

# INFANTRY LETTERS



## FRIENDLY PROTESTS

Dear Sir,

As a reader of your excellent and highly interesting magazine, and as a citizen of France, I have to point out that the comments appearing on page 47 of the May-June 1982 issue of INFANTRY are unacceptable.

William Brooks, reviewing Anthony Mockler's book *Our Enemies the French*, wrote: "The French are probably the most politically perverse people in Europe, and they seem to become even more perverse when a discussion turns to World War II."

That insulting opinion has nothing to do with the book itself, which is very objective and has great historical merit. Brooks did not focus on what the author had actually written. A journalist should refrain from sweeping generalizations, especially when dealing with an allied nation.

Therefore, I consider it my duty to make a friendly but strong protest against such misleading reviews and I do hope you will be able to publish a correction as soon as possible.

JACQUES L. PONS  
Colonel, GS  
French Army  
Fort Monroe, Virginia

Dear Sir,

In the May-June 1982 issue of INFANTRY magazine, I was surprised to read in the review of the book *Our Enemies the French: Being An Account of the War Fought Between the French and British, Syria, 1941*, a comment beginning with, "The French are probably the most politically perverse people in Europe, and they seem to become even more perverse when a discussion turns to World War II."

I do not intend to object to the reviewing of this book. History has to be studied even through such painful situations as when the Free French and the French Army of the Levant were led by the circumstances and by a different sense of their duty to fight a fratricidal war.

But I cannot consider that sufficient reason why all the French should be accused of perversity. Civil war, as everybody knows here, is not France's exclusive privilege. And I deplore that the serious and professional magazine INFANTRY accepts such an abusive generalization.

Moreover, this article was particularly inopportune, coming as it did at the very moment when our Army Chief of Staff, invited by General Meyer, was visiting your country.

Not wanting to suspect anybody of perversity in that matter, I simply prefer to think that the publishing of Mr. Brooks' personal anti-French resentments is due to an oversight.

I do not wish to dramatize this incident and I can assure you that it does not alter either my friendship for the United States and its Army or the good memory of my visit to Fort Benning in March.

M. de NORAY  
Brigadier General  
French Military Attache  
Washington, D.C.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: We sincerely regret that one of our book reviews offended our friends the French. This was certainly not our intention.*

## GRATIFIED

Dear Sir,

I was particularly pleased to see

two recent articles in INFANTRY, namely, "Sustainment Training" (May-June 1982, page 23) and "Individual Training" (March-April 1982, page 36).

Ever since 1968 I have been trying to convince the Army that major emphasis in training should be placed on qualifying the individual officer and enlisted man in all the individual and collective skills of his TOE position. If this were done, relatively less time would have to be spent in unit exercises.

It has been an uphill fight, but *Army* magazine finally published my idea in abbreviated form in the June 1982 issue. So I am gratified to see young officers who realize the vital importance of a fully qualified individual and who are headed in the right direction.

Keep up the good work.

DAVID W. GRAY  
MG, USA, Retired  
Golden Beach, Florida

## THE ARMY .45

Dear Sir,

Has the Army covered all its other requirements so well that it has \$100 million left over with which to change from an old (1911) pistol to an even older (1907) one?

The Surgeon General's book *Wound Ballistics* (1962) does not mention the 9mm round as having inflicted casualties on U.S. troops. It mentions the .45 somewhat more. Of the two, it seems from these reports that the .45 is from 10 to 100 times more effective than the 9mm.

If the Army has the money and wants a better pistol, why not improve the terminal ballistics? Why not use the Copperhead approach

We have the technology (I worked on it for five years). That technology would provide a lower recoil and an exciting increase in terminal ballistics.

I was a rifleman in the Third Army during the time it took to go through the Siegfried line and to the Rhine. In seven weeks we had some 300 percent casualties, but, to a man, we were of the opinion that the 9mm round would bounce off our field jackets. Every German unit we went up against had thousands of Schmeissers (9mm submachineguns), yet none of us recalls that anyone was ever wounded by a 9mm round. Today my opinion is perhaps more realistic, but I would agree with the Surgeon General that nobody gets wounded by the 9mm, not when they are up against men who can shoot back with a .45.

