



2/71 Reunion



2nd Missile Battalion, 71st Artillery
(Nike-Hercules)
Taiwan 1958-1959

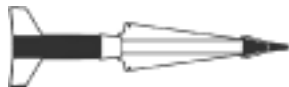
Volume 2

Letter 4

December 1998

From the Editor

This newsletter will try and bring you up to date on the September 1998 reunion and a few things that have occurred since the reunion. Approximately 70 percent of our members did not attend the reunion, so this newsletter will try to capture the flavor of the events as well as the text of some of the key presentations. We have also included some snapshots taken at the reunion. Unfortunately, we don't have the text of the five presentations by battery representatives at the reunion banquet, nor the presentation to the Air Defense Artillery Advanced Officers Class. If you weren't there, you missed a most memorable event.



2-71 (Taiwan) Is Back, by Dave O'Connell, D Battery

The 2-71(Taiwan) is back, its support groups intact. What a reunion, what electricity, what men and what women they married; so much laughter, so many tears. Forty years became forty days; forty days became forty hours; and forty hours turned into yesterday. No longer lost in the veil of Cold War security, this special unit, this tripwire, this landmine of men that stood in the breach and dared the Red Chinese to go to war with the United States is back, back until the last man folds the colors of the 2nd Msl. Bn., 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Association.

Eighty plus men attended in person, but every member of the 2-71(Taiwan) and support groups was there in spirit. Whereas the bond shared by soldiers of conflict transcends time and place; sooner or later virtually every troop's name came up during bull sessions or through pictures, stories, videos, etc. You men unable to attend were truly missed, but your presence in our stories, in our photos, in our tapes and videos, in our hearts placed you among your fellow veterans, gave you a seat at the table.

Medal ceremonies were conducted by both the U. S. Army and the Republic of China. The very fact that these ceremonies took place are indicative of the great job each of you did personally for his country and reflects on the courage and skills of the entire 2nd Msl. Bn., 71st Artillery/Support Groups on Taiwan in successfully completing its

mission.

Would you believe a Marine Corporal received a standing ovation from the men and guests of the 2-71 at the Chinese Medal Ceremony? While we were dug in up island a "few good men" were dug in down island guarding an airfield at Ping Tung. One of these men was nineteen year old Cpl. Richard Feeney. He is the one American responsible for working with the Republic of China in developing and authorizing the 823 Campaign Badge of Honor, recognizing and thanking Chinese and American Veterans of the 1958 Taiwan Straits Crisis. Without a typewriter or computer and with his own funds Richie hunted down over eight hundred 1958 Taiwan Veterans for this one-time award. He is a "plugger," the kind of Marine you like covering your southern flank.

The reunion was a success for all of us. There are no words, really, that can express my feeling with regard to the whole affair, the men, the unit, the honors, the camaraderie, the closure. It was too moving for words to see the men honored by two nations for an unselfish act performed forty years ago. It was too moving for words to observe and experience the camaraderie of the men casting off forty years of separation as if it were just a weekend pass. For me personally it was like a dream come true.

Wondering why the reunion was so electrifying and satisfying for all of us, I ran my thoughts about it by Bob Mackintosh. Bob offered the following words to think about; words that I now pass on to you.

"Most people don't realize it until too late in life, but the friendships made in the military, are very special and different than other friendships. It is probably shared experiences and the fact that it is a total immersion - 24 hours a day - in the job at hand with the same small group."

See you all at the next reunion! Yes! The 2-71 (Taiwan) is back!



The Reunion: September 24-27, 1998, by Walt (Chuck) Lapsley, B and D Batteries

After forty years of working and living in different parts of the world, a group of men who worked together as a team to ward off a potential world wide tragedy returned to the starting point of their great adventure. Nearly ninety members of the original seven hundred troops of the 2nd Missile Battalion (Nike-Hercules) 71st Artillery and Support Units rallied for the reunion at Fort Bliss. These men, from all walks of life, were interested in recovering an important part of their history by interacting with people who had shared a common experience. The majority of the men were fortunate to have their wives with them to participate in this historic occasion.

The return to Fort Bliss was a return to the starting point of a great adventure that may have helped save a country. For me it was also a return to the Air Defense School where I spent nearly fifteen months being trained to maintain the highly sophisticated Nike Hercules missile system. Although I know that you “can’t go home again”, the return to this friendly environment remembered from youth, is as close as most of us can come to realizing this myth.

As the airplane approached the city, the view of the Franklin Mountains began to stimulate memories that had lain long dormant. From the air, the city didn’t appear to have changed much in forty years, but on the ground, very little remained that was familiar. During the next few days we would all discover that many of the buildings or areas of Fort Bliss, which had remained relatively unchanged, were now of historical significance.

The first familiar item that seemed to have stayed the same was the September temperature. The skies were clear and the temperature was hot when I arrived in the early afternoon, but edges of hurricane George added the effect of humidity.

