

OPHSA



OP Harry Survivors Association Newsletter

October 2001

Issue 23

Reunion, New Orleans, June 2002

Dear members: I am pleased to invite you and your guests to attend the Outpost "HARRY" Survivors Association 11th annual reunion, commemorating the 49th Anniversary of the battle to hold the outpost in June, 1953. The Reunion will be held June 13 to 16, 2002 at the Four Points Sheraton Airport Hotel in New Orleans. Metairie, LA just minutes from the French Quarter and Central Business District of New Orleans. The hotel is located in a safe and affordable alternative over downtown New Orleans area.

GUEST ROOM: A block of fifty (50) rooms is reserved for the scheduled arrival and departure dates.

GUEST ROOM RATES: Single: \$69.00--
Double: \$69.00--Triple:\$69.00--Quad:\$69.00
The above rates are subject to Applicable Tax which is currently 11.75% per room, per night, and is subject to change without notice.

The above rates will be offered for those people choosing to arrive up to two days prior to the reunion, and depart up to two days after the reunion

RESERVATION CUT-OFF DATE: The Four Points New Orleans Airport will hold the block of sleeping rooms noted above until May 23, 2002. At that time rooms not reserved will

be released for general sales. They will continue to accept reservations from our group after this date based on availability. After the cut-off date they cannot guarantee the special negotiated rate. When making reservations please mention the Outpost Harry Survivors Reunion to receive the group rate.

PAYMENT PROCEDURE: All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card or with first night's room & tax deposit. Reservations are subject to a 24 hour cancellation. No shows will be charged.

INSURANCE & INDEMNIFICATION: The Hotel and members of the Outpost Harry Survivors Association Reunion agrees to carry adequate personal property, liability and other insurance protecting itself against any claims arising from any activities conducted in the Hotel during the reunion.

More detailed reunion information will be published in the next Newsletter.

Please start making your plans for a beach landing upon New Orleans. "GOD BLESS AMERICA" AND WE HELD

Jerry Cunningham
Reunion Planner

President's Corner

It has been four months since our last reunion at Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky (and wasn't it a good one?) Doesn't seem possible it's been this long already.

We have had such a tragic thing happen since we were last together, leading us all into very uncertain times. It is such a shame that the World's people can't get along with one another like we do. One thing is very certain; the ones participating in the terror they have caused never heard from their dads or granddads about how the United States has prevailed in past times. We can do it again if we will stay united as at the present time plus draw back closer to God. We can and will still be a great nation.



Again, I want to thank each of you for your confidence in selecting me for the great honor and position of President of such a fine group.

Visiting with Jerry Cunningham recently I found he has our next reunion and date in place. Jerry, we all thank you because that time will be here before we can get turned around.

We have reports on two of our buddies since we were together. Walden Storie and RAB Burgess were diagnosed with cancer. During the last visit with Walden the progress was very good. We thank God, Walden, for that report. I told Walden we remember how it was in service. We were looking out for our replacements, so I am keeping in touch with my vice president Walden.

Speaking of replacements, RAB, we didn't get our replacements, did we?

RAB will just begin his treatments. You and I, RAB, have been through a lot together but now, buddy, you have all of us, friends you

didn't know a few years back, that support you at this time. We love you RAB.

Walden and Cora Storie have been blessed with fifty years of marriage. Congratulations!

This is probably about enough of this for the time being. I have never done anything like this, writing to so many fine people, but I can assure you I feel very proud to know you and have you as friends that understand what we stood for then and still stand for today.

Jerry hasn't gotten me on the Internet yet because he soon decided I wouldn't ever learn to use it. I am thankful for the telephone and this opportunity for James connecting us all together.

Until next time, just let God be good to you.

From the President's corner,

Verlin E. Rogers

OP Harry Memorial Medals

The OP Harry Survivors Association has run out of Memorial Medals. We are investigating having more medals made but have found some difficulties with the original manufacturer. Our late member, John Porter oversaw the excellent design and production of the first run of the medal.



Another vendor has been located in Littleton, CO who is presently producing a proof copy for approval. It should be ready for evaluation the first part of November.

Assuming the quality and price are acceptable, the Association intends to purchase a quantity. (To be determined) We expect to have information about price and availability in the next Newsletter.

