

OPHSA



OP Harry Survivors Association Newsletter

January 2003

Issue 28

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As we look forward to a new year the words of an old toast come to mind. "May you live in interesting times".

The coming year does promise to be "interesting". As we all experience the "Golden Years", the World around us continues to romp on at an ever increasing pace, in directions that are both "interesting" and unpredictable.

This year just planning our annual reunion has assumed some dimensions we have not encountered in the dozen years of our Association. By this time of the year we can usually have all the elements of the reunion pretty well nailed down. The World situation, and particularly the deployment of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech) from Ft. Stewart and Ft. Benning to Saddam's doorstep, has inserted a few question marks into Jerry Cunningham's agenda for the reunion.

See Page 3 for the latest advance information regarding the reunion. The next issue will have the detailed schedule. The location and hotel information is locked in, making it possible for you to make reservations with the hotel at any time up to May 12. Book early to avoid disappointment and send your registration information fee to Sam Buck.

Looking forward to seeing a large turnout for this one.

Jim Jarboe

IN THIS ISSUE

Reunion Plans from Jerry Cunningham including hotel reservation information.

Model of OP Harry at the Infantry Museum with photos.

President's corner from F. Walden Storie

Notes from the Chaplain, Ed Hanrahan

A note from Joan Hawk

Correspondence from Don Dingee, Martin Markley, Ed Matney, Jim Evans, Jim Steffan and Jerry Cunningham.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ladies and Gentlemen of OPHSA,

Where has the time gone? Half the year just zoomed by so fast, and a few more months we meet again in Georgia.

I hope this has been a good year for everyone.

The Holiday Season being behind us now, here's hoping and praying your Christmas was great and all will have a prosperous and Happy New Year.

I'm not sure how many of our folks are on sick-call right now, but I know Ed our Chaplain is much better. He will be in Florida for a few weeks starting this month. Please remember Dolly and Lenny Lassar. They are not doing well. I have few details but Lenny is hospitalized.

Verlin and Nadine Rogers are digging out of the snowbanks in MO, after being hit with a 12" snowfall in late December.

I would like to quote from the early days when we were struggling to become the great Nation we are today. "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will begin prospering and continue to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instruction and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity". Daniel Webster-1821
WE HELD.

Waldon



NOTES FROM THE CHAPLAIN

I hope you all had Happy Holidays.

Rich Kilgen's thesis on Koje Do Island is being passed around the Association. So far its gone from Don Chase, E. Hanrahan, Robert Grillo, Walden Storie to Brooks Fullen. (Brooks was on Koje Do when the prisoner riots took place.) If you are interested in reading it give Brooks a call. (703) 626-7488 or jfullen@swva.net



I have received many requests for the OP Harry Prayer Card and will continue to fill your requests.

Recently had lunch with Gerry and Joan Lang (K Co., 15th). Had a nice visit.

Enclosed in a Christmas card, which the sender forgot to sign, I received this note, which I know we all can relate to:

Just a line to say I'm living, that I am not dead, Though I'm getting forgetful and mixed up in the head, I got used to the arthritis, to my dentures I'm resigned, I can manage my bifocals, but God, I miss my mind!

For sometimes I can't remember when I stand at the foot of the stairs,
If I must go up for something, or have I just come down from there?
And before the fridge for something, my poor mind is filled with doubt,
Have I just put food away, or have I come to take some out?

And there are times when it is dark with my nightcap on my head,
I don't know if I am retiring, or just getting out of bed.
So, if it's my turn to write you, there's no need for getting sore,
I may think that I have written, and don't want to be a bore.

So remember that I love you, and wish you were near,
But now it's nearly mail time, so 'must say goodbye my dear.
That I stand beside the mailbox, with a face so very red,
Instead of mailing you my letter, I had opened it instead.

Well, how about that huh?

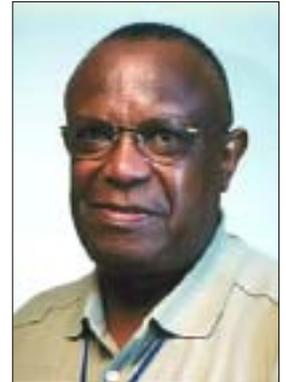
Please remember in your prayers the sick of body and mind--There, but for the grace of God, go I. Also remember our men and women in the service as well as the victims and survivors of Sept. 11, 2001.

Happy New Year! Stay well, and GOD BLESS.

