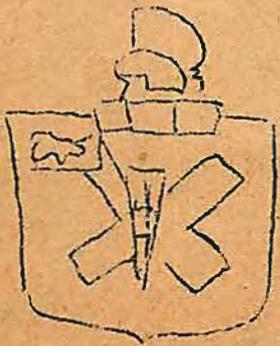
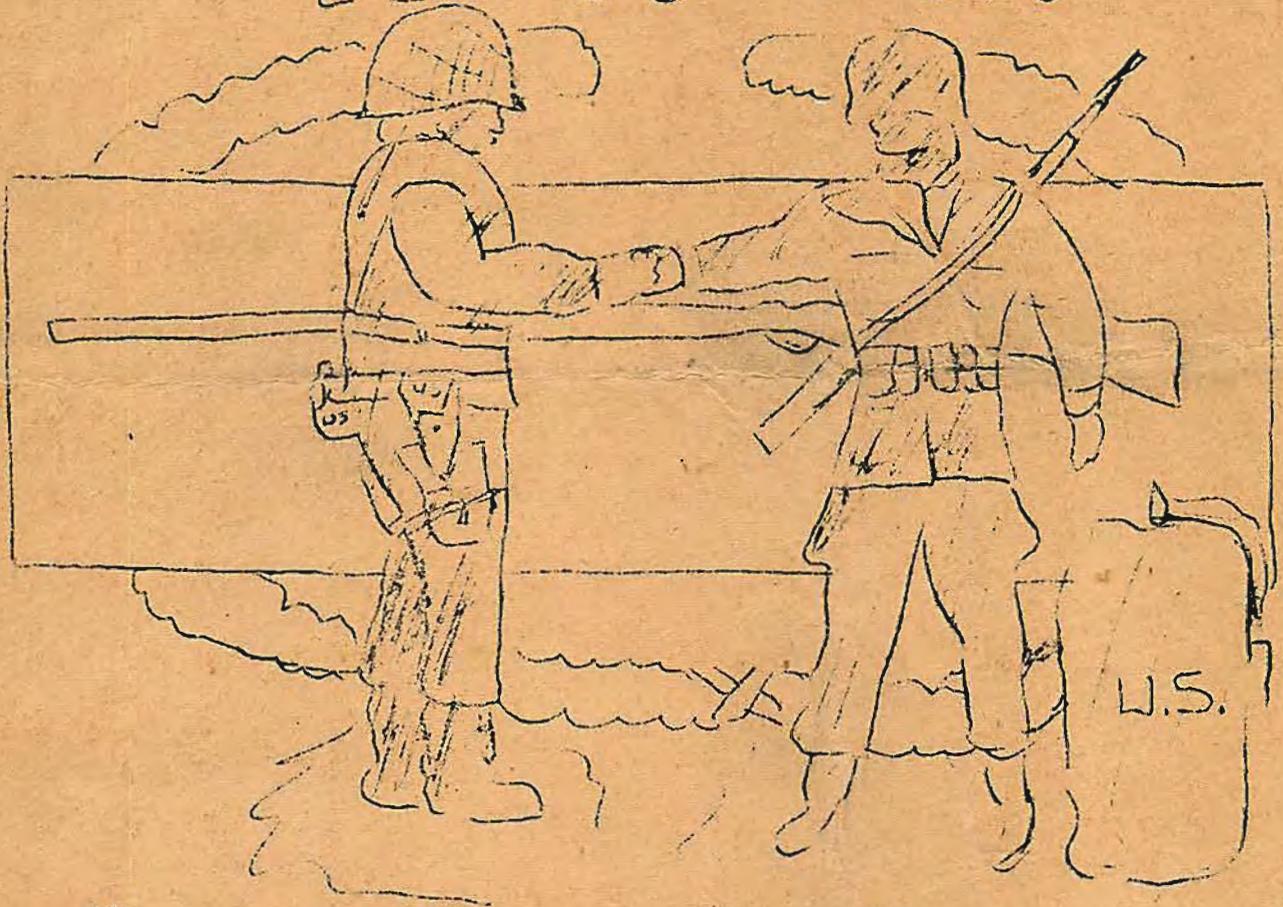


St Paul Gorman

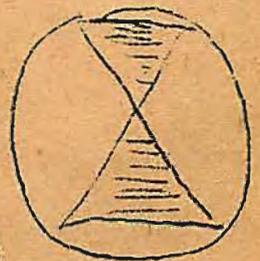
WELCOME SOLDIER
TO THE

First Bn.



