



**President's  
Corner  
April 2024  
Mark S.  
Woempner**



The Triple Deuce had a Battalion change of command on 3 June 2024, we had an “Old Goat” presence at the ceremony and several social engagements associated with the CoC. **Matt VanPutte** will be headed south to Ft Liberty (Bragg) for his next command assignment. **LTC Chris Riley** is our new active-duty battalion commander. He and **CSM Sean Carey** have a lot of missions that they will be leading in the coming year.

**We have run out of time!**



For all 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regulars, we need to have you print and fill out your Reunion Registration form / check and send it to **Martin Oelklaus** (Snail Mail: PO

Box 3258 Independence, MO 64055-8258, Scan and email: [moelklaus@aol.com](mailto:moelklaus@aol.com) and use PayPal). I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at the Reunion. Our hotel is located a couple of blocks from the Nashville Downtown strip of awesome bars and honky-tonk saloons with great music, barbecue and happenings of the city of Nashville!! Nearby are several Bourbon Whiskey distilleries I think several of will be taste testing! I need everyone that is attending to ensure you make a reservation at the Double Tree (22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry party central), call the reservation desk at 800-222-8733, Group name 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society 2024 Reunion, **Group Code: 92R**. I need everyone that plans to attend PLEASE get your reservations in within the **next two weeks!!**

We'll try to keep everyone in the loop! **Skip Fahel , John Poggi** and I visited with the Battalion at the end of their JRTC rotation (17-20 May) we provided each of the companies with Brownies and Donuts while they cleaned up their gear in preparation for return to home base at Ft Drum.

This year is also our Nashville, TN Reunion 22-25 August! We have been in close coordination with the POC at the Double Tree and **Col Joe Dichario** has an update for you in this Newsletter.

Gaylord Springs golf course will be our venue for this year's 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Tournament on Thursday (22 August)! It is located at 18 Springhouse Ln, Nashville, TN 37214. Send me an email at [mark.woempner@gmail.com](mailto:mark.woempner@gmail.com) if you'd like to join us on Thursday. You'll receive a free sleeve of 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry balls and a free round of golf. You will have to pay

\$65 for rental clubs if you don't bring your own sticks!



On some other notes: We will anoint a new treasurer at our August Reunion, **Lovie Moran** has volunteered and been approved by the Society's executive committee to replace Martin Oelklaus. We still need some volunteers to help Martin and I organize for the August Nashville reunion. Please email either myself or Martin directly at [moelklaus@aol.com](mailto:moelklaus@aol.com).

Our 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Webpage now has several folks posting updates. Thanks to **Steve Irvine** and **Jeremiah Soria** in their outstanding efforts to get us up to date! Please go to the Reunion and Newsletter tab for information on the upcoming reunion or didn't receive a e-copy of the newsletter: [Reunion and Newsletter \(22ndinfantry.org\)](http://22ndinfantry.org). Forward the URL for fellow soldiers that want to join the society: [Society and Membership \(22ndinfantry.org\)](http://22ndinfantry.org).

I think that gets everyone up to date from April. I want to thank all of you for your service to this amazing country! Freedom is not Free, it is paid for with the blood of the current generation holding the baton to keep this country free. As always, I want to thank my heroes, the Vietnam warriors that made it so that when I returned from war the folks in the airport thanked me for my service – without you, my life experience would be much different.

**“Deeds Not Words”!!**

PS. I received this awesome note on Memorial Day this year and wanted to pass it on: *“Mark, I want to honor my father today and all the 22nd Regiment in this 80th anniversary. I am so proud of him and them. God watch over our country and our service men and women”, With pride - Sue*

## **2024 Scholarships**

We are now accepting applications for the 2024 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, 2024**

If you would like a scholarship application or have questions, please contact **Skip Fahel** at [eqf2231@gmail.com](mailto:eqf2231@gmail.com)

## **Reunion Update - July**

Get your registration to the Doubletree Nashville this month! We want to ensure we have an accurate headcount by early August.

There are no major changes to the normal routine of the reunion; Thursday: Hemingway Turkey, Friday: Buffet Dinner, Saturday: Semi formal dinner, Sunday: Memorial Service and departure.

--We recognize parking will be charged to your room as an additive cost; parking is run by a third party provider and we have tried a number of ways to reduce costs. So, we are

looking at options for you to park at the airport and Uber/Taxi to the hotel to save money. It is highly doubtful you will need your POV during the reunion as all events and all the sites are within walking distance.

--If we need local transportation, we are looking into renting 15 pax vans x 3 for the duration of the reunion event...and to have these available 24 x 7 for local transportation -- MORE TO FOLLOW as we look to lock that in.

--The Ladies Lunch is set for Pucketts on 24 August, 1200. We have made tentative reservations for a group and can adjust those reservations accordingly. Plan on 25\$ per person for an estimated cost. Within walking distance from hotel.

--Daily breakfast options. Breakfast is not included in the hotel fee, but we are researching some close by options. We will work on those options and publish as we arrive at the site.

--We are working to see if we can lock in a tour of Nissan Stadium. Only open date is Thursday, 22 August. Stadium is close by and we can arrange for up to 20 personnel in a private setting. We are working on costs.

--We are putting the final touches on having a Double Decker bus tour of Nashville; looking to do this via Grayline Bus Tours of Nashville on Friday or Saturday. Vets are free and there is a small fee for family members (\$30-35 per person). We can lock in one bus for about 50 personnel. MORE TO FOLLOW.

--And, we are also researching a venue for Friday afternoon at the Redneck Riviera (John Rich's bar); this is being reviewed now and we could lock this in for a Friday afternoon event where we all could rally. There are food and drink minimums we would have to achieve, but we thought this might be a good venue to engage both the

young and not so young audience. MORE TO FOLLOW on that as well...

Joe D

## The Beginning

While scanning my backup hard drive looking for pictures of **MG John Ruggles'** helmet, this letter popped up. I'm sure it came to me as a handwritten or typed letter from him. The date is when email was still used by only a few people (IBM was an early user with PROFS, our first email system). At some point I typed it as an electronic document.

The date of 10 Sept 1991 is a good date we can establish as the start of the current generation of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society. I've always thought of it as September 1995 when I put out my first newsletter to the mostly still WWII members.

I recall having a phone conversation with Ruggles during the late summer 1991 time period. He called me after I sent a "f\*\*k you" letter back to **Stephen Sanders** when he had responded to my query after hearing about the Society from **Joe Motel** in July 1991 at my first 4ID Association reunion in Orlando. That is the letter where Sanders said I could come to their November 1992 reunion and "if I pass muster, I can invite a few more Vietnam vets to the next reunion."

My blood pressure went out the roof and I wrote back to the Society that we Vietnam vets don't have to pass muster with anyone. The day the letter arrived, Ruggles called and told me Sanders is a prick and doesn't speak for the Society and invited me to Jackson, MS for the November 1992 reunion, which I attended as the only Vietnam vet.

Ruggles and I spent the first afternoon in his room letting me ask any questions I wanted to about the 22nd in WWII.

Eighteen months later I went to the May 1994 reunion in Nashville and Ruggles invited me to

speak to the group at the Friday business meeting.

Unfortunately my daughter was graduating from high school on that Saturday so I had to fly home that Friday afternoon. I did go to Phoenix and met with Ruggles and Boice, using my IBM job to justify a flight at IBM expense - and August 1995 is when they called and asked me to take over the Society, open it to all 22nd vets, and grow it. We all know the rest of the history.

We all need to preserve our memories and our history for posterity. Michael, keep up your great work.

### **Bob Babcock, DMOR**

10 Sept 91

Dear Robert:

I have at hand the copy of the letter you addressed to **Stephen Sanders** dealing with the continuity, tradition, and esprit de corps of our 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment.

