

*The First  
Screaming*

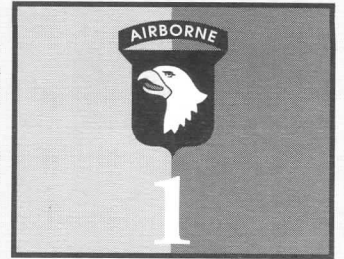
A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF  
THE 1ST BRIGADE (Separate) 101st AIRBORNE DIVISION  
in Viet Nam from July 1965 through January 1968



Published Quarterly  
January - April - July - October

*Eagles  
in Viet Nam*

1st Brigade (Separate) Viet Nam



101st Airborne Division

Volume 4, Number 2

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# **The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade**



**POW'S**

**\$6.00**

## THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM

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**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.

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

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Manuscripts, photographs, slides and drawings are submitted at the contributors' risk. All material submitted will be copied and returned to the owner.

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).



1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division Information Officer, Major Ivan Worrell questions Nguyen Bo (with the help of an interpreter) about his 13 months as a prisoner of the Viet Cong. See story and more photos in the October 7, 1966 *DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR* in the center section.

In the January magazine I mentioned my frustration in not finding a way to contribute to the military effort directed against the terrorists who violated our nation. I did find a way to serve if only in a small manner. The Monroe County (Tennessee) Chapter of the American Red Cross had been without a director for a few months and I was encouraged to apply for the position. Now, in addition to my other duties, I am engaged for 20 to 30 hours a week administering and directing the activities of our small Red Cross chapter.

The news that a brigade of the 101st Airborne Division was operating in Afghanistan was welcome. I know the 187th Rakkasans will uphold the great traditions of the 101st Airborne Division and will add to the valorous history to the SCREAMING EAGLES.

The artist who produced the POW drawing printed on the cover is not known.

As you can see from the credits many – many people contributed material for the production of this magazine. I ask that all you future contributors try to get around to sending your photos and stories so that they may be published in the magazine and be made a part of the historical files I am accumulating for the 1st Brigade (S).

*Continued Inside Back Cover*



# THE CHAPLAIN

A Chaplain is one that we always need,  
And of his words we must always heed;  
To mold ourselves as staunch good men,  
But this must all come from within.

He came to our camp and ran down the men,  
To get them to church so it can begin;  
To pray for forgiveness and amend our way,  
To do this automatically every day.

He helped the churches of Vietnam  
By the contributions of each man;  
This was fine—this was grand,  
To help the churches of this land.

Chaplain Bowers we all knew,  
A good one to our whole darn crew;  
He'd come out in the rain or shine,  
With the Bible in hand while standing in line.

"There aren't many days left for some of  
you men,  
You know you aren't free from sin;  
To my church you all must come,  
It's right over there—so please don't run!"

We knew the Chaplain was O.K.,  
As he worked with us almost every day—  
Climbing mountains and hills alike,  
On every operation thro' swamp and dike.

He sweated and groaned with all the rest,  
Not even taking a well-earned rest;  
We didn't even turn a hair,  
So to his church we all went there.

Dedicated to Chaplain Bowers, 1/327th Abn Inf, by Sgt. Bernie "Scuffer"  
Gordon, Btry A, 2/320th Arty.

During services we came under sniper fire,  
So please don't call me a great big liar;  
This is how it was and true,  
And here is what we started to do.

The Chaplain said, "Men, sorry about that!  
But don't run off and get your hat;  
Just say your prayers—it won't be your last!"  
But sent two men out on dispatch.

To get the snipers who disturbed us  
Really took a lot of crust.  
They found these two up in the trees,  
And then fell down upon their knees.

"We hate to kill you!" they both said,  
And so they shot them in the head—  
And buried them beneath the ground,  
While services kept with peace rebound.

Chaplain Bowers later said,  
"Please do not disturb the dead;  
The Lord was with us on this day,  
Men, thanks! for your coming, now go your  
way!"

The Chaplain has returned Stateside,  
We miss this man that was by our side—  
Reassuring in words—Bible in hand,  
A servant of God—who saved the band.

*(Chaplain Curtis R. Bowers, 1/327 HQ 7/65-6/66, 3523 Portland Avenue, Nampa, ID 83686;  
(208) 442-1689.)*



On a rugged Viet Nam hillside  
Captain Curtis R. Bowers conducts divine worship  
for his men. The 101st Airborne Division  
with which he is now stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky  
faces the possibility of recall to Viet Nam.

# Front Line Faith

By Henry C. James and Willard J. Pannabecker

"Where is he, Lieutenant?" came a shout heard above the constant cracking of artillery fire.

"He's out front, Chaplain, but don't go out there or you'll be killed!"

The warning came from a platoon leader to Captain Curtis R. Bowers, Chaplain of the 101st Battalion of the 327th Infantry—the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division. The time was early 1965. The place, Tuy Hoa, a small town in South Viet Nam.

Chaplain Bowers, dubbed "The Fighting Minister" by his buddies, had spotted a wounded soldier in the forefront of the battle line. Ignoring the warning, he went on to rescue the soldier. Twenty minutes later, the soldier who had shouted the warning lay dead on the battle-scarred hillside.

This was a sample of the courage that prompted an Associated Press national news story about Chaplain Bowers as the "Pistol Packing Chaplain."

During his service in Viet Nam, the Church of the Nazarene minister accompanied his battalion on every major operation as well as tagging along on many company and platoon actions. He carried a 45-calibre pistol at his side; a fragmentation grenade hung on his belt. After the national feature story,

Captain Bowers stopped carrying weapons in order not to detract from the chaplain's role as a noncombatant.

Although chaplains normally do not carry arms, Captain Bowers explained he did it so he could "establish a closer tie with the soldiers and thus be able to better minister to their spiritual needs." He said at the time of the interview in Viet Nam, "I don't want to be a drag where the going is hot and heavy. I ought to be able to earn my own keep with these men. But I would only use these things in self defense—my job is to save souls and not to take lives." He never had to use the weapons, although he encountered many close calls.

On February 7, 1966, while accompanying a task force at the village of My Canh, his unit encountered heavy automatic weapon fire and sustained numerous casualties. Observing the dangerously exposed position of the casualties, Chaplain Bowers left his covered position and rushed through the hostile fire to aid his wounded comrades.

Later, the general awarding him the Silver Star stated: "With complete disregard for his personal safety, Chaplain Bowers repeatedly exposed himself to the intense Viet Cong fire

*Continued*

SEPTEMBER 13, 1967

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# 'These men are facing life's greatest issues . . .'

Continued

and recovered eleven wounded and two dead soldiers. After his stricken comrades had been moved to the landing zone, Chaplain Bowers effectively organized and supervised an efficient helicopter evacuation. Through his courage, determination, and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the successful evacuation of eleven wounded soldiers. The heroic actions of Chaplain Bowers were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army."

## Most Successful Year

The 33-year-old Captain Bowers, who has been a chaplain for five years, is a guardian of the physical well-being of his men, but another aspect is more important to this modest man. Rather than comment on his daring feats, he remarked, "This has been my most successful year in the ministry." When asked to explain, he said, "These men were facing life's greatest issues and greatest questions—death, killing in relation to the Ten Commandments, and loneliness."

He noted that he never held a service in a building while in Viet Nam, although he held from four to twelve services a week within his battalion. The men worshipped where they were—in the blazing sun, in the rain, under a jungle canopy, in the middle of a rice paddy, or along the South China Sea. There was always good attendance. At times it was so hot in the sun that the men would peel off their shirts; sweat often dripped on the Bibles and hymn books.

The men came from all kinds of church backgrounds and some without any. Chaplain Bowers revealed that "Once I identified or involved myself with the soldier, there would be a rapport that otherwise I could not have had. It is extremely difficult to get and keep youth of this age. To be able to relate in preaching and counselling the claims of Christ, I felt I had to understand what they were going through. Being in combat myself, I felt that I could preach with more intensity and relevancy to their real needs. Once after a gruelling climb, a WW II and Korean veteran said with perspiration running down his face, 'Chaplain, we have to do this but you don't. I ad-

mire you for coming along.'"

Associated Press writer John T. Wheeler, in his feature on Chaplain Bowers, described a typical service:

"Chaplain Curtis Bowers gathered the men together under a clump of trees which partly shut out the blistering heat of the central delta 240 miles northeast of Saigon. They had fought all day Sunday, so the burly Chaplain held special Protestant services for the 101st Reconnaissance Platoon on Monday. The Chaplain set up an altar on top of an empty 50-calibre ammunition box and passed out prayer books and hymnals to the camouflage-clad members of the platoon.

"The GIs made no attempt to form an orderly congregation. They rested against tree trunks or field packs or simply sprawled out amid their equipment. Each had his M16 rifle nearby. The recon men and others who attended the service were unwashed; some were unshaved. Others didn't wear a shirt in hopes of keeping a little cool. Some had combat rations at their side, ready for lunch after the service. During the prayers the harshness of the countryside and of the men's work faded somewhat as the soldiers bowed their heads in silence. After the service when Bowers packed his gear away, the moments of quietness lingered as the men formed small groups, wandering off in different directions."

## Close Calls

When asked about his closest calls, Chaplain Bowers related several incidents in such a way as to give credit to Divine leadership and protection, rather than his skill as a soldier. On one occasion a man walking behind the chaplain triggered a booby trap and took most of the shrapnel, receiving serious wounds. Chaplain Bowers was knocked over but uninjured. He had just passed the same spot.

At another time, Chaplain Bowers closed a worship service, and while visiting as he walked up a path into a small village, a comrade jokingly called out, "Watch that land mine." The Chaplain stopped, looked back, and realizing the soldier was only joking, walked on. The next day another soldier triggered a booby trap in the exact spot on the path where the Chaplain had stopped. Fortunately the soldier was running, which saved his life.

Moments after he was photographed for the AP story, a sniper fired a shot that went through the helmet of a soldier accompanying Captain Bowers, but the soldier was not injured.

Once when about 100 men were worshipping on a rubber plantation, sniper fire broke out as they were singing the closing hymn. During the second stanza, tracers and bullets began flying over the rubber trees. Chaplain Bowers jokingly remarked, "They didn't drag out the hymn!" However, they all remained calm and no one ran for cover. The fire was more intense by the third stanza. After a hurried benediction, Chaplain Bowers shouted, "You better get your guns." *Laughing, he said,* "All you could see were their heels and soles as they took off to get their weapons."

Because of road hazards, land mines and snipers, most combat chaplains travel by helicopter. Chaplain Bowers chose to move with the smaller units on the ground since

*Continued on page 18*



HENRY C. JAMES serves as Assistant to the Vice-President—Development and Director of Publicity at Asbury Theological Seminary. In addition, he has been a correspondent for the Lexington Leader since 1958 with numerous feature stories concerning Asbury College and Asbury Seminary to his credit. This story, rewritten from a leader news article, was prepared in collaboration with



WILLARD J. PANNABECKER of Mishawaka, Indiana, president of the Senior Class of 1967 at the Seminary.

## Front line faith

*Continued from page 14*

his desire was to minister to his men and here his opportunities were greatest. During a time of danger a sergeant who obviously had not attended church regularly remarked to him, "If you took all that trouble to come and see us out here in the jungle, the least I could do is attend your service."

### **Back Home**

Back in Wilmore, Kentucky, with his family—his tour of overseas duty behind him—the tall, heavily muscled Bowers looked more like a company commander than a chaplain. But his gentle voice softened even more as he reminisced about his role in combat: "One Sunday as we were singing one of the great invitation hymns of the church, God seemed to melt our hearts. I could see that many of the men were visibly moved. I felt prompted to give an invitation to accept Jesus Christ as Savior. I was amazed and pleased at the frankness and sincerity of these men who came forward.

"With no aids to faith other than the portable field altar set up on a jeep hood, many of these men had a personal encounter with the Captain of their Salvation, Jesus Christ. I gave one soldier a book entitled *Peace With God* by Billy Graham. The next time I encountered this lad was on an operation in Viet Cong territory. He, along with about eight other men, lay wounded. At first the doctor had given him up as dead, but then a spark of life appeared. He frantically performed a tracheotomy and saved his life.

"The doctor asked me to come over. Lying in a pool of blood, the boy whispered in hoarse tones for me to bend closer. He told me his life and outlook had been changed ever since he had invited Christ to

take over his life. The book, *Peace With God*, was full of holes and bloody, but he had appropriated God's peace."

"I'll never forget the statement of a very good friend of mine before he was killed," continued the Chaplain. "I had known him for many years and appreciated his dedication and devotion to his family and country. In my estimation this Captain was the ideal West Point career officer. However, as he and I talked of spiritual things, I could never pin him down. One day in a mountain pass he made a special effort to come over and tell me not to worry about him anymore, saying, 'Everything is all right.' These were his last words to me. A few days later, while leading his company against overwhelming odds, he was killed by machine-gun fire.

"On another occasion one company of men had not had services for some weeks. I wanted to be sure I got to them on this Monday night. However they were way back in the mountains on an operation. The 'chopper' pilot agreed to take me there if the landing zone was safe. He stated that if I got out there was no getting back in because it was getting dark and he was low on fuel. I jumped out; needless to say, I had a very good attendance on that steep hillside, within earshot of the Viet Cong. I wondered what the atheistic Communists thought when they heard the sweet strains of the Gospel as sung by their enemy across the hilltop."

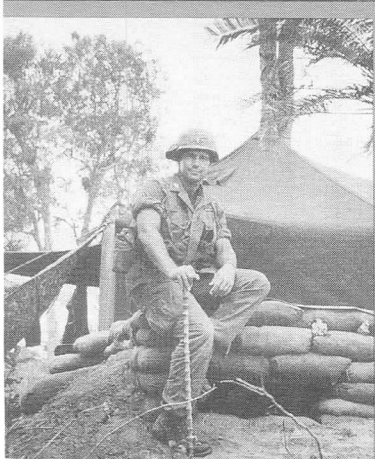
Will Chaplain Bowers make a career of the Army? "Other guys in the service need the same thing I have sought to live and preach—an experience in Christ," he said. "I'll stay in as long as God wills."

