



# OPHSA



## OP Harry Survivors Association Newsletter

October 2003

Issue 31

### In this issue.

- Member Activities..... 2
- Artillery role in the June battles.....3
- Were atomic cannons in Korea?.....4
- Early info on the next Reunion.....7
- Notes from the Chaplain.....6
- Editorial.....9

## OPHSA WEBSITE EVOLVES

As you who have internet access know, the OPHSA website has been changed in the last few months to a new Internet provider by our webmaster, Freeman Bradford. Brad worked more than just a little magic to get our own domain name "OPHSA.org" properly registered and all of the search engines on the web working to our advantage. We have more space available on the site now as well a bulletin board type address for members only that allows us to exchange information between all members for whom we have a current email address. Early results indicate it is working well.

I don't believe that this is general knowledge but it will be now. Brad has been carrying the OPHSA website on his business website service provider since it's inception. He was able to do it, he says, at no extra cost to himself at the time. OPHSA has been getting a free ride! Now, however, he is deliberately scaling down his writing business and found that the cost was becoming prohibitive. When he shopped around for better prices he found that OPHSA could have its own website at a very good price plus extra services. The bottom line is that all this is right on the goal of \$150.00 per year for the web site as approved by the membership at the business meeting last June. Thanks, Brad, for a job well done.

OPHSA Website

[www.OPHSA.org](http://www.OPHSA.org)

Korean War project     [www.kwp.org](http://www.kwp.org)

Soc. 3 ID                 [www.warfoto.com/3rdiv](http://www.warfoto.com/3rdiv)

Here is a pair of photos from the reunion that were crowded out due to lack of space in the last issue.



**Pictured above after the presentation in behalf of the Infantry Association Medal of San Maurice by Vice President Floyd Diewert (rt) is John Pate and his wife Mildred.**



**Shirley and Dick Martinet are seen at the banquet after the presentation of a special award to Dick for his work as Historian and previously Editor of the Newsletter.**

## MEMBER ACTIVITIES

We spoke to member **Bob Hooker** in the last few days. His friend and companion on OP Harry, Don Dingee, had tipped me that Bob was taking part in a ceremony in San Francisco on Oct. 10.

**Bob filled me in on the details. The City of San Francisco held a ceremony honoring veterans of the Korean War on that date. The ceremony was held in Union Square in downtown San Francisco with participation of the Mayor, Willie Brown, the Korean Consul, a Marine Corps Band and color guard.**

In a symbolic Ceremony, A Korean War Veteran from the Army, Navy, Marines and the Air Force were presented with the Korean War Service medal before the large crowd of dignitaries, military officers and the public. Bob said the keynote speaker, retired Marine General Gray, gave a particularly excellent speech in tribute to all Korean Veterans. Bob Hooker was the Veteran representing the U.S. Army in this ceremony. We are proud an OP Harry Survivor was chosen for this honor as the official tributes continue to occur in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the truce signing in the Korean War.

oOo

We had tried to make contact several times with our President, **Francis Riley** but were unable to reach him until October 31. When we called Francis answered the phone and said that he had just returned home after having had knee replacement surgery on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. He had a difficult time due to complications from an infection. He spent eight days in the hospital and the rest of the time in a rehabilitation center for the post operative therapy required. He is moving around with a walker now and is looking forward to throwing it away. Our best wishes for a good recovery, Francis.

oOo

Member **Ralph Smith** sent us a PostCard from Korea. He left his home in Irving, TX on Sept 11<sup>th</sup> to join a Marine tour of Korea conducted by Roy Montgomery of Asia Pacific Tours. He had planned to go on the 3<sup>rd</sup> ID tour but it found it had been cancelled because of too few applicants.

The tour began at Incheon then east to Panmunjon, Boulder City, Chorwon, White Horse, tunnel #2, OP Howe with a good look at the OP Harry hill. He commented that there were trees on Star Hill! He also saw (through a rainstorm) the Punchbowl and finally back to Seoul.

He will join a junior ROTC leadership forum at a Seoul High School and then spend a couple of weekends in the 2ID area conducting coffeehouse ministry beginning at Camp Stanley. A busy schedule for our "retired" Army Chaplain!!

