

The First Brigade
DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR

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1st Brigade (Separate) Viet Nam



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 fourth issue of the DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR is the final issue, featuring historical material relating to the 1st Brigade (Separate) in Viet Nam. The name of the magazine will change to **The First SCREAMING EAGLES In Viet Nam**. The purposes of the magazine will not change. The entire magazine will be devoted to communications with, and historical photos and text that chronicles the operations and actions of, the soldiers and units of THE ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE.

This issue will be mailed to a total of 420 subscribers, a net gain for the past quarter of 22 subscribers. In past issues I have

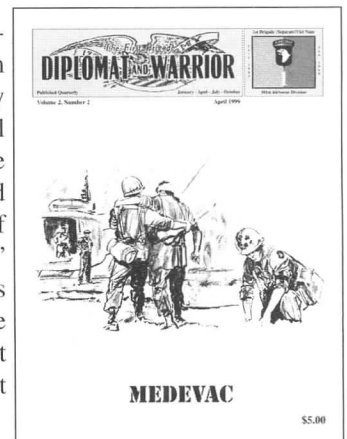


BG Matheson presents Bronze Star to MAJ Ivan Worrell.

said that 500 subscribers should provide a break even revenue. We are not close.

My plan is to commit to an additional year with the new name and to reduce the number of pages until the number of subscribers reaches the point that will allow a larger magazine. Letters to the Editor will continue to be a first priority. Brigade personalities will, hopefully continue to be a reader submitted feature. My collection of brigade historical photos and writings along with other important contributions could support a large magazine for many years.

The cover of the DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR is from a drawing produced by Specialist 6 Bill Dolan. Bill was the winner of a service wide cartoon contest and served as Art Director of "THE ARMY IN EUROPE." He produced some world class sketches when he visited the 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division, in Viet Nam, 1966 and 1967.



This issue features Command Sergeant Major Paul Huff, (MOH) the third and final Sergeant Major of the 1st Brigade (Separate) before the brigade joined the 101st Airborne Division in January of 1968. See page 1. I have not been able to find enough material about Sergeant Major Trinidad Prieto, now deceased, to feature him in the magazine.

I am now compiling a database of awards presented to 1st Brigade (Separate) soldiers.

I urge all veterans of the 1st Brigade (Separate) to submit material for use in **The First SCREAMING EAGLES In Viet Nam**.

Continued on inside back cover

CSM PAUL B. HUFF

MOH



**CSM PAUL HUFF (MOH) 3RD SERGEANT
MAJOR OF THE FIRST BRIGADE SEPARATE
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION**

Rank and organization: Corporal, U.S. Army, 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion. Place and date: Near Carano, Italy, 8 February 1944. Entered service at: Cleveland, Tenn. Birth: Cleveland, Tenn. G.O. No.: 41, 26 May 1944. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, in action on 8 February 1944, near Carano, Italy. Cpl. Huff volunteered to lead a 6-man patrol with the mission of determining the location and strength of an enemy unit which was delivering fire on the exposed right flank of his company. The terrain over which he had to travel consisted of exposed, rolling ground, affording the enemy excellent visibility. As the patrol advanced, its members were subjected to small arms and machinegun fire and a concentration of mortar fire, shells bursting within 5 to 10 yards of them and bullets striking the ground at their feet. Moving ahead of his patrol, Cpl. Huff drew fire from 3 enemy machineguns and a 20mm. weapon. Realizing the danger confronting his patrol, he advanced alone under deadly fire through a minefield and arrived at a point within 75 yards of the nearest machinegun position. Under direct fire from the rear machinegun, he crawled the remaining 75 yards to the closest emplacement, killed the crew with his submachine gun and destroyed the gun.

During this act he fired from a kneeling position which drew fire from other positions, enabling him to estimate correctly the strength and location of the enemy. Still under concentrated fire, he returned to his patrol and led his men to safety. As a result of the information he gained, a patrol in strength sent out that afternoon, 1 group under the leadership of Cpl. Huff, succeeded in routing an enemy company of 125 men, killing 27 Germans and capturing 21 others, with a loss of only 3 patrol members. Cpl. Huff's intrepid leadership and daring combat skill reflect the finest traditions of the American infantryman.

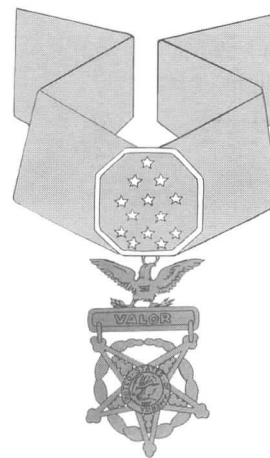
OBITUARY

CSM(R) Paul B. Huff, MOH
DIV HQ FC & 1st Brigade HQ VN
September 21, 1994

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Paul B. Huff, who earned the Medal of Honor, died at Clarksville Memorial Hospital on September 21, 1994. He was 76. A graveside service with full military honors was held in Cleveland, Tennessee, his hometown.

"When someone earns the nation's highest award, it's hard to think of them as being modest or humble about it, but Paul Huff was," said Ret. Col. Art Lombardi, who served with Huff at Fort Campbell. "The thing about him was he never made a big to-do about it. He was always very modest and never sought any glory. He was a silent type and was, in his own quiet way, a real hero. Clarksville has lost a truly great hero," Lombardi said.

A groundswell of honors were given to Huff after his actions in World War II and during Vietnam. Huff received the Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, six Good Conduct Medals, the Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster, two Air Medal awards, the Vietnam Service Medal with three campaign stars, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, two Combat Infantryman's Badges, Master Parachutist Badge, National Defense Service Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Glider Badge and World War II Victory Medal.



He was an instructor at the NCO Academy in 1949 and was an Army recruiter and counselor in 1961. His last assignment was with the Headquarters & Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Campbell. He retired in 1976 after serving 30 years in the U.S. Army. After leaving the military, Huff was active in the Clarksville, Tennessee area, most notably serving as grand marshal in 1987 for the Clarksville-Montgomery County Military Veterans Affairs Commission's Veterans Day parade when it was revived after a 17-year absence.

The city of Cleveland named a parkway in Huff's honor in 1988.

Continued on page 17

The following article was sent by Tim Swain, (S-2) 2/502 and 1st BDE HQ VN 65.

Brigade Personalities

*Lieutenant Colonel Joseph E. Hicks, USA (Retired)
Brigade Intelligence Officer*

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Joseph E. Hicks' career as an Infantryman spans 30 years and three wars, including World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. His service as an Infantryman includes three years with the 1st Marine Division, seeing combat action in the Pacific during World War II and 27 years with U.S. Army, seeing combat action in both the Korean War and the Vietnam War. His service is characterized by the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence, and self-



LTC JOSEPH E. HICKS

less dedication to duty. He has served the Infantry community with distinction and has demonstrated a significant, conspicuous and lasting contribution to the entire Infantry.

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Joseph E. Hicks was born in Cobden, Illinois on 9 August 1924. Following World War II, he attended Southern Illinois University for three years before receiving a direct commission as a 2LT in the United States Army in 1949. His service in the Army as an Infantryman spans 27 years. His selfless service, integrity and strength of character are well known in the Infantry community. His contributions to the Infantry are both significant and lasting.

In 1949, he was assigned to the 34th Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division in Kyushu, Japan. In early July 1950, as the Korean War began, his unit was quickly ordered to deploy. The 34th Regiment was employed in delaying positions directly behind Task Force Smith and fought some of the hardest and toughest fights under the most difficult conditions. F. E. Fehrenbacher, in his book "This Kind of War" says that 1LT J.E. Hicks found himself in charge of his company when his company commander suddenly decided to leave the battlefield. Accounts show that he led that company with distinction and was also part of a small team that attempted to rescue the Commanding General, MG Dean, who was cut-off inside the city of Taejon. LT Hicks was eventually cut-off behind enemy lines himself, and avoided capture for 69 days before he was able to make it back to friendly lines. The war correspondent, Hal Boyle wrote the story that appeared in newspaper headlines across the nation chronicling LT Hicks' heroics. Upon his return, he was assigned to the Combat Training Directorate at Fort Knox, where he trained new recruits for the combat they would see in Korea. In 1953, he returned to Japan where he served on the staff of the Far East Command in Tokyo, and then in a highly classified intelligence operation at Camp Drake, that targeted North Korea.

He attended the Officers Advanced Course at Fort Benning in

1955 and then was assigned as a Company Commander in the 82nd Airborne Division at Bragg, NC. There he won the Glider Badge and Parachutist Badge and applied for Special Forces training. In 1957, he completed the Special Forces course, and was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (SFG) at Fort Bragg. In 1959, he was assigned to the 1st SFG on Okinawa. During his assignment with the 1st SFG, from 1959-1964, he served on two different tours in South East Asia, in Laos (1961-1962) and Vietnam (1963). In 1964, he was assigned as Battalion XO of the 2nd Bn 502nd Inf Reg (Airborne) of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell.

In 1965, because of his experience with special operations, Department of the Army selected him to serve as the head of a Special Commission to study the role of the Special Forces in Vietnam. Given exclusive and unrestricted access to all SF bases in South East Asia, he identified shortfalls and provided recommendations for the future direction of the Special Forces in Laos and Vietnam.

Upon his return, he was assigned as the S2 for the 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div and was deployed in July 1965 to his third tour in Vietnam. In his book, "About Face," Col (Ret.) David Hackworth says, "Hicks was a damn good man who, on top of everything else (three wars and two Special Forces tours), had survived 69 days cut off behind enemy lines during the Korean War" (p. 462). As the Brigade S2, he provided critical intelligence to the Separate Brigade (reinforced) which participated in numerous successful combat actions (p. 468, 469, 470). He also served as an intelligence officer with the 1st Field Forces in Vietnam directly briefing the most senior officers in Vietnam.

In 1967, he attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas where he wrote a concept paper on air assault tactics that was immediately adopted as doctrine for helicopter operations in Vietnam. [This included an innovative tactic for conducting air assault insertions that drastically reduced the ability of North Vietnamese to identify LZ's resulting in saving many infantry lives]

In all, he served five different hardship tours to South East Asia and more than 15 years overseas, in the U.S. Army. His assignments included not only the 24th Infantry Division, 82nd Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division 1st and 5th Special Forces Groups, but also the 3rd Armored Division. Since his retirement in December 1975, he has resided in Yuma, Arizona and has been active in giving speeches and briefings at various civic clubs and organizations in support of the Infantry and the United States Army.

He holds a Bachelors degree in Business from Saint Benedicts College and a Masters degree from Pepperdine University. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge (2nd award), the Master Parachutist Badge, Distinguished Member of the 502nd Infantry Regiment, Order of Saint Maurius (given to those who have, "... made significant and lasting contributions to the Infantry," by the National Infantry Association) to name a few. These honors are a tribute to the outstanding and lasting contributions he has made to the Infantry and the U.S. Army. He is married to the former Lorene Lyon and has three children, two which serve today as officers on active duty.



DIPLOMATS AND WARRIORS ALL

17 APRIL 1966

DIPLOMAT & WARRIOR

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ABOVE THE REST

The 1st Battalion recently received the coveted Combat Infantry Streamer at ceremonies conducted near Phan Thiet. The streamer was awarded to the rifle companies of the Above The Rest battalion for having in excess of 65% of their strength qualify for the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Now operating NW of Phan Thiet the battalion's Tiger Force counted a clean sweep last Friday encountering 5 VC, killing 3 and capturing 2.

SECOND TO NONE

The Second To None Battalion, under Lt Col Melvin Garten is now a Battalion Combat Team committed to the principle and task of destroying VC units in the Tuy Hoa area and protecting the rice harvest near Tuy An. Contact remains relatively light with VC elements avoiding decisive engagement. Lt Col Garten has been notified that he is on the selected list for promotion to Colonel.

STRIKE FORCE

Using the Recondo-Checkerboard concept the Strike Force from the 2nd Battalion (Abn) 502nd Infantry is covering vast areas NW of Phan Thiet. At ceremonies held last week the rifle companies of the battalion were the proud recipients of the Combat Infantry Streamer symbolizing excellence on the field of battle. Lt Col Henry Emerson, Strike Force commander has been notified that he has been placed on the selected list for promotion to Colonel.

ON THE WAY; WAIT

The "Redlegs" from the Brigade's 2nd Battalion (Abn) 320th Artillery haven't found as many targets near Phan Thiet as Tuy Hoa, yet constant H&I missions keep them steadily in the war. Within a few days after arriving at Phan Thiet the *cannoneers found themselves moving from position to position by mortar and air (CH-47 Chinook)*. The support rendered by the mighty 105's never falters in the finest traditions established by artillerymen before them.

ALWAYS THERE

'Always Moving' as well as 'Always There' should make up the motto for the Brigade's Support Battalion. The recent move to Phan Thiet saw the supply technicians move rations, ammo, POL, etc., as well as other impedimenta by air and sea. Major Burton J. Walrath Jr., commander of Support Battalion (Fwd) noted

that although moving constantly, the latest to Phan Thiet, "find a need, we'll fill it."

UNITED WE STAND

Battery A, 5th Howitzer Battalion 27th Artillery at Phan Rang has been actively engaged in the training program of the Replacement Detachment of 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. The artillery program consists of a 2 hour class on adjustment of fire. New arrivals to the 5/27th Artillery and volunteers from the Air Force receive a basic artillery orientation and adjust live artillery fire.

17TH MULE

The Cavalry troop of the Screaming Eagles is currently working with the 2nd Battalion (Abn) 327th Infantry near Tuy Hoa. A source of pride continues to be the axiom that "almost any day of the week the 'Cav' can get someone shot at." Equally as important is the fact that every day of the week the VC get shot at and often times hit by the 'Cav.' The 106MM RR proves to be an extremely effective anti-sniper weapon.

WHEN IT'S TOO TOUGH FOR THE REST CALL THE BEST

The rugged Screaming Eagle engineers have added another color to their spectrum of roads. At Tuy Hoa they reconstructed and cleared daily routes (roads) Pink, Blue and Green. At Phan Thiet route Orange has been added with the corresponding responsibility of daily sweeping to eliminate insidious VC mines.

ALWAYS FIRST

Brigade Headquarters Company, under the command of Capt Ronald L. Kidd, has been engaged in an extensive area beautification project at their base camp near Phan Rang. A basketball court is the most recent addition to company recreational facilities.

When the troopers return to their base camp it will be a strange place for those who have been gone since January when the brigade deployed to Tuy Hoa.

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SSGT CRUZ CAPTURES 5 VC

The ingenuity of the American paratrooper has brought many an enemy to the end of his war career. On an operation in the area of Tuy Hoa SSGT Manuel C. Cruz, a member of the

Army's 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division used a combination of quick thinking, guts and ingenuity to capture five Viet Cong.

While leading a reconnaissance patrol the slightly built native of Puerto Rico sighted a four man VC patrol. Cruz told his men to take cover, while he stripped to the waist, walked right out in the open and signaled the VC patrol to him. The Charlies walked right into the trap and were captured without a shot being fired. As the Americans began to withdraw they came upon two more VC; one surrendering and the other trying to escape by outrunning the fleetfooted SSGT Cruz. Score for that day: SSGT Cruz 5 and Charlie nothing.

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GIRLS JOIN 1ST BRIGADE

Christmas has come a bit early for troopers of the 101st this year or the Replacement Detachment has been working overtime as two lovely ladies bearing gifts from the Red Cross now grace their ranks.

Misses Susan Bauernfiend, 26, of Menasha, Wis., and Shiela Otto, 24, of Minneapolis, Minn., are awaiting the completion of a 45 X 100 foot recreation center at Phan Rang in which to house the numerous games and activities of their project.

Although the core of their operation is centered around the paratroopers' base camp, Miss Bauernfiend stated that they can take their program into the heart of the brigade's operational area at Phan Thiet.

Miss Bauernfiend, a graduate of Marquette University, who has been in Vietnam since September 1965, was previously assigned to the Marines at Da Nang, while her cohort in recreation, Miss Otto, also a college graduate, at the University of Nebraska, is a newcomer to Vietnam.

When queried about their feelings on being surrounded by a few thousand men, Miss Otto offered this answer: "I've never really thought much about it. The troopers stare because they haven't seen American girls for quite some time, but you can't blame them for that. They are making a great sacrifice by just being here."

Both girls have served a one year tour in Korea and look upon their role in Vietnam as "a real challenge."





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"Think Preventive Law"SM

GOD BLESS AMERICA

and the

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION!!!

BRIGADE STAFF



PHAN RANG, VIET NAM... Brigadier General Willard Pearson, Commanding General of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, and staff pose prior to his departure after commanding the "Screaming Eagles" for a year in combat.

FIRST ROW: (L-R) Col. Chester B. McCoid, Deputy Brigade Commander; General Pearson; LTC Harry A. Buckley Jr., Executive Officer.

SECOND ROW: (L-R) Major Allyn B. Ensign, Hq. Commandant; Major John W. Gilboux, S-4; LTC John M. Tatum Jr., S-3; Cpt. Jan A. L'Hommedieu, Acting S-2 and Major Jerry L. Denman, S-1.

THIRD ROW: (L-R) Maj. Henry J. Nachtsheim Jr., CO, 22nd Military History Det.; Cpt. Gerald C. Coleman, SJA; Maj. Donald F. Petersen, Avn. Staff Officer; Maj. Francis Kovacic, Bde, Chaplain; Cpt. Franklin C. Haskins, Chemical Off.; and Maj. Ronald S. Gooding, Bde. Surgeon.

