



Pro Patria Press

#52

October 2008

*Newsletter of the 31st Infantry Regiment Association
Karl Lowe, Editor*

Reunions



Active duty and veteran members of the Army's 31st Infantry Regiment board the SS Lane Victory on Friday. The regiment, which is holding its annual reunion in San Pedro, also visited the Korean Bell, Fort MacArthur Museum and the Los Angeles Maritime Museum. Steve McCrank/Staff Photographer

Hats off to Lou Dominguez (C/6-31st Infantry-1967-69) for the hospitality shown our association at San Pedro for Reunion 2008. Lou's work with the city fathers and local businesses made the event a great success, despite the nearby earthquake just a week before. Our next reunion will be 27-30 August 2009 at Ft Drum, NY. In 2010 it will be at Reno, NV and in 2011 it will be at Ft Benning, GA. Details will follow in our next newsletter.

Officers of the Association

At this year's reunion, it was decided that the Association's current officers will remain in their current roles for another year and that elections for a new slate will be held at our next reunion. Charlie Tapp heads the nomination committee. If you are interested in running for office, write him at 215 Waterford Dr, Inman, SC 29349-0705, call him at 864-473-1999, or email him at charlietapp@alltel.net or charlie@cctrucking.com.

Current serving officers are:

Commander: **Ron Corson**

3620 Bridgewater Dr, Williamsburg VA 23188 ph 757-253-1311 email jrcorson@aol.com

Vice Commander/Quartermaster: **Vin Zike**

21 Caskey Road, Glen Spey, NY 12737 ph 845-858-2030 email vzike@challengecoin.com

Senior Director/Historian: **Karl Lowe**
5101 Portsmouth Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032 ph 703-845-2412 email klowe@ida.org

Treasurer: **John Cornelson**
3116 Chattahoochee Trace, Gainesville, GA 30506 ph 770-531-0295 johnwp61@yahoo.com

Membership Chairman: **Jack Considine**
144 S River Rd, Tolland, CT 06084 ph 860-875-9032 the31stira@yahoo.com

Regional Directors:

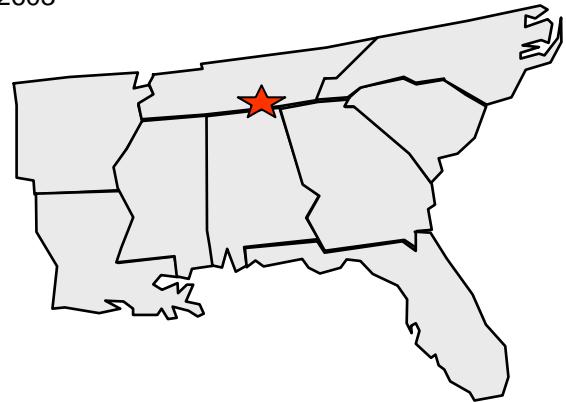
Northeast Region (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY)
Ed Bettis (edbettis@netzero.net)
3728 Highland Ave, Skaneateles, NY 13152
315-685-3944



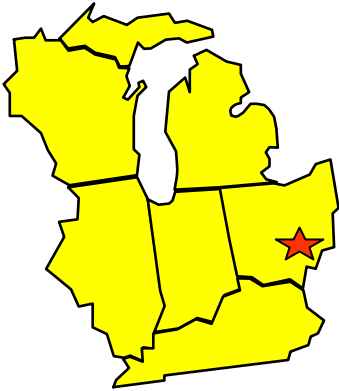
Mid-Atlantic Region (NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, VA, WV)
Bill Owen (bjowen@hughes.net)
360 Glendobbin Rd, Winchester VA 22603



Southeast Region (NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, AR, LA, PR, VI)
Noah Halfacre (echo66@comcast.net)
2740 Oxford Hall Ave,
Murfreesboro TN 37128-2856
931-728-3898



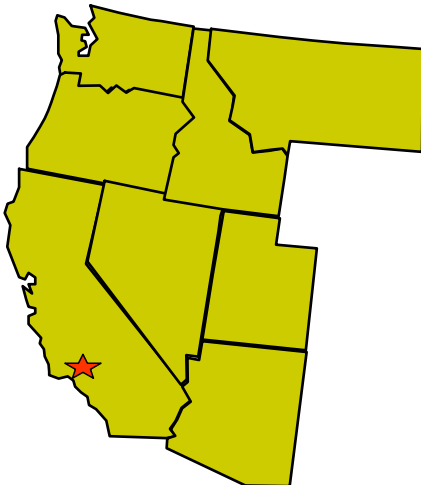
Great Lakes Region (KY, OH, MI, IN, IL, WI)
Dan Kelly (dankelley47@bright.net)
611 Seip Rd, Chillicothe, OH 45601
614-642-2796



