



“THE IVY DRAGOONS DISPATCH”

Newsletter of the 3/8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division - Vietnam War



President: Steve Edmunds

Volume III

Ivy Dispatch Editors: Ken Howe & Levi Issavks

Summer, 2003

IVY DRAGOONS REUNION JULY 3 - 6, (A Summary)

Area of Operation: Gold Coast Hotel/Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

Weather: Hot, Hot, Hot!! days 110-115 deg, nights 75-80 deg

ATTENDING:

A/3/8: Col Bill & Judy Babcock 69-70; Johnnie & Cindy Bing 67-68; Stanley Bode 67-68; George “Doc” Costa 68-69; Gordon & Karin Dixon 67-68; Jim & Helen Hill & Family/Friend 66-67; David Jack 67-68; Albert & Isabel Jacquez 69-70; Julio Leon 68-69; William Maass 67-68; Larry & Velma Poore & Family 67-68; Dennis Sanchez 67-68; Bill & Sandy Vigil 67-68; Charlie Young 67-68; **B/3/8:** Jim & Ruth Adams 67-68; Jim Bury 67-68; Don & Sharleen Fields 68-69; Bob & Robin Gamboa 66-67; Joe & Irma Garcia 67-68; Jim George 68-69; Ed & Mary Ellen Goehring 66-67; Robert Hillsberry 67-68 FO; Levi Isaacks 67-68; Ed & Josie Pippin & Friends 67-68; Ed Sleichert 68-69; Bob Walkowiak 67-68; Fred Watson 67-68; **C/3/8:** Robert & Brenda Brown 67-68; Mark Butler 67-68; Steve & Elsie Edmunds & Family 67-68; Chris & Priscilla Goldsmith (Brother - Roger Goldsmith C/3/8 KIA 7/23/67); Lawrence & Lorna Gutierrez 67; Gary Holliman & Mom 67-68; Monte”Doc” Lunde 67-68; Bob & Linda Maranise & Family 67-68; Patrick McClelland 67-68; Larry Skoglund 67-68 FO; Rea & Betty Sparks 67-68; Jim White 68-69; Robert White & Friend 67-68; Bob Williamson 67-68; **D/3/8:** Walter Gross 67; Dan & Sharon Grzyb 67-68; Byron & Kim Kinnan & Family/Friends 67-68; Alex Quintanar 67-68; **E/3/8:** Gene Kelly 69-70; Robert & Catherine Kirkland 69-70; Bill & Pamela Newcomb 68-69; **HHC/3/8:** Charlie Flood 66-67; M/Gen Tom “Charger” & Katchie Lynch 66-67

Due to space limitations in our newsletter, it was not possible to print the Reunion After Action Report. Copies are available. Just let me know. Wow!! What a weekend. This was, by far, the largest turnout as you can see by the list of attendees. Most of the activities took place in Salon H where we set up our CP. As our Brothers arrived and registered, each were given a name tag and a key chain with the Vietnamese Service Ribbon fashioned from red, yellow, and green beads tethered together with a piece of leather as a remembrance of the weekend festivities. Photo albums were laid out over the conference table for sharing. Three sets of our archives, which included rosters, after action reports, daily logs/journals, copies of Ivy Leaf and Stars & Stripes, etc, were placed in binders for reference material. Memorabilia was laid out on display. Topographical maps were available to pinpoint our AO's. The flag of the 4th Inf Div was hung up on a wall. Bill Vigil had a wooden CIB which we placed above the flag. He, also, donated a video cassette tape of the 4th Inf Div in Vietnam which we had playing most of the day. Jim White had a “steel pot” with his original cover he brought home after his tour and a box of “C’s”, Ham & Limas. We took time out to conduct a brief business meeting and elect/appoint officers of our chapter. The main event was the banquet dinner on Saturday night held in Salon CD. Our battalion strength for this event was 93, including family and friends. Johnnie (“A” Co 67-68) and Cindy Bing had set up a video camera to tape this event. The banquet table covered the width of the room. Does not matter what was on it, as it was a definite im-

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Alex Quintanar, D/3/8 67-68, introduced this illustration at our reunion in Las Vegas. He is making this available to the Dragoons for \$10.00 per copy (8 1/2 X 11). Please do not reproduce as this is protected under copyright. If you wish to purchase one, send \$10.00 payable to the Ivy Dragoons Chapter 4IDA to: Steve Edmunds, 2212 Shady Hills Dr, Diamond Bar, CA 91765.



