

*The First
Screaming*

A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF
THE 1ST BRIGADE (Separate) 101st AIRBORNE DIVISION
in Viet Nam from July 1965 through January 1968



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*Eagles
in Viet Nam*

1st Brigade (Separate) Viet Nam



101st Airborne Division

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The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade



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THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM

Ivan Worrell, Editor and Publisher
105 McCosh Drive Suite 1
Post Office Box 675
Sweetwater, TN 37874-0675

Phone or FAX 1-423-337-5983
e-mail: worrell@usit.net

CHECK OUT THE
1ST BRIGADE (SEPARATE) WEB SITE AT
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THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Subscription numbers are up. We have 470 subscribers as this magazine goes to press. The bad news is that 65 of those who were subscribers last year have not renewed their subscriptions. I believe we will get over that 500 subscriber hump in the next year.

We are back to 40 pages for this issue. I did not believe the 32 page magazine contained enough space to publish all the material needed. This cost cutting action was not successful.



Ivan Worrell and LTC Jefferey Smith CO 2/237 INF at the Trung Luong Reunion (Paladin Photo)

The cover of this issue of The First SCREAMING EAGLES in Viet Nam depicts a stamp that was issued in September 1999. It is part of the CELEBRATE THE CENTURY series and is issued with 14 other stamps. The price for the package is \$4.95 at your U.S. Post Office.

The printed information about the stamp follows:

"The Vietnam War was the longest military conflict in U.S. history. The hostilities in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia claimed the lives of 58,000 Americans. Another 304,000 were wounded."



Some photos, sent by e-mail, could not be used in this issue. In order to be usable all photos should be sent in JPEG format and at no less than 300 DPI resolution.

Keep the material coming by mail, fax or e-mail.

Check the January issue for more information about the 7th Bi-Annual Reunion (see page 15 of this magazine) of the 1st Brigade (Separate) in October, 2000.

Continued on inside back cover

TRUNG LUONG REUNION

33rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE AT TRUNG LUONG



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
Republic of Vietnam
APO San Francisco 96347

Rel. No. 312
MACOI
By Sgt Bob Barry

Rel. No. 6-20

THAT'S WHY

TUY HOA, VIETNAM (101st-IO) – On the Tuy Hoa north airfield three American paratroopers sat awaiting a helicopter to return them to battle. They had been brought in the day before suffering from heat exhaustion but now they wanted to go back out.

PFC Jesse Reed from Monahans, California, watched solemnly as a medivac helicopter landed with wounded troopers from his unit. "See those guys over there, that's why we're going out again."

Reed and his unit, the 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, engaged an estimated two North Vietnamese Army battalions in a battle that had moved into its fourth consecutive day.

An unshaven PFC from Lake Orian, Michigan, Gary Boyd had another way of expressing why the trio was returning to the battle. "Our friends are out there and they need help," he said. But the third young paratrooper, whose unit was locked in the heaviest fighting the battalion had experienced in five months just stared blankly toward the mountain beyond which the fight raged. PFC Robert Hadsell, Perris, California, turned and calmly said, "I was scared out there the other day and so were a lot of others, but they didn't leave me. That's why we're going back out, that's way."



The first group of recipients of the Presidential Unit Citation prepare for the awards presentation by LTC John W. Gilboux, USA (Ret) (L), who served as Executive Officer of 2/327 at the time of the Battle of Trung Luong. Left to right are John Gilboux, Walter Eddy, Anthony Burgee, John Burke, Marion Calvert, Joseph Carroll, Richard Caughlin, John Dorsey, Charles Furgeson and Joseph Genereux. (Paladin photo)

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

2nd Battalion 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, of the United States Army distinguished themselves by gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against a hostile force on 19-22 June 1966 at Trung Luong, Republic of Vietnam. During Operation "Deckhouse II" and "Nathan Hale," the battalion displayed gallantry and esprit de corps in defeating a well-disciplined, heavily armed and numerically superior enemy force. Operation "Deckhouse II" began in 19 June 1966 with a two-pronged, two-company airmobile assault south of Trung Luong conducted by Companies A and C, 2-327th Infantry. As Company A and C swept north, they encountered resistance from small enemy units armed with automatic weapons and repelled them without casualties. As Company C approached the village from the west, it was opposed fiercely by 2 platoons from the elite 18B North Vietnamese Army Regiment. On the morning of 20 June 1966, Companies A and C launched attacks to the north. The battle raged for hours with the enemy using anti-aircraft weapons in direct fire at point-blank range. Company B, recalled from other brigade operations, took casualties as they debarked the helicopters, but they immediately attacked the hill under cover of artillery fire. In actions bristling with individual deeds of extraordinary heroism, Companies A and B fought through the afternoon until dark, when they withdrew to begin casevac. The next morning, operation was redesignated "Nathan Hale," when Company B executed another assault on Hill 258, under covering fire of 1st Bn 8th Cavalry. This assault neutralized the enemy forces and secured Hill 258.

At 0430 on 22 June 1966, after consolidation the day prior, the enemy launched the most furious attack of the four-day battle. After three hours of fierce fighting, the enemy was finally forced to withdraw under intense fire with extremely heavy losses. At 0900 hours in the morning, A Company conducted an assault, seizing high ground to the south of Trung Luong. By 1615 hours these companies were in full possession of the key terrain. 23 June 1966, ended one of the longest and most fiercely waged engagements of the Vietnam War. The gallantry and indomitable spirit with which 2nd Battalion 327th Infantry engaged and destroyed the well prepared, heavily armed and numerically superior enemy force were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on all members of the Battalion who participated in this combat action.



Vietnam veterans recall 'toughest test' of Trung Luong battle 33 years later

By BRIAN DUNN
The Leaf-Chronicle

The words boomed liquidly, though the man speaking them had been physically torn — his eyes gone and his arms replaced by wood because a North Vietnamese trap got him 30 years ago.

Former Staff Sgt. Hilliard Carter's voice had every ear Friday afternoon at the 327th Regimental Parade Field. Taking particular note were the 30 men who served alongside him during the

1966 battle of Trung Luong.

"In Vietnam, we were together," Carter said. "When in war, you learn to drink out of the same canteen."

Trung Luong proved to be the men's toughest test. Thirty-one died. Many more were injured, and yet the battalion secured the town in the end, after three tries to enter.

On Friday, 30 veterans of the battle received the Presidential Unit Citation, an

INSIDE

■ Photographs taken of Friday's presentation of the Presidential Unit Citation, B3.

honor that eluded them 33 years ago. More than 200 family members and soldiers gathered under the afternoon sun to pay tribute to those who died.

Family members of those killed in the battle planted a tree near the battalion's current barracks.

Each time the battalion

tried to enter Trung Luong, the scene became more horrific, said Bruce Masters, an assistant M60 gunner during the attack. Masters ended the battle a gunner, after enemy fire killed his partner.

Masters' helmet met several skew bullets, but none penetrated.

Though he recalled the moments of battle, Masters favored talking about being with fellow soldiers during everyday rituals, such as morning coffee.

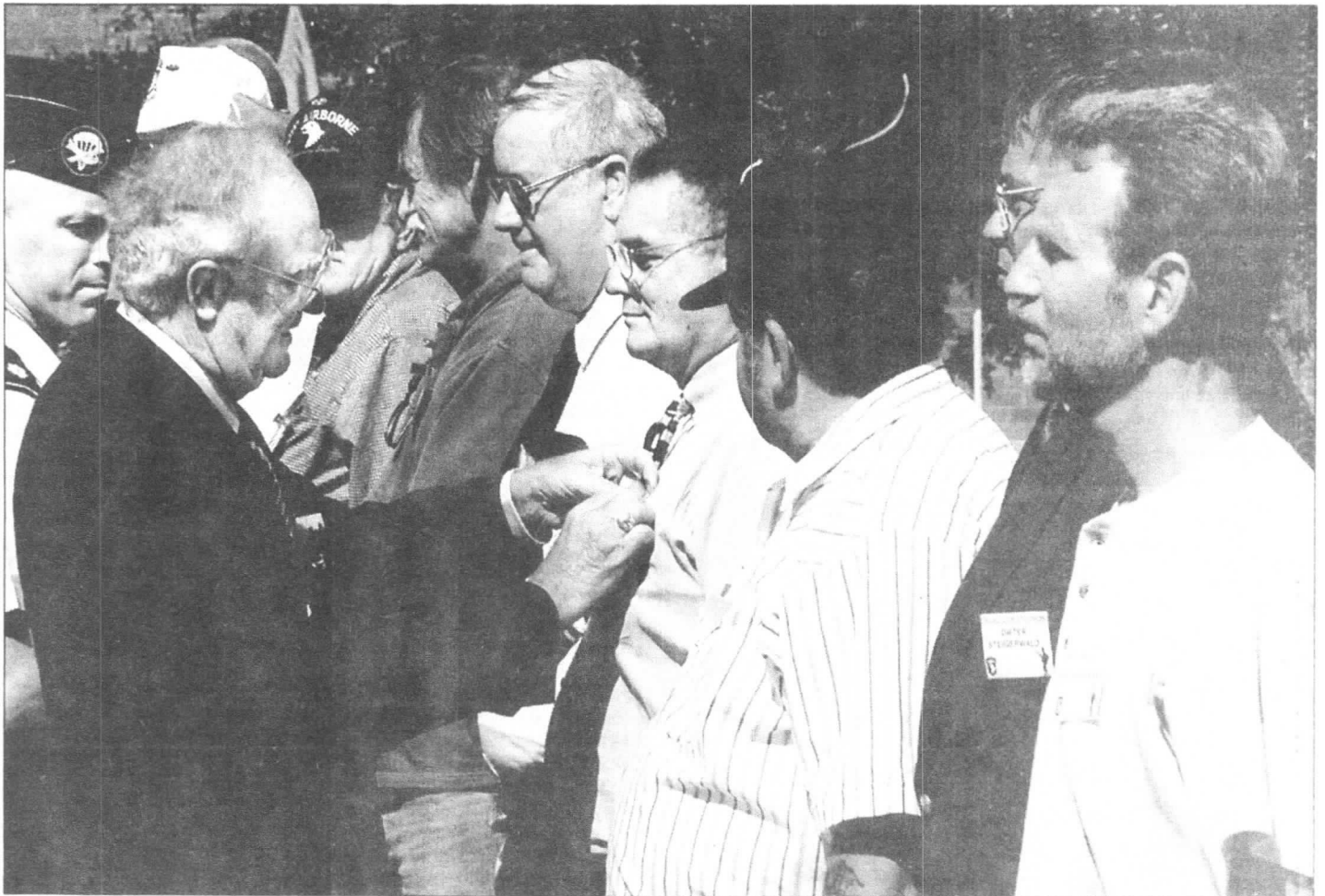
"I remember how good, how wonderful, a C-ration cup of coffee tasted in the morning," Masters said, "and cookies that sucked the moisture out of your mouth."

The battle lasted four days, June 19-22, 1966, and it began with a two-pronged, two-company air mobile assault. As companies A and C swept north, they encountered resistance from small enemy units armed with automatic weapons.

As Company C approached the village from the west, it faced fierce fire from two platoons of the elite 18B North Vietnamese Army Regiment. The next morning, both companies launched attacks to the north.

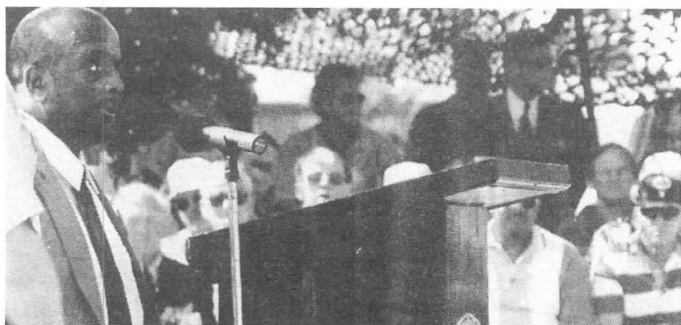
The battle raged for hours, with the enemy using anti-aircraft weapons to fire directly at point-blank range. Company B, recalled from

► See Trung Luong, B3



Robert Smith/The Leaf-Chronicle

John Gilboux presents members of the 2nd. Battalion 327th Infantry Regiment 'No Slack' Battalion the Presidential Unit Citation during the Trung Luong reunion awards ceremony held at Fort Campbell Friday.



Battalion 327th Infantry Regiment listens as former Staff Sgt. Hilliard Carter speaks during the Trung Luong reunion awards ceremony.

Trung Luong

From the Clarksville Leaf Chronicle, Saturday June 19, 1999

Continued from page B1

other operations, sustained casualties as its helicopters lowered.

The next morning, the operation was designated "Nathan Hale," and Company B attacked. The assault secured Hill No. 258.

At 4:30 a.m. June 22, the enemy launched its most furious attack. Three hours later, it withdrew, having sustained heavy losses. By mid-afternoon, the 2nd, or "No

Slack" Battalion had taken Trung Luong.

Since then, the battle's soldiers have returned home and drifted away from each other, but the images of the country's longest war stay in their minds, Carter said.

"It is nothing but the grace of God that has brought us together," he said.



Presentation given by Charles T. (Tom) Furgeson at the Trung Luong 33rd Anniversary Reunion

Return from Dak To:

As quickly as we departed Tuy Hoa for Dak To we made the reverse trip just as fast--ecstatic about returning to our own battalion. We knew we were needed for another operation; but were not apprised of the details until arrival at Tuy Hoa, South. I believe the last elements closed into Tuy Hoa about 10 am; by 1300 we were loaded into Huey's and airborne for Hill 258. This time it was our battalion that was in trouble. The remaining two companies A & C, were acting as a battalion blocking force for the marines, who had made an amphibious assault north of Tuy Hoa near Tuy An. The marines had flushed out numerous NVA units and they began deploying back into the interior. A& C Company were trying to hold them in check but as I saw it they were in danger of being overrun and wiped out. Their positions were in a valley floor between two mountain chains. Estimates of their opposing forces were between two and four NVA regiments. Mathematically, the enemy had us outnumbered approximately 1200 to 200.

The preparation for Hill 258:

At Tuy Hoa, maps, ammo and supplies were distributed as quickly as possible. Briefings were held--but much of the details were sketchy. My company's mission was to land on top of Hill 258, directly above C Company and pull the pressure off them as we attacked down the hill. This was the same mission we had when we were attached to 502 at Dak To. It was unknown whether Hill 258 was occupied.

The people:

We were the largest rifle company in the 101st with a foxhole strength of 144 troops. Despite our size we had numerous



Charles T. (Tom) Furgeson (2/327 A VN 5/66-5/67) briefs Trung Luong veterans, using a projected map, on his recollection of the battle of Trung Luong. (Worrell Photo)

NCO vacancies. We did have PFCs as SQUAD LDRS.

This operation was the first time I actually had a PSG. PSG James Hargrove - just arrived from ROTC duty in Ohio and we had barely introduced ourselves when we took off for 258. 1SG Thomas Pulliam, NC; PSG Leonard Brown, GA; PFC Carl Cuta; PFC Chas McAdams; PFC Anthony Mario, NY; SP4 Don Lombardi, MD; PFC John Cudmore, NY.

The hill topography:

Hill 258 was a sparsely wooded saddle shaped like a V. The right hand leg of the V was slightly higher in elevation and had most of the vegetation ... a few scrub trees and knee high grass. The left hand leg was lower in elevation, with the front edge--toward the V being the highest plateau. From the plateau the hill generally sloped down and slightly away from the other leg but flipped back up toward to a knoll at the end. The point of the V was the lowest point of the saddle.

The enemy:

When we took off for 258 we had no idea who we were fighting. Much later we were informed that we were fighting the 18B Regiment and portions of the 95th Regiment. Both units were North Vietnam Regular Infantry units; and the 18th B was rated as one of their very best. The NVA soldier was ever bit as well trained as us. When you fought the NVA, you'd better have your stuff together. Usually the only significant difference between us was our Mobility, Artillery and Air Power.

The Landing:

a. LZ Prep:

We circled near the landing zone for several minutes. I gather we were waiting for the prep to be completed. The disturbing fact, as I saw it, was that the wrong LZ was being prepped. Our plans called for B Co to land on the right leg of the V and the left leg was being prepped. When we started our approach there was no incoming fire ... all was quiet. However, as soon as the helicopters were in their final approach all hell broke loose.

b. Landing on Wrong LZ without platoon integrity:

We had landed on the slightly lower and more sloped left hand portion of the V. The enemy on the right hand portion of the hill had grazing fire across the forward portion of the landing zone. To make matters worse, we landed mixed up, without platoon integrity. I landed toward the V with my platoon headquarters section, the mortar platoon, and portions of the third platoon. The Mortar platoon Leader, Lt George B Pearson III landed toward my platoon. My platoon, the 1st Platoon (without me and the HQ section) was damn near 30 helicopters back--all the way to the rear of the LZ. PSG James Hargrove took charge and got the platoon in a perimeter defense around the small knoll and the end of the left hand leg. Good NCOs are worth their weight in gold. The only platoon that landed relatively intact was Lt Frederick Seig's third platoon.

Within seconds, everyone exiting the left hand side of the helicopters in the first seven helicopters were dead or wounded, except me and my platoon medic Sp4 Janis. Just before we touched down, Janis asked me if the landing zone was hot or cold. I told him I did not know. Janis being the sage veteran that he was, dove out of the helicopter and was in the prone position before the Hueys landed. We had a hard landing. I was knocked over the aircraft commander's seat onto the console. After I regained my feet, with the help of the crew chief, I dove out the left side as the helicopter was departing.

I knew immediately we were on the wrong LZ; but it was my platoon's job to secure the LZ from 0 to 90 degrees (North to East). There were 40 plus helicopters trying to take off behind me, and I could not hear or feel the NVA firing. Doc Janis crawled over to me and slapped me on the ankle and said, "Sir, you'd better get your ass down they're shooting at you." I kind of ambled down behind a small rock and was looking around to see what was going on. Just then, the rock cracked in half, there was a searing burning sensation along my neck and a huge explosion in my ear. A round had hit the rock, split it in two, ricocheted along my neck, passed my ear and landed in my rucksack. I was convinced that my jugular had to be severed only to find out that it was a burn across my neck. Holding the rock together with my fingers, since this was the only cover I had, I was beginning to have doubts about turning down the Post Education Officers position in Saigon--a position offered to me when I first arrived in Vietnam. At THAT time the thought of being an Airborne-Ranger-Infantry-Post Education Officer just didn't ring true.