*Herald of Holiness Nazarene Publishing House, P.O. Box 419527, Kansas City, MO 64141*

**THE HERALD**



# FORWARD EDGE OF THE BATTLE AREA



A  
CHAPLAIN'S STORY

Curt Bowers  
as told to  
Glen Van Dyne



*FORWARD EDGE OF THE BATTLE AREA is available in limited quantities. When I checked about 900 are in stock. After these are sold the book will be "out of print." You can order a copy from Beacon Hill Press by calling 1-800-877-0700 and asking for item # 083-411-2205. Have your credit card ready. Cost of the book is \$8.99 + postage.*



*Phan Rang Thanksgiving '67*

*Back Row: (L to R) 'Lightin' Beamon, Mize, Sgt Ray Williams (Top Cat), Pat Sassy, 'Flip' Iden (?), Sgt. Reno, 'Breed' Lackey, Sgt. Ashley, Sgt. Delo, Wiley, Eric Johnson (KIA?) Middle Row: (L to R) 'Buckshot' Haddix, 'Cajun' Foret, 'Little John' Summerfield, Sgt. Ramsey, 'Cheese' Bergen, Guaran, Rudolf, 'Doc', Benny, Sgt. Quintana, Burns Kneeling: (L to R) 'Ace Hunter' 1st Lt. Lopez, ?, McKenneth, 'Tiny' SSG Nelson, Baker, 'Poncho' Vasquez, Whitfield, 'Lobo' SSG Galagois (KIA?) Photo courtesy of William S. Reno, Tulsa OK.*



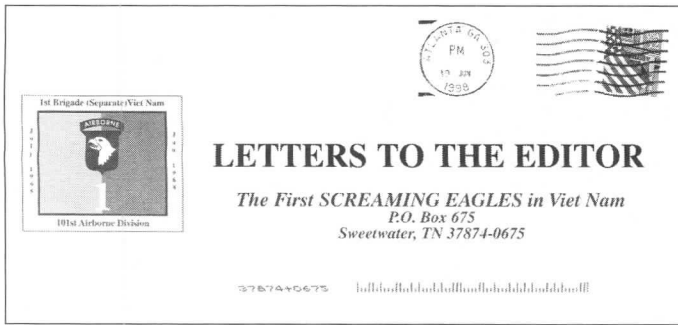


**COL. CHESTER B. McCOID**, left, a 44-year-old paratrooper who lists Middletown as his permanent address, receives his third Combat Infantryman's Badge. (C.I.B.) from Brigadier General Willard Pearson. Now serving in Viet Nam with the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division, McCoid, deputy commander of the famed "Screaming Eagle" brigade, received his first C.I.B. during World War II and his second in Korea. A graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School, he was born while his father was quartermaster of the former U.S. Army prison at Alcatraz. His only Middletown relative is his brother John McCoid of East Street. (U.S. Army photo)



Claude A. Frisbie, Glenmoore, PA - cfrisbie@westwhiteland.org

Ivan, don't know if you can use this photo of 3rd Plt taken March of 67. Center bottom row is Lt. Stephen Naughton. I am third to his right, holding corner of Abu's flag. Others in photo that have been subscribers to your magazine are: top row 4th from left, Greg Gerhardt, bottom row from left 5th, Art Timmons, to my right Rick Saunders then Mike "Doc" Ainsworth.



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

FLOYD PEARSON RET SGM, OH  
PAPAGPEARSON@EARTHLINK.NET

SERVED SEPT67/NOV69 HHC HAWK RECON, A/B CO 2/327

---

+ RICHARD DAVIS, WV  
gdavis@newwave.net

Would like to commo with any trooper who served in A Co. 326th Engineers during late 1967 and early '68. Strike Force, Richard Davis, B/2/502--66/67

---

DICK ALLEN, MEDFORD, OR  
sargd@hotmail.com

Served with 1st Brigade A/2/502/101st. March 1967 to March 1968. I was a boonie rat and walked point. Looking for anyone who was in the battle outside of Chu Lia August 25, 1967.

---

CHARLES BENTON, FORT MYERS, FL  
mrbutchb@yahoo.com

Served Dec 66-Oct 67 Spt Bn A Co Admin Phang Rang went to fwd area as liaison finished tour in Chu Lia, just like to say Hi and welcome home, "AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY"

---

A. SIMICH, SAN DIEGO, CA (TDY)  
simichce@hotmail.com

I was with the Currahees, HHQ & B Co, 3/506

---

+ JOHN M. VAUGHN III, BOCA RATON, FL  
suvyankee1@aol.com

I would like to hear from anyone who remembers Aldwin A. "Sparky" Ellis Jr. He was the radioman for 2nd Plt. A Co. 2/502 from August 3, 1967, till being KIA on 10/7/67. Would like to get details on his last firefight and copies of pictures of him in Vietnam. Sincerely, John M. Vaughn III

BILLIE TWO FEATHERS AKA WILD BILL HUDEK,  
UNKNOWN  
b2feathers1948@Yahoo.com

Was a Pathfinder with the 9th Inf and transferred into Co A 2/502, Dec '67. Survived an ambush 12/27/67. Returned to the field at Song Bay. Stuck it out and transferred to Delta Co, when Div. went Airmobile (AUuuuuuurrgh!!!) Rotated in Oct, 1968 to go to Bragg, where I eventually got out in '70. Served with some of the best troops in the Army while in 'Nam; The Queen Cobra's while with the 9th and the O'Duece!! Since then, a lot of changes have been made. I've changed my name and sex and am much happier than ever. I'm now able to admit who I really am and what I am. I'd like to know if anyone's heard ANYTHING of MSG Ernie Crane, Donnie James, Bill Boozer, Bullock, and Ira McNutt, or any survivors of the 12/27/67 ambush in the Highlands outside of Phan Rang. Johnson Minnitee's son would like them or anyone that knew him to contact him. His name is Johnson Minnitee III, 2378 Boulder Springs, Ellenwood, GA 30294, phone(404)244-9126. Or any of the men from the first platoon of Delta Company, "Sugarbear," "Friar Tuck," Nelson Collingsworth, "Shane" Shuman, Terry Larabee, "KP," or anyone else. Sure would like to know what happened to Scotty Chadwick, too. Jim Gould, if you have any info, please email me, will you.

---

1STSGT CHARLES R. THEOBALD, PAYETTE, ID 83661  
Chuckncoritheo@aol.com

I served with the HHC 2/502 from 64-66, anyone know the status on Wilford K.G. Smith, he was the Bn Co, also 1stSgt John O. Morris, First Sergeant HHC 2/502, Sergeant Major Strausier(don't know the spelling) he was the CSM of 2/502, and a Sgt Stanley, S-1 of the 2/502, SP4 Kieth H. Lisenby, all where in the unit from 64 - 66, also Vietnam.

*Editor's Note: Melvin Strawser, 2039 Bend Rd., Clarksville, TN 37040-8023; (931) 552-4496.*

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DAVID WILLIAMSON, ARKANSAS  
dowd179@ahtd.state.ar.us

Great site gentlemen! I am a member of the 327th web site, the 101st Airborne Div Association and the 101st Airborne Vietnam Veterans Association. Did my time with C 2/327, 1st Brigade, just humped a ruck. Made it back and found this site. Thanks for your involvement. To all my brothers...Welcome Home

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+ TONY BLISS, LOCUST VALLEY, NY  
tbliss@aquaquest.com

Thanks Ivan, you continue to do a great service. See you this summer.

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ANTHONY SAUCEDO, AMARILLO, TX  
anthonbk@arn.net

Was with the 1st Brigade B Co 2/327 in Viet-Nam Jul-66/Jul-67.

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+ THOMAS BEETLE BAILEY, LIBBY, MT  
tbone1012000@yahoo.com

Thank you for a great site. I have been trying to find Tim Ahern, pointman Recondo's 67-68 and Don Welsh. I will continue my search no matter what. Beetle. Served with Recon 2/502 67-68

---

+ RITCH WALSH, BOSTON, MA  
RWBFDMAN@AOL.COM

C CO. 2ND 327, 2ND PLT. JUNE 67-JUNE 68, AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY. SERVED WITH SGT HARPER, COTA, BATHURST, KNIGHT, KNOX, KIRK, ALVERY, GENTRY, PARKELL, WILSON, MYERS, ALBRITTON

---

+ CHUCK CAMPBELL, MORENO VALLEY, CA  
puckstop@gte.net

Wishing to all brigade members a very prosperous, happy, and healthy 2002. A & C Companies 2/502, Recondo Platoon 2/502

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CLIFF FARMER, HAMILTON, OH  
ffubar3506recon (INCOMPLETE EMAIL ADDRESS)

I served with the 3/506 from 1967 to 1968 with "Recon."

---

+ MIKE BALDINGER, KEYSER, WV  
Supergrover@mindspring.com

Best wishes for a safe and peaceful holiday season.  
C/2/502 1965-66

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PAUL GRIMES, VERONA, NJ  
pgrimes@bloomberg.net

Every year at this time I think back to Christmas '66 at Kontum. I hope for all of you who were there you have decent memories of it as I do. In the S-4 area we had a small-decorated tree, there was a 24-hour standdown or truce for both Christmas and New Years. Instead of Bob Hope a chopper circled our base camp with a "lady" draped in a pink silk wrap prominently waving to us down on the ground. Later she entertained us from the back of a flatbed truck. On Christmas Eve, "Smiley" Biting and OB drove a deuce and 1/2 thru the village of Kontum, to take us to the shower point on the river, and the villagers had their lights and decorations up. We temporarily lost a nameless Sgt. who got into his sent-from-home gift of



moonshine and fell asleep in the motor pool for nearly two days. Anyway, I remember it as a pretty decent Christmas away from home and it was a distinct pleasure to spend it with the some of the greatest guys I have ever met! I want to wish everyone a peaceful, joy-filled HOLIDAY SEASON with your family and friends! GOD BLESS AMERICA AND ITS AWAY-FROM-HOME SERVICE PEOPLE WHO ARE ONCE AGAIN PROUDLY PROTECTING THIS GREATEST NATION ON EARTH IN THE DEFENSE AND PRESERVATION OF OUR PRECIOUS FREEDOM!!!!!!!!!!

---

RAYMOND A. PLESIEWICZ, ROMULUS, MI 48174  
RPlesiewic@aol.com

Hello fellow "Strike Force" troopers, I was a member of C Co./2/502nd, 3rd Plt., 3rd Sqd. Looking for any former members of the company. Sgt. Leroy Jackson, Terry Dean, Doc Paul England, and any and all members of the platoon...I know some of us did not make it back, but I would appreciate an e-mail from any of the guys that remember me, ya'll used to call me Plez, for short. I hope to hear from you guys... AIRBORNE!!

---

## E-MAIL MESSAGES

+ GEORGE KUERNER, MAGNOLIA, DE  
GJKuerner@aol.com  
Subject: Re: Diplomat Warrior '66

Ivan, I know you're busy but I have to bother you. Upon reviewing back issue copies of Diplomat and Warrior, Vol 1, No. 10. Dated Jul 29, 1966, page 3, bottom right of page. (page titled 346 days of war- the first year). A picture captioned "No caption needed here." It's a trooper taking care of his feet. Is it possible to trace who this trooper is? Or possibly get a copy of the photograph? Ivan I fully grasp the magnitude of this request but I still hope you can help me. Are you accepting advance orders of your book for the 1st Brigade history? Thanks for time.

*Editor's Note: George, I do not have that photo in my files and I have no way to trace the name of the trooper. I suspect that his name would have been on the photo caption if the photographer had done his job and written it down. I will put your query in the April 02 magazine. The book is not at a stage where advance orders would be appropriate.*

---

PAUL E. GRIMES, BLOOMBERG/ NY  
PGRIMES@bloomberg.net

Ivan, Sgt. White's son (Alvin) responded to a note I left nearly a year ago under his father's name on the Vietnam Wall's web site. His father was killed by an M79 grenade mistakenly discharged in March '67 and I signed an ID for him to be returned home as I was hospitalized from that Amoebic Dysentery situation the Bde experienced in late Feb. 67! You may remember the story of this incident as I heard Sgt. White was medivaced on Col. Frank Dietrich's assigned chopper while the Col. cradled his head and tried to comfort him. This

is one of our losses that has haunted me since, because White often talked to me at chow about his large family (5-6 kids per my memory). In the magazine issue on the killing of the tiger, I believe his father is pictured! I will gladly pay Alvin's subscription to the magazine and hope you can provide back issues. Sincerely, Paul Grimes HHC-2/502

Alvin, I am hoping we speak but want to provide you with as much info that may help you contact others who knew/ were pals with your dad. We were with the 1st BDE of 101st -- remainder of Division from Ft. Campbell came over in late 67. THERE is a web site for this First Bde AND an organization of the original guys who publish a magazine AND hold a every-two-year reunion (Next one is I think in 2002). Anyway the web site is <www.101stabndiv1stbrigade.com>. The guy who runs it is Ivan Worrell and from the site you can subscribe to the magazine. TWO issues ago (one before July 2001 issue) they featured pics of a tiger that was shot by our Col AND I believe your Dad was in one of the pictures. I am going to look for my back issue around the house this weekend. Hope this helps and we will talk if you'd like! All the best, Alvin!

---

+ GEORGE E. BROWN, SR., HAVERTOWN, PA  
gande143@bellatlantic.net  
Subject: Re: KONTUM JUMP

Ivan, I just got my Jan. copy of the 1st. SE in VN, and read with interest about the Kontum jump. I was with "A" Troop, 2/17th CAV, and we also made that jump. It was Jan. of '67, into dried up rice paddies. The story as I remember was that the 1st. Bde was slated to make a combat jump and a female reporter found out and blabbed it. Since we were prepped to jump anyway, they decided to make it into a practice jump. Only we didn't have the ARVN's guarding the DZ like the 173rd did, whom the "combat jump" went to. I'll send some pictures of the jump, that I took with a little instamatic camera on the way down. Please return them. A question, on the KIA list. What is the meaning of the codes under "Casualty Cat." and "Status?" Thanks, George E. Brown, 6/66-1/68, 2nd. Platoon, Inf. squad.

