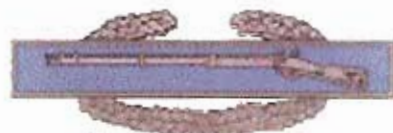


ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1st Battalion 50th Infantry Association



September 2005



FROM THE TC HATCH

Randy "Doc" Smith, President

One of the most pressing issues and the one I've had the most questions about is "What happened to the message board?". Frankly we just didn't know. Ray Sarlin our web master just disappeared and we couldn't contact him through usual channels. This caused much concern about Ray's well-being among those of us that were trying to reach him. Not to worry. We have heard from Ray and he is well, although he has been worked beyond limits in his employment situation putting in 80+ hours per week and having no time for much of anything else. Ray had left us a message but it was lost on the server. He had to shut down the message board because of the very offensive spam being posted there and has not had the time to clean it up because of his very extensive work schedule.

Now for the good news. Ray says that the work emergency and long hours should stop at the end of July. Then with time to get caught up and rested up he will be back at work on the web site. And work is exactly what it is. I think that not having the message board operational has shown just how much we rely on Ray. It's been like losing your RTO. So let's have patience and hold our positions at all costs until our web master can retake the high ground. Then when the board is up again we will have the ability to thank the man responsible.

Remember to keep our troops in Iraq in your prayers. What they call I.E.D.s (improvised explosive devices) today, we called boobie traps in our day. Some had trip wires and some were command detonated and today's soldiers are going through the same dangers that we did. Remember how powerless we felt at not having anything to retaliate against after a boobie trap went off. Today's soldiers are experiencing the same futility I'm sure.

I have seen letters and e-mails from soldiers on the ground in Iraq and their stories are quite different from those you get on the nightly news. They say they are making a difference, that they are winning the hearts and minds of the general populace. There have been cases of Iraqi citizens leading our troops to terrorists hide outs, and even beating radicals in the streets. Sound familiar? May GOD bless and protect our troops while they are trying to make the world a better place for all.

There are members of our organization that are experiencing illnesses and disease that we need to remember. I would like to ask the Chaplain and everyone else to remember Johnny Johnston, Neil Miller and Roger Burch in their prayers. I'm sure there are others in need and if they would like to be put on the Chaplain's prayer list they may contact Parker Pierce on line at pbpir@bellsouth.net.

Also remember that after the last reunion anyone who has served in the 1/50th Inf. is eligible for membership in the association. Do you know someone you can invite? Someone asked you!

CHAPLAIN'S

Parker Pierce

O Hello to all 1/50th vets and families: I pray that as this newsletter goes out that each of you and your family members are doing well. This past week I was informed by e-mail that fellow member Johnny Johnston is in need of all of our prayers. I'm sure all of us can relate to prayers being answered just for the fact of us being back in the world from our many encounters in Nam! As events are increasing in the world, and oil and fuel prices are going up I exhort each of us to consider the pertinent teachings from the all important - "BOOK"! I pray continued blessings for each of you and your families. With one final note let's remember Johnny Johnston and his family! Please e-mail me or call me with any special prayer requests. (pbpir@bellsouth.net)

God bless to all, Parker

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VICE-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
By Jimmy Segars

Dear 1/50 friends,

It is always a pleasure to send you greeting from Alabama. Our family is doing well, and I hope yours is too. Our families are very special to all of us. Being part of the Association is a unique family in that we were birthed in a time of military conflict. Yet, as we grew close through the experiences that we shared together, we came to appreciate those things in life that are most worthwhile: love, friendship, trust, freedom – to name just a few. And time itself is a privilege, meant to be spent wisely.

Recently, I was privileged to spend time, a very special time, with my son Kirk. He graciously gave me a trip to Scotland to the British Open. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect to have such a privilege. And to make the event even more special, my favorite golfer, Jack Nicklaus, was playing his last tournament there. The whole trip was exciting from beginning to end. We were fortunate to be in the right place at the right time to see Jack cross the bridge, Tiger win the Open, and still manage to narrowly miss getting hit by Greg Norman's ball. The ball landed about three feet from us. And there we were waving to Jack and standing as close as one could get to Greg. Several times during the week we were standing near golfers that I have always thought to be great players. And the weather was fantastic. Transportation and accommodations were very good, also Kirk's father-in-law went too, so we were three happy "campers."

