

VOL. 15

NUMBER 3

1 JULY 2025

INCOMING

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

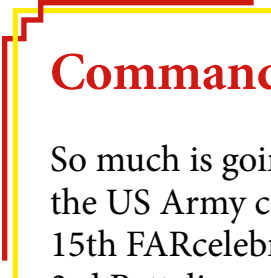


HHB & SVC BTRY
FT. MCCLELLAN

“B” BTRY
TALLADEGA

“A” BTRY
CULLMAN

“C” BTRY
GADSDEN



Commanders Corner

So much is going on or has already happened this year: the US Army celebrated its 250th Birthday on 15 June, the 15th FAR celebrated its 109th birthday on 3 June and the 3rd Battalion celebrated its 66th birthday 17 March 1959 - though our lineage traces all the way back to Charlie Battery activation on 1 July 2016. Coming 10 September this will be the 31st Anniversary of the Battalion's Inactivation. Our 4th Annual Reunion prep and planning is well underway.

As you are reading this issue of the Incoming I am enroute to Gadsden to make the final arrangements for our Reunion. The updated Reunion Invitations are being printed and readied for mailing and should arrive to you by 1 September. This year's Reunion Program has been updated as well with some subtle changes being made to reflect upon who we are.

I would read carefully the 4th Annual Reunion Section as it has important information regarding RSVP's.

SFC Wendell Gibson continues his story in this edition along with short stories from MSG Don Vardaman and COL Ron Funderburk. I thank SSG Denver Woods Jr Bravo BTY and SFC Tim Powell Alpha BTY for the photos in this issue. Also included is an article regarding the history of The Pig.

We have invited MG Dick Burleson, MG Bill Clark and BG Inge Waddle all from the 121st ARCOM. As of this writing all three have indicated they will be attending.

My thanks to those who have made contributions to the 3rd Battalion Fund. It is greatly appreciated as we continue to bring to you a Reunion each year that you will long remember.

As always I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the Reunion as it is truly one of the highlights of my year.

Allons

LTC John Hoehne
FA Last Commander



The INCOMING is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-91, 3d Bn 15th FAR USAR (Inactivated) FT McClellan/Anniston, AL 36205. Published at least quarterly, the views and opinions expressed are exclusively those of the members of this organization as edited by the Last Commander and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Department of the Army. Provided via post and digital to every 3rd Battalion Red Leg. This publication reflects the Last Commander and every 3rd Battalion Red Leg official position period.

The CSM's Corner

A big hello to all you 3/15th Red Legs and to your families. I know everyone is glad the cold gloomy days of winter have finally come to an end, but now the days of warm weather bring forth the task of keeping the lawn mowed, and gardens weeded and bringing forth fresh vegetables.

Thought I would share with you another short true story of one of the summer adventures to Camp Shelby, MS: we had moved from garrison to the great outdoors of Camp Shelby, and A Battery had fielded two operational guns that year, the famous M114's. On the second day of occupation of the firing point, (keep in mind it was hotter than Hades, as usual,) we had positioned the water buffalo for easy access, with regular ice runs to put into the lister bag so everyone had access to cold water, with fresh water available from the water Buffalo. As I had stated, the heat and humidity was unbelievable.

Our mission from this firing point was to fire illumination rounds for Bravo, and Charlie to fire HE under the illumination rounds that night. It seems as though one of our troops, decided that the water Buffalo was a good place to cool off, as we noticed his head sticking out of the fill lid on top. Suddenly there was shouting and very, very unkind words being hurled in his direction, upon dragging him out, and with threats of being beaten to within an inch of his life, even of a hanging for what he had done, it was decided by 1SG Gary Davis and the B/C, that he would spend several hours inside the water tank scrubbing and cleaning the Buffalo until it was completely sanitary for use again. It proves again an Artillery man will go to the extreme.

That being behind us we settled in for the night's mission of firing Illum. There had been a lot of movement of track vehicles behind us earlier in the day, although no one paid much attention to it, concentrating on the night's mission, while waiting for dark to settle in. Being resourceful NCO's at that time SGT John Miller and myself decided to get our place of rest for the night up and ready. We used the side of the old Gamma Goat to construct us a restful place for the night, using two shelter halves, and our mosquito nets, and a couple of small trees. We constructed the hopefully bug-free sleeping place and we were ready for the night.