*Editor's Note: The airborne training at Kontum was to get the brigade ready to jump for Operation Junction City. Only one of the separate airborne brigades could be given the Junction City mission. We did not get it. The 173rd did and those who jumped were authorized to wear a bronze star on their wings signifying participation in a combat jump. Ours was a training exercise. On the KIA list BD stands for Battle Death, NBD stands for Non Battle Death [accident]. KOR is Killed Out Right, DOW is Died Of Wounds and DOI is Died Of Injuries. Thanks for your interest!*

---

+ HOUSTON D. WEDLOCK, COLUMBIA, MD  
Hwedlock@yahoo.com

Maj. Worrell, this is a photo of Company B 2nd 327th 81MM mortar section firing a mission at Phan Rang base to support a patrol in 1965; standing in center: SSG Wedlock Section Sgt., close up 3rd squad: Sgt A.Eagle, Gunner Sp4: Davis.



---

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

From: WILLIAMSON, DAVID O.  
[mailto:David.Williamson@ahtd.state.ar.us]  
To: JIM & PATTI SIMCHERA

In your web I noticed a memorial to our fallen brothers. In the 1967 column there are a few men, one of which is not mentioned. His name was John H. Harding served with A 2/327 101st in 1967 and was Killed In Action on October 8, 1967. He was from Benton, Arkansas, where he is buried. I visited his grave and please add his name to the Warriors who did not come home. Thank you. David Williamson C 2/327 "No Slack"

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

Subject: John H. Harding KIA  
From: WILLIAMSON, DAVID O.  
[mailto: David.Williamson@ahtd.state.ar.us]  
To: JIM & PATTI SIMCHERA

John H. Harding's last Standown. Please do not think me as morbid; John H. Harding was killed in battle Oct. 8, 1967. He was a brave paratrooper and my friend and "HOMIE." This is all his mother has left of him. I visit his grave from time to time. I won't forget. Sometimes I weep. David Williamson, C 2/327



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

Subject: John H. Harding KIA

From: "Yankee Jim" <yankeejim@screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com>

David, there is nothing morbid about remembering our fallen Brothers. Keeping their memory alive is one of the reasons the 327th Web Site has been created. I know that Hannibal was/is working on a memorial page for John. I think we are having some difficulty trying to get an In-Country picture of him or any pictures at all. Can you help us out? Another former A Co. Trooper Dave Henslee has provided us with a 1967 A Company photo. Can you pick John out of it? I have copied your earlier messages to other Brothers who served with John and some that served with you in Charlie Company during the same time frame. Have you spoken to any of them? David, you will find the support system of the Open Mike and the new Chat features good for your soul. We, your Brothers, are here to share our common bonds. Please attend the reunion this June, you will find an opportunity to honor John and the other Brothers that fell that day with him. I guarantee you will walk away with a sense of peace you haven't felt in thirty something years. God Bless. No Slack! Yankee Jim

From: WILLIAMSON, DAVID O.

To: worrell@usit.net

As I said to "Yankee Jim" John H. Harding's Last Standown. John was from Benton, Arkansas, and buried in Pipkin Cemetery along side his younger brother. Their loss to their Mother was almost too much. John died (KIA) at 19 years of age, his younger brother too died much later at 19 years of age in an accident. A photo of John alive I do not have, that's why I called it John H. Harding's LAST STANDOWN. THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST. No Slack C 2/327th 101st, David Williamson, 139 Francois Road, Malvern Arkansas, 72104

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"YANKEE JIM" SIMCHER (A 2Plt. A Co. NO SLACK! Sept. 69-70)  
yankeej@cyou.com

6542 Bill Lundy Road - Laurel Hill, Florida 32567  
Voice 850.689.1574 or Fax 850.689.1557

Welcome Brothers! On behalf of all of the 327th Brothers sharing Fellowship on the Internet, WELCOME HOME! There are over 200 fellow 327th and Supporting Units and Brothers who share their stories, testimonials and jokes on the OPEN MIKE system we have set up on the Internet.

During our first communication we would cc: each other regarding whatever we were talking about. For over a year we have been building a new OPEN MIKE system that is FREE and open to 327th members by invitation only. Once you join, you will be able to share FELLOWSHIP with your 327th Brothers. Besides the fellowship you will be able to receive technical advice for those nasty computer headaches by checking into MOUSE'S TECH CORNER run by Marion MOUSE Hammond (A 2/327th 1970). Our newest feature Real Time Chat and Video Conference is headed up by OPEN MIKE Chat Master Eli Haggins (A 2/327th 1965) so once you register give a SITREP to Eli and he'll bring you inside the wire. Watch for



your invitation to join by EMAIL, and just follow the easy steps to register for this free service.

After June 2000's reunion, we created our 327th WEB SITE which was born August, 2000 and what you see today is the result of this work in progress. Recently we purchased additional WEB space due to the astonishing growth. The 327th Page is a place where Brothers can surf and look for lost Buddies. Please go to Dave Cook's 327th Roster and see if your name is posted. If it is, make sure your information is correct. If it isn't correct or you are not on the Roster contact Dave Cook (C 1/327th) at cookdmsg@mint.net or Dale "HANNIBAL" Hansen (D 2/327th) at dhansen@h2ofire.com to have your name added.

Our friends remember us the way we looked in Nam and may only remember a nickname or a face. So please send an in-country picture and a short bio. If you were with ABOVE THE REST email david327@adelphia.net (David J. Markham C 1/327th who serves as WEB MASTER for 1/327th). If you were with SECOND TO NONE/NO SLACK your picture and bio should be sent to the 2/327th WEBMASTER Dale "HANNIBAL" Hansen dhansen@h2ofire.com there is also a page dedicated to our Fallen Brothers. Please send your stories to the appropriate WEB MASTERS listed above, along with your remembrance.

June is the month we have dedicated to gather for a Reunion in Virginia. Our hosts are Ken (K-DOG C 1/327) & Angie Ihle who have been hosting this event for many years now. The gathering started as a COBRA 1/327th event. A few years ago the first 2/327th Brothers attended and since then the Ihles have opened their doors to all 327th Brothers. Angie and Ken work tirelessly year round to accommodate us. You will think you are in for a STANDOWN, however, everyone is older and a lot more Peaceful! There is plenty of healing going on and you can't beat the fellowship so mark your calendar for June 21-23, 2002!

The Reunion is located in Catlett, Virginia - 25 minutes from the Manassas Battlefield. The nearest airport is Dulles in Washington, D.C. Many stay at the Country Inn & Suites in Manassas they offer us a group discount and others stay at K-Dog's. Ken and Angie Ihle have built showers and other necessary sanitation facilities to accommodate the campers, trailers and RVs. They have also established a mess hall where the chow is unbelievable! Many of us chip in to help defray the cost for this gathering of our Brotherhood event! This is in no way solicited or required, merely sincere gratitude on our part since the cost to host this gathering is quite substantial.

Wives, children and grandchildren are welcome to attend! If you can only be present on one day make it Saturday, which is the day, we all fall in and honor our KIA Brothers. There will be NO dry eyes at this ceremony and being there will bring closure to wounds you may have carried for over 30 years.

I am looking forward to hearing from you and would like to shake your hand at the reunion. God Bless! NO SLACK & ABOVE THE REST!

This is NOT a Club; we do not have a president, rules or dues. This is a Brotherhood networking within itself. The cost of the Website and software to support the 327th Rosters, and keep us current on Internet search engines has been paid for with anonymous donations. If you can spare \$1, please send it to Dale Hansen, 133 Colonial Drive Mabank, TX 75147.

+ DONALD L. FOX, PANAMA CITY, FL  
donlfox@knology.net  
"Friendly Fire" tragedy

I read a few articles of my new subscription from the Screaming Eagles quarterly including the 'Friendly Fire' story that was of interest to me. I was also very surprised to see that someone had taken a photo of the Caribou just after it was struck by a howitzer projectile. I was also there and witnessed the incident and was assigned to B Battery 2/320th when this tragedy occurred. I watched the aircraft fly over us at a very low altitude and while looking at the plane's underside the exact moment the howitzer round hit the tail section separating it from the fuselage and the rest of the aircraft fall out of the sky into the village square. I was among several B Battery 2/320th members tasked to recovery the crew/remains and equipment/supplies/assets from the downed Caribou. From where the photo (page 8, Jan 02 edition) was taken, I would have been forward of the photographer and sitting on a stack of 105 Howitzer rounds at the 2/320th section of the ammo dump.

I'll have to dig through my photo album to see what I have of interest. This is good stuff! Thanks

---

+ JOHN M. VAUGHN III, BOCA RATON, FL  
SUVYankee1@aol.com

I never served in the 1st Brigade but I'm very interested in its service in Vietnam. I recently acquired some things that belonged to a 1st Brigade trooper. His name was Aldwin A. "Sparky" Ellis Jr., he was killed in action on October 7, 1967, in Quang Nam Province. These items really got me interested in finding out more about his service over there. I received my first issue of your magazine and I will probably be ordering your back issues and a few other things. Thanks for letting me join your association.

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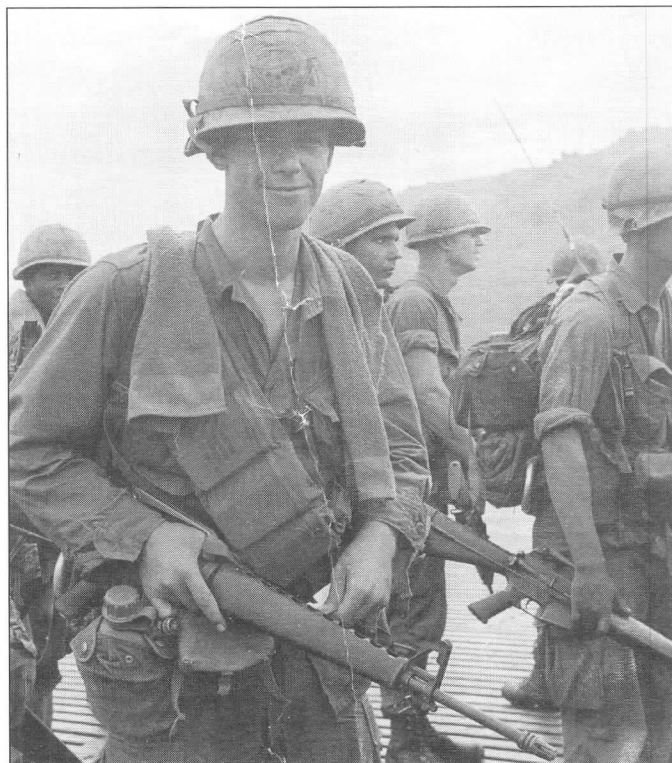
+ DONALD MATTHEWS, PRINCE GEORGE CNTY, VA  
donaldmatthews814@msn.com

Finally purchased a computer, so I can communicate with my BAND-OF-BROTHERS of the past. I talked on the land-line with Dave Campbell a couple of days ago. He was the PLT LDR of the 4th PLT "B" CO/2D/502. My friend SSG Oliver Ware was his PLT/SGT. He was killed the 18th day of May 1967 in DOC PHO. The 4th PLT came under fire at 11:35AM on the 18th day of May 1967. A voice came in on PRC-10, get some help up here right-right-away. LT Belding, 3D/PLT "B"CO, 1st Squad forward. SGT Matthews get up there as fast as you can. We all knew the situation. We traded security for time and lost. The First Squad met its "RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY".

When I was talking with LTC(RET) Dave Campbell I could tell he didn't know, his friend LT David Belding tried to get help to him. That's enough of war stories for now. Just make sure you put my e-mail address in the next issue. Keep up the good work. "B" CO/2D BN/502 INF, DONALD G. MATTHEWS, 3812 PUDDLEDOCK RD LOT-114, PRINCE GEORGE, VA 23875, E-MAIL: donaldmatthews814@msn.com

+ JOHN YEAGER, JR., WEIRTON, WV  
jyeager@weir.net

Sent the following photos.



*Brown, Yeager, Plesiewicz, Doc Johnson, Dulaney at Duc Pho airstrip getting ready to go North.*



*Sgt. Ellis and Vernon Garel*



*From right to left Sgt. Patterson, Sp4 Garel*



Sgt. Patterson (Texas), Sp4 Garel (NY)



Cruz (Guam), J.J. Johnson (Chicago), McGlenn (Pa)



ĐÂY LÀ KẾT - QUẢ  
CỦA VIỆT CỘNG



NHỮNG NGƯỜI ĐÃ TẠO CHO VỢ HỌ THÀNH  
QUẢ PHỤ



COMPLIMENTS OF  
THE STRIKE FORCE  
WIDOW MAKERS



*"This is the result of the Vietnamese Communist.  
Those who have made their wives widows."*

*Editor's Note: More photos from John Yeager will be published in the JULY 2002 issue. Above translation by Ben Lam, 21502 HQ65-71.*



+MIKE DELAMATER, FREDERICK, CO  
delamate@boulder.nist.gov

I have moved to another house and city here in Colorado. My old address was: Thomas ( Mike ) Delamater, 712 Sue Street, Lafayette, Colorado 80026. My new address is: 7740 Primrose Green, Frederick, Colorado 80530.

Thank you so much for your web page. It has helped me contact Doc Baldinger, Harry Cambell, Sidney Brown and a few others that were with me at Dak To on June 9, 1966 on Carpenter's Mountain.

Please keep up the great work and I hope to meet you at the reunion in Texas this year.

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

Well hey Ivan! I apologize for not calling sooner and thanking you for the Jan. issue. It was special for me to see my father's son and daughter in his unit's issue. It was great for Xmas. Ft. Benning is having a ceremony for my father the first week of April for the OCS Hall of Fame. I got a letter from the commander! It was evidently voted in from your magazine write-up. I am planning to attend to receive his award for him in Ft. Benning. I guess they are putting together a nice book of all the inductees biographies. The family approves it first, and I am assuming it will make mention that he was a 1SE in VN (I'll try to make sure). Do you suppose I should take his Silver Star medal? (what a dork).

