

THE

RED 5 DIAMOND

The official publication of The Society of the Fifth Division, United States Army.

Volume MMXIX Ed.3

August 2019

Annual Dues: \$15

Summer Edition:

2019 Reunion Schedule

Fireworks Article

Editors Two Cents

Beat the Heat



First Impressions

So this is where we are!

How did we get here?

Any farther north and we would not
be welcome.

“WE WILL”

** Deadline for submission of articles for next Edition: 15 October 2019*

2018 – 2019 Society of the Fifth Division Officers – Roster

Objectives of the Society

A. To perpetuate and memorialize the valiant acts and patriotic deeds of the Fifth Division; to electrify and unify that invisible current of fellowship, friendship and comradeship molded in the throes of war and the exigencies of a peacetime service, and promote the interests and welfare of its members.

B. To publish and preserve the history of the accomplishments of the Fifth Division and the Society, in war and peace, and set forth the gallant and heroic deeds of its members.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

- *Maj. Gen. Hanson E. Elyz (1919-22,24-25)
- *Col. Philip J. McCook (1922-23)
- *Dr. E. C. Morton (1925-28)
- *Maj. Gen. Paul B. Malone (1929-30)
- *Capt. Peter Murphy (1930)
- *Maj. Walter E. Aebischer (1930-32)
- *Capt. Peter P. Zion (1932-34)
- *W. Walter Healy (1934-35)
- *Lloyd A. Reder (1935-37)
- *Col. Henry Clay Bate (1937-38)
- *William Barton Bruce, Sr. (1938-39)
- *Emil Everts (1939-41)
- *A. Lincoln Bradbury (1941-45)
- *William Gibbs (1945-46)
- *John W. Fonner (1946-48)
- *William L. McGrory (1948-49)
- *Kenyon Stevenson (1949-50)
- *Charles A. O'Connell, Jr. (1950-51)
- *John H. Pflaum (1951-53)
- *Frederick F. Specht (1953-54)
- *John H. Baskin (1954-55)
- *Walter R. Stout (1955-57)
- *Frank H. Deane (1957-58)
- *Edward Pivovar (1958-59)
- *T. Earl McNaney (1956-60)
- *Russell S. Fisher (1960-62)
- *Gordon S. Henry (1962-63)
- *John J. Madison (1963-65)
- *Herbert K. Webb (1965-66)
- *Charles P. DeRose (1966-67)
- *Victor Dunneback (1967-68)
- *Winston Roche (1968-69)
- *Ervin J. Kotowski (1969-70)
- *Herbert Ginsburgh (1970-71)
- *Aubrey Prewitt (1971-72)
- *Michael S. O'Donnell (1972-73)
- *Virgil Scheibel (1973-74)
- *Frank Kolimaga (1974-75)
- *Kenneth Anderson (1975-76)
- *Howard Singer (1976-77)
- *Robert Young (1977-78)
- *Stanley Piotrowski (1978-79)
- *George Bachman (1979-80)
- *Harry Arquette (1980-81)
- *William Stanfield (1981-82)
- *Guido Bemasconi (1982-83)
- *Msgr. Harold Prudell (1983-84)
- *Chester Ball (1984-85)
- *William Colon (1985-86)
- *Robert Graves (1986-87)
- *Herman Schell (1987-88)
- *William Stanfield (1988-89)
- *John Goodman (1989-90)
- *William Upham (1990-91)
- *Bradley Brewer (1991-92)
- *Harry Arquette (1992-93)
- *Robert Rochon (1993-94)
- *Charles Coco (1994-95)
- *Michael Giannini (1995-96)
- *Don Brown (1996-97)
- *Cullen Stone (1997-98)
- *Jay Balderson (1998-99)
- *Jimmy C. Walker (1999-2000)
- *Mickey McCoy (2000-01)
- *Carl M. Hiestand (2001-02)
- *Robert M. Rochell (2002-03)
- *James A. Landry (2003-04)
- *Mike Sperling (2004-05)
- *Phil Maniscalco (2005-07)
- *Jim Spiller (2007-08)
- *Pat Andreoni (2008-09)
- *James "JJ" Jackson (2009-10)
- *Bernie "Buck" Kean (2010-12)
- *Steve Wheat (2012-13)
- *Bobby Moody (2013-2014)
- *Wayne Cumer (2014-2015)
- *Robb Robetson (2015-2016)
- *Bob Dudley (2016-2017)
- *Dennis Thompson (2017-2018)

* Deceased

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Very Important Article Read This
Nominating Committee 2019 Report

-- Bob Dudley

National Editor Vacancy on the Executive Board

I've talked about vacancies on the Executive Board in previous Red Diamond issues. We currently have 2 members who are interested in serving as our Second Vice President next year, but I want to discuss the impending opening of the National Editor. I've posted this vacancy on our FaceBook pages but have not had anyone respond voicing their interest in the position, although I did contact one member who may be interested.

Per our Constitution: The duties of the National Editor shall be to publish quarterly the Red Diamond magazine to the membership of the Society from a list provided by the National Secretary. The National Editor is also a member of the Society Executive Board. Steve Wheat has been holding down both the President and the National Editor positions this year. Fortunately, Steve has developed a streamlined process to collect articles from our members and assemble them for publication. Steve told me that he would travel to his replacement's home to help walk him through the process. The Society will also purchase the required software for the National Editor to use.

If we cannot find someone to fill the position, I will have to recommend to the Executive Board that we present an amendment to our constitution at the upcoming reunion to eliminate the National Editor position and the publication of the Red Diamond. I definitely would not want this to happen and I am sure nobody in our Society wants this either.

All this being said, I am asking those who are interested in serving on the Board to contact me and voice your interest in helping to run our Society. In 2020 we will celebrate our 100th anniversary as the oldest continuing Army Division association. If we want to continue our proud heritage, we need members who are willing to serve on the Board.

Please contact me at colrdudley@aol.com or 913-220-3725 if you are interested. Bob Dudley Past President & Nominating Committee Chairman

An Important Message From the Society President and Daisy the First dog.



Greetings to all members of the Society of the Fifth Division. The summer is in full swing by the time you read this and I am packing my duffel bag bound for San Diego where you and your fellow soldiers and significant others will once again sing the songs of our forefathers when they met our old adversaries. Never mind this first sentence, I watched Hunt For Red October one too many times and the script keeps playing over and over in my mind.

In all honesty I do look forward to seeing old freinds and meeting new ones at the 99th Reunion and it is important to let all members know that a reunion like the ones we have are not spontaneous events, even Woodstock had a lot of planning and while I think what our reunions have over that landmark event is the constancy of recurrence and a familiar format that has been followed by our fellow Red Devils since WWI. There is a lot to be said for tradition and we the members are the upholders of a 99 year old US Army organization and its traditions.

The following are the people who voluntarily gave their time and expertise to make this years reunion possible. They are: Alex Candelaria, Phil Maniscalco, Bob Dudley, Mike Sperling, Col. Bill Baugh, Col. Bob Dudley, Dennis Thompson, Dennis W. Coulter Sr, George Shoener, Hal Butch Roller, Joe Boman, John Estrada, Leigh Blood, Lou Pepi, Roger Allen, Ron Van Beek, Steve Wheat and a whole string of people who run the Silent Auction, Raffle, Run the Hospitality Room, Provide Entertainment, Play Music at Church, Fold Flags and anything else I missed. Without them, there would be no reunion or society.

