

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 XVI No. 1

NEWSLETTER \$2.00 per copy

Winter, 2006



The New Cottonbaler U.S. Postal Service Stamp

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

OBJECTIVES

of the

**7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION**

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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.

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DISCLAIMER

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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.

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7th Infantry Regiment Association
 ANNUAL REUNION MAY 18-21:

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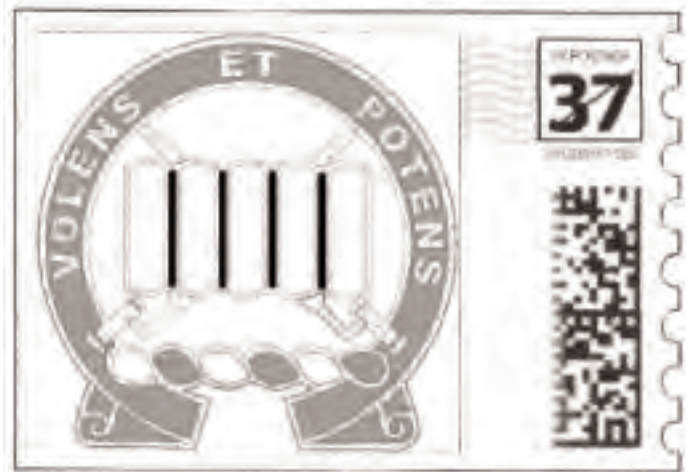
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**NEW! 7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
 "COTTONBALER" STAMP**

The stamp (actual is in color) is good for mailing. A sheet of 20 stamps costs \$14.99 plus \$1.00 for shipping. Order them from our quartermaster.

EDITOR: RONALD D. TURNER

Page layout for this newsletter by:
 Riverwood Technologies, Maurertown, VA
 540-436-3969

Printed by:
 Narrow Passage Press, Woodstock, VA
 540-459-4000

PRESIDENT'S PAGE.....



Association President Bob Dalton

Winter has arrived in most of the country and this augurs well for our upcoming May 06 reunion in Charleston where we are anticipating a great turnout. In this and the next Cottonbaler will be more information and registration forms, and it is suggested that requests for reservations be made as early as possible. Curley and Carol Ann Faulk have lined up exciting tours and first class hotel accommodations which was not a routine assignment given that Charleston is virtually a twelve month tourist city that is booked months in advance each year.

The Board of Directors has approved a banquet discount for all active duty personnel attending in appreciation of their service to our country and in keeping with Cottonbaler tradition of being among the first to deploy and place themselves in harm's way. Speaking of the reunion banquet, we want to acknowledge our World War II brothers and the Association encourages all members with WW2 service to make every effort to attend so that we can, as a body, salute you and recognize your heroic experiences of a couple of generations ago. These veterans will be honored at the head table along with our featured speaker for the evening, MG Livingston.

Unfortunately the casualties continue to cast a pall over the Association and the families affected. Past President Rhoades is in constant

contact with the Ft. Stewart rear command and keeps Secretary Merson advised when these incidents occur. I understand the POC correspondents are doing a wonderful job with their units, and once again we want to impress upon anyone who wants to participate in this program to step forward.

"We want to acknowledge our World War II brothers [at the reunion banquet] so that we can, as a body, salute you."

Our esteemed Regimental Historian, Sherman Pratt, has asked to pass the baton. Sherm Pratt has endeared himself to a legion of our older members, and he has done yeoman's work as our Historian. Sherm's health, like many of us, isn't what it needs to be to keep up a regular writing regimen. We so appreciate Sherm's devotion to our history and dedication to duty and we all wish him well. In Sherm's place we are indeed fortunate to have a very learned scholar in John McManus. He has a keen interest in the history of the Cottonbalers and we will be hearing from John from time to time. A more qualified man we couldn't find. Welcome aboard John.

Volens et Potens,

Bob Dalton





EDITOR'S NOTES....

1. HISTORIANS: Our long-time Association Historian, Sherman W. Pratt, has decided to vacate the position due to ill health. Dr. John C. McManus has agreed to pick-up the responsibility. Sherm (LTC Retired) fought as a Cottonbaler infantryman in WWII from the initial landings in North Africa to the end of the war. He rose from First Sergeant to Captain in three months! He is the author of Autobahn to Berchtesgaden, a story of his experiences, and a "must read" for every Cottonbaler interested in the history of the Regiment. He has been a frequent contributor to the Cottonbaler.

John McManus is the author of a new book, American Courage, American Carnage: The 7th Infantry and the story of America's Combat Experience. This book will be available about the first of 2007, and we will have copies at the 2007 reunion. This is a pure Cottonbaler book, and takes the Regiment from its very beginnings to the present. A must have!
2. COTTONBALER STAMPS: Take a look again at page 3 and at our Cover Photo. The Cottonbaler stamps are available now! Order them now, and use them. I have done so. They are expensive, since the Postal Department must print them made to order. Our Quartermaster has purchased them in bulk so his price is better than you can do unless you wish to order hundreds. Look at STAMPS.COM. For a price, you can get a personal stamp printed if you wish.
3. REUNION: Carol Ann and Curley Faulk and the Charleston team have done a great job of organizing things in Charleston. Take a minute now to make your hotel reservations and your reservation for the reunion itself. This will be a great meeting for all of us. Reservation forms in this issue.
4. INPUT TO COTTONBALER: Many thanks to all of you who have sent input to our quarterly newsletter. Keep it up! We do not wish to publish a quarterly "Sears Catalog size publication", but will do our best to use your stories. There are many stories out there, some short, some long, and we will try to get all appropriate stories published.
5. SPRING '06 ISSUE: This year we will mail the Spring Issue about the first of March, so as to give everyone another chance to register for the Reunion prior to 10 April. For those of you who provide input for every issue please get your input in by mid February.
6. ANZIO BEACHHEAD VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II: The group will be holding their 27th annual reunion in Fayetteville, NC, April 19-22, 2006. Contact John Boller, 1 Harbor North, Amityville, NY 11701. Phone 631-691-5002 or email juniorjib@msn.com.
7. MISSING PICTURE: One of you sent me a great picture of a soldier in Iraq, a little girl, and three rifles with bayonets in the ground. It is lost on my computer. If you sent it please do so again. It would make a great cover for the Newsletter.

Call for Nominations

This is the first call for candidates for Association offices that will become vacant in 2006. Nominations are accepted from January through 31 March. Candidates will be announced in the Spring issue of the Cottonbaler, to be voted on either by absentee ballot or at the general membership meeting to be held during the reunion in Charleston in May.

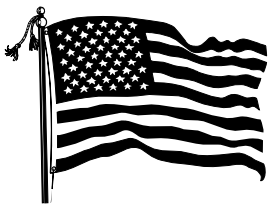
Father Phil Salois, Roland Merson, and Ron Bertha have agreed to remain in their present positions for two more years if the membership so agrees. You can, of course nominate another person to run also. Neither the Secretary (Roland Merson), nor the Treasurer (Ron Bertha), need to be voted upon unless you wish--both of these positions have no time limits.

We do need to elect a new member of the Board of Directors, replacing 1SG Borkowski, now in Iraq, who is not eligible to run again.

If you are interested in filling any position, especially the Board Position, please contact the Editor, and let him know.



*"Nonsense. S-2 reported that machine gun silenced hours ago. Stop wiggling your fingers at me."
Cartoon by Bill Mauldin*



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

LTC Todd Wood, USA, CDR

2nd Battalion will give an update in the next issue of the Cottonbaler. See story about 2nd Battalion on page 11.



"Cottonbaler" 3rd Battalion COMMANDER'S COMMENTS...

