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THE IVY LEAVES

Official Publication of the National 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division Association

Visit to Carrabelle and Camp Gordon Johnston, Florida



Ray Dunkel stands beside Florida Historical Marker erected to honor the 4th Infantry Division.

by Ray Dunkel
October 19, 2001

In the September 2001 edition of "The Ivy Leaves" Gerry Howard laid out a number of goals for the Monument/Memorial Committee to accomplish. He stated in his report that the first new goal would be to have a committee of three look into the land in and around Carrabelle, Florida. I was nominated by the E-Board to be a member of this committee. During the period 26 – 28 August 2001 Gerry and I spent time in the Carrabelle area speaking with local businessmen, citizens and familiarizing ourselves with the area.

Carrabelle is located on the Gulf of Mexico, approximately 60 miles southeast of Tallahassee, on US Route 98. The clos-

Should the 4th Inf. Div. Association purchase land as an investment or for future development?

est town of any size is Apalachicola approximately 30 miles to the west. Camp Gordon Johnston (CGJ) was established on September 10, 1942 between Carrabelle Beach and Ochlockonee Bay a distance of approximately 20 miles. It is interesting to note that Carrabelle and Camp Gordon Johnston are situated on St. James Island.

It appears that tourism, and fishing are the main industries with local businesses

October 24, 2001

4ID Change of Command

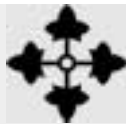
by Bob Babcock

For the fourth time since 1995, I was honored to be able to travel to Fort Hood, Texas to represent our veterans at the change of command ceremony for our Commanding General. Like the first ceremony I attended on December 15, 1995 when the 2nd Armored Division was deactivated and the 4th Infantry Division took their place at Fort Hood, the weather was tremendous. (The other two change of commands were held in June/July in intense central Texas heat). With the security requirements to get onto any Army post so tight, I left my hotel early to be sure to arrive on time. Fortunately, I got through the gate with minimal delay and had the opportunity to walk around the Wall of Honor which was dedicated at our national reunion in 1999 and spend time looking at the large number of vehicles, dating from before WWII to the current day, sitting on the grounds of the 4ID museum. (If you are ever in the Fort Hood area, you want to allow ample time to visit our great 4th Infantry Division museum).

Something about this change of command ceremony was different from all the others I have attended. Seeing the massed colors of all the units in the division on the Iron Horse parade field reminded me of the parade we had just prior to departing for Vietnam in the summer of 1966. Once again, war clouds are hanging over our country and the 4ID, even though not yet called to action, is standing ready to answer our country's call when needed. Force XXI is no longer a concept being tested,

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Please turn to **VISIT** on page 5



From the Editor...

Gregory A. Rollinger

Travels

In July, 2001 I attended the Change of Command ceremony for the A/1/8 active unit at Fort Carson. The outgoing Company Commander, CPT Bob Kinder, whose career was profiled in the June 2001 *The Ivy Leaves*, went on to the 2nd Ranger Battalion and by now may be earning his CIB. Our prayers and support go out to CPT Kinder and all of our active duty soldiers during this new war against terrorism.

A-1-8 Reunion

We held our 3rd annual, 1st since forming our 4IDA Chapter, A-1-8 Reunion during October in San Antonio TX. Everyone in attendance had a great time. One of the highlights of the reunion was when one of our members, Spider Mele, sang "Battle Hymn of the Republic" while jamming at Luckenbach Texas. We are continuing our quest to find other veterans that we served with and once found, get them to join our chapter and the 4IDA.

Kudos

Another year has gone by so I want to thank everyone for their continued support in getting *The Ivy Leaves* evolved into a top-notch publication. Please continue to send me articles and more pictures to include in future issues.

March 2002 Deadline

Articles for the next issue are due February 1, 2002.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season.

Ivy Patch in the Press

By Bob Babcock

On the cover of the January 2002 issue of "World War II" magazine (just received my copy two days ago) on newsstands now has a picture of a soldier wearing a 4ID patch. The accompanying story is an exclusive interview with 'The Last Comanche Code Talker,' Charles Chibitty.

Chibitty served in the Army's 4th Signal Corps. More information on Chibitty can be found in the March 2000 issue of *The Ivy Leaves*.



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Contributions and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to Gregory A. Rollinger, Ivy Leaves Editor, 13507 Danube Lane, Rosemont, MN 55068 <g.rollinger@gte.net>. Deadline for submission is the first day of the month prior to publication.



Current Units of the 4th Infantry Division

by Bob Babcock

We all probably still remember how the 4th Infantry Division was organized when we served with it but probably don't have a clue how they are made up today. Most of you probably know that the 4ID is stationed at Fort Hood, TX (except for the 3rd Brigade at Fort Carson, CO), is a mechanized or Heavy Infantry division, and very different in organizational makeup from when it fought in WWII and Vietnam. The active duty Armor units trace their roots to the 2nd Armored Division. The Force XXI experiment which they have been on since 1995 is now over and they have taken their place as the most technologically advanced division in the world, ready to tackle any mission. As they continue to prepare for any contingency that comes their way in these tumultuous times, here is the current organization of the 4th Infantry Division, as taken from the change of command program on October 24, 2001:

1st Brigade Combat Team (assumed responsibility as Army's Division Ready Brigade on November 1, 2001, which means they are ready to deploy anywhere in the world on very short notice)
1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment
1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment
3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment
299th Engineer Battalion

2nd Brigade Combat Team
2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment
1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment
3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment
588th Engineer Battalion

3rd Brigade Combat Team (located at Fort Carson, CO - all others located at Fort Hood, TX)
1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment
1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment
1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment
4th Engineer Battalion

4th Brigade Combat Team
1st Battalion, 4th Aviation
2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation
1st Battalion, 10th Cavalry

Division Artillery
2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery
3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery

The events of September 11 have dramatically changed the world in which we live. As new reports about the tragedies in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania reach us daily Linda and I are deeply saddened.

Despite the horrific and tragic events, we must now move forward by reordering our lives, resuming our daily routines, and reclaiming our national dignity. In the days ahead, our nation faces a time of uncertainty and rebuilding. I believe that as a nation we will prove to the world that we are the greatest nation with steadfast resolve, and an unwavering belief in the principles of freedom and democracy.

On the weekend of October 26-28 Linda and I will be attending the Carolinas Chapter meeting in Spartanburg, South Carolina which looks

to be a wonderful time. We look forward to meeting all of the friends we enjoyed while attending the National Reunion in Charlotte.

On Veterans Day we will be attending the grand opening of the Camp Gordon Johnston Museum and the dedication of the 4th Infantry historic marker at Carrabelle Beach, Florida hosted by the AMVETS Post 107. The Camp Gordon Johnston Association placed the marker at its location.

Linda and I wish everyone happy and safe holidays in the coming months and remember its not too early to start making your plans for our National Reunion in Spokane Washington in September. Bob Reilly and his crew are working hard and will put on a great reunion for all to enjoy.

Report

Monument/Memorial Committee

The committee is pleased to have John Kapior on board as treasurer. Thanks again to Gerry Gramp for years of great work. John can be reached at WWW.JSKAPIOR@AOL.COM, or mailed to at 10404 S. Keating Ave. Unit 3, Oak Lawn, IL. 60453-4763.

Since July the committee has been very busy. We have identified a number of memorials around the country that need to be supported or improved. As time goes on, we will make suggestions on just what to do with them.

Our current project is in support of the Camp Gordon Johnston Association. This group has purchased a part of the old camp and put a State of Florida memorial in place at Carrabelle Beach, Florida in our honor. Ray Dunkel, Henry Cobb and I have been there to see the site of their proposed museum. CSM Dunkel has a report in this issue. Also, our president, Roger Dufek attended the formal dedication there on Veteran's Day. He presented a check to them to become a Charter member of their museum fund for \$500.00. If we have a majority of our membership agree our committee would suggest that

we also purchase a few acres of what was Camp Gordon Johnston. This is the place, the 4th ID trained for Utah Beach and the D-day invasion. Who knows what is buried there? Perhaps treasure!! The folks there have already found unit crests, crates of new uniforms and even an entire jeep, still in the cosmolene! Or we can sell the property later on. The area in and around Carrabelle is growing in leaps and bounds.

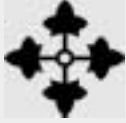
To that end we need to continue to grow our Monuments and Memorials fund so that we may pay cash for any acreage we may acquire.

We also have Arlington Monument Dedication coins available at \$13.50 through John Kapior and a complete video of all footage from Arlington for \$33.00 from me.

Memorial contributions are still being taken and all funds you send are tax deductible.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Spokane. Please call me at once if you have questions and/or suggestions.

