Fayetteville, NC and Fort Bragg will be the location of the 2007 Combat Infantrymen’s Association annual convention. Hotel negotiations are still going on with several Fayetteville hotels so the exact date is not set, but it will be the first or second week in October just as the past several have been. Ft Bragg “Home of the Airborne” is of course home to XVIII Abn Corps, 82nd Abn Div, the Special Operations Command, and the US Army Parachute Team (the Golden Knights). Numerous other units help comprise the nearly 40,000 soldiers based at Ft Bragg.

The reunion manager has been in touch with officials at Ft Bragg regarding support and the answer was pretty much the same as at Ft Benning. We are welcome to tour the post, watch a parachute jump, visit the museums and possibly have a briefing by someone from the command staff. Transportation provided by the Army has pretty much been ruled out because of budget restraints.

At the expense of repeating something you’ll read elsewhere in this issue, please make plans to attend the convention. The association needs your support and to be an active member your voice and opinion counts.

Also, your input is needed to help set the reunion agenda. Take a moment and complete the short survey found on page 23 and returns it to “Larry Eckard, PO Box 11399, Hickory, NC 28603.”

Advance reservations are a must! While everyone is welcome, walk-ins are discouraged. We don’t buy the “I didn’t know until today that I could come excuse.” It only takes a minute to pre-register and it helps tremendously. We do ask your corporation in this matter.
National CIA and Nationwide Companies Staff

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Position Vacant

National Legislative Officer
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Robert H Meuser (deceased)
1994-96

Paul N Baker (deceased)
1993-94

Robert W Wisecup (deceased)
1985-1993

End of National Officers

CIA Trustees

Orin Spilker 1 years
Lorenzo Ortega 2 years
Jimmy Walker 3 years

CIA Units & Staff

When there are changes in names and or positions, it is the responsibility of the company to notify the adjutant who will in turn notify the BB. In a change directed by voters at the business meeting, below the National level, only the Commanders and Executive Officers will be listed in the Blue Badge. Changes received after January 15, 2007 are not included. Company Commanders, it is your responsibility to review your company’s officers and let the Editor know of any changes.

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(Continued on page 3)
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(Continued from page 2)

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(Continued on page 4)
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(Continued from page 3)

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H 3 3 PA ( Kingston)

Our View
Larry H Eckard, Editor Blue Badge

Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza, and New Years have all passed since the past Blue Badge. I trust that each CIA member celebrated in his own way and had a wonderful respite from the daily grind that most of endure through out the year. Your editor most certainly did—took a whole week off. May I take just one sentence to say thank you to all of the members who took the time to send us a card or e-mail wishing us Happy Holidays.

Now that our shoulder is back to the grindstone let me address a couple of things that have caused some concern within the association. First, some of you may have noticed a major delay in receiving your Nov 2006 issue of Blue Badge. Just for the record, as of this printing I’ve not received mine either. Good thing I kept me a copy. I won’t even try to explain what happened—it’s too complicated—other than to say we got it straightened out. You should receive this issue on time.

Even though things typically slow down this time of year, Adjutant Ralph Dula and Membership Chairman Dan Sankoff keep plowing ahead getting new members for the association. Many but not all of the new members are from the sources that Ralph has uncovered. To get an idea of the volume of work they do, take a look at the Welcome Mat this issue and last issue.

As you know this is current National Commander Jack Wagner’s last year as CO. XO Wayne Watts is poised to assume command at the next reunion. This of course means we will be accepting nominations for a new XO. If you are interested it is not too early to get your name in the pot. Like we did last year, The Blue Badge will publish resumes of candidates so the membership can see what you have to offer. Certainly nominations will be accepted from the floor, but if you want the membership to be aware of your qualifications before the election, send your resume to the Blue Badge for publication in either the May or August issue.

Also, the incoming CO (Wayne Watts) has the option of selecting his own staff. If you have an interest in replacing one of the current staff contact Wayne and let him know which position you are interested in.

On to a new subject, the CIA conventions are not only for and about members of the association—but let it be very clear that wives are cordially invited and welcomed. If you ladies didn’t know, or if were reluctant to attend, this is your invitation.
Dear Soldier,

The New Year is off to a good start and I sincerely hope that you and your family are blessed with good health and happiness. The year 2008 is the year that I again request your assistance and support. Having served as your National Executive Officer has been a great pleasure. I would like to represent this fine organization as your next National Commander.

I have been a life member since 1994 and during my tenure with the CIA organization, I have helped to foster, develop and promote the CIA through newspaper articles and radio interviews within my home state of Alabama. I have also helped this organization grow from two companies to a corps status within 2 ½ years.

While performing my duties as National Executive Officer, I have worked with the Blue Star Salute program in Birmingham plus awarded the CIA plaque to the VA Hospital in Birmingham. I have participated and helped in the preparation of the Veterans Parade in Birmingham which is one of the largest and oldest in the nation. I enjoy speaking to the various military associations and have worked closely with the National Adjutant on the ad exchange program. On Feb 10th, I will travel to Ft Bragg, NC to assist in forming another CIA chapter.

