1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED) 50TH INFANTRY

" ON THE RIGHT TRACK "

VOLUME NUMBER 3 -- DATED 31 MARCH 1999 -- ISSUE NUMBER 03

Our mission is to publish a newsletter and to maintain an Internet Home Page. The Association will use these publications to inform its general membership about events within the Association and about current or proposed legislation that might affect veterans of all wars.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK ...



The year 1999 is an exciting one so far for the Association. Our next Reunion is only a few months away. The "Cow Pie" tickets have been printed and should be out to all those who ordered them. More on this later. I plan a trip in a few weeks to "the Wall", so anyone who has names we do not have listed in the last newsletter, please send them to me ASAP! Our "Memory" book, which has a page for each name on the wall of our fallen brothers, will be at the Reunion this year. I want this as complete as I can by the time the Reunion comes. It will be on display, along with pictures from the last reunion.

For those on the Internet, there is a new site which I wish

For those on the Internet, there is a new site which I wish to pass on to you. It is for the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC. The address is: www.thevirtualwall.org - so, check it out!

In closing, I hope everyone has a very happy Easter and I am looking forward to meeting many of you in a few months in Kansas City. If you have not booked your room there yet, please do so! We still have a few rooms available.

As of today's date, I have twenty-seven (27) who have sent their registration forms and fee. Please do not delay too much longer. In August, the hotel cuts off the room rates they have set for us, and the rate goes to \$159.00 per night. Get your rooms booked and your registration forms to me as soon as possible. I have to "book" the Friday night dinner with the hotel shortly.

Thanks for all of your steadfast support of the Association. Without you, we could not have done it! If you received a membership card with this newsletter, that means your dues are current and you are listed as an active member. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A CARD WITH THIS NEWSLETTER, YOUR DUES ARE IN THE ARREARS. Please take care of that now. Folks,... it is only \$10.00 a year! For those of you who have not paid your 1998 or 1999 dues yet, please take care of that today, so we can list you as an active member on the Association rolls. The newsletters we sent out each year to each person cost on average \$8.85 per person, so help the Association stay viable, please!

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MORE REUNION NEWS

For the newcomers and those who perhaps missed the notice in a previous issue, you will find a registration form at the end of this newsletter with information about the reunion. I would love to see every one of your smiling faces there that weekend. Please drop in if you can!

A Tentative Schedule for Friday night is as follows:
A tour of the National VFW Headquarters will be available at
1 PM on Friday for those checking in early.
Registration Desk is open from 3 PM until 7 PM Friday.
Free Cocktails in the Lounge area from 5:30 PM until 7 PM.
Posting of Colors by Jackson County Council at 7:30 PM.
Welcome, Invocation, and Remarks at 7:30 PM.
Dinner at 8:00 PM.
General Meeting starts at 8:30 PM, with introduction of
guest speakers and Association business.
Hospitality Room opens at 10 PM until 2 AM.

Saturday's (the 18th) Schedule is as follows: Free Breakfast (a real one!) 8 AM to 10 AM Saturday. 10 AM until 11 AM... General Meeting of members and officer's in the area of the Lounge. (Refreshments provided). 12 Noon, trip to Vietnam Memorial of Kansas City. PM, bus pick-up for trip to Flamingo Hilton Casino. 1:00 4:00 PM, bus pick-up from Casino back to hotel. (For those not wishing to go to the Casino, there will be a bus trip from 1 PM to 4 PM to several sites around Kansas City, ending with a shopping trip not far from the hotel). 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM Free Cocktails in the Lounge area. 7:00 PM, bus pick-up to go for dinner at local VFW. 8:00 PM until 11:00 PM. entertainment at the VFW. 11:00 PM until 2:00 AM, Hospitality Room open.

THE DINNER MENU FOR FRIDAY NIGHT (17th of September) FOLLOWS: Dinner Buffet, featuring five different types of meats with an assortment of vegetables, fruits, and desserts.

(Cash Bar provided by hotel).

