



# SIGNALS



Vol. 33:1

USA Signal Corps Officer Candidate School Association  
ISSN: 1941-1219

June 2026

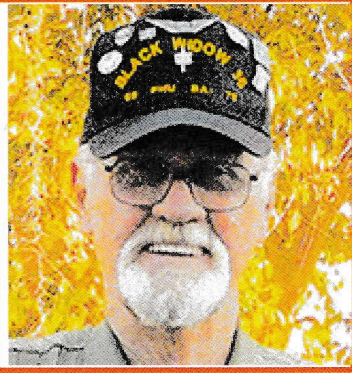
WWII - 1941

KOREA - 1952

VIETNAM - 1965

## THIS IS OUR FINAL ISSUE

### Chairman/President Message



All OCS graduates will recall the dreaded "Quit Letter"... and most of us thought about writing one a few times in OCS. BUT I never wrote a quit letter during the rest of my life, until a couple of months ago.

After almost 32 years in the front ranks of the Signal OCS Association, due to ill health and advanced age, I decided that there was no way to continue. Prior to doing the Quit Letter (resignation) I attempted to get input re shutting down the association and there was just not enough input for me to put forth suggestions, so I sent in my resignation.

I did not say I was deserting the association, just that I was only going to only do the "keeping track" of those that remain. I wasn't going to send out renewals, process same, try to keep track of addresses of those that moved. And/or all the daily BS that goes along with the multiple positions that I had held for many years..

Lee said he was doing the last newsletter, Rick said he could keep the website going for a couple of more years and Earl said he was going to unload the inventory. **(Get in touch with Earl soon and get fire sale prices!)**

So all that I did previously is OVER.. I have resigned even though I was told that I "couldn't" Resign?? I didn't quite get that but I knew I "WAS" resigned because I'd written the resignation! Most who know me know that I've never been good at being told what I can't do, and that is why this association grew into one of the biggest and best of any of the veterans gathering places. According to both representatives from VHPA and Army Aviation Association, our participation (percentage-wise) was better than theirs.

I'm going to miss doing what I did for so many years but when carrying the garbage to the road (150 feet) requires me to stop and rest twice in each direction and have to immediately take a 30 minutes nap when I get back in the house, I don't need any extra. Barbara and I have not been to church in awhile as she is on a walker and all the preparations to get dressed, out of the house, load and unload "equipment", go up and down steps and then doing it all again to get back home is too much.....

I'm willing to bet that Jim Caldwell would take over the association and run it for awhile, but Jim has done enough over the years, to keep things running and he does not need the extra things to do either.. Jim is exactly 3 years younger than me (Dec 14 1943 vs my Dec 14 1940) and I sure wish I had his get up and go.

So... anyone who wants to contact me to find out about classmates etc, can do so as long as I'm still here which I hope to be for awhile! (I'll be rally p\*\*\*\*\*d, er upset if I kick the bucket before I get to see how my Generac system is going to work!) Five years ago, during a power outage my neighbor, 85 at the time, tried to get to his car to get his oxygen concentrator, yep he had COPD also) but he fell over in his car and it took two people to get him out and on the ground for CPR.. He didn't make it. Florida Power and Light denies having any responsibility regarding getting power back up for the sick, so I contracted for the Generac. The entire price setup, propane tanks, wiring, Generac unit, whatever, came in a 19K...after some haggling, I got it down to 17K and probably could have gotten a few more dollars off if I had been having a good day... But it doesn't matter as it will give me a sense of security that I need.

Ahh, I rambled off.. Old age is a b\*\*\*h. If anyone cares to contact me, do so by email... (my hearing isn't what it once was either!)  
[richard-green@comcast.net...](mailto:richard-green@comcast.net)

I'm going to stick around and keep an eye on association business, as we still need to close down our not for profit status, which should be really simple as we only have the operating fund and the scholarship fund to dispose of... and I've provided a possible source for that which is that Army Aviation Association. (I will fight any attempt to give the money to any college, liberal POS group), but I don't think any of our people will want to go that way... If anyone has a suggestion on any agency that would provide "America First" scholarships. Please let us know...

