

# THE POWDER BAG

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

Volume 14, Issue 7/8

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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*

**“You’ve got to go out on a limb sometimes, because that’s where the fruit is!”**

*Will Rogers*

## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

**Commander:** 1SG (RET) Ed Powell  
**Executive Officer:** MAJ (RET) Richard Tomasso  
**Adjutant:** SFC (RET) Richard Zacamy  
**Finance Officer:** CW4 (RET) Jack Elberson  
**Logistics Officer:** CPT (RET) Marc Kantor

## THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

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**Publication Staff:** 1SG (RET) Ed Powell, CW4 (Ret) Jack Elberson,



## THE COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

CW4(Ret)Jack Elberson has painstakingly put together a 497 page "Book of Us" that chronicle's the history of artillery in New Jersey - particularly the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery dating back to 1664. It consists of a biographical history of the Battalion with listings of the units, dates and names of members assigned.

Jack started this project 31 years ago and continued to update changing events as they happened. One copy will be donated to the 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Museum in Lawrenceville, NJ for historical purpose. Anyone may purchase a bound copy from Jack for \$15.00.

Anyone that sees the results of Jack's product will quickly realize that this was a pure labor of love and dedication. It was done in such detail that one can easily see that it had to be the results of an artilleryman's efforts. Well done, Jack!

### Cake or Bed

A husband is at home watching a football game, when his wife interrupts, "Honey, could you fix the light in the hallway? It's been flickering for weeks now." He looks at her and says angrily, "Fix the lights now? Does it look like I have G.E. written on my forehead? I don't think so!"

"Fine!" Then the wife asks, "Well then, could you fix the fridge door? It won't close right." To which he replied, "Fix the fridge door? Does it look like I have Frigidaire written on my forehead? I don't think so!"

"Fine!" she says. "Then could you at least fix the steps to the front door? They are about to break." He says, "Does it look like I have Carpenter written on my forehead? I don't think so! I've had enough of this; I'm going to the bar!!!"

So he goes to the bar and drinks for a couple of hours. He starts to feel guilty about how he treated his wife, and decides to go home. As he walks into the house, he notices that the steps are already fixed. As he enters the house, he sees the hall light is working. As he goes to get a beer, he notices the fridge door is fixed. "Honey, he asks, "how'd all this get fixed?"

She said, "Well, when you left, I sat outside and cried. Just then, a nice young man asked me what was wrong, and I told him. He offered to do all the repairs, and all I had to do was either go to bed with him or bake a cake."

He said, "So what kind of cake did you bake?" She replied, "Helloooo, do you see Betty Crocker written on my forehead?"



## **Scoring Life**

**Life isn't about keeping score. It's not about how many friends you have; or how many people call you. It isn't about who your family is, or how much money they have. Or what kind of car you drive. It's not about how beautiful or ugly you are, or what clothes you wear. It's not about what grades you get, or how smart you are.**

**Life is about who you love and who you hurt, it's about who you make happy or unhappy purposefully. It's about keeping or betraying trust. It's about friendship. It's about what you say and mean, maybe hurtful, maybe heartening. About starting rumors and contributing to petty gossip. It's about what judgments you pass and who your judgments are spread to and why...**

**But most of all, it's about using your life to touch or poison other people's hearts in such a way that could never have occurred alone. Only you choose the way these hearts are affected and those choices are what life is all about.**

## **Retired Senior Leaders Briefing**

**On Thursday 21 June 2012 the Adjutant General for NJ, BG Michael Cunniff, conducted a retired senior leaders briefing to help keep retired senior leaders abreast of the current and future status of the NJ Army & Air NG. The following is a summary of that briefing.**

- 1. Everyone in the room was individually recognized. It included retiree's from WW II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.**
- 2. The strength and deployment status of Army & Air NJ units from NJ. This included deployments to such countries as Kuwait, Kosovo, Cuba & Afghanistan to name a few.**
- 3. NJ continues its partnership with Albania that started in 1993. This year there are 25 missions scheduled with a wide range of activities.**
- 4. There are 37 armories in NJ. Four are planning to be sold. The NJ WETEP (weekend equipment training & equipment pool - just off Route 539 at Ft Dix) has been upgraded at the cost of thousands of dollars to include classroom areas. The Aviation Support Facility at Lakehurst and the Regional Training Facility at Sea Girt have been renovated & upgraded at the cost of 84 million dollars, both 100% federally funded.**
- 5. The NJ Youth Challenge Program, a 22 week program which provides alternative educational opportunities to High School dropouts, operating since 1994, has graduated 3110 students to date. Three hundred & seventy seven of these graduates have chosen to enlist in the military after graduation.**
- 6. There are three Veterans Memorial Homes in NJ. Menlo Park, Paramus and Vineland. All of them have waiting list. There are 447 veterans on the waiting list for Vineland.**
- 7. There were two "Stand-downs" conducted in NJ in 2011. The one conducted in Cherry Hill on 23 Sep 11 resulted in supporting 273 homeless veterans from the South Jersey area. The next "Stand-down" is scheduled for 28 Sep 12.**
- 8. The Cherry Hill armory is the only armory in Camden County and not in jeopardy of elimination per comments by Col (R) Charlie Ragucci. The armory is scheduled for a vulnerability assessment in the near future per BG (R) Steve Hines.**

