

*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

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Volume 4, Number 1

JANUARY 2002

The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade



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\$6.00

THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM

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CHECK OUT THE
1ST BRIGADE (SEPARATE) WEB SITE AT
www.101stabndiv1stbrigade.com

THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM

is published quarterly by Worrell Publications, Post Office Box 675, 105 McCosh Drive Suite 1, Sweetwater, Tennessee 37874-0675, as a service to veterans who served in the 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division from July 1965 through January 1968 and is mailed Standard A postage paid under Postal Permit 101, Sweetwater, Tennessee 37874.

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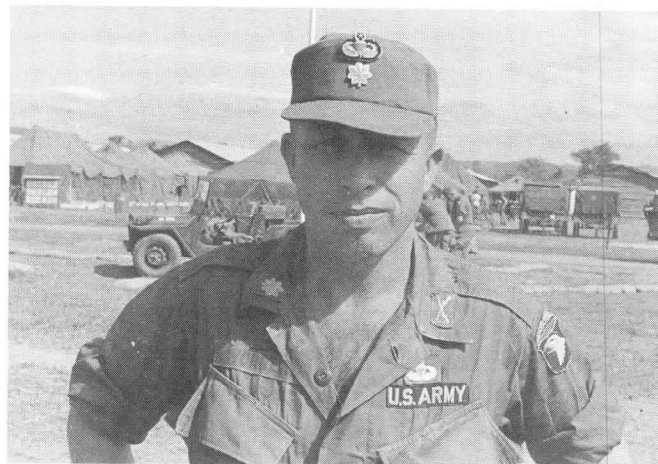
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The editor and publisher reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity and to meet space constraints. The editor and publisher has the right to refuse any article or advertisement that may, in his opinion, cause embarrassment to any veteran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

This magazine is produced by and for veterans of the ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE who served in the brigade from July 1965 through January 1968. The publication will chronicle the military history and accomplishments of veterans who served, as well as units that were assigned, attached or supported the brigade. The editor solicits material about the brigade for use in the magazine and for future publication in a book that will contain a comprehensive history of the brigade.

Another goal of the editor is to lead an initiative to place a monument, to honor members of the brigade, at the Wings of LIBERTY Military Museum at Fort Campbell, Kentucky (the museum will be located on the Tennessee side of Fort Campbell).



MAJ Ivan Worrell, Information Officer, 1st Brigade (S) 101st Airborne Division, with part of the Phan Rang base camp in the background.

Putting this magazine together has been a very interesting exercise. The other 14 were also. Although the war on terrorism has been very personally consuming for me, I have found little of what is happening now to tie to the history of the brigade in Viet Nam. My major complaints are that I am too old to be called back to active duty, even as a Public Affairs Officer, and that I was born too many years too early to be in Special Forces now. I keep waiting for word that the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) will be deployed to be a part of this war on terrorism. I am sure they are locked and cocked, ready to go.

Once more the cover art is the work of PFC Raymond Brown, part of the collection Jim Apodaca has permitted me to use so extensively. It would be great if Raymond Brown could be located so he could know what a great part he has been in presenting the history of the 1st Brigade.

THANK YOU to all who contributed material for this magazine, those whose material I have not used and to those of you that have photos and stories that you have not gotten around to sending.

More requests are coming in asking for information about the 2002 1st Brigade Reunion. The firm information I have is on page 32. A reunion registration mailing will be made in January or February when I get all the details on the registration fee and hotel particulars.



A COMPANY, 101ST AVIATION

"THE FIRST"

FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM

This unit arrived in Viet Nam a few months before the 1st Brigade. I believe they deserve credit for being first to arrive. Check the web site at <http://www.a101avn.org/>.

The History of A/101 AVN - Warriors Reorganized and Redesignated 3 December 1962, in Ft. Campbell, KY

04/65-09/66 Soc Trang, RVN, A/101 Aviation became the first element of the 101st Airborne Division to see combat since World War II.

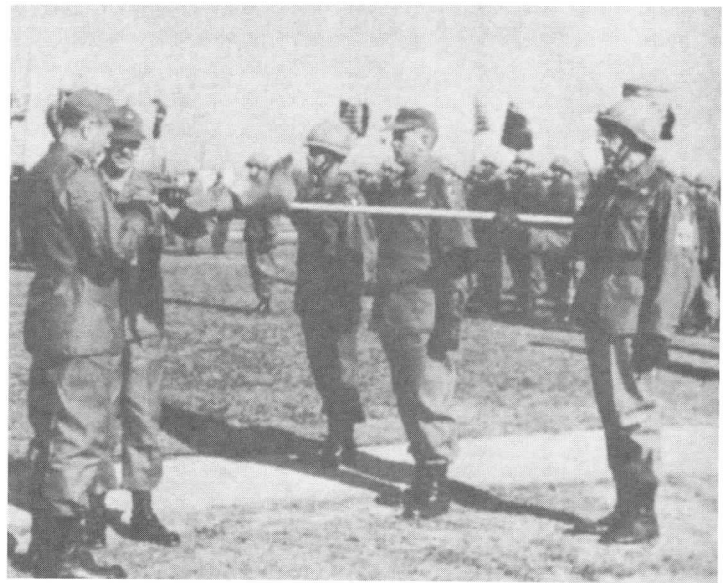
09/66 A/101 AVN Colors return to Ft. Campbell and the assets go to the 336th Assault Helicopter Company.

The 336th were assigned to the 13th Combat Aviation Battalion, headquartered at Can Tho before the redesignation and remained part of that higher HQ after redesignation. The 13th originated as the Delta Battalion (Provisional), later got the dignity of becoming a numbered battalion as a 1st Aviation Brigade asset.



101st Aviation Battalion Cited

Company A, the great 101st Aviation Battalion, is shown to the right receiving the Distinguished Unit Citation Streamer for valorous combat action in Vietnam. Gen. Sternberg, assisted by Division Sgt. Maj. Huff, is shown attaching the streamer. From left, is Maj. Herman Lawrence, present



CO; LTC Wayne Dutton, who was the company CO when the citation was earned; and First Sgt. Kenneth Johnson, a member of the company. The citation, approved by the President of the United States, was for extraordinary heroism in action June 1-13, 1965, near Dong Xoai. Attached to the 145th Aviation Bn, the company flew mission after mission against heavy enemy fire for a total of 2,700 sorties to airlift and reposition 3,500 troops during the battle. Gen. Sternberg noted that the entire 101st received this award for the defense of Bastogne in WWII but that "Company A of the 101st Aviation Bn is the first unit of the Division to receive it for actions in Vietnam. Company A displayed gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps under difficult and hazardous conditions in such a manner as to set it apart from other units in Vietnam and we of the 101st are proud and offer our congratulations." At the conclusion of the ceremony, ten helicopters of the 101st Aviation Bn executed a fly-by as the Division band played "Rendezvous With Destiny."

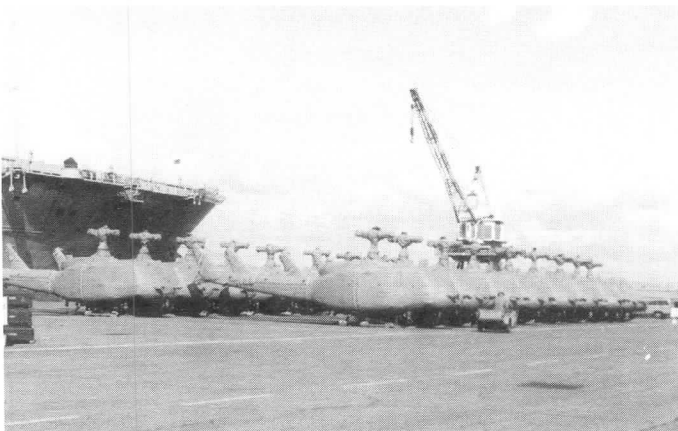
(From page 16, of the March - April 1967 THE SCREAMING EAGLE magazine, published for the members of the 101st Airborne Division Association.)

**George Nonestied, Crew Chief,
Warrior 21, 04/65 - 05/66, remembers:**

Here is a little information about Company A when I was stationed at Ft. Campbell and some of the warrior's early history in Vietnam.

I was stationed at Ft. Campbell for only 4 months, from December 1964 - April 1965. There were 2 new brick barracks located next to the airfield. Our company was housed on the 2nd floor in the barracks next to the mess hall. Air force personnel were also living in these barracks. The mess hall was open 24 hours a day. I can remember hearing the song, "The Boy from New York City" constantly being played on the jukebox in the mess hall. The helicopters were used for many reasons, but the one I remember mostly was to drop the paratroopers from.

Before we were scheduled to leave for Vietnam we all received a two-week leave. After two weeks we returned back to Fort Campbell. Around 10:00 or 11:00 PM we boarded the trucks that took us to the airfield. When we arrived at the airfield I can remember the army band playing. Around midnight we boarded the commercial jet that took us to San Diego. From the airport at San Diego we boarded the trucks that took us to the aircraft carrier Iwo Jima. Our new helicopters, trucks and supplies were already on board. Two other companies 82nd Airborne Aviation Company and the Big Red One Aviation Company were also on the Iwo Jima going to Vietnam. After 3 days in port we left for Vietnam. On the 4th or 5th day we arrived in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. We stayed in Hawaii for 5 hours. 25 days later we arrived in Vung Tau Harbor. 2 days before arriving in Vung Tau we started to prepare the helicopters for flight. Once in Vung Tau the men boarded landing crafts, which took them ashore. Helicopters were flown off the deck.



82nd stayed at Vung Tau and the Big Red One went north to their new base and the 101st went south to Soc Trang. The commanders of the 4th Corps gave us one month to prepare for operations. Within that month we flew into many different areas getting familiar with the 4th Corp. Two months later in July the 101st paratroopers arrived in Vietnam and they were stationed up north. The commanding officer of the 101st Airborne Division wanted the Aviation Company to come north and marry up with the ground troops. Warrior 21 with the 4th Corps Commanders and Company A Commanding Officer flew to Nha Trang for a meeting. The results of the meeting were that Co. A was to stay at Soc Trang. One of our missions among many was once a month, we would airlift the 173rd Airborne Brigade into the Iron Triangle.



DMOR Kenneth Lamb

from COL(R) Mike McFadden
"eagle" <mcfaddn@ix.netcom.com>

Ivan - You requested information with respect to the DMOR recognition for Top Lamb. I have mailed you several pictures from which you can reproduce as desired. After open heart



Left to right: ISGT Lamb and CPT McFadden

surgery followed by two additional operations to correct complications, there was some question about Top's ability to travel to Ft. Campbell for the award. I was given the opportunity to journey to Fond du Lac, represent all of the Officers and Men who had the privilege of serving with the First Sergeant, and present the award in the name of the 101st Airborne and the 502d

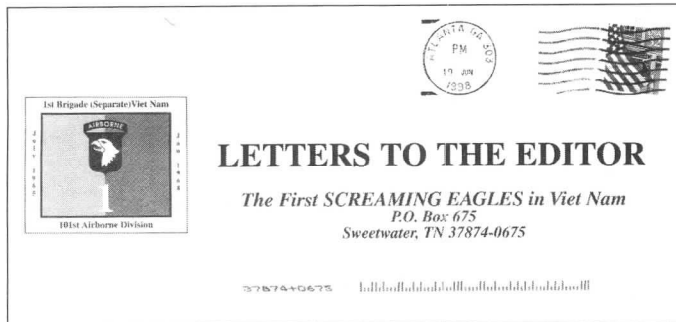


L to R: ISGT Lamb & COL McFadden

PIR. We had a meaningful ceremony at the local VFW Hall. It was a full house of extended family, comrades, and local dignitaries. Both Ken and his gracious wife Elaine were born and raised in Fond du Lac, were married there, Elaine returned there to live every time The Top had an unaccompanied tour, his sons graduated from High School there, that is where they moved when he retired from the Military, and it was there that he again retired after a responsible civilian career. In short - it was a family and community celebration - among people who hold him in the highest regard as a family man and citizen - just as we who served with him admire him as a leader and thoroughly professional Airborne Non-Commissioned Officer. I was honored and privileged to share the experience with this Man among Men - in Fond du Lac as well as in Vietnam. As for his health - although he remains a bit weak, he is recovering ... and I am pleased to report that his spirit and will is as strong as all remember.

Sincerely, Mike McFadden





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

EDWARD G. SHELTON, IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO
ESBLOGG@aol.com

801st Maint. Took boat over in 65

THOMAS COLEMAN, DRAIN, OREGON
tc4946@outdrs.net

Served with D 326 Med and on loan to the 2/327 during my tour from 1967 to 1968.

JIM CARNER, PEYTON, COLORADO
oldtanker@earthlink.net

Served in the Brigade with the 181st MI Detachment in 65 & 66 as a 96C. Never thought as a LEG I would ever land in an Airborne Unit. My proudest moments as a career soldier were those served with units of the 1st Bde during operations with the 1st & 2nd Bn's of the 327 or the 502nd, often referred to as the "O" deuce.

"YANKEE JIM" SIMCHERA, NW FL. PANHANDLE
yankeej@cyou.com
Homepage Title: 327th Eagles
Homepage URL: <http://screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com>

2nd Platoon, A Co. 2/327th Sept. 69-70. NO SLACK! Good to see a lot of familiar names. If you haven't yet, check out the 327th Web Page and sign the Guest Book. God Bless all of you. Honor & Country! Yankee Jim

TONY MCNALLY, UK
mack619@yahoo.co.uk
Homepage Title: CLOUDPUNCHER
Homepage URL: <http://britains-smallwars.com/Mac/index.html>

I have found this web site through a brave warrior called Peter Griffin, he signed my guest book and we exchanged books. I found his very emotional and helpful to myself who suffers with PTSD. God Bless you all. Mack.

+ SGM (RET) CHARLIE FRALEY, RADCLIFF, KY
cfracley@infi.net

CO A 2/327 INF 65-66. One of the Boat people looking for anyone who served during this time frame, CSM Lonnie Coats, CSM Eddie Cook, CSM Eddie Robinson, Kirby Barns, looking for these guys also Gary Akin served with Tiger Force 1/327 65-66. Anyone remember Charles Boston KIA Dec 65 was in 502 I think B Co. Trying to contact his family we all served in the 187th before being shipped out to the 1st Bde then to Vietnam. Looking to hear from any old trooper. God Bless America

+ MIKE BALDINGER, WV
Supergrover@mindspring.com

Hey 2/327 guys...Anyone remember Roger Wilfong KIA 1967? I met his brother recently. I don't know which company Roger was with. Let me know if you remember Wilfong. Will relay to his brother. Mike Baldinger C/2/502 65-66

ED MUNSON, NEW YORK
emunsonsgt@aol.com

Served with Company C, 1-327th, 2-501st, Vietnam, 1971-72.

RON JOLLY, BLOOMINGTON, IN
ronjolly101@yahoo.com

Brigade HHC 12/67-2/69. Worked out of the motor pool. Like to hear from any HHC friends.

JIM KNOX, FORT MCCOY, WI
jim.knox@wi.ngb.army.mil

Served with troop A 2/17th CAV Jan 65-Jun 66. Presently serving in active guard and reserve program on Fort McCoy, WI.

MICHAEL K. MCCARTHY, 9401 BANCROFT AVE., CLEVELAND, OH 44105
BooNeeRat@Aol.com

"C" Co 1/327th Mar 67-Feb 68 3rd Platoon (Weapons)A.G. "ABOVE THE BEST" Worked in Graves Registration in Chu Lai until 9/67. Arrived on TAC CP day before we went into Happy Valley.

+ JOE K. BERRY, 765 COMO ST., WEED, CA 96094
dnberry@snowrest.net

A Co 2/327 DEC 67 TO AUG 69 NO SLACK

+ JIM GOULD, HOBE SOUND, FL
jghawk3@hotmail.com

In the last notice I posted I listed the web site for the 101st Airborne Division Vietnam Veterans Association. The web site address is: http://angelfire.com/tx/101AbnDivVietVets/101stADVVA/Home_Pageex.html

+ JIM GOULD, HOBE SOUND, FL
jghawk3@hotmail.com

I want to invite everyone to next year's 15th Annual Florida Vietnam Veterans Reunion. The date is April 27-29, 2002 in Melbourne Florida. Check out the web site for more information: <http://members.aol.com/FLVietVets/reunion.html> The 101st Vietnam Veterans Association is set up in the camp grounds next to the Incoming Chapter of the 101st National Airborne Division Association. Incoming: <http://hometown.aol.com/deucerecon/myhomepage/newsletter.html> We are planning an unofficial reunion with some of the guys from HHC Recondos and all are welcome. I hope more of the 101st Vietnam Vets will come and join us. Jim Gould, HHC 2/502 Recondos 66-67

PAUL GRIMES, VERNOA, NJ
odeucer@aol.com

Has anyone tracked what role OR where the 101st Division is in this latest conflict. I had heard they were training at Ft. Polk a few weeks ago but gotta believe they've been deployed overseas. GOD BLESS EVERY ONE OF OUR

MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN AS THEY PURSUE THESE HATE-FILLED ENEMIES OF THE FREE WORLD. AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

Editor's Note: I believe the Division has not moved from Fort Campbell (11/27/01).

