

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

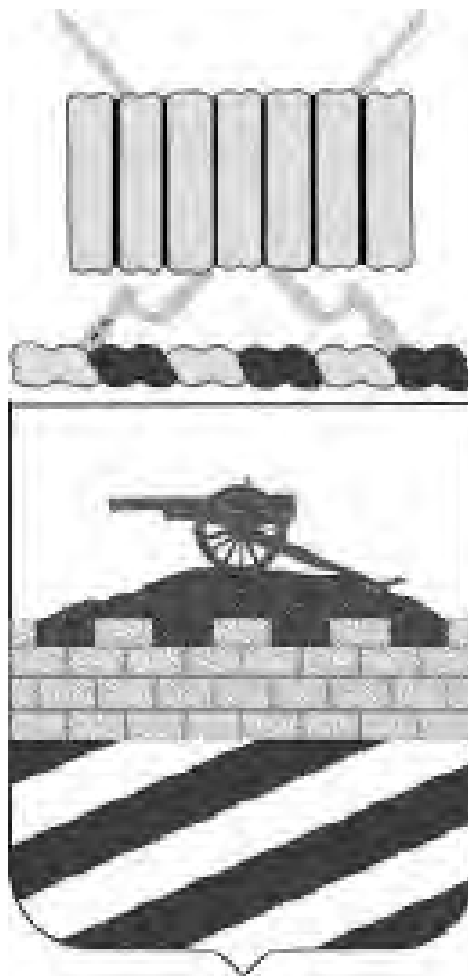
THE COTTONBALER

Volume XVII No. 4

NEWSLETTER \$2.00 per copy

Fall, 2007

"Army Strong"



The Seventh Infantry's Coat of Arms

Check out our website: www.cottonbalers.com

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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2d Battalion, 7th Infantry
LTC Douglas Crissman, USA, CDR*
CSM Samuel D. Coston, USA, CSM*

3d Battalion, 7th Infantry
LTC Tim Newsome, USA, CDR*
CSM Christopher G. Gilpin*

* 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.

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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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"Now that ya mention it, it does sound like th' patter of rain on a tin roof."

Cartoon by Bill Mauldin

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE.....



Association President Scott E. Rutter

Greetings! The cool days and nights of Fall are upon us symbolizing the start of new season and campaign to reinforce our Regimental Association's charter to remain committed to the veterans of our regiment and currently serving Cottonbalers. First and foremost, I want to reiterate that I am privileged to be surrounded by a dedicated and committed team of Association Officers and Board Members. Their focused efforts have set the path for the continued success of the many past support mechanisms that support our association and our active duty battalions and members.

Our "Operation Direct Support" team remains focused and dedicated to provide needed and essential supplies to our active Regimental Members. This small and determined group maintains open lines of communications with the currently deployed 2nd Battalion and has set the conditions to commence ODS support operations with the deployment of our 3rd Battalion. With the upcoming deployment and the uncertainty of

how long our forces will be deployed, we are in need of additional volunteers to be part of this great effort. Thank you to LTG John LeMoyné and Gene Owen for their recent visit to Fort Stewart to show our support for both battalions. Our relentless support and efforts will make a difference in the lives of the members of our deployed battalions. Also, a special thanks goes out to Ernie Jackson, Jason Dempsey, the scholarship committee and contributors for their Boswell Scholarship selection efforts. Your continued contributions to this fund go to well-deserving students headed off to a higher education. They take with them the knowledge and support of our organization in their future endeavors, which will no doubt be positive contributions to our country. Job well done!

Plans are currently in the works for our upcoming September 2008 Reunion. At the request of many of our members, we have elected to hold are reunion jointly with the Society of Third Infantry Division's Reunion in Columbus Georgia which will be held 17 to 21 September 2008 at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Columbus. Detailed information on this event will be published in our winter Cottonbaler edition as well as online at our website. Make plans to be at this great gathering.

Lastly, I recently had the honor of speaking on the panel of a local non-profit association meeting. In attendance were many Congressmen, local and state legislators and leaders of non-profit organizations. The focus of this seminar was to gain a deeper understanding of current and future veteran issues. As part of my commitment to this issue, I stressed the need for our leaders to be proactive in identifying and finding solutions to the variety of health, transition and

continued on page 5

President's Report continued from page 4

financial issues that veterans face - many of us know this first hand. Being an active member of this organization and local veteran's organizations in your respective states, is vitally important to ensuring that our nation does not forget those that live among us that have returned injured and hurt while serving in our Armed Forces. By being active members and encouraging others to join us,

we can ensure that the full spectrum of veteran needs are met and that our nation upholds its promise to Cottonbalers as they continue to stand on the battlefields of the world - today and in the future.

Volens et Potens,

Scott Rutter ■



EDITOR'S NOTES....