Stephen will respond to your letter in a day or two with some thoughts, ideas, and possibilities that he and I have kicked around over the past few years.

I am writing this letter to thank you for revealing yourself as a really interested veteran of the post WWII/22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry ready to tie things together for the benefit and advancement of our historic unit.

We of WWII were fortunate in being able to organize before the regiment was inactivated in 1946. We had reunions every two years 'til 1986 - now we have reunions at 1 ½ year intervals. Our most recent was in Nashville in May of this year. Our next will be in November '92.

Father time has engineered me into the presidency of our Society. I am, by appointment of the Secretary of the Army, the current Honorary Colonel of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment. I am approaching my 83<sup>rd</sup>

birthday and thus feel there is some urgency in getting a few things in order.

My service in the 22<sup>nd</sup> began in 1943 as CO, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, then Regimental Executive Officer, and finally CO of the Regiment. It might interest you to know that I was Deputy CG for training of the MAAG in Vietnam as a MG in 1959-61. Pleiku, Kontum, An Khe, and Tuy Hoa are not strange names and places for me. I started my troop duty as a 2<sup>nd</sup> LT in the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division in 1931 and ended my troop duty as CG of the Big Red One in 1963.

Currently we mail our quarterly Dispatch to some 500 members and associate members of our Society.

One of our members was one of my Battalion commanders in WWII and later CG of 4<sup>th</sup> Division in Vietnam and finally retired as a **Lt. Gen. Glenn D. Walker** is vice-president of our Society.

I am looking forward to further contact with you.

Sincerely,

John R.

### **The Colonel, the Writer and the Houffalize Bridge: Buck Lanham, Ernest Hemingway and the Good Citizens of a Belgian Village - by Eileen Martin and Greer Rising**

A small bridge in Belgium critical to the Allied advance but dynamited by the Germans plays a leading role in a World



*Gen. L. standing by plaque on bridge at Houffalize, Belgium. On it are carved the remarks he made to mayor of the town exactly 6 yrs. before. - taken 10 Sep. 50*  
43

Caption: Photo from authors' collection

War II vignette featuring an American infantry colonel whose name is cited on the bridge's plaque, a mistaken identity for the writer Ernest Hemingway, skilled repair work by local townspeople, communist protests and calls for peace, a nostalgic visit back six years after the war, and a missed opportunity.

In mid-August, 1944, the Houffalize Bridge, located about 37 miles southeast of Liège, Belgium, was destroyed by the Germans just before the U.S. Army's 22nd Infantry Regiment was about to cross on their press eastward toward Germany's Siegfried Line. The Regiment was led by Colonel Charles T. "Buck" Lanham, a wiry, hard-charging commander, hell-bent against ceding ground to the "chickenspitter" Germans and headed toward their Western defenses. By this point in the war, Lanham had developed a brothers-in-arms friendship with Hemingway and welcomed the charismatic writer to accompany his men.

According to Hemingway's official biographer Carlos Baker, when the 22nd approached the bridge, Lanham's engineers were far to the rear of the advancing column, but the appreciative local citizens set to work at once to repair the bridge. Drawing on material provided by Lanham, Baker wrote that the artisans of Houffalize were "digging out the debris, snaking timbers, building buttresses, hauling and nailing planks, and making a bridge capable of carrying all vehicles up to heavy tanks," and within an hour had constructed a new bridge.

Meanwhile, Hemingway had taken a different route to the village, but met up with Lanham, and the two friends perched on a fence overlooking the Ourthe River to watch the construction progress. Bystanders appreciating Hemingway's tremendous physique assumed he was a general. Hemingway deployed one of his signature moves with curious interlocutors: pulling their leg. The 45-year-old Hemingway said *quel dommage*, but he was only a captain. *Comment c'est possible* at his age? Because he never learned to read or write, said Hemingway with another yank. Lanham's unpublished

Memoirs describe how the colonel and the accomplished writer nearly fell into the river below, seized with laughter over this prank. Through the 17 years of their epistolary friendship, which lasted until Hemingway's death in 1961, the two men shared humorous exchanges, with Hemingway's expression often laugh-out-loud funny while Lanham's was more prone to knickers-in-a-twist self-mockery. Their letters shared chuckles using wit, satire, sarcasm, quips and other high- and low-brow anecdotes set down to amuse each other.

Several previously-unpublished accounts from Lanham's personal letters and his official reports provide real-time snapshots of the 22nd's movements just before and just after crossing the Houffalize Bridge, and mention Hemingway. On 7 August 1944, Lanham wrote his wife, Mary "Pete" Lanham, that he is doing well and "still full of fight." His unit is being recommended for a citation, and he is proud as hell of them and dying to tell her of the role they played; meanwhile she should look for the details to be reported in the *Washington Star* and the *Washington Post*. Lanham wrote he ran into Hemingway in a hot spot, and six German SS members had just surrendered to him. This is a rare instance documenting Hemingway's active participation in the battle action. As at the Houffalize Bridge, some local French people mistook Hemingway for a "high mucky-muck," wrote Lanham, and presented him with two bottles of fine champagne, which he shared with Lanham. Lanham tells his wife "we are really socking it to these bastards right now but there is a price for everything" and he must sign off as things are popping.



to Mrs.  
Lanham. 3  
Photo courtesy  
of Princeton  
University

Then on August 14, 1944, from France and still mindful of censorship, Lanham wrote to Helen Rising, the author's grandmother, that he is proud of his

regiment and has been awarded a Purple Heart: “We continue to fight and we continue to make excellent progress. My outfit has made history with a capital H but the story has not yet been released. Someday before long I’ll be able to tell you all about it. In the meantime suffice it to say that I am plenty proud of the Double Deucers.”

On September 7, 1944, Lanham wrote Rising that he has been fighting steadily and covering enormous distances and is a stranger to sleep. Following the liberation of Paris several weeks earlier, Lanham reports the Germans are in heavy disarray and “we have struck him some terrible blows. Three days ago I trapped one of his regiments by a double envelopment and by getting part of my heavy armor across a river 25 minutes after he had blown the bridge under my nose. I destroyed that regiment 100 %. It was a fearful shambles for I called in my air support to finish the job. I have seen a lot of terrible things here but nothing quite as terrible as that. I took some 1,500 survivors prisoner.” Here Lanham is probably referring to the Houffalize Bridge crossing, given the date of his letter and the timely repair of the bridge. Lanham is proud of his great combat team’s accomplishments, noting “the gang really did their stuff,” leaving a swath of distinction in their wake. They have taken thousands of prisoners and largely turned them over to the French Forces of the Interior (FFI).

The 22nd Infantry’s Daily Operations Report of September 9, 1944 documented the unit’s strategy for attacking the Siegfried Line, indicating plans for two or three days of training for the assault teams before the push. The now-declassified report noted the enemy’s delaying action was “scattered and inefficient,” consisting of blown bridges and road blocks, “nearly all hasty and extremely unskilled,” mainly using trees blown down across the road. The retreating enemy had left many bridges, and it is not clear how many of these were saved by the Maquis or French Resistance forces. According to the report, the Germans destroyed a bridge at Houffalize, and civilians built a new bridge before the arrival of American troops. A

large crowd gathered when the Americans arrived. The bridge sagged dangerously when the first M-10 tank destroyer went over and immediately the Belgians “swarmed under it putting in additional braces.”

The Operations Report predicted that the longest current estimate of the time needed to penetrate the Siegfried Line was three days, after which no further serious fighting was anticipated. For the next few days, patrols and reconnaissance teams continued the advance, and by September 12 units were to prepare for a coordinated attack on the line. The 22nd’s reporting endeavored to ensure the unit would be acknowledged for cracking the line the Germans believed impregnable.

