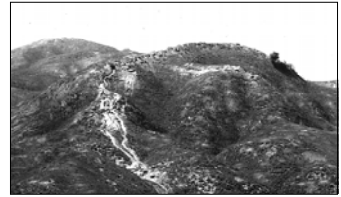


OPHSA



~~OP Harry Survivors Association~~

April 2001

Issue 21

2001 ANNUAL REUNION JUST TWO MONTHS AWAY

This issue contains a summary of all the information needed for you to make your reservations with our hotel, and to send your registration and tour fees to our Treasurer.

Room reservations must be made with the Drawbridge Inn **(800) 354-9793**. Please mention 'Outpost Harry' when making your reservation. Room rates are either **\$79.00** or **\$69.00** per night depending in which building you choose to stay. **Cut off date for reservations is May 17, 2001.**

A reminder: The hotel will extend the preferred room rate for up to five days prior and five days after our reunion dates, for those who may wish to spend some leisure time in the area.

PLANS FOR REUNION NEAR COMPLETION

Our reunion Chairman Jerry Cunningham has been hard at work finalizing the reunion plans for this year. We are looking forward to a pleasant time together in

Northern Kentucky and the Cincinnati, Ohio area.

Jerry has negotiated some fine complimentary features from the hotel. They will supply two 1/2 barrels of Budweiser beer for the hospitality room as well as ice daily throughout our stay.

All meeting and banquet space is provided at no charge as well as nametags for members and guests. The hotel restaurant will extend a 10% discount on food when the nametags are worn.

REGISTRATION FEE:

Registration fee for all attending is **\$50.00** per person. The fee for the bus tour of the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area is **\$20.00** per person. Please list your name and your spouse or guest's full names so we can have accurate nametags for all. The registration and tour fees, payable to OP Harry Survivors Association, should be sent, as soon as possible to our Treasurer:

Sam Buck
1514 West Court Ave
Winterset, IA 50273-1789

The registration fee includes an 18% gratuity and 6% sales tax for the Banquet Dinner and the Sunday Morning Breakfast. (See pgs. 3 & 4 for more details)

OUTPOST HARRY SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION
10TH ANNUAL REUNION
DRAWBRIDGE INN FT MITCHELL, KENTUCKY

JUNE 7-10, 2001

THURSDAY, JUNE 7:

Arrive at Drawbridge Inn. Check in time 3:00 PM. Report to OPHSA registration desk and pick up program and nametag.

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM: Reception in the Beowulf Ivanhoe Room. (This is not a dining event) Finger food and cheese tray only. No host bar. Your yearly donation to OPHSA pays for the food. Thanks for your donation.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8:

8:45 AM: Cincinnati bus tour begins boarding at the London Lobby area.

9:00 AM: Bus tour departure.

The tour will include highlights of downtown Cincinnati, Mount Adams, Eden Park and Northern Kentucky. We will be stopping for lunch at the Old Country Buffet (Pay on your own). Scheduled return to the hotel is 2:00PM.

The balance of the afternoon and evening is free time for relaxation and visits to the Hospitality Room.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9:

8:30AM to 9:00 AM. OPHSA Memorial Service. A time for solemn remembrance of our comrades who gave their lives in the defense of OP Harry and of those Survivors who have passed on in recent years.

9:15AM to 12:00 noon: Membership business meeting.. Spouses brunch in Hospitality Room.

Afternoon: Free time. Hospitality Room open.

6:00 PM: Assemble in the foyer of the dining room for the Reception Line.

6:30 PM to 10:00 PM: Banquet dinner.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10:

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM: Farewell Breakfast. Reunion ends.

Request for Contributions

As you know our organization does not levy dues. However, we do have expenses. That is why we must ask for contributions. Please make your checks payable to OP Harry Survivors Association and send to our Treasurer:

Sam Buck
1514 West Court Ave.
Winterset, IA 50273-1789

MORE REUNION INFORMATION

Our bus tour, scheduled for Friday June 8th, will be a tour of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. The tour guide will give commentary about the history and significance of all the places on our tour of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

From our comfortable coaches we will visit the old and the new Cincinnati. Some of the sights we will see include: Mount Adams, a San Francisco-like shopping and dining center and the old manufacturing facility of Rookwood Pottery. In Eden Park we will see the Art Museum, Playhouse in the Park, and Krohn Conservatory.

