



THE HARD CHARGER

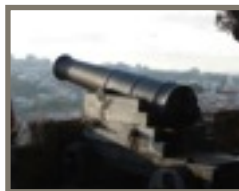
COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - OCTOBER 2017

Greetings, HARD CHARGERS! I am still not sure where the summer went. It seems like just yesterday that we were in New York enjoying each other's company during the 24th reunion. Now cooler weather is here, the football season is in full swing, and the baseball playoffs are starting. I enjoy getting lost in sports to try to avoid the many tragedies that are on-going in our world. My church has sent volunteers to assist some of the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Houston. Many are still recovering from the natural disasters of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria; earthquakes in Mexico; and wildfires in the Northwest. These are in addition to the manmade confrontations such as the shooting in Las Vegas and the stare-down with North Korea. May the Lord watch over our nation and all of us.

I mentioned in an earlier newsletter that I believe that the real reason that I was selected as your President was to give some added local emphasis to the preparations for the 100th Anniversary of the 30th Field Artillery in 2018. Well, it's time to start planning for the celebration next year here at Fort Sill. The Association Board, the 1-30th local leadership, the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment (COL (ret) Frank Siltman), and others are planning to make the 2018 reunion our best yet. Several field artillery units and the 82nd Airborne Division just conducted their respective 100th anniversary/alumni reunions this year and we will consider adding some of their ideas. I talked to several Hard Chargers who would like to see more of the training that the FA officers and soldiers are now receiving. If you have any other ideas, please let us know and we will see if we can make it happen.

A small group of seven Association members (LTC Egan, CSM Reginald Adkinson, MAJ Jay

DON'T FORGET TO



CHECK THE WEB SITE

www.hardchargers.com

Johnson, HWO Jon Fizzell, HCOL Frank Siltman, Dan Mitchell, and myself) got together on 18 Sep 17. We talked about dates and special events for the 100th Anniversary. The battalion has requested that the change of command ceremony take place on 15 JUN 2018. DA still has not finalized/approved the dates as yet, but LTC Egan has said to go ahead with that date and he or the next battalion commander will honor it and help us execute our reunion. Given the dates of 12 -16 JUN 2018, Dan Mitchell and I have been looking at several hotels over the past three weeks as reunion hosts, and we will be bringing our findings to the board for a final decision. We have also looked at three different venues for our annual banquet and the world famous auction. There should be a decision made in the next few weeks and we will start working closely with the hotel and local leadership.

Thanks for all you do!

HARD CHARGERS!

Ted Janosko

Reunion Planning So Far

PROBABLE DATES 12 to 16 June 2018

Hotel Host To be finalized and contracted for (off post)

Change of Command Ceremony 15 June (probable)

Banquet and Auction 15 June

Business Meeting and Memorial Service TBD

Activities (possible) live fire, visit to Franks Museum, others



Back in the days when a
cannoneer had to physically
light the fuze - Fort
Ticonderoga demo, 2017
reunion



Planned ceremonies at the 100th Anniversary reunion next year will include a number of presentations and additions to the Regimental room, most of which will in some way commemorate our unit's origins and its early history.

Pictured at left is a representation of an infantry man of the "Great War" with a dedication to our Regiment, one of the donations from the membership that will be added to the Fort Sill collection.

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

OUR REGIMENT'S DEADLIEST ENEMY

When we gather at Fort Sill next summer, we will as we have always done commemorate the loss of our fallen comrades during the Memorial Service. However, it should be noted that in the 100 year history of the Regiment, over one-third of the deaths suffered by our unit over that entire period came in the first year of its existence, not on the battlefield, but as a result of the influenza epidemic, popularly called the "Spanish Flu."

The influenza pandemic of 1918/1919 killed more people than any other disease in such a brief period of time since the medieval rampage of the "Black Death." More were killed by the affliction than died in the First World War itself. It is estimated that 50 to 100 million persons world-wide perished, with 675,000 in the U.S. alone. That was 2 to 3% of the human population of the globe at that time.

The name "Spanish Flu" was a misnomer. Because of wartime restrictions and censorship, the warring nations did not publish information or data about the spread of the flu, due to fears that such information would damage public morale and hurt the war effort. Spain, being neutral, had no such censorship and regularly published the news about the progress of the disease in that country, including the fact that their king was a victim. Therefore, most of the rest of the world came to know of the flu through the actions of the Spanish newspapers and the name "Spanish Flu" stuck.

If not in Spain, where did the flu originate? The first formally acknowledged case was reported March 4, 1918, at Camp Funston, Kansas. Although we will never know as his name has been lost to history, it may have been one of our own 30th Artillery soldiers. Camp Funston was then home to over 56,000 men, crowded close together, living in conditions conducive to the spread of diseases such as typhoid, typhus and cholera as well as the flu. This last however was far worse than any of the others, although it is true that American military deaths in previous wars from the first three (and smallpox) often equalled or exceeded battlefield losses.

A particularly unusual affect of the Spanish Flu was that unlike most flu viruses, it was most deadly in young adults aged 20 to 40, while the very young and the elderly, normally the most common victims of the flu, fared better.