The battle:

Fred Seig was able to gather a large section of his third platoon and started a flanking movement on the right side of the hill. This was the only covered route to the right side without crossing an expansive open shallow valley between the two ridges of the hill. Within the first three minutes of Fred's maneuver eight of his men were wounded, including Fred, and two were killed. Fred received three bullet rounds to the head behind the right ear. Fred is alive today and lives in Columbus, Ga. He was evacuated and operated on within 15 minutes of his being wounded.

Artillery fire:

We called for artillery fire on the hill top but it was virtually ineffective since they were positioned to support A and C Companies in the valley below. Something about high angle fire and having to fire over an outcropping of rocks between their firing position and our hill top. Their volleys were bracketing the NVA and our positions at the same time.

M-79s:

The only indirect fire we were able to bear on the enemy was M-79 fire. During a training period we had decided to take each grenadier and mark his sling keeper to a set position on his sling and then mark various foot positions for 35, 45, 50 and 75 yards. In this manner we could gather the gunners and tell them a distance and general direction and use them as a small mortar battery. We gathered together all the M79 gunners that we could find and began directing their fire on the enemy for the reverse slope of the hill's left leg.

While this was going on, Hargrove brought the first platoon over to my position and CPT Mack instructed us to attempt the same maneuver as Seig's. Because of the terrain there were not many options. We were in the bottom of the V with our back against a cliff that dropped at least 250 feet when an air strike arrived. They dropped napalm and strafed the right hand leg. The part that was

disconcerting, was when they dropped their napalm, their tanks were released over the valley. It looked like they were going to fry my platoon on the cliff. When the planes passed over on their strafing runs I could have lobbed a hand grenade with an underhand toss into their intakes. They were between 50 to 100 feet off the deck. That's close air support! We attempted to maneuver under the last strafing run but were beat back by significant automatic weapons fire.

Suddenly, a marine helicopter was in the area. I thought thank goodness, they've finally arrived --- only to find out about their heat casualties and that they were no longer advancing toward us.

B Company had taken approximately 44 casualties within the first two to three minutes of the landing. The fury of this combat was awesome. After our second attempt to flank the NVA, CPT Mack regrouped the company and we desperately tried to defend ourselves for the night.

We were out of water, what water we had was given to the wounded; and were getting low on ammunition.

From my position on the cliff, I had good communications with battalion; whereas CPT Mack from his position was relaying through Dong Tre Special Forces camp some miles to the east. I called for resupply. The ammo resupply arrived sometime during the night; but it was dropped onto the right hand leg of the hill--the LZ where we were supposed to have been.

Throughout the night we could see signal lights being flashed throughout the valley and the mountain range to the far side of the valley. There was a very large NVA force here. I had never seen them be so bold as to use signal lights.

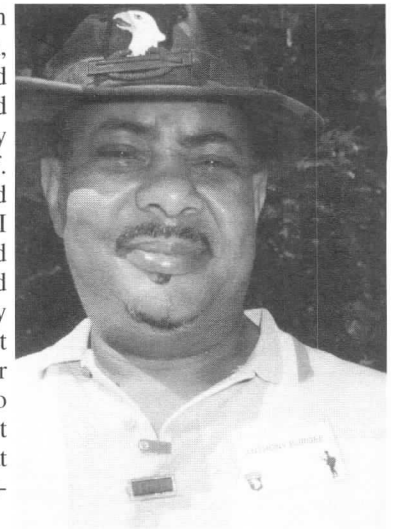
The Cav's arrival:

In the morning, a brigade of the 1st Air Cav arrived. I do not remember how many companies landed on the hill--the one I remember was B 1/8. Also arriving were cans of coffee and hot chocolate --- but not water. Nice, but certainly not thirst quenching.

The follow on:

After securing the right hand leg of the hill with B 1/8, we regrouped and the remainder of the company, approximately 100 were extracted and sent to the far side of the valley to search for all those signal lights we had witnessed the night before.

According to my recollection, B Company entered with 144 troopers and left with 100. Eleven troopers gave their lives on this hill and 33 were wounded--about 30% casualties.



Anthony Burgee displays the Presidential Unit Citation earned by the 2/327 at the Battle of Trung Luong and presented to all veterans of that battle at the 33rd Anniversary Trung Luong Reunion, hosted by the 2/327 Infantry Regiment at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. (Paladin photo)



Rel. No. 310
MACOI
By Sgt Bob Barry

Rel. No. 6-14

2/327 ENGAGES TWO NVA BATTALIONS

TUY HOA, VIETNAM (101ST-IO) – In a battle that left more than 600 North Vietnamese Army regulars dead or wounded the 2d Battalion, 327 Infantry proudly upheld its motto, "We Aim to Kill."

For more than four months the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division has been on the move without one of its battalions. To the battalion, the 2/327, was left a special mission in and around the rice rich country side of Tuy Hoa. But in four days of vicious fighting, 57 kilometers north of Tuy Hoa they added to the ever growing roll call of the "Always First" brigade's battles - "Trung Luong."

It was neither a normal nor an easy fight for the 2d Battalion found themselves locked in. First of all, Company B was attached to a sister battalion in the Dak Tan Kan Valley near Dak To. Second and foremost the forces battling them were no normal North Vietnamese soldiers.

"They are the most fanatical we've ever encountered," commented one Colonel. Two days after the battle began this statement was attested to when in the face of heavy artillery and automatic weapons fire, a large enemy force openly charged across a dried rice paddy dug in paratrooper position. The assault failed and the battlefield was covered with dead and wounded khaki clad soldiers.

The fighting erupted not long after companies A and C were helilifted into positions to sweep a reported troop concentration area. Working as separate forces they moved under the blistering heat of the dry season. "They let us walk right up on them," one wounded trooper recalled. Company C came under heavy automatic weapon fire as they began crossing a river bank and Company A hit more intense fire in a small village on their way to flank the enemy element that pinned its sister company down.

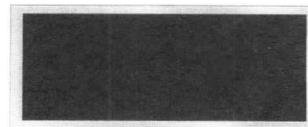
For a day and a half the two hard pressed American units battled to link up with one another. At one point they came within 300 meters but the enemy force between them would give no more ground.

As the fight moved into the second straight day Bravo Company returned from Dak To, only to be redeployed to secure a landing zone for two companies of the 1st Cavalry sent to reinforce the vastly outnumbered Eagles.

From then the battle changed, Major John Gilboux, Tarentum, Pa., executive officer of the battalion remarked,

"they had to fight our type battle then, and that's just where we wanted them." As the enemy casualties mounted it became evident a larger North Vietnamese force was operating in the area than had been reported. Captain Richard Hinkle from Olympia, Wash., said, "I was wondering why they were attacking while taking such heavy losses." The operations Captain later surmised, "They were interchanging units, both companies and battalions."

But no matter what the well equipped North Vietnamese threw against the determined paratroopers they held their ground and slowly pushed forward. As the battle raged into the fourth day Lt. Col. Joseph Wasco, 2/327th Commander, said of his troopers, "those men are terrific, the best trained I've ever seen. They chewed up two good enemy battalions and wanted more." The Colonel whose family resides in Windsor, N.J., spent much of the four days with the forward companies. It was while with them the true potency of the "We Aim to Kill" battalion was affirmed. An unwounded North Vietnamese Captain surrendered to Colonel Wasco personally and said as he handed over pistol, "I was sent here with a company to destroy a weak American force, instead you destroyed my company, I surrender."



AWARDEES FOR PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION June 18, 1999, Fort Campbell, Kentucky

Anthony Burgee	Gary Housely
Richard Salazar	John Burke
David Kranig	Richard Snyder
Joseph Carroll	Richard Caughlin *
Robert Krepps	Dieter Stiegerwald
John Dorsey	Robert Lettmann
Gerald Sweeney	Walter Eddy
Bruce Masters	Richard Montgomery
Joseph Genereux	Louis McDonald
Patrick Mooney *	Joseph Gilboux
Patrick Noonan	Richard Heim
Lou Osterude	Richard Hinkle
Thomas Pulliam	William Larsen #
Hilliard Carter	James Phillips
Marion Calvert	Harold Motley
Fred Pitner	Larry Herrin *
Charles Furgeson	Ray Benson Sr. *

* Family member will accept award.

Could not attend.



**2BN (ABN) 327TH INF., 1ST BDE (SEP)
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION**

**KILLED IN ACTION
WOUNDED IN ACTION
TRUNG LUONG --- RVN
JUNE 19-22, 1966**

	COMPANY	DATE KIA
1. BIEROWSKI, REINER WALTER	SGT A	JUNE 20, 1966
2. COOKE, ROBERT MORRIS	PFC C	
3. COTTON, LELAND RICHARD	SP4 HQ, MEDIC W/CO. C	
4. DENSON, FLOYD CORNELIUS	SGT A	
5. EASTHAM, MARTIN PHILLIP	PFC HQ, MEDIC W/CO. C	
6. HERRIN, LARRY FRANKLIN	PFC B	
7. ENMART, JAMES LEE	PFC B	
8. HINTON, RICHARD	PFC A	
9. JOHNSON, ROBERT CHARLES	PFC B	
10. JONES, RONNIE L.	PFC B	
11. MCILWEE, JAMES R	PFC C	
12. MOONEY, PATRICK THOMAS	PFC A	
13. MUNN, ALTON BERNARD	PFC A	
14. SMITH, DONALD R	PFC B	
15. SORNSON, EDWIN HAROLD	PFC B	
16. WHITING, RICHARD	PFC B	
17. WILLIAMSON, MILLARD	PFC B	
18. CONDON, JAMES GREGORY III	SP4 HQ W/CO. C	JUNE 21, 1966
19. COOPER, JOSEPH HENRY JR.	SGT C	
20. HALL, MICHAEL ROBERT	PFC HQ W/CO. A	
21. JOHNSON, BRUCE M	SGT HQ	
22. LIDDELL, BENJAMIN F III	PFC A	
23. NELSON, WAYNE H	SP4 HQ W/CO. C	
24. RYAN, FREDERICK L	PFC	
25. VESTER, FREDERICK H	PFC HQ W/CO. C	
26. FULLER, JAME E	PVT E-1 C	JUNE 22, 1966
27. KELLY, WILLIAM H	PFC C	
28. PEACH, ROBERT	PFC C	
29. STEVENSON, BILLY E	PFC	
30. WILSON, NATHANIEL	PFC C	
31. SPENCER, GENE D	PFC B	JUNE 23, 1966

WOUNDED IN ACTION

SP4	DIETER STIEGERWALD
LT.	DANIEL LARNED
PFC	JOE KINIKIN
SGT	RICHARD COUGHLIN
LT	_____ WHELAN
PFC	JOE THIGPEN
SGT	ULYSSES WILLIAM
SP4	GARY DUBOISE
STAFF SGT	PLEAS BYRD
PFC	EDGAR RALSTON
PFC	ANGEL VELARDE
SGT	_____ CONDON
SP4	GLENN BASKET
LT.	LOUIS M. MCDONALD
LT.	FRED SEIG
SP4	PHILIP N. NICHOLS [5 TIMES] AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS [DSC]
LT	WALTER EDDY
PLT SGT	ROBERT D'ARMOUR
PFC	JAMES BROWN
PFC	ROBERT L. WESTOVER
PFC	RONALD W. SANDER
PFC	JESSIE EDWARDS
PVT	ELBERT JONES
SP4	GEORGE WEARY
PFC	WILLIAM L. SIMS
PFC	NORBELL R. WRIGHT
SGT	PEDRO ESCARILLO
LT	JONATHAN TOWERS
LT	ABE MARTIN
PFC	RICHARD MONTGOMERY
PFC	JAMES E. CROMER
SGT	BOBBY CARTER
PFC	GALLON P. BROWN
PFC	ROBERT P. LETTMAN
PFC	HAROLD MOTLEY

SGT	_____ CALVERT
PFC	RICHARD KREBBS
	_____ GIOLANDO
PFC	ROBERT JOHNSON
SGT	BOB WOODS
SP4	BOB MOORE
PFC	TOM ROBINSON
PFC	BRUCE A. MASTERS
SGT	JACK LANKSFORD
PFC	JAMES COFFEE
PFC	JAMES STOKES
PFC	EZELL DICKSON

****17 MORE TROOPERS WERE WOUNDED
UNDER MORTAR ATTACK ON CO. C.

PRESENT AT TRUNG LUONG - KILLED IN ACTION LATER [KIA]

2LT	MARVIN ROBERTS	A	
PFC	CHARLES T. MCCORKLE	A	8-29-66
ISG	RAYMOND BENSON	C	9-17-66
PFC	DENNIS L. BUNTING	B	
SSG	LEONARD BURRON	B	
PFC	FRANK F. DOUGLAS	B	
SP4	JAMES A. LOCKWOOD	B	
CPT	JOSEPH MACK JR.	B	
SGT	MICHAEL G. NATIONS	B	
1LT	ALAN J. O'BRIEN	B	
1LT	GEORGE PEARSON	B	
SP4	WILLIAM SIEGERT	B	
PFC	ATLAS MAY	B	

** Other 2/327th troopers later died from their wounds. This listing of KIA and WIA may not be exact. If anyone who was KIA or WIA at Trung Luong is not listed hereon such omission was unintentional and due to lack of adequate and accurate information.



Chaplain Richard Heim, (LTC USA Ret.) who is a veteran of the Battle of Trung Luong, speaks to the veterans of Trung Luong and to soldiers of the 2/327 Infantry Regiment at Fort Campbell on June 19, 1999. (Worrell photo)

"NO SLACK" SCRIPTURE

And the men of Gideon sent unto Joshua to the camp of Gilgal, saying, "SLACK NOT thy hand from thy servants; come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us: for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us." So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he, and all the people of war with him and all mighty men of valour.

--Joshua 10:6-7

assigned to the 101st in 1967. If anyone remembers any of us "Wing Nuts" drop me a line. It was great to have served with you! Welcome Home. Charlie

GEORGE MURPHY, LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
m0309@earthlink.net

Love the site, I saw a couple of names that I remembered from reunions. Welcome Home my brothers.
George "Rommel" Murphy HHC 1/101 LRRP 67-68

SAMMY WASHBURN, INDIANA
satcong26@aol.com

Served with the Tigers in 66-67, left Nam to go back to Campbell to help train the other 2 brigades for the Nam. Went over with the 3rd BDE LRRPS and later an instructor with P-training. Above the rest. Welcome home guys, what a great job we did.

CARL FEDDE, COLUMBUS, GA
feddec@mindspring.com

For those of you who knew Alan Gerson, dog handler with the 42d Scout Dog Platoon, '66-'67, I learned just yesterday that he died from cancer in Houston, TX some three years ago. I didn't get along with him very well when we were in RVN; He was a typical hip New Yorker, and I wasn't. Nevertheless, I mourn his passing.

C. P. PAUL KIMBERLING, TALLAHASSEE, FL
paulpk@mindspring.com

Plt Ldr, Charlie Co, 2/502 Abn Inf S-4, HHC, 2/502 CO, Alpha Co, 2/502 S-3 Air, HHC, 2/502

ART ROOD (PREACHER), PENSACOLA, FL
Bigroody@msn.com

Served in the 1/327 "C" Co. Dec 67-Mar 68

JOE CARROLL, BRIGANTINE, NJ (FORMERLY OF PHILADELPHIA, PA) Tarpon@aol.com

Do you guys remember the "Leg Medics"? Phan Rang 66-67

J.L.McLEAN, YAKIMA, WA.
www.mac_thefirst@hotmail.com

RVN '66-67 with A Co. 326 Engr & worked with B Co 2Bn 502. Thanks for letting me sign in. Will pass along site to others. MSG.SF, Ret. Jim(Mac) McLean.

MICHAEL AINSWORTH, BENICIA, CALIFORNIA
mapaa@pacbell.net

Have seen a couple of names of people I served with, all due to the D & W. Plus, have found some very interesting reading and pictures like in Volume 1, Number 2 October 1998, page 36. I remember that and also have a few pictures the Trooper in the picture is Lou Lamana, and we just found a NVA hospital complex. Our CO was Capt. White, at that time, best Company Commander I ever saw, really did care about his men. I would like to see as many men as I could from the 3rd Plt. of Abu, but I had friends in each of the companies as well as in other battalions.

I've been in contact with Art Timmons, Rick "Sam" Sanders, Pat Patterson, Bob Schmall, Warren Newton, Karl Siefert, Manual Hernandez, Alan Wilkerson, John Smyth and Jim Watson.

Also looking for any person involved with May 14, 1967 "Mothers Day Hill" for Abu. John Smyth and myself were two of three medics and I would like to find out the other.

My e-mail address is mapaa@pacbell.net

Airborne, Mike Ainsworth Combat Medic, Abu 1/327 Inf 9/66 to 5/67

JOHN YEAGER, JR., WEST VIRGINIA
jyeager@weirnet.com

John Yeager, Jr., former Sgt. C/2/502 and hereditary duke of Westphalia.

BOBBY COREY, FLORIDA
ilia48@aol.com

HHC 2/502 Recondos 66-67

JIM GOULD, MICHIGAN, NOW LIVING IN FLORIDA
JGould2@prodigy.net

Checking the sign in book and noticed that people are not leaving a e-mail address for friends to make contact. Please add your e-mail address. I was with HHC 2/502 Recondos from 4/66-3/67 in Vietnam. With A 1/501 Weapons Plt. 4/67-9/67 Ft. Campbell. My e-mail address is: JGould2@prodigy.net. Has anyone heard when the reunion for the First Brigade is next year?

Editor's Note: Tentative schedule for the reunion in Columbus/Fort Benning, Georgia is October 12-15, 2000.

JAMES R. ATWOOD, NEWPORT, KENTUCKY
Recon3506@AOL.com

Looking for anyone that was with the HHC 3/506th, that was on the boat going to Viet Nam in 1967, or anyone with the Recon team in Viet Nam for 3/506. While in Viet Nam they called me Bitch. I complained a lot.

MICHAEL J. O'NEILL, HAVERHILL, MASS
weststa3@aol.com

Great site! I arrived in country late May of 66 and was sent to Phan Rang where I pulled my 1st tour with the 320th Arty. Took a short (discharge) to join the "Recondos" 2/502 and left country 21 Dec 67. Finished my service with the 82nd state side. Would like to hear from anyone that remembers me and could give me some names of the guys I was with, I think Lt. Long was Platoon leader in Recon at the time I was there. I've been on the Andover, Mass Fire Dept since 1977 and have been a Lt/EMT since 1986. "STRIKE FORCE."

TOMMY RUSSELL, PITTSBURGH, PA.
trus2614@aol.com

I served with HQ 2/502 Recon Plt. 1/66 to 3/66. Then C/2/502 3/66 to 4/67. I would like to say hello, to all my Strike Force buddies. STRIKE. T.R.

