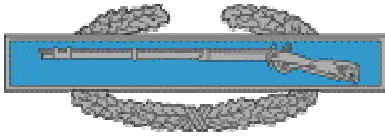


ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1st Battalion 50th Infantry Association



April 2013



Cover Page

FROM THE TC HATCH

Jimmy Segars, President

Well, I can hardly wait until the reunion in April. As you can tell from the schedule of events, we are going to have perhaps the best reunion ever. We've planned significant events related to our memorial including naming the new barracks using the names of various KIA's from Vietnam and current conflicts. While I was at the Change of Command this past summer, I noticed an old APC in the motor pool. I asked Mike McCardell, Jay Copley, and others if we could get it for the 1/50th grounds. They've been working hard on this project. If all goes well, we may see it ready by reunion time. Thanks to the staff at the 1/50th for working on this nostalgic project as well as working toward reinstating the use of Legacy Cards. Thank you Jim Sheppard for the significant information you are providing for these. Be sure to come to the reunion to find out more about these projects as well as joining together with each other and the cadre in numerous fun activities. Ft. Benning always makes our visits very special. Also, I think you will really like the accommodations. The Hampton Inn is conveniently located near to the post. Also, I can't emphasize enough the special bond the new company commander Lt. Col. Thomas Nelson has with us because he trained under drill instructors that were Vietnam vets. So see you soon, and play the game.

Note the ladies report on the Wreaths Across America event. I wish to thank Leon and Judith Gallant for sending wreaths to our memorial at Ft. Benning. Theirs was a special tribute to coincide with the Washington event. Thanks, guys, which was exceptional.

UPDATE ON 1/50TH ICHIBAN1.ORG WEBSITE - R.J. Smith

It's been another busy and record-breaking year for the ichiban1.org website. My dad, Randy "Doc" Smith and website guru and Association Historian Jim Sheppard asked me to help solve some technical issues with the site back in 2006. Since then I've mainly kept an eye on technical issues and maintained the message board, which continues to grow in popularity and usage.

Jim has dedicated countless thousands of hours to keeping the website together and updating it with the latest information, new memorial pages, and updates about upcoming reunions, events, and recent photos. I had helped with a few things years ago, but Jim has become quite proficient in HTML and really runs the show now. If you haven't visited the site lately, you would enjoy taking a look at the volumes of information, stories, and resources. Everything from the memorial pages, to the unit history and collection of historical maps, to the online PX store and membership information make your site one of the most comprehensive infantry association websites going today. And don't forget, of course, to sign up for the message board and join the conversation! The process is fairly simple, though I had to add some security features to keep the spam bots and other nuisances away. If you have any trouble signing up, feel free to email me at rjsmith64@hotmail.com. I'm also always happy to help with a lost password or anything else message board-related. (Continued on page 3)

WELCOME TO NEW 2012 MEMBERS

Hope to see you at the reunion!

Chucksey C. Spotts		02-10-12
Robert L. Daniel Jr.		02-14-12
Richard J. Vanderloop	LIFE	03-25-12
John W. Ricker	LIFE	03-24-12
Harley Harless		05-16-12
Robert B. Easley	Yearly	05-16-12
Thomas E. Lewis	LIFE	05-16-2012
Pat Willson	LIFE	07-06-2012

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Lorene Burch, Editor

Billie McGregor, Editorial Assistant

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FROM THE EDITOR
Lorene Burch, Editor



Greetings one and all: As you are aware of by now, the reunion is coming up in just a few short weeks. Billie and I were racking our brains in what I should write about for this newsletter and decided I should speak not only to the soldiers about the importance of attending the reunion but to the spouses as well.

I believe in supporting Roger in whatever he does, out of duty as a wife. So, when we learned of this association I knew that it would be expected of me to attend the reunions and so that is what I had made up my mind I would do. I would help Roger prepare for the reunions and do whatever would help make his experience a good one. What I didn't count on was the following.

We had just checked in when I noticed this gentleman walking across the lobby, he was having problems walking as he walked with the aid of canes. As I watched I noticed another gentleman approaching him and as he did he fell to his knees. The second gentleman had placed the first on a stretcher in Nam not expecting that he would live another day. I knew at that moment that this was going to be a life changing event.

