



“THE IVY DRAGOONS DISPATCH”

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



President: Steve Edmunds

Volume XII

Ivy Dispatch Editors: Ken Howe & Levie Isaacks

Fall 2008

6th Battalion Reunion

When: July 9 – 12, 2009

Where: The Academy Hotel
8110 North Academy Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Rooms available at \$99.00 per night plus tax. Make your reservations by calling the hotel at 1-719-598-5770 or 1-800-766-8524 and state that you are attending the Ivy Dragoons reunion.

Point of Contact: Steve & Elsie Edmunds
Home: 909-861-6379
Cell: 949-294-6981
Email: edmundsdb@aol.com

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Vietnam Trip Planned for March 2009...

I am working with battlefieldtours.com on planning a trip back to Vietnam in March 2009. I realize this is very close to our 4th ID, Ivy Dragoons reunion but I know March 2009 has significance for a lot of us and I can't think of a better time to go back. I've thought about this for a while now but never took the next step. So, I decided to start planning well in advance and to try to get as many of you as possible to join me. Besides our 4th ID brothers, I am reaching out to other Vets I know who have served in some of the same areas, as well as, others who may have an interest.

An itinerary is being developed for March 9 to March 22, 2009. It's all very flexible and your input is welcome. We tried to include most of our "Area of Operations" and also some places to just relax and enjoy the country.

If anyone is interested in making the trip, please let me know. Also, if you are not sure and want to be included in the e-mail chain as the planning continues, let me know.

If you know anyone else whom you think may be interested, please feel free to forward this to them.

I don't have an accurate cost estimate yet. That will be developed as we get closer to a final itinerary.

Gabriel Stefania, D/3/8 RVN 68-69
Cell: 646-408-4547
Office: 212-687-5154 Ext. 110

President's Message...

I hope this finds each of you and your families in good health or in the process of recovering your health. My apologies for the delay in getting this newsletter out to you. When it was started, it was the Spring/2008 edition. There are some good things happening. Our numbers continue to increase. At the time of this writing, we have picked up an additional 34 Brothers or family members among our ranks since the first of the year. Sadly, however, some of these Brothers are deceased and had no opportunity to reunite with our "Band of Brothers". Earlier this year, our chapter made a \$1,000.00 donation to National for "Putting the Green Back in the Ivy" fundraiser. A certificate of appreciation is posted on our website. Mini reunions continue to take place and the hotel arrangements have been made for our next Battalion reunion which will take place in Colorado Springs, CO in 2009...see "Upcoming Events". Start making your plans now, you will not want to miss it. Veterans Day is approaching and plans are being made for our participation in the wreath laying ceremony. Lastly, membership in our chapter stands at 211 members. This represents about 25% participation. For those few who have not renewed your membership, please do so. If you are not a member, please consider joining. Remember, it is not the cost of the membership, it is the price you have already paid to be eligible for membership.

Veterans Day – Washington DC...

Brothers, family, and friends...the time is drawing near to arrange our annual wreath laying ceremony on Veterans Day, at "THE WALL", in Washington D.C. If anyone is interested in joining us at "THE WALL", please contact me so I can arrange V.I.P Seating for our group. We need two volunteers to lay the wreath.

Point of Contact: Ed Goehring, B/3/8 66-67
Call: 484-431-7994 or Email: coopcoops@aol.com

OPEN LETTER TO VIETNAM VETERANS...

Dear Hero,

I was in my twenties during the Vietnam era. I was a single mother and, I'm sad to say, I was probably one of the most self-centered people on the planet. To be perfectly honest I didn't care one way or the other about the war. All I cared about was me...how I looked, what I wore, and where I was going. I worked and I played. I was never politically involved in anything, but I allowed my opinions to be formed by the media. It happened without my ever being aware. I listened to the protest songs and I watched the six o'clock news and I listened to all the people who were talking. After awhile, I began to repeat their words and, if you were to ask me, I'd have told you I was against the war. It was very popular. Everyone was doing it, and we never saw what it was doing to our men. All we were shown was what they were doing to the people of Vietnam.

My brother joined the Navy and then he was sent to Vietnam. When he came home, I repeated the words to him. It surprised me at how angry he became. I hurt him very deeply and there were years of separation-not only of miles, but also of character. I didn't understand.

In fact, I didn't understand anything until one day I opened my newspaper and saw the anguished face of a Vietnam veteran. The picture was taken at the opening of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. His countenance revealed the terrible burden of his soul. As I looked at his picture and his tears, I finally understood a tiny portion of what you had given for us and what we had done to you. I understood that I had been manipulated, but I also knew that I had failed to think for myself. It was like waking up out of a nightmare, except that the nightmare was real. I didn't know what to do.

One day about three years ago, I went to a member of the church I attended at that time, because he had served in Vietnam. I asked him if he had been in Vietnam, and he got a look on his face and said, 'Yes.' Then, I took his hand, looked him square in the face, and said, 'Thank you for going.' His jaw dropped, he got an amazed look on his face, and then he said, 'No one has ever said that to me.' He hugged me and I could see that he was about to get tears in his eyes. It gave me an idea, because there is much more that needs to be said. How do we put into words all the regret of so many years? I don't know, but when I have an opportunity, I take it so here goes.

Have you been to Vietnam? If so, I have something I want to say to you-Thank you for going! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Please forgive me for my insensitivity. I don't know how I could have been so blind, but I was. When I woke up, you were wounded and the damage was done, and I don't know how to fix it. I will never stop

regretting my actions, and I will never let it happen again.

Please understand that I am speaking for the general public also. We know we blew it and we don't know how to make it up to you. We wish we had been there for you when you came home from Vietnam because you were a hero and you deserved better. Inside of you there is a pain that will never completely go away and you know what? It's inside of us, too; because when we let you down, we hurt ourselves, too. We all know it and we suffer guilt and we don't know what to do so we cheer for our troops and write letters to 'any soldier' and we hang out the yellow ribbons and fly the flag and we love America. We love you too, even if it doesn't feel like it to you. I know in my heart that, when we cheer wildly for our troops, part of the reason is trying to make up for Vietnam. And while it may work for us, it does nothing for you.

