

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

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War time, real time



They could see each other and hear each other, though thousands of miles lay between them. Chester student Shannon Mingos, right, sings to an Army unit in Iraq as the soldiers listen in real time. Left: Choral students practice before the performance. See story on pages 2, 24. (Photos by Ed Bailey. For more photos or a video of the Web-cast, visit www.chroniclenewspaper.com.)

SONGS FOR TROOPS concert makes the front page of The Chronicle Newspaper in Chester, New York. See Story, page 20.

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3d Battalion, 7th Infantry

LTC Tim Newsome, USA, CDR*
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* Denotes active duty

*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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Left:

“Unnerstand, I want just as much respect around here as if I was still first sergeant!”

Cartoon by Bill Mauldin

PRESIDENT'S PAGE.....



Association President Scott E. Rutter

Spring is upon us and will welcome the return of the Willing and Able Battalion (2nd Battalion) from its mission in Iraq. We are all proud of their accomplishments in protecting our freedoms and stabilizing Iraq. Our association remains committed to support their homecoming. LTG John LeMoyne and Gene Owen are at the helm and are tied into the Fort Stewart rear detachment chain of command as well as the leaders of the Family Readiness Groups. Both LTG LeMoyne and Gene will represent our team to welcome our Warfighter's home. The 2nd Battalion's upcoming spring plans consist of many activities to include a welcome home party, Military Ball and decentralized company events. Our association will provide a monetary contribution to support these events. The Cottonbaler Battalion (3rd Battalion) continues its mission in Central Iraq. Soldiers and Leaders remain committed to getting the job done.

Plans are currently being finalized for our upcoming September 2008 Reunion. At the request of many of our members, we have elected to hold our reunion jointly with the Society of Third Infantry Division's Reunion in Columbus Georgia which will be held 18 to 21 September 2008 at

the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Columbus. This combination reunion will be new to many of us. We will evaluate this years reunion and "adjust fire" if need be for future reunions. By joining hands with the Society of the 3ID, we add to our camaraderie with the presence of more active military and other veterans from other units.

Our Association continues to evaluate new and innovative methods to gain new members and satisfy long standing existing members. Our team is evaluating new and innovative technologies in order to reach out to new generations that are much more internet savvy. New changes will soon be underway to reduce the hard paper copies of our Cottonbalers Newsletter and transition to an electronic copy. We will always honor those that will still request a paper copy. In addition, Ernie Jackson and others are working on new methods to streamline the application process for Boswell Scholarship applications. Take a look at our Website- www.cottonbalers.com .

Lastly...I would like to thank all of you for your firm support- Boswell scholarship contributions and Operation Direct Support. I would also like to highlight an imperative activity that will shape the future of veteran's issues in the decades to come. The injuries sustained by our soldiers can range from broken limbs, hearing loss, to the insidious effects of traumatic brain injury. As active members of our local community groups, churches and government organizations, it is important that we raise awareness of the need to support funding of the Veterans Administration and the integration of local hospitals with the efforts of VA hospitals. For example, a Senate bill (S 2142) exists that requires the VA to pay for emergency care at non-VA hospitals for those that are eligible to use the VA system because of a service-connected disability or who meet other eligibility criteria. Supporting our troops today requires a concerted national, state, local and community effort ensuring that when our men and women in uniform retire or leave the service, they receive the treatment they need

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EDITOR'S NOTES....

by *David Spanburg*

1. CHANGING OF THE GUARD: Ron Turner, the editor of The Cottonbaler Newsletter, has notified the Board of Directors that he wanted to retire and submitted my name as his replacement. I have accepted the position of Editor effective with this issue of The Cottonbaler. First off, let me offer my heartfelt thanks to Ron for the great work he did as Editor for the last six years. I certainly hope I can maintain the quality of the Newsletter that you, the members, have come to expect. I also would like to thank the Officers and Board of Directors for having trust in my abilities to be the next Editor. I certainly I hope that I won't let you down.

2. NEW EDITOR'S BIO: On that note, I guess I should tell everyone a little bit about myself. I enlisted in 1973 after two years of college. After attending Basic Training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO and Infantry Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Ft. Polk, LA, I was sent to Europe. My first duty assignment was to C Company 1st Battalion 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Aschaffenburg, Germany in the spring of 1974. I spent just over 3 ½ years assigned to C 1/7, eventually ending up as a Sergeant, E-5 and the Company's Communications Chief. I actually left the Army at that point and went back to Detroit Michigan. After being a civilian for a year, I again enlisted and this time I was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division stationed at Ft. Lewis, WA. After 18 months at Ft. Lewis, I attended the Officer Candidate Course at Ft. Benning, GA and upon graduation, I was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers with an assignment to the 43rd Engineer Battalion (Combat)(Heavy), in other words a Engineer Construction Battalion at Ft. Benning, GA. After attending the Engineer Officer Advanced Course at Ft. Belvoir, VA, I was assigned to the Engineer School at Ft. Belvoir. I left the army in 1990 after serving approximately 16 years with the rank of Captain.

3. IDEAS AND WRITERS WANTED: The Editor job, for me, is a completely new experience. So I hope everyone will bear with me while I learn how to do this job. I do have some ideas on what I would like to see in future issues, but I'm also looking for ideas from all of you. I'm also looking for articles or anything else you have to contribute. So please e-mail me with your suggestions and possible articles. I'm also looking for volunteers who would like to be a "contributing editor" who would be willing to do a series of articles on a standard reoccurring timeframe, whether that means every issue, twice a year or even once a year. I am happy to report that I'm pretty sure I have talked our Historian, Dr. John McManus, into writing a series of articles on the history of the Regiment.

4. 7th IR HISTORY BOOK: Speaking of John, I want to take a moment and remind everyone that John's first volume on the History of the Regiment, **THE 7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT: COMBAT IN AN AGE OF TERROR, THE KOREAN WAR THROUGH THE PRESENT** will be published in May. I have already got my copy

Editor's Notes continued on page 6

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to become active and contributing members of our society. Each one of us can be a vocal supporter of these issues in our community. Raising awareness and being vocal about veteran's issues is vital to the foundation upon which the 7th Infantry Regiment and our entire Armed Forces rests.

With great anticipation, I look forward to the return of the great soldiers of 2-7 Infantry. God bless them and their families for their strength and valor.

Volens et Potens,

Scott Rutter ■

Editor's Notes continued from page 5

preordered on Amazon.com and I'm counting down the days until it arrives. Even without reading it, I recommend it to everyone, who knows you could be mentioned in the book. There is more information on both volumes and a new book John is working on later in the Newsletter (page 29).

5. THE NEXT REUNION will be held in conjunction with the Society of the 3ID national Reunion in Columbus, GA, September 18th to the 21st. The Reunion hotel is the Four Points Sheraton Hotel (Airport). If you are planning on attending, I highly recommend you make your hotel reservations soon. The Sheraton has 177 rooms available. All rooms have refrigerators and microwaves. The Rate appears to be \$99/night. Remember to mention that you are with the "Society of the Third Infantry Division" to get the \$99 rate. The Cottonbalers.com website will have any updates and the Summer Issue will have the details and application. See page 15 for more preliminary information.

6. THE BOSWELL SCHOLARSHIP FUND is getting close to our stated goal of \$100,000. If all of us just donated, even a little bit, the Fund would easily top the \$100,000 goal. Since its inception, the goal has always been to have at least \$100,000 in the principle in order to be able to provide Scholarships to the Children (and Grandchildren) of the Association. It's just one of the ways we can all thank all who have served or will serve with the Regiment.

7. ACTIVE DUTY UPDATE: Speaking of the Regiment, as I'm writing this in February, both active duty Battalions, 2-7 and 3-7 are now in Iraq. 3-7 arrived in country late last year and 2-7 is starting to prepare for redeployment back to the United States. They should be arriving back here about the time this is being printed and mailed to you. I'd like to thank everyone who has supported 2-7 either through the Operation Direct Support (ODS) initiative or through other means. I know that every soldier appreciates everything you have done. If you want to help support 3-7, then please contact one of the 3-7 ODS Points of Contacts. I'm sure they would be delighted to hear from you.

8. MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE: With this issue, we are starting to kick off a Membership Drive. Stay tuned both here in the Newsletter and on the web site for more information. The Officers and Board of Directors are looking into several initiatives for increasing our membership. One initiative I'm working on is getting an online payment system in place for new Members. I'd like everyone to contact all your Cottonbaler buddies and ask them to join. I'd also like you to e-mail and tell me what reasons they give for not joining. ■

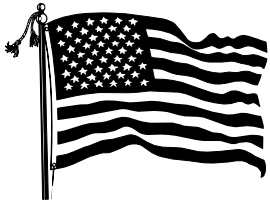
Results of the Recent Scholarship Fund Drive

49 members responded to the special appeal letter from our Association President, sent out in Nov 2007, requesting donations to Boswell Scholarship Fund (BSF). We raised our fund balance by \$4,250 to \$89,892.46 (as of 15 Feb 08) with a goal of \$100,000. Many thanks to all who contributed to this campaign.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to donate, or if you would like to make an additional contribution, you can do so by sending a check, made out to the "7th Infantry Regiment Association Scholarship Fund," to our treasurer (Ron Bertha), at the following address:

7th Infantry Regiment Association
c/o Ron Bertha
7610 Springfield Hills Drive
Springfield, VA 22153

Our Scholarship Fund has grown significantly in the past several years, more than doubling in size since its inception in 1997. At the same time, the BSF has been used to help pay for Soldiers, from our two active duty battalions, to attend college classes; and to provide college scholarships to children and grandchildren of Association members. Last year, we awarded five \$1,000 scholarships to five very worthy "Children of the Regiment." With your proceeds, we will continue to help finance the college education of promising 7th Regiment Soldiers and children/grandchildren of Association members.



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

LTC Douglas Crissman USA, CDR

While I'm writing this quarter's Cottonbaler Newsletter input in late February from western Al Anbar Province, I am relatively certain that by the time this article is being read by members of the Association in early April, the Task Force will be almost 100% redeployed to Fort Stewart. Yes, in early March, the Task Force will transfer responsibility of Area of Operations Rutbah to a Marine Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and begin a 3-week long process of turning in our vehicles and equipment before moving to Kuwait to catch our charter flights back to Hunter Army Airfield in late March. 90% of the battalion should be home before 1 April with only a few Soldiers remaining a week or so longer. Let me catch you up what the Task Force has been up to since the Winter Issue...



Cold weather was certainly an issue during the months of December, January, and February with temperatures below freezing most nights and even two days of small accumulations of snow...yes, that's right, SNOW in Iraq! Due to the higher elevation here in western Anbar (over 2000 feet), the Rutbah area generally receives snow a few times each winter. The Soldiers of TF 2-7 enjoyed the change of weather and scenery while it lasted. There were snowball fights, snowmen, and a good number of practical jokes. The local children reacted to the snow in a typical manner, except without sleds, snow boots, and only a few gloves and mittens. Mostly, the precipitation eventually meant standing water from melted snow for the 1.2 million sheep which graze the deserts around Rutbah. We observed that many of the Iraqis of western Anbar seem to almost go into "survival mode" during the 10-12 weeks of winter.

In addition to continued progress in our area of operations, the month of January also brought relatively specific news about our transition out of Rutbah and the Al Anbar Province and our eventual redeployment for Fort Stewart. During the last week of January, CSM Coston and I traveled to each of the Task Force's remote combat outposts to personally announce the news of our return to Georgia and answer questions about our redeployment and reintegration training period. The official news of our redeployment and the discussions and planning that went along with it certainly provided a bit of excitement during February, but we also stressed the importance of remaining focused on our mission until the very last day. Despite continued relative stability in our area of operations, there were still those who sought to do us harm and battlefield hazards that

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Team Rage Soldiers pose with a new member of their team at COP Norseman

2nd BN report continued from page 7
 existed every single day.

Each company conducted a company-level operation during the month of January. Typically just one day in duration, these operations integrated Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces as well as additional capabilities from the Task Force – from USMC F/A-18 aircraft and AH-1 Cobra helicopters, to unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and canine search teams. These operations acted on intelligence we had received from a variety of sources and took our Soldiers and the Iraqi Police out of the daily grind and kept us on the offensive. In response to some increased enemy activity and good actionable intelligence, we stepped up operations throughout the month of February as we attempted to leave no stone unturned as we prepared for our transition to our successors in March.

We continued our close partnership with the fledgling municipal government in Rutbah and its surrounding towns and villages. We've coached the Rutbah City Council into developing several sub-committees which help the City Council Chairman and Mayor make decisions for the city and also help them shape the issues which need to be raised to the Provincial Government in Ramadi. For example, the Rule of Law subcommittee meets weekly and consists of the head judge from the Rutbah District Court, his investigative judges and various legal staff, and the investigators from the Rutbah Police Department. They discuss the ongoing cases – from misdemeanors and child abuse to kidnapping and murder – and share ideas about how the police investigators can develop and present cases to the judges more effectively. The Media Subcommittee now publishes a weekly newsletter to help inform the local population about what their government is doing for them at the local and provincial levels. The Fuel Committee helps ensure the Rutbah District gets its fair share of fuel (gas, diesel, kerosene, and propane) from various Provincial sources and that the arriving fuel trucks are distributed fairly to local gas stations and then through a local distribution system which attempts to ensure equitable distribution to municipal departments, homes, and businesses. These committees meet weekly, and now, after 5 months of coaching and mentoring from

us, all are Iraqi-run. It's a combination of Civics, Management, Psychology, and Group Dynamics 101 in action, but it is working -- and it's a simple, locally effective system of government that they have embraced. To continue beyond our departure, it must be their system and one they are comfortable with and able to conduct without our constant attention and supervision.

Bravo Company worked very hard during late December and January helping "their town" of Akashat (about an hour's drive north of Rutbah) establish the beginnings of a local government. After significant discussion and development throughout the winter, the town held an election on 31 January 2008 to elect 7 representatives to form a City Council. Over 1500 local citizens

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Citizens from Akashat cast their votes for City Council members on 31 January



A local volunteer helps tabulate the results of the election

2nd BN report continued from page 8

(including over 250 females) turned out to cast their votes during the course of the day-long process. We helped them prepare the ballots, advertise the election and keep the polling site secure. Since this small village is not recognized as either a District (qada) or sub-district (nahia) by the Provincial Government, there will be no salary for these councilmen and no budget for the city. These are all just selfless citizens who have stepped forward to make a difference for their tribes and families. Unlike past efforts to elect local leaders, this event was not marked with any act of violence or threats to the candidates or those coming from miles around to cast their votes.

Our Task Force Fire Support Element (FSE), led by CPT Will Norton and SFC Joshua Hanks, planned, coordinated, and executed a Joint Fire Control Exercise on 21 January. The operation



LT Ervin Johnson communicates with AH-1 Cobra Helicopters as they approach the target during the Joint Fire Control Exercise on 21 Jan

integrated live firing from our 120 mm mortar platoon, AH-1 Cobra helicopters, and Marine F/A-18 Hornets. Soldiers from our FSE and Marines from our TF ANGLICO (Air & Naval Gunfire Liaison) were able to train by integrating and adjusting live ordnance from all these platforms...including mortars, 2.75 in rockets, 30 mm canon, and even 2 – 500 lb bombs from the F/A-18s. It was a tremendous training opportunity by any measure and the fact that we pulled it off in a combat zone makes it even more unique.

When we arrived in Rutbah in early September, we established what we call a Joint Coordination Center (JCC) adjacent to the Iraqi Police Station downtown. This facility serves a variety of pur-



The Rutbah Media Sub-Committee

poses, but its main function is to better integrate the combined activities of Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces. As we looked to the future of Iraq and planned for a smaller Coalition role, we began to help the Iraqis plan for the future of the Rutbah JCC. The result of our shared ideas and discussion was that the Rutbah JCC would remain the hub of coordination for Iraqi Army, Iraqi Highway Patrol, Iraqi Police, but would expand to include other emergency municipal services (ambulance, fire, water, electric, etc.). Additionally, the Rutbah JCC will become the home for the Rutbah Vehicle Registration Office (similar to a DMV). We helped the Iraqis renovate an existing structure just outside the Police Station complex that will serve as the future JCC. Local contractors have performed the work and Rutbah officials are pleased with the progress and believe the facility will play an important role in their city's future. Though we certainly gave them some ideas about the facility's capabilities, most of the big decisions were theirs...including the exterior color! Our JCC

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CPT Norton with Rutbah Judges Ali and Hamad after a Rule of Law Sub-Committee Meeting

2nd BN report continued from page 9



LTC Crissman with local official

Officer in Charge, LT Mark Kramer, took more than his fair share of harassment for "his pink building!"

