

# THE POWDER BAG

**“THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION INC.” NEWLETTER**

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**“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.**

*George Washington*

**“And in the end, it’s not the years in your life that counts.  
It’s the life in your years.”**

*Abraham Lincoln*

## **ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

**Commander:** COL (RET) Tony Radice  
**Executive Officer:** 1SG (RET) Ed Powell  
**Adjutant:** 1SG (RET) Joe Scioli  
**Finance Officer:** CW4 (RET) Jack Elberson  
**Logistics Officer:** CPT (RET) Marc Kantor

## **THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION**

2001 Park Boulevard, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-2778

Phone: 302 252-1532 E-Mail: [coloneltony@comcast.net](mailto:coloneltony@comcast.net)

**Publication Staff:** COL (Ret) Tony Radice, CW4 (Ret) Jack Elberson,  
Ginny Scioli and Susan Barrowman



## **COMMANDER'S COMMENTS**

I am happy to report that 1SG (Ret) Ed Powell, the current Executive Officer of this association has volunteered to guide this organization going forward as the next Commander. Ed is the kind of soldier who will never let you down and, recognizing the seriousness of the situation regarding the future of this association, has stepped up to the plate. I know he can expect, and will get, all the cooperation that he deserves. Both Ed and Ronnie have demonstrated their love for this association in many ways in the past and it is with a deep sense of pride that I hand over the leadership to such a generous and supportive couple.

*Col (Ret) Tony Radice*

## **SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 2nd, 2011 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by the Commander at 1905 hours in the 119<sup>th</sup> Staff room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a short prayer was offered in memory of our fallen comrades and those on sick call that includes John Ford, Jake Parvin, Bill Dare, Conrad Tucker and Darlene Reinis. Our thoughts and prayers are always with you as well as with our comrades in the 114<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Mark Mullin, Lou Ruggiano; Gene Edwards. Our deepest condolences go out to the family of MSG Jim Matreale who has answered his last roll call.

**Commander's Report:** Due to the asbestos removal work being done throughout the armory we were not able to publish the Powder Bag for October on time. This will be accomplished as soon as Jack Elberson can recover his office space again. The removal program is going well and should be finished by the 20<sup>th</sup> of November. We are looking forward to putting the museum back together again. The new floor will brighten up the room considerably.

The annual Christmas dinner meeting will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> in the old Officers clubroom at 6:30 PM. Thanks to the wives who, as usual, always makes it a point to run this event without a flaw.

We will be mailing out, sometime in November, ballots for the upcoming elections, held in February, along with invitations to the Dine Out on March 3d and subscriptions for an AD in our AD book. Your support in all these efforts is sincerely appreciated.

Thanks to Santiago Marti and his wife who have volunteered to be the chairpersons for the semi-annual Brunch to be held on Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> at a location to be determined.

There being no more items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1945 hours. Our next meeting is December 7th.

### **A SOLDIER DIED TODAY**

It is with the deepest regrets that I inform the membership of the loss of the former Battalion Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery LTC John H. Ford. John's dedication and love of the artillery and the Battalion were always obvious when you talked with him. He has answered his final roll call and now retires to the traditional brotherhood of stonehurlers, archers, catapulters, rocketeers and gunners. John may have fired his last round but his sound will always be heard as long as there are pictures of him in the museum and men alive who have served with and for him to tell the stories. May he rest in peace.

### **MILITARY EVENTS IN NOVEMBER**

1918 – World War I ends.

### **MILITARY EVENTS IN DECEMBER**

1636 – Birthday of the National Guard.

1775 – Cavalry Branch established/Birthday of the Armor Branch.

1814 – Treaty of Ghent signed, ending War of 1812.

1941 – Japanese aircraft attack Pearl Harbor, HI.

U.S. declares war on Japan.

U.S. declares war on Germany and Italy.

1989 – Operation Just Cause (Panama) begins.

### **THE FINAL INSPECTION**

The soldier stood and faced his God, which must always come to pass.

He hoped his shoes were shining just as brightly as his brass.

“Step forward now, you soldier, how shall I deal with you?

Have you always turned the other cheek? To My Church have you been true?

The soldier squared his shoulders and said, “No, Lord, I guess I ain't,

Because those of us who carry guns can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays, and at times my talk was tough,

And sometimes I've been violent, because the world is awfully rough.

**But, I never took a penny that wasn't mine to keep.  
Though I worked a lot of overtime when the bills got too steep,  
And I never passed a cry for help, though at times I shook with fear,  
and sometimes, God forgive me, I've wept an unmanly tear.  
I know I don't deserve a place among the people here,  
They never wanted me around except to calm their fear.  
If you've a place for me here, Lord, it needn't be so grand,  
I never expected or had too much, but if you don't, I'll understand."  
There was a silence all around the throne where the saints had often trod, as the  
soldier waited quietly, for the judgment of his God.  
"Step forward now, you soldier, You've borne your burdens well,  
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets; you've done your time in Hell."**

**TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AND CONTINUE TO SERVE**

**CATHOLIC HEART ATTACK**

**A man suffered a serious heart attack while shopping in a store. The store clerk called 911 when they saw him collapse to the floor. The paramedics rushed the man to the nearest hospital where he had emergency open heart bypass surgery.**

