

The First Brigade  
**DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR**

Published Quarterly

January - April - July - October

Volume 2, Number 1

January 1999

1st Brigade (Separate) Viet Nam



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101st Airborne Division



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## THE DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR

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THE DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR is published quarterly by Worrell Publications, Post Office Box 675, 403 North Oak Street, Sweetwater, Tennessee 37874-0675, as a service to veterans who served in the 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division from July 1965 through January 1968 and is mailed third class postage paid under Postal Permit 101, Sweetwater, Tennessee 37874.

Opinions expressed by writers and the editor are entirely their own and are not to be considered official expressions of any organization that plans reunions and otherwise acts on behalf of veterans of the 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division.

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The editor and publisher reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity and to meet space constraints. The editor and publisher has the right to refuse any article or advertisement that may, in his opinion, cause embarrassment to any veteran of the 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division. Deadlines for submissions are the first day of March, June, September and December.



## EDITORIAL NOTES

This issue will be mailed to 398 subscribers. This is close to the break even point that I believe to be 500. If the 500 mark can be reached by March 1, 1999, the magazine will continue to be published in the same format. Without 500 subscribers, a new format and less expensive printing costs will be explored so the 1st Brigade quarterly publication can be continued.

In the October issue (this page) readers, who had an



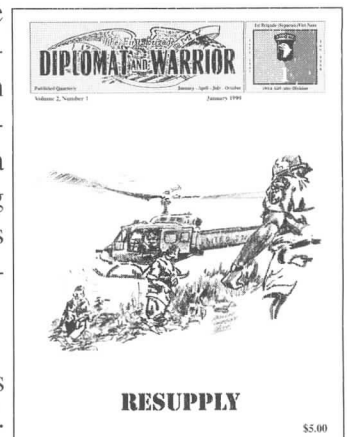
(L) to (R) MAJ Ivan Worrell, 1LT John Hensley (Assistant Information Officer) and Frank Faulkner (see page 23) The photo was taken on New Year's Eve 1966, in a tent at Brigade Forward Headquarters, at Tuy Hoa. Someone, LT Hensley probably, had contacted the Playboy organization and secured decorations for the New Year's Eve celebration. Frank Faulkner was then a reporter for UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL (UPI).

interest in a 1st Brigade dinner on February 4, 1999, at the SNOWBIRD REUNION in Orlando, Florida, were asked to contact the Editor. Having received no communication stating an interest, I can only conclude that meetings of 1st Brigade veterans at 101st Airborne Division Association sponsored or sanctioned reunions is not a popular idea. No 1st Brigade meeting will be planned for the SNOWBIRD REUNION.

The cover of the DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR comes, again, from the Jim Apodaca collection. Jim has provided a great service by loaning his collection of sketches and photos to the DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR.

This issue features Major General S. H. Matheson, USA, Ret., who served as the third commander of the 1st Brigade (Separate). He was kind enough to submit to a telephone interview (page 1) and to send two pictures (page 1 and 2) for use in this magazine.

The quality of submissions by 1st Brigade veterans has been great. Quantity has been a little slim. Please consider writing a story and sending photos that depict your service with the brigade for publication. Your friends will appreciate your effort.



*Continued on inside back cover*

## INTERVIEW WITH MAJOR GENERAL S. H. MATHESON, USA, RET.

By Ivan Worrell

**WORRELL** What do you believe that the 1st Brigade did best, what made them a premiere organization?

**MG MATHESON** - To begin with, they were airborne and that separated them from the rest of the people. The other thing is the NCO Corps. As you well know, the years I have been around the Army, I knew a lot of them. This always helps. Another thing, as far as I am concerned, the main thing was letting Battalion Commanders run their battalions. The only thing that I was there for, basically, was the orders and support, and then leave them alone to run their own outfits, unless they needed help and then there we were. They were essentially the same way with the people they had. I never put anyone in command without first checking them out. One of the main things was not trying to be like a lot of those people, stressing body count, and the other things. One of the first things told them was that, I don't give a damn if they did not get any body count at all. That there was not going to be any of this phony business. We are not trying to run up scores on that. We are trying to run an honest outfit and do the job.

Another thing that I think we were very fortunate in was the junior officers, the company commanders and other staff, because we had people who had been around and knew what they were doing and had the trust of their people. I had trust. I knew a lot of the officers and otherwise that we had. You take the Support Battalion and the rest of the people there, you could not run that outfit without people like them. The same thing with the artillery. You had to be innovative, you had to hold their feet to the fire on certain things. I remember when we got that 4th Infantry Battalion. They did not give us any more artillery. I remember the old film of a British gun battery after the war [WWII]. You always saw two guys standing there. We tried to figure out 'who the hell were they?' It turned out they were the horse holders. The same thing was true of our batteries. We always had excess people. That was when we formed D Battery. I took one gun from each battery and we took the two out of float and we formed D Battery so that the [1st Battalion] 506th, when they came over, had a battery. In the brigade we stripped them of all the unnecessary equipment.

One of the stories I always remember about the brigade, this was after [Sergeant Major] Bob Young left and [Sergeant Major] Paul Huff was there. Paul Huff, of course, wrote the letter and said 'can I come'? Of course we got him over there. This was when we were up north, after you left, companies

were down to around 40 or 50. They shook out all these airborne guys from all over the theater that were sitting in other outfits, in headquarters and sent them to the brigade. I remember, I went down to the airfield with [Paul] Huff. We had about three to four hundred of these transfers come in. I told them 'we can't promise you anything but a rucksack on your back and thirty days under the canopy unless you get in trouble. Then we will come and help you.' I know that some of them had been there for five or six months and were established. I said 'Any of you who want to leave, who do not want to join this outfit, you're airborne, you stay here and see the Sergeant Major, he will put you on the airplane out of here.' Out of that whole bunch we had three who wanted to leave. I think this typifies the airborne soldier.

I remember when I was up there at Hue, Phu Bai, after I left the brigade and I was J-3 of MACV Forward. Here came the 508th, that battalion that came in there, and who did I see? About a third of them were guys out of the [1st] brigade, coming back over again, the ones who had gone home. I talked to [MG Richard] Dick Sites later. Dick had the 82nd then. He had to call for volunteers to fill that brigade to ship. Of course here it was all those same old brigade guys back over they came and volunteered. Several of them, I shook their hands just before I left the brigade, which was a month before. That is the kind of outfit it was.



*Di Linh - Feb 67- LTC Frank Dietrich (L) and BG S. H. Matheson, (Center) in the highlands after going up to bail some VN and US Advisors out, after an ambush at a tea plantation. Who is the Captain on the right?*

[MG] Swede [Stanley R.] Larsen [Commanding General I Field Forces, Vietnam] trusted that brigade. He gave us some jobs. The worst thing he hated was when he lost us up there to the Marine area. He volunteered the 173rd. He lost. The first thing when I went up there and he went up there on this thing of whether we were going to go up or not. He had to get permission through MACV to cross the border because the Marines did not want him in their area up there. The Cav [1st Cav Division] was up there, south of the border. [MG] Jack [John J.] Tolsen had the 1st Cav. Jack and I used to get together. We wiped out the boundary between the two outfits. Anybody who wanted to go one way or the other, all you had to do was let the other guy know. That was part of Vietnam. That was the way to run it, instead of being hide bound.

I think the greatest thing about the brigade, too, was moving all the time. They didn't get settled down in one of these permanent camp type things, particularly down there in the South. We never went any place, where we were going, until we went in there in force. When Task Force Oregon first got up there, the first order I got from them, these were the Saigon guys, was [to take] the tops of three hills. They wanted the 2nd NVA.

*Continued on Page 9*



***BRIGADIER GENERAL S.H. MATHESON***



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 1ST BRIGADE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96347

December 1, 1967

Dear Screaming Eagle:

Not since World War II has an element of the 101st Airborne Division engaged in combat. But—a twenty year absence from the field of battle has not diminished the unparalleled, aggressive spirit of the airborne soldier to fight and win.

There are volumes of statistics in war. But—the cold, calculated columns of figures are void of the personality, dedication, and sacrifice made by the paratrooper of this brigade.

Charts and reports do not communicate the tension of the man who strains his eyes searching for the hidden enemy, nor do they picture the sweat that soaks and stains... the heat, the rocks, the jungle that wear and grind against the man with the rifle.

But—you know.

You have been there: Tuy Hoa, Phan Thiet, Bao Loc, Khanh Duong, Duc Pho, Chu Lai and other strange sounding places. In each you have left your mark of excellence.

There is a reason why you have done your job so well. It is because of the indomitable spirit of the airborne soldier who has confidence in himself, his weapons, and his fellow paratroopers.

You have demonstrated a readiness for all competition and proved you can win. Your performance magnifies the legacy of every Screaming Eagle.

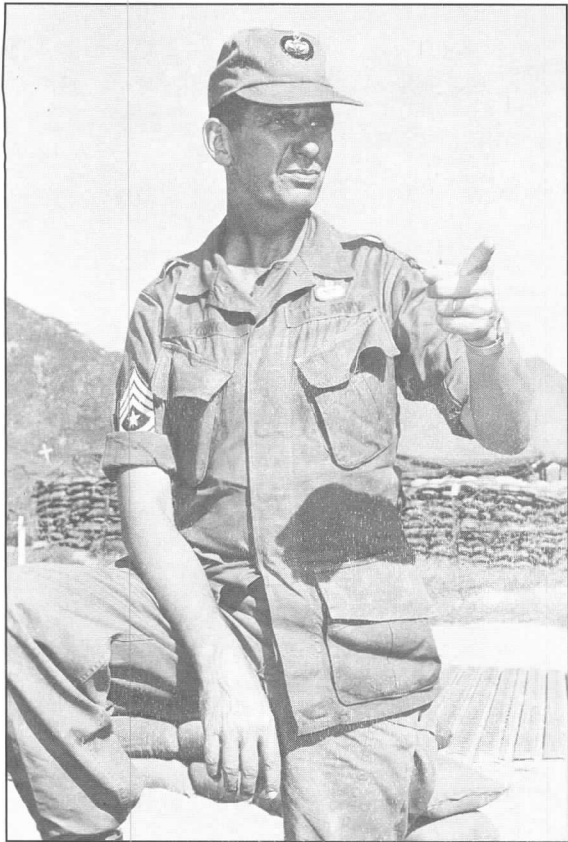
The following pages seek to capture your unique personality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. H. Matheson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

S. H. MATHESON  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

December 1967  
Screaming Eagle (Vietnam) Page 1



***CSM Robert A. Young***

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ROBERT A. YOUNG, RET., 420 Deerfield Circle, Santa Rosa, California 95409, served as 1st Brigade Sergeant Major in 1966 and 1967. While as 101st Airborne Division Sergeant Major he received orders for assignment as the Brigade Sergeant Major in May of 1966. After resettling his wife, Betty, in San Bernardino, California he reported to 1st Brigade Headquarters at Dak To, Vietnam in June of 1966. He arrived just after the battle at Toumorong and saw Captain William Carpenter and 1st Sergeant Walter J. Sabalauski thrust to the front after the battle was over. Not long after his welcome by Brigade Commander, Brigadier General Willard Pearson, 1st Brigade Commanding General, the Brigade returned to Tuy Hoa. The Brigade remained for several months in Tuy Hoa protecting the rice crop before the Change of Command took place.

Brigadier General Pearson moved to Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) where he received his second star. The "Screaming Eagles" received an old and professional Airborne Commander in Brigadier General S. H. Matheson who came to the Brigade from Fort Campbell where he was the Assistant Division Commander of the 101st Airborne Division.

General Matheson was a breath of fresh air. All the 1st Brigade soon learned his airborne methods and respected his decisions. General Matheson was considered a "Soldier's Soldier" and few, if any, would complain of his decisions because he was a Grunt Soldier's General. He had been in three wars and everybody knew it.

SGM Young was part of the move from Tuy Hoa to Kontum in December of 1966. In Kontum the Brigade made training jumps so as to be prepared for a possible airborne operation. In early 1967 the Brigade moved back to the base camp at Phan Rang. The Brigade moved to Phan Thiet and then moved north to Duc Pho. He returned to the states in June of 1967 while the Brigade was at Duc Pho.



1st Brigade (Separate) Sergeant Majors were: 1965 - 1966 SGM Trinidad Prieto (deceased)  
1966 - 1967 SGM Robert A. Young and 1967 - 1968 SGM Paul B. Huff, MOH (deceased)

*Sergeant Major Robert A. Young gives a "pep talk" and a big THANK YOU to these lucky 1st Brigade airborne troopers for their SUPER SERVICE with the Always First Brigade. The formation for these stateside bound troopers was held in Phan Rang on April 22, 1967.*



# A Message From Sgt. Maj. Robert A. Young, 1st Bde, Vietnam:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 1ST BRIGADE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96347

AVAD-SM

26 JULY 1966

Mr. Walt Miller  
P. O. Box 454  
Greenville, Texas

Dear Walt,

It is nearing convention time again and my thoughts return to the wonderful time everyone had at the 20th Annual Reunion at Fort Campbell, August 1965. As the Division Sergeant Major, I was privileged to be a part of the head table at the banquet, a function I shall never forget.

