

INCOMING

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE 3RD BATTALION
15TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT TOWED
FT MCCLELLAN AND ANNISTON AL

Christmas
Edition

VOL. 10

NUMBER 2

1 DEC 2023

3rd BATTALION



121st US ARMY RESERVE COMMAND

HHB & SVC BTRY
FT. MCCLELLAN

"B" BTRY
TALLADEGA

"A" BTRY
CULLMAN

"C" BTRY
GADSDEN

Commanders Corner

Enjoy the Christmas Edition of the Incoming. As in past issues, it includes both current news and stories from our past. Current news includes our upcoming Reunion 9 December at the VFW in Cullman. So far we have 68 former members plus 45 guests coming to enjoy catered barbecue and good times. In past news, enjoy the story of the Battalion's actions in WWII.

Before we get started we the BC's along with our Family's would like to wish each and every member of the Battalion and your family's a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



From the 11 December 1977 edition of The Cannoneer, which for some reason, they dated it 1978.

The CSM's Corner

To all of the members of the 3rd Battalion Fifteenth Field Artillery Regiment, and there families, a very happy and safe Holliday session, as this year comes to a close, let us not forget the men, and women that will not be home with there families, and take a minute to say a prayer, and give praise to the men and women, that gave all, so we may enjoy the freedoms we now have, and to remember those Red Leg brothers that are no longer with us, but we're a vital part of this Battalions success.

In closing may God bless, and keep you and your families safe. MERRY CHRISTMAS, and a very HAPPY NEW YEAR.!!!

CSM Don Peak (USAR RET)



In Memoriam

UPDATE 55—1 December 2023

Remembering our fellow Red Leg Brothers from the Battalion who have passed on please feel free to add as these are the ones I know of:

CSM Bill McCain – 3rd CSM	Operations
SVC BTY & BN HQ	SFC Larry J Smith – SVC BTY FT Supply
CSM Joe Sparks – 2nd BN CSM	CPT Gary Gilliland – A BTY CDR
B BTY and BN HQ	CPT Robert Swindell – HHB CESO
COL Toby Craft – 4th BN CDR	SFC Paul E McWilliams – BN LNO Section
MSG Ken Badgett – UA SVC BTY and Last BN Acting CSM	CW4 Laverne Kinney – SVC BTY FTM BN Motor Officer
CW2 Ned Sims – BN Maintenance SVC BTY	SSG Maceo Williams – C BTY
MAJ Don Burns – S3 Section FTM	SGT Wayne Norris – C BTY
SFC Gerald Wallace – UA HHB	SGT Red Oliver – BN Wire Section
COL Ray White – 6th BN CD	SPC Vincent F Elston – BN Maintenance
CW2 Charles Clements – BN Supply FTM	SFC John Schwaiger – A BTY
COL Milton Wigley – 3rd BN CDR	SFC Gregory Oliver
MSG Elwin Johnson – BN Survey	1SG Joseph M Owens Sr – C BTY's first 1SG
SSG James Welch – Gun Chief B BTY	MSG Franklin Newkirk – C BTY
COL Phillip Holladay – First BN CDR	SSG Nathaniel Powell – B BTY
SSG Lewis Wyatt – BN Commo	MSG Gary E Davis – A BTY
SGT Joe Long – B BTY	SFC Jim Morris – B BTY
SFC Sam Jones – B BTY	SSG Carbon Todd – A BTY
CPL Nelson White – B BTY	SPC Paul D Schwaiger – A BTY
1SG Huber Wright – SVC BTY	SGT Terry Carr – B BTY
SFC Curtis Griffin – BN Supply FTM	1LT Calvin Gildersleeve – HHB
SGT Jackie Nails – A BTY	MSG Mark McClendon – A BTY
SGT Roger Weaver – A BTY	SSG Sylvester Martin – HHB
SGT Marvis Lott – A BTY	CSM Ed Weatherford – HHB
SFC Robert Gaither – B BTY	CPT John Hecker – B BTY
SPC Ronnie Aldridge – A BTY	SP4 Mark Hoff – HHB
CPT Donald Roberson – First A BTY CDR	MSG Joel J Herron – S-3 Section FTM
SGT Merv Turner – A BTY	SSA/CW3 Oliver L Denson BN SSA
MSG Billy Colyer – HHB BN	

Previous Editions of the Battalion Newsletters, the Cannoneer and Incoming

December 11, 1977

THE CANNONEER

Page 2

RE-ENLISTMENTS

It is good to announce the re-enlistments of the following:

SST Foreman - 2 years
SSS Garrett - 5 years
SP5 Digby - 5 years
SPC Pratt - 1 year
SSC Sanford - 1 year
SGT Wilson, S. - 1 year

RECRUIT! RECRUIT! RECRUIT! RECRUIT!