Gerry Howard SR VP



40th Tank Bn marks 50th

By L. Rogers Law

Fifty years ago, the 4th Infantry Division returned to Germany as a part of the US Seventh Army. The 4th was the first of several US divisions to join the 1st Infantry Division and the US Constabulary (which had been in Germany since the end of World War II) as Army of Occupation troops and NATO forces.

In June 1951, the 40th Tank Battalion joined other units of the 4th in deploying to duty in Germany. The 40th Tank luckily by-passed a stay at Tent City (Camp Y-79) at Mannheim and went directly to its kaserne, Sullivan Barracks at Mannheim. In late 1952, the 40th was moved to Freidberg.

This 50-year anniversary was marked at the annual reunion of the 40th again held at the Executive Inn – Riverside, Paducah, Kentucky, July 27 and 28, 2001. Much reminiscing was done about the many events that took place 50 years ago. Ninety Veterans and guests attended the reunion and the battalion dinner was held at the Inn Saturday night.

The 2002 reunion will be held July 26 and 27 at the Executive Inn – Riverside, Paducah, Kentucky. For information, contact James W. Malone, 812 W. Utica, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, 74011. (918) 451-3672



Mystery Soldier

■ Can you identify soldier on front cover of War Stories?

For those who have bought "War Stories - Utah Beach to Pleiku," can you identify the soldier we have pictured on the front cover? The caption from the National Archives only states that it is a 4th Infantry Division soldier on Utah Beach on June 6, 1944. I would love to know who this man is, his unit, and if he made it through the war. If you recognize him, please send a note to Bob Babcock at PO Box 682212, Marietta, GA 30068.

By Chuck McKee, AIDA NSO

Pennsylvania has joined the ever-increasing group of States honoring World War 2 veterans who entered military service prior to obtaining their High School diploma. Many veterans elected to serve their country rather than complete their high school education, and never received their diplomas. "We owe it to these men and women to recognize them for the service they provided their country," said PA State Rep Ralph Kaiser as he awaited the official signing of the bill he had helped introduce. According to the law, anyone who served in the military between Sept. 16, 1940 and Dec. 31, 1946 is eligible (with the agreement of the local school district) to receive a diploma, provided they would have graduated between 1941 and 1950. If you might be eligible, check with your County Veterans Service Officer, or your local school district administrator.

VA Covers Emergency care for Enroled Vets

Under new legislation the VA may cover emergency care in non-VA facilities for veterans enrolled in VA's health care system, it was announced in a recent VA News Release. The VA will pay for emergency treatment ONLY for enrolled veterans who have no

other medical coverage. The VA will reimburse for medical services needed to stabilize a veteran so that he or she can be transferred to a VA facility, if further hospitalization is required. Prior approval is not required, but the VA must be notified within 48 hours of admission to the non-VA facility. If another health insurance provider pays all or a part of a bill, the VA cannot provide reimbursement, according to the Veterans Benefit Division of the VA. Spouses of veterans generally do not qualify for VA health care. For more information contact your local VA medical facility or call 1-800-827-1000.

VA Adops Type II Diabetes Adjudication Procedures

The VA has now adopted the procedures for awarding claims from Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange, and having Type II Diabetes. Regional Offices have been instructed to implement the procedures immediately, and expedite the claims process. Because of the number of claims for Type II Diabetes, the average time for a veteran's compensation claim to be adjudicated is 120 days, according to the VA Benefits Division. Contact your local Veterans Assistance Office, or call 1-800- 827-1000 for more information.

Order Form

Yes, I want my first edition copies of "Utah Beach to Pleiku" so I can read the stories from our 4th Infantry Division veterans. Mail your order and check, made out to National 4th Infantry Division Association, to: PO Box 682212, Marietta, GA 30068.

Please send me the following:

One or two copies at \$25 each (incl.shipping) (1) or (2) x \$25 = _____

Three copies at special rate of \$70 (incl.shipping) (3) books = _____

(Great gift for family members or to give to your local school or library – share your 4ID history with your community. You made history, let it be known.)

Add'l copies, beyond three, at \$22 each (incl. shipping) ____ x \$22 = _____

Get a case of 12 for \$250 _____ x _____ = _____

Please enclose your check for total amount Total Enclosed = _____

For special rates, multiple copies of books must all be mailed to same address.

Mail to:

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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it is an implementation of advanced technology, weaponry, communications, and tactics second to none in the world that the 4ID is ready to field against our nation's enemies. And as of November 1, 2001, the 4ID assumed the mission of the Army's Division Ready Brigade, ready to respond to any crisis in the world. Who knows if additional battle streamers will be added to the ones that now proudly fly from each unit's colors?

Once again, war clouds are hanging over our country and the 4ID, even though not yet called to action, is standing ready to answer our country's call when needed.

As with all military ceremonies, this one was done with precision, flair, and color. The bugler was crisp, the artillery salute battery fired on cue, the generals trooped the line in a vintage WWII half-track that once belonged to the 2nd Armored Division, the band played the favorite marches as the troops passed in review, and the soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division made this old vet very proud as they passed in review for our new Commanding General, Brigadier General (Promotable) Raymond T. Odierno. I wondered if the single Blackhawk helicopter circling in the distance was there for security purposes or if it just happened to be out flying a training mission (only a few months ago that thought would never have crossed my mind).

An interesting note - our last three 4ID Commanding Generals are now three star generals providing leadership to our active Army in these dangerous times. LTG Paul Kern is currently Military Deputy/Director, Army Acquisition Corps, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army; LTG William S. "Scott" Wallace is CG of V Corps in Europe; and LTG Ben Griffin was promoted to LTG as he turned over command of the 4ID and will now be Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs, Department of the Army, in the Pentagon.



Change of Command ceremony, Ft Hood, TX, October, 2001

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providing services to them. The property we are interested in is located approximately 4 miles west of Carrabelle and one-quarter mile north of Route 98. We were fortunate to have Mr. David Butler Senior Vice President, Gulf State Community Bank and CGJ Museum Fund Board Member to accompany us to the property where we met Mr. James Green the owner. Mr. Green has 95 acres of land that was part of CGJ that he is selling. He has subdivided the 95 acres into nineteen 5-acre plots. His asking price is eight thousand dollars per acre. Initially we looked at and discussed a five-acre plot on the west side of the acreage. The soil composition in this area is sandy and the ground cover is dense underbrush with pine trees scattered throughout.

We did not discover any items that may have been buried when CGJ was inactivated. That is not to say that none exist in the plot we looked at. Presently, the infrastructure in the area consists of the original roads that are in poor repair. Water and sewerage service can be brought into the area from Lanark Village, which is in the vicinity and part of the original CGJ. There has been some development to the south between the area we looked at and Route 98 consisting mainly of private homes. The St. Joe Paper Company owns most of the western portion of CGJ and is developing a housing complex and a 18-hole golf course. Additionally, found in Franklin County is the Apalachicola National Forest.

The information provided above is to

offer a description of and some idea of the property and area we looked at. You are probably wondering why the Association would be interested in property. Some thoughts are; it would be an investment for the Association to be resold at a profit or it possibly could be developed as a retirement community for our members, or assisting the Camp Gordon Johnston Association by developing the property into a display area where visitors could see displayed and possibly have a hands on experience with military equipment of that era.

While at Carrabelle, we also had the opportunity to visit the CGJ Association Museum. The Director, Mr. Paul Oehler, escorted us and provided an interesting overview of the museum and what has been accomplished. The efforts by the CGJA to perpetuate the memories of the veterans who trained at CGJ are commendable. In addition to their many accomplishments they are responsible for a Florida Heritage Marker being placed at Carrabelle Beach. The marker states the importance of the training received at the camp to the success of the 4th Infantry Division in the invasion of France on D-Day, June 6, 1944 (4th trained at CGJ, Oct - Nov 1943).

Their future plans call for a new museum building to be erected on the site of the old officers club. The CGJA, Board of Directors to this end has established a Museum Fund. We feel, our Association could help the CGJA by contributing to this fund.

Chapter Reports



1/10th Cavalry Chapter Report

by Bob Patsfield

The former members of the 10TH Cavalry are proud to announce the formal acceptance of the 1ST Squadron, 10TH Armored Cavalry Chapter into the 4TH Infantry Division Association. We were awarded our chapter on September 1, 2001. The officers are as indicated below:

Jim Pitts (69-70) President, Jim McIntyre (68-69) Vice President, and Robert Patsfield (69-70) Secretary all served in Charlie Troop's First Platoon. Bryant Middleton (69-70) Treasurer served in HHT/LRRPs.

