



“THE IVY DRAGOONS DISPATCH”

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



President: Steve Edmunds

Volume XIII

Ivy Dispatch Editors: Ken Howe & Levie Isaacks

Spring 2009

New Book Release...

Our own *Charles Bracelen Flood* has released a new book, “1864: Lincoln at the Gates of History”. Check with your nearest book store or it may be found on Amazon.com. Charlie authored the book, “War of the Innocents” which is about his tour in RVN where he spent some time as a correspondent with the Dragoons during his tour in 66-67.

President’s Message...

Well, I find it hard to believe that it has been 10 years since we started reforming the battalion and we are in our 9th year as a chapter of the National 4th Infantry Division Assoc. We have come a long way, over 875 members on our roster which includes several family members of our KIA’s. Membership in our chapter represents about 20-25% of our roster. I want to extend my sincere “ThankYou” to all of you who have renewed their membership and to those new members who have recently joined our chapter. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so. If you are not a member, please consider joining the chapter. We need your support. Remember, it is not the cost of the membership, it is the price you already paid to be eligible for membership.

The big event of the year will be our battalion reunion in Colorado Springs, CO July 9-12, 2009. Make your reservations early and don’t miss this opportunity for fellowship with your Brothers. I look forward to seeing you in Colorado Springs.

A Reason To Attend Our Reunion...

In 1999, I received an invitation to attend the first Ivy Dragoon’s reunion. I said “No, we are not going”!! My wife, Mary Ellen, overruled and we attended. I would like everyone that reads this to know that attending the reunion changed my life. I have since attended four reunions and have been planning to attend the up coming reunion since I left the last.

Brothers, for those of you that can’t stand the thought of remembering the horrors of Vietnam, I understand. That was me. For 30 years, I tried to forget and the memories always came back, usually, in the middle of the night. I attended that first reunion and, as I recall, we had 27 Brothers attending. We didn’t talk about the bad times. We talked about the good times, although few. We talked about family and the years since. I learned that I am not unique. I am just like the rest of my brothers. We have the same dreams/nightmares. I started talking about my service years and discovered that I was trying to remember, but age has stolen many details. I do know that in the last 10 years and trying to remember, I am coping with Vietnam better than when I was trying to forget.

The Brotherhood we have is stronger than family. We had each others backs in the bush and if you re-attach to your long lost brothers you will, again, be there for each other. Reunions are what you make of them. We honor our fallen and share love with our Brothers. I know every reunion that I attend that I come away walking a little taller.

I am hoping that this will change a few minds to attend Colorado Springs July 9 - 12, 2009. I would love to find some more long lost Brothers *Ed Goehring, B/3/8 RVN 66-67.*

Why Veterans Reunite...

“I now know why men (and now women) who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades.....Such good men.” *Author unknown*

Contributed by Ralph Haun, A/3/8 RVN 67-68

Veterans Day 2008...

The *Ivy Dragoons* made a donation of \$100.00 for the purchase of a wreath to be placed at the 4th ID memorial in Brioules-sur-Meuse, France on Veterans Day.



Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery & Memorial

Guestbook Message...

The following message was posted in our guestbook and I thought it appropriate to share, especially for those without computer access. (*Steve Edmunds, C/3/8 RVN 67-68*)

I have not, until now, ever made a comment on the “guest book” but would like to at this time. My wife and I have been creating a remembrance album of her Uncle Joe “Minch” Muench who was killed in an ambush while leading a recon patrol on Oct 4th 1969 near An Khe in the mountains of the Central Highlands. A large weapons cache was found in the area a day or so after he was killed. He was squad leader of the 2nd squad of the 2nd platoon in B Co. Joe’s family was contacted originally by Keith Kelly back in 1970. He explained, as much as he could, about that day as he was a member of that ambushed patrol and watched as the medics worked on Joe after he was hit. Many years later (1991) I married Joe’s niece and we never miss the Memorial Day honor guard ceremony at his gravesite. We wanted to create a remembrance album for the family and luckily I found this website about five years ago. I am now an associate member. Joe sent home some photos but he was in only two. This website made it possible for me to get in touch with a number of vets who were Joe’s friends or who were there that fateful day. These vets wrote letters explaining what they remember and a few also had photos in their collections which showed Joe and we obtained copies for the album. These photos were never seen by the family and having them gave them a better understanding of where and what it was like in the area of operations that he was assigned to. To see him again brought tears but also brought back good memories. I would like to say thank you to Steve Edmunds, Keith Kelly, Steve Shlagel, John “Doc” Lindsay, John D’Agostino, Kevin(Long)Leonard, Roger Genereux, Henry Opatka, Dennis Bolman and Dennis Stone. Forgive me if I forgot anyone. Joe’s mom is still living at 85 and it was very good for her to see what you guys had to say and to gaze at those, never-before-seen, images of her son that she lost so long ago. You guys are a great bunch of fellas. Much thanks to you all and may God bless you.

