



The Ultimate Goal

All soldiers are required to maintain XVIII Airborne Corps standards of a four-mile run in 36 minutes and a 20 km ruck march in four hours.

"The Dragon Standard," p. 34



Capt. Eddie Bonilla calls off Capt. Higinio Figueroa's time, 2:48.

Part I took place on Thursday, August 7, 2003, 0430 hours – hour and a half before sunrise, and under a light rain. Part II, on Friday the 15th, same time. Altogether, over 80 members of the 1st Bn 295th Inf (companies HHC, A and D, and Trp E 192nd Cav) set off for the 20K ruck march, the Ultimate Goal. The participants met at and parted from Bldg. C-4120, their march's route covering Gruber Rd. and Merrill, Ardennes and Merderet streets before retaking Gruber Rd. due north, into the Old Division section of the fort. The goal, as is XVIII Airborne Corps' standard, is completing the 20K in or under four hours.

The all-time champion is Capt. Higinio Figueroa, the Bn S-1, with a whopping 2:48, followed closely by Sgt. Gabriel Serrano, also from the S-1 Section, with 3:15. The third most outstanding record belongs to Trp E's Sgt. Elvin Vega, with 3:17. Other records to reckon include Specs. Edgardo Merced, Edwin Martínez, and Ernesto García, all from HHC's Team 70, with 3:23; 1st Lt. Edwin Martínez, Team 76's Leader, 3:29; Capt. Omar Ruiz, A Co's CO, 3:30; Maj. Bienvenido Serrano, Bn S-3, and Spec. Eric Velázquez, Team 72, with 3:31; S. Sgt. Israel Maldonado and Sgt. Luis Asencio, S-1, and Spec. Alejandro González, Bn C², 3:33; Capt. Diego Dávila, Trp E's CO, Sgt. Eliezer Ríos, C² D Co, and Team 63's S. Sgt. Rubén Torres, with 3:34.

Special recognition is made to Spec. Michelle Colón, the D Co's Armorer, the first female 20K-Q.

Congratulations to all the 20K-Qualified. ☐

Special thanks to Capt. Eddie Bonilla and M. Sgt. Harold Arroyo

See Recent Events for more pictures.



Sgt. Gabriel Serrano, Capt. Figueroa, and Sgt. Elvin Vega show off their respective standings in the 20K.



The Three Amigos; the Three Musketeers; Salt, Pepper and Cinnamon: Specs. Edgardo Merced, Edwin Martínez, and Ernesto García, at 3:23.



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Edelmiro Hernández congratulates Spec. Michelle Colón, D Co, on her 3:53.

Recent Events

Recent Events

20K-Q

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CH (CPT) Carlos Correa

Suicide and its prevention

Patterns of deterioration usually develop in people who are at a risk of committing suicide. These patterns involve depression, which is often associated with suicide. Some of the warning signs of depression are:

- Preoccupation with death, themes of death in songs and movies, or expressions of suicidal thoughts (subtle and blatant)
- Withdrawal from friends and family or other major behavioral changes.
- Seeing oneself differently – ugly, for example, and putting oneself down.
- Difficulty concentrating
- Noticeable changes in eating patterns
- Putting one's life in order, making out a will, giving away prized possessions or making other *final* arrangements
- Changes in sleeping patterns – too much or too little
- Sudden and extreme loss or gain of weight
- Changes in job performance
- Personality changes such as nervousness, outbursts of anger or apathy about appearance and health
- Use of drugs and/or alcohol
- Recent suicide of friend or relative
- Previous suicide attempts
- Unexplained loss of energy, lethargy or excessive fatigue
- Excessive risk-taking

What to avoid

- Leaving anyone alone if you believe suicide is imminent
- Assuming anyone isn't the suicidal "type"
- Debating morality of self-destruction or talking about how it may hurt others. This may induce more guilt
- Keeping a deadly secret. Tell someone what you suspect

If you're worried about your friend being angry about your actions; remember it's better to have a live, angry friend than a dead one.

"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN
Cooper Institute Address
February 27, 1860.**



No endeavor is without accidents and mishaps, and the 20K was no exception as we can see in this picture. This fellow, for instance, one moment earlier had been striving to keep up; the next he was trampled by the onrushing wave of marchers. (Best regards to 1st Sgt. Rafael Estades, D Co.)