We failed you. You didn't fail us, but we failed you and we lost our only chance to be grateful to you at the time when you needed and deserved it. We have disgraced ourselves and brought shame to our country. We did it and we need your forgiveness. Please say you will forgive us and please take your rightful place as heroes of our country. We have learned a terribly painful lesson at your expense and we don't know how to fix it.

From the heart,

Julie Weaver

237 East Gatewood Circle
Burlison, Texas 76028-8948

Submitted by Rellius "Bo" Boudreaux, B/3/8 69-70

Chaplain's Corner...

Listening to the news each night we are reminded again, that war is still a reality. I watched the news and saw and Ivy patch on many soldiers and am grieved by the youth involved and the sufferings of so many of them. It takes me back to a time when we were young and suffering. I have since found that I have friends who stick closer to me than a brother and have, also, learned that the grace of an almighty God is sufficient, (2nd Cor. 12:9-10).

Let us veterans who truly know the "score" keep these young soldiers in our prayers every day, and multiple times a day. American support seems to be lacking in its concern about the war, and with that naturally too often they forget the soldiers engaged in conflict. We should never forget that, since we know what they are going through. (1st Thess. 5:17). "Pray without ceasing."

"Steadfast & Loyal" is our motto. My prayer is we will always be just that, faithful to God, country and, especially, all of our service men and women.

God bless you all

Bro Ed Pippin, B/3/8 RVN '67

Open Hands & Hearts Update...

It is time, once again, to prepare for my next journey to Vietnam. This year, there will be two teams. One team will be in Vietnam Sept 11 – 25th. I will lead the second team Oct 11 – 25th. It is through the generosity of people like you that make our efforts a reality. As I reflect back on past missions and the accomplishments that we have been able to achieve, I must give thanks to our Lord for allowing me to be a part of His divine work. And I give thanks for your prayers, kindness and generosity.

The team that I will be leading will focus our energies on the area of Giong Trom, which is located in Ben Tre province. Over the past two years, we have been able to rebuild nearly a dozen homes and plan to rebuild several more on this trip in three different hamlets. We are provided a list of the poorest families that are in need and we hope to be able to ease some of their burden. From there we will travel north distributing rice, milk, etc to the needy along the way. We will stop in Nha Trang to visit the leprosy facility and see how we may be of assistance. Then, proceed further north to Tuy Hoa in Phu Yen province to continue our work and the construction of water wells in the central highlands. We will stop in Da Lat to visit the montangard village we have been helping for the past two years and distribute food, clothes and toys for the children. Then, back to Saigon.

I ask that you keep our mission in your prayers and if it is in your heart to make a financial donation to support our work, please make your tax deductible donation (Tax ID # 77-0264791) to: PMIM c/o Open Hands & Hearts, 2212 Shady Hills Dr, Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Together we can make a difference.

Steve Edmunds

Project Manager, Open Hands & Hearts- Missions to Vietnam



Water well under construction in Phu Yen province

Ivy Dragoons Scholarship Fund...

During the business meeting at the Nashville reunion, the subject of a scholarship fund in memory of our fallen was raised. One day, while talking with President Steve Edmunds, I mentioned that nothing had been accomplished in this effort and he promptly appointed me as chairman of the scholarship committee. I thought I knew better than to volunteer!

Since I'm clueless as to how to accomplish a project such as this, I posted on our Guestbook a request for help. One of our nieces, Lauren, (daughter of Anthony LiCausi B/3/8 7/67 ~7/68 Deceased DOD 11/7/1999) contacted me. Through her efforts we have secured the services of an accounting firm, without charge, to do the work to establish the foundation and setup our scholarship program. While they also pledged to make a monetary donation to the fund, they wish to remain anonymous. The next step was to set up a Board of Directors. The Board is: Ed Pippen, Monte (Doc) Lunde, Doug Belnap, Ed Goehring, and the younger generation: Chris Falcone and Lauren LiCausi.

It was decided to do the following: 1) All donations will be placed in a fund and the scholarships will be paid from the interest. 2) A qualifying applicant will be a relative of a Dragoon who served in Vietnam and must provide proof of the relationship. 3) The applicants will submit a short essay about the Vietnam War which will be judged by the Board of Directors. In the event of a tie, a drawing will be held. And 4) The winner of the scholarship will be paid directly, with proof of enrollment in a school.

We need to collect \$10,000.00 and place it into an interest bearing account so we can pay a \$500.00 scholarship. The first scholarship will be awarded at our battalion reunion in Colorado Springs in 2009. If each Brother were to make a \$15.00 – \$20.00 donation we could reach our goal. Currently, we have \$1,500.00 set aside in our treasury for the scholarship fund. If you have any suggestions or comments, please let me know. Thank you.

Edward G. Goehring B/3/8 66-67

Email: gcoopersburg@aol.com

Cell: 610-967-5594

Verification of Unit...

Does anyone recall 1LT Kenneth B. Goff? He was listed as KIA when the "chopper" he was riding in crashed on 8/24/67? One of the survivors indicated that he was listed as being with the 3/8th with no designation of company. For the time being, we have him listed with HHC on our Tribute page. Also, listed as MIA in the crash was Capt. Richard J. Schell. Schell had served as a platoon leader with B/3/8. At the time of the crash, he was serving with G-2 HHC 4th ID. He was declared dead in 1977. Submitted by Steve Edmunds, C/3/8 RVN 67-68

Charlie Co Mini-Reunion...

It was my privilege to attend a reunion of brothers from Charlie Company, 3/8th, 4th ID held in Anchorage, Alaska on Feb.27-29. I joined Charlie Company in June 67 to replace a fallen platoon leader and joined a tough veteran combat unit that was made up primarily of men from the northwest United States. These men were part of the re-building of the 4th ID in Ft. Lewis, Washington in 1966. Most of these men had trained together from basic training and had traveled to Viet Nam by troop ship.