This year I must be excused at your 21st Annual Reunion in Miami Beach, as my duties have shifted to Vietnam and am Brigade Sergeant Major of the 1st Brigade, having replaced Sgt Major Trinidad Prieto, who will be present at the reunion as a 1st Brigade representative.

General Pearson desires the Brigade be represented and I am sure correspondence has reached you outlining the plans. Colonel Maxis (Deputy Commander, just departed for the USA), Captain Taylor, and Sgt Major Prieto will meet the three men coming over from the Brigade in Vietnam: 1/Lt Beegle, 2/327th; SFC E7 Parker, 2/327th; and SSG Bryant, 1/327th. The six personnel will be able to convey to the WW II veterans the activities of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, during their first year of combat in Vietnam.

You may be assured the young troopers are upholding the "Screaming Eagle" in superior fashion. The 1st Brigade has established an enviable record which has brought personal compliments from General W. C. Westmoreland, COMUSMACV, as well as other commanders of US Forces.

When your contemporaries admit you've done a good job, it must be so.

On behalf of the "Troopers" of the 1st Brigade, may we convey to all "Screaming Eagles" past, present, and future, our best wishes for a successful 21st Annual Reunion of the 101st Airborne Association in Miami, Florida. Our thoughts will be with you.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. YOUNG  
Sergeant Major  
1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Appreciation is expressed to Maj. Ivan Worrell, Lt. John Hensley, SP4 Richard Houghton, SP4 Robert Lloyd, and PFC Tim McGowen, Information Office, 1st Bde, for the stories and pictures that appear in this issue. Appreciation is also expressed to the Information Office, Ft. Campbell, Ky., for its material and assistance, and to members who contributed to this issue.

The Screaming Eagle Page - 10 - September - October 1966

**Sergeant First Class  
Webster Anderson, MOH**

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, DC, 4 December 1969

**AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR**



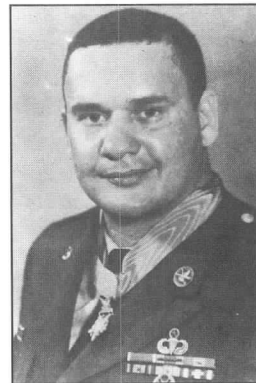
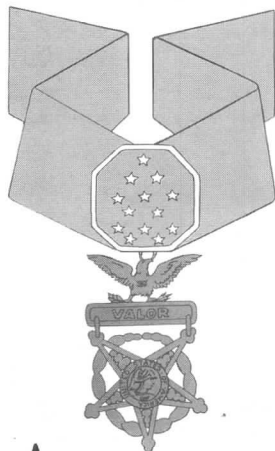
The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1863, has awarded in the name of The Congress the Medal of Honor to

**SERGEANT FIRST CLASS WEBSTER ANDERSON  
UNITED STATES ARMY**

for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:



Sergeant First Class (then Staff Sergeant) Webster Anderson, who distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Chief of Section in Battery A, 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery, 101st Airborne Infantry Division (Airmobile) against a hostile force near Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam. During the early morning hours on 15 October 1967, Battery A's defensive position was attacked by a determined North Vietnamese Army Infantry supported by heavy mortar, recoilless rifle, rocket-propelled grenade and automatic weapons fire. The initial enemy onslaught breached the battery defensive perimeter. Sergeant Anderson with complete disregard for his personal safety mounted the exposed parapet of his howitzer position and became the mainstay of the defense of the battery position. Sergeant Anderson directed devastating direct howitzer fire on the assaulting enemy while providing rifle and grenade defensive fire against enemy soldiers attempting to overrun his gun section position. While protecting his crew and directing their fire against the enemy from his exposed position, two enemy grenades exploded at his feet knocking him down and severely wounding him in the legs. Despite the excruciating pain and though not able to stand, Sergeant Anderson valourously propped himself on the parapet and continued to direct howitzer fire upon the closing enemy and to encourage his men to fight on. Seeing an enemy grenade land within the gunpit near a wounded member of his guncrew, Sergeant Anderson, heedless of his own safety, seized the grenade and attempted to throw it over the parapet to save his men. As the grenade was thrown from the position it exploded and Sergeant Anderson was again grievously wounded. Although only partially conscious and severely wounded, Sergeant Anderson refused medical evacuation and continued to encourage his men in the defense of the position. Sergeant Anderson by his inspirational leadership, professionalism, devotion to duty and complete disregard for his own welfare was able to maintain the defense of his section position and to defeat a determined enemy attack. Sergeant Anderson's conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army. (This award supersedes the Distinguished Service Cross awarded to Sergeant Anderson for extraordinary heroism displayed on 15 October 1967 as announced in General Orders Number 343, Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, dated 30 January 1969.)





## APPROVED VALOR AWARDS

<i>NAME</i>	<i>RANK</i>	<i>SERIAL NUMBER</i>	<i>UNIT</i>	<i>AWARD</i>	<i>PERIOD</i>	<i>GENERAL ORDER</i>
ROGERS, Joseph B.	Lt Col	028233	HHC/1/327	BS"V"	14Oct65	GO26/14Jan66
SMITH, Wilfred	Lt Col	060598	HHC/2/502	SS	18-19Sep65	GO1833/Unk
DEXTER, Herbert J.	Maj	OF104408	A/2/502	SS	18Sep65	Unk/Unk
NEROUTSOS, George H.	Maj	075257	HHC/2/502	BS"V"(1st OLC)	14Jun65	GO2488/27Oct65
JOHNSON, Fred H.	Capt	05301874	C/1/327	BS"V"	28Oct65	GO81/12Feb66
PRICE, James W.	Capt	05312188	B/2/327	BS"V"	24Jan66	GO1388/1Mar66
RAWK, Robert E.	Capt	075767	C/2/502	SS	18Sep65	GO1571/12Nov65
SHEVLIN, George L.	Capt	090482	A/1/327	SS	27Oct65	GO697/3Feb66
BURKHEART, George	Lt	OF100086	HHC/2/502	SS (Post)	3Sep65	GO554/14Sep65
FOBBS, Benjamin F.	Lt	098420	HHC/2/502	BS"V"	18-19Sep65	GO411/22Jan66
GOODOWENS, Fowler	Lt	05322086	A/2/17	SM	18Sep65	GO65/1Feb66
KEYS, Leonard F.	Lt	05315508	HHC/1Bde	AM"V"	5Sep65	GO287/18Jan66
REEVES, Howard R.	Lt	0101063	B/2/502	BS"V"	18-19Sep65	GO2053/20Dec65
ROBERTS, Norman L.	Lt	OF101683	B/2/327	BS"V"	24Jan66	GO1389/1Mar66
SCHNEIDER, Edgar W.	Lt	05012250	HHC/1Bde	AM"V"	14Oct65	GO39/15Jan66
SIERRA, Michael L.	Lt	05322183	C/2/327	BS"V"	24Jan66	GO1385/1Mar66
CAMPBELL, Malcom I.	Unk	W2215365	A/2/502	AM"V"	21Sep65	GO1726/22Nov65
MARCHMAN, William H.	W1	W2215128	HHC/1Bde	AM"V"	15Sep65	GO38/19Jan66
STEEL, Bobby D.	CWO2	W2214594	HHC/1Bde	AM"V"	15Sep65	GO44/19Dec65
STRAWSER, Melvin C.	S/MAJ	RA13220312	HHC/2/502	SS	18-19Sep65	GO465/25Jan66
DAYOC, Joseph J.	1SGT	RA13250483	B/1/327	BS"V"	27Sep65	GO69/8Feb66
ELKINS, Arlie E.	MSG	RA13166352	HHC/1/327	SM	5Nov65	GO55/25Jan66
THAYER, Thomas E.	1SGT	RA19249276	B/2/327	SS (Post)	8Nov65	LO19-98/30Dec65
CATUS, William E.	PSG	RA13421414	C/1/327	BS"V"	12Oct65	GO27/20Jan66
JACK, Robert L.	PSG	RA16394971	A/2/502	BS"V"	18Sep65	GO2143/27Dec65
OLIVER, John T.	PSG	RA5201436	B/1/327	ARCOM"V"	15Dec65	GO1409/3Mar66
WIGHTMAN, Robert R.	PSG	RA13316229	B/2/502	BS"V"	18-19Sep65	GO2084/20Dec65
ANGLIN, Lawrence D.	SSG	RA51396478	B/2/502	BS"V"	18Sep65	GO417/22Jan66
BUNN, James A.	SSG	RA14452748	HHC/2/502	ARCOM"V"	2Sep65	GO544/26Jan66
COATS, Lonnel	SSG	RA14395941	B/2/502	SM	11Sep65	GO14/9Jan66
COX, Edward J.	SSG	RA15261768	A/2/327	SS (Post)	24Jan66	GO1353/1Mar66
DAIL, Clifton E.	SSG	RA52236910	B/1/327	SM	17Oct65	GO5/6Jan66
FAIRCLOTH, Johnnie W.	SSG	RA14608230	B/2/502	SS (Post)	18Sep65	GO1537/9Nov65
GONZALES, Camiedo	SSG	RA39053350	C/2/502	ARCOM"V"	5Dec65	GO2280/27Oct65
NORTON, Ronald C.	Unk	RA19763770	A/1/327	BS"V"	28Oct65	GO43/19Dec65
RANSON, Andrew Jr.	PFC	RA14899974	HHC/2/502	ARCOM"V"	18Sep65	GO340/20Jan66
SIZEMORE, Lyndon	PFC	RA17655632	C/1/327	BS"V"	6Oct65	GO41/18Dec65
SULLIVAN, Richard	PFC	RA19812589	B/2/502	SM	11Sep65	GO13/9Jan66
WASHINGTON, Joseph M.	SP4	RA23300454	A/2/502	BS"V"	8-10Dec65	GO86/12Feb66

## A VETERAN'S ODYSSEY

To be young, able, and willing,  
The thought of war, oh so thrilling....  
To meet the test, to be the best,  
To earn the right, to join the quest....

To wear the uniform, to take up arms,  
To protect your country from all harm....  
To shoulder a weapon, to take aim,  
To take the risk, for mankind's gain....

Hatred, anger, is not the measure,  
To serve country is your pleasure....  
The honor is yours, instilled in training,  
Unit pride will be your guide....

So excited to arrive,  
Never doubting you'll survive....  
Look around, take a survey,  
All the soldiers in such a hurry....

Saddle up, move it out,  
Engage the enemy in a rout....  
To beat the enemy at his game,  
Destroying him will be your fame....

It's so hot, the jungle thick,  
Insects and animals, oh so quick....  
Look out for mines and booby traps,  
If you fail, you'll breathe your last....

Spider holes in bamboo groves,  
Fire ants that attack in droves....  
Scan the trees, look for snipers,  
Elephant grass full of vipers....

All your senses are so keen,  
What in the hell caused that scream...?  
Look around, hear that sound,  
Charlie's hiding in the ground....

Machine guns crack, mortars blast,  
Fellow soldiers taking flak....  
Whistles blow, blood will flow,  
Enemy tracers on the glow....

Open up, fire at will,  
Cover your flank, take that hill....  
Bullets flying, men are dying,  
Show no fear, cover your rear....

Pop the smoke, this ain't no joke,  
"Willie Peter" bursting in air....  
Burning flesh on the tear,  
How in the hell, will I make a year...?

Helmets gone and ammos low,  
Claymores in trees, ain't no breeze....  
Rockets pound, one hell of a sound,  
All my buddies taking rounds....

Gather your wounded and regroup,  
Where in the hell is the rest of the troop...?  
"Snake and nape", in the air,  
Enemy soldiers everywhere....

Hunker down, hug the ground,  
"Smokey the Bear" is in the air....  
Fire power so immense,  
Enemy attack still intense....

Radios, all are cracking,  
Friendly units are attacking....  
Choppers soar, the battle roars,  
Ain't no doubt, this is war....

Charlie runs but he can't hide,  
Taking bullets from all sides....  
One last effort, all in vain,  
Never have I seen such pain....

To catch the enemy in my sight,  
To shoot for what you believe is right....  
To see him fall and groan in pain,  
Later wondering, what was his name...?

Was he loved?, will he be missed...?  
Had he a wife, he loved to kiss...?  
Perhaps some children bear his name,  
Later to play the killing game...?

All is quiet, it begins to rain,  
I wonder if I'm still the same....  
The dreaded looks, on all those faces,  
Empty eyes, grotesque places....

It's all over, they say, "we won",  
Wonder how it all begun...?  
I look around, my friends are gone,  
I wonder if, I still belong...?

It's time to go, I did my best,  
The orders given, "dress right, dress"....  
I wonder where, are all the rest...?  
Soldiers missing, oh so less...!

Years go by, I think I've made it,  
But inside, I just can't fake it....  
Feelings are so suppressed,  
Why can't I be, like the rest...?

War never leaves, forever gone,  
Death leaves people, most forlorn....  
Decades pass, but still it lasts,  
Still perpetuating, it's evil past...!

Perhaps some day, when we awake,  
We'll finally kill, that evil snake....  
Satan must surely pay,  
For what he does, his evil ways....

