Wishing you a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Love, Ellen

2015 Reunion - New Orleans LA

Monday May 4th - Friday May 8th

The Holiday Inn Superdome



\$99 Single / Double per night
\$109 Triple / Quad per night
\$15 per day parking

To make reservations call: 1-800-535-7830
and tell them "5th Infantry Regiment Association" when booking.

Schedule of events

Hospitality Room: May 4 - May 8 (No fee)

Monday May 4th

Arrival and Registration

Tuesday May 5th

Super City Tour & Natchez Steamboat River Luncheon Cruise \$65

Travel through three centuries of history, legends and romance as you encounter "The City That Care Forgot!"

Absorb the sights & sounds of the world famous French Quarter and historic Jackson Square, home of the Cabildo and Presbytere Museums.

Visit one of our historic ceme-



teries, referred to as "Cities of the Dead," and learn about this unique above ground burial system.

Marvel at stories of voodoo and piracy on Bayou St. John, the waterway used by Jean Lafitte and his band of pirates, as we make our way to City Park, the 5th largest urban park in America. Here you may visit either the Morning Call Cafe or the Besthoff Sculpture Garden. Follow the path of the St. Charles Avenue streetcar, the oldest continuously operating passenger railway system in the world (until service was disrupted by Hurricane Katrina). See the homes of former Kings & Queens of Mardi Gras, stately mansions and the world-famous, exclusive Garden District. View Tulane and Loyola Universities across from Audubon Park, home to one of the top five zoos in the nation, The Audubon Zoo.

Natchez River Luncheon Cruise

The harbor cruise departs from



shores of the French Quarter and takes you on a voyage back in time to when cotton reigned as king and life was slow and peaceful. Before the cruise is over, from the decks of the Steamboat NATCHEZ, you'll see up close and personal one of

the world's most active ports as it can be seen the best.

Wednesday May 6th

Oak Alley Plantation Tour with Cajun Buffet \$75



Feel the gentle breeze of Southern hospitality on a tour that takes you back to the glory of the Old South! You'll experience a bygone era in one of the South's most beautiful settings- Oak Alley Plantation, built in 1839.

Marvel at the unbelievable quarter-mile long alley of 28 magnificent Oak trees, each over 250 years old, and view the Majestic Cypress Trees in Louisiana's swamps bordering the Mississippi River.

Your guided tour will reveal the fascinating stories of the home and its history. Perhaps the most photographed plantation ever, Oak Alley has been the setting for such motion pictures as Interview with a Vampire, Primary Colors, and the wedding of Bo and Hope from the daytime soap opera, Days of our Lives.

Note: Due to the home's historic nature, access to the second floor is by stairs only.

Walking the grounds is an integral part of this experience.

No video is allowed inside the plantation home. Lunch included.

Thursday May 7th

Memorial Service at the World War II Museum \$65 *

*Memorial Service Portion is free. If you want to return to the hotel afterwards the bus will be available. Charges are for muse-



um / movie admissions and a luncheon show with the Victory Belles.

Schedule

10:00 AM - 11:30 Memorial Service

11:45 AM - 12:45 Lunch at the

Stage Door Cantina
12:45 PM - 1:45 The Victory Belles present America's Wartime Sweethearts: A Tribute to the Andrews Sisters
2:00 PM - Movie Beyond All Boundaries by Tom Hanks
2:45 - 4:30 View exhibits at the WWII Museum

Friday May 8th

9:00 - 10 AM - General Membership Meeting
10:30 - 11 AM Fraggging

(See NO Reunion on page 22)

