



22nd Infantry Regiment Society

Deeds Not Words



Regulars by God



Issue 4-4

Fall 2021

Presidents Corner



Greetings Regular's and Families. We had an Outstanding 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Reunion this year (30 September – 3 October 2021). Thank you **Skip Fahel** for all your hard work and adroit coordination skills that made this year's reunion a success!



At our business meeting this year we voted in several new society officers. First I want to give a shout out to three of our long term men of service to the Society – “Deeds Not Words”. As

Treasurer from 2005 – 2021 is **Martin Oelklaus!** As Registrar 2005 – 2021 is **Brad Hull!** As Secretary 2009 – 2021 is **Bruce Gass!** Please feel free to send them a thank you note – their selfless service has maintained the vibrancy of our Society for nearly two decades!! On that note I'd like to announce our new Treasurer: **Chuck Weidner** be sure to update your **22nd Infantry Regiment Society mailing address to: PO Box 1693, Blairsden, CA 96103-1693.** Our new Registrar: **Casey Lusk;** and our New Secretary: **John Poggi.** Thank you team, for stepping up and help run this outfit! Deeds not Words!

Our next two reunion locations have been codified! The National Infantry Museum in

Columbus, GA - May 2023 (Sponsor: **Bob Babcock**) and Nashville, TN – October 2024 (Sponsor: **Joe Dichairo**). I look forward to seeing everyone come out and share in the camaraderie during these fun events!

We had a spectacular blind auction this year that included a multitude of outstanding and coveted books, wood works, Regular's coasters, and amazing quilt works – Wow! I was very impressed. Unfortunately, I did not win any of the items I bid on...

But thankfully **Raymond Krnavek** took care of me with an early Christmas Present – Thank You Raymond



Our guest speaker at the formal diner on Saturday night was non other than our active-duty Battalion Commander, **Lieutenant Colonel Adam Armstrong.** He presented the “State of the 2nd Battalion 22nd Infantry Report”. He is a brilliant leader and speaker. He was joined by our new triple deuce **Command Sergeants Major Mark Frantz,** who is also a life member of our society!

We are making some “sweeping” changes as we transition into the digital future. We will be transitioning our Newsletter from paper mailings to electronic email attachments over the coming months. This 4th Quarter Newsletter will send more than 75% electronically! We still must confirm about 157 email addresses (incorrect or blank) out of our 621 active members that are not in our Registrars database. If you received a paper newsletter this 4th quarter 2021 - this will be your last paper mailing; send me your correct email address to mark.woempner@gmail.com and you will continue to be an active member of our society. This allows for:

1. A significant reduction in cost, each newsletter cost the society \$2.20 each to mail to each member – total runs between \$1200-1500 per quarter. The cost of “snail mail” will continue to rise! This transition to our digital future will provide for membership transitions (see item 4).
2. Ability to print at your home computer a color copy of the newsletter if you desire. The grainy pictures in the paper newsletter did not do justice to the folks within those pictures.
3. Ability to better view the pictures in the articles, as well as read the letter with enlarged font on your computer.
4. Transition of all non-life members to 22 Infantry Regiment Society life membership. All current life members will receive a hardened (credit card like) identification card and a 22 Infantry Regiment life member hat (or patch). All regular members can become a life member for a one-time cost of \$22 at which time they will receive a hardened (credit card like) identification card and a 22 Infantry Regiment life member hat (or patch).

On a Reunion final note, we will be analyzing our non-profit status to determine if we want to remain a 501 (C) (19) (veteran) or transition to a 501 (C) (03) (general) nonprofit organization. This has import to our organization for the number of associate members allowed and our increasing focus on educational activities as we have been receiving endowments from past members of our society in support of both the Awb Norris Scholarship fund and the general fund. So, remember when making these donations and receiving subsequent donation tax receipts from Chuck Weidner use the PO Box 1693, Blairsden, CA 96103-1693 as the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society address.

