

8th US Cavalry Regiment Association



THE TROOPER



Issue 1 (ws)

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Oct – Dec 2007

WELCOME

to the first quarterly addition of THE TROOPER. The Board of Directors has authorized a 1 year trial period for publishing an informal quarterly newsletter type publication. At the end of the trial period, the Directors will determine whether consideration will be given to continuing its publication.

Projected dates for publication: Issue 1-October 2007; Issue 2 – January 2008 Issue 3 – April 2008; and Issue 4 – July – 2008.

The purpose of The Trooper is to present to the membership articles of association and military interest and to act as an interactive forum to express interests and concerns of the membership. Letters in “good taste” addressed to the Editor from the membership concerning an appropriate subject will be published within space limitations. All inquires will receive a written response either by e-mail or USPS as appropriate from the type of communication received.

I’ve been asked if memorabilia, mementos or photos can be sent to the Editor for consideration for inclusion in The Trooper. Sure, no problem. After inclusion in The Trooper, the item/s will be returned to the originator. And should it be their desire that the item/s be placed in the historical records of the association, I will forward them to the association historian.

Assistance in this endeavor is requested so if any of you have an interest in assisting with this publication, please let me know.

This publication is for you so please “Keep Those Cards and Letters Coming”

Honor and Courage

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Editor

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P.S. Let me be the first to wish you all a “MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!!! “ and “A HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!!! “



**57th ANNUAL REUNION
THE VILLAGES, FLORIDA
2 - 5 MAY 2007**

Our association's 57th annual reunion was held at The Villages, Florida, 2 through 5 May 2007. Hosts for this year's reunion were Trooper William F. Krivda and his wife Pauline.

Trooper Krivda and his wife Pauline did an excellent job of organizing the reunion, all the way from the Welcome Desk at the local Holiday Inn on Wednesday the 2nd to the ending farewell's on the morning of Sunday, the 6th. And there certainly was no shortage of food throughout the reunion considering breakfast each of four mornings in the gathering room of the Holiday Inn, more than anyone could handle at a block party, and of course the Banquet on Saturday. The reunion was definitely not a place for "weight watchers"!!

The highlight of Wednesday was the installation of a memorial to Chaplain Father Emil J. Kapaun. Father Kapaun was a Chaplain with our 8th Regiment during the Korean War. During the battle of Unsan (November 1950), a number of wounded was forced to be left alone when our third Battalion was destroyed. Chaplain Kapaun stayed behind with them, was subsequently captured and later died in a North Korean prison camp. The memorial is in the form of a polished, inscribed, stone block base and 30 foot flag pole, erected on Bill Krivda's front lawn. A photo of the monument can be seen at <http://www.8cavalry.org/2007/2007pg3.htm> .

The following day a ceremony was conducted for the dedication of the Chaplain Kapaun monument, followed by a large Block Party held in honor of the visiting Troopers and their Ladies. Again, more food and drink was on hand that could be accommodated, furnished by the good neighbors of the Village of Cortez. Sounds of Scotland Piper filled the air throughout the day and a great time was had by the entire neighborhood family while they honored our Troopers. Evening time found everyone back at the Town Square for fun, enjoyment and dancing!!

After a hardy breakfast the next day (Friday), a bus from the Austin Carriage Museum arrived to take the group to the Austin Equestrian Park. The bus continued on tour by driving over the 400 acre park. A Park Museum tour guide proceeded to educate the group on buggy transportation from early times both in America and Europe. A special lunch was served the group at noon time after which a tour of the Barns and Stables and a lesson in horsemanship was given. Everyone enjoyed watching the all female trainers perform grooming. After the especially enjoyable tour, the group relaxed and rested up at the hotel. The evening found everyone wanting to go out on their own.

Saturday found the reunion group at The Veterans Memorial Park. Colors were posted by the Veterans of the Korean War Post 168 and All Airborne of North Florida. The VFW Honor Guard, Post 8083 was posted, and after our National Anthem was sung the Pledge of Allegiance was given by all. The Invocation was given by Reverend Father Gerard Cunningham.

After a welcome and thanks was given by President Karl Sharples, Host and Vice President William Krivda introduced the guest speaker, Major General Paul Brown, USAF, Ret. General Brown's speech was about Harmony between Government and the Military institution. After the playing of Taps, Father Cunningham gave the Benediction and the proceedings were closed by Trooper Krivda. The group then toured The Villages by Village Trolley.

That evening the Banquet was held in the Village at the Cattle Baron Club. The banquet was a great event, memories were shared and plans for next year's reunion were discussed. Several toasts were made, and an 8th Cavalry cake was served. The long and busy day called for a lot of rest and relaxation at the Hospitality Room that evening!

