



# Pro Patria Press



#79

July 2015

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

## 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Coming September 10–13 in Sacramento California

It's time to get those reservations in for the 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion of the 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.holidayinnsacramento.com). To get the group rate, tell them you're with the 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> 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."

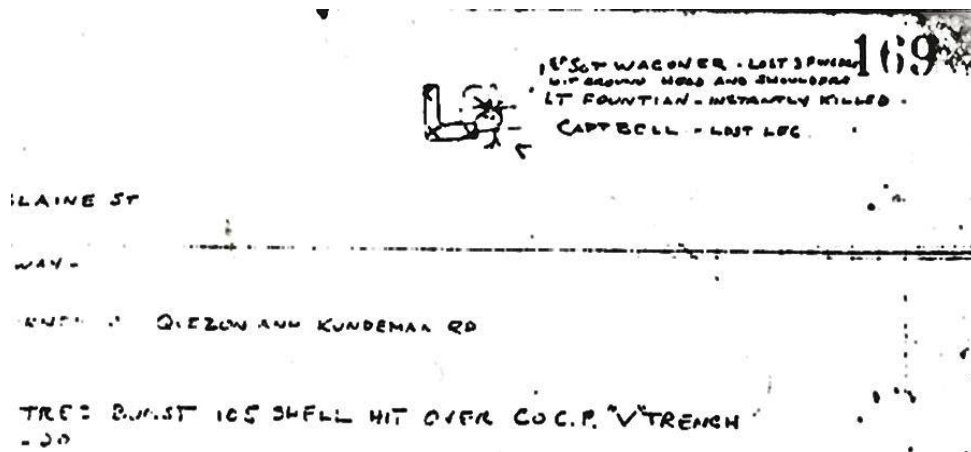
We're all sure of that.

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry soldier he could, including Fountain. When the Japanese attacked, Fountain's reserve commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: "1<sup>ST</sup> 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](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Bataan Memorial March

Five active duty Polar Bears of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry completed the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Bataan Death March Marathon March 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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, 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**  
**31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> Inf \_\_\_\_\_ When \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

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

Banquet: Saturday evening, September 12<sup>th</sup> \$55 x \_\_\_\_\_ # of people = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dress--dinner attire

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

Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

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

Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

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 31<sup>st</sup> 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. 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.holidayinnsacramento.com) Advise hotel of any special needs when registering.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Taps

