

The Beidorn Switchboard

28th Field Artillery Regimental Association

Volume 1 Edition 1 13 September 2019



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Welcome Back to Bleidron!

Tommy Houston, President 28 FARA

We sincerely hope that this this Newsletter finds each of you and your families in good health and happy.

It is with great pride that I am able write to you in the first publication of our Association Newsletter which we have named "The Bleidron Switchboard". We named it "Switchboard" as a throwback to the days when we were in the unit and we laid a lot of wire to communicate and the switchboard was the hub.

Please enjoy reading our first newsletter to be Published as the 28th Field Artillery Association. Our goal was to make this something that is both entertaining and informative to our members. Let us know what you think by emailing our Secretary and or myself whose contact info is on the last page of the Newsletter.

Your Board of Directors is composed of a bunch of really hard-working volunteers who are also veterans and family members of veterans. These people have stepped up and are doing tough and remarkable things because of their passion for the unit and the service that we can provide to our friends and colleagues. You will see a column written by each of these great folks in this Newsletter. Please take the time to read what they have been up to. I would also ask you to interact with them via email and by all means take the time to drop them a note and tell them thanks for their hard work. It will make their day, I assure you.

GUNSHOT!



Presidents Corner
Time to Ruck up
Tommy Houston

The great selfless work of your board of directors is only part of what will be our success as an Association. The largest part of how good we are and how good we will become is dependant on our membership and that membership would be YOU. With each 28th FA Veteran that joins our organization and participates in Association activities, we just get that much better.

That same teamwork and unit pride that made us one of the best, if not the best, Field Artillery unit in the US Army is needed again to make our Association what we want it to be. I would ask each of you to consider giving just a little bit of your time to our Association. Your work may be helping Charlie Moretz chase down vets, helping our secretary Barbara with correspondence or member data or helping Tim Gorrell with planning and putting together our next Reunion. You do not have to have any particular skills or talents, just a willingness to work and some time available to do it. Who knows you just might have a little fun in the process!

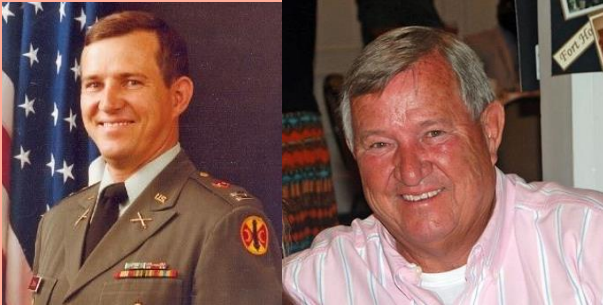
Despite being a non-profit organization, money and the need to raise funds to do the things we need to do, is as much a part of our organization today as projectiles and howitzers were back when we were in the unit. I would also ask that you consider buying one of the commemorative bricks that will be used to pave the walkway at our monument next year. Having a “paver” is a great way to commemorate your service or the service of a loved one. One of our memebers has even bought SIX! But we need to sell a whole lot more so that we can dedicate our monument and so that the path to our monument doesn't look like a tank trail at Graf!

So my fellow 28FA Vets.....

Time to Ruck up and move out!

GUNSHOT!





1st Vice President

From Gamma Goats and RATT Rigs to Monuments and Pavers

Bill Dunham

Hercules had 12 Labors but I have only one, somehow I believe he and I are equal.

Tommy Houston's inspiration, a monument to our unit's service is slowly taking shape. But we have a long way to go.

The monument will be made of Black Indian Granite. It will have two holes drilled in it to mate with the monument proper. It will be buried six inches with the monument resting on top.

The monument proper will be polished Indian marble. All lettering will be laser etched into the marble and all appropriate color will be added.

It will cost approximately \$8000 and take 4 months for it to travel from India to Elberton Georgia.

Once the monument is completed in Georgia it will be transported to Lawton/Fort Sill where it will be erected by a local landscaper at Constitution Park, The Field Artillery Museum, Fort Sill OK.

I traveled to Fort Sill the first week of August and was successful in getting the site for our monument relocated which will save us a lot of cost with the installation. I am waiting on a new estimate but the new location could save us approximately \$8000!

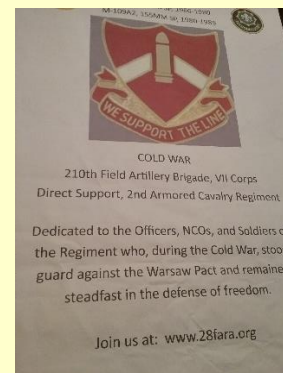
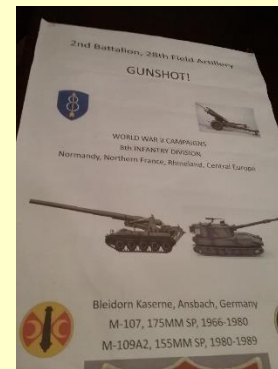
Our deadline for ordering the monument if we expect to have it ready by late summer/early fall next year is 1 December 2019. We will need to have sufficient funds in our organization (about \$15,000) by then for us to go ahead with the project as planned. We plan to dedicate our monument at our reunion at Lawton/Fort Sill in the late summer/early fall of 2020. **However, we will delay the reunion until we have enough money to buy, transport and emplace the monument.**

Our best avenue for raising the money is through the sale of the commemorative Bricks or Pavers. The proposed walkway will consist of 192 Bricks. I will discuss this plan and the design in a future newsletter. If we sell all 192 bricks we will realize our goal of \$20,000. **Go to 28FARA.ORG and get yours now!**

GUNSHOT!



Example of another unit's monument at Centineal Park



Some examples of what our monument will look like



**2nd Vice President
Save the Date!! 20-22 Sept 2020
Tim Gorrell**

Even though the big reunion is about a year out we have the planning well in hand. The focal point of the Reunion will be the dedication of our monument which will be located in Centennial Park near the Field Artillery Museum at Fort Sill.

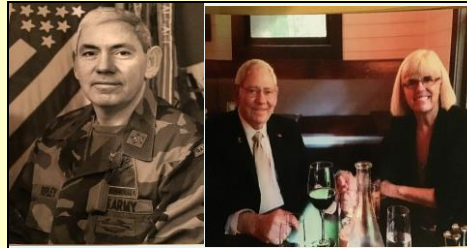
In late breaking news the Board has voted that the Reunion will be held 20-22 September. We are changing our line up this time with Reunion starting on a Sunday instead of what we have done in the past which is starting on Thursday

The dedication is just one of the great things that we are planning. Our reunion will include the Red Solo Cup Golf Tournament, Dinner at a great German Restaurant as well as plenty of sightseeing and our normal all hands dinner.

We are planning of holding the Reunion at the Apache Casino in Lawton. It is a new facility and it appears the offer the best value, but we are still working it. Please stay tuned for updates as we get them.

If you would like to help with the Reunion, we could use you. Email me and we can put you to work!

GUNSHOT!



**Treasurer
Report as of August
Ralph Ripley**

The Association is off to a good start financially. Since our humble beginnings last February, we have grown the treasury through Memberships, Direct Contributions and Memorial Brick sales.

On the Expense side, we have had some setup costs. The majority of the costs so far have been establishing ourselves as a 501C3 corporation and getting our website running. These costs have been kept to a minimum through the generous contribution of personal time and occasional Herculean Efforts that made all this possible. Month over month our principal costs are fees associated with online payment systems.

Our cash flow year to date is as follows:

Revenue	\$10,367
Memberships	\$1,320
Contributions	\$6,247
Memorial Bricks	\$2,800
Expenses	\$1,058
Startup	\$669
General	\$76
Online Fees	\$313
Current Cash Balance	\$9,309

The Association has few liabilities. There will eventually be a small charge back to the vendor for Bricks. We keep track of the estimated amount each month Be sure to get a Brick for yourself.

No treasury report would be complete without recognizing the efforts of Madonna Stecher, who frankly does all the work. She has done a magnificent job of getting us set up with financial and online payment systems. Each month she quietly goes about the business of managing the day to day financials.