Our wives were thrilled that we had so much fun, even though they had to stay home. I am thankful that our family is very close and that we do get to do things together. My son and daughter, we enjoy coming to our 1/50th Reunions, like to "rag" each other in friendly competition. So Monica kept saying that this trip was the ultimate gift and that she could never top that when choosing a gift for dad. Kirk grinned; and I assured her that no matter what, both of them are my favorite children.

Maybe not always at a place like the British Open, but any place that you spend time with those that you love is special. I encourage you to take time to be with your families. Time is the best thing that you can spend on them. And it brings such good dividends. And you can take that to the bank! Until the next issue, take care.

**THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT BY THE PENTAGON TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER ON BEHALF OF DA WASHINGTON DC//CSA//
SUBJECT: DEATH OF A RETIRED GENERAL OFFICER. SCHOOMAKER SENDS.**

IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY AND I INFORM YOU OF THE DEATH OF GENERAL WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND, RETIRED, U.S. ARMY. HE PASSED AWAY ON 18 JULY 2005 AT BISHOP GADSDEN RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, CHARLESTON, S.C.

GENERAL WESTMORELAND WAS BORN MARCH 26, 1914, IN SPARTANBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA. HE GRADUATED FROM THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AND WAS COMMISSIONED AS A SECOND LIEUTENANT OF FIELD ARTILLERY IN 1936.

GENERAL WESTMORELAND SERVED WITH DISTINCTION DURING HIS 36 YEARS IN THE ARMY. HE COMMANDED A FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION IN NORTH AFRICA AND ITALY IN WORLD WAR II AND, IN 1944, WENT ASHORE WITH THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION AT NORMANDY. DURING THE KOREAN WAR, HE COMMANDED A REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM. IN THE POSTWAR YEARS, HE SERVED IN VARIOUS COMMAND AND STAFF POSITIONS, INCLUDING SERVICE ON THE ARMY STAFF AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-1, AND SECRETARY OF THE ARMY STAFF. SUBSEQUENTLY, GENERAL WESTMORELAND SERVED AS COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION FROM 1958-1960; SUPERINTENDENT OF THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY FROM 1960-1963; ACTING COMMANDER, LATER COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES STRATEGIC ARMY CORPS AND XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS FROM 1963-1964; DEPUTY COMMANDER, LATER COMMANDER, UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM AND COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM FROM 1964-1968; AND CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY FROM 1968-1972.

HIS MILITARY DECORATIONS INCLUDE THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL WITH 3 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS; THE LEGION OF MERIT WITH 2 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS; THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH OAK LEAF CLUSTER; THE AIR MEDAL WITH 9 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS; THE COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE; THE MASTER PARACHUTIST BADGE, THE GLIDER BADGE; THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF IDENTIFICATION BADGE; THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF IDENTIFICATION BADGE; AND MANY FOREIGN AWARDS.

GENERAL WESTMORELAND IS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE OF 58 YEARS, KATHERINE (KITSY) S. VAN DEUSEN OF CHARLESTON, SC; TWO DAUGHTERS, STEVENS (WIFE OF PETER) STADONE OF KENNEBUNK, ME, AND MARGARET (WIFE OF WILLIAM) RICHARDS OF SANFORD, FL; A SON, JAMES RIPLEY (HUSBAND OF SUSAN SARAO) WESTMORELAND OF BROOKLYN, NY; AND SIX GRANDCHILDREN.

INTERMENT IS SCHEDULED FOR 23 JULY 2005, 1100, AT WEST POINT, NY.

AS A MARK OF RESPECT TO THE MEMORY OF GENERAL WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND, THE NATIONAL FLAG WILL BE FLOWN AT HALF STAFF AT ALL INSTALLATIONS, ACTIVITIES, AND VESSELS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND ITS TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS, FROM REVEILLE TO RETREAT ON THE DAY OF INTERMENT, 23 JULY 2005.

