



“THE IVY DRAGOONS DISPATCH”

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

President: Steve Edmunds



Volume II

Ivy Dispatch Editors: Ken Howe & Levie Isaacks

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JULY 30 - AUG 15, 2003



The Edmunds Family: Elsie, Jennifer & Steve Dak To Aug 03

This was my 8th trip back to Vietnam. Unlike the previous trips, this was different, as I took my family with me. Previously, I had been reluctant to have them accompany me for a number of reasons. One, I carried the unfounded fear that something might happen to them. After some of the previous trips, I said to myself after we returned and nothing had happened that I should have taken them on that trip. It was time to give this up to someone much more powerful than I. It was a blessing that we had this opportunity to share this experience together. As you can see from the photo, we made it into the central highlands and home of our basecamp at Dak To. It was an experience to walk this airstrip together and look west towards the range of mountains where we spent so much of our

time so many years ago. I am sure this meant more to me than it did them, as Elsie was a child during the war and Jennifer... I indicated to them that this was as close as they will ever get to where we actually served. But, now, when they hear some of the stories that we share together, they can picture the area. Another new experience was attending Phuong's wedding. She is the daughter of our guide/interpreter, Tiep. Over the years, I have watched her grow into a beautiful, young lady.

Jennifer had some concerns and reservations about going into the leprocy facility at Ben San. And, I was concerned as to how she would handle it. For a 14 year old, this was unlike anything she had ever seen or heard about, except the stories and pictures I shared with her over the past years. She and Elsie, both, handled it very well. They got to meet Mai who sews quilted pillow covers. Mai has no hands and both legs have been amputated from the disease. She is a remarkable woman and I think of her often when I start to feel down and out about how difficult things may be in life. We gave Mai a supply of material, thread and needles for her pillow covers. We, also, delivered 200 kilos of rice and committed to a couple of new projects: a multi-use court that can be use for exercise, vollyball, ... and renovation of a kitchen that feeds one of the wards and expansion of a park area with benches that we had built last year, which included two cages; one for monkeys, the other for birds where the patients can come out and interact with the animals. The head doctor, Dr Truoc, indicated it provides good therapy for the patients.

While in Saigon, we were successful in setting up the “soup kitchen” and fed 25-30 street children and other needy people per night. It is always a joy to see the family who helped us set this up and continue to support our efforts in feeding the needy while we are in Saigon. It provided my family the opportunity to meet them, also. Until now, they were just people in a photograph.

The central highlands continue to be under “marshall law”. Between the military and secret police, it is nearly impossible to provide any kind of assistance to the montangards in the area. As you may recall, this came about from the peaceful demonstrations held in February 2001 for religious freedom and economic oppression. We are, still, not permitted to enter the village near Pleiku that we have helped over the years. Their situation truly saddens me. Several years ago, while we were in Pleiku, we were informed about many lepers living in the jungle around the city, but noone could identify their exact location. Well, while we were in Nha Trang, we made contact with a woman pastor, Linh. She has her church in Nha Trang and works with the lepers there,

(continued on next page)



Children in Saigon Soup Kitchen

(continued from page one)

as well as, people afflicted with AIDS/HIV. She has dedicated her life helping these people. We were able to communicate with her and discovered that 6-8 times a year, she visits the Pleiku area and hand drew a map showing the locations of 20 different montangard villages surrounding Pleiku that have people afflicted with leprocy. We are working to see how we might be able to help her in her cause. Another remarkable woman!

Space does not permit much more, but I have been working on an After Action Report and will make this available to anyone interested. For more information, please contact me. *Steve Edmunds*

DRAGON BROTHER ON THE RISE:

Congratulations to **Jim White**, C/3/8 68-69, on his recent appointment to the position of Security Director of Downey Savings. Jim joined Downey Savings as a Security Investigator and has managed the Security Department on an interim basis for the past two months. Prior to joining Downey Savings, Jim retired as a Police Lieutenant from the Laguna Beach Police Department after spending 25 years in law enforcement. Jim comments, "I know it is in bad form to toot your own horn, but this was made official today (Dec 12, 2003), and I have waited 54 years to get my own assigned parking space which is right next to the elevator... And I am going to be a Vice-President..... of a Bank!! Who would have ever thought!!! Rod Serling, MAYbe...???"

