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1ST Battalion 50th Association

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August 2022

From the TC Hatch

The President's Corner
By Jim Seagers



Hello, everyone,

I hope you are having a great summer. We are enjoying doing things around here with our children and grandchildren such as camping, golfing, and going on an overnighiter trip to Chattanooga. However, we are staying close to home as much as possible since Lorretta has started a new round of chemo that compromises her immune system. So far it seems to be working. Thank the Good Lord. Lorretta was able to go with me to the Change of Command in which LTC Justin Daubert turned over the command of the 1/50th to LTC Julian Kemper. The night before the ceremony, LTC Daubert treated our officers, the 1/50th cadre, and his family to a fine dinner at Hunter's Pub. After dinner, numerous awards were given out. Special recognition was given to Jay Copley, who passed away recently, for his many contributions to the 1/50th. His wife Wilfriede accepted the award. We wish LTC Daubert well in his new position at Ft. Knox.

LTC Kemper is originally from Oregon. After graduation from the Florida Institute of Technology, he received his commission as an Armor officer. He served at Ft. Lewis, WA, with the Crazyhorse Troop and deployed to Kuwait for Operation Inherent Resolve, served as the

Battalion Operations Officer and Executive Officer in 1-9 CAV. Then he went to Korea in the same position to serve as the BDE , DIV West, First Army Officer for the 120thth IN BDE. LTC Kemper comes to the 150th from being the Chief of Reconnaissance and Security for Army Capability Manager ABCT, Maneuver Capabilities Development and Integration and Directorate. He also served at ft. Bragg, NC, Ft. Hood, and again in Kuwait.

Several officers from our Association attended the ceremony and welcomed LTC Kemper on board! Our association looks forward to working with him and wishes him well in this new position.

I hope you enjoy the remainder of the summer.

Play the Game
Jimmy Segars

Editor: Lorene Burch

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Chaplin's Corner



Hello,

Well it's that time again for the newsletter articles to be turned in. There's no excuse for me this time because of the fuel prices I'm pretty much a home body for now. I hope that each of you are well and enjoying the weather it's a cool 93 outside and very dry here.

During my studies this week I was in Galatians 5:16-25 it is a very interesting and something I think we as a country need to put to practice, I encourage you to take the time to read.

I'll close for now asking each of you in your prayers to please remember the President, no matter what our party affiliation is he needs our prayers asking God to guide him and protect him.

Bbye for now and May God Bless.
Toby

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

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Editor's note:

Lorene Burch



Greetings All:

Am thinking of the many blessing we have had over the years. One of them was to get to know so many of you. I love reading your stories on the website at, www.ichiban1.org. Thank you Don Rainwater for helping me to realize I can print them in the newsletter. Who knew? (Probably all of you.)

The more I read and visit with you all I realize how important the reunions are. The idea of reaching out to fellow members and searching for others through the newsletter never crossed my mind until I started receiving the request. What a blessing you all continue to be.

Sincerely,

Lorene Burch

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Air Medal: Eligibility and History

July 22, 2019 Joshua Williams Military History, Military Medals

The Air Medal was instituted in the throes of WWII, in September 1942, and is awarded to any member of the U.S. Armed Forces. Since the award was instituted during WWII, it is retroactive to September 8, 1939.

The eligibility of the Air Medal has changed since its inception in 1942. The base requirement of the medal is “single acts of achievement to any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who distinguished themselves by heroism, outstanding achievement, or by meritorious service while participating in an aerial flight”.

The Air Medal was awarded for aerial flight operations. These flight operations include three actions:

- Strikes
- Flights
- Direct Combat Support

“Strikes” includes actions like search and rescue and are met with enemy opposition, evacuation of personnel in an assault, or delivering heavy artillery against the enemy.

“Flights” have the same requirements as strikes but do not come across enemy contact or opposition.

“Direct Combat Support” includes reconnaissance, combat air patrol, electronic countermeasures support, psychological warfare, and coastal surveillance.

With the creation of the Aerial Achievement Medal in 1988 the Air Force stopped awarding the Air Medal for non-combat achievements.



Army: Bronze “V” for valor as of February 29, 1964, and a bronze numeral During
am War the Army established the Bronze numeral
attachment to denote multiple awards of the Air Medal

The medallion is a sixteen point compass rose suspended by a fleur-de-lis. The eagle on the medallion is holding a lightning bolt in each talon, representing the ability of the United States to wage war from the air. The fluer-de-lis represents nobility and the high ideals of American airmen. The sixteen point compass rose represents the global capacity of American air power.

The ribbon is ultramarine blue with two gold-orange stripes, honoring the original colors of the Army Air Force.

Those in the 1/50th to receive the award on 23 February 1968 are the following:

Bell, George
Blochberger, John
Braun, Bruce
Johnston, Jonny
Noel, Allen
Smoggrass, Robert

From Noel Allen:

I found a general order with Robert Snodgrass name.

He was my platoon leader which got wounded, I think, sometime in Feb. of 68.

We were on a mission with D Co with Captain Braun. We took fire out of a village and he got a head wound and he never came back to the 50th. Maybe with these orders you could find him and see if he would like to belong to the 50th association.