Also, enjoyed the Mutual Surprise at An Ninh (2nd/502d) in the Jan. issue by Colonel Thomas Faley, Jr. Tell him thanks.

Happy Valentine's Day, cuz I love ya guys. I'll be in touch.

## FROM THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

+ EDWIN "NED" HOLSTER, 1/327 A 12/64-5/66, 215 Crest Road, Marlton Lakes, NJ 08053-7133 wrote: I'm popping in an extra \$10.00 just to help cover some of your expenses. It's real easy for people to lay back and complain about minor mis-givings or errors!

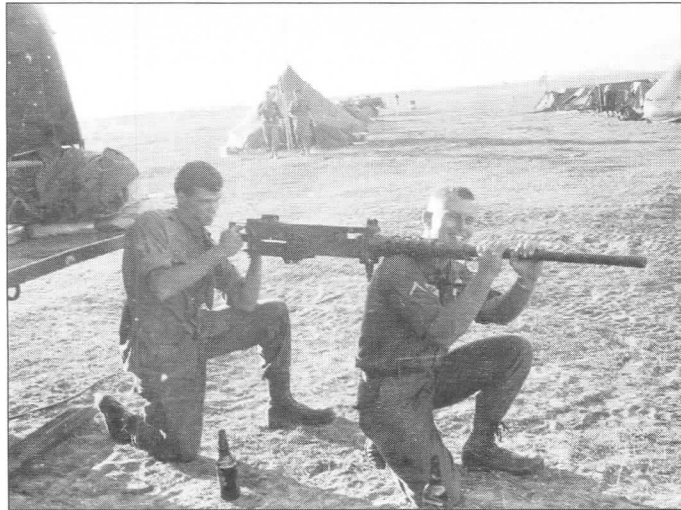
Not enough people are thoughtful enough to take a moment too express thanks for all of your efforts. Thanks for keeping our brethren alive.

+ DEWEY E. SMITH, 1/327 B 7/66-7/67, 3395 Early Avenue, Lima, OH 45801-1164 wrote: Enclosed you will find my check for \$20.00 to cover another year's subscription to The First Screaming Eagles in Vietnam. Keep up the good work. You have a darn good magazine going. My address remains the same. Thanks again for all the work and effort involved in publishing what will make a great unofficial history of our Brigade in Vietnam.

+ RAYMOND W. GERNER, 2/327 HHC 5/65-6/66, 1423 Oxford St., Slaton, TX 79364-2811 wrote: I have enclosed my renewal for another year. I have also enclosed a few pictures that I had been looking for forever.

You have my permission to make copies of them and use them in any way you would like. Info can be found on the back of each picture.

I am still looking for others. One set is of three pictures put together showing the kick off of Operation Benjamin Harrison, Jan or Feb of 1966 at Tuy Hoa. The choppers are lifting out 2/327 Abn Inf. We were at the coast of the South China Sea.



Tuy Hoa South. Whitley and McKensey (man holding gun on shoulder was severely wounded one week ago). He is a good friend of mine. 1966.



Two Vietnamese interpreters Link and Tuy. Spc 4 Tommy Dixel and Spc 4 Gerrald D. Cross. Date Aug 65. 1st camp in Cam Rahn Bay.



Jumping at base camp Phan Rang, November 1965



Phan Rang Vietnam at Phan Rang Airport. Major Charles Dyke (radio call sign Smokey Dragon 5) and SSG Bill Japp (man with chute on) confer over jump manifest.



Editor's note: Photos by Raymond W. Gerner [2/327 HHC 5/65 - 6/66]. One of the photos has 1966 on the back. I believe they were taken at Tuy Hoa.



# Gun Jeep And Crew Barely Miss Mine

**TUY HOA** — Four 1st Brigade troopers in the Anti-Tank platoon of the 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry know what "too close for comfort" is all about. Their 106mm recoilless rifle jeep was riding along Highway 1, when a mine exploded and missed the vehicle by a tenth of a second.

The 106 RR jeep, driven by PFC Jack Dungan was on a daily patrol to keep Highway 1 open for the supply convoys when it went around a bend in the road 30 miles north of Tuy Hoa and passed a loud explosion.

"We saw the smoke and dirt come flying out the ground," said PFC David Bounds, the assistant gunner, "and at the same time we felt the back end of the jeep lift off the road."

PFC Chester Jones, the gunner, and Sergeant Wally Jones, the squad leader, both said they felt the jeep lift off the road and shoot forward.

The "six-gun" jeep was preceded on the road by two .50 caliber gun jeeps, a 3/4 ton truck, and another jeep, before the mine exploded. It was believed to have been hand detonated. "We think 'Charlie' was after the big gun," said Sgt. Jones. "How else would you explain all those other jeeps going by?"

There was no damage to the vehicle and no one was injured. But said PFC Dungan, "Thank God that guy was slow!"

## E-4 To E-5 Hikes Get Speeded Up

**WASH. (Army Times)**—Thousands of soldiers serving in Army combat units are now eligible for promotion to E-5 three months sooner than before under new standards announced in late September by the Pentagon.

In a DA Message (782878) to the field, the Army reduced the minimum time-in-service requirements for E-5 promotion from 18 to 15 months.

The new promotion policy is effective immediately for some 200,000 soldiers currently serving in the grade of E-4.

# 101<sup>ST</sup> FREES VIET PRISONERS

**SAIGON (JUSPAO)** — Details of communist Viet Cong treatment of Vietnamese captives at a mountain-jungle prison have been revealed with the liberation on September 24 of ten prisoners by elements of the United States 101st Airborne Division.

The liberated prisoners looked like they had come out of a Nazi concentration camp. The ten Vietnamese, who had spent from one to 19 months in the Viet Cong prison camp, were freed near Tuy Hoa by an element of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry.

On September 24, the "Tiger Force" of the 1st, 327th moved into a Viet Cong prison camp located in the hills near Tuy Hoa. It was horrifying even for combat seasoned troopers. Six prisoners, too emaciated to be driven off by the Viet Cong guards, were left behind. There was also the body of a prisoner, obviously dead of malnutrition, prepared for burial. Witnesses claimed that the dead man could not have weighed more than 65 pounds. Four new graves were also found and prisoners later claimed that at least a 100 had died in the camp.

ARVN PFC Hong Kim Chinh, 31, had been a captive for about nineteen months. Along with a friend, from whom he was separated later; he escaped on September 22, and made his way toward Tuy Hoa. The next day he was spotted by three officers in a helicopter. They went after him when he ran and as they flew near, he held his hands in the air with a surrender leaflet. He was put into the helicopter and taken to the 1/327th Tactical Command Post for interrogation. On arrival there, he was recognized by other Popular (Cont'd on p-2, Centerfold)

## Long Range Support



The tracks of 175mm and 8 inch guns came to a halt, in position; the command to fire was given. Gen. Pearson stepped up and fired the first round of Battery "A", 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery. The unit will support the 1st Brigade with its long range capability. (Photo by Sp4 Dan Hofforst).

The First Brigade  
**DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR**

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Doctor (Captain) Stephen M. Wilson, Medical Platoon Leader, 1st Battalion 327th Infantry, examines Le-Van-Thuan The 23-year-old former Viet Cong soldier, who had been a prisoner for just over a month, was treated by medics of the "Always First" Brigade shortly after his liberation.. (Sp4 O. Breiland)

## Yost's 10 Men Are Hard Core Proven Professionals Every Fight

By PFC Luis Callender

**TUY HOA**— "I've got the best damn squad in Vietnam." Are the words of Staff Sergeant Burrwood Yost. Squad leader of the 2d squad, 1st platoon in Charlie Company of the 502d Infantry. It is known as the Hard Core Squad.

The 21 year-old paratrooper was once selected as the "Enlisted Warrior of the Week" of the 1st Brigade for his gallantry in action, and he has been recommended for two awards for valor but the four-year Army veteran, who is also up for a direct commission, brushed aside his achievements to talk about the men he leads.

"They're outstanding," says Yost. "Every fire-fight proves them to be nothing less than professionals."

One has to know about Yost's men to understand why they have earned their nick name.

PFC Wendell Rose does not want to be anywhere else but on point. He takes pride in being the man out front. "He's got a sixth sense," Yost says. "He can feel Charlie's presence. Many a sniper has found that out." Rose, who has been in Vietnam only three months, has already been

decorated twice for valor, one Bronze Star with "V" and another the Army Commendation Medal.

Sergeant Angel Delahaut is only 20-years-old but the "Alfa" team leader of the Hard Core Squad is already a seasoned war veteran, authorized to wear the three patches of units he has served with in combat—the 82d Airborne Division, in Santo Domingo; the 173rd from his first combat tour in Vietnam; and now with the 101st. Delahaut has four Purple Hearts, the Army Commendation Medal with "V," the Bronze Star with "V," and a Silver Star. Yost says Delahaut is like a "sponge." "He absorbs any situation at a glance — and talk about an aggressive human being, he's it."

PFC Glenn Whited is everybody's "favorite" in the squad. The 19-year-old "fires his M-79 as though it were a

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

# VC 'DACHAU' CAMP LIBERATED

## Escapee Guides Troopers

(Continued from Page 1)

Force soldiers attached to the unit, as a clerk who had worked in Hieu Xuong District Headquarters. He told about the prison camp and volunteered to lead the Americans to it.

The "Tiger Force," with the escaped prisoner and a three-man mine sweeping team from Company "A", 326th Engineers, followed their guide, after a brief fire-fight, to the prison camp. When they arrived they entered cautiously and caught only a glimpse of one man leaving hurriedly.

Soon after the "Tiger Force" went into the camp, they were followed by the second and third platoons of Company "C" of the 1/327th. This element moved through the prison in pursuit of the guards and the remaining prisoners who interpreters determined left the camp about 45 minutes before the "Tiger Force" arrived.

The guards and the healthier prisoners had too much of a head start, however, but the Company "C" paratroopers found four more prisoners along the trail who were too sick and weak to keep pace with the guards and had to be left behind. They were brought back to the camp after the chase proved useless.

Back in the camp, where a ton and a half of rice was found, the prisoners cooked a 15 gallon pot of rice, and liberated and liberators sat down to a much needed meal. Also found in the prison camp were a sewing machine, blue and gray cotton cloth, assorted small arms ammunition, canteens, blanket material, parachutes, survival kits, black uniforms, and medical supplies with what appeared to be Chinese characters on the labels.

The "Screaming Eagle" paratroopers then started the long trek through the mountains to get the liberated prisoners to an area where they could be picked up by helicopters and evacuated. The Airborne soldiers had to carry seven of them up and down mountains for over three and a half miles to get to a landing zone.

Evacuated to the Tactical Command Post of the 1/327th, the liberated Vietnamese were fed, given cigarettes and had baths. They were administered vitamins, antibiotics, and their open sores treated as were other ailments that had received no attention for many months.

Doctor, (Captain) Stephen M. Wilson, the medical platoon leader of the 1/327th, said they were suffering from skin infections, boils, malnutrition and pneumonia. There were also deformities caused by unset broken bones.

Captain Thomas B. Agezton, commander of the "Tiger Force," said, "It looked like Dachau all over again." Speaking of Hoang Kim Chinh, the escaped prisoner guide for the operation, he said that "...he was great. He stayed right with us. He was with my point squad all the time. He stuck with me through the fire fight. He even helped feed ammo into a machine gun."

### DIPLOMAT and WARRIOR

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

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

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

## Eleven Vietnamese And Their 'Crimes'

**Hoang Kim Chinh**, 31, in prison 19 months, he was a PFC in the Popular Forces of the Republic of Vietnam. He worked at Hieu Xuong District Headquarters. On a weekend over 19 months ago he went to visit his family. While on the visit he was captured by the Viet Cong and put in a prison camp for two months before he was given a Viet Cong trial that led to a sentence of four years imprisonment. His crime: working for the Vietnamese government. He stated that the camp he escaped from and later led the 101st paratroopers back to, had at one time last year, 200 inmates. He also said that prisoners received only two hands full of rice daily. He stated that the eight Viet Cong assigned to the camp were all local men and that he knew all of them. Some of them were former friends of his. He also said that the only propaganda forced on the prisoners was delivered by traveling teams of Viet Cong propagandists.

**Nguyen Bo**, 48, spent 13 months in the prison; was a rich man by Vietnamese standards since he owned land and two buildings. He took a job as an assistant to the intelligence

officers of his province. While making a map of his hamlet he was captured by the Viet Cong. For 12 months he was handcuffed except at meal times. The handcuffs were removed 15 days before he was liberated. He now has no idea where his family is nor what has happened to them.

**Lam Thi Ao**, 65, was held for a year. A housewife, with a husband and four sons, she did not know where they were until she was reunited with one of her sons after being taken to Tuy Hoa. While a captive, she was made to clean the jail and grounds.

**Vo Thi Han**, 37, housewife, she was in prison for eight months. Her brother, who worked for the Government Information Service at Tuy Hoa, had warned her to try to move everything she had to Tuy Hoa. While in the process of moving some water buffalo and other belongings to the city, she was captured by the Viet Cong. She was taken directly to the camp and was neither tried nor sentenced but was termed an enemy follower. She stated that there were nine women prisoners and that they slept in the same house with the rest

but had a divider of sorts to separate them. Her duties were to clean the prisoners' quarters. She is married but does not know where her husband is now.

**Nguyen Hang**, 18, farmer, he was held for five months. The Viet Cong captured him when he left his hamlet to cut grass for his horse. They accused him of passing information about the Viet Cong to government sources. His job in the prison camp was to make charcoal and he says that the guards beat and kicked him when he was not working hard enough to suit them or when he asked a question. According to him, asking the Viet Cong questions puts them in a rage.