BILL CARPENTER, RAYLAND, OHIO
mrbill@1st.net

Tiger Force of 1st 327 1st Brigade 66 -67. Above the Rest.

FRANCIS J. MCCLOSKEY, GAITHERSBURG, MD
fjmccloskey@yahoo.com

Served in the 1st Plt, C/2/502 Dec 66-Dec-67. Carried the 60 most of my tour. Like to hear from anyone who served with me. Strike Force.

DONALD WHEATON, CARSON, CA
drwh@pacbell.net

Member of the 20th Chemical Detachment, 1st Brigade, September 16, 1966 thru May 14, 1968. Commanding Officer was Terry Chillders. Anyone serving with this unit or who remembers me, just drop me a line.

+ JOHN PIPPIN, FAYETTEVILLE, NC
skidrow51@aol.com

Served with A Company 2/502 from 1/66 to 2/67. Great site.

+ JOHN TAYLOR, LUTZ, FLORIDA
jmt@johnmtaylor.com
Homepage Title:John M Taylor - Author
Homepage URL:http://www.johnmtaylor.com

Ivan - As usual - another great edition of the mag. I have finally put up some more scans of 65-66 Bde photos on my web site. Let me know if you (or anyone) want any high-res copies.

+ LLOYD E. HUDSON, NEWPORT NEWS, VA
HUTSPTSD@AOL.COM

SERVED CHARLIE COMPANY 1/327 INF 1965-1966

+ DALE T. RONNING, WEST FARGO, ND
vfwdronn@vba.va.gov

Haven't checked out the website for a while so just getting caught up. Served with Co. B, 2nd 502 from late December 66 - December 67. Would like to locate Lt. David Throckmorton (heard he made General?), Gary Grayson, Rocky, Mike Gatts, or anyone else serving with Co B during this period. Would like to hook up with my brothers.

Editor's Note: None of the above are in my database.

BERNHARD BROKER (THE ALLIEN), AURORA, COLORADO
dutchindo@att.net
Homepage Title:Fairplay Police Department
Homepage URL:http://members.fortunecity.com/fairplaypd

Looking for any combat medic or former medic, who served with the 326th Med and/or 1/502 btw 1963-1966

GEORGE J. JAKUBOWSKI, CONNEAUT LAKE, PA 16316-0133
GD_jakubowski@yahoo.com

Served with HHC 1st Brigade 2/502 Recondo from July 1965 to July 1966. Went back on active duty served from 1978 to 1995, retired SFC. One of the Boat people. Looking for individuals that served during those dates.

+ JIM GOULD, FLORIDA
jghawk3@hotmail.com

Thank God for the internet. Just got off the phone with George Jakubowski. George was with HHC 2/502 Recondos 65-66. George was one of the "Boat People." We now have located three (3) guys from our squad. Was great talking with George after 35 years.

+ RICHARD DAVIS, MADISON, WEST VIRGINIA
gdavis@newwave.net

Have you ever seen so many men in their 50's who wish that they were 18-19-20 again? Especially not to be held back by the politicians.(HOPEFULLY) Sure wish they would've taken the reins off us. Once the troops start, give'm hell, for all of us. Strike Force B/2/502 Class of 66-67

TOM HAGEN, ARIZONA
thagen@mindwork.com

How can we get back in to it...in some capacity! Can the country use us? I want a chance. Who can we contact? Tom B Company 2/502.66-67. 1.800.874.1516

PAUL GRIMES, NJ
pgrimes@bloomberg.net

For anyone who would like to make a contribution to honor the NYC firefighters who perished on the infamous September 11 act of cowardly murder, I would like to offer the following. I work in NYC and a co-worker is engaged to a firefighter from this firehouse. One of these guys left 10 children. Dean Street Heroes Fund/ Engine Co. 219-Ladder 105/ FDNY/ 494 Dean Street/ Brooklyn, NY 11217/ MISSING: Capt. Vincent Brunton- Ladder 105; FF Henry Miller- Ladder 105; FF Frank Palombo- Ladder 105; FF Thomas Kelly- Ladder 105; FF Dennis O'Berg- Ladder 105; FF John Chipura- Engine 219; FF Robert Linnane- Engine 219! GOD Bless Them! GOD will also bless our service people who will engage in a humanitarian effort to rid this world of these cowardly killers of innocent civilians---men, women and children! AND GOD BLESS AMERICA!

HANK COLE, WOODLAND PARK, CO
hankcole@earthlink.net

Would like to talk to anyone 1/327. Hq Co.

E-MAIL MESSAGES

Subject: Re: Kidwell
From: IVAN WORRELL, worrell@usit.net
To: + DAVE COOK, WINTHROP, ME
cookdmsg@mint.net

David, I have a James E. Kidwell, 2/327 B, 110 King William Woods, Midlothian, VA, 23113. Last mailed to him in August 2000 and no address correction came back. Great column! Best regards, Ivan

From: + DAVE COOK, cookdmsg@mint.net
To: IVAN WORRELL, worrell@usit.net

Ivan, Thanks for the info re:Kidwell. I sent it along. Have you checked out our 327 web site? We have over 1200 Nam vets of the 327s listed on-line and some



probably don't know about the 1st Bde (S) effort you have going. I am comparing the KIA listing you provide in the magazine with the roster we are building. Sometimes, since the roster I have does list units, I can connect a trooper from your list who I don't even list. As it stands right now, we have 970 1st Bde Nam dead listed. There are probably another few hundred to find and locate. Another feature of our roster is that you can search it by date. When you visit go to the search mode and type "2-7-66" in the date place and search. What should be displayed are all the casualties on that day. Those were some tough days. So long for now Ivan and let me know how I can help. Above the Rest! Dave

Editor' Note: 327 website is: <http://www.screamingeagles-327th vietnam.com/>

Subject: Re: Vietnam 9/66 to 9/67
+ KENNETH E. MOOI, APACHE JUNCTION, AZ
frya@uswest.net

I am inquiring about C Company 1/327 during the mentioned time frame, to include areas of operation, casualties, and roster of personnel for same time. I would like all info available pertaining to operation near Chu Lai on 8-18-67. Any information or links would be greatly appreciated. Thank you Kenneth E. Mooi, 2nd squad leader, 2nd platoon, Cobra company 1/327, 11547 E. Vine Ave. Apache Jct. AZ. 85220; Phone 480-986-9094.

JOHN OSBORNE, 62 Bay 7th St., BROOKLYN, NY 11228
MANZAONE@aol.com

I'm John Osborne, 2/327 HQ Recon Platoon 63-66. I would like to talk with others from the 101st Brigade. I would also like to contact a buddy named EDWARD CZARNATTA from Conn. Thank you in advance.

Editor's Note: No CZARNATTA in database. Can anyone help?

Subject: Membership
B. WESLEY, PARKER, CO
b.wesley@ix.netcom.com

Long time ago we were together in the 10th SFG and then in the 101st. Guess it's time again for me to renew/restart my membership. I'll send in the application in the next couple of days.
Sincerely, Braden Wesley, aka Walter B. Wesley

----- Original Message -----
From: HANK ORTEGA, hankpac@yahoo.com
To: LARRY G. FRAZIER, frazierlg@ctos.com
Subject: 101 Jump in Vietnam

I have been asked by several people to check out the story that makes the rounds now and then that the 101, specifically the 327 made a non-credited parachute jump from C-130's near Kontum in 67. I heard this while I was there, but paid it little attention, then heard it again and again over the years. It has become one of those larger than life legends. Someone always knows a guy who did the jump, but almost no one says they actually did the jump. What information might you have or what pathway would you suggest for me to check this out? Thanks. Hank Ortega, Tiger Force, 1/327, 68/69.

Hank Ortega, hankpac@yahoo.com
<http://hankstigerforce.spedia.net>

----- Original Message -----
From: LARRY G. FRAZIER, frazierlg@ctos.com
To: HANK ORTEGA, hankpac@yahoo.com
Cc: + CSM(R) JOSEPH M. BOSSI, jbossi@commandnet.net
Subject: Re: 101 Jump in Vietnam

Hi Hank, Thanks for the message, sorry for the delay. I too have heard some of these stories, but have no facts. I would like to forward your note to CSM(R) Joe Bossi because I'm sure he can add something to this.



----- Original Message -----
From: + CSM(R) JOSEPH M. BOSSI, jbossi@commandnet.net
To: LARRY G. FRAZIER, frazierlg@ctos.com
Subject: Re: 101 Jump in Vietnam

Larry, the jumps were for refresher training. The Inf. Bn's in the Brigade started training while the Brigade was still in the Tuy Hoa area before moving to Kontum. Operation Junction City which the 173rd Abn Bde, 2nd 503rd made the jump on 1 Feb. 1967. At the time of the refresher training no unit had yet been selected for the airborne part of Operation Junction City. Instead the 1st Bde went to Song Be, where the second C-130 with CPT. Carpenter crashed, and was able to get back into the air and flew to Tan Son Nhut airport and crash-landed. I know because, I, along with the Brigade LRRP element, was in the aircraft. JMBossi

----- Original Message -----
From: + RICHARD SCHONBERGER, richard@gspectrum.com
To: + CSM(R) JOSEPH M. BOSSI, jbossi@commandnet.net
Subject: Re: 101 Jump in Vietnam

Hi Joe, I have a slightly different recollection of the period when we did the practice jump in Kontum. We stood down over Xmas-New Year's and jumped during that stand-down, I remember being in the Bn TOC when everyone went in following the jump. (Ironically, have just come back from 3 weeks in VN, and saw the rice paddies south of Kontum which served as the DZ, the airstrip we landed and took off from is still there too.) We deployed on a new operation in the tri-border area following New Year's and remained in the AO till late Jan or early Feb, when the whole Bde redeployed to Phan Rang for the Westmoreland-Pierson farewells. That was the period when we should have been on Junction City! Hope this is useful. Hope your health is good and you're still full of piss and vinegar! Regards, Dick

Subject: Re: 101 Jump in Vietnam
From: + CSM(R) JOSEPH M. BOSSI, CLARKSVILLE, TN
jbossi@commandnet.net
To: + RICHARD SCHONBERGER, SPRINGFIELD, VA
richard@gspectrum.com

Captain, Wrong! My birthday is the Third of Feb. and Junction City was the Second of Feb. The front page of the "Stars and Stripes" had the picture of a jumper hanging from the top of a tree as the aircraft approached Bia Loc not (Song Be). We took off from Phan Rang. Upon leaving Kontum, I was one of the people who did the history making return by convoy to Phan Rang. After the C-130 hit into the lip of the runway and the pilot got the aircraft back into the air, the remark forever burned in my mind is, "We're gonna die because of a Goddam Humg Bug. Joe."

Editor's Note: Larry Frazier is the web master for the 101st Airborne Division web site. He served in C Company, 158th Avn in Viet Nam. See page one of the July 2000 magazine for more information on the Kontum jump as told by Jim Joiner.

RODNEY EADES, WASHINGTON, D.C.
rodneyeadesdrc@webtv.net

I was a member of the First Brigade in 1965 and sailed on the "Gen. Leroy El Tinge" to Vietnam with the Brigade. I was in Co. A, 1/327, 4th Platoon. I have, since 1965, been in contact with only two of the men in the fourth platoon. I am hoping you may be able to provide me with some contacts with any of the men of the fourth platoon who you may have an e-mail address for. In particular, our Platoon commander whose name slipped my mind years ago. I remember him clearly as a dedicated and competent officer. Our Platoon SGT was John T. Humphries whom we always called "Jumping John."

I left the Brigade while in An Khe one day before the big fight in the valley in that area. I was discharged from the Oakland Army Terminal on 26 Sept 1965 and returned here to Washington, D.C. It has now been 36 years since I served with the 1st Brigade and I have nothing but the fondest memories of my service with the Brigade. Any assistance you may be able to provide will be greatly appreciated!!

CSM(R) Joseph M. Bossi [2/327 HHC 6/66-7/67], Honorary Sergeant Major of the 327 Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2231 Pendleton Drive Clarksville, TN 37042-5618, sent the following message and photo. This information replaces the canceled Distinguished Member of the Regiment Ceremony scheduled for September 11, 2001. Those present are shown with their 327th DMOR certificates.

+ JOE BOSSI, CLARKSVILLE, TN
jbossi@commandnet.net



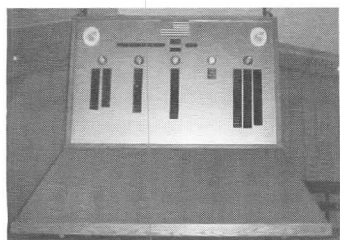
Ivan, names left to right: SGT James R. (Yankee Jim) Simchera, [2-327]; SP4 Ken Ihle [1/327 C 3/65-7/66] 11465 Bristersburg Rd., Catlett, VA 20119-2517; SGT Dale (Hannibal) Hansen [2/327 D 8/68-8/69] 133 Colonial Dr., Mabank, TX 75147-7261; SP4 Douglas N. Field, [2/327 B 4/66-12/67] 219 Southwick Lane, Peachtree City, GA 30269-3911; Willis F. Rohr, 327th Glider Infantry Regiment WWII, 742 South Vine Street, Hinsdale, IL 60521-4458; CPT James A. Page, Regimental Adjutant, 1st BDE 101 ABN DIV (AASLT), Building 3780, Fort Campbell, KY 42223-5000; (front row) SGT Johnnie C. Lindsey [1/327 HHC 8/66-8/67] 1028 Ellen Ave., Wake Village, TX 75501; SP4 David J. Markham [1/327 C 10/66-10/67] 3410 Adelaide Drive Erie, PA 16510-2102 and LTC(R) Louis M. McDonald [2/327 B 5/66-10/66] 3950 E. Midas Ave., Rocklin, CA 95677-2420.

+ DEBBIE EARLS, TUCSON, AZ
debbieearls@hotmail.com

Hi Ivan! I can't get over what a great job you did in the October issue. I have so many favorites in it (my father's number one of course, you really got those pictures good). Ft. Benning is reviewing my father for their Hall of Fame induction? I got his records and the OCS picture and newspaper Silver Star Ranger are both from Ft. Benning. I liked the statue in your issue. Civilians, here in Tucson I sent it to, just love the whole magazine! I naturally took it to the dentist, and they all read it! I didn't know it, but a high school friend just went to the wall and took a picture of my father's name. I asked her to mail you a copy for your work. Everyone thinks you did the cover note though.? I hope you like it. ha! ha! I mailed Vanessa in Australia some mail today. I hope she likes receiving it (don't tell her). My mother and brother just got their issue and are thrilled with the job you did, as well as the family in Tennessee. I'm out of issues. I'm not sure yet if I'll be able to order any more right now. Thanks for your work Ivan! Past! Present! Future!

Editor's Note: Debbie, Thanks for the compliments! I hope you will continue to learn more about the Army career of your father and that you will get some feedback from 1st Brigade (S) readers.

Subject: Re: Roll of Honor
+ BJLL KELLER, TUCSON, AZ
BKe2076635@aol.com



My name is Bill Keller, I was the Bn Supply Sgt for 2nd Bn 327th Inf (Abn) when we arrived in RVN June 65. Respectfully, Bill Keller, CW3, USA, Retired I would like to share this photo with you. For the past few weeks, I have been working with Dr. John Aker (Pastor of Christ Community Church) in Tucson.

Pastor Aker a former Paratrooper, asked me if I would assist in making this Roll of Honor for all people from the Church who are involved in the military. This Roll of Honor is a metal plate 4 ft x 8 ft on a roll around pedestal. Each of the services has an INSIGNIA and below that is a list of people from that service on magnetic name tags, so more can be added as needed. I considered this a great honor to assist in this project. I hope that you enjoy the photo.

