



Pro Patria Press



#43

July 2006

Newsletter of the 31st Infantry Regiment Association

Reunion 2006

This will be the last edition of the newsletter before the reunion. Our regiment's 90th Anniversary Reunion will be held 3-5 August 2006 at the Genesee Grande Hotel in Syracuse, NY, bringing us back to the 4th Battalion's neighborhood so we can share our celebration with today's Polar Bears before they deploy to Iraq again. Make your reservations by calling (1-800-365-4663) or online at www.geneseegrande.com or www.theparkviewhotel.com. These hotels are close together in the heart of Syracuse with shuttle service between them. They also provide shuttle service to and from the airport. Remember to tell them you're with the 31st Infantry Regiment Reunion.

Follow-on reunions are planned for San Antonio (Coordinator: Bill Burns) in 2007 and Memphis (Coordinator: Clark Washington) in 2008. They will need help in making those events as outstanding as Columbus was this year, so if you live near one of those towns, please send Vin Zike your contact information by e-mailing him at vzike@challengecoin.com.

North Korea 1950

This is the tenth in our series on combat in Korea. In our previous edition, Chinese forces were attacking the 31st RCT for the second night in a row at the Chosin Reservoir

There was an ominous new development in the fight. One body of enemy troops approached from the south near dawn, taking control of the road and rail line between the reservoir and the perimeter. They were probably from the same regiment that ambushed the Medical Company the night before. Unlike the light brown quilted uniforms of the troops who attacked from the north and northeast, these troops wore a heavy dark green uniform, were armed with large numbers of American .45 caliber sub-machineguns, and had plenty of ammunition. The attacks from the northeast were no less intense, but some enemy soldiers on that end of the line were armed with only hand grenades. Strangely, the two attacks were uncoordinated, neither starting nor ending at the same time. There was ample evidence that the 31st RCT was being attacked by elements of two Chinese divisions, but no one was putting the story together yet, leaving Colonel MacLean and his superiors with an incomplete picture of what the 31st RCT was up against.

Over forty years later, when China opened its archives to American scholars, it was revealed that all six regiments of the 80th and 81st Divisions, plus a regiment of the 90th Division from farther east, attacked the 31st RCT over a four day period and that most were destroyed in the process. It is a testament to the determination and courage of desperate men that two half-American, half-KATUSA infantry battalions, supported by only 8 howitzers and 8 antiaircraft weapons held off 7 Chinese infantry regiments for 4 days and 5 nights. After fighting at the Chosin Reservoir, neither the 80th nor 81st Divisions ever returned to combat. They suffered so many casualties, including most of their officers, that both were used to replace losses in other divisions.¹

The 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry, still four miles north of the inlet, was having troubles of its own. Like the 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry at the inlet, its perimeter was hard pressed to hold against steady pressure from the Chinese. Complicating matters, the weather was getting worse. Snow began falling after midnight and visibility was gradually deteriorating. Men from the Regimental CP, including Sergeant Major John A. Lynch, Jr., filled empty foxholes among the depleted rifle squads. Lynch was a former machine gunner who had served with the regiment since its reactivation at Seoul in 1946.

Around 2:00 AM on November 29, Colonel MacLean directed Lieutenant Colonel Faith to pull his battalion back to the inlet before daybreak. Faith set the departure time for 4:30 AM, but some men didn't get the word until they heard vehicles starting and idling their engines in unison, a sure sign the battalion was leaving. Sergeant Major Lynch sent PFC Laverne Tate, the S-1's driver with whom he shared a foxhole, to see who was in the adjacent foxhole on the left while

¹ In contrast, all companies of the 31st and 32nd Infantry Regiments were reconstituted soon after they left North Korea and remained in action throughout the war. Report of Captain Fields E. Shelton, Regimental Historian, 31 December 1950.

Lynch checked the one on the right. Both were empty and there was no one in the foxholes beyond those either. The company had departed without telling its fillers. Lynch and Tate scurried down the hill just in time to join the rear of the departing column.

When the warning order for the withdrawal was issued, Major Hugh Robbins, the Regimental Adjutant, gathered anyone he could find to help unload trucks to make room for the wounded. In the S-1 truck were the National and Regimental Colors, still on their disassembled staffs and packed in the wooden boxes in which they had traveled from Japan several months before. In the dark, soldiers unloading the trucks, mostly KATUSAs, had no opportunity to sort through what they were discarding.