32ND INF

BAYONET DIVISION



THIS PAGE BLANK

Written by 1st Lt. Gorman for replacements.
Dec 1952

HEADQUARTERS 1ST BATTALION

32d Infantry Regiment

APG 7

Welcome, soldier, to the First Battalion of the 32d Infantry. We want you to know that from now on you are one of us. But being one of us, you've got a big job ahead of you. This Battalion has always been a top outfit. Right now it is the best Battalion in Korea. It's up to you, it's up to all of us to keep it that way. We owe at least that much to the men who went before us here; men who wrote long, bloody, glorious paragraphs across the pages of American History.

Back in 1943 this Battalion was one of the first ashore in the bitter battle for the Aleutian Islands, and spearheaded the Allied assault on Kwajalein. In 1944 and '45, through the Battle of Iwo Jima and the fierce assaults on Okinawa this Battalion was always first, always victorious. The First Battalion was the first US unit into Korea after the war, and remained here on occupation duty until 1949, when the Seventh Division was withdrawn to Japan.

In 1950, when the North Korean invaders swarmed across the 38th, pushing the meager forces of the United Nations into the Pusan perimeter, when things looked the blackest, in September of 1950, this Battalion, was part of the assault wave of the 7th Infantry and 1st Marine Divisions slammed ashore at Inchon and battered its way inland toward Seoul. It was the First Battalion who made the famous attack on South Mountain which cleared the way for the Marines to enter the city. With the enemy in full retreat, the Battalion was again sent on an end run, this time landing at Iwon, in North Korea. The First Battalion was given a special mission, attached to the Marines, of clearing the East Coast of the Chosin Reservoir. On the 28th of November, while executing that mission, the Battalion was struck by the full force of the invading Chinese armies. Surrounded and outnumbered, the First Battalion began one of the epic battles of US Military History as it fought its way south through swarms of Chinese to link up with the Marines. Every foot of the way was purchased with blood and suffering, the enemy and the intense cold set a high price. Led by our Battalion Commander, Lt Col Don C Faith, we plowed through enemy regiment after enemy regiment. Finally, only one enemy road block stood between us and the Marines. Col Faith led the Battalion out across the ice on the Chosin Reservoir, and hit the enemy on his flank. Col Faith was killed leading that attack, but his brilliant maneuver caught the enemy in a weak spot, and the Battalion broke out of the deadly ring and joined the Marines in their push to Hungnam.

Col Faith's leadership and sacrifice won him the Congressional Medal of Honor, and a permanent place in the memory of those who serve here after him.

From Hungnam the Battalion went to Pusan, and from there back up the peninsula into the mountains of east Korea to mop up the remnants of the North Korean Army. In the summer of 1951, the Battalion participated in the Kwachon Reservoir Battle in which thousands of enemy were encircled and trapped. In the fall of that year we fought for the ground south of a town called Kumwha, a town which we were to get to know much better later. By late 1951 the line was stabilized, and 1952 found the Battalion along the rim of the Punch Bowl, defending against the probes of the North Korean enemy. That February we left the Line for retraining at Kapyong, returning in April, this time in the Central Front, northwest of Chorwon.

In this fight, as in every battle the Division has seen, the First Battalion lived up to its name. We were the first to contact the enemy in this area, and the first to capture a prisoner. By July and August, the furious clashes between our patrols and the Chinese in Death Valley and the Chorwon Valley were making headlines all over the world and casualty lists all over China. But the real test of the Battalion was yet to come.

Above the vital road junction of Kumwha, overlooking a broad valley leading deep into our lines loomed Hill 598, Triangle Hill. From this point of vantage the enemy could see to shell our routes of supply for miles. By September plans were complete to take this OP from the enemy. The 31st Infantry Regiment was ordered to attack Hill 598, to seize it, and to defend it. On the 14th of October, after weeks of intensive preparation and training, the 31st Regiment jumped off, and the Battle of Triangle Hill began.

The 31st made a valiant attempt to take Hill 598, but fanatic enemy resistance and great amounts of enemy artillery and mortar stopped them just short of their objective, and they fell back, their strength seriously depleted.