Soon after checking in, it was off to the first floor hospitality suite where I picked up my registration packet. It included an itinerary for the reunion and tickets for meals and various events, as well as a receipt for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

Several people had already signed in and were looking at various memorabilia in the adjacent rooms. Most of us had not seen each other for almost forty years! I was fortunate to reacquaint myself with a couple of my fellow B/D Battery troopers, Ray Corbin and Dave O’Connell.

The first event following registration was a social hour which included a much welcomed and well attended hosted bar. Due to the inroads of time it was very difficult to recognize most people. The only positive way that I could recall anyone was by looking at the nametags. During this event I met Milt Breder and Bill Santak, who were fellow members of

B battery. Meeting Danny Funamura of Koloa, Hawaii was especially significant. We were in the same training class over forty years ago and had several common memories that both of us had thought were myths rather than reality.

About 6:30 PM, the evening program began in the hotel Ballroom with Bob Mackintosh introducing the Mayor of El Paso and his wife and the Director General, of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Houston, for the Republic for the China (ROC) and his wife. Several other ROC aides and the Assistant Commandant of Fort Bliss Air Defense Artillery (ADA) facility were also introduced.

The Director General presented us with the “823 Campaign Badge of Honor” which commemorates those soldiers who participated in the campaign to protect Quemoy and Matsu, Taiwan’s strategic satellite islands in August 1958. The numbers “8-2-3” refer to August 23rd, the date when the Chinese Communist bombardment took place. The center of the medal depicts an engraving of the two islands. Fighter planes, battleships, and cannons symbolize the cooperation among all branches of the armed forces during this battle. This is a joint service medal available to both ROC and US Forces who participated in the campaign.

The personalized letter given with the medal says “Your commitment to the values of freedom and democracy successfully protecting the barely existing free land, Taiwan, from the Chinese Communist invasion is well recognized and deeply valued from generation to generation”. David Kuang-Ping Liu, Director General, signed the letter.

The Director General hosted the group with a Buffet Dinner in the Ballroom.

Friday started off with a bang at 8:30 AM as three busloads of us embarked from the hotel to Fort Bliss for a day with the US Army. Our group bus leader was an Army captain about twenty-five years old. Our first stop at 9:00 AM was at Building 2495 where we were given a command briefing Colonel Ouellette, Deputy Assistant Commandant of the Air Defense Artillery School at Fort Bliss. This briefing included a public relations presentation of what the Fort is now doing in the community and in the world. One of the major activities at Fort Bliss is the Patriot Missile program. Fort Bliss is the center of the Patriot Missile training and deployment forces in the United States. Patriot Missiles and forces are deployed directly to areas of need on a moment’s notice. This system up-dates the Nike Hercules air defense capability, however, it does not have the surface to surface capability. As you might recall from “Desert Storm” the Patriot was noted as a “Scud buster”.

The Colonel and his aides presented us with the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) given after a hiatus of forty years. We were all very proud to receive this symbol from our country that provided a closure for many of us who had perhaps unknowingly put our lives on the line in defense

of an ally.

Immediately following the medal ceremony we were presented to about 100 young officers who serve on the Patriot Missile teams. Many of these officers in an advanced officers class had seen service in the Middle East manning Patriot Missile Batteries in Saudi Arabia. Our exploits during the Quemoy/Matsu incident were presented to the group by Lee Early, who had been C Battery CO in Taiwan. War story time!

After the presentation we all boarded the buses and headed to the Centennial Club (a Fort Bliss NCO Club) for a nice lunch. I had lunch with Danny Funamura and his wife of Koloa, Hawaii.

After lunch we again boarded buses and toured through an older part of the Fort. I saw the three-story tile roofed training school barracks where I spent a very pleasant year and three months. We then visited a Patriot Missile training battery at Abernathy Park, where we were given a briefing and tour through a Patriot missile battery. There were as many similarities as there were differences between the Hercules and Patriot systems. I have to say that the Hercules was a much more attractive missile than the Patriot, but what can you say about aesthetics when the competition keeps the missile in a box!

We then went to the old Fort Bliss Museum and then on to the ADA Museum where we saw the Nike family of missiles. I found the old V-2 Rocket, which had been located in the Mess Hall parking lot directly across the street from my training barracks. Most of us bought small items at the museum, but unfortunately they didn't have a good stock of items featuring the Oozlefinch mascot of missilemen!

We arrived back at the Hotel in time to rest and shower before again boarding buses for the trip to the Ajuuas Restaurant in Juarez Mexico. Danny Funamura and his hand-made ukulele kept our bus entertained with songs on the traffic congested trip though El Paso to the border.