GUNSHOT!





Secretary
Remembering Bleidorn
Barbara Pollock

It is truly heartwarming to come full circle actively involved where the journey of offering service to the military community was born for me with the 2nd Battalion of the 28th Field Artillery Family Support (formerly known as the C Btry Wives Club)! My volunteer service under the tutelage of Glenda Taylor, Vangie Romero and Alley Earlywine was rewarding and with lasting impact that has carried me for over 3 decades of service to other military communities and various civilian sectors. They set the example from a family member perspective of **"We Support the Line"**!

HIGHLIGHTED ACTIONS BY THE 28TH ASSOCIATION THIS YEAR:

- Board Members were Elected at the 2018 Reunion
- Appointment of Senior NCO, Charles Moretz, to fill vacated position
- Approval of the budget for a monument to be erected at Ft Sill, Ok and Dedication at the 2020 Reunion
- Critical Logistical Decisions involving the 2020 Reunion
- Development of 28 Field Artillery Bylaws

WELCOME BACK TO 28 FIELD ARTILLERY (Association):

Tommy Houston and Barbara	Charles Moretz and Judy
George Hardin and Lisa	David Davenport and Kari
Martin Scheeler	David Mohan and Lisa Buckley
Robert Greene and Irene	Mark LaVigne and Evelyn
Patrick Malherek and Janet	
James "Ray" McFalls and Tommie	
David Dehnel and Barbie	Tom Thornton and Nancy
Ralph Ripley and Anne	Paul Lange
Ronald Scott Deal	William Savage and Diane L
Alan Cupicciotti and Christine	William Dunham and Vickie
Robert Pollock Sr and Barbara J M	
Mark Fairbotham and Penny	
Tim Gorrell and Lisa	John "Box" Williams and Maureen
Tom. Stecher and Madonna	Danny Marksberry and Kay
Edward Walz and Christine	Frank Phillips and Gisi
Richard M. Swain and Nancy	
Ernest Romero and Vangie (Evangeline)	
Francisco Aponte and Veronika	James Dubinsky and Robyn
Stephen Elle and Kim	Jeff McCausland and Marianne
Randy Ponder	John Donahue

**MEMBERSHIP IN PROGRESS:
(Awaiting Membership Fee)**

Raul Alvarez and Lizette Gonzalez
Thomas Carroll
Wayne Pfeffer and Jacki
Dan Rutledge and Nancy
Ricky Earleywine

"WE SUPPORT THE LINE"!



13B Recruiters when they see a corn fed recruit with a low GT score.



Senior NCO of the Board Everybody Fall IN!

Charlie Moretz



WE WANT YOU!

ATTENTION “REDLEGS”, “Spoons”, “Wrenches”, “KNUCKLE BUSTERS”, and “PENCIL PUSHERS”! That’s Right, the 28th Field Artillery Regiment Association (FARA) wants you. Back in February of this year 2019 we started an association of past members of the battalion. We then launched a recruiting drive to attract old soldiers to the association.

Through the help of previous members, reunions, social media and word of mouth the association came to life. This generated a great amount of enthusiasm and our membership drive started to grow. As of today, we are 41 members strong. We are continually growing through, past members as yourself, informing others of the association and wanting to get involved. The association itself is made up of former officers, non-commissioned and enlisted members as yourself, serving in a variety of positions.

We are continually searching for previous service members of the battalion to have them join our association. I say “OUR” because it was you that inspired the idea to continue our legacy of the battalion. Your sacrifices never went unnoticed, even to this day.

This is why we are calling all previous soldiers of the battalion to join us.

You can review us at www.228FARA.org.

As with any association there are so many that work in the background helping with the recruiting paperwork to make it a success. A big shout out to our Wed Master/IT guy George Hardin, Barbara Pollock our secretary, and Madonna, Accounting. Thanks for your support.

As they say in recruiting, “LETS GET OUT THERE AND SIGN THEM UP”..

REDLEGS ALL THE WAY

GUNSHOT!



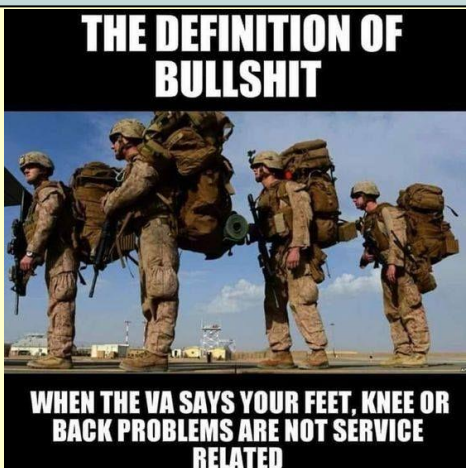
1st Enlisted Member of the Board/Webmaster

What is great about our Web Page
George Hardin

Hi Everyone. We have had a great start on our Web Page 28FARA and I hope everyone likes what we have done. Except for some frustrations with PalPal, which is beyond our scope, everything seems to be working fine.

I want to tell everyone about our newest feature which is the 28th Field Artillery Forum. This is a place where our Vets can go and post old stories as well as everyone getting caught up on what has happened since Bleidorn. You can reach the forum by going through the web site under the Membership tab. Please go to the forum and get signed up and most importantly start posting!! Just talk about what you remember most about you time in the Unit.

Finally, we are always improving the Web site. As Tommy says, it is our Association's center of Gravity. If you have suggestions or issues email me at 1EM@28FARA.ORG....**GUNSHOT!**



Veterans Assistance

Unlike the IG, I am truly here to help
Frank Phillips

Soldiers of 2/28FA!

I am honored to be asked to serve as a member of the Board for the 28fara organization.

Many of you remember me as the Alpha Battery Commanders driver. SGT Phillips. I did stints in 6th Section "AWOL" as howitzer driver, a stint working in supply and last as a section chief. I still reside in the Ansbach area.

Many of my days, I was plagued with a foot problem. It took the Army 16 months to diagnose it and they fixed one problem 6 weeks prior to my ETS. Because of this, I found out that I could receive VA Benefits. I did not realize this until about 6 years ago. I went through the process and am, now, receiving VA benefits.

I was impressed with this process and decided that I would like to help fellow Veterans with their problems. I went through vigorous training and exams and am now a Veteran Affairs accredited representative. I am responsible for training and supervising the American Legion Service Officers over here in Europe.

I am offering my services and advice to our organization to assist our veterans. I will give you advice, I will get you the proper, stateside, point of contact (if needed), supply you information, and will assist the 2/28 FA Honors committee with obtaining VA benefits for the surviving spouse. There is no charge for my services!

Feel free to contact me at my VA e mail address:

Francis.Phillips2@va.gov. I have assisted a few members of our organization already.

I will try to supply some tips in the quarterly report. Here is a great one to get you started:

1. Do you need a copy of your medical records? Do you need a copy of your personnel file? Would you like free replacement ribbons and medals that you have earned?
2. Visit www.archives.gov on the internet.
 - a. If you would like assistance, on how to use this website, feel free to contact me, via e mail (Francis.Phillips2@va.gov). I will send you a PDF file with a step by step instructions (as pictures).

Stay healthy and please spread the word about our organization!

GUNSHOT!



Chaplain's Corner COL (R) Chaplain Danny Marksberry

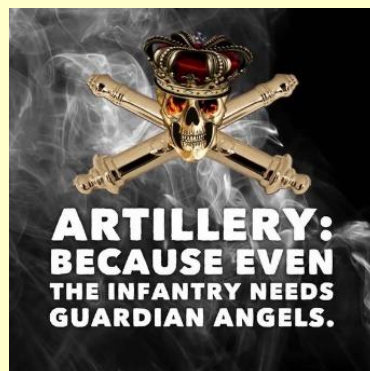
It has been great to attend the 2/28 FA reunions and to renew relationships with old friends and to reacquaint with other soldiers and family members that I didn't remember (old age).