Terrorists Attack Pentagon

The events of September 11, 2001 have plunged us into a new kind of war. LTC Michael Slater USMC, an honorary member of OPHSA was in the Pentagon that morning.

The following is the content of an e-mail sent by Slater to Martin Markley, Sept 22,2001 (Ed.)

Dear Martin,
Please excuse my delaying in regaining contact with you. We recently moved from Japan to Virginia.

My address is:

Mike Slater
7871 Unbridled CT
Manassas, VA 20112
(703) 791-4626
slater55@msn.com

I'm working in the Pentagon and was on duty when the airliner slammed into it. I was working a few hundred yards from the impact point, but escaped injury.

My heart goes out to the victims.

This time our political leaders have to allow us to fight the War to a victorious conclusion. Sooner or later the Government will have to go after the Nations that support the terrorists. We should start with Iraq, move to Syria, clean up the PLO and then take on Iran. These nations have paper armies. Lots of equipment, but no heart. Afghanistan is a problem, but the heart of the problem lies elsewhere. My only concern is that the same guys, who didn't let us finish the job during Desert Storm, are in charge now, I voted for them too. But I predict that they won't be re-elected if they refuse to tackle the heart of the problem.

Anyway, please inform the Outpost Harry Survivors that I am alive and well. The manuscript is coming along. I'll be interviewing people over the phone again in the near future.

Your organization's historian has a number of documents and photos that he was going to share with me. Please ask him to contact me at his leisure.

God Bless and Semper Fi,

Mike Slater
of Outpost Harry

Thank You!

The following people have sent donations to the OPHSA Treasurer.

J. Tucker, J. Ferrara, R. Martinet, R. Guptil, Ed Hanrahan, P. Burke, F. Riley, J. Evans, Ruth Heeger, D. Van Hise, R. Anderson, M. Tong, C. Brisson, R. Dornfried, J. Krieger, G. Lowery, H. Hedgecock, J. Beechler, J. McQueen, A Pelligrini, C. Williams, W. Dannenmaier, H. Harrison, R. Davis, C. Seeman, R. Caswell, J. Lang, R. Grillo, M. Slater, Chilcott, C. Topie, H. Walton, R. Burgess, D. Mulligan, W. Sessler, C. Scott, N. Vandermeulen, N. Maulbeck, N. Kentucky Convention & Visitors Bureau, S. Vaughn, G. Carpenter, W. Hull, H. Wolstenholme, W. Storie, E. Hanrahan, J. Krieger, G.Konwinske.

Many thanks for your support of our Association.

We get letters

The following is an e-mail from Jim Evans to the editor:

Please let all know that Mike Slater's 5th Regimental Combat team "Hills of Sacrifice" book is available through Amazon .com books. This is a great book about infantry combat, through the letters and accounts of those who lived it.

He is now working on a new book that should cover the time period of March 1953 to the end of the War in Korea. I think he is planning on starting with the 15th on Harry and proceeding through with the 5th RCT on Harry until the 555 is overrun by the Chinese at the end of the War. If it is anything like his first book it will be superior in quality and very factual with a critical insight as to why we were there.

If we ever want to have the complete story about OP Harry told, now is the time that we should be sending Mike as much info as possible about what we recall of the battle. Mike wants to include as many personal, factual accounts as possible. He needs maps, locations of bunkers, mine fields, commanders (the good and the bad)--- the more factual info the better history will be served.

Contact Jim Evans- (407) 886-0874 if you have any questions about the above.

Jim Evans

More letters and e-mails

*The following e-mail came from member Bob Lusk. He lives in Sun City West, AZ. In Korea he was with the 38th FA as an FO. What's that got to do with OP Harry? Read on
March 29, 2001*

Hi Jim,

I may be the only former member of the 2nd Infantry Division in the Association. I was an FO on the MLR with 3rd Division infantry during the latter part of the battle for OP Harry. Seems my 105 battalion was moved in the middle of one night to add our artillery support to that of the organic artillery of the 3rd. It was a hectic time. I was with three different infantry companies during that time.

My 2nd Division patch always started rumors in the units involved that the 2nd was going to relieve the 3rd. Of course we eventually did but that was not known to me at the time.

March 31, 2001

I was an FO from B battery, 38th FA Bn, 2nd Infantry Division. If you were on OP Howe we must not have been far from each other.