The reunion was held at the downtown Hilton and was attended by a number of Alaskans to include: Pete and John Squartsoff, Jim Totemoff, Marvin Mack, Joe Piaskowski,, Charlie Timmerman, and Lynn Wanzak. Also attending were Steve Edmunds, Don Zarling, Rea and Betty Sparks and Clay Andrews from the lower states.

The hospitality displayed by the Alaskans was extraordinary. A feast of crablegs, cod, king, red and sockeye salmon and smoked salmon fish dip. This was followed by entertainment, dancing and a few spirited war stories. The reunion coincided with the kickoff of the Iditarod dog sled race which was interesting and unique. Many of us had never been to the beautiful state of Alaska so exploring by car and airplane was exciting as well as informative.

On behalf of all of us that attended this reunion, I would like to thank all that offered their time, money and fish to this memorable event. It was also wonderful to visit the brothers that we shared so much with in 1967. Welcome home, my brothers.

Submitted by: *Clay Andrews Sr. C/3/8 67*



L to R Front: Charlie Timmerman & Marvin Mack;
Back Row: Pete Squartsoff, John Squartsoff,
& Jim Totemoff



L to R: Don Zarling & Lynn Wanzak



L to R: Steve Edmunds, Lynn Wanzak, Rea Sparks &
Clay Andrews

CHAPTER UPDATE...

The following is an update from Jan 1 – Sept 30, 2008

New... Ron Adams, B/3/8 69; James C. Campbell, B/3/8 67-68; William R. Cash, HHC/3/8 66-67; Leonard "Doc" Crosby, HHC/3/8 67-68; Jearld Fagg, C/3/8 66-67; Dennis G. Fitz-Patrick, HHC/3/8 69-70; John J. Gleason, Memorial (Brother - Dennis S. Gleason D/3/8 KIA 3/26/08); James Hearn, D/3/8 68-69; Gregory "Rock" Illingworth, 66-67; Ray Israel, B/3/8 66-67; Leo C. King, HHC/3/8 Recon 66-67; Patrick R. Lines, HHC/3/8 Mortars 66-67; Richard R. Martin, C/3/8 66-67; Robert A. McAfoos, C/3/8 66-67; Dr. Bill Mendez, D/3/8 67-68; Rick Myers, C/3/8 66-67; Thomas J. Petrocik, C/3/8 66-67; Velma Poore, Memorial (Husband – Larry Poore A/3/8 67-68 DOD 2/8/08); Robert Rohan, C/3/8 66-67; Cliff Shaul, C/3/8 69-70; Edward J. Skwira, D/3/8 67-68; Dennis Sohre, C/3/8 67-68; Gary Starrett, D/3/8 67-68; Graydon B. Thorsgard, HHC/3/8 69; Don Zarling, C/3/8 66-67

Renewals... Byron E. Adams, D/3/8 68-69; Michael A. Anderson, D/3/8 67-68; Rick Arrouzet, HHC/3/8 Recon

66-67; Col. William P. Babcock, A/3/8 69-70; Dr. John F. Bauer, D/3/8 68-69; Ron Beckman, D/3/8 67-68; Doug Belnap, Memorial (Father – LTC Glen D. "Saber" Belnap, Bn CO KIA 20 Dec 67); Stanley J. Benner, A/3/8 66-67; Stanley R. Bode, A/3/8 67-68; Ronald Blust, A/3/8 67-68; Joseph J. DiGiovanni, ?/3/8 ??-??; William DeJonge (Memorial – Joseph Muench B/3/8 KIA 4 Oct 69); Charles "Skip" Franges, C/3/8 67-68; Joe Garcia, Jr., B/3/8 67; Christy Goldsmith, Memorial (Brother – Roger Dwight Goldsmith, C/3/8 KIA 23 July 67); Robert C. Goss, HHC/3/8 67-69; Walter Gross, D/3/8 67; John M. Harris, HHC/3/8 68; Fredrick E. Helms, B/3/8 66-67; Hugh D. Hosack, B/3/8 67-68; Wayne Jackson, A/3/8 68-69; John "Sam" Jones, A/3/8 68-69; Charles D. Kiser, Jr., HHC/3/8 67-70; James H. Kreisel, C/3/8 66-67; Darold Muhs, D/3/8 68-69; Kurt "Doc" Nagl, B/3/8 66-67; Julio Nazario, HHC/3/8 67-68; Terry E. Oliver, Memorial (Father- Charles E. Oliver, C/3/8 KIA 23 July 67); Joe F. Pelfrey, A/3/8 67-68; Robert T. Richards, C/3/8 67-68; John E. Roy, D/3/8 68-69; Richard Schlafer, D/3/8 69; Donald O. Tienhara, C/3/8 66-67; Mark B. Towns, A/3/8 66-67;

Paid For Life... Doug "Doc" Dettman, D/3/8 8/67-8/68

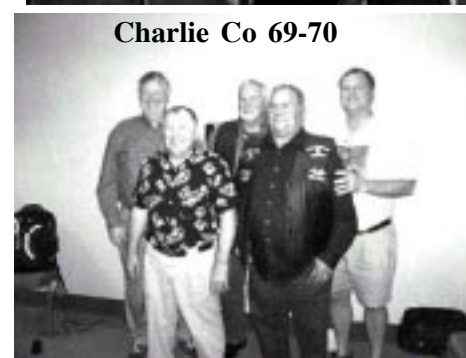
“C” CO Reunion AAR...