From the desk of the Historian

Jim Sheppard

Charlie & Headquarters Companies 1965 - 1968

To the membership

Following is a copy of the request I made to the board of Association Officers recently which details a portion of my work in obtaining the documents you view in our Association Archives or on our Document CDs. Rereading this request recently, I thought it might make for interesting reading for those of you who are not familiar with the extent of work involved with getting the documentation we have. So I am forming this into a "Historian report" for the Association Membership.

I am happy to report not only that the officer's unanimously approved the purchase of the scanner, but that I obtained same at a rock bottom price of \$170.00! (I will likely save that much from saved copy fees in one visit!)

I plan several visits to the archives over the next year...with the first coming sometime this fall. Although the scanner is slightly slower than the archive copy machines, in the long run, the cost savings will far outweigh the inconvenience of the added time in the National Archives Records Administration research room at College Park, MD. We may also enjoy a far better quality of document copy with this high resolution scanner.

As displayed at the last reunion, we now have actual Topography maps of the three major operating areas from our unit's tour in Vietnam. The 2005 reunion produced some clarity as to needed maps from the LZ Betty area...and I will be making additional purchases to cover those shortfalls before the next reunion.

In addition to finally finishing copying of the 1970 files at NARA, I hope to begin scanning these topography maps into .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) format for inclusion into a future Document CD and possibly our website.

Following is a copy of the Proposal to the Association Board made earlier this summer:

June 2, 2005

For the Board,

I recently discussed an "issue" with Gary Quint, who suggested I present same as a proposal to the board.

Obtaining copies of documentation from the National Archives Records Administration at College Park, Maryland (Site of the main body of records from the Vietnam era) is a rather tedious and expensive process. I have become quite proficient at this process over the years, but still have about a third of this existing documentation remaining to copy. The process is as follows....from entry into the Archives to the copy you get to view on a Document CD:

- I arrive at the Archives for my work on Monday. I generally visit for a minimum of 3 days, since most of the day Monday is spent waiting for our records to be "pulled" from their respective permanent locations in the Archives Documents "stacks".
- The records are usually rolled out for me by early afternoon on Monday & I can begin my work.
- There are "rules and regulations" for how a person may handle these documents from which one should not deviate, lest one of many "roving" archivists will reprimand you. Severe violations will get you evicted! Severe and malicious behavior could get your butt locked up! For the purpose of this proposal, I will try to be brief.
- My "pulled" documents come to me in boxes on a large rolling cart. The documents come in boxes about the size of a large binder.....about 14 inches tall, maybe 10 inches deep and about 5 inches wide. Within these boxes are file folders and within the file folders are the actual documents.
- You may only have one box at a time off the cart and on your desk or work station. You may only have one file folder out of the box at a time. and you may only have one document out of the folder at a time. (The reasons for this are rather obvious....some of these documents may not indicate time, date, unit, etc...and to be placed out of their original order could be a disaster from a historical viewpoint.)
- I must first take the box I intend to work from to an Archivist Station. (Depending on how busy the records research room is, there may be a line...usually there is not.) I must state my reason & intention and declare which document I intend to scan to an archivist at this station. This sounds much more involved than it really is, and the purpose is to obtain a "declass" sticker to affix to the copy machine I intend to use to copy my documents. The end result is the declass information being transferred to the copies I make. You have all seen this declass sticker image on every document I have acquired at the archives.
- Once I have my "declass sticker" I need to find a copy machine to use.
- These machines are scattered throughout this huge research room (about the size of a football field!) and are for varying usage...some for a single document copy...some for an hour at a time...and a few for all day use

Continued on page 5

EDITOR'S PAGE

John Topper

(This article first appeared in the August 2005 edition of the *Rocky Mountain Biker Magazine*)

In 1967 I climbed aboard a troop ship that was to take me and the rest of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Regiment to Vietnam. I marveled then at the fine young men I was fortunate to have been selected to command and for whom I would be responsible. We were about 800 strong – and young, and none of us really knew what lay ahead. We couldn't know then that when the battalion returned in a little over three years that 202 of our comrades would have given their lives in that fateful war. I was in Fort Benning, GA recently where that same infantry battalion is currently posted. It is a training battalion now, led by the command team of Lieutenant Colonel of Infantry Francis B. Burns & Command Sergeant Major Michael Kauffman, and trained by dedicated Drill Sergeants who are charged with transforming civilians into Infantrymen of character and preparing them to go to war. And he and his cadre of professionals are doing a marvelous job indeed. The soldiers coming out of that training are easily the most motivated, best disciplined and focused I have seen since entering the Army in 1959.