LTC David Funk, USA, CDR

Baler 6 Sends:

Greetings friends and family of the Cottonbalers. As the people of Iraq celebrate the ending of the Holy Month of Ramadan, we hope this update finds you well. As I write this, we are enjoying a real cooling period here in Baghdad. The days barely reach 80 now, while the nights can dip to the high 40s. It seems as if we skipped Fall and went straight to Winter. Although our soldiers appreciate the break from the heat, we have to laugh when we see a group of local Baghdadis wearing winter jackets in 70 degree weather. These are definitely a warm-weather people.

So much has happened since the last update. First, we must acknowledge the tragic death of two former Cottonbalers. CPT Mike MacKinnon, former Bandit 6, was killed recently by a large roadside bomb while commanding A Company, 1-184 Infantry, one of our sister battalions in the brigade. Many of you know Bethany, Noah, and Madison. Please keep them in your prayers. Also killed that day was COL Bill Wood, Mike's battalion commander, who had commanded 1-184 since July. He was a Cottonbaler way back in the 80s as a lieutenant. We extend our deepest sympathies to Nanci and Rachel as well.

Despite these tragic losses, and others, we have seen so much good happen here recently. The most significant, of course, is the national Referendum vote on 15 October. You may know that the Iraqi government uses local schools as polling centers during elections. What you may not know is that out of the 247 polling sites within the brigade's area, we had responsibility for 105 of them. A and B companies alone had nearly 90 between them. Your Cottonbalers worked day and night to set the conditions for a successful vote. We spent the weeks leading up to the referendum helping to set up security at each

site. This involved moving and emplacing nearly 1400 concrete barriers throughout our area. In addition to the barrier movement, we spent many hours with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) discussing and rehearsing the security plans for the day of the vote. Finally, we really turned up the heat on the insurgents, as we captured dozens of them in the three weeks prior to the vote.

The results were self-evident, as the Iraqi people turned out in droves to cast their lots for the country's future. Some estimates put voter turnout at close to 65% (higher, incidentally, than we see for a typical US election). More importantly, there was not one single significant act of violence in our entire area that day. Despite the threats of the terrorists, despite the constant warnings of death to anyone who voted, and despite the considerable hand-wringing from our own media, the Iraqi people proved what we already know - freedom and democracy will always prevail against oppression and tyranny.

So, what was our role during the day of the vote? To put it simply, we were "back up" to the ISF. While they guarded the polling centers and the surrounding communities, we conducted a lot of roving patrols, prepared to react if something happened. We ran into a few people who didn't get the word on the driving ban (or pretended they didn't), but other than that, we saw no incidents. Instead, what we saw that day made us realize the promise that this country holds. Thousands of people walked the streets without fear. Kids played soccer, adults visited friends and family, and everyone carried on as if it were a holiday. We expect to be just as successful in December, as the country elects a permanent government.

You may have seen some of our Cottonbalers in the news in the past few weeks. Campbell

continued on page 8



"I gotta hand it to ya. I didn't think that buried treasure rumor would work."

Cartoon by Bill Mauldin

Brown, from NBC, visited with both A and B companies as they prepared for the Referendum. The soldiers enjoyed meeting such a famous personality. While the B Company soldiers apparently knew who she was, CPT Sallee (Attack 6) kept getting confused and calling her Murphy, so she probably didn't do as good a piece as she could have. When will Ike learn to stop insulting the "talent"? At least he didn't call her Charley. More recently, D Company hosted NBC's Richard Engel. They did a great tribute to Manny Lopez as they drove Richard to the spot where Manny was killed.

In other news, the Division recently decided to host a boxing smoker up at Camp Liberty (otherwise known as Wally World). We sent one entry, SGT Kenny Alaniz of C Company. He proceeded to knock out his opponent 40 seconds into the first round. That's what happens when meateaters clash with leafeaters. I'm pretty sure we won't be invited back next time. Just this past week, we took advantage of the cooler weather and held a battalion organizational day

3/7 Commander's Comments continued from page7

of sorts - really just a chance for our soldiers to take a breather and play some sports. While the competition was heated in every event, F Company claimed the bragging rights in soccer, football, basketball, and horseshoes. Of course the other companies claimed that Forager's dominance was the result of too much practice. The volleyball competition went to A Co. At the end of the day, we had only a few sprained ankles and knees, but many bruised egos. As 1SG Dixon (AKA Gimpy) can attest, trying to run with the young bucks when you're an old guy isn't a good idea.

The Enforcers recently conducted a very successful Medical Assessment in one of their poorer neighborhoods. In addition to the medical screenings, they handed out hundreds of sets of clothes, school supplies, and toys. One of the pictures taken that day has gained a lot of circulation recently, as it speaks so strongly to what we are doing here. The shot is of SGT Daniel Watson holding the hand of a little Iraqi boy as he walks along. The smile and look of hope and promise on the little boy's face say more than I ever could about the good your soldiers are doing here.

Speaking of E Company, we recently bid a fond farewell to Jayson Putnam, as he relinquished command to CPT Dave Stewart. Jayson and his wife, Laura, were both tireless advocates for the soldiers and families of E Company. We wish them the best as they move on to "better" things at brigade. Dave and Jennifer, the incoming command team, have been in the brigade for some time, so they're no strangers to the battalion. We welcome them.

We also said goodbye to CPT Craig Gibson, as the mantel of command in D Co passed to CPT Matt Williams. Craig and Lisa have been there since the beginning with the Dragons, and the success of this company is due, in no small measure, to their hard work and dedication. After a short stop on the brigade staff, the Gibsons will go to West Point for their next assignment. Coming in as the new Dragon 6, Matt and his wife Brandy are from the mighty Tusker Battalion where they did great things. The Dragons will continue to achieve greatness.

3/7 Commander's Comments continued from page7

Finally, in a few days, we conduct our last change of command for the deployment, as Steve Walden relinquishes the reins of C Company to CPT Steve Capehart. Steve Walden has been a superb commander, and we wish the best to him and Amy as they move on to brigade. Steve Capehart has been our S2 for about 6 months now, so he knows the battalion well. We welcome him, along with his wife, Stephanie.

Your soldiers continue to amaze (and amuse) me. Last week, a few of the guys from my Personal Security Detachment decided they weren't going to let Halloween pass by unnoticed. About 9:00 P.M. I hear a knock on my door. In what I now realize was a poor decision, I said "come in." In walks SPC Rush (the Grim Reaper), SPC Aviso (a Ninja), SPC Giminez (a terrorist, complete with anti-tank rocket and a man-dress), and SPC Trujillo (there's still debate over what/who he was, but he was scary). The icing on the cake was SPC Kleinsgeorge as Napoleon Dynamite. He actually danced for me (you have to see the movie to appreciate it). I just wish I had some candy to hand out, since they went to all that trouble. Of course, several people captured the whole affair with their digital

cameras, so I'm sure it will wind up in the public domain somehow.

I mention this event only to illustrate that your soldiers, no matter how grueling the job here, remain motivated and continue to maintain that sense of balance so necessary to survive a year away from home. Just seeing these guys every day recharges my batteries, and makes me glad I chose this profession. I also mention it as a somewhat sober reminder that the holiday season is upon us. We will need your love and support more than ever in the next few months. For many of our soldiers, this is the first extended absence from friends and family. Such absences are not easier around the holidays. If you can think of a way to let your soldier know how much you care, it will make a world of difference.

It is a sad twist of reality, perhaps, that we need you all to be the strong ones as we fight this war, but it's the cold truth. We couldn't do this without your continued love and support. To the friends and families of our soldiers, and to the 7th Regiment Association, we extend a sincere thank you for being there for us these past 9+ months. Just a few more to go.

More to follow later. Warm regards, Baler 6



The 3rd Infantry Division, 87th Annual Reunion, Red Lion Hotel, San Diego, CA, 14-16 September, 2005

7th Infantry Regiment After Action Report

19 October 2005, Fort Stewart, GA

~ DECISION PAPER ~

WELCOME HOME: The battalions will return piece meal in December – February. All at the meeting agreed that this wasn't a good time for Association presence except for individual company POCs in coordination with their respective COs because the soldiers need time to spend with their families. The alternate suggestion is that Association representatives be present at the All Ranks Ball for each battalion in Savannah: 2-7 IN TBA, and 3-7 IN 13APR06. This is our best opportunity to meet the soldiers and thank them for their service.