+ WILLIAM PORTER, EUREKA, CA
BoomBill@aol.com

On page 18 of the Oct. 01 magazine you have a photo of Roger Wilfong. He was KIA Oct. 27 1967 NW of Tam Ky. I am attempting to get as many photos of my company (who were KIA and now on the wall) posted on the virtual wall as possible. Kinko's Copies are now scanning photos for people free of charge and posting them on that site. Am I ok to use that photo from the magazine and have it posted? I don't want to use something that isn't mine without checking. Thank you..Bill Porter B 2-327th. Ivan..The address is: www.thevirtualwall.org Thank you for the permission to use the photo. Kinkos Copies and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund are in partnership in this "Put a face with a name" campaign. If you have Kinkos where you are, stop by and pick up the brochure. It is very nicely done. Thank you again and also for your great publication.
No Slack...Bill Porter

+ JOHN "JACK" KENNEDY, FAIRFAX STATION, VA
Histreestu@aol.com

I have received the albums and your note. Hope you found some interesting photos. Col. McCoid's son Scott, my brother-in-law is overseas now with the Special Forces. He sent a note saying he is fine and looking forward to knocking on the doors of those responsible for 11 Sept. All the best, Jack

Editor's Note: Thanks, Jack! I plan to use these photos in upcoming issues.

JOHNNY VELASQUEZ, LIVERMORE, CA
EAGL4EVR@aol.com

Fellow Screaming Eagles, For all of you who have called, and sent get well cards, I want to thank you so much. It meant a lot to Lillian and me. The surgery on my back went extremely well, and I am now recovering at home. Lillian deserves all the credit. She is a wonderful nurse to me. But you can't keep a trooper down long. I will be up and around in no time. Thanks again, and God bless all of you. Airborne, all the way. Johnny Velasquez

+ WAYNE DILL, ATHENS, GA
Mdillinga@aol.com

Hello Ivan.The Captain in the picture (inside front cover October 2001 issue) with you is Bill Northquest. He took command of C Co. 1/327 in late 1966 or early 1967. He was one or two commanders behind me as I recall. Hope this information helps. Warm Regards, Wayne Dill

Editor's Note: Thanks! I found his address using 411 and he is now a subscriber.

+ DEBBIE EARLS, TUCSON, AZ
debbieearls@hotmail.com

Hi Ivan, Hope you're good. My brudder sent you some mail with \$101 money order w/order and donation. He said he put it in c/o me. He is at a temporary address for work. He's used my address before and it doesn't need c/o me. He'll change it as soon as he can. Please let us know if you don't receive it. I have started to get feedback on the issue (OCT 01). VAs in Murf., TN, I guess were really jazzed. It got in the hands of a man who was pallbearer at my father's funeral! Small world. See you later. Thx.

DON & MARTI LONG, MURPHY, NC
dmlong@webworkz.com

Ivan, I'm attaching a story concerning activities in support of the 1st Bde on 15 May 67. We refer to it as "Chump Valley." It is a small E-W valley apx 20 km NW of Duc Pho leading into the larger N-S Song Ve valley. The number for wounded and killed was provided later by 101st personnel. I think the number may be lower. I can't remember if the unit we were supporting was 1/327 or 2/327. Perhaps some of the 101st guys will remember. I have a photo of the valley but will have to dig it up. I can send it by email. Hope this helps.
Don (SEE PAGE 24)

JERRY TURNER, FRIENDSWOOD, TX
egturner@mail.ev1.net
Organization: A Co. 101st Avn. Bn. 65-66

Received your invitation to join the "The Always First Brigade" (Separate) 101st Airborne Division. A Co. 101st Avn Bn arrived ahead of the 1st Bde, we were in fact the first 101st unit to arrive and see combat in RVN, we arrived in April 1965 and were assigned to the 13th Avn. Bn. in the Mekong Delta until late 1966, when the Colors were returned to Ft. Campbell and then A Co. deployed with the remainder of the Division in 1967. We would like to receive some credit and recognition for being the first 101st unit in Vietnam. I don't believe we were ever assigned to 1st Brigade while on the first deployment. I will join your association if we receive credit for our accomplishments. It seems that the entire Division has forgotten us, no one recognizes our service from 1965 through 1966 in combat in RVN. Please refer to our WEB site at <http://www.a101avn.org/> for further information on our service while in Vietnam, thanks.

Respectfully, Edward G. (Jerry) Turner, A Co. 101st Avn Bn, Warrior 25, Soc Trang RVN 1965-66

Editor's Note: See story on page 1

+ MICHAEL PRITCHARD, LA VERNE, CA
mjprit@adelphia.net

Ivan, here are two photos from A Troop, the first was taken by someone when the CAV was ambushed along the coast between Phan Rang and Son Mao (not sure of the spelling or how someone had enough time to take pictures). The second is a photo of Costello taken near Duc Pho about July 1967. Hope they can be used in the JPG format.



Costello



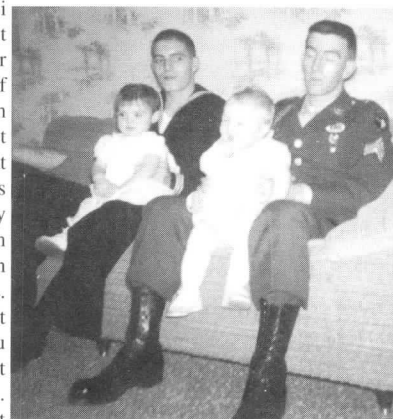
Ambush

+DEWEY SMITH, LIMA, OH
dksmith@wcoil.com
Subject: Fw: Sgt Donald Kramer

My name is Dewey Smith and I served with B, 1/327, 1st Bde way back in 1966/67. I have been contacted by family members of Sgt Donald Kramer in



the hopes of locating someone that had served with him. Sgt Kramer was stationed with the 101st at Ft. Campbell in 1965 and was shipped to Vietnam in January of 1966. His overseas unit was B Co, 8th Cav, 1st Air Cav Div. Sgt Kramer was wounded by a punji stake in October of 1966 and sent back to the states. Shortly after arriving in the states he died of complications resulting from those wounds. His family is most interested in finding anyone that served with him while he was with the 101st and especially anyone that served with him while he was stationed in Vietnam. His nephew, James L. Cooper, can be contacted at <jlcooper@wcoil.com> or you can contact me at <dksmith@wcoil.com>

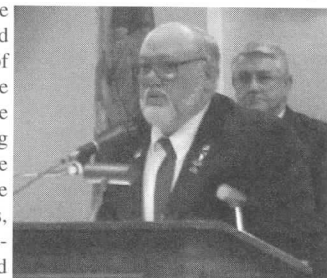


Attached is a photo of Sgt Kramer holding his young daughter during Christmas of 1965. Also pictured is a family friend that elected to join the Navy and his daughter. I thank you for any help you can provide in locating anyone that served with Sgt. Kramer.
Above The Rest, Dewey Smith

+ JIM WILSON, LODI, CA
spider6b@lodinet.net

Ivan, just wanted to let you know, Ron Paulsgrove and I attended Sgt. Fred Tregaskes induction into the Pennsylvania Hall of Valor on Oct 7th, at the Soldiers and Sailors Hall in Pittsburgh. There were thirty inductees, three from the Civil War, and only four or five living inductees. This was quite an honor for "Treg" and his family. Ron and I were proud to be there for him. If any of his B/2/327 friends see this, he says to say hello and give him a call sometime. -- Keep up the good work Ivan, Best regards Jim Wilson

As I said in my posting on the web-site, this was really quite an event. The Soldiers and Sailors Hall in Pittsburgh is a beautiful gothic style building built around the turn of the century, and is actually a military museum, with a huge banquet hall for such events as this. There were thirty men inducted with Fred and three were from the Civil War and one of these men was recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor, by none other than General George Armstrong Custer, if that gives you any idea of the significance of this award. There were only about five or six living inductees, surviving family members made statements on behalf of the deceased inductees. Fred would not allow anyone to push him to the podium for his award and statement in a wheelchair, however did allow me to help him to the stage on crutches, so he could stand like a man (his words) and receive his award and induction. I wish I had recorded his statement, he very graciously thanked the men in B Company for saving his life, and accepted the award on behalf of every man who served in the 101st Airborne Division in the Republic of Viet Nam. He got a standing ovation from the very large crowd in attendance and I don't think there was a dry eye in the house. Fred was a hero back on June 27th 1967 and he still is today, he works with disabled vets in his community, as well as wheelchair bound folks, was the Purple Heart Assn. commander for many years, and still manages to farm his 240 acre farm in Templeton Pa. Fred's son by the way is an instructor at Ft. Benning, talk about tradition. Ron Paulsgrove and I had a great time visiting with "Treg" and remembering those days so long ago, I guess its always that way when old paratroopers get together for a little while. --- Anyway Ivan I'll get those pictures to you, so long for now and No Slack --- Jim Wilson



L TO R: Fred Tregaskes and Jim Wilson.

FROM THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

+ MARION STEIGERWALD wrote: Enclosed is Dieter Steigerwald's renewal (2/327 HQ 12/65-12/66) and also a first time subscription for a new found veteran of the Trung Luong battle. His information is as follows: Calvin A. Bridgers, 2/327 HQ, served in Viet Nam: 12/65-11/66, 7659 B Massey Way, Elkins Park, PA 19027; (215) 576-6207.

Subject: "Friendly Fire"
+ SID FULLER, WESTMINSTER, CA
SirSid@surfside.net

Dear Ivan, I was sure surprised to see the picture of the tailless Caribou in the July issue. Back in August '67 I was in HHC A.T. platoon 2/327. Our usual routine was to guard artillery at night and patrol during the day. We were attached to a non airborne battery of 155 Howitzers, instead of B battery 320th artillery. McCann, Nisheama, and I were digging in and B.S.ing when we noticed a plane coming in low, maybe 200' above us. The battery was firing which was unusual during the day, but they were celebrating their 200,000 round fired in Nam and had some generals in for the ceremony. When the plane was overhead the gun behind us fired and hit the plane's tail section. The plane was blown into the village attached to the special forces camp. I grabbed my side arm and headed for the village. NCO's from the battery were stopping men from going to the crash site. I was ahead of them and with the 45 they may have thought I was an officer so I got through. When I arrived at the plane the nose was down, crushing the pilots, and the tail was up. Fuel was leaking, fortunately no fire. I heard voices calling for help so I climbed up where the tail should have been, looked down and saw two medics trying to untangle the crew chief. I climbed into the plane to help. One medic felt a pulse and tried to resuscitate him; it was obvious he was dead. The door was pried open and a stretcher was passed in. We struggled to get him on it; one problem was his size, he weighed maybe 230 lbs.-large by infantry standards plus we were working in a tight space. There was no cargo except for a briefcase full of documents, which I gathered up and gave to someone on the outside. When we got the chief on the stretcher the medics took the front and one at a time squeezed out the door. When I got to the door I called for help and "Black Panther" 2/327 C.O. came over and took one end so I could exit the plane. The four of us carried the crew chief to the aid station. I walked back to my position and resumed filling sandbags.



Sid Fuller

Sid Fuller, HHC A.T. Platoon, 2/327, 1967

Editor's Note: Sid Fuller, (2/327 HQ 3/67 - 9/67), 13622 Chestnut Street, Westminster, California 92683, was a witness to the midair destruction of an USAF Caribou near Duc Pho (see July 2001 issue, page 14). This is his account of the incident.

+ BRIAN R. BINGALES, 1/327 B 9/66-10/68, 2213 Rayor Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001 when becoming a new subscriber wrote: Enclosed find my subscription fee for the newsletter. I am glad to have the opportunity to have access to veterans of the 1st Brigade. I hope I can contact people I served with. Something else that is a sore point with me is the jump we did. I wonder if anyone else thinks it should have been considered a combat blast? During my tours, my mother was a tireless saver of newspaper articles concerning ANYTHING about the 101st. I also have a couple of articles about myself, my Company Commander Capt. Schlak and the rest of "B" Company that appeared in the "Stars and Stripes" newspaper. If you think any of this would be useful to you in your project I could make copies and send them to you.

Editor's Note: I would like anything that pertains to the 1st Brigade from July 65 - January 68. If you will send originals I will scan them and return them to you within a few weeks. Next best is copies, which I will also appreciate. If you have photos taken during your tour they would be especially helpful.



+ LARRY D. EARLS, FAMILY-1LT Larry Earls-KIA (01-02-67 Kontum, Viet Nam), C/O Debbie Earls, 9008 E. Ironbark St., Tucson, AZ 85747 wrote: I would like to thank you for the outstanding write-up you did for my father and others, as well as those who contributed. Enclosed please find a check for a one year subscription (to begin with the October 2001 issue), with the remainder to donate to your endeavors of preserving my father and his Vietnam Brothers' history.

Editor's Note: Along with this new subscription and contribution, Larry also purchased a cap and auto tag.

+ DAVE BROWN, 2/327 C 6/66-2/67, 26298 Indigo Drive, Park Rapids, MN 56470-5190 when renewing his subscription wrote: Just a note regarding your inquiry about the Captain in your photo in the Oct. 2001 issue. He was our C Company commander in mid to late 1966 (C 2/327). I'm embarrassed to say I don't even remember his name, although I was his RTO for a short time after his other RTO rotated out. What really caught my eye in your photo was the Band-Aid on his right hand, I distinctly remember it. Sorry I can't be of more help. (Dave Brown, 1st Squad, 2nd Plt, C Co., 2/327, 6/66-2/67 WIA)

+ KENNETH B. TAYLOR, 2/327 C 6/66-6/67, 1611 Antelope Trail, Harker Heights, TX 76548 wrote: I recently participated in the 101st Abn. Div. Reunion held in San Antonio, Texas. I met a person from the 1/327 who was in Vietnam the same time that we were there. I didn't know that "Jungle" Jim Joiner was one of my Company Commanders when I was there. He had commanded C Co 2/327. A picture was taken of the people from 1st Bde for you since you didn't attend. I joined your 1st Bde organization after I heard many good things about it. Last March we exchanged some e-mail and I attempted to send you some stories I wrote about things that happened to my friends and I in Vietnam. It is written from my perspective and about my memories but reflects the time and comradeship of a special military unit. I don't know if it got through in e-mail so I'm sending it in hard copy. There are 22 stories and you may want to print one or two in your magazine. I also have some photographs that were almost burnt in a fire. Perhaps I can get them copied and send them to you. I work for the Army now as a GS-11 government civilian (same as a MAJ). I oversee a special "virtual reality" training system here at Fort Hood, Texas. We are fast approaching, being the first (high tech) "Digital Corps" in the Army. Vietnam taught me to kill as many bad guys as fast as I could, in order to stay alive. I'm helping them learn to do that still today. A few weeks ago the Assistant Secretary of the Army visited and he asked my site manager when Airborne was ever used successfully in combat. I was jokingly told by one of the escort officers that he was surprised tankers would let me on their post. I told them we all do the same thing. Some walk and some ride. He said when at Fort Bragg the soldiers acted like they were something special. I told him they deserved to be special because Airborne always gets put in the worst places. Some of the staffers were surprised we contradicted the Asst. Secretary but we've already been to Vietnam so what could he do. I also have a degree as an Art Teacher. I may be able to do a painting for one of your covers.

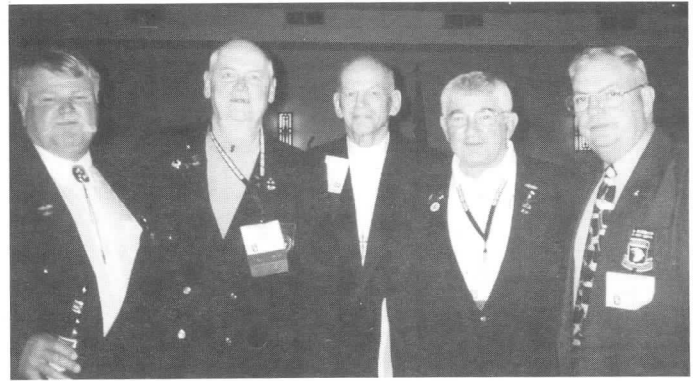
Editor's Note: Your email did come through. Thanks! I plan to use your stories in upcoming issues. I would like to have your photo for the magazine.

+ MSGT(R) ALAN L. GLOVER, 326 ENGR A 6/65-6/66, 6112 Conaway Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28314-2700 sent the following message along with his subscription renewal. Thank you, Ivan for the reminder. Enclosed you will find a m.o. for two (2) years subscription to "The First Screaming Eagles." I've had friends and old comrades call me from all over the country to say "hi," and this is all because of seeing my name in "the magazine." Keep up the good work. I'm making plans for next years reunion now. See you there.