Location: LZ Radisson – Branson, MO

Date: 18 Sept - 21 Sept 08

Participants: Juan & Toni Anzaldua, 69-70; Bill & Connie Cash, 66-67; Steve & Elsie Edmunds, 67-68; Gary & Georgeen Edwards, 67-68; Gary Fagerland, 67-68; Jearld & Cheyrl Fagg, 66-67; Robert Fopma, 66-67; Doug Foster, 68-69; Ronze & Kaye Gengo, 67-68; Gary Holliman, 67-68; Greg “Rock” Illingworth & Guest 66-67; Terry & Sue Jandron, 66-67; John R. Kell, 68-69; Bobby Longwell & Family, 66-67; Monte “Doc” Lunde, 67-68; Bob & Linda Maranise, 67-68; Richard R. Martin, 66-67; Robert A. McAfoos, 66-67; Pat & Lynda McClelland, 67-68; Bob & Eileen McElroy, 66-67; Jeff & Gloria McFadden, 67-68; Myron & Joy Mleziva, 66-67; Rick Myers, 66-67; Byron & Hazel Perry, 66-67; Robert & Wuanda Richards, 67-68; Bob & Mickie Rohan, 66-67; Ron Salzer, 69-70; John R. Schmidt, 66-67; Cliff & Jaimie Shaul, 69-70; Del Shores, Jr., 66-67; Dennis W. Sohre, 67-68; Rea & Betty Sparks, 67; Roger A. Tenbrink, 66-67; David E. Triplett, 66-67; Darrell & Brenda Van Der Kamp, 66-67; Don & Barb Zaring, 66-67; & Guest: John Johnston

I would like to thank all those that were involved in organizing and hosting this event. It was a great time and enjoyed by all. The difficult thing about Branson is that it is a difficult place to get to if you are traveling any distance. There is no airport, except for Springfield which is about 70 miles away. Most drove. I did find out that an airport is under construction and will be completed next year. I digress, a permanent CP was set up in the Glory room where we gathered to share stories, pictures and fellowship together. There were quite a few first time attendees. As the majority were “boat people”, we had Brothers from all years attending. On Friday night, each Brother who had never attended a company/battalion reunion was presented with our battalion challenge coin with an explanation of its purpose which is to unite this Band of Brothers regardless of company or the year of tour in RVN. There is much to do in Branson and most went out to see some of the shows that were available, go shopping or take the river cruise. Submitted by Steve Edmunds, C/3/8 67-68



More on Snowball Express...

In a press release dated April 23, 2008 it was announced that Vietnam Veterans of America endorses Snowball Express.

(Washington, D.C.)—Vietnam Veterans of America is proud to endorse Snowball Express, the nation’s largest gathering of military widows, widowers, and their children who have lost a husband or wife since 9/11 in the war on terrorism. Snowball Express 2008, scheduled to take place December 16-19 in Orange County, California, will provide a weekend of entertainment for over 1,000 children and their surviving parents. Financing for this weekend of fun will come entirely from donated funds.

“The mission of Snowball Express, to create new memories and a few days of joy for those whose lives have been shattered by the loss of a loved one, is noble. Through our network of over 600 chapters located in communities

across the nation, in Guam, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and the Virgin Islands, we intend to help spread the word about this special week for the children of the fallen. We want to make sure that no child is left out because the word has not reached their families,” said John Rowan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Vietnam Veterans of America.

In December 2007, Snowball Express brought together more than 750 children and 360 surviving parents in Orange County, California, from all over the U.S, and as far away as Italy, Japan, and the U.K, for an all-expense-paid weekend which included dinner and a live concert with Gary Sinese, a day at Oakley Ranch, and a trip to Disneyland. For more information about Snowball Express, visit www.vva.org

Return to Vietnam 1: March 19 – 28, 2008...

The National Veterans of Foreign Wars asked than any Vietnam Veteran who was awarded a Purple Heart during their tour of duty to submit proper documentation of that award, they then would be entered in a drawing to select the nine winners. There were more than 1400 entries. The VFW is also sponsoring a similar drawing for the Iraq & Afghanistan soldiers, those winners along with 1 other person will win all expenses paid to a NASCAR race.

The VFW paid expenses for each of us from the airport of your choice and back. The only expense to us was the out of pocket personal expenditures. We were in 4-Star hotels or resorts. The only issue was with the food. We ate when our guide took us which was to local restaurants and became burnt out on rice and Vietnamese food. We could eat, at our own expense, whatever we wanted. Several of the veterans on the trip were VA rated as 100% disabled from their Vietnam tour of duty, they had little or no extra cash. We also were expected to tip the tour guide, driver, and local guides. I spent about \$800 of my own money, most of that for gifts to friends and family. A trust has been established for this and other VFW sponsored trips both national and international. The amount spent each year can only be the interest drawn. We were told that the cost for each of us was in excess of \$8,000.

Vietnam is a beautiful country and is considered safe and cheap to visit. It remains, once you get outside the major cities, very poor. The people were very friendly with a few exceptions. The nine "brothers" bonded instantly. Each of us had our

times when emotions came rushing out. Unless you "been there, done that" it is not possible to imagine how quickly we became kindred spirits. Each of us laughed, cried, told our stories and remembered those who did not come home. One of the strongest feelings experienced was getting off the plane in Saigon, now named Ho Chi Minh City walking into the airport, seeing a North Vietnamese soldier it took my breath away and my heart was pounding. Very little of what we built while in Vietnam is left. Most base camps and other American sites have been made into cemeteries. Even the ARVIN cemeteries have been destroyed and converted into monuments to the lost North Vietnamese and Viet Cong.

Palmer Pellham, E/3/8 Recon 8/68-4/69



L to R: George Lisicki VFW Commander-in-Chief, Allen "Gunner" Kent VFW Adjutant General, Anthony "Tony" May Phoenix, OR, Larry "Country" Fleming, Ranger, GA, Palmer "Little Buddha" Pellham, Kennett, MO, Earl Martin, Basin, MT, Frederick "Fritz" Scharf, Eagle River, WI, Wilbur, "Will" Bishof, Atlantic Highlands, NJ, Ronald "Ron" Garside, Gardnerville, NV, Noel "Big Buddha" Stubbe, Hancock, WI, James "Jim" Rowoldt, VFW National Director Membership, Kansas, City, MO.

