

OPHSA



OP Harry Survivors Association Newsletter

January 2002

Issue 24

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope all our members had a fulfilling holiday season and send our best wishes for a Happy New Year.

As we move into 2002 we are conscious of today's military forces fighting a new kind of War for the safety and security of us all. We wish them success on the battlefield and offer them our gratitude for their sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

2002 REUNION PLANS

The schedule for the reunion in New Orleans is being finalized by our planner, Jerry Cunningham, as this is being written. Complete information will be published in the April issue of the Newsletter.

WHO: OP Harry Survivors Association

WHAT: 11th Annual Reunion.

WHERE: New Orleans, LA
Four Points Sheraton New Orleans Airport Hotel, Metairie LA, 3 miles from New Orleans International Airport.

WHEN: June 13 to 16, 2002

RATE: \$69.00 Single or Double

Reservations should be made by calling Kim Spruill at the hotel: (504) 885-5700 Ext. 7195. If she is not in her office leave a message on her voicemail. She will call back. Be sure to mention OP Harry to receive the OPHSA group rate. Your editor has a brochure from the hotel and will send a copy if you mail a stamped self-addressed business size(#10) envelope to him.

If you have Internet access, the hotel's web site is www.fourpointsneworleans.com/.

If you are interested in spending a few days exploring New Orleans, remember the hotel will extend our preferred rate for two days before the reunion dates and two days after.

A free guide to New Orleans is available by calling 1-800-584-3183 and ordering the "New Orleans Good Times Guide." It can be ordered on line at www.neworleansonline.com/mag.

New Orleans maximum temperatures in June: 90° with lows of 70°. Humidity is usually 60% or above. Bring rain gear for the occasional shower.

Korean War in Color

A recently produced video documentary of the Korean War in color is now available. The film was produced by KPI Productions. It is available at retail video stores and at Amazon.com. Amazon's price for the 90 minute, two tape video is \$22.95.

Martin Markley, Jim Jarboe and Dan Carson made pictures and color movie footage available to the producers. Some of that material is included in the video.

The video is entirely in color. Much of the footage has not appeared in earlier film documentaries of the Korean War. The History Channel began broadcasting a series of War documentaries in color Sunday Jan 20. This may be among them.

KPI Productions has made a promised contribution of \$200.00 to the OP Harry Survivors Association. We thank them for the contribution and for producing the video.

President's Corner

Hello! I want to extend to all OPHSA members best wishes for the year 2002.

Let me ask each of you: When you were on Outpost Harry, did you ever think about 2002?

I know I didn't. I just thought about that day.

We sure seem to be living in the fast lane. 2001 didn't seem to last long even though they made such big to do when it came in.

We are now just five months away from our next reunion in New Orleans. RAB Burgess seems to think the experience will be very different than what I am used to here in the Ozarks. I want all of you fellows to kinda watch out for me so when I get back home I won't be all messed up. That way I can still be who I was when I left.

RAB Burgess has finished his treatments for the time being and is back home. He appreciated your calls and will appreciate continuing to hear from you. RAB, we love you and are asking for the best for you.

Jerry, you have scored again. The place you have chosen for the reunion sounds nice. Our prayers are that your medical problems be taken care of, and finished so you will be in tip top shape by June.

Walden, don't let your problem be any hill for a climber. Remember how we expect you (my replacement) to be ready too keep our great group moving along to even greater things.

Here is trusting all had a good Holiday Season.

Nordine and I had a good one. All the children and grandchildren were here and all healthy. What more could one want?

For this time, thanking each one for your support and for being such a great group, just like family.

Sincerely yours, with love,

Verlin E. Rogers
President, OPHSA



OP Harry Memorial Medals

Our treasurer, Sam Buck, has received OP Harry Memorial Medals. He says they are an excellent duplication of the first run of medals, which had been completely sold out.

The Medals will be available for order when Sam, who is now in Brownsville, TX, returns home to Winterset, IA. The cost will be \$10.00 each, including postage. The address and ordering procedure will be announced in the next issue of the Newsletter.