Happiness does abound,  
But it stops, when I'm around....

Often, I just stare in space,  
Wonder why, I'm out of place...?

No matter what I try to do,  
Just can't stop and see it through....  
Memories keep flooding back,  
Men are dying in attack...!

Seems so real, wish I'd heal,  
It's so sad to be alone....  
No one to talk to, no one home,  
Living life, as if a drone....

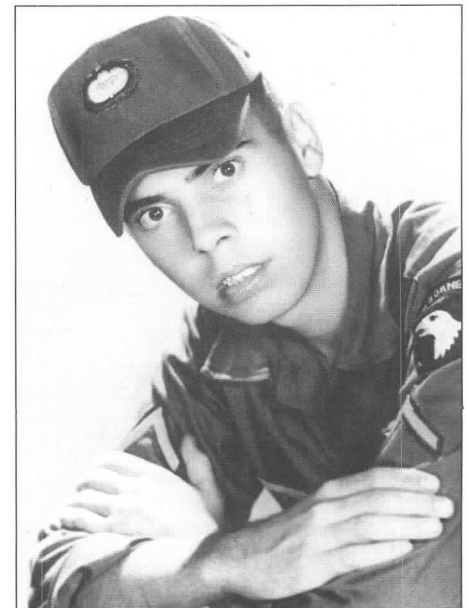
Preservation demands isolation,  
Deeply hampering, all relations....  
Try to fight, with all my might,  
Trying to make my life seem right....

Wish I knew, what went wrong?,  
Want so much, to belong....  
Freinds and loved ones, really care,  
Want so much, my life to share....

With God's help, I have no fear,  
Happiness will reappear....  
It is right to remember,  
But everyday, the DEVIL'S EMBERS...!

*Charlie: Viet Cong*

*"Willie Peter": white phosphorous ammunition  
Claymores; anti personnel mines  
'Snake and nape": Aerial bombs/napalm  
'Smokey the Bear": C47 aircraft-flaeship  
\* some consider "snake", a small observation  
helicopter*



Peter S. Griffin  
Co. A, 2/502 Infantry  
101st Airborne Division  
Viet Nam, 1965-66

Continued from Page 1

I told them 'if you want the 2nd NVA give me the whole damn province. If you want the tops of those three hills, I can put people on them tomorrow. You are not going to find the NVA that way.'

We had a bunch of great guys. I had these deputies like Oscar Davis and Rip Collins. Pat [Mrs. Matheson] used to say, 'after this was all over, with people like [LTG] Jack Keane and [LTG, Ret] John Miller and all those other guys, no wonder you all did so well over there. Look at the help you had.'

The number of guys who extended over there was amazing. We had 60% or better reenlistments. I looked at the casualty statistics after this thing was all over. The most we ever lost, in one day were ten, and yet, in a year's period, it was a ding - ding - ding type of thing. We lost more in that brigade than we did in Normandy, in an airborne regiment, in World War II. It was a different type of war. You had the big losses in WWII in very short periods of time. It was not an every day type of thing like it was in Vietnam.

The amount of experience we had in that outfit, including Special Forces, was outstanding.

**WORRELL** - What was the prime factor for your starting the Airborne School at Phan Rang?

**MATHESON** - We had a few people, who were legs, good people who wanted to be qualified so we did it. Billy Spangler [Brigade Information Officer] was an example. I first knew Billy in 1947 - 1948 in the 505 of the 82nd. He tried to get in the airborne, and came there. They threw him out because of his eyes and he became a civilian. There were a few others like that so we ran an Airborne School. As a Separate Airborne Commander you are authorized to qualify people. The same way we did in the 10th [Special Forces] in Germany. Jumping was not the way to do it in Vietnam, not when you had helicopters.

The great thing we had was [LTC] Ben Harrison and the 10th Aviation [Battalion].

**WORRELL** - I believe the best thing about the brigade was the airborne soldier.

**MATHESON** - No doubt about it. I have been airborne all my life, except in the 2nd Division and 1st Division. There is no doubt it was the quality of the soldier. The young bucks will do what they are told and carry on.

General Matheson went on to say the 1st Brigade (Separate) 2000 Reunion will be in Columbus, Georgia. Plans that include dates, places and programs are not complete but announcement of the details of the reunion will be timely.

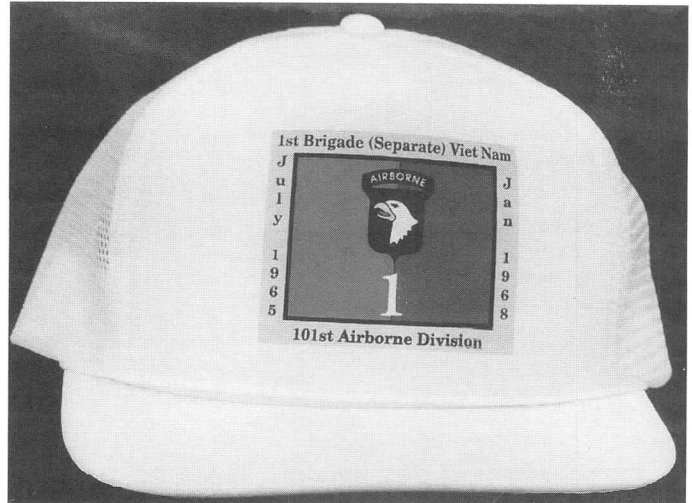


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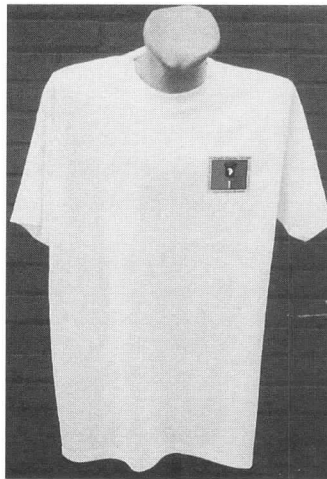
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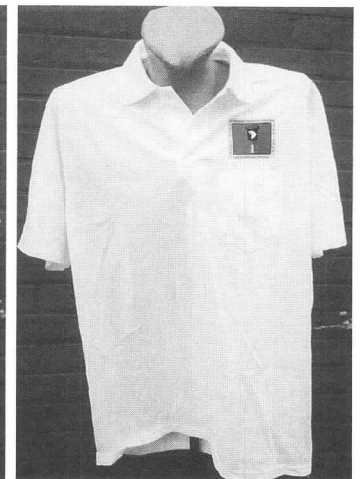


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   MONTH/YEAR  MONTH/YEAR

# KILLED IN ACTION AND NON-BATTLE DEATHS BY DATE

DOD	Grade	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Generation	Home State	DOB	Casualty Category	SSN	Status	Cause of Death	Compliment Cause	Province	Component	DMOS
2/7/66	SSG	Betancourt	Mojica	Carlos		MT	/ / 29	BD	50106961	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
2/8/66	PFC	Hines	William	L	Jr	KS	/ / 44	NBD	13787345	KOR	Unk	Drowning	Phu Bon	RA	11C1P
2/8/66	SP4	Galloway	Clarence			GA	/ / 39	BD	55794399	DOW	Unk	SA Fire	Tuyen Duc	USAR	11B2P
2/9/66	1LT	Settlemyre	William	D		GA	/ / 42	BD	102009	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	71542
2/9/66	PFC	Mincey	John	H		CT	/ / 42	BD	14859094	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
2/9/66	PFC	Price	Johnny	P		SD	/ / 44	BD	13827773	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	05C20
2/9/66	SGT	Bowman	John	D	III	ND	/ / 43	BD	13804692	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
2/9/66	SGT	Cooley	William			KY	/ / 37	BD	11325907	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
2/10/66	PFC	Peterson	Warren	G		TN	/ / 47	BD	19832932	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C10
2/10/66	PFC	Voegtli	John	S		CZ	/ / 47	BD	11464931	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C10
2/12/66	SSG	Connor	John		Jr	NH	/ / 35	BD	14582641	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B40
2/18/66	SGT	Collier	William	F		PA	/ / 45	BD	53372557	DOW	Unk	SA Fire	Tuyen Duc	RA	11B10
2/20/66	SP4	Ali	Arfien	C	Jr	MT	/ / 43	BD	12727378	DOW	Unk	SA Fire	Tuyen Duc	RA	11B20
2/24/66	PFC	Clark	Robert	L		AL	/ / 45	BD	14854530	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B10
2/24/66	PFC	Harmon	Floyd	S		NH	/ / 44	BD	53398112	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	USAR	11B40
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3/4/66	PFC	Demboski	Stanley	T		MT	/ / 45	BD	12684050	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
3/4/66	PFC	Jones	Harvey	W		PR	/ / 46	BD	18711828	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
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3/4/66	PFC	Lindsey	Jack	W		PR	/ / 42	BD	18684157	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
3/4/66	PFC	Parsons	Paul	G		NM	/ / 45	BD	19823706	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C1P
3/4/66	PFC	Wadsworth	Charles	D		TX	/ / 46	BD	13867975	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
3/4/66	SP4	Buell	Norman	J		D.C.	/ / 40	BD	50011318	DOW	Unk	SA Fire	Tuyen Duc	USAR	91B2P
3/4/66	SP4	Bush	James	E		PA	/ / 45	BD	14860754	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
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3/9/66	PSG	Robinson	Eugene	F		KY	/ / 28	BD	11173850	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B7P
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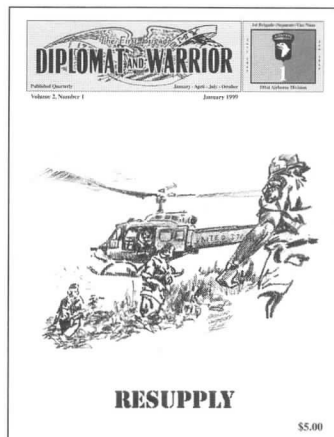
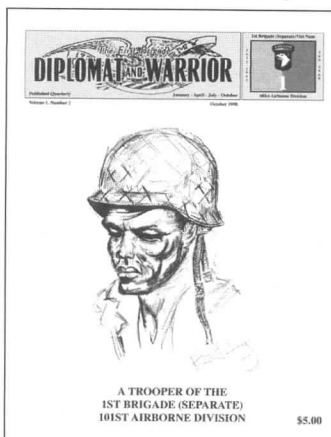
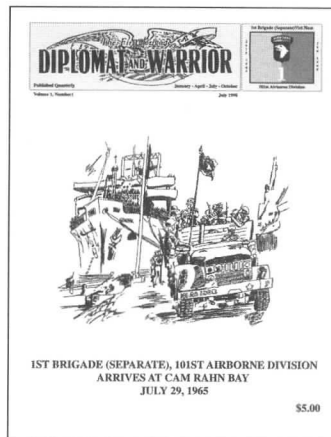
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5 Oct 65

#### PRESS RELEASE CAV OPERATION

5 October 1965

Mobile reconnaissance elements of the U.S. Army's 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division captured 7 confirmed VC in a sweep operation in the village of My Thanh West of Qui Nhon on 5 October. The Screaming Eagles detained a total of 43 VC suspects as they swept North towards the village in a routine patrol mission. Approximately 100 personnel were observed by helicopter fleeing the village as the troopers, from A Troop 17th Cavalry, entered the area. ARVN Artillery was brought to bear on elements of the fleeing personnel and estimate of 15 KIA assessed.

Subsequent reports indicated that 1 suspect was an identified VC cadre platoon ldr, 2 were hard core and 1 was a female. There were no friendly casualties.



# EAGLES HAVE NEW BOSS

## Brig. Gen. Salve Matheson Assumes Command Of Bde.

The Screaming Eagles of Vietnam have a new commanding general. Brigadier General Salve H. Matheson assumed command of the Always First Brigade Friday.

This is the general's second tour with the 101st in a combat zone. He also served with the 506th Parachute Infantry during World War II, participating in the Normandy D-Day drop, the liberation of Holland and the defense of Bastogne.

Gen. Matheson was born in Seattle and attended the University of California at Los Angeles. He has also attended the Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Ka., the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Va., and the Naval War College at Newport, R.I.

During the Korean War the general participated in the Inchon and Wonsan landings, the amphibious withdrawal from Hungnam and the winter and summer campaigns in the central mountain regions of South Korea.

He commanded the 10th Special Forces Group in Germany from 1961 to 1963 and prior to his assignment with the "Diplomats and Warriors" of Vietnam, Gen. Matheson was assistant 101st Airborne Division commander at Ft. Campbell, Ky.

Brigadier General Willard Pearson, who has commanded the brigade since January 1965, will remain in Vietnam, his new assignment to be announced.



**DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR**

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## 'Charlie' Sweat Sniffer Get

By PFC Dan Strobel

Phan Rang — Should "Charlie" ever get in a sweat over approaching brigade paratroopers, it could be the last time he does. A new human detection device known as a "People Sniffer" will detect the ammonia in his sweat and alert the patrol of the waiting enemy.

The "People Sniffer" operator acts as point man during movement through the jungle. He divides his rations among his squad members and carries only the "People Sniffer" and his weapon. A sensory device in the "People Sniffer" detects any body odor in the air and alerts the operator.