Return to Vietnam 2: March 20 – April 7, 2008...

I am sitting in my hotel in Hue. We have been in Vietnam since 20 March and will return home on 7 April. We are having a great time and have seen most of the South to include Pleiku and An Khe. This week is spent in central Vietnam and then head north tomorrow and on to Dien Bien Phu before going back to Hanoi and our return trip home. Judy has really enjoyed the trip and realized the beauty of the country. I always told her it was a beautiful country if people weren't trying to kill you. I have taken about 400 pictures so far.

Four days before we left for Vietnam, my daughter delivered our first grandchild. It was good timing. He is William (to be called Will) Lian Dewardner. Lian is a contraction of his grandmother's name, Lillian, but also means Lotus in Chinese. We flew China Airlines over here and there was a Lotus on the boarding pass. I took that as a good omen.

We are looking forward to the next reunion in 09.
Bill Babcock, A/3/8 RVN 69-70



This is the location of the guard post at the entrance to Camp Enari, Pleiku where I was stationed for my first six months in Viet Nam. Not much left now.



Former South Vietnam Presidential Palace, now called the "Reunification Palace".

Return to Vietnam 3...

Anita and I traveled to Vietnam last Oct – Nov for 21 days. Soldier's Heart was the organizers of the trip. OUR MISSION: Soldier's Heart is a veterans' return and healing project addressing the emotional and spiritual needs of veterans, their families and communities. Soldier's Heart promotes and guides community-based efforts to heal the effects of war based on strategies presented in "War and the Soul".

I was very anxious and not sure what to expect. We went to the Delta, Ho Chi Minh City, Pleiku, Dragon Mountain, Kontum, Dak To including the airstrip, Da Nang, and Hanoi. The group included vets and wives plus relatives and friends of lost bros ...all seeking peace and reconciliation.

We did charity work for schools, street kids' homes, Agent Orange re-habilitation centers, all to learn and witness to our mutual respect and care for all soldiers who fought and their families and communities. All suffered. Many effects linger. Hope came into our eyes and hearts as we met soldiers and their wives and children and grandchildren- against whom we had fought- even on the Rocket ridge Nov 67 fight.

Forgiveness yields peace on both sides. We were reminded of Christ's words: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." I was blessed with much peace and freedom during and since our trip. That Anita walked with me where I fought and lived was priceless for our relationship. We are grateful and blessed by our return trip and encourage all who are willing to risk it and go for it. Blessings- thanks for all we are so freely given.
Terry Bell, D/3/8 RVN 67-68

Brother Earning Another Air Medal...

I got to ride on this bird with a Marine vet buddy of mine. This aircraft did 2 tours in Nam. I actually got to fly left seat and got 5-10 minutes of stick time. The ride was provided with the compliments of Samaritan Air. You can check them out on the web at www.samaritanair.org
John "Frenchy" Roy, D/3/8 RVN 68-69



Taps...

Steve Aaron Stolp, 61, of Condon was called home by Our Heavenly Father on Sept. 11, 2008. Steve was born in Chewelah, Wash., on Oct. 23, 1946, to Ray and Beth Evelyn Stolp. He went to school in Lolo and Sheridan and graduated from high school in Deer Lodge, where he met his first wife and the mother of his children, Nina Baril. Steve was called to serve his country on Dec. 2, 1966. He served in Vietnam in 1967 as an infantryman in the U.S. Army with Delta Co. 3/8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division and earned two Purple Hearts during the battle of Dak To in November 1967. Although trained in drafting, Steve continued his education upon his return home and earned a bachelor of arts in business administration from Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Wash. Steve was a member of various organizations during his life. As a member of the Future Farmers of America, he met President Eisenhower.

Following Vietnam, Steve was active in veteran's service organizations including the Veterans of Foreign Wars. At the time of his death, he was the commander of American Legion Post 63 in Condon. He was an accountant by trade, but dabbled in various enterprises ranging from house-painting to real estate to logging to road-building. You name it, he probably tried it. His quick wit and quick temper got him into and out of situations most people wouldn't touch. Steve was many things to many people, but he will be most remembered for his generosity and for being the first to help when anyone needed it. He enjoyed sitting on the deck visiting with his wife Karin, having a toddy and enjoying the scenery. Reading a book and playing cribbage were among his favorite pastimes. He loved his family and his many friends. He will be truly missed. We will miss his creativity, tenacity for life and his smile. Most of all, we will miss him. Steve was a true friend and countryman. Steve was preceded in death by his father, Raymond Leroy Stolp Sr., and mother, Beth Evelyn Lane. Steve is survived by his wife, Karin; brother, Raymond Leroy (Duzzie) Stolp Jr. of Elliston; sister, Faye Evelyn (Bob Sites) Borders of Washington; brother, Kelly Lane Stolp of Boulder; son, Steve Anthony (Shannon) Stolp of Dickinson, N.D.; daughters, Samantha Ann (Mike) Songer and Erin Lynn (Roger) Dey of Helena; stepdaughter, Carla Dea (Andrew) Squires of Missoula; and nine grandchildren. Services were held at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Harrison. Submitted by his nephew, Kelly Stolp.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Agent Orange & Prostrate Cancer Update...

Veterans exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange are twice as likely to get prostate cancer as other veterans, UC Davis researchers found in a study published online by the journal *Cancer*. Prostate cancer in those men also comes on earlier and is more aggressive, said Dr. Karim Chaime, chief resident in urology at UC Davis and the study's lead author. The findings are a clear signal that men who worked with Agent Orange should be cared for differently, getting earlier biopsies and more aggressive treatment, he said. "This is a high-risk group." Chaime described the study of more than 13,000 Northern California veterans over eight years as "the biggest study ever done" on Agent Orange effects. It will be published in the 15 SEP print edition of *Cancer*, after online publication last week, and Chaime hopes it soon could lead to new Department of Veterans' Affairs treatment standards.

