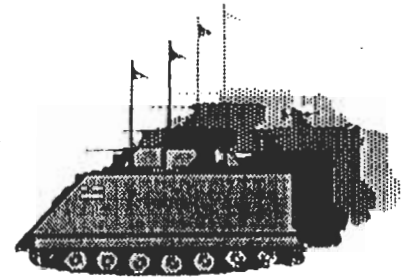


1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED) 50TH INFANTRY



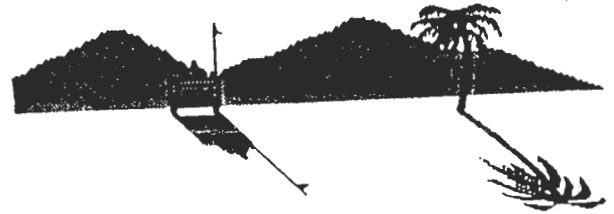
" ON THE RIGHT TRACK "

VOLUME NUMBER 2 -- DATED 10 DECEMBER 1998 -- ISSUE NUMBER 07

Our mission is to publish a newsletter and to maintain an Internet Homepage. The Association will use these publications to inform its general membership about events within the Association and about current or proposed legislation that might affect veterans of all wars.

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FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK...



The opening scenes of "Saving Private Ryan" are very graphic and gripping. War, ... as combat veterans will tell you, is a roller-coaster ride of mayhem mixed with lengthy waits. It is gore, blood, fear and tears, mixed with boredom. War is ugly and inglorious, ... but good people rise in the heat of battle and perform gloriously. War is NOT a movie. Much has been written about this movie. And while it might not convey the full fury of war, this epic depiction has caused many to reflect upon the fundamental truths about the spirit of the men and the women who have worn the uniform of our country. Doing the dirty work that results when diplomacy fails. Commitment to the mission. Keeping the faith with the buddy next to you. And never removed from a GI's mind are the loved ones back home.

In war and peace, Americans have always answered the call. For veterans know all too well that freedom is an expensive thing, ... and it's a price we were willing to pay. To all veterans out there, no matter which war and which branch you served in, I wish you good health and peace to you and your family. Happy Holidays!

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FOR ANYONE THAT IS "ON-LINE", WE HAVE A "HOME PAGE".

Please take the time to check it out every so often. The address for this service to the "Play the Game" Troopers is:

<http://web2.airmail.net/npoage/1st50th>

Another good source of information is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund section. You can reach that at: <http://www.vvmf.org>

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1ST BATTALION (M) 50TH INFANTRY



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REUNION NEWS
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Once again, I come to you for a vote on a matter which will affect those coming to the reunion. If you feel you will be attending at all, please, ... PLEASE, ... give me your choice in this item:

For dinner on Friday, 17 September 1999 at Kansas City MO; two choices were given to me by the Caterer, to decide which one we wish. Number One choice is a Dinner Buffet, providing three choices of meats, for a cost of \$23.95, plus appropriate taxes. The other is a choice of two meats, which would be served to you at your table, for a cost of \$24.95. Of course, for the buffet, you would have to get up and serve yourself, but you would have a larger selection of meats, salads, vegetables, etc. The choice is yours. I need to know the results by 20 February 1999, if you are thinking of coming to this reunion.

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This article deals with a subject I was hoping to avoid. In a close vote, the non-profit status was defeated (by one vote). It has now come to my attention in a recent trip to the bank, that should I drop dead anytime soon, the funds in the Association checking account would be "frozen" in my estate. This means that no one would be able to touch the money for Association expenses until my estate is settled, maybe not at all, since the account is in my name. To put it into the Association's name (where it belongs) requires filing for a tax number. Which in turn, means we have to pay taxes on the money in the account, unless we file for non-profit status immediately.

This leads me to believe that non-profit status must be filed for quick. By getting this status, it will allow someone else to handle the finances of the Association, should something happen to me. By my vote for the status, we now have a tie vote. The officers of the Association have all discussed this in detail and we will be revising the by-laws to include the following:

"Should there be a tie vote on any or all matters affecting the Association, the President of the Association shall cast his vote to break the tie".

After careful discussions with Legal Representatives and the IRS, it is our intent to file for Non-Profit Status for the Association.