Every year there are fewer of us members of the Society who can attend reunions for many reasons and even though the attendees are slowly decreasing the need to call on members at the reunion to lend assistance when needed does not vanish. If I or one of the other members asks for a helping hand to do whatever it is that needs done please say yes and help share the load. I am only saying this for my own edification because any group whose motto is "We Will" hardly needs reminding. This my last Pres. Message for the term and it has been an honor to serve you all and to stand in for Alex Candelaria. This whole years theme, and reunion was the brainchild of Alex Candelaria, I just did what I was told. which if any of you who were my Officers or NCO's would say that alone is remarkable.

Sincerely,

Stephen Wheat, President Society of the Fifth Division
2019



Alex Candelaria
El Jefe

From the Co-President: Alex Candelaria

To all SOFD members. Thank all of you for the support you have provided me while deathly ill from agent orange. I look forward to seeing you at the September reunion in San Diego. Yes we are "brothers forever".

To those whom have sent articles printed in the Red Diamond regarding your experiences as 75th Support soldiers. Thank you.

You have enlightened many SOFD members of your duties in and outside of Camp Red Devil while in Vietnam. This included working outside of your designated MOS such as going out in the field for limited times. Short patrols outside the perimeter, delivering powder and artillery rounds, ammo, perimeter guard, taking pot shots, experiencing incoming, working in graves registration, repairing tanks, APC'S, Jeeps, deuce and a halves, and repairing weapons are but a few of the jobs of 75th Support Personnel.

Those of you who will attend the San Diego reunion enjoy the time with each other. Those not attending the reunion read all about it in the next Red Diamond. Share your Red Diamond with your friends. Recruit new members. Plan to attend the 100th anniversary of the SOFD at the reunion in San Antonio, Texas. Bring your family.

God bless all of you.

Alex T. Candelaria
Vietnam 1969, 75th Support
Past Red Diamond Treasurer, Red Diamond Editor and past first Vice President

Cyber Soldiers Some Thoughts from First Vice President Hal Roller



“The future ain’t what it use to be.” This famous saying by Yogi Berra is truer today than when he said it. I don’t know about you, but I have a hard time keeping up with all the changes. This is especially true in the electronic field. Even the term “electronic” doesn’t mean what it once meant. If you had a problem in the electronic field thirty years ago, you called an electrician. If you have a problem in the electronic field today, you call a nerd. Of course, you know the Army has to get involved in the electronic field, right? As you might guess, it has - and in a big way.

The United States Army is standing-up a major command with a General (four stars) as commander.

Jokes could be made that soldiers in this Futures Command could be called “keyboard commandos” or “chairborne warriors.” But this is deadly serious. Electronic invasions (sometimes called cyber assaults) are being made against our nation’s most critical defense systems. We live in a time that not only top-secret information is transmitted electronically, but weapon systems functioning, as well as, systems control is electronically computerized.

Futures Command will be doing far more than computer watch, but its location speaks volumes on the importance of electronic computing technology. The location, Austin, Texas, is quickly becoming a rival to California’s Silicon Valley. Now, my wife is from Texas and the only thing I have seen in Austin is the giant parking lot Texans call Interstate 35. There is not even a military base in Austin; so, the Army is building one. The importance of electronic technology for the future is evident. Perhaps, there may be something in this electronic field to help our Society of the Fifth Division (SOFD).

Our SOFD is unable to find an editor for the Red Diamond when the current term expires. It is a tough job. Our current and past editors have set the bar high for a great magazine. But we’re facing a quickly approaching future without an editor. Is it possible we could tap into the electronic field for an answer? If so, it would require some “out of the box thinking” as the motivational speakers say. When it comes to electronic technology, I’ve found it is not my friend. The fact is; it’s neutral.

Second Vice Presidents Message



Lou Pepi

As second vice president, I have one item to report concerning the 2021 Society of the Fifth Infantry Reunion—Providence Rhode Island— which is still more than two years away. I am happy to report that the Alpha Company (1-61) cookout will be hosted by Bruce Walmsley and his family at his daughter’s home in Framingham, Massachusetts. This event is always held on the first Thursday evening of the Society Reunion —September 9 in 2021. Since the distance is an easy 50 mile ride— Interstate Highway all of the way— we will be looking into van transportation from the hotel to convey everyone to and from the cookout together. More on this in the future..

2nd Vice President
 Lou Pepi

SOCIETY OF THE 5TH DIVISION REUNION	
CROWNE PLAZA SAN DIEGO - MISSION VALLEY SAN DIEGO, CA	
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5	
1:00pm - 5:00pm	Reunion Registration Open <i>Hospitality Room and Quarter Master to be open throughout reunion, hours to be posted.</i>
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6	
8:00am - 9:00am	Executive Board Meeting
8:30am - 9:30am	Reunion Registration Open
10:00am - 3:00pm	USS MIDWAY / SEAPORT VILLAGE TOUR
3:00pm - 4:00pm	Reunion Registration Open <i>Additional hours will be posted if needed.</i>
4:00pm - 5:00pm	Banquet Seating Requests Collected
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7	
9:00am - 3:00pm	LA JOLLA, MT SOLEDAD, & OLD POINT LOMA TOUR
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm - 10:00pm	Dinner Banquet
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8	
9:00am - 10:00am	Non-denominational Worship Service
10:00am - 11:00am	Memorial Service
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Society General Membership Meeting
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm - 10:00pm	Dinner Banquet
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9	
	Farewells and Departures

TAPS

(May - July - 2019)

Fred Gould Died Sept 13, 2018 5th
Division

Theodore L. Maxwell Died - Unknown
759 Tank Bn. NV - Korea

Ray Sherron Died - June 25 5th Division
Vietnam

SGM Marvail Lewis - (Earlier Name
misspelling)

Chaplains Message: Ron Van Beek

Christian - The Resurrection

He is not here, but is Risen. Luke 24:6

When He died upon The Cross, The Lord Jesus defeated Satan, once and for all. But there was still one more task, which He must perform in the Way of Humiliation. Death is the Last Enemy; and the grave was it's strong prison, which has imprisoned every human upon earth. This great human prison had to be not just defeated, but utterly destroyed; so that God's Children might safely pass through it. If He did not defeat this last enemy; everything would fail.

The resurrection of the Redeemer had fully established the truth of his Godhead. His miracles had already proven the truth of His Divine Sonship. Yet one more evidence was needed, the crowning one of all, his resurrection. This evidence would put the final seal upon the truth of his Deity. Otherwise all that he had previously said, predicted, and done, would prove to have been the designs of a mere man attempting to impose his will upon the gullible and a few devoted and delusional followers.

The way He has accomplished this great feat is Gloriously Divine, as He defeated death, by entering into the very essence of death, and exploding it, from within the inside of death itself. Taken down from the Cross, dead, He allowed Himself to be placed in the common grave. Submitting Himself within this dark earthly prison, He was wrapped in death's shroud of darkness. Locked in the cold embrace of death; Divinity and Immortality slumbered in the tomb. He disappeared from the sight of the world, for three days, waiting until the right moment! On that beautiful morning, He exploded death and burst from the grave; forever ruining its power to imprison His Children. Satan, death, and hell could not hold Him in! He came back to life; all Radiant, Immortal and Divine.