In the final stages of fighting east of the reservoir, Sergeant Major Lynch was wounded and taken, unconscious, to Marine lines at Hagaru-ri and from there by air to an Army hospital at Hungnam. When he awoke, the National Colors were wrapped around his chest. Someone had apparently removed them from their packing container where the S-1 truck was unloaded, taken them to the inlet during the initial withdrawal, and wrapped them around Lynch when he was evacuated. Neither Major Robbins, PFC Tate, nor Sergeant Major Lynch know who, when, or how.



31st Infantry Regimental Colors in Korean War Museum, Beijing

Their instructions were simply to empty the trucks to make room for the wounded and that is what they did. The boxed Colors likely went into a discard pile with field desks, typewriters, and all the other trappings of a personnel shop. Someone suggested burning the abandoned equipment, but that idea was squelched to avoid making the convoy an illuminated target. Moreover, Lieutenant Colonel Faith directed that any vehicles that could not be operated would be disabled, but not destroyed since he intended to return to the area within 24 hours. It is now clear that Chinese troops found the regimental colors in their packing container and took them back to China because they are displayed in the People's Liberation

Army Korean War Museum in Beijing.

Colonel MacLean still planned to attack northward as soon as the 2nd Battalion arrived at the inlet. At the time, the 2nd Battalion was loaded aboard trucks at Majong-dong, as ordered by X Corps G-3, but was ordered off the road to make way for a convoy laden with ammunition for the Marines at Koto-ri. Given the congestion on a single lane road, X Corps issued new orders. The battalion would proceed north the next morning, November 30. For the 31st RCT, it would be much too late. The battalion could have made a huge difference in helping the Tank Company break through the ambush site at Hill 1221 and it would have provided a denser line at the inlet, perhaps enabling the regiment to hold the Chinese at bay on November 27 and 28, but while X Corps fumbled its instructions, the RCT's fate was being sealed.

Just north of the inlet, Colonel Faith's convoy encountered a log roadblock, covered by automatic weapons fire. While Faith and a group of men he collected from vehicles near the head of the column removed the obstacle, he ordered a dismounted platoon and a recoilless rifle section to outflank the enemy from higher ground. Perhaps seeing what was happening, the Chinese fled. The roadblock was removed and the convoy's lead element rolled into what had been the 3rd Battalion's perimeter at around 9:00 AM. At the time, the 3rd Battalion was still heavily engaged, trying to eject the Chinese from its midst. Men in Faith's unit who reached the crest of Hill 1324 overlooking the inlet had a panoramic view of what was taking place. In the valley, they could see two large columns of Chinese troops advancing on the inlet from the south and knots of enemy troops still fighting their way down from the eastern ridges. It was obvious that the inlet had nearly been overrun during the night because tents and vehicles were either on fire or destroyed and hundreds of bodies from both sides littered the ground, particularly around the 3rd Battalion's CP and A Battery's positions.

One person who did not make it into the perimeter that day was Colonel Allan Duart MacLean. He was 43 years old at the time, nine years older than the regiment he commanded. When the vehicle column encountered the roadblock near the Pungnyu-ri Bridge, the command group split into two parts. One went forward with Lieutenant Colonel Faith to clear the roadblock and the other remained atop a rise with Colonel MacLean. Although there was incoming fire, most assumed it was spent rounds from fighting still raging in and around the inlet. Captain Erwin B. Bigger was standing with MacLean looking across the flat inlet. In the dim distance, they could see a long column of troops approaching on foot from the south. There were flashes of firing from the head of the column and fire from the inlet was obviously hitting the approaching troops. MacLean exclaimed, "Those are all my boys, they'll cut each other to pieces." He no doubt assumed the in-coming column was the long-awaited 2nd Battalion running head-long into the 3rd Battalion. It was not, but it would

have been hard to tell across a mile of hazy battlefield. MacLean gave Bigger a verbal order for Lieutenant Colonel Faith that detailed where he wanted Faith's battalion on the perimeter and where he was to meet MacLean.