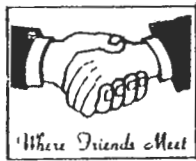
Should we be able to obtain this status for the Association, the checking account would be in the Association's name, (where it should be). Thus, the Treasurer and President's name would be on the account, making the funds available for Association use, should the unforeseen happen to either party.

I am not one to spend money frivolously, however in this case, I feel it is a necessary evil of "doing business" and I will proceed with the paper work involved. Anyone wishing to make a small donation to help defray the costs involved, please send it to the Editor.

FOOTNOTE: Since writing this, I spoke with Harry Wilson, one of our newest Association members, who also happens to be a lawyer. Harry has agreed to help out with this and it may not cost us much now to get this matter resolved. THANK YOU VERY MUCH HARRY!!!

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REMINDER: The March issue will contain a directory of e-mail addresses. Several of you no longer have a correct address and new ones have been added. Please send "Screen Name" to me for inclusion in directory.



* * * * *
THE BIO PAGE
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**1/50th MECHANIZED
INFANTRY BATTALION**

Blankenship, Thomas W: Tom was 1st LT in 1970 with Bravo Company. Released from active duty in 1972, he attended college while remaining active with the reserves, retiring in 1998 as LTC. Tom currently lives in Arizona.

Broneman, James: He was an original Alpha Company soldier, leaving Fort Hood Texas with the battalion. Jim was wounded in December, 1967 while fighting in the Bong Son area. He now lives in Iowa.

Brevik, Ron: Ron was driver of 314 in Charlie Company and he was one of the original men from Fort Hood. He now resides in Michigan.

Burch, Roger A: Roger arrived in Vietnam in February of 1968 and was assigned to Bravo Company. He worked with Maintenance and kept our vehicles running. He left country in February of 1969 and settled in Fort Riley Kansas for the duration of his tour, where he presently lives. Roger is married for over 27 years and works for the Phillips Lighting Company in Kansas.

Canavan, Michael: Michael was a "Boat Person" and served with Charlie Company, Headquarters platoon. He left country in August, 1968 and resumed a career with the City of New York as an Electrician. In 1982, Michael joined the New York Army Reserves National Guard and is still active with them. Michael is married and resides in Brooklyn NY.

Carlson, John: from Oxford, MI, started his career with the 1/50th Infantry in Charlie Company's fourth Platoon. He left the country in 1968 and married, which he still is. Tom Rice was the driver of the APC that John called home for many months.

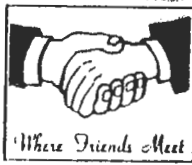
Carter, Charles: He served with Alpha Company in the 1/50th. Charles was from the Maryland area, but moved to Washington State.

Chaney, James: James is now retired and living in Virginia. He was with the 1/50th Infantry when it left Fort Hood and stuck around the country with us in Vietnam until August of 1968.

Chapman, Matthew: Matthew deployed with the mortar platoon of Bravo Company from Fort Hood Texas. Injured on 11 May 68, he spent time at Fort Sam Houston Texas. He continued his army career, retiring in 1978. Matt and his wife, have been married for over 36 years and live in Virginia. They have three children and five grand children.

Clements, Ronald R: Ron was married to Mary Ann (still is) in February of 1967. He was drafted in September 1967 and arrived in our unit March 1968 with Charlie Company's fourth platoon. Ron left country one year later. He is currently State Legislative Director for the United Transportation Union in Alabama. Ron and his wife, Mary Ann have two children and four grand children.

Clements, Stephen C: Steve came along with the Battalion via the U S S Pope. After his enlistment was up in 1968, Steve then returned to California. Steve and his wife, Sheila, just recently celebrated their 35th anniversary. They have two daughters. Steve recently retired from Los Angeles Police Department and now likes to spend some time golfing.



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THE BIO PAGE
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Collins, Mitchell: Mitch was with bravo Company and states that Jon Thelen was his driver. He is married to Evelyn and they have two children. He lives in Indiana.

Craney, Michael: Mike went over by boat with us and was one of the original Delta Company troopers. He now lives in Ohio.

Crook, James Harry Jr: Jim served with Charlie Company. He now makes his home in Alabama.

Croker, James R: He was assigned to Headquarters Company, with the flame platoon. Jim came over with the Pope and was in country until August of 1968. He now resides in Florida where he is owner of Laundro-Vend Services.

Crowley, Kenneth: Ken arrived in Alpha Company. He resides in Pennsylvania.

