



“THE IVY DRAGOONS DISPATCH”

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



President: Steve Edmunds

Volume X II

Ivy Dispatch Editors: Ken Howe & Levie Isaacks

Winter 2007

President's Message...



Well, here we are as another year passes. As we enter into our 7th year as an organization, Ivy Dragoons, under the National 4th Infantry Division Assoc., it causes me to stop and reflect. We have come a long way over the past 6 years. Our numbers continue to increase as our roster strength has grown to 735 Brothers that served with our battalion in RVN between 1966-1970. The reunions that have taken place have allowed us to become reunited and renew the bonds forged in sweat and blood so many years ago. We are all blessed to be here today... these past years have been a gift, a gift from God and I am truly thankful. Personally, it took me many years to discover what my purpose in life is... why I was spared when so many of our Brothers made the ultimate sacrifice. I enjoy being with my Brothers, those that I served with and those that I have become acquainted with and drawn close to over these past years. We all share that common bond, whether we served together or not and regardless when our tour took place. That was the significance of the Challenge Coin that was introduced at our

reunion in 2005... we are a “Band of Brothers”. The major event this year is our 5th reunion to be held in Nashville, June 7 – 10. Make your plans early and remember that our reunions are family oriented. In 2005, Jim Hill had 4 generations in attendance. Lastly, I wish to thank those that have renewed their membership in our chapter and if you have not done so, please take a minute and send it in. If you have not been a member, please consider doing so, we need your support. Remember that it is not the cost of the membership it is the price you already paid to be eligible for membership.

Purple Heart - Hall of Honor Update

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is currently under construction in New York's Hudson River Valley at the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site.

**UPDATE: Official opening dedication
November 10, 2006**

Its mission is to collect and preserve the stories of Purple Heart recipients from all branches of the service and across the generations in an attempt to ensure that all recipients are represented. Their stories will be preserved and shared through exhibits, live and videotaped interviews with the veterans themselves, and the Roll of Honor, an interactive computer program preserving the stories of each individual.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor the first in the nation to recognize the more than 800,000 Americans wounded or killed in action while serving in the United States Military.

For more information or to have your story preserved as a Purple Heart recipient, contact Michael J. Clark, Project Coordinator, National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site, P.O. Box 207 (374 Temple Hill Road), Vails Gate, NY 12584-0207, telephone 845-561-1765, or fax at 845- 561-6577.

COLD WAR RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE...

In accordance with section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States anytime during the Cold War era, which is defined as Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991.

This is the only official site on which to request Cold War Recognition Certificates. This site is operated by the United States Army, the executive agency for the Cold War Recognition Program. Cold War Recognition Certificates are available to qualified individuals at no cost. Any other site offering these certificates or replicas for sale or purchase are not official sites and are not approved or endorsed by the US Army.

Due to the remarkable success of this program, turn-around time for mailing certificates will be a **minimum of 2 months**. The CWRS Operations Team is working as fast as possible to clear the backlog. Please do not request feedback prior to 2 months from the request date. Thank you for your patience and interest in the Cold War Recognition program.

Who is eligible?

All members of the armed forces and federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991. Individuals requesting a certificate will certify that their character of service was honorable. [Acceptable supporting document](#) for proof of service is any official government or military document with recipient's name, Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, and date of service.

Phone Line: (703) 325-5864

Fax: 1-800-723-9262

Email: cwrs1@hoffman.army.mil

Address:

**U.S. Army Human Resources Command
Cold War Recognition Program, Hoffman II, Room 3N45
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200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0473**

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER...

Hebrew 11:1 KJV "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

In recent experiences I have had to claim this verse more than at any other time in my life due to tragedy in our own family. I have had to learn and experience first hand what I have been preaching for 30 years. My son and our family have all realized that life without faith is an empty, hollow shell. My thanks to all of my Brothers who have kept the vigil of prayer and faith for Josh. After 142 days in the burn unit and rehab, our son, Josh, is finally home but still has a long way to go.

A reminder to me and to all of you of the many prayers and the faith of our parents who faithfully prayed us through our own personal hell in the jungle almost 40 years ago. Where did it all go??? I am reminded that we still need to hold all of our Brothers up in prayer who are still reaping from the wounds of so long ago. God's speed to all of Nov. 67 and all the other battles that we won. God's speed to you who wear non-visible scars. God's speed to the families who have gone through another holiday without that special someone present. My prayers are for all of you.

My father left a very special thought with me before he died, "Pray for me when it goes well with you."

I leave you with those words. I'll pray when it goes well, or not so well, for my Brothers of the 3/8 th 4th ID. You will always head up my prayers. Keep looking up, Joe in San Antonio. Our real healing may be nearer than we think.

I love you, Brothers

In His name and service

Bro Ed Pippin, B/3/8 4th ID

Dak To – Nov 67

Dragoon Profile...



Johnnie L. Bing, Sr was inducted into the US Army on December 15, 1966 in Atlanta, GA. At the time of his induction, Johnnie was residing in Pembroke, GA. He took his basic training at Fort Benning. Upon completion of Basic and with a MOS of 11 Bravo, he received orders to go to Fort Polk, LA. for AIT and walked through the portals of "Tigerland". When Johnnie arrived in Vietnam, he had orders for A/3/8 and served in country from 5/67-5/78. In Feb. 1968, he had a

respite from "humpin' the boonies" with an R & R to Singapore. Upon completion of his tour, Johnnie returned to "The World" and finished his military obligation at Fort Riley, KS where he was discharged on Dec. 18, 1968.

