



2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter, Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)



WEBSITE: www.b-2-1-196lib.com

Volume 4

"A Soldier Once... And Always"

July 2014

Commanders Corner: By the time you receive this, the 4th of July will already be history. Commonly known as Independence Day, the 4th of July, is a federal holiday celebrating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. This declaration of independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain is generally associated with fireworks, parades and family reunions. In the past it was also a day of political speeches and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events.



What sometimes seems to be lost among all the hoopla of the fireworks and such are the sacrifices made by the men and women of this great country who helped maintain this independence. Celebrating the history, government, and traditions of Independence Day should also cause us to reflect on our comrades in arms who were lucky enough to serve in one of the oldest infantry units in our history; the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment.

The 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment draws its lineage from post Revolutionary War infantry regiments originally constituted in the United States Army as the 2nd Infantry Regiment in March, 1791. The 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment traces to a company of the "Second Regiment of Infantry"; which, in 1792, was redesignated as a company of the Second Sub-Legion; hence the nickname "Legionnaires". Aside from Memorial Day, this day should also be a time to reflect on the friends and comrades we lost in the service of our country. Not only the ones lost in battle but, the ones who made it home and have subsequently died. One of our members, Mike "Doc" Crowe, who served with B 2/1 in '68 and '69 as a medic and was lost to us on June 3rd. Mike was interred at Eagle Point V.A. cemetery, Eagle Point, Oregon on June 18th. Doc will be sorely missed by all who knew him and especially by Annie and his long time friend, fellow chapter member, Dennis "Turtle" Schrappy; who met Mike in Vietnam in October, 1968. Rest in Peace, Doc.

In regards to memorializing our comrades, fellow chapter member Gerry "Bo" Borysiak is taking care of getting memorial bricks placed at the Kokomo Vietnam Veterans Memorial for some of our 2/1 deceased. Donations from several members have provided a brick for Samuel Morgan, Raul Perez, Jim Burchfield, Dennis Smith, Jeff Peterson, Michael Crowe, Mike Fox, Johnny Garlic, Terry Loyd, John Lockhorst, Reed Campbell, Cecil Smith, Paul Thomas, Joe Morriggi, and David Yates. If anyone wishes to place a brick in the memory of one of our fallen 2/1 warriors or 2/1 vet who has died after his return, Gerry has volunteered (a nasty word in the army) to be the liaison to the Kokomo memorial folks. The cost of a brick is \$25 and a check along with the name, unit, and KIA date, if known, should be sent to Chuck Holdaway, 11681 N. 600 W., Fountaintown, IN 46130. Information for vets who have

passed away after their return, should include either "CIB" or "CMB" and years served in Vietnam, if known.

Requests are accepted all year long but, requests sent in prior to August 1st should insure the brick being placed before the annual Kokomo Veterans Reunion; this year held Sept. 18-21. Also, engraving on a brick is limited to 3 lines, 13 characters each including spaces. Examples are:

Paul E Thomas	Mike Crowe
B 2/1 196LIB	B 2/1 196LIB
KIA 04/05/70	CMB 68-69

Keep safe and may the bond of battle never be broken!

Chuck



Army Announces 33,000 Positions Now Available to Women:

Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh signed a directive authorizing more opportunities for women to serve in a wider range of roles within the Army. This authorization results in the opening of about 33,000 positions in units that were once closed to women, said Col. Linda Sheimo, chief of the Command Programs and Policy Division at the Directorate of Military Personnel Management, Army G-1. The 30-day congressional notification required by law before implanting this change in policy was completed April 7, 2014. "Soon, our formations down to company level, will begin having female Soldiers arrive for duty to serve in positions once closed to women, said Lt. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg, deputy chief of staff, Army G-1. "However, this will not happen overnight; we will continue to incrementally fill these positions with Soldiers who have the ability, are qualified, and have the proven performance to complete the mission," he said. As a part of the incremental strategy, the directive states "female leaders will be assigned first to provide a support network for junior female Soldiers and to offer advice to the unit's male leadership." "The decision to open these positions to female Soldiers was made after U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command completed extensive validation studies, including physical fitness requirements," Sheimo said. "Nevertheless, women as well as men who do not meet the standards will not be allowed into these MOSs (military occupational specialties)," she emphasized. With the change, women can serve anywhere in the Army -- even in combat units -- within an MOS that is open to women. The 14 MOSs in the Army that are currently closed to women. Those MOSs are: engineer (12B enlisted), field artillery (13B/D/F), infantry (11A/B/C/Z), and armor (19A/B/C/D/K/Z). Additionally, the new Army directive does not affect the special operations community. More MOSs could be open for women in the future, Sheimo said. By Jan. 1, 2016, the Army will have completed validation studies for all 14 MOSs that are currently closed to women and will pass its recommendations on to the Office of the Secretary of Defense for review.