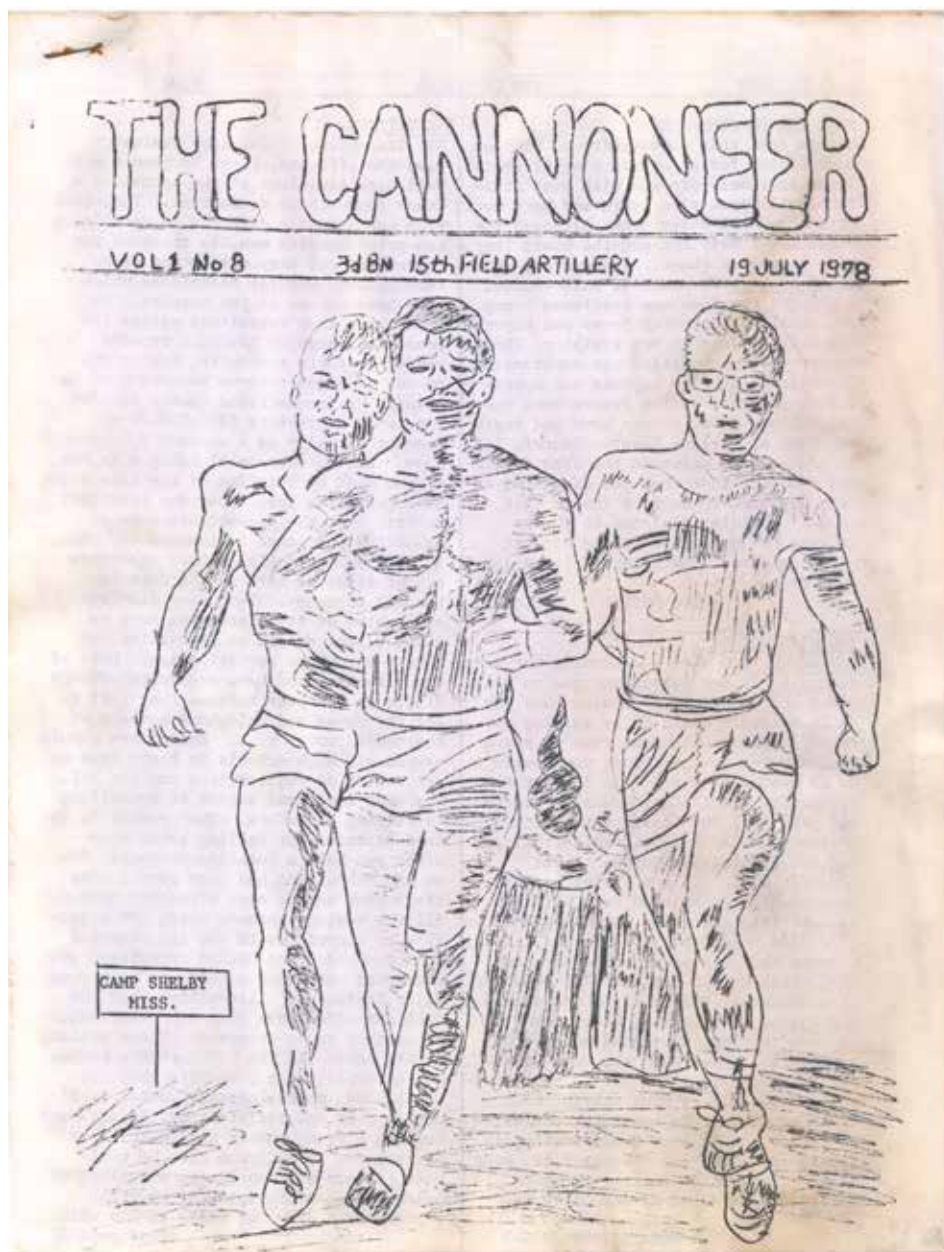
With firing complete at about twelve 0030, or 0100 hours, we retired for the night. After just falling into a good slumber, the earth shook, with an unbelievable roar as the M110 8 inch guns directly behind us fired. You can imagine the rude awakening we experienced, as it shook part of our hooch down, and brought us all to a scary rude awakening. Needless to say there was some scrambling to get on our feet and moving, at lighting speed, and to be honest almost requiring some to search for clean underwear! It was very funny after everyone finally regained composure, but definitely not at the time it occurred.

Well I will close this episode, with wishing everyone a great and joyous Summer, and may God's love be with you.

Donald Peak
CSM USAR 3/15th FA (Ret)

Previous Edition of the Cannoneer

19 July 1978



FROM THE BN COMMANDER

Let me take this opportunity to commend each of you for an outstanding AT period. I was extremely pleased with your attitude, willingness to learn and hard work throughout the encampment. Although the weather was very hot and the hours long your "hung-in there". I sincerely appreciate your performance in this regard. I thought the Redstone Readiness Group personnel participated "over and beyond" the call of duty in our training. Their support and cooperation was outstanding. It would be nice to express our appreciation to them during future week and assemblies. As we return home and begin training at various Reserve Centers let me urge you to maintain the high morale and good attitude that you displayed at Camp Shelby. We want to insure that each soldier assigned to the Bn becomes MOS qualified at the earliest possible date. Thanks again for a job well done.

LTC PHILIP E. HOLLADAY

TRAINING NOTES

GENTLEMEN, it's been a demanding but very rewarding AT for myself and you as well. First off we had to determine what you as individuals could do by testing you on soldiers manual task. Then we began to train you in the things you couldn't do or needed to improve on to meet the standards. Individual training progressed very well into collective/section training until by combining, borrowing, and cooperating you helped to put together a six (6) gun firing battery. Each section functioned very well as we went into live fire exercises and the adrenalin began to flow. We had finally reached the purpose of our existence- "PUT STEEL ON THE TARGET." The shout of fire commands, the smell of smoke, and the chance to fire that first round of AT made the long hours and hard work worthwhile. A word to the wise now, don't let up, training begins next week-end (29-30 Jul) at home station with RSOP EXERCISE at Pelham Range to follow in August and Weapons Qualification in September. The best comment I can make about the training is keep the good attitude you had at AT and drive on.

CPT DONALD JOHNSON/S-3

RECRUITING

MAJ Stefanovic', 1st Army Evaluator gave the Officers, First Sergeants and full time civilians of the battalion a fresh approach to recruiting. The briefing was primarily directed to recruiting non-prior service men. His approach was refreshing and very motivating as he demonstrated several techniques which have been proven to get results. He recommends that recruiters stress the economic impact of having a reserve center in their community, due to the amount of money reserve members have to spend. He demonstrated that a battery size unit represents \$150,000.00 of revenue annually to a community. He should show the advantages of being a member of the USAR by thinking of the time spent as a part time job. Show the potential recruit that the competitors such as McDONALDS and other businesses who hire 17 & 18 year old high school graduates cannot offer as much as the USAR in respect to money. When using displays and booths at civic programs such as fairs, etc, should be innovative and always encourage participation. Most of the displays used have accomplished very little in the past because they fail to get the names and telephone numbers of the people come by. Recruiters should canvas all high schools in their area to get a list of seniors, (you can get it). The most important aspect of recruiting is selling a product. The product is The Army Reserve. But selling comes only after you have a bonafide prospect. One on One recruiting has been proven many times over as the most effective method. All the various methods which are available to recruiters to use are vast and non-productive UNLESS recruiters get names and telephone numbers to follow-up. Major Stefanovic' illustrated that the USAR can offer more than any other enterprise to a young prospect. These selling points cover all the NEEDS that a person has or experiences, whether they are basic needs physiological, social, self esteem, or ego satisfaction. In the Army Reserve a young member will make money -perhaps to buy a dream car, he will make friends and experience a feeling of belonging or of acceptance, he will experience a sense of pride in his unit.