Relationships are very important in this earthly journey. These relationships and friendships give us a bond to others that can be an encouragement to us. It can be a friendship that can offer support in times that we need someone to share hard times, good times, our goals, dreams, joys and heartaches. It is good to take time to renew and maybe establish friendships. The most important relationship/friendship we can renew or establish is with our Lord. Our earthly relationships/friendships are very precious but are temporary. Our relationship with the Lord will be eternal.

Jesus said in John 15:13-14, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends, if you do the things I command you". Jesus laid down His life for us, that we may be his friends for eternity. Maybe you need to renew that relationship with Him or maybe you need to begin that relationship with Him because it will last for eternity.

God Bless,

Chaplain Danny Marksberry





After Duty Life of the EM's in Ansbach (1980s)

By Dave Davenport, 2EM Member of the board

Life for the E-4 and below in the unit, at least during the 80s, was not always about alerts, going to Graf, barracks inspections and little thing like having to worry about keeping the Russians out of Western Europe.

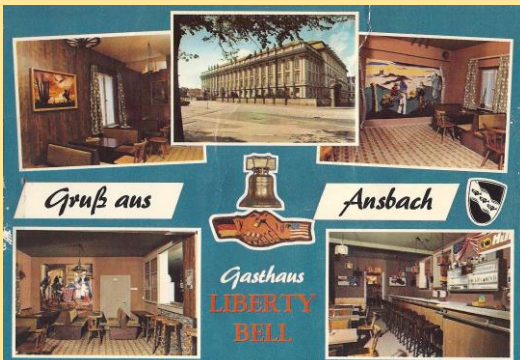
The story you are about to read is a recollection of the fun times some of us had while stationed at Bleidorn. There was plenty of work, but this is about what we did when the work was done.

No names will be changed nor will the innocent be protected in this out line of events.

However, I do want to say that I am likely going to not remember all that was experienced as we are talking about 35 years ago. The times I had there with the friends I had made were probably some of the best, ever. It was with great pleasure to have grown within the ranks of within such a unit with a lot of great people.

The very first week I was stationed at 2-28, living in HHB while still waiting to be assigned to a Battery, I had made my way downtown in Ansbach to the PX at Hindenburg Kaserne to purchase a 35mm camera. I knew right away there was going to be a lot to see and remember with my assignment to Germany. While on my journey back to Bleidorn I made a stop at a Gasthaus (The Liberty Bell or "the Bell") not even knowing that I would be there often in the future.

"The Bell" is where I had my very first beer, a Pilsner. I then tried a "Hefe Weissen". Little did I know just how much Weissen I would consume in the time I would be being stationed in Germany. Often this was done with little or no influence from anyone at all. Not only did I make some Army friends at "The Bell" I also made a few German friends as well. There was truly no shortage of Gasthauses to choose from in Ansbach and thinking back I likely visited most of the at least once.



Post Card from "The Bell"



The long route back to the Kaserne from "Downtown"
The NCO Club is at the Bottom right of the Photo.

There were many a night of going to a Gausthaus for just to get a bite to eat and “a beer”. Later, you would find yourself staggering back, uphill to Bleidorn, the barracks and bed. More often than not, you were not alone in your journey back to the barracks. There were plenty of your comrades from the unit also trying to make it back up the hill.

And how many times did you just make it back to your barracks, climb in bed often still dressed in your street clothes. Then get woken by some “really nice guy” yodeling the words ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!.... The first time hearing that I thought to myself OMG what the hell is this all about. I thought basic training and AIT was over. And to still be drunk and/or hungover after a night of hanging with friends and loving all of that great beer and food. Talk about a sobering moment for a young private!

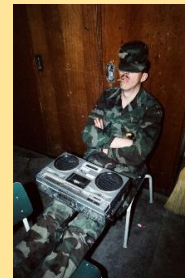


“The Pizza Man”

Awe yes, the beer and food. Who can say they did not enjoy all of that! And while I am on the topic of food. How many of us could not wait for the “Pizza Man”. The strange thing is that looking back, you hardly ever bought a pizza from him, it was always something else, schnitzels, cordon bleu, etc. But we still called him the “Pizza Man”.



Soldier in the Barracks with an expensive “sound system”



“A soldier with a “different” Sound System

I have found memories of hanging out in who’s ever room drinking beer, listening to music on often a very nice sound system. Now days, those systems are referred to as vintage, but then they were state of the art and usually a whole lot of power being pushed to very large speakers. Boys and their toys would be what it would be recognized as today. And we sure spent a whole lot of money on our equipment and at the record store in downtown Ansbach.

The record store was right next to the McDonalds and yes, McDonalds also served beer! “Big Mac mitt kline Bier Bitte!”. Who would have thought while on their way to Germany that McDonalds served beer? And nobody ever asked you for your ID. Oh wait! As far as I can remember did anyone, ever, get asked even a single time for your ID to include at the NCO/EM club? And it did not matter what you were drinking to include liquor, talk about culture shock.

Feature Article

After Duty Life of the EMs (1980s)

We often went skiing in Zurich near Switzerland, or at the Zugspitze near Munich. Oh yes there was Nuremberg let us not forget the shopping plaza called “The Wall”. Although I do think everyone visited that particular shopping plaza at least once and it sure was yet another culture shock for a young private straight from the States.



The Ansbach Bohnhoff (train station)



Soldiers Skiing in the Alps

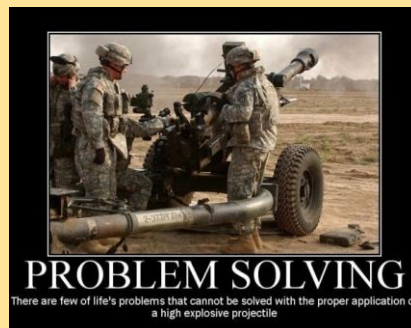
There were train rides too many towns, actually at a good and very fair price. Especially when riding 3 hours to go shopping or often an awesome concert of some kind. This was the 80's and being in a forging land like Germany was definitely a great time to be stationed over there. Just one more thing before I end this journey down memory lane.

One of the best kept secrets for the lower enlisted guys in the Battalion was finding out about the “swim bod” in Ansbach. It never crossed my young mind that I would find myself at a public swimming pool seeing so many young ladies not one single stitch of clothing on, walking around naked, without any concerns at all! Wow! Now that is one thing you definitely could not get away with that in the States! With a lot of us being very young guys just out of basic and AIT, it sure was difficult not to be tempted to rush down there for a swim while enjoying a beer and at the same time definitely enjoying the scenery!

Okay I probably did not need to go there, but it was a not so well-kept secret that many of us enjoyed and there is no harm and no foul. It was just another example of the culture shock!

It is my sincere hope that my article brought back some great and fun memories for you all, and I very much look forward to talking to you at our next reunion. Let's grab a beer and reminisce of those fun time's we all had shall we!

GUNSHOT!





2-28 Trivia Contest

Win a \$25 Amazon Gift Card!

How well do you remember your days in the Battalion? Can you believe it has been 30+ years or more since we were all there? Here we will test your memory!

We will hold a 2 trivia contest with each publication of the newsletter. The first one will be Military oriented and will be about what went on with the Battalion. Just so the spouses are not left out we will have a second contest that is more oriented to the family life in Ansbach and Germany.

Test your memory by sending your answers to president@28FARA.org. The winner of each of the two contests will be announced each quarter when the newsletter is published, along with the answers to the questions. The winner will be select based on the number of correct answers.