### **9/11 Bus Trip**

On Saturday 23 June 2012 members of the association participated in a bus trip to NY World Trade Center sponsored by the Senior Citizens United Community Services, Inc. (SCUCS) of Camden County. Included in this trip were Ed & Ronnie Powell; Tony Radice & Sue Barrowman; Lou Bovino & Barbara Rouh; Joe, Ginny & Randy Scioli and Ed McCarty.

Included in the trip was a visit to the South Side Seaport, St. Paul's chapel (which served as a relief mission for recovery workers at Ground Zero during the 9/11 tragedy) and ground zero itself to view the magnificent reconstruction. The trip was concluded by a wonderful meal at Villa Romanza restaurant, located just outside of Trenton, on the way home.

In spite of having to change bus drivers three times, the day was a huge success! The weather was absolutely beautiful and everyone on the bus got along wonderful (in spite of Joe & Lou's continuous wise cracking that kept everyone laughing). Credit goes to Ronnie Powell for making the arrangements for this great social event

### **Congratulations!!**

On Friday 29 June 2012 several members of the Association traveled to the Lawrenceville armory to attend the promotion ceremony of Col. Steven Ferrari making him a Brigadier General in the NJARNG. Steve will serve as the Deputy Division Commander – Support for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Div. He is the first officer in 60 years to be made a General from the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 112<sup>th</sup> FA. The only other one was BG Walter Lamon back in 1951. Of course we could mention here that MG Mark Mullen (Comdr 50<sup>th</sup> Armd Div) could be included here since he came from the artillery before becoming an Infantry officer. Other Artillery General Officers were - 3/112: MG Paul Glazer (TAG); MG Dick Schneider (Comdr 50<sup>th</sup> Armd Div); BG George Blysak (ADC 50<sup>th</sup> Armd Div); BG Ken Reith (DAG). 4/112: MG Ed Rose (TAG); MG Jim Cantwell (TAG); MG Wilfred Menard (TAG); BG Pete Amodio (DAG); BG Tom Sullivan (ADC 42d Inf Div); 5/112: MG George Betor (Comdr 50<sup>th</sup> Armd Div); BG Carl Briscoe (DAG); BG Jeff Pierson (DAG). 112<sup>th</sup> FA Group: BG Bob Backes (Comdr). It's an impressive showing for the Artillery. The one thing that stands out with General Ferrari is that he is the only Artillery officer to command an Infantry Combat Brigade in a combat zone. Congratulations General!! Keep your powder dry. We all wish you a successful tour of duty.

### **Taps and Farewell**

On Wednesday 11 July 2012 SFC Bill Dare was brought home to rest at the Lakeview Memorial Cemetary in Cinnaminson, NJ. Bill had passed away on 31 March 2012 in Florida and was sent home to his final resting place on a warm, sunny and pleasant day. In attendance was 1SG Joe & Ginny Scioli; 1SG Ed Powell; SGT Ed McCarty; Col Tony Radice and Sue Barrowman. Every 1SG is taught to take care of his men and Joe Scioli was not going to let Bill be buried without a prayer and a salute. Joe handled the event with dignity and respect and made sure the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery said its goodbye in the manner that reflected the respect, love and admiration that Bill deserved.

## **Blonde Guy Joke**

An Irishman, a Mexican and a blonde guy were doing construction work on scaffolding on the 20<sup>th</sup> floor of a building. They were eating lunch and the Irishman said, "Corned beef and cabbage! If I get corned beef and cabbage one more time for lunch, I'm going to jump off this building." The Mexican opened his lunch box and exclaimed, "Burritos again! If I get burritos one more time I'm going to jump off, too." The blonde opened his lunch and said, "Bologna again! If I get a bologna sandwich one more time, I'm jumping too!"

The next day, the Irishman opened his lunch box, saw corned beef and cabbage, and jumped to his death. The Mexican opened his lunch, saw a burrito, and jumped too. The blonde guy opened his lunch, saw the bologna and jumped to his death as well.