Looking For--

The following was received via e-mail in December. The writer was referred to us by the Korean War Project. (Ed.)

Hi, my name is Philip G. Le Donne. I would like to know if you could help myself and the family of Joseph Di Maria, MIA June 11, 1953 in 1954 moved to KIA. Was killed on Outpost Harry, 3rd Div, 15th Inf. Reg.

We're trying to find out what Bn. and Co Joseph was with at the time he was killed.

Sincerely,
Philip G Le Donne pled346019@aol.com

Anyone who does not have Internet access and can help with information on this soldier, notify the editor.

*This from Alicia Fadrowsky of 1360 Laukahi St, Honolulu, HI 96821. (808) 377-5382
Alicia7501@aol.com.*

I am looking for anyone who knew my great uncle Clarence Bloodsworth. He was in the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division during the Korean War. I have been unable to find what company he was with, but from research, I gather the he was possibly with either K, E, or C company. It is believed that he was killed at Outpost Harry on his 20th birthday, June 11, 1953. Any information that you can provide will be most helpful, I was never able to meet him. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,
Alicia Fadrowsky.

(Continued, Pg. 3)

(Continued from Pg. 2)

Alicia's note that was forwarded to the Newsletter by Martin Markley reminded us of an article, sent to us by Walden Storie and printed in the Newsletter, included Clarence Bloodsworth. We e-mailed this story to Alicia as well as a couple of pictures of OP Harry.

If anyone else has information about or memories of Clarence Bloodsworth, Alicia would very much like to hear from you.

We Get Letters

(The following is a letter from one of our 'Founding Fathers' Dan Braucher to Sam Buck)

Dear Sam,

Just got the OP Harry Newsletter and sorry to learn that Jerry and RAB are having medical problems. Also got your new address and am sending a donation to help a great organization and group of men I'm proud to know as yourself. I have fond memories of the tour you gave Leonard (Lassor) and myself around Madison County with pictures of the covered bridges, home of the "Duke" with lunch at the café where they filmed "Bridges of Madison County". Then a stop at Enolia's, whom you have married since. She is a real sweetheart of a gal and give her my best.

My right knee and hip keep me from going to reunions with both needing to be replaced. Last reunion I've gone to is the 15th Infantry's in Columbus and Fort Benning, Georgia. I met Leonard at Atlanta and we drove down.

I took the Infantry Officers Course at Benning during the fall and winter of 1951-'52. This was followed by the usual 30-day leave before shipping out to FECOM in June. I joined George Company in July when they were in front of OP Kelly. We manned OP Kelly 5 times, each being a 5-day tour. Initial assignment was 3rd platoon and then CO on October 1st with a promotion to 1st Lieutenant.

After some time in reserve we moved over to just in front of OP Tom. We occupied that for 5 tours, relieving Item Co. after heavy shelling. From OP Tom, we put a platoon on "Jackson Heights. (Iron Horse)". The 39th FA fired many missions for us. The only FO I remember is Lt. Rose who was KIA on Tom with another company. Did you know him? In March, I was assigned to 15th HQ as assistant S-2. It was in that capacity that I met Leonard who was a medic with the "Battle Patrol"

which I ran for intelligence purposes. Sorry about the rambling.

I went up on OP Harry in the daytime once and only remember the rope you had to pull yourself with. I also ran a night screening patrol in the valley east of Harry when with Fox Company.

Hope this finds all well with you in your "Golden Years" of retirement! Thanks again for the tour and your artillery support when my company was on Tom and Iron Horse.

Your "OP Harry" friend,

Dan

(The following is from Neil Van Dermeulin's letter to the editor.)