William DeJonge

billandzoo@hotmail.com

VVMF

(Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund)...

There are 58,260 names of individuals inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial who did not return home from that war. But there are thousands more who returned home, only to die later as a result of their service. These American heroes do not fit the Department of Defense guidelines to have their names added to The Wall, but there is a program that allows their sacrifices to be recognized and honored: VVMF's In Memory program.

The In Memory ceremony takes place at The Wall on the third Monday in April—this year, it will be held on April 20. All honorees have their names and photos added to the In Memory Honor Roll, which is updated yearly. Currently, more than 1,700 individuals are part of the Honor Roll.

In order for an individual to be considered for the In Memory program, loved ones must fill out an application and return it to VVMF by Feb. 9. The application can be downloaded from our Web site, <http://www.vvmf.org/>. Submitted by *Ed Goehring*, B/3/8 66-67

Ceremony Recognizes Veterans not Eligible for Inscription on The Wall; Deadline for Applications Set for February 9

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the nonprofit organization that has helped America heal from the divisive wounds of the Vietnam War, is searching for Vietnam veterans who died as a result of their service, but who do not meet the government requirements for having their names added to The Wall, announced Jan C. Scruggs, Memorial Fund founder and president.

These heroes will be honored on April 20 during the 11th annual In Memory Day ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Since its inception in 1993, more than 1,700 individuals have been honored through the In Memory program.

In order for a loved one to be considered, family members and friends should submit their applications to the Memorial Fund no later than Monday, February 9. Applications can be obtained on the Memorial Fund Web site (www.vvmf.org). A copy of the honoree's death certificate and military records showing service in Vietnam must accompany the application.

"Just as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has helped the nation heal, the In Memory Day program was designed to help the families of those service members who died as a

result of Agent Orange exposure or other physical and emotional wounds from the war," Scruggs said. "By bringing these families together, the In Memory program allows loved ones to share their stories and to continue the process of healing."

In Memory Day

Initially, honorees were remembered in ceremonies held twice a year as part of Memorial and Veterans Day activities at The Wall. Beginning in 1999, the Memorial Fund established a separate day to honor these individuals. Nearly 1,000 family members and friends come from all across the country to attend the In Memory Day ceremony each year.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial contains the names of 58,260 men and women who died while serving in the U.S. armed forces in the Vietnam War. However, its black granite walls have always stood to remember all of the nearly 3.5 million who participated in the difficult and controversial conflict.

"The Department of Defense developed specific parameters to allow only the names of the service members who died of injuries suffered in combat zones to be inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial," Scruggs explained. "The In Memory program recognizes those men and women who have died as a result of their service, but who do not meet the DOD requirements for inscription on The Wall."

During the ceremony, family members read aloud their loved ones' names in chronological order by date of death. Following the ceremony, participants lay tributes at the black granite panels that correspond to the honorees' dates of service in Vietnam, so that these Vietnam veterans come to rest with the comrades with whom they served.

Patriots Day

The annual In Memory Day ceremony is held on the third Monday of April. That date was chosen specifically to coincide with Patriots Day, which commemorates the battles of Lexington and Concord at the start of the Revolutionary War—the first time Americans fought for freedom and democracy.

Established in 1979, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is the nonprofit organization authorized by Congress to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Today, through a series of outreach programs, it is dedicated to preserving the legacy of The Wall, promoting healing, educating about the impact of the Vietnam War and is building The Education Center at The Wall, an underground facility on the National Mall.

Submitted by *Michael Boxer*, D/3/8 68-69

CHAPTER UPDATE...

The following is an update and includes all renewals for 2009 memberships through 23 Mar 09.

New... Tom Barrows, B/3/8 68-69; Wally Fulbright, C/3/8 67-68; Richard J. Linneman, A/3/8 68-69; Paul Mims, A/3/8 68-69; John Mitchell, C/3/8 68-69; Joe Travnik, B/3/8 68-69