FOURTH ROW: (L-R) Cpt. Raymond E. Largen, Sig. Off.; Cpt. Dewey L. Hall, Finance Off.; Maj. Louis A. Adamucci, I.G.; Maj. Saunder Weinstein, Provost Marshal; Maj. Nelson P. Conover, Staff Engineer and Maj. Ivan G. Worrell, Information Off.

(67-50-7) 101st - IO Photo by Sp4 Robert Lloyd



WILLIAM V. LARSEN, 2/327 B VN 7/65-7/66 of Westfield, NJ sent this copy of one of the leaflets dropped before going in on Search & Destroy in Viet Nam. Translation from Ben Lam.

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**CỘNG PHỈ
GIEO GIÓ TÀI MIỀN NAM...**

The Communist created wind in the South...

**P
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**..ĐỒNG BẠN
GẠT BÃO NƠI ĐẤT BẮC !**

Their comrades received storm in the North!

**L
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L
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T**

The military supplies arsenal in the North has been destroyed,
The liberation front in the South has been isolated and disintegrated.
It is useless to get yourself killed; return to the national cause,
To rebuild your peaceful life and happiness.

**KHO TIẾP-LIỆU QUÂN-SỰ MIỀN BẮC BỊ HỦY-DIỆT,
MẶT-TRẬN GIẢI-PHÓNG MIỀN NAM ĐANG BỊ CÔ-LẬP VÀ TAN-RÃ.
ĐỪNG CHỊU CHẾT MỘT CÁCH VÔ-ÍCH HÃY VỀ VỚI CHÍNH-NHĨA QUỐC-GIA
ĐỂ XÂY-DỤNG LẠI CUỘC ĐỜI ẨM-NO THANH-BÌNH.**



**Giấy này thay GIẤY THÔNG-HÀNH
Các bạn cứ cầm giấy này trình với
cơ quan chính-quyền hoặc QUÂN ĐỘI
CỘNG HÒA gần nhất sẽ được
TIẾP ĐÓN VÀ GIÚP ĐỠ**

This paper replaced the pass.
You are welcome to present this paper to any authorities or
The nearest unit of the Army of the Republic of Viet Nam for help.

HAWTHORNE'S HILL

At dusk, an eight man patrol, made it's way,
At Tuy Hoa, the 101st Airborne, would save the day....
To protect the rice harvest, orders were cut,
Feeding South Vietnam's population, a must....

Every year, the Viet Cong, stole the crop,
ARVN and ROK marines, the pillage, couldn't stop....
So the 2/502nd Infantry, given the task,
They would accomplish, all that was asked....

The patrol assigned, to start the mission,
Swarm of mosquitoes, worsened conditions....
Through rivers, jungles, and paddies,
Enemy territory, much like Hades....

Sgt. Gene Hawthorne, the patrol leader,
To engage the enemy, was most eager....
An American Indian, adept at tracking,
His skills and experience, was not lacking....

In jungle so thick, visibility, minimal,
Heard the VC, stealthy, as animals....
Screaming and shooting, the enemy attacked,
The patrol exploding, cut no slack....

The enemy fell, wave after wave,
Was a foolish tactic, they engaged....
The patrol suffered, one man killed,
In close combat, all were skilled....

The enemy withdrew, a blood trail, leaving,
A booby trap exploded, one dead, Sgt. Hawthorne bleeding....
At dawn, the enemy, attacked again,
The six soliders remaining, sent them reeling....

Sgt. Hawthorne, bled profusely, badly hurt,
Still he fought, for all his worth....
He called in the artillery, accurate and deadly,
The large enemy force, suffered a plenty....

The patrol held, till we arrived,
The remaining six, had survived....
Sgt. Hawthorne, to a medivac, carried away,
"Need blood, give me a refill, can I stay"....?

After many firefights, we completed the mission,
The 95th NVA Regiment, bleeding and hungry, now thier condition....
After two weeks of fighting, we passed, HAWTHORNE'S HILL,
The enemy still lay, where they were killed....

The nauseating smell of death, did permeate,
A most macaberesque scene, my mind, still recreates....
Thirty-five dead VC, fermenting, where they lay,
I can't forget, the horror they displayed...!

Flies and maggots, their job complete,
Skeletons, with a tar like substance, did secrete....
One skull lay atop a ditch,
It's body, rolled down the bank, covered in pitch....

The other skeletons, lay all about,
"Please bury me," I could hear them shout...!
Weapons gone, but fully dressed,
This vivid vision, I can't surpress...!

Of bones and tar, they did stink,
A most appalling odor, they did reek....
To their skeletons, their gear still attached,
Ho Chi Minh sandals, to bones, held fast....

The blackened sockets, that once held eyes,
Still glare at me, no tears to cry....
I tell you all this, so you can see,
In war and death, be a tragic reality....

Though, on HAWTHORNE'S HILL, I did not fight,
Of heroism and horrors, in dreams, my plight....
From an uneasy sleep, I jolt awake,
From this nightmare, theres no escape...!

Sgt. Hawthorne recovered, valor, heroism, gallantry, his traits,
But at Nhon Cho, in a Chinook, he met his fate....
Full of ammunition, it exploded, in a ball of fire,
Burnt beyond recognition, 21 heroes, their lives expired....

In an unpopular war, many heroes did fight,
So in pleasant, safe sleep, you spend your nights....
Combat veterans, don't have that luxury,
Too many a HAWTHORNE'S HILL, to haunt their memories....

ARVN- ARMY REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
ROK- REPUBLIC OF KOREA
NVA- NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY
CHINOOK- A LARGE CARGO HELICOPTER

Peter S. Griffin
Co.A, 2/502 Infantry
101ST Airborne Division
Vietnam, 1965-66



AFTERGLOW

In early June of 1966 two battalions of the 101st Airborne Division were engaged in one of the most highly contested battles of the entire Viet Nam War. It was a slugfest, toe to toe, bitter, bloody fight, from beginning to end. Named "Operation Hawthorne", it unfolded in the triple canopy jungled mountains in the central highlands near Dak To. Our mission was to relieve the besieged Special Forces camp at Toumorong that was being threatened by the crack North Vietnamese Army's 24th Infantry Regiment. Their mission was to draw in a U.S. brigade and annihilate it, on their own well prepared turf and under their own terms.

Thirty two years have passed since those awful, bloody days of carnage and devastation. As a young PFC, nearing the end of my tour, I had no idea of the effect this battle would have on the rest of my life. For two and a half decades I struggled to keep the events of that time tucked neatly away, in the recesses of my mind. It was a wasted effort, for every day my mind was invaded by intrusive thoughts and flashbacks. My nights were no better, filled with restless, sleepless hours or unwanted, dreaded nightmares.

During this twenty five year period, I read nothing of the reports on this battle nor had I made contact with anyone who had fought there. I knew nothing of what had been documented or what had transpired in the lives of my fellow combatants. Then in 1989 I attended my first Army reunion. There I had the great honor and privilege to, once again, make contact with some very special people, the veterans of the 1st Brigade. This opened the door to several more reunions and of course, to many spirited and lively conversations. To my elation I found that all veterans, enlisted men, NCO's, officers, and yes, even general officers were now interrelating, as if devoid of rank. It was and still is, a most thrilling and special occasion to talk to some people whom I used to (and still do) consider, next to God or at least God like. Over time I discovered that I was even capable of carrying on conversations with them, in a relaxed manner; instead of just replying, "Yes Sir or No Sir!"; while I snapped to Attention! Since 1989 I have enjoyed the company of these very special people, veterans of all ranks, at every available opportunity.

As my exposure to personal and written accounts of Dak To became more available, my curiosity and thirst for knowledge as to what actually happened there grew. I wanted to learn all I could about the battle. I wanted an overall view of the entire battle, not just the personal, narrow remembrances of my own limited experience. As a result I have read many old newspaper accounts, magazine articles, and several books. I visited the National Archives, read and copied official Army documents including maps, daily journals, battle logs and lessons learned.

After digesting all this, I have come to believe that the battles of Dak To, as recorded, are nearly as confusing in print as experiencing it at ground level as a PFC. This should not come as a surprise to anyone simply because of the very nature of the operation. It was extremely intense and complex because so many small units were engaged simultaneously throughout the area of operation. One thing does stand out clear and precise, it was a chaotic melee of heavyweight bouts, clear and simple!

Some of the material that I have read has addressed the deci-

sion making processes employed in this fierce and savage operation. Tactics and deployments have been questioned. I have even read where some people consider earned "glory and recognition" went to the wrong units or individuals. They are entitled to their opinions and conclusions whether reasonable or not. My purpose is to relate feelings from the heart and soul, not to second guess anyone or to be a "Monday Morning Quarterback".

Perhaps the most controversial incident to occur during Operation Hawthorne was the napalm drop. I have talked to several troopers of "C" company who were there. Some feel it was an over-reaction, others feel that without it they wouldn't be here to discuss their feelings and thoughts on the subject. The majority opinion seems to go with the later. For a fact, many of the major players involved have little doubt that "C" company would have certainly died on that ridge without it. I know, some will say that I wasn't at "ground zero", and because of that fact, my conclusion is faulty and open to criticism, but the proof is written at the "bottom line". Yes, friendly as well as enemy casualties did result, but the drop did break off that enemy assault and allow time for "C" company to regroup and reorganize. The only credible, tangible evidence as to the success of this extraordinary decision is the results on that "bottom line", ie: SURVIVORS!

The other point of controversy that I noted was that Company "A", of the 1/327th Infantry, while attempting to rescue "C" company of the O'deuce, was the real enemy target, and that they bore the brunt of the fighting; without proper credit or recognition in the press. To me, this, whether true or not is irrelevant and does not matter for I know these soldiers are highly respected by their peers. Press recognition is nice but is not the ultimate acclaim. The only fact that really matters is that all our units were heavily engaged in bitter fighting and performed admirably. Our overall military mission was to seek out and destroy the enemy and personally..., to SURVIVE, not to worry about honorable mention. Some will ask, "how can I honestly and sincerely make this statement?" My answer is pure and simple, I, along with the rest of my weapons platoon was attached to that company and faced that enemy buzzsaw along with those very brave troops. This fact has never been mentioned in declassified print before and remains irrelevant to the history of that illustrious sister company of gallant warriors.

After studying all these accounts and considering the various facts, opinions and views contained therein, I have reached some basic conclusions. Amazingly, they are from the perspectives I had all along, before I did any research. They are from my own personal observations at dirt level as a PFC.

First and foremost, there is no doubt in my mind that every individual soldier engaged in Operation Hawthorne gave the utmost of himself for the successful completion of the mission. That every individual, no matter what rank, made the best possible decisions under the disjointed and confusing circumstances presented. Many hard and serious decisions had to be made without time for second guessing. I don't think there is a combat veteran alive that wouldn't admit that. We all have to live with our own decisions, made in combat, that had an effect on the lives of others. Undoubtedly, command decisions bore the greatest risk and responsibility. I thank God that He provided the great commanders and NCO's we had during those turbulent and deadly encounters.

I am still amazed by the extraordinary stamina displayed by our troops and cadre. To exhibit such strength and endurance

under such terrible conditions and stress staggers the imagination. To fight so aggressively and bravely for such long periods of time without rest and basic sustenance is almost incomprehensible. Sleep deprivation seemed to have no negative effect on the ability of our soldiers or leaders. The heavy monsoon rains did not seem to dampen their spirits or abilities either. On the other hand, it certainly aided our enemies by providing cloud cover which restricted our medivacs, artillery, airstrikes and resupply of ammo and other much needed supplies. No doubt, they very cleverly took this into consideration before attempting to take on such a formidable opponent as the 1st Brigade.

Operation Hawthorne also offered me the opportunity to observe, first hand, other magnificent units in action. The artillerymen at Toumorong who put up such a tenacious fight have left an indelible respect in my mind that will last forever. I will never forget those beehive rounds tearing into the enemy as they viciously charged their emplacements. The combat engineers fought bravely as infantrymen protecting the defensive perimeter from many concentrated attacks. Later they cut out landing zones with chainsaws under deadly enemy fire to extract our dead and wounded, with little concern for their own safety. The many aviation units as they risked all above the triple canopy jungles, under intense enemy fire, to provide the many services needed in support of the beleaguered ground troops. The Recondos as they stealthily made their way through the dense bamboo to provide much needed intelligence. The Tiger Force as they fearlessly took on an overwhelming superior enemy force at great risk and peril. All the units, all the men, God bless them all, "the long, the short and the tall"...

The troopers of these individual units took on this well equipped, numerically superior enemy force, on their terms, on the well prepared ground of their choosing and under the protective cover of the monsoon season. Despite these many significant disadvantages they fought courageously and they prevailed. When it was all over the 24th NVA Regiment was rendered unfit as a fighting unit.

I have yet to meet a veteran of Dak To who has not been dramatically affected by what transpired there, all are humbled by the magnitude, dedication, unselfish efforts and sacrifices made there by our fellow soldiers. Many brave Screaming Eagles fell accomplishing this mission. Their efforts and sacrifices will never be forgotten. They are etched into the hearts, minds and souls of all who survived this ferocious battle.

Perhaps it truly is most fitting that the napalm drop be remembered as the single most significant event of Operation Hawthorne.... The explosive, searing, oxygen stealing, blasting inferno has long ago dissipated into oblivion, but in its wake it has left one brilliant incandescent legacy. This AFTERGLOW is the indomitable fighting Airborne spirit of the soldiers of the 1st Brigade, (separate) 101st Airborne Division, Viet Nam, 1965-68. I am most proud to be counted within your ranks, it is a great honor to have served with you. God bless you all.

Peter S. Griffin
Co. A, 2/502nd Infantry
1st Brigade (separate)
101st Airborne Division
Viet Nam, 1965-66

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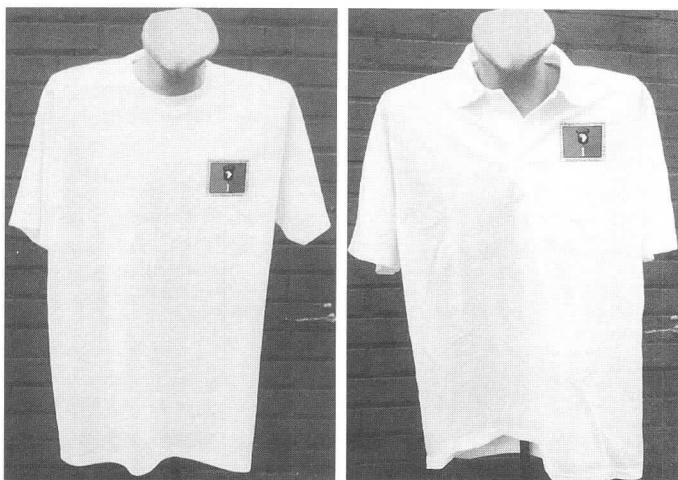
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KILLED IN ACTION AND NON-BATTLE DEATHS BY DATE