Saying goodbye is not something we were taught in the military and I wasn't good at it when I was growing up, so all I'm going to say is "knowing all you guys, working with many of you, being a part of who we were and what we did, is what I am proudest of... May God bless and keep each of us in all ways and give us all a little more forgiveness that those civilians out there will get. I don't know about you, but I need it... God bless you all .... **Richard Green (2-67) Major USArmy (RET)**

## Message from Rev. Pat Polis

May is National Military Appreciation Month. Established by Congress in 1999, it spans the entire month to honor, remember and appreciate service members, veterans and their families. May 8 is Military Spouse Appreciation Day. May 13 is Children of fallen patriots Day. May 16 is Armed Forces day and May 25 is Memorial Day. A 1885 quote by then President Ronald Reagan stated: "Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world. The veterans doesn't have that problem." And He went on to say that "veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom." Recently, I presided over a funeral service for 4 unclaimed veterans; unclaimed meaning either an orphan, family that has no financial means or family that lived far away and unable to attend. While they were classified as unclaimed, some 100 of us showed up for the service, most all wearing some form of military identification. These veterans were each placed in a special urn with their name and rank on it, carried into the rotunda by a uniformed honor guard member. During the service, each was identified by name, branch of service and MOS. At the end of the service, those present were asked, "will you claim these as your brother?" And everyone responded "I will!" The rifle volley and taps were especially stirring. It is often cited that about 7% of the US population's served in the military. And of those who served in the military, about 18% were commissioned officers. As OCS graduates, we remain part of an elite group who have served our country in uniform and then served our community as former Army Officers. We all carry many labels: husband, father, grandfather, retired.....one that will always carry a lot of weight is "veteran." During the month of May, I remember you, honor you and extend a hand salute.

Rev Dr Pat Polis  
Class 02-67, "bars or bust!"

## TAPS

Our "LOCATER, Richard Green" advises that the association website will continue to post notices of any newly located graduates.

Also, he will notify classes of those graduates when they pass away....

## Jim Caldwell's last "GET TOGETHER"



Here is the whole boat load. From left to right. Don Burrows Tom Frizzell KT And Jim Caldwell Ernie Venis Merle Walton and his sister Gary Burrows and his care giver Tamiko Al Frohner his wife Janet, Gary Zellman and his wife Janet and John Wheeler and Dennis Engh.

**Wow!!!** Did we have a good time! The photo shows John Wheeler Class 19-66 and his lovely wife Janet, that's Gary Zellman Class 11-67, Al Frohner 9-67 and Gary Burrows 4-67 on the boat tour of Table Rock Lake in **Branson, Mo.** Not shown are Byron Walton 11-66 and Don Burrows, Tom Frizzell, Dennis Engh, our boat Captain Earnie Venis, and me, Jim Caldwell, all from Class 4-67. We also did the Dolly Parton Dixie Stampede and ate lunch at Paula Deans Restaurant. Dennis Engh was the successful bidder on the Quilt. We were small in number but huge in spirit. **We plan to do Pigeon Forge, In next April.** Since this might be our last newsletter, this may be the last time I am in touch with all of you.

**Please, if you have any interest in ever attending another OCS get together, please contact me at [jcaldw8724@aol.com](mailto:jcaldw8724@aol.com). I am not asking for a commitment, just an interest. Don't hesitate to contact me.**

I would like to add that none of this would have been possible without the assistance of Richard Green. I would like to personally thank Green, Street, and Tingle for their support.

To Lee Wheless a huge round of applause for his 30plus years of putting together this newsletter. I have looked forward to receiving it since I joined the organization way back when.

Jim Caldwell, Class 04-67.....

## Readers Write In.

### Carl Cecere, Class 11-66

Here I am over 60 years later, finally ready to part with my OCS paraphernalia; white tabs, orange tabs, scarf, class flag, brass, invitation to our formal class dinner, class standings, etc. I was a kid, drafted, went to school at Monmouth. Upon graduation I had orders assigning me to the White House, civilian status, but before I left Monmouth, I went before the OCS Board, not really knowing what "OCS" was. Less than a year later, with God's help, though I

couldn't spell lieutenant, I was one. Most of my OCS classmates, it seemed, were seasoned soldiers.

So why me? Come to find out, a 2d lieutenant in combat had a life expectancy of about 11 minutes. They needed cannon fodder! Fortunately, my commander, who recommended that I go before the OCS board, helped me pick the Signal Corps. OCS gave me confidence, courage, and a team spirit. "Cooperate and Graduate". I met some great men and soldiers in Class 11-66. I remember many of them, and some of the things we did. Remember the live fish in the toilet

bowls and throwing TACs in the shower? I remember telling everyone, "After graduation, I don't want to leave!" I owe a lot to Wilp. He encouraged me, often by his example. He was a leader.