On Saturday morning we had a business meeting with almost all of the troops at the reunion. We all decided by vote to form a dues paying "2nd Missile Battalion 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Association" for the group, and to have our next reunion in three years. An Association executive committee was elected, consisting of Bob Mackintosh, Dave O'Connell and Charlie Trost. The business meeting took up most of the morning as golf and tours began at 11:30 AM. It was voted that the association is to be a dues paying organization (\$15.00 per year) established to maintain contact via newsletters to provide for a future reunion. Most of the troops attending the reunion signed up with the association.

After the business meeting and a presentation of Taiwan slides we had the opportunity to golf at Fort Bliss, go on a tour of Old Mesilla or go on a shopping trip in Juarez Mexico. I opted for the Juarez bus shopping tour from 1:30 PM to 5:30

PM. Two busloads totaling over 50 people made the trek.

This trip was much faster than the one on Friday. It was also much more picturesque in the daylight. The border crossing was uneventful, but the surroundings have changed radically over the past forty years. People still try to sell everything the moment you cross the border, but the area is considerably cleaner and less threatening.

We went to a shopping center that was recommended by the tour company as a center where the sellers would treat everyone as fairly as could be expected in a country known for bargaining. I bought some items for the home front. Bottles of vanilla and sterling silver seemed to be popular items. The tour then continued to a glass blower's shop where you could buy practical or art glass gifts to take home.

We arrived back at the hotel in time for a short rest before attending another welcomed social hour and banquet.

The evening program began with the posting of the colors by a local high school ROTC group, led by a regular army Master Sergeant. Both the posting and retirement of colors was done in a very professional manner. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by Opening remarks by Bob Mackintosh and a blessing by father O'Brien, who attended in place of his deceased brother. Father O'Brien's brother, Patrick, had been the battalion priest.

Danny Funamura led the group in the singing of God Bless America. We were then treated to a musical group (led by Don Sneckenberger) singing medleys of patriotic music.

Bob Mackintosh then led the group in a toast to the regiment and a silent toast to those members who had passed on.

Speakers for the four field batteries (A,B,C,& D) and headquarters battery spoke of times and events experienced during our year on the island.

The main evenings entertainment was provided by the Ballet Folklorico, which included several Mexican folk dance selections. This well received entertainment lasted nearly one hour.

Following the entertainment, Father O'Brien gave the benediction to close the evening events.

Various members then went their way to bed or to discuss former and current times and events.

The next morning we all attended the Memorial Breakfast commemorating those forty deceased members of our Battalion and three supporting groups. A table had been set with a lit candle in recognition of these missing comrades. The roll call of these members was read.

Father O'Brien delivered a memorial message. One item that Father O'Brien said stuck in my memory. He quoted the following observation from some past philosopher: "Unless we are remembered, it is as if our names are written in water."

Father O'Brien then delivered the benediction to close the program.

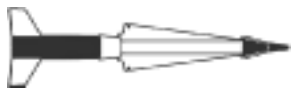
We then dispersed to the distant corners of the country to live our lives, perhaps bettered by our experiences at this reunion and perhaps looking forward to the next gathering of the Battalion.

I caught my flight back to the San Francisco Bay Area to reflect on events and to continue my activities until the next reunion with a very special group of people.

The significance of this reunion brought back a memory about my sophomore year of college when I worked as a part time elevator operator at an up-scale athletic club in Portland, Oregon. It had a large ballroom that was often rented out for special events. The Ballroom had been rented for a reunion and banquet for a large group of World War I Army veterans who were celebrating their thirty-eighth anniversary of their group's return from serving in the "Great War". I saw dozens of these men in partial or complete uniforms with ribbons and medals. There were battle flags and pennants and many Smokey-the-Bear campaign hats. Several members were in wheel chairs, but everyone seemed happy and outgoing. The group would often break out in songs that were popular during the war. For a young nineteen-year-old in the modern 1950's, their actions and energy seemed alien but still compelling. I only wish that I had had videotape to record that reunion, or at least some of the troops! Memory of the experience almost seems mythological to me. This reunion served as a periodic closure for something that only these people could fully appreciate.

I believe that it is true that reading any history gives you a pale shadow of the real events. Talking to those who lived the common events during special times is a rare gift that lasts but a short time.

Let's do it again soon!



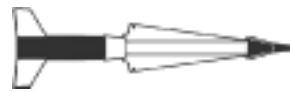
823 Campaign Badge of Honor

(From the Medal Program)

The 823 Campaign Badge of Honor commemorates those soldiers who participated in the campaign to protect the Quemoy and Matsu Islands in August of 1958. The numbers "8-2-3" refer to the date of August 23rd. In Chinese culture, historical events are often referred to by the dates on which they took place and, thus, Chinese people understand implicitly that "823" refers to the Quemoy Matsu campaign.

The medal is 3.5 centimeters in diameter, silver in color, with an engraving of the two islands located in the center. Also depicted upon the medal are fighter planes, battleships, and cannons, which symbolize the cooperation in this battle between all branches of the armed forces.