(cont page 3)

RECRUITING (cont)

In closing MAJ Stefanovic' stressed the key factors in establishing a successful recruiting plan. ONE, establish a systematic plan of contacting 10 prospects each day. Battery AST's should devote a minimum of 30 minutes daily calling prospects from the list of high school seniors, and students at various trade schools in the area. By doing this each battery should be able to recruit at least 2 non-prior service men monthly. Since the goal for a Btry is 1.5 recruits per month this system will produce results. Non prior service men represent the quality soldier the USAF needs as statistics should that units retain MPS about 6 years, which is 4 to 5 times greater than the retention rate for prior service men.

CPT JOSEPH ROGERS/S-1

STEPLETON BREAKS RECORD

SFC Tony Stepleton of HNB has broken the Camp Shelby unofficial record for the 4 mile run. His time of 26:49 is the best record for the Camp Shelby 4 mile course. SFC Stepleton started his running program in November 1976 after the Bn CO said to lose some weight, at that point in time SFC Stepleton tipped the scales at 210 Lbs. He now weighs 150 Lbs and has had to get an entire wardrobe due to the loss of 5 inches in the waist and 4 inches in the chest. SFC Stepleton who could just barely make 1/2 mile in Nov 76, now averages 6 miles a day in his fitness program. He is also the president of the Coosa Valley Track Club of Anniston, AL. His present status and physical condition demonstrates that self-discipline and constant hard work pays off in physical fitness. The Battalion congratulates SFC Stepleton - our hats off - and keep running Tony. Honorable Mention goes to SP4 Lyles of Svc Btry who pressed Tony all the way and finished with a time of 27:00 flat.

THE CANNONEER is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR360-91, 3d Bn 15th FA, Ft McClellan AL

WHAT IS WRONG?

A few days ago I was up most of the night on CQ and did some serious thinking. One big problem with our world is that many people are narrow Optimists or Pessimists. With all of the terrible tragedies that happen it is easy to be pessimist. If you overlook the good things and people it is easy to give in to: cynicism, despair, and passive acceptance of our world as it is now. Optimism is an equally dangerous attitude if you let yourself only see the many good and wonderful people in our world. If you believe every thing is great it is easy to be content with the world as it is. The best alternative to these shallow attitudes is Realism. A true realist mixed with high ideals gives you the courage to see both the evil and good in our world. A true realist will not lose his nerve and give into contentment or despair. I challenge you to be a tough minded realist and help make our world a better place to live in. One final suggestion read Psalm 8.

Article by:
SP5 Van Cleaf/HNB
FDC Section

RESULTS OF 4 MILE TIMED MARCH

OUTSTANDING:	less than 40 min-	28
EXCEPTIONAL:	40-44 Min	-40
SUPERIOR:	44-48 Min	-31
EXCELLENT:	48-52 Min	-31
GOOD:	52-56 Min	-26
SATISFACTORY:	56-60 Min	-11
UNSATISFACTORY:	Over 60 min-	None
EXCUSED FROM MARCH:	19	

* figures are total for the Battalion

(205-233-4648. Published bi-monthly, mimeographed. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Dept of the Army

Where will you be
NEXT summer?



DRIVE CAREFULLY

BATTALION PARTY !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

WHEN..... THURSDAY 20 JULY 1978

TIME..... 1530 hours to.....

PLACE.... PAVILION 1, OFF LEE AVENUE
TOWARD NORTH GATE

WHY... TO CELEBRATE NEAR COMPLETION
OF SUMMER CAMP.

ENJOY... DINNER BY THE LAKE

"GOODIES"

STEAK, BEER, SCOA, GAMES, MUSIC

BATTALION DRILL DATES

29-30 JULY 1978----- 0720 hours

12-13 AUG 1978----- 0720 hours
(OVERNIGHT)

16-17 SEP 1978----- 0720

ACCIDENT IN MESS HALL

WE ARE ALL QUITE THANKFUL THAT THE RECENT EXPLOSION AND FIRE IN OUR DINING FACILITY DID NOT CAUSE ANY FATALITIES. SSG PARSONS OF SVC BTRY AND SP4 CARTER OF HHS RECEIVED MINOR INJURIES AND RETURNED TO THEIR UNITS AFTER A CHECK UP AT THE POST DISPENSARY. SP4 FOSTER OF SVC BTRY RECEIVED 1st AND 2ND DEGREE BURNS ON HIS ARMS AND RIGHT SHOULDER. HE IS OK AND IS CONVALESCING. WE ALL WISH HIM A SPEEDY RECOVERY.

WEARING OF DUTY UNIFORM

PER TROOP COMMAND AS OF 0730 hours THURSDAY 20 JULY 1978 THRU THE REST OF SUMMER CAMP, FATIGUE SHIRTS WILL BE WORN WITH SHIRT TAIL OUT.

LEO ^{the} Lion
JULY 23- AUGUST 22

BORN TO BE KING. THE SUN IS LEO'S RULER
,AND YOU ARE THE SUN'S OWN PEOPLE - PROUD

,CONFIDENT, DYNAMIC, SINGLE

PURPOSED. YOUR GENEROSITY

AND WARMTH REACH ALL.

LUCKY DAY IS SUNDAY

,NUMBERS 5 and 1.

COLORS ARE ORANGE

AND GOLD GEMS SARDONYX AND RUBY.



Bravo Battery Reenlistment











From the Past

SFC Wendell Gibson here, Platoon Sergeant, (The Battalion Ammo Section Service Battery) Fort McClellan, AL Training Period 1978 thru 1984.

Thank you LTC Hoehne and CSM Peak again, and 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. "Thank You for Your Service!"

I have given a lot of thought on how to acknowledge the memories of these (Red Legs) who have ***transitioned beyond, and*** to their ***Families***: (We Are Sorry For Your Loss).

CPT Danny Harvey (Service Battery BC/BN

S-4 Officer), known as "CAP" would say to me "Hey Sarge get in the Jeep - I'm driving." CAP was a "Recon Genius" who could read a military map from Camp Shelby, MS all the way to Fort Sill, OK and call in a "Dust-Off" on Interstate 20 at the same time, (now keep in mind no cellphones).