A brief stop will be made at the Museum Center at Union Terminal. We will drive through an overlook that gives a wonderful view of the Ohio River.

There will be a stop for lunch at The Old Country Buffet. In Northern Kentucky we will drive through a 4 square block area listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The return to the hotel is scheduled for 2:00 PM.

Food pre paid by your registration fees and donations are as follows:

Snacks served during the Reception on Thursday June 7th.

Brunch in Hospitality Room for spouses on Saturday June 10th.

The Banquet on June 10th will be the 'Dinner Camelot Buffet' featuring English Chicken, Roast Pork Loin with Apple Dressing and Lasagna. In addition there will be two types of salads and two additional accompaniments. Dessert will be Apple Cobbler and Chocolate Layer Cake. Beverage is included.

Sunday Morning Breakfast is the 'Top of the Morning Buffet'. The Buffet includes Fresh cut fruit, Scrambled Eggs, French Toast, Sausage Links and Bacon, Biscuits and Gravy, Coffee/Cakes, Juice and Beverage.

It looks like a good time has been planned for all.

BE THERE!!

TAPS

It is with a heavy heart we report the departure of these OPHSA comrades.

Gerald W. Hawk of Lady Lake, Florida. January 21, 2001 after a long battle with cancer.

Gerry was Treasurer of OPHSA for the last three years.

In Korea Gerry received a direct commission in early 1952 and was assigned to K Co, 15th Inf. Reg. Wounded on Jackson Heights in November of 1952 he was evacuated to Yokohama General Hospital.

Upon recuperation he returned to Korea and participated in the defense of OP Harry.

Among his awards are the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star for Valor.

Gerry retired from the Army in 1980 with the rank of Colonel. He then worked as an engineering manager until he retired in 1993. *Reported by his wife, Joan.*

The following information is from Don Chase:

"This is a note to let you know that 1st Lt. **Francis Nester** died February, 8th 2001 of complications of Parkinson's Disease. His wife Joan called me with the news. She told me that he had been awarded the Bronze Star for Valor and the Purple Heart, both of which were earned within the OP Harry battles time frame. He was buried with full military honors in New York.

On a personal note, Lt. Nester was my platoon leader in Korea. He was a fine officer, a real leader, who always acted in ways that inspired confidence among the troops. Low key, but in command.

I was severely wounded the day before the war ended. Lt. Nester was one of the men who carried me down the hillside to a medical jeep.

I have never forgotten that. We have stayed in touch over the years and got together for a couple of mini reunions, arranged by his daughter.

Whenever I hear the expression ‘An Officer and a Gentleman’ Lt. Nester is the one who comes to mind.”

Thomas L. Dhamers passed away recently according to information from his wife to Doug Jones.

My Souvenir from Outpost Harry

**By Dan Carson,
3rd Signal Company,
Photo Section**

When I was serving in Korea I made a decision not to keep a journal or save any pictures of my tour there. I decided I did not want to remember the experience. After getting back home I never talked about it, and tried my best to forget it. It didn't work. An empty space grew inside me that I kept trying to fill, unsuccessfully.

Korea intruded into my dreams at night. I frequently found myself trying to push it out of my mind. Gradually it made me an unhappy and poorly adjusted person. I got around to the point mentally that I wasn't sure how much of my Korea memories were real, and how much I had dreamed. I was not in a healthy state of mind.

A few years ago while surfing the World Wide Web, I discovered a site called the Korean War Project. I posted a note there saying I had been in the 3rd Signal Company toward the end of the war. In March of '97, I got an email from Jim Jarboe, who was in the photo section at the same time. He told me about the OP Harry Survivors Association. At first I didn't remember the name OP Harry, but it sounded familiar. I looked at the citation for my Bronze Star and it mentioned OP Harry. That told me I was there and I applied for membership.

Jim and I exchanged a few emails, with addresses and so forth, and one day I received a package from Jim in the mail containing an aerial photo of OP Howe with a tissue paper overlay taped to it. The pencil notes on the overlay said that Dan Carson made the photo on June 15, 1953. It also noted that 2 tiny dots on the ground in the photo were Jim Jarboe and Sgt. Frank Conger. Sgt. Conger is now deceased.

