



Issue 1

1 March 2011

**61th 8th Cavalry Regiment Association Annual Reunion
Fort Benning, Georgia
18-22 May 2011**

Wednesday-18 May Sign in at registration desk. Receive your local information, bus and tour passes, banquet tickets, name tags and lanyards. Holiday Inn has restaurant, lounge, heated pool, exercise room and there is shopping nearby.

Thursday-19 May From 9am to 9pm, tour Columbus's tourist attractions and downtown area. The bus seats 57, has A/C, and runs continuously between the Holiday Inn and downtown. Bus schedules and stops will be provided so you may go and come when you wish.

Friday-20 May Bus to Ft Benning for a 5 to 6 hour adventure that will include live troop training, hands-on weapons training simulators and lunch with the troops. No POVs are allowed on the tour so you must purchase the tour pass on the pre-registration form.

Saturday-21 May Use your bus pass all morning and early afternoon to go to the National Infantry Museum, Ft Benning. Tour times will be posted and the bus will run continuous loop to the museum and back to the Holiday Inn until 3:00pm.

Saturday Evening-Beginning at 5:30pm, buses will transport everyone to the National Infantry Museum where we will have our banquet. Cash bars will be open for beverages and seating will begin at 6:15pm. Colors will be posted at 6:45pm, guest speaker 7-7:30pm, dinner 7:30pm-8:30pm. Coffee/cocktails 8:30-9:30pm. Bus rotation back to the Holiday 9-10pm.

Sunday-22 May Until next year - Have a safe trip home!!

Auf Weidersan, Sayonara, Tạm biệt, Ma'a Salama

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Reunion Update Information - 61st Annual Reunion-Ft Benning

Registration forms continue to be received on a daily basis. Response by our Vietnam era Troopers currently exceed those of our Fort Hood, WWII, Korean, Bosnia, and Gulf War era troopers (so far). But we're hoping to keep up. Presently there are **57** Troopers and **29** guests (**total 86**) registered. GREAT!! There is still plenty of time to submit your registration form for those of you who have been "flipping the proverbial coin". This reunion has the prospect of being the highest attended of all. Registration forms may be downloaded (obtained) from the following websites:

1) 8th Cavalry Regiment - www.8cavalry.org/2011RegForm.pdf

2) Angry Skipper - <http://www.angryskipper.org/reg2011.jpg>

Also, if you are without computer capabilities, call Editor Carl at **TP: 330.478.0620** and he'll dispatch a registration form to you immediately. And if you have the last issue of The Trooper, a registration form was contained therein.



Mail Call

Cards, letters, e and snail mail continues to arrive every now and then at the office of the editor and the secretary. I'll share with you some of what is received.

Steve Bosma, B Co, Korea, '54-'55

Carl, Can you put our mini-reunion in your excellent newsletter? You may wish to emphasize that this is not affiliated with the 8th Cav Regt Assn [8CRA]. Actually, some of our group are or were in the 8CRA. I continue as a member and Eugene Thorn also met with us. Sincerely Yours, Steve.

Editor Carl: Yep, we can do that. Information concerning Steve's mini-reunion is:

10th Infantry Division/8th Cavalry Regiment Association

September 9-11, 2011, Branson, Missouri

For veterans of Infantry training at Ft. Riley, Kansas November 30, 1953 - April 1954 and/or served at Camp Crawford and Camp Witting, Japan 1953-1956. Contact Alan Sanderson of Oelwein, Iowa at phone number 319-283-4043 or e-mail a.wsanderson@q.com. Also, Steve Bosma, San Jose, CA TP: 408-270-1319.



All four (4) served in 1st Bn, 8CR 1954-1955
LR: Steve Bosma, Jack Hackley, David Buening, Ken Matchell

(continuation Mail Call)

Edward A. Reed, HH Troop, 1st BN, '45-47

To: All 8th Cav Troopers,

I am wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! Honor and Courage
Ed

Editor Carl: Thanks Ed, I passed on your good tidings. While I got you on the horn, did being born on 23 December beat you out of birthday presents? :)

**Ina Funkhouser
(wife of "Bob" Funkhouser, B Troop, 1942)**

To: 1st Cav fellow members,

Bob was able to attend the last convention but since then he has had health problems. Had chemo for cancer three months and 12th of November had his bladder removed. I just brought him home from the hospital-nursing home January 7th. We are doing fair. Have lot to work out yet. Bob always enjoys his 8th Cavalry Regiment. Please keep it going boys. In my years of attending with Bob I have seen it help not only Bob but [also] many others. "The Fellowship".
Thank You. Ina Funkhouser.

