

TALENT

Tough, trained, ready to go?
Wolfhounds.
Fearless in the face of any challenge?
Same answer.
Multi talented?
Man, you guessed it!

Take S/Sgt. Rob Stewart, who earned plaudits from high officials of several U.N. countries, handling protocol during the 2nd Battalion's recent six month stint in the Sinai.

Enough? Not quite. One day not long ago, he had an idea. A good idea. So he decided to tell the world about it.

He put the idea on paper after discussing it with the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Gregory Lynch and his Executive Officer, Major Gregory Borden.

They added a bit here and there, smoothed over what they perceived as the rough edges, and Stewart sent it on its way to Army Magazine. It is slated to appear in the April '97 issue of that periodical.

It's not unreasonable to feel that we're observing the first few steps of an author with an even broader future audience than the Army.

After all, another Wolfhound, James Jones, did it...remember "From Here to Eternity?"

Final quote: This is the last "Reflection" Sgt Stewart worked on. Before it leaves the printer, he'll be going on to another assignment. If you enjoy these booklets, remember him, and his limitless talents kindly.

WOLFHOUNDS SEE THE WORLD

Masada... a name that rings out across the timeless annuals of warfare, the symbol of all that is noblest in the history of people willing to fight and die in defense of their homes, their belief, their culture.

Here it was that the zealots of Israel fought the finest soldiers of their time, the Roman centuries, to a standstill before finally succumbing. Masada, on the southwest shore of the Dead Sea, was only one of the historic...and hallowed...sites visited by Second Battalion Wolfhounds in Sinai in late 1996.

To tour that mountain fortress, to feel an intimate connection with warriors whose tale still earns the awe and respect of the warriors of today, what an opportunity!

The Wolfhounds, on a peacekeeping mission in the Sinai, walked where Moses walked, saw Masada, visited St. Catherine's Monastery, which the great Sultan Salad-ed-din placed under his personal protection during the Crusades. They had a view of historical scenes millions would envy.

And all of this while serving to prevent the scourge of another outbreak of war.....

LUCKY SEVEN

In the "old days," it was possible for a man to spend his entire career in one unit. Today, while that doesn't seem possible, S1 SGT David Jones of C Company, Second Battalion, looks like he's making a stab at it.

Jones has seven years in the Army, every one of them in the Wolfhounds. He spent 4 years with the 2nd Battalion at Fort Ord and then 3 years at Schofield with the 4th Battalion which was later designated the 2nd. He'll finally break the string later this year with an assignment as a Drill Sergeant at Fort Benning.

At one time, many in the Division considered Jones and his sidekick, S1 SGT Robert Stewart, the finest 81mm mortar team in the 25th. The story's not hard to believe. Jones is a Distinguished Honor Graduate of the Infantry Mortar Leader Course at Fort Benning and Stewart is presently attending that school.

Jones' career differs from those of the "old days" in other ways. During his 7 years with the Wolfhounds he spent 6 months in the Sinai, 3 weeks in Japan, 3 more in Panama, the same amount of time in both Fort Chaffee, Arkansas and Fort Polk, Louisiana and plus another 3 in Fort Erwin, CA.

Ask a travel agent how much that would cost!! And we're not even counting the delicious Army food and luxurious accommodations.

CAN YOU TOP THIS?

This is the tale of a Japanese soldier who never in his wildest dreams thought that one day among his best friends would be the soldiers of an American Army Regiment called the Wolfhounds.

When he was discharged from his country's army at the end of WW II, he was faced with the daunting task of making a life in the midst of ruins. Not easy in a nation where "the nail whose head sticks up will be hammered down" is a favorite proverb.

Scorning this rejection of individual enterprise, he worked hard and he worked long. Today he is the Chairman of the Board of a steel corporation with five plants throughout Japan.

Somewhere along the line he heard of an American Army unit which was actually supporting the orphaned children of their former enemies. Amazing! He admits he was just slightly less amazed to learn that they were called Wolfhounds.

Along about this time, the Japanese Government assumed the full cost of the support of its orphanages. Still, he found that these American soldiers were not about to cast aside their ties with the children.

They were bringing two children from the orphanage to Hawaii each year to visit them. And they were annually sending two soldiers to enact the role of Santa Claus.

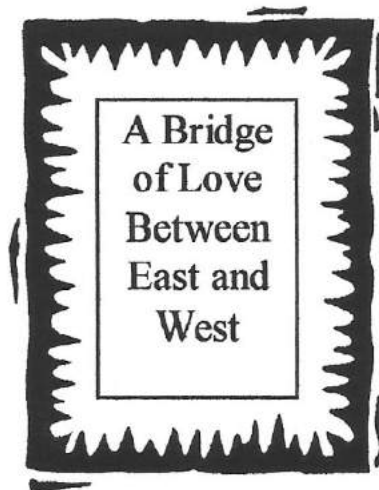
Leaving the Wolfhounds the right to purchase Christmas presents for the children, he sends the Regiment \$10,000.00 a year to pay for those trips and other expenses related to the tradition.