Recommendation: That the Association makes a concerted effort to have representatives at each activity to show support for our troops.

WELCOME HOME – ASSOCIATION SUPPORT: The battalions asked if there was monetary support to donate it to 2-7 efforts to publish a year book, and 3-7 to purchase wine for a toast at their All Ranks Ball. The two battalions might set up a joint warming tent for waiting families and could probably use funds for hot drinks and goodies.

Recommendation: That the Association takes what money is programmed for Welcome Home and that set aside for ODS and equally distribute to the two FRGs for spending at their discretion.

FLAG PRESENTATION: 3-7 has an American flag that was flown over the US Embassy in Iraq that they would like to present to the Association. They are also trying to get another one for the City of New Orleans. There was a discussion about how best the presentation could be made; and the BC, 3-7 IN, makes it our call. 2-7 offered to hang it in their Regimental Hall as the historical keepers.



Recommendation: That an appropriate representation from the Association accepts the flag at the 3-7 IN Ball and then presents it to the Association members at our reunion with final disposition to be determined.

ASSOCIATION REUNION: Both battalions intend to have a strong presence for our banquet in Charleston next year. Estimates range up to 88 PAX because of their close proximity. 2-7 will bring the colors. They will travel and need no accommodations.

Recommendation: That reunion organizers plan to have a big turnout for the banquet.

ASSOCIATION REUNION – SPONSORSHIP FOR HEROES: Both battalions agree that if the Association wants to sponsor soldiers for the banquet that's fine, but not on the basis of awards and decorations. They simply request a number and will put up their best soldiers.

Recommendation: That the Association decides where we really want to go with this and then inform our AD counterparts.

CHANGE-OF-COMMAND: There was no resolution since decisions have not been made by Division and might involve blanket change from Brigade to Battalion.

Respectfully submitted,

Roland B. Merson
Secretary
7th Infantry Regiment Association

Unity Pulls Battalion Through Anxiety, Losses

Soldiers keep focus on comrades, endure 10 months of battle.

Anna Badkhen, Chronicle Staff Writer

San Francisco Chronicle, Sunday, October 30, 2005

Tikrit, Iraq -- It was just another day in Iraq for Lt. Col. Todd Wood and his battalion, which has been trying to rein in a stubborn insurgency in this part of Iraq's volatile Sunni Triangle since January.

The soldiers had to mollify disgruntled local Sunni Arabs, upset after losing a bid to defeat the Iraqi Constitution at the polls.

They had to make an awkward courtesy call to the bereaved family of an Iraqi boy who died in a hospital after a clay wall that was accidentally hit by a U.S. Bradley fighting vehicle collapsed on top of him.

And they had to search for the perpetrators of the explosion that rocked the morning quiet just east of their base. By the time troops reached the site of the explosion, which hurt no one, the people who set it off had disappeared in the orange haze of an October sandstorm, underscoring how hard it is to find the elusive insurgents who carry out the daily attacks that brought the U.S. military death toll in Iraq past 2,000 last week.

Ten months of hunting down insurgents and high-stakes diplomacy -- every moment on hair-trigger alert -- has worn out the soldiers. They are weighed down by the pain of losing comrades, the constant anxiety of driving on roads rigged with explosives, and the frustration of fighting in a country where the landscape, language and culture are unlike any they have ever encountered.

"I came here with a very myopic focus (that) success equals the defeat of the bad guys through shooting bullets," said Wood, commander of the 2-7 Infantry Battalion, 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. "I thought all we needed to do is come here and kill enough terrorists to create a secure and safe environment."

Instead, soldiers of the 2-7 have found that their enemies are not easily overwhelmed by the Americans' superior firepower. Waging battles in

Iraq, they have learned, has as much to do with conducting intricate negotiations with local tribal leaders and maintaining good relations with residents as with raids on suspected insurgent hideouts.

"The insurgents will be defeated through economic, government and military means. We are trying to provide an environment that would allow (Iraqis) to create a system to self-govern," said Wood, 42, of Indianola, Iowa.

Still, American soldiers remain the insurgents' prime target. Militants plant new roadside bombs daily, and the 2-7 has lost at least eight men since it began this yearlong tour in Iraq. The framed portraits of the dead line the hallway of the battalion headquarters, less than 5 yards from the door to the ascetic, concrete room where Wood sleeps on a metal Army-issue cot.

To get through this deployment in the arid wasteland of the Mesopotamian plain, soldiers try to put aside their heartache and fatigue and to look for reasons to keep going.

Some, like Sgt. Darrell Foster, 25, from Buckhannon, W.Va., say they draw strength from the sense of accomplishment they get when they go out on missions.

"We take pride in what we do," said Foster, a gunner for the battalion headquarters. "We work hard, don't leave things half-done." On his wrist, Foster wears a pewter bracelet engraved with the name of his friend Spc. Adam Harting, who was killed on July 25 when a roadside bomb blew up near his convoy.

Others, like Capt. Christopher Ortega, 28, of Burnsville, Minn., and his civil affairs soldiers, find solace in barbecuing steaks on a small charcoal grill. Capt. Jason Freidt, 31, of Temecula (Riverside County) stays up until 2 a.m. to watch the San Diego Chargers.

"Unity" continued on page 23

Bob Roddy's WWII Experiences

Part III: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Dr. Robert C. Roddy was born in 1920, attended military high schools before ROTC in college, and was called to active duty in May of 1941 as a Second Lieutenant. In Casablanca, he was assigned to Company C of the 7th Infantry Regiment of the 3d Infantry Division—a unit that he would remain with for the remainder of his war. In early July of 1943 he loaded on an LST for the trip to invade Sicily. His stories continue from the last issue:

After the capture of Agrigento, We received word that a heavy column was approaching this town from the north and west. At 1:45 the morning of July 17th the First Battalion was ordered to the high ground on the north of the city. Here the ground we were ordered to defend contained a soil so hard the best I could do was carve out a small shelf so I should not roll down the hill if I went to sleep. It must have been the excitement of the past two days that made it difficult to sleep. One of my sergeants, another soldier and I decided to hunt for Italian soldiers to capture. The company already had several hundred prisoners of war rounded up under guard and we knew there should be more in the area. Three of us walked down a road heading west where we approached a small roadside fountain. Water gushed from a statue into a drinking trough for animals. One could never be sure if the water was safe to drink. Quietly, several Italian soldiers emerged from the bushes near the fountain and were happy to surrender to us. They were afraid we might shoot them and they wanted safe passage for them selves and their buddies. Through this negotiation we were able to accept the surrender of about thirty more of the enemy.

My two companions marched the POW's back to our company area where they were searched. I elected to remain at the fountain and continued to talk to a civilian there. He told me there were large numbers of Italian soldiers who wished to surrender and they were afraid of being killed in the confusion and darkness following the battle.

I followed my guide into the woods to a rectangular camouflaged tent where he bid me wait

as he entered the tent to confer with the Colonel. Soon the Italian Colonel emerged from the tent to surrender his command to me, a Second Lieutenant. As I had directed, the entire command was lined up in a column of twos on the road while my friend showed me the caves in



Lt. Roddy

the cliffs on the north side of Agrigento. We entered one of the caves which contained a number of civilians who had sought shelter there during the bombing, naval bombardment and infantry attack to capture this town. The people were hospitable and offered me red wine for my canteen cup and a bottle to take with me. The soft light of many candles and lamps revealed many women and children and old people. They were grateful for the end of the fighting. The canteen cup of red vino, I drank and the bottle I stuffed in my belt.

