

THE 7th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

WAR OF 1812
MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR
CIVIL WAR
INDIAN WARS
SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR
PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION



WW I
WW II
KOREA
VIETNAM
COLD WAR
SOUTHWEST ASIA
IRAQ

THE COTTONBALER

Volume XXIX No. 3

The Cottonbaler

Summer 2018



Medal of Honor awarded to WW2 Cottonbaler 1LT Garlin M. Conner
(See story, page 8)

Check out our Website: www.cottonbalers.com

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

• • • • •

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment:

LTG John M. LeMoyné, USA Ret.

Honorary Sgt Major of the Regiment:Gene Owens (*in memoriam*)**President:**

Greg Cullison *

gregscullison@gmail.com

Immediate Past President:

David Jensen

212 Hartwood Drive

Gadsden, AL 35901

256-485-5692

djensen@mtviewhospital.com

1st Vice President:

Robert J. Burns

19900 Court of the Myrtles

Boca Raton, FL 33434-3717

954-943-2485 • rsniprmedic@aol.com

2nd Vice President:

Shawn Hubner

PO Box 796

Lake Butler, FL

863-228-7135 • rsheeb@yahoo.com

Secretary and Chaplain:

Father Philip G. Salois, M.S.

16 Sharon Parkway

North Smithfield, RI 02896

401-769-3040 • 617-930-5208 (cell)

XUANLOC@aol.com

Treasurer:

Joe Washart

504 Brooke Avenue

Magnolia, NJ 08049-1106

856-655-2852 • jwashart@aol.com

Editor:

David Spanburg

2987 District Ave., #518

Fairfax, VA 22031

703-283-6843

da6dspanburg@verizon.net

Board of Directors:

Stephen C. Borkowski

permanentseven@gmail.com

Kent 'Skeeter' Cowel

2575 Amber Drive

Loveland, CO 80537

303-431-6671

Skeeter199@comcast.net

James Norris

477 White Oak Road

Center Barnstead, NH 03225

603-364-0052

jnorris701@hotmail.com

Larry 'Biggie' Unruh

830 W. Main

Ness City, KS 67560

785-798-3323

biggy@gbta.net

Albert J. Watson

15017 SE Stevenson Drive

Vancouver, WA 98683-8336

360-892-7431

O6rwatson@comcast.net

Historian:

Dr. John C. McManus

2560 Hidden Meadow Lane

St. Louis, MO 63021-7824

314-965-8321

jcmcelt@sbcglobal.net

Historian Emeritus:Sherm Pratt (*in memoriam*)**Belgian Liaison Officer:**Bob Boucart (*in memoriam*)**2d Battalion, 7th Infantry**

LTC Robert Stanton, USA, CDR*

CSM Christopher Williams, USA, CSM*

* Denotes active duty

*The Cottonbaler is an official,
quarterly publication of the
7th Infantry Regiment
Association*

OBJECTIVES

of the

**7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION**

• • • • •

1. To create and perpetuate a viable and cohesive national organization for the purpose of enjoying the camaraderie and unique membership, and in unison, voice concern for the protection of our cherished American ideals and our individual way of life.

2. To support the military policy that maintains reasonable but strong nuclear and conventional, combat-ready regular and reserve component forces, able to provide adequate national security for our nation and its people.

3. To foster the development of good citizenship, patriotism, and leadership in our American youth, the future of our nation.

4. To insure that posterity is constantly reminded of those instances of service, sacrifice, and dedication to the preservation of our nation's liberty and freedom by celebrating those dates that recall the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces of the United States, and especially the 7th Infantry Regiment and its component units.

5. To encourage and achieve the mutual benefit and support resulting from a close and cooperative alliance between the Association and the active units of the 7th Infantry Regiment in the United States Army.

**PLEASE SEND ANY
ADDRESS CHANGES
OR CORRECTIONS TO**

Father Philip G. Salois, M.S.
16 Sharon Parkway
North Smithfield, RI 02896
XUANLOC@aol.com

Check out our website: www.cottonbalers.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Page:	4
by Greg Cullison	
Immediate Past President Comments	5
by Dave Jensen	
Editor's Notes: Help Wanted!	6
by David Spanburg	
Secretary's Corner.	7
by Father Phil Salois	
Cottonbaler Receives Medal of Honor	8
by John C. McManus	
Reunion 2019 Preliminary Schedule	10
Chaplain's Corner	
by Father Phil Salois	11
List of Contributors.	12
Membership Profile.	12
New Members	13
Taps	13
Financial Statement	14
2nd BN Commander's Comments	
by LTC Robert C. Stanton	15
Membership/Donation Form.	23
Campaign Participation Credit	24

Receive Your Cottonbaler Newsletter Electronically via Email

To help save printing and mailing costs, members may now receive their Cottonbaler Newsletter via email. Email versions will arrive about 2 weeks before members receive it in the mail.

If you are interested in this option, please email our Secretary, Fr. Phil Salois, at xuanloc@aol.com. You can change your mind any time and go back to receiving your newsletter by regular mail.

Members, particularly Life Members who no longer have to pay the annual membership fee, are encouraged to donate toward the operating expenses of the Association each year. Send your contribution directly to our treasurer, Joe Washart, 504 Brooke Avenue, Magnolia, NJ 08049-1106.



GEN James McConville, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, welcomes everyone to the Hall of Heroes Ceremony for MOH winner 1LT Garlin Conner.