Renewals... Byron E. Adams, D/3/8 68-69; James C. Adams, B/3/8 67-68; Alex P. Alegria, B/3/8 66-67; Ruben-Allen W. Pinto, B/3/8 67-68; William J. Anderson, C/3/8 67-68; Rick "Doc" Arouzet, HHC/3/8 66-67; Joseph S. Balla, A/3/8 68-69; Lloyd "Doc" Bedik, HHC/3/8 67-68; Stanley J. Benner, A/3/8 66-67; Ronald D. Blust, A/3/8 67-68; Stanley R. Bode, A/3/8 67-68; Bruce R. Boening, D/3/8 68-69; Dennis R. Bolman, B/3/8 69-70; Ed "Skip" Bookman, B/3/8 66-67; Michael Boxer, D/3/8 68-69; William J. Brune, C/3/8 70; James N. Bury, B/3/8 67-68; Roger G. Bury, Associate USAF 67-68; Mark A. Butler, C/3/8 67; Russell Campbell, C/3/8 66-67; Terry E. Campbell, D/3/8 69-70; George Casiano, HHC/3/8 Recon 66-67; Stephen J. Chopek, A/3/8 68; John L. Cimino, B/3/8 67-68; Joseph J. Coll, Memorial – Brother, Dennis J. Coll A/3/8 KIA 3 Mar 69; Jesse A. Colvin, B/3/8 65-67; John "Jack" Concannon, C/3/8 67; George "Doc" Costa, A/3/8 68-69; William H. Cowell, B/3/8 67-68; Leonard A. Crosby, HHC/3/8 67-68; Doug "Jack" Crumley, HHC/3/8 Recon 66-67; Charles Q. Cutshaw, ?/3/8 64-66; John D'Agostino, B/3/8 69-70; Colin L. Davis, A/3/8 67-68; William J. DeJonge, Memorial – Uncle, Joseph Muench B/3/8 KIA 4 Oct 69; Gordon D. Dixon, A/3/8 67-68; Arty Lee Dovers, A/3/8 70; Christopher R. Dressler, E/3/8 Recon 69; Gary R. Edwards, C/3/8 67-68; Carl J. Eisler, B/3/8 69-70; Richard A. Elam, B/3/8 66-67; Kenneth H. Elliott, B/3/8 67; Kenneth H. Ervin, B/3/8 66-67; COL. Robert B. Evans, HHC/3/8 70; Gary W. Fagerland, C/3/8 67-68; Jearld L. Fagg, C/3/8 66-67; David S. Fessler, C/3/8 67-68; Donald S. Fields, B/3/8 68-69; Vance A. Fink, B/3/8 66-67; Salvatore Finocchiaro, HHC/3/8 69-70; Dennis G. Fitz-Patrick, HHC/3/8 69-70; Charles B. Flood, correspondent/author HHC/3/8 66-67; Charles "Skip" Franges, C/3/8 67-68; Thomas J. Freitas, B/3/8 67-68; Bernard A. Frolik, C/3/8 66-67; Robert "Panch" Gamboa, B/3/8 66-67; Joe Garcia, Jr, B/3/8 67; Alfred M. Garron, C/3/8 67; Virgil A. Giles; ?/3/8 69-70; SGM Louis "Mike" Glasgow, Ret., C/3/8 67-67; Christy Goldsmith, Memorial – Brother, Roger D. Goldsmith C/3/8 KIA 23 Jul 67; Robert C. Goss, HHC/3/8 67-69; Edward F. Gray, A/3/8 67-68; Daniel V. Grzyb, D/3/8 67; Jerry L.

Guffey, A/3/8 68-69; Ronald L. Hamm, D/3/8 68-69; Roger D. Harrell, B/3/8 67-68; John M. Harris, HHC/3/8 68; Wonnies "Pappy" Harris, C/3/8 67-68; Tim Haslam, B/3/8 68-69; Ralph E. Haun, A/3/8 67-68; James Hearn, D/3/8 68-69; Fredrick E. Helms, B/3/8 66-67; Ernest Hicks, A/3/8 68-69; Hugh D. Hosack, B/3/8 67-68; Kenneth A. Howe, D/3/8 68-69; Paul L. Hundreiser, A/3/8 66-67; Gregory "Rock" Illingworth, C/3/8 66-67; David L. Jack, A/3/8 67-68; Richard "Doc" Jackson, C/3/8 66-67; Wayne E. Jackson, A/3/8 68-69; Albert R. Jacques, Sr, A/3/8 69-70; James R. Jewell, HHC/3/8 Recon 66-67; John "Sam" Jones III, A/3/8 68-69; Larry G. Jumper, B/3/8 66-67; Samuel Kennedy, HHC/3/8 Recon 66-67; Billy W. Kimberlin, B/3/8 66-67; Leonard C. King, HHC/3/8 66-67; Byron Kinnan, D/3/8 67-68; Robert D. Kirkland, E/3/8 Recon 69-70; Charles D. Kiser, Jr, HHC/3/8 67-70; Paula McPherson Koy, Memorial – Brother, Dennis McPherson E/3/8 Mortars KIA 11 Nov 67; James H. Kreisel, C/3/8 66-67; Kent A. Lang, C/3/8 67-68; Richard "Rick" Letz, C/3/8 66-67; Robert L. Levesque, D/3/8 69-70; Patrick R. Lines, HHC/3/8 66-67; Monte "Doc" Lunde, C/3/8 67-67; M/Gen Thomas "Charger" Lynch, Ret., HHC/3/8 66-67; Jacob "Doc" Marks, D/3/8 68-69; Richard Martin, C/3/8 66-67; Alan E. Martins, E/3/8 68-69; CMSgt James D. Massey, B/3/8 67-68; Robert A. McAfoos, C/3/8 66-67; Patrick C. McClelland, C/3/8 67-68; Gary J. McCluskey, D/3/8 67-68; Patrick J. McNulty, D/3/8 FO 67-68; Victor J. Melendez, C/3/8 69; Maynard "Gene" Melhorn, D/3/8 67-69; Bill Mendez, D/3/8 67-68; Carroll Merrell, B/3/8 66-67; Daniel Miller, HHC/3/8 66-67; Darold Muhs, D/3/8 68-69; Rick Myers, C/3/8 66-67; Ralph E. Nagel, B/3/8 68-69; Kurt "Doc" Nagl, B/3/8 66-67; Roy S. Nussbaum, HHC/3/8 67-68; Terry E. Oliver, Memorial – Father, Charles E. Oliver C/3/8 KIA 23 Jul 67; Larry D. Orr, B/3/8 66-67; Richard A. Palentchar, D/3/8 70; Joe F. Pelfrey, A/3/8 67-68; John A. Perez, C/3/8 68-69; Byron L. Perry, C/3/8 66-67; Thomas J. Petrocik, C/3/8 66-67; R. David "Doc" Pickett, B/3/8 66-67; Ivan N. Pierce, Sr., C/3/8 67-68; Reuben C. Plachy, E/3/8 Recon 69-70; Velma Poore, Memorial – Larry H. Poore A/3/8 67-68 Deceased 8 Feb 08; Hugh H. Ray, A/3/8 67-68; Robert T. Richards, C/3/8 67-68; Jose A Rodriguez, ?/3/8 ??-??; Robert Rohan, C/3/8 66-67; Philip A. Roncari, A/3/8 66-67; John E. Roy, D/3/8 68-69; Weldon Seay, B/3/8 69; Cliff Shaul, C/3/8 69-70; Samuel V. Shelton, B/3/8 66-67; Delbert Shores, Jr., C/3/8 66-67; Edward J. Skwira, D/3/8 67-68; Edward J. Sleichert, B/3/8 68-69; Robert A.

