

*The First
Screaming*

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



Published Quarterly
January - April - July - October

*Eagles
in Viet Nam*

1st Brigade (Separate) Viet Nam



101st Airborne Division

Volume 2, Number 1

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The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade



*Bill Calan
with the 502nd ABN*

ENEMY CONTACT

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THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM

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



Major General Keith Ware, Chief of Information, Department of the Army and Major Ivan Worrell at Dak To.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The subscription list is over 500 now. This will allow the use of more color in future editions. We are not to the point that publishing 48 pages is feasible. The true test will come when renewals for the issues starting in July 2000 are in. If you know someone who should be a subscriber please send the name and address. Send your renewal in, now, if you wish to get ahead of the crowd.

The cover of this magazine is a sketch made by Specialist 6 Bill Dolan inspired by his time with the 2nd Battalion 502nd Inf. Sp6 Dolan served as a Department of the Army combat artist and produced many compelling sketches of the 1st Brigade in action.

FIRM DATES of October 12 - 15, 2000 for the 7th Bi-Annual Reunion of the 1st Brigade (Separate) at Columbus/Fort Benning, Georgia have just been announced. Look for complete details, and registration forms in the April issue. The reunion committee is working hard to structure the best reunion possible for the 1st Brigade veterans.



Continued on inside back cover

'Lurps' Land In Enemy's Lap

August 5, 1966
DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR
by Lt. John Hensley

DAK TO—It was the evening of July 6, about an hour before dusk and the lieutenant was just finishing his briefing.

"Remember," 1st Lieutenant Robert Deason emphasized, "we need to know if there is a unit holding this pass or not, and its size if possible. Any questions?"



Staff Sergeant Pitts: "It was definitely time to get out of there."

Although the 'Lurps' (Long Range Recon Patrol) are strictly a reconnaissance element designed to watch enemy movements and report on them, things don't always work out that way; such was the evening in July.

In recalling their infiltration Staff Sergeant Ronald Pitts stated, "we got in without much trouble. Team



Sergeant Lavecchia - He pulled them in under fire.

Four had used the same landing zone a few minutes earlier, so we weren't worried about getting hit going in."

The team moved from the landing zone to the edge of the jungle and

set up a small perimeter before going on. It was then they noticed smoke rising from the jungle about 200 meters away. Sgt. Pitts radioed the 'Slick' (troop helicopter) that had dropped them off to make a pass over the area and take a look. Immediately the chopper and the team drew fire.

The team called in the gunships which always support their infiltration. Several enemy positions were quickly knocked out enabling the 'Slicks' to come back in and extract the team.

"The chopper couldn't set down for us because of all the dead trees stumps; and we couldn't reach up to it to get in," said the team leader, "so Jerry (Sergeant Jerry LaVecchia was [riding] shotgun on the ship) reached down and pulled us in one at a time, under fire. It was definitely time to get out of there."



Sergeant "Country" Miller "All hell broke loose."

Team Four led by Sergeant Paul 'Country' Miller had infiltrated on the same landing zone a few minutes earlier and about 100 meters away.

They had a problem while going in; Specialist Four James Jergenson fell from the chopper backwards while trying to jump out and knocked himself cold. He came to a few minutes later with a bruised head and a very bruised ego.

"We had moved up on a hillside to wait for the other team to get in," said Miller. "We thought the smoke they sighted was fog, and we hadn't seen any signs of enemy in the area; but when that chopper passed over the smoke all hell broke loose."

With fire now coming in on them from all sides, and surrounding hilltops, both teams asked for extraction.

"After Team One was out, we went down for Team Four," said Deason. "They had now moved back to the landing zone. As the team came running for the chopper, 'Country' was bringing up the rear giving his men all the cover he could. His M-16 was really going."

As was the case with Team One, Team Four's chopper couldn't get close enough to the ground, so Lieutenant Deason leaned out and dragged them in – again the extraction was completed under fire without casualties.

Team Two had gone into another landing zone at about the same time approximately 1000 meters away.

Led by Staff Sergeant Tommy Russell the team got on the ground safely, but for one minor accident: when Sergeant Samson Sealy jumped from the chopper (they don't land, only hover to save time and detection), his radio hand-set bounced loose and broke his nose.

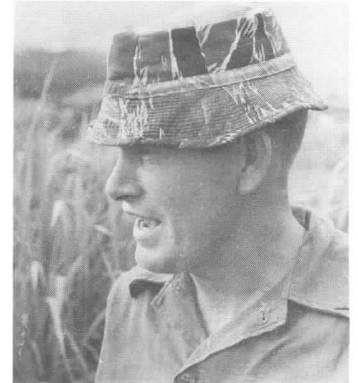
"We had moved into the jungle and set up a perimeter, when we heard firing from the other teams," said Russell. "A few minutes later the platoon leader called and said we would be extracted in a few minutes."



Staff Sergeant Russell: "They weren't there just to look around."

But the extraction couldn't be completed that night. Sgt. Russell took a punji stake wound in his foot, and darkness came before they could return to the landing zone. Attempts were made until ten o'clock that night to get them out.

Early the following morning, an enemy soldier walked into the patrol's area. They tried to capture him but he ran and they were forced to shoot him, giving away their position.

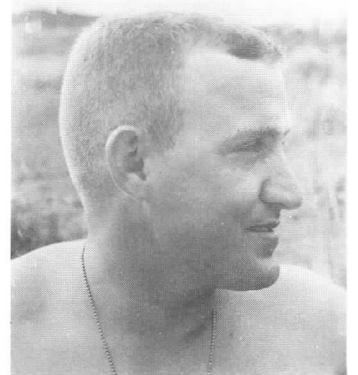


Sergeant Wheeler: "Those Skyriders sure were beautiful."

"A couple of minutes later two more 'Charlies' came down the trail to investigate the shots, and we killed them too," said Russell. "Then a whole mob of them came at us, and they weren't there just to look around either."

A fierce firefight quickly developed until the arrival of three Skyriders to give them a hand.

"We could have spit on them as they came in over our heads, firing into the Viet Cong positions," said Russell.



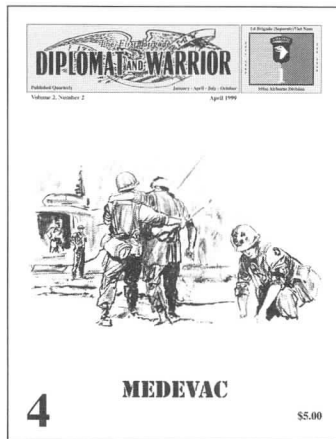
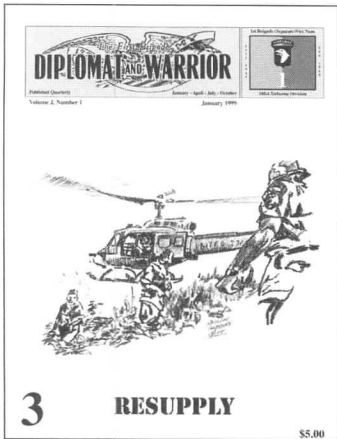
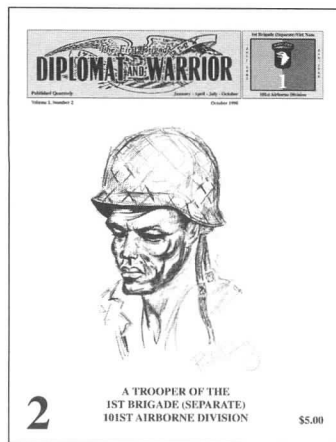
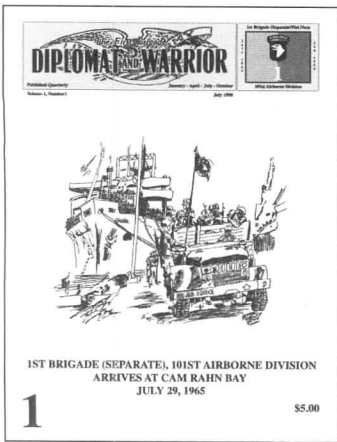
Lieutenant Deason: "We were lucky, real lucky."

"Those Skyriders sure were beautiful," added Sgt. Willie Wheeler.

"The last we saw of those VC, the Skyriders were chasing them down a creek bed," Wheeler said.

"We were lucky – real lucky," stated Lt. Deason. "We got out of that with only a punji stake wound, a broken nose and a bumped head – with Viet Cong all around. These guys really did a great job, and they definitely accomplished their mission – they found the VC."





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.

From clip book

**Headquarters, U. S. Army Command Information Unit
Washington, D. C. 20315, October 11, 1965**

Troopers Battle Enemy at An Khe

WASHINGTON (ANF) -- In the early morning hours of September 18, a 250-man force of the U. S. Army's 101st Airborne Division landed on a Viet Cong battalion headquarters numbering some 800 Communists. The action took place 20 miles east of An Khe, Vietnam, new home of the Army's 1st Air Cav Division.

The mission of the American troopers was two-fold -- to clear the enemy from the 1st Cav area and to force major Viet Cong units to stand up and fight. Although the 101st troopers had been on several search and clear operations, they had yet to encounter a major Viet Cong force in combat. Indeed, the Communist guerrillas are noted for their elusiveness and reluctance to come out into the open and fight unless they think they have the advantage and can win. With an element of surprise working on both sides, the battle at An Khe was destined to become the Screaming Eagles' first major engagement since their arrival in Vietnam in early August.

Finding themselves in the midst of a force almost four times the size of their own contingent, the Airborne troopers quickly proved their mettle, systematically clearing enemy trenches and engaging the Viet Cong in hand-to-hand combat. Forming a perimeter defense, the Americans called for air and ground support. Artillery blasted targets from several miles away as fighter bombers swooped in to pound enemy emplacements. The battle raged throughout the day and night until what was left of the Viet Cong force stole away; the Americans then directed their fire to possible evacuation routes.

With the apparent Viet Cong defeat and the capture of the Communists' flag, a small contingent of 101st troopers had proven once again that the American soldier is a dedicated and efficient fighting man -- capable of overcoming almost insurmountable odds in the defense of freedom.



An Army MULE is moved from the landing zone by troopers of 2d Bn, 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, as another wave of UH-1D IROQUOIS helicopters prepare to land with more troops and supplies. The UH-1D Huey, manufactured by Bell Helicopter, is one of the most versatile Army aircraft in use in Vietnam. The MULE is built by Kaiser Jeep Corp



Robert C. Hudson, 5221 NW 119th Street, Gainesville, FL 32653; 352-332-6373; bhudson@avmed.com wrote: Dear Ivan, I was a platoon leader in C Company, 2/327, and deployed to Rvn on the Gen Leroy Eltinge with the First Brigade. I was wounded in November 1965, and after a month at the 85th Evac Hospital in Quinhon, spent the rest of the tour in the S-3 shop of the 2/327. I had a second tour as a MACV advisor. I have a scrapbook with some items from my tour with the First Brigade. I have enclosed copies of some of the items. Since the originals have become fragile I wasn't comfortable sending them through the mail. Feel free to use any of them you think would fit the First Brigade publication. I have put the copies in chronological order. There are mostly miscellaneous items such as newspaper articles, Christmas cards and menu, the First Brigade publication Diplomat and Warrior, etc.

Editor's Note: Bob, thank you for the material pertaining to the 1st Brigade (S). I will use more of it in future issues and credit you for sending it.



A PARATROOPER

After the security of childhood, and before the insecurity of the second childhood, we find the Paratrooper.

Paratroopers are found everywhere, in bars, on bars, behind bars, looking through bars, in trouble, in debt, in the air on leave and in love.

Paratroopers come in assorted sizes, weights, and state of sobriety, misery, and confusion.

Girls love them, mothers worry about them, the U.S. supports them and somehow they seem to get along with each other.

A Paratrooper is laziness with a deck of cards, a millionaire without a cent, bravery with a grin, the protector of America, with a copy of Playboy in his pocket.

A Paratrooper is a compote, sly as a fox, has the energy of a turtle, the brains of an idiot, the sincerity of a liar, the appetite of an elephant, the aspiration of a Casanova, and the story of a hero.

When he wants something it's usually a three day pass, special duty or someone to pull his K.P.

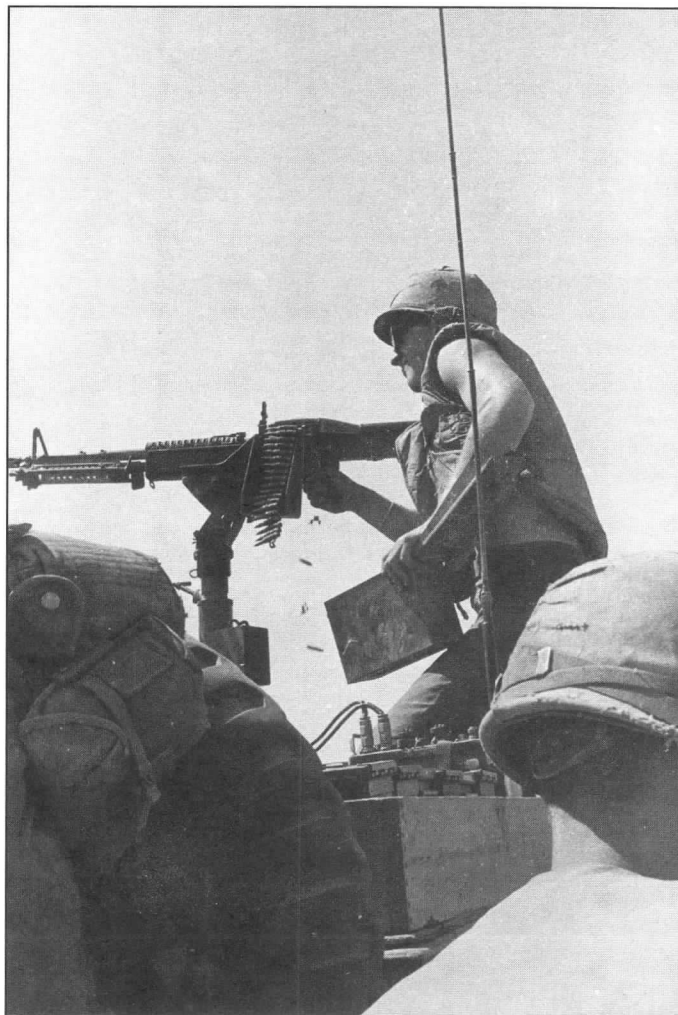
He dislikes answering letters, wearing his uniform, his superior officers, getting up for reveille, army chow, army planes, airforce reserve pilots, the week before payday, his girls' "old man's curfew," and LEGS.

He likes girls, women, females and members of the opposite sex.

No one can write so seldom, yet think of you so often, no one else can get so much fun out of your letters, civilian clothes, and sex magazines.

A Paratrooper is a magical creature. You can lock him out of your house, but not out of your heart, you can take him off your mailing list, but not off your mind.

Editor's Note: Courtesy of Bob Hudson. I have known many paratroopers and believe the above has some validity but could not apply to all.



SONG MAO, Viet Nam – "BRASS FLYING - CHARLIE DYING." After being ambushed on Highway #1, a paratrooper from "A" Troop, 2d Squadron (Airborne), 17th Cavalry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, returns fire to rout the enemy.

(67-125-6) US Army Photo by SP4 Alva G. Tate, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div IO, APO 96347, Tel Strike 109

Deadline

**for material to be published
in the April 2000 issue of
The First SCREAMING
EAGLES In Viet Nam
is Due March 1st, 2000.**

CW4 (R) Raymond L. McDaniel ORDC, 181 Taft Drive, Clarksville, TN 37042 sent the following:

This roster of personnel represented those who were selected to deploy with the first elements of the 1st Bde to Viet Nam. All of whom were from the 801st Maint Bn.

Mission to provide maintenance and supply support to all Brigade equipment automotive, weapon, fire control and communication. Run, Shoot and Communicate.

To say the least, these personnel were the best that could be provided.

COMPANY B (MAINT)
SUPPORT BATTALION
FIRST BRIGADE
Fort Campbell, Kentucky, 42223

SUBJECT: COMPANY ROSTER

1 June 1965

RANK	NAME	ASN	PMOS	ETS
CAPT	McConnell, John R	04062932	64823	Indef
1st LT	Dial, John R	05415285	74514	25 Jul 65
1st LT	Syczylo, Rodney S	05310827	74800	6 Mar 66
1st LT	Wilbur, Paul A	059289	74800	Indef
2nd LT	Radloff, Fredric T	05531835	74805	20 Jun 66
CWO W3	Hirschfeld, Charles H	W2145945	621A7	Indef
CWO W3	McDaniels, Raymond	LW3150842	632A7	Indef
CWO W3	Townsend, James N	W2206048	286A7	Indef
1SGT E8	Booth, Thomas E	RA15250647	63187	28 Apr 67
SFC E7	Hartshorn, Patrick	RA13337128	63977	7 Aug 67
SSG E6	Colburn, Hacma	RA15230011	76867	1 Sep 66
SSG E6	Hale, Vance A	RA18326649	76867	16 Aug 69
SSG E6	Jackson, Marion L	RA14366050	29667	26 Apr 69
SSG E6	Spears, James C	RA44033659	44467	4 Dec 67
SSG E6	West, Carl O	RA14317476	63567	24 Jul 70
SP6 E6	McDonough, Lawrence J	RA16233884	67957	13 Jan 67
SGT E5	Black, Paul E	RA15532333	63567	26 Feb 67
SGT E5	Hamielec, Jeffrey J	RA16670595	63367	11 Jul 69
SGT E5	Lubbock, Jesse L	RA18498900	63567	14 Feb 70
SP5 E5	Dean, James M	RA13350642	63517	25 Jan 68
SP5 E5	Embry, Ronald G	RA16526047	32717	20 Dec 65
SP5 E5	Felder, Donald	RA12622849	28427	25 Nov 66
SP5 E5	Flowers, Billy R	RA18480614	42717	13 Dec 66
SP5 E5	German, William E	RA14762680	62227	12 Dec 69
SP5 E5	Iwaniec, Uve	RA15595808	94117	28 Apr 67
SP5 E5	James, John A	RA14761979	67547	18 Dec 69
SP5 E5	James, Milton E	RA13625567	42217	15 Oct 70
SP5 E5	James, Ralph C	RA19728422	44317	30 Jan 68
SP5 E5	Johnston, Robert W	RA53304311	44217	14 Feb 68
SP5 E5	Kuhn, Jerry L	RA15576169	29617	10 Feb 68
SP5 E5	LaFlair, Frederick E	RA21974675	62227	2 May 66
SP5 E5	Lappen, Earl	RA19704735	67547	21 Mar 69
SP5 E5	Mallett, Floyd R Jr	RA54212874	67547	17 Mar 66
SP5 E5	Martin, Chester A Jr	RA12607448	68117	17 Jul 69
SP5 E5	Pickett, Ralph E	RA14661215	71117	4 Feb 66
SP5 E5	Probart, John L	RA17444830	62217	29 Jan 71
SP5 E5	Reid, Donald E	RA13716036	67547	23 Apr 67
SP5 E5	Swann, Orman E	RA52423855	35117	28 Jan 67
SP5 E5	Taylor, Robert L	RA17581373	28427	6 Nov 66
SP5 E5	Walton, Donald E	RA19623117	42117	8 Nov 66
SP5 E5	Weems, Arthur L	RA13716728	76517	8 May 67
SP5 E5	White, Joe W	RA16643889	63517	30 Aug 68
SP5 E5	Wilkinson, John T.E.D.	RA14828970	42217	20 Jan 66
SP5 E5	Williams, Eric H Jr	RA13661559	28217	11 Dec 67
SP4 E4	Anderson, J.B.	RA52513673	44117	30 Mar 70
SP4 E4	Boone, Haven E	RA17641527	94117	12 Jun 66

