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Newsletter of the 31st Infantry Regiment Association

Lou Dominguez, Editor

New Webmaster for the Association's Website






Daniel Wilson, an Information Technology professional and the son of the Association's Vice Commander David Wilson, has stepped up to work on the Association's website. He initially got with Bill Owen to see what was needed by the old website. Bill gave Daniel a straightforward charter: improve the current website, and turn it into a workable interactive site with chat room and photo upload/display capabilities.

Anyone who has worked with websites knows that these subtasks are easy to describe but consume large amounts of time to execute. So far, Daniel has fixed many of the connectivity/security issues from the old website, absolute essentials for any sites, but that aren't always apparent to the casual visitor. Daniel is now working to acquire good photo and chat room software. Still to come: capability to sign in to the website, launch of the chat room, and ability to upload photos and access the Quartermaster website.

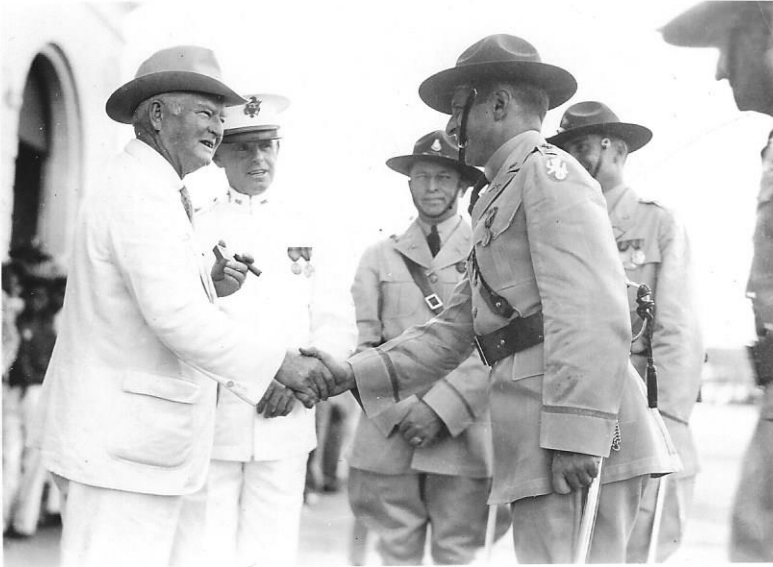
What do we need from Association members right now? Check out the site at www.31stinfantry.org and get your pictures ready. In the near future we'll be asking for volunteers to transfer pictures and captions. Bottom line: the web site is undergoing changes. Right now it's functional but needs more work. Drop in and check it out, and let us know if you have some workable website ideas we've missed. Send your suggestions to our single point of contact for the web, Vice Commander David Wilson, at mrdpwilson@comcast.net.

And when you visit the site, you'll see reminders on our 100th Anniversary reunion at Fort Drum 11-14 August 2016. Hope to see you there!

31st Infantry Association Website

NEWS	LATEST REUNION INFORMATION
 <p>Mark your calendars: 11-14 August 2016 is the 100th Anniversary Reunion <i>Tuesday, January 19th</i></p> <p>The 100th Anniversary Reunion will be held at Fort Drum/Watertown, NY, 11-14 August 2016. We will have more information available...</p>	
 <p>Reunion 2016 at Fort Drum <i>Friday, October 16th</i></p> <p>The 100th Anniversary Reunion will be held at Fort Drum/Watertown, NY, 11-14 August 2016. Start advertising and pushing attendance as you...</p>	<p>Mark your calendars: 11-14 August 2016 is the 100th Anniversary Reunion</p> <p>The 100th Anniversary Reunion will be held at Fort Drum/Watertown, NY, 11-14 August 2016. We will have more information available...</p>
 <p>Welcome To The 31st Associations Website <i>Wednesday, February 12th</i></p> <p>Hello and welcome to the new Association website. We have made an effort to supply users with as much information...</p>	<p>Continue Reading</p> 

Roosevelt's VEEP Checks Out the Polar Bears



Vice President John Nance Garner and CPT Albert Pierson shaking hands.