When I returned to the road there was no telling how many Italian officers and soldiers were in the column. I placed myself at the head of the column, raised my arm, gave a forward motion and commanded, "Avanti March"! The column stretched farther than I could see in the darkness. When we reached the POW area I turned the column over to our guards.

Fatigue had not hit me yet so I struck up a conversation with one of the Italian Officers, a Majori. The Major could speak a little English and I less Italian but I was led to believe his command was hiding in a railroad tunnel farther

continued on page 13

Bob Roddy WWII continued from page 12

down the valley. The Major asked me if I would accept their surrender so they would not be accidentally shot. Again, armed with only a carbine, I said, "Avanti". The Major collared several of his men and as we were leaving one of our guards said, "Hey, Lieutenant!. Where are you going with those Guineas?" "It's O.K.," I said, "I'll be responsible for them".

The four of us walked down the hill to a railroad track in the valley. We followed the track until the opening of a tunnel appeared. We walked right into the tunnel. There was some moon light out side but in the tunnel there was complete darkness. Walking deeper into the tunnel, I could feel the presence of many men on either side of the tracks. Major produced a small, hand held, generator light which produced a feeble light as he pushed the lever repeatedly with his thumb. It made a whirring sound as the light brightened and faded. Now, I could see the boots of hundreds of soldiers lining the tracks on either side. The Major finally stopped and ordered soldiers and others to shoulder his trunk and other belongings.

I then ordered, "Per duoi", and they all lined up in a column of twos. "Avanti March". And we all marched out of the tunnel, into the moon light and up the hill to the POW compound. I have absolutely no idea how many men were in either column that night. Our men who were guarding the POW area were delighted with the number of Italians I brought in because they got to search them all and confiscate any articles they wanted. The Major gave me his beautiful Beretta hand gun and a strong box containing their battalion funds. Shortly thereafter, "C" company was detailed to march six thousand Italian prisoners to the rear south and east of Agrento. We kept them at a trot until we were able to turn the prisoners over to the M. P.s. My company returned to our position and prepared to move out. I saw the strong box loaded on one of the kitchen Jeeps before the Seventh Regiment began our historic dash to Palermo. It was not until seven days later, our supplies caught up with us and I opened the strong box. It contained about two hundred Lira. At twenty cents to a Lira it came to about \$40.00. ■

REUNION UPDATE

SEE SPECIAL REUNION INSERT

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:

Schedule of Events	Page A
Tour Descriptions	Page B
Registration Form	Page C
Lady Cottonbalers Welcome . . .	Page D

We are locked in with the Embassy Suites Hotel N. Charleston, SC for the nights of May 18-20, 2006, at \$129.00 per suite. Make your own reservation by calling 1-800-362-2779. Identify yourself as a member of the 7th Infantry Association to receive our group rate. We will receive a full cooked-to-order breakfast daily, and a complimentary reception featuring drinks and goodies each evening.

Carol Ann Faulk is arranging a tour for the ladies while the men are having their general meeting on Saturday morning. Descriptions of these tours are found in the Reunion Insert. Saturday afternoon is open. The Banquet Dinner will be \$40.00 with a choice of two entrees.

NEW MEMBERS

BALDI, Walter A.
CPT, 3-7 IN, P/T
842 Golf Lane
Medford, NY 11763
631-846-3323

BRADLEY, Larry R.
MAJ, HHC/1-7 IN, P/T
12912 Patrick Circle
Omaha, NE 68164-3936
402-321-4851

FLISS, Stephen A.
SGT, HHC & C/1-7 IN,
P/T
32 Lyndhurst Court
Sterling, VA 20165
703-433-0674

GOSS, Ruben O.
MSG, Co D, 7th IN, 1948
- 1950
2105 Shade Tree Drive
Conway, AK 72032-5951
501-329-2293

JOHNSON, Leslie B.
SSG, 1st BG, P/T
1014 Haversham Drive
St. Charles, MO 63304
636-939-9947

KAGELEIRY, Harry Z.
LTC, Co H, Korea
65 Toftree Lane
Dover, NH 03820-4657
603-742-6750

KINGSTON, Colin
SGT, F/3-7 IN, Iraq,
Active Duty
14510 SW 296th Street
Homestead, FL 33033
305-248-5412

KONYN, Michael E.
SFC, 1st BG, P/T
80 Brown Badgett Loop
Madisonville, KY 42431-
6175
270-825-4566



RICHARDSON, Eddie L.
CPT, 7th IN, Gulf War,
Active Duty
1400 Hampstead Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-457-1844

SCULLION, Andrew M.
SSG, Hq & Co G, 2nd
Bn, Korea
1525 W Oakland Avenue
Hemet, CA 92543
951-492-0667

SMITH, James
CPL, Co C, Korea
134 W 138th Avenue
Tampa, FL 33163
813-960-8892

STARBAGGI, Eugene B.
SSG, F/2-7 IN, Iraq,
Active Duty
1600 Dunlebie Road Lot
6
Allenhurst, GA 31301-
2639
912-877-7435

TAVARES, Diogo P. F.
CPT, HHC/2-7 IN, Iraq,
Active Duty
115 Village Lake Drive
Pooler, GA 31322

TAPS

“BE THOU AT PEACE”



~ Departed Members ~

DODDS, Gilbert I., SGT
Co A, WWII, Died 08/26/04

MENSHOUSE, James L., MSG
Co E, Korea, Died 08/07/05

POINSETT, Edgar H., LTC
Co G, WWII, Died 07/12/05

SPENCE, Sam B., MSG
Co B, Korea, Died 2003

WOOD, William W., COL
HHC/B/C/3-7 IN, P/T; KIA, Iraq,
10/27/05

ZEMROWSKI, Joseph F., T-5
10th Engr Bn, WWII, Died 2005

~ Fallen Soldiers ~

KYNOCH, Joshua J., SPC
B/2-7 IN, Iraq, KIA 10/01/05

ROJAS, Kenny D., SPC
B/2-7 IN, Iraq, KIA 10/29/05

THANK YOU! to the following association members for their donations this quarter:

Contributors to Boswell Scholarship

Audie Murphy Outpost #35 - Silver Star Donor

Society of the 3rd Infantry Division

Bob Boucart - Silver Star Donor

Dante E. De Teso

LTC Jeffrey W. Dill - Bronze Star Donor

Richard D. Gillem

Louis A. Hotelling

William L. Jennewine, Jr. - Bronze Star Donor

Thomas N. Jordan, Sr.

John R. Kelley

Gordon N. Morgan

Frederick J. Morris - Bronze Star Donor

Robert L. Pierce - Bronze Star Donor

CPT Eddie L. Richardson - Bronze Star Donor

Alec Seysses - Permanent Association Member

Rosalind Seysses - Color Guard Association Member

Contributors to Operating Expenses

Roland G. Arndt

William C. Camper

John K. Corcoran

Dante E. De Teso

William E. Griess

Louis A. Hotelling

Thomas J. Hurling, Jr.

Thomas N. Jordan, Sr.

John R. Kelley

Gordon N. Morgan

Frederick J. Morris

Robert L. Pierce

CPT Eddie L. Richardson

Israel Rosario, Jr.

Eugene B. Starbaggi

**Association Member
COL Bill Wood Killed in Iraq**

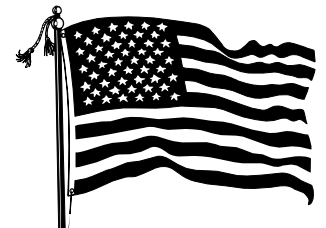
The senior American soldier to die to date in Iraq, Association member COL William W. Wood, was killed October 27, 2005 by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). COL Wood was in command of the 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry, part of Task Force Baghdad. He was killed while directing security operations at the site of an earlier IED explosion, when a second device was exploded, killing him instantly. COL Wood had been selected, but not yet promoted, and was advanced to that rank posthumously.

