



ON THE RIGHT TRACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK

AUGUST 2013

COVER PAGE

From the tc hatch

Jimmy segars



Wow! That's the word that constantly comes to mind as I think about our latest reunion held this past April 30-May 4. Everything that happened was so moving; each event seemed to build more and more into an unforgettable experience.

And unforgettable is the word I use to describe the culminating event: our Welcome Home after these 45 years! The look on each of us told the story - we had finally been recognized as being the same as all other American soldiers who have fought for our country. No longer do we have to wait and wonder if our country will ever recognize that. Perhaps that day, we had closure. I especially want to thank Lt. Col. Thomas, the soldiers of the 1/50th and the museum staff and officials who made it all happen. Thanks to everyone who had a hand in pulling off such a wonderful surprise!

The BBQ where the soldiers of the 1/50th formed a receiving line for us with cheers was most appreciated as well. Our hearts were overwhelmed. The turning blue ceremony was great because almost every soldier that was graduating had a family member there for the meaningful event. Although we veterans like the privilege of putting the cords on these new soldiers, we were thrilled to know that their families took the time to do so. That's one time not being needed was a good thing. I felt honored to be able to witness the graduation of B Company since that was my company in Vietnam. The demonstration by the modern-day warriors plus the energized band made the event unusually entertaining.

The banquet was fun; and as usual, our group stepped up to the plate and came through on the auction. Thanks to all who took part in organizing and carrying out the week's festivities. Lt. Col. Nelson, DI's Roedl and Jones and Sgt. Major Woods along with Mike McCardell really rolled out the red carpet for us.

I couldn't wait to get there to see if the M113 would be waiting at the 1/50th barracks. Sure enough, there it was. Mike McCardell and Lt. Col. Nelson tried very hard to please all of us with the project of procuring the armored personnel carrier that is just like those we used in Vietnam. We don't know if we will get to keep it, but we are hoping we will. And finally, but certainly not last, we were all looking forward to the dedication and memorial services. The Ft. Benning personnel went the extra mile in making the grounds, including our memorial, look very nice for these services. The plaques and painting were very well done. As the speaker in a very deep, commanding voice called out the names and read the biographies of those soldiers whose names appeared on the plaques, we were all deeply moved by the somberness of the service and the courage and love of country and their fellow men exhibited by these men who gave their all. They will be forever honored with these permanent plaques on the buildings of the 1/50th. They, in turn, represent all the men on our memorial. Heart-felt thanks to everyone at Ft. Benning who participated in making this possible. God bless you.

Thank you to the membership for the honor of serving as your president for another term. I love representing our association, which by the way had a record attendance at this past reunion. It would be great to surpass that number in 2015. Play the game!



Noah James Copeland in Drill Sgt. Woods' cover.

Many thanks to Gwen & Don Rainwater for allowing the use of one of their personal photographs for the creation of our brand-new cover page header for the 1/50th newsletter. We are grateful to all contributors for the current issue and look

REST IN PEACE

Richard Kerr

December 16, 1937 - July 9, 2013
Whitney, Texas.

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Lorene Burch, Editor

Billie McGregor, Editorial Assistant

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2013-2015 Association Officers

Elections are held every two years during the General Membership Business Meeting at the reunion. At the Fourth Fort Benning Reunion in April of 2013, the following were re-elected to office for a two-year term from 2013 to 2015.

President	Jim Segars
V. President	Robert Melendez
Treasurer	Chuck McAleer
Secretary	Gary Quint
Honorary Colonel 50 th Inf. Reg.	Dick Guthrie
Historian/Archivist	Jim Sheppard
Chaplain	Toby Jordan
Chairman Emeritus	Ken Riley
Legal Counsel	Harry Wilson
Honorary Sgt Major 50 th Inf. Reg.	Jay Copley



Ladies Home Front Team

Loretta Segars

What an awesome reunion we had!

Everything was great and quite emotional. Thanks to Lt. Col. Nelson and his cadre for making us all feel so special.

