

# OPHSA



## OP Harry Survivors Association Newsletter

January 2005

Issue 36

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## IN THIS ISSUE

|                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Word about the June Reunion..... | Pg.1 |
| President's Corner.....          | Pg.2 |
| Notes from the Chaplain.....     | Pg.3 |
| The "Pipeline" by Sam Buck.....  | Pg.4 |
| "Pipeline" from Ray Scherrman    | Pg 5 |
| Bits from the OPHSA web site     | Pg 6 |
| Word from Greece                 | Pg 7 |

## OPHSA REUNION INFORMATION

Reunion planning is progressing. We are a little over three months away. Here is the information we have at this time.

The date is **June 16 to June 19**.

The location is the **Boston-Brookline Holiday Inn** located at 1200 Beacon Street in Brookline, MA.

The hotel room rate is \$110 single or double per night. Suites, Triple rooms and Quad accommodations are not available.

All rates are subject to a 9.7% Massachusetts Sales Tax.

Individual overnight parking is \$15.00

It is not too early to make your hotel reservations. The local number at the hotel is **(617) 277-1200**. When making reservations at the hotel by phone be sure to mention the OP Harry Survivors Association to ensure you are getting the negotiated group rate.

For those who wish to book their room on line [www.bos-brookline.holiday-inn.com](http://www.bos-brookline.holiday-inn.com) is the address. On the reservation form use the Group Booking Code 'OHS'.

Reservations made after May 17, 2005 are on a room availability basis. 40 rooms have been reserved for the Association and are held for us until that date. It is best to make your reservation before May 17.

Complete reunion registration and cost information will be published in the April issue.



Boston has a treasure trove of important sites for history buffs.

Tops on the list is the USS Constitution, (Old Ironsides). This is the oldest wooden ship still afloat in the World. It is still in commission in the US Navy. Those with Internet access can find a detailed web site, maintained by the US

Navy showing pictures and information about the ship at [www.usconstitution.navy.mil/](http://www.usconstitution.navy.mil/). We don't know about you but we want to stand on the quarterdeck where Captain Isaac Hull directed Old Ironside's battle against the British ship *Guerri re*, giving the United States it's first significant naval victory in the War of 1812.

***OPHSA does not levy membership dues!***

We depend upon donations to fund our operating expenses. Please send what you are able, to:

**Sam Buck**  
**1514 West Court Avenue**  
**Winterset, IA 50273-1789**

Make checks payable to **OP Harry Survivors Association**

- You cannot build character and courage by taking man's initiative and independence.
- You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and *should* do for themselves.

**See you in Boston!**

*Floyd Deiwert*

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## SEEING THE MEDICS

**John Ferrara** is doing well after the most recent series of treatments. He is home and gaining strength day by day. He and **Carolyn** are planning to join us in Boston in June.

**Marge Jones** is recuperating from surgery a few weeks ago and is gaining strength. She and **Doug** are also planning to be at the reunion in Boston.

**Jim Jarboe** has been undergoing radiation treatments and will have minor surgery this month for prostate cancer. Apparently caught it early.

**Jim Evans** is recovering well from his broken hip. He and **Anne** will be pulling up stakes in Florida this month and moving to Williamsburg, VA.

**Walden Storie** is recovering well from lung surgery. He and **Cora** recently visited snowbird **Ed Hanrahan** in Indian Shores, FL

**John Johnston** called from Durham, NC to notify us that he is moving to Grandville, MI. He has been having a tussle with the VA over treatment and feels he will have better care from a facility in Michigan. We wish him all the best!

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope all in the membership had a very bountiful Thanksgiving with family and friends, and that everyone got everything they wanted for Christmas. I wish that everyone will have a very Prosperous and Happy New Year.



Reservation information for the hotel in Brookline, MA is in this issue of the Newsletter. Don't forget to get those reservations in early.

*How very true and timely from the inspired words of Abraham Lincoln:*

- You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
- You cannot help the small men by tearing down big men.
- You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.
- You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.
- You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.
- You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatreds.
- You cannot establish security on borrowed money.

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## OP HARRY MEMORIAL MEDALS



Orders for medals may be placed with Treasurer Sam Buck after April 1st. The cost is \$10.00 each, including mailing. Send your orders to:

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

## NOTES FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Here's hoping you all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thanks, Jim Jarboe for passing on the following sad information.



**James Clark** passed away November 19, 2004 in Chicago, IL.

A sympathy card, letter of condolence and OPHSA prayer card were sent to the Clark family. James came from Chicago, IL. I am sure **Beverly Clark** will send us more information that will be announced at the Memorial Service in June 2005.