Many former Buffalo Soldiers had been discussing this idea of a chapter for some time over the telephone lines and Internet. In July of this year at the 4TH Division's Annual Reunion, we gathered and made it a reality.

We hope to build our organization with both former and present members of the 10TH Cavalry, thus also bringing in more members to the Division's organization.

We hope to see all of our former brothers in Spokane.

Right now we have 50 members of record.

8th Infantry Regiment Society

by John R. O'Malley

Today as I write this article for the Ivy Leaves we find our servicemen going in harms way. With the first attack on our homeland (Continental U.S.) since the War of 1812 we found the patriotism that has been sleeping in our country. The attacks on our financial and military centers of this great nation have disturbed this sleeping giant. I expect that no quarter will be given for the cowards that hide behind fanatical misguided beliefs. As in Vietnam there aren't any front lines, and anyone living in our country could be our enemy. Let us be vigilant, cautious and keep our guard up. We must live our lives not in fear but as a free nation. For when we lose our God given freedoms these cowards win through intimidation.

The 8th Infantry Regiment Society is growing! Since the formation of the Society we have grown from 29 members to 79 as of the end of October. Let's keep it up. We had a great time at the reunion, seeing many members of the 1/8, 2/8 and 3/8 BN's we picked up 10 new members including some active duty personal.

There were informal and separate reunion Bravo Company. B Company had Bob Sholly, Top Lopez, Vic Renzo, Larry Gerkin, Richard Surface, John Rose, John Barclay, John O'Malley and several others with their families. (I have forgotten several names please forgive me.) We want to thank Top for having in his hotel room for our bull session and arranging for all to have dinner together it was a grand evening.

We held our first Chapter meeting on 6 July 01. Officers present were President John Edgerton, Vice President Mike Robinson, Judge Advocate John Barclay and Treasurer/Secretary John O'Malley. Members present were David Mc

Nerney, Alan Kaul, Richard Bolin, Victor (Top) Lopez, Robert Sholly, John Nelson, Mike Finn, Steven Shlagel, Fred Gould, Ted Schultz, Larry Gerkin, Robert Miller and Paul Brunelle.

The Chapter purchased 150, 32-ounce sport bottles white and blue with the 8th Infantry Regiment Crest, they sell for \$2.00 plus shipping and handling. If you are interested in purchasing please contact Mike Robinson or John O'Malley.

If you know of anyone that was in the 8th Infantry Regiment please ask them if they want to join. Have them contact John O'Malley 3149 North Ridge Road Perry, OH 44081-9575. Until we meet again, God Bless.

A/1/8 Chapter Chapter Report

By Ken McCormack & Greg Rollinger

Despite the 09-11-01 disaster in New York the A/1/8 Chapter met in San Antonio October 12th -14th and despite our heavy hearts and the last minute cancellation of forty active duty A/1/8 soldiers and color guard scheduled to attend to say we had a great time is really an understatement. Concern over the September 11 attack resulted in only one vet cancellation as most shared the feeling that we were not going to let terrorists win. In fact we had three post 9-11 registrants!



Right: The A/1/8 guys.

Below: The A/1/8 ladies.



The active duty troopers were of course placed on alert and not allowed to be that far away from Ft. Carson. A recent e-mail says that they are still on alert but except for some specialized training they "haven't gone anywhere and haven't done anything," same old "hurry up and wait!" Sound familiar?

So there we were, San Antonio, a beautiful city, the Alamo, great weather, and 37 A/1/8 Vets and wives...it just couldn't get any better, but it did!

Friday night found us sharing a wonderful Mexican Meal on the Riverwalk after an afternoon of stories and catching up at our

Host hotel's hospitality suite. As usual we had some "new" folks who had not been to a reunion before and several "old timers" but within minutes of arrival all were Brothers once again. Saturday kicked off with a Buffet Breakfast and announcements followed by a full day of "on your own" sightseeing. Many people I noticed grouped up and did things together.

Saturday night we bussed to the Kairos Party Barn near Fredericksburg and had a fantastic barbecue, line Dancing as taught by meeting chairpersons Tom and Karen Porter, Flames of Remembrance and Punchbowl ceremony at the end of which, as usual, there was not a dry eye in the house. 1SG David McNerney, a Medal of Honor recipient while serving with A-1-8 in Vietnam, was our special guest. We were out in the Texas countryside, we had the whole place to ourselves and it was a gorgeous night. Only way it could have been better is if more of our members and the active unit soldiers could have come.

Sunday we held our first election of officers (we are a new chapter) over Breakfast and since they had not served an entire year (and couldn't sit down fast enough) re-elected were Greg Rollinger- President, Jerry Horton- Vice President, Ken McCormack -Secretary / Treasurer, Don White Sgt.-at-Arms and Bugs Moran- Moral / Health & Welfare (all former NCO's - to insure we get things done? Sorry you retired Sirs, nothing personal). A suggestion was made to move next years meeting up a few months so as not to be in conflict with next years National meeting in Spokane and subsequent discussion resolved that we meet in Key West Florida June 21, 22, and 23rd 2002. Formal adjournment found everyone promising to be there even though it's only nine months away!

Since nearly everyone stayed over until Monday we later carpooled to Fredericksburg for a day of Oktoberfest and then on to Luckenbach for an evening of "singin and pickin" under the old oak trees. Our very own "Spider" Meli broke out his guitar and really got things hopping with a sing along of "Battle Hymn of the Republic". Until Spider took his turn things were pretty melancholy with a lot of folk songs but he woke 'em up! Thanks Spider! I don't think those folks new what hit 'em and they won't soon forget the A/1/8!

Of course none of it could have happened without the planning and preparation of our hosts Tom and Karen Porter. Thank You is certainly not enough to convey how grateful we are to both of you but Thank You!!!! You did a fantastic job and we appreciate you sharing your time, personal contribution, your Great State and San Antonio!

San Antonio Reunion Attendees were: George & Maria Adornetto, John & Claire Andrews, Ray 'Cajun' Coltrin & Peggy Britton, Jack Carnahan, Jerry Horton, Gerry 'Howie' Howard, Jerry & Sally Jensen, Lois Kaase, Andy Lepeilbet, John & Deborah Lindstrom, Ken & Patty McCormack, David McNerney, Richard 'Spider' & Ann Meli, Richard 'Bugs' Moran, David & Sandy muck, James & Irene Olson, Tom & Karen Porter, Robert 'Pappy' & April Rawls, Greg 'Rollie' & DeeAnn Rollinger, Ron & Sandra & Amy Westbrook, Don & Hope White.

Planning is underway for next years meeting at the spectacular Wyndham Casa Marina, which is right on the water.

Chairman Jerry Horton says it is a fantastic property and guarantees we will have a great time. Planned activities include fishing, swimming, boating and a sunset barbecue on the beach in front of Jerry's home complete with remembrance activities and the always-popular Punchbowl ceremony!!! So mark those calendars, put in for that vacation time, and plan now to be there! June 21-23, 2001!

More information will be sent to chapter members and will be available on our chapter website at www.A-1-8.org.

Arizona Chapter Report

by Mike Irving

Greetings from the land of sunshine and cactus. We all join the President in extending our deepest sympathy to the families of the people killed at the World Trade Center, Pentagon and the plane crash in Pennsylvania. And a big thanks to all the rescue workers.

One of our members Anthony Giuliano, 3/8 Inf. lost his oldest son in a tragic boating accident this summer.

We will hold our annual get together in Phoenix on the 16th of Nov 2001. We will hold our yearly chapter meeting in April of 02. We will hold our election for chapter officers. We need some new blood. If you are interested let Jerry or I know. We will have more information on Laughlin after the first of the year

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us.

Capital Chapter Report

by Roger S. Barton

The date was September 15, 2001. As Capital Chapter members and guests arrived at the home of Butch and Janet Maisel



Above: Chris Maisel in uniform as a 41D MP.

Left Top: Uniforms on display in Butch Maisel's museum.



Left Middle: Capital Chapter President Norman Lilley (left) and Sec/Treas Roger Barton.



Left Bottom: Display in Butch Maisel's museum.

Photos courtesy of Andy Jurcak.



Meeting tent used by Capital Chapter and Peter Lee's restored ambulance.



WWII vintage Jeep.