Sunday morning called for another hardy breakfast, handshakes and hugs as the 2007 Reunion came to an end. With fond remembrances the group fanned out. All attendees will certainly remember this wonderful reunion of Troopers, and revival of the days of yesteryear.

Troopers and their Ladies Attending:

Joe and Sandra Garrity
Billy Hayden
Brad Hughes and Chris Hamilton
William and Pauline Krivda
Joe and Reba Marks
Bob and Tina McMurtrie
Joe and Millie Sayer
Karl and Marge Sharples
Floyd and Judith Spice

Photographs of the reunion can be viewed on our website at <http://www.8cavalry.org/reunion7.htm> .

TROOP SUPPORT PROGRAM
(TSP)
2006 – 2007

The TSP is a highly successful program administered by the Chairperson of the TSP Committee Secretary Marge Sharples; member Bill Krivda; and member Carl Moreland.

The association has received monetary donations in the amount of \$4,160.00. The money was used to purchase international telephone calling cards which were distributed to our troopers in Iraq through established Point Of Contacts (POCs) located in-theater. Approximately 753 calling cards were purchased. Each calling card had a limit of 120 minutes. This would provide for possibly 3 or 4 calls or as desired by the trooper.

The calling cards were dispatched to the POCs in two increments: the first one in December 2006 before Christmas; the second, in March 2007 before Easter.

Not only has the TSP program been heartily supported by members of our association, but contributions have also been received from troopers who read about the program in the Saber. Residents of The Villages, Florida, domicile of Bill Krivda, made a contribution of \$365.00. Also contributing to the program was the Somerton Middle School located in Somerton, Arizona. The fund drive at Somerton Middle School was administered by teacher Martin Havran (HHC 2-8 Cav 1969-1970). The amount collected and transmitted to the association was \$210.99 plus a \$25.00 calling card for a total contribution of \$225.99.

Currently there is \$729.00 in the TSP account and more contributions are being received on a seemingly weekly basis.

The association is grateful to all of you who have and continue to support this worth while program. Thank you all !!

Honor and Courage

Mail Call !!!!!!!

Mertz, Elmer J. (A Co) 10 Jul 07

Hi Carl, Elmer J. Mertz (Jim) checking in to update email. Once I learn how to use my scanner, I have some pictures of troops on a boat going to Japan in 1948, pictures of A Troop on maneuvers on Mt Fuji, all pre Korea, and a few in Korea. Hopefully some can be identified.

Jim

Editor's Note: Thanks for your email address update. Without updates, we can't keep the membership informed to the fullest. I'm looking forward to receiving the pictures. If you need any help concerning use of your scanner, let me know and I'm sure we can find someone to give you some help.

Davis, Ray (D Co) 2 Aug 07

I have a list of common shortcuts that I keep nearby on a mouse pad. Here are some of the ones I use the most:

For the Degrees symbol: ALT + 0176 = °

For the Cross symbol: ALT + 0134 = †

For the Trade Mark symbol: ALT + 0153 = ™

For the Copyright symbol: ALT + 0169 = ©

For the 1/4 symbol: ALT + 0188 = ¼

For the ... symbol: ALT + 0133 = ...

For the cents symbol: ALT + 0162 = ¢

For the Registered symbol: ALT + 0174 = ®

For the 1/2 symbol: ALT + 0189 = ½

For the 3/4 symbol: ALT + 0190 = ¾

Editor's Note: Thanks Ray, that's some good info. Being ignorant of the above, I gave your shortcut info a try and immediately ran into difficulties - could not get the shortcuts to work. After about 10 minutes of trial and error, I used the Numbers Keys on the right side of the keyboard and the shortcuts worked perfectly.

Feszchak, Walter (D and Hq&Hq Co 1st Bde) 17 Aug 07

Need contacts for my research to complete my data by 2009.

Editor's Note: Walter served in the "Spoonbill" area of operations, South Korea, during the time frame of 1961 – 1962 while serving with both Co D and HQ&HQ Co, 1st Bde. He is seeking information that will help him substantiate a claim for award of VA disability compensation. If any of you served in South Korea during the above mentioned time frames, please contact Walter at the earliest at:

Walter Feszchak
PO Box 124
Cupertino, CA 95015

Telephone: 408.236.3748
Email: linuxpwrcom@yahoo.com

Blair, J. B. (G Co) 9 Aug 07

Hi Troopers. As I am pushing ninety and still above ground HA, I want to say thank you soldiers and combat brothers for keeping in touch with me all these years. This has meant a lot to me. I think of many of you and what we went through together quite often.