Dennis Schrappy Remembers Michael (Doc) Crowe: It has been 45 yrs. since I was in Vietnam. Little did I know what was in store when I was drafted in March of 1968. All I knew was that I would be going to Vietnam. It sure doesn't seem that long ago. A lot I have locked away or forgotten. Faces, names, places, and there's a lot I'll never forget. One good thing that came out of this war, was the day that Michael (Doc) Crowe came into my life. We seem to hit it off right away. I don't know if it was because we both were from the L. A. area, or we both surfed and like fast cars, but it was nice to have someone that understood what type of person I was at the age of 20. We soon became Brothers in Battle. At the time I didn't realize the affect that this was going to have on my life. I was soon transferred from our unit and after several months Doc was wounded and sent to Japan, and then to the states. It was almost two years later before we managed to get in contact with one another. We quickly picked up right where we left off. We were Brothers in Battle; now we became best of friends. Mike and I lived about 60 miles away from each other, but that was a three hour drive in L.A. We manage to get together about every month or so. It was great! In 1975 I moved to Oregon and started a new life. Little did I know that within a couple of years Doc would also move to Oregon. And that was the last time we would be separated from each other. We have always been there for one another, when we needed an ear to listen, or a hand to help. This is something that no one will ever be able to take from me, and I'm going to miss that. June 18, 2014 we laid to rest a Brother in Battle, my Best Friend, and I will always be so grateful have had the opportunity to be part of Doc Crowe's life.

I love Ya Doc

Turtle

Michal (Doc) Crowe's obituary, written by his sister Jan: Michal K. Crowe 65, of Applegate Ore. passed away June 4, 2014. He was a recipient of the Silver Star and Purple Heart from his days as a Combat Medic in the Vietnam War. He has lived with chronic pain since 1969 from injuries he received in battle. Michal loved living in the country, gardening, his five cats, riding his dirt bike, and playing the blue's on his harmonica. He is survived by his sister, Jan Crowe of Grants Pass, Ore; his three children, Alan Crowe, Sara Crowe, Amy Sawade, and three grandchildren. He was blessed to have Annie Naggle in his life, she took very good care of him for the last couple months of his life Michal was be buried with full military honors at the Eagle Point V.A. National Cemetery, Wednesday, June 18, 2014, at 11 am.



Stories from you contain historical value for all who served. Please send your story to Editor, 2/1 Newsletter either by email rheroux1@nc.rr.com, or by snail mail at 2005 Montgomery Road, Franklinton, NC 27525.

It was in mid-July of 69 and our unit was on an island. We were listening to the radio about the moon landing. Just before we heard the famous, "one small step for man, one giant step for mankind". Someone said, "If something grabbed Neil Armstrong's leg he would fill up that space with S ____". Everyone laughed. The next day or so I was wounded for the first time and we lost Lt. Yates and another man whose name escapes me. Bo Borysiak got the sniper that killed them. We laughed at times and other times we felt the pain of losing a comrade.

