

## 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION 50<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY (MECHANIZED)

### "ON THE RIGHT TRACK"

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 VOLUME NUMBER 4 -- DATED 30 MARCH 2000 -- ISSUE NUMBER 2  
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Our Mission is to publish a newsletter and to maintain an Internet Home Page for membership use. The Association will use these sources 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 majority of this newsletter will deal with the reunion. Hopefully in the June issue I will be back on track discussing items of interest to the average veteran, such as finances, veteran's issues, etc.

For those of you who have not had the chance or in some case, the misfortune, of being in Las Vegas; let me say that you are in for a treat! Not only do they have a Casino every few feet along the Strip to separate you from your money, but there are so many other interesting things out there. Later I will detail several of the tours available and the costs. Keep in mind, this is the "Land of the High Rollers," so the tour costs are a bit high, in my judgement.

There are also many casinos which provide a "free show" nightly to those who wonder into their domain. Listed here are several and the hours of operation of the "freebie."

1. At the Mirage, starting at 8:00 p.m. until midnight, a "volcano erupts every 15 minutes. Spectacular show, especially with the water as a back drop. There is also a White Tiger Habitat available there. In addition, you don't want to miss Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden.
2. The Excalibur has King Arthur battling the "Fire Breathing Dragon" every hour from sundown until midnight.
3. The Flamingo Hilton has a 15-acre Wildlife Habitat, with daily feeding at 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m..
4. At the Forum in Caesars, the statues come alive every hour from 11:00 a.m. until 11 p.m.. This "Free" show is well worth the wait.
5. Starting at 4:00 p.m. until 11:30 every night, see the pirate ship battle the English in front of the Treasure Island Casino every 90 minutes.
6. In Harrah's Carnival Court, there is live music from 5:00 p.m. until 10:30 every day.
7. Circus Circus has a Center Ring act going on from 11:00 a.m. until midnight.
8. Venture downtown to Freeman Street after the sun sets and witness one of the most brilliant light shows ever Every hour from 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m., 90 feet above the street.
9. At Sam's Town, outside of Vegas, there is a laser light and water show every two hours starting at pm.
10. At the Rio, witness a magnificent Masquerade Ride in the Sky every two hours, starting at two p.m..
11. At the M.M. Grand, check out the multi-level lion habitat, open every day from 9:00 a.m. to 11 p.m..

There are many other "free" shows and attractions, too many to mention here. Once you arrive, check out the front desk for details on what is available.

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LEARNING FROM GEESE

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Observers of nature remind us how much we could learn from the animal world. Nature provides a classroom from which humans can learn how to cope with each other. Geese display a common sense approach to life, which should be emulated by humans. Why? Listen up, as they said!

Geese Fact Number One:

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an updraft for the bird behind. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds greater flying range than if one bird flew alone.

Human Lesson Number One:

When people share a common direction, they can get where they are going quicker and easier, if they travel on the strength of each other.

Geese Fact Number Two:

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation.

Human Lesson Number Two:

If we stay in formation and are willing to accept help when we need it as well as lend it to others, this helps everyone to achieve the desired results and goals of all.

Geese fact Number Three:

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies point.

Human Lesson Number Three:

Geese share the task of leadership. How often have we seen human groups fall apart due to jealousy among leaders? How about sharing leadership based on the belief that each person has a contribution to make toward the goals of the organization?

Geese Fact Number Four:

Geese in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Human Lesson Number Four:

Why do humans honk their horns? Is it as a word of encouragement, or a pat on the back for a job well done, or as a helpful suggestion? I don't think so.

Geese Fact Number Five:

When a goose gets sick, is wounded, or shot, two geese drop out of formation to follow it down and to help and protect it. They stay with their companion until it is able to fly again or it dies. Then they launch out on their own or try to catch the flock.

Human Lesson Number Five:

We too need to learn to care for others. If a friend is going through some trying times, or has been "shot down" by a bad event in life, maybe we should concentrate on the needs of that person. Maybe we should show we care enough to lend that helping hand.

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THE BIO PAGE

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Sarlin, Raymond: Ray served with Delta Company and Charlie Company from May of 1969 until May of 1970. Ray is our "Down Under" member, from Australia. Ray is involved with Technical Services International.

Sarsfield, Thomas: Tom was an original member of Delta Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. He arrived with the Battalion, and left country in August of 1968. Tom and his wife, Emily, have two sons, one a golf pro, the other just finishing college. Tom now resides in Pennsylvania.

