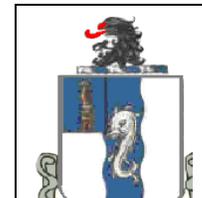


ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association

Page | 1



April 2023

From the TC Hatch

The President's Corner
By Jim Segars



Hello, fellow members,

It's almost hard to believe that another two years has passed and it's time for our next reunion. Needless to say, I am very excited that I will get to see all of you in just a month. Our reunions are very special because they bring to mind our heroes, our current soldiers at Ft. Benning, and military activities that are unique to the 1/50th. The patriotism and camaraderie we share with the troops at Ft. Benning is always a distinction of our reunions.

Thank you, John Topper for putting together the schedule. Thank you Chris Lewis and the National Infantry Museum for what you do to make our reunion an enjoyable experience. So I'll see you next month.

Play the Game,
Jimmy Segars

Taken at the 2021 reunion:



Editor: Lorene Burch

From the Hatch	Page 1
Chaplin's Corner	Page 2
Editors note	Page 2
Reunion Agenda (subject to change)	Page 3
Historian article	Page 4 & 5
The Lumberjack Saga	Page 6
Easter greetings	Page 7

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association

April 2023

Page | 2



Chaplin's Corner



Hello to everyone I hope you're experiencing good health and are ready for the reunion which is upon us. I'm currently in Gulfport wintering heading back to Missouri the 27th March, which will be very busy when we get back doing taxes and getting ready for the reunion. Will have to leave early for my grandson's wedding on the 22nd of April.

Hopefully you will get this news letter before the reunion and I urge each of you to make an effort to attend, we're not getting any younger and the years are flying by so I'll sign off for now.

The Bible verses I'll leave you with are Matthew 5:44-48: "But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than the others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect".

Take care and remember God loves you. Toby.

Please send any request or concerns by contacting me by the following.

lawrencejordan30@yahoo.com

Phone no. 573-379-0875

Editor's note:

Lorene Burch



Greetings All:

Am looking forward to seeing many of you shortly after you all receive this newsletter. If things go as planned you should have it in your hands at least a week before the reunion.

It is my hope that you feel this is your newsletter and you are comfortable with sending in articles or ideas that you would like to see printed here. I do enjoy reading your stories and updates. Thanks for allowing me to serve as your Editor for so many years.

Sincerely,

Lorene Burch

thelmaburch@gmail.com

785-452-2978

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association

Page | 3



April 2023

1ST BATTALION, 50TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

2023 REUNION SCHEDULE As of 6 March 2023

DTG	EVENT	LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY
627 17 April	Monday		
1500	Coordination	Bn HQ	Topper/Lewis
18 April	Tuesday		
1200-1800	Registration	Hampton Inn Phenix City	Alumni Association
1500	Rehearsal	Bn HQ	Topper/Lewis
1800-2100	Reception (Open Mic)	Hampton Inn (Hospitality)	Melendez/Association
19 April	Wednesday		
0830-0930	Executive Committee Meeting	Hampton Inn	Jim Segars
0930-1045	Association Annual Meeting	Hampton Inn	Jim Segars
1100-1145	Travel to Battalion DFAC	Bus	1/50 Escort
1200-1300	Lunch	DFAC	Association
1300-1330	Travel to Museum	Bus	Association
1330-1430	Documentary	Museum	Association
1430 -1530	Museum Tour	Museum	Chris Lewis
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 (Celestine)	Activity Center, Uchee	Battalion
2000-2045	Travel to Hotel	Bus	1/50 Escort
2045-2200	Hospitality Room Open	Hampton Inn	1/50 Escort
20 April	Thursday		
0800-0900	Travel to Pomeroy Field	Bus	1/50 Escort
0900-0930	"Turning Blue" Ceremony	Pomeroy Field	Battalion
0945-1015	Travel to BN HQ	BLDG 3560	Battalion
1015-1100	Wreath Ceremony (Choppa)	BLDG 3560	Battalion
1100-1145	Sims Dedication/Reception	BLDG 3560	Association/Battalion
1200-1330	Lunch with Soldiers	BLDG 3560	Association
1330-1430	Battalion Briefings	BLDG 3560	Battalion
1430-1500	Travel to Hotel	BLDG 3560	1/50 Escort
1730-1800	Travel to Benning Club	Bus	Association
1800-2200	Association Banquet (CG)	Benning Club	Association
2200-2230	Travel to Hotel	Bus	1/50 Escort
2230	Hospitality Room Open	Hampton Inn	1/50 Escort
21 April	Friday		
0730-0800	Travel to Inouye Field	Bus	1/50 Escort
0900-1000	Graduation Ceremony	Company D	Battalion
1100-1120	Copley Bench Dedication	NIM	Honorary Cmd Team
1100-1130	Travel to Hotel and Open Time	Bus	Association
22 April	Saturday		
0800-1200	Checkout	Hampton Inn	Association

The highlighted areas are subject to change, an updated schedule will be handed out at the hotel.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association

April 2023

Page | 4



TIME LINE OF A HISTORIAN AND HIS LIBRARY

JIM SHEPPARD, JULY, 2020

From the time I was elected Historian of the Association, I vowed not to be a Historian in name only. I did not want to be one of those ego inflated people who simply puff up their chest and boast of their important position. I wanted to become a true historian.