+ = Current subscribers (as of 11/27/01)



This photograph was taken after the 327/401 Infantry Regimental Dinner at the 101st Airborne Division 56th Annual Reunion in San Antonio, Texas, in August 2001. Near identical photos were sent to the editor by Denis Parsons (327th WWII) and Richard C. Schonberger (2/327 HHC 7/66 – 7/67). I can recognize most of those in the photo but will not try to list them for fear of using an incorrect name.



In this photo taken following the 327/401 Infantry Regimental Dinner are (from L to R) the following NO SLACK troopers: Michael F. Wilson (2/327 A 3/67 – 3/68), LTC (R) James C. Joiner (2/327 B&C 1/67 – 1/68), Chaplain (LTC) [R] Richard L. Heim (2/327 HHC 5/66 – 5/67), Richard C. Schonberger (2/327 HHC 7/66 – 7/67), and COL [R] Larry A. Redmond (2/327 A 5/67 – 2/68). Photo sent by Dick Schonberger.



Tom Willard with U. S. Army Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki at the Pentagon. General Shinseki chose *BUFFALO SOLDIERS*, written by Tom, to be included on the Chief of Staff's Professional Recommended Reading List. Tom was presented with a coin at this meeting.

101 books for museum

Tom Willard, 1/327 TF Medic 7/65-11/65, has purchased 101 hard cover copies of his book, *THE STONE PONIES*, which he will mail to the first 101 donors of \$26.00 to the Fort Campbell Historical Foundation. Mail your checks to Tom Willard, 1711 Valle Moor Drive, Bismarck, ND 58501-2579, along with information about the unit in which you served in Viet Nam and a short inscription you would like Tom to note in the front of your book. Make one check, for \$26.00, payable to the Fort Campbell Historical Foundation, and an additional check for \$3.90, for Priority Mail, to Tom Willard. This is a one-time offer. The hard cover edition is out of print. Paperback editions are available in bookstores.



The communications platoon of 2/327 taken at Tuy Hoa, Viet Nam in June of 1966. Names listed on the back include Lt Pearson, SFC Lee and SSG Alexander. If you can identify others please write to the editor. Photo from the Samuel J. Watson III Collection





NUTS

AN AIRBORNE PUBLICATION



VOLUME 1 NUMBER 4

APO U. S. FORCES 96347

25 OCTOBER 1965

COMMANDERS NOTES

The following article, which appeared in a "Letters to The Editor" type column in a mainland newspaper, is one of the finest examples of the verbal expression of the pride and confidence all troopers might profitably consider in their daily missions against the hostile enemy.

"Fear is a Viet Cong guerilla.

I will be afraid 24 hours a day and seven days a week. But I will not, I can not let this fear render me helpless in the war that could be a milestone in the utter defeat of communism that will ultimately come.

Why? Because I and others after me will make it so. I am the pride of my country. Upon my shoulders rests the fate of all mankind. Right now my country is watching me.

My fears are pitifully small under these circumstances and are greatly overcome. I am the ultimate in the machinery of war.

My heart, my unconquerable soul believe and know that I will not fail in my mission. When my country sent me they put forth their best effort. I will do anything in my power to see to it that my country's belief in me is not rendered the bludgeoning heartbreak that doubt can bring. My motto is "Death before Dishonor."

I am the pride of a country struggling to be the pride of the Almighty God. I am the United States Army's 101st Airborne Division."

Remember that fear is a human emotion common to us all. It is the man who overcomes his fear who excels in all actions. Be justifiably proud of your traditions and never commit any acts that would shame you or your unit. Never conduct yourself in any manner that might give you cause for regret or remorse. In every respect you are the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division responsible for your actions before God and man.

J. S. TIMOTHY
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding



AUSTRALIANS AID MP'S

SIoux FOILS VC

Once again a 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division's OH-13 and the heroic and quick actions of the pilot and passenger averted a possible disaster this week while operating in support of a battalion mission. The helicopter, piloted by WO Kenneth Wymer of Star Tannery, Virginia, was carrying Major Burton J. Walrath of Bellingham, Washington, XO of the 2nd Bn (Abn), 327th Inf on an observer mission when they spotted a friendly reconnaissance patrol preparing to cross to the north bank of the Song Am river approximately 14 miles northwest of Qui Nhon. At the same time they observed 20 armed men scurrying into a trench on the north edge of the river.

WO Wymer put the small unarmed chopper into a screaming dive over the unsuspecting VC while Major Walrath engaged them with an M-16 rifle. As the craft skimmed over the enemy at 600 feet Major Walrath radioed the recon patrol, which was incidentally from his Battalion, and advised them of the situation. The enemy engaged the Paratrooper patrol immediately; however, after a short, sharp battle the VC withdrew with no friendly casualties noted. The VC casualties were unknown.

This was the second such event involving the use of an unarmed observation helicopter as an impromptu yet effective fighter aircraft in support of the Brigade's activities. Earlier last week Lt Col Joseph B. Rogers of Chicago, Illinois, was placed in a similar situation which also foiled a VC ambush.

24 October 1965 - Volume 1 - No 4

Col J. S. Timothy - Cmdg Officer
Capt Paul W. Apfel - Info Off
Lt Dennis C. Murphy - Editor
Sp/4 Max Tauer - Photographer
Sp/4 Michael Haas - Asst Editor
Pfc William Warren - Rptr/Phtg
Pfc Steven Van Meter - Rptr/Phtg
Sp/4 Arthur Hernandez - Pressman

An authorized publication, this newspaper is published for the troops by the Information Office, Headquarters 1st Brigade 101st Airborne Division, APO US Forces 96347 on a basis of 1 copy per 3 troopers.

News, features, and photographs will be accepted but no payment made. Publication of contributions depends on space availability, news significance and publication policy. Responsibility for publication rests solely with the editorial staff. Armed Forces Press Service, (AFPS) material appearing in this publication may not be used.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

SAMPANS SUFFICE

With the onslaught of the NE monsoon season in the Northern coastal region, the U.S. Army's 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div found their inventiveness and ingenuity tested as they continued to seek out and destroy VC element in preparation and security of the area to be occupied by the Republic of Korea Capital Division around Qui Nhon. Patrols dispatched from base areas encountered rivers where streams showed. The only method of determining where the rivers began in the masses of water is to observe the point (lead) man of the patrol. When he suddenly slips from sight yet quickly emerges wet from steel helmet to jungle boots, you've found the river.

The tempo of the paratroopers' offensive activities has not slackened however, as these troopers now venture forth in locally produced sampans and rubber engineer reconnaissance boats where the terrain will not support vehicles. Recent company and Bn operations have completely disrupted all organized VC activity South of the SONG AM river which is approximately 10 miles north of Qui, and the main city of Qui Nhon and its environs. The 2nd Bn (Abn), 327th Inf, in a recent operation dubbed Bunker Hill, killed 7 VC (BC) and an additional estimated 15, captured 1, and detained in excess of 215 possible VC, mostly young men of military age, many of whom were subsequently identified as VC through local interrogation. The Bn further discovered and extracted 20 tons of rice, quantities of North Vietnamese currency and a cache of medical supplies. The 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf, utilizing some ingenious and effective means of extensive patrolling in two search and clear operations, accounted for an equally impressive toll of VC. 55 gallon gasoline drums have been pressed into service as hasty culverts and pontoon supports. The 2nd Bn 320th Arty has been supporting the combat infantry Bns on a daily basis allowing quantities of wood, formerly ammo boxes to be fashioned into a variety of rafts and supports by

ingenious paratrooper carpenters. The end result of all efforts has been that nothing has stopped these airborne troopers in their hunt for the VC. Mobility differentials are weighted heavily in favor of the US troops as they continue to keep the VC off balance. Lt Col James R. Wilson, Deputy Commander of the 1st Bde noted with great pride that "These troops are great; this rain hasn't slowed them down a bit. The VC may have counted heavily on our being bogged down but we've shown him that paratrooper ingenuity can reduce any obstacle."

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A popular line by Miss Higgins in "My Fair Lady" claimed that "The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain." Well, I'm not really sure where the rain falls in Spain, but there is little doubt that "the rain in Vietnam falls mainly on the troopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division." (No matter where they are.)

There are many ways of looking at this continuous flood from the heavens that we have been blessed with, but first we must gather a few facts. A quick look in our handy almanac tells us that the monsoon season comes to the Central Highlands of Vietnam in October and it rains until the following March.

Glancing at the calendar we realize, much to our dismay that the rains are here to stay; and that even rhymes even though there's nothing very poetic about the steady pitter-patter of rain on a steel pot.

Now that we have accepted our fate we must of course look immediately to the bright side of things; did I say bright? Well, there is nothing very bright about a dreary, rain filled sky, but you know what I mean. For instance, just think how all this wonderful rain is helping next year's rice crop; Oh, you say you won't be here next year to see it! Well then remember the days at Cam Ranh when we went for weeks without a shower and we had to switch to a man's deodorant to keep from losing our buddies; well now we get a shower every day whether we want one or not. So you see, all this liquid sunshine is really a blessing in disguise.

A famous man named Joe Schmaltz from Pocatello, Idaho, once said, "Everybody talks about the weather but nobody ever does anything about it." Obviously, Joe wasn't a paratrooper or he would have found a way to beat the rain. Take the Screaming Eagles for example, they may have gotten their feathers wet, but they rose admirably to the occasion.

When the first rains came and the deluge descended upon us, the evacuation engineers (that's a Pvt with a shovel) went right to work rerouting the small rivers that ran through their tents so that they would run through someone else's tent. This saved most of the tents but those at the end of the line never stood a chance as the water swelled up and over their tents leaving only the tent pole points sticking out.

When the river rose threateningly and the CP began floating away, it was time to evacuate. Breaking camp in the middle of the night in the mud is a wonderful experience if you plan to make a habit of breaking camp in the middle of the night in the mud.

Once again, the Airborne spirit prevailed and the camp was floated to the new location. With all the activity involved

in erecting the various tents, the natives must surely have thought that the circus had finally come to town.

Morning came quickly but the rains came quicker. The engineers ran to their shovels and began digging furiously, but many a water-logged trooper found out the hard way that you can't dig a six inch drainage ditch under twelve inches of water.

But the Airborne Troopers plunged (literally) themselves into their wet surroundings knowing full well that Uncle Sam went to a lot of trouble to keep him dry by putting drainage holes in his jungle boots.

If you're longing for that old sunshine we enjoyed at Cam Ranh, I'll offer you a few good reminders in the form of poetry:

The Cam Ranh heat is hard to beat, for my brains would almost fry, but now somehow we must swim to our chow, and I can't find a way to keep dry

The Cam Ranh heat is hard to beat, for the sun would boil my brain, but now I stay wet wherever I set, and I see no quick end to this rain

The Cam Ranh heat is hard to beat, for the heat waves were very wavy, but now I find no peace of mind, for I might as well be in the Navy

The Cam Ranh heat is hard to beat, for the sun was tough on a Bloke, but now we all shout "Wish that sun would come out," and we'd even welcome heat stroke.

The Cam Ranh heat is hard to beat, which I wrote to my wife and daughter, but now I see, how wrong you can be, for here I must write underwater

The Cam Ranh heat is hard to beat, and the warm water gave no elation, but here we don't drink, just get rained on and think, how to get a fast change of station.

MASTER PARACHUTIST

Congratulations to Major Bliss W. Wilder, Executive Officer of the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, on receiving his Master Blaster's wings.

US STRENGTH IN VN UP

Saigon (AFPS) - United States military strength in the Republic of Viet-Nam was approximately 139,670 as of Oct. 7, according to the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Viet-Nam.

By service there were: Army - 83,600; Navy - 5,900; Air Force - 13,200; Marine Corps - 36,700; and Coast Guard - 270.

PROMOTIONS

Recently promoted to 1st Lieutenant were Lieutenants James A Garner, HHC 1/327 and Neil A Fiore, 181st MI Detachment. Also making the promotion list was WO William H Marchman, HHC 1st Bde to the grade of W-2.

NEW CAPTAINS ARRIVE IN BRIGADE

We welcome to the 1st Brigade 101st Airborne Division Captain William H. Parker and Captain Oliver W. Dillon, both from the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

You need a faith that has a past, a present, and a future. The Apostle Paul had such a faith. He voiced it at one time in this way: "We should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raiseth the dead, who delivered us. From so great a death, and doth deliver; in whom we trust that 'He will deliver us'."

It is great to have a faith that has a past tense; that is, that you have had some experiences in which God has rewarded your faith and done something wonderful for you; however unless your faith has a present tense right now, it is meaningless to you for today's needs. The "Old time religion was good for our fathers, but you'd better have a religious faith of your own."

Finally, your faith should have a future tense. This is what we mean when we speak of our Christian Hope. "I do not know what my future holds, but I do know Him who holds my future."

REPLACEMENTS ARRIVE

Replacement Detachment, 101st Admin Company, Support Battalion, received and processed its first large group of replacements.

Approximately 70 replacements have arrived to boost the strength of the Brigade and should arrive in their respective units this week.



REFUGEES RETURN

As a direct result of the intense activity of the 1st Brigade 101st Airborne Division, against the Viet Cong in the Qui Nhon area, a total of 11 hamlets have been resettled during the last three weeks. 2500 people reentered hamlets previously controlled by the Viet Cong before the movement to Binh Dinh Province of the Screaming Eagles 1st Brigade.

Where fighting and terrorist activity once ruled, firm governments now stand within the hamlets. The rice paddies that not so long ago were the battle ground in the Brigade's surge northward, are now being harvested by friendly refugees.

This marks a major gratification for the Brigade for its role in the restoration of freedom to the Vietnamese people.



LEAFLETS GRANT PASSAGE

More than 600,000 leaflets were dropped over the Phu Cat Mt Range, 20 miles northwest of Qui Nhon, RVN by members of the Army's 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division this week as they stepped up their psychological warfare against the Viet Cong.

Two different types of leaflets were used in the early morning operation. The first depicts peaceful family life in South Vietnam and appeals to the VC and their families to abandon the two faced Communist cause and return to share in a life of peace. The second shows the poverty and hardship of the VC soldier, exploited by the Communists as opposed to the wealth and strong support of the South Vietnamese Army.

In addition to carrying a strong message showing the Viet Cong the hopelessness of his situation, the leaflets guarantee his safe conduct when presented to any forces supporting the South Vietnamese Government.

Staff Sergeant Gary L. Smith, 1st Brigade Civil Affairs NCO, from St. Paul, Minnesota, assisted by Specialist Four William Stephens, of Gilliam, Louisiana, dropped the 600 pounds of leaflets into the VC infested area from two Marine H-34 helicopters.

Sgt Smith stated that a number of Viet Cong each week have come over to the Government forces as a result of this open arms policy.

As well as the dissemination of information by leaflet, the Civil Affairs section has prepared several tapes to be broadcast from aircraft, in support of the Brigade's psychological warfare mission.

CIVIL AFFAIRS IN ACTION

Carrying on the mission of Winning the Hearts of the Vietnamese people was SSgt Gary L. Smith, Civil Affairs NCO for the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division when he presented the Kim Chau Orphanage in the village of An Nhon, RVN, with 60 bags of rice, 14 blankets and 50 pounds of candy last week.

The orphanage which provides shelter and food for 132 children, elderly men and women was in dire need of assistance, which Sgt Smith saw the need for and went into action.

Working long hours gathering rice from captured VC caches, and getting collections from the Screaming Eagles to purchase the blankets and candy, Sgt Smith's efforts were more than justified by the grateful smiles and kind words of the 132 recipients for the Paratroopers' aid.

"A" TROOP PRESENTED CIB

The U.S. Army's "A" Troop, 2nd Squadron 17th Cavalry of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division became one of the few Cavalry units in the history of the U.S. Army to receive the Combat Infantryman's Badge at a formal ceremony near Qui Nhon last week.

The "Screaming Eagles" Cavalry under the command of newly promoted Captain William R. Wilson, from Merced, California, received the coveted Infantryman's award for their performance as a provisional Infantry Company while attached to Task Force Hansen, a provisional Infantry Battalion during Operation Highland for a period of 35 days.

As a motorized Infantry Company Troop A participated in most of the Brigade's operations in the An Khe area. They also had the responsibility for the security of strategic Highway 19 and the safe passage of the more than 200 convoys that traveled between Qui Nhon and An Khe. Additionally this unit bears the honor of having accounted for the first VC killed by the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

Pinning the CIB on the troop guidon James S. Timothy, the Brigade Commander from New Orleans, Louisiana, stated, "I know of no other unit that deserves this award more than you, the 17th Cavalry."