For Vietnam vet James McKasson, who participated in the study, the findings are a reminder that no one exposed to Agent Orange should delay prostate-cancer testing. McKasson, 62, a retired auto mechanic, said he's doing well after being diagnosed with prostate cancer last year – 40 years after he helped load Agent Orange onto planes in the 1960s. He worked with both liquid and powdered forms of the chemical, and "this stuff would slop around; it would drip on you," he recalled. "You'd walk through it and get it on your shoes, on your clothes, on your hands. ... They didn't give us any protective clothing at all." For decades, McKasson didn't worry much about studies that linked exposure to diseases ranging from diabetes to soft-tissue cancer to birth defects in veterans' children. "I'm an advocate now," he said, telling his "stubborn" friends to have regular checks for prostate cancer.

The chemical was used widely during the Vietnam War to defoliate jungle areas where U.S. forces believed enemies were hiding. It also was used around U.S. military facilities at home and abroad as early as the 1950s, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. About 375,000 men nationwide are on the military's Agent Orange registry of those exposed, and roughly one-third can be expected to develop prostate cancer, Chaime said. "This has huge implications for men, especially in the VA," but also for those treated by private insurance, whose primary care doctors and urologists may not have seen the latest data, he added. Of the 13,000 men followed by the study, just under half had been exposed to Agent Orange. Among the 6,214 exposed, 239 were diagnosed with prostate cancer over eight years, compared with 124 of 6,930 unexposed veterans.

Courtesy of RAO Bulletin - 15 August 2008

TAPS...

Larry H. Poore, 63, died on Feb. 8, 2008 at 1:20 p.m. at Wellmont Holston Valley Medical Center. Larry is survived by his wife, Velma, and their two children and resided in Kingsport, TN. A visitation was held at Kingsport's East Lawn Funeral Home on Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. Funeral services immediately followed. Graveside services and burial were held at Tri-Cities Memory Gardens in Blountville. Attending as representatives of the Ivy Dragoons were George "Doc" Costa and Johnnie Bing who served with Larry in RVN. Their presence was much appreciated by family and friends. Larry served with A/3/8 in RVN 67-68. A floral arrangement was provided on behalf of the Ivy Dragoons which simply stated "We Were Brothers". Larry and Velma attended the reunions in 2003, 2005 & 2007 and enjoyed the Brotherhood over the past few years.

Submitted by George Costa, A/3/8 1/68-1/69

TAPS...

Sadly, I just learned that *Joe Brazier* died in 1999. Joe served in C Company, 1st platoon from Nov 67 until Nov 68. He was a good and brave man to have with us over there. I hadn't talked to him for about 15 years. His brother said he had worked at a refinery and they think the chemicals gave him leukemia. He got sick in 1998 and died in 1999. I believe he still lived in East Alton, Ill. That's where I contacted his brother from the old address I had. I tried to contact him to inform him about the upcoming reunion, and talked to his brother who told me of his death. His brother said he had a rough time adjusting back at home after Vietnam.

Submitted by: Gary Fagerland, C/3/8 8/67-8/68

TAPS...

Victor Holloway Tunnell passed away on July 25, 2006 in Lubbock, TX. Services were held on Friday, July 28, 2006, in South Park Baptist Church with Rev. Mel Hooten officiating. Interment followed in Englewood Cemetery in Slaton. Vic was born Oct. 9, 1946 in Levelland to Roy Victor and Mildred (Holloway) Tunnell. Vic was a member of South Park Baptist Church and many veterans' organizations which included the Ivy Dragoons Chapter, National 4th Infantry Division Association. He served with C/3/8 4th Inf. Div. in RVN 8/67-2/68 where he received the CIB and Purple Heart. On May 14, 1971, he married Vivian Lee Dewbre. He was preceded in death by his wife in 1997; two daughters, Tina Holloway Tunnell in 1973

and Veronica McCraw in 2002; and a brother Hansford (Hank) Tunnell and a sister Pam Fine. Survivors include his daughter, Tonya Caster and her husband Curtis of Carrollton, TX; granddaughters, Amanda Nichole Barker, Christina Lynn Caster, and Jessica Leigh McCraw; great granddaughter, Madison Marie Barker; sister-in-law Sherry Tunnell; and brother-in-law James Fine.

Submitted by Peggy Marble (Niece – Calvin Hudson C/3/8 KIA 11/11/67)

TAPS...

Barney Beard, Jr., 78, of Marion passed away at 12:30 AM, Friday, May 30, 2008 at the V.A. Medical Center in Marion from Parkinson Disease. Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM, Wednesday, June 4, 2008 at the Blue Funeral Home in Marion with Reverend Jerry Gleason (nephew) officiating. Burial took place at Rose Hill Cemetery in Marion. Military rites were conducted at the cemetery by VFW Post 1301, American Legion Post 147 and the National Guard. Mr. Beard was born on September 21, 1929 in Cairo, Illinois to Barney L. and Oma Lee (Brimey) Beard. He married Lois Jean Brown on October 22, 1953 in Herrin; together they shared 54 years of marriage. Survivors include his wife, Lois of Marion; daughter and son-in-law, LaDonna S. and Doug McNulty of Las Vegas, Nevada; son and daughter-in-law, Kenneth L. and Carole Beard of Sparks, Nevada; daughter and son-in-law, Melanie A. and Jim Rambeaux of St. Petersburg, Florida; grandchild, Megan Kathleen Beard; brother and sister-in-law, Jay D. and Marilyn Beard of Rochester, New York; sisters, Sandra Williams of Anna and Helen Imhoff of Carbondale; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters. Mr. Beard served his country with the United States Army, retiring after 20 years. He formerly taught ROTC at Morgan Park High School in Chicago for 23 years. He was a member of Marion Elks and Marion Eagles.

I just returned from Barney's funeral. He was 38 in Vietnam serving with A Co. and spent his entire year in the field. He received a purple heart in Korea and again in Vietnam. He was awarded two Bronze Stars, an Air Medal and the Army Commendation Medal. Also, all the different service ribbons. I have seen this man give young soldiers money to use while on R&R in Hawaii to meet with their wives. He was a fine man. Flowers were sent from the 3/8th by Paul Mims.

