

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association



April 2015

Cover Page

From the TC Hatch

By Jim Seagers

President's Corner

Greetings, fellow 1/50th members,

Well, it's almost time. That's right. Our next reunion is just around the corner. I can't wait, and hope all of you can't either and have your reservations ready to send in; if you haven't done so already. Each reunion seems even better than the one before; and we always leave saying, "How can we top this one because it was so moving and exciting?" With all the special events planned this year, I expect it will be even better once again.

I especially want to thank John Topper and the cadre at Ft. Benning for all the planning they have put into all our reunions. As usual, Jim Shepherd, our historian, will have a wealth of information for you to study.

We will have a special addition to our memorial with our customary ceremony that honors our KIA's and their families. We now have a permanent APC at the battalion. When we tour the National Infantry Museum, we will see the

newest addition, the Traveling Vietnam Wall. Along with the BBQ, banquet, and activities with the soldiers at Ft. Benning, we will re-establish long-term friendships and connect with several new members. It's going to be great.

Our association is especially proud that we will have several new faces at our reunion this year. You "old timers" I'm sure will make them feel welcome immediately as they arrive. Thanks and see all of you soon. It appears that we will have a record turn-out.

Sincerely,
Jimmy Segars

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Ladies Home Front Team



A picture taken at the 2011 Reunion

Ladies, we have not been very active this year. So we will have a meeting when the men have the executive meeting. Can't wait to see all of you. Play the Game.

Thanks! Also, we are planning to have some mementos to purchase at the reunion.

Lorretta Segars, Ladies
Home Front

From the Editor: Lorene Burch



I am excited to see how the new event "Let's Talk" turns out. It is my hope that many of you consider to participate in this opportunity. Roger and I have learned over the years that being open not only helps him to deal with some of the residual of Vietnam, but it also helps me to understand better why certain things bother him. We have been working on this for 45 1/2 years and continue to learn new things everyday, by keeping the lines of communication open.

If you are nervous about getting in front of a group and would like to share your story; please feel free to submit it to be placed in the news letter. Our stories need to be heard to help those who are afraid to speak out, so they will know they are not alone.

Opportunities for Learning Offered by the VA

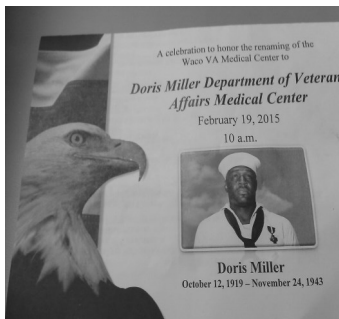
Roger A. Burch just spent 6 weeks in training at the Waco Texas VA, to use the equipment furnished by the VA to deal with the loss of most of his eye sight due to Maculate Degeneration.

They renamed it to the Doris Miller Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center while he was there. Mr. Miller was a cook on the USS West Virginia in Pearl Harbor. He left the kitchen went to an anti aircraft gun he had not been trained on and is credited for taking down 4 of Japan's planes.

He was the first African American to be awarded the Navy Cross.

"Dori" died in action on the USS Liscome Bay when it was sunk by a Japanese submarine during the battle of Makin on November 24, 1943.

(This information was gotten from an article written by
Lorea H. Johnson.)



May we never forget the brave men and women who have answered the call to protect our country and our freedom.

A New Opportunity at the Reunion in Ft. Benning

LET'S TALK

Hello, I'm Russ Roth (D Co. & A Co. Medic, 1968) and I'm inviting you to a new activity at this year's reunion called **Warrior's Open Mic**. The war touched us in various ways and many of us are still dealing with its effects to this day. **Open Mic** will allow us to share our thoughts and feelings about our experiences.

WHEN/WHERE

Tuesday 28 April @ 1700 Hours (5:00 pm)
Hospitality Suite @ Hampton Inn

RULES

Open To Any Association Member, Family Member Or Guest
Can Be About War Experiences From A Soldier's Perspective
Can Be About War Experiences From A Family Member Supporting A Soldier
Can Be Letters, Poetry, Musings Or Rants
Each Reader Will Be Allotted 10 Minutes To Read And/Or Answer Questions



<http://cygig.blogspot.com>

SIGN UP

Dick Guthrie: rpgu3@sbcglobal.net

Include Your Name
Unit You Served With
Two Sentences About How You Want To Be Introduced

Welcome to our new members: William A. Kahmann, Randy Goebler, Robert A. Elkowitz, Charles E. Johnson, Jesse D. Michael, Frances B. Lynch, Richard G. Silvas, Philip D. Whittington, and Henry F. Fair.

Hope to see you at the reunion.

Death: Edwardo Arispe from:
San Antonio, TX. Passed on July 12,
2014. May he rest in peace.

Chaplain's Corner

"He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us."

2 Corinthians 1:4 (Message)





From The Desk of the Historian
Jim Sheppard
Charlie & Headquarters Company, 1965-1968

01 April 2015

Historian Report – New names memorialized

Greetings everyone!

Once again I am beginning my "Busy Months" leading up to our next gathering at Fort Benning, Georgia. The highlight of this reunion will be the dedication of a new item that will reshape our monument/memorial area in front of the Battalion Headquarters.

As many of you now know, years ago, while we were engaged with the enemy in Binh Dinh Province, there were two units who shared our 50th Infantry Regimental designation...that of "E" and "F" Companies (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry. "E" Company served with the 9th Infantry Division in the delta region and "F" Company served with the 25th Infantry Division North and East of Saigon.