Capital Chapter Past National President Bill Gay (left) and Logan Lowers.

they were met by a uniformed 4th Infantry Division MP (Butch's young son Chris). The MP directed them to a parking space and then escorted them to the back yard. Arriving in the back yard we found a WWII vintage field tent, a WWII vintage Jeep complete with mounted Browning .30 caliber machine gun and a fully restored Ambulance! The event...the annual Capital Chapter Crab Feast and fall meeting. The mood was somber as the cowardly terrorist attack on our country had occurred only 4 days previously and this, of course, was the main topic of conversation. Peter Lee, who owned the restored vehicles, said that he had gotten many strange looks as he drove his machine gun bearing Jeep through the Maryland countryside on his way to the meeting. Pete's vehicles were enjoyed by all. The Ambulance was fully stocked with authentic equipment right down to the safety pins! As if the vehicles weren't enough, we were once again treated to the privilege of touring Butch's 1st Class museum in his basement. His displays and treasures rival those of any museum...anywhere, and once again some of our members were seen donating their "treasures" to the museum. This was very heart warming as all too often our memorabilia is lost to yard

sales and dumpsters after we are gone. All Veterans should be urged to make sure that their memorabilia goes to someone or someplace that will appreciate it for what it is...an important part of history. Butch also urges any 4ID Veterans who find themselves in the area to contact him so that he can open his museum to them. It would be well worth a slight detour to visit this fine museum.

Once Chapter President Norman Lilley arrived with the steamed Maryland Blue Crabs the mood lightened up as our members sat down to a fine feast. As the meal was ending Norman called our meeting to order. Andy Jurcak led the Chapter in the Pledge of Allegiance; Chaplain Bud Whelan offered the opening prayer. We then had a moment of silence and played TAPS for the U.S. military personnel who were KIA on September 11, 2001. The Flames of Remembrance Ceremony was then conducted. Roger Barton gave an extensive report on the 2001 National Reunion and thanked everyone who had worked so hard to make it a success. The current slate of Chapter officers was re-elected to serve another term with Norman Lilley as President, Steve Shlagel as Vice-President, Roger Barton as Secretary/Treasurer and Bud Whelan as Chaplain. The other major item of discussion was the terrorist attack on the United States. After much discussion it was decided that as Army Veterans we should concentrate our efforts as the Chapter representing Washington, D.C. to assist the Army personnel directly affected by the attack on the Pentagon. Therefore, we voted to send a sizable donation to the Army Relief Fund earmarked for the families of the Army personnel killed or injured in the attack on the Pentagon. The Chapter thanked Pete Lee for bringing his vehicles to the meeting and presented him with a 4IDA shirt and a copy of "Utah Beach to Pleiku". The Chapter also thanked the Maisels for their hospitality. Special thanks went to Chris Maisel and the Chapter presented him with a GI Joe figure for his collection.

We have a limited supply of 4ID decals and reunion items available through the Capital Chapter. These were printed up for the National Reunion and can be purchased through Treasurer Roger Barton.

- 4ID patch decal 3 1/2" square (outside application only) \$2.50 each
- "4th Infantry Division" 15" strip decal (outside application only) \$3.00 each

We also have a few Monument Dedication lapel pins, key rings and necklaces left. These can be purchased for \$5 each. Also a very limited supply of Monument Dedication coffee mugs at \$5 each.

Like all Americans and especially Veterans, the Capital Chapter sends out our sincere condolences to all victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks and their families. We support our President and the U.S. military and pray for their safety and success while defending our great nation. We remain *Steadfast & Loyal*.

Carolinas Chapter Report

by Rick Adams

The Carolinas Chapter held its fall reunion October 26-28,



2001 at the Wilson World Hotel, in Spartanburg, South Carolina. We were honored to have National President Roger Dufek and Linda join with 65 chapter members and guests for the weekend. First timers at the meeting were Jack Crites Battery B/42 FA, Terry Ergle A/2/8 INF, and Ray Supple HQ/12 INF.

The National President administered the Oath of Office to the new slate of chapter officers at the Saturday evening Banquet. The new officers are: President - Roy Surratt, Sr. Vice President - Larry Simonson, Jr. Vice President - Al Pichette, and Secretary Treasurer - Rick Adams.

Attending the reunion was: Rick and Patty Adams, Richard and Sheila Bolin, Cecil Boswell, Jack and Mary Jo Crites, Clyde and Chyerl Comer, Tallie and Mary Crocker, Carl and Ron Dietz, Roger and Linda Dufek, Jim and Lucy Drennen, Carl and Joan Dry, Terry and Patricia Ergle, Russell Fisher, Robert and Esther Gobble, Bill Greenlee, Nhu Hoang, Warren and Mary King, Bob, Kydie, Steve, Patty, Landry, and Andrew Kay, Jack and Karen Leonard, Sherwood and Bonnie Locklair, Carl Morris and Tracy Cohen, Sam Nelson and Betty Lou, Walter and Alma Norman, Al Pichette, Ray and Annie Mae Rogers, Fletcher and Audrey Ruff, Mary Smoak, Ray and Madeline Supple, Roy Surratt, Norman and Faye Webb, Dorsey White, and John and Thelma Worthington.

At our business meeting, the chapter voted to donate \$500 each to The Friends Of The Central Highlands, The Montagnard Foundation, The National D-Day Memorial Fund - Bedford, and to purchase another \$500 worth of "Utah Beach to Pleiku" books for donation to local schools and libraries to spread the history of the Division. Thanks to the membership for the continued generosity. Thanks go to the chapter ladies who did their usual spectacular job of handling the raffle. We were short handed with Doziene Waldrop, one of our chief rafflers missing, but Kydie Kay managed a record setting night.

Mark your calendars now for our next chapter reunion to be held April 26-28, 2002 at the Holiday Inn, Columbia, South Carolina. This will be our Tenth Charter Reunion, and plans to make this a special event are in the works. Congratulations to Richard and Sheila Bolin who were the lucky winners of the free weekend drawing. They will receive free lodging and meals at the Spring 2002 meeting.

Colorado Chapter Report

by Victor Lopez

Those that attended the National Reunion of the 4th Infantry Division Association in Colorado Springs in 1990 will remember that the theme of that reunion was "America the Beautiful and the 4th Infantry Division". If there is any curiosity about its origin, this is what was written October 7, 2001 in the Colorado Springs Gazette.

Katherine Lee Bates, a highly regarded Wellesley English Professor, had crossed the country to teach a summer seminar at Colorado College in 1893. After a harrowing two day trip up the winding dirt road to the top of Pikes Peak in a mule-drawn prairie wagon, (this was before SUVs and four wheel drive), Bates retired to her room in the old Antlers Hotel on Cascade Ave.

There she wrote the first four stanzas of a poem that eventually would see two revisions. It was published in a weekly journal, The Congregationist, on the fourth of July 1895, and was set up to a wide variety of music, including "Auld Lang Syne". The current is from a Samuel L. Ward hymn.

In an article published in a December 1928 Gazette, Bates describes the inspiring trip across the United States and Colorado and the famous mountains that led her to write "America the Beautiful".

"O Beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountains majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea".

So on November 10, 2001, the Colorado Chapter of the 4th Infantry Division Association will be marching in the Veterans Day Parade on Tejon Ave., Colorado Springs and will be representing you all in this "America the Beautiful state called Colorado".

On November 11, 2001, again the Colorado Chapter will be placing a 4th Infantry Division wreath in honor of those soldiers that served the Ivy Division in the past and present, at Memorial Park, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The resignation of Bob Gasset as Chapter President and Treasurer came as a big surprise to us all. His reasons for doing so were accepted and a new President was elected as well as a new Treasurer. The new President is Eugene F. Carter and the new Treasurer is Victor Lopez (again). So we both promise to do our best and fulfill these positions for the remainder of 2001 and throughout 2002.

On behalf of our new President Gene Carter, our honorary President, "Smokie" Tranmer, have a great Veterans Day, a Happy Thanksgiving Day, a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Help our nation preserve its freedoms from all its enemies and terrorists.

Steadfast and Loyal!

Florida Chapter Report

by Edward J. McEniry

The Chapter is planning a Spring Reunion during the month

of April 2002 in the Melbourne Area; actual location is yet to be determined. The planning of the reunion's time and place is to coincide with the 14th annual reunion of the Florida Vietnam Veterans that will also take place there during that time period. The Vietnam Veterans of Brevard Florida sponsor the reunion, which has developed into one of the largest reunions of its kind in the nation. The VVB Reunion's Schedule of Events is always varied in scope and most interesting to a wide spectrum of attendees. They are conducted outside in a park atmosphere with main events taking place Friday, Saturday and Sunday. One of the past highlights has been the display of the famous Vietnam Moving Wall, a replica of the permanent Wall in Washington; DC and it may also be part of the April 02 VVB Reunion. Having our chapter's reunion at the same time and place will give members an opportunity to enjoy not only our reunion but also attend some of the activities of the VVB reunion and interact with their members. After all we do share a mutual goal, comradeship. Ample notification will be furnished chapter members in our Spring Reunion Letter as to actual time and location of our chapter reunion, even if we are unable to put together the above package.