This will be a joint service medal available to both ROC and US forces who participated in the campaign.



AFEM Introduction at the Medal Ceremony,

by Bob Mackintosh, B & C Batteries

"Many of our guests, and maybe even our host (Col. Ouellette), may be asking 'Why are they getting the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal today?'"

Let me explain. The AFEM was established by Executive Order, 4 December 1961. It was authorized for U.S. military operations, U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations, and U.S. operations of assistance to friendly foreign nations.

The first operations designated to receive this medal were Quemoy and Matsu Islands, (August 1956 to 1963); Lebanon (July to November 1958) [Marine operation]; and Taiwan Straits (23 August 1958 to 1 January 1959) [Our operation].

Later they added 12 other operations from the Berlin Crisis in 1961 to the Persian Gulf and Panama Operations in 1990.

The dates are important. The medal was authorized 2 years after we came back from defending Taipei and the Taiwan Straits. Many of you were discharged from the service and didn't know about the medal. Others found out about it in later years, but could not prove that you were in Taiwan during this 4-month period of eligibility. Because of

the classified nature of our deployment, your official record, the DD 214, showed only an overseas assignment, with no location. Still others of us stayed in the service, were authorized to wear the ribbon, but never received the medal.

So, the Department of the Army was asked to issue the AFEM to each of you.....”



Banquet Presentation, by John Spegele, D Battery

As part of the D Battery representative’s presentation at the banquet, John read a portion of a Christmas 1959 newsletter “Situation Report” from Father John L. Dahlheimer, Immaculate Heart Residence, Hsinchu, Taiwan, ROC. (Father John also served as the Catholic Chaplain for the Bn.) John Spegele’s reading is included here, but we will attempt to include the entire newsletter in one of our future newsletters.

“This Christmas, God so willing, if there is some sort of peace on earth and even though all men are not of good will, give a little thought and a prayer of thanks to the men who spent last Christmas here in Taiwan making this year’s Christmas possible. With the turnover of the missiles to the First Missile Battalion of the Chinese Army, the 2nd Missile Battalion of the 71st Artillery, USA, fades into history. It was created precisely for the situation in Taiwan and today it no longer exists. It did its work well, just how well, only history will prove. I was proud and privileged to be of some little service to the men who were protecting the two countries I love, the United States and China. And just as I began this little story of the missile men (the Twentieth Century’s equivalent of the Minute Men), so let me conclude it: God bless ‘em and thank God they came when we needed them! We in Taiwan are grateful.”



Opening to Memorial Breakfast, by Dave O’Connell, D Battery

Good Morning, veterans and guests of the 2/71 and supporting units.

Welcome to the final event of our 40th Anniversary Reunion.

It is fitting that we, the living, close our Reunion with a Memorial Prayer Breakfast, honoring our comrades passed,

these soldiers, these husbands, these fathers, these sons. Patriots all. We honor their service. We honor their lives. We honor their friendship.

Where do soldiers go when they pass to their maker? A special place I have heard. A great bivouac in the sky, nestled in the arm of God. A place where there is no mud or rain or snow, no five ton trucks, no dirt roads, no enemy to know. The tents are castles, warm and serene, with showers and kitchens and flush toilets that gleam.

Marching soldiers from the castle window are seen, in uniforms from the ages. Soldiers from Valley Forge now warm and clean, Andy Jackson men from New Orleans, men from the Alamo, Americans too, San Jacinto troopers, pass in review. The Blue, the Gray, Rough Riders too. Here come the Doughboys, nearly all accounted for now, the GIs of the Big One, their ranks closing fast, Korean War soldiers, not forgotten here, marching proud to their comrades cheers. Vietnam soldiers walking tall, they stood in the breach, honored by all. The silence was broken, a challenge was heard. Who goes there? It rumbled to the horizon, to the end of the line. Who goes there? Just us, sir, just us, the Cold Warriors, the rear guard.

Memorial Breakfast Poem, Read by Fa. Bill O’Brien, brother of Patrick O’Brien, C Battery, deceased

Measure Your Lifetime in Blessings

Measure your lifetime in
blessings,
Not in the years you have known.
Count up the number of
lives you’ve touched.
Add up the love you’ve shown.

Measure your days in
gladness.
That you and your loved
ones have shared.
Tally the smiles on the
faces of friends,
Total the times you’ve cared.

Yes, measure your lifetime
in blessings,
And you’ll always remain
in your prime –
For youth is a feeling
you keep in your heart
Whether seven or
seventy-nine.

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM)

The AFEMs arrived from DA in time for the El Paso Reunion. Col. Ouellette, Deputy Assistant Commandant of the Air Defense Artillery School, presented approximately 80. Another 80 were mailed after the reunion to those of you who requested the medal on one of the reunion survey forms. That leaves 140 of you who either were not interested in obtaining the medal, or who did not read the newsletter instructions.