Midwest Region (MN, ND, SD, NE, IA, MO, KS, OK, TX, NM, CO, WY)
Jerry Carlson (jcarelpass@aol.com)
3205 Stone Edge Rd,
El Paso, TX 79904-2427
915-751-4865



Western Region (HI, AK, WA, OR, CA, NV, AZ, UT, ID, MT)
Houston Turner (lucky31st@juno.com)
7000 Maynard Ave,
West Hills, CA 91307
818-347-5462



Back in Action

This is the nineteenth in our series on combat in Korea. In our previous edition, the regiment had just been evacuated from North Korea and was moving back on line in South Korea. The saga continues...



On January 29, the 31st Infantry moved onto a series of ridges and hills defining the 7th Division's main line of resistance (MLR). The regiment would not have to wait long for its return to action. The following night, the Chinese attacked in three waves, each spaced about 300 yards apart. As bugles blared to signal the attack, mortars and heavier guns began to shell the ridgeline. American searchlights behind the line aimed their beams at low-hanging clouds to provide reflected illumination for the infantrymen up front. Illuminated by the sudden light, the first wave of Chinese, about ten rows deep, came under fire from every American weapon in range. Rifles and carbines, BARs, machineguns, recoilless rifles, mortars, and artillery created a deafening orchestra as flying metal turned the valley into a slaughterhouse.

The first wave became a pile of mangled bodies whose few survivors shielded themselves behind or under dead comrades. The second wave stopped several hundred yards away, dropped to prone, sitting, and kneeling positions, and concentrated their fire against troops of the 2nd Battalion holding the lowest part of the ridge. Stationary in the open, the Chinese had no chance against massed American firepower and they too added their bodies to the harvest of death. The third wave came through the barrage at a dead run, moving through the first and second waves as quickly as they could. Some got to within 20 yards of the American line, but were mown down. None penetrated the line.

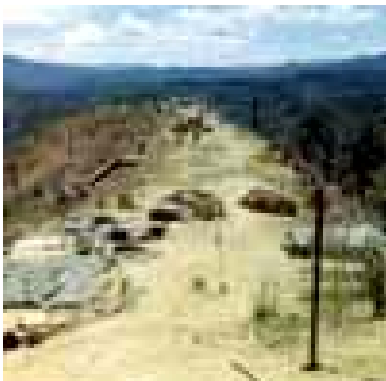
It was over in just under an hour. Afterward, the night was eerily quiet. If there were wounded Chinese in front of the American positions, they either crawled back to their own line in the dark or died silently where they lay in the damp, cold valley. The next morning, Koreans came out of nearby villages to carry the dead to burial grounds. G Company counted 331 bodies being carried away. A nearby company of the 17th Infantry Regiment counted 387 Chinese dead in front of their positions, and so it went all along the line. Someone dubbed the place "Massacre Valley".

In China, families would in time grieve for sons whose bodies now rested in Korean soil, learning of their fate only when they failed to return home at the war's end or when a crippled brother or friend came home early with the news. To governments on both sides, numbers of casualties were faceless abstractions, mere indicators of how well or how poorly their generals waged campaigns. There were many millions of similarly "faceless" young men in China to take their places, and so the fighting continued, no matter how many times there would be a "Massacre Valley".

Good Humor Man

This article, sent by LTG (Ret) Sam Wetzels, is from the Pacific Stars and Stripes, dated 5 September 68

CHU LAI, Vietnam (Special) A battalion of Americal Div.'s 196th Inf. Brigade was amazed and overjoyed recently when a division helicopter brought a cool cargo to Landing Zone Mellon. When the chopper landed at the Charlie Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf., Command Post the mercury sizzled at 110. Most of the men thought it was a mirage when the



Huey off-loaded 30 gallons of vanilla and chocolate ice cream - hard as a brick. The day before, Lt. Gen. Frank T. Mildren, deputy commander, U.S. Army Vietnam had come to visit the isolated landing zone, and talked with the men about chow. All agreed the hot chow flown to Mellon from Battalion headquarters was good. "But we're so far out in the jungle, by the time the food gets here the ice cream is usually melted!" said Sp4 Mark Malone of Detroit. "If you're last in line for chow you get 'hot chocolate soup' instead of cold ice cream." When Col. William Levin, director of food services, 1st Log Command, heard of the ice cream plight at the isolated LZ he went into action. Teaming up with Maj. James Henrionnet, Americal Div. G-4, he decided that bringing ice cream to Mellon would be a good test of their new Army Thermal Unit.

