



1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED) 50TH INFANTRY



" ON THE RIGHT TRACK "

VOLUME NUMBER 1 -- DATED 10 OCTOBER 1997 -- ISSUE NUMBER 06

FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK...



TILL WE MEET AGAIN...

WELL!! What else can I say but ... WOW!!! We all survived the reunion, although there were a few there who I was not sure of for a while. Not pickin' on you "Kid," but you looked a bit rough there once or twice. Several things did not materialize that I had kept on the back burner to spring on some of you, but I think the majority of the folks enjoyed it and I hope to see all your smiling faces at the next one. Speaking of which, I really want to thank those who pitched in and helped at the guest registration desk and those who bought the 50-50 tickets. That money will go to defray costs for any future event we have or it will be added to the Flower Fund so we can send cards and flower arrangements to any "Ichaban" soldiers that we are aware of who died or members of their immediate family. We will also be sending cards out to anyone who is hospitalized ... so if you know of anyone out there in either of these situations, please contact the editor, so we can make the arrangements.

Each newsletter will feature a brief history of the battalion members.

Harry Bloomquist spent his tour of duty with HHQ and Delta Company. He was an original boat person, finally leaving country 31 August, 1968. Harry lives in the Pittsburgh PA area with his wife of 31 years, Susan. They have two children. He and Sue were married when he went to Vietnam and their marriage has survived the test of time. Happy Anniversary Harry and Sue Bloomquist. Welcome Home! The Bloomquist's enjoy their river-front cottage and boating when time allows them.

Michael Canavan, from New York, was also an original boat person, who came to Charlie Company as Radio Repairman. Leaving the country in 1968, he became an Electrician with the city of New York, where he is celebrating his 31st year with them. He joined the New York Army Reserve-National Guard in 1982 and is still active with them.

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1. What were the four APO's we had while in Vietnam?



 EDITOR'S PAGE

30TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION of THE 1/50TH INFANTRY (MECHANIZED)

I personally would like to thank our two guest speakers, Herbert Randall and Richard Guthrie for an outstanding speech. It was great to see you again Captain Randall after all these years. Captain Guthrie, although I did not know you at the time, I certainly wished that I would have. Later on in this newsletter, I have listed the names and guests of all those "Troopers" who attended. I do not mean to forget all the lovely ladies who attending the reunion with their husbands or boyfriends, but several of you I did not get your names. If there is any body who was there that I forgot to list, please forward that information to me so I can add it to the roster. Some of you did not sign the guest book so I hope I remember all present.

Thanks to all of you also for your generosity with the ticket sales and the "donations" I received from many of you (including a fellow from Texas and one from Indiana who each donated \$100.00). I will include a financial report with the year's end newsletter so you may see how your Association is doing. Because of the unselfish donations and contributions from you guys (and gals), the Association has an excess of funds right now to be applied to our next reunion.

Speaking of which, for those of you who did not make this one, you missed one great time, for sure. I am sorry several of you could not make it to the reunion since everyone enjoyed themselves enormously. We had guests arriving as early as Wednesday night and as I pulled away (reluctantly) at noon on Sunday, there were still a dozen or so of you there. I believe total count of "trooper" and guest was 84. Well done Ladies and Gentlemen... Looking forward to Kansas City in two years and hope to see everyone of you there then, if not sooner. It is our intent to hold a reunion sometime in September of 1999. Our LZ will be in the Kansas City Missouri area. Actual dates and location will be forwarded to all of you as soon as that information is available.

There is a lot of work to do before that time and I would like to see our "Reunion" Committee start to work on that as soon as possible. I can verify for you: Having two years to finish a project of this magnitude is not a very long time, those months slip by very quickly. Again, I thank everyone for coming to the "First Reunion of Many" and know most of you made new friends and renewed old ones. Now, it is up to all of you to continue that friendship. Don't let it slip away as we did so many years ago.

I want to thank Tom Dubiel for bringing his camrecorder and taking everyone's picture. Tom, as soon as you can get a copy made, please forward to me with a cost to reproduce them; so I can get that out in the next newsletter to all the people there. I am sure most will want a copy of the video. Also, I plan on starting a "Reunion Book" so anyone who has or can get duplicate pictures of what they took at the reunion, please forward to me so I may include them in this book for all times. I will have this book in Kansas City so all can see how wonderful you looked and acted at this last one.

