

January 2019

## *Fifteenth Infantry Regiment*



*“The Old China Hands”*

<http://www.warfoto.com/15thInfRegt.html>

Fellow Old China Hands,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and that 2019 will be a great year for you. I would like to thank our Association staff for their hard work last year and look forward to working with them this year.

In my October message, I failed to mention that LTC Fran Marks, former 3-15 IN BN Commander, came down from the US Army War College in Carlisle, PA to Washington, DC in September to serve as guest speaker for a WWII commemorative ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery hosted by Outpost International of the Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. Thank you, LTC Marks, for your support for this special event. Our veterans and other participants were very happy you joined us!

This edition of The Dragon includes our annual financial status report. Tom Heitzer has done a great job as acting treasurer to put the Association's financial records in order and to modernize our record keeping. For now, we are healthy, but will soon reach the point where we may need to access the life membership fund to continue hard copy distribution of The Dragon, unless we can significantly increase our membership and/or receive further donations. Please reach out to your fellow veterans from your time with the Regiment and make sure they are Association members.

As we did last year, the Association has been supporting the battalion in fund raising activities to help defray the costs of soldier support activities, such as a Regimental Ball. Under the auspices of the Association's non-profit status, battalion soldiers worked the concessions at the Jacksonville Jaguars home games and received a percentage of the proceeds as charitable contributions from the team. The Association will be retaining a portion of these funds to support our activities.

3-15 IN has provided another great report on its activities and the status of its reorganization to a mechanized battalion. This year will be full for the battalion as it achieves full operational readiness status. Hooah!

I have included another historical article on an officer who served with the Regiment in China and went on to have a very impressive career, LTG Edwin John Messinger, Sr. I hope you enjoy it.

I recently finished reading David A. Powell's three-volume Chickamauga Campaign—he provides a detailed and excellent account of what happened in this battle in which our Regiment fought. He has two more books related to Chickamauga, The Maps of Chickamauga, and Failure in the Saddle—covering Confederate cavalry operations in that campaign. They are all very good books. I am currently reviewing Dr. Glenn Robertson's River of Blood, Volume 1, the Fall of Chattanooga, for the Army Historical Foundation. Dr. Robertson was the lead author of the US Army Command and General Staff College's staff ride book on the Battle of Chickamauga. If you wish to know who was where on which day of the campaign and why, his book will tell you!

Throughout the past year, I have heard from barely a handful of our membership on any topic. For the past several years, I asked our membership to consider running for elective office in the Association. I have not heard from anyone expressing a wish to serve as President, Vice-President, trustee, or any of our other open elective positions. Our review of the Constitution and Bylaws resulted in recommended changes, including eliminating the Secretary's position. Why? Because our current secretary has not come on the net in several years and the Association has survived without his involvement. This is a sad state of affairs. We really need to get a new slate of officers for the Association willing to continue our Regiment's proud Can Do tradition. I am asking each of you to consider holding an elective office in the Association leadership. **Can Do! Tim**

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January 2019

## Taps

<b>James D. Mastne-LM</b> Portland, OR CPL, HHC, 3 BN, WWII, 1941-45 DOD 09/14/2013 Reported by wife, Caroline
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## New Members

<b>Randall M. Koivisto-Upgrade to LM</b> Stacy, MN SP/4, A CO, 1 BN, CW, 1968-70
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## Membership Report

<b>NUMBER OF MEMBERS BY PERIOD</b>		<b>CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE</b>	
NUMBER OF CHINA HANDS	0	REGULAR LIFE	239
NUMBER OF WWII MEMBERS	32	REGULAR ANNUAL	68
NUMBER OF KOREA MEMBERS	125	ASSOCIATE LIFE	19
NUMBER OF COLD WAR MEMBERS	85	<u>ASSOCIATE ANNUAL</u>	<u>52</u>
NUMBER OF PEACETIME MEMBERS	17	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	378
NUMBER OF OEF FORCES	1		
NUMBER OF OIF FORCES	9		
NUMBER OF GWOT FORCES	84		
<u>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</u>	<u>25</u>		
TOTAL MEMBERS	378		

## Announcements

The Association wants to thank all those who participated in voting on the changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. All amendments passed and a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws are on the new web site. We also posted an updated copy of the SOP. Again, thanks for those who took the time to vote on this very important part of Association business.

**MIA NOTICE:** Does anyone know the whereabouts of LM Myer G. Borish? His October DRAGON came back to the address we have for him in Hollywood, FL, and his phone is no longer in service. Please call or e-mail Tom Heitzer to let him know if you know where he is so we can send him his DRAGON.