To coin a phrase: Blessings on you Chaplain Ralph, for all the good work you do.

oOo

Member **Freeman Bradford** was contacted by the Fort Morgan (CO) Heritage Foundation. Many people from the Morgan County School District and the Fort Morgan Museum collaborated in writing and publishing a book called "Making Connections The Cold War era 1945-1963" It primarily concerns the citizens and families from Fort Morgan and is dedicated to "Veterans and their families".

I was sent a copy because the book used several of my photographs of OP Harry in a 50 page section devoted to stories of OP Harry gleaned from our web site and contributed by some members of the Association. Some of those were Billie Burgess, Freeman Bradford, Don Chase, Martin Markley, John Rohrig, Sam Buck, Jack and Joel Newman.

We have no information about the cost of ordering the book but, if available will include it in the next issue of the Newsletter for those who might be interested..

oOo

**Sam Buck** in an email informed us that he finally had a chance to visit the FO who got him off the Hill after he was wounded on OP Harry June 10/11. That man is **Jack Newman** who lives in Richmond, VA. Sam arranged a time with Jack's son Joel, flew in and visited Jack and his wife. Newman had retired from the Guard as a Col. and raised three outstanding sons.

Jack had a severe stroke 4 years ago leaving him with a paralyzed right side, the inability to speak and wheel chair bound. Jack's wife insists he be cared for at home. With the help of a daily visit from a helper she and the family are doing just that.

Sam was able to give him a big hug and thank him for dragging him off the hill. Sam said Jack has a good strong grip in his left hand.

oOo

**Shirley Martinet** is recovering from a September surgery for removal of a tumor under her jawbone. The good news is that it was benign. She and Dick are doing fine and are planning to take a vacation in Florida this winter. Best wishes for a full recovery, Shirley.

oOo

We have been in communication with OPHSA member **David Gulbraa**. His story and more pictures next issue.



**Robert Betz and Robert Wardell**

Photo by Dave Gulbraa

**A sign of the times. South and West of OP Harry**

## ROLE OF FIELD ARTILLERY IN HOLDING OP HARRY

In the last few years the OP Harry Survivors Association, at reunions and through correspondence and phone calls has developed many facts about the battles that were not widely known. It is certain that without OPHSA OP Harry was destined to be a tiny footnote in history, if recognized at all.

As we have shared stories that went mostly untold until recent years, seen pictures long stored away and almost forgotten, and met the men who experienced events they hadn't talked about for many years, we have come to an expanded knowledge of the happenings on that hill without a name. Today the hill slumbers in the middle of the DMZ covered with 50 years growth of vegetation. Even Star Hill has trees on it, no longer looking like a cratered, barren piece of the Moon that fell into the middle of the battlefield. It seems so peaceful today the casual observer may not be able to visualize the violent events that took place on and around that hill 50 years ago. Those who were there and survived the battles find it all too easy to remember.



Photo by Ed Koleske, (2002)

**The hill that was OP Harry, viewed in 2002, from a ROK observation post on hill 361 that held OP Howe in 1953**

Our thoughts naturally go to, the Infantrymen who met the enemy face to face and denied him possession of the hill he wanted so badly. But the Infantry is not the whole story.

With the Infantry in the trenches and bunkers were the artillerymen we called FOs. The forward observers were connected by either field telephone or radio to artillery fire direction centers and finally the artillery batteries spread in firing positions behind the MLR and sited to allow quick and accurate response to enemy attacks.

As the truce talks began in 1951 it became clear to our Commanders that the immediate future required establishment of a strong line of defense and use of every means possible to continue to make the enemy suffer heavy casualties until the issues of the truce could be resolved and agreed upon. Our troops, stationed thinly in trenches and bunkers along the MLR, were outnumbered by the Chinese.

The Communists decided to use this vast manpower resource in small and large attacks intended to break our lines and force us to withdraw from strategic points of resistance.

The Infantry alone would have been hard pressed to survive in this environment. Massive defensive firepower was needed, a large part of which was provided by the Field Artillery.