I talked to and received a nice letter from **Dot Tart, Robert Tart's** wife. Robert was Company 'B', 15<sup>th</sup> CO on "Harry". Here are some excerpts from Dot's letter:

"Robert had surgery on his foot earlier this year, then another surgery on his foot again. He had Prostate Surgery after that. He was in and out of the hospital and in a nursing home for three months. All of this made him very weak so after ten months he has gained his strength back and can walk a little better on his new brace."

I know, as in the past, you OPHSA members, especially you guys from 'B' Company, 15<sup>th</sup> Reg. 3 ID will respond with a card or a call.

Past President **Walden Storie** is recovering from lung surgery and sounds better every day. His voice is stronger and his breathing is coming along better.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to **Doug Jones'** wife **Marge**. She successfully underwent surgery on Jan 12, 2005

**John and Carolyn Ferrara** are planning to come to the reunion in Boston. John sounded upbeat and is still fighting his battle. He wishes to thank OPHSA members for remembering him.

To all the humble and silent members who have had surgery, radiation chemo and other various treatments throughout the past year, we wish you a speedy and healthy recovery and a most Happy New Year

"And now for the rest of the story", as Paul Harvey used to say: To all the die-hard New York Yankee fans in OPHSA I say, "GET OVER IT!" For the first time in 86 years the Boston Red Sox won the World Series, so when you come to the reunion bring your "Crying Towels" with you, because the Holiday Inn (1200 Beacon St, Brookline, MA) is under the shadow of the Green Monster (left field wall) at Fenway Park. Or, take a 5-minute walk to Fenway Park. HA!

Please remember our people in the Military who are stationed all over the World and all our civilians who are in harm's way in the Middle East and especially those poor thousands of victims of the Tsunami disaster of 2004.

If you have any news for the Chaplain's Column please let me know. Stay well and see you in June.

GOD BLESS,

*Ed Hanrahan*

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## CONGRATULATIONS

**Marge and Doug Jones** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary recently. They are both hoping to make it to the reunion in Boston. We wish them the very best!



We don't usually acknowledge birthdays in the Newsletter but member **Bill Dannenmeier**, columnist and author, just had a birthday greeting sent to him on email which raises a question in our mind, Bill.

Did the antlers molt on your birthday, or did you run into a low hanging branch?



# PIPELINE TO KOREA

By George (Sam) Buck

My trip [in the pipeline] began at Camp Stoneman, Ca. We were given a priority 1A as FOs were badly needed in Korea (Now I know why)



We were set to go 1 day and then a bunch of paratroopers came in and they were given priority 1A1. We were delayed a few more days.

Early one morning we were jarred awake, loaded on buses, taken to Travis Air Force Base and put on a Northwest Orient DC 4 (complete with stewardesses). Had a 12 hour flight to Hawaii to refuel, another 12 hour flight to Wake Island, and our final 12 hour flight to Tokyo (flying hours)

We were bused to Camp Drake (I asked the bus driver why so many had gauze masks over their mouth and noses – said that was their time of the month – so much for stupid questions)

Since I had a low date of rank, I was assigned with several others to inventory PXs in the area. I have forgotten the name of the small camp north of Camp Drake that I was to inventory. When I went down to get my paper work, I asked for directions and was told, all I had to do was to go down to the Motor Pool, check out a jeep and driver and he would know.

As we were driving out of the main gate and onto that busy street, the driver turned to me and said, “Which way, Sir” Then he told me he had just gotten there the day before.

We took off, headed north and wound around the area, stopping and asking directions from anyone we felt could speak English. After about 2 to 3 hours, we finally found the place.

Then, I was sent for CBR Warfare training at Etta Jima for 2 weeks. After that we were loaded on a narrow gauge train and went to Sasebo.



Sam (far right) with traveling companions on the ship at Sasebo

From there we had an overnight cruise to Pusan where we were met by an Army band, playing, “If I Known you were coming I’d A Baked a Cake” (Very funny)



Cold morning at the Port of Pusan

There we were loaded on 6X6s open trucks and hauled to the Repo Depot. All along the way, the people were giving us the finger.

I was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Div and then loaded onto the “Pusan Express”.



This train had most of its windows broken out and the door between the cars was missing.

It was miserably cold for our all night ride to Seoul sitting on those wooden seats.

I was picked as Car Commander of our car and each time the train stopped, I had to post 4 guards outside on the 4 corners of our car.

We arrived at Seoul the next morning and given a briefing of what was ahead. The next afternoon, we were again loaded on a rickety train for another miserable night. Arriving at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division rear where we met Major John Eisenhower, the G2. He told us not to worry about hearing the men “bitch”, but when they weren’t – we had better start worrying.