January 2019

15<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



DUES NOTICE

Annual Members,

The annual membership fee for 2019 is due starting in the month of October. Check your mailing label and if you have 2018 after your name your dues need to be paid for 2019. Send your check or money order and the form below to Tom Heitzer at 231 Normandie Drive, Bonne Terre, MO 63628 or go online to <http://www.warfoto.com/15thInfRegt.html> and find the "Click Here to Pay Dues" button.

Regular annual membership dues are \$10.00 (current Active Duty dues are \$5.00). Multiple year payments are welcomed. Life membership rates are: Below 60-\$150, age 60 to 69-\$120; age 70 to 79-\$100; age 80 and above-\$50. **If you are on active duty and deployed at this time contact us and we will extend your membership until you return, but you need to let us know of your deployment status.** Email Tom Heitzer at [theitzer001@charter.net](mailto:theitzer001@charter.net) to let him know of your deployment and we will extend your membership.

Several members have recently sponsored memberships for active duty soldiers of the active battalion. This is an opportunity for all members to express their appreciation for the service to the nation of today's Dragon Soldiers. The form below provides a space (Sponsor Active Duty) for sponsoring these memberships. A two-year membership is only \$10.00.

Contributions to the Awards and Monument (A&M) Fund or General Fund are also always appreciated and may be included with your payment. Please complete and detach the form below and submit with your dues. For those with email capability, please provide the address to update the Association database.

-----Detach-----

NAME: (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(to update Association database)

<u>Dues Amounts:</u>		<u>Payment:</u>	
Regular Annual	\$10.00	Dues	\$-----
Associate Annual	\$10.00	Sponsor Active Duty	\$-----
Active Duty Annual	\$ 5.00	A&M Fund	\$-----
Life	See above	General Fund	\$-----
		<b>Total Payment</b>	<b>\$-----</b>

**Make check or money order payable to the Treasurer, 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association and mail to Tom Heitzer at 231 Normandie Drive, Bonne Terre, MO 63628**

**15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association Treasurer's Report 2018**

**CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 01/01/2018:** \$ 3,199.63

**INCOME FOR 2018:**

DUES COLLECTED IN 2018: \$ 1,176.60  
 DONATIONS: \$ 983.00  
 50/50: \$ 60.00 (from 2017 drawing)  
 BUMPER STICKERS: \$ 104.00  
 INTEREST ON CHECKING ACCOUNT: \$ 4.18  
**TOTAL INCOME FOR 2018:** \$ 2,327.78

**DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2018:**

PRINTING & SHIPPING DRAGON: \$ 1,520.02  
 MAILING OF DRAGON POSTAGE: \$ 277.84  
 ALL OTHER POSTAGE: \$ 468.07  
 OFFICE SUPPLIES, ETC: \$ 76.90  
 MAILING PERMIT: \$ 225.00  
 FILING IRS FORM 990: \$ 39.95  
 PAYPAL FEES: \$ 12.24  
 PLAQUE: (LTC MARKS) \$ 95.84  
 BUMPER STICKERS: \$ 200.00  
 WEB PAGE: \$ 40.00 (Oct-Dec 2018)  
**TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2018:** \$ 2,955.86

**JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS BN ACCOUNT:**

TOTAL INCOME: \$ 21,141.37  
**DISBURSEMENTS:**  
 ASSOCIATION DUES \$ 255.00  
 BN CO \$ 15.00  
 ODYSSEY PRINTING \$ 2,496.42  
 MARRIOTT HOTEL \$ 13,538.55  
**TOTAL SPENT** \$ 16,304.97  
**BALANCE** \$ 4,836.40

**SAVINGS:**

(\$ 1012.80 MONUMENT FUND MONEY)  
 (\$ 180.00 GIFT MEMBERSHIP FUND MONEY)  
 (\$ 3,567.64 LIFE TRUST FUND MONEY)  
 (\$ 23.16 INTEREST FOR 2018)  
 (\$ 4,836.40 3-15th BN FUND)  
**TOTAL BALANCE SAVINGS:** \$ 9,620.00

**PAYPAL ACCOUNT:** \$ 4.44

**CD ACCOUNT:** \$ 29,558.62 (LIFE TRUST FUND MONEY)

**RECAP FOR 2018:**

CHECKING ACCOUNT BEFORE EXPENTURES: \$ 5,527.41  
 TOTAL TRANSFERRED TO SAVINGS: \$ 5,629.15  
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2018: \$ 2,955.86  
**TOTAL IN CHECKING AS OF 12/31/2018:** \$ 1,942.40

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## Active Battalion Update

### **From the Desk of China 6 (December 15, 2018)**

Greetings China Team!

My family and I wish you all a Merry Christmas as we find ourselves inside the holiday season. As I pause to send this note, please allow me the opportunity to reflect back on a few highlights that this great battalion has accomplished over the past several months.

