

INCOMING

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

*Christmas
Edition*

VOL. 12

NUMBER 4

1 DECEMBER 2025

3rd BATTALION



121st US ARMY RESERVE COMMAND

HHB & SVC BTRY
FT. MCCLELLAN

"A" BTRY
CULLMAN

"B" BTRY
TALLADEGA

"C" BTRY
GADSDEN

Commander's Corner

The Christmas Season has arrived and with that our 4th Annual Reunion is just about to happen as well. This is traditionally the time of year when the Battalion would hold the St Barbara Dining Out and we are trying to keep our traditions alive even though we are no longer an Active USAR FA Battalion. The Reunion Invitations were updated with coloring enhancement to reflect the colors used on our Unit Crest plus the front page of the Reunion Program and Incoming now show our Battalion Colors plus inside color edging reflecting from our Unit Crest as well.

Looking to the future we are going to keep the Reunion in Gadsden at the Venue as the cost is reasonable the service is outstanding plus the catering service we have contracted with are more than willing to help support you the Veterans of the 3rd Battalion. We have tried to keep the distance traveled as balanced as possible and this seems to be the most ideal location. The ease of entry plus everything being on one floor also makes it easier for those who need that assistance.

Next year will mark our 5th year Reunion Anniversary and our 6th year bringing the Battalion back to life with our Facebook page, our newsletter the Incoming and along with our yearly reunions, accounting for 905 former members, a mailing list that has expanded to 188 and all this happens because of you the Red Legs of the 3rd Battalion 15th FAR.

In a continuing effort to promote the 3rd Battalion I would also like to Welcome members of the 1st BN SGT Michael Joseph along with 7th BN MAJ Clarence Mathis. They have also been invited to attend our Reunion. Looking at the bigger picture, we are all part of the 15th FAR and any former members are always welcome to attend.

Thanks to SFC Wendell Gibson for contributing a series of articles from his beginning in the Battalion to his last days due to the Inactivation, to SSG Denver Woods for sharing his photos from the early years, to SFC Tim Powell for his photo AT-82 No Smoking Sign, to MSG Don Vardaman's Acting 1SG story, to COL Ron Funderburk for his article about early years trying to get everyone trained to FA Standards and to COL Mike Ashley for his story in this edition. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and I always look forward to reading them.

The January 2026 Incoming will have a full accounting for all funds plus our plans for the future. It will also include the two significant announcements from the Reunion

Stephanie and I Thank each and every one of you for helping to make all this possible because you are the ones who make all this worth it.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Red Legs and to your families.

Allons
John Hoehne
LTC (R) FA
Last Commander



The CSM's Corner

Hello and Christmas Greetings to all members and families of the 3rd Battalion 15th Field Artillery Regiment. We're close to finishing another year and most of us have dealt with things both good and bad. I look forward to remembering all the good things and celebrating at our 4th Reunion with my Red Leg Brothers. I'm proud of what we accomplished as a Battalion, and proud of what we are accomplishing today - keeping our bonds tight through this Reunion and the news and communication that flies around us all year. The Holidays are about enjoying families, sharing with those who may be struggling this year and watching the joy in kids' faces as we follow our traditions. It's about looking to the coming year and how we can take best care of ourselves, our families and friends. Toys for Tots and other charities are all around to help people celebrate the Season, and we will have a Donation Box at the Reunion, which will help fund future Reunions for all of us.

In closing, may God bless and keep you all safe this Holiday Season. MERRY CHRISTMAS and a very Happy New Year.

Thank each and everyone of you
Donald Peak CSM (Ret)
3rd BN 15th FAR



SVC Battery 1937 Ft. Sam Houston Christmas Meal

Weapon Systems of the 3rd Battalion from 1957 to 1994

Looking back over the entire history of the 3rd Battalion from its Activation in 1957 to its Inactivation in 1994 the Battalion has had quite a diverse history when it comes to its weapon systems.

Starting in 1957 the 3rd Battalion started as a Composite Battalion M114 and M2/A2's Towed. Then with a change to the MTOE in 1960 it allowed the Battalion to stay as a Towed Composite.

When you jump to 1963 there is another MTOE change this time making the Battalion a M108 SP 105mm.

Along comes 1968 and yet another MTOE change for the Battalion again this time to M101/M101A1 105mm Towed.

Fast forward to 1971 for yet another MTOE change which brings the Battalion back to the SP family with the M109 155mm.