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

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

## Association Officers

<b>Commander:</b> 360 Glendobbin Rd, Winchester VA 22603	<b>Bill Owen</b> (CPT, C/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69) 540-535-0666 <a href="mailto:bjowen11@comcast.net">bjowen11@comcast.net</a>
<b>Vice Commander:</b> 5225 Pooks Hill Rd. Bethesda, MD 20814	<b>Mike Strand</b> (LT, C/6 <sup>th</sup> Bn, VN, 1968-69) 240-800-4194 <a href="mailto:hrdyna@aol.com">hrdyna@aol.com</a>
<b>Adjutant:</b> 1099 Coral Way, Singer Island, FL 33404	<b>Vin Zike</b> (SGT, D/6 <sup>th</sup> Bn, VN, 1968-69) 561-429-2222 <a href="mailto:vinzike@gmail.com">vinzike@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b> 3035 El Rio Dr, Meridian, ID 83642	<b>Joe DeAngelis</b> (SGT, C/6th Bn, Ft Lewis & VN, 1967-69) 208-362-9468 <a href="mailto:jangels10@gmail.com">jangels10@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership:</b> 3620 Bridgewater Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23188	<b>Ron Corson</b> (CPT, A/6th Bn, VN, 1969-70) 757-253-1311 <a href="mailto:jrcorson@aol.com">jrcorson@aol.com</a>
<b>Quartermaster:</b> 6331 Dobson Rd, Macon, GA 31220	<b>Dale Mills</b> (SGT, C/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69) 478-787-2679 <a href="mailto:sdalem@bellsouth.net">sdalem@bellsouth.net</a>
<b>Sergeant at Arms:</b> 5638 Camellia Ave, Sacramento, CA 95819	<b>Jim Jagggers</b> (SGT, D/6 <sup>th</sup> Bn, VN 1969) 916-455-7879 <a href="mailto:jagggers.j@att.net">jagggers.j@att.net</a>
<b>Historian:</b> 2321 S. Queen St, Alexandria, VA 22202	<b>Grady Smith</b> (CPT, D/6 <sup>th</sup> Bn, Ft Lewis & VN, 1967-68) 703-769-2778 <a href="mailto:smithga@verizon.net">smithga@verizon.net</a>
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<b>Northeast Region</b> (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY) 3728 Highland Ave, Skaneateles, NY 13152	<b>Ed Bettis</b> (CPL, G Co, Korea, 1950-51) 315-685-3944 <a href="mailto:edbettis@netzero.net">edbettis@netzero.net</a>
<b>Mid-Atlantic Region</b> (NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, VA, WV) 70) 104 Cumberland Dr, Carlisle, PA 17013	<b>Jim Simms</b> (LT, HHC & C/4th Bn, VN, 1969-70) 717-243-5570 <a href="mailto:jnpsim@comcast.net">jnpsim@comcast.net</a>
<b>Southeast Region</b> (NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, TN, AR, LA, PR, VI) 2740 Oxford Hall Ave, Murfreesboro TN 37128 615-893-9715	<b>Noah Halfacre</b> (LT, E/6th Bn, VN, 1968) <a href="mailto:echo66@comcast.net">echo66@comcast.net</a>
<b>Great Lakes Region</b> (KY, OH, MI, IN, IL, WI) 788 Eagledale Dr, Kettering, OH 45429	<b>John Howdeshelt</b> (SGT, D/6 <sup>th</sup> Bn, VN, 1969) 937-435-0669 <a href="mailto:mamahowdy@yahoo.com">mamahowdy@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Midwest Region</b> (MN, ND, SD, NE, IA, MO, KS, OK, TX, NM, CO) 13081 N 99 <sup>th</sup> Dr, Sun City, AZ 85351	<b>Phil Harris</b> (SP4, C/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69) 360-607-2032 <a href="mailto:c631grunt@yahoo.com">c631grunt@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Western Region</b> (HI, AK, WA, OR, CA, NV, AZ, UT, ID, MT, WY) 18005 87th Ave E, Puyallup WA 98357	<b>Dave Wilson</b> (LT, C/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69) 253-875-1901 <a href="mailto:mrdpwilson@comcast.net">mrdpwilson@comcast.net</a>



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 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cat #	Description	Price	Qty	Total
C RB 02	Cap, <b>Royal Blue</b> , 31 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; 196 Light Infantry Brigade; 9 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; 10 <sup>th</sup> Mountain Div) on the right side. <b>Circle the patch you want.</b>	\$17.00	X _____ =	_____
C K	<b>NEW CAP!</b> same as C RB above but in <b>Khaki</b> with a waving U.S.flag on the left side and a combat patch (Philippines Division; 7 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; 196 Light Infantry Brigade; 9 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; 10 <sup>th</sup> Mountain Div) on the right side. <b>Circle the patch you want).</b> All embroidery is subdued.	\$17.00	X _____ =	_____
SP	Shirt, Polo/golf w/31 <sup>st</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest, <b>no pocket</b> <b>Please circle color and size.</b> Size S, M, L, XL White, Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 28.00	X _____ =	_____
	Size 2XL White, Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 31.00	X _____ =	_____
ST	Shirt, Tee, w/31 <sup>st</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest, <b>no pocket</b> <b>Please circle color and size.</b> Size S, M, L, XL Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 15.00	X _____ =	_____
	Size 2XL Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 17.00	X _____ =	_____
	Size 3XL Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 20.00	X _____ =	_____
SLSD	Shirt, Long Sleeve, Denim w/31 <sup>st</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest above pocket. <b>Please circle size</b> Size S, M, L, XL	\$ 28.00	X _____ =	_____
	Size 2XL	\$ 31.00	X _____ =	_____
SLSVC	Shirt, Long Sleeve, Dress in various colors w/31 <sup>st</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest above pocket. <b>Please circle color and size.</b> Size S, M, L, XL	\$ 29.00	X _____ =	_____
	Colors: Black, Navy Blue, Light Blue, Red, White	Size 2XL	\$ 31.00	X _____ =
		Size 3XL	\$ 36.00	X _____ =
MS 01	Shanghai Bowl Cup, silver, 2007 reproduction of original. Includes shipping	\$165.00	X _____ =	_____
DCL 01	Bumper Sticker, 31 <sup>st</sup> Infantry Crest (Polar Bear) 4-3/8" tall, 4-1/4" wide	\$ 3.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 01	Pin, 31 <sup>st</sup> Infantry Regimental crest (Polar Bear) , regulation size, facing set.	\$ 8.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 02	Pin, 31 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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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