CSM Joe Sparks (B-Battery 1SG)

Talladega, AL would say "Hey L'il Sarge, I'm not telling you how to do your job, but if it was me I would do it like this." I would do it his way and it was much better.

CSM Bill McCain (Top, 1SG, SVC Battery) "Hey Big Sarge, I know you got this, but please let me know if you need anything; now let's go have a White Owl Cigar and Old Milwaukee Beer. By the way can you ride a horse?"

Good leadership inspires good leaders, let's all share the time and memories we shared with them "Rest In Peace."

During the time frame from 1977 thru 1978 the "3rd Herd Battalion" was recruiting strong and training very hard. The Firing Batteries are now relocating into their own Reserve Centers in Alabama: "A- Battery" Cullman, "B-Battery" Talladega, "C-Battery" Gadsden, HHB and SVC-Batteries remained at Ft. McClellan. Each Battery started to maintain statistics and identify with their duties, responsibilities, and leadership skills which was the common denominator. HOOOAH!!!

As for Service Battery the S-4 is tasked to support the Battalion

Trains (Supply and Service) as a whole i.e. Supply Support-Uniforms/Weapons etc, Food Service-Dining Facilities A-Rations/MRE's and Garrison, Maintenance Support-Direct/Organizational and Ammunition Supply, Support- Small Arms/D544's and weapons systems (M114A1 and M198, which was my specialty). We had to be knowledgeable about every aspect in the Supply Train in order to support the Battalion running at the highest level possible and we did it!!!

During that time, I was married and raising three children. I was employed at Fort McClellan, enlisted in the Army Reserves (3d/15th FA) (E-5), going to school at Gadsden State College and jogging three times a week (full plate).

The Ammo Section my hero's were very Community- Oriented

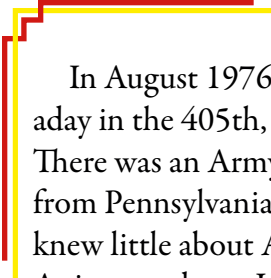


and socially active, which produced callings for four ministers: Levi Lyles, Oliver Gaston, Arthur Cottingham and Fred Durant. I have heard all of their sermons were very inspirational and up- lifting. The section also produced five deacons, and three DJ's.

Now here comes my Ride or Die's (Gips' Hero's): SGT Robert Stewart - quiet/respected both Conventional and Nuclear Training; SGT Harvester English - Heavy Equipment Operator; SGT Wayne Garrett - (stayed ready/friend and co-worker); Mortar

Specialist, SGT Edward Moore - Multiple Vehicle Operator/ Instructor/Helicopter Pilot (not for real); SGT Levi Lyles - Vehicle Operator Heavy/Instructor and very athletic; SPC Horace Grady - (quiet/laid back), very knowledgeable in both Conventional and Nuclear Training a Real 13-B Cannoneer; SPC Ronnie Clark - Vehicle Operator/Instructor/Morale Specialist; and Ronnie Davis and Charles Ellis my backups always there when I needed them. Please note that I have not included everyone who was a part of the Ammo Section; they all served with honor and integrity - which is why I have decided to write a Part III for the Incoming.

Thanks Again!!



In August 1976, I received a call from a newly promoted LTC Holladay in the 405th, He said, “Major Funderburk, You’re AWOL.” What? There was an Army Reserve M114A1 155mm unit being transferred from Pennsylvania to Ft. McClellan. He was an Engineer Officer and knew little about Artillery. He wanted me to be his Executive Officer. As it turned out, I was initially the ONLY Artillery Officer in the unit at that time. There were a couple of 105mm and mortar enlisted personnel. That was it. On the very first day, we took a lite inventory to see what we had. We had at that time, 5 M114A1’s 155mm Howitzers, 4 Gama-Goats, two Jeeps and that was it. Everything was in poor condition and needed servicing. Each howitzer is supposed to have what is called a “Section Box” containing tools and the necessary items to maintain and fire the howitzer. Collectively, among the 5 boxes present, there was not one complete set of tools and not a single Tech Manual. With the approximately 15 enlisted I had, I set about instructing them on the maintenance of the Pig (unaffectionate name for the M114A1). Wearing my best Tropical Worsteds uniform I recalled how to do all that. This was the same weapon I had with the 2/31st FA Battalion when I first joined Artillery. Memories came back and I impressed all the EM with my buried knowledge. They weren’t used to seeing officers getting their hands dirty. The word got around as the Battalion grew that the XO knew his shit.

My time working with the best soldiers in the 3/15 FA. In 1977, Oliver Denson hired me to be the Unit Admin for B Battery. My background had been in aviation, first in the Air Force, then Army helicopters. So when I arrived at B Battery, 3/15 Field Artillery, it was a shock. I wasn’t sure which end of a 155 mm Towed Howitzer you put the bullet in or which end it came out of.

Commander was CPT John T. Hecker, and 1SG was Joe Sparks. 1SG Sparks took one look at me then said, “I will call you my little ASS”. Yes. For the next 2 yrs, when I heard his LOUD VOICE say “Whereis My Little Ass,” I knew he needed

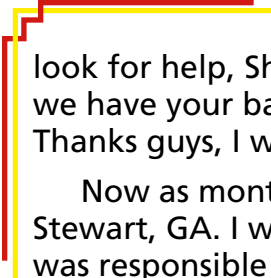


something. We had a 2LT that was almost as lost as I was when it came to Field Artillery. This guy had never been to FAOBC; not sure how he had graduated college. The name of this lost soldier was 2LT Michael Roseman. But when he came back from FAOBC at Ft Sill, I saw immediately we had a real Field Artillery Officer.

As I learned what it meant to be called a Red Leg, there

were two guys that took me under their wing. These guys knew quickly I was not ready to help put a bullet down range. One them asked if I knew what down range meant. Yep, that is when I hit my golf ball into the woods. That was one of the loudest LAUGH's I ever heard. Those guys even let me sit in on some of their Artillery lessons with their Sections. I came to know if there was anything I had questions about, all I had to do was go look for them. Both guys were always busy, never sitting around waiting for someone else to perform a task. We became good friends, realizing we could lean on each other. Who are those guys....Shevy Glenn and Jerry Montgomery. I still count them as friends today.