And the the most significant change occurs in 1976 when yet another MTOE change came along with a Permanent relocation to Alabama as a M114A1 Battalion. Then 10 years later in 1986 the weapon system change came in the form of the M198 which resulted in a MTOE change. After this point there were no weapon system changes just some adjustments to the MTOE.

Appeared in the Red Stone Rocket dated 15 October 2025

Throughout our country's military history many units have stood the test of time defending our freedoms and way of life. Among those were the Field Artillery units putting "steel on target" while supporting maneuver forces.

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment has a long and storied history. Originally organized in 1916, in Syracuse, NY, the "Fighting Fifteenth" was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division. The Regiment saw action in WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and OIF/OEF for a total of 44 major campaigns.

The 3rd Battalion 15th Artillery was initially designated Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion on 20 June 1957. In March 1959, the unit was redesignated and assigned to the 79th Infantry Division (an Infantry formation of the USAR in WWI and WWII). In 1963 the 3-15 FA was assigned to the 157th Infantry Brigade in Chester, PA. In July 1976 the Battalion was moved to Ft. McClellan, AL and later moved to a new Army Reserve Center in Anniston, AL. Firing batteries were in Cullman, Gadsden, and Lincoln. The unit was inactivated on 15 September 1994.

The 3-15 was originally equipped with the M114A1, affectionately called the "pig". Those were later replaced with the M198. Both weapons systems were 155 mm howitzers. During its 17-year history in Alabama, the Battalion continued the proud heritage of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment. Throughout those years the unit performed its mission well having trained thousands of artillerymen. With a required

strength of 480 men, and millions of dollars in authorized equipment the unit was always ready to perform its mission. In those 17 years the unit fired 73, 600 rounds. In 1992, during a Standardized External Evaluation (SEE), the Battalion scored 96% overall with 100% in gunnery.

Force restructuring requirements indicated that within the Reserve Component, Combat Arms Units would be moved from the US Army Reserve to the Army National Guard. The 3d Bn 15th FA responded to that “mission” with the same sense of urgency that was SOP for the unit. Leadership worked tirelessly to find every unit member a new assignment if wanted. Everyone had a new assignment by the time of inactivation.

A new Fire Mission! In 2021, LTC (R) John Hoehne, who served as the last Battalion Commander, thought it was important that former members of the 3-15 should have an opportunity to reconnect. The camaraderie of the men was always a key characteristic of our success and it was time to rekindle those friendships. John Hoehne, known for his “make things happen” attitude, was fully prepared for another great task. To that end, several programs have been initiated by John with the assistance of many former unit members. First Sergeants, Drivers, Ammo haulers, Command Sergeant Majors, Operations Officers, Battery Commanders, Battalion Commanders, and Mess Sergeants have all pitched in to bring life and esprit-de-corps back to the unit.

Included in the revitalization of the 3-15 are 1) A Facebook page has been established with 124 readers; 2) Printing of a newsletter, the Incoming, which has more than 20 pages of related information, stories, etc. There is even a Commander’s Corner. A CSM’s Corner and words of encouragement from the Chaplain. Also included are copies of the early-on newsletters, the Cannoneer. And of course publications have to have pictures of some famous and perhaps infamous events! In December 2025, we will host our fourth annual reunion. It is a real treat to see so many old friends. And of course, the event includes banners, and flags and celebratory cakes and awards and recognitions. Oh yes, great “chow” as well. All former members of the 3rd Bn 15th FA are welcome as well as any former or current members of any of the other 15th Regimental battalions. Attendance has averaged about 70 members and 30 guests. To date, 900 of the unit’s soldiers have been identified/located.

This new group is called the 3rd Battalion 15th Field Artillery Regiment Association and is a registered 501(c) (3) entity with the Internal Revenue Service. The Association’s focus is on education, history, tradition, with an emphasis on our Red Leg heritage.

Currently the Association is developing a website to enhance communication and bolster our connection to the “King of Battle”.

Allons (Let’s Go!)