Each is there as a volunteer. And each is a winner. They view their calling as a profession – they aren't there simply because they have nothing better to do, they are there because they have sought a purpose for their life and this is it. Many have volunteered to continue their initial training by going on to jump school to become airborne qualified. From there they are going on to Ranger training to join what are the finest light infantry formations in the entire world. They are motivated by a variety of factors, but the characteristic common to all of them is patriotism. We have somehow managed to get it right with this generation, or at least this segment of this generation. They are soldiers that we can not only be proud of, but we can be assured that the future of our country is in good hands, at least with respect to our military.

There are some in this country who advocate returning to the draft to fill the ranks. Some years ago, I subscribed to that idea because I thought the Army would have a broader spectrum of society represented if we returned to conscription and that seemed like a good thing to me. I no longer feel that way. Many, possibly most, of the soldiers I commanded in Vietnam were draftees. They were, for the most part, very good men and equally good soldiers. But, they didn't want to be there and weren't motivated to be there. I believe they did extremely well given the circumstances under which they served. They were drafted into an army that was involved in an unpopular war at a time when the country was being torn apart socio-politically and much of the population looked down on and denigrated their service instead of appreciating and honoring it. Their attitude, universally, was "I intend to do my duty to the best of my ability, then go home and forget the Army." And that is what they did. The soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan today are motivated to be soldiers and to do what they have been trained for. That is an important distinction and it puts everything in a different perspective, one that makes everyone's job much more meaningful.

There is an attitude at Fort Benning that permeates all who are associated with training the young men who are about to depart for those ports of embarkation and foreign battlefields to engage in what will become defining events in their young lives. Events that will change and mold their lives and leave them with images and memories that will last their lifetimes. They are about to age far beyond others who share their chronological years and the officers and drill sergeants at Fort Benning seem to understand that their job is to prepare these soldiers for that circumstance. It isn't only about becoming physically fit in the extreme. It isn't just about learning how to fight and handle weapons. It's also about learning how to live like a man and become a useful and productive member of society. These soldiers, if they don't make the army a career, will return to civilian life far better men than they were when they enlisted. The lessons they are learning today will help form our nation in a positive sense, irrespective of the vocations and careers they pursue.

In the words of the Infantry Training Brigade Commander, of which the 1st Battalion 50th Infantry is a part, "There is no higher calling in the Army than to train the next generation of our nation's warriors. Here in the Infantry Training Brigade, we train nothing but Infantry soldiers to fight our nation's wars. It is a mission which requires dedication and professionalism; you must be at your best because the young men entering the Infantry deserve it".

Today's soldier's attitudes are formed, in large measure, by the Army Values: Loyalty; Duty; Selfless Service; Honor; Integrity; Personal Courage. Each of these values, placed into official doctrine by former Army Chief of Staff, Dennis J. Reimer, are more than mere words, they convey a special and unique obligation to these young men. General Reimer upon introducing the values had this to say about them: "Values are at the core of everything our Army is and does. Your commitment to living and teaching the Army's core values is critical to our success today and tomorrow." These values are found throughout the Army and they are inculcated into those soldiers at Fort Benning who are training to become Infantrymen by those charged with training them, and they are doing it on a daily basis.

Continued on page 5

EDITOR'S PAGE (continued from page 4)

Military service has always been one of our country's most noble callings. Some would say it is the most noble and I find little argument with that assertion. America has a long history of defending liberty – not only the liberty of our own country but of those who cannot defend themselves. It began at Lexington Green where the citizen soldiers, the fabled "sons of liberty" came together to defend their homes, their country, and the cause of independence.