Recon 3/8 "Meat Hunters"

L to R: Fred Parr, Jack Crumley & Jim Jewell

Mini-reunion:

On Sat April 26, 2003, former members of Recon 3/8th known as the "Meat Hunters", Jack Crumley, Fred Parr and Jim Jewell (along with their wives) got together at a restaurant in Port Townsend, Washington. We had a great time looking at pictures, reminiscing and catching up on the last 36 years. Fred and I have kept in contact since leaving Vietnam, but we both had not seen or heard from Jack, our platoon leader, since 1967. We were both very surprised to find that Jack lived nearby, and are planning to get together again soon.

Submitted by **Jim Jewell** (HHC/3/8 RVN 8/66-8/67)

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provement over C-Rations. During the course of the evening, we had a number of speakers, including; M/Gen Tom Lynch, Charlie Flood, Alex Quintanar, Monte "Doc" Lunde, David Jack and Bob Kirkland from the battalion. Our special guest speaker was Jim Brunotte, Pacific Regional Director for Pointman International Ministries and a close personal friend. He shared his experiences as an MP in Vietnam in 1968 before severe wounds sent him home after, only, 8 weeks in country. His wounds left him a triple amputee and with the loss of an eye. He talked of his recovery, both, mental and physical. His was a heart warming testimony. Jim has made two of the trips to Vietnam as a team member of Open Hands & Hearts - Missions to Vietnam. During the course of the evening drawings were held to give away the many prizes that were donated. To conclude the evening's festivities, Pastor Ed Pippin("B" Co 67-68) conducted a memorial service in remembrance of our fallen Brothers. The service was concluded with the playing of "TAPS". Sunday morning saw some early departures, others had chow in the mess hall, Monterey Room, before departing. Yet, others who were staying over did some more sight-seeing or just visiting with new found friends and Brothers. What occurred over these days is difficult for me to put into words. All I can say is that with all the effort in putting together an event like this, it is all made worthwhile when you see Brothers being reunited for the first time after so many years. It is a heart warming site to see and be a part of. It can seem a little overwhelming at times. An emotional roller coaster ride as we reflect on the good times, as well as, the most difficult of times.

Steve Edmunds

President, Ivy Dragoons Chapter 4IDA

REUNION COMMENTS

Had a great time, thanks again for all that you and the family put into it
Johnnie Bing A/3/8 67-68

It was a wonderful reunion! It was truly good for Bob and we both had a great time and we are both looking forward to the next one! Bob & Brenda Brown C/3/8 67-68

We enjoyed renewing an old bond. The reunion was great and spending time with each of you made it a delightful and grand experience. Bob Maranise C/3/8 67-68

Thanks again for putting together a really great reunion. This was the best reunion yet for me and looking forward to the next one. Jim Bury B/3/8 67-68

It was a great reunion. I wish it were longer. Jim Adams B/3/8 67-68

Thanks Steve....you asked for constructive criticism about the reunion....sooo....here is my take for what is worth....there seems to be a core group of the "boat people" and 67 folks that fought in the Battle of Dak To, and related actions. I must tell you, as a guy who came just a little bit later, and even over-lapped several of the 67 guys, I always feel like a second classed Ivyman. It's not a big deal, but that's the way I feel. If we want to get more members, we need to reach out to the guys AFTER you guys. No one really wanted to talk to me or the other one or two guys that were later on after you guys...I know it is a special