COL Wood was 44 years old. He served as a Lieutenant in 3rd Battalion 7th Infantry then at Ft. Benning in the 1980's. His wife and daughter at Ft. Stewart survive him.

Special Donations

(made to reduce the cost of Active Duty Soldiers' attendance at the 2006 Reunion) were made by the following members:

Curley Faulk
Gene Owen
Roland Merson
Dale Nelson



**BOSWELL SCHOLARSHIP DONATION
RECOGNITION LEVELS**

Bronze Star Donor:	\$20-\$99
Silver Star Donor:	\$100-\$499
Permanent Association Member:	\$500-\$999
Color Guard Association Member:	\$1000+

SERVICES FOR A 2-7 SOLDIER

SPC. KENNY D. ROJAS LAID TO REST

On an afternoon featuring all of nature's glory, SPC Kenny D. Rojas was interred in the Florida National Cemetery near Bushnell, Florida with full military honors. Green grass, blue sky and warm earth welcomed the casket and it's entourage to the burial site located in the rolling hills of central Florida which are spotted with large live oak trees and southern pine.

Family and friends were gathered around the commitment area while Army Chaplains Maj. Nordstrom and Cpt. Sears eulogized this soldier who was killed near Baji, Iraq when a land mine exploded near his vehicle on October 29, 2005.

A large contingent from south Florida surrounded Denia and Carlos Rojas, the mother and father of the fallen soldier. The Rojas family had emigrated from Costa Rica and lived in the Los Angeles area where Kenny was born. About 10 years ago the family left California to live in south Florida. Many young people, close friends and classmates from Pembroke Pines High School were present. A brother, Steve Rojas, on emergency leave from the Navy, accompanied by his wife and son, were by the parent's side to offer comfort and solace while experiencing their own grief.

Members of the 3rd Infantry Division from Ft. Stewart, Georgia provided full military honors. Particularly poignant was the conduct of MG James Comstock while presenting to Mr. Rojas the several medals awarded posthumously by the Army to SPC Kenny Rojas. As each citation was read, MG Comstock knelt before Mr. Rojas and explained the great significance that the Army placed on each of the awards. It was obvious that this meaningful exchange helped ease the pain of loss to the Rojas family.

SPC Rojas brother, Steve, also serving in Iraq, was granted leave to attend services for his brother. They had been able to meet together in Iraq and had a photograph made that they planned to give to their parents as a gift.

The cemetery is one of 121 cemeteries throughout the contiguous United States, Puerto Rico, Alaska and Hawaii that are managed by the VA National Cemetery Administration.

Eligibility is open to "all members of the Armed Forces and veterans having met minimum active service duty requirements and having been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable". As for the families of the veteran, there is provision for the spouse, unmarried widow or widower, minor children and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult dependant children are also eligible for burial.

On a plaque adjacent to the Visitor's Center at the Florida cemetery is a verse from a poem written by Theodore O'Hara, (1820-1867), The Bivouac of the Dead. It is most appropriate for a veteran's cemetery and is quoted below.

"The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo;
No more on Life's parade shall meet
That brave and fallen few.
On Fame's eternal camping-ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards, with solemn round,
The bivouac of the dead."

The veterans, and their loved ones, buried in this beautiful place will be cared for in perpetuity and their honor and sacrifice remembered for eternity as we know it.

Gene Owen

Editor's Note: I know I speak for all of us when I say "Thank You" to Gene Owen for representing us at this service honoring one of our own.



Operation Iraqi Freedom: The Battle for Baghdad

An excerpt by 1LT Mark Schenck



CHAPTER 6: Battle for Baghdad International Airport



Now tasked with performing the job of the Ranger Regiment and other specialty infantry units, Task Force 2-7 continued on the offensive, attacking to seize Saddam International Airport. The movement alone proved to be much more difficult than anyone had imagined. Pushing out of Objective Hannah and crossing the Euphrates River at Objective Peach, the Task Force still had to move more than 50 kilometers to the airfield. The remainder of the Brigade Combat Team would seize the airfield itself. Task Force 2-7 was tasked with establishing a blocking position to the immediate east where a Special Republican Guard battalion was stationed.

An intricate series of irrigation canals creating a waffle-like pattern on maps and satellite imagery stood between the Task Force and the nearest high speed avenue of approach. Only a sliver of the moon provided light and scattered clouds blocked much of it.

In the darkness, the Task Force pushed down the small farming roads. The wide Bradleys actually hung over the elevated roads in some places. Hours earlier Task Force 3-69 rumbled along the same route. With night now descending the lead track engaged a Rocket Propelled Grenade Team revealed by thermals. During this engagement Bushmaster lost contact with Major Coffey and the Task Force(-) had to halt to re-establish contact. In the darkness, a key unsupported bridge began to crumble into the canal road. Water flooded into these areas, making them all but impassable.

Turning the large tracked vehicles around was not even remotely possible. Pivot steering would result in further damage to the road. Backing the vehicles down the route was the only alternative. Adding to the frustration, most Task Force Mortar and Engineer vehicles pulled trailers. In other areas mired vehicles further blocked the route.

With the Task Force now divided, over half

stuck behind the collapsed bridge, Lieutenant Colonel Rutter and roughly a quarter of his combat power continued along the original route to Highway 1. Still on the dirt roads, Rage engaged a Rocket Propelled Grenade team running to a house.

At this point, the Task Force was divided in two, a lead section with Lieutenant Colonel Rutter and Major Coffey and the bulk of the Task Force being turned around with Major Cooney. The lead element consisted of a scout section, followed by Major Coffey, Bushmaster, Lieutenant Colonel Rutter, and the Forward Aide Station. Finally reaching Highway 1, the Task Force(-) sped north to the airfield.

Meanwhile, Task Force 3-69 waited in an Attack Position south of Saddam International Airport for Task Force 2-7 to arrive and block the Highway 8 entrance into the airport. Finally deciding to initiate the attack without Task Force 2-7, the Brigade launched Task Force 3-69's attack north across the airfield encountering very little resistance.

Attacking into the airport the Task Force(-) received scattered small arms fire and two Rocket Propelled Grenades were fired at the convoy. The first task for the element was blocking a major intersection the remainder of the Task Force would be passing through. This intersection was named Four corners. Bushmaster hastily cleared the remainder of the Task Force area of operations. It was still dark and the remainder of the Task Force was still more than an hour away.

Shortly after 04 0430 April 2003 the remainder of the Task Force, led by Knight, entered the airfield from the south. Flanked by trees on the right and an enormous wall on the left, the road took on a gauntlet like appearance. Sporadic small arms fire rang out in the distance and some was fired near the convoy lead vehicle. The plan called for Knight to establish the main

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Operation Iraqi Freedom continued from page 17

blocking position with Rage to the south and Bushmaster to the west and north positioned as a reserve. Effectively, there was no rear, only an awareness that the enemy could be all around.

Directed by scouts manning a traffic control point, the Tactical Operations Center vehicles moved through Four Corners and established a Tactical Operation Center adjacent to an overpass. All seemed to be quiet at first, no firing heard or reported anywhere. Exhausted soldiers quickly cleared their immediate areas. After traveling through the night and essentially in contact for the past three days without stop everyone was relieved to finally reach the airport.

With the entire Task Force now closed and daylight soon approaching Lieutenant Colonel Rutter refined unit positions to ensure units were more effective in their ability to engage and destroy enemy forces. Knight moved out to the east, occupying the blocking position on the westbound lanes of Highway 8. Rage occupied the eastbound blocking position and the southern tip of the Task Force, and Bushmaster moved back from the blocking positions and occupied the northern tip.

Realizing that the best defense is a great offense, Lieutenant Colonel Rutter ordered the Task Force Staff to develop a series of fragmentary orders for limited attacks to the east in order to expand its zone and to take away any thought of initiative the enemy may have for a coordinated attack.

