

*The First
Screaming*

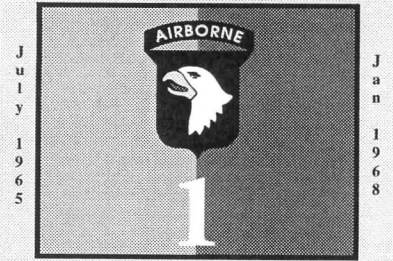
A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF
THE 1ST BRIGADE (Separate) 101st AIRBORNE DIVISION
in Viet Nam from July 1965 through January 1968



Published Quarterly
January - April - July - October

*Eagles
in Viet Nam*

1st Brigade (Separate) Viet Nam



101st Airborne Division

Volume 6, Number 2

April 2004

The **ALWAYS FIRST** Brigade



CP-6
Bill
Loran
with the
101st ABN

LEECHES

Burning off leeches

\$6.00

On the 22nd of January 2004 I had a visit from 1st SGT(R) Wayne Smith [2/502 HQ 3/67-3/68] who lives about 50 miles from Sweetwater in Harriman, Tennessee. Wayne was the mess sergeant in C Company, 327th Airborne Battle Group when I was Company Commander. He served in the 1st Brigade (S) in HQ 2/502 from March 1967 - March 1968. He brought along some clippings he has kept all these years and a few copies of the unit newspaper. The center four pages showing the August 30, 1967 issue of THE SCREAMING EAGLE newspaper, along with some clips from the Task Force Oregon newsletter and his hometown paper are his contributions to this magazine (see pages 15 and 16). Seeing friends who were important in past assignments is great. Wayne was vital to making C Company a great outfit. I do not know how he would have reacted had we been allowed to have a pet cobra displayed in the mess hall.

Page two of that same August 1967 newspaper shows 1LT Barry C. Hana, [HQ 2/67-3/68], who is a subscriber, as the Officer in Charge of the production of THE SCREAMING EAGLE the weekly paper that brought unit news to all the soldiers in the brigade. Getting the paper published and delivered to the brigade every week with the printer in Saigon and the brigade somewhere else in Viet Nam was a very difficult task. William P. Singley, PIO, who is listed as the editor lives in California. He was a subscriber.

On the front page of this newspaper is a story headlined VC Mutt Fingers Owners, Platoon Sergeant Edward A. Birmingham, C Company 1/327, is mentioned. I was told by MAJ (R) Walter W. Jackson [1/327 C 7/67-6/68] that he had been told that Fire Base Birmingham, established by the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) was named as a memorial to PSG Birmingham. He is listed as having died on October 10, 1967. I would like to publish the particulars of his combat actions if someone would or could furnish the information. The information I now have indicates that he died, probably, of drowning, while missing in action. His Company Commander doubts that FSB Birmingham is named for him. More about this in the July magazine.

The 1st Brigade has returned to Fort Campbell from Iraq. They are no longer THE ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE. They now use BASTOGNE as the brigade motto. Some of the material used on pages one and two is from Army News Service. Other material was sent by CSM (R) Joseph M. Bossi [2/327 HHC 6/66-7/67] who serves with distinction as Honorary Sergeant Major of the 327th Infantry Regiment and CSM(R) John R. "Russ" McDonald [1/327 C 1/64-7/68].

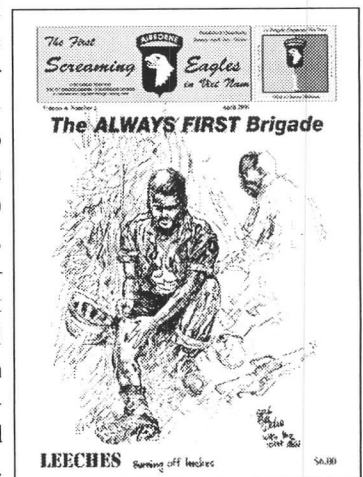
News stories indicate that SGT Hasan Akbar will face Court Martial in July. He is accused of causing the deaths of two and wounding 14 in a grenade attack in Kuwait one day before the 101st was scheduled to move into Iraq. He is likely to be charged with two counts of premeditated murder and three counts of attempted premeditated murder. An ARMY TIMES story reports that CPT Greg Holden, who was severely wounded in the grenade attack is now walking on his own after 12 surgeries and 59 days in the hospital.



(L to R) Your editor MAJ(R) Ivan Worrell [INFO OFF 5/66-5/67] and Michael F. Wilson [2/327 A&C 6/67-3/68] at the Snowbird Reunion in Kissimmee, Florida. The reunion is always scheduled for the first weekend in February and is sponsored by the Florida Sunshine Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association.