As part of our Reunions Col (R) Joe Dichairo (Our Honorary Regimental Commander) has a ceremony on Friday evening indoctrinating our new Distinguished Members of the Regiment (DMOR) and Honorary Members of



the Regiment (HMORs). Of the second category – HMOR, there are two new HMORs that run the L'Association Deeds Not Words Society in France and Belgium. Their dedication to duty in the remembrance through re-enactment

of the many battles fought by the 22nd Infantry Regiment in World War II across France has been outstanding. For many years, the L'Association Deeds Not Words organization has studied the history of the 22nd Infantry Regiment, collected authentic items from that era, and participated in D-Day re-enactments. In doing so, they educate their youth on the importance of this history and the freedoms won in World War II. Carrie and I had a chance to present **Loic Parent** and **Julien Woestyn** their HMORs during our visit to Germany and France in September 2021.

I'll transition to our “Old Goat Squad” activities: This summer your 22nd Infantry Regiment Society “representatives” deployed to Ft Drum NY to visit our active-duty

battalion – Triple Deuce during their organization day on 31 July 2021. We had so much fun hanging out with our active duty soldiers – although we got tired just watching them in their physical prowess activities throughout the night and day of the event! Here’s your “Old Goats” for this trip.

The next “Old Goat Squad” Trip was again to Ft Drum NY to participate in the Triple Deuce Battalion Ball on 22 October 2021. Where our own John Poggi was the keynote speaker! We also had **Jimmy May, Rob Schexnayder**, and **Mark Woempner** in attendance. John and Rob were also brave enough to bring their wives to the “Prom” – fun times were had by all!!

The “Old Goat Squad” will be visiting our active-duty battalion while they are “in the Box” at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Louisiana in January 2022. We’ll be provide sustenance for our soldiers as they prepare to deploy back to garrison...**If you are interested in giving your wife a respite and joining in the fun with the “Old Goats” give me a holler and we’ll include you on our trips to visit with our active duty Triple Deucer’s.**

On a side note, our society donated a new flagpole and flags to the Ft Drum 22nd Infantry Memorial, thank you **Pete Gaworecki** for leading the installation! At the Reunion Business meeting we passed the motion to purchase a granite Guidon holder for installation at the Ft Drum memorial site – funds coming from the 22nd Infantry memorial fund.

Cheers!

Mark Woempner

Old Goats at Drum

The “Old Goats” helped celebrate Organization Day of the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry held on July 30, 2021.

Mark Woempner, Jim May, Lon Oakley, Pete Gaworecki, Skip Fahel, and new Old Goat

John Poggi descended on at Fort Drum on Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

New Old Goat Comments

In late July I was privileged to join the “Old Goats Squad” of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society on their first Covid-era visit to Fort Drum, home of the 10th Mountain Division and the storied Triple Deuce. It was an inspirational journey on several levels: an opportunity to meet with today’s young warfighters, an enjoyable interlude of hanging out and trading stories with some



outstanding veterans of bygone wars, and a bittersweet rekindling of memories of being a young combat infantryman in a turbulent time.

At first impression, almost all of the Soldiers we met at Fort Drum appeared to be teenagers with little or no body fat – except that some of the “teenagers” held ranks like E-7 or O-5. The noncommissioned and commissioned leaders of Triple Deuce are uniformly impressive, and committed to building the best light infantry battalion on the planet. The headquarters and barracks areas are relatively modern buildings – one no longer sees the World War II era “temporary” wooden firetraps! – with well-equipped gym facilities scattered throughout. And while I continue to believe that 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company of 1969 could go head-to-head with any modern unit in a jungle warfare environment, one area in which I would not want to compete with today’s young troopers would be any fitness contest involving pull-ups or dead lifts. Vietnam-era photos of shirtless grunts posed

in front of their APCs do not suggest significant physical activity focused on developing pecs, delts or lats.

A highlight of our visit was the battalion “Organization Day” celebration on Friday, July 30, complete with athletic competitions, a bouncy house for the kids, and free barbecue for all served by New York 9/11 responders. The Old Goats all had a great time mixing and mingling, and I particularly enjoyed spending time with some troopers from Charlie Company – sorry, it’s Chaos Company today! – together with **SFC Holsker** and **CPT Boonin**. Among the reminiscences I shared was how many of the Old Goats went to war as individual replacements, and as a result greatly envy the experience and unit cohesiveness of today’s Soldiers, who train and deploy together as a unit.