Don Hicks (RTO)

Carpenter Awarded Medal of Honor:



Retired Marine Cpl. William "Kyle" Carpenter became the 11th U.S. service member from the war in Afghanistan to earn the Medal of Honor when President Barack Obama draped the nation's highest award for combat valor around his neck. Carpenter, only 19 when he used his own body to shield another Marine from a grenade in 2010, lived through the blast and injuries and surgeries against tremendous odds. "His injuries were called catastrophic. It seemed as though he was going to die," Obama said in the East Room of the White House. "While being treated he went into cardiac arrest. Three times he flat-lined. Three times doctors brought him back." Carpenter was medically retired from the Marine Corps last year after more than two years of surgeries and rehabilitative therapy. The ceremony was witnessed by Carpenter's family, fellow Marines and members of the Medal of Honor Society who fought in the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Vietnam. Carpenter said that when Obama gave him the medal, "I felt the history of the weight of the nation." Carpenter said he thought about all the Marines who went before him, from the Continental Marines that "fearlessly defended their ships" during the American Revolution to those who fought in both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam and more recently in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A true friend is someone who reaches for your hand and touches your heart".

DOD Identifies 23 Missing Service Members: The Defense POW/MIA Office has announced the identification of remains belonging to four World War II soldiers, two Korean War soldiers and 17 service members who were aboard a C-124 aircraft that crashed in Alaska. Recovered are:

- Army Cpl. Lucio R. Aguilar, 19, of Brownsville, Texas, was buried last Friday in Corpus Christi. On the night of Nov. 27, 1950, elements of the 25th Infantry Division and 35th Infantry Regiment established a defensive position at Yongsan-dong in North Korea. On Nov. 28, Aguilar was reported missing in action after his unit was forced into a fighting withdrawal.

- Army Sgt. Paul M. Gordon, 20, of Dry Ridge, Ky., is being buried in Williamstown, Ky. On Jan. 7, 1951, Gordon was assigned to Company H, 2nd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, deployed in the vicinity of Wonju, South Korea, and would be listed as missing in action following a battle against Chinese forces. In September 1953, returning U.S. service members reported that Gordon had been captured but died in a POW camp in June 1951.

- Marine Corps Pfc. Randolph Allen, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, who was lost on Tarawa on Nov. 20, 1943. He was accounted for on June 17 and will be buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

- Army Pfc. Cecil E. Harris, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, lost in France on Jan. 2, 1945. He was accounted for May 29 and will be buried with full military honors on a date and location to be determined.

- Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Robert E. Howard, 450th Bomber Squadron, 322nd Bomber Group, Medium, was lost over Germany on April 16, 1945. He was accounted for May 28 and will be buried with full military honors on June 19 in Moulton, Iowa.

- Army Pfc. Lawrence S. Gordon, Reconnaissance Company, 32nd Armored Regiment, 3rd Armored Division, was lost near Ranse, France, on Aug. 13, 1944. He was accounted for on May 27 and will be buried with full military honors this summer in Canada.

- On Nov. 22, 1952, a C-124 Globemaster crashed while en route to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, from McChord AFB, Washington, with 11 crewmen and 41 passengers on board. Adverse weather conditions precluded immediate recovery attempts, and ensuing search parties were unable to locate or recover any of the service members. It took until June 2012 when wreckage that appeared to be from an aircraft would be spotted. The 17 identified so far are: Army Lt. Col. Lawrence S. Singleton, and Pvts. James Green, Jr., and Leonard A. Kittle; Marine Corps Maj. Earl J. Stearns; Navy Cmdr. Albert J. Seebach; Air Force Cols. Noel E. Hoblit and Eugene Smith, Capt. Robert W. Turnbull, 1st Lts. Donald Sheda and William L. Turner, Tech. Sgt. Engolf W. Hagen, Staff Sgt. James H. Ray, Airman 1st Class Marion E. Hooton, Airmen 2nd Class Carroll R. Dyer, Thomas S. Lyons and Thomas C. Thigpen, and Airman 3rd Class Howard E. Martin.

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title '*Chairman*' or '*Chairman of the Board*.'