COL (R) Ray Zimmerman

3rd BN 15th FAR

The Cannoneer

14 October 1978

<h1>THE CANNONEER</h1>											
VOL 1 No 9	34BN 15th FIELD ARTILLERY										
14 OCT 1978											
FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDER'S DESK											
<p>Our Battalion is now at 61% of its authorized strength. I appreciate your efforts in this regard and urge you to continue giving recruiting some very special attention. Throughout this battalion we are also concerned with retention. It is absolutely imperative that we retain a higher percentage of people that we get in the unit. Our training must be challenging and our policies must be fair if we are going to attain this goal. I am very much concerned about drill attendance and reporting on time for the first formation each morning. I urge each battery commander to make every effort possible to contact each soldier who is absent from a single drill. Further I remind each member of this Battalion that our first formation is normally at 0720 hrs and I expect everyone to be present at that time. We have to many people coming in a "FIVE MINUTES LATE".</p> <p>I also noticed lately that we have become somewhat lax in our attention to suspense dates. We must give this item some special attention and correct immediately.</p> <p>Overall I think training is going very well. I request that you begin now preparing for our Nov drill which is a field exercise. Our field exercises have been improving lately and I hope that during NOV we will have the best one yet.</p> <p>LTC HOLLADAY</p>	<p>S-3/OPNS (cont)</p> <p>THE PT test and driver training are scheduled in April 1979.</p> <p>Training is a leadership responsibility but I appeal to each individual in the battalion to take advantage of the training offered. Your operations sections, commander, and training NCO spend many hours in preparation and planning, all of which is meaningless if you the individual do not participate and do the job for which you are being paid. I assure you that every effort is being made to train you in your MOS, but you must take individual pride in yourself and your unit and strive to become the best trained soldier you are capable of becoming. Special coordination with the USAR School in Huntsville has resulted in a 13E USAR School class scheduled to begin in Dec at the Gadsden Reserve Center for all 13E personnel who are not qualified. This school will be taught by CPT Zimmerman who is from Huntsville. He is an Artillery Officer and formally the PBO in a towed 105mm Battery. The program of instruction will be self-paced and integrated into our FTX's. Efforts have begun to secure FADAC AND TACFIRE training during this course of instruction but no confirmation has been made as yet.</p> <p>ARTILLERYMAN---- continue to strive towards the high standards of professionalism that make up the field artillery corps and we will continue to make training more realistic and educational.</p> <p>CPT DONALD JOHNSON</p>										
<p>S-3/OPNS</p> <p>The new training year is just beginning and I am hopeful that each of you will get off to a good start. Training this year will be different in that preparation and planning will be done at battery level with emphasis placed on individual and section level training utilizing the soldiers manuals and RTEP. Field training exercises are scheduled for November, February, May and September with weapons qualification in June.</p>	<p>IG INSPECTION DATES</p> <table><tbody><tr><td>BATTERY A-----</td><td>26 Jan 79 -</td></tr><tr><td>BATTERY B-----</td><td>14 Feb 79 -</td></tr><tr><td>SVC BTRY -----</td><td>16 Feb 79</td></tr><tr><td>BATTERY C-----</td><td>21 Feb 79</td></tr><tr><td>HEAD -----</td><td>22 Feb 79</td></tr></tbody></table>	BATTERY A-----	26 Jan 79 -	BATTERY B-----	14 Feb 79 -	SVC BTRY -----	16 Feb 79	BATTERY C-----	21 Feb 79	HEAD -----	22 Feb 79
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BATTALION PROMOTIONS

THE BENEFITS OF HARD WORK HAVE BEEN REALIZED BY THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN RECENTLY PROMOTED: - CONGRATULATIONS TO:

COY L. BUNNANNAN	TO SSG	STRY A
KENT H. COOPER	TO SSG	STRY A
GARY W. FORTENBERRY	TO SSG	STRY C
OLLIS FURMAN JR	TO SSG	HHS
DANNY R. KILPATRICK	TO SGT	STRY A
TOMMIE L. WHITSON	TO SP5	STRY B
JOHN MILLER	TO SFC	STRY A
BILLY HARRIS	TO SFC	SVC

NEW ARRIVALS FOR BATTALION MEMBERS

MSG AND MRS JAMES BROCK PROUDLY ANNOUNCE THE BIRTH OF AN 8LB 6 OZ BOY ON AUGUST 16, 1978. HIS NAME IS STEPHEN J. BROCK.

CPT AND MRS JOSEPH MEHLER ARE EQUALLY PROUD OF THEIR NEW BABY DAUGHTER WHO WAS BORN ON JULY 7, 1978. SHE IS NAMED LESLIE BROOK AND WEIGHED IN AT 8LB 10 OZ.

WE ARE PLEASED TO HEAR THAT BOTH MOTHER AND CHILDREN ARE DOING FINE. THE FATHERS ARE PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY ALSO.

