

Excerpts From Our September 2001 Newsletter

MACKENZIE'S RAIDERS

3/4 CAV NEWSLETTER

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2002 REUNION INFORMATION

This will be the first newsletter with detailed information for our reunion, September 5-8 2002, Chattanooga, TN. Much of the information will appear in future newsletters, unchanged, in case you misplace this one.

Reminder. You can get your room reservations a year out. **DO IT!** Too often, folks wait to get their room and then they're not available. The Chattanooga Choo Choo Holiday Inn is a prime retreat. Get your room now. You can always cancel later if you need to.

Carl Quickmire has worked very hard on your behalf to arrange tours and events to keep you entertained. Take advantage of these.

You also need to register with Carl. The form is at the end of the newsletter. General reunion information will be in the next newsletter.

THANKS!

A big "Atta Boy" to the below for donations to help pay for the pad at our monument at Ft. Knox. Total cost was \$2,743.00 If you don't see your name and you made a donation, it'll appear in the next issue. Send your donations to John Hollern.

"Bingo" Bingham, Bill Dolce, Dave Stewart, Dick Gramigna, Noel Knotts, Homer Louya, Galen Narimatsu

TRAVEL BACK TO VIETNAM

In the last newsletter information was provided on a trip back to Vietnam.

Here is some updated information provided by the trip coordinator, Dave Devries, C Troop and D Troop (Air) Dave has been back nine times and is well qualified as an escort.

Dates: 7-23 March 2002

Time: Actual departure/return times TBD.

Purpose: To re-visit cities, base camp areas and battlefields where we served.

Benefits: To see Vietnam restored to the vibrant, tropical, and beautiful country it is today.

Main stops: Hanoi, Hue, DaNang (Hoi An), & Saigon with side trips of interest to vets and free time for relaxing & exploration in each city and surrounding area.

Cost: Approximately \$2,300.00 per person. A \$500.00 deposit will be required to hold your space. ** Limited to 25 total pax. Approximately 15 spaces left!

Contact: Dave Devries@ 616-669-6952 or dgdvries@msn.com or Al Northouse @ 616-669-8101 or anorthouse@modeldie.com.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Remember that the 25th Division Association awards scholarships to all sons/step-sons, daughters/step-daughters, and grandchildren of **ELIGIBLE** 25th veterans. To be **Eligible** you **MUST BELONG to the 25th Infantry Division Association**. If you haven't joined yet you need to do so. See DUES for information.

The 3/4 CAV Chapter annually donates \$1,000. This is awarded to an **ELIGIBLE** child of a 3/4 Cavalry veteran. There were two children of 3/4 CAV veterans who received \$1,000.00 scholarships this year. You can continue to make Tax deductible donations. Send your donation to our treasurer, John Hollern.

WHY THE AMERICAN FLAG IS FOLDED 13 TIMES

Submitted by John Hollern.

Have you ever wondered why the American Flag is folded 13 times when it is lowered or when it is folded and handed to the widow at the burial of a veteran? Here is the meaning of each of those folds and what it means to you.

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of all the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they are found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust".

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under general George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

The next time you see a flag ceremony honoring someone that has served our country, either in the Armed Forces or in our civilian services such as the Police Force or Fire Department, keep in mind all the important reasons behind each and every movement. They have paid the ultimate sacrifice for all of us by honoring our flag and our country.