US Troops Question How Obama Rescued Bergdahl: An overwhelming majority of U.S. troops said President Obama's exchange of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl for five Taliban leaders broke America's long standing policy of not negotiating with terrorists, according to a new survey by Military.com. Responses from more than 5,600 service members, their spouses, veterans and retirees signaled a concern over the circumstances of Bergdahl's capture and the manner in which the White House executed his recovery. Nine out of ten troops said they disagreed with Obama's decision not to notify Congress ahead of Bergdahl's recovery even though the president said Bergdahl would have been killed if news of the recovery was leaked ahead of the exchange. "You always heard that we don't negotiate with terrorists, but here we have five battle hardened commanders released. On top of that, constitutionally you are supposed to notify Congress 30 days ahead and that didn't happen. I have a problem with that," said Master Sgt. Dennis Mills, an Air National Guardsman. Congressional committees have hosted hearings on the release and Republican lawmakers have expressed their frustration with the Obama administration's decision not to notify key members of Congress. "This transfer is a clear violation of section 1035 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014. There is no compelling reason why the Department could not provide a notification to Congress 30 days before the transfer, especially when it has complied with the notification requirement for all previous GTMO detainee transfers since enactment of the law," said Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, in a statement.

Aircraft Carrier to be Scrapped: Yet another decommissioned "supercarrier" is coming to the Port of Brownsville for scrapping, and it's the biggest one yet. In fact, the dismantling of the former aircraft carrier USS Constellation by International Ship-breaking Ltd. will be the largest ship-recycling job to take place in the United States. Until the Constellation contract, the former USS Forrestal and the former USS Saratoga were the largest ships slated for salvaging by a U.S. ship breaker. The Forrestal arrived in Brownsville to much fanfare in February after being towed from Philadelphia, and is now being dismantled by All Star Metals. The Saratoga, decommissioned in 1994, is expected to depart under tow from Naval Air Station at Newport, Rhode Island, this summer and will be recycled by ESCO Marine at the Port of Brownsville. Construction began on the Constellation, the second of the Kitty Hawk-class of carriers, in 1957 at New York Naval Shipyard in Brooklyn. It was commissioned in October 1961. The vessel was decommissioned in August 2003 at the Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, then towed to the inactive ship facility at Bremerton, Wash. International Shipbreaking is expected to begin towing the 62,000-ton carrier -- nicknamed "Connie" -- from Washington in late summer.

New Marine Commandant Nominated: The president has accepted a recommendation to nominate Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford to be the next Commandant of the Marine Corps. He currently commands coalition troops in Afghanistan as head of the International Security Assistance Force. If confirmed by the Senate, he will become the 36th commandant, succeeding current Gen. James Amos, who is expected to retire later this year. Dunford, 58, is a native of Boston who was commissioned in 1977 after graduating from St. Michael's College. Prior to his current assignment, he served as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps from October 2010 to December 2012, and has commanded at every level, to include the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, the 5th Marine Regiment, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, and served as the Commander, Marine Forces U.S. Central Command.

Soldier from 173rd Airborne Soldier to Receive Medal of Honor: A soldier who kept fighting despite grenade shrapnel wounds to the legs and arm in the controversial battle of Wanat in Afghanistan will receive the Medal of Honor, the White House announced recently. Former [Army](#) Staff Sgt. Ryan M. Pitts, who was medically discharged in 2009, will be the ninth living recipient of the Medal of Honor from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. President Obama will present him with the nation's highest award for valor at a White House ceremony on July 21. Pitts will receive the MOH for his actions while serving as a Forward Observer with 2nd Platoon, Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade. The battle took place at Vehicle Patrol Base Kahler in the Waygal Valley near Wanat Village in northeastern Kunar Province, Afghanistan. Last month, Obama awarded the Medal of Honor to another soldier from the 503rd Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade – former Sgt. Kyle J. White. In 2010, former Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, who also served with the 503rd Regiment of the 173rd, received the Medal of Honor for his actions in Afghanistan's Korengal Valley in 2007. Giunta was the first living recipient of the MOH since the Vietnam War.



NASCAR Race Named for Green Beret: Green Beret John Wayne Walding was announced as the winner of Crown Royal's "Your Hero's Name Here" contest during the 2014 CMT Music Awards broadcast. The program will rename the July 27th NASCAR race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway as the John Wayne Walding 400 at the Brickyard Powered by [BigMachineRecords.com](#). At the race, Walding will receive a VIP at-track experience and hand the trophy bearing his name to the race winner in Victory Lane. You can view that moment at [CrownRoyal.CMT.com](#). While overseas in 2008, Walding was involved in a fire fight during a mission to capture a high value target, during which he lost the lower part of his right leg. After recovering from his injury, Walding was the first amputee to graduate the Special Forces Sniper School. He completed the Army 10 miler on foot and the 2009 Boston Marathon utilizing a hand cycle, within a year of the accident. Among Walding's many awards and badges are the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Combat Infantry Badge. Walding was nominated for the program by his brother and lives in Little Elm with his wife Amy and their four children. He is the founder of Five Toes Custom, which employs wounded veterans in an effort to provide support and direction within their lives.

