

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association



December 2018

Cover

From the TC Hatch

By Jim Seagers

Hello and Happy Thanksgiving,

Lorretta and I hope you all had a wonderful Veteran's Day. We thank all of you for your service to our country. It is always a privilege to be with all of you as often as we can and with the fine soldiers who serve in the current 1/50th at Ft. Benning and our present and former battalion commanders and cadre. Speaking of which, Lt. Col. Baltazar is at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, will become a Colonel in January. We encourage all who can to send him a note of congratulations. Also, the 1/50th chaplain, Matt Christensen, has been promoted to Major. Please send him a note of congratulations as well.

We hope all of you have a great Thanksgiving. We thank God for His many blessings, one of which is to be a part of this great association. I am very humbled that I have the distinct honor of representing you every time I go to Ft. Benning and to other military events.

Once again we will go to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Wreaths Across America on the second week-end in December to honor our 1/50th heroes buried there. When we began going to this event several years ago, there were eight of our men to honor. Now there are eleven, including the soldier who led us to Vietnam and the one who brought our unit home years later. There are over 250,000+ of American's finest buried at Arlington. It is a very hallowed place. An inscription on one arch there put it very appropriately: *The bivouac of the dead*. I also know that there are several of you in our association who take part in this week-end's ceremonies in your own areas. We are very grateful for your doing this. Our daughter Monica Copeland and grandson Noah Copeland will be

going with us to D.C. to this event this year. We are grateful that all of our family honor soldiers every chance they get.

Our next reunion as all of you know will be the week of May 13, 2019. Be sure to attend and encourage any members who have not ever attended or have not attended in quite a while to come.

By the time you get this newsletter, Christmas will be near as well. We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year in 2019. May all of you and your families experience God's best. We love all of you!!

Play the game,

Jimmy

Editor: Lorene Burch

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From the Chaplin



An Event for Everyone. “There were Shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God’s angel stood among them and God’s glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, I’m here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide. A Savior has just been born in David’s town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you’re to look for; a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger.’ At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God’s praises; “Glory to God in the heavenly heights, Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.” (From the Message Bible)

This is an ancient story that has been told over and over in so many ways. Today may it remind us of the hope we have in the plan God has for each of us.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



1/50th chaplain, Matt Christiansen, being pro-

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I had hoped to be able to make another research trip to the National Archives, but that is still in the planning stages. I plan to “pull” records from the 67th and 85th Evacuation Hospitals...specifically their General Orders....and copy all orders of 50th Infantry men who received awards while in the care of these combat hospital facilities. These will be mostly Purple Hearts, but will add to our text records archives...and, in some cases, will clear up some date questions concerning some actions and firefights. There was some discussion with Historian Tom Kjos, who is still working on a manuscript detailing the Battle of Tam Quan, about joining him and his fellow 1/12th Cavalry comrades for a research endeavor...but that has not yet materialized. I may make a visit alone after the holidays and after my reunion mailings have been completed in January. As usual, I will be inviting all on our extensive list of KIA families and friends to attend our memorial wreath laying ceremony. We generally have about 20 of these honored guests in attendance.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday season & continued good health and happiness in 2019!

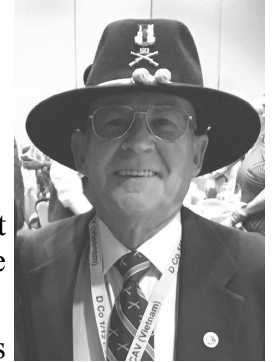
Your Historian

Jim Sheppard





Association of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry
 Historian/Website Report for December of 2018
 Jim Sheppard, Charlie Company, 1965-1968



Hello All!

When this December Newsletter is distributed next month...we will be just 5 short months from our next gathering at Fort Benning, Georgia. I am sure there will be more details within this newsletter as to registrations and reservations for the event.

I am continuing my work maintaining the website...although there has not been as much activity as in past years...I seem to be mostly working on Obituaries these days. I did recently make a change to our website "Links" page...eliminating all internet links except the major command elements that still exist today. I found these extensive lists of links to topics of interest to veterans and Vietnam to be ever changing and labor intensive. A check of that list last month revealed that more than 50% of the listed links were no longer working...so I made a decision to simply eliminate those links. Persons interested in a specific topic now have access to computer internet search engines at a level which more or less supersedes these pages...so I simplified our page.