DOD	Grade	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Generation	Home State	DOB	Casualty Category	SSN	Status	Cause of Death	Compliment Cause	Province	Component	DMOS
3/25/66	SGT	Epps	Richard	M		ND	/ / 37	NBD	13709235	DOI			Go Cong	RA	11B4P
3/25/66	SGT	Oboye	Shirley	W		TX	/ / 44	BD	13753712	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C4P
3/26/66	PFC	Hudspeth	James	L		NY	/ / 43	BD	18685138	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C1P
3/26/66	PFC	Jones	Ronald	W		NM	/ / 43	BD	52607474	DOW	Unk	Arty/Mort	Tuyen Duc	USAR	76A1P
3/27/66	PFC	Hampton	Horace	A		DE	/ / 45	NBD	14905310	KOR	Unk	Other Causes	Phu Bon	RA	11B1P
4/3/66	SSG	Pruett	Donovan	J		TN	/ / 37	BD	19497042	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
4/4/66	SGT	Hosler	Franklin			NH	/ / 28	BD	13254193	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
4/5/66	PFC	Rodrigues	Paul	D		CA	/ / 46	BD	17651060	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C2P
4/7/66	SSG	Brown	John	M	III	NH	/ / 35	BD	14497466	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C4P
4/9/66	PFC	Rollings	Jimmy			CT	/ / 47	BD	14892941	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
4/9/66	SGT	Muir	Thomas	W		KS	/ / 40	NBD	23282770	KOR	Unk	Grenade	Phu Bon	RA	11B4P
4/14/66	SGT	Murphy	Charles	J	Jr	KY	/ / 46	BD	11414933	KOR	Unk	Rocket	Khanh Hoa	RA	11H4P
4/14/66	SP4	Reeves	Dennis	L		PR	/ / 46	BD	18702933	DOW	Unk	Other Wpns	Tuyen Duc	RA	11B2P
4/15/66	PFC	Friel	Luster	C		TX	/ / 43	NBD	52583471	KOR			Phu Bon	USAR	11B1P
4/16/66	PFC	Grethen	Galen	D		HI	/ / 43	BD	17862520	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	91A2P
4/16/66	PVT	Collins	Walter	M		NV	/ / 47	BD	12713416	KOR	Unk	Grenade	Khanh Hoa	RA	64B10
4/16/66	SP4	Lueallen	Edgar	D		AL	/ / 45	BD	14854225	DOW	Unk	Unk	Tuyen Duc	RA	11B2P
4/20/66	PFC	Lane	Famous	L		MA	/ / 32	BD	17360089	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	94B20
4/20/66	PFC	Skapinsky	George	J		KY	/ / 47	BD	11446898	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B10
4/27/66	PFC	Cordero	Julian	G		PR	/ / 44	NBD	54368470	KOR			Phu Bon	USAR	11B1P
4/28/66	PFC	Newkirk	Michael	A		NH	/ / 47	BD	14908501	DOW	Unk	Other Causes	Tuyen Duc	RA	11B1P
5/4/66	FSG	Walker	Harden	B		DE	/ / 23	NBD	33641213	DWM	AC CNAS	Other Wpns	Bac Lieu	RA	11G1P
5/4/66	MAJ	Barragy	William	J		ME	/ / 23	NBD	2268967	KOR			Phu Bon	RA	75310
5/4/66	MSG	Harrell	J	D		PR	/ / 29	NBD	18306499	KOR			Phu Bon	RA	11F5P
5/4/66	PFC	Clark	Robert	L		AZ	/ / 44	NBD	54361711	KOR			Phu Bon	USAR	11B1P
5/4/66	PFC	Collette	Roger	C		IN	/ / 45	NBD	54363096	KOR			Phu Bon	USAR	11B1P
5/4/66	PFC	Fenton	Robert	A		AR	/ / 46	NBD	19838562	KOR			Phu Bon	RA	11C1P
5/4/66	PFC	Jackson	Malakia		Jr	ND	/ / 44	NBD	13841881	DWM	AC CNAS	Other Wpns	Bac Lieu	RA	11B1P
5/4/66	PFC	Simpson	Michael			NM	/ / 47	NBD	15734873	KOR			Phu Bon	RA	11C1P
5/4/66	PFC	Slayze	Joseph	J		MT	/ / 45	NBD	12683399	KOR			Phu Bon	RA	11C1P
5/4/66	PFC	Thompson	Robert	E		ID	/ / 47	NBD	17724291	DWM	AC CNAS	Other Wpns	Bac Lieu	RA	11H1P
5/4/66	SGT	Hawthorne	Gene			RI	/ / 33	NBD	18403068	KOR			Phu Bon	RA	11B4P
5/4/66	SP4	Concannon	John	F		PR	/ / 40	NBD	11435875	KOR			Phu Bon	RA	71M2P
5/4/66	SP4	Tucker	Earnest	A	Jr	DE	/ / 47	NBD	14863408	DWM	AC CNAS	Other Wpns	Bac Lieu	RA	11C20
5/4/66	SSG	Brown	John	A		SD	/ / 30	NBD	13291725	KOR			Phu Bon	RA	
5/5/66	SFC	Dawes	John	J		AR	/ / 32	NBD	12372060	DWM	AC CNAS	Other Wpns	Bac Lieu	RA	61B4P
5/6/66	SP4	Scott	David	A		Guam	/ / 44	BD	15706862	DOW	Unk	SA Fire	Tuyen Duc	RA	11H2P
5/7/66	PFC	Jenkins	Philip	P		KS	/ / 42	BD	13695883	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
5/8/66	PFC	Steriti	Stephen	J		KY	/ / 45	BD	11448670	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
5/8/66	SP4	Mccaig	Robert	L		AL	/ / 47	BD	14855047	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
5/10/66	SGT	Peppers	Willie	J	Jr	NH	/ / 38	BD	14627607	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
5/11/66	2LT	Otto	William	F		GA	/ / 41	BD	5325620	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	71542
5/11/66	PFC	Evans	Andrew	C		AL	/ / 46	BD	14854186	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11O1P
5/11/66	SP4	Traylor	Wayne	M		AL	/ / 46	BD	24593267	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	63H2P
5/16/66	SGT	Turner	Louis	G		AL	/ / 41	BD	53336246	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
5/17/66	SP5	Ybanez	Jose			AR	/ / 37	BD	28213249	DOW	Unk	Unk	Tuyen Duc	RA	11B4P
5/20/66	PFC	Nelson	Dennis	L		ME	/ / 45	BD	55790730	DOW	Unk	SA Fire	Tuyen Duc	USAR	11B1P
5/22/66	PFC	Dean	Charles	R	Jr	ND	/ / 47	NBD	13874790	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Phu Bon	RA	11H1P
6/3/66	PFC	Nishiyama	Melvin	T		D.C.	/ / 45	BD	10122519	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
6/4/66	PFC	Crocker	Denton	W	Jr	NV	/ / 47	BD	12711827	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
6/6/66	PFC	Dominguez	Ernesto			AR	/ / 45	BD	19816025	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	64A1P
6/6/66	PFC	Green	Eddie			KS	/ / 45	BD	13889842	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
6/6/66	PFC	Hopson	William	D		SD	/ / 43	BD	52572015	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B7P
6/6/66	PSG	Fulford	Varl	E		CT	/ / 28	BD	13233046	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C4P
6/6/66	SGT	Smith	Franklin	W		NM	/ / 41	BD	52511204	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
6/6/66	SP4	Galbraith	Michael	J		NV	/ / 46	BD	12711503	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
6/7/66	CPL	Hemnes	Robert	B		TN	/ / 43	BD	19789313	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	13B4P
6/7/66	PFC	Dodson	David	L		AR	/ / 47	BD	19838551	KOR	Unk	Grenade	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C1P
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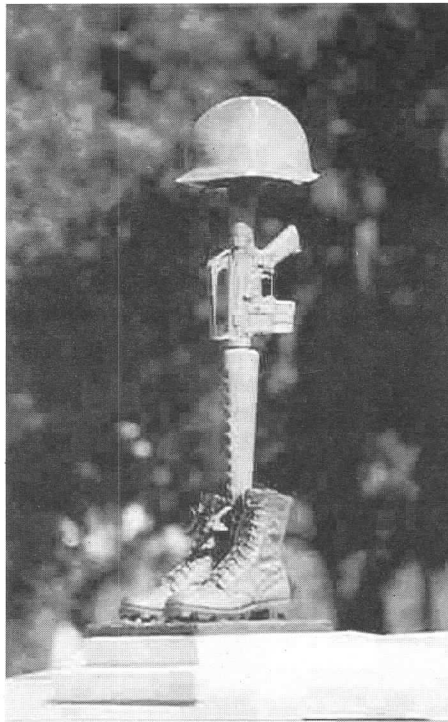
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OBITUARY



TERRY GUZMAN ACHA of 940 Lancaster Rd., Winter Haven, Florida, died of heart failure on February 11, 1999. He had been suffering from hepatitis C and a very bad liver.

Terry or Guz as we called him, served with A Company 2/502 3rd platoon. He was in Nam from 3/66 until 3/67. While serving with the 3rd platoon, he became Platoon RTO and ended up as A Company's RTO. He won medals for valor and he was an outstanding trooper. We will miss him very much. Guz was 54 years old. **AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY "GUZ."**

This obituary was received from William "Wild Bill" (Guz gave him that name in Nam) Miller, 9795 Platt Road, Milan, MI 48160.



CSM Robert A. Young identified the men in this picture. The photo was taken in front of the Support Battalion Mess Hall at the Phan Rang Base Camp a short time before BG Willard Pearson departed and before the arrival of BG S. H. Matheson. They are FRONT ROW (L to R), BG Willard Pearson, CG First Brigade (Deceased); SGM Robert A. Young, First Brigade Command Sergeant Major and SGM Peter Bacerra, 2/327th Sergeant Major (Deceased); BACK ROW (L to R), SGM Russell Steinkuehger, 2/320th FA Battalion Sergeant Major; SGM Richard Dunn, Support Battalion Sergeant Major (Deceased); SGM William T. Mixon, 2/502nd Sergeant Major; SGM John Bittori, 1/327th Sergeant Major (Deceased) and SGM John Hutson, Adjutant General Sergeant Major.

BEN LAM PRESENTED BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR



At the Fort Lesley J. McNair ceremony to award the Bronze Star for valor to Ben Lam (L to R) Major General Robert R. Ivany is at the podium, Ben Lam, Lena Lam and the Military District of Washington Color Guard. The awards ceremony was on April 2nd, 1999 at 2:30 p.m.

Ben Lam's remarks at the Awards Ceremony

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, Veterans and Friends of the 101st Airborne Division

It was over 32 years ago when I was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division.

This unit is one of the best in the entire world based on their fighting tactics, brave soldiers, outstanding officers and great leaders. The Rendezvous with Destiny of this great unit will never be ending. Due to their tradition, comradeship and Esprit de Corps, the 101st has been special compared to other fighting units.

My family and I are so proud and happy to be here today to receive this award.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to my friends, families, veterans and active duty members who gather here today for this great honor.

Many thanks to Colonel Thomas Taylor who was my Company Commander in 1965 and Lieutenant General Henry Emerson, my former Battalion Commander who could not be here today to witness this occasion.

My special thanks to General Peay and Major General Ivany for this special ceremony, and to my employer Mr. William Brehm a former Assistant Secretary of Defense and Colonel Ernst Volgenau who has been very supportive of my family and me.

Thank you once again. Airborne



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING: THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, 24 AUGUST 1962 HAS AWARDED

THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

WITH "V" DEVICE
BEN CAI LAM

(THEN SERGEANT FIRST CLASS, ARMY OF THE REPLUBLIC OF VIETNAM)

TO
FOR

heroism on 20 April 1966 while assigned as an advisor to the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Sergeant First Class Lam distinguished himself during Operation AUSTIN. As soldiers within the unit came under intense small arms fire, Sergeant First Class Lam rushed towards its source, neutralizing the fire with his M16 and inflicting several casualties on the enemy. With total disregard for his own personal safety he returned fire and added momentum to the American side. Sergeant First Class Lam's heroic actions reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 28TH DAY OF MAY 19 98

EARL M. SIMMS
BG, USA, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

ACTING

ABOUT BEN LAM

Ben Lam served as Interrogator and Interpreter for 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade 101st Airborne Division from 1965 to 1967. He also served as Interrogator and Interpreter for Headquarters 101st Airborne Division from 1967 to 1971. During his assignment with the 101st he participated in every major campaign that carried him into some of the biggest battles of the Vietnam War such as Operation Gibraltar, Austin, Hawthorne, Dak To and Tet 68.

He was an Army Republic of Vietnam Company Commander from 1971 to 1975. Mr. Lam was imprisoned by the Vietnamese Communist from 1975 to 1980, when he escaped reeducation camp and made his way to Malaysia. LTG Henry Emerson who was his Battalion Commander in 1965 sponsored him to the United States in 1983.

Mr. Lam was designated as a Distinguished Member of the 502nd Infantry Regiment last May 1998 at Ft. Campbell.

After graduating from Western Montana College in 1989 he became a naturalized citizen. Mr. Lam moved to the Washington, D.C., area and is working for SRA International as a Systems Analyst.

SRA International, Inc., is a systems integrator that provides high-value solutions for business and government and focuses on financial services, law, civil government, national defense, health care management, and telecommunications markets.



Following the awards ceremony at Fort McNair the two old friends and their wives posed for a photo. They are (L to R) Pam Taylor, Lena Lam, Ben Lam and Tom Taylor. Tom's book *WHERE THE ORANGE BLOOMS* (1989) is the story of Ben Lam with the 101st, the ARVN, prisoner and escapee from Viet Nam.

Deadline

**for material to
be published
in the July issue of
The First
SCREAMING
EAGLES In Viet Nam
is
June 1st, 1999.**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please fill out, cut out and mail to:

The First SCREAMING EAGLES In Viet Nam
P.O. Box 675 • Sweetwater, TN 37874-0675

CORRECT ADDRESS beginning (Date) _____

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

The **ALWAYS FIRST** Brigade Will Have A **NEW MAGAZINE - NEW NAME**



WILL CHANGE TO...



The July 1999 issue of the 1st Brigade historical magazine will have a new name, a new look and will continue the task of recording the history of the Always First Brigade as a separate unit in Viet Nam.

Emphasis will continue to be on communication with brigade veterans.

Support for the magazine has been considerably less than expected during this first year of publication. A total of 420 have subscribed to the magazine. The magazine will have fewer pages until sufficient subscribers are obtained so that a break even financial point can be reached. Only 22 new subscribers have enrolled since the publication of the January issue.

The policy of The First SCREAMING EAGLES In Viet Nam will continue to be to support meetings of veterans of the ALWAYS FIRST Brigade and to continue the production of a comprehensive history of the 1st Brigade (S) in Vietnam. Material relative to the history book will be available during 1999 (see inside front cover).

Most subscriptions to the magazine have been fulfilled when this issue is mailed. Subscribers may renew their subscriptions before June 30, 1999 to assure uninterrupted delivery of The First SCREAMING EAGLES In Viet Nam. See page 10 for subscription form.

Subscription reminders will be mailed to all subscribers in mid May 1999. Renewal of subscriptions, before this mailing, will save vital funds needed to make the magazine more interesting to most 1st Brigade (S) veterans.

Please send addresses of your 1st Brigade (S) friends so they can be informed of the existence of this Historical Review that will lead to an extensive published brigade history. *(See Renewal Form On Page 10)*

Continued from page 1

FROM SCREAMING EAGLE, Nov-Dec 1994, Secretary's Notes (Ivan Worrell)

I have lost a friend. Command Sergeant Major Paul B. Huff was the first airborne soldier to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was assigned to the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion in Italy.

I first met Paul when he was serving as First Sergeant of Mortar Battery, 327th Airborne Battle Group and I was Company Commander of C Company. My first impression was that he was unflappable.

The 101st Airborne Division had just been reactivated and there was much stress and strain for the officers and senior noncommissioned officers. Paul got the job done without raising his voice or seeming to hurry. I saw him at different functions over the next four years at Fort Campbell and the 37 years of meetings and ceremonies. He never changed. He was very devoted to his family in East Tennessee.

I was on the committee to plan the celebration for the opening of the SGT PAUL HUFF PARKWAY in Cleveland, Tennessee. He accepted the honor with grace and ease. His Vietnam service was a measure of his devotion to the Screaming Eagle soldiers of the 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division.

He worked with Leo Smith (now deceased) and donated material to help make the Medal of Honor Museum, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, a world class attraction for veterans and civilians. Paul Huff will be missed by a multitude of friends and admirers. He excelled early as an airborne soldier and continued to excel as a model for thousands of airborne soldiers.



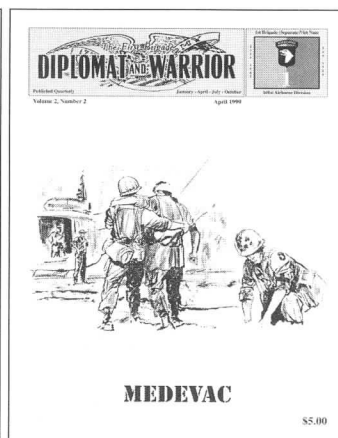
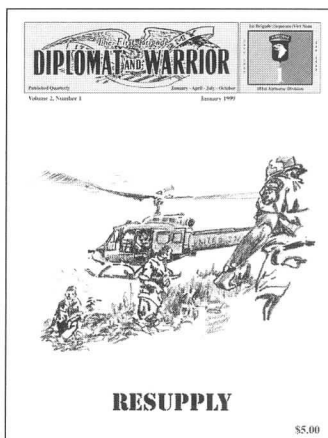
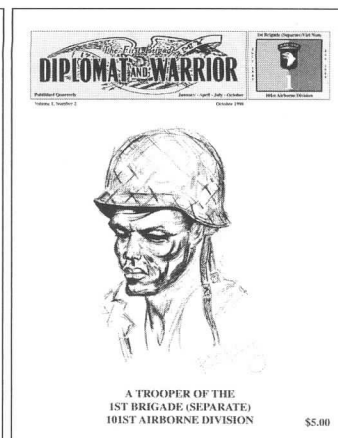
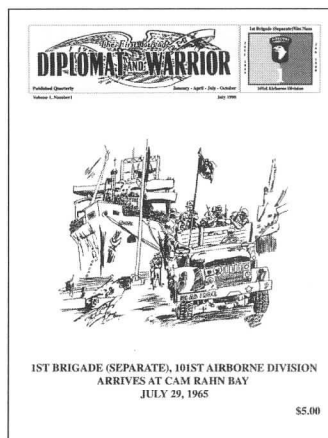
ADVERTISING

The First SCREAMING EAGLES In Viet Nam Accepts Advertising

Advertising Rate Sheets are available for those who are interested in advertising in The First SCREAMING EAGLES In Viet Nam. Please send your request for an ad rate sheet to Ivan Worrell, P. O. Box 675, Sweetwater, TN 37874-0675.

April 1999

THE DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR



To Purchase single copies of the July 98, October 98 & January 99 issues of THE DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR send check or money order (no credit cards please) for \$5.00 + \$1.50 for shipping, a total of \$6.50, each to P. O. Box 675, Sweetwater, TN 37874-0675.

17 APRIL, 1966

DIPLOMAT & WARRIOR
CRIME DOESN'T PAY CHARLIE

PAGE 3

Hit and run is a crime just about anywhere, even in Vietnam and when the culprit gets caught he pays dearly.