Major Cooney occupied nearby bushes to relieve himself. Several minutes later, shots rang out and began impacting near him and by the Tactical Operation Center vehicles. Almost simultaneously, incoming airburst mortars began exploding above everyone. One exploded directly above Major Cooney, knocking him off his Entrenching Tool onto the ground. At this point the Executive Officer realized his situation was becoming increasingly perilous.

Half a dozen men on the road laid down a wall of suppressive fire and yelled for Major Cooney to retreat to the vehicles. So here comes Major Cooney, half dressed and hands full of gear and baby wipes, stumbling forward from the bushes. Tripping over recently plowed ground and having no hands to catch himself he

went face first into the mud. He recovered surprisingly quickly and, now dragging a ten foot dried palm branch, scrambled back to the road. Not at all funny at the time, the image of his muddy smiling face running back to the road is a memory all those present will never forget.

At this point a FOX Chemical Reconnaissance vehicle drove up the overpass to locate a good position to conduct chemical reconnaissance. A hidden tank fired and the FOX sped off the overpass, reporting a near miss from a tank main gun round. The frantic report from the FOX and realizing an enemy tank was within range of the Task Force shocked everyone. It became increasingly evident that moving in at dark the Task Force was now virtually intermingled with enemy forces equipped with tanks.

First Lieutenant Mysliweic moved a Bradley onto the bridge to scan for tanks. As soon as the Bradley reached the top of the overpass a main gun round from a T-72 slammed into the side of the unsuspecting Bradley from behind the large wall to the south. Strapped to the outside of the Bradley, the rucksacks exploded on impact, sending burning boots, t-shirts, and TA-50 into the air.

The Bradley Commander was thrown for-



"He's pretty sore. He says we didn't even try to capture his cook an' his orderly."

Cartoon by Bill Mauldin

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Operation Iraqi Freedom continued from page 18

ward, out of the turret and onto the front deck of the Bradley. Acting without guidance and with no internal communication, Private First Class Gee re-aligned his Bradley on the road pulling forward, then proceeded to back down the steep incline on the overpass. His actions prevented the T-72 from firing again and saved the life of his crew.

The nearest unit with Javelin anti-tank weapons was Bushmaster, west of the overpass, protecting the Task Force northern flank. A four-man team armed with Javelins climbed onto the overpass to engage the tank. Less than a kilometer from the Tactical Operations Center, three T-72 tanks sat on a road, concealed by the wall to the Task Force's south. Unknown at the time, these tanks were not the ones firing at the overpass and Tactical Operations Center.

Private First Class Davis engaged the lead tank, parked within feet of the second tank. The Javelin screamed off the overpass, buzzing the Tactical Operations Center, and slammed directly into the top of the clueless T-72 with deafening thunder, entirely consuming the tank in a fireball and sending the heavy turret, end over end, more than fifty feet into the air. Secondary explosions complimented the initial blast as the internal ammunition storage compartment ignited. The fire reached out from the burning tank engulfing its neighbor and causing more explosions.

To ensure complete catastrophic destruction of the second tank, Private First Class Davis fired a second Javelin, causing even more explosions on the second tank. At this point the third T-72 began frantically trying to determine the source and direction of incoming fire. Private First Class Jiminez engaged the now moving third tank. His round missed but impacted close enough to damage the tank. The tank limped away to meet its fate elsewhere.

Minutes earlier, an amazing series of events unfolded with the mortars. While conducting a hasty dismount security patrol Captain Paul and Sergeant Adorno walked down the road leading south from Four Corners. It was the road the Task Force used earlier to enter the airport. An hour earlier, the B24 tank broke down entering the airport. Under order from Major Cooney B22 pulled back to recover the disabled tank. As they

drove into the airport they encountered Captain Paul on his patrol and asked where the maintenance collection point was located. Captain Paul directed the tanks to Four Corners.

Less than 10 seconds later the ground rumbled again and Captain Paul and Sergeant Adorno turned to move out of the way, both instinctively raising their hands to wave as they turned. Shock and horror gripped the two as they realized they were waving at a pair of Iraqi T-72 tanks. Luckily, surprise and confusion also slowed the Iraqi tanker's reaction.

Captain Paul shrieked "T-72!" and without another word the two split, knowing they would be shot in the back if they ran up the road. Captain Paul darted left off the road, Sergeant Adorno sprinting off to the right. Winding through the trees he was back with the platoon in minutes. Deciding between the two, the tanks chased Captain Paul off the road. Running for his life, the mortar platoon leader dove behind a berm and hid in tall grass.

The tanks rumbled forward, stopping just forty meters from Captain Paul, and began shooting their machine guns into the berm protecting him. Face pressed into the dirt and lying perfectly still, all Captain Paul could do is wait. As this event transpired, an enemy tank section further east began firing on the Tactical Operations Center and the vehicles driving across the overpass.

Organizing a rescue for their platoon leader, Sergeant First Class Broadwater and the mortars prepared to move. As the mortars mounted their vehicles, B22 with B24 in tow stopped and asked where the T-72s were firing from. Sergeant First Class Broadwater indicated the targets to them. The tank pulled around, quickly occupying a hasty attack by fire position.

At this point, Captain Paul could hear the frantic Arabic screams from the tank crews as they identified the American M1. But it was too late and both tanks exploded, spraying burning debris in all directions and tossing the turrets in the air. Seconds later, a mortar track pulled up, rescuing Captain Paul and returning to the mortar platoon command post.

To be continued in next issue

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ROSTER UPDATE

Since last publication, I've received corrections from the membership at large. Please see below and update your rosters accordingly. Thanks to all for updating your records and keeping me informed of changes.

ARNDT, ROLAND G.
Telephone: 248-478-7942

ROSARIO, ISRAEL JR.
Telephone: 347-566-0764

COOKE, HARRY E.
Address: 21 Knollwood Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601
Email: harryedcooke@comcast.net

WELLS, SAMUEL B.
Address: 100 Wells Lane, Bluefield, VA 24605-8914

DALTON, ROBERT E.
Address: 335 Native Oak, Ingram, TX 78025
Telephone: 830-367-1203
Email: onejunebug@cebridge.net

Volens et Potens,

Roland
Secretary

DANIEL, CLARENCE E. JR.
Email: chip.daniel@us.yazaki.com

DILL, JEFFREY W.
Address: 3944 Avawatz Loop, Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Telephone: 760-267-4827

DINSMORE, HARRY G.
Address: 33470 Chinock Plaza - Box 120, Scappoose,
OR 97056

LAVENDER, WILLIAM H. II
Address: 559 Dorsey Street, El Paso, TX 79912

RIDGE, CHRISTOPHER
Address: 322 S. Washington Street, Lafayette, OH
45854

**Don't miss the Reunion
insert elsewhere in this
newsletter. It gives impor-
tant details about our next
reunion in Charleston, SC,
May 18-21, including a
schedule of events, hotel
information, description of
optional tours, and a
registration form.**

New Organization of the Battalions

Below is the new organization of both Cottonbaler battalions per the reorganization initiative of the Chief of Staff of the Army. Notice the mix of organic infantry, tanks, engineers and other support. The intent is to make battalions more robust and self-sufficient. Tank battalions are similarly "balanced," and the division has been expanded to four brigades, each with three battalions.

Previously both Cottonbaler battalions were in First Brigade. With the addition of a 4th Brigade, Third Battalion has moved to that Brigade. Each battalion now has seven organic companies:

Headquarters Co.
Infantry Co.
Infantry Co.

Tank Co.
Tank Co.
Engineer Co.

Support Co.

Regardless of their basic individual military specialty, soldiers in these companies are now Cottonbalers. We welcome them to the Army's premier regiment!!

