



Pro Patria Press



#79

July 2015

Newsletter of the 31st Infantry Regiment Association
Grady Smith, Editor

99th Anniversary Reunion Coming September 10–13 in Sacramento California

It's time to get those reservations in for the 99th anniversary reunion of the 31st Infantry Regiment. Headquarters for the reunion will be the Holiday Inn–Capital Plaza in downtown Sacramento—near everything.

The Railroad museum and the California History museum are standout attractions. Our reunion coordinator Jim Jagers is making arrangements for tour guides. There are many other fascinating things to discover within a few blocks of the hotel. There is historic Old Sacramento, river front dining, the State Capitol and museum, Capitol Park, the California Automobile Museum, the Leland Stanford Mansion, Sutter's Fort, the historic Governor's Mansion, and river dinner cruises for anyone interested. You might also want to check out the mobile beer bar, a bike-powered contraption, that travels the streets of downtown. There are several golf courses in the area.

For sports fans, the River Cats (AAA ball) play just across the river. If they make it into the playoffs again this year they may have a home game. If baseball is your thing there are major league teams in Oakland and San Francisco (each about an hour and a half away). Beautiful Lake Tahoe is just a 90-minute ride away.

Thursday evening the arrival dinner buffet kicks off at 6 PM. Friday lunch and dinner will be on your own, with plenty of restaurants to pick from. On Saturday we'll have the General Membership Meeting, and the yearly Memorial Service. Saturday evening starts with a cocktail hour, followed by the posting of the colors, dinner and the guest speaker. The evening climaxes with the traditional Shanghai Bowl Ceremony and retiring of the Colors.

As you can see there's plenty to see and do in Sacramento, so come and check it out. The Association Registration Form is on p. 4. The Holiday Inn - Capitol Plaza reservations number is 916-446-0100; email address is www.holidayinnsacramento.com. To get the group rate, tell them you're with the 31st Infantry Regiment Association. Single rate for one bed is \$99. Double for two beds is \$119.

Our reunion coordinator, Jim Jagers, wanted everyone to know he has a new email address: jagers.j@att.net. Phone: 916-455-7879.



Polar Bear Commands XVIII Airborne Corps & Fort Bragg

Polar Bear LTG Stephen J. Townsend took command of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg in early May. He was commander of 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry when the attacks on 9/11 occurred, and he took the battalion to Afghanistan soon after. Those who attended the 2012 reunion in Washington will remember MG Townsend as our guest speaker. When he assumed command of XVIII Airborne Corps, LTG Townsend stated: "I'll make one promise today: When the next crisis comes, and the phones start ringing, the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg will be ready."

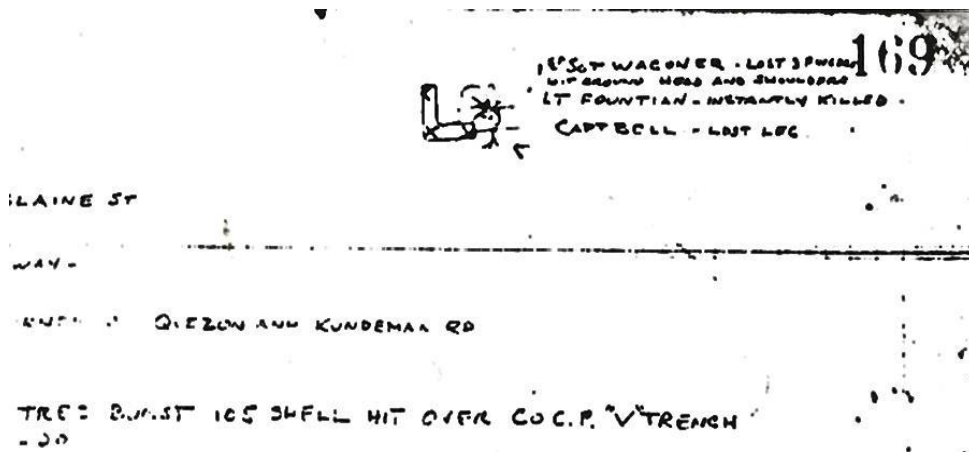
We're all sure of that.