**Pham Thang**, 39, Popular Forces PFC was held for a year and a half. He was captured while on leave to see his family. The Viet Cong broke into the house and took him away. He was tried and sentenced by a Viet Cong court to serve four years in prison. He was convicted on the charge of serving the Government of Vietnam. His wife and three children sent him food last year but nine months ago it stopped coming. His goal is to return to the Popular Forces.

**Truong Tung**, 38, PFC also in the Popular Forces, he was held for nine months. He was on pass and en-route to see his family when the Viet Cong captured him. He had no work assignment for the entire time he was held. He was handcuffed, and his hands were freed only for eating.

**Nguyen Phu Xuan**, 34, chief of Ho Thin hamlet before he was taken from his home at night by the Viet Cong and used for forced labor for 11 months. He was taken directly to the prison where he was assigned the job of making charcoal. He says that he was often beaten when the guards did not think he was working hard enough. He believes that his wife and four children moved to a new house that is under district security after he was captured. He plans to return to his post.

**Tran Van Dinh**, 38, a PFC in the Army of Vietnam, was held for 14 months. He was a paratrooper for a year in 1954. He volunteered last year for duty with Special Forces and was on his way to Nha Trang for training when the Viet Cong captured him. He has no family and is a refugee from North Vietnam where he lived in the town of Nam Dinh. He still wants to train

for Forces.  
**Nguyen Huong**, 23, farmer, held for five months. He and two brothers decided to move to Tuy Hoa because of pressure by the Viet Cong to join them as soldiers. On the way to Tuy Hoa he was captured by the Viet Cong. His brothers escaped by jumping into a river. He states that the work in the prison camp was very hard and that the Viet Cong beat and kicked him. His goal now is to join the Army.

**Le Van Than**, 23, was in the camp for just over a month. He had served between seven months and a year as a Viet Cong soldier. About two years ago, he says, because he did not believe in what the Viet Cong were doing, he deserted and returned to live with his family. During the two years with his family the Viet Cong forced him to work for them. Then they tried to force him to join them as a soldier again. After he refused they came to his house at night and took him to the prison camp. Although he had been in prison the shortest time of any of those liberated, he appeared to be in the worst condition. He was not always coherent and showed signs of having been badly beaten.



PFC Rene A. Gosselin, assigned to the Medical Platoon, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry washes stomach sores of a former prisoner of the Viet Cong, Tran-Van-Dinh, prior to treating the running sores that covered the area. Medical treatment was given to prisoners after their liberation from a Viet Cong prison by the "Screaming Eagle" paratroopers. (Photo by Sp4 O. Breiland)

Stories By...  
**Maj. I. G. WORRELL**



Soup is served to the 11 liberated prisoners of the Viet Cong by Specialist 5 Robert A. Benedict of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry. The 11 prisoners who were liberated by the paratroopers were given medical attention and food immediately after arrival at the 327th's Tactical Command Post. (Photo by Sp4 O. Breiland)



Four of the surviving prisoners rescued from a Viet Cong prison camp which had held them near Tuy-Hoa in Dachau like conditions. (Left to right) Nguyen-Huong, 23, a farmer, held for 5 months; Nguyen-Hang, 18, a farmer, held for 5 months; Phan-Thang, sentenced to four years in prison by the Viet Cong; Nguyen-Bo, 48, held 13 months. (JUSPAO)



General William C. Westmoreland (right) talks, through an interpreter, to the 11 liberated former prisoners of the Viet Cong at the Tactical Command Post of the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry. Looking on is Brigadier General Willard Pearson, commanding general of the 1st Brigade. The prisoners were liberated from the Viet Cong near Tuy Hoa on Saturday Sept. 24, 1966. Seven had to be carried over the jungle-covered mountains by the American paratroopers to get them to a helicopter landing zone from where they were flown to freedom. (Photo by PFC Luis Callender)

# Yes, We Hava Banana Cat

**TUY HOA** — "What the devil was that?" asked a startled paratrooper of the 1st Brigade as a furry little animal darted across the top of his mosquito net.

"That was the Banana Cat," calmly replied his buddy lying in the next bunk.

"The what?," asked the "Screaming Eagle" unbelievably.

"You heard me," his buddy said yawning, "the Banana Cat."

That's they way things have been going since the Banana Cat — who really has

nothing to do with bananas—moved in with the brigade.

No one seems to know where the furry, mink-like animal came from, and the critter has no intention of telling. All anybody knows is that she showed up one day and has been gallivanting around the brigade area ever since.

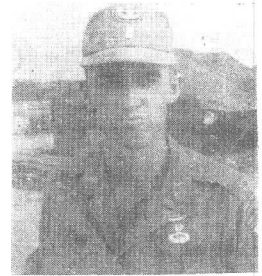
The Banana Cat — typical female that she is—sleeps all day and stays up all night doing such things as chewing on ammo wire and startling troopers out of their wits by darting across the tops of their mosquito nets.

She hunts her own food, eating a steady diet of mice, bugs, and lizards. However, it has been divulged by certain troopers that her favorite meal is "lifesaver candy with a coke chaser."



## WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Lt. Robert Meager



Second Lieutenant Robert Clyde Meager, a member of Company "B," 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry was chosen as the "Officer Warrior of the Week" for his recent actions against the enemy near Tuy Hoa.

PFC Roy Pedersen



PFC Roy A. Pedersen a member of Company "B," 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry, was chosen as the "Enlisted Warrior of the Week" for his recent actions against the enemy on Operation SEWARD near Tuy Hoa.

## Yost's 10 Men Are Hard Core...

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

machine gun. He is the entertainer of the group—a self styled composer of songs, which he sings accompanying himself on his guitar. His latest ballad is called "The Battle of Dak To." He's earned two Purple Hearts and an Army Commendation Medal with "V."

Specialist 4 Michael Clodfelter is the Bravo Team Leader and the holder of a Bronze Star with "V." Unlike most 19-year-olds, the Kansas born fire team leader is unusually quiet for his age. His squad leader describes him as, "A man of few words but lots of action, who never complains about anything."

PFC Melvin Frdzelle is the only married man in the squad. He is the squad comedian. Always good for a laugh but he does not joke when it comes to mauling the enemy with his M-79. He has a Purple Heart for a leg wound. He walked 2,500 meters on it, refusing help from the rest of the squad when they offered to carry his equipment. When he was asked if he was certain he could continue on his wounded leg, he replied, "Tell'em what I am sarge. Tell'em I'm hard core."

Sp4 Louis Hall is the veteran of the "Hard Core Squad," and has missed only five days of combat operation in his eleven months in Vietnam, his R&R. The 19-year-old is the squad Radio Telephone Operator and has earned himself an Army Commendation Medal with "V." Sgt. Yost says Hall is "the type of guy that nothing bothers." His favorite saying is: "If it rains it rains, so we get wet. That ain't no big gig." Hall will be rotating soon and Yost says it will be like losing a right arm.

PFC's Stephen Harper, James Henk, and James Bupper make up Yost's machine gun crew. Harper is the gunner who is "always there when you need him." He holds a Bronze Star with "V." He calls his machine gun: "My

big ugly baby." Henk and Bupper, are the ammo bearers and think nothing of humping a couple thousand rounds each for Henk's "big ugly baby." They have both been decorated for gallantry in action—Henk with the Army Commendation Medal. Bupper with the Bronze Star.

Among these 10 men are a total of 7 Purple Hearts, 5 Army Commendation Medals with "V," 5 Bronze Stars with "V," 1 Silver Star, and 2 more medals to come, they may well be the most decorated squad in the war.

The "Hard Core Squad" is men who live, work, fight, and laugh with each other; in the field their watchword is teamwork.

## CHUCKLES

One sure way to get your wife home from a long vacation is to send her the hometown paper with a news story cut out.

—Live Lines..  
The average number of times a man says «No» to temptation is once weakly.

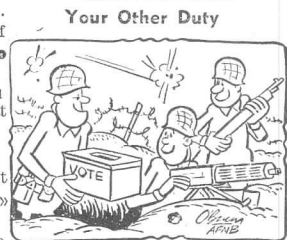
—The Record  
Doctor: «What is the most you ever weighted?»

Patient: «178 pounds.»

Doctor: «And the elast that you ever weighed was...»

Patient: «63/4 pounds.»

—Grocers Advoctee



### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

#### ACROSS

- 1-Comfort
- 5-Competent
- 9-Soft food
- 12-Urge on
- 13-Lure
- 14-Falsehood
- 15-Part of flower
- 17-Dealers
- 19-The mind
- 21-Direction
- 22-Century plant
- 24-Faroe Islands whirlwind
- 25-Parent (colloq.)
- 26-Vehicle
- 27-Head of parish
- 29-Paid notice
- 31-Strike
- 32-Near
- 33-Artificial language
- 34-In favor of
- 35-Teutonic daisy
- 36-Summon
- 38-Lamprey
- 39-Mountain pass
- 40-Sun god
- 41-Actual
- 42-Ox of Calibes
- 44-Missive
- 46-Funny picture
- 48-Semi-precious stone
- 51-Inlet
- 52-Was borne
- 54-Matures
- 55-Cloth measure
- 56-Handle
- 57-Dregs

- 6-Washes
- 7-Unit of Italian currency (pl.)
- 8-Greek letter
- 9-Bag
- 10-Ventilates
- 11-Nuisance
- 16-Suffix forming adverbs
- 18-Loved one
- 20-Jackets
- 22-Pain
- 23-Den
- 25-Entrance
- 27-Man's neck
- 28-Handle
- 29-Region
- 30-Plaything
- 34-Body of peccs

PAL WIPES FEE  
 AGON IDEAL LOW  
 RESPECTATIONE  
 SETON BEHEADS  
 ATEN PANEL EE  
 BUS PARTS CAN  
 ED LOSSES PANS  
 REPORTS PURSE  
 ANTE CURT  
 RANGE BALL LOON  
 OAT RAISE ODA  
 ERS SINKS NET

- 30-Protective ditch
- 37-Inclinations
- 39-Yellowish-red
- 41-Royal
- 42-Land measure
- 43-Metal fastener
- 44-Diving bird
- 45-Symbol for tantalum
- 47-Anglo-Saxon money
- 49-Golf mound
- 50-Worm
- 53-Babylonian deity

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Photo by Frank Johnston

*"You don't feel no pain, baby. You gonna be all right . . ."*

## *'Ain't Nobody Been Walking This Trail But Charlie Cong'*

by Ward Just

"I can't breathe. I am going home. I am going to be OK." These were the last words of Pfc. Richard Garcia, dying in a tangled jungle undergrowth in Kontum province in Vietnam.

Garcia was only the first to die. Twenty-four hours later there would be 10 dead, 19 injured on a strangely cool afternoon in the highlands. Only 12 men of the elite 42-man Tiger Force of the 101st Airborne Brigade would come out uninjured from a murderous ambush by North Vietnamese troops.

Garcia died at dusk on June 7, believed killed by firing from his own lines. It was a bad omen.

There had been other things that went wrong. Sgt. Pellum Bryant, 32, an Army career man from Brooklyn, N.Y., would say later that he knew the Tigers were going to walk into it and catch hell. There were signs everywhere, and the signs were terrible.

The Tigers were lifted by helicopter into a high stand of elephant grass in the late afternoon of June 7. They were the spearhead element in pursuit of North Vietnamese regulars who had attacked an American artillery emplacement the night before. There were no intricate orders; the Tiger commander, Capt. Lewis Higinbotham, a 26-year-old Vietnam veteran from Houston, Tex., was to take the men and move north.

### **"He's a Good Killer"**

This he did. The point man almost immediately found a trail, and the 42 began to move through the jungle upwards into the highlands, 40 miles north and west from the provincial capital of Kontum. The trail was well traveled, and there were fresh footprints. "Ain't nobody been walking this trail but Charlie Cong," said the point man.

Elite units like the Tiger Force are always eager to find the enemy. Their business is killing. "You'll like Higinbotham," the lieutenant colonel commanding the battalion had said. "He's a good killer." But on this mission the signs were too obvious, the indices too blunt.

The Americans fell on one deserted base camp after another, each camp larger than the last. Two hundred yards from touchdown in the elephant grass, there were two small huts; 200 yards beyond them, three more; a quarter mile beyond that, a squad-sized complex.

Then, at 7 p.m., the Tigers stopped for a rest, the VC guerrilla blundered into their midst, and Garcia was killed.

When Higinbotham reported the kill-in-action to battalion headquarters—"We've got a KIA"—the G-2 laconically warned him to watch for more. "Maybe a battalion more," the G-2 said.

Higinbotham decided to stay where he was that night. The men dug in on either side of the trail. Higinbotham, Capt. Chris Verlumis, a 27-year-old career man from Oakland, Calif., who had been in Vietnam barely one week, and I holed up under a large bush.

We passed around a small flask of Scotch with quiet laughter about the incongruity of whisky in the middle of the jungle in the middle of a war.

Half the force stayed awake that night listening for infiltrators. At 7 a.m. they appeared—the second omen.

There was a shout, a rattle of gunfire, and suddenly a sheepish private stood before Higinbotham. There were three Vietcong, armed, the private said. They stumbled into the camp, looked at the GIs, and fled. The GIs, equally startled, had time for only half a dozen rounds, but by then the three had scampered across a small stream into the bush. Higinbotham shook his head. "Hell, they probably spent the night with us," he said.

There had been hope that the Tigers' presence on enemy soil

would be undetected. Now, with the escape of the three VC, Higinbotham would continue to move carefully, but security had to be considered compromised.

By 10 a.m., Higinbotham had found a landing zone large enough for a helicopter, which arrived at noon and evacuated Garcia. The Tigers hitched up and prepared to move out. But first Verlumis walked up and offered me his .45 pistol.

I refused it, arguing that it was bad luck for a noncombatant to be armed. Verlumis persisted. He said anyone who wandered around Kontum province unarmed ought to have his head examined, and besides, it was a fair trade for the drink of whisky the night before.

So I took the .45 and Verlumis shouldered his M-16 and we moved out. I never fired the .45 and Verlumis was dead before dusk. The whisky was drunk by the 10 Tigers who escaped the ambush that was now two hours away.