It has been several years since that first reunion in Kansas City, we have only missed one when Roger was receiving treatment for cancer. It was hard for us to stay away, as Roger needs to be reconnected with this group, even if it is every other year. The stories are still being told, but they have change over the years. There is a closeness there that is hard to explain. I have come to think of this group as family, even though I have not met most of you, I feel a connection with each of you, and am so glad you have opened it up to the spouses, so if they desire to learn more about you, they are able to listen as you share some of your deepest darkest past. Many of you may not notice me sitting in a corner listening to you visit with one another, as I do not desire to intrude, but am so blessed by what I have heard and it has helped me to understand why it has been hard for Roger to open up about some of his experiences.

Over the years I have learned how important as a spouse it is to support Roger and to seek a better understanding on how the everyday things affect him. Loretta has reached out to the women to help us to feel more a part of what goes on at the reunions and has suggested several ways the women can be supportive, not only of our guys, but the one who are serving today. We are all in this together as we belong to an exclusive club that is not hard to get into, but the price can be quite high.

It's not too late to get your registration in; it could turn out to be the best money you have ever invested. See you in a few weeks, praying for safe travels for each of you.

C H A P L A I N ' S

Parker Pierce

O Hello, to all the 1/50th family and each of your family members. I pray that everyone is doing well, and I know we are all excited about the upcoming 2013 reunion in April at Fort Benning, Georgia. It will be my blessing to see each one of you. In the Bible a particular word that we all will need to have and to demonstrate it in our lives as much now and into the future, is the word "courage!" In the book of Deuteronomy 31:6 it states: "Be strong and courageous, don't be terrified or afraid of them. For it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave or forsake you." In this verse it specifically commands us to have courage. In the book of Joshua 1:7 it states: "Above all, be strong and very courageous to carefully observe the whole instruction my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go." This verse is also a direct command to have courage. Also, in another verse Isaiah 41:10 it states: "Do not fear for I am with you, do not be afraid for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand." These verses from the Bible show us that we can have courage, because God will be there for us during every situation in our lives. My prayer is that all of us in the 1/50th family will keep the courage that we need as time goes on, and that we will trust in God in everything. Let's continue to pray for each other, our military and their families, our President, our political leaders, and our blessed United States of America!" God's blessings to each one of you! "God's blessings and a very blessed and Happy Easter to each one of you."

(Continued from Cover Page)

Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Mar 2013	26437	21767	2706	809	14305	19768382	12955	43306	348275	423004
Feb 2013	28717	23412	3093	912	22429	34574190	25542	86610	655540	804076
Jan 2013	31233	25055	3203	948	25595	37888383	29418	99321	776721	968229
Dec 2012	28492	22627	3240	966	23452	34088284	29952	100440	701462	883257
Nov 2012	29541	24336	3145	1126	24694	28663739	33803	94353	730106	886251
Oct 2012	27585	22289	2721	968	23075	29603746	30012	84378	690980	855149
Sep 2012	23324	19664	2532	840	21296	30336836	25212	75966	589946	699746
Aug 2012	21933	18734	2245	842	20954	29440083	26107	69604	580759	679943
Jul 2012	23287	19186	2739	848	20680	32093588	26302	84915	594792	721917
Jun 2012	22477	18991	2359	873	22371	28452680	26216	70786	569736	674331
May 2012	34094	29092	3314	1229	31429	36463058	38110	102761	901878	1056936
Apr 2012	34227	28851	2976	1138	27917	32611260	34158	89293	865545	1026819
Totals						373984229	337787	1001733	8005740	9679658

In the past year, the ichiban1.org site has had nearly 10 million "hits", including over 300,000 unique site visits. It's served up over a million pages and more than 8 million files and transferred over 350 gigabytes of data. Many people outside the association, including new soldiers, families, and students of history, are using the site as an important resource to get on-the-ground information and first-hand accounts of combat operations. We've had several students, relatives, and others reach out to Association members on the message board as well.

Our message board has 249 registered users, including about 100 who have been active in the past year (reading or posting).

Many users have broken into double-digit posts in the past year and it's great to see everyone using the board. Please let me know if there are other features you'd like to see, or other features you'd like to see for the website at large too.