SP4 E4	Brewer, Bruce G	RA15606305	42217	29 Dec 65
SP4 E4	Campbell, Larry G	RA14840921	63517	12 Jan 67
SP4 E4	Fisher, Jack E	RA19736889	63417	19 Aug 65
SP4 E4	Glumm, Robert J	RA16673810	63517	19 Dec 65
SP4 E4	Johnson, James L	RA51502014	10517	27 Sep 67
SP4 E4	Johnson, Lloyd B	RA13793726	63517	14 Apr 66
SP4 E4	Korf, James L	RA17670444	63517	19 Dec 66
SP4 E4	Major, Robert L	RA17654723	63517	6 Jul 66
SP4 E4	McCullough, Kenneth L	RA15617059	63317	14 Nov 68
SP4 E4	Moore, Joseph R	RA21144920	94117	18 Oct 67
SP4 E4	Moore, J.	RA14427094	29617	23 Aug 65
SP4 E4	Morgan, Ronald A	RA15684499	29517	30 Dec 65
SP4 E4	Paredes, Robert D	RA56294997	67547	30 Nov 67
SP4 E4	Ransom, Samuel M Jr	RA15674457	40317	8 Jan 68
SP4 E4	Ross, James C	RA13774367	67547	3 Feb 66
SP4 E4	Smith, Robert H	RA17648225	34117	20 Nov 65
SP4 E4	Solis, Juan R	RA54180859	63517	19 May 67
SP4 E4	Szep, Attila	RA12682888	42117	29 Apr 66
SP4 E4	Titus, Samuel O	RA16762060	63417	24 Mar 66
SP4 E4	Wiles, William G Jr	RA16711656	42117	29 Sep 69
SP4 E4	Wilson, Raymond A	RA15684096	63517	28 Jan 71
PFC E3	Abrams, Aloysius	RA19821437	76417	20 Oct 67
PFC E3	Analla, Frank A Jr	RA18704345	76007	24 Jun 67
PFC E3	Ashcraft, Wesley R	US56375803	76517	25 Mar 66
PFC E3	Aubut, Robert A	US51536226	76007	19 May 66
PFC E3	Barnett, Wesley L	RA13810651	42217	15 Jun 67
PFC E3	Berge, Elmore J	RA19804150	63007	14 Jun 67
PFC E3	Bocott, Thomas F	RA19788453	67547	2 Jan 67
PFC E3	Breaux, Gerald	RA18691080	62007	10 Jun 67
PFC E3	Byer, Michael W	RA16798258	11107	9 Jun 67
PFC E3	Carroll, John C	RA12699068	63007	27 Jan 67
PFC E3	Cavett, Charles W	RA16777081	71617	23 Sep 66
PFC E3	Cobbs, Harold D	RA13311463	63317	5 Jul 67
PFC E3	Cote, Joseph E	RA18690219	63517	12 Jan 67
PFC E3	Davis, Dwayne C	RA17656902	63007	13 Jun 66
PFC E3	Durham, James E	RA14849054	28217	9 Feb 67
PFC E3	Edes, Peter C	RA11417854	63517	11 Aug 66
PFC E3	Eppler, Edward	RA12726809	63517	27 Aug 67
PFC E3	Garner, Eugene R	RA13833370	63317	6 Jul 67
PFC E3	Gustavson, Antony A	RA16789637	63007	13 Feb 67
PFC E3	Harvison, Buford C Jr	RA54207551	63517	10 Nov 67
PFC E3	Hill, Terry L	RA14859573	11107	26 Jul 67
PFC E3	Hinds, Franklin J	RA14868050	29617	4 Jun 67
PFC E3	Huff, William R	RA19796455	76007	3 Jun 67
PFC E3	Igyarto, Julius H	RA16792847	76217	11 Feb 67
PFC E3	Johnson, Robert B	RA11350397	63317	8 Jun 67
PFC E3	Kivela, Richard E	RA15801336	35617	9 Jul 67
PFC E3	Kolnicki, Peter P	RA11441761	11107	1 Jun 67
PFC E3	Lightner, Richard A	RA16797778	11107	13 May 67
PFC E3	Locklear, Marvin	RA14870747	63217	*13 May 67
PFC E3	Lopez, Gilbert	US54353580	94117	12 Apr 66
PFC E3	Macko, Jaraslaw	RA16792897	94007	13 Feb 67
PFC E3	McCaskill, Ronald E	RA14854476	11107	3 Aug 67
PFC E3	Noblitt, John W	RA14856373	11107	27 Jul 67
PFC E3	Padgett, Terry P	RA14851242	63517	20 Feb 67
PFC E3	Preusse, Robert E Jr	RA15691012	68617	28 Jan 66
PFC E3	Ramos-Ortiz, David	US50172770	46717	5 Dec 65
PFC E3	Richardson, Alex H	RA18698628	35007	9 Jun 67
PFC E3	Ruhnke, Richard	RA12665572	67547	19 Mar 70
PFC E3	Shelton, Edward G	RA16806064	35007	19 Jul 67
PFC E3	Shoop, Michael D	US55794975	46007	29 Jun 66
PFC E3	Sipp, Benny R	RA14850784	63007	10 Jun 67
PFC E3	Stiffler, Richard C	RA16791867	40317	19 Feb 67
PFC E3	Thomas, Arthur	RA14850666	11107	11 Jun 67
PFC E3	Van Horn, Frank M	RA16789293	44217	15 Jan 67
PFC E3	Winston, Paul	RA16779545	76007	7 Nov 66
PVT E2	Hart, Randall A	RA16755220	71007	22 Jan 66
PVT E2	O'Doherty, Thomas J	RA16803204	76007	19 Nov 67



AVBD-IO
MACOI
Rel. No. 10-23

18 October 66

By First Lieutenant Arthur D. Barnett

"SCOUT DOGS JOIN 101ST"

PHAN RANG, VIETNAM (101st-IO) – "There's something in the bushes to the left," said Sergeant Edward M. Kozub, as his Scout Dog alerted him. Sure enough, there was something there. This time it was only a practice run, but in the near future the Lackawanna, N.Y., native's dog and other men and dogs from the 42nd Infantry Scout Dog Platoon, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division would be pointing out enemy positions as they lead the paratroopers on combat patrols.



PHAN RANG, VIETNAM (101st - IO) – These two German Shepherds aren't dogs anymore – now they're Eagles – "Screaming Eagles." The 42nd Infantry Scout Dog Platoon is the newest addition to the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

(L47-5) U.S. Army Photo by Sp/4 Robert Lloyd

After an intensive twelve week training course at Fort Benning, Georgia, the Scout Dog Platoon was shipped to Vietnam and received an additional 3 weeks of training at Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base before being assigned to the "Screaming Eagles." Arriving at the base camp in Phan Rang, the handlers underwent the rugged training of the 1st Brigade's famed Proficiency (P) School. Upon completion of their training, the platoon will move to the forward area and be assigned to combat units.

The 42nd Scout Dogs are all German Shepherds and have been trained in basic obedience, short and long range scouting. Staff Sergeant Alvin Whitehead of Washington, D.C., Non-commissioned Officer in Charge of the platoon said that the dogs would also be used to detect mines, booby-traps and for clearing Viet Cong villages. "Their effectiveness at night will be invaluable," he says, "for all dogs' senses are much keener than man's. They will be able to see and hear things that might otherwise go unnoticed."

"A scout dog must be aggressive, but not too aggressive," states Staff Sergeant Whitehead. "Each dog is trained to work with his handler, but he is made familiar with everyone in the unit he is working with so that they can control him in case his handler is injured. The main point is to develop the unit's confidence in the dog. Once this has been achieved, you have an unbeatable team."

The early warning capability which the Scout Dogs will give to combat units will make the men with the "Black Rifles" even more formidable than they are now and as Sgt. Kozub states, "Even if the dogs save only one man's life they are worth bringing over."



A SOLDIER'S PREMONITION

In Viet Nam, my friend, came up to me,
Had a strong premonition, of what, was to be....
"Please take my place, in the morning,
Or I'll surely be killed, I've had my warning"....

"There's absolutely, no doubt, in my mind,
I've never had a feeling, of this kind"....
"If I go, I'm sure to die,
About this, I would not lie"....

A look of terror, clearly, on his face,
To avoid this duty, certainly, no disgrace....
"Sure buddy, I'll prepare tonight,
If our sergeant says, it will be alright"....

Unfortunately, permission, was not to be,
To call in artillery, was unknown to me....
As a forward observer, I was not trained,
No time to learn, this was no game....

In the morning, he left, with his patrol,
His feeling of doom, followed, like his shadow....
I don't know?, certainly, he's not right,
But today, I pray, he doesn't have to fight....

Shortly, I left, with our main force,
Destiny, we'd both, have to follow our course....
In the distance, a vicious firefight, I heard,
Worry, began to touch, my every nerve....

My buddy called, needed help urgently,
Fighting a large force of VC...!
Through "Michelin Plantation", we raced like hell,
To reach them, in time, we could not tell...!

Suddenly, artillery exploded in the trees,
He mistook us, for more VC...!
"Please Dear God, don't let this be,
Redlegs, Redlegs, hold your damn vollies"...!

Tragically, precious time was lost,
Dear God, what would this error cost...?
As we neared, their vicinity,
The enemy disappeared, into obscurity....

Suddenly, his nightmare, came into view,
Now, no doubt, I could see it to....
My dear friend, lay dead, at my feet,
Shocked into sadness and stunned disbelief...!

If only, I could have, taken his place,
My lack of knowledge, could have changed his fate....
"Ours is not to reason why, ours is but, to do and die,"
A SOLDIER'S PREMONITION, will forever, leave tears in my eyes...!

All were killed on that patrol, that fateful day, 10 December 1965.

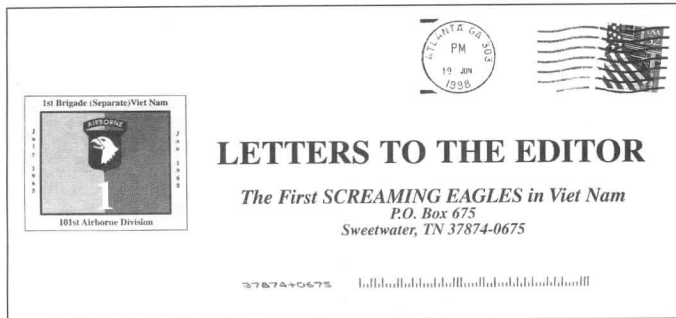
Peter S. Griffin, Co. A, 2/502nd Infantry
101st Airborne Division
Viet Nam, 1965-66

See Peter Griffin's ad for *Thoughts,
Memories and Tears* on page 36



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
9/17/66	SP4	Lockwood	James	A		FL	/ /46	BD	19778065	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	31B20
9/17/66	SP4	Siegert	William	F		PR	/ /47	BD	18702223	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B20
9/17/66	SSG	Burrow	Leonard			MA	/ /33	BD	27535147	KOR	Unk	Other Causes	Khanh Hoa	RA	12E40
9/18/66	SP4	Taylor	Phillip	E		NH	/ /47	BD	14908281	KOR	Unk	Unk	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
9/20/66	SGT	Blanco	Charles	J		ND	/ /40	BD	13805291	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
9/20/66	SGT	Rodriguez	Elias	R		PR	/ /38	BD	26002362	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
9/20/66	SSG	Phipps	Herbert	C		SD	/ /38	BD	13636336	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
9/22/66	SP4	Johnson	Joe	T		ND	/ /47	BD	13857384	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
9/24/66	PFC	Burton	Stephen	E		OH	/ /46	BD	11463420	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
9/24/66	SFC	Bannack	Gerald	J		UT	/ /39	NBD	27865548	DOI	Unk	Other Wpns	Hau Mghia	RA	11B4P
9/25/66	PFC	Noseff	Ronnie	L		NE	/ /47	BD	18694109	DOW	Unk	SA Fire	Tuyen Duc	RA	11B1P
9/29/66	MSG	Hargrove	James	M		AL	/ /31	BD	14291982	DOW	Unk	Other Wpns	Tuyen Duc	RA	11B4P
10/1/66	PFC	Uribe	Edward	A		AR	/ /45	NBD	19852074	DOI	Unk	Other Causes	Hau Mghia	RA	
10/3/66	PFC	Alfstad	Kenneth	O		TN	/ /46	BD	56411461	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	USAR	11B1P
10/7/66	PFC	Garvey	Vincent	F		ND	/ /47	BD	13893453	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
10/13/66	SP5	Brown	Darius	E		IL	/ /45	BD	15666123	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	RA	12B2P
10/17/66	PFC	McNally	Arthur	G		NV	/ /42	NBD	51506442	KOR	Unk	Other Causes	Phu Bon	USAR	13A1P
10/17/66	SP4	Coker	Horton	S	Jr	TN	/ /46	BD	19843928	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
10/24/66	1LT	Galloway	Dennis	W		MA	/ /41	BD	101446	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	RA	71331
10/31/66	SP4	Bowling	John	R	SR	SD	/ /40	BD	52482377	KOR	Unk	Grenade	Khanh Hoa	RA	36K2P
11/4/66	PFC	Wright	Robert	L		PA	/ /46	BD	53408472	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	USAR	36A1P
11/7/66	1LT	Doyle	Michael	C		GA	/ /42	BD	5326874	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	RA	1542
11/7/66	PFC	McCullough	Michael	A		AR	/ /47	BD	28183140	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
11/7/66	PFC	Means	John	E		GA	/ /47	BD	18752612	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
11/7/66	PFC	Threadgill	David	E		PR	/ /47	BD	18716178	KOR	Unk	Grenade	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
11/7/66	PFC	Wilson	James	R		NH	/ /40	BD	14621882	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	13A1P
11/8/66	PFC	Cyr	William			MI	/ /45	BD	54407299	DOW	Unk	Mines	Tuyen Duc	USAR	11C10
11/8/66	PFC	Moore	Randall	W		ND	/ /47	NBD	13984727	DOI	Unk	Grenade	Hau Mghia	RA	11B1P
11/8/66	PFC	Renfroe	Matherew	D		LA	/ /47	NBD	16850234	KOR	Unk	Grenade	Phu Bon	RA	11B10
11/9/66	PFC	Bryant	George	E		DE	/ /32	BD	14329138	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
11/9/66	PFC	Donovan	Robert	J		NV	/ /46	BD	51571752	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	USAR	11B1P
11/9/66	PFC	Kinney	Randle			AR	/ /46	BD	19888441	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
11/9/66	SGT	Deen	David	K		CT	/ /44	BD	14859787	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11F4P
11/10/66	SP4	Jackson	Otis	E	Jr	AR	/ /46	BD	19819645	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
11/11/66	SP4	Burney	Marvin			NH	/ /47	NBD	52639107	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Phu Bon	USAR	11B2P
11/12/66	PFC	Fisher	Otis	S		GA	/ /48	NBD	16854834	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Phu Bon	RA	11B1P
11/12/66	PFC	Ruiter	Jerry	E		LA	/ /47	BD	16848003	KOR	Unk	Unk	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C1P
11/13/66	PFC	Falck	Carl	L	Jr	TN	/ /47	BD	19861637	KOR	Unk	Unk	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
11/24/66	PFC	Thompson	John	K		SD	/ /47	BD	13867344	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C1P
12/16/66	PFC	Jeter	Curtis	L		OK	/ /46	BD	14945097	KOR	Unk	Grenade	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
12/18/66	PFC	Pryor	Donald	R		PR	/ /47	NBD	18724054	DOI	Unk	Other Wpns	Hau Mghia	RA	36K2P
12/25/66	SP5	Cintineo	Giacomo	J		NV	/ /43	NBD	19644853	KOR	Unk	Unk	Phu Bon	RA	91B2P
12/29/66	PFC	Brown	Michael	R		AR	/ /43	BD	19694883	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
12/29/66	PFC	Elder	James	B	Jr	CA	/ /46	BD	17749975	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B10
12/29/66	PFC	Prather	Gary	W		MA	/ /47	BD	16866886	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B10
12/29/66	SP4	Henderson	Ralph	L		WA	/ /46	BD	13986055	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C20
12/29/66	SP4	Williams	Charles			KS	/ /45	BD	13854830	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	71B20
12/29/66	SSG	Kelly	Ernest		Jr	NH	/ /36	BD	52498009	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
12/31/66	PFC	Ayers	Jarel	W		MA	/ /45	BD	17748266	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
1/2/67	1LT	Earls	Larry	D		PA	/ /38	BD	5327046	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	71542
1/2/67	PFC	Goshorn	Walter	L		ND	/ /47	BD	13894247	KOR	Unk	Grenade	Khanh Hoa	RA	76A1P
1/2/67	PFC	Juckett	Elmer	L	III	CT	/ /47	BD	14917909	KOR	Unk	Grenade	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
1/2/67	PFC	Kohr	Wilbur	L		ND	/ /47	BD	13894022	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
1/2/67	PFC	Nicola	Dennis	G		GA	/ /47	BD	16871333	KOR	Unk	Grenade	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C1P
1/2/67	PFC	Vincent	Norman	W		ME	/ /47	BD	16863836	KOR	Unk	Grenade	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
1/2/67	SP4	Obrien	John	H		NC	/ /45	BD	19845834	KOR	Unk	Grenade	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
1/4/67	PFC	Torres	Vincent	R		NV	/ /48	NBD	12762226	DOI	Unk	Other Wpns	Hau Mghia	RA	11E2P
1/5/67	PFC	Delgado	Reinaldo	L		NV	/ /48	BD	12726003	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
1/6/67	PFC	Parker	Ronald	W		TN	/ /46	BD	19871984	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11H1P



MESSAGES FROM THE

101stabndiv1stbrigade.com WEB SITE GUEST BOOK

JOHN ELLIOTT, AUSTRALIA
jae@usa.net

Being an ex-airforce (Australian) and served at Phan Rang from 67-68, spent a bit of time with the 101st guys. Remember one troop gave me a 9mm pistol. Said I "You get into trouble for this," No said he, will tell them I lost it in action. Still got a 101st patch from the old days as a memento.