I was fortunate to be able to make the drive to Ramadi and witness the C Company Change of Command Ceremony on 18 January. During this ceremony, MAJ Diogo Tavares (recently promoted on 1 January 08) relinquished command of "Cold Steel" to CPT Scott Stephens. We certainly thank Diogo and his wife Jackie for all their hard work and dedication over their 21 months leading Charlie Company and we welcome Scott and his wife Rena to the Cottonbaler Team from the 3 ID Headquarters. We look forward to welcoming C Company back to the Cottonbaler Task Force prior to redeployment after 15 months with TF 3-69 Armor.

As you know, on 28 January 2008, President Bush delivered his State of the Union address to the Nation. As is the custom, our Commander in Chief provided his assessment of recent progress the Nation has made in a variety of areas as well as his vision for the future. As you would expect, the Global War on Terror was one of the major topics. I shared some excerpts of his speech with the Soldiers, Marines, and Sailors of TF 2-7. I wanted them to be aware not only of the President's general comments about the war in Iraq, but also his specific comments about them -- the Servicemen and Women who are winning it -- and the tremendous sacrifices of their families. As I told them many times over the past 14 months, they should feel proud about what

they're doing and feel proud of what they've accomplished and been a part of this past year. They should know that their Nation, their Commander in Chief, and CSM Coston and I are all humbled by their service and the personal sacrifices of their families.

So, from the far western "corner" of Iraq, we wish all readers the best and thank you for your tremendous support during our time here. As we enter the final weeks of a very challenging deployment, there is now a light visible at the end of this 15-month-long tunnel. We remain committed to our goal to leave Rutbah, our second piece of Iraq, better than we found it, just as we did in Hit. We look forward to returning very soon to all those who have supported us so incredibly this past year. We ask that you keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we conclude what has been, by all accounts, an extremely successful combat deployment.

"Willing & Able!"

LTC Doug Crissman...Able 6 ■

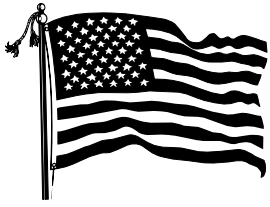
MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Fellow Cottonbalers,

The Association will make a hard push this year to recruit new members. I will take the lead for this effort. Our membership is decreasing for various and obvious reasons. We need new blood from all generations and periods of service to keep the Association viable. I want to form a team that is dedicated to reach out and go get a buddy. Several members have already signed on. You can do this on an individual basis or give me your name for reference. Regardless, please keep me informed of leads and I'll follow up. One action underway is to have on-line application procedures on our web site using PayPal. The bottom line is that we all need to recruit, and I need your help. Thanks.

Volens et Potens,

Roland
Secretary



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

LTC Tim Newsome USA, CDR

The Damn Fine Soldiers of 3-7 IN are getting close to 3 months in country now. Believe it or not we've already sent approximately 11% of our folks back on Environmental Morale Leave for 18 days. We have to start rotating people back pretty early for EML in order to get the whole battalion completed by September. Our great Soldiers continue to do an outstanding job each and every day and I am proud to say that morale has remained unusually high up to this point and even after the holidays.

Frankly, I think our Soldiers are too busy to have much time to suffer a drop in morale. We all realize that we're on one team and the team is here until the job gets done. So each day, every Soldier does all that he or she can to contribute to the effort in the best way possible. I am consistently surprised and humbled by both the energy and the initiative that I personally witness on a daily basis. What a bunch of heroes and fine American Patriots.

Dave Stewart and the men and women of Havoc Company continue to excel at all the tasks that make this battalion run from maintenance to FOB Security to even patrolling in the town of Abu Lukah which is the rural settlement that is just outside our front gate. The progress they are making on all fronts continues to astonish everyone to include myself and the Staff. There are times when I can only shake my head in disbelief at the magnitude and varied number of tasks that the men and women of Havoc Company fulfill in such a way that they are transparent to the rest of us who benefit from their efforts.

Eric Tisland and the great men of Able Company continue to enjoy life up in Jurf As Sahkr. I've threatened on several occasions that



I'm going to pack up here at Iskan and move up there with them because they all look so rested every time I visit and Eric just about has to give a direct verbal order to get them to come back here to Iskan to pull maintenance and other taskings such as guard. All the Able Soldiers are absolute professionals and it is their interactions with the population in Jurf As Sahkr that contributes so much to the peace and stability that we're currently enjoying. I know they sometimes must feel like they're an amusement park with all the visi-

tors they get, but I'll tell you every visit has been extremely valuable and all have been very well done thanks to the efforts of the men of Able Company. On a side note, some bad guys have been trying to move back into Jurf and the surrounding area. They should know better. Eric and I were in a meeting with one of my Spheres of Influence, Sheik Sabah, and Eric received radio traffic that 4 of those bad guys had been policed up by 2nd Platoon. The next day, 3rd Platoon picked up yet another bad guy. Great work.

Bravo Company continues to make great things happen up in the Khidr area which is right across the river from Alpha Company and Jurf As Sahkr. Khidr was totally destroyed by the activities of Al Qaeda in Iraq. There were only 2 or 3 homes left standing and everything else was flattened. Jim Hart and the great Berserkers however, have put in a magnificent patrol base which is named Patrol Base Kelsey in honor of the sacrifice made by SGT Kelsey. Everyday there are new improvements to the patrol base and if things continue at the current pace, I suspect that Jim will also have to just about give a direct verbal order to make his Soldiers come back to Iskan for their routine

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3rd BN report continued from page 11

maintenance. The Berserkers carried out a mid-night raid recently and captured a total of nine sure enough bad guys even though they were only targeting eight (that's a better than 100% capture rate). These arrests were carried out in the most professional fashion possible with Soldiers actually sweeping the mud out of the homes of the civilians after they arrested the bad guys in the home. Everyone was treated with dignity and respect and the Berserkers are admired by the local citizens for the restraint and professionalism that they displayed during the raid.

Of course, Chaos Company remains in Musayyib and continues to contribute to our pursuit of peace and security each and every day with the multiple personalities that they have to interact with and the raids that they carry out to capture bad guys and significant caches of weapons and explosives. Almost always, the Chaos crew receives tips about these caches from the very people that they interact with while out on patrol. The citizens of Musayyib love the Chaos Crew and get very concerned if they do not see them at least twice a day. Musayyib is a fairly large city and you all would just not believe some of the personalities that Chaos has to deal with. In addition to Musayyib, Chaos is beginning to push into a smaller town to the south of Musayyib. This is the town of Seddah and as you

can probably guess many of the people in Seddah are extremely jealous of the success that the town of Musayyib has experienced and so the men of Chaos must struggle to placate such concerns and convince all the citizens that they love them all equally. C Company...always a haven for drama.

As you all have probably heard, Delta Company has been tasked to send a company headquarters and one platoon all the way over to the Eastern side of the Brigade's Battle Space to a place known as FOB Zulu. They will serve as one of the MITT teams in that area that will help us eventually transition some of this terrain over to the Iraqi Security Forces. Matt Williams and the Dragons of Delta Company were very successful in the Tahrir, Bahbahani, Hamiya areas which are all just to the north of Musayyib. This area was extremely rural with simple, poor people who just want the opportunity to work their farms in peace. The Dragons recently captured a very large cache of weapons and ammunition in their area and were making significant inroads into an understanding of the operators who were trying to move back into the Musayyib/Bahbahani area. Mike McClain and the men of 2nd Platoon will travel with Matt Williams and the Dragons Company HQs to FOB Zulu and Greg Hope will stay behind in the Bahbahani area as source of continuity to all those folks that Greg had already established relationships with. Greg and the men of 1st platoon will be attached to Chaos for the foreseeable future or at least until we get all the Dragons back under the Cottonbaler umbrella.