All of the above is offered, not boastfully but to let you know more about my enthusiasm and commitment to this unique military organization. My promise is to represent you combat veteran to the best of my ability.

Remember: I depend on your individual support, ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to call me at 205-368-0358 or 205-663-3161 anytime.

Just a Soldier,

Wayne E. Watts
National Executive Officer
Combat Infantryman's Association

Did This Come From Your Church Bulletin??

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Pastor unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."
A Pacesetter

CIA Company Formed in NC

Thanks to the efforts of Charles Hallyburton of Morganton, NC the organizational meeting of the first North Carolina CIA Company A 1 1 NC will be held at the 82nd Airborne Division Association Clubhouse located at 606 Johnson St, Fayetteville, NC 28303. Officers will be elected during this meeting. Also there will be discussions on goals for the organization and how to help organize other units in the state.

Any CIA member from NC who is currently assigned to National HQ Co and wishes to transfer to A 1 1 NC is invited and encouraged to effect a transfer by using the transfer form found on the back page of each issue of the Blue Badge. Any eligible non-member is invited to bring his DD-214 for verification and join the unit as a new member.

Let this example be an inspiration to other members to take the lead and start the process to get a company formed in your state or community. All you need is ten members to get started. Mr Hallyburton got tired of waiting for someone else to start a NC company, and look at the results. If you have questions or need help getting started, contact Membership Chairman Dan Sankoff.
memorate the armistice that ended World War I in 1918.

Then heavier questions came.

What are the differences between the war in Vietnam and the Iraq war?

Wagner said the desert terrain and urban setting in Baghdad is very different from the jungle and small villages he encountered in Vietnam, but pointed out a similarity."

It was a political war," Wagner said. "Personally, I feel this war in Iraq is a political war.

"Were you exposed to Agent Orange?"

Wagner said he was exposed to the herbicide. "If you were walking through the real thick lush jungle, all of the sudden it looked like the end of the world. Everything was dead. Yellow brushed off onto your skin."

"How did you deal with people dying around you?"

"It was very hard. It's very hard till this day. It's not an easy thing to see that much death and destruction," he said.

"Your physical scars may go away. Your mental scars follow you to your grave."

*Congratulations to this Pacesetter!*

---

**Pacesetters From the Corps of Alabama Participates In Veterans Day Activities**

The night of November 10, 2007 was Veterans Awards night in Alabama and the Combat Infantrymen’s Association was well represented by the Corps of Alabama.

*Congratulations to this Pacesetter!*
Pace Setters Riding in Rain

On November 11, following the previous night's awards ceremony a veterans day parade was held. In spite of the terrible weather, hundreds of people watched the parade and honored their veteran heroes. As shown in the following photos, the CIA was well represented by Alabama.

Members of the Corps of Alabama ride in a float pulled by National XO Wayne Watts. Sorry, Wayne couldn't get you in the photo. Those don't look like issue ponchos to me. We can only hope they are better at keeping your feet dry than the one I used.

Corps of Alabama Regimental Commander Jim Chambers is shown participating in the Veterans Day parade with his jeep that has been in the parade since the 70's. Notice the CIA banner on the jeep trailer. Congratulations to these Pacesetters!

The Whittier Daily News (Whittier, CA) recently featured a photo of members of CIA Hq Co, 2nd Bn, 1st Regt CA posing in front of Infantry Hall, Ft Benning, GA. The photo was taken when visiting the Infantry Center at Ft Benning during the National Convention of the Combat Infantrymen's Association. Shown in the photo are Jack Poole, Lorenzo Ortega, Don Campen, Andy Solis, Wolfie Campen and Vance Marsh. Unfortunately because of the quality of the actual photo, it could not be printed.

The Corps of Alabama has a pretty good track record for participating in veterans' events. Certainly there are other Corps or Companies that are participating in community activities. We’d like to know about you. Send us some photos of your company in action. Tell us what you’ve done or are doing to make your presence known in your community, let the rest of the CIA know that you are also a Pacesetter! If you send a digital picture be sure it is no less than 5 megapixels; if you use a "regular" camera be sure the ASA speed is at least 400. Without the minimum pixels or ASA speed, the photos are not of sufficient quality to be printed in the Blue Badge. Photos taken from newspapers, unless of exceptionally high quality cannot be used.

From The Adjutant
Ralph Dula

Since my last report with regard to our “ad exchange” program, I’m proud to say the CIA is continuing to receive outstanding support and exposure thus creating a surge in our overall membership. I am still contacting the various infantry associations in an effort to procure new members and promote the CIA.