1. **REGIMENTAL HISTORY:** Our Historian, Dr. John McManus, has written two books on the history of the Cottonbalers. The first one to be available is his second book, **THE 7th INFANTRY REGIMENT: COMBAT IN AN AGE OF TERROR, KOREA THROUGH THE PRESENT**). This volume will be available in time for our reunion in Georgia, and John will have copies available there. The first volume, **AMERICAN COURAGE, AMERICAN CARNAGE: THE 7th INFANTRY REGIMENT AND THE STORY OF AMERICA'S COMBAT EXPERIENCE, THE WAR OF 1812 THROUGH WORLD WAR II**, should be published by the end of the year. If you are going to the reunion in Columbus and wish a copy just send an email to the editor and we can make sure enough are sent to the reunion. We will have full information at the reunion and in the next issue.
2. **DEADLINES:** We would like to publish a Cottonbaler on the first of January, April, July, and October. **TO DO THIS**

WE NEED INPUT FROM OUR PRESIDENT, EDITOR, BATTALION COMMANDERS, CHAPLAIN, TREASURERS, QUARTERMASTER, AND MEMBERS WITH ANYTHING TO CONTRIBUTE ONE MONTH BEFORE THE PUBLISHING DATE. Please, folks, help us with this so that we can get the word out to all of our members on time. It takes a couple of weeks for the editor and page layout lady to put it together for the publishers to complete their job so that it can get into the mail on time. **HELP!!**

3. **TELECONFRENCES:** We are still having monthly teleconferences at the end of the month for the Board and Officers. If you have an issue you wish to be addressed please contact any officer.
4. **INPUT TO COTTONBALER:** We continue to encourage members to contribute input to the Cottonbaler--and still wish to have your input. If you have anything to contribute please do so. Remember, we now have a large group of younger troops who are interested in what went on before.

Editor's Notes continued from page 5**5. LOSS OF ELDERLY COTTONBALER:**

With sorrow we mourn the loss of Arnold Joseph Gibson on 7 July of 2007. Born in 1914, he may well have been our oldest member. He entered the Army in 1940, and served in Europe with the Regiment until 1945. He was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the French Legion of Honor along with other awards. Any members who knew this gentleman can contact his wife of 62 years, Margaret Gibson at 114 E. Wynoka St., Pierre, SD 57501.

6. REUNION HOTEL: A number of you, like me, have made reservations at the Four Points Sheraton (Reunion Hotel) at 1-706-327-6868. The two-person room costs \$99/night plus. Suggest you make your reservations early, as the rooms may go soon.

7. COTTONBALER WEB SITE: You are encouraged to check our website at www.cottonbalers.com. David Spanburg has really put a lot of good stuff in there that we do not publish in the Cottonbaler. I know that it took a lot of work, but it is great! Everyone who served with the Regiment should check it out.

8. LOST MAIL:

Your editor mailed a number of items to Elizabeth (our page layout team member) only to have them lost! A number of these things will be published in the next issue. Sorry folks.

**Life Lessons the Army Has Taught Me**

Excerpt from Tom Ricks's InBox,
The Washington Post, Aug. 12, 2007

A friend sent me a post from an anonymous blogger at walterreed.blogspot.com that lists what the Army has taught him or her.

1. Always have a notepad, pen, watch, knife, and flashlight on hand.

In life, as in the Army, there are always unforeseen events. An important note needs [to be] taken, you need the precise time, something needs fixed, or you just can't find your way. All these items are small, cheap, and lifesavers when you have them and deal breakers when you don't.

2. Have a copy of everything. If it's important, have two copies.

If it has your name on it, then you need a copy. If it affects your health, paycheck, or other element

of well-being, then you need two copies. Records get lost, computers crash, and sometimes people just need to see a piece of 80 bond under their noses to get anything done.

3. Make friends wherever you go.

It doesn't matter if you are there for 20 minutes or 20 months, make friends. Inevitably, you will see them again. You will go to where they are. They will go to where you will be. And at the end of the day, friends are the only ones covering the front of your position.

4. Make an SOP. Know the SOP. Work the SOP. Civilian. Military. It doesn't matter. There should be a Standard Operating Procedure for daily life.

continued on page 11



LTC Douglas Crissman
USA, CDR

"Cottonbaler" Battalions

Our commanders have their hands full with duties and responsibilities in Iraq and were unable to send in comments in time to go press with our fall issue. Look for their reports and updates in future editions of *The Cottonbaler* and on our website. ■



LTC Tim Newsome
USA, CDR

7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

As of 1 Sept 2007

DUES STATUS:

None due (LM, HON, CG, PM)	340
Annual renewals for 2006 - 2007 (*)	73
Annual renewals for 2007 - 2008	<u>193</u>
Total Members	606

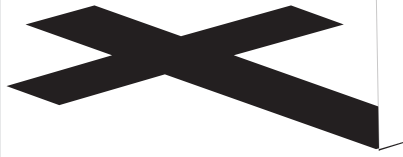
(*) Note: This is the last issue of The Cottonbaler sent to members who do not renew by 09/30/07.

CATEGORY SUMMARY:

Served with the 7th Infantry, Or attached or supporting units	554
Associate Members	29
Supporting Members	16
Honorary Members	9
Color Guard Members	6
Permanent Members	7

PERIOD OF SERVICE SUMMARY:

World War II	104
Korea	252
Vietnam	24
Peace Time/Cold War	81
Gulf War/Iraq	93



Chaplain's Corner

Father Philip G. Salois, M.S.