As I remember, I was with an infantry company on the right rear flank of Outpost Harry. There was a valley with some hills to our front and Harry was to our left front. We had a good view of the right and rear approaches to Harry in the daytime and most the time during the night. I can't remember whether the company was from the 7th or 15th regiment of the 3rd ID.

I came there from being an FO with the ROKs on Whitehorse. Since our 'light' battalion was a "flap" battalion, because our infantry was in reserve, I was with several GI and ROK companies over a period of months. Not a desirable assignment but it sure kept you on your toes.

I remember the relief of the 3ID by the 2ID very well. Our 23rd Infantry Regiment was the first to go back on line I believe. I remember that because the 37th FA Bn. normally was in direct support and furnished the FOs for the 23rd. Since the 38th FA was in the vicinity and our FOs were familiar with the terrain, we furnished the direct support until the 38th Infantry went on line and then we shifted to it.

At the end of the fighting I was again in the same position to the right rear of OP Harry.

My best friend with the 38th Infantry was killed a couple of nights before the end. He had led a patrol into the valley. He got back OK but was killed by a round that hit our trenches. On the morning after the truce the Chinese came out on the hill in front of us and to the right of OP Harry. I was impressed with how many there were. We then had to move off the hill and out of the DMZ.

Bob Lusk

Visits to the Medics

Jerry Cunningham is due for surgery at the Augusta VAMC on November 8.

Walden Storie has been responding very well to treatment for a prostate condition.

RAB Burgess had been undergoing diagnostic tests for a throat condition at the Shreveport, LA VA hospital. He was to have begun treatment October 18th.

Ed Hanrahan has recovered very well from a knee replacement operation and is up and about.

Richard Martinet had a hip replacement Oct. 6. He is now at home working through the pain of therapy and getting around using a walker.

Taps

It's with regret that I inform you that my old company commander, Lt. Francis X Riley's wife, Demetra died on August 30, 2001. She was 66 and still employed with the Northern Virginia Training Center for the Retarded.

She had attended two of our reunions and planned on attending the reunion in New Orleans

Expressions of sympathy can be sent to Northern Virginia Training Center, Parents and Associates Fund, 9901 Braddock Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032-1941. Lt. Riley's home address:

9906 King George Drive
Manassas, VA 20109-3210.

Reported by Ray Anderson

Tools of the Trade

The photo below was sent via e-mail to us by Jim Evans.



Jim took this picture before the June battles to defend OP Harry. His company was on the MLR somewhere west of Harry with a patrol laid on for that night.

He was impressed, that afternoon, when he saw these tools, sparkling clean after two men had finished preparing them for use that night. The infantrymen were trying to get some sleep in the bunker to the right.

Note the hand grenades at the upper right. On the sandbag below the grenades is a freshly cleaned bayonet, it's hilt pointed toward cleaned and reloaded clips of ammunition for the two M-1 rifles at the lower left.

Congratulations!

Walden and Cora Storie celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on October 6th. There was quite a party in Springboro, OH.

Not to be outdone, Wayne and Shirley Carlson clocked in this month with their Golden 50th as well.

Here's wishing both couples many more happy years together.

Notes of Interest

Donna Lenahan sent the following mail. She saw a message that I had posted on the Korean War Project website about Outpost Harry, She wrote that her father, 2nd Lt. William "Bud" D. Brotherton, Jr. of E Company, 15th Infantry Regiment was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions the night of June 10-11, I replied and sent a copy of the Harry action report to her.

Martin _____

Dear Martin,

Thank you for responding to my e-mail and for sending me the action report. I have a deeper appreciation for what my father and all of you must have experienced. And, yes, you were right about my father's company reinforcing positions because that's exactly what his citation says "when the reinforcement element was committed..."

Unfortunately, my father died in 1993 at the age of 64. He never talked about the battle and only mentioned his actual service in the army a few times. I can remember seeing some Kodak slides he had taken while in Korea. In the age of the "Internet" I'm sure he would have really enjoyed getting reacquainted with fellow army buddies.

If, at your next reunion, you happen to come across anyone that knew my father I would enjoy hearing from them. Please let them know that he was happily married, has 2 children and 2 grandchildren, survived colon cancer at the age of 39, had a successful career in the financial sector of local government and died well-loved and respected by his family and friends.