I also wanted to mention that my expertise is not necessarily specific to the 50th Infantry. Since becoming your historian in 1999, I have "morphed" into much more than a document gatherer and archivist...and am now recognized as a Vietnam Historian in many circles. My experiences in Vietnam not only included 9 months with the 50th Infantry in the Central Highlands, but also 6 months in III Corps Tactical Zone (Mostly Saigon, Bien Hoa and Long Binh) as well as 3 months in IV Corps with the 9th Infantry Division "Mobile Riverine Force" (HHC, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry). Those experiences enabled me to have an advantage over many historians as I witnessed the war on multiple levels. 15 Years ago I began to assemble a personal library of Vietnam reference books and non-fiction novels/memoirs...which has grown to over 500 volumes. I now have extensive reference material on every imaginable event and for every day of the U.S. involvement in Vietnam from 1945 through current day Vietnam. I bring this to your attention only to suggest that if anyone has a question about anything relating to Vietnam, and not simply the 50th Infantry, please do not hesitate to inquire. I would be happy to assist.

In September, I attended a lecture by Dr Eric Villard at the Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA. Dr Villard is a noted Vietnam Historian and recently published the 1st Edition of Combat Operations, "Staying the Course" – October 1967 to September 1968. His book is the latest in the series on Vietnam by the US Army Center of Military History. (If you are considering buying a copy, I would advise waiting until the 2nd edition is published as there will be substantial corrections)

I had been invited by Eric after some collaboration regarding facts about our battalion in Vietnam in 1968 and he decided to use our battle at An Bao as one of three major examples of action in Vietnam during what became the Phase Two of the 1968 Tet offensive...or "Mini Tet", during May and June of 1968. His lecture discussed the history of Westmoreland's plans in Vietnam which were uncovered during extensive research of unpublished materials...and how the events of 1967 and 1968 in Vietnam led to our contact at An Bao. I was honored to be invited to attend a dinner before the lecture attended by Dr Villard and several other key members of the Heritage Center which was funded by an endowment from the Omar Bradley Foundation.

During Dr. Villard's lecture, he called me to the dais to give a brief "insider" talk on our involvement in the battle. The entire lecture will be available on You Tube soon and I will post a link on our website message board for all to view and enjoy when the video is available. I am humbled by the privilege to represent our Regiment at these Vietnam history events and bring attention to so many heroic efforts by the 50th Infantry Regiment in Vietnam a half century ago.

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REUNION 2019 UPDATES

The input from those who responded to the request for ideas about “things to do other than go to the museum” was pretty much unanimous to remain on post Wednesday. The 1/50 Command Team is currently working on exactly what that will entail. Nothing solid yet but we will have a firm schedule by the next newsletter.

The Board has decided on a budget and the cost of registration will be \$100 per attendee. A Registration Form is included in this newsletter. I will ask Jim Sheppard to upload it on the website as well.

Another bit of good news: Major General Gary M. Brito, Ft Benning CG has agreed to speak at our Memorial Service.

Any questions email me at: jt1@psci.net
John Topper



Letter from the Editor:

Greetings All:

Our team of officers have been hard at work once more to put together a great reunion.

The most important part of the reunion, in my opinion, is seeing the guys together who have shared a time in their lives that those of us who have not shared understand, so they can visit freely about their experiences and about how far they have come over the years.

Being a part of this great family has helped me to understand some of the issues that have arrived over the years and as the wives get to know one another better, to know we are not alone in our experiences. So we can support one another.

I would like to see more support offered to one another through the newsletter. This is for all who belong to the 1/50th family, so feel free to send in an article at anytime.

There are several ways of keeping up with the news during the months there is no news letter and that is by getting on the web site: <http://www.ichiban1.org>. You can post your stories there or look up those you are wondering what happened to. You can contact the officers if you have any questions as well.

If you want to get ahold of me by sending in an article, just put in the subject box: News letter information at thelmaburch@gmail.com, or if you don't like to use the computer mail it to me at :Lorene Burch, 821 Meadowbrook Rd., Salina, Kansas 67401.

When coming to the reunion, don't forget to bring an item for the auction and possibly a little extra cash to bid on one of the many items that are offered.

Merry Christmas, Lorene





1st Battalion 50th Infantry Association

Reunion 14 – 17 May 2019

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)

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 \$94 (13-18May) cutoff for this rate is 22 April. Hotel POC: Michelle Spivey, (334) 664-0776.

Registration Procedure: Registration Cutoff Dates: Registration Costs: (Per Person)

Early Registration: (Before 30 April, 2019) \$100

After 30 April. \$125

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: 14 May Evening Reception	3 May Buses	Dinner for Guests
15 May Lunch, Dinner, Buses	Gifts for Hosts	Auction Items
16 May Lunch, Dinner, Buses	Event Shirt	Door Prizes



Gary E. Quint
438 Fairway Lane
Kirkwood, Mo

Merry
Christmas