In April, it was a privilege to take command of this legendary battalion after it had transformed from a light infantry battalion to an infantry combined arms battalion. With the transformation came a training plan to ensure that our Soldiers, your loved ones, are fully trained on their new equipment fully knowing and understanding the new capabilities of the China team. Independently, each company went through its own progression of receiving their new equipment, receiving the necessary training, and then qualifying on their new vehicular platforms. The battalion was superb in doing so in which every company completed their "new equipment training" with the crews needed to answer our Nation's call if needed. Training on our equipment does not end there. With the loss of personnel through reassignments or departing from the Army, it is necessary to continue to train on our platforms so that we can be ready. Last week, the battalion completed our first battalion-level crew gunnery since the transformation and the crews performed exceptionally well. I must applaud Charlie Rock, our tank company, for completing the tank gunnery with an average of 917 points. That is phenomenal. With the completion of that gunnery, we now have qualified personnel on our tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, mortar vehicles, scout vehicles, and support platforms. Great work, China! I'm proud of your hard work and accomplishments.

In the coming days after we return from block leave, the battalion will climb aboard the fictitious object known as the "Marne Express" and continue our training progression towards our culminating event that will take place at the National Training Center. Our training will be executed at the squad, platoon, company, and battalion level with each iteration including live fire. We must be disciplined and lethal, and our training progression will enable us to do so. I'm excited about the training plan and I cannot wait to see the remarkable feats your loved ones will achieve during this training period.

Unfortunately, these past several months have not been all rainbows and unicorns. Earlier this month in traditional ceremony, the China team had to bid farewell to our senior enlisted leader. Command Sergeant Major Higley is top notch and was the right leader for the battalion. Under his leadership, we saw the culture in the battalion shift and noticed that Soldiers took pride in their performance and took responsibility for their actions be them bad or good. We witnessed an improvement in character, we saw our human resource metrics improve significantly, and we watched our disciplinary problems nearly dissolve. All of this can be attested to his leadership and I am grateful to have had the honor of serving with him. Best of luck to you and your family, CSM, as you head to Colorado to begin a new chapter in your military career. God speed, brother.

In closing, I want to thank you all for the support shown to the China team. It does not go unnoticed and you are truly the strength of this battalion that keeps us moving forward. Take care, God bless, and Season's Greetings!

Respectfully,

Arthur L. McGrue III  
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry  
China 6

## China 7 Relinquishes Responsibility



On December 10th, we held a relinquishment of responsibility ceremony. CSM Jerry Higley was an outstanding NCO and advisor to the Battalion. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his accomplishments here at the Can Do Battalion. We wish him and his family the best as they continue on in their Army journey. CSM Higley is on his way to Fort Carson where he will serve in the brand-new 4th Security Forces Assistance Brigade (SFAB). He will be sorely missed in the China Battalion and we know he will continue to be a great leader to his future Soldiers.

## HHC



This October, Can Do Soldiers from HHC took the China Dragon Trophy in the platoon competition. The competition consisted of multiple weighted and cardio exercises at several different stations across the motor pool. Every station is set up to test Soldiers on their strength, endurance and teamwork. At each event, the team must complete a certain number of reps in each exercise before being able to move on to the next. Each team competed to get the best time at each event.

### Battalion Trunk or Treat



Families from across the Battalion attended this year's Trunk-or-Treat on Main Post. There was plenty of candy, games and entertainment. The 31D Band was also there to entertain the crowd as they waited for candy. At the end of the event, there was a contest to see who had the best costume and the best-decorated car.

### Vehicle Maintenance



Each maintenance team from A, B, and C Co completed annual services on the Abrams Main Battle Tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles this quarter. A tremendous amount of work goes into services on track vehicles and we are proud of every maintenance Soldier. Annual services provide the Battalion and the Brigade with combat readiness. Services allow for correction of all maintenance issues and ensure vehicles are ready when the nation calls. These services will enable the China Battalion to focus on preparing for NTC and any real-world contingencies.



### Marne Week

All of 3ID competed in multiple events for points every day from Dec. 3-6. This year, the Spartan Brigade took first place in the Marne Week competition. Some of the events included flag football, golf, combatives (hosted by 3-15 IN), swimming, and spouse kickball. The Can Do Battalion took first place in the Golf Tournament. Congrats to SSG Lingerfelt (A Co), 1LT Cash (HHC), SSG Simpson (A Co), and CPT Ring (A Co), who brought it home for the China team and provided a significant contribution to 2 ABCT bringing home the Commander's Cup.



### Suicide Awareness

Our own CPT Jason Davis shared a message for everyone in a suicide prevention video this November. Suicide prevention and resilience is what makes us stronger as one team. Thank you, Chaplin Davis for your message. Great work by several Spartans made this event a success. Special thanks to the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield agencies and Winn Army Community Hospital for supporting our Soldiers.



