



THE TROOPER



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WELCOME

The first quarterly addition of THE TROOPER is now history. I am pleased to report that there were many communications received indicating “thank you” for initiating this newsletter project. Hopefully, we will continue to be able to please. Projected publication dates for the remainder of this trial project are: Issue 3 - May 2008; and Issue 4 - August 2008.

Have you read any good books lately? I have, two. The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War by author David Halberstam. If you are a student of the Korean War, *this is a must read*. There are several chapters addressing our regiment. The other book is At Mama-san House by author Job “Joe” Christopher. To obtain a copy, you may go to www.amazon.com or: call Job at 1-520-885-0673; write Job Christopher, 210 Citadel, Tucson, AZ 85748 and for \$24.00 (includes postage) Job will send you an autographed copy.

You forgot, didn't you? Valentines Day is just a few days away. You have time yet to make sure that the roses are ordered and that the dinner reservation is made. **Do it today** lest you want McDonalds to replace your “Chief Cook” for the next few weeks. I know!!! Been there – done that. (Not pleasant).

We have received several inquires from relatives of former Troopers of the 8th Cav seeking information concerning the service of their loved one. We are not currently staffed to research the requests. If you would like to volunteer to take on this task, please let me know. There is much personal satisfaction to be gained in helping others.

Honor and Courage

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58th ANNUAL REUNION
Branson, Missouri
15-18 MAY 2008

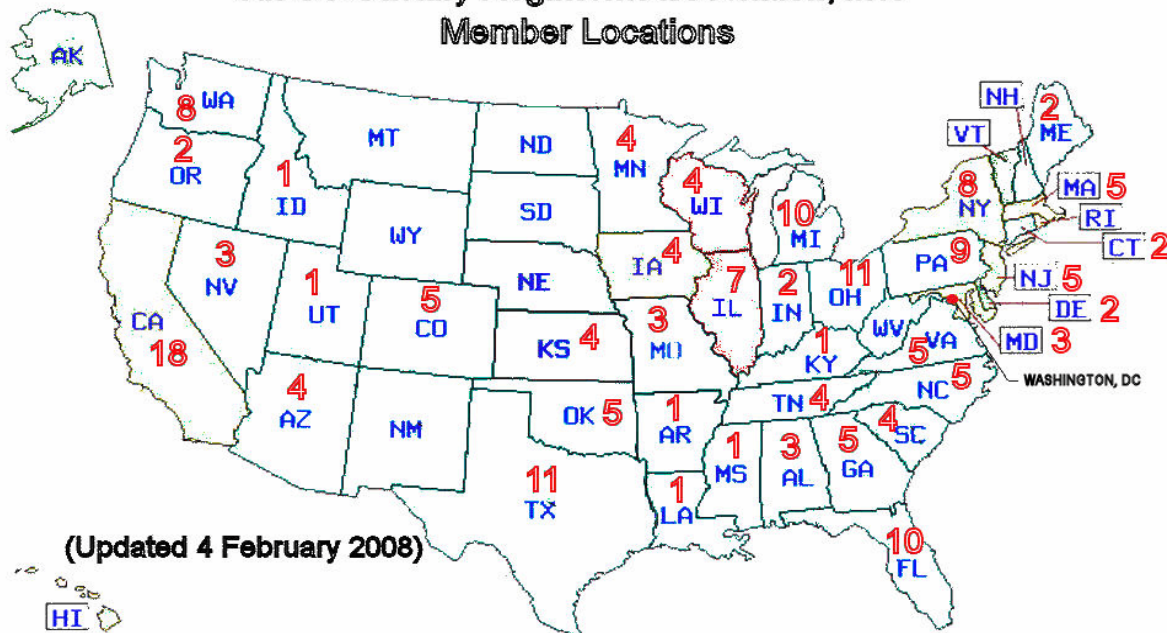
The association's 58th annual reunion will be held at the Branson Towers Hotel, Branson, Missouri 15-18 May 2008. Hosts for this year's reunion are President Karl Sharples and Secretary Margaret Sharples. All of you should have received the brochure and registration form by now. If you haven't, please contact me and I'll send them to you.

All offices of the association will expire at the reunion and a new slate of officers will need to be elected and appointments made. Please notify President Sharples of the office or appointment in which you prefer to serve.

Another important item that we must decide is where to hold our next even numbered year (2010) reunion. Maximum attendance is thought to be best achieved if the selected reunion location is centered more closely in the area of the greater concentration of the living area of the membership. So, that begs the question...

WHERE ARE WE?

8th US Cavalry Regiment Association, Inc.
Member Locations



If you have never hosted the association reunion before, please consider doing so. It really is not difficult and you'll really enjoy the experience. The major chore is to select the hotel/motel and then *negotiate* for a good and reasonable priced room rate and banquet meal. Your local Chamber of Commerce will also assist in your planning and will make and provide name tags and other odds and ends i.e., pencils, pens, maps and sometimes discount ticket to local events. The motel usually "comps" (for free) a room next to the hospitality room where the distaff can get out of the line of fire for some rest and repose when the brass really gets to zingin'. If you're a good negotiator and firm in your commitment, total individual reunion expense to the attendees can be held to a minimum. To volunteer, please submit your name and desired location to President Sharples.

