
O/P HARRY SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2001

ISSUE 20

OFFICER CHANGES

As plans for our next reunion in Kentucky, **June 7-June 10**, are being finalized, some necessary changes have been made.

Jerry Hawk, our esteemed Treasurer, has regretfully resigned due to illness. Jerry has served the Association faithfully and effectively these last few years. We extend our heartfelt thanks and our wishes for a full recovery from his illness. Sam Buck will serve as interim treasurer until the election in June.

Due to the pressure of an expanding business, Dick Martinet has resigned as Editor of the Newsletter. Jim Jarboe has agreed to serve in that position beginning immediately. Dick will continue to serve as Historian for the OP Harry Survivors Association. Dick has been the Editor of our Newsletter since its inception and has done a fine job in the publishing and distribution.

REUNION 2001 PLANS

Jerry Cunningham is working to finalize the activity schedule. Final details on the Registration for the reunion and scheduled events will follow in the next issue. Please note that hotel reservation information is included in this issue. As always it is the responsibility of the individual members to book reservations directly with the hotel. All information needed is included on the Reservation Page in this issue. Book early so as to avoid disappointment.

It is important in making flight reservations to note that the Cincinnati Airport, conveniently, is little more than 5 miles from our hotel. The hotel runs a courtesy shuttle to and from the Airport. If you intend to drive to the reunion, or rent a car, you will find plenty of free parking available at the hotel.

MEMBERSHIP

In the last issue of the Newsletter we published the newly modified OPHSA Membership Application. Members were asked to fill out the new application and mail it to Secretary Doug Jones. Unfortunately only 16 were returned (less than 10% of the membership). All of the information on the application is needed to give a full picture of the membership while providing a basis for an accurate roster to be maintained. The application is reprinted on page 9 in this issue. We appeal for 100% participation.

Please read the Special Notice on the back page.

OP HARRY SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

The following list of officers is provided for your convenience. Please feel free to contact any of them to share information or concerns.

OUTPOST HARRY OFFICERS

President (310) 782—3973
Warren Sessler 23765 Madison Ave.
Torrance, CA 90505-6006
sessler1@aol

Vice President (417) 948-2496
Verlin E. Rogers
Route #1, Box 94
Mountain Grove, MD 65771

Secretary (360) 466-5855
Douglas Jones
14614 Channel Dr.
La Conner, WA 98257-4732
karelko@aol.com

Treasurer (515) 462-4281
Sam Buck
1514 West Court Ave.
Winterset, IA 50273-1789
geosam@aol.com

Chaplain (508) 224-8434
Ed Hanrahan
262 Halifax Rd., PO Box 698
Manomet, MA 02345-0698

Sergeant-At-Arms (330) 484-1749
John E. Rohrig
4108 Sherman Church Rd.
Canton, OH 44706-4271

Historian (440) 942-9258
Richard Martinet
10045 Gardenside Dr.
Waite Hill, OH 44094-6952
martinetopharry@msn.com

Reunion Chairman (803) 783-4491
Jerry Cunningham
501 Chilhowie Rd.
Columbia, SC 29209-5506
jero528075292@gateway.net

Editor (626) 358-7834

James F. Jarboe
903 Crestfield Dr.
Duarte, CA 91010-2131
jarboejnl@earthlink.net

PAST PRESIDENTS

Martin A. Markley (714) 871-9676
1601 West Woodcrest Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92833-4531
markley@aol.com

James W. Evans (407) 886-0874
748 Crepe Myrtle Circle
Apopka, FL 32712-2650
evans5RCT@emailmsn.com

Geo. S. Buck (Sam) (515) 462-4281
1514 West Court Ave
Winterset, IA 50273-1789
geosam@aol.com

Regnard Burgess (RAB) (318) 628-5730
PO Box 292
Joyce, LA 71440-0292

Charles S. Scott (732) 849-9506
49 Berkshire Rd
Whiting, NJ 08759-3228

Raymond Anderson (302) 239-1525
10 Paddington Court
Hockessin, DE 19707-9766
march5@aol.com

Patrick Burke (850) 476-9039
4205 Rosebud Court
Pensacola, FL 32504-8447
maxine2pecola@webtv.net

Richard Kilgen (570) 223-9242
70 Sellersville Drive
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301-8319

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Help us to be more efficient. Note your name and address as it appears on your address label. If any corrections are needed please advise us by using the space below:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Mail to:

Reunion and Reservation Information

Dear members and guests:

I am pleased to announce that all plans and arrangements have been confirmed, for the 48th Anniversary of "The Siege of Outpost Harry," and our 10th Annual Reunion. The reunion dates are as follows: From **Thursday, June 7**, to **Sunday, June 10, 2001**, The reunion will be located at the Drawbridge Estate, known as the Drawbridge Inn; 2477 Royal Drive, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky.