MG Albert Pierson

In November 1935, during Franklin Delano Roosevelt's first term, Vice President John Nance Garner visited the Philippines, leading the U.S. delegation to ceremonies inaugurating the Philippines Commonwealth. While there, he checked out the 31st Infantry Regiment. He is shaking hands here with Captain Albert Pierson, who served in the Regiment as the machine gun company commander and the Regimental Adjutant. He went on to complete a 40-year military career. Among his senior positions was Assistant Division Commander of the 11th Airborne Division in WWII. He ultimately retired as a major general.

Family photo (left) courtesy of Mrs. Sallie Pierson Cauchon Holden

“A Different Kind of War” – 1st Comprehensive Study of Afghan War

The Combat Studies Institute Press at the Army's Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, has published its study of the initial four years of the Afghan War, dubbed Operation Enduring Freedom. Titled “A Different Kind of War: the United States Army in Operation Enduring Freedom October 2001-September 2005,” it includes the period of 4-31 Infantry's first post-9/11 deployment. This work's point of view is primarily strategic, so it doesn't zoom in on the Polar Bears. Still, the Battalion shows up in the early part of the book. This history's primary worth is providing an overall look at Operation Enduring Freedom—it opens with coverage of the successful campaign against the Taliban in 2001 and moves to the follow-on campaign designed to pacify and stabilize Afghanistan. Donald P. Wright and his team of historians have provided a comprehensive look at a struggle that continued to the end of December 2014. Yet the news tells us that involvement in Afghanistan is not quite over. This book provides insights from the past to help its readers understand the present. Available in hardcopy on line and through bookstores, and on the web at <http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/csi/docs/DifferentKindofWar.pdf>.



Taps

<u>Member</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Location</u>
Ralph E. Burkley	HQ Co, 2d Bn Korea 1950-51	Kendallville IN
Earle L. Denton	L Co 3d Bn Korea 1953	Orlando FL
Melvin Garten	K Co 3d Bn Korea 1952-53	Lake Oswego OR
While Garten was in command of K Company in Korea, he won the Distinguished Service Cross. He made the Army his career, ultimately retiring in the rank of colonel.		
Herbert U. Powell	K & L Cos 3d Bn Korea 1952	Chattanooga TN

Three More Korean War MIAs Identified



Dakin



Reager



Witt

Three more members of Task Force Faith, the 31st Infantry RCT, have been identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

SGT Robert C. Dakin, 22, of Waltham MA was declared missing in action after his unit, Co. L, 31st Infantry Regiment was attacked near the Chosin Reservoir. Between 1990 and 1994 North Korean forces returned 208 boxes containing the commingled human remains of at least 600 US servicemen. To identify Dakin's remains, scientists used circumstantial evidence plus mitochondrial DNA which matched maternal references, and autosomal DNA which matched two sisters. Dakin was buried December 12 in his hometown, 65 years to the day when he went missing in Korea.

SFC Robert Reager, 20, of Coraopolis PA became missing in action on December 2 as Task Force Faith conducted a fighting withdrawal to more defensible terrain south of the Chosin Reservoir. Reager was a member of Co. C, 1st Battalion, 32d Infantry Regiment, the battalion that LTC Don C. Faith was commanding before he took over the 31st RCT. In the spring of 2004, North Korea recovered American remains in the vicinity of the Chosin, and turned them over to the US. The DNA tests used to identify Reager were mitochondrial DNA which matched his brother and two cousins, and Y-chromosome Short Tandem Repeat DNA (Y-STR) analysis, which matched his brother. SFC Reager was interred in Bridgeville PA on September 28.

Like SFC Reager, Army CPL Robert V. Witt, 20, of 1st Battalion, 32d Infantry Regiment, was part of the fighting withdrawal from the Chosin, and was declared missing in action on December 2. American POWs released in 1953 reported that Witt had been captured during the battle, and died of malnutrition. And like SGT Dakin's remains, Witt's were part of the commingled remains returned between 1990 and 1994. DNA testing, including mitochondrial, Y-STR, and autosomal, linked CPL Witt's remains to his brother. He was buried October 30 in Whittier CA near his hometown of Bellflower.

More than 7800 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. The work goes on.

