Greetings from the Might Bruin Battalion! Not sure where the year came and went but over the last two quarters our cadets have been pretty busy doing great in their academics and leadership training.

The highlight for this summer will be the Leadership Development Accession’s Course (LDAC) at Ft. Lewis, Washington which every cadet in the United States (over 5000 total ROTC cadets) will attend to train and be evaluated on their leadership and physical abilities. This year we have 23 cadets attending this training event with the first group already training and the last group expected to be completed mid-August. After successfully passing LDAC they will go through the accessions process and select either active or reserve duty and additionally select the specific branch they want to serve in. We will have the results by November. We’ll highlight these results in our next newsletter.

In addition, this summer Cadet James Wolf (MS II) will attend the Air Assault Course and Cadets Scott Peoples (MSIII), Brandon Matson (MSIII), and Evan Howard (MSII) will attend the Airborne Course. Finally, Cadet Tarian Truong (MSII) will attend the United States Military Academy’s Cadet Field Training.

Also, for summer training we will send four cadets to the Leadership Training Course at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. This 30-day training course is designed to provide older cadets (already in a junior level status in College) the opportunity to receive ROTC basic course credit (e.g MS I and MS II) training and then start our program as MS IIIs. Attending this year’s course are Cadets Chase Kilfoyle, Cheng Wang, Lam Tran, John Wang and Michael Evans.

We will again host our annual Alumni ROTC tailgate during the Veteran’s Day weekend activities (7-8 NOV) as the Bruins play Oregon St. Let us know you’re coming so we can reserve tickets for you. Additionally, we have other activities planned (pg. 16) and hope you can make them as your schedule deems appropriate. As you look throughout this edition of the Hooah, the thing that stands out for me is the increased support and interaction with our great Alumni. THANK YOU! We cannot survive without your support and truly appreciate your presence and leadership as we work together to prepare our Nation’s future leaders. You are gladly welcomed back to your school and ROTC battalion!

Finally, both MSG Dwayne Cook and I are very sad to leave this great battalion and we will always look forward to our time here with fond memories. I have had the good fortune to be surrounded with incredible cadre and staff who have worked very hard to train and lead our cadets. On page 15, we list those leaving and wish them the best in their future personal and professional endeavors. I’m very excited for the new team to come on board later this summer. MAJ Dave Kramer who is returning from Afghanistan will take over as the new Professor of Military Science and MSG Mark Nissen is coming from the Sergeants Major Academy – I know they are excited and will continue the training and leadership excellence expected of this program. They will have over 90 cadets to start this next school year (we had approximately 54 in 2006). In the meantime, we will continue the mission to work hard every day in our efforts to give the cadets world class training in preparation for their commission as the future leaders of our Army and Nation. Go Mighty Bruins and Matadors...leaders made here!

Christopher P. Talcott
Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army
Professor and Chair
2LT Spotlight: Alexander Um

On 21 May 2008, Alexander Um was commissioned at a ceremony held on the CSUN campus. 2LT Um branched Armor and will be an Active Duty officer. He has been assigned as an armor platoon leader to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, California.

Right: 1LT Elizabeth Nguyen administers the oath of office to Cadet Um while LTC Talcott (seated) looks on. Left: Gold bars are pinned to the shoulders of 2LT Um by his mother, Christine Um (right), and his aunt, Ingyong Um (left).