GUEST ROOMS: A block of fifty (50) rooms has been reserved according to the anticipated arrival and departure date. This room block is contained within the Main and Garison Buildings.

GUESTROOM RATE: The Main Building \$79.00 per night. Single, Double, Triple or Quad Occupancy. The Main section consists of 398 rooms offering a selection of one queen bed or two double beds. The furnishings are residential in appearance and offer a comfortable, homelike environment.

THE GARISON BUILDING: Room Rate: \$69.00 per night. Single, Double, Triple or Quad Occupancy. All hotel facilities and services are available to Garison guests, except for room service. The Garison has its own outdoor pool, snack shop and children's play area.

RESERVATIONS: Individuals will be responsible for making their own room reservations with The Drawbridge Inn. Toll free reservation numbers are **800-354-9793 (outside of KY)** and **800-352-9866 (inside of KY)**. Reservations must be received by **May 17, 2001** to ensure room availability. After this date, any rooms remaining in our block will be released for general sale. However reservations may continue to be accepted after May 17, for our group, at the extended rate on a room available basis.

NOTE: Current room tax is 10.24%, and is subject to change. The above room rates can be extended for the five (5) days before and five (5) days after the dates outlined above.

CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT TIME: Room check-in time 3:00pm. Checkout time 12:00 Noon. Cancellation of individual rooms must take place prior to 6:00pm on arrival date or the individual will be billed as a "NO SHOW" for the first night.

AUTOMOBILE PARKING: Ample space available at no charge.

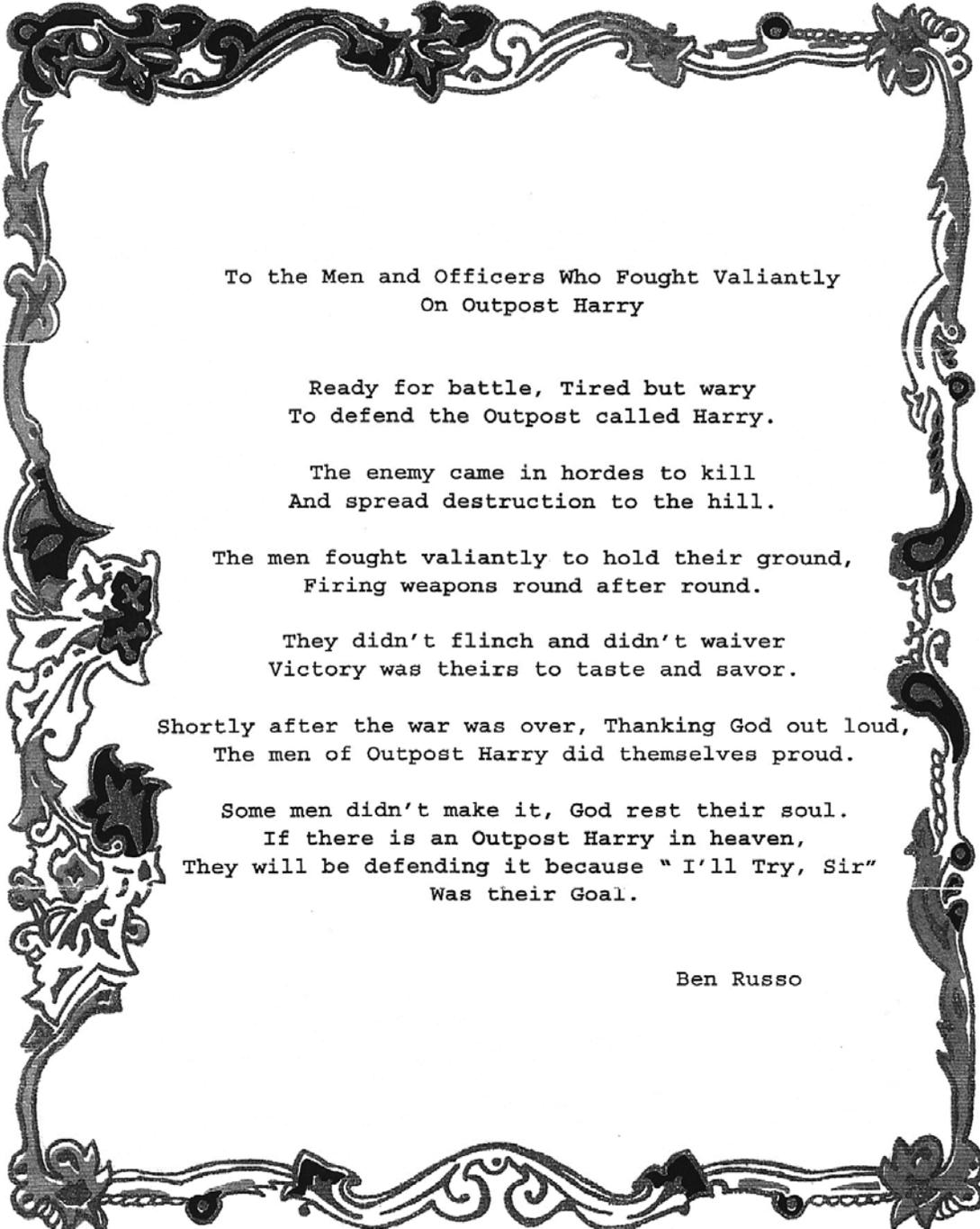
AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION: The Drawbridge operates regularly scheduled shuttle service at no charge to hotel guests.