Sincerely, Ed Hanrahan

VETERANS DAY LETTERS

For Veterans Day many schools across the country encourage their students to write to veterans. Here are a few that were received in November by Jerry Cunningham.



Clinton Elementary School is located in Lancaster, SC. The wording of these letters is printed here exactly as written by these 4th graders.

**Dear Mr. Cunningham, I want to thank you for serving your time in the U.S. Army. I appreciate you saving our lives, I feel sorry that you were far away from your home and family. We are glad you survived the U.S. Army. Thank you very, very, very, much
Your friend
Kristopher Nelson
4th Grade Clinton Elementary**

**Dear Mr. Cunningham, thank you for helping American by being in the U.S. Army. I really appreciate it. Veterans Day is my favorite holiday for 1 reason. Because I was born on Veteran's Day. I love Veteran's Day.
Your friend,
Reagan Thompson "Love the Army"
4th Grade Clinton Elm.**

**Dear, Cunningham, thank you for all the help in the army. We appreciate you helping us for all of these years. When we needed it. You are very specill.
USA Rocks, GO USA!
your friend,
Samantha Bills
4th Grade
Clinton Elementary**

**Dear. Jerry Cunningham we appreciate, I want to thank you for being brave and fighting for us. I want to thank you for standing up for our country, and our state. I want to thanks you for doing your best
Your friend
Tyanth Moore**

November 11, 2002

Dear Mr. Cunningham

**I thank you for serving your time in the Army, We are so glad you faught for our freedom. Thank you! Thank you! You're special to me
Your Friend
Jonathan Jeffery
4th Grade
Clinton Elementary**

If ever we need to recall the reason we served our country in time of need, these youngsters heartfelt words leave no doubt. (Ed.)

**OUTPOST HARRY SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION
12TH ANNUAL REUNION, 50TH ANNIVERSARY
of the Siege of OP Harry**

The reunion date: June 12 to 15, 2003

Dear members and guests of the Outpost Harry Survivors Association. Once again, I am pleased to welcome you all to this great event I have planned at Port Wentworth, Georgia and Fort Stewart, home of the mighty 3rd ID. Our reunion Headquarters will be located at the Holiday Inn Savannah north. The Holiday Inn, a Four Star quality Hotel, is well equipped to provide you with a comfortable stay, and all the amenities you deserve.

LOCATION: Savannah North, Port Wentworth, GA. Interstate 95- Exit #109 Georgia Highway 21. First exit in Georgia from South Carolina Closest exit to Historic Savannah. Located 5 miles from the Savannah National Airport

A few of the Amenities: Free Airport Shuttle (Baggage Handling- \$3.00 per person, round trip.) Free Local Calls, Elevator, Uniformed Security Guard, Connecting Rooms, Hair Dryers in all Rooms, Irons/Boards in all Rooms, State of the-Art Security System, Cable TV 77 channels, *Free Deluxe Continental Breakfast, Exercise Facility, Swimming Pool, Guest Laundry, Dataports in all Rooms, In-Room Coffee, and more.

ATTRACTIONS: Historic District- 10 miles, River Street- 10 miles, City Market- 10 miles, Outlet Shopping- 14 miles, Hilton Head-40 miles, The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum- 7 miles, Brand New Sea Grill Restaurant within walking distance of the hotel.

RATES: \$79.00 per room, per night, plus tax. Queen \$79.00 per room, per night, plus tax. King \$79.00 per room, per night, plus tax. Single \$129.00 2 Room Suite per night, plus tax. Current tax is 12%, but is subject to change.

Individuals are responsible to make their own Hotel reservation by calling 1-800-465-4329. When calling be sure to tell them the INN CODE: PWWGA and the group code: Outpost Harry Survivor. Or you may book reservation online via the Inn website www.hiexpress-savannah.com and use group code OHS.

Reservations must be received no later than May 12, 2003. After that date the Hotel will continue to accept reservations on a Space Available Basis Only. The Group Rate Will Not Be Honored. Check in time- 2:00pm Check out time 12:00pm

REUNION SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Thursday, June 12th- Arrive at the Holiday Inn Port Wentworth, Georgia I-95. Exit # 109 Highway 21. Visit OPHSA registration desk and pick-up program and assorted Goodies. 7:00pm to 10:00pm Welcome Reception for all. Hors d'oeuvres will be served after brief remarks (Cash bar will be available)

Friday, June 13th- (Tentatively) All day visit to Fort Stewart with a welcome Ceremony by the Commanding General.

If appropriate personnel and facilities are not available due to the world situation, the alternate plan will be put into effect.