DINNER MENU FOR SATURDAY NIGHT (18th of September) FOLLOWS: Sit-down meal, consisting of your choice of Turkey with all the necessary trimmings; or Roast beef and filling. Refreshments will be available all night long at the VFW. Music will be provided by a DJ, playing our (60's) music.

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The Following Committees are now being formed. If you have any interest at all, Call, Write, or E-mail me which committee you would like to serve on. For descriptions, check your By-Laws. Won't you please give a little time to one of the them?

- 1. Finance
- 2. By-Laws
- 3. Historian
- 4. Reunion

* * * * *
THIRTY YEARS IN REVIEW
FROM 1968 TO PRESENT
* * * * *

With this issue of the newsletter, each year is introduced by an historical event. In most cases, it is not the most significant event of the year, but rather an event that conveys hope or humor about human beings and their potential.

* * *1968* * *

Dr. Denton Cooley performs the first heart transplant in the U. S.

* * *1969* * *

The first man walks on the moon.

* * *1970* * *

The floppy disk is introduced.

* * *1971* * *

Walt Disney World opens in Orlando Florida

* * *1972* * *

Mark Spitz wins seven gold medals at the Munich Olympics

* * *1973* * *

The Sears Tower in Chicago becomes the world's tallest building.

* * *1974* * *

Henry Aaron breaks Babe Ruth's record for career home runs.

* * *1975* * * Saigon Falls!

* * *1976* * *

Personal computers come on the market.

* * *1977* * *

The movie Saturday Night Fever promotes disco-mania.

* * *1978* * *

Garfield, the comic strip created by J. Davis, began syndication.

* * *1979* * *

The first walkman was unveiled by Sony.

* * *1980* * *

Post-it Notes are introduced.

* * *1981* * *

MTV debuts.

* * *1982* * *

Cats, the longest running Broadway show ever, opened.

* * *1983* * *

The Cabbage Patch doll became THE Christmas gift.

* * * Continued on Next Page * * *

* * *1984* * *

Trivial Pursuit games sold hit the 20 million mark.

* * *1985* * *

Compact disks and CD players gain widespread use.

* * *1986* * *

The Oprah Winfrey Show is broadcast nationally in the U. S.

* * *1987* * *

Jessica McClure, an 18 month old girl, fell into a 22 foot deep well.

Her rescue hits national television.

* * *1988* * *

Best seller, A brief History of Time, was written by Stephen Hawking.
He was suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease.

* * *1989* * *

The World Wide Web is created.

* * *1990* * *

Seinfield premieres on television in the United States.

* * *1991* * *

Motorola introduced the cellular phone.

* * *1992* * *

Johnny Carson ends his career with The Tonight Show. His last words, "I bid you all a very heartfelt goodnight."

* * *1993* * *

Schindler's List wins an Academy Award.
Director Steven Spielberg also receives an award.

* * *1994* * *

George Foreman, at the age of 45, regains the heavyweight championship title that he lost 20 years earlier to Muhammad Ali.

* * *1995* * *

Cal Ripkin Jr, breaks Lou Gehrig's record for continuous ball games with 2,131 straight baseball games.

* * *1996* * *

Injured gymnast Kerri Strug wins a gold medal in the Olympics.

* * *1997* * *

Mars Pathfinder lands on Mars after a journey of seven months.

* * *1998* * *

The movie, Titanic, becomes the top-grossing movie of all times.

* * *That about sums it up!* * *

What will this year's (1999) topic be? Could it be, Monica Lewinski's new book, "How I Blew IT in Washington?" Or her second book, "Me and My Big Mouth!" Or maybe, Clinton's new book, "She was Chief of MY Staff."



* * * * * * THE BIO PAGE * * * * *

Golz, John H: John served with Alpha Company during the year 1969-1970. He and his family now reside in Illinois.

Goodwin, Terry A: Terry arrived in country on June 29, 1968 with Bravo Company and left in July of 1969. He resides in Ohio with his wife, Karen. He is Product Development Manager for a company in Ohio and is strongly involved with Our Mission Inc, a non-profit relief and development organization that sets up health clinics in Vietnam.

Grant, William E: Bill was with Bravo Company when they stepped off the boat. He lives in Indiana and works for GM Delco Electronics. In his spare time, he runs all over the country-side, collecting model trains and other railroad items.