ROBERT P. KINGSBURY  
LTC, USAR (Retired)  
Laconia, New Hampshire

## ANGLICOS

Dear Sir,

Major William R. Jones' article "ANGLICO" (INFANTRY, May-June 1982, page 9) provides a good discussion of what an ANGLICO can do for the Army, but there are two omissions with which I must take issue.

First, Major Jones failed to mention the Third ANGLICO, a U.S. Marine Corps Reserve unit based in Long Beach, California, which provides outstanding support to West Coast organizations. The company regularly supports elements of the 40th Infantry Division (Mechanized), California Army National Guard, during CPX activities. (Some East Coast support is also available through a detachment of the Third ANGLICO in Florida.

It would be a true disservice, both to the Third ANGLICO and to Army organizations in the western U.S., to leave the unit out of a discussion of the ANGLICO's capabilities, because it is an outstanding unit that actively

seeks training opportunities

Second, Major Jones didn't mention the fact that brigade platoons (and subordinate elements) are capable of assisting in the employment of attack helicopters and in air-space management in the main battle area.

Before I'm accused of picking nits, let me say that our brigade recently conducted a brigade CAMMS (computer-assisted map maneuver simulation), supported by a brigade platoon from the Third ANGLICO, and that the experience was most rewarding. Working with the brigade FSE and DS artillery battalion, the Marines added a depth of fire support coordination that helped to graphically illustrate the importance of effective artillery and air support all the way to the company/team level (battleboard player/controllers). CAMMS, I might add, is not known for a satisfactory level of fire support battle resolution. The fire support community deserves additional recognition for working through that disadvantage, with the ANGLICO sharing heavily in the credit.

JAMES T. BILES  
MAJ, Infantry  
40th Infantry Division  
San Diego, California

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Major Jones did mention the Third ANGLICO in his manuscript, but since he talked in detail of only the Second, an editor with an overactive blue pencil made the decision to drop his brief mention of the Third. This was an unfortunate decision.*

## GETTING THE WORD OUT

Dear Sir,

When a unit moves to the field for training some of the most often heard comments are, "I never got the word," "No one told me," or "We never saw the Unit Training Plan."

This is not true when my National Guard unit goes for its annual train-

ing (AT) every summer. As Unit Training NCO, I have solved the problem of getting the word out to the men by giving each of them a pocket copy of the training plan when they arrive for annual training.

This pocket training plan contains each day's training highlights for the company, any special training, and the people involved in that training. It also includes specific times for things such as meals, sick call, and motor stables. It also includes memory joggers for the men, billet assignments, and anything else that is important to the unit.

A booklet such as this could be used by any Reserve or Guard unit at AT to get the word out to the men. Active units might also be able to use the same format when they are on extended field training. It takes a little effort, but the results are worth the effort. Everyone knows what, where, when, and who.

JOHN F. MINITER  
SFC, Training NCO  
HHC, 43d Brigade  
Hartford, Connecticut

## WHO ELSE CAN DO IT?

Dear Sir,

Some say that the appearance of high technology on the battlefield means that the role of the Infantryman has come to an end — that the pace of the modern battlefield does not allow for a weapon system that moves at two and a half miles per hour. They say that nuclear and chemical weapons render static and fortified infantry positions untenable and that long-range mobile weapon systems can out-duel any manportable weapon system.

If the modern battlefield could be expected to consist only of the steppes of Russia, the plains of China, the wheatfields of the midwestern United States, the pampas of Argentina, the sky above, or the vacuum in space, then Infantrymen would surely become ceremonial guards at state occasions.

But even this is not true, as Egyptian Infantrymen proved on the Sinai Desert. And have we forgotten the tough North Vietnamese Infantrymen who picked themselves up after intensive artillery and air preparations and were there to shoot when U.S. Infantrymen arrived to count their bodies?