Just a little less than 10 miles northwest of Tuy Hoa sits an old dead tree. Up till today the tree had a vine growing up and through its base branches. Every day a Viet Cong sniper used that vine to get to the top of the tree with his rifle. The vine is gone and the VC, like the tree, is dead.

When the 1st Brigade of the Army's 101st Airborne Division deployed its 17th Cavalry along Route 1 near Tuy Hoa they knew there was a hit and run operator in the area. From his vantage point the sniper would wait for the troopers to get within range, fire off a few well placed quick shots and run. After a few days of chasing the elusive Charlie the Cavalry men returned to the tree and booby trapped the vine with a grenade. Returning the following day the paratroopers found no sniper and a bloody bandage.

Crime just doesn't pay and now the old tree is left in peace.



17

6,000 Kills Since 1965

Operation Klamath Falls Reaches 103

PHAN RANG — Enemy losses for Operation Klamath Falls numbered 103 dead and 46 individual and crew-served weapons captured after three weeks of combat. Klamath Falls is the 24th major operation and 31st tactical move of the brigade.

Brigade officials also announced the total pushed the enemy losses since the 1st Brigade arrived in Vietnam on July 29, 1965 to more than 6,000 killed.

The largest contact of the search and destroy sweep 100 miles northeast of Saigon came when A Troop, 1st Sqdn., 9th

Cav., under the operational control of the brigade, engaged 30 Viet Cong in the second week of fighting. Twenty enemy were killed in the contact.

Later in the same day, paratroopers of C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., discovered a base camp of huts, bunkers, tunnels, mess facilities, various articles of clothing and documents.

The brigade's total number of kills in Vietnam was increased greatly by Operation Wheeler's 1,105. On the eve of the brigade's departure from I Corps, the Americal Division commander, Maj. Gen. S. W. Koster,

expressed his appreciation to the brigade for a job well done:

"When you joined the division on May 8, 1967, the southern portion of I Corps tactical zone was under grave threat from enemy forces occupying the mountainous regions west of Duc Pho. The enemy had begun the final stages of a drive to divide South Vietnam at that point.

"Your initiative and aggressive action on Malheur I and II decisively reduced the enemy threat and resulted in the destruction of significant portions of the enemy's combat

capability.

"You continued this fine record in subsequent operations, repeatedly meeting and defeating the enemy in some of the most difficult terrain and under some of the most adverse battle conditions to be found in Vietnam. You can take pride in your achievements for they are in keeping with the highest traditions of the American fighting men.

"As the maneuver brigade of the division you repeatedly took the battle to the enemy's base areas and have been instrumental in driving the main force

units both from the Chu Lai and Duc Pho areas of operation.

"You have achieved success beyond expectation in every endeavor. Your distinguished accomplishments reflect great credit on yourselves, and have added to the honors of your already famous unit.

"As you leave the Americal Division for other battle areas I wish to express my sincere appreciation to each of you for the gallant and valiant service you have rendered to the division and to the cause of freedom for the Vietnamese people."

Troops Rescue 'Mot'

PHAN RANG (2/327-IO) — Eight-year old Mot a Vietnamese boy from a hamlet near Chu Lai, is recuperating in a hospital bed at the 1st Marine Hospital after he was caught in a firefight between paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne and Viet Cong.

No one really knows his name. The paratroopers dubbed him Mot because it means "Number One." He was just a youngster who found himself in the wrong place at the wrong time. His mother was killed by the Viet Cong earlier this year. His father is a member of the Army of Vietnam (ARVN) fighting the enemy.

Mot's jaw was shattered by a bullet as he hid in a hut when paratroopers of the 2nd Plat., A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., drove away the VC. Spec. 4 James C. Harris, Phoenix, Ariz., found him.

"He was a small, pathetic figure," said Harris. "Certainly not one of those I would like to see pay for this war."

Mot was evacuated to the battalion command post where Maj. James J. Waldeck, executive officer from Leavenworth, Kan., placed the boy in a helicopter to the 1st Marine Hospital. In the meantime, the 2nd Plat. was taking a collection for the boy's needs. More than \$50 was collected in less than an hour.

After the Screaming Eagles left the Chu Lai area and initiated Operation Klamath Falls in II Corps, Lt. Col. Robert Yerks, battalion commander from Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, N. Y., received the following letter from Lieutenant W.H. Petri, a Navy doctor at the 1st Marine Hospital:

"... As you know, Mot was a very shy, frightened little fellow, but as he grew used to us here and through the visits by your men he became very outgoing.

"I operated on him and fortunately it was successful. His post-operative period was tough as it would be for any child this age, but he recuperated quickly and within a week was a regular visitor to our Officer's Club.

"During the next two weeks his healing progressed and at that time arrangements were made for his discharge to the Catholic orphanage.

"On December 7, Mot was well and discharged from the hospital to live at the orphanage—a well, bright and happy child.

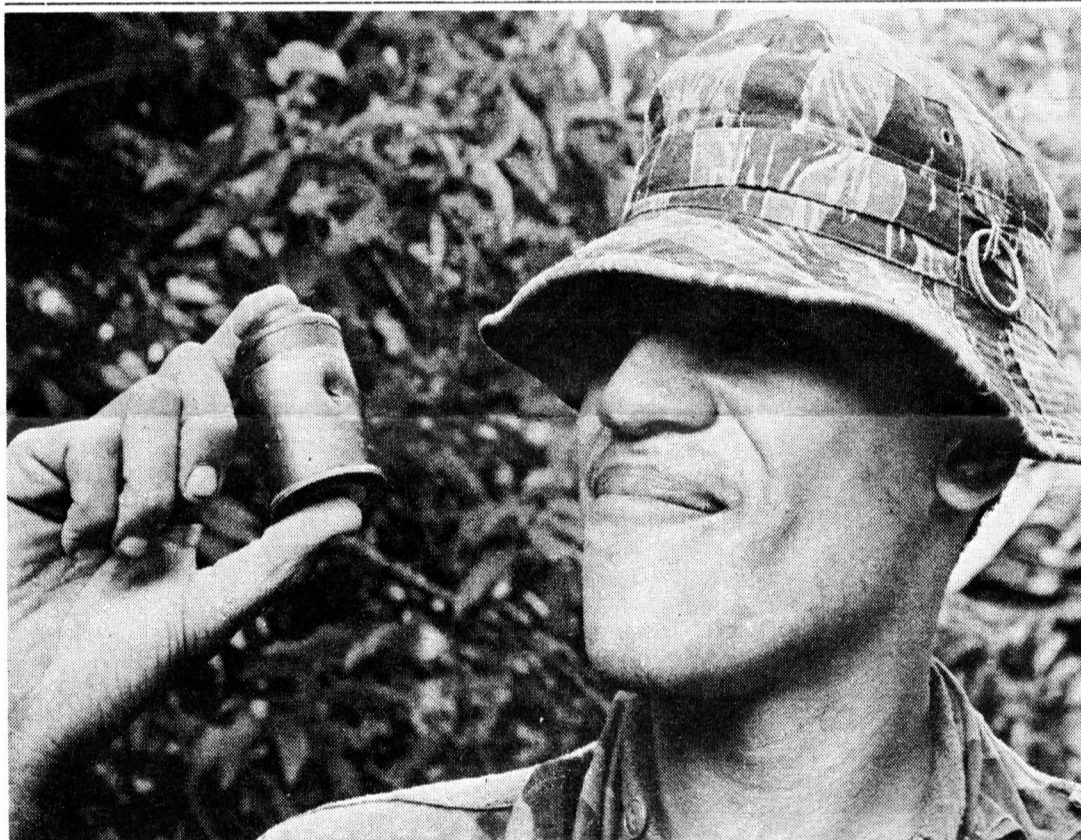
The Screaming Eagle



Vol II, No. 3

1st Bde, 101st Abn Div

January 17, 1968



Close Call

Pfc. Ventura Leak, New York City, holds an M-79 round which deflected an enemy bullet from his leg during a recent operation. Leak is a member of Tiger Force, 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

(Photo by Spec. 4 Ben Croxton)

Lucky 'Tiger'

M-79 Shell Deflects Bullet

PHAN RANG — Big game hunters know it takes skill and cunning to stop a tiger. The same is true of trying to stop a Tiger from 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., 101st Airborne Division.

During a recent operation north of here, an element of Tiger Force, a reconnaissance unit, moved cautiously through the lush jungle toward a cluster of huts nestled in a clearing. Smoke curled up from the huts into the misty morning air.

Squad Maneuvers

Sgt. James R. Barnett, Loretta, Tenn., maneuvered his forces to cover both entrances to the tranquil community. Pfc. Dennis Evans and Ventura Leak, both from New York City,

approached one entrance while Barnett's element covered the other.

Suddenly two VC dashed out of a hut, their weapons blazing. "I yelled for my men not to fire because the VC were running toward Evans and Leak," said Barnett. "I didn't want to risk wounding one of our own men."

Evans Opens Up

Evans, a machine gunner, saw the two VC running toward him. "When I opened up, it really surprised those two 'Charlies,'" Evans said.

As Evans and Leak dropped the two insurgents, a third came out of another hut, weapon in hand.

"I could see him firing at me," said Leak. "Then I felt a hard slap against my leg and I went down."

No Blood

Spec. 4 David Cousey, San Antonio, a Tiger Force medic, ran to aid the fallen paratrooper. "I couldn't see any blood, so I asked him where he was hit," recalled Cousey. "Leak pointed to his leg."

Still unable to find the wound, Cousey searched through Leak's trouser pocket.

"I found an M-79 grenade round," said Cousey. "It had a deep dent in the side of the casing where the bullet hit and ricocheted."

The Tigers gathered around Leak to congratulate him on his luck. "It wasn't a bad morning," said Barnett. "Three confirmed VC and a bruised Tiger."

Squad Claims Two VC

PHAN RANG (1/327-IO) — Two VC were killed and their weapons captured by paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division during Operation Klamath Falls southwest of here when the Americans ambushed the insurgents.

Throughout the morning, Spec. 4 Marco Vega, Queens, N.Y., guided his platoon from B Co. of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., through dense foliage. For six hours he hacked a trail through the bamboo thickets and tall elephant grass. When he approached a clearing, Vega halted the platoon and called for a reconnaissance element to investigate the area.

As the paratrooper force edged toward the perimeter of the clearing, intense enemy automatic weapons fire broke out. Uninjured by the initial burst, Vega sprayed the enemy position.

Suddenly he was slammed against a tree.

"I pulled off my rucksack to see where I was hit," Vega recalled. "I found the edge of my rucksack frame splintered by an enemy round."

Vega continued to fire on the concealed enemy as other paratroopers moved forward.

Pfc. Joseph Ladd, Knoxville, Tenn., grabbed a machine gun and laid down a withering barrage of fire as Lt. Jeffery Fletcher, Walla Walla, Wash., maneuvered his platoon around the clearing and called in artillery support.

As the artillery lifted, Fletcher's platoon swept and secured the vacated enemy area.

A short distance away, members of the 2nd Plat. occupied blocking and ambush positions. Sgt. Onorio Romo, Loveland, Colo., had positioned his squad when he saw two VC approaching from the area where Fletcher's platoon had made contact.

Romo's squad felled the insurgents with a single burst and he moved forward to retrieve their weapons while the squad covered his advance. As Romo neared one body, the enemy raised his weapon to fire. The paratrooper squad silenced him before he could fire on their squad leader.

New Aide to CG

PHAN RANG—Lt. John McKnight, Toccoa, Ga., former leader of the Hawk reconnaissance platoon of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., is now aide-de-camp to Brig. Gen. S.H. Matheson, commander of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

"THE ROVING TROUBADOURS"

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96347

Rel. No. 10-6

MACOI

By Sergeant Bernard Gordon



TUY HOA, VIETNAM (101st - IO) – Four paratroopers serving with the 2nd Battalion, 320th Artillery, of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, have gained fame but little fortune entertaining their comrades with melodic sounds on improvised instruments. The foursome, known as the "Roving Troubadours," are (L to R) PFC Jerry Wilhite, Syracuse, N.Y., PFC Homer Bonds, Wichita, Kan., PFC Edward Bluford, Los Angeles, Calif., and PFC Pat Dorsey, Washington, D.C.

(101st-IO-L44-36) US Army Photo by Sp/4 Oddvar Breiland

TUY HOA, VIETNAM (101st-IO) -Take one empty potato chip can, two wooden tent poles, one steel guitar and a couple of empty number 10 cans --- add four paratroopers and good old GI initiative and what do you have - music of course, field music that is.

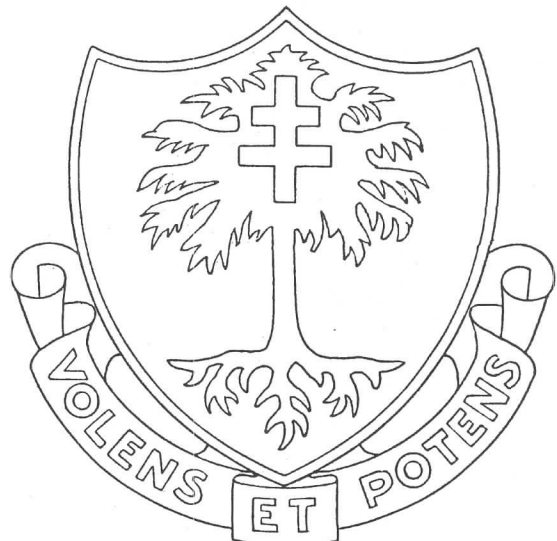
When away from home many men ease the state of loneliness with song. Four men of the 2nd Battalion, 320th Artillery, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division did just that. They formed a musical quartet with improvised instruments.

Private First Class Jerry Wilhite of Syracuse, New York, Private First Class Homer Bonds, Wichita, Kansas, Private First Class Pat Dorsey, Washington DC, and Private First Class Edward Bluford of Los Angeles, California got together while the Brigade was in Dak To and have been entertaining their buddies ever since.

The group started off with just a steel guitar as their only musical instrument. Later, a potato chip can was utilized as a drum, with wooden tent poles as drumsticks. Occasionally, Specialist Four Paul Branch from Wakefield, Virginia, sits in with his bongos (empty number 10 cans.)

Wilhite plays the guitar and is the lead singer. He also wrote the group's most demanded song, "Standing on the Mountain." This song is a ballad of the feeling of loneliness of a soldier in Vietnam and was written while the Brigade was in Phan Thiet. He was on switchboard duty one night and the words and tune came to him as he was gazing into the distant mountain ranges.

Specialist Four Ronnie Short, Fanrock, Virginia is the manager of the group and arranges for them to serenade their fellow paratroopers while in the forward command post. One night the "Roving Troubadours" rendered 35 selections before packing away their instruments and melodious voices and preparing for another day of duty in Vietnam.





Bullets Flicked Past Soldier And Killed His Commander

Qui Nhon, Vietnam, Sept. 19 (AP) - Radio Operator Kenneth L. Moore watched his company commander die of bullets that flicked by within two inches of his own face.

"I was in the line of fire. I don't know why I am alive today," said Moore, from Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Roy Hoffman, from Punxsutawney, Pa. was one of three soldiers sent to recover the commander's body. He was gunned down but lived. The boy moving up beside him died.

Ripped Into Them

Pvt. Danny Haden from Memphis, Tenn., wounded in the thigh and shoulder, was being carried across a paddy field by his first sergeant when Viet Cong bullets ripped into them. The first sergeant was killed.

These three young American soldiers were in the vicious fighting Saturday near An Khe. They are recovering from wounds at a Qui Nhon military hospital.

All three were with Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Regiment, 101st Airborne Brigade. Charlie Company bore the brunt of the fighting against Viet Cong guerrillas who ambushed a helicopter assault force.

"I was spoiling for a fight with the Viet Cong," said Moore, 21. "But when those machine gun bullets started flaking pieces off my radio on my back, I wanted to be 200 miles away."

Moore crawled 200 yards along a shallow trench to reach another platoon after the headquarters group of his company had been nearly wiped out.

His radio would not work because it was clogged with his commanding officer's blood. Moore got it going 30 minutes later when the blood dried.

"Coming In So Close"

Moore's company tried to secure the landing in the shallow valley east of An Khe.

The paratroopers were grateful for United States Air Force planes that flew close bombing support.

Moore said, "the air strikes were coming in so close that our own men were getting hit with shrapnel. That's how I got wounded. But we were not complaining. We were on a bald little hill with no cover. We needed that air."



SCRAPBOOK

EDITION 3

for fighting men too busy to keep their own!

THE WASHINGTON POST



BILLBOARD MESSAGE — The Rollins Co. has placed this message of encouragement to the troops in Vietnam on a billboard on Jefferson Davis Highway near 23d Street in Arlington. The sign is illuminated from dusk to midnight.

Eyewitness describes U.S. Landing at Anninh

'The Viet Cong Were Waiting for Us...

By Henri Huet

ANNINH, Viet-Nam, Sept. 19 (AP) - A platoon from Charlie Company was on the side of a hill. The Viet Cong raked the men with vicious fire from above. They had to take the hill because the guerrilla fire prevented the other airborne troops from landing.

Then the major got hit in the leg. After he fell and was looking at his wound he was hit again. His last words before he died were "Don't pull back, don't pull back."

The major was a battalion operations officer with the 101st Airborne Brigade. He took over the company after its commander was killed. With his revolver, he led the platoon in the assault on the hill.