Rea "Sparky" Sparks, Jackson Hole RVN Aug 1967

Rea "Sparky" Sparks served as an 11 Bravo with Charlie Co, 3/8th from May 1967 through November 1967, at which time wounds he received on November 9 during the battle of Dak To sent him home. Rea was inducted into the army on Dec 8, 1966 in Oklahoma City. At the time, he resided on a farm near the small rural community of Macomb, OK. Basic training was at Ft Bliss in El Paso, TX. AIT was at "Tigerland", Ft Polk, LA. After recovering from his wounds, Rea was assigned to test basic training troops at Ft. Campbell, KY to make sure that their DI's had given them proper instructions of general military knowledge and were physically fit and ready for duty until his discharge on Dec 6, 1968. Rea was married to Betty Lee Neal-Sparks on July 26, 1969 and have two children, Anita Rea Sparks-Highfill and David Dwayne Sparks, and currently reside in Tecumseh, OK. Rea retired as a AVIONICS systems mechanic with the Dept. of Defense at Tinker air Force Base in Oklahoma City. Presently, he has a part time 80-acre farm operation and several house rentals. The Sparks family attend Romulus Baptist Church and Rea belongs to the following organizations: Order of Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Masonic Lodge and Order of Eastern Star and National Assoc. of Retired Federal Employees. He enjoys bowling, horse back riding and reading. They are expecting their first grandchild in March, 2004 and Grandpa predicts him/her to be president and an apple of grandpa's eye. Rea enjoys retirement and the ability to travel at will. When not traveling, he spends time on the farm preparing the land for hay: fertilizing, mowing, raking and baling hay for sale. Rea and Betty, recently, attended the battalion reunion in Las Vegas and comments, "I enjoyed making new acquaintances with old acquaintances, learning about individual struggles as they readjusted to civilian life. I was encouraged being with ex-GI's from the 3/8th, 4th Inf Div., sharing experiences and stories of the fun things even in difficult times."

(continued Reuion)

relationship between you all, but if we want it to be a true Vietnam Ivy Dragoons Reunion, then we need to reach out...I'm not alone, for example, I spoke at length to Bill Newcomb who lives in Las Vegas...the body builder guy...he also felt slighted...and a couple other guys....anyway, that's my take on things....you guys were the Vanguard of the 3/8th, but we were there until 1970 and experienced the SAME things...and died...and were wounded, one way or another.....and as I told you, I will help if you want when it comes to the Dragoons Chapter.....Hope I'm not out of line....like I said before, you are a CLASS ACT and I hope a good friend.....

Jim White C/3/8 68-69

Thank you for the wonderful reunion. I've been to DC, Des Moines, and this is number 3; and by far the best. Of course 3rd battalion is my guys, but more than that-the mood, direction, healing, and spirituality made the difference. And these all began and emanated from the Edmunds family. The Lord has used you in a mighty way. It takes a while to deal with reunions. In DC when I saw Steve, Skip, and Docs Bryant and Lunde, it was great but I was blown away by it all. One night was all that I seemed to be able to do. I felt much more comfortable this time and I'm sure that next time will be easier yet. And as it gets easier I get more out of it- more brotherhood, more healing, and more growth. This is what the brothers who did not come need to know. And the brotherhood is amazing. After we figured out who we were talking to the 35 years fell away to nothing. The sense of loss when we parted again was immense. But not bad. It was all good. How great to find the rest of my tribe! If we're freaks at least there's a battalion of us. We're all plumbers with PhDs or some variation thereof .As Steve said,"How great it is to be with a bunch of grunts!" And Point Man Ministries!