NEW OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS

THE BATTALION WELCOMES CPT DONALD BURNS AND 1LT HARRY NICHOLS JR. CPT BURNS IS ASSIGNED AS THE BATTALION G-E STAFF OFFICER. HE IS MARRIED AND RESIDES IN ANNISTON. HE IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED WITH JOHN STEWART REAL ESTATE. 1LT NICHOLS IS ASSIGNED AS THE RECON-SURVEY OFFICER. HE IS MARRIED AND LIVES IN JACKSONVILLE, AL. HE IS EMPLOYED AS PERSONNEL MANAGER FOR DIESSER INC. OF ANNISTON, AL.

FINAL FOLLOW UP ON ACCIDENT IN MESS HALL

"THANK GOODNESS"

SUMMER CAMP IS BEHIND US AND MANY LESSONS WERE LEARNED. GAS, FIRE AND PRESSURE ARE NEVER MIXED. SP4 GENE FOSTER IS DOING FINE. HE HELPED COOK OUR MEAL THIS DRILL. WE ALL ARE VERY THANKFUL THAT HIS INJURY WAS NO MORE SERIOUS THAN IT WAS.

OFFICER REASSIGNMENTS

CPT ROBERT P. LOVELADY FORMERLY THE BATTALION LIAISON OFFICER HAS BEEN ASSIGNED AS THE NEW COMMANDER OF BATTERY C, GADSDEN, AL EFFECTIVE 1 SEPTEMBER 1978. CPT LOVELADY IS A FIELD ARTILLERY OFFICER AND HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS ASSET TO THIS UNIT. WE WISH HIM SUCCESS IN HIS NEW COMMAND ASSIGNMENT.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNERDRILL DATES

NOVEMBER 1978 (LIVEFIRE)	14 & 15
"COME PREPARED TO STAY OVERNIGHT IN THE FIELD"	
DECEMBER 1978	9 & 10
JANUARY 1979	13 & 14
FEBRUARY (LIVEFIRE)	10 & 11
MARCH 1979	10 & 11
APRIL 1979	14 & 15
MAY 1979 (LIVEFIRE)	12 & 13



October 16
National Day of Prayer

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

SEPT 16	KANSAS ST
SEPT 23	VIRGINIA TECH
SEPT 30	TENNESSEE
OCT 7	MIAMI FLA
OCT 14	VANDERBILT
OCT 28	WAKE FOREST
NOV 4	FLORIDA
NOV 11	MISSISSIPPI ST
NOV 18	GEORGIA
DEC 2	ALABAMA



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

SEPT 2	NEBRASKA
SEPT 16	MISSOURI
SEPT 23	SOUTHERN CAL
OCT 7	WASHINGTON
OCT 14	FLORIDA
OCT 21	TENNESSEE
OCT 28	VIRGINIA TECH
NOV 4	MISSISSIPPI ST
NOV 11	LSU
DEC 2	AUBURN

WORLD SERIES

DODGER BLUE --- YANKEE PINK STRIP

FOUR GAMES HAVE BEEN PLAYED, TWO AT DODGER STADIUM AND TWO AT YANKEE STADIUM. TAKE HEART YANKEE FANS ONE MORE GAME WILL BE PLAYED AT YANKEE STADIUM. THE WORD IS THE DODGERS WILL WIN IN SIX.



PUMPKIN PIE
is
NUTRITIOUS!



The Saxons had three names for the month of October: Win-month, or the time for making wine; Too-month or tenth month; and Wintertylth, because winter was supposed to begin with the full moon of October. At one time the Romans considered calling it Harvestus, after a Roman emperor who fancied himself as that mythical hero-god. Can you imagine the Harlowmen coming on the 31st of Harvestus?

Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year, falls on Oct. 2, with the observance beginning at sundown the day before and continuing until sunset the day after. Yom Kippur or Day of Atonement begins on the evening of Oct. 10 and ends at nightfall the following day.

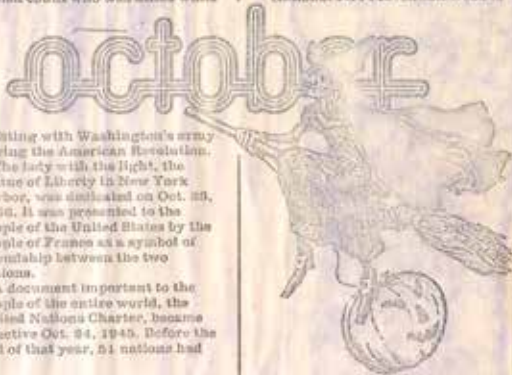
October is an important month to many ethnic groups in the United States. Oct. 5 is Iliad Nelson Day, commemorating the discovery of America by that Norse seaman about 1000 A.D. And this year, Oct. 9 is also Columbus Day, since Public Law sets the second Monday in October as the day for

commemorating the landfall of Christopher Columbus in the New World in 1492.