What Really Happened to our Grandfather on Bataan?

This question arrived last October, sent in by James D. Beesley, a Fort Irwin Polar Bear in the 1980s. "I am conducting research on 2LT (formerly 1SG) Ernest Fountain, M Company 31st Infantry, KIA in the Philippines in 1942. Does anyone know who would be the best person to talk to in order to find more information on how LT Fountain died? I am doing this research because my niece's husband is Fountain's grandson."

LTC Jasper Brady was the best person to talk to, even though he'd been KIA himself since 1944. During his captivity in the Cabanatuan POW camp, he compiled an amazingly detailed roster of every 31st Infantry soldier he could, including Fountain. When the Japanese attacked, Fountain's reserve commission as a 2nd Lieutenant was activated. He continued serving in M Company.

Page 168 of Brady's Cabanatuan Roster says simply that Fountain was KIA on January 21 1942, and was buried in Limay Cemetery on Bataan. It is page 169 that answers the family's question about how LT Fountain died: "tree burst 105 shell hit over Co. CP 'V' trench." And in the upper right corner of the page, Brady has sketched the trench, the moment of detonation of the artillery round, and has noted the resulting casualties: "1ST Sgt Wagoner - lost 3 fingers, hit around head and shoulders. LT Fountain - instantly killed, Capt Bell - lost leg."



At left is LTC Jasper Brady's entry in the Cabanatuan Ledger, detailing what happened to 2LT Fountain on January 21, 1942.

LTC Brady answered Jim Beesley's question, and Jim passed the information on to the family. As Jim said, "I talked to my nephew just before Thanksgiving and gave him the details of his grandfather's death. He passed that along to his father, who was born in the Philippines, and evacuated before the attack. He never knew his father. We made a couple of folks very grateful."

So Jasper Brady, who was killed in action in one of the Japanese hell ships over seventy years ago, continues to take care of his soldiers and their families.

Pro Patria.

LTC Jasper Brady MOH Project

The last issue of the Newsletter reported the start of a campaign to secure LTC Brady the Medal of Honor. To make this happen, the Army needs to convene a special Board to consider such an award. As a veteran and Association member, you can back this project by writing a letter of support. **Contact Ron Corson** at (757) 253-1311 or jrcorson@aol.com. He will provide letter guides and details of the "Who" and the "How" so you can lend your support.



4/31 Fields Military Heavy Team for 25th Annual Bataan Memorial March

Five active duty Polar Bears of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry completed the 25th Annual Bataan Death March Marathon March 22nd at White Sands Missile Range, NM. Team leader 1LT Eric Albrecht, 1LT Kate Cafilisch, SGT Karch Chancellor, SGT Emanuel Fernandez, and SP4 George Vandresar finished in the Military Team Heavy category (carrying a 42-lb rucksack), at 10 hours and 2 minutes. The Memorial March is the 10th most difficult marathon in the US due to the altitude and 20 miles of sand. In addition to the military heavy team, Polar Bear Noah Halfacre conducted the Civilian Team Light in 6 hours 47 minutes. On Saturday night before the event, these marchers had the privilege of eating supper with retired CMSgt Paul Kerchum and his family. After Paul survived the Death March and three years in a POW camp he was put on Hell Ships, went to 5 different countries and finally ended in Japan as a slave laborer in a coal mine.