Pat McClelland C/3/8 67-68

I had a very good time, I usually get home sick after a day, but I was enjoying seeing everyone that I didn't get time to miss home. Bob Hillsberry B/3/8 67-68 FO

I, along with a bunch of my friends and brothers, just had one of the best times ever in Las Vegas, NV. The place was not a factor in the enjoyment of it all, but the company of renewed relationships and new relationships gained, made it all worthwhile. Fred Watson B/3/8 67-68

We had a GREAT time at the reunion, we are so glad we were able to attend. Joe & Irma Garcia B/3/8 67

For me, they become increasingly interesting: sort of like a jigsaw puzzle where you keep putting together more and more pieces. I certainly thought that this was the best one so far. Charles Flood War correspondent/author ("War of the Innocent") 66-67

Had a great time at the Reunion, Finally met Julio Leon from my Co. It made the whole Reunion a little extra special.

Albert Jacquez A/3/8 69-70

Chaplain's Corner

September 2003

Thanks for the privilege of serving my Lord through The Ivy Dragons Dispatch. My prayer is that something said may draw you closer to the Savior and experience that relationship with Him that only salvation brings.

I looked around in my library of books, volumes on death, life, the how to's and not's of religion, man-made pages of advise dealing with the spiritual such as denominations, religious sects, and many others. Some helpful while others cause much confusion if not used in accordance with God's authority, the final standard on which we build our faith, "THE WORD OF GOD, THE BIBLE."

Matthew 11:28-30 gives God's simple view of what we need in life.

He said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. (verse 29) Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest for your souls. (verse 30) For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." "Zugos"=Greek for yoke, speaks of us yoking ourselves with Him. A yoke meaning a coupling together or the balance beam of a scale. A two-sided instrument that must pulled by two for strength to get the job done and the stability to do the job right. I cannot save myself nor labor in myself. I must, you must, we all must allow ourselves to be attached, yea yoked together with Him allowing Christ to lighten our load: allow Christ to strengthen and stabilize our daily walk and labor of love. He makes by faith, our journey much easier. Simple message, "Come unto me" Simple promise, "I'll give you rest"

As we pray for one another let us not forget as every evening we watch the news and see that familiar Ivy Patch on the side of Fourth Division helmets, to pray for them that they would be cared for in God's arms of protection there on the desert as he protected us in the jungles of Vietnam.

If I can be of help just e-mail me
edpippin@alltel.net

Brother Ed Pippin

Co. B 3/8th 4th Division
RVN 67/68

Motorbiking Vietnam ... *John Maloch*



John Maloch, E/3/8 68-69 "invades" North Vietnam

Early March 2003...at a bar called Highway-4 in Hanoi's Old Quarter. The six of us, freshly showered and with clean clothes, are enjoying drinks and a fine meal as we discussed our recently completed motorbike trip across northern Vietnam.

Day 1.

Riding old 125cc Belarussian dirt bikes we weaved through the tens of thousands of early morning motorbikes and smoke-belching busses as we began our trip into the mountains. Mid-morning found us crossing the beautiful agricultural areas to the west of Hanoi on our way to Ba Vi ("Three Peaks") Mountain. A sealed road skirted the mountain with the scenery becoming more beautiful with each passing hour. A bright and sunny morning got us as far as the HEP dam near the regional capital of Hoa Binh where we had lunch in one of the open-air roadside cafes that dot the town. The afternoon was spent crossing a beautiful limestone surrounded valley covered with the bright-green rice paddies so familiar to all of us. And the local people were fantastic...always smiling and waving, as we swept past. After our afternoon rest stop we began to climb up into the mountains on a twisting, steep-sided road that was occasionally cut by landslides. No matter how much of the road was covered by the rocks, the strong Russian motorbikes were able to climb over them. By the time we reached the top of the pass the last of the sunlight was fading away and we began a breathtaking 30km ride down the other side in total darkness and cold mountain air. By the time we reached Mai Chau and found the stilt-house where we were to spend the night the White-Thai family that owned it had our dinner waiting and the mosquito nets raised around our sleeping platforms. A huge dinner, lots of rice wine, and great smacking Cuban cigars was the end to a perfect day.

