



THE HARD CHARGER

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - JULY 2017

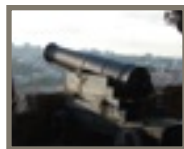
Greetings, HARD CHARGERS and a belated Happy Birthday, America! We had some beautiful fireworks in Oklahoma, both man-made and natural. I do not think that I have ever seen this much rain and so many thunderstorms in July in Oklahoma, ever. We may remain green all the way into August!!

The Adirondack Expedition (2017 Hard Charger Reunion) at Glens Falls and Lake George from 19-23 JUN 2017 was a huge success. The Association leadership, led by John Hoetker and Mike Thomas, did a tremendous job in setting the stage for a great reunion. There were great planned events and of course, lots of time to hang out in the hospitality room and swap war stories. The location of the old Queensbury Hotel (built in 1926) was ideal and the current renovations have kept the hotel's old time class and charm while bringing the facility into the 21st century. The beauty of the area is undeniable and the rain kept it that way. I wish more Hard Chargers could have joined us. There are more photos in this newsletter and on our website. My other regret is that the local zip line was not open during the reunion! After the dinner, the world-class auction was a lot of fun and there were some great items available. I believe that we raised over \$2,000 for the Association. There were several individuals in dress blue uniforms and I promised several ladies an even better selection of young men in uniform at next year's reunion at Fort Sill. I hope that you are planning to attend in 2018.

Back at Fort Sill, the 1-30 FA is driving on and training our great Field Artillery soldiers. The Association received a great update from the battalion commander, LTC Jim Egan, at the reunion. The anticipated merger with the 2-78 FA and the move into the 2-78 FA battalion headquarters will not happen, as apparently the Department of the Army realized that this might not be the best course of action. Several of the Association leaders plan to represent the Association at the 1-30 FA Organization Day at the Lake Elmer Thomas Recreation Area at Fort Sill. We are awaiting the announcement of the date of the 1-30 FA change of command in order to determine the specific dates for the 2018 reunion.

Another reminder - don't forget that the 30th FA will celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2018. Our

DON'T FORGET TO



CHECK THE WEB SITE

www.hardchargers.com

unit was formed at Camp Funston, KS, in 1918 in preparation for movement to Europe for the First World War. If you have any ideas for this special celebration, please contact one of the Board members. Several folks have expressed interest in firing small arms and howitzers, seeing the new equipment in static displays, viewing the Fort Sill museums, touring Snow Hall and the regimental room, and conducting a GSAS presentation for the spouses. We want the 2018 reunion to be our biggest and best ever, so give us your ideas!

God Bless You.

HARD CHARGERS!

Ted Janosko

Our President referred to “a GSAS presentation” in his comments. Please see the following definition of the program, courtesy of the present battalion commander, LTC Jim Egan.

The Hard Chargers continue to be one of the principal supporters of a Fort Sill initiative called GSAS, or “Growing Spouses Army Strong.” This program, designed to help the spouses of future Battery Commanders and First Sergeants better deal with the “implied” leadership challenges of senior spouses in battery organizations, has grown over the years from a weekend class to a week-long course. It provides information on Army structure, recognition of ranks, etiquette, protocol, leadership qualities and traits, Army family services, and round table discussions with senior leaders and their spouses. This program has received wide recognition because of its success, and has had other installations asking for the model to emulate at their locations.



Artillery defenses at Fort Ticonderoga



**Gary and Marcella Sawall, recipients of
the Order of St. Barbara and the Molly
Pitcher Awards, respectively**

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

The Regiment's Birthplace - Camp Funston, Kansas

Camp Funston was located on the Fort Riley military reservation near Junction City, KS. The facility was named after Brigadier General Frederick Funston, then recently deceased, and was the largest of 16 divisional training areas built during WWI to house and train young men for military duty. Construction of the eventual number of nearly 4,000 buildings was begun in July, 1917, and eventually over 40,000 men would be stationed there during the period of its existence. It was said that the post resembled a city more than an army camp, with general stores, theaters, social centers, libraries and schools, and even a coffee roasting house. (Starbuck's?)

Funston's main purpose was to train soldiers drafted from the midwestern states to fight overseas. Men would spend their hours drilling and absorbing the new military techniques which had developed as a result of lessons learned in the first years of the war. Many of the instructors were foreign officers from France and Britain, men who had seen such developments as poison gas, the use of tanks, and the role of the airplane first hand. This was critical, as the last American involvement in war, the Spanish American War and the Philippine Insurrection, had long predated these innovations. (As a matter of fact, the Spanish forces in Cuba in 1898 had far superior ammunition to that used by the Americans - our weapons, using black powder, gave away our positions, while the Spanish had smokeless rounds. Our military was well behind the times.)

One of the biggest problems faced within the camp was the spread of communicable disease. Although all soldiers were inoculated upon entering the camp, the 1918-1920 influenza pandemic was said to have started within Camp Funston. While individuals thought to be infected were immediately quarantined, the death toll was nevertheless very high, as our regimental losses testify.

In 1924, after serving as a mustering-out center, Camp Funston was decommissioned and the buildings dismantled. Today, only a few foundations remain of the camp. Only a stone obelisk honoring "The Men who trained at Funston for the Great War" indicates the site of the Regiment's birthplace.

General Frederick "Fearless Freddie" Funston was himself quite a story. Standing only 5 ft 5 in tall and weighing about 120 pounds, he earned the Medal of Honor in the Philippines and played a key role in the capture of Filipino President Emilio Aguinaldo, which essentially ended the insurrection and made Funston a national hero. In 1906, he was in command of the Presidio of San Francisco when the earthquake struck, and while the actions he took to deal with the situation have been criticized since, at the time those who survived the tragedy were nearly universal in saying that he did what he had to do in the face of utter chaos.