CONGRATULATIONS 2LT UM!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Chair page 2
Second Lieutenant Spotlight: Alexander Um page 4
2008 Spring Commissioning Ceremony Invitation page 5
2008 Awards Ceremony page 6
Woman Veteran of the Year: Major Laura Pacha page 10
The Firing Range: Share Our Best (Photo) Shots page 12
Cadre Spotlight: New and Outgoing Faculty page 14
Calendar: Upcoming Events page 16
Congratulations! Recognition of Cadets and Alumni page 17
Alumni News: Pan-ROTC Club, 1LT Drew Laird page 18
Alumni Story: A Very Small Piece of the Battle of the Bulge, part 6

Mark J. Daily
Army ROTC Spring Commissioning Ceremony

15 June 2008
3:00 PM

Grand Horizon Room, Covel Commons
200 De Neve Drive
University of California, Los Angeles

All alumni and friends of UCLA Army R.O.T.C. are invited to join us to witness the commissioning of:

Ariel Alcaide
Jose Arellano
Kristopher Bachmann
Michael Calegari
Evan Ching
Tamara DeJesus
Cyrus Harrel
Jason Henke
Charles Huynh

Jeffery Johnson
Jason Kim
Samemmanuel Kizito
Jeffery Lay
Jordan Ritenour
Jose Rosales
Christopher Traxell
Jamie Wing
Jay Yoon

Featured guest speaker
Major General John Harrel
40th Infantry Division (Mechanized)

To RSVP or for questions, please call Victoria Sanelli at (310) 825-7381, or email vksanelli@ucla.edu.
Each year we hold an awards ceremony to recognize cadets for their efforts and achievements. This year’s ceremony was held in the beautiful Romanesque Room in Pasadena. We are pleased to announce the following awards were presented on 1 May 2008:

82nd AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION AWARD, SO CAL CHAPTER
Bridgette Tuquero

100th/442nd VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION GO FOR BROKE AWARD
Jordan Ritenour

101st AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION AWARD, SO CAL CHAPTER
Colin Hensley

AMERICAN LEGION PACIFIC PALISADES POST 283 MEDALS FOR MILITARY EXCELLENCE
Alexander Um (Gold)
David Bitter (Silver)
Aryeh Goldman (Bronze)
And
MEDALS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Jordan Ritenour (Gold)
Maia Trotta (Silver)
Evan Howard (Bronze)
And
SCHOLARSHIPS
Carlos Adame
Archie Arada
David Bitter
Michael Calegari
Dennis Chiu
Brittany Cordes

The Envelope Please … 2008 Awards Ceremony

82nd AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION AWARD, SO CAL CHAPTER
Bridgette Tuquero

100th/442nd VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION GO FOR BROKE AWARD
Jordan Ritenour

101st AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION AWARD, SO CAL CHAPTER
Colin Hensley

AMERICAN LEGION PACIFIC PALISADES POST 283 MEDALS FOR MILITARY EXCELLENCE
Alexander Um (Gold)
David Bitter (Silver)
Aryeh Goldman (Bronze)
And
MEDALS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Jordan Ritenour (Gold)
Maia Trotta (Silver)
Evan Howard (Bronze)
And
SCHOLARSHIPS
Carlos Adame
Archie Arada
David Bitter
Michael Calegari
Dennis Chiu
Brittany Cordes

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE U.S. ARMY (AUSA) GOLD MEDAL
Maia Trotta (Alpha Co)
David Bitter (Bravo Co)

MILITARY HISTORY AWARD
Jamie Wing (Alpha Co)
Christopher Troxell (Bravo Co)

AUSA, LOS ANGELES CHAPTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY OMAR N. BRADLEY SCHOLARSHIPS
Ariel Alcaide
Hazel Barican
Edessa Basa
Derrick Bryant
Leona Campbell
Morgan Cina
Amanda Coyle
Andrew Elkins
Benjamin Felix
Min Hur
Andrew Kreitz
Monique Leyva

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR), LOS ANGELES ESCHSCHOLTZIA CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS
Scott Peoples
Maia Trotta
Kelly Tseng
Bridgette Tuquero
David Wood
And

DISTINGUISHED CADET AWARD
Jeffery Johnson

DAR, SANTA MONICA CHAPTER GOLD MEDAL AWARD
Jay Yoon

To all our award sponsors, our sincere appreciation for your generous contributions. Your support year after year is a wonderful tradition that has a strong impact on the young men and women who will become the Army’s future leaders.