Frank and Jim were on OP Howe making pictures of the action on OP Harry with a telephoto camera. I was flying in an L-19 making recon photos. They were not aware I was above them and I didn't know they were on the ground below me. When both of our pictures were being processed in our field photo lab a few hours later, Jim realized they were in my picture and saved a copy.

The tissue paper overlay also said that OP Howe was approximately 1900 yards south of OP Harry and that the plane was flying north. After I got over my surprise at receiving this wonderful souvenir I started to think about what I might have been doing that day.

The picture is a vertical shot. The camera is pointed straight down. My memory is that we only did that when we were going to make a strip of photos that overlapped each other. That way the Photo Interpretation guys at Division G2 could view the overlapping frames with stereoscopic glasses. They could see a 3D image, with detail not otherwise possible.



Dan Carson (2nd from Left) chatting with Major John Eisenhower. Photo by Sgt. Frank Conger

I remembered a flight on which I mapped the whole area around Harry using this technique. I believe it may have been the only time an L-19 was used to make a photo map while under enemy fire. I believe the frame Jim saved and sent to me almost half a century later was part of that map

My recollection is that everyone in the Division knew about the attacks on Harry that started June 10th. We all wanted to do all that we could to help the men who were on that hill. I recall going to the

Division HQ to get an assignment from the Photo Interpretation officer. He told me that Maj. John Eisenhower ordered us to get every possible bit of information on and around Harry. At the time Maj. Eisenhower's father was the President.

While driving from the Division Hq. to the Air Section, I got the idea to try mapping the whole area. An L-19 didn't have the equipment to fly on instruments the way aerial mapping was done back then. (Now these pictures are made from satellites). We would have to do it by the seat of our pants. I discussed my idea with the pilot who was assigned to fly the mission. I half expected he would say it couldn't be done. Instead he said he wanted to give it a try.

We decided to fly three passes over Harry, from South to North. We marked 3 points on a map, which would be the start of each run. One would take us directly over Harry, the other two would take us on each side overlapping the hill. The first run was easy. The Chinese usually were reluctant to fire at us because they were always conserving ammunition. The Air Force bombing made their re-supply difficult. On the second run they began to realize what we were doing, and decided to do their best to bring us down.

They fired machine guns and flak but because we were at 10,000 feet they were having a hard time zeroing in on us. When we started the 3rd pass, they began to get the range. I remember the pilot tapping me on the shoulder. (The camera was mounted behind me so I was twisted around with my back to him.) He pointed out the left window. I looked out and saw tracers going by the left wing so close that I felt I could reach out and touch them.



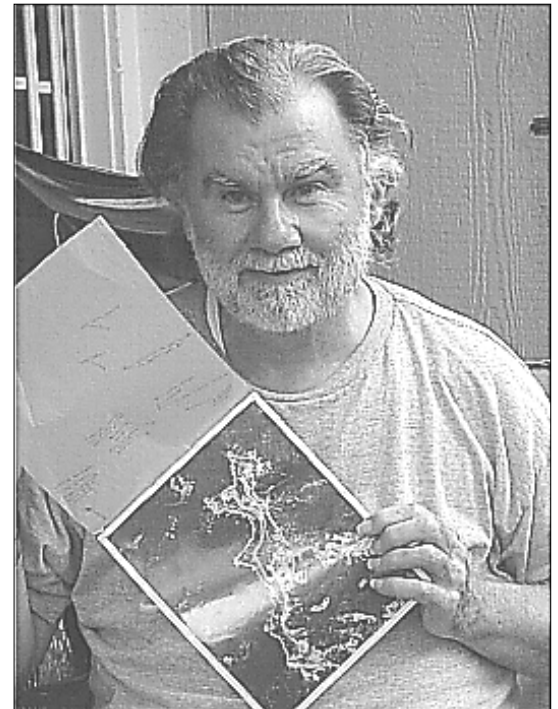
3rd Division L-19

Photo by Sgt. Frank Conger

Using sign language (it was real noisy) he asked me if I wanted to continue. I remembered Eisenhower's order to bring back everything we could get, so I nodded yes. We flew right through that fire without getting hit, and when we finished the run the pilot snapped that little plane into a dive toward the safety of our own MLR.

Usually I didn't get to see the pictures I made, because they were processed and delivered to Division immediately. I was surprised several days later when I was at Division HQ. and saw the entire map, pasted together and hanging outside the Photo Interpretation tent. I remember feeling a lot of pride, and thinking I'd like to make a picture of it hanging there. I didn't have a camera with me. Now I have a souvenir anyway.