I served with the 92nd Armored Field Artillery in Korea. (Red Devils) We were a self-propelled 155 howitzer Bn. Early in the War our unit, along with the 1st Marine Division and the 7th Infantry Division landed at Inchon. Our unit supported the 1st Marine Division and the 7th Infantry Division at the battle of Chosin Reservoir. We then supported the 3rd Division's task force "Dog" under the command of 3rd Division General "Shorty" Soule. We fought with every Division in the Ninth Corps at some time during the Korean War.

I came to Korea in 1953. At that time we were mainly supporting the 3rd Infantry Division located in the general area of Chorwon and Kumwha. The dominant hills were 717 and 1062 (Papa-san). We had a forward observer post about a half-mile Southeast of OP Harry.

I served at our outpost in April and June of 1953. In June, when we had most of our action, I was with Lt. James Day and Cpl. Tom Curry.

I still remember the names of many of the hills: Hill 717 (Sobang-san), Hill 658, Hill 388 (Jackson Heights), Hill 395 (White Horse) and Hill 1062 (Osong-san, called Papa-san). Most of our missions at this time were supporting Outpost Harry. We fired over Outpost Harry around Star Hill and Hill 717.....



More letters

Jim-

A while back you asked if I would write down my experiences in Korea. A few years ago I started to write an autobiography for my two daughters. What follows is that portion of the story from when I left the states until I started my return. I hope this is the sort of thing you were asking for.

Emory Walker

(Emory sent about ten, well written pages of text. Here is his very personal recollection of OP Harry. Emory was Commander of G Company 15th Regiment at the time of these Chinese attacks on OP Harry. Other stories from Emory will appear in future issues. Ed.)

It was on June 10, 1953. The Chinese launched an all out offensive to take Outpost Harry. General Maxwell Taylor, the commanding general of the Far East Command said this outpost was a hold-at-all-costs position. It seems that Harry occupied such a commanding position that to lose it would have necessitated our MLR being shifted almost seven miles south. With the so-called peace talks going on at the time that was not a good idea. Company K received the initial assault by about 3,600 Chinese. The company held but suffered almost 100% KIA and WIA. Captain Martin Markley was the CO and I later met him for the first time at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Aurora, Colorado.

On June 11th the Chinese launched a rare daylight attack with about a battalion size attack but were soon repulsed. On the 12th another assault, this time with a regiment, the Chinese attempted to take Harry but could not. I think it was on the 12th that Company G was ordered into a support position behind Outpost Tom and I had a platoon of tanks attached. That was the first time I had ever had to contend with tanks and, fortunately, I didn't have to use them.

The 13th Harry was pretty calm with only a company sized attack and then came the 14th. Company G was ordered to Harry under the operational control of one of the battalion commanders of the 5th Regimental Combat Team and I was to return to a once very familiar piece of ground. Wrong! That outpost looked like nothing I could remember. On the way out to Harry we passed by immense piles of Chinese bodies. Climbing up Harry we saw countless pieces of both Chinese and GI's body parts lying all over the place. The trenches were mostly caved in from the intense shelling that had been going on. I later learned that the Chinese had fired about 89,000 rounds larger than 81 mm in size to support their attacks while our forces fired over 368,000 similar size rounds. (I understand this amount of large calibre ammunition was more than was fired by both sides during the entire Battle of the Bulge in World War II.

We spent all the day of the 14th trying to refurbish the trench lines and bunkers which were by then quite devastated. The first thing I did when I got to the top of the once familiar Outpost Harry was to remove all radio antennas. I had learned that the Chinese zeroed in on antennas. One of the smart things I ever did in regard to combat occurred that day. I had my communications team bury four separate landlines for our telephones along the

sides of the trench leading back towards the MLR. After the lines were buried I had them buried further and covered with steel pickets used for barbed wire. This meant that we should have decent telephone communications for a while when the Chinese started their TOT. It did indeed work out that way. The other good thing I did that day was something Major John Singlaub had preached about - VT on our positions. I arranged defensive artillery and mortar barrages to begin on a timed sequence. Unless ordered to cease fire, the last barrages were to be VT on top of us. I feel very confident that last stage saved G Company from being completely overwhelmed.