The "People Sniffer" at present is being used by Company "B," 2nd Battalion, 327th (Airborne) Infantry. Although the use is limited, Specialist Four Alvin C. Brenegar, a "People Sniffer" operator, cited two incidents in which the instrument proved its worth. Specialist Brenegar states, "On one occasion another platoon moved out before us and the 'People Sniffer' alerted us of their presence. One other time we were about 100 meters from a village when I detected the inhabitants on the detector."

Lauded as a revolutionary new concept in jungle warfare, the "People Sniffer" will provide the infantry with another means of finding the enemy, especially when "Charlie" is in a sweat.

## JOINT PATROL

By PFC Dan Strobel

PHAN RANG— There is now a team of Military Police and Vietnamese Field Force Policemen accompanying the "Screaming Eagles," providing the best possible protection of civilians who are in the path of paratroopers of the brigade during search and destroy operations.

The Field Force Policemen are part of an experiment which has been undertaken by the Brigade Military Police Platoon. Working with the 1st Battalion, 327th (Airborne) Infantry, Specialist Four David I. Bush of the 101st Military Police Platoon, and Vietnamese Policemen have been protecting and preventing civilians from inadvertently interfering with friendly forces during their tactical operations in remote areas. When entering a village complex in the field the policemen can identify landmarks and explain any unusual findings. Should the

(Cont'd on p-3, Col. 4)

## Where There's A Will 'Can Do' Finds Way

By Sp4 Luis Callender

PHAN RANG—In their willingness to play "big brothers," paratroopers of the brigade have nipped in the bud what could have become a serious school dropout problem among the Vietnamese children at Phan Rang.

Some fifty-three "Screaming Eagles," most of them from Company "A," Support Battalion, are personally sponsoring over sixty-two Vietnamese students attending the Truong Vinh Ky High School. Each sponsor donates 500 piasters a month which converts to approximately 40 American dollars for a school year.

This new venture has no connection with the 101st scholarships the "Diplomats and Warriors" of Support Battalion presented last year to top Vietnamese students who were financially unable

to continue their education.

The problem first came to the surface when Specialist Five Jack Lathrop, a chaplain's assistant who teaches English to Vietnamese in the Phan Rang area, heard that fourteen of his students would not be able to continue their education because they needed financial support. Lathrop consulted teachers and found this to be widespread.

He took the problem to Captain Thomas Goforth, Company "A" commander who immediately pledged \$100 from the company with a promise

that he'd try to find more support.

A few days later, Lathrop was talking to a friend from the brigade's finance section and mentioned the possibility of the students dropping out of school. The friend told him to drop around to the finance office and talk about it. Lathrop did, and that's where he collected the first 25 sponsors. Only two days later the number was up to 47. The total is now 53 with several of the sponsors supporting more than one student, and the waiting list getting longer

(Cont'd on P-3, Col. 5)

See Patrol on page 20

Lathrop tells of an incident when he introduced one 101st Military Policeman to a girl student he was about to sponsor. They both stood shyly looking at each other for several minutes. Abruptly the M.P. handed the envelope containing her first tuition installment to the girl, turned and started to leave. The girl brought him up short when she spoke in English, "Thank you, sir, and I will try to be a good student."

The M.P. turned in amazement. "You speak English," he said. "Yes," the thirteen year old girl said, "and I hope to make you proud of me."

The girl was number twenty in class standing before she had a sponsor. Today she's number three.

'Can Do'

(Cont From Page 1, Col. 4)

every day.

The students being sponsored are not necessarily the top people in school.

"They're just a bunch of youngsters who want to learn," says Lathrop. "Because they don't have a genius I.Q. doesn't mean they shouldn't be allowed to learn. These youngsters have the initiative. All they need is help."

The unique aspect of the sponsorship program is the personal relationship upon which it is based. Each student meets his sponsor-to-be before any support is given. Once the 101st paratrooper has agreed to finance a child's education he visits his charge at least once a week to help, advise, or just to listen to any problems the youngster may have.

"This makes the student more responsible when he realizes that he has an obligation," says Lathrop. "It's not just the money that an American soldier gives him that makes the student respond. Most of them believe Americans are all rich anyway. What really does it," Lathrop concludes, "is the fact that someone cares enough to see the kid weekly and asks him about school."

Results: All of the students being sponsored at present have virtually pole-vaulted in class standing. There's one boy who jumped fifty-two places since a paratrooper extended his helping hand. "One student couldn't jump any higher," says Lathrop. "He was already number one. But he wouldn't be there today if somebody had not come forward with help."

Some of the "Diplomats" have contributed enough to financially support the student for two years, and even throughout high school.

## Patrol...

(Cont'd from p-1, Col.1)

need arise they can be used for interrogation purposes. On one occasion a field force police man saved a unit from an ambush by extracting information from a prisoner of war.

Because of his outstanding work, Field Force Policeman Ker has been recommended for an award by Captain William G. Northquest, Company "C" commander, 1st Bn, 327th (ABN) Inf.

The Field Force Policemen are part of the Vietnamese National Police and work with the Brigade Military Police during the brigade's stay in any area.

Diplomat & Warrior  
October 21, 1966

## PFC Michael McGee 101st 'Power Man'

**TUY HOA**—"I am the power man of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division."

No that is not some self-styled Hercules talking. However it is PFC Michael McGee and he is exactly what he says he is — 'the power man' — electrically that is — of the "Screaming Eagles" brigade headquarters. Without him there would be no lights.

The 20-year old paratrooper is responsible for lighting up the 1st Brigade Headquarters when night comes. Since his arrival in Vietnam four months ago, his job has been to maintain and run the generator that illuminates the nerve center for the paratrooper brigade.

Although his training for the job only consisted of a "twenty minute class on how to operate and maintain the generator," McGee has become expert on electricity and wiring. In addition to the usual repair of cable breaks and disconnections, he recently rigged up a stereo system for the field mess halls. But like any other technician, the "power man" runs into difficulties.

"With the monsoon coming around," he says, "there's going to be trouble with water

# Playmate By Tree Becomes King Cobra

By Sp4 Luis Callender

**Phan Rang**— Unless one happens to be a connoisseur of snakes, at first glance they all look alike. So occasionally someone summons up a bit of bravado, grabs a snake, and winds up with a case of mistaken identity.

Specialist Four Thomas Sturges is no connoisseur of snakes and what he believed to be a Boa Constrictor — nonpoisonous — turned out to be (he found out later) a King Cobra — a most venomous fellow.

It all happened in the base camp. Sturges, of the Security Platoon, Company "E," Support Battalion, was doing a bit of repair work on telephone wires when he decided to take a break. The 101st paratrooper chose the shade offered by a small tree and sat down facing a hollowed eight-foot stump.

**"I was just sitting watching this stump," recalls Sturges, "when this thing started to come out of the hollow and wind down the stump. I just watched it for a few seconds."**

The "Screaming Eagle" said that he decided on the "spur of the moment" to turn snake-catcher, and was quickly joined in his little adventure by several Republic of Korea (ROK) Marines.

As one of the ROKs pinned the snake's head to the stump with a piece of wood, Sturges expertly unwound his quarry from around the stump. He stretched the snake out to its full length of eight feet and the next thing he noticed was that the head had slipped from under the piece of wood, and the ROKs were doing a hasty retreat.

"I took off too," says the

19-year-old, eleven-month combat veteran. "I mean I just let go of that thing and went."

Paratroopers, however, are a determined lot, so Sturges rallied his ROK allies and back they went. They surrounded the snake who was now coiled into a lump.

While one of the Korean Marines poked at the reptile with his piece of wood our quick-thinking paratrooper improvised a noose out of his belt and in dare-devil fashion, lassoed Mr. No-shoulders, Specialist Sturges pulled the noose tight and held up exhibit "A" for what could have been called "catching a snake is an every day affair."

**I could have sworn it was a Boa Constrictor," Sturges explained later. "I know they aren't poisonous." Here the fun began.**

First Sturges and his group went to the ROK Marines' camp, as one of the Koreans wanted to show off the snake to his commanding officer. Several people posed for pictures, with some brave souls draping the snake around them as cameras clicked away. All this time the eight-foot reptile was kept in a stranglehold by the paratroopers belt.

"We really had a good time. We even jumped rope with it," relates Sturges.

**Then it was time to head home and typical of every soldier who loves his first sergeant, Sturges next presented himself at the orderly room to parade his prize. "I wanted "top" to see it but he wasn't in," he states.**

The first sergeant wasn't in, however, two majors having a meeting when the 101st rifleman walked into the orderly room didn't take too kindly to snakes. They also told him what kind of snake he was modeling around his shoulders.

"They told me I had a King Cobra!" Sturges exclaimed. He gave them an "I don't believe you" look.

The two field grade officers quickly dispatched Sturges to the 1st Brigade's Replacement Company's serpentarium and a connoisseur of snakes — Staff Sergeant Kenneth Thibault.

He told me I had a King Cobra — really bad news," says Sturges. "Well, my teeth started chattering, my knees started knocking, and I told that sergeant he could have the snake."

"I mean I was profiling, and jumping rope, and hanging that thing around me!!" Sturges chanted with disbelief. "A KING COBRA, and I have only thirty-five days left in-country!!! Now THAT can shake a guy up!"

# THE SUN



BALTIMORE SUN  
20 SEPTEMBER 1965 P-1

## AN KHE NIGHT ATTACK OF VIET CONG BEATEN BY U.S. PARATROOPERS

Saigon, Vietnam, Monday, Sept. 20 (AP) -- Viet Cong guerrillas launched a night attack yesterday against American paratroopers in the central highlands and were beaten off. The Communists left four dead behind. The small-scale Viet Cong attack was the latest outbreak of fighting near An Khe where units of the United States Army's 101st Airborne Brigade clashed Saturday with a strong enemy force.

After being pinned down for 24 hours, the United States troops started moving forward again yesterday in the rough terrain.

Together with Vietnamese forces they continued the sweep early today through the valley and foothills that were bombed extensively during the weekend by Air Force planes.

### No Casualties Reported

No United States casualties were reported in last night's action. The Viet Cong lost three killed and one wounded, but the wounded man died soon afterward, sources said.

The 327th Battalion of the 101st Brigade was the unit attacked.

The airborne troops came under heavy fire Saturday when they first landed in the area by helicopter. Only about a company and a half -- perhaps 200 men -- could land. Viet Cong fire drove off the others until late in the day.

### Aircraft Support

By daybreak, however, the rest of the force was moved in and United States jet and propeller driven planes and artillery blasted fleeing guerrillas at midafternoon.

In Saigon, United States military authorities said 30 Viet Cong had been killed.

Later reports from military officers near An Khe, however, said American troops had counted 46 Viet Cong killed and 5 wounded prisoners. They said these figures did not include Viet Cong believed killed in heavy air and artillery attacks. United States casualties were described as moderate.

The battle began with an airborne operation 17 miles northeast of An Khe, where the newly arrived 1st Cavalry Division has set up its base camp. The operation is part of a United States drive to bolster its strength and control in the strategic central highlands.

An important supply road runs through the area from coastal Qui Nhon to Pleiku, 80 miles inland, where there is a United States air base, and Kontum, another air base about 30 miles north of Pleiku.

An Khe is about 250 miles northeast of Saigon.

### Flares Are Used

The battle centered on An Ninh, where the Viet Cong were dug in along a river and held a hill controlling the area. Heavy guerrilla ground fire kept fresh men and supplies out of the area most of Saturday.

Overnight, support aircraft using flares kept the Viet Cong from launching an assault in the dark to overrun the outnumbered airborne troops.

Military officials on the scene estimated that there were 600 Viet Cong in the area. The airborne forces engaged in sporadic fighting as they moved up toward the Viet Cong positions yesterday, seizing large amounts of equipment and supplies, including heavy machine guns and mortars.

A military spokesman in the battle area reported that the 1st Cavalry Division sent 98 helicopters into the fight. This was the first time the "flying horsemen" had gotten into the war since they began to land at Qui Nhon last weekend.

*Editor's note. This story continues with a roundup of the actions of other units, air actions and other general Vietnam news.*

# The New York Times

30 July 1965

Airborne Brigade Arrives  
By Seymour Topping  
Special to The New York Times

CAMRANH BAY, South Vietnam, July 29 -- A brigade task force of the United States 101st Airborne Division debarked at this port today for combat duty against the Communist Vietcong.

About 3,900 paratroopers, cheering and joking, started ashore a 2:33 P.M. from the General Leroy Eltinge after a twenty-day voyage from Oakland, Calif. Two hours later, the detachment made a demonstration parachute jump with combat equipment.

Col. James Timothy, commander of the brigade, said its basic mission would be that of a "reserve reaction force capable of air mobile or parachute assault anywhere in the theater."

The brigade is equipped with 105mm howitzers but is lighter and more mobile than the 173rd Airborne Brigade which has been in action against the Vietcong. It will be based at Camranh Bay, which is being transformed into a major logistical center. Camranh Bay is 180 miles northeast of Saigon.

The landing of the brigade of the famed Screaming Eagle Division brought the total of American servicemen in South Vietnam to about 79,000. President Johnson announced yesterday that the number would soon be increased to 125,000 with the arrival of the First Cavalry Division (airmobile) now at Fort Benning, Ga., as well as other units.