Organization Day attendance by Soldiers and families was terrific, despite the fact that over half the battalion had participated in the voluntary 18.6 mile “Norwegian ruck march” that began at 2200 the previous evening – and also, of course, in the battalion’s regular Friday morning four-mile run. **LTC Armstrong** had wisely emphasized that Organization Day attendance was voluntary – but for those who did choose to attend, the duty day would end at 1400. Coincidentally, 1400 also was the time the taps were opened at the beer truck.

Visiting the Triple Deuce ranks as a bucket-list experience. In recent years our national leadership and the role of the military have been controversial topics, but I have a renewed confidence that at least with respect to the Army warfighters responsible for the crucial “Last 100 Yards” of combat, our country remains in good hands.

John Poggi
C/2-22 Inf, 1969

The Black Lady



Don’t piss off the Black Virgin on Nui Ba Den, or she’ll bring the wrath of the gods down on you. She will catch the monsoon clouds in the evening as you leave the wire for a night ambush patrol. You will shiver in the ice-cold rain as the mosquito’s buzz in your ear and drive you to the edge of madness. She will do this all night long in revenge for the betrayal of a soldier she had fallen in love with. Has anyone else encountered the Black Lady of Nui Ba Den?

Peter Gary O’Rourke

A Co, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry
Vietnam 1969-70

What does it take to lead in a Light Infantry Battalion?

What does it take to keep one great, or make it even better?

Six Company Commanders standing in a parking lot at 2200 on a Thursday night, ready to walk 18.6 miles. By 0300 all were rushing to grab some sleep on any horizontal surface they could find. Though optional,



every one of them stood in front of their Company at 0630, and ran our Battalion 4-mile race. Not five hours later, alongside their awesome First Sergeants, they battled each other in the Commander/First Sergeant competition – battling for the pride of their Companies.

Our profession is inherently physical, and has been since war was invented. As a leader, Fitness (of Skill) and Grit (of Will) just get you in the door... but these guys have to do it better than most, because they have to be less fazed by fatigue when decisions matter most. Non-negotiable.

Beyond fitness and grit, they know their people, they know their trade, they listen to the sage counsel of our incredible NCOs (humility). Perhaps most impressively – they subordinate individual interests to make this feel like one Battalion rather than six Companies. They understand the importance of teamwork – and how that makes this a place where people want to work.

What does it get you?

235 Courage Battalion Soldiers stood on the start-line that night. Event was totally optional. To be clear, the individual commitment of each Soldier was both impressive and humbling at the same time. You also don't get that kind of a turnout without leaders standing in front - and together.

The answer to the first question is extraordinary commitment. There are no spectators in lean organizations oriented on the destruction of another force. Each will be expected to push forward when the order is given.

Leaders, like everyone else, must possess the Skill, Will, and the Special Sauce. The answer to the second question is teamwork among other things – and humility, even when exhibiting excellence. These guys get that.

Proud of all of our leaders – Officers and NCOs.

Lead with Courage – with Deeds!

2021 Awbrey G. Norris Scholarship Awards

The follow student were awarded the scholarships.

Dawson Grier, grandson of **Charles “Butch” Jones**. Dawson will be attending Montana State University majoring in Finance.

Abigail Oakley, granddaughter of **Lon Oakley, Jr.** will be attending Mary Hardin-Baylor majoring in Business Management-Marketing.

Lindsay Clement, granddaughter of **Joseph Pasquarella**, will be attending Clemson University majoring in Criminal Justice/ Psychology.

2022 Scholarships

We are now accepting applications for the 2022 Scholarship. Requirements for scholarship:

- A. Served with the 22nd Infantry Regiment.
- B. Be a direct relation (son, daughter, or grandchild of person that served with 22nd Infantry Regiment. (To include legally adoptive child)
- C. Be an active member of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society, with five (5) years of current active membership. Deceased must have had five (5) of active membership.