Registration Form		
Bobcat New Orleans Reunion		
Name _____		
Street _____		
City _____ ST _____ Zip _____		
Phone # _____ E-mail: _____		
Number attending _____ Date arriving _____		
	Number	Cost
Registration fee - \$15 Per person or - \$25 Per couple		
TUE 5 May - Super City Tour & Natchez Steamboat River Luncheon Cruise - \$65		
WED 6 May - Oak Alley Plantation Tour with Cajun Buffet - \$75		
THU 7 May - Memorial Service at the World War II Museum Lunch & show - \$65		
FRI 8 May - Banquet Dinner Choices		
1. Filet Mignon 8 oz. - \$42		
2. Broiled Tilapia - \$35		
3. Grilled Chicken - \$30		
Reunion Donation (<i>Help cover buses, hospitality room, etc.</i>)		
TOTAL		
<i>Is this the first reunion you have attended (circle one)</i>	YES	NO
<p><i>Make check payable to 5th Infantry Association and mail to:</i></p> <p>Carolyn Kethcart - 16054 Pine Drive - Tinley Park IL 60477</p> <p><i>Cancellation policy: Except in cases of death or health, refunds will not be made if the request is made in less than 30 days before the reunion.</i></p>		

(NO Reunion from page 21)

Afternoon - Free to explore New Orleans

Bobcat Banquet

5:00 PM - Cocktails
6:00 PM - Dinner
7:00 PM - Program
7:30 PM - Approx. Auction

Banquet Dinner Choices

1. Filet Mignon \$42

8oz. Filet Mignon aged to perfection. Served with our very own three peppercorn sauce.

2. Broiled Tilapia \$35

Farm-Raised Flaky, White Fish Served with Rice pilaf and Topped with Baby Gulf Shrimp in a Beurre Blanc Sauce.

3. Grilled Chicken \$30

Marinated with Italian Seasonings and Olive Oil. Served with Crawfish Sauce.

If you wish to make a donation to help cover the expenses in hospitality room, any amount appreciated.

For information contact Carolyn Kethcart:

carolynjk@bobcat.ws

Carolyn Kethcart

16054 Pine Drive

Tinley Park IL 60477

708-468-8624

Method of payment - You can pay via PayPal on the Bobcat website at: www.bobcat.ws, or send a check to Carolyn.

Make checks payable to the "5th Infan-

Important Message Regarding New Orleans Reunion

HI BOBCATS:

"Just got off the phone with Holiday Inn Superdome in NO. I was told that the week before our reunion is Jazz Fest and rooms are not going to be available long if you want to go to NO before our actual Reunion.

In our contract we have a "shoulder" for rooms, but they are not officially in our block, they are available 3 days before and 3 days after our dates of May

4th through the 9th. The rate is still \$99, but if you want to come early or stay later, you need to make your reservations now because these shoulder rooms are only based on availability.

If you are thinking about coming sooner or staying later, I suggest you call the hotel directly to make your reservation. The number on the website is the "800" general reservation number and they are not seeing the "shoulder dates". So call 504-581-1600 ext. 4102 and ask for Juanita Toefield, she will make your reservation. You can even call that number just for the regular dates. Her hours are 8-4 CST but she doesn't work everyday, so you may have to leave her a message or call back. Again, this is New Orleans, all the rooms fill up quickly so please call today if you are planning to make this Reunion.

I don't want anyone missing the block because they hesitate in calling. Even if you aren't sure about coming, but think you are, make the reservation now. You can always cancel it down the road if your plans change.

Please remember to also go to the website and send me the pre-registration form. Fill it out, hit submit once and it will come directly to me and you will be registered. Also, all the events and the food choices are on there and you can safely use PayPal to order everything you want from the site.

If you prefer, all the events and food choices' are also listed in the most current Newsletter. Fill it out from there and mail it to me with your check. Please make all checks payable to "5th Infantry Regiment Association"

I must have all the orders in no later than April 1, 2015. I have to call all the vendors with our numbers by this date. Please don't make me hound you..... you know I will. The right thing would be get it done sooner than later, then we have no issues as we get closer.

Website Reunion Information is at:

<http://www.bobcat.ws/reunions.html>

Any questions, you know how to reach me. Thanks and See you there!!"