JOHN M. TAYLOR, LUTZ, FL
jmt@johnmtaylor.com
Website: www.johnmtaylor.com John M. Taylor - Author

Found an interesting site about Phan Rang at
<http://enterprise.powerup.com.au/~jakuma/>

EDWARD J. COX JR., SANATOGA, PA
edjcox@aol.com

I am searching for information / photography remembrances of my father Edward J. Cox who was killed at Tuy Hoa in January 1966. He earned the Silver Star that day and I want to know more.

I am willing to pay for any back issues of your publication that is pertinent or may have images of my father or other relevant data.

Thank you, Edward J. Cox Jr., 1161 Oakdale Drive, Sanatoga, PA 19464

Editor's Note: I will put your request for information in the January issue of the 1st Brigade (S) magazine. Meanwhile if you should like to see some history of the 1st Brigade click on the subscribe button, print a subscription form, fill it out and send it in. Thanks for your interest and input.

MIKE BALDINGER, KEYSER, WV
supergrover@mindspring.com

Hey guys! I was a plt. medic with C/2/502, Dec. 65- 66. Was with Carpenter at Dak To. "CRISPY CRITTERS." Anyone know the whereabouts of Pat Gallant of 3rd plt., Sgt Sorrenberger, or any other CRITTER? Take care...WELCOME HOME

JOHN EAGLE SMITH, MAINE, NOW RESIDING ARA-PAHOE, NC
johneagles@pamlico.net

I served with HQ Company, 2nd/502nd Inf. as a medic from Nov. 1965 to Feb. 1966 when I was wounded at Tuy Hoa and sent home.

I'd like to hear from anyone who served on the Hatchet Patrol (LRRP) during that time, especially Sgt. Rothers. If any of you were in that rice paddy, in Tuy Hoa, on Feb. 2nd, 1966 and carried a medic back to that group of trees in the rear or remember who did, I'd certainly like to be able to thank that soldier.

I'd also like to hear from anyone who remembers A.T. Howell or was with him in July when he got hit.

Airborne, All The Way.....
John Eagle Smith, Combat Medic, HQ Company, 2nd/502nd Inf., 101st Airborne Div., Phang Rang, Vietnam 1965 - 1966

JOHN M. TAYLOR, LUTZ, FL
jmt@johnmtaylor.com
Website: www.johnmtaylor.com John M. Taylor - Author

Ivan - Great job on the latest mag. Does anyone have a copy of the collection of clippings you put together mid-66? I'd love to get my hands on a set.

Promise I'll also put some new photos and comments on my Vietnam page at <http://www.johnmtaylor.com> between now and the end of the year. Photos are all slides and I've got to get a better slide scanner.

Editor's Note: I have copies but they constitute a very large copying job. Wayne Dill furnished me a copy of his clip file.

JOSEPH GENEREUX, SENECA FALLS, NEW YORK
jgenarel@rochester.rr.com

I was in the 101ST ABN DIV. A CO, 2ND BN 327TH INF from June 1959 to July 1966.

TIMOTHY L. DAVIS, BALTIMORE MD
No Email address

I was at the Vet Center and was using the computer. I just got information about the web site and will be sending in the application. You can get hold of me at: (snail mail) Tim L. Davis, 7905 Crisford Pl C, Baltimore, MD 21208; 410.496.4109. Peace my brothers. Hope to hear from any / all of you.

MIKE WILSON, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
Crayshay@AOL.COM

I was with A & C companies in the 2/327 from June 67 till I was wounded in March 68. SFC Harper was my platoon Sgt. in C company. Jungle Jim Joiner was my CO until he was wounded. At this time, I am a Governor for the 327/401 Bn. I would like to hear from any of you fellow troopers who were there at the same time. "Airborne All The Way"

JIM FOSTER, LEESBURG, FL
www.jimfoster@aol.com

HHC, 2/327 - Oct 63 to Oct 65. Went over on the Eltinge. Worked in Bn S-4 as Clerk Typist under SFC (CWO Ret) Bill Keller and Cpt Dick Hein. Went to the reunion in St Louis in May of '94. Looking for Pfc Richard Adams from Panama City, Fl., Sp4 Phil Deede from Rhinelande, WI., and any members of Support Platoon, S-4, HHC, 2/327. Contact me or Bill Keller at Bke2076635@aol.com

BRENDA G. GRIFFIN, MADISON, NORTH CAROLINA
strike@vnet.net
Website: www.angelfire.com/nc2/vietnamvet/index.html
Peter Griffin's Vietnam Veteran Web Site

My husband is a veteran of Co. A, 2/502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Vietnam, 1965-66. Just writing to ask you to visit his new webpage listed above. Hope you enjoy! Best wishes Always, AIRBORNE! Most Sincerely, Brenda

WILLIAM C. MURTIFF, LYNDONVILLE, VERMONT
Sarge327@webtv.net

I am a member of the 101st Brigade (Separate)

MARTIN E., NOW LIVING IN TACOMA, WA.
norbjorn@hotmail.com

Loved the picture of the General Leroy Eltinge on the cover! I hope all of the 1st hops on in to your site. I'm looking for Larry Hayes.

BUD DOMAGATA, ILLINOIS
cnbud@midwest.idsonline.com

Was assigned to Task Force South in Phan Thiet, first as a forward observer, then as an Air Observer. Worked areas around LZ's Betty, Sherry, Sandy, Long Son, Titty Mountain and others. Time from Jan 69 until the 3/506 moved north.

JOHN MACARI, NEW YORK
JDMACARI@aol.com

HHC 2/327 Inf. HAWK RECON from 67-68, lost phone numbers & addresses of other HAWKS. Would like to get in touch with the person that called and e-mailed me. Wife passed away and have had medical problems. It would be good to hear from you again.

E-MAIL MESSAGES

WINDLE RAY CAUSEY, COUNSELOR
causeyr@ten-nash.ten.k12.tn.us

Hello Ivan, I served as Recon Sgt with B 1/327 66-67 and would like to get back issues. Are they available? Ray Causey Maj, USA, Ret

Editor's Note: Back issues are available. Send your address and I will mail you some material. If you wish to subscribe you may print a subscription form by clicking on the web page address below and then clicking on the SUBSCRIPTION button. Causey responded with his address: Ray Causey, P.O. Box 113, Tennessee Ridge, TN 37178 and info was mailed to him.

JERRY BERRY
currahee@libby.org

Ivan, please add William C. Brightman to your subscription list. His information is as follows: William C. Brightman, #1 Bayberry Ln., Levittown, NY 11756, (516) 731-4595 (Home), (516) 731-4042 (Office). , E-mail: WBright215@aol.com, B Co, 3/506 (rifleman), Vietnam

(October 1967 to October 1968).

Am enclosing copy of this e-mail, plus a check to you in the mail tomorrow. Ivan, can you please tell us what the Valorous Unit Award is? See message below.

From: Danysh, Romana M Ms CMH
Romana.Danysh@HQDA.Army.Mil
To: davidrattee@hotmail.msn.com
Cc: currahee@homer.libby.org

Dear Mr. Rattee,

Official records available at the U.S. Army Center of Military History show that the 3d Battalion, 506th Infantry, earned only one U.S. decoration in Vietnam -- the Valorous Unit Award for action in the vicinity of Phan Thiet during the period 31 January 1968 to 25 February 1968.

Romana Danysh, Organizational History Branch, U.S. Army Center of Military History

Editor's Note: Jerry, The above information is correct according to FM No. 672-3, January 1973 see page 12 for Valorous Unit Award.

ROBERT C. HUDSON
bhudson@avmed.com

I am mailing you a packet of items from my 1st Brigade scrapbook tomorrow. I hope you find them to be of some value.

Editor's Note: Bob, your packet of copies of 1st Brigade (S) material arrived today. Thanks, so much, for your interest in the history of the 1st Brigade and your support of my efforts to record and organize it.

Glad to do it. Some of my fondest memories are about my time with the First Brigade, in spite of the trials and tribulations of a combat zone. I used to have a couple of documents that I seem to have misplaced in all my moves over the years. They were our own After Action Report of the battle of An Ninh, and the NVA After Action Report that was found in a cave a few months later. It was fascinating to compare the two reports. I will keep searching to see if I can find them. Thanks for your work in recording the history of the Brigade.

DAVE COOK
cookdsmg@mint.net

Hi Ivan, I just received the back and current issues of the magazine and it is outstanding, thanks alot. I went through your subscribers list and found over 80 327 guys who I do

not have listed on the 327 roster. That will make about 800 troopers on the list. I will send you a copy asap and hope that I have some listed that you don't. I'm sure that they will want to subscribe to "The First Screaming Eagles..."

I also will contribute to it from time to time. In my column, with limited space, I cannot do justice to some of the anecdotes and memories I have collected, especially when I have a bunch of stuff about reunions, etc., that should go in. I can sharpen my focus in an article that is about only one topic. Well, got to go and get back to reading those magazines -- my wife won't get much out of me for a couple of days, until I have gotten through all of them. So long and Above the Rest! Dave

DAVID HACKWORTH
teagles@hackworth.com

Ivan, Many thanks for a great review... Words alone cannot thank you enough. HONOR is selling strongly and on the best seller list (LA Times). Hope it contributes to awaking the American people from their long slumber... My columns can be found at www.hackworth.com Defending America Archives... Help your self if you ever want to reprint one or all.

Above The Rest.... and have a good Thanksgiving.
Airborne, Hack

JOSEPH MONTOYA
jlm320arty@veteran-net.com

Subject: update to web page
320th Artillery Regiment

New Honorary Colonel of the regiment. BG General(Ret)
Wendell Gilbert

New Honorary Command Sergeant Major is SFC(Ret)
Joseph L. Montoya

NICK
trigg@ris.net

A friend of mine asked me to send you an e-mail since he has no access to a computer. Following is a list of friends who served with HHC 1st Brigade 1st Airborne (Avn Sect) Apr 66-67: Darrel Amack (Mack), Ed Eastridge, Tom Dickel, Cpt Frazier (Buck), Cpt Fisher, Cpt Brown, Lt Keys. In support of 502 IF Batt. 327 IF Batt. Spelling might not be correct-NHON CO Apr 66, Dak To May or Jun 66, Chio Rio Jul 66 Tuy Hoa Sep 66 Phan Rang Base Camp. Any info would be appreciated. My e-mail is listed above.

Editors' Note: Nick, Tell your friend to send his name and address along with the unit and times (month and year) served in the 1st Brigade (Separate) in Viet Nam and I will help with his request to find these veterans. Thanks for your interest and help.

FRANK PANDOZZI
detector99@aol.com

Ivan, you may have forgotten my request to you in helping me to find out how my friend Andrew Stein was killed in Viet Nam. You were going to send out a message to your readers. Here is some info about him: Andrew P. Stein, Co A, 2nd Battalion, 502 Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne, Tour in South East Asia began Sept. 9, 1966, Killed July, 5th '67, The province was Quang Ngai.

Andy was given the Bronze Star Posthumously and we would like to know how he received this and why. Any info we can find about his death, ex, major battle and how he died would be appreciated. Perhaps one of your subscribers knew Andy and what happened to him. Thanks for your time.

Editor's Note: If you can help Frank with his search for information about Andrew Stein, write, call or e-mail to 506 Valley Drive East, Chittenango, NY 13037, Phone (315) 687-9631.

BRUCE & RITA BLEIMAN
beeches@javanet.com

Hello, I'm sure you don't remember me but I met you several times during the reunion last June at Ft. Campbell. My brother is Louis McDonald. On a recent visit here, he showed me your publication on the reunion and I was wondering if there was any way I could buy a copy of that edition (Vol. 1, No. 2, October 1999)?

By the way, did you realize that you mis-attributed my brother's speech to Charles Furgeson (p. 3)?

Email back how I can get a copy and I will send you a check right away. Thanks so much. It's a great publication. You should be very proud.

Rita McDonald Bleiman

Editor's Note: Send me an address and I will send you the magazine. THANK YOU for bringing the mistake with identification to my attention. I guessed and was wrong. I will be calling your brother soon to talk to him about publishing the mistake in the January 2000 issue.

TERRY CARPICK
herdredleg@navix.net

My name is Terry L. Carpick, I served in C (?) Battery of the 320 Artillery from 11-65 until 5-67. I am looking for more info on the 1st brigade; can you help? Happy Thanksgiving.

Editor's Note: Check the web site. The quarterly magazine (there is a subscription blank that can be printed from the web site) has history of the 1st Brigade and publishes messages like the one you sent to me. Hope you become a subscriber.

Forwarded by FRANCINE T. MAHAK
ftmahak@mmm.com

Tim Swain has encouraged me to suggest including a piece on my late father, BG James S. Timothy (1st Brigade, 101st Airborne), in your magazine. I sent pictures of him when you initially put out a call for them. I learned he was referred to as "Gentleman Jim" in About Face--by the way I enjoyed seeing your picture of Col. Hackworth!

I enjoy and appreciate each issue of your magazine. Thanks

RAY UTLEY
RK122183@aol.com

Ivan, My name is Ray Utley. I was with the 1/327th in Vietnam in Nov. of 1966. I got your name from Dewey Smith. I am trying to locate a Cpt. Joseph Jenkins who was the company commander of "A" Battery of the 320th Artillery in Vietnam in Nov. 1966. I know this is a long shot, but thought you might know how to get in touch with him. If you can help, I'd appreciate it. He was in Operation Geronimo I in Nov. 6-7, 1966. Sorry, but that is all I know about him. Any info would be appreciated. Thanks a bunch!
AIRBORNE

Editor's Note: There is no CPT Joseph Jenkins in our database. Perhaps a reader can help.

RON GESKE
RGeske@material-service.com

Per our conversation this date am inquiring about the units listed for the VIET NAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY on page 36 of the Oct issue...All the units are listed there that I believe were with 1ST BRIGADE except B Battery 2/320 Arty of which I was part of from 7/66-7/67...I also thought that A Battery of the 2/320 was not there at that time...Your help here would be greatly appreciated...Also was there a PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION to the 1ST BRIGADE

during the above time frame when I was there?...Also do you have any if SGM Stienkuehger 2/320 CSM pictured on page 13 of the April issue...I have pictures of X-MAS 1966 at Kontum to include the visit of Ernst Hemingway and GEN Westmoreland...Have lots of others but not sure which all would interest you...Also is there some way to find a unit roster of my old unit when I was there? Would like to see more brothers from the 2/320 write in...Keep up the great work with the publication... Ron

Editor's Note: Ron, The material in the magazine is correct. I am sending copies of DA Pamphlet 672-3. I will cover the presidential unit citations in a future issue. I do not understand what you want relative to SGM Stienkuegher. Send your photos and let me decide what I want to use. All will be returned.

PETER GRIFFIN
strike@vnet.net

Hi Ivan, Please contact John Smith (Hqtrs 2/502 VN 65-66) E-MAIL johneagles@pamlico.net for subscription sign up. He also has one hell of a combat story from Feb. 66 at Tuy Hoa, the day he was wounded. It would be prime for your magazine, in my opinion. Was published a few years back, is copyrighted. He is willing to let you use it. This guy was a medic on "hatchet patrol" and a true hero. I just read his story and was truly impressed and moved. He has never been to a reunion and belongs to no associations. He just surfed my site and we hit it off. He's a real nice guy. Grif.

RICHARD COBB, Recondo 2/502 - 1967
recobb@compuserve.com

Howdy Ivan, I really like what you are doing with the First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam! I am a member of several VN vet organizations and get a number of magazines - if I had to make the choice I'd trade them all for yours! Good job, and keep up the good work.

There is a book I put in the same category - if I had to choose only one Viet Nam book it would be this one: The Thirteenth Valley by John del Vechio. It was written by a 101st vet (1970) and takes you back to the jungles like *no other* VN book I have ever read (and I've read a bunch!) It was written about the operation in the A Shau Valley in '71, but it could just as well have been written about the time we were there. I have reread it a couple of times and it still brings back things I had completely forgotten.

The one thing that has puzzled me over the years is that while I see a lot of VN books repeatedly recommended that are not nearly as good, I seldom hear the 13th Valley mentioned. It was published in 1982 and went out of print for awhile, but a new edition just came out the beginning of '99.

I just ordered a copy from Amazon.com and am having it shipped to you. If, after reading it, you are as impressed with it as I am, I think it would be a good book to give a plug in the magazine. I think a lot of our guys would like to know about it. There is one warning I would give before recommending this book to any vet: don't read it unless you are willing to go all the way back - because this book will take you there.

Editor's Note: Richard, THANK YOU ! The book arrived. I am reading it and will mention it in the January or April issue.

JERRY BERRY
currahee@libby.org

Hi, Ivan, received your latest edition of "The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade" magazine and it's a good one. Have had several Currahees contact me about the articles. I hope you are picking up other Currahee subscriptions.

Ivan, does Maj. Billy Spangler or (then) Lt. Barry Hana (from the PIO Office after you) subscribe to the magazine? I have just located their addresses from another ex-PIO Michael Willey (your tour, who gave them to me. I'm waiting for a reply from them).

Editor's Note: I have addresses for Billy Spangler and Barry Hana but they have not become subscribers.

FROM THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

EMILIO R. FLORES, 728 Calle Portilla, Camarillo, CA 93010; (805) 388-0173; e-mail: EFLO@jetlink.com wrote: I would like information on history of the brigade during my year, 1966 to 1967. I also have some pictures of my tour. I would be glad to share. I was with A Company, 2nd platoon, 1/327 at Dak To and one of the five who ignited the fuse or fired first on the NVA that began the battle. I was also under the two volleys of artillery rounds that took out most of the platoon. Let me know if I can be of help.

I'm looking for a picture of "ABU" that were issued when assigned to A 1/327. Know where I can get one? I'm also looking for an old buddy from A 1/327 by the name of Clifford D. Dorr. Know of any method of locating an old address or at least when he was in the service? I've tried several methods but have been unsuccessful. Any ideas? I'll get my pictures together as soon as I can and send them out. I enclose the address of a former member of the 1st Brigade - Gerard Burke (he was already in our database). I'm glad to be contact.

Editor's Note: Dorr is not currently in our database.

MG (R) S. H. MATHESON, along with his renewal for another year's subscription, wrote: Ivan, You're doing a great job with the new publication – if you don't watch out they'll be rehiring you to run the Division publication.

CSM Young and I converse fairly frequently.

I'm sure the two (2) Jerry's will do well of the Benning Rally. Scott reports that Ralph Puckett is kept busy with his Honorary Col. of the Ranger Regiment.

Pat joins in sending our best to both of you. Airborne!

DONALD F. PETERSEN, wrote: Hi, Ivan, I got out that picture of the brigade staff that I think you had made. The only person I have seen since was G.C. Coleman our SJA. We were at Aberdeen Proving Ground together in 1978. Thanks for your efforts.

Editor's Note: was e-mailed to Donald at donglennp@worldnet.att.net

Don, Great to hear from you! I used that photo of the staff on page five of the April 1999 issue of the magazine. I hope you will be a contributor to the magazine and plan to attend the reunion in Oct. 2000.