Dragon's Contacts

If you have questions, comments or would like to submit articles for "The Dispatch" please contact:

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Dragon Personal Profile



Michael Alfieri served with Alpha Company 3/8th in RVN 9/66-9/67 as a 34G20. Michael was inducted into the Army on Nov 29, 1965 in New York City. Basic training and AIT took place at Fort Lewis, Washington and he was a member of A/3/8 throughout his time in the service. During Michael's tour of duty overseas, he had the opportunity to go to Bangkok for R & R in June 67. Michael comments, "What I can remember, it was great!". At the conclusion of Michael's tour and his return to Fort Lewis, he received his discharge from the Army. Michael currently resides in Howard Beach, New York and is married to his lovely wife, Anna. They have three children; Thomas, William and Leslie. And, also, have five grandchildren; John, Chris, Tina, Kristal and Nico. Until his retirement earlier this year, Michael served as Asst. Manager, Substation Operation Department, consolidated Edison Co. of New York City. He is a member of IEEE, Doble Engineering Co. Board of Advisors, New York Zoological Society and National 4th Infantry Division Assoc, Ivy Dragoons Chapter. During his spare time, Michael enjoys golf, reading and oil painting. Michael has never attended any formal reunions of the 4th Inf Div Assoc. However, a year after returning to "The World", the New York members of A Co met on Long Island for a reunion. It was a great reunion. After that, Michael got married to his first wife and lost touch with most of the guys. Michael's wife was diagnosed with cancer and for the next seven years he concentrated on her and helping her fight the battle. Eventually, passing away in 1975. They did not have any children together as they felt it was unfair to his wife to have to worry about leaving children behind. Good or bad, it was a decision they made together. Michael then met his current wife, Anna, who had three children, listed above. They have enjoyed 23 years together and Michael feels fortunate. "I am one lucky individual. Not only have I had the good fortune to have had the support of two great ladies, but I have three great kids and five wonderful grandchildren. Not a bad life. I retired from Edison this year after 39 years and am doing some consulting work for the Electrical Utility Industry. Life is good and getting better. There is not a day goes by that I do not think about my time with the division and the guys... It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, but the experience has helped me in many ways."

DRAGOON DEPLOYED TO AFGHANISTAN:

(I had the opportunity to meet Col. Bill Babcock, A/3/8 RVN 69-70, at our reunion in Las Vegas last July. Bill continues to serve in the National Guard. I wanted to share these messages that I received from Bill, before and after he reached Afghanistan.)

Guys, have not e-mailed in a while. As you can imagine things have been very busy around here with many of our units deploying to one AO or another. Speaking of which, I am leaving this Sunday for Ft Benning and then to Afghanistan about a week later. I will be there for six months as part of the mission to train the Afghan Army. I volunteered (really) because I think it is a good mission that I believe in and feel I can make a contribution. Judy is not thrilled but now calls herself a "good Army wife". It is hard to believe I first went to Benning 35 years ago this November for my officer basic course. It has been 33 years since I was last in a combat zone but don't worry, I learned how to duck then and some things you never forget.

Today is my last day at work but you can e-mail me at home for the next couple of days at: Babbie1@cox.net I will try to e-mail all of you once I get settled in Kabul. Bought a digital camera son may be able to send pictures although I don't plan on doing the tourist thing. Too many mines to go sight seeing.

Steve Eduunds, great job at the reunion last July. Am looking forward to the next one. Bart and Steve Elder, maybe you guys can make that one.

OK, not good at long goodbys.

Talk(e-mail) to you all soon.

William P. Babcock

Colonel, GS J3

11/22/03

Sorry it took so long to contact all of you. The e-mail here has not been working. It is routed thru Saudi. This is the RIguard web I am on now and I have only able to get on it every few days.

I am the Director of Operations for OMC-A in Kabul. OMC-A is Office of Military Cooperation and is responsible for standing up and training a new Afghan Army as well as the reform of the Ministry of Defense and the General's Staff. It is a huge job with not a lot of folks to do it. Looks like I will be very busy for the next six months.