Cottonbalers on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/28462933742/

EDITOR: DAVID SPANBURG

Page layout for this newsletter by:

Elizabeth H. Cottrell

RiverwoodWriter, LLC, Maurertown, VA 22644

540-436-3969 • www.RiverwoodWriter.com

Printed and mailed by:

Narrow Passage Press (The Print Shop), Woodstock, VA 22664

540-459-4000 • www.ournewspaper.net/

DISCLAIMER

• • • • •

While material received for publication is screened for relevance, good taste and general content, the Editor is not responsible for its technical accuracy. If readers wish to challenge the accuracy of an article published in *The Cottonbaler*, whether contributed by an Association member or reprinted from an outside source, they are welcome to do so by writing to the Editor and explaining the basis for the challenge. Such letters will also be published, if appropriate.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

by Greg Cullison, Association President



President Greg Cullison

Cottonbalers, I hope the Summer 2018 edition of The Cottonbaler finds you and your families enjoying some fun in the sun this summer. As I write this, our nation is celebrating its 242nd birthday during our Inde-

pendence Day celebrations from coast to coast, as well as abroad over here in Europe. My family is enjoying Freedom Fest here at Ramstein AB in Germany with burgers and brats, musical entertainment, and of course fireworks.

Speaking of celebrations, we have a big one coming up in 2019. Our next Cottonbaler Reunion will be held from 16-19 May in scenic and historic Chattanooga, Tennessee. Our host hotel will be The Read House Historic Inn and Suites, which is located downtown near the Tennessee River and many restaurants and attractions. This grand hotel is undergoing extensive renovations, and we will be among the first guests to experience the grandeur of its original appearance from 1926. Many celebrities have stayed at The Read House, including Gary Cooper, Winston Churchill, and even Al Capone, during his federal trial in the early 20th century.

Our Reunion will include some battlefield tours and a historian's description of the significance of the Civil War battles at Chickamauga and Lookout Mountain. These battles signaled the

turning point of the war, and we will have the opportunity to see where and how it happened.

In addition, we are making arrangements for a riverboat cruise through the scenic gorge of the Tennessee River on the Southern Belle. The unforgettable cruise will include live narration along the way, and the captain has agreed to conduct tours of the pilot house.

We are looking forward to a superb Reunion with these and other events and attractions, including free time to spend with old friends and family members as we explore Chattanooga and its surroundings. Now is the time to spread the word about the Reunion. We are hoping to have the biggest and best gathering of Cottonbalers yet. So please talk to as many Cottonbalers as you can, so we can meet up with members, old and new, in Chattanooga next May.

Our 7th Infantry Regiment Association must recruit and retain as many members as possible to ensure we can meet our objectives of (1) supporting our active duty battalion at Fort Stewart (while in garrison and deployed abroad), and (2) providing opportunities for fun and fellowship as we host reunions for our membership to get together and talk about good times in the past, present and future.

Our Fall 2018 Cottonbaler Newsletter will include details about Reunion registration and hotel reservations, so please stay tuned and watch for that. In the meantime, please take the opportunity to reach out to old friends to invite them to join you at our Reunion in Chattanooga. They will be glad to hear from you.

VOLENS ET POTENS

Greg Cullison
President ♦

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Have ever asked yourself the question 'what makes a soldier fight?' I am not asking what would make someone join the military we know that people join the military for a lot of different reasons. Some join the military due to love of their country and their flag. Others join because there is a tradition of military service in their family, or because it's a job, a future, a chance to get an education.



Immediate Past President
Dave Jensen

No, I want you to consider the question what makes a soldier fight? What would make someone risk life and limb on a battlefield? This question has been studied by military scholars and psychiatrists for centuries. Most military historians believe that five factors contribute to someone having a fighting spirit. These include small unit cohesion (the band of brothers), unit allegiance or pride in the organization we serve in, something like Cottonbalers by God! Damn Fine Soldiers! First to Fight! or Rock of the Marne! You may have heard it referred to as esprit de corps. Another motivation to fight is a lack of alternatives (when your back is against a wall) and fighting is the only way out. Still another strong motivation is self-preservation (when threatened the will to survive is very strong), and last but not least is leadership.

So small unit cohesion, esprit-de-corps, lack of alternatives, self-preservation and leadership we are told are the five factors that contribute to a fighting spirit. It has been proven that in combat, all of these motivators tend to deteriorate over time and become less motivating except for one, that being small unit cohesion. You see, the real reason soldiers fight is so basic, so simple, but so very strong. The real

reason why soldiers fight is that soldier fighting next to them, that battle buddy in the foxhole with them. The real reason soldiers fight is that soldier next to them in the turret of the tank or the Bradley fighting vehicle, or the cockpit of the helicopter. The reason soldiers are willing to risk life and limb on the battlefield is that soldier standing, kneeling, sitting or lying alongside of them, soldiers that they have trained with, sweated with, shivered with, were scared with, soldiers that they have trusted and have been trusted by. That's what makes a soldier fight.

At this point you are probably wondering why I'm writing this. As I close out let me try to explain. You see I think that the real reason a soldier fights, the real reason a soldier is willing to risk life or limb on the battlefield is the same reason they join Associations like the 7th Infantry Regiment Association (Cottonbalers).

I think that the real reason you chose to fight, the real reason you were willing to risk life and limb is the same reason that you come to reunions like ours in Chattanooga, 16 -19 May 2019. It's the camaraderie, the small unit cohesion and that Cottonbaler, that Damn Fine Soldier! that you served with and fought alongside of. ***They must not be forgotten!***

All the soldiers of the 7th Infantry Regiment (Cottonbalers), from those who fought in 1815 at Chalmette Plantation thru those Cottonbalers of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry, serving on the front lines of democracy in Korea today have stood alongside us. We are the reason they chose to fight, and they are the reason we chose to fight. Let us never allow, the sol-

continued on page 14

EDITOR'S NOTES....

by David Spanburg

The Association needs your help. I'm looking for a few people who would like to become more involved with the Association. No real experience needed (I certainly didn't have any when I started...).

Anyway, I'm looking for a possible replacement as the Cottonbaler Newsletter editor and the Cottonbalers.com web master. I'm not planning on going anywhere any time soon, but none of us are getting any younger.