That commitment to liberty has continued in the intervening years and it has become the ethos of our military. From Concord Bridge to Heartbreak Ridge, from the rolling hills of Gettysburg; to San Juan Hill; the Argonne; on the beaches of Anzio, Normandy and Guadalcanal; at Inchon and the Mekong; Grenada; Panama and today in the streets of Kabul and Baghdad our Armed Forces have protected and continue to protect, the freedoms granted us by our Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

This new war of terrorism has required our military to adapt to fighting in ways that has little precedence in our country's history. We have had to switch from fighting a relatively conventional war of conventional battle formations to one of insurgency being waged by religious fanatics that oppose the liberation of millions of oppressed people.

During the Cold War, our focus was on containing communism. Today, our principal goal, politically, is to foster democracy. With the implosion of the Soviet Union, we lost our enemy of all those many years and had to think about restructuring our military to accommodate new missions. Missions that were ill-defined and in some minds, unnecessary. Many thought that since we had defeated the Soviets in the Cold War, we could simply demilitarize and everyone would be happy. Not so. While it is true that we no longer need to consider the mutually-assured-destruction doctrine in the same light that dominated our thinking during the Cold War, we know that a strong military presence is still the best deterrent to war. As a result, we have had to refocus our training on asymmetrical warfare – similar to the way we fought in Vietnam, but with important differences.

Vietnam was a confusing time for most of us serving there. In the succinct words of Edward R. Murrow, *"Anyone who isn't confused doesn't really understand the situation."* We often wondered exactly why it was we were sacrificing so much for people that didn't appear to appreciate or even want our help. I am told by almost every soldier I have spoken with who has been there that this is not the case in Iraq and Afghanistan – the Afghans and Iraqis realize their lives are taking a dramatic turn for the better. And they are grateful for our presence and what our service men and women are doing to further their dreams of liberty and independent governance.

This is indeed a new war and a new way of waging war. Yet whatever the mission, whatever the challenge that lies before us, these young men training to become Infantrymen and other young men and women training in other specialties at other posts throughout the country, are fully capable of standing up to that challenge and making the outcome favorable to the United States of America. You can be proud of your military and its representation of all that we as Americans hold dear - for they are upholding the traditions - one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all - that have made this country great and they are doing so in splendid fashion.

"Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the U.S. was too strong."
Ronald Reagan

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Jim Shepard (continued from page 3)

- One stands in line for a single document machine... at times, the line can be several persons deep although not often. When there are lines at these copy machines, an archivist will tell you when your time is up... usually only 5 minutes... and you MUST "move off" when told to do so.
- I am at the hourly machines the most... and you must sign up for same before use. Regardless of how busy or slow the room is... you must still stop and sign up for each hour. This can be tricky when it's busy, and sometimes one must wait an hour between uses... this is why I generally plan my trips during "slower" times of the year (Any time but the traditional summer vacation period... which is their busiest)

The only way to reserve an all day copy machine is to do so either the day before or within 3 days before... IN PERSON... which means I generally have to hope one will be available during my stay. There are only 4 of these machines, and they are usually taken up by professional archivists who are generally based in the area... making it easier for them to make the "In Person" reservation. I have been afforded the privilege of using these machines twice... once when I was able to get a reservation... and once when none were being used... and a sympathetic archivist supervisor "bent" the rules for me.

Before one may begin copying, one must obtain a debit card from readily available machines in the room. You may then credit the card with funds... as much as you would like in increments from \$1.00 to \$20.00. The cards are inserted into the various copy machines for activation of that machine. Copies are 15 cents each and I generally go through a minimum of \$100.00 per visit... which brings me to my proposal! (finally!)

Continued on page 6

OUR HEROES

By Mick Hawkins

I was going to write an article for the newsletter and I thought of a story about a ambush I went on in Nam. Then I got an e-mail from Sam and Dan and I thought I would share it with you all. I e-mailed Ly Sam who is an engineer with USDA in Walton, NY. They had a profile about him on our web site. At a young age his folks went to Vientiane, Laos and, in 1978 to escape communist oppression, went to a refuge camp in Thailand and then on to the United States. He got his degree in engineering got married and has two children. They were some of the lucky ones to have made it. In my e-mail I told him I was an old Vietnam Vet and it was great to see and hear a success story like his. The news media seems to never tell a good story about Nam only the bad ones. Few people can understand why we were there and Ly Sam knows why. We were there for people like him and it makes me feel warm inside knowing he made it.

