



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

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



Volume 8

Newsletter 1

January 2004

San Antonio Reunion

The next reunion will on us before we know it. The dates are 7-10 October 2004. The reunion hotel is the Four Points Sheraton on the North Riverwalk. We were able to negotiate a very good rate of \$80 per night (plus tax). While we are

there the Fall Arts and Crafts Fair will be on the Riverwalk. Some of you golfers may want to stay in the area, as the Texas Open Golf Tournament will start the following week.

There will be a lot of time for sightseeing and visiting. There are only a few set activities.



San Antonio Reunion Hat Pin

Thursday (7 October) will be registration day. That evening, there will be a social hour, followed by a buffet dinner in the hotel. (Your registration fee covers this.)

Friday (8 October) will start with a General Membership Meeting in the morning. The rest of the day will be open. That evening we will have an optional Texas Barbeque at the 7A Cattle Ranch outside of San Antonio. The 7A Ranch is the only working cattle ranch in the San Antonio area that hosts chuck wagon parties. The ranch has been in operation for over 100 years and has been designated as a "Heritage Ranch" by the State of Texas! The 7A Ranch still raises beef the old-fashioned way on the Texas range without feedlots or chemicals. The evening includes barbeque dinner, a Western show featuring The Texas Swing Band, a trick roper guaranteed to lasso your heart; six shooter and bull whip performances, and a hay ride tour of the ranch. The ranch owner will give a talk on ranch land and cattle management. As the sun sets, there will be a campfire, coffee and homemade pie.

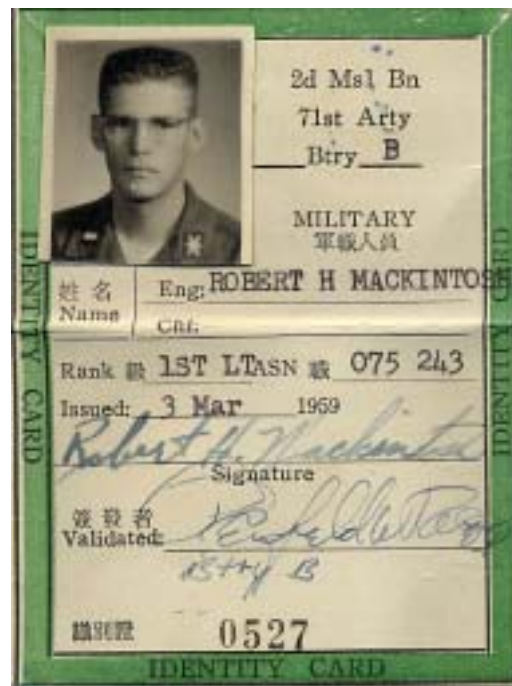
Saturday (9 October) will be open for sightseeing and visiting. That evening the Reunion Banquet will be held in the hotel ballroom.

Sunday (10 October) Following a Memorial Breakfast in the hotel, we will conclude the reunion.

The hotel's reunion rate will be good for one-day prior and one day after the reunion dates (6 and 11 October).

Reunion ID tags

This year we plan to put a 1958 photo on each of the ID tags of the association members. This will require some effort on your part to find and send in an old photo from your battery ID Badge, or old photograph (close-up). We will scan them and return the original to you at the reunion. So start looking, and send them in ASAP.



Sample Source of Early ID Photo

Reunion Pre-registration

Each person attending the reunion is encouraged to complete an early registration form and send in the registration fee. This early registration will give us an idea of how many are planning to attend the reunion and will give us the funds to make necessary financial commitments.

In addition to some administrative costs, the registration fee will pay for the registration social and Thursday evening buffet. The registration fee this year will be \$40 per person. The registration form is on the last page of this newsletter. Please send it to the 2-71 Association as soon as possible.

Status of Assn. Membership

As of this date we have 104 paid up members for 2004. (The 2004 dues year started 11/1/2003.) You might be interested to know that of those who are paid up for 2004, 42 of you are paid up for one or more years after 2004.

Unfortunately, 35 of our group have been paid members in the past, but have let their memberships expire. This includes 16 who were paid members through 10/31/2003 and who have forgotten to renew, or decided not to renew their membership. (Not included in these totals are 30 deceased members.)

If you are one of those in the not renewed category, we would be most happy to have you renew your membership in the 2-71 Association. The dues are \$15 per year and a Membership Application Form may be found at the back of the newsletter.

If you do not know what your membership status is, look at the mailing label of the newsletter and it will have your membership expiration date, if you are a member, or the date that your membership expired. If there is no expiration date on the label, you are receiving a copy of the newsletter, compliments of the membership.



Membership Renewals (since the last newsletter)

Baxter, Oliver, Huntsville, AL (178th Ord)
Breder, Milt, Quincy, IL (B Btry)
Buchanan, Bob, Clyde, NC (C Btry)
Burlage, Bob, Monticello, IA (D Btry)
Churchill, Fred, Janesville, WI (B Btry)
Davis, S.B., Talihina, OK (D Btry)
Decker, Jerome, Grand Forks, ND (C Btry)
Diedrich, David, Athens, WI (D Btry)
Early, Lee, Monterey, CA (C & Hq Btrys)
Esperson, Warren, Zion, IL (1st Sig Det)
Funamura, Danny, Lihue, HI (A & C Btrys)
Grant, Sam, Darlington, SC (Hq Btry)
Gray, Charles, Tulsa, OK (1st Sig Det)
Harris, David, Kendall Park, NJ (178th Ord)
Hatesohl, Derald, Tokeka, KS (C & A Btrys)
Henryhand, David, Philadelphia, PA (C Btry)
Hurst, Claxton, Meigs, GA (Aug Group)
Jarrell, Bob, El Paso, TX (D Btry)
Johnson, Ken, Pfaffown, NC (B Btry)
Jones, Edwin, Buford, GA (C Btry)
Kjersgaard, Jim, Perth Amboy, NJ (D Btry)
Lane, Don, El Paso, TX (D Btry)
Lapham, Paul, Port Charlotte, FL (Hq Btry)
Lapsley, Walter "Chuck", Martinez, CA (B & D Btrys)
LeFrancois, Leo, Plainfield, CT (Hq Btry)
Lisiewski, Al, Aston, PA (D Btry)

Mason, Henry, Media, PA (Hq Btry)
McGranahan, Tom, Sunriver, OR (Hq Btry)
Meadows, Earnest, Orange, TX (Hq Btry)
Melvin, Don, Superior, CO (Hq Btry)
Moody, Stu, Butler, PA (Hq & B Btry)
Nezelek, Fran, Endicott, NY (A Btry)
O'Neill, Charlie, Las Vegas, NV (B Btry)
O'Neill, Don, Tarentum, PA (B Btry)
Ottman, Willard, Lemmon, SD (Hq & C Btrys)
Peoples, Jim, W. Trenton, NJ (D Btry)
Provost, John, Mt. Dora, FL (Hq Btry)
Ramsey, Glen, Riceville, TN (A Btry)
Roberts, John, Underwood, MN (D Btry)
Rogers, Jimmie, Silver City, NM (D Btry)
Seeley, Ben, Modena, UT (B & Hq Btrys)
Shank, Leon, Monroeville, PA (178th Ord)
St. Amour, Leo, Havre De Grace, MD (C Btry)
Sterk, Wayne, Clinton, OH (B Btry)
Stohlman, Bob, Olney, MD (554th Ord)
Telford, Jim, Milwaukee, WI (A Btry)
Terbille, Herb, Durham, NC ((B Btry)
Trieglaff, Larry, Windlake, WI (Hq Btry)
Trost, Charlie, Nashville, TN (Hq Btry)
Vaughn, Lowell, Scroggins, TX (Hq Btry)
Vela, Gilbert, Santa Maria, CA (178th Ord)
Videbeck, Bill, Brooklyn, NY (Hq Btry)
Weller, Merle, Strasburg, PA (C Btry)
Wrench, Jim, Fort Walton Beach, FL (A Btry)



In Memoriam

Max Squire, El Paso, TX (Hq Btry)
Robert H. Boyd, Monroeville, PA (D Btry)
Wesley A. Wilson, El Paso, TX (B Btry)
Harry O. Habenicht, Kentland, IN 47951 (C & Hq Btrys)
Walter E. "Ernie" Meadows, Orange, TX (Hq Btry)



Notes from the Troops

10/30/03

From: **Jim Peoples** (D Btry)

Dear Lois and Bob,

Hope all is well. Sorry we missed you in Nashville. We are looking forward to San Antonio.

Enclosed are my dues for the year. I would like to have the mailing list for the Association. You don't have to rush it, just include it in the next newsletter.

Was very sorry to read of **Richard Feeney's** passing. His efforts will be missed.

Thanks so much for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

Jim and Judy Peoples

11/1/03

From: **Ray Corbin** (B & D Btrys)

Dear Bob and Lois,

Thanks again for all your efforts on behalf of our group. We all appreciate receiving the well-written newsletter.

Mimi and I will be in Las Vegas in early Nov. and have plans to see **Charlie Daniels** of "B" and "D" batteries.

Ray and Mimi

11/1/03

From: **Martha Squire**

Dear Bob:

My husband **Max E. Squire** died September 17 of lymphoma. It was a horrible death because he wanted to stay home

Sincerely,

Martha

11/6/03

From: **Dave O'Connell** (D Btry)

Subject: D Battery Member in Cleveland VA Hospital
Guys,

Don McMahan (Big Mac), who many of you saw at our great Nashville reunion, has a large aneurysm on his aorta along with others in the abdomen and groin area. He was admitted to the VA Hospital in Cleveland and will be operated on as soon as he can be prepped. Please say a prayer for this troop. I talked to him yesterday afternoon. Although he was quite anxious, he wanted me to send out this message that the 2-71 is the greatest and he loves everyone in it.

The VA address is 10701 East Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44106,

Mac's home address is Huber Heights, OH 45424

I will keep you posted. Mac's son, Terry, lives just up the road apiece from here

Dave O'Connell, D BTRY

11/7/03

From: **C. K. McGee** (B Btry)

Subject: Re: D Battery Member in Cleveland VA Hospital

I will pray for him as I have stood where he stands.

Miracles do happen and I will be praying for him

C. K. McGee

B Battery

11/3/03

From: **Paul Lapham** (Hq Btry)

Another great newsletter.

Be assured we'll do whatever we can to help the two of you. Just give the word.

Hope both of you are staying well.

Paul and Diane

11/3/03

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

Bob:

Here are our dues and a little extra to help out. Always enjoy the newsletter and looking forward to S.A in 2004.

S.B.

P.S. Tell **Tom (Ambler)** I'll keep some tunes in the key of "C" just for him.

Love,

Betty Davis

11/3/03

From: **Lee Early** (C & Hq Btrys)

Hey,

Dues time is once a year (and a modest sum at that). How come these twelve months seem so much shorter than those twelve months we spent in Taiwan?

If I pay for two years, maybe that will slow things down a bit.

Cheers,

Lee

11/5/03

From: **Derald Hatesohl** (C & A Btrys)

Bob,

Sorry I got behind on my dues.

I sure enjoy the newsletters.

Am considering the reunion in San Antonio. Will let you know later.

Thanks,

Derald Hatesohl

11/4/03

From: **Henry Mason** (Hq Btry)

Dear Members,

I write these few lines to thank you guys for keeping alive the Taiwan experience in 1958. It was first time out of the country (except for Juarez), therefore it did me good.

My outfit was Hq, but our unit (Early Warning AN/TPS-1G Radar) I believe was attached to "D" Battery.

I stayed in the military 'till June 1967 when I departed

Nam and the military.

The military has been good for me, but now I am VA 100% disabled due to many factors. But I have no regrets, I'd do it all again.

Keep up the good work.

Henry M. Mason

11/5/03

From: **Don Lane** (D Btry)

Dear Bob and Lois,

Here are my dues.

We will see you in San Antonio.

We are doing fine and want to thank you for all that you are doing.

Don and Bahi Lane

11/5/03

From: **Stu Moody** (Hq & B Btrys)

Bob,

Time flies and I clean forgot my dues. The newsletter was a welcome reminder. Enclosed are my dues and a little extra for expenses.

Dee and I are looking forward to the next reunion.

Our prayers are with all our troops now in the Middle East and hope they can look forward to unit reunions 50 years from now.

Sincerely,

Stu Moody

11/6/03

From: **Glen Ramsey** (A Btry)

Hi Bob,

Sorry I'm late with my dues. I must be getting old.

Please pay my dues up for two years, and use the remainder as you see fit.

Thanks again for all the work you and Lois have done and are doing.

See you in San Antonio!!!!

Glen Ramsey

11/11/03

From: **Gladys Wilson** (Mrs. **Wes Wilson**, B Btry)

Dear Bob:

Please let the members know that Wesley A. Wilson passed away suddenly on November 9, 2003. We will always remember how much we enjoyed the Taiwan trip. My best regards to you and Lois.

Sincerely,

Gladys Wilson

11/11/03

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

Dear Bob and Lois,

Hope this finds you both well.

Bob if you will send me the info on B Btry personnel you would like me to call on the phone I will be glad to do so. Also any members from 2/71 in the El Paso area.

Really looking forward to the Reunion.

Az ever,

Bob Douglas

11/10/03

From: **Lowell Vaughn** (Hq Btry)

Dear Bob,

Enclosed is my check to renew my membership.

Hope to make the next reunion.

Yours truly,

Lowell Vaughn

11/12/03

From: **John Spegele** (D Btry)

Bob;

So sorry to hear about **Wes Wilson**; he will be missed by all.

The MUC was forwarded to DA and then to the Awards Branch. I called them the other day and left a message, but they didn't call back. Will call again this week.

We received the Newsletter and as always enjoyed it.

I spoke to **Don Lane & Bob Jarrell** when we were in El Paso & both are planning to attend the reunion. I will gladly help Just let me know.

I'll keep you posted on the MUC.

John

11/11/03

From: **Ben Seeley**, Modena, UT (B & Hq Btrys)

Hi Bob and Lois,

Here are my dues for the next two years.

Thank you for the newsletter. I like keeping up with the troops.

Thank you all for the help at the Nashville reunion....

Here is a little something that **Bill Thomson** may like for his memory bank, or some of the other troops to. (Enclosed a Charter Member certificate from the 168th AAA Missile Bn, Nike Ajax, 25 Jul 1958.)

I was in the 168th AAA Battalion to. Here is the certificate that I made up when we went from 75mm Guns to the Ajax missile. I was a computer controller on the 75mm's. This certificate was given out at the transfer from 75mm to the Ajax.

Thank you

Ben and Lydia

P.S. Keep up the good work.

11/9/03

From: **Jerry Decker** (C Btry)

Dear Bob,

Was planning to come to San Antonio in Oct. but looks like we'll be in Germany.

Always enjoy reading the newsletters. Keep up the good work.

Jerry

11/12/03

From: **Don Melvin** (Hq Btry)

Dear Bob and Lois,

Over the last few years, the reunions you have put on and our being able to attend two of them have been the highlights of our vacations. Thank you for doing so much and for all the work you have done on them.

I noticed at the reunion in Nashville some of the members were wearing a red, white and blue (ribbon), I think those were the right colors. I was wondering if that was the US-ROC Mutual Commemorative Badge. If so, I would like to have one. I did at one time belong to the association that was run by Lloyd Evans, but he quit e-mailing anyone who was using AOL and haven't heard from him since. I would appreciate any info you could give me on this.

After almost a year, I am getting my meds and care from the VA here in Denver. Since paying almost \$500 a month on meds this really helps. They have also made me appointments to see different doctors to help with the nerve injury in my back that affects my walking. Will some of the events planned for San Antonio be so I can attend in a motorized wheelchair? It doesn't need to be all of them, just so I can be with my friends would be enough.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Don

11/19/03

From: **Mrs. Harry Habenicht** (C & Hq Btrys)

I am writing to inform you of the death of **Harry Habenicht** of cancer on Nov. 7, 2003.

My husband and I enjoyed the reunions and all the updates. Estella Habenicht

11/22/03

From: **Claxton Hurst** (Augmentation Group)

Use the extra dollars to help someone else come to the reunion.

Claxton and Michelin

11/21/03

From: **Bob Jarrell** (D Btry)

Dear Bob,

I received a call from **Bob Douglas** asking if I was going to attend the 2/71 reunion in 2004. Betty and I plan on attending the reunion; the Lord willing and the creek don't rise. We hope to see everyone then.

I am enclosing my dues for two years, the remainder of the check you may use for the benefit of the Association....

Betty and I wish you and Lois a very happy Thanksgiving.

Take care,

Bob

11/28/03

From: **Jimmie Rogers** (D Btry)

Just a note to wish you and Lois a happy belated Thanksgiving. We had a real nice one. Don came in from the

Dallas area and will stay a few days. We ate too much but really had a good time. Hope you and yours also had a wonderful holiday.

We are looking forward to the next reunion. Don is also planning to come. He really enjoyed the last one. He now knows what we went through and what we all mean to each other. Thanks again Bob for all you and Lois have done for the 71st.

Let us hear from you all.

Till then,

Jimmie and Ruth Ann Rogers

11/30/03

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

Bob,

These are the personnel I have contacted. Where there is a telephone number it is one you did not have.

1. **Bell, Carlton** not sure about reunion but will renew his membership in assn.

2. **Jackson, Donald** has prostrate troubles; will let you know about San Antonio as it gets closer.

3. **Jarrell, Robert**, will contact you about SA, but thinks he will attend.

4. **La Fontaine, Joseph**, health is good, likes getting news letter but will not make reunion.

5. **Lane, Donald**, health is good and definitely going to SA.

6. **Ramos, Fernando**, has some health problems, will let you know about SA when it gets closer.

7. **Rosburg, Merlyn**, will make reunion in SA, and renew assn membership. Will stay with daughter in SA. Will bring Photos he has from Taiwan. In good health.

8. **Saylor, Lloyd**, incorrect address and phone number. No listing in El Paso. No contact.

9. **Scott, Charles**, plans to attend Reunion. Will Email you.

10. **Weber, Henry**, will not attend reunion.

Did not contact wives of those who have passed away. Hope this helps. Let me know if there are others you want me to contact.

Hope you had a happy Thanksgiving. We will leave El Paso about Dec. 9 and will be on the road 'till we get to San Antonio about Jan 3 - till May.

Best wishes to you and Lois.

Bob and Kay

11/28/03

From: **Paul Lapham** (Hq Btry)

We're looking forward to seeing you both in San Antonio. Hope everything works out so you don't have so much work getting everything organized. You do it so well.

Wishing you both and all your family the very best this holiday – and a great 2004.

Paul and Diana

12/4/03

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

See you in San Antonio.

Patti and Jim

12/8/03

From: **Willard Ottman** (Hq & C Btrys)

Dear Bob and Troops,

The Oct. newsletter got to me a few days ago.

Enclosed are dues and a little extra.

Last Jan. we had a nice visit with the **Ben Seeley's** in Utah.

We are looking forward to the next reunion.

Sincerely,

Willard & Pat Ottman

12/9/03

From: **Bob Stohlman** (554th Ord Co)

Dear Bob:

I did not realize my dues were so late. My health is getting worse. I can barely walk with help.

My dues plus a little.

Bob Stohlman

12/11/03

From: **Merle Weller** (C Btry)

Bob & Lois,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Merle and Darlene

P.S. Looking forward to Texas in October.

12/12/03

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

Hi Lois and Bob,

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your family.

I have enclosed my dues for 2004, the extra money you can add to the association's fund.

If you need anyone to make some calls for our 2004 reunion, just e-mail me.

Your friend,

Jim Telford

12/18/03

From: **Bill Videbeck** (Hq Btry)

Hello Bob,

I'm wishing you and ours all the best for a warm and wonderful Christmas as well as a great New Year.

I am enclosing my membership renewal.

Take care,

Bill Videbeck

12/20/03

From: **Vern Trupp** (D Btry)

Merry Christmas:

Been a bad year for me! X-rays, MRIs, therapy, tests, and recuperations, all year. Had 2nd operation on right shoulder. That got rid of grinding and popping, but ended up with no rotor cuff. Too old and too bad to fix! Couldn't stand or walk through stores for 5 minutes, would go numb waist down. Spinal Stenosis! So guess I will have spine reamed out mid-spring or summer. Then will decide if I will have left hip replaced.

Mid-summer went on insulin, and 1 Dec had a "TRP" prostate that was growing again. But no cancer. So just recouping now. Dr. said no lawn mowing, snow shoveling, vacuuming, dishwashing, dusting, etc., 'till after 15 January. But I can open packages.

Blanche is doing great. Sure glad I found her. We became great-great grand parents. One boy, 7 mos.; 1 girl, 5 weeks. Both babies and moms doing great.

Been a dry and hot year. High 90's to 117°. Had a few 6" rains, that is 6" between drops. You people stole all our rain – you thieves! Unless we have a hard winter, farms will have a waterless year.

Hope to see you in Texas. Depends on money and health.

But have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your family.

Vern and Blanche

12/25/03

From: **Tom Ambler** (D Btry)

Lois, Bob & Troops,

Enclosing a couple of "Bush \$200s" (realistic looking bills with G.W. Bush's likeness) to celebrate the capture of Saddam Hussein.

Have a nice holiday season and God Bless Our Troops.

They are certainly heroes.

He was found near a place called Wolverine — "D" Battery was Camp Wolverine.

Your Comrade

Tom Ambler

12/25/03

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

Hi: Bob and Lois

Good morning and a joyful Christmas.

Hope your new year finds you healthy, prosperous, and ready for travel to Texas.

God loves you.

So do I

Neal Boothe

12/25/03

From: **Franklin J Rivers** (C & A Btry)

Hope all of you have a very merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2004.

Hope to see ya'll in San Antonio.

Frank & Elaine

12/23/03

From: **Charlie Daniels** (B Btry)

Hi Bob,

Finally got around to sending my dues along with a little extra to use where it's needed. Hope I'm able to make the reunion. Ray told me it was really a good layout and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Well take care.

Charlie

1/3/04

From: **Ken Johnson** (B Btry)

Hi Bob and Lois,

Have been receiving the newsletters and really enjoy them.

Enclosed are my dues for 2004 and 2005 and a little extra for expenses.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion in San Antonio, a great place to have a reunion. Lots of places to see and things to do.

Our best to you both.

Ken and Helen Johnson

1/5/04

From: **Al Lisiewski** (D Btry)

Hi Bob,

Just wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

A little late but I'm sending my dues.

Al Lisiewski

1/8/04

From: **Leo St. Amour** (C Btry)

Dear Bob,

Enclosed is my dues plus a little to help out on postage or wherever it is needed.

Sorry I'm late. Guess you probably start wondering when a member does not renew on time; none of us is getting any younger.

Hope to be able to make the next reunion.

Sincerely,

Leo

1/13/2004

From: **Don Melvin** (Hq Btry)

Dear Bob and Lois,

Here is a copy of the letter I sent to you that you didn't receive.

Hello fellow members it is with great sorrow that on January 10, 2004 I received a phone call from Loretta Meadows saying that her husband **Ernie (Walter E.) Meadows** had passed away early that Sunday morning after a long battle with cancer.

I serve most of my 3 years in the Army with him, from basic at Fort Carson, to Fort Bliss, to Taiwan, and finishing up at Fort Knox. We had often wondered about 2 young (17) year old soldiers, one from Texas, one from Colorado without any Missile training ending up in Taiwan in Hqs. Battery, AADCP, being in the same survey squad at Fort Knox, and being promoted at the same time. A nicer person, friend, or fellow comrade, I will never meet.

I know Loretta would love to hear from any of you at this time of sorrow.

Loretta Meadows
2871st East Murf
Orange, TX 776321
409-883-5133
GOD BLESS,
Don & Sally Melvin

1/18/04

From: **Chuck Lapsley** (B & D Btrys)

Bob,

I'm just checking to see if you got the \$30 check for the 2003 and 2004 dues. I can only apologize for the tardiness.

I hope that you and your family are in good health.

The weather here is overcast and foggy, not unusual for this time of year.

This has been a rather traumatic year following my Mother's death last March. I don't know whether I mentioned it earlier, but I cut back from a five-day to a three-day workweek in May 2003. What a change!

I plan to attend the reunion.

Must sign off for now and head off to the "Y" for a daily workout. Diet and regular exercise has become a routine program for me since last April. I've been able to pare several pounds of excess bulk and even build a bit of needed muscle over the past ten months.

Regards,

Chuck Lapsley

1/21/04

From: **Ollie Baxter** (178th Ord)

Hi Bob,

Sorry I am late with my dues. Enclosed are my 2003 and 2004 dues and thanks for not dropping me from the rolls.

As you know, I have not attended any of the reunions to date. It has not been because I didn't want to, but they have come at bad times for me, even last year when it was just 100 miles up the road. I hope I will be able to make it to San Antonio.

Also, I will attempt to get into some Redstone Arsenal Archives and see what I can come up with on the organization of the 178th Ord Detachment and its attachment to the 2nd/71st

Oliver (Ollie) Baxter



Change of Address

We get several newsletters returned each mailing because the person has moved and the Post Office forwarding period has expired. So please send in a change of address if you have moved recently, or plan to move.

Also, please notify us of any new e-mail address.



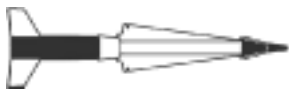
Lost addresses

Marwood Rude (A Btry) Woody attended our Nashville reunion, but the last newsletter was returned. The Post Office return stamp says that local authorities had changed the street and/or number, and the one-year time limit has expired. The telephone had been temporarily disconnected. If you know of Woody's new address, let us know.



Unit Designation

In the past, your editor has referred to the 2nd Missile Battalion, 71st Artillery as "2/71", or "2/71 Artillery". Starting immediately, your editor will use the designation "2-71" rather than "2/71". This is more in line with the active Army designations, and the old designation is not compatible with your editor's new computer operating system. It will not accept a "/" in a title of a saved document. The acceptable Army short designations for "C" Battery 2-71, for example, would be C/2-71, or C/2-71 Arty, or C/2-71 ADA. This still uses the "/", but we do not usually have documents that use this designation in the title.



Taiwan Tour Ramblings

By the Troops, September 1998

My name is **Dave O'Connell**, D Btry, 2nd Msl Bn, 71 Arty. I can't believe I found your posting in the Ft. Bliss Guest Book entries. I stumbled on their home page a couple of days ago. After writing in their guest book almost word for word what you had written, I signed out and revisited a day later to see if it was posted. It was. Then I thought, grabbing for straws, that maybe some one else from the old outfit had signed the guest book. Lo and behold I found your posting! It just about brought tears to my eyes. A day doesn't go by when I don't think of that operation and the guys I served with. I can still see their faces and speak their names like it was yesterday. After 38 years with no one to share the experience with, I was beginning to think it was a reoccurring dream with real artifacts.

Dave O'Connell, D Battery IFC

* * * * *

I used to work out on the helicopter pad in the Fire Control Area with a home made dead weight. I made it with cement and fence piping. Sometimes I would shoot the breeze with WO pilots when they flew someone in and had to wait for

them. The pad was great for doing laps, also! My how we improvised!

Dave O'Connell, D Battery IFC

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I'm excited! Just got a call from **Karl Kolm** traveling between Dallas and Waco. It's been so long he isn't even sure what Battery he was in. It was in the mountains outside of Keelung. He wants to go. I have his 800 No. His address on my set of orders was Racine but the only name in the country was in Waco so that's where I sent the letter. The net works! He asked about a lot of guys I didn't know including a **Lt. Goldstein**. I looked at your newsletter later and noted Lt. Goldstein was undecided. He had a war story that I never heard, about a missile falling off a launcher during an IG inspection. I'll bet there was a lot of scrambling going on there at the time. I just got another call as I was writing, this time from Ohio; and it was one of my close buddies. What a day! We talked for over an hour.

Dave O'Connell, D Battery IFC

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Robert J. Burlage ... Other wise known as "Big Mamma". Another great guy. He was deathly seasick from the moment he embarked on the Breckenridge until the moment he got off. We pulled him off the O-1 deck during the typhoon before he rolled overboard. When we told him that could happen, he said, "I hope I do!"

Dave O'Connell, D Battery IFC

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D J Minnick...I believe DJ was in your Btry — a nice guy and truly a gentleman. He and I were TDY together when we were involved in the testing of the Herc at White Sands with Board #4. All missiles we fired at White Sands blew up, about 12 in all, just after making a 7G dive and heading down range. We took the unit to Eglin AFB as Snodgrass Task Force and fired them off of Santa Rosa Island. They all worked perfect. We shot down old F-80's that were droned. The problem, as it turned out, was that the speed of the Herc, being so much faster than the Ajax, caused the skin of the missile to heat up to such an extreme temperature that it burned the fail-safe circuitry causing self destruction. After some extra insulation and possibly some relocation of the wiring the problem was put to bed.

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Regarding the schedule in Taiwan, I believe, in D Btry, at least in the Fire Control Area we worked 24 hrs. on and 24 hrs. off. Each troop spent 12 hrs. on Air Defense and 12 hrs. on Ground Defense. And, yes, I agree that our two Btrys were always up and operational always on either Red or Yellow alert. We in D Btry soldiered hard and played hard. Fear was our motivator. We didn't want to be on the losing end of a hostile act either on the "hill" or in town. More importantly we would have to deal with **First Sgt. Davis** : His Quote — "If there's anything I can't stand it's a candy-ass outfit".

Your schedule was really grueling. At least in the 24 hrs. off we could thoroughly unwind. There is not much you can do in 4 hrs., and six weeks for a night off is like living a

daily Article 15. By the way, where did you get the Water Buffalo steaks? Was it the Hong Kong Restaurant? I can remember the bread. It used to turn moldy sometimes before it got to the mess tent. Now that's heat and humidity. Our OD uniforms used to mildew also in the lockers if they were not aired and brushed off regularly.

Dave O'Connell, D Battery IFC

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Vern Trupp was our 5 ton driver. He never ceased to amaze me with his built in radar on that rainy, foggy, muddy, narrow mountain road in the dark. It was fine in the back but if you were riding shotgun you shut your eyes and prayed. I will jog his memory banks with a list of the missing. In fact if they are moving and he has his MTI on Trupp will find them!

Dave O'Connell, D Battery IFC

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Ray Corbin still has ties to Taiwan. He went back in Feb. 1960; married his girlfriend and brought her back to the States. They have been happily married for 37 years. Now that's a great story!

Dave O'Connell, D Battery IFC

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I believe I will soon have almost 50% of D Btry located. Again the guys are extremely excited, they write ,they call, they send me photographs and tapes. Today I listened to a tape for over an hour. Brelje was doing interviews in our tent, they talked about everything from their farms to sandbagging, mud, rain, food, duty, recreation, living in tents, the Chinese, going home, Sunday service, they sang, ribbed each other and best of all talked about their hometowns. I think you would get a kick out of this tape, Bob, even though you don't personally know these men. They are so typical of the GI of the 40's and 50's that my wife, Karen, thought it sounded like TV sitcom MASH.

Dave O'Connell, D Battery IFC

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D Btry was located in Young Mei, which lies between Hsin Chu and Tauyon, the latter being spelled phonetically. Remember to tell him that D Btry (Camp Wolverine) was the first Nike-Hercules Combat Btry in the world ready to fire. (HA HA). It was on our sign heading for the Launching Area.

...The 88 Sig men in Formosa when we arrived makes sense. I remember now that they already had the radio communications tent set up in our designated fire control area when we got there. The first night two others and I were assigned to guard the equipment and tried to find these signal guys in the dark. We heard they had a coffeepot set up. We never did find it that night as the place was pitch dark, foggy and crawling with ROC troops who kept challenging us all night with bayonets to our backs. We finally pulled our perimeter in close to the vans before there was an accidental incident. I remember it well. Also a story by **John Moran** comes to mind. He was on a bus in San Francisco getting ready to go to Oakland, I think, when a paperboy was hawking an EXTRA. "EXTRA EXTRA read

all about it. Looks like war in Formosa". John looks at his orders again and lo and behold that was his destination. We always got a laugh out of him telling that story.

I myself was shipped home on Special Orders Number 90 dated 24 July 1959. I believe the Augmentation they are referring to is all the men left from the 2/71 and it's support groups on that date. We spent our last night, late August 1959, at Battalion on a cement floor in what as I remember may have been a warehouse. We shipped out on the USS Gen. Breckenridge the next day. We were definitely not at Battalion strength. A lot of the men had already flown back to the states. In D Btry we had only the minimal personal required to fire. The ship, itself, was half loaded with Marines from Okinawa when she picked us up. The highest ranking person was a Marine SgtM. He was in charge of all the troops. We had very few Army NCO's and had a lot of trouble with the Marine Sgt/M regarding shipboard duties and rank regarding their E-3 Corporals and our E-3 PFCs. We had so few NCOs that I was in charge of a compartment.

It's a great article and documents our successful deployment and mission in a hot area of the Cold War. I also noted what I recollect needed clarification. We embarked and disembarked the troop ship in full combat dress with M1-Garands, loaded onto 2.5 and 5 ton trucks and spent that night at Battalion. We traveled to our Btrys in the same manner. I spent the 2nd night in D Btry Fire Control Area guarding equipment. Also to my recollection D Btry became operational on 23 Oct. 1958. I forgot to mention to Blair that we embarked in full combat gear.

Vern Trupp was famous for the truck that had a mechanical brake failure while parked on the hill in our battery area. It rolled downhill for maybe a mile. Killed a number of pigs and some chickens and luckily just missed a school bus down on the main drag. We kidded him a lot about maybe having to pay for the truck for about 30 years.

Dave Kent is an interesting story. Dave was wounded in the shoulder from a shot fired by an M1. It was during the time of the nose cone/infiltration incident when security was tighter than normal, if that was possible at D Btry. We were all pretty keyed up at the time. Dave failed to stop at the gate with his 5 ton. He sort of slowed down and gave a high sign to the guard that all was well. Problem was he had, as I recall, a couple of ROC troops in the front seat and had just come from the launching area.. The guard on duty, **Ed Pierzynski**, waited until he had a good shot over the tailgate and nailed **Dave Kent** in the shoulder. Dave stopped the truck. He was hurt pretty bad and lucky that he wasn't killed.

YOUNG MEN

Red Army, Blue Army, rice paddies serene.

Abstract images beneath the trees.

Thru the valley we rode to the mountain top green,

To man the missiles that kept them free.

Blue alert, yellow alert, red alert,
From the mainland they came.
Every other day we died,
Only to die again.

We saw them on the radar screen.
We did not know their names.
Did they experience, on that line of green,
The fear of dying in flames.

Dave O'Connell, D Battery IFC
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I was a Fire Control Maintenance specialist. I had to keep the TTRs, MTR's, Acquisition radars and computer working. That was the reason that I got to meet Chiang Kai Chek during his visit. It seems that the management wanted some of the maintenance techs to man some of the equipment during an exercise to show the systems capabilities. I was also cross trained to operate all three radars. I was surprised how small Chiang really was. While standing watching the TTR radar screen over our shoulders he draped his arms across myself and the adjacent operator and was about as tall as we in the sitting position. A very strong memory of that visit was the serious attitude of his body guards. They looked like very lethal hombres.

Walt "Chuck" Lapsley, B Battery IFC
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Getting the news to be going to the Far East quickened my life's pace. I had only a couple of days to get back to Pennsylvania to give my '55 Chevy to my sister and head back to El Paso. The troop train thru the Rockies was one of the beautiful views. The ship "General John C. Breckenridge" looked huge in Seattle until we got into a storm off of Japan where the waves were going over the 3rd deck. Some of the guys were so sick in their swinging beds they would beg you to grab an extra apple or banana from the chow line so they wouldn't starve.

I volunteered to cut hair in the ship's barber shop which was a challenge in rough weather. Coming home the guys were more "fussy". I also did the cutting at "D" Battery — my favorite customer was **M/Sgt Davis** — he had a good crop of hair.

I learned to speak Chinese from my house boy. Chou Tsu Fia who used to call me "Mr. Tom".

Near the end of our tour I became an instructor to teach the Nationalist Chinese soldiers who were to take our places. At that time my best student was Sgt. Shau Suan Fia who went on to be a Major — I corresponded with him for 40 years and this is the first year I didn't hear from him.

Coming back to the U.S.A. was great — the first land we sighted was Alcatraz. I finished my tour at an underground NIKE base near my home town of Lafayette Hill PA.

Recently while taking my sister for a birthday dinner we went to a restaurant called the Formosa Garden where the menu had a nice map of the Island and our waitress was a native of what is now called Taiwan. By remembering my Chinese language I had a date with her for the next day and have been seeing Jen for almost 3 years. I hope to bring her

to the reunion if things work out.

I have 3 daughters and a son, Rob, who can't see how I got into the uniform shirts he likes to wear and I just say "That was 40 years ago".

Thanks to all the good people whose paths I crossed and to the people who put this reunion together and especially to "Mac" who put many long hours into the event.

"God Bless America.!" SP/4 "**Tom**" **Ambler**, Fire Control Panel Operator and Instructor, "D" Battery.



2nd Missile Bn, 71st Artillery (Taiwan)

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Board Member	Sam Grant



2004 Reunion Help

I would like to help with the next reunion. Please send me the necessary personal information to contact our membership. I would like to contact:

number _____
from _____ (unit)
by e-mail _____, letter _____, telephone _____

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

Membership Help

I would like to help find some our missing troops. (This is best done by those who have computers and Internet access for locating addresses and telephone numbers on line.)

Please send me some names of missing troops. I would like to search for:

number _____
from _____ (unit)

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

2004 San Antonio Reunion - Early Registration Form

Name: _____

Telephone No. _____

E-mail address: _____

Guest Name (s): _____

Unit in Taiwan: (Battery or Detachment) _____

Number of persons planning to attend the reunion: _____

Registration Fee submitted (No. attending x \$45) _____

2004 Membership Dues (\$15, if not current member) _____

Total Amount Submitted: _____

Make check, or Money Order, out to:

2nd Missile Bn., 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Assn.

Mail check to:

2nd Missile Bn., 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Assn.

271 Shady Oak Drive

New Market, AL 35761

Note for Newsletter: _____

**Plan on attending the next reunion in
San Antonio, TX,
7-10 October 2004**



Association Membership Application

To:

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

271 Shady Oak Drive

New Market. AL 35761

Inclosed is my check for membership in the Association in the amount of

\$15 for 1 year (1 Nov 2003-31 Oct 2004) _____

\$30 for 2 years (1 Nov 2003-31 Oct 2005) _____

Other _____

Name: _____ Taiwan Unit _____

Address: _____

Tel. No. _____

E-mail Address _____