At the funeral, the Irishman's wife was weeping. She said, "If I'd known how really tired he was of corned beef and cabbage, I never would have given it to him again!" The Mexican's wife also wept and said, "I could have given him tacos or enchiladas! I didn't realize he hated burritos so much." Everyone turned and stared at the blonde's wife. The blonde's wife said, "Don't look at me. The idiot makes his own lunch."

## **How Much Do You Remember**

**(Answer's at the end of the newsletter)**

1. What was the first X-rated film to win the best picture Oscar?
2. What's the largest-selling drink in Morocco?
3. What was the biggest-selling American novel before *Gone with the Wind*?
4. What kind of women gave Sigmund Freud erotic dreams?
5. What Hall of Fame pitcher started three World Series Games for the New York Yankees in 1962?

## **Summary of the 1 August 2012 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by the Adjutant at 1930 hours followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation. Roll call showed all Officers present. Sick call - none reported.

Financial report - showed a balance of \$3,988.57. Motion made to accept the report.

Bus Trip - booklets passed out to all interested people. Report given regarding the 911 Memorial trip taken by several of the members in June. Several 9/11 trips are coming up in the Fall. Any interested people, information is in the booklets that were handed out. All trips are on individual basis.

Gun Club – report given by Al DeMasi regarding shooting taking place either September 8 or 15<sup>th</sup>. Final date will be given out at the September meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting final date will be given on the website.

**Brunch for Patriot Day September 16<sup>th</sup> will be finalized at the September meeting. Pat and Bob Constantine are looking into a new place for it to be held. If you cannot attend the meeting, the location of the brunch will be put up on the website.**

**Suggestions were made by the Commander regarding guest speakers at our fall meetings. At our meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> John Parvin has agreed to talk about his experience in the Guard before WW II and during the War. The Commander is looking into a guest speaker for November 7<sup>th</sup> from Tri Care For Life. More information to follow.**

**It was also suggested that meetings start at 1930 during daylight saving time and 1900 on non day light saving time.**

**A group from the Camden Light Artillery attended BG Steve Ferrari getting his first star.**

**The new patch Crest of the Camden Light Artillery is now available for \$5.00. See Marc Kantor.**

**Ad book forms will be ready to be passed out at the September meeting for our Dining Out.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 2032 hours followed by refreshments.**

### **Do You Need Help?**

**I am getting up there in years, and my mind seems to wander. I was in Home Depot the other day pushing my cart around, and I collided with a young man pushing his cart. I said to the young man, "Sorry about that, I'm looking for my wife and I guess I wasn't paying attention to where I was going."**

**The young guy says, "That's okay. It's a coincidence. I'm looking for my wife too. I can't find her and I'm getting a little desperate." I said, "Well, maybe we can help each other. What does your wife look like?"**

**The young guy says, "Well, she is 24 years old, tall and slender, with blonde hair, blue eyes, long legs, big boobs, and she's wearing tight white shorts, a halter top and no bra. What does your wife look like?"**

**I said, "Doesn't matter...let's look for yours." Most of us old guys are helpful like that.**

### **Camaraderie**

**If you really want to know what camaraderie is all about you need to show up at one of the association's gun club shoots at Fort Dix. On Saturday 16 June 2012 ten members of the association showed up on Range 14 at Fort Dix to do just that. The weather was beautiful, breezy, and sunny with no humidity.**

Three members were first timers – Sue Barrowman, Marty Nicholas and Tony Radice. The veteran members were Al DiMasi; Ed McCarthy; Ray Rivera; Bill Groff; Carlos Wood; Warren Strumpfer and Marc Kantor.

The hours of 9 to 11 AM were devoted to Skeet shooting where Ray Rivera and Ed McCarthy led the way. Then from 11:30 on it was weapons firing on Range 14. The weapons of choice were individually owned various models of pistols & rifles.

The original members of this gathering were Al DiMasi; Bill Groff; Ray Rivera and Carlos Wood. Through the promotional efforts of Marc Kantor the gatherings have been slowly increasing.

It was a wonderful event and as most of them will testify “it’s the most fun you can have with your clothes on.”



### **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.

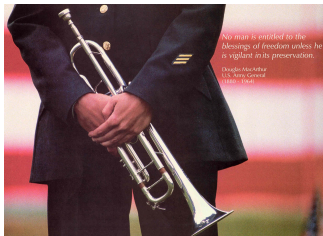
### **NEVER FORGET THAT**

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!

## **Answers to the Quiz**

1. Midnight Cowboy
2. Coca-Cola
3. Uncle Tom's Cabin
4. American woman
5. Whitey Ford

## **Most Caring Child**

Author and lecturer, Leo Buscaglia, once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was:

A four year old child, whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman, who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy just said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

## **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**

## **E-MAIL ADDRESS**

**112FA.CLA@gmail.com**

## **FACEBOOK PAGE**

our name on Facebook is

**CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY**