I was able to join you all for the reunion in 2007, and I hope to make it back again this year. It was an honor to meet you all and it has been a pleasure to help contribute to your Association in this small way. Thank you all for your service. R. J. Smith, Indianapolis, IN, rjsmith64@hotmail.com, 317-589-8369

1/50th Ladies Support Team

Loretta Segars

LADIES HOME FRONT PROJECTS ~ Mr. and Mrs. Dave Knechtel, Jean Curtis and family, and Jimmy and I had a very good time at Wreaths Across America last December. There were approximately 20,000 people on hand, so it did not take long to put over 100,000 wreaths on the graves at Arlington Cemetery. We placed wreaths on the graves of the following 1/50th soldiers who are buried there: Lawrence Douglass Greene, Commanded "C" Company, 1967-8, Section I, Grave 164-A; Corporal Richard Edward Hayes, "A" Company, 1967, Section 31, Site 6637; Colonel (Retired) John Benjamin Carter, Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry, July-December, 1968, Section 59, Grave 4531; and Drill Sergeant in E 1/50th, MSG Kenneth B. Elwell, July 17, 2011, Kandahar, Afghanistan, Section 60, Site 9589. Jimmy and I ask that we remember all our fallen, regardless of where they are buried. We will have pictures of this event at the reunion.

Also, the Grand Marshall of the parade of trucks carrying the wreaths from Maine to Arlington was the mother of a West Point friend of our family and captain in the Army who was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. She was presented with the 1 millionth wreath made for Wreaths Across America at the opening ceremony. This event has become so well known that more and more volunteers come each year. I hope we have a large group from the 1/50th to go this coming December. Thanks for your support.

Unfortunately, Bethesda Hospital did not get our request to visit through the proper channels; so we did not get to visit with the wounded warriors there. The USO tried to get us in, but that did not work out either. Since then, the USO has opened a brand new facility; and we will not have to go through military protocol to get to see the wounded warriors who visit there the next time we try to get access to them. So we kept the Psalm 91 bandanas to deliver there at a future date. They assured us that we would have easy access to them from now on. We were disappointed but remain determined to see this project through until it becomes an annual event.

Ladies, I look forward to seeing you at the reunion in April. Also, I am taking pre-orders on the cookbook to know how many to bring to the reunion. The price has not been finalized, but I estimate it to be \$15.00. We hope to sell several to generate a little money for the association or for our projects—whichever is needed most. Thanks to all who submitted material for this cookbook. Snip off the order form at the bottom of the page and send it along to the address shown below.

COOKBOOK ORDER FORM

Name _____ # of copies you wish to order _____

Email to segars-jim-lor@charter.net or send to Loretta Segars, 2323 Half-Sectionline Road, Albertville, Alabama 35950

HISTORIAN REPORT: march 2013

Jim Sheppard,
Charlie Company, 12/1965 to 06/ 1968

I had so many "fish to fry" when I started this Journey as your historian. All I had to begin with was a general understanding of the workings of the National Archives Vietnam Text Records facility in College Park Maryland, where I had researched the Battle of An Bao in 1998.

In the years since 1999, when I was elected Historian, I have spent many weeks at that facility gathering close to 20,000 pages of documentation. Years were spent transforming what I gathered into Adobe .pdf format...putting our document collection years ahead of any future plans to digitize the archived document at College Park. A Senior Archivist once intimated to me that this would be too expensive a project for the Archives to endeavor....and would likely never be done.

During my beginning years, we were fortunate to have Ray Sarlin come along and do the work to modernize our Internet Web Site. Ray also dove in and began the work on developing our list of KIAs. I look back now realizing I had no time to do the research involved in developing that list...and much of what we have today in the way of a memorial would not have been developed until years later...when the Coffelt Database of persons killed in action by Unit was developed and corrected to the point of being nearly perfect...a process which took nearly ten years.

My evolution took a turn that was unavoidable when Ray could no longer accommodate managing the Web Site. Being probably the only Association member with a basic knowledge of Hypertext Code and Internet Web Page Design, I was forced into taking over the formidable task of maintaining our web site.