ALTERNATE PLAN

(AM) -Visit the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, and (PM) Tour on your own.

Saturday, June 14th (AM) Memorial Service, Business meeting and Spouses brunch. (PM) Free Time. To 6:00pm. Banquet Dinner. (TIME??) Our first live Band following the Banquet Dinner. Compliments of the Outpost Harry Survivors Association, -on behalf of your generous donations.

Sunday, June 15th Farewell Breakfast and Happy Father's Day. Reunion ends.

** A Hospitality Room will be available for our use throughout our stay at the Holiday Inn.

Reunion Registration Fee: \$50.00 per person (Reception food- Banquet Dinner-Sunday Breakfast) A \$10.00 per person late fee will be assessed from those whose registration fees have not been received by the treasurer by the cut-off date, May, 12.

*** Please make your plans and reservations early, and don't forget to send your reunion registration fee in to our Treasurer Sam Buck. **"THIS IS A MUST"**

We all are looking forward to having a great time celebrating our Fiftieth Anniversary. The whole Community of Port Wentworth, Georgia and the Chamber of Commerce are going all out to help us celebrate our Anniversary and thank us for our action during the Korean War.

Looking forward to seeing every member and guest at this special event.

Plans for this reunion are subject to change due to the World situation. "WE HELD"

Your reunion planner
Jerry Cunningham

To register early send your registration fee of

\$50.00 per person to:

Sam Buck

100 Tangerine Blvd #204

Brownsville, TX 78521-4307

After April 1st send to:

Sam Buck

1514 West Court Ave

Winterset, IA 50273-1789

ACCURACY OF OP HARRY MODEL AT FT. BENNING, INFANTRY MUSEUM, IN QUESTION.

In 1993 OPHSA member Jim Evans made contact with a model making company with the purpose of producing a model of OP Harry that OPHSA subsequently placed in the Korean War section of the Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning, GA. The model was produced from contemporary topographic maps. The trenchlines and bunker locations were determined from the 40-year-old memories of men who were there.

In recent times some doubt has been expressed as to the accuracy of the model. With the advent of more sophisticated mapping techniques Jim Evans has expressed the opinion that a more accurate model can be made. One company has been offering maps for sale made from the output of Russian Reconnaissance Satellites that are being advertised for sale via the Internet.

The maps are produced on order from raw data by digital processing designed to produce an accurate topographic map. Then a modeling company must be found to produce the model from the map. The maps are expensive; so much careful evaluation must be done before we make any commitment. No known modern map will have the configuration of the Outpost as it existed in 1993.

This is one to go slow on. Your editor suggests waiting until we find some vertical aerial photographs of the site, taken in 1953 that clearly show the OP. Then, after determining if the aerial photos plus an accurate map will be sufficient to have a better model made than the one we now have we can ponder whether to spend some money on the project.

Anyone who has knowledge of model producing companies or University shops that will do this type of work should notify Jim Evans, Jerry Cunningham or the editor, Jim Jarboe. We are still waiting to see if some recon film located at the National Archives, mentioned in the OP Harry after action report, contain vertical aerial photos of the OP. If so we can contemplate the next step.



Sam Buck, Martin Markley, Billie Burgess, John Rohrig and Brock Lippitt with the model at the reunion in Ft. Knox, KY, 1993.

Comparison of the model to recently acquired photos of the OP indicate some discrepancies, both in the OP layout of trenches and bunkers and the topography of the hill itself. As noted above, it remains to be seen if a more accurate model can be produced.



This is a portion of the model showing the supply point and aid station at the bottom, the trench line leading to the Loop near the top of the picture.



An enlarged portion to show the Loop, the Finger below it and the supply trench at lower left.

WE GET LETTERS

An article in the last issue of the Newsletter about the 10th Engineers' Jeep that took a mortar hit at the OP Harry supply point prompted this note from Ed Matney. (Ed.)

James-

Interesting observation: Al Lichtenberfg of 10th Engineers, C Co. was my room mate at West Point for four years--Graduation--Class of '51.

I'm sorry to say that Al lives at Kings Point, NY and is stricken with some form of dementia--under full time care.

Thanks.

Ed Matney

Col. (USA) Ret.

Last September your editor sent Don Dingee a copy of the Korean Presidential Unit Citation that had been presented to the Third Infantry Division 'and attached units' for meritorious service to the Republic of Korea during the period 10 June to 14 June 1953. Here is part of his reply--

I can 't believe that they left out the Greeks and the 5th RCT too. Is it too late to get them added to the list? Has anyone tried?