Eager to take charge of the situation and stop what he assumed was a fratricidal engagement between two of his battalions, MacLean ran across the frozen inlet alone, crossing a small, brush-covered island before proceeding to the south bank. Bigger and several others saw him fall several times as he crossed the final stretch of ice. Bigger was too far away to help and looked on in horror as Chinese soldiers shot MacLean from the south bank. The Colonel nevertheless rose and staggered on. Bigger saw Chinese soldiers come out to grab MacLean and drag him to the south bank. A search was mounted by Faith after his battalion entered the perimeter but it was too late. The Chinese were gone and MacLean was being marched away in a column of POWs. A soldier released from captivity at the war's end reported what happened. MacLean was still able to walk but grew steadily weaker each day of the trek and had to be helped by other POWs. On the night of December 3, he died and was buried in a ditch beside the road. He was the second commander of the 31st Infantry to die in captivity, following Jasper Brady's death on a Japanese hell ship by only six years.

Member Honored

Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 194 in South Dakota has been named after Major General (Retired) Lloyd Moses, who commanded the 31st Infantry Regiment in Korea in 1952. Lloyd, who died in 2000, was a member of the association.

New Members

Our association grows through the efforts of its members. Please do your part by helping to bring in those who served with you. We're very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Edwin J Boss, Sr	A/4th Bn (SP4, Vietnam 1966)	Summitville, NY
Bettie Comparato	Associate (Wife of Sal Comparato)	Largo, FL
Salvatore Comparato	F Co (CPL, Korea 1953-54)	Largo, FL
Ronald E Damrill	HHC 6th Bn (MAJ, Vietnam, 1969-70)	University Place, WA
Louis L Dominguez	C/6th Bn (SP4, Vietnam 1968)	San Pedro, CA
Arthur C Houghtby II	Associate (great grandfather at Bataan)	Oceanside, CA
Robert A Houghtby, Sr	Associate (grandfather at Bataan)	Likely, CA
Vincent Mattaliano, Jr	Associate (father served in Korea)	Pompton Plains, NJ
John K Rutford	HQ 3rd Bn (CPT, Korea 1952)	Roseville, MN
Kenneth M Steed	A/6th Bn (SP4, Vietnam 1969)	Ridgeland, MS
MG (R) John C Atkinson	B/6th Bn (LT, Vietnam 1969-70)	Lumberton, NC

Taps

We're sad to report the following members' deaths:

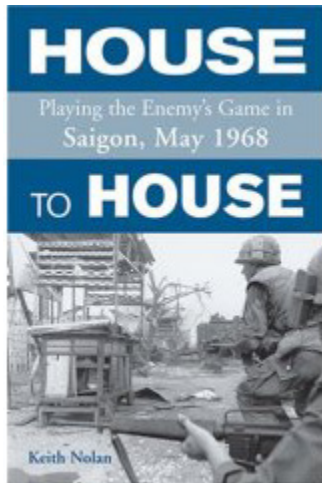
Alphonso R. Altieri	A Co (CPL, Korea 1951)	San Antonio, TX
Arnold Cohen	Tk Co (Korea 1950-51)	Pikesville, MD
Jay Rye	L Co (PVT, Bataan, 1941-42)	Baltimore, MD
Jerl L Woodell	E Co (SFC, Korea, 1952-53)	Leavenworth, KS

Websites

Thanks to the great work of our new webmaster, Mary Doyon, our website has a new look and a lots of new material. Please check it out and sign our guest book www.31stinfantry.org. Other related sites include:

- 6th Bn 31st Inf: www.6thofthe31st.zzn.com and www.vietnam6bn31inf.com
- 7th Infantry Division: www.7th-inf-div-assn.com.
- 9th Infantry Division: www.9thinfdivsociety.org.
- 23rd Infantry "Americal" Division: www.americal.org.
- 196th Light Infantry Brigade: www.196th.org.
- Karen Smith's tribute to the 31st Inf: <http://31rct.tripod.com/>