The battalion watchword remains RECRUIT! We are the unit with the greatest potential in this area, offering a lot to any qualified individual willing to give something of himself in the Reserves. Tell your friends about this opportunity; you will be a better friend by doing so.

C BATTERY DRILLS AS UNIT

Another milestone symbolizing the growth of the battalion was reached during the December drill when C Battery was able to conduct their training in Cadisden for the first time. Joining some assets with 310 Chemical Co, they drilled in the AR Center on Chestnut Street.

TRAINING TAKING A NEW TURN

In keeping with new strength capabilities and battalion policy, the primary resources and responsibility for training have been shifting from battalion to the batteries. The battalion S-3 will be assuming more and more a supportive role, making it possible for personnel in the batteries to use their own expertise to train where people work—the batteries themselves.

MEET OUR B. C.'s. . .

The spotlight on our Battery Commanders this issue is on CPT Gregory M. Moore, Commander of C Battery in Cadisden. CPT Moore is a native of Hagerstown, Maryland, but he came further south to receive a B.S.C.E. degree from The Citadel in Charleston, S. C., where he also obtained his commission in the army.

He served on active duty at Fts. Benning, Jackson and Belvoir and also a tour in Viet Nam. Released from active duty on 4 July 77, he joined this battalion in September.

Mrs. Moore is the former Carol Ricker, and sons Douglas, 7, and Jeffrey, 2, round out the household.

In civilian life, CPT Moore works at the Post Engineer office, Fort McClellan.

December 11, 1977

FORTHCOMING DRILL DATES

"It pays to go to meetings."

January 7 - 8, 1978
7:20 a. m.

February 11 - 12, 1978
6:50 a. m.
(Overnight)

March 11 - 12, 1978
7:20 a. m.

"See you there."

December 11, 1977

THE CANNONEER

Page 4

WELCOME!

We are happy to report that the battalion has received quite a few new members since THE CANNONEER was published last time. We welcome all these new men to the "Third Herd":

SP4 Bates, C; SP4 Young, C; SP5 Ashley, B; SP4 Chapman, B; SP4 Garrett, B; SP4 Hayes, B; SP4 Lowe, SVC; SP4 Bullock, SVC; SP4 Fair, HNB; SP4 Brincat, HNB; SP4 Little, HNB; SP4 Hanson, HNB; SGT Durhan, SVC; SP5 Perkins, C; PVT Schlosser, A; SP5 Smith, W., C; PFC Coleman, SVC; SGT Heaton, A; SP4 Davis, B; SGT Montgomery, B; PVT Weeks, C; SGT McGatha, C.

A - SSG Barton
SSG Cofer
SSG Hays
SGT McKenzie
SGT Buchanan
B - SP4 Lackey
PVT Roseman
PVT Ehison
C - PFC Kennedy

NEW AST in TALLADEGA

The B Battery in Talladega has been fortunate enough to hire SSG Ronald Dison as the Administration and Supply Technician. The lack of an individual in that job has been a substantial handicap to the battery, but it is certain that the wait may have been worthwhile in order to secure such a conscientious man there.

SSG Dison was one of the first to join this battalion when it moved to Alabama, and he has seen it grow from the 12-15 per formation to the present strength.

Both Ron and B Battery are to be congratulated for getting this act together.

The office for B Battery is in the shopping center, phone 362-1361.

PROMOTIONS

The battalion has continued to gain in rank because of the steady promotions of individuals who have met the qualifications. We congratulate the following individuals for their recent promotion to the grade indicated:

HNB - SFC Stepleton
SSS N. Warren
SGT S. Wilson
SGT Norton
SVC - CPT Chalker
SFC Griffin

Fifteenth Field Artillery

World War Two

On 10 October 1940, the 15th Field Artillery (FA) Regiment was reorganized at Fort Sam Houston, TX, as the 15th FA Battalion (BN). The 15th FA BN was ordered to Camp McCoy, WI, on 16 October 1942, for intensive training with the 2nd Infantry Division.



A Battery, 15th FA Battalion, Second Infantry Division Camp McCoy near LaCrosse, Wisconsin. This photo was taken just before A Battery shipped to Ireland in October 1943.