Illinois Chapter Report

by Rick Sover

In my last report I listed all members from the Illinois Chapter who attended the Washington Reunion and if I missed any I would list their names in my next report. Well GUESS WHAT! I did miss two names and I must apologize. Not listed were Jerry Brown wife of National Finance Officer and John M. (Mike) and Marcia Lummis. I am sure you enjoyed your stay in Washington, DC.

Our Illinois Chapter President and Vice President Jerry and John are very busy campers these days. They have been traveling the state of Illinois seeking sights for our chapter reunion next spring. Good luck you two.

Received a telephone call from our National and Illinois Chaplain and Chapter Sr. Vice President Reverend George Knapp and wife Virginia, that they are settled in their retirement home in "Plymouth Place". Wishing them both a lengthy and healthy retirement in their new home. Our 2002 dues are coming in at a slow pace. We are far from 100%. I was anticipating a 100% Year. I plan on sending out another reminder in the next couple of days. So please-send in your check and avoid the Christmas rush. The Illinois Chapter wishes all the members in the National 4th Infantry Division a "Very Healthy, and Happy Holiday Season". Steadfast and Loyal

Lehigh Valley Chapter Report

By Doug Foster

On November 4th, 2001, the Lehigh Valley Chapter held it's annual dinner at the American Legion Home in Hellertown, Pennsylvania. After the cocktail hour, Joe Motil called the meeting to order. The Flames of Remembrance Ceremony was then conducted, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Joe Motil treated all present to a wonderful recording of The National Anthem and God Bless America, sung by Joe's granddaughter Jennifer Selman.

The 2002 National Reunion was discussed and the members are already making plans to attend.

Our chapter meetings for 2002 will be held on March 22nd, 2002 and September 13th, 2002. The Annual Dinner will be held on November 3rd, 2002. All will be held at the American Legion Home in Hellertown. I would like to encourage all members to attend these functions so that we can make 2002 a great year for our chapter.

In case you haven't done so, please send in your 2002 dues as soon as possible. Checks should be made payable to: National 4th Inf. Div. LVC and sent to Joe Motil, 827 E. 6th St. Bethlehem, PA 18015-3501.

In attendance at the Annual Dinner were:

Luther Anderson & Ruth Dauscher, Douglas & Jennifer Foster, Robert & Wilma Gehres, Joseph & Ann Grinkewicz, and daughter, Jeannette, Alfred Jandl, & Mary Kovacs, Louise Knop, Joseph & Goldie Motil, Joseph Marcin, Edward & Georgine Orlick, Robert & Evelyn Orner and daughter Charlotte Peffley, Emil & Dolores Pfenninger, George & Eleanor Peterman, John & Mary Savanick, Joseph Search, Bruce & Andrea Wesley.

Mid-South Chapter Report

By Lee Rung

Planning for our 2002 Reunion, on Friday and Saturday the 26th and 27th of April, is in full swing and Herb Martin, our new Chapter President, promises a great time for all. The primary host will be Conrad Frenchie Adams, who resides in Gulfport, Mississippi. The reunion will be held at the Biloxi Beach Resort located right on the sandy, gulf beach at 2736 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, MS 39531. The Biloxi Beach Resort is close to Keesler AFB. Shopping, historical places and for those who feel lucky, a number of casinos are close by. It is not too early to call and reserve your room by calling 1-800-345-1570, and do tell them you are with our 4th Infantry Division chapter. We have already contacted the Public Affairs Office at Keesler AFB and they have promised to help make our reunion an extra special affair. Our members will be receiving more information on the reunion the first part of December. Anyone else that is interested in joining with us is more than welcome and can contact Lee Rung at 25 Yosemite Drive, New Orleans, LA 70131, by phone at 504-392-3699, and e-mail at: Rungs@Juno.com. If you have never attended one of the reunions, for whatever reasons, do consider coming to the 2002 affair and we promise you an interesting time with great camaraderie and at a most reasonable cost.

Dues notices are in the mail and those receiving dues notices are asked to please get your dues to Lee Rung at the earliest.

A very warm welcome to our newest Chapter members: Francis M. Fender of Bay Springs, MS, served with C/704 Ord., during WW-2; Walter K. Volz of Enterprise, AL, served in Nam during 67-68; Willie M. Cardin, Jr. of Horn Lake, MS, served with C/1/8 Inf. in Nam; and James R. Carroll of Montevallo, AL, served with the Division Surgeon's Office in Nam during 68-70.

We are sorry to hear of the death of Lee Miller of Blue Springs, MS. Lee served with C/1/12 Inf. during WW-II. He was wounded twice and suffered the loss of his right arm and leg. Lee

was retired as postmaster of Blue Springs. His wife Martha and three daughters survive him.

Herb Martin reports that he is now swifter a foot following his knee operation and trust he continues with a speedy recovery.

New England Chapter Report

by Frank Bradley

Members and friends of the N. E. Chapter met over the week end of 25 - 28 October 2001 at the Motel-6 located on Route 28 in South Yarmouth, Cape Cod, MA. Early birds gathered in the very nice and very large hospitality room in which we enjoyed our daily continental breakfast as well as the visiting and fellowship of our 4th Division friends. Norm Chartier had his collections of pictures from the last reunions. Gerry Gramp had an unusual collection of Signal Corps photographs put into an album by the late Hank Harken, a past National President, showing scenes of action involving the Ivy Division. The customary snacks and libations were there for all to enjoy. Thursday evening many of us journeyed down Route 28 to Captain Parker's for a delicious dinner.

Friday morning at 10 a.m. most people climbed aboard a bus, which took us to the Hy-Line dock for an hour-long trip around Hyannis Port Harbor. The weather was nice but on the brisk side as we listened to the ship's pilot describe the main points of interest, which included the 3,000 foot breakwater, the magnificent residences of the areas most prominent citizens. The Kennedy family was well represented. The Episcopal Church of Saint Andrew-by-the-Sea, which operates only during the summer season and the home of Morton Downey, were also on the landscape. Lunch and dinner on Friday were left to the individual's choice.

On Saturday morning at 10 a.m. the men's business meeting took place in the hospitality room while the ladies met in an adjacent room for an exiting group of BINGO games. Among the winners were: Marge Riiska, Dot Ellis, Muriel Briggs, Nancy Pepin was the lucky winner of three games, Lucille Brown and Helene Meyerowitz. The ladies enjoyed coffee or tea and muffins and doughnut holes. Saturday evening the group drove down Route 28 to Christine's for our solemn Flames of Remembrance ceremony before our dinner at 7 p.m. N.E. President Bill Babcock called upon our Sgt-at-arms Fred Corey to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to start the evening's activities.

Bill called the units and newcomers Gerry Ward and Paul Pepin lit the memorial candles in the darkened room. FXB played Taps on the chapter's CD player. Paul Brunelle then offered a memorial prayer before saying the grace before meals. We had a very nice dinner with Prime Rib, Baked Haddock or Chicken Marsala as the entrees. Everyone received a raffle ticket and the ladies all received a little red apple, some of which had a lucky worm, which indicated that those persons won the centerpieces. Our talented Gail Brown decorated four by nine-inch boxes in which she had placed a jar of homemade apple jelly in the center flanked by two large Macintosh apples. Some of those wormy apple winners were: Dot Ellis, Mary Bradley, Judy DuCharme, Agnes Murray, Nancy Pepin and Helene

Meyerowitz. Bud Evans, our local 4th Division artist, gave us a little talk on his Army career. The group sang Happy Birthday to Marion Donlon in celebration of her 90th. Ron Brown was the lucky winner of one night's free room and Mary Surro won a free dinner in the raffle. Present plans call for our Spring reunion to be at the Best Western Hotel in Newport, R. I. over the weekend of 25-28 April in 2002.

Norm Chartier took pictures of each table, the members of Company G/8th Infantry, and two groups of all the men and two groups of all the ladies. Members and friends present for this meeting were: Bill and Judy Babcock, Alex and Lillian Bernardo, Ralph and Dorothy Bolton, 1st timers; Frank and Mary Bradley, Ralph and Muriel Briggs, Carlton and Lucille Brown and their daughter, Debbie Soper; Ron and Gail Brown with Sheri, Adam, and Quinn Griffith, their new grandson; Paul and Betty Brunelle, Bud and Gloria Budrick with Ralph, Susan and Nicole Costa, their granddaughter; Jack Casey, Howard and Elaine Chaet, Normand and Marcelle Chartier, Fred Corey, Betty Costello and her sister, Lenore Campaniolo; Edward Dodge and nephew, Mike Dodge; John and Marion Donlon, Don and Dot Ellis, Bud Evans and Jean Scanlon, Heikki and Mardie Fager, Gerry and Mildred Gramp, Olga LeGendre, David and Terry McCreddie and daughter, Judy DuCharme; Dotty Merola and friends, Lee McLanahan and Lorraine McCaulhey; Paul and Agnes Murray, Kevin O'Connor, Tony Pellegrino, Paul and Nancy Pepin, 1st timers; Bill and Marie Riiska, Irving and Edith Smolens, Mike and Mary Surro, Bill and Arleen Ventrelli, George Ward and Helene Meyerowitz, 1st timers; and Helen Young and her friend, Betty Pietrowski.