To date my efforts have been:

Previous Report

<table>
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<th>Number of Contacts</th>
<th>Total Membership Or Circulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>319,547</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current Report

| Army Times               | 1                        | 250,000 |
| National Association for Uniformed Services | 1 | 57,000 |
| Association of the United States Army     | 1 | 90,000 |

Totals 46 716,547

Estimated CIB holders 143,309. If 5% of those join it could be approximately 7000 new members.

Don’t forget I challenged each of you to sign up one new member. Have you gotten yours? Thank you for helping your association grow!

I have been in contact with the office of Bud Cramer, Congressman from northwest Alabama, about the CIA obtaining a federal charter. His office called me January 10, 2007 to inform me that they are looking into our request and will get back to me. Keep the faith and keep your thoughts positive!
National Executive Officer, Wayne Watts (left) and National Commander Jack Wagner display the newly adopted National Combat Infantrymen’s Association Flag. National Adjutant Ralph Dula looks on. This CIA Flag is the only flag to be displayed in the business meeting and at the Saturday evening banquet. Companies or Corps - you are encouraged to display your flag or banner in the hospitality room.

All companies are encouraged to purchase their own National Flag to be displayed at activities or events that you participate in. Cost is $320.00. Contact them for shipping cost. Order your flag from:

KT’s Custom Embroidery
13031 Los Nietos Rd, Unit C
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
Phone: 562-903-4551
Fax 562-903-9079

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National Museum of The U. S. Army

The Army Historical Foundation, Inc was incorporated in 1983. the principal place of business is 2425 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201. The purpose is to establish and promote programs which promote and preserve the history of the American soldier, including the building of the National Museum of the U.S. Army. Cost of the museum is projected to be $200 million dollars. For more information or to learn how to make a contribution, visit www.armyhistory.org.

---

A blonde, tired of hearing dumb blonde jokes decided to show her husband how smart she was by painting their bedroom an exotic sexy color. So she went to the paint store, purchased the paint and went to work painting the room. When her husband came home he found her painting away but dressed in a sweater and parka and perspiring profusely. Her husband asked why she was dressed like that and she replied that “The paint can label said you get better results by putting on two coats but this is all I had.”

---

Welcome to the HUNDREDS of new members to the CIA since the last issue of the BB.

Gentlemen, we are GROWING! Have you visited our web-site www.cibassoc.com

I have to repeat this again for our many new members, we have many states that do not have a CIA Unit and some that do have one and can use additional branches. ANY member can start a new UNIT in his city or area. Let me know and I will work with you. Members can transfer to a unit closer to his hometown, USE the transfer form on the back of each issue of the Blue Badge, and mail it to Robert Saxton as it is addressed. The renewal form is also in each issue and YOU THE MEMBER should fill it out completely, no short-cuts. I am returning those that are incomplete. Gentlemen, I have too much to do and no time to look up information that you have on your ID card. As you are reading this NOW check your ID Card, are your dues up to date?? Your CIA UNIT is on the front and the expiration/due date for renewal is on the back. Now that isn’t too difficult to write that information on the renewal form.

Thank you to those members who are working at Starting a new UNIT. (See list below)

Be Recognized. Wear your C I B and wear it proudly. It is a very prestigious award, and You Earned It. ~ Wear Your C I B. OUR GOAL IS GROWTH! Stay Well!

Please contact these members if you wish to transfer to the new UNIT or if you can help them out. There is NO CHARGE to TRANSFER. It is your choice.

We do need help to get units started and some activated Sacramento,CA; Louisville, KY; Tampa / Brandon FL; Jacksonville, FL; Nashville, TN; and also in IL, LA, NM, MN, NC OR, AK, MO. WHO WILL STEP UP AND START ONE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS?

Joe Lopez 915-566-0714
El Paso, TX

Donald Hoskins 801-322-2211
Salt Lake City, UT

(Continued on page 11)
Military Order of Purple Heart Commander Tom Poulter and CIA National Commander Jack Wagner at a Veterans Day Ceremony in Washington, DC Nov 11, 2006

CIA National Commander Jack Wagner (holding plaque) presents a CIA plaque to the Military Order of Purple Heart National Commander Tom Poulter in Washington, DC on Veterans Day, Nov 11, 2006

CIA National Membership Chairman Dan Sankoff (l); Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge President George Fisher ©; CIA National Commander Jack Wagner at a Battle of the Bulge commemorative

CIA National Commander Jack Wagner, along with CO-emcee Blair McGinley hosted the Pride and Patriotism event at Ft Myers, FL Arts Center on November 9, 2006. Performer Barbara Mann stands between Jack and Blair. What's Jack doing there, he can't sing, ask Joe Barca!

We hope these photos and those of Commander Jack Wagner on previous pages, and those of the Corps of Alabama will inspire more members to get out in the community and participate in local and state veterans events. When your unit is involved in events such as above, be sure to take some photos and let the Blue Badge publicize your patriotism. Remember if you use regular film use at least 400 ASA speed or if you use digital and e-mail the photos, they need to be at least 5 mega pixels to reproduce with enough quality and clarity to print in the Blue Badge. When you send photos, remember you must tell us what they are. We fairly often will get a picture from someone—and it may a good picture but there is no explanation telling us what it represents.