Day 2

Mornings come early in the countryside so after breakfast we toured the village for a few hours and purchased some weavings and bags produced by the local minorities. By 9:30 AM we were off on the bikes again. A few miles from the village we left the main road and followed an old abandoned French colonial road up through the mountains. We climbed for hours through beautiful country as we passed areas inhabited by different ethnic minorities - White and Black Thai, Dao, and finally among the highest peaks we entered the H'Mong tribal areas. Lunch was enjoyed in the jungle along the road. The afternoon was spent negotiating what was left of the old road as we skipped across the top of the mountains through great open meadows and tall green jungle. Finally, just before dusk, we again reached the main road leading us into Moc Chau

8th Infantry Crest

Several have inquired where they might be able to obtain an 8th Infantry Regiment crest.

The 8th Infantry Crest is available from:

H.J. Saunders U.S.
Military Insignia, Inc.
5025 Tamiami Trail East
Naples, FL. 34113-4126
239-775-2100

Catalog item #C0545Y at \$10.75 each. Volume discounts are available.

Order online at www.Saundersinsignia.com

Chapter Update: Since our last newsletter, we have 22 new members. I wish to thank each of you for your support. Thanks go to:

Charles Young (A/3/8 67-68); Larry Skoglund (C/3/8 FO 67-68); Jim Jewell (HHC/3/8 66-67); John T. Lindsay (B/3/8 69-70); William Newcomb, Jr (E/3/8 68-69); John L. Concannon (C/3/8 67); Tom Simon (HHC/3/8 67); Doug Belnap (Memorial - LTC Glen "Saber" Belnap KIA 20 Dec 67); Stanley J Benner (A/3/8 66-67); Randolph E. Scott (C/3/8 67-68); Donald O. Tienhaara (C/3/8 66-67); Dean R. Plager (B/3/8 67-68); William A. Fernau (U/3/8 67-68); George R. Costa (A/3/8 68-69); Walter Gross (D/3/8 67); Craig M. Phillips (C/3/8 67-68); Fred A. Watson (B/3/8 67-68); James C. Adams (B/3/8 67-68); Steve Wolff (E/3/8 67-68); Herbert O. Brayer (U/3/8 69-70); Darold Muhs (D/3/8 68-69) and Ric Johnston (E/3/8 69-70). And, also, a hearty thanks to those of you who have, recently, renewed your membership. We, still, have a number of you who have not renewed and ask that you do so. If you join or renew after July 31, 2003, your membership is good through Dec 31, 2004. If everyone renews, our chapter strength will stand at 145 members.

where we spent the night in a most welcome guesthouse.

Day 3

After a wonderful early morning breakfast it was time for some quick preventative maintenance on the motorbikes and a stop to take on more fuel. We then began a beautiful 50km downhill drop through the mountains to the Black River Reservoir. The Dao, Kinh and Thai minorities, who appear to be the happiest people on earth, inhabit the area. We crossed the reservoir by loading all six motorbikes on a boat owned by what was apparently the low-bidder for this particular operation. While water safety equipment was non-existent the pilot did eventually get us all to the other side where we unloaded after the 20 minute ride. After a fine roadside lunch of local French bread and vegetables we rode along the reservoir and through a fantastic valley floor full of paddy fields and friendly people into the town of Phu Yen.

Day 4

We breakfasted early and started riding up what was not much more than a trail across the Hoang Lien Son mountain range. The earlier hot, bright weather had turned cold and misty so the trip through the untarnished rain forest reminded me very much of the countryside northwest of Kontum where we once worked. It was a beautiful morning and the toughest riding by far as we worked our way across the jungle mountain trails. The afternoon found us travelling on a good road through the numerous tea plantations on the way to Yen Bai on the Red River. We passed on through Yen Bai to Thac Ba Lake where we stored our motorbikes at an old, partly abandoned communist party resort and boarded a boat for a ride across to the Dao village of Phuc An where we spent the night. Dinner was cooked on the floor of the stilt house and from all appearances, the entire village was invited to dine with us.