ACCESSIBILITY: Northern Kentucky is located directly across the Ohio River from downtown Cincinnati, OH. The Greater Cincinnati International Airport is a Delta Airlines Hub located in Northern Kentucky. Our hotel is located about 5 miles northeast of the airport and about 5 miles south of Cincinnati. For members or guests arriving by car, Northern Kentucky has three (3) major interstates: I-74, I-71, and I-75 running through the area.

RECEPTION: Thursday, June 7th, at 6:30pm

REUNION REGISTRATION FEES: Will be posted in the next Newsletter along with the rest of the reunion events.

Jerry Cunningham
Reunion Chairman



To the Men and Officers Who Fought Valiantly
On Outpost Harry

Ready for battle, Tired but wary
To defend the Outpost called Harry.

The enemy came in hordes to kill
And spread destruction to the hill.

The men fought valiantly to hold their ground,
Firing weapons round after round.

They didn't flinch and didn't waiver
Victory was theirs to taste and savor.

Shortly after the war was over, Thanking God out loud,
The men of Outpost Harry did themselves proud.

Some men didn't make it, God rest their soul.
If there is an Outpost Harry in heaven,
They will be defending it because "I'll Try, Sir"
Was their Goal.

Ben Russo

*Ben Russo served with A Company of the 5th RCT in the defense
of OP Harry. (Ed.)*

The following story is part of a letter from Don Chase to OPHSA member Billie Burgess. Billie sent it to Martin Markley who forwarded it to the Newsletter. The narrative begins on June 10th, 1953. Don served in Europe in WW II followed by two tours in Korea. His first tour began with the 45th Infantry Division in January of 1951. On his second tour he served with I Co. of the 15th Infantry Regiment. During his time in Korea he was wounded three times. For his actions in support of the defense of OP Harry he was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor. (Ed.)

A RECOLLECTION OF THE DEFENSE OF OP HARRY BY DONALD A. CHASE, I COMPANY, 15TH IR

As I remember it, I Company was in the MLR to the left rear of Harry. What other companies were on either side of us, I don't remember.

For me, an assistant platoon Sgt. at the time, the night started like any other when we were on 100 percent alert. As soon as darkness set in I took four guys to the listening post, several hundred yards out in front of our platoon area, in no-mans-land, "Happy Valley". This listening post was connected to our platoon CP by commo wire. I then returned to the MLR and checked with the squad leaders to make sure everyone was set for the night, also see that the squad CP phone lines were working.