Once again congratulations to all of you

Commander Jack Wagner (top left) attending a VFW ceremony on December 7, 2006 paying tribute to Pearl Harbor Survivors. C'mon Jack the person standing to your immediate left is NOT a Pearl Harbor survivor. I have a feeling that Commander Jack underestimates the membership's keen analytical minds — a Pearl Harbor Survivor my foot!

Pace Setters!
Welcome MAT

A hearty welcome to the following members who joined the Combat Infantrymen’s Association between 07 September and 06 December 2006 or members who joined earlier but their names have not been published.

Correction
Please note the following change in a member’s combat unit. It should read as follows:
Hallyburton, Charles E.
C/S Coy 1/8 BG
1st Cav Div
Korea A 1 1 NC

New Members

Baker, John F. Jr.
A Coy, 2/27 Rgt, 25th Div
Vietnam A11SC

Hyman, Wolfe M.
K Coy, 3/38th Rgt, 2nd Div
Korea A11SC

Broome, Lewis Jr.
69th IN Detachment
Vietnam A11SC

Kuchenick, William J. Jr.
C Coy, 3/60th Rgt 9th Div
Vietnam H22NY

Wiederehr, George A.
A Coy, 2/16th Rgt, 1st Div
Desert Storm H22NY

Bennett, Charles B.
HH CO, 2/121st INF
Iraq H11GA

Earley, Allan W.
I Coy, 7th Rgt, 3rd Div
Korea H11NE

Gray, Steven F.
D Coy, 2/12th BDE, 25th Div
Vietnam A11FL

Nery, Gerard B.
A Coy, 4/503rd PIR, 173rd ABN Bde
Vietnam H11GA

Knipper, Charles Jr.
C Coy, 1/52nd Rgt 198th Americal Div
Vietnam E21AL

TAPS

The Blue Badge was informed of the following members death since the Nov 2006 issue. The entire association extends our deepest sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of the deceased.

Frank Holt
San Jose, CA
Died Three years ago
Submitted by his daughter Casandra

Albert H Becker
North Carolina
Died Feb 1, 2001
Submitted by his wife Cornelia

Milton E. Dorr
H –1-1 New England
Date of death not reported
Submitted by son-in-law Carl Wicklund

Fernando V Toscano
California
Date of death not reported
Submitted by Lorenzo Ortega

Hugh W. Dury
Whittier, CA
Died November 4, 2006
Submitted by step-son Phillip Strong

Col Vernon Greene, USA (Ret)
North Carolina
Date of death not reported
Submitted by his wife

Terry Carter
H 1 1 AZ, Chandler, AZ
Died 11/29/06
Reported by Ken Allen, CO A 1 1 AZ

Louis J Danolfo
A 1 1 FL, Lehigh Acres, FL
Died 11/29/06
Reported by Dan Sankoff

Did This Come From Your Church Bulletin??

The sermon this morning: “Jesus Walks on the Water.”
The sermon tonight: “Searching for Jesus.”

Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Unit and Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unit and Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toborg, Robert H.</td>
<td>B Co, 2/7th Rgt 1st Cav Div AMB</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>H21AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood, Gail W.</td>
<td>1st Inf Div</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>C11TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dingeman, James w.</td>
<td>2/12th Rgt, 1st Cav Div AMB</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>A11FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farnsworth, Everett H.</td>
<td>F Co, 3/32nd Rgt 7th Div Korea</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>H11NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford, Lonnie D.</td>
<td>AD Tm 75, IV CTZ</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>A11SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilliam, Randall G.</td>
<td>C Co, 2/506th Rgt 101st ABN Div</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>C11TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethune, Parnell W.</td>
<td>G Co, 35th Rgt 25th Div Korea</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>H11NJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alverez, Alfred A.</td>
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<td>These new members in the War on Terrorism are from Afghanistan and Iraq. All assigned to NHC. List is thru 31 Dec 2006</td>
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<td>Cole, Thom C.</td>
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<td>Day, Jeremiah L.</td>
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<td>Ader, James M.</td>
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<td>Klein, Xavier J.</td>
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P.O. BOX 440...BUDA, TX 78610  