His return to Life on the exact day, which he had predicted, breaking from the cold embrace of death and the imprisonment of the grave, by the exercise of His Divine Power, put to rest forever the question of his Deity, and declared him to be the Son of God. How gloriously His Divinity did now shine. Never yet had his Godhead shone forth with such Power and Gory, as when He broke forth from the tomb, and rose Triumphant over hell, death, and the grave. There He fulfilled His prediction and redeemed this pledge. Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up again. John 2:19.

Child of God, do you want further and stronger evidence, that your faith is no cunningly devised fable, but He has Risen again. He to whom you have committed your precious soul for guardianship, is able to keep it, until the morning of our own resurrection glory. Behold in the risen life of the Incarnate God. He is come up from the grave to make good all his previous claims to Deity, thus to encourage and confirm your belief in the truth, dignity, and glory of His Person. He has come to assure you, that he that believeth on Him, shall not be ashamed. Romans 9:33 Because He has so thoroughly defeated death, He can now openly mock Satan, hell and death saying, O death where is your sting; O grave where is your victory!

Jewish - Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur is one of Israel's most sacred holidays. It is the Jewish day of repentance and/or resurrection to new life. While Yom Kippur is marked by fasting, before it begins a special festive meal is enjoyed. It's customary to set the home tables beautifully the way they would be for Shabbat or another holiday and to eat together with family or friends. This special afternoon meal before the fast begins, allows joyful celebrate of the holiday, as well as strengthening for the rigors of the fast to come. This meal – called seudah hamafseket, or meal of cessation in Hebrew – has to be concluded while it's still light outside, and should contain no alcohol, garlic or heavily spiced foods.

Many Jews wear white clothes like angels, fasting as if they were living entirely on a spiritual plane. For one day, they leave behind the physical and focus purely on their spiritual selves. On this holiest day, food and drink is given up. On this day Jews, also don't bath, anoint ourselves, wear leather shoes, or engage in marital relations. It's a day to downplay our physical needs and pleasures, and focus on each human's spiritual sides instead.

While Yom Kippur is a day of forgiveness, when it comes to atoning for bad things done to another person, it is required to reach out and apologize and seek forgiveness from those personally harmed. Sins between man and God can be atoned for through prayer and sincere teshuva, repentance, but If the pain caused another person can be remedied – for instance by paying to fix something we've broken – we have an obligation to do that too, before we can truly be forgiven.

YOM KIPPUR Continued.

Yom Kippur is closely connected to Purim, even though it seems to be the opposite: it's a joyous spring holiday marked by lots of spirited singing, dancing, giving presents, eating and drinking. Yom HaKippurim means both "Day of Atonement" and "a day like Purim". Both paths allow us to bring spirituality into our lives and elevate ourselves using radically different methods: Purim through engaging all our physical senses and Yom Kippur by denying and downgrading our physical sides.

While Jews generally do not kneel in the synagogue, on Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah it's customary to kneel at several key points in the service. This departure from ordinary custom underlines the specialness of this holy day and recalls the ancient service in our holy Temple in Jerusalem, when the Kohen Gadol, the High Priest, would prostrate himself during some points of the service.

The term "scapegoat" originates with the Yom Kippur service. In ancient times, the Kohen Gadol would take a goat and confess the sins of the entire people of Israel over it before driving it away into the desert and off a cliff (Leviticus 16:1-34). We read of this ancient ritual on Yom Kippur morning, as we pray that our sins will similarly be banished and forgotten today.

Starting the year with a clean slate, the evening after Yom Kippur is also considered a holiday. It's customary to eat a festive holiday meal and to wish each other holiday greetings. Many Jews recite a beautiful prayer over the new moon after Yom Kippur services, and Jews all over the world spend the evening preparing for the next big Jewish holiday: Sukkot, just four days away.

Part II - The Battle on Hill 950 – Cavaiani

an article by Ron Van Beek

(In the last edition of the Red Diamond, we gave the readers the Medal of Honor narrative of Cavaiani. In these next two narratives, we are giving a more detailed description of how he earned it, and the surprising aftermath.)

Despite occasional SOG success, though the NVA continue to expand and extend their security curtain. From the Ashau Valley north to the DMZ, a distance of 75 miles, the North Vietnamese army reigning nearly supreme by June 1971, with Lang Veit Special Forces Camp again empty and Khe Sanh a ghost town.

In Vietnam's entire Northwest region, the last burr under the NBA's saddle was a CCM radio relay site named Outpost Hickory, situated on a mountain peak 2 ½ miles north of Khe Sanh. The closest Friendly's were at a firebase Fuller and Carol, 20 miles east of Hickory. Although ostensibly only a radio relay site, Hickory's greatest utility was as a secret NSA radio monitoring post, using state-of-the-art automated equipment to intercept enemy radio traffic.

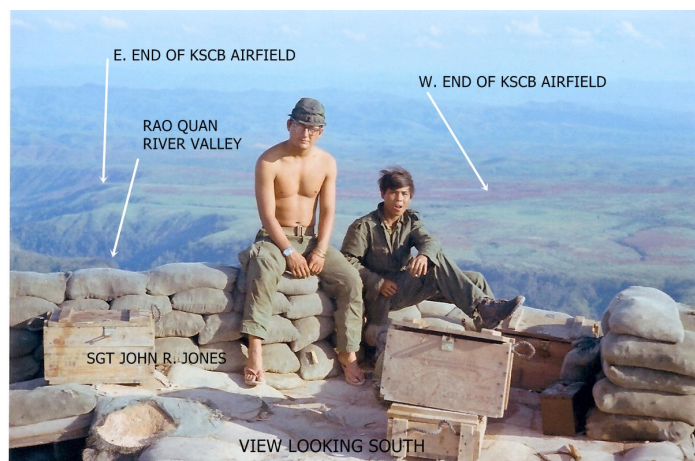
Although only 29 yards wide and 73 yards long, Hickory was held by 27 US and 67 indigenous soldiers. These soldiers included SOG, sensor readers and a squad from L company, 75th Rangers. The site was commanded by CCN Staff Sergeant Jon Cavaiani, who despite being all outranked by several Americans, led the Montagnard security platoon, security assisted by Sgt. John Jones.

Part II - The Battle on Hill 950 – Cavaiani

continued

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That Hickory was threatened, came as no surprise. For weeks Saigon's analysis electronically tracked enemy units closing in on the little base so closely, that Lt. Col. Mike Radke finally announced an all-out assault was eminent. Due to its valuable radio intercept role, SOG planned to hold Hickory, until it became untenable. At dawn on June 4, a security man pointed to something odd in Hickory's concertina wire. Looking closer, Cavaiani realized it was a Chinese claymore mine and noticed ten more all along the perimeter, planted the previous night, during a blinding downpour.

Cavaiani grabbed a M-60 machine gun and began mowing down these mines with gunfire, disabling six, then one mine detonated wounding several men. Then another mine exploded, wounding more men, including John Jones. The NVA's intended effect fizzled, and a simultaneous ground assault never materialized, though 60 yards downhill, several dug-in enemy fired sporadically. Scrambling to a .50 caliber machine gun, Cavaiani let loose a furious fusillade, matched by fire from other defenders just as the NVA launched a mortar and RPG barrage. A few more defenders suffered shrapnel wounds.