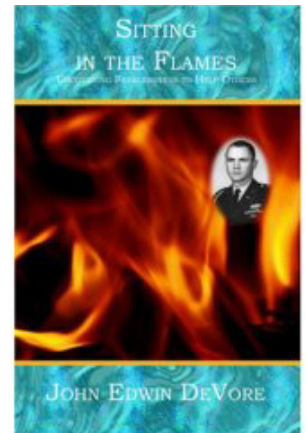




New Books

For all those who served with the 6th Battalion during the second Battle for Saigon in May 1968, *House to House*, a new book about the battle by Keith Nolan has just been released. Get your copy by ordering on line at zenithpress.com, or calling 1-800-826-6600, or FAX 715-294-4448, or writing to Zenith press 729 Prospect Ave, PO Box 1 MH0606, Osceola WI 54020-0001 or contact Steve Daubenspeck sdaubenspeck@mbipublishing.com if you want to strike a deal to buy many copies to send friends and relatives. Keith Nolan is a prolific writer who has written two other books in which the 31st Infantry is featured. *Death Valley* describes the 4th Battalion's action in the Que Son Valley in 1969 and *Into Cambodia* describes the 6th Battalion's actions in Cambodia in 1970. Keith became interested in Vietnam as a student at the University of Missouri while studying under Dr. John Bayer (formerly LT John Bayer, FO with D/6-31st Inf, 1970) and has written eight other books on Vietnam, including *Operation Buffalo*, *The Magnificent Bastards*, *Battle for Saigon*, *Battle for Hue*, *Into Laos*, *Hundred Miles of Bad Road*, *Ripcord*, and *Sappers in the Wire*.

Among the participants in that battle was Captain John E. Devore, who commanded E Company at the time and later commanded B Company. John has also just published a book, *Sitting in the Flames*, that includes his service with the 6th Battalion at Ft Lewis and in Vietnam. You can buy John's book through Amazon.Com. Dr. Judith Simmer-Brown, Professor of Religious Studies at Naropa University, comments, "DeVore takes us through a war zone and traces the effects of war on his family life and career after the military. Then he carries us with him into mature reflection, and the restless need to heal his burden. He shares with us the wisdom he has discovered in himself...DeVore's story is not just autobiography: it is a journey including all of us, unraveling the riddle of war at the heart of our culture."



REUNION 2006

Registration Table will be set up just past the hotel check-in area and will be manned on Thursday, August 3rd from 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Friday, August 4th from 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM, and Saturday August 5th from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Registered reunion participants will receive, their name tags, souvenir items, and brochures for both the Syracuse and Ft. Drum areas.

Hospitality Room will be in the Mayflower Conference Room. It will be open Thursday through Sunday – Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 10:00 AM -10:00 PM and Sunday 8:00 -12:00 PM. Beer, soda, water and chips will be available

Thursday, August 3rd

· Informal trips such as a motorcycle ride around the Finger Lakes, go to a casino, go to a large shopping outlet center, golf, or be pampered at the SpaZend Day Spa. Please note the following:

For the Motorcycle Tour: You must have your own motorcycle you can rent at the Binghamton Harley Davidson dealer. If you are planning on doing the Motorcycle Tour please email Jackie at jimhayes@aol.com so we can keep track of how many people will be doing this tour. The parking areas are not covered, but are monitored by cameras and patrolled by hotel security.

For the Casino Trip: Turning Stone Casino in Vernon, New York is about 45 minutes away. **

For the Outlet Shopping Trip: Waterloo Outlet Center is about an hour west of Syracuse. **

For Golf outing: If you are interested in golfing there is a very nice golf course about 10 minutes from the hotel.

**Note: For any of the trips away from the hotel, you will need to email or call Mr. Todd Buchko at the Genesse Grande (email tbuchko@genessegrande.com or phone 315 701-4303). The hotel has one 25 passenger bus that will take people to the outlet, or casino, (not available for golf) for \$10 per person for the round trip. Todd will take down your name as he needs to have 25 people for the bus to make the trip. You will need to contact Todd at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the reunion (prior to July 20th)

Pampering At the SpaZend Day Spa: The spa has made a special reunion menu of treatments from August 3rd – August 6th. They have discounted the treatments specifically for our group and you will need to call or email them ahead of time to schedule an appointment. The special reunion menu of treatments is as follows: Basic Massage – 50 min. at \$63, One World Massage – at \$81, The Zend Extreme Massage – at \$63, Japanese Clay and Cedar Wrap – at \$78, Special

Reunion Package (30 min. basic massage, SpaZend facial, manicure & pedicure at \$158). They have other treatments and packages available. Complete list is found on their website www.spazend.com.