Now I can understand why Jim Evans and some of the 5th RCT members feel left out. I couldn't grasp what was going on until I received your copy. Thanks. And if you need someone to help with the 5th RCT and Greeks on OP Harry I would be glad to participate. They deserve it.

Don Dingee

Concerning the Korean Presidential Unit Citation: Note that it only covers the period Jun 10-Jun14, so that does exclude the Greeks who were on OP Harry Jun 17-18. It does not mention the participation of the 5th RCT that had units on Harry Jun 12-13. (In addition I believe that the 555 FA, the 5th RCT artillery Bn. fired in support of OP Harry during the same period)

The citation includes the Belgians, who were attached to the 7th Infantry Regiment, and involved in the action, noted in the citation, at the Boomerang east of OP Harry on the 14th.

I think trying to get the citation modified would be a diplomatic problem as the citation was issued by the Office of the President of the Republic of Korea (Singman Rhee) and not the US Government.

Anyone out there who has an idea as to how official acknowledgment of this injustice could be achieved, let's hear from you. (Ed.)

In E-mail correspondence with Jim Evans I found that he has been taking a course in the use of the Computer Software called Photoshop 7.0. It is a very complex graphics program with a wide range of functions for working with photos and making layouts with graphics, text and photographic elements smoothly integrated. Jim sent me a copy of a project he worked on during his studies that was quite impressive.

Jim says he has a lifetime of pictures that he wants to work on and is looking forward to launching into his project in a couple of years.

A report from John Rohrig indicates that due to lack of rain his corn and hay crops did not do very well this year. To his credit he bagged three deer, nine geese, two turtles and an abundance of fish!

We have heard he usually gets a wild turkey with a muzzle-loading musket, but didn't mention it this year.

From Martin Markley

Our best wishes to Billie Burgess for a quick recovery. We had a report that Billie had a bad fall from a ladder and is having a tough time recovering from broken ribs and an injured back.

Jim Steffan, and others from the 5th RCT have been working with Colorado Senator Campbell's staff to recognize elements of the 5th RCT Company D who did not receive deserved awards of the Distinguished Unit Citation (now called Presidential Unit Citation). The additional awards were approved on October 24,2002.

Members of 5th and 7th Squads of the 2nd machine gun section, a member of the Recoilless Rifle Platoon (David Gulbraa) and the 81mm forward observers from Co D, 5th RCT are eligible for the award. Now the task to find those eligible men begins.

Jim wants to thank the members of 5th RCT who have participated in the project.

Martin Markley sent a copy of a letter to California Congressman, Ed Royce from the Military Awards Branch. (Ed.)

Dear Mr. Royce:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you further information concerning an award recommendation for the Distinguished Service Cross to (then) Second Lieutenant George S. Buck.

The award recommendation was forwarded to the Army Decorations Board for consideration. The Board determined that the degree of action and service rendered did not meet the strict criteria for the proposed award, recommending instead an award of the Silver Star for gallantry in action. Therefore, the Commanding General, United States Total Army Personnel Command, on behalf of the Secretary of the Army, has approved the award of the Silver Star.

It was an honor to issue the Silver Star in recognition of Mr. Buck's faithful and dedicated service to our Nation during a time of great need. We appreciate your support of our veterans and the men and women serving in America's Army today.

Sincerely,

Robert L. White, Jr.

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army

Chief, Military Awards Branch

An e-mail from Korea to Freeman Bradford:

It was amazing site which you took great pictures before I born in Korea. I am 45 year old Korean guy who served as 1st Lt. infantry leader in ROK Army 20 years ago.

My deepest thank you for all those brave American soldiers [who] were here 50 years ago. Thank you again.

Hugh W. Pak from Korea.

In recent correspondence with Ed Matney, your editor asked Ed to write of his experiences on OP Harry. Here is his story. (Ed.)

WAR'S LAST DAYS ON OP HARRY

Edward E. Matney

To give you some indication of my experience would be somewhat sketchy, but my recollection is that the First Battalion of 23 INF, 2nd Division was assigned to relieve the Greek Battalion around the middle of July 1953. I remember making a reconnaissance with the Greek Co. Commander



occupying OP Harry prior to our deployment. He could not speak English, but did offer me pastry, which I found so typical of Greek hospitality!