**He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at the Catholic hospital he was taken to. A nun was seated next to his bed holding a clip board loaded with several forms, and a pen. She asked him how he was going to pay for his treatment. "Do you have health insurance?" she asked.**

**He replied in a raspy voice, "No health insurance." The nun asked, "Do you have money in the bank?" He replied, "No money in the bank." "Do you have a relative who could help you with the payments?" asked the irritated nun. He said, "I only have a spinster sister, and she is a nun."**

**The nun became agitated and announced loudly, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God." The patient replied, "Perfect. Send the bill to my brother-in-law."**

**FAMILY SUPPORT REMINDER**



**It is important to remember that we still have soldiers on Active Duty in a combat zone and those that have returned who have not been able to forget they were there. It's also appropriate to remember the families they left behind.**

### **\$800 A YEAR**

A man walks into his bedroom and sees his wife packing a suitcase. He asks, "What are you doing?" She answers, "I'm moving to New York. I heard prostitutes there get paid \$400 a night for doing what I do for you for free."

A little later, on her way out, the wife walks past the bedroom and sees her husband packing his suitcase. When she asks him where he's going, he replies, "I'm coming, too. I want to see how you live on \$800 a year."

### **THE GULF WAR**

**(This is the eleventh of a twelve part set of short comments on Wars fought beginning with the American Revolution through the Iraq War)**

Groaning under the financial burdens incurred during an eight-year war against Iran, and unable to gain concessions from its Arab neighbors, Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990. Concerned about the Iraqi military's sudden proximity to Saudi Arabia's Hama oil fields, the United States and more than two dozen coalition partners launched a counterattack a few months later. Though many weeks of strategic bombing had weakened Iraq's military machine, tensions ran high in the days leading up to this offensive, due to the presumed strength and experience of Iraq's battle-hardened Republican Guard. But the coalition forces swept through Kuwait almost without opposition, destroying or expelling Iraqi forces as they went. The war ranks among the most lopsided in history, but it restored the morale of the American military, helping it to finally shake its "Vietnam Syndrome." Troops marched across the Memorial Bridge in Washington, D.C. toward the Pentagon, during the National Victory Day Parade on Saturday, June 8, 1991. The celebration drew an estimated 8000,000 spectators.

### **THEN YOU HEAR THIS...**

The banker saw his old friend Tom, an eighth-year old rancher, in town. Tom had lost his wife a year or so before and rumor had it that he was marrying a "mail order" bride. Being a good friend, the banker asked Tom if the rumor was true. Tom assured him that it was. The banker then asked Tom the age of his new bride to be. Tom proudly said, "She'll be twenty-one in November."

Now the banker, being the wise man that he was, could see that the sexual appetite of a young woman could not be satisfied by an eighth-year old man. Wanting his old friend's remaining years to be happy the banker tactfully suggested that Tom should consider getting a hired hand to help him out on the ranch, knowing that nature would take its own course.

Tom thought this was a good idea and said he would look for one that afternoon. About four months later, the banker ran into Tom in town again. "How's the new wife?" asked the banker.

Tom proudly said, "Good...she's pregnant." The banker, happy that his sage advice had worked out, continued, "And how's the hired hand?" Without hesitating, Tom said, "She's pregnant, too!" Don't ever underestimate old guys.

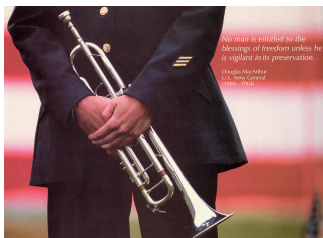
### **NEVER FORGET THAT**

A Veteran – whether Active Duty, Retired, National Guard or Reserve – is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount of "up to and including my life."

"No one should pass an American in uniform without saying, "Thank you, we are grateful." Always mindful that they are prepared to risk all of their dreams so that all of us can reach ours."

*Former Secretary of Defense William Cohen*

### **TO ALL OF OUR FALLEN COMRADES**



Each of us has a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.

Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow." You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success!

## **REQUEST YOUR INPUT**

**I would like to remind you that this is your newsletter. You are cordially invited to submit any information you think appropriate for the good of the command to the Commander (e-mail address on the first page of this newsletter) to be edited for inclusion in the following month's publication.**

***I WAS A SOLDIER – I AM A SOLDIER – I WILL ALWAYS BE A SOLDIER***

**Your membership expiration date is on your mailing label (just like a magazine subscription). It's your reminder to pay your dues. Dues are \$20 per year. Send checks to:**

**Camden Light Artillery Association Inc.  
National Guard Armory  
2001 Park Blvd.  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-2778**



## OUR MISSION

- To promote close association, friendship, understanding and cooperation between all member of the association.
- To foster and preserve the spirit, traditions and solidarity of the Field Artillery
- To provide various communicative means for keeping all members aware and involved in association developments.
- To conduct such social activities as may provide for a continuing close relationship and camaraderie among the membership
- To develop and maintain historical records on the lineage of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery ancestors and it successors.
- To promote and support the provisions of the constitution of the United States of America.
- To provide community service to local civilian and military communities in time of need.

## WEB SITE

[www.112FA.org](http://www.112FA.org)

## E-MAIL ADDRESS

112FA.CLA@gmail.com

## FACEBOOK PAGE

our name on Facebook is

**CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY**