*Continued on Page 5*

From there we were shipped to the 39<sup>th</sup> FA Bn during the night for our assignments and given more equipment.



**The Seoul station. All aboard for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division  
All those Korean kids were trying to sell or beg and in  
the process would swipe your pen and pencil, or whatever  
they could grab, then run like the Devil!**

I was assigned to C Bty and met my Battery Commander, Capt. Bray and then got acquainted with my FO crew.

A few days later, I was sent forward to join K Company and met the CO Lt Markley and the XO Lt Richards on OP Dick. I really felt that I had finally found a home as both men were so helpful in getting me acquainted and making me feel a part of the team. Markley was all business and Rich was always up to something. Markley was the kind of leader who wouldn't ask anyone to do anything that he wouldn't do.

Several weeks later, K Co was taken off the line and I went back to my Battery for a short time before I rejoined K Co to occupy OP Harry.

This is my version of the pipeline the way I remember it.

*[Photos from Sam Buck]*

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## A NOTE FROM THE LATE EDITOR

We must apologize for the Newsletter being late this issue. We are involved in a series of treatments for prostate cancer and have found that the radiation causes a great loss of energy. We have even fallen asleep sitting up at the computer!!

The energy is coming back now so, with a little help from above, we'll get this one out and the next one on time. That issue will have a registration form and the prices and schedule for the upcoming reunion

## MORE PIPELINE AND AFTER

By Ray Scherrman

*We asked for some input from members about their adventures while in the "Pipeline". We have received much material to share. **Ray Scherrman** sent an email with information about his trip through that famous "pipe" which he observed was very similar to others already sent in. He sent several pictures that reminded us about the groups of men who kept the paperwork and supplies moving. Napoleon observed that an Army moved on it's stomach, but who were the guys in Korea who moved the men and supplies, the food and fuel, ammo, all that paperwork and the mail? Because we agree with Ray about his time in the pipeline being typical we want to tell you, in his own words, about what he did after the pipeline spit him out into the 5th RCT.*

*(Ed)*

*[Photos from Ray Sherrman]*

In August of 1952 I reported to Camp Stoneman, CA. Upon reporting there I was notified that I was on a Congressional Tag Hold due to the illness of my father. I was sent to detachment E, Co. H. There was a need for a clerk typist and I was assigned to that duty. I spent the next months typing reports, working with soldiers that were on hold, AWOL and loading soldiers on boats at Alameda shipyards and Fort Mason. In March of 1953 I got orders to go to Korea and boarded a ship at Alameda.



I spent my time on the boat in the cabin typing the ship's daily log. This was nice duty, as I was able to eat and sleep with the ship's crew.

When we left California we found we were assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. While on the ship our orders were changed and we were assigned to a Regimental Combat Team.

After getting all our combat gear at Camp Drake in Japan, we loaded on a boat for Korea and landed at Inchon. The tide was out so we had to crawl down ropes on the side of the boat to get to the LST and then to the shore where there was a junky old passenger train waiting to take us North to a rail center.

*(Continued on page 6)*

We unloaded from the train and onto trucks that took us to the Heavy Mortar Section of the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT at the Punchbowl.

We were interviewed in a bunker by a SFC who was getting information about what we did in the States. When I told him I was a "Remington Raider" I was abruptly told there was not a job for a typist in Korea. I was asked if I could drive a truck and I said yes.



**Old WW II vehicles needed lots of maintenance.**

I was sent to the motor pool where my classification was a transportation Corporal.



**Ray and steed**

I hauled ammunition, meals and troops up to the front lines. I found out very soon that I was in the heat of the War, not in the easy place of typing orders.

I got shot at many times but was lucky enough to have the rounds miss my truck. I was very happy to have the shooting stop when the truce was signed.

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*Ray was one of the many support troops who provided the supplies, food and ammo while sticking their necks out on those washboards the Koreans used for roads. The more I hear the stories of our OPHSA members who performed the services needed to keep the frontline troops supplied the more I appreciate the value of the work they did and the risks they took in*

*performance of their duty. Truly it was everyone who contributed that made it possible for us to say today: "WE HELD" (Ed)*

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## **BITS FROM THE OPHSA WEB SITE**

*We have been getting messages on the OPHSA website from several people who have left comments in the guest book. Here is one recent one: If you served with William MacGregor please Email me. Sara [emailma@yahoo.com](mailto:emailma@yahoo.com) (Long Island, NY)*