Culbertson, Timothy: Tim arrived with the 1/50th Infantry in 1968. (September) For some reason, he stuck around in the country until April of 1970. Tim lives in Cincinnati Ohio and is very active with Veteran's groups for many years. Tim has held at least one mini-reunion over the years with a group of our men and just this past June, he had a group of ten 1/50th Troopers together again.

Culpepper, Oren: Oren was Battalion Commander during 1969. He was a Major, arriving in country in December of 1968. Oren is married to Glenda, and they reside in Arkansas.

Davidson Ronald: Ron came over to us as one of our replacements, arriving in country in September of 1969. He was assigned to Alpha Company then did some duty with the 196th. He and his wife, Debbie live in California

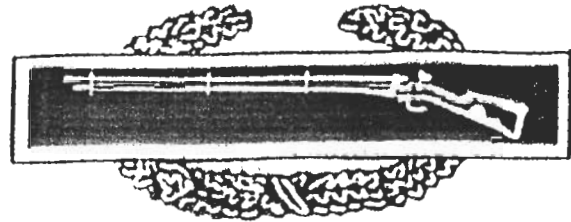
Davis, Dennis: Denny came to Vietnam with the Battalion in Charlie Company. He currently lives in Michigan.

Davis, Phil: Phil served with the original Alpha Company and was involved with the massacre which occurred in the Crescent Valley on 5 May 1968. Naturally Phil was one of the survivors. Phil has not sent me his address as of yet, but that will be reported later.

Deal, Michael: Mike went over on the boat with us in Bravo Company. Don Queen was his driver. Mike was wounded during a battle in February 1968 and ended up back in his home state of Iowa, where he currently resides with his wife, Valerie. Mike is currently our Historian of the Association.

Delemeester, James F: James served in Battalion Headquarters as S-4. He was Captain at the time and spent one year in the country serving with our unit. After discharge from active duty, he went into the banking business and is currently President of a local bank. He remained in the active reserves, retiring in 1984 as a LTC. Jim and his wife Marlen attended our first "official reunion" in Alexandria Virginia.

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OFFICER'S CORNER
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

One of my goals for 1999 is to develop and submit a short column for each newsletter. In these columns, I will try to present my thoughts on the direction the Association is moving and on things I think we need to address as an organization. I first want to commend everyone that has been able to find time to help with the Association since its inception. A lot of work has been put into locating and contacting everyone so far, and we are really just started.

The response to the election for 1999 officers of the Association was good, but it could have been better. I genuinely hope that we can expand the level of participation in the Association by the membership. One of the greatest difficulties in keeping any organization vital is maintaining member participation in the operation of the organization. The wonderful progress we have made in getting organized and functional is largely due to the effort of a very small portion of the membership. Because of the national aspects of the Association and the distances that separate the membership from any central meeting place, we do not have the opportunity to meet on a regular basis. Everything must be done over substantial distances and therefore, may take a little time. You can help things to continue to move smoothly by volunteering to help with the organization. I know Ken could use some help on the 1999 reunion planning. Also, your vote indicated you felt that conducting a "Cow Pie" raffle would be something the Association should do to raise funding beyond our membership dues. Therefore, we are seeking an eager volunteer to form and head a committee to conduct the raffle.

I know my tendency is to think that I do not have time for such involvement. However, I have found that participating actively in organizations in which I am interested is very rewarding for me, personally. In fact, I have found when I participate, no matter what my ultimate contribution might be, I am the benefactor. I strongly encourage anyone with even a remote desire to leave your mark on the Association to volunteer to assist us. It is YOUR Organization. Certainly one thing that initially attracted us to the Association was the possibility of getting in touch with those we became so close to during our tour and that we had never seen again. Assisting in the Association really does help in contacting and staying in touch with our old comrades-in-arms. It is amazing what we can forget over thirty years and what can be remembered so vividly with a little stimulation. I have already spoken to several friends from the 1/50th, whose names I could not remember until I received a little memory stimulation from our Home Page on the Web. Already, I have received much benefit from being involved in the Association. Remember that this Association is in its infancy and we will need more help as we grow.