Felix "Buddy" Williams, A/3/8 RVN 68-69

Seeking Info...



Calvin Clifford Hudson

My uncle, SP4 Calvin Clifford Hudson C/3/8, was killed in Vietnam on November 11, 1967 during the Battle of Dak To and I would like to be contacted by anyone who remembers him and can tell me their stories of him. I was doing some research on him the other night and came across a letter someone had posted on the internet in 1999 and I thought maybe I'd found something but he, Vic "Tex" Tunnel, passed away in 2006 (see Taps) so I hit another dead end. My brother has all of his medals and his flag so I've been looking at them to help me a little.

Peggy Hudson Marble
102 Red Creek Rd.
Forsyth, GA 31029
(H) 478-992-6991
(C) 478-394-0714
Email: branpeg3@bellsouth.net

Seeking Info...

I served with B/3/8th from December 1965 –November 1967. I need help with a request from Stanley W. Dix (Nephew of Stanley Wesley Dix). His uncle Stanley Wesley Dix was KIA 7/23/1967 in the Battle of Three Trees (Plei Ya Bo). He told me that his grandmother gave him Stanleys name. He also told me that his grandmother gave him Stanleys foot locker which contained all of Stanleys belongings. He told me about Stanleys Silver Star and asked me how he won it. I told him how he won the Silver Star. I sent him a page from Charlie Floods book "The War of the Innocents". This is what I need help with. He told me that the footlocker also contained a piece of a paper dollar. He asked me if I had a piece of the same dollar. I told him no, I didn't have a piece of the \$1.00. If you can help Stanley out, I would sure appreciate it. I have a lot of photos on the following websites.

<http://home.earthlink.net/~kenervin/>
<http://kenervin.spaces.live.com/>
<http://kenervinnvietnam.blogspot.com/>

Ken Ervin
kenervin@embarqmail.com

Seeking Info...

I am a Veteran Service Officer trying to help **Leonard D Harden Jr.** that was with **Co. B 3/8th Inf. 4th Inf.** from 8/25/67 to 12/22/67 and then transferred to Cam Ranh Bay

because of severe asthma. His CIB award was never put on his DD-214. Does anyone have a copy of their orders for their CIB with more than one name on it. If so, please look and see if **Leonard D Harden Jr.**'s name is on your orders. I was with the 9th Inf. Div. and my CIB award has 30 names on it so maybe someone has a set of orders with Leonard's name on it. Or if anyone remembers Leonard a buddy letter stating that he served in the field and is eligible for a CIB award would help. Thanks

Butch Tolle
15 Grand Ave.
Yardville, NJ 08620
Phone 609-324-0484
Email: ButchTolle@hotmail.com

Seeking Info...

My brother, Dennis Craig McPherson, was KIA 11-11-67, in the province of Kontum, near Dak To, in the Battle of Hill 724. He was sent to VN Sept. 24, 1967 and attached to Co E, 3rd Batt, 8th Inf, 4th Inf Division. I am hoping to find someone who knew or served with my brother.

Paula McPherson Koy
7647 Chestnut Drive
Edwards, IL 61528
(309) 692-6656
paulakoy@sbcglobal.net

Seeking Info...

I am looking for Al Chernik , a medic with A Co 67-68. If anybody from A Co has info on him I would appreciate your help. Thanks
Monte Doc Lunde
doclunde@sbcglobal.net

Seeking Info...

I am trying to substantiate a Purple Heart for a shrapnel wound to my shoulder while participating in Operation Hancock 1 on 29 Apr 1967 at Bam Me Thout. We received 60 MM mortar fire during the middle of the night. There were a total of 5 WIA. The wounds were not severe enough to require med-evac. I have submitted my statement, VA records confirming the wound, copies of the AAR and a letter from Jim Manual who was there that night. None of this is enough substantiation since we were more concerned with the NVA in front of us and did not go into the Base Aid Station. If anyone remembers this incident and can provide any supporting evidence, I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you.

Larry Molitor, A/3/8, 1st Platoon
Email: molitorl@mchsi.com or call 309-654-2346

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR VETERANS...

You qualify for a higher social security payment because of your Military service, for active duty any time from 1940 through 2001 (the Program was done away with in January 2002). Up to \$1200 per year of Earnings credit credited at time of application - which can make a Substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your Retirement.

You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office - and you must ask for this benefit to receive it! Soc Sec website: <http://WWW.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

This is something to put in your files for when you apply for Social Security down the road. It is NOT just for retirees, BUT anyone who has Served on active duty prior to January 2002. FYI - this benefit is not automatic, you must ask for it!

Submitted by Mark Butler, C/3/8 67

TRICARE HEARING AIDS UPDATE...

Tricare does not cover hearing aids for retirees or their family members. However, some military treatment facilities support the Retiree At Cost Hearing Aid Purchase Program (RACHAPP) for service members in need of hearing aids. This program allows retired service members to purchase hearing aids at government cost. At <http://www.militaryaudiology.org/rachap/state.html> you can view facilities along with contact information and whether or not the facility provides hearing aids at cost to US military retirees. This information is subject to change at any time. It is recommended that you contact the appropriate facility before incurring significant travel expenses. Retirees can use any facility which will accept them; you don't need to return to your service affiliation to participate in this program. Dependents of military retirees are generally ineligible to participate in this program at the current time. [Source: NAUS Weekly Update 7

Mar 08 ++]

Submitted by Pat MCNulty, FO D/3/8 RVN 67-68

Seeking Info...



Steve Stolp pictured on left

I am looking for anyone who remembers Steve Stolp who served in Delta Co in 67-68. I am his nephew. He was wounded twice in November 1967 during the Battle of Dak To. He passed away on Sept 11 2008 and never talked to any of his family about Vietnam. I would greatly appreciate any information. (See TAPS...Steve Stolp)

Thank you

SPC Kelly Stolp, MTNG 1/163 Inf

406-600-4659

stolper9@aol.com

Seeking Info...

