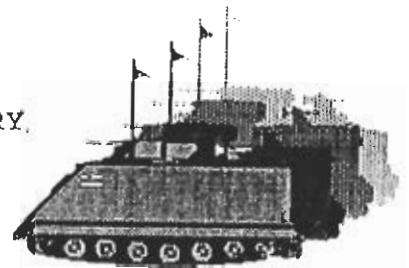




1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED) 50TH INFANTRY,

" ON THE RIGHT TRACK "



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VOLUME NUMBER 1 -- DATED 31 DECEMBER 1996 -- ISSUE NUMBER 01  
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FROM THE  
EDITOR'S DESK...



OUR MISSION

The object of this newsletter is to inform the general membership of what is going on with the battalion, its members and the Association as a whole. As an Association, we will strive to preserve the memory of those who served in the "ICHABAN" Battalion. We will attempt to print only the facts about any particular situation, battle, or person. If anyone has information which contradicts that published within these pages, please forward it to the Editor immediately.

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Each newsletter will feature a brief history of one or more of the battalion members. This month's history is about Kenneth G Riley.

I was with Charlie Company, 1/50th. I was assigned to APC # 313. That put me in the First Platoon, Third Squad. I went to Vietnam by boat, General John Pope, arriving in Qui Nhon 21 September 1967. While there, I served as a rifleman and grenadier and then went in April 1968 to HQ Company as records clerk. I left country on 8 June 1968. I work for a construction company as Director of Operations and I am in the process of buying it out on 31 December 1997. I am President of Life Skills Unlimited, which is a non-profit organization dealing with the social rehabilitation of adult mentally challenged people. I belong to the American Legion and the Amvets. I am very active with local VFW. This year I was elected Junior Vice Commander and voted into the Board of Directors. I became the Activities Chairman on 1 July 1996. I am in the process of putting the finishing touches on a book I am writing for my daughter. I need information about our unit to complete this mission. Anyone wishing to add a story, contact me at:

Kenneth G Riley  
200 Georgetown Court  
Hanover PA 17331  
Home = (717) 632-7604  
Work = (717) 428-2837  
Fax = (717) 428-1093

The newsletters which are published every quarter, will profile members of the 1/50th. I would appreciate it if you would send a brief history of yourself along. I will add this to our next available newsletter.

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EDITOR: Kenneth G Riley  
200 Georgetown Court  
Hanover PA 17331

1. Original Charlie Company men know what significance the date 31 October, 1967 is? Right! It does not stand for Halloween any more. What happened on that day?



\*\*\*\*\*  
EDITOR'S PAGE  
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As editor of this newsletter, I wish to invite each and every member of the association to send me anything they feel would be an up scale note for all members to read.

I want to take this space now to write about a little story I think will interest some of the group. If anyone out there knows the whereabouts of this particular guy that found, then lost the money, please send me his address.

Sometime in the summer of 1968 several of Bravo company's troopers were searching through a cave system south of Uplift. One of the members of that squad found ammo cans which contained more than ammo. Needless to say, what this soldier found was over \$150,000 in cash, and almost a million Piaster. The sad thing is the majority of the cash was handed over to our government, who then decided it was their money. At least it feels if you are an employee, (whether voluntary or otherwise) it is the finder and the keeper of everything. That's OUR government.

More on this later.

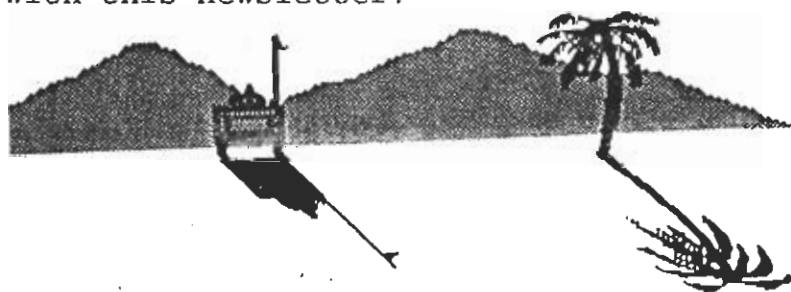
This newsletter is being sent out to everyone on the list this first issue, to give you a sampling of what we will include in each issue. If you already joined the association, each quarter you will receive one. Also, you have, or shortly will, receive your By-Laws, membership card, and directory of members of the battalion who have been contacted up to this issue date. If you did not send in your donation, this may be the last contact we have. I DO NOT WANT THAT TO HAPPEN!! However, due to the cost of producing and mailing each newsletter, we can not do this too often. PLEASE join the association so we can keep in contact.