Pulaski Day, Oct. 11, is observed by Presidential Proclamation and commemorates the contributions of General Casimir Pulaski, the Polish count who was killed while

aiding the Charter and joined the international organization dedicated to world peace. During the following years, nearly three times that number of countries have become members of the U.N. world body.

National Fire Prevention Week is



fighting with Washington's army during the American Revolution.

The Lady with the Light, the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor, was dedicated on Oct. 28, 1886. It was presented to the people of the United States by the people of France as a symbol of friendship between the two nations.

A document important to the people of the entire world, the United Nations Charter, became effective Oct. 24, 1945. Before the end of that year, 51 nations had

observed by Presidential Proclamation during Oct. 8-14, coinciding with the anniversary of the great Chicago fire which began on Oct. 8, 1871, when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern in a barn and set the city afire.

The purpose of the week-long observance is to remind people of the disastrous results of fire and to urge fire prevention safety practices all year around.

The U.S. Navy marks its official birthday on Oct. 13, and Navy Day observances are conducted throughout the month.

U.S. Presidents born in October include Jimmy Carter (Oct. 1); Rutherford B. Hayes (Oct. 2); Chester Arthur (Oct. 5); Theodore Roosevelt (Oct. 27); and John Adams (Oct. 30).

The month ends with Halloween or Eve of All Hallows on Oct. 31, which was also the superstitions Druids' New Year's Eve. Ancient pagan practices were combined with Christian customs in the seventh century, and this autumn festival continues today as both a religious and secular holiday.

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PROVISIONS OF AR 160-91.

RECRUITING IS STILL A

BIG NEED IN THE BATTALION

IF YOU HAVE A NAME GIVE

IT TO YOUR UNIT AS OF

LIBRA

the Scales

Intelligent, just, deliberate, well balanced, you weigh questions carefully, are honorable; you seek fair play; you are a gracious host. Artistic vision is your ruling planet. Today may be Friday; tomorrow may be a day. Colors are blue and gold; you are the opal.



Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

SFC Wendell Gibson here Platoon Sergeant (The Battalion Ammo Section, Service Battery) Fort McClellan, AL. Training Period 1978 - 1986.

Thanks to LTC Hoehne and CSM Peak again and to all of my Comrades for giving me the opportunity/support that I have received for sharing our times and stories while serving in the 3d/15th FA BN. Can't say it enough; "Thank You For Your Service."

First of all having to activate a unit is very challenging in itself; you have a lot of moving parts within the unit to consider from all aspects. In my opinion, it is very important to have the right people in place in order to establish a solid foundation and culture.

When I first enlisted in the Battalion, I noticed we had a very hands-on leadership standard which was the best, and during this time we had a great Full Time Manning (FTM) staff. I was employed at Fort McClellan (1975) in Logistics (DOL) which gave me knowledge of what the Department of Army standards were.

I would like along with my Red Leg Brothers to acknowledge the memories of the FTM staff who have transitioned beyond and to their families: "We Are Sorry For Your Loss."

CW3 Oliver Denson (Chief Administrator) "The Voice"

SFC Gerald Wallace (Administrator/BN Supply) "The Mentor"

MSG Ken Badgett (Administrator/BN Supply) "The Organizer"

SFC Curtis Griffin (Administrator/BN Supply/Maintenance) "The Load Master"

SFC Larry Smith (BN Supply/Service Btry Supply) "The Vietnam Veteran/Heflin Hero"

Retired: SSG Leavey Berry (BN Supply/ SVC Btry Supply) "The Coach"

These Red Legs were our Support/Foundation for building the BENCH. Let us all share the times and memories we had together while serving with our FTM Staff.

At that time, the Ammo Section was training hard; building cohesiveness, and enhancing our soldier skills, including Dry Fire, Field Training Exercises (FTX), drivers training camouflaging, map reading skills, and the field environments etc. "A Cannon Without Cannon Balls is Unacceptable."

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion and wishing, hoping, and praying that all of the Red Leg Brothers/Families have a safe and Happy Holidays "March Order."

Thanks Again!!

Molly Pitcher Story

An Artillery wife, Mary Ludwig Hays (better known as Molly Pitcher) shared the rigors of Valley Forge with her husband, William Hays. Her actions during the battle of Monmouth (28 June 1778) became legendary. That day at Monmouth was as hot as Valley Forge was cold. Someone had to cool the hot guns and bathe parched throats with water.