2-28 Trivia- Military Related

1. 2-28FA was a nuclear capable unit, how many nuclear weapons was the Battalion Authorized to Carry?
2. What was the exact name of the program whereby soldiers were cleared to be around nuclear weapons?
3. What was the nomenclature for the Nuclear projectile that was authorized in the Battalion?
4. Lariat Advance was the code word used to announce a practice alert. What code word was used to describe an actual, real world, go to war roll out?
5. By regulation and SOP, how long did the Battalion have to clear the Kaserne?
6. What was the area called where the Battalion deployed to on an alert (do not include the Ammo upload site)?
7. When an alert was called, how long was the Battalion authorized to upload its basic load of ammunition?
8. What was the name of the two local training areas used by the Battalion?
9. How many .50 Caliber Machine guns were authorized for the Battalion?
10. Describe what items must be worn at MOPP Level 3?
11. What hot meal was always served to the troops in the field during Lariat Advance?
12. What was the name of the unit that was permanently "attached" to 2-28 for Quarters and Rations and went with us on every deployment?
13. What was the official title of our General Defense Plan (GDP)?
14. Our go to war plan had us supporting the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. To what squadron was 2-28 FA assigned as Direct support to.
15. What was the 4 digit coordinates of the geographic center of the Grafenwoehr impact area?
16. By what means of transportation did the Battalion Deploy to Graf?
17. What was the name of the old church that sat in the middle of the training area at Grafenwoehr?
18. Name the other Battalion Sized units that were stationed in the Ansbach Military Community (excluding Illesheim and Crailsheim).
19. Name the other Battalions and their calibers in the 210th Brigade during the late 70's through mid 80s and on what Kasernes they were located?
20. What was the official name for the personnel section of the Battalion?
Bonus question. What the full nomenclature for the prime mover for a RATT RIG



2-28 Trivia- Community Related

1. Where was the Stars and Stripes Book Store located in the late 70s through Mid-80s
2. At which PX facility in Ansbach Mil Community were civilian clothes sold?
3. Where, exactly, was the Ansbach Community Library located?
4. What was a German Cleaning Lady called?
5. What was the zip code for 2-28 FA/Bleidron Kaserne?
6. Name the US Housing areas in Ansbach
7. Name all the Kasernes that made up the Ansbach Military Community in the late 70s and early 80s.
8. Where was the Barber shop on Bleidron Kaserne?
9. Where was the childcare center located in Ansbach?
10. What was the Ansbach Military Community Newspaper titled?
11. What was the name of Ansbach's German American Football Team?
12. On What Kaserne was the "official" Ansbach Military Community Tennis courts?
13. On what Kaserne was the Travel and Leisure office located
14. On what Kaserne was the video rental?
15. If you rented a video, how long were you allowed to keep it without having to pay a late fee for return?
16. What was the primary electric voltage for the housing area?
17. On what Kaserne was the Arts and Crafts Center?
18. Where did you have to go to pay your phone bill?
19. Name the official Armed Force Recreation Facilities in Germany.
20. Where was the Battalion Mail Room located?

Bonus Question (15 Points) What was the price of a meal if an enlisted Dependent Wife, ate in the mess hall for Dinner

With each issue of the Newsletter, the Editorial Staff will highlight 5 members of the Association. To gather their memories of their time in Germany with the Battalion. To make sure we get those memories from different perspectives, we will interview 1 Officer, 1 NCO, 2 EMs and a Spouse. For this First Edition of the Newsletter, we are pleased to report that we are interviewing Colonel (Retired) Tim Gorrell, First Sergeant (Retired) Ernie Romero, Mark Fairbotham, Dave Davenport and Glenda Taylor.



Colonel (Retired) Tim Gorrell

C Battery FDO/XO, Battalion S-1
Ohio
Interviewed by Barbara Pollock

When were you assigned to 2-28FA and what was your MOS/Job?

I arrived there in March of 1983 and left in March of 1986. I was a 13A, Field Artillery Officer. I started out as the Assistant Executive Officer/Fire Direction Officer, later Executive Officer of C Battery then moved up to Battalion Staff as the Battalion Adjutant/S-1.

Who was your boss?

Four individuals served as my boss while serving in the 2nd of 28th Field Artillery and they included: "Bo" Martin, Tommy Houston, Dave Dehnel, and Bob Green. Contact has continued with them over the years



Tim as C Battery FDO with Tommy Houston, BC and Larry Fallen, XO

When you hear the word “GRAF” (Grafenwoehr), what do you think about?

Initially, I was influenced by the prevailing thought that considered Graf to be the second worst place on earth, but I have come to realize that it was a good training area essential to the mission. The positive outcomes from the Grafenwoehr experience, (i.e. mission readiness, professional development, teambuilding) far eclipse the training area detractors. In short, going to Graf wasn't that bad after all! Furthermore, where else on earth can you go and literally experience all four seasons during the span of two weeks?



Tim as C Battery XO (Center) at the Howitzer Direct fire Range with John Sweeny XO B BTRY (L) and Bob Michaud BN Commander (R)

What was your toughest time while you were assigned in the battalion?

While perhaps the true impact and potential reality of the Cold War weren't fully apparent to me at the time, everything we did from a training aspect to living our lives was done under the shadow of the threat. 2-28 FA was a nuclear capable unit, is there anything more frightening than thermo-nuclear war? With that in mind we operated, rightfully so, in a zero defects environment. Compliance inspections had to be flawless, training had to be purposeful, and all had to be prepared to respond to a mission alert within moments - 24/7.

Also, as a Battalion Adjutant - Receiving and having to deliver Red Cross messages were always difficult.

What did you like most about your time there?

The 28th Field Artillery was my first assignment as a commissioned officer. Meeting my wife, Lisa a native of Ansbach, was the best part of my assignment and Ansbach has become my second hometown.

What did you do after duty hours?

I was part of a tight group of Lieutenants. We took ski trips, visited places throughout Europe and frequented the numerous German restaurants throughout the area. Our list of restaurants included Gashof Kern in Lehrberg, the Pizzeria just over the hill from Bleidorn, and a neat Gaststaate in Lichtenau. We certainly honed our expertise for various types of German Bier. The funny thing about the local places we went is we rarely referred to the proper name of the place; instead we just said a nickname we gave to the place everyone knew where we intended to go. For example, if we were going to “Tiny’s” it meant we were going to a restaurant just outside Ansbach for cordon bleu that was as big as the plate served on.

Who is the person you most remember from your assignment and had the greatest impact on your life?

When I reported to 2-28 FA, I was a brand-new Second Lieutenant, considerably short on experience to say the least. All the Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO’s) were very experienced and taught me so much regarding leadership, being an artilleryman and about the professionalism of our Army. This experience became the foundation of the officer I was and ultimately stayed with me throughout my career and remained the cornerstone of my 31 years of service

What was the most enjoyable thing that you can remember from your days there?

Getting married in Germany. My wife was from Ansbach with family and friends nearby, however, my side of the church at our wedding was just as full as her side with fellow 2-28 Soldiers, their spouses and guests. This to me was symbolic of the uniqueness of our Battalion.



Lisa and Tim on their wedding day



All the battalion officers in attendance at Lisa and Tim’s wedding

Give us an overview (Marriage, Kids, Jobs, career, etc) of your life after leaving Bleidorn and 2-28?

I was an “accidental” soldier with an original 3 year commitment and planned undoubtedly to do my 3 years’ time and after my tour in 1986, I was going to get out of the military to be a teacher and football coach back in Ohio. However, after my tour in Germany, we went on to serve for 26 more years in a variety of command and staff assignments worldwide. Of note, among those assignments we returned to Germany for tours in Kirchgoens, Hohenfels and Schweinfurt.

What would you like to see in our new Association?

I would like to see our reunions continue and grow in attendance. All Soldiers assigned to 2-28 have special and personal memories of their time there. So often the Soldier experience is neither discussed nor accounted for. Through reunions and the association, in general, there is the opportunity to capture this small part of Army History, to remember the service of those who served and to ensure the significance of this Cold War Mission is not forgotten.





**First Sergeant (Retired) Ernie Romero
C Battery First Sergaent,
Colorado
Interviewed By Barbara Pollock**

When were you assigned to 2-28FA and what was your MOS/Job?

I arrived there in 1987 and stayed through 89. My MOS was 13Z and I had the best job in the Army, First Sergeant of a Firing Battery

What was your Marital Status Assigned to the Battalion?