JOHN HARRISON, NO CITY LISTED
jehslh101@aol.com

I served with Company A of the 3d of the 506th in Viet Nam in 1967-68.

NICKERSON, NEW CARLISLE, INDIANA
skyking57@hotmail.com

Was with 320 Fild Arty for 41 months, went over as a Pfc and came home Sp/6. I retired from the Army after 20 years and the 101st will always be in my heart. Airborne.

JOSEPH L. MONTOYA (MONTY), LIVE IN CLARKSVILLE, TN
jm320@usit.net

Chief Computer Hq Btry 2/320 1962-1966. Went to Vietnam on the El-Tinge. I hope they scuttled that barge after the trip. Rotated in June 1966 and joined Special Forces. Did another tour in VN with SF 1969-1970, retired from the Army in 1971. I am presently the Chairman of the 320th Abn Field Artillery Association and the current Honorary Sgt Major of the 320th Field Artillery Regiment (Air Assault) which is still an active regiment in the 101st Air Assault Division here at Ft. Campbell. Through my association, I have managed to keep in touch with many of the 1965-66 guys. Need some Vietnam era stuff for the 320th Regimental room, pictures, etc. Anything that you would care to send would be appreciated. Contact me at my e-mail address.

Editor's Note: This magazine could use much more input from 2/320 Artillery veterans of the 1st Brigade (S).

BOBBIE B. MESSER, MIAMI, FL
Gangguy@aol.com

I served with 101st from Mar 63 to Jan 68; I was assigned to Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery. I remember sailing on the "General Leroy Eltinge" with the 1st Brigade and arriving off the coast of Vietnam that fateful day. Many a memory has crossed my mind since then. I will certainly try to send you folks some pictures and stories of experiences from July 1965 to August 1966...my tour. Thanks for keeping it alive. Sincerely, Bob Messer

CARL FEDDE, COLUMBUS/FORT BENNING, GA
feddec@mindspring.com

Responding to e-mail from editor. Didn't know that 1st Brigade had any sort of organization or newsletter, but glad to hear of it.

I was a late arriver, i.e Aug 66 to August 67, an original of 42d Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog). Spent most of my time in the bush with 2-502, but a little time w/ 1-327 and 2-327 too.

Like most folks with PTSD, I'm not much of a joiner, but thanks to a former Army Chaplain, I've managed to crawl out of my bunker and more or less rejoin the human race.

To all of you who humped the hills of II Corps, God's peace be with you.

JOHN P. MCKENZIE, NJ - THEN FL - NOW
troopermckenzie@hotmail.com

I am looking for information on the death and service of PFC James D. Hawes. "Jim" was a rifleman in a line company of 2/502 PIR, 1st Bde, 101st Airborne Division.

He was Caucasian, 5'10", 160 lbs., handsome and sharp. He finished 2 yrs at U. of Georgia before going to VN in June 1965 on U.S.S. ElTinge with 1st Bde. Landed in Cam Rahn Bay. There I lost track of him. Around Christmas 1965, Jim was bitten by a rabid squirrel and subsequently died of complications. PLEASE, anyone with personal, first-hand information on this good man contact me at: "troopermckenzie@hotmail.com" or write to: 4974 Viceroy Street, Cape Coral, FL 33904 or call: 1-904-549-0660.

JOHN M. TAYLOR, LUTZ, FL
jmtaylor@ij.net

Just added a couple of new 1st Bde photos at my site - www.ij.net/johnmtaylorjr

E-MAIL MESSAGES

MICHAEL A. WILLEY
photog101@ameritech.net
Organization: A VET HELPING VETS

Ivan:

I just received my notification that I will be receiving the upcoming issues of "The Screaming Eagle." Good work!

If I send you some photos via the internet, what format would be best for you? Please let me know, as I still have a few of the 5 X 7 photos which I took while under your command at the PIO shop.

Unfortunately, during my last marriage my now ex-wife burned several boxes of photos that I had sent home from the Nam. Also, will we get the by-lines for the photos which we send in?

I believe that there was a photo used in the last issue of the Diplomat and Warrior ("The Field Cross") which was used in the obituary on p.13 was one which I took at the Savannah reunion in 1996. That obituary was sent in by Bill Miller, who is in my Combat Veterans Group at an outreach veterans center in Lincoln Park, Michigan.

If the new format of the "Screaming Eagle" is as good as the "Diplomat and Warrior," I believe you have a winner on your hands.

Strange how the transition of the names coincides with the same change in Vietnam.

Welcome Home trooper. Keep up the good work and have a great day.

DAVID HACKWORTH
teagles@hackworth.com

Ivan,

VN Primer is on the way. Please tell your readers that it can be ordered by writing: Book Orders, PO Box 5210, Greenwich, Ct 06831 or eyeballing the web at www.hackworth.com. Check for ten bucks made out to Twin Eagles, Ink.

Glad to participate in an interview... Let me know what you want. Once you have the words, I'll dig thru my 101st photos and send them along when you say execute.

Love to dial back to May '65 and do it again. But retain all the present knowledge. Man, we'd cleaned Charlie's clock with few casualties.

Have often thought what I could have done with the 1965 1/327 in the Delta in 1969. My shake and bake, draftee BN killed 2600 VC with 25 US KIA. 100 to one. With the pros of the 1/327 we'd have made it 1000 to one. I average less than three regulars per rifle company. In Co B, the oldest vet had 14 months in the Army and that was the West Point skipper.

Above The Rest, Hack

Editor's Note: May 27, 1999, Dear Dave, Thank you, very much, for the kind words about the magazine.

I would like to feature you in the October 1999 issue of The First SCREAMING EAGLES in Viet Nam and would appreciate any help from you in the form of photos, thoughts on your tour in the 1st Brigade and observations on the activities of the brigade headquarters, the 1st Battalion 327th and any other facts or fiction that you believe would be of interest to 1st Brigade Veterans.

I truly enjoyed BRAVE MEN and am now looking for VIETNAM PRIMER and plan to review it in a future magazine.

Your DEFENDING AMERICA Newsletter is outstanding.

Please let me know if I can or how I can get a plug in it for The First SCREAMING EAGLES in Viet Nam.

Your address is now correct in the magazine Address Book.

"EAGLE" (MIKE MCFADDEN)
mcfaddn@ix.netcom.com

Good day to all my friends out there. Received this from Ben Harrison (Retired MG) who commanded the 10th AVN BN in support of the 1st BDE, 101st ABN (SEP) in VN 66-67. The first part has to do with foreign policy and expresses our current mess. The list of quotes which follows will be enjoyed by those of us who were there - we only had to ride choppers - not fly them.

AIRBORNE. Respectfully, Mike

Editor's Note: We did not use list of quotes.

Hi folks,

Hope you find these worth reading.

Cheers, Ben (Harrison)

U.S. ARMY OFFICIAL VOICE MAIL MESSAGE

Thank you for calling the United States Army. I'm sorry, but all of our units are out at the moment, or are otherwise engaged. Please leave a message with your country, name of organization, the region, the specific crisis, and a number at which we can call you. As soon as we have sorted out the Balkans, Iraq, Korea, China, the Y2K Bug, marching up and down the streets of Washington, D.C., and compulsory "Consideration Of Others" training, we will return your call. Please speak after the tone, or if you require more options, please listen to the following numbers: If your crisis is small, and close to the sea, press 1 for the United States Marine Corps. If your concern is distant, with a temperate climate and good hotels, and can be solved by one or two low risk, high altitude bombing runs, please press 2 for the United States Air Force. Please note this service is not available after 1630 hours (4:30 PM), or on weekends. Special consideration will be given to customers requiring satellite or stealth technology who can provide additional research and development funding. If your inquiry concerns a situation which can be resolved by a bit of grey funnel, bunting, flags and a really good marching band, please write, well in advance, to the United States Navy. Please note that Tomahawk missile service is extremely limited and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. If your inquiry is not urgent, please press 3 for the Rapid Deployment Force. If you are in real hot trouble, please press 4, and your call will be routed to the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC). Please note that a compulsory credit check will be required to ensure you can afford the exorbitant TDY (travel) costs. Also be aware that USASOC may bill your account at any time and is not required to tell you why, as it will be classified. If you are interested in joining the Army and wish to be shouted at, paid little, have premature arthritis, put your wife and family in a condemned hut miles from civilization, are prepared to work your **** off

daily, risking your life, in all weather and terrain, both day and night, and whilst watching Congress erode your original benefits package, then please stay on the line. Your call will shortly be connected to a bitter passed-over (for promotion) Army Recruiter in an old strip mall down by the Post Office. Have a pleasant day, and thank you again for trying to contact the United States Army.

EDDIE LEWIN
Eelyx@aol.com

Dear Sir;

My name is Eddie Lewin. When is the next issue of your magazine going to be mailed? My subscription check was cashed on May 19th, 1999, and I have yet to receive an issue.

By the way, I was the 101st entry in the guest book and next thing I knew, Rommel Murphy was in there. What happened? Were you a LRRP too? Hmmmmmmm!

You have constructed a site that has allowed many 1st Brigaders to reconnect.

Thanks, Eddie

Editor's Note: Eddie, You either have your magazine now or it will be there soon. Went in the mail on Tuesday, Aug. 10th.

BILL KELLER
BKe2076635@aol.com

I am interested in finding out when the next Reunion will be for the 1st Brigade. A group of the people from 2/327th are attempting to put together a reunion. May try for Ft Campbell during the Week of the Eagles July 2000. However I understand that 1st Bde is working on a 2000 (reunion) at Ft Benning, GA.

I have sent all of my Diplomat & Warrior magazines to people in Florida.

Respectfully, Bill Keller

Editor's Note: Tentative dates for the next 1st Brigade Reunion are October 15-20 2000. Send me the names and addresses of your 2/327 friends and I will send them a packet of information about the magazine. The Fort Campbell area is going to be packed for Week of the Eagles next year because the 101st Association will also be there.

MARION STEIGERWALD
MWSteige3@aol.com

Dear Ivan:

Dieter and I would like to say that it was a pleasure to meet you and talk to you at the Trung Luong Reunion. We

enjoyed ourselves very much and are very glad to have been a part of the proceedings.

Dieter was wondering if you or anyone you know can get hold of a certain golf shirt that had "Rendevous with Destiny" written on the back along with dates and Trung Luong and I believe the "Screaming Eagle." The shirt was a light gray in color. There were two comrade veterans that wore the shirt. We would like to buy a couple of these shirts. Can you help us out? Or tell us who can? Would appreciate your help very much. Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Editor's Note: Deter, Joe Bossy should know. I forwarded your request for information to him. It was good to meet you all and I hope to see you again soon.

GEORGE E. BROWN
gande143@impop.bellatlantic.net

Did you get the pictures that I sent yesterday, of Capt. Maglin and the jump? If they are clear enough and you want to use them on the web site it is OK with me. Just include my name and e-mail address.

Airborne, George E. Brown Inf. Squad, 2nd Plt., A Trp. 2/17 Cav. 1st Bde.(Sep.) 101 Abn.

Editor's Note: Photos came. Cannot get clear reproductions. Please send originals and I will return them.

JERRY BERRY
currahee@homer.libby.org

Hi, Ivan, I was hoping to see you at the 101st Assoc. reunion in Hampton, but didn't get the opportunity. We had our 3/506th mini reunion over at the Quality Inn & Suites during the same time. We may have exceeded the number of Screaming Eagles attending the reunion in the Holiday Inn. Some of us attended both, and enjoyed both. Next year's get together is going to be something else.

Ivan, I had the Screaming Eagle newspaper book produced and it was delivered during the reunion. It was a big success with my group. I had only 200 copies made for this first go around (to have ready for the reunion). I also was able to have 100 CDs made and delivered in time for the reunion. The CD has 1635 photos on it along with the software program to run it like a slide show on your PC. It turned out great. I'm still missing a few weekly editions of the Screaming Eagle paper, but I'm slowly finding them and will have all for the second printing. Due to the low quantity and rush job to get produced for the reunion, I have to ask \$40.00 for the Newspaper book and \$80.00 for the CD or both for \$110.00.

Ivan, I would like to list the two items on your website if possible. Please advise if can and what I would need to send in way of info. My book on the psychological warfare leaflets of the Vietnam War will be out soon and I would like to include that one also. I'll be closing on my primary book "They Called Us Currahees" in the next few months and hope to have that

one published by early next year. I have been promoting your newsletter/magazine and our guys would like to join, but want something that includes 3/506 info. I'm still not clear if we (the 3/506) is included in the 1st Brigade (Separate). We belonged to the 1st and came over in Oct. 67. Please clarify. I would be more than willing to submit stories and photos of the 3/506 for the magazine. I think I could get many of our guys to subscribe.

Attached is a copy of the CD Jacket. I'll send photo of the Newspaper book also.

Jerry

Editor's Note: Dear Jerry, I regret that we did not have an opportunity to meet in Hampton. I did purchase a copy of your book. As to your question relative to the 3rd Battalion, 506 being considered a part of the 1st Brigade (Separate), they are and have been from the first. Should you ever subscribe to this magazine that is devoted to the 1st Brigade, including the 3/506 you will find they are acknowledged and praised by General Matheson and many others.

As for your books and disks, I do not believe I could, in good conscience, promote your products when you have no interest in the product that pays for the website. If you wish to advertise in the magazine let me know. If you wish to work out an agreement for me to sell your products let me know.

I hope we can work together to serve all the veterans of the 1st Brigade.

Best regards, Ivan

Since this email correspondence, Jerry Berry has become a subscriber to The First SCREAMING EAGLES In Viet Nam.

CORNETT, JON R. CSM
cornettj3@emh2.campbell.army.mil

Forwarded by: JOE BOSSI, jbossi@commandnet.net

Joe, I just got something that maybe you or Harvey or somebody can help me out with. Just got done talking with a CW4 Borden, whose brother was a member of the BDE who was killed in action in Vietnam. He was SPC Lawrence T. Borden, assigned to C Co 1/327, went over to Vietnam with the BDE.

According to the statement of casualty he was killed in action on Operation John Paul Jones (?) on the 13th of September 1966 by hostile automatic weapons fire. His home of record was Charlestown, Massachusetts. Would appreciate any info you might have or pointing us in the right direction to anyone who may have known him, or has any info on the details of his death.

Thanks, Jon

BERGMAN, WILLIAM
William.Bergman@eurodat-services.com

Thanks for a continued GREAT job! The First Brigade was THE outfit to be with, for leadership, for achievement, for getting things done. Glad to see our little but mighty 'A' Troop

2/17th Cav well represented on your subscriber list. (then 1LT) Bill Bergman Jun 67-68.

BOBBIE B. MESSER, MAJ, RET.
GANGGUY@aol.com

Ivan, You asked for my unit assignment and dates a while back. Sorry it took so long to respond; I was injured on the job and out of action. Better now. Here is the data you wanted: Bobbie B. Messer, Maj, Ret. Battery C, 2nd Bn 320th FA, Asg: Mar 63, Viet Nam dates: Jul 65 - Aug 66 Artillery Forward Observer attached to 2/502 Inf in Viet Nam. Supported all companies but most support to Company A.

Comments: Have to search for pictures and memorabilia to send to you.

LOU MCDONALD (LOU & LISTA)
califia@garlic.com

Dear Ivan:

Jim Apodaca and I were out having breakfast a few Sundays ago and we ran into a fellow First Brigader, John Ramirez. I think he was in the 502d. In any event his address is 308 Tarkinington Ct, Roseville, Ca 95747.

Jim and I, along with our wives are planning a trip to Oroville on Sep 18 and will visit Dick Coughlin.

Have told everyone that the picture of the Trung Luong shirt in the latest issue is my back. So far the only National publications that I've made the print is yours and Ebony in Aug 1968. The latter was a real shock. Ebony came down and spent about two weeks in the field with my rifle platoon in 1966.

Did you record the Trung Luong Briefing? Sure wish I had. I learned more about the operation at Ft Campbell than I ever knew in Vietnam.

Keep up the good work, Lou

"My rule is always people first and things second" (Leo Buscaglia)

Editor's Note: I did record the briefing. The Trung Luong stories in this issue are based, in part, on the briefing.

OATES, MICHAEL L. COL
oatesm@emh2.campbell.army.mil

Mr. Worrell,

The 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) will host a Distinguished Member of the Regiment (DMOR) induction ceremony for 327th Infantry Regiment Veterans during the 101st Assoc Reunion in June 2000 at Fort Campbell, KY.

I would like to encourage any of your members (should be subscribers, not members) who wish to nominate a 327th Infantry veteran (living or deceased) to forward a nomination to the

address below NLT 1 February 2000. The only criteria for nomination as a DMOR is that the nominee served in the 327th Infantry Regiment (combat or peacetime) and that his service was honorable and set an example for the rest of us to emulate. The nomination is not in any specific format; a simple letter explaining why the nominee should be selected is sufficient. Historical documentation or proof of valorous awards/deeds is helpful if available. The board will review each nomination and select the DMOR candidates for induction during the June reunion.

Thanks for your assistance,
COL Mike Oates Commander, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (AASLT)

MAIL Nominations to:
Commander
1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)
ATTN: S-1; DMOR Nomination
Fort Campbell, KY 42223-5800

JERRY BERRY
currahee@homer.libby.org

Ivan, I spoke with Lt. (then) Joe Alexander (705 Noragate Rd., Knoxville, TN 37919) last evening and he informed me that he just filled out his subscription. He lives in Knoxville, his dad lives in Loudon, will drop in to visit. Also, just got this new address in today, PSG Jerviss (Joseph L. Jerviss, 3/506 VN, 3128 Crescent Avenue, Marina, CA 93933) spoke with him last night. Add it to the current mailing list of perspective subscribers enclosed with my subscription that's enroute.

Jerry

ROBERT C. HUDSON
bhudson@avmed.com

I was a platoon leader in C/2/327 at Fort Campbell, and went over to Rvn on the Eltinge with the First Brigade. I was the lead platoon in Task Force Collins, the relief force that was put together when the 2/502 got into it at the battle of An Ninh in September 1965 near An Khe. I have some old newspaper articles about that operation, including some pretty graphic pictures that were in the newspaper. I also wrote an account of the operation from my perspective on the relief force that tried to get to the 2/502 (without much success I should say). I would be willing to send you copies of these, if it is something you think would be useful for The First Screaming Eagles newsletter. Just give me an email and let me know. I really enjoy the newsletter and appreciate your efforts to put it together.

Regards, Bob Hudson, bhudson@avmed.com

Editor's Note: Bob, I sent a message the day yours arrived. It must have been lost on the web. Yes, I would like to have any material you have relating to the 1st Brigade (S) in Viet Nam. If you will send originals I will scan them and return to you. Thanks, Again, for your interest.