In a scene reminiscent of World War II, the gray-hulled General Leroy Eltinge slipped into brilliant turquoise Camranh Bay with its decks jammed with young American soldiers some of them hanging over the rails. They shouted at soldiers on duty on the narrow pier "Take a break! We're here!"

The paratroopers moved from the pier, which is situated on a 10 mile-long peninsula jutting into the harbor, into landing craft for the trip to the mainland.

From a helicopter circling overhead two distinguished former commanders of the 101st Division observed the brigade going into assembly areas preparatory to setting up a defense perimeter around the Camranh Bay port area. They were Maxwell D. Taylor, the retiring United States Ambassador, who commanded the division during World War II, and Gen. William C. Westmoreland, who led it at Fort Campbell, Ky., from 1959 to 1961.

In a ceremony at a Special Forces camp 10 miles northwest of Camranh Bay, Ambassador Taylor told selected members of the brigade that they would find the Vietcong "an enemy who is shrewd, well-trained and with the guile of the American Indian during his best days," he said.

"If the time comes in battle when the Vietcong are pressing on you from all sides, remember what was said at Bastogne, when the division was surrounded by nine German divisions: 'They got us surrounded, the poor bastards.'"



**AIRBORNE**

## SCRAPBOOK

TO 1 FEBRUARY 1966

for fighting men too busy to keep their own!

### -101st "SCREAMING EAGLES" PREY ON VIET CONG-

*The New York Times*



*The Washington Post*



Forces in Viet-Nam Will Total 125,000

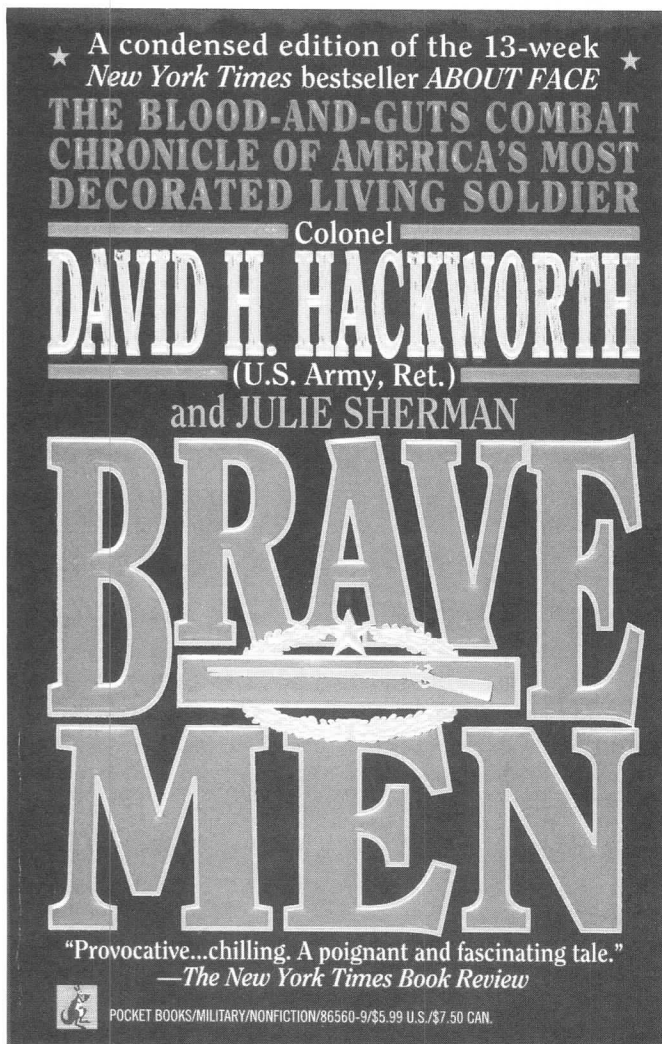
*THE SUN*



AN KHE NIGHT ATTACK OF VIET CONG BEATEN BY U.S. PARATROOPERS

# BOOK REVIEW

By Ivan Worrell



David Hackworth has written a monumental autobiography. **BRAVE MEN** is a very well written book about an extremely interesting soldier, Dave Hackworth, who tells it like he saw it in the times between wars and in Korea and Vietnam.

His story of a 25 year career in the United States Army tells of training, command and staff assignments, and his relationships with commanders, contemporaries, and subordinates from Trieste in 1946 to Korea, to Germany, assignments in the United States and Vietnam to the final tour in 1971. He tells the story of a dedicated and dynamic unit leader, a very competent staff officer and a fearless and inspiring combat leader. My descriptions of Dave Hackworth do not come from the book. They are my impressions based on my service in the First Brigade (Separate) 101st Airborne Division in 1966 - 1967.

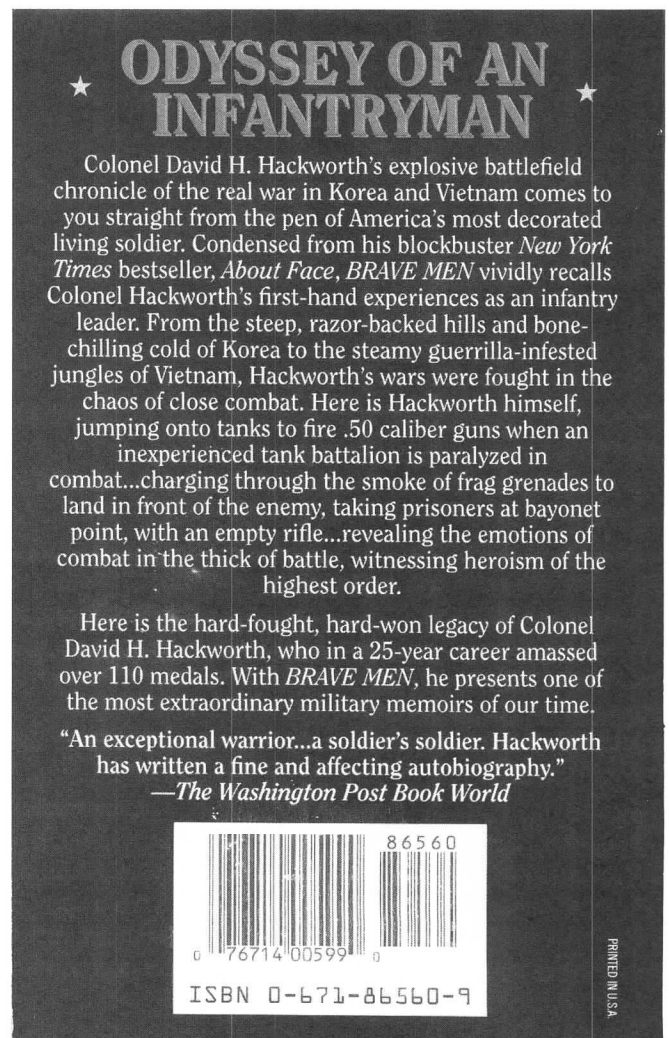
Beginning on page 178 and ending on page 268 is his story of service in the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. **ABOUT FACE**, *The Odyssey of an American Warrior*, (the

book from which **BRAVE MEN** was condensed) contained 119 full size pages about the 1st Brigade. He served as 1st Brigade S-3, 1/327th Executive Officer, 1st Brigade Executive Officer and Battalion Commander of the 1/327th.

**BRAVE MEN** is hard to put down, after you start reading it, because the story of Dave Hackworth is interesting from the start through the finish of his service in the U. S. Army. He prepared himself through training and schooling to meet the requirements of advancement. Use of his native intelligence and determination kept him ready to advance to the next level of command and to perform well in staff assignments.

I know that, as a commander, he believed in taking care of the soldiers for whom he was responsible. He gave recognition to those he believed were the key to success in battle. He was not bashful about letting you know how good he was while giving full credit to those who performed with valor and with dedicated determination to accomplishing the mission.

**BRAVE MEN** is now available at most good book stores.





**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

THE DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR  
P.O. BOX 675  
SWEETWATER, TN 37874-0675

37874-0675

**MESSAGES FROM THE  
101stabndiv1stbrigade.com  
WEB SITE GUEST BOOK**

DR. FRANK FAULKNER  
irish@map.com

USNS Eltinge to Sept. 67 with Brigade HHQ-PIO and C/2/502nd. Discharged in Saigon in April 66 and worked for UPI. Ended up working in 40 nations and always credited Screaming Eagles with giving me the stamina and survival instincts to make it. Thanks, Ivan, for doing this. You were a good man as a major, and pleased you are still at it. I will dig out my photos, scan them to JPGs and get them to you. Also have a few original copies of Diplomat & Warrior kicking around, the first five or so issues from, I think, December 1965 start of unit publication.

JOHN MACARI, NEW YORK  
lmacari@mindspring.com

I'm looking for information or anyone who served with this unit: the 2nd battalion 327th Infantry 1st Brigade 101st Airborne, Vietnam 1966-1968. I was with the Hawk RECON.

DON KORMAN, CLEVELAND, OH  
2/320 & 1/327 65-66  
clevekorman@worldnet.att.net

Got your site address from Vol 1 No 2 of Diplomat and Warrior. I was one of the individuals that Tim Swain showered his generosity upon and received a complimentary subscription thanks to him. Went over on the Advance, Advance party (with Johnny Howard 1/327, Hess 2/327, and Phil Mock 2/502) spent three (3) weeks each with 173rd Abn Bde at Bien Hoa and with 2/4 Marines at Chu Lai - prior to the Brigade's landing at Cam Ranh Bay. Spent over a year as the Fire Support Coordinator (ARTY LNO with 1/327) then spent several months at various positions in HHC 1/327 prior to returning to the states. Keep the Eagle Screaming.

BOB SHUTA, PA  
amwar101st@aol.com

I like it! Served with C Btry 2/320 Arty, 1st Brigade, 67-68. Would like to hear from anybody who was close to the Battery the same time. We supported 2/502 and 327 plus others. Fire bases I remember Bastogne, Veghel, Eagles Nest, Bertchesgarten and others whose names are unknown. WELCOME HOME AIRBORNE BROTHERS.

PATRICK J. HONEA, ALASKA  
pjhonea@mosquitonet.com

I served in the 2/17 Cav A Troop Aug 66 to Aug 67. I am looking for a yearbook titled Vietnam Odyssey. Anybody know of it? TX RA 14924272.

MICHAEL A. WILLEY, WATERFORD, MI  
photog101@ameritech.net

A VET HELPING VETS. I served with the 1st Bde 101st Abn Div (Separate) from Sept 1966 to October 1967. I started with HHC 1/327 (Mortar Plt), then transferred to Bde Hqs (PIO) for the remainder of my tour. I would like to hear from anyone with whom I served, while I was there. Welcome Home to all Vietnam Vets.

GARY CATTEY, CASA GRANDE, ARIZONA  
sarge@cybertrails.com

I was with A Co 1/327 101st from Dec 65-Nov 66. I would like to talk with anyone who was in 2d Plt ABU was our Company Mascot. Saw some bad stuff Dak-To June 66. Please contact me. Sarge

KEN MILLSAUGH, MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA  
Kenmil@concentric.net

July 1967-Jun 1968. HHC 320th Arty Survey, RTO, Foxtrot Charlie Center.

JOHN YEAGER, JR., WEST VIRGINIA  
jyeager@weir.net.

I'm a subscriber. I hope the magazine can be a historical document for troopers who served in Vietnam even more so than "Static Line" is for the WWII generation. I wish every WWII trooper had sat down and told his story to someone, or recorded it, or wrote it. Let's make sure that we leave a complete record. Also, I have it on good authority that Bill Singley wants his old job back with you, Editor.



JOE (DAVE) HENSLEE, OREGON  
dhens@internetcds.com

Was with 2nd Platoon A 2/327 1967. Great to see a site for the 1st Brigade. Was a little upset when the Division went Air Mobile.

-----  
PETER S. GRIFFIN, MADISON, N.C.  
strike@vnet.net

I served with 2/502nd Infantry from 10/64 - 7/66. Went to Vietnam onboard the "ELTINGE," served the full tour.

-----  
JOHN W. WILSON, TOPEKA, KANSAS (PREVIOUSLY FROM DETROIT, MICHIGAN).

WilsoJW@NORTAMERICA.Stortek.com

Trying to locate a former Screaming Eagle by the name of John Howard. He was originally from Newport News, Virginia. We served together in Vietnam from January 1967 to September 1968. We served with B Co., 502nd INF 1st Brigade. If you or anybody has any knowledge of John's whereabouts I would like to get in touch with him.

Thanks for any help you can give me.

*Editor's note: The addresses I have are from recent lists. All subscribers are in the magazine. If you have particular names of those you wish to contact send them to me and I will check my data base for them and send you addresses if they are recorded. Check the John Howard on page 28 and Page 14 of the October 1998 edition.*

-----  
NATHANIEL LEE, GEORGIA  
nat7083@aol.com

Served March 1966/1967 forward Combat Support Co B Support Battalion 101st Airborne.