For the Editor position, you'll mainly be responsible for gathering the various pieces/columns from the Association Officers and the Commander of 2-7 IN. You'll need to review the article and do some basic editing. You then hand off the articles to a very talented and all around wonderful person, Elizabeth for her to put it all together. If anyone is interested but doesn't feel they are ready to jump in completely, you can be a Jr Editor for a while. That is how I got started.

For the webmaster – I need someone who knows the newer standards and designs. The existing site is dated and is not a Responsive- Design. I know what it is, but I don't

have the knowledge on how to implement that. The site needs a redesign and updating. If you just want to help with the redesign and know something about Responsive-Design and HTML coding, please contact me.

In addition, we're always, always looking for new people to step up and help out. The best way, volunteer to be a Board Member. The Board meets at the reunion and then does everything else either via email or conference calls. Mostly emails. We are also always looking for people to help out

at the Reunions. We need someone who could scout out possible hotels and activities at future Reunion sites to helping keep the Hospitality Suite stocked with food and drinks.

So, get involved. Once you do, you'll enjoy it. This is a great Association and that is because of the people involved. We can only keep it great if you're willing to step up and lend us a hand.

Volens et Potens – Willing and Able!

David

Editor/Webmaster

HELP WANTED!





My dear Cottonbalers: This is your pesky secretary writing to you all. First of all, I hope you all enjoyed your summer because by the time you receive this issue of the magazine, summer will be nearly over, and fall will begin.

There are many of you who are annual dues payers that have NOT paid their 2018-2019 annual dues. If you have not already done so, please write a check payable to the 7th Infantry Regiment Association in the amount of \$20 and mail it to me at:

Father Philip G. Salois, M.S., Secretary
16 Sharon Parkway
North Smithfield, Rhode Island 02896-6930

Only 15 of you have paid your Annual Dues for the 2018-2019 year. 112 of you have NOT paid your 2018-2019 Annual Dues. That means most of you have not ponied up your \$20.00. Please do so TODAY!

Please do it now before you forget and place this magazine in your recycle bin. You may even consider switching over to a Life Membership. That way you would never have to remember whether you paid your dues or not and you would avoid me nagging at you for it.

If I do not receive your dues by the time of the next issue you will be dropped from our rolls and no longer receive the quarterly Cottonbaler magazine.

Please remember that if you move especially those of you who are still on active duty and you get re-assigned please keep me posted on your current address.

Please save the dates to attend our 2019 reunion in Chattanooga. The information is elsewhere in this magazine. It is always great fun to be together. Bring your spouses – there is plenty to do and see in Chattanooga.

Please send me an e-mail at xuanloc@aol.com if your address changes.

Thank you all for your cooperation.

May God bless you all!

Volens et Potens – Damn Fine Soldiers!

Father Philip G. Salois, M.S.
Association Secretary ♦



SFC Green promotes PFC Rice to SPC, Immortal
Company 2/7 IN

WWII Cottonbaler Receives Medal of Honor

by John C. McManus, Regimental Historian

In a White House ceremony on June 26, Lieutenant Garlin M. Conner became the latest member of the 7th Infantry Regiment to receive the Medal of Honor. A native of Aaron, Kentucky, and farmer in civilian life, Conner served with the regiment from North Africa to Germany, earning a battlefield commission after the Anzio campaign. During the Battle of the Colmar Pocket in January 1945, he called down heavy artillery fire on his own position and, through extraordinary valor, almost single handedly held off a powerful German counterattack.

His citation reads:

For extraordinary heroism in action. On 24 January 1945, at 0800 hours, near Houssen, France, Lieutenant Conner ran four hundred yards through the impact area of an intense concentration of enemy artillery fire to direct friendly artillery on a force of six Mark VI tanks and tank destroyers, followed by six hundred fanatical German infantrymen, which was assaulting in full fury the spearhead position held by his Battalion. Unreeling a spool of telephone wire, Lieutenant Conner disregarded shells which exploded twenty-five yards from him, tearing branches from the trees in his path, and plunged in a shallow ditch thirty yards beyond the position of his foremost company. Although the ditch provided inadequate protection from the heavy automatic fire of the advancing enemy infantry, he calmly directed round after round of artillery on the foe from his prone position, hurling them back to the shelter of a dike. For three hours he remained at his OP [observation post] despite wave after wave of German infantry, which surged forward to within five yards of

his position. As the last, all-out German assault swept forward, he ordered his artillery to concentrate on his own position, resolved to die if necessary to halt the enemy. Friendly shells exploded within five yards of him, blanketing his position, wounding his one assistant. Yet Lieutenant Conner continued to direct artillery fire on the assault elements swarming around him until the German attack was shattered and broken. By his exemplary heroism, he killed approximately fifty and wounded an estimated one hundred Germans, disintegrated the powerful enemy assault and prevented heavy casualties in his Battalion.

Conner had received an astounding four Silver Stars, one Bronze star and three Purple Hearts



Secretary of the Army Dr. Esper presenting plaque to Pauline Connor, along with Vice Chief of Staff of the Army GEN McConville

Medal of Honor...continued from previous page

during his brief but intense Army career. He initially received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions. His battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel (later Major General) Lloyd Ramsey tried to persuade him to authorize consideration for the Medal of Honor but, in an indication of his inherent humility, he resisted. Only later in life, in the 1990s, did he give permission for Ramsey and others to petition the Army to upgrade his award. The effort continued even after Conner's death in 1998. Finally, in 2018, the posthumous award was approved by President Donald Trump. The president conferred the Medal upon Conner's widow Pauline at a June 26 White House ceremony. On that day, Conner became, appropriately enough, the seventh World War II Cottonbaler to receive the Medal. The others are Truman Olson, Floyd Lindstrom, James Connor (no relation), Stanley Bender, Robert Maxwell, and Jose Valdez. ♦