Hourglass needs a new Editor



The *Hourglass* is the 7th Infantry Division Association's newsletter. Due to a family crisis, Charlie Richardson will be unable to continue as editor after the Winter 2008 issue. The 7th Infantry Division Association is therefore soliciting applications from members for the position of editor which is recognized by an annual honorarium of \$500 and a voting position on the Governing Council. You don't have to do it alone - it's a team effort! Casey Stengel helps digitize the material, Doug Halbert helps proof it, and Frank Wadge, the publisher, assures that the publication is a quality product. The team just needs a leader to receive submitted material, choose what will be included in the issue, and edit submissions where necessary. If you have the time, inclination and writing skills, please email Gene Peeples at President@7id.us, indicating what experience would enable you to do the job. If you don't have experience but think you'd like to give it a try, let Gene hear from you.

The Washington Times makes Vietnam Wall personal, searchable and interactive

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/thewall/> Now you can add your story and remembrance to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. In collaboration with the archival search company Footnote, The Times has made each of the 58,000-plus names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial searchable, a place where you can add personal stories. A digital image of the wall —actually thousands of photos fused together — locates each veteran's name where it appears on the memorial. From there, any visitor to The Times site can leave their stories and remembrances or upload photos of veterans. Start by clicking on the "Search the Wall" box, where you can select "Search" or "View." Once you find the name of a soldier, you can add your stories or photos.

Searching

John Jarvis served in Korea in 1951. He joined L Company in April and would like to know his company commander's name. He reports, "In August of '51 one of our company commanders was killed by a sniper, don't know his name. Then we got LT Small and in the winter of 51 it was Capt McCarty. Who were the other company commanders the rest of the war?" If you can shed any light on John's question, contact Vin Zike 21 Caskey Road, Glen Spey NY 12737 ph 845-858-2030 email vzike@challengecoin.com.

Jerry White needs pictures of the following men from D/6-31st Inf who have died since the war: **Charles Luntsford, Jack W Minick, Rick Sayer, SGT Todd K Severson, SGT William L Steeves, 2LT Stephen H Stull, 2LT Daniel L Webber, Joseph T Griffin, Robert S Helfer, SGT Curtis N Hoell, Ronnie Jones, John J Mercer, SSG Raymond W Miller, SSG Otha T Robertson, Wesley F Butler, Nelson Oglesby, Menendez G Laborde, Urline Sayre, Henry C Adamson, Thomas Garizone Jr, SSG James R Lairsey, Robert H Leigh, Samuel T McRae, Michael F Ruane, and Paul T Schoenstein.** If you have a picture of any of them, please contact Jerry White jerry.white@amd.com or Mary Doyon mary@vietnam6bn31inf.com.

If you know the answer to the question below, please contact **Jack Tyler** bataan42@yahoo.com

In the chapter on WWII 41-42 references are made to a significant Church located in the village of Abucay Hacienda. There was a noted and historically famous church in the municipality of Abucay on the east shore. In 2006 I had the opportunity to trace much of the route of the Death March and visit some of the Battlefields on Bataan. I went to both the municipality of Abucay and the Abucay Hacienda village high on the side of Mt. Natib. The Abucay Municipality church is in the typical Earth Quake Baroque style with a separated octagonal bell tower. In the late 1980's Donald Young visited the church and the battle scars (he published were more visible then than in 2006 when they were being obscured to a large extent by restoration efforts. Was there really a church at the Abucay Hacienda village. During my visit I only a small elementary school, basket ball court, 1 sari-sari store, and a college was in the process of being built, and a water tower had recently been installed. But even in 2006, what I saw essentially remained a small collection of Nipa huts nestled on the eastern slopes of Mt. Natib. Is it possible that there was confusion between Municipal center of Abucay on the coast with its large ancient church and the village of the Abucay Hacienda workers high on the slopes of Natib? ...or was there really a big church in the Hacienda village, or a big church in the Abucay fields between the village and the municipality.



Taps

John N Feazell	SGT, G and L Cos, Korean War, 1953	Lake Park, GA
Frank E Hicks, Jr	1LT, Med Co, Korea-DMZ, 1954-55	Weaverville, CA
William Pitt	31 st Infantry, pre-war Philippines	Georgia
Allen Rose	SGT, D/4 th Bn, Vietnam, 1968	Omak WA
Wilburn L Snyder	CPL, Med Det 3 rd Bn, Bataan, 1941-42	Houston, TX
Miles Taulbee	31 st Infantry, pre-war Philippines	El Paso, TX
Robert Trease	31 st Infantry, Korean War 1952-53	Long Beach, CA

New Members

We're pleased to welcome a new crop of members, many of whom joined at the reunion in San Pedro. Please check to see if we got your contact information and unit right and help us sign up others with whom you've been in contact.