Schwent, Louis: Louis left Fort Hood with us in August of 1967. He was an FO for the mortar platoon of Charlie Company. Louis now resides in Florida.

Schaller, Bob: Bob served with Bravo Company from its arrival in country until August of 1968. Bob returned to Illinois where he currently has his own Home Improvement Company. He and his wife, Fran have a son and two daughters. His wife Fran teaches Second Grade.

Schillaci, David: David served his tour with the Flame Platoon during the period September 1969 until October 1970. David now resides in Illinois. He has a son, Christopher. David is currently working as a machinist.

Scott, Edmund G: Edmund was with Alpha Company 1/50th Infantry while it was stationed in the United States. He was one of our first members from the post-Vietnam era and I welcome him home. Edmund lives in Arizona, where he serves with the Post Office.

Seagers, James R: Jim came over with the battalion in Bravo Company and stayed with us until March of 1968. Jim and his wife, Loretta, now reside in Alabama and are the parents of two children.

Seid, Steve: Steve came over with Bravo Company. He was assigned to APC #231 and after leaving the country, settled in New York State.

Seiffer, Sam: Sam and I were in the same APC at Fort Hood and arrived in Country with the battalion. He was wounded in 1968 while in the Bong Son area and returned to Ohio. Sam and his wife Tina, now live in New Mexico with their five children.

Sheppard, James: Jim was with Charlie Company and headquarters Company from November 65 until March of 68. He had basic with the unit in 65, 66 and continued with the unit until his release. Jim and his wife Pat, currently reside in New Jersey where he works with the Trump Organization. Jim is our new Historian: he is looking for information on our battalion.

Sindell, Seth: Seth was a platoon leader for Charlie Company upon arrival in Vietnam. Returning to California, Seth began his career in the finance area where he is currently employed. He and his wife Brenda have two sons.

Smerdon, John E: John was in Alpha Company from May of 1968 until May of 1969. He returned home to Missouri, where he and his wife Linda reside.

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THE BIO PAGE

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Smith, Albert C: "Smitty" was an original Charlie Company 4th Platoon trooper. Al spent a few years re-enlisting in the service and when he was discharged, he returned to Pennsylvania where he and his wife Patricia reside in the resort area of the Poconos.

Smith, David R: David was with the weapons platoon of Bravo Company when he arrived by boat. David returned to Michigan after his tour ended in 1968, where he and his wife Denis reside with two children.

Smith, Randall J III: Randy Served with Delta Company and Headquarters as medic from arrival in country until being medivac'd out of country in 1968. He and his wife Mary live in Indiana with their two children. Randy works for the Cummings Diesel Engine Company there.

Smith, Tim: Alpha Company from February 1968 until March 1969 now resides in California.

Smittle, Richard D: Richard arrived in Charlie Company around October 1967, spending a year with us in 3rd platoon. After Vietnam, Richard went to New Mexico where he now resides.

Soens, Terry: Terry went over with the battalion in Headquarters Company Maintenance platoon. Terry lives in Illinois.

Sourwine, Darrel A: Darrel was assigned to Bravo Company as a Platoon leader in September 1967. After release from the service in 1973, Darrel worked in many capacities with the Armed Forces and is currently an Instructor at Fort Lee, VA.

Spangler, Gary: Another original member of Charlie Company, he was TC on my track, 313. Gary fondly remembers Okinawa and the club there. He was wounded in 1968 and spent many months recovering. Gary now works for the Greene County Sheriff's Department and resides in Ohio with his new bride.

Sparling, Peter: Peter arrived in country with Charlie Company, 1/70 and served with them until 11/70. Peter was on board APC # C-13. Peter is now General Manager of a private club in Seattle Washington. Peter and his wife, who have two children, reside in the area.

Spence, Billie R: Billie was with us on the boat to Vietnam. He served in Alpha Company until August of 1968. Billie went home to Texas and he and his wife raised a son, William. Billie passed away on Christmas Day 1998.

Sublett, Lewis: Lewis was with the Cav already in place in Vietnam when we arrived. He joined us in September of 1967 until march of 1968 when he was transferred to 2/12th Cav. Lewis returned, married and had five children. He now resides in Michigan. Lewis said he was the guy who stole the church and sat next to the Medic tent at Uplift.

