



2nd Missile Battalion, 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Association

271 Shady Oak Drive
New Market, AL 35761



Volume 3

Newsletter 3

October 1999

From the Editor

This edition of the newsletter is being mailed in a large envelope in hopes that you will receive it in one piece. There are three enclosures with the newsletter. The first is a copy of SF 180 for updating your DD Form 214, the second is the **Willard Ottman** news clipping, and the third is the Commander's Narrative from the 2/71 After Action Report dated August 1959. This adds bulk and makes it difficult to fold the newsletter. The added bulk greatly increases the chance of having the newsletter mangled by the Post Office, so we are trying this approach.



In Memoriam

James Pannell reports that **Bobby C. Ratliff**, C Btry, died of cancer, 30 March 1999.



A Sons' Perspective:

The 1998 Reunion

By **Gregory E. Hamrick**

"I was honored and deeply touched to attend the reunion. I had always wondered about the mission my father was sent

away on.

I only know in my young mind in '58 that "Dad" was going away and would hopefully be back soon. He returned in '59 happy to be back but not saying a lot about his mission.

In Oct. of 1997 the newsletter arrived concerning the reunion. I made a last minute decision to attend the reunion due to recent hospitalization and job constraints. I feel it was one of my best "last minute decisions."

I had always felt that my father was surrounded by fine, outstanding troops. And upon my meeting the battalion members, I was proven right.

I also was quite touched, somewhat amused by a nickname my father was given by his fellow troops "MAJOR HOWDY". I felt that it was quite fitting too, knowing that he was all business but very personable.

My only regret was that he was not able to attend but I definitely know he was there in spirit.

Again I say thank you to everyone for proving my thoughts right and hope to see everyone in St. Charles, MO. for the next reunion."

New Assn. Members (Total 110):

Neal	A.	Boothe
Jerry	B.	Chapman
Donald	L.	Einkauf
Raymond	E.	Gradick
Robert	H.	Heilman
Joseph	C.	Hungate
James	J.	Kjersgard
Franklin	G.	May
Ronald	D.	Morgan
Donald	G.	O'Neill,Sr.
Thomas	R.	Stinnett
Aubrey	L.	Toney
Charles	A.	Trost
James	T.	Vuncannon

Expiration of Membership

Many of you joined our new Association at the September 1998 Reunion in El Paso. It has been one year and renewals are due. A few of you have already mailed in your \$15 annual dues and that should be reflected on your address label. The address labels now show if you are a member and the expiration date of your membership. If the dates are incorrect, please send the Association a note.

If you are not a member, please join now so that we can cover the costs of your newsletter, and expand our search for new members.



Reports of missing pages

Several of you on the mailing list have asked for another copy of past newsletters because of damage in the mail. Some arrived with the address page only. If you have problems, let us know. We may have to change the way the newsletters are prepared so they won't get mangled in the mail.



1999 Reunion Site Survey

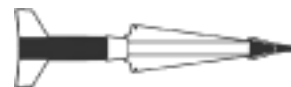
Bob and Lois Mackintosh went to St. Charles, Missouri 29 September to 2 October 1999 to visit the hotels and attractions in St. Charles for our 2000 reunion. Unfortunately, last minute business requirements kept **Charlie and Annie Trost** from joining them. They met with the St. Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau, toured two hotel properties, two banquet centers, the Goldenrod Showboat, the Casino Riverboat, and the Daniel Boone Home and Village. St. Charles is a very interesting town on the Missouri River just 30 minutes from St. Louis. The "historic area" and "Frenchtown" are filled with 18th Century and early 19th Century period shops, museums, small restaurants, and antique shops. Many of the attractions are related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition that started West from St. Charles. The historic district on Main Street is one block from the Missouri River and a very nice park. A couple of blocks away, on the riverfront, are the Goldenrod Showboat and the Casino Riverboat. The Goldenrod used to be in St. Louis and was the basis for the musical "Showboat". It is now permanently moored in St. Charles, MO. The riverboat casino has a very reasonable buffet for breakfast, lunch, and

dinner.