Mail Call !!!!!!!

Job “Joe” Christopher (F Co.) 1 Oct 07

I'm delighted to read your first edition of The Trooper. I know it will go far, and you will have some fun with it. “Joe”

Jack Burrer (G Co.) 3 Oct 07

Great job with the first issue. Jack

Alan Doctor (HHC & B Co.) 3 Oct 07

I looked at and bookmarked the site. Well done. Thank you. Alan

Tom O'Donnell (Co D) 9 Dec 07

Hi!! Tom & I don't make the reunions any more as he has Alzheimer's. He doesn't talk anymore or do anything for himself.

Miss you folks. “Fifi” O'Donnell

Editors Note: We are extremely saddened to learn of Tom's medical condition. Many of the “older timers” of the association will remember when Tom and “Fifi” hosted our 41st reunion in 1991 at Fayetteville, NC. In addition to the hospitality room, Tom invited everyone to his home for a pig roast and what a wonderful time we had there. There were 74 members (not counting wives/girlfriends) in attendance at the 41st reunion – I estimated about 140 in total. Also, Tom was one of the prime movers in obtaining the regimental battle streamers. Let us all let Tom know that we still remember him and his service to the association. Tom's address:

Tom O'Donnell, 7224 Ainsley St, Fayetteville, NC, 28314

Dr. John C. McManus, Ph.D.

Dear Sir, I am an author and military history professor who is researching a new book called "Grunts: The American Infantry Combat Experience, World War II through the Present" (NAL/Penguin 2009). One of the book's chapters will cover Operation Masher/Whitewing, 1966. I am looking for first hand accounts (letters, diaries, memoirs, interviews) from any 8th Cavalry Regiment vets of these battles. Would you perhaps be able to publish this notice in the next newsletter or in some other association forum? I would be grateful for any assistance you, or anyone else in the association, could provide. Thank you for your service in this fine regiment. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dr. John C. McManus, Ph.D.

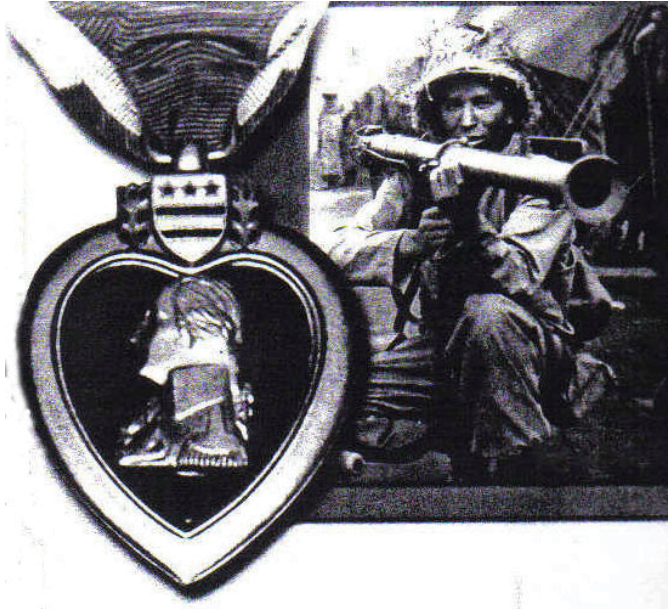
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www.johncmcmanus.com

Editors Note: OK, all you Vietnam Vet Troopers, rack your brain and give “Doc” Manus your input.

Unforgettable Trooper

(Bazooka Operator)



By order of the President of the United States, the Purple Heart established by George Washington at Newburgh, NY, August 7, 1782, during the War of the Revolution, is hereby revived out of respect to his memory and military achievements.

Sergeant Aurelio Salas

United States Army
Baker Company, 8th Cavalry
Regiment,
1st Cavalry Division
Naktong River, Korea

The First Cavalry Division was ordered into the Korean War on July 17, 1950. We made an amphibious landing at a place called P'ohang-dong. The landing at P'ohang-dong took place over a period of several days, July 17-19. It was an unopposed landing. The main enemy forces were to the North of us and were taking a pounding from the air and sea. The 8th Cavalry Regiment moved north to relieve the 21st Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division. We arrived on July 22nd to relieve them; we used the same foxholes and exchanged weapons. We had a 2.36 bazooka launcher and they gave us a 3.5 bazooka they had with two rockets.