(Continued next page)

Smith, A/3/8 67-68; Dennis Sohre, C/3/8 67-68; Gary Starrett, D/3/8 67-68; James A. Steen, B/3/8 66-67; Robert “St Louis” Stevson, B/3/8 67-68; Sidney S. Strickland, B/3/8 66-67; Bruce “Tom” Thompson, HHC/3/8 Recon 66-67; Donald O. Tienhara, C/3/8 66-67; Mark B. Towns, A/3/8 66-67; Bart VanValkenburgh, A/3/8 70; Bill E. Vigil, A/3/8 67-68; Robert G. Walkowiak, Jr., B/3/8 67-68; Fred Watson, B/3/8 67-68; James N. White, C/3/8 68-69; Robert J. White, C/3/8 67-68; Stuart White, E/3/8 Recon 67-68; Stephen P. Wolff, E/3/8 67-68; Don Zarling, C/3/8 66-67; Duane Zorn, HHC/3/8 66-67

Paid For Life... Michael Alfieri, A/3/8 66-67; Wm. Clay Andrews, C/3/8 67; Ruben “Doc” Bonilla, A/3/8 68-69; Claus Borgmann, A/3/8 69-70; Doug Dettman, D/3/8 67-68; Steve Edmunds, C/3/8 67-68; William “Doc” Ferguson, HHC/3/8 66-67; Francis X. Fesi, B/3/8 68-69; James H. George, B/3/8 68-69; Edward G. Goehring, B/3/8 66-67; James R. Hill, A/3/8 66-67; Ronald P. Jones, C/3/8 67-68; John R. Kell, C/3/8 70; Nathan Lanford, A/3/8 67-68; Michael A. Leite, C/3/8 69; Albert Llauger, E/3/8 Mortars 67-68; Branko B. Marinovitch, B/3/8 66-67; James A. McCarthy, A/3/8 69-70; Joe T. McCook, E/3/8 Mortars 67-68; Robert C. McElroy, C/3/8 66-67; Richard L. Peters, B/3/8 67-68; Edward E. Pippin, B/3/8 67; Steve Prince, A/3/8 66-67; Paul C. Romine, D/3/8 68-69; Alan P. Sellers, C/3/8 67-68; Rea L. Sparks, C/3/8 67; John J. Tadrzak, A/3/8 69; Alfred F. Thomas, B/3/8 66-67; James L. Vaughn, C/3/8 69-70; James M. Voshell, D/3/8 67-68; Davie D. Wade, A/3/8 67-68; Felix E. Williams, A/3/8 68-69;

Brother speaks to 1st grade students on Veteran’s Day...