2000 Reunion

We selected the Holiday Inn in St. Charles/St. Peters for our reunion hotel. We still have many details to work out, but the reunion will start with registration on 12 October 2000 (Thursday). That day registration will start at noon and proceed until 4 p.m. We will have a reception that evening with a buffet at the hotel. Friday, 13 October, the Visitors Bureau will take us on a tour to the historic district of St. Charles. This will include time to poke through the little shops on Main St. That evening we will have a buffet dinner and musical show on the Goldenrod Showboat. On Saturday, 14 October, we will have a business meeting for the hotel for our Association members. During this time, the ladies may go back to Main Street for shopping and brunch at the "Mother-In-Law's House". That afternoon, there will be a tour to Daniel Boone's home, about 30 minutes away in Defiance Missouri. This is not a log cabin, but a very impressive stone home that he built at the age of 65. It was well furnished by Colonel Boone. The home is in the heart of Missouri's wine country, so we may be able to stop for a short visit at one of the wineries on the way. Saturday evening, we will have our banquet at the hotel. Sunday, 15 October, we will have a Memorial Breakfast at the hotel, similar to last year's. That will conclude the reunion; but many of you may wish to extend your visit in the area to take in a visit to St. Louis. It is only 30 minutes away, and you will be able to use the Holiday Inn and our special reunion group rate. Details will be finalized and provided in a newsletter next spring. At that time we will provide more information on St. Charles and the reunion activities as well as the prices for the various activities.



Search for more troops

Now that the Reunion Site Selection is out of the way and we are counting down to the 2000 Reunion in St. Charles, it is time to start looking for more of our troops. This can best be accomplished by splitting up the task. We can furnish you names of men in your unit, and addresses of those men that we contacted, who were not from our group, so that you don't go over the same ground. If you would like to help, contact **Dave O'Connell** with the number of men you would like to look for. You need to tell Dave, whether

you have a computer or word processor (for printing letters), or have access to the Internet (for locating addresses and telephone numbers). Some of you may have low cost long distance calling at 10¢ a minute or less. If so, and you have the time, it may be cheaper to call rather than to send a letter. Dave may be contacted at 2 Thirteenth St., Unit 2, Attleboro, MA 02703, or by e-mail at <Ausoniusoc@aol.com>.



Association Board of Directors

The Executive Committee, in accordance with our Bylaws, is in the processes of selecting four additional members to the Association's Board of Directors. We should have the expanded Board in place by the next newsletter. Additional officers and committee chairmen will be elected from the Board of Directors.



E-Mail Addresses

Some of you may have recently obtained e-mail service. If so, please send your e-mail address to <bmack@hiwaay.net>. Others have changed e-mail providers and need to update your e-mail address. We recently had e-mail returned from **Henry Mason**, and **Stu Moody**.



Letter to Taiwan for 2001 Trip

The Association has sent a letter to the Washington, D.C. TECO asking them to support a visit by members of our group in April 2001. We have not heard anything back and it may take longer than usual for them to respond, because of the recent disaster in Taiwan.



Willard Ottman Newspaper Story

The "Lemmon Leader", local newspaper of Lemmon, S.D. ran an article about **Willard Ottman** and his Taiwan

venture for the Veteran's Day issue last year. Willard sent us a copy that we are reproducing and sending as an attachment to our newsletter. More of us should contact our local papers and advertise what our unit and other Americans did in 1958 to support the Republic of China on Taiwan against the threat of aggression from the Communist forces on mainland China.



2/71 After Action Report, August 1959

Last month, we received the 2/71 After Action Report that was reproduced by USARPAC. It is a large document and more than 3/4ths of the pages were hardly readable and definitely not reproducible. The contact at USARPAC said that the poor copies were from onionskin pages, but that he would try it again if we identified the bad pages. Finally, in early October, we received the copies and they are 100 percent better. There are a few pages we had to retypew before they could be reproduced.

This report will be of interest to the support units as well as the 2/71 troops. It tells about their deployment and attachment to 2/71 before they were attached to the 554th Ordnance Company in December 1959. It is more of a lessons learned document, but who knows if anyone ever saw it.

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the Commander's Narrative. This summary and all of the Annexes will be reproduced and you will be able to have a copy for the cost of reproduction and mailing. There are 234 pages, not including the eight large sheets that Chuck Lapsley is trying to reconstruct. The cost for printing, binding, and mailing is anticipated to be \$20.00. (See the back page to order.)