7th Infantry Regiment Association Chaplain

Since I last wrote a column for this publication, we had a wonderful Cottonbaler reunion in New Orleans on Armed Forces weekend in May of this year. It was not as well attended as past reunions but wonderful and fun - after all we were in the old "Speak Easy." New Orleans is always a fun place for any gathering and as far as I know we all behaved ourselves fairly well. We really missed seeing our Belgian contingent at this reunion but travelling to the US is very expensive and we understand that.

We were blessed to have a good representation from the Vietnam - Alpha 3/7 group. The banquet was excellent with the Marine band providing wonderful music. We enjoyed meeting the 3/7 Commander LTC Tim Newsome as he prepares to deploy his battalion for a third rotation to Iraq. Operation Direct Support continues vigorously for 2/7 and the POC's are gearing up for the 3/7 rotation. We not only need to continue praying for our fellow Cottonbalers that they may be safeguarded from all harm and bring them safely home to their family and loved ones after a long deployment.

As the holidays approach it will be essential to remember our Cottonbalers in Iraq with the support of our letter-writing campaign and care packages that keep them so closely connected to home and heart.

As you have read in my past columns, you are by now familiar with a humanitarian project I began with Paul and Lori Wessel of Hawaii. They are the parents of KIA Specialist Kevin Wessel was killed on April 19, 2005 along with Specialist Jacob Pfister. The story of Samer Farag is destined for a happy ending. Samer was an Iraqi interpreter attached to 3/7 during their second deployment. Among the Cottonbalers he befriended Kevin. Samer maintained close e-mail contact with the Wessels and told them how much his life was in danger now that he was no longer under the protection of the coalition forces. He fled to Syria and thus began a year-long quest to bring Samer to the US under the refugee resettlement program. By the time you read this column, Samer will have arrived to Honolulu (the Wessel homestead) from Aleppo, Syria via London, San Francisco and Hawaii. After a short stay to get acclimated to the American way of life, we will help Samer settle in a geographic location where he will be able to pursue his new life with employment and education opportunities. I have friends in the Washington, DC area who have stepped up to the plate to assist Samer should he choose to reside in or near the Federal District of DC. And who knows maybe we will see Samer at our next reunion in Columbus along with Paul and Lori Wessel, their newly "adopted son."

continued on page 9

Chaplain's Corner continued from page 8

Now meet Samer!



May God bless you all and all of our deployed Cottonbalers.

Cottonbalers by God! Damn fine soldier!

Volens et potens,

Father Phil Salois,
M.S, Association Chaplain
aka "Father Thumper"

And in the photo on the right, Samer is in the top row third from left - his buddy, SPC Kevin Wessel front row, second from right:



Dear Col. Ronald Bertha and the rest of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association,

Thank you so much for your generosity! I appreciate it more than you can imagine. I know this scholarship will be a great benefit to me as I continue to pursue my nursing degree.

***Thanks again!
[Signed] Laura Mentis***

Operation Direct Support

Who's Counting? Who's Helping?

by Rick Rhoades

By the time you read this, 3rd Battalion will be departing Ft. Stewart for its next rotation back to Iraq. Second Battalion as you know has been there for almost a year. In case you are not counting, a recent Army Times newspaper article noted how much time units are spending in Iraq, as battalions continue to rotate back to Iraq for sometimes the 3rd or 4th time.

In case you aren't counting, when 2nd and 3rd Battalions finish this tour they will have been in Iraq for a total of 35 months (It is 38 months if you count time in Kuwait- an Army wide high) over three rotations since January 2003. Who knows which has been the most painful- the 35 months in Iraq - or the 12 to 15 months at home between tours? But today's Cottonbalers are soldiering on. This has been their life (coming and going) for over 5 years straight. And by the looks of things, rotations to Iraq will continue for a long time.

Operation Direct Support has tried to show today's Cottonbalers that we who have gone before are thinking of them, and we care about them. Boxes and boxes of goodies, supplies, books, DVDs, etc have been sent to our Cottonbalers over the years. This year David Spanburg sent every man in his company a ball cap with its "E" company logo- plus one to all his supporters. We are constantly looking for new ways to show support. Some great friendships have been established between Association supporters and some of today's soldiers.

Two current great ideas for the upcoming holidays include Curley and Carol Ann Faulk's "Christmas gifts for kids at Home," raising and providing money to the 2nd Battalion's Family Readiness Group to insure all 2nd Battalion kids have good Christmas

gifts. On an entirely different "note"-Ernie and Debbie Jackson have created "Songs for Soldiers" in which local schools in Ernie's area will serenade 3rd Battalion Soldiers via the Internet during the Christmas holidays.

We need your ideas and your support. Listed below are the company Points of Contact. Most have been doing this for a long time, out of their own pockets, without much help. What have you done? If you are not already providing help through one of these guys- contact someone right now and offer to help. **WE NEED YOU.** continued on page 11

2ND BN

Direct Support POC

HHC	HHC Jim Beckworth 803-782-7249 j.m.beckworth@worldnet.att.net
A (INF)	LTG (R) John LeMoyné 352-371-1052 jlemoyne@cox.net
B (INF)	B (INF) OPEN Contact Rick Rhoades to fill this immediate need. 540-477-3247
C (TANK)	Gene Owen 352-732-3400 Imahusker@cox.net
D (TANK)	John McManus 314-965-8321 Jcmcelt@sbcglobal.net
E (ENGR)	David Spanburg 703-283-6843 DA6Dspanburg@verizon.net
F (SPT)	Sam Guy 404-296-0325 Samguy01@aol.com