An attempt to list units involved can cause trouble if we leave anyone out. These are not the only units involved but accurate records are hard to come by. If you know other units that were involved please send the information you have to the editor.

The following FA Battalions took part in supporting the battles for OP Harry. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Artillery is listed here: 9<sup>th</sup> FA Bn, 10<sup>th</sup> FA Bn, 39<sup>th</sup> FA Bn, 58<sup>th</sup> FA Bn, and 3<sup>rd</sup> AAA Automatic Weapons Bn. We know that the 555 FA Bn, part of the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT, was also engaged in support of OP Harry in June 1953.

Recently we have found that several other units from IX Corp artillery were also providing firepower in support of OP Harry.

In August of this year several artillerymen took part in an email discussion concerning some rumors that atomic artillery was emplaced in Korea. This led us into some correspondence with a couple of people who were with IX Corps artillery.

First from new member Jim Clark who served with 937<sup>th</sup> FA who were equipped with self propelled 155mm 'Long Toms'. This is his response to an email asking if his unit was involved supporting OP Harry. **"Indeed we did fire much support, especially in April and June. One of our OPs was in a position not far from Tom, Dick and Harry. We fired many missions through IX Corps and Div. Artillery. I recall two other Arty. Bns. Linked with us during that time: 92<sup>nd</sup> AFA(155 How/SP) And 424<sup>th</sup> FA (8 inch towed)."**



Photo courtesy Jim Clark

**Gun #2 of 937<sup>th</sup> FA C battery, named for movie actress Constance Cummings, the barrel says "Arkansas Long Toms"**

Another artillery unit engaged in the support of OP Harry was the 213<sup>th</sup> FA Bn, IX Corps. Henry J Sobieski, a new OPHSA member served in B battery of this unit which was equipped with 240 mm howitzers, a monster cannon that weighed in at thirty three tons and fired a projectile that weighed 360 pounds.

Contact with OPHSA was first made by his son AF MSgt Anthony Sobieski who saw our OPHSA website. Anthony Sobieski's first book was recently published as an electronic book (e-book). The title is "FIRE MISSION! The story of the

**Page 4**

213<sup>th</sup> FA Bn in Korea ! 1951 – 1954” It is available on line at [www.1stbooks.com/bookview/14192](http://www.1stbooks.com/bookview/14192) .

Here is an excerpt from the Battalion history as sent to us by MSgt Sobieske:

”Most of the rounds fired by the battalion were fired by Able and Baker Batteries, and this was due to a marked increase in activity by the Chinese in the IX Corps sector, specifically around the three outposts, Tom, Dick, and Harry.-----Baker battery fires played an important role in repelling the Chinese assault on OP Harry when they were ordered to shift their #2 howitzer, ‘Kiss of Death’ from its primary zone of responsibility to fire left of their position onto Harry, and the 213<sup>th</sup> again helped to hold the line.”

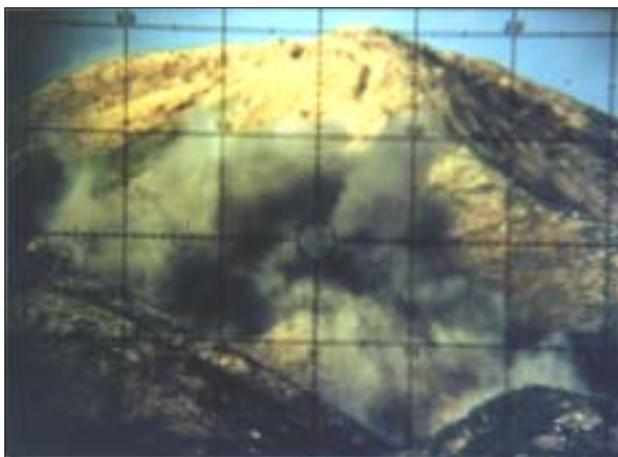


Photo courtesy Anthony Sobieski

“Kiss of Death”, 240 mm howitzer #2 of Baker Battery, 213<sup>th</sup> FA Bn firing during June, 1953