In an e-mail he said there will be a special place in heaven for the Vietnam Vets. I believe that. Then just a few days after that I received an e-mail from Dan Neely about Brian Chontosh a Captain in the Marine Corps. Brian was presented the Navy Cross, the second highest award for combat bravery the United States can bestow. You won't hear about it on the network news or read about in any paper. The odd fact is that the American media, in this war, is not covering the American military. The most plugged-in nation in the world is receiving virtually no true information about what its warriors are doing. Oh, sure, there's a body count. We see the same casket pictures day in and day out. And we're almost on a first name basis with the jerks who abused the Iraqi prisoners. We know all about improvised explosive devices and how we lost Fallujah and what Arab public opinion polls say about us. We get non stop feed of gloom and doom. But we don't hear about our heroes. The incredibly brave GIs who honorably do their duty. It was a year ago and Brian Chontosh was a platoon leader rolling up highway 1 when all hell broke loose. It was an ambush and the Marines were being cut to ribbons. He told his driver to floor the Humvee directly at the machine gun emplacement that was firing at them. Within moments there were Iraqis slumped across the machine gun and Chontosh was still advancing, ordering his driver to take the Humvee directly into the Iraqi trench. Brian bailed out of the Humvee carrying an M16 and ran along the trench. He fought with the M16 until it was out of ammo. Then he got a dead man's AK47 and fought with it. When he was done Brian Chontosh had cleared 200 yards of entrenched Iraqis from his platoon's flank. He had killed more than 20 and wounded at least as many more. Accounts of American valor are dismissed by the press as propaganda, yet accounts of American difficulties are heralded as objectivity. But I guess it doesn't matter. We will turn out alright as long as men like Brian Chontosh wear our uniform. There are so many good stories to be heard from our troops, yet we always hear the worst. The bright side is in the big picture of things it makes no difference - as very few people trust the news media anymore and people like Brian will always win out.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT - Jim Shepard (continued from page 5)

One may NOT bring in their own copy machine. There are unofficial exceptions to this rule, but these exceptions are very rare, and we need not get into these "politics"... suffice to say, the facility is often dependent on public funding...and as such, rules may get "bent" for generous archival activities by professionals...usually researching for a major movie production, etc. Needless to say, I do not object to this...otherwise every damned vet with a PTSD case in view would demand to bring in his copy machine and really fowl things up! Remember also that this copy price is a major source of income for the archives, and they are in no hurry to lower this price...or make it easier to circumvent same. There is one alternative, which I have tried in the past. You may bring in certain electronic items. Computers are allowed, but no printers. This is usually in the form of a laptop. *Flatbed scanners are also allowed.* I have taken in a flatbed scanner in the past as well as a laptop computer. The intention being to save the cost of making copies and saving the 15 cents per copy cost! I ran into difficulty with getting the correct copy resolution...as well as difficulty with copying legal size documents. My scanner being only capable of an 8.5 x 11 inch page and not the legal size 8.5 x 14, this became a problem. Page size was one thing, but the actual size of the scanned file was another...with my laptop hard drive only capable of holding maybe a hundred documents or so at best. About 1/3 of the remaining documents I must copy are 8.5 x 14 inch daily staff journals. I now have a laptop with about 35 times more hard drive capacity than that older laptop I used before! Most important, the prices in technology have fallen dramatically in recent years, making previously expensive electronic scanning devices much less expensive. I have my eye on an HP Scanjet 8200 Flatbed Scanner, capable of scanning 8.5 x 14 inch documents, which retails for around \$400.00. If I am patient, I can most likely pick one of these up for about \$275.00... maybe less. I have "skipped" describing some of the processes involved in my normal procedure of obtaining that document file you get to view from one of my document CD's. 8.5 x 14 inch documents must be "shrunk" to fit on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper...which I can then scan to the format you view. So after I have involved myself in the lengthy process of obtaining the Photostatted copies of documents at the Archives, I must still scan that copy into the format you view. My goal is to be able to circumvent the copy process and simply scan the documents directly to the format you view! A savings of 15 cents per copy...and some "paper shuffling". One must be trained or "certified" in scanner use at the archives...and I have already been certified. If the association would fund the purchase of this scanner, an ultimate savings would be realized in copy fees as well as the acquired ability to scan 8.5 x 14 documents at their normal size. I suppose the main objective is to be able to avoid the entire copy machine "issues"...and to be able to avoid a few steps in the process as well...making my trips more productive and reducing the time involved somewhat. I have researched quite a few scanner models, and this model serves our purposes best as well as being totally compatible with my HP laptop and desktop systems...so I am specifically interested in this HP Scanjet 8200 model only. I would like a "sense of the board" on the issue of the association purchasing this scanner.