Swingholm, Charles M: Charlie Company original boat person. Now in Pennsylvania  
No further information available.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM "CAP'N G"

Pebble Beach, California, 6 March 2000

Friends:

It is hard for me to believe that nearly six months have passed since the Kansas City reunion. Some of those conversations and reminiscences seem as if they took place last evening. A gathering like that reawakens the pain of remembering our losses, but also brings, for me at least, the comfort of knowing that many of the friends we so relied on thirty-two years ago are still there, along with others like them, to share our burden.

I doubt that anyone feels completely happy about the goings-on in the current Primary Elections, but while there is plenty in the campaigns that we can deplore, I think we also should agree that at least the debates and discussions have given some new focus to the Armed Forces and to us Veterans. It is none of my business how you may choose to vote, but I do want to remind you that you served in our Army to defend people's right to participate in elections. Be sure you exercise that right that you defended so well.

I would like to thank those of you who have sent me recollections from our days together in 1967-68, and to encourage others, especially those from B Company, to give me stories about daily life in your squad. I am still trying to produce a memoir that will recognize and salute our soldiers' bravery and sacrifice. I have written a draft but it falls short of the goal. My memory simply is not clear enough. I am confident that with the help of others out there, I will be able some day to write a work that will pay the tribute our men deserve. Once again, I'm relying on you.

For a return trip to Binh Dinh Province, I have researched a variety of travel agents and ask you to look over the proposed itinerary on the next page. This trip will be open to anyone who cares to go, including friends and family of our Association membership. The price quoted assumes that at least a dozen of us go, and that there are no dramatic increases in Airfares between now and mid-October of '01. If you think you will be *interested*, please so indicate by tearing off the slip and mailing it back to me. Your response is in no way binding, but we need a preliminary count.

Otherwise brothers, keep your powder dry, your silhouette off the skyline, and drive on the same way you did thirty-plus years ago.

Sincerely,

Dick Guthrie

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To indicate your interest in returning to the old AO, send to:

e-mail: [RPGUT3@aol.com](mailto:RPGUT3@aol.com)

Snail Mail: Richard P. Guthrie

1059 Wrangler's Trail

Pebble Beach, CA, 93953

Your:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ . Number in your group: \_\_\_\_\_ .

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ .  
\_\_\_\_\_



# 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Mechanized)

## Return to Vietnam

### **Oct 2000 or Feb 2001 - 12 Day Tour** **Visiting Binh Dinh Areas of Operation**

**An Khe \* Qui Nhon \* Bong Song \* Phu My**

**Day 1: Staging and USA Departure:**  
Tour members domestic travel to West Coast staging city (San Francisco or Los Angeles) and board transpacific flight for Asia.

**Day 2: Transit Day**  
Crossing International Dateline

**Day 3: Direct Connection to Saigon**  
From connecting city, fly to Vietnam's southern capital arrive by midmorning. Transfer to Metropole Hotel and check-in. Free afternoon for rest. Attend late afternoon orientation followed by a downtown tour by Cyclo and dinner with traditional Vietnamese music and dancing.

**Day 4: Saigon City Tour and Meet Veterans**  
Morning city tour: former Presidential Palace, US Embassy, Notre Dame Church, Westmoreland's Headquarters, Cholon Area etc. Lunch gathering with members of Ho Chi Minh City vets. Assn. Afternoon and evening free: Tour members provided with list of recommended locations for shopping, touring etc.

**Day 5: Saigon to Qui Nhon (Binh Dinh Prov)**  
Morning flight to QN, (former Phu Cat AFB) – early check-in. Tour of former US base areas, beaches. Relax and Dinner

**Day 6: An Khe – Qui Nhon**  
Morning drive over An Khe Pass to city of An Khe. Short visit around city to former 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Basecamp. Return to Qui Nhon – stop for tour at Quang Trung Museum near QN. Relax and Dinner

**Days 7-11: 5 Day Detail Tour of Former AO**  
For next 5 days, early morning departure and all day trip for intensive tour of former areas of operation in Binh Dinh Province. Travel along National Hwy 1 and provincial roads East and West to reach areas of

**Days 7-11 – Continued,**  
interest to 1/50<sup>th</sup> tour members: Including but not limited to: cities/villages of Phu Cat, Phyl My, Bong Song, An Quang, Dai Dong, Tam Quan, Truong Lam, An Lac, Lo Dieu, and assorted fishing villages along the crescent coast – and to general areas of Phu Cat, Nui Mieu & Cay Giép Mountains; Dam Tro-O Lake; and Soui Ca, Kim Son & An Lao Valleys. Also visits to what is left (if anything) of LZ's Uplift, Ichiban, English, Salem.