*"We Are The Champions."
Spec. Juan Forastieri, Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Hernández, Capt. Gonzalo Vargas, 1st Sgt. Estades, and Spec. Colón.*

Awards

Nine members of D Co 1-295th's Team 74 were recognized for their conspicuous performance during their recent mission in the Middle East. Brig. Gen. Marrero Corletto and Lt. Col. Pérez, Brigade and Battalion commanders, respectively, presented the four Army Commendation Medals and five Army Achievement Medals during a ceremony celebrated on August 12. (See *Hats Off* section for names.)

Team 74 – formerly Sgt. 1st Class Luis De Casenave's and currently S. Sgt. Fernando Rivera's – has become the team with more missions on its résumé, as it deployed on a second mission which eventually aborted because of a faulty part on the ship, and was gearing up for a third to depart prior to the publication of this edition.

We salute them and wish them Godspeed on their new mission.

Recent Events



Promotions

“Attention to orders.

“The Secretary of the Army has reposed special trust on the and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity, and professional excellence of Bonilla, Efrain....”

We congratulate our newest Staff Sergeant, Efrain Bonilla, a member of Troop E 192nd Cav’s Team 110. S. Sgt. Bonilla’s promotion ceremony took place in front of 1st Bn 295th Inf HQs, on August 11.



1st Bn 295th Inf Commander, Lt. Col. Pérez, pins the three-and-one stripes on the collar of Team 110’s Efrain Bonilla.

Departing Teams



Sgt. 1st Class Raúl Vázquez’s Team 70.



1st Lt. Edwin Martínez’s Team 76.

HATS OFF

FOR

Team 74

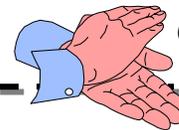


ARCOM recipients:

- Sgt. Fernando Garriga
- Sgt. Francisco González
- Sgt. Orlando Zabala
- Spec. Daniel Torres

AAM recipients:

- Spec. Marcos Claudio
- Spec. Waldemar Rosado
- Spec. Pablin Santiago
- Spec. Luis Vanga Román
- Pvt. 1st Class Joshue Arroyo



Congratulations!

1-295th Inf History Facts

Ever wondered where the *miliciano* shoulder patch came from? The design of said patch is Sgt. 1st Class John Requena’s, an Operations Sergeant of the 295th Infantry Regiment in the early 1950s. Sgt. Requena submitted his design to a contest. The patch was approved on March 16, 1953.

The patch fell in disuse when the 295th Infantry underwent its reduction and fell under the 92nd Infantry Brigade (Separate).



The soldier, above all others, prays for peace.

DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

Did you know that . . .

- the model for the famous “Iron Mike,” a.k.a. “Airborne Trooper,” was an airborne sergeant major?

Sergeant [Major James L.] Runyon, a World War II veteran with over 18 years of Army service, was selected by the-then personnel officer (G-1) of the XVIII Corps, Colonel Edward Whelems. This selection was confirmed by the commander of the XVIII Corps and Fort Bragg at that time Lieutenant General Robert F. Sink.

From June until August of 1960, Sergeant Runyon spent approximately four hours a day posing for the sculptress, Leah Hiebert [commissioned by General Sink]. Each sitting, said Sergeant Runyon, was a “real experience” in how to maintain a motionless pose.

This story by Clay Lacy appeared in the Fort Benning newspaper, The Bayonet, the day before the dedication of The Airborne Trooper Statue, September 22, 1961.

For the entire story, see

www.bragg.army.mil/history/IronMike/ironmike.htm

EL PENSADOR LIBRE

Contribuye el Sgto. Juan Ramón Fonseca
“El Filósofo de Santurce”

Decisión

Definámoslo como un momento en nuestra vida que se repite indefinidamente y el cual debemos comprender o conocer por su influencia. Todos tomamos decisiones – algunas veces por nosotros mismos, y otras veces por otros. En otras ocasiones permitimos que otros las tomen por nosotros.

Toda nuestra vida se rige por decisiones. Nuestros padres las tomaron (y puede que aún las tomen) por el noble propósito de nuestro bienestar, siempre pensando en el futuro. Invariablemente siempre hay decisiones a favor y en contra. En el diario vivir nos podemos topar con personas no capacitadas en posiciones de tomar decisiones. Algunas, aunque no de nuestro agrado, pueden ser correctas. Otras pueden ser afectadas por la amistad, interés propio, aspiraciones, chantaje, favores, comodidad, ventajas, complejos, y/o temores.

Toda buena decisión debe siempre estar acompañada de tres grandes elementos: justicia, capacidad y experiencia. Individualmente, uno no compensa la falta del otro, sino que los tres se complementan entre sí.