**SHE KISSED THE HAIRBRUSH
BY MISTAKE
SHE THOUGHT IT WAS
HER HUSBAND JAKE
Burma Shave**

House Votes to Block A-10 Retirement: The U.S. House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly in favor of blocking the Air Force from retiring the [A-10 gunship](#) next year. The Republican-controlled chamber late Thursday approved a series of amendments to its fiscal 2015 defense spending bill, including a provision that would prohibit the Pentagon from spending any money to retire the fleet of Cold War-era aircraft. The measure, which [passed](#) 300–114, was sponsored by Reps. Candice Miller, a Republican from Michigan, and Ron Barber, a Democrat from Arizona. "I offer my amendment because I stand shoulder to shoulder with the troops on the ground, any one of which will tell you the champion, workhorse aircraft in theater in both Iraq and Afghanistan has been the A-10," Miller said in a [statement](#) afterward. "It may be old, but it has proven to be ideally suited to its mission," she added. "It's lethal, it's incredibly effective, and when our troops on the ground hear it coming, they know what it means, and so do our enemies; it means pain is coming their way." As part of its budget request for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, the service proposed retiring its entire fleets of A-10 attack planes and U-2 spy planes, and partial inventories of other aircraft. The recommendations were driven in a large part by automatic budget cuts known as sequestration. Sending the close-air-support aircraft to the bone yard would save an estimated \$4.2 billion over five years alone, officials have said. The passage of the amendment makes it increasingly likely that the A-10 will remain in service next year. Both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees voted to restore funding to keep the planes flying for at least another year. And while the House Appropriations Committee agreed to retire the aircraft, their colleagues easily rejected the idea. The amendment, however, doesn't include any additional funding to keep the planes operational. So unless lawmakers come up with the money, service officials will be forced to raid other accounts in a tightening budget — precisely what they don't want to do.

Danger Pay and Immunity for SF Headed To Iraq: [Special Forces](#) soldiers heading to Iraq to advise the Iraqi security forces will receive combat pay and also have immunity from local law, Pentagon officials said. "Imminent Danger Pay is, and will be, in effect for service members deployed to Iraq," Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen, a Pentagon spokesman, said. The statement followed a briefing by Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, at which he was asked about danger pay for the Special Forces in Iraq and initially responded that "Our combat mission in Iraq ended in 2011. This is not a combat mission." Kirby added that he would have to check on the details of the pay issue but repeated "This is not a combat mission." Christensen later said that the troops in Iraq would be receiving IDP of \$7.50 daily up to \$225 per month. Last month, the Defense Department eliminated "imminent danger pay" for troops serving in neighboring Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and also in the Gulf state of Qatar. Kirby added that the troops going to Iraq to assess the state of Iraqi forces and advise them on combating the extremists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) will not be subject to Iraqi law in case of an incident, Kirby said. U.S. forces returning to Iraq will be subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Kirby said. "I can assure you they will have all legal protections," Kirby said. U.S. military personnel currently in Iraq at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad are covered by the diplomatic immunity of the State Department. The refusal of Iraq to give immunity from local law to U.S. troops was a major factor in the failure to reach a Status of Forces agreement that led to the 2011 withdrawal.

"The man who complains about the way the ball bounces is likely to be the one who dropped it." — Lou Holtz

1st Athletic Supporter:

It's 1955 and I am 8 years old living with my grandparents in Grosse Pointe, Michigan right next to Detroit. I had been dreaming of the day when I was old enough to play Little League Baseball and Football on a real team with real uniforms rather than all the back yard games I had been playing. Baseball came first. After being checked out, the coaches I turned 8 that January so Little League baseball came first. I attended a mass try out for all the new kids with all the coaches in the league present. We all got checked out then the coaches picked who they wanted and we got letters of what team we were on in a few days.