It went really well. There were about 20 students of the first grade. No speech was involved as we just talked. I controlled the conversation. We talked about what a veteran is, the 5 branches of the service and that all veterans of any branch in war or peace protect our nation. I had my uniform and explained the ribbons and badges that were given to me by the Army for something that I did and no detailed explanation. One child asked if I had a Purple Heart and I said that I did and that it was for someone being hurt in battle by an enemy of the US. The picture of my rucksack was impressive to them especially after I told them it weighed as much as two of the girls. Pictures were of fighting positions and bunkers which I said was used to protect us from the enemy. Pictures of the Highlands and valleys were shown which helped emphasize that our supplies came by helicopters. They liked those pictures. A picture of Steve Dundas was shown, he was KIA March 5th, 1969. They knew that not all come back and that it is the cost of freedom. I let them ask questions. Of course, the boys asked how I got my weapon and ammunition which lead to more chopper talk and mail bags. The animals of the Highlands were discussed from Bengal Tigers to elephants to monkeys and apes and, finally, the snakes. No mention was made of the loss of some of our men to Tigers. Very bright children with one good looking teacher. When did they appear on the scene as my first grade teacher was old and white haired.

The kids did have a hard time on re-assembly of the M-16. They were impressed with the water melons blown up by it. Once the sand bags were above their heads, the left was hard. More training will be required at hitting the ground when “Incoming” is called. They did enjoy me popping smoke and calling in the airstrike.

Final impression: America will have a good future if all are like these kids. There was no race among them, they were just kids making weird faces, doing gross things with their eye lids and so forth. I found that in the cafeteria the food was unchanged and it was just as noisy. I turned off my hearing aids. *Byron Adams, D/3/8 68-69*



Byron sharing pictures with 1st grade class

TAPS...

Joe Tranker of St. Louis died of colon cancer on 24 Aug 08. Joe was the M-60 machine gunner for C/3/8 - Third Platoon - First Squad RVN 69-70. He is on the other side of The Wall with the rest of our fallen brothers. May we never forget!

Submitted by *John Kell C/3/8 69-70*

TAPS...

Recently, I learned of the death of **John "Jack" E. Pfeiffer** on 1 Aug 06 due to cancer. Jack served in RVN with C/3/8 66-67. He was preceded in death by his wife a month earlier and is survived by a brother living in the Carolinas. He is interred at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA. We went to school together and were drafted together on 2 Dec 65. We traveled by train to Washington DC and re-boarded a military train and rode to Ft Jackson SC. We spent a week there and were issued one set of fatigues and boots and took a battery of tests. We were put on an airplane and flew to Ft Lewis, WA where we took our training; BUT (Basic Unit Training) and AUT (Advanced Unit Training). After a 30 day leave, we boarded the USS Gordon and shipped out for RVN. Jack was stationed in the rear at basecamp when I was wounded and picked up my gear from the chopper pad when I was medivaced to the rear. Early in our military service, I remember his extreme sense of humor which was not popular with the senior NCOs and officers resulting in his spending his first week on KP after arriving at Ft Lewis.

Submitted by *Ed Goehring, B/3/8 66-67*

TAPS...

Junior M. Snow C/3/8 RVN 3/67-3/68 passed away, unexpectedly, from a brain aneurism on 25 Oct 08. He is survived by his wife, Cozetta; his daughter, Kim and her husband and three granddaughters; a sister and his 87 year old mother. Junior served with C/3/8 in RVN 3/67-3/68. He was residing in Elizabeth, KY at the time of his death. Junior enjoyed the outdoors spending his spare time boating, fishing and hunting. He attended at least one of the Charlie Co reunions. He was buried with military honors.

Submitted by *Steve Edmunds, C/3/8 67-68*

TAPS...

John O. Lavrador passed away on 5 Jun 85. He served with B/3/8 in RVN 67-68 and was residing in California at the time of his death.

Submitted by *Levie Isaacks, B/3/8 67-68*

Open Hands & Hearts October 11 – 25, 2008...

First of all, I wish to give thanks to my Lord, Jesus Christ, for allowing me to continue to be a part of this ongoing effort. Secondly, I wish to give thanks to all of you who made a contribution financially and/or prayerfully for the success of this mission. Without your kindness and generosity we would be unable to achieve the measure of success that we have enjoyed. This mission would be different in that I will be traveling alone... another team was here in September. I could not join them do to a scheduling conflict...I was attending a Charlie Co reunion in Branson, MO. Since I am a team of one, I cannot justify the cost of hiring a car and driver, so I decide that my interpreter and I will get around on public transportation...the bus, when we have any distance to travel. The distinguishing difference between a "big" bus vs the "small" bus is the level of comfort/discomfort this old body must endure:) Local transportation is on the back of his motorbike. Briefly, we distributed food to 250 families and toys to about 350 children in 7 villages, sponsored 6 children for school for the year, started construction of 3 new homes in Giong Trom and purchased a wheel chair and had a ramp built for an elderly woman whose home we rebuilt last year.



Sharing toys with children in Ko Ho village



Laying bricks for new home in Giong Trom

Nam Poetry...

Outside Pleiku, Viet Nam

When you're sitting in the bushes
Waiting for the Monsoon to stop.
Cigarettes? Wet...a little.
The pancho-liner helped a lot.
Jet-black night and drippings leaves.
If that bush moves again
Bring it to it's knees.
It moved again!! Blow the claymores!!
That will get everyone awake!!
No more dreams and snores!!
M-16's!! Their lives we'll take!!
Keep them not so near.
Until the cobras do get here.
Pop the flares for sightings!!
Watch the bullets biting!!
Just another routine enemy contact
On a night-time patrol
In the Central Highlands
Outside Pleiku, Viet Nam.
Author by *John Kirgan*, HHC/3/8 RVN 69-70

We're All Rejoicing

Where's our friendlies?
They're out of contact!!
Can't make contact on the radio!!
They must be coming.
They have to be coming.
We're looking for the show.
When you're surrounded
And having thoughts
That you're not going home!
You lay down fire!
Your straits are dire!!
You lay down fire!!
And you pray for planes!!
Yeah!! Hear the jets approaching?!!!
Screaming loud and flying low!!
Sounds beautiful to us.
Bombs exploding as they drop their loads
They're raising such a fuss!!
WHEW!!!! Lucky again!!!
Thank God and every pilot!!
We're still alive!!!
We're all rejoicing!!!
Author by *John Kirgan*, HHC/3/8 RVN 69-70

Ivy Dragoon's Scholarship Fund...

During the Christmas holidays we had participated in the Wreaths Across America program which lays wreaths on the gravesites of veterans in all of the national cemeteries. For additional information, visit their web site: <http://www.wreaths-across-america.org>. Through the efforts of a number of Ivy Dragoon Brothers 42 wreaths were donated and the chapter received a donation of \$210.00 from WAA towards our scholarship fund. Our donated wreaths were laid on the graves at the Cemetery of the Alleghenies by Ralph (a friend) and the Patriot Guard riders. The fund has a current balance of \$2,144.75. Ed Goehring, B/3/8 66-67 (Chairman of the Scholarship Fund committee)



Wreaths lain on the graves of veterans at the Cemetery of the Alleghennies Bridgeville, PA

In an effort to raise additional funds for the Scholarship Fund, Kurt "Doc" Nagl, B/3/8 66-67, has made available items in return for a for a donation with the proceeds going to the fund. The available items have our battalion crest embroidered on them. See picture below. The items are pictured on our web site: www.ivydragoons.org Click on SITREPS then scroll down to Scholarship Fund info and click on it for additional information or contact *Doc Nagl*. (See below).



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events...

Ivy Dragoon's 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.

7/9	Registration	\$15.00 each adult (18 yrs or older)
7/10	Pikes Peak (Optional)	\$55.00 each **
7/10	Dinner	\$35.00 each
7/11	Banquet Dinner	\$35.00 each
7/12	Departure	

** Contact *Ed Goehring* if you would like to take the Cog Railway to Pikes Peak. Cost includes bus transportation to/from the hotel and train ticket.

Home: 610-967-5594 Cell: 484-431-7994

Email: Gcoopersburg@aol.com

Make you check payable to Ivy Dragoons Chapter 4IDA and send to me. An agenda will be available soon. I look forward to seeing you in Colorado Springs.

Steve & Elsie Edmunds

2212 Shady Hills Dr

Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Home: 909-861-6379 Cell: 949-294-6981

Email: edmundsdb@aol.com

Dragoon's Profile...



**Jim Bury, B/3/8 4th ID
Central Highlands, RVN**

Jim Bury was inducted into the US Army on 04 February 1967 in Eureka, CA., where he continues to reside today. Jim took his Basic Training and AIT with an MOS of 11Bravo at Fort Jackson, SC. Upon completion of AIT and a well deserved leave, Jim departed for Vietnam where he was assigned to B/3/8 4th Infantry Division and served from July 1967

– April 1968. When the opportunity to take his R & R came about, Jim chose Sydney, Australia. He met Capt. Colburn who ran the R & R center. Jim had been Capt. Colburn's RTO for his first month in country. Colburn was very happy to see Jim again and set him up with the places to visit. Upon completion of his tour, Jim reported to Fort Carson, CO to complete his active duty obligation and was discharged 20 December 1968. Jim and his ex-wife, Kim, have one daughter, Rachel. Rachel attended our 2005 reunion in Las Vegas. Jim belongs to the Ivy Dragoons chapter of the 4th Infantry Division Assoc, DAV and VVA. His hobbies include; computers, camping, geology and "puttzing" around in his shop.

I attended the first reunion in 1999 and missed the ones in Washington DC (2001) and Nashville (2007), but have attended the rest (2003 & 2005). Along with reuniting with the buddies I was in the field with and meeting all the other brothers from the different companies and times that I have become friends with since. It is impossible for me to put into words that special feeling I have at reunions when surrounded by the people that put their lives on the line to protect you and get you through that nightmare we all somehow survived... Jim comments, "It has been a good life overall. I have a beautiful daughter. I built my own home on 3 acres in the redwoods and have had a challenging and rewarding career working in Hospitals as a bio-medical electronic technician. I am now retired and this has given me the time to be the webmaster for the Ivy Dragoons web page. Like all the other brothers, Nam was one of the most intense experiences of my life, both good and bad. I try to put the bad behind me and remember the good, which were all the Brothers that stood beside me and got me home."

Chaplain's Corner...

"America the Great or America the Dying". In his book, "America Is Too Young To Die, Dr. Leonard Ravenhill gave us food for thought in several excerpts from his writings. Compared to ancient civilizations and empires, America was born yesterday, and tomorrow she might be dead unless she comes to revival and a great spiritual awakening. Our nation was born from internal revolution and had no alternative but to fear God and allow him to cleanse us and this land...and such is needed today.

A wise American once said: "At what point, then, is the approach of danger expected? If it ever reaches us, it must spring up among us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men, we must live through all times or die by suicide". Abraham Lincoln

Fifty years later, the late Theodore Roosevelt said, "The things that destroy Americans are prosperity at any price, peace at any price, safety first instead of duty first, a love of soft living, and a get rich quick theory of living." Truly, a prophet with today's needed message.

The sky is literally falling for lack of morality and biblical values. Even patriotic allegiance seems to have fallen, but we have allowed the government to become our God. Without murmuring and complaining, let us lift up the new administration in prayer and ask God to be there to help. May they, as America's leaders, seek supreme guidance and not just the advice of men. *Bro Ed Pippin, B/3/8 RVN 67 2 Chron. 7:14*

Seeking Info...

I would like to make contact with anyone who served with my father, **Junior Snow**, C/3/8 3/67-3/68, who passed away recently. I am trying to find out who he was before I was.

Thank you

Submitted by *Kim (Snow) Orman*, Junior's daughter
kdorman4@aol.com

Veteran's Day Wash. DC After Action Report...

We arrived in the AO (Washington D.C.) early afternoon on Sunday, Nov. 09, 2008 and parked our vehicle at Arlington National cemetery and went into the visitors center to purchase tickets for the tram ride around the cemetery. Not only is the ride up the hill easier, it is much more informative. First stop was the Kennedy gravesites. Next, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. I have seen the changing of the guard dozens of times, but we stayed until the top of the hour to see it again. It never ceases to amaze me... the show of respect the Old Guard shows. Afterward, we walked to the marine corps shrine, the Iwo Jimo memorial. It's only about ½ click from the parking lot at Arlington. Getting back to the car ended our Sunday in Washington DC.

On Monday, we decided to ride the metro into the city because the parking is impossible. During the ride, we met a pastor from Nebraska and he asked if we had reunions. I answered, "Yes, our reunion in Colorado Springs is coming up." And he asked if we planned to drive or fly. I told him that we planned to drive, and he and his wife invited my wife and I to spend the night during our travels. Maybe, we Vietnam veterans are starting to receive some respect. We, finally, arrived at the Smithsonian Mall and tried to go to the American History Museum to discover it was closed. Then, we went to the Natural History Museum and spent some time looking at the exhibits. Afterwards, we walked to the Bureau of Printing and Engraving to see money being printed. No free samples. On Monday evening we met with George "Doc" Costa for dinner. A very enjoyable time was had by all.

Early Tuesday morning, we drove into Washington and arrived before 08:00 hrs. in order to get a parking place. While carrying our wreath to the staging area, we met with a few Brothers from different units. Soon after, bus loads of veterans started to arrive. And in a short period of time, the area around the memorials were crowded with veterans and loved ones. We placed our wreath in the staging area and waited for re-enforcements. Soon after, Brothers Kurt "Doc" Nagl and Jim Adams arrived. Living nearby, they always attend. Next to arrive was George "Doc" Costa and, finally, Brother Don Fields who rode his motorcycle in from Maine. "Doc" Costa and Don Fields performed the honors of placing the Ivy Dragon's wreath at the memorial this year.

This years program was the 15th anniversary of the Nurses memorial and the entire program was centered around "Our Angels Of Mercy". God bless each and every one of them. At the end of the program, the wreaths from all units had been presented and, as always, our representatives did an outstanding job. As soon as the program was

over, the buses loaded up and began their return trips home. The crowd disappeared as quickly as they arrived.

The weather was great, but a little cool. This is always a great day, spent with our Brothers who have their names on The Wall. This year was the 4th annual wreath laying for the Ivy Dragoons. Please consider joining us next year on Nov 11, 2009 for our 5th Anniversary of the wreath laying ceremony. If you think that no one cares that you served in Vietnam, join us and you will leave Washington walking a little taller. I need two new volunteers to lay our wreath. Thank you for the honor of representing our battalion.