-----  
JOE LADANYI JR., GEORGIA  
jomo46@hotmail.com

Served with 2nd 502nd 1st BDE July 65-June 66. You have the start of a good thing here. Keep it up. Thanks. Met a good friend and fellow warrior here. Would like contact with a lot more.

-----  
BART WELTER, SHREVEPORT, LA  
BARTMAN4@WEBTV.NET

Ivan, great job!! My subscription check is on the way. Served with E Co 1ST ABG 327TH INF and HHC 2/327 INF (MED PLT) at FC & went to RVN (EL TINGE) as

SP5 W/2/327 left May 66 RET as MSG 1980.

DAVID S. COOK,  
327 ABN INF ASS'N (VN), C 1/327 '65-'66  
cookdsmg@mint.net

Above the Rest & No Slack!! Thanks Ivan for your work in rallying the troopers of the 1st Bde. I would like all 1st and 2nd 327 Nam vets contact me about joining the 327 Abn Inf Ass'n (Vn). There are no dues (you paid 'em), no officers, meetings or politics. The purpose is to help 327 Nam vets locate their comrades though my monthly column in "The Static Line."

-----  
THOMAS LEONARD, UPPER DARBY, PA  
TROOP A MG @AOL.COM

Former member of Co B SPT BN from Jul 67-Jun 68. When division arrived we became Co C 801st MAINT. Right now I am the fulltime readiness NCO for Troop A 1/104th Cavalry of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in Philadelphia, PA.

-----  
GEORGE BRILL, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
gdbrill@earthlink.net

I was with the 1st Brigade in Phan Rang from Jan '66 to Jan '67. Great Site.

END OF GUEST BOOK, WEB SITE MESSAGES

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**FROM THE U. S. POST OFFICE**

CPT(R) CHARLES J. "JIM" APODACA, B 2/502 5/66-4/67, wrote, "I finally got around to sending off my subscription. I'm also signing up Lou McDonald and Ed Lundquist."

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PETER S. GRIFFIN, A 2/502 9/64-6/66, 800 Mineral Springs Road Madison, N.C. 27025 phone 336-427-5567 wrote,  
"29 October 1998

Dear Ivan,

I am writing to you to suggest a reunion site for the 1st Brigade Separate's next reunion which will be held in the year 2000. It has occurred to me that Memorial Day weekend in said year would be an excellent time to hold this function in Washington, D.C. As you are aware, our National Association observes this holiday as an official

function, hosted by the National Capitol Area Chapter each year. They have done an outstanding job for many years and never fail to make everyone feel at home. They are an outstanding group of veterans, many of which are 1st Brigaders. Also, our nation's Capitol has many attractions and points of interest for all to enjoy. Most importantly it is home to Arlington National Cemetery, our beautiful 101st Airborne Division Monument and the Vietnam Memorial, aka "The Wall." All of which touch the very soul of our unit and the hearts of our veterans and active duty soldiers. I don't believe there is a more fitting place to observe Memorial Day and to welcome in the new millennium. Just to walk on the soil of these sacred sites invites a reverence that cannot be felt in any other location.

I believe this time and place would be most fitting for the 1st Brigade Separate to observe, enmasse, this beautiful tribute to our division, our fallen heroes, veterans and soldiers. It is my hope that you would join me in promoting this proposal. Should you concur, anything you can do to present this idea to the appropriate reunion officials and membership would be most appreciated. Usually, during this observance, the main theme is presented at the Division Monument at Arlington Cemetery, ie; wreath laying, key note speakers, etc. This time, if approved, it would be nice to have a ceremony, with much protocol, pomp and circumstance at the "The Wall." For if this is sanctioned and approved, and the members of the 1st Brigade attend in record numbers, as never before; it would be a most proud and beautiful thing to see the colors of the "THE ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE," reflecting amongst the names of our fallen brothers. It is my sincere hope that this proposal will be accepted by all interested parties and that plans soon will be implemented to make this a most memorable, reverent and joyous occasion. If presented early enough, I don't believe there would be any problem in obtaining the proper government permits to allow our access and ceremonies to be held at these most hallowed monuments."

-----

JIM GOULD, HQ 2/502 VN 66-67, wrote, "Ivan, Damn good magazine. Keep up the good work. I enjoy reading the section 'Letters to the Editor.' This section will keep the guys active. Do not stop this section. I will, one of these days send you some material. I'm redoing my condo and everything is a mess and do not know which box the material is in. Good job."

-----

JIM COX, B 1/327 VN 5/67-5/68, wrote, "Ivan! Good job on the magazine. Keep up the good work. Here is one of my awards with B 1/327 Aug 67. Hope you can use it."

HEADQUARTERS  
1ST BRIGADE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION  
APO San Francisco 96347

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 1947

25 September 1967

AWARD OF THE ARMY  
COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR HEROISM

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

COX, JAMES T. RA19889292 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS  
E3 USA

Co B, 1st Bn, 327th Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device  
Date action: 15 August 1967

Theater: Republic of Viet Nam

Reason: For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Private Cox distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 15 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. While on a search and destroy mission, Private Cox's platoon became heavily engaged with an enemy force of undetermined size firing automatic weapons. With darkness approaching the platoon withdrew under enemy fire leaving one of their comrades in the battle area. After the platoon had reached a more defensible location for the night, Private Cox immediately volunteered to return to the battle area and retrieve his fallen comrade. Private Cox, accompanied by three other troopers, maneuvered across three hundred meters of open rice paddies and back again with their comrade, completely oblivious of the torrid hail of enemy fire being directed at them. Private Cox's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the Secretary of the Army under the provisions of AR 672-5-1.

-----

ROBERT GARCIA, B 320th Arty 62-66, P.O. Box 201, Rapid River, MI 49878, 906-446-3591; wrote, "Dear Ivan: My good buddy, Tom Campbell from Akron, Ohio, and I left the States on "Old LeRoy." We were both with B Battery 320th, then attached to infantry units as RTOs with FO teams.

Tom has had some very serious health problems over the last year, but I just talked to him and they said his recent M.R.I. looked good. I know that any cards or letters sent to him would be appreciated. Tom is also a prolific writer, with an excellent memory. I'm sure he has many stories to tell.

Enclosed you will find \$15.00 for a subscription, plus \$13.00 to cover the costs of the July and October back issues. Please send them to Tom at: Tom Campbell, 448 Allenford Street, Akron OH 44314.

I don't know Tom's dates of service, but he was in both the 82nd and 101st.

My dates of service were 1962 to late 1965. Thank you."

-----

TOM MCMULLAN, JR., B 2/502 VN 7/65-5/66, 1561 Hilltop Rd., Downingtown, PA 19335 wrote, " Could you give me the last addresses of the guys I served with in Nam? Or tell me where or how to get them. I went over on the ship in July till May 66. The one address I really would like is Joe Meeke or Meek from California - killed near the end of 65."

*Editor's Note: The Diplomat and Warrior files contain correct addresses only.*

-----

BILLY C. COLWELL, SR., A 326 ENGR 4/66-4/67, wrote when subscribing to The Diplomat and Warrior, "Hi, Ivan, Sorry I haven't got this to you sooner. I'm looking forward to seeing you soon and to see your last addition of the D&W."

-----

TERRY GUZMAN ACHA, A 2/502 VN 3/10/66-3/18/67, wrote, "Have received Vol I, Number I and II. Thanks very much. I would like to order subscriptions for the following names and addresses of my old squad members. William "Wild Bill" Miller, 3 Plt Co A 2/502nd 1st BDE 101st ABN Div, 9795 Platt Road, Milan, MI 48160; In Country 4/10/66-4/10/67, Army Commendation with "V" 5/11/66. Miller's name is on page 29 of Vol I Number I under no unit listed - mail returned and Jack Browder, 7023 Mallard Way, Plainfield, IN 46168; 3rd Plt Co A 2/502nd 1st Bde 101st ABN Div, 4/4/66-4/4/67, Purple Heart 5/11/66. 10/15/66 Bill got his ARCOM with "V" at Bu Gia Map in the same action where I received mine and Jack received the piece of shrapnel he still carries and a Purple Heart. We lost among others Trooper Traynor and LT Otis, Platoon CO. This action is written about by S.L.A. Marshall in the book "Battles in the Monsoon." Anyway I am enclosing a check for \$35.00 to cover two subscriptions and any extra postage, etc. Please begin these subscriptions with Vol I Number I as you did mine."

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT  
THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL  
W/ "V" DEVICE  
IS PRESENTED TO

SPECIALIST FIVE TERRY GUZMAN ACHA  
UNITED STATES ARMY

For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Specialist Four Guzman Acha distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 11 May 1966, near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. His company was proceeding on a mission to destroy a Viet Cong base camp when it encountered a murderous volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire. Specialist Guzman Acha, with total disregard for his personal safety, singlehandedly kept a well-fortified enemy machine gun position pinned down. Simultaneously, he continued to perform his duties as point squad RTO with full capability until his entire platoon was able to form an assault line to relieve him. Specialist Guzman Acha's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

-----

EDWARD R. REDDIN, 2/502 A VN 6/66-6/67, 24 Willoughby Street, Somerville, MA 02143, wrote: "Dear Sir: Just dropping a line to let you know of a mini-reunion that took place in early Oct. My Company Commander (A Co 2/502 101st Abn. Div.) Mike McFadden (and Wife Shelly) and I met at my home. Spent several hours reminiscing "OLD TIMES," going through old photos and exchanging info, etc. After 32 years I felt beside myself. In the Company CP picture, he is kneeling and I am second from the left standing. I was his Company and then Battalion RTO. The other photos are by Platoon. Photos are from mid to late 1966. Color photo was taken at my home in Oct. 1998. As you can see we both still have our Airborne Haircuts. Maybe you can publish these pic's at the appropriate time. If you are interested I have lots of photos of different guys from the company in my possession from MY tour in Vietnam 6/66 to 6/67. I will be awaiting a reply and Airborne All The Way."



Men of Headquarters A (Attack) Company, 2nd Battalion 502nd Infantry. Kneeling (Front Center) is Company Commander, Captain Mike McFadden. Edward R. Reddin is second from the left standing.



## ***BEEN THERE, DONE THAT***

The soft moonlight  
Spread across the summer calm.  
His excited, serious voice  
Was her heart's soothing balm.

Each second was memorized  
For when she could no longer hold his hand;  
Her comfort in the void,  
While he was in that foreign land.

An Oriental place  
With the funny sounding names  
Became a part of her, too.  
As t.v. aired the war games.

Hungrily, she devoured  
His each and every letter  
Looking for clues to answer  
Whether he felt worse or better.

The letters stopped  
During that time called Tet;  
The evening news tore her heart,  
Hoping his worst Fate had not been met.

Finally the day came;  
The silver bird brought him home –  
The end of her nightmares,  
Tears, and fears of the unknown.

There he calmly stood –  
Decorated, proud, and sure –  
Promising he'd never leave  
For another duty's tour.

She needed to hear his tales  
Of what all he'd seen;  
To walk with him through jungles  
Of emotions still so raw and keen.

Through tears and laughter,  
She learned where her heart had been.  
Deep inside, she knew her Eagle  
To be a man among men.

Yes, she's a veteran,  
Different, but no less than he,  
Through patrols, ambushes, heartaches,  
On opposite side of the sea.

*MARY GRAMELSPACHER*

CATHY MCMAHON, 39772 Rustic Glen Dr., Temecula, CA 92591, subscribed to The Diplomat and Warrior for her sons Sean and Matt McMahon in memory of their father, John R. McMahon, 1/327 65-67, who died on November 18, 1998, at age 52 of cancer that they suspect to be a result of Vietnam.

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WILLIAM KELLER, 2/327 HQ VN 2/64-7/66, 8032 East Hayne Street, Tucson, AZ, 85710-4213; phone 520-886-8004, E-Mail: BKe2O76635@aol.com, wrote "On a recent trip across the county, I visited a Vietnam Memorial. I would like to ask each organization to inform your members of this great memorial. Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located at Angel Fire, New Mexico (approx. 35 miles east of Taos, NM). They are attempting to locate a 8x10 inch photo of every one that was KIA or listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, DC. For more information about the Memorial please write to: Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Attn: Dr. Victor Westphall, P. O. Box 608, Angel Fire, NM 87710. Supporting this great effort can only benefit all of those who served. Respectfully, Bill Keller"

-----

BG(R) JOHN HOWARD, 1/327 A VN 1/65-6/66, 2811 Spring Garden St., Leavenworth, KS 66048, wrote, "Dear Ivan, I really enjoyed the first issue of "Diplomat & Warrior" that was recently received. I saw TIM SWAIN's letter and his quest to locate MARCUS HANSEN (of TF Hansen fame, Fall 1965). Colonel Hansen died a few years ago. Don't know date or where but will attempt to find out. Marcus Hansen served as Sr. Advisor to the Vietnamese Airborne Division 1972-73 during the hard fighting associated with the Easter Offensive. He retired in 1980 after 30 years of service. I've also included COLONEL ART TAYLOR's obituary. (Died March 21, 1994) Art went to RVN with the 1st Brigade - serving as BDE S1. He later went down to 2-502 Inf as the Gunfighter's S3. He too served with the Vietnamese Airborne Division as a LTC (Sr. Advisor to 1st Brigade) in 1972. I served with Colonel Hansen and COL Taylor in the RVN in 1972 - 73. They were both good soldiers. Keep up the good work with the publication. I look forward to the next issue."

