

## MORE FROM SGT "MAC"

Another Wolfhound story told by ex-SGT "Mac" McNease via E-mail to CPT Brian Gellman. The latter has earned an indelible niche in the history of the 27th Infantry Regiment for his untiring efforts in obtaining and preserving Wolfhound memorabilia.

"I don't know whether you were aware of it or not, but on October 6, 1952 we destroyed a large enemy complex near Sandbag Castle that was dubbed by some if not all historians as being the most daring raid of the Korean War."

"--- I was personally involved in that one as the demolition man. It was a bitter sweet thing in that we completely destroyed the complex and buried somewhere between twenty and eighty enemy soldiers alive, but we lost our platoon leader, 2LT Flanagan, in the fire fight that was pinning them down at the main entrance while I and some guys were setting the explosives in the ventilation shaft."

"A few days after the raid, an officer came to my pillbox and offered to arrange counseling if I needed it. I couldn't imagine why until he told me that I had buried eighty people in the blast and it could drive me crazy when I was older. Well, I'm older now and the only thing that ever bothered me was the written account of the raid that fixed the number of buried at twenty instead of eighty. In reality, that raid defined me and molded me into the Wolfhound that I am today. After that, everything that I have ever faced was so far below that on the danger level that it just doesn't register."

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## THINGS TO REMEMBER

Those of us who serve - or have served - in the Wolfhounds have received a priceless heritage.

Yes, the 27th is one of the most highly decorated regiments in the United States Army. And, yes, in the Holy Family Home project the 27th stands alone in its dedication to the less fortunate.

But over and above these unique accomplishments, the Regiment has, over the years, served as a magnet to attract an amazing number of highly unusual individuals in its ranks.

Beginning with its first commander, COL Frank Baldwin, who had received two Medals of Honor before his assignment, the Regiment's rolls enshrine the names of scores and scores of men who, even with out the company of others, would have drawn the respect and admiration of the nation.

The pages that follow, and those of previous "Reflections," are part of a feeble effort to implant the memory of these men and their deeds in the minds of today's Wolfhounds. For today's Wolfhounds owe it to these men, to the Regiment, and to our country, the responsibility to maintain - and to raise - the standards they have set.

Wolfhound!

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Omar Bradley was a 1/27 Wolfhound.

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"I'm a soldier. Where I go my rifle goes."

Lewis L. Millett, COL (Ret.)

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## THE REGIMENTAL ROOM

Been there?

If you haven't, you really don't know what you're missing. And once you have visited this treasury of the Wolfhound's history you'll find yourself wanting to go back again.

As a Wolfhound, you've got a tremendously impressive heritage... and when you begin to learn some of the facts about it, you'll find yourself standing a little taller. And you'll begin to learn why so many career soldiers all over the Army try to get assignments to the 27th.

Let's take a look at some of the things you'll find there. The first thing you'll see as you enter the room is a framed Proclamation signed by the Governor of the State of Hawaii naming a certain day "Wolfhound Day." Read it. Gives you an idea about the respect we've earned.

You'll see photos and citations of the 14 Medal of Honor recipients... more than any active duty regiment in the Army during the 20th Century. People like Robert A. Foley, now a retired LTG and President of a military academy; Louis L. Millett, retired COL and the man who led the most complete bayonet charge since Cold Harbor; and Riley Pitts (deceased) a CPT who threw himself on a VC grenade to protect his men and endured the harrowing experience of waiting for it to end his life. When it didn't explode, he jumped up and led a victorious charge against the enemy.

You'll see two stainless steel images, smaller than life-size but beautifully sculptured. One is a Wolfhound, the dog which is called by the American Kennel Club a "Borzoi" and the other a small image of an actual Wolfhound tenderly holding a child at the Holy Family Home.

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Those steel creations, real works of art, were presented to us by Mr. Akio Aoyama, Japanese man who also presents us with \$10,000 every year to assist us in aiding the Home, an orphanage in Osaka.

Other items of interest include a Chinese machine gun seized in Korea and a Viet Cong radio. There's a whole cabinet filled with photos and memorabilia from the days of WWI, when the Wolfhounds fought against communists in, of all places, Siberia.