While a pair of F-4 Phantoms bombed the entrenched NVA, a young American sensor-reader named Walton climbed into the .50 caliber bunker with Cavaiani, who took one look at his pudgy frame and thick glasses and asked what he wanted. "I came up here to take over the 50 caliber, he said, there are a lot of guys roaming around like they don't know what to do". He was right, Cavaiani had to lead the defense, not fight it all alone. Cavaiani put a Yard with Walton and took off to reposition men, redistribute ammo and secure the wounded, which by now number more than a dozen. When a RPG rocked the 50 caliber machine gun position, Cavaiani looked up to see the wounded Walton, drag the gun back. For a moment the sensor-reader thought he was blind, but then learned the RPG had only damaged his glasses. He resumed firing.

Another RPG hit a U.S. captain. With Walton's supporting fire, Cavaiani carried the officer across the helipad to an ARVN medic. Then another mortar barrage shook Hickory, and a sniper in a spider hole opened fire, only to be shot dead by Cavaiani. More American, Yards and Vietnamese were hit by shrapnel.

Part II - The Battle on Hill 950 – Cavaiani

continued

The situation seemed to have become untenable, so Cavaiani called for an evacuation, which began early that afternoon. Cavaiani carried the wounded captain to a Huey and told him Walton had knocked out 5 NVA machine guns and exposed himself to a lot of enemy fire. So Cavaiani had hastily written him up for the Medal of Honor. He wanted the captain to carry the recommendation back to Da Nang. Cavaiani then hustled Walton and as many others as he could squeeze aboard on to another helicopter. After it lifted off, there still stood Walton, grinning, claiming he had fallen out.

With Walton's and Jone's help, Cavaiani begin scuttling gear, so they all could leave in the next helicopter lift. He was careful to destroy the NSA Van and it's top-secret radio intercept gear. Except for an occasional mortar round, the action had ebbed by 4:30 PM, when Cavaiani heard a Huey coming in and received a shocking radio message. "This is the last flight out. Get on it."

That Huey had room for 7 passengers. He protested that he had four times that many men waiting to be rescued! Never before had a SOG American abandoned his indigenous soldiers, and Cavaiani was not about to be the first. He put Walton aboard the huey along with six Yards and waved them off. With that last load he had evacuated 69 men; fifteen of them wounded. This left 19 yards, 4 Vietnamese, the slightly wounded John Jones and himself. He could not understand the lack of helicopters. It wasn't even 5 PM, the sky was clear, and SOG couldn't get any more helicopters. It didn't make sense.

But all was not lost. A Thailand-based USAF Jolly Green was en route to Hickory to extract Cavaiani and his men. But when the Sikorsky was 7 miles away the pilot radioed, "I just got told, I will get court-martialed, if I don't turn this bird around." It was a vicious bureaucratic contest instigated by a senior officer of the U. S. Division helicopters supporting CCN's support to SOG. Not only had he terminated Huey support at 5:00, but when he learned SOG had gone through its own channels to get the Jolly Green, He contracted MACV headquarters, and had the Seventh Air Force turned the Thailand-based aircraft around.

The contest had begun two weeks earlier, when the senior officer suddenly demanded that his division's helicopters supporting CCN be returned, which was impossible because recon men were that moment locked in a firefight, their lives on the line. Colonel Pezzelle said the officer apparently didn't think much of "unconventional warfare". Although General Abrams formally ordered the Division to provide SOG with helicopter support, the officer found ways around it. Without just refusing the order outright, they said, the helicopters simply weren't available because of maintenance, problems, etc., etc. And when they would show up with fewer than necessary, or later than needed. That was their way of fighting the order and requirement.

It was an arrangement courting disaster, which came on June 4, 1971, at Outpost Hickory. There the remaining men looked in vain for the evacuation birds, but none arrived. Realizing that they were on their own with night fast approaching, Cavaiani had Jones take the radio, while he stood atop the bunker, surveying what could be done to improve the doomed defenses.

(The surprising ending, to be continued in the next Red Diamond issue...)



EDITORS TWO CENTS

by Steve Wheat, National Editor



Greetings my friends and neighbors,

I am about to embark on a path that will change my daily life for the better and realize one of my life long dreams. If you are wondering what that change maybe, all I will say right now is that things are moving along well albeit these are the early days. That is all I want to go into right now because I do not want to risk being subjected to naysayers or unsolicited advice or opinions. Update: My first plan A has somewhat fizzled on the launching pad but I have a viable Plan B that is more within my control. Suffice to say, my plan is wholesome, healthy and could give me the satisfaction of going gently into the dark knowing that I did make a full throttle gun run in pursuit of my long held dream.

With this being said it means the position of Society Editor will be vacant, if there are no volunteers to take the Executive Board Position of Editor it will mean the Red Diamond will not be published.

Rather than let it go bye I have come up with three possibilities to make the job as Editor so easy that all a person who takes the job will need is a computer with the means to send email and the ability to send email and forward articles.

Option 1: Nobody volunteers to be Editor and the Red Diamond is no longer published.

Option 2: Drop the requirement of publishing four times per year to twice per year making it less time consuming for the editor to do the job and still carry on in their personal business.

Option 3: Hire a design and layout company to do the time consuming part of the process that I currently do reducing the Editor job to simply receiving articles and input from the Exec board and sending the softcopy and hardcopy articles to the company well in advance and when finished send them to the printing company. This process was in place when I started and was discontinued when the company that did this for us no longer served us well. Much easier for an editor, anybody can do it.

Option 4: We find someone who will do the job as it is done now and all of our problems are solved. I will teach them how I do the job and everything they need to step into the job.

FACTOID: *The largest expense for the Society each year is the Red Diamond. Last year the Society spent \$13,270.97. No other expense even comes close to this. The treasury will vanish.*

Option 5: Produce a digital format of the RD for immediate distribution to the membership and place a \$15 per Year surcharge for anyone who wants it sent to them in hardcopy in order to cover our costs of production. Hire a company to digitally do design and layout and distribute it to our email addressees and send the digital printy ready version to the current printing company for printing and mailing.

66

In Summary: The option that is chosen by the membership will be decided by a discussion and vote at the General Meeting at the 2019 reunion. If anyone wants to be editor you will find it rewarding and much easier than I make it sound in my long winded dissertations. I along with the Exec. Board will give you every bit of help in learning the job that you will need. The members love the editor and vice versa.

"Be bold and wonderful, and if not wonderful, be bold"

The book of Last Minute Bargaining, S. Wheat 1970



Bruce "Boston" Walmsley, Alpha Co. 1/61

Fireworks and PTSD: an emotional combination for some veterans around July

Fireworks add to the excitement around July 4. For military veterans like Bruce Walmsley, the noise they create is a painful memory of the past.

Fireworks on the Fourth of July are as common as parades down Main Street and cookouts in the back yard. But for Bruce Walmsley, they can be a nightmare.

The 69-year-old Vietnam War veteran from Brockton doesn't have a problem with organized fireworks shows. He can mentally prepare for them, and is happy to pull up a chair and watch. When fireworks explode unexpectedly in neighborhoods in the days around July 4, however, that's when things get rough. He suffers post-traumatic stress disorder from combat, and instinctively flops down on the ground when the pop of unexpected fireworks is heard nearby. The automatic reflex results from Army training that taught Walmsley to hit the deck whenever he hears enemy fire.