COL Melvin Garten

Association life member Melvin Garten passed away on 2 May 2015. Garten made the WWII combat parachute jump in the Philippines that resulted in the rescue of the civilians interned at Los Baños. In Korea he won the Distinguished Service Cross while in command of K CO, 31st Infantry Regiment at Pork Chop Hill. In that battle, F and G companies were conducting the main attack and became pinned down. Garten went up alone and found that key leaders in both companies were wounded. He grabbed eight men and, moving by fire and maneuver, routed the enemy and took the objective. In Vietnam, his last war, he received a wound that cost him his leg. When COL Garten finally retired, he was one of the most decorated soldiers in the army at the time: he held the DSC, three Silver Stars, four Bronze Stars, five Purple Hearts, a CIB award for each of the three wars he'd fought in, and a Master Parachutist Badge with two combat jump stars. COL Garten will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

Two More Korea MIAs Identified

Two more members of the 31st Infantry Regiment, MIA in Korea, have been identified.

CPL Francis D. Knobel, 20, of LaCrosse, WI was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on May 21 2015. On 12 December 1950 Knobel was a member of HQ CO, 3rd Bn. Following the Chosin Reservoir battle, he was one of many men reported MIA. In 1954 as part of Operation Glory, 25 boxes of remains were turned over to American forces. Most were unable to be identified, and were interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl. Following advances in technology, the remains were exhumed in 2014 and a positive identification was obtained.

CPL Elmer P. Richard, 20, was buried in his home town of Exeter New Hampshire in June. He was a member of Battery D, 15th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT) at the Chosin. On 2 December 1950 Richard was reported missing in action. In late 1953, a returned American POW reported that Richard was captured by Chinese forces and died in mid-December 1950 from battle wounds. In the early 1990s, North Korea turned over 208 boxes of remains containing more than 400 US servicemen. In addition, in October 2000 a joint North Korea/US team excavated a secondary burial site. Richard was identified using two forms of DNA analysis, including one which matched his brothers.

Today 7852 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. The work goes on.

CPL Elmer P. Richard is interred in Exeter New Hampshire.



REGISTRATION FORM
31st INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION REUNION SEPT. 10-13, 2015
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA



Name: _____

Guest(s): _____

Address: _____ City _____

State _____ zip code _____

Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Email: _____ Will you have a car in Sacramento? _____ yes _____ no

Company/Battalion of the 31st Inf _____ When _____ Where _____

Registration Fee: (\$30 per member and each guest) \$30 x _____ # of people = \$ _____

Banquet: Saturday evening, September 12th \$55 x _____ # of people = \$ _____

Dress--dinner attire

Tours and Special Events (participation is optional –advance registration is required)

Thursday, September 10th

Arrival Dinner Buffet 6 PM \$40 x _____ # of people = \$ _____

Friday, September 11th

California State Railroad Museum Tour \$11 x _____ # of people = \$ _____

Old Sacramento Underground Tour \$15 x _____ # of people = \$ _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY AUGUST 7, 2015. Make checks payable to 31st Inf Regt Assn and send this form with check to: Joe DeAngelis (Treasurer), 3035 El Rio Dr, Meridian, ID 83642

Hotel Reservation Info: Host hotel is Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, Sacramento, CA. 31st Infantry reunion group rate is \$99 (single or up to 4 occupancy) per night plus tax. Parking is \$6 per night. For hotel reservations call 916-446-0100 or email www.holidayinnsacramento.com Advise hotel of any special needs when registering.

* * * * *

Taps

<u>Member</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Deceased</u>
Robert A. Conrad	Philippines	Middletown PA	24 May 2004
Louis L. Gonzales	Korea	Corpus Christie TX	March 2002
Homer Tipton Sr.	F Co, 3 rd Bn, Korea 1952	St Marion IN	14 Feb 2014
Earle H. Jordan	Korea	Brooksville FL	Date Unknown
Russell C. Loftis	Korea (Chosin)	Chesterfield VA	19 May 2007
George E. Boggs Sr.	Korea	Elkins Park PA	2010
Lyle C. Cheek	Korea	Lynchburg VA	17 Jan 2008
James H. Cowles	Korea	Warren PA	13 Nov 2006
Delmar L Kraft	Korea	Springfield VA	21 Apr 2011
Jack B. Heller	Korea	Windber PA	11 Jan 2014
Arthur A. Marshall Jr	Korea	Annapolis MD	Jan 2011