Abbreviated Division History  
The 29th Infantry Division was first established in July 1917 at Camp McClellan in Anniston, Alabama. Made up of National Guard units from Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey and the District of Columbia, elements of the division first saw combat in France during World War I. Following the armistice, the division was deactivated and many units returned to National Guard status again in 1919.  
Activated again for federal service in February 1941, men of the 29th Infantry Division trained in Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas and Florida. In 1942, the division was shipped to England and began a much more rigorous training schedule for what would become one of the largest amphibious landings ever. Then at 6:30 a.m. on June 6, 1944, the 29th, along with its sister unit the US First Infantry Division spearheaded the landing on “Bloody” Omaha Beach in Operation Overlord, which began the liberation of the European continent by Allied Forces.  
After 11 continuous months of combat, the soldiers of the 29th Infantry Division were relieved and assumed the task of garrison for the Bremen enclave, processing prisoners and helping establish military government. Lead elements sailed for home in December 1945, with the entire division inactivated on January 17, 1946 at Camp Kilmer, NJ.  
In 1947, elements of the division were again reorganized as National Guard units in Maryland and Virginia. However, changing requirements in the nations ground combat forces later eliminated the need for the 29th and in 1968 it was broken up with the Maryland portion being reorganized on January 21, 1969, and the Virginia portion on February 1st. Both states initially furnished brigades to Pennsylvania’s 28th Infantry Division. Later on, both elements reverted back to their parent states as separate brigades; the 116th Separate Infantry Brigade in Virginia and the 58th Separate Infantry Brigade in Maryland. Currently, under a transformation ordered by the Department of Defense, the Division is again undergoing dramatic changes.
now,” Yoshi yells. “I told you they're gone. Ran out on us. Keep them down along that edge. We ain't giving up.”

The slight edge Yoshi and Emit had was being low discernible whereas the Chinese on higher ground had the problem of appearance against the night sky making them more apparent. At night perception is vague at best, but usually one can pick up movement when looking upwards. Each time a darker form would loom up Yoshi and Emit would point shoot a spread of shots slightly across to increase a probable hit. The M1 Garand rifle does tremendous damage so one hit is often enough to kill or wound out of action.

Emit crawled back to the B.A.R. man who by now was fading away. Words of encouragement whispered to him had little effect. Blood loss has this fading away effect. Yoshi, near the mortally wounded radio man shook his head in the universal "NO" rotating motion to signify that he too was fading away.

The Chinese fire subsided to sporadic and slowly trailed off. Some activity could be perceived both North and South. This was the counter force patrol arriving from the South and what would later be learned was resistance by the point man to the North. Eight months later we were to see his name on a list of prisoners exchanged. The list identified unit and condition that he was blind so assume he put up a fight. Emit thinks so based on what he perceived during the fight.

As the men of the counter action patrol moved in the Chinese backed off, but not far. Some activity could be discerned or perceived just over an undulation in the terrain. An impression of "It's Over," descended on those busy tending to the wounded and dead.

As Emit was assisting carrying the dying B.A.R. man he momentarily glimpsed a China soldier just over the high ground undulation doing likewise helping carry one of his wounded or dead comrades away. For an instant both froze and looked at each other. This China man seemed to shrug his shoulders and continued on and out of view. Emit was to tell later that perhaps both of them had reached an “Enough” point. Many months later this probably would not have happened as Emit’s fierceness and experience had multiplied and not shooting that China man would not have been an option. The approaching winter weather also probably had some effect as my own observations tend toward winter climates sap energy and aggression in the soldier where warming weather seems to bring forth aggression. Some effort was made to determine the point man’s whereabouts, but due to the night and proximity or enemy forces this did not work out.

When Emit and Yoshi dropped into the MLR trench Emit immediately announced, “I am going to shoot that bastard Cpl A.H. on sight.” He started asking about his whereabouts and looking for him among those huddled in the trench. Orders came down for him to report to the Company CP. Fuming about not, as yet, finding the coward, Emit moved off to the CP area checking each night darkness soldier he passed for either Cpl A.H. or asking if they knew of his whereabouts. Others later told me that he was in a rage of retribution and figured Cpl A.H. was a goner when found. Unknown was that the Captain had “disappeared” Cpl A.H. immediately and before the patrol returned. We never found out anything further about A.H.’s fate or where he disappeared to. Nothing, only that he was gone.

On Emit’s arrival at the CP an after action critique was conducted. This was unusual in my own experience later as it seldom happened. Should have! Highlights of the critique had anger displayed by Emit as to “What about the bug out second in command A.H.” He’s gone so don’t go looking for him he was told.

At some point he was asked where his cartridge belt was. He explained it coming off in his exertions and that was still out laying in the stream bed. At that point he was told he would have to sign a statement of charges. This is a statement allowing the cost to be taken from his next combat pay. Emit answered, “No, Never. And if I don’t get issued another one I will just use bandoleers hereafter.” This faded away and he did receive another cartridge belt without signing any statement of charges. From a later perspective I think this was done to divert his anger about Cpl A.H.

As the critique wore down the Captain
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION

All items for publication in the Blue Badge must be received on or before the 15th of the month preceding the publication month. The Blue Badge is published in February, May, February, and February of each year. This means your items must arrive at the Blue Badge on or before the 15th of January, April, July, and October. Items received after those dates will be held until the next issue is published.