For those who had to leave early or did not get a chance to be in the hospitality room when we drew the numbers for the 50-50 ticket, the following numbers were drawn and the winners were:

Friday, 26 September 1997;	8935655 (\$117.00)	Gladys Grubb
Saturday, 27 September 1997;	8936396 (\$107.00)	Dave Smith

2. When a grenade was detonated in a non-combat situation, what was yelled as a warning?

LETTERS AND NEWS FROM THE GUYS



Heard from several guys since the reunion ...

Just received a letter from Parker Pierce, who said he spoke with "Willie" Wilburn D Jones of Georgia the other day. Parker has already joined the Association and said that "Willie" also wants to get with the program. Thanks Parker for tracking him down. Good Job!!

Robert Taylor was also in Bravo Company and is looking for Joseph A Funaro. If any of you know of his whereabouts, please pass it on to me and I will forward it to Bob. He says he thinks he lived in Delaware at least as late as the 1980's. Let me know if you know where he is.

Wanted to remind all you guys, the last weekend of January of this coming year, 1998; Tet Reunion will be held. The past ten years it has been in Richmond VA. As soon as I have details on the location and dates for this eleventh reunion, I will pass it along in the next Newsletter coming out. I was there at last year's event and it was a real treat. They had over 300 attending and everyone had a ball.

Joe Mlinac, from the Pittsburgh PA area, called to say he was coming to the reunion. He wanted to see Tim Culbertson there. Hey TIM!! Joe was here ... Understand you had some problems on the home front. Hope nothing serious, guy. Keep me posted.

Wanted to let all know who asked about him ...Mike Canavan was in DC at the "Wall" on Saturday ... Only thing was Mike, ... wrong weekend. The reunion was the 26th and the 27th of September. Sorry!!

Received some e-mail from John Topper and Glenn Dulsky. Both were sorry they could not make it to this reunion. Told them both we all missed them and they missed a good time. Maybe next time, huh guys??

Danny Missoff called on Tuesday, 30 September, to see if I got home okay. Hell Dan, I wasn't that far out of it, was I? Guess you made it home safely, or you wouldn't have been calling, huh?

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

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

<http://web2.airmail.net/npoage/1st50th>

When Norm Poage gets a chance, he adds additional items to our page and I think he has done one hell of a job. If anyone wishes to contribute any information to the page, please send it to the editor, and I will see that Norm receives it. Norm has started to add pictures to the home page, so if you have any you can part with, please send along to me and I will forward them to Norm.

3. What does the Vietnamese slang word Ti-ti mean?



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EVENTS FROM THE REUNION
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by Ken Riley

My wife and I arrived at the hotel on Wednesday, 24 September and during the day we verified and double checked on reservations, dinners, bus service, and many of the little details, such as the napkins for the dinners and all of those details that sometimes get over-looked. During the late evening hours one fellow dropped in on us from Chicago. Seems he got there early (wasn't booked to be there until Friday). So we "put him up" in our room for the night.

On Thursday, we spent the day at the Smithsonian and upon arriving back at the hotel later that day, found out that several of you had already checked into the hotel. I think I ran across most of you at the free Cocktail party between 5:30 and 7:30 that night. I know we had five or six in our room that night.

Friday, 26 September, a bunch arrived in the afternoon and things started to happen. Over seventy people were at the dinner on Friday night. I messed up a little getting things going, but the event seemed to carry itself from that point. Thanks to the two speakers we had: Richard Guthrie, Bravo Company's commander; and Herbert Randall, Charlie Company's commander. I wished we would have had time to let all of you get up and give a speech, but the time restraints set by the hotel would not allow that.

I was glad to see that most of you came into the hospitality room sometime during the night. I wish though, that I would have had more time to share with each of you. Honestly, I was not trying to ignore anyone, just had so many things on my mind for the next day's events, that I was not able to talk with each and every one of you for long.

After Saturday morning's free breakfast, the group headed out by bus to the Wall and the Smithsonian. Emotions were high as we wandered down the path to our memorial. Thanks to all of you who provided me with a rubbing from the Wall. I will follow up with those and add them to the Memorial Book and will continue with my efforts to find more names to include by the time we get to the next reunion. It would be nice to have all KIA's in the book by then. So gang, if you know of any name that is on the wall and we did not get it, please send it my way so I can include them in our book.