The cookbook project went well. We sold approximately 40+ cookbooks and left most of the remainder on post. I have a few to mail out; so if you who did not get to come to the reunion want one, please send me a note by e-mail to segars-jim-lor@charter.net or by mail at the address below. The price plus postage is \$20 per cookbook.



Loretta Segars, 2323 Half-Sectionline Road, Albertville, Alabama 35950

Plans are in the making for the Wreaths Across America trip. The wreath-laying event is on December 14. We have blocked out 4 rooms for the entire week of December 9-14 and 15 rooms for the 12-14 with checkout on the morning of the 15th. That way we can tour Washington, DC, without being rushed. The discounted rate for our group is different for days during the week as opposed to the weekend. For those of you wishing to stay all week, the rate is \$159 a day for double occupancy Monday-Wednesday. Then your rate changes for the target days of Thursday-Saturday to \$108 with check out on Sunday. Several of you signed up to go or are interested in going. That's great. We can accommodate all who want to go and add more rooms to the full week block if you let us know soon. The block of rooms will be held until the 15th of November, so that is the deadline to sign up. Thank all of you for your interest and support. This trip is very meaningful.



An informal itinerary will be posted in the next newsletter to come out around December 1. To book a room, contact the Crystal City Marriott in Arlington, VA, at 1-703-413-5500 or 1-800-228-9290 and let them know that you are part of the 1/50th Infantry Association group to arrive in December. You do not have to stay the whole week if you do not want to. The rooms are reserved for that length of time for those who want to come early. Jimmy and I are planning to come in around noon on Wednesday. Thank you and I hope to see many of you there.

Please tear off and send to Loretta Segars, 2323 Half-Sectionline Road, Albertville, AL 35950 as soon as possible.

☐

Yes, I plan to attend the Wreaths Across America event

Name _____ Phone number _____

Email address _____

Days attending in December _____ Expected time of arrival _____

Reunion 2013

John Topper

Thanks everyone for the great support shown for the reunion this spring. There are too many people to thank so I won't even try to name them all. Those of us who attended had a great time and I frankly don't know how we can possibly do better in 2015. However, we have thought the same thing after each of the past reunions, so maybe we can do better.

The expenses this year were quite manageable and we were able to hold the per person registration fee to the previous year's amount. We can probably do the same next reunion if we plan well and can get the same deal on buses as we did this year. That was the single most important factor in keeping this year's costs down.

It is almost two years away, but the time will pass quickly and now is not too early to begin thinking about what we want to have happen at the next Fort Benning reunion. We had a special opportunity this year with the dedication of the buildings and fitness field. That won't happen again, so we need to come up with some equally good ideas that will make the next reunion similarly memorable.

This year we dedicated a work of art in honor of Toby Hamon, something we hadn't done before, but it turned out to be a good idea and worked well. Perhaps we could do something similar in 2015 - any ideas? All suggestions are considered - and greatly appreciated. Working with the battalion to provide something that not only provides us with a sense of satisfaction but also benefits the soldiers currently serving is a worthy goal, so please let me know what you think.

The sequence of events we follow seems to work well, but if you have other ideas I would appreciate your thoughts. The Benning Club provided the best banquet we have had yet and using that facility gave us some significant savings over the 2011 reunion banquet. I thought it worked well, but again, if you have another view, let me know.

The next reunion is almost two years away, but there will be a change of command next June and that gives us an opportunity for a mini-reunion. If you attend, we can talk about what we want to do in 2015. Until then...PLAY THE GAME!

2013 MeMorial CereMony

We were honored to attend a memorial ceremony for the following soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Because of space it is impossible to print the entire ceremony, so if you would like to read the entire ceremony please go to the Facebook page for the 1/50th.

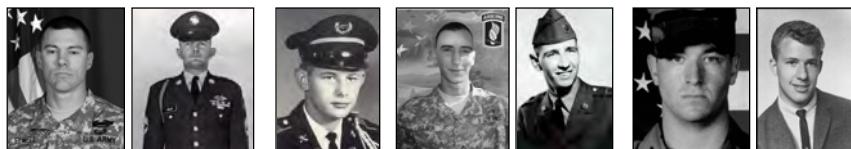
Today we are gathered to witness the dedication and memorial service for the fallen veterans of the Fiftieth Infantry Regiment. In keeping with tradition, facilities that are named in honor of our heroes are decorated with a bronze plaque, which identifies the name of the hero for which it is dedicated and forever memorialized.