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Blue Badge is the official publication of the Combat Infantrymen's Association. It is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. All official information pertaining to the Association will be found here. The Blue Badge's intent is to keep you informed about the activities of the Association, not necessarily the entire veterans' community. So, even though such items may be of interest to some members, you will not normally find articles pertaining to veterans' benefits or other veterans' issues in the Blue Badge.

Each member is encouraged to communicate with the Blue Badge. Give us your ideas, comments, and complaints. Give us your human interest stories, share personal memories from your days in combat and the aftermath. Tell us what your company is doing. Because of the volume of mail received, sometimes we cannot print all of the letters. But be assured that every letter is read and considered. Space is also a consideration. The Blue Badge must be printed in multiples of four, i.e. 8 pages, 12 pages, 16 pages, etc. sometimes we have too much for, let's say 20 pages, but not enough for 24 pages, some things may have to wait.

The Blue Badge is not a political tool. Articles portraying a political position or demeaning to another member will not be printed. We do not accept any type of advertising, and we will not promote commercial products. Finally, articles, poems, etc which are not the original work of the sender, must be accompanied by the author's permission before it can be published in the Blue Badge.

Remember there is a cut off date for items to be published.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO GET THE MESSAGE OUT??

One of the delays that causes some confusion and aggravation among members is sometimes perceived as a lack of response to the member needs. The staff works hard to answer your questions, act on your requests, and in general be responsive to your needs. One of the problems we encounter is members often send their request to the wrong place. For example, change of addresses should not be sent to the Blue Badge, the editor has nothing to do with the data base management. If you do not receive or need additional copies of the Blue Badge, use the address below.

DO NOT SEND THESE REQUESTS TO THE EDITOR.

Articles intended to be published in the Blue Badge should not be sent to the National HQ, the CO, XO, etc. I could go on, but you get the idea.

Please use the following guidelines:

For articles to be printed in the Blue Badge; letters to the editor; poems, personal stories, etc, and items pertaining to the annual reunion should be sent to:
Larry Eckard
Editor, Blue Badge
3330 Springs Road NE
Hickory, NC 28601
E-mail: larrymlrs@charterinternet.com

Also, the BB editor should be made aware of changes in company leadership positions.

Address changes, contributions, requests for transfer, failure to receive an issue of Blue Badge, requests for additional copies of the Blue Badge and TAPS notices should be sent to:
Bob Saxton
1501 Grant St
Marinette, WI 54143-2321
E-Mail: bsaxon@saxtonsgiftscrafts.com

All membership applications, all renewals, and correspondence relating to membership should be sent to:
Daniel Sankoff
236 Danby Rd
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-7531
E-mail: SilverFoxx236@aol.com

In the event that an item is sent to the wrong place, the staff officer who receives it will channel it to the correct party, however, this may cause a delay in receiving your response.

Members can help improve our service by reading and heeding the above guidance.
ATTN SNOWBIRDS

If you have two addresses during the year, we need to know them. Please give us the dates and addresses for both households.

Winter Address: Approx dates: ________________________
Name: _______________________________
Address: _____________________________
City: _____________________________
State: ________ Zip: _______________

Summer Address: Approx dates: _______________
Name: _______________________________
Address: _____________________________
City: _____________________________
State: ________ Zip: _______________

Change of Address

If you move or your address changes even though no movement is involved, we need to know it. If you wish to continue receiving the Blue Badge, you really need to do this.

Old Address:
Name: _______________________________
Address: _____________________________
City: _____________________________
State: ________ Zip: _______________

New Address:
Address: _____________________________
City: _____________________________
State: ________ Zip: _______________

Mail Snowbird Info or Address Changes to
Robert Saxton
1501 Grant St
Marinette, WI 54143
I am writing this experience because I have read in the newspapers and veteran magazines that 1200 WW II veterans die each day. They all stress that we should tell out stories so that our children and others will realize that “War is Hell.” Tonight is June 21; it is 0200 hrs and I cannot sleep thinking of WW II so many years ago.

Rocco (Rocky) Gedaro, Co C, 1st Bn, 90th Inf Div.

I remember it this morning as if it were yesterday. We were on the banks of the Moselle River and had been told earlier that we were at attack at 0500 hrs and at 0400 hrs the artillery, mortars and machine guns would open fire on enemy positions on the opposite bank. At 0400 our firing began and it stopped at 0500 as my squad climbed into pontoon boats. There were 4-6 men in each boat and we had to paddle to the opposite shore and attack the enemy. We paddled as fast as we could, all the while the enemy sent flares into the sky, lighting up our crossing and firing mortar and artillery at us. My boat and some others made it to the other side. Other boats overturned due to the swollen and swift current of the Moselle. Others were hit with mortar and artillery fire.

We jumped out of our boats and started to fire our rifles at the top of the bank. We received no return fire and climbed to the top of the riverbank. There was one of the best sites and surprises of the war. In front of us was a trench about 5’ deep and about 2’ wide. It ran quite a long way, mostly to the left of where we were and at our right, it curved and went inland, on our right side from were trees probably 3 or 4 about twenty to thirty feet tall. We jumped into the trench and knew that we would not have to dig a foxhole tonight. The Germans had re-

At 1400 word came down to us to be on the lookout for a counterattack and see if we can take any prisoners if they do counterattack.