The 22nd Infantry Narrative Report for Month of September signed by Lanham and sent via the Commanding General of the 4th Infantry Division to the Army’s Adjutant General in Washington, D.C., contains the following entry: Ernest Hemingway, the noted writer, who had been with the Combat Team at HOUFFALIZE on 10 September, joined the Combat Team again at SCHWEILER, 13 September, and stayed there while the Combat Team was at BUCHET. He visited the Combat Team many times to interview the Commanding Officer and the men who participated in the cracking of the SIEGFRIED LINE. The information he secured for a series of magazine articles and contemplated books would prove conclusively, he said, that Combat Team 22 had been the first American unit into Germany.

### *Collier’s Magazine*

Photo from authors’ collection



Hemingway’s reporting aimed to do just that. The opening paragraph of Hemingway’s article “War in the Siegfried Line” for the November 18, 1944 issue of *Collier’s* magazine addresses which

American forces broke the line. Wishing to get his article into print without being held up by government censors, Hemingway wrote that a lot of people will talk about breaking the line and being first into Germany, and a lot of them will be wrong. So up front his article states it will make no claims. But in paragraph two he wrote: “The infantry cracked the Siegfried Line.” Hemingway writes in first person, describing the forested terrain, the dust and yellow smoke from artillery weapons, the gale-force rain and wind, the traces of the enemy’s forces they were following in what he called the “rat race,” the two-fold German defenses, the first they encountered not being the real line, and finally: “the dark forest wall of the Schnee Eifel range where the dragon lived.” From here Hemingway turned his story over to the 22nd Infantry’s Operations Officer Captain Howard Blizzard, through whose blow-by-blow account the reader would learn what happens in combat. In his article Hemingway used a dual point of view device to set the scene based on his interviews with Lanham and his men, and then ceded the narrative to Blizzard.

Blizzard’s soldier-speak description of the ten days of fighting covered the units, movements, terrain, weaponry, attacks and casualties involved in the breach, culminating in many German dead and more prisoners than they could guard. Hemingway agreed with Blizzard’s view that the story is probably worthy of screen treatment, and quoted Lanham as saying he often felt like he was in a Grade B picture, envisioning where he would enter the scene. Hemingway thought the film’s producers would have difficulty portraying the gruesome deaths of the German SS troops. His sad, understated conclusion was it would have been better for Germany “not to have started this war in the first place.”

Indeed Lanham had referenced himself appearing in a Grade B movie: in a September 15, 1944 letter to Rising, he wrote “yesterday was the toughest day of my life - & today is no cinch. Yesterday in a very bad situation I had to act like a Hollywood movie Colonel in a Grade

B movie and personally lead a battalion in a charge up a terribly endless hill against formidable permanent fortification.” One of Lanham’s runners was shot point-blank from a porthole in a camouflaged bunker, and his team was charged by five SS men who emerged from an underground bunker, leading to a firefight culminating in Lanham’s men blowing off the steel door and taking out 37 SS fighters still alive. Later that afternoon, Lanham’s wrote that his tank destroyers took out four more bunkers and captured more prisoners. Lanham finds his personal luck is unbelievable, for snipers have shot at him many times but he has escaped with only a few bullet holes through his clothes. In the same letter, Lanham tells Rising that Hemingway is writing him up for *Collier’s*: “He seems to think I am a pretty good soldier which pleases me for he is without question the bravest man I have ever seen.”

The Houffalize Bridge spans several World War II motifs, including destruction and rebuilding, a path forward for the Allied advance, solidarity between the American troops and the resourceful Belgian villagers, and a demonstration of only-in-wartime levity between a regimental commander and his famous writer friend. The stone bridge stands today as a flower-bedecked monument with plaques expressing Lanham’s gratitude toward the town’s skilled artisans who built a new bridge in 45 minutes.



Houffalize Bridge today. Photo courtesy of Julien Woestyn

In 1950, Lanham was posted to Brussels as Chief of the Military Assistance Group for Belgium and Luxembourg, and that autumn he took his daughter, his secretary and an aide on a trip to some of his war haunts. In October 1950, his daughter Shirley Lanham wrote to family friend Helen Rising about their trip, describing war scars that remained at a site of one of its deadliest battles: “Came back to Brussels three days later by way of Hürtgen Forest and Grosshau so that Dad could show us the terrain he fought over. Helen, they’re still pulling the bodies of Germans and Americans out of Hürtgen Forest... and the German recovery workers are getting blown up every day there by the countless unexploded mines. The forest is nothing but a mass of splintered poles. They can’t even cut them down because so much metal is inbedded in them that it dulls the axes and saws.” As of early 2024, soldiers’ remains from Hürtgen Forest were still being identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

Shirley continued her letter, noting that “from Luxemburg we drove back to Belgium by way of the Ardennes and Bastogne. The Belgians have built a magnificent star-shaped memorial on a hill at Bastogne in memory of the Americans who fought there. On it are carved the names of all 48 states and an inscription runs around the walls, telling of the battle. Went next to Houffalize, Belgium, where Dad fought and where the new bridge has been built in honor of Dad, with inscriptions of what he wrote to the mayor put up in English and French in bronze plaques on either side.”

Lanham did not claim the bridge was dedicated to him, but in his Memoirs described his surprise at learning about the bridge opening ceremony and his name on the plaque, observing the strange coincidence that he was serving so nearby, unbeknownst to the Belgian government. “On our way back to Brussels we spent one night in a small hotel in the grand Duchy of Luxembourg. At breakfast the next morning I picked up a Belgian newspaper and to my astonishment saw the picture of a bridge on the front page under the caption ‘Houffalize.’ ”

Lanham learned that on the preceding day, Houffalize had formally dedicated and opened a new bridge, which Lanham thought was a handsome structure for a town so small. “The picture showed two fairly large bronze tablets on the bridge — one on each side about midway. One was in French, the other in English. The inscription was a sentence from the letter that I had written to the mayor of Houffalize seven (sic) years before. I’m quite certain that had the good burgers of Houffalize realized that I was stationed in Brussels, they would have invited me to the ceremony.”



Plaque on bridge. Photo courtesy of Julien Woestyn

Lanham sent a copy of the Le Soir press article to Hemingway in Cuba and recalled that the writer was “oddly moved by the story of our bridge.” Reminiscing about the day they crossed the Houffalize bridge, Lanham wrote “This was a happy period for all of us. It was full of laughter and heady with victory. After all, we were standing virtually on the borders of the fatherland. Hemingway was at his gayest and wittiest.” Lanham said both he and Hemingway remembered this “little segment of time with a fond nostalgia.” Hemingway’s short story about the bridge was more bitter than sweet. “The Monument” is Hemingway’s story featuring Houffalize that was not published until 2019, 58 years after the writer’s death. Hemingway narrates the story, describing the bridge-building, with a horse-drawn boat carrying a load of stones down the river to the site. They would fill gasoline drums from the garages in town with stones, which would form the foundation of the bridge, while other horses tracked in logs from the saw mill to span the overpass. Everyone in sight not clearing the road was building the bridge. At the end of the story, Hemingway says Buck wrote to him about the monument on the bridge, but sorrowfully notes that the town of Houffalize

was destroyed that December, his friends from the war are dead, missing or in jail, and the only son he has who would go to the monument and “tell you what it says true” works in Portland, Oregon.