I grew up quickly after OCS. I had a TS clearance; my first assignment was in the intel community. All the officers and some EM had degrees. I eventually got mine through the bootstrap program. Also graduated from CGSC, which I took through correspondence.

My only experience with Vietnam was with a team from PACFO. I was their CO. We worked out of Okinawa because President Nixon told people that he was drawing down. TDYers didn't count as being assigned to Vietnam. Ironically, my new iPad was made in Vietnam.

The Army provided excellent opportunities. I was fortunate to be able to take advantage of many. I was nominated for 3d ID Division Signal Officer. I regretfully turned it down to get my family back to the states after more than 3 years. A tough call for me, but God first, family second, career third. The Telecommunications Course at Keesler AFB set me up for many good positions, both in and out of the military. I had a great career, my wife supported me 100%. We are still together after 60+ years. I was made for military life; military life was made for me. As I part with the items from my OCS past, the memories will always be there. Oh, I still have my dress blues. Sorry for the rambling. Let me change subjects quickly, before you fall asleep. OCS for women started in the 70s. Coast Guard was first. Does our association have any women members? Enough on that subject. At least for now.

Thanks to the members and staff of the USA Signal Corps Officer Candidates School Association.

God help the USA. God bless each and every one of you. With love and respect.

**Carl Cecere, Class 11-66, RIGHT ON!**

### **Michael Lorning, Class 07-67**

Richard, I wrote this after a visit to the Medal of Honor Museum and think it will be of interest to our members.

Last month, my YMCA veterans group visited the National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, Texas. It was an inspiring event. The museum has been open for a year and is a treasure. It was financed by a host of individuals, corporations, and organizations. It honors the over 3500 recipients of the medal and is situated in a stunning building. A white cube hovers over a sunken

*courtyard* with two sweeping stairs leading up. Once inside, the entry hall displays the names of all the honorees. The exhibits on the walls give the history of the medal with interesting facts about it. There are interactive videos that feature actual medal winners as well as a movie theater with various shows. Displayed are many artifacts from all eras, and even a Huey dustoff helicopter with a virtual reality video of a mission. But the best are the individual stories and possessions of many of those brave men and one woman. They tell of what they did and who they were. They finally have a memorial honoring their bravery and sacrifice. The Museum has a gift shop and a small snack bar and is located next to the Cowboys' stadium. It is a short drive from DFW airport and is well worth a visit. It is open from 10 AM to 5 PM. Veteran's admission is \$20.00. Visit its website at "[mohmuseum.org](http://mohmuseum.org)" to get more information.

### **Susan Flashman, daughter of Lt. Joseph Flashman, Class 04-42**

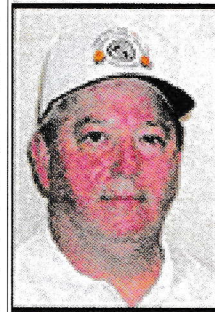
Dear Brothers,

On behalf of all the alumnae of the Signal Corp. thank you for keeping the magazine going and the stories you share. Although it was my father who belonged, and later taught, I believe, you hard work is inspiring.

You are not youngsters any more, and I hope you will find younger Signal Corp Members to pick up the news you share. These days it is harder to keep these sort of associations going, when younger members are reluctant to make commitments. My father would have been 112 years old, but his military pride has outlived him. At the 250 Anniversary, he would be turning in his ashes to see the freedoms he fought for being abused by this administration. Yes, he was a died in the wool Democrat whose family immigrated to this country from Russia and Hungary. They bettered themselves at Universities like Harvard. And all of Joe's children continued by gaining more education. (BA's, MA's, PhD's and Law Degrees) I hope to see another generation of leaders carry on your fine work.

### **Major Gen. David Gust, Class 25-67**

General Gust sent in a short note that he received from the Signal Corps Regimental Association, stating that the beginning of the Signal Corps in the Army during the Civil War was legislation signed by President Lincoln on February 22, 1862. Four



## Scholarship Program

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### **Col. Preas L. Street, Class 18-67**

Well, guys, final newsletter, so final (and quick) update on our scholarship program. It has been a pleasure overseeing the program since its inception. It all started in 2001 thanks to the late LTG Emmett Paige who donated \$1500 to be used as "seed money" to establish the scholarship program. We awarded our first scholarships in 2001. Since then (through 2025) we have awarded Eighty-eight scholarships totaling \$88,000.

