From the TC Hatch

By Jim Seagers

Hello, Members,

I can hardly wait! It’s only a few weeks now until our reunion. Thanks to all who have worked so diligently on the preparations. This is going to be an especially memorable reunion. John Topper, Jay Copley, and I went to a 1/50th D Company graduation on March 10. There we met the Command Sergeant Major of the Army, who is the speaker for our memorial service. He is such a personable individual: he has wit, humor, grace, and outstanding military prowess. You will really like him. He is very down-to-earth even though he is such a valued leader.

We have memorabilia that we know all of you will treasure. I do want to stress one particular event that is a courtesy the battalion is extending to us. Instead of having the ball in an off-reunion year, the company commander Lt. Col. Baltazar and his cadre have made accommodations especially for us by moving it to this May on the Friday evening of the reunion. This ball is a special event, and we need to show our appreciation to the current 1/50th for inviting us. I am counting on you fellows to come and to bring your wives. You’ll be glad you did, and so will your wife. How often do you get to go to a military ball? Maybe once or twice in a lifetime. So come and plan to stay all week. We are going to have a record turn-out, and the Association and Battalion have done a great job making it affordable. See you there!

Play the Game!

Jimmy

Our 2017 Reunion

Marking 50 years since the 50th Infantry Deployment to Vietnam
Celebrating 100 years since the formation of the 50th Infantry Regiment
From the Chaplin

Hello to everyone, I hope when you get this newsletter you are packed and ready for the reunion. It's been a while since I have contributed to the newsletter, the only excuse I have is laziness.

I have been fighting bladder cancer for a while now and have had four procedures to remove the tumors. I went through six weeks of treatment and as of my last check up I was cancer free, thank God.

I want to thank Lorene for filling in the Chaplain’s article for me, what a great job she does for our newsletter. If any one has any prayer concerns please contact me. My e-mail is lawrencejordan30@yahoo.com feel free to contact me any time.

I will close for now hope to see you at the reunion. Until then may God Bless and protect you. Toby

Chaplain Christensen Award the Soldier’s Medal

On Tuesday morning, 13 March 2017, Chaplain Matthew Christensen was awarded the Soldier’s Medal in Fort Benning, GA. The Soldier’s Medal is the highest peace time medal that can be awarded to a Soldier who distinguishes himself or herself with heroism while not in conflict with an armed enemy. Chaplain Christensen did just that on the night of 28 February 2015.

That night Christensen received a text from a distraught Soldier requesting the Chaplain’s aid and counsel. When Christensen arrived at the Soldier’s barracks room, he found an intoxicated, rage-filled Soldier. That Soldier took Chaplain Christensen and two other Soldiers in that room hostage, threatening the hostages’ lives with a machete.

The enraged Soldier then called his family, and on speakerphone, stated that he had three hostages to kill that night. He pinned one of the other soldiers against the wall, and drew back his machete. It was at that time that Chaplain Christensen made a move. Christensen grabbed the distraught Soldier from behind, and put him in a choke hold. As he wrestled with the Soldier, one of the other hostages removed the machete from his hand. With a second chokehold, Chaplain Christensen ended the altercation.

Chaplain Christensen credited his actions to “Nothing but fear, and I believe the work of the Holy Spirit, moved me into a position where I could physically control the soldier.”

That night, Chaplain Christensen not only served as a Chaplain, giving guidance and counsel, but also acted as a Soldier, putting himself in the way of violence to save the lives of everyone in that room.

Read more here: http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/news/local/military/article138464203.html#storyling=cpy

Ladies Home Front

Well, it’s not long now until the reunion! I am very excited about it. Jimmy and the officers have talked about it for two years, and I mean that in a great way. Anticipation and participation are high. Be sure to come with your husbands! This will be a memorable reunion, as my husband stated. I, too, want to stress the ball and the invitation the battalion has extended to us. Ladies, this is your chance to dress up and tell everyone that you have been to a military ball. Many ladies would like to get a chance to go to such an occasion, and WE ACTUALLY GET TO!! Hooah!!

Since our former commander of the 1/50th Col. Nelson will not be able to attend this reunion because he is in Afghanistan, to remember him please bring an item we can put into a “Remembrance Box” for him and cards or notes. Thanks! See you soon.

Lorretta Segars
Hello All!

As you would expect, I am in the thick of preparations for the upcoming Reunion. At this writing, we are expecting to have our most well attended event ever!... thanks in no small part to the generous donation from Tom and Diana Clark! If you have not yet registered or made hotel arrangements...I suggest you “get crackin”! Details about hotel accommodations are being updated on the website reunions page as the reunion gets closer. We have already sold out the Hampton Inn and Suites and I expect we will come close to filling the nearby Holiday Inn (Both in Phenix City). In fact, we anticipate having so many at the Holiday Inn that we will be designating one of our buses to be specific to that property for all reunion events. If both of these properties are full by the time you get around to making reservations, I suggest the Quality Inn which is right behind the Hampton. Their rooms are currently priced at $67.00 plus taxes...but they have a history of raising their prices once they determine the short supply of rooms for those reunion dates.