Graves, Jack: No report available at this time.

Grubb, Gladys A: Gladys is one heck of a woman, being the widow of Steve Freeman Grub who served with Alpha Company from March of 1969 until his death in May of 1969. Gladys has never re-married and she now lives in Virginia. She attends more Veterans Memorial services than anyone I know. I personally met her several times at the "TET" Reunion in Richmond Virginia. One hell of a lady!

Guthrie, Richard P: Served as Company Commander for Bravo Company in 1967-1968. Dick and his wife, Cynthia live in California now. He retired from the service in November of 1991 as a Colonel. He spent over five years in Peru as General Administrative Manager for Southern Peru Copper Corporation. He has recently received his pilot's license and in late 1998, he and several of our ex-troopers returned to Vietnam for a tour. More on that at the reunion.

Haag, David E: David was in Bravo Company from August 1969 until he was badly wounded in December of 1969. He returned to Pennsylvania after treatment for his wounds and entered the banking industry. He later became a financial advisor with American Express. He and his wife Joan, have two children, both attending college now. One in Missouri!

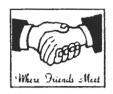
Hague, Don: Served with Alpha Company from February of 1970 to November 1970. He also says they did not have their tracks at Phan Thiet. He now lives in Wisconsin.

Hanna, Richard: Richard was with Charlie Company and now lives in Pennsylvania. No further information available.

Haskell, Lonnie: Lon served with Charlie Company and was wounded in Vietnam. He now resides in Michigan.

Hatch, Miles R: Came to Charlie Company with the battalion on the USS Pope. During a night time battle near Tiger Mountain, on Halloween night, 1967, Miles and 14 others were wounded along with three KIA's from our company. After recovering from his wounds, he went to work in Wisconsin, where he currently lives.

Hay, Marion R: was with Alpha Company from December of 1967 to December of 1968. Marion now resides in Illinois, with his wife.



* * * * * THE BIO PAGE * * * * *

Hayes, Billy W: Bill came by boat with Bravo Company and says Carl Pollock was his driver. He left country in November of 1967 and now lives and works in Texas.

Haynes, George E Jr: was with Charlie Company. He now lives in Ohio. No further information available.

Hicks, Howell: was Charlie Company's supply sergeant in Vietnam. Howell lives in Arkansas and says he attended many of First Cavalry's reunions.

Hixson, Meridith E: was with the 1/50th Infantry from February 1968 until May of 1968. He now lives in California.

Holmstrom, John: was with the battalion in its early days. He now works at a Ford Plant and resides in Michigan.

Hope, Russell G Jr: was with Charlie Company from December of 1967 to December of 1968. He now resides in Virginia.

Hopp, John A: was stationed with Headquarters Company during the time of September of 1969 until January of 1971. He resides in Idaho.

Horvath, Michael: Mike served with Alpha Company from January of 1968 until wounded in May, then after recovery, returned to Alpha again in September of 1968. Mike and his wife, Susan, live in Indiana.

Howard, Marty: He was with Alpha Company from September of 1968 until September of 1969. He now lives in New York.

Hubner, Conrad L: Now lives in the Illinois area. No information available.

Hughes, Pat: Pat served with Alpha and Delta Company from September 1968 to September 1969. He is now married, with four children. He and his wife, Jane, have been married for 19 years and live in New York. Pat owns his own business.

Ingalls, Preston: Was with Charlie Company during 1969-1970 in Phan Thiet. Preston now resides in North Carolina and is President and CEO of Marshall Institute, a management firm.

Iwema, Peter: was in Headquarters Company and went by boat with us to Vietnam. Peter just moved to New York from South Carolina.

Jefferson, Bill: also served with Alpha Company. He now resides in Maine with his wife. Bill works for a university.

Johnston, Johnny P: Served with Delta Company from September of 1967 until September of 1968. Johnny lives in Delaware.

Jordon, Lawrence: Toby was an original Alpha Company person, coming over by boat with us. Toby now resides in Missouri and serves as the Chaplain for our Association. Toby and his wife were at the first reunion and plan on being at the next one also.