* * *

A continuación, una contribución especial
del filósofo invitado,
El Especialista Francisco Sánchez Rohena

“A todo edificio le llega su tiempo.

A cada hombre le toca su hora.”

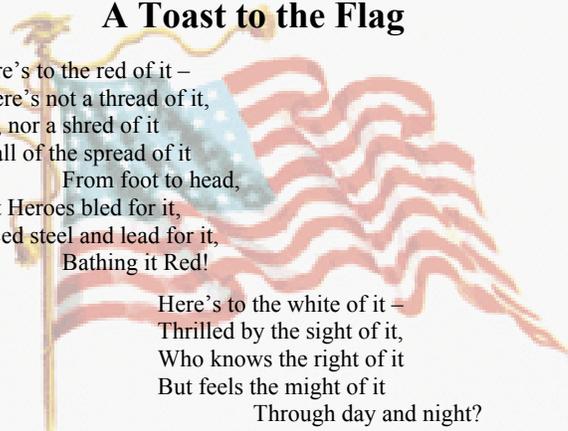
UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

August (16-31)

(16) Baragaño, Rafael - 192 CS	(25) Ayes, Emanuel - Trp E 192
(16) García, Victor R. - HHC 1-295	(25) Figueroa, Eddie - 192 CS
(16) Nicot, Joseph - 192 CS	(25) Irizarry, Luis - 1-296
(17) Palacios, José - D 1-295	(25) Rodríguez, Luis - Trp E 192
(17) Rivera-Sandoz, Roberto - HHC 1-295	(26) Cabán, José L. - HHC 1-295
(18) González, Alejandro - HHC 1-295	(26) Ruiz, Douglas - HHC 1-295
(19) Ocasio, José - 1-296	(27) Andino, Hiram - HHC 1-295
(19) Santana, Jesús - D 1-295	(27) Pereira, José - HHC 1-295
(20) Carlo, Carlos - 1-296	(28) Irizarry, Osvaldo - D 1-295
(20) Sánchez, Francisco - A 1-295	(28) Rodríguez, Carlos R. - 192 CS
(21) Montalvo, Edgardo - 1-296	(28) Torres, José - 1-296
(21) Reyes, Jayson - A 1-295	(29) Chervony, Juan - 1-296
(21) Valle, Gilberto - 1-296	(29) Mercado, Luis - 1-296
(22) Ortiz, Miguel - D 1-295	(29) Vargas, José - 1-296
(22) Rivera, Carlos M. - 192 CS	(29) Vega, Luis J. - Trp E 192
(22) Zapata, Wendell - 1-296	(30) Alemán, Luis - 192 CS
(23) Carrero, José - 1-296	(30) Rodríguez, Raymond - HHC 1-295
(23) Cuevas, Ferdinand - A 1-295	(30) Sanabria, Wilfredo - 1-296
(23) Hernández, José L. - HHC 1-295	(31) Acosta, Ángel - HHC 1-295
(23) Moreu, Alberto - A 1-295	(31) Cruz, Wilfredo - 1-296
(23) Pérez, Manuel - 1-296	(31) González, Richard - 1-296
(25) Andino, Robert - HHC 92 SIB	(31) Pérez, Antonio - 192 CS

Congratulations!

A Toast to the Flag



Here's to the red of it –
There's not a thread of it,
No, nor a shred of it
In all of the spread of it
From foot to head,
But Heroes bled for it,
Faced steel and lead for it,
Bathing it Red!

Here's to the white of it –
Thrilled by the sight of it,
Who knows the right of it
But feels the might of it
Through day and night?
Womanhood's care for it
Made manhood dare for it,
Purity's prayer for it
Keeps it so White!

Here's to the blue of it –
Beauteous view of it,
Heavenly hue of it,
Star-spangled dew of it
Constant and true;
Diadems gleam for it,
States stand supreme for it,
Liberty's beam for it
Brightens the Blue!

Here's to the whole of it –
Stars, stripes, and pole of it,
Body and soul of it,
O, and roll of it,
Sun shining through;
Hearts in accord for it,
Thanking the Lord for it,
Red, White, and Blue!

John J. Daly



The All-American Soldier

by Sgt. Luis Asencio Camacho



Although a rigid pattern of racial segregation prevailed in the United States Army of yesteryear, a great number of individuals took and championed the challenge of serving with pride, displaying their skills and determination while suppressing internal rage from humiliation and indignation. These men and women usually fought two wars – one against a military enemy abroad and another of discrimination on both the home front and abroad. This series aims to honor those individuals and groups of all-Americans.