Applications should be received by July 31, 2022

If you would like a scholarship application or have questions, please contact Skip Fahel at eqf15@aol.com.

Triple Deuce Monument Flagpole

I received all the parts for the project ordered by Mark Woempner. They arrived throughout

the week with the actual pole delivered Saturday 8/11. The next day I looked at the weather forecast for the week. Rain everyday except Monday 8/13. I called Destroyer Co. CPT Devin Reiersen and asked for a detail of 4 men. He contacted 1SGT Steve White and I had my crew for Monday.

My brother Martin Gaworecki and I gathered the tools at 0700. We stopped at Lowe's and purchased the supplies we needed and were on our way to Ft. Drum. Those that know me know I never miss a good diner. We stopped at Kim's Diner in Cicero, NY and had SOS for breakfast.

We arrived on post at 1145. Then stopped to stock up on water. It was already 85 and climbing. We got to D

Co. right at lunchtime. Met CPT Reiersen and 1SGT White and chatted with the men while they took their lunch break.

The work detail showed up by 1230 and were excited to get to work. 1SGT White had no problem getting men as several volunteered for the project. The crew, SPC Joshua Van Male (a soldier of the month.), PFC Caleb Jeannoute, PFC Ruben Bejarano and was led by SGT Ryan Howard.

We arrived at the monument and cleared the work area. The easy part was cutting down a few small trees. Then the fun started. The men found digging a hole in Ft. Drum earth was no easier than the rock they found in Afghanistan. Fortunately, the superintendent brought all tools necessary to get through the roots and rock.



About an hour later, we were ready to mix fast set concrete. After a short break, it was time to raise the pole. We attached Old Glory and I brought the men to attention, ordered present arms and began to raise the flag. The Old Goat should have read the instructions. After reaching full height the pole got the better of me and shrunk to about 10'. I announced order arms and let the youngsters complete the task. We discovered each section had to be turned in the opposite directions. After a minute, the men had her flying high.

Flagpole complete.

They assumed they were done but I sprung several bags of mulch to be spread around the monument area. They completed the task and without me saying a word they cleaned up the entire area and loaded all tools on my truck. It was a job well done and my honor to work with these soldiers.

Peter Gaworecki, DMOR
C/1/22 67/68

22nd Infantry Regiment Anti-Tank Company

Gary Troup is the son of **SSG Maury D. Troup**, WWII 22nd Infantry Regiment soldier and veteran of D-Day 1944. SSG Troup landed on Utah Beach June 6, 1944 as part of 22nd Infantry Anti-Tank Company. That unit trained at Ft Benning, GA in 1941.

Mr. Troup said after the war this group of veterans would reunite annually. Each year someone would take the framed picture home (see attached photo). Over the years it was passed around by the living members of the Company. His



story continued as Gary related his dad was the last of the group to have the photo in his possession. This WWII brother passed away recently.

Mr Troup contacted our current Regiment President, Mark Woempner to try and get the collage of framed photos donated to the National Infantry Museum [NIM] at Ft Benning GA. Mark contacted, Past President Lon Oakley, who is the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society's point of contact with the NIM Museum, to assist in the request. Working with Ms. Ilene Kent of the NIM Museum, Lon coordinated the delivery of the donation to NIM to honor this elite group of WWII 22d Infantry in late August 2021.

NOTE: Ms. Kent has said the framed collage of the 22nd Infantry Anti-Tank Company will be on display during the Veterans Day Paver Dedication Ceremony at the Museum November 11, 2021. Invitation is open to any 22nd Infantry Regiment veteran who would like to attend.

Lon D. Oakley, Jr., DMOR

Isaac Curtis Phillips

That's what we feared the most, to see you go. You who made me give your name to my son, you who brought us to respect and honor the 22nd Infantry Regiment. We take comfort in the idea that now you are at peace and especially accompanied by your brothers in arms who have welcomed you as it should be. You will finally find your friend you knew during the war. He who you often told us about, your friend the Indian. We will never forget all those moments spent at your home with Alain, your daughter, your wife Arlette, but also during commemorations such as in Guise, Emondeville and many other events.