Across that bullet-swept ground, a striped skirt fluttered. Mary Hays McCauly was earning her nickname “Molly Pitcher” by bringing pitcher after pitcher of cool spring water to the exhausted and thirsty men. She also tended to the wounded and once, heaving a crippled continental soldier up on her strong young back, carried him out of reach of hard-charging Britishers. On her next trip with water she found her artilleryman husband back with the guns again, replacing a casualty. While she watched, Hays fell wounded. The piece, its crew too depleted to serve it, was about to be withdrawn. Without hesitation, Molly stepped forward and took the rammer staff from her fallen husband’s hands. For the second time on an American battlefield, a woman manned a gun. (The first was Margaret Corbin during the defense of Fort Washington in 1776.) Resolutely, she stayed at her post in the face of heavy enemy fire, ably acting as a matross (a soldier who assisted gunners by loading, firing and moving cannons).

For her heroic role, General Washington himself issued her a warrant as a noncommissioned officer. Thereafter, she was widely hailed as “Sergeant Molly.” A flagstaff and cannon stand at her gravesite at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. A sculpture on the battle monument commemorates her courageous deed.

Another version of the story of Molly Pitcher

As long as there have been Soldiers willing to fight for the American ideal – there have been spouses standing by them, believing in the same cause, knowing it would be hard work and willing to support the mission.

As in the cold winter of Valley Forge and the summer heat of Monmouth – the Continental Army was accompanied by a few spouses. In 1777, Martha Washington nursed the many sick Soldiers at Valley Forge. In 1778, Mary Hays (later Mary Hays McCauly) manned a cannon at Monmouth.

As frigid and torrid Valley Forge was in December of 1777, Monmouth was sweltering and miserable in late June of 1778. The 4th Continental Artillery Regiment had the mission to hold a critical causeway. As Gunner William Hays manned his cannon, his wife carried water to quench the thirst of not only the gunners but to cool the guns, as well. The cannons roared and Soldiers fell from both heat injuries and wounds. The causeway was in a state of chaos.

In the midst of loud noises, searing heat and acrid smoke, William fell to the heat. His gun was ordered removed from the causeway. Mary would have none of it. She stepped up. As if born to it, she worked hard and kept that cannon firing. William’s

fellow artillerymen noticed her swift, accurate action. The tale of her efforts passed through the Colonial camp that evening. Later, General Washington would recognize her efforts with an honorary Non-Commissioned Officer rank.

Known to history as Molly Pitcher, a gunner's spouse, Mary Hays McCauley's story, belongs to us all. It is a story of fortitude, determination and true patriotism.

We continue the tradition of the Colonial Artillerymen at the Battle of Monmouth. Field Artillery spouses work hard, believe in the American ideal and support the mission. Just as Molly Pitcher, their tales have passed through the ages. Their deeds have been brought to the attention by the gunners.

Author Unknown

US Field Artillery Association

Combat Boots — *Story by COL Mike Ashley*

The experience of annual training can have such an impact on one's life, it is somewhat of a tragedy that the experience isn't offered to the average person for only the two weeks. The benefits would certainly result in an overall improvement in society and just being alive would look so different and result in perhaps the gratitude equal to the eye opening event Jona experienced when the whale spate him out. Of course he didn't stay there for two weeks.

I will get to the point. Nowhere in the annals of history have so few been offered so many opportunities for character development. It marvels me to this day. For example; the situation is as follows. It is toward the end of our training and the Battalion commander is just wrapping up his part of the after action review of the training. He has stressed the importance of safety, leadership, and accountability. He then opened the floor for comments. A new lieutenant was so impressed and moved with the command's address and summation of the training he witnessed, that he felt compelled to assure him, every measure possible was taken to comply with the commander's directives. Those presented at the offset of training some eleven days prior were seen as biblical. He spoke; "Sir, you discussed the dud rounds that were observed on the first day of live fire."

Battalion commander: "Yes. That is concerning. The first issue was a procedural error and of course all unused ammunition components, rounds, fuses, powder, and nose plugs(not as critical) are to be turned in and if fuses were remaining then the implication of firing rounds down range with the nose plug remaining, would be obvious. "

Young lieutenants : "Sir, the problem has been resolved, thanks to the swamps."

Now, what did he just say! Oh my gosh, now he has done it. Yep! So glad we did not end the training without one taking the opportunity of, lets say; Placing his combat boots squarely on top of his "manliness" located just below his belt buckle. You

might say the extended urinary tract the God endowed the male of our species with. That's right, he just extended it and a moment of "awe" went over the debriefing. Did he know what he just did? Doing such a thing is irresponsible. Not balancing the ammunition, spent fuses with fired rounds, but openly stating how an error was corrected with an error in judgment. That of course, being the, "too much information statement". Some things are better unsaid.