Thank you also to Mr. Kevin Badkoubeh, Mr. Lew Blumberg, Justice Lynn Compton, Mrs. Ruth Dawson, Mr. Art Dolick, LTC Nelson Galindo, MG (Ret.) Peter Gravett, MAJ (Ret.) Steve Hall, Mr. Arnett Hartsfield, Mr. Dwight Miller, MG Paul Mock, Assistant Chancellor Antoinette Mongelli, Mr. Ken Shigemitsu, Mr. Kelly Stumpus, Ms. Valerie Walker and CSM (Ret.) Bart Womack for attending and presenting awards at this year’s ceremony. Your presence added greatly to the festivities.
### DAUGHTERS OF FOUNDERS AND PATRIOTS OF AMERICA AWARD, SO CAL CHAPTER
- Rosemine Patel

---

### DEPT OF THE ARMY SUPERIOR CADET AWARDS
- Brian Hart, MS I
- Aryeh Goldman, MS II
- Brandon Matson, MS III
- Alexander Um, MS IV

---

### DEPT OF MILITARY SCIENCE SUSAN EDWARDS AWARD
- Charles Huynh

---

### COL LEONARD R. DYKES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS
- Michael Calegari
- Jason Henke
- Colin Hensley
- Jeffery Johnson
- Brandon Matson
- Jackeline Orozco
- Alexander Um
- Sarah Yance

---

### MILITARY ORDER OF WORLD WARS, SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER AWARDS OF MERIT
- Jimmy Katz, MS I
- Dennis Chiu, MS II
- Richard Headley, MS III

---

### NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, LOS ALAMITOS CHAPTER 519 AWARD
- Min Hur

---

### COL DON NORRIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS
- Kristoffer Bachmann
- Matthew Collom
- Richard Headley
- Evan Howard
- Charles Huynh

---

### RESERVE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION AWARDS, SO CAL CHAPTER
- Kristoffer Bachmann
- Matthew Collom
- Richard Headley
- Evan Howard
- Charles Huynh

---

### SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS, LOS ANGELES POST AWARD
- Eric Ng

---

### MILITARY OFFICERS’ ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA AWARD
- Tairen Truong

---

### MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART AWARD
- Brandon Zangwill

---

### MILITARY ORDER OF WORLD WARS (MOWW), GENERAL OMAR N. BRADLEY CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP
- Jason Henke

---

### SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, LONG BEACH CHAPTER MEDAL
- Amanda Coyle

---

### UNITED SERVICES AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION SPIRIT AWARD
- Michael Graddy

---

### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AWARD
- Victor Robles

---

### COL CARL E. WALKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS
- Carlos Adame
- Jose Arellano
- Kristoffer Bachmann

---

**Above:** Major General (Ret.) Peter Gravett presents the Cadet of the Year award, a Berretta pistol, to Cadet Jordan Ritenour at the 2008 Awards Ceremony. From left to right, MSG Cook, LTC Talcott, CDT Ritenour, MG Gravett and CPT Miner.
Woman Veteran Of the Year: Major Laura Pacha

On 1 March 2008, UCLA paid special tribute to our women veterans who have demonstrated true personal courage as they have broken barriers and paved the way for future women to serve as leaders, not only in the military, but in all areas of society. In recognition of the contributions of women veterans, UCLA honored Major Laura Pacha as the 2008 Woman Veteran of the Year.