Here is a story by Sam Buck

“I remember when we were on OP Dick, I got a call from FDC [Fire Direction Center] that they wanted me to pick a target of opportunity and call in coordinates so they could try out a 240mm gun. I had just spotted a machine gun emplacement that had been harassing us for days but could not spot until I received that call. He opened up at the wrong time as I put my BC scope on the mouth of the cave and called in the coordinates. We must have gotten lucky as the first round hit right where I had my BC scope. We never heard from him again. I even took a picture (below) thru my BC scope of the shell hitting. FDC had given me a ‘splash’ and I was ready for it. FDC said they just wanted to register the 240mm in our vicinity.”



In Sam’s photo a Chinese trench can be seen coming over the top of a hill.(possibly Old Charlie) As can be seen from the BC scope reticule it looks like the round hit right on the cross hairs. [Thanks for the use of the photo, Sam. Ed.]

Here is an email comment from Ray Anderson on Sam’s story, “ I guess your old OCS buddy Joe Hoar was wrong. You could hit the broadside of a barn. Nice shooting. I hope they went to ‘rice paddy heaven’.”



Another photo from MSgt Sobiesky of a 240mm gun preparing to fire at a high angle somewhere near Chorwon

## ATOMIC CANNON?

An interesting exchange took place after it was mentioned that there was a rumor that a 280mm cannon, designed to fire an atomic artillery shell, was in Korea. Freeman Bradford made a search of the Internet on the subject and found that the cannon was indeed developed at that time and was first test fired in May 1953 at the Nevada Atomic test site. No information, except reports of many rumors, were found indicating that it was ever deployed to Korea.

First test firing of the cannon, named Atomic Annie, with a Nuclear shell in Nevada, May 1953. Compare the photo on the left with the atomic blast noting that the atomic shell exploded



approximately seven miles from the gun!

We heard from Jerry Breidenstein on this one. “In regards to the HUGE GUN...I was a medic with Fox Co. [15<sup>th</sup> Reg.] I recall our being notified that there was a

huge gun well to our rear that was capable of firing an Atomic Warhead. The gun was to be tested by firing a non-atomic shell at the Chinese outpost on Star Hill. The weapon was fired and the shell hit directly on top of Star.”



Photo by Jim Jarboe

A large artillery round hitting the top of Star Hill with OP Harry in the foreground. June 15, 1953. Comparison with Sam Buck’s picture through the BC scope makes one think this could have been a 240mm HE round.

This from Richard Entenmann an FO with the 39<sup>th</sup> FA.

Yes I performed the first base point registration on Star one or two weeks before the [June] action started. Is was a kind of hush, hush thing. It sounded like a freight train coming through the air. The presence of that piece and the base point selected is what bothered me the three times I went up the hill to fire and lift the defensive fire on the nights of the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

Would they have used it to sanitize and deprive the CCF that area if we couldn’t hold????”

From Freeman Bradford:

“Yes we would have all been roasted and toasted. Some of the stuff I read.....pointed out that the atomic artillery rounds of that day were very dirty. The blast shown produced only about a third of the energy that had been predicted which meant there was a lot of fissionable material that never got consumed by the blast and was, instead, spread into the surrounding environment.....”

If the propaganda value of rumors and misinformation on a 280mm canon being present [in Korea] worked in any way to expedite the Chinese signing of he truce, it was an effective strategy—in my humble opinion.”

More from Richard Entenmann:

“Although I was briefed that I was doing a 280mm base point “DON’T SCREW IT UP” registration; years later I questioned the truth of that order. During the cold war, when I had an association with our combat intelligence organizations, it occurred to me that the whole thing might have been a cover story or black intelligence.”

Msg Tony Sobieski weighs in with his opinion based on research he did for his book:

“There never were any 280mm howitzers in Korea. A number of things were quite simply coincidence that has led to many a rumor about the 280mm and Korea. Every rumor concerning the 280mm was, in fact, the 240mm howitzer firing in Korea. The 240 mm shell, which weighed 360 pounds, left a crater that was commonly mistaken for 500 lb. Air Force dropped ‘dumb’ bombs.