Just a note to all those who send their Ten Dollars in...THANKS MUCH!! Since money is being collected, I may have to file the Association for non-profit status as a corporation. If so there will be added expense (initially) for this because of the accountant and lawyer fees. If anyone wishes to donate any money toward that, it would be greatly appreciated. I will verify that status in the next newsletter.

We also need officers. I will accept the position of Secretary and Treasurer for a while. I need someone to volunteer for President, Vice-President, Historian, and Chaplain until the Reunion; then we will elect officers at that time. PLEASE!! This is only a temporary position, unless you want nominated for it full-time at the reunion.

For anyone who has not signed up for the Reunion or Association, a copy of the application is included with this newsletter.

2. What is a Blivet?





*Where Friends Meet*

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LETTERS AND NEWS FROM THE GUYS  
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Heard from several guys this month. Tim Culbertson of Ohio said he held a reunion back in 1989 and had 12 "Ichaboners" there, plus their girlfriends and wives. He didn't tell me how many of each the guys were allowed to bring.

Also heard from Dave Haag of Penna who said he was recovering from some surgery he underwent. He was wounded in "Nam" in December of 1969. If anyone would like to drop him a get well card, his address is: David E Haag, RR1, Box 159, Newmanstown, PA 17073-9718

"Smitty" (Al Smith) of PA wrote to tell me about his new business venture he was involved in. GOOD LUCK SMITTY!!!

I put out several letters and calls looking for a good friend of mine from Bravo Company. Elliot Dresher. Anyone out there know where he might be? Give me a call if you do.

I hear Captain Randall (Charlie Co - Oct-67 - Feb-68) has a house in Hawaii and is retired. Anyone have his address or phone number? Would like to get in touch with him.

Got another letter from Tom Knepp of Ohio. Tom has sent me so much stuff so far on our battalion. Thanks much!! Hope to see him at the Reunion in September.

Also got a letter from Larry Dossey, MD; who resides in Santa Fe NM. He was battalion surgeon for 1/50th in 1968 -1969. He is interested in the activities of the battalion.

For all you "Original Boat People" as I call the first group to go to "Nam," Norm Poage is still alive and kicking. Anyone that wants to contact him, give me a call; better yet, send a letter.

Glenn Dulsky, driver of "313" is doing well. Received a surprise visit from him 6 December, 1996 at my "surprise " birthday party in Hanover. He and I have been keeping in touch via fax almost every day now. He would like to know where all you people are and what you are doing.

Henry Rosner called to say he would drop by the reunion but couldn't stay overnight. I'll let any who want to know when he will be there so you can drop in and say HI!

I would like to keep you informed of events with the Veterans Affairs. Anyone having anything new on the subject, drop me a line. I will include that in this space.

3. 1st Battalion 50th Infantry had eight battalion commanders while we were overseas, can you name them?

+++++  
"PLAY THE GAME STORIES"  
+++++



The first story comes from a fellow from Charlie Company---11 Nov '67. He prefers I do not give up his name, just yet.

"I was on LP that night. It was a rainy, damp night. (Was there any other kind?) My foxhole was outside the perimeter of the barb wire, roughly eighty to one hundred yards. I was still scared and my knees were knocking from the chilly air that had settled in. It rained most of the day."

"About half way into my time, I lit a cigarette. Ducking down into the hole with my poncho over me, to keep the glow from anyone's sight, I took a drag. I figured no one would notice if I had a few puffs. It was going to be a long night. After about three puffs off the cigarette I figured it was time to pop up out of my crouched position and check out the scenes. I snuffed my smoke out, pulled my poncho off my helmet and thrust my head out of the depression I was lying in."

"Thirty feet in front of me was a water buffalo with six legs. No, I was not smoking any of that "funny weed." I looked and counted again. One, two, three.... Yep! Six legs and two of those were very strange looking. Was it a farmer taking his transportation (Water Buffalo) for an early spin? Was it some "gook" trying to sneak closer to the camp, then toss a satchel charge at us?"

"Do I shoot at him through the animal, hopefully killing him. And in the process, take out this poor farmer's only means of making his meager living. If the guys on perimeter duty heard my shot, would they remember I was still out in front of their position. Or did they change guard already?"

"I could throw one of the three hand grenades I had, in hopes of taking him out. Maybe the guys on guard in the bunkers behind me would think an animal stepped on a mine and done himself in. What if they didn't buy that story? So,...I did nothing. I watched this six-legged animal walk on by and into the darkness."