Thank you for the telephone calls, the many letters and the many pictures sent to me. I have two large albums of company pictures taken in Tokyo and Korea. Individuals pictures, combat pictures and areas we fought in. All sent to me by my combat brothers. Thank you. I also have a few pictures taken at Fort Bliss in El Paso sent to me by James Smith's brother. James was killed in the Philippines.

I want to give special thanks to Capt. Jack Burrer, Whitey (Elmer Reese), Charles Freeman, Bob Wixon, Marion Skains, Joe Christopher, Manuel Aldies, Harvey Montoya and their dear wives who stopped by to visit with Ruth and I. (Hope I didn't miss anyone). In closing I want to say thank you again and God Bless you.

Your old 1st SGT. G. Co.

J.B.Blair

909 Toby Ln, Conroe, TX 77301

Editor's Comment: And we thank you 1st Sergeant for your leadership to the G Co troopers. I served in the 3d platoon, Nov 50 – Nov 51, under Platoon Sergeants Tuck, Cross, and Sicka. - Probably a couple more also.

Yunkers, John G. (H Troop) 1 Mar 2007

Thank you for your note of January 31, 2007. I have been a member since around 1950. the 8th Regiment, and came to a lot of the reunions. A long list from my troop and a lot of others from different states are all gone. The ones left, Margaret, Karl, Bruce Davis and Robert Funkhouser. Very few joined the 1st Cav Assn from my troop. I lost my address book years ago but I am in contact with a few. I am retired going on 29 years. I was 91 in July and 2 doctors at the VA say I may hit 100! Got the Bronze Star a few years back, in 1990. The Philippine Liberation Medal in 1990. The Presidential Unit Citation from the Philippine Government for the run into Manila, the Flying Column, in about 2005. A book from the east coast about the Flying Column will be in that in the next year. The Kettle Moraine Chapter, 1st Cav Assn, in their history - will be in it. And in the book Of Cabins to Candor, the town I was born in, a writ up.

Editor's Comment: Another most welcomed letter from one of our troopers of the "Greatest Generation". I plan to be here with you John to celebrate your 100th.

Stites, Gary 14 Jun 07

I was in Vietnam in 66-67 in the 2/8 1st Cav. I was a radio operator. I am now in the process of opening a Mission in Cambodia in the Vietnamese area there. This mission will consist of a church, children's home, school for both children and adults, and a medical center with a hospital eventually added. There will be housing built for guest, as that will be part of our revenue to support the mission. The Vietnamese I will be helping are the ones and their families, that left Vietnam after we left for their safety. Their lives have not been very desirable. I would like to let other Cav members know about this task, I am undertaking, in case anyone is interested in helping or supporting this project. As a radio operator I was actually deployed part of my time there with a Vietnamese group by myself. I have always felt bad that we left. Now I have returned to help them. Are there other Vets with the same desires. Thank you in advance for your help and thoughts.

Sgt Gary Stites

garystites@aol.com

Editor's Comment: Thanks for the commo Gary. I will print your commo for the benefit of those who may have an interest in your project.

UNSAN November 1950

"Personalities rose and fell, the battles swelled and diminished, boys became men and men became memories..." Lt.David R.Hughes, 1st Cavalry Div.

It has been said by some that the battle at Unsan, North Korea in November, 1950 will go down in the annals of military history as being on par with the defeat of General Custer at the "Little Big Horn". I don't know about that but I do know that it was not the most successful engagement in warfare by the 8th United States Cavalry. The history of this battle is contained in the official military history of the United States Army In The Korean War - South To The Naktong, North To The Yalu (June-November 1950) by Roy E. Appleman. The Battle at Unsan is primarily found in chapter XXXIV (34). This history may be viewed on the internet at the following web site: www.army.mil/cmh-pg/BOOKS/KOREA/20-2-1/toc.htm Recollections of those who were there and participated in this engagement do not come easily nor are they pleasant to recall. But they in fact did happen and, in fact, need to be further related for whatever gain the receiver may glean from them.

RECOLLECTIONS OF UNSAN, KOREA, 1950

Goss, Tom (I Co)

I was the Unit Administrator (sometime platoon leader) for "I" Co, 8th Cav. during 1950 and half of '51. I know many of the men and officers of the other companies of the Bn., a great many that were KIA or MIA and POW from the Unsan debacle. I (by chance) have a copy of the MR for I Co, 30 Oct 1950. It shows we had 169 EM and 10 Off (which includes me -- I was a WO). After the Unsan debacle we had only about 13 total. The figure kept changing. Stragglers, that's not the right word - Escapees would be more appropriate. I also have a beat up 3"x 5" note book which I carried while I was there listing WIA's, KIA's, MIA's etc. on a daily basis up until Unsan. I was with the Bn. back in Fort Devens (7th regt, 3d Div) when we were alerted and shipped to Korea where we became 3rd Bn, 8th Cav. Lt Col. Harold K. Johnson was Bn Comdr (Later he commanded the 5th Cav Regt. and still later he became Chief of Staff, US Army.