Married and lived in Quarters.

While assigned to 2/28 FA, who were your boss?

CPT Malherek, CPT Earlywine, CPT Kalih.

When you hear the word GRAF/Grafenwoehr, what do you think about?

Snow, mud, rain, cold, hot, and good training!!!

What was your toughest time while you were assigned in the battalion?

When I first arrived being new and had to make some changes and when we had a terrorist attack in Europe everyone was scared.

What did you like most about your time in Germany?

Best time was messing with my troops and the Battalion, Battery parties, picnic, and activities.

What did you do after duty hours?

Spent time with my Family.

Who is the person you most remember from your assignment?

Duckenhammer,

Who had the greatest impact on your life?

Dad and Grandfather who taught me how to work hard and how to treat people. My wife has had the biggest impact on my life!

What was the funniest thing that you can remember from your days in Ansbach, Germany

Every day was a good day. Ha! Ha! You can't put it in print.....

Give us an overview (Marriage, Kids, Jobs, career, etc) of your life after leaving Bleidorn and 2-28.

PCS'd to Ft Carson and worked for Division Artillery extended, retirement 29 years 11 months 29 days devoted to the Military. In Colorado, I drove a bus for 2 yrs and worked with the US Postal service for 15 years as a mail handler and then became an industrial Safety Specialist

What would you like to see in our new 28 FA Association?

Outreach to the younger soldiers. I Would like to make a journal of our younger soldiers. Make sure that we incorporate the 3-17 FA because they want to be involved.

Words of Thanks: Thanks for the support from the Ladies (Family Members) of 2-28/ 3-17 FA

Words of Wisdom: Remember the Good, Remember the Bad but most of all Remember! Charlie ! Mike





Mark Fairbotham
Wheel Vehicle Mechanic C Battery
Michigan

When were you assigned to the Battalion and what was your Job(s)?

I got to the Unit in February 1984 and left in July 1986. I was assigned to C Battery Maintenance as a 63S, Heavy Wheel Vehicle Mechanic.

What was your Marital Status while assigned to the Battalion?

-Initially I was single and lived in the barracks but while there I went back to the States, got married and brought my wife over. My first son was born in Nurenburg while I was there.

Who were your bosses and what do you remember about them? I was fortunate to work for two outstanding NCOs, SFC Tom Thornton and SGT Brian Brice who were the C Battery Motor Sergeants. With SFC Thornton, him being an E-7, he had a lot of experience and he was also a good leader and cared for his mechanics. He was constantly training us. He was no-nonsense, when it came to work or training. Things had to be done in the way they were supposed to be, or you didn't do them at all. He set the standards and you were expected to achieve or surpass those standards. You didn't fix anything or pull a service on a vehicle unless you had the TM right there with you, regardless if you had done it a thousand times.



SFC Tommy Thornton, C Battery Motor/Gunnery Sergeant

He also cared about us and took care of us. One example is that, as a mechanic, I was always getting oil, grease or something else on my BDU jacket and ruining it. The pants were fine, but I was always messing up the tops. SFC Thornton knew that we new PFCs didn't have much money to keep replacing our uniforms so he would give us his extra BDUs so that we would always be clean for formation.

Sergeant Brice first showed up initially to Battery Maintenance as a senior E-4. Because he had much more experience than the rest of us, he started out a bit on the cocky side. Later, when SFC Thornton PCS'd, Brice made E-5 and took over as the Motor Sergeant. He was out of the same mold as SFC Thornton and ran the shop about the same way. No Nonsense and to do things the right way.

One story about Sergeant Brice before he took over as Motor Sergeant and was still an E-4. I was in charge of the tools for Battery Maintenance. Brice came to me one day wanting to sign out a wood saw so that he could cut a 2x4. Someone already had the wood saw signed out, so Brice told me he wanted me to issue him a hack saw. I refused to issue it to him because the standard was the right tool for the right job. He got mad at me, but I stood my ground even though he was an E-4P and I was a lowly Private, I am not going to give you a hack saw to cut 2x4!!!

One thing that both insisted on was unit pride. We were C Battery Maintenance and we were the best and the same is true for the Battery as well. We took pride that we never had anything broken down more than a day.



The Battery Motor Shops



Two Mechanics working on a 5 Ton at Graf

When you hear the word “Graf” or “Grafenwoehr” what comes to mind? OH Shit, here we go again!! It was also some of the best training I have ever had in the field. Also freezing my ass off comes to mind often!

I remember on my first Graf trip we still had the C Rations. The cooks would take the meat cans out of the boxes and throw them in a trashcan with an immersion heater. You go through and pick up a box that had the other stuff in it and the cooks would randomly dish out the meat cans. It was a crap shoot and you wouldn't know what you had until they gave you the hot meat can. It could be Spaghetti, beef slices or even the nasty Ham and Lima beans (there is a politically incorrect name that we all gave the Ham and Lima beans).

I also remember being at Graf and SFC Thornton sent me out to check a fan tower on a gun. I was doing my thing when Lieutenant Gorrell leaned his head out of the side door of the turret and said “*Fairbotham, What the FxxK are you doing?*” I replied “*Sir, inspecting the fan tower*” to which he replied that the gun I was working on had a round loaded in the tube, breach closed and was about to fire. I am sure glad Gorrell looked out to check, otherwise I would be deaf today!!! One of my best memories was that they let me “pull trail” (Gun Bunny slang for firing the Howitzer). I was just doing my mechanic thing and the Chief offered up to let me pull the lanyard. It was great!!

What did you like best about your time in the Battalion?

It was the Command from the Battery Commander, through the First Sergeant and down to the Section. Captain Houston and Top Salary floated things down through the chain of command to make sure everyone knew what was expected of them and held people accountable to do them right the first time. There were a set of rules and you knew you had to follow them.

I also liked the friends I made and the fact that everyone was there for everyone else. The Command set the environment that we knew we were the best at what we did. We were Charlie Steel and we were not to be messed with!



Hanging out in front of B Battery



One of the many bus tours

What did you do after duty hours?

I did two tours in Italy, Venice being one on a battery trip. I learned to ski in the alps, I did a lot of sightseeing.

One story I remember about one of the trips. My wife and I were on the way back from the Battery trip to Venice and the German bus that we were riding on broke down. Lieutenant Gorrell, who was in charge of the trip, yelled back and said "*Fairbotham, see what you can do to fix the bus so we can get home*". So, there I was, in my vacation clothes of a t-shirt and shorts, crawling under that nasty bus to fix the shock so we could get home. I fixed it and Gorrell made sure the tour company gave me a free trip for my wife and I. That is how I got to go to Italy a second time.



First Sergeant Willie J Salary

Who is the person or persons you remember most from your assignment in the Battalion?

As I said earlier there was SFC Thornton and Brian Brice. There was the BC, Captain Houston of course. There were the guys in Battery Maintenance, Weisenhower who was the PLL clerk, Rusk, Brian Brice, Fuentez who drove the truck, Arndt and Sgt Gains.

There was the First Sergeant, 1SGT Salary who was always pushing us to do better. He took personal charge of all of us that had trouble keeping the weight standards or the guys who had trouble with the PT test. I don't know how old he was back then, but that guy ran the crap out of us three or four times a week. I was amazed at how an older man like Top Salary could run younger guys into the ground!

One of my good friends was Frank McCook. Frank was a 13B and started out on the gun line and then moved to Special Weapons. Being around Frank was always “interesting”. After I got married and my wife came over, Frank would stay with us often on the weekend (we lived on the economy). One of the times he stayed with us, we were headed to the big PX in Nurenburg. My wife and I were already in the car waiting on Frank. He came out of our house, fell down the stairs and broke his leg!! He was in a cast for 6 weeks. Captain Dehnel, who was the Battery Commander then, asked me if Frank had been drinking. No, I answered, it was 10am on a Saturday morning!

