



THE HARD CHARGER

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - APRIL 2017

Greetings, HARD CHARGERS! It must be spring in Oklahoma! We had terrible thunderstorms last night with about six inches of rain and lots of hail, but thankfully no tornadoes yet. We already had our first 90-degree day last week, and now it is in the 40's with a strong north wind. But I shouldn't complain when I see the weather that the Northeast is going through. Baseball's Opening Day is just around the corner!

The Hard Charger leadership is excited about our upcoming reunion at Lake George, NY, 19 to 23 June. There are great planned events and of course, lots of time to hang out in the Hospitality Room and swap war stories. We may have our Canadian brothers-in-arms join us for the reunion. It should be a wonderful affair, and I hope you are planning to attend. Get your reservation in as soon as possible!

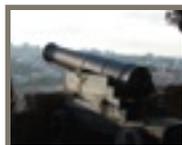
Back at Fort Sill, the 1-30 FA is driving on and training our great Field Artillery soldiers. They did have the opportunity to relax and show their family members what they do on Family Day, 17 March. What a great way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day! Dan Mitchell and I represented the Association and had a wonderful time. There was delicious food and the attendees had the chance to fire the Paladin, the M777 and the M119. There was also an FDC and a Bradley FIST vehicle on display. The 1-30 is going to get much larger very soon as it absorbs the AIT load from 2-78 FA. The Battalion will grow to about 3000 soldiers. There will be more information in the next newsletter.

Don't forget that the 30th FA will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2018. Hard to believe, but our unit was formed at Camp Funston, Kansas, in 1918 in preparation for movement to Europe for World War I. If you have any ideas for this special celebration and reunion, please contact a leader. We want this gathering to be our best and biggest ever!

Thanks for all you do, and I hope to see you at Lake George in June! God Bless You.

Ted Janosko

DON'T FORGET TO



CHECK THE WEB SITE

The 30th Artillery's First Guns

Although the weapon with which most of us are familiar, the M114 Howitzer, has long since been replaced by more modern weapons systems, our sturdy “warhorse” was itself a “Johnny-Come-Lately” in the 30th’s nearly 100-year history. The men who assembled in Camp Funston, Kansas, in 1918 to form the Regiment found the 4.7 inch gun M1906 as their primary armament. The 1906 was one of the very few American-made artillery pieces to see any overseas action - most US

A Model 1906 on display in Cross Plains, Wisconsin



artillerymen used guns of British or French manufacture. One specific problem was the unusual ammunition used by this gun - no other Allied unit used a similar fuzing system and bore diameter. The fledgling US armaments industry struggled with production challenges with the gun, including an abortive attempt to rechamber the weapon. Only about 48 of the approximately 209 guns that were built ever fired a round in Europe. The gun fired either a 60 or a 45 pound projectile a maximum of 8,000 meters. Surely a limiting factor in its effectiveness was its traverse limitation of only eight degrees. The gun was ultimately discontinued in 1932, but a surprising number of these weapons are placed around the country as war memorials or as static displays, including one at the Fort Sill Museum.

The picture at right shows the 1906 model being fired. It comes from a postcard and shows neither a time nor a known location. It was sent to a recipient in Massachusetts, and while the date of the postmark makes it seem unlikely, it could be that the picture shows some of our predecessors at work!

Currently the property of the El Paso Public Library



Another Suggestion for an Activity in the Adirondack Region

There are numerous interesting sites to visit in the vicinity of Lake George. There will be literature in the hospitality suite from the Visitors Bureau to help you plan your stay. I would like to make just one suggestion. Fort Edward is located just south of Glens Falls and is the site of the Rogers Island Visitors Center. www.rogersisland.org Visit their site and see if you might consider it for a day tour. I have not visited there yet but plan to do so before the reunion. The US Army Rangers consider the island to be their "spiritual home."

In a letter to Lord Loudon dated October 25, 1757, Robert Rogers detailed his methods of training and his rules of order, which marked a change for the British way of confronting an enemy on the battlefield. Those "Ranging Rules" written on Rogers Island form the basis of military tactics adopted by irregular fighting forces all over the world.