Medal of Honor for LTC Brady — Continued

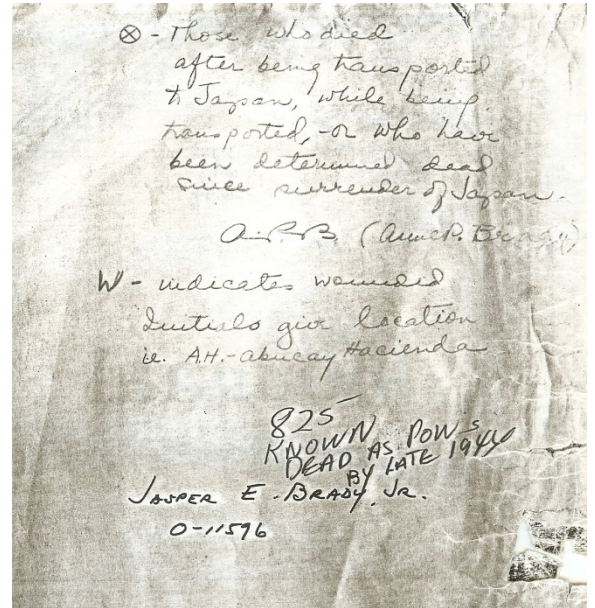
In the April edition last year, the Newsletter reported on an effort to secure the award of the Medal of Honor for LTC Jasper Brady, CO of the 31st Infantry Regiment when American forces surrendered to the Japanese on Bataan. After Japan's surrender Brady was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star w/V and several other awards for his actions during the Bataan fighting.

During captivity Brady daily risked his life by producing and maintaining a ledger containing the names of all the members of the Regiment and what happened to them. The illustration at right is the inside front cover of Brady's Cabanatuan Prison Camp Ledger. At the bottom, in his own hand, Brady notes: "825 known dead as POWs by late 1944." Then he signed it and set down his service number: Jasper E. Brady Jr., O-11596.

It would have been crystal clear to his Japanese captors who was responsible for the Ledger. Darrell Stark, a Polar Bear survivor of the Bataan Death March and more than three years' imprisonment by the Japanese, says there is no doubt that Brady would have been beheaded.

Stark decided last year to try to obtain the MOH for Brady. He teamed up with Ron Corson, Senior Director of the Association, and they submitted a 20-plus page packet requesting special consideration for the MOH. It was initially reviewed by staffers in the Congress, and Brady was recommended for a Legion of Merit for his actions while in captivity. Part of the problem is that current criteria for the award specify "combat actions with an enemy." However, that was only made specific in 1962. Prior to that, the criteria included "heroic actions in the line of duty." There are at least two awards of the MOH not involving an enemy which set a precedent for the Brady case.

Ron and Darrell knew when they started this effort that it would be a real battle. Almost every restriction for awarding the Medal of Honor, put in place to insure the award's integrity, can become an obstacle because of the unique circumstances of this case. The effort continues.



IT'S NOT TOO EARLY

**To Think About the 2016 Association Reunion
Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Regimental Activation
Where? The Best Western Watertown / Fort Drum New York
When? August 11 – 14, 2016**

Come and Celebrate the start of the next Polar Bear Century!



Association Officers

Commander: 5225 Pooks Hill Rd., #1412N Bethesda, MD 20814	Mike Strand (LT, C/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69) 240-800-4194 hrdyna@aol.com
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Mid-Atlantic Region (NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, VA, WV) 104 Cumberland Dr, Carlisle, PA 17013	Jim Simms (LT, HHC & C/4th Bn, VN, 1969-70) 717-243-5570 jnpsim@comcast.net
Southeast Region (NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, TN, AR, LA, PR, VI) 2740 Oxford Hall Ave, Murfreesboro TN 37128	Noah Halfacre (LT, E/6th Bn, VN, 1968) 615-893-9715 echo66@comcast.net
Great Lakes Region (KY, OH, MI, IN, IL, WI) 788 Eagledale Dr, Kettering, OH 45429	John Howdeshelt (SGT, D/6 th Bn, VN, 1969) 937-435-0669 mamahowdy@yahoo.com
Midwest Region (MN, ND, SD, NE, IA, MO, KS, OK, TX, NM, CO) 3100 Chambers St, Sioux City IA 51104	John Mansfield (LT, Plat Ldr, 4 th Bn, 1967-68) 712-277-4498 arctic6@aol.com
Western Region (HI, AK, WA, OR, CA, NV, AZ, UT, ID, MT, WY) 460 Pacheco, San Francisco CA94116	Ron Belloli (LT, C/6th Bn, VN, 1967-68) 928-380-9577 ronbab22631@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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 OR EMAIL Ron Corson with this information at c-mccammon@cox.net subject: Change of Address.