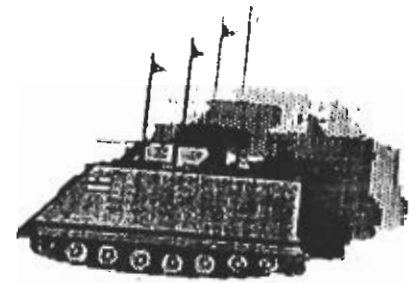
Saturday evening we enjoyed free cocktails at the Atrium Lounge prior to departing by bus for dinner. Although the service at the restaurant lacked in a lot of aspects, the meal was good and all seemed to enjoy the comraderie there. After dinner, the group went again by bus to the Ghost of Alexandria tour, which was a one hour walking tour of the historical points to the town. Arriving back at the restaurant, I think we all were a bit "played out" for the evening. All returned to the hotel and at one time or another during the night, I think every one was in the Hospitality room.

Thanks Dick Guthrie, and Walt "the Kid" for providing us with a showing of your movies. Brought back some memories for sure to most of us. But "KID," feeding ducks on R & R?? Hmmm. Where did you go??

Sunday was a sad day because we all had to part company and head out again for the home front. I missed saying good bye to several of you because you had early flights out and for that I am sorry. Several stayed on after I left. A group went to the Arlington Cemetery and I hope they got the chance to see the Changing of the Guard. Excellent showing they do.

4. What was another term used for "get ready to move out?"

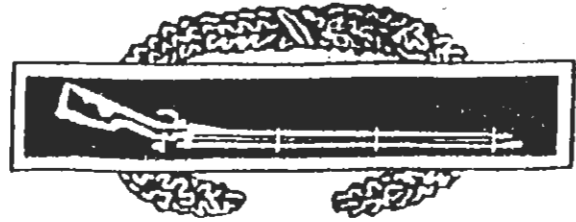
IN ATTENDANCE
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1. * Kenneth and Lawanda Riley
2. * John Golz
3. * Norman Poage
4. * Herbert and Maria Randall
5. * Richard Guthrie
6. * Jack Noble
7. * John Smerdon
8. * Dan Missoff
9. * Gladys Grubb
10. * John and Jeri Carson
11. * David Smith
12. * Tom and Sharon Dubiel
13. * Ray and Debi Barrios
14. * Louis and Carolyn Frisbee
15. * Billy Hayes
16. * Don Rainwater
17. * Bruce and Edith Bruan
18. * Bob Newland and wife (Sorry Bob, did not get her name)
19. * Tom Knepp
20. * Jon and Debra Thelan
21. * James and Marlene Delemeester
22. * Richard Werner, Ron and Jacquelyn Hochman, Kathy Moyer, Patricia and Gregory Werner
23. * Henry Rosner
24. * Albert and Patricia C Smith,
25. * Howard and Barbara Flippin
26. * Walt and Jan Wroblewski, and Jason
27. * William and Carol Roskilly, and Ricky and Jim
28. * Joseph and Brenda Ewing,
29. * Neil and Carolyn Miller,
30. * Jeff and Linda Felder,
31. * Walter and Marion Tracey,
32. * Marion Hay
33. * Fred Lohman
34. * Harry Bloomquist,
35. * Mike and Carol Horvath,
36. * Lawrence "Toby" and Brenda Jordan
37. * James Kelliher,
38. * Thomas and Rosalie Zamzow,
39. * Matthew Chapman Jr, and his wife (again sorry, did not get name)
40. * Joe Mlinac and wife, (Once again, sorry forgot name)
41. * Stanley Walueak
42. * James "Doc" Fitzgerald
43. * Joseph and Lynn Rinaldi
44. * Melvin and Ruth Wadleigh
45. * John and Sandra Fellows
46. * Steve Tinko
47. * William Grant
48. * Bob Schaller

Please!! If I missed your name, I am sorry. Send me any changes from the above list as soon as possible so I may correct it. I counted three additional people but I can not remember who they were.
5. What was a "believer?"