Here is the list of the buildings named for them and the honorees:

1st BTN, 50th INF REG HQ BLDG is named **Elwell Hall** in honor of **1SG KENNETH B. ELWELL**
 A CO, 1st BTN, 50th INF REG BLDG is named **Dulac Hall** in honor of **1SG MALCOM C. DULAC**
 B CO, 1st BTN, 50th INF REG BLDG is named **Shipley Hall** in honor of **SGT DREW D. SHIPLEY**
 C CO, 1st BTN, 50th INF REG BLDG is named **Wilson Hall** in honor of **PFC THOMAS R. WILSON**
 E CO, 1st BTN, 50th INF REG BLDG is named **Dunlop Hall** in honor of **SSG JOHNSTON DUNLOP**
 F CO, 1st BTN, 50th INF REG BLDG is named **Kennedy Hall** in honor of **SGT ADAM P. KENNEDY**
 1st BTN, 50th INF REG PT/TNG FIELD is named **Lowe Field** in honor of **CPL DONALD E. LOWE**

NARRATOR : Mr. Parker Pierce

*There's a breathless hush in the Close tonight
 Ten to make and the match to win --
 A bumping pitch and a blinding light
 An hour to play and the last man in.
 And it's not for the sake of a rib boned coat,
 Or the selfish hope of a season's fame
 But his Captain's hand on his shoulder smote
 "Play up! Play up! and play the game!"
 The sand of the desert is sodden red, --
 Red with the wreck of a square that broke; --
 The Gatling's jammed and the colonel dead,
 And the regiment blind with dust and smoke.
 The river of death has brimmed his banks,
 And England's far, and Honor a name,
 But the voice of a schoolboy rallies the ranks,
 "Play up! Play up! and play the game!"
 This is the word that year by year
 While in her place the School is set
 Every one of her sons must hear,
 And none that hears it dare forget.
 This they all with a joyful mind
 Bear through life like a torch in flame,
 And falling fling to the host behind --
 "Play up! Play up! and Play the Game!"*



ELWELL

DULAC

SHIPLEY

WILSON

DUNLOP

KENNEDY

LOWE

GATHERING AT THE RIVER WALK Ken Riley



San Antonio was picked as the city of choice for the "In-between" mini-reunion - even years - at the last Fort Benning Reunion. So based on this fact; I have requested, and received from Twenty-Two (22) San Antonio hotels a proposal for either the week of May 5-6-7-8 and 9 2014 or May 19-20-21-22-and 23 of May same year. Once I make an "On-Site" visit to the three that seem to provide our association members with "the most for the least", that decision will be made by the next newsletter! SO --- please plan on attending one of those two weeks --- and please keep in mind, once decided as to which hotel will be our host for one of those time periods, you will have until April 15 of 2014 to book your room at the reduced rate (which I will include in the next newsletter). The main drawback is for either block of days during May, I can get a block of FORTY (40) rooms max - so chances are if you wait until Tax Day next year to reserve a room, there will be none available.

In my site visit; hopefully in September of this year, I plan to find attractions to set up as volunteer visit sites -- meaning no one is required to hop on a bus to visit -- although I do plan to have one day of bus tours and such lined up. Since the Alamo and River Walk, as well as the River Center Mall, are all within easy walking distance of any of the properties, I see no need to waste your (and my) money on buses. I would like this to be very similar to the Gettysburg venture some of you participated in a year or three ago in that there are enough things within walking distance to please most.

We also will have access to a Hospitality Room within the hotel in which those who wish to reminisce may do so. I hope to have One (1) evening of a Get-Together for the whole group within the hotel for dinner and some entertainment. The rest of the days - and evenings - will be yours to explore San Antonio's finest!