Of course, the modern battlefield will not consist of wide open spaces alone; more often than not it will consist of rocky hills and mountains, the rocky rubble of cities, or forests, swamps, and jungles. There are many hiding places for a man on such battlefields. Can the enemy nuke or dust them all? And the direct fire ranges are short there, too. Can tanks and fighting vehicles use their superior range advantage? An Infantryman can slough through a swamp or pass between two trees or climb up a crevasse on these battlefields. Can a tank or a fighting vehicle use its superior mobility there?

The answers are obvious.

Some would say: Yes, but the terrain described would be associated with limited wars, and the American people will never fight such a war again. This argument is political, and politics change, but aside from that, it discounts the cities and forests of Germany and the woods and mountain passes of the Middle East. So why is the role of the Infantryman still questioned?

The Infantryman has borne the brunt of casualties in every war the U.S. has fought, but perhaps we are no longer willing to accept casualties. The Infantryman has the most physically demanding combat tasks on the battlefield, but maybe we no longer want to strain ourselves. The Infantryman has the closest contact with the enemy, but maybe we no longer want to actually see the enemy we kill. The Infantryman experiences terror and stress over long periods of time. His engagements are not over in minutes or seconds; he can fight for days over one building, mango grove, or hilltop. But maybe we no longer want to face fear.

No thinking man would say he really wants to do these tasks or face

these situations. Perhaps this is the real reason why the role of the Infantryman is debated. It is a dirty, frightening, and deadly job. So let's do away with it!

But before we do, show me how we will defend Stalingrad, Bastogne, Jerusalem, the Suez, the Mitla Pass, or freedom in Afghanistan without the "poor bloody" Infantryman.

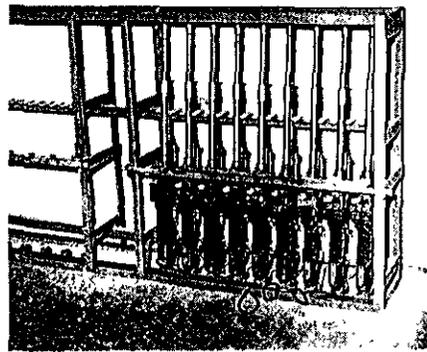
Until I've been shown this satisfactorily, I will take great pride in being an Infantryman and in doing the toughest, meanest, most demanding job on the battlefield, because it has to be done.

D. CHRISTIAN FRANDBSEN, JR.  
CPT, INFANTRY  
San Jose, California

### M240 WEAPON RACK

Dear Sir,

I noticed the news item in your May-June 1982 issue (page 5) stating that there is no weapon rack for the M240C coaxial machinegun. Earlier this year, inspired by my company commander, Captain John Chapman, I designed such a rack to replace the bulky wall lockers that were being used in our arms room. (See photo.)



The rack is made from cast iron railing, 1½ x 1½ inches. It can hold 18 M240s in 90 inches of wall space and can be divided to hold nine. Another major feature is that all the barrels must be locked before the rack will secure the weapons.

The advantages are that the M240s can be issued faster from this rack,

there is less damage while they are in storage, and accountability is accurate and precise.

I have diagrams showing the entire layout, which others could use to develop their own company racks.

WALTER J. HINES  
2LT, Armor  
Co C, 2 Bn, 63d Armor  
Fort Riley, Kansas

### FOR NEW LIEUTENANTS

Dear Sir,

As commander of an IOBC training company at Fort Benning, I would like to offer a bit of advice to new lieutenants just out of the Basic Course — whatever their branch:

In your future assignments you will notice that some units execute their missions more professionally than others do. One way you can make sure your unit is among the most professional of these is to employ a thought process that focuses on three words — *requirement*, *system*, and *capability*.

As a commander or staff officer, you will receive requirements regularly — tasks or missions — normally from higher headquarters, either recurring or event-oriented. When you do, you should make sure you understand the specifics of each requirement — who, what, when, and where something must be done. For the purposes of management, it is helpful if you know the requirements early. Unfortunately, there will always be some that are short-fused, which will force you to do everything faster.