Who will lecture me, with humor, as you knew how to do every time you saw me? The Twenty Second Infantry France will be even more proud to represent the Regiment, the one you loved so much.

At each outing we will have a thought for you. I will remember all my life the day you gave me your crest and Julien your dog tag. I promised myself that the day you left I would wear it on my outfit so that you would always be present.

Curtis, we'll miss you.

Loic Parent, President
22nd Infantry Regiment, France

Note: This is a computer generated translation that I have altered for the sake of clarity.

Jim May, HMOR
Prov. Co., 1968

Loic,

From the Desk of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society President:

Freedom is not free, it never has been. It is paid for by the patriots of your land or by countries that support your right to freedom away from tyranny. **Isaac Curtis Phillips** is a distinguished member of the Great generation - those that freed Europe from tyranny. He was a member of the 22nd Infantry Regiment that fought the Nazi's across France and Belgium and freed the citizens of these lands for generations to come after WWII. He decided to settle and live with these citizens after the war throughout a long and prosperous life. In his passing we remember him for his strength of character, passion, and zest for life. He was a patriot to more than one country, a freedom fighter, and a leader that held the torch of freedom high throughout his lifetime...He was a 22nd Infantry Regular, A man of Deeds not Words. May he Rest In Peace knowing that he cut a wide swath on this earth and made a significant difference to the multitude of lives around him!

Mark S Woempner
President 22nd Infantry Regiment Society
"Deeds Not Words"

Bonjour Jim,

Here is the report of our most recent activities.

On the weekend of September 11 and 12 the 22nd Infantry, France was on Utah Beach to pay a last tribute to **Isaac Curtis Phillips** who died in early September.



We laid a wreath in the water at 10:30 a.m. in memory of Mr. Phillips'

landing on Utah Beach where he began his entry into the liberation of France. This was followed by singing of traditional funeral songs.

Then an historic route was followed in his honor where we arrived at the German Bunker Battery of Crisbecq where a second plaque will be inaugurated on Sunday. We returned to Crisbecq Bunker on Sunday morning at 11 AM and unveiled the second plaque in tribute to the 22nd IR who fought on the site of Crisbecq from 7 to 11 June 1944.

The accompanying photos were taken while we were enroute to the Crisbecq Bunker and at the Sunday event.

Loic Parent, President
22nd Infantry, France

PS: Loic sends his emails to **Jim May** for translation.

TAPS

William "Bill" A. Seeker, of Cudjoe Key, FL, passed away on July 1, 2020. Bill served with A Company, 1st Battle Group, 22nd Infantry, Fort Lewis, WA 1961-62.

Terry Humpert, of Clio and Osoda, Michigan, passed away on August 9th, 2021. Terry served with the Alpha Boat Originals, A Company, 4th and 25th Infantry Division 1965-1967.

David S. Mullins, of Millen GA, passed away on June 5, 2021. David was in US Navy and attached to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division in 1969.

COL [R] Edward E. Schultz, of Shalimar, FL, passed away on September 5, 2021. Ed served as the Executive Officer and S3 of the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division in 1967-68.

Gary Huromu Yoshiki, of Gardena, CA, passed away on April 1, 2021. Gary served with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division 1968-69.

Russell W. Wise, of Charlotte, SC, passed away on August 18, 2020. Russell served with F Company, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division in WWII.

Anthony Bonacci, of Orange CT, passed away on March 14, 2021. Anthony served with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division in WWII.

David G. Bender, of Oshkosh, WI passed away on September 3, 2021. David served with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam, 1967-68.

PX Items

Go to the 22nd Infantry Regiment Web page [22ndinfantry.org] to see PX items.

You Forget—What the 22nd Infantry Regiment Did for You:

1. Gave you the opportunity to serve your country in a proud and prestigious national unit.
2. Gave you buddies who stuck by you and helped you endure fear, horror, and hardship.
3. Gave you good reason to harbor a personal feeling of high accomplishment and pride.

4. Gave you treasured lifetime friends markedly improving the quality of your life.

MG (Ret) John F. Ruggles
Former Honorary Colonel of the
Regiment

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