There were two 240mm Howitzer units in Korea, the 213<sup>th</sup> and 159<sup>th</sup>.”. [Both units were 155mm units and were converted in place (Jan 1953) to 240mm guns, partly because of a shortage of 155mm ammunition in late 1952. (Ed.)]

“The 159<sup>th</sup> was assigned to I Corps. Able and Baker batteries of the 213th were assigned to IX Corps while Charlie battery was assigned to X Corps. Each battery had two guns so there were 12 in all of Korea.....From a distance, the 240mm looked like the 280mm and vice-versa. So as you can see that those not directly involved in the process might think the 280mm were in Korea.

Add to this situation yes, psychological warfare was used, and rumors were spread that the 280mm atomic gun was in Korea, to help bring the Chinese to the treaty table (which it did!)

So, what the FOs were registering and seeing was the 240mm. A lot of the 240mm fire missions were called in by aerial observers, and the usual response was ‘holy sh\*t’ when the round hit. Also the 240mm was an extremely accurate weapon (it was actually anchored in the ground with 750 lb. spades) and numerous missions were completed with one or two rounds (as compared to maybe 10-15 or 20 rounds of 155mm), not because of luck but because of the accuracy of the piece”.

Here is another email excerpt from Jim Clark:

“The unit I was with in Korea (937<sup>th</sup> FA) was a 155mm [self propelled Long Toms] . The gun had a range of 25,000 yds and was the longest range artillery piece.....”

When I was the Bn. Chief Computer, one of my duties was to keep a strict inventory of on hand and spent projectiles and VT fuses. I will always remember that there were a couple of special color banded projos (blue) kept in our inventory but never used or removed from a special bunker in our C Battery fire base. When I asked once what they were for all I got was ‘Don’t Ask!’ They could have been some sort of “chemical-flare-smoke-gas—or-----?” They were removed from the inventory and taken south shortly after 27 July. They always aroused my suspicion.

IX Corps Commander LTG Rueben Jenkins did not like the name Atomic appearing on one of the 937<sup>th</sup> guns as it implied the use of nuclear fission, which was not being used. He also disliked the word “Bastard” which was part of Baker Battery’s #2 gun ‘Battling Bastard’.”



Photo from Jim Clark

## Page 6

The 280mm gun that had been developed was apparently never deployed to Korea. Certainly we would live in a different world today if nuclear weapons had been introduced and used in the Korean War. China did not have nuclear weapons during the Korean War. They exploded their first A-Bomb October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1964

The Soviet Union did have the bomb. Joe Stalin had armed the North Koreans and urged them to unify Korea as a Communist state by invading the south. It is doubtful that the Soviet Union would have put nuclear weapons into the hands of North Korea. We know that the Migs flown against us were flown by Soviet pilots.

Would the Soviet Union have sent bombers to Korea with nuclear weapons if we had used the nuclear artillery first? Stalin died the first week of March, 1953. It is quite certain that the Soviet internal struggle for leadership at that time was a major factor in deflecting the attention and effectiveness of the Soviet High Command in the support of North Korea. By that time they considered the War in Korea a lost cause for uniting Korea under the Red Star!

What about the 280mm Atomic Annie? Brad Bradford found a note on the internet from an artilleryman who trained on 105mm howitzers at Ft. Sill, OK. He and many others were transferred to the 264<sup>th</sup> FA Bn. It had three batteries and a Hdq. Battery. The guns were 280mm, 2 guns per battery.

The unit was shipped to Germany in the Spring of 1954. They rarely went into the field in Germany. It is a sure thing that the Soviets knew they were there. Just one of many deterrents to a Soviet invasion of Western Europe?



**Atomic Annie quietly rusting on its transporter units at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Another of these dinosaurs will go on public display in 2006 in a new atomic science museum in Albuquerque, NM.**

We may not have found the answer to the question "Did Atomic Annie ever make a trip to Korea?" We feel the journey in search of the answer to be worthwhile. We want to express our thanks to the many comrades who participated in the defense of OP Harry and who contributed the information necessary for this story.