After receiving the requirement, you should visualize the system — the process or set of procedures that will be involved in satisfying the requirement. This process or set of procedures can be either complex (requesting supplies by air delivery) or simple (sick-call procedures). But whatever the system, you must understand it thoroughly if you expect it to work effectively for you.

Once you know the requirement

and understand the system, you must assess the capabilities of the subordinate units or individuals who are to accomplish the task or the mission. And if you assign a requirement to a unit or an individual, you must also see that they have what they need to do what is required.

This thought process of focusing on the requirement, the system, and the capability is not a panacea for accomplishing the task or mission, because there are many other variable dimensions, such as communications, leadership, decision making, and interpersonal skills. But it is a beginning, and it is a method that should be helpful to you throughout your career.

IRVINE C. PORTER III  
MAJ, Infantry  
Fort Benning, Georgia

#### SOME GOOD POINTS

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on a couple of articles in the May-June 1982 issue of *INFANTRY*: "Rifle Zero," by Captain Everett D. Mayfield, and "TOW Training," by Captains

Stephen Bellene and John N. Davis. Captain Mayfield makes some good points within the narrow scope of his article, but there are additional training issues that must also be considered



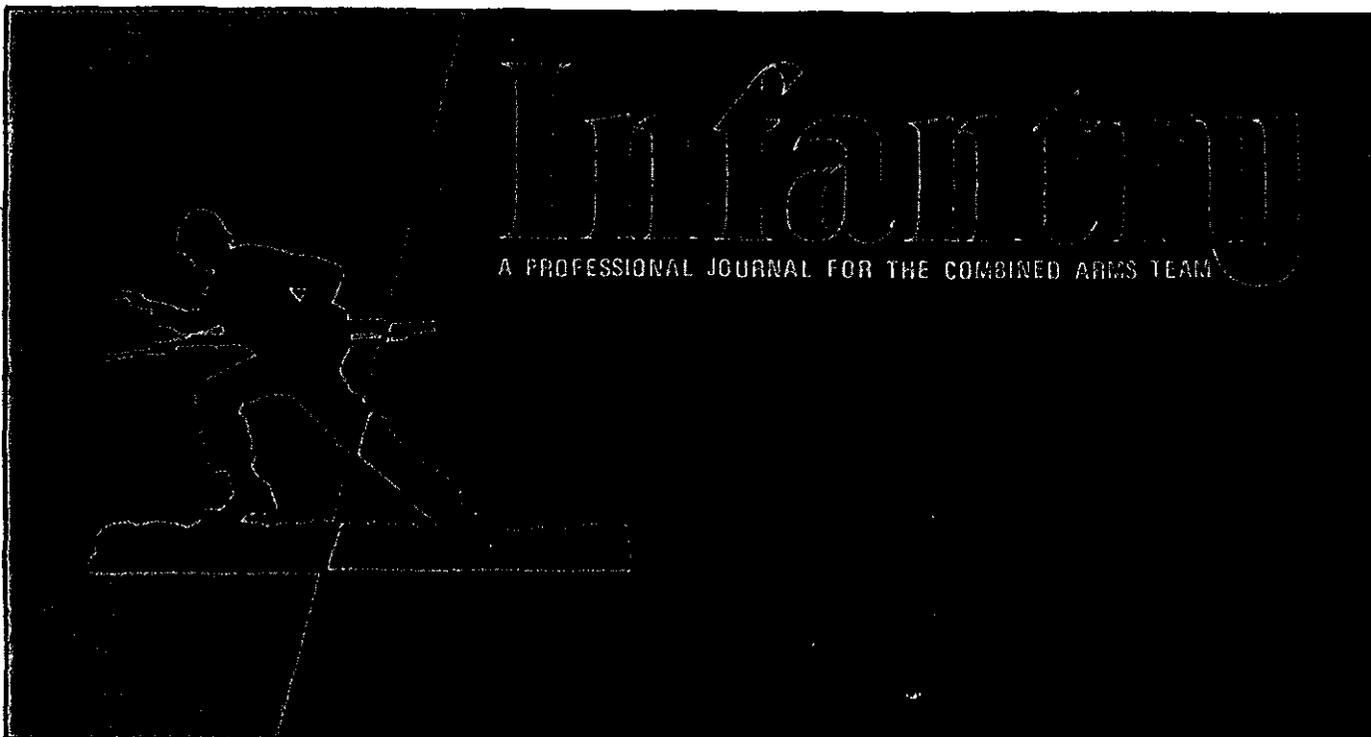
Recent research by the Army Research Institute at Fort Benning has demonstrated that there are a number of "lemon" M16s around