The noise from fireworks instantaneously takes Walmsley back to a harrowing experience in Vietnam. A 100-pound enemy rocket slammed into a bunker he was holed up in with other troops. Thirty people died, and Walmsley was dug out from the rubble. "I made it while other didn't," Walmsley said, his voice cracking to get the words out. "It plays with your head."

An incident years ago at a July 4 cookout illustrates how that combat horror plays out now. Fireworks suddenly exploded next door, and Walmsley immediately hit the ground, taking his wife Louise with him, causing her to scrape her knees. The incident was so terrifying that Walmsley immediately had Louise drive him home. "From then on, we stay home (on July 4)," Walmsley said.

Fireworks and their effect on veterans suffering with PTSD is a problem at this time of the year, according to Dr. Brian Marx, a professor of psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine and staff psychologist at the National Center for PTSD, VA Boston Healthcare System. Self-imposed isolation, which Walmsley ascribes to, is a common strategy, Marx said. Veterans want to avoid the triggers that transport them back to painful moments. "Avoidance is not going to help the person," Marx said. "It may help in the short-term, but it entrenches PTSD." There are treatment options, Marx said. Written exposure therapy involves writing about the painful experience in order to make sense of it.

Sufferers can also repeatedly talk through the pain so it becomes more tolerable. Eventually, the patient is encouraged to face the event that causes stress. One example, Marx said, is to watch the Boston Pops July 4 fireworks show on television in order to build up tolerance before attending in person. Medication is an option, but Marx acknowledged, "We don't have great medications for PTSD." Anti-depressants and anti-anxiety medications help some people, Marx said, but prescription amounts must be watched closely to limit the risk of addiction. Some military veterans put up lawn signs, telling neighbors about their sensitivity to fireworks. Marx, the VA psychiatrist, said lawn signs could work in an ideal world where people show kindness and compassion. The problem, according to Marx, is not everyone falls into that boat.

Henry Schwan is the health reporter for the MetroWest Daily News. He can be reached at athschwan@wickedlocal.com or 508-626-3964.

Ten Tips for having a Great Reunion!

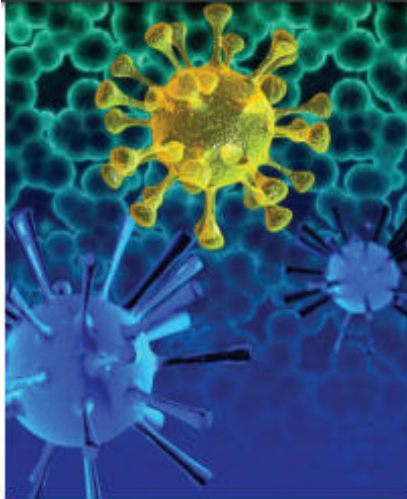
By Phil Maniscalco

Have you ever wondered what the ingredients are for having a Great Reunion?
These are my random ten tips!

- One: Gather daily in the Hospitality Room and/or the hotel lobby seating areas.
 - Two: Share with old friends and new friends some old stories, new stories, good and bad times
 - Three: Attend the Sunday Church Services.
 - Four: Buy an ad in the Reunion Program Book: to celebrate your individual units; or send Best Wishes to all for a Great Reunion; or share remembrances of those gone and those still hear; or simple "Thank" those hosting the reunion; or send any message that works for you.
 - Five: Participate in the 50-50 raffles; participate in the Silent Auction; consider donating an item to the Silent Auction; consider adding a donation for the Hospitality Room on the Registration Form.
 - Six: Participate in the tours. There are two great tours planned for the San Diego reunion: The USS Midway/Seaport Village tour and the LaJolla, Mount Soledad, Old Point Loma tour.
 - Seven: Attend the Sunday Memorial Services and annual Rose Ceremony honoring those who have passed away.
 - Eight: Attend the Saturday and Sunday evening banquets; enjoy the friendship, the food, the guest speakers and the Installation of Officers and other recognitions.
 - Nine: Attend the Sunday annual Business Meeting and engage in the discussion.
 - Ten: Enjoy the daily breakfast meals included in your room costs.
- And,
Eleven: Enjoy the Sights and Sounds of San Diego!

SILENT AUCTION

Jeanie Knight OIC of the Silent Auction has requested for everyone to bring an item for the
Hush! Silent auction.



CANCER, INFECTION AND SEPSIS FACT SHEET

A POTENTIALLY DEADLY COMBINATION EVERY CANCER PATIENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

In your fight against cancer, arm yourself with the facts about infection and sepsis.

Having cancer and certain treatments for cancer, such as chemotherapy, can put you at higher risk of developing an infection and sepsis.

Getting an infection or developing sepsis is a medical emergency. Either condition can delay your treatment, put you in the hospital or be deadly.



Why does cancer put me at risk for developing an infection and sepsis?

Having cancer and undergoing certain treatments for cancer, such as chemotherapy, can make your body unable to fight off infections the way it normally would.

What is the difference between infection and sepsis?

An **INFECTION** occurs when germs enter a person's body and multiply, causing illness, organ and tissue damage, or disease. For cancer patients, an infection can turn serious, or even deadly, very fast.

SEPSIS is the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death. For a person with cancer, any infection that is anywhere in your body can lead to sepsis.

How does chemotherapy increase my risk for infection and sepsis?

Chemotherapy works by killing the fastest-growing cells in your body—both good and bad. This means that along with killing cancer cells, chemo also kills your infection-fighting white blood cells.

Is there a specific time I may be more likely to get an infection?

An infection or sepsis can happen at any time. However, when your body has very low levels of a certain type of white blood cell (neutrophils), your risk of getting an infection and sepsis increases. This condition is a common side effect of chemo called *neutropenia*.

How will I know if I have neutropenia?

Your doctor will routinely test for neutropenia by checking the level of your white blood cells (neutrophils).

How can I prevent an infection?

In addition to receiving treatment from your doctor, the following suggestions can help reduce your risk for getting an infection:

- Wash your hands often and ask others around you to do the same.
- Avoid crowded places and people who are sick.
- Talk to your doctor about getting a flu shot or other vaccinations.
- Take a bath or shower every day (unless told otherwise).
- Use an unscented lotion to try to keep your skin from getting dry or cracked.
- Clean your teeth and gums with a soft toothbrush.
- Use a mouthwash to prevent mouth sores (if your doctor recommends one).
- Do not share food, drink cups, utensils or other personal items, such as toothbrushes.



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
National Center for Emerging and
Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

CANCER, INFECTION AND SEPSIS FACT SHEET

- Cook meat and eggs all the way through to kill any germs.
- Carefully wash raw fruits and vegetables.
- Protect your skin from direct contact with pet bodily waste (urine or feces).
- Wash your hands immediately after touching an animal or removing its waste, even after wearing gloves.
- Use gloves for gardening.

What are the signs and symptoms of an infection?