The Army Reserve Personnel Command (ARSPERCOM) verified your eligibility for the medal, but may not have posted this information to your official records. If you think that you may need an official record that the AFEM was authorized and issued, then you should submit a Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records, to ARSPERCOM and ask that your DD Form 214 be updated to reflect that you were awarded the AFEM. The Standard Form 180 may be obtained from any Military Retirement Services Office, or write Bob Mackintosh for a copy. Award of the AFEM does make you eligible to join the VFW.

If you did not receive the AFEM, and would like to have it, you may submit a request to: Commander, ARSPERCOM, ATTN: ARPC-PSV-V/DR, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200. You should send them your name, unit, serial number, and a copy of unit orders, or a unit roster, that is dated between 8 October 1958 and 1 January 1959 to show that you were in Taiwan during the time of eligibility for this award. The orders may not say Taiwan, but they may show the APO 063, which was in Taiwan. If you do not have proof that you were in Taiwan during this time, the folks in St. Louis may turn you down. If they are on the ball, they will go to the Army Personnel Records Center (in the same large building) and research the Unit Morning Reports to verify that you were in the unit. Then be patient. This process may take 12 to 18 months.



Taiwan Medal

Those of you who asked for the Taiwan Medal (by submitting the request on the reunion survey form), and those who registered for the reunion by 15 August 1998, received the Taiwan Medal. The official name is “823 Campaign Badge of Honor”. Those who attended the reunion were presented the medal by Director General David Liu, from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Houston. Mr. Liu, and his wife, came to El Paso to make the medal presentation. Mayor Carlos Ramirez, Mayor of El Paso, his

wife, and Col. Ouellette, Deputy Commandant of the Air Defense Artillery School at Ft. Bliss, were also in attendance. Those who did not attend the reunion, but had requested the Taiwan medal, should have received it from one of the regional Taipei Economic and Cultural Offices in the US. If you did not get the Taiwan medal, and want one, we will notify you in future newsletters if they become available again.



New Association

2/71 and support unit members at the September 1998 reunion voted to formalize our group by establishing a non-profit organization known as the 2nd Missile Bn, 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Association. Bob Mackintosh, Dave O’Connell, and Charlie Trost were named to the Executive Committee that would set up the organization. They are currently exploring various options and drafting bylaws for the new organization. An Executive Council, or board of directors, will be established so that most of the units are represented. Officers of the Association will be on the Board of Directors. Current plans are to have an associate membership open to family members of deceased members, or those who had close ties to our members. Details of the organization should be available for the next newsletter.



Next Reunion

At the reunion, we voted to have the next reunion in three (3) years, and left the details up to the Executive Committee. Our research into the new organization indicates that we may be required to hold an annual meeting for the general membership. If this holds up, we would be having a reunion annually. The meetings would most likely be held in different cities each year. The reunion committee would want to select reunion sites that are easy to get to and would be convenient to the greatest number of members.



VA Health Plan for Veterans

Several of you have expressed interest in VA Health Care. The following was received from Jan Stout, who attended the reunion with Glen Ramsey:

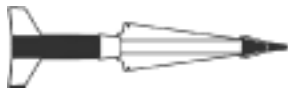
“News Release 30 September 1998, Washington, D.C. – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) debuts a new health-care benefits plan for veterans Oct. 1 that features easier access to a broader array of services at VA health-care facilities throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico.

Though most veterans must be enrolled to gain access to VA health care and participate in the plan, there is no deadline to do so. VA has greatly simplified the process, requiring only the completion of a one-page application, either in person or by mail. The enrollment system will permit VA to better judge demand for its services, better manage its resources, and provide a continuum of health care to as many veterans as possible.

The new program is the result of the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996, which also eliminated confusing eligibility criteria to ensure that enrolled veterans receive all needed health care in the proper setting. The program offers enrolled veterans an array of health-care services.”

There is much more that we won't go into here. If you think you may be interested, call the toll-free number, **1-800-222-8387**, and request that they send you a brochure.

Our thanks to Jan for this input.



Reunion Mementos for Sale

In the last newsletter, we showed a copy of our new logo. The logo was incorporated into several mementos that were sold at the reunion, or provided as part of registration. They will be available while quantities last.

Prices and availability (in parenthesis):

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	
Baseball Cap (26)		\$7.00
Memory Book (16)	\$7.00	
ADA Magazine (19)	\$1.00	
(With 2/71 Story)		
71 st Arty Insignia (10)	\$4.00	
Key Chain w/logo (5)	\$4.00	
Pendant w/logo (1)	\$4.00	

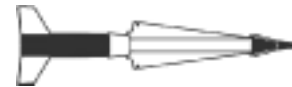
Send check to 2/71 Artillery (Taiwan) Assn., c/o
Robert H. Mackintosh, 271 Shady Oak Drive, New Market,
AL 35761

Association Membership

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, we are going to establish the 2nd Missile Bn, 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Association with dues of \$15 per year. The dues will cover the cost of mailing an Association newsletter to members and incidental expenses. **Please send \$15 for your dues** to the 2/71 Artillery (Taiwan) Assn. (address above) if you would like to join the Association. Eventually, we will probably discontinue mailing the newsletter to non-members. This will be decided by the new Board of Directors.