Then 1981 came with another major change for my time with B Battery. First I was able to become an active duty soldier, through the new AGR program. Don Vardaman, GS-7 left work one Friday, returned to work on Monday as SFC Vardaman. It was just a few months later 1SG Sparks transferred to HQ to become the 1SG. CPT Hecker called a meeting with our Active Duty Advisor SFC Bill Brown, Section leaders, and a conference call with HQ. I was not included, wish I had been. The vote or directive that came out of that meeting was SFC Vardaman will be our 1SG until we find someone within the Command. Yes. If I had been at that meeting my vote would have been no. HELL NO. As we all know when given an order we have to follow it. When word spread I didn't have to go



look for help, Shevy and Jerry came running. Don't worry, we have your back; anything you need we are here for you. Thanks guys, I will need lots of help.

Now as months passed we were preparing for AT-82 at Ft Stewart, GA. I was now 1SG as well as Unit Administrator. I was responsible for getting everyone paid, keeping records of each member in attendance. Oh for a side job since you are 1SG, you have to guide the Advance Party to FT Stewart. So the Advance Party and I hit the road. Since I was on travel orders, driving my personal truck, I chose to wear jeans, cowboy boots, with a cowboy hat. When I pulled into HQ, Oliver Denson came out to meet me, saying you are AWOL, and what are you wearing. Told him my orders state today was travel time and my duty didn't start until the next day. Oliver didn't believe me. So as soon, I signed for the barracks we were assigned, I changed into my uniform, grabbed a copy of my orders and headed to Oliver's office. Walked in, handed them to Oliver, and told him to read them. He saw my report date was not the day I arrived, it was the next day. I said be sure to read who signed those orders. Signed by 3/15 FA Oliver Denson SSA. He apologized for not checking with me in the weekbefore leaving Talladega. I accepted his apology. We didn't have any problems for the entire camp.

One day stood out more than all the others while we were at Ft Stewart. While out in the field preparing for a firing mission we were called to HQ for a meeting. CPT Hecker, said 1SG get my jeep and driver to take us to the meeting. Our driver was SSG Waites, so he brought the jeep around. We headed to HQ, driving on Dusty, Dirt roads, sun pouring down. Well the meeting took about 2 hrs, so the 3 of us got in the jeep headed back to the field. As we got close to our location SSG Waites spotted a 6 ft diamond back rattler trying to cross the road. He said look at that snake. I said "let's get him." Waites, stopped on top of the snake, leaving about a foot of the head sticking out. Snake was trying to bite the tire on his back. "Don't worry I will get him," I said. Hopped down to the ground and went to put my left boot on his head. I missed. The snake didn't miss my leather boot; he bit me 5

or 6 times. There was so much venom sprayed on me I could barely see the black leather. I said, "OH Hell no you don't get to bite me." I pulled the Big Hunting knife I carry on my belt. With one quick swipe the snake head fell off. I reached down, picked up the head, then told Waites to pull off the rest of the snake. I picked up the head in one hand and the body in the other. I then turned around to show CPT Hecker. There was CPT Hecker standing on top of the hood of the jeep, pointing his 45 automatic pistol at me. "Captain, why are you pointing your pistol at me", I said. "Put that snake down, 1SG or I will shoot you", CPT Hecker said. I thought for a few seconds, then replied. "CPT, I'm the person responsible for issuing ammo to troops in our unit, you are holding an empty pistol. I did not order any ammo to be issued today, so what are you going to do with an empty pistol". CPT Hecker, shaking still holding his empty pistol said "I'm going to beat the HELL out of you 1SG, if you don't put that snake down." SSG Waites face told me he wasn't sure who he was more scared of: a crazy 1SG holding a 6 ft dead snake or a scared CPT holding an empty pistol. CPT Hecker finally allowed me to cut the rattles off for a souvenir but nothing more.

That episode speeded the search for a real 1SG. Finally 1SG Don Peak came to rescue B BTY, from the crazy Acting 1SG.

Don Vardaman
Crazy EX 1SG
Bravo Battery, 3/15 FA



M114A1 - Pig History



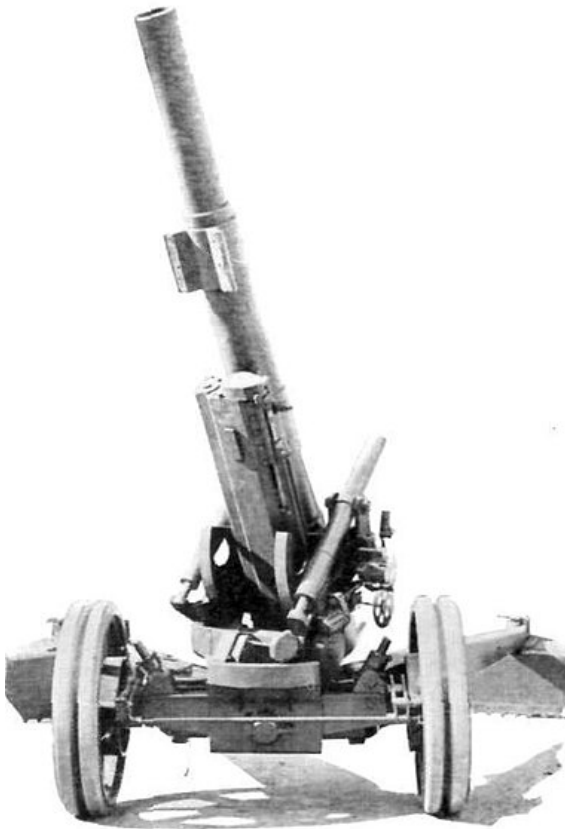
The **155 mm Howitzer M114** is a towed [howitzer](#) developed and used by the [United States Army](#). It was first produced in 1941 as a medium artillery piece under the designation of **155 mm Howitzer M1**. It saw service with the US Army during [World War II](#), the [Korean War](#), and the [Vietnam War](#), before being replaced by the [M198 howitzer](#).