Major Pacha is an example of how one person can positively affect many lives. A U.S. Army officer and a 1998 UCLA School of Medicine alumna, Major Pacha reached out to her fellow Bruins and started what has developed into the Books Without Borders Program. Last year, while serving in Iraq, MAJ Pacha recognized a severe need for medical textbooks by Iraqi physicians and health care workers. The Iraqi medical education system had been in disrepair due to years of isolation prior to the Iraq War. MAJ Pacha contacted the UCLA Medical Alumni Association and asked if any books could be donated to help Iraqi physicians and nurses update their skills and train new medical professionals. The response from UCLA alumni was outstanding. In their first shipment, over 2,000 medical textbooks and journals were collected and the U.S. Army has delivered these donations to medical schools and hospitals throughout Iraq. Although she is stateside now, the scope and significance of Books without Borders continues to grow in volumes. Other universities and local hospitals have partnered with the UCLA Medical Alumni Association. As a result, textbooks and journals are now being sent to medical schools and military hospitals in five different cities in Afghanistan.

MAJ Pacha is now serving as Chief of the Department of Preventive Medicine at Martin Army Community Hospital, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Above: LTC Talcott and Candie Goldbronn of the UCLA Medical Alumni Association present MAJ Pacha with a team basketball and plaque at halftime of the Women’s Basketball game.

Above: Cadet Eric Ng (center) and family joined the Bruin Battalion for a breakfast honoring MAJ Pacha outside Pauley Pavilion.

Right: Pre-game festivities included Cadet Jay Yoon and mascot Joe Bruin showing their school spirit.
The firing Range:
Share Our Best Shots

Above: In February, Peter Wells, past APMS ('72-'75), visited the Bruin Battalion and gave a special lecture on military intelligence. Mr. Wells is now a senior executive at ManTech, one of the leading national security technology firms in the world. From right to left, CDTs Kris Bachmann, Cyrus Harrel, Hugo Sibrian, CPT Casey Miner, Peter Wells, LTC Chris Talcott, COL Richard Littlestone (PMS, ’72-'75), CDTs Evan Ching, Tamara DeJesus, Jordan Ritenour and Jason Kim.

Left: Mr. and Mrs. Murray Shapiro at the Military Science offices. Mr. Shapiro ('43), was one of several alumni who generously gave their time and experience to bring history to life for UCLA students taking Military Science 110, our Military History course. Other guest speakers were Craig Whited ('67), Peter Wells (cadre ’72-'75), Samuel Halper ('50) and Neil Morrison, curator of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Museum at Fort Irwin.

Above: CDT Chris Troxell cheers on fellow cadets competing in the Ruck Relay, one of the events at this year’s Chancellor’s Cup competition held on 5 April. Sadly, the cup was ultimately won by the Navy ROTC. Army ROTC placed second and Air Force ROTC placed third.

Below: Justice Lynn “Buck” Compton (1943), was the guest speaker at this year’s Cadet Military Ball held on 1 May after the Awards Ceremony.

Above: Jazzercize! The best PT session of the year was planned by CDT Bridgette Tuquero. From left to right are CDTs Amanda Coyle, Maia Trotta and Andrew “Jazz” Kreitz.
Please give a big Bruin welcome to three new cadre members who have joined the Military Science faculty over the past few months!

**CAPTAIN JASON CHOI**

A West Point graduate, CPT Choi, most recently served as an Afgan border police mentor in Paktika Province, Afghanistan.

**FUN FACTS**

Hometown: Glenview, IL (born in Seoul, South Korea)
Sports: Wrestling, orienteering and ultimate Frisbee
Favorite Movies: Band of Brothers and offbeat movies.

****

**CAPTAIN BRIAN MCDERMOTT**

CPT McDermott commissioned through the Air Force Officer Candidate School (but afterwards came to his senses). Prior to joining us, CPT McDermott was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq where he served as a Military Intelligence Advisor.

**FUN FACTS**

Hometown: Glendale, CA
Sports: Volleyball, football, baseball
Movies: Godfather II, Taxi Driver, Deer Hunter

****

**CAPTAIN JERRY REGIS**

Our newest addition, CPT Regis attended the University of Toledo in Ohio where he commissioned through their ROTC program. Prior to joining our department, CPT Regis served as a Transition Team Logistical Advisor in Iraq. CPT Regis has also been accepted into UCLA’s prestigious School of Film and Television graduate program!