Casualties officially are described as light in the fighting here this weekend, where the major and several other paratroopers were killed and more were wounded. But troopers who had been through the Korean War said the fighting was as vicious as any they had ever seen.

Viet Cong were dug in in foxholes and trenches beside a river along the paratrooper landing zone. Others were on the hill that commanded the area. More were back in higher hills, dropping mortar rounds among the helicopters and troops.

The closest Viet Cong positions were 30 yards from the landing zone. Two helicopters were shot down and 15 were hit.

The paratroopers hit the dirt, then inched their way forward and dug in on dry rice paddies about 150 feet square.

The heaviest concentration of Viet Cong fire was coming from a hill about 150 feet high and about 100 yards northeast of the landing zone.

"The Viet Cong were waiting for us on the other side of the hill," said Platoon Sgt. Ezra A. Vaughn of Clarksville, Tenn., a veteran of 13 months in combat in Korea.

"They were well dug in. They were wearing a kind of camouflage poncho liner and it was difficult to spot them. When our platoon of about 15 men appeared at the top of the hill, the Viet Cong gave a whistle signal and opened up."

"I saw at least 20 of them. I could see their hands come up out of the foxholes as they threw grenades. We had to pull back."

Vaughn was wounded in later action Saturday.

As the afternoon wore on a helicopter from the 1st Cavalry (Airmobile) Division came in for the wounded. The Viet Cong opened up with machine guns. Six wounded were put aboard, but two had to be left behind.

Still later, three medical evacuation choppers with large red crosses painted on their fuselage made it in with medical supplies but before they could load wounded aboard they, too, were driven off by blistering Viet Cong fire. That was the last time Saturday that helicopters tried to land.

19 SEPT 65

101ST AIRBORNE NOW ON THE ATTACK

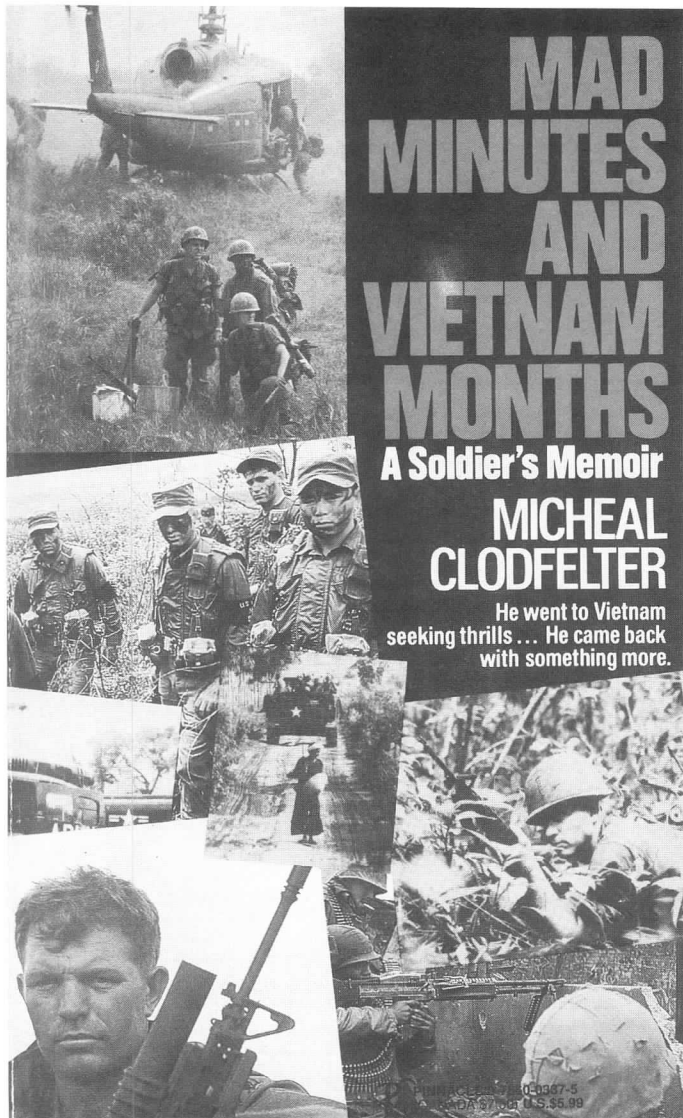
5:55 Monday Morning Headlines. ABC

DON GARDNER: After being pinned down for 24 hours by the VC in the central highlands, troops of the 101st Airborne are now on the attack against the guerrillas. 30 VC reported killed in the fighting.

There were 2 attacks this past week in the demilitarized zone between the North and South VN. (AUDIO TAPE)

BOOK REVIEW

By Ivan Worrell



MAD MINUTES AND VIETNAM MONTHS

A Soldier's Memoir

By, Michael Clodfelter, C Co, 2/502, 1966 - 1967

Pinnacle Books

Kensington Publishing Corp.

381 pages, \$5.99, paperback

This is a different, unique, book about the Vietnam experience. The thread that runs through all of Michael Clodfelter's story, from his enlistment in the Army in 1964 through his active participation as a Vietnam Veteran Against the War, is of a young man seeking glory in Vietnam. By 1971 he was marching and demonstrating to elect peace candidates and to stop the war in Vietnam. There was no indication that he captured any glory as part of the peace movement.

He found that glory eluded him as he feels he was not in the right place at the right time and that the team effort of an infantry platoon, squad and fire team provided limited opportunities to become an instant qualified hero. Perhaps he pur-

sued glory so doggedly that he did not recognize opportunities to become a hero as he envisioned glory.

He arrived in Vietnam as a member of 2/320th Artillery Battalion and after one year volunteered for a six month extension to serve in an infantry unit where he believed he could cover himself with glory. He was wounded twice and was awarded an Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

Michael Clodfelter has a way with words. If you do not agree with anything in the book you would be better for having read and marveled at his comparative descriptions of objects and actions.

I agonized, for a few days, after reading MAD MINUTES, about how I would present this book. Should I publish a review? My decision is: Sergeant E-5 Michael Clodfelter served in the 1st Brigade (Separate). This is his story and it deserves to be considered.

Available at most good bookstores.



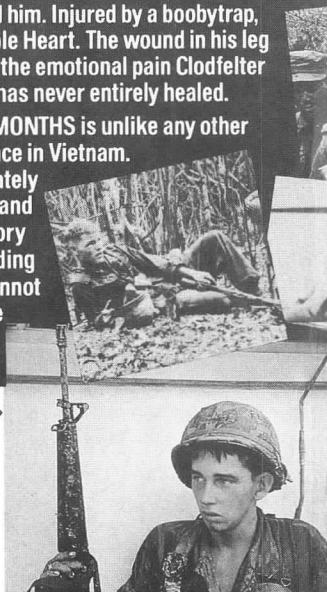
THE MAD MINUTES OF UNNERVING VIOLENCE WERE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN. THE REALITY OF 'NAM WAS MONTHS OF WAITING...

Waiting for a transport to the front lines, waiting for a tour to end... waiting for the war to make sense.

In this vivid first-person account, former Sergeant Micheal Clodfelter tells of stepping off a transport ship onto Vietnamese soil in 1965 with the highest of hopes. Here, he felt, was his chance to be a part of history, to truly understand bravery and loyalty. His dreams were quickly shattered by the drudgery of duty behind the lines in Vietnam, where the main hazards were insects, intestinal parasites—and boredom. Determined to experience what he considered the acid test of a man's courage and worth, the trial by combat, he signed up for an additional six months as a "grunt" or infantryman at the end of his first tour.

Still, his dreams of glory eluded him. Injured by a boobytrap, Clodfelter was awarded the Purple Heart. The wound in his leg healed within a few months, but the emotional pain Clodfelter brought back from Vietnam has never entirely healed.

MAD MINUTES AND VIETNAM MONTHS is unlike any other account of the American experience in Vietnam. Eloquent and passionately felt, by turns darkly humorous and deeply moving, Clodfelter's story of the war is essential, vivid reading for those who were there and cannot forget, and for those who were not and strive to understand.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR
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5787449675 11

MESSAGES FROM THE

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LEO CHAPUT, ALASKA
chaput@alaska.net

2nd 502 1965-1966 B Co from Feb 66. Would like to hear from others who were there at this time.

JIM (LIMEY) WALKER, HULL, ENGLAND TO
MENA, ARKANSAS
Limey52@aol.com

Served with 1/101 LRRP Detachment and would like to find more members. We have found 50 so far. I think Ivan is doing us a real justice with Diplomats and Warriors. I have never had any love for field grade officers but I think in Major Worrell's case I will make an exception. Damn good job.....siiiiir!

RICHARD DAVIS, MADISON, WV
gdavis@newwave.net

Always looking for former members of B/2/502 from 1966-1967. Please contact if you are or know of any boonie rats! Strike Force!

LARRY TILLEY, GRANBURY, TX
lrtalley@hcnnews.com

Nice site. Learned of site from Diplomat and Warrior. Would like to know if there are other 101st sites. I served as a parachute rigger in 101st Parachute Supply & Maintenance Co. from 1962 to 1965 at Ft. Campbell. Would like to hear from anyone from that outfit. Larry Tilley RA18633118

Editor's Notes: Check the LINKS section of the web site.

JOHN E. PAGEL 2ND, GLENDORA, CA
TFOSOCA@GATEWAY.NET

Served with "B" Company 1/327th INF., 1st Brigade May of 1965 till the end of January 1966. The men of the 3rd Platoon of "B" Company were the finest men ever to wear the patch of the 101st Airborne Division and they were and are forever my brothers. Until we meet again.

BEN DAGGETT, CHARLOTTE, NC
eagle290@mindspring.com

Served with C/2/327 '65-'66. Enjoyed the site and have added to favorites.

BRUCE E. TURNER, ROCKFORD, MI
bturner@usxchange.com

July 66 to July 67, HHC 2/502 as an RTO in the Strike Force.

STEVE S. SIMMONS, PARKER, COLORADO
stevessimmons (e-mail address incomplete)

I was in Vietnam May 66 - Feb 67, Co A 2/502. I was RTO in Weapons Platoon Feb 67 - Dec 67 Replacement Tng. Co. The 101st Jungle Warfare Tng. Ctr in Phan Rang, I was an instructor. I am looking for Nick "Dufas" Frey of Co A 2/502 1966/67 time period. He was "best point man ever" and especially good at tracking elephants. Nick was from Southern California; anyone know him?

GEORGE ABRAM, PASADENA, CA NOW IN
SACRAMENTO, CA
keoki_98@hotmail.com

I served with the 101st Airborne Division from June 66 to June 68. I was with the 2nd Brigade for one year and one year with the 1st Brigade in Vietnam from June 67 to June 68. Keep up the good work and God Bless All My Comrades. I hope to make the next reunion. A thought on my Army service, I served with A Co. 1/327, 1st Brigade; the Above The Rest Battalion and have never met men anywhere to match the courage and dedication of paratroopers from the 101st.

JERRY BERRY, LIBBY, MT
currahee@libby.org

Fellow Currahees, I am planning to publish a book in the near future on Propaganda Leaflets from the Vietnam War. I collected quite a few during my tour and have picked up a few others since. If anyone of you have one or more that you would like to see in the book, I would welcome including them and give you credit. I will return to you as soon as I can scan them. If interested, please reply.

JERRY BERRY, LIBBY, MT
currahee@libby.org

Fellow Screaming Eagles, I served with the "original" group of 3/506 Currahees and was my battalion PIO. I'm writing a book

about the 3/506 and its first year in Vietnam (Oct. 67-68). If anyone can put me in touch with SFC Art Campbell, SP4 Ben Croxton, SP4 M. Nelson, Maj. Spangler (all from the PIO section), I would sure appreciate it. If you run across any 3/506 guys from my tour year, please let them know that I'm searching for them. We have a mini-reunion planned at the 101st Assoc. Hampton VA Reunion in Aug. Hope to see you guys there.

ERNEST BRIDGERS (LT RED), NORTH CAROLINA
EBridgers@AOL.COM

(1) Could you ask that people give you an e-mail address when they subscribe and publish them in the newsletter? (2) Do you have a roster - I see in the last newsletter a picture of Mike McFadden and I was his FO for a short time before I went over to Recon. (3) In checking my medals from the DoD, there is a Gallantry Cross with Palm which I know nothing about. Does anyone know what this is and is it any good. I was at Dak To - would this have anything to do with anything? (4) Good magazine - I hope everyone supports Ivan!

Editor's Notes: (1) I do ask for an e-mail address on the subscription form. It is not published in the "New Subscribers" section. (2) All who have subscribed are listed in the publications. (3) The RVN Cross of Gallantry was awarded to units by the Government of the RVN. The medal was not issued. The full size and miniature medals can be purchased at the Don F. Pratt Museum Gift Shop at Fort Campbell, KY. (4) I, too, hope for better-subscription support.

ERNEST (RED) BRIDGERS, ROCKY MOUNT, NC
EBridgers@AOL.COM

Looked over the Diplomat and Warrior last night which someone sent me. Don't know if I have subscribed. How about letting me know. I was assigned to 320 Artillery and attached to 502 - served as Forward Observer to Recon Platoon and most of the rifle companies at one time or another - was called Lt Red!

Editor's Note: Subscription form received May 18, 1998, for Bridgers along with check number 1728 (on stub - Checking - UFED for L. Ernest Bridgers, Jr.). A note is usually attached to the file card if someone else paid for the subscription.

EDDIE LEWIN, MIAMI LAKES, FL
eelyx@aol.com

Strike Force...I finally got the G2 on 101st yearbooks. Check the Barns and Noble web site for out of print books. Also there is the "Army Book Store" in Lexington, KY. Kinda expensive though... If anyone knows a Recon Sgt from the 2/320 FA who was assigned to C, 2/502, named Don Hoggat, let him know that his X-RAY is trying to contact him. I hope to see all of you at the Gathering of Eagles. Keep up the good work on the site...Srrrr.

RON G. FORD, BILLINGS MT
Ford3506@hotmail.com

I was with A/3/506 1st Brigade 67-68 Currahee.

JAMES R. ATWOOD, NEWPORT, KENTUCKY
RECON3506 (e-mail address incomplete)

Looking for anybody with the 3/506 RECON teams from 1967-1969. But will be glad to talk to anyone that was with the 3/506. My call sign in Nam was BITCH.

MIKE PRITCHARD, CALIFORNIA
Mike.J.Pritchard@gte.net

Looking for A Trp 2/17th Cav, 1st, 101st from 66 to 67, anyone ever connect with the family of Russ or John, have photos that the family may like to see? Anybody else like to hear from you.

DAVID WAYNE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Abn327@aol.com

Served with 2/327 1968/69 time period. Still in touch with fellow troopers from that time period and some from just before and after my tour. Would like to hear from other No Slackers. We have a lively group.

E-MAIL
DAVE COOK
cookdsmg@mint.net

Above the Rest Ivan! Sorry I'm late in communicating with you but I have been busy. It's a lame excuse but it's the best I can do. We talked at the 1/101 Reunion last May at Ft Campbell and I would love to contribute to your magazine. I also want to enroll and get it on a regular basis. I have quite a bit of stuff I have collected from 327 vets over the 10 years I have written for "The Static Line" but I think I should check with the guys who have sent me info, anecdotes, etc., before I put it out. I hope all is well with you and yours. Merry Christmas and I hope you have a great new year. Dave Cook C 1/327 '65-'66.

RON BOURNE
Bdg101Lrrp@aol.com

Hi Ivan, Wanted to tell you how much I enjoy The Diplomat and Warrior. I always read it very close in hopes that I will find a member of the LRRP Platoon in the years 1965-66. The Platoon was commanded by Lt Joel Stephenson. I am sending

a list of members of the platoon in hopes that you may have some of them on your membership list. If you have any one of these men listed, I would like very much to be put in touch with them. The attachment is a list of the platoon. I have found Lt. (Col.) Stephenson, Sgt (Sgt) Arthur Doame, Sfc Larry Forrest, Sp/4 David Corliss, so far in my search. If you can help me in locating any of the others I would appreciate it very much.

Thank You, Ron Bourne, Commo Chief

LRRP Platoon, 1st Bdg. 101st Abn. Division

HEADQUARTERS TEAM

Plt. Ldr.	1Lt. Stephenson Joel	
Plt. Sgt.	Sfc Chassion Phillip R.	RA21199624
Commo Sgt.	Sgt Bourne Ronald L.	RA18547241
Jr. Commo	Sp4 Flynn Michael	
S-2	Ssgt Herdener Curtis W.	RA17607324
Supply Sgt.	Ssgt O'Conner Daniel P.	RA12529330
Driver	Sp4 Corliss David	

TEAM 1

Tm Ldr.	Sfc Tomlinson Guy L.	RA16223992
Sr. Scout	Sgt White William	
Jr. Scout	Sgt Doty Robert	
Sr. Radio	Sgt Nash Joseph A.	RA16577404
Jr. Radio	Sp4 Smith Alfred	
Medic	Sp5 Clark Richard C.	RA19638872

TEAM 2

Tm Ldr.	Sfc Pruitt Donovan J.	
Sr. Scout	Ssgt Roedel Fang	
Jr. Scout	Sgt Waymire Jackie	
Sr. Radio	Sgt Doame Authur L.	RA14689144
Jr. Radio	Sp4 Thomas Vernon A.	RA16624892
Medic	Sp5 Johnson Joseph A.	RA24922203

TEAM 3

Tm Ldr.	Sfc Skau David	
Sr. Scout	Ssgt Warner	
Jr. Scout	Sgt Tadlock	
Sr. Radio	Sp4 Payne Thomas B.	RA19786070
Jr. Scout	Sp4 Camp Joe	
Medic	Sgt Meza Pascual R.	RA18612858

TEAM 4

Tm Ldr.	Sfc Forrest Larry E.	
Sr. Scout	Ssgt Fogt James	
Jr. Scout	Sgt Henry Philip	
Sr. Radio		
Jr. Radio	Sp4 Vaughn John J.	US51533293
Medic	Sp4 Davis William	

RONALD BOURNE
Bdg101Lrrp@aol.com

Hi Ivan, Here is the information that I have at this time. I never knew there were so many people with the same name until I started my search. If I knew what state the men were from it would help. I hope this info will be of some use to you.