MIKE MCFADDEN, "eagle"
mcfaddn@ix.netcom.com

With today's mail I am sending two photographs for you to consider including in the next edition of D&W. I think you will particularly enjoy the one of Frank Dietrich. I applaud your including unit photos as it seems to me that group pictures assist our efforts to widen membership and will encourage more former enlisted troopers to become active in our Association. Please let me know when these "treasures" arrive safely. Your commitment to our Association is much appreciated. AIRBORNE. Mike McFadden

Editor's Note: See photo this issue.

ERIC BEARSCOVE
norbjorn@hotmail.com

Hi, It's really nice to know that there are guys around that were in the First Brigade. I've surfed the Web for some time looking for a friend of mine and all the sites are either Marine or from units that were in Nam later than we were. I never joined any organization related to the Army when I left and sometimes I really feel lonely not being able to share my experiences over there. I do plan to return to Vietnam next year, probably in September. Let me know if there's anything I can do for you while I'm there.

Bear

Editor's Note: If you will send me your address and information about when you served with the 1st Brigade I will send you more material about the magazine. You can also print a subscription form from the web site and subscribe by mail. Thanks for your interest. (He has now become a subscriber.)



Ivan - The attached .jpeg file is a pix of Projo a mutt that Phil Essig brought to C Btry about 11 or 12 /67 after the 502 burned a village in Chu Lai. We kept him as a battery mascot till he got run over by Sgt. Webb, supply sgt., in a place called Song Be. Let me know if you got this OK and can use it. I have some more pix. AIRBORNE! Bob Shuta, C 2/320 Arty. 67/68.

FROM THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

JOE LaFATCH, B 1/327 6/67-10/67 (on 30 Sept 67 I "Forgot to Duck") writes: Dear Ivan, I really enjoy the magazine. Thanks for your hard work. I saw Jim Cox's ARCOM citation two issues ago. Since it contained phrases such as "VOLUNTEERED!" and "IGNORING THE HAIL OF ENEMY FIRE!", I called him and asked him something: "Jim, what do you suppose your mother thought when she read that?" I hope the list of 327 studs enclosed is helpful. Drive on, Ivan, Airborne, All the Way.

Editor's Note: I sent material about the magazine to all those on the list who were not already listed.

RICHARD D. PERKINS, 2/320 B VN 7/65-6/67 wrote: I went over on the troop ship in 1965 with B-2-320 Arty. After a year with them I transferred to the 1st Plt 101st MP Company where I was a machine gunner on one of their gun jeeps. Thanks for everything you're doing. Airborne always.

JOHN YEAGER, JR., 2/502 C VN 66-67, wrote: How about a feature on the Brigade's WWII paratroopers? COLs McCoid, Dietrich and Wasco come to mind, along with GEN Matheson. I feel like I'm at a family reunion when I receive your magazine.

Editor's Note: I am interested in featuring 1st Brigade veterans when information about them is sent.

WILLIAM D. RITCHIE, 1/502 HHQ FC VN 6/63-12/65 wrote: Does anyone have a copy of men, by company, that departed on our ship the "Leroy Eltinge," in June 1965? If you have or know of a copy could you send or give me the address on how to obtain a copy. William Ritchie, 31 Oakwood Dr., Norwalk, OH 44857; E-Mail: Ritchie@accnorwalk.com

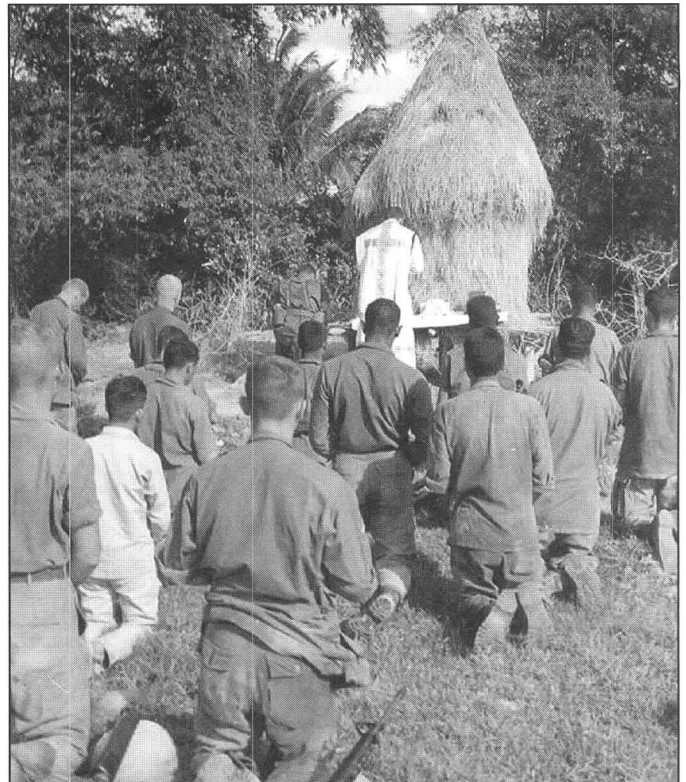
MICHAEL J. O'NEILL, 2/502 HHC VN 6/67-12/67, wrote: Thank you for starting to put the history of the 1st Bde (Separate) together. Over the years it's been hard to explain to people that for two years the 1st Bde was on its own and not part of the Division. I always considered us a "fine Brigade" similar to the 173rd (Separate) in the way we operated.



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.



Operation "Van Buren" a combined Republic of Korea, Republic of Vietnam and the United States 101st Airborne Brigade. The operation denied the vital rice harvest to the Viet Cong. Catholic Chaplain, CPT Bruno Massoti, (Cullman, Al) conducts services for troops of the 101st during the operation.

101st ABN Photograph.

I was a Army photographer in Vietnam. Took this photo on 23 Jan 1966. Feel free to use it. Was picked up by Wire Services and used by several Newspapers on Easter Sunday 10 April 1966. Hope this big BMP makes it.

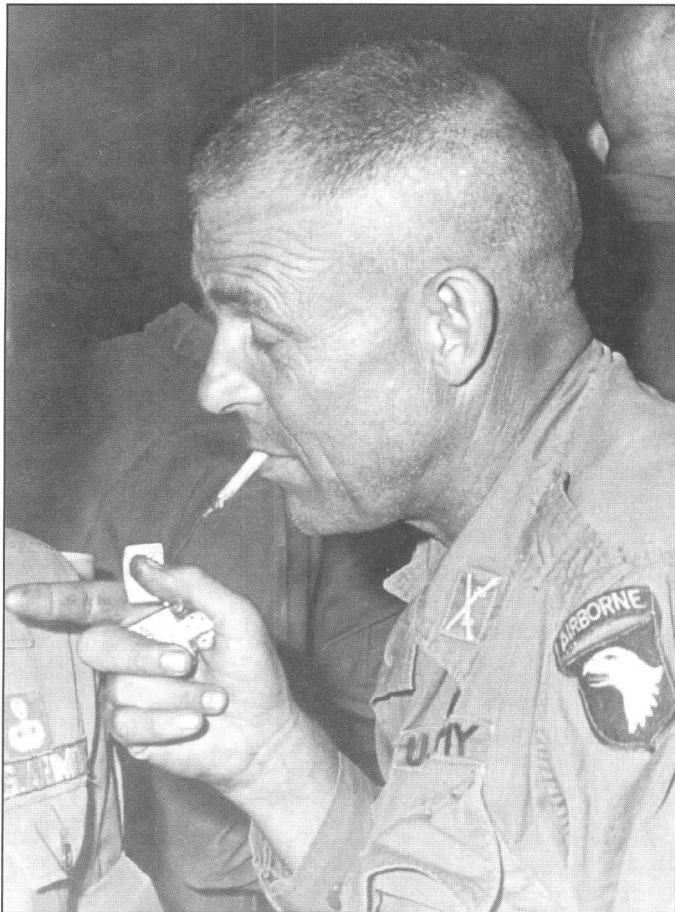
Robert C. Lafoon
email lafoonr@forscom.army.mil

Great Web site!!



Can you help to identify those in the photo by name and unit? This is the information on the reverse side of the photo. Back Row - 2nd from left - SP/4 Johnson; 3rd from left - SGT Pat Torres; 4th from left - SP/4 Banks. #3 First Row far right - SP/5 Doc Edwards. Maybe someone can put names to the rest. Dec '67.

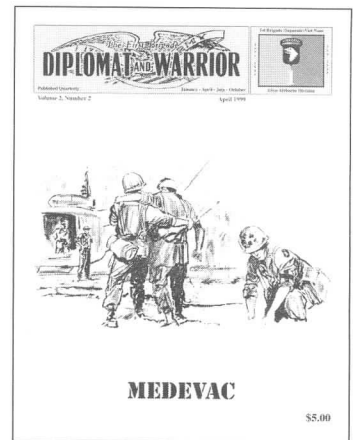
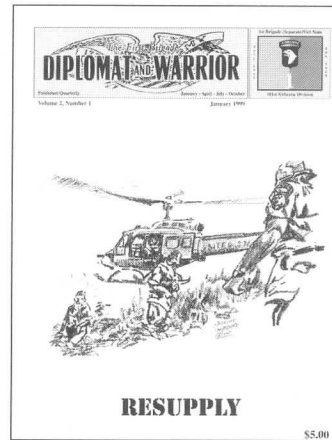
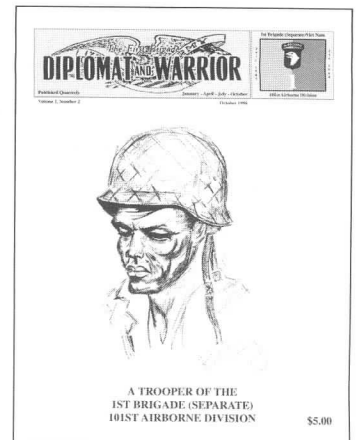
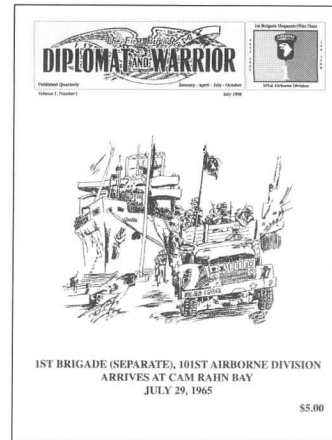
LTC. FRANK DIETRICH (Gunslinger)
CO 2/502



Mike McFadden, 2864 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953-2627; 831-375-7762; mcfaddn@ix.netcom.com sent the following: Dear Ivan, Enclosed are two photographs to be considered for inclusion in the next magazine. The unit picture (not good enough quality to reproduce) is of Attack Company of the Strike Force which was taken in approximately December of 1966. I would enjoy establishing contact with any members of our unit and they may contact me at my home address, phone/fax number, or email address. The other picture is a typical "Gunslinger" Frank Dietrich picture complete with roll-your-own, yellow finger, and open zippo to which all former comrades will relate. Just wish I had one of him rolling a cigarette under the moving blades of a helicopter! I will be making my annual visit to pay respects at his grave in Arlington on the anniversary of his death (Sep 22) and would welcome the company of anyone who wishes to join me. Your efforts in behalf of our Association are much appreciated ... thank you. AIRBORNE



PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR - NOW
7TH BI-ANNUAL REUNION OF THE
1ST BRIGADE (SEPARATE), 101ST ABN DIV
OCTOBER 12 - 15, 2000
COLUMBUS/FORT BENNING, GA
(More information will be published in
the January 2000 issue of this magazine.)



To Purchase single copies of back issues of **The Diplomat & Warrior** and **The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam** 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.

CORRECTION
CSM Robert A. Young, Ret. wrote with the following correction for a picture caption in the **DIPLOMAT & WARRIOR**, Vol 2 No. 2, April 1999 issue on page 13. SGM Peter Bacerra (2/327) is alive and well and living in Columbus, GA.



THE ARMY REPORTER

February 11, 1966

Page 6

ARRIVAL – The 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division stepped from landing craft onto the beach of Cam Ranh Bay July 29, 1965, after 20 days at sea. They were met by Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor and Gen. W. C. Westmoreland, COMUSMACV, both former "Screaming Eagle" commanders.

The 3700 men of the "Always First" Brigade, led by Col. James S. Timothy, set foot on the beach and prepared for the coming job.

FIRST COMBAT – The first assignment was at Cam Ranh – protection for the logistic base. Then, in early September, elements of the "Screaming Eagles" teamed up with ARVN troops in a search and destroy mission in the Qui Nhon-An Khe Axis which netted nine Viet Cong killed, 24 captured. It was the first rumble of battle for the "Eagles."

THE BIG ONE – In a few days, Company B of 2/502nd Infantry and a handful more troopers from the 502nd made an air-assault on a Viet Cong battalion training camp.

The first air-assault lift touched down on a landing zone 18 miles NE of An Khe, on a clear morning at 7:15, September 18, 1965. The second lift skimmed in over the treetops and began to descend. They didn't make it.

"All hell broke loose," a trooper recalled. Three choppers hovered 10 to 15 feet off the ground, the door gunners firing into the treeline until their weapons smoked; there was a hail of bullets directed at the airships. The pilots decided not to land.

"I'm getting out!" a chopper pilot hollered to the troopers he was flying. None of them said anything or looked around. They stood up and began jumping the 15 feet or so to the ground below as the craft moved out. Ten or 15 men came in this way. Four of the choppers didn't make it out.

The fight raged on the entire day and through the night until nine the next morning, when the Viet Cong withdrew and left the "Eagles" in possession of the battlefield, 226 enemy dead and hundreds of weapons. The "Eagles" lost thirteen men.

OPERATION VALKERIE – In mid-October, the 101st began operation "Valkerie." The "Eagles" weren't on the road very long before they were engaged by a VC platoon. Within two hours 17 enemy were dead, 10 were captured.

CIVIC ACTION – While in the Qui Nhon area the "Screaming Eagles" spent an equal part of their energies at civic action projects as well as battle.

In November, 192 tons of VC cached rice were distributed in the area. And through the first part of December, roads were built and repaired; rice paddies harvested, culverts and bridges constructed and homes, destroyed by many battles in the area, were rebuilt. The people of the An Nhon District, grateful for the troopers' help held a district ceremony and publicly thanked the "Eagles," gave them gifts, and hoisted banners proclaiming: "The Whole People of An Nhon District Are Deeply Grateful To The 101st Airborne."

SOUTH TO CHECKERBOARD – Back in early November, the "Screaming Eagles" attempted to begin housekeeping. It wasn't easy. After the troopers left Qui Nhon in early December they got their first crack at starting a base camp. It was short lived though. By mid-December, just days after their arrival at Phan Rang base camp, they were ordered to Lai Khe for operation checkerboard, a joint 1st Infantry Division, 173rd Airborne, Aussie, ARVN operation.

Near Bien Hoa the troopers discovered an underground tunnel system. It contained 400 tons of rice, thousands of small arms ammo, as well as other ordnance, a hospital, and many logistical supplies.

CHRISTMAS AT "HOME" – At last, the troopers got to come home to Phan Rang. It was a busy Christmas. There was much to be done. A whole base camp to be built, and only till the middle of January to get it well under way.

Christmas came and went, without much notice. The "Eagles" received a great many presents and letters from the States, but they were still 9000 miles away.

NORTH AGAIN – On January 17th, the major portion of the Brigade moved to Tuy Hoa, to set up the forward area camp in preparation for operation "VAN BUREN" which would begin at the end of the Oriental New Year truce.

On January 24, the "Screaming Eagles" began the first major offensive of the Year of the Horse: a search, destroy, and secure operation to assist the local populace in their rice harvest. The area is known to harbor several battalions of hard-core Viet Cong.

CHANGE OF COMMAND – On the 28th of January, the commander of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne, Col. James S. Timothy, handed the colors of the "Always First" Brigade over to a new commander. It was a heartfelt loss for the troopers who had followed this man through six months of almost constant contact with the enemy ... the only colonel commanding a brigade in all of Vietnam.

The colors were given, however, not to a stranger, but to the 101st's deputy commander from Ft. Campbell, Ky., Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson.

When General Pearson received the brigade colors, he received command of the Army's finest ... Timothy's Traveling Trouble.



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

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND
VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96243

MACOI

"I was so scared even my whiskers turned gray," said Sgt. Fred Myers, 25, of Clarksville, Tenn., as he related the hair-raising tale of being surrounded by the VC for an entire night 40 miles northeast of Saigon.

Sergeant Myers and 10 other Screaming Eagle Hatchetmen from the 502nd Infantry of the Army's 1st Battalion, 101st Airborne, were left behind by their unit to guard a large rice cache to prevent the VC from reclaiming it during the fight.

"We moved into position and set up two claymore mines around the cache and waited. At about 10:00 p.m. we heard twigs snapping and leaves rustling all around us and we knew that the VC had us surrounded. Our noise discipline was perfect...it had to be, for if the VC knew our exact position, they could have lobbed grenades in on us and it would have been all over."

"The VC were starting to close in on us at about 10 p.m. so I detonated the claymores and we opened up with everything we had for 15 seconds then stopped firing so that 'Charlie' wouldn't pinpoint our position. I didn't know how many we got and I wasn't about to go out and find out. Things were quiet for a while, but before long they started closing in again, so this time I called in artillery fire as close to our position as I dared."

"The enemy was so close to us that the artillery wasn't hurting them so I called in a flare ship over the radio by talking to the Air Force Forward Air Controller, Viper 8, who was flying overhead in a light plane. The flare ship came over and dropped flares that illuminated the entire area around us and this kept 'Charlie' from probing us the rest of the night. We were all greatly relieved to see the sun come up the next morning and as we were making our way back to our unit, one of the men remarked, 'I sure won't feel bad about collecting my combat pay this month!'"

REMEMBER OUR FALLEN VIETNAM HERO'S

SOME GAVE ALL



58209

(2 T'S SHIPPING \$3.50)
(3 T'S SHIPPING \$4.50)

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CENTERED ON THE CHEST OF
AN ASH GRAY T-SHIRT**

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PLUS \$3.50 S&H EACH**

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Diplomat & Warrior March 6, 1967 WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



SSgt. Joseph A. Milesko



Lt. Jim Joiner

Staff Sergeant Joseph A. Milesko of Pittsburgh, a member of Headquarters Company (Hawk Platoon), 2nd Battalion, 327th (Airborne) Infantry, was chosen as the "Enlisted Warrior of the Week" for recent actions against the enemy near Phan Thiet.