**FUN FACTS**

Hometown: Orlando, FL
Sports: Rugby and track
Favorite Movies: The Graduate, Lord of the Rings trilogy, I Am Legend

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES …

The end of the school year will also bring an end to the ROTC assignments of several faculty members. We wish them all the best as the move to the next step in their careers:

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHRISTOPHER TALCOTT**

LTC Talcott will forsake the hills of Westwood for the plains of Oklahoma. He will be taking command of a field artillery battalion at Fort Sill.

**CAPTAIN URRILAGOTIA “RIO” MINER**

CPT Miner will separate from the Army this summer as he pursues his business and acting goals. We hope to see him on Broadway!

**CAPTAIN BRIAN JOHNS**

CPT Johns will be saying good bye to both the Bruin Battalion and the Army as he moves to Colorado to start his own business.

**CAPTAIN THOMAS HIGGINSON**

After 3 years on staff, our most senior faculty member takes leave for Monterrey, CA where he will attend the Defense Language Institute (DLI) in preparation as a foreign area officer. A UCLA alumnus, CPT Higginson will finally put that Russian degree to good use!

**CAPTAIN GEORGE ZUNIGA**

Our loss is San Diego State University’s gain. This summer, CPT Zuniga will be joining the faculty at SDSU’s ROTC program.

**MASTER SERGEANT DWAYNE COOK**

Recognizing talent when the see it, the Army has selected MSG Cook for Sergeant Major school at Fort Bliss in Texas.

**SERGEANT FIRST CLASS RODOLFO CANES**

SFC Canes will be helping to keep our skies safe. He is leaving our CSUN office to join the ranks of Homeland Security as an air marshal.
On our cover: The Bruin Battalion takes an early morning march across past tents set up for the Festival of Books. From left to right, CDTs Kris Bachmann, Jesse Correa, Leona Campbell, Jordan Ritenour, Maia Trotta and Carlos Adame.

Class of 1978

30-Year Reunion

UCLA ROTC cadets of the class of 1978 will be holding their 30-year reunion in Downey, CA on Saturday, June 14.

POC: LTC Nelson Galindo
ltcnelsongalindo@aol.com

Save the Date!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008 Commissioning Ceremony</td>
<td>15 Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSUN Orientation</td>
<td>20-22 Aug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA Orientation</td>
<td>18-19, 22-24 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall FTX (Camp Hunter Liggett)</td>
<td>24-26 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Memorial Ceremony</td>
<td>7 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Alumni Tailgate</td>
<td>8 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood Bowl</td>
<td>6 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman Veteran of the Year</td>
<td>28 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring FTX</td>
<td>17-19 Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Ceremony</td>
<td>23 Apr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations!

Smarty Pants

We are very proud of the following cadets who were all named to the UCLA Dean’s Honor List for their academic excellence this past Winter Quarter:

Carlos Adame
Dennis Chiu
Maia Trotta
Jay Yoon
Jordan Ritenour

Just Signed

Welcome to the newest member of the Bruin Battalion! It is with pleasure that we announce the following cadets who have recently contracted and are now working to become part of the future leadership of the U.S. Army:

Morgan Cina
Chase Kilfoyle
Eric Ng
Arthur Gibford
Andrew Kreitz
Richard Headley
Brandon Lee
Oscar Rodas
Kevin Thomas

A Little Birdy Told Us …

Congratulations are in order for:

2LT Christopher Fields (‘07) and 1LT Alan Sims (‘04) who both recently became fathers for the first time and MAJ Ray Phillips (cadre ’00-’04) who has added a new daughter to his family!

2LT Katherine Alexander (‘07), CPT Jerrett Tynes (‘04) and Cadet Jeffery Johnson (commissioning ’08) who have recently taken the plunge and gotten married!

2LT Ana Baez (‘07) who has announced her engagement!