Your editor remembers seeing the sky lighting up from artillery units and the thunder constantly rolling. I saw the backbreaking labor necessary to serve those guns and still am amazed at what those men accomplished! So here's to the Artillery who supported the Defense of OP Harry! Without us all we would not be able to say, "WE held!"

## *NOTES FROM THE CHAPLAIN*

I hope you all had a good summer and that the fury of hurricane Isabel missed our members. We received nice thank you letters from Irene Chidester, wife of the late Chet Chidester, and Ruth Alys Brown, sister of Malvin Goldstein, Medical Co., 15<sup>th</sup> Regt. For the enlarged framed pictures of the OPHSA Memorial Plaque.

A letter of condolence and sympathy card was sent to the Van Hise family of Den Van Hise, 65<sup>th</sup> Inf. H Co. who passed away on August 25, 2003. Thanks for the information Martin.

During the summer, Rhonda McAuliffe was activated with her Naval Reserve Unit and was sent to Bahrain, doing air travel assignments for the military there. She is now home in Nebraska and has some interesting stories to tell. Thanks for a job well done, Rhonda.



Mrs. Elema Beyer and Virgil Bloodsworth (KIA on OP Harry, Co. B 15<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt.) hosted Cora and Walden Storie in Iowa in September. This was a little over 50 years after Clarence's death (6/11/53)

Walden Storie provided true closure for the Bloodsworths in 1999. They have kept up their friendship since then.

Cora Storie's sister, Nell Beaty in Tennessee, is extremely ill and needs many prayers to pull her through. Please say one for Nell

Rich Kilgen, who is looking for help in receiving Co. B 15<sup>th</sup> Presidential unit citation for action on OP Harry. Rich was permanently assigned to Co. D, 15<sup>th</sup> as a machine gunner but was assigned to Co. B with other machine gunners of Co. D. They went up on OP Harry and fought with Co. B, 15<sup>th</sup>, 3ID.

Heard from Brooks Fullen this week. He is working out, jogging and enjoying his retirement. Talked to Emory Bonner and found that he is doing pretty good healthwise, and would like to hear from Co. B guys. His telephone number is 334-885-6374.

I know that Jim Jarboe and I could use more feedback, so please feel free to call or drop us a line about what's going on. Many thanks to the members that have contributed to this article and past articles. Thanks to the members for their calls and cards in regard to my radiation treatments.

Please remember in your prayers our brave men and women of our military and our past and present members of OPHSA. GOD BLESS and Happy Holidays to all.

Ed Hanrahan

Dear members and guests:

The Outpost Harry Survivors Association once again is excited to invite everyone to join us at the Holiday Inn at Mission Bay/Sea World Area in San Diego, California. June 10/13, 2004. The Hotel address is 3737 Sports Arena Blvd. San Diego, CA 92110. Toll Free: 800-511-6909 Fax:619-224-9248. Web site: [www.holidayinn-mb.com](http://www.holidayinn-mb.com)

#### LOCATION

Centrally located in San Diego, just one mile from Sea World, Mission Bay and moments from world famous beaches. Convenient to San Diego International Airport, The San Diego Zoo, Convention Center, Coronado Island, Tijuana, Old Town, Balboa Park Museums & Galleries. Within walking distance to over 10 well-known restaurants and shopping galore.

#### FACILITIES AND SERVICE

Baker's Square Restaurant and Pie Shop-Room service- Fax, copier & business service available--Gift shops and news stand--Valet service and guest laundry--Video game room-- Concierge desk--Airport service through Cloud 9 Shuttle

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

Coffeemaker--27" cable TV--HBO and pay movies--Dataport phones w/voice mail--In-room ironing board-- (All suites also provide): Refrigerator--Microwave--Build in hairdryer--In room safes--Three telephones--Two 27" televisions

#### RECREATION

Complimentary access to San Diego fitness and Racquet Club--Outdoor heated pool and spa

#### REUNION PERKS

The Hotel will provide a full complimentary American Buffet Breakfast each day, Round trip Airport Shuttle and a hospitality room for three days. Free parking is available on a first come first serve basis. The Hotel does not guarantee there will be space available to park at any time.