Operation Direct Support *continued from page 10*

3rd BN**Direct Support POC**

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B (INF)	Chuck Ware 703-658-9708 Chuck.ware@us.army.mil
C (TANK)	Robert Ross (610) 282-3642 Rs_ross@hotmail.com
D (TANK)	Rick Rhoades 540-477-3247 Rrhoades@shentel.net
E (ENGR)	Ernie Jackson 570-409-9265 edajack@ptd.net
F (SPT)	David Strongin 775-831-1166 diamond@resortnet.com

Call for Nominations 2008 Elections

Officers and Board Members-at-Large due for reelection or replacement are listed below. Nominations will be accepted from 1 January - 31 March, 2008. Nominees will be announced in the Spring Issue of The Cottonbaler. Voting will be conducted by absentee ballot or during the General Membership Meeting at the 2008 Reunion in Columbus, GA.

Roland B. Merson (Secretary):

No term limit and may be reelected.

Ronald L. Bertha (Treasurer):

No term limit and may be reelected.

Father Philip G. Salois (At-Large):

Second term expires and must be replaced.

David R. Spanburg (At-Large):

Eligible for a second term and may be reelected.

Prior approval from perspective candidates should be obtained before submitting names. Please notify the Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman below.

Joseph W. Krass

275 Barron Street

Bensenville, IL 60106-2601

630-766-9081

JLK@IOLS.com

"Life Lessons" continued from page 6

Often we don't have fulfilling days or lives because "we just don't have time" and that is because we often don't have good processes. On the battlefield there is a place for everything and everything in its place. There is a rote routine (often personal) for everything from showering in the morning to the way we check our gear. We do this because often there are times when there is no time, but the task still needs done. Routine accomplishes this, and we accomplish more when we have a routine.

5. Sleep.

Sleep is one of the things in life we don't appreciate until we aren't getting it. Sleep recharges us, heals us, and lets us put a new perspective on the world. If it was bad when you went to sleep and its still bad when you wake up, well then I guess you weren't missing anything. If by chance its better when you wake up, then apparently the world doesn't rest upon your shoulders. So take a nap Atlas.

Look for more "Life Lessons" in future issues

NEW MEMBERS

FARY, Timothy
 CH (CPT), 2-7 IN, Iraq
 TF 2-7 IN Unit #733431
 Camp Hit, Iraq
 APO AE 09333-3431
 Timothy.fary@us.army.mil

McNISH, Bradley A.
 SFC, B/2-7 IN, Iraq
 1160 Balaton Lane, Apt 205
 Greenwood, IN 46143
 317-889-6092
 Bradley.mcnish@usar.army.mil

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

~ As of 12 December 2004 ~

Since the 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.

BOHNEMANN, EDWARD T.

Rank: LTC

Address: 316 Wrought Iron Drive, Harker Heights, TX 76548

Telephone: 254-415-7207

GARDNER, DAVID W.

Address: 509 Edinburgh Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28303

Telephone: 910-339-1183

RICHARDSON, EDDIE L.

Address: 1916 Polo Lake Drive, Wellington, FL 33414

Telephone: 561-215-8553

Email: armyrich@hotmail.com

Volens et Potens,
 Roland, Secretary



TAPS

“BE THOU AT PEACE”



~ *Departed Members* ~

GRAVES, Lowe C., SGT
 Co D, 1st BG, P/T, Died 05/06/07

SMITH, Leonard P., T-5
 Co D & HHC, WWII, Died 2007

GIBSON, R. J., WWII
 Died 07/07/07 (See Editor's notes)

~ *Fallen Soldiers* ~

BUTCHER, Steven Jr., SSG
 A/3-69 AR, Iraq, KIA 05/23/07
 (Former Member of C/2-7 IN)

IT IS RENEWAL TIME!

THIS IS YOUR DUES RENEWAL NOTICE!
 IF YOU ARE NOT A LIFE MEMBER,
 COMPLETE AND SEND IN THE RENEWAL
 FORM ON PAGE 23 OF THIS ISSUE!

If you are a life member, please consider making a donation to the Boswell Scholarship fund and/or a contribution to Operating Expenses. Use the same form on page 23 of the newsletter and mail to secretary.



**BOSWELL
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

- Clark Adams
- John L. Boller
- Michael L. Cooks
Silver Star Donor
- Allan W. Earley
- CSM (R) Curley L. Faulk
Silver Star Donor
- James H. Funk
- Oliver L. Green, Jr.
Bronze Star Donor
- Thomas P. Gwiazdowski
Silver Star Donor
- Louis V. Hightower
- Thomas J. Hurley, Jr.
- COL (R) William L.
Jennewine, Jr.
Bronze Star Donor
- William H. Kelly
- Constantine L. Lagakis
Silver Star Donor
- Peter Lazzarotto
- Louis E. Light
Bronze Star Donor
- Jerome A. Manley
Bronze Star Donor
- John C. McManus
Bronze Star Donor

THANK YOU!

to the following association members for donations this quarter:

- James E. McNiff
Bronze Star Donor
- Robert P. Mentis
Bronze Star Donor
- Gordon N. Morgan
- LTC Timothy E. Newsome
- James R. Norris
Bronze Star Donor
- Robert R. Robbins
Bronze Star Donor
- Robert C. Roddy
Bronze Star Donor
- Fred C. Rogers
- David A. Strongin
Bronze Star Donor
- Joseph J. Washart
Bronze Star Donor

- Margot L. Levinson
- Louis E. Light
- Jerome A. Manley
- Donald K. Mitchell
- Gordon H. Morgan
- Harold A. Nelson
- James R. Norris
- Robert R. Robbins
- Robert C. Roddy
- Fred C. Rogers
- Israel Rosario, Jr.
- Walter H. Ryan
- Jack Silberman
- Lanny B. Unruh
- Francis B. Young, Sr.