Carolyn Kethcart

Reunion Coordinator

carolynjk@bobcat.ws

708-468-8624 (Home)

708-288-0193 (cell)

DO YOU HAVE YOUR COPY?

"Hello Sam,

"I just got off the phone with Don Clancey . He received his copy of your book with the inscription that you wrote to him. He was very pleased with the recognition that you accorded him, and is proud to display it and share with his fellow veterans (at Kerrville VA Hospital). Thank you for your kindness and eloquence – he is quite deserving.

I also received my copy. Your book is quite an intensive research endeavor, considering the minute details that you have included over the span of the history of the 5th Regiment. Every person who has ever served in the 5th Regiment should have a copy of this book for personal reference, and for a sense of pride in our military heritage.

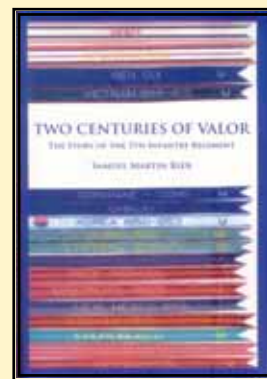
Thank you for all of your efforts to provide this very valuable piece of history for us to cherish."

Ric Myers,

Medic, Recon PLT, 1967-68

History of The 5th Infantry Regiment

This book "*Two Centuries of Valor: The Story of the 5th Infantry Regiment*" written by Sam Kier our Historian traces the history of the 5th Regiment from it's beginning up to the present day. Many of our members are mentioned in the book as are events and battles that you may have participated in.



You can purchase this book by going to our website at: http://www.bobcat.ws/quarter_master.shtml where you can pay for the book using your credit card or you can contact Sam at: 831-646-8025 or samkier@montereybay.com

OUR BOBCAT FOREBEARS

by Sam Kier

PVT Nathan Markovitz, Company D, writes a letter home from the Philip- pines in 1901

Nathan Markovitz, an Austrian immigrant, was working as a machinist in Syracuse, New York in April, 1898 when war was declared with Spain. He immediately enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 9th Infantry Regiment. A month later his unit landed in Siboney, Cuba, and engaged in the battle of Santiago. They were part of the force assaulting and seizing San Juan Hill.

The 9th Infantry returned to Madison Barracks in August, 1898 and Nathan was discharged. Three months later, he enlisted in Company D of the 5th Infantry Regiment and returned to Cuba for a few days of occupation duty.

In September, the 5th Infantry re-deployed from Cuba to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, to prepare for shipment to the Philippines. They embarked from San Francisco on September 13, 1900 and arrived in Northern Luzon six weeks later.

On June 2, 1901, Nathan wrote to a friend in Syracuse, apologizing for his long silence. *I was too busy up to now chasing after the interests of the army. Ever since we landed on the island, the last day of October, 1900, we were fired on in our camp. We turned out and the next morning we witnessed our first spoils. We had fired on the houses near by, killing four women and about six children, from six months old up. It was a sore sight to behold. We also killed two cavalry horses of the Third Infantry that were stationed two miles from us. I might as well tell you the conditions existing here. The reports in the papers are that the war is over. Ever since we got at our present station, Nov 24, 1900 until May 1, 1901, we had no Sunday or holiday rest, nor did we ever have a full night's sleep in our quarters. We had no beds and at night we were always marching or laying in ambush in the mountains for negroes.* We never found any until Feb 2.*

Our station was 13 miles from regiment headquarters, where we had to get our rations from. About half way in a

range of mountains. We had to cross them going to and from headquarters. On Feb 2, about 26 men of my company, while escorting a pack train bringing our rations and supplies, and about 25 men from the other companies, in all about 50 men on our side, were attacked at the foot of the mountains, half way from our station by about 400 negroes from the hills. Our men surrounded them and opened a general attack. It lasted nearly three hours. We shed and lost our first and only blood. Our loss was six killed and four wounded and the enemy lost 30 killed and 40 wounded. Our company lost five – a doctor, two corporals and two privates. Three others in our company were wounded.