and that the M16's thin barrel bends under a load. The product-improved M16 will have a heavier barrel, but until that hits the streets the weapon itself may contribute to poor marksmanship.

The same research showed that troops had trouble adjusting the rifle's sights. The ARI solution was to print job aids on an improved paper target. Obviously, units could have their training aids offices create stick-on job aids that could be placed on the rifle's stock. The improved target could also be printed on the bottoms of C-ration cases to give soldiers in combat, as well as in training, some means of sighting in their weapons.

Captain Mayfield's confidence in the procurement folks is surprising considering that Congress concluded that these same folks were guilty of "virtual criminal negligence" in the early M16-ammunition mismatch that killed American soldiers.

The most serious problem, however, is the apparent lack of content validity of the Army's marksmanship training and the presumed outcome — dead enemy soldiers. A soldier who must move and shoot while trying to hit a moving and shooting enemy has a task that is totally different from that of the



soldier who is sitting in a concrete foxhole shooting at standing targets from a known distance. Send an Army-trained rifleman goose or deer hunting, and he will likely starve.

Perhaps in the future we can procure human-engineered rifles such as the new British Enfield and get both higher performance and reduced costs. Although an Enfield-style weapon would cost more in initial hardware procurement, it could save more than \$50 million in ten years in training costs.

On the subject of TOW training, Captains Bellene and Davis also make some excellent points. It is unfortunate that better simulation devices are not available. The Operational Test and Evaluation Agency (OTEA) tested the TOW (with the warhead removed) against real tanks with a driver, and if that could be done during annual missile firing, we could verify gunner performance much better against real, moving, and reacting targets.

The second problem with TOW training is that the simulation folks are so stuck in the high-technology mode that they have forgotten what the field is like. They typically produce large, complex, electronic, expensive, indoor, and maintenance-

intensive devices. But what the field needs is small, portable, cheap, outdoor, and multi-use devices. Instead of a multi-million dollar computerized theater that troops can get into only once a year to train with the TOW, a platoon-set of 1/10 scale radio-controlled Russian tank models with mini-MILES sets could be procured. This would enable the entire TOW squad to train frequently on multiple, moving, and reacting targets at very low cost. A small smoke device attached to the MILES would provide instant feedback. This kind of device is especially needed in limited spaces (aboard ship) or on limited terrain (like the typical European square kilometer). In addition, training in other tasks (recognition, tactics, and command control) could be conducted with the same device.

Finally, I'd like to say that INFANTRY is the best single professional journal I have seen.

JAMES E. LARSEN  
Hampton, Virginia

We welcome letters to the Editor on any subject that has been treated in our magazine as well as on issues of general interest to our readers. All letters are subject to editing and possible abridgment.

## WORLD WAR II MPs

Dear Sir,

I am a military historian and author. For the past four years I have been involved in investigative research on the activities of the Military Police in Paris during World War II at the time of the Battle of the Bulge. I am interested in contacting any former members of the Military Police Corps who were stationed in Paris during December 1944 and January 1945 to assist in this research.

My address is Box 7361, Mississippi City Station, Gulfport, MS 39501.

DALE M. TITLER

## MILITARY INSIGNIA

Dear Sir,

I am a collector of military insignia and would like to hear from any of your readers who might be interested in exchanging unit crests and foreign insignia with me.

My address is 8261 Blackburn, #C, Los Angeles, CA 90048.

MICHAEL PELL

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