Day 5

After getting back to our bikes early the next morning, we followed the edge of the Red River for about 50km by riding along the top of the river's dyke. This is a very busy part of the country as hundreds of small, family brick yards are on the river-side of the dyke and farms as far as you can see stretch from the other side of the dyke. People from both sides of the dyke would run up to the road to wave at us when they saw us coming on the motorbikes- foreigners still being a rare occurrence in this part of the country. After working our way down to where the Black River meets the Red River we finally entered the busy highway that would take us back into Hanoi.

Entering Hanoi we were just in time to hit the Friday afternoon rush hour traffic - thousands of motorbikes mixed in with busses and huge trucks. Riding old, smoking Russian motorbikes, covered with a week of road dirt and smelling like Cypriot goats we made a fine entrance into that wonderful mess of a city.

I highly recommend this experience for any of you guys that would like a chance to experience a very beautiful part of Vietnam where the people will go out of their way to make you feel welcome.

John Maloch E/3/8 RVN 7/68-7/69

TAPS:

William "Bill" Schram A/3/8 RVN 8/67-8/68

I was recently informed that our Brother, William "Bill" Schram passed away on 4/13/03 due to a heart attack. Bill served with Alpha Co in RVN from 8/67-8/68. He was buried with full military honors in Rittman, Ohio on 4/22. Bill's wife preceded him in death in Nov 2001. They had no children. He was looking forward to attending the reunion to be held in Las Vegas July 3-6, 2003. He will continue to be with us in spirit. The information was supplied from a very close friend of Bill and his family, Shirley Lamson. If you would like to share memories or thoughts with Shirley, she can be contacted at 216-251-9477 or by e-mail at : patlam1@excite.com She would appreciate hearing from you.

Submitted by Steve Edmunds C/3/8 RVN 5/67-5/68

George "Sgt Rock" Pollock C/3/8 RVN 7/67-3/68

I drove to Santa Cruz (about a 3 hr. trip) to attend a memorial service for George at a home he had been sharing with his sister a nurse during his illness. George lost a battle to lung cancer, and his sister had taken leave from her job to care for George for nearly a year. His son Aaron also lived with them for the last month or so. It was a nice occasion with many friends and all his family in attendance. George was born Oct. 20, 1944 and passed on Mar. 4, 2003. He died at home surrounded by his family. I'm very glad to have been there with the family they are a wonderful group of people. George was C3/8 July '67 - I believe March '68 when he was severely wounded and shipped out for medical treatment. His family all said he never discussed his tour of duty, but that he was proud to have served.

Submitted by Bob Maranise C/3/8 RVN 7/67-7/68

Gary W. Marten C/3/8 RVN 8/66-8/67

Gary W. Marten, 56 of Anchorage, AK died at the Anchorage Regional Hospital early Sunday morning, May 4, 2003, of injuries sustained in a single vehicle motorcycle accident. He was born July 30, 1946 in Hot Springs, Montana. He served honorably with C Company, 3rd Bn, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam in 1966-67. Gary then went to work for the Montana Department of Transportation as a commercial vehicle enforcement officer. In June 2000, Mr. Marten joined the Alaska Department of Transportation in the Division of Measurement Standards and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement. Gary had recently retired from a long and distinguished 33 year career in commercial vehicle enforcement with the Montana Department of Transportation. As Chief of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement in Alaska he helped to shape the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) section of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' Division of Measurement Standards and CVE. His stewardship of CVE Operations was outstanding for several reasons. Although encyclopedic

in his knowledge of the CVE program, it was Mr. Marten's understated competency coupled with his incisive mind and ability to connect with people, communicate, and work with others to resolve problems that was perhaps his greatest talent. He regularly transformed potentially contentious meetings with irate truck drivers to a harmonious meeting of the minds. On a personal basis, Mr. Marten's easy manner, wit, and incredible sense of humor made him a joy to be around and a pleasure to work with. His coworkers will deeply miss his patience, generous spirit, and the bright, warm light of his presence. A memorial service was conducted at 4:00 pm on Friday, May 9, 2003 at the Kincaid Park Chalet. Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to the Gary Marten Memorial Fund, %Montana Federal Credit Union, P.O. Box 5027, 901 8th Avenue South, Great Falls, Montana. Gary is survived by his wife Nancy, two sons, Brad and Brian, a stepson, Kyle, a stepdaughter, Jessica and two sisters, Gloria Price and Shirley LeBeau.