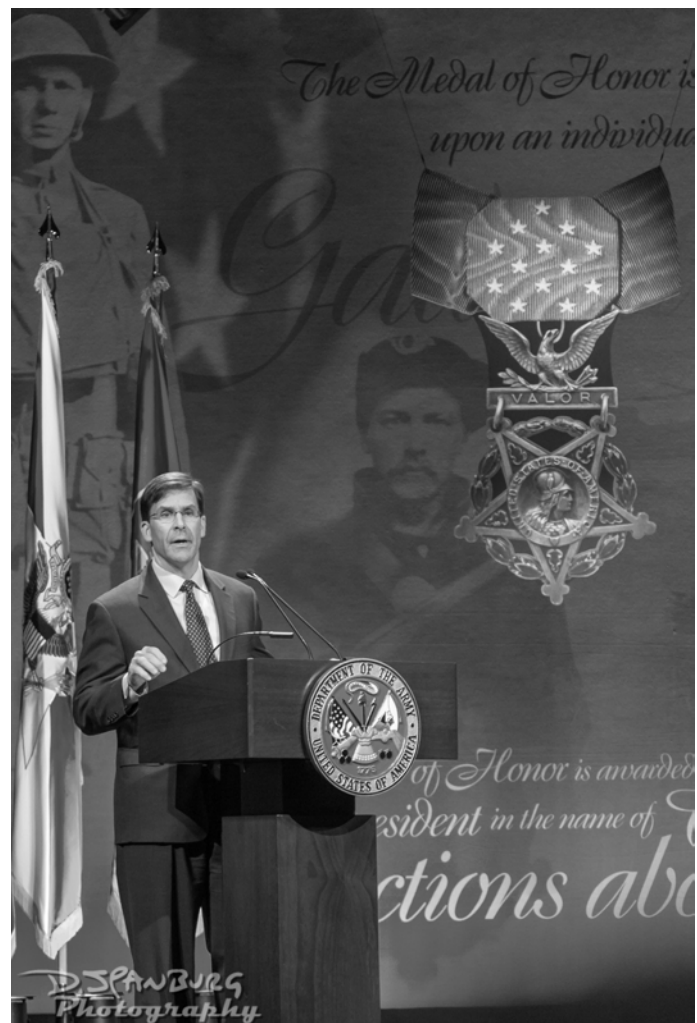
[Additional photos on page 3 and page 23]



1LT Garlin M. Conner's widow, Pauline Connor, talking about Garlin Conner



Deputy Secretary of Defense Shanahan presenting Medal of Honor flag to Pauline Connor, along with Vice Chief of Staff of the Army GEN McConville



Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark T. Esper at the Hall of Heroes Ceremony for MOH winner 1LT Garlin Conner

SAVE THE DATE!

2019 7th Infantry Regiment Association (Cottonbalers) Reunion
May 16 – May 19, 2019

The Read House Historic Inn and Suites
 827 Broad Street
 Chattanooga, TN

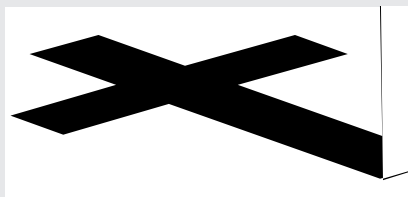
Proposed (tentative) schedule of events

Thursday, 16 May 2019	
12-5 PM	Reunion Registration
12 PM	Hospitality Suite
6 PM	Ice Breaker
	Pub Get Together / Chattanooga Lookouts Baseball Game
Friday, 17 May 2019	
AM	Bus Tour of Chickamauga And Chattanooga National Military Park
PM	Dinner on Own and Free Time Chattanooga
	Live Auction (Boswell Scholarship Fund)/Raffle
	Hospitality Suite
Saturday, 18 May 2019	
AM	Board of Directors Meeting
	General Membership Meeting
	Event for The Ladies???
PM	Free Time in Chattanooga
	Dinner at Read House / Dinner Riverboat Cruise
	Hospitality Suite
Sunday, 19 May 2019	
AM	Breakfast at Read House
	Memorial Service
	Dismissal

Details on room reservations and event registrations to follow on the Cottonbaler web site and in the fall *Cottonbaler* newsletter!!!

Make your plans now to attend the Cottonbaler 2019 Reunion in Chattanooga

And bring another Cottonbaler with you!



Chaplain's Corner

Father Philip G. Salois, M.S.

7th Infantry Regiment Association Chaplain

My fellow Cottonbalers—We are in the throes of July as I write this but by the time you receive it summer will be almost over or even over as the fall season began. I pray you all had a wonderful summer with great weather and even a little travelling to boot.

As I look at the world we are living in today, I see so much unhappiness and unrest in our beloved country. I see hostile divisions and pure unadulterated hatred as we have become so polarized. I often wonder and even contemplate what Almighty God in Heaven says to himself as He observes the children he created treat each other with such heinous words and outright hostility. My fellow Cottonbalers if there was any time to call upon God for His mercy and benevolence over our nation it is now. Ears need to be opened to deeply listen to one another. Mouths need to be closed and speak only the good things that men and women need to hear. And hearts need to be softened and opened to love one another as God loves each one of us. I don't know when this dark cloud over our country will be lifted but it will only dissipate and allow the sunlight to shine through when ears, mouths and hearts work together for the good of our fellow men and women.

How did you all observe the Fourth of July in your communities? I along with my fellow Vietnam Veterans did our annual march and drive in the Arnold Mills Parade in Cumberland, Rhode Island. It was 95 degrees with

85% humidity that day. We made it and there was a great turn-out of observers. We tossed candy out to the children on each side as they scurried about picking them up. For them it was a second Halloween.