Daily travel will be fully customized to meet tour member needs and may include subdividing into smaller groupings. In addition to civilian local tour guides with detailed knowledge of area, we will also invite Vietnamese veterans from Binh Dinh to assist in locating former key operational and battle areas. Further assistance is expected from Cpt. Dick Guthrie (Cmdr. B Company 67-68) who traveled back to former AOs in 1998.

**Day 12: Qui Nhon to Saigon**  
Return by air to Saigon for final day of free time, shopping, sightseeing etc. Farewell dinner cruise on the Saigon River

**Day 13: Return to USA**  
Transfer to Ton Son Nhut for return flight to USA. Direct connection in connecting city, and arrive West Coast on same day of departure after crossing Intl. Time zone. If you would like, you can extend your visit to other areas of Vietnam or Asia.

### **All Inclusive Price:**

\$2,375 per person, Twin share room.  
Single Supplement: \$ 395

Price Includes: International Airfare, Vietnam domestic airfare, all land transportation, tour guides, all airport taxes (domestic and international), all meals, entrance fees for local sightseeing (Saigon), Vietnam Visa Fees, all tips and gratuities, Travel Insurance. The only money you need to bring is for personal spending and beverages at meal times other than bottled water.

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ENRICHMENT

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This is a three-part series on finances. As we begin to near retirement age, common wisdom suggests we shift our investment focus from building capital to preserving it. This inclination seems natural at a time when you lose one of your most dependable sources of income . . . the paycheck! But, being too conservative is also risky. Thanks to a healthier lifestyle and modern medicine, we are living, on average, longer.

Avoid the risk of being too safe. Instead, strive for a diversified Portfolio that can meet your basic needs for safety as well as liquidity. Begin by allocating your funds among the following three classes of investment:

1. For Stability, money market securities, such as Treasury bills, mutual funds, and bank certificate of deposits. These investments provide safety and liquidity at the price of a modest to low income growth.
2. For Current Yield, Income-oriented securities, such as municipal and government bonds, which typically provide a higher level of income than money market securities.
3. For Growth, Stocks and stock mutual funds. Common stocks normally entail more risk and volatility than other types of assets, but over long time periods, they "usually" provide the highest return and greatest margin over inflation.

Deciding how much of your assets should be invested in each class depends on your personal circumstances; such as age, health, and finances, risk's outlook and other income sources. While no strategy will be appropriate throughout your life, consider employing one of these models for your portfolio:

CONSERVATIVE	MODERATE	AGGRESSIVE
Stability 20%	Stability 15%	Stability 10%
Income 40%	Income 35%	Income 30%
Growth 40%	Growth 50%	Growth 60%

Once you have determined the allocation of your assets, spread your risk out even further by selecting a number of investment vehicles and dividing your money among them. It is common practice to put your eggs in different baskets. No investment performs well all the time.

For example, invest not only in the stocks of various industries, but also in diverse categories, such as growth-oriented stocks, as well as large, small and medium companies.

Mix the kinds of bonds you buy and the dates of maturity. And when choosing a mutual fund, look at its objective, which indicates the investment goals of a particular fund.

Next month: Are you worrying about the right thing?

The Bank of Hanover Investment Services Manager provided this information.

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Following is a list of the Officers of the Association and their addresses, e-mail, etc.:

## PRESIDENT:

Richard Guthrie  
1059 Wrangler's Trail  
Pebble Beach CA 93953  
(831) 646-8217  
RPGUT3@aol.com

## VICE PRESIDENT:

Norman Poage  
9050 Markville Drive, #1134  
Dallas TX 75243  
npoage@airmail.net

## CHAPLAIN:

Lawrence "Toby" Jordan  
P O Box 105  
Gideon MO 63848-0105  
(573) 448-3707  
ljordan@sheltonbbs.com

## HISTORIAN:

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

## SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Kenneth G Riley  
200 Georgetown Court  
Hanover PA 17331  
(717) 632-7604  
E-mail: [ichiban@blazenet.net](mailto:ichiban@blazenet.net)

## MEMBERSHIP:

Matthew Chapman  
828 Hailsham Place  
Newport News VA 23602  
(757) 874-2341  
E-mail: [fmonky@yahoo.com](mailto:fmonky@yahoo.com)