The gun was also used by the armed forces of many nations. The **M114A1** remains in service in some countries.

After the end of the First World War a board later named the Westervelt Board after its president, Brigadier General [William I. Westervelt](#), was convened to assess the artillery experience of the combatant powers and map out future directions for the US Army artillery. The conclusion of the board vis-a-vis corps (heavy field) artillery was that an ideal heavy howitzer should have range of at least 16,000 yards (15 km) and allow the elevation of 65° (as opposed to the existing [World War I](#)-era M-1918 155 mm howitzers, a license-built French [Canon de 155 C modèle 1917 Schneider](#), 11.5 km and +42° 20' respectively). Board also recommended that the new 155-mm howitzer and the new 4.7-inch (120 mm) gun share all the carriage, even if it compromises both designs.

Development

Early development



155 mm howitzer M1920

The M1920 carriage resulting from this requirements was of the split-trail type with pneumatic [equilibrators](#), permitting a total traverse of 60°. Unfortunately, it “gave considerable trouble due to the persistent failure of the top carriage” on the firing tests. In 1923–1925 the design was modified with the top carriage reinforced, with the result standardized as M1925. However, it was never built in steel, because after the evaluation of a wooden model the project was abandoned. Instead, two new carriages were developed and built in the following years, which were designated T1 ([photos](#)) and T1E1. All of them had the same ballistics (perhaps even the same gun body), with maximal range of 16,390 yards (14.99 km), and were undergoing tests in the early 1930s. By 1934, the US Army was con-

cerned about the arising high-speed towing requirements not satisfied by the [plain bearings](#) and solid rubber ties.

Before and during World War II

In 1939 the development began anew, by spring 1941 the first specimen was ready to be test-fired and immediately after passing them it was standardized on 15 May 1941 as Howitzer M1 on the Carriage M1. The howitzer itself differed from the older model by a lengthened barrel of 20 calibers and a new breech mechanism. Uniquely it was the sole 'slow-cone' interrupted screw mechanism to enter US service after 1920.

The carriage was also used by the [4.5-inch gun M1](#). It went through a number of minor changes over time. The original Warner electric brakes were replaced by Westinghouse air brakes on the M1A1. Both the M1 and M1A1 carriages used a mid-axle firing pedestal that was extended by a ratchet mechanism. The M1A2 replaced the ratchet with a screw-jack system and also modified the traveling lock. The M1A1E1 carriage was intended for use in jungle and muddy terrain and replaced the wheels of the M1A1 with a free-wheeling tracked suspension, but the project was terminated after [V-J day](#) without having reached production. The T-9 and T-10 carriages were projects using low-grade steel alloys that were canceled when no longer needed. The T-16 was a light-weight carriage using high-grade steel that was estimated to save some 1,200 lb (540 kg); work began in July 1945 and continued after the war, although nothing seems to have come from it.

Post World War II

After [World War II](#), the production of M1 howitzers continued to 1953. Additionally it was redesignated as the Howitzer, Medium, Towed: 155 mm, M114, with the complete system composed of the cannon (M1), carriage (M1A1), and recoil system (M6, M6A1, M6B1 or M6B2).

A mid-1960s carriage variant was the 155mm XM123 & M123A1 auxiliary- propelled howitzers. The XM123 was produced by American Machine and Foundry and outfitted with two 20 horsepower air-cooled engines produced by Consolidated Diesel Corporation, driver's seat, steering wheel, and guide wheel on the left trail, allowing it to be more rapidly emplaced when detached from the prime mover, while the XM123A1 provided a single 20 horsepower motor with electric steering. The extra weight on the left trail displaced the howitzer after each round was fired, requiring it to be realigned, and the project was abandoned. The concept was copied from the Soviet [85mm SD-44 auxiliary- propelled anti-tank gun](#) developed in 1954 and used by airborne forces (VDV).



Front view of an XM123 medium auxiliary propelled 155 mm howitzer at the [Rock Island Arsenal Museum](#)

Post war variants

- **M114A1** – Identical to the M114, but with a M1A2 carriage.
- **M114A2** – Similar to the M114A1, but with a slightly longer barrel. Its main distinguishing feature is a groove cut around the barrel about 2.0–2.8 inches (50–70 mm) from the end. The bore of the M114A2 have a 1 in 20 twist instead of the 1 in 12 used in earlier models, extending the range of the projectiles. In 1997, the United States supplied [Bosnia-Herzegovina](#) with 116 ex-US Army M114A2s while an additional 145 were earmarked for spare parts.
- **M114/39** (Netherlands) – Dutch modernization by RDM Technology, it features a 155 mm 39 caliber barrel supplied by Bofors (now BAE Systems) amongst other upgrades. 96 M114s were modernized for Denmark, 82 for the Netherlands, and 48 for Norway.
- **M114/39** (France) – French modernization package by GIAT Industries, it included the installation of a 155 mm 39 caliber barrel. It was never sold.
- **M114S** – Israeli modernization package by SOLTAM Systems, the M114S features a 155 mm 33 caliber barrel, allowing a standard 155 mm M107 HE projectile to be fired to a maximum distance of 20,000 yards (18,300 m); a muzzle brake



XM123 medium auxiliary propelled 155 mm howitzer seat and power unit at the Rock Island Arsenal Museum.

in the barrel, a pneumatic ramming system for the loader, improved mounts and fixtures, and an optional telescopic sight for direct fire. One prototype was built, but wasn't adopted by the Israeli Defense Forces or exported.

- **KM114A1** - Reverse engineered version of the M114A1 by South Korea. It is modified to fire RAP ammunition at a maximum range of 12.1 mi (19.5 km). Produced since the late 1970s until the introduction of the KH179
- **155 mm Howitzer M65** – Yugoslav copy of the M114A1, which was also used by the Yugoslav People's Army. It's virtually identical to the original, with a few minor differences. The M65 fires the standard American M107 HE shell. For training the M65 can be fitted with a 20 mm (0.79 in) sub- caliber barrel insert. It was built only in small numbers.