Aoyama's reply to our expression of thanks: "I am grateful that I can help!"

Give a high five to Mr. Akio Aoyama! (AH-OH-YAMA)

Among the many efforts Mr. Aoyama has made to let the Japanese public be aware of the Wolfhounds and their kindness to the orphans of Osaka is the publication of the book, "A Bridge of Love Between East and West."

Mr. Aoyama not only had the book published at his own expense, he distributed it free to schools and libraries so that young people could learn the story.



The book is on exhibit in the Regimental Room.

OCCUPATIONAL ARMY

The 1st Battalion's April '97 training period in Thailand evoked memories of the Regiments' trip there in the 60's. Among Wolfhound old timers there was Retired ISG Flo Rivera, chatting with some who hadn't made the trip, he asked, "Did you ever see a pup tent running?"

He related how, when the 27th arrived, they had to hack away at the bushes and other underbrush for a campsite. When they were finished, the men pitched their pup tents and inflated their mattresses.

Rivera alone constructed a hooch out of tree branches, and bamboo flooring about a foot above the ground. His mattress was placed atop the bamboo. With a twinkle in his eye, the old-timer recounted how, the following morning, the troops woke up to find the normal residents of the campsite (cobras, centipedes, scorpions) all over their bodies, mattresses and other equipment.

"That's when I saw pup tents running wild," he said. That day everyone constructed a hooch.

SAUDI

Back in January, 1991, one platoon each from Wolfhound Companies A, B, and C of the 4th Battalion (now the 2nd) deployed to Saudi Arabia to serve as replacements in the ground campaign.

After observing their exceptionally high level of training and their outstanding performance in desert warfare training, the Assistant Commander of the Third U. S. Army asked for them as the security force for Army Forward Headquarters.

Later, in February, they attacked Kuwait City along with Third Army Forward and then conducted "hairy" mop-up operations in the city and several adjacent minefields.

Reminiscent of the Wolfhounds selection as the first Honor Guard at the Pamunjon Truce Talks in Korea, this contingent was chosen to accompany General H. Norman Schwarzkopf into Iraq to provide security at the truce signing.

The three platoons returned to Schofield Barracks without casualties on March 20, 1991.

SAY WHAT?

Military historians, whether through haste, laziness or lack of other sources, after rely on the hyperbole of combat correspondents for their "facts" overlooking a basic of the profession: sensationalism sells newspapers.

Two examples from the Korean War come to mind. The first is the all-to-common description of North Korean troops as largely untrained farmers rounded up willy-nilly and thrust into combat. In actuality, most of those "farmers" were veterans of one of the most elite Chinese units in the WWII war against the Japanese, the 8th Route Army. Their wartime commander, General Kim Mu Chung, was their leader in Korea.

The second example: "soft, poorly trained troops of the Occupation Army in Japan."

Among those "soft poorly trained troops" were the 27th Infantry Wolfhounds, who earned the first Distinguished Unit Citation of the War shortly after they landed. And just to prove it was no accident, they collected another shortly afterward.



THE WAY IT WAS....

Retired Captain Robert G. Kinzler can tell you all about what happened...and didn't happen...at Schofield Barracks on Pearl Harbor Day. He was a Wolfhound private in Quad D that fateful morning.

The tall, lean old-timer strolled into the Quad on a recent day and reminisced about the events of that day with other Wolfhounds. He'd been at a cookout in Kailua on Saturday, Dec. 6, and didn't get back to the barracks until 2 a.m. Sunday morning.

He and the rest of the Wolfhounds were rudely awakened less than 6 hours later by a tremendous blast from Wheeler Field. He rushed outside to see a Japanese plane flashing by.

Almost before he realized what was going on, Hq. 1st Sergeant "Banjo Eyes" Dougherty shouted, "Kinzler, get your a.. over to the motor pool and start spreading those vehicles out!"

Kinzler, who originally enlisted in June, 1940 and joined the Wolfhounds in September of the same year, has been the President of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association for the past six years. He works as a volunteer at the Arizona Memorial for six hours a day, Wednesday through Saturday. You can spot him easily...there's a good-sized Wolfhound crest sewn on his jacket.

It saddens him to realize that young people who visit the Memorial know little or nothing about the attack, nor do they realize that other military bases like Wheeler were also targets.

In the course of his volunteer work, Kinzler often fields questions which makes him wonder about people's intelligence. His favorite: "How did they ever get that big ship under the Memorial!?"