We still see the great Soldiers of the Enforcers every now and then. I saw them the other day up at Kelsey when some of them came to pick up a bulldozer at that location and Chris Neels and I occasionally talk about personnel issues. I'm proud that he still seeks me out for suggestions and he and the crew always seem so much more at home when they have the opportunity to stop by FOB Iskan and stay a while. They do stay busy though with route clearance...practically going all over the Brigade's Area. This week I'm traveling to Kalsu to reenlist one of Echo Company's Heroes, our very own SSG Earls.

The great men and women of Forager continue to do an outstanding job of supporting all of

continued on page 13

2008 BOSWELL SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for this year's "Children of the Regiment" Boswell Scholarships are due Wednesday, 30 April 2008. All those interested members and/or their children or grandchildren should go to our association website at www.Cottonbalers.com in order to apply. Unlike previous years, we will not accept hard copies of application; rather, we ask candidates to download our application from the website, fill it out electronically, and email it and their resume, along with scanned copies of their transcript(s), letters of recommendation, and completed privacy statement, to our scholarship point of contact by the deadline. Good luck!

3rd BN report continued from page 12

us in a way that is so smooth that most of us never even notice, but you can bet we'd notice if the support stopped or was disrupted. As you know the Foragers never say no or can't. They just always ask where and when do you want the stuff delivered. They recently had a Change of Command as Joe Anthony moves to command HHC, 703rd and Joel Dickey, an old Cottonbaler by association from way back, comes in to be the Commander of Forager Company. Joel is a gifted logistician with an operator mindset just like Joe Anthony and the Cottonbalers are so blessed to once again have such talent in the Commander of Forager.

Of course, we still have 2nd Platoon of Chaos, 3rd Platoon of Dragon, and 2nd Platoon of Echo Company all up on FOB Falcon with 6-8 CAV and of course they continue to do an excellent job up in that area with all Cottonbaler Soldiers continuing to make solid contributions alongside the great Cavalrymen of 6-8 CAV. Keep us all in your prayers and remember that our great Soldiers over here think about their loved ones and the good ole US of A each and every day. Thanks for your continued support and prayers for all of our men and women who are answering their nation's call to serve and thanks for the outstanding examples you have provided with your own service to our country. Hooah!!

Tim Newsome ■

7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

As of 15 Feb 2008

DUES STATUS:

None due (LM, HON, CG, PM)	341
Annual renewals for 2007 – 2008	202
Annual renewals for 2008 – 2009	<u>38</u>
Total Members	581

CATEGORY SUMMARY:

Served with the 7th Infantry, Or attached or supporting units	534
Associate Members	28
Supporting Members	12
Honorary Members	7

PERIOD OF SERVICE SUMMARY:

World War II	95
Korea	241
Vietnam	24
Peace Time/Cold War	81
Gulf War/Iraq	93

Operation Direct Support Welcomes 2nd Battalion Home!

As you are reading this, 2nd battalion is arriving home at Fort Stewart after 15 long months in Iraq. The 3ID policy is to have company "Welcome Home" events as opposed to larger battalion and brigade events. This allows us to focus our support right where it is needed at the company level.

The Association is helping with that homecoming. From our Operating funds, approved in the 2007 budget, the Association has provided \$1000 to the Rear Detachment Commander to disperse and underwrite the costs of company "Welcome Home" socials. Additionally, company ODS POCs raised money to support their company's return with direct donations to their respective company Family Readiness Group (FRG).

If you would like to support the future return of 3rd Battalion, send your check to the Association Treasurer, and mark it "Operation Direct Support". An additional \$1000, also approved in the 2007 budget, has already been sent to the 3rd Battalion for eventual welcome activities. Another option is to make donations to an individual company FRG either directly or through the company ODS POC.

NEW MEMBERS

APASSA, Samer
Interpreter, A/3-7 IN, Iraq
924 Hausten Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

BURKE, Kimberly
SSG, F/2-7 IN, Iraq
911 Rice Court
Hinesville, GA 31313
912-877-2577
Kimberly.burke@us.army.mil

DE BACKER, Henri
SGT, Belgian Bn, Korea
Av. Prince Baudouin, 12-Bte 81
1780 Wemmel, Belgium

HERGENREDER, Raymond A.
PFC, Co K, Korea
3136 Tularosa Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89122-3346
702-979-9558
mhergenreder@cox.net

KOONS, Frederick J., Jr.
Supporting Member
2614 Greenleaf Street
Allentown, PA 18104
610-434-5247
Fred.Koons@lsi.com

LEWIS, Trevino
SSG, F/2-7 IN, Iraq
1456 Victory Circle
Hinesville, GA 31313
912-368-1865
Trevino.diego.lewis@us.army.mil

LYONS, Jerry
SGT, A/3-7 IN, Vietnam
2411 Rue Simone
Hammond, LA 70403
985-345-7947
jlyons@i-55.com

POGUE, Tracy A.
SSG, CSC, P/T

343 Kelley Street
Leesville, LA 71446
337-392-9627
Tase1984@cebridge.net

REDDINGTON, Gerald F.
PFC, B/1-7 IN, P/T
2151 River Road
Lower Bank, NJ 08215
609-965-5230
Jerry3544@verizon.net

RHOADES, Steven B.
Associate Member
320 Cadeleigh Court
Jones Creek, GA 30005
Padron64@gmail.com
SPAN, Kenneth B.
SFC, F/2-7 IN, Iraq
P.O. Box 4372
Fort Stewart, GA 31315
912-266-0109
Kenneth.span@us.army.mil

STANCIL, Benadretta L.
SFC, F/2-7 IN, Iraq
73 Southern Oaks Drive
Fort Stewart, GA 31315
912-980-8816
Lynette_Stancil@yahoo.com

SWANSON, Timothy G.
SSG, HHC/1-7 IN, P/T
2158 Post Street
East Meadow, NY 11554
jtswanson@optonline.net

TUTTLE, Roger L.
LTC, Co K, Korea
13624 Northwich Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112-4932
Troger9@comcast.net

WYNN, Jamil
1LT, F/2-7 IN, Iraq
22 Orchid Lane
Savannah, GA 31419
jamilwynn@aol.com

TAPS

"BE THOU AT PEACE"



~ Departed Members ~

HANSON, Walter E., PFC
Co C, WWII, Died 26
August 2007

LARSON, Howard P., PFC
Co F, WWII, Died 2007

ROSAS, Frank A., SGT
Med Co w/Co L, WWII,
Died 17 October 2007

THURBER, Clifford G.,
SFC
Hvy Mtr Co, Korea, Died 5
January 2008

WEIKLE, Lamar A., PFC
Co G, WWII, Died 15
January 2008

YOUNG, Francis B. Sr.,
1LT
Co I & AT Co, WWII, Died
4 January 2008

~ Fallen Soldiers ~

KELSEY, Samuel E., SGT
E/3-7 IN, Iraq, KIA 13
December 2007

2008 Reunion Information

During the General Meeting of the 2006 Reunion, the members agreed that the 7th Infantry Regiment Association Reunions should coincide with the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division's Reunions. Starting this year, the Associations' reunions will become part of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division's reunions.

This year's Cottonbaler Reunion and the 89th Annual Reunion of the Society of the Third Infantry Division will be held in Columbus, Ga. The dates are September 18 - 21, 2008. The location is the Four Points Sheraton (Airport), 5351 Sydney Simons Boulevard, telephone number (706-327-6868). The Hotel has 177 rooms available. All rooms have refrigerators and microwaves. The Rate is \$99/night. Remember to mention that you are with the "Society of the Third Infantry Division" to get the \$99 rate.

NOTE: The Hotel is undergoing name changes and is at present known as the Columbus Airport Hotel. By September they hope to be under the Doubletree Name. The telephone number is still the same and your reservations will be honored under any of the names. Hopefully they will still offer Chocolate Chip cookies at the front desk!

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 ¼ mile away. The Sheraton is located about 5 miles from the Columbus Airport and about 60 miles from the Atlanta Airport.