## Thanksgiving



Leaders of the China Battalion served the Soldiers this year for Thanksgiving. The Thanksgiving feast featured a red carpet, plenty of smiles, and exquisite decorations. Soldiers were able to sit down and take a few minutes to appreciate the many blessings that we have while they ate great food and enjoyed even greater company.

### Historian's Corner

#### **Lieutenant General Edwin John Messinger, Sr.**

Submitted by Tim Stoy



Edwin John Messinger, Sr. commissioned with the USMA Class of 1931. After graduation from West Point, where he was an All-American end for the football team, he was assigned to Company A, 28th Infantry, at Fort Niagara in New York. He joined the 15th Infantry in Tientsin, China prior to World War II. In 1939, he was assigned to the Physical Education Department at West Point. He attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas. He was then assigned as the G3 of the 17th Airborne Division in North Carolina through its operations in Central Europe. He helped plan the first Airborne invasion over the Rhine into Germany, Operation Varsity and was awarded the Silver Star for personal bravery in the field.

In 1946, after studying Latin American affairs at the University of Michigan, he became the Chief of the United States Military Mission to Costa Rica. He was then assigned battalion command at Fort Lewis, Washington and then later to the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea as commander of the 23rd Infantry. The 23rd fought on the Naktong Perimeter until mid-September 1950 and participated in the breakout and march to the Yalu River. Next, he assumed command of the 9th Infantry, leading it through continuous action at Kananur, Yuanju, Jubore, Honjon, Hangchow and Inja.

The regiment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its actions during this period and he was awarded the two Distinguished Service Crosses, a second Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, and a Bronze Star for Valor.

He returned to the District of Columbia to attend the National War College and to serve in the Office of Secretary of Defense . In 1953, he was promoted to brigadier general and returned to Korea to serve as Assistant Division Commander of the 24th Infantry Division. He was involved in the prisoner of war exchange and the relief of the 45th Infantry Division by the 24th.

In 1954, he was selected as the Commandant of Cadets at West Point. In 1956, he became commander of the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii and converted the 25th from a regular division to the pentomic structure. After tours of duty with Commander in Chief, Pacific, as Deputy Chief of Staff for Foreign Military Assistance and in the District of Columbia as the Director of Military Assistance Affairs for the Joint Staff, he was sent to Turkey to become Chief of the United States Military Mission in Turkey. After a brief assignment in the District of Columbia as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics at the Department of the Army, he was selected for promotion to lieutenant general and became the Deputy Commander of the Continental Army Command at Fort Monroe in Virginia. He was diagnosed with cancer and died on January 28, 1965.

His citations for the Distinguished Service Cross are:

1) While serving as the Commander of the 9th Infantry Regiment Colonel Messinger distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the area of Sillim-ni and Takpakkol, Korea, during the period 22 February 1951 through 11 March 1951. During this period, Colonel Messinger's regiment had the mission of seizing and securing the Sillim-ni - Takpakkol area which was held by well-entrenched elements of three hostile divisions. Throughout the entire period, Colonel Messinger remained with the foremost units of his regiment, directing the advance and exhorting his men to greater efforts against the stubbornly resisting enemy. His calm, fearless conduct while under heavy enemy fire was an invaluable source of inspiration to all members of his command, and his aggressive leadership at critical points during the operation was a major factor in the successful accomplishment of the regiment's mission.

2) While serving as the Commanding Officer of the 9th Infantry Regiment, Colonel Messinger distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Hangeye, Hasolschi, and Sabanggarri, Korea, during the period 17 through 24 May 1951. When an enemy force, consisting of 12 divisions, attacked the 2nd Infantry Division's defensive positions in a massive offensive, Colonel Messinger fearlessly and aggressively led his regiment to secure a defensive position assigned to it. Under his daring and skillful leadership, the regiment successfully repelled the attack of two enemy divisions and nearly annihilated the enemy force. Colonel Messinger aggressively moved over difficult terrain, under intense enemy automatic-weapons and mortar fire, to direct personally both the defensive and offensive action of his unit. The indomitable courage, outstanding tactical ability and inspiring leadership of Colonel Messinger were responsible for the tremendous casualties suffered by the enemy and the complete failure of the hostile attack.

### **Can Do Bumper Stickers**

John Campbell came up with the below bumper sticker design. The price is \$3.00 with checks made payable to the '15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association.' Send checks and recipient addresses to Andrew Lerch at 15302 Iris Ln, Montclair, VA 22025-1015 and he will send out all bumper stickers via the U.S Postal Service.



January 2019

15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association  
**Tom Heitzer, Database Administrator**  
231 Normandie Dr  
Bonne Terre, MO 63628

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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Bonne Terre, MO

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