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## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

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## REUNION:

Kenneth G Riley  
200 Georgetown Court  
Hanover PA 17331  
(717) 632-7604  
E-mail: [ichiban@blazenet.net](mailto:ichiban@blazenet.net)

## FLOWER FUND:

Robert Gold  
10545 Wright Road  
Uniontown OH 44685  
(330) 305-1495

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Following is a partial list of Museums available for free or a minimal donation in the Las Vegas area:

1. Guinness World of Records Museum:  
2780 Las Vegas Blvd, South
2. Las Vegas Natural History Museum:  
900 Las Vegas Blvd, North
3. Museum of Natural History:  
University of Nevada  
4505 Maryland Parkway
4. Magic and Movie Hall of Fame:  
3555 Las Vegas Blvd, South
5. Liberace Museum:  
1775 East Tropicana Avenue



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New members will be sent a minimum of One (1) year's back issue's of "On the Right Track" our Association Newsletter, and the latest updated addition to the Directory. Because of rising costs in printing, postage, and supplies, the "old" policy of sending all back issues cannot be followed anymore. If anyone wishes "Back Issues" of the Association Newsletter, please inform the Editor of which issues you wish. Costs will be: \$1.00 per issue ordered, plus \$.55 for postage for each issue. I wish there was a way around this, but due to rising costs we can no longer afford this generous policy. A list of available Newsletter issues will be posted in the June Issue, for anyone who wishes to purchase any copy.

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The following Policy will be implemented by the Association, effective 1 June, 2000. Due to rising printing and postal costs, the following will occur:

Any member in arrears on dues for One (1) Year will be sent Association Directory each year, and information on Reunion only, until back dues are paid. Once reinstated, current issues of all Newsletters will be forwarded.

Any member in arrears on dues for Two (2) Years, will be sent Association Directory once each year only, until back dues are paid. Once reinstated, current issues of all Newsletters will be forwarded.

Any member in arrears on dues Three (3) Year or more, will be moved to our "Inactive" Roster and will receive a short letter at the beginning of each year, with an application to rejoin the Association. Those on "Inactive" Roster will receive no information on the Reunion, nor any updated Directory until all back dues have been satisfactorily paid to Secretary/Treasurer.

#### REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

As of Ten March, 2000; the following information is known:  
 Twelve (12) members have not paid their dues for 1998, 1999, and now 2000 is due.  
 Twenty-Nine (29) members have not paid their dues for the year 1999 or 2000.  
 Sixty-One (61) members have not paid their dues for the year 2000.

Gentlemen: Any Association needs donations, dues, or whatever you wish to call it to survive. Those few who have continuously supported to the Association cannot be expected to carry the entire burden. Please remit your dues at this time so the Association can get back "On Track." If all past due monies had been paid to date, the Association would have an additional \$1,710.00 in its treasury and perhaps we would not have to run any Fund-Raisers for the Reunion. As it stands, we have to raise that additional capital to provide finances for Reunion expenses.

With the June Newsletter, we hope to have an Updated, Revised Directory of all members contacted thus far from the battalion. This Directory will be sent to those who are current with this year's (2000) Dues. Check your envelope this came in to see if it has the number 2000, or Life, after your name. If it has 1998 on the envelope after your name, chances are you will not be receiving the Directory this year.

Percentage of membership Paid for Year: 54.9%

Would love to see that at 100%, so fellows, please remit your dues now, ok?

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REUNION VOTE

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The votes have been received at Association headquarters.

DAYS:	Sunday - Thursday	Monday - Saturday	Thursday, - Saturday
Votes:	33	10	8

From the voting, we will be holding the reunion in Las Vegas from:  
 Sunday, 11 March 2001 to and including 16 March, 2001 (Sunday through Thursday, checkout Friday)

Mark your calendars and make your arrangements for those dates. Below are the hotels, one of which will be Headquarters for the Association Reunion. This was decided upon by the Officers of the Association, from the many proposals returned. Due to a tie, I will list the hotel in the June Newsletter, with all pertinent information. Of course, you are most welcome to stay at any hotel in Las Vegas, but the Headquarters and meetings will be held at the one specified in the June Issue of "On the Right Track".