REUNION UPDATES



Elections were held during the Friday Night Dinner and General Meeting. The following officers were nominated and elected to the following positions for a Two (2) year term, starting immediately:

President	John Golz, Alpha Company
Vice President	William Grant,
Secretary/Treasurer	Kenneth Riley, Charlie Company
Chaplain	Lawrence (Toby) Jordon,
Historian	Michael Deal,

My intent for the next reunion is to get in touch with National VFW who has its main offices in Kansas City Missouri. A prior call to them about eight months ago, they mentioned they would "open the town up" for us if we came there. What exactly that means is anyones guess, but I plan to pursue that with vigor. I will update all of you as the information is fed to me. I know they can get the best rates for hotels available, since they hold conventions and seminars there quite a few times each year.

I will be in contact with the local VFW posts in that area to see what type of "hospitality" they can afford us, so each one of us has a minimal outlay of cash for meals, tours, etc. I was a bit unhappy with the cost of the meal on Friday in VA, but it was too late then to change the location. This will not happen again.

If any of you are in the Kansas City area over the next several months, please grab a brochure or two from the Chamber of Commerce or other visitor's center so I can get some idea what attractions may be in the area. Remember, we have our ladies with us and they had "heard" our war stories enough times already. I would like to find some type of tour that they might like to go on, to get away from us "war-story tellin' guys," for at least an afternoon.

6. What two awards were given every serviceman who did time in Vietnam

OFFICER'S CORNER

Although this section is empty right now, I would like each elected officer to supply me with a story, poem, joke, letter, or whatever they can come up with for inclusion in this section of the newsletter every three months. It can be a funny story or a serious thought. It can be one paragraph long or page. Officers! This will be your "soap box" of sorts, so don't let the troops down. Give 'em what they are paying for!

7. What was the most circulated publication in Vietnam?

TIDBITS



I am not planning to fill the pages up with my usual Veteran's stories, jokes, or what-not for now. I wish to get this out as soon as possible, so everyone may see what happened at the reunion. Hopefully in the next newsletter, due out before Christmas, I will be able to have several pages of pictures to include in that newsletter. I hope to have info for anyone who wishes to order a Video Tape from Tom or myself. Those who attended the reunion, please go over the minutes of the meeting and send me any changes, corrections or additions prior to the end of October, so I may include an updated copy with the last newsletter of this year. I also will have a financial report to come out the first of the year, which I will send to each and every member of the Association so they may see where the money they donate for dues and contributions ends up at.

A reminder!! Dues for 1998 membership to the Association are now due before December 31. Unfortunately, I will have to increase this year's dues ONLY to \$15.00. Since we are over 100 members and still growing strong, my accountant says I must incorporate the Association for non-profit tax status. Seems the IRS has a problem with a group like us trying to do something nice for veterans without "paying up." Since I have no desire to pay the government any of your money for our organization, I have to file for tax-free status to keep out of jail. The cost for this filing, advertisements, lawyer's fees, etc., is around \$800.00. If I charge each of you an extra \$5.00 this year only, then there will be enough to cover those added costs. Sorry! But I want to keep the Association going and continue to send you newsletters five or six times a year. So to do that, guess what?

Also, I have included a copy of General Reimer's speech and a copy of the application for membership. Several of you have been getting free newsletters this year since I didn't receive any dues money from you. Please fill this out and remit with your dues for the upcoming year. Those who have paid, thank you very much. Use the application to find just one more member over the next year and sign them up. That way we can continue to grow and prosper. See you at the next reunion!

8. What was a "freak?"

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ANSWERS TO THE TRIVIA QUESTIONS
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- 1.
2. "FIRE IN THE HOLE."
3. PETITE.
4. "SADDLE UP!"
5. A DEAD GOOK. "We really made a believer outta him."
6. THE VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL.
THE VIETNAM SERVICE RIBBON.
7. PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES, published in Tokyo and airlifted in.
8. A RADIO FREQUENCY.



**UNITED STATES ARMY
THE CHIEF OF STAFF**

July 7, 1997

**On the Occasion of the 30 Year Reunion
1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Regiment**

I am honored and delighted to recognize the veterans of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Regiment as they gather for their 30 year reunion.

In many ways the history and lineage of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Regiment represents the story of the modern United States Army. Activated for World War I and World War II, stationed on the front lines of the Cold War in Europe and the "hot war" in Southeast Asia, the battalion's legacy reflects well the efforts and sacrifice of the men and women of America's Army. When your unit mobilized and deployed from Fort Hood, Texas to the Republic of Vietnam in 1967, it added another proud streamer to the regimental flag. The gallantry, resourcefulness and selfless service of the Battalion during the difficult and dangerous days of the first major commitment of American ground forces in Vietnam is truly a record worthy of praise and honor.