Cadet (soon-to-be-2LT) Jay Yoon has been accepted into the Talbot School of Theology at Biola University, as well as current cadre member CPT Casey Miner, who has been accepted into the UCLA School of Education PhD program!
Spearheaded by Lewis Blumberg (Army ROTC, 1943), and with assistance from fellow alumni Judge Joel Rudof (1943) and Ed Tyler (NROTC, 1942), a new UCLA Alumni Association club is being formed for all ROTC alumni and veterans. This new club will connect all ROTC alumni — Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines — to UCLA, the ROTC programs and to their military peers.

The mission of this new club is to advance the cause of military service/ROTC within the UCLA community, organize events to encourage fellowship and recognition of ROTC, contribute to the excellence of the UCLA ROTC programs by facilitating interaction between alumni and cadets and raise funds and support for club and ROTC activities.

To get involved, contact Lewis Blumberg at blumdevcorp@yahoo.com.

On Tuesday, 25 May 2008, the Bruin Battalion lost one of its alumni. 1LT Drew Laird ('04) died while swimming at a pool near his home in Colorado. He had received permission from the National Guard to go Active Duty and was planning on joining a special forces unit. He had been training and preparing for the Navy Seals entrance test over the last few weeks.

1LT Laird had recently returned from a deployment to Iraq where he flew Blackhaws for a medical platoon. He and his wife Natalie have one son and are expecting a second child in August.

A memorial service was held on 1 June at Riverside Baptist Church in Denver, CO. 1LT Laird was buried at Fort Logan National Cemetery the following Tuesday.

If you would like to remember 1LT Laird in the next newsletter, please email Vicki Sanelli at vksanelli@ucla.edu.

This is the sixth chapter of World War II veteran, Thomas D. Boyd III’s story of his part in the Battle of the Bulge. Boyd, a UCLA student and ROTC cadet, shared this account with fellow alumnus Bob O’Neill, who in turn shared it with us. We hope it will inspire you to write us and share your own stories of being a cadet or soldier.

Previously, Lieutenant Boyd’s regiment found itself surrounded by the German’s and cut off without supplies. Rather than wait to surrender, Boyd of 3rd Platoon and 1st Lt. Harry O’Neil of 1st Platoon decided to make their way back to American lines on their own. Navigating through woods and fields, they find themselves cold and wet and trying to avoid German soldiers.

****

We crawled up the gentle slope through our woods, heading west, and O’Neil stuck his nose out and looked around in the dusk, then jerked it back in and pushed me back. We retreated under the trees and he told me there was a sentry on the road we had crossed, just before crossing the little stream into our young woods. We turned downhill again toward where we had entered the woods, but (I was in front now) there was another sentry on the road not far from where we had entered the woods. We turned south and crawled up the gentle slope again until we reached the southern edge of our little woods opening on a pasture. By now it was getting dark and a heavy mist had settled over us. This time there was no sign of anyone, so we walked out into the field. We heard a cowbell and snuffing and snorting of cows on our left and we stood still, and immediately German voices came out of the mist. We dropped. A small herd of dairy cows moved down the sloping field on a parallel with us, and behind them two German soldiers, apparently helping a German-speaking civilian drive the herd, dim figures in the thick fog.

We waited until they had passed, then rose and followed them. We could see a farm building on our right and a bigger barn on our left, looming in shadow through the mist. We heard voices in the barn and the sound of milking — the streams hitting the metal buckets — and veered toward the right and a low stone fence crossing our front to intersect another on our
right front.

From that fence corner a German voice called out “Halt! Ver da?”

O’Neil responded with a weary “Ja, ja.”

The German wasn’t satisfied.

“Was ist das ‘Ja’?” And he proceeded to bawl us out in language I didn’t understand, but the meaning was obvious.