I'm grateful to the guys who organized the OP Harry Survivors Association, because through this organization I've been able to fill a pride about my service in Korea. I'd like to say a special Thank You to Jim Jarboe, for my wonderful souvenir.



Dan Carson with his souvenir

1st Lt. Dan Carson Served in Korea with the 304th Signal Battalion and later was assigned as Photo Officer with the 3rd Signal Company. He flew many photo recon missions over enemy territory, for which he earned the Air Medal and the Bronze Star. Dan lives in Kanehoe, Hawaii. (Ed.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

We wish to thank the men listed below for donations to the Treasury this last quarter.

Jerry Cunningham, Robert Brandon, Don Chase, George Plinkington, Joseph Kelly, Biagio Russo, Walden Storie, David Martin, James Ball, George Goodwin, Clyde Corsaro, Sam Buck, Wayne Carlson, Doug Jones, Robert K. Bates, (new member), Jack Vandermark, (new member) . Some other gentlemen who quietly contribute regularly with items for the Association without reimbursement are Pat Burke, Dick Martinet, and Ed Hanrahan. Thanks to all. You are the life blood of our group. With people like you on that hill it is no wonder "WE HELD".

The mother of new member Jack Vandermark wrote the following poem in 1953. Jack served with C Co, 10th Engineers. He was wounded on OP Harry May, 9th 1953 as the Engineers were working to prepare the Outpost for the expected CCF assault. The poem reflects the anxiety of families on the home front and the reassuring half truths we all wrote in hopes of making it easier for them. After Marjorie Vandermark passed away in Sept. 1998 her family published a book of her poems in her memory. (Ed.)

LETTERS FROM A SOLDIER

BY MARJORIE VANDERMARK

We are holding Outpost Harry,
And they'll never get "Old Tom",
Those Chinks think they can scare us.
I'm OK. Don't worry Mom!

There is fighting all around us,
The sky's lit up all night.
We haven't had much sleep out here.
Don't worry, I'm all right.

We've orders to move up ahead,
Can't tell you when or how.
This Army life is pretty rough.
But don't you worry now!

My leg's not really hurt so much,
I'm such a big tough guy.
I told them not to let you know.
I knew you'd start to cry!

Your package came this morning,
And everything is swell.
The food here doesn't taste like home.
Don't worry Mom, I'm well.

We are listening to the truce talks,

And hope it won't be long,
Before the War is over,
And all your fears are gone.

At last we've heard the good news!
And hope they can continue,
To keep the peace and end all wars.
Thank God! I'm still alive!

Korean War Veteran helps Iowa family find closure

By JIM WANKE
Staff Writer (Star Press)

"We were in a machine gun bunker about six-foot square with one automatic weapon on June 11, 1953."

With that simple, declarative sentence, Springboro's F. Walden Storie related a wrenching incident from his Korean infantry combat experience, adding "and after being overrun during the night the Chinese rolled in two grenades. Then we took artillery rounds on top of that and the bunker collapsed in on top of us and we couldn't get out. Our guys found us the next morning. Another man and myself were wounded but still alive, and the other two men, whom I remember clearly, were Kaye Francis and Clarence Bloodsworth. They were dead."

"There had been six of us in that bunker the night before", Storie added, "a Republic of Korea soldier, whom we told to get help because he knew the terrain, and one of our communications guys. They left and didn't come back."

Storie said there was no doubt about Bloodsworth being killed because "my foot was touching his foot. I looked in his face the next morning and he had died of a concussion and probably shrapnel too."

But in spite of Storie's first-person account, for more than 40 years the Army has listed Bloodsworth as "missing in action" and Francis as "killed in action".

I wasn't until an MIA meeting in 1999 that Bloodsworth's Pella, Iowa family began to learn the truth from Springboro's F. Walden Storie. For 46 years Bloodsworth's family believed Clarence Bloodsworth had been captured and was a prisoner of war.

"We were on the central front near the Iron Triangle, close to the Khum-wah Valley, about 20 miles north of the 38th parallel," Storie said. "I was in the 3rd Division, 15th Infantry, 1st Battalion, Baker Company. We had three outposts that some

joker had named 'Tom, Dick and Harry.' I was on Outpost Harry".