OPERATING EXPENSES

- Clark Adams
- Robert J. Anderson
- Roland G. Arndt, Jr.
- John L. Boller
- Kent Cowel
- George W. Davis, Jr.
- Allan W. Earley
- CSM (R) Curley L. Faulk
- Stephen A. Fliss
- William H. Kelly

OPERATION DIRECT SUPPORT

- CSM (R) Curley L. Faulk



7th Inf Reg Association Budget Status

As of 9/15/07

INCOME

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget for 2007</u>	<u>Actual 1/1/07 - 9/15/07</u>
Reunion Income	9,000.00	5,026.00
Membership Dues	7,000.00	4,205.00
Donations for Operating Expenses	1,600.00	1,135.00
Donations for Scholarship Fund	2,500.00	2,154.79
Other (Miscellaneous) Income	25.00	0.00
Donations for Operation Direct Support	<u>500.00</u>	<u>550.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>20,625.00</u>	<u>13,070.79</u>

EXPENSES

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget for 2007</u>	<u>Actual 1/1/07 - 9/15/07</u>
Current Year Reunion Expenses	8,500.00	4,098.23
Next Year Reunion Expenses	500.00	0.00
Operating Supplies & Services	250.00	155.00
Miscellaneous Postage	800.00	290.44
Recognition	100.00	0.00
Scholarship Fund	2,500.00	2,154.79
Support of Active Duty Bns	2,000.00	0.00
Cottonbaler Newsletter (Production and Postage)	5,675.00	4,245.51
Web Site	250.00	175.60
Other (Miscellaneous) Expenses	<u>50.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>20,625.00</u>	<u>11,119.57</u>

Balance in Checking Account (as of 15 Sep 07) = \$10,848.04

Balance in Scholarship Fund (as of 15 Sep 07) = \$82,641.38

The Seventh Infantry's Coat of Arms

by Sherman Pratt, Lt Col USA (Ret)

Probably every 7th Infantry member currently or in the past knows well the insignia of the Regiment. It has long been—and still is—on the lapel and cap pins of uniforms and on most literature about the regiment, especially the cover of the Regimental Association newsletter, *The Cottonbaler*. The insignia consists of a miniature cotton bale and crossed rifles surrounded by a blue ribbon with the words “Volens et Potens” (Willing and able), the motto of the regiment. The cotton bale alludes to the battle of New Orleans on January 8, 1814, when the regiment used cotton bales in its rampart defenses on the Chalmette Plantation about 8 miles down the Mississippi river from the city.

It is doubtful, however, that many, if any, members of the 7th are aware that the regiment also has a meaningful coat of arms. The Coat of Arms is heavy with historical significance, but not widely displayed. The Coat has been embroidered on the Regimental colors over the years as shown in the opening pages of the late Nathan White's WWII history *From Fedala to Berchtesgaden*. The Coat of Arms, essentially, is in the form of a shield with an imprint of a brick, or stone, wall above which there is a cannon or field artillery piece. Above the shield there is shown the familiar cotton bale and crossed rifles. Below is the regimental motto Volens et Potens on a blue ribbon. The cannon recalls the regiment's action in the battle of Cerro Gordo, Mexico in 1847. The wall represents the famous stone wall on Marye's Heights in the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862. In that Civil War action the regiment narrowly escape annihilation, or at the least devastating losses.



WHY MARYE'S HEIGHTS FOR THE COAT OF ARMS?

It is not known to this writer why the wall on Marye's Heights or the Battle of Fredericksburg in the Civil War was selected for the 7th's Coat of Arms instead of any one of the many victorious engagements of the regiment such as the Battle of New Orleans or the actions in the Mexican War. The 7th Infantry cannot claim any victory in this battle, it had only a relatively small involvement with far less casualties than the regiments it replaced and the fighting ended almost as soon as the regiment arrived from reserve to help

FREDERICKSBURG'S ROLE IN THE CIVIL WAR

The Battle of Fredericksburg occurred during the Union's peninsula campaign. Union efforts to reach and capture the Confederate Capital in Richmond in central Virginia on a route through northern Virginia across the Potomac from Washington had met with no success. Union forces had been stopped in a number of engagements at first battle of Bull Run (Manassas) in July 1861 and elsewhere. So Union Generals decided on an “end run” by sailing large forces down the Potomac River and into the Chesapeake Bay to Fort Monroe at Hampton near the mouth of the Bay and across from Norfolk. From that location, the offensive was to proceed northerly up a peninsula formed by the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers to Fredericksburg lying midway between Washington and Richmond. From Fredericksburg the attack would turn sharply to the south for the remaining 50 miles or so to Richmond. To execute that goal the Union would be required to capture and neutralization Fredericksburg that constitut-

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ed a roadblock to further advancement. At Fredericksburg, however, the union forces ran into a fire storm of Confederate resistance and the offensive ground to a halt.