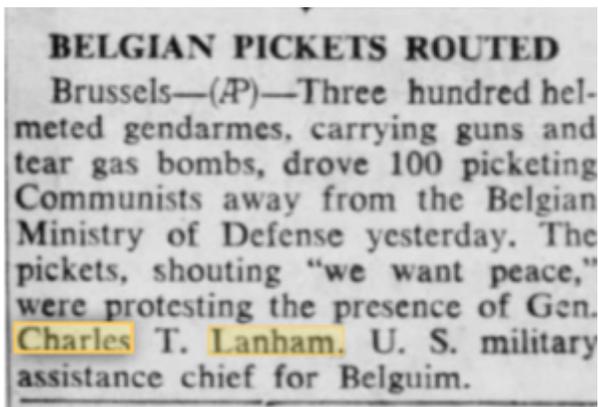


Photo of news clipping  
Internet photo of Associated Press

Some who did not feel nostalgic for the heady war days were the Belgian communists, about 100 of whom picketed the Belgian Ministry of Defense in February 1950, protesting Lanham’s presence and shouting “We want peace.” In a letter to a friend, Lanham said the U.S. military aid program was a billion and a half dollars destined for eight nations of the North Atlantic Treaty. In his work heading up the Army, Navy and Air programs for Belgium and Luxembourg, Lanham said the plan was to rearm Western Europe “against commie aggression,” and the job was rough and delicate. For its part, the Belgian government valued Lanham’s support to their country, awarding him three decorations: the Belgian Order of Leopold in the degree of Officer, the Belgian Croix de Guerre with palm, and the Belgian Fourragère.

In July 1945, Lanham found himself with some down time in Czechoslovakia while his unit was recuperating. He told Hemingway about re-reading the Spanish Civil War novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and pondering the book’s metaphor of a destroyed bridge. We all have our bridges, Lanham wrote, little ones, big ones, necessary and unnecessary ones, stupid and smart ones. Hemingway had gone back to Cuba,

and he and Lanham missed each other’s company and the mission-driven camaraderie they had both felt during the war. Lanham enthused to Hemingway about the novel: “God, how are you are in the book! You live and breathe in every line of it. Over and over again nostalgia would hit me in a phrase, a sentence, a thought.” Lanham fondly recalled time spent in his tiny mobile command trailer with Hemingway during the Hürtgen Forest battles and gives Hemingway’s work his highest compliments: “as a soldier of swords it turned my very guts over inside and probed the dark places of my heart with needles of light. Only a soldier could’ve written that book, only a man who has fought. And surely only a soldier can truly understand it.” This praise would have been meaningful for Hemingway the authority on war, who considered himself a citizen-soldier and was proud of his adoption by Lanham’s unit. *For Whom the Bell Tolls* was published in 1940, and in the eight decades since, readers have been analyzing the symbolism of the dynamited bridge, with power, connection, destruction, futility, dilemmas and duty only some of the possible meanings.

Modern-day searches for terms including Hemingway and bridge reveal a different bridge story. The “Hemingway Bridge” is named for Hemingway’s technique of concluding his writing for the day only after he knew what was coming next. Hemingway maintained an up-at-first-light writing regimen, working at his stand-up bedroom desk while others slept, and his discipline and purposeful daily word counting have long been studied by aspiring writers. Perhaps this story will serve as a small bridge for current students of history and Hemingway to learn some of what has gone before, even though we may not know what is coming next.

***JRTC Fort Johnson, LA, May 18-19, 2024  
–JRTC Rotation 24-07: Triple Deuce  
Rocks the Box !***

Triple Deuce completed its predictably challenging rotation through the Joint

Readiness Training Center in early May with notable success. The Battalion's stellar performance at JRTC was a fitting achievement to cap **LTC Matt Putte's** tour as Battalion Commander, which formally concluded with at a Change of Command ceremony less than a month later.

Asked how he would assess Triple Deuce's performance at Tiger Land, Matt provided the following summary:

"I was extremely proud of Triple Deuce's performance at JRTC rotation 24-07. Our investment and focus on company level and below operations and proficiency really paid dividends for both the Battalion and the Brigade Combat Team. Not only were our companies tactically proficient, but they displayed a high level of toughness and grit during their dismounted movement from east to west across the "box".

"Our rotation was unique in that we executed with reduced capability: the BCT deployed without its cavalry squadron and any UAS [Unmanned Aircraft Systems] while the Battalion deployed without a scout platoon, only small UAS, and a significantly reduced vehicle count (40%). And we achieved impressive sustainment metrics for both resupply and casualty evacuation despite the reduced capabilities with which we deployed."

"By the final day, the Deuce was the only BN to have all 3 of our rifle companies reach the western limit of advance phase line. In 11 rotations at JRTC as an Officer Controller, I had never seen all three rifle companies of any infantry completing the walk from east to west across the JRTC box!"

Not bad at all!

**John Poggi, DMOR**

## **Old Goats Return to Tiger Land**

The scene is a warm Saturday afternoon in May, and after successfully completing their tough, and notably successful Joint Readiness Training Center rotation at Tiger Land (Fort Johnson, Louisiana, known to earlier generations as Fort Polk), weary but good-humored Triple Deuce troopers are hanging out and cleaning their gear in their prefab barracks on T Street when they are approached by a trio of grey-haired older men wearing civvies and baseball caps bearing the insignia of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment. The troopers graciously welcome the codgers.

**Mark Woempner**, President of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society and an Iraq vet, had arrived at the stand-down site accompanied by Vietnam-era Society members **Skip Fahel** and **John Poggi**. Why, you might ask, would these dinosaurs expect tired and busy Soldiers to take time to grin and greet with a few old guys – and even seem to enjoy the interaction? Sometimes the older generations have learned certain things, and in this case the critical learning was that distributing 50 dozen assorted donuts and brownies will assure a warm welcome to just about any Infantry unit. Another lesson put to good use was that equitable division of the donuts is best accomplished by delivery directly to **CSM Carey** and the company first sergeants.

The Triple Deuce troops "coming out of the box" were loose, and clearly enjoying the opportunities to shower, wear clean work-out clothes and flip-flops while cleaning equipment at a leisurely pace, and chow down on PX snacks. LTC Matt VanPutte, before departing for one of a series of post-op briefings, expressed pride in the Battalion's performance, coupled with a tinge of regret that within a month he would be concluding his battalion command for a new assignment.

The area where the Battalion bivouacs while cleaning up and preparing vehicles and

equipment for rail transport back to Ft. Drum is a sprawling expanse of parking lots and temporary barracks. Across from the parking



lots are rows of temporary barracks, large prefab buildings with enough space to line up 40 standard Army cots in rows – most are allocated to one platoon, and once occupied are cluttered with the weapons and rucksacks assigned to each Soldier. Some images are timeless, such as the sight of several dozen men in varying mixes of uniform, hunched over their rifles with toothbrushes and solvent.



On the other hand, an image that is entirely modern, and not at all timeless, is the number of Soldiers scattered throughout an Infantry battalion who are women. Groups of male and female Soldiers in work-out gear strolling the dirt roads, chatting amiably as they carried pizzas and bags of goodies back to their barracks, resembles a sight as common on a college campus as it is at the Joint Regional Training Center (Note to our readers with 21<sup>st</sup> century sensibilities: the writer is not a biologist, but stubbornly

maintains that as a cisgender male he usually can recognize a woman).

After the Saturday visit, the Old Goats partook of a dinner and several adult beverages the Wagon Master Steakhouse in Leesville; without undue elaboration, this establishment was not competing for the patronage of anyone requiring vegan menu options, or with a health-conscious aversion to deep-fried delicacies and Creole seasoning.

A Sunday return to Tiger Land offered additional opportunities to share stories with Soldiers, both at the T Street bivouac site and the large railhead where the battalion's vehicles were being loaded onto flat cars.

In the visiting Old Goats detachment, both Skip and Mark had visited JRTC in prior years, even having opportunities to observe “inside the box,” but for John it was his first exposure to Tiger Land and the Soldiers unwinding after the rigorous field exercise.

“A highlight of my visit was meeting with **1LT Nick Kotok** and **SFC Travis Hodge**, the impressive leaders of 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Chaos Company. I introduced myself to Nick by saying, ‘Hi! I had your job 55 years ago!’ and told tales of the challenges experienced by Infantry Soldiers during Vietnam, when the double whammy of the one-year tour and the individual replacement system resulted in constant personnel turnover. I totally fascinated my audience, as I am sure Skip and Mark did, with tales of what it was like back in our time, going to war on horseback. With swords...”