The tentative schedule for the reunion is:

Thursday, Sept. 18th

6 - 9 PM: Presidential Reception

Friday, Sept, 19th:

Tour of Fort Benning with lunch at Officer's Club.

Regimental Dinner that evening

Saturday Sept. 20th

9 AM - 12 PM: Morning Business Meetings

9 AM - 3 PM: Ladies Tour of FDR Home (Little White House) and Southern Lunch Buffet.

6 - 11 PM: Division Banquet

Sunday, Sept. 21st

7:30 - 9:30 AM: Memorial Breakfast

As of now, the fees for the various tours and Dinners have not been established. The Cottonbaler website (www.cottonbalers.com) will have the updated information as it becomes available.

Ralph DiCarpio
P.O. Box 472
Round Top, NY 12473-0472

Dear Sir:

I am currently working on my master's thesis at Empire State College, a division of the State University of New York. The subject of my thesis is the changes in memory concerning World War II. Before explaining my purpose in contacting you, perhaps it would be best to explain my interest in the war.

My father served as a Marine in the Pacific from 1942 onward and participated in the battles of Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian as a member of the 2nd Marine Division. My father, who passed away in 2003, was never at a loss to relate interesting, and often humorous, stories of his time in New Zealand and Hawaii, but the only times he would speak of his combat experiences was in his nightmares. As his son, I was intensely interested in why it was that dad would wake up screaming and so, I spent the better part of my life studying the war to better understand not only his experiences, but what it was that shaped the man who raised me.

I decided that in pursuing my masters in history, I would turn an historian's eye upon the effect that World War II had upon the immediate post-war world; the world that I grew up in and that shaped my environment and, therefore, me. What I plan to do is to study the ways in which the memory of the war has changed throughout the years. I intend to gather information from news stories, popular entertainment including memoirs, novels, movies and television and from the participants themselves. It is the latter to which I address my request to you.

If you could complete the attached questionnaire as fully as possible and return it to me via mail or email, it would assist me in no small measure. I believe that you will deduce from the tone of the questions that I want your opinions and feelings as to how the war is remembered by the succeeding generations. I hope that the final product will be a comprehensive analysis of the ebbs and flows of remembrance especially from the viewpoint of those who made history.

Thank you for your participations.

Ralph DiCarpio

Editor's note: this is a survey for anyone, not just for WWII veterans. Please take a few minutes to help this young man with this interesting and valuable project. Anything that focuses attention on the work and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform is worthy of our support.

Post-World War II Survey

Name _____ Zip Code _____ DOB _____

Service Information

Branch: (circle) Army Navy Air Force Marines Coast Guard Merchant Marine

Specialty: _____ Rank: _____

Unit: _____ Theater: _____

Decorations: _____

Dates of Service: Entered: _____ Returned: _____

Post-War Information

Occupation: _____

Education: Highest Level Attained: _____ Major: _____

Did you use the GI Bill to attend college? Y N College Name: _____

Vocational school? Y N School Name: _____ # Children: _____

Post-War Attitudes (Kindly attach additional pages if necessary)

In your opinion, how has the war been portrayed in the media since 1945?

continued on next page

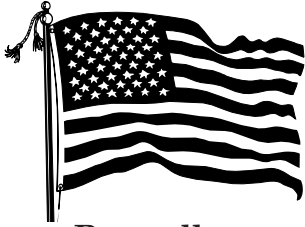
Post-World War II Survey (page two)

In your opinion, how has the war been presented to school children since 1945?

In your opinion, will the legacy of the war be forgotten?

Additional comments

page two



**Boswell
Scholarship Fund**

Richard L. Anderson
Bronze Star Donor

Kenneth Bonner
Bronze Star Donor

Robert Boucart
Silver Star Donor

Ralph E. Brown
Silver Star Donor

Herman Bull
Bronze Star Donor

Robert F. Burt
Bronze Star Donor

Billie E. Christofilis
Bronze Star Donor

Harry E. Cooke
Bronze Star Donor

John K. Corcoran
Bronze Star Donor

Daniel L. Davis

Lawrence R.
Debenedictis
Bronze Star Donor

CSM (R) Curley L. Faulk
Bronze Star Donor

William Gunter
Bronze Star Donor

Elizabeth S. Guthrie
Silver Star Donor

Eugene Guy
Silver Star Donor

Edward J. Heed
Bronze Star Donor

Norman Y. Herring
Bronze Star Donor

Leslie B. Johnson
Silver Star Donor

John E. Liebert
Bronze Star Donor

Thomas R. Maines
Color Guard Association
Member

John C. McManus
Silver Star Donor

Robert P. Mentis
Bronze Star Donor

Julian J. Mitchell
Bronze Star Donor

BG (R) Dale R. Nelson
Silver Star Donor

Harold A. Nelson

MAJ Wil B. Neubauer
Bronze Star Donor

Alfred L. Olsen
Bronze Star Donor

Verl L. Pendleton
Bronze Star Donor

Robert L. Pierce
Bronze Star Donor

MG (R) Lloyd Ramsey
Bronze Star Donor

Samuel D. Rankin
Permanent Association
Member

Robert R. Robbins
Bronze Star Donor

Leonard C. Roden

COL (R) Richard T.
Rhoades
Silver Star Donor

Joseph S. Rice
Silver Star Donor

Eddie L. Richardson
Bronze Star Donor

Vincent D. Salceto, Jr.
Bronze Star Donor

Charles R. Savery
Silver Star Donor

James Seibert

David R. Spanburg
Bronze Star Donor

George O. Taylor, Jr.
Silver Star Donor

Marion L. Timm
Silver Star Donor

Trans America
Underwriters, Inc.
Courtesy of Thomas R.
Maines

LTG (R) Walter F.
Ulmer, Jr.
Silver Star Donor

Lanny B. Unruh
Silver Star Donor

Gary R. Westen

Winston G. Whall

Bronze Star Donor

John S. Yaegel

**Operating
Expenses**

James E. Balogh

James M. Beckworth

Robert F. Burt

Pauline W. Conner

Daniel L. Davis

CSM (R) Curley L. Faulk

Robert P. Mentis

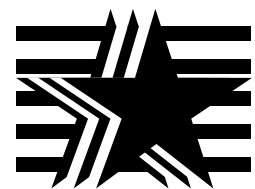
Verl L. Pendleton

COL (R) John M.
Peppers

Joseph S. Rice

**Operation Direct
Support**

CSM (R) Curley L. Faulk



Songs for Troops

Students Perform live for Cottonbalers in Iraq

by Ernest Jackson

LTJ (R) Ernest Jackson wanted to give the Cottonbaler Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division a piece of home during the holidays. Like all Army veterans, he remembers what it's like to be thousands of miles from loved ones at Christmas.

So Jackson, now principal at the Chester Middle School in Chester, NY, decided to expand the 7th Infantry Regiment Association's Operation Direct Support by rallying five school districts in New York State to participate in the first-ever Songs for Troops. Following in the spirited tradition of the USO, close to 700 students from the Chester, Port Jervis, Minisink, Monticello, and Warwick Valley School Districts performed a special holiday concert Dec. 20th for the 7th Regiment soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division serving in Iraq. Five members of the Warwick (NY) VFW Post 4662 also



Principal and Association Member, Ernie Jackson, introducing the Songs For Troops Show

participated, proudly serving as the event color guard.

Using school owned two-way video conferencing technology, the concert was broadcast live to close to 250 soldiers in the dining hall in Tunnis, Iraq. During the multi-location concert, each of the participating student bands and choral groups took turns performing an uplifting selection of songs for the troops.

Throughout the concert, the soldiers - who could be seen on the large screen set up at each school - clapped and cheered for the students.