We had 81 join the Association at the reunion, or subsequent to the reunion. So that they don't pay twice, the following is a list of paid members:

Breeder, Brelje, Buchanan, Bull, Burlage, Clowe, Clarke, Conniff, Corbin, Croft, Dougherty, Douglas, Drum, Duchesne, Early, Filer, Funamara, Grant, Hamrick, Harriford, Havard, Hodge, Jarrell, Jeske, Johnson (Ken), Kahler, Kolm, Kukowski, Lane, La Roche, Lapham, Lapsley, Lee, Lewis, Lienhardt, Lisiewski, Mackintosh, Martinez, McGranahan, McMahan, Meadows, Melvin, Minery, Minick, Moody, Nale, O'Brien, O'Connell, O'Neill (Ron), Ottman, Pack, Pannell, Peoples, Petrick, Phillips, Privott, Provost, Ramos, Ramsey, Ratliff, Redman, Reid, Rivers, Rogers (Jimmie), Rose, Santak, Serpico, Sneckenberger, Spegele, St. Amour, Sterk, Telford, Terbille, Thurmond, Trieglaff, Trupp, Vaughn, Wade, Weller, Whitson, Woodin.



Reunion Comments (From notes to Bob Mackintosh)

Lee Early:

We are back in California, following the fantastic reunion of the 2/71. I still recall the enthusiasm I had over the idea when I first heard about it more than two years ago.

Bob, it was a masterful job. I know there was an unbelievable amount of planning, and difficult decisions to be made. The results were great, and it meant so much to so many people.....

You didn't get any practice runs, no firing for zero; the first time was for the record. And what a record it was. Bullseye!”

Earl and Betty Whitson:

Our trip to El Paso was wonderful. Not only did it afford us an opportunity to meet old friends, but to make new

ones as well.

We found the activities to be fun and educational. The food was delicious (Thank you Mrs. Mackintosh).

The medals received were shared with our children and grandchildren. It gave them an opportunity to more fully understand the cost that is often necessary to preserve our freedoms.

We appreciate all the time and energy you spent in putting the reunion together.”

Paul and Diana Lapham:

“

I have fully intended to get a note off sooner to tell you what an excellent job you did in regards the Reunion. We know how many hours, days, and months were spent trying to get the great event put together. Having talked to many of those that attended we know how much it was appreciated by all of them. So a big thanks once again.....

We visited with Bob & Jerry Johnson in Mississippi, he was thrilled with the hat and other things we brought back to him. Of course he was interested in hearing all about the event. He really felt bad that he wasn't able to attend and said if the next one would be closer he hoped that it would be where he could make it. Such a life being dependent on a machine to keep you alive; but he has been able to do so for nearly 14 years now. So is very fortunate.

I will be writing Ella, George Angles' wife relating the various things that took place as we have kept in touch all of these years being as they were in Okinawa after Taiwan also.

.....Once again, you did a super job, everything was so well organized and fun.”

Tom McGranahan:

What a great time we had. I would never have imagined that the reunion could be so warm, moving, and all round fun. Keep in touch and I hope to see you in 2 or three years.”

Bob Buchanan:

Sorry I have been so long in writing you to express my sincere thanks for all the hard work and many hours you and some others spent to make the reunion a wonderful occasion. It was perfect!”

Richard Feeney (Note to Dave O'Connell from Marine who started the Taiwan Medal Project):

Thank you. Any forthcoming newsletter yourself or Bob sends to the Army troops, please express my most profound

gratitude to them for extending a standing ovation to me. I am very humbled by such acclimation. I never spoke too much about the Army in my life...so many troops, so vast, so big that their troops kind of overwhelmed me. I can honestly state, that never in my military can I remember a bad word about the Army from anyone in the Marine Corps. The Navy, Yes! But the Army, never. So...tis fitting for me to state I'm truly appreciative of the standing ovation accorded me in El Paso.

Your letter and the pic will be forwarded to Washington, D.C., where it will be read by generations to come.

Best Regards , Richard Feeney”

Claxton and Mitti Hurst:

Claxton & I had a wonderful time at the reunion, meeting everyone and hearing all the stories. We returned home tired, but so glad it worked out that we could attend. Bob, and Dave and wives, we surely appreciate all the hours you worked, so that the reunion would be successful.