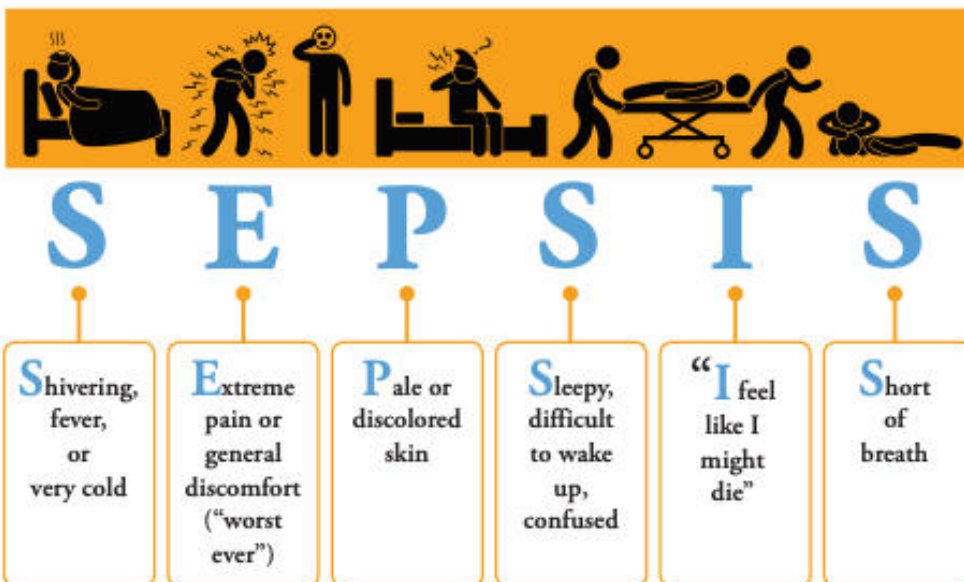
Watch for signs of an infection, such as:

- Fever, chills or sweats
- Redness, soreness, or swelling in any area, including surgical wounds and ports
- Diarrhea and/or vomiting
- Sore throat, cough or nasal congestion
- New sore in the mouth
- Shortness of breath
- Stiff neck
- Unusual vaginal discharge or irritation
- New onset of pain
- Changes in skin, urination, or mental status

What are the signs and symptoms of sepsis?

Sepsis is a bad outcome from an infection. There is no single sign or symptom of sepsis. It is, rather, a combination of symptoms.

Symptoms can include **ANY** of the above infection symptoms, plus the following:



S Shivering, fever, or very cold

E Extreme pain or general discomfort ("worst ever")

P Pale or discolored skin

S Sleepy, difficult to wake up, confused

I "I feel like I might die"

S Short of breath

What should I do if I think I have an infection or sepsis?

- Call your doctor or go to the emergency room immediately if you have any signs or symptoms of an infection or sepsis. This is a medical emergency.
- It's important that you say, "I HAVE CANCER AND AM CONCERNED ABOUT INFECTION AND SEPSIS."

Where can I get more information?

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—CDC works 24/7 protecting America's health, safety and security. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are curable or preventable, chronic or acute, stem from human error or deliberate attack, CDC is committed to responding to America's most pressing health challenges. cdc.gov/sepsis
cdc.gov/cancer/preventinfections
- CDC Foundation—The CDC Foundation and its donors support CDC's work by helping to raise awareness about the importance of preventing infections in cancer patients. www.preventcancerinfections.org
- The Rory Staunton Foundation for Sepsis Prevention—Supports education and outreach efforts aimed at rapid diagnosis and treatment of sepsis, particularly in children. rorystauntonfoundationforsepsis.org
- Sepsis Alliance*—Created to raise sepsis awareness among both the general public and healthcare professionals. Sepsis Alliance offers information on a variety of sepsis-related topics. Visit sepsis.org/library to view the complete series of titles. sepsis.org

Society of the Fifth Division, US Army General Membership Meeting Minutes –
September 2018 Part 1 of 3

President: Dennis Thompson

Called Meeting to Order

Chaplain: Ron Van Beek

Gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

President: Dennis Thompson

Recognized past presidents and first-time attendees

Alex Candelaria 2019 President sends his regrets for not attending the meeting

The minutes of the General Membership Meeting were published in the August 2018 Red Diamond and dispensed without reading.

Officer Reports

President: Dennis Thompson

The Executive Board had a meeting every other month

The Legacy Book

The Reunion Booklet, encourage members to contribute and buy a page

Introduced Copresident for 2019, Steve Wheat

Copresident for 2019: Steve Wheat

Introduced his assisting committee, Bill Baugh, Phil Maniscalco, and Mike Sperling

Alex Candelarios 2019 San Diego reunion will focus on the 75th Support Battalion

Second Vice President: Hal Roller

The Societies 100th Reunion will be in San Antonio, Texas in September 2010

National Secretary: John Estrada

We have 874 members

Recruitment

Members need to update their addresses, phone numbers, e-mail, and send their information to the Secretary

National Treasurer: George Shoener

We have \$14,783.50 cash and \$41,211.65 in CDS

Contributions

National Chaplain: Ron Van Beek

Veterans Suicide Awareness

70% are Veit Nam veterans

KIAs, POWs, MIAs

Society of the Fifth Division, US Army General Membership Meeting Minutes –
September 2018. Part 2 of 3

National Historian: Leigh Blood

Inquiries
Donations to the archives
The Legacy Book
MIA's
Activation at Fort Polk, LA of the 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment

National Judge Advocate: Phil Maniscalco

No report

National Editor: Steve Wheat

We publish and mail The Red Diamond four times per year. We mail it to your current address, so it is imperative that you update your information.
Send articles and photographs

Webmaster: Joe Bowman

Absent

Quartermaster: Dennis Coulter

Thirty-eight mail transactions
Mail order gross revenue \$1,305.00
Contributions
New items
Vietnam Trip

Past President: Robb Robertson

Absent due to injury
Past President: Bob Dudley

Website
Member list
2018 reunion donations
Donations

National Audit Committee: Mike Sperling

Presented the audit report

Ad Hoc Committee: Jeanie Knight

Recruitment of members continues

Society of the Fifth Division, US Army General Membership Meeting Minutes
 –September 2018. Part 3 of 3

Nominating Committee: Phil Maniscalco

Members are Phil Maniscalco, Mike Sperling, J.J. Jackson, Bob Dudley

Incoming Executive Board

National President, Steve Wheat
 1st Vice President, Hal Roller
 2nd Vice President, Lou Pepi
 National Secretary, John Estrada
 National Treasurer, George Shoener
 National Historian, Leigh Blood
 National Champlain, Ron Van Beck
 National Editor, Steve Wheat
 Past presidents, Rob Dudley and Dennis Thompson

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Good of the Society Meeting closed.

Jirka Frybert <jirkafrybert@hotmail.com>
 Attachments
 Sat, May 18, 5:00 PM

Dear Mr. Wheat,

My name is Jiri Frybert and I live in Pilsen, the Czech Republic. I am interested about WWII period, especially about liberation of west part of Czechoslovakia by US Army in 1945. I am not professional historian, history is only my hobby because of influence of my father.

My father (Jiri Frybert, Sr.) is collector of distinctive unit insignia of US Army units which were in Czechoslovakia in 1945. He finished collection of 5th Infantry Division couple months ago. I am sending photo. Maybe you could post it on Facebook of association or you could printed in The Red Diamond magazine. Maybe it could be interesting for you or some other people. If you will use it, please, write there: Collection of Jiri Frybert from Melnik, Czech Republic. Thank you.
 Have a nice day.
 Jiri





NORTHERN I CORP WITH THE FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION

Vietnam Battlefield Tours has planned a trip just for us. The dates are April 5-19, 2020. The proposed itinerary follows. Those participating will be able to request specific sites in addition to those listed.