NEW MEMBERS FOUND

John Alto, D Troop (Air), 12/65-3/67, Sherwood, OR

David Atkinson, D Troop (Air), 10/69-10/70, Garden City, KS

Percy Byrd, A Troop, 66, Roxie, MS

Don Gerwe, D Troop (Air), 69-70, Piedmont, SC

Curtis Gibson, D Troop (Air), 69, Yadkinville, NC

LTC John Hansen, HHT, Sqdn Cdr, 6/01, Waipahu, HI

Bob Houghmaster, A Troop, 5/70-5/71, Adams Center, NY

Willie Jennings, A Troop, 68-69, Pekin, IL

Gary Jones, D Troop (Air), 68-69, S. Lake Tahoe, CA

Robert Lovell, A Troop, 66, Cedar Springs, MI

Frank Lundblad, HHT, 11/68-3/69, Bethesda, MD

Fred Reese, D&F Troop (Air), 70-71, Bronson, IA

Kim Schmidgall, D Troop (Air), 69-70, Oxnard, CA

Jesse Simmons, A Troop, 66, Millboro, VA

Frankie Williams, F Troop (Air), 5/71-10/71, Americus, GA

James Plyler, III, A Troop, 2/63-12/65, Helotes, TX

Current number of former 3/4 Cavalry Troopers found – **1,072**. **NOTE: 982 are on the mailing list.**

Our web page has been a big help in finding former troopers but **YOU** are the best way. Keep searching for former troopers.

MEMBERS LOST

The following members have been lost since the last newsletter. Please help in returning them to the roster. If you live in their state, see if you can find them.

Tom Byrne, Chicago, IL

John Cotton, Hagerstown, MD

Stanley George, Phoenix, AZ

Donald Harris, West Point, VA

Paul Kersten, III, Boca Raton, FL

Donald Price, Chesapeake, VA

Tom Shirley, Killeen, TX

Larry Smith, Holland, MI

TAPS

TomLacy, HHT, 67

To the family and friends of the departed, our deepest sympathy. We share your loss and grief.

BACK IN TIME WITH THE 4th CAV

By Wally Burr

NOTE: Mr. Burr joined the 4th Cav Regiment at Ft. Meade, SD in 1942 as an 18 year old 2nd Lieutenant. Stayed with the 4th through its becoming the 4th Cav Group (4th and 24th squadrons), through Normandy, the Bulge, 'til the end in Europe.

Mr. Burr provided the following article at my request.

"My wife and I have just returned from our 3-week sojourn – for me, a very powerful trip down memory lane – which is to say, through southern England, Utah Beach and other parts of Normandy.

With regard to the landing on the islands off Utah Beach that you mentioned (the monument that was placed by the Chapter at Ft. Jackson, SC to honor those KIA just prior to D-day): As you know, they were the St. Marcouf Islands, about 6,000 yards off the beach. Recently, I learned some added facts about the landing. The kind that can make a time and place especially meaningful. Here goes:

I had a very close friend in B Troop of the Fourth. His name was Alfred Rubin. Al died about two years ago, but we'd first known each other when we were teenagers. In 1940, we'd both attended the same ROTC summer camp at Battle Creek, MI. In '42, we found ourselves in the same class at the Cavalry School at Ft. Riley, KS, and three months later, with about 15 other "brand new" shavetails from that class; we all shipped off to the 4th Cavalry Regiment at Ft. Meade, SD.

The 4th was then just beginning to be brought to combat strength. But, Ft. Meade was not some Johnny-come-lately, immense, flat dusty, landscape of temporary wartime structures. It wasn't Benning, or Bliss or Kilmer. It was a small, permanent, regular army, "regimental size" post that probably hadn't changed much in the previous 50 years. Ft. Meade had *real* history that even went back to General Custer's last you-know-what. Presumably, Meade was the last post from which Custer departed just prior to his famous last stand.

I've always wondered about the significance of that. Not the last stand, but that business about being the "last post from which", etc. Follow me as I morbidly digress: Anyone who goes some place... and then gets killed...had to have come from somewhere else. Right? So, why does that then make the *point of origin* important? Pardon my lack of sentiment, but that's dumb!

But forget Custer. Ft. Meade had plenty of character on its own. It had a marvelous South Dakota setting. It had old-fashioned permanent brick barracks, a proper brick headquarters building with polished hardwood floors and the regimental colors (already garnished with many battle ribbons) standing proudly in the central entrance hall! All of this fronted on a lush grass parade ground that was just right for "regimental size" parades at which a crusty Colonel Joseph M. Tully scowled at his troops from beneath a very intimidating and bushy pair of Irish eyebrows. We really felt quite special. I can still remember the excitement of just being a part of this – the hustle of daily training, the drilling of new recruits, teaching the manual of arms, nomenclature of this and that, field stripping of weapons, calisthenics, map reading classes, and 20 mile hikes.