* * * * * TID-BITS * * * * *

Two additions to add to the BIO page. New members found in January, right after I sealed the newsletters. Go figure!

Bennett, Sam: Sam was with Charlie Company, 1st Platoon from January 1970 to November 1970. Sam resides in Missouri. His e-mail address is: jdstudley@mail.mid-mo.net

Holbrook, Wayne C: Wayne was assigned with the 101st Airborne, prior to coming to our unit in July of 1968. He was with Bravo Company until he DEROS'ed in December of 1968. Since his discharge, Wayne has worked for the Post Office in various duties. He knew Don Morrison very well. Wayne now resides in Michigan and has four children.

The following member contacted the Association through the Internet, just as I was finishing the newsletter to send out.

Begley, Kevin F: Kevin was a Field Medic with Bravo Company, from 12/67 to 12/68. He works for the Veterans Administration in Florida, where he currently resides. His e-mail is: kevinfb@ij.net

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This call goes out to all Ichaban Troopers who were at Fort Hood with the 1/41st Training Regiment. I have been contacted by a fellow who was with the unit, but did not go to 1/50th when you did. He is looking for any friends who might remember him from Fort Hood, especially Joe Sanchez. His name is John Zamora. His address is: 2524 Elsie, Toledo OH 43613. He can be reached at his e-mail address: jzamora@toltbbs.com

Anyone who may know him, please e-mail me at: Ichaban@aol.com or write to me at the address above. You may call me at: 717-632-7604 or 717-428-2837 anytime and let a message if you knew John.

* * * * *

FROM THE CHAPLAIN:

If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character.

If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home.

If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation.

If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the World!

Toby Jordan

* * * * *

Received this from a fellow who was with Delta Company, of 4/503rd, 173rd during 1968 and 1969. He is looking for anyone who was in the APC which had a "FORD COBRA" painted on the sides. His name is Richard Bruce. He is also looking for a "TC" whose last name is Tyler. Any one out there know of this track, person, or TC?? Let me know! He also wants to know if anyone knew the real name of a fellow who was KIA in 1969, by the nickname, "KAZ?"

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Greetings to all! I don't know about anyone else, but I am looking forward to the rest of the year. Spring is about here and my spirits are already getting bigger. Our Association is getting larger as more are contacted and made aware of our existence. Of course, along with our growth comes a greater need for help with the Association. Norm Poage has done a great job with the 1/50th Web Page. Toby Jordan has helped us keep the faith and Mike Deal has been working on the unit's history. Ken Riley has outdone himself with keeping everything going. Anyone that wishes to is more than welcome to assist with or contribute to the Association. You can help things to continue to move smoothly by volunteering to help with our organization in any way you like. Those of us with Internet access and e-mail capabilities are especially encouraged.

Ken has indicated that the 'cow pie' raffle is moving along very well, but we could use some more participants to peddle the tickets. The odds are much better to win than in most raffles and the funds will help our organization continue to grow. This is for the most worthy of causes. If you have not bought some tickets yet, please do so, as we will all benefit. One of my duties as President is to encourage more participation in the Association, and this is one of the ways you can help keep us alive and well.

Action, Schueller, Radcliff, An Khe, Man Yang Pass, the Bridges, Soui Ca, 506 Valley, Uplift, Bong Son, English, Dam Tra O Lake, QL1, QL19, Phu My and many other names have a familiar ring in my mind. Do any of these places sound familiar to you? Even after 30 years, they rest fresh in my memory. I wager that you will remember some of them also, when we convene in September for our reunion. Some of us may not wish to reflect on these names, but I know we all want to know what is happening now with our friends from so many years ago. I believe that one of the things that initially attracted us to the Association was the possibility of getting in touch with those we became so close to during our tours and that we have never seen since. As I noticed from the recent contacts I made with some of my old buddies, we all look a little different, but we are the same guys who shared so much in the late sixties and early seventies. I am really anxious to see you all at the reunion.