We cared for our dead at headquarters and when the funeral was held it was a sad sight. I attended six in succession. The dead negroes were left on the field for the dogs and the birds to feed on, as the natives do not care for their dead.

The population of the island is a peculiar kind. Men of the poorer classes don't wear any clothing at all with the exception of a strip of cloth around their body. The women also dress similar to this. The better classes wear thin white linen clothes, home made. A few speak Spanish, the remainder speak a native sort of language. There are about 85 different tribes, most of them have never seen a piece of wheat bread. They live on rice chiefly and other luxuries, such as fish, frogs, worms, bugs, flies, rats, and all other insects too numerous to mention.

Cock fights is their only sport. The women folks do nine-tenths of the general work. They are a lazy sort of people. In their little bamboo houses not as much as a nail is used in the construction. When my time is up I will have enough of soldier's life.

The papers that we get here are not more than two months old. All of our supplies have to be shipped from the States. This consists (includes?) canned fruit. I have not heard or received a letter or paper from my friends since I have been over here. It takes a letter from this country more than three months to reach the United States and come back again. The weather is as hot as it can be, more so than in Cuba. The

rainy season begins here May 1 and lasts for six months. The only lively times around here is pay day when each man gets two months pay. I am putting my money on deposit with the paymaster. I have now \$500 saved up and expect to have \$800 when my time is up on August 13, 1902.

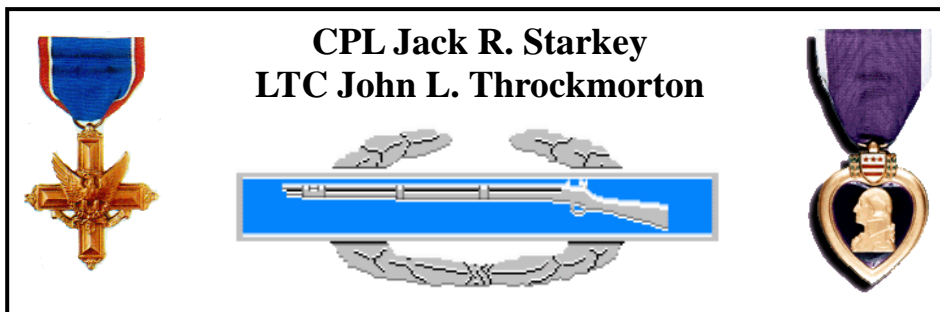
We made a flying trip to Cuba. I had no time to stop in Syracuse to see you, but we stopped at Fort Sheridan, near Chicago, where we remained a week and then left for San Francisco where we remained from Aug. 26 to Sept. 13. We got paid there for two months. It is a hot town, but it was too slow for us. There were 5000 troops there. All of them had just arrived from Cuba and were going to the Philippines and the men little cared what they did. Our company was highly praised for its good behavior all through town, but on pay day it lost its reputation. They nearly killed a man. They upset street cars, scared the life out of the Chinese in Chinatown and paralyzed business in general. San Francisco is a fine town and a saloon license only costs \$25, open day and night and Sunday. . .

Despite feeling that he had enough of a "soldier's life," Nathan re-enlisted at Dagapan, Luzon on 26 August 1902. He was promoted to PFC and transferred from his rifle company to an ordnance unit to utilize his skills as a machinist.

In September 1903, the 5th Infantry re-deployed to Plattsburgh Barracks, New York. Armorer Nathan Markovitz was detached from the regiment because he was needed at Watervliet Arsenal near Albany, New York. While there, a job opening occurred in the post hospital and Nathan transferred to the Hospital Corps. On May 1, 1918, Hospital Sergeant Nathan Markovitz had finally had enough of a soldier's life and he retired at Camp Lunston, Kansas. He died in 1925, at the age of 52, and is buried near McKeesport, PA.