Meals

Daily: Breakfast – there is a continental breakfast for registered guests at both the Genesee Grande and the Parkview each day.

Lunch & Dinner are on your own and the person from the Syracuse Visitor's Bureau can speak to you about the different choices available to you.

Friday, August 4th

Fort Drum Tour – Open to both men and women. The fee is \$35 (includes the cost of the bus, lunch at the dining facility, and a tour of the Ft. Drum Museum). Vin Zike will be the escort for this tour. The bus will depart the Genesee Grande at 8:30 am. Also, there will not be a trip out to the ranges. The Army cannot accommodate this type of activity at this time. The bus will return at 4:30.

Finger Lakes Tour – This tour is for women and men. The fee for this tour is \$50 which includes admission to two women's rights museums, exquisite buffet lunch in an old world inn right on Cayuga Lake, and wine tasting at a winery. After lunch and shopping, the bus will take everyone to the Long Point Winery for some wine tasting and shopping.

For those NOT going on a tour, there will be DVD movies in the 45 seat theater in the Genesee Grande (movies available will include: *Band of Brothers*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Patton*, and *The Tuskegee Airmen*).

Meals

Breakfast – there is a continental breakfast for registered guests at both the Genesee Grande and the Parkview each day.

Lunch is included if you are scheduled for one of the tours, otherwise it is on your own.

Dinner this evening is on your own.

Saturday, August 5th

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM Registration Table is open

8:00 AM – 11:00 PM Hospitality Room is open (Mayflower Conference Room)

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM Memorial Service (Tiffany Room)

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Regimental Association Meeting (Tiffany Room)

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Lunch on your own

1:00 PM -3:00 PM Presentations or Films (Mayflower Theater). Chuck McCammon has a presentation that he will be giving. If there is anyone else who would like to give a presentation or is a book author please email Jackie at jimhayes@aol.com so we can schedule time for you.

6:30 PM -11:00 PM Banquet -- Cost is \$35.00 per person. Dress for this event is jacket and tie, tuxedo, or dress mess/dress blues for men, for ladies a nice dress, cocktail or evening dress, or dress mess/dress blues. (Please note, casual is OK, if that is what you wish to wear!) The Banquet is in the Tiffany Ballroom. This will be a sit down dinner with Entertainment provided for dancing and patriotic songs. A cash bar will be available.

Meals

Breakfast – there is a continental breakfast for registered guests at both the Genesee Grande and the Parkview each day.

Lunch is on your own.

Dinner is the banquet unless you choose to do something else.

Sunday, August 6th

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Hospitality Room will be open (Mayflower Conference Room) and Memorabilia Room (In Capital Room A & B) Please be sure to pick up your items prior to your departure.

Good-byes and Departures

31ST Infantry Regiment 2006 Reunion Registration Form

NAME : _____ \$25.00 ea \$ _____
 Family Member(s) _____ \$25.00 ea \$ _____
 Or Guests _____ \$25.00 ea \$ _____

(The registration fee is required for all members and guests)

Address _____
 City _____, State _____ Zip _____ - _____
 Email _____
 Phone Number _____
 Company/Battalion of the 31st Inf. _____
 When _____ Where _____

EVENTS:

TOURS: Ft. Drum tour \$35.00 X ___ (# participants) = \$ _____
 "Ladies" Finger Lakes tour \$50.00 X ___ (# participants) = \$ _____
*This is a great tour. Lunch, Women's Rights National Park, a Winery
 (yes... wine tasting), and shopping!*

*Tour costs are per person, and include bus transportation, tour fees, entry fees, and lunch.
 Seating for tours must be reserved in advance. Space may not be available last minute.*

BANQUET/DINNER DANCE \$35.00 X ___ (# participants) = \$ _____
Banquet fee is per person, and includes sit down dinner, entertainment, and dancing.