At the first practice with my team the new kids were told they could not practice until they had an athletic supporter with a cup. I went home and told my grandfather fully expecting him to save me the embarrassment of doing the job myself. He just gave the money. I rode my bike down to the local sporting goods store that made all the uniforms for the local little league teams of all types, pretty much baseball football and basketball at the time. A great store with all sorts of uniforms helmets shoulder pads and all that good stuff. It also had the biggest glass case full of football and baseball cards I'd ever seen in my 8 year old life. I used to go down there often just to look at all the stuff and dream about when my day would come. So, I knew that there was always one man and one woman and needless to say I was hoping to be waited on by the man.

I went inside and the man was busy with an adult customer going over uniforms, Yikes! I decide to waste some time by just looking at all the cool stuff in there like I usually did until the man was done and can wait on me. I eventually work my way over to all the football and baseball cards in the big glass case. Next thing I know the woman is standing behind the glass case and asks me if I need something. Worst case scenario has just become reality.

It gets even worse. I get up the nerve to tell her I need an athletic supporter hoping to get this over with in a hurry. After I tell her I need an athletic supporter she asks—"for your knee?" holy shit what now? I find my self just looking down at my shoes with my 8 year old face as red as a cherry. She figures it out before I have to find the words to tell her what I need it for. Whew; I think the worst of it is over, not so. We get to the athletic supporters all stacked in boxes above my head on a shelf that I can't reach. Next question she asks me is—"what size?" Large was the first thing that came to mind but I knew she wouldn't go for that, so once again my red face is looking at my shoes. She figures small outta do on her own and the ordeal was over shortly thereafter.

I'll never forget that day.

Bruce "Nelson" Nielsen



Bruce Nielsen is the last person on the front row. Far right.

Christmas Party 1972

The following article came from the archives of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade

vol 2, No. 1

Charger

January 14, 1972 Page 2

2d Bn, 1st Inf Throws Party for 280 Children

By SGT David A. Rea

DA NANG – To most people, Christmas in Vietnam can be very depressing, but for the men of 2d Bn., 1st Inf. it has been a very joyous occasion.

Under the supervision of the battalion S-5 (SFC John Forsythe) the men of 2d Bn, 1st Inf., with assistance from their families and friends, took it upon themselves to provide the 280 children of Sacred Heart Orphanage with a Christmas party.

The party was in the planning stage as early as September. Numerous letters were sent to friends, relatives and charitable organizations asking for contributions and donations. The results were gratifying, as boxes and letters arrived from all over the United States.

The festivities of the day began with a selection of Christmas carols sung by the older girls of the orphanage accompanied by the 196th Infantry Brigade Band under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer Arnold.

Sister Angela, Mother Superior of the orphanage, made a very warming welcoming speech which was followed by the presentation of a monetary gift from the men and friends of the battalion by first Lieutenant Michael Foxx.

Then came the highlight of the day, the occasion for which each of the forty-five men had been waiting – the chance to play Santa Claus. There was a wide assortment of presents and, as can be found in any group of children of Christmas, there were those that were pleased and those that were displeased with their gifts, a few a little too anxious to obtain their gift, and a few that had to be coaxed into overcoming their shyness in order to accept their gift.

Mass confusion and all pandemonium broke loose as wrapping paper, toys and noise filled the plaza of the orphanage. The soldiers assisted greatly in the confusion as the boy in each became very evident. Every man from the Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Frederick H. Mitchell, to the lowest ranking enlisted man was faced with the problem of whom to help next.

The cake, candy and punch line opened and there was stickiness everywhere. No one really seemed to notice, however, for there was an intangible adhesiveness far more dominate present – that of love and happiness. It was evident that there is nothing more adequate at overshadowing life's problems, at least momentarily, than being in the presence of an effervescent child.

Although it appears that only the children benefited from the gifts, refreshments and entertainment, the greatest gift was received by the men that participated in the event, as even the most hard-core radiated the spirit of the season.