The next day, at the break of dawn, we saw two tanks coming toward us. The big one was a T34 Russian tank protected on all sides by many infantrymen. It so happened that a South Korean fighter plane came by and knocked out the small tank. The big tank started firing in our direction, and it got pretty hot then. My assistant Bazooka Launcher Marvin Meanus, 1st Cavalry Division, loaded the bazooka and we fired 300 yards; it was way too short. We reloaded and this time we agreed to fire at 550 yards. I hit the Russian tank knocking it out. It was the first enemy tank knocked out by the 8th Cavalry Regiment and the First Cavalry Division in the Korean War.

We were baptized into the Korean War that day. There was lots of heavy fighting for the next two days, and finally we were asked to pull back. We were still fighting because they were all over us, but it was not a retreat. We called it advancing to the rear, as we were fighting while at the same time, moving back towards the rear. My assistant and I were called to the front of the column to see if we could help knock out a machine gun nest that

had us pinned down. We went to the front to see if it was possible. We moved forward and could see the machine gun nest was approximately 100 yards away. We destroyed that nest with the first round. We lost a few friends in that battle. By this time we were hungry, having had no food for three days. When we got food, I washed my hands in my steel helmet and forgot to clean it. They served our meals in the helmets and I got a serious case of diarrhea. Somebody gave me a piece of candy to eat and that helped me somewhat.

We also had to carry some of our friends that were hurting pretty bad. All of us were sick, hungry, and sleepy when we arrived at our destination. We could see our enemy friends across the river, they were hungry too.

Our destination and goal was to help set up the Pusan Perimeter overlooking the Naktong River where lots of fighting was going on all the time. The Pusan Perimeter was the area in extreme Southeast Korea that was held by U.S. and South Korean troops during the furthest advance of the North Korean troops in the summer and fall of 1950. It extended along 140 miles and was named after the coastal city of Pusan which served primarily as an airhead for re-supply and reinforcement. Much of its length coincided with the course of the Naktong River. The month of September got pretty hot. When we were moving and fighting around the walled city next to the city of Taegu. On Sept. 20th, I got hit on my left ankle. I kept moving forward to keep up with my platoon but they kept telling me to go back; I kept moving forward with them. About twenty minutes later, I was hit again. This time they put me out of business (momentarily), and I was back with my buddies by late November 1950. They sent me home in the middle of May in 1951.

”The medic patched me up and reported the wound as a combat related injury and within time, I was presented the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat.”



Potpourri

How to get a quick assignment to Greenland

A young Lieutenant is working late at the Pentagon one evening. As he clocks out of his office at about 8 P.M. he sees the General standing by the classified document shredder in the hallway, a piece of paper in his hand. "Do you know how to work this thing?" the General asks. "My secretary's gone home and I don't know how to run it." "Yes, sir," says the young Lieutenant, who turns on the machine, takes the paper from the General, and feeds it in. "Thanks," says the General, "I just need one copy..."

Cannibals

Recently, a large corporation hired several cannibals to increase their diversity, "You are all part of our team now," said the Human Resources rep during the welcoming briefing. "You get all the usual benefits and you can go to the cafeteria for something to eat, but please don't eat any employees."

The cannibals promised they would not. Four weeks later their boss remarked, "You're all working very hard and I'm satisfied with your work. We have noticed a marked increase in the whole company's performance. However, one of our secretaries has disappeared. Do any of you know what happened to her?" The cannibals all shook their heads, "No."

After the boss had left, the leader of the cannibals said to the others, "Which one of you idiots ate the secretary?" A hand rose hesitantly. "You fool!" the leader continued. "For four weeks we've been eating managers and no one noticed anything. But, NOOOooo, you had to go and eat someone who actually does something."

Timeliness of reporting the passing of our Troopers to Fiddlers Green is dependent upon receiving timely notice from the spouse or next of kin. Notice is often times received from six months to a year or more after the fact. We will continue to make every effort to obtain the obituary information as quickly as we can.

In Memoriam

NAME	UNIT	YR/MO	HOME	DECEASE D	SPOUS E
Henning, George J.	HHC B K	4800	Clinton, IA	24 Feb 07	Colleen
Marks, Joseph W.	HHC	5007	Lady Lake, FL	4 Nov 07	Reba
Bryan, Billy	C Co.	4600	Sun City, AZ	31 Jul 06	Alcie
Crawford, William R.	C Co.	5101	Palmyra	30 Aug 07	Janice
Lundeen, Robert A.	G Co.	5100	Deer River, MN	2 Aug 05	Marilyn
Griffith, Raymond P.	H Co.	4812	Virginia Beach, VA	28 Jul 07	Adele
Cooper, Robert P.	B Co.	4300	Amirillo, TX	21 Sep 07	Janet
Herr, Leroy	K Co.	5109	Meridan, ID	27 Oct 07	Shirley

Membership Recap

Year	Joined	No	Died	With- Drew	Current Total
2001	123		33	7	83
2002	39		7	2	30
2003	35		5	1	29
2004	27		1	1	25
2005	20		1		19
2006	10				10
2007	50		1	1	48
2008	3				3
	307		48	12	247

**“If we are to become what we need to be
We can not remain what we are”**