Thanks to all of you who donated to the fund over the years. As it stands now, we plan to award 2026 scholarships to applicants who qualify (applications must be post marked no later than July 31st).

days later, General Order 21 was issued which organized the service.

The following from the SCRA:

While we celebrate our official anniversary in June, February marks a transformative chapter in the Signal Corps story. In the winter of 1862, amidst the turmoil of the Civil War, the necessity for a professionalized communications branch became undeniable.

On February 22, 1862—fittingly, George Washington's birthday—President Abraham Lincoln signed the legislation that paved the way for the formal organization of the Signal Service.

Before this, Major Albert J. Myer had been operating with a rotating cast of "detailed" soldiers. This act provided the foundation for a permanent, dedicated corps of professionals. Just four days later, General Order 21 was issued, officially organizing the service that would eventually become the world-class Signal Corps we lead today. Why It Matters Today: The "Wig-wag" flags used in 1862 might seem a world away from today's satellite arrays and cyber networks, but the core principle remains unchanged: Command and Control depend on the Signaller. This month, as we honor our nation's presidents, we also honor the foresight of those leaders who recognized that information is the ultimate "force multiplier" on the battlefield.

**Col. Earl Tingle, Class 09-67**

We don't know what "treasures" we might find when we open a shoe box labeled 09-67 OCS. Here's one of those gems from 60 years ago. The smiles tell us this isn't a push-up event sponsored by Wes Green or Jimmy Conlee. Pictured here - left to right - are Candidates Pete Bradley, Roger (Duck Man) Doss, Jim Morris, Paul McKittrick, Pat Stine, Earl Tingle, and Dave Williams. OCS was a turning point for many of us 104 Classmates. Our class motto was - **The Biggest / The Best.**

**Sue Makinen, daughter of  
LTC John Rickert, Class 4-66**

Mrs Makinen wrote (in last SIGNALS) wanting to find out things about her dad (John Rickert) from the guys that knew him in OCS and afterwards as well.. She never expected that a former enlisted man who had served with John when John was enlisted would see the request and respond at length (see below)... The writer Jack Darsnek, a 1966 Benning graduate and long time member of this association knew John well before OCS... Mrs Makinen was thrilled.

This from **Jack Darsnek, Class 6-66B:**

I'm writing in response to an inquiry from Richard Green, a friend from the Signal OCS Association in regards to your late father, John Rickert.

In August 1959 I was assigned to Co D, 102nd Signal Battalion, HQS at Vernou, France. One of the first people I met was your father, John. I don't recall exactly but I believe John was a year or two younger than me, he was probably about 20-21. I'm almost certain he was a Specialist 4 (SP4) at the time. He was assigned to the microwave station, Le Chenoy (LCY), which was on the hill above the HQS at Vernou. Essentially they were one and the same but used different names to separate the HQS from the station. John lived on post at Vernou.

Le Chenoy was a big terminal, breaking out communications links in several directions,

I'm guessing they had 25 or so people that worked shifts, 24 X 7 and no holidays.

I was assigned to Tilloy (TLY) Microwave Station, a remote small repeater about a 100 miles from LCY., 40 miles from Verdun. I would only see John when I had to go to the Company HQS, which was not often. I left in August 1961 as my tour (2 years) was up, John had re-enlisted and extended.

**LTC Donald L. Edwards, Class 01-52**

A 1952 article (maybe from the Fort Monmouth News? Or maybe it was only the Ft Monmouth Signal OCS News?) sent in by LTC Donald Edwards (1-52) reads as follows: B Company by O.C. George Herz. Since Section 1B's terrible football power lay dormant last week, this is an excellent opportunity to introduce the various members of the Fighting Frogmen to the public.

In the backfield, calling the plays, we find crafty Sabertooth Edwards, whose brilliant performance as captain of the team has kept it undefeated in eight starts. Other constituents of the force being the iron line including Gorilla Greppin, Panther Fletcher, and Moose Maus. The deadly passes fired by this battery are usually directed at Ferret Smith and Buffalo Ising, recently proclaimed as two of the nation's most spectacular ends in "Peeping Tom", the magazine for discriminating observers.

Forming a wall of impenetrable

resistance and relentless power, the Frogmen line is composed of Bulldozer Tisch, Howitzer Ford, Rhinoceros Herz, Bull of the Pampus Upton, Griz Cheary and Wildcat Binswanger. Managing the team with uncanny willingness is Ivan the Terrible Norman.

In the front office and on the official cheering section is Lt. Homeland, who unflinching enthusiasm continually spurs the Frogmen to new glory and provides sound protection from hostile team TAC officers.