First Lieutenant Jim Joiner of Tampa, Fla., a platoon leader in "B" Company, 2nd Battalion, 327th (Airborne) Infantry, was chosen as the "Officer Warrior of the Week" for recent actions against the enemy near Phan Thiet.

Editor's Note: LTC (R) Jim (Jungle Jim) Joiner sent this clip. He is now Vice President of the 101st Airborne Division Association.



Training parachute exercise at Kontum December 1967.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Commanders' Christmas Messages

From Gen. Westmoreland:

Christmas 1966, as in the past, finds American Servicemen in Vietnam. We are separated from our families, but we are comforted and inspired by the knowledge that we are aiding a struggling nation to attain freedom and peace.

Two thousand years ago Christ's birth heralded a blessing upon the earth. The problems of violence and inhumanity which faced the world then, regrettably still live with us today. We see those problems every day, as Vietnamese citizens continue to suffer indignities and terrors at the hands of the enemy.

Those of us who are engaged in this vital struggle believe that Christ's message of peace on earth, good will to men, can become a reality in this war-torn land. We know that the world He sought to build will move closer to reality if we continue to assist the Vietnamese people in their search for peace and tranquility. This goal for which we strive is worthy of the sacrifice we share in sorrow and loneliness.

At this time of solemnity and reverence let us join together to ask God's blessing and to pray that we may return to our loved ones victorious in this most Christian of causes.

I want you to know I am proud of you and deeply grateful for your magnificent performances of duty during the past year. To each of you, and to your families, I send my warmest personal wishes for a joyous Christmas and a successful and satisfying New Year.

W.C. Westmoreland
General, United States Army
Commanding

From Brig. Gen. Pearson:

For all Americans, Christmas is a day of both giving and receiving, and hopefully a day of "Peace on Earth". By our personal sacrifices here, we are giving the gift of freedom to the Vietnamese people and in turn we are receiving the hope of peace for our loved ones and for the rest of the world. Even though we all long to be with our loved ones, let us hope that because of our labors here we may share many more joyous Christmases with them.

I wish each of you a happy Christmas and peace in the new year.

Willard Pearson
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding



Miss Martha Raye with the 101st.

Bakerman Coley Prepares For Christmas Food Scroungers

By PFC Luis Callender

TUY HOA — "I'm the sweetest man in the 1st Brigade."

A joke? A claim to fame? A perfume vendor? No, none of those. However, it is PFC Daniel Coley. And he isn't joking because he would rather use vanilla extract than eau de cologne any day.

He is the man responsible for satisfying every sweet tooth at the headquarters of the 1st Brigade — the night baker.

With almost 500 "Screaming Eagles" going through

the chow line three times daily, Coley's job isn't easy. His day starts at seven-thirty in the evening and ends around five in the morning.

For seven nights a week he is up to his elbows in flour, kneading dough and mixing batter; forever surrounded by

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

Eagles Leave Phu Yen

TUY HOA—For the first time in 11 months Phu Yen Province will be void of the 1st Brigade.

The paratroopers have moved out of Tuy Hoa to again conduct operations in Kontum Province.

The brigade initially arrived in Tuy Hoa last January to protect the winter rice harvest and when most of the brigade left in April to begin a series of new operations

the 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry was left behind to guard the rich coastal area.

The complete brigade was again intact in late July when the paratroopers returned to Tuy Hoa to protect the sum-

mer rice crop.

During six major operations and one battalion sized operation in Phu Yen Province the "Screaming Eagles" accounted for 1368 enemy

(Cont'd on p-3, Col. 2)



DIPLOMAT and WARRIOR

The DIPLOMAT and WARRIOR is an authorized weekly publication of and for the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division APO San Francisco 96347. It is printed in Saigon, RVN by Dong-Nam-A.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense or any of the Service Departments. The Service News Departments, Armed Forces Press Service, Armed Forces News Bureau, and Army News and Photo Features augment local news.

CG Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson
 IO Maj. Ivan G. Worrell
 OIC 1st Lt. Arthur Barnett
 EDITOR Sp4 Gil B. Valle

Editor's Column

By tradition, the Christmas season in the United States is a period in which we review our ties with family and friends and take joy in the blessings of our life.



It is a time to pause and reflect upon the birth of Christ; to reflect upon the highest aim of mankind — brotherhood; a time of hope and love.

It is a time incongruous to our actions today, but a time which with the remembrance of Christ's mass we may hope for.

May the spiritual blessings of Christmas be yours, and may the New Year take us forward toward peace on earth, good will toward men — the true gifts of Christmas.

Lt. John Moore Is Aid-de-camp To Gen. Pearson

TUY HOA — First Lieutenant John M. Moore has assumed the responsibilities as the new Aide-de-camp for Brigadier General Willard Pearson, replacing Captain George Hamilton who has rotated home after holding the aide position for the past 11 months.

Capt. Hamilton is being reassigned as a National Guard advisor at Albany, New York.

Lt. Moore was a platoon leader in Company "C," 502d Infantry before being reassigned as aide.

"Always First" Savings Bond Honor Roll

A Co, Spt Bn	100.0
C Co, Spt Bn	100.0
D Co, Spt Bn	100.0
B Co, Spt Bn	98.1
C Co, 1/327	95.0
E Co, Spt Bn	94.5
B Co, 2/502	93.3
HBB, 2/320	92.7
B Btry, 2/320	92.3
HHC, 1/327	92.3
A Co, 1/327	92.1
A Co, 2/327	92.0
A Btry, 2/320	91.3
17th Cav	90.9
101 MP	90.7
Repl Det	90.7
C, 2/320	90.4
HHC, 2/327	90.1

1st Brigade Trooper To Have Family Christmas Here

Tuy Hoa— Three brothers are planning Christmas together in Danang. The Poskin brothers serving in Vietnam are determined to complete their tours, although the present policy is only one member of a household need serve here at a time. And a

fourth brother is on his way. One of them is a paratrooper in the 1st Brigade and two are Marines. The brother yet to arrive is an Airman.

The oldest brother, John, 22, is a marine sergeant on duty near the DMZ, and has

been here since January. Chester, 21, has served seven months and is a loader for a 105mm gun in Battery "A," 320th Artillery. The youngest, 18-year-old George, arrived last month and is a marine corporal in Danang.

The two older brothers, (Cont'd on p-2, Col. 1)

Record Fast Move Made To Kontum By Brigade

Kontum — Working twice around the clock—199 sorties of USAF C-130 aircraft moved 1st Brigade paratroopers and supporting units from Tuy Hoa to Kontum in record time.

The exceptional speed and efficiency of the move earned praise from General William C. Westmoreland during a visit to the 101st at Kontum. The general felt sure that the move was a record for any brigade in Vietnam.

Precision team work of Air Force pilots and load masters coupled with airborne rigger and paratrooper efficiency

was credited for the record.



A 1st Brigade medic shelters himself from a monsoon down-pour while trying to keep his "C" ration lunch dry. The 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry paratrooper was on a search and destroy mission during Operation Geronimo I near Tuy Hoa. (Photo by Lt. John Hensley)



We Got Cards

- The Jack Helmick Family**
 9152 Regal Ave
 Anaheim, Calif. 92804
Mrs. Horace J. (Mom) Goss, Sr.
 202 Donald Drive
 Pensacola, Fla. 32507
Mr. Louis Devlin
 3549 Springland Ln.
 Washington 8, D.C.
Mr. Gerard V. Theriault
 50 Westview Dr.
 Norwood, Mass. 02062
Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Cull
 488 Common St.
 Walpole, Mass. 02081
Thankyou for remembering us.

WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



PFC Thomas Cook a member of Company "B," 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry was chosen as the "Enlisted Warrior of the Week" for his recent actions against the enemy near Tuy Hoa.



Staff Sergeant Werner H. Petschke a member of Company "A," 502d Infantry, was chosen as the "Enlisted Warrior of the Week" for his recent actions against the enemy near Tuy Hoa.

Kontum Province Approved Prices

The following are the approved prices in Kontum Province for:

Beer	35p
Coffee	10p
Coke	30p
Haircut	40p

LAUNDRY

Fatigue Cap	10p
Fatigue Jacket	15p
Fatigue Pants	15p
Shorts	10p
"Tee" Shirt	10p
Handkerchief	2p
Towel	10p
Socks	8p
Khaki Pants	20p
Khaki Shirt	20p

It May Be Christmas, But...

By Frank Faulkner

(Frank Faulkner, a frequent contributor to the D & W, is an ex-1st Brigade trooper. He was with the unit last Christmas. E.I.)

KONTUM, Dec. 22 (UPI)—On a bleak afternoon 22 years ago today, a German messenger was handed a scrap of paper from the commander of the 101st Airborne Division, Brig. Gen. McAuliffe, at the besieged town of Bastogne in the middle of the Bulge.

Scrawled on the paper was one word: "NUTS!"

The Nazi messenger, from one of the seven divisions surrounding Bastogne, read the answer to his commander's surrender ultimatum, but didn't understand it. "Is this a negative reply?" he asked. "It means go to hell," the American paratrooper said.

The Germans attacked in force on Christmas day and were driven off by the paratroopers and close air support. The battle of the Bulge finally ended for the 101st Airborne on the 17th of January in '45.

Christmas 1944 in Belgium was a cold and very unmerry one.

This Christmas, 1966, in Kontum, Vietnam, it will be hot, and almost without a doubt another unmerry one for the paratroopers of the

101st's 1st Brigade.

Near the Cambodian border, in the jungles west of Kontum, the troopers are slugging it out with North Vietnamese regulars in an operation code named PIC-KETT.

There is supposed to be a cease fire, scheduled by the Viet Cong to start Christmas eve, but the "Screaming Eagles" didn't get to enjoy the one last year and it's doubtful they will this Christmas either.

The "go to hell" spirit of the "battered bastards of Bastogne" is mirrored in the faces and actions of the young Americans fighting with the 101st in Vietnam today.

The brigade has been over most of the combat areas of central South Vietnam. They have made 13 major moves in their 18 months of the Vietnam war.

Generals William C. Westmoreland and Stanley Larsen have dubbed them "the fightingest unit in Vietnam." And so the paratroopers will not even be coming out of the Kontum

Family Style Christmas...

(Cont'd from p 2, Col. 3)

who are going to Danang to be with George for Christmas, are veterans of numerous engagements with the enemy. John has received two Purple Hearts and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Finally, a fifth brother, Francis, is joining the Army.

jungles to celebrate the traditional yuletide season.

As for the cease fire, most of the grunts don't believe in it. Last Christmas the troopers of the brigade had to start firing artillery at the communists within one hour after the cease fire was scheduled

to start. On the second cease fire, at New Years, it was the same way.

The paratroopers are taking all this business in stride though, as they did at Bastogne: "Nuts—go to hell, we're fighting this war to win."

1st Brigade Departs After 11 Months At Tuy Hoa

(Cont'd from p-1, Col. 5)

killed, 241 enemy captured, and 495 weapons taken to accumulate an exceptional body count to weapons ratio of about 3 to 1.

During a ceremony held at Tuy Hoa Air Base as the paratroopers prepared to depart, 101st Commanding

General Brigadier General Willard Pearson, and Colonel Nguyen Ba, Phu Yen Province chief, exchanged farewells as a group of local girls placed flower garlands around the necks of Gen. Pearson, the departing troops, and a 101st honor guard.

Colonel Ba expressed his gratitude to the 101st for their assistance in protecting the province from "our common enemy" in a speech which followed.

In another short ceremony at Tuy Hoa, the 1st Brigade, presented Colonel Nguyen Ba, with 14 M-1 carbines, 2 sub-machineguns, and a 30 caliber machinegun for use by ARVN-Forces.

These 17 weapons bring the total to 103 weapons presented to the ARVN by the 101st.

The weapons, all of U.S. manufacture, were a portion of those captured by the

paratroopers during recent operations in Phu Yen Province. The 101st engaged elements of the 95th North Vietnamese army regiment, soundly defeating them in every encounter.

The presentation was made shortly before the "Vietnam Fire Brigade" departed Tuy Hoa.

Bakerman Coley Prepares

(Cont'd from p-1, Col. 3)

cakes, pies doughnuts and the rest of the pastry he prepares. Doing a nightly solo, he averages around 200 sheet pans of pastry a week.

The 20-year old paratrooper is not school trained, and was an assistant foreman in an upholstery firm before coming into the Army. He says baking is "just something I picked up when the brigade ran short on cooks."

"It gets a bit lonely sometimes," continues the six-month veteran of Vietnam, "but there's usually somebody around looking for a late snack." For the brigade's night workers, Coley keeps a large pot of hot coffee and any other tidbits he can salvage "so they can have something to munch on."

This past Thanksgiving, he baked more than a hundred mincemeat and pumpkin pies, and felt a real sense of accomplishment when he saw his creations disappear in a matter of hours.

As a lefthanded compliment to his baking efforts, someone recently swiped one of his pies moments after he had removed it from the oven.

And with Christmas just around the corner, the night baker is looking forward to keeping the oven hot and filled the night before.

You Tell Charlie



On The Ready Line



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Findings Finders Find Some More

KONTUM—The men of Company "A," 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry who have added a 59 weapon cache to their list of finds, kicked off Operation PICKETT near Kontum.

The 3rd platoon of "A" Company led by 1st Lieutenant Tom Gauger seems to be the company's most proficient finders as they have been in on the largest enemy base complex find yet by the brigade and also discovered a second such enemy base complex later.

Their most recent find, included shotguns, rifles, and light machineguns along with ammunition, mortar rounds, and explosives.

Washington Notes

By AFNB

An Army message to major commands gives further clarification on newly assigned enlisted personnel who gained promotion list status in previous command. DA Msg. 793244 specifies these individuals will not be reconsidered for promotion. They will be considered only for placement on the gaining organization's recommended promotion list.

Army has released its second highest enlisted promotion quota since the Korean War with 105,735 promotions authorized for December.

Substantial increases over last month are shown in each grade except E-6 authorization was 4,162 compared to this month's 3,252.

This month's authorization by grade is 105 E-9s; 501 E-8s; 1,673 E-7s; 26,164 E-5s; and 74,040 E-4s.

A new postal policy will affect all Army elements preparing third-class bulk mail labels or lists for use by other agencies or contractors that mail them for the Army.

Effective immediately, elements must either pre-sort labels or lists to ZIP Code sequence before delivering to mailer, or arrange for mailer to pre-sort material before placing it in postal channels.



Minnesota Hunter Bags A Bunch

TUY HOA — Years of hunting in the woods of Minnesota paid off handsomely for Platoon Sergeant Richard Clemons and the men of the 502d Infantry "Recondo" platoon.

PSgt. Clemons was leading a patrol of the elite "Recondos" through heavy brush during the 1st Brigade's operation Geronimo I near Tuy Hoa; when the scout dog alerted to their flank. Clemons recognized the dog's signal and the sergeant's keen eyes, accustomed to looking for game in thick brush, spotted the Viet Cong before the platoon members.

"Get down — V.C.!" he yelled as he began firing his bolt action sniper rifle as fast as he could.

When the "Recondos" swept through the brush they found 4 dead V.C. and 4 enemy weapons, all credited to a straight shooting hunter accustomed to bagging his quarry.

QUIZ

SPORTS

(AFNB Feature)

1. When did the National Football League legalize the forward pass from any spot behind the line of scrimmage?
2. Who is the only left-hander ever to fight for the world heavy-weight boxing title?
3. Who was the only major league pitcher to throw a no-hitter in both leagues?
4. What player holds the all-time major college basketball scoring record?
5. The last time a National Football League team had a perfect season was 1942. Which team was it?

ANSWERS

1. Legalized in 1933.
2. Germany's Karl Mittenberger.
3. Jim Bunning threw a no-hitter against the Boston Red Sox while playing in the Detroit Tigers in 1958 and against the New York Mets as a Philadelphia Phillies hurler in 1964.
4. Frank Selvy who averaged 41.7 points playing for Furman in 1954.
5. The Chicago Bears won all 11 season games, but lost the championship to Washington, 14-6.

Westy Presents Brigade Warrior Award To Entire Strike Force

KONTUM — "You have out-guerrillaed the guerrilla," said General William C. Westmoreland, "You have shown professionalism in the highest degree," he added in his praise for the STRIKE FORCE of the 1st Brigade.

The Vietnam commander's praise was delivered while visiting the 502d Infantry command post near Kontum at the start of Operation PICKETT. He was there to pin an internal unit streamer on the STRIKE FORCE guidon for outstanding accomplishments near Tuy Hoa on Operation Geronimo I.

The 502d, commanded by

Lieutenant Colonel Frank L. Dietrich, killed 82 enemy and captured 46 more, plus 80 weapons during the highly successful operation against the 95th North Vietnamese army regiment.

Gen. Westmoreland also complimented Col. Dietrich for his outstanding leadership recalling their acquaintance

back nearly 20 years when he said, "Col. Dietrich — then sergeant — was also an outstanding NCO."

Individuals in the brigade are cited in Brigade General Orders for deeds of heroism but the 502d being cited for Operation Geronimo I was the first time a unit in the 101st has been so recognized.





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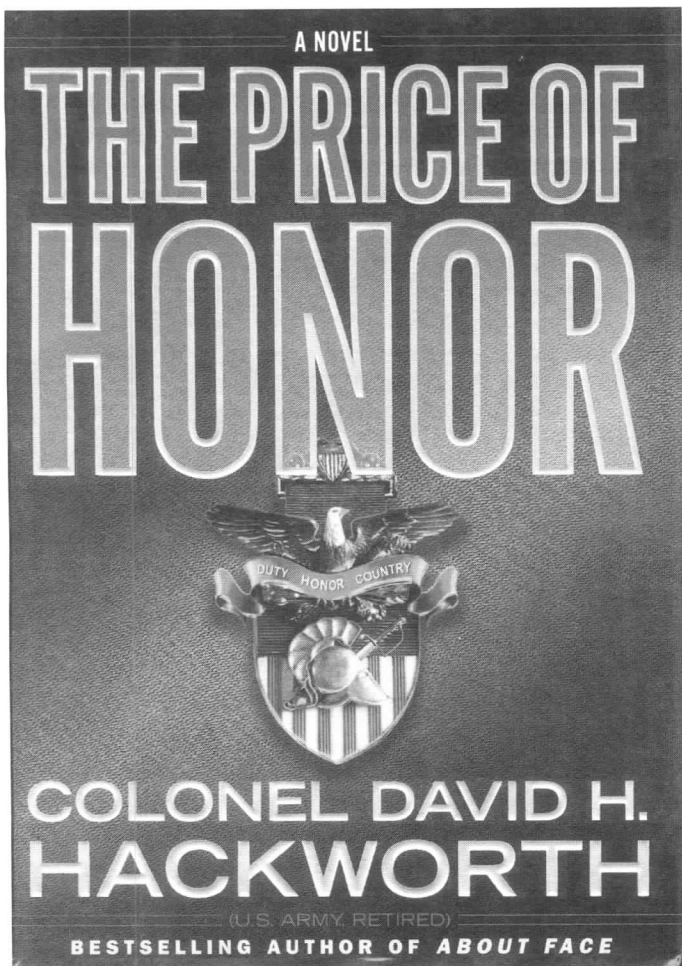
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THE PRICE OF HONOR
BY DAVID H. HACKWORTH

If you want someone to accurately describe the heat of military combat, it pays to ask a soldier. And retired Army Colonel David Hackworth is, in the words of *The Washington Post Book World*, "an exceptional warrior...and a soldier's soldier," an accomplished war hero whose quarter-century-long military career includes World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the twenty-five year long Cold War. But Hackworth is more than a soldier; he's also a talented writer. His account of his years in the military, *ABOUT FACE: The Odyssey of an American Warrior*, was an international bestseller that the *New York Times* praised as "everything a 20th-century memoir could possibly be - a day-dream of battlefield glory come true." For the past ten years, Hackworth has also been a successful military reporter and columnist, a career that has brought him back to the battlefield - he covered Desert Storm for *Newsweek* - but with a very different perspective from the days when he wore a uniform.