Fredericksburg was and is a principal Virginia city with a historical trail dating from earliest colonial days. Captain John Smith is recorded as having traveled to the Fredericksburg area as early as 1608. George Mason, who drafted the Constitution and Bill of Rights had a part time law office in the town. Mary Washington, mother of the first president lived in the town until her death in 1789. The law office of James Monroe containing the desk on which the Monroe doctrine was signed still stands and the burial yard of St. George's Episcopal Church is filled with graves of many historically known figures to include John Dandridge, father of Martha Washington and William Paul, brother of Naval hero John Paul Jones. The town, now a city, was named in honor of Frederick a prince of Wales Many early Virginia revolutionary patriots lived or worked in Fredericksburg. Major battles of the Civil War took place almost in the town's outskirts to include the battles of Chancellorsville in May 1863 and The Wilderness in 1864. Stonewall Jackson, when on reconnaissance in front of the lines at Chancellorsville, just west of Fredericksburg was erroneously fired on by his own men; his arm had to be amputated and he was evacuated along the edge of the Fredericksburg on his way to the railroad station at Guenia just south of town where he contacted pneumonia and died on May 10. The small Guenia station is extant; it is managed by the National Park Service and serves as a shrine to Jackson.

THE UNION ARMY ARRIVES AT FREDERICKSBURG

Union forces under the command of General Ambrose Burnside, who had just replaced McClelland, assembled on the northern bank of the Rappahannock in early December, 1862, across from Fredericksburg and began constructing a pontoon bridge to cross. The river at this point was too deep and flowed too rapidly to ford. It ran generally north to south and a crossing

would be from east to west where the town of Fredericksburg was located.



General Robert E. Lee's Confederate troops were in well selected defensive positions in and around the town to include some high ground known as Marye's Heights, so named for the family that owned the land there. The Confederate troops had full and unrestricted observation of the river and adjacent banks below. As a result when Union engineer troops undertook to construct a pontoon bridge for a crossing, they came under deadly fire from the Confederate positions of General Lee. Many were slain and bridge completion was delayed. With fog and darkness to cover the bridge workers, however, the bridge was in several days completed and infantry began to cross on December 11. The advancing infantry once across the river were quickly mowed down and the dead and dying soon filled the fields in front of Confederate troops on or defending Marye's Heights The assault soon ground to a halt. Any wounded troop that moved and attempted to withdraw was quickly spotted and fired on again. On December 13, at the end of the day in the darkness, the assaulting troops of

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the 14th Infantry and other participating units were ordered to hold up the assault and prepare to be replaced by fresh troops to include the newly arrived 7th Infantry.

THE SLAUGHTER OF UNION TROOPS

The Marye's Heights operation became one of the deadliest engagements of the war for the Union. It has been described eloquently and graphically by University of Missouri-Rolla military history professor John C. McManus in an article "Fredericksburg Redemption" in the November 2005 issue of America's Civil War magazine.

Professor McManus writes that General Lee, "surmising Burnside's intentions, fortified a natural defensive area of ridges, slopes and stone walls at Fredericksburg and within range of the river and advancing Union troops crossing the pontoon bridge and in the open fields below.

"For a time he (Lee) contested the town as well as the river crossing, but his true intention was to force Burnside to attack his defenses or to retreat back across the river. Lee expected Burnside to order the latter course of action, but the Union Commander foolishly chose the former. He ordered his army, units of which had already occupied the town from other crossings up and down the river, to advance through the town and attack straight up the hill into Lee's formidable defenses"

Professor McManus describes the appalling results."Wave after wave of courageous bluecoats threw themselves at the enemy lines. The predictable result was abject slaughter. The confederates were sheltered by a stone wall lined sunken road at the base of Marye's Heights They had zeroed in every inch of the open sloping ground in front of them and slashed the Yankees with every thing in their arsenal. Thousands of Yankees got caught in a hellish kill zone. Rebel lead scythed through them, tearing off arms, heads and legs, ripping up torsos, spraying blood every where" The Professor wrote that the fields in front of Marye's Heights were covered with the dead and dying Union troops in blue like a wall to wall carpet. Most of the dead were from the attacking 14th Infantry Regiment. Late in the day the order was given to assaulting troops to hold up.

THE COTTONBALERS JOIN THE BATTLE

And now it was to be the turn of the 7th Infantry Cottonbalers to enter the fighting. The regiment with only about 250 men had been on duty at the Canadian border watching for Confederate infiltrators or raiders.

In September the commander, West Pointer David Hancock was ordered to move the regiment and join the Army of the Potomac in the Fredericksburg area. As Professor McManus relates, the move took about a month until the 7th "marching over muddy slick roads" reached the combat area and became bivouacked in ravines around the little village of Falmouth, about 2 miles up the river from Fredericksburg. The men of the 7th were poised to reclaim what some considered their honor lost in an earlier engagement. At Falmouth the 7th, according to the professor, "endured camp routine and waited about two days for further developments The December Virginia weather worsened. Heavy snow fell and it grew colder. The regiment awaited further orders.