In the early evening of the 14th an artillery sergeant from the 39th Field Artillery attached to my company along with a forward observer decided he was going to wage his own private war when the Chinese came. He got up on the top of the CP bunker and built a sandbag emplacement where he said he could fight any Chinese who came that way. As he was nearing the completion of his position the Chinese started shelling with their

61 mm mortars. The sergeant was hit and very badly wounded. His left arm had been blown off. I went to the top of the bunker and managed to get him out of the mortar barrage and back into the relative safety of the trench outside the bunker. He was unconscious and bleeding profusely. We got the battalion surgeon on the phone and he told me what to do to try to save him. I managed to get a tourniquet on the stump of his arm and our medics got him off the outpost and to the battalion aid station. A little later the doctor called me and said in spite of all our efforts he did not make it. For the life of me I cannot remember his name.

Very early on the 15th of June the Chinese started their initial barrage. The incoming mortar and artillery in the volumes they were using is impossible to describe to anyone who has not experienced anything like that. It was devastating. I very foolishly started to make the rounds of my platoon leaders to make sure all men were inside their bunkers when the barrage started. In spite of the trenches for getting around in I was wounded quite severely within just a few minutes.

I remember being temporarily deafened by the noise and was crouched down in a trench. My arms were supporting me by holding onto the sides of the trench when I was hit. It was in the left arm and my hand was left attached by only two shreds of skin on either side of my wrist. I never knew for sure what got me but I strongly suspect it might have been a mortar fuse or possibly a hand grenade.

I eventually made it to our medic's station, which I had placed at the bottom rear of Outpost Harry in what was left of a bunker. The medic was unable to stop the bleeding enough for me to get back to my CP and about the only thing he did was to give me an unwanted shot of morphine which caused me to be unable perform any duty. An armored personnel carrier evacuated several of us to the battalion aid station where Doc Merrifield along with John Mitchell was more than busy.

Several ambulances started the trek to the 44th MASH and I was such a bloody mess that chaplains managed to give me last rites on three different occasions before I got to the MASH. (Much later, after reading General Singlaub's book 'Hazardous Duty', I learned that the 44th MASH was the model for the TV series M*A*S*H 4077) Isn't it interesting what things come to mind when writing something like this?

OPHSA Early Years



This picture is from an OPHSA reunion in (we think) 1992. (L to rt. front row) The late Herb Kramer, Leonard Lassar, Don Chase, Jim Day, RAB Burgess, Jim Evans, Jerry Cunningham. (back row) Charles Scott, Martin Markley, Dan Braucher, Sam Buck.

Taps

Our sincere sympathy to the family of OPHSA member Ray Gigandet. Ray passed away Dec 19, 2001 after a long battle with emphysema and cancer. Reported by Danetta Gigandet, his wife of 45 years,

555 FA In Support of OP Harry

The 555 FA was the artillery support battalion of the 5th Regimental Combat Team throughout the Korean War. The Triple Nickel supported the 5th RCT, and other units from their arrival in Pusan 31 Jul 1950 until the truce was signed 27 Jul 1953.

OPHSA member Ray Gigandet sent some pictures to the editor in April of last year. With space being available for the pictures in this issue I attempted to contact Ray for more information and was told by his wife, Danetta that Ray had passed away December 19th after a long battle with cancer.

Sgt. Gigandet was a member of A Battery of the Triple Nickel. He had his camera with him and, fortunately, documented this location to which they had moved to provide additional artillery support for OP Harry.



This picture by Ray Gigandet shows five of the six prepared gun positions of 'A' battery of the Triple Nickel. With the main line of resistance relatively stable many artillery positions, such as these, were semi permanent structures designed to protect the guns and crews from Chinese counter battery fire. This was the position occupied by the Triple Nickel as assigned by 3rd Division DIVARTY in June of 1953. Division G-2 became convinced that OP Harry was to be the focal point of a Chinese attack. Many artillery units were moved into the area to provide the massive support needed to help thwart the expected Chinese assault.