The 442nd (Nisei) Regimental Combat Team

“Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry.”

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, on the formation of the 442nd Nisei Regiment, 1943

The 442nd was a regiment of Japanese-Americans who were given the option of enlisting in the Army or remaining in internment camps with their families. Despite the rampant racism toward Japanese-Americans, many felt that if there was to be any future for Japanese in the United States, they had to demonstrate their loyalty by fighting for their country.

When the United States entered World War II in response to the infamous Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, all men who were eligible for military duty were called upon to fight. That is except Japanese-Americans. Mind that there were 5,000 of them in the U.S. armed forces. Many were summarily discharged, and those of draft age were classified as 4-C, “enemy aliens,” despite their being U.S. citizens. Moreover, the government placed them and their families into concentration – or, as they called them euphemistically, “internment” – camps.

Ironically, it was in Hawaii where a battalion of *Nisei* (second-generation Japanese-American) volunteers was formed. This was in May 1942, and the group was the 100th Infantry Battalion, the existing designation of a Hawaiian National Guard unit. The *Nisei* were sent to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, for combat training and later moved to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, for additional training before joining the 34th U.S. Division in North Africa (June 1943). It had been decided that in order to eliminate the confusion that might arise in the Pacific, any *Nisei* unit was to be employed only in the Mediterranean and European theaters of operation.

On February 1, 1943, the War Department, reversing its decision on Japanese-Americans serving in the armed forces, announced the formation of another *Nisei* unit: the 442nd RCT (Regimental Combat Team), officered by whites. The 442nd initially consisted of *Nisei* volunteers from the mainland United States (the 552nd Field Artillery Battalion and the 232nd Combat Engineer Company) and from the Hawaiian Islands. There were many different reasons why these young men volunteered. Many did so echoing the war cry of their 100th Battalion counterparts, “Remember Pearl Harbor.”*

The bulk of the 442nd was sent to Camp Shelby in Mississippi, where, initially, tension existed between the mainlanders and the Hawaiians. The mainlanders often degraded the Hawaiians for their poor speech and “barbaric” aggressive manners, thus causing the Hawaiians to feel inferior. The excessive fighting and dissension among the troops prompted the commanding officers to consider the termination of the training; however, a suggestion was made to have the Hawaiians and mainlanders visit the internment camps. After visiting some of the camps, the Hawaiian *Nisei* realized the hardship mainlanders had gone through, and a new sense of respect for each other sprouted.

When this “unified” unit arrived in Europe in June 1944 and joined forces with the relatively seasoned 100th Battalion, the *Nisei* still had to prove their competence, as well as their loyalty to white soldiers and commanding officers.† The liberation of the small town of Bruyère in Southern France and the rescue of the “Lost Battalion” (the 1st of the Texas 141st Infantry) earned the *Nisei* the respect of their fellow soldiers, the townsfolk of Bruyère, and particularly the members of the “Lost Battalion.” Due to the stunning success of the *Nisei* in combat, the draft was re-instated for *Nisei* in the internment camps in order to bolster the ranks of the 442nd. (Eventually, the 442nd RCT consisted of the 2nd, 3rd, and 100th Infantry battalions; the 552nd FAB; the 232nd Engineers; the 206th Army Band; one Anti-Tank Company; one Cannon Company; and one Service Company.)

For its performance, the 442nd has been recognized as the most decorated unit in U.S. history. A total of 18,000 awards were bestowed upon it, including one Medal of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 810 Bronze Stars, 9,500 Purple Hearts, and Seven Distinguished Unit Citations. Yet immediately following its return to the home front, the 442nd realized that the attitudes of many Americans had not changed. Despite their impeccable service record, the *Nisei* met with signs reading, “No Japs Allowed,” and “No Japs Wanted,” and, in many cases, veterans were denied service in local shops and restaurants, and their homes and properties were often vandalized or set on fire.

In spite of the harassment and discrimination, the *Nisei* were relatively successful in rebuilding their lives. Working hard like their *Issei* parents, they were able to rebuild their lives and provide a better one for their children, the *Sansei*.

The painful memories of the internment camps might be buried, but will never be forgotten.

*This is probably the lesser-known motto, for the 100th seems to be remembered by “Go for Broke!” a popular gambling slang meaning betting all one’s money on a single throw of the dice.

†While the 442nd was being formed and trained, the 1,400-strong 100th Battalion had entered combat in Italy, Sept 26, 1943. The Italian campaign bloodied the 100th with a proportionally high casualty rate, earning it the dubious nickname “Purple Heart Battalion.” As it is believed that almost everyone who served in it had at least one Purple Heart, the 100th was depleted to 521 men by 1944. Replacements came from men who had finished training with the 442nd at Camp Shelby.