The flu proceeded in three waves - an early spring wave, the mildest of the three, and then

two additional more virulent attacks in mid-fall and in the winter. In October 1918, over 200,000 persons died in the U.S. alone - about one third of the country's total toll for the epidemic. The regiment lost 30 men to the disease. Since that time, our battlefield losses have totaled 51. It was not until the battles of 1969 that events in Vietnam cost us more lives.

The Spanish flu continued to mutate, fortunately to a less severe version in 1920, and it has never again appeared in as terrible a form since. However, versions featuring the same H1N1 variant have come back, most recently in 2009 as the "Swine Flu." It has become clear that had such medications been available in 1918 that modern anti-influenza drugs would have been effective in controlling the outbreak. Better medical communication, more exposure to vaccines and a number of other conditions have made it unlikely that any such pandemic of the flu virus will ever occur again. Nevertheless, our everyday, garden-variety flu kills 36,000 Americans every year, so the message is clear:

GET YOUR FLU SHOT!!

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

The story of Gary Sawall and Wilson Jefferson in the last issue was a wonderful case for putting reunion attendance on your "must do" list. As a part of his memoir, Gary also included a short description of a forgotten part of the 30th's service in Vietnam - the original sea voyage from California to Qui Nhon. The following is his recollection as written by his wife, Marcella.

When Gary got his orders to go to Vietnam, he boarded a WW2 troop ship, the SULTAN. The men bunked three high with 18 inches between layers. After leaving San Francisco and going under the Golden Gate Bridge, the ship passed Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary (now a historical landmark.) When the sea was stormy, the men were not allowed on deck. Weather permitting, they watched WW2 flicks on the upper deck. To be sure, there were a lot of safety drills.

It took about 22 days on the high seas to reach the destination. Most everyone got seasick. In an unforgettable memory, the men were assigned paper brown bags to catch their vomit. Puke filtered through the bag and down through the metal grating between decks. The sergeants told the troops to eat something every day so they wouldn't get the dry heaves.

Tables in the ship's mess hall had a 1 1/2" ridge to keep the trays from dumping off the edge. However, that did not keep them from sliding from one end of the table to the other. Imagine what was on the tray by the time it returned.

When the SULTAN neared the unimproved shores of Vietnam, the Mike Boats drew closer to transport the troops to the shore. It was necessary to climb down rope ladders to descend into the smaller boat. As the Mike Boat came into about five feet of water, the front end of the boat was lowered and with their rifles and gear, the men walked to shore. It was a fearful experience on many levels.

YOUR QUARTERMASTER'S TWO BITS

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND REUNION 2018. OUR REGIMENT'S 100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

I am writing this on 25 September 2017. It's just another day for most of us, but not so for Monica and me. Monica was born at Fort Bragg, NC, on this date sixty-five years ago. To celebrate, I am taking her on a short vacation to the mountains of eastern Tennessee and North Carolina.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND REUNION 2018. OUR REGIMENT'S 100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

Talking about the Smoky Mountains of Eastern Tennessee and adding our reunion to it, I have always wanted to plan one of our reunions in beautiful Gatlinburg, TN. However, there was always the problem of the Tennessee heat in June and July, the fact that the area is overcrowded and overbooked in spring and fall, and there is a lot of walking required for one to really enjoy the area. Added to these challenges is the fact that the region suffered a major forest fire last year. While the commercials say that "Gatlinburg is open for the tourist," it will be years before they recover. The two hotels that I had made contact with on line are still in the process of being rebuilt as I type this.

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It is time for Monica and me to start loading the car. I will write more from Cherokee, NC.

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If you want to bring a reunion to your home state, and you are willing and able to put out the effort it takes to set up and host a reunion, bring a good presentation to Fort Sill and show us why we should take you up on your offer. If not, show up and vote so you can have a say in where we go.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND REUNION 2018. OUR REGIMENT'S 100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

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

Charles "Comma" Causey OUT!

PS: PLAN NOW TO ATTEND REUNION 2018. OUR REGIMENT'S 100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

As a follow-up to Comma's comments, I can relate my own experience, catching up with former compatriots Joe Fleming and Joe Dworniczak, both of whom were part of the 30th in the earliest days in Vietnam. And although I have not shared a reunion with them, I now have contact with other 1964-66 members of the unit. Through reunion activity, I shared a great afternoon with the late Charles Wigner, who was my CO for part of my first Vietnam tour. Renewing these friendships after years of no contact would have been unlikely without the Annual Reunions. And these re-established contacts are only part of the reunion advantage. The others are the wonderful new friendships and interactions that have resulted with Regimental members, both past and present, that I would otherwise have never experienced, and which have been so important and enjoyable to me in the decade and a half that I have been an active participant. I urge you to heed Comma's call and be an attendee at Fort Sill next June - you will be the richer for it!

The Editor



5435 Cedar Valley Drive

Loveland, CO 80537

Next Issue - January 2018

Deadline for submissions - January 5, 2018

jdynes5@comcast.net or address above