Simon, Bernard (G Co)

My unit, G Company, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division had been uneasy, unhappy and uncomfortable since we crossed the 38th parallel. I was slightly wounded in a skirmish soon after entering North Korea. The only moment of the war I enjoyed was the Bob Hope show. Being very short I had to jump up and down to catch a glimpse of him. I was one of the many thousands of men immensely relieved to find the war almost over. We were told that we were going home. However, the war took a different turn.

On the evening of November 1, 1950, another Company reported itself in trouble and under attack by unidentified troops. The South Koreans could not identify the language and assumed they were Chinese. As the darkness closed in, my unit was fired upon. We heard firing, bugles, and shouting. We were ambushed, almost annihilated, and there was mass hysteria among us. Absolute chaos and no discipline. It was every man for himself.

The Chinese were shouting everywhere. I didn't know which way to go. In the end, I just ran with the crowd. We just ran and ran until the bugles grew fainter. I found myself among 35 frightened soldiers not knowing which direction to go as no one had a compass. The officers showed no leadership to the men.

We were all running in a rice paddy heading what we thought was South. Suddenly we were fired upon from all directions. Most of the men were heading directly toward the firing shouting "don't shoot, we're Americans". Most of them were shot and I kept running.

Ducking into a village for safety, I met three soldiers. One was a South Korean. He was very helpful during this perilous time, especially since he spoke the Korean Language. The four of us walked for 14 days. We waved our yellow scarves desperately but vainly to observation planes. Once in a village we got rice and potatoes at gun point from a papa-san. For a time we stayed at a house of a frightened civilian. He eventually drove us out warning us of communists in the area. At one point we came dangerously close to being captured.

On the 14th day nearing physical collapse and at the point of surrender, I thought I noticed a tank bearing a "red carpet" identification panel. As we walked further a London newspaper was found on the ground, also British ration packs. Finally, we saw a tracked vehicle moving. Our spirits were lifted. As we stood on the road hoping for another vehicle to appear, we decided to surrender if it was the enemy. Fortunately, the next vehicle that came was from the British 27th Brigade. Needless to say we were highly relieved and thankful.

After being interviewed by British and American intelligence I was sent to a rear area medical facility for observation and treatment. Subsequently, I was returned to the front lines.

On January 26, 1951, while G Company was attempting to take a hill, I was badly wounded in my right arm. After four operations in Korea, Japan, and the United States, I do not have full use of my hand. I received the Purple Heart.

In Memoriam

NAME	UNIT	YR/MO	HOME	DECEASED	SPOUSE
Christensen, John "Jack" S	Co. H and G	5000	Ada, Ok	16 Apr 07	Pat
Bates Jr., Hebert M	Co. A	5010	Mount Juliet, TN	26 May 07	Betty
Overhiser, SR., Robert M	Med Co.	4210	Holland, MI	14 Jun 07	Marian
Doyel Sr., Walter J.	Svc Co.	5002	Porterville, CA	11 Aug 07	Norma

Membership Recap

Year Joined	No	Died	With-Drew	Current Total
2001	123	30	7	86
2002	39	6	2	31
2003	35	3	1	31
2004	27	1	1	25
2005	20			20
2006	10			10
2007	47			47
	301	40	11	250

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The 58th annual reunion, Branson, Mo, 15 – 18 May 2008 is just a few months away. It's never too early to start making your plans. **ALL** offices are up for reelection. The association needs your help. The ranks of "The Greatest Generation" and the Korean War era troopers are growing thinner each year. Younger troopers are needed to "carry the torch". Please send your nomination/s for an elected office at the soonest to: Secretary, 8C Regt Assn, 738 Aspen Rd, White Haven, PA 18661. And yes, you can nominate yourself if you so desire.

Potpourri

“YOU, and only YOU – are responsible for your own Happiness.”

Promotion

A career military officer relates this story about a general staff meeting he attended many years ago. A young captain was present, his very first such meeting.

The general threw out a tactical problem seeking answers. The colonel, sitting on the general's right, leaned into the problem and answered it in detail. During this process, the young captain, at the foot of the gathering, kept shaking his head.

After the colonel had finished the general looked around and asked if anyone had anything to add. Somewhat brashly the captain spoke up, "I disagree completely with the colonel, sir."

"Don't you think it might be wise to defer to the judgment of the colonel, captain?"

Right back the captain said, "That is not the way you made general, sir."

The general looked at the captain for about ten seconds and finally said, "No, you are right, captain. But that sure as hell is how I made major."