Some Airborne Publications that include Viet Nam History

THE AIRBORNE QUARTERLY

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 3565

24 July 1968

AWARD OF THE VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

Awarded: Valorous Unit Award

Date action: 17 January 1966 to 25 March 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For extraordinary heroism while participating in military operations: The 1ST BRIGADE, 101ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION (then the 101st Airborne Division) and its assigned and attached units: The 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry (Airborne); 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry (Airborne); 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry (Airborne); Troop A, 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry; 2d Howitzer Battalion (Airborne), 320th Artillery; Company A, 326th Engineer Battalion; Support Battalion (Airborne); 5th Battalion, 27th Artillery; 406th Radio Research Detachment; 20th Chemical Detachment; and the 181st Military Intelligence Detachment, distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism from 17 January 1966 to 25 March 1966 while conducting Operations VAN BUREN and HARRISON against armed hostile forces in the vicinity of Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. After commencing Operation VAN BUREN on 17 January, the brigade deployed in the Tuy Hoa area to locate, fix, and destroy Viet Cong forces while simultaneously protecting the local rice harvest from hostile seizure. The brigade not only defeated the insurgents decisively in four major battles, but also enabled the Vietnamese people to harvest a rice crop three times as large as the previous year when Viet Cong interference was unchecked. At Canh Tinh on 6 February, the 2D BATTALION, 502D INFANTRY (AIRBORNE) killed 64 Viet Cong and completely routed a numerically superior hostile force from heavily fortified emplacements. On the following day, the 1ST BATTALION 327TH INFANTRY (AIRBORNE) took a toll of 66 insurgents in a savage conflict. During Operation HARRISON, which began on 21 February, the 2D BATTALION, 502D INFANTRY (AIRBORNE) continued maneuvers in the Tuy Hoa area by searching out and destroying 118 of the enemy in a pitched five-hour battle in the rice paddies around My Phu. After three days of difficult marching through mountainous jungle, the 2D BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY (AIRBORNE) discovered a Viet Cong regimental headquarters. Personnel of the brigade fiercely broke the hostile defenses that were in a nearly impregnable cave complex, uncovering one of the largest caches of the counterinsurgency campaign. While suffering only light casualties in both operations, the brigade killed more than 500 Viet Cong, wounded hundreds more and captured nearly 500 insurgents and suspects. Not content with merely defeating the enemy, the men of this exceptional unit strengthened the safety and health of the local Vietnamese population by tireless efforts in medical treatment, road building and protection of the valuable rice crop. The extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty displayed by the men of the 1ST BRIGADE, 101ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

Authority: By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 202. Ig(2), AR 672-5-1.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

R. N. DALLAM
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

ROBERT C. TABER
Brigadier General, US Army
Chief of Staff



THE VIETNAM ENVIRONMENT

The country in which soldiers of the 1st Brigade found themselves on 29 July 1965 would prove not only dangerous but beautiful and varied. Located on the eastern portion of the Southeast Asia mainland, South Vietnam lies entirely within the tropics. The temperature is always hot, varying little at Saigon, the capital, from an 84-degree average. The seasonal monsoons, however, create dramatic climatic variations over the course of a calendar year. In May of each year, the summer monsoon gathers moisture over the Indian Ocean and begins moving up the 700 mile length of the country. From May through October, 58 inches of rain may be expected in the vicinity of Saigon. Farther north near the old imperial capital of Hue, 116 inches of rain may fall toward the end of the year as the monsoon moves farther northward and inland across Asia. Between September and November, Hue and its neighboring coastal plain are struck by typhoons, or tropical cyclones, which originate in the Pacific Ocean. While winter rains, mists, and tropical storms, often extending into March, prevail in the area of the ancient capital at Hue, summer weather favors the modern capital of Saigon. To compare this climate to that of a portion of the United States, consider that in Florida the average annual temperature is 70 degrees and the average annual rainfall is 53 inches. The climate of our most tropical state is therefore neither as hot nor as humid as is that of Vietnam.

Vietnam is about one-half the size of California and is long and narrow, as is that state. The terrain is varied and challenging, and with the exception of the Mekong Delta at the southern end of the country, the men of the 1st Brigade sampled all of it. The terrain consists of alternating mountainous and highland areas in the north, edged on the east by a narrow coastal plain curving along the South China Sea. North of Hue, where the long coastline, or eastern border begins, the country is only forty miles wide. The coastal lowlands are a series of small deltas and alluvial plains, broken by fingers of the Annamite Mountains (sometimes called the Annamese Cordillera) reaching toward the sea. The most important of these plains are those around Hue and Da Nang on the northern coast of South Vietnam and Qui Nhon on the central coast. The deltas rarely exceed twenty-four feet of elevation. Although numerous rice paddies dot the coastal plain, in some areas -- around Phan Thiet, Phan Rang, and Cam Ranh Bay, for example, the land has variable contours and consists of sparse scrub and infrequent trees, resembling the terrain of the western plains of the United States.

The Annamite Mountains, which extend southward from North Vietnam, rise to heights of 8,000 feet within thirty miles of the coast in some places and as far back as seventy miles in others. The mountains form the Central Highlands, a plateau area some one hundred miles wide and two hundred miles long, covering most of central South Vietnam. The plateau is centered around Pleiku, Kontum, and Ban Me Thuot. The main urban area is Dalat (population approximately 40,000), a commercial center for a vegetable growing region. This city was developed as a resort by the French and is 5,000 feet above sea level.

Below 3,000 feet elevation, the plateau is covered by seemingly endless stretches of pine trees, spotted by extensive savannahs of jungle grass. The grass grows to heights of five to six feet. Above the 3,000 foot level, the mountains are cov-

ered by a dense tropical-evergreen jungle. The trunks of the larger-trees are 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 feet in diameter and clear of branches for thirty to sixty feet above ground. Beneath this growth is an understory of smaller trees with vines, ferns, orchids, and other plants forming a continuous mass from the ground to the lower branches of the larger trees. The double and triple canopies thus formed frequently cover large areas at heights of from 50 to 200 feet, often completely shutting out view of the sky for miles. In areas where the canopy does not exist, dense vegetation, or secondary jungle growth, makes movement extremely arduous.

The mountains rise steeply from the coastal plains on the east, but on the west, they descend gradually through a series of plateaus to the level of the Mekong Delta, forming the watershed between the Mekong River and the South China Sea. The steep seaward slopes form a partial barrier to inland penetration, and the mountains and highlands are therefore inhabited by groups culturally and racially distinct from the coastal Vietnamese.

The southernmost third of South Vietnam was once below sea level and receives the rich alluvial deposits of the Mekong River. The Ca Mau Peninsula or Mekong Delta and the Plain of Reeds or Saigon River Delta are the principal rice producing areas of Vietnam. The entire delta region abounds with tributaries and canals.³

The effect of these climatic and geographical conditions upon military operations was dramatic. The coastal sand at Cam Ranh Bay, for example, preceded enemy military forces as an obstacle to the 1st Brigade's effectiveness in Vietnam. Engineer units that preceded the 1st Brigade to Vietnam in June 1965 found the sand and lack of natural construction materials on the Cam Ranh peninsula to be major impediments. The sand made movement difficult and caused serious maintenance problems, as well as much personal discomfort.⁴ Men of the 1st Brigade encountered similar problems when they arrived in late July.

As the 1st Brigade moved into the Vietnamese countryside, it became further acquainted with the effects of climate and terrain upon movement and communication. During the dry season, dust generated by the operation of both air and ground vehicles became a constant maintenance problem. Unless arrested by diligent preventive measures, the dust wore out moving parts, clogged fuel and lubrication systems, and settled into food and open wounds. Heavy traffic over unsurfaced roads during dry months produced layers of fine dust which became thick, impassable mud during the rainy season. Most roads in Vietnam were unsurfaced, although some were macadamized and a few asphalted. U. S. Engineer efforts improved many roads as time passed. Heavy monsoon

³An excellent description of the environment of Vietnam may be found in Carroll H. Dunn, *Vietnam Studies: Base Development, 1965-1970* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1972), pp. 3-12. See also Frederick P. Peterkin, "The Land: Vietnam," *Infantry*, LV (September-October, 1965), pp. 48-53.

⁴See Robert R. Ploger, *Vietnam Studies: U. S. Army Engineers, 1965-1970* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1974), pp. 36-47.

rains saturated and eroded all but the most carefully compacted and protected soil. Since most drainage basins in Vietnam are small, heavy rains produce frequent flooding. In lowland areas, floods frequently prevented cross-country movement by wheeled vehicles. Even tracked vehicles often became road bound.⁵

Soldiers in the field were relatively unaffected by limitations upon vehicular movement because of the general use of helicopters for both tactical maneuver and combat supply. Heavy rains and cloud covers, however, at times were major hindrances to air movement. When not moving by helicopter, troopers, of course, most often moved by foot. Afoot on the Vietnamese terrain, soldiers of the 1st Brigade encountered additional obstacles. On the coastal plain, movement across rice paddies was dangerous since the open terrain provided the enemy with excellent observation and fields of fire. Movement through flooded rice paddies was slow, noisy, and -- during the rainy season -- dangerous. Running in water-covered rice paddies was almost impossible. Even when the paddies were not covered with water, in the dry season, the plowed ground was rough and also difficult to traverse on foot. Walking on the dikes provided little advantage, since they were narrow and the constant attention soldiers then had to devote to placement of their feet diverted attention from surrounding terrain where the enemy might be located. In the mountain highlands, and jungles, the monotonous appearance of the terrain and the many uncharted intermittent streams made it difficult for soldiers to locate their position on a map. The great stretches of jungle canopy hindered the ability of troops on the ground to identify their positions to friendly helicopters for resupply, reinforcement and medical evacuation. Movement through the jungle was difficult, particularly in areas of secondary growth, but not unmanageable. Observation, however, was limited to ten to twenty meters. As a result, initial, significant contact with the enemy tended to be sudden and violent. Closeness to the enemy upon first contact made the use of artillery support for a fire fight a ticklish procedure, but the limited visibility affected the enemy also and facilitated the unobserved movement of flanking forces. The nature of the jungle terrain made clearings, rather than high ground or communications junctions, important as critical terrain.

In all areas of the country, men moving through streams and other bodies of water were subjected to leeches. Persistent moisture encouraged fungus infections and rotted shoe leather, tentage, and clothing. The lush foliage associated with abundant rain meant that vegetation that had been cleared away to assist movement, increase observation, and open fields of fire replaced itself quickly.⁶

Tropical diseases, such as malaria, were constant threats, as were diseases associated with field duty, such as hepatitis and diarrheal ailments. Malaria was particularly severe in the early months of the 1st Brigade's tour in Vietnam, but, in general, the incidence of cases of most diseases associated with the Vietnam environment exhibited a downward and stabilizing trend during the period of the brigade's activities. Hepatitis was an exception.⁷

To the troopers of the 1st Brigade, heat and humidity were constant companions. During the dry season, temperatures climbed well over 100 degrees and humidity frequently exceeded 90%. Often plodding through difficult terrain and

dense vegetation for successive days and carrying sixty or more pounds of equipment, the 1st Brigade soldier came to know well the debilitating effects of the Vietnamese climate. Upon arrival in Vietnam, members of the 1st Brigade were exposed to an eastern culture. DA Pamphlet 20-198, "A Pocket Guide to Vietnam," provided the soldiers of the brigade with an introduction to the new culture. The population of South Vietnam in 1965 was approximately 14 million, four-fifths of them farmers. The majority of the people of South Vietnam are ethnic Vietnamese (formerly known as Annamese), a southern Mongoloid type. The Central Highlands are occupied by several hundred thousand (estimates range from 200,000 to 500,000) tribespeople, known generally as Montagnards, but actually belonging to some twenty-nine tribes. Approximately a half-million Chinese, most holding Vietnamese citizenship, lived in Vietnam in 1965, as well as approximately a half million ethnic Cambodians (Khmers) along the Cambodian border north of Saigon and in the Mekong Delta, and a few thousand each of French, Indians, Pakistanis, and Chams (the latter to be discussed below). Outside of the capital of Saigon, with a million and a half people, and such cities as Da Nang (population 110,000), Hue, and Nha Trang, at least 80 percent of the population lived in villages scattered between the district capitals and the forty-four province capitals. Most lived in the delta or along the coastal plain between the country's principal railroad line and the main north-south road. The farmers primarily raised rice, the country's chief export (before World War II only two countries in the world exported more rice than Vietnam). Outside of the cities, the economy revolved about hamlet and village markets, where fish products, pigs, chickens, rice, and small manufactured goods were bought and sold.

Men of the 1st Brigade found that the Vietnamese placed their primary allegiance to their family and village. An old Vietnamese proverb states that "...the power of the Emperor comes only to the bamboo hedge of the village." The intense localism of the majority of the South Vietnamese people, of course, was a major obstacle to developing a sense of national identity and loyalty to the central government in Saigon. Village life was centered around the growing of rice, market days which were generally conducted twice a week, and the celebration of annual festivals. Chief

⁵Dunn, *Base Development, 1965-1970*, pp. 7-12.

⁶For brief discussion of the military aspects of the Vietnamese terrain, see George E. Dexter, "Search and Destroy in Vietnam," *Infantry*, LVI (July-August, 1966), pp. 36-42. Dexter commanded the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate). Dexter's article and subsequent articles in *Infantry* magazine in the years following 1966 provide a convenient introduction to the nature of combat operations in Vietnam. For example, another article containing information on the effect of terrain on operations is Patrick H. Graves, "Observations of a Platoon Leader," *Infantry*, LVX (May-June, 1967), pp. 34-38.

⁷Spurgeon Neel, *Vietnam Studies: Medical Support of the U. S. Army Vietnam, 1965-1970* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1973), pp. 32-48.

among the festivals was the New Year, Nguyen Dan or Tet, observed on the first through seventh day of the first month of the lunar calendar (usually toward the end of January or in early February by the solar calendar). Other important annual celebrations honored Vietnamese heroes such as Hai Ba Trung on the 6th day of the second month (February or March), and Tran Hung Dao and Te Toi on the 20th and 22d days of the 8th month (mid-autumn). Some holidays marked significant changes in the pace of the seasons (Doan Ngo or Summer Soltice on the 5th day of the 5th month -- June -- and Trung Thu or mid-autumn festival on the 15th day of the 8th month), or were connected with religious life (Trung Nguyen or Feast of Wandering Souls on the 15th day of the 1st, 7th, and 10th months).

In the latter regard, Vietnamese people exhibited great affinity for religious life, although their practices were often found to be a mixture of animism, Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism. This religious heritage, coupled with generations of being caught up in political and military conflict, produced personal philosophies emphasizing stoicism, patience, courage, and resiliency in the face of adversity. Family altars and village shrines were important aspects of daily life in the countryside. Approximately 10% of the population were professed Roman Catholics, but Christian influence was confined primarily to Saigon and other more settled areas.

Editor's Note: This material is from "THE FIRST BRIGADE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM JULY 1965 - JANUARY 1968" written by the 322d Military History Detachment



Recon Platoon 2/327th Infantry



Recon Platoon 2/327th Infantry, Tuy Hoa RVN June 66 -- LT Johnson, SSG Day, SGT Davis, SSG Iepoch (?) and SGT Antonich. This picture was sent by Samuel J. Watson, III, 6364 Hillcrest Place, Alexandria, VA 22312. If you can identify others in this photo please contact the editor.

CORRECTION

In the October 1999 issue I ran a story with a headline that read: "Presentation given by Charles T. (Tom) Furgeson at the Trung Luong 33rd Anniversary Reunion." A photo of Tom Furgeson giving his briefing also ran on that page.

The headline should have read:

PRESENTATION GIVEN BY LOUIS M. (LOU) McDONALD AT THE TRUNG LUONG 33rd ANNIVERSARY REUNION.

A reproduction of the incorrect page and a photo of Louis McDonald giving his briefing is also shown.

I am having trouble with the tapes I made at the reunion. This is probably the result of having an inexpensive memo recorder and the plastic in one of the tape cases being broken. I have contacted a sound studio in Atlanta and been assured that they will do everything possible to make the tapes usable.

The tapes I made at the reunion are important for two reasons: (1) so that I can transcribe the briefings that Tom Furgeson and others gave and publish it and (2) so I can give Lou McDonald a recording of all the briefings. He is seeking all the material that can be found on Trung

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—excited 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 5066-5067) briefs Trung Luong veterans, using a projected map, on his recollection of the battle of Trung Luong.

(Worrell Photo)

October 1999

The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam

NCO vacancies. We did have PFCs as SQUAD LDERS.

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. SSG Thomas Pulliam, NCO; 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 scrubby 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 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:

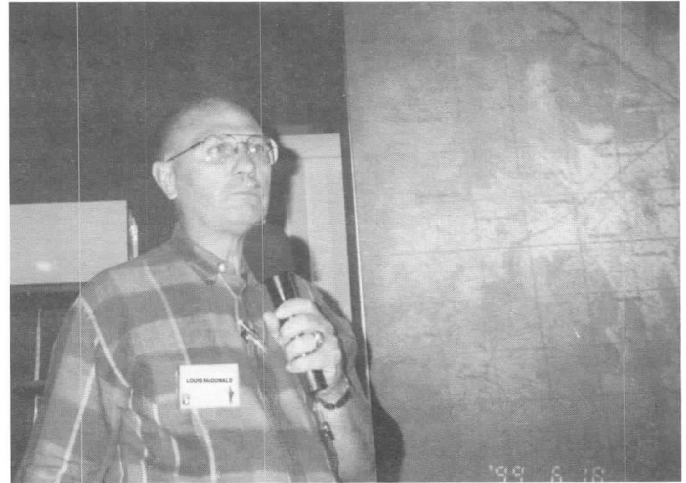
We circled near the landing zone for several minutes. I gather we were waiting for the prep to be completed. The disturbing fact, as I saw it, was that the wrong LZ was being prepped. Our plans called for B Co to land on the right leg of the V and the left leg was being prepped. When we started our approach 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 Seitz's third platoon.

Luong so he can write a complete story for publication in this magazine and present to the Brigade to keep with the Presidential Unit Citation.

If you have Trung Luong material, from the briefings at Fort Campbell or material that has not been presented, please contact Louis M. McDonald, 3950 East Midas Avenue, Rocklin, CA 95677-2420, Home phone 916.624.1916, e-mail CALIFIA@GARLIC.COM.



Using a projection map, Louis M. McDonald (2/327 B 5/66 - 10/66), who was a Lieutenant in 1966, briefs 2/327 veterans on his recollections of the battle of Trung Luong.



Louis M. McDonald (2/327 B 5/66 - 10/66) sent this photo of three 1st Brigade (Separate) veterans in front of Dick's Coffee Shop 'Thanks-a-Latte' in Oroville, California. They are (L-R) Charles J. "Jim" Apodaca (2/502 B 5/66 - 4/67), Dick Coughlin (2/327 C 9/62 - 6/66) and Lou McDonald. The forty-niner on the mural in the background is not a veteran.