Al Rubin, became a B Troop platoon leader, and from a phone conversation with his son – a reserve Marine LTC, himself, I learned that Al had been a member of the St. Marcouf landing party and had been wounded there. This was a combined 4th and 24th Squadron detachment and they were actually the first American ground troops to trod French soil – hours ahead of the airborne landings.

High point of this return: from fragments of memory, I re-located a stretch of road and an adjacent farm house and barnyard south of Cherbourg where, on June 20th, 1944, with dug-in 88s on the heights surrounding Cherbourg coming within an ace of picking us off like ducks, I pulled my assault guns into that farm for cover. Just before this, several of our M5 light tanks – armed with 37mm guns ("pea shooters", we called them) – had already been stopped dead in their tracks by these 88s. (Pardon the grim but accurate word play.)

Against at least 3 American divisions converging on them, the Krauts, their backs against the sea,

stubbornly held out at Cherbourg for another week. I was astonished to learn that today, from my protective farmyard; Cherbourg is an easy 15 to 20-minute commute.

Another poignant moment: Utah Beach now has a commemorative museum, sort of built around a replica of one of the 101st Airborne Division's gliders. A few of these wood and canvas contraptions made it down in one piece, but many more skidded to fatal crash landings. In fact, shortly after our own D+4 landing from an LST, during a brief halt as we moved west from the beach, we found ourselves in the midst of dozens of these badly mangled, now useless hulks. They'd carried 12 or 13 soldiers – alternatively, a 75mm howitzer or a jeep. By now, their crews, dead or alive, were long gone, and their cargoes had been hauled off. I wandered over to stare at the nearest battered fuselage.

A battlefield is always littered with useable or near useable "stuff" – both the enemy's and our own. Discarded weapons, of course – our guys often replaced unreliable Thompson sub-machine guns with the superior German Schmeisser machine pistol. Field glasses were a prize. Knives of all sorts. Miscellaneous equipment sacks and packs. Compasses. Even the occasional car, motorcycle or bicycle. Sort of a freebie flea market. And soldiers in combat are a little like gypsies – they live with minimal luxuries – often delighted and comforted by this found "stuff".

Somewhat ghoulishly attracted by the glider remains, I noticed a Plexiglas window. I kicked it out of its mounting onto the ground. The sheet of plastic was probably a little less than a quarter inch thick. A purpose for the Plexiglas suddenly came to mind. Patton carried pearl handled six shooters, right? Why couldn't I replace the standard wood butt plates on my .45 automatic with Plexiglas butt plates and display pictures of my Paris, TX girl friend Margaret Lacy in them? Hadn't yet fired a shot in anger, but within hours of coming ashore, I'd created just a little bit of combat veteran's patina – I was the guy with the girl-friend pictures on his .45. In today's parlance, "Yehh!!"

Back to the Utah Beach museum: As do most of the many WWII museums in France, this Utah Beach display has all sorts of Allied and German military artifacts – weapons and ammunition, uniforms, helmets, and the ever present M4A1 Sherman tanks. Strangely, perhaps, much of the stuff sort of bored me. I found I tired of, and in a way, even resented the placards the pedantically (to me) explained things I neither wanted nor needed explained. Okay, so I'm a war snob.

Anyway, here was Mr. War Snob meandering a little grouchy through apart a part of the museum that looks east out across the channel, and I came upon a metal cylinder about 10 inches in diameter and about 6 or 7 feet in length. It was displayed in the open, not enclosed in a cabinet as many of the items are. Whatta ya know! Something the war snob hadn't seen before! It had an eye piece at its center that invited a look-see, so I bent over, placed an eye to the eye piece, and "voila!," magnified about twenty times, there were the St. Marcouf Islands – *up close, live, and oddly very personal!*" This ancient German artillery rangefinder was focussed on these tiny specks of land that, 57 years ago, had been the objectives that Al Rubin and colleagues had stumbled ashore to find unoccupied but heavily planted with "S" mines.

Thumbing back through the pages like that can be a little heavy. I thumbed through quite a lot of them this trip.