We about-faced and headed back into the middle of the misty field, without further conversation, and turned westward toward the road. There was another low stone wall bounding the road — cobblestones on the road faintly shining wet under the mist. As we neared the wall, about a squad of Germans came clomping up the road from the barn on our left, the last two carrying pails. We sank slowly behind the wall until they had passed, letting them get about 30 yards up the road, disappearing into the mist, before we hopped over the wall and fell in behind them. Like most Germany infantry, they wore hobnailed or steel shod boots and made a lot of noise on the cobblestones. They never would have detected us in our soft-soled boots unless the last in line had turned around. Finally, we stopped and they walked on away from us.

“Back up the pasture, a flashlight was flickering and a German was hollering something excitedly…”

According to our map, this would be the beginning of the Bois de St. Vith, and we probably were in Belgium. These woods deserve comment. All the big forests in this country seemed to be well cared for, the trees were planted in even rows. This one was just like a park. All the undergrowth had been cleared, the fallen branches policed up and stacked in neat piles, and everything seemed to be in perfect order. Do you remember the scene in “Fantasia,” during the Ave Maria at the end, where the procession winds through a forest and all the trees become Gothic arches at the top? Well, it was just like that. The trees were tremendously tall and clear of branches way up. Getting back to reality, we walked for a couple of miles through this before we came to another open field.

In the distance, to our right front, there was a lot of light in the sky and flashes. We figured that was toward St. Vith, and there was a helluva fire fight up there. We thought we should swing south again and get around it. There was a north-south road on the other side of the field and we got on it and headed south.

We could tell that we were approaching the lines now because Kraut artillery was firing from positions off to our right front and we could hear ours answering from up ahead. We were left off the road and into the woods again. From the edge we could see two soldiers pushing the wooden cart toward the ridge where the Kraut artillery was firing, I would estimate less than a quarter-mile away. We sat down against two trees and nodded off. I awoke about 10 minutes later, shivering again, just in time to see another soldier (rifle slung over shoulder) walking in the same direction as the two with the cart had gone. I shook O’Neil awake. There were too many people on this road and we had to get moving again. We crossed the road into the pasture fields on the other side and crossed the pasture toward the opposite low ridge. This shallow valley went north and south. About every 50 yards we had to get over a double barbed wire fence, making a lot of noise, as our feet stuck in the muddy pasture. Sloshing through the mud, stumbling over the fences, getting hung up on the barbs and tearing our clothes, making the fences zing, we probably woke up the whole valley....”
right toward the west. We passed a couple of farm houses and barns. More houses. It was clear we were approaching a town. It had snowed briefly since we left our hideout in the woods, but there were no tracks on this road so we figured we were safe and we just kept plodding along, one on each side of the road. We were tired and dozy, and we carelessly stayed on the road right into the town. We came to a dead-end intersection and turned right, west. There were big barns and the smell of cows and hay around us. We could hear the sound of a steady motor running, like a diesel generator, and we were getting closer to it. The shapes of buildings loomed in the gathering mist.

I was in front now on the right margin of the road, O’Neil on the other side and about 20 feet behind, when a loud, metallic noise sounded out of the darkness to my left front, ahead of us on his side. We both recognized it instantly: the bolt of a machine gun sliding home against the breech. I felt suddenly very tired. We had come so far, and now somebody had a gun on us.

O’Neil muttered something like “Let’s get out of here,” and started back down the road. I stayed still and said “Here,” which sounds the same in both German and English. Actually, I whispered it. I really couldn’t have spoken it normally. I was exhausted.

The voice came out of the night.

NEXT INSTALLMENT: Is this the end for our brave lieutenants? Find out next issue how this WWII adventure ends!
TO:

UCLA Department of Military Science
120S Student Activities Center
Los Angeles, California 90095-1609
Phone: (310) 825-7381
www.army.ucla.edu

Volume 3
Issue 1
Spring 2008

Newsletter of the UCLA Department of Military Science

Loyalty • Duty • Respect • Selfless Service • Honor • Integrity • Personal Courage

HOOAH!
The Mighty Bruin Battalion - UCLA Army ROTC