Jackson, who was born and raised in Port Jervis and went on to teach in the Port Jervis School District after retiring from the Army, has been coordinating the 7th Infantry Regiment Association's Operation Direct Support in this area of New York for more than four years. While

continued on page 21



Chorus performs for 3-7 IN Soldiers in Iraq

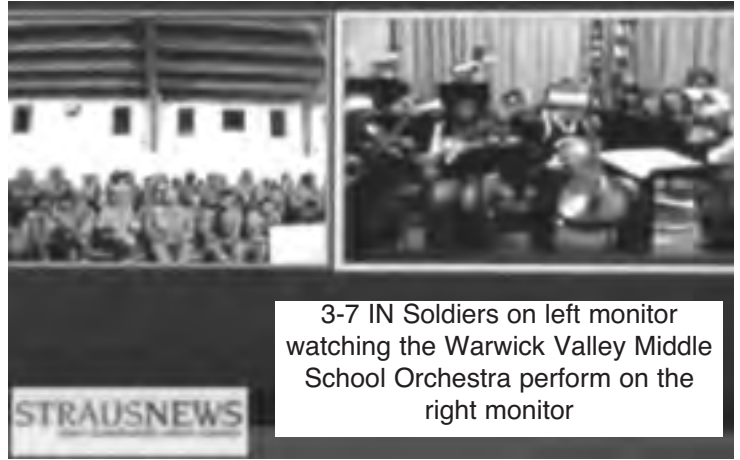


Song for Troops continued from page 20

Jackson continues to solicit donations for soldier care packages and cards, he said, Songs for Troops was a unique way "to get a large number of students actively involved in a community service project that touched an even larger number of soldiers who are away from their families during the holiday."

The event - which was covered by local television stations and newspapers - also helped to provide the civilian community with a greater appreciation for the soldiers serving our country. Chester Middle School student Nicholas Augeri said seeing the soldiers and singing songs like "The Star-Spangled Banner" made the sacrifice of war hit home. "When I sang 'The Star-Spangled Banner,' it was pretty sad to think of all the soldiers who died out there," he said.

Chester School District Superintendent Helen Anne Livingston said it is important for students to participate in this type of event. "The soldiers are over there protecting the kids over here so we have the freedom to do this," said Livingston.



3-7 IN Soldiers on left monitor watching the Warwick Valley Middle School Orchestra perform on the right monitor

For more information and video clips about the Songs for Troops, see the website [empirekids.com](http://www.empirekids.com/Songsfortroops.html) (<http://www.empirekids.com/Songsfortroops.html>). LTC (R) Jackson is attempting to hold a second Songs for Troops with a spring concert during the beginning of May. The Department of Defense's Troops to Teachers will be involved in the second concert and anticipate this will become an established form of support enjoyed by the entire US Army. Anyone interested in this effort can contact Jackson at edajack@ptd.net. ■

A note of thanks from the 3-7 Inf Executive Officer:

Mr. Jackson,

Thank you very much for the wonderful concert. The soldiers enjoyed it and were very appreciative. Please thank all those on your end that made it possible.

Thanks again for your patriotism and service. And a resounding thanks to the fabulous young people that performed for us, they are the future that we all fight for. Not only were we entertained, we were also overwhelmed with the pride we felt for our American youth!!! God Bless You All!!!

Respectfully,
John Peeples

Aut Vincere Aut Mori,
BALER 5

JOHN V. PEEPLES JR.
MAJ, IN
BN XO, 3-7 IN
"Cottonbalers By God!!!"

This Program was dedicated to SSG Samuel E. Kelsey

A 24-year-old soldier from the East Texas town of Troup has died in combat during his second tour in Iraq. He died Thursday the 13th of December 2007 in Tunnis, Iraq, from wounds he suffered in an explosion.

Denina Kelsey said her son had run to help a fellow soldier whose legs were injured in an explosion. The second improvised explosive device went off while Kelsey was trying to help the soldier.

"He felt strongly about wanting his men, every one of them, to come home," Denina Kelsey said.

Kelsey was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Operation Direct Support

by Rick Rhoades

I have been remiss in not reporting more frequently on the great and meaningful work done by our members in Operation Direct Support for our deployed soldiers in both battalions. These are a few examples of what Operation Direct Support has accomplished recently:

Sam Guy and his neighbors plus the local American Legion sent boxes of Christmas and decorations and goodies to CPT Nightingale for F Company, 2-7.

John McManus, Roland Merson, Fr. Phil Salois and many others from the "old" A/3-7 Vietnam crew have been strong supporters of both D/2-7 and A/3-7. They send individual birthday cards, letters and "care packages." Both companies have POCs down to platoon level with frequent communications. There have been some great friendships established. Additionally, in his role as Association Historian, John McManus collects soldier feedback and writes about their experiences. This group, like several others, is also tied in with the company Family Readiness Group at Fort Stewart, getting their input, and being available to assist there where needed.

John McManus reports: "For me, the highlight of this ODS has been our opportunity to involve schoolchildren in supporting the Delta Company Cottonbalers. My wife Nancy works at a school for the deaf. The school has a Mission Club dedicated to public service. Under the tutelage of the Mission Club leader, Ms. Barb Halley, the children have sent dozens of boxes to Delta Company. CPT Marfongelli is so appreciative that he would like to arrange a visit to speak to the kids after he and his guys return home."

Not surprisingly, Curley and Carol Ann Faulk and their friends in Louisiana have established close friendships with several soldiers in different companies across both battalions. In that amazing, generous Cajun way they have sent a lot of stuff to brighten up deployed soldier's lives. The

"stuff" ranges from over 100 DVDs, to artificial Christmas trees (after carefully checking with the Post Office on max allowable size!)

Curley, Carol Ann and their friends also conducted fundraisers at Christmas time, and sent the funds to the battalion at Ft Stewart, providing a real boost to a battalion children's Christmas party.

Jim Beckworth and his many Delta company buddies have also sent boxes filled with "goodies, magazines and flashlights" to HHC,/2-7. They are in regular email contact with their company counterparts. This group also donated significant money to needy battalion families at Fort Stewart.

Elsewhere in this issue you can read about "Songs for Soldiers" put together by Ernie Jackson, who is ODS POC for E/3-7, but of course seeks a much larger audience for his kids' concerts!

We have been assisted greatly by the two Battalion Rear Detachment Commanders, CPT Neil Johnson and CPT Aaron Powell, as well as wives in the Family Readiness Groups. As John Le Moyne reports: "Both Bn Rear D's are very sharp, sincere and professionals. The Bn Cdrs picked the right guys to do this thankless and sensitive job!"

Hats off to our principal Points of Contact, and their many helpers:

2nd Bn: Jim Beckworth, John LeMoyne, Jesse Campos, Gene Owen, John McManus, David Spanburg, Sam Guy.

3rd Bn: Roland Merson, Chuck Ware, Robert Ross, Tom Gwiazdowski, Ernie Jackson, David Strongin, Rick Rhoades

... get out your Association roster, contact one of them, and offer your help. ■



Chaplain's Corner

Father Philip G. Salois, M.S.
7th Infantry Regiment Association Chaplain

Dear fellow Cottonbalers,

It's been a long and hard winter for most of us throughout these great United States. I don't think anyone was exempt from cold, snowy, icy, rainy weather – even Florida had a cold chill for part of this last winter. Not to mention, how many people were adversely affected by raging fires in the West and tornadoes in the mid-west and south and ice storms causing many accidents and death. But, as you read this “Hope Springs Eternal” and how much the past winter will be but a memory and forgotten when we see the lime green buds bursting forth from the trees that appeared dead for the past months. When we see the bright yellow forsythias pop out of those seemingly dead limbs do cheer the heart. The birds begin to fill the air with their own songs that cheer the heart. And whoever has the first robin sighting, please send them off to New England – we will have plenty of worms surfacing to satisfy their appetites.

Yes this is the season of New Life in nature but also for those whose faith teaches them that this is a time to appreciate the New Life that is within us for Christians who believe that Jesus Christ died and rose from the death that we might live in hope for eternal life with God. For our Jewish brothers and sisters, Pesach is a wonderful season of celebration of Freedom and Liberty when God anointed his Chosen People and opened the way for them to leave their lives of slavery into the Promised Land.

And from these two great world religions, how desperately we need to aspire to a life filled with hope, freedom and peace in our very troubled world. As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan linger on, we cannot avoid the unrest in other parts of the world particularly in Pakistan, on the Continent of Africa and South East Asia in Myanmar. Yes indeed, prayers for peace, freedom and tolerance are imperative to live in a better world.