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### **E-MAIL MESSAGES RECEIVED**

An E-mail message was received from JAMES W. JOHNSON (AKA Johnny "Airborne" Rock) of 2830 E. Roan St., Ontario, CA 91761-9184; "Hi, all the way. I was reading THE SCREAMING EAGLE and came across The

Diplomat and Warrior, and I must say, "that is all the way." I'll be joining which I hope to contact some of my comrades from TIGER FORCE 1/327. You were there when I was there. I'm sure that you knew my Plt leader of TF, whom I was with during Operation "Van Bern" at My Canh on February 7, 1966, when we all got hit heavy with lots of wounded Tigers. Our medic, O'Connley told me the next when visiting, that LT Gardner was KIA! I learned of his MOH while in Valley Forge Army Hospital later that year. COL Hackworth, Foley and the Band of Brothers conventioned in Reno, NV in 1991. Take care and enjoy civilian life. I suffered a stroke Nov. 3, 1995, but other than that, I'm O.K. Before I close, what's the going price for a half page advertisement rate?"

*Editor's Note: (Ad rate info was sent)*

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DAVE CRISLER, wrote, "I received the July and October issues yesterday, and haven't put them down since. Good reading, plus a lot of memories, both good and bad. The good represents what we were in Viet Nam for, and what we represented...A strong country willing to give our all. The bad is we lost many of our friends. My closest friend was matter a fact my second gunner on an M-60 crew. Both him and I ate together, and at times argued, but most importantly we talked to each other. Each of us had visions of grandeur, about when we returned home. Him speaking about his wife and child. I was single at the time so I didn't have any comparison to his thoughts. While I kept myself low key and quite I also began to think about his future, and wished I had the same thing to look forward to as he did. It makes no difference that Ralph was black, and I am white. He lost his life while in Viet Nam, but his memory and friendship will always be with me. Thanks. Dave Crisler, E-mail D4355@aol.com."

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WILLIAM J. FOWLER, JR., JethroeJr@aol.com, wrote, "I received your request for subscribing to "The Diplomat And Warrior" today and will be sending my check for \$15.00 tomorrow or Friday.

I first joined the 101st after jump school in Oct 64, B 1/506, 1SG Grady Trainor and CPT Evans. My Plt Sgt was SFC Carter. In Feb 65 a bunch of us were transferred to C 1/327, under CPT (Now COL (Ret)), Allen Degraw, and, of course, SFC (Actg 1SG), 1SG Russ McDonald (Now Ret CSM). I was only 17 when I came in and 18 when we shipped to Vietnam. My Plt Sgt was SFC Catus, I was on the Eltinge and I remember a Cardinal from the Catholic Church addressed us before we left Ft Campbell (6th or 7th of July). I was wounded in Tuy Hoa 660304. In Feb of 67, I returned to RVN as a Pathfinder with the

269th Aviation Bn in CuChi. I found out that my Plt Ldr on my first tour was the Commander of A 1/327 up north, so I requested a transfer to that Company..... My current commander then was an egotistical major, named Dick Roach. (Kinda like the XO of 1/327 in 65-66, Major Hackworth) ... anyway, I was soon reunited with my old Plt Leader, now Cdr, CPT Pete Mitchell .... I was an E5, and he made me a squad leader of the 2nd Platoon, I was again wounded in Quang Tri. I returned to RVN in 1969 as a leg in Det D, 1st MI Bn (ARS) in Nha Trang.

I returned stateside in 1970 to Ft Huachuca, AZ .... I helped the 17L (MohawkSchool), build a Swing Landing Trainer and suspended harness and wrote the lesson plans to teach the Mohawk Pilots to control their chutes after ejection and execute a proper landing. In Nov 70, I returned to RVN and received a great assignment to MACVSOG, Op 32, CCC, Kontum, under LTC Gaylen Radke, Team Kentucky, under CSM Melvin, returning stateside to Ft Bragg in 72. Also did some work with MSG Ed Duluca who was killed in Oct 71 in Laos.

Stayed at Bragg until I was medically retired in 1984 after the Grenada (Urgent Fury). I was the 1SG of Co A, 519th MI Bn (Abn) and made the SGM List in early 84 but was injured on Team Spirit 84..... so, I retired as a 1SG but I made the list ... if I could have hung on for another 10 months, I would have made it.

I'm sure you know Russ McDonald, well he saw me at a reunion in 1995 (30 yr) and said he was the last person he would have expected to stay in, let alone be a 1SG, we stay intouch alot .... guess you know about C 1/327 annual reunion in Virginia every year at Ken Ihle's Place. David Cook writes about it in the Paraglide.

I have a lifetime Membership with the 101st Abn Assoc. You signed it. Russ talks highly about you! I hope you will get with Russ soon and get directions, I look forward to meeting you soon. Warmest Regards, William J. Fowler Jr., 1SG, USA (Ret), (JethroeJr@aol.com), PS: 'Above the Rest'."



**Deadline**  
**for material to be published**  
**in the April issue of**  
**THE DIPLOMAT & WARRIOR**  
**is**  
**March 1st, 1999.**

The following article was sent by COL(R) John P. Lawton, A 2/327, 66-10/67, of Vienna, Virginia.

## Brigade Personalities

*Col. Chester B. McCoid*  
*The Deputy Brigade Commander - 1965-66*

In late 1965 or 66, I was coming to the end of a tour of duty as an assistant battalion advisor in the 41st (Vietnamese) Ranger Battalion. I wanted to serve with a US unit. One of the units in country with a great reputation, was the Separate Brigade 101st

Tuy Hoa, the C-130 ramp was lowered. Outside was a group of soldiers ready to board the aircraft for the return flight. Amongst this crowd were soldiers from the Brigade Lurps, obvious from the tiger-camouflaged uniforms.

Also very obvious to a couple of us, especially Col. McCoid, were a couple of soldiers with ear rings in their ears. Col. McCoid walked directly to them and ordered them to assemble on him. As noted above, I did not know Col. McCoid or what his call sign was, but that little talk (I am not sure talk is a good word), helped convince as to why Col. McCoid's call sign was "Stingy Fangs." The essence of what he said was that they had 30 seconds



*Colonel Chester B. McCoid (Left Center)*

*If you can identify the Sergeant Major (Right Center) or others in the photo please contact the Editor.*

Airborne. I worked my way to Phan Rang (the rear base of the Brigade), only to find out that to get in the Brigade, you had to be interviewed and accepted by the Brigade Commander. I wrangled a seat on a C-130 flying to Tuy Hoa (North), where the brigade headquarters and its commander, Gen. Pearson were located.

### *Brigade LURPS Incident*

On board the C-130 was a Col. Chester B. McCoid. I later found out he was the Deputy Brigade Commander with a call sign of "Stingy Fangs." Col. McCoid didn't seem too interested in talking to a young captain (who thought he was God's gift to the Army, ladies and Vietnam), so I shot the bull with a couple of other young officers returning from R & R. When we landed at

to get those blanky-blank ear rings out of their ears or he was personally going to rip them out with his bare hands. The ear rings came out quickly. My thoughts at the time - my God, this is a tough outfit!

For those of you who were not fortunate enough to serve with Col. McCoid, I remember him as a big man - looked like John Wayne. He was the epitome of all that was/is Airborne - a professional soldier with high standards and a deep sense of honor and integrity. He was obviously at ease with himself and loved what he was doing. He was the perfect compliment to Gen. Pearson. Col. McCoid taught us about loyalty, etc.

### *The King is Dead*

During the change over of Brigade Commanders, from Gen. Pearson to Gen. Matheson, the brigade was on a stand-down in Phan Rang. One evening the officers were told to assemble at the club. Some of us didn't have to be told to come to the club as we already had a heavy investment in the bar and its contents. Gen. Pearson was gone and we were awaiting the arrival of Gen. Matt (as we called him amongst ourselves - certainly not to him). Col. McCoid stated that there was an old English saying, the King is dead, long live the King. For those of you who know me, I ain't the swiftest guy around and if you add to that a couple of dozen shots of bourbon chased-down by beer - well, I didn't really understand all this King is dead, long live the King stuff.

Did you ever think when someone was lecturing, that he was looking just at you? At the time, I thought for sure Col. McCoid knew I was half lit and needed a more detailed explanation. He expounded on this little King is dead, long live the next guy gem, telling us that when Gen. Matheson showed up, we shouldn't tell him this is the way Gen. Pearson did it, etc. (bad form as the British are wont to say). We were told to just leave Gen. Pearson's name out of things (he was gone) and if that really bothered us, then come and see him. He pointed out he meant no disrespect to Gen. Pearson, but he was gone. Col. McCoid stated he had a deep admiration for Gen. Pearson and what he had done for the brigade, but Gen. Matheson was now in Command - the King was dead, long live the King. Beer and bourbon or not, I understood and remembered that lesson throughout my career and tried to adhere to it.

### *Jumping in Kontum*

Do you remember when the brigade had to get qualified (or re-certified) for the combat jump part of Operation Junction City, that that other brigade (the 173rd) got to execute? At the time I was working in the Brigade Operations (S-3) shop and was able to run out and get in an extra jump or two with the other units in the brigade as we all re-qualified.

A quick aside. I remember Ray Largen, the Brigade Signal Officer begging General Matheson to make an exception to his rule - that everything that we used had to be jumped. Ray had two sets of a particular long range communications system that continually went down. These were critical systems mounted in a 1/4 ton trailer that provided our link to higher headquarters. When one went down, he used the other until he could repair the first. Gen. Matt - "No exceptions!" Well guess what? There was a partial opening on the 1/4 ton trailer parachute and the radio was badly damaged. For the next month or so, Ray was constantly getting his ass chewed, as we had lousy commo with higher. That's one good reason why I am not a signal officer.

In one of those jumps, after a hard night of drinking, I ended up sitting next to Col. McCoid on a C-130, next to one of the doors. If you'll remember, Kontum was in the mountains and the valley we flew up had all sorts of heat vectors coming up; the plane was bouncing all over the place. The night before I had a couple of drinks. All this did not make for a happy trooper and at some point, Col. McCoid turned to me and asked what was the matter? I told him I was going to throw up. At the top of his voice so that he was heard over the engine noise he orders - "Lawton, you are not going to disgrace the god-damned officer corps in front of this

enlisted swine; stand up and hook up." He turned to the loadmaster and said open the door - which the loadmaster gladly did, not wanting to clean up after a sick trooper. Mind you, the red light was not even on, much less a green light. The troops were loving the show. Next he told me to stand in the door. By this time we had a red light. I'll never be able to prove it, but I swear he tapped me out before we had a green light.

I was so happy to be out of the plane and away from Col. McCoid, but still a little sick and excited, that I forgot to release my lowering line. I ended up landing in one of those 4 or 5 foot wide ditches with water that separates/feeds the rice paddies with my equipment and weapon still attached. I was pushing myself up with my hands to keep my head above water, when I noticed Col. McCoid standing on one of the dikes. He had a half-smile on his face as I tried to extend one hand to try and get him to help me up; he just said, "Lawton, you got yourself there, now get yourself out; the assembly area is over that way."

Later on in the assembly area there were a bunch of young officers standing around a very large ant hill. Col. McCoid came over and with a stick started taking apart the ant hill while lecturing us on ants, the significance of the different levels in the ant hill, differences between different ants, the queen ant, etc. He was using all sorts of fancy terms to describe all this. We were fascinated, as the word was that Col. McCoid had come up through the ranks and only had a high school equivalency certificate. Somehow all this caused one of the officers to ask Col. McCoid if he had any hobbies, to which he responded - "yes, I collect railroad engine plates." Damn! What the hell kind of a hobby is that? Someone then asked, why do you do that? His answer - "It pisses off my wife; I've got these big damn plates all over the house and it drives her crazy. Makes for a good marriage."

### *Chewing Captain Maglin's Ass*

I was on duty one day in the TOC when I got a 'hot' question that only Captain Maglin could answer. I looked out the flap of the S-3 tent and saw Captain Maglin and Col. McCoid talking. Hell, I could get a quick answer. As I stepped through the door and got closer to them, I realized that Col. McCoid and Captain Maglin were having what can best be described as a one way conversation - Dick was getting his ass chewed. But the question was 'hot' and needed an immediate answer, so being the suave Captain that I was, I asked "excuse me Sir, may I interrupt?" "Get the hell out of here and do not interrupt me!" So much for hot questions and interrupting one way conversations.

### *Col. McCoid*

I am not sure what kind of a picture I painted about Col. McCoid. He was a wonderful officer. He was tough and had high standards. He could pull you aside and say "Lawton, I don't think this is correct" or give you something to do and not over-supervise its accomplishment. He was a teacher and leader and a man we all deeply admired. He is one of those soldiers who made an impact on all of us; who taught us about loyalty - by personal example. He didn't question orders - he made them work. He did not bitch and moan - he was always positive. A great leader; a great Colonel who had a profound effect not just on the brigade, but on numerous soldiers who were lucky enough to serve with him.