Today, following the example set by the officers, soldiers and dedicated families of 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Regiment, the men and the women of the Armed Forces are serving around the world — building on your proud history. You have left high standards to follow.

As you gather to renew friendships and reminisce of absent and fallen comrades, please remember that we are with you in spirit. On behalf of the soldiers and families of the United States Army, thank you for your hard work and dedicated service to Nation. I wish each of you the very best on this important occasion.

**Dennis J. Reimer
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff**

FIRST BATTALION, FIFTIETH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION, INC
(MECHANIZED, AIRMOBILE, INFANTRY)
VIETNAM VETERAN'S CHAPTER
"PLAY THE GAME"

MINUTES TO MEETING ... FRIDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 1997

Meeting was opened by Stand-in President Kenneth Riley at 7:32 PM

He welcomed everyone to the 30th Anniversary Reunion and introduced the Chaplain, Lawrence "Toby" Jordon, who gave invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance, then after a few words from Ken to thank everyone for coming, Dinner was served.

After dinner, Ken Riley went over the schedule of events for the night, mentioning that minutes of this meeting would be included with the next newsletter.

The Treasurer's report was given as Ken stated the amount of money that was collected since December 1996 until present, 26 September 1997. He touched on the anticipated costs and collections, suggesting that the Association would probably be in the black after the reunion's debts were all paid.

Ken Riley then read a letter sent to the battalion by General Reimer, chief of staff, US Army. He then introduced Mr. Richard Guthrie, the ex commander of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 50th Infantry.

Captain Guthrie presented a moving speech to the audience of 75 people who listened intently. He touched a lot of emotions amongst the group with his speech. I personally was touched by his comment, "A lot of you thought I was a mean bastard. I had to be to get you all back alive." Dick then introduced the next speaker, Herbert Randall (ex-commander of Charlie Company).

Captain Randall spoke for a few minutes on the excellent job his "troopers" did and how pleased he was with them. He hit many nerves within the group with his well organized talk. No one spoke as he covered his points carefully. Both speakers received a huge applause for their talks.

Ken Riley then took the floor again and asked for any suggestions or ideas on the next reunion, explaining that we would do one in two years. Reason being to allow other people to be able to attend and also to allow sufficient time to plan for the event. He suggested Kansas City and also the possibility of a cruise, maybe three or four day long. The body decided Kansas City would be a nice centrally located place to attend.

The body was asked for people to get involved with the planning of the reunion. He asked those present to fill in the paper provided with the program on reunion information.

Ken Riley brought up about the Home Page and mentioned about Norman Poage the creator of the home page. Everyone applauded his efforts. Ken also asked for all those in attendance to send along any story or item of interest to the editor for inclusion into the newsletters.

The floor was opened to nominations for president of the Association for the next two years. Ken nominated John Golz from Chicago for President. No other nominations coming forward, John was unanimously voted as President.

Ken Riley then asked for nominations for Vice President. William Grant was nominated and elected to that position.

He then asked for nominations for Secretary/Treasurer and the name of Ken Riley was presented for nomination. No further nominations coming forward, he was elected to that office.

Nominations for Historian was then asked for, and Ken suggested Mike Deal, who is presently working on that duty. No other names being suggested, Mike was voted to that position.

He then asked for names for Chaplain, suggesting that Lawrence "Toby" Jordan should fill that post. No other names being suggested, Toby was voted into that spot.

Ken Riley mentioned there were photo books available at the tables in the rear of the room to look at. He asked for anything under the Good of the Order and Al "Smitty" Smith made a toast to all the fallen comrades from the battalion.

It was stated to the group that there was a hospitality room available each night in Room 804 for those wishing to get together to socialize and refreshments would be available. He also mentioned about the 50-50 drawing to help raise funds for the Association.

The next days schedule of events was covered briefly and what times the bus would be there to take those going to the wall and other points. Everyone was asked to socialize with all those present, not just those they know:

The acting President then asked for any other discussions, questions, or comments. None coming forth, he closed out the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and wishing them a good trip home later that weekend.