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Association of Military Musicians

AMM's Mission

The Association of Military Musicians is a fraternal organization that strives to preserve the proud tradition of military music. Military musical ensembles don't just play marches and ceremonial music—today's audience demands much more than that, and with panache to boot!

Membership is open to any and all who have served in a military musical organization, whether a band, orchestra, fife & drum corps, or a vocal group.

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- Allen Lawless—Treasurer and Webmaster. PHONE (660) 998-4590; EMAIL ar_lawless@yahoo.com
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- Gary Hartman— Newsletter Editor and 2015 Entertainment Chairman. PHONE (803) 530-6081; EMAIL avguy49@gmail.com
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Association of Military Musicians
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Sound Off

Association of Military Musicians

2015 AMM Reunion: INDIANAPOLIS

2014/2015 Officers

- Karen Mayfield—President
- David Ratliff—Vice President
- Karla Hillen—Secretary
- Allen Lawless—Treasurer

Serving AMM

- Allen Lawless— Webmaster
- Bonnie Versoza— Chaplain
- Bill Von Kamp—Librarian
- Frank Hill—Historian
- Gary Hartman—*Sound Off* Editor and 2015 Reunion Chair

Greetings, fellow AMM members. **TIME IS RUNNING SHORT.** The deadline of September 1st is rapidly approaching. All procrastinators need to put this event and the required registration at the top of their priority list. Our 2015 Indianapolis Reunion is at the Radisson Hotel by the airport. The date is Sept 17-20. The hotel address is:

Radisson Hotel Indianapolis Airport
2500 S High School Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46241

Phone: (317) 244-3361 local
(800) 967-9033 toll-free

Please mention the code **AMM** when making your reservations. Your Reunion Registration Form is available at our website. The Hospitality Fee (\$60/person) should be mailed to me, with checks made out to Gary Hartman. A Registration form is provided in this mailing for members without internet access.

Equipment still needed during the reunion:

Multi-Media Projector/w Portable Screen

Please let me know ASAP if any member can bring this to the event.

Due to logistical challenges, music clinics with area school bands will be postponed until the next reunion. Discussion on preparing for this event will be scheduled during the Saturday afternoon business meeting.

A host and site for the 2016 Reunion is greatly needed. Please consider hosting next year's reunion so that previous hosts can enjoy the weekend like everyone else.

The Radisson offers free airport shuttle service to/from the hotel. No shuttle to downtown Indy is available at this time.

However, for those who use **UBER** on their smartphones, getting a ride to downtown is easy and inexpensive. For new users, sign up on your App Store or Play Store, and use code **PRGEY or FirstRide20** to get a big discount off your first ride. Rides are per carload, up to four passengers. See Gary for more info.

Until then, Bb chord.

Gary Hartman

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Tentative Reunion Schedule

Thursday, Sept 17 - Hotel check in, HR opens 3 pm, local sight-seeing, local social events, HR closes at midnight

Friday, Sept 18 - HR opens 9 am, local events, tours to 38th Div Band Hall (2002 S Holt Rd), visits to Fort Harrison State Park, HR closes at midnight

Saturday, Sept 19 - HR opens 9-10 am, music rehearsal 10 - 11:45 am, Business Meeting 1:30-4:30 pm, Social/w Cash Bar 6 pm (**Business Casual**), Dinner Events 6:30 - 8:15 pm, Dance music 8:30-10:30 pm (Karaoke?), HR opens 10:30 pm - Midnight

Sunday, Sept 20 - Breakfast and Farewell

Army Band Activities and Casualties during the Korean Conflict by John F. Rutledge

I was a member of the 3rd Infantry Division Band from 1949 to 1952. The 3rd Inf Div HQ and the 15th and 30th Inf Regiments were stationed at Fort Benning Georgia. The Korean conflict broke out on June 25, 1950, when North Korean forces attacked South Korean installations.

Our division was alerted for overseas shipment in early August 1950, and departed by rail later that month for Camp Stoneman, CA., a port of embarkation. Only the 15th Regiment moved, and our other regiment, the 7th Inf stationed at Fort Devens, MA joined us at Camp Stoneman. The 30th Regiment remained at Fort Benning to support the Infantry School.

At this time an Infantry Division was comprised of three Infantry Regiments, and our third regiment was the 65th Inf Regt from Puerto Rico, which was already in Korea. We were loaded on large troop transport ships at Camp Stoneman, and arrived at Kokura, Japan about 17 days later. We moved by Japanese trains to Camp Chicamauga at Beppu, Japan.

Rigorous training started immediately. The band played occasionally at troop formations, but we also had daily 10-mile hikes up and down the mountain with full-field packs. About November 11, we were transported to Kokura, Japan, and loaded on troopships again. The band played at the departure of most of the ships, and was loaded aboard the last ship leaving. As a result, many of the soldiers when seeing us in Korea said, "I thought we left you guys in Japan".

We made a semi-peaceful landing at Wonsan North Korea on November 11. Occasional shots were fired, and we were informed that North Korean Guerillas were in town. At this point we were eating only canned rations.

At this time, the North Korean army was beat, and we all expected to be home for Christmas. However, in early December, we were notified that

more than one million Chinese soldiers had crossed the Manchurian border, and would support the North Korean army. At this time large U.S. Marine units had advanced far north to near the Manchurian border in an area known as the Chosin Reservoir.

We were notified that there were not sufficient transportation resources to evacuate all units, and that some would be required to fight in place. The band was quartered in an old Korean school building which was very cold, with broken windows and holes in the walls. We used some tent stoves to keep warm. We did not have winter clothing or sleeping bags, as we were expected to depart before the deep cold.