Drawing on his extensive experience as both soldier and journalist, Hackworth's first novel, *THE PRICE OF HONOR* (Doubleday; October 12; \$25.95) is a riveting work of fiction that cleverly conjoins the thrills of armed combat with the intrigue of political conspiracy. At the center of the novel are two compelling characters: Sandy Caine, an Army Special Forces Captain, known as "Hawk" by his devoted "A-Team" of warriors whom he bravely leads on one life-or-death mission after another; and Abigail Mancini, an investigative reporter

who, like Sandy, refuses to back away from a conflict, even if it means putting her own life on the line.

Sandy and Abbie are first thrown together in Somalia, when American peace-keeping efforts suddenly turn violent, placing both of them in an Alamo-like situation from which they barely escape. The next time they meet is in Bosnia, where they again find themselves dodging gun-fire. This time, though, they also find themselves passionately drawn to one another.

Undeniably attracted to Sandy, Abbie also detects a dark side that deeply troubles her. She eventually coaxes him to reveal the source of his rage and self-doubt: as the latest in an eight-generation line of Caine men to serve in the military, Sandy has devoted himself to doing his country - and his family name - proud; but his entire career has been overshadowed by the tar-

nished reputation of his own father, Alex, whose cowardice in Vietnam - according to eyewitness General Gus Buell led his "A-team" to be killed.

Sandy is therefore mystified when he meets an Army sergeant who tells him not only that he fought alongside his father, but that Alex was a courageous soldier who risked his own life to save his men. This sergeant promises to tell Sandy more, but is killed in battle, leaving Sandy to wonder what really occurred in Vietnam.

Abbie, as much out of love for Sandy as recognition of the potential for a prize-winning story, decides to help him uncover the truth. As it happens, Sandy's past is strangely linked to another story she is assigned, writing a profile of Jefferson Taylor, a rising star in the U.S. Senate whose commitment to military reform has won him scores of followers and made him a likely presidential candidate. Taylor, it turns out, was also a friend of Sandy's father who survived the Lang Vei battle in which he was killed and remains a close friend of the Caine family.

While Taylor avoids confirming Buell's story about Alex's cowardice, Abbie eventually learns of another survivor of that battle who promises to offer another version of those same events. As she and Sandy try to track him down, they find their own lives, as well as those of anyone whom they've contacted, put into jeopardy. Just when they come close to discovering the truth, they are pursued through the woods of Montana by a team of mercenary killers, whom they are eventually forced to



DAVID HACKWORTH

Currently a syndicated columnist for *King Features (Defending America)*, David Hackworth is co-author of the 1989 international best seller, "About Face," subtitled, "The Odyssey of an American Warrior," and the subsequent "Brave Men." He also co-authored the "Vietnam Primer --"the fighting man's bible for guerrilla warfare in Vietnam" which was published by the Pentagon and used as a training manual during the Vietnam War -- and "Hazardous Duty" which has been a best seller all around America and is still on the shelves in paperback.

battle in hand-to-hand combat. In the end, they both learn that everything has its price - love, truth, honor - and that sometimes, the price might be one's life.

Hackworth's military experience enables him to craft action sequences that are as riveting as they are authentically rendered and absolutely riveting. But he also shows a talent for deft and nuanced characterization, populating the novel with a diverse array of fully realized, complex male and female characters, none more so than Sandy and Abbie. Propelling the narrative and providing the book with a strong emotional core, the way in which Abbie helps heal Sandy's emotional scars as the two embark on a tender romance makes this that rare thriller that is simultaneously touching and action-packed.

Like a combination of Saving Private Ryan and All the President's Men, THE PRICE OF HONOR expertly intertwines genres to create a novel that is as innovative as it is engrossing. Just as ABOUT FACE highlighted Hackworth's talent for writing military-based autobiography, THE PRICE OF HONOR indicates the arrival of an exciting new voice in fiction.

THE PRICE OF HONOR, by David H. Hackworth
ISBN: 0-385-49164-6
Doubleday /\$25.95 hardcover
On-Sale October 12, 1999

* * * * *

"Not many men in America could have written a story like this, but Colonel David Hackworth is one of those few. This is a sprawling, fast-paced, and damned good novel about the legacy of war, about truth, honor, and courage, and about lies, cover-ups, and cowardice. For all of us who served in Vietnam, and those who lived through that interesting and terrible time, this is a must-read." -
Nelson DeMille

"One of America's bravest soldiers cannot only fight, he can also write. Colonel Hackworth's THE PRICE OF HONOR is a first-rate military adventure novel."
Bill O'Reilly
Anchor, FOX News Channel

"Expertly told by a man who's braved the heat of battle time and time again, THE PRICE OF HONOR is tell-it-like-it-is, epic storytelling that's as exciting as it is suspenseful. There is little more that Hackworth could put into a gripping and yet thoughtful thriller." -
Clive Cussler

"Front line legend Colonel David H. Hackworth proves in this gripping tale that he is as accomplished a story-teller as he is a soldier. With vivid, powerful combat action and a terrific band of brothers in arms, THE PRICE OF HONOR is one of the year's outstanding military thrillers." -
W.E.B. Griffin

"Colonel David Hackworth is one of the best war writers I've ever read. No one understands the soul of a warrior better than he does, and his battle scene in Somalia, in THE PRICE OF HONOR, is hellacious." -
Michael Schiffer
Author of Crimson Tide, Colors

"Hackworth writes like he fought--fiercely, savagely, taking no prisoners."
Stephen Coonts

"A huge novel that combines power and politics with the personal lives of its heroes. The suspense was terrific, the characters just dandy."
Susan Isaacs

* * *

"Hackworth has written a top-notch, action-packed thriller that also ruminates on the state of America's military establishment."
Publisher's Weekly

THE VIETNAM PRIMER PROLOGUE

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." George Santayana

Whitefish, Montana 1 June 1997

In a battle, fought on 3 October 1993, Major Generals Thomas Montgomery and William Garrison's lack of war-fighting skills caused 18 American warriors to be killed, 100 more to be wounded and our nation to be humiliated.

Garrison and Montgomery made every basic error in the book, beginning with not understanding the enemy. They had bad intelligence, were overly dependent on firepower and technology and were arrogant. Nor did they bother to put a go-to-hell-plan in place in case the shit hit the fan. They made the identical blunders that were made in Vietnam over and over for eight bloody years.

Their mistakes were ones that good generals should never make, and because of them, great soldiers paid a terrible price. Besides the big picture stuff they screwed up, they also blew it on simple tactical techniques such as conducting seven raids using exactly the same drill while their the enemy watched and learned their modus operandi

On the seventh raid, conducted on a hot Sunday afternoon, disaster struck and some of the best warriors America had were thrown into a death grinder. Just as in Vietnam, the enemy worked out our pattern, set up a counter operation, patiently waited for Special Ops warriors to throw their punch and then creamed our good warriors.

As is so often the case in battle, brave men down on the ground and up in the air saved a repeat of another Custer's last stand. But the entire massacre could have been avoided had the generals, both Vietnam veterans, remembered what went down in South East Asia three decades before. Unfortunately, they as most generals - - past and present -- suffered from CRS.

After this disaster, we were chased from Somalia, just as we were from Vietnam thirty years before, once again, by mostly barefooted guerrillas, armed mainly with light infantry weapons because American military leaders did dumb things.

The mistakes made in Somalia have convinced me that little was learned from America's 25 year long Vietnam experience. And I fear that there will be more Mogadishu's, more dumb U.S. Army generals and sadly more blood spilled needlessly as we march down a bloody trail into Century XXI.

I believe the majority of the fights our forces will get into over the next thirty years will be Low Intensity Conflicts (LIC) , the irregular kind of dirty little shoot outs such as were fought in the 15th Century, in our Indian wars and most recently in Vietnam and Somalia. But most of these fights will be fought in cities.

This little book is a distillation of the lessons learned in hundreds of jungle fights fought in Vietnam. It's not computer hacker stuff, but mainly common soldier knowledge that is as old as war itself. You won't find any magic formulas for future irregular fights within these pages, but they do describe mistakes, how to avoid them and outline tricks and techniques that were learned the hard way.

War seldom changes. Technology has just made things happen faster and made the violence meaner. But down where the rubber hits the dirt, it's not very different than it was in the 1700s, when Indians were hunting the early settlers, and the early settlers were hunting the Indians.

With this in mind, here are a few tips for when operating in such an environment:

- Never use trails.
- Always take it for granted that the enemy's watching.
- Always have a go-to-hell plan.
- Never assume anything.
- Always expect the unexpected.
- Talk to the Grunts, they always have the best feel for what's going down.
- Keep operations sledgehammer simple and remember: if it can be fucked up, it will be.
- Train your force like a good football coach. Teamwork is the key and this is done by relentlessly repeating squad drills over and over until they are executed automatically and flawlessly. Then do them again!
- And remember, squads who live by the basics of their trade make great Armies; Armies don't make great squads. And these squads must be perfectly trained in the basic fundamentals of the killing trade.
- And most importantly, NEVER, NEVER be in a hurry.

Lastly, I predict that most of future LIC combat will be in urban areas which is the toughest and most costly way of fighting. This type of fight is an infantryman's and tankers' nightmare and requires special skills and training as both the recent American disaster in Mogadishu and the Russian experience in Grozny proved. Only well trained teams have a chance of making it through this most dangerous of all modes of combat. Prepare well and execute with extreme caution.

Sun Tzu, an ancient Chinese general/philosopher, wrote THE ART OF WAR more than 2,500 years ago. I strongly urge you to buy it, read it a dozen times and then carry it in your pack next to the PRIMER. They go together like chopsticks and rice and passages of both should be read daily.

Good luck, good hunting and always look after your warriors.

Warmly,

Hack

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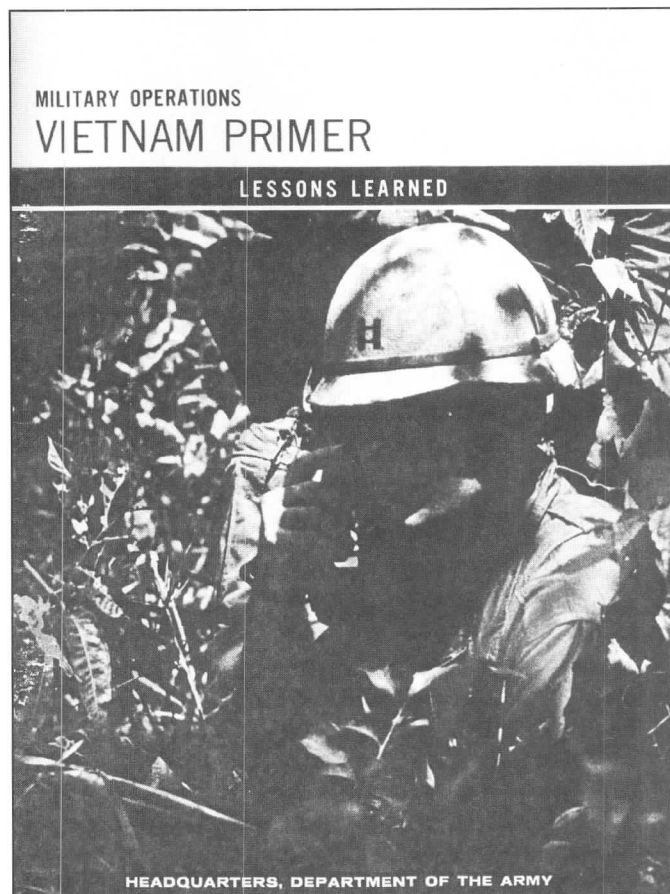
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FOREWORD

The two authors of this study went to Vietnam in early December 1966 on a 90-day mission, one as a private citizen with vast experience in analyzing combat operations, the other, a Regular Army officer representing the Army's Chief of Military History. Their collaborative task was to train combat historians in the technique of the postcombat interview. In the course of conducting six schools for officers selected for this duty in Vietnam, they put into practice the principles they advocated, and from their group interrogation of the men who had done the fighting, they were able to reconstruct most of the combat actions of the preceding six months, including all but one of the major operations. The present work emerged from this material.

Brigadier General S. L. A. Marshall, Retired, longtime friend of the Army, and Lieutenant Colonel David Hackworth, veteran of a year's combat in Vietnam as a brigade executive and infantry battalion commander, have pooled their experience and observations to produce an operational analysis that may help American soldiers live longer and perform better in combat. Their study is presented not as the official solution to all the ills that beset combat troops in Vietnam but as the authors' own considered corrective and guide for the effective conduct of small unit operations. Although it does not necessarily reflect Department of the Army doctrine, it can be read with profit by all soldiers.

signed/ HAROLD K. JOHNSON
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff



USAPA 66 A-1791 5 October 1966

Lt. Colonel David H. Hackworth received nine (9) awards which included the Distinguished Service Cross together with seven (7) other awards for service in Viet Nam, from General Harold K. Johnson, Chief of Staff, U. S. Army. Ceremony held in the Pentagon, Washington, D. C. (Photo by: Carl F. Schneider, U.S. Army Photographic Agency, Washington, D.C.)



Lt. Col. David H. Hackworth

33 Awards for Valor— The Colonel 'Incredible'

By TOM TIEDE

PLEIKU, South Vietnam — (NEA)—Early this year, David H. Hackworth was awarded the Silver Star for meritorious action

What he did was to helicopter into the middle of intense combat activity, walk along through a thickly mined field and retrieve a comrade who had been seriously injured.

The incident is hardly extraordinary in this war of hyper-herosics. But David Hackworth is. He's a 38-year-old lieutenant colonel, one of the extraordinarily courageous men of the Vietnam war and one of the most decorated soldiers in U.S. military history.

Some of his awards:

Two Distinguished Service Crosses.

Nine Silver Stars.

Seven Bronze Stars.

Eight Purple Hearts.

Four Army Commendations with combat Vs.

Three Vietnam Gallantry Crosses.

No, there's no mistake. The list — 33 awards for valor — might easily belong to an entire infantry company (200 men). But it belongs to one GI alone. Twenty-three-year service veteran, father of three children, David Hackworth.

Says he:

"Well, I suppose it is a lot. But, you know, as you get higher in rank in the Army, the awards come much easier."

PERHAPS. But not in Hackworth's case. A reading of his records confirms that every citation is earned. Like the time

he was on a helicopter reconnaissance mission and he spotted an enemy boat carrying four men. The colonel, like something out of a dime novel, made repeated low passes so he could drop hand grenades to blow the vessel apart.

"I tell you, he's just incredible," says one of the man's aides. The only award he has not won yet is the Medal of Honor — and I think he should get it, too, on points."

Indeed, David Hackworth is incredible. One of the rarest of a rare breed. Strong and sober. Gung ho. And possessed.

HE WAS ONLY 14, a seventh-grade dropout, when he joined the service in 1946. He was an orphan with itchy feet and "it seemed like a good thing to do." At first, he says, he was an incorrigible private. Then he learned the game.

He became a sergeant at 17. And when the Korean war started, he won a battlefield commission to lieutenant at age 20.

Today he's a best bet for a full-colonel promotion.

He is a man who looks the part he plays. Popeye forearms, tree-trunk neck, hair cut to one-quarter-inch stubble. An awed subordinate says he "resembles a cross between Mr. Clean and Godzilla the Gorilla," and the gag is he has war scars in places other people don't even have places.

Yet he comes on easy. He talks unexcitedly. He smiles a lot. He writes regularly to his family in Los Angeles. He likes

to nip. He is courteous and pleasant.

Almost mortal, actually.

"I'm no different from anybody else," he says. "I get the queasy stomach when I go into any area of action. But when I get there, I suppose I sometimes get a little hot-headed, I just say, 'what the hell,' and go on from there."

"I really don't think about getting killed, Asa unit commander, my place is with my men — in the middle of what's going on. Not because I want to be a hero. But my experience, perhaps, might save lives."

In fact, Col. Hackworth's experience — some say his daring—has unquestionably avoided mistakes and saved lives.

He's a serious student of guerrilla warfare and his men have benefited accordingly. One of the battalions he has commanded in three years of Vietnam service recorded 2,541 enemy kills — while sustaining only 24 deaths in return.

THE LATTER statistic tells a lot about Hackworth's remarkable record. For his Viet medals, in essence, have been awarded not so much for life-taking but for life-saving.

And this is how it should be.

As the man's citations point out, such activity "is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military and reflects great credit upon himself and the United States Army."



TUY HOA, VIETNAM (101st - IO) — Sergeant Forrest Monroe of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 320th Artillery shows First Lieutenant Jon A. Every-Clayton of Company A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry how the sight works on his 105mm Howitzer during an Artillery Seminar held for officers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. (T4-5) US Army Photo by SFC Peter McCormack

"THE WALL".... a veteran's visit

Names inscribed upon " THE WALL" ,
Brings back memories of them all....
Fallen heroes, who were slain....
Their sacrifice, honored, beautifully plain....

Name after name, I see the flames....
Vast sea of black, I see the flak....
Row after row, the battle grows,
Ammo they need, the more they bleed....

Viet Nam, so far away,
All the soldiers in harms way....
Thinking back, another day,
Jungle thick, so many sick.,
How can it be?, they're calling me....