In August I'm attending the American Legion National Convention in Minneapolis where they're appointing me their National Chaplain for the 2018-2019 year. It is an honor to be selected for this position. Please keep me in your prayers. I will be doing considerable travelling for them, but it is only for one year.

Our 2019 reunion venue has been locked in and I hope you will save those dates and make plans to join us in Chattanooga. It is a great city filled with military history and many attractions to keep everyone happy.

Please keep in your mind and prayers all the men and women in the military as they continue to serve everywhere in the world for their safety until they return home to their families and friends.

Well my brother Cottonbalers – enjoy the summer and will write to all of you again in the Winter issue of the magazine.

Volens et Potens

Cottonbalers by God, Damn Fine Soldiers

Father Phil Salois, M.S.,
Association Chaplain



THANK YOU!

to the following association members for donations this quarter:

Boswell Scholarship Fund

LTC John MacDonald

Operating Expenses

LTC John MacDonald

SGT Lawrence Lyons



SFC Jenkins and SSG Fryor, A-2/7 IN,
after a subteranean opertain in
their protective masks

7th INF REGIMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBER- SHIP PROFILE

As of 10 July 2018

DUES STATUS:

None due (LM, HON, CG, PM)	282
Annual renewals for 2018 - 2019	15
Members Not Paid Up	112
Total Members	421

CATEGORY SUMMARY:

Served with the 7th Infantry, Or attached or supporting units	374
Associate Members	9
Supporting Members	14
Honorary Members	2
Permanent Member	6
Color Guard Member	5

PERIOD OF SERVICE SUMMARY:

World War II	15
Korea	102
Belgian Cottonbalers (<i>Belgium</i>)	12
Vietnam	59
Peace Time/Cold War	66
Gulf War/Iraq	120

NEW MEMBERS

ANTHONY BAYS

SP4, 2nd Bn., 7th Inf., Iraq
2630 Eastgate Road – Apartment #3
Toledo, Ohio 43614
baysisaiah@gmail.com

ANTHONY SAMUEL FARINA

SSG, Co. A, 2-7, Iraq
323 Dogwood Court
Dale, Indiana 47579
Writingsanator@gmail.com

CHARLES FUGITT

SP4, HHC, Recovery, F Co., Iraq
175 McCall Avenue
Reidsville, Georgia 30453
Charles.f2507@gmail.com

CHARLES HALL

SP4, Co. A, 2/7 Inf Iraq
130 Fairmont Trace
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214
Charleshall2008@yahoo.com

BRIAN JARRETT

SSG, Co. B, HHC Iraq
1169 North Busch Avenue
Mountain Grove, Missouri 65711
Jarrett2010@outlook.com

TROY STANSELL

SP4, DCO & HHC 3-7 (1987-89)
3596 Squires Woods Way
Lexington, Kentucky 40515
Tstansellk9@yahoo.com



The Medical Platoon poses for a picture after the Gas Chamber during the Battalion CBRN Academy

TAPS

"BE THOU AT PEACE"



~ Departed Members ~

HEIGHTER L. PURKS

1LT, Co L, WWII
686 Upper Camas Road
Camas Valley, OR 97416
Died – February 12, 2018

MITCHEL "Mitch"

CHOCKLA

SGT, Co A, WWII
6520 S.W. 63d Court
South Miami, FL 33143
Died – March 21, 2018

BOUCART, BOB

Belgian Brigade,
Belgian Liaison
Died -- January 9, 2018

7th Infantry Regiment Association Financial Statement

Opening Balance (03/21/2018)13310.76

INCOME

Donations for Operating Expenses80.00
 Donations for Scholarship Fund40.00
 Membership Dues 180.00300.00

Total Income13610.76

EXPENSES

Riverwood Writer LLC300.00
 Printshop732.81
 Website87.80
 Web Network Solutions204.94
 Postmaster (permit)225.00
 Fr. Phil (postage)10.50
 Scholarships 9000.00

Total Expenses10561.05

Closing Balance (07/03/2018)3049.71

Savings Account (06/30/2018)1290.95

Scholarship Fund (07/03/2018) 124512.00
 (Will be withdrawing \$9000 for this year's winners)

Immediate Past President...continued from page 5

diers of the 7th Infantry Regiment (Cottonbalers), the soldiers of the Premier Infantry Regiment in the United States Army to be forgotten!

We have another opportunity coming up 16 -19 May 2019 in Chattanooga, Tennessee to remember and honor all those Damn Fine Soldiers, those Cottonbalers by God that we served with and fought with. Let's start now to make plans to muster in Chattanooga and bring a least one Cottonbaler who may not be a 7th Infantry Regiment Association (Cottonbalers)

member or may not have attended a reunion with us before.

We know from past experience that what makes a great reunion is not the location of the reunion or the reunion events. What make a reunion great is seeing those Cottonbalers from the Korean War to those serving in uniform today, and those new association members and Cottonbalers joining us for the first time at a reunion.

See you in Chattanooga!

Dave ♦



"Cottonbaler" 2nd Battalion COMMANDER'S COMMENTS...

LTC Robert C. Stanton USA, CDR

FROM ABLE 6, LTC ROBERT C. STANTON, JR.

The Cottonbalers in Korea continue to exceed expectations and uphold our Regiment's prestigious history. On our first deployment to Korea since leaving in 1953, we continue to support the Republic of Korea-Army (ROKA) Alliance and deter aggression in support of US interests in the Pacific Region. The 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, a M1 Abrams Tank and M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle Combined Arms Battalion, has rediscovered our Light Infantry beginnings here in Korea.