Finally at 4 p. m. on December 13, the day of the most determined and deadly assault on Marye's Heights the 7th was ordered to move to positions on the battlefield just behind the engaged troops of the 14th and other units. The 7th with other division units split into two brigades crossed the pontoon bridge and assembled in some woods. The Cottonbalers would advance in the front rank between the 2nd Regiment on the left and the 11th Regiment on the right The Cottonbalers peered intently at the ground their superiors had ordered them to capture. Everywhere ahead, the dead and wounded blue coated union soldiers covered the ground in front of the Cottonbalers. Confederate soldiers were well protected and barely visible behind the continuous stone wall lining the sunken road at the base of Marye's Heights..."

"About 5 p.m.," McManus writes, "the order came to move out...the men formed into ranks and fixed bayonets...and shivered from the cold and raw fear. Shortly they came to a deep drainage ditch... with about four feet of water at its bottom...they slid down the banks of the ditch and settled into the cold water. Many of them were shivering violently...knapsacks and cartridge

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boxes got wet, but the men made sure to keep their rifles above the water. Confederate ordnance buzzed around impartially hitting the living and dead..."

Professor McManus relates further that the Cottonbalers, "with parched throats and slack jaws stared at the scene dreading the order to attack."

At the last minute, fortunately, and mercifully for the men of the 7th, word came down that the assault had been called off. The generals believed that the dead and wounded had to be retrieved before any fresh troops could make it up the hill. Any lucky men up the hill who were still unhurt could, in the approaching night, withdraw under cover of darkness.

The troops shuffled away into the night, McManus wrote, and he quotes one man in the 7th saying, "We lost nearly 150 men out of a present for duty strength of 1,000 men. This would have been a fair average loss in any ordinary battle, but we had suffered as we lay on the ground inactive, without (the) excitement of a mad dash of battle and without a chance to reply... a strain on nerves and physical endurance which we after-

wards remembered as severer than more fatal fields."

Professor McManus, probably more reliable than the unnamed "one man," wrote that "the Cottonbalers lost two men killed, 26 wounded and nine missing... but in spite of the losses, the bitter defeat of the ill-conceived engagement at Fredericksburg served as redemption for the unit." At Fredericksburg, McManus concluded, "although its involvement was relatively brief, and without staggering losses, the 7th never waived. It stood shoulder to shoulder with other regulars and held its own in the face of awful circumstances... On Christmas Day the regiment received a present for its bravery on the battlefield. The War Department awarded the unit a new set of colors." Soon after the failed attack on Fredericksburg and Marye's Heights, Union forces withdrew from the peninsula and returned to the fields of operation nearer to the National capital. Soon there were to be other major and more costly and decisive engagements at Antietam, Gettysburg, Petersburg, and in the west down the Mississippi to Vicksburg and beyond. ■

Report from Iraq

An excerpt from an article published in the *Athens Banner-Herald* on 06/10/07

by MAJ Chris Carter

The conversation between "Lt. Col. H" and me began with the normal formalities and inquiries into current operations. However, the conversation quickly soured when I brought up the actions of a U.S. Army unit that works adjacent to our area of operations. This Army unit has been negotiating with locals in their area of operations that have been associated with an insurgent group in Iraq. Their work is part of the ongoing effort to convince former and current insurgent leaders to unite with Coalition and Iraqi army forces against the al-Qaida forces operating in Iraq.

Lt. Col. H, the Iraqi army battalion commander I advise, views this group as an active insurgent force that must be actively engaged. For him, reconciliation is a one-way street.

This is but one of the many frustrations my Military Transition Team faces on a daily basis. Although frustrations vary from team to team, there are many common denominators. Several readers have asked me to illustrate the frustrations we face in Iraq, so in this column, I'll try to highlight the frustrations we face with American public opinion toward the war, as well with the Iraqi soldiers and the Iraqi army.

Many readers assume that public opinion back home and the role of the media sit atop our list of grievances. While there are times we do get upset with reports of the political bickering at home, we strive not to let this get under our skin. Our role as professional military personnel is to execute the lawful orders we are given. Whether we agree with them is not for us to

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decide, unless these orders violate established laws of land warfare.

What does bother us is the language used by both detractors and supporters of our efforts.

Politicians and civilians on both sides of the political aisle should rise above slander, defeatist attitudes and allegations of lying or lack of patriotism. While violent religious extremists attempt to kill us with all sorts of weapons in Iraq, our own citizenry uses barbed language against each other. And while this language may not kill a body, it can indeed wound a soul. We often hear calls for bipartisanship from the electorate, while the electorate themselves are quite partisan. Our Army is struggling to unite one country while our own is being torn apart.

More real to us are the frustrations we face on the ground in Iraq. I've written previously about the sacrifices the Iraqi soldiers make. While it's true they do make many sacrifices, their level of education and discipline as a whole is much less than the typical U.S. soldier.

The typical Iraqi soldier with whom we work possesses rudimentary reading and writing skills. He often is from a very rural area and his social relationships at home revolve around his family tribe.

When they enlist in the Iraqi army, they undergo six weeks of basic training and immediately hit the streets with their units. This results in a poorly trained individual soldier who is expected to face a crafty enemy. On-the-job training becomes the basis for learning the intricacies of their job.