On the early morning of the 15th, without warning or preparation of any kind, the First Battalion was ordered to operate under control of the 31st, and to attack and secure Jane Russel Hill and Sandy Ridge, two ridges which formed the right half of Triangle Hill. Within six hours after we received our orders, we crossed the Line of Departure.

Fog and rain lay over all the hills, reconnaissance had been impossible, and from the time we left our assembly area we were subjected to intense enemy artillery fire. Despite these difficulties, the assault companies, Co A and Co C, pressed forward toward their objectives, leaving their dead and wounded along every foot of the way. Co C was trapped in a cut by an enemy defensive barrage of big guns, and was all but destroyed. Co B was sent into the fight to take its place, and Co A and Co B taking terrible losses, fought through to their initial objectives, and in hard fighting at close quarters, won them. Co A was badly battered, its ammo was running low, and the enemy threw a large counterattack at it almost immediately. VT fire was called in, and the trenches and slopes were filled with dead Chinese, but still they came.

The Battalion Commander decided to withdraw Co A to Sandy Ridge, which by this time was in the hands of Co B. All three companies dug in on Sandy Ridge that afternoon, under fire all the time, short of food, water and ammunition, but with plenty of courage and determination.

That night the Commo platoon and the P&A platoon began their tasks of getting communications and supplies up to the rifle troops. All during the night, wire crews and supply parties worked on the slopes of Sandy Ridge under the heaviest enemy artillery barrage of the Korean war, even while their comrades were beating off repeated enemy attacks on their positions. The enemy threw everything at us that night, even the big Russian rockets, but when the sun shone on Sandy Ridge again, our perimeter was still there, and we had the supplies we needed.

That afternoon we jumped off again, climbing up the steep slopes of Hill 598, and assaulting down the ridge line to take Mae West, Margaret O'Brien, and part of Jane Russell Hill. It was here we learned the value of Co D, for with the artillery busy with other targets, we had to depend on the heavy machine guns and the 75s and the 81s to keep the enemy heads down while we closed with him. Again we took heavy losses, but, again we proved that a storm of enemy artillery and mortars, or a hail of small arms couldn't stop this outfit. By nightfall we held Triangle Hill.

All through the next night we fought with bayonet and grenades in the trenches with enemy who crawled out from their caves and tunnels into which we had driven them, but next morning we cleaned their dead out of our trenches, and prepared for more fighting. However, that morning we were withdrawn to a reserve area for resupply and reorganization and we turned the defense of Triangle Hill over to another Unit.

Within two days the First Battalion was ordered back into the fight. On the night of 19 October, the battalion holding Hill 598 was assaulted by two determined enemy battalions who succeeded in driving our forces from their hard won positions. In darkness and under constant enemy bombardment, the First Battalion climbed the sheer cliffs and engaged the enemy as he reached the crest. In a fierce hand to hand struggle, we drove him back down the slope. Our Battalion Executive Officer, who was leading the assault companies, reorganized all the troops on the Hill, and we reoccupied all the positions they had lost and began to dig them deeper. During this time, and during the next three days while we were up there, the enemy threw in all the artillery he could get his hands on, but neither his artillery, nor his mortars, nor his snipers, nor his infantry could make this Battalion give back one inch of the ground it had bought so dearly.

When we came off Hill 598 for the last time, we came down with knowledge that we had done every job that had been given to us, and nothing was able to stop us. We were subjected to the heaviest concentration of enemy fire yet seen in this war, we were opposed by a fanatic enemy, we suffered the loss of nearly half our strength, but we accomplished our mission. First Battalion of the 32nd in the Battle of Triangle Hill, only Battalion in the Division to fight in both the offensive and defensive stages of the Battle, the First Battalion there lived up to its tradition.

Now, some few months later, we are back in contact with our deadly enemy. As usual we have the tough job, the hardest job. But we are not alone in our fight. The men of Kiska, and Kwajalein, and Okinawa, and Chosin, and Triangle Hill, the men who have made this First Battalion of the 32nd, the First Battalion of the Army, stand with us, pointing the way. Because of men like them, and because of Battalions like this, our country remains free and warless.

Yes, soldier, we've got a big job ahead of us, living up to that tradition. But its not an impossible job. Nothing's ever impossible for this outfit.

Finally got it Serialized Paul.

It was greatly appreciated
by all for your work &
effort put into this.

Let's hear from you
real soon !!

Golson