Right now I am living in temp quarters at the Kabul Compound, a series of buildings comprising office and living areas. It is about a block "inside the wire". Fairly safe here in Kabul but you never go anywhere alone and always have your flack vest on. Carry weapons all the time even in the compound. Weather is similar to back home in RI. However we are at 6000 feet and it takes a while to get use to. For some reason, no more room to write. More later.

Bill

12/31/03

Please excuse the fact that I am sending this to all of you at the same time. Happy New Year to all of you. It is actually New Year's Eve here now but what the heck. You all probably know by now that I arrived here in mid November and will be heading home around the beginning of April. It has been interesting to say the least. I am currently Chief of Staff for the Office of Military Cooperation-Afghanistan (OMC-A). We are responsible for recruiting, training, equipping and fielding the new Afghan National Army (ANA) and also charged with the reform of the Ministry of Defense and the General's Staff similar to our Department of Defense and Joint Chiefs of Staff. It is a big job for a small organization of about 85 folks at the present time. We do not have a part in the warfight. That is another element currently called Task Force 180. Soon both organizations will fall under Combined Forces Command-Central Asia (CFC-CA) a new headquarters just being stood up.

I am living in a place called the Kabul Compound here in Kabul. It is a series of about twenty buildings, mostly private homes, converted to offices and living spaces. It is fairly safe here in Kabul compared to other parts of the country. We have had several rockets and IED (improvised explosive devices) go off within a mile to a couple of blocks from here but so far nothing very close. Most just do damage to buildings. Going to church is quite an experience. We attend mass at the Italian Embassy compound about two hundred yards down the road. We move quickly in groups of two or more with our armored vests and weapons on down to the chapel. The readings at mass can sometimes be in three or more languages depending on who is there that day. Most of the rest of the mass is in English. One day we had readings in French, Spanish and Italian. As we leave mass to go back to the compound everyone chambers a round in their weapon for the walk back.

Food here is provided by a contractor and is actually pretty good. I have lost five pounds so far but that is probably due to not drinking beer (not allowed). I am actually eating more than I would at home. It took me a while but I am now running 3-4 miles a day again. The air is pretty dirty and we are at 6000 feet so it is not much fun. Also, we are limited to running inside the compound where the longest stretch is about 6/10th of a mile with many twists and turns. You just do that over and over again. I have a room to myself which is much better than my last tour. We usually work from about 730 until 8-9 at night. Not that there is that much work all the time but there is really not much to do for entertainment except DVDs and books so most people tend to stay late and check email and call home. I try to call Judy at least once a day. A lot different from Vietnam where I was only able to call home twice in a year. Of course we didn't have email then either.

More later from your man in Aafghanistan,

Bill

Bernie Berry's Legacy Lives On

Bernard O. Berry 9/1/47 - 8/19/03 (A/3/8 RVN 5/68-5/69)

I have been going to the homeless shelter for the past year to cut hair for the veterans. When Bernie was alive he would go with me. At times too weak to even make the trip but still wanted to go to have the company of other veterans. They had a Veterans Day ceremony today and it was by invitation that I was invited to attend. Our congress woman was there, all the TV stations and our newspaper. Since I knew the congress woman would be there, I took the honorary Silver Rose with me and thought I would work it in some where to present it to her. She is such a busy lady and I didn't have time to catch up to her before this. They were donated a flag pole and a flag that flew in Washington that was going up for the first time.

The surprise was on me———as the speakers were talking, I was sitting there listening and they said that they wanted to dedicate the shelter to none other than Bernard O. Berry, I was glued to my seat, it was hard for me to even get up, the tears were falling. The plaque at the Flag Pole says:

Berry's Landing Post #1

This is the first homeless shelter in Toledo for veterans and they are building more. Each one will be called the same and each will be numbered.

What an honor it is to know that my husbands name will carry on for years to come. It made my sad day happy.

A Happy Veterans Day to all, Linda Berry

Agent Orange

I lost my best friend today I can't believe
it's true,
Or did I really lose him when Vietnam was
through.

It has been so many years,
That I watched him board that plane,
Never knowing why back then
That it would never be the same.