Of course, the best way to help with the Association is to pay your dues. If you have been receiving the newsletters, but have not joined us yet, please do. We want and need your membership and participation. Remember that it is never to soon or late to contribute, and we will welcome any support you can give. Get in touch with me by telephone (770-425-3080) or e-mail (spottinger@integratedscience.com) if you are ready to help with the organization. I will be happy to accept your assistance and I will direct you to the areas we need help in most.

If this passage looks familiar, it should. We will probably always need to remind everyone of dues and participation. Again, I look forward to seeing everyone at the reunion. It is a good thing!

Sandy Pottinger, President

1/50th MECHANIZED INFANTRY BATTALION

COW PIE RAFFLE TICKETS

Yes Gentlemen: This is a real event! I have had many questions thrown my way about this and yes, we are indeed selling tickets for a "Cow Pie Raffle". For those of you who have already ordered and paid for your tickets, I thank you very much for your support, and want to just remind you to please send the signed stubs back to me now. I also wish you all Good Luck. For those of you who did not order any tickets,... an Article 15 to you! Order your tickets now, before you forget!

As of today's date: (the date on the newsletter of course):

Tickets bought and paid for: 958

Tickets ordered to be sold: 296

Tickets left to sell: 1,746

This event started with the January Newsletter, released on the 30th of January. So, even though only two months have gone by, I think we can all pat ourselves on the back for selling so many tickets in this short period. However, this does not mean we can sit on our duff the rest of the time. There are still a lot of tickets to be sold.

As I stated in the previous newsletter, the money raised goes to help defray costs at the reunions. Also, I personally would like to see a "Flower and Card" Fund set up during the Reunion Meeting to provide those items to any ill, or sick members of the Association or their families. I would like to see someone volunteer as our "Hospital" man. His duties would be to keep track of ill members and send cards.

The tickets are only \$2.00 each or a book of six (6) for \$10.00. The prize money is as follows:

2,000 tickets sold: \$2,000.00

The seller of the winning ticket will receive \$150.00 for his efforts. The person selling the most tickets will get \$150.00 for his efforts. (nice number,... that 150, huh?)

Those of you who have already ordered tickets for your own use, or to sell,... Remember, I need the stub on the ticket filled out and sent back to me as soon as possible, so I can get your numbers listed on the chart which will be used at the actual event. Don't delay on this, or your numbers may not get unto the chart in time.

To give you an idea of some of the cost involved with this reunion, the bus trips set up for Saturday afternoon and the two buses to take us to dinner on Saturday Night are each \$275.00 for the first 4 hours and \$50.00 each hour thereafter. Plus the bus for Friday's trip to the VFW Headquarters is another \$275.00.

The registration desk will be manned Friday from 3 pm until 7 PM and then on Saturday morning from 10 till 12. The individual badges and other materials required add over \$250.00 to the cost. The hospitality room costs are varied, but the last reunion, I spent over \$150.00 for refreshments and snacks alone. Plus the cost of the room for two evenings. The \$20.00 registration fee does not cover these expenses.

* * * * * 1ST/50th COW PIE RAFFLE * * * * *

The Association is hosting its first ever "Cow Pie" raffle on or about 1 September 1999, (weather permitting), to help raise money to pay for some of our expenses at Kansas City Reunion in September 1999. Here is how it works:

We sell raffle tickets to whomever wants to buy them: friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, etc. Tickets are \$2.00 each or a book of 6 for \$10.00.

Now! How does it work? First, you sell your tickets to anyone you can. Then on the day nearest "D-Day", 1999, an animal will be released into a "designated" field. The field will be divided up into how ever many tickets we sell: (ie: 3000 tickets sold, each square will be about ten square feet).

There will be a minimum of two OBSERVERS in the area of the cow. When the cow makes a "Vertical Insertion", the square the "cow pie" hits will be the official winner. Should it hit on the line between two or four squares, each of those ticket holders will receive a percent of the prize money: (50% for two lines, and 25% if it hits on the corner of the square). The amount of the prize will vary depending on the amount of tickets sold. If we have sales of, say 2000 tickets, the winner(s) will receive \$2,000.00. The person selling the winning ticket will receive \$150.00. Convenient number there, huh?