We sand-bagged our windows and doors, and made sandbagged positions on the roof, and drew a double basic load. The band was equipped with M2 carbines, which could fire semi-automatic or full automatic. A few days later we were ordered to destroy all of our rations and POL (petroleum) and move to the port area.

There we were loaded aboard an old cargo ship, expecting to be transported to the southern port of Pusan. Instead our ship proceeded north, and anchored at the port of Hungnam. Here we became part of the operation to evacuate the Marine units which were coming out of the Chosin reservoir area. A corridor for them was held open and protected by U.S. Army infantry units.

Two of us NCO's from the band were designated to man .30 caliber machine guns on LCVP's (Landing Craft Vehicle and Personnel) moving personnel from the shore onto the ships in the harbor. The two were Sergeant Lombardo and me.

Korean Conflict continued

There was actually very little small-arms fire near the port during this evacuation. While we were making runs to shore and back to the ship, the cruiser St. Paul was firing over our heads, and it sounded like telephone poles flying overhead. Eventually we arrived at the port of Pusan at the southern tip of the peninsula.

After being aboard ship for a few days, we were transported to the small village of Ipsil-li, where we remained for about two months, while division units received replacements, and recuperated. Many had suffered heavy losses. During this time we lived in 12-man squad tents, and were attached to the 3rd Inf Div MP company. When the division was later re-committed to combat, we moved north with the headquarters, and played often for troop units, being transported by 2 1/2 ton trucks ("deuce-and-a-halves").

On a very hot day in the summer of 1951 we loaded on trucks and departed toward the front to play for units just coming from the fighting. I was in the cab of the lead truck. As we got closer to the front, there were signs on the road ("**Road and shoulders cleared of mines**").

As we left the MSR to pull into the rice paddy, the second truck (for reasons unknown) took the position in the lead. We moved slowly in column formation, and I saw small circles of white engineer tape, which showed the location of mines that had not yet been removed.

Suddenly there was a tremendous explosion, and the truck ahead of us went up in the air. Its right front wheel had detonated a Chinese anti-tank mine. The truck had carried about ten bandmen, and they were strewn about the rice paddy in various stages of injury. I can remember some of the injured:

SFC Ray McCune, CPL Jim Hendren, and PFC Louis Nims

Fortunately we were not too far from an artillery unit's medical aid station, and our wounded were evacuated promptly.

I believe that other bands in Korea also had casualties, but I only heard of these second-hand, so cannot verify this.

I was rotated out of Korea in January, 1952. There were no great problems after the above incident, however as bandmen we were constantly reminded that we were soldiers first, and musicians second.

John F. Rutledge
SGM(R)
US Army

TREASURER'S REPORT by Allen Lawless

As of July 31, 2015, AMM has \$7,698.18 in two Checking accounts - \$6,458.18 in Bank Midwest and \$1,240.00 in the Renasant Bank account. The Paypal account currently has a \$0.00 balance as all monies have been transferred to the Bank Midwest account.

As the Treasurer has moved from Missouri to Mississippi since the March newsletter was published, AMM's Checking accounts will eventually transition from Bank Midwest to Renasant Bank for easier access to making deposits. As a result of this transition, \$68.92 was spent for checks and deposit slips for the Renasant Bank account. Since the March, 2015 report, other expenditures include expected fees associated with printing and mailing of the March and June newsletters. AMM covered a deposit in the amount of \$250 for the Indianapolis Reunion, which will be reconciled following the Reunion in September.

Another noteworthy item was an error committed by the Treasurer in the May 18, 2015 temporary transfer of \$1,500 from the Treasurer's personal Savings account to the AMM Checking

account with Bank Midwest. (The two accounts are tied together via the bank's online account setup.)

The error was discovered during the May reconciliation of the Checking account. The Treasurer made the necessary correction by transferring \$1,500 from the AMM Checking account to his personal account and notified AMM's President and Vice President of the situation via email. All bank statements have been reconciled, the issue documented, and is, of course, available for audit.

Since the March newsletter, AMM has picked up five new memberships and a renewal.

All bills have been paid and no monies are owed to the organization, except approximately \$60 for postage costs and other expenses incurred by the Treasurer since the beginning of the fiscal year.

Webmaster's Report by Allen Lawless

AMM's web site at <http://www.milmusicians.com> has received over 4,623 hits to date. Spammers have not presented a severe problem, though the bots they emit do target the site on occasion. The Webmaster clears them out every few days.

Regrettably, the Paypal link on the Reunions page has not functioned as well as hoped. The button would not function after a day or two following insertion of the code in the page. Initially, the link worked fine, but would stop working after a time. The Webmaster has not been able to permanently fix the Paypal link, so he took it down.

Those who have not yet registered for the Indianapolis Reunion and still plan on attending will need to register by filling out the online form (that still works fine), but will need to follow up by mailing a check to the Entertainment Chairman Gary Hartman at 217 Ringwood Lane, Elgin, SC 29045-9138. Please make sure to make your check out (\$60 per person) to Gary, not to AMM. Attendees are reminded that their dues must be in current status in order to attend.

Regarding AMM's Facebook page, those who have registered on it now total 1,251. The vast majority of these Facebook users are not paid members of AMM. Many new registrations have come in from the various military premier bands and those currently active duty and reserve. It's always refreshing seeing how the current military band program – much smaller these days than in years past – continues to serve our military and our communities.

IN MEMORY by Bonnie Versoza

We remember our comrades who have recently passed away:

James Choate
June 11, 2015