Sometimes I think these new guys would use such moments just to step on "it" for aesthetics. Making "it" longer, might be a desired result. The thought being that their personal endowment would be appreciated. But, how would he explain the bruises, maybe even the deformities? This condition could almost lend itself to the appearance of a combat wound. Imagine the moment you are taking a shower in the YMCA (yes they still have them) or a commercial health center and someone by chance (not intentionally) notices your damaged "extension". He, knowing the current accepted acknowledgment of appreciation for those who have served in the military, would certainly say something like "You must have served with the Army Reserve." And he continues; "Was it the 3/15 Field Artillery? Then in astonishment, as you glance over to him, he says; "I did too." as he stumbled over "himself" out to the locker room.

Boy! The joys of being a soldier were endless. The things soldiers endure for the love of their country. The good old days. If they haven't been there, they will never understand. Just the term, "Red legs". We will all enter Heaven with a bang. Can't you just see it now. Our souls will be blasted into Heaven like being shot out off a 155mm howitzer at max charge. On arrival, St. Peter turns to St. Barbara and exclaims,"What the hell was that?" And of course the reply will be,"Sir, it was another 3/15 FA soldier. You know they always come in with a bang. And they

always preface it with a high angel shot." There is military humor in Heaven. I feel certain there has to be.

The best to you, John, for your extensive dedication to the cause. Keeping our experiences, as a unit, alive and well. May St. Barbara always be looking over you and all "Redlegs".

Special regards, Mike



US Army Gamma Goat

1 December 2025

4th Annual Battalion Reunion

Battalion Members 102

Family Members 90 • Special Guests 13

Donald Allen
Mike Ashley
James Baker
Greg Beavers
Donny Bishop
Gary Bolton
Robert Boody
Clois Boozer
Jasper Boyer
Eddyer Brown
Victor Buchanan
Charlie Bunch
Julius Campbell
Ray Campbell
Thomas Carpenter
Jimmy Catlett
Bill Coker
Richard Conti
Mike Dalesandro
David Despagna
Don Dison
Jerry Duke
Bertis English
Gary Fortenberry
Lovoyd Fountain
Sammy Garrett
Wayne Garrett
Wendell Gibson
Shevy Glenn
Calvin Grace
Jerry Green
Darrell Hancock
Robert Hancock
Richard Haynes
Bobby Heaton
Bill Hinton
Wes Hodgins
John Hoehne
Danny Hudson

Curtis Ivey
Jaime Johnson
Scotty Johnson
Bill Kennedy
Tom Kerr
King Kimble
Larry King
Leonard Kiser
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Thomas Logan
Mike Long
Steve MacMillan
Ray Marsh
Jottie McGhee
Gregory McMath
John Miller
Kenneth Miller
Terry Mims
Jerry Montgomery
Ron Moody
David Morrison
Raphael Nelson
Jim Nemeth
Steve Norton
Nate Owens
Bobby Patterson
Howell Patton
Don Peak
Sam Pearson
Tom Perrin
L Lee Pitts Jr
Tim Powell
Lamar Pritchett
Randy Putnam
Mike Roseman
Willie Roseman
James Rudolph
Danny Simmons
Don Stephens

Walter Stephens
Larry Sterling
Archie Swain
Hersey Taylor
Robert Taylor
Henry Teague
Gerald Tucker
Terry Upton
Don Vardaman
Rodney Veasy
BG Inge Waddle
Brad Waits
JD Ward
Danny Warwick
Craig Waschko
Russell Wilkerson
Jim Wilson
Denver Woods
Earnest Woods
Stevie Woods
John Woody
Ray Zimmerman

Invited Guests of the Battalion

MG David Pritchett TAG
and Julie
MG William "Bill" Clark
Tammy Denson-James
and Lee James
Donna Badgett
Evelyn McCain and
Jay McCain
Brenda McCallum
Tina Cheatwood and
Grandson
Baker Reynolds and
his wife and CSM
Reynolds wife

2025 Reunion Information

Date

13 December 2025

Time

1100 - 1600

Location

The Venue at the Coosa Landing
Gadsden AL

Cost

\$30 per person

Caterer

Downtown Chief

Menu

Fried Chicken	Whole Kernel Corn
Hamburger Steak w/onions	Sweet Hawaiian Rolls w/Butter
Smoked BBQ Pork Butt	Sweet and Unsweet Tea
Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy	Cake
Whole Green Beans w/Bacon	

Dress Code

Business Casual
St Barbara is Authorized

How to Contact the Veterans Administration/THE VA

VA Benefits Hotline - 800-827-1000

Technical Support - VA.gov • 866-279-3677

MyVA411 Main Information Line: 800-698-2411

Telecommunications Relay Services (using TTY): TTY711

If you or the Veteran in your life shows signs of crisis, contact the
Veterans/Military Crisis Line.