Robert Jacobs (1/327 HQ 5/66 - 2/67) sent the following message: Enclosed please find 7 photos, three letters and a copy of "The Diplomat and Warrior." The lead story, about the POW camps, is very interesting. Charlie Hartz, (now deceased apparently from Agent Orange) Rose and myself walked point on both attacks on the camp.

I was with Captain Agerton (Tiger Tom) the day he was shot. That same day I captured an AK 47 from an NVA officer. This was in Kontum. I understand this weapon was made inoperable and presented to Captain Agerton. After his death (I understand a car accident) I often wondered what happened to this weapon. It was quite a trophy.

Editor's note: The photo of freed Vietnamese prisoners was from a leaflet and not suitable for use. A photo from my files has been substituted.



SGT Clive Rose with wounded VC taken on the first trip into the prison camp. Bob Jacobs is seeking his address.



Inside the prison camp.

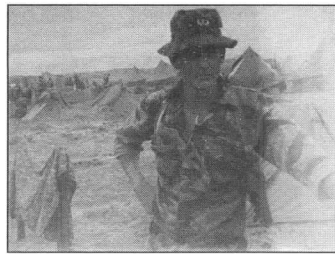


STARVING PRISONERS OF VIET CONG RESCUED BY 101ST BRIGADE SEPARATE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

Four Vietnamese, survivors from a Viet Cong prison camp rescued by elements of the 101st Airborne Division, are shown in Tuy Hoa, Phu Yen Province.

25 September 1966

66-1530-C



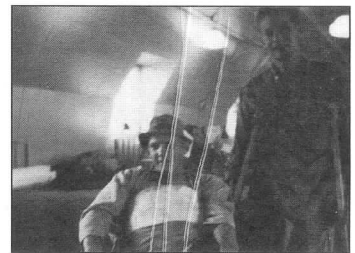
Bob Jacobs at Tuy Hoa.

SGT Clive Rose on the way to the prison camp. He was surprised to learn that VC wore panties.



(L to R) Hennesy, Tronbly, Jacobs, Lee and Hartz in October 1966.

SGT Clive Rose and Bob Jacobs in Yokohama (Camp Drake) where they spent a few months recovering from wounds.



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Capt. Richard Maglin

Silver Star Tops 19 Awards Made

PHAN RANG — The Silver Star was among 19 decorations presented to brigade troopers here by the commanding general, Brigadier General S.H. Matheson.

Captain Richard R. Maglin, assistant operations officer for the brigade, received the Silver Star for gallantry in action while commander of Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, near Tuy Hoa in September 1966.

Captain Maglin exposed himself continuously to intense enemy fire as retreating Viet Cong tried to escape through the west sector of the area. He deployed his command platoon to halt the retreat since his other platoons were unable to see the enemy's movement.

Without regard for his own safety, Capt. Maglin moved into an open rice paddy and attacked several automatic weapon sites, killing five VC, wounding one and forcing the others to withdraw.

Moving with the rear security platoon across open terrain, he and his men encountered more intense enemy fire. He calmly directed suppressive fire, called and adjusted artillery and directed evacuation of the wounded.

The 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal with V Device was presented to Captain Charles G. Belan, also in brigade operations.

The 11-year Army veteran was decorated for valor while serving as commanding officer of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry in December 1966.

While moving along a jungle trail near Tuy Hoa, Company B was attacked by a concealed enemy force. Captain Belan immediately moved into the hostile fire to direct his lead elements. With shouted encouragements and instructions, he inspired his men to charge and chase the enemy into the jungle.

Other awards presented by General Matheson included a Purple Heart, eight Army Commendation Medals, a Combat Medical Badge and a Senior Parachutist Badge.

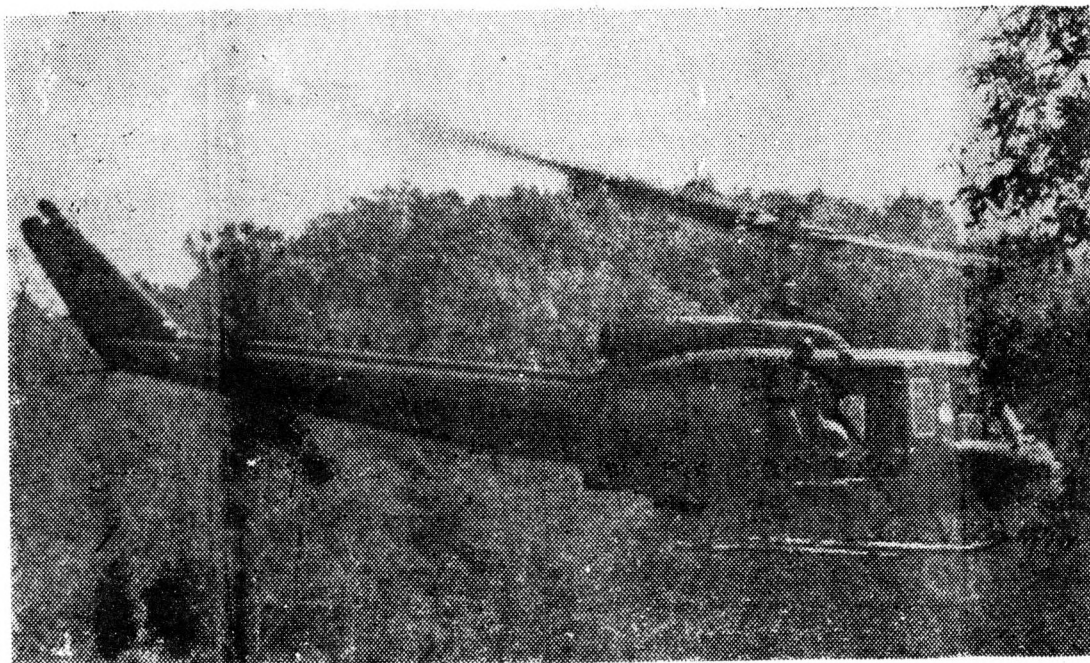
New Method Taught In 'P' School

PHAN RANG — The brigade Replacement Detachment with the assistance of the Aviation Section has developed a new method of instructing future leaders in calling and adjusting tactical air support.

Integration of the new method into the 1st Brigade's Combat Leader's Course was initiated because of the need for practical application procedure used in calling and adjusting close air support.

The training, which takes place at the 1st Brigade's base camp near Phan Rang, utilizes an OH-13 observation helicopter armed with two M-60 machine guns to simulate an actual air strike. The paratrooper trainees gain proficiency in radio procedure and ground adjustment of air support by adjusting fire from the helicopter. The need for a range on which the aviation section could test its M-60 machine guns contributed to the advent of the new training system.

As a result of this additional proficiency training, members of the 1st Brigade in the field will be better able to utilize the all-important tactical air support of ground operations.



'DIRECTING' THE PILOT

A door gunner on a 10th Aviation Battalion HU-1D helicopter leans out of the ship to direct pilots out of a small landing zone during the brigade's Operation Farragut in Ninh Thuan Province south of Phan Rang. (US Army Photo by SP4 Johnnie Jackson)

'Strike Force' Squad Kills Five As Viet Cong Try To Charge

PHAN RANG — It isn't very often a small force of Viet Cong (VC) will stand and fight. Seldom will they counterattack in a tight situation. However, when a squad of Viet Cong recently did assault after they had been ambushed by paratroopers of Company A, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, the enemy charge failed. The troopers were ready and routed the enemy.

Sergeant John S. Tamulevich, Brockton, Mass., and his squad had set up an ambush near a trail southwest of here during Operation Farragut. The men did not have to wait long before 10 armed VC appeared on the trail less than five feet from where the "Strike Force" troopers were concealed.

The initial volley downed two of the VC and the rest

turned on the paratroopers and assaulted. Two of the VC came within five feet of machine gunner Specialist Four Jerome V. Hansen of Sauk Rapids, Minn., before the paratrooper came to his knees with his weapon and killed them.

As the fire died, Sergeant Tamulevich, while checking his men, was attacked by a

hidden VC. Firing a quick burst at the charging enemy from his M-16 he hit the ground as his rounds set off a grenade on the VC's belt, killing the enemy instantly.

The action resulted in five VC killed, one captured and five weapons taken, showing "Charlie" that an assault on the "Screaming Eagles" can be fatal.

For Those In Doubt

Bde CIB Policy Spelled Out

PHAN RANG — A policy for the award of the Combat Infantryman Badge has been established by the 1st Brigade to define the requirements for recipients of the award.

The CIB is awarded to the infantryman and the infantryman alone as recognition for service.

The policy defines the individual requirements for officers and enlisted men as follows:

Officers: Any officer

whose basic or detailed branch is infantry or any officer or warrant officer whose branch is other than infantry but commands an infantry unit for a period of at least 30 consecutive days is eligible for the CIB.

Enlisted Men: An enlisted man must have a primary, secondary, or additional MOS of II with the third digits of B, C, D, F, G, and H. To be considered an infantryman the enlisted man must be performing

in a duty position authorized by one of these MOS's and have been awarded same MOS. The keynote is that an EM must hold the MOS, and perform duties of that MOS at the time of the CIB.

A recipient must be personally present and under hostile fire while serving in an assigned infantry primary duty, in a unit actively engaged in ground combat with

the enemy. An infantry unit can be of squad, platoon, company, regimental or brigade size. For example, a person possessing an infantry MOS in a rifle squad of a cavalry platoon in a cavalry troop would be eligible for award of the CIB.

Recommendations for the CIB will be forwarded with the personal recommendation of the battalion (or separate unit) commander.



THREADING THE NEEDLE.... Lieutenant Robert Wood, of Ardmore, Pa., shows pretty Vietnamese school girls how to operate a sewing machine donated by the brigade. The machine was captured by the "Screaming Eagles" while on Operation Farragut south of Phan Rang and given to the Girl's Club at An Phuoc High School near Phan Rang. (US Army Photo by PFC Mike Willie)

ENLISTED WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Private First Class Alan Paul Pini, of Warren, Mich., a member of Troop A, 2d Squadron (Airborne), 17th Cavalry, has been chosen as "Enlisted Warrior of the Week" for the week ending March 25. Pini is a machine gunner and was chosen for his actions against the Viet Cong while on Operation Farragut southwest of Phan Rang.

Six-Day Stand Down A Welcome 'Rest'

PHAN RANG — After totaling 58,000 miles of continuous driving in 70 days, the paratroopers of Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry appreciated the restful six-day stand down at the base camp here.

The 30 jeeps used for convoy security logged the awesome total of miles while maintaining constant contact with all the vehicles in the convoys they escorted.

The 17th Cavalry has been on the "go" since the brigade was in Tuy Hoa and finally was able to pull complete maintenance on all equipment after Operation Farragut.

The first day of the stand down was devoted to weapons, communication equipment and vehicles. The second day personal equipment and weapons received the attention of the troops.

Captain Dale Wagner, troop commander from Hawthorne, Nev., was happy with the support his people received from Company B,

Support Battalion.

"The support we received was fast and complete and the people in Company B were especially cooperative," Capt. Wagner said.

With a six-day stand down behind them, the troop is ready again to be on the "go."

Civil Affairs

Brigade 'MEDCAP' Keeps 'em Healthy

By 1LT Arthur D. Barnett

PHAN RANG— Anyone who has ever been on or seen a MEDCAP mission knows that it's an unforgettable event. Young and old, the people eagerly press forward to be treated by the medics and receive medication for sores, bruises and diseases.

Staff Sergeant John R. Goss, of River Rouge, Mich., Captains John Blanks, of Miami and Wesley A. Groesbeck of Salt Lake City, Utah, form one of the many MEDCAP teams operating in Viet Nam.

Blanks and Groesbeck, civil affairs officers in the 1st Brigade, and Goss, of Military Assistance Command, Viet Nam Team 39 of the Buu Son Sub-sector Command, have gone on many of the programs in the Phan Rang area accompanied by Huynh-Ean-Hoa, chief of the district Public Health Service.

Last week, the allied team visited Cong Thanh, a small hamlet approximately eight miles northeast of Phan Rang inhabited by about 300 Vietnamese and Cham citizens.

Quickly setting up shop in front of the security guards' quarters, the MEDCAP team started treating the first of more than 85 patients who would come to them for various ailments.

Captain Blanks, civil affairs

officer for Support Battalion, worked on open sores and cuts, while Sergeant Goss and Mr. Hoa treated the more serious ailments and gave immunizations and inoculations. Captain Blanks meanwhile was busy learning the tricks of the trade as he will replace Captain Blanks, who returns to the states soon. The new captain tried his hand at all the chores and also showed various simple hand games to the many children who had gathered around the open-air clinic.

In a little over three and a half hours, the four-man team had treated all villagers who came to them for medication. They had done another part of the job of stopping the communist attempt to control the hearts of the people. A healthy nation depends on the health of its people and the MEDCAP teams operating with the "Screaming Eagles" around Phan Rang are continually helping the people stay healthy.

GREEN BOOK



ARMY HISTORY—Brigadier General S.H. Matheson, commanding general of the 1st Brigade, presents a token volume of the Green Book Army History Series to Private First Class Tim C. Head of Richmond, Wash., librarian of the George W. Burkheart Memorial Library. The Green Book series was presented to the brigade by Major Henry Nachtsheim, commander of the 22d Military History Detachment, attached to the brigade.

(US Army Photo by Sp4 Robert Lloyd)

DIPLOMAT and WARRIOR

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- CG BG S. H. Matheson
- IO MAJ Ivan G. Worrell
- OIC 1LT Arthur Barnett
- EDITOR SSG Mike Mangiameli

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE'

New Program Ups Relations

PHANG RANG— American-Vietnamese relations took a giant step forward as paratroopers of the 1st Brigade met with the Vietnamese high school students they will be helping through, school.

The "people to people" type program was the idea of Specialist Five Jack Lathrope, of Oregon City, Ore., a chaplain's assistant at the brigade's base camp here. Through his personal efforts, more than 100 students at Phan Rang's Catholic High School will receive financial assistance for tuition and books during the next school year.

Last week, more than 50 of the 98 "Screaming Eagles" participating in the program went to visit the students. Overcoming the barriers of language and shyness, the Vietnamese students and American paratroopers com-

municated through drawings, gestures and interpreters (some of the students spoke English and Lathrope speaks Vietnamese).

The paratroopers, some sponsoring two or three students, were taken on a tour of the school's facilities and shown the work of the students they are sponsoring.

Lathrope, due to rotate back to the states next month, says the program has grown far beyond his dreams and is still growing. It costs about \$19.00 to sponsor a student for a year and the paratroopers of the brigade feel it's a wise investment indeed.



SPONSOR — Le Duc Hien, a 17-year-old senior at the Truong Vinh Ky High School in Phan Rang talks to his sponsor, Private First Class Donald L. Willard of Auburn, Mass. The brigade trooper is sponsoring Hien for the next year on a "people-to-people" type program.

(US Army Photo by 1LT Arthur D. Barnett)



VIET CONG RICE — Two paratroopers of the brigade—Sergeant Daniel Metcalf, Salem, Ohio, (left) and Specialist Four Eugene Kinnebrew, Rome, Ga., — begin sacking two tons of captured Viet Cong rice during Operation Farragut south of Phan Rang. The rice later was turned over to the Tuy Phong district chief for distribution to a nearby refugee center.

(US Army Photo by SP4 Johnny Jackson)

Chieu Hoi Program

'No Slack Bn' Causes 30 Viet Cong To Defect

PHAN RANG — Some of the Viet Cong in Binh Thuan Province have found the life of a guerilla rugged indeed, especially without the comforts of home.

Recently 30 former VC from Tuy Phong District found the going too rough after their families and friends deserted their village for a refugee camp. The abandoned VC quickly surrendered to Vietnamese government forces using the safe conduct passes of the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) program.

The defections began during Operation Farragut, the brigade's drive to clear the VC from the coastal area from Phan Rang south to Phan Thiet.

When paratroopers of the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, conducted a search and destroy mission in Tuy Phong, Captain Trang Trong Nghia, district chief, pointed out a nearby hamlet under VC control. The hamlet also was considered the VC tax collection point for nearby Highway 1.

Two companies of paratroopers made helicopter assaults near the village of Vinh Hoa at 5 a.m. under the eerie illumination of flares from Air Force C-47's and 10th Aviation Battalion helicopters. Accompanying the paratroopers was an Army of Viet Nam (ARVN) Intelligence Platoon, National Police, Capt. Nghia and his district intelligence squad and a Psychological Warfare (Psy War) team from the brigade.

After the village of Vinh Hoa had been scaled by a cordon of "Screaming Eagles," Capt. Nghia used a loud-

speaker to broadcast instructions for one person to remain in each house and the rest to move to an open area outside the hamlet.

All houses were searched for evidence of Viet Cong and all 78 men, 160 women and the older of the 267 children were questioned. Forty-nine VC suspects were detained and five were later found to be hard-core Viet Cong.

While the questioning was going on, 101st medics treated the villagers and Capt. Nghia broadcast evacuation instructions to the people.

Within three days all 498 villagers had elected to move to a refugee center near Tuy Phong. However, one convoy of 20 asserted civilian vehicles was held in the hamlet by a squad of VC who were firing at the refugees from just outside the town.

Three helicopter loads of paratroopers and part of an ARVN Armored Personnel Carrier Company came to the rescue, driving the VC back into the hills and escorting the civilians to Tuy Phong.

Capt. Nghia was given more than two tons of food by the 101st Airborne Civil Affairs section and a few days later two tons of rice captured from the VC. The villagers in Tuy Phong also took up a collection to help buy food for the refugees and Capt. Nghia set up a system of accounting and distribution to each family.



AIRBORNE PAUL BUNYAN IN VIET NAM — A paratrooper of Company A, 326th Engineer Battalion (Airborne), slices up a large tree to clear a helicopter landing zone. The dense jungles of Viet Nam added to the labors of the engineers on a recent operation of the 1st Brigade. (US Army Photo by SP4 Alva G. Tate)





NOT TO COOK — Specialist Five David L. Beville explains that the presence of the C-ration can on his M-60 machine gun is not to cook it, but to help feed his weapon while firing. His charming listeners are Miss Shelly Stimson (left) and Miss Judy Smith, American Red Cross workers with the 1st Brigade. Beville, of Nenia, Ohio, is with the "Wings of the Eagle," the Brigade's Aviation section. (US Army Photo by 1LT Arthur D. Barnett)

2/502d Inf

'Strike Force' Calls Gunships; Combined Action Kills 10 NVA

PHAN RANG— "They've got us surrounded," were the words of 1st Lieutenant David M. Belding, a platoon leader with Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, as he reported his platoon situation while engaged in a firefight northwest of Song Mao during Operation Farragut.

After a helicopter assault into the area, Belding's platoon contacted and engaged what they believed to be a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) squad. While advancing on the firing NVA, the platoon started receiving fire, from their left and right flanks which developed into a deluge of fire, pinning the paratroopers down.