#### GROUP ROOM RATES

Single or Double: \$109.00 Nightly  
Two Room Suite: \$129.00 Nightly  
Rates do not include tax currently at 10.5% and city tax at \$. 05

#### METHOD OF RESERVATIONS

Individual attendees will make reservations for the Reunion directly with Holiday Inn's reservation department at 619-881-6112. Be sure to ask for the Outpost Harry Survivors Association RATES IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THIS SPECIAL GROUP RATE  
Standard check-in time is 3:00 PM and checkout time is 12:00 PM. Any individual cancellations or changes must be made at least 24 hours prior to the arrival date.

#### GUARANTEED RESERVATION

All reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit, or guaranteed with a major credit card. The Hotel will not hold any reservation unless secured by one of these methods. A cancellation less than 24 hours prior to arrival will result in a charge equal to one night's stay. No- show will result in the same penalty.

#### CUTOFF DATE

Reservations by attendees must be received on or before Friday, May 21, 2004. The "CUT OFF DATE" At the Cutoff Date, the Hotel will review the reservation pick up for the reunion, Forty Rooms have been reserved for our group. The Hotel will accept more, only if reservations are made prior to the Cut off Date.

As final details are developed the information will be published in the next two issues of the Newsletter.  
WE HELD!



Jerry Cunningham, OPHSA Reunion Planner.

This is a first look at the tentative schedule of events being developed for the reunion in San Diego. As more details are finalized they will be published in the next two issues of the Newsletter.

DATE	START	END	FUNCTION
Th 6/10/04	3:00 PM	12:00 AM	Registration and Hospitality Room
Th 6/10/04	7:00 PM	11:00 PM	Reception
Fr 6/11/04	6:00 AM	12:00 AM	Hospitality Room
Fr 6/11/04	9:00 AM	2:00 PM	Tour & Free time
Sa 6/12/04	9:00 AM	12:00 PM	Memorial Service, Memories & Meeting
Sa 6/12/04	10:00 AM	2:00 PM	Brunch/ Ladies
Sa 6/12/04	6:00 PM	2:00 AM	Banquet
Su 6/13/04	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	Farewell Breakfast

## INTRODUCTIONS ARE IN ORDER

As new members join OPHSA we think it is appropriate to provide an introduction.

In searching the Internet new member **John Robert Spencer** and his wife **Mary Eleanor** found the OPHSA website. They contacted the editor and Bob has joined the association. Bob and Mary Eleanor live in Lakeland, FL.

Bob served in Charlie Company of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry division. He was wounded during a mortar barrage on OP Harry in the last hours before the truce became effective, the evening of July 27<sup>th</sup>. An interesting note is that he had enough points to go home but his papers were lost. Many of his buddies from Charlie Company had just rotated and were on the boat going home when they heard about the truce. Bob was unfortunate enough to still be on OP Harry.



Photo from Bob Spencer

**Bob Spencer (rt) and Melvin Punsky with a 60mm mortar on OP Harry, July 1953**

Another new member of OPHSA is **Jim Clark** who served with the 937<sup>th</sup> FA, Hq. Btry. As part of IX Corps his unit of self propelled 155mm fired many missions in support of Outpost Harry. We have used a couple of his photographs in the article on Artillery in this issue.

Jim went back to school after his time in the Army became a commercial photographer in his own business in the Chicago area. He and his wife **Beverly** live in Chicago.

Another new member is **Nicholas Dick Jr.** who served with the 15 Infantry Reg., D Company. Nick and his wife **Juanita** live in Council Bluff, IA.

New member **Don Patton** served in I Company of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Don and wife **Doty** live in Meridian, TX.

### A REMINDER

We ask all members of OPHSA who have pictures and stories to share to please send them to the editor. Photos are treated as the treasures they are and originals returned as quickly as possible.