'HI-MOM' CALLS SLATED AGAIN

Washington (AFPS) - The ninth annual "Hi-Mom" Christmas Telephone Call program will put more than 1,000 servicemen overseas in touch with their families at home this year.

Sponsored by the Communications Workers of America (CWA), AFL-CIO, and run by overseas USO clubs, the program pays the cost of phone calls home during the holidays for hundreds of men.

Local CWA unions are also participating by financing free Christmas calls from families in their own local communities to military relatives overseas.

WESTMORELAND COMMENDS BRIGADE

General William C. Westmoreland, COMUSMACV, made a visit to the Headquarters of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division last Monday at their CP near Qui Nhon.

The General was briefed by the Brigade Commander, Colonel James S. Timothy, on the mission and disposition of the paratroopers in the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

General Westmoreland remarked after the briefing that he had had high expectations for the Screaming Eagles Brigade when it first moved into the central highlands - Qui Nhon area; however, the Screaming Eagles had exceeded these expectations. He commended all the officers and troopers of the Brigade and expressed his confidence in the success of their future offensives against the VC.

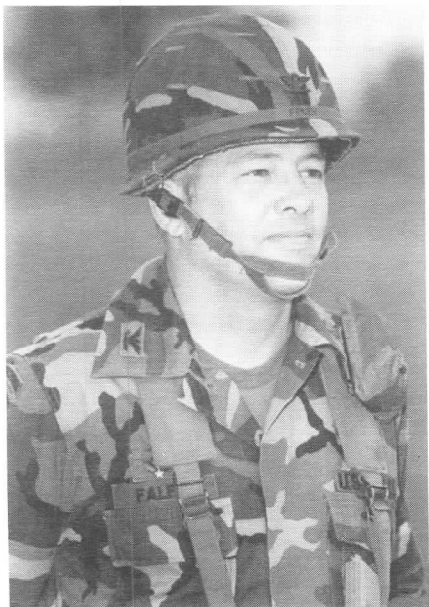
MYSTERY SOLVED

First Lieutenant Thomas E. Faley, 25 year old platoon leader of A Troop, 17th Cavalry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division has good cause to remember the day his troop participated in Operation Bunker Hill, a search and clear operation conducted by the 1st Brigade against the Viet Cong last week near Qui Nhon, RVN.

Lieutenant Faley, a resident of Harrisburg, Pa., recalls a startling incident that day. "We were moving through the rice paddies toward our objective when the Viet Cong opened up from a village to our front. I felt a whack at my right leg that sent it forward several inches. I turned and asked by R.T.O. (Radio Telephone Operator) if I had been hit. 'Nope, no blood showing,' so I let it go at that."

The solution to the mysterious "whack" came two days after the operation. As Lt Faley was drying out his soaked clothing he found a small hole through the hip pocket of his trousers.

Examining his soggy wallet he discovered, placed as neatly as a green back dollar, a 30 caliber bullet from a Viet Cong rifle.



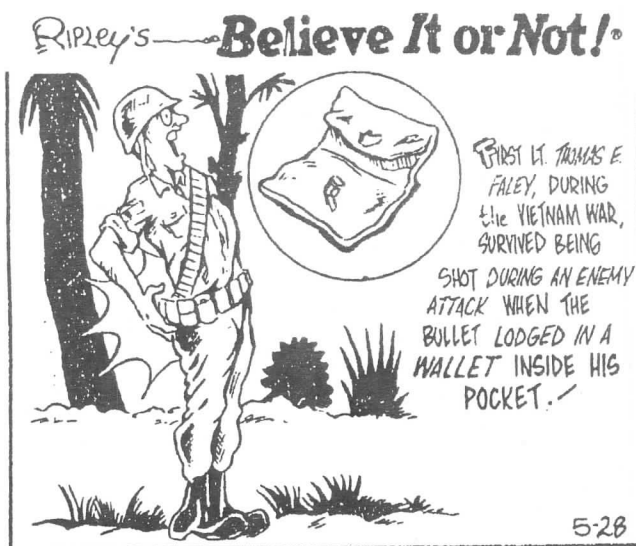
COL Thomas E. Faley, Jr.
Brigade Commander
4th ROTC Brigade 1985- 1987,
Fort Knox , Kentucky

COL(R) Thomas E. Faley, Jr. (2/502 C 1/65-10/65) sent the NUTS troop newspaper that precedes this. The last story (above) was picked up by many news agencies and led to the *Ripley's Believe It Or Not* and *Strange As It May Seem* features. The Ripley article was published in May of 1992. The story Mutual Surprise at An Ninh, by Tom Faley begins on Page 16, was published in the August 1997 issue of VIETNAM Magazine.

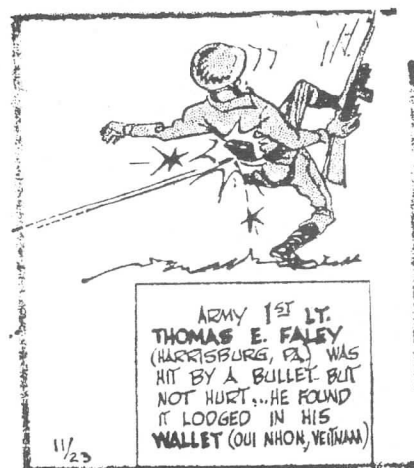
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The story and photos on the next page appeared, on page 9, of the CASEMATE dated December 7, 1990. CASEMATE is the post newspaper at Fort Monroe, Virginia.



Strange As It May Seem



Wallet prominent memory of Vietnam

BY ANNE LUCEY

Cadet Command Public Affairs

One of the first things people usually notice when entering a soldier's office is the wide variety of decorative items. There are the usual plaques, photographs signed by former office mates and co-workers, and just general memorabilia from a military career.

Col. Tom Faley's office is no different — it only seems that way.

The difference is very slight — more a feeling than something you can put your finger on.

The items decorating his office are not there to impress visitors, or because his wife won't let him keep them at home. Everything has a special meaning and evokes memories of other places, people and times.

One such item is a small, inconspicuously framed, series of news articles.

These articles depict an event that occurred 25 years ago and might seem insignificant to some, but is certainly very important to Faley.

As a first lieutenant assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, Faley led a reconnaissance platoon against the Viet Cong near Qui Nhon, Vietnam, in 1965.

Their mission, as part of Operation Bunker Hill, was to search for and clear the area of Viet Cong soldiers.

"We were approaching the village across a field of rice paddies during the middle of a typical October monsoon. It was pouring so hard that we couldn't see much of anything. Suddenly, we were hit with sporadic rifle fire and we dispersed to charge the village," says Faley. "All

at once I felt a heavy whack that knocked me forward a few inches.

"I told my radio operator that I thought I was hit, but he said there was no blood showing and we went on. At the time, I didn't think much about it because all of the fire was coming from the front rather than the rear."

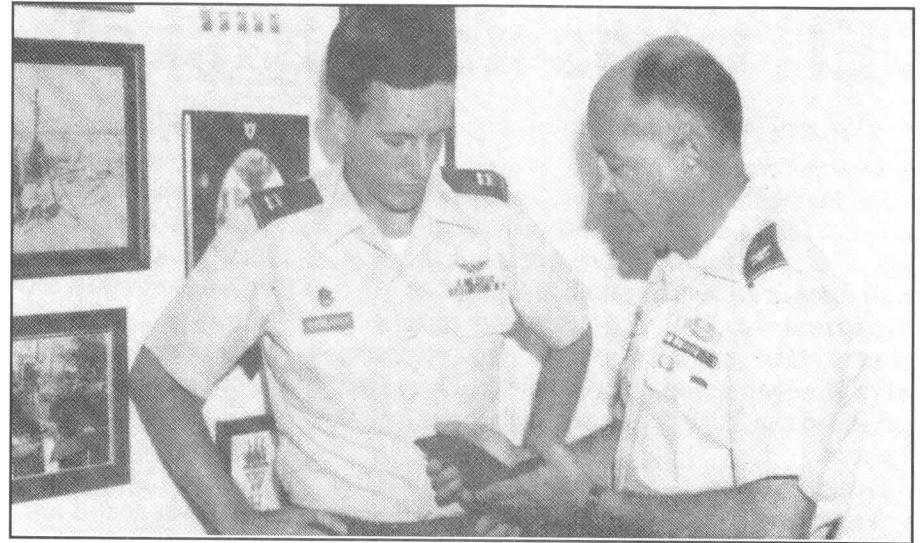
Several days later, while drying out his still-soaked clothing, Faley noticed a small hole in the left rear pocket of his trousers. He pulled out his wallet and found a .30 caliber bullet neatly imbedded in the photograph section of the wallet.

"The bullet must have ricocheted off a rock or something. Whatever happened," Faley chuckled "my wallet saved me from a rather embarrassing wound in a vital area!"

The story was originally reported in the 101st Airborne newsletter. It was then picked up by the United Press International and appeared in several stateside newspapers. It also appeared in the Army Times and the syndicated column "Strange As It May Seem" which is similar to Ripley's "Believe It or Not." It is these articles that Faley has framed and hanging on the wall in his office.

He still has the wallet. The bullet is lodged solidly on the inside and there are holes and indentations in the plastic photograph covers where the bullet finally came to rest.

The wallet itself is in good condition. Remarkably, the outside is not marred at all; the bullet entered through an end-seam and left a tiny slit in the leather. There are a couple of photographs dating back to Faley's days as a cadet at West



Photos by Charlie Alston

Col. Tom Faley (right) shows Capt. Tom Rheinlander the wallet that saved him from a wound in a "vital area."

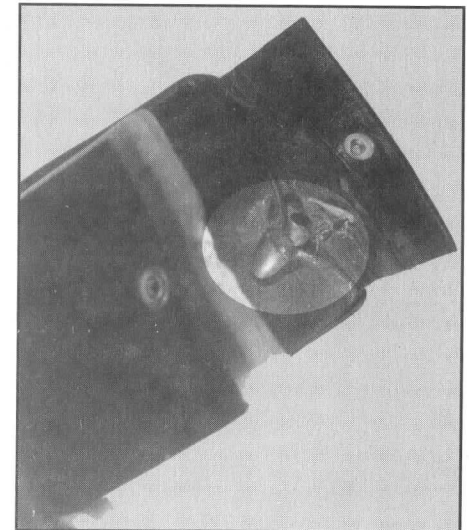
Point stored in the wallet; however, the rains of Vietnam have rendered them unidentifiable. Also still contained in the wallet is a yellowed newspaper account of Faley's wedding to his wife, Susan.

"Every now and then someone will ask me about getting shot in the tail," joked Faley.

"It's fun to remember what happened and how we all laughed about it at the time. What a stroke of luck! Twenty-five years ago was a long time, a quarter of a century, but it seems like yesterday."

Faley always keeps the wallet close at hand to demonstrate that body armor comes in many forms.

(Col. Thomas Faley is currently serving as the chief of staff, U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Command here.)



Detail of wallet with .30 caliber bullet.

Paratroopers vs. Viet Cong

MUTUAL SURPRISE AT AN NINH

Outmanned and outgunned, their commanders either killed or wounded, the paratroopers were fighting for their very lives.

By Colonel Thomas E. Faley, Jr., U.S. Army (ret.)

On September 18, 1965, during Operation Gibraltar near the Central Highland village of An Ninh, units of the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, unknowingly landed in the middle of an occupied enemy base camp. That camp was defended by the 95th Battalion and elements of the 94th Battalion of the 2nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment. As the October 4, 1965, issue of *Newsweek* magazine reported, "The paratroopers within minutes found

themselves fighting for their lives against a superior force of Viet Cong regulars." I was present during this, one of the U.S. Army's first major battles in Vietnam, serving as the reconnaissance platoon leader.

At the end of the fiercely fought two-day battle, the courageous and tenacious paratroopers finally prevailed, but the casualty cost was high for this early stage of the war. Most of the battalion's leadership, including the operations officer and all rifle company commanders, were killed or wounded.

Major operational lessons were learned from the battle. One lesson was that the need for sustained artillery and Air Force tactical air support is critical during the early stages of a ground battle, particularly so for an air insertion. Those same lessons had been learned earlier in World War II and Korea, but were seemingly forgotten or ignored at An Ninh. Some of the 101st Airborne's senior officers may have been overconfident in dealing with the Viet Cong, having been involved in earlier light skir-

Near An Ninh in September 1965, a member of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division directs a UH-1 Huey that is attempting to pick up troops wounded in one of the Army's first major battles in Vietnam (U.S. Air Force).





101st Airborne personnel search for mines along Route 19. When the U.S. Army learned that the 95th Battalion, 2nd Viet Cong Regiment, was positioned close by, a blocking force was inserted into what turned out to be an enemy base camp—and was immediately surrounded.

mishes in which the enemy quickly fled. But it was a different situation at An Ninh. Gibraltar veteran Michael Clodfelter, in his book *Mad Minutes and Vietnam Months*, said it best when he wrote, “After September 18th no man among us doubted that we were opposed by a strong and formidable foe who knew how to wage war as well as any soldier on earth.”

The 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, with its parent 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne, debarked from the troopship *General Leroy Eltinge* on July 29, 1965, at Cam Ranh Bay after a 21-day voyage from the United States. As one of the initial Army units to be deployed in-country, the men of the 101st Airborne spent the next several weeks acclimating themselves to Vietnam and conducting local security operations in the Cam Ranh area with minimal enemy contact.

In late August, the 101st Airborne moved to the An Khe–Qui Nhon area of the Central Highlands, assigned to secure a base area around An Khe for the 1st Cavalry Division as it arrived in-country. Route 19, a paved-surface highway, ran east-west through the area. That was the same Route 19 on which the famous French Group Mobile 100 had been wiped out west of An Khe by the Viet Minh 11 years earlier. (See “The Death of Group Mobile 100,” by Robert Barr Smith, in the April 1991 *Vietnam*.)

For the next several weeks, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne, conducted road security

operations along Route 19 and local sweeps north and south of the highway. Only small groups of enemy soldiers were encountered, and they tended to flee within the opening minutes of an engagement. One of the enemy dead, discovered after one of those small firefights, was found to be carrying documents that indicated he was a member of the 95th Battalion, 2nd Viet Cong Regiment. Shortly afterward, another member of the 95th Battalion was captured, who said that the 95th was located on the mountain ridge overlooking the Vinh Thanh Valley and its river, the Song Con. This suspected position of the 95th, 14 kilometers north of Route 19, threatened the security of the American supply route running from Qui Nhon to An Khe. The commander of the 1st Brigade, Colonel James Timothy, decided to take action to eliminate this threat.

The 1st Brigade’s plan, code-named Operation Gibraltar, envisioned a task force commanded by Major Mark Hanson (Task Force Mark) sweeping northward from Route 19 in the Vinh Thanh Valley to a point west of the suspected 95th Battalion position. Upon reaching that point, the task force would move east into the mountains to strike the Viet Cong position. In the meantime, a blocking force composed of units of the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, would air land in the vicinity of the village of An Ninh, which was in the valley

east of the reported Viet Cong position. After landing, this force, commanded by Lt. Col. W.K.G. Smith, would move east into the mountains and set up blocking positions. Hopefully, Task Force Mark would be able to drive the 95th Viet Cong Battalion into Smith’s blocking positions on the eastern slope.

Planning time was minimal because of the concern that the 95th Battalion would move before U.S. forces could strike. As a result, battalion orders were issued the afternoon of September 17. The 1st Brigade’s S-3 (operations officer), Major David Hackworth, noted in his book *About Face* that had there been more time to review in detail the aerial photographs of the An Ninh area received late in the evening of the 17th, those photos would have shown the area around the 502nd’s landing zone at An Ninh to be “nothing less than an armed camp.” In addition, detailed reconnaissance for Task Force Mark’s valley route had not been conducted. If it had been, it would have shown that progress along that boggy, muddy route would be very slow. Exacerbating the problem, the initial rains of the autumn monsoon season had started, turning the mud into molasses.

The short planning time did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the leaders and troops of the 502nd Infantry. You could readily sense the surge of excitement at the leaders’ meeting early in the evening of the

17th, when final instructions were passed out and final coordinations were made. Everyone was itching to test his mettle against the main force Viet Cong. As the officers were leaving the battalion command post, located on a small plateau in the An Khe Pass, Captain Bob Rawls, C Company commander, made a prophetic statement to me: "This looks like it could turn into something really big."

Task Force Mark consisted of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry; Troop A, 1st Battalion, 17th Cavalry; C and B batteries, 2nd Battalion, 320th Artillery; and a platoon of tanks from 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. Shortly after daylight on September 18, the task force began moving over rough, muddy trails up the Vinh Thanh Valley; it quickly bogged down in the mud. The vehicles towing the 105mm howitzers kept sinking into the mud and often had to be individually winched out. Operation Gibraltar was only minutes underway and already the plan was breaking down. C Battery, which normally would have provided fire support for the 502nd Infantry, was badly bogged down and out of range of the regiment.

Shortly after 0700 hours on September 18, two Douglas A1E prop-driven Skyraiders made several bombing passes in the vicinity of the landing zone (LZ) at An Ninh and then left the area. At 0715 the 502nd initial helicopter lift carrying 138 men from Captain Rawls' C Company landed in the LZ northwest of An Ninh. The company was assigned the mission of securing the 100-by-400-meter landing zone. Upon landing, they encountered scattered small-arms fire. Unknowingly, C Company had landed literally in the middle of the 95th Battalion's base camp. Both sides were initially shocked, and the Viet Cong's first reaction was to flee.

The battalion's after-action report described in detail the initial minutes of the fight. The 1st Platoon, led by Lieutenant Jim Neilson, moved quickly to its designated position northeast of the LZ and observed Viet Cong fleeing to the north. The 2nd Platoon, led by Lieutenant Dean Anderson, moved to its designated position on the northwest corner of the LZ and discovered several large camp sites with the cookfires still burning. After a short engagement, Viet Cong were observed scattering to the west, but they left behind four bodies and seven weapons. The 3rd Platoon, led by Lieutenant George Carter, moved to the southeastern side of the LZ and came under sporadic fire. The Weapons Platoon, led by Lieutenant Jerry Nakashima, moved to the southwestern corner of the LZ and also received light fire.

Things were soon to change. After about 10 minutes, the hidden and scattered Viet Cong began to realize that they had C Company outnumbered and outgunned. Consequently, they quickly returned to

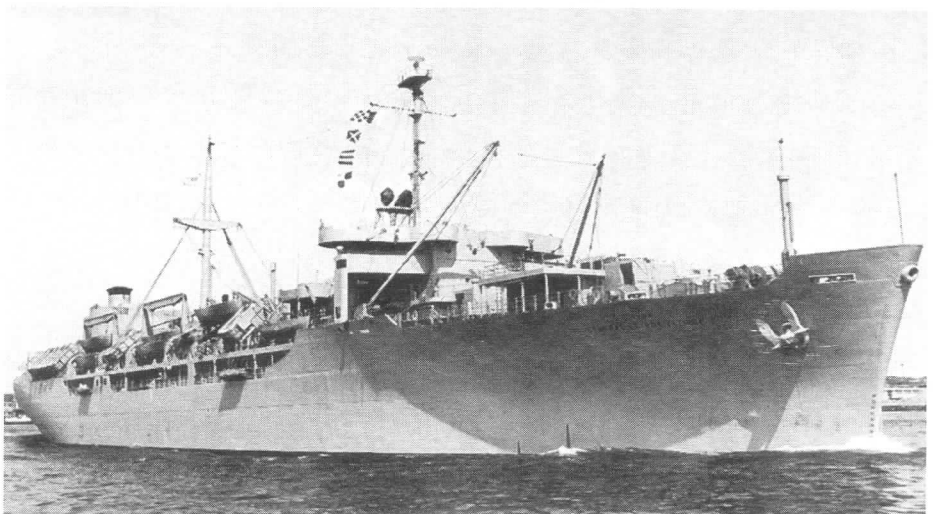
their earlier fighting positions and unleashed a torrent of fire. The LZ turned into a hornet's nest, and C Company found itself pinned down.

The intensity and effectiveness of the Viet Cong gunfire was reported in the October 4, 1965, *Newsweek*. In the article, Pfc Steve Van Meter described the situation in which he found himself: "The Viet Cong began pouring deadly fire into us. I jumped into a hole with two of our troops who were firing up a storm. Next thing I knew the guy beside me had been hit right above the left eye. It almost tore his head off and killed him instantly. Before I recovered from that, the guy on my left yelled that he had been hit in the arm." One of the Viet Cong captured in the battle said that the 95th had used the LZ as a training area to practice combating helicopter assaults. Thus the

Viet Cong were well rehearsed for the action—a circumstance that may have greatly increased their effectiveness.

At 0730 the second lift of the 502nd attempted to land on the LZ under intense small-arms and automatic-weapons fire. Two B Company platoons and the battalion tactical command group were able to get to the ground. Captain Rawls waved off the other helicopters because the groundfire was so intense. The B Company commander, Captain Wilford Roe, was wounded while still in the helicopter and was evacuated immediately. Lieutenant Howard Reeves assumed command of the B Company elements and placed them in gaps in the C Company perimeter. Two helicopters were lost during the second lift.

Shortly after the troops in the second lift landed, heavy 60mm and 82mm mortar fire



Top: Brigadier General Willard Pearson briefs troops of the 101st Airborne before Operation Gibraltar. **Above:** The 101st Airborne, one of the first units deployed to Vietnam, arrived at Cam Ranh Bay in July 1965 aboard the troopship General Leroy Eltinge. Less than two months later, the paratroopers were fighting for their lives in the Central Highlands.



Top: A paratrooper who was wounded in the fighting near An Ninh receives medical aid—and familiar treats—from a medic. **Above:** The victim of a Viet Cong booby trap is comforted by a comrade while he waits to be evacuated. During the intense firefight, all of the 101st Airborne's lift helicopters were either disabled or damaged by fire from the Viet Cong.

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poured into the U.S. perimeter. Supporting friendly artillery and heavy mortars were still out of range, and no Air Force tactical air support was available. Major Hackworth, the brigade staff officer responsible for operations and training, reported in *About Face* that Colonel Smith had earlier realized there was a possibility of landing outside supporting artillery range but disregarded it, saying, "I don't need artillery, I got my tacair (tactical air support)." However, his air support consisted of only the two earlier sorties; the A1Es were then grounded by contaminated fuel.

Now Colonel Smith, with 224 men, found himself outnumbered and outgunned by an entrenched enemy force. Post-battle analysis revealed that, along with the 95th Battalion, elements of the 94th Battalion were also opposing Smith. For the next hour and a half the surrounded paratroopers received no outside support. It was now up to the individual paratroopers with their personal weapons to repel a determined enemy. For years, paratroop officers and noncommissioned officers had been trained to land in distant airheads deep in enemy

country with little outside support for a limited amount of time. Individual initiative and making every bullet count had been emphasized. Now that training gave Smith's force a chance to survive.

Shortly before 0800 the C Company commander, Captain Rawls, attempted to expand his perimeter in the southeastern sector toward the village of An Ninh. Rawls and his command group were moving with elements of Carter's 3rd Platoon when a VC machine gun to the south opened up. Rawls was knocked backward to the ground with several rounds in his chest, and Lieutenant Ed Fox, a forward observer, was also killed by a round to his head. Rawls' radio operator, Private Kenneth Moore, was one of the few in the command group who survived, even though machine-gun bullets passed within inches of his face and knocked pieces off the radio on his back.

Rawls was a very intelligent, highly energetic West Point graduate who led by example. His death stunned all who were aware of it, and perimeter expansion in the sector near him abruptly halted. Carter took the survivors of the command group to Lieutenant Nakashima, who assumed command of C Company. Carter, trying to return to his platoon, discovered that two-thirds of the men were isolated by enemy fire. The isolated element was in good hands, however, because one of the strongest senior NCOs in the battalion, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Rivera, was in charge of the group.

While the struggle in the south was going on, Neilson's 1st Platoon in the northeastern sector of the LZ was in a fierce fight with a strong enemy force for control of a small hill near the LZ. Neilson's platoon was forced to take cover behind a paddy dike at the foot of the hill.

Things were looking bad for Smith's force on the LZ, but not as bad as he might have believed. Major Hackworth and the brigade commander flew high over the fire-fight and radioed Smith what his situation was. Hackworth remembers Smith reporting, "We got 113 dead," which would have been half of his force. Such a report may have been an honest misperception by Smith of his situation, but it led Hackworth to question Smith's control of the situation.

One of the "what ifs" of the initial stage of the battle dealt with the 502nd Recon Platoon—16 men armed with four M-60 machine guns. They would have been able to provide an immense amount of firepower if they had been included on the first lift. Additionally, I had been C Company's executive officer until September 4. As a result, Rawls and I were used to working closely together. I had been moved to the recon platoon to replace Lieutenant George Burkhart, who had been killed by a sniper on September 3. Six months after this battle, it became standard practice for the 101st to utilize its recon platoons as initial assault elements on the LZs and as a

battalion's fourth maneuver element. On September 18, my recon platoon, reinforced by the anti-tank platoon, was still charged with providing Route 19 security until five hours into the battle.

Shortly after 0900, Air Force aircraft arrived overhead and commenced bombing runs that tended to confine the Viet Cong to their dug-in positions and discouraged them from moving into the open to attack.

At 0920, a third lift, consisting of elements of B and A companies, was attempted. This time, a landing zone 800 meters south of the original LZ was selected. Even at that distance from the initial LZ, the third lift was swept by intense fire as the choppers tried to land. Only two groups of paratroopers made it to the ground. Eight men of A Company, led by Platoon Sergeant Robert Jack, and 28 men of B Company, led by Platoon Sergeant Robert Wrightman, landed. However, those two groups found themselves cut off from the original LZ and each other until the next day. The A Company commander, Captain Jerry Landry, was wounded in the leg as he tried to exit his helicopter and had to be immediately evacuated. Wrightman's group recovered a machine gun and ammunition from a downed helicopter on the LZ, which helped them to survive the ensuing firefight.

The remaining helicopters of the third lift elected not to attempt another landing and returned to the base with their troops aboard. The 502nd's after-action report indicated that all of the 101st Airborne's Aviation Battalion's 26 remaining lift helicopters were damaged by enemy gunfire and out of action.

In the meantime, conditions continued to deteriorate at An Ninh. Particularly troubling was a Viet Cong force on a small hill covering the northeastern sector of the LZ. As a result, Major Herbert Dexter, the battalion operations officer, moved to Neilson's platoon at the base of the hill. Dexter told the platoon to follow him as he started running up the hill with his .45-caliber pistol in his hand. Private first class George Imes described Dexter's charge to *Stars and Stripes* reporter Ray Mahon: "The major was leading the way with just a .45 in his hand. Heavy machine-gun fire from the hill hit him and he fell, but he got up and continued on until he was hit again." Dexter's last words before he died were, "Don't pull back!" according to Sergeant Mike Borland. Major Dexter was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions on the hill.

A September 20 *Washington Post* article describes what happened next, as told by Platoon Sergeant Ezra Vaughn: "They were waiting for us on the hill and dug in.

They were wearing a kind of camouflage poncho liner and hard to see. When we got near the top of the hill, a whistle signal blew and they really opened up. I also could see at least 20 of them throwing grenades. We had to pull back." A short time later, the hill was retaken by the paratroopers.

Another tragic casualty during this period was Staff Sgt. Burchett, the C Company mess sergeant, who, along with several of his cooks, volunteered to serve as a rifleman on this operation. Burchett was wounded seriously and bled to death on the LZ. His loss was deeply felt by all those who knew him. He was one of the most popular, caring individuals in C Company.

Smith now had to depend on lieutenants and sergeants to lead the fight; all his com-



Captain Bob Rawls is followed by Sergeant Phuoc of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and Lieutenant Thomas Faley on a sweep operation in August 1965.

pany commanders were dead or wounded, and his operations officer was dead. The paratroopers at An Ninh continued to fight with only air support because the artillery units were still bogged down in the Vinh Thanh Valley. The Air Force flew 47 sorties the first day and dropped the bombs within 100 meters of friendly elements—so close to the American troops that two B Company paratroopers were killed by friendly airstrikes.

A strange situation developed in the late morning when the 101st requested helicopters from the 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile) at An Khe, and the request initially was turned down. The real reasons for the refusal may never be known. Some have speculated that it was because the aircrews did not have flak jackets; others believed that the 1st Air Cavalry did not really understand the urgency of the need. Whatever the problem was, it was quickly resolved after the midday arrival of Lt. Gen. John Throckmorton, deputy commander of

Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, at the 101st's forward tactical operations center in the Vinh Thanh Valley. He wanted an update of the situation. The brigade operations officer, Hackworth, recalled that when Throckmorton heard of the problem he personally intervened, and the 1st Air Cav immediately reversed its position.

Within a very short time two 1st Air Cav helicopters flew a sling load of ammunition into An Ninh and evacuated some wounded. Next, a large Chinook helicopter attempted to land at An Ninh; when its copilot was wounded and its crew chief killed, however, the attempt to land was abandoned.

Early in the afternoon, the 502nd recon platoon, my platoon, was ordered to move up the Vinh Thanh Valley to a position opposite An Ninh on the western side of the mountain. Our mission was to secure the position for an insertion of an artillery battery in the late afternoon. The battery would provide fire support for Smith's beleaguered force. In the meantime, the paratroopers at An Ninh continued to beat off numerous enemy probes with small arms and air support.

One of the best examples of courage and initiative during the period was an incident described in Hackworth's *About Face*. C Company Pfc Larry Freeman's M-16 had jammed—a very common problem with the M-16 until the bolt and chamber were modified later in the war. As Freeman was cleaning his disassembled M-16, five Viet Cong approached him. Freeman jumped to his feet and pointed the barrel at them. To his total amazement, the Viet Cong threw up their hands and surrendered.

While the surrounded paratroopers struggled to survive, at brigade headquarters major efforts were underway to send additional forces into the vicinity to relieve the pressure on Smith. It was clear that Task Force Mark was stuck in the mud of Vinh Thanh. A new task force was formed under Lt. Col. Edward Collins, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry. Collins' hastily assembled force included the remaining elements of the 502nd, C Company from Collins' battalion and two 23rd Army of the Republic of Vietnam Ranger companies.

The plan was to fly Collins' force to within two to three kilometers east of An Ninh for a quick linkup with Smith's force. However, the fog of war intervened; as the brigade operations officer noted, "For reasons unknown, Task Force Collins was dropped on the LZ not two kilometers from An Ninh as the brigade commander wanted, but five kilometers." The extra three kilometers made Colonel Collins' movement west to An Ninh that much more difficult.



Top: Members of C Company, 2nd Battalion: (from left) Specialist Rodriguez, Faley, and Specialist Downen. **Above:** Dead man's boots—13 American troops inserted at An Ninh died and 28 were wounded.

Early in the evening, the 502nd recon platoon arrived just as the air-landed artillery battery was inserted opposite An Ninh on the other side of the mountain. Within minutes the artillery had rounds popping out of their tubes in support of Smith. Now the tide of the battle had changed. Smith's force had artillery and air support whenever they needed it.

As darkness fell, Collins' force was still two kilometers west of An Ninh, so brigade headquarters ordered Collins' force to halt for the night and wait for daylight to make the linkup. Throughout the evening, flare ships provided illumination over An Ninh, and artillery pounded the Viet Cong; Smith's men could hear the Viet Cong collecting bodies and equipment. They seemed to be pulling out of the area.

At daylight on September 19, Collins' force started moving westward again, and the linkup was made with Smith's force at around 1000. Since only occasional sniper fire was encountered at that stage, Smith's force was airlifted out of An Ninh back to their base camp in the An Khe Pass.

The supplies the Viet Cong left behind confirmed that the enemy force was indeed the 95th Battalion, assisted by elements of

the 94th Battalion, 2nd Viet Cong Main Force Regiment. The 502nd's after-action report listed the large amount of materiel collected, including: Thompson submachine guns, Garand M-1 rifles, Browning Automatic Rifles, Russian PPSH submachine guns, a German MG34 machine gun, propaganda leaflets, medical kits and a large quantity of ammunition. Total Viet Cong dead were estimated to be 257, with an unknown number of wounded. Five Viet Cong were captured during the fighting.

Initially after the linkup, Collins started to pursue the enemy, but he soon received instructions to return to the An Ninh area and secure the downed helicopters, which were taken out the next morning. Collins' force received machine-gun fire from the northeastern sector of An Ninh, along with 60mm and 82mm mortar fire. However, artillery and airstrikes seemed to eliminate the enemy emplacements. Around 1600 on September 20, Task Force Mark and Collins' force linked up on the mountains west of An Ninh.

Casualties suffered by Smith's force totaled 13 dead and 28 wounded. However, that figure did not include casualties among outside forces, such as the helicopter crews and relief forces. Even so, everyone in the 101st Airborne fully realized that it could have been much worse.