We need a minimum of 12 tourists to make this work. The max is 25. At this writing we have four registered. Those are Lou Pepi, Mike Pepi, Terrie Coulter and myself. At this time others have expressed interest but not signed up.

The tour will be opened to others after our September Reunion if we cannot max the tour ourselves.

If you have intent on going on this trip, please register now by sending in the registration form and a \$500 per person deposit. The registration forms are available at vietnambattlefieldtours.com.

You can see from the itinerary that most meals are included. I went in 2018 and attest that the food and accommodations are excellent. If you want to go, can afford to go and are healthy enough to go this is a great opportunity. The photo is of me at the Vietnamese/Laotian Border crossing at Lao Bao, 2018.

My email is dwcoulter1@aol.com. I am not an employee of Vietnam Battlefield Tours so I cannot speak for them. I can try to answer your questions. You will also find me at our 2019 Reunion in San Diego. You could also call Vietnam Battlefield Tours direct at 1-877-231-9277.

This trip is not sponsored by The Society of the Fifth Division. The Executive Committee has allowed me to present this trip to the membership.

Itinerary

This trip is not sponsored by The Society Of the Fifth Division. The Executive Committee has allowed me to present this to the membership.

Day 1 & 2: (Sunday - Monday, 05 - 06 April 2020) – Enroute
Report to the Los Angeles International Terminal (LAX) by 8:00 p.m. and proceed to the EVA Airlines ticketing counter for our flight to Taipei. Lose one day crossing the International Dateline.

Day 3: (Tuesday, 07 April 2020) – Taipei to Ha Noi
After a short layover in Taipei where we endure the Big Speech, we depart for Vietnam. We land at Noi Bai Airfield (heavily bombed during the American War) and proceed through immigration, retrieve our bags, clear customs, and board our waiting motorcoach. We then cross the Red River and its dikes to explore the Ha Noi environs. We visit the Hoa Lo Prison (Hanoi Hilton) and stop at the John McCain Monument. Tonight, we enjoy our Welcome Dinner.

Day 4: (Wednesday, 08 April 2020) – Ha Noi to Hue
This morning we visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Ho Chi Minh House, and One Pillar Pagoda. Next is the fascinating War Museum with its Dien Bien Phu exhibit and American artifacts. We then head back to Noi Bai to catch our flight to Phu Bai Airfield. Upon landing, we travel north on Highway 1 and enter Hue City (the old Imperial Capital of Vietnam) and arrive at our hotel (which was the ARVN BOQ during the war) on the southern bank of the Perfume River.

NORTHERN I CORP WITH THE FIFTH INFANTRY
DIVISION continued

Day 5: (Thursday, 09 April 2020) –Hue

Today is devoted to the study of the 1968 Tet Offensive battles for Hue. We will first walk the southern battle. We follow the actions of 1/1 and 2/5, covering, among others, the former MACV Compound, Tran Cao Van Street, Joan of Arc Girl's High School, ARVN BOQ, Hue University, Treasury, Public Health Building, Provincial Capital Building area, and the Church of the Redemptress. After lunch we visit the Citadel, with its ramparts and towers, and visit sites specific to the northern battle, including the Chuck Meadows Gate and the Dong Ba Gate. We finish at the Imperial Palace gate blown by 1/5, which allowed the ARVN to enter and lower the NVA flag that had flown from the main flagpole for 24 days. We then visit the Forbidden City, home to the ancient emperors.

Day 6: (Friday, 10 April 2020) – Hue to Dong Ha

This morning we head north on Highway 1. Our first stop is Camp Evans. Continuing north, we come upon My Chanh Bridge. It was here that the ARVN held the line against invading NVA forces during the 1972 Easter Offensive and from which they launched their counterattack to drive Ho's forces back toward the DMZ. North of here is the section of Highway 1 known as the 'Highway of Horror.' During the NVA's 1972 Easter Offensive, thousands of local refugees - most of which were old people, women, and children trying to flee south - were mercilessly slaughtered by communist NVA troops and artillery. The north side of the bridge is where the worst of the massacre occurred. Massive numbers of people were trapped because the downed bridge prevented escape. We then head east past the Street Without Joy to Wunder Beach. Returning to Highway 1, we visit La Vang Basilica (site of a 1798 appearance of the Blessed Virgin), passing through the LZ Sharon, LZ Nancy, and LZ Ann areas. Returning to Highway 1 we enter Quang Tri City where we stop at Long Hung Church, a Catholic Church in which ARVN troops sought refuge during the 1972 Easter Offensive invasion from the North and in which NVA troops sought refuge as they retreated during the ARVN counter-attack. The church has been left as it stood after the battle, with scars from grenades, rockets, and bullets. We also visit Bo De School, which provides a shocking and violent reality of the 'Battle of 81 Days and Nights' for the city and its Citadel. The battle is infamous for the huge amount of ordnance fired by both ARVN and NVA forces. We stop at the Citadel and then cross Quang Tri Bridge, stopping at Camp Red Devil and the 75th Support area and Ai Tu Airfield (Quang Tri Airbase). Our last stop will be to walk the Dong Ha Bridge (destroyed by Capt. John Ripley which stopped the initial NVA advance during the 1972 Easter Offensive).

Day 8: (Sunday, 12 April 2020) – Dong Ha to Lao Bao

This morning we head west on Route 9 (the main U.S. supply route from the coast to Khe Sanh). Vietnam is a very long, thin country, and we traverse it from the coast all the way to its border with Laos. Our first stop is Mai Loc Airfield, followed by Camp Carroll, (the joint-forces artillery plateau) where we view Dong Ha Mountain (aka Firebase Fuller) in all its splendor. After walking across the Khe Gia Bridge, we stop at the Rockpile where we gear up and hike to the northeast side of the Razorback. Back on Route 9 we come upon other sites that were of military importance during the war, including Vandergrift Combat Base (LZ Stud), where we visit the airstrip. Passing through Ca Lu and crossing the Hairpin we enter Khe Sanh Village, where we stop for lunch. Next, we venture north to Khe Sanh Combat Base where we spend ample time exploring under the shadow of Hills 950 and 1015. Under JFK, Khe Sanh Combat Base was a U.S. jungle outpost close to the border with Laos.

NORTHERN I CORP WITH THE FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION continued

Day 8 continued. The area grew into a major military base and airstrip under LBJ and was the scene of a 77-day siege in 1968, as well as many vicious hill battles in 1967-68. Our last stop is Lang Vei Special Forces Camp, overrun in the first-ever NVA tank assault. Co Roc Mountain soars to the heavens just across the border. Tonight, we stay in the Laotian border town of Lao Bao in somewhat Spartan accommodations.

Day 9: (Monday, 13 April 2020) – Lao Bao to Hue

After breakfast, we return east on Route 9 for a short while and then head south deep into the Da Krong and A Shau Valleys. Just before A Loui we stop for the difficult hike to the summit of Hamburger Hill. Later, we continue south through the town of A Loui before turning east on Highway 547. Passing FSB's Bastogne and Birmingham, we finally arrive back in Hue. Tonight, dinner is on our own.