The machine gun section of the fourth squad was in bunkers on the MLR but the 60mm mortar section was set up behind the MLR. There was a good bunch of guys in my second platoon and everything seemed to be OK, so I then went down to the platoon CP to have a cup of coffee with our platoon leader, Lt. Nestor and Platoon Sgt. Burns. I think Sgt. Burns was close to rotation, so I was to a degree, platoon Sgt.

I had a habit of continually walking up and down our sector of the trench line, making sure everyone was awake. This came about because when I had been in Korea in 1951 with the 24th Division, many guys would fall asleep in their foxholes, even when we were on some mountain surrounded by North Koreans. The best way I knew to make sure this didn't happen here was to keep checking each bunker. After a while, some shells started coming in and this got everyone's attention because it was a continuous thing and getting heavier all the time. Some were landing in the trench, in the barbed wire in front, also behind us. They were really coming down. I stayed out in the trench, going up and down our platoon sector, stopping at each fighting position to make sure there was plenty of ammo, grenades, etc. Because the shelling was so heavy, the phone lines from squad CPs to platoon CP were often blown apart and I was constantly splicing wires together so everyone could stay in contact. It was a matter of starting where the wire came out of the bunker, letting it slide through my fingers until I found the break. Then start at the other bunker, repeating the process. If you remember, there was always plenty of slack in the commo wire so it was easy to make a splice once the break was located. I think the Platoon CP was staying in contact with the company CP at this time using the radio.

The night wore on with the shelling increasing in intensity. Some of the guys were firing out into no-mans-land and one of the machine guns jammed just as I came into the bunker. The gunner pried out a ruptured cartridge, adjusted the headspace and had that gun firing again in what seemed to be a matter of seconds. He was an expert and I know I couldn't have done what he did under the same conditions.

As I left this machine gun bunker I ran into Lt. Nestor, Sgt. Burns and Sgt. Wood. Lt. Nestor told me that there was no response from the guys in our listening

post and he was going out to bring them in, if they were still alive. I joined him and the four of us left the trench line and headed for the listening post. As I have already mentioned, the shelling was unbelievable. I never thought we would make it. We reached the listening post and found the four guys were OK but terribly scared, which was understandable. Through shell flashes we could see Chinese soldiers moving around but they were not coming in our direction so we all headed back to the MLR. That tremendous shelling continued all night and when daylight came everything was a shambles, Wire blown apart, parts of the trench caved in, some bunkers partially destroyed, etc. Only at this time did I learn that K Company had taken a beating on OP Harry, and that a couple of our guys in the 60mm mortar section had been badly wounded. As usual there were all kinds of rumors as to what was going on but all I knew for fact was what I had seen and participated in and about my platoon's sector.

It seems to me that the next two nights were about the same except the shelling was not so severe as the first night. I don't remember who was on OP Harry during these two nights. My most lasting memory of this battle is about that tremendous artillery barrage upon our positions. I believe now, our company was in a spot where they could attack the flank of the Chinese who were attacking Harry. And the reason we were shelled so ferociously and heavily was to prevent this. From what I've read, during this battle, US troops mounted two attacks on the Chinese from the right side of OP Harry, which helped stop their attack on Harry itself.

BOOK TO BE WRITTEN ABOUT THE DEFENSE OF OP HARRY.

Author appeals for information from OPHSA members.

Lt. Col. Michael Slater has contacted Jerry Cunningham asking for any reference material about the defense of OP Harry that may be available from members of the O P Harry Survivors Association.

Slater is the author of a book, published in June, 2000, entitled "Hills of Sacrifice", the story of the 5th RCT in the Korean War. He has become interested in the defense of OP Harry as the subject of his next book.

He would like to acquire personal stories, either written or recorded, command reports, photographs, sketches of the OP and its defenses, etc. In researching "Hills of Sacrifice" he acquired material about the 5th RCT's part in the battle but lacks official records from the 3rd Infantry Division, 15th Infantry Regiment and the Greek Battalion.

LTC Slater has stated that he plans to reimburse contributors for expenses of copying and mailing material they send to him..