## VIETNAM REPORT

VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER NQUYON COA KY visited the 1st Bde at Dak To to present medals to 42 of the troopers, including Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson who received the National Order, 5th Class, the highest Vietnamese medal given, and the Gallantry Cross with Palm which was also awarded to Capt. Bill Carpenter of Co C, 2/502d Infantry.



Premier Ky visited several cities of action with the 1st Bde area and is shown talking with several North Vietnamese Army prisoners as Gen. Pearson looks on.

The "Always First" Bde was visited by 10 members of Congress for a briefing on their operations and a report on Operation Hawthorne, the most recent Brigade engagement which claimed more than 1000 North Vietnamese Regulars. Another visitor was John Wayne, who left the men a few fond memories, and Brig. Gen. S. L. A. Marshal who has been in Vietnam for two months writing a new book which will include the action of the 1st Bde. In the town of Tan Canh, a solidarity day was held by the 42d ARVN Inf Regt and the 1st Bde. Gen. Pearson decorated the Tan Canh Memorial Monument and six paratroopers in turn received neck-pieces of colored flowers. Col. Quock Dang told his people of the common goal of both forces to preserve the freedom of South Vietnam and Gen. Pearson spoke of VN and US forces efforts to rid the country of the Communists, showing weapons and prisoners captured in the battle for Dak Ta Kan Valley. Gen. Westmoreland also observed these weapons. As the people looked and saw ARVN and American soldiers side by side, in victory, they understood a little the solidarity of Vietnamese-American forces in defense of their country.



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During June, the 1st Bde was locked in fierce battle with North Vietnamese regulars in Operation Hawthorne. At one point Btry B, 2/320th Arty, was openly charged by a NVA company, overrunning one gun emplacement. With the help of the 326th Engr Bn, the suicidal attack was beaten off and the position recovered. The 1/327th and 2/502 Inf were engaged. Troop A, 2/17th Cav and the Engrs keeping the ammo and supply routes open. It was in this operation that Capt. Bill Carpenter called for the napalm strike on his own position, that Co A, Capt. Walter Brown's company, would fight for hours through the jungle to help Charlie Co, and that Capt. Walter Wesley's provisional company of volunteers would fight for two days. But finally the battle quietened and the three received a quiet "well done, men" from Gen. Pearson and meaningful handshakes were exchanged by the men of the units. This effort by the enemy was to begin the monsoon offensive. It failed and cost them more than 871 men.

Gen. Westmoreland met with the men of the 2/502, saying: "The officers and men of every American unit in Vietnam are proud of you and your actions here." As the General finished, Lt. Col. Henry "The Gunfighter" Emerson said for the men of Strike Force, "We're not finished yet, sir." To which Gen. Westmoreland replied, "Damn right, you're not." A proud page in American and 101 history.



Co A, 326th Engrs, received the Itshner Award for the most outstanding Engineer Company in the U. S. Army and is shown as it landed men into the jungle north of Dak To to cut out a landing area for evacuation of wounded and then engaged the enemy to capture several prisoners on its own. Ample proof of its selection as No. 1. Capt. James Kimbro and 1st Sgt. Albert Monk received the award from Gen. Pearson.

And the men of the 1st Bde are grateful to SP4 John R. Mahoney, and PFC's Henry Anderson and James Saum who operate a 574th QM shower point for 22 hours a day, cleaning up 9,000 dirty paratroopers in two months of operation—so much so, they made them "Honorary Paratroopers of the 101," for whom they always have hot water.

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## ACTION IN THE 327TH INFANTRY BNS.



Major David Hackworth, CO, 1/327th, confers with his commanders and Co B moves across a jungle stream. Canteens are filled at a stream. The 1st platoon of the "Brave Rifles" engaged the enemy hiding in bunkers on the opposite hill. "The place is full of them." Several men were hit, friendly troops moved up in support, and the position was taken. Psy war by a former enemy is used to encourage his former comrades to surrender. At the end of a 9-mile trek through the jungles, PFC James Deardoff accepts a soda-pop from a local Vietnamese girl.

The 327 paratroopers spend many nights in the jungles, lit by flares, and the evacuation of wounded by helicopters—a lonely vigil. SP4 George Hazlewood, Co B, 2/327, recently uncovered a huge cannon which fired 16 pd ball ammunition—"the largest crew served weapon captured in Vietnam," according to Lt. Louis R. Appuzion, platoon leader, of the two-ton cannon. The 2/327 was busy in the Tuy Hoa Valley while the rest of the Bde was busy elsewhere. In a battle near Trung Luong, they met a fierce enemy who fought them for two days. Reinforcements were sent in to aid the outnumbered Eagles and on the 4th day the 2/327 pushed forward. Lt. Col. Joseph Wasco, CO, said of his troopers, "Those men are terrific, the best trained I've ever seen. They chewed up two good enemy battalions or more." An unwounded North Vietnamese Captain surrendered to Col.

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Wasco, saying: "I was sent here with a company to destroy a weak American force, instead you destroyed my company, I surrender." The "We Aim to Kill" battalion once again reaffirmed its motto.

And the men of the 1/327 salute Chaplain Bowers and his assistant, SP4 Maurice Whitney, who go with them to battle. The Chaplains report that church attendance in Vietnam is on the rise.

**ACTION IN THE 2/502d INFANTRY.** The 2/502d under Lt. Col. Henry E. Emerson were heavily engaged in Operation Hawthorne, giving a magnificent account of itself in the most difficult of combat with a determined enemy and coming up the winner. Co A turned back an entire company of enemy. Co C made history. Flare ships and helicopter support was outstanding. PFC Joe Redmond of Co B was voted the "Volleyball Player of the Year" when he batted away a grenade from members of his unit. William Zsigmond, Steve Baka, and Peter Feketa met for the first time in ten years after leaving Hungary—all had been in the 2/502 for six months never knowing of each other's presence. S/Sgt. Gene Hawthorne of Co A, known as "The Indian," was lost after many actions in a helicopter crash. Corp. Chester K. Redigio of Btry B, 30th Arty, fired his 155mm howitzer



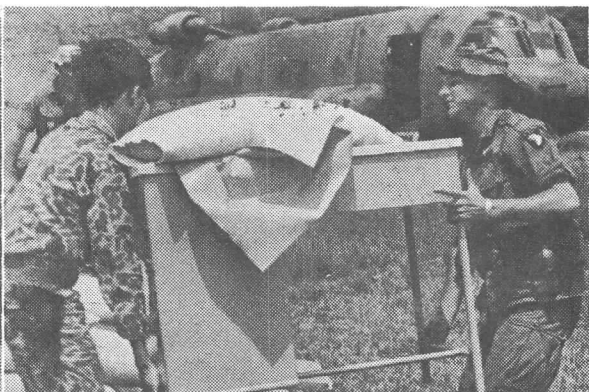
Lt. Col. Hanket assumes command of the Spt Bn. Dr. W. H. Mitchell (1/327) inspects the hand of Nquine Long upon whom he operated to restore 90% of its use.

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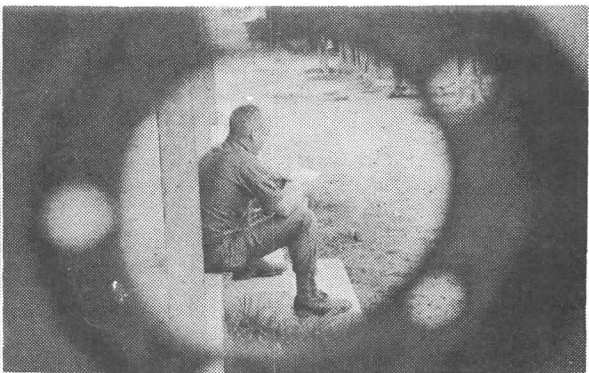
101 times in support. His gun is nicknamed "Rose Ann," after his wife. And SP4 Dave Barden, Col. Emerson's driver, rotated home after completing his service of which he will always be proud. Shown on page 8 are some photos of the 2/502 in action: Members of the Recondo Force move downstream. The enemy—captured by Co A. Moving through the jungle. Col. Emerson visits to the 177th Helicopter Co to express his appreciation for its support and inspects the M3 aerial rocket system. This company provides air fire support, med-evac, and resupply mission—all under extremely hazardous conditions. A salute earned and deserved.



**The villagers receive — the villagers give.**



**The villagers flee the Viet Cong—and are received and helped in a more secure area.**



**After 17 days of battle, the 1/327 passes the Brigade CP with heads high. And that long-awaited moment, "Mail Call." Your Secretary can furnish a name (or names) if you would like to be present at "Mail Call" in Vietnam.**

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**BRIGADE COMMANDER .....PAGES 1 - 3**

Brigadier General S. H. Matheson (Major General, Retired) is the feature of this issue. He served in the 506th AIR in WWII, in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell and came to the brigade after serving as Assistant Division Commander of the 101st Airborne Division. He was the G-3 when I was Information Officer of the Division. I was the S-2 of the 10th Special Forces Group when he commanded it.

**BRIGADE SERGEANT MAJOR .....PAGES 4 & 5**

Sergeant Major Robert A. Young (Command Sergeant Major, Retired) was the second 1st Brigade (Separate) Sergeant Major. He came to the brigade from Fort Campbell where he served as 101st Airborne Division Sergeant Major. My memory of SGM Young was that of an exemplary soldier who made the brigade a better unit in which to serve.

**MEDAL OF HONOR .....PAGE 6**

The recognition of Sergeant First Class Webster Anderson of Battery A, 320th Artillery Battalion is the third and final recognition of those in the brigade who earned the Medal of Honor (MOH). Material about the late CSM Paul Huff, USA, Ret., who earned the Medal of Honor in WWII, the first airborne MOH recipient, will be in the next issue.

**VIETNAM VALOR AWARDS .....PAGE 7**

This is the third and last page of these APPROVED VALOR AWARDS available. Valor awards will continue to be an important part of the DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR.

**POETRY .....PAGE 8**

Peter Griffin's poem about the odyssey of a Vietnam veteran gives some insight into the aftermath of war.

**SALES .....PAGE 9**

The shirts and cap shown here can be seen in living color on the DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR web site at [www.101stabndiv1stbrigade.com](http://www.101stabndiv1stbrigade.com).

**SUBSCRIPTION FORM .....PAGE 10**

Subscribe for a friend and/or send names of 1st Brigade (S) veterans.

**KILLED IN ACTION AND NON-BATTLE DEATHS .....PAGE 11**

A continuation of the list of those 1st Brigade (S) soldiers who died in Vietnam. They are listed by date of death.

**NEW SUBSCRIBERS .....PAGES 12 - 15**

A new form for change of address is on page 15.

**MAIL RETURNED .....PAGES 16 & 17**

This list includes the individuals who have changed addresses and cannot be reached by the U. S. Postal Service. If you can help with a valid address please send them to the Editor. Page 17 also includes a news release, information about single copies of the magazine and advertising.

**THE DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR VIETNAM ISSUES. ....PAGES 18 - 20**

These reproductions are from the January 30, 1967 issue with one story from the October 21, 1966 issue.

**SCRAPBOOK .....PAGE 21**

Stories from newspapers about the 1st Brigade (S) in Vietnam. The scrapbooks were made from clippings mounted and reduced 50% by the office of the Chief of Information at Department of the Army.

**BOOK REVIEW .....PAGE 22**

BRAVE MEN has significant history about the 1st Brigade (S) in Vietnam. It is available in most bookstores.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR .....PAGES 23 - 29**

These letters come from the guestbook on the D&W web site, U. S. mail, and e-mail.

**BRIGADE PERSONALITIES .....PAGES 30 & 31**

Thanks to COL John P. Lawton, USA, Ret., for this insight into one of the most interesting personalities in the brigade.

**VIETNAM REPORT .....PAGES 32 - 36**

Material from the September - October 1966 issue of THE SCREAMING EAGLE magazine. These photos and stories were packaged, by the Brigade Information Office, for use in the 101st Airborne Division Association magazine.

**BACK COVER**

Thanks to Herb Garcia for the photo of the commanders and staff of the 1st Brigade (S).

**DO NOT FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE  
1ST BRIGADE (SEPARATE),  
DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR WEB SITE AT  
[www.101stabndiv1stbrigade.com](http://www.101stabndiv1stbrigade.com)**

***NOTICE:***  
***NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS***  
***worrell@usit.net***





Herbert E. Garcia sent this photo of the Commanders of the 1st Brigade, Phan Rang — 25 Mar 67. Front row left to right: MAJ HERB GARCIA (1/327), LTC DON ROSENBLUM (2/327), LTC FRANK DIETRICH (2/502), BG S.H. MATHESON (CG 1st BDE 101 ABN DIV), COL OSCAR DAVIS (DCO) and LTC BILL MADDEN (2/320 ARTY). Back row left to right: CPT LLOYD GARDNER (HHC), CPT DAVE SALLEE (Co A 326 ENG), MAJ JIM TAJARI (181 MI DET), LTC BEN HARRISON (10th AVN BN), CPT DALE WAGNAR (TRP A 2nd SQD 17th CAV) and LTC QUINTON SUNDAY (SPT BN).

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