Variants

- Gun variants:
 - **M1920** – Prototype.
 - **M1925** – First standardized variant. Unbuilt prototype, only exist as a wooden model.
 - **T1, T1E1** (1930s) – Prototype.
 - **M1** (1941) – First variant to went into production. Barrel length

ened by 20 calibers, new breech mechanism.

- Carriage variants:
 - **M1920** – Prototype.
 - **M1925** – First standardized variant. Unbuilt prototype, only exist as a wooden model.
 - **T1, T1E1** (1930s) – Prototype.
 - **M1** (1941) – Split trail carriage, pneumatic tires, mid-axle firing pedestal extended by a ratchet mechanism.
 - **M1A1** – **M1** with electric brakes replaced with air brakes. **M1A1E1** –Intended for use in jungle and muddy terrain, wheels replaced with a free-wheeling tracked suspension. Project terminated without reaching production.
 - **M1A2** – **M1** / **M1A1** with the ratchet mechanism replaced by a screw- jack system, modified traveling lock.
 - **T-9, T-10** – Projects using low-grade steel alloys. Canceled.
 - **T-16** – Light-weight carriage using high-grade steel. Canceled.

Self-propelled mounts

The howitzer was experimentally mounted on a lengthened chassis of the M5 Light Tank. The resulting vehicle received the designation 155 mm Howitzer Motor Carriage T64. A single prototype was built before the T64 project was abandoned in favor of T64E1, based on the M24 Chaffee Light Tank chassis. This was eventually adopted as the M42 Howitzer Motor Carriage and saw action in the Korean War. Towards the end of the Korean War the US Army replaced the M41 self-propelled howitzer with the M44 Self Propelled Howitzer.

Ammunition

The gun fires separate-loading, bagged charge ammunition, with up to seven different propelling charges, from 1 (the smallest) to 7 (the largest). Muzzle velocity, range and penetration in the tables below are for maximum charge in form of complete M4A1 propelling charge.

Model	Weight	Components
	Standard charges	
M3	5.93 lb (2.69 kg)	Base charge and four incremental charges (for charges 1 to 5)
M4	13.87 lb (6.29 kg)	Base charge and two incremental charges (for charges 5 to 7)
M4A1	13.91 lb (6.31 kg)	Base charge and four incremental charges (for charges 3 to 7)
	Dummy charges	
Mk / Dummy	8.00 lb (3.63 kg)	Base charge and six incremental charges
M2 Dummy	7.36 lb (3.34 kg)	Base charge and six incremental charges

[12][14]						
Type	Model	Weight	Filler	Filler weight	Muzzle velocity	Range
High-explosive shells						
HE	HE M102	100 lb (43.13 kg)	TNT	15.56 lb (7.06 kg)		
HE	HE M107	90 lb (43.00 kg)	TNT	15.12 lb (6.86 kg)	1,850 ft/s (564 m/s)	16,355 yd (14,955 m)
Smoke shells						
Smoke	FS M105 Shell	100 lb (45.14 kg)	Sulfur trioxide in Chlorosulfonic acid	16.91 lb (7.67 kg)		
Smoke	WP M105 Shell	100 lb (44.55 kg)	White phosphorus (WP)	15.61 lb (7.08 kg)		
Smoke	FS M110 Shell	100 lb (45.45 kg)	Sulfur trioxide in Chlorosulfonic acid	16.91 lb (7.67 kg)		
Smoke	WP M110 Shell	100 lb (44.63 kg)	White phosphorus (WP)	15.61 lb (7.08 kg)		
Smoke, colored	BE M116 Shell	90 lb (39.21 kg)	Smoke mixture	17.20 lb (7.8 kg)		
Smoke	HC BE M116 Shell	100 lb (43.14 kg)	Zinc chloride (HC)	25.79 lb (11.7 kg)	1,850 ft/s (564 m/s)	16,355 yd (14,955 m)

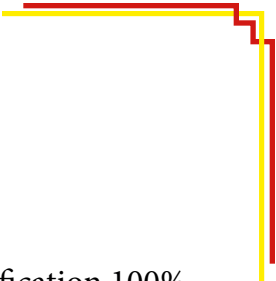
Chemical, nuclear and illumination shells						
Chemical	CNS M110 Shell	100 lb (44.05 kg)	Chloroacetophenone (CN)	13.80 lb (6.26 kg)		
Chemical	H M110 Shell	90 lb (43.09 kg)	Mustard gas	11.07 lb (5.02 kg)	1,850 ft/s (564 m/s)	16,374 yd (14,972 m)
Nuclear	W48 Shell	100 lb (54 kg)	Nuclear	100 tonnes of TNT (420 GJ) equivalen	1,850 ft/s (564 m/s)	16,374 yd (14,972 m)
Illumination	Illumin. M118 Shell	100 lb (46.77 kg)	Illuminant candles	8.86 lb (4.02 kg)		
Drill (training) shells						
Drill	Dummy Mk I Projectil					
Drill	Dummy M7 Projectil	90 lb (43.09 kg)				

Concrete penetration, mm[14]				
Ammunition \ Distance	0 yd (0 m)	1,000 yd (914 m)	3,000 yd (2,743 m)	5,000 yd (4,572 m)
HE M107 Shell (meet angle 0°)	2 ft 11 in (884 mm)	2 ft 7 in (792 mm)	2 ft (610 mm)	1 ft 7 in (488 mm)
Different methods of measurement were used in different countries / periods. Therefore, direct comparison is often impossible.				