Reflections of a bygone era,
Clear as a bell, as if a mirror....
Whistles blow, the enemy close,
It is night, one hell of a fight,
When it's done, we have won....

But what a cost, so many lost,
My friends, you see, all brothers to me....
I look around, the crowd has grown,
The names I see, so many I've known,

Heroes all, they held their own....

A little girl, she asks of me,
" Why oh why, how can this be? "....
"They gave their lives, thats plain to see,"
They gave it for you, they gave it for me,
They gave it so all.... all could be free"....

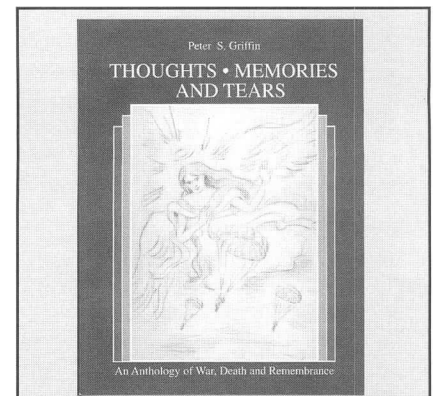
It's quiet now, but people weep,
A silent prayer, for soldiers who sleep....
God bless you all, who answered the call,
You silent heroes, of " THE WALL"

Sleep in peace, your battles done,
Be it known, that you have won....
In The Kingdom of God, your life, will never end,
For, it was you, who laid down his life, for his friends..

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

is a hard hitting, no holds barred, account of the affects intense combat has on the individual soldier. It offers an extremely rare and vivid look into the mind of one who has been through Hell and lived to tell about it. The reader will have no difficulty stepping into the combat boots of this veteran and virtually experiencing the horrors of battle, up close and personal.

For more information contact: Peter S. Griffin, 800 Mineral Springs Road, Madison, NC 27025; (336) 427-5567; email: strike@vnet.net



THOUGHT, MEMORIES AND TEARS

BY PETER S. GRIFFIN



After seeing the memorial to her brother, Medal of Honor recipient SSgt. John G. Gertsch, Mrs. Pati Leggate tearfully hugs Pennsylvania DAV Chapter Past Commander Joe Wills. Mr. Wills, also a member of the Marine Corps League was instrumental in initiating efforts to establish the memorial to her brother.

Honoring a Fallen Hero

Memorial Day Parades in Sheffield, Pa., are led by the local high school band, fire trucks, police cars and others winding through town to Sheffield Memorial Park to honor America's defenders. The 1999 Memorial Day event marked a special occasion for the small Northwestern Pennsylvania community. This year they honored a member of the community who sacrificed his life in the jungles of Vietnam and earned the Medal of Honor - U.S. Army Staff Sergeant John G. Gertsch.

SSgt. Gertsch, who served with Tiger Force Recon Company E, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division.

September/October 1999

During his service, he was awarded two Silver Star Medals, three Bronze Star Medals, three Purple Hearts and numerous other awards and medals, before being awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his acts of selfless courage from July 15 through 19, 1969, in the A Shau Valley of Vietnam.

During the 5-day-period, SSgt. Gertsch dragged his wounded platoon leader to safety and assumed command of his platoon. In the ensuing battles his leadership and relentless offensive maneuvers drove back the enemy and saved the lives of several of his men. While under attack by the enemy using automatic weap-

ons, grenades and rocket fire, he was severely wounded, but continued to command his platoon. It was during this time that he sighted an aidman treating a wounded officer from an adjacent unit, and realized they were in imminent danger of being killed by the enemy. SSgt. Gertsch rushed forward, placing himself between them and the enemy. As the wounded officer was being dragged to safety under his protective fire, SSgt. Gertsch was mortally wounded by the enemy, sacrificing his life for that of his comrades on the field of battle.

Nearly 400 townspeople of Sheffield gathered to witness the dedication of a new section to the park that included a black granite monument to SSgt. Gertsch, and a new flagpole.

The call for the monument was initiated by Sheffield DAV Chapter 75 Past Commander Joe Wills. With help from another Chapter 75 member, State Representative Jim Lynch, a grant was obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to construct the memorial. Mr. Wills also located 12 Tiger Force Recon members via the Internet. Six were able to attend the dedication, during which, Representative Lynch, on behalf of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, presented a citation to SSgt. Gertsch's sister, Mrs. Pati Leggate.

As the memorial park emptied at the end of the ceremony, one lone figure remained looking down at the black granite monument. It was Mrs. Leggate, lingering to be alone with her brother, to say good-bye again

29 **DAV**

CURRAHEES COMPLETE OPERATION HAMPTON

HAMPTON – Operation HAMPTON ends at 88; Operation CLARKSVILLE Underway. Operation Hampton, the largest offensive gathering of Currahee Veterans from the 3rd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry (3-506), 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division terminated 15 August 1999. Head count for Operation HAMPTON (11-15 August 1999) reached 88 on 15 August as the Currahees completed another successful reunion. The fourth reunion-in-force took place in Virginian-held territory in downtown Hampton at coordinates Mercury Boulevard and 2 Eaton Street.

Members of the 3-506 held their reunion August 11-15, 1999 in conjunction with the annual 101st Airborne Division Reunion this year in Hampton, Virginia. The Currahee rendezvous point was the Quality Inn and Suites in Hampton.

The five-day affair included many hours of fun, conversation, refreshments, and fellowship among old comrades in the 3-506 hospitality room. The members, along with wives, friends, and families, also enjoyed sightseeing and special tours in historic Williamsburg and the surrounding area. Others enjoyed recreation at the beach during relaxing afternoons at Virginia Beach.



Jerry Berry sent this photo taken in Washington, D.C. while visiting THE WALL on 15 Aug 99. (L-R Standing): James Mezzetta - Medic, A Co 68/69; Mike Krawczyk - RTO, C Co 67/68; Paul Clement - Sqd Ldr, A Co 67/68; Andrew Lovy - Bn Surgeon, HHC 67/68; Dan Lopez - RTO/Grenadier, A Co 67/68. (L-R Kneeling): Gary Purcell - Grenadier, A Co, 67/68; Jerry Berry - Bn PIO, AHHC 67/68; Gale Shire - Rifleman, A Co 67/68.

Those in attendance were: Joe Alexander, Knoxville, TN (LTC Retired), James Atwood, son James Mitchell, and significant other, Barbara, Newport, KY; Edward T. Bassista, Bridgewater, NJ; Robert Bell, Chicago, IL; Jerald (Jerry) and Donna Berry, Libby MT; Eddie, Flushing, NY; Larry J. Bowman, Port Republic, MD; James L. (Chaplain) and Marilyn Burnham, Williamston, SC; Gene Carne, Jr., Fitzgerald, GA; Emmett F. Clark, Edmond, OK; Paul and Patti Clement, Sauté Ste Marie, MI; John and Ann Colone, Pinckney, MI; Wylie (Bucky) and Christine Cox, South Pasadena, CA; Thomas (Tom) and Esther Croff, Lansing, MI; Leobardo (Leo) and Linda DeLeon, Streamwood, IL; Edward C. and MaeEllen Dowdy, Newport News, VA (LG Retired); Charlie and Janet Dozier, Ranson, WV; Barry and Marsha Dassualt, Billerica, MA; William (Bill) Edney and significant other, Joanne, Clearwater, SC; Cliff L. Farmer, Hamilton, OH; Joseph (Joe) D. and Elaine Fisher, Bradley, IL; Ronald (Ron) G. and Lois Ford, Billings, MT; Thomas F. and Carolyn Gaffney, Aiken, SC (Major Retired); Thomas W. and Doris Gentry, Clarksville, TN (CSM Retired); Gordon T. Gant and wife, Washington, DC; Frank P. Griffio, Jacksonville, FL; John E., wife Sandy, daughter Johnna, and

son Jake, Alexandria, VA; Loren and Marge Herrick, Kansas City, MO; Marshall Hill, Fairmont, NC; William F. Hustad, Monticello, WI; Earl and Rebecca Irelan, Paris, TN; Joseph L. Jerviss, Marina, CA; Robert Mark Jones, Daytona Beach, FL; Michael (Mike) J. and Donna Krawczyk, Valparaiso, IN; Leonard (Len) C. and Joann Liebler, Williamsburg, VA; Daniel (Dan) Lopez, Anchorage, AK; Andrew (Doc) Lovy, Olympia Fields, IL; Arlen (Ray) R. and Dianne Mayfield, Lewisville, TX; John Melgaard, Coeur d'Alene, ID; Barry and Karin Meyerson, Fayetteville, NC; James (Jim) and Rita Mezzetta, Vallejo, CA; Michael (Mike) D. Moore and wife, Hague, VA; Michael (Mike) and Charlotte Mullican, Olney, MD; Nicholas (Nick) M., and Rosalie Nahas, Vienna, VA (LG Retired); Guadelupe (Lupe) G. and Dora Noriega, San Benito, TX; Linwood Pearce, Chesapeake, VA; William (Bill) T. Pepper, Manasquan, NJ; Gary and Doreen Purcell, Montrose, MI; David Rattee, Cheshire, England; Stacy L. Raynor, Hope Mills, NC (CSM Retired); Curtis, and Sandi Rowe, Sarasota, FL; Gale Shire, Kasilof, AK; Michael (Mike) Stuart, Redding, CA; Stephen (Steve) and Betty Wilke, LaMirada, CA.

The 3-506 Group Dinner was held at the Quality Inn and Suites on Thursday night, August 12, 1999. In addition to the excellent meal, everyone enjoyed the after-dinner program of special toasts, roasts, and remembrances. Honored guests at the dinner included Mr. & Mrs. Loren Herrick of Kansas City, Missouri. Marge is a Gold Star Mom and was honored in Washington, DC. Organized in 1928, the Gold Star Mothers is a nondenominational, nonprofit organization of mothers whose children died in the line of duty. Loren and Marge lost two sons to the Vietnam War. Their son, Bennett (Bennie) James, served with Bravo Company, 3-506 and was killed on 25 March 1968. Their son Dennis Haldane, even though draft exempt as sole surviving son, enlisted in the Army and volunteered to served in Vietnam. He arrived in Vietnam August 5, 1970, and his parents were notified of his death shortly thereafter.

Also honored was David Rattee of Cheshire, England. David was invited to join the group in honor of his cousin, Sgt. Carl Allen Rattee, who served with the 3-506 and was killed in action on 19 February 1968. Memorable presentations were also given by Andrew (Doc) Lovy on "Patriotism" and Anne Colone on "Those Who Waited".

Special slide presentations were given by Jerry Berry, the battalion combat photographer and reporter, on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. The Currahees were taken back some 32 years to a period of time when they were young, proud soldiers fighting side by side in Vietnam. The chronological presentation of photographs and slides recalled those events in the Currahees' lives from the battalion's reactivation and training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in April 1967 through October 1968, when the remaining "Original Currahees" DEROSed from South Vietnam. The presentation also gave the wives a glimpse of what life was like for the paratroopers during that difficult period in their lives.

The Currahees of the 3-506 gathered for a final farewell in the hospitality room on Saturday night, August 14, and joined together to sing "Blood on the Risers" in remembrance of their Airborne training and the unique comradeship that remains even stronger today. The following morning, Sunday, August 15, 1999, a small group of Currahees made the trip by caravan from Hampton to Washington, D.C. to visit The Wall in honor of their fallen comrades. From there, the Currahees departed company for their separate homes and other destinations.

The group looks forward to the special reunion of the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in June of 2000. Preparations are already underway to insure the biggest turnout ever for the representation of the 3-506 at "The Gathering of the Eagles."

To view photos of the 3-506 reunion, check out the Currahee Web site at: <http://currahee.interspeed.net>

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
6/21/66	PFC	Liddell	Benjamin	F	III	MD	/ /46	BD	14889495	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
6/21/66	PFC	Ryan	Frederick	L		NM	/ /45	BD	52637311	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	USAR	21B1P
6/21/66	SGT	Cooper	Joseph	H	Jr	NV	/ /43	BD	12705990	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
6/21/66	SP4	Nelson	Wayne	H		NV	/ /43	BD	12705479	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C2P
6/21/66	SP4	Vester	Frederick	H		IA	/ /43	BD	11428860	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11H2P
6/21/66	SP5	Condon	James	G		KY	/ /42	BD	11365597	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	63B2P
6/21/66	SP5	Johnson	Bruce	M		ME	/ /44	BD	17672279	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C2P
6/22/66	PFC	Kelly	William	M		NV	/ /47	BD	12706115	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
6/22/66	PFC	Peach	Robert	A		GA	/ /45	BD	16838589	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	RA	11H1P
6/22/66	PFC	Stevenson	Billy	E		PA	/ /47	BD	14900028	DOW	Unk	SA Fire	Tuyen Duc	RA	11B1P
6/22/66	PFC	Wilson	Nathaniel			NV	/ /47	BD	12753714	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C1P
6/22/66	PVT	Fuller	James	E		GA	/ /47	BD	16831360	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	94B2P
6/23/66	PFC	Spencer	Gene	B		UT	/ /44	BD	55806519	DOW	Unk	SA Fire	Tuyen Duc	USAR	11B1P
7/6/66	PFC	Torance	Freddy	L		NV	/ /47	NBD	12712517	DOI			Hau Mghia	RA	11B1P
7/7/66	PFC	Boudreaux	Kenneth	C		IN	/ /44	BD	54362736	Died-MIA	Unk	Other Wpns	Quang Duc	USAR	91A1P
7/7/66	PFC	Howell	A	T		PR	/ /43	BD	54355244	KOR	Unk	Mines	Khanh Hoa	USAR	91A1P
7/7/66	PFC	Ruggiero	Robert	J		NV	/ /46	BD	12726140	KOR	Unk	Mines	Khanh Hoa	RA	13A1P
7/7/66	SGT	Ransdell	Curtis	H		NE	/ /44	BD	18638801	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11D4P
7/7/66	SP4	Burke	Marshall		Jr	ND	/ /48	BD	13856360	KOR	Unk	Mines	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
7/12/66	PFC	Leon	William			NV	/ /44	NBD	51560570	DWM	Unk	Drowning	Bac Lieu	USAR	11C1P
7/12/66	PFC	Yohnnson	George	S		MT	/ /47	BD	12734172	KOR	Unk	Mines	Khanh Hoa	RA	11HUP
7/18/66	SGT	Williams	Thomas	M		WV	/ /28	NBD	12357133	DOI	Unk	Other Causes	Go Cong	RA	13E40
7/26/66	PFC	Killian	Marvin	C		RI	/ /44	BD	56346830	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	USAR	11B10
7/26/66	PFC	Wanamaker	Danny	W		AR	/ /44	BD	56388035	KOR	Unk	Mines	Khanh Hoa	USAR	11B1P
7/26/66	SSG	Bryant	Pellum		Jr	NV	/ /34	BD	51110502	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
7/26/66	SSG	Walker	Thomas			CT	/ /34	BD	14489927	KOR	Unk	Mines	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
8/5/66	PFC	Burse	Tyrone	G		ND	/ /47	NBD	13864234	DOI	Unk	SA Fire	Hau Mghia	RA	11B1P
8/12/66	PFC	Davis	Robert	O		PR	/ /45	BD	18692802	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
8/13/66	SGT	Sargent	Gary	L		NM	/ /42	BD	52505275	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	RA	13B4P
8/13/66	SSG	McClatchy	Percy	W		PR	/ /38	BD	18494139	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11F4P
8/14/66	1LT	Hadden	Robert	B		MA	/ /38	BD	5318350	KOR	Unk	Grenade	Khanh Hoa	RA	75505
8/15/66	PFC	Smith	Fred	D	Jr	WA	/ /45	BD	13890287	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
8/15/66	SGT	Sharp	Derrell	K		MD	/ /42	BD	53332414	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C4P
8/19/66	SGT	Barber	Melvin			AR	/ /40	BD	19738561	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
8/19/66	SP4	Bracker	David	E		CT	/ /45	BD	14822924	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	71H2P
8/21/66	SP4	Lebouef	Wilton	P		IN	/ /44	BD	18723180	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
8/29/66	PFC	Conrad	Martin	J		NV	/ /45	BD	51580716	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	USAR	11B10
8/29/66	PFC	McCorkle	Charles	T		KS	/ /45	BD	13888329	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B10
8/29/66	PFC	Smith	Bruce	M		NV	/ /46	BD	51553175	Died-MIA	Unk	Arty/Mort	Quang Duc	USAR	91A1P
9/1/66	PFC	Hurd	Jay	A		MO	/ /47	BD	11462027	DOW	Unk	SA Fire	Tuyen Duc	RA	11B1P
9/2/66	SGT	Koller	Harold	J		ND	/ /44	BD	13749944	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
9/3/66	PFC	Robinson	Donald	R		PA	/ /45	BD	13872514	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B10
9/3/66	SP4	Doran	Thomas	E		AL	/ /46	BD	14896319	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
9/3/66	SSG	Leeds	Clyde	A		MT	/ /36	BD	12444104	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
9/4/66	PFC	Rowland	Harvey	L		LA	/ /45	BD	55826550	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	USAR	13A1P
9/4/66	PFC	Shelton	Edward	A		NM	/ /47	BD	52645016	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	USAR	11C1P
9/5/66	PFC	Knight	Mack	A		AL	/ /46	BD	53381742	DOW	Unk	SA Fire	Tuyen Duc	USAR	11B1P
9/5/66	PFC	Walker	Russell			TN	/ /46	NBD	19832369	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Phu Bon	RA	11B1P
9/8/66	PFC	Morales	Tommy			AR	/ /46	BD	19858801	DOW	Unk	SA Fire	Tuyen Duc	RA	11B1P
9/10/66	PFC	Stonehouse	Alfred	L		NV	/ /44	BD	51561466	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	USAR	11B10
9/13/66	SP4	Borden	Lawrence	T		KY	/ /44	BD	11436238	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
9/14/66	PFC	Hernandez	Felix			NV	/ /45	BD	12706653	DOW	Unk	Grenade	Tuyen Duc	RA	11B1P
9/17/66	1LT	Obrien	Alan	J		KY	/ /42	BD	5419303	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	71193
9/17/66	1LT	Pearson	George	B	III	ND	/ /41	BD	5321991	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	71542
9/17/66	CPT	Mack	Joseph	B	Jr	DE	/ /35	BD	4047561	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	71542
9/17/66	PFC	Bunting	Dennis	L		CT	/ /46	BD	14925458	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C10
9/17/66	PFC	Douglas	Frank	F		ND	/ /46	BD	13893938	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C10
9/17/66	PFC	Smay	Atlas	J	M	KS	/ /47	BD	13855063	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B10
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Fircrest, WA 98466