How did your assignment to the Battalion impact your life? I came from a poor but not an abusive environment prior to the Army, without a lot of structure. My tour there showed me how things should be done, that there are rules and procedures that must be followed. It also solidified my work ethic which has always been good, but my tour there made it better.

The Command there from the BC down, set the environment for us to be the best and there wasn’t any bullshit, at least from what I saw. It was all about the mission and getting things done right. I have been in several other units, mostly in the National Guard and nothing compares to what we had there in 2-28 and Charlie Battery.

What was the funniest thing that you can remember for your days in Ansbach?

Frank McCook and I had been out drinking the night before. I think we got in about 430 and had to get up for PT at 530. Somehow, we got through the day, but Frank had a bottle of rum and he was up for doing it again. That afternoon we had to stay late and were sequestered to the barracks cleaning weapons. They had this scaffolding up resurfacing the outside of the building back then. Frank had to take a leak bad and said what the hell, so he went out the window and stood on the scaffolding. Our barracks was on the third floor and his window was right over the entrance to the battery. I guess he didn’t look down range before he started because the Battery Commander, Captain Houston, was coming into the Battery downstairs about the time Frank let her fly!



LAW OF MECHANICAL REPAIR

After your hands become coated with grease
your nose will begin to itch,
and you'll have to pee

Give us an overview (Marriage, Kids, Jobs, Career etc) of your life after Bleidron. I ETSd and went home in 1986 to save a marriage that did not work. Married two more times before I got it right with Wife number 4. We have been together 23 years and she is my rock. I have one son from the first marriage and have three wonderful stepchildren from my Wife, Peggy now.

For career it has mostly been in the automotive business. I started out busting tires at a tire company, kept moving up the ladder. Got into Car Sales and dealerships for a long time as well as consulting in several places still moving up the ladder into management. We moved to Sarasota Florida for a while then back to Michigan.

The car business started getting bad so there were openings at the Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) at Camp Grayling so I put the uniform back on and went to work there for 8 years. I was in the Michigan National Guard and ended up going to Iraq and Afghanistan, first with the 107th Engineer Battalion and then with the 182nd Field Artillery. I went on the first tour to Iraq and my brother was the First Sergeant. I had some struggles with PTSD. Now I am retired and have gone through the rounds with the VA. I do Pig roasts to keep me busy.

What would you like to see with our new Association? Thank you for what you are doing. Bring as many of us back together as you can for our reunions. Locate as many of us as you can, I will be happy to help.



Bus fair to anit-war protest rally - \$0.50.

Paint and canvas protest signs - \$32.00.

Asking a retired US Army Sergeant to translate your anti-American slogans - PRICELESS.



Dave Davenport
Food Service Specialist C Battery
Ohio

Interviewed by Barbara Pollock

When were you assigned to the Battalion and what was your Job(s)?

I got to the Unit in November 1982 and left in May 1984. I was assigned to C Mess Section as a 92B Food Service Specialist. Later I became a Hobby Chef and participated in US Army Europe Culinary Competitions.

What was your marital status when you were assigned to the Battalion?

I was single and lived in the Barracks. I lived on the First Floor with the rest of the cooks, the Mechanics and Commo. For some reason the First Sergeant wanted the cooks and mechanics next to the Orderly Room and his office.



2-28 FA Dining Facility (Mess Hall)



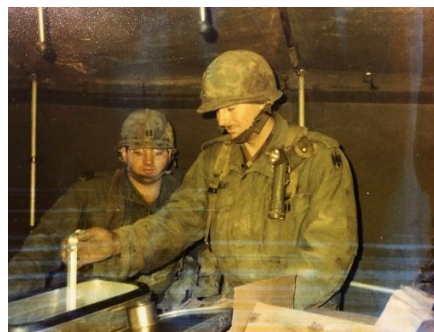
SFC Young receiving Award for the Best Mess Hall in the Brigade from LTC Swain, Battalion Commander 2-28FA

Who were your bosses and what do you remember about them?

Sergeant Spruill was my section chief. But all the cooks worked for SFC Young who was the Battalion Mess Sergeant. I believe SSG Spruill lives in Germany now and SFC Young has passed away, so I was told.



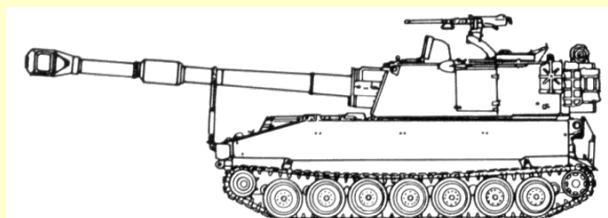
KPs (Kitchen Police) cleaning mess equipment at Graf



CPT Houston and C BTRY Cook at Graf

When you hear the word GRAF (Grafenwoehr), what do you think about?

At first I was like “ha” what the heck is that. Then the realization later sunk in. For a cook in GRAF it meant long hours and not just during the field mission. All of the gear had to be cleaned after our return to Bleidorn and that was many long days after our regular work day. Other memories from Grafenwoehr included marking our old camouflage band accented helmets with a tick mark identifying the number of Graf field problems.



What was your toughest time while you were assigned in the battalion?

The first 6 months of duty. As a CRUT you were always hounded by anyone E3 and above. In the mess hall there were many times you had to pull what was called the cleaning crew. That was deep cleaning of all Kitchen and Serving line. That was the toughest. There was the time when at GRAF the entire site was on lock down, due to a 155 firing off location. It was winter and very cold we were serving C-Rations (Not MRE's, they were not around yet). The cold was unbearable with no movement of any equipment on Base.

What did you like most about your time there?

Listening to the 155 shooting was awesome to a guy that had never seen Artillery of any kind. The other was making good friends that you knew had you back just as you had theirs. Going skiing in the Zugspitze being on some of the best sloops in the world.

What did you do after duty hours?

A lot of drinking beer, getting food off the Pizza man, playing racquetball or hacky sack and time at the swim bob downtown Ansbach.

Who is the person you most remember from your assignment?

I was fortunate to have many friends, but one I will never forget beside my room dog Nick Teerhar was Greg Muller. George Muller was not only a very caring person he was the most honest person I have ever had the pleasure to know. When departing Germany he drove me to the airport. After we entered through a special military gate and after showing my ID, I then sat my wallet down with my ID and a large sum of cash. To say I was hung over was an understatement. After leaving Germany without my wallet, he changed the cash into a cashiers check, and mailed it to my residence in Toledo, Ohio. I never got a chance to give a formal thank you, and to this day feel I owe him a thank you big time. It was cool having a higher ranking person hanging with us! Others remembered included Troy Shrum, Mark Mays, and PFC Almers.

Who had the greatest impact on your life from your time in the Battalion?

As for anyone of the 228 it was First Sergeant Salary and his honesty and integrity. For someone who had the rank that he had and not look down on you; he was truly a mentor. He used stern words but was soft spoken. I also want to thank CPT Houston for covering for me after I missed an alert about a month being in the unit. I was moved to a room with two cooks.

What was the funniest thing that you can remember from your days there?

We were in the field not sure if it was GRAF, Capstone, or what. SFC Young entered the cook trailer in need of some warm coffee and heat. I went up to him and instructed Sergeant Young he was walking around outside with his jacket not button properly. If any of you remember how big this man stood and his presence was just that big. But he was the kindest man I came to know. He smiled at me and burst out with this loud strong laugh. My room dog Nick took a picture of me showing he was out of uniform. I know there has to be a better one but this was really funny an E1 correcting an E7 on his dress code. I still have that picture.



Give us an overview (Marriage, Kids, Jobs, career, etc) of your life after leaving Bleidorn and 2-28?

My next duty station was 3/37 Military Intelligence Adjutant General Group Ft Stewart Georgia until June, 1985. Then with an Honorable discharge of active duty. My career change to a Tool & Die Apprentice. While completing my schooling I was married for the first time. Having worked as a tool and die maker then finding myself with a slight change entering into automotive manufacturing engineering. I worked my way through the ranks in engineering and management holding jobs of Quality Engineer, Quality Manager, Manufacturing Plant Manager, and Reliability Engineer. Accepting a position with Oshkosh Defense Marine Corp Contractor as theater site lead, stationed in Kuwait and Afghanistan at Camp Leatherneck, Bastion, and Kandahar. Having returned safely to my family. Taking a contract job programing CMM at John Deer Corp in Horicon Wisconsin. I now work as a skilled tradesmen Tool & Die in CMM specialist at FCA LLC USA Jeep Assembly campus in Toledo Ohio. What we do there is make jeep's both JL Wrangler, and the new JT Gladiator. I am now remarried to my loving wife of 12 year's now with 4 daughters and 3 granddaughters between us. We also have two dogs and two cats.

What would you like to see in our new Association?

An honor guard team with collar uniform and white gloves to attend and assist as pallbearers if requested by the family for all who have served within 228 that have been asked to attend the platoon guns in heaven



Glenda Taylor

**Spouse of Jerry Taylor of C Battery
Arizona**

Interviewed by Barbara Pollock

When were you in 2-28, what battery and what did your husband do? We were there from 1985 to 1989. My Husband was assigned to C Battery in a Howitzer Section

While assigned to 2/28 FA, what was your place of employment, volunteer service, etc
Worked at the Daycare Center, Cookie Shack, Mess Hall, Post Gym, and Youth Center Manager and volunteered with all Battery and Battalion functions and baked cakes for all the single guys for their birthday. I was the recipient of the Molly Pitcher Medal and Award

When you hear the word GRAF/Grafenwoehr, what do you think about?
Training for the guys. I knew what to expect. This was not a hard time for me at all. I actually loved it! We were married 10 years before the military.

What was your toughest time while you were assigned in the battalion?
No tough times! I Enjoyed it all!

What did you like most about your time in Germany?
Loved the Battalion, First Sergeant, loved my Ladies, made good friends.... everlasting friendships

What did you do for Rest and Relaxation?
Family time, helped the ladies, planned activities for the guys, and baked cakes for the single soldiers.

Who is the person you most remember from your assignment?
Andrea Silver my past supervisor, the Romero's, and my two ladies, Paula Johnson and Barbara Pollock

Who had the greatest impact on your life?
My Mom and Dad. They taught me how to treat people- the right way to walk in life. They taught me to do the right thing and brought me up in a Christian way.

What was the funniest thing that you can remember from your days in Ansbach, Germany

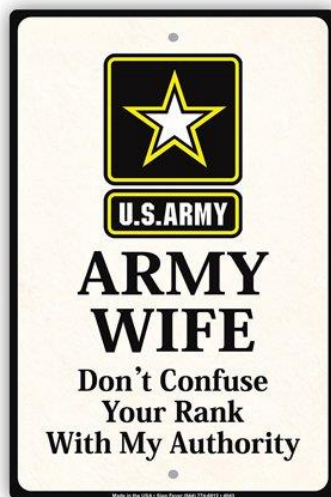
After one of our C Battery Halloween Parties, we were stopped by the Politzei. We were made to get out of the car and there I was in costume dressed like a baby in a diaper and Jerry was dressed like a woman! The Polizei even laughed!!!

Give us an overview (Marriage, Kids, Jobs, career, etc) of your life after leaving Bleidorn and 2-28?

We were stationed at Fort Ord, CA after Germany. There I was a Mayor for the military housing community where and ran the Stop and Swap Shop. I also was the last President for the NCO Wives Club, and as the Youth Service Manager, was instrumental in building a Youth Service Center from ground up! At Fort Ord I received Mayor of the year three times and Commanders Award for Volunteers. We have two daughters, two sons, 4 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren

What would you like to see in our new 28 FA Association?

Would like to see all soldiers remembered! Information put out to for soldiers needing assistance navigating their VA benefits, retirement benefits, VA Disability Compensation, etc





Why “GUNSHOT!”?

Tommy Houston “Acting” Historian

I was asked recently why the Association was using “GUNSHOT” as its motto because no one had ever heard that term used when they were in the unit in Germany. The reason it is a historical one which is why you are finding it here in the Historian's column written by me as the “acting” Association Historian.

Unit Mottos in the Army are a fairly undefined thing. Sometimes, they come from the unit crest, sometimes, from communications call signs, sometimes from historical occurrences, often it results simply from a “good idea” of a Commander at some point in time, and as time passes, the rationale is long forgotten. The commander left, but the motto remained.

Here are a couple of examples:

The US Army's 3rd Infantry Division has the motto “Rock of the Marne” which came about because of the unit's historic stand during World War I at the Battle of the Marne River. Soldiers in the 3ID salute and say “Rock of the Marne” as an example of Unit Pride.

In the famous 82nd Division, it has always been “AIRBORNE!” for obvious reason and when exchanging salutes, the response has always been “ALL THE WAY” which is the motto all paratroopers learn from their first day at Jump School.

In the 1st Cavalry Division, they use the Motto “FIRST TEAM” which was coined by the Commanding General, MG W.O. Kinnard of the 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile) during its deployment to Vietnam in 1965 as just something new and different to reflect the change of status of the Division from Cavalry to Air Mobile.



In the 1st Infantry Division Artillery the motto is “Drumfire”. This was the radio and telephone call sign for the unit during World War 2.

Ok, so now that you have found out there is really no big SOP in the sky for Battalion mottos. So, what all this about “GUNSHOT” and the 28th Field Artillery?

Before the Field Artillery was adopted into the US Army's Regimental System, Field Artillery Battalions were all unique and numbered differently, so when our unit was originally formed it was just the 28th Field Artillery Battalion. Just prior to World War 2 our Battalion was formed as part of the 8th Infantry Division Artillery.

Part of standing up the 8th Division was the selection of telephone and radio call signs. The numeric number of the Division needed to correspond to the number of the letter of the alphabet. Since it was the 8th Division, the 8th letter of the Alphabet is the letter “G”, the 8th Infantry became the “Golden Arrow” Division which was later changed to Pathfinder in the 50s because it was a good idea of a Commanding General which everyone has forgotten.

In 1939, when the Division was formed at Fort Jackson, every Brigade and Battalion in the 8th Division picked a call sign/motto that began with the letter G, so if you were on the radio and the other guy used a call sign that started with a “G” then you knew he was from the 8th Division. The 8th DIVARTY became “Grindstone” and the 28th, selected “GUNSHOT” because they were the first to get a vote. I think our battalion fared much better than the other ones in the DIVARTY who ended up with some really strange mottos/callsigns. The 45th FA was “Greenback”, 43rd FA was “Gopher” and 56th FA was “Goldenrod”. Think of going into combat and your call sign is “Goldenrod 6” or “Gopher 22”!

Why "GUNSHOT!"?

As all of us that are Artillerymen know, during the mission processing, the word "Shot" is given when the round leaves the tube. Over the radio it is announced "Shot Over". Back in World War 2 it was "Gunshot Over" followed by "On the way". These also became the motto of the 28th Field Artillery Battalion. A soldier would salute an officer of the Battalion and say, "GUNSHOT SIR" and the Officer would reply "On the way". For the 28th FA during WW2 this became part of the legend of our Battalion which was always referred to as "Gunshot". The infantry regiments always wanted fires from "Gunshot" to support their movement since they had the "Big Guns" of the 8th Division (155MM Towed).



1st Section B Battery 28th FA
on the move in France 1944



3 Cannoneers from B- Btry 28th FA on the Cover of
Life Magazine Dec 1944

After the war the Battalion was deactivated and did not reappear until the 1950s when it was a training division at Fort Jackson, however, the 28th FA continued to use the motto "Gunshot" until it was replaced in the 8th Division by the 1st BN 83rd FA in the late 1950s.

During our time with the 2-28 FA, the Battalion never really had a motto or call sign. Several attempts were made to use the motto from the unit crest "We Support the Line" but it just didn't have the flash to stick.



C Battery Orderly Room Sign 1983

Some of the Batteries had mottos over the years, "Bravo Bulldogs", "Charlie Steel", "Charlie Battalion", "We tow the line" and "We Support" (Service Battery) but nothing was ever routinely used for the Battalion motto.

To cap off this story, when we stood up the Association, we chose to go back in time to the last "official" Battalion motto....

"GUNSHOT SIR!"

Sick Call

We have been informed of the following Veterans and Family that are infirmed. Please contact the Chaplain if you know of any more. We wish to make sure they know we care.

Peter Volin-Numerous complications, Serious
Tommy Houston-Emergency abendectomy, OK

Honors to those that Have Passed On

There are other ways that the Association desires to honor our Veterans who have passed away but we need to know ASAP.

Please take a moment when you read this to remember these great friends, soldiers and Family members. They may be gone but not forgotten



Command Sergeant Major David Stewart
Battalion Headquarters



Krista Stewart
(Wife of CSM David Stewart)



First Sergeant "Sonny" Bumgardner
A Battery, Service Battery



Ann Salary
(Wife of First Sergeant Salary)



SFC John Spellman
B Battery



First Sergeant Ed Carmichael
Headquarters Battery



Barbara Ann Carmichael
(Wife of First Sergeant Ed Carmichael, HHB)



First Sergeant Russel Meinke
HHB and Service Battery



SFC Earl "Combread" Jones
C Battery and B Battery



Cathy Lange
(Wife of Maj Paul Lange, HHB)



Linda Smith
(Wife of SFC Bob Smith C Battery)



HOW WE CAN HELP

We understand how stressful and difficult the passing of a loved one can be. At our age, all of us have been through this at one time or another and in one capacity of another.

One of the goals of our Association is to make sure that, within our power and means, that every veteran of the unit is provided the proper honors upon their passing and to provide the surviving spouse with as much assistance as we can give. All of this is based on the desires of the family of course.

The rules and regulations of the Veterans Administration and the Department of Defense can be confusing. Also, when a death occurs, there is not a lot of time to go look for the information. Also, we have found some funeral homes are well familiar with the rules and regulations, whom you need to contact etc and some are not.

To help our members, the Association will appoint a duty officer from the board of directors to be available every 90 days to assist the family of the Veteran or Family member. The duty officer familiar with all the information that you need as well as having access to the resources of the Association. This support continues after the funeral.

Besides information to assist the family, we wish to provide honors to the Veteran, but much of what we can provide will be dependant on location and how many members can attend the services. As a minimum, the Association can provide someone for the Family to call and get information. However, depending on location and the availability of other veteran members, here are some examples of the services we can provide:

- Depending on how many veterans that can attend the services, provide fellow 28th FA veterans as pall bearers.

- Provide the Battalion Colors and appropriate guidon to be displayed at appropriate services. These will be shipped Fedex to a 28 FA member who is in the area who will be responsible for the display as well as returning the items to the Association.

- A "soldiers cross" consisting of a helmet, dummy rifle with Bayonet, boots and dog tags. These will also be shipped to a veteran member that is in the area and can attend the funeral who will be responsible for setting up the display and returning it to the Association.

- Depending on member availability a 28 FA member/vet who will represent the Association/Battalion and can speak of the member's service at the Service.

- The Association Chaplain will be available via phone to council and support

- Setting up a donation account through the Wounded Warriors foundation or a Veterans Charity of the families choice in the veterans honor.

- The least we will do is to ensure that the Veteran/Family Member is honored on our web site, newsletter and official association functions such as reunions.

The key to all of this is timing. Our Chaplain, Danny Marksberry is the Association's contact point for this type of support. Danny will connect the "duty officer" with the family so that we can render our offer of assistance. Make sure that the family knows to contact Danny if there is a death or serious illness occurs to a Veteran member or family member. Danny will get the word out to the appropriate people. **But it is imperative that we know about this situation as soon as possible!**

To provide you with an idea of how the Association can assist, below is a check list that is used by our Bereivement Duty Officer once we are notified of the passing of one of our members:

Casualty Officer Check list for death of member of 28 th FAR
Association

- Receive death notification.
- Get as much information as possible, ie. obituary, widow/next of kin information, date of funeral and where and when it will be held.
- Determine if the deceased member is a retiree. (if so, see below)
- Disseminate to membership via email of the death including obituary if available. (Time is of the essence)
- Determine if any members are in the area that could possibly attend the funeral or other events. Contact those members to see if they can/will attend
- Contact the family and ask if they would like our help. If so, help any way needed
- Ask the family if it has the veteran's DD214, (Discharge Form). If not, and a replacement is needed, have them call 1-866-272-6272
- Ask the family if the veteran desires to be buried in his uniform. Have them send you a picture of the uniform and check to see if it is put together properly.
- Contact Treasurer or CAO to authorize flowers from the association, if enough lead time, if not find out which veterans organization they desire to receive the donation by the Association in the Veterans name.
- If a military headstone is wanted have the family inform the funeral director and the funeral home can the arrangements with the VA.
- If the service member is a retired Army veteran, in addition to the above do the following:
- Inform the family to make sure the survivor stops the retired pay. To report a retiree's death call 1-888-332-7411.
- Inform the Family that if the retiree is receiving disability compensation call 1-1-844-698-2311.
- If another member is attending the services, ask the widow/next of kin if they want to have a memorial at the funeral such as a soldier cross (helmet boots, fake weapon with bayonet and dog tags) to put in front of the funeral. Also if they would like the appropriate Battery Guidon present.
- If this is desired by the family, coordinate with another member that will be attending the services. Make sure they are OK with receiving "the kit" and setting it up.
- If this is acceptable to the family and the members attending, contact the Quartermaster to have the "kit" sent to a member attendign the service.
- Contact President of the Association to send a letter of condolence to the family.
- After the Services, Contact the members that did attend and find out how things went.
- Provide a copy of the obituary to the Webmaster and Newsletter editor.

(HHB includes the Battalion Staff)

Total Membership: 40



9



2



2



15



2

Corproate Donations (Donations of \$1000 or Greater)

Diamond H Timber



Together in Hope



Brick Purchases

TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT EDITION

Individual Donations \$500 or Greater

Base Piece Donations \$500 or Greater

Tommy Houston

Flank Piece Donations < \$500

-John Donahue

-John "the box" Williams

Others

We want to hear from you!! We want to hear you ideas and suggestions!

Contact Information for the Board of Directors

President and Chairman of the Board: Tommy Houston President@28fara.org

1st Vice President/XO: Bill Dunham 1stVP@28fara.org

2nd Vice President/OPS: Tim Gorrell 2ndVP@28fara.org

Treasurer: Ralph Ripley Treasurer@28fara.org

Secretary: Barbara Pollock Secretary@28fara.org

Sr NCO Board at Large: Charles (Top) Moretz SrNCO@28fara.org

Enlisted Board at Large and Webmaster: George Hardin Enlisted1@28fara.org and

Enlisted Board at Large: Dave Davenport Enlisted2@28fara.org.

Veterans Affairs Officer: Frank Phillips Francis.Phillips2@va.gov

Chief Information Officer, Special Assistant: Dave Dehenel CIO@28fara.org



With each Edition of the Newsletter we want to share pictures from some our previous reunions. This time it is our most recent reunion in New Orleans in 2018



“Smoke” Donaldson and Tommy Thornton best friends get reacquainted after 34 years



Some “Charlie Battalion” vets gather



Wayne “Smoke” Donaldson receiving the Order of Saint Barbara with Olivia Donaldson





Breakfast Cajun Style



Crawfish and Beer!



Ray McFalls (Representing the Cav)
and Tommy Thornton



Harry Broadus describes how he penetrated the 1K Zone



Now when I was a Gun Chief!



Were we ever that young?



Mess Call for Cantu



Firing Battery Meeting 30 years Later



**STAY TUNED!!!
NEXT NEWSLETTER TARGET DATE
IS DECEMBER 24th!!!**