Just before darkness the Germans counterattacked us. We didn’t know how many of them there were. They had very little cover and we kept firing at them. Some of us who had German pistols and other stuff began to throw them into the Moselle River. I threw my German luger (sic) pistol into the river. We didn’t want to be caught with them for fear of what they would do us. As it happened we stopped them cold and they turned and ran. As darkness came one enemy soldier was wounded and kept moaning, “Ma, ma, ma” all evening long. This was terrible to listen to and if we could, we would have killed him. It was very de-moralizing. At midnight we could hear the enemy moving around. We surmised that they were removing their wounded and dead. As daylight arrived we saw two German medics waving a white flag and motioning to us they wanted to remove their wounded and dead. This we let them do and it was a peaceful morning.

In the afternoon we had several bullets hit the dirt in our trench and looked to see if we were being attacked. No enemy was in sight. We figured it was snipers firing from the trees. Three of us in the trench decided that since I was closest to the trees, I would fire a clip of bullets into the trees and move into a new position; then the second man would do the same thing, then the third man. We got lucky. A sniper fell from the branch he was tied to and hung there. All three of us emptied our clips into him to be sure he was dead. A short time later another sniper jumped or fell from the trees. We could not see him A few minutes later I heard what sounded like a person running to-wards us. I backed away from the cor-ner towards my men. The sniper came around the corner and I yelled, “Hand de Hock” (meaning put your hands above your head). He stopped quickly and did as I ordered him to. He was young and frightened. He did not have a rifle and I searched him for a pistol. He had none. When he fell or jumped he must have become confused and ran right into us. We had our pris-oner. I led him down the trench to our sergeant and he sent him to the rear for questioning.

The sniper never knew how lucky he was to be alive. All combat infantrymen hate and despise snipers. Snipers would hide and fire at us, sometimes wounding or killing some of our men. We had no use for them. I often think of how lucky that sniper was that we let him live. Then, I think of how lucky we were that we didn’t kill him. I think that perhaps God spared me and I lived through the war. Strange things happen in war. I am sure other soldiers have had strange experiences.

You are invited to submit your personal stories to the Blue Badge. All submissions will be considered. Publication will be based on space available. Submitted sto-
ries—printed or not—will not be returned.
Humor

My squad passed a full field inspection at Ft Jackson, SC 100%. After volunteering for overseas duty I shipped out of Patrick Henry, VA bound for Casablanca where I was to join the 3rd Inf Div. About a mile out in the Atlantic I decided to sit in on a poker game and discovered that I had left my wallet in my pillowcase back at Patrick Henry. The ship’s captain radioed back and the wallet was returned. After joining the 3rd Inf Div, I sat in on a Black-Jack game. When I got the deal, being nervous, I forgot to “burn” a card, Yes, sir, a big burley Master Sergeant noticed my “error” and told me to “Pay the board $186.00.” I did, but as the night rolled on I recovered it. Submitted by Bob Jablonski Co A, 15th Inf Regt, 3rd Inf Div

During a training exercise, a lieutenant driving down a muddy back road encountered another vehicle stuck in the mud with a red-faced colonel at the wheel. “Your vehicle stuck, sir,?” the lieutenant asked as he pulled alongside. “Nope” the colonel replied getting out and handing the lieutenant his keys, “Yours is.”


Personal Story

Carl Desendorf is a former infantryman assigned to I Company, 14th Inf, 71st Inf Div (WWII). This is his story.

The 71st Infantry Division, 3rd Army fired the last shot of WW II in the European Theater and went further east to meet the Russians.

From the day we left our concentration area in Le Havre, France, in a period of 92 days we had marched—fighting a large part of the way—a distance of 1,060 miles. We captured more than 80,000 prisoners of war, the bulk of them the hard way.

From the day we were committed with the Seventh Army south of Bitche, France, with the SV and SSI Corps, there had been no break in the intensity of effort.

Historic names are emblazoned on your memories by the heroic deeds of members of the division. We were cast through the Siegfried Line to capture Pirmansens, which we destroyed with the Seventh Army south of Bitche, France, with the SV and SSI Corps, there had been no break in the intensity of effort.

Historic names are emblazoned on your memories by the heroic deeds of members of the division. We were cast through the Siegfried Line to capture Pirmansens, which we destroyed with the Seventh Army south of Bitche, France, with the SV and SSI Corps, there had been no break in the intensity of effort.

A sudden change in direction transferred the division from the 7th to the fast moving 3rd Army, where we were thrown across the Rhine to cover the rear of the XII Corps.