*oOo*

*This was received by Martin Markley (Ed)*

**My Grandfather Pedro O. Castro-KIA-Please help.**

**Corporal Castro was a member of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, possibly E Company.**

**He was KIA, in North Korea on 6-11-53.**

**My family has little to no information about my Grandfather and his experiences. We know nobody that fought bravely by his side. We are desperate to hear anything about Pedro Ortiz Castro. If anyone has any information about him or pictures to share we would be very grateful. No thought or remembrance is too insignificant. I thank every one in advance who will help us bring some light into our lives. God Bless**

**Ramona Castro  
131 Stutson Street  
Rochester, NY 14612  
[Rsrathke@frontiernet.net](mailto:Rsrathke@frontiernet.net)**

*oOo*

**This is a superlative web site, a professional undertaking. It serves as a well-documented vehicle for learning about and remembering life & death on Outpost Harry.**

**This site includes the first actual photos I've ever seen of "Harry." Many of these graphics help to clear up and reinforce some of my old memories, and this can be both exhilarating and a little scary at the same time.**

**Long after the 'survivors' (& I am one) are gone, this web site will remain as an authentic tribute to those who served at this time and place. A piece of military history for the ages. Superb job. Thank you.**

**Mack Trent (5th RCT) <[gojump282@earthlink.net](mailto:gojump282@earthlink.net)>  
Pinebluff, NC USA - Sunday, March 13, 2005 at 10:18:46 (EST)**

*(Continued on page 7)*

Another entry from the OPHSA web site guest book:

**I served with the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT from November 1952 until July 1953. I was in Dog Company, Machine gun platoon. Our company Captain was Captain Knight. Our Platoon Sgt. was Sgt Reynolds. I lost several friends on OP Harry. Ernie Hale Ralph Ernest Hale, [hsea1261@aol.com](mailto:hsea1261@aol.com) Seagoville, TX**

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## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome some new members to OPHSA.

**Tom Ceretto**, who was with 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry, G Co. lives in West Allis, WI with wife **Sallie**.

**Irvin Pool**, B Co. 23<sup>rd</sup> Inf, 2ID, with wife **Joan** lives in Carmichael .CA

**James Walker**, C Co., 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and wife **Barbara** live in O'fallon, MO.

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## OP HARRY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS 2004 - 2005

For your convenience here are the phone numbers of the officers of the Association. Need some information? Give us a call.

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>        | 812-662-0021 |
| Floyd Deiwert Jr.       |              |
| <b>Vice President</b>   | 808-236-3666 |
| Dan Carson              |              |
| <b>Secretary</b>        | 360-466-5855 |
| Douglas Jones           |              |
| <b>Treasurer</b>        | 515-462-4281 |
| Sam Buck                |              |
| <b>Chaplain</b>         | 508-224-8434 |
| Ed Hanrahan             |              |
| <b>Sergeant-At-Arms</b> | 330-484-1749 |
| John E. Rohrig          |              |
| <b>Historian</b>        | 440-942-9258 |
| Richard Martinet        |              |
| <b>Reunion Chairman</b> | 803-783-4491 |
| Jerry Cunningham        |              |
| <b>Webmaster</b>        | 650-494-6049 |
| Freeman Bradford        |              |
| <b>Editor</b>           | 626-358-7834 |
| James F. Jarboe         |              |

## WORD FROM GREECE

Member Demetrios Papadopoulos sent a donation for OPHSA and the following letter to Sam Buck:

**“Dear Sam,  
Perhaps you have heard about me, when Ray Anderson at one of your reunions had read my diary account about the Seige of OP Harry. (June 10-18, 1953)  
I have read and I now know what happened in your CP Bunker during that terrible night of the 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of June on OP Harry.  
My congratulations for your personal courage and heroic action. I think you ought to have received the Medal of Honor. Am I right?  
I have enclosed my donation to print and mail our Newsletter.**

**Best wishes for the coming Christmas and the New Year.**

*Demetrios”*

oOo

From member **George Pagomenos**, another man who served on OP Harry with the Greek Battalion, who now lives in England, your editor has received a copy of his book, recently published in Greece. It is an account of his service in the Greek Battalion in Korea that was sent to me by his son Michael Pagomenos. We would like to present a review of the book here but until it is translated into English we can't do much for our readership! George did sign the book for us in English with this inscription:

**To my dear friend Jim.**

**Thank you for everything especially the Rock of the Marne article and for the photographs you made.**

**Yours sincerely,**

*George Pagomenos*

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## BOSTON-FAST FACTS

*(Gleaned from information from AAA)*

Population 589,141

Elevation 20 Feet

Average Temperature in June- 76° days 59°nights

Tourist Information Massachusetts Office of  
Travel and Tourism  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4510  
Boston, MA 02116  
800-227-6277

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



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

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

If you move please send us the information below.

*Name*

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*Address*

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



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