In the United States dial 988, then press 1 or text 838255



LTC Howard Race awarding ISG Joe Sparks a commendation (1979-1981)



ISG Charlie Bunch Charlie Battery Gadsden AL



SFC Charlie Bunch being promoted to ISG by CPT Morris Kay



SFC Dennis Green Alpha Battery



Bravo Battery circa 1979-1981 Battalion Softball Champs



*SVC Battery circa 1979-1981 timeframe
Wendell Gibson, Charles Ellis, Michael McCallum, Larry Smith, Oliver Denson, Huber Wright, Sam Pearson, King Kimble, Ned Sims and Curtis Griffin*



Brave Battery "Young Guns"



SGT Sammy Brewster SVC Battery

*CSM Adrian Reynolds
Battalions 1st CSM RIP*



Reunion 2024



COL Gerald Tucker and LTC John Hoehne



*L-R COL Leonard Kiser and
COL Sam Pearson*

France, August 3, 1918.

Dear Sam and Mother:-

It has been some time since I have written to you, but we have been so busy quite a bit and I have been pretty busy. Since the last letter I wrote you we have been relieved from one front, sent back to the line and took part in the first of the big drive and even sent back to the line again. I only saw the first three days of the drive and then was sent to a school of gas defense for six days and was absent from the regiment about eight days and did not rejoin it until after it had been relieved from the line.

On my way back from the school I saw about five or six hours air in Paris between trains and saw a little of the city. I took in some of the hotel places that were empty, took in some of the famous boulevards, got to see quite a little of the city in fact. It is very pretty and entirely different from anything I have seen in the States, especially the cafes which set out on the sidewalks under colored glass awnings, that is sort of new.

I surely have seen quite a bit of France since landing last winter, and in all summer or year--on foot, in bus cars and first, second and third class passenger coaches, not to mention wagons and motor army trucks. About the only means of travel that I have missed is balloons and aeroplanes. If I stay with this division until this war is over I'll bet there won't be a foot of France I haven't set foot on. It is called "Trenching" or "Trenching" France."

I am in good health and fine spirits and if the war didn't last over ten years more I think I am a stand it. If the tanks keep on coming over here at the rate they are at present and all of them are as good fighters as those that are over here, we will be home pretty soon as then as a over here.

Well, I must close for this time as I have much to do just now in my time in a hurry.

Yours truly,
Capt. Paul E. Miller
15th Field Artillery,
American Expeditionary Force.

3 August 1918 Letter
C BTY 15th FA

Mr. Paul E. Miller
15th Field Artillery
American Expeditionary Force



Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Miller,
411 15th Avenue,
Long Beach, California,
United States of America.

Enclosed \$4.00

August 3, 1918, P. M.

J. B. Miller



Chaplain's Corner with Chaplain Wes Hodgens

“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them: ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you THIS-DAY, a Savior who is Christ the LORD.’”

Having retired from the Army, I have spent a lot of time ‘living in the country’ training for the defense of our country. With the Artillery, we would occasionally fire ‘illumination-missions’ which lit-up the target area for a few minutes. Here, in Luke’s gospel we find the LORD ‘firing an illum-mission’ for the benefit of the Shepherds! (on a much grander-scale) The presence of one angel ‘lit-up the country-side’; this was followed by an innumerable-host of angels singing and enlarging the message of the first angel! **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth: ‘peace’, ‘goodwill’ toward men’.”**

The message: *a Savior had been born in Bethlehem!* (right next door!) This was none other than the **“seed of the woman”** who was to crush the head of the serpent who had led mankind into sin! He would satisfy the wrath of God and restore ‘peace’ between God and men! His life would bring the greatest glory to God and become the ‘model of life’ for those who were the children of God. Today, may we ‘catch-the-vision’ which the shepherds saw and ‘move-out’ to share this good news with all who will listen. Bear in mind, the life we live may speak louder than the words we utter; so only when necessary, use words to proclaim the message.

-Chaplain Wes Hodgens



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