As always, there is a bond between Soldiers of different generations. And mingling with Soldiers invariably reinforces the Old Goats' firm conviction that today's committed young troopers are well-suited to uphold the finest traditions of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment.

**John Poggi, DMOR**

## Fort Polk [Johnson] Again

In a change from pass trips to the JRTC, **Mark Woempner** picked me up [**Lon Oakley** was not able to make the trip this time]. While driving, we check with Lon about ordering the brownies for the troops, Lon gave us the contact. Behinds the wheel, Mark called Emily (Provider of the brownies), she could not provide them. I then contacted two bakery's in Alexandria, which one could provide 30 dozen by 9:00am the next day. We decided we could also get donuts when we go to pick up the brownies.

After I checked in we went out for dinner, had TexMex at Festival Taco. Used the time there to contact the Battalion to plan for the hook up on Saturday. We planned on hooking up with the Battalion around 5:00pm on Saturday. We also contact John to see what time he was getting into Alexandria and if he wanted us to pick him up. He was getting in at 8:20pm and has rented a car.

Saturday morning Mark picked John and me up around 7:45 [Our hotel was on Fort Johnson] and we drove to Toups's for breakfast. Mark commented it was the best coffer ever. After breakfast we drove to Alexandria to pick up the brownies from Atwood Bakery and then stopped at Shipley Donuts and picked up 10 dozen donuts. Because we purchased so many donuts, John got a free cup of coffee. Back to Mark's hotel [His hotel was in Leesville] to drop off brownies and donuts, and then back to Fort Johnson.

We to the Warrior Hill Golf Course bar and had drinks, Mark and I decide to get some



field training, so we played nine holes of golf with John giving

expert commentary and advice. After the round of golf, back to the bar for drinks.

Mark drove back to his hotel to picked up the brownies and donut and back to pick John and me up. We drove to Tiger Land to hook up with the Battalion.

We found the CSM, and gave him the brownies and donuts to pass out to the companies.

I hooked up with Bravo Company, meeting the Company Commander [**Cpt Conor McCabe**], **First Sargent [David Brookes]**, 3rd Platoon Leader [**1<sup>st</sup> LT Jackson Friend**], and Platoon Sergeant [**Daniel Stone**], and men of the third platoon. For over an hour talking them as a group, then smaller groups, and then one on one.

During this time, John went to the 3rd Platoon C company and Mark to HHC.

I hook up with Mark and John and we drove back to Leesville for dinner at the Wagon Master Steakhouse. After dinner my back to the hotel.

Sunday morning John and I hooked up at his car and drove to Toups for breakfast. We got there at about 7:50am and Mark was already there with his coffee. We had our breakfast and talked and left around 9:00am. I spend time with B & D companies, with Mark visiting HHC and A, John going back to C. I was talking with the men from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon of B Company as they were taking inventory of equipment, wrapping,



and packing equipment into containers to be loaded into Connex containers. Out in the hot sun, after about

an hour, I starting felling the effects of the heat and ask where I could get some water.

Met the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt of D Company at the water point, and he took me to D company building and stayed in the air conditioning there between 45-60 minutes taking with the men.

I then walked back to where Mark parked the car. He was sitting in it with the A/C running. We waited for John to show up, as we waited, I suggested we go to the rail head where the vehicle were being prepared to be loaded onto the flat cars. Mark agreed. We got to the rail head and stayed there for about two hours talking with the troops there and watching them prepare the vehicles for loading.



John had to leave to get his flight out of Alexandria, but Mark and I stayed at the rail head and continued to spend time with the troops. Mark and I then went out for dinner.

Mark picked me up at 7:30 Monday morning and we went to Toup's for breakfast for his coffee, after breakfast, we headed for Houston.

### **2/22 Change of Command**

0 Dark 30 once again found me heading down the driveway on another trip to Ft Drum; this trip was to attend the Battalion CoC. **LTC**

**Matt VanPutte** was relinquishing Command to **LTC Chris Riley**.

I took a different approach to the trip this time. Last trip, where I followed Google Maps, sent me in the wrong direction resulting in an additional one and a half hours to an anticipated 9-hour drive. So, I decided to look at a mapper map and come up with another plan. Short story is that I arrived at FT Drum in 8 hours and 30 minutes with no consternation and no bad directions. Lessons learned.

My usual agenda would have had me visiting BN after checking in at the hotel, however it was a Sunday and the only Active Duty Soldiers at the BN HQ would be the CQ, so I went to one of the entry security check points to visit with **Dave Thomas**, "C" CO, 2000 and the "AT" PLT, 2000-2004, 2/22 INF. Dave, in addition to being the 22<sup>nd</sup> Inf Regiment Society Liaison 2/22, 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn, is a Security Guard at Ft Drum. We visited for a couple of hours discussing a number of topics that we had no control over, with the exception of where we would go to breakfast in the morning. Shorty's in Waterville is always a good choice.

I left Dave and went back to the hotel where I got some rest in anticipation of meeting up in Waterville with **Pete Gaworecki**, "C" CO, 1967, 1/22 INF, who was meeting **John Poggi**, "C" CO, 1969, 2/22 INF at the airport. We had plans to meet at the Fairgrounds Inn for dinner. **Chris Tuccio**, "HQ" CO, 2004, 2/22 INF and his wife **Fee**, were also staying at the hotel. Chris offered to drive to Waterville, and I wisely accepted. We met Pete and John at the prescribed time only to find that the restaurant was closed. We checked out another restaurant and found it was also closed, but the Japanese Restaurant was open where we enjoyed good dining. After dinner we all went back to Ft Drum and turned in for the night.

The rehearsal for the CoC was scheduled for 1000 HRS on 3 June that gave us plenty of time to have a fine breakfast at Shorty's. We

went back to Ft Drum so that we could meet LTC Riley and for some of us, for the first time, meet **CSM Carey** and to say Hello to Matt & Angela Van Putte. We also spent time at the Triple Deuce Memorial Site where Pete, who oversees the sight for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Inf Reg Soc, explained what improvements and maintenance were needed.

This was, I believe, the first time that LTC Riley heard the words, "...we'll pay for that..." Keep in mind that the only Battalion size unit that we know of that has an Old Goats Squad is Triple Deuce.

I took the opportunity to explain to LTC Riley that the Triple Deuce Memorial Site was built and paid for before any of the other Battalion Memorial Sites had broken ground. Credit was given to **Dennis Sullivan**, BN CO, 2006-2009 and **Brent McNally**, "A" & "HQ" COs, 2006-2009 for their efforts in bringing the Memorial Site from an idea to a reality.

We had time to visit with old friends and new friends. Chris and I brought out the Vietnam Triple Deuce Guidon and the AFG-IRAQ Guidon. **CPT Matt McClelland**, S-1, 2/22, 10<sup>th</sup> MTN, had them prominently placed at the base of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Monument where the CoC ceremony would take place.

The CoC was about to begin, so I sat in a front row seat. A few minutes late a man in uniform sat next to me. I looked at his rank and found that the man was **BG Clarke**, ADC, 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. I promptly saluted General Clarke and he promptly returned the salute. During LTC VanPutte's farewell speech he thanked the Old Goats Squad for all the support that had been provided. I turned to General Clarke and said, "That's us!" To which the General replied, "I know!"

I mention this because I want the members of both the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society and the Vietnam Triple Deuce to know that the efforts made in support of our Active Duty Soldiers is noticed far beyond 2/22, 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn,

but throughout the entire 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn Division and beyond.

With the CoC completed and the audience still in place, the opportunity to present LTC VanPutte with a framed appreciation award for his service to 2/22, 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn was taken by John Poggi. John, dressed in jacket and tie, thanked Matt and Angela for the Battalion's success at home as well as during deployment.