My most ambitious Association Archives endeavor has been the acquisition of seven foam board displays depicting our Regimental History. I had these printed at 18 x24 inches and made frames for them in my woodworking shop in my basement. These turned out so well...with an aged appearance...that I decided to re-frame all my other large displays in the same fashion. I also framed Bryan “Frenchy” Lagimoniere’s 36 x 48 map of LZ Betty...and will finish framing two large 36 x 48 maps of Vietnam this week.

I had already completed professionally re-framing several of our World War I panorama photos and added a few new displays...such as a collection of photos from World War II purchased from the estate of a medical officer from the 50th Armored Infantry Battalion. I also added a small display on the 50th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon of the 4th Infantry Division.

In April, I will begin sorting everything out and developing a plan to get the entire archives into my truck for the driving trip to Fort Benning! It may be a bit cramped...but I believe I can accommodate everything. Since I no longer own the large Van I had at the last reunion...it will be a challenge getting everything into about ½ the storage space!

I plan to leave San Diego on Tuesday, April 25th. I will attend a Vietnam Conference at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas between Thursday and Saturday...then hit the road for Fort Benning. I should arrive either Sunday or Monday and will have our archives displays all set up by Tuesday Afternoon at the latest. There will be so many framed displays that I plan on having quite a few framed maps, etc on display in the Hospitality room. It seems our 50th Infantry “Museum” is getting to be too large for the conference room we have used in the past!

Finally, I will have “Victor Charles”(See photo) with me again to stand guard in the archive room!

Your Historian

Jim Sheppard
The meeting was called to order by President Jim Segars at 0940.
Opening prayer was offered by Chaplain Toby Jordan.
The Pledge of Alliance was recited by the assembled group.

Historian Jim Sheppard discussed the increasing expense of the newsletter and the fact that the membership would be getting the Newsletter by E-mail. Members were urged to go to the 1/50th web site to submit their e-mail addresses as well as furnish those addresses to Newsletter Editor Lorene Burch.
There will be one more paper copy sent to the membership. Those without computer access may still get a hard copy.
He also discussed income and the importance of paying dues on time. If you are not a member it would be important to become one
Gary Quint submitted the minutes from the last reunion as published in the December 2014 newsletter.
A motion was made to accept and seconded. A voice vote approved the motion.

Treasurer Chuck McAleer submitted the treasury report.
Discussed surplus and expenses throughout the year
Proposed a scholarship be formed with surplus money and that a board to study and determine the criteria.

Old Business
Newsletter by e-mail will save $3,000 yearly.
   Only source of income besides reunion is membership dues which are spotty and lacking
   Monument was $7,000 alone
President Segars reminded the attendees that we are on Eastern Time Schedule
Discussed changes in the schedule
Two Companies turning blue
Members can participate with Blue Cord for those who do not have family attending
Discussed traffic issues
   President Segars discussed schedule for today (4/29). Introduced new first time attendees.
   A motion was made and seconded to return to Ft. Benning for the 2017 reunion. The motion was passed by voice vote of the attending membership.
   The 2017 Reunion will represent the 50th Anniversary of the 1/50ths deployment to Viet Nam and the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Battalion.

New Business
Lorretta Segars Discussed Wreaths across America program. The group has placed wreaths on 250,000 graves in Arlington the 1st year. Anyone can donate time or money to Wreaths Across America.
   Bob Schaller spoke on behalf of John Thelen whose step son died leaving a 3 year old daughter. Motion was made for Association to donate $100 to the family in memory of his step son. Seconded and Passed
   A motion was made, seconded and passed to retain the following officers of the Association: Jim Segars as President, Robert Melendez as Vice President, Chuck McAleer as Treasurer, Gary Quint as Secretary, Toby Jordan as Chaplain and Jim Sheppard as Historian.

John Topper mentioned that there are Lapel Pins and Decals commemorating the 50th anniversary of the beginning of VN War - Free and available in the hospitality room
Lorretta Thanked current 1/50 Cadre. New BN Commander and staff have been extremely helpful and she feels as though we need to give them a big Thank You.

John Topper - reviewed Memorial Ceremony
Benefiction was offered by Chaplain Toby Jordan
The meeting was closed at 10:30
Letter from the Editor:

This past two years has seen many changes in the formatting of the newsletter and I am getting some great feedback. Would just like to remind you all, this is your newsletter and it is only as good at the articles that I receive. Also, I want to take the time to thank each of you who have allowed us to send this VIA email as it saves time and money.