Photo by Jim Jarboe

**Star Hill photographed by the light of 'Moonbeam' and looking very much like pictures we have seen of the surface of the Moon. It looks like there might be more craters here than on a similar acreage on the Moon.**

This photo was made with an experimental camera being tested by different photo units in Korea. We took it up on OP Howe. We were told to treat it as a classified piece of equipment at the time. It was about four feet long and had a 40" focal length lens. The glass filters were about the size of a dinner plate. It required a tripod and a big heavy case. So large, in fact, that we had to tow it in our jeep trailer and chogee it from below the OP in pieces and assemble it at the chosen site. It was definitely not your average "point and shoot."

# EDITORIAL

After the conclusion of our very successful reunion in Port Wentworth, GA and at Ft. Stewart, some disturbing echoes have come to mind and into my mailbox.

These echoes have caused me to attempt to define the meaning of a simple word that is the first word of the OPHSA motto: 'WE'. In checking the dictionary I found that Webster's definition is perfectly clear. "The personal pronoun of the 1<sup>st</sup> person pl., nominative case." ??????. If anyone understands that definition, I'd like to have a serious talk with him.

I firmly believe that the founders of OPHSA knew exactly what the word means and defined it very clearly in Article II (Objectives) of the Association's Constitution.

**"The purpose of the Association is to keep all men who were involved in the battles in Korea to hold Outpost Harry bonded together in common memory of that action and to honor the many sacrifices made by our comrades."**

The echoes after the reunion were concerns expressed to me in letters and e-mails by several members. They considered behavior by some members during the reunion to be contrary to the purpose of the Association. Here is a quote from a letter I received.

**"What I am trying to say is that our [reunion] is bigger than any of us individuals or one company or what have you. I, feel and I am sure there are many others the feel the same way. Let's not make this into something like so many groups do, where you have one part of the group trying to be all important, taking over and running the show their way. Let's keep it the way, I think, the original founding members wanted it to be....."**

During the Silver Star presentation, introductory remarks narrating the OP Harry battles, prepared by Ft. Stewart PAO, inadvertently left out a reference to one unit and further remarks by the garrison commander used the word "Support" in relation to their participation in the battle.

As a result of those errors, during the rest of the reunion people from the same unit made many outspoken, insulting remarks about the 3ID. As a member of the Association I was very embarrassed by the comments. The division was our gracious host and went to a great deal of trouble to make our day at Ft. Stewart a highlight of the reunion.

Here is another quote; **"The "Outpost Harry Survivors Association" is much more than just one company, battalion, regiment or division. It is about the men that got into a fight with some other fellows who didn't happen to agree with our way of thinking.....It is not only about the ones of us that survived, but about the ones that didn't walk off that God Forsaken Hill. It isn't about just you and I, a company, a battalion, a regiment or a division, it's about a group of men, all of us together, those who survived and those very important ones who didn't, men who obeyed their orders and held a hill the Chinese wanted so badly. It's about the men who lived to tell about it, and men who decided we should honor our dead comrades by the living each year."**

I share the concern of many that behavior harmful to the unity of the Association should be discouraged. Let us all remember the brotherhood of arms that led us to victory on that bloody hill. All the Incredible Infantry whose duty it was to look the enemy in the face and defeat him The Artillery units who provided an amazing amount of deadly fire in support of the units on the hill. The Medics who saved many lives during the battles. The supply people who moved vast amounts of ammunition, food, water. The Tank units who used direct fire in support of the hill. The Engineers. The Cooks, Mechanics, Signal Technicians. I could go on with many more who contributed to the final victory that held OP Harry. If I left anyone out I am not insulting them by an omission because WE all know that they are one with US, just as important as any other participant in the Victory on OP Harry. WE HELD!

The point is that all these people are included in the meaning of that word. In the Outpost Harry Survivors Association we must continue to appreciate that word and what it means to the Association. 50 years ago dedication to duty was followed by Courage to attempt the impossible "At all Costs", the Tenacity to deny the possibility of defeat and the Faith in our comrades and our cause to make it happen. **Yes.....**

## **WE HELD**

**"We" = each and every one of us.**

Your editor is solely responsible for the content and opinions expressed in this editorial with the exception of the quoted passages from correspondents.

**Jim Jarboe, Editor**

**The Enemy Wanted This Hill-----**



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



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