Best regards, Wally Burr

IN SEARCH OF...

John Barnes is looking for former members of C Troop who remember Arthur "Mickey" Wood. Mickey was wounded 24 June 66 and died 27 June. John is his cousin and wants to speak with anyone who recalls the action. Contact John at (864) 836-6864 or email timpattr@bellsouth.net or

write to 180 Lanford Circle, Travelers Rest, SC 29690

DUES

3/4 CAV Dues

Please send your dues (\$5 Annual/\$75 Life) payable to 3/4 CAV Chapter to: 3/4 CAV, Box 1165, New Garden Station, Ft. Knox, KY 40121. Your dues pay for the publication and mailing of your *MacKENZIE'S RAIDERS* newsletter.

25th Infantry Division Dues

Send your 25th Infantry Division Association dues (\$15 Annual/ \$150 Life) to P.O. Box 7, Flour Town, PA 19031-0007.

" Men who have offered their lives for their country know that patriotism is not the fear of something; it is the love of something."

Adlai Stevenson

QUARTERMASTER STORE

NOTE: POSTAGE FOR SHIPPING AND HANDLING MUST NOW BE INCLUDED IN YOUR ORDERS.

3/4 CAV CHALLENGE COIN. Cost \$7.00. Send your order to the Squadron Adjutant, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Wheeler Army Airfield, HI 96854.

POLO SHIRTS. Navy Blue with embroidered 4th Cavalry Crest, crossed sabers and Mackenzie's Raiders on left front. Cost \$30.00 + \$3.50 S&H. Send your check or money order, **payable to 3/4 Cav Chapter** to JERRY HEADLEY, 1234 POWELL TAYLOR RD., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342

SWEATSHIRTS. Navy Blue with embroidered 4th Cavalry Crest, crossed sabers and Mackenzie's Raiders on left front. Cost \$30 plus \$3.50 S&H. Make checks **payable to the 3/4 Cavalry Chapter** and mail to Jerry Headley.

PINS, BUMPER STICKERS & "HENRY V" Poster. We have a few cap pins, and bumper stickers left from the last reunion. Pins are \$3 and stickers are \$2. Poster \$1. Shipping & Handling \$1.00 for each. Get them while they last. Contact **Bob Bingham**, 4505 Arvice Ct., Lexington, KY 40515.

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CAPS. Cost \$10.00 + \$1.00 S&H. CAV yellow with embroidered regimental crest and motto. At this price you better order two! Send check or money order payable to 3/4 CAV Chapter to John Hollern, Box 1165, New Garden Station, Ft. Knox, KY 40121.

CAV LICENSE PLATES. John Hollern has just acquired some Cavalry license plates. Cost is \$10.00 + \$1.00 S&H. First come first served. Order now!

PATCHES. John Hollern has three different types that are like our crest. One is ornate and for wear on a blazer or sports jacket. Cost \$20. Another is a sew on like you had in Nam. Cost \$3. Last is a decal that you can put on your vehicle or wherever. Cost \$1. S&H .50 cents for each item

MINATURE CREST. Cost \$5.00 + .50 cents S&H. Order from John Hollern.

BELT BUCKLE. Cost \$15.00 + \$1.75 S&H. Only 5 left. Once these are sold there will be no more made. Get your order in now! The buckle is pewter in color, has crossed sabers and has 25th Infantry Division, Vietnam and our motto inscribed. Send your order to Bobby Hollis, 4702 Calvert Road, Huntsville, AL 35816.

POEM. Cost \$10.00. Jim Locklear wrote the poem "Vietnam Vet" and his new one "Welcome Home". Jim will donate all money made from the sale of these poems to the scholarship fund. Send your order to Jim Locklear. P.O. Box 824, Pembroke, NC 28372.

CHECK LIST

X Are your dues current?

X Have you joined the 25th Infantry Division Association?

X Have you made plans to attend the 3/4 CAV reunion in Chattanooga, TN, SEP 5-7, 2002?

X Have you made a donation to the scholarship fund or for the pad around the 3/4 Cavalry monument?