The government lied to us,
As they have to all mankind
And sprayed that dirty stuff around
To kill foliage on the ground.

The thing they didn't tell us
Is how it would affect

The heroes that came home from there
And how it would react.

Many many years later
We face this dirty demon,
That lay dormant in the body
Till the illnesses come a-screaming.

It is not right, it is unfair

To have their lives cut short, because of
Agent Orange they sprayed
And covered the reports.

Now it's time to take our stand,
Make other people aware
It isn't that we lost them today,
We lost them over there.

It is a terrible thing

That our Hero's had to go through
The fighting in a foreign land
To keep it away from me and you.

Just remember as you read this,
They stole my love from me,

Because of Agent Orange they sprayed
To kill those lousy trees.

I lost my best friend today, I can't believe
it's true,

Or did I really lose him when Vietnam
was through

Linda Berry



Vietnam Memorial - Westminster, CA

VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL IN WESTMINSTER, CA

This is the most recent Vietnam War Memorial which was dedicated earlier this year in conjunction with the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975. It is located in Freedom Park in the city of Westminster, CA. The purpose of this memorial is to honor those who fought for freedom for the people of Vietnam and to insure that the sacrifice of the Vietnamese and American servicemen and women will never be forgotten. Further, it symbolizes the lasting friendship and cooperation that exists between Vietnamese-Americans and our Nation. It will provide a place to study the Vietnam War for generations to come. The prominent features of the memorial are: two eleven foot tall bronze statues, one of an American soldier and one of a South Vietnamese soldier mounted atop a five foot tall structural base. Two thirty foot tall flagpoles, one flying the American flag and POW/MIA flag, the other flying the flag of the former Republic of Vietnam. The flags will be flown 24/7 and illuminated at night. A computer kiosk with information about the memorial and those who fought in the Vietnam War, including both South Vietnamese and American soldiers and our allies who died in the conflict will be located nearby the eternal flame.

Chapter Update:

As of 12/31/03, all 2003 memberships have expired. If you sent in your dues after July 31, you are paid up through 2004. I wish to take this opportunity to thank those that are new members and those that have already renewed their memberships. Please take the time to send in your renewal or if you have not been a member, please consider doing so as it is not the cost of membership, but the price you already paid to be eligible to become a member of the Ivy Dragoons. Annual dues are \$15.00 Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2004. Paid for life memberships are available, if interested.(See below). The following are those I received dues prior to Jan 1, 2004.

New Members:

Roger Bury, Associate; **Doug Dettman**, C/3/8 67-68; **Salvatore Finocchiaro**, HHC/3/8 69-70; **Edward F.Gray**, A/3/8 67-68; **Ric Johnston**, E/3/8 69-70; **Terry L. Peukert**, HHC/3/8 66-67; **Dennis S. Reifsnider**, A/3/8 69-70; **Alan P. Sellers**, C/3/8 67-68; **Delbert L. Shores, Jr**, C/3/8 66-67; **Edward J. Sleichert**, B/3/8 68-69; **Bart VanValkenburgh**, A/3/8 70; **Duane Zorn**, HHC/3/8 66-67

Renewals:

Byron E. Adams, D/3/8 68-69; **Johnnie L. Bing, Sr**, A3/8 67-68; **James N. Bury**, B/3/8 67-68; **Mark A. Butler**, C/3/8 66-67; **Doug J. Crumley**, HHC/3/8 66-67; **John D'Agostino, Jr.**, B/3/8 69-70; **Stephen N. Edmunds**, C/3/8 67-68; **Col. Robert Evans**, HHC/3/8 70; **Donald S. Fields**, B3/8 68-69; **Bill G. Foreman**, E/3/8 68-69; **Robert A. Gamboa**, B/3/8 66-67; **Edward G. Goehring**, B/3/8 66-67; **Ralph E. Haun**, A/3/8 67-68; **Levie Isaacks**, B/3/8 67-68; **David Jack**, A/3/8 67-68; **Albert R. Jacquez, Sr.**, A/3/8 69-70; **Jim Jewell**, HHC/3/8 66-67; **Byron Kinnan**, D/3/8 67-68; **M/ Gen Thomas P. Lynch Ret.**, HHC/3/8 66-67; **John D. Maloch**, E/3/8 68-69; **Jacob W. Marks**, D/3/8 68-69; **Roy Nussbaum**, HHC/3/8 67-68; **John A. Perez**, C/3/8 68-69; **Ivan N. Pierce, Sr.**, C/3/8 66-67; **Edward E. Pippin**, B/3/8 67-68; **Philip A. Roncari**, A/3/8 66-67; **Randolph E. Scott**, C/3/8 67-68; **Larry Skoglund**, FO 6/29FA, C/3/8 67-68; **Rea L. Sparks**, C/3/8 67; **Robert C. Stevson**, B/3/8 67-68; **William G. Tripp**, C/3/8 67-68; **James M. Voshell**, D/3/8 67-68; **James N. White**, C/3/8 68-69; **Charles Young**, A/3/8 67-68