Here is another photo sent by Ray Gigandet. It was taken in Osaka, Japan when Sgt. Ray Gigandet (on the right) and a friend, Sgt. Harry Gray were on R&R. The lovely lady in the middle is just a cardboard cut out.

Darn!

OPHSA Polo Shirts, Caps And Reunion Badges

Polo Shirts

Floyd and Iris Deiwert have offered to coordinate ordering OP Harry polo shirts for members wishing to purchase them. Seeing the shirt worn to the last reunion by Richard Kilgen inspired them. Our late treasurer initiated the shirts, Jerry Hawk. The white shirts will have "Outpost Harry Survivor" on the left side above the pocket. Men's sizes will be available in Med-Lge-X Lge for \$19.00 plus tax, \$22.00 plus tax for XX Lge. Your name added to the right side will cost \$4.00 for one name or \$5.00 for first and last name.

Ladies shirts, without pocket, are available in Sm-Med-Lge-X Lge for \$19.00 plus tax. The additional name costs \$4.00 for one name or \$5.00 for first and last. Floyd and Iris will take orders and bring the shirts to the reunion. If you prefer, orders can be mailed at \$5.50 per order including insurance.

The Deiwerts are among our Snowbirds this year. They will be home around February 23rd. You can contact them for information and ordering via e-mail: floydiris@seidata.com or telephone at (812) 662-0021.

OPHSA CAPS

Dick Martinet, our historian, has ordered a quantity of OPHSA caps. These caps will be for sale for \$10.00 each at the reunion in New Orleans in June.

REUNION NAME BADGES

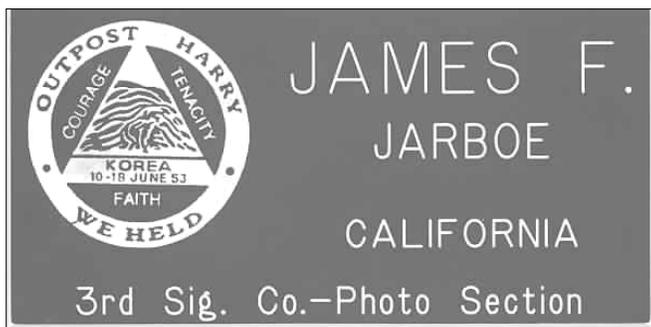
OPHSA Name Badges were first made and issued at the reunion in 1997. Those who have lost their badges and those who do not have badges but intend to attend the reunion are asked to send the following information to Dick Martinet, [whose address is found on page 7](#):

Full name, with the name or nickname you like to be called.

The State in which you live.

Unit in which you served.

Same information, less Unit for spouses.



SAMPLE BADGE

These are permanent plastic badges with safety clasp. They are white on Infantry Blue.

Thank You Contributors

The following people have sent donations to the OPHSA Treasurer:

Dan Braucher, Emory Walker, Arthur Lee, Donald Dingee, Thomas Burkhalter, James Abel, Leigh Morton, Mark Woods, Robert Brandon, Don Nedved, Donald Daly, Dale McGraw, Doug Jones, Kralyevich Productions, Ernie Kramer, Bob Buckner.

Many thanks for your continuing support of our Association.

The Medical Front

Jerry Cunningham's surgery was rescheduled for Jan 10. It was successful and he returned home on Jan 15 to recuperate.

Frank Scarcella had surgery in December. He is recuperating at home.

RAB Burgess has undergone treatment at Shreveport VA hospital and was able to go home for the holidays. RAB said he was feeling "Purty Good" and looking forward to New Orleans.

Charlie Scott got good news on some diagnostic tests, is feeling better as he and Mary have joined the Snowbirds in Florida for the winter.

Martin Markley reported a "first for me"

"While I was visiting a VA Clinic today, a clerk called the main office to check my records and started her conversation with " I have an elder veteran here". That put me into a new category!"

(I think you have a lot of company out here, Martin)