Day 11: (Wednesday, 15 April 2020) – Hue to Hoi An

After breakfast, we bid Hue goodbye and head south on Highway 1. . Our last stop is a wood-carving and silk shop as we arrive in Hoi An. Hoi An, a beautiful wellpreserved ancient trading port, is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its temples and architecture show the different cultural influences of its time and its lovely Japanese covered bridge is unique to this town. Luckily for Hoi An, its importance waned long before the War, and it was left essentially isolated and relatively untouched

Day 12: (Thursday, 16 April 2020) – Hoi An

Trakieu, the ancient capital of the Que Son Mountains. My Son is the site of My Son Holy land located deep in the foothills of the An Hoa Regimental Combat Base. We then make a special visit to the Liberty Bridge. Next, we make our way to Phu Lac 6 and the south side of Go Noi Island stopping at the village of

Day 13: (Friday, 17 April 2020) – Hoi An to Da Nang

After breakfast, we head north to the **Marble Mountain** area and stop at a marble carving shop. This area is famous for their stone-sculpture industries. These mountains are visually-striking monoliths that rise from the flat coastal plain and are home to Buddhist shrines and numerous caves. We climb to the top of the largest mountain and explore the **VC hospital** area located deep within. We then visit the village of **Hoa Vang**. Our last stop, police-permitting, we visit **Freedom Hill (Hill 327)**.

Lunch today is on our own, but tonight all hands are required at our very special **Farewell Dinner** at the most famous restaurant in Da Nang, the **Kim Do**.

Day 14: (Saturday, 18 April 2020) – Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

After breakfast, we head north to **Da Nang Airfield** for our flight to **Saigon**. If you have the urge, you can grab a burger at the Burger King franchise at the airport.

Landing at **Tan Son Nhat Airfield** (once the busiest airport in the world), we board our coach and head into the center of **Ho Chi Minh City** (still called **Saigon** by most Vietnamese). We visit **Reunification Hall** (the old **Presidential Palace**), **Notre Dame Cathedral**, and the **Old French Post Office**. We also drive by the site of the **US Embassy compound** (now the **US Consulate**) to see the place where Viet Cong sappers blew a hole in the compound wall and gained access to the Embassy grounds

during the **1968 Tet Offensive**. Lunch is not included today, but tonight we enjoy a sumptuous meal in Saigon

Memories of a Red Devil, Ralph Dunn

All of our lives, when I was a kid in my dad's home, he never spoke of the war. He would simply say, "Yes, I was in the Army and I did what I could for my country." That was about it until he was retired and much older. Whenever I asked about his WWII experience he would respond, "I didn't do much. I was in the back lines and was insignificant." So, after he died in 1996 at the age of 71, we found his honorable discharge papers. So, wanting to know more about his military experience, I went to an Army friend who made shadow boxes for families. When he saw the discharge papers (see the rest of them attached to this email), he started telling me the details of his experiences. He gathered a lot of information for me, and he put me onto the book of the history of the 5th Div in WWII...I found a copy of that book and bought it.



I then found the Society of the 5th Division and asked them for any information they could give me (back in the mid-1990's)...I got a call from one of your members who said he bunked with my dad in Belfast as they waited to invade...he said they were on the back end of the invasion weeks after D-Day, but the Germans were still bombing the boats coming in when they came over. He also had another man send me a letter that was in his

unit....they told me a lot about their experiences with Ralph, and it just sounded like my dad. He was quiet, never out of line, and very steady in the field of battle. As a canon company leader, he was near the back, but apparently was involved in five major battles and had a number of hair-raising experiences.



My dad grew up in Scranton, PA...born in 1924...He joined the Army out of high school (Scranton Tech) on March 11, 1943. After his landing in Normandy a month after D-Day (July 11), he was part of the 3rd Army, 5th Div, 11th Inf., Canon Co. 844. From that point, I guess there is a lot of history. My mom, Florence May, lost her fiancée in the Battle of the Bulge where my dad was also. After the war, my dad married Florence and they moved to NJ where Ralph joined Sun Oil Company as a Real Estate purchaser for Sunoco in NYC. They had 5 children, of which I was the 5th. Ralph worked for 36 years with Sun Oil and retired in 1984. Married in 1945 while dad was still waiting to ship off to the Pacific, the bomb stopped that from happening.

Ralph's brother, William Dunn died in the Pacific in April 1945 when his plane crashed after a bombing run. His entire squad was volunteering beyond the required 30 missions before the plane went down and all were KIA. My dad took me to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the 1970's to remember his brother.
Best Regards, KEN DUNN



Ralph in service

QUARTERMASTER REPORT

Following are pictures and descriptions of merchandise that is available for sale from the Quartermaster.

Society of the 5th Division Polo Shirts



Black or White Polo Shirt w/embroidered logo design. Choice of short or long sleeve. Cotton/Polyester (50/50)
Cotton/Polyester (50/50).
Specify size: Short Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$40
Long Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$50
S & H: 1 shirt - \$7.00 \$2.50 each
additional Larger orders: Contact the Quartermaster

Society of the 5th Division T-Shirts



Black or White T-Shirt w/embroidered logo design.
Choice of Short or Long Sleeve.
Cotton/Polyester (50/50). Specify size:
Short Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$25
Long Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$30
S & H: 1 shirt - \$7; Each addl. \$2.50
Larger orders: Contact the Qtr.master



PIN (Hat/Lapel)
1 Inch Red
Diamond,
Silver finish metal
Cloisonné, \$5.00 ea.

Shipping & Handling Add
\$4.00 for order of 1 to 10 pins
Contact Quartermaster for larger order

Fifth Division Hats

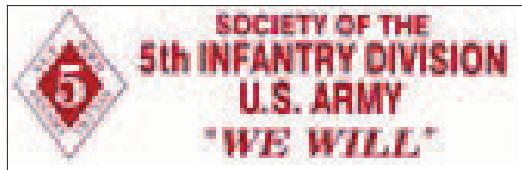
w/embroidered logo design,
adjustable, \$15.00 ea.
plus \$6.00 shipping costs.
Contact Quartermaster for
larger orders



Fifth Infantry Division Challenge Coin



Fifth "Infantry" Division Challenge Coin
(front and back shown): \$10.00 ea.
Antique gold (sandblasted texture)
w/epoxy finish; 1 1/4" x 1/8".
Detail is exquisite. This is the only author-
ized Challenge Coin issued by the Society
of the Fifth Division. \$4.00 S&H



Bumper Sticker: "WE WILL" BumperSticker; 1 1/2" x 3";
\$1.00 ea. Add \$2.00 for shipping and handling for each
order.

Please check pricing carefully for each item
ordered, as shipping and handling is not
included in some pricing and must be
added to order. Contact the Quartermaster
for pricing on large orders.

For All Orders Send Check or
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Army

Attn: Quartermaster
4118 E Stanford Street
Springfield, MO 65809
dwculter1@aol.com

Be sure shipping address is included and an
email address and/or phone number in case
we have questions.

Make checks payable to: The Society of the Fifth Division Please check
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Send to: **Secretary: John Estrada**
Society of the Fifth Division
P.O. Box 5764
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The dues for membership in the Society are \$15.00 for annual membership. Any member wishing to become a LIFE member may do so by paying the following one-time dues: age less than 61, \$150.00; age 61-69, \$75.00; age over 70, \$50.00. All LIFE members are subject to any special assessments declared by the Executive Board or adopted at any meeting.