Initially, my quest was to become a knowledgeable historian for all things related to the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry in Vietnam...and I began visiting the National Archives Text Records facility in College Park Maryland to obtain copies of documentation for our unit's history. To make a long story short, my goals morphed into becoming a historian for all things related to the 50th Infantry Regiment...and in 2014, I completed a complete history timeline of the regiment from the time it was formed in 1917 to the current training battalion at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Along the way, another important factor entered into my personal evolution as a historian. At our 50th Infantry Association Reunion in 2005, I was holding court in my Archives Display room at our host hotel in Columbus Georgia. Our association archives had gotten to a size that no longer could be accommodated in a studio type hotel room...and I had a conference room at my disposal for the first time. It was crowded with files containing documentation I had been copying for 6 years at the National Archives. I was beginning to pride myself with being quite the historian indeed. I had several people in that room one afternoon and the conversations drifted into a discussion about Bernard Fall's books on Vietnam. To be sure, I was familiar with the title "Street without Joy"...but suddenly I realized how little I actually knew about the entire Vietnam war...particularly the history of that part of Indo China where our "American War" took place. To say the least, I was somewhat embarrassed to realize that...although I was gaining respect as a historian of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry; I was not necessarily a true historian of the Vietnam conflict my unit participated in all those years before.

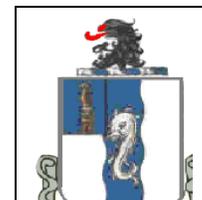
And so it began. One by one, I bought all of Bernard Falls Books...and read them...cover to cover. He was not an easy author to read...as he tended to write rambling sentences that were crammed with fact after fact. To be honest, although I came away from reading his books hoping to read many more offerings on the war going forward...I was taken by the fact that so many people in power during "my war" had more or less completely discounted his warnings and his complete history of the war. I must also admit that I got the best understanding of Bernard Fall and his life from a book his wife wrote after his death. She created a compilation of all of his work into an excellent biography that became my most favorite "Fall" book.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association

April 2023

Page | 5



Over the ensuing 15 years, I amassed quite a Vietnam Library...now totaling over 500 volumes. I concentrated in obtaining mostly (about 98%) hardcover editions...and admittedly...most of my books other than the reference portion deal with the U. S. Army. 142 of these books are strictly "Series" reference books...and the remainder are reference as well as memoirs and other books...mostly written by men who served in Vietnam. Two of these series collections are my complete collection of the "Foreign Relations of the United States in Vietnam"...consisting of 29 volumes covering the period from 1945 to 1975. Many of these volumes are no longer available.



Many are extremely rare. One of the Volumes (1950) I purchased to complete this set cost over \$200.00! a half dozen others were over \$100.00 each.

My second most prized collection is "The Pentagon Papers".

In November of 2011, Nimble Publishing began publishing what was to be a 14 book publication of the entire version. The books were rather expensive and crude but legible copies of the actual National Archives 7000+ page offering. After receiving 9 books, I detected that two of the book's covers were mislabeled with incorrect dates. I contacted the publishing company and complained. I received promises that the book would be corrected...but no such correction was ever made and a refund was sent for the price of 1 of the books.



Adding insult to injury, the remaining 5 books were never published. Numerous emails to the publisher resulted in promises that never came to fruition. I finally gave up and obtained the missing book content via the National Archives download offering. I "created" copies of the missing books by printing these pages and loading them into loose-leaf notebooks of approximately the same size as the Nimble Books...matching the colors of same. I relabeled the entire 14 book set to accurately reflect time-order and contents of each book. The National Archives .pdf versions aside, my self-created set may be the only printed hard copy of its kind in existence.

Between my Foreign Relations series and the Pentagon Papers, I can document a wealth of information from every portion of the American War between 1945 and 1975.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association

April 2023

Page | 6



The Lumberjack Saga!

© **Jim Hobbs**, 2002. All rights reserved.

Note: Jim Hobbs was the Battalion Supply NCO for the final months at LZ Uplift, the boat ride down, and the first months in Phan Thiet when we were building a battalion base camp on the sand from scratch.

Soon after the battalion arrived to our tent city at LZ Betty, I worked with Jerry Isbell, our man in Cam Rahm Bay, who sweated blood to "requisition" a pallet of 2 x 4's so we could build up our tents better and construct other needed items. They came in by boat one day and we loaded them by hand on a truck and brought them to the camp. I had to go somewhere with the Chief, and told the guys where and how I wanted them stacked. I also told them to be sure to cover the lumber.

We were gone maybe an hour and got back just in time to see the last of the lumber disappear onto a truck with a beaming Battalion XO MAJ Harvey Buckles looking like he thought he'd died and gone to the lumberyard in the sky! The first thing I did was grab a bunch of troops and chew some ass for the failure to cover the lumber so that MAJ Buckles happened to walk by and see it, just when he was looking for lumber to build, of all useless things, a damned Officers' Club!!!

Well, by the time I got up to the Major I was so damn mad I could have bit a ten penny nail in two. I took off my cap and wiped my forehead and in a gruff voice said, "Major, can't I steal anything around without you taking it away from me?" He thought that was hilarious and said, "This lumber doesn't come marked 'US Government', its marked 'H.I. Buckles'." I was just steaming and he wouldn't even bargain with me, so I didn't get a splinter of that pallet of 2 x 4's.

When I cooled off a bit, I suggested he should name the Officer's Club after me but he wouldn't: however, he did grant me lifetime membership for my contribution to the cause. I could feel free to come up and have a drink and watch a couple skin flicks, but we won't talk about them... they were small consolation.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association

Page | 7



April 2023

No matter how you chose to celebrate Easter, wishes for a day filled with blessings.



ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association

April 2023



Gary Quint
438 Fairway Lane
Kirkwood, Mo. 63122

Page | 8