My father, Dennis Flynn, passed away three weeks ago (see TAPS) and we started going through his military things. He was in the 4th Division C Company 3/8th Battalion June 1968 to June 1969 & HHC/3/8 69-70. He never talked about being in the army so we don't have any stories from him. I have gone through his personal items from his old war chest which none of us knew existed. Inside were a bunch of memorabilia he had.....and a lot of old photos of Vietnam, Paris, Germany.....many have soldiers in them. Sgt. Smith, a Lagcaster, Ike, Jay, Kraft, Kenny, Stephen, Nichols, Big O, Hicks and many others that don't have names on the back. They were in Pleiku, VC Valley, Heilbronn, Stuttgart.... This is some of the writing on the back of the photos. We would like to make contact with anyone who remembers him. Thank you

Kaitlyn Wood

33 Berlin Ave

Milton, MA 02186

mmakate418@hotmail.com

DRAGOON'S PROFILE...

Charles (Chuck) D. Kiser Jr. was inducted into the US Army on 12 September 1966 in Cleveland, OH. At the time of his induction, he was living in Barberton, OH. Chuck took his basic training at Sand Hill - Fort Benning, GA. He was given an MOS of 62F, Recoverability and Evacuation Specialist. This was later changed to 76Y, Supply. Upon completion of Basic and AIT, Chuck reported for duty at Ft Dix, NJ. After six months, Chuck received orders for Vietnam and reported to HHC/3/8 4th ID where he served from Aug. 1967 – July 1970. With nearly three years in country, Chuck was able to get three R & R's. In 1968, he went to Taipei; in 1969 & 1970, he spent his time in the Philippines. Chuck's career in the army continued with duty assignments at Fort Leonard Wood, MO 1970-1972; Germany 1972-1975; Hawaii 1975-1979; Fort Lee, VA 1979-1982; Korea 1982-1984; Fort Riley, KS 1985-1989; Germany 1989-1990; and Fort Riley, KS 1990-1991 where he retired 1 February 1991 at the rank of CW3. Currently, Chuck is working as a DA Civilian, in the office of the J/G4, Joint Force Headquarters, National Capitol Region/Military District of Washington, (JFHQNCR/MDW), Fort McNair, Washington DC. and makes his residence in Alexandria, VA with his lovely wife of 38 years, Carmencita (Carmen). They have three children; Chuck III married to Jessica with grandchildren, Chuck IV and Isabel; Christopher married to Imee; and Carmelinda married to William. Chuck holds membership in Lions International, Knights of Columbus and the Ivy Dragoons Chapter of the National 4th Infantry Division Assoc. His hobbies include; fishing, boating and taking care of his beautiful wife.

We attended the Reunion in Nashville TN, 2007. This was a very gratifying experience for me. I met soldiers that had a significant impact on my life. The weekend was filled with laughter, tears, and a bonding that is ever present. The sharing of our personal stories and the pain of dealing with all the hard times allowed for healing and reconciliation with my fellow brothers. The knowledge that each one of us could relate to the other and understand what had happen could only occur with those there. My wonderful wife was really grateful also for the experience. She only heard the stories, lived with the after effects, and provided the love for me to be successful. She really did not understand why. The wives at the Reunion provided her with support and understanding that has made us stronger in our relationship. I know she is looking forward to the next Reunion as much as I am. The Reunions provides so much more than I can write here. I just want to say thank you to all that have made the experience so great.

I asked Chuck why he spent three years serving and received the following reply, "I had some younger brothers that were draft eligible during this time and knew only one

of us could be in country at a time. I was already sweating red dirt and did not want them to be in that place if I could help it. I also thought I was the only one who could ensure anything our guys needed was there when they asked. I was a great "scrounger". Before I became a supply sergeant I drove convoys for 13 months. I only lost two deuce and ½'s from mines. I drove from Jackson's Hole, 1967 till after Dak To, 1968. I could tell you lots of stories about this venture. I spent the Tet Offensive in Kon Tum, working with at the MACV compound inside a motor pit and drove as far north as Da Nang, south to Buon Me Thout (Bam Me Tuot) and west to Qui Nhon and all points in between."

TAPS...

Dennis B. Flynn of South Boston died Friday, August 16, 2008 of a heart attack. He was 61. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Rosemary and four daughters; Sheila, Colleen, Tara and Kaitlyn and eleven grandchildren. Also surviving are his brothers Stephen, Raymond and Albert. A fourth brother, Edward, preceded Dennis in death. Dennis was a Boston firefighter and Vietnam veteran having served with C Co & HHC Co 3/8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division 1968-70. Mr. Flynn was the brother of former Boston mayor Raymond L. Flynn. He started his career with the Boston Fire Department in 1972. In 1984, Mr. Flynn was named as the Superintendent of Maintenance of the Boston Fire Department. He remained in that job until his passing. "I never met anyone who was more proud of his job than he was. He never missed a day of work in 36 years," said his brother Raymond. "All he wanted to be was a fire fighter. He wore that uniform with pride." Mr. Flynn was awarded the Roll of Merit in 1986 for heroic and meritorious service in the line of duty. Funeral arrangements were made by the O'Brien Funeral Home. A funeral mass was held at Gate of Heaven Church with internment at Bourne National Cemetery. (Submitted by daughter, Kaitlyn Wood)

SEEKING INFO...

My father was a member of the 3/8 infantry in 1969. I remember hearing stories about the ambush in March. I do not however know what company he was in. His name was John A Holmes III and he was a medic. I'm fairly certain he was attached to HHC and then sent out with whomever was going out at the time. If you know anything about any of this I would love to hear something. Sadly he passed away 5 years ago and the stories are starting to fade. Any information is appreciated. Thank you Peter Holmes

Peter.Holmes1@us.army.mil

(Editor's Note: It was determined that John A. Holmes III served with A/3/8)