Jerald W. "Jerry" Berry
3/506 A&HHC VN 6/67-10/68 - 6/00
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Libby, MT 59923-9364

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1/327 C 2/67-2/68 - 6/00
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Midlothain, VA 23113

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USAF Academy
Colorado Springs, CO 80840-0244

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1/327 A VN 1/66-6/66 - 6/00
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Tucson, AZ 85710-4213

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Bloomington, MN 55431

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SGM(R) Henry B. Morton
1/327 B VN 3/65-2/66 EIT- 6/00
1325 Hoopes Ave., Apt. 4
Idaho Falls, ID 83404

John E. Munnely, COL USA (R)
5/27 FA BN 9/66-8/67 - 6/00
8556 Colony Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

John P. Ritchey
1st Bde Staff 7/67-1/68 - 6/00
2617 Spruce Creek Blvd
Daytona Beach, FL 32124

COL(R) Roman Rondiak
2/327 B 6/66-6/67 - 6/00
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Natick, MA 01760-3313

Fred Schwaner
SPT BN VN 6/66-6/67 - 6/00
3191 Sharp Rd.
Glenwood, MD 21738-9434

LTC(R) David G. Sherrard
2/327 C 2/67-8/67 - 6/00
6130 Black Water Trail
Atlanta, GA 30328-2717

Richard L. Tibensky
801 MAINT 6/66-6/67 - 6/00
895 Firestone La.
Sanford, NC 27330-6382

Luis Vargas
2/502 C 6/65-6/66 - 6/00
511 Pineview Lane
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Kenneth H. Vogelgesang
181 MI Det VN 9/64-6/67 - 6/00
723 Morningside Dr.
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1/327 HQ VN 3/63-7/66 - 6/00
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2/502 RECON 12/66-12/67 - 6/00
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3/506 VN
Nela Isle
Orlando, FL 32801

William Dwyer
1/327 C 67-68
President GBS Inc.
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Ford Fox
1/327 C 67-68
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Fort Knox, KY 40121-2237

Will Green
1/327 C 67-68
1342 West Greenleaf
Chicago, IL 60629

James Harris
1/327 C 67-68
7319 Race Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Buddy L. Jones
1/327 C 67-68
1723 Spruce Street
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Royce Keahy
1/327 C 67-68
Old Days BRDG R#337
Parkton, NC 28371

Royden Kimoto
3/506 VN
28-2848 Alala Place
Papaikou, HI 96781-0000

Gary Knutson
3/506 VN
555 W Winding Creek Rd
Fayetteville, NC 28305

Steven Marinelly
1/327 C 67-68
1316 W 76 Highway #101
Eire, PA 16510

Michael D. Moore
3/506 VN
212 River Rd.
Waynesboro, VA 22980-5515

Eddie Neally
1/327 C 67-68
Route 2 Box 302-C
Rayne, LA 70578

Anthony Pruitt
1/327 C 67-68
143 1/2 Prentiss, Apt A
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168-9107

Peter Rosace
1/327 C 67-68
951 N Littleview Road
Avon, NY 14414

Richard Sanmiguel
1/327 C 67-68
9902 Dewey Dr.
Garden Grove, CA 92841-1320

Kenneth Weeks
1/327 C 67-68
4312 Knoxville Road
Napa, CA 94558

Lonnie Whitehead
3/506 VN
Rte. 13, Box 656
Crossville, TN 38555

**Subscriber Address Changes
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Ken Claypoole
2/327 B VN 10/66-6/67 - 6/00
P. O. Box 262
Clearfield, UT 84089-0262

K. C. Eisenberger
2/320 Arty A&B 4/67-1/68 - 6/00
206 N. Orphan St.
Pryor, OK 74361-4011

MG(R) James R. Harding
2/17 CAV A Trp 6/66-1/68 - 6/00
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LUIS VARGAS, 511 Pineview Lane, Brandon, MS 39042-9748;
(601) 825-4121 sent the following:

TRIBUTE TO SSG MANUEL C. CRUZ
Squad Leader, Co. C 2/502 (65-66)

The article that appeared in the April 1999 issue of The Diplomat and Warrior on SSG Manuel C. Cruz prompted me to write this article on my friend of the same name. I was a Team Leader in his squad.

A similar situation happened to our squad on one of our Recon missions in the Tuy Hoa area. We started on patrol late in the evening and at dark, we hit the rice paddies, it seemed like it took us half the night going through. At times we would be knee deep in water and "muk." One guy lost his wedding band and another almost lost a boot. It was quite an ordeal that night. We finally came to dry land, found a "NDP" and called it a day, after fighting the leeches.

Early the next morning, we got started and came upon a nice stream with good concealment on both sides. We had just started to fill our canteens, when to our surprise and his, an old "Papsan" was right in the middle of us. I can only imagine his thoughts at that

moment. He was carrying a big wad of "Funny Money." No sooner had we gotten set-up, when a "Young Charlie" walked in and joined the crowd. We ended up with "Five Charlies," except that SSG Cruz had to persuade the fifth one to join his comrades.

In the meantime, we had made contact with the CO and a chopper was on the way to pick them up. Also, the artillery was making preparations to cover us when we departed and continued the mission. Our guys spotted other Charlies, but they kept their distance and then disappeared.

After this operation, SSG Cruz went to the Security Platoon. Of course, being the soldier that he was, he wanted to stay with the squad, but between the squad members and others in the platoon, we convinced him to go.

SSG Manuel C. Cruz is a native of Guam. Truly a professional trooper and a loyal and faithful friend. He shared some stories about the Japanese Occupation of Guam. Because of his knowledge of survival, we were able to supplement our C-rats with Vietnamese "veggies" and meats.

I regret not crossing paths with him again during my Army career. We shared UNFORGETTABLE experiences that year (65-66).

Brother (as we came to call each other), wherever you are – God bless you and your family.

FIRST BRIGADE (SEPARATE) CAPS, T-SHIRTS AND GOLF SHIRTS.

The brigade logo and division patch are in full color. See website at: www.101stabndiv1stbrigade.com

Caps are white and adjustable so one size fits all. All orders shipped by priority mail.

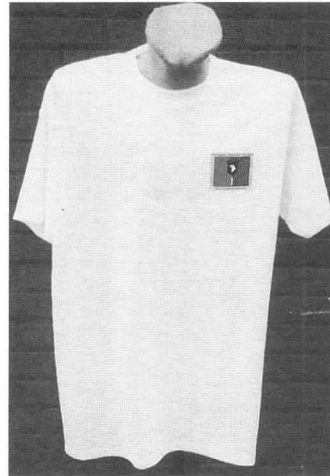
T-Shirts and Golf Shirts are American made of 50% cotton and 50% polyester.



1st Brigade (Separate) logo cap sells for \$8.00 + \$3.20 postage, a total of \$11.20.

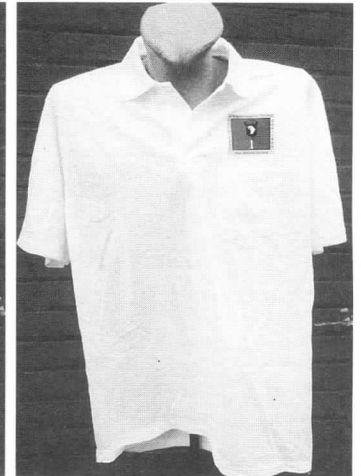


101st Abn. Div. Screaming Eagle logo cap sells for \$8.00 + \$3.20 postage, a total of \$11.20.



1st Brigade (Separate) logo T-Shirt sells for \$12.00 + \$3.20 postage, a total of \$15.20.

Sizes are S, M, L, XL, XXL and XXXL. Please add \$2.00 for each XXL & XXXL item ordered.



1st Brigade (Separate) logo Golf Shirt sells for \$20.00 + \$3.20 postage, a total of \$23.20.

Sizes are S, M, L, XL, XXL and XXXL. Please add \$2.00 for each XXL & XXXL item ordered.

Send order listing the item required, along with the size, and a check or money order for the total cost and postage to First Screaming Eagles, P. O. Box 675, Sweetwater, TN 37874-0675. No credit cards, e-mail or phone orders can be accepted. Orders will be filled in fewer than 10 days.

No returns accepted.

All orders shipped by U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail.

The two Compact Disks produced by The Digital Bookshelf are a great way to study the history of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) from late 1968 through 1969. I have reviewed both disks and find them to contain good reproductions of the magazines and pictorial reviews scanned on to them. The pages print to both black and white and color printers and produce good quality reproductions. I would recommend both of these CDs to anyone who wishes to study the published history of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) from the time

the division arrived in Viet Nam in late 1967 through 1969. This is an excellent opportunity to obtain a very large amount of information about the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) in Viet Nam in a very small package.

The CD with the 13 issues of RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY contains 190 pages of material.

The disk with the two pictorial reviews contains photos, drawings and many colorful maps and contains 233 pages.

Price per disk is \$45.00 + \$3.20 postage, a total of \$48.20. Disks will be mailed by U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail.

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 software needed to read all files.

Rendezvous With Destiny
 Magazine of the 101st Airborne Division
 in the Republic of Vietnam

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A graphic image of each page from the original sources;
 searchable text at the end of the file; and all software
 needed to read all files.

**1967-68 Pictorial Review of the
 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)
 * * ***

**1968-69 Pictorial Review of the
 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)**

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HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Washington, D.C., 8 April 1969

GENERAL ORDERS
No 21

EXTRACT

4. The Cross of Gallantry with Palm has been awarded by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam for outstanding service during the period 1 July 1966 to 31 July 1966 and 9 December 1966 to 18 January 1967 to:

THE 1ST BRIGADE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION and its assigned and attached units:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade
1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry
2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry
2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry
Company A, 326th Engineer Battalion
Battery A, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 320th Artillery
Troop A, 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry
42d Infantry Platoon
1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Aviation Section
1st Platoon, 101st Military Police Company
1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division Support Battalion (Provisional)
1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (Provisional)
3d Radio Research Unit
20th Chemical Detachment
Team 9, 41st Civil Affairs Company
Battery B, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery
181st Military Intelligence Detachment
245th Psychological Operations Company
406th Radio Research Detachment

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

W. C. Westmoreland
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Official:
KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, United States Army
The Adjutant General

JOHN L. KONECHNE
1LT, AGC
Asst A G

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

IN REPLY REFER TO
AVHAG-FD

SUBJECT: Foreign Awards

4 APR 1967

THRU: Commanding General
1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
AFO 96347

TC: Private First Class E3 Leonard A. Vitha, RA17721035
Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne)
502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, AFO 96347

1. The Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star, presented to you by the Republic of South Vietnam for your heroic actions during the period 9 December 1966 to 17 January 1967, has been accepted and approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam under the provisions of DOD Directives 1005.3 and 1348.16 dated 22 January 1966.

2. This award is authorized for wear as prescribed by paragraphs 155, 160, and 162, AR 672-5-1.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

William O. Horgen
WILLIAM O. HORGAN
CAPT, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

2 Incl
1. Vietnamese Orders
2. English Translation

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1138

2 November 1966

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

CHRISTY, GREGORY A. RA11441648 SPECIALIST FOUR E4 USA
Co A, 2d Bn, 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device

Date action: 19 September 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Specialist Four Christy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 19 September 1966, near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. While moving down a trail, Specialist Christy's company was subjected to intense automatic weapons fire from a North Vietnamese unit ambush. During the vicious battle which followed, a machingunner was wounded twice by small arms fire. Specialist Christy, without regard for his own safety, exposed himself to the murderous fire to aid his wounded comrade. After carrying the wounded man to safety, he once again had to brave the enemy fire to rejoin his squad. His courage undoubtedly prevented further injury to his comrade. Specialist Christy'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 President under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

J. G. BROWN
Major, AGC
Adjutant General

WILLIAM O. HORGAN
Capt, AGC
Asst AG

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A

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33RD ANNIVERSARY

TRUNG LUONG REUNIONPage 1 - 6

The Reunion was at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and was hosted by the 2nd Battalion 327th Infantry. Events included a visit to the Battalion, static displays, awards ceremony, a briefing by those who served in the battalion 33 years ago and a Memorial Service.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORPage 7 -15

Thanks for your letter, e-mail and fax messages. Should you wish that your material not be published in the magazine please say so in the text. Remember e-mail photos must be in JPEG format and 300 Dot Per Inch (DPI) minimum.

THE ARMY REPORTERPage 16

This story gives a thumbnail sketch of the actions of the brigade from July 1965 through January 1966.

WARRIORS OF THE WEEK17

This page records Warriors of the Week from the March 6, 1967 issue of the Diplomat and Warrior.

DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR,

December 24, 1966Page 18 - 22

The centerfold is the same format as all past issues. Beginning with this issue the entire newspaper will be reproduced with the inside and back pages reduced by about 50%. This is as close as I could get for the Christmas issue.

ADVERTISINGPage 17 & 23

Two advertisers have shown support for The First SCREAMING EAGLES in Vietnam by purchasing ads in the magazine.

DAVID HACKWORTH FEATUREPage 24 - 27

This feature highlights Dave Hackworth the writer, his newest book is a novel, and a soldier who served with distinction in the 1st Brigade (S). The January issue will carry an interview with Dave and other material he will submit. I believe he is the most prolific writer who served in the 1st Brigade (S).

"THE WALL," A POEM BY Peter Griffin AND HONORING A FALLEN HEROPage 28

This is a reproduction of an article that was published in the most recent issue of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Magazine. I believe SSG Gertsch served his first tour in Viet Nam in the 1st Brigade (S).

CURRAHEES AT HAMPTON REUNIONPage 29

This material submitted by Jerry Berry who was the photographer/writer for 3/506 when the battalion went to Viet Nam by ship. His coverage of 3/506 during his tour created a great body of articles and photos.

KIA AND NON-BATTLE DEATHSPage 30

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

NEW AND RENEWED SUBSCRIBERS ...Page 31 - 33

Name and address of subscriptions and renewals received after July 9, 1999 along with address corrections on page 33.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM AND A TRIBUTE TO SSG MANUEL C. CRUZPage 34

SALES ITEMSPage 35

Caps, shirts and CDs for sale.

CROSS OF GALLANTRYPage 36

Orders awarding the 1st Brigade (S) the Viet Nam Cross of Gallantry, a depiction of the Viet Nam Cross of Gallantry along with (bottom of the page) individual awards.

BACK COVER

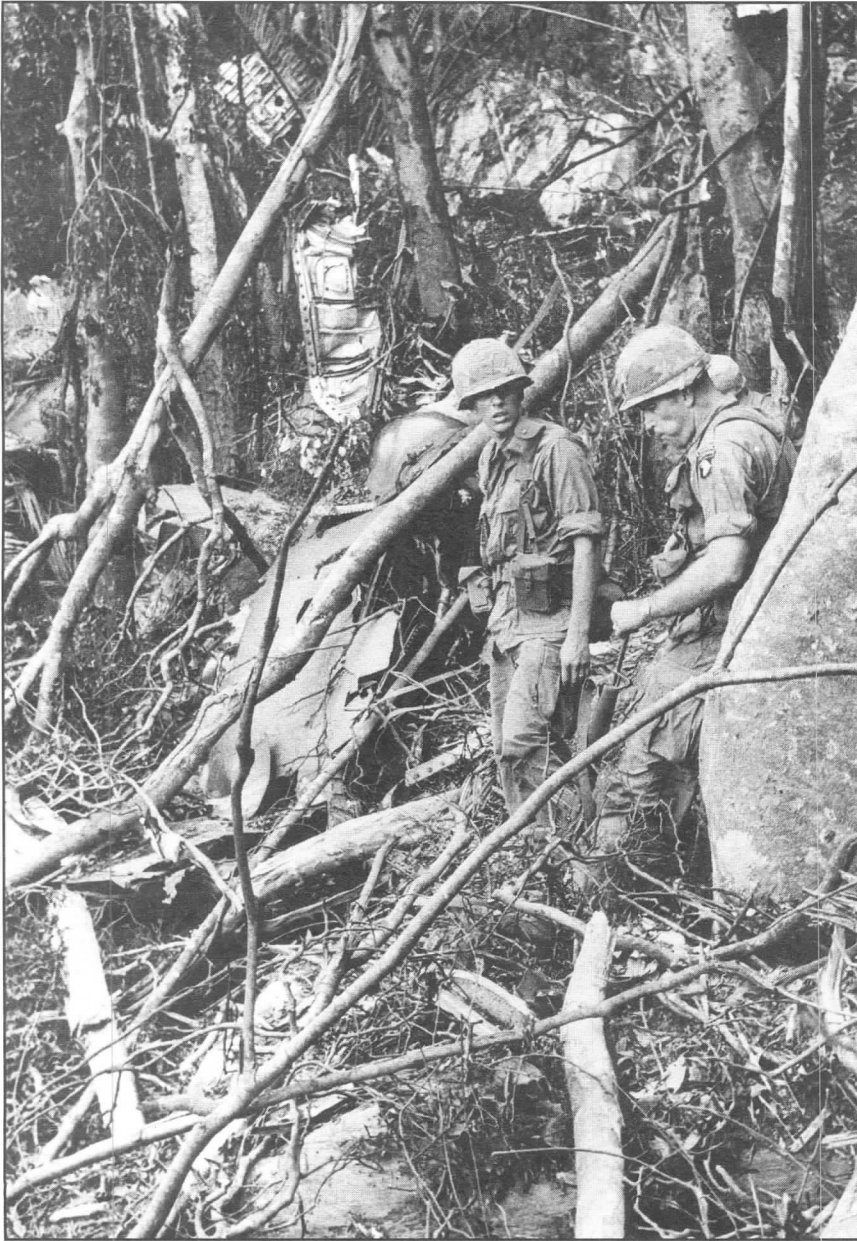
Photo of COL (R) Jerry C. Scott and Captain Thomas M. Schlaak at the site of a USAF C-130 crash in October 1966.

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

NOTICE:
E-MAIL ADDRESS
worrell@usit.net



Photo Courtesy The Knoxville News-Sentinel



PHAN RANG, VIETNAM, (101st -IO)
– At the site of a USAF C-130 crash in mountains near here, Major Jerry C. Scott, Task Force commander, and Captain Thomas M. Schlaak, Support Battalion, discuss their next move in recovering bodies of the crash victims. The group led by the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne was composed of American, Korean and Vietnamese troops. (A51-14) US Army Photo by Sp/4 Oddvar Breiland. See story pages 18 & 19 (Center Spread) in the October 1998 issue.

**COL(R) Jerry C. Scott and
MG (R) Jerry White are
responsible for the October
12-15, 2000 1st Brigade
Reunion in Columbus-
Fort Benning, Georgia.**

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