As you may or may not know I have worked as a VA Chaplain for the last 20 years. These years have been so enriching and fruitful. But now we are seeing such a large influx of young veterans coming to our Medical Centers that really tug at your heart. It is always sad to see young 20 something coming back so damaged physically, emotionally and psychologically at such a young age. The hopeful sign in my ministry is that, unlike my generation of Vietnam War veterans, they are coming in soon after their discharge from the military and not waiting 15-20 years to seek help. The hope is that we can reach out to our young men and women and help them to heal and recover from their trauma before it seeps in deeper into their psyche. I would ask for your prayerful support for all of these young veterans as well as for their care-givers that they might be able to meet all their needs so they may be able to enjoy a quality of life they so richly deserve for their sacrifice in the service of our country.

continued on page 24

Chaplain's Corner continued from page 23

UPDATE ON SAMER FARAG APASSA:

You have read in my past columns about this fine young man who served Attack Company, 3/7 IN during their last deployment in a sterling way as an Iraqi interpreter. In my last column I described his long journey to the United States under the refugee resettlement program. Well by the time you read this, Samer will be undergoing basic training in the United States Army at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Because of his past service to our coalition forces, he will begin his Army career at the rank of Specialist – E-4. We heartily acknowledge his service to our men, and we are grateful for his willingness to give back to the Army and the Army family what he

has been so blessed to receive. By the way, Samer has become one of our newest members of the Seventh Infantry Regiment Association. Welcome aboard, Samer! We thank Lori and Paul Wessel who made it all happen.

My prayer for you all is that you enjoy the best of the season of Easter and Passover and that you will continue to support our troops in Iraq with Operation Direct Support.

Cottonbalers by God, damn fine solders!

Father Phil Salois, M.A.
(AKA "Father Thumper")
Association Chaplain ■

7th Inf Reg Association Financial Statement

1/1/08 to 2/15/08

Checking Acct Opening Balance (as of 1/1/08):		\$10,271.55
Income:		
Membership Dues	670.00	
Donations for Operating Expenses	270.00	
Donations for Scholarship Fund	835.00	
Total Credits:		\$1,775.00
Expenditures:		
Cottonbaler Newsletter	2,056.35	
Web Site	21.95	
Operating Supplies and Services	18.89	
Transfer to Scholarship Fund	835.00	
Total Debits:		\$2,932.19
Checking Acct Closing Balance (as of 2/15/08):		\$9,114.36
Scholarship Fund Balance (as of 2/15/08)		\$89,892.46

Their commitment, our commitment

U.S. is obligated at every level to care for its disabled veterans

by Scott E. Rutter

Army Times Opinions 22 Oct 2007

As our legislative bodies debate and determine the fate of service members in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is easy to depersonalize the discussion. “They” need more body armor, “they” need fewer rotations and more rest, “they” are separated from their families.

The fact is, “they” are everyday people who share many of the common dreams and aspirations of millions of Americans who benefit from the protections they provide for our freedom. Many times, though, the scars of war are deep, often psychological, and it is easy to write them off once “they” have returned home.

President Lincoln said that in war we must “bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.” Entangled in a deadly Civil War, Lincoln communicated the enduring commitment we have to the men and women who voluntarily serve this country, standing in harm’s way throughout the world for our benefit.

To ensure that generations of youth aspire to serve this nation, we must ensure that when they are activated or return home, we are reminded of our obligation to them and their families.

That obligation is not in a segment on the evening news highlighting the service of our troops. It is an ongoing state, local and federal initiative to make citizens aware and conscious of the commitment we have to help veterans who have been injured, have difficulty with transitioning to civilian life, live in single-parent households in our communities and who may need financial assistance.

Our nation has recognized this obligation to service members from past wars. Our federal government, through the GI Bill, has offered educational assistance to our veterans when they returned home. In 1985, the Montgomery GI Bill extended

benefits to service members during peacetime. This represents a real and sometimes singular path for many Americans to achieve a greater standard of living.

This year, some members of Congress have proposed the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007 to expand educational benefits, including extending the period of time veterans may exercise those benefits.

While these and other federal programs are important to ensuring that veterans are cared for when they return from war, focusing only on national responsibility fails to acknowledge the importance of state and local efforts.

Congressional legislators evaluate, and rightly so, the weaknesses at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, but improvements there fail to serve the veteran who lives in Buies Creek, N.C., who needs to travel to Washington, D.C., to get the care he needs. Clearly, Duke University Medical Center has exemplary services, as do other local and regional care centers. But the state and local efforts have failed to address these growing issues of providing stability and flexibility in ongoing health care.

Ensuring that care not only improves the health of the veteran, it allows families to have a stable home environment and minimizes the impact on spouses’ employment.

Local and regional medical centers should work with the Defense Department and Veterans Affairs to develop new methods to serve disabled veterans in their local communities.

Even for veterans who aren’t suffering from health problems, the transition from military life to civilian life is often difficult, for several reasons. They receive assistance, for example, from Veterans Affairs with home loan guaranties, yet local municipalities should look to their tax codes

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to foster the movement of veterans into their communities and reduce veterans' tax burdens, which are often overwhelming for newly retired or discharged vets who have yet to get a solid job opportunity.

Activated reserve and National Guard members should be offered tax holidays to ensure that financial burdens do not become overwhelming. Other services should be offered to veterans to ensure they get a foothold in the society they fought to protect, such as local transportation, discounts at state parks, promotion of health care including Tricare through local hospitals and attending physicians, and other state and local incentives.

But many of these changes can come only through the participation of veterans in their state and local communities, town boards and municipalities. Many people are not fully aware of the issues of post-traumatic stress disorder, mental illnesses, traumatic brain injury, homelessness, mobilization stress on families, financial hardships, and reduced pay or potential layoffs by employers and much more.

Conventional wisdom would suggest that veterans already get enough benefits, and structures already exist to meet their needs. This is a dangerous position.

In reality, we see new types of injuries and other effects of this war, such as large numbers of amputees, long-term brain injuries, mental illness and domestic violence.

In addition, we have a large-scale call-up of National Guard and reserve service members, and many have little or no military structure in their communities. There are few, if any, resources to meet their needs. Outreach and assistance is vital to ensure these families remain stable.

Some would try to politicize this issue. The support of veterans and care for the wounded should be a nonpartisan effort. It is a cornerstone of a democracy, and the way U.S. citizens treat their service members sends a message to other democratic countries and countries struggling to

become democracies.

All Americans have an obligation to provide care for our service members and their families. This is not only a national issue, but one of state and local importance.

We must set an example for our children that we will not neglect or ignore the needs of the men and women of our armed forces. If we do, we risk our future and that of our children. ■



Redcatcher Memorial

3/7 Vietnam Veterans:

As you know, fellow Cottonbalers, the 3/7 Infantry served fiercely and proudly in the Vietnam War from 1966 to October 11, 1970 when the colors came home to Fort Benning, Georgia. The 3/7th served along with three other Battalions under the 199th Light Infantry Brigade "Redcatchers." Several years ago the Redcatcher Association designed and built our own memorial and it is located in the Field of Honor at Fort Benning right across from the Infantry Museum. The Vietnam Veteran members of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association would like to organize a special visit to this memorial during our September Reunion and put together a brief memorial service at the site. We call upon your support for this endeavor. Please contact the editor, David Spanburg, or Father Phil Salois if you would like help organize the visit to the Redcatcher Memorial. Their contact information is on page two.

Unwilling and Unable:

The Worst Commander in the History of the 7th Infantry

by John C. McManus, Association Historian

In nearly two hundred years of history, the 7th Infantry has had many distinguished commanders, from John Gibbon in the nineteenth century to John Heintges and James Boswell in the twentieth. But even the best units are sometimes stuck with poor leaders. For the 7th Infantry, Major Isaac Lynde was clearly the worst of all time. He had no business commanding the unit. His incompetence and his poor decisions, not to mention his total lack of fighting spirit, directly led to the most ignominious incident in regimental history.

A native of Vermont, Lynde was an 1827 graduate of West Point, where he ranked near the bottom of his class. He was a kind-hearted but bumbling man with questionable intelligence and little personality. He spent the next thirty-four years serving in a succession of undistinguished, anonymous posts in the stultifying, dead end atmosphere of the antebellum army when training standards were poor and there was no mandatory retirement age. In 1861, at the outbreak of the Civil War, Lynde was a 56-year-old major. A substandard officer in his youth, his advancing years certainly did nothing to enhance his effectiveness. Nonetheless he found himself in command of the 7th Infantry. At that time, the regiment's companies were scattered in various posts throughout Mexico.