The US Army Rangers have adopted the Standing Orders as they are found in the novel *Northwest Passage* and they appear in the Ranger Handbook after the Ranger Creed. Imagine what our military careers would have been like if we had consistently followed Standing Order #1 - "Don't forget nothing."

John Hoetker

use or copy this form to pay your dues

For those members who enroll as active members on a yearly basis, please complete this form and send it in with check as indicated. You can also take this opportunity to enroll as a lifetime member and end the annoyance of having to do this every year!

First name _____ MI _____ Last name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone (H) _____ W/M _____ Email _____

\$15.00 check enclosed for 2017 dues ()

or \$99.00 check enclosed for lifetime membership ()

Contribution (\$) enclosed to assist with Association expenses

Mail form and check to: Jim Harris, 30th FAR Association Membership
212 Brittain Court, Brentwood, TN 37027

**30th Field Artillery Regiment's 24th Annual Reunion
19 to 23 June 2017** **Lake George, NY**

Registration Form

The Queensbury Hotel
80 Ridge Street
Glens Falls, NY 12801
518-792-1121

NAME(S) and TOTAL _____

(Name all attending. This is how your name will appear on your name tag. Include T-Shirt size for each. Add additional sheet if necessary.)

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

I am with the 30th FA, USA _____ 30th FA, RCA _____ (Please check one)

I will contact The Queensbury at the number(s) above before 1 May 2017 to make my room reservations and identify myself as an attendee of the 30th Field Artillery Reunion. The room rate is \$99.00 per night (includes complimentary breakfast): Single Queen, Two Double beds or King. You may arrive a day early or stay one day following the reunion at the discounted rate.

I am enclosing a check payable to the "30th FAR Association" for the following expenses:

(In US dollars please)

Registration Fee of \$20.00 per family (not required if only attending the banquet) _____

Bus tour of Lake George area, Fort Ticonderoga, and Prospect Mountain.
\$25.00 per person - lunch at Ft. Ticonderoga is not included in the price. _____

Cruise on the *Luc du San Sacrement*; \$18.00 per person _____

Banquet: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Salmon En Croute, or Marinated London Broil
\$25.00 per person _____

Contribution to aiding a less fortunate Hard Charger to attend the reunion _____

TOTAL _____

Mail your check and the completed registration form to Jim Harris, 212 Brittain Court, Brentwood, TN (USA) 37027

30th FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION REUNION

19 to 23 JUNE 2017

The Queensbury Hotel

518-792-1121

www.thequeensburyhotel.com

Although the Hotel is located in Glens Falls, it is only a 10 minute drive to Lake George and all of its attractions. If you are driving north, take exit 18 from interstate 87, the Adirondack Northway. Take a right on Main Street - when the road forks stay right on Hudson Ave. At the traffic circle take the third exit to Ridge St. Go two blocks and the hotel is on the left. The Hotel's amenities include free wifi, indoor pool, two restaurants and more. The room rate is \$99.00 per night with a complimentary breakfast. Your room choices are 1) single queen; 2) two double beds; and 3) a king bed.

Monday, 19 June: Welcome and Sign In. A Welcome packet will be provided courtesy of the Warren County Tourism Department. The hospitality room is located in the hotel and will be well stocked and open. Stop in and enjoy a Guinness or even a lesser beverage, meet with your fellow Hard Chargers and greet our Canadian counterparts. Review the ever expanding volumes of our regiment's proud history, see our Quartermaster and get outfitted with neat Hard Charger stuff for this historic expedition!

Tuesday, 20 June: Fort Ticonderoga and Prospect Mountain bus tour - lunch at the Fort and supper are on your own. The Fort has a restaurant. Departure time will be posted in the hospitality room. The hospitality room will be open throughout the day.

Wednesday, 21 June: We will be taking a cruise on the *Luc du San Sacrement*. The cruise on Lake George will begin at noon and last about two hours. Boarding times and location will be posted in the hospitality room. The vessel has a snack bar. Meals today are on your own. There will be ample time before and after the cruise to see the sights of Lake George Village. We will car pool to this activity. The hospitality room will be open.