The trail wound into deeper jungle, with base camp following base camp. Higinbotham decided by 1 p.m. that his band had uncovered a staging area capable of accommodating a regiment. The jungle was utterly silent, the only movement an occasional exquisitely colored butterfly.

In nearly two years in the Mekong Delta, far to the South, Lew Higinbotham had acquired a passable knowledge of Vietnamese. When his point man found a small, arrow-shaped sign saying "Anh ban di trang," Higinbotham translated it, "Friend's go straight." The sign pointed down a trail which led to a ridge line; it was obviously an enemy message.

Higinbotham deployed his main force in a clearing and sent patrols in two directions where the trail forked. The first, under Sgt. Pellum Bryant, almost immediately saw three enemy soldiers in the khaki uniforms of the North Vietnamese army. They killed two with small-arms fire and hand grenades and swiftly returned to Higinbotham's command post.

Higinbotham's radio crackled almost simultaneously with the sound of firing from the other fork. The second patrol was pinned down and needed reinforcements.

Strung out in a long, thin line, the Tigers moved up the trail to the ridge line—slowly, carefully, radios silent, safeties off. At the ridge line, another six-man patrol went forward to learn the American casualties and estimate the strength of the enemy.

They reported back that the enemy force had apparently moved out. Higinbotham nodded, and the line moved down the side of the hill, down the two-foot-wide trail that wound into the tiny cleft between the two hills. It then curled up the next hill.

### **A Stateside Wound**

Edgy — edgy enough that a man snarled if you stepped on, his heel — the platoon moved down. There was a wounded GI in the crotch of the tiny valley. He had been shot through the

neck beside a cache of enemy rockets and grenades. A half-dozen men went down to get him, past the body of an enemy soldier whose head had been blown off in the firing 10 minutes before.

"You don't feel no pain, baby," the medic said. "You gonna be all right, baby, you gonna see that girl." While he talked, he wrapped a bandage around his comrade's neck. Another medic stuck a plasma needle in the wounded man's right arm.

"I knew it," the wounded man said. "I knew that my chip was cashed in."

"We gonna get the medevac," the medic said.

"Well, he better be there when I get there." Then, "You think I got a stateside wound?"

The wounded man, Pfc. Frank Wills of Miami, was at the base of a 45-degree incline. But the medics called for a litter, and four men struggled and worried him to the trail which led down from the ridge line.

It was very quiet. The Americans weren't talking, but Wills had become half-delirious with pain and fear. He asked why his stomach hurt so much. Then he told the medic that he had \$100 R and R money in his pocket. Take it and hold it for me," he said.

But the medic wasn't listening, No one was. Higinbotham was worrying about Wills and whether a landing zone could be carved out of the jungle.

It was 2:30 p.m. when the first grenade crashed down from the ridge line. It went wide with a thump. Then thump! Again, closer.

In the first 15 minutes, three Americans died, six fell wounded. The firing came from three sides, hitting them at three positions on the trail. Higinbotham, at his command post midway down the trail, knew the danger of the situation before anyone else. He called battalion headquarters and requested artillery and air support.

No one knew then, and no one knows now, how many North Vietnamese there were. They did not have mortars, so the unit was probably company-sized or smaller. But they had grenades and small arms and plenty of ammunition, and they fought from concealed positions. They had the advantage of surprise.

In Vietnam, though, however many advantages the enemy has, the Americans always seem to have more. The equalizers are air and artillery. Higinbotham coolly plotted his location, then called in artillery.

The shells fell in a wide semi-circle just beyond the American positions, but close. One fist-sized piece of American shrapnel landed two yards from Higinbotham. While the shells were landing, preventing the enemy from overrunning positions,

Tigers were dying; a half-dozen in the first 90 minutes, four in the five succeeding hours of what official briefers described as "heavy contact."

In the command post, enemy rifle fire was hitting about two feet high. Higinbotham was superbly cool, talking quietly and easily into the field telephone which was the only link to possible safety. As long as the artillery held out, the Communists could not advance, but the fire and the grenades came closer.

By 4 p.m., the situation was almost lost. The Americans had been pushed back into a tiny perimeter, with Higinbotham and the radio as its nucleus. Verlumis was dead. Sgt. Bryant was the only unwounded man of his eightman squad.

A mile away there were American reinforcements, a full company. But could Charlie Company get to the ridge in time?

"Well, you've got to try it," Higinbotham said over the radio. For the first time his voice cracked and you saw a 26-year-old advertising account executive or civil servant or department store clerk, not a captain in the United States Army. "If you don't get up here we're all going to be dead. If you don't get up here soon, I'm gonna melt."

There was another crackling over the radio and, barely audible, but precisely as he was reading from a piece of paper, Higinbotham said: "Dear God, please help me save these men's lives."

It got worse after that.

The sniper fire came closer, along with the friendly artillery. A wounded infantryman, his voice loud as a bullhorn, was calling from the left flank: "You've got to get me out of here." He repeated it again and again and again. Then he screamed, and was silent.

The Americans were pushed back into an area half the size of the White House lawn, and at the worst of the firing the tiny group in Higinbotham's CP heard over the rise of a small hill: "Tigers, Tigers."

No one answered. Had the enemy penetrated the perimeter, or what was left of it? I was grateful now for the .45 and thought of identifying questions to ask. Who managed the New York Yankees? Was Marilyn Monroe dead or alive? But then a voice said, "Christ, don't shoot" and a sweat-drenched head appeared over the ravine. The head belonged to an American.

### No Way to Stop Them

There were now seven men in the CP and a 360-degree defense. Pfc. Sam Washburn of Indianapolis, Ind., made a dive into the CP and told Higinbotham: "I got two Charlies and the Captain got one. The Captain's dead." We were firing from the trail and I looked over and asked him how his ammo was and he was dead." Higinbotham said nothing and contin-

ued to talk the artillery in.

The cries of the American wounded were getting louder as the men pulled back into a tighter circle. There was no firing from the command post because no enemy could be seen.

But then came the grenades. They were coming closer, just off the mark. That was when the awful fear set in. It was the fear of sudden realization that the North Vietnamese were lobbing grenades and there was no way to stop them.

In Vietnam, if you are 30 years old, you feel an old man among youngsters. I was thinking about being 30 among youngsters when Pfc. Washburn leaned over and very quietly, very precisely, whispered "grenade." Then he gave me a push. I don't remember the push, only a flash and a furious burst of fire. The grenade had landed a yard away and was the closest the North Vietnamese were to come overrunning the CP.

Now the enemy was closing, but so was Charlie Company. Air was now available and 500 pound bombs and .30 calibre machine guns ripped the thick jungle. The wounded men lay scattered in pockets of violence near the CP. They worried about both American bombs and VC grenades and small arms fire, both coming steadily closer.

Charlie Company, moving up from the rear, could hear the bombs but could not see the trapped platoon. On a signal from Higinbotham, who was in continual radio contact with Charlie, the Tigers began to yell and scream, great banshee whoops to guide Charlie Company to the ridge line. They arrived in tears and handshakes.

And whisky. The battered flask, a tartan-covered bottle more suitable for the Yale Bowl than Kontum Province, was passed around the 10 unwounded Tigers and their comrades.

Charlie Company relieved the exhausted defenders, established their own perimeter, and swept up the ridge behind a drumbeat of rifle fire. The enemy had moved out, and the air and the artillery strikes were temporarily halted.

Among the Tiger force, 19 wounded were collected and medevac helicopters were brought in. There was no landing zone, so they hovered at 100 feet and sent down a T-bar to hoist the wounded to the chopper. Strobe lights from the chopper illuminated the area as arc lights illuminate a baseball stadium.

The first chopper took three wounded. The men were strapped into the T-bar and slowly lifted the 100 feet. You saw flashes of light and heard the crack and thwup of bullets and realized that the enemy, still entrenched on the ridge line, were shooting. They were shooting at you.

*Ward Just was seriously wounded in the ambush. His story first appeared in The Washington Post on July 17, 1966. A few days later he returned to duty as the Post's, correspondent in Vietnam.*

# ANGELS AND EAGLES

*A poem by Peter S. Griffin*

Dedicated to the brave paratroopers of the "Always First Brigade" of the world famous 101st Airborne Division.

"For God and country!"

"Saint Michael"

"THE ARCHANGEL"

Angels protect and defend,  
What is sacred to the end....  
Always fighting to amend,  
Evil acts destroying men....

Angels guard Heaven's gate,  
They pull patrols to ensure our fate....  
Devils and demons quake in fear,  
When and wherever, angels appear....

Evil lurks all over our sphere,  
Creating chaos and spreading fear....  
Thus, the reasons angels enlist,  
Courageous soldiers, for an assist....

Eagles, those who are true of heart,  
The angels earthly counterparts....  
Eagles, proud and brave,  
Soldiers who fight, inspite of the grave....

ANGELS AND EAGLES, surely, the best,  
Engaged in God's most holy quest....  
Evil's battles will lose their zest,  
To ANGELS AND EAGLES, ABOVE THE REST.

To make our world, a better place,  
To spread to all, God's saving grace....  
To put a smile on His face,  
To see His warriors, interlaced....

Nothing less, can make God cry,  
The precious loss, of His allies....  
Still they fight and will preserve,  
Freedom's song of heavenly words....

Righteousness will prevail,  
ANGELS AND EAGLES, will not fail....  
Peace on earth, is their goal,  
Protecting lives and saving souls....

ANGELS AND EAGLES, both AIRBORNE,  
All God's enemies, be forewarned....  
Evil will most surely die,  
From attack, from on high....

To join the angels in their fight,  
To aid the oppressed in their plight....  
To right the wrongs of evil doing,  
To kill the seeds, before their spewing....!

To STRIKE, the devil, hard and fast,  
To make his pain, forever last....  
To make him curse, his evil past,  
To make him suffer and breathe his last....

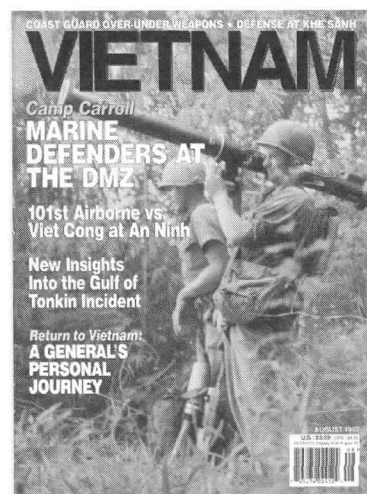
To promote health and healing,  
To give to men, the right of kneeling....  
To pray to God, sincere in feeling,  
To thank Him for, their very being....

ANGELS AND EAGLES, joined together,  
Forming a bond, that lasts forever....  
ANGELS AND EAGLES, who fight and toil,  
Protecting God's most precious spoils....

To pick up the sword, to take the risk,  
To spread their wings, to make a fist....  
To STRIKE a blow, for what is right,  
To give their lives for mankind's strife....

ANGELS AND EAGLES, SECOND TO NONE,  
The glorious day, all wars are won....  
Perhaps that day, for what they've done,  
Heaven and earth, will be as one...!

Peter S. Griffin  
Co. A, 2/502nd Infantry  
101st Airborne Division



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COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE

SANDS, GLENDALE RA18706290 SP4 E4 Trp A 2d Sqdn 17th Cav  
WATSON, STEVEN M. RA15735815 PFC E3 Trp A 2d Sqdn 17th Cav

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE (FIRST AWARD)

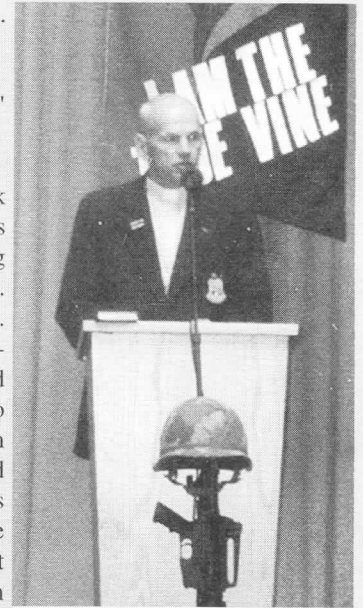
ENI Trp A Sqdn 17th Cav

FOSTER, FRANK	RA14332679	PSG	E7
STRATTON, ROBERT J	RA17570487	SSG	E6
NELSON, WESLEY E	RA13263148	SSG	E6
GUIRE, HENRY B	RA12729268	SGT	E5
DANIELS, TERRY D	RA17725094	SGT	E5
FRATIANNI, ANTHONY D	RA11433423	SGT	E5
TAVARES, JERRY J	RA50010348	SGT	E5
MARCHAND, RUSSELL V	RA11465948	SP4	E4
KAVOORAS, JOHN P	RA17729286	PFC	E3
SHAFTER, RICHARD JR	RA12752188	PFC	E3
PELLEY, HAROLD J	RA16859386	PFC	E3
WUSSOW, LLOYD E	RA18755154	PFC	E3
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GREEN, MICHAEL H	RA16866533	PFC	E3
KORNICK, FERDINAND J	RA13865923	PFC	E3
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KOSHINSKY, GEORGE A	RA19881806	PFC	E3
LAUGHLIN, DAVID R	RA13865892	PFC	E3
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SHAUGHNESSY, JOHN E	RA12744719	PFC	E3
THEIS, RONALD D	RA18764770	PFC	E3
WOODS, ARNOLD R	US55866364	PFC	E3
YEAGER, JAMES C	RA16859266	PFC	E3
MEYERS, DONALD A	RA19888181	PFC	E3
HAMMOND, RICHARD M	RA12767222	PFC	E3
SANDS, RICHARD M	US56402350	PFC	E3
PRITCHARD, MICHAEL J	RA19876404	PFC	E3
ARMSTRONG, JAMES E	RA15924740	PFC	E3
BUTLER, ROBERT R	US51559712	PFC	E3
RADAMAKER, BRIAN D	US56686990	PFC	E3
WISEMAN, JACK V	RA19833485	PFC	E3
EPPERSON, JAKE M	RA14915840	PFC	E3
BURGAN, LAUNCE L	RA17706854	PFC	E3
POPE, RAYMOND C	RA13987753	PVT	E1

Chaplain (LTC)Ret. Richard L. Heim 2/327 HHC 5/66 - 5/67

Sent by: "Richard C. Schonberger"  
richard58@starpower.net

I spoke to Susan and Dick. Dick has had a spell of bad luck and is currently in an assisted living facility near Colorado Springs. He has had multiple problems. They hope to get him into a near-by VA facility. Dick has suffered with problems akin to Alzheimer's, which have been aggravated by PTSD. He also had an embolism, which affects his ability to walk. It looks like the situation became more severe last September, and they have been fighting it ever since. I talked to Dick for awhile and he appeared quite lucid, but Susan says he has short term memory problems.