Johnnie, currently, resides in Ellenwood, GA.

Divorced, he has five wonderful children: Tonya, Charisma, Roshawn, Johnnie Jr. and Anita. He is a retired city bus driver and enjoys bowling and reading in his spare time. He is enjoying his retirement. He belongs to the Ivy Dragoons Chapter of the National 4th Infantry Division Assoc., as well as, the Retired Employees of Marta and the Royal Oaks Home Association. He has attended the Ivy Dragoons Reunions in 2003 & 2005 in Las Vegas. "The reunions meant a lot to me because they put me in touch with long lost friends", comments Johnnie.



L to R: Bill Burrell (25th ID), Johnnie Bing, A/3/8 & Steve Edmunds, C/3/8 Going Home

Johnnie and I did not know each other in RVN. Our first meeting was on our way home. Johnnie rejoined our ranks in January 2003

and his name 'struck a bell'. I went through my pictures and came up with this one and another one. I e-mailed them to Johnnie and to his surprise said, "yes, that's me".(Steve Edmunds C/3/8 RVN 5/67-5/68)

War Stories...

I'm going to write a book about our lives in the military and our experiences in Vietnam. I feel one soldier's experiences are limited, so I'm asking for your experiences. Don't worry about typo-errors, grammar, spelling, vocabulary usage etc., simply put your stories down the best you can, and I'll do the editing. The topics can vary, the experiences may run the course; just be honest and discuss anything from basic training, A.I.T, to anything you experienced in Vietnam. The subject matters may be as varied as to how/when you were wounded, to a dumb-ass Sgt. that you'd never like to see again, to your R & R in Hawaii. Write about anything you want... Everyone has a story. Let that story out, and share your experiences with the world. There are many other guys that I don't have their e-mail addresses, so pass this letter on and have them forward their letters to me. Make sure all of you list your name, dates of experience, if you remember, phone numbers, and address. I'll be getting back to you to pick your brain for the sake of clarity when I receive your stories.

This idea of a book is not for personal gain, but to save the stories for our children, grandchildren and any one else that would like personal stories from those that served in Vietnam. When completed, and it'll not be an over-night endeavor, I'll present the book to the University of Nebraska Press. If it is published, we can discuss what to do with the proceeds from the sale of the book—maybe we can invite everyone for a pizza party, and blow the check in one evening. Some of you may feel compelled to write more than one story. That's cool, and acceptable. Let your creative talents flow, and if you're not comfortable with your own writing—let a friend write it for you. Everything will be accepted. Some stories may be based on tragedy, some may be comic, some may be simply a great human-interest story.

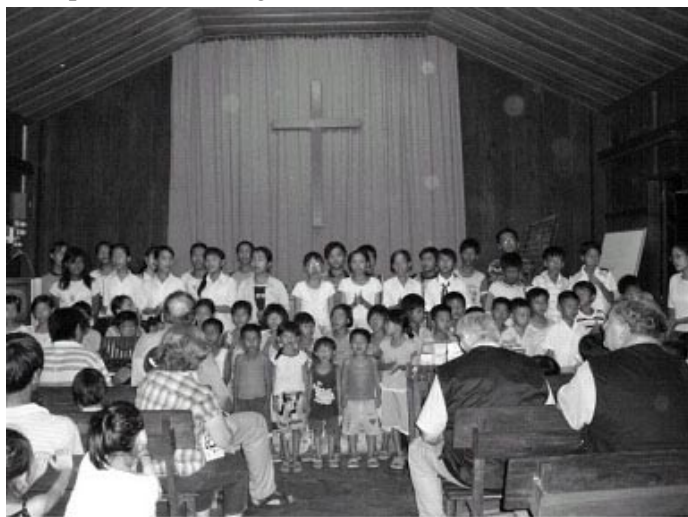
I hope to hear from all of you.

Byron Kinnan, D/3/8 RVN 67-68
Box 1165
Wilber, NE 68465

OPEN HANDS & HEARTS

– MISSIONS TO VIETNAM...

On my last trip to Vietnam in September after spending a couple of days in Saigon, we loaded our gear in the van and proceeded north up Route 1. After a ten hour drive, we make Nha Trang and quickly get checked into our hotel. We have a meeting with Ms Lieu at the leprosy village at 6:30 pm. Arrangements were made ahead of time to have 250 kgs of rice delivered to the village. Ms Lieu takes us to their community center where we present 100 children with the school supplies that we brought with us. Each child received 5 writing notebook pads, 5 pencils, 2 pens, eraser and pencil sharpener. The children entertained us with several songs before leaving. We, then, presented the rice, sugar and nuoc mam to 50 families. Each family received 5 kgs of rice, 1 kg of sugar and 1 bottle of nuoc mam (fish sauce). I admire Ms Lieu for her efforts in taking care of the lepers of this village.



**Children entertaining us with songs
before presentation of the gifts**

The next morning, we check out of the hotel and load up the van to leave by 6:00 am and head for Da Nang arriving after 12 hours on the road. After getting checked in to our hotel, Tiep and I go to purchase 250 kgs of rice, 5 cases of dried noodles and 1 blood pressure machine to take to the Hoa Van Leprosy Village the following day. We are met by the people from the Red Cross and loaded our gear into the van for the drive to the coast where we will load everything into a small boat for the 45 minute boat ride to the village. We arrive and offload everything and take it up to the village and are met by the doctors and other folks from the village. We commenced to distribute 5 kgs of rice, 2 packs of dried noodles and 2 cans of Vinamilk to each of 50 families. The food gifts were welcomed by all. They take us on a tour to see the projects that we carried out during this past year which included 10 new hospital beds, refurbish hospital dining room including a new roof and construction of a new 4 - toilet restroom which required an additional water well and water storage tank.

Our next project will be providing new bed stands for each hospital bed. This will be done over the course of next year. We returned to the boat and made our way back down the coast to our waiting van. The director of the Red Cross takes the team to lunch at a new restaurant that was recently opened. It was a nice gesture on his part and we appreciated it. After lunch, we proceeded to the Red Cross offices at Hoi Chu Thap Do Quan Hai Chau - Da Nang where we distributed 200 kgs of rice, and 40 cans of Vinamilk for 20 poor families, some afflicted with HIV. We, also, provided 1 blood pressure machine, 1 water dispenser, and 2 massage instruments to the facility. The doctor that was present volunteers his time to treat the patients that cannot afford to pay.



Villagers at Hoa Van Leprosy Village after distribution of food

The next morning, we check out of our hotel and load up the van for our next stop, the central highlands. We depart at 7:00 am and head for Kontum. We reach our destination after about a 7 hour drive and stop for lunch. After lunch, we head to Pleiku where we will stay for the night. After about 1 1/2 drive, we arrive at our hotel and get checked in. The following morning, Tiep and I head out early to pick up school supplies for the Ko Ho village in Da Lat. We return to the hotel and get checked out and load the van... next stop is Buon Ma Thuot. After a 5 hour drive, we arrive at our hotel and get checked in. Following dinner and a good night's rest, we get checked out of our hotel and load the van with our gear... next stop is Da Lat. Before leaving the city, we stop to pick up 250kgs of rice that we will be taking into the Ko Ho Village. We arrive in Da Lat in the early afternoon and get checked into our hotel. The following morning, Tiep and I head out to the market at 7:00 am to purchase 5 cases of dried noodles and 4 cases of Vinamilk that will be taken to the village. We made arrangements to have it delivered to our hotel. A representative of the village, Loi, meets us at the hotel to take us to the village. We get the van loaded up and head out. The

(continued next page)

(continued **OPEN HANDS & HEARTS**)

Ko Ho Village is located about 15 km outside of Da Lat and we spent the better part of the day with them. Today was a great day! We provided the village with 250kgs of rice, 5 cases of dried noodles and 4 cases of Vinamilk. We distributed school supplies for 100 children, which included 5 writing notebook pads, 2 pens, 2 pencils, pencil sharpener & eraser. We, also, provided them with clothes, toys and blowpops. One of the toys enjoyed were balsa wood gliders that I was given from one of my manufacturers. I'll have to bring more next time. We took pictures of their new church and have been asked to help them with new pews for next year. The children entertained us with songs and the village provided us with lunch. Afterwards, we spent some time visiting and playing with the children. I look forward to seeing these people next year. We say our goodbyes and board the van for our return trip to our hotel.



Food and school supplies before distribution in Giong Trom

We return to Saigon. The following day the rest of the team leaves for America. I will stay behind for another week. Tiep and I will return to another hamlet in Giong Trom in a couple of days. Before making the trip, Tiep and I take a taxi and go to Cho Lon to purchase school supplies for tomorrow's visit to the other hamlet. Up at 4:00 am for a shower and get dressed... ready to go at 5:00am. Tiep arrives and instead of using our large van, he rents a car and driver to go back out to the villages in Giong Trom. One of Tiep's friends, Hung, joins us as he is interested in seeing what we do. When we arrive, we are met by a representative from AP 6 Thi Thanh Village and taken to the homes that we have projects going from our last visit. The bed was purchased for one home; construction on the water storage tank is underway in the 2nd home and the 3rd house has been started. After some refreshment, we are met by the representative from Xa Chau Hoa Ap Thoi Thuan Village and taken to their community center where we distribute school supplies for 45 children and 300 kgs of rice for 20 families (15kgs per family). The gifts were welcomed by all. It was requested that we help them refurbish/enlarge their community center...cost estimate is \$650USD. Tiep will advise us when it will start. I was hoping to have it ready for TET 2007, but we will see. Tiep will return on the 22nd and get material ordered for the 4 new houses that will be built between the 2 villages and keep us informed as to the progress by sending photos via e-mail.



Showing the children how to assemble and fly the balsa wood glider

Next morning, we are up early and check out of our hotel and depart for Saigon about 7:00am. If all goes well, we should arrive in Saigon about 3:00 pm. Arrive without incident and get checked back in to the Hotel Hoang Ky. Tiep and I take a taxi to Cho Lon and pick up the school supplies for our visit to Giong Trom tomorrow. In the morning, Tuan shows up with the van, we get it loaded and head out about 8:00 am. It takes about 3 hours to Giong Trom. Upon our arrival, we are met by the village representatives who will lead us into the hamlet, AP 6 Thi Thanh. The road/path going into the village is only suitable for bicycle or motorbike, so we pile onto a motorbike with a trailer attached for the ride in, 11/2-2 km. We are taken to their community center where we distribute the school supplies to 50 children and 100 kgs of rice to 10 families (10 kgs per family).

(continued **OPEN HANDS & HEARTS**)



Distributing school supplies to the children

We return to Saigon and have a couple of days before I leave. Tonight, I will take Tiep's and his family and our good friend, Huy, to dinner at a nearby restaurant. Afterwards, I say my goodbyes to Tiep's family. Tiep, Huy and I return to the hotel and wait until it is time for me to depart to the airport. We say our goodbyes... Mot Nam Sao!
Steve Edmunds (C/3/8 RVN 67-68)

Dear Treasured Veterans...

I am a daughter of a 35 year Army veteran, MG Thomas P. Lynch (Ret.), and after a childhood of many moves and adventures have found myself teaching in a small rural K-8 Eastern Washington school. While I teach Middle School Science and Math, I have spearheaded the school's observance of Veteran's Day the last several years. After attending my dad's ("Charger"- Tom Lynch MG (Ret) 1945-1980) Viet Nam reunion last year in Las Vegas, I am looking to involve Veterans in a more meaningful way. Your help is needed. We want to teach students about the importance of Veterans Day and what it symbolizes. These children are not in an environment like that of my childhood, of marching troops and cadence calls, the sounds of tank treads on asphalt moving for another exercise. They are not privileged to hear the military band at the parade field. But most of all, many of them don't understand the sacrifices of distance and danger that soldiers make when called.

Even with today's constant breaking news of wars fought so far away, our youth and our country separates itself quickly from being connected. Too often, Veterans Day becomes merely a day off from school or work without any recognition for the significance of this holiday. Those who have served our nation in uniform can inspire our students to share a common love of our country and to be grateful to those who have sacrificed so much to secure

the American way of life. Students learn best from first hand accounts. Your story, your experience, can make a difference to help us remember what veteran's Day means to those who have served our country. Please share with us your stories and thoughts on what Veteran's Day means to you and what you want people to remember on Veteran's Day.

Thank you for your time. I know first hand that being with a Vet and listening to their stories is a humbling experience that enhances the value we have on our own life. I appreciate the sacrifice you have made.

Susan Lynch Douglas

Almira Elementary and Middle School
Almira, WA 99103

(see Veteran's Day thoughts I & II)

Seeking Info...

I am Greg Nuckles's grandson, James Nuckles. According to virtualwall.com, my grandfather was an Ivy Dragoon for three months in 1967 before he was killed at Hill 724 on November 4th. I am on the search of people who served with him because I am looking into my family history. I would like to learn anything and everything there is to know about him, and I figure that even though he was only an Ivy Dragoon for 3 months, surviving veterans would know him best. The reason that I am asking you is because my grandmother died, and my biological father never had the opportunity to meet him. Any help that you could give me would be deeply appreciated.

James Nuckles
310 Morrison
Apt 4
Big Rapids, MI. 49307
(810) 599-0674
sideshow07@comcast.net

Seeking Info...

Recently, we have been in contact with Doug Dickerson, the youngest brother of SFC Harold Dickerson (KIA 11/11/67). Harold was the Field First Sergeant at the time. Doug is looking for someone that may have known or has an old photo of his brother. Doug has visited our website and says, "what a great benefit your website has been for me and our family in getting responses from several soldiers who knew First Sergeant Harold Dickerson who was KIA 11/11/67 in Vietnam on Hill 724. After all these years our family now is starting to feel like we know what really happened that day – not exactly what we were told by the military at the time."

Thank you,
Doug Dickerson
864-836-7991
864-616-2928 (cell)
Doug.Dickerson@nah.com

Veteran's Day...

After Action Report For Wreath Laying at The Wall
- Washington DC. November 11, 2006



The Wreath

Our trip to Washington DC, Friday morning started slowly as we were ready to load the car, only to find a low tire. I drove to the local Walmart to have the tire repaired. They took the tire apart and couldn't be sure they found the slow leak. So I had them install two new tires on the front of the car. I couldn't jeopardize the mission, in any way.

With the late start, we finally arrived in the metro area around 1330 hrs. I had arranged to meet Bob Richards (C Co.3/67 - 3/68) and his wife, Wuanda at The Wall on Friday afternoon. While crossing the memorial bridge, I received a radio transmission (cell phone) from Bob wanting to know my location and ETA. I informed him that we were close and ETA depended on finding a parking spot. Finding a parking spot in DC is like finding a friendly NVA in the 60's & 70's. We finally made contact with Bob and his wife. They were sitting on a bench near the statue of the Three Grunts. It was truly a meeting of two brothers that never met before, but still knew each other. We traveled around the area and shook hands with other brothers until darkness arrived. Because the holiday fell on Saturday, a lot of employers gave their people off on Friday and there were many more friendlies in the area than last year. Bob and Wuanda knew I was planning to get a few rubbings and that I have a beard, so they noticed a Brother taking a rubbing, wearing a 4th ID jacket, so to surprise me, they took my picture. They got the surprise, as we were not yet there.

Saturday morning, Veterans Day, Mary and I arrived in the area of The Wall about 0830 hrs. We carried our wreath about a 'click' to the staging area and

assembled it. Then we passed the time meeting and greeting Brothers, until we met Kurt "Doc" Nagl (B/3/8 66-67) and Jim Adams (B/3/8 67-68). They had met Brother, Bill Cowell (B/3/8 66-67) and his wife Bonnie and their grandson, Billy, and had them follow them thru the city as Doc is familiar with Washington. We, all, walked past the Memorial when I spotted a new Iraq veteran with double amputations sitting in a wheel chair. I shook his hand, welcomed him home, and moved out as the scene broke my heart. That young veteran appeared to be about 16 years old. The next day I made the realization that he is "Samo, Samo", as us 40 years ago. The day proceeded well, and soon it was time for the program and the laying of the wreaths. I asked Bob & Bill if they would do the honors, as the three of us did it last year. They accepted the duty with honor. I can't name the speakers, because they ran out of programs, but the speakers were very good.



The Squad: L to R: Bill Cowell, Ed Goehring, Jim Adams, Kurt "Doc" Nagl & Bob Richards

The First Air Cav's color guard stood at attention, with old glory flying high, but their units colors were cased. Jan Struggs (Founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial & Master of Ceremonies) explained that they were to deploy to Iraq and the commanding officer said that the colors will not fly until the unit reached Iraq.

As the units were called, they placed each wreath at The Wall and when our turn came, Master Of Ceremonies Jan Struggs called us The IVY DRAGOONS, A DIVISION, OF THE 4th INF DIVISION, and added that everyone should take a look at this colorful wreath.

As this concluded the ceremony and the crowd started to disperse Doc Nagl, and Jim Adams, said their goodbyes and left for home, as did Bill and Bonny Cowell with their grandson, Billy. Bob Richards, Wuanda, Mary Ellen and myself sat down on now vacant chairs and talked until they told us to leave as they were cleaning up. The entire mission, became a long and tiring, but very fulfilling day. Bob and Bill, both, commented to me that placing the

wreath was an honor that they will always remember.

At some point during the afternoon, I walked up to a black brother, wearing the 4th ID. Patch. I reached out and shook his hand and with a "Welcome Home", asked him what unit he served with and responded "3rd of the 8th, 70 to the end". I told him I was during the beginning arriving 9/66. We exchanged conversation and I invited him to join our Brotherhood. He indicated that he would.

Weather conditions: the temperature ranged from Mid 40's to a afternoon high of about 78 degrees, both days, with bright sunshine. A non-typical warm day for November 11 in Washington DC. As one of the speakers stated, "It seems the Vietnam Veterans have a friend in a very high place."

Editors note: At our VA group Monday evening, a brother told us of his experience at The Wall. He found a friend's name on The Wall, and seeing it at the top of a panel, asked a volunteer, who was already on a ladder, to rub the name of his friend while he was up there. With that, a young woman standing next to him, asked "Did you know my Daddy?" Turns out this woman's mother did not talk of her father's death, and has also passed on. This young woman said she has been coming to the wall for years to try and find someone that knew her father. Her father was a member of a swift boat crew that hit a mine and was the first Navy personnel listed M.I.A and changed to K.I.A days later. This brother said that he and the young woman exchanged information, and promised to keep in touch. I wanted to include this story as proof that miracles, truly, do happen at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Again, we all thank the Dragoons and President Steve Edmunds, for the opportunity to serve the Dragoons again. In 2005, we had three representatives. In 2006, we had five, who knows 2007 could be even better. Thank you brothers. Ed Goehring (B/3/8 RVN 9/66 ~ 9/67)

PS: It's a small world. Sunday morning at breakfast Ed spotted a man with Point Man Ministries on his jacket. I welcomed him home, and asked if he knew you (Steve Edmunds). His name is Phil & his wife, Vera, Kinsey, so you know the answer. (Phil & Vera Kinsey are the SE Asia Coordinators for Point Man International Ministries and organize our trips to Vietnam)

Veteran's Day Thoughts I...

Your request was received from Steve Edmunds. It seemed easy to say what Veteran's Day means to me but I found it difficult. I was drafted March 5th, 1968 at the age of 20. I had failed out of college and was quickly caught up in the draft. My active duty including a combat tour in Nam 68-69 was the harshest transition I could ever imagine. I became forever a part of D Co, 3/8th Infantry, 4TH infantry Division. This became my family one I thought lost until we started finding each other in the late 90's. Did I enjoy Nam?

That answer is a resounding NO. We operated under the harshest and most difficult situations of what I believe to be that of any other Infantry Division. I learned of people's lives. We talked of what our lives were in "The World" as we called the USA. I learned to trust my life to these men as they to me. I learned of others' lives, those I killed. To search their ruck sacks looking for paperwork and then to find pictures of their families was hard. I had to block it. I just wanted to come home. March 5th, 1969, one year to the day I was drafted, my company was wiped out. I lost Brothers for whom I still grieve. Coming home was bitter for I received the hatred or the war from people I did not know, people who were once called friend, my family. Was it worth it for me? Yes, as I came to love my country deeper, the right and freedom I have and others have.

I remember my Brothers who were killed. Finding their families means much. Veteran's Day is a memory of an orphanage in Pleiku. I had just gotten out of a hospital and before returning to the field was asked if I wanted to pull security with some medics. The children ran out of the orphanage. They had missing limbs, burns and scars all from the NVA. I am a Combat Veteran and stand as tall as I can, for I served my country under the most difficult of conditions. My Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) and my Purple Heart say much. It is not boasting of exploits but means I stood my ground for this nation's freedom. Veteran's Day means that my wife of 35 years stood by me, loved me when my world came apart. The question does not have to be asked as I would do it again.

Byron Adams, Murfreesboro, TN (3/8th 4th Inf Div RVN 68-69)

Veteran's Day Thoughts II...

Back in 1952 I volunteered for the Army during the Korean War, and received sixteen weeks of Infantry Basic Training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Not long after that I was discharged for a medical problem, but even that short time made me appreciate what it takes to be a good soldier.

I had led a privileged life before then, and had graduated from Harvard, so this was the first time I had slept in pup tents with African-Americans and had other close contact living and working with Puerto Ricans and other minorities. I came to admire these men, many of whom were far better than I in the mechanical skills such as disassembling and maintaining weapons that are an essential part of life in the combat branches of the Army and other services. I liked these men; they gave me a faith in the average American citizen, if there is such a thing, that has never left me.

My next exposure to the military came in 1967, when I was a free-lance reporter for a year in Vietnam.

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(continued from **Veteran's Day Thoughts II...**)

During that year, I spent a lot of time with an infantry battalion known as the Dragoons, who spent most of their time operating in the Central Highlands of what was then known as South Vietnam, with particular emphasis on operations near the Cambodian border.

Here, fourteen years after actually being in the Army, I finally saw quite a lot of bloody fighting at close range. Once again, I came greatly to admire these young men who had answered their country's call. Their commander was a Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Patrick Lynch, a soldier's soldier if ever there was one. He had risen through the army from being a private, holding every rank—corporal, sergeant, lieutenant—as he came up, and, to get a bit ahead of the story, went on to be a major general. We have remained close friends, and he is my daughter Lucy's godfather.

The Dragoons have a reunion every two years, and at their invitation I attend every one of them. There is a closeness among men who have been in combat together that is a bond like no other. It has to be experienced to be understood. I feel honored to be among men who have done the things that I have seen them do. My wife came with me to the first of those reunions, and I said to her, "I want you to see what a roomful of heroes looks like." It's not an opportunity that everyone has.

Is war a bad thing? Yes. Is it sometimes better to fight, than not to fight? Yes. This country can get into some wars that it should not be in, but it is always important to have armed forces filled with able and willing young men and women, because you cannot tell many years in advance what kinds of threats the United States may have to face. For myself, I am very grateful to all these fine young men and women, those who go in for a few years, or those who make it a career of thirty years or more. Don't ever let anyone tell you that we don't need them. Please give them the respect and admiration that they deserve.

Charles Flood, war correspondent/author (HHC/3/8th 4th Inf Div RVN 66-67)

Jungle Rot...

I'll try to keep this as brief and informative as possible. The subject today is "JOCK ITCH" or as Doc Wilson used to say, "you have JUNGLE ROT." All of you remember the situation from 40 years ago, and how Jungle Rot would invade our young bodies in the most peculiar places; most of us discovered the fungus on our feet, faces, groin areas, and generally all over our bodies. J.R. was not life threatening, but the areas affected were traumatized, as well as our egos because we had never

been so filthy. The monsoons, humidity, inability to take showers, filth of "humpin'" the boonies, and sleeping in wet jungle fatigues on a damp ground, produced a breeding area for the rot.

Some of us were braver than others and would remove our boots at night and let the feet "air" out. None of us wore socks or underwear because this only caused the rot to get worse, and in essence, we were walking testimonials of the end-result of jungle rot. The "ring worm" look, the skin peeling away, the sores, and the itching drove us crazy. When we arrived in country, many of us had youthful, pretty faces, and could walk up-right like normal human beings, but 12 months later we boarded our flights home with faces out of a Halloween movie, hunched over, and scratching our gonads. We had become distorted, two-legged, scratching fungus carriers.

We were a pathetic sight, and it's no wonder that society did not welcome us home. As we stood in front of the conveyor waiting for our duffle-bags to show, we'd continue to scratch ourselves with that "I don't give a damn," flamboyant attitude because WE earned the right to scratch ourselves. We were the epitome of jungle rot; the largest users of hydrogen peroxide, and we scared the hell out of the little girl, holding her mother's hand, with our incessant scratching. It felt so good....

Forty years later, I'd like to apologize to that little girl because of my lack of social graces, and my inability to control myself. As Edith Ann of "Laugh-In" fame once said, "The Devil made me do it," but in reality it's the Army's fault. After being in the jungle for an extended time, we should have all been pulled into base camp and dipped into a vat of fungus killer by our feet; then "Geisha Baby" should have applied soothing ointment all over our bodies to help eliminate the scratching. In fact, it is only recently that I learned about Lamisil.

Yep, you have it right! Lamisil, the foot spray/ ointment for foot fungus. For forty years, I've been scratching, scaring the hell out of little girls, and I could have been a normal person, and not made a spectacle of myself. The Army should have given all of us a gallon of the stuff, and today we'd be walking upright, and have pretty faces. Now that I'm cured, I'll miss those "good-old-days" and stares. I might even start wearing underwear again, but that's a topic for another story that I'll touch upon after I get my next dipping treatment.

Byron Kinnan (D/3/8 RVN 67-68)

TAPS...



**L to R: R. Brown, J. Perez, ??, H. Phillips,
2nd Plt. C/3/8 Dak to RVN 1967**

It is with a great deal of sadness that another hero is laid to rest. Robert “Charlie Brown” Brown, C/3/8 RVN 8/67-8/68, passed away on 11/28/06 at home in Mason, IL after battling cancer for much of this past year. Bob was born on Nov 11, 1948 in St. Elmo, IL. He spent his 19th birthday going up Hill 724 during the Battle of Dak To – Nov 1967. Bob is survived by his wife, Brenda; son, John Brown; daughter, Leigh Ann Ruffner; brothers, Jake and Lewis Brown; sisters, Marilyn Calvert, Mary Belle, Suzanne Immem, Dorothy Whitlock, Jewel Brown and Janet VanSant; and three grandchildren. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and three sisters. Bob attended Brethern Lutheran Church. He was a member of the Ivy Dragoon’s Chapter, National 4th Infantry Division Assoc. and VFW Post 7676. He was a retired semi-truck driver and farmer. The Gieseking Funeral Home handled the services, Pastor Kent “Pee Wee” Denton officiated the services and internment took place at the Liberty Cemetery with full military honors.

Attending the visitation and/or the funeral were Byron Perry, Jerry Fagg, Bobby Longwell, Monte “Doc” Lundy, Gary “Hollie” Holliman, Pat McClelland, Terry Faulkner and Bob Williamson, representing Bob’s Brothers from Charlie Company.

I remember reconnecting with Bob at a Charlie Co reunion in August – 2000 and spending time at his home meeting his lovely wife Brenda and their children. I am forever thankful to have had the opportunity to spend time with Bob and Brenda at our reunions over these past 6 years. He will be truly missed, and shall never be forgotten. (Steve Edmunds C/3/8 RVN 5/67-5/68)



Seated L to R: Skip Franges, Bob Brown & Monte “Doc” Lunde; Standing L to R: Steve Edmunds, Wonnie “Pappy” Harris, Pat McClelland, & Gary Holliman at C Co 2nd platoon reunion 6/04

CHAPTER UPDATE...

The following is an update since July 1st, but does not include early memberships/renewals for 2007 that have been received. Dues for 2007 are \$20.00. A reminder is in the mail. Thank you for your support.

New... Seay Weldon, B/3/8 69; Carroll Merrell, B/3/8 66-67; Larry D. Orr, B/3/8 66-67; Richard V. Stone, B/3/8 68-69;

Renewals... Kenneth Howe, D/3/8 68-69; Doug “Jack” Crumley, HHC/3/8 RECON 66-67; Charles “Skip” Franges, C/3/8 67-68;

REUNION LADIES BREAKFAST...

In another six months we will meet again in Nashville. The last breakfast that we had in Las Vegas in 2005 was fun. We had a chance to get to know each other without the fellas. The men have each other. Let’s keep the “Sisterhood” going. These are a great bunch of women, so... join us and get to know them. They are like family, just nicer (ha,ha) and we have a lot in common. This is for wives, significant others and adult female children. Any questions or suggestions, call Elsie Edmunds (H) 909-861-6379, (C) 909-240-5784 or e-mail: edmundsdb@aol.com

Seeking Info....

My cousin, Dante Volpone was killed with many of his buddies on July 23, 1967 in the "Battle of Three Trees". I have found much information but would like more. If anyone knew Dante or was in the battle on that day, please contact me. I have posted a memorial to Dante on the Virtual Wall. I invite you to see it. I am a Vietnam era veteran of the Air Force and will never forget the sacrifices you, my cousin, and many friends made in your service in Vietnam. <http://www.virtualwall.org/dv/VolponeDx01a.htm>

Thanks Beldeluca@aol.com
George De Luca gmdel@comcast.net

Seeking Info...

My name is Bonni and my father was KIA in VN his name is Lon Dougherty. He was in Alpha Co. His Start of Tour was 11 Sept 69 and his Casualty date is 21 Feb 70. On that day, he was in or around Binh Dinh. His home state was Nashville TN. His rank was a Spec. 4. The reason that I am telling you all this is I am hoping to jog someone's memory about my father. I never got to meet him. I always wanted to find out if maybe someone from his company remembers him or maybe has a picture. At this point and time any information is greatly appreciated. I thank all of you and I am glad that you are home and safe. Thank you again!!!!