The plan was for my company, Co. B, and company C to alternate on the hill, each tour being about one week. Company C had the first watch and my company relieved them the last week of the War. The remainder of our battalion was on the main line in support, as was a heavy mortar company, about 16 quad "50" half-tracks, and about 12 battalions of artillery. The hill also had two searchlights, one on each side of the hill for illumination, and was adjusted by the artillery observer. All the major fighting took place at night; as you know, we slept during the day.

During my company's tour, we had two major attacks; the first one as I discussed in correspondence to you earlier, I had to resort to "flash fire" Harry, which called for all supporting fire to blanket the hill. It was one hell of a noise for at least 20 minutes! In my CP, I had observers surrounding me to include artillery, heavy mortar, quad 50, etc. It was quite an experience for a young 26-year-old company commander to have all of this under his control. Before I called for "flash fire" Harry (since other piece-meal types of support didn't work for various reasons) I called all of my platoon leaders on a closed circuit type telephone system to have their men take cover. It was successful in repelling the attack. The second attack was not quite as concentrated and was neutralized quite easily.

On the 26th of July, I was relieved by a Captain Schumacker, who later wore 4 stars. I am not sure of the spelling of his name.

As you will recall, the war ended at 2200 hours, 27 July 1953, and at that time all firing abruptly ceased.

The morning following the cease-fire (28 July) the skyline was literally smothered with Chinese--thousands of them! Some of them moved to the base of Outpost Harry, to dig out their weapons, which they used in their assaults. This was done presumably to alleviate the burden of carrying the weapons long distances. Also, on the day following, I went to the MASH Hospital to visit my wounded. (My casualties occurred only during relief of Company 'C'. Incidentally reliefs took place at about 0400 hours; fortunately I had only WIA).

Upon my return to the front area on July 28, I heard a tremendous explosion followed by a cloudburst,

similar to that made by the atomic bomb! All the ammunition removed from Harry to the front line area had detonated by someone toying with a grenade; it blew a hole in the ground about 10 feet deep and around 14 feet wide. Many were killed and parts of bodies were found as far as 100 yards away, mostly Korean workers. What a waste!

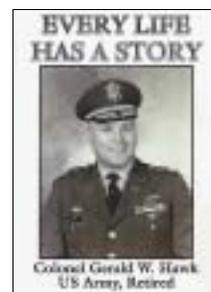
I subsequently was assigned as S-2 of the Battalion, and assisted in designing patrols for the newly established demilitarized zone. In August of 1953, I was reassigned to Japan to be an aide to a general at Army Forces Far East (AFFE).

JERRY HAWK AUTOBIOGRAPHY

AVAILABLE

Joan Hawk sent the following information and a copy of Jerry's book for display at the upcoming reunion. (Ed.)

Colonel Gerald (Jerry) W. Hawk, a quiet reserved gentleman, was treasurer of OPHSA for many years before his death in January of 2001. He had written his autobiography entitled "Every Life Has a Story".



Some comments received from people who have read the book:

We ordinary people don't meet extraordinary achievers very often and Jerry was one of them.

Jerry had a full and rewarding life and set valuable examples for many people.

A beautiful piece of work done by a beautiful person.

I thank you for keeping in touch and all the support from the Outpost Harry Survivors Association. This organization meant a lot to Jerry.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy 2003.

God Bless. Joan Hawk

DONATIONS

Here is a list of our most recent donors, through 12/14/02. Without your generous donations OPHSA could not function. Our sincere thanks to those listed below!

Robert Brandon, Dan Braucher, Don Chase, Egan Fehnel, James Fields, Paul Gregory, John Heich, Cornelius Hindall, Korean War Project, Gerald Lang, Arthur Lee, John Lenz, John Lody, Gordon Lowrey, David Martin, Norman Maulbeck, James McQueen, CJ Melancon, Verlin Rogers, John Ross, Biagio Russo, John Szarpa.

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We have changed the mailing format of the Newsletter to improve mail handling and reduce cost of mailing. If you receive any damaged Newsletters please let us know. It is the editor's conviction that we must receive increased value for the increased cost of postal service.

This space will be used in the future for late breaking information, as it is the last page assembled for any issue.

You will note that the list of officers is not in this issue. Space was not available beyond eight pages. If we increase the number of pages of the Newsletter, just one more sheet of paper will cost us an additional 23 cents in postage for each copy. This amounts to \$40.25 per issue. Yes, your volunteers are watching the pennies.

The Enemy Wanted This Hill-----



**With Courage, Tenacity and Faith.....
WE HELD!**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you have moved, send us the information below.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

MAIL TO:

**James Jarboe
903 Crestfield Drive
Duarte, CA 91010-2131**



OP HARRY SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

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