Further Readings:

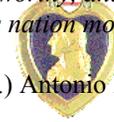
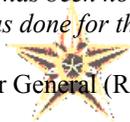
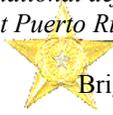
Matsuo, Dorothy. *Boyhood to War: History and Anecdotes of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team*. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawaii Press, 1954.

Shirey, Orville C. *Americans: The Story of the 442nd Combat Team*. Washington D.C.: Infantry Journal, Inc. 1946.

“TODO POR LA PATRIA”

Puerto Rico's War Heroes

"Puerto Rico's contribution to the national defense has been noteworthy, and in some cases... decisive. I believe that Puerto Rico has done for this nation more than its share."



Brigadier General (Ret.) Antonio Rodríguez Balinas



Corporal Antonio Santos **"The Borinqueneer Hero"**

Everywhere, members of the 65th Infantry Regiment know Corporal Toño Santos as the "Borinqueneer Hero," a distinction that is recorded in history books as well. As squad leader and gunner in the Weapons Company, Dog 1/65, Santos led the most decorated element in Korea at the time. He proved it on December 22, 1950, near the village of Tong-ni, during the Hŭngnam evacuation. A force of approximately two thousand Chinese attacked Santos' company, concentrating their fire (mortars, automatic weapons and small arms) on Santos' position. All odds were against him: the temperature was -30° F; the snow reached chest-high; his position was only 100 yards from the enemy; and he was stranded, with no communication with the rest of the battalion. Always keeping his cool, Santos positioned six of his men as lookouts, as he took the center position along with an assistant gunner. The enemy continued its relentless attack, scoring one hit on Santos' machine gun, but, miraculously, neither he nor his assistant gunner was injured. As the gun lost the cover bolt pin, Santos used one hand to do the job of the pin while holding the gun and shooting with the other. In the meantime, his assistant gunner, searching for a replacement for the bolt pin, happened to realize he had a safety pin with scapulars his mother had sent him from Puerto Rico. Santos decided to improvise a bolt pin. Then, with utter disregard for his personal safety, he moved the gun to an open field where he had a better view and again opened fire. The enemy withdrew, leaving behind about half of their dead or seriously wounded. Toño Santos' courage and resourcefulness under fire garnered him the Silver Star and one citation from the President of the Republic of Korea, Syngman Rhee.



Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) George D. Jackson **A Hero Against All Odds**

The ordeal lasted three days and four nights, and the hill in question changed hands; but it has never changed its name. Hill 391, deep within Korea's Demilitarized Zone is still known as Jackson Heights, the name a reporter from the *Stars and Stripes* gave the hill in honor of the man in charge of George 2/65, then *captain* George Jackson. A 1945 West Pointer, Jackson led his company during one of the most devastating battles the glorious 65th Infantry ever fought in the Korean War. On the night of October 24-25, 1952, Captain Jackson took over the defense of the high ground immediately south of Hill 391, an outpost near Kangong-ni, a place advantageous enough to house bunkers for his company's three rifle platoons, but none of these was adequate for fighting off an attack. Jackson knew his plans for improving his defenses had little chance for success, given that the Chinese had excellent observation of George 2/65 – to say nothing of the enemy force four times the size of Jackson's and the accuracy of the artillery and mortar fire upon the heights. The soldiers of George looked to one man for leadership, and the man delivered it, repelling the Chinese until a second enemy assault including an impressive 1,000-round barrage within 30 minutes (and one estimated company-sized strike from both north and south). All along, Jackson called for final defensive fire on the area until the situation clarified; but his ammunition dumps destroyed and the enemy fanning out and becoming general gave Jackson no choice but to withdraw and let Able 1/65 pick up the battle. At any rate, Jackson's men lived because of this commander's courage under fire. Jackson retired from the Army in 1965, after twenty years of distinguished service; but it wasn't until December 2002 that he was presented with the Silver Star for Valor he had earned half a century ago. "I accept this award in honor of the 65th," he said during the ceremony held in Atlanta. "The whole company stayed and fought under the most murderous of conditions." Jackson's ordeal is described in detail in Walter G. Hermes' *Truce Tent and Fighting Front* (U.S. Army Center of Military History: Washington, DC, 1990), as well as in several articles by Lt. Col. Baltazar Soto, available at the 65th Infantry's homepage www.borinqueneers.com.