Regards,

Jim Sheppard, Association Historian/Archivist

INSIGNIA OF RANK

ENLISTED PERSONNEL

BACKGROUND

"Chevron" is an architectural term denoting the rafters of a roof meeting an angle at the upper apex. The chevron in heraldry was employed as a badge of honor to mark the main supporters of the head of the clan or "top of the house" and it came to be used in various forms as an emblem of rank for knights and men-at-arms in feudal days. One legend is that the chevron was awarded to a knight to show he had taken part in capturing a castle, town, or other building, of which the chevron resembled the roofs. It is believed from this resulted its use as an insignia of grade by the military.

The lozenge or diamond used to indicate first sergeant is a mark of distinction and was used in heraldry to indicate achievement.

METHOD OF WEARING

Chevrans were sewn on the sleeves of uniforms with the point down from approximately 1820 to 1903. They were worn with the points both up and down between 1903 and 1905 after the first reversal from "down" to "up" was authorized on 1 May 1903 in Army Regulation No. 622. This confusion period, from 1903 to 1905, was the result of the color change in the chevrons provided for in the regulation which also directed a standard color for each branch, corps, or organization and replaced the gold-colored chevrons. Because of the number of gold insignia available, troops were permitted to wear the old-type chevron until the supply became exhausted.

To assure uniformity in both color and position of the new colored chevrons, War Department Circular 61, dated 30 November 1905, stated that the points of the chevrons would be worn points upward. It also provided for the following colors as had been directed in Army Regulation No. 622, dated 1 May 1903. The colors were: Artillery-scarlet; Cavalry-yellow; Engineers-scarlet piped with orange; Hospital Corps-maroon piped with white; Infantry-light blue; Ordnance-black piped with scarlet; Post QM Sergeant-buff; Signal Corps-orange piped with white; West Point Band-light blue; and West Point Detachment-buff.

As early as 1820, chevrons were worn with the point down, although there was not an official direction of this to appear in regulations until 1821 when chevrons were authorized for both officers and enlisted men. Circular No. 65, 1821, stated that "Chevrans will designate rank (both of officers through the rank of captain and enlisted men) as follows: Captains, one on each arm, above the elbow, and subalterns, on each arm below the elbow. They will be of gold or silver lace, half an inch wide, conforming in colour to the button of their regiment or corps. The angles of the chevron to point upwards.

Adjutants will be designated by an arc of gold or silver fringe, (according to the colour of their trimmings), connecting the extreme points formed by the ends of the chevron. Sergeant Majors and Quartermaster Sergeants will wear one chevron of worsted braid on each arm, above the elbow. Sergeants and senior musicians, one on each arm, below the elbow, and corporals, one on the right arm, above the elbow. They will conform in colour to the button of their regiment or corps." Before this time, an officer's rank was indicated by epaulettes worn on the shoulder. This regulation also indicated the first use of the arc as part of the chevron.

Chevrons continued to be worn points downward during the 1800's. AGO Order No. 10, dated 9 February 1833, stated "Chevrans will be worn with the point toward the cuff of the sleeves." Article 1577 of the revised United States Regulations of 1861 stated "The rank of non-commissioned Officers will be marked by chevrons upon both sleeves of the uniform coat and overcoat, above the elbow, of silk worsted binding on-half inch wide, to be the same color as the edgings of the coat, point down."

NEXT ISSUE - TITLES OF GRADE

PRAYER LIST

Please remember these men and their families in your prayers.

JOHNNY JOHNSTON ~ NEIL MILLER ~ ROGER BURCH