The paratroopers who had fought at An Ninh knew that they had stood up to the best the Viet Cong had to offer and prevailed. At the same time, they had gained increased respect for the fighting ability of the Viet Cong, and they seemed to sense that this could be a long, hard war. Smith told a *New York Times* reporter: "The Viet Cong fought well and were exceptionally well led." Hackworth wrote: "Gibraltar blooded us and taught us respect for our foe."

On April 25, 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson awarded the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism during Operation Gibraltar. The citation reads, "Despite the loss of key leaders, the Battalion's personnel manifested initiative, determination, and the will to survive during the entire action." An Ninh added another exciting chapter to the airborne story. □

Thomas E. Faley, Jr., a retired U.S. Army colonel, served in Vietnam as a 101st Airborne reconnaissance platoon leader, a 173rd Airborne company commander and a Vietnamese airborne battalion senior adviser. Suggestions for further reading on the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam: Battles in the Monsoon, by S.L.A. Marshall (Morrow); and Hamburger Hill, by Samuel Zaffiri (Presidio).

Combined Arms Effort Kills 13 Enemy

LTC(R) G. R. (Rod) Tillman, 2/502 A 10/67-1/68, 3128 Riviere Du Chien Loop W, Mobile, AL 36693-5421, sent the following article.

ARTICLE FROM: **The Pacific Stars and Stripes**

Combined Arms Effort Kills 13 Enemy

By Pfc. Robert Mosey

CHU LAI – The combined firepower of infantry, artillery and gunships scored 13 enemy kills and destroyed a VC bastion west of here during Operation Wheeler.

The action began with Pfc. William Saldana, Yuma, Ariz., moving as pointman for a platoon of paratroopers from A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., through heavy fog which shrouded the muddy valley floor.

Cautiously Saldana felt and probed his way along a trail which followed a high bamboo fence surrounding a small hamlet still in slumber.

Saldana stopped. "Pass the word back I've come to a gap in the fence," he whispered to the man behind him. "There's a rice paddy on the other side."

Lt. Roderick Tillman, Mobile, Ala., received the message and checked his map. "Cross it," he ordered. "Let's hope we make it to the other side before the fog lifts."

Saldana slipped through the opening and strained to see through the fog as he searched for a paddy dike that would lead them across.

"I finally found one," he said. "But I couldn't see where it led because the fog was so thick."

The platoon followed Saldana in close file to avoid becoming separated in the mist.

Sun Breaks Through

Less than half way across the wide paddy, the sun rose and burned off the fog, exposing the column of paratroopers as they reached a small stream.

Automatic weapons fire shattered the stillness and the paratroopers dived for protection behind a rice paddy dike.

"The fire came from a small hut complex to our front," said Pfc. Charlie Jones, Chesapeake, Va. "A moment later they opened up with everything they had."

Three men from the 4th Plat. were wounded in the initial burst of enemy fire.

Tillman called for gunships and moments later the "Muskets" of the 176th Aviation Co. radioed for smoke to mark the forward and rear elements of the paratrooper force.

Rockets 'swooshed' into the enemy position and angry red tracers from the flying arsenal laced the hostile area. Enemy occupied huts exploded in balls of fire as the rockets found their mark.

A gunship pilot radioed Spec. 4 Dean Beaupre, Fremont, Calif: "The enemy has fortified bunkers facing the paddy. Recommend your elements attack from the rear."



Specialist 4 Dean Beaupre (left) and ILT Rod Tillman on the radio.

Redlegs Provide Cover

Beaupre notified Tillman who requested artillery smoke to conceal the platoon's move. Moments later the howitzers of C Btry., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 320th Arty blanketed the enemy position with a curtain of smoke.

The enemy continued to fire as the paratroopers advanced to a treeline on the right flank.

"'Charlie' knew we were somewhere," said Beaupre. "The smoke kept him guessing."

Once in the treeline, Beaupre radioed the artillery battery to cease fire. The helicopter gunships orbited the area and waited as the smoke cleared.

Tillman attacked. "We took them by surprise," he said.

The enemy firing stopped and paratroopers combed the area for enemy and weapons. One VC was crouched in his hole – dead. Bullet riddled bodies of enemy snipers were discovered hanging in the branches of tall trees around the bunkers, their weapons scattered on the ground below.

The gunships had done a good job.

An engineer destroyed the bunkers with explosives. Then the paratroopers of Tillman's platoon picked up six enemy weapons and disappeared into the jungle.

"CHUMP VALLEY" RESCUE

Don Long wrote: I was not assigned to the Bde but I was assigned to the 176th Avn Co (Minuteman) which was direct support for the Bde in Duc Pho and Chu Lai. We started the DS mission with the Bde in March 67 and I believe it ended when the rest of the Division came over. In August 67 I was infused to another Avn Co as their Ops Officer. Accordingly, I only have good information for the period from Mar to Aug 67.

"CHUMP VALLEY" RESCUE

It was 15 May 1967. My unit was the 176th Avn Co (Minuteman), 14th Avn Bn. WO Roy, SP Hawley, PFC Washington and I (CPT Long) were working insertions for soldiers of the 1st Bde, 101st Airborne Div (before the rest of the division came into the country). Just after a "C" ration break we were told to take our next load to an area about 25 kilometers NW of Duc Pho, in a valley heading west into the larger Song Ve river valley. We picked up the troops and put them in amidst a hail of machine gun, rifle, and mortar fire. WO Roy remembers that we had to fly through a wall of green tracer fire going up in front of us. As I was at the controls on the first trip in, I was so focussed I must have blanked out the tracers and concentrated on the touch down (good training did work). The soldiers offloaded. Many were being shot a short distance away from the helicopter. At first we thought they may have been running in front of our M60's, which we learned was not the case but is an indication of how hot the LZ was. As soon as they were off, a full load of wounded were placed aboard for evacuation. Those of the wounded who were able, were urging us with their hands, eyes, and voices to "go, go, go." At that point we felt it was the normal reaction of a wounded soldier wanting to get to treatment as quickly as he could. Little did we know then that it wasn't "getting to" somewhere they were concerned with, but rather "getting away from" that particular valley. It soon became clear. As we departed, the door gunner and crewchief were calling out "machine gun 2 o'clock, machine gun 10 o'clock, machine gun left, right, etc...about 8 in all," but miraculously we were able to keep flying. We weren't sure whether we were hit going in or coming out. After departure, our instrument check showed all were "in the green" so we kept flying. We took the wounded to the aid station, picked up another load of soldiers, and went back.

On our way back to the LZ, we saw the platoon leader's (Major Kettles) helicopter flying our way leaking fuel. He had been in the LZ right after us. He informed us his helicopter was badly shot up and the door gunner was severely wounded, that the ground troops needed ammo brought in and more wounded taken out, and to team up with another ship (WO Marty was one pilot, 1LT Charles the other, not sure of the rest of the crew) which had ammo for the next approach to the LZ. We led the approach. WO Roy was at the controls for this trip in, with the second ship at right echelon so the unloaded ammo would be as close as possible to the troops in the tree line. Because of where we had to land in the LZ, after the soldiers dismounted, we noticed the other soldiers who were supposed to put wounded aboard were not moving. They couldn't be blamed due to the heavy fire. Just as on the first trip, of all

the soldiers jumping off to join the fray, many were being hit before making it to the tree line. Because of this, we had to wait until the second ship had offloaded the ammo, loaded wounded and departed before we could relocate. It seemed like an eternity with all the bullets and mortars. The second ship reported taking many rounds, some through the cockpit but again, miraculously, without injury to the crew. Finally, we were able to hover over closer to the tree line to minimize the soldiers' exposure so they could load the wounded. In doing so we maximized our exposure and as could be expected, after lacing us with machine guns, just as we touched down they got us dead center with a mortar round, one of many falling around us. (Later, a fellow pilot who was there said he thought we were hit with an RPG round.) After the bright flash was over, not being sure if we were really damaged, I checked the instruments and all were "in the green" so I pulled pitch. That was a "big" mistake since the round had made several alterations to the helicopter to include making one rotor blade somewhat shorter than the other. The pitch pull caused us to flip over on the left side, then go back the other way stopping upright on the skids. I believe we all set a record at that point "un-assing" the aircraft. In fact, Ron Roy and I both went between the pilot and co-pilot seats at the same time and do not remember touching each other. I still had my flight helmet on but the commu-



nication cord had disconnected and remained in the helicopter and I did not even feel the tug. SP Hawley and PFC Washington went to the far side of the LZ but were able to dash back across later without injury. Fortunately, even though the helicopter was destroyed, I was the only one wounded. The adrenaline was working so good I didn't know shrapnel had hit my lower right leg until I hit the ground when I jumped out. All of a sudden we were infantrymen for awhile, firing at the enemy from behind our burning helicopter.

It wasn't long before the flames got to our machine gun ammo which began spraying everywhere forcing us to move to tree cover to continue to assist in the ground battle. Eventually our gunships had to depart, so "fast movers" were brought in to drop daisy cutters and napalm. The bombs were close enough that some of the shrapnel was hitting the ground behind us. This went on for an hour or so and then they left. Then our C & C ship had to leave. As the "wop, wop, wop" of those Huey blades faded in the distance and there were no more gunships or "fast movers," we realized at that moment what silence really meant. It became so quiet, for some reason it was frighten-

ing. No birds were chirping, there was no wind rustling the grass or trees, and the water in the stream to our front seemed to run quietly. A tower of smoke was rising straight up from our helicopter marking its demise. The smoke changed colors as the flames devoured different colored smoke grenades ..red, yellow, green..but eventually changed to black when the flames found the fuel. There was a low haze hovering just above the ground which smelled of gunpowder, burning helicopter, and burned flesh, a reminder that while it may be quiet, it was not over. None of us were moving for fear of making a noise which would draw unwanted attention from the bad guys. We did not know it then but later we were told that, including us, there were only 44 of us on the ground facing a much larger well-trained force on the other side of the stream. Someone also told us approximately 40 of us were wounded or dead. We saw at least one dead infantryman. (I know the hospital at Qui Nhon was filled up that day by the wounded soldiers because after my initial treatment, as I was being readied for evacuation from the 101st Medical Aid Station, I was told there was no room for me and I would be treated daily at the Aid Station.) It was clearly not a "win" day for our side.

Later, after continuous exchanges of gunfire, around 1830 we heard a faint sound in the distance which told us helicopters were coming. We looked to the east and there in the sky, as beautiful as could be, were six Hueys on approach to our LZ to get us all out. It was a memorable experience to know we were not forgotten because, as mentioned earlier, we were greatly outnumbered and helicopters on approach and in the LZ were, as we had proven, sitting ducks. Leading that flight was our platoon leader, Major Charles Kettles. Since he already had one chopper shot to pieces around him (over 40 bullet holes, plexiglass shattered, rotor blades badly ripped) and his door gunner severely wounded that day in the same LZ, he had every right not to be in the sky coming back to get us, but he was. I was later told the Commanding General (BG Matheson) was against it because we were so badly outnumbered. The General wanted to wait until the next morning to attempt an extraction because of the losses we had already suffered that day in both manpower and helicopters. Our helicopter and crew weren't the only ones hit that day, just the only ones hit by a mortar round and therefore, the only ones who did not leave the LZ. Besides the killed and wounded ground forces, there were also other wounded Minuteman personnel. I thank God Major Kettles argued for and got the helicopters needed to come back. Everyone knew what it meant to have been left in that area overnight with most people on the ground wounded and badly outnumbered. I'm sure no one in that LZ that evening at 1815, with the sun heading for the horizon, who was rescued because he came back, will ever forget it.

To make a long story short, everyone was extracted from the LZ that day, including the dead, amidst a withering hail of small arms and mortar fire. Because of what had happened before, WO Roy and I instructed the infantrymen around us to run with us to the furthest helicopter. It meant running through the small arms and mortar fire but it was the only way any of them would go to any but the closest helicopters. Because of my leg, two soldiers had to get on each side of me while I carried their radio, etc. As we ran we approached a wall of mortar and small arms fire but kept going. Amazingly, just before we got to the area where mortar and small arms fire was concentrated, it stopped for a few seconds. We ran through that area to

the helicopter and as we got through it the fire resumed behind us. I don't attempt to explain it but am thankful it occurred.

Five of the six rescue helicopters were so badly damaged we were told they never flew againtoo many repairs were needed. The helicopter flown by Maj Kettles, his second of the day, also suffered over 40 hits from small arms fire and other severe damage from the mortars. Amazingly, on this trip in, neither he nor any of his crew were wounded. Another amazing thing is that the one helicopter which did not get hit while rescuing all of us was the one we were on and that, of course, was sheer luck. It was not a Minuteman helicopter. Because there were not enough of our own available, it was "borrowed" from the 161st (Pelicans) and flown by their crew. One of the pilots was Ed (Trip) Wilson. All in all, that day our unit had many wounded personnel. By the grace of God none were killed and we lost 13 helicopters (temporarily or permanently) to battle damage before it was all over. Our helicopter, which had performed brilliantly to the end, became a pile of ashes, a mechanical martyr marking the battle site. Later, as usually happens, the seriousness of the situation wore off, and our buddies began calling the area where we were blown up "Chump Valley" because only "Chumps" would be dumb enough to land on the enemy's mortar registration point. Our crew did take some ribbing about that. Since they hit us right on top, it would seem we landed on their mortar registration point.



DUC PHO, Vietnam - ROCKET ATTACK, A rocket streaks toward its target from a gunship of the 176th Aviation Co. The "Minuteman" team has supported the 101st Airborne during four combat operation in the jungle west of here. (USA photo by Pfc. James Nelson)

To put this in perspective, I don't believe the 176th ever had a day quite so bad after that. I know for a fact that they had not had one even close to such intensity up to that point. The unit had been "in country" only 3 months. It was the unit's first big encounter and to that point the biggest battle participated in by 14th Avn Bn personnel and the Bn had been operational in Vietnam for apx 2 years. Our helicopter (last 3 were 046) was the first one in the 176th totally destroyed in combat and I was the first unit member wounded severely enough to be grounded..approximately three months..mostly due to constant infection and not the initial wound. I guess somebody and some helicopter had to be first. It may as well have been our crew and helicopter.

By any means of measurement this was by far my most memorable experience in Vietnam, one which I know is equalled by many others who served there. I'm thankful to be here to remember it. I'm very sure I would not be here or would have had years of my life taken from me if Major Kettles had not come back for all of us. Even though I'm writing this as a memorable experience, I'm only able to do so because of a memorable person, Major Charles Kettles, a really great human being and valiant soldier.

Donald E. Long, LTC, INF, Ret





IN REPLY REFER TO

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

AVBD-A

19 MAY 68

Lieutenant George R. Tillman
Headquarters and Headquarters Company
1st Battalion, 36th Infantry
APO N.Y. 09039

Dear Lieutenant Tillman,

I want to personally welcome you to the finest outfit in the Republic of Viet Nam. I believe it would be difficult to find a more challenging assignment with greater opportunities for professional development than your assignment to this Brigade. Congratulations on your good fortune in being able to join 1st Brigade.

The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, has established an enviable record as an aggressive, fast reacting outfit that gets the job done in a hurry and in a professional manner. In addition, we pride ourselves on being not only "warriors" but also "diplomats". In this counterinsurgency environment every soldier is an ambassador-at-large -- projecting a favorable image of America and Americans.

Your initial assignment will depend upon our needs at the time you arrive. Be assured it will be commensurate with your grade, background, and experience.

The attached inclosure contains information that will assist you in getting acquainted with the situation here. A suggested list of clothing to accompany you will be found in Section XI. In addition a sponsor will be assigned to answer any questions you may have. You can expect to receive a letter from him shortly.

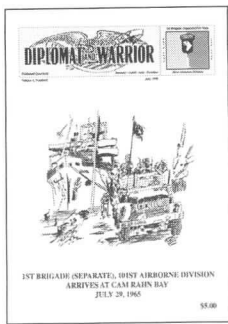
I look forward with pleasure to your arrival.