Overlooking the team with serene grandeur at all times is Steif and Hoch the Great, who needs no introduction.

During last Saturday's inspection it was found that is reporter possessed a standard Gillette razor, together with a package of Schick injector blades. This discovery goes a long way towards explaining why he has had such great difficulty obtaining a clean shave.

With the fitting of uniforms, the purchase of class rings and the taking of pictures for the Annual, a timid hope for the "emerging from the darkness" has awakened in the souls of the section members. Dimly, faintly, very softly daylight is beginning to show.

**Frank Boynton, Class 01-52**

**New Signal OCS Class**

**Grants Commissions to 49**

The first officer candidate graduating class, since the last war, was held last Wednesday at Fort Monmouth with forty-nine officers sworn in as second lieutenants in the Signal Corps. Prior to graduation ceremonies at Theatre One, eleven other classes numbering over 918 candidates, paraded in honor of the newly commissioned officers at a formal review at the Camp Wood area.

Climaxing twenty-two weeks of extensive training on reopening of **Signal Corps OCS** here last September 24th, Brig. Gen. Arthur Pulsifer, Assistant Chief Signal Officer, Washington, was guest speaker to the graduating group, while Col. Reginald Lyman, Chief of Staff here at the Signal Center, awarded certificates and "gold bars"

Four distinguished military graduates were selected from the class for outstanding academic and technical marks. They are Second Lieutenants Richard Fletcher of Oakland, Calif.; Norman Templeton, Carlisle, Pa.; Donald Nesbitt, Jr., of Springfield, Mass., and Conne M. Sandven, of Louisiana,

**SIGNALS**

*Published by the US Army Signal Corps  
Officer Candidate School Association.*

After 33 years, this is our LAST ISSUE.

Mo. On these achievements, they have a choice of applying for regular Army commissions.

At the graduation ceremonies one newly made officer was forced to sit in the audience, apart from his class assembled on the theatre stage. He was Leroy D. Brown, of Reading, Pa., who suffered a broken ankle in camp this past Sunday. He was formally commissioned later in the afternoon.

During the parade, honoring Class One, Capt. Paul F. Braim, of Wilmington, Del., with the Officer Candidate Department faculty, was presented the Bronze Star Medal. Assigned as instructor in the Weapons and Tactics Branch of OCD's Academic Division, Captain Braim was decorated for meritorious service in Korea while serving with the 24th Infantry Division from November 12, 1950, through December last year.

Simultaneously, with yesterday's group of Signal Corps commissions, five other OCS classes of other arms of services throughout the country graduate this week as a start towards the quota of 8,000 new officers the Department of Army has set for this year.

Headed by Col. Thomas A. Pitcher as director of the Signal Corps OCS program, another class will graduate March 24th, and every two weeks in the future. Colonel Pitcher, a native of Half Moon Bay, Calif., was Deputy Signal and Communications Officer with the U.S. Eighth Army in Korea prior to his present assignment.

In resuming OCS commissions at Fort Monmouth, figures reveal that in the last war covering a period from July 1941 to October 1946, 21,033 officers graduated from the Officer Candidate program.

Yesterday's graduating class, in addition to the five previously mentioned, are second-lieutenants:

Edward V. Barnabic, New York City; Henry W. Berry, Jr., Wichita Falls, Texas; Frank G. Binswinger, Elkins Park, Pa.; Frank Boynton, Harwich, Mass.; Donald W. Campbell, Clinton, N.Y.; Donn VanDyke Campbell, Morris Plains, N.J.; Robert M. Carico, Bedford, Ohio; Eldon Cheary, St. Louis, Mo.; Robert B. Churbuck, Ridge, L.I.; David H. DeWitte, Bloomington, Ind.; Donald L. Edwards, North Industry, Ohio; Gordon Edwards, Brooklyn; John C. Ford, Paris, Texas; Paul L. Gittings, Houston, Texas.