In July, 1861, in response to a Confederate invasion of New Mexico, Major Lynde concentrated seven of his companies at Fort Fillmore, near present day Las Cruces. In spite of the fact that the fort was located in a valley surrounded by higher ground, Lynde did nothing to improve his defenses. In the recollection of one officer, the major "made no effort to put the command in fighting trim." He did not scout the surrounding terrain. He posted no guards outside of the fort. Instead the fort was infused with a sodden inertia that reflected the major's indecisive personality.

On the evening of July 24, an invading

Confederate force of Texans snuck undetected to within six hundred yards of Fort Fillmore. The Texans planned to assault the fort in the morning. Thus, disaster loomed for Lynde, but that night he got a break. One of the Texans deserted, came to the fort, and told the major all about the Confederate plan. In response, Lynde foolishly ordered the regimental drummers to sound the alert call. Naturally, this tipped off the Confederates that the Cottonbalers were wise to their presence. The enemy beat a hasty retreat. Of all Lynde's command screw-ups, this one might have been the worst. Armed with crucial information about his enemy's intentions, strength and plans, he held all the cards on the night of the July 24. Instead of playing the hand out and pursuing victory, he folded. His soldiers believed he should have set an ambush for Baylor's troops. Had Lynde sprung such an ambush, the unsuspecting rebels almost certainly would have been defeated by a fully alerted and prepared force of U.S. Regulars.

Perhaps regretting his lack of aggressiveness, Major Lynde in the morning ordered his men to pursue the enemy force into Mesilla where it had retreated. An amateurish, inconclusive skirmish ensued. Although he outnumbered the Confederates, Lynde decided to break off his attack and retreat back to Fillmore. That evening, July 25, he decided the fort was untenable and must be abandoned. He ordered his troops to destroy everything of value and prepare for a movement northeast to join up with the nearest Union troops at Fort Stanton. Discipline was so lax in Lynde's command that, according to newspaper accounts, the men got into the regiment's medicinal whiskey, taking nips throughout the night and storing plenty of firewater in their personal canteens, usually at the expense of water.

The next day, under a blazing sun, they set out for Fort Stanton. Most of the soldiers were in

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poor physical condition (testimony to Lynde's awful training standards). Dehydration set in as drunken soldiers fell out along the dusty road. The column soon lost any semblance of cohesion. Lynde took several mounted men in search of water for his troops. But the broiling heat soon got to him as well. A victim of heat exhaustion, the gray-haired major sat groggily near a small pond he had found, drinking water, trying to stay cool.

Meanwhile, the Confederate soldiers at Mesilla had mounted their horses and overtaken parts of the 7th Infantry column. Up and down the line, they overwhelmed the thirsty Cottonbalers. "We found some of the [artillery] guns loaded with whiskey and a good portion of the soldiers drunk and begging for water," a rebel soldier recalled. The Confederates treated their prisoners well, giving them water and allowing them to rest. Elsewhere along the road, though, large groups of sober and more disciplined Cottonbalers were preparing to fight the outnumbered Confederates. Before they could do so, Lynde returned and, without consulting his officers, promptly surrendered his regiment to Colonel John Baylor, the Confederate commander. Several of Lynde's junior officers were so disgusted with the major's decision that they tore the regimental colors into pieces, to be hidden among themselves, rather than see them fall into enemy hands. Nor were the enlisted men pleased. One Cottonbaler wrote: "To see old soldiers and strong men weep like children, men who had faced the battle's storm of the Mexican War, is a sight that I hope I may never again be present at." As was common during that phase of the Civil War, the Confederates repatriated their 7th Infantry captives, and they sat out the war in the North until they could be officially "exchanged" for rebel prisoners in October, 1862.

In his official report, Lynde later claimed that he had been in an impossible situation with no choice but to surrender. These justifications fell flat. Newspaper editorials assailed his surrender as shameful and disgraceful. The officers of the 7th Regiment successfully lobbied the war department for a court martial. Many misguidedly accused Lynde of being a traitor. He was not a traitor, just terribly incompetent, cowardly and

ineffective. At heart, he had no business occupying such a position of responsibility and, in the final analysis, his actions were inexcusable. At every turn during his time in charge of Fort Fillmore and its garrison, he showed himself to be incapable, indecisive and, more than anything else, passive.

In late 1861 the war department stripped him of his rank and drummed him out of the Army. Five years later, in response to a petition from Lynde and some of his friends, the government restored him to the rank of major and allowed him to retire. He died in obscurity twenty years later. In the meantime, his soldiers had to fight, bleed and die at the Battle of Fredericksburg in order to restore the honor of their beloved 7th Infantry. ■

WISDOM - FROM THE MILITARY MANUAL

"If the enemy is in range, so are you." -
Infantry Journal

"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly
over the area you just bombed." - U.S. Air
Force Manual

"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the
sword obviously never encountered automat-
ic weapons." - General Macarthur

"You, you, and you...Panic. The rest of you,
come with me." - U.S. Marine Corp Gunnery
Sgt.

"Tracers work both ways." - U.S. Army
Ordnance

"Five second fuses only last three seconds."
- Infantry Journal

"Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once."

"Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have
nothing to do." - Unknown Marine Recruit

The Definitive History of the 7th Infantry Regiment

Hello Cottonbalers,

I want to pass along some information on my long awaited two volume history of the 7th Infantry. The first volume, entitled "The 7th Infantry Regiment: Combat in an Age of Terror, the Korean War through the Present" will be available on May 13 of this year. As the title indicates, the book covers Korea through Iraq. For anyone who is interested, I would be delighted to sign copies, and discuss the book, at our reunion in September. For more information on the book, check out Amazon.com or my website www.johncmcmamus.com.

"Everyone's heard of the 7th Cavalry, but our 7th Infantry Regiment has even more battle streamers on its flag and a more-impressive record of victories. John C. McManus has paid the Cottonbalers (the nickname recalls their valor at the Battle of New Orleans) a worthy and overdue tribute in this superb chronicle of battalion-by-battalion heroism from Korea to Iraq. Grab this book--and buy a copy for a soldier you know!--Ralph Peters, author of Wars Of Blood And Faith and Looking For Trouble.

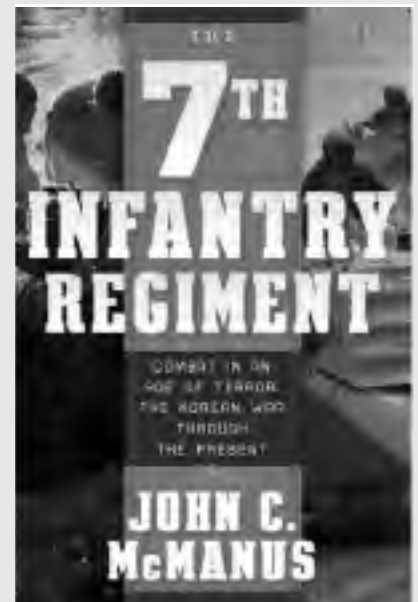
The second volume will be called "American Courage, American Carnage: The 7th Infantry Regiment's Combat Experience, 1812 through World War II." The publisher has not given me an official release date yet. I will be sure to pass that information along as soon as I get it. I would like to thank each and every one of you for all of your help and support as I researched and wrote these books. Needless to say, this has been quite an undertaking and without your efforts, it never would have happened. I will always be grateful. I only hope that these two books will, in some small way, do justice to your service and that of so many Cottonbalers dating back to 1812.

I am researching a new book that will include chapters on 7th Infantry soldiers in Desert Storm, the Baghdad International Airport battle of 2003, and OIF III. I am looking for first hand stories, such as written recollections, letters, diaries and personal interviews from Cottonbalers who were in any, or perhaps even all, of these three campaigns. My contact information is listed below and also in the Association directory. I would be grateful for whatever information you could provide. Thanks for your service in this fine regiment.

Volens et Potens!

Sincerely,

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•• 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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- 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

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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)



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- **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.**
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Membership Category: Regular [] Life []

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TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

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

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