Storie said their job was to be forward controllers observing enemy movements in the valley.

"Although the night of June 11, 1953 was the worst, that was only part of it. The siege on our hill lasted from the 10th to the 18th and I was told we lost a total of 1,780 KIA and MIA," he related. "In Baker Company we had 160 men...27 of us walked off the hill on June 12th." (Attrition rate: 83 percent.)

Fast-forward 40 years.

When Storie attended the "OP Harry" reunion in 1993, a Baker Company medic named Ed Hanrahan showed him an article in a Third Division Army publication containing a poem written by Rhonda Bradley McAuliffe of Plattsmouth, Neb. Her father, Ronald Bradley, was also listed as MIA and was on the same hilltop in Korea with Storie but in a different bunker. Not only that, Storie had Known Bradley and gone on patrol with him a few days before his death.

"After thinking about it for a week or so, I wrote her a letter and she called...later, in 1996 she came to our reunion in Chicago," Storie said.

"In 1999 she learned about a Pentagon-sponsored MIA meeting and there she met Elma Beyer and Virgil Bloodsworth—the sister and brother of Clarence who died in the bunker with me. Rhonda told Elma and Virgil about me and the rest is history."

Storie said there were a lot of strange things about these tales. "Bradley told me before he died that he had not told his family where he was because 'they would just worry.' He said he had just gotten married and that his wife was pregnant. I know now that the child was Rhonda. She was born in August 1953."

Storie said he found out later that the day Bloodsworth died was his 20th birthday.

"I'm not sure how Bradley got it. He was in a bunker about 50 yards away. I think it exploded from artillery rounds. And I believe his is KIA not MIA like the Army says."

Storie said a man "from the Pentagon" came to their last reunion and talked about ongoing efforts to get permission to dig for remains of U.S. soldiers north of the 38th parallel. "So I told him some

things that were left in that bunker with those two guys...my .45 caliber pistol for one thing, and a .38 in a spring-loaded shoulder holster that had been sent in the mail to Clarence Bloodsworth by his family. It's a long shot but if I thought I could see that bunker again I would go over there.

"I came away from all this thinking I have to forget things and get on with my life. But some of these men I met in Korea gave everything and I can't forget them," Storie concluded.

There's a quote in the May issue of the VFW magazine," When you go home, tell them for us and say; for your tomorrow we gave our today."

In this case it was June 11,1953. And the brother and sister of Clarence Bloodsworth of Pella, Iowa are glad F. Walden Storie of Springboro came home.

This story was originally published in the Springboro, OH 'Star Press,' June 6, 2000. It was sent to the Newsletter by F. Walden Storie

There are as many stories as we have members. Send them in and we will publish them. (Ed.)

REUNION BANQUET SPEAKER ANNOUNCED

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we announce the speaker for our banquet. He is Colonel Addison Davis, former commander of the 1st Bn. 15th Infantry Regiment at Ft. Benning, GA. Those who attended the OPHSA Reunion in Columbus, GA will remember the hospitality extended to our group by Col. Davis and his troops during our day at Ft. Benning.

Our Secretary tells the Newsletter that since the last issue asked for everyone to fill out a new application form to allow us to verify the information we now have in the OPHSA master roster, he has received 69! Our current roster shows over 180 members. The response was 38 %. Doug Jones is keeping the request open. If you haven't sent yours please respond to Doug. For your convenience, the application form was printed in the last Newsletter. If you need a form write or call Doug Jones.

**Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky
International Airport**

**Drawbridge Estates,
Drawbridge Inn**



O P Harry Survivors Association

10th Annual Reunion

Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, Ky
June 7-June 10, 2001

The 48th anniversary of the Defense of OP Harry

WE HELD!

**THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE OF
THE NEWSLETTER, IF
YOU FIND AN ASTERIX (*)
AFTER YOUR NAME ON THE
MAILING LABEL**

If you did not respond to the special notice in the last Newsletter by mistake; simply notify the Editor by mail, phone or e-mail to have your Newsletter continued.

James Jarboe, Editor
903 Crestfield Dr
Duarte, CA 91010-2131

(626) 358-7834
jarboejnl@earthlink.net



OP HARRY SURVIVORS ASSOC.

James F. Jarboe, Editor
903 Crestfield Drive
Duarte, CA 91010-2131