The frustration lies with their individual discipline while on missions. It's not uncommon to find their soldiers tossing their trash out of the vehicles as they move to or from a target area. Instead of maintaining full security during missions, many of them often are found hiding under their vehicles to escape the blistering sun. Our major grievance lies with their officers, though. Most of their officers have been working with U.S. advisers for several years now. They understand we have a greater ability to acquire needed equipment and supplies.

As a result, many of our meetings with them turn into requests - often in the form of demands - for various supplies. And while we bend over backward to acquire needed supplies, they tend to stiff-arm our recommendations to professionalize their systems within their units and to adopt more productive tactics against the insurgency. As progress in this war is difficult to define, success in improving their army comes in small steps. We've managed to convince our battalion operations officer to plan all missions with graphic control measures, which results in better command and control.

We're gaining ground in our efforts to establish a professional non-commissioned officer program within their brigade. But we've yet to fully convince them of the need for a holistic approach to counter the insurgents.

Among other things, this holistic approach includes attempts at reconciliation with former insurgents and certain groups that still are viewed as hostile toward the current Iraqi government and army.

Lt. Col. H and I often are at odds on effective tactics to combat the insurgent groups fighting against his country. Sensing Lt. Col. H's growing agitation during the meeting mentioned above, I decided to cut my losses and bring up the subject at a later date. Although I left the meeting frustrated with the lack of willingness to adopt new tactics, I did convince him to place more emphasis on the need for his soldiers to act more professionally during their scheduled security patrols. Only time will tell whether this actually comes to fruition, or is just another hollow promise simply intended to placate his U.S. adviser.

U.S. Army Maj. Chris Carter is from Watkinsville, GA. He served as a company commander during Operation Iraqi Freedom I and currently serves as a leader of a Military Transition Team in Iraq.



3rd ID & 7th IR Reunion 2008

by Leonard Collins

I've just returned from the 88th Annual Reunion of the Society of the Third Infantry Division in Colorado Springs, CO. It was a great reunion, as all who went, can attest to. I saw many 7th Infantry Regiment guys there. All were encouraged to meet **in Columbus, Ga next year for the combined reunion**, with hopes of getting them to join our ranks. Here are the details as I know them to be right now.

The 89th Annual Reunion of the Society of the Third Infantry Division will be held in Columbus, GA. The 7th Infantry Regiment Association will also have their annual reunion in Columbus, GA. The dates are September 17 - 21, 2008. The location is the Four Points Sheraton (Airport). The Sheraton has 177 rooms available. All rooms have refrigerators and microwaves. Payment is to be made directly to the hotel. They are reserving a large block of rooms for us. I would encourage all to make their reservations as soon as possible, as this may be one of the largest reunions ever. There is free parking and a free shuttle to and from the local airport. Restaurants and shopping centers are within walking distance, with many more about a 1/4 mile away. The Sheraton is located about 5 miles from the Columbus Airport and about 60 miles from the Atlanta Airport. Call them at 1-706-327-6868 for reservations. It should cost \$99/day plus expenses.

Wednesday, Sept. 17th - Early Registration that morning and 3rd ID President's Dinner that evening

Thursday, Sept. 18th - Morning Activities, Registration and Evening Activities

Friday, Sept. 19th - Morning Activities, Registration and Regimental Dinners that evening

Saturday Sept. 20th - Morning Business Meetings, Ladies Luncheon and Division Banquet that evening at Ft. Benning
Sunday, Sept. 21st - Breakfast Memorial, then depart.

There will be a Hospitality Room for the 3rd ID Society. We can either have our own, or pay a \$15.00 registration fee and use theirs.

I will be coordinating all details with the Reunion Brat. They handle all the details for the 3rd ID Society reunion. I will also be working with Outpost 60 in Columbus, Ga. For those that wish to join the 3rd ID Society for there dinners / banquet, let me know. I will find out what the menus are for each meal and have those posted on the website and in the Cottonbaler magazine.

Areas of interest are: The Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning, various regimental displays at Ft. Benning, the Little White House at Warm Springs, GA about 15 miles away, Callaway Gardens, about 10 miles away and historic Downtown Columbus.

I would encourage all members of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association to stay at the Sheraton Hotel. The 3d ID Society will be having various meetings during the reunion and this is the time that we as an association need to get involved. There are several meeting rooms so that each group can have meetings.

2009 3rd ID Reunion will be in Dallas / Ft. Worth, TX.

2010 3rd ID Reunion will be in Washington, DC.

Let me know if you have any concerns.

Leonard

•• 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 web-site 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



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NEW:
7th Belgian Brigade Cap
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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)
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LICENSE TAG FRAME \$9.99

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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)



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REDUCED PRICE!**

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

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

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This is a combined Membership/Contribution form.

- The Association is your permanent link to the finest Regiment in the United States Army.
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- 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.
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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

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Age 60-70: \$120
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\$100

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Fredericksburg
Murfreeseborough
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New Mexico 1862
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Tennessee 1863
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Creeks
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Little Big Horn
Nez Percés
Utes
Pine Ridge
New Mexico 1860
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Montana 1872

War with Spain

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Philippine Insurrection

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Samar 1902

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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
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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

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