There is one way that everyone can help. The most effective manner in which you can help your Association is to pay your dues. Of course, we will accept payment at any time, but it is helpful to the Treasurer if the dues are paid on or before 1 January of each year. It is much easier to plan when everyone pays his dues at nearly the same time. Also, it appears that a number of us have allowed our memberships to lapse. This is very disappointing to me, especially in consideration of the substantial effort that has been made to contact everyone. I find it difficult to believe that anyone that was assigned to the 1/50th does not intend to stay in touch or does not wish to be a part of the Association.

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OFFICER'S CORNER (CONT'D)
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I have to assume that those who allowed their membership to lapse have just "let it slip." As time continues to go by, I think more and more of us will be pleased we exist as an organization and are still in touch with each other.

We need everyone to catch up on their dues if they are behind and pay them as closely to 1 January as you can in the future. If you have been receiving the newsletter, but have not joined us yet, please do so. We want and need your membership and participation. If you think about it just a little, you will come to the realization that we have more in common with each other through our service with the 1/50th than we have with most anyone else. It's time to join us if you have not already. Remember: It is never too soon or late to contribute. I welcome any support you can give. Get in touch with me by telephone at (770) 425-3080 or e-mail at: spottinger@integratedscience.com - if you are ready to help with the organization. I will be happy to accept your assistance and I'll direct you to the areas we need the help in most.

Again, thanks to all whom have already volunteered and have helped so far. I look forward to seeing everyone at the reunion, and I hope that more of you will find the time to become an active part of the Association. It's a good thing!

Sandy Pottinger, President.

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From the Vice-President:

Hello Brother Ichibaners! Winter has finally arrived here in Texas. However, that doesn't only mean that it is going to get colder, it also means that we are that much closer to the '99 Kansas City Reunion!

And shortly after that, a new century and a new millennium will arrive. Who would have thought, ... the old troopers from the 1/50th moving into the 21st Century? Well, I for one am glad. Glad that I've made it this far and glad that our country remembers and, for the most part, cherishes the sacrifices made by so many of our friends.

When I was a "kid" in Vietnam, I never gave a thought to Veteran's Day. Vets were "old guys" from WWII or Korea. In fact, it took several years before I got it through my thick head that I also was a vet and, as a result, had certain obligations to fulfill. (You see, duty never stops).

First we've got to understand that we must keep alive the memory of our brothers who were killed in action. Not to draw attention to ourselves, the survivors; but to teach the young who may still have sacrifices to make, that freedom is so rare and precious that some must be ready to give of themselves totally to defend it. This is a hard and terrible lesson to teach a young person; it can't just be "laid on them as a duty" that will become a burden. It must be taught as a larger truth, a living truth which says, "Those who are able must defend the weak and the old." Sadly, a society does learn this lesson only once; it must be taught to each new generation. So, part of our job as Vet's is to point the way, to teach and to remind; that we all have a part in holding one another up.

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OFFICER'S CORNER (CONT'D)
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Second, we must be vigilant to make certain that special vets and their families are not forgotten. We all know that combat was a pass-fail test that you either won or lost. Some of our brothers were wounded severely and now live with that pain. We survivors have a duty to make certain those veterans are treated with dignity and tenderness. (Yes, tenderness. If you don't understand, just visit a VA hospital and look at the lonely faces). So another part of our duty is to be certain those veterans who paid the price and lived, are cared for competently and with compassion.

I know that we all know these things,... but all of us,... me too; need to be reminded occasionally. I want you all to have a Happy Holiday! (PS: Thanks for the votes!)

the Veep,

Norman Poage

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From the Historian:

(A history of the Battalion will be made available at the reunion)

Michael "Red" Deal

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From the Chaplain:

(The Chaplain's report will be included in the upcoming January newsletter.)

Lawrence "Toby" Jordan

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From the Secretary/Treasurer:

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who has given their support and faith to the Association. I also thank those who have the confidence in me to continue in this position. I know with dedication and commitment from the other officers and support from all of you out there, we can not help but have a prosperous year ahead and will see the Association continue to grow.

In closing, I wish to thank all those who have volunteered to help with the reunion this year. There is a lot of work ahead for us, but we plan on having the best reunion possible with your support. I look forward to seeing all of you in Kansas City in September of 1999.

Kenneth G Riley

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VETERAN'S BENEFITS
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Law permits payment of Burial Allowance for certain veterans who die in State Nursing Homes. The General Counsel found that veterans admitted to nursing homes that receive payments from the VA may qualify for the burial benefits authorized even though a veteran may die outside the physical confines of the institution to which he or she was admitted.