The current Cottonbaler mission set in The Republic of Korea requires us to dismount our tracked vehicles and load into helicopters to conduct Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) and Subterranean Operations. This mission set requires us to reach a masters level of proficiency on understanding the chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear weapon threat so that we may defeat it and protect ourselves in the process. Subterranean operations are where a majority of our effort has been since it is a relatively new concept to our Battalion, and the Army as a whole. Last year, the Army allocated half a billion dollars to prepare 26 of its 31 Brigade Combat Teams to fight un-



LTC Robert C. Stanton (L) and CSM Christopher J. Williams

derground. For this new type of warfare, Soldiers need to know how to effectively navigate, communicate, breach heavy obstacles and attack enemy forces in underground facilities ranging from confined corridors to tunnels as wide as residential streets. Soldiers require new equipment and train-

ing to operate in conditions such as complete darkness, poor air quality and limited cover from enemy fire in areas that challenge standard Army communications equipment. The Cottonbalers are at the tip of the spear for this endeavor. This Battalion is regularly creating new Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTP's), testing new equipment, and most importantly, sharing these lessons learned to benefit the entire Army.

Individual Cottonbalers continue to set the standard and defeat all competition. CPL Jacob Bee and 1LT James Reed were awarded the title of Best Warrior for the 2nd Infantry Division and 8th Army after competing in a multiday physical and mental competitions. CPL Bee went on to participate in The United States Army Pacific Best Warrior competition in Hawaii where he finished in first place and will now compete for the Headquarters Department of the Army Best Warrior competition at Camp A.P. Hill, Virginia in October of this

Follow the 2-7 IN Cottonbalers at www.facebook.com/2BN7IN

2n BN..continued from previous page

year. These two Damn Fine Soldiers were rightfully selected to represent the 2nd Infantry Division at the 74th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy France.

2-7 IN will complete a demanding training schedule this summer. The Battalion will continue to focus on our Korea specific training requirements, but also take a step back onto our armored vehicles to ensure that we can close with and destroy the enemy in all dimensions. Infantry companies will continue to train on deliberate Air Assault tasks such as Air insertions and extractions, and sling load operations. Abrams and Bradley crews will advance through their gun table training progression sending 25mm, TOW missiles and 120mm tank rounds down range on targets. The dismounted Infantryman will train and compete to earn their Expert Infantryman Badge.

2-7 IN will continue to make etches in history for the 7th Infantry Regiment. Our Soldiers continue to amaze me every day and continue to build the Battalions professional reputation as being the best.

“Willing and Able”, “Cottonbalers by God”, “Damn Fine Soldiers”

Robert C. Stanton
LTC, IN
Commanding

2-7 EXPLORES KOREA AND DOMINATES IN SPORTS

After the initial chaos of arrival, setting systems in place, and getting settled into a new location, 2-7 Soldiers are beginning to explore some of the cultural wealth of Korea. Recently, 160 Cottonbalers took time for an R&R trip to the Coex Mall in Seoul. The Coex Mall is the world's largest underground mall and boasts a Guinness Book of World Record holding cinema complex, a unique public library, and the nation's largest aquarium. The mall is also host



HHC conducts sling load operations of a M1165A1 HMMWV with a CH-47 helicopter.

to a huge variety of restaurants from cultures all over the globe. The daylong trip allowed Soldiers to enjoy shopping, the many foods, and the diverse culture Seoul has to offer.

The Soldiers of 2-7 have also seized opportunities available at Camp Humphreys. Two softball teams have formed, Team Willing and Team Able, and will be competing in the post-wide tournament over the next 2 months. They are off to a strong start with both teams winning their first two games by over 10 points. Ten Cottonbalers are also attending the 18-20MAY18 Single Soldier Strong Bonds Retreat where they will learn about building and maintain healthy relationships. This event will be at a 5-star hotel in the heart of Seoul.

In June, the BN plans to host a trip to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) with stops at an overlook to receive a brief by a tour-guide on the DMZ and the "Third Tunnel of Aggression" (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Tunnel_of_Agression).

At the end of the month, 2-7 is scheduled to hold the 2nd "Cottonbaler Commander's Cup," providing the opportunity for the Companies to compete and build esprit-de-corps.

2n BN...continued from previous page

ASSASSIN COMPANY UPDATE CPT Fulton/ 1SG Evans

Assassins had a very busy month as we settled into our routines here at Camp Humphreys. Of course—we trained, a lot. However, we also worked on many other company functions that will enable us to be successful, including maintenance, administrative/personnel issues and a change of command. Assassins proved that they are ready and able throughout the entirety of April. Company priorities focused heavily on physical fitness, marksmanship, and small unit tactics. PFC Wall, a new to ACO medic, scored a maximum 300 on his physical fitness test and earned an Army Achievement medal from LTC Stanton in recognition of his efforts. We conducted a rifle marksmanship density the first weekend of April, focusing on short-range marksmanship that gave the men lots of trigger time that will surely benefit us in an urban environment.

Assassins also conducted two Company level operations this month. In early April, there was deliberate planning and execution of an assault on an enemy objective at Camp Stanley, Korea. This training allowed us train a number of skills, but specifically focused on operating in a chemically contaminated environment. In late April we sped things up a bit and conducted a no notice alert that led straight into a two-mounted-platoon operation on Camp Humphreys, demonstrating the Company's ability to rapidly prep for combat.

Readiness is something you hear frequently around the Army, but to be ready for combat is no simple task. In this pursuit, Assassins spent 3 weeks this month maintaining our vehicles, both wheeled and tracked. SSG Smith and the team of mechanics did a phenomenal job teaching the crews how to work on their vehicles and ensuring they are all fully mis-



SGT Kim and CPL Yun, Immortal Company 2/7 IN, sign in during a company level alert exercise

sion capable. Another piece to maintenance is individual equipment, which was 100% inventoried this month in order to identify any critical equipment gaps and ensure accountability. In addition, we received new equipment that will help us in our assigned mission. Assassins then received high quality instruction and training on the equipment via more short-range marksmanship—the more the merrier!