He is an active duty Marine stationed in Okinawa. He can be reached by e-mail at slatermp@iiimef.usmc.mil His mailing address is:

Lt. Col. Mike Slater
PSC 559 Box 6105
FPO AP 96377-6105

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we look forward to the comradeship of our 2001 reunion in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky, there is work to be done. Most urgently the officers and members must chart the future course of the Association, and decide who is and will be eligible for membership.

As I was not a founding father I do not personally know the intentions of the founders but when I fully understand what was intended, I as a member, will respect and foster that spirit.

At this time my work calls for extensive travel so I rely on e-mail and would like to hear the opinions of the membership, if you need to use the mail to contact me please be patient and I will reply as soon as possible.

As president for 2001, my agenda will include requesting D.O.D. To give us an update on the eleven OP Harry MIA's June 10-18. We are most familiar with CPL. Ronald Bradley, due to the dedication and perseverance of our associate member, his daughter Rhonda. But what about the other ten? I would hope to have in our historical records all known details so as to assist, whenever we can, with pieces of the puzzles surrounding the fate of the missing ten.

Second. As an historian and member I have always been curious about the awards and decorations for action on OP Harry June 10-18 and to assist the society historian by encouraging all members who received a decoration to donate copies of related documents to the association. Awards to survivors who are not members or have never been located or deceased since 1953 should be researched within the Army records system when ever possible.

Last. As an historian I have wondered how to perpetuate the legend of OP Harry when the membership is long gone. I would like the membership to give me permission to hold discussions with the U.S. Army Chief of Military History for recommendations so as our historical files, photographs, documents etc., would be preserved with distinction forever when we no longer have members left to carry on. (I am an Ex-Staff member of the C.M.H.)

Warren Sessler

From the Editor

I am humbly stepping into the shoes of the only editor our Association has ever known. Dick Martinet has served the group in an excellent manner for the life of the organization. He is remaining as Historian so we know the files are in good hands.

I see one of the functions of this Newsletter as a medium to be used by members to tell of their own experiences on or near that strategic hill. OP Harry was the location of one of the last climactic battles of the War in Korea. The OP's importance to keeping the door to Seoul closed in the face of the Communist Forces should never be forgotten.! If you don't write your memories down to make your experiences and feelings available, they will be lost to history.

The memory of the men who fought these battles should be remembered and documented in the same sense as the men of the 20th Maine Regiment in the battle of Gettysburg are remembered. They were ordered to hold the extreme left flank of the Union line at Little Round Top on the second day of the three day battle (July 1-3, 1863.) The order was "You must defend this place to the last". They faced an overwhelming assault from Rebel forces, resisting wave after wave of attacks. At the end of the day Little Round Top remained in Union hands forcing Lee to attack the center of the Union line the next day where he was defeated at what became known as "The high watermark of the Confederacy".

I appeal to those who have written personal accounts to share them through the Newsletter. In this issue there is a poem by member Ben Russo, a story from Don Chase and a short account of an investigation that took place after the battles by Warren Sessler. These stories illuminate the battle from the unique viewpoint of each person. We all saw this battle from our own narrow point of view, that narrow space between the ground and the lip of a helmet. Our memories, shared with one another, stimulate the memories of others who were involved in the battles to make it possible to understand much more about the battle than what we saw individually. Don't worry about spelling or grammar. Just put it down in your own words and send it to your Newsletter.

Jim Jarboe, Ed.

The following is an account by Warren Sessler. Can anyone out there shed some light on this mystery? (Ed.)

The Mystery of the Blue Vials

After the Battle for OP Harry I was ordered to division to testify before a congressional investigation of the heavy losses June 10-18, I recall this event very clearly including a question "did you see or examine any blue vial's carried by the enemy that may have contained drugs?" I replied "yes". The next question was, "do you have one?" I replied " No. I did not think they would be an interesting souvenir". The interrogator ordered the tape stopped and also spoke to the court style stenographer saying "delete that statement" then instructed me "son, repeat your statement but delete souvenir and state you were looking for military intelligence" and I did so. Then the interrogator said, " there is evidence the attackers were using drugs".

I found several bright blue vials in pockets of enemy K.I.A.s and one corpse in the C.P. Bunker had one tied to his belt loop (but no belt I observed.)

If the report of this congressional investigation exists and has been declassified, a copy should be located and obtained for our historical records.

Warren Sessler