3rd Battalion 15th FAR Significant Events

1. June 1976 3rd Battalion Activated at Ft McClellan AL
2. 1977 Issued Equipment Viet Nam era M114A1 Howitzer and rolling stock
3. August 1977 First Round Fired FP-2 Pelham Range/ FT McClellan AL
4. 1978 3392nd USAR School FDC Training
5. 1978 CAPSTONE to 118th FA BDE GA NG
6. AT-78 at Camp Shelby MS
7. AT-79 at Ft Sill via Commercial Flight and Military Convoy all Rolling Stock
8. AT-80 at Camp Shelby MS
9. AT-81 at Ft Stewart GA
10. AT-82 Ft Stewart GA ARTEP w/Nuclear Certification
11. Nuclear Mission Accreditation SVC Battery every ARTEP
12. 1983 CPX with 118th FA BDE @ Ft Stewart GA
13. AT-83 FT McClellan AL 1983
14. 1983 Service Battery attains 100% Strength the first Battery in the Battalion to do so.
15. AT-84 ARTEP w/Nuclear Certification
16. AT-85 FT Stewart GA ARTEP 100% Gunnery
17. AT-86 FT Stewart GA
18. 1986 the M198 Howitzer Issued throughout the year
19. AT-87 FT Stewart GA ARTEP w/Nuclear Certification 100% Gunnery
20. Battalion HQ's and Service Battery moved from Ft McClellan AL to Bill Nichols Reserve Center Anniston AL

- 
21. AT-88 Ft Stewart GA
 22. AT-89 Ft Stewart GA
 23. AT-90 Ft Stewart GA ARTEP w/Nuclear Certification 100% Gunnery
 24. AT-91 FT Stewart GA
 25. 1992 Battalion Nuclear Certification Requirement Ended
 26. AT-92 Ft Stewart GA Standard External Evaluation (SEE) 100% Gunnery 96% Overall Evaluation
 27. 1992 Battalion put on notice for JRTC Rotation 1993 or 1994
 28. AT-93 Ft McClellan AL School House of the Soldier
 29. 1993 Battalion holds School House of the Soldier raising MOSQ with 3392nd USAR School
 30. 1993 Began coordination for drawing SINCGARS
 31. 1993 Coordination with 101st ABN to conduct Air Mobile Training AT-94 at Ft Campbell KY
 32. 1993 BN alerted to possible Inactivation.....BN adopted two-plans one for AT-94 at Ft Campbell and the other for Inactivation
 33. 1994 Battalion Inactivated moving men and equipment through out the 121st ARCOM, Alabama National Guard and Active Duty between March and the end of August
 34. 3rd Battalion fired 73600 total rounds over 17 total years
 35. Maintained a stellar safety record over 17 years with no loss of life or serious accidents
 36. 1976-1994 Major Equipment Shortages a continuing issue for the Battalion
 37. 3rd Battalion Inactivated 10 September 1994 @ Bill Nichols Reserve Center

TIME ON TARGET

One of the most impressive accomplishments of the US Army Field Artillery employed during the Second World War came to be known as Time On Target, shortened to the acronym 'TOT. It was a method of massing fire of numerous artillery batteries (with different types of cannons located at various sites) on a single target, with all the rounds landing at approximately the same time.

As most enemy casualties occurred in the first few seconds, timing all rounds to arrive in the shortest time possible markedly increased effectiveness. It was an interwar development by the US Army's Field Artillery School, reinforced by British experience in North Africa. At Elsenborn Ridge, during the Battle of the Bulge, the US 1st, 2nd, 9th and 99th Infantry Divisions could call on twenty-three corps and divisional batteries, plus thirty-six regimental batteries. The total of 348 corps, divisional and regimental artillery pieces, plus 4.2in chemical mortars delivered devastating TOTs, possibly the largest American concentration of the war. The key component that made TOT possible was the interwar development of the battalionlevel Fire Direction Center (FDC). It was staffed by the most experienced artillerymen, who took over the time-consuming and challenging task of making the calculations and plotting required to engage targets, a role formerly performed by individual artillery battery commanders.

The FDC relied on ground-based forward observers (FO's) equipped with radios and field telephones and aerial observers to observe the fall of rounds and provide any necessary fire adjustments. In a March 1945 memo, a US Army general commented on the effectiveness of FDCs during the Italian campaign (1943-45), which allowed for the 'massing of fires up to seven battalions after the adjustment [of] observed fire by one battalion, or by one forward observer' to become routine.

In the September 1946 issue of Field Artillery Journal appears a quote in an article titled 'Heroes' regarding artillery forward observers: 'There wasn't a man at the front who wasn't happy to see an artilleryman, Captain Owen R. O'Neill of the 383rd Infantry Regiment said when asked what his men thought about forward observers. 'If they weren't around, the men were jittery. It didn't make any difference whether it was an enlisted man or an officer, just as long as it was an artilleryman.

They were the greatest single morale factor we had at the front.' The job of the forward observers came with an elevated risk of becoming a casualty. They were considered highpriority targets by all sides.

From American Artillery from 1775 to the Present Day
Author Michael Green

Chaplain's Corner with Chaplain Wes Hodgins

“Jews request a sign, Greeks seek wisdom; but we preach Christ‘ Crucified’! (1 Cor. 1:25) The message of Paul to the Church in Corinth in the first century AD could well be ‘*headline-news*’ in America today. Folks everywhere are seeking ‘*some visible-sign*’ for the ‘*Proooooof*’ that the message of Jesus is true! Many others are pursuing the ‘knowledge’ gained from various fields of research to deny the existence of God and the ‘*independence*’ of man from any concept of a ‘*creator-God*’. (and accountability to that God!)

Today, ‘Bit-coin’ and ‘AI’ are in the headlines, promising the ability to do things previously thought impossible. All seeming to be the ‘inventions of men’. Here, Paul declares that the ‘***foolishness of God is wiser than men***’. These technologies promising ‘*great-things*’ for men are also fraught with the ability to bring great harm. These are the very ‘*technologies*’ which will enable the coming “*Anti-Christ*” to gain control of the entire world! No one will be able to ‘*buy or sell*’ without his approval! The child of God today must ‘*discern-the-times*’ and realize that the appearance of this ‘*master-villain*’ is not too far away! All of the things God’s prophets said ‘*would-come*’ have come in the way and at the time God said they would. The appearance of this ‘*villain*’ will be also! So, how shall we live in these ‘*last-days*’? 1. Pursuing paths of righteousness for the ‘namesake’ of our great God. 2. Actively seeking to bring folks around us to the ‘*truth*’ of Jesus Christ, ***crucified***. The living Jesus was a teacher; the ***crucified-Jesus*** is the ‘*Savior*’ every man needs today! He alone brings men to eternal-life in God.

Chaplain Hodgins

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