East of Hanau we were confronted with hard-fighting elements of the German Mountain division Nord, which we destroyed with every battalion of the division working smoothly together as a team. On through Fulda and Meiningen, constantly opposed by small fighting groups of the enemy which we did not permit to delay us, seizing Coburg and Bayreuth in our path.

A transfer to the XX Corps gave us new missions when we swept southeast to Velden, Sulzbach and Maberg. We crossed the Regen River at Regenstauf, the Danube at Maberg. We crossed the Regen at Velden, Sulzbach and Amstetten, the easternmost point reached by American ground forces of any U.S. Army in the European Theater.

We had refused to let fatigue, the physical obstacles of mountains and rivers stop us. The enemy had only delayed us temporarily. We had written a glorious page in the military history of our beloved country. We were veterans, proven in battle.

Can Do

A few humorous stories and true precious memories submitted by Bob Jablonski, Co A, 15th Inf Regt, 3rd Inf Div

We joined the 3rd Division north of Salerno.

We (the 15th Inf) were dug in a few miles south of Cassino Monastery on Monte Cassino in December of 1943. It was rainy and muddy in the fox holes. The best Christmas present I ever received was a pair of sox and a "D" ration bar which was a hard chocolate bar. For some it was too late, trench-foot had set in. I was lucky, I could still walk on my feet, even though my socks came off in pieces. Oh Yes! The mud hole water and powdered coffee kept us awake for hours. Losing a few men of patrols, Capt Kirchbaum informed me I was acting platoon leader. After the first couple of days I never saw him again. Later, I believe it was the second week of January '44 we went to Naples for R & R. Not knowing what was on their minds, "Anzio Invasion" we went sight seeing and shopping. I purchased several beautiful cameos and other valuable items—put them all in a barracks bag and took them to the quartermaster to be shipped to the states. By the way, someone had better plans. The barracks bag never arrived at its destination.

Day Before Anzio Invasion

Scout (Comeer) while at mail call received a letter from the War Departme

We stopped only at objectives, the River Enns at Steyr, but with patrols thrusting deeply into enemy territory at Waidhofen and Amstetten, the easternmost point reached by American ground forces of any U.S. Army in the European Theater.

We had refused to let fatigue, the physical obstacles of mountains and rivers stop us. The enemy had only delayed us temporarily. We had written a glorious page in the military history of our beloved country. We were veterans, proven in battle.

(Continued on page 23)
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Can Do

(Continued from page 22)

The next day I went to the 56th Evac Field Hospital. Later I was sitting on a bunk having a cigarette, smoke was coming out of my right ear. The other patients had a lot of fun showing all newcomers how I blew smoke out of my ear. Some of them even made a few dollars betting with the new patients that I could do it.

A little later I got Z.I.ed (med evac) to the states. I was an ambulatory patient, boarded the hospital ship Arcadia bound for Charleston, SC which was a seven day trip. About five days out we hit the biggest storm of a lifetime with waves running about 100 feet or more. All ambulatory patients and ship personnel were running around tying patients to their bunks—and trying to stand up. What a mess! At times no one was standing. Later it was said by the ship personnel that a few more degrees and we would have lost her— The Arcadia. This I will never forget. From the hospital in Charleston I was shipped to Griley General Hospital in Springfield, MO. I spent a year in the plastic surgery ward and got well acquainted with Major Karlein, an excellent surgeon.

Convention Survey

The reunion manager tries to provide the type of convention desired by the membership. Your input is very important so please tell us what you want to; if you do not participate in the survey, don't complain about the agenda and format.

Do you want a welcome reception the first evening? _____ yes; _____ no

Do you want breakfast to be included in the convention price? _____ each morning; _____ Sunday morning only; _____ no breakfast

Do you want a Friday night dinner in the hotel or at a local restaurant? _____ in hotel; _____ local restaurant

Do you want to visit Ft Bragg? _____ yes; _____ no (if yes, what do you want to see there?)

1) 2) 3) 4) 5)

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I hereby apply for membership in the Combat Infantrymen's Association, Inc., and I certify that I am eligible as explained above. A
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Enclosed is my check___ Money Order___ for $__________Make check payable to: Combat Infantrymen's Assoc.

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# COMBAT INFANTRYMEN'S MEMORABILA PAGE

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<td>CIB MINIATURE</td>
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<td>RANK FOR UNIFORM (STATE WHAT RANK YOU WANT)</td>
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<td>C-5</td>
<td>3” X 1.75” 3 COLOR CIB DECAL</td>
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<td>INFANTRY ROPE FOR UNIFORM</td>
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<td>C-9</td>
<td>OFFICIAL CIB LOGO DECAL</td>
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<td>LAPEL/TIE PIN CIB REPLICA</td>
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<td>UNIFORM SHIRT (SHORT SLEEVE)</td>
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<td>UNIFORM SHIRT (LONG SLEEVE)</td>
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<td>DENIM SHIRT</td>
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<td>MEDALS (CALL OR WRITE FOR PRICE)</td>
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**ORDER FORM**

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