Now that we have been in Korea for 3 months, our administrative systems are catching up. The Assassin leaders are working diligently to get pay issues identified and corrected as quickly as possible.

All issues are being brought up the chain of command and are receiving the appropriate command attention to correct the problems. The BN also held promotion boards where SGT Fenner, SGT Couch, CPL Hobbs, SPC Fields, SPC McCarron, PFC Broome, PFC

2n BN...continued from previous page

Morning, PFC Carlile, PVT Cristobal, and PVT Kurz were all selected to serve at the next rank!

Finally, I will close this month's letter with recognizing two Damn Fine Assassins, CPL Bee and CPT Hepinstall. CPL Bee represented Alpha Company, 2-7 IN, and 1st Brigade in the Division Best Warrior Competition where he won the Best Soldier Category. His commitment to his profession shows and he will compete for Best Soldier in Korea this summer in an effort to be a contender at the Army Best Warrior Competition. CPT Hepinstall led the company with distinction from June 2017-April 2018 and, fortunately for the battalion is still serving Cottonbalers as the Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander. We wish them both the best as they continue to make A CO a proud organization to be a part of!

BUSHMASTER COMPANY UPDATE CPT Wheeler/ 1SG Singley

Hello from Korea! Your new Command Team would like to thank the families of Bushmaster as you continue to trust us with their Soldiers lives and ensure that they are successful in all endeavors. The men are doing well and continue to excel. I seek to implement a culture of brotherhood through my Command Philosophy, "Family First, Mission Always." I am excited to lead this

great group of men who are well trained and disciplined.

The warriors of Bushmaster have conducted several training events over the last month to increase our lethality and proficiency. They have conducted short-range marksmanship, gas chamber training (to ensure that our equipment work), air assault operations, and training to deploy and execute our mission if called upon. This month was Soldier focused, enabling them to concentrate on administrative tasks to improve themselves and the organization.

The Company would like to welcome Miss Emilia Rose Calandro to the Bushmaster Family. Congrats to Mrs. Rebecca Calandro and SPC Calandro for their beautiful creation born on 9 April 2018. We are excited to know that Miss Emilia will bring you all so much joy.

I would like to congratulate 1LT Reed, Platoon Leader for first Platoon, on winning the 2nd Infantry Division Best Warrior Competition in the Officer bracket. His determination and efforts contributed to the Brigade winning the entire event. SGT Jesse also competed and his efforts did not go unnoticed as he finished sec-

ond in the NCO bracket. Both leaders performed exceptionally well and brought great credit to the organization and themselves.

This is Bushmaster 6 relaying a message from the all of the Soldiers to their families: We love you guys! We miss you all!



Cottonbaler softball team - post game

2n BN...continued from previous page

IMMORTAL COMPANY UPDATE

CPT Fischer/ 1SG Stewart

April was another busy month for Immortal Company. The battalion started the month off by flying north for an air assault mission, resulting in the FSC configuring to support troop movement to the airfield, a very unusual mission for a Combined Arms Battalion FSC. Nevertheless, Immortal did not disappoint when alerted, each platoon provided drivers and successfully moved Soldiers from Bushmaster Company without issue.

After mastering our Air Assault support configuration, the following week Immortal participated in the CBRN Academy with the rest of the battalion. SGT

Simmonds and SPC Hyde assisted the battalion's chemical section by leading the Individual Decontamination station throughout the week as each platoon participated. On Saturday, each company rotated through the gas chamber, making for some great stories as well as building confidence in our equipment. That was the first time the unit tested our masks since being fielded the new M50.

Additional highlights this month included

SHARP 360 training in honor of Denim Day and Sexual Violence Awareness month. Volunteers from each platoon acted out vignettes to train Soldiers and help raise awareness through interactive modules. We also had the company's first ever Sling Load training, where the Soldiers had an opportunity to rig and hook up a HMMWV to a hovering aircraft. We had three Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises (EDRE) throughout the month, including a maintenance section full load out and roll out. The company continues to participate in our Good Neighbor program sending a few Soldiers to a local Korean after school care program on Tuesday afternoons.

CHAOS COMPANY UPDATE

CPT Ramirez/ 1SG McFarland

Chaos Company is making the most of its new home and is hitting the ground running! As promised, the land at our new home is much friendlier to running our tanks. The Soldiers and Leaders of 3-69 AR are going above and beyond in helping us get after good training opportunities to include navigating a minefield, crossing a river, or hiding 70 tons of shock and awe. The training is demanding and as the



Members of B-2/7 IN carry an 80 pound log during a tactical foot march.

2n BN...continued from previous page



**CPL Bee, A-2/7 IN, being recognized during
2ID Best Warrior Competition**

weather warms up our Soldiers are conditioning themselves to operate under any and every condition until the mission is complete. We continue to establish our operations and we at Chaos send our sincerest thanks to our friends and families. We appreciate your patience during the move and continued demonstrations of support through the care packages that have started to show up for us. As long as we have fuel and a couple of MRE cases Chaos stands 'Willing and Able' to start and end any fight or mission we are committed towards!

HEADHUNTER COMPANY UPDATE CPT Connell/ 1SG Trivino

The Headhunter Team continued to build operational readiness and train to fight and win during the month of April. This month the Headhunter Team executed various training events to include: a Downed Aircraft Recovery Team mission; CBRN Academy; Convoy STX; Sling Load Operations; Close Combat Aviation support training; M9 Pistol Qualification; Demolition & Urban Breach training; Engagement Skills Training to familiarize Soldiers on Ma-

chine Guns; a Spur Ride; and the Army Physical Fitness Test.

SPC White won the Soldier of the month marking the second consecutive month that the Medic platoon has won (SPC Edwards won last month). The Headhunter Family also introduced a new FRG Leader, Mrs. Dorian Buscampell to the team. The next FRG Meeting is scheduled for the 9th of May.

