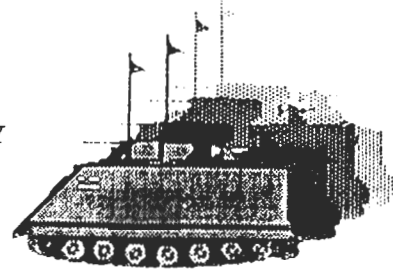


1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED) 50TH INFANTRY



" ON THE RIGHT TRACK "

VOLUME NUMBER 2 -- DATED 15 SEPTEMBER 1998 -- ISSUE NUMBER 05

FROM THE
COMMAND TRACK...



First things first. I want to take this opportunity to thank all who sent in their ballots. Although many of you returned the voting ballots which were forwarded to you, and others e-mailed or called me with their preferences; there are others out there who did not respond at all, and that saddens me some. This association was founded with the thoughts of all the magnificent men who fought side by side in a conflict which many did not want, but saw it as their patriotic duty to do so. As Editor, my goal through these newsletters is to re-unite each of us and re-ignite a friendship from many years ago.

It has been a very rewarding and fulfilling year for me ... one that I will never forget. In this past year since our last reunion in Alexandria Virginia, we have seen the membership in the Association increase by over 50%: and many others, who have not yet joined the Association, have been contacted and are now renewing a friendship with their buddies from way back when. This could not have been possible if it had not been for the support of many members of the Association.

Later in this newsletter, I will explain one such incident that happened to me recently. Although to those who have not had this experience, it may seem a bit trivial, I found it most heartwarming and a very pleasurable experience, to say the least.

And last, but definitely not least, I must say how much I admire all of you who have demonstrated each and every day what it means to lend a helping hand. And, I appreciate the warm letters and the calls I received over the past year and thank you all for that.

This short newsletter is being sent to update all of you as to the various questions put forth in the past newsletter, and the results of the voting as received by the Editor, as of the 15th of September 1998.

I also received a few suggestions along with the ballots and these issues will be taken up with the new officers shortly to see if any of those ideas can be implemented into the Association in the near future.

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AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT ...
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I went to the National VFW Convention, held in San Antonio Texas, from the 28th of August until the 4th of September 1998. My goals were varied, of course, since there were many issues to be voted on and as always, several of the items were to lead to a lot of discussion.

Several weeks prior to my departure, I had been in conversation with Herman Allmendinger, who was also going to be there, representing a post in Oklahoma. Herman, it seems, was also a past member of the 1/50th Infantry, so we made arrangements to meet. This meeting then occurred on Monday over a long lunch and it was a very joyous reunion, although neither of us had known each other prior to this time.

What really set me back was an incident that occurred on Tuesday evening, 1 September 1998. After spending an evening about the town, my wife and I returned to the Pennsylvania Delegation Hospitality Room for a night cap prior to returning to our hotel. Leaving there, we wandered past the Maryland Hospitality Room and at my insistence, we entered, sat down and had our last drink for the evening. While sitting there with three of the post members from my home town, a couple from Texas wandered into the room and sat opposite us and began talking.

The fellow who just entered the room introduced the gal he was with as the aunt to the lady from Iowa who had seven children born to her last year. We talked with her at length about this newly formed family. She left the area briefly, and I asked the fellow what unit he was with in Vietnam. His response was he originally was with the 1st Cav, then the 173d. I sat back and quickly asked, "What year?"

Well, 67-68, was his response and I looked at him and said one word, "Ichiban?"

He stood up and said, "How could you know that?"

I responded with my usual line, "Well, I was with the 1st of the 50th!"

He walked over to me and put his hands out in friendship, stating he also was with the 1/50th and went over on a boat with the unit. I told him I also was on that same boat.

Edward Arispe served with Delta Company and HHQ Company, 1/50th since its inception at Fort Hood Texas. He served his tour of duty with the 1/50th and returned to the states, only to re-enlist into the army, from which he retired and is currently living in San Antonio Texas.

Edward, his lady friend Mildred, Herman Allmendinger and his wife, and my wife and I went to lunch on Wednesday of that week and we spent many moments reminiscing of the old times, filling each other in on what we have done since then, and just enjoying each other's company for the short time we had available.

Parting company later was very hard to do, however, I know that there will be other times in the future when we again will meet. Fate sometimes works in mysterious ways and if this was not fate that the two of us should wonder into a totally different hospitality room than we usually attended at the same time, sit next to each other and talk, then I don't know what ever would be called, "Fate."

BALLOT RESULTS OF ITEMS SENT WITH NEWSLETTER # 4 1998

NON-PROFIT STATUS:

YES: 21 votes for
NO: 22 votes against

CHOICE OF HOTELS:

EMBASSY SUITES: 30 votes
RADISSON SUITE: 2 "
MARRIOTT: 1 "
CROWNE PLAZA: 1 "
HYATT REGENCY: 1 "
WESTIN CROWN CTR: 0 "

SPONSOR COW PIE RAFFLE:

YES: 23 votes for
NO: 12 votes against

ELECTIONS:

PRESIDENT: 46 votes for Norman "Sandy" Pottinger
no write-in votes

VICE PRESIDENT: 46 votes for Norman Poage
no write-in votes

CHAPLAIN: 46 votes for Toby Jordan
no write-in votes

HISTORIAN: 46 votes for Mike Deal
no write-in votes

SECRETARY/TREASURER: 46 votes for Kenneth G Riley
no write-in votes

As you notice, for each vote, other than Officers of the club, the totals do not add up to the same. This is due to several people abstaining from a particular vote, or several who said they could not make it to the reunion. Also, several people called or e-mailed me with a vote for only certain items on the list.

All ballots will be kept at the office of the Secretary/Treasurer until the next reunion in Kansas City MO, at which time a motion will be made by the secretary/Treasurer to destroy such ballots. Any one wishing to see a copy of all Ballots, please write to the secretary/treasurer and I will send you a copy of the voting.

Thank all of you for casting a vote on these important issues. Almost one-third of the members voted this time around, and although I had hoped for more response, I am happy with it!

For the record, I will again bring up the motion on Non-Profit Status at the beginning of the year, after I have investigated it more with the State and the IRS.