There was more visiting and bidding farewell between attendees. I was fortunate to see **COL Scott Wence**, BN CO, 2/22, 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn 2017-2019. COL Wence is the CO of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn and is also slated for an upcoming CoC. COL Wence remains as fit as ever. It is my observation that there is a core of Warrior Soldiers in the Army and we are fortunate to have them.

With the conclusion of the CoC we went back to the hotel to prepare for dinner. John had invited Matt and Angela to dinner. Chris and Fee left for home shortly after the CoC and were not able to join us. The conversation was interesting and broad. We talked about the VanPutte's future and the hope that they would remain important members of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society.

There is a possibility that Matt and Angela will attend, at least in part, the Nashville reunion. I must add here that Pete was dressed in a new collared shirt and was voted 'best dressed' of the men at the table. With dinner completed we parted and went back to the hotel. I was back on the road the next morning before 0500 HRS. The total time I was away from home was 58 hours with approximately 18 of those hours driving. Yes, that's tough on the backside, but I'd do the same again anytime the opportunity presents itself to spend time with our Active Duty Soldiers.

**Jim May, HMOR**  
Prov., Co 1968

***From Our New Traveling Reporter:***

***Triple Deuce Change of Command:  
Battalion Colors pass from VanPutte  
to Riley***

June 3, 2024 – The command of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, has been passed from **LTC Matthew B. VanPutte**, fresh from a noteworthy rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center, to **LTC Christopher M. Riley**, arriving from a Pentagon assignment at Headquarters Department of the Army.

Monday, June 3 was a perfect Spring day at Fort Drum, with sunny skies, a fresh breeze and moderate temperatures – all of which were appreciated by the set-up teams and company formations gathered on the parade ground to set-up for the afternoon ceremony. With senior officers from Division and Brigade invited to the 3:00 p.m. ceremony, set-up was completed and rehearsals began at 10:30 a.m., ably orchestrated by **MAJ Travis Sparkes**, Battalion XO.

The backdrop for the ceremony was the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division’s Military Mountaineer Monument, framed by a wide half-circle of colorful flags representing the celebrated campaigns of Triple Deuce. Two canopied seating areas were set up for VIPs and family members facing the monument and the troop formations; apparently the E-9’s and O-5’s in attendance had no illusions that they qualified for the shaded seating.

***The Change of Command Ceremony:  
Passing the Colors***

For those who haven’t attended the formal Change of Command of an Army

battalion, the central symbolism is the passing of the Battalion colors from the outgoing to incoming command team, with troops formed up as companies behind their commanders. The CoC began with an invocation by Battalion **Chaplain (CPT) Kenneth Okeze** and playing of the National Anthem by the division band, followed by commencement of the formal ceremony. The troops come to attention as a color guard marched to the center of the parade assembly with the flag of the United States and the Battalion Colors, bedecked with all of the battle streamers won over more than a century. The narrator explained that the battalion colors have traditionally marked the location of the battalion commander, which in bygone historic battles enabled scattered soldiers to “rally to the colors.” At this point, many troopers of more recent wars likely were thinking that being close to the battalion colors in the midst of a battle might not be such a good idea, but that’s a topic for another day.

The sergeant major is the official keeper of the colors, and the central element of the ceremony is the transfer of the colors:



the outgoing sergeant major presents the colors to the outgoing battalion commander, who then executes a smart about-face and symbolically

presents the colors to the incoming BC. After a brief verbal exchange between commanders, the incoming BC executes another about-face and presents the

colors to the incoming sergeant major. This concludes the ceremonial transfer of command, after which the commanders retire and are seated and the colors are posted. Formal speeches were delivered by **Brigade Commander COL Daniel P. Kearney**, outgoing commander LTC Matthew B. Van Putte and incoming commander LTC Christopher M. Riley. In attendance but not speaking was **BG Kendall Clarke**, Deputy Commanding General for Operations of 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division.



In his remarks, LTC VanPutte expressed his special pride in Courage Battalion as “the blue collar battalion of the blue collar 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division,” and recounted some of the Battalion’s successes over his 27 months of

command, including a challenging CENTCOM deployment, rigorous training and testing, and the crowning achievement of Triple Deuce’s May rotation at JRTC/Ft. Johnson (formerly Ft. Polk). Matt also called out “a secret that provides the strongest level of support I have ever felt in a unit – our Gold Star Families and Veterans from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society.” And, like so many of our serving Soldiers, Matt expressed his appreciation for the role of his wife Angela, who “placed a high priority on serving the families of the Courage Battalion while also being the leader of the family when and where I couldn’t;” and his pride in his children’s “resilience, understanding and ability to

find success” while having “gone their entire lives without a say in where they live, or go to school, or when and where they’re able to have their dad around.”

This seasoned combat leader provided an eloquent reminder that when we give thanks for the service of our men and women in uniform, we also need to remember the sacrifice and service of their families.

### ***22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society representation at COC***

The date for the CoC had been changed several times in the three months before the ceremony, which complicated arranging for representatives from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society. Able to attend at short notice were old-timers **Pete Gaworecki, Jim May and John Poggi** –

retired guys with reasonably flexible calendars – augmented by the heroic appearance



by Chris Tuccio with wife Fee, who modified their work schedules and made a long drive to represent the Society. A special shout-out to Chris and Fee!

### ***Recognition for Matt and Angela VanPutte***

Among the presentations made during the extended ceremony, two were particularly meaningful for the Society members who were present. Pete Gaworecki, our stalwart man-for-all-seasons in upstate New York and keeper of the Society’s monument at Fort Drum, had prepared a magnificent plaque

commemorating LTC VanPutte's contributions to Triple Deuce and support of the Society. Although the Triple Deuce presentation was not in the formal program, the unflappable MAJ Sparkes graciously created schedule space. About five minutes before the ceremony began, Pete turned to another Society member in attendance and said, "Here, I think you should present this." While that gesture definitely reflected Pete's well-honed management skills, the lucky presenter felt his ad hoc remarks were decidedly less polished than they might have been.

The presentation that may have drawn the most enthusiastic response from the audience was when Brigade Commander COL Dan Kearney called up Angela VanPutte, Matt's wife, to award her the Commander's Award for Public Service. This DA-approved award recognized Angela's dedication and ceaseless efforts in support of the families of Triple Deuce, and she received a hearty round of applause from the family members in the audience – and also from the detachments of Old Goats, who were keenly aware of Mrs. VanPutte's special attention to helping link the battalion to its historical legacy.

Change of Command day came to an unexpectedly sociable close: the VanPutte family did not have dinner plans, and Matt and Angela graciously accepted an invitation to dine as guests of the Society contingent at an Italian restaurant in Watertown. It was a thoroughly enjoyable send-off for yet another most capable Triple Deuce command team.

### **LTC Christopher M. Riley**

LTC Chris Riley was born in 29 Palms, California, in 1981. His enlisted service as a combat medic from 1998-2006 included the deployment for the invasion of Iraq, 2003-

2004. He commissioned as an Infantry Officer through the ROTC program at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2006, after earning his undergraduate degree in History.



Following completion of the Infantry Officer Basic Course and graduation from Ranger School, he served as a Platoon Leader in 2-502d Infantry Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN Division (AASLT), deploying for the Surge in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007-2008. LTC Riley completed the Maneuver Captains Career Course and served as an assistant S3, Rifle Company Commander and the Battalion HHC Commander within 1-325<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment (AIR), 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN Division, 2011-2014.

He deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn in 2011. He subsequently served as the Battalion S3 for a Training Support Battalion and completed his graduate degree in American History from Norwich University before attending the Command and General Staff College at Ft Leavenworth in 2016. From 2017-2020, LTC Riley served as the Division Chief of Operations for 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, the Battalion Operations Officer (S3) in 1-63<sup>rd</sup> Armor (CAB), and the Brigade Operations Officer (S3) for 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, deploying to the Republic of Korea as the Rotational Force in 2020. He was selected to serve as an Interagency Fellow within the Department of State in 2020-2021.

LTC Riley recently served as the Executive Officer for the HQDA, Deputy G-3/5/7, in the Pentagon, and the Branch Chief for Collective Training within the G-3/5/7, Training Directorate. His awards and decorations include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, Senior

Parachutist Wings, and the Air Assault Badge. At this ceremony he is accompanied by his wife, **LTC Devon Riley**, and they have two wonderful daughters, **Catherine** and **Madison**.

### **CSM Daniel Heflin**

On January 25, 2024 **CSM Daniel Heflin** assumed responsibility as the 4th Ranger Training Battalion's Command Sergeant Major at Ft. Moore GA. CSM Heflin joined the Army in 1999, first assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division.



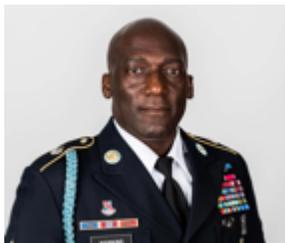
In 2002 CSM Heflin was assigned to the 10th MTN DIV, 2-22INF. CSM Heflin served from 2002-2006 in Triple

Deuce (A Company and HHC Scouts) where he attended and graduated Ranger School as well as deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq in support of the Global War on Terror.

CSM Heflin graduated US Army Sergeants Major Academy Class 69 and served as an Operations SGM in 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Alaska) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division (Ft Moore) before he assumed his role at 4th Ranger Training Battalion. He will bring the standards and discipline he learned while in Triple Deuce to this position and ensure our future Rangers are well trained and prepared to meet their enemies on the field of battle! Deeds Now Words.

**Bruce Kosmicki CSM [R]**  
22nd IRS Registrar

**James Manning, CSM [R]**



**James Manning, CSM [R]**, who served as the CSM of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, Fort, Drum, NY in 2013-2015, was selected as the 2024 Senior Army

Instructor of the Year for the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade. James is a JROTC instructor at Montgomery Central High School, Clarksville, TN.

### **Few Spacers Left in Paver Section 22A – National Infantry Museum Heritage Walkway**

Several have asked about availability of PAVERS in our Section 22A at the National



Infantry Museum. Karen Hoffmann of NIM gave up the update below.

Lon, we have roughly 12 spaces left in 22A. I would be more than happy to honor the special pricing of \$200.(savings of \$50 from what form below shows) Anyone interested it will be first come first serve. Please either email or mail the form at the below address if you have an interest in getting one of the last spots. Note your email to my attention (**Karen Hoffmann**) to get the savings. Thanks for your continued support of Ft Moore and National Infantry Museum.

**Karen Hoffmann**

My email address is:

[opsmanager@nationalinfantryfoundation.org](mailto:opsmanager@nationalinfantryfoundation.org)

**SSG Michael Ollis 5K**



## Recommendation for Reunion Breakfast

Reunion breakfast spot a block south of the hotel. Very reasonable. Dunkin Donuts is one block north. <https://union-teller.com/menus>

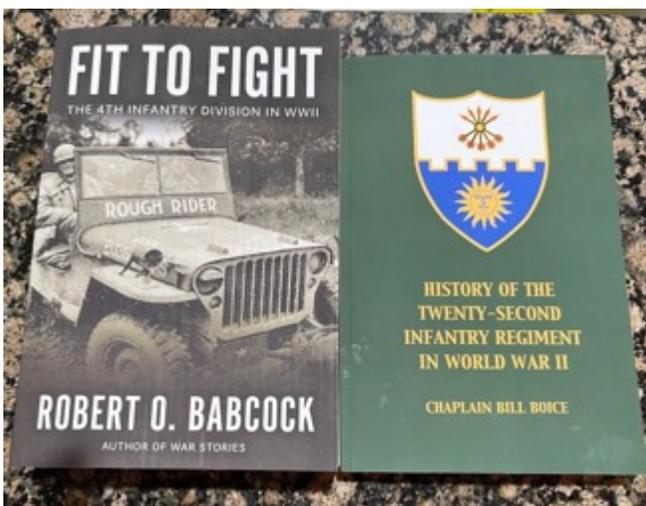
**Pete Gaworecki, DMOR**

## New Books

With this being the 80th anniversary year of our Regiment's fight across Europe in WWII, I finally got Chaplain Bill Boice's *History of the 22nd Infantry Regiment in WWII* reprinted and I also finished my *Fit to Fight: The 4th Infantry Division in World War II* covering 4ID from June 1940 to March 1946. For details and purchasing, go to [www.deedspublishing.com](http://www.deedspublishing.com) and click on Bookstore. They are also available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle versions. Coming out in July will be Michael Belis' book *Mr. 22nd Infantry* about the life of COL Earl "Lum" Edwards, available as explained above.

Bill Boice, Lum Edwards, and MG (Ret) John Ruggles are the founders of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society - formed on the ship coming home from Europe in July 1945.

**Bob Babcock, DMOR**



## US Army Fort Name Changes

OLD	NEW
Fort Benning	Fort Moore
Fort Bragg	Fort Liberty
Fort Hood	Fort Cavazos
Fort Polk	Fort Johnson
Fort Lee	Fort Gregg-Adams
Fort Gordon	Fort Eisenhower
Fort Rucker	Fort Novosel
Fort Pickett	Fort Barfoot
Fort A.P. Hill	Fort Walker

## Taps

**Richard "Dick" Pauly** of Buffalo, NY, passed away on March 31, 2024. Dick served with A Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in 1969-70.

**David Aaron Hickman**, of Temple, TX, passed away on April 25, 2024. David served with Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division GITMO and OIF participant

**Dr. Ira Paul Mersack**, of Lexington, KY, passed away on April, 10, 2024. Ira served with HHQ Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, as the Battalion Surgeon, Vietnam, 1967-68.

## Lest 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
3. and hardship.
4. Gave you good reason to harbor a personal feeling of high accomplishment and pride.
5. Gave you treasured lifetime friends markedly improving the quality of your life.

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

## Reunion Schedule

DATE	Start Time	Stop Time	Function	Notes
Tuesday 20 August	0900	1700	Set up and Hotel, Activities Coordination	*We are currently working on a number of events for attendees to enjoy; dates will firm up by July-early August
Wednesday 21 August	0900	1700	Registration	Hotel lobby area
Thursday 22 August	0900	1700	Registration	Hotel lobby area
	TBD	UTC	Hospitality Room	Doubletree Ballroom
	0700	0730	Golf preparation (We are looking at either a Thursday or Friday golf event)	Depart 0730
	0900	1400	Golf	TBD
	0900	1800	Free time – we are developing a host of local events to attend/view/visit	Local Nashville area
	1900	2000	Hemingway Turkey [Hen?]	Doubletree Ballroom
Friday 23 August	0900	1700	Registration	Hotel Lobby area
	TBD	UTC	Hospitality Room	Doubletree Ballroom
	1100	1400	Nissan Stadium Tour – Option 1 (Cost estimate per person: \$60.00)	Nissan Stadium (within walking distance of hotel; transportation provided for those requiring it)
	1200	1400	Double decker Bus Tour of Nashville – Option 1 (Cost estimate per person: \$50.00)	Rolling, open bus tour of Nashville
	0900	1700	Free time – we are developing a host of local events to attend/view/visit	Local Nashville area
	1800/1900	2200/2300	Buffet Dinner (ORA, DMOR, HMOR presentations)	Doubletree Ballroom
	2200/2300	UTC	Free time – we are developing a host of local events to attend/view/visit	Local Nashville area
Saturday 24 August	0900	1000	22 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society meeting; business meetings	Doubletree Ballroom
	TBD	UTC	Hospitality Room	Doubletree Ballroom
	0900	1000	Ladies Breakfast	Doubletree
	0900	1700	Free time – we are developing a host of local events to attend/view/visit	Local Nashville area
	1100	1400	Nissan Stadium Tour – Option 2 (Cost estimate per person: \$60.00)	Nissan Stadium (within walking distance of hotel; transportation provided for those requiring it)
	1200	1400	Double decker Bus Tour of Nashville – Option 2 (Cost estimate per person: \$50.00)	Rolling, open bus tour of Nashville
	1830	2200	22 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society Banquet	Doubletree Ballroom
Sunday 25 August	0830	0900	Memorial Service & prepare for departure	Doubletree Ballroom