*negroes – The Filipino guerrillas called themselves *Insurrectos*. Some of Nathan's observations would not be politically correct, by today's standards, but were typical views of many white Americans at the turn of the century. I am indebted to Henry Schwartz for sharing the service records of his distant relative, Nathan Markovitz, with me, as well as the excerpt of Markovitz's letter published in the July 26, 1901 issue of the *Syracuse Journal*.





**CPL Jack R. Starkey
LTC John L. Throckmorton**

Honoring Two of Our Bobcat Heroes!

Distinguished Service Cross Awarded to

STARKEY, JACK R

Citation: The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Jack R. Starkey, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company F, 2d Battalion, 5th Regimental Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. Corporal Starkey distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Sahnglung-ni, Korea, on 7 and 8 August 1950. For a period of about thirty hours, while his unit was defending vital high ground, Corporal Starkey constantly and without regard for his own personal safety exposed himself to enemy fire to render first aid and to evacuate wounded personnel to places of safety. On the return trips he brought up as much ammunition and water as he could carry. On 8 August 1950 Corporal Starkey distinguished himself by guiding under heavy fire a party of United States Marines into his platoon's forward positions where they were able to assist in repelling a particularly vicious attack. When another group of Marines were pinned down by an enemy machine-gun, he courageously stood up and threw a grenade that destroyed the enemy machine-gun. In the ensuing action he was mortally wounded.

Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army, Korea: General Orders No. 20 (January 13, 1951)
Home Town: Allegheny, Pennsylvania

And

THROCKMORTON, JOHN LATHROP

Citation: The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to John Lathrop Throckmorton, Lieutenant Colonel (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving as commanding officer of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, attached to the 24th Infantry Division, on September 17 and 18, 1950, in the Waewan-Kumchon area of Korea. On these dates the Fifth Infantry Regiment attacked the key cities of Waegwan and Kumchon, capturing them, and succeeded in breaking the iron ring of the Pusan perimeter. During the entire successful engagement, Colonel Throckmorton personally directed the assaults of his forward battalions and front line companies. With utter disregard for his own personal safety, he moved from position to position along the entire front, exposing himself to heavy enemy small-arms, mortar, and direct tank fire in order to command his troops with the utmost effectiveness. East of Kumchon he assumed a position with the lead tanks some three hundred yards in advance of the foremost infantry. Despite intense enemy fire, which hit two friendly tanks in his immediate vicinity, he remained in his exposed position to personally supervise the movement of the leading tanks and infantry assault companies. His gallant leadership under the most adverse conditions inspired the men of his command to fight with an unconquerable will to succeed.

Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army, Korea: General Orders No. 79 (February 17, 1951)
Born: 2/28/1913 at Kansas City, Missouri; Home Town: Kansas City, Missouri

New Coin For Sale

It was decided that we should design a new updated challenge coin. A committee was appointed made up of Sam Kier, Bart Stanzione and Jim Caudle. They came up with a new coin pictured below.

5th Infantry Regiment Challenge coin is 2 inches in diameter. It is made from brass and has a diamond cut twisted edge. Both sides are in color with a clear epoxy finish.

The price, which includes shipping, for this coin is \$10.50. You can pur-



chase the coin online on our Website at:
<http://www.bobcat.ws/quartermaster.html>



Or you can send a check made out to "5th INF ASSN" to:

Jim Caudle / 5th INF ASSN
1501 Baychester AVE
Norfolk VA 23503

Notice: If the address label on this newsletter has a **red 15** at the end of your name, your membership expires at the end of this year. You need to complete the form below and mail in your renewal. Do it now before you forget.