Also, Robert L. Glanville, Morristown, N.J.; Russell L. Greppin, Los Angeles, Calif.; George P. Herz, Chicago; Lewis G. Holladay, Gordonsville, Va.; Bruno E. Ising, Kansas City, Mo.; Geo.F. Jaeger, Queens Village, L.I.; Donald Keirn, Columbia City,

Ind.; Clarence Knutsen, Kansas City, Mo.; Herman R. Kyselka, West, Texas; William Lancaster, Atlanta, Ga.; James E. Landfried, Independence, Mo.; Charles B. Larson, High Springs, Fla.; Robert D. Maus, Hot Springs, Ark.; Ercell Miller, Dallas, Texas; Joel L. Moore, Jr., Southport, N.C.; Ramon J. Moulton, Galesburg, Ill.; Berkie E. Norman, Chattanooga, Tenn.; George M. Petri, Amelia, Ohio; Robert E. Pringle, New York City; Byron L. Rye, Scott, Ark.; Howard R. Sage, Painesville, Ohio; Finis E. Schneider, Plainview, Texas; Frank W. Smith, Philadelphia; Joseph L. Smith, Tylertown, Miss.; Joseph R. Sturdivant, Meridian, Miss.; Ronald C. Tisch, Jackson, Mich.; Robert H. Upton, Baltimore, Md.; Ivan R. Webb, Richland, Va.; Wilbur B. Welch, Paducah, Ky.; and Cecil E. Wroten of Huntington W. Va.

9 June 2003

Dear Richard,

I was recently reviewing the March issue of SIGNALS. In it you were curious if someone could tell about the tarpaper covered buildings many of us lived in while attending OCS.

Well, let me give you some insights.

The buildings in this story were on Camp Charles Wood, a subpost of Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. When we arrived in September 1951 for Class 52-01, the buildings had just undergone internal renovation to (I presume) make candidates reasonably comfortable. Now, September is getting cool and winter is not far off. The walls had been wainscoted with shellacked plywood. Incandescent bulbs provided lighting. There were no storm doors or windows. Cold was warded off by urging the stoves to put out more heat. Pity the guys in nearby cots and also the guys inside the halo of heat. Now, some dummy would open a door on one end or the other of the building, and you guessed it, out went the heat.

Classrooms, too, were located in the same single story, tarpapered, sh..er, buildings where instructors stood behind a lectern to recognize Candidate Campbell who began his question with, "Sir, I'm a little bit confused, but ...".

Each quarters building had two cast iron, coal burning, pot bellied, Cannon stoves, one near each end of the building, and in the center aisle between two rows of cots. Candidates were obliged to keep the stoves going. We were also obliged to keep the coal dressed in the bins outside before

marching off for the day's fun and frolics.

The fact that these buildings existed in the fifties can no longer be verified because they are gone, having given way to family housing. Perkins Hall, also tarpapered, is also gone but for a different reason. It burned down. It was a recreation facility. The people who cleaned and pressed our uniforms didn't fare any better. They, too, were in a tarpapered facility.

Each Candidate had a standard metal army cot, a foot locker, a metal closet for clothes and a wooden shelf which held all the army manuals in either order of size, or number. I can't remember which. No civilian clothes, please.

Some had bunks under windows. Windows had to be cleaned. Windex was not an item of issue so windows were hard to clean. To make matters worse, there was a lot of dust all over the place. I remember well being confined to base on weekends because Saturday morning inspection socked me with dusty window. I used to get that gig when Lt. Livingston was down the far end of the barracks and making a turn to come down my side. The sun would be just right to show off every speck of dust. (Well, he used to get me for a dusty bore once in awhile, too).

I was stationed at Fort Monmouth from OCS and remained there until being relieved from active duty. But, I stayed there after that, changing clothes and working as an electronics instructor until 1974. (When everything moved to Fort Gordon). While in OCS, I chanced to meet the girl I married in May 1953. I am taking her to the Officers' Club at Fort Monmouth on the 14th of June where, with our three children, we will celebrate our fiftieth wedding anniversary.

All those activities in OCS are still very clear in my mind's eye. The event was a major turning point in my life. There were years of hard work following OCS, but Catherine and I persevered and have been living comfortably in retirement for many years. Our two boys live here in Springfield, as we do. Frank, the eldest, is a Colonel in the Marine Corps, graduating from The Army War College on June 10th. And on his way.

All of this has come out of the days in the tarpaper barracks on Camp Charles Wood. Not bad. No regrets. OCS was a blast.