Submitted by his friend and co-worker Aves Thompson

Dier "Pops" Melton C/3/8 RVN 7/67-7/68

Dier "Pops" Melton passed away during the Winter 2002. At the time of his death, he was residing in Woodlawn, VA. Several members of his platoon; Craig Phillips, Bill McBride, Ray Galloway, Ron Jennings and Bill Perkins had seen him earlier in the fall and he was in pretty good shape at the time. He had another operation at the VA and it turned septic. By the time they discovered it it was too late.

This was all the information available at this time.

Bernard O. Berry A/3/8 5/68-5/69

Bernard O. Berry, 55, passed away on August 19, 2003, in Hospice of Northwest Ohio. He fought a long hard fight against cancer never letting it get him down. Bernie was employed by the Dana Corporation for 23 years and then with the Toledo Public School System for 16 years, retiring in 2001 due to lung cancer. He served with the US Army from December 1967 - December 1969, spending one year in Vietnam. Bernie received the Purple Heart for being wounded in action, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Over Seas Bar and Sharpshooter Badge and the Silver Rose Award for the illness he received from exposure to Agent Orange. He was a member of the Ivy Dragoons, 4th Infantry, VFW Post 2510, American Legion, Sportman's Club and the Vietnam Veterans Group of Toledo. Bernie was a past vice-president for Local 349 for the building services of the Toledo Public Schools. He was also a union steward for Dana Corporation and the Toledo Public Schools. Bernie was preceded in death by his mother, Alberta (Nolte) Berry and father, Harry Berry. Surviving are his wife, of 37 years, Linda (Mason) Berry; daughter, Angela Mansberger-Berry; grandson, (Poppy's

(continued next page)

Reunion - A Wife's Perspective:

This year has been a very busy one for most of us, and for the Dragons, it was their third battalion reunion, the second for me. I saw many familiar faces and a lot of new ones. Steve and I seldom see things in the same way and I felt that it was important to address the reunion from a wife's perspective, in order that we may reach out to each other and to understand the impact these few days provide each of the men in our lives. Las Vegas was chosen five years ago because of accessibility, affordability and an abundance of activities and let's face it, if it is not hot, it does not feel like summer and many of the men still have school aged children and young grandchildren whom they would like to have participate. I was very pleased to see three generations of Jim Hill's family, Gary Holliman's mother was great to be around, Bob and Brenda Brown are new grandparents and had plenty of pictures to prove it. Bob and Robin Gamboa finally decided to make their union official, Dan Grzyb brought his wife with him this year, I saw a very different side of him, as well as, Walter Gross and liked that. I met Isabel, Albert Jacques' wife this year. Rea "Sparky" Sparks, finally, has a face other than the one on the thirty year old picture my husband pulls out from time to time. His wife, Betty, was wonderful, so was Irma Garcia, Joe's wife.

True, there could have been more things for us to do but I was content to sit with some of the women, one on one, and get to know them and look at the smiles on their faces as they talked about their children and grandchildren. We could all identify or commiserate with each other. Maybe the next time we will make an effort to go bowling or have a couple of meals together so that we can exchange more information and ideas. I can, selfishly, say that I was, almost, disappointed that Brenda lives so far away. I want her as my new Bud. Irma was a sweetheart. Betty Sparks was knowledgeable, sweet and funny. Josie Pippin's disposition complimented Ed's, as she too was a breath of fresh air. Cindy Bing was fun to talk to. The Marineses' were wonderful people. The Fields' were pleasant and Mary Ellen and Ed Goehring were smiling as always. The Goldsmiths sat quietly taking in everything, "Lucky" Kinnan left the banquet with most of the prizes. The familiar faces like Alex Quintanar, Jim White, Monte(Doc) Lunde, Bob Williamson, Mark Butler, Ralph Haun, Charlie Flood and Mr. and Mrs. Lynch were good to see and I enjoyed what little time I had to spend with them and the many new people including, Julio, George, Joe, Johnnie, Bob White, Pat McLelland and the Adams'. It is always good to see and speak with Jim Bury and I liked his buddies Bob Hillsberry, Larry Skoglund, Fred Watson and Bill Walkowiak.