JOEL STEPHENSON, 801 Cliff Dr., Apt A-2, Santa Barbara, CA 93109, (Joel just moved from TN to CA and I don't have his Phone Number); ARTHUR L. DOAME, 740 Hilton Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28311, 910-488-2046; DAVID CORLISS, 33711 Road 37, Stratton, CO 80836, 719-348-5408

Editor's Note: Thank you. All the above have been sent information on how to subscribe.

DALE HANSEN
dhansen@onramp.net

Ivan (Sir), great publication! I was a bit leery of subscribing due to the fact I didn't get In Country until Aug 2, 1968. However, I did attend the 6th Bi-Annual Reunion. Joseph Bossi and Dave Cook made me do it! It was great being around you old timers!!

Anyway, you've probably found it by now, but in case you haven't, Waldenbooks will order Long Range Patrol by Dennis Foley for you. Took about 10 days, but I got both Special Men and LRP. Tell me though, why is it Dennis Foley never seems to mention he was once C.O. of a line company in the 101st? When I arrived in Vietnam and after P Training, a whole bunch of us were sent to D/2/327. The company had just been hit by their own airstrike and suffered about nine killed and a whole bunch wounded. Don't remember details anymore, but I do remember Captain Dennis Foley was the C.O.

Also, how can he be missing? Surely Col. Hackworth knows his whereabouts. Maybe he's off in the bush writing another book.

Anyway, hope the information is of some use. Again, thanks for The Diplomat and Warrior and caring as you apparently do.

No Slack!
Dale Hansen
D/2/327 8-68-8-69

Editor's Note: Dennis Foley is missing, but only, from my address list.

PETER GRIFFIN
strike@vnet.net

Dear Ivan, another great issue! Thanks for letting me contribute. You honor me, dear friend. (As my friend, Ben Lam would say, you too kind!) Love the Dak To articles and pictures, never seen them before. You are right on target with a very interesting magazine. The email column and letters are great! It's a good thing, hearing from old comrades. You leave me wanting an issue every month instead of each quarter. Hope the poem makes other vets realize they are not alone dealing with PTSD. God Bless, Most Respectfully, Grif

DEWEY SMITH
DIANNE K. SMITH, dksmith@wcoil.com

Ivan: Got the January issue of D&W yesterday and read it through in one sitting. I want you to know you are doing a very good job with the D&W and it is appreciated. You would have made a good NCO. The article on SP4 Thomas Sturges I read with quite a bit of amusement. When it was time for my DEROS, I was sent back to Phan Rang straight out of the field still dirty, ragged and smelly. I was assigned to a GP Medium with some other guys going back to the world and some returning from R&R or the hospital heading back to their units in the field. Those of us going back to the World were going to catch a C-130 to Long Binh the following morning. Those of us going home had gotten there late, it was already getting dark and we needed to get cleaned up for an early start the next day. We were sitting around on the bunks ragging on the guys going back to the field when this trooper came running in yelling that Jake No Shoulders (a really big cobra) had gotten out of his cage at the brigade zoo. None of us knew if there was such a place or such a creature to get out of it if there was. Those that had gear placed it on their bunks and climbed on top. No feet on the floor and everyone facing in different directions just in case we had unwelcome company. A couple of us that needed showers were debating what to do. The nearest shower was about 100 meters away but was unlighted. The next closest about 500 meters away was lighted but it was a long dark walk. We opted for the lighted shower. That way if Jake came in one door we could go out the other. Being very quiet and using our best night march skills we headed for the shower. About halfway there I felt something hit me in the thigh with a stinging pain. I knew I had been had and really felt the injustice of it all, being so short that I could parachute off a dime. My buddy (?) realizing what had happened started to laugh. Someone had opened a case of C's and left the wire on the ground. I had stepped on one end of the wire and the other end had flipped up and hit me on the leg. I really needed a shower now. Needless to say, we never did see Jake and did make it to Long Binh and then to the World without any problem. Thanks again for helping bring back some good memories. Take care, keep up the good work and God bless.

Above The Rest
Dewey Smith

JERRY BERRY (PIO 3/506 VN 67-68)
currahee@homer.libby.org

Ivan, I have approximately 95% of the Screaming Eagle newspapers from my tour plus a few earlier editions. Do you have any idea where I can obtain the several that I am missing? I would be willing to trade some earlier editions and extras that I have for those I am missing. Also, can you tell me and my group why no one in the 3/506 received the blue year book (I believe it was called)? I saw one briefly that a friend had received (Division)? I sure would like to see the 506th Assoc. get together with the 1st Bde Separate and not have our own separate association.

Hello, Ivan. It is great to hear from you. One of the primary reasons why I am writing my book today is because my unit, the 3/506, didn't receive the recognition or credit it deserved in Vietnam. I am amazed at the lack of info there is on the 3/506. I would be very glad to assist you and maybe you can help me fill a few gaps too. What do you do these days and where are you? Are you in touch with any of the old group of PIOs and staff? I sure would like to find Maj. Spangler. He was a fine gentleman and officer. He personally gave me my job. I have a few names of fellow PIOs and lab staff. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Editor's Note: I was the Information Officer of the 1st Brigade from May of 1966 - May 1967. Major Spangler was my replacement. I am working, now, to attempt to reconstruct the personnel roster of the Information Office for that period. I do not recall SGT Campbell. I am looking for material about the 3/506 because they are not prominent in the material I have found about the Brigade and they are part of the history of the 1st Brigade (Separate) 101st Airborne Division. Please let me know if you can help. Thanks, very much for your interest. I am not in touch with MAJ Spangler. Hope to be someday.

RAYMOND E. BENSON, II
rrlb@ctaz.com

Dear Mr. Worrell, My name is Raymond E. Benson, II. I am trying to locate anyone who may have known my father or have any info on his death. My father served in the 101st Airborne Div., Co C, 2nd Bn, 327 Inf., 1st Bde as a 1st Sgt and was also know as "Ben." According to the telegram sent notifying of his death on May 2, 1967, it was the result of an airplane crash. We believe it was just outside of Da Nang. If you have any info or know of anyone who might, please contact me by e-mail. This would be greatly appreciated. If not please contact anyway so that I know that you received this.

JOHN E. MUNNELLY, COL USA (RET)
ScorchSix@aol.com

Just wanted to express my appreciation for the fine work. Especially enjoyed the pictures which bring back warm memories of comrades. Very respectfully John E. Munnelly, Col USA (Ret) commanded 5/27 FA vic Tuy Hoa, 1966.

LTC(R) WILLIAM KARL BERGMAN,
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
William.Bergman@eurodat-services.com

Compliments on the effort to get the definitive history going. I was in B Troop, 2/17 CAV during the year that brought us Tet and also regrettably the rest of the Division. Served as platoon leader and troop XO, finally CO when Joe Rozelle (H. Joseph Rozelle, great guy, have his address?) got hit. My last action

was to take the lead in the post Tet clean up on the coast south of Hue, where we rounded up after a small week's fighting, the record number of live prisoners with arms. I think the part "with arms" was the record. Stood an IG (my troop's second) DURING the fight. Bunch of real RAMFs came from DivHQ, what a laugh. You'll have to stay on me to get stories, 'cause I'm a real procrastinator where it concerns history. Good luck and thanks. (LTC(R) WILLIAM KARL BERGMAN, NSA PSC 79 Box 264, APO, AE 09714)

Editor's Note: We have a Rozelle in our database, but he is not a subscriber to The Diplomat and Warrior. We have mailed info to the following address and have not been informed that it is incorrect. Joseph Rozelle, 2/17 CAV B VN 67-68, 2529 Willow Oak Court, Modesto, CA 95355.

RON GESKE, DANVILLE, IL
RGeske@material-service.com

Ivan, just a short note and a couple of questions. At the 98 Reunion, I found a name of one of my unit members and have since lost the address of this person. He was listed under the B 2/320 - name was Leonard, James. Help with this address would be appreciated. Also reference to the picture on the back of The Diplomat and Warrior for Jan 99. I knew LTC Madden well but can't remember his CSM at the time. Please help here also. Keep up the good work with the publication. Airborne! Ron Geske, 18112 N. Gilbert, Danville, IL 61832; B 2/320 ARTY, 66-67.

Editor's Note: We do not have a James Leonard nor Leonard James in our database. I have a photo of SGM Garnett Arnold (2/320) receiving a Bronze Star from BG Willard Pearson.

FAXES

This FAX was received from GEORGE T. KIMBRO COL (R), A/326 on January 29th, 1999. "Dear Ivan, Just received your Jan 99 issue of Diplomat and Warrior. It is a great publication. I keep every copy. Thanks for giving A/326 Engineers some notice on page 33. We were the best Engineer Company that year, no question about it. Just want to correct my name, it is George Kimbro - not James. Thanks again for the write up and the rest of the paper. It is a real service to the veterans of the 1st Bde. If I can help you - let me know. FAX: 1-210-494-4721, E-mail: GEOKIMBRO@AOL.COM."

Editor's Note: The article in the January 1999 issue of The Diplomat and Warrior on pages 32 and 33 were taken from the September - October 1966 issue of THE SCREAMING EAGLE pages 5 and 6, so none of the text was corrected but in our data base we have the correct name - GEORGE.

FROM U. S. POSTAL SERVICE

JOHN N. KOVLOVRIS, 801 MAINT B Co. 1/68-12/68 wrote, "Dear Sir, Just a short note to inform you, your publication is

very good! I enjoy it! I also want to inform you of new plates in Mass. - a Bronze Star plate and Silver Star. All you need is a copy of your citation, DD 214 and auto registration. I myself have Bronze Star 1046, it really does stand out and the cost is zero to vets who have these awards. Do try and publish this info in your magazine. Looking forward to your next issue."

CSM ROBERT A. YOUNG, RET. Wrote, "I received your January issue of 'Diplomat and Warrior.' It certainly was a good issue, perhaps your best! Ivan, I have no idea where you dug up that letter, I wrote to Walt Miller. Completely forgotten and no record of it, here - you 'I.O. Guys' are amazing! Thanks for INK you gave me. Of course, I shall never forget it was the 'young troopers' who carried the 'RUCKS' and did the 'HEAVYLIFTING' that made the 1st Brigade (Sep) a great, AIRBORNE OUTFIT! I was blessed to be their Brigade Sgt Major! Ivan, I certainly hope The Diplomat and Warrior will hit, the break-even point (plus), so you can continue publication into the future. Finally, I've enclosed a check for \$11.20 to cover cost of a First Brigade Hat. Keep up your good work. Airborne All The Way. P.S. I only have about, seventy-five hats - but, have room for one more!"

TOM TAYLOR (65-66), 2500 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008-2821; 202 265 7138, Fax 265 0131 wrote: "Dear Ivan, Here's a happy ending to a VN war story. In April 1966 B/2-502, of which I was CO, got in a little scrap during the Brigade's first operation out of Phan Thiet. The Oh-deuce interpreter then was Ben Cai Lam about whom I wrote a book WHERE THE ORANGE BLOOMS, now out of print. After the action I put Ben in for the Bronze Star w/V. Shortly thereafter I went 60 days on TDY then rotated home.

Out of the Army, I didn't see Ben again for 18 years, not until he escaped from a re-education camp and VN itself. It was another 13 years before Ben mentioned to me that he never got the medal. Paper work was slow, I told him, but let's see where the hold up is.

I started with Awards Branch of DA. They sent me a regulation describing what had to be done. It involved a corroborating statement from someone else who knew about the award. LTG(Ret) Hank Emerson, Ben's sponsor in the US, was happy to provide the endorsement. That plus my write up of the action and Ben's part in it seemed to satisfy the regulation. It was then just a matter of waiting, and waiting, and waiting... and waiting for months till I called up Awards Branch and asked what was taking so long -- this guy's been waiting for 32 years now.

Oh, I was informed, there's been a glitch. SGT Lam was in ARVN at the time. For a foreign national to receive an American decoration the host country had to approve. Ben looked at me and said, "You mean Hanoi got to approve me getting a medal for fighting them?"

Well not quite, but the US Defense attaché in Hanoi had to chop on the paperwork. Eventually he did, so a third of a cen-

tury after I put him in for it Ben will have the Bronze Star presented to him by a general officer, probably next month at Ft. Myer. There will be an official photographer on hand so I hope to have some pix for your next issue.

While I've got you reading, diplomats and warriors, let me mention that I'm fund raising director for the 101st monument to be erected at Ft. Campbell. This is a stunning three-figure statue (WW II, VN, Gulf) designed by our own Billy Colwell. If you haven't yet responded to the appeals in the SCREAMING EAGLE, why not reach for your check book now while you're thinking of wartime buddies. Some of them gave all; let's all of us give some."

JAMES "LIMEY" WALKER, P.O. Box 521, Mena, AR 71953-0521 wrote, "Ivan, I read the interesting story of Col. McCoid, Stingy Fangs, and his rank pulling among the Brigade LRRPs. It's a sad note when a warrior cannot wear an ear ring in his ear or navel, for that matter. Well, Ivan, I am here to tell you that the Brigade LRRPs no more took notice of McCoid ranting and raving than if it had been Ho Chi Ming (or whatever his name was), after he left the ear rings went back in. Of course, I only heard of this second hand when I was getting my left ear pierced while in Duc Pho (May 1967). BG Matheson didn't like the idea of rings in our ears so if we knew he was going to be in our area we took them out. But that's were Matheson and McCoid differ, Matheson was one hell of a warrior and commander.

You have the makings of a great magazine but I would like to hear more stories on the EM and less on Field Grade Officers, anyone can fly over a firefight in a helicopter and get a SS for it!!!

Respectfully,
'Limey'
Still not an ossifer fan.

Also a hand written note from WALKER: I have a book on the market titled FORTUNE FAVORS THE BOLD. I do say nice things about one officer, my Detachment Commander, LT Dan McIsaac. Take care and keep up the good work."

WILLIAM (WILD BILL) MILLER, Company A, 3rd Plt, 3rd Squad, 2/502 wrote: "Dear Sir, I would like to thank you for putting this magazine together. I look forward to every issue. I would also like to thank TERRY GUZMAN ACHA for telling me about D&W and ordering my subscription. It was also good to see my old Company Commander MIKE MCFADDEN. He was CO of ATTACK Company and you better not call it AQUA!! Also enclosed is a copy of a Army Commendation Medal with "V" for Heroism. Out of all the awards I received as a trooper with the 1st Bde it is the proudest. It was for helping another trooper and that is what being a paratrooper is all about. I have sent some platoon pictures but sorry that I can't remember the names. Keep up the good work and thank you. (STRIKE FORCE)"

Editor's Note: Received notification from William Miller of Terry Guzman Acha's death on February 11th, 1999.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 1ST BRIGADE 101ST AIRBORNE
DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96347

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 829

23 May 1967

AWARD OF THE ARMY
COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR HEROISM

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

MILLER, WILLIAM J. RA16842019
SPECIALIST FOUR E4 USA
Co A, 2d Bn, 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347
Awarded: Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device
Date action: 29 January 1967

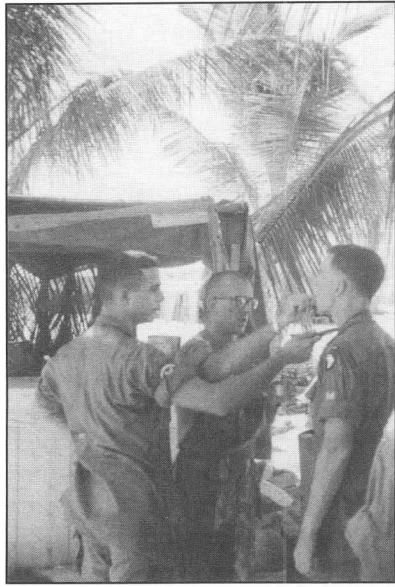
Theater: Republic of Viet Nam

Reason: For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Specialist Four Miller distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 January 1967, near Phan Rang, Republic of Viet Nam. When Specialist Miller's platoon set up a perimeter of defense for their lunch break, firing broke out at the other end of the perimeter. Specialist Miller observed one of his comrades signaling him to come to his position; as he started to move forward, he was suddenly brought under fire from two Viet Cong. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Specialist Miller and his comrade charged towards the two enemy soldiers, firing their weapons and assaulting the enemy position. As a result of his actions, one enemy soldier was killed, one was wounded, and one enemy weapon was captured. Specialist Miller'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.