I am looking for any info on my father his name is Lon Dougherty I never got the privilege of meeting him He was in from 69 to 21 Feb 70 anyone who can help I would be forever grateful. Everyone else Thank you also. Thanks very much Dragoons! If needed there is more information on the Open Forum! THANKS GUYS

Bonni Basford danbon@adelphia.net
94 Cleveland Ave
Tonawanda, NY 14150
716-906-1792

Seeking Info...

1Lt William Dennis McAllister

I truly believe that you were a birthday present sent a few days early from heaven today. I read your letters from Vietnam Feb-Mar 1969. Your days there were my dad's days!! I have always wondered about how things were for him. I was only 4 months when he was KIA. Mom and the family never shared info—so I have a face without a history. My own children are 10 and 9 now and have been asking lots of questions about Soldier Papaw. With Veteran's Day approaching it would be nice to have some info about him. Because of your letters I know about Hill 947. This is something I was never told at home or school. I need to do more research. Can you tell me more? Or can you tell me how to learn more? Do you know if the Roman Catholic priest you mentioned in the letters home is

still with us? Can you also tell me how I can find out the members of B/3/8 Army? I would like to meet you or some of them. As you can tell—I am thrilled to be getting some history! The good facts and bad are part of my dad and me—I truly need some memories to share with my kids!

With sincere admiration and appreciation,

Dawn McAllister- McKillop
805 Talisman Dr
Terre Haute In 47802 812-514-9438
RdngtchrR1968@aol.com

Seeking Info...

Does anyone have any pictures take at Xmas time at the Trains area at Dak To, where the S5 team decorated jeeps like Sleighs and the Red Cross worker was dressed as Santa Claus or pictures taken that day of the Xmas parties at the Church/school at Tahn Can, where Gen. Peers showed up, or at the party at the school in Dak To town. or any pictures of the S5 team in the Montagnard villages around Dak To or Pleiku. I lost all of mine and would love to see some of the pictures again. Let me know if you have any pictures that you can send to me. I would really appreciate it.

Thanks,
Roy Nussbaum
28142 Driver Ave #1
Agoura Hills, CA 91301-2776
818-706-1799

Seeking Info...

My cousin was John Collins from Vandergrift, PA who was killed in November, 1967 while serving with B Co. John and I weren't close as he was a bit older but each summer we traveled to Vandergrift for the annual 'corn roast.'

Long story short, I'm looking for any photos that you all may have where John is included. I realize this is probably a long shot but I am hoping that there might just be some pictures out there.

Thanks in advance for your time.

Tim Wharton
759 Regent Road
Cincinnati, OH 45245
513/688-0603

Seeking Info...

I'm trying to help a young lady find anyone who may have served with her father in 1968. His name was Sp4 Charlie T. Neal. He was from Atlanta Georgia. He was station with 4th ID in 1968. He arrived in country Dec,21, 1968. KIA on MAY 11, 1969 in Pleiku. If anyone served with him and and have info. Please e-mail to the address shown.

Thank you
SFC Mark A. Johnson
HWYMEN27@AOL.COM

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events...

Ivy Dragoons Battalion Reunion
June 7 – 10, 2007

Radisson Hotel at Opryland
2401 Music Valley Dr.
Nashville, TN

Room rates: \$89.00 per night, single/double occupancy. Add \$10.00 per extra person. Reservations: (800) 333-3333. Let them know you are with the Ivy Dragoons Reunion to get this rate.

Our Speakers will be Chaplain Jackson Day. Jack was our Battalion Chaplain. He will have a different perspective as he ministered to us on the ground and his ministry after his tour ended. Felix "Buddy" Williams was the surviving officer of Alpha Co on March 4th, 1969. Buddy stayed in the Army retiring as a LT. Colonel. His perspective on readjustments will be of interest.

Wives-I am asking for volunteers. It is the wives who did duty with us that have a story to tell. It would be of interest to hear from long term and short term marriages. It can be humorous or serious. Email Byron Adams at byronadams@comcast.net.

The Opryland Radisson is looking forward to us. This will be the first major reunion of veterans from the Vietnam War in Nashville. Transportation from the airport to the Opryland Radisson will be available. The Radisson is providing a very large hospitality room. This will enable a focal point for all to meet. Our Saturday morning business will be held there. Opry Mills is very close and being told (I am not a professional shopper) that this is very fine shopping for the ladies. Golf- there is a very fine course very close. The Grand Ole Opry is but across the highway. Block tickets for the 3/8th Infantry can be made. Call 1-800-333-3333 or 615-231-8888 for reservations. These can be made now. Famous downtown bars and lounges are but a few miles away. Prominent names will have facilities near our Hotel. The main Banquet will be Friday night and a luncheon on Saturday. We want all to enjoy Nashville for there is much to see and do. Do not hesitate to contact me byronadams@comcast.net or Bill West at wwestg19@comcast.net.

6/7	Registration	\$15.00 each adult (18 yrs or older)
6/8	Banquet Dinner	\$35.00 each
6/9	BarBQue Luncheon	\$35.00 each
6/9	Grand Old Opry TBD (optional)	

The committee is working on a special group rate for those having the desire to visit the Grand Ole Opry on Saturday night.