Susan says he remains very much the chaplain and veteran, and always a Screaming Eagle. She said he would like to hear from friends and fellow Screaming Eagle vets, and she hopes to get an email connection for him. I told Susan I would pass the word, and she supported that.

Not sure I can add much at this point. Thanks and regards, Dick Schonberger

Chaplain Heim can be reached at:

CH(LTC)Ret. Richard L. Heim  
220 Sedona Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921-2804  
(719) 481-0517



15. TC 253. Fol DY ASG/REL announced this sta. NTI.

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Dy asg: Mech Maint Sec Ldr (74815) Dy rel fr: Shop Officer  
Eff date: VO CG 15 Feb 67 cfm

SHOEMAKER, CHARLES P JR 05709660 CPT ORDC  
Fwd Spt Det Co A (Grd) (Maint) 801st Maint Spt Bn  
Dy asg: Acft Maint Sec Ldr (64823) Dy rel fr: Mech Maint Sec Ldr  
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# VIETNAM REPORT - - - Home Again

After more than a year in the field, the "Screaming Eagles" have finally come home to Phan Rang. The rest was short, however, as business-as-usual was the order of the day.

Completing Operation Pickett in northern Kontum Province with a total of 81 enemy killed or captured and 109 weapons taken, the "Always First" paratroopers also found time to get in at least one proficiency jump.

Conducting the first mass tactical jumps by an American unit in Vietnam, the "Screaming Eagles" used rice paddy drop zones. All the battalions participated in the jumps and the C-130 aircraft of the 7th Air Force dropped them right on target every time.

Returning from Kontum to Phan Rang, the "Always First" brigade did it again. In an overland move by elements of the brigade, the highways down from the Central Highlands to the coast were opened for the first time since the French traveled them years ago. The brigade moved by air, land and sea to complete the move.

Capt. Richard Maglen commanded the convoy, named "Task Force Maglen," from Qui Nhon to Phan Rang, ably assisted by Capt. Dale Wagner of the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, and Capt. David Sallee of Company A, 326 Engrs. The over 400-mile convoy from Kontum was completed with no major incidents.

Gen. Vinh Loc, Vietnamese II Corps Commander, presented the brigade with the Cross of Gallantry with Palm Streamer at departure ceremonies in Kontum. He also presented General Pearson and Lt. Col. Joseph Collins with the Cross of Gallantry with Palm, which is the Vietnamese equivalent of the Distinguished Service Cross.

Back in the base camp, Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson said goodbye to the men who had served him for a year. General Pearson is off to a new assignment with Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

Another great leader has taken over the brigade, Brig. Gen. S. H. Matheson, the new Commanding General has already made his presence felt keenly in the brigade. General Matheson joins the brigade after serving as Assistant Division Commander at Fort Campbell.

The excitement of coming home had not died down before the "Screaming Eagles" started Operation Farragut to clean out the area near Phan Rang. The operation had not been in progress long before the "Nomads of Vietnam" moved

once again. Leaving the 2nd Bn, 327th (Airborne) Inf to complete Farragut, the brigade (minus) moved to Boa Loc on Gatling I and then on to Phan Thiet for Gatling II, which is still in progress at this time.

The brigade also said goodbye to Lt. Col. Joseph Wasco in January. "Wild Gypsy" left for the Command and General Staff College after turning the reins of the 2/327 over to Lt. Col. Donald Rosenblum, the former brigade S-3. The new S-3 is Lt. Col. John Tatum who was with Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Advisor Division.

Three honorary "Screaming Eagles" were made by the brigade during their operations in Kontum. Newsmen Frank Faulkner, a former 1st Bde paratrooper, and Sean Flynn, both from United Press International, jumped with the brigade and were presented with the certificate. Tommy Banker, six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Banker, who work with the Summer Institute of Linguists in Kontum, had expressed the wish to be a paratrooper. Brigade S-5, Major Stephen Doherty made the arrangements and Tommy was made a Screaming Eagle and toured the brigade area with the 101st Military Police in their gun jeeps. Major Doherty is now XO of the 2nd Bn, 502d (Airborne) Inf, and Major Thomas F. Bligh is the new S-5.

## 1/327 Abn Inf

Lt. Col. Joseph Collins' "Above the Rest" battalion performed a two-fold task during a search and destroy mission during Operation Pickett. Coming upon two Montagnard women near a stream, "Charlie" company was led to their village. The village chief expressed a desire to be relocated to an area under government control and the 1/327 obliged by evacuating them to Kontum for resettlement. Even in war there is time for compassion. Later in the operation "C" company again found themselves in a Montagnard village. This was on Christmas day, and church services were being arranged to be held. Spotting an old church, Capt. William Northquest, the company commander, asked the villagers if services could be held in it. They assented and the old church was cleaned out. Just before services were held the Montagnards brought in flowers and decorated the altar. They then stayed for services, worshipping with the American paratroopers. PFC Patrick Murphy, a medic in "Charlie" company, had his equipment all but shot off him, but still

stayed to save the life of one of his comrades during a firefight north of Kontum during Operation Pickett. Murphy is another one of the "Dedicated group of soldiers who continually risk death to save a life."

### **2/327 Abn Inf**

"Alpha" company recently did something that was thought impossible—they stopped the mail from going through—NVA mail, that is. Beating the jungles northwest of Kontum, the Screaming Eagles had a Western style shoot-out with three enemy. When the smoke had cleared, one lay dead and two wounded were swiftly retreating. Staff Sgt. David Carr policed up a small rucksack one of the wounded had dropped. Inside was outgoing mail, self-stamped and all addressed to North Vietnam. Silver Stars were awarded to Lieuts. Robert Meager and Richard Whelan and SP4 Gerald Janis. "Second to None" is no more. The new motto of the 2/327 is "No Slack," which means just what it implies, "No Slack" to Charlie or the efforts put forth by LTC Rosenblum's (Thunderball) battalion.

### **2/502 Abn Inf**

Gen. William C. Westmoreland presented the first combat award's streamer to the "Strike Force" for its actions in Operation Geronimo I during ceremonies at Kontum. Silver and Bronze Stars were presented to Lieuts. John Mooneyham, Joseph Trimble and David Blodgett by General Pearson for their valorous actions in combat. The "O Deuce" also uncovered an opium cache in a raid on an enemy base camp near Kontum. Along with the opium a set of false teeth was found. PFC Jimmie Allen knows what "too close for comfort" really means. The "B" company trooper was recently engaged in a face-to-face meeting with an NVA during Operation Pickett. During a firefight in a stream bed the 20-year-old Screaming Eagle was attacked by an NVA, who apparently wanted to capture him. Sticking the muzzle of his burp gun into Allen's stomach, the NVA didn't have time to do anything else as Allen turned on him with a vicious attack. PFC Douglas Hoffman came to aid Allen in his fight and the result was one NVA killed, one burp gun captured.

### **2/320 Abn Arty**

Lt. Dan Larned's French-speaking ability came in handy during Operation Pickett. When a Montagnard and his wife were found near "A" company, 2/327's perimeter, the forward observer

was the only one able to communicate with them as there were no interpreters with the company. Lt. Larned then tried out his French and surprising to all the Montagnards understood him. "B" Btry 1/30th, working with the brigade to provide the "heavy" punch of 155's to the 105's of the 2/320, had a little party with Montagnards near their position during Operation Pickett. They went into the nearby village with soap, candy, medical supplies and other items donated by men of the battery. The Montagnards returned the favor with some treats of their own, giving the artillerymen a party and presenting them with rice wine to take back to their positions.

### **101st Abn Support Battalion**

The FSE (Forward Support Element of the Support Battalion) put forth a lot of effort fixing up the facilities of the Montagnard hospital run by Dr. Patricia Smith. Fixing and building shelters for supplies, erecting the framework for a new building and repairing the hospital's vehicle were some of the jobs done by the Screaming Eagles, under the command of Major Burt Slater in Kontum. Capt. Patrick M. Brosnahan supervised the repair jobs. SP4 Mickey Pharr of the FSE donated his blood for a needed transfusion for a Montagnard woman who was dying. Through his timely generosity, the woman's life was saved. SFC Paul Branson, 1st Sgt. of the FSE, improvised an oxygen tent using industrial oxygen to save the lives of two Montagnard children at the hospital. Suffering from pneumonia, the children would probably have died if oxygen had not been made available to them. As there was none to be obtained, SFC Branson suggested the industrial oxygen that was used in the maintenance shops. His idea was accepted and the children recovered.

### **Late Entries**

Four promotions were made while the brigade was in Phan Thiet for Operation Gatling II. Major Donald F. Peterson, Staff Aviation Officer, got his new silver leaf for LTC, and Capts. James M. McFadden, Assistant S-3, Franklin B. Haskins, Chemical Officer, and Raymond Lagen, Signal Officer, traded in their tracks for the gold leaves of Major. And it was farewell to Capt. John Hensley, recently promoted, who leaves the Information Office for the States. John will be stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

—Story by Lt. Arthur D. Barnett

# National Airborne Day

Patrick Tremblay ptremblay@asomf.org  
sent the following:

Please add the following date to your calendars:  
August 16, 2002, Airborne Heritage Day

The date is called National Airborne Day, as annually a proclamation is signed by the President honoring our airborne forces, thanks largely to our friends in the 82d Association. This year it will be even more significant as it comes at the 60th anniversary of the 82d and 101st Airborne Divisions, during the 60th year of Ft. Bragg's becoming the "home of the airborne," and during the summer of Special Force's 50th anniversary.

The Airborne & Special Operations Museum opened on August 16, 2000, the 60th anniversary of the first US Army parachute jump by the Test Platoon. On our first anniversary last year we held a great celebration, with a large layout of 82d Airborne and US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) equipment including helicopters, artillery, weapons and vehicles. Over 6,000 people visited the museum over the course of four days, and this year will see a similar celebration.

We call our celebration Airborne Heritage Day, and it will be an annual event at the museum, with the assistance of the XVIIIth Airborne Corps and USASOC. Please add the date to your calendars of upcoming events, and encourage your associations that are looking for a place to celebrate our airborne history to consider Fayetteville this August. Feel free to contact me for more information.

Airborne!  
Patrick

Patrick Tremblay  
Airborne & Special Operations Museum  
(910) 483-3003 ext. 229  
www.asomf.org



## 101st MEDIC SEES VIETNAM THROUGH MICROSCOPE

Information Office, 1st Bde 101st Abn. Div.  
Capt. P.W. Apfel

"Kraft, do a malaria smear on this man!" This order usually begins and ends the work day of Sp/4 Fred B. Kraft, of Company "D" Support Battalion, of the Army's 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. This man has an important job in the Brigade's Clearing Station as the doctors base many of their diagnoses on the things he observes through his microscope.

The job of laboratory technician here in Vietnam is quite essential, as many of the illnesses suffered by the men of the Brigade are caused by tiny organisms which can only be seen by

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

Sent: Tuesday,  
January 15, 2002 10:37 AM  
Subject: Rich Montgomery  
+ RICK SALAZAR, AUBREY,  
TX  
Mmsalazar@aol.com

Fellow troopers,

Bruce Masters, who just spoke with Myrna Montgomery, just called and informed me of the passing of Rich Montgomery at 0630 hours EST. Rich finally succumbed to the cancer that engulfed his body, but not without a giving it an Airborne struggle.

Rich was a model Veteran and a leader of the Troung Luong Brotherhood. His wound, which kept Rich in a body cast for months, following June 19, 1965 surfaced as a new focus point in Rich's life. His work for Veterans can never match his love for all those who he came into contact. Rich was the most loving man I have ever met! He loved his family, he loved all veterans and held a special love for families suffering from a loss of a child through tragedy and those youth who were written off by society.

Rich was just named "Man of the Year" by Philadelphia District Attorney for his tireless selfless dedication to preserving the sacred memory of our children, who died. Giving consolation to their hearthbroke families and saving the lives of at-risk young people through powerful and effective anti-violence programs. This was not given because of his illness, but because of his love of mankind and his works within that direction.

I am proud to have served with Rich, but more proud to say that I later found him as a friend and comrade. He was one of a kind.

So many will miss him!

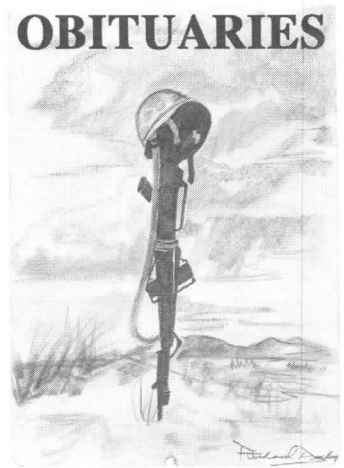


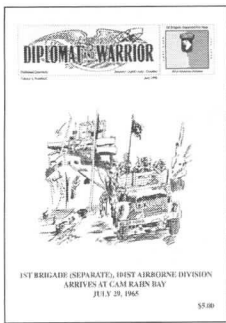
The October 2001 issue for CHARLES COX (501 SIG HHC 4/67-4/68 - 10/01), 8300 Phillips Rd., SW, Apt 110, Lakewood, WA 98498-6310 was returned marked Deceased 06/28/01. No other information is available.



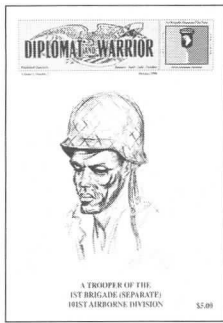
the use of a microscope. Sp/4 Kraft's work is very taxing with the high incidence of malaria here in Vietnam. His work day sometimes extends into the late hours of the night, but this young paratrooper never complains. "I really 'dig' this job," he said, even as the strain of many hours of monotonous lab work is quite evident in his eyes.

This man who has recently acquired the job as the school-trained laboratory technician will be returning to the States soon for discharge. Kraft has been on jump status during most of his service time, and looks forward to the completion of his last seven months. After his enlistment is completed, he plans to attend San Francisco State College. He is a native of San Anselmo, California.

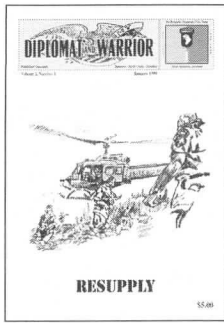




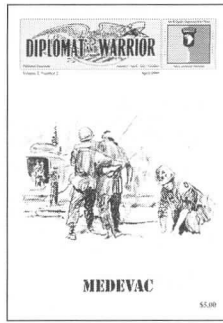
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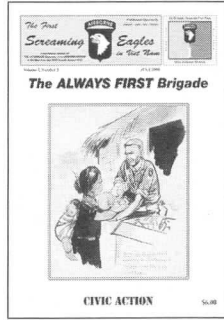
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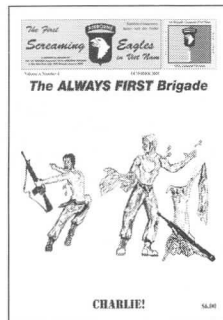
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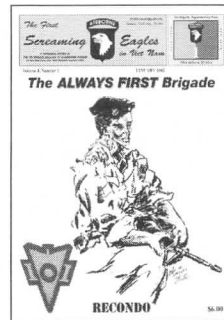
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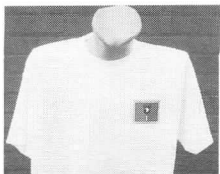
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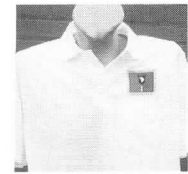
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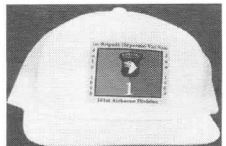
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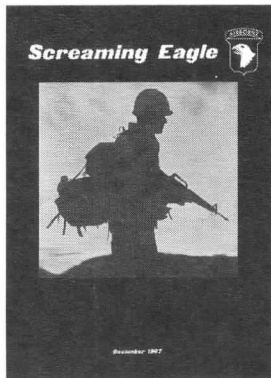
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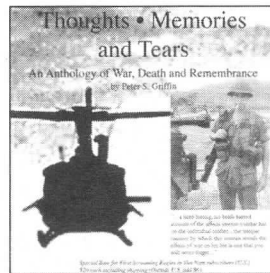
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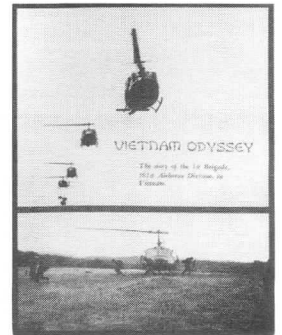
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1/501 C 12/67-4/68 - 10/02  
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Chelsea, ME 04330

Russell (Russ) L. Thompson  
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2321 Postmaster Lane  
Greenfield, IN 46140

John M. Vaughn III  
Assoc. - 10/02  
854 Hibiscus Street  
Boca Raton, FL 33486-3540

Alvin L. White  
FAMILY - 10/02  
P. O. Box 1131  
Sarasota, FL 34230

Michael F. Wilson  
2/327 A&C 6/67-3/68 - 10/02  
4742 Solandra Circle W  
Jacksonville, FL 32210-7024

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## Renewals

November 27, 2001 through  
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3/506 A 10/67-10/68 - 10/02  
P.O. Box 50273  
Knoxville, TN 37950-0273

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9436 NE 138th St.  
Kirkland, WA 98034-1822

Louis R. Apuzzio  
2/327 B 6/65-7/66 - 10/02  
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Glen Burnie, MD 21060

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Falls Church, VA 22046-3630

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Antioch, TN 37013

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3/506 B 10/67-10/68 - 1/03  
1 Bayberry Lane  
Levittown, NY 11756-4001

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3/506 B 10/67-10/68 - 1/03  
2219 Parliament Court  
Burlington, KY 41005

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326 MED D SPT 8/66-2/67 - 1/03  
8422 Meadowlark Lane  
LaPalma, CA 90623-2237

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6360 Brixton Lane  
Indianapolis, IN 46220-4804

William L. Culbertson  
1/327 B 7/66-7/67 - 1/03  
P.O. Box 30044 # 388  
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ISGT(R) Cam F. Dodson, Jr.  
2/327 HHC 5/66-5/67 - 1/03  
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Monroe, TN 38573-5121

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3106 Parrish Rd., Apt C  
Augusta, GA 30907-4766

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405 Nola Drive  
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Bent Mountain, VA 24059-2010

# First Brigade Memorial



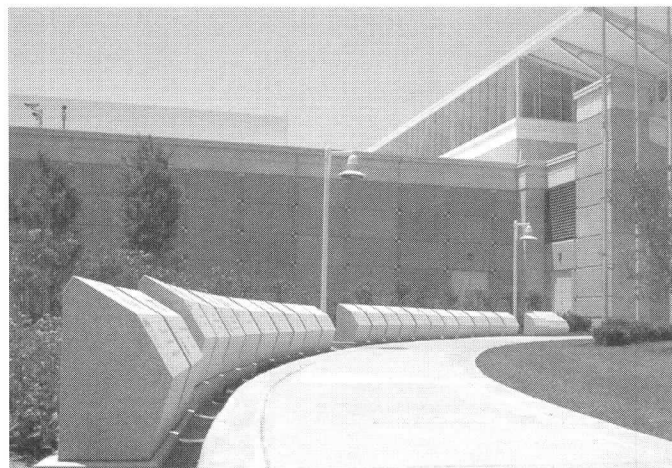
## 1ST BRIGADE (S) MEMORIAL AT THE AIRBORNE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS MUSEUM

Greetings from Fayetteville,

Attached are two pictures. One is the 1st BDE, 101st ABN unit memorial, the second is a shot of all the unit stones leading up to the museum. More will be added as other units come forward, and eventually these will line both sides of the entrance.

It was good talking to you on the phone the other day, and I look forward to meeting you in person on your next visit.

Take care,  
Patrick Tremblay  
Airborne & Special Operations Museum  
(910) 483-3003 ext. 229  
[www.asomf.org](http://www.asomf.org)



## HONOR ROLL - IN MEMORIUM

To the Screaming Eagles of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division who have given their lives in Viet Nam to preserve the freedom and dignity of man.

### CASUALTIES OF THE 1ST BDE IN VIETNAM

Major Herbert J. Dexter, HHC, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
Captain Robert E. Rawls, Company C, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
1st Lt. George W. Burkheart, HHC, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
2d Lt. Edward M. Fox, C Battery, 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery  
2d Lt. James P. Kelly, A Battery, 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery  
1st Sgt. Thomas E. Thayer Jr., Co B, 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry  
SSG Johnny W. Faircloth, Co B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
SSG Ronald E. Taylor, Co B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
SSG Pete A. Valasquez, Co B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
Sgt. James W. Grey, Co B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
Sgt. Lawrence E. Jackson, Co C, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
Sgt. Jeffry L. Kockritz, HHC, 1st Battalion, 327 Infantry  
Sgt. James H. Lewis, Co A, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
Sgt. Roger M. Mannie, HHC, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
Sgt. Jimmie L. Mincks, Co C, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
Sgt. Anthony D. Sheffield, HHC, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
SP5 David L. Jackson Jr., Trp A, 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry  
SP4 James R. Bailey, Co B, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
SP4 Robert R. Bohler, Co A, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
SP4 Frank Boynton, Co C, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
SP4 Charles E. Boston, Co A, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
SP4 Benny B. Coe, Co B, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
SP4 David H. Elisovsky, Co C, 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry  
SP4 Donald Frey, Co B, 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry  
SP4 Anthony R. Hardie, HHC, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
SP4 Roger L. Hubbard, Co B, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
SP4 Jesus R. Mariano, Co B, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
SP4 Joe L. Meek, Co B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
SP4 Ernest L. Miller, Co B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
SP4 Pasia Paialii, Co C, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
SP4 Rudy M. Sagon, Co A, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
SP4 Ralph Shank, Co B, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
SP4 Donald W. Vincent, HHC, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
SP4 Thaddeus Zajac, Co A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
PFC Daniel E. Allum, Co A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
PFC Michael Campbell, Co A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
PFC Manuel F. Fernandez, Co A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
PFC Frank O. Florez Jr., Co C, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
PFC Ernest K. Gerhardt, Co C, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
PFC LeRoy Hicks, Co C, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
PFC Jackie E. Huff, Co C, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
PFC George G. Kilbuck, Co A, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
PFC Halford Logan, Battery A, 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery  
PFC Lauriano L. Lovato, Co B, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
PFC Larry P. Lussier, HHC, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
PFC Belton Lyles Jr., HHC, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
PFC Richard E. McWilliams, Troop A, 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry  
PFC John W. Rowland Jr., Co C, 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry  
PFC William A. Slaughter Jr., HHC, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
PFC Claude Talbert Jr., Co C, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
PFC Everett B. Thompson, Co A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
PFC Jerry D. Underwood, Co C, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
PFC Johnnie P. Winfrey, Co C, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
PVT Hector Lopez, Co C, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry  
PFC Richard A. Sullivan, Co B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
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\*This Honor Roll as of 1 February 1966



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### **Some Airborne Organizations of interest to 1st Brigade veterans**

#### **STATIC LINE**

Don Lassen  
Box 87518  
College Park, GA 30337-0518  
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**

P. O. Box 7709  
Texarkana, TX 75505-7709  
Phone & Fax: 903-831-5951  
E-Mail: RMED1@aol.com

#### **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  
in April 2002**

## **Deadline**

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

Continued From Front Cover

The 2002 brigade reunion is scheduled for October 12 – 15 in Fort Worth, Texas. Registration and hotel information will be mailed to about 2,000 1st Brigade veterans in April.

**CHAPLAIN CURT BOWERS .....PAGES 1 - 6**

Chaplain Curtis R. Bowers was kind enough to send material from his tour in Viet Nam. His story speaks volumes about his devotion to the soldiers of the 1st Brigade.

**PHOTOS .....PAGES 6 – 7**

Pictures at the bottom of these two pages are very poor quality because they were sent by e-mail with insufficient definition (dots per inch). The photo of COL McCoid is from the Jack Kennedy collection. The caption is from a newspaper clipping showing the same photo.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR .....PAGES 8 – 14**

Messages from the <101stabndiv1stbrigde.com> web site, e-mail and snail mail with observations, messages and photographs from 1st Brigade veterans and their families.

**DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR .....PAGES 15 – 18**

The weekly newspaper of the 1st Brigade (S) for October 7, 1966 features the eleven walking skeletons liberated from the Viet Cong by the 1/327 Tiger Force.

**WARD JUST'S STORY .....PAGES 19 – 21**

A story that almost cost the life of The Washington Post correspondent Ward Just and started the progression of gray hair for me. Ward wanted to cover combat action and was allowed to accompany the Tiger Force over the not too strenuous objections of Captain Higinbotham the Tiger Force Commander. I visited him in the hospital and he said he was prepared to do some more of the same.

**PETER GRIFFIN POEM .....PAGE 22**

"Angles and Eagles," another great airborne poem by Strike Force poet Peter S. Griffin.

**VIETNAM MAGAZINE .....PAGE 22**

Further acknowledgement of our thanks to VIETNAM for their permission to reprint Mutual Surprise at An Ninh in the January 2002 issue of this magazine.

**CHAPLAIN HEIM AND MIKE PRICHARD ....PAGE 23**

A notice of illness suffered by Chaplain Dick Heim and orders awarding the Combat Infantry Badge and Combat Medic Badge to members of Troop A, 2nd Squadron of the 17th Calvary.

**VIETNAM REPORT .....PAGES 24 – 25**

A report especially written for publication in the March – April 1967 issue of The Screaming Eagle magazine published by the 101st Airborne Division Association for its members.

**OBITUARIES - AIRBORNE DAY**

**A MEDIC'S STORY .....PAGE 26**

**1ST BDE ITEMS FOR SALE .....PAGES – 27 – 28**

Illustrations and order blank for distinctive 1st Brigade (S) shirts, caps and publications.

**SUBSCRIBERS .....PAGES 29 – 30**

Lists of new subscribers, renewing subscribers and changes of address.

**1ST BRIGADE MEMORIAL .....PAGE 30**

Photos of the 1st Brigade (S) Memorial at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

**HONOR ROLL .....PAGE 31**

The first casualty list released by the 101st Airborne Division Adjutant General at Fort Campbell in February 1966. Each of the first 15 issues of this magazine carried one page of the names of those who were Killed In Action and the non-battle deaths of Brigade soldiers in Viet Nam.

**SUBSCRIPTION ADDRESSES .....PAGE 32**

Change of address form, subscribe for a friend or send the address of someone you know who served in the 1st Brigade. Also included is information about the October 2002 reunion of the brigade, deadline date for receiving material to be published in the July 2002 magazine and a list of some other airborne organizations.

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## OPERATION VAN BUREN

*FRESH TROOPS ARRIVE IN AREA BY CHOPPER.*

*Wounded are loaded aboard the choppers with Viet Cong equipment. Troops are members of 1st Brigade 101st Abn Div make contact with unit that was in contact with Viet Cong. 8 February 1966, U. S. Army photo by S/Sgt Gilbert L. Meyers.*

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