PHILIP BULONE, HHC 1st Bde, 101st Abn. Div., 5621 Descartes Circle, Boynton Beach, Florida 33437, E-Mail Address: pmjbulone@aol.com, writes "Dear Ivan, The magazine is great and brings back many good and also some sad memories. I was assigned as a Chaplain's assistant during my 18 months in Vietnam and I worked very close with Chaplain Roland R. Torer, aka "El Toro." I spent many days with him on combat assaults setting up makeshift alters where he could say mass. Padre Torer carried no weapon yet he would be out in the middle of a firefight giving comfort to the wounded and the last rites to those troopers who fell in battle. All the Chaplains of the 1st Brigade(Separate) were a special breed of paratroopers. They would fly out by chopper to conduct worship services, visit, counsel and bring comfort to the troops. It was an honor for me to serve with them. During my tour, there were five Chaplains who I assisted. They were Maj. James J. Murphy, Capt. Torer, Capt. Reynold (Bud) Connnett, Capt. Thomas (Tommy) Thompson and Capt. James Burnham. I'd

love to hear from any of them. Chaplain Torer passed away several years ago. He was a career Chaplain who always made



it a point to visit me and my family whenever he changed assignments and went through New York. He was a great priest, soldier and most importantly, a great friend. I've enclosed a photo, that's me on the left and Father Torer distributing Communion to a trooper. I've also enclosed a copy of the General Order for my Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device. Father Torer and I literally came within inches of being captured that day. Hope you can use it."

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 101st Airborne Division
APO San Francisco 96383

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 7719

17 October 1968

AWARD OF THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE

1. TC 320. The following AWARDS are announced.

BULONE, PHILLIP JR RA12731852 (113-36-3286) SPECIALIST FIVE (E-5) Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Brigade 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device

Effective month: October 1968

Date action: 3 February 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 February 1967. Specialist Five Bulone distinguished himself near Song Mao, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Bulone escorted the Chaplain on a combat operation with Battery C, 2d Howitzer Battalion (Airmobile), 320th Artillery and Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry. While returning from a search for water, they were cut off from the perimeter by a squad of Viet Cong. Specialist Bulone quickly analyzed the situation and determined that it was necessary to get the information of enemy presence back to the unit. With complete disregard for his own safety, he immediately set out to return to the company by a different route even though the nature of the enemy situation along the route was unknown. The terrain was difficult and the route selected crossed two swift streams. After one and a half hours he arrived at the perimeter and reported the situation to this commanding officer. An element of Company B was dispatched to the reported location and successfully engaged the Viet Cong killing six without suffering friendly casualties. During the engagement Specialist Bulone with complete disregard for his own personal

safety helped dislodge and kill the enemy. Specialist Five Bulone's personal bravery and devotion to duty 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.

CSM ROBERT A. YOUNG, RET. wrote: "Dear Ivan, Just a note to tell you I received the 1st Brigade hat, in great shape. 9 Feb '99 - I wrote the check with letter for the 1st Brigade hat. 16 Feb '99 - the mailman delivered the 1st Bde hat, Priority Mail. This is a seven day turn around of over 2000 miles each way! Super Service and I thank you! In fact, the hat looks a hell of a lot better than your advertisement! Keep up your good work. From the Old Sergeant Major. Airborne All The Way."

WILLIAM (BILL) ROVAN wrote: Ivan, "Another great edition of the "Diplomat and Warrior!" Thanks for your efforts and keep up the good work. Request you update my personal data next time you go into your data base--should read: LTC(R) William (Bill) Rován, 2/327 HQ & A VN 5/66-4/67 - 6/99, 1271 Hickory Cove Ln., #2, Orange Park, FL 32065. I attended the 101st Abn Div Assoc 'Snowbird Reunion' in Orlando, FL Feb 5-6. About 300 people were there, including fellow company commanders Dick Schonberger (President of the 101st Div Assoc) and Jim Joiner. Highlight of the event, of course, was simply talking to the many WWII vets who had war stories I had only read about before. Looking forward to 'Week of the Eagles 2000' at Campbell and to the next 1st Bde Reunion 'whenever & wherever!' I'm attaching a short anecdote for your consideration for publication in a future issue of 'Diplomats & Warriors.'"

"It was a dark and stormy night..."

The "No Slack" 2/327 was on one of those extended operations during the monsoon season. It rained...every day, all day...and nothing remained dry except for my tactical map carried in a plastic battery bag. After one particularly tiring day, company Hq and one platoon settled in for the night...and, yes, it was dark and stormy. As company commander, I routinely and carefully would move through the interior of the company perimeter to insure the stated level of security was being maintained. It was around 2300 hours and we had just had a particularly heavy rain. As I slowly moved through the bushes I came across a trooper who had unwisely chosen a small gully as his resting place. He was sound asleep. I noticed a torrent of water coming out from around his feet and then saw the water entering at his head. He was obviously dog-tired, couldn't get any wetter and so oblivious to the fact he was sleeping in the middle of a river!

(During those wet, extended operations, I recall there were no complaints from the troops...except perhaps not finding Charlie often enough (of course, "Charlie" was probably held up in some warm, dry hootch!). The 1st Bde troops were great soldiers!)



They Came to Fight For Buddies' Lives

(Editor's Note: One of history's greatest sagas was recorded in Viet Nam just days ago when a gallant unit of the 101st Airborne Division, encircled and trapped on a high ridge, fought to its last survivors. Warren Bosworth, staff correspondent for The Times Herald, was at the forward command post. In a series of stories in the next few issues he describes the last 40 hours.) Reprinted with permission of The Dallas Times Herald.

* * *

TOUMRONG, SOUTH VIET NAM (De-layed)—Bitter tears—those tears brave men sometimes spill—dribbled down the angry face.

"They've got to let me get up that ridge. Two of my buddies already have been killed, and only God knows who else is dead. I've got to get up there."

Texas Paratrooper Elias Rodriguez sobbed as he said the grim words.

Huddled around him in the helicopter zone was a gutsy, grubby little force. They peered across the 10-foot-high elephant grass toward a knotty little hill, then known only as No Name Ridge.

Later, it would be called Ngoc Run Ridge. It would be made famous by the heroic decision of Capt. Bill (Lonesome End) Carpenter, the West Point football star, to order deadly napalm—jellied gasoline—dropped upon his own position. At this point it was only beginning.

On No Name Ridge all hell was breaking loose. Artillery was ripping huge chunks out of the ridge in a vain attempt to drive off the Viet Cong hordes. "Those guys of ours are fighting for their lives up there," Rodriguez said. "If we don't go soon it may be too late." The trooper's eyes fixed on a pile of soggy, blood-stained packs lying on the mushy ground. He turned away, and he cried again.

"That junk belonged to my buddies who got it last night," he explained. "That's why I've got to get up that hill." SP4 Rodriguez grew up in Austin, Texas. The soldier's wife and little girl live there now. Ten years ago he joined the Army and became a paratrooper. He served six years and then was discharged and went back home to Texas. Slowly "the thing in Viet Nam" grew hotter and hotter and then exploded in full fury. It was then that Elias heard the calls to arms again.

"I figured they needed me like they need me this morning, so I came back in," he said, scowling up at the flaming ridge. "I've been here six months but I'll extend for an-

other two years if that's what it takes to get up that hill. I mean it, mister." The Texas GI was in Saigon when his outfit—the "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division—slammed into a North Viet Nam Army regiment entrenched in the Central Highlands near the junction of the Cambodian and Laotian borders.

Eighty-five paratroopers—some of them recovering from earlier battle wounds and others awaiting transportation back to the United States—swarmed into the 101st Airborne's base camp at Phan Rang when the call went out for volunteers for a Provisional Company to be flown into the Central Highlands to save their buddies.

During the eerie and bloody night they had been flown by helicopters into the desolate little jungle command post for the dawn attack up No Name Ridge. Now it was time to go up The Hill. "I may not come down off that hill but the VC will know I was there," Elias said, hitching up his ammunition belt and grabbing his automatic rifle.

Across the hacked out helicopter landing zone standing in a pocket of elephant grass and bamboo shoots stood Jerry Broadway, another Texan, from Freeport. He was a Provisional Company volunteer readying for the attack up No Name Ridge. He was in Phan Rang waiting to go on a seven-day rest leave when he heard his company had been torn apart by the Reds and was fighting for its life up in hills.

"I said to hell with the leave when I heard 'Charlie Company' was in trouble. I asked how I could get back up here and they told me a provision company was being organized, so I volunteered. I wanted to get straight back with my company, but they said it was surrounded," Jerry said.

New artillery explosions tore across the ridges and jungles atop the Central Highlands. The Freeport paratrooper watched the heavy morning fog rolling lazily across the mountain tops. "That fog ought to be out of here in a half hour or so and then we can get some air strikes up there to take the pressure off those guys if there are any of them left," he said. There was a ruffle of shuffling men near the command post under the banana tree back in the jungle.

"All right, let's saddle up. We're moving out," a sergeant barked. "Well, this is it. We're finally moving out this time," Jerry Broadway said. "Wish me luck, pal. We'll need it up there today."

The thin line of grim-faced paratroopers soggy from the midnight monsoon which had drenched them began gouging their way through the jungle toward a trail which would take them up No Name Ridge.

(Editor's Note: The Provisional Company, commanded by Capt. Walter Wesley of Galveston, fought a furious battle up No Name Ridge to take the hilltop and help save "C" Company from being wiped out.)

(TO BE CONTINUED)

★ ★ ★

SPECIAL NOTE TO 101 MEMBERS IN VIETNAM. Be sure to send your old address and unit, new address, and full name to the Editor when you return home so that you may continue to receive The Screaming Eagle and to keep your record card up to date so that that "old buddy" can reach you.

The Above Text Was Taken From The Screaming Eagle Page 11 September - October 1966

The Battle of Toumrong

(Continued)

Heroic Little Unit Wouldn't Be Stopped

(Editor's note: One of history's greatest sagas was recorded in Vietnam when a gallant unit of the 101st Airborne Division, encircled and trapped on a high ridge, fought to its last survivors. Warren Bosworth, staff correspondent for The Times Herald, was at the forward command post. In a series of stories he describes the last 40 hours.) Reprinted with permission of the Dallas Times Herald.

TOUMRONG, South Vietnam (Delayed).—Capt. Walter Wesley never had any doubts about getting up The Hill.

It had to be.

"We're going up and we're coming back down," said the paratroop captain from Galveston. "Nobody is going to stop us. Everyone understands that.

"They don't need any priming," he continued. "These troopers have friends and buddies up there in the hills hanging on for their lives. They'll fight and die—if necessary—to get them. They're ready to go."

The battle for Ngoc Run Ridge was well under way now. It would be made famous by the heroic decision of Capt. Bill (Lonesome End) Carpenter, the West Point football star, to order deadly napalm—jellied gasoline—dropped on his own position.

But there were other heroes, too. And the story of Capt. Wesley and the men of his Provisional Company is one of gallant men and gallant deeds.

The little company was less than a dozen hours old the morning the skipper stood there in the jungle, peering upwards at embattled Ngoc Run Ridge in the Central Highlands.

It had been formed in the dead of night at the 101st Airborne Division's base camp at Phan Rang far to the south in the frenzied wake of an airborne company's encirclement by North Vietnam Army regiment bent on annihilating them.

An urgent call went out for men to fill the ranks of the provisional company.

Capt. Wesley stepped forward to take command.

Eighty-five men of the fighting 101st—some with tears brimming in their eyes—stepped up to join their captain for the flight north to the Central Highlands.

"This company is made up of the Lord only knows what but I have no doubts about them. Remember, these guys are Airborne. They'll do the job of getting up that hill," the captain said, running a glance towards a grizzled sergeant checking some of the men's equipment.

Squatting nearby was a stumpy little GI of perhaps 18. He was swallowed up in his thoughts as he hunched there trying to doctor dime-sized sores on his arms, face, neck and



Capt. Bill Carpenter and Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson discuss the battle of Tou Morong.

feet. Jungle rot. He wouldn't make the attack up Ngoc Run Ridge. He would, instead, be evacuated to a field hospital.

Not far away another GI sat straddle-legged in the muck, eating a farewell breakfast of C-ration peanut butter and crackers.

A few yards away in the jungle thicket under a banana tree, Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Hank Emerson of Millford, Pa., was talking back and forth over a field radio to the commanders of the embattled companies struggling against great odds up in the hills.

Capt. Wesley ducked back into the thicket command post, conferred briefly with the commander, double-checked his maps and stalked back out to the helicopter landing zone which had been hacked out of 10-foot-high elephant grass.

Capt. Wesley was raised in Galveston but the Army and the paratroopers have been his home for 13 years. His parents now live in Bogalusa, La.

Standing in the landing zone, the captain ran a finger across the marked map in his hand and then stared momentarily at ominous Ngoc Run Ridge smoking from artillery bombardments.

"Guess we'd better get going," he said. "We've got a busy day ahead of us."

Turning, he beckoned to a sergeant.

"All right, sergeant, let's move 'em out. Let's go!" the captain yelled.

The grubby but proud paratroopers with a score to settle began snaking out through the jungle for the march up to Ngoc Run Ridge.

"See you on the beach at Galveston sometime," Capt. Wesley grinned, vanishing into the jungle with his men.

Those standing behind in the jungle clearing knew the captain and his rag-tag little provisional company would go through hell to reach the top of Ngoc Run Ridge. And later, when they learned the makeshift group had gouged and hacked and fought its way to the top, it came as no surprise.

After all, Capt. Walter Wesley had no doubts about it.

The Above Text Was Taken From The Screaming Eagle Page 9 November - December 1966

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96307

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Information Office
101st Airborne Division and Fort Campbell
Fort Campbell, Kentucky 42223

THREE IS A CHARM

PHAN RANG, VIETNAM (101-IO) – The crack of rifle fire was heard, and a large tree branch overhead snapped in two. The bullet that clipped the tree deflected down and smashed against the chest of Pfc. Andrew Wright IV, a twenty-one year old paratrooper from Rochester, New York, serving with the Army's "Screaming Eagles" in Vietnam.

The spent bullet bruised his chest but did not penetrate. Wright reached down and nonchalantly picked up the slug that had struck him and remarked, "Well, that's two out of three."

He was referring to the supposed three strikes allotted to each line trooper in this life. Andrew Wright had just used up his second.

His first strike was almost his last... A few months earlier, he had parachuted with Company B, 502d Infantry (Airborne) of the Army's 1st Brigade 101st Airborne Division, onto the machine gun range of a Viet Cong battalion training camp, and fought the enemy at close quarters for most of the day. In the course of the battle, a VC grenade landed in a ditch that Wright occupied. The grenade went off, but, miraculously, the soft mud absorbed most of the deadly shrapnel; the explosion, however, blew him out of the ditch, through the air and slammed him to the earth rendering him a concussion, superficial flesh wounds, and a Purple Heart.

Laughing about his most recent bout with fate, he kidded his fellow troopers about getting "zapped" as he called it. One buddy of his was wearing an expensive watch and in jest Wright chided, "Max, if you get zapped, I'll have that watch off your arm before you hit the ground." The tragic irony is that it was Wright, not Max, who would be hitting the ground before the night was out, torn by rifle fire and grenade fragments.

Wright was on an outpost guarding the perimeter. A vicious fire fight broke out filling the night with bright orange tracers, brilliant illumination flares and shocking, shattering explosions. When the firing stopped, Andrew Wright was carried to the rear and air lifted out by a med-evac helicopter.

Max watched silently as the stretcher passed by bearing his wounded friend.

"Max," Andrew spoke difficulty, "looks like you keep the watch...it's three out'a three now."

The chopper lifted and disappeared over the treeline. Andrew Wright did not die. But none-the-less, for him the war was over.

Originating Office:
Information Office, 1st Bde, 101st ABN DIV,
APO San Francisco 96347



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CHU LAI, Vietnam – COOL WATER. Spec. 4 Jimmy F. Brown, Rockford, Mich., refreshes himself with a helmet of water as paratroopers of C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. conduct search and destroy operations west of here. (USA Photo by Staff Sgt. Art Campbell)

**J. A. EVERY-CLAYTON, Lt Col, AUS, Retired,
of 438 Old Trail, Baltimore MD 21212 wrote on 04 Feb 1999:**

Dear Mr. Worrell:

Just received the January '99 edition of the Diplomat and Warrior and decided to finally gather up a couple of things I was meaning to send you when I received the previous editions, but neglected. The first item is an old officers roster of the 1/327. How I acquired it is a mystery to me because I was a lowly Plt Ldr at the time. I possibly saved it from some junk that was being thrown out much later while I was the Asst S-1. Anyway, I thought it would be an interesting item for your publication. It provides a snap-shot of the unit at a specific time in the unit's history and may jog the memory of some of your readers. It may also be useful to track down some new subscribers. If you decide it is worth publishing, I've provided a nice clean compact copy on two pages that is more suitable for printing purposes. As you can see from the enclosed sample, it doesn't xerox well.

The other item is a unit history of the 1/327 for the period 01 Jan - 31 Dec 1965. I suspect it was compiled and published by the S-3, but cannot say with certainty. You are welcome to use it any way you see fit. If the 101st has a museum or archive, they might welcome it when you are finished.