There's a valuable copy of a painting depicting COL Millett's famed bayonet charge. when you see it, take a good look at the man directly behind the colonel. He was PFC Green, who was hit in the cheek by a fragment of "Willy Peter" during the charge. He stopped, urinated on the ground and then slapped the resulting mud on the burn and continued the charge. Green, unfortunately, was KIA about two weeks later in another action.

You'll see a massive table made by a couple of Wolfhounds. It was originally in the D Quad Regimental Room and had to be sawed in half to get into its present location.

There's more. And whenever you have a chance to visit the Room, ask the Honorary Regimental Sergeant Major to explain it all. He'll be glad to escort groups of any size. Call a day or so ahead at 655-2539.

Finally, don't forget to sign the guest book. Sometime in the future you may want to show your signature to friends or relatives.

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## WHAT MAKES 'EM TICK

Someone once said, "You can't win 'em all." That may be true... and it probably is, even the Yankees lose once in a while.

But none of that seems to deter the Wolfhounds, as 2/27 has demonstrated over the past few months. Excellence with them has been the norm.

Take the re-enlistment rate. Month in and out, in every quarter they copped the award, resulting of course in the fact that they led the Division. They accomplished the deed with over 200% of the quota.

As individuals and as a unit, LTC Tom Guthrie's warriors kept up a blistering pace. They actually turned out more Ranger School graduates since July 2001 than any other Tropic Lightning Battalion. (Note: written end of February 2002.)

They turned out in droves for any and every competition. In both the Honolulu Marathon and the Great Aloha Run, they doubled the number of participants from every other unit. In an Army where soldiers in their late teens and early twenties dominate, outstanding among the runners was CSM Bert Bautista, who's nearing the half century mark.

Heard enough? There's plenty more, like copping the Tropic Lightning Week sports trophy, but we're sure the point has been made.

There are many factors that contribute to a unit's esprit, and brief account of a recent occurrence may shed a bit of light on that of 2/27.

Alpha Company of that battalion was at the National Training Center in California in February, providing the Opposition Force in combat training. One early weekend

morning, the troops were loading weapons on trucks prior to a training exercise when several men noticed a BDU clad figure hefting a machine gun over the tailgate. When he deposited the weapon in the truck he turned around and they recognized their Battalion Commander, LTC Guthrie! He had flown over from Hawaii to spend Saturday and Sunday with them to see how they were making out.

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“Look upon them (your soldiers) as your own beloved sons and they will stand by you even unto death.”

Sun Tzu

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The men of the 27th Infantry Regiment have continuously proven their valor, loyalty, and patriotism with their blood, courage, and devotion. From Siberia to Mindanao, Europe to the Pacific, the Wolfhounds have truly demonstrated “NO FEAR.”

LTG E. P. Smith

April 23, 2001

(Note: After affixing his signature to the above, the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Pacific wrote one word in his own hand at the bottom of the page - - - “Wolfhounds!”)

## SKIN

LTC Thomas Guthrie, 2/27 commander, ordered a battalion formation to be held at 1530 on January 25, 2002. He added that a weapon display would be placed in front of each company.

Nothing unusual about that. What was unusual was that he didn't tell anyone what he had in mind. Not the company commanders, not the first sergeants... nobody.

The battalion was rife with rumors. An inspection by the CG; an award ceremony; a change of command?

Freshly shaven faces, clean BDU's, everything spick-and-span, the Wolfhounds were ready and waiting well before the appointed time.

Suspenseful, keeping a way eye on CSM Bert Bautista in hope that some action of his would betray the secret, they waited.

The hour struck.

The troops were called to attention. A large van cornered into the Quad and came to a stop.

Out of the van poured a dozen smiling, briefly clad Washington Redskins cheerleaders!

Pandemonium ensued.

The well-proportioned young ladies mixed with the stunned (and fascinated!) Wolfhounds, who soon recovered their poise.

Next on the program was a series of energetic choreographed dances accompanied by increasing roars of approval. Finally, the Wolfhounds lined up to receive cheerfully signed autographs on photos provided by the Redskin staff.