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TUNNEL RAT

Wolfhound Flo Rivera, widely known as a "tunnel rat" during the war in Vietnam, was bursting with pride when he saw a small poster advertising a reward of 10,000 piasters for his head. He had at the time, seven notches on the hilt of his knife ----- one notch for each VC sent to meet his ancestors.

His pride took a quick tumble, however, when he discovered that the 10,000 piasters offered by the Viet Cong was only worth \$100 in American money.

* * *

"For some unexplained reason which defies description, the Wolfhounds have always been a special breed of warrior."

MG Guy S. Maloy (Ret.)
1/27 CO in Vietnam

CAMP COBRA DAYS

Former SSgt in HQ 1/27, Tommy Wheeler dropped in the other day. Kind of a coincidence, as he was in Thailand in 1961, the same place the 1st Battalion is planning to visit soon.

Accompanied by his wife and friends.... five people in all...., Wheeler treated us to a couple of hours of reminiscences. The Regimental Commander in those days was Colonel Bill McKean, a tough, but popular soldier who later commanded Special Forces in Vietnam. SFC Leak was Wheeler's platoon sergeant.

Wheeler recalled that cobras were a fact of life in Thailand, and recounted a humorous but scary tale that occurred to him in those days.

It seems that he shared a hooch with a Sgt. Blake. One dark night, Wheeler returned rather late, disturbing Blake who shouted, "stop right there", half believing it was a VC infiltrator. Startled, Wheeler got tangled in the commo wire holding up the mosquito net. The hose on the air mattress struck Blake on the forehead, and he screamed bloody murder, thinking a snake had bit him. This in turn scared the daylights out of Wheeler, who added his share of noise.

The two charged out of opposite sides of the hooch, and all the commotion caused the rest of the Wolfhounds to come tearing out of their hooches, flashlight in hand. It was some time before peace was restored.

Another memory from his days at appropriately named Camp Cobra, was the presence of tarantula-sized spiders which nested throughout the camp.

WOLFHOUND COWBOY

SSgt Tommy Wheeler, whose story about Thailand appears on a previous page, was one of the first Wolfhounds to participate in hostilities in Vietnam. He was a Wolfhound from 1961 to 1965.

Early in the Vietnam conflict, the Wolfhounds were ordered to provide door gunners for helicopter flights through hostile areas. The assignment was much like that of Wells Fargo stage coach guards in the old West.

Wheeler served on detached duty with the 119th Aviation Company, along with other Wolfhounds. He was there almost until the entire Regiment entered the conflict.

The assignment gave all of these soldiers a good overview (no pun!) of the country. It was excellent background for later activity in Vietnam, which often entailed action with guerrilla forces.

No man to turn down an assignment, Wheeler also served with the Wolfhound Recon Platoon, as well as being a gunner on an M-1 tank, part of Wolfhound armament in those days. This was his second visit to Quad D. His first was during the opening of the Regimental Room.

TRADITION

Another first was accomplished by the Wolfhounds in early April, 1997, with the opening of Eternity Hall. The large room is dedicated to Wolfhounds of the past. It is located in LTC Jon Smart's 2/27 area.

It also highlights the work of James Jones, author of "From Here To Eternity" and a 2nd Battalion Wolfhound in the early 1940's.

Speeches by dignitaries included remarks by retired Army Chief of Staff and former 25th Division Commander, General Fred Weyand, current Division Commander John Maher, Congressman Neil Abercrombie, and Jamie Jones, son of the author.

The 25th Division Band provided excellent musical background. (Seems redundant to say "excellent", for our band ranks with the best!)

Lining the walls of the Hall are historic photos. Throughout the reception the Oscar winning film, "From Here To Eternity" was shown.

Final touches on the Hall were the work of Maj. Michael Winstead, CSM Rodney Chang, and the entire S-2 staff. The initial work was accomplished under the direction of Capt. James Merlo while the Battalion was on a peace-keeping mission in the Sinai.

General Weyand stressed the importance of history and tradition in creating, increasing and maintaining a unit's esprit. He praised the Wolfhounds' efforts in that regard. Eternity Hall will also be used as a conference room.

ALOHA

This has been the last of the Reflections, I have thoroughly enjoyed writing them, as well as having had the total enjoyment of meeting , and being befriended by, so many of today's Wolfhounds.

The publication of this series could never have been possible without the energetic, on-their-own-time volunteers. It has been a completely enjoyable experience working with these men, and through them gaining so much knowledge of the people who carry the Wolfhound crest.

The latest of these dedicated people those who contributed so much time and effort to Reflections VI, are SGT Scott Dibble and PFC Sean Martin. Their hard work, and pride in the 27th, speaks volumes.

Permit me to leave these thoughts for you behind me:

“ May the road rise to meet your feet,
And the wind be always at your back;
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rain fall gently on your fields;
And until we meet again, may the Lord hold
you in the palm of his hand”

WOLFHOUSES!!!
RSM Hugh F. O'Reilly