NATIONAL 4 TH INFANTRY (IVY) DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Paid for Life Membership Application

Age:	00-39 \$384	Paid for Life membership may be purchased via the installment plan.
	40-44 \$358	Installments must be paid in 4 equal payments and made in 4 consecutive
	45-49 \$336	months. Paid for Life membership card will not be issued until the final
	50-54 \$311	payment is made. Failure to abide by these rules will result in forfeiture
	55-59 \$284	of payments made.
	60-64 \$259	<input type="checkbox"/> I want to pay the full amount.
	65-69 \$221	<input type="checkbox"/> I want to pay via the installment plan.
	70+ \$200	I understand and agree to abide by the installment plan rules.

If interested in a Life Membership, let me know and I will send you an application.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Charlie Co. Reunion (10th reunion)

Time: June 24 - 27, 2004 (the 24th is optional)

Location: Country Inn & Suite

Shipshewana, Indiana

Accommodations: Rooms from \$89.00/night; Suites @ \$124.00/night. Reservations should be made, directly, to hotel. Call 260-768-7780 by May 15, 2004. Be sure to mention that you will be with the 4th Infantry Division Reunion

Shipshewana's Amish city is filled with multiple shops and wonderful restaurants. There are no bars and alcohol is not sold in Shipshewana. You will need to bring it with you or travel 8 miles to Middlebury to purchase it. All meals are on your own. There will be no "formal" dinner on Saturday night, nor will there be a formal "hospitality" room. Note: Hotel hospitality room and breakfast room are non-smoking areas.

The nearest airports are located at Kalamazoo, Michigan & South Bend, Indiana

Organizing Committee: **Russell & Jama Campbell** (260-357-0296) E_mail: rcampbell@rexnet.net

Terry & Sue Jandron 906-485-5936

Bob & Wuanda Richards (606-674-8188) E_mail: nutz1@webtv.net

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MOTORBIKING VIETNAM... EPILOGUE:

(Editors Note: This is a follow-up to the news item in the Dispatch dated Summer/2003)

One hundred and ten clicks north of Ha Noi and the cool, dry monsoon winds were blowing hard across the face of the mountains. The smoke and ashes blowing into my face, combined with the dangerously steep and twisting road, were making me doubt the sanity of trying to smoke cigars on moving motorbikes. Although speeding down the mountain I had the transmission of the old Russian bike kicked over into neutral with the engine running...in case I needed quick access to the gears. Both the front and rear brakes were fading faster than principles in congress and I knew I couldn't trust them in any type of emergency.

But, on this fine autumn day neither the weather nor the bike constituted my biggest concern...my biggest concern was saved for the peasant woman riding on the seat behind me. She had flagged me down near the top of the pass and asked for a ride down the mountain...at least I think that's what she asked me. She's been screaming for quite some time now.

But to be fair I had been screaming at her too...she had this huge stick across her shoulders and from each end a heavily loaded basket of fruit was swinging in every imaginable direction. Each time we whipped around one of those tight, hairpin curves those baskets would swing out and almost jerk her off the bike. She would scream like a mad woman, grab my shirt collar and try to pull herself back on to the seat. Of course I couldn't breath so I would tap the front brake to slow the bike and send her crashing into my back. This little move would place her firmly back on the bike seat and allow me to grab a deep breath when she released my collar...allowing me to curse her properly. But by then we would be into the next sweeping curve and the process would start over. I guess you could say we were locked into the process. Even more frightening we would occasionally meet one of those old 1951 model German buses trying to climb the mountain and I would cringe hearing that basket scrape along the side of the bus, as we swept past.