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Cat #	Description	Price	Qty	Total
C RB 02	Cap, Royal Blue , 31st INFANTRY REGIMENT, POLAR BEARS, and crest embroidered directly directly on cap and US ARMY embroidered on back.	\$15.00	X _____ =	_____
C RB	Cap same as C RB 02 above with the addition of a waving U.S.flag on the left side and a combat patch (Philippines Division; 7 th Infantry Division; 196 Light Infantry Brigade; 9 th Infantry Division; 10 th Mountain Div) on the right side. Circle the patch you want.	\$17.00	X _____ =	_____
C K	NEW CAP! same as C RB above but in Khaki with a waving U.S.flag on the left side and a combat patch (Philippines Division; 7 th Infantry Division; 196 Light Infantry Brigade; 9 th Infantry Division; 10 th Mountain Div) on the right side. Circle the patch you want). All embroidery is subdued.	\$17.00	X _____ =	_____
SP	Shirt, Polo/golf w/31 st INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest, no pocket Please circle color and size. Size S, M, L, XL White, Light Blue, Navy Blue Size 2XL White, Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 28.00	X _____ =	_____
ST	Shirt, Tee, w/31 st INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest, no pocket Please circle color and size. Size S, M, L, XL Light Blue, Navy Blue Size 2XL Light Blue, Navy Blue Size 3XL Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 15.00 \$ 17.00 \$ 20.00	X _____ = X _____ = X _____ =	_____
SLSD	Shirt, Long Sleeve, Denim w/31 st INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest above pocket. Please circle size Size S, M, L, XL Size 2XL	\$ 28.00 \$ 31.00	X _____ = X _____ =	_____
SLSVC	Shirt, Long Sleeve, Dress in various colors w/31 st INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest above pocket. Please circle color and size. Size S, M, L, XL Colors: Black, Navy Blue, Light Blue, Red, White Size 2XL Size 3XL	\$ 29.00 \$ 31.00 \$ 36.00	X _____ = X _____ = X _____ =	_____
MS 01	Shanghai Bowl Cup, silver, 2007 reproduction of original. Includes shipping	\$165.00	X _____ =	_____
DCL 01	Bumper Sticker, 31 st Infantry Crest (Polar Bear) 4-3/8" tall, 4-1/4" wide	\$ 3.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 01	Pin, 31 st Infantry Regimental crest (Polar Bear) , regulation size, facing set.	\$ 8.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 02	Pin, 31 st Infantry Regimental crest (Polar Bear) , lapel/hat pin. 7/8" tall, 3/4" wide	\$ 4.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 73	Pin, Combat Infantry Badge, lapel/hat pin. 3/8" tall, 1-1/4" wide	\$ 3.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 74	Pin, Combat Infantry Badge, regulation size. 1-1/4" tall, 3" wide	\$ 4.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 82	Pin, Purple Heart, lapel/hat pin. 1-1/8" tall, 5/8" wide	\$ 3.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 85	Pin, Silver Star, lapel/hat pin. 1-1/8" tall, 5/8" wide	\$ 3.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 71	Pin, Bronze Star, lapel/hat pin. 1-1/8" tall, 5/8" wide	\$ 3.00	X _____ =	_____
PTH 01	Patch, 31 st Regimental crest (Polar Bear). 3-1/4" tall, 2-1/2" wide	\$ 4.00	X _____ =	_____
DCL 08	Combat Infantry Badge sticker for inside glass. 2-1/8" tall, 4" wide.	\$ 2.50	X _____ =	_____
MS 01	Zippo Lighter, with 31 st Regimental Crest (Polar Bear) on one side	\$ 14.00	X _____ =	_____

Shipping Charges – add to your order: Orders under \$10.00 add \$2.50; For orders \$10.01 - \$25.00 add \$6.00; For orders \$25.01 - \$50.00, add \$7.00; For orders over \$50.00, add \$8.00
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