### **Robert Chase, Class 04-42**

Traditions died hard in the military. The Army Signal Corps had a pet one - pigeons! The Signal Corps developed the use of

mobile pigeon lofts and even two way pigeons. Kaiser, a famous WWI pigeon, is stuffed and enshrined at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. There is another story of a pigeon that lost one of its legs by enemy fire while carrying a message from "The Lost Battalion" during WWI. But pigeons in WWII? With all the sophisticated communications systems available then -- pigeons?? Yes! Hear my story: Lt Tidwell, CO, 210th Signal Combat Pigeon Platoon, visited me in my office at Hq USARPAC, Fort Shafter, Oahu, TH. He was upset. When he released his military pigeons for flight training, they mixed with birds of the local pigeon fanciers. This mixture fouled up the military pigeons training. "How", I asked. Now read this carefully. Lt Tidwell indignantly offered the following: "The civilian pigeons lure my military pigeons into the civilian loft for unscheduled feeding and acts of fecundity".

Lt Tidwell became even more indignant during the time it took me to stop laughing. I didn't believe him. I knew only one thing about pigeons. They were monogamous, in the zoological sense. Perhaps these were young pigeons who had not yet taken a mate back at the 210th loft. However the story continues as a point of interest rather than humor.

Lt Tidwell insisted that I write a letter to the Military Governor of Hawaii. I was to request that the Military Governor issue a proclamation prohibiting the release of civilian pigeons on the Island of Oahu. Putting the reasons in writing for the requested prohibition might prove to be embarrassing. I telephoned. No such proclamation would be issued. Reason? The boats of the Hawaiian fishing industry were under radio silence (there was a war on). Hence there was no way for to advise the tuna packers of the size of the catch and the ETA of the fishing boats at the Honolulu cannery. So the fishing boats carried a basket of carrier pigeons, supplied by a local pigeon fancier. The pigeons would be released at sea at the appropriate time, returning with a message to the pigeon fancier's loft. The fancier would then relay the message to the canning company. Everyone is happy except Lt Tidwell. *(Historical note: Lt Tidwell, with his 210th Signal Combat Pigeon Platoon, was eventually deployed with the TENTH ARMY in the invasion of Okinawa. Upon returning from that operation, Lt Tidwell visited my office again, to advise me that his pigeons carried only two messages during the Okinawa campaign and they were both canned messages. Alas!)*

*(Editorial note: We need some input from the pigeoneers on this one. My contact with the gentlemen who were involved with the pigeon units has been most informative and rewarding. I am one that would like to see pigeons and horses on the Army inventory. Tradition is important, if not always functional.)*

**Richard Green**

**LTC Bob DeAdder, Class 04-42**

The resident expert on pigeons at Ft Monmouth, had this to say about the tradition of keeping pigeons on "Active Duty" in WWII.

**Kaiser** was a German pigeon picked up at the end of WWI. He was treated as a valuable POW, and was featured for his long life span by Ripley! I do not know if he was preserved, or not, but as far as I know he is not at Fort Monmouth. **Cheri Ami** is the pigeon officially credited with saving the lives of 80-100 men of the Lost Battalion and was officially decorated by the French government. He not only lost a leg, but had a hole in his chest and had lost an eye. He is on display at the Smithsonian in Washington DC.

If Tidwell's pigeons had been properly trained and settled in their loft, there should have been no problem with the local fanciers. They would have been very cooperative. We had an example in south NJ where a local fancier, Joel Parker, used his pigeons in an emergency at sea before WWII and before Ham radio. It was very effective.

I do not know anything about the use of pigeons in Okinawa, or the Far East.

His (Robert Chase) article fails to mention **G.I. Joe** in the WWII Italian Action. He is officially credited, by the British government, with saving 1000 British soldiers, and is on display at the museum at Fort Monmouth. There are many other examples of pigeons carrying important messages so I don't agree with the comment that the SigC had pet - pigeons.

In addition to **G.I. Joe**, we have 2 WWI pigeon heroes in the museum at Fort Monmouth. They are **Spike** and **The Mocker**. Up until the past year they were on display at the Fort Monmouth library.

*(Editor's note: LTC DeAdder enclosed a listings of some Army pigeon heroes and their amazing feats.)*

**Lady Karen** - 31 combat missions in Italy during WWII. **Yank** - 1943, carried the message re the fall of Gafsa and less than a month later carried a critical message from LTG Patton. Traveled 90 miles in 100 minutes.

**G.I. Joe** - WWII, carried the message that prevented airstrike on the village of Colvi Vecchia after the British captured it ahead of schedule.

**Geronimo** - WWII, credited with 30 combat missions in the ETO, several of those during the 7 day battle when allied forces were crossing the Volturno River, north of Naples.

**Eureka** - WWII, She has a record of over 20 combat missions in the ETO. Several flights are listed as having been accomplished at the speed of 1 mile per minute.