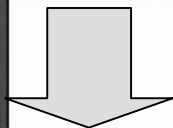
For those not familiar with The River Walk, they have a gondola tour of the San Antonio River included within the walk's boundaries; dozens of restaurants and lounges, and one or two "off-the-wall" lounges/restaurants. There are several Spanish Colonial missions, a zoo, theme parks, museums, and art galleries all within an easy walk or drive. Ripley's Museum is a short walk away as is the Texas Ranger Museum.

Dining experiences from the mild to super hot exist all around you. Villa España, Irish Flat, Mexican Market, Sauerkraut Bend, Chinatown and French Quarter are just some of the places that entertain crowds as they gobble up a vast array of tasty treats sold at 250 booths. For those that must; there are several military installations within the area; including Fort Sam Houston and Lackland Air Force Base. One may also book a golfing getaway, travel through the Hill Country, and walk one of the many hiking trails close by!

So - once again, all details, plus a reservation form will be provided in the next newsletter, with all the gory details for you so you can make the call and get that room booked. See ya'll there!



**Formal 1/50th
Group Reunion Photo
with representation
from among active
duty personnel,
Ft. Benning, GA.
2013**



Left to right: Jed Davis, Sam Luna, Craig Reed, Keith Rennerfeldt, Terry Gauthier, Marvin Brophy, Keith LaRue, Steve Seid, Duane Quello, and Rich Vanderloop. This is only a few who came for the first time.



Richard Kerr
12/06/1937 – 07/09/2013



Dennis Apana, Dennis Driscoll, Janet and John Topper attended the Memorial service for Richard Kerr.



Dick Guthrie as he walks through the "Welcome Home" Heroes Celebration.



Parker Pierce speaks with graduates after the Heroes Welcome for 1/50th Vietnam Veterans.



Don Rainwater



Jay Copley



Robert Melendez



Cynthia Guthrie looks forward to her yummy MRE



From the Editor

Lorene Burch



Attention!!

All members of the 1/50th
we need your help.

I've been fortunate to retain my position as Editor of the 1/50th Association Newsletter for another two years and I am grateful for the honor. For the past two years, Billie and I have worked to incorporate some new ideas into the newsletter. We share a common philosophy that this newsletter is for the benefit of the association members and all others are secondary to that effort. We want to bring issues and concerns that are important to you. It's your voices we would like to hear and your stories we want to tell and highlight.

We have some suggestions for items of interest to submit and a few guidelines to follow. So help us out and be an active participant in YOUR newsletter and send us some news!! We look forward to hearing from you!

Send all submissions to thelmaburch@gmail.com or to 126 S. Ohio, Apt. 1 (that is I as in Irene), Salina, Kansas, 67401. If you have any questions you may send a text or leave a message at 785-452-2978.

Here are some suggestions of things you can send in to us.

- 1.) We are especially interested in knowing about our members and their activities, such as visiting vets in hospitals or nursing homes. Tell us about someone you may have visited, what branch of the service were they in? Was it a young Vet or an older one?
- 2.) Member participation in respective communities for veteran related events and celebrations. What's your VFW or American Legion doing for the next Vets related occasion? What charities do they participate in? Do you have a picture? Send us one!
- 3.) We wish to know who is in need of prayer and should be added to the prayer list. Is your loved one injured or sick? Do you have a relative overseas in the military? We have a network of prayer groups within the 1/50th Association from a variety of spiritual pathways. We can make sure names get out and get on prayer lists for healing and well-being. All we need to do is post prayers needed on the bulletin board! It's that easy. You can bet that there are quite a few who will take that name and start lifting in prayer and healing right away!
- 4.) Please notify us if a member of member relative has passed away so we can place a memorial notice in the next newsletter following the notification. We always make room for a memorial notice for the loss of loved ones. If there is an online guest-book, let us know so we can leave condolences or instructions how to mail a card.
- 5.) If you have a story or article that you have written please think of submitting it. We love to get your poetry or any other examples of your creative talent that we can share with the membership. Writing is often employed in healing and many times vets use writing as a means to help grow beyond the darkest days and into the brighter ones. Can your story help someone else? Is it time to share? Think about submitting it to the newsletter.
- 6.) If you have a topic for an article that you would like to see us include in the newsletter, please let us know.