I realize that not everyone has an email address, so am happy to oblige those as well. It is important that as many of you receive the newsletter as desires. Some are not able to read it on the computer or don’t care to own one.

Bottom line is, no matter how you receive the newsletter it is important for you to make sure we have your updated information. If you have an email account and use it please let us know. My hope someday is to use it for special announcements that you may miss on the website: www.ichiban1.org.

New Infantry Soldiers Leave Foxtrot with Strength and Honor

Company C

Foxtrot Company, 1st Battalion 50th Infantry Regiment graduated a class of new Infantrymen on 14 March 2017, sending them to Infantry units around the world. The Army will send some to Airborne School, Ranger School or Special Forces Assessment and Selection.

This cadre of world class trainers originally picked up 173 new Soldiers in October. The first 72 hours were focused on integrating the new Soldiers into the company. A tone of strict discipline and high, rigid standards were set from the first step they took from the buses. They were entered into the company records and issued the equipment that they would care for and use over the next 14 weeks. The attrition started almost immediately, with a few Soldiers asking to quit after just a few days. The Battalion doesn’t let them off so easily though, recognizing that Soldiers who may want to quit when first exposed to the stress of Basic Training will often toughen up and perform well once they have adjusted. Anyone who wanted to quit had to wait until the end of Red Phase.

In Red Phase the Trainees were introduced to basic Soldier skills. They were assessed on their physical performance with the APFT and the new Physical Demands Assessment. They spent time in the woods learning to navigate, they were taught basic Soldier First Responder skills, they tested their coordination and endurance on the obstacle course, and they learned the fundamentals of marksmanship. White Phase was focused on qualifying them on their main weapon, the M4. At the end of the last range, RM18, the Company had 73 Soldiers who qualified Expert. Blue phase wrapped up the weapons training with classes on other US weapons, including the AT-4 and Mk 19.

Black phase included STT, which taught the Trainees basic skills they would need for field training and patrolling. They learned how to fight in cities during Mobility Operations in Urban Terrain. They culminated in the Field Training Exercise, a seven day event that included a company defense, mounted operations, NCOs from the Advanced Leadership Course, and a visit from LTG Lundy, the Commanding General of the Combined Arms Center. The FTX ended in a long, grueling march back to the Company Training Area where they were treated to a bonfire and their Drill Sergeants reading the history of the American Infantry. Gold Phase included recovery from the field, the Turning Blue Ceremony, and graduation. On 17 Feb 2017 Foxtrot Company graduated 166 brand new Infantrymen, ready to deploy to units around the world.
Copley Challenge
Lewis, Christopher G CSM US ARMY MCOE (US)

On 01 May 2017, in conjunction with the Regimental Reunion and the 100th Anniversary of the Regiment, the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry will conduct the 1st Annual “Copley Challenge,” a battalion-level endurance competition to honor of the wartime service of the Honorary Regimental Sergeant Major, CPT(R) Jay Copley, and to build a competitive spirt and esprit de corps among the Cadre and Drill Sergeants of 1-50 IN.

This challenge will consist of six events, based around tasks that our Infantrymen are trained on here at Sand Hill, to be conducted by six, two-man teams of Drill Sergeants (one team from each Company in the Battalion). Each team member will carry 40 lbs of equipment, plus weapon, and will move by foot to each of these designated stations in and around the Battalion area on Sand Hill. Team scores will be a combination of GO/NO-GO for each task, and their overall team time, from Start to Finish.

The Start and Finish point will the 1-50 Memorial in front of the BN Headquarters on Sand Hill. Members of the Association are more than welcome to watch the teams compete – just please let us know if you plan on attending. CSM Copley will announce the winning team at the Battalion Ball on 05 May 2017. The Battalion will continue to conduct this event every May in honor the anniversary of the birth of the Regiment in May 1917, and in honor of the Battle of An Bao where CSM Copley earned the Distinguished Service Cross on 05 May 1968.

Parallax Mitigation Devices
Company B

Today’s ITB Soldiers are better marksmen than ever before and will continue to progress as infantry men due to their priority as the back bone and tip-of-the spear of our military. This is due largely to the advanced training techniques and continued technological advancements in optics weapons. An infantryman's primary weapon, the M4 carbine, is the most important weapon in the United States Army’s arsenal and marksmanship is one of the most important fundamentals to an infantrymen. For this reason, the department of Defense puts a huge emphasis on advancements for the weapon and its respective optics.