These units, while not a contiguous part of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry, were an interesting revelation in my beginning years of Research as Historian of the Association. As time went on...and we began our memorial efforts, we now know that we included one man who served in "E" Company on our original memorial, James Dillard. Sources available to us at the time of the original memorial construction did not afford us the names of others from "E" and "F" who fell in battle.

With the creation of the modern day 50th Infantry's "E" and "F" Companies juxtaposed with the improved Coffelt Database of Vietnam Casualties as an accurate source...it was decided that we should add the men from these long range patrol units to our memorial. We also will include several men who were killed while serving with two additional 50th Infantry Designations...that of "E" and "F" Company (Security Police) in DaNang which were formed after the long range patrol designations evolved into 75th Ranger units.



We will be adding a new obelisk in the memorial area that will contain the names of 33 "E" and "F" Company men killed in action, as well as 3 other individuals who were killed in action after transfer from our 1st Battalion to other combat units in Vietnam.

I will be attempting to locate family and friends of these men to invite them to our memorial service on April 30th. Some have already been found and have committed to attend.

Following are the names to be added to our Memorial:

Leroy Benjamin Aiken, E/50 (Security)
Michael Morris Alley, HHC, 5/7th Cav. (Former "D" Company SP4)
Richard Roy Bellwood, E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
James David Brown, F/50 (Security)
Joseph Philip Castagna, E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Roger Ridgely Chambliss, F/50 (Security)
Herbert Pok Dong Cho, E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Steven Edward Collier, F/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Johnston Dunlop, E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Reid Ernest Grayson, Jr., F/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Lawrence Douglass Greene, "D" Co., 4/503rd (Former "C" Company CO)
Howard Brown Handley, F/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Thomas Wayne Hodge, E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
George Jonathan House, E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Milton Charles Hunter, F/50 (Security)
Joseph Melvin Jones, E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Gregory Richard Kelly, "B" Trp., 3/4 Cav, Operating with F/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Kenneth Lancaster, E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Robert John Loehlein, Jr., E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Ronald Avery Mall, E/50 (Security)
Roman Gale Mason, E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Gary Richard McFall, F/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Hubert Arthur Meredith, F/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Leon David Moore, E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Ronald Kelvin Moore, E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Charles Dennis Pekny, F/50 (Long Range Patrol)
William Piaskowski, E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Lorenzo Sewell, F/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Charles Leroy Stewart, F/50 (Security)
Raymond Walter Sullivan, F/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Richard Vickers Thompson, E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Antonio Tony Tosa, E/50 (Security)
Herbert Lee Vaughn, E/50 (Long Range Patrol)
John Herbert White, Jr., F/50 (Long Range Patrol)
Paul Richard Withrow, "B" Co, 1/22 Inf. (Former "C" Company SP4)
Delbert Roy Wood, F/50 (Security)
I am looking forward to seeing many friends...old and new...at the coming Reunion!



Sincerely,

Jim Sheppard

Association Historian/Archivist

Be sure to fill out the form below and mail it in before April 20th to insure getting the best price for the reunion.

1st Battalion 50th Infantry Association

Reunion 28 April - 1 May 2015

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 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 (27 Apr - 2 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) \$225

After 20 April:\$250

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: 28 Apr Evening Reception
1 May Buses Dinner for Guests
29 Apr Lunch, Dinner, Buses Gifts for Hosts Memorial Addition
30 May Lunch, Dinner, Buses Event Shirt Door Prizes

1ST BATTALION, 50TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE 2015

As of 23 March

DTG	EVENT	LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY
28 Apr	Tuesday		
1200-1800	Registration	Hampton Inn Phenix City	Alumni Association
1700	Open Microphone	Hospitality Room	HCOR
1800-2100	Reception	Hampton Inn	Association
29 Apr	Wednesday		
0830-0930	Executive Committee Meeting (the Ladies will meet during this time, place TBA)	Hampton Inn/TBD	Jim Segars
0930-1045	Association Annual Meeting	Hospitality Room	Jim Segars
1100-1130	Travel to Battalion DFAC	Bus	1/50 Escort
1130-1300	Lunch	DFAC	Association
1300-1330	Travel to Museum	Bus	Association
1330-1530	Tour Museum/Vietnam Wall	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	1/50 Bn Cdr
2000-2045	Travel to Hotel	Bus	1/50 Escort
2045-2200	Hospitality Room Open	Hampton Inn	Association
30 Apr	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 Escort
1000-1030	Memorial Service	BLDG 3560	1/50 Bn Cdr
1030-1100	Monument Dedication	BLDG 3560	1/50 Bn Cdr
1100-1200	Reception/Ceremony	BLDG 3560	Association
1200-1300	Lunch with Soldiers (MRE)	BLDG 3560	Association
1300-1330	Travel to Museum Satellite	Bus	1/50 Escort
1330-1600	Tour Relocation Yard	Museum Satellite	1/50 Escort
1600-1630	Travel to Hotel	Bus	1/50 Escort
1730-1800	Travel to Marriott Center	Bus	1/50 Escort
1800-2200	Association Banquet	Marriott Center	Association
2200-2230	Travel to Hotel	Bus	1/50 Escort
2230-UTC	Hospitality Room Open	Hampton Inn	Association
1 May	Friday		
0830-1000	Travel to Patriot Field	Bus	1/50 Escort
1000-1100	Observe Graduation Ceremony	Companies C&E	Association
1100-1130	Travel to Hotel and Open	Bus	1/50 Escort
1700-2400	Open	Individual Preference	
2 May	Saturday		
0800-1200	Checkout	Hampton Inn	Association

Per your request here is this years agenda for the reunion. Please keep in mind that this schedule may change if a need arrives.

Hope to see you all there!!