During my working years, this became somewhat daunting...and my Historian work suffered. The two "hats" were weaved together as Randy Smith requested that I begin work on developing a list of Family and Friends of our men killed in action. This after we erected our Memorial Statue at Fort Benning. That "list" prompted me to begin developing Memorial Pages for each of our men killed in action years ago. I simply felt a need to answer the questions most of these relatives and friends extended...such as "What Happened?" Finding that many websites already existed that listed the "basics" and/or offered a place for people to post remembrances, I saw a real need for incorporating my National Archives document research into memorial pages that would tell a more detailed story of how each man died in battle. Today, nearly 99% of our memorial pages have documentation backed casualty information...down to and including a map showing the exact location of the event.

Although I have acquired most available documentation on our Battalion's endeavor in Vietnam, I have also expanded my research into all things pertaining to the 50th Infantry Regiment. Much of this will be manifest at this coming reunion as I have created special displays on our "E" and "F" 50th Infantry Designations which were Long Range Patrol units with the 9th and 25th Infantry Divisions, respectively.

During research of these 50th Infantry units, I was driven to create memorial pages for the men killed in action while with these units in Vietnam. This is a "work in progress" as I have given priority to finishing memorial page updates for the "Battalion Proper" first. Folders have been created for those men from E and F Companies...and several memorial pages have been completed....with one being posted on the website...that of Johnston Dunlop, who received the Distinguished Service Cross, Posthumously. At this year's reunion, the "E" Company barracks at Fort Benning will be named in honor of Staff Sergeant Johnston Dunlop, along with several other naming dedications, including an exercise field being named after Donald Lowe (Company A), and buildings being named after 1SG Dulac (Company A) and SGT Shipley (Company B). It was my honor to invite the Dunlop family to this event and they have assured me they will attend. There may not be anyone there who actually knew Johnston, so I hope we will all make them feel "At Home".

My work at document gathering still continues (Another trip to the Archives is planned for July), Although I have covered most of the "gaps" that exist in our collection, there are still command levels I have not checked. Recently I was able to obtain documentation on our first few months in Vietnam through Intelligence Summaries found at the Division Level of the 1st Cavalry Division. I had previously only searched at unit and brigade level. These new documents helped "clear the air" on several unanswered questions involving our early contact with the enemy in Binh Dinh Province.

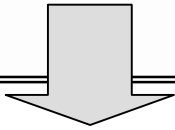
Lastly, several book efforts are nearing completion. Our own Dick Guthrie is in the final stages of preparation for publishing his book (Memoirs) on Vietnam, Jim McGovern is in the final edit stages of his book on An Bao, and I am working with Tom Kjos on his book effort for the Battle of Tam Quan.

Tom will be at this coming reunion and we will be trying to "schedule" interviews with anyone willing to share their Tam Quan battle experiences with Tom. Please seek out Tom early at the reunion for scheduling.

As of this writing, we have 59 attendees committed to this year's reunion. I suspect we will end up with the usual 100ish for attendance. In addition, we have "promises" from over 30 family members and friends of our men killed in action to attend the Wreath Laying and expanded Building Dedications on Thursday Morning, May 2nd! Visit our website "Reunions" page daily and view the "Attendees" list for updates!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you there. I hope those of you who have yet to attend a reunion will push past whatever anxiety is preventing you from being there and finally join us. The experience is incredible...and with many members getting older, you may be missing the opportunity to meet with men you knew long ago and renew strong bonds. I know of at least two men attending this year who will likely not survive their illnesses to attend another reunion (Cancer). Think about it.

1/50th BULLETIN BOARD



50th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army By jim sheppard

A History & Timeline

- ★ Company sized movement south had already begun when the 50th Infantry Regiment was Assigned to the 20th Infantry Division on July 31, 1918. Along the way various units stayed in New Jersey, Washington, DC, Curtis Bay, Maryland, and Camp Greene, North Carolina, before arriving at the new home of the 40th Infantry Brigade of the 20th Infantry Division at Camp Sevier near Greenville, South Carolina.



Company "L" shown here in Washington, DC in May of 1918.

BENEFITS FOR VETERANS' CHILDREN WITH BIRTH DEFECTS



Children who have spina bifida or certain other birth defects and are biological children of Veterans with qualifying service in **Vietnam or Korea** may be eligible for a range of VA benefits, starting with compensation, a monthly monetary allowance based on the child's degree of disability.

VA Form 21-0304 is required to apply for these benefits.

Read more about these benefits at

http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/benefits_children.asp

or contact your local Veterans Agent or VA Hospital.