TOTAL: \$ _____

PLEASE SEND THIS COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM WITH YOUR CHECK MADE OUT TO **31ST INF. REGT. ASSN., NO LATER THAN JULY 1ST** - TO:

**VIN ZIKE
 21 CASKEY RD.
 GLEN SPEY, NY 12737-5800**

Questions?? Call Jackie 845 858-2124, or email at jimhayes@aol.com

31st Infantry Regiment Association Membership Application

First Name	Nickname	MI	Last Name	Rank when Retired
Street	City	State	Zip	() - Home Telephone number
31 st Inf Unit (Plt, Co, Bn)			Dates: _____	
Rank and position: _____			Highest Award earned: _____	
Where did you serve with the 31 st ? Philippines _____ Korea _____ Vietnam _____ USA _____				
Membership desired				
Life member		Associate Life Member (family) _____ \$25		
- age 49 & under _____ \$60		Annual member _____ \$10		
- age 50 - 59 _____ \$45		Associate Annual member (family) _____ \$ 5		
- age 60 & over _____ \$35		Active duty Annual member _____ \$ 5		

Make your check out to the **31st Inf Regt Assn**
 Send your check to: **Jack Considine, 144 S. River Rd, Tolland, CT 06084**

31st REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QUARTERMASTER STORE ORDER FORM

please print clearly to avoid errors in your order

Name _____
 Mailing Address _____
 Email or Telephone _____
 (in case we need to contact you about your order)

ITEM PRICE # of Each TOTAL		
Decal of Polar Bear crest	\$ 3.00	_____
Window decal Korea	\$ 2.50	_____
Window decal Vietnam	\$ 2.50	_____
Window decal CIB	\$ 2.50	_____
7th Div shoulder patch	\$ 3.00	_____
Combat Infantry Badge (small)	\$ 3.00	_____
Combat Infantry Badge (reg size)	\$ 4.50	_____
Bumper Sticker with Regiment's Campaigns (NEW)	\$ 3.00	_____
Tie clasp w/Polar Bear Crest	\$ 4.00	_____
Dog Tag Key Ring w/Regimental Crest	\$ 5.00	_____
Money Clip w/Polar Bear Crest	\$ 4.50	_____
Lapel/Hat pin w/Polar Bear Crest	\$ 4.00	_____
Letter opener w/Polar Bear Crest	\$ 5.50	_____
Army Belt (Blue) & Buckle w/Polar Bear Crest	\$ 6.50	_____
Lapel/Hat pin w/Purple Heart	\$ 3.00	_____
Lapel/Hat pin w/Bronze Star	\$ 3.00	_____
Lapel/Hat pin w/Silver Star	\$ 3.00	_____
Polar Bear patch	\$ 4.00	_____
Bolo Tie w/Polar Bear Crest	\$ 7.00	_____
Regimental Crest (facing set)	\$ 8.00	_____
7th Div Order of the Bayonet Badge	\$ 8.00	_____
Zippo Lighter w/Polar Bear Crest	\$10.25	_____

Ball Cap w/31st Infantry Regiment and Polar Bear Patch embroidered on front	Royal Blue	\$12.00	_____
	Infantry Blue	\$12.00	_____

T-Shirt w/31st Infantry Regiment and Polar Bear Crest embroidered on front size: S M L XL XXL (add \$3.00 for XXL)	Light Blue	\$12.00	_____
	Navy Blue	\$12.00	_____

Polo/Golf shirt (collar and pocket) embroidered over pocket w/31st Infantry Regiment and Crest size: S M L XL XXL (add \$3.00 for XXL)	White	\$ 26.00	_____
	Navy Blue	\$ 26.00	_____

Jacket lined, lightweight, full collar, your name embroidered on right front w/ Regimental Crest on back size: M L XL XXL (add \$3.00 for XXL)	Royal Blue	\$ 42.00	_____
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ORDER TOTALS - NUMBER OF ITEMS/ TOTAL COST _____ \$ _____

SHIPPING CHARGES - add to your order total \$ _____

under \$10.00 add \$ 1.75
 orders \$10.00-\$25.00 add \$ 3.00
 orders \$25.01-\$50.00 add \$ 4.00
 over \$50.00 add \$ 6.00
 Jackets add \$ 6.00

CHECK ENCLOSED \$ _____

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: **31st INF REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**

Mail Order form and check to: **Bill Dolphin, 10585 SW 85th Terrace, Ocala, FL 34481-9769**
 Email questions to: wdd721@aol.com

*Your 31st Infantry
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Newsletter
Pro Patria
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