“The artillery units at Camp McCoy were the 15th FA BN, the 37th FA BN, and the 12th FA BN. Each unit was assigned to support a regiment of the infantry- the 15th was assigned to the 9th Infantry Regiment.

Other infantry regiments were the 23rd and 38th. I was forward observer and was always attached to ‘A’ Company of the 9th and called artillery fire for the point company of each attack.”

“On Dec. 7, 1941, the 2nd Division units were on maneuvers at Ft. Sill, Okla. With the news from Pearl Harbor, the division packed up and made a forced march back to Ft. Sam Houston, TX. We stayed there for several months while we were given all new equipment, trucks, guns, uniforms, etc. We traded the old Dodge half-tons for 2-1/2 ton GMCs to pull the new 105 howitzers which replaced the French 75s.

The division then went by truck to Camp McCoy, Wis., where we were first to occupy the structures there. We were trained on the new howitzers and then marched to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to learn to ski and use snow shoes. It was cold there. One week it was 52 below zero at night, with daytime highs about 22 below. We had the clothes and equipment to withstand that weather comfortably. I remember one night I climbed into sleeping bag with clothes on and tried to sleep on a bench in the back of a truck. I pulled pants down over my feet. It was still too cold so I tumbled to floor. I was still freezing, so I tumbled over the tailgate into the snow. I warmed up

immediately and fell asleep. We returned to Camp McCoy in the spring and awaited shipment to Belfast, Ireland.”



*Photo of Virgil Smith FO attached to
A Company 9th INF REG The Manchus*



*9th Infantry
Regiment Coat
of Arms*



*9th Infantry
Regiment
Distinguished
Unit Insignia*

Movement overseas came on 8 October 1943, when the 15th FA Bn sailed from New York onboard the SS Hawaiian Shipper for Belfast, Northern Ireland, where it trained for several months. Embarkation for Porthcawl, Wales, followed on 17 April, 1944. As part of the 9th Regimental Combat Team (9th Infantry Regiment & 15th FA BN), the 15th FA BN landed at Omaha Beach near St. Laurent-Sur-Mer, France, on D Day +1 (7 June 1944). The 15th FA Bn fought for 73 straight days in support of the 9th INF REG 2nd Infantry Division throughout Normandy without a break. Their first break in the combat action came on 19 August 1944, when the 15th FA BN was ordered to move 220 miles and occupy firing positions for the battle against the German fortress at Brest, France. The battle that ensued was bloody and hard fought by all elements of the 2nd Infantry Division including the 15th

FA BN. On 26 September 1944, five officers and 42 enlisted men of the 15th FA BN were presented Bronze Star Medals, by the Division Commander, for their actions since D Day +1

Following this, a 770 mile road march began on 27 September 1944 and carried the 15th FA BN to Schoenberg, Belgium. By 4 October 1944, the 15th FA BN crossed into Germany and opened fire on elements of both the 2nd and 3rd SS Panzer Grenadier Divisions. On 17 December 1944, the 15th FA BN fought as an integral part of the 2nd Infantry Division's attack on the Siegfried Line near Elsenborn and Lausdell Crossroads. By 1 February 1945, the area known as Heartbreak Crossroads was taken after a multi-divisional battle.

On 21 March 1945, the 15th FA Bn crossed the Rhine River into Germany on a pontoon bridge near Remagen, and took up firing positions near the town of Leutesdorf. After several heavy engagements, the 15th FA Bn moved to new firing positions at the town of Vaake, near the Weser River, arriving there on 7 April 1945. Throughout the remainder of April 1945, the 15th FA Bn moved many times and even had to engage the enemy with direct fire from its howitzers. By 5 May 1945, the 2nd Infantry Division moved into Czechoslovakia along with the 15th FA Bn. The war was officially over on 8 May 1945.

As their contribution to help defeat the Nazi's and to win WW-II, the 15th FA BN was in combat for 336 days and fired 151,000 rounds while providing direct fire support to the 9th INF REG 2nd Infantry Division and general support to several other divisions. For their efforts and sacrifices the 15th FA BN was awarded streamers for five major campaigns during WW-II including: Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; and Central Europe.

Additionally, the 15th FA Bn was awarded the Belgian Fourragere, and was cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for extraordinary combat action in the Battle of the Ardennes and Elsenborn Crest. Individual decorations awarded to members of the 15th FA BN during WW-II included: 6 Silver Star Medals; 91 Bronze Star Medals for Gallantry; 83 Bronze Star Medals for Meritorious Service; 20 Air Medals; and 170 Purple Hearts.