**22<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT SOCIETY**  
**2024 Registration Form**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton, Nashville Downtown**  
**August 20-25, 2024**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I served with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment in: \_\_\_\_ Company, \_\_\_\_ Battalion, \_\_\_\_ Div  
 Dates served: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I served in support of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment: Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dates served: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I did not serve/support the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

Reunion Registration [Information for Name tags] **[No charge for registration]**

First Name	Last Name	City/State
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Friday Buffet: Number _____ . Cost: \$60.00.	Total Buffet: \$ _____
Saturday Ladies Program: _____ . Cost: \$10.00	Ladies: \$ _____
<b>Saturday Banquet:</b>	
Vegetarian	Number: ____ Cost: \$34.00 Total: \$ _____
Airline Chicken	Number: ____ Cost: \$45.00 Total: \$ _____
Grilled Pork Loin	Number: ____ Cost: \$48.00 Total: \$ _____
Seared Salmon	Number: ____ Cost: \$56.00 Total: \$ _____
Pan-Seared Filet Mignon	Number: ____ Cost: \$77.00 Total: \$ _____
	Total Banquet: \$ _____

Optional Donation to offset Reunion Cost [Hospitality Room] \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Donation to Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase of Raffle Tickets: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 Number: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed: Registration must be received by Aug 10, 2024. \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

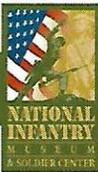
**Send PDF & Check to:** 22 Infantry Regiment Society  
 C/O Martin Oelklaus  
 Post Office Box 3258  
 Independence, Mo 64055-8258

**Send PayPal Payment to:** 22nd infantry Regiment Society  
 At: [Moelklaus@aol.com](mailto:Moelklaus@aol.com)  
 Upon completion, please email your 2024  
 Reunion Registration PDF to: moelklaus@aol.com

**Send Zelle Payments to:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society  
 At: 816-805-0845  
 Upon completion, please email your 2024  
 Reunion Registration PDF to: moelklaus@aol.com

**Send Venmo Payments to:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society  
 At: 816-805-0845  
 Upon completion, please email your 2024  
 Reunion Registration PDF to: moelklaus@aol.com

**Will Join Mark playing golf on Thursday. Yes \_\_\_\_\_**



# NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM PAVER PROGRAM

I would like to purchase \_\_\_ 4 x 8 engraved granite paver(s) at **\$250** each. Each paver includes one (1) complimentary 2" x 4" desktop replica paver.

I do not wish to buy a paver at this time, but would like to make a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Print clearly and double-check your spelling. Maximum three lines, 20 characters per line, including spaces. Please provide documentation for any awards listed.**

**PAVER 1**


\_\_\_\_\_  
Additional replicas = \$25

\_\_\_\_\_  
Certificates = \$10

**PAVER 2**


\_\_\_\_\_  
Additional replicas = \$25

\_\_\_\_\_  
Certificates = \$10

**PAVER 3**


\_\_\_\_\_  
Additional replicas = \$25

\_\_\_\_\_  
Certificates = \$10

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Visa     MasterCard     American Express     Money Order     Check  
*(Payable to: National Infantry Foundation)*

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Purchaser Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear about the National Infantry Museum Paver Program?**

National Infantry Museum / Walk-in     Website  
 Friend/family     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail form and payment to:**  
National Infantry Museum Heritage Walk Paver Program  
1775 Legacy Way Suite 220  
Columbus, GA 31903

**Thank you! Payments will be treated as donations to the National Infantry Foundation.**

\*The National Infantry Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Purchases are non-refundable, tax-deductible donations. Commemorative paver orders are classified as charitable donations by the IRS and are deductible in the calendar year in which they are made. Individuals ordering pavers will receive a letter verifying the amount contributed which also serves as a receipt for the donation.



Bumper sticker \$3.00



Challenge Coins  
 One coin: \$14.00. Shipping included  
 Five Coins: \$11.00 each +\$8.00 Shipping  
 10 Coins: \$10.00 each + \$16.00 shipping  
 15 coins: \$9.00 each + \$24.00 Shipping  
 20 Coins: \$8.00 each + \$32.00 shipping



Divisional Pins  
 Small \$5.00  
 Large \$7.00  
 Shipping is \$6.00 per pin\*\*



Coasters: \$5.00 each. Shipping for 2, \$3.00 \*\*



Mini Flag: \$5.00  
 Shipping: \$6.00\*\*



CIB/DUI: \$12.00  
 Shipping : \$6.00 \*\*

Midi Mini



22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Crossed Rifles: \$14.00 per set  
 Shipping: \$6.00\*\*



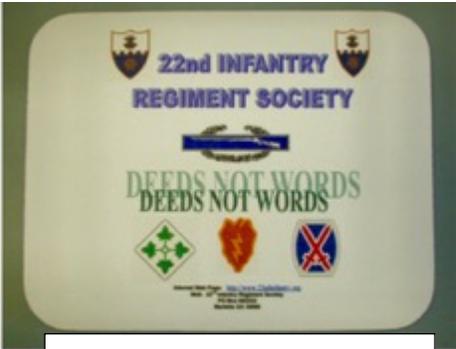
Mini CIB: \$5.00. Midi CIB: \$7.00  
 Shipping: \$6.00 \*\*



Blazer Patch: \$10.00  
 Shipping: \$3.00\*\*



Unit Crest [DUI] \$7.00  
 Shipping: \$6.00 \*\*



Mouse Pad: \$5.00  
 Shipping: \$3.00 \*\*

**\*\*These item shipped without charge if ordered with hats or shirts.**



Denim Long Sleeve Shirts \$43.00 sizes Small to XL \$47.00 sizes XXL & XXXL

Shipping \$12.00

Other colors of shirts are available. Add \$5.00 to above prices. See instructions on order form to place special orders

Royal Blue Short Sleeve Polo Shirt with pocket. \$32.00 sizes Small to XL \$36.00 sizes XXL & XXXL



All Hats: \$20.00 one size fits all



**SHIPPING**

One hat: \$6.00 Two hats or One Polo Shirt: \$6.50 One hat and one shirt or Polo shirt: \$8.00 Two Shirts: \$12.00 Denim Long Sleeve Shirt: \$12.00 One hat and one Denim shirt \$13.00 Add \$5.00 for each additional item



Monument T-Shirt: \$19.00 sizes small to XL \$22.00 XXL & XXXL

**"All prices are Suggested Donations."**

**Make checks payable to: 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society**

Send orders to: Jim May  
P.O. Box 665  
Norridgewock, ME 04957  
Phone: 207-634-3355. E-mail: jlmay@tds.net

If I'm out of something, I'll let you know when to expect it. If you'd like something special, let me know

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Order Form**

Item 1: \_\_\_\_\_ size \_\_\_\_\_ Item 2: \_\_\_\_\_ size: \_\_\_\_\_

Item 3: \_\_\_\_\_ size \_\_\_\_\_ Item 4: \_\_\_\_\_ size: \_\_\_\_\_

Other items: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Shipping Charges: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_