Hotels originally selected by the Officers, from the proposals sent to Headquarters:

	Harrah's	Circus-Circus	Sahara's	Jack Gaughan's	Tropicana
Votes:	2	2	1	0	0

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#### HISTORIAN'S REPORT:

Our Historian, Jim Sheppard, reports he is enjoying his duties as Association Historian. He is currently acting as a "collector" of any and all documentation involving the 1/50th and its' Vietnam Service. He has collected bits and pieces of After-Action Reports, letters, etc. He is planning in the next several months to set up a filing system which will categorize as well as chronicle all materials he receives. Several people are involved in helping Jim collect information, including, but not limited to, Ray Sarlin, Lt. Davidson, the current 1/50th Battalion Historian, Preston Ingalls, and Michael Deal.

Jim has been in contact with Lt. Davidson who offers to help where he can. Jim is also planning to visit the U. S. Army Center of Military History's new home in Washington DC. He is hoping to verify as well as expand on work which has already been done. Jim is checking also with the current 1/50th Infantry Web Site at Fort Benning, as well as with his research at Fort McNair in Washington DC.

Jim hopes to then compose all this input into a complete and accurate "Unit History" from conception to present day. This will then be incorporated into our web site with the help of our webmaster.

It is our request now, that you forward to Jim any and all material you can to help Jim in his search for the most accurate information he can gather. Please send it to the address listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Give Jim or myself a call if you can help in any way with this very tedious process.

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 COMRADE IN SEARCH . . .  
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Billy L Mims Jr , an Association Member, is looking for individuals who may be diagnosed with an Agent Orange illness. If you are, or know of anyone who is, please contact Billy at the following address:

Billy L Mims Jr  
 2 North Lexington  
 Shirley NY 11967  
 (516) 399-8620

Neil Miller is requesting information on the whereabouts of two fellows he served with. Anyone who can help him, contact Neil at the address below. The two men are as follows:

McGee, possibly from the Chicago IL area, and Deutchman, address unknown

Contact:

Neil Miller  
 915 South Front Street  
 St Peter MN 56082  
 (507) 934-2795  
 E-mail: [mil549@gotocrystal.net](mailto:mil549@gotocrystal.net)

This is a call from Ken Riley to all. I received a call a few nights ago from a fellow named Gerald. I did not get his last name. He said he talked with Tom Trout who gave him my name and number. Both are members of the battalion, but neither has joined the Association. I do not have their addresses nor phone numbers. Gerald did not leave me his number when he called. Does anyone know of these people, have an address or phone number for either? If so, please notify me, so I can contact them. Also, a fellow by the name of W. Earl Hanley joined the Association several months ago. He sent money for dues, but he did not include a return address or phone number. If anyone knows of W. Earl Hanley, let me know so I can call and get his mailing address.

Now, for two additions or corrections to previous pages in this newsletter.

Dick, sorry I jumped the gun and printed 300 copies of your "Return to Vietnam" information as soon as I received it. The dates at the top left corner should reference the year 2001, and not 2000.. Please take note of that, any who wish to make that journey.

The second item is, again jumping the gun on my part, I printed the copies of the "Bio Pages" last week. I received an update from one fellow, and would like to add info to his previous bio here:

Sarlin, Ray: Ray was with 1/50th from May 1969 to May 1970. He commanded Delta, then Charlie Co. Ray served with S-4 in between. After returning to the States, he attended Command and General Staff College. He traveled extensively to 25 countries after his service for several companies, including South America, Saudi Arabia, and then Australia, where he currently resides. Ray and his wife have five sons, all who are doing well.

Ray recently set up his own consulting practice and is doing well.

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP

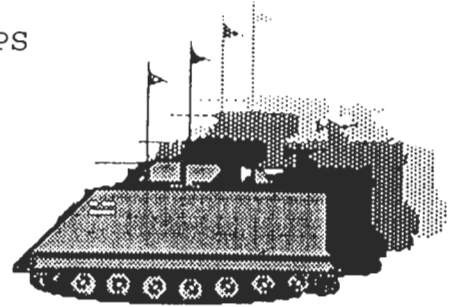
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The following members are now LIFE MEMBERS in the Association:

Member #	Name	Status	as of date:
05	Kenneth G Riley	Life	10/17/99
08	Jon Thelen	Life	12/14/99
61	Don Rainwater	Life	01/22/00
73	Melvin Wadleigh	Life	03/07/00
78	John Topper	Life	02/23/00
81	Matt Morrison	Life	01/24/00
82	John a Hopp	Life	03/01/00
87	Lawrence (Toby) Jordan	Life	01/27/00
88	Billy Hayes	Life	01/21/00
90	Warren Rockey	Life	01/22/00
103	John Vanden Heuvel	Life	02/04/00
119	James L Wonsick	Life	01/14/00
121	John C Rhatigan	Life	01/17/00
124	Norman Pottinger	Deceased Life	01/08/00
129	Larry Dossey	Life	04/14/99
141	Richard Smittle	Life	01/26/00
145	James R Segars	Life	01/25/00
158	Thomas Blankenship	Life	01/22/00
160	Harry B Wilson Jr	Life	11/18/99
175	Wilber D Breseman	Life	12/05/99
194	Tim Hurley	Life	10/11/99
195	John Nichols	Life	01/22/00

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



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

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

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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 \_\_\_\_\_  
APC # \_\_\_\_\_ Time: From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION 50<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY (MECHANIZED)

## ON THE RIGHT TRACK"

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VOLUME NUMBER 4 -- DATED 30 MARCH 2000 -- ISSUE NUMBER 2  
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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 prior to receipt of sad news coming my way. I feel this must be passed on.

I must seem like a broken record in the sense that I continue to urge you all to contact that friend from a long time ago. There are reasons for this. Sadly, I have to report yet another passing of a great man. I received a call from Billy Hayes of Texas, on Monday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, to inform me of the death of William Grant, Bravo Company. From the information I have been able to gather to this point, Bill Grant died sometime on 24 February of this year. Billy Hayes had been trying to contact him, and finally called Bill's son, who informed him of the news.

I would like to quote an e-mail I received from his Company Commander, Richard Guthrie:

"I remember Bill as a solid, decent man, who did his job and was reliable and trustworthy. He functioned under pressure and we could rely on him to do his job, support this buddies, and be there when we needed him. Everything you could ask for in a soldier and a friend."

According to Billy Hayes, his son requested no flowers or cards at this time. His son said, his dad would rather see the money spent on the Association. If I can get any information, family addresses or the like, I will publish them in the next newsletter, for those who wish to contact Bill's family.

For those of us who met Bill at the last two reunions, I can say, ... he will be missed. William Grant, ... May you now rest in peace.

#####  
JUST A SIMPLE SOLDIER  
#####

He was gettin old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the ball game, telling stories of the past.  
Of a war that he had fought, and the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his buddies, they were heros, everyone.

And 'thou' sometimes to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,  
All his buddies listened well for they knew of where he spoke.  
But we'll hear his tales no longer, for old Bill has passed away,  
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.

No he won't be mourned by many, just his children, maybe a wife,  
For he lived a very ordinary, very quiet sort of life.  
He held a job and raised a family, quietly going on his way,  
And the world won't note his passing; 'tho' a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.  
Papers tell of their life stories, from the time that they were young,  
But the passing of a soldier, goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land,  
Some jerk who breaks his promise, and cons his fellow man?  
Or the ordinary fellow, who in times of war and strife,  
Goes off to serve his country, and offers up his life?

The politicians stipend and the style in which he lives,  
Are sometimes disproportionate to the services that he gives.  
While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all,  
Is paid off with a medal, and perhaps a pension way too small.

It is so easy to forget them, because it was so long ago,  
That our Bill's and Jim's and Johnny's went to battle, but we know.  
It was not the politicians with their compromise and their ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom that our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger with your enemies at hand,  
Would you really want some politician, with his ever waffling stand?  
Or would you want that lonely soldier who was sworn to defend:  
His home, his kin, his country, and would fight until the end?

Bill was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us, we may need his like again.  
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part,  
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do Bill honor, while he's here to hear the praise,  
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline in the paper that might say:

"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, FOR A SOLDIER DIED TODAY!"



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*MEDALS*

Don't envy a man and his medals, all those ribbons on his chest.  
He did not try to get them. They aren't there at his request.

They were earned in stinking hellholes, where no man would like to go,  
In cold and wintry places where there is only ice and snow.

He didn't know he'd earned them. They were awarded at parade.  
They were bright when he first got them, but in time the colors fade.

He was told he had to wear them, and to wear them with pride,  
But the memories come to haunt him. Those medals made him hide.

'Cause those medals will not bring back all those guys he left behind.  
He would trade them all forever, for a little peace of mind.

Don't envy a man his medals. You don't want to take his place.....  
Thinking back to long gone battles, and meeting dead friends face to face.

Author Unknown

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