**7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP PROFILE
As of 30 November 2005**

DUES STATUS:

Life Members	311
Annual renewals for 2005 – 2006	366
Honorary Members	<u>9</u>
 Total Members	 686 (153 on Active Duty)

CATEGORY SUMMARY:

Served with the 7th Infantry, Or attached or supporting units	629 (4 Honorary Members)
Associate Members	30
Supporting Members	22
Honorary Members	5

PERIOD OF SERVICE SUMMARY:

World War II	114
Korea (includes 22 Belgians)	262
Vietnam	21
Peace Time/Cold War	84
Gulf War/Iraq	148

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

~ Policy for Annual Dues Paying Members ~

Annual dues expire on 30 June of each year that are payable in advance for the following year. We grant a three month grace period until 30 September during which time I send out at least two renewal notices. All members on the roster receive the Fall Issue of The Cottonbaler regardless of dues status. This, however, is the last issue for those that have not renewed when the Winter Issue goes to press. Some members pay more than once during the year and I credit them for the following year, and others are not sure when dues expire. There might be some confusion because of the way the renewal form

is advertised in the newsletter. This is a generic form meant to cover all bases.

Active Duty members who joined late last year before deployment have been extended until 30 June 2006 because they are overseas and receive their newsletters in batch. They will, however, have to decide if they want to renew until 30 June 2007 after they return and give me a valid address for correspondence.

I hope this notice clears up any confusion on this subject. Please contact me if you have any questions about the status of your dues.

Volens et Potens,
Roland
Secretary

7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2006 AND BUDGET STATUS FOR 2005

INCOME

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget for 2006</u>	<u>Actual for 2005*</u>
Reunion Income	6,000.00	5,919.00
Membership Dues	8,000.00	8,750.00
Donations for Operating Expenses	1,200.00	1,495.00
Donations for Scholarship Fund	2,500.00	2,610.00
Donations for Chalmette Monument**	0.00	35.00
Payment from Active Battalions for Newsletter	4,000.00	0.00
Other (miscellaneous) Income	50.00	0.00
Donations for Operations Direct Support	0.00	600.00
Donations for Soldier Attendance at 2006 Reunion	400.00	600.00
Deferred Income for 2006 Reunion (reserving tour buses)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>28.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	22,150.00	20,037.00

EXPENSES

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget for 2006</u>	<u>Actual for 2005*</u>
Reunion Expenses	6,000.00	6,386.06
Operating Supplies & Services	1,000.00	264.24
Miscellaneous Postage	800.00	609.78
Recognition	150.00	131.50
Scholarship Fund	2,500.00	2,610.00
Special Association Donation to Scholarship Fund	1600.00	0.00
Support of Active Duty Bns	2,000.00	2,600.00
Cottonbaler Newsletter (production & postage)	7,000.00	6,379.43
Web Site	700.00	463.35
Other (Miscellaneous) Expenses	50.00	38.00
Merchant's Account	350.00	0.00
Special Donation to City of New Orleans	0.00	1,000.00
Deferred Expense for 2006 Reunion (special donations)	0.00	600.00
Bus Tours Deposit for 2006 Reunion	<u>0.00</u>	<u>28.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	22,150.00	21,110.36

* Through 15 December 2005

** Specifically donated by members in 2004-2005 for Chalmette Monument

Current Checking Acct Balance **\$11,247.72**

Current Balance in Scholarship Fund: **\$60,838.57**

"Unity" continued from page 11

Wood and Maj. Todd Kelly, 33, of Savannah, Ga., watch comedy DVDs on the big screen in the battalion conference room. "The Big Lebowski" is an all-time favorite, and the soldiers have seen it so many times they can lip-sync half the movie.

Freidt, who commands Charlie Company, knows his men are worn out by the sheer effort to stay alive.

"They're tired, they all want to go home, but they realize that they need to see this through, do our jobs. If we keep doing what we've been doing, keeping this place safe, then hopefully in (January) I'll be able to take all of my guys home," said Freidt, even though he knows he won't be able to reach that goal. His company lost Sgt. Kurtis Arcala on Sept. 11.

For two weeks before the Oct. 15 referendum on the Iraqi Constitution, soldiers in Freidt's company slept no more than four hours at a time as they conducted almost daily raids, trying to round up suspected insurgents hiding out in the farming villages south of Tikrit. The week after the referendum, Freidt was pale, and dark shadows lay under his eyes.

But like his men, he was determined to carry on.

"I don't have a soldier who says, 'I'm not doing this anymore,' " he said. "We're looking toward getting out of here, but we're focused on right now, because none of us wants to be taken by surprise, be the one who gets hit."

The common denominator that drives the 2-7 soldiers each day is a sense of responsibility for the lives of their comrades, Wood said.

"Everybody has the one thing that pushes him every day," he said. "I can talk to them about how this is defeating terrorism before it reaches America's shores, I can tell them that this is about enabling Iraqis to have democracy, I can appeal to their sense of patriotism and Americanism, but none of this means as much as the guy to his left and right."

He has seen things with the guy to his left and right that he will never be able to explain to anybody who wasn't there.

But on days when the sun beats down particularly mercilessly on their base, or when the orange dust of a sandstorm seeps through air-conditioner filters into the metal containers where they live, soldiers step outside to smoke or simply stare at this country and share exchanges like this one, between two Army specialists on the steps of the 2-7 command center:

"Man, I'm sick of this place!" said one, staring at the ochre, dusty sky.

"Yeah, I'm ready to go," the other replied. "Ready to go and never come back." ■

Jessica M. Dill
Seminole Oaks #301 N
700 North Woodard Avenue
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

October 7, 2005

Mr. Bertha,

I would like to personally thank you, the 7th Infantry Regiment Association and the Boswell Scholarship Committee for awarding me one of the Association's \$1,000 Boswell Scholarships for 2005-2006. I can assure you all that the award is very much appreciated and is being put to good use to help pay for my college education.

I am about halfway through my first semester at Florida State University and I'm doing well academically and enjoying college life very much. My goal is to pursue an undergraduate degree in International Studies. I am currently taking a full 16-semester hour course load, will take another full load next semester and I hope to be able to travel and study abroad overseas this summer, either in Europe or Central America.

I want to thank you and the 7th Infantry Regiment Association again for so generously awarding the Boswell Scholarship to me and assisting me with achieving my higher education goals. Thank You very much!

Sincerely,
Jessica Dill

Christmas Poem

'Twas The Night Before
Christmas,
He Lived All Alone,
In A One Bedroom House
Made Of Plaster And Stone.

I Had Come Down The
Chimney
With Presents To Give,
And To See Just Who
In This Home Did Live.

I Looked All About,
A Strange Sight I Did See,
No Tinsel, No Presents,
Not Even A Tree.

No Stocking By Mantle,
Just Boots Filled With Sand,
On The Wall Hung Pictures
Of Far Distant Lands.

With Medals And Badges,
Awards Of All Kinds,
A Sober Thought
Came Through My Mind.

For This House Was Different,
It Was Dark And Dreary,
I Found The Home Of A
Soldier,
Once I Could See Clearly.

The Soldier Lay Sleeping,
Silent, Alone,
Curled Up On The Floor
In This One Bedroom Home.

The Face Was So Gentle,
The Room In Such Disorder,
Not How I Pictured
A United States Soldier.

Was This The Hero
Of Whom I'd Just Read?
Curled Up On A Poncho,
The Floor For A Bed?

I Realized The Families
That I Saw This Night,
Owed Their Lives To These
Soldiers
Who Were Willing To Fight.

Soon Round The World,
The Children Would Play,
And Grownups Would
Celebrate
A Bright Christmas Day.

They All Enjoyed Freedom
Each Month of the Year,
Because Of the Soldiers,
Like the One Lying Here.

I Couldn't Help Wonder
How Many Lay Alone,
On A Cold Christmas Eve
In A Land Far From Home.

The Very Thought
Brought A Tear To My Eye,
I Dropped To My Knees
And Started To Cry.

The Soldier Awakened
And I Heard A Rough Voice,
"Santa Don't Cry,
This Life Is My Choice;

I Fight For Freedom,
I Don't Ask For More,
My Life Is My God,
My Country, My Corps."