**Pro Patria** - WWII, credited with 35 combat missions, including several re critical ammunition and supply needs in the Allied push to the north of Rome.

**Flipper** - WWII, She had more than 20 combat missions in the ETO, with several missions involving parachute landings. **Special Delivery** - WWII, over 20 important wartime messages in Italy. Assigned to the Engineer Water Supply Battalion, which was a highly essential mission.

**Scoop** - WWII, over 20 combat missions in Algiers, delivering many of the 72 critical messages sent by pigeons in the 16 day battle on the Mateau-Bizerte front.

**Anzio Boy** - WWII, credited with 38 combat missions with the 209th Signal Pigeon Co., which was awarded a Meritorious Service Plaque by General Patton. Many of this pigeons flights were during the landing at Anzio, hence the name.

**CAESER** - WWII, over 44 combat missions in North Africa. He completed a 300 mile flight, crossing the Mediterranean to deliver an important message to American troops in Tunisia. He ranks among the top 6 pigeon heroes of WWII.

**Jim Caldwell, Class 04-67**



That's a picture of me and a friend I play golf with. His name is Matt Ainsworth a graduate of Transportation OCS. So you are probably thinking why is Jim showing us this photo. So one day while playing golf Matt told me that his father was a Colonel Signal Corps retired. I asked him where he got his commission and he said that he thinks it was a direct commission while stationed in Panama.

When I got home I thought I would do a little research. I went to the Signal OCS Website looked up WWII rosters and the very first name in the first class of WWII graduates was James Ainsworth. ✨

**How Rough Was OCS**

**When I Was A Boy, I Walked .....**

All of us remember our Dad (or some family member) telling us how tough it was in the "Old Days". Things like "I had to walk 10 miles in the snow, barefoot, to pick up a loaf of bread so my brothers and sisters could have breakfast before we all walked 15 miles in the snow to school."










I could not help smiling when I read the article in last month's newsletter re "bare bones" barracks during the Korean War. Photos that I have on file show a slightly different story re furnishings. There were no desks, but foot and wall lockers are most evident. One photo shows several candidates sitting on their foot lockers singing along as one of their members strums the guitar. Another photo shows a candidate standing at attention for inspection - his wall locker prepared the OCS way. The walls, instead of bare studs, are "covered" with what appears to be drywall and plywood. There are also photos of a gigantic 2-3 story Service Club, tarpaper on the outside, but really nice inside. While it is given that the photos were taken in the best case scenario, there are a lot of smiling faces at dances, canteens, on athletic fields, etc.

WWII graduates also speak of the green wood barracks they lived in, but most photos received by the association show the permanent brick buildings and rather luxurious interiors by Army standards.

Both WWII and Korean War documents often mention dances, shows, theaters, train loads of girls coming in to party on the weekend, etc. I've seen photos of candidates scrubbing hardwood floors with boiling water, and of tarpaper shacks that were less than eye-pleasing, also. I have no doubt that the conditions at Fort Monmouth were not the best for the majority of the candidates in both the WWII and Korean War programs.

As a Vietnam era graduate, here's that story. The barracks assigned for OCS were condemned when the cadre arrived, or so I've been told. Their first task was to upgrade those barracks to livable conditions. The first class had 30 year old vinyl floors that had to be shined so that one can see one's face in them. By the time I arrived, those earlier classes were telling how easy things had gotten. For the first 7 weeks there were no passes, no off-duty time, no service club, etc. For the next 7 weeks the promised "off" time did not happen. If all did not pass inspection, no-one went anywhere. When the class turned Junior, all were allowed an over-nighter, but only after a 5 hour delay to correct some last minute problems the TACs found. Someone showed up late the next day and the class was on restriction for most of the Junior status. Only Senior candidates (18th week) could walk in the Brigade area and only at that level were there privileges such as service clubs, snack bars, and passes. (And those were totally at the discretion of the TACs and often disappeared.) Almost forgot, we did have open stud walls.

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**ASSOCIATION WEBSITE**

**WWW.ARMYSIGNALOCS.COM**

**If you have questions/problems contact**

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**Our website will remain active for awhile, not sure for how long.**

As "easy" as we had it at Gordon, according to the classes before us, the classes in the latter part of that program had it even easier. They must have... because we told them how easy it was....but I'm sure they did not think so.

Bragging about how rough it was "when we were there" is a right that each of us has earned. I do not doubt that the gentleman who wrote the article in last month's issue lived under exactly the conditions he described. I do not doubt that there were barracks at