Thursday, 22 June: The General Membership meeting and the Memorial Service for our Fallen will both be held in the morning in the hospitality room. Times will be posted. A trip to the Lake George Outlets is planned for the ladies during the meeting. Lunch and the rest of the day are yours to enjoy. Our Banquet will be held in the evening in the hotel, followed by the World Famous Auction in the hospitality room. The wearing of your uniform at the Banquet is encouraged but not mandatory. **Don't forget to bring an item or items for the Auction!**

Friday, 23 June: Time to say our farewells to old and new friends and head home to prepare for our glorious regiment's one hundredth anniversary in 2018 at Fort Sill!

Any Hard Charger needing assistance in attending may contact the Reunion Coordinator, John Hoetker, in confidence at (518) 377-9420 or at nywfia@aol.com

YOUR QUARTERMASTER'S TWO BITS

QM UPDATE: The Reunion 2017 pins are packed and ready to go. I will be making the name tags early next month. Now do your part and sign up for Reunion 2017 in Glens Falls, NY. See all there.

DOWN MEMORY LANE: I am, all of a sudden, becoming really popular. That is if one judges popularity by the amount of mail one receives. The main problem, however, is that the increase in mail flow is reminding me that I turn 65 in April. It seems that every insurance company wants to sell me "cheap and affordable" life insurance, help me "understand medicare," or both. Funny how, no matter what the outside advertisement on the envelope states, or how much they want to "help me," it will still cost me money...

Talking about getting older, I even received a reminder of that fact when I went out to Fort Campbell yesterday. The MP, who looked to be about twelve years old, after looking at my ID card and scanning it with his LRT gun, just had to remind me that my card will expire on 30 April 2017. (It expires so my primary medical information will change from TRICARE to Medicare. In fact I am thankful for the reminder. I'm sure that many retirees miss this.) After thanking the MP, I drove onto Fort Campbell and memories of the past started running through my head.

Pvt2 Causey, along with another 49 trainees, had first come through that same gate in the early morning hours of 15 June, 1971. While the view has changed greatly since that summer morning, the building where we stopped, and the first building that I ever walked into on Fort Campbell, is still there. Except for the sign on the building, it still looks the same. In 1971 that building was the Post Grey Hound bus station. Until this month it was the Post taxi service.

That early morning we walked into the building to use the latrines. As I waited in line to use one of the urinals, I could not help but notice all the writing on the walls. Many entries were there - "ETS so and so," "Vietnam 69 -70", "for a good

time call" or "I was here." Other lines talked about someone they didn't like or were religious in nature. Many had great drawings along with the words. It seems that a lot of soldiers just wanted to let someone know that they were alive and there, at one time or another.

Looking back at those walls and the messages that were written there, I realized that this was part of the history of Fort Campbell. I wish that those walls had been taken down and put in the post museum. That bus station meant so much to so many. Those messages had been left by many leaving Campbell for the last time. Others were on the way to Vietnam and were saying goodbye in their own way. I remember one, written under one of the urinals in large red lettering, where the soldier wrote that he was leaving for Vietnam, and fourteen months later wrote that he had made it back. Pvt2 Causey, when he flew home for the weekend in August, left his message there also. I can remember writing it but not what I actually wrote. Those messages were cleaned up and painted



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over many times since then.

In closing, there was one note left on those walls that the man who ran the bus station would show you if you asked. The message was "Stayed cool and out of here!" signed Jimi Hendrix, with no date.

That's your Quartermaster's two bits, and worth every cent that you spent on it!



Charles "Comma" Causey OUT!



Cannoneer's Hop

Brian Weaver names the "Angry Angel"
Thanks to Jack Dufur for proposing the name



Bob Fuggiti, a member of B Battery from 1967-68, reminds us that we should consistently be on the lookout for additional members, including using the web site and the newsletter. He proposes an "In Search of" section which would list information such as:

Bob Fuggiti B/1/30 Vietnam in search of Bob Curran from Pennsylvania

Bob Foster from Albuquerque, NM, and anyone who might have served with him

Because the newsletter reaches only those who are already members (and presumably are checking the roster), the newsletter editor suggests that the web site is a more wide-ranging vehicle for reaching the general public. However, should any member, particularly those not receiving the electronic edition, have difficulty reaching the web site, please do not hesitate to contact the newsletter and the desired information regarding lost comrades will be forwarded to the Web Master.

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Next Issue - July 2017

Deadline for submissions - July 7, 2017

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