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

(Please Print)

Name: _____

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

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

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

E-Mail Address: _____

Membership: (Please circle your selection)

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

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

Make checks payable to “**5th Infantry Regiment Association**” and mail this application to:

5th INF REG ASSN PO BOX 569 Frankfort MI 49635-0569

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

Membership Application
25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

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

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

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

Bobcats are #1 in Alaska Winter Games

4 APR 15

Fred-

“Attached is some last pictures, if you could add it that would be great. If not then don't worry about it. The Bobcats just took first in the United States Army Alaska Winter Games competing against over 40 teams in the multiple events.”

Very Respectfully,
1 LT SETH M. WILLIAMS
1LT, AR
Battalion Adjutant



Order Form

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

Name _____ Phone # _____

Street _____ E-mail _____

City, State & Zip _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Have the Bobcat #11 on page 27 put on the lower left sleeve of your jacket or shirt for \$5.

#11 = Tri-Mountain Sanford Light Weight Summer Jacket (Item #4000). (circle size and color)

- _____ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$60.00
_____ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$60.00
_____ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$66.00
_____ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$66.00

Color: (Circle Color) Colors: Black, Navy, Desert, Stone, and Moss.

Size: Small Medium Large X-Large 2X-Large 3X-Large 4X-Large 5X-Large 6X-Large (Circle Size)

Have the Bobcat #11 on page 27 put on the lower left sleeve of your jacket or shirt for \$5.

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

- _____ A). With 5th Crest and **Combat Infantryman's Badge** - \$34.00
_____ B). With 5th Crest and **Combat Medic's Badge** - \$34.00
_____ C). Same as A but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$40.00
_____ D). Same as B but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$40.00

Color: (Circle Color) Light Blue or Indigo

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

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

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

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

Special instructions for order: _____

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

Prices listed for all items above include shipping.

Payment must be received before orders will be processed.

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

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

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

5th Infantry Chapter Quartermaster

Items For Sale

Prices listed include shipping.

- 1). Hats (black) - \$12.75
- 2). 3.3" Patch Exactly like the one on the hat - \$4.00
- 3). 5th Patch & Tab (Sew on type - 4" patch + tab) - \$7.50
- 4). 4" 1/5th Patch with green M-113 APC on it - \$7.50
- 5). 3" Decals (Go on the outside of a window or any solid object) - \$4.00.
- 6). Pin - Coat of arms - For hat, lapel etc. (1/2 X 3/4 inch) - \$5.50
- 7). Challenge Coin - \$10.50
- 8). (License Plate Frame (8A "US ARMY") or (8B - "5th INF BOBCATS") - \$10.50
- 9). Polo/Golf 100% cotton collared shirt - Item #437M
 - 1). With 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge - \$29.00 - With pocket \$32.00
 - 2). Same as #1 but with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - \$35.00 - With Pocket \$38.00
- 10). Winter Jacket with 5th Crest and CIB or CMB Badge - \$55 or \$61 with the 25th INF DIV Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve - khaki/navy, navy/khaki, forest green/khaki or black/khaki
- 11). Tri-Mountain Sanford Light Weight Summer Jacket (Item #4000). Colors: Black, Navy, Desert, Stone, and Moss with 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge - \$60 or \$66 with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve
- 12). Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - \$29 with 5th Crest and Combat Infantryman's or Medic's Badge or \$40 with the 25th Infantry Division Patch & lettering added on "Right" sleeve
- 13). T-shirt with logo pictured below on left breast - \$19
- 14). 5th Infantry Crest - \$6.50 each
- 15). 5th Key Chain - \$15.50
- 16). MIA Bracelet - (16A Black Medium) or (16B Silver Small) - \$4.00
- 17). 25th Decal with a "Bobcat" tab above (Size 3 3/4 X 2 1/2") - \$4.00

Order these items by contacting
our Quartermaster Jim Caudle at:

757-588-0056 or

E-mail: jecaudle@cox.net



Have this Bobcat put
on the lower left sleeve
of your jacket or shirt
for \$5



Pictures from the Florida Social 2015



5th Infantry Chapter of the 25th Inf. Div. Assoc.
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Swanton MD 21561-2317

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