Northwest Chapter Report

by Bob Reilly

New Officers & potpourri from Chapter reunion: This unworthy one finally found a replacement! Effective 1 January, your new secretary/treasurer will take over. The rest of us have begun our new terms of office effective with the close of our September meeting. Here are some old, some new officers:

President: Bob Reilly, Wenatchee, WA; 1st VP: Rich Kellar, Odessa, WA; 2nd VP: Randy Martz, Clarkston, WA; Chaplain: Walt Sauer, Spokane, WA; Scty/Treas: Larry Stromberg, Richland, WA; Sgt-at-Arms: Ron Soden, Tacoma, WA.

Members present included: Bernace C. Burgmeier, Puyallup, WA; Don and Fredda Doder, Stanwood, WA; Delbert and Eunice Gillam, Post Falls, ID; Rich Kellar and Connie, Odessa, WA; Dave Klinger, Leavenworth, WA; Dave Kuyper, Monroe, WA; Bob and Brandi Patsfield, Suquamish, WA; Bob Reilly and Joan, Wenatchee, WA; Bruce Ross and Joanne, Steilacoom; Reverend Walt Sauer and Dolores, Spokane, WA; Larry and Florence Stromberg, Richland, WA; John and Nell Tolleshaug, Longview, WA and Bill Wooten, East Wenatchee, WA.

We enjoyed a great potluck, in which the chapter furnished fried chicken, salads, coffee and pop, while everyone brought way too much food to supplement that. I always pig out at these things. Potlucks are not a fat boy's friend when trying to lose a few pounds.

People brought pictures, albums, maps and other memorabil-

ia to share. Bob played the Vietnam '98 memorial service video, in addition to our Flames of Remembrance ceremony. A special prayer was offered for our ill members, especially the Sullivans, the Mosbys and Len Morley, who was in the hospital at the time of the meeting.

Bob & Joan talked briefly about their experience being near ground zero on 9/11 on Manhattan Island. Bernace Burgmeier, Larry Stromberg and the Reillys reported on the Arlington Reunion. We have a tough act to follow in 2002 but the show is in rehearsal!

Spokane, Washington is the site for the 84th National Reunion and we are the hosts. I was able to get the hotel and the tour operator to make some small concessions in a recent meeting. They will prove to be a benefit to all. I got some significant reduction in tour prices, reflected in the registration form elsewhere in this issue. The hotel allowed me to move the registration area next to the hospitality room, next to the front door, rather than in the back of the hotel by the banquet rooms. Of special interest to many, we will be able to have a keg of beer available in the hospitality room, after all...and can bring in pretzels and chips. Though we'll have to buy from the hotel, we won't have to pay a bartender. Hotel policy does not allow us to bring beer, wine or liquor into the hotel, so this is a major concession for them.

We're going to need full involvement of the Chapter to make this a success. What all of you can do now is to gather items for auction, whether you donate them yourself or get businesses/individuals/organizations to donate. We need high quality items. Consider that most attendees will need to transport items home some distance, so size matters.

Make your hotel reservations directly with the DoubleTree - Hotel Spokane Center, in Riverfront Park, as early as possible: (509) 455-9600. To get the special rate (\$88/night, single or double and \$98 for 3 or 4), be sure to mention that you are attending the 4th Infantry Division Association National Reunion. Dates are: 23-29 September 2002.

A New Fourth Division Memorabilia brochure is now available: We've ignored inflation and absorbed costs to the point where we made zero profit on some items. We can't continue to do that, so new prices are now in effect. You're right...nothing went down in price but all items are still a pretty good deal. Order all of our products in black, white or your preferred branch color. These are Made-in-the-USA products whenever possible: jackets, polo/golf shirts, sweat shirts, tee shirts, and baseball-style caps. [The fine print: Every color in every item may not always be available but we'll get your permission before any substitution is made. Please include your phone number(s)].

Check or money order payable to 4IDA with order, please. We are not equipped to handle credit cards. Send a SASE (\$.34 postage on a #10 envelope will do) to get our brochure from me, Chapter President Bob Reilly, NW Chapter 4th IDA; 107 Schafer St #7A; Wenatchee, WA 98801-6340.

It's Dues Time Again: You should all have received a notice by now with a return envelope, making it easy for you to send in your dues and shamelessly asked for donations. The dues year is the calendar year but we begin collecting at the September chapter meeting. If you haven't already returned the envelope, please

do it now. Every time we send a reminder it costs us money, not to mention considerable wear and tear on the secretary/treasurer. Let's break in the new one easy for a change!

Thanks to Donors: Among those who renewed membership at the chapter reunion were several who made donations. We thank Delbert Gillam, Bernace Burgmeier and the Sullivans.

See y'all in Spokane, 23-29 September 2002!!!!!!

New York – New Jersey Chapter Report

by R. M. Vaccaro, M.D.

The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey is in consort with Brookdale College Center for World War II studies. The mission of the Center is to stimulate and foster "... the study of the political, social and military aspects of World War II and the war's impact on world history." It is a resource to educate about the leaders, those who fought and those on the home front. The focus of the Center is to educate and enlighten all on the importance of World War II and its effect on the present.

Curator CW4 Judith McCabe and Professor Zigo are actively involved in making the Center come alive with projects, such as oral/video histories of veterans.

On December 7, 2001 – the 60th anniversary of Japan's attack on the United States at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii – the Center will be dedicated in the gymnasium and the following day there will be an open house. All veterans are urged to attend. For additional information or any questions, COL (Ret.) Paul Zigo can be contacted at Brookdale Community College, 765 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, New Jersey 07738-1597, phone (732) 224-2099.

Due to the tragedy of September 11, 2001, the annual dinner social has been postponed.

All members are encouraged to pay their dues in a timely manner. Dues notices have been sent out.

In November, New York City is planning to rededicate the Vietnam Memorial in lower Manhattan on Water Street.

Ohio Chapter Report

Submitted by: Ray Dunkel

Greetings Buckeye Ivymen. In Memory of all those who perished on September 11; the passengers and the pilots on United Airlines and American Airlines flights, the workers in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and the emergency personnel and the innocent bystanders, the members of the Ohio Chapter extend our prayers and sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased.

The passing of the following chapter members, John H. Tudas, Robert E. Weaver, Paul L. Massa, Warren K. Shaw, Peter J. Hritsko and Nick Ieropli during the past year saddens us deeply. Our sincere sympathy and condolences are extended to their family and friends.

I am happy to report that the Ohio/ Western PA. Chapter's Fall Mini-Reunion was a great success, even though the weather was not very cooperative on Friday October 5. Early Friday morning the motor coach arrived on schedule with our delightful tour guide Jennifer, who was ready and willing to show us the sights. During the ride to Milan, Ohio, the birthplace of Thomas Alva Edison, Jennifer made the ride quite interesting. She pointed out

and provided a description of the points of interest along the countryside. Once at the house where Edison was born, several members of "Edison Birthplace Association Inc," showed our group through the house and gift shop. We were privileged to see a number of Edison's inventions and appreciate their impact on our society. Following the Edison House, we visited the Milan Historical Museum, which is composed of six buildings and the "Four Seasons Perennial Garden". The museum takes one back in history to a bygone era. Of particular interest was the Edna Roe Newton Memorial Building, one of Ohio's finest museums of its kind. Within its confines are many rare and lovely remnants of a married couple's life together. Lunch was a delightful buffet enjoyed at the "Mon Ami Restaurant & Historical Winery". Here their famous vintage wines were available for tasting and purchase. The last stop of the day was at the Ohio Veterans Home Museum in Sandusky. Displayed within the museum are artifacts from the Civil War to the present day, which brought a number of favorable comments from the group. The evening featured a buffet dinner of Lake Erie Perch and Barbecued Chicken. Dinner completed, the "Lake Ridge Chapter" of the "Sweet Adeline's" arrived unexpectedly to entertain us. To make a long story short, they were scheduled to perform during the Saturday evening banquet. After a brief discussion Stella Klaus and their Director agreed they would perform for us in the hospitality room and they would return Saturday evening for the banquet. They put on a magnificent performance, highlighted by singing a number of patriotic songs.