- George C Adam** HHC 6th Bn, Ft Irwin 1982-83, 1LT, S-2
- Melvin A Bates** I&R Plt, Regt'1 HHC, Korea, 1946-47, SSG, Sqd Ldr-Supply Sgt
- Donald P Chrisman** HHC 4th Bn, Vietnam 1968-69 SGT, Radio Teletype Chief
- Michael E Jester** 3rd Plt, D/6th Bn, Ft Lewis and Vietnam, 1967-69, Sqd Ldr
- Floyd E Jones** 3rd Plt, D/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1969, SP4
- Merle F Litzsinger** 3rd Plt G Co, Korea 1952-53, SFC, Plt Sgt
- Rick D Mickels** D/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1969-70 SGT, Radioman
- Grady A Smith** D/6th Bn, Ft Lewis and Vietnam, 1967-69, CPT, Co Cdr
- Robert E Smith**, HHC 1st Bn, Korea 1984-87 SSG, Sr Intel Analyst
- Gary D Stafford** 1st Plt, B/6th Bn, Vietnam 1969, LT, Plt Ldr
- Richard E Wayne** 4th Plt D/6th Bn, Vietnam 1968, SGT, Sqd Ldr
- John Yeager** Commo Plt, HHC 2nd Bn, Korea 1952-53, PFC, Lineman
- Nick R Zagar** 1st Plt, D/6th Bn, Vietnam, 1969-70 Sgt, 11B40

Websites

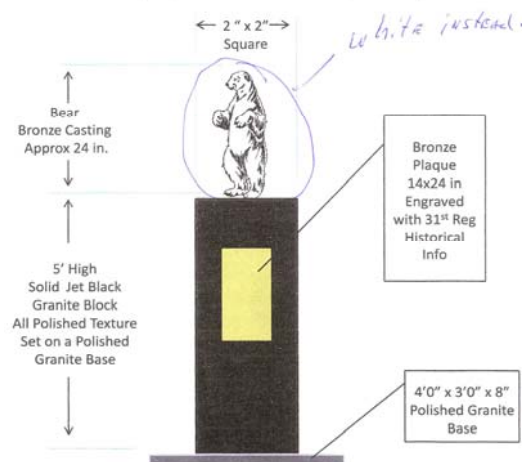
Please check out our website and sign our guest book at www.31stinfantry.org

Related sites include:

- 4th Bn 31st Inf: <http://www.drum.army.mil/sites/tenants/division/2BCT/4-31INF/>
- 6th Bn 31st Inf: www.6thofthe31st.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/>

Polar Bear Memorial

Several years ago, we began a quest to have a memorial to 31st Infantry placed at Arlington National Cemetery. That failed due to cemetery rules pandering to political interests, rather than soldiers. We will instead erect our memorial at National Infantry Museum near the entrance to Ft Benning, GA. At this year's reunion, the membership voted for the memorial design shown below.



Estimated Cost:	Solid Jet Black Granite Stone with Polished Granite Base	\$13,000
	Cast Bronze Plaque 14" x 24"	\$1,200
	Bronze Bear Approx 24" Tall	\$14,000
		\$28,200
Company: Columbus Memorial, Columbus, GA		

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the

G Company Reunion

For many years, Korean War-era G Company had the largest number of attendees at our annual reunion, thanks mainly to Ed Bettis who recruited many of his Korean War colleagues and urged them to attend our reunions. This year, the 1951-52 veterans decided to go it alone, meeting with just those they served with. They met at Pidgeon Forge, TN on 26-28 August and will meet there again next year 28 Sep-1 Oct 2009. Those interested in attending should call Oliver Smith 828-396-2076 for more information. Sorry we won't get to see these old friends of many years any more—Glen, Charlie, Herb, Joe, and all the rest. Best wishes to all of you.



The separate reunion of G Company veterans is not the only such gathering. B/6-31st Infantry (1967-68) has always met separately and I understand other 6-31st Infantry veterans will meet separately at the Wall in DC next year. While I hate to see the association break into penny packets, I understand the reasoning. Over the years, our reunions have gotten more expensive as the association grew. It's hard to find a reasonably priced hotel that can accommodate groups of more than 200. Well, that's progress for you—like stars spinning out of the solar system. Wherever you meet, you'll still always be stars in my book.