+++++

If you have a short story and want to share it with us, send it along. I will not use your name unless you so request.

+++++

From time to time I will insert an article about the Battalion or any item of interest about what may be going on with the members from the battalion. The newsletter contains maps of the Alexandria VA area and a map of LZ Uplift's location. It also has direction to the hotel we will be staying at for the Reunion and things to see in the area.

4. What was the name "Golf Course" applied to?



COAT OF ARMS FOR STANDARD OF FIFTIETH INFANTRY BATTALION

#####  
MISCELLANEOUS  
#####



Most members who joined the Association have received their copy of the By-Laws and your membership card with this news letter, or should shortly. I would like everyone to take a moment and look over them. If any changes are needed to the By-Laws please fax or send me a copy of those changes so we can correct them in the next newsletter.

If anyone out there has access to video equipment which can duplicate videos we would like them to contact the Editors. At the reunion I will rent video camera equipment to record all those present. I want to make copy of the tapes, so that each member may be sent a tape.

The following members have committed to the Annual Reunion in September. If you sent your application in but your names are not listed they will be included on the updated list next issue.

A list of all persons that were contacted will be included with the newsletter. If anyone wishes the names removed from our list, let the Editor know by sending a letter stating so. Any corrections should also be forwarded to the Editor so we can incorporate it into the next newsletter. Any additional names that were found after release of the newsletters shall be added to the next issues. Every year the new list of names will be sent away with the first newsletter. So Guys keep Ken informed if there is an address change, so I am sure to get this out to you at the right place and on time.

1	DAVID R SMITH	-	BRAVO & CHARLIE	'67 - '68
2	PETE ROBINSON	-	CHARLIE COMPANY	'67 - '68
3	JOHN CARLSON	-	CHARLIE COMPANY	'67 - '68
4	MATTHEW CHAPMAN	-	BRAVO COMPANY	'67 - '68
5	DAVID E HAAG	-	BRAVO COMPANY	'69
6	JON M THELEN	-	BRAVO COMPANY	'67 - '68
7	KENNETH G RILEY	-	CHARLIE COMPANY	'67 - '68
8	JOHN FELLOWS	-	CHARLIE COMPANY	'67 - '68
9	DONALD D BORDWELL	-	ALPHA COMPANY	'67 - '68
10	JAMES F DELEMEESTER	-	HQ COMPANY	'67 - '68
11	LEON "MIKE" GALLANT	-	HQ COMPANY	'67 - '68
12	NORMAN POAGE	-	CHARLIE COMPANY	'67 - '68
13	FRED MADIA	-	CHARLIE COMPANY	'67 - '68
14	AL SMITH "SMITTY"	-	CHARLIE COMPANY	'67 - '68
15	GLENN DULSKY	-	CHARLIE COMPANY	'67 - '68
16	LOUIS FRISBIE	-	DELTA COMPANY	'67 - '68
17	HENRY ROSNER	-	CHARLIE COMPANY	'67 - '68
18	RICHARD F WERNER	-	CHARLIE COMPANY	'67 - '68
19	JAMES EDWARDS	-	DELTA COMPANY	'67 - '68
20	DANIEL MISSOFF	-	CHARLIE COMPANY	'67 - '68
21	JAMES CHANEY	-	CHARLIE COMPANY	'67 - '68
22	RAY BARRIOS	-	ALPHA COMPANY	'67 - '68
23	WILLIAM E GRANT	-	BRAVO COMPANY	'67 - '68
24	DENNIS RICHARD	-	CHARLIE COMPANY	'68 - '69
25	GARY SPANGLER	-	CHARLIE COMPANY	'67 - '68

5. Most C-Ration units had specially sized packages of cigarettes. How many cigarettes were in each pack?



|||||  
LET FREEDOM RING  
|||||

July 4th, 1776: A declaration was made for this land.  
It gave a foundation for people like us, to make a decision at hand.  
To represent the opinion of all mankind, in this great land of ours.  
To get involved and let others know you are one who cares.

We hold these truths to be self evident, the Declaration said.  
All men are created equal, whether white, black, or red.  
Yes...it is a great declaration and it still exists today.  
But stop and think: is it being followed; ask yourself and say.  
"Do I really get involved in Government as a citizen should today?"

When someone asks questions and voting time comes, are you active then?  
Are you one to stand back and "Let George do it," do you take a stand?

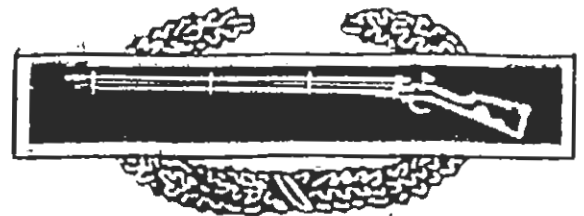
Our government today has the upper hand; it's not like it started there  
No one is to blame, except us; we failed to get involved and care.

We had better get involved and pass the word...let everyone know you care.

Then, we'll keep this freedom we have had and enjoyed for over two hundred years.

.....  
MONEY  
.....

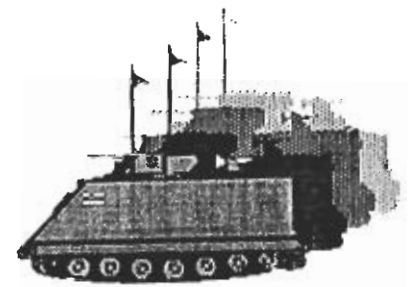
If a man runs after money, he's money mad; if he keeps it, he's a miser  
If he spends it, he's a playboy; if he doesn't, he's a ne'er do well.  
If he gets it without working, he's a parasite,  
If he doesn't try to get it, he lacks ambition.  
If he accumulates it after a lifetime of hard work,  
he's a fool who never got anything out of life.  
Obviously, it's not easy for anyone to do the right thing with money.



It's hard to believe that your father was once on active duty!

6. It was an area where you could shoot at anything that moved, what was this area called?

-----  
MURPHY'S LAW OF COMBAT  
-----



- 1 You are not superman.
- 2 If it is stupid but works, it is not stupid.
- 3 Don't look conspicuous...it draws fire.
- 4 When in doubt, empty your magazine.
- 5 Never share a foxhole with someone braver than you are.
- 6 Remember...your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.
- 7 If your attack is going well, it is an ambush.
- 8 No plan survives the first contact intact.
- 9 All five second fuses will burn down in three seconds.
- 10 Try to look unimportant...the bad guys might be low on ammo.
- 11 If you are ahead of your position, artillery will be short.
- 12 The enemy diversion you are ignoring is the main attack.
- 13 The simple things are always hard.
- 14 The important things are always simple.
- 15 The easy way is always mined.
- 16 If you are short of everything except enemy, you're in combat
- 17 When you secure an area, don't forget to tell the enemy.
- 18 Incoming fire has the right of way.
- 19 Friendly fire...isn't!
- 20 If the enemy is in range...SO ARE YOU!!
- 21 No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection.
- 22 Things that must be together to work usually aren't shipped together.
- 23 Radio's will fail as soon as you need fire support.
- 24 Anything you do can get you shot...including doing nothing.
- 25 Tracers work both ways.
- 26 Make it tough for the enemy to get in and you can't get out.
- 27 When both sides are convinced they will lose, they are right.
- 28 Murphy was a grunt.



## Reminder

## 1/50th MECHANIZED INFANTRY BATTALION

Anyone that is considering going to the reunion, please send in your application if you have not done so yet. I have to send a deposit of \$500 in to the hotel by March 10, 1997. Those of you who have already registered with me, please forward a \$20.00 deposit to this address by March 10, 1997 so I can confirm your room. The rest of the room cost will be handled at the hotel when you arrive. Those of you who have not yet joined the Association, it is only \$10.00 donation and you receive the newsletter, By-Laws, and membership card. Plus there will be additional things send to you as they come up.

7. What were the two official sites for In-House R & R?

.....  
TIDBITS  
.....



This was received in December at the Hanover PA VFW Post 2506...each year for the past seven, someone (anonymous) sends flowers and a note similar to this. This is an exact reprint of the note:

Long ago, but not far away  
in a place we call our State.  
Our young stood tall, signed the line  
To be a hero was the bait.

A War? What's that? It's not so bad  
Just bullets flying all around.  
I'm young...I'm quick...don't mind the bugs,  
I'll knock those gooks right down!

So off they flew, America's Young  
to whip this unknown foe.  
To shoot their guns, stand their ground  
just like their childhood GI Joe.

Well...shoot they did and sweat and run  
and crawl and swim and fly.  
And hide and charge and bleed and dig  
and comfort those who die...

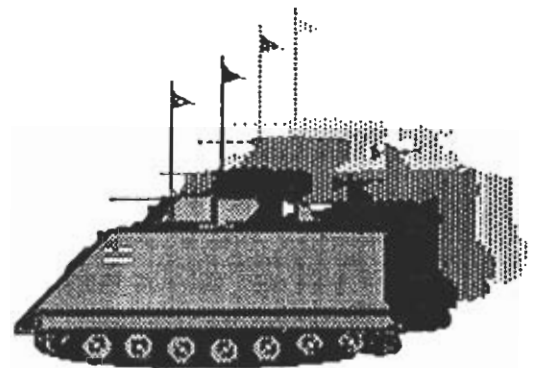
Day to night and week to month,  
those young they fought the war.  
To preserve our life and keep us free  
Stars and strips...forever soar!

But we stateside somehow forgot  
the hell our troops went through.  
We never raised our hand to shake  
we never said Thank You!

Weeks have passed, months and years  
the troops have gone separate ways.  
But still they wait...as well they should  
for some kind of recognition day.

Well, listen up, I'm here to say  
even though I may be late.  
Thank you troops, for a hell of a job,  
to keep our nation great!!

signed...Just me.



8. A CH-47 was used to carry large loads. What was it?





<<<<<<<<<<<<  
 ANSWERS TO THE TRIVIA QUESTIONS  
 >>>>>>>>>>

1. 31 October 1967 was the first major firefight Charlie Company was involved in at nighttime perimeter.
2. A blivet was the huge deflatable rubber fuel cell the Chinooks flew to our base and to the field to refuel the APC's, jeeps and trucks.
3. The eight battalion commanders, time of service, and rank are as follows:
 

a	Lt Col. Albert L Hutson, Jr	- Sep 67 - Jan 68
b	Lt Col. Cheney Bertholf, Jr	- Feb 68 - Jul 68
c	Lt Col. John B Carter	- Jul 68 - Jan 69
d	Lt Col. James R Woodall	- Jan 69 - Jun 69
e	Major Oren R Culpepper	- Jun 69 - Jul 69
f	Lt Col. John M Gilbert	- Jul 69 - Jan 70
g	Lt Col. Robert H Luck	- Jan 70 - Jun 70
h	Lt Col. Richard D Hooker	- Jun 70 - Dec 70
4. Golf Course was the nickname of the helicopter pads at An Khe.
5. Five (5).
6. Free Fire Zone.
7. China Beach outside Da Nang and Vung Tau on the Southern coast east of Saigon.
8. CH-47 was a Chinook helicopter, nicknamed "Hook."



Next month's trivia question will come to you courtesy of Glenn Dulsky. Anyone who wishes to send trivia questions in about our battalion, or anything else in Vietnam, please do so to the Editor.



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## **DIRECTIONS**

### to Embassy Suites Alexandria

#### **FROM NATIONAL AIRPORT:**

George Washington Parkway South to Alexandria. Make a right turn onto King Street (Route 7). Continue 8 blocks and turn left on Daingerfield Road. Turn right on Diagonal Road. Embassy Suites Hotel will be on your left.

#### **FROM THE SOUTH (i.e. RICHMOND, VA):**

Take I-95 North and veer off onto the Capital Beltway (you will still be on I-95). Continue on I-95 North until you reach Exit 2B (which is Telegraph Road North). Follow sign to Route 236 East (Duke Street). Turn left at the third traffic light onto Diagonal Road. Embassy Suites Hotel will be on your right.

#### **FROM THE NORTH (i.e. BALTIMORE):**

Take I-95 South across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge to Exit 2B (Telegraph Road North). Follow sign to Route 236 East (Duke Street). Turn left at the third traffic light onto Diagonal Road. Embassy Suites Hotel will be on your right.

#### **FROM DULLES AIRPORT AND ROUTE I-66:**

Take Dulles Access Road to the Capital Beltway South (Route 495) toward Alexandria. At Springfield, the Beltway changes (in name only) to I-95 North. Proceed to Exit 2B (which is Telegraph Road North). Follow sign to Route 236 East (Duke Street). Turn left at the third traffic light onto Diagonal Road. Embassy Suites Hotel will be on your right.

#### **ALTERNATIVES TO DRIVING**

Washington's Subway System (MetroRail) offers a convenient, inexpensive, clean alternative to driving. Metro stations are located throughout the Metro area. The Embassy Suites-Alexandria is located directly across from the King Street Station. From National Airport take the blue line train towards the Van Dorn Street Station, or the yellow line train towards the Huntington Station. We are just 2 stops south on either line. The Washington Flyer offers service from Washington National Airport and Dulles International Airport to a variety of locations in the metropolitan area.

(7/1/96)