The faces of all concerned were wreathed in smiles- but none more so than that of the Battalion Commander.

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## THIS IS THE ARMY!

The office of the Honorary Regimental Sergeant Major is a magnet for older Wolfhound men, who have since moved on to other units, have retired, or who have just left the service.

They all like to reminisce about "the old days" and most are also interested in learning about the current activities of the Regiment. Without exception, they are all surprised to hear of the advanced training in both 1/27 and 2/27.

They are also congratulatory about the physical fitness of today's Wolfhounds.

In the course of conversation, we discover that some of them have unusual occupations. Such was the case recently, when CW3 Glen A. Spence, an active duty Wolfhound in the sixties, dropped in on us.

Hold on to your hats for this one... did you know that there's an Army title of Harbormaster? That's Spence's occupation. He's with the 396th Harbormaster Operations Detachment at Fort Story, Virginia.

Anyone top that one?

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During pre-W.W.II days, boxing and football were the major sports involving regimental competition. Friday nights would see the Conroy Bowl packed to the rafters with noisy rooters, all of whom would unite in roaring "Get a Wolfhound!" whenever a 27th boxer was in the ring. This, of course, inspired increased effort on the part of all Wolfhounds in this, and every other activity.

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## DIZON'S DREAM

On Wolfhound Organization Day in 1957, there were many kinds of competition, both individual and company size. One of the latter involved construction of decorated floats - and there were quite a few creative entries.

First Sergeant George Dizon had a brainchild. The result not only won the competition, it began a tradition which continues until today.

He had some small buildings representing the Holy Family Home constructed, and placed them atop a flat top hauled by a big semi. That might have won out over all the other floats, but Dizon was a man who never did things half way.

He persuaded the men in his company to chip in enough money to bring a little girl from the orphanage to Hawaii, and on Organization Day she rode on the float dressed in a colorful kimono.

Somehow, the Prime Minister of Japan, Nobusuke Kishi, heard about 1SG Dizon's plan. He already knew about the Wolfhounds involvement with the Holy Family Home - the Japanese press featured it quite often.

So Prime Minister Kishi dug into his own pocket and paid the round trip fare for a little boy from the Home.

Needless to say, the two kids had a ball, and so did the Wolfhounds.

A tradition was born.

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## TWICE TOLD TALES

There's always the possibility that, in recounting tales about the Wolfhounds, we're apt to repeat ourselves once in a while. That's not necessarily a bad thing, because sometimes it's hard to find previous copies of these booklets, and there's also an ongoing turnover of personnel.

So if you've heard this one before, put up with it. Plenty of other people don't know the story.

This one's about a Wolfhound who was court martialed for trying too hard to get into combat.

This particular guy was an exceptionally smart student and was sure to go on to college after graduating from high school. But the war in Europe was heating up, and he felt that it wouldn't be long before the U.S. was involved. So he enlisted in the Army. Then President Roosevelt made a speech in which he stated that he had no intention of sending American boys to fight in Europe. That didn't sit well with the man we're talking about, so because Canada was already in the war he took off and joined that Army.

Before long, he was in an anti-aircraft unit, fighting off Nazi planes attacking England. At about that time President Roosevelt had to change his mind, and we entered the war.

So our friend deserted again - this time he left the Canadians and went back to the American Army.

Time Passed. He was busy fighting in Italy, and forgot all about his escapades. But the Army hadn't forgotten about him. He was court martialed in absentia and fined fifty bucks. Grudgingly he paid the fifty bucks and still, after all these years, he complains about the injustice. His name? COL (Ret) Lewis L. Millett. Who else?

## BORN IN THE USA

The 27th Infantry Regiment was established by General Orders # 14 on February 12, 1901. This was effected in accordance with the provisions of an Act of Congress approved on February 2nd of that year.

Presaging a future history replete with extremely unusual events and accomplishments, the various units of the Regiment were never fully joined with each other until they met outside the United States.

It happened this way: portions of the new Regiment, including the Headquarters, Band, and the 2nd and 3rd Battalions were formed at Plattsburg Barracks, New York. The 1st Battalion had its' birth at Fort McPherson, Georgia.