Prior to the entry of the US into WWI, President Wilson favored Funston as the leader of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), but his sudden death at the age of 51 in early 1917 resulted in the position going to his former subordinate, John J. Pershing.

Time Marches On, but Sometimes It Can Be Turned Back...

Just before preparation of this newsletter began, the Association received notification of the death on July 14 of Gary D. Ponder, 1SG, who served in A/1/30 during the Vietnam period. We mourn the loss of another of our comrades who went through that conflict with us, and who was a life member of the Association. As our ranks thin, it is worth considering how important it is to attend at least one more reunion, to have the opportunity to share with those once again the experiences that no one else in your circle of family or friends (unless they were also 30th veterans) can be expected to understand or relate to. But our reunions can be wonderful opportunities to reestablish relationships that seemingly ended 50 years ago, as this extract from a wonderful reminiscence will demonstrate.

The Radio Man and his Lieutenant adapted from material written by **Marcella Sawall**

One wintry day in January, 2016, Gary Sawall (see page 3) read an article in the VFW Magazine entitled "GRAVEYARD AT LZ4." It seems like it was just yesterday that he was there, and that thought caused him to follow through on a frequently expressed desire to find his lieutenant. Wilson Jefferson was a forward observer, and Gary was his radio operator during the 1965-66 Vietnam time frame. Both served in C/1/30, but Gary's tour had ended before Jefferson's, and they had lost contact.

Gary's request for information from the magazine led to an email and telephone exchange with Dan Gillotti, and soon Gary had from Dan a list of potential phone numbers and an invitation to the 2016 reunion. Gary started down the list, and soon had Wilson Jefferson himself on the phone, talking as though they had just said goodbye yesterday. In reality, it had been 50 years since they had seen or conversed with each other in the jungles of Vietnam. It was a *deja vu* moment.

Gary asked Wilson to come to the reunion from his employment site in Saudi Arabia, where he was employed as an attorney, and Wilson agreed. He joined Gary at the reunion on June 9th, and what a joyous day that was for both men! They had many stories to share, and much catching up to do. There are undoubtedly many relational stories out there, but this was a truly meaningful and fulfilling one to say the least.



Don't miss this wonderful opportunity at next year's especially notable reunion, our 25th as well as the Regiment's 100th Anniversary, to once again greet old comrades. Go to our roster, and whether or not you have been an attendee in the past, call one of your old buddies and get him to join you at Fort Sill next June. The specific dates will be available soon. Block out early June 2018 on your calendar. See you there!

The Editor

YOUR QUARTERMASTER'S TWO BITS

REUNION UPDATE: Let me start off by offering an apology, because I made the only mistakes in planning for the reunion. To everyone whose name I misspelled, I am truly sorry and will make sure that it never happens again!

John Hoetker - you did a great job in setting up this reunion. Thanks for all you did. Mike Thomas - thanks for your contributions also. You picked a great place to live!

REUNION 2018: Now that Reunion 2017 is over, we can finally talk about next year in more than passing comments and whispers. The 30th Field Artillery Regiment will turn 100 years old next year and the Association's Board and the active duty component are planning a huge 100th birthday celebration during our reunion at Fort Sill. We cannot give our Regiment the type of celebration it deserves without each and every one attending. No matter when you served, where you served, or in what capacity you served with the 30th, you are a part of its history. Plan now to join us next year in honoring our Regiment's milestone.

Speaking of next year's reunion, there are some of you that I need to have a little talk with. Over our many reunions, some of you have become distressed over something that one or more of us has said or has done. It has upset some of you so much that you have been boycotting anything to do with the Association, including not attending the reunions. If any of this applies to you, it is time, with your Regiment turning 100 next year, to put the past in the past and come and embrace and support the Association and the Regiment. If that means you have to talk to another Association member to make peace, then contact that other member and work it out. Our lives are way too short to let things like this go on and on. I look to welcome you all back at Fort Sill.

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

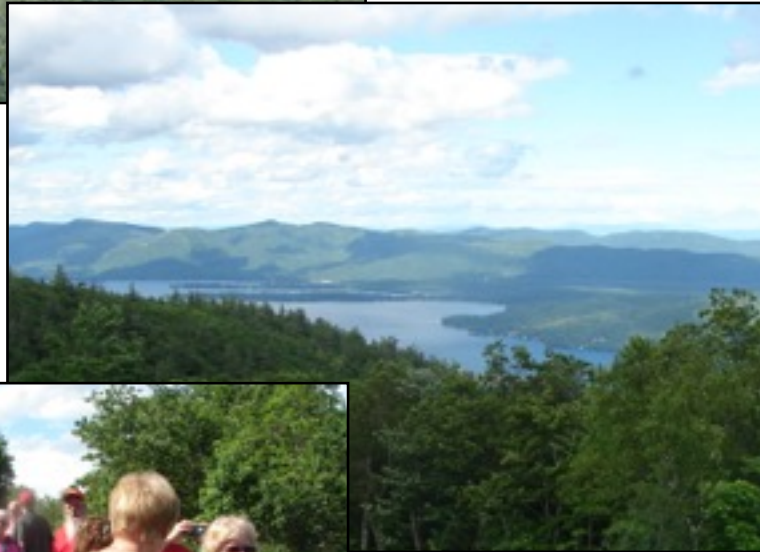
Charles "Comma" Causey OUT!

The dates for the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of the Regiment, our 25th Annual Reunion, will be announced when the date of the Change of Command Ceremony is known. In all probability it will be in June 2018.



Reunion 2017

Views of Lake George and the Bus Tour



5435 Cedar Valley Drive

Loveland, CO 80537

Next Issue - October 2017

Deadline for submissions - September 25, 2017

jdynes5@comcast.net or address above