Guidelines for submission –

- 1.) Articles should be kept to no longer than a single page. A picture with a caption is fine.
- 2.) Any articles that need improvements in grammar and structure will be edited. We will make you aware of this in advance and seek your permission. It's always helpful if you at least spell-check before you submit your articles, it just saves time on this end.
- 3.) Articles must be free of obscenity, racism, or attacks on anyone for their religious beliefs, political affiliation or sexual orientation. We've never received anything like this, but we want to be sure we never do.
- 4.) The newsletter staff will reserve the right to allow or disqualify any recommendations based solely upon the best interest of the association.
- 5.) We may not use your article at the time it is sent in, but may choose to file it away to use at a future date.

additional association contacts

Reunion Committee Chairperson:	John Topper	jtl@psci.net
Website Committee:	Jim Sheppard (Content & Updates)	kiss-ac@juno.com
Website Technical Contact:	R. J. Smith (Technical Support)	rjsmith@ichiban1.org

50th Infantry Regiment

A HISTORY & TIMELINE

Jim Sheppard

As the 20th Infantry Division began to take shape and train for deployment to Middle and Lower Silesia near Germany, the Spanish Influenza outbreak decimated the regiment's ranks as well as those of the entire military installation. The entire camp was quarantined on September 23rd, 1918, until the outbreak subsided. Hundreds died from this outbreak.



Camp Sevier

The Armistice between the Allies and Germany ended the fighting in the First World War. It went into effect at 11 am on 11 November 1918...thus ending the need for the mobilization of the 20th Infantry Division for war. The 20th Division was demobilized on 25 February 1919.

- The 50th Infantry Regiment was relieved from Assignment to the 20th Infantry Division on the 28th of February 1919.



Company "H" at Camp Sevier, October of 1918

The Regiment had already received its orders that it would be deployed to Europe as part of the occupation forces when relieved from assignment to the 20th Infantry Division. They were, in fact, moved to Camp Dix, New Jersey in December of 1918 until departing by ship from the port of Hoboken, New Jersey on October 16, 1919.

- In November of 1919 the 50th Infantry Regiment was assigned to the 2nd Brigade, Armed Forces in Germany and stationed near Laacher See, Mayen, Germany. (Near Koblenz and the Rhein River)



50th Infantry at Laacher See, August 1921



Headquarters, 50th Infantry, Laacher See, Germany, August 1921. Note the horses. The infantry was still reliant on Horses and Mules for transport of men and material during and after World War I. Of note: During this occupation, Sergeant Edward F. Younger, 50th Infantry, was chosen to select the 1st "unknown soldier". to be entombed at Arlington National Cemetery.

- The 50th Infantry Regiment was inactivated on December 31, 1921
- The Regiment was demobilized on July 31, 1922.
- On February 15, 1942, the regiment was activated at Fort Knox, Kentucky.
- On March 20, 1942, the regiment was assigned to the 6th Armored Division and moved to Camp Chaffee, Arkansas where they participated in the August to September Louisiana Maneuvers.

Headquarters for the maneuvers was the newly built Camp Polk (later Fort Polk).

- The Regiment was transferred to Camp Young, California on October 11, 1942 and to Camp Cooke, California, on March 19, 1943.
- It was while at Camp Cooke that the regiment was redesignated, less the 1st and second battalions, as the 50th Armored Infantry Battalion. The 1st and 2nd Battalions were redesignated as the 44th and 9th Armored Infantry Battalions, respectively. (Historian's note: Since these Battalions were redesignated into other Regimental lineage, they are not chronicled here during this period. In essence, what had been the 3rd Battalion became the only battalion of the 50th Infantry Regiment and "carried the colors" of the regiment until 1956. It should be noted, however, that the 9th and 44th Armored Infantry Battalions also served in the 6th Armored Division and participated in the same campaigns as the 50th Armored infantry Battalion)