The time we had together was brief, the meeting room got a little crowded but it was good to see a very quiet Charlie Young talking to Sparky, a smiling Joe Garcia dressed in a very attractive shirt his son embroidered for him and the joy they felt at now being able to feel grateful that they came back. The camaraderie they share and the exchanges between them were very positive, as a wife who has walked through what often felt like a mine field of madness with one of these men. I am grateful they have each other to turn to. Many of the organizations offering help to veterans, have programs for their families as well. In spite of the problems many of these men have had, a lot of wonderful things happened after they returned from Vietnam and most

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(continued A Wife's Perspective)

of them and their wives and significant others are glad to share. I saw Fred go from very quiet to wearing a big smile as he talked about his daughter, the same with Jim and Bob, all came back and fathered little girls who now have them wrapped around their fingers. The fact that most of these children are now adults is totally irrelevant. It is from this standpoint that I approach each reunion and I have yet to be disappointed.

Elsie Edmunds

(continued TAPS)

buddy) Brian Mansberger, Jr.; god-daughters, Jacqueline (Rainey) Lavoy and Virginia (Ginger) Rainey; sister, Janet Epstein of Toledo; brother, Floyd, of Anderson, SC; cousin, Lynn (Nolte) Barry-Bridgland; father-in-law, Sylvester Mason; sisters-in-law, Martha (Alfred) Brewer, Ethel Wagner, Margie (Bill) Christian and Janice (Ken) Grove; brother-in-law, William (Carol) Mason and many nieces and nephews. Visitation will be held on Thursday, August 21, 2003 at the Eggleston-Meinert-Pavley Funeral Home, 440 S. Coy Road, Coy Road Chapel, Oregon, OH from 2-9 p.m. with VFW and American Legion services beginning at 7:00 p.m. Funeral services will be conducted in the funeral home on Friday at 11:00 a.m. Interment will be in Ft. Meigs Cemetery. Bernie was the type of person that to know him was to love him. He opened his heart and was known as Dad to many of his daughter's friends. Bernie had many, many friends that will miss him. Many thanks to all the Toledo Vietnam Vet's, for their support, to Dr. Rubin and the Oncology Dept. at Flower Hospital, the Oncology Dept. at Toledo Clinic, Dr. Khalil and staff for the wonderful treatment and understanding. A very special thanks for the caring service of Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Contributions may be made in the name of Bernard Berry to the Order of the Silver Rose, Gary J. Chenett, National Director, PMB #235, 828 Rue Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70116-3199.

IVY DRAGOONS DISPATCH
2212 SHADY HILLS DR.
DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dragoons Reunion 2005

During the course of our business meeting at the 2003 reunion, it was decided that the next reunion will be held in 2005 in Las Vegas. The location was selected for the reasonable costs of airfare from most major metropolitan airports and for the room rates. And, there are many things to do to keep family members busy while we share this time together. The Gold Coast Hotel/Casino have been terrific hosts for our past reunions. Currently, we do not have a reunion organizing committee. I am asking for your input. Please reply to the following:

Location: Las Vegas _____ (check if this location is okay)

Other _____ (suggest a location for future reunions)

Date: Summer _____ (check if this is okay, typically, in July)

Other _____ (specify date or time of year)

Organizing committee: I would like to be on the organizing committee _____ Yes _____ No

Comments:
