

1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED) 50TH INFANTRY

" ON THE RIGHT TRACK "

VOLUME NUMBER 4 -- DATED 1 JANUARY 2000 -- ISSUE NUMBER 01

FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK...

To meet the challenge of the 21st century, the 1/50th Association will adapt to the needs of today's veteran's issues. In this vein, several new committees were established at the reunion in Kansas City. We have several volunteers who will guide us in the right direction. As you have noticed in the last newsletter, we have an ambitious new Board of Directors and hope to have these committees functioning soon.

The Membership Committee, led by Matt Chapman, will focus on finding members of the battalion, both minority and active duty. We have long lists of original members of the battalion from the Vietnam War era. Matt will need a lot of help in this, so please if you can find some time, chat with him. His address is as follows:

Matthew Chapman
828 Hailsham Place,
Newport News VA 23602
(757) 874-2341
e-mail: fmonky@yahoo.com

The Historical Archives, led by Jim Sheppard, will try to compile the history of the 1/50th Infantry Battalion, from its inception to present day. At this time we are in contact with the current Historian of the Battalion, and will work closely with each to see current as well as past Battalion history is recorded.

James Sheppard
228 Arbutus Avenue, Absecon NJ 08201
(609) 652-6736
e-mail: kiss-ac@juno.com

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FOR ANYONE THAT IS "ON-LINE", WE NOW HAVE A NEW "HOME PAGE."

Please take the time to check it out every so often. The address for this new service to the Ichaban troopers is:

[www:ichiban1.org](http://www.ichiban1.org)

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Phone = (717) 632-7604 Work = (717) 428-2837
Fax = (717) 428-1093



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LIFE MEMBERSHIP
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Included with this newsletter is an application for those who wish to take advantage of Life Membership. Dues are currently payable for the year 2000. Please consider using a Life Membership now. otherwise dues are \$10.00. I included an application at the end of the newsletter for both. While it is fresh in your mind, please take care of this now, so we may keep the Association viable for the upcoming century. Thanks.

I sent to Las Vegas for information on room rates, tours available, and time allotment within the month of March, 2001. As soon as I hear back from them I will include this information in the next available newsletter. I plan on visiting there this coming April to finalize all the details on our next reunion there. Hopefully, room rates will be available for the time period we request. As was stated in the meeting minutes of the officers of the Association, we will have a separate meeting for the guys, then a social-only dinner for the entire group both Friday and Saturday evenings. I have been informed that the group rates will be cheaper if we go for the entire week or during the week. Knowing that many cannot get off the entire week, I will set it up for a weekly reunion, however all events which involve the entire group, will be kept to Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

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ASSOCIATION FUND RAISER
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To help raise money for the next reunion, I would like to run "50-50" drawings. What this means is, you purchase "50-50" tickets at the following prices:

One for	\$1.00
six for	\$5.00

The prize award will be based on total amount of tickets sold, the winner receives half of that amount. Example, \$800.00 worth of tickets sold would give the winner \$400.00, the association would receive the other half to be used strictly for reunion expenses. The day before the newsletter is sent to be printed, a ticket will be drawn from a canister and that number would be the winning ticket number. The winning ticket number will be listed in that newsletter. We will run one each newsletter, until the reunion. See attached sheet of tickets.

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP
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I have included a Life Membership Form with the news letter for those to fill out who wish to purchase a Life Membership in the Association. I also have a regular application for dues for those who wish to renew their dues for the year 2000.

Those of you already listed as Life Members on your envelopes, would you please take some time to fill in the information and send back to me. No need to send additional money (unless of course you want to).



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THE BIO PAGE
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Podraza, Walter C: Walter was with Charlie Company when we arrived in country in September of 1967. He stayed in the unit until August of 1968. He now lives in New York State

Pollock, Carl: Went over with Bravo Company. He was an APC driver. He stayed with the company until September of 1968. Carl put together a mini-reunion this summer and had almost 20 guys show up from Bravo Company. Carl now resides in Alabama.

Pottinger, Norman: "Sandy" arrived in country 9 November 1968, leaving one year later after touring the country side in the VTR. He and his wife, Sandra live outside of Atlanta Georgia, in Woodstock. Sandy works as a registered Geologist in Georgia. Sandy has been undergoing treatment for an illness and we wish him well!

Powell, Wilbur G: Wilbur now resides in Arkansas. No further information available at this time.

Prado, Frank M Jr.: Frank was with the battalion then returned home and settled in the Houston Texas area where he now resides.

Price, David W: David arrived in country around November of 1969. He spent a year there with Charlie Company as APC driver. David spent some time with a sniper team while there. He and his wife Michelle live in Wisconsin, with his two children.

Prince, William: William now lives in New Jersey. No further information is available.

Punelli, Charles J: Charles went over with us on the boat and left country in July of 1968. Charles now resides in Iowa.

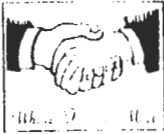
Quint, Gary E: Gary was an original member of the battalion from September of 1967. He came to us from 2/41 Regiment. He was with both HQ and Alpha company. Gary and his wife now reside in Missouri, where he works as a Police Officer. They are parents of two boys.

Rainwater, Don: Don was with Bravo Company motor pool group from December of 1969 until October 1970. He and Gwen reside in Mississippi with their son, David.

Randall, Herbert E: Herb was Charlie Company's original commander upon arrival in country. Herb spent over 31 years in the military and just recently retired to the cold island of Hawaii, where he and his wife, Maria live. Herb is presently the State Executive Director of the Hawaii School to Work Opportunity System.

Reed, David: Indiana ... no further information available.

Rhatigan, John: John was along on the voyage across the sea. He went with Alpha Company and was wounded in November of 1967. John now lives in Iowa.



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 THE BIO PAGE
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Richard, Dennis: Dennis served with Charlie Company, from 8/13/68 until 1/14/69 in the 2nd Platoon. Dennis and his wife, Sylvia now reside in Vermont. He is self employed.

Riley, Kenneth G: Ken went over on the USNS John Pope with the battalion, serving in Charlie Company from September 67 until June of 1968. He and His wife live in Pennsylvania and their Daughter, Bobbi, just passed the bar exam in PA and NJ. Ken works for a contractor as Director of Operations.

Rinaldi, Joseph F: Joe also went by boat to Vietnam in September of 1967. He was in the 4th Platoon of Charlie Company. Upon return to the states, Joe settled in the Staten Island, NY area with his wife and three children.

Robbins, Travis: Travis spent his time with Bravo Company and was with Donald Morrison when he found the money in the cave. Travis now lives and works in Texas.

Robinson, Pete: Pete arrived in country with the battalion in 67. Spending his year with Charlie Company, Pete returned to Missouri where he now lives.

Rockey, Warren F: Warren: Warren served with the 1/50th Infantry in Vietnam. Returning home, he continued in the Farming industry in Colorado, where he is owner of Rockey Farms. He and his wife Danice raised two sons.

Rodriquez, Ventura: Ventura served with the battalion in the SRAP platoon from December 1968 until December 1969. He currently resides in Wisconsin.

Romano, Frank: Frank served with Headquarters Company from May of 1969 until April 1970. He and his wife now reside in California. Frank is still active in the Reserves.

Rosenburg, Pete: Petewas with the battalion for a while. He now resides in Illinois. No other information available at this time.

Roskilly, William C: Bill was with Charlie Company during 67 -68. He was driver of APC #332. Bill and his wife, Carol live in California.

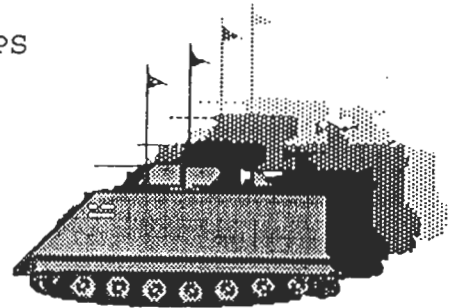
Rosner, Henry: Henry trained with us at Fort Hood and was witness to the first major fire fight of Charlie Company. Halloween night, in the Tiger mountains. Henry now resides in New York State.

Roth, Russ: Russ served in the Medic Corp with Delta and Alpha Company from December of 1967 until the following December. Russ resides in Washington State with his new bride. He worked with the Fire Department of Portland Oregon for over 27 years. He likes to hunt and fish in his spare time.

Sams, Larry J: Larry was with Charlie Company from December of 1969 until November 1970. Sam works with Sprint as Manager and he and his wife, Carol, have two children. He now resides in Ohio.

CURRENT LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Dossey, Larry G: MD	Life member
Pottinger, Norman "Sandy"	Life member
Hurley, Tim	Life member
Riley, Kenneth G	Life member
Bresseman, Wilber	Life member



START THE NEW YEAR COMPLETELY DUES FREE! PAY NOW SO YOU DON'T FORGET.
Current yearly dues are \$10.00 per year.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____
Tel Home: (____) _____ Tel Work: (____) _____
E-Mail Address: _____
Served in unit: _____ Company: _____ Platoon: _____
APC#: _____ Time: From: _____ To: _____

1/50th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION
LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To: 1/50th Infantry Association
Kenneth G Riley
200 Georgetown Court
Hanover PA 17331

Here is my application for LIFE MEMBERSHIP in the 1/50th Infantry Association and my LIFE donation of \$150.00.

Name _____ Membership No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Tel Home (____) _____ Tel Work (____) _____

E-Mail address: _____

I Served in unit: _____ Company _____ Platoon _____

Location: _____ APC # _____ Time: From _____ to _____

Date Signed: _____ Signature: _____

1st Battalion 50th Infantry
50-50 Drawing

Name: _____ Phone NO: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Donation: \$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5
Prize amount will vary on amount of tickets sold

1st Battalion 50th Infantry 50-50 Drawing

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1st Battalion 50th Infantry 50-50 Drawing

The Bonds of Combat

When do men “learn” not to cry in emotional situations? When do men “learn” that it is not manly to say “I love you” to another man? When do men “learn” that it is not macho to hug another man? Somewhere in a man’s life they “learned” these things even though they weren’t taught to them by anyone.

Have you ever seen men who have been in combat reuniting with their combat buddies? There are a lot of tears and hugs. Watch the movie Saving Private Ryan and you will see an honest portrayal of the emotions of men who have been in combat together.

This is a story about Donald Morrison, one of many combat buddies, and the lessons about the bonds of combat that they taught me without realizing what they were doing. Donald was selected not to slight anyone but rather as the personification of this bond. Because this bond is so special you cannot discuss it in general but rather in terms of a person. Those who have served in the Armed Forces understand the bond of friendship. However those who have served in combat together have carried this bond to a higher level. It is an emotional link that goes beyond friends, family and loved ones.

When the bullets are flying in combat there is an immediate reaction within your being called fight or flight. Military training overcomes the flight part and teaches you to react by staying and fighting. All emotions are suppressed until the battle is over and then you move on to your next mission. In between you deal with the emotion inwardly or try to forget about it. Combat is one place where men learn to suppress their emotions. Many of them do such a good job of it that it becomes a habit that they carry throughout life until they are reunited with their buddies from the war.

There are many Donald Morrisons in the world and I was fortunate to have served with many

of them in Vietnam. What makes these men so special? Did they save my life? Not directly. Did they perform some heroic act? None that would have warranted a medal. They were just ordinary citizens from your hometown who were asked to do a dirty job. They did the best they could and then they went on with their lives as though what they had done was expected of them. They didn't ask for medals, parades, fanfares nor media attention. They just wanted to go home and forget the war. Many did such a good job of this that they put the names and faces of their combat buddies in the far reaches of their minds.

It is often said that the most dangerous weapon in the world is a second lieutenant with a map and a compass. I think I personified that description. However, all of my Donald Morrisons helped me look good because they could read a map and knew the tank trails of Fort Hood, Texas. If it weren't for them I would still be lost on Fort Hood. In Vietnam they made me look even better because we were not a platoon of individuals but rather a cohesive combat unit. Being in combat is a thankless job. Being a leader in combat is even worse because you have to get these men to perform horrific acts, such as assaults, in the face of bullets. Because these men did their job so well it made being a leader a little less agonizing than what it could have been.

I, like so many people, came back from the Vietnam War and forgot about it. I closed the door on it and never looked back. I put the names and faces of all of the Donald Morrisons in the back of my mind but never really forgot about them entirely. I never knew if these men had made it back alive and really didn't want to face the possible bad news.

In October 1997 I was contacted by Ken Riley, another member of the battalion (1st Battalion 50th Infantry Mechanized) that I had served with. He had started an association for those who had served with the unit. My first question to Ken Riley was: did he have the address and phone number of Donald Morrison? He did and I immediately called Donald.

His wife, Connie, answered and told me that he had just returned from the hospital after cancer surgery on his leg. She said he was sleeping so I talked with her at length. I told her how special Donald was to me and I had thought about him for years even though I had not thought about anything else associated with Vietnam. The next evening I called and finally got to talk to my combat buddy.

I called him once more and we were making plans to see each other at the reunion in September 1999. Regretfully I never traveled to Georgia to see him. I didn't think there was a need. He made me feel that everything was all right with him. That was the way he was.

In February 1999 I received the worst letter I could ever receive. Donald passed away on January 30, 1999. Donald Morrison may be gone but he lives on in all of us who share the bond of combat.

There is a lesson here. If you care for and, yes, even love another person, tell him. If you have been thinking about them, tell them. Don't wait another day, hour or minute. None of us are guaranteed tomorrow even though we take it for granted.

Thank you Donald Morrison for: teaching me that it is all right for a man to express his true feelings and emotions; teaching me that it is OK to hug your combat buddies, cry and tell them that you love them; helping me experience the bond that people in combat share; and being the inspiration for this story so that others may know the bond of combat.

I salute you Donald Morrison and the officers and men of the 1st Battalion 50th Infantry. I salute all of the brothers in combat. Please tell your brothers how you feel before it is too late and all you can do is tell their story.

Even though the bond of combat is strong it is nothing to hope for. I hope that you who read this story do not have to experience combat. It is not glorious but painful and emotional.

1ST BATTALION 50TH INFANTRY (MECHANIZED)

"ON THE RIGHT TRACK"

 VOLUME NUMBER 4 -- DATED 1 JANUARY 2000 -- ISSUE NUMBER 1A

FROM THE
 EDITOR'S DESK . . .

This is a supplement to the enclosed newsletter. The reason for this supplement is that the current newsletter was printed on 2 December 1999, in anticipation of an employment change. Due to not knowing if I would be able to continue the newsletter under the present system, I printed what was available at the time. Hopefully, this situation has been remedied and will not occur again.

Page 2 Update: "Reunion News"

See Attached sheet for information to vote on days Reunion should be held in March 2001. If you think you might be attending, please fill out the form at the end of that sheet and return to me prior to 1 March 2000. This information will decide which days of the week we will hold the reunion in Las Vegas. The results of this poll will be published in the March issue, along with additional information on hotel rates, locations, etc.

Page 3 Update: "Bio Page"

Sadly, Norman "Sandy" Pottinger passed away prior to the release of this information. Our Flower Committees chairman, Robert Gold, has sent an arrangement to his wife, Sandra.

Addition to the Newsletter:

On Saturday, 18 December 1999; a "Conference Call" Meeting was held by the majority of Officers of the Association. Highlights of what were discussed are listed below.

1. President Guthrie spoke on the possible "Return Tour" being set up for the year 2001. Details will be announced in the March Newsletter.
2. The March Issue of the newsletter will carry the Officers and Committees of the Association, along with addresses, and contact persons and phone numbers.
3. Details of the Association Policy for dues (nonpayment of) will be spelled out in the March Newsletter.
4. Policy for obtaining back-issues of the Newsletters will be explained in that issue also.

One final note: Gentlemen, if you receive this newsletter and your address, phone number, or e-mail has changed, please let me know. I am getting several returned as undeliverable and several e-mail addresses were returned to me as not deliverable as addressed. Please let me know of any changes. Also: we will be sending out an updated Directory sometime during the summer of 2000. Please check your old directory to make sure all information is there on you correct. If any info is missing, please send that to me within the next few days, so you don't forget to supply the correct information. Thanks much!

REUNION INFORMATION

LOCATION: LAS VEGAS NEVADA

DATES: TO BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The following information is known:

1. February is typically one of the busiest months in Las Vegas, so therefore, few Hotels will commit to our small group. Thus, March 2001 is currently being checked on.
2. Room rates for Reunion during Sunday through Thursday are very cheap. Most hotels that contacted me quoted \$39.00 to \$109.00 per night. Rates for Friday and Saturday were in the \$129.00 to \$359.00 per night range.

Personally, I am planning that time to be one of my vacation weeks and I will be there for the entire week, no matter what the final decision is. There is so much to see and do there, that even a week's time will not allow you to see very much. Thus, I would like to recommend we use the Sunday to Thursday time period as our reunion, with no more than two evenings assigned to actual Association events. The rest of the time would be your time to do as you wish.

Thus, this brings us to decision time. I need you to mark your preference in the space below for anyone who might be coming to the Reunion as to the time period of the week you wish to attend. Please indicate below which time period is of most interest to you. The results of this will be published in the March Newsletter and I will then contact the hotels, making them aware of this decision, so they can confirm rates, vacancies etc. With this information then, I can lock in our rates and time period and publish all information about the Reunion in the June issue of the newsletter.

YES: NO: Sunday through Thursday

YES: NO: Monday through Saturday

YES: NO: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday

OTHER: Specify days: _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: () _____ - _____

The week suggested by most Hotels who contacted me: Sunday, 11 March to Thursday, 16 March