Happy Birthday Jim Sheppard March 27



A sergeant was addressing a squad of 20 and said: "I have a nice easy job for the laziest man here. Put up your hand if you are the laziest." 19 men raised their hands, and the sergeant asked the other man "why didn't you raise your hand?"

The man replied: "Too much trouble, sarge."

1ST BATTALION, 50TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION 2013 REUNION ITENERARY

DTG	EVENT	LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY
30 Apr	Tuesday		
1200-1800	Registration	Hampton Inn Phenix City	Alumni Association
1400	Rehearsal	Bldg 3560	Bn CO/CSM
1800-2100	Reception	Hampton Inn	Association
1 May	Wednesday		
0830-0930	Executive Committee Meeting	Hampton Inn	Jim Segars
0930-1045	Association Annual Meeting	Hampton Inn	Jim Segars
1100-1130	Travel to National Infantry Museum	Bus	1/50 Escort
1130-1300	Lunch	Museum	Association
1300-1530	Tour Museum	Museum	Association
1530-1600	Travel to Hotel	Bus	1/50 Escort
1700-1745	Travel to Uchee Creek	Bus	1/50 Escort
1800-2000	BBQ w/ 1-50 Cadre	Event Center	Barbecue
2000-2045	Travel to Hotel	Bus	1/50 Escort
2045-2200	Hospitality Room Open	Hampton Inn	1/50 Escort
2 May	Thursday		
0830-0900	Travel to Kannel Field	Bus	1/50 Escort
0900-0930	Turning Blue Ceremony	Kannel Field	1/50 Bn Cdr
0930-0945	Travel to BN HQ	BLDG 3560	1/50 Bn Cdr
1000-1030	Memorial Service	Front of BLDG 3560	1/50 Bn Cdr
1030-1200	Bldg Dedication	BLDG 3560	1/50 Bn Cdr
1200-1300	Lunch with Soldiers	DFAC	Mike
1300-1330	Travel to Field	Bus	1/50 Escort
1400-1600	Observe Training	Confidence/Obstacle Course	1/50 Escort
1600-1630	Travel to Hotel	Bus	1/50 Escort
1730-1800	Travel to Benning Club	Bus	Alumni Association
1800-2200	Association Banquet	Benning Club	Association
2200-2230	Travel to Hotel	Bus	1/50 Escort
2230-UTC	Hospitality Room Open	Hampton Inn	1/50 Escort
3 May	Friday		
0830-1000	Travel to Kannell Field	Bus	1/50 Escort
1000-1100	Observe Graduation Ceremony	Company B	Jim Segars
1100-1130	Travel to Hotel and Open	Bus	Association
1700-2400	Open	Individual Preference	
4 May	Saturday		
0800-1200	Checkout	Hampton Inn	Association

1st Battalion 50th Infantry Association
 Reunion 30 April-3 May 2013
 Fort Benning, Georgia
Registration Form

Member Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ Badge Name _____ Shirt Size _____

Guest Name _____ Badge Name _____ Shirt Size _____

(Use separate sheet for additional guests)

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____ Hotel Name _____

(Host Hotel is Hampton Inn and Suites, Phenix City, AL)

*Host Hotel is the **Hampton Inn, Phenix City (866)799-3642 for reservations**. **YOU MUST** make your hotel reservations **DIRECT** with either the Hampton or other hotel of your choice. Submitting this registration form does **NOT** cover your hotel reservations. Ask for 1/50 rate of **\$89** (29 Apr - 4 May) cutoff for this rate is 5 April. Hotel POC: Michelle Spivey, 706-615-2900.*

Registration Procedure:

Registration Cutoff Dates:

Registration Costs:

(Per Person)

Early Registration: (Before 20 April, 2010) \$200

After 20 April:.....\$225

Mail this form along with check to:

Gary Quint, Secretary
 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Association
 438 Fairway Lane
 Kirkwood MO 63122

Please make check payable to: 1st Bn 50th Infantry Association

Registration Fee Includes:

30 Apr Evening Reception
 1 May Lunch, Dinner, Buses
 2 May Lunch, Dinner, Buses

3 May Buses
 Gifts for Hosts
 Event Shirt

Dinner for Guests
 Auction Items
 Door Prizes