Our flight was delayed an hour getting into Atlanta, and the 4 hour drive home was horrible due to the rain and wind. We received about 10 inches of rain, and had water in the kitchen and the office, but not so much that there was damage. Its sunny today.

We look forward to seeing everyone again, and to hearing if a trip to Taiwan is possible.

If anyone is travelling through Southwestern Georgia, please stop by.”

Dave O'Connell:

Great Reunion. I can't thank you enough. Words have no meaning for an occasion like that. I believe my tears and the tears of the other men said it all.

Thank Lois again for me. She was great. Soldiered on for all those days doing so much to make our reunion details fall into place.....

I have a few things here and will give you an inventory of them in a few days after I come down from this emotional ride.

Cheers and a salute to you, Sir.”

Ray and Mimi Corbin:

“Mimi and I enjoyed our visit with you at the 2-71st Reunion held in El Paso Sept 24 – 27. It was great to see

Continued on page 15



Tom Ambler



Milt Breder



Howard Brelje



Bob Buchanan



Don Bull



Bob Burlage



John Clowe



Tom Conniff



Ray Corbin



Richard Croft



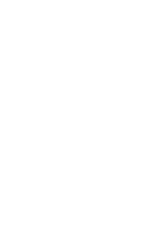
Joe Dougherty



Bob Douglas



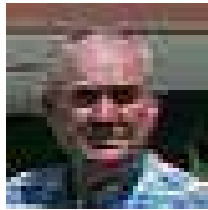
Joe Duchesne



Terry DuToi



Lee Early



Vic Evans



Dan Funamura



Dan Gaugrin



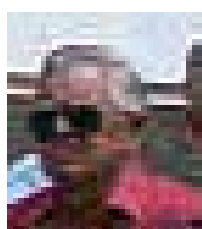
Al Havard



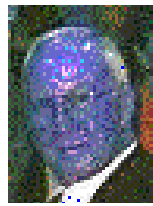
Norris Hodge



Claxton Hurst



Don Jackson



Bob Jarrell



Ken Johnson



Harry Kahler



Karl Kolm



Dan Kukowski



Don Lane



Ron LaRoche



Paul Lapham



Chuck Lapsley



Jen-Chieh Lee



Al Lisiewski



Bob Mackintosh



Tom McGranahan



Ernest Meadows



Don Melvin



Fred Minery



Fletcher Minick



Stu Moody



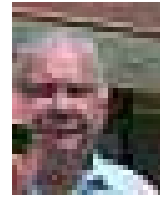
Casimoro Morin



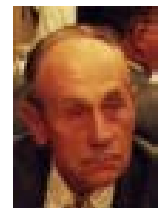
Johnnie Nale



Dave O'Connell



Ron O'Neill



Willard Ottman



Jim Pannell



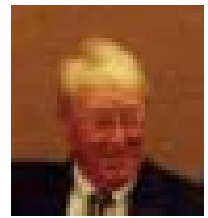
Ray Pauli



Jim Peoples



Harry Phillips



Henry Privott



John Provost



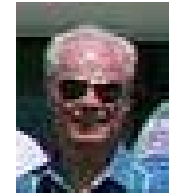
Glen Ramsey



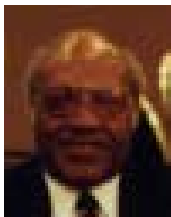
Fernando Ramos



Bobby Ratliff



Don Redman



Clayton Reid



Frank Rivers



Jimmie Rogers



Dwight Rose



Bill Santak



Lloyd Saylor



Frank Serpico



Don Sneckenberger



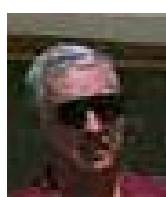
John Spegele



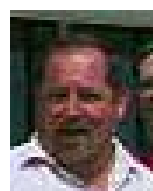
Wayne Sterk



Jim Telford



Hubert Terbille



Al Toney



Larry Trieglaff



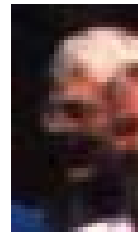
Charlie Trost



Vern Trupp



Lowell Vaughn



Bob Wade



Hank Weber



Merle Weller



Earl Whitson



Wes Wilson



Don Woodin



Jim Wrench



Fa. Bill O'Brien



Carl Paparazo

ASSOCIATES:

Greg Hamrick

Not at Reunion



Headquarters Battery

L to R: John Clowe, Fletcher Minick, John Provost, Tom McGranahan, Dan Kukowski, Charlie Trost, Lowell Vaughn, Ray Pauli, Larry Trieglaff, Paul Lapham



A Battery

L toR: Karl Kolm, Jim Telford, Joe Duchesne, Dick Croft, Casimiro Morin, Clayton Reid, Bob Wade(hidden), Don Bull, Jim Wrench, Harry Kahler , Franklin Rivers, Fred Minery , Danny Funamara, Glen Ramsey