After ITB Soldiers zero and qualify with iron sights, they transition to the M68 CCO to further enhance their marksmanship skills and accuracy. One of the problems, however, is that new shooters have trouble obtaining good zeroes due to the parallax associated with the M68. The M68 is, for the most part, parallax free and point of aim should equal point of impact. This is not always the case as there are minute errors that can decrease accuracy exponentially as the shooters reaches out to further and further distances. When zeroing the weapon and engaging the target, the red dot must be precisely centered every shot to ensure accurate zeroing of the weapon and accurate fire on targets. New shooters often have trouble centering the red dot and must estimate the true center of the red dot with respect to the lens. To assist with this issue and eliminate the guess work in centering the red dot, the Army began using (continued on page 7)
The New Year began with 1-50 Infantry Battalion (OSUT), as Alpha Company welcomed a new Commander, Captain Phil Axelrod, in addition to a new Executive Officer, First Lieutenant Jonathon Atwell. Even with the change, the Company remained anchored by First Sergeant Kanaan Merriken and the outstanding team of Drill Sergeants.

Alpha Company and Bravo Company each picked up a new cycle of Recruits on January 27, 2017. It was on that morning when tension and fear gripped the Recruits as they loaded the buses to their units. The very moment they stepped off the bus, they were greeted by motivated Drill Sergeants, tension and fear to intensify as they struggled to adapt to a new way of life. “I am very proud to be where I am, I am very proud that we have a class of 211 future Infantrymen who raised their right hand to serve their country during time of great international strife and uncertainty. I am very grateful to be here in order to ensure the future of the United States Army and the future of the Infantry and make sure that we are bringing trained, proficient, and professional Infantrymen to the line.” remarked Captain Axelrod, who went on to add, “Marksmanship, physical fitness, and discipline; that’s the winning combination for Infantrymen and they are going to get a whole lot of that from here.” In contrast, First Sergeant Gerald Mullins, the First Sergeant of some 198 recruits of Bravo Company is more stoic and silent regarding his 13th cycle.

(Continued on Page 10)
<table>
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<tr>
<td>1200-1800</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>Memorial Rehearsal (Tentative)</td>
<td>Bldg 3560</td>
<td>Bn CO/CSM</td>
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<td>0830-0930</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Inn</td>
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<td>Association Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>Travel to Battalion DFAC</td>
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<td>Travel to Pomeroy Field</td>
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<td>0900-0930</td>
<td>Turning Blue Ceremony</td>
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<td>Travel to BN HQ</td>
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<td>Memorial Service SMA</td>
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<td>Lunch with Soldiers</td>
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<td>Observe Graduation Ceremony</td>
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<td>1100-1130</td>
<td>Travel to Hotel and Open Time</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Battalion Spring Formal</td>
<td>River Mill</td>
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<td>0800-1200</td>
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1st Battalion 50th Infantry Association
Reunion 2 May - 5 May 2017
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) Overflow Hotel is Holiday Inn Express Ad-
dress: 1702 US 280 Bypass, Phenix City, AL 36867 Phone: (334) 298-9404

Host Hotel is the Hampton Inn and Suites, Phenix City, AL. (HOTEL IS COMPLETELY BOOKED,
PLEAASE MAKE RESERVATIONS at another hotel.) Call the Nationwide Tool-Free number: (866) 799-
3642 or call the hotel direct: (334) 6640776 for reservations. YOU MUST make your hotel reservations DI-
RECT with either the Hampton Inn and Suites or other hotel of your choice. Submitting this registration
form does NOT cover your hotel reservations. (Hospitality and Archives will be at the host hotel.) Ask for
1/50 rate of $89 (rate available for 2 - 5 May) – This special rate must be reserved by April 7th, 2017. Our
Hotel Sales Representative is Michelle Spivey, (706) 615-2900.

Registration Procedure: Registration Cutoff Dates: Registration Costs:
(Per Person)
   Early Registration: (Before 22 April, 2017) $100
   After 22 April: . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $125

Mail this form along with check to: Gary Quint, Secretary
                                      1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Association
                                      438 Fairway Lane
Meanwhile, in Delta Company, Second Lieutenants from the Infantry Basic Officer Leaders Course took a break from tactics in the field to focus on sharpening necessary administrative skills they will need. First Sergeant Matthew Peeler pitched a class on the Non-commissioned Officer evaluation report (NCOER) in addition to types and techniques of counseling. This was followed by pairing up the Lieutenants and Drill Sergeants and conducting a mock initial counseling foreshadowing their future roles as Platoon Leaders. Delta Company Executive Officer, First Lieutenant Andrew Miller, noted the class and practical exercise “were an extremely valuable experience for them to have. Being able to interact with and counsel seasoned Non-commissioned Officers better prepares them for their first initial counseling with their future Platoon Sergeant.” The entire 1-50th Battalion is confident that it will maintain its excellent standing as the premier Basic Training Battalion in Fort Benning for future cycles and for the rest of the year.