Later that year, the Regiment was ordered to the Philippines. The 1st Battalion, the Band, and the Headquarters all departed for San Francisco. Sailing from there on January 1st, they stopped briefly on Guam before proceeding to Manila. The 3rd Battalion left from New York to sail around the world in the opposite direction. Those military "tourists" sailed through the Suez Canal and stopped at Alexandria, Port Said, Aden, Colombo, and Singapore before reaching Manila.

Finally the 2nd Battalion sailed from New York and followed the route of the 3rd Battalion.

At long last, all units of the 27th had come together, and became the finest Regiment in the United States Army.

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Win, Place and Show define the victors in a horse race - but Wolfhounds know that there is no second place in combat.

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## MEMORIES...

It was the 60th anniversary of the 25th Division. October 4, 2001. Just six decades from the date when the old Hawaiian Division (four regiments) was divided into the 24th and 25th Divisions, each with three regiments.

There was a review, with the 2nd Brigade marching smartly past packed stands to the sprightly martial airs of the Division Band. A host (and we do mean host) of past members of the 25th kept step as they too marched in review.

Dignitaries by the score attended and were recognized by the commanding general in his speech. Among them, towering General (Retired) Fred Weyand who led the Division into Vietnam and was later Chief of Staff of the Army acknowledged the individual greetings of many old-timers.

General Weyand has been quoted as naming the Wolfhounds as the finest unit ever under his command.

Also present was Mrs. Joan Davis, widow of the late Wolfhound Colonel Charles Davis, who earned the Medal of Honor leading E Company of the 27th in a charge against Japanese troops blocking the advance of American Marines.

Mrs. Davis, a charming and articulate lady, recalled that when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, she was expecting her first child, the present Mrs. Carol Denier. Evacuated the following day to a school in Honolulu, Mrs. Davis then gave birth to the child at Kapiolani Hospital.

Ruefully, she recalls that had she been accommodated at Tripler there would have been no charge. Kapiolani's fee was \$250, a big bite for a 1st Lieutenant in those days.

## THE INVERTED SNAKE

Military historians chronicling the strategies and tactics of outstanding leaders and units during the Korean War focused much of their attention on the most highly decorated regiment of that conflict... The "Wolfhounds."

Of particular interest to them was the stratagem dubbed "the inverted snake," by the late General John H. Michaelis, Wolfhound commander in 1950. Intrigued by the name of the maneuver, which they learned only after the general had passed away, they vainly searched for years for a description of the event. This was the "snake":

Michaelis, with only two battalions at the time, was faced by enemy forces totaling more than a division. He established a narrow front composed of one company... the remainder of the companies lined up in depth to the rear.

Confronted by heavy fire from the leading company, the attacking enemy force split to the sides as they advanced. Because the terrain was a narrow valley, these units were forced to remain tightly packed, providing an even heavier rain of fire from the succeeding Wolfhound companies.

Adding to the initial confusion of the foe, the leading Wolfhound units continuously threaded through those behind them, producing an effect much like a giant snake turning itself inside out.

The celebrated esprit of the Wolfhounds joined to and led by a genius proved once again to be more than a match for the foe.

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## **JOSHUA FIT THE BATTLE**

Death, taxes, and change of command. All inevitable; all charged with emotion. For LTC Chelsea Chae, assigned now to the War College at Carlisle, the move invoked a mixture of pride in his selection to attend the college and regret at leaving the Wolfhounds.

Under his leadership, 2/27 once again proved that the Wolfhounds are the epitome of class, no matter what the occasion - or test. The battalion's performance under his leadership resulted in the capture of the Guadalcanal Bowl in July 2000 and remarkable victory at JRTC.

The Bowl, a feature of Tropic Lightning Week, included competition in soldier skills of every kind from weapons operations to forced marches and communications. The Bowl's ownership also proclaims the unit's superiority in such sports as soccer, basketball, golf, and flag football.

At JRTC, the 2/27 Wolfhounds stunned the OPFOR by scoring more "kills" than any brigade had previously managed to effect.