Robert M. Matty	Korea	Westminster MD	26 Aug 2011
Albert J. Mistove	Korea	Flemington NJ	23 July 2014
Paul L. Osmolinski	Korea	York PA	31 Aug 2006
James B. Tatum	Intel & Recon Plt Korea	Delhi LA	1 Apr 2015
Lawrence Taylor	Korea	Silver Spring MD	13 Nov 2013
Charles R. Thompson	Korea	Coatesville PA	19 Oct 1999
Russell Vermillion	Korea	Reston VA	27 Aug 2009
Joseph P. Washburn	Korea	Clearfield PA	9 Aug 2007
Neil Brooks	HHC, 6-31 Vietnam	Hahira GA	25 Jan 2013

Association Officers

Commander: 360 Glendobbin Rd, Winchester VA 22603	Bill Owen (CPT, C/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69) 540-535-0666 bjowen11@comcast.net
Vice Commander: 5225 Pooks Hill Rd. Bethesda, MD 20814	Mike Strand (LT, C/6 th Bn, VN, 1968-69) 240-800-4194 hrdyna@aol.com
Adjutant: 1099 Coral Way, Singer Island, FL 33404	Vin Zike (SGT, D/6 th Bn, VN, 1968-69) 561-429-2222 vinzike@gmail.com
Treasurer: 3035 El Rio Dr, Meridian, ID 83642	Joe DeAngelis (SGT, C/6th Bn, Ft Lewis & VN, 1967-69) 208-362-9468 jangels10@gmail.com
Membership: 3620 Bridgewater Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23188	Ron Corson (CPT, A/6th Bn, VN, 1969-70) 757-253-1311 jrcorson@aol.com
Quartermaster: 6331 Dobson Rd, Macon, GA 31220	Dale Mills (SGT, C/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69) 478-787-2679 sdalem@bellsouth.net
Sergeant at Arms: 5638 Camellia Ave, Sacramento, CA 95819	Jim Jagers (SGT, D/6 th Bn, VN 1969) 916-455-7879 jagers.j@att.net
Historian: 2321 S. Queen St, Alexandria, VA 22202	Grady Smith (CPT, D/6 th Bn, Ft Lewis & VN, 1967-68) 703-769-2778 smithga@verizon.net
Senior Director: 3620 Bridgewater Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23188	Ron Corson (CPT, A/6 th Bn, VN, 1969-70) 757-253-1311 jrcorson@aol.com
Northeast Region (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY) 3728 Highland Ave, Skaneateles, NY 13152	Ed Bettis (CPL, G Co, Korea, 1950-51) 315-685-3944 edbettis@netzero.net
Mid-Atlantic Region (NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, VA, WV) 70) 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 615-893-9715	Noah Halfacre (LT, E/6th Bn, VN, 1968) 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) 13081 N 99 th Dr, Sun City, AZ 85351	Phil Harris (SP4, C/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69) 360-607-2032 c631grunt@yahoo.com
Western Region (HI, AK, WA, OR, CA, NV, AZ, UT, ID, MT, WY) 18005 87th Ave E, Puyallup WA 98357	Dave Wilson (LT, C/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69) 253-875-1901 mrdpwillson@comcast.net

31st INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QUARTERMASTER STORE ORDER FORM
 Visit 31stinfantry.org and click on 31st Infantry Store to see a full color catalogue of these and many more items
 Please print clearly to avoid errors in your order



Name: _____ Telephone # _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

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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SHIPPING (prices at left) \$ _____
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For Credit Cards (American Express, Discover, Master Card, or Visa) or Debit card (with Master Card or Visa logo) please include

NAME (on card): _____ **CARD #:** _____ **EXP DATE:** ____/____/____

SECURITY CODE(on back of card): _____ **ZIP CODE** (where credit card bill is mailed to) _____

Mail the order form and payment to: **Dale Mills 6331 Dobson Rd. Macon, GA 31220**

31st Infantry Regiment Association
COL (Ret) Vincent Zike
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