After expenses for ticket printing, mailing out the tickets, etc., we anticipate raising about \$400.00 for each 1,000 tickets sold. Thus, if we sell 2,000 tickets, we would have \$800.00 to put toward expenses of the reunion. Hopefully, between the registration fee, the money raised in this event, and the "free" stuff I talk National VFW out of, it should not cost us much for the reunion, other than room and travel. At least, it sounds like a plan!

So! The only thing I have to do is convince all of you out there to purchase your tickets, plus tickets to sell to your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. Open up your hearts and your wallets, and send for your tickets today! Don't wait until June to order tickets, buy them now and get them sold. You can always reorder more. The person selling the most tickets receives a cash prize of \$150.00. There goes that number again. I would love to hand someone a check for \$150.00 at the reunion or send it to the winner.

Send your checks or money orders to: 1/50th Infantry Association Kenneth G Riley, Treasurer 200 Georgetown Court Hanover PA 17331

Mark your check with "Cow Pie Tickets" or put a note with it and how many tickets you want. Remember! Besides helping the Association, you may be one of the lucky winners of a cash prize.

Help to cover the expenses of the reunion by purchasing your "Cow Pie" tickets now. Support your Association and help everyone have a great time at the reunion, inexpensively.

Keep in mind, some lucky winner(s) out there will end up with some spending money of their own.

Please use the form at the end of the newsletter to order your Cow Pie Tickets!

* * * * * 1999 KANSAS CITY REUNION * * * *

The Embassy Suites is the hotel at which we will stay. It is downtown Kansas City, on 43rd Street. At this point, I have the hotel holding (100) rooms for us. The room rates are \$109 per night, which is very reasonable for this area for the size room and amenities you receive.

If you plan to attend the reunion and stay overnight, do yourself a favor and give the hotel a call to "book" your room. They will hold 100 rooms open, only until August 1, 1999. After that date, you will be on your own to book wherever you can find accommodations.

The numbers to call for reservations are:

1-800-EMBASSY (800-362-2779) 1-816-756-1720

Tell them you are with the 1/50th Infantry Reunion. If there is any problems or questions, ask for Priscilla Graves.

I have set up a tour of the National VFW Headquarters in Kansas City for Friday afternoon at 1 PM, for early arrivals. Our hospitality Room will open as soon as Friday night's meeting is over. The room number will be announced at the dinner. Make an effort to drop by sometime during the evening and say Hi!

As I stated in a previous newsletter, there is a \$20.00 registration fee for all Association Members only (not their guests), to help defray some of the costs associated with having a reunion of this size. Please fill in the Registration Form at the end of this newsletter and forward it to me as soon as possible, so we may plan our Friday and Saturday dinner. The hotel WILL charge us (the Association) for the amount of the meals I give to them by the 1st of August, so if you plan on not being there, do not mark the dinner space. Last reunion, we paid for 9 dinners of people who did not come at \$31.25 each. That money came out of Association funds, so please let me know if you will be attending the dinner and meeting as soon as possible.

I have 50 rooms set aside for anyone who wishes to come to the hotel on Thursday. The hotel will hold the room rate for anyone wishing to come early or stay later. I will be there by Tuesday or Wednesday, at the latest, to make final arrangements for everything, so anyone wishing to drop in a few days early, please do so!

* * * * *

The following people have sent in their registration form and fees: (If your name is not listed, I have no record of you attending)

- 1. John Carlson 9. Jon Thelan 17. Danny Missoff 2. Kenneth Riley 10 Toby Hamon 18. Randy Smith
- 3. James Segars 11. Walter Tracey 19. Herman Allmendinger
- 4. Don Rainwater 12. Thomas Dubiel 20. Tom Zamzow
- 5. Neil Miller 13. Lawrence Jordan 21. Howard Flippen
- 6. David Garland 14. Leon Gallant 22. Tom Sarsfield 7. Roger Burch 15. Walter Billups 23. Donald Lovell
- 8. Joe Ewing 16. Robert Gold 24. Miles Hatch
- 25. Tom Knepp 26. Louis Frisbee 27. Fred Lohman