B Battery

Rear L to R: Dwight Rose, Wes Wilson, Johnnie Nale, Stu Moody , Hubert Terbille, Ken Johnson, Frank Serpico, Bob Douglas, Wayne Sterk, Bob Mackintosh
 Kneeling: Hank Weber, Bill Santak, Milt Breder , Chuck Lapsley



C Battery

L to R: Willard Ottman (top of head), Bobby Buchanan, Paul Lapham, Lee Early, Merle Weller, Don Bull, Norris Hodge, Bobby Ratliff, Franklin Rivers, Don Redman, Vic Evans, Jim Pannell



D Battery

Back Row, L to R: Howard Brelje, Ray Corbin, Dave O'Connell, Jim Peoples, Earl Whitson, Tom Ambler, Ron O'Neill, Harry Phillips, Jimmie Rogers, Don Jackson.
 Front Row, L to R: Bob Burlage, Al Toney, Vern Trupp, Henry Privott, John Spegele, Don Lane, Dan Gaughrin, Al Lisiewski



Banquet Color Guard



823 Campaign Badge of Honor



Dave & Karen O'Connell, Lois & Bob Mackintosh with Gifts Received from the Group.



"2 Star Letter" presented to Group by MG Cavin, CG of Ft. Bliss and USArmy Air Defense Artillery Center



Don Sneckenberger's Trio at Banquet



Place Setting for Departed Member at Memorial Breakfast

Continued from page 8

some of the folks from the former Missile Battalion. Perhaps we can reach others for the next one.

The entire event went smoothly thanks to your attention to details. Regarding future reunions, I would look favorably on a 2 year timetable as a number of us are older than the rest.

Again, on behalf of our group I'd like to thank you both for all that you did."

Jimmie and Ruth Ann Rogers:

"Just a note to thank you for all your hard work you put in to make our 1st Reunion a great success. You don't know how much my wife and I enjoyed it. We are looking forward to the next one.

Also looking forward to the next newsletter about the 40th Reunion.

Would be nice if when next roster came out we could include the wives names also. Hard to remember so many names.....

Thanks again for a really great reunion. We really enjoyed it.

Keep up the great work!"

"P.S. 'D' Battery was 1st operational"

Jim and Nancy Telford:

"Couldn't let another day go by without writing and letting you know how much we enjoyed the Army reunion.

You and Dave did a wonderful job. We certainly enjoyed every minute of that weekend.

It was so nice seeing everyone after 40 years. And even though years and miles separated everyone, the spirit, friendship and camaraderie was still there. We left renewing old friendships.

So once again Bob, many thanks to you, your wife, and everyone on the "committee" for a most memorable weekend.

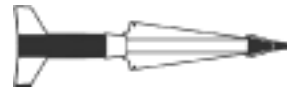
If a trip to Taiwan is still in future plans, please keep us informed."

Dave O'Connell:

My friend Jim Houston (stationed in Taiwan, but not in

our group) died yesterday. He fell and broke his hip a week ago. It was too much for his system. Jim received the 823 Campaign Badge of Honor in the mail before he died. His wife Jean said he was so happy and grateful to receive the medal that all he could do was cry.

Jim will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. The arrangements are unknown at this time. The Army is going to send an escort to FLA. for Jim and his family.



Need Newsletter Name:

This newsletter has been titled "2/71 Reunion" as its primary purpose was to put out information concerning our first reunion and the progress of our search for troops who were in 2/71 and supporting units. Now that we have had the reunion, it may be appropriate to find a new name for our newsletter that better represents our new organization. Please send any suggestions to **2nd Missile Bn., 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Assn.**, c/o Robert H. Mackintosh, 271 Shady Oak Drive, New Market, AL 35761; or send e-mail to: bmack@hiwaay.net.



Photos and Memorabilia:

If you loaned Bob Mackintosh any photos or other memorabilia, they will be returned. Please be patient. If you want to donate any pictures to the association, that is OK also. Eventually, all of our history and pictures will be donated to the Air Defense Artillery Museum at Ft. Bliss, or to the Air Defense Artillery Historian at Ft. Bliss. The target date for the return of your items is January 1999 unless you ask for it earlier. The return of these items has taken a back seat to returning money to people who had to cancel out of the reunion, and the preparation of this newsletter.

Color Photo Insert:

Some of you may not have received the six page color insert of photos from the reunion. The insert cost \$5.00 per newsletter, so it was sent to those who contributed more than \$5.00 for mailing, and those who have already joined the new association. If you think that we missed your contribu-

tion and should receive the color insert, please let Bob Mackintosh know.. If you would like to make a newsletter mailing contribution, or join the association, we will be glad to mail you the color insert.

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

2nd Missile Bn., 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Assn.
c/o Robert H. Mackintosh
271 Shady Oak Drive
New Market, AL 35761