The one practice the Wolfhounds have never mastered, however, is resting on their laurels.

Both Wolfhound battalions continue to lead the way, proving time and again the truth of a statement made many years ago by the Inspector General of the Army:

"The Twenty-seventh Infantry sets the standard for the Hawaiian Division."

MG Eli A. Helmick

## THE BOWLING ALLEY

Mid August 1950 found the Wolfhounds a few miles north of Taegu, a provincial capital in Korea. With a road and railroad junction, Taegu was the linchpin of the Pusan Perimeter - should it fall, the entire UN front would go with it.

This long straight stretch of road was to become famous throughout Korea as the "Bowling Alley." Every night the Reds launched unceasing fierce attacks in an unremitting effort to dislodge the Wolfhounds and clear the road to Pusan.

One after another, enemy tanks roared toward our lines. Often their fiery shells streaked along the "alley" like flaming bowling balls. Hence the nickname.

The second battalion under LTC Gordon Murch met these attacks head on and the level road was soon littered with smashed tanks. F Company, now B Co. 2/27, would answer the telephone with grim humor, "Fox Company motor pool- we shoot 'em, you loot 'em."

1/27, led by LTC Gilbert Check, also pounded away at the Red assaults. In one 74 hour period the two Wolfhound Battalions met and routed an enemy force consisting of one division plus two regiments!

At this time a third battalion, commanded by LTC DeChow, joined the Regiment. It immediately leaped into the fray, knocking out infiltrating enemy units attempting to set up road blocks in the rear of the Regiment.

For the second time in less than two months, the Wolfhounds were rewarded for their outstanding effort by receiving the nation's highest unit award, the Distinguished Unit Citation.

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## **BRAVO!**

A change of command ceremony in Bravo Company, 1/27 in June stirred up some reflections to share with current Wolfhounds.

First, in the early 1950's, there was 1SG "Bull" Hearn, a giant man with a stentorian voice to match. "Bull" was resented, to put it mildly, by the men in the company for his notable energetic methods.

A W.W.II veteran, he never stopped company PT or training at the same time as other units. Which meant, among other discomforts, that by the time his soldiers got to the showers the water was rarely hot. But they were fit - and well trained.

The fighting got under way in Korea and of course Bravo (Baker then) was in the thick of it. And more often than not, "Bull's" roar could be heard over the loudest sounds of combat.

Until the day - cross our hearts, it's true - "Bull's" mouth was opened wide as the echoes of his voice cannoned through a valley of the Land of the Morning Calm. And a North Korean rifle round tore through his right cheek and out the left with out touching a single tooth...

Too late then for the men to tell him that now they appreciated all the extra training. "Bull" was on his way back to a hospital in Japan.

And then there was Jerome Sudut, and the way he earned the Medal of Honor. And how Bravo began the grand tradition of the Wolfhound / Holy Family project.

Stand tall, Bravo!



## TRANSITION

With the passage of time there's a passage of people in the Army. More so, perhaps, than with any other profession.

And so this year, among many others we saw the departure of LTC Buckner who led 1/27 for the past two years. In addition to planning and participating in the Wolfhound Centennial celebration, he conducted Battalion deployments to the JRTC at Ft. Polk, LA; Imazu, Japan for training with the Japanese Defense Force; to Thailand for training with the Royal Thai Army; and to Pohukaloa on the Big Island. (Have gun, will travel!)

In April 2001, he greeted the new Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, LTG (Ret.) Robert Foley, who picked up the torch from COL (Ret.) Lewis Millett, first to hold that position. Both are legendary heroes of the Wolfhounds and recipients of the Medal of Honor.

Quietly, without fanfare, LTC Buckner and his spouse Kathy spent countless hours at the River of Life, devoting themselves to the aid of many of Hawaii's less fortunate citizens.

The Buckners, though loaded with responsibilities and obligations at Schofield, still found time to give of themselves to others.

True Wolfhounds...

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A word of thanks to SPC (Promotable) and Mrs. Josh Blickhahn for their efforts in putting together this issue of Reflections. Josh is familiar to Wolfhounds of both battalions as trainer of Kolchak XII.

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