Editor Carl: Thank you Ina for the update on Bob. We pray for Bob as we all endure the increased medical pains the deeper we journey into the "Golden Years". It is always good to hear testimony that attendance at our reunions greatly assists in management of old fears, old times, and undesirable circumstances. Much relief and understanding is obtained when conversing with those who have shared in the same. And, eventually, we come full circle to focusing more on the good times and the bad times slip off into never land.

Of Note: Bob was recognized at the 60th reunion at Canton, Ohio for having attended the most association reunions. He attended a total of 39 reunions.

Margaret Sharples—Associate Member

To: Carl, I had time to work on my situation. Your help did work. Thank you so much. I will print out your instructions and keep them handy for another time. Yesterday, I worked with our Veterans from the VFW. The Ladies Auxiliary made baskets for a Chinese auction to raise money for the VA Hospital and Nursing Home in Wilkes-Barre. We raised \$400.50 to buy items for the patients on September 12th. The hospital has a carnival every year. The ladies raise these funds for that carnival. We, the ladies also bought items for 25 patients that were invited to attend the outing we had. When that bus arrives with our men, we welcome them and thank them for their service. This was such an honor for me as President to give these men their gifts. I filled up with tears at the sight of these men being helped off the bus by volunteers. Most of them were in wheel chairs. Four were able to walk off. They were younger, probably Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans. Until later.

Editor Carl: Congratulations Marge on a job well done! Since leaving your former office of Secretary of our association, I have heard through the grapevine that you were now the President of the Ladies Auxiliary there at White Haven. There is no greater honor than serving and I'm sure you're enjoying the Auxiliary immensely.

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**Military Warning Labels**

"Aim towards the Enemy." - Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher

"Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you." - Your Buddies

"When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend." - U.S. Marine Corps

"If the enemy is in range, so are you." - Infantry Journal

"Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do." - Unknown Marine Recruit

"Tracers work both ways." - U.S. Army Ordnance

# Learning About Big Little Books

## What Are Big Little Books?



In 1932 the seemingly paradoxical term **Big Little Book®** was given to certain books published by the Whitman Publishing Company of Racine, Wisconsin. The term promised the buyer a great amount of reading material and pleasure (BIG) within a small and compact (LITTLE) book. These Whitman books set the standards for similar books, and Whitman's copyrighted description has become popularized in a generic way to umbrella similar books.

The various publishing companies that produced BLB-type books were: **Dell** (Cartoon Story Books® and Fast-Action Stories®); **Engel-van Wiseman** (Five-Star Library Books®); **Fawcett** (Dime Action Books®); **Goldsmith** (Radio Star Series®); **Lynn** (A Lynn Book®); Ottenheimer; **Saalfield** (Little Big Books® and Jumbo Books®); Waldman (Moby Books®); **Whitman** (Big Little Books® and Better Little Books®); **World Syndicate** (High Lights of History Series®). In addition, a few **premiums** and other peripherally related items include: Ice Cream Cup Lid Books; Top Ten Books; Wee Little Books; Penny Books; Nickle Books; Karmetz and Perkins Books; **Big Big Books®**; puzzles; cards; and so on.

The Whitman BLBs look much like a four-inch block sawed off the end of a two-by-four. Although there were numerous variations in outside dimensions and in number of pages, most were 3 5/8" x 4 1/2" x 1 1/2" in size and 432 pages in length. The outstanding feature of the books was the captioned picture opposite each page of text. The books originally sold for a dime (later 15¢). Many children learned to read and have an appreciation for all books because of their experiences with BLBs. The source material for the books was drawn mostly from radio, comic strips, and motion pictures.

The first BLB, *The Adventures of Dick Tracy*, came off the presses just before Christmas in 1932. It preceded the first true comic book by a year, and the subsequent BLB production spanned more than a half century. Within the span, there are historical patterns which clearly define three major periods of publication.