All of the honors earned by the 15th FA Bn and its members during WW-II did not come cheaply as twenty-nine (29) members of the 15th FA BN were killed in action.

The Indianheads of the Fighting Fifteenth had paid their dues - Again!

Reunion Information

Battalion Reunion Cullman 2023

Location VFW - 112 Veteran Dr., Cullman AL 35055

Date 9 December 2023

Time 1200-1600

- The Cost is \$10 per person at the door. Wives and Significant Others are also Welcome!
- RSVP by 1 November 2023 to following:
Email: johnhoehnesr@gmail.com
Text: 210-249-1818
IM me thru Messenger
- The Reunion Meal will be supplied by Johnny's BBQ consisting of pork and chicken along with three sides bread, and dessert banana pudding.
- Johnny's will deliver, setup, serve and clean up supplying the plates napkins and utensils. If you wish to bring other items to drink of your choice you may do so.
- Dress Code is Casual
- Battalion Colors and St Barbara will be present. St Barbara Medal is Authorized. Battalion Coin will be presented to those who were unable to attend the Dec 2022 Reunion.
- The Banner from the December 2022 Reunion will be there for those who wish to sign it.
- Professional Photographer will be on site taking Cullman Reunion 2023 photos. All photos will be available to all Battalion Members at no cost.
- There will be a 6 Gun Battery present again along with some additional one of a kind items for those who attend.
- BG Inge Waddle have been invited and will be attending.
- There will be a BN briefing regarding the status of the Presidential Unit Citation Upgrade and future Reunion dates and locations.

Future Reunion Locations

Cullman 9 December 2023 at the VFW 1200-1600 hrs

Anniston December 2024 is the 30th Year since Inactivation

Gadsden December 2025

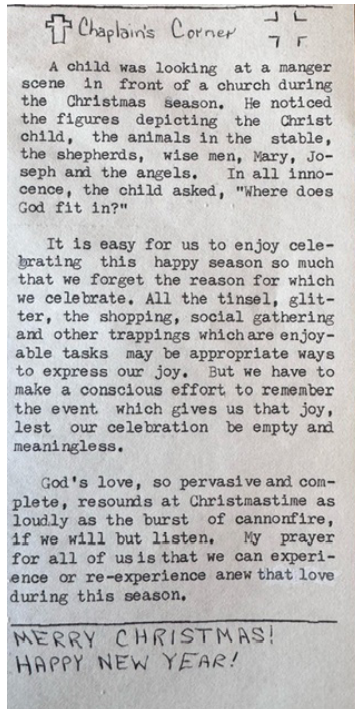
Talladega December 2026

Cullman December 2027

Exact details yet to be worked out such as venue and date.

Chaplain's Corner with Chaplain Wes Hodgins

From the December 1977 by Chaplain Tony Gunter



Christmas 2023

Christmas is the celebration of the Coming of Jesus into the world; but what is that to you? Our culture has cast a “London-Fog” over the celebration of Jesus’ coming, obscuring its method and purpose.

The Bible SEZ: 1. He would be the “seed of the woman”, not naturally generated by Adam.(Gen. 3:15) 2. He would be “Born of a virgin”. (Isa. 7:14) 3. He shall be called “the Mighty-God,” the “Prince of Peace” (Isa. 9:6) 4. He would lay down His life to atone for the sin of Man. (Isa. 53:4-5) 5 He was declared to be: “The Lamb of God Who takes-away the sin of the World”. (Jn. 1:29) 6. Jesus laid down his life and then took it up again, rising from the grave on the third day.

(Matt. 20:18-19) 7. Jesus will come again one day to receive to Himself all who put their trust in Him; (Jn. 14:1-6) those who reject him will find Him to be their judge. (Rev. 20:11-15) This year endeavor to celebrate Christmas as the coming of Light into the world; that Light which lights every man and brings the hope of eternal life to all who will believe in Him. (Jn. 1:1-12)

Blessings, Chaplain Hodgins



*Left to Right: LTC Hoehne and
CSM Adrian Reynolds*

*Bravo Battery Bulls
Left to Right:
MSG Danny Warwick,
CPT Mike Roseman,
1SG Jerry Montgomery*



*Alpha Battery Left to Right:
MAJ Clois Boozer,
LTC Mike Long,
1SG John Miller*

LTC John A Hoehne Sr
9773 Blue Spring Rd
Megersburg PA 17236