Need Info from B Btry Troops

Walt (Chuck) Lapsley is trying to recreate the Site Layout Drawings that were in the 2/71 After Action Report. They were very large and almost unreadable. He will also be creating a diorama of the missile site using scale models of the missiles, radars, vehicles, etc. He would like to identify some of the tents and the troops who were in them. If you can remember where your tent was located in relation to other tents, or the Mess Hall, Hqs tent, etc., then let Chuck

know. He would also like to know who was in each tent; so, give him any information you have. His address: 175 Virginia Hills Dr., Martinez, CA 94553.

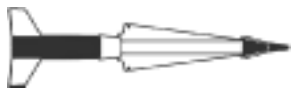


Troop News

Glenn Ramsey (A Btry) wrote: “Can’t wait for the next reunion!! “ Glen also sent an e-mail that he had located Ray Gradick (A Btry) in Tyler, Texas.

James Pannell (C Btry) wrote: “I sure am looking forward to the next reunion.”

Diana Lapham (Mrs. Paul, D Btry) wrote: “We’re looking forward to next years Reunion, as the last one was such a great one.”



New price on Memory Book

We have come to the end of our first printing of the Taiwan Memory Book. They are still available, but the price has gone up to cover the cost of printing small quantities and the increased mailing costs. They will now be \$15 per copy.



DD 214 Update for AFEM

In December 1998, we told you how to update your DD214 to have it indicate that you received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM). The update is reflected on DD Form 215. The information is repeated again. “The Army Reserve Personnel Command (ARSPERCOM) verified your eligibility for the medal when you received the AFEM last year, 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”, and it is included with this newsletter. Award of the AFEM does make you eligible to join the VFW,

if it is reflected on your DD Form 214 or DD Form 215.



1999 & 2000 BOH Ceremonies

Several troops missed the 1998 award of the 823 Campaign Badge of Honor from the Republic of China on Taiwan. A few asked to be included in the ceremonies that were scheduled in October 1999 at the several Taipei Economic and Cultural Offices (TECO’s) around the US. The recent earthquake in Taiwan has caused all of this year’s ceremonies to be postponed until the year 2000. The US recipients of these Badges of Honor (BOH) are being coordinated by **Lloyd Evans**, President of the 823 Badge of Honor Association USA (**BOHAUSA**). Lloyd is keeping everyone who has e-mail posted as to the progress of the ceremonies. He does not have the resources to keep up with all of the members by mail. Lloyd is also our contact for requesting replicas of the 823 Campaign Badge of Honor, or the miniature goldtone medal. They may be ordered through our Assn. for \$20 and \$10 respectively. The miniature has been shipped and the full size replica medals are now in Lloyd’s possession, and will be shipped as soon as the supplier changes the attachment device from a safety pin to a clutch back pin.



Tentative Reunion Plans

It will help the reunion planners if you will let us know whether you plan to attend the reunion in St. Charles, MO next October. We are not looking for a firm commitment, but an indication of your present thinking.

Please complete the reunion information on the back page.

Name: _____
Address (If changed recently): _____
E-mail address : _____
Telephone Number: _____

**Please Complete the following and return to the
2/71 Association:**

I would like to join the 2nd Missile Bn, 71st Artillery (Taiwan)
Association

Enclosed is \$15 for annual dues. _____

I plan to attend the next reunion in october 2000.

Yes _____ No _____

I would like to order:

Taiwan Medal (823 Campaign Badge of Honor)

exact replica* \$20 ea. _____

Taiwan Medal Lapel Pin* \$10 ea. _____

* *We will order these for you*

Memory Book \$15 ea. _____

After Action Report \$20 ea. _____

Reunion Baseball Cap \$7 ea. _____

ADA Magazine w/2/71 article \$1 ea. _____

VFW Mag. Cold War article \$1 ea. _____

If yes, how many persons would be attending?

Total enclosed (Dues and stuff above): _____

Are you interested in a **trip to Taiwan** in 2001?

Yes ___ No ___

If yes, how many would participate. _____

Names of ROC military you would like to see in Taipei and
the battery to which they were assigned:

2nd Missile Bn, 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Assn.
271 Shady Oak Drive
New Market, AL 35761

TO: