



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

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



Volume 10

Newsletter 3

November 2006

2006 Reunion in Rapid City, SD

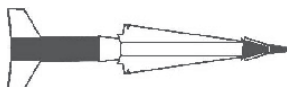
The recent reunion was held in Rapid City, SD, 27 Sep. to 1 Oct. 2006. It was one of our smaller reunions but everyone had a great time. The weather was outstanding. We had 70° weather that was freezing shortly before we arrived and soon after we departed. Details of the reunion are provided by **Karen O'Connell** later in the newsletter. Originally, 100 people were signed up to attend but twelve people did not make it, mostly for health problems. The following were almost there; they were with us in spirit:

Don Friese, Nick and Beth Hodge, Claxton and Mitti Hurst, Ken and Helen Johnson, Fran Nezelek, Vern and Blanche Trupp, Merle Weller and Darlene O'Shields.

While we were missing some of our old-timers, we were blessed with some first-timers: **Joe Duchesne's son Joe, Gil and Petra Garcia, Bill and Elaine Hutchison, Dan and Mary Anne Otting, Mel Reichstadt's wife, Ginny, and John and Becky Roberts.** We were fortunate to have one old-timer join us. **Nancy O'Neill** lost her husband, **Ron**, shortly after the San Antonio Reunion, but she decided to attend this reunion. Hopefully we will be able to encourage more widows to join us for the 2008 Reunion.

Our banquet guest speaker, **Francis Gary Powers, Jr.** gave us a very interesting talk about his father's U-2 mission over Russia and his work in establishing the Cold War Museum on an old Nike site in Lorton, VA. Gary is a very dynamic speaker and salesman for the museum. He asked us to contribute artifacts from our Taiwan tour to the museum. **Jim Peoples** gave him the shirt off his back – actually the jacket off his back. Those of you who have been to a reunion will remember the 2nd Missile Bn. embroidered jackets that both **Jim and Milo Morin** had made in Taiwan. Milo plans to hold on to his jacket a while longer.

Willard and Pat Ottman had sold us on South Dakota for the reunion when we were in San Antonio, then proceeded to select a fine reunion hotel, reasonably priced, with great food and with a surprising number of outstanding tourist attractions in the area. They also provided a shuttle and guide service to downtown Rapid City.



Karen O'Connell's View of the Reunion

Two years ago, when I heard the guys had decided to go to South Dakota for this reunion, I thought it was a great opportunity. However, S.D. is not an easy access area, but what a wonderful destination!

Before I tell you about the actual reunion, let me tell you a bit about our drive from Buffalo, NY to Rapid City, SD.

The first night, we stayed in South Bend, IN, and being a HUGE Notre Dame fan, that gave me the thrill of a lifetime - seeing the Golden Dome! My heart is still aflutter. The next day, driving through Wisconsin, Dave suggested we stop in Lyndon Station, to see if we could locate "Little Mac", otherwise known as **Harold McDonald**, from D-Battery. There was no answer on his phone, but being the little town it is, one of the ladies in the convenience store knew where he lived. He wasn't home. Before we left his house, though, he drove up, so he and Dave had a nice chat and we got a few pictures.

The third night, we stayed in Mitchell, SD. Lo and behold, when I walked into the hotel, I saw **Neal Boothe**! Yes, he and Nancy were staying at the same hotel. We sat in the lobby and talked for a few hours.

All along Route 90 in S.D. are signs (a la Burma Shave) telling the traveler about Wall Drug and all the "stuff" you can get there. Since this was the last leg of our journey, Dave decided we should investigate this place. What a fun place. And, we ran into the Boothes again and had lunch together.

As you can see, our reunion actually started a couple days early.

We arrived in Rapid City shortly after noon on Wednesday. Some anxious reunioners were already in the hotel! Although we were all spread around this sprawling hotel, the accommodations were great. The staff were friendly, gracious and attentive.

Our first meal there was in the hotel dining room - Minerva's. That began our love affair with their food. Both banquets were delicious and well presented. No complaints from anyone. The breakfasts in the restaurant were the same caliber as the dinners. The coffee was always good, too.

Several of us sat for hours in the lobby that first evening and talked, reminisced, caught up, laughed and took pictures. Just like Old Home Week. Each time another member walked through the door, the chatter got louder.

On Thursday morning, the Board of Directors met, while a few of us put the reunion packets together for all members and guests. A nice, new touch this year was an identifying

ribbon attached to the nametags. This told everyone who was on the Board (in case they had any questions), who were special guests and most important, who was attending their first reunion with the 2/71st. These packets were handed out in the Hospitality Room and listed who was expected at the reunion, as well as the itinerary for the weekend. A few handouts about the area were also enclosed.

It should be noted here that those who could not attend this year were sorely missed. We hope that those of you with health problems are free of them now. After a couple of reunions, there are certain faces you expect to see. On the brighter side, there were many new attendees this year: **Gil & Petra Garcia, Bill & Elaine Hutchison, John & Becky Roberts, Dan & Mary Anne Otting and Joe Duchesne (son of Joe Duchesne)**. It was so gratifying to meet them.

Thursday afternoon, there was much evidence of our contribution to the economy with all the fancy cameras. Flashes going off everywhere. The Hospitality room was buzzing with chatter all day.

The Reception/Buffer Dinner was later that evening. This is a very informal gathering. The speaker this evening was **MG Michael Gorman** from the South Dakota National Guard. He spoke about today's Army and the differences/similarities he notices, when compared to the time and men, when our members were serving.

After the meal, **Betty Davis** spent hours playing the piano, while many of us sang along. She was joined by **Danny Funamura**, our very own 'Velvet Fog'. Thanks to both of you.

Now is a good time to tell everyone that **Willard (Will) and Pat Ottman** were our organizers for this reunion. They did a superb job and were most gracious hosts. There were times when he shuttled people downtown and back and did it with the usual chuckle we so often hear from Will. He was always available to help anyone, if necessary. Thank you **Will and Pat** for all your hard work, trips back and forth from Lemmon to Rapid City and your tireless quest for a Rapid City Reunion.

None of this would have been possible without the seemingly never-ending energy from **Bob and Lois Mackintosh**. They have made these reunions go smoothly, ironing every wrinkle, crossing every "T", dotting every "I". I can testify to the numerous phone calls Bob has to make to touch base with everyone involved, right down to the minutest detail.

I'm sure they don't want to hear about the "debt of gratitude" we owe them, but for sure they must know how much they are loved and appreciated. Their devotion to the men (and guests) of the 2nd Missile Battalion, 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Assoc. gives us all many rewards and we thank you. You have given so much joy to so many people.

On Friday morning, the General Membership met. There were coffee and pastries available. It was at this time that they voted to have the 50 - year reunion in El Paso. Since I wasn't at that meeting, I just will say that details will be forthcoming.

After the meeting, we boarded buses for the Black Hills/Mt. Rushmore Tour. Each bus had a tour guide who told us

certainly more than I could retain. The landscape was far different from anything I've experienced. We visited the Chief Crazy Horse statue, a work in progress. We stood 2 miles from this statue and the enormity was impressive. We viewed a movie, which brought us from the dream to the reality of the making of this tribute to all Native Americans.

We walked around the many gift shops, then had lunch at The Laughing Waters restaurant.

Our bus proceeded along the Needles Highway. The rocks were like cathedral spires. We saw some beautiful man-made lakes. We visited the Eye of the Needle, just before we drove through the rock tunnel. That was exciting! I don't think there was more than 2" leeway on each side of the bus, all the way through. Spectators stand on both sides of the tunnel, to watch the driving prowess of the bus drivers, and all of them have cameras poised for pictures of these feats.

As we rode through Custer State Park, the animals were a big attraction. Buffaloes, deer, pronghorn antelope, burros. Yes, the burros. We stopped the bus to feed them. Or did they stop us to get fed? Also in the park, we stopped at a gift shop, where the buffalo were roaming outside. We were warned not to go close to them.

The locals were getting ready for the annual buffalo roundup. Fences are strategically placed to keep the buffaloes in easier range for capture. One of the reasons this is done is for population control.

Now we were headed for Mt. Rushmore. It was a rush, too. There's something there that tugs at the heartstrings. A reverence of sorts. Standing only a quarter of a mile from the mountain, one is totally awestruck at the artistry, the endeavor, the tribute. As you walk up to this mammoth monument, you walk through the Avenue of the States, with all the state flags waving from granite pillars. It gives you a sense of ownership of the mountain and all its details. There is a restaurant and gift shop with souvenirs of all sorts. It was rather easy to spend money there, buying gifts for those back home or mementos for oneself.

As nighttime fell, the monument was not lighted. Visitors were seated in the amphitheater and a documentary of Mt. Rushmore was shown on a huge screen. The Star Spangled Banner was sung. The gradual lighting of the mountain brought many oohs and aahs from the large crowd. Our group was recognized by the speaker. Then, our members (as well as any other military, active or otherwise) were asked to go down to the stage for the retiring of the American flag. Once they folded the flag, each member on stage recited his name, where he was from and when and where he served in the Armed Forces. This was such an honor, both for them and for the proud families and friends in attendance. **Willard Ottman** was presented with the retired colors.

Saturday was a free day. Some members chose to check out downtown Rapid City. Others went to shopping malls. Some toured the Badlands. Some went to Ellsworth AFB. Some went to Wall Drug! Others, like us, chose to go to Deadwood. This is the town where Wild Bill Hickok was gunned down and Calamity Jane was a Pony Express rider. Deadwood appears to be a small town nestled in a valley. Don't let

that fool you. The Main St. is alive and bustling. The weather was wonderful, so we were able to walk from one end of the shopping district to the other. This was a sight I had never experienced before: there is gambling in every establishment along the street (except maybe the banks). If you want to eat, you walk past slot machines to get to the restaurant area. This is not a raucous place. It is rather docile. We were entertained by a 7th Cavalry Civil War Band, which paraded the Main Street for at least an hour.

On the way back to the hotel, we stopped at the Black Hills National Cemetery. There they were, markers, row on row. Buried there were veterans from states all across the nation, as well as foreign countries. This reminder puts things in proper perspective.

Before being seated for our Reunion Banquet, everyone mingled and discussed their activities of the day. The Honor Guard from Ellsworth AFB presented the colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Danny Funamura's rendition of "America the Beautiful". After the retirement of the colors and the blessing, by **Willard Ottman**, we enjoyed another scrumptious dinner. Following the meal, the members toasted the regiments (71st Artillery, Ordnance, Signal, and Engineer), as well as a Silent Toast to the departed members.

Our guest speaker was **Francis Gary Powers, Jr.** He related his father's story (Gary Powers, the U-2 pilot who was shot down over Russia in 1960) and the subsequent reasons he has started a Cold War Museum in Washington, DC. He has a book for sale, as well as patches. All profits will go toward this museum. He is looking for Cold War memorabilia for this museum, and was presented with his first item: **Jim Peoples** donated his Formosa jacket. What a wonderful gesture that was.

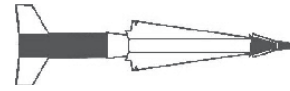
Again, **Betty Davis** played the piano while we gathered around to sing. She is so accommodating, playing songs we ask for but to which we don't know all the words.

Sunday morning was the Memorial Breakfast, organized by **Dave O'Connell**. This is the final event of the reunion. We have lost 18 members since the previous reunion. After eating breakfast, **Ray Corbin** lit the Memorial Candle and **John Spegele** read the Roll Call. A silent tribute was given, then all joined in singing "Amazing Grace" and "America the Beautiful" as **Betty Davis** accompanied us on the piano. The closing prayer, by **Willard Ottman**, marked the end of the reunion, 2006. Then began the long, sad goodbyes.

Now I have to tell you a bit about our ride home. We drove past the Badlands, which are aptly named. More buffalo roaming. The landscape was dotted with cattle, throughout a few states. We again stopped for the night in Mitchell, SD and visited the Corn Palace, a community building with organic matter on the outside, which is changed every year. The rest of our trip was uneventful, but filled with a lot of talk about how wonderful this reunion was.

The consensus I've heard is that this is the best reunion to date. I think it speaks more to the fact we know each other and had enough free time for enjoyment of our surroundings, than to the reunion itself. We have come to expect certain things from the reunion, the Buffet, the Banquet, the Break-

fast, which gives us our comfort level. Speaking for myself, I can say Rapid City is a place I always wanted to visit, but never really had a reason, other than Mt. Rushmore. This gave me that opportunity.



2008 Reunion

The 2-71 (Taiwan) Assn. General Membership Meeting discussed several options for the next reunion and selected El Paso, TX to be the host city for the next reunion in 2008. This will occur on the 50th Anniversary of 2-71's departure from Ft. Bliss, TX and deployment to Formosa (Taiwan), the weekend of 12 September 2008.

Several proposals have already been received from hotels in El Paso. Selection of a reunion hotel will probably be made in January 2007. Then we hope to put together a reunion committee from members living in the El Paso area. They will insure that the planned activities will be appropriate for the occasion and provide a memorable 50th Anniversary Reunion.

Possible Trip to Taiwan in 2009

Several members have asked about the possibility of having another trip to Taiwan, similar to the one we had in 2001. This was discussed at the General Membership Meeting in Rapid City. Prior to the reunion we also sent out a short query to members who have e-mail.

It will not be possible to set up a tour to Taiwan in the Fall of 2008, as that will be too close to our reunion in El Paso. If there is enough interest, it may be possible to set up something in April or May of 2009. That would still be during the 50th Anniversary of our tour on Taiwan.

As you can imagine, it would require much work to set this up, and our members would have to show a lot of interest, and be willing to make commitments earlier than we do for a reunion. We have some contacts with the travel people who set up the 2001 trip, but we will probably have to start over and make new contacts and arrangements with the military and Veterans Affairs people.

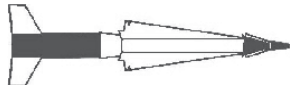
The e-mail query, and survey at the reunion, asked for a show of interest to determine if there was enough interest to go forward with plans for a Taiwan trip. This was a long range show of interest and was not a commitment by anyone.

We had approximately 28 people (including wives) showing interest. We will include a survey form in this newsletter so that we can include those who were not surveyed at the reunion. Those presently showing interest in a 2009 Taiwan trip were **Hutchison, Kukowski, Lapham, Mackintosh, McGranahan, Otting, Pierzynski, Ramsey, Shank, Telford, Terbille, Trost and Wood**.

We will make a decision to proceed with trip planning after the responses come in from this newsletter. We will prob-

ably need an early count of 90 - 100 travelers since we will lose some to health problems, financial difficulties, or unexpected conflicts. (In 2001, we had positive responses from 90 people; but, only 24 actually made the trip; eleven were our troops and thirteen were family members.)

If there is a pretty good response, we will contact our travel office and get cost estimates for air travel, a hotel and tours in Taiwan. In 2001, we paid \$600 for a non-stop flight on Singapore Airlines from Los Angeles to Taipei, and \$165 per night for a Double Room at the Grand Hotel in Taipei. The travel company asked for the air fare approximately six months in advance

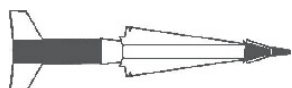


Membership Renewal

Baker, Billy, McKenzie, TN (C Btry)
Boothe, Neal, O'Fallon, MO (C Btry)
Buchanan, Bob, Clyde, NC (C Btry)
Churchill, Fred, Janesville, WI (B Btry)
Croft, Rich, South Lake Tahoe, CA (A Btry)
Davis, S.B., Talihina, OK (D Btry)
Friese, Don, Chatsworth, CA (C Btry)
Funamura, Daniel, Lihue, HI (A & C Btry)
Garcia, Gilberto, Colorado City, CO (A Btry)
Garcia, Gilberto, Colorado City, CO (A Btry)
Havard, Al, Jackson, LA (A Btry)
Johnson, Geraldine (Mrs. Robert), Arab, AL (Hq Btry)
Johnson, Ken, Pfafftown, NC (B Btry)
Lapham, Paul, Port Charlotte, FL (Hq Btry)
McGranahan, Tom, Sunriver, OR (Hq Btry)
Moody, Stu, Butler, PA (Hq & B Btry)
Morin, Casimiro, Campbell, CA (A Btry)
Olivares, Fidel, Arlington, TX (Hq Btry)
Pannell, James, Sylva, NC (C Btry)
Pohlman, John, Perrysburg, OH (178 Ord)
Provost, John, Mt. Dora, FL (Hq Btry)
Rogers, Jimmie, Silver City, NM (D Btry)
Salzmann, Jim, San Francisco, CA (D Btry)
Seeley, Ben, Beryl, UT (Hq & B Btry)
Sterk, Wayne, Clinton, IL (B Btry)
Thomson, Bill, Centerville, OH (B Btry)
Trieglaff, Larry, Wind Lake, WI ((Hq Btry)
Whitson, Earl, Pampa, TX (D Btry)
Woodin, Don, Metamora, MI (Hq Btry)

New Memberships

Otting, Dan, Waukon, IA (A Btry)

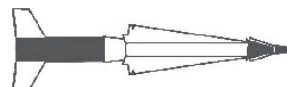


Membership Renewal Time

Our membership year goes from 1 November to 31 October. There are 44 of you whose membership will expire on 31 October 2006. Sixty-two of you have already paid through 2007, or later. Fifteen were members in 2005 but have not renewed their membership. Look at the address label on the newsletter to see if your membership has expired. Let us know if there is any mistake on your membership expiration date. If you would like to extend your membership, then send \$15.00 to the 2-71 Artillery (Taiwan) Assn.,
271 Shady Oak Drive, New Market, AL 35761.

E-mail Address Update

If you have recently changed your e-mail address, or if you have an address, but are not receiving e-mail from the 2-71 Association, please send your e-mail address to bmack@ardmore.net.



In Memoriam

Henry C. Adkins, Lone Oak, TX (B Btry),
died 20 Jan 2005.

Donald G. O'Neill, Sr., Tarentum, PA (B Btry),
died 12 Aug 2006.

Dale C. Ulam, Canyonville, OR, (B Btry),
died August 1982.

Notes from the Troops

7/9/06

From: **Don Melvin** (Hq Btry)
Hi Bob,

I regret to inform you and the members that Sally and I will not be able to attend the reunion this year. On going medical problems, and some new ones makes it too hard for us to travel. I know the membership will really enjoy Rapid City, and the Black Hills, don't forget the Bad Lands, if anyone has the time to go there.

Sincerely,
Don & Sally Melvin

7/9/2006

From: **Leon Shank** (178th Ord)
Bob,

I am copying you on an email that I sent to the 178th people that I know of. As the email says, I will not be able to

attend this year.

Regretfully, health problems and expenses have gotten me into difficult times. I am confident that these times will be repaired by our 50th reunion in two years. I will be sending my dues as soon as possible. Please keep me on your contact list.

Leon

7/9/06

From: **Carl Paparazzo** (C Btry)

Hello Bob:

Could you tell me if **John Astin** attended any reunions? Also, you mentioned C Btry Signal: was that the unit that was attached to my battery (attached is the primary word), cause I was a good friend of Johns' although I never saw his name or picture on the newsletters etc.

Is it possible you could send me a photo of John? If you can get one etc.

Thanks, Bob

Carl Paparazzo

PS: The enclosed picture is of me this year '06



7/10/2006

From **Mrs. Henry Adkins** (B Btry)

Dear Sir:

Just a note to let you know that my husband, **Henry C. Adkins**, died January 20, 2005. He fought a good battle with lung cancer and they thought they had it in remission. He began to have bad headaches and they determined the cancer cells had got into his spinal fluid and there was nothing they could do for him.

He was proud to serve his country. Best of luck with the reunion.

Sorry I was so long letting you know to take him off your mailing list.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Adkins

7/13/06

From: **Fred Churchill** (B Btry)

Dear Robert,

I believe I'm behind in paying my dues. A check for \$30.00 is enclosed.

You do a great job, thanks.

Fred G. Churchill

7/18/06

From: **Don Sneckenberger** (A Btry)

Hello Bob and Lois,

Hope you are doing well there, folks, I want to let you know I feel the need to pass on the Rapid City reunion. Our Prayers will be with you and all for safety in travel. I expect to re-join you at the '08 get-together.

Hello to all troops!

Best Regards!

Don

7/19/06

From: **John Pohlman** (178th Ord)

Bob,

I'm finally getting back to you regarding the reunion this year. I'm sorry that we won't be making it this year due to personal commitments. Certainly will try to make it the next time.

I also am sorry that I let my membership lapse. I'll be sending you a check this week for \$100 to make up for it. Use it for my membership and any extra expenses you have for this year's reunion. I have also moved so change my mailing address to:

9 Callander Court
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551
Enjoy Rapid City !!
John A. Pohlman

7/17/06

From: **John Provost** (Hq Btry)

Dear Bob,

Enclosed find dues for next year.

Sorry we are unable to make it to the reunion this year. Hope to make it to the next one.

Sincerely,
John Provost

7/11/06

From: **Al Havard** (A Btry)

Had bad year in 2005 (5 March heart by-pass and pneumonia in Sept.)

Looking forward to go on our trip.

Alvin

7/19/06

From: **Bob Buchanan** (C Btry)

Thanks, Bob, for all your efforts. We realize it is not an easy task.

Bob Buchanan

7/12/06

Re: **William Filer** (C Btry)

Received info from Post Office that Bill Filer has moved to Benton, AR.

7/12/06

Re: **Jim Norby** (B Btry)

Received info from Post Office that Jim Norby has moved to Mondovi, WI.

4/06

Re: **Delmar Logue** (D Btry)

Received info from Post Office that Delmar Logue has moved to Assumption, IL.

7/22/06

From: **Dave Diedrich** (D Btry)

Hi Bob,

... I am looking forward to seeing you and everyone else at the reunion. Also want to thank you for all the hard work you do to put this all together for the rest of us!!!!!!! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

Dave

7/30/06

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

Bob -

Thanks for the personal invitation. Unfortunately I will be unable to join the group, but rest assured that I will be there in spirit.

May you and the rest of the gang have an enjoyable time.

Regards,

Leo

8/2/06

From: **Dan Kukowski** (Hq Btry)

Bob,

This reunion we will make, as it's only 350 miles from home. So, we'll be seeing you and the guys at rapid city.

Dan

8/7/06

From: **Henry Privott** (D Btry)

Thank you for all your doing.

Henry L. Privott

8/8/06

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

Col. Bob,

Just a note to say that I have moved to California (La Mirada) with my girlfriend Nancy.

I'll look forward to the next newsletter.

Thanks for all you do to keep us all informed.

I appreciate it.

Sp4 Tom Ambler

8/9/06

From: **Filimon Martinez** (C Btry)

Dear Bob and Lois,

We are looking forward to see everyone at the reunion at Black Hills.

Our love to all,

Filimon and Eleanor Martinez

8/25/06

From: **Mrs Don O'Neill** (B Btry)

Hello

This is to inform you that **Donald O'Neill** of Tarentum PA passed away on Aug. 12, 2006. He had lung cancer and when we realized nothing further could be done, we brought him home to die surrounded by the family.

I am his wife, Elsie O'Neill.

9/7/06

From: **Fran Nezelek** (A Btry)

Hi Bob,

Regretfully and suddenly, due to a family situation, I have to cancel my reunion plans for this year. Please put my registration, tour, banquet and memorial breakfast fees towards your "Reunion-Kitty".

Hope all goes well, and will miss you guys this year.

Sincerely,

Fran Nezelek,

A-Btry

9/5/06

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

Hi Bob & Lois,

We will not be able to make the reunion this time. Helen has been sick and will not be able to travel.

We were looking forward to going to Rapid City and seeing everyone. Tell them all hello!! Maybe we can go to the next one.

Would like to see some group pictures if you can send some.

Our best to all at the reunion.

Ken and Helen Johnson

9/8/06

From: **Harold Dickerson** (Hq & C Btrys)

Dear Bob,

It is with sorrow that I will not be able to attend the reunion again this year; but I will be with you in my thoughts. Since my wife has lost her eyesight it is hard for me to get away for any length of time and my health is not the best and she worries too much if I am gone even to the store which is only 5 miles away.

Take care and God Bless each one of you.

Always a friend and comrade.
Harold Dickerson, Sarge

9/13/06

From: **Clifford Ulam**, son of **Dale Ulam** (B Btry)
Hi,

My father was **Dale C. (Charles) Ulam** he passed in August of 1982. His home address was 89 Hamlin Drive, Canyonville Oregon.

He was born there and returned there after retiring from the Army. He served in many different units while serving. One of the most notable was as a Staff Sergeant with the 716th MP Battalion in Saigon during TET of '68.

I have 8mm video of B Btry (old Tapes) that I have converted to DVD that my father took of a B Btry Picnic and of the assembly and raising to launch position of a Pershing Missile in Lawton Oklahoma.

I was also present at several of these training sessions. Even one where a training missile almost fell over. I am glad to be able to fill in a little info for you.

Clifford D. Ulam

9/13/06

From: **Dan Otting** (A Btry)

Dear Mr. Mackintosh,

I know this is late, and I should have joined some time ago. I have had some health issues, but mostly I have put things off too long.

I have enjoyed your newsletters so much and wish I could have made it some of the other reunions.

Jim Telford and **Glen Ramsey** have been encouraging me to make this one, so I am going to try.

If this is too late, please let me know so I can cancel the hotel reservation.

Hope to see you at Rapid City.

God Bless you all,
Daniel Otting

P.S. As I am so late, I am enclosing some extra for your expenses.

9/19/06

From: **Herb Terbille** (B Btry)

Bob

I remember **Dale (Ulam)**, He was in my tent for a time in B Btry and we shared many a bone-jarring ride in the back of a deuce and a half down to the launcher area.

Herb

9/27/06

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

Sorry we are not able to be with you in Rapid City. We know you

will have a good time.

Best regards,

Merle Weller/Darline O'shields.

9/29/06

From: **Don Friese** (C Btry)

Bob,

I am so sorry I was not able to attend this years reunion. I had

a problem come up that made it not possible. I hope you all have a

great time and all are well. Tell everyone I wish them all the best

and I hope to see them the next time..sorry..and thanks for all your efforts..

Don

10/2/06

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

Hi Bob

Hope you made it home okay.

I enjoyed the reunion and Rapid City and all that it had to offer. I was going to contact some of the 178th personnel and let them know what they missed. Unfortunately, I discovered that I have unintentionally deleted the few addresses that I did have. Would appreciate it if you could provide any that you may have.

Thanks,

Ollie

10/2/06

From: **Fidel Olivares** (Hq Btry)

Dear Sir,

Wishing you all a good time at the reunion! Say "Hi" to **Dr. Thomas McGranahan** for me.

Also, I know, or just remember, that by the time you get this letter – it's over. But I am hoping that all of you had a good time!

10/1/06

From: **Geraldine (Mrs. Robert) Johnson** (Hq Btry)

Dear Robert Mackintosh,

I do hope the S.D. Reunion was all that had been hoped for, and old friends were "together again".

I am well – the storms here in Ala. Are O.K., but when the thunder rolls over my home, I take "severe headache". Dr. says the "pressure of the weather". Tornado in Arab (AL) on the Sept. 22 rolled down 12th Ave (my street) across town, but did not touch down.

I lost my grandson Chris on June 1st, in Elkhart, Wisc. He drives a "Yamaha Motorcycle Show Truck" to racetracks. Had his own small bike he uses to go from hotel to the truck. Wanted one more ride, before moving on. He had his "one more for the road". At 100 mph, lost control, went head first into a sign, broke neck and the ride ended in death. He is my son Rick's boy. Son Michael is with the same company, but drives "Dycoto" Motorcycle Show Truck". He was able to attend things there.

Son Rick drives for "Crete"; comes home from Kansas City, Kansas. The funeral was here in Arab, June 5th.

I am sending money for "Membership Renewals", also copies of some of Robert's pictures, I took out of the album. If you want more of the Taiwan Pictures, I'll send them. Robert had names on the back of his pictures.

I do hope you are all well.

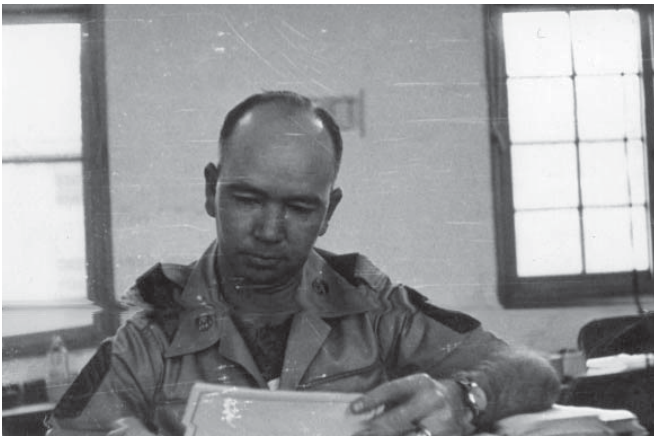
Sincerely,

Mrs. Robert E. Johnson (Wife)

Command Sgt. Major Robert E. Johnson, Ret.)



LTC Greenberg and MSG Johnson at El Paso Train Station, Sep 1958, "Follow Me"



MSG Johnson in Taiwan 1958



Sp5 Cap?es and MSG Johnson, C Btry, Taiwan 1958 (Can you identify?)

10/6/06

From: **Billy Baker** (C Baker)

Hi Bob,

Here are my dues and a little bit for whatever you need.

Always like to read what the fellows have to say.

Billy G. Baker

C Btry

10/8/06

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

Bob and Lois,

Karen and I had a great time at the reunion. Many said it was the best reunion yet. You people do a top notch job in getting it together and it is truly appreciated by all who attend. We had a wonderful trip going back to NY. We were ahead of the rain just about all the way home. I will get the photos on discs and send them on their way. One of Karen's films was in the camera too long and is grainy, but I was able to get most of those into fairly good shape. We have over five hundred digital shots. Many are photos taken on the road.

Cheers,

Dave and Karen

10/9/06

From **Neal Boothe** (C Btry)

Dear Bob & Lois

The reunion was great, awesome, wonderful, friendly and a joy just to associate with every one.

Travel by car was very worthwhile, the landscape made so many changes. Which made the trip exciting.

Dave and Karen (O'Connell) left NY -- we left O'fallen Mo. Would you believe it, we stayed in Mitchell S.D at a Comfort Inn -- and who did we meet there; yep; Dave and Karen. What's the odds of that. We went our separate ways the next morning. Later we stopped at place called Wall Drug. Who do you think we met there; yep' you are right Dave and Karen. We had lunch together and continued on to Rapid City.

Nancy and I thank you and Lois for all the work you do and the committee also.

God bless. "Those who forgive much love much"

What a great bunch of guys and ladies.

From: Neal and Nancy

10/11/06

From: **Francis Gary Powers, Jr.**

Founder, Cold War Museum

Robert,

Thanks for the opportunity to brief your colleagues on The Cold War Museum.

I enjoyed my stay in Rapid City and everyone's hospitality.

I look forward to keeping in touch. Attached is our most recent update.

Please forward as you see fit.

Thanks,

Gary

10/12/06

From: **Tom McGranahan** (Hq Btry)

Dear Bob,

Here is my dues check with a little extra for postage.

Thanks again for the great job you do.

Tom

10/21/06

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

Dear Bob and Lois,

Just a note to let you both know how much we enjoyed the reunion in Rapid City. We had the greatest time. It was nice to see you and the ol' gang again.

I've been trying to e-mail the Ottmans, but I must have an old e-mail address as my mail keeps returning. If you have their e-mail address could you please send it? I would appreciate it.

Looking forward to seeing you both in El Paso in two years.

Nancy & Jim

10/13/06

From: **Bob Buchanan** (C Btry)

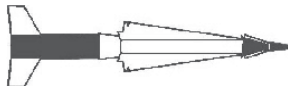
Bob,

The reunion was wonderful. We surely enjoyed seeing our many friends again.

Hope to see everyone in El Paso in 2008.

Thanks for all you do.

Bob Buchanan



More Reunion Memories from the Telfords

Hi Mac and Lois,

Nancy and I want to thank you and your committee and everyone else who helped make this reunion so special. I also thank Willard for his persistence on having one of the reunions in Rapid City. It was a great choice! The banquets and accommodations were excellent and of course we always look forward to the camaraderie afterwards. I was told that Dan and MaryAnn Otting were attending this year. I said, "I'll believe it when I see them walk through the door." I'm a believer. Mary Ann said they were going to check out transportation to El Paso for the next reunion. Once you attend your hooked. Nancy and I did miss our friends who could not make it this year. Just to name a few the Kolms, Gambles, Terbilles, Kjersgaards. We hope all is well with each of them and look forward to seeing them in El Paso.

The tour that was set up for us on Friday was just great. We had a bus driver that kept the jokes going and a wonderful tour guide, who was very knowledgeable in Indian lore,

Craze Horse Monument, Mount Rushmore, wild life and the geographic make-up of the land. This made for a fun day.

But nothing was more thrilling to me (except when Nancy said she would become my wife), than standing on the stage at Mount Rushmore, under a night sky, with the stone figures of the 4 presidents behind me and lit up. The Ranger asked that all Military men and women come on stage to help retire the flag. There were about 60 of us, active, retired, or discharged, from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, cold war and Iraq. The flag was lowered, folded and presented to the Park Ranger, and she in turn went to each of us, and we had the honor to place our hand on the flag, of the United States of America, and state into the microphone, your name, years in service and what war or conflict you were in. While I was standing there waiting my turn, I thought, "I am among heroes". This will be my unforgettable memory!

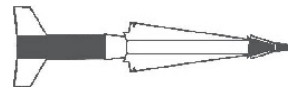
Nancy and I took a couple of side trips. It had been many years since we had gone to the Badlands, and so went through it again. It is still as beautiful as we remembered. We also stopped at the Akta Lakota Museum in Chamberlain SD. It is one of the most interesting small museums of Indian lore. Also on the list of things to do was a trip to Ellsworth Airforce base with the Ottings and on Sunday we drove to Deadwood with the Croft's.

We stayed the extra day and went to the buffalo roundup at Custer State Park. We had to get out of bed at 4 AM, to drive out there, and then wait in line for the parking lot to open. I haven't gotten up that early since I was on guard duty. But we did get a good spot next to the fence and could see everything quite well. It was awesome, when they came over the hill right in front of us!! It really does sound like thunder when they stampede.

Well the surprises weren't over just yet. Leaving for home we had to drive past the air base again and what should come flying over the expressway but a B-1 Bomber. By the time we dug the camera out from under the seat, got it out of the case and tried to aim it, all we got was a tip of the tail as it went down behind a hill to land. Even though this picture will never make the album, it will always be in my mind.

All the reunions have been great, each were different and each had its special memories and we thank all the people who worked so hard on all the reunions to create a special time for us.

Thank you all,
Nancy and Jim Telford



More Photos

You may see more of CSM Robert E. Johnsons Taiwan photos from Hqs and C Btrys on the 2-71 Web site at http://www.2-71adataiwan.com/photo_albums/hqbtry.htm