Promptly at 10:00 A.M. Saturday morning, the ladies gathered in the hospitality room to play "Towel Bingo" under the direction of Lori Dunkel. All reports indicate the ladies, especially the winners, enjoyed themselves. Simultaneously the Annual Business Meeting was convened; the body approved; a \$250.00 donation to the Lt. Robert Rice Memorial Scholarship Fund at Xavier University; an expenditure of \$250.00 to purchase 12 copies of "War Stories, Utah Beach to Pleiku" (the books will be distributed as a public service to various libraries and agencies); designated the Comfort Inn Austinburg (Ashtabula), Ohio as the location of the Fall 2002 Chapter Reunion to be held 3-6 October; and requested Rev. Richard Thompson to survey the feasibility of holding the 2003 Chapter Reunion in the Warren, Ohio area. The election of Chapter Officers for 2001-2002 was the final order of business; the current officers were re-elected without opposition.

During the Saturday "Pizza Party" it was announced that Ginny and Cliff Burk were celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary, Charlie and Ruth Mignogna their 30th Wedding Anniversary and Bette and Tom Seighman their 60th Wedding Anniversary. To celebrate the Anniversaries Margaret and Keith McDougall provided an Anniversary Cake which Ginny and Cliff were asked to cut. Everyone was invited to share the cake with the honored couples.

The Reunion and "Flames of Remembrance" Banquet commenced on schedule with Ray Dunkel welcoming all. Richard Cieker led the group in reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance". Reverend Richard Thompson gave the Invocation and presided over the "Flames of Remembrance Ceremony", after which all joined hands while singing "God Bless America". Roger Dearnmeyer and Thomas Heston assisted by lighting the

Memorial Candles and Elmer Klaus Played "Taps". As promised a "Quartet of Sweet Adeline's" arrived to entertain us with their sweet harmony interspersed with some self styled merriment. After an enjoyable dinner, first timers Roger Dearnmeyer, Curtis Hall, Joe Burrell and Don Busdieker were welcomed. Past National Presidents recognized were Elmer Klaus, Leo Jereb and Gerry Gramp, along with John O'Malley, the Secretary of the 8th Infantry Regiment Society. Keith McDougall, President of the Western PA. Chapter brought us up the date on the Spring Reunion to be held at the Days Inn, Meadville, PA 16-20 May 2002. Elmer Klaus presented a brief rundown on the Fall Reunion to be held at the Comfort Inn Austinburg, Ohio 3-6 October 2002. At the conclusion of a very touching Benediction by Reverend Thompson, the "Bells and Whistles" cash raffle was conducted by Elmer Klaus, which was followed by a fun raffle, thanks to the generosity of everyone who donated a gift. With the planned activities concluded, the party moved to the hospitality room for the remainder of the evening.

The Sunday morning breakaway breakfast buffet was very pleasant and well attended. It appeared that getting home was on everyone's mind. Whether it was to attend church, to watch a football game or to begin a long journey home. Good-byes and have a safe trip home were exchanged followed by I'll see you at the next one.

In attendance were: Wayne and Margot Armstrong, Don and Mildred Barie, Ruby Baughman, Collette Box and Don Busdieker, Cliff and Ginny Burk, Joe Burrell and daughter Laura Stuart-Lilley, Dick and Doris Cieker, Joe and Mary Corcoran, Tony Cymbola, Joseph and Alina Davoli, Roger and Sue Dearnmeyer, Ray and Lori Dunkel, Edward and Polly Marie Eberly, Elmer and LaVonne Glenn, Gerry and Mildred Gramp, Tom and Gale Heston, Jim Hoban, June Johnson, Paul and Doris Jendral, Earl and Eleanor Jenkins, Leo and Marge Jereb, Albert Kadowec, Kim and Sue Kadowec, Elmer and Stella Klaus, Sydney and Ruth Krause, Clarence Lindsco, Harley Little, Logan and Billie Lowers, Keith and Margaret McDougall, Charles and Ruth Mignogna, Jim and Natalie Missenda, John Padula, Richard and Helen Powell, Katie Rutan, George and Eleanor Peterman, Tom and Bette Seighman, John and Mary Savanick, Tom and Mary Sankovich, Carl and Mary Spence, Marcella Schaad, Rev. Richard and Betty Thompson, Teddy and Biddie Troski, William and Edith Wilson, Norman and Betty Walcott, Curtis, Juanita, Mary and Lucinda Hall, John O'Malley, Jim and Irene Roan, Byron and Billie Urie and Don and Norma Wensink.

It is my hope the Thanksgiving Holiday was enjoyed by all and that you and yours will have a Joyous Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Prayer for Peace

By Chaplain Rev. Richard E. Thompson

Good and Gracious God, we ask for your blessings for all who have volunteered and gave their time and energy to aid others during the recovery operations in the past weeks terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. Bless our country dear God, give wisdom to all our leaders, give them patience and humility to do what is right and above all, dear Lord, give us Peace. We ask for an open heart to accept all peo-

ple who don't talk like us, think like us or look like us, some way, help us to find the strength of forgiveness in our hearts. AMEN
GOD BLESS THE USA!

Texas Chapter Report

by Arnold R. Waggoner

Greetings and a Happy Holiday season to all 4th ID members. During the general business meeting of the National Reunion the membership voted for the Texas Chapter to host the National Reunion in Killeen, Texas in 2003. The Texas Chapter is excited about the confidence and honor that has been bestowed upon us. We promise to make the event as "top drawer" as it was in 1999. Prior to the reunion committee's initial contact with the Active Component at the 4th Infantry Division Headquarters, the chapter would appreciate input from the National Membership regarding "most wanted" activities at Fort Hood. For those of you who participated in 1999 we found that the Active Component pulled out all of the stops. The reunion committee would like to know what you liked most and least so that we can plan for another memorable event. We are requesting that you send any suggestions to the Chapter President, Arnold R. Waggoner who resides at 1217 Kingston Dr., Yukon, OK 73099. Please post your input no later than January 1, 2002.

The Texas Chapter's spring reunion will be held in Killeen, Texas on May 3-4, 2002. The Plaza Hotel, 1721 Central Texas Expwy, Killen, TX 76541 will host the event. The main purpose of the spring reunion is to finalize plans for the National Reunion of 2003. All chapter members are encouraged to attend. A final spring reunion agenda will be mailed to all chapter members no later than March 2002. For you early birds, reservations can be made for the spring reunion by calling the Plaza Hotel at 254.634.1555.

If you had a good time in 1999, we hope you will have an even gooder time in 2003.

Wisconsin Chapter News

by Roger R Dufek

The Wisconsin Chapter met for its fall meeting at the Marshfield Innkeeper in Marshfield Wisconsin for its 10th anniversary reunion. Ten years ago this chapter was formed and has grown ever since. Our 1st meeting hosted by John Endsley was held in this hotel using the same hospitality room. This years meeting was hosted by Mike & Sandy Grobelch and Bob & Pat loonsfoot. Friday evening everyone got together in the hospitality room to talk about the last 10 years and look over pictures that Alan & Alice Fagley put in albums.

Saturday morning we had the men's business meeting and in the afternoon we carpoled to the High Ground Veterans Monument. Saturday evening was the Flames of Remembrance dinner complete with the candle lighting ceremony. At this time we had our drawing for the Amos & Betty Scholarships the chapter gives out each year. Our lucky winners this year were Lindsey Ludden, granddaughter of Amos Johnson and the late Betty Johnson and Sara Nett, daughter of Joseph Nett. Remember, to be eligible for our \$250 scholarship you have to be a full dues paying member of the Wisconsin Chapter. This year we received

applications from the following members. Joseph Nett, daughter Sara; Amos Johnson, granddaughters Lindsey, Gabriel, Jessica, and grandsons Jason and Seth; John Endsley, daughter Laura; Mrs. Arthur Schmidt, grandson Ben; Tom Truesdell, daughter Jana; Lewis Jacobson, grandson Raymond; Gerald Helmert, daughter Annemarie; Jim Sheppard, daughters Jamie, Katie, and Melissa; Jack Wood, daughter Kathryn; and Glenn Morcomb, daughter Rachel.

Those attending the reunion were Roger Dufek, Mike Grobelch, Scott, Wendy & Cody Wilson, Bob & Pat Loonsfoot, Arlen Bliedernicht, Kay & Roger Bender, Vern Scharze, Claude Hockert, Steve Anderson, Gary & Barb Powley, Don & Meta Delamore, Tom Truesdell, Amos Johnson, Vern Schultz, Jack Okeefe, and Allan & Alice Fagley.