**The Golden Age** (1932 to mid-1938) is a description reserved for the most interesting, influential, and memorable production of the books. These were the true Big Little Books®. During this period, the effects of the depression were still being felt, and numerous publishers besides Whitman produced inexpensive BLB-type reading materials of great variety. In mid-1938 the two major companies, Whitman and Saalfield, made major changes in their trademarks (Whitman's Big Little Books® became Better Little Books® and Saalfield's Little Big Books® became Jumbo Books®).

**The Silver Age** (mid-1938 to 1949) produced a less innovative set of books. Their production was influenced by the growing comic book market and paper shortages during WWII. The number of competitive companies diminished. Only Whitman maintained a continuous output of books through the war years. It used the "flip-it" feature extensively to attract buyers, and as these years went by, the books gradually contained fewer and fewer pages. In 1949, the last Better Little Book®, *Little Orphan Annie and the Ancient Treasure of Am* (288 pages) was published.

**The Modern Age** (1950 to the present) is characterized by more than 40 years of sporadic and short-lived attempts to revive the books in different forms and with different content: New Better Little Books® (1949-50); BLB TV Series® (1958); the hard cover 2000-Series (1967-68); the soft cover 5700-Series (1973-present). During this period, Whitman became subsumed under the auspices of the Western Publishing Company

**Editors Note:** I thought our older "Greatest Generation" troopers might get a kick out of bringing back to memory **Big Little Books**. They first were printed the year I was born so they were pretty well worn about the time I learned to read. But I do recall looking at the pictures and making a little movie like by fanning the pages.

## A Soldier Story

A story is told about a soldier coming home after having fought in Vietnam. He called his Parents from San Francisco. "Mom and Dad, I'm coming home, but I've a favor to ask. I have a friend I'd like to bring home with me." "Sure," they replied, "we'd love to meet him." "There's something you should know the son continued, "he was hurt pretty badly in the fighting. He stepped on a land mine and lost an arm and a leg. He has no where else to go, and I want him to come live with us."

"I'm sorry to hear that, son. Maybe we can help him find somewhere to live." "No, Mom and Dad, I want him to live with us." "Son," said the father, "you don't know what you're asking. Someone with such a handicap would be a terrible burden on us. We have our own lives to live, and we can't let something like this interfere with our lives. I think you should just come home and forget about this guy. He'll find a way to live on his own."

At that point, the son hung up the phone. The parents heard nothing more from him. A few days later, however, they received a call from the San Francisco police. Their son had died after falling from a building, they were told. The police believed it was suicide. The grief-stricken parents flew to San Francisco and were taken to the city morgue to identify the body of their son. They recognized him, but to their horror they also discovered something they didn't know, their son had only one arm and one leg.

The parents in this story are like many of us. We find it easy to love those who are good-looking or fun to have around, but we don't like people who inconvenience us or make us feel uncomfortable. We would rather stay away from people who aren't as healthy, beautiful, or smart as we are.

Thankfully, there's someone who won't treat us that way. Someone who loves us with an unconditional love that welcomes us into the forever family, regardless of how messed up we are. Tonight, before you tuck yourself in for the night, say a little prayer that God will give you the strength you need to accept people as they are, and to help us all be more understanding of those who are different from us !!!

### Membership Status

| Year Joined  | No         | Died      | With-Drew | Suspended | Regular Members | Associate Members |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 2001         | 123        | 45        | 7         | 27        | 44              |                   |
| 2002         | 38         | 9         | 2         | 11        | 16              | 1                 |
| 2003         | 33         | 7         | 2         | 13        | 11              | 2                 |
| 2004         | 27         | 5         |           | 10        | 12              |                   |
| 2005         | 20         | 5         |           | 8         | 7               |                   |
| 2006         | 9          | 1         |           | 2         | 6               | 1                 |
| 2007         | 50         | 4         | 2         | 11        | 33              |                   |
| 2008         | 32         | 1         |           | 9         | 22              | 2                 |
| 2009         | 45         |           |           | 5         | 40              | 4                 |
| 2010         | 30         |           |           |           | 30              |                   |
| 2011         | 1          |           |           |           | 1               |                   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>408</b> | <b>77</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>96</b> | <b>222</b>      | <b>10</b>         |



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## **ONLY IN AMERICA**

.....do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke  
.....do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.  
.....do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight  
.....do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering  
.....do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.  
.....do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.

## **Ever Wonder**

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?  
Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?  
Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?  
Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?  
Why is it that doctors call what they do 'practice'?