Sincerely,

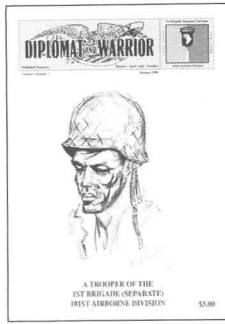
S. H. MATHESON
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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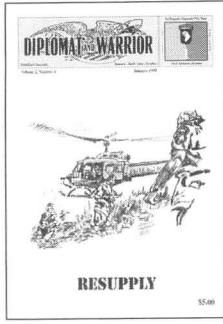
*WELCOME TO THE FIRST BRIGADE! Letter mailed [in 1967] to prepare
replacements for assignment to the ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE.*



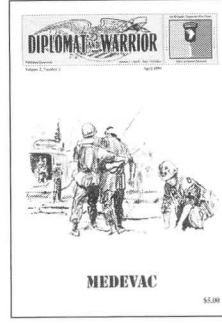
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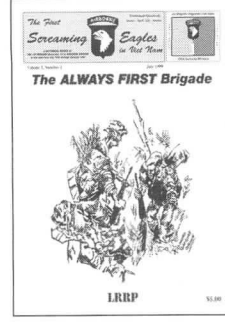
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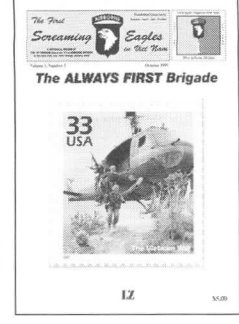
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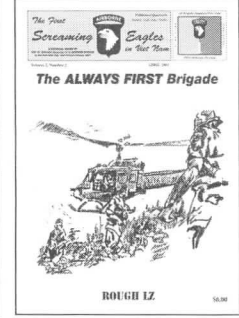
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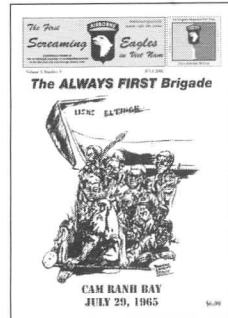
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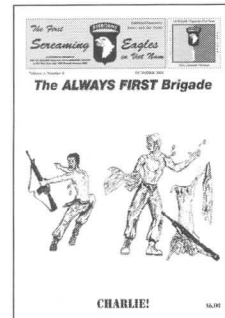
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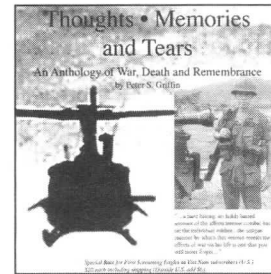
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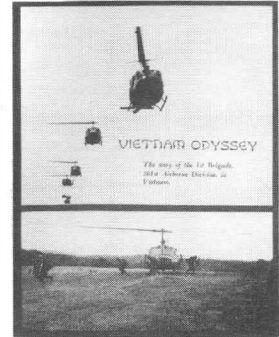
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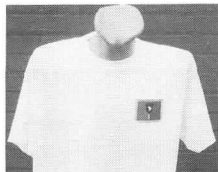
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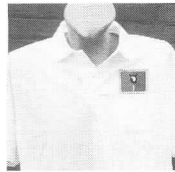
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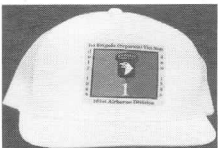
1st BDE(S) 101st Airborne Division Logo - Can also be used on Golf or T-Shirt as well as cap.



1st Brigade Logo T Shirt Full Color



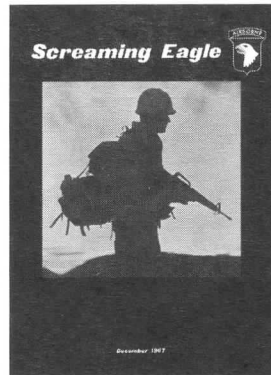
1st Brigade Logo Golf Shirt Full Color



1st Brigade Logo Cap Full Color



101st Abn. Div. Logo Cap Full Color



Dec. '67 Reprint History July '65 - Dec. '67



Plastic Auto Tag



Label quality paper 4 inch diameter full color logo permanent adhesive four labels for \$2.50 postpaid.

1st BRIGADE (SEPARATE) ITEMS FOR SALE

ORDER FORM

PLEASE CIRCLE SIZE NEEDED OR NUMBER OF BACK ISSUE
ITEM

QUANTITY

COST

_____	1st BDE(S) logo cap \$8.00 + \$3.50 postage (\$11.50)	_____
_____	101st ABN DIV Screaming Eagle logo cap \$8.00 + \$3.50 (\$11.50)	_____
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_____	101st ABN DIV logo Golf shirt S, M, L, XL \$20.00 + \$3.50 (\$23.50)	_____
_____	101st ABN DIV logo Golf shirt XXL & XXXL \$22.00 + \$3.50 (\$25.50)	_____
_____	1st BDE(S) logo T-shirt S, M, L, XL \$12.00 + \$3.50 (\$15.50)	_____
_____	1st BDE(S) logo T-shirt XXL & XXXL \$14.00 + \$3.50 (\$17.50)	_____
_____	1st BDE(S) logo Golf shirt S, M, L, XL \$20.00 + \$3.50 (\$23.50)	_____
_____	1st BDE(S) logo Golf shirt XXL & XXXL \$22.00 + \$3.50 (\$25.50)	_____
_____	1st BDE(S) 101st Airborne Div. Logo T-shirt S, M, L, XL \$12.00 + \$3.50 (\$15.50)	_____
_____	1st BDE(S) 101st Airborne Div. Logo T-shirt XXL & XXXL \$14.00 + \$3.50 (\$17.50)	_____
_____	1st BDE(S) 101st Airborne Div. Logo Golf Shirt S, M, L, XL \$20.00 + \$3.50 (\$23.50)	_____
_____	1st BDE(S) 101st Airborne Div. Logo Golf Shirt XXL & XXXL \$22.00 + \$3.50 (\$25.50)	_____
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_____	Reprint of the December 1967 Screaming Eagle Magazine (\$7.50 each postpaid)	_____
_____	Thoughts Memories and Tears poems by Peter S. Griffin (\$20.00 each postpaid)	_____
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Ellert Thoen
10/02
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6405 Acorn Blvd.
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14 Vermette Court
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765 Como St.
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1800 Tomlinson Rd.
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CW4(R) Donald H. Bowers
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Salinas, CA 93908

Dave Brown
2/327 C 6/66-2/67 - 10/02
26298 Indigo Drive
Park Rapids, MN 56470-5190

C. Stuart Buchanan, M.D.
2/327 HQ 7/64-7/66 - 10/02
22 N Port Royal Dr.
Hilton Head Isl, SC 29928-3947

LTC(R) Dave Campbell
2/502 B Recon 1/67-6/68-10/02
84 Middle Creek Rd.
Irmo, SC 29063

SFC(R) Santana Carnero
1/327 HHQ TF 11/65-6/66 - 10/03
303 S. Teresa
Monahans, TX 79756-7111

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217 Valley Road
Browns Mills, NJ 08015-6433

Carl S. Coulthard
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904 County Home Rd.
Hamlet, NC 28345-4391

Thomas "Mike" DeLamater
2/502 C 12/65-9/66 - 10/02
712 Sue Street
Lafayette, CO 80026-2337

Frank Doyle
326 ENGR A 3/66-3/67 - 10/02
545 Bay Green Drive
Arnold, MD 21012

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6 Red Oak Drive
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SGM(R) Charlie L. Fraley
2/327 A 3/65-7/65 - 10/02
1532 Willow Way
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501 SIG B 7/66-8/68 - 7/02
10 Wilson St.
Warren, PA 16365-1480

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326 ENGR A 1/65-6/66 - 10/02
151 Dolphin Circle
Marina, CA 93933

MSGT(R) Alan L. Glover
326 ENGR A 6/65-6/66 - 10/03
6112 Conaway Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28314-2700

MG(R) Fred A. Gorden
2/320 FA C 1/67-68 - 10/02
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Alpharetta, GA 30004

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CW2(R) Frank Irwin
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967 E Parkcenter Blvd,
PMB#234
Boise, ID 83706

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Pittsfield, MA 01201-7442

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Westcliffe, CO 81252

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Ashland, KY 41102-4213

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138 Walton Park, Apt. 2
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Moorestown, NJ 08057-1610

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194 Broad St.
Manasquan, NJ 08736-2851

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Fernandina Bch, FL 32034

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Eufaula, OK 74432-0430

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Address Corrections

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Bismarck, ND 58501-2579



TUY HOA

~~DAK TO~~, VIETNAM (101ST-IO)--Colonel Theodore Maxis, 1st
Brigade, 101st Airborne Division Deputy Commanding Officer shows
his replacement, Colonel Chester McCoid, the many places where
the Brigade has traveled the past year in Vietnam. Colonel
Maxis is finishing twenty two months in Vietnam. *JULY 1966*

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
1/19/68	PFC	Moore	James	R		SD	/ 44	BD	13867326	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
1/19/68	SP4	Gerwatowski	Joseph			MT	/ 47	BD	51975097	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	USAR	56A10
1/20/68	SGT	Jameson	David	A		IL	/ 48	BD	11738661	KOR	Unk	Other Wpns	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
1/21/68	CPT	McGaha	Harold	F		NH	/ 40	BD	5320197	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	71542
1/21/68	SGT	Knight	John	W		IA	/ 42	BD	11448552	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	21B4P
1/22/68	PFC	Wells	Jerry	D		NC	/ 48	NBD	18960019	KOR	Unk	Drowning	Phu Bon	RA	11B1P
1/23/68	SP4	McChesney	John	T		Samoa	/ 47	BD	18950610	Died-MIA	Unk	Other Wpns	Quang Duc	RA	13E2P
1/24/68	PFC	Favor	John	R		LA	/ 48	BD	16931177	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
1/24/68	PFC	Holly	George	J	III	MS	/ 46	BD	56697242	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	USAR	11B1P
1/24/68	PFC	Kornick	Ferdinand	J	Jr	ND	/ 47	NBD	13865923	DOI	Unk	Other Wpns	Hau Mghia	RA	11B1P
1/24/68	PFC	McClendon	William	W		IN	/ 48	BD	15896345	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
1/24/68	SP4	Palcic	Ernest	P		NV	/ 48	BD	11815331	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
1/25/68	PFC	Garver	Phillip	E		AR	/ 47	BD	18842475	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11C1P
1/25/68	PFC	Langford	Robert	C		DE	/ 48	BD	12783640	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
1/25/68	PFC	Mailloux	Earl	A		AR	/ 40	BD	18915102	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
1/25/68	SGT	Anderson	James	B		FL	/ 47	BD	18802012	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
1/25/68	SGT	Grimmett	John	L		KY	/ 47	BD	14943440	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
1/25/68	SP4	Williams	Lawrence	D		CA	/ 47	BD	17749874	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	91B2P
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1/30/68	PFC	Odegard	Dell	C		NC	/ 48	BD	18959387	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
1/30/68	SGT	Graves	Jehovah			OK	/ 42	BD	14779726	Died-MIA	Unk	Other Wpns	Quang Duc	RA	11B4P
1/31/68	2LT	Galloway	Sam	H		DE	/ 44	BD	5346771	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	71542
1/31/68	PFC	Milberry	Russell	E		KS	/ 48	BD	11571844	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	RA	91A1P
1/31/68	PFC	Pogue	Michael	A		AR	/ 48	BD	18909805	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B1P
1/31/68	SFC	Button	Howard	E		IL	/ 34	BD	12500853	Died-MIA	Unk	Other Wpns	Quang Duc	RA	11B4P
1/31/68	SFC	Johnson	Gideon	P		D.C.	/ 31	BD	10104312	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	RA	91C4P
1/31/68	SFC	Wages	James	L		NY	/ 39	BD	18515556	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	71L4P
1/31/68	SGT	Coffroth	Alfred	P	L	TN	/ 47	BD	19844301	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B4P
1/31/68	SP4	Christoffer	Vernon	H		LA	/ 49	BD	16938006	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11D10
1/31/68	SP4	Lanier	James	P		Guam	/ 44	BD	16947883	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	11B2P
1/31/68	SP4	Wilderspin	Vernon	C		LA	/ 43	BD	54959220	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	USAR	91B20
1/31/68	SP5	Broughton	Clyde	B	Jr	NM	/ 47	NBD	11652309	DOI	Unk	Other Wpns	Hau Mghia	RA	11C40
1/31/68	SP5	Cartney	Patrick	C		ND	/ 47	BD	52851803	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	USAR	91D2P
1/31/68	SP5	Marrone	Joseph	V		NV	/ 47	BD	12764473	KOR	Unk	Arty/Mort	Khanh Hoa	RA	71G2P
1/31/68	SSG	Lakaszus	Helmut	G		NV	/ 39	BD	22006654	Died-MIA	Unk	SA Fire	Quang Duc	RA	11B4P
1/31/68	SSG	Stancell	James		Jr	SD	/ 28	BD	13239033	KOR	Unk	SA Fire	Khanh Hoa	RA	91B40
1/31/68	SSG	Ziegler	Steven	W		ND	/ 43	BD	13700819	Died-MIA	AC CNAS	Other Wpns	Quang Duc	RA	13E4P

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FROM _____ TO _____
MONTH/YEAR MONTH/YEAR

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STATIC LINE

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Phone: 770-478-5301
FAX: 770-961-2838

101st Airborne Division Assoc.

P. O. Box 929
Fort Campbell, KY 42223-0929
Phone (270)439-0445

101st ABN DIV Vietnam Vets

1140 Bidgewood Lane
Gastonia, NC 28054
Phone (704)866-7840

320th ABN F. A. Association

Joseph L. Montoya
62 W. Belaire Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37042-4061
Phone: 931-552-0741

327th ABN INF Assoc (Vietnam)

David S. Cook
12 Lakeshore Dr.
Winthrop, ME 04364
Phone: 207-377-2186
E-Mail: cooksdmg@mint.net

187th ABN R.C.T. Assoc "Rakkasans"

A.S. "Jazz" Jaznach
RR 1, Box 311-A
Cumberland, VA 23040-9801
Phone: 804-492-5827

THE AIRBORNE QUARTERLY

COL (R) William E. Weber
10301 McKinstry Mill Road
New Windsor, MD 21776-7903
Phone: 410-775-7733

**The 8th Biennial 1st Brigade (S)
Reunion will be in Fort Worth, Texas.**

**Tentative dates are October 12-15,
2002. Put it on your calendar now.**

**Watch for a
Reunion Registration mailing.**

Deadline

**Material to be published in the
April 2002 issue of The First
SCREAMING EAGLES In
Viet Nam is Due March 1st, 2002.**

CO A 101ST AVNPAGES 1 – 2
A SEPARATE Aviation Company that arrived in Viet Nam in April 1965. "The First" First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam.

KENNETH LAMB DMORPAGE 2
Mike McFadden Presents 502nd DMOR to Kenneth Lamb in his hometown of Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORPAGES 3 – 9
Interesting observations by subscribers and non-subscribers. Subjects range from comments on past stories to individual accounts of actions in Viet Nam. Many wish to contact those they served with in the brigade. Tom Willard will send you his hard cover book about the brigade if you donate to the Fort Campbell Historical Foundation and pay the postage and a photo of the 2/327 Commo Platoon.

NUTSPAGES 10 – 14
The 4th Troop Information newspaper published by the brigade in Viet Nam. The paper was sent by Tom Faley whose butt was saved by his wallet. His story continues on page 15.

SURPRISE AT AN NINHPAGES 16 – 22
Story that appeared in VIETNAM magazine in August of 1997. See page 14 for information on VIETNAM magazine. I believe the photo of General Person on

page 19 is an error. He arrived in Viet Nam in January of 1966.

COMBINED ARMS KILLS 13PAGE 23
Rod Tillman sent this story that first appeared in "Pacific Stars and Stripes."

**"CHUMP VALLEY"
RESCUEPAGES 24 – 25**
Don Long who was a 176th Avn Co pilot wrote a detailed account of May 1967 1st Brigade action.

WELCOME LETTERPAGE 26
Rod Tillman sent a copy of the letter welcoming him to the 1st Brigade.

**1ST BRIGADE
ITEMS FOR SALEPAGES 27 – 28**
Item descriptions and order blank for distinctive 1st Brigade (S) shirts, caps and publications.

SUBSCRIBERSPAGES 29 – 30
Lists of new subscribers, renewing subscribers and address changes of subscribers.

**KIA AND NON BATTLE
DEATHSPAGE 31**
This is the final page of 15 of the 1st Brigade soldiers killed while the brigade was a separate unit.

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TUY HOA, VIETNAM (101ST-10)--In the mountainous jungles near Tuy Hoa on Operation John Paul Jones Brigadier General Willard Pearson, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division Commanding General talks with members of the 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry "Recondos" after they had been on a nine day patrol before returning to their Battalion Perimeter.

US Army Photo by Sp/4 Oddvar Breiland

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