Again, thanks for your time; it is much appreciated and you have my best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,

Donna Lenahan

684 Venture Ct.
Winter Springs, FL 32708

kelcon@ aol.com

The following, from a newspaper clipping was shared by John Beechler.

Yanks Holding Out At Outpost Harry In Some Of Bitterest Fighting Of The War.

By John J. Casserly

With the Third Division, June 11 (INS)

"Oh Lord," said the private, "oh Lord-oh Lord." Blood streamed down his dark cheeks but he looked up into the sunlit mountains and sky and prayed aloud.

"Oh, Lord," he said, "take care of my body now.

He stumbled along a hard stone path under the hot noonday sun and looked back but once at the jagged little west-central Korean hill rock called Outpost Harry.

Other American infantrymen followed him—on stretchers, on foot, on ambulance carriers, on sheer courage and the will of the human heart to beat.

He led this strange procession of broken American foot soldiers with a magnificence, that swallowed the sorrow and ache beneath their heavy helmets.

Down the road to an aid station they came—the victorious defenders against the first Chinese assault on beleaguered Outpost Harry. There they were bedded down in ambulances.

For at least a short time these bedraggled soldiers had abandoned everything but to fight and live for the smoking ruins of the shell raked hill.

Now they came, and the men along the dusty Korean highway halted their Jeeps in silent tribute. "Do we still hold Harry?" a jeep driver shouted. No one answered him. But the wounded had held in the face of almost 2500 charging Chinese who fought them body to body and bayonet to bayonet all through last night of flame and steel.

(But the men who remained on Outpost Harry have had no rest. The Chinese came again shortly before midnight tonight, swarming up the hill from four sides. The Americans were holding fast at last report)

A 21-year-old private from Albany N.Y. said from his stretcher: "Harry is all torn to hell now. There's blood in the trenches and bodies lying all over the hill. Even now we still don't have all our dead off. (Twenty hours after the battle began, the dead were still being carried down the blood washed trenchline.) But neither do the

Chinese and they will never get theirs back because we'll never let go of Harry now."

In a field hospital the blue eyed New Yorker whispered in pain: "All night there was artillery. And all night we were taking off the dead and wounded. It was the worst a man could ever see. American fellows lying there in their own blood and the Chinese running across the hill."

He winced and said in bitter words: "Somebody called it a police action; now somebody else tells me we're going to have peace in Korea—peace."

Across the ward—in a hospital cot lay a wounded Chinese soldier who had been taken prisoner. A flask of blood was strapped above his head and the warm liquid coursed drop by drop into his thin veins.

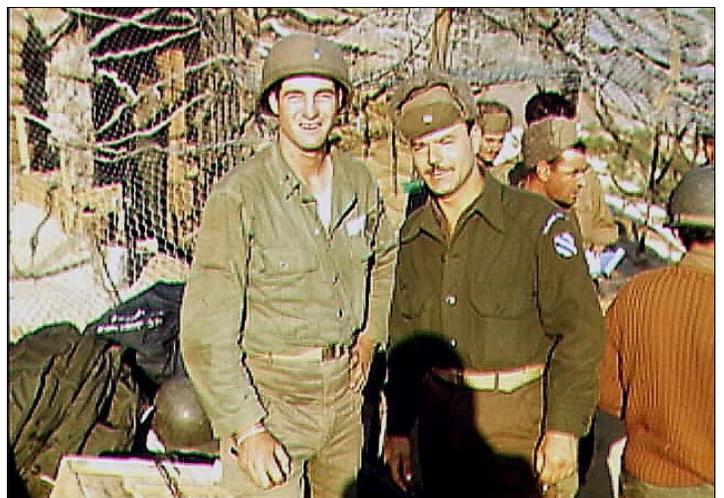
He watched the young private from Albany weep openly. He did not understand that the American was weeping, not out of pity for himself, but because he could not understand the talk of peace as his buddies lay dying next to him.

Medical corpsman Pvt. Joseph Spencer of Gastonia, NC summed it up: "I've only been in Korea about three months. I've never seen anything like today. I never want to see it again."

A young soldier from Chicago broke a long silence and, pointing to a still figure in a nearby cot, said: "He's dead."

A radio played a lonesome song—"My Baby's Coming Home"

The Negro soldier was still praying: "Oh, Lord, Lord."



Martin Markley with unidentified Greek officer on MLR near OP Dick. May, 1953