As the fire increased, the NVA began to assault positions which were being held by wounded paratroopers. Private First Class Donald H. Moon of Pelvey, Mo., using a high-power sniper rifle, killed three of the assaulting NVA, firing the bolt-action weapon with speed and accuracy.

In the midst of the ho-

locust, tracer rounds set the dry area afire and smoke filled the air impairing the vision of the paratroopers. While treating wounded "Screaming Eagles" of the "Strike Force" battalion, Specialist Five Dolfey Jenkins of Awendaw, S.C., a medic with the platoon, was hindered by the fire which burned his medical aid kit and threatened to burn some of the besieged paratroopers.

At the outset of action, Captain Lucius V. Reeves of Miami, Company B commander, had called for gunships to help relieve the pressure on Belding's platoon. The dense jungle had prevented the gunships from finding the exact location of the embattled platoon.

"We were almost out

of ammo and the gunships had not fired when I told them to bring it in as close as possible and that I would adjust the fire from there," stated Belding when recalling how the gunships had struck the blow that changed the course of the action.

Making sweep after sweep, the gunships of the 10th Aviation Battalion drove the NVA from their positions to where the "Strike Force" paratroopers could bring effective fire on them. "They bailed us out," said Belding. The result was ten NVA killed and five weapons captured.

A detailed search of the immediate area revealed several bunkers and living quarters which had been occupied by a company size unit.

TO THE 'SCREAMING EAGLES' OF THE 1ST BRIGADE



WITH LOVE, NATALIE WOOD

'ALL THE WAY'

'Donut Dollies' Part Of Airborne Life

By 1LT Arthur D. Barnett

PHAN RANG — Three charming young ladies from different parts of the country have combined to bring a little happiness to the paratroopers of the 1st Brigade.

The girls are members of the American Red Cross and run the Recreation Center for the "Screaming Eagles" at the base camp in Phan Rang. They also visit the troops in the forward areas whenever possible, providing a refreshing break in the every day business of fighting a counterinsurgency action.

Shelly Stimson from Glendale, Calif., was a Christmas gift to the 101st, arriving after the holiday from IIFV at Long Binh. She has been in the country since August of 1966. For Shelley, joining the "Donut Dollies," as they are fondly called, was a chance to "see and be a part of the war effort."

Judy Smith of Cincinnati has been in Viet Nam since last July working at Red Cross Centers in Bien Hoa, Da Nang and Lai Khe before joining the "Screaming Eagles" in February. Judy

says she "joined the American Red Cross as a means of coming to Viet Nam and contributing to the war effort."

The latest addition to the 101st family is pert little Margaret Kieran. Margie, from Fisher, N.Y., joined the 101st in March and is quite enthused about her work. She came to Viet Nam when she was tired of all the talking about the war and "the Red Cross gave me the opportunity to do something."

Judy is the "Rec Center" director and constantly works at providing a full schedule of activities that keeps her small staff working and the paratroopers entertained. Starting from scratch in May of last year in a tent, the center now has a home in a spacious concrete building and offers anything from table tennis to painting for the "Screaming Eagles."

Open 12 hours a day, the American Red Cross Center and its staff provide a restful sideline for the relaxing troopers of Viet Nam's "Fire Brigade."



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GOD BLESS AMERICA

and the

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION!!!

An Afternoon In Viet Nam

By John D. Smith, Combat Medic,

PETER GRIFFIN strike@vnet.net

Great talking to you Ivan! Here is Smith's essay attachment letter. If you would, please sign my new guest book at: <http://www.angelfire.com/nc2/vietnamvet/index.html> Thanks for everything, Grif.

----- Original Message -----

From: John Eagle Smith

johneagles@pamlico.net

Home Page: <http://www.angelfire.com/nc2/Vietvet>

To: PETER GRIFFIN

Peter,

I certainly know what you mean about not being able to remember. But, just finding out this little bit is great. I may never be able to put it all together and that is ok. I have been able to come a long way in my healing just from the small things which I have been able to find out. I just moved to NC and I haven't been to any of the VA facilities as of yet, although I need to. I was going to contact the DAV to find out where everything is located. I need to get my medical records sent down here from Maine.

I am attaching my article. I am not sure how well it will forward as an attachment as it is some eleven pages long, but I'll try it. Have you been to the Wall? I am thinking about taking a trip up there this month or next. It's been about a year since I was there last and I am feeling like it's time to go back.

I have a couple of books written about the recondos of the 101st but just about all of it takes place after 1966.

I haven't been to any reunions but I would like to go. Now that I am a bit more settled maybe I can....

I'll stay in contact and I'll give you a call sometime.

February 2, 1966 (some twenty-three years ago) seems so distant in the past. Yet, the events of that day live in my mind as if it were yesterday. While serving as a medic on a long range recon patrol in Tuy Hoa, Republic of Viet Nam, myself and the eight men with me walked directly onto an ambush set by the N.V.A. (North Vietnamese Regulars) We spent over five hours in a rice paddy pinned down by heavy rifle fire. During that time we were all wounded at least once, yet, somehow we all survived. Over one hundred men were killed or wounded in the ensuing battle that lasted almost a week.

Why they didn't mount a full scale attack and over run us, that afternoon, I'll never know. I do know, however, that at times like this strange things happen, often making people suddenly turn to their, sometimes long forgotten, creators for help. I clearly remember asking mine for help and forgiveness that afternoon.

Return with me to a sunny spring afternoon in 1966 to a rice paddy somewhere in the province of Tuy Hoa, Viet Nam. We have just come to the edge of a tree line and before us lies a trail along the top of a dike which divides the rice paddy

lengthwise. It is about 1500 yards to the opposite tree line and about 600 yards to the tree lines on each side of the trail. A small oriental foot bridge arches an irrigation canal that intersects the trail about 50 yards in front of us. As soon as we cross the bridge the patrol leader signals that it is time for a smoke break. Putting down my pack, I dig out my c-ration cigarettes, light up and begin chatting idly about my upcoming R & R with the radio operator. The break passes quickly and the patrol leader signals that it is time to move out. Suddenly, off in the distance in front of us we hear gunfire. It is too far away to be aimed at us and our first thought is that one of the other patrols may be in trouble. The two point men quickly take their place some 50 yards in front of the patrol and we proceed cautiously forward towards where the gunfire seems to be coming from.

The quietness of the afternoon is suddenly shattered by automatic rifle fire. The air becomes alive with bullets, crackling like bull whips as they pass within inches of my head. All conscious thought ceases. I dive headfirst for the ground and even before I land in the foot deep water behind the dike I have disengaged the safety of my M-16. I lift my body slightly so that I can see over the dike. This is not going to be a good afternoon. N.V.A. are coming at us in swarms, like bees disturbed from their hives. I hold my M-16 over the dike and squeeze the trigger. It jams on the first round. I don't have a cleaning rod to extract the shell so I remove the clip and toss the M-16 behind me into the mud. "Damn, just my luck."

"Medic !" "Medic !" I hear that familiar cry coming from somewhere in front of me. Without thinking I jump up and begin running toward where the cry has come from. My patrol leader is lying in a pool of blood, with a neat round hole in each cheek from which blood is pouring. A bullet has passed completely through his face. I know what has to be done. "Stop the bleeding--bandage the wound--check pulse and blood pressure--watch for signs of shock." The words of the instructors at medical school echo through my mind. While remaining as close to the ground as possible, to present the least possible target, I begin applying pressure to the wound.

I shout to the radio operator, who is about fifteen feet from me, "Get us some help." I am sure that he has heard me, yet, he makes no move to respond. He is lying pressed as flat as a leaf to the ground and all efforts to get him to move are useless. Our survival depends on how fast we can get help. There are only nine of us and from what I can see there are at least ten times that many N.V.A. I dive from my position behind the dike and land next to the radio operator. I grab the microphone from the radio. "Grey Ghost, this is Lone Ranger," I scream, trying to make myself heard above the roar of gunfire. Seconds seem like hours and the radio only replies with static. Again I shout into the mike, this time trying to add a lot more urgency to my voice, as if this would make a difference. "Grey Ghost, this is Lone Ranger." Why is no one answering my call? I wonder if the damn radio is working? My heart is pounding so loudly that my eardrums feel as if

they will burst at any second. Still I get no reply, just more static.

Eternal seconds pass before a much welcome voice finally emits from the radio answering my call for help. "Lone Ranger, this is Grey Ghost," the voice replies.

"Grey Ghost we have heavy N.V.A. contact. Coordinates 47-november, 31-whiskey. We need artillery and aircover now! We've got one W.I.A.'s (wounded) and we're taking heavy machine gun and mortar fire. Lone Ranger, out." As I put down the mike I pray that they will hurry. I am not sure how long we can hold off this many N.V.A.

I return to where the patrol leader is lying. He is losing a lot of blood and I see signs of shock beginning. I rummage through my medical aid bag and find a bottle of plasma. Crack. Crack--crack. The incoming rifle fire is getting heavier. I attach the needles to the ends of the rubber surgical tube through which the thick plasma will flow. Crack. "Damn, that one was close," I mutter to myself. I puncture the longest needle through the top of the bottle and then tie a tourniquet on the patrol leader's arm. I locate a vein, inject the needle into it and hold up the bottle of plasma. Immediately bullets begin whizzing around me. Suddenly, I realize that they are trying to hit the bottle of plasma and I lower it as much as possible. Simultaneously I have another grim realization. The thick plasma is not flowing through the rubber tube. "Damn, why didn't I pay closer attention during classes at medical school," I exclaim to no one in particular. I fight to get the plasma started without success. In the next instant, with a loud crash, the bottle explodes into a million pieces, some of which make large cuts in my right hand. Pieces of glass and plasma mix with the blood that lies in pools on the ground around me.

Whoompf. A large explosion, about ten feet away, showers us with mud and water. I hear someone cry out in pain. Shrapnel, I think to myself. A few seconds later he shouts that he is all right and doesn't need a medic. Where the hell is all the help, I wonder?

There is a lull in the fighting and I take advantage of it to crawl to the side of the radioman. I shout at him that all our lives depend upon his helping us and finally, I get him to move. I give him instructions on applying pressure to the patrol leader's wounds. Just as I finish I again hear the cry for a medic.

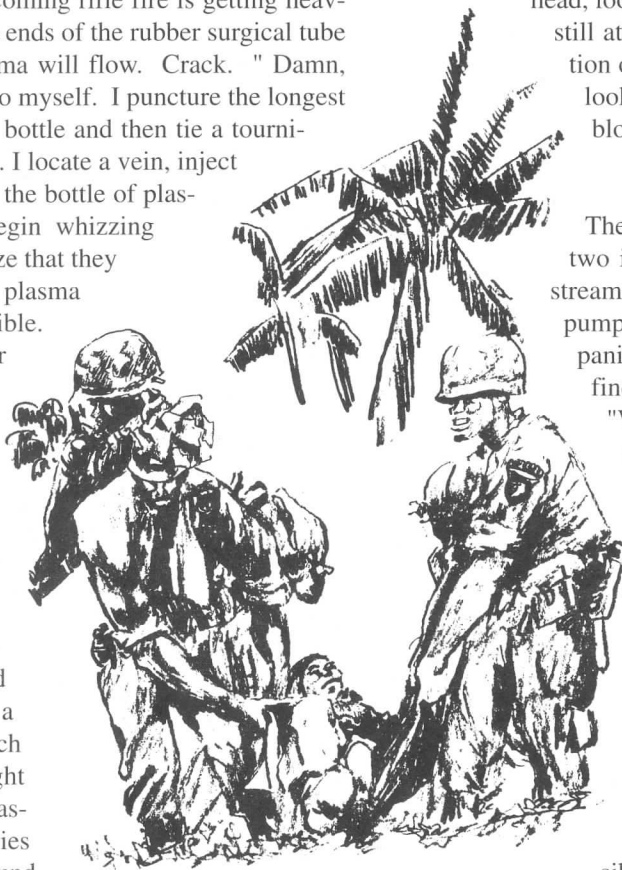
I am up and running. I see a soldier lying on his back in the mud, twisting and turning in agony. His left arm lays grotesquely in the mud at his side. Bullets have ripped off most of his upper arm muscle. He grabs my hand and begs me to stop his pain. I reach into my aid bag and extract a syringe of morphine, break off the plastic needle cover, and inject it into his leg. I insert the empty syringe into his collar, to alert the doctors at the aid station that he has already been given morphine. I apply a pressure bandage to his arm to help control the bleeding and to cover the wound. Then, I am off again.

One minute I am running. The next I am flying through the air, landing face first in the mud. The pain is excruciating. My ears are ringing. I can't feel my legs. Oh, God, I've stepped on a land mine is my first thought. I raise my head, look over my shoulder and see that my boots are still at the end of my legs and I feel a slight sensation of relief. At least I still have legs. I roll over, look down and see that my pant legs covered with blood.

For the first time this afternoon I feel fear. There is a gaping hole in my right thigh, about two inches from my crotch, from which a steady stream of blood is pumping. Seeing my blood pumping from my body like this almost makes me panic. I rip frantically at my medical bag trying to find scissors and a bandage. I find the bandage. "Where are the damn scissors?" I shout to the soldier next to me, "Take your knife and cut off my pant leg so I can get at the wound." I have no feeling, nor can I move from the waist down. I quickly check the wound. The femoral artery (one of the largest in the body) has not punctured (if it had I most likely would have bled to death). Also, I still have my manhood.

I grab handfuls of mud and pack them into the hole to help stop the bleeding. Once I have the wound full, I bandage it. I pull the bandage as tight as possible trying to stop the flow of blood into my leg. I hear a scream of pain and turn to my right. I see that the soldier next to me has been hit and part of his right kneecap is missing. I roll over next to him and begin bandaging his wound. He is trying to fire an M-60 machine gun and the rounds keep getting jammed. I tighten the bandage on his knee, then while applying pressure to his wound with one hand, I feed rounds into the machine gun with the other.

I raise myself slightly and peek over the dike. It seems as if there are more of them now than there were the last time I looked. Also, they are much closer. They are now within fifty feet of the dike. I grab a couple of hand grenades and one by one I pull the pins and throw them. No matter how easy this may look in the movies, I find that while lying on my side and using all my strength, I cannot throw the grenades fifty feet.



The explosions do however, drive them back.

Suddenly a roar overpowers the noise of the gunfire. I look up and see F-104 jet fighters streak, from their perch high in the sky, to tree top level. With each pass they release their pods of napalm, often so close that the fiery explosions sucked the air from our lungs. Rockets streak from their wingtips exploding a few yards in front of us. I wonder if the pilots have any idea where we are? Then come the propeller driven Corsairs dropping their 500 pound bombs, this time a little further away from us. With each pass they strafe the ground directly in front of us with their machine guns, driving the enemy back toward the safety of the tree line and giving us a little breathing room. I cannot remember ever being happier to see the Navy.

I hear a familiar whop-whop sound behind me. Far off across the rice paddy I see the unmistakable silhouette of a Huey. Finally, help is on the way. The helicopter flies directly over us and straight into the midst of the enemy's position. Rockets streak to the ground leaving behind thin ribbons of smoke. Some of the rockets land so close that we are showered with mud and water from the explosions. We can hear the dull smacking sounds of bullets hitting against the side of the helicopters fuselage and we watch helplessly as smoke begins billowing from the engine. The helicopter is having difficulty staying airborne and is maneuvering crazily. In the next instant a gigantic explosion rips through the air. The helicopter bursts into flames and crashes. My heart sinks and I know that our chances have just taken a real turn for the worse.

Crack. Another bullet passes close to my ear and returns me quickly to reality. Crack-crack. The gunfire is becoming heavy again and I don't have time to worry about anything except keeping my butt down and feeding ammo into the machine gun.

I hear another Huey coming. This one stops before it reaches us and starts to descend. When it is about ten feet off the rice paddy I see men start jumping from the doors. They land in the rice paddy and in a split second they become almost invisible as they flatten themselves to the ground. The helicopter unloads its cargo of men without ever completely landing and as the last man jumps the helicopter begins to climb skyward. Within the next five minutes two more Hueys arrive, bringing more soldiers who take up positions at our flanks and also in a small group of trees, about fifty yards, to our rear.

The radio suddenly blares commands from the company executive officer to begin withdrawing to that small group of trees behind us. Two men drag the patrol leader back to the rear while the rest of us provide cover fire. Another Huey arrives and I can see the bright red cross of the tail as it turns to the right and lands in the rice paddy behind us. The next second it is nothing but a ball of flames as another explosion shakes the ground and the helicopter crashes. Within a few minutes another arrives to take its place.

All the others have withdrawn to the rear and now only the machine gunner and myself remain in the original position. It is our turn to begin our crawl to the rear. Neither of my legs will work so I try pulling myself along using only the strength of my arms. I cannot move very quickly and I have to stop often to rest. After a few minutes of this, I suddenly realize that I have inadvertently left what little protection that the dike had offered. I am wide open to the enemy's rifle fire. The N.V.A. realize this also and the ground around me sprouts tiny volcanic craters as bullets smack into the mud.

I have made what may be a fatal mistake. I am caught in the open and it will only be a matter of minutes before the N.V.A. zero in on me. Over my shoulder I see what appears to be at least a hundred N.V.A. rapidly advancing toward our position. They are not going to give us up easily. I strain even harder now, for I know that my life depends on it. They are advancing a lot faster than I can crawl. In the next few minutes they will overtake me, and I will either be killed or taken prisoner. I am on my last clip of 45 caliber cartridges and squeeze off all but one shot in the direction of the oncoming N.V.A. I save the last bullet--for myself. I have seen what happens to prisoners captured by the N.V.A. and no way will I let myself be taken alive. Suddenly, from the small group of trees that I am so desperately trying to crawl to, I see a G.I. emerge and begin running toward me. Without stopping he grabs me, tosses me over his shoulders as if I were weightless and runs back to the group of trees where the rest of the rifle company waits. How he managed to carry me that fifty or so yards, through all that gunfire, without either of us being hit I will never know.

I find myself in a small clump of trees surrounded by members of another rifle company and for the first time, I feel as if I might make it out of here alive. The initial shock of my wound is beginning to wear off and I feel a sudden and severe pain in my right leg. I fumble through my medical bag and find my last syringe of morphine. I inject it into my left leg and throw away the syringe. Hopefully, the first medic or doctor that sees me will give me another shot of morphine. What the hell? After an afternoon like this I can surely use it.

I have purposely left out the names of the soldiers involved. However, I do want to salute the men who were on that LRRP (Colonel Henry Emerson's Hatchet Patrol) with me and all the men of the 2nd./502nd. Infantry, 101st. Airborne Division. Above all else, I want to express my undying gratitude to the soldier who risked his life to carry me to safety that afternoon. Without hesitation, I say that these are some of the bravest men that I have ever known. Airborne All The Way.

copyright 1-25-1989, John D. Smith, Combat Medic, HQ, Company, 2/502 Inf., 101st Airborne Div., Phang Rang, Vietnam, 1965 - 1966. Check Combat Medic Homepage.