I think we were both glad to part company at the bottom of the pass, but I could tell by the look of excitement in her eyes as she walked away that she couldn't wait to get home and tell her girlfriends about her motorbike ride with the crazy white man.

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

SEEKING INFORMATION:

I am looking for anyone who has any pictures or remembrances of **PFC Dennis Gleason**. He was a member of D/3/8 He was KIA on March 26, 1968 in Kontum, Vietnam. Dennis and my stepdad were best friends since growing up together in Teaneck, NJ. My stepdad was and remains good friends with Dennis' family. Dennis's brother, Mike, had a son in 1969 who he named Dennis and became my stepfather's godson. I will be forwarding copies of any pictures or stories I get about Dennis to his namesake, Dennis, as well as my stepfather.

Thankyou for your assistance

Dina Lanterman

PO Box 113

Cresco, PA 18326

(cell phone) 908-672-4239

e-mail: crazyred725@yahoo.com

Thank you so much for your piece listing the battle casualties on Hill 724 for the Battle of Dak To. It provided for me valuable information that I didn't know. My uncle, **Ralph Barlett** (B/3/8), is one of those listed. He died less than two months after arriving in Nam. I've read the official accounts of his heroic actions on November 11, 1967, but I would like to get some first-hand accounts from those who fought beside him during his short tenure in action. Can you direct me to anyone with whom you are associated that might be of assistance?

Thank you for your contribution to our continued freedom. Thank you for passing along the information to your Bravo Co Brothers. I have already received several responses. It's great to know that after so many years, and through all of the pain, that you all still care enough about your fallen comrades to stop, remember, and help.

Steve Miller

3633 East 62nd St.

Indianapolis, IN 46220

Phone: 317-259-1935

Thank you for your help. What started out as a simple project of typing 35 hand written pages of my personal journal has turned into almost 400. I have poured over hundreds of pages of after action reports and radio logs. I was the crew chief on Gator 108 that resupplied A/3/8 on March 3, 1969. The following day we assaulted the ridgeline north of their position with Recon/3/8 and B/3/8. Got shot out of there twice before we were able to get in. The following day we assaulted with your old company C/3/8 with the same results. During that month and a half many things happened. Working with your brothers in the 4th Infantry and some of the guys which were in my

company I think I have put together a complete history of what happened. I have included what I had written about those times. There is no way I could ever tell the story of what happened to the guys on the ground. That is why I am again reaching out. I have some questions that only the guys on the ground can answer. Places like LZ Swinger, LZ Brace, Hill 947, LZ Mary, LZ Cider, LZ Swift, LZ D-Handle LZ Susan, LZ Turkey, FSB 20 and Hill 467 need to be remembered so that our children and grandchildren will know what took place there. I have talked to some of the children and others of our fallen brothers who still have no idea where and how their loved ones died. I think this might help bring closure to them.

Ron Carey

23440 Link Ln.

Plainfield, IL. 60544.

815-436-2347

roncarey@Ameritech.Net

I saw your posting on the 4th I.D. website about veterans who served with 3rd Btn. 8th Inf. during Vietnam (if I recall correctly, he was in Bravo Company). My uncle served with this unit and was KIA in January of 1967 after being in country for 5 months. His name was **SPC-4 Antonio "Tony" Esqueda** from Santa Rita New Mexico. I would like to talk to anyone who knew him.

Thanks,

John Esqueda

505-647-2344

jesqueda@arczip.com

john.esqueda@us.army.mil

SEEKING INFORMATION OPERATION WAYNE GREY

I was a crewchief with the 119th Assault Helicopter Company from Jan. 1968 till Sept. 1969. We flew in support of the 1st Brigade during most of my tour. Places like FSB 29, FSB 5 and most of the FSBs around Dak To to name a few. About four years ago I started researching Operation Wayne Grey. After several hundred pages of after action reports and radio logs I have been able to put together a day by day account of what happened. I have talked to members of A/3/8, B/3/12, B/1/8 and B/1/35. They have been able to fill in many of the blanks that reports leave. I am looking for some of the guys who were with B/3/8, C/3/8, and Recon/3/8 who were part of the assault on the ridgeline on March 4, 1969. This was to

(continued next page)

(continued from Operation Wayne Gray)

reinforce A/3/8 and secure what would become LZ Brace. I was the lead ship that day and we were shot out of the LZ twice before we were finally able to get in. Any one who is willing to share that day with me would be of great help. I am also looking for any one which was in or around the Plei-Trap valley between March 1, 1969 to April 14, 1969. This would include most of the first Brigade plus units of 1/22nd, 1/35th, 1/12th, 2/8th and all of the artillery units. Batt, A/B/C/6/29th and C/1-92. Any help would be great. This not a wannabee war story. I wanted to write a history of what happened so it won't be forgotten.

What started out as a simple project of typing 35 hand written pages of my personal journal has turned into almost 400. I have poured over hundreds of pages of after action reports and radio logs. I was the crew chief on Gator 108 that resupplied A/3/8 on March 3, 1969. The following day we assaulted the ridgeline north of their position with Recon/3/8 and B/3/8. Got shot out of there twice before we were able to get in. The following day we assaulted with your old company C/3/8 with the same results. During that month and a half many things happened. Working with your brothers in the 4th Infantry and some of the guys which were in my company I think I have put together a complete history of what happened. I have included what I had written about those times. There is no way I could ever tell the story of what happened to the guys on the ground. That is why I am again reaching out. I have some questions that only the guys on the ground can answer. Places like LZ Swinger, LZ Brace, Hill 947, LZ Mary, LZ Cider, LZ Swift, LZ D-Handle LZ Susan, LZ Turkey, FSB 20 and Hill 467 need to be remembered so that our children and grandchildren will know what took place there. I have talked to some of the children and others of our fallen brothers who still have no idea where and how their loved ones died. I think this might help bring closure to them. I have already had several contacts and calls from members of different units. One was from a Frank Lozon who was a 1Sgt. in S-3 and he has gotten me in touch with Col Hickey that I will be talking to soon.

Ron Carey

23440 Link Ln.

Plainfield, IL. 60544.

815-436-2347 (call after 15:00 hrs Central Time)

e-mail: roncarey@ameritech.net

Chaplain's Corner

Halloween has just past yet I noticed that Christmas items are already on the shelf. Whatever happened to traditional dates. I guess greed, call it prosperity, or call it progress. It seems we need to get back to some basics. Veteran's Day rolled past but how could we ever forget that infamous day in 1967. I know I never shall. We remember and give thanks to all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and to the families of those who lost so much.

Thanksgiving will be past by the time this goes to press and it seems once a year is all the praying many people do. If we would just stop and realize how blessed America is, we would just pray a prayer of praise and Thanksgiving.

As we express our thankfulness, let us not forget to daily pray for those who are there so that the war would not be here. Many are giving their time, their training, their blood and injury and even their lives. Our prayers and thanks go out to the troops in harms way that are keeping war off our shores and home front. September 11, 2001 allowed America to see what our military in war have to experience and see far too often on a daily basis.

Let us stop and thank God for freedom, for America, for liberty and to praise and worship him. For on Christmas is celebrated his birth. Let us thank God most for the savior, which is Christ the Lord.

He came to bring peace which was rejected (John 1:11). Isaiah 9:6 says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, the government shall be upon his shoulders and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Long ago a babe born in a manger, birthed lowly and humbly in a stable, because there was no room, will someday come as Prince of Peace and bring peace with Him. Please recognize and receive the unspeakable gift of God's son for our redemption.

We will gather for Christmas joys with family and friends, so let me encourage you to play, stay and pray together for peace on Earth and goodwill toward men. Remembering especially our old outfit of the 4th ID and to see our troops coming home during the next year if not sooner, that they too will come home healthy and whole under God's divine providence.

God's speed all Vietnam 3/8th veterans, Merry Christmas.

Steadfast & Loyal

Your Brother Ed Pippin

CO B 3/8th 1967 RVN