Our next meeting will be hosted by Arlen & Nancy Bliedernicht and Gary & Barb Powley on April 20th & 21st in the Madison area. Try to attend, meet new friends and old for a fun weekend. Watch for details in your chapter newsletter.

The chapter will once again host a bingo outing at the Kings Veterans home in King Wisconsin on March 2nd 2002 with the help of AMVETS Post. Please contact Ken & Cam Schmidt at 920-533-4685 for details. Its always a good time and the veterans love it when the 4th Division comes.

Order Form

"Hell in Hurtgen Forest"

★★ 4th Inf Div Association Members Exclusive Offer ★★

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Book Corner

Books are Great Holiday Gift giving Ideas

by Bob Babcock

I think everyone will agree that we old veteran guys are hard to select holiday gifts for. I think you will also agree that anyone who is a member of our 4th Infantry Division Association has shown a strong interest in our history and would enjoy reading more about it. So, to help you with your holiday gift buying, here are four excellent books to choose from:

War Stories - Utah Beach to Pleiku

by Robert O. Babcock.

Since published in June of this year, over 2,000 copies have been sold to our veterans. Those who have read it have given very positive reviews. This 720 page book has 450 stories from veterans of the 4th Infantry Division covering the years from 1940 to 1970. There are 325 WWII stories, 25 Cold War stories, and 100 Vietnam stories. Price is still \$25 each for one or two copies, including shipping, or you can buy three for \$70 and \$22 each for all copies over three (shipped to the same address). If you want to buy a full case of 12 books, you can get a case for \$250. An order form is included in this Ivy Leaves.



History of 12th Infantry Regiment in WWII

by Colonel Gerden F. Johnson.

This reprint of Gerden Johnson's 1947 book (443 pages) was at the printer as this went to press. From the announcement in the last Ivy Leaves, 55 of you have ordered it and should have it in your hands by the time you get this. I had 40 additional copies printed so it is still available on a first come, first served basis.

Price for reproduction was more expensive than I had anticipated so I have had to raise the price per copy to \$35, including postage. I highly recommend this book to all 4ID veterans, not just the ones who fought in the 12th Infantry Regiment. The book is available from

National 4th Infantry Division Association, PO Box 682212, Marietta, GA 30068.



History of the 22nd Infantry Regiment in WWII

by Chaplain Bill Boice.

I included this book in the last Ivy Leaves as an after thought and received over 25 orders for it. This excellent book is available for \$14, including postage, from National 4th Infantry Division Association, PO Box 682212, Marietta, GA 30068.



Hell in Hurtgen Forest - The Ordeal and Triumph of an American Infantry Regiment

by CSM (Ret) Robert Sterling Rush, Ph.D.

A Must Read! This newly released book should be required reading for all veterans of the 4th Infantry Division, and for anyone who likes to read about World War II. Written initially as a Master's Thesis, and later enhanced with more research for his doctorate work, Rob Rush (former Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment and First Army - and now working for the Center of Military History) has captured the day to day story of the 22nd Infantry Regiment's fight in the Hurtgen Forest from November 16 to December 3, 1944.

Never have I read a more detailed and compelling story of a major battle and the soldiers from both sides who fought it.

Included are 18 photographs and 17 maps of the daily battle lines. Although focused on the 22nd Infantry Regiment, our 8th and 12th Infantry vets and supporting troops can see their own ordeal in the 403 pages of this book. I have always admired and respected what our WWII vets did for us.

This book makes me be even more in awe of you and your epic struggle in the Hurtgen Forest. You owe it to yourself and your family to get this book - even if you don't want to relive that time in your life, this would be a great way to let your loved ones know what happened in that unpublicized but most bloody of battles in WWII. I only highly recommend a very few books - and this one is at the very top of the list of those I highly recommend. The book will be available through major bookstores. Price is \$34.95, ISBN is 0-7006-1128-2 and the publisher is University Press of Kansas. Or, you can order it direct from the publisher and get an autographed copy at a 20% discount for members of our Association. An order form is included in this issue of Ivy Leaves.



NOTE: If you want to include an extra \$2 per book, I will ship them out via Priority Mail the day I receive your order. I can't guarantee you will get them by Christmas but Priority Mail will arrive much faster than the Media Mail method I normally use for shipments. This applies to the three books I control, it is up to the University Press of Kansas to get "Hell in Hurtgen" to you.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

National 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division Association

Renewal New

Having served with the 4th Infantry Division, I hereby make application for membership in the National 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division and enclose \$15.00 for annual dues.

Complete Unit and where served _____

Name _____

Phone #: _____ EMail _____

Address _____

Mail to:

Roger S. Barton, Executive Director, 2 Spring Drive, Walkersville, MD 21793

All Clark Hamm of Breinigsville wants is closure. He was hoping it would come by meeting the family of Leon D. Eckhart, a soldier, a friend, and a man who died much too young 34 years ago in Vietnam.

The two met in Wilkes-Barre when they were inducted into the U.S. Army. They served together in the 4th Infantry Division. "We were drafted together, trained together for nine months, traveled overseas together and then served together," said Hamm. He thinks that is unusual because most units who trained together rarely stayed together.

Hamm and Eckhart were the sort of friends who trusted each other and could talk about anything. Hamm, the son of Kathryn Krause, grew up in New Ringgold, while Eckhart, the son of Willie and Emmaline Eckhart, was from Forest Inn.

In the thick jungles of Tay Ninh, the young soldiers learned quickly who they could trust. Their lives depended on that knowledge.

Before Eckhart's world ended, the two often discussed coming home, cars, families and other day-to-day things.

"We lived one day at a time," he said. "Coming home was always on our minds. We slept on the ground and when it rained all we had was a poncho, which didn't help much during the monsoons. We had to contend with leeches, ants and snakes."

Hamm, now 55, hasn't forgotten the young man who gave up his life at age 21. Eckhart had already been awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his bravery.

Hamm let his mind wander back to that warm, muggy day in the jungle on the Iron Triangle. He relived the moment his unit was walking single file behind Eckhart who was forging a path with a machete. Hamm choked back tears as he described the tenacity and determination Eckhart displayed while on patrol.

"I always wanted to tell his parents what a fine soldier Leon was," said Hamm. "I waited too long and his parents are gone, but I did get to talk to his sisters, Pearl Keiper and Joyce George."

Pearl was 18 and Joyce was already married when their brother was killed in action. They always wondered about their brother's death. While Hamm relayed the last

FINDING CLOSURE

After 34 years Vietnam veteran talks about losing his best friend



As young soldiers in Vietnam, friendships were forged. From left, Clark Hamm, Leon D. Eckhart and David W. Lindsey who served together in the Iron Triangle.



After 34 years, William Whiteman (left) and Clark Hamm reunite at the gravesite of their friend, Leon D. Eckhart.

moments of their brother's life, he sadly learned that Eckhart's parents had already passed away. His father had died in 1973, a few years after his son and his mother in 1996. They said their father had taken his son's death hard.

Following notice of his son's death, Willie appeared older than his years. He learned on March 1, 1967, that Leon had been hit on Feb 25 while crawling through the jungle.

The sisters listened intently as Hamm described their brother as always the first to volunteer to go out on point. He never shirked what he considered his duty.

Being on point was the job of using a machete to clear paths through the jungle for the rest of his unit. It was also the most dangerous duty – one Eckhart always sought to do.

Hamm was walking behind a few other soldiers, when Eckhart was shot by small arms fire. He saw his friend's body covered by a poncho, taken out of the jungle with a stretcher and airlifted away by Helicopter. That glimpse of the poncho-covered man still haunts him.

For the last 34 years, Hamm has spoken little about his war experiences. After all, when the soldiers returned from Vietnam, they were spit on and not respected as those returning soldiers had been during World War II.

"We were bad news," he said. "It's only been the past two years that I've opened up – only since I joined the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Veterans of the Vietnam War organizations. I'm finally feeling better about myself and Leon is always on my mind."

Since Hamm had free time a few months ago while he was on sick leave, he researched Eckhart's family and was able to meet with Eckhart's sisters and answer their questions. That is when he learned of the closed casket and how hard Leon's death had hit the family.

"The jungle was so thick, you couldn't see 50 yards away," he said. "With Leon out in front on point, we heard the rifle fire and I learned Leon was hit. He was the kind of guy you wanted for a friend."

Now that Hamm has met Leon's sisters, he feels relief.

"I feel I've finally gone full circle," he said. "I met his family and I was able to talk about it."