The url for the Combat Medics Homepage is:
<http://www.angelfire.com/nc2/Vietvet>



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CG Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson
 IO Maj. Ivan G. Worrell
 EDITOR Sp4 Gil B. Valle

Rice to the people of Southeast Asia is survival — life itself.

Rice... An Editorial

...by MACV-CI

Rice contains protein, fat, starch, sugar, minerals, fibrous matter and Vitamin B. As in other countries in Asia, it is the staple food of Vietnam.

Together with salt, and coupled with weapons, it is a basic consideration in the conduct of this counterinsurgency war. Weapons determine the capability to fight; food, the capability and the will to fight. The Orient, from Iran to the Philippines, from China's Yangtze Valley to Indonesia, produces close to 90 per cent of the world's rice.

Since the first of the year, rice has been denied to the enemy in two significant ways: First, through operations aimed at the protection of the rice harvesting, and secondly, through search and destroy operations.

Operations Jefferson and Van Buren, the latter conducted by the 101st, in January and February, were directed primarily at the protection of the rice harvesting areas in Phu Yen Province. The significance of this type of operation is evident from a comparison of the last rice crop harvested in Phu Yen Province in 1965 which yielded only 9,000 tons of rice, with the recent ROK/ARVN Operation Jefferson accounting for 30,000 tons.

Further, Operation Su Bok, a Republic of Korea (ROK) forces effort which started in March, is a continuing operation which has for one of its objectives the protection of the rice crops in their area of responsibility as does the current 101st Operation, Seward.

But what is the real significance of these drives to deny the enemy his rice harvest? What importance does rice assume in the Vietnam conflict? Furthermore, what are some of the possible consequences of this loss of rice to the individual enemy soldier and to his cause?

Because the combat life of the guerrilla is replete with hardship and privation, the additional burden imposed with the loss of food tends to weaken his will to fight; lessens his effectiveness in battle, and finally; affects his health by lowering his resistance to disease.

As the individual VC suffers so does his cause and his organization. The logistics problems encountered by insurgents are difficult enough. Couple these with the losses to search and destroy operations, bombings, artillery fire, and relentless coastal and inland waterway patrols aimed at cutting the infiltration of weapons and supplies, and they assume discouraging proportions to the VC logistic effort. Deprived of other alternatives, the VC supply system must either purchase rice from farmers at a fair price, thus depleting their supply of funds, or alienate the local population by confiscating the rice or taxing to get more.

These logistical problems disrupt the enemy time table for operations. Planning, always a VC strong point, becomes less exact, and more contingent on variables beyond their control. The element of calculated military risk rises constantly until it becomes unacceptable. Finally, preplanned operations must be indefinitely postponed or cancelled because the pre-located caches have been destroyed or captured.

The enemy does his fighting on rice. Deny him his rice ration and you hasten his defeat.

Lt Col David Hackworth Gets 9 Medals At One Ceremony

WASH. (AFNB)— Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold K. Johnson honored one of the nation's fighting men at the Pentagon Oct. 5 by awarding Lt. Col. David H. Hackworth a total of nine medals in one ceremony.

The medals were: the Distinguished Service Cross, the third and fourth oak leaf clusters to the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with V-device for Valor, the second and third oak leaf clusters to the Air Medal, and two Army Commendation Medals.

It is believed to rank among the largest group of medals the Army has presented at a single ceremony.

Lt. Col. Hackworth won the awards while serving with the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division. They were pinned below a full ribbon row from the Korean Conflict, including two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars and four Purple Hearts.

Gen. Johnson pointed out the colonel was a highly uncommon man. Running away from an orphanage and enlisting in the Army at 15 in 1945, he is now a 20-year veteran at 35. During the Korean War he won a battlefield commission.

He filled out his high school education with a GED certificate and then went on to earn a baccalaureate degree from Austin Peay State College in Tennessee.

Col. Hackworth is also a graduate of the Command and General Staff College.

WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

Lt. Lynwood Mullins



First Lieutenant Lynwood S. Mullins a member of Company "A," 326th Engineer Battalion, was chosen as the "Officer Warrior of the Week" for recent actions against the enemy near Tuy Hoa.

Sgt Harvey Harris



Sergeant Harvey B. Harris, a member of Company "A," 326th Engineer Battalion, was chosen as the "Enlisted Warrior of the Week" for recent actions against the enemy near Tuy Hoa.

Editor's Column

Weigh allowances of household goods shipped on Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders have been increased for all eligible enlisted men and officers through the rank of major by DOD's Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee.

Increases ranging from 1,500 to 2,000 pounds were authorized for E-4s (four or more years' service) to E-9. For example, E-4s received an increase from 5,000 to 7,000 pounds under changes to JTR, par. M. 8003 as revised.

Officer increases reflected a similar hike, with a 2nd Lt. receiving a 9,500 pound allowance and a major's increased to 11,000 pounds.

The Red Cross Center at Phan Rang has announced the following schedule for the rest of the month of October: Friday the 21st—A Whisk Tournament (the game of cards upon which Hoyle's famous book of rules is based. It is much like poker but has twists all its own.) Sunday the 23rd—Mad Ads (a group participation game to try and out do Mad Magazine zaininess.) Tuesday the 25th—the monthly Birthday Party (free cake and coffee, mens!) Friday the 28th—Touchdown (We LA fans might as well take up a new game for a while.) Sunday the 30th—HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!— (A party is planned in the best traditions of stateside happenings... Jiggers, the fuzz!)

TEMPORARY ENLISTED PROMOTION quota has been released to major Army commanders for October. The authorization is for 32 E-9s; 164 E-8s; 629 E-7s; 2,345 E-6s; 24,237 E-5s; and 74,142 E-4s.

Dependants of active duty personnel may obtain outpatient care from civilian sources without first going through military channels under the Military Medical Benefits Amendments of 1966.

These individuals previously paid all costs when going to civilian sources. Now, the dependent's sponsor pays all charges during a fiscal year until the costs reach \$50, then he pays only 20 percent of further costs that year. If the sponsor claims more than one dependent, he pays the first \$100 and 20 percent of the remainder that fiscal year.

Once the \$50 or \$100 total has been reached, the civilian source bills the government for 80 percent of charges thereafter and collects 20 percent from the sponsor.

Most types of outpatient care are authorized. Dental care, however, may be provided only as a necessary adjunct to medical or surgical treatment. Routine physicals and immunizations are limited to dependents preparing to join their sponsors overseas under official orders.

Drug and medicine purchases are limited, except for insulin, to those obtainable by written prescription of a licensed physician or dentist.

Confab...

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

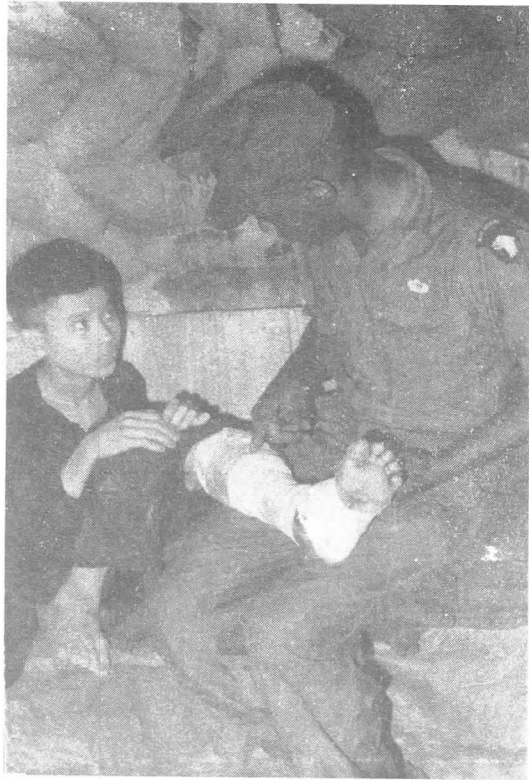
an emergency," said Staff Sergeant Burwood. Yost of Company "C," 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, "should be the object of the course, rather than teaching a squad leader what he already knows."

It was the contention of many that fire team leaders and "promising Privates First class" are the ones who could better benefit from the course, and also, before any man holding the rank of Specialist 4 in a line squad is promoted to sergeant, he should attend the Phan Rang course.

The training of new combat replacements, the squad leaders strongly urged, should have more emphasis placed on marksmanship and defense, and the use of certain students to act as aggressors to lend a more realistic picture to such subjects as ambushes and patrolling.

The highlight of the seminar was the midday

(Cont'd on p-4, Col. 5)



Specialist 5 Ned Rice 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry examines the wounded leg of a Vietnamese liberated from a Viet Cong prisoner camp. The Vietnamese was shot by the Viet Cong during an assault on the camp by elements of the battalion which resulted in the liberation of 23 people.
(Photo by Sp4 Oddvar Breiland)



Staff Sergeant Davis L. Higgins takes a break to eat watermelon while on a search and destroy mission during Operation SEWARD. SSgt Higgins is assigned to the 3rd platoon, Company "B," 2d, 327th Infantry, now protecting the rice harvest in the Phu Yen province.
(Photo by Sp4 R.S. Parker)

101ST P I C T O R I A L



Major John Gilboux, executive officer of the 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry takes a first hand look at the fruits of his labors to bring books to the barren classrooms of a Vietnamese orphanage. The major wrote his wife of the need for school supplies and was answered by six boxes of school necessities donated by the children of a stateside school.
(Photo by PFC Dan Hines)



Four paratroopers serving with the 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery, have gained fame but little fortune entertaining their comrades with melodic sounds on improvised instruments. The foursome, known as the "Roving Troubadours," are (L to R) PFC Jerry Wilrite, PFC Homer Bonds, PFC Edward Bluford, and PFC Pat Dorsey.
(Photo by Sp4 Oddvar Breiland)

In 101st Action

DFC Awarded Pilot For Extraction Under Fire

TUY HOA (1st Avn Bde) — One of the toughest missions in the helicopter business, labeled an "extraction under fire" won a Distinguished Flying Cross for Army Major James T. Radford.

Radford, a "Huey," pilot with the 17th Aviation Group's 48th Assault Helicopter Company, 10th Combat Aviation Battalion, earned the award last April supporting the 101st Airborne near Phan Thiet, 95 miles east of Saigon.

Brigadier General Willard Pearson, "Screaming Eagle" 1st Brigade commander, made the presentation at the 10th Battalion field headquarters here, where the 10th and the 101st remain paired for operations.

Radford had volunteered to attempt the rescue of five paratroopers surrounded by Viet Cong late in the afternoon of April 13th. As he arrived overhead, he found the area not only alive with VC, but too heavily wooded to land in. Enemy ground fire was intense.

Two armed choppers, also of the 48th Assault Company, sprayed the fringes of the troopers' position with rocket and machinegun fire while the airborne began blasting down trees with plastic explosives. Radford circled, waiting. When two trees had fallen, he tried an approach but again found the clearing too confined to hold his helicopter.

Two hours later Radford was still circling. All three choppers were low on fuel, the plastic explosives were gone, the 101st patrol had resorted to automatic rifle fire to gun down two more trees, everyone but the VC was nearly out of ammo, and the clearing was still too small.

Fresh gunships arrived to defend the beleaguered troops while the three fuel-poor Hueys flew back to gas up and re-arm. Before leaving, they made one low pass each as the chopper crews dropped the ammo from their personal weapons to the patrol below.

Radford's flight refueled and reloaded quickly. Heading back at full speed they bore fresh ammo and demolitions for the paratroopers. The time was about 7 P.M.

"It was really starting to get dark," Radford said, "and it had started to rain. There was just enough light left to make one more try, so if that missed, they'd have had to try to hold on somehow 'til morning."

With the new explosives the patrol unearthed one more tree and in came Radford, fast and low. He yanked his ship into a violent "flare" maneuver to bring it to a shuddering stop just over the clearing and settled it in, tail down. Deftly leveling the chopper, he then brought it to a hover, dead in the middle of the clearing, with its big rotor blades whipping past three limbs just inches away. It was a small, dim-lit target and he had hit it coming fast.

The five-man patrol, with no casualties, clambered aboard. Five seconds after the miraculous landing, the machine was roaring into a "maximum performance" (straight up) takeoff and the ordeal was over.



"Wild TV programs aren't enough, now he's got to listen to exaggerated campaign speeches!"

NFL News Notes

NEW YORK (NFL) — **LAMAR LUNDY**, 6-foot-7 Los Angeles defensive end, has become the first defensive lineman and only the third other than defensive halfback to score three touch-downs on pass interceptions... In his seven years as a defensive end, Lundy has made three interceptions and returned each for a score — the third for 33 yards against the Bears... His other TD interceptions were 25 yards vs. Detroit in 1960 and 15 yards vs. Pittsburgh in 1964... The only other non-defensive backs to score three times on interceptions were linebackers Bill Blackburn, former player with the Chicago Cardinals, and Lee Roy Caffey of Green Bay, who made his third vs. Baltimore in the Packer opener this year.

PFC Michael McGee 101st 'Power Man'

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

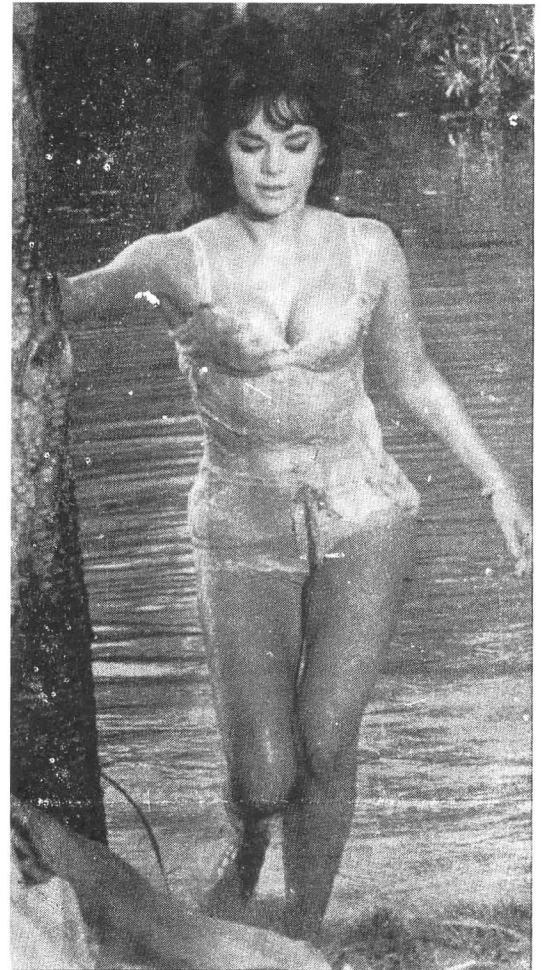
No that is not some self-styled Hercules talking. However it is PFC Michael McGee and he is exactly what he says he is — 'the power man' — electrically that is — of the "Screaming Eagles" brigade headquarters. Without him there would be no lights.

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

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

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

NOTICE !!



The watch on Miss Natalie Wood's left arm, after exposure to harsh marsh water is still ticking. Put your ear up close and Listen! Isn't that amazing! Miss Wood has just completed a one yard breast stroke... how much punishment can a watch take?! (Photo courtesy of "Operation Pin-Up" Hollywood Overseas Committee)

Confab...

(Cont'd from p-2, Col. 5) lunch attended by visiting Lieutenant General John Heiniges, deputy commanding general of MACV. Over lunch, spiced with discussion, Gen. Heiniges told the gathering that he thought the "101st had achieved [its] outstanding combat record because of the high quality of leadership on the squad level."

The afternoon session was spent with the 30 squad leaders being briefed by a representative from each of the combat support units, Artillery, Army Aviation, U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Support, and Chemical Warfare. Brigade engineers also presented a detailed study on mines and booby traps. The rest of the afternoon was used for a group discussion with the squad leaders posing questions to each representative on how they could better coordinate with combat support units during operations.



"It seems like you just came, Jimmy!"

in the gasoline for the generator. And there's always the problem of parts. But my biggest problem is the trouble with homewiring experts. People trying to fix a broken cable and all they wind up doing is blowing the whole circuit."

McGee is at his job all night and sleeps during the day, an arrangement he "likes just fine." Friends don't dare kid the 101st paratrooper about his job. "I'll turn their lights out," he quips.

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FROM THE SCRAPBOOK

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, Monday, June 13, 1966

Sgt. 'Ski,' the Rock of Charlie Company

BY KEYES BEECH

Daily News Foreign Service

DAK TO, South Viet Nam --- He stood there like a ravaged Rock of Gibraltar --- thick-necked, thick-chested, ample belly spilling over web belt, pale blue red-rimmed eyes squinting from beneath reddish brows. His three-day growth of beard was shot with tattle-tale gray, his faded fatigues caked with mud and sweat.

A look at his strong right hand showed it was swollen with blisters, and as he spoke he ran his tongue over cracked lips.

"Sir," he said, "you were asking me a while ago why I stayed in the Army so long. I think I got it figured out now. How can you leave guys like these?"

HOW, INDEED, can you leave guys like the men of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Brigade?

Or their first sergeant, Walter J. Sabalauski, who at the age of 55 was still on his feet and going strong --- well, still going --- when men less than half his age were crumpling from fatigue like rag dolls?

"I've got 26 years in and I'm going to stay for 30 if they don't throw me out," said Sabalauski, hitching up his stomach.

"Hell," said Capt. Bill Carpenter, who called for an air strike on Charlie Company's position when it was overrun by the Communists, "they can't afford to throw you out."

THIS WAS 48 hours ago in a scarred patch of red earth where engineers had blasted out a helicopter landing zone to lift out Charlie Company's dead and wounded. Most of them had been lying in the bamboo jungle for two days because the choppers couldn't get to them.

The roof of the rain forest shields both friend and foe. And as an Englishman wrote of the war against Japan in Malaya, the jungle is neutral.

I have known the likes of Sabalauski before in other wars in other places over the last 20 years. They are the "Skis" of the armed forces, a vanishing breed to whom the Army or Marine Corps is home.

There was one at Tarawa in 1943, at Iwo Jima in 1945.

There was one at Inchon in September, 1950 and there was one at the Chosin Reservoir. Regardless of what uniform they wear, they are all "Skis" to the troops.

BUT COMPARED to Sabalauski, the "Skis" of World War II were lucky. World War II was what they call a popular war. Everybody was behind it. And there was a goal --- Tokyo or Berlin. It was a simple uncomplicated war.

Korea wasn't so simple and it wasn't very popular, especially after it went sour and some people began to call it "Truman's war." But it was a war you could understand. At least it had a front, which was something.



(L to R) General William C. Westmoreland, Commander United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam; Brigadier General Willard Pearson, Commanding General of the 1st Brigade (Separate) 101st Airborne Division and First Sergeant Walter J. Sabalauski, Company C 2nd Battalion 502nd Infantry (Airborne). The photo was taken at the awards ceremony where ISGT Sabalauski was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest award for valor.

Nobody understands this war. Nobody, that is, except the men who are fighting it. It is the most unpopular war we ever fought. It is also the loneliest. And it is the first war we ever fought in which our soldiers had to look over their shoulders to see if their country was behind them.

