

THE POWDER BAG

“THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION INC.” NEWLETTER

Volume 14, Issue 5

www.112FA.org

May 2012



“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

“IF YOU LOVE YOUR JOB YOU WILL NEVER WORK A DAY IN YOUR LIFE”

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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

THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

2001 Park Boulevard, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-2778

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



TAPS

COLONEL GERALD R. MINCHIN

It is with a heavy heart that we report the death of Jerry Minchin on April 23d. This is the fourth member of the association to have passed away in the last six months which certainly keeps us in touch with reality.

Jerry was a walking oral history of the 1st Battalion. He remembered the smallest detail of everything connected with the unit. I honestly feel that he could identify the location of every SCP (survey control point) at Fort Drum. At one time he identified one SCP as 10 meters off the right side of Purcell Road next to the large rock in the middle of the field – and he was right! None of our events were ever complete without Jerry and Pat in attendance. His honest belief was “play hard, work hard.” Jerry was the only soldier to have to relieve a commander for cause in the field. He did it with style and professionalism and was admired for his decisiveness by everyone involved in the incident.

Jerry always had the love and support of his wife Pat. She is what every soldiers wife should be. She was as big a part of the association and battalion as Jerry was and we are all privileged to know her. We wish Pat and the Minchin family health and happiness in the future and leave them with the thought that Jerry will never be forgotten and will always be missed.

THE COMMANDER’S COMMENTS

Sixty eight years ago our fellow members of 228th FA BN participated in the Normandy Campaign from 6 June 1944 until 24 July 1944. It went on from there to the final Campaign in Central Europe 26 October 1945. They arrived back in Boston, Mass. and were deactivated on 27 October 1945. On 5 July 1946 they were reorganized as the 228th FA BN in Camden, NJ and were assigned to the 50th Armored Division of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

It is an honor that we became a part of their Unit years later and became 1st BN 112th FA, and to have our next meeting on 6 June 2012 on their anniversary to help free the world.



SUMMARY OF THE MAY 2ND, 2012 MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the XO at 1930 hours (the CO was AWL). A quorum was present with 22 members in attendance. Chet Malek gave the invocation followed by a motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting. The Finance Officer, CW4 Elberson, reported that the association has in excess of \$4,000 in the treasury with all of our bills being paid.

Warren Strumpfer reported that there were no irregularities in the financial review of our financial records. The report was approved by the membership.

Al DiMasi reported that the 112th FA Gun Club continues to meet on Range 14 at Fort Dix and that generally there are about 8 to 10 members that use the range at any given time.

The members were again reminded of the association brunch scheduled to be held on May 20th at 1100 hours at the Adelpia Restaurant and the NY bus trip scheduled for June 23rd.

Marc Kantor reported that there are 104 people to date that have accessed our Facebook. Marc attended the change of command ceremony at the 3rd Bn 112th FA in Morristown representing our association. He also handed out copies of our revised Constitution and By-Laws for membership to review. The document will be voted on at our August meeting. Marc also reminded everyone that if they had any pictures to be posted to the web site to please send them to him as soon as possible.

The attendance of Pat Minchin and Phyllis DiMedio at our meeting was recognized and appreciated. They will always be a part of our association.

Lou Bovino suggested that the women of the association be responsible for providing refreshments, on a rotation basis, at our monthly meetings. Everyone approved and agreed with this recommendation.

Chet Malek proposed the association purchase and provides the surviving spouse of an association member a professional memorialized book signed by the membership, such as he presented Pat Minchin. The membership agreed to purchase this momentum on an "as needed" basis.

Joe Scioli presented the museum a WW I gas mask for display.

There being no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2050 hours.

THINGS I'VE LEARNED

I've learned that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned that when you're in love it shows.

I've learned that just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.

I've learned that having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned that you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned that I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned that no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned that sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned that simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned that money doesn't buy class.

"OLD" IS WHEN

Your sweetie says, "Let's go upstairs and make love," and you answer, "Pick one, I can't do both"

Your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes and you're barefoot.

A sexy babe or hunk catches your fancy and your pacemaker opens the garage door.

"Getting a little action" means you don't need to take any fiber today.

"Getting lucky" means you find your car in the parking lot.

An "all nighter" means not getting up to use the bathroom.

PROTECT OUR 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

“THIS YEAR WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY. FOR THE FIRST TIME, A CIVILIZED NATION HAS FULL GUN REGISTRATION. OUR STREETS WILL BE SAFER, OUR POLICE MORE EFFICIENT AND THE WORLD WILL FOLLOW OUR LEAD INTO THE FUTURE.”

Adolph Hitler, 1935

I’M GONNA BE A BEAR

In this life, I’m a woman. In my next life, I’d like to come back as a bear. When you’re a bear, you get to hibernate. You do nothing but sleep for six months. I could deal with that. Before you hibernate, you’re supposed to eat yourself stupid. I could deal with that too.

When you’re a girl bear, you birth your children (who are the size of walnuts) while you are sleeping and wake to partially grown, cute, cuddly cubs. I could definitely deal with that.

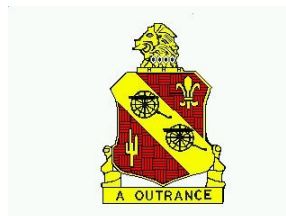
If you’re a mama bear, everyone knows you mean business. You swat anyone who bothers your cubs. If your cubs get out of line, you swat them too. I could deal with that.

If you’re a bear, your mate EXPECTS you to wake up growling. He EXPECTS that you will hairy legs and excess body fat. Yup, I’m gonna be a bear!



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.



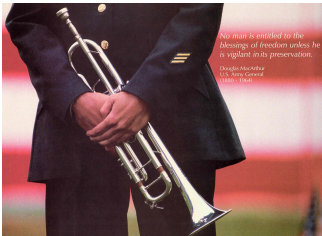
NEVER FORGET THAT

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

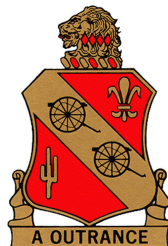


Each of us has a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.

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!

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 1st Battalion 112th 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