31st REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QUARTERMASTER STORE ORDER FORM

Please print clearly to avoid errors in your order

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

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
7th Div Order of the Bayonet Badge	\$ 8.00	X _____	= _____
Combat Infantry Badge (small)	\$ 3.00	X _____	= _____
Combat Infantry Badge (reg size)	\$ 4.50	X _____	= _____
Ball Cap w/31st Infantry Regiment and Polar Bear Patch embroidered on front			
Royal Blue	\$12.00	X _____	= _____
Infantry Blue	\$12.00	X _____	= _____

31 st Infantry Regiment Association Bumper Sticker w/campaigns			\$ 3.00	X	_____	=	_____	
Window decal CIB			\$ 2.50	X	_____	=	_____	
Window decal Korea Veteran & Proud			\$ 2.50	X	_____	=	_____	
Decal of Polar Bear crest			\$ 3.00	X	_____	=	_____	
Window decal Vietnam			\$ 2.50	X	_____	=	_____	
Army Belt (Blue) & Buckle w/Polar Bear Crest			\$ 7.50	X	_____	=	_____	
Dog Tag Key Ring w/Regimental Crest			\$ 5.00	X	_____	=	_____	
Money Clip w/Polar Bear Crest			\$ 4.50	X	_____	=	_____	
Polar Bear patch			\$ 4.00	X	_____	=	_____	
7th Div shoulder patch			\$ 3.00	X	_____	=	_____	
Lapel/Hat pin w/Polar Bear Crest			\$ 4.00	X	_____	=	_____	
Lapel/Hat pin w/Bronze Star			\$ 3.00	X	_____	=	_____	
Regimental Crest (facing set)			\$ 8.00	X	_____	=	_____	
Lapel/Hat pin w/Silver Star			\$ 3.00	X	_____	=	_____	
Shanghai Bowl cup			\$165.00	X	_____	=	_____	
Tie clasp w/Polar Bear Crest			\$ 4.00	X	_____	=	_____	
Lapel/Hat pin w/Purple Heart			\$ 3.00	X	_____	=	_____	
Bola Tie w/Polar Bear Crest			\$ 9.00	X	_____	=	_____	
Zippo Lighter w/Polar Bear Crest			\$14.00	X	_____	=	_____	
Tee Shirt w/31st Infantry Regiment and Polar Bear Crest								
	Size (circle one):	S M L XL	Light Blue	\$12.00	X	_____	=	_____
			Navy Blue	\$12.00	X	_____	=	_____
	Size:	XXL	Light Blue	\$15.00	X	_____	=	_____
			Navy Blue	\$15.00	X	_____	=	_____
Polo/Golf shirt w/31st Infantry Regiment and Crest								
	Size (circle one):	S M L XL	White	\$ 26.00	X	_____	=	_____
			Navy Blue	\$ 26.00	X	_____	=	_____
	Size:	XXL	White	\$ 29.00	X	_____	=	_____
			Navy Blue	\$ 29.00	X	_____	=	_____

ORDER TOTALS - NUMBER OF ITEMS/ TOTAL COST: \$ _____

SHIPPING CHARGES - add to your order total SHIPPING: \$ _____

under \$10.00 add \$ 2.50 over \$50.00 add \$ 8.00

orders \$10.00-\$25.00 add \$ 4.50

orders \$25.01-\$50.00 add \$ 6.00

CHECK ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

Email questions to: vzike@challengecoin.com

Mail Order form and check to:

Vin Zike
21 Caskey Road
Glen Spey, NY 12737

Membership Application - 31st Infantry Regiment Association				
first name	nickname	middle initial	last name	
street address	city	state	zip code	phone number
31st Inf unit (Plt, Co, Bn)			rank & duty position	
rank when retired		Highest award earned		
Where did you serve with the 31st?		When?		
Philippines		_____		
Korea		_____		
Japan		_____		
Vietnam		_____		

USA

Membership desired:

life member -	age 49 & under	_____	\$60
	age 50-59	_____	\$45
	age 60 & over	_____	\$35
annual member		_____	\$10
associate life member (family)		_____	\$25
associate annual member (family)		_____	\$5
active duty member		_____	\$5



Make check to **31st Inf Regt Assn** & mail to: **Jack Considine, 144 S River Rd, Tolland, CT 06084**

31 Infantry Regiment Association
Vincent Zike, COL (Ret)
21 Caskey Road
Glen Spey, NY 12737

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