YET THE amazing thing is that I have never seen a more courageous, more intelligent, more cheerful, more considerate, more tolerant fighting man than we have in South Viet Nam today.

"Tell them I'm scared," said Pfc. Johnny King, 20, of Chicago. King was back at his outfit's rear base about to be shipped home for a hardship discharge, when the battalion exec asked for volunteers.

"Tell my wife I'll be home soon now that this over," said Johnny King.



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Newport News, VA 23602-9130

Ward L. Jones, M.D.
2/502 HHQ VN 10/66-10/67 - 6/01
3095 Chancery Place
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362-5351

Charles Lea
326 MED D 2/67-8/67- 6/01
2522 Dundee
Lexington, MO 64067

MG(R) S. H. Matheson
1st Bde CG VN 1/67-1/68 - 6/01
26080 Mesa Drive
Carmel, CA 93923

Ronald G. McHenry
2/502 RECON VN 5/66-5/68 - 6/00
557 Mackinaw Ave.
Calumet City, IL 60409-3433

Gregory McKernan
2/327 B VN 5/65-8/66 - 6/00
144 Swan Ln.
Levittown, NY 11756-4437

Sean & Matt McMahon
Family - John R. McMahon (1/327 65-
67) - 6/00
39772 Rustic Glen Dr.
Temecula, CA 92591-4525

Timothy A. Mendonca
2/502 A 7/66-7/67 - 6/00
490 Forest Park Rd.
Oldsmar, FL 34677-2014

Kenneth R. Millspaugh
320 Arty HHC VN 7/67-5/68 - 6/00
3720 W. 91st Ave.
Merrillville, IN 46410-6858

John E. Munnely, COL USA (R)
5/27 FA BN 9/66-12/66 - 6/01
8556 Colony Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Frank W. Pandozzi
Friend - 6/00
506 Valley Drive East
Chittenango, NY 13037

Wayne J. Prokup
1/504 HHQ VN 5/67-5/68 - 6/00
6110 Westwind Rd.
Jackson, MS 39206

Edward R. Reddin
2/502 A VN 6/66-6/67 - 6/00
24 Willoughby St.
Somerville, MA 02143

LTC(R) Dick Roberts
1/327 B VN 8/65 (6/00)
3926 Prestwick Lane, SE
Olympia, WA 98501

CPT(R) Frederic M. Sieg
2/327 B Asst S1 1/66-6/66- 6/00
7387 Lullwater Rd.
Columbus, GA 31904-1932

Patrick L. Sullivan
2/327 HHC Recon 1/63-10/65 - 6/00
5655 Jarman St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

George Taylor
6/00
P.O. Box 993
Murphysboro, IL 62966-0993

Larry A. Tolbert
2/502 B Inf 10/67-10/68 - 6/00
479 Ferguson Ridge Rd.
Tazewell, TN 37879

LTC(R) John Wagner
5/27 FA C Bty VN 7/66-12/66 - 6/01
P.O. Box 397
Barker, TX 77413-0397

Randolph Worrell
2/502 C 6/67-6/68 - 6/00
120-19 222th St.
Cambria Heights, NY 11411-2043

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS BEGIN- NING 9/24/99 THROUGH 12/7/99

Thomas "Beetle" Bailey
2/502 RECON VN 6/67-6/68 - 6/01
P. O. Box 549
Libby, MT 59923

Leo W. Chaput
2/502 B 65-66 - 6/00
220 Derby Dr.
Lexington, KY 40503-2305

Rowland Cordero
1/327 C 12/66-10/67 - 6/00
C/O The Baker Family
570 Klamath Dr.
La Conner, WA 98257

Phillip E. DeBuhr
1/327 A VN 2/67-2/68 - 6/00
16 Westshore Way
Buena Park, CA 90621

William H. (Bill) Duff, Jr.
1/327 A VN 6/66-6/67 - 6/00
611 Fairlawn Ave.
Danville, IL 61832-2335

K. C. Eisenberger
2/320 Arty A&B 4/67-1/68 - 6/00
P. O. Box 666
Pryor, OK 74362-0666

Lowell M. Fleenor
2/327 A VN 6/66-5/67 - 6/00
21451 Clear Creek Rd.
Bristol, VA 24202

MG(R) Fred A. Gorden
2/320 FA C VN 1/67-68 - 6/99
3226 Falling Brk
San Antonio, TX 78258-4430

Roger M. John
1/327 C 7/67-12/68 - 6/00
11583 Splitrock Ct.
Gold River, CA 95670-7730

Harlan E. Moore
2/320 Arty A Bty 7/65-8/66 - 6/00
326 Noah Gibson Rd.
Franklin, NC 28734

C. C. Wright
2/502 B VN 63-2/66 - 6/01
721 Crawford St.
Belding, MI 48809-1215



Complete Addresses Needed

Louis J. Anjier
2/17 A ???
Vail, CO

Frank Aragon
2/502 C 1/66-5/68
Whitter, CA

Ruben Armendariz
1/327 66
El Paso, TX

Jose A. Avelar, Jr.
1/502 A 67-68
Albert Lea, MN

Edward T. Bassista
3/506 A 67-68
Bridgewater, NJ

Hillery J. Bergman
??? 1st Bde

Edward J. Berry
??? 1st Bde 66
York, PA

James W. E. Bock
??? 1st Bde VN 65-66
DeRidder, LA

James John Borrelli
??? 1st Bde 67
Philadelphia, PA

Ralph Richard L. Bowling
2/506 11/67-68
Ravenna, OH

Richard Russell Brewster
??? 1st Bde 65-66
Clarksville, TN

Ray E. Buck
2/502 B 67-69
Dayton, OH

O. Lee Chaffee
2/327 B 65-66
2/502 A 1966
Columbus, IN

Raymond G. Chandler
2/502 C 66-67
Las Vegas

Michael D. Clodfelter
2/502 C 7/65-2/67

Carl Douglas Davis
101 Admin 65
Jacksonville, FL

John C. Davis
2/327 7/67 - 3/68

Charles J. Duke
2/502 B 7/67
Athens, TX

John Haughain
1/327 A 67-68
St. Augustine, FL

Charles Hillyer
1st Bde HHC 66-67
Indian Mound, TN

James M. Lane
326 ENGR A 66-67
Port Angeles, WA

Danial Lopez
3/506 A 67-68
Anchorage, AK

Roderick Marshall
2/327 HHC 66-67
Memphis, TN
Eugene P. McKeown
1st Bde HHC 66-67
Richmond, VA

David W. Nelms
1/327 HHC TF 66-67
Hayes, VA

Chuck Nyari
1st Bde HQ 65-66
South Elgin, IL

Rene Reyes
1/327 A 65-66
Victoria, TX

Charles F. Roller
2/502 A 66-67
OKC, OK

Mail Returned - Address Correction Needed

Roger M. Conner
3/506 VN
1008 SE 11th Street
Moore, OK 73160



OBITUARIES



Manuel M. Orozco

The renewal notice sent to Manuel M. Orozco (2/502 B Vn 65 - 66) was returned by his wife Lilly with the following note. "Dear Ivan, Manuel passed away 4 - 4 - 97 at age 57. He had a lot of personality problems, some probably due to PTSD. He left and we divorced in 12/95 then he died 16 months later. Prior to this he had been a hard working responsible loving husband and father. Out of sentiment I ordered this publication but don't think I'll continue. If you should list him on your deceased list please send me the publication." [signed] Lilly L. Orozco, 13272 Nina Place, Garden Grove, CA 92843-2750.

John Blueher

A subscription form sent to John Blueher, (1/327 C 67 - 68), 809 North 39th Street, Terra Haute, IN 47803, was returned by Mrs. Blueher with the following message: "Please take John off your mailing list. He passed away June 30, 1999."

COL Chester B. McCoid

Colonel Chester B. McCoid, U.S. Army (Ret) died of a heart attack tonight (January 2, 2000) at his home in Middletown, CT, according to a telephone call from his son, who is a Special Forces Sergeant First Class in the Rhode Island National Guard.

COL McCoid, who was awarded three Combat Infantry Badges for service during World War II, in Korea, and in Vietnam, is enshrined in the Infantry Hall of Fame at Fort Benning.

COL McCoid had TEN major assignments as a colonel during multiple tours in Vietnam. He is the only man I know who refused a Distinguished Service Cross because he said he had done more to merit the Silver Star that he won with the 82d Airborne during the D-Day landings in Normandy.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete but COL McCoid almost certainly will be interred in Arlington Cemetery on or about Thursday, 6 January.

Next of kin are: Dorothy McCoid, 67 Bell Street, Middletown, CT 06457-1507, Tel 1-860-347-9823 and SFC Scott McCoid, 19 Townwoods Road, Ivoryton, CT 06442, Tel 1-860-767-7116.

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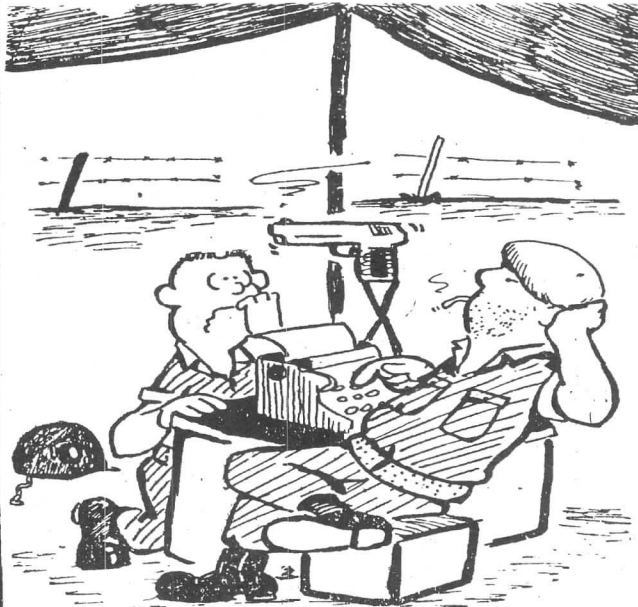
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MONTH/YEAR MONTH/YEAR



*You don't look very alert specialist!...
What would you do if I were a VC??*



(Sent by Bob Hudson)

Avera

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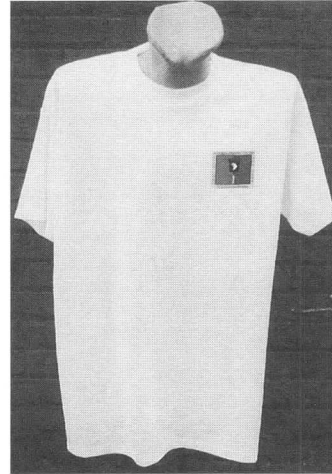
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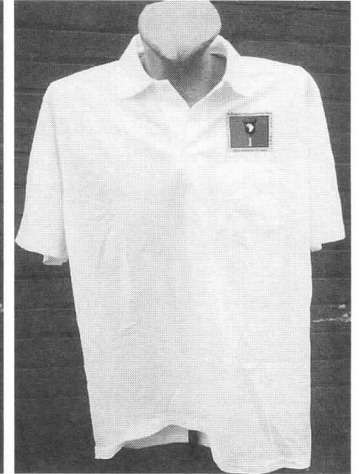


101st Abn. Div. Screaming Eagle logo cap sells for \$8.00 + \$3.20 postage, a total of \$11.20.



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

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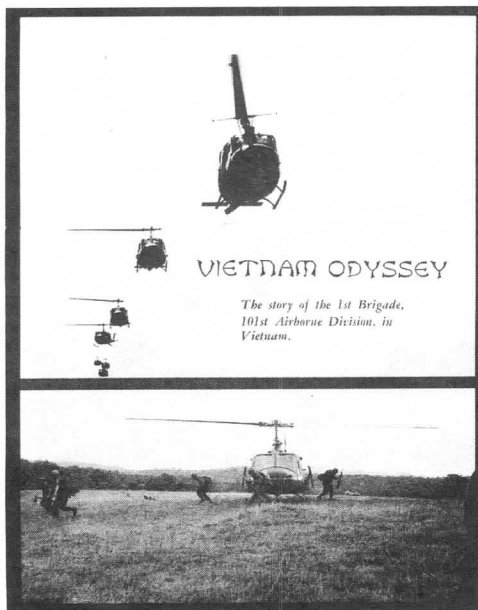
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Send order listing the item required, along with the size, and a check or money order for the total cost and postage to First Screaming Eagles, P. O. Box 675, Sweetwater, TN 37874-0675. No credit cards, e-mail or phone orders can be accepted. Orders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

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



VIETNAM ODYSSEY, *The First Year* is now available for ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE veterans.

The story of the first year of action of the 1st Brigade in Vietnam is filled with photos of brigade activities written accounts of all operations, drawings by brigade artists, statistics and other interesting personal and unit material.

The book was edited by 1LT Charles J. Apodaca. The writing and layout was done by SGT Robert F. Barry with sketches and art by SGT Robert Finney and PFC Raymond Brown. Photographs were by SGT Bernardo Mangaboyat, SP4 Richard Houghton, SP4 Oddvar Breiland and SGT Jack Baird. PFC Robert B. Gray furnished special mechanical assistance. Frank Faulkner and Steven Van Meter, who served with the brigade for the first six months in Viet Nam, provided many of the photographs.

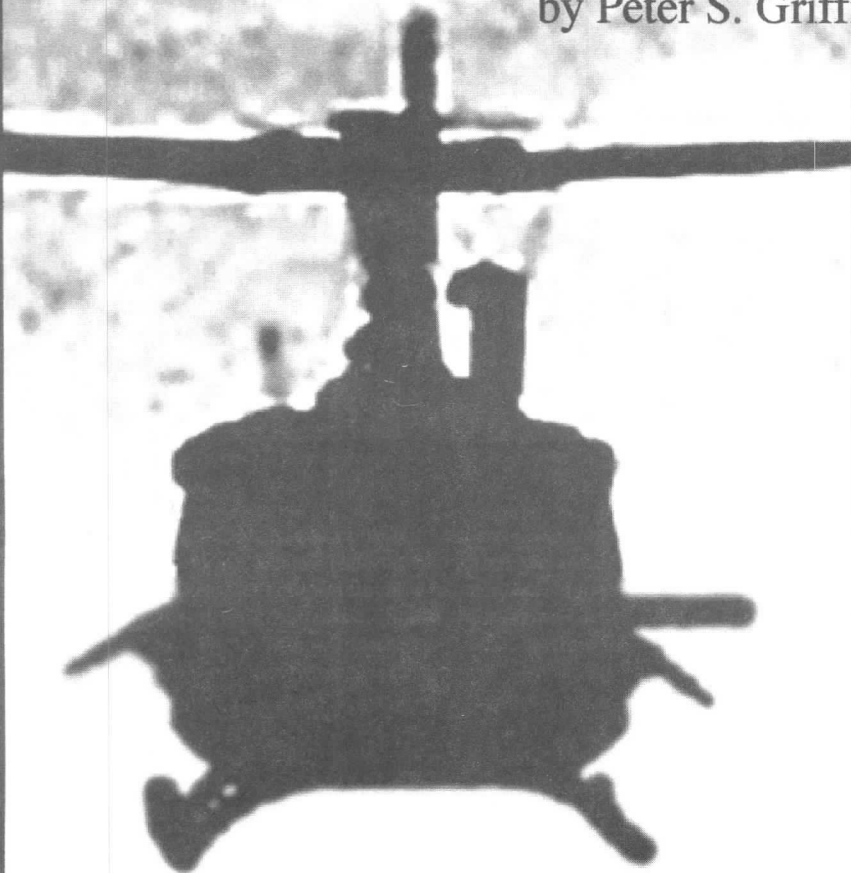
VIETNAM ODYSSEY is a 108 page 8.5 by 11 inch format, soft cover, with four pages of color photos. The layout is excellent, the photos, sketch art and text were produced by members of the 1st Brigade who were part of the history that is recorded. The manuscript was completed in Viet Nam and sent to the 101st Airborne Division Association for publication.

This third printing of VIETNAM ODYSSEY is now in short supply and will probably never be printed, in quantity, again.

If you wish to obtain a copy of VIETNAM ODYSSEY, postpaid, send a check for \$15.00 to: VIETNAM ODYSSEY, P. O. BOX 675, Sweetwater, TN 37874.

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LURPS AT DAK TOPage 1

This story was originally published in The Diplomat and Warrior in August of 1966. It is a great story and the original glossy photos of the LURPS are in the files. This story is great because it gives credit to those who participated.

AN KHE BATTLEPage 2

An official story of the brigade's actions in securing An Khe as the base for the 1st Cavalry Division.

POEM, A PARATROOPERPage 3

Bob Hudson sent other material than can be used in future issues. I have seen all the descriptions in the poem in individual paratroopers. I do not believe any one of them could have all these attributes.

DEPLOYMENT ROSTERPage 4

B Company (Maintenance) Support Battalion were all from the 801st Maintenance Battalion.

SCOUT DOGS AND A POEMPage 5

42nd Scout Dog Platoon joins the 1st Brigade. The poem is A Soldier's Premonition by Peter Griffin.

KIA AND NON BATTLE DEATHSPage 6

LETTERS TO THE EDITORPage 7 - 12

Also on page 12 is a list of other airborne publications and a reproduction of the Department of the Army VALOROUS UNIT AWARD.

THE VIETNAM ENVIRONMENTPage 13 - 15

From a 1st Brigade history produced by the 322d Military History Detachment.

TRUNG LUONGPage 16

A correction and a promise of more Trung Luong material in future issues.

VIET CONG PRISONERS FREEDPage 17

Material furnished by Robert Jacobs.

DIPLOMAT AND WARRIORPage 18 - 22

Brigade newspaper for April 3, 1967.

ADVERTISINGPages 17, 23 and 36

Thanks to these advertisers, two of whom have used four issues. We need more.

AFTERNOON IN VIET NAMPage 24 - 26

A personal account by combat medic John D. Smith.

MORE DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR ...Page 27 - 29

Pages 2, 3, and 4 from the October 21, 1966 issue. Page one was published in the July 1998 magazine.

WALTER J. SABALOUSKI.....Page 30

A story by Keyes Beech for the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS, RENEWALS, ADDRESS CORRECTIONS AND COMPLETE ADDRESSES NEEDED ...Page 31 - 33

OBITUARIESPage 33

Send death notices and they will be used in this section.

SUBSCRIPTION FORMS AND SALE ITEMSPage 34 - 35

BACK COVER

A photo from the Charles "Jim" Apodaca collection of photographs and sketches.



FIRM DATES of October 12 - 15, 2000 for the 7th Bi-Annual Reunion of the 1st Brigade (Separate) at Columbus/Fort Benning, Georgia have just been announced. Look for complete details, and registration forms in the April issue. The reunion committee is working hard to structure the best reunion possible for the 1st Brigade veterans.



Photo Courtesy The Knoxville News-Sentinel



From the Charles "Jim" Apodaca collection.

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