A NOTE FROM ABLE 7

Mighty Cottonbaler Families, it appears that another month has already flown past us. The Battalion, and your loved ones, have been very productive this month and it was filled with accomplishments. The Soldiers continue to hone their combat skills, foster a strong relationship with our Korean partners and, improve the Battalion daily. Both A co and B co had internal shooting competitions where they crowned their best Soldiers, Squads and, Teams after a series of stress shoots. Two KATUSA's in B Co were recognized for outstanding performance. CPL Jong was recognized as the best KATUSA during the KATUSA Friendship Week and PFC Song won the GEN PAK board, the top board for all KATUSA's in Korea. On May 18, the 8th Army Commanding General named 1LT Reed (B Co) and CPL Bee (A Co) the 8th Army 2018 "Best Warriors" in their categories and they will compete in June to become the PACOM "Best Warriors" in Hawaii. The USO continues to provide amazing support sending us 181 boxes of assorted items for the Soldiers as part of the "USO TO GO" program. Our Battalion softball teams opened the pre-season with impressive 2nd and 4th place finishes and we are looking forward to an exciting season.

Raider 7 presented SPC Lewis (I Co) with the new BDE coin for ensuring that all Soldiers remain professional while out in the local village. HHC promoted seven Soldiers this month: SGT Park (Company Senior KATUSA), SGT Jeong

2n BN..continued from previous page

(Mortar), CPL Gundolf (Fire Support Element), CPL An (Medic), PFC Perez (Scout), and PFC Flores (Chemical). These are just a few of the many accomplishments accredited to your Soldiers. It has been a joy to watch all your family members excel in everything. We look forward to the upcoming months and getting your Warrior back in your arms.

No matter what task, event, or challenge we put in front of these "Damn Fine Soldiers", they continue to impress us. The only way to be this successful is through hard work, focus, and drive. We all know that comes from the amazing support our families provide. Able 6 and I truly care about all of the families and their Soldiers. Please feel free to reach out to your Soldiers Chain of Command/FRG if you experience any issues that you may have a hard time resolving on your own. We will continue to do our best to keep everyone updated on the 2-7 Families Facebook page (there are more pictures since it is a closed group) as well as the 2-7 Infantry page. It is truly humbling to be the Command Sergeant Major for this amazing organization..." Willing and Able"...Cottonbalers by God"...Damn Fine Soldiers.

ABLE 7—CSM Christopher J. Williams



CPT Hepinstall, A-2/7 IN, commanding during a company operation at Camp Stanley. Pictured with SGT Lee (KATUSA)



A-2/7 In squad preparing to breach an objective



B-2/7 In following Company Change of Command ceremony at Camp Humphreys, Korea



A-2/7 IN short range marksmanship training



C-2/7 IN conducting towing with a brake tank



Members of B-2/7 IN provide security during company air assault training.



1LT Madsen (left) and his RTO SPC Bernardino (right), B-2/7 IN, communicate to higher their movement to the objective



Members of B-2/7 IN provide security as the aid and litter team performs medical transportation during Company Air Assault



Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick M. Shanahan at the Hall of Heroes Ceremony for
MOH winner 1LT Garlin Conner

Combined Membership Application and Donation Form

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Period of Service and Unit with 7th Infantry: _____

Highest Grade achieved in military service: _____

Membership Category: Regular ☐ Life: ☐

Dues (See Rates in Box at Right): \$ _____

Donation to Boswell Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

Contribution to Operating Expenses: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to: "7th Infantry Regiment Association"

Mail to: Fr. Philip Salois, Secretary, 16 Sharon Parkway, North Smithfield, RI 02896

Dues Rates:

Regular:	\$20/Year
Life Memberships:	
Over Age 70:	\$100
Age 60-70:	\$175
Up to Age 60:	\$250
Active Duty E8-O3:	\$200
Active Duty E7 and Below:	\$150

THE 7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
Fr. Philip G. Salois, Secretary
16 Sharon Parkway
North Smithfield, RI 02896



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WOODSTOCK, VA
PERMIT #8

Change Service Requested

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

War of 1812

Canada
New Orleans
Florida 1814
Louisiana 1815

Mexican War

Monterey
Vera Cruz
Cerro Gordo
Contreras
Churubusco
Molino del Rey
Chapultepec
Texas 1846

Civil War

Fredericksburg
Murfreesborough
Chancellorsville
Gettysburg
Chickamauga
Chattanooga
Atlanta
New Mexico 1861
New Mexico 1862
Kentucky 1862
Mississippi 1862
Tennessee 1862
Tennessee 1863
Georgia 1864

Indian Wars

Creeks
Seminoles
Little Big Horn
Nez Percés
Utes
Pine Ridge
New Mexico 1860
Wyoming 1866
Montana 1872

War with Spain

Santiago

Philippine Insurrection

Samar 1901
Samar 1902

World War I

Aisne
Champagne-Marne
Aisne-Marne
St. Mihiel
Meuse-Argonne
Champagne 1918
Ile de France 1918

World War II

Algeria-French Morocco
(with arrowhead)
Tunisia
Sicily (with arrowhead)
Naples-Foggia
Anzio (with arrowhead)
Rome-Arno
Southern France
(with arrowhead)
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Korean War

CCF Intervention
First UN Counteroffensive
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
Korea, Summer-Fall 1952
Third Korean Winter
Korea, Summer 1953

Vietnam

Counteroffensive, Phase II
Counteroffensive, Phase III
Tet Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase IV
Counteroffensive, Phase V
Counteroffensive, Phase VI
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Summer-Fall 1969
Winter-Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase VII

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait
Cease-Fire

War on Terrorism

Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn
Operation Enduring Freedom

The Cottonbaler

Volume XXIX No. 3
Summer 2018

Visit our website: www.cottonbalers.com