It seems your correspondents give a brief biography when they write, so I won't be any different. My association with the 1/101 began when I arrived in country in early Jun '66 and started processing at the replacement detachment in Phan Rang. The initial orientation was just finished when someone came in and said there was a big action going on at Dak To and the 101st was taking casualties. Much to my dismay, another Lt and myself were singled out and 'hand carried' through an accelerated processing, and before noon, were placed on an old Caribou heading for Kontum. I didn't get back to the replacement detachment to claim my luggage for six weeks, and when I did, it was still laying, untouched, on the bunk where I left it!

On arrival that afternoon in the 1/327 base camp, we were rushed through some more processing, issued jungle fatigues, weapons, etc. There were no jungle boots in my size, so the supply sergeant traded the boots off his feet for my spit shined Corcorans (Sp?). When equipped, we were placed on a chopper and sent forward where we met Major David H. Hackworth, the acting Bn CO. I also had a brief reunion with my OCS roommate, Dennis Foley. Hackworth briefed us on the tactical situation and assigned me to Abu Company, BUT, they were cut off, so it would be impossible for me to join them at the moment. However, we could be inserted to C Company, and when the two linked up, I was to go with Ben Willis and Co A. He pointed us to a chopper and said get going. As we started to walk away, Hackworth's memorable comment was, "Hey, you'll have your CIB by nightfall!" We had our CIB before we landed, and the pilot got the Air Medal w"V" for his wild attempts through heavy fire to insert us. All this in less than 72 hours in country.

I was in 1st Plt until my first round with malaria and had the weapons Plt until my second round of malaria. I was in the hospital over Christmas and returned just in time to make my cherry jump in Kontum. After that I was the Asst S-1 and for a brief period before DEROS, the S-1.

On return to CONUS I branch transferred to the AG, attended the career course and had nineteen months in Germany. My second tour in RVN was in Aug 70 to 71 in Saigon with USAID for a short period and then Hq MACSOG. My final duty station on active duty was at the Pentagon when I was caught in the big RIF of Captains in spring '72. I remained in the Reserves, primarily in the 11th SF Group, and was manditorily retired in Mar 86 as a Lieutenant Colonel after 29 years combined active and reserve duty. Six weeks ago I turned 60 and received my final retirement orders and am now collecting retired pay as an AUS Lt Col Ret'd.

During the course of all this, I married, had three kids, divorced, and raised the kids by myself. First grandchild is due in late March and the eldest daughter gets married in Telluride, CO, on Easter Sunday. Two years from now when Social Security kicks in, I'll hang it up and plan to spend a lot of time doing military standby travel.

Keep up the good work. I really enjoy receiving the Diplomat and Warrior.

ROSTER OF OFFICERS IN 1ST BN (ABN), 327TH INFANTRY

NAME, BRANCH, SVC #	GRADE	DOR	DUTY
Bn Hq			
MEINZEN, Walter E INF 057 242	Lt Col/Lt Col	9Feb65	Bn CO
ABOOD, EDMUND P INF 0 89 022	Maj/Maj	24Aug62	Bn XO
MC DONALD, JOHN M INF 0 75 701	Maj/Maj	6May66	Bn S-3
MALLORY, GLYNN C JR INF 0 93 823	Capt/Capt	28Dec64	Bn S-1
DARLING, DEAN INF	Capt/Capt		Bn S-2
AGERTON, THOMAS B INF 05 317 217	Capt/Capt	5May66	Bn S-4
NORTHQUEST, William J INF 0 91 959	Capt/Capt	26Jun64	Bn Commo
	Lt/Lt		Commo Plt Ldr
KIEFFER, PIERRE V III INF 0 93 788	Capt/Capt	29Dec64	HHC CO
	Lt/Lt		HHC XO
MITCHELL, Peter INF 05 214 827	Capt/Capt		Rear Det CO
GAUGER, THOMAS K INF 05 326 402	Lt/2d Lt	22Jun65	Asst S-1
ENSIGN, Allyn B 0 75 573	Capt/Capt	15Dec61	Bn S-3(Air)
FOLEY, DENNIS R 05 325 085	Lt/1st Lt	18Jun66	BN LNO

OFFICERS ROSTER (Cont'd)

NAME, BRANCH, SVC #	GRADE AUTH/ACT	DOR	DUTY
HELMS, JACK INF			LNO
HIGINBOTHAM, LEWIS INF 0 95 972	Lt/Capt	13Nov65	Recon Plt Ldr
LEIGH, BOBBY D INF 05 332 558	Lt/1st Lt		Spu Plt Ldr
KORMAN, DONAID	Lt/Lt	2Mar65	Mtr Plt Ldr AT Plt Ldr Bn S-5
MARTIN, THEODORE O QMC W 3 430 183	WO/CWO W2	26Jan63	Sup Tech
TUCKER, DAVEY L ORDC W 2 211 133	WC/CWO W2		Maint Tech
WILSON, Steven M MC	Capt/Capt		Med Plt Ldr
HAMMACK, DAN E MSC 02 313 290	Lt/1st Lt	18Dec64	Asst Med Op
<u>Company A</u>			
WILLIS, BENJAMIN L INF 0 94 019	Capt/Capt	29Dec64	Co CO
WELCH, WILLIAM M INF 05 325 080	Lt/1st LT	2Dec64	Co XO
GRAVES, SCOTT INF 0 98 113	Lt/1st Lt		Plt Ldr
DAVIN, PAUL H INF 05 535 835	Lt/2d LT	5Aug65	Plt Ldr
NEW, EUGENE R INF 05 325 466	Lt/2d Lt	22Mar65	Plt Ldr

OFFICERS ROSTER (Cont'd)

EVERY-CLAYTON, JON A INF 05 325 080	Lt/2d Lt		Plt Ldr
	Lt/		Plt Ldr

Company B

HERRLING, JOHN P INF 0 90 065	Capt/Capt		Co CO
AMBROSE, RICHARD S INF 05 323 998	Lt/1st Lt	Jun66	Co XO
McCOEY, JAMES D INF 05 325 604	Lt/2d Lt		Plt Ldr
LAIZIK, PETER R INF 05 325 448	Lt/1st Lt	12Apr65	Plt Ldr
HARKINS, GERALD INF OF 104 105	Lt/2d Lt		Plt Ldr
	LT/		Plt Ldr

Company C

DILL, EARNEST INF 0 96 363	Capt/Capt	25Oct65	Co CO
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Missing In Action

1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Abn Div VN • July 1965 - January 1968

Tony Mabb, in his article in the March-April 1999 issue of THE SCREAMING EAGLE, wrote about his research into those soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division who have been listed as MIA in Vietnam. THE SCREAMING EAGLE is the official magazine of the 101st Airborne Division Association.

He published data on 78 Screaming Eagles who have been listed as MIA.

The 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division has five soldiers listed as MIA. No rank or grade is listed.

Those listed are:

DONALD STEPHEN NEWTON, HHC 1/327, February 26, 1966

FRANCIS DESALES WILLS, HHC 1/327, February 26, 1966

UDON PARKER, Company B 1/327, March 13, 1966

JOHN JAMES DAWES, Company B 2/327, May 5, 1966

ROBERT LENWOOD PLATT, JR., Company B 2/502, June 10, 1967

If you have information about any of these Screaming Eagles who have been listed as MIA please share it with Ivan Worrell and Tony Mabb.

The list published by Tony Mabb gives information about all the MIAs and shows statistics on rank, incident and year.

Tony Mabb can be reached at:

P. O. Box 15141, Jacksonville, FL 32239.

NAME, BRANCH, SVC #	GRADE AUTH/ACT	DOR	DUTY
ROY, LELAND A INF 05 323 488	Lt/2d Lt	22May65	Co XO
LANE, RUSSEL S INF 05 322 423	Lt/1st Lt		Plt Ldr
WHITESIDE, CHESTER L INF 05 326 347	Lt/2d Lt	13May65	Plt Ldr
NAUGHTON, LAWRENCE JR INF 05 325 080	Lt/1st Lt	17Oct65	Plt Ldr
HENKEL, JAMES R INF OF 103 123	Lt/2d Lt		Plt Ldr

NOTES:

The roster is a carbon copy on three pages of old-fashioned onion skin paper. The "as of" date is sometime after 18Jun66 and before 20Jul66. The dates are established by the fact that Dennis Foley and Jon Every-Clayton, OCS roommates, had their new 1st Lt bars pinned on by Major David H. Hackworth, acting Bn CO, on 18Jun66. The 20Jul date is based on CW2 Martin's DEROS date. It is reproduced exactly as it was written, mistakes included. Bill Welch, Jon Every-Clayton and Larry Naughton all have the same service number on the roster. Every-Clayton is the real 05 325 080 and should have been listed as a 1st Lt. It was probably compiled to reflect all the changes that took place during and after Dak To while the brigade was still in Kontum. One column of information concerning telephone call signs was omitted.

The few bolded letters on page one were missing on the carbon copy. Slanted type indicates handwritten entries.

Editor's Note: The above roster does not include Duty MOS, Primary MOS, Security Clearance, Date Departed U.S. and DEROS. If you would like a roster that includes this information please contact the editor.



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Information Office
101st Airborne Division and Fort
Campbell
Fort Campbell, Kentucky 42223
Information Office 1st Bde, 101st
Abn Div - 2 Jan 1966
Capt P.W. Apfel

HELMET SAVES TROOPER

"It felt like I was hit with a ton of bricks," related Specialist Fifth Class Henry L. Coplen, 35, from Clarksville, Tenn., after his steel helmet was penetrated by a bullet from a Viet Cong sniper during a search and destroy operation 35 miles north of Saigon.



gun which was guarding the perimeter of his unit, C Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, of the Army's 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, when the bullet crashed through his steel helmet. Miraculously, the bullet was slowed and deflected so that it did not penetrate his head, but instead fell harmlessly to the ground.

Specialist Coplen had always complained about having to wear the heavy and cumbersome helmet even when he had served in Korea, but after this he says, "Now I never want to take it off."

When asked how he felt after being hit he replied, "I had a terrible headache but it was not nearly as bad as the one I would have had if I hadn't been wearing my helmet."

Specialist Coplen was manning his .50 caliber machine-

-30-



3rd Platoon, Company A, 2/502 Infantry in 1967. This photo was sent by William (Wild Bill) Miller (see Letters to the Editor on Page 28). Please let me know if you can identify soldiers, including Bill Miller, in the picture.

Bill also sent a copy of General Orders Number 829, dated 23 May 1967, awarding him the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism.

The citation reads: "For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Specialist Four Miller distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 January 1967, near Phan Rang, Republic of Viet Nam. When Specialist Miller's platoon set up a

perimeter of defense for their lunch break, firing broke out at the other end of the perimeter. Specialist Miller observed one of his comrades signaling him to come to his position; as he started to move forward, he was suddenly brought under fire from two Viet Cong. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Specialist Miller and his comrade charged towards the two enemy soldiers, firing their weapons and assaulting the enemy position. As a result of his actions, one enemy soldier was killed, one was wounded, and one enemy weapon was captured. Specialist Miller'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."

COMPANY A 2/327 OCTOBER 1966



COL(R) USA, CHARLES T. FURGESON, 962 Jordan Drive, Palmyra, NY 14522 sent the above photo and this caption information.

A COMPANY, 2D BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY

Attached is a picture taken at Tuy Hoa South in the Oct 66 time frame.
Request this picture be placed in the Diplomat and Warrior at your convenience.

The names of the front row from left to right are SFC Foley, SFC Utz, SFC Foster, LT Johnson,
LT Scarstead, LT Pepper, CPT Furgeson, LT Dorsey, LT Learned, LT Cathcart,
1ST SGT Rader, SFC Teabold and the last two names are unknown.

Request any member of this Company, to include attached medics, artillery FOs
and engineers, from Apr 66 through Dec 66 contact one of the following individuals:

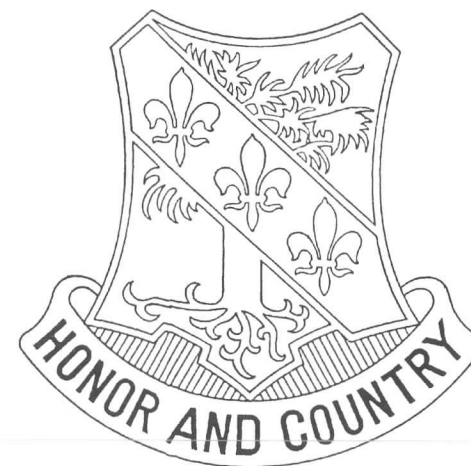
C.T. FURGESON
962 Jordan Dr.
Palmyra, NY 14522
315 597-4137

J. GENEREUX
2890 Lower Lake Rd.
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
315 568-6764

B. MASTERS
76 Colonial Tr.
Budgeton, NJ 08302
609 453-8893

R. MONTGOMERY
#2 Bridge St.
Oreland, PA 19075
215 886-1619

I certainly appreciate the Diplomat and Warrior and continue the excellent work.



CSM PAUL HUFF (MOH)PAGE 1

CSM Paul Huff (MOH) served the 101st Airborne Division and the 1st Brigade (Separate) with distinction for many years. He was forced to be very persuasive in order to get the assignment to the first brigade because of his status as a recipient of the Medal of Honor.

BRIGADE PERSONALITIESPAGE 2

Material for this page LTC(R) Joseph Hicks, Brigade Intelligence Officer, was supplied by Tim Swain. The photo is from the 101st yearbook published at Fort Campbell in 1965.

FROM NEWS RELEASES AND THE BRIGADE NEWSPAPERPAGE 3

Material from the 17 April 1966 issue of THE DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR. This was a mimeographed six page, on legal size paper, newsletter. I do not have pages one and two in my files. Other material is on pages 17, 20, 32 and 35.

ADVERTISEMENTSPAGES 4 & 32

When asked what he could do to help continue the publication of THE DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR, Tim Swain was told that advertising would help. He purchased a full page ad in four issues. Bob Shuta also helped with his ad to run in four issues.

BRIGADE STAFFPAGE 5

From the Worrell collection.

PROPAGANDAPAGE 6

William V. Larsen, 2/327 B 7/65 - 7/66 sent the copy of this propaganda leaflet and Ben Lam translated the text.

HAWTHORNE'S HILLPAGE 7

A poem by Peter S. Griffin who was part of Operation Hawthorne.

AFTERGLOWPAGES 8 & 9

In a phone conversation with Peter Griffin I asked him if he had ever written anything other than poetry? He said he had not. I urged him to try some prose. This is his impression of what combat can do to influence a veteran.

SALES AND SUBSCRIPTIONSPAGES 9 & 10

Your support of the magazine through your renewal, purchase and subscribing for a friend or recommending the magazine to a friend will help the veterans of the 1st Brigade (Separate) to have a larger and better magazine.

KIA AND NON-BATTLE DEATHSPAGE 11

A continuation of the list of 1st Brigade (Separate) soldiers who died in Viet Nam. They are listed by date of death.

SUBSCRIBERSPAGES 12 & 13

A list of new subscribers, renewals, address corrections and unit identification corrections.

OBITUARYPAGE 13

William Miller sent the first obituary of a subscriber.

TOP NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERSPAGE 13

Photo from Worrell collection with identification, place and time frame supplied by CSM Robert A. Young, USA, Ret.

BRONZE STAR FOR VALORPAGES 14 & 15

Presentation of a medal after years of waiting.

NEW MAGAZINE NAMEPAGE 16

Announcement of a new name for the 1st Brigade (Separate) magazine.

BRIGADE VIET NAM NEWSPAPERPAGES 18 & 19

This reproduction is from the brigade newspaper, THE SCREAMING EAGLE, January 17, 1968.

SCRAPBOOKPAGE 21

More stories, about the 1st Brigade (Separate) from USA newspapers.

BOOK REVIEWPAGE 22

Book by a soldier of the 1st Brigade.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORPAGES 23 - 29

Messages from the web page, e-mail and US Mail.

TOUMRONG PAGES 30 & 31

Pages from the 101st Airborne Division Association THE SCREAMING EAGLE of Sept.- Oct and Nov - Dec 1966.

HISTORY 1/327PAGES 33 & 34

LTC(R) J. A. Every-Clayton chronicles his arrival to the brigade during the Dak To fighting and sent an officers' roster of the 1/327 that was painstakingly reconstructed from an onionskin copy.

MIAPAGE 34

List of 1st Brigade (Separate) soldiers listed as Missing In Action.

3RD PLATOON COMPANY A 2/502PAGE 35

Photo, sent by Bill Miller, of members of his platoon in 1967.

COMPANY A 2/327PAGE 36

Photo sent by COL(R) Charles T. Furgeson

BACK COVER

Photo from the collection of Jim Apodaca.

DO NOT FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE
1ST BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
WEB SITE AT
www.101stabndiv1stbrigade.com

NOTICE:
E-MAIL ADDRESS
worrell@usit.net





Brigadier General Willard Pearson, of Clairton, PA, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division Commanding General (right) discusses the battle of Tou Morong with Captain William Carpenter of Springfield, PA. Captain Carpenter with his company had just fought his way out of a North Vietnamese Army encirclement. He has been recommended for the Medal of Honor for calling an air strike on his own position to prevent being overrun. Mrs. Pearson is now residing in the Washington, DC area. Mrs. Carpenter is residing in Monroe, NY. (This is the original caption. Lieutenant General Pearson is deceased and Lieutenant General Carpenter is retired. STARS AND STRIPES photo)

THE DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR

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