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Army Reporter information for 173 ABN BDE

For date 680525

Sent in by Noel Allen

173 ABN BDE was a US Army unit
Primary service involved, US Army
Operation COCHISE GREEN
Binh Dinh Province, II Corps, South Vietnam
Location, Qui Nhon

Description: The following is an edited version from the weekly Vietnam Communique column in the 25 May 1968 issue. A NVA battalion attacked a company of infantrymen from the 173rd Abn Bde 25 miles NW of Qui Nhon. The attack was repelled resulting in 60 NVA killed. The action took place in the Operation Cochise Green area where a company of the 1/50th Inf, conducting a recon-in-force mission, came under heavy fire from mortars and automatic weapons. A second company of the battalion was quickly deployed to reinforce its sister unit and artillery and tactical airstrikes were called in to provide additional fire support. Sixty NVA soldiers were killed in the fighting while the U.S. force suffered three soldiers killed and 33 others wounded. Students of the 173rd's Jungle School found 24 VC and NVA bodies yesterday during their pre-graduation reconnaissance mission two miles south of An Khe. The jungle school is mandatory training for all enlisted men and junior officers assigned to the Abn Bde. After five days of practical exercises and classes in jungle tactics and other necessary subjects, the class goes on a live exercise in an unprotected area. Photo Caption - ON THE RUN - Paratroopers from the 2/503rd Inf, 173rd Abn Bde assault into an expected enemy area. The battalion killed 10 enemy soldiers in continuing action during Operation Cochise Green on the Bong Son Plain 30 miles north of Qui Nhon. Photo by Sp4 Ralph J. Dixon, 173rd Abn Bde IO.

The source for this information was *6805AR.AVN supplied by Les Hines*

Additional information is available on [CD-ROM](#).

Please send additions or corrections to: [Gary Roush](#) Email address: webmaster@vhpa.org

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The S4's Cookbook!

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As a separate (some might say, "bastard") mechanized infantry battalion in Vietnam, we often found ourselves behind the brigades and divisions when the resources were doled out. On the positive side, people on the IFFV staff knew who our battalion was. For example, in later life I worked for two former IFFV Commanders (William Rosson and Stanley Larsen) and both acknowledged the 1/50 as a "damn good outfit". But war stories are seldom about the positive side, so let's examine our logistics.

While we were with the 1st Cavalry and 173rd Airborne Brigade, the battalion got the benefit of their logistical clout, but when the battalion moved to Phan Thiet in September 1969 we quickly learned to expect little support from Task Force South; so one of our responses was to establish an off-the-books expediting team at the depot in Cam Ranh Bay, coordinated by SSG Isbell. Now that the Statute on Limitations has expired, perhaps some of the S4 war stories can finally be told. Just a few will give the flavor of the times and circumstances and put into perspective the exploits of Chief Gene Quimby, SFC Jim Hobbs, SSG Isbell and the other logistics professionals who made sure that our combat Infantry battalion had the wherewithal to move, shoot and communicate.

Where to begin? Well, our (unofficial) expediting team naturally needed a vehicle to get around in, so a M151 jeep was duly assigned... as a combat loss. Without that M151, access to supplies on a huge base like Cam Ranh Bay would have been virtually impossible to achieve. On top of that SSG Isbell made arrangements to have a 3/4 ton truck and a 5 ton truck when needed, because it seems that our little team wasn't the only game in town. Lest anyone decry the ethics involved, well golly, "War is hell!"

Let me briefly examine a few of the reasons why we needed all the help we could get) and there were many! Shortly after I took over Charlie Company (January 1970), the Quartermaster Bulk Laundry "lost" all of our uniforms sent in from the field (there's a much bigger story here that I'm NOT telling), and supplies of replacement uniforms were limited. Surprise, surprise, the second batch of dirty fatigues was "lost" too. Pretty soon our grunts were about to be forced to crack open footlockers and wear their going home set in the field. After that, we'd be naked! Somehow we got our new uniforms direct from Cam Ranh Bay, even if a few captured AK47's and M1A1 carbines disappeared in the process. Jim recently whispered to me that our "system" came up with 14,000 sets of fatigues and Lord only knows what else after we hit Phan Thiet, and he was called on the carpet by IFFV G4. Fortunately, the G4 NCOIC was a buddy of his from Germany and the dust settled.

During the ship loading in Qui Nhon for the trip from LZ Uplift to Phan Thiet, SFC Hobbs went walkabout on the wharf. He spotted, to his immense surprise, a new M113 and a 100 KW generator setting there in the bright sunshine with no one around to admire their freshly painted surfaces. To keep them from falling into enemy hands, he was left with no choice but to have the guys hook the generator to the track and load them aboard the ship. A couple months later the battalion had to combat loss a track, and SFC Hobbs got paperwork approved to take delivery of the replacement out of current stock - so the books were balanced. The IFFV G4 NCOIC finally figured out the puzzle, and it was worth a beer.

Fortunately, IFFV never found out about the generator, or there would have been hell to pay! The sidebar on that story is that having the extra generator was a real blessing, because our generators were worked to death. The "spare" generator kept us from having too many power outages that would probably have had the battalion fail our annual IG inspection. As it was, we passed with flying colors!

Ray Sarlin's Note: Jim's story about the M113 reminded me of a buddy in Korea who signed for an Ordnance Depot and became the only Ordnance Corps Officer in the United States Army with an organic armor capability. Jim Hobbs was the Battalion Supply NCO, CWO Gene Quimby the Property Book Officer, and for my sins I was briefly Battalion S4 for the first three months in Phan Thiet.

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NEW HONORARY SERGEANT MAJOR

Submitted by John Topper

Following the passing of Jay Copley, it was decided that former 1/50 battalion CSM Chris Lewis, Retired, would be asked to be the new Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment. He accepted. Chris was sworn in by the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, John Topper on 16 May. Chris is now the Director of Education and Volunteer Services at the National Infantry Museum Foundation. It's great to have a member of the Association who now works for the museum, and who, following a brilliant career, is intimately familiar with the battalion and is the genius behind the annual Copley Challenge, on the ground as Jay's able successor. Welcome aboard, CSM!



Gary Quint
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