Brother Ed Goehring B/3/8 66-67.



L to R: Don Fields, George "Doc" Costa, Jim Adams, Kurt "Doc" Nagl and Ed Goehring

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...

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)

Seeking Info...

On June 12, 1969 a reactionary team was sent to this village due to heavy sniper fire the past two weeks. Tents were set up and 20 some men were sent that night. At about midnight the compound in the village we were at was hit very hard. The night watchman SP4, A 3/8, **Terry Randall Johnston** from Peoria IL. was first killed. Also killed that night were SP5, HHC 3/8, **Kenneth Leonard Bartley**, from Mitchellville MD, PVT HHC 3/8 **Richard Blaine Proveaux** from Milwaukee, WI. and PFC HHC 3/8 **Donald Michael Wayman**. Also a medic had his foot badly injured. A man named **Mitchell** was wounded in one of the tents. I helped him and wish to find him. After all was over, I wrote an action report and gave it to someone and would like to know how I can get a copy of it. Also, anyone who was there or knows about these men that night, please contact me. Much Thanks and Welcome Home

Gary Goretcke B/3/8 68-69
ggoretcke@wi.rr.com

Seeking Info...

My name is *Jerry Berry* and I served as both a paratrooper with the 3-506th, 101st Airborne Division and then its first PIO (Nov. 67-Oct. 68). Our website is: www.currahee.org, which I maintain. I am writing a series of 12 paperback books about our battalion. I have written and had published several others (can find in our Gift Shop/PX) on the website.

I have found your website and wish to inquire if you have anything concerning the 3/8th's participation in the 1970 Cambodia Incursion. Do you have any After Action Reports or newspaper articles concerning the Cambodia Incursion in May 1970, which my battalion participated with the 4th ID and the proud 3/8th Infantry. My battalion spearheaded the 4th ID's CA on May 5. I would be honored to acknowledge your help in getting documents and information for the book on Cambodia. I am in contact with other 4th ID units that participated. Over the years, I have collected many articles and publications mentioning the Cambodia Incursion and would be more than happy to share my items with you for your website. Please reply.

Jerry in Montana
3-506th Unit Historian
Co. A & Bn PIO
3-506th
Vietnam 1967/68
Airborne!
Email: jerryberry@currahee.org

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



Dennis Flynn

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

Seeking Info...

We are searching for information on PFC **Layne Michael Santos** who died in Viet Nam on 3 March 1969 in



LAYNE SANTOS

Operation Wayne Grey. My wife was Layne's girlfriend when he was sent to VN and I have been trying to get information for her in regards to how he died and to contact and communicate with anyone who knew Layne when he was in the Army. Victoria still thinks of and remembers Layne fondly and we do not want his spirit to die albeit he has been gone almost 40 years now. I would appreciate any and all information and recollections of Layne and any photos of him

while in the Army.

Layne was from Los Angeles and was in boot camp at Fort Ord, California. He was with the C Battery 6/29th Artillery and attached to A/3/8. He was the radio/telephone operator (RTO) for a Lieutenant John J. Flanagan also of the 6/29th and attached to A/3/8.

The attached is all we have in regards to a photo which was sent by a guy who went through boot camp with Layne. Layne went to Belmont High School in Los Angeles and grew up in the Los Angeles and/or Eagle Rock area before heading to Fort Ord in 1968. Layne was 20 years old when KIA and was in country for 2-3 months when killed. I have been to the website and reviewed the details of the battle on 3/3/69 and the days thereafter. Layne was involved with music and was in the school band. He was a very friendly and quiet guy and really a pleasure to be around. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated!

Thanks,

Gerry and Victoria Gallagher

PO Box 10697

Burbank, CA. 91510

Tel: (818) 303-4748

email: gerrymci@btinternet.com

Seeking Info...

I am *Jose Ayala M.D.*, brother of **Juan Ayala** who died on March 5 1969. If anybody knows something about his last day, please contact me. I was only 12 years old when he died. I read the story of Hill 947 on your web site. Thank you.

joymd@att.blackberry.net

Seeking Info...

I am writing on behalf of my friend Peter Pigani of Connecticut who is looking for a history of A company. He is also looking for the soldier he credits with saving his life in Viet Nam. This individual was Spec 4 **Peter Celentano** who was wounded on about Nov. 13, 1969 in Dak To.

Mr. Pagani said I may need to obtain Morning reports for A Co, 3rd of the 8th, 4th Infantry Div., Pleiku, Viet Nam. Would it be better for him to write to St. Louis and ask for the information himself?

I am not quite certain how to go about obtaining the information Mr. Pagani is so very interested in obtaining. Thank you for any advice you might offer.

Leah Smith

Chesapeake, VA

esmith0709@cox.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...

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