



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

271 Shady Oak Drive
New Market, AL 35761
<<http://www.2-71adataiwan.com>>



Volume 7

Newsletter 1

April 2003

Reunion 2002

We still have some unfinished business regarding the Nashville Reunion.

For some unexplained reason the C Battery group picture did not get in to the last newsletter. With apologies to the troops of C Battery it is included on this page.

We also have included **Karen O'Connell's** refreshing account of the reunion.

Karen's Reflections on the Nashville Reunion

The anticipation was mounting, as we headed from our home in East Aurora, NY, on Tuesday, October 8, 2003 (which just happened to be our 36th wedding anniversary). We were planning to drive as far as Huber Heights, Ohio, where we would meet Dave's old buddy, **Don McMahon** (aka Big Mac), and then we three would continue our journey on Wednesday morning. We pulled off the highway in Huber Heights, stopping for gas. I bought a lottery ticket and won \$50.00!

We stayed at the Comfort Inn that night. Once we were settled in our room, Dave called Don, who said he'd be right there to meet us. I'd never met Big Mac, but as soon as he walked into the lobby, I knew it was him. What a great reunion it was. I had heard many stories of these two comrades and to see them together again after forty plus years was heartwarming. (A little aside here, if you don't mind. Once this whole reunion thing got started five or six years ago, we were living in Massachusetts. After the initial letters were sent out, the second phone call Dave received was from Mac. For the record, the first was **Karl Kolm**. Anyway, through their conversations, we learned that Mac's son, Terry, lived in Lancaster, NY, the town next to Clarence, where we lived prior to our return to Mass. On one of our visits to see our kids in western NY, it was decided we'd meet up with Terry at a local bookstore. Now, I'll let you in on something. I have a friend Terry who also lives in Lancaster. Yup, when we got to the store, it was the same Terry! Can you believe it? Dave pronounced the last name differently, and besides, he usually just called him Big Mac. What a coincidence, huh?)

About 8 am, we headed south for Nashville. The weather was just beautiful. We got to the DoubleTree hotel between 2:30 and 3 p.m. Already there were a few old friends. By the time we were to have dinner, about 30 people had arrived. Talk about being excited! Board members were asked to come a day early for a meeting, but to see so many others

come early makes it special. Seeing the familiar faces is truly exciting. After much thought and deliberation, it was decided we would eat at the hotel. That way we didn't have to go out into the elements.

After we ate, we helped **Bob and Lois Mackintosh** unload snacks and drinks, to make the hospitality room (Jackson/Johnson Room) more comfortable. There was much chatting, laughter and reminiscing. Orders were taken for shirts and hats.

Early Thursday morning, we walked down the street and had great homemade food at Varallo's. While the men were having their board meeting, I was walking around town for more than 40 minutes, waiting for a store to open, so I could buy a pen. I had no luck, so went back to the hotel, to the hospitality room to see if I could be of help. The room was full of people waiting for registration. Once the Grand Ole Opry tickets arrived, **Lois, Diana Lapham** and I distributed them to the respective envelopes. NOW, we were ready to register the attendees. Some people had pre-ordered golf shirts and Taiwan video tapes. A few select, lucky people had battery patches available for purchase. There were a few shirts left, which were sold on a first come basis. Didn't last long.

Thursday brought much rain, rain, rain. Many travelers didn't have it so easy. I guess driving in some



C Battery Troops at 2002 Reunion

Front: Willard Ottman, Nick Hodge, Oozy, Ed Jones
Rear: Bob Buchanan, Jerry Decker, Merle Weller, Dock "Sunny" Price, James Pannell

places was rather treacherous. Thank God everyone safely arrived.

We saw many of the same faces - no one really had changed in two years - and I'm happy to say we also saw many new faces this year. How wonderful to have you join us. One of the new faces I met was **Don Rogers**, son of **Jimmie and Ruth Ann**. I asked him what he thought of all these guys, and he said they were like a bunch of school kids, laughing, joking, having a great time. Many of us took pictures, candid and posed, further proof, you'll see, how little most of you changed.

In our hospitality room we had the privilege of looking through several photo albums and scrapbooks. Lots of pictures. Lots of memories. The new attendees had the opportunity to see what had occurred during the other two reunions, while the rest of us had our memories refreshed.

Thursday night was our Social Hour and Buffet, in the Cumberland South Ballroom of the hotel. We had a delicious Taste of the Orient buffet: spring mix salad, sweet and sour grilled chicken, teriyaki beef, fried rice, and a fried squash, zucchini and red pepper medley. During this time, a few more people showed up and were welcomed.

Betty Davis graciously (and proficiently) played the piano, while we sang lots of old songs. She even had songbooks to hand out, for those of us who didn't know the words. We had so much fun. Our group is blessed to have so much talent among us.

Friday was a jam-packed day. The men had their business meeting and voted to have the next reunion in San Antonio, Texas. I'm sure there will be more information on the meeting elsewhere in the newsletter.

During the meeting, some of us chose to walk around town, some chose to sit in the hospitality room chatting. After the meeting, we walked, en masse and halting traffic, the 6 blocks to Riverfront Park to board the Music City Queen for our luncheon cruise. There were several tables in the main deck dining area and the rest were on the upper deck area. The buffet meal included tossed and potato salads, cole slaw, stuffed chicken breast, steamed veggies, sliced roast beef, rolls, chocolate mousse, peaches and whipped cream, plus hot cherry cobbler and coffee.

After our lunch, most of us went to the outside decks to enjoy the breeze and serenity of the Cumberland River. I later learned there were some who still had the singing bug, so **Betty Davis** and **Carolyn Everitt** played the piano and **Annie Garland** led the glee club inside the dining room. The cruise lasted about 2 hours, which allowed us time to catch up with old friends.

The next few hours were ours to shop, rest, play, work, whatever. Our group stopped in at the Hard Rock Café to quench our thirsts. We met others, also imbibing.

Then, we headed "up" Broadway walking in and out of stores, purchasing mementos for ourselves and gifts for others. (I still can't figure out the significance of the rooster!) By this time, the weather was warm and very sticky. We were more than ready to head back to the hotel to clean up and get ready for the next big event on our agenda.

We were treated to a wonderful reception on the 27th floor of the Nashville City Center, which is the law offices of Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis, PLLC, **Charlie Trost's** firm. CHARLIE and ANNIE, thank you so much for regaling us with so many tasty temptations and libations. As we sat around the conference tables doing yet more catching up, or walking around the law offices, we had the opportunity and pleasure to see a 360-degree view of Nashville at night. Quite impressive. CHARLIE, please pass along our thanks to your colleagues.

On the walk back to the hotel, some of us sat alongside Chet Atkins and posed for pictures. He didn't mind one bit.

One of the highlights of our trip to Nashville was our night at the Grand Ole Opry. I couldn't believe the auditorium was big enough to hold all the people who were waiting outside! We had three buses scheduled to bring us, the first of which arrived early and those people were entertained for about an hour (outside) by some very talented singers, plus a clogger. Being inside that building was exhilarating. It was interesting watching all the "behind the scenes" actions, which make the television show go so smoothly. Many old standby's were there: Bill Anderson, Connie Smith, Little Jimmy Dickens, to name a few. My favorite youngster, Clay Walker, sang a few songs, two new ones, and posed for pictures. Yes, I got a few. The young girls sure were excited to see him, too. The show ended about 12:30 am.

Saturday morning, we ate in the hotel, since our favorite restaurant down the block wasn't open on weekends.

The buses were getting ready for our tours of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and the Ryman Auditorium. I couldn't imagine what I would do for 1 3/4 hours at the Hall of Fame, but when all was said and done, the bus had to wait for me. It was an interesting experience. There was so much history of music, musicians, eras, instruments. Going into those acoustic cubicles made you feel like the singer was singing only to you. Hank Williams, Elvis Presley, Patsy Cline, Tex Ritter, plus names before MY time; to hear those voices again brought back many memories. I smiled a lot. One exciting part of this tour, a friendly, interactive tour, was the ability to make your own CD. No, not singing. I got to pick out all the songs I wanted and they burned me a CD. (That was why the bus had to wait. There were many people waiting for the CD's.) I listen to it quite often. The store had so many "country" items for sale, it was difficult to choose.

On to the Ryman Auditorium, which was built as a tabernacle in 1892 for Reverend Samuel P. Jones, by Captain Thomas Ryman, a steamboat captain and Nashville businessman. It took 7 years to build and cost approx. \$100,000. What a magnificent building. This was the original home of the Grand Ole Opry. It had been a performance venue for over 100 years. One almost could feel ghosts as you walked around. For a small fee, you could have your picture taken on the stage, playing a guitar or singing. I hear some of our group actually SANG on the stage. Is that correct? There also was a gift shop for parting you with your money.

Saturday afternoon was a free time. Many people

walked around the city, visited the farmers' market, shopped, did sightseeing. Others stayed back in the hospitality room and relaxed.

Before our banquet, unit photos were taken by most of us. I saw many handsome men. You can't prove it by me that it was over 40 years ago that they were altogether. You look GOOD. We did notice a few guys were late for their pictures!!!! During the social hour, I had the opportunity to talk with three "new" guys: **Woody Rude** (MN), **Jerry Decker** (ND) and **Richard Glandorf** (IA). These three have remained friends since Formosa. They heard from **Bob Buchanan** and that's why they came to this reunion. Thanks, Bob. The men were quite happy to be with us and share their experiences. We look forward to seeing them again in two years.

The colors were presented, Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Rob Mackintosh** (Bob's son), and **Danny Funamura** sang his marvelous rendition of "America the Beautiful". After our dinner of Caesar salad, marinated chicken breast with Marsala mushroom sauce, and gourmet chocolate pecan pie, Ret. **LTC John Spegele** spoke to us of his military service. There was no flourish, just plain talk about a quiet, but distinguished career. One aspect he mentioned brought much significance to me regarding the 2/71. I often wondered why this group of men had such comradeship, such closeness. The reason became clear. Most units have replacements over time, but this unit worked as a unit during their year on Formosa. Thank you for a nice talk, John. Of course, D Battery is very proud of you.

The "history" of the Oozlefinch was given by Ret. **LTC Bob Douglas**. I'm sure we have it all clear in our minds, now, Bob. Thanks. This is an appropriate time to remind everyone that **Paul Lapham** carved and painted the Oozlefinch (from memory, mind you). Thanks for the real mascot, Paul.

We had some unique entertainment this year by the **Morning Star Singers**. They not only pleased our audio senses with their harmonious singing, they entertained us with hilarious skits and commercials. Another enlightenment - a GOO bar, heretofore unknown to me, is an acronym of Grand Ole Opry. Great fun, as usual, from **Don, Carolyn** and **Annie**. We are fortunate and blessed to have them among us.

I hesitate to mention this, but before the banquet was through, **Dave O'Connell** went forward and told a rather off-color joke, which, thank goodness, was well received. Some of us will never think of a parrot quite the same way.

Betty Davis played the piano again for us, while we sang. It was like endless entertainment. At the same time, in the hospitality room, **Bob Buchanan** showed some slides he'd made during his deployment to Formosa. I didn't see those, but I did see some of the pictures he recently has taken. He's quite a photographer. Thanks, Bob.

Early Sunday morning, **Father Bill O'Brien**, Patrick's brother, served a Catholic Mass in the hospitality suite.

At 8 am, we gathered together for the Memorial Prayer **Breakfast in the Cumberland South Ballroom. One of**

the first things you notice upon entering the room is the empty chair, for all the fallen comrades. **Dave O'Connell** began the memorial with a tribute honoring all those who have lost their lives since 1958. **Charlie Trost** read all the names and **Ray Corbin** lighted the memorial candle. **Fr. O'Brien** offered the prayer. **The Morning Star Singers** sang "Amazing Grace". As usual, when it was over there was complete silence. A fitting tribute.

Now came the handshakes, hugs, tears. The reunion was over for this year. Two years sounds like such a long time to wait to see each other once again. It was time to pack and head for home, or, for some, to continue on with vacations.

For us, the enjoyment of the reunion wasn't over. We drove Mac back to Ohio, so we had much to share. Since this was his first reunion, we were interested in his experiences, especially as compared to our first reunion in El Paso. He said he really couldn't put how he felt into words. We know he was thrilled to see **Sarge Davis!**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Bob and Lois Mackintosh** for another terrific reunion. We can't begin to know how much time, effort and work you put into this. Just know that we are truly grateful. God Bless You.

Karen's PS:

I will be making a quilt for the next reunion. There was a place for all the men to sign their names, which will be part of this quilt. If you read this and didn't sign your name, email Dave or me and I'll send you a piece of material to sign. This will be especially helpful for those who didn't attend this reunion. **Nancy O'Neill** has offered to help. If anyone else would care to sew a flag for me, let me know and I'll send you all the necessary pieces.

Reunion 2004

The 2004 Reunion is going to be held in San Antonio, TX, from 7-10 October 2004.

Plans for a reunion in Las Vegas were scrapped when we found out the weekend room rates for a hotel that could accommodate our group. As reported in the last newsletter, the general membership meeting at the Nashville Reunion voted to hold the next reunion in San Antonio, TX, in the fall of 2004. **Bob and Lois Mackintosh** were tasked to make a site visit to San Antonio, early in 2003, for the purpose of selecting an appropriate hotel. **Bob and Kay Douglas** were going to be in the San Antonio area at that time and volunteered to help.

Bob Mackintosh contacted the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau with the details of our reunion requirements, and estimates of hotel rooms that we would like to reserve. The CVB sent out requests for proposals to all of the downtown hotels.

Nine hotels responded. Bob narrowed the list down to five that met our space requirements, were close to, or on, the RiverWalk, and were reasonably close to our target room rate. A date in March was selected for the site visit. The week before we were to depart, **Bob Douglas** e-mailed that

Kay had severe back problems and they were heading back to **Kay's** doctor in El Paso.

Earlier, **Karl and Patty Kolm** had volunteered to help. They were planning to come down from Waco and have dinner with the Mackintoshes and Douglasses, so they were recruited to help with the hotel site selection. **Charlie and Annie Trost** were in San Antonio that same weekend for a conference.

Bob and Lois arrived in San Antonio Thursday night and stayed in the Adam's Mark Hotel on the North RiverWalk. (The hotel rooms were complimentary.) Early Friday morning, Bob and Lois had breakfast in the hotel and met with the Sales Manager. They had a pleasant tour of the hotel and its facilities. Details of the hotel's proposal and the 2/71 reunion requirements were discussed, and negotiated.

Later that morning, Bob & Lois, met with the Sales Manager of the Menger Hotel. The Menger is a lovely old hotel, next to the Alamo, and about a block from the RiverWalk. As nice as it was, it was ruled out – as everything was too pricey. (Lois was hoping that the Menger would meet our requirements, as she had fond memories of the hotel from her high school days in San Antonio. The hotel was next to her old orthodontist.)

The Mack's then hurried off to a 1:00 lunch with the Sales Manager of the Four Points Sheraton on RiverWalk North. Hotel. After the luncheon meeting and tour of the facility, Bob & Lois headed downtown on the trolley to check it out. In three minutes, they were in front of the Alamo. They teamed up with **Karl and Pat Kolm** in front of the Alamo, who had just driven down from Waco. We had a couple of hours before heading out for dinner, so the foursome backtracked to the Adam's Mark and Four Points Sheraton to show Karl and Pat the highlights of those two properties.

That evening the foursome walked from the Adam's Mark along the RiverWalk north to the main RiverWalk area where all of the activity is. The RiverWalk is crammed with eating places and the foursome finally found an empty table for four where they had a nice Italian dinner.

The next morning, **Bob, Lois, Karl & Pat** headed out for a breakfast meeting and tour of the Holiday Inn RiverWalk. We had a lovely breakfast and toured a great facility, but like the Menger Hotel, it turned out to be too pricey. The hotel and the location would have been ideal.

They had a little time before the next hotel tour, so the next stop was Market Square. This was a shopping area with a Mexican flavor, like a little Juarez. Lois found a purse, identical to the one she was carrying, at one-half the price she paid at a factory outlet store.

The last hotel they visited was the Radisson Hotel, very near the Market Square. They had lunch with the sales manager and toured that property. It was reasonable enough, but it was five or six blocks from the RiverWalk. That was OK, as transportation was nearby, but it did not seem to be in a location that you would want to walk through at night, when returning from the RiverWalk. That is too bad, as this property had the nicest Sales Manager.

After the hotel tour, Karl and Pat dropped Bob & Lois at their new hotel, the Four Points Sheraton, and headed off to Austin to visit their daughter.

Bob & Lois had a late afternoon appointment with a retired Army Major who owned a tour company. He took them to a cattle ranch west of San Antonio where the hold a Texas barbecue, have Western entertainment and a hayride. This was supposed to be a quick trip to see the ranch and meet the rancher host. They were all caught in a severe thunderstorm that looked very much like tornado weather. Fortunately, they were under a large open shed that provided some protection. Eventually that was not enough protection from the wind driven rain, and they all moved into an attached restroom, with the rancher's dog, until the storm passed. Bob & Lois were supposed to be guests on a San Antonio River barge trip on the river that evening and have dinner in a Mexican restaurant on the RiverWalk. However, they were exhausted after the long day and the ranch outing, so they wimped out. They had dinner that evening in the dining room of the Four Points Sheraton and crashed.

Charlie and Annie Trost ended their conference and met up with Bob & Lois at the Sunday morning buffet in the Menger Hotel. It had been highly recommended by the taxi driver who took Bob & Lois from the airport to the their



Front of The Alamo, San Antonio, TX

hotel Thursday evening. It was a fine buffet. Charlie, Annie, Bob & Lois then headed to the airport with a short detour to see Fort Sam Houston and take pictures of the Army quarters where Lois lived in 1947-48, as well as her old haunt, the stables. Speaking of haunts, near the stables they photographed the headstone and grave of Pat, an Army mascot. When Lois lived at Ft. Sam, Pat was the oldest living horse on the Army rolls. He had served in WWI and died at age 45.

Charlie and Annie headed to Nashville, while Bob and Lois returned to Huntsville. After a day or two's rest, Bob completed a telephone and e-mail negotiation with the top four hotels. The hotels modified their proposals, and some of them came down on the room rates. At that point, the competition was down to two hotels, the Adam's Mark and

the Four Points Sheraton. Each had its own strong points and the Adam's Mark dropped its room rate to that of the Four Points Sheraton. Bob leaned heavily toward the Adam's Mark at that point. Then he asked both hotels for a draft sales contract. The Adam's Mark had additional costs for each event/meeting room that we used as well as heavy penalties if we did not meet the agreed to number of room bookings and guaranteed minimums for catering sales such as the banquet, buffets, breakfasts, etc. Even after they agreed to negotiate down some of these guaranteed minimums, their contract had too much risk on our side. The Four Points Sheraton had only one penalty clause, where we had to pay the hotel if we cancelled the reunion. That was a no brainer, since we will have a reunion there regardless of the number who show up.

So that is a long story to tell you how your committee selected the Four Points Sheraton RiverWalk North, to be our reunion hotel in 2004,

The reunion is now under contract for 7-10 October 2004 in San Antonio, TX. The reunion hotel will be the Four Points Sheraton on RiverWalk North. The negotiated room rate is \$80. (Today's internet booking rate for those rooms is \$130 per night.) Future newsletters will have more details about the hotel and attractions in San Antonio. The important thing is to put those dates on your calendar, and think positively about attending the next reunion. If you are strapped for cash, see the e-mail from **Neale Boothe** in the Messages from the Troops section of the newsletter. He has a good method for saving up money.

Membership Renewal

Terbille, Herb, Durham, NC (B Btry)
Boner, Kermit, Highspire, PA (A Btry)
Early, Lee, Monterey, CA (C, Hq Btry)
Lane, Don, El Paso, TX (D Btry)



Norby, Jim, Eleva, WI (B Btry)
Roberts, Gary, Underwood, MN (D Btry)
Peoples, Jim, West Trenton, NJ (D Btry)
Duchesne, Joe, Center Ossipee, NH (A Btry)
Esperson, Warren, Zion, IL (Signal)
Santack, Bill, Wilmington, DE (B Btry)
Lisiewski, Al, Aston, PA (D Btry)
Kolm, Karl "Bud", Waco, TX (A Btry)
Rogers, Jimmie, Silver City, NM (D Btry)
Daniels, Charles, Las Vegas, NM (B & D Btry)

Found Troops

Kukanich, Leon D., Eagle River, WI (B Btry)

Membership Correction

Harry Kahler lives in Lompoc, CA, not Kirkland WA.

Status of Membership

Your newsletter address label shows your current membership status. We currently have 96 members who have paid for this year, or more. Thirty-one who were members through October 2002 have not renewed. If this is an oversight, please renew your membership by sending \$15 to the **2nd Missile Bn, 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Assn, 271 Shady Oak Drive, New Market, AL 35761**. The membership dues help with the newsletter printing and mailing, and at the last reunion we were able to provide some financial assistance to several reunion attendees who were hard pressed to cover all of their expenses.

Invalid E-mail Addresses

E-mails have been returned for the following troops:

Al Havard
Joe Landoni

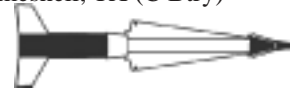


Don O'Neill
E.B. Reynolds
Leon Shank
Efraim Garcia

Please send corrections to bmack@ardmore.net

In Memoriam

Donald E. Bull, Concord, NH (A, C, Hq Btrys)
died 3 December 2002
Vic Evans, Colmesneil, TX (C Btry)



died 17 January 2003
Charles M. Saberg, San Diego, CA (A Btry),
died on 8 May 2002
John (Jack) M. Vansersanden, Waupun WI (A Btry)
died 27 Mar 2002
John (Jack) T. Stein, D Btry, died 21 Jul 2001

From the **Concord Online Monitor**, 5 December 2002:

Donald E. Bull
Thursday, December 5, 2002



Donald E. Bull, 81, of Heritage Heights died Tuesday at Concord Hospital. He was born in Troy, N.Y., the son of George and Alida (Hoffman) Bull. He served in the Army for 22 years, retiring as a major in 1964 after serving in World War II and the Korean War. He spent time in Korea, Burma, Taiwan and Okinawa. He moved to Littleton in 1964 and later lived in Houston and Nashville, Tenn., before moving to Concord. Bull owned and operated Montgomery Ward Catalogue Store and later owned and operated Don's Color Center and the North Country Art Gallery with his wife. He served as warden and member of the vestry of All Saints Episcopal Church. He was active in the Littleton community and served as a selectman; he was also a lifetime member of the Lions Club. Survivors include two sons, Michael Bull of Manlius, N.Y., and David Bull of Tobyhanna, Pa.; a brother, Robert Bull of Troy, N.Y.; three grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. His wife, D. Zay (Cowden) Bull, died in 1999. Memorial services will be held Dec. 21 at 11 a.m. in Grace Episcopal Church in Concord. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Grace Episcopal Church, 30 Eastern St., Concord 03301; or the Shaker Road School, 95 Shaker Road, Concord 03301. The Cremation Society of New Hampshire is in charge of the arrangements.

BG Lester S. Bork died 4 Jul 2002; born 28 Dec 1906 in Hilton Head, SC. As many of you will recall from a newsletter last year, BG Bork was the Army commander when we arrived on Taiwan. He was the officer who asked the Department of Army to send an air defense missile battalion to protect Taipei and northern Taiwan.

E-mail address errors:

E-mails keep being returned from several of our members. Will those listed below send their new e-mail address to <bmack@ardmore.net>.



Al Havard
Joe Landoni
Donald G. O'Neill
Efraim Garcia
(Who ???) old address: <malice@hom.net>

Messages from the Troops

2 Jan 2003
From: LadyWolff2@aol.com



Hello— just a note to let you know that **Charles M. Saberg** (A Btry) died on May 8, 2002. Thought you might wish to update your roster.

Charles was a great-uncle of mine.

1/3/03
From: **Ray Corbin** (D & B Btry)
Bob,

The Newsletter was great. It is also awesome to learn how others have been able to access it through our web page.
Ray

1/4/03
From: **Herb Terbille** (B Btry)
Bob,

Best wishes to you and Lois in the New Year.
Looking forward to San Antonio.
Herb and Janet Terbille

1/3/03
From: **Lee Early** (C, & Hq Btry)

Artie and I send our best wishes to you for 2003.
San Antonio seems like a great choice for 2004. We are looking forward to it.
Lee and Artie

1/5/03
From: **Joe Duchesne** (A Btry)
Hi all,

Had a great time at last reunion. Hope to see you all in San Antonio, TX.

Still looking for a close buddy **Bob Gross** from California.

Thanks for all your hard work, you and Lois, and committee members....

Thanks,
Joe

1/9/03
From: **Bill Santak** (B Btry)
Dear Bob and Lois,

Although I didn't make Nashville, I'd still like to thank you for another job well done! Your dedication and devotion are truly appreciated. We surely plan to make San Antonio, or wherever!!

Bill Santak

1/12/03
From: **Ray Corbin** (D & B Btry)
Bob,

Mimi and I were very sorry to learn of Dons unexpected passing. The best thing that our Reunions have done is to allow us to revisit with the **Don Bull's** while we may. Yes, the downside is that we must experience their passing. My memory is now of Don and his high energy and love of life. Without the Reunions I would have lost this important opportunity. Once again I wish to echo the sentiments of the

group and thank you again for allowing us to relive our memories of the past and present.

Ray Corbin

1/12/03

From: Lloyd Evans (BOHAUSA)

Subject: Remembering **Don Bull**, LLOYD

I just received this from **Dave O'Connell** as I made enquiry about Don a few days ago (Bull has been on my mind for some weeks.) Don was an imposing figure at our Reunion 2000 in the Catskill Mountains. I have him on video tape giving his account of the 5 second count down (I believe it was him or **Dave O'Connell**). But I shall locate that tape and view it again upon my return from simple knee surgery later this week. What a man. Don Bull, he had a fantastic and ingratiating personality. We have all been blessed with having known him no matter the time spent in his company. My condolences to his 2/71 brothers; how comforting it is for me, knowing my belief, that his beloved D.Zay escorted him across the divide. In retrospect he could not have remained here any longer, he missed her so.

LLOYD (Evans)

Chairman

823 BOHAUSA (Badge of Honor Assn. USA)

www.taiwanvets.com

PS: I'll place notice in the next 823BOH web site newsletter.

1/12/03

From: **S.B.Davis** (D Btry)

Bob:

Thank you for letting us know about **Don Bull**. He was indeed a great man and we are so happy to have gotten to be with him at the reunion in 2000.

S.B. Davis and Betty

1/14/03

From: **Bob Douglas** (B Btry)

Bob,

Thank you so much for the notice on the passing of a very special man, **Don Bull**. I had sent many emails and a lot of them were returned undeliverable. His passing is a great loss. Don had a very special personality. I had the privilege of being his roommate on our boat ride to Taiwan. What a joy. I know I speak for all personnel of 2/71 Arty, we have lost a dear friend.

Az ever Bob Douglas

2/2/03

From: **Bob Mackintosh** (B and C Btry)

Hey guys,

I received an e-mail from a cousin of one of our troops, **Leon Kukanich**, B Btry. The cousin had seen our web page and gave me Leon's address.

I talked to Leon today. He was in B Btry until he went home on emergency leave in Nov 1958. He is living in Eagle River, WI, and gave me the following info about other

members of 2/71.

John (Jack) T. Stein, D Btry, is deceased.

John (Jack) Vander Sanden, A Btry, is deceased.

Regards,

Bob Mackintosh

19 Feb 2003

From: **Neal Boothe (C Btry)**

Subject: San Antonio

Hi, Bob

Nancy and I plan to be at the reunion next year Lord willing.

We will be content with which ever places you choose to hold the reunion.

As to the cost we plan to save our change. Each time we buy something. We keep the change for the reunion.

Also another method, each time we write a check, deduct to the next dollar, in the description of transition, in the check book. If we write a check for \$5.50 we deduct \$6.00. To have a correct record there's a need for two records. It's worth the time. It works. Approximately 570 days should accumulate plenty for the reunion.

God bless

Neal Boothe

(This looks like a good method for those of you who would like to attend the reunion, but find yourselves short of cash. Ed.)

4 Mar 2003

From: **Jim Telford** (A Btry)

Hi Bob,

It was a very nice phone conversation with you last night. Glad to hear all is well with you and Lois. All is well on this end,too.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of **Major Donald Bull** and **Master Sgt Robert Johnson**. The story goes Sgt. Johnson was watching some A Btry troops unload a supply truck. Of course he had his clipboard, when didn't he? Capt. Bull happens to walk by and noticed that half of the supply was cases of beer. He asked the Sgt "What's all the beer for?" The reply was "For the troops, Sir" "Ok, carry on Sgt" After a number of those big cans of Foster beer, we all slept well that evening. Of course, I can only speak for the guys in the IFC tent.

We are planning on attending the 2004 reunion and however you set it up will be fine with us.

Nancy & Jim

3/17/03

From: **Charles Daniels** (B & D Btry)

Hi Bob,

Sorry I'm late with dues. Couldn't make the reunion in Nashville; hope to make the one in Texas.

I'm enclosing a little extra to help with expenses.

Keep up the good that's going on. Sorry I can't help.

Always 2/71

Charles Daniels

E-mail from the 823 Badge of Honor Assn

04/06/03 - Posted 11:39:30 PM from the Daily Record newsroom (Morris County, NJ)

At his Wharton home, Joel Aronson is surrounded by memorabilia from his tour of duty while serving in the Air



Force in Taiwan. He will return there this week. Karen Fucito / Daily Record

41 years later, a new look at Taiwan

Wharton man gets a return invitation

By Laura Bruno, Daily Record

WHARTON — Joel Aronson's memories of Taiwan are those of a 19-year-old Brooklyn boy looking for an adventure.

His three-year stint in Taiwan, monitoring and translating Communist China's Cold War radio transmissions between 1958 and 1962, did not disappoint. Soon after his arrival, Communist China shelled Taiwan's offshore islands for three tense months in the summer of 1958, keeping Aronson busy listening to the communist communiqZ's.

Aside from the war scare, Aronson's posting in Taiwan held more carefree times. There were the salute Aronson got from Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek when their dogs sniffed each other in passing through the open windows of their respective cars. There were post-midnight runs for fried duck wings and beer with the local military and riding along with Chiang's motorcade on practice runs.

This week, the Wharton man will return to his old haunts, 41 years later, and relive a time when he came to appreciate the power of personal freedom.

"It started me thinking how lucky I was to be from the United States, where there are so many resources — I don't mean natural resources, but freedom to do what you want, to study what you want," Aronson said.

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York is funding Aronson's trip, along with 14 other former American military men who helped protect Taiwan from 1955 to 1977. The group will spend 10 days touring the republic and its offshore islands.

Officials at the cultural office said the trip is designed to promote tourism, showing the veterans how much the islands have changed and modernized since they were stationed there with the military.

Aronson said he happily agreed to participate in the goodwill public relations trip to support the democratic republic, where he was welcomed by ordinary people.

The most enjoyable times he found were also the simplest — just listening to the rush of bicycles and pedicabs outside his Taipei apartment at night was a favorite pastime for Aronson. He spent most of his free time mingling with

the Taiwanese people and recording the moments in history with his camera.

Aronson knew little about China and Taiwan in 1956 when he joined the Air Force, but when he was presented with the opportunity to learn an exotic language, the proposition sounded glamorous. Following an eight-month crash course in the Chinese language at Yale University, Aronson arrived in Taiwan in April 1958.

"I fell in love with the place," Aronson said. "I had a new language to learn, new places to explore and totally different kinds of people to become friends with."

It was nearly 10 years after the Nationalists, led by Chiang, left mainland China and the communist rule of Mao Tse-tung to establish Taiwan on the island of Formosa.

It was a primitive place, especially in comparison with New York City, but Aronson reveled in watching pedicabs, bicycles and cars navigate the roads of the capital city Taipei. American dignitaries, such as then-President Eisenhower and then-Vice President Lyndon Johnson, visited, and Aronson took advantage to capture the sights with his camera.

He developed a portfolio that would come in handy later when he decided to leave the military and take on a photography career. His Taiwan photos helped him land a job in 1969 at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, where he taught for 25 years.

Discharged from the Air Force in 1962, Aronson would never forget his time in Taiwan, but he embarked on new adventures and lost his fluency in Chinese over the years. Married and living in Wharton with his wife and three daughters, Aronson never imagined he would return to the exotic locale.

In 2000, he came across a Web site for the Taiwan Veterans Association, an informal group of Americans who served in Taiwan during the Cold War. Through this group, Aronson learned that he was eligible for a Badge of Honor from the Republic. Then, earlier this year, he was chosen for a return trip to the island.

So, Aronson has been brushing up on his Chinese since January and dreaming about the changes he will see and photograph. He hopes to return to the apartment he rented in Taipei and see what 40 years has done to the landscape.

"I'm sure there won't be any loose chickens on the road, like there used to be," Aronson said.

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