Therefore, veterans who, while residing in State Nursing homes, are transferred to non-VA facilities for acute medical care and then die at those locations, are eligible for burial payments.

The VA will pay a burial allowance up to \$1,500. If the veteran's death is considered service connected, the VA will also pay the cost of transporting the remains of a service connected veteran to the national cemetery closest the home of the deceased with available gravesites.

In such cases, the person who bore the Veteran's Burial Expenses may claim reimbursement from the VA. The VA will pay a \$300 burial and funeral expense allowance for veteran's who, at the time of death, were entitled to receive pension or compensation. Eligibility is also established when death occurs in a VA facility or a VA contracted nursing home. There is no time limit for filing reimbursement claims of service connected deaths. In other deaths, claims must be filed within two years after permanent burial or cremation.

The VA will pay a \$150. plot allowance when a veteran is not buried in a cemetery that is under U. S. Government jurisdiction if the veteran is discharged from active duty because of disability incurred or was aggravated in the line of duty, if the veteran was in receipt of or eligible to receive compensation or pension, or the veteran died while hospitalized by the VA.

The \$150 plot allowance may be paid to a State, if a veteran is buried without charge for the cost of the plot or interment in a state owned cemetery reserved solely for veteran burials. Burial expenses paid by the deceased employer or a state agency will not be reimbursed.

The Presidential Memorial Certificate expresses the nation's recognition of a veteran's service. Certificates bearing the signature of the president are issued in the name of the honorable discharged deceased veteran. The award of a certificate to an eligible recipient does not preclude certificates to other eligible recipients. The veteran may have died at any time in the past. Requests for a certificate should be accompanied by a copy of a document such as a discharge which identifies honorable service. VA regional offices can assist in applying for the certificate.

The VA provides an American Flag to drape the casket of a veteran or reservist entitled to retired pay. After the funeral service, the flag may be presented to the next-of-kin or a close associate. Flags are also issued on behalf of service members who are missing and later presumed dead. Flags are issued at VA Regional Offices and National Cemeteries.

TAKE THE TEST

Albert Einstein came up with this a hundred years ago. He said only 2% of the World's population could figure this out. Are you one of those?

FACTS:

1. THERE ARE FIVE (5) HOUSES IN FIVE (5) DIFFERENT COLORS.
2. IN EACH HOUSE LIVES A PERSON WITH A DIFFERENT NATIONALITY.
3. THE FIVE (5) OWNERS EACH DRINK A DIFFERENT TYPE OF BEVERAGE.
4. THE FIVE (5) OWNERS EACH SMOKE A DIFFERENT BRAND OF CIGAR.
5. THE FIVE (5) OWNERS EACH HAVE A DIFFERENT PET.
6. NONE OF THE OWNERS HAVE THE SAME PET, OR SMOKE THE SAME KIND OF CIGAR, OR DRINK THE SAME KIND OF DRINK.

THE QUESTION IS? ... WHO OWNS THE FISH?

HINTS:

1. THE BRITISH MAN LIVES IN A RED HOUSE.
2. THE SWEDISH MAN KEEPS DOGS AS HIS PETS.
3. THE DANISH MAN DRINKS TEA.
4. THE GREEN HOUSE IS ON THE LEFT OF THE WHITE HOUSE.
5. THE GREEN HOUSE OWNER DRINKS COFFEE.
6. THE PERSON WHO SMOKES PALL MALL KEEPS BIRDS.
7. THE OWNER OF THE YELLOW HOUSE SMOKES DUNHILL.
8. THE MAN LIVING IN THE HOUSE IN THE CENTER DRINKS MILK.
9. THE NORWEGIAN LIVES IN THE FIRST HOUSE.
10. THE MAN WHO SMOKES BLEND LIVES NEXT TO THE ONE WHO KEEPS CATS.
11. THE MAN WHO KEEPS HORSES LIVES NEXT TO THE MAN WHO SMOKES DUNHILL.
12. THE OWNER WHO SMOKES BLUE MASTER ALSO DRINKS BEER.
13. THE GERMAN MAN SMOKES PRINCE.
14. THE NORWEGIAN LIVES NEXT TO THE BLUE HOUSE.
15. THE MAN WHO SMOKES BLEND HAS A NEIGHBOR WHO DRINKS WATER.