The Soldier Rolled Over
And Drifted To Sleep,
I Couldn't Control It,
I Continued To Weep.

I Kept Watch for Hours,
So Silent and Still
and We Both Shivered
From the Cold Night's Chill.

I Didn't Want To Leave
On That Cold, Dark, Night,
This Guardian Of Honor
So Willing To Fight.

Then The Soldier Rolled Over,
With A Voice Soft And Pure,
Whispered, "Carry On Santa,
It's Christmas Day, All Is
Secure."

One Look at My Watch,
And I Knew He Was Right.
"Merry Christmas My Friend,
and To All A Good Night."

A Marine stationed in Okinawa
Japan wrote this poem. The
following is his request:

PLEASE. Would you do me the
kind favor of sending this to as
many people as you can?
Christmas will be coming soon
and some credit is due to our
U.S. service men and women for
our being able to celebrate these
festivities. Let's try in this small
way to pay a tiny bit of what we
owe. Make people stop and think
of our heroes, living and dead,
who sacrificed themselves for us.
Please, do your small part to
plant this small seed."

•• ASSOCIATION QUARTERMASTER ••

Our Association Quartermaster is Leonard W. Collins. The entire selection of Cottonbaler items can now be seen at www.Military-Honors.com. Prices are the same on the website and in "The Cottonbaler." The website is set up to accept MasterCard or Visa. You can also call in your order Toll-Free at 1-866-946-6677. E-mail is MilitaryHonors@bellsouth.net or info@Military-Honors.com.

In addition to all of the 7th Infantry Regiment items, I also have the same items for the 3rd Infantry Division. I have limited items available for the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, the 15th Infantry Regiment and the 30th Inf Reg.

COTTONBALER/7th IR BASEBALL CAPS -- \$11.99 ea Campaign designation/service ribbons on each cap Shipping is \$4.25 for up to 3 caps



- 7th WWII Cap
- 7th Anzio Cap
- 7th Vietnam Cap
- 7th Cold War Cap
- 7th Korean War Cap

- 7th Kuwait-Iraq Cap
- 7th Iraq War Cap
- 7th Infantry Regiment Cap

- NEW:
- 7th Belgian Brigade Cap
 - 7th Operation Iraqi Freedom Cap



Since the 3d BN of the 7th Infantry Regiment was attached to the 199th LIB while in Vietnam, we also have 199th LIB caps.

COTTONBALER ZIPPO LIGHTERS

Zippo Lighters with the Cottonbaler crest attached. These comes with Zippo Lifetime Warranty. Lighters are available in a High Polished Chrome or Satin Finish. (Shipping is \$2.00)
 Chrome Finish - \$12.99
 Satin Finish - \$9.99

SWEETHEART NECKLACE \$9.99

Ladies necklace with the 7th IR crest attached. The necklace is available in either yellow gold or silver and is 18" long. The crest is 3/4" in diameter. (Shipping is \$1.00)

LICENSE TAG FRAME \$9.99

7th Infantry Regiment "Cottonbaler" Car Tag Frame (Shipping is \$4.25)



EARRINGS

Ladies 7th IR earrings. For pierced ears, these earrings are 3/4" in diameter. Price is \$9.99. (Shipping is \$1.00)

NEW: 7th Infantry Regiment Knit Cap \$9.99

This 7th IR Knit Cap has the Cottonbaler Crest directly embroidered on the front. Crest is 3" tall, so its easily seen at a distance. Cap is Navy in color. (Shipping is \$2.00)



NEW: 7th Infantry Regiment COTTONBALER BLANKET \$19.99

This 7th Infantry Regiment Cottonbaler blanket is an Indoor / Outdoor Fleece Blanket. It measures 50" by 60". It's non-allergenic, machine washable, all season and perfect for taking to ball games or for just sitting back and watching TV. It is available in Navy, Tan or Grey. (Shipping is \$4.00)



Website: www.military-honors.com
 E-Mail: MilitaryHonors@bellsouth.net or info@Military-Honors.com
 Phone: 803-300-2554
 Toll Free: 1-866-946-6677

**7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT POLO SHIRTS
REDUCED PRICE!**

The shirt is available in men's sizes M, L, XL and XXL. Ladies sizes are S, M, and L. Colors available are Infantry Blue, White, Grey and Navy. Shirts are 100% Cotton and are pre-shrunk. Cost is ~~\$49.99~~ \$15.99 each. (Shipping is \$4.25)

7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT BULLION PATCH

Approximately 4" in diameter, this blazer patch has a pin back so it can be easily attached to and removed from a coat pocket. It can also be sewn on. Gold threads are metallic. Cost is \$12.95. (Shipping is \$2.00)

7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT OVAL BELT BUCKLE

Belt buckle is 2 1/2" tall and 3 3/4" wide. It has the Cottonbaler Crest in the center. Mounted in a stainless steel frame. Price is \$9.99. (Shipping is \$2.00)

COTTONBALER BUMPER STICKERS

7th Infantry Regiment "Cottonbaler" Bumper Stickers are \$2.99 each. (Shipping is \$1.00)

COTTONBALER KEY RINGS

7th Infantry Regiment Key Rings are available in either a leather or metallic style. Price is \$6.95. (Shipping is \$2.00)

7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT CUFF LINKS

7th Infantry Regiment crests mounted on cuff links. Price is \$8.95 per set. (Shipping is \$2.00)

7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT MOUSE PADS

7th Infantry Regiment Crest Mouse Pad measures 10" in square. Price is \$5.99. (Shipping is \$2.00)

COFFEE MUGS

7th Infantry Regiment Coffee Mugs are \$8.95 each. (Shipping is \$4.25)



7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT LAPEL PIN

7th Infantry Regiment Lapel Pin measures 3/4" in diameter. Price is \$2.99. (Shipping is \$1.00)

CHALLENGE COINS

7th Infantry Regiment Challenge coins are \$5.95 each. (Shipping is \$1.00)



I will combine shipping of multiple purchases.

SEE TABLE OF CONTENTS PAGE FOR INFO ON NEW REGIMENT USPS STAMP.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT COTTONBALER JACKETS
\$25.00 - Shipping is \$4.99

Jackets can be personalized with your name for only \$5.00 more.

Jacket is a cotton blend material and has the Cottonbaler Crest embroidered on the front. **Only a few sizes left in Medium for these jackets!**

MEN'S sizes available are Large and X-Large.

WOMEN'S sizes available Medium and Large.

COTTONBALER T-SHIRTS

T-shirts are 100% cotton and has the Cottonbaler Crest silk-screened on the front. Sizes available are Small, Medium, Large, X-Large and XX-Large.

ATTENTION!

This is a combined Membership/Contribution form.
See Secretary's Note of Explanation on page 21

- **The Association is your permanent link to the finest Regiment in the United States Army.**
- **Association members can gain and maintain contact with their buddies.**
- **Association members can meet great soldiers who served in the Regiment in other times.**
- **The Association publishes a great quarterly newsletter.**
- **Association members hold an annual reunion, providing opportunities for fellowship and fun for Cottonbalers of all generations.**
- **The Association provides opportunities for scholarships to Active duty Cottonbalers, children and grandchildren of members.**
- **The Association maintains a collection of Cottonbalers memorabilia.**
- **The Association Quartermaster offers and excellent selection of Cottonbaler clothing items and mementos.**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & DONATION FORM

Full Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

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 to "7th Infantry Regiment Association" and mail to:
Roland Merson, Secretary, HC 66, Box 28, Dryfork, WV 26263

DUES RATES:	
Regular:	\$20/ year
Life membership:	
Over age 70:	\$100
Age 60-70:	\$120
Up to age 60:	\$150
Active duty E8-O3:	
	\$100
Active duty E7 and below:	
	\$75

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

THE 7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Roland B. Merson, Secretary
HC 66 Box 28
Dyrfork, WV 26263



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