Most of the e-mail that I receive now is about the two candidates running for President of the United States. I have some strong feelings about which should be elected but I do not intend to make my political position known here in print. Please, in your communications about the 1st Brigade (S) keep the dialog pointed to the history of what we did in the brigade or what 1st Brigade veterans are doing now outside the political realm.

It appears to me that COL(R) Gerald E. Morse [1/327 CO 67-68] and Roger M. John [1/327 C 7/67-12/68] are doing a great job in preparation for the 9th Biennial 1st Brigade (S) Reunion in Phoenix, Arizona, on September 17 - 19. See the announcement on page 12 and write, e-mail or call for a registration form. I have mailed my registration and check and made hotel reservations. Try to be there.



This cover art is the last in a series of six sketches given to me by U. S. Army artist SP6 Bill Dolan.

I was told, at the Snowbird Reunion that the 101st Airborne Division Association Reunion in Hampton, Virginia, August 4 - 8 will be an outstanding experience. The host chapter and the visitors and convention bureau are working hard to be assured that all who attend will have a great visit to the Hampton Roads area.

Continued on page 30

101st Brigade Transfers Authority to Strykers

MOSUL, Iraq (Army News Service, Jan. 22, 2004) -- The 1st Brigade, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) handed over control of the Tigris River Valley area of northern Iraq today to the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade (Stryker), 2nd Infantry Division in a transfer of authority ceremony at the Qayarah West Airfield.

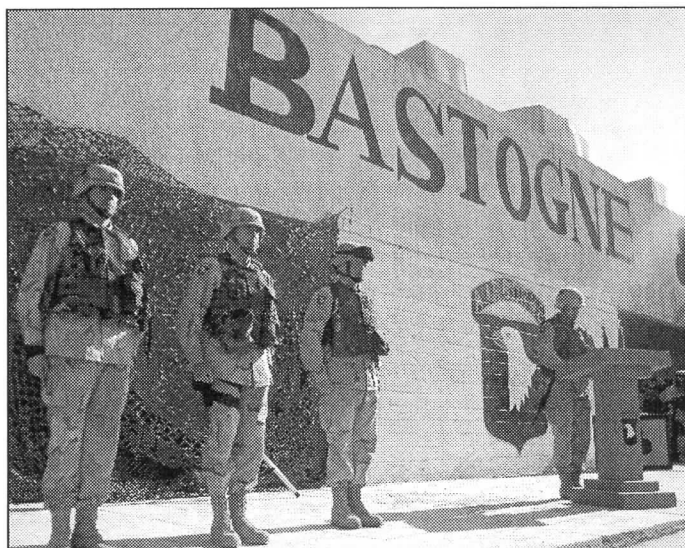
Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team have worked in the area since May. They spent their time trying to improve the quality of life for Iraqis. They captured individuals who threatened the lives of Iraqis and coalition forces. They destroyed hundreds of weapons and ammo caches around the area. They built and rebuilt schools, factories and other parts of the infrastructure. They helped hold elections in the Tigris River Valley, and trained and worked with local soldier and militia groups.

The brigade has not only helped the infrastructure, it has helped improve it, said Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 101st commander, during the transfer ceremony. It's a sign of great success of the 1st Brigade that it will be replaced by a battalion, Petraeus said.



COL. Ben Hodges, commander, 1st Brigade, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and CSM Womack, Brigade Command Sergeant Major, wrap the brigade flag up to symbolize that they are transferring authority in the Tigris River Valley to the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade (Stryker) 2nd Infantry Division, during a ceremony Jan. 22.

Petraeus thanked the soldiers of 1st BCT for all the work that they've done since last spring and offered words of encouragement to the incoming troops..



"This marks the end of (the 1st BCT Soldiers) mission here in northern Iraq and I just want to say one more time -- very, very well done," he said. "This is a very doable mission for 5/20."

Col. Ben Hodges, brigade commander, told the assembled crowd his feelings during the transition phase

"Today is bittersweet. There is no doubt that every Soldier in the 1st BCT is anxious to get home, including me," Hodges said. "For the rest of your lives, no matter what you do or where you go you'll be able to look back proudly."

Hodges spoke of the work done jointly by his Soldiers and the local government and his thoughts on the future.

"I believe that our shared goal of a prosperous Iraq is very close," he said.

To the Stryker Soldiers he shared his belief in their ability to continue the beneficial work done in the area.

"You're going to be extremely effective in every facet of operations here in Ninevah Province," Hodges said. "I believe that you're going to make history by enabling Iraq to run itself."

Lt. Col. Karl D. Reed, Task Force 5/20 commander, expressed his appreciation of the work done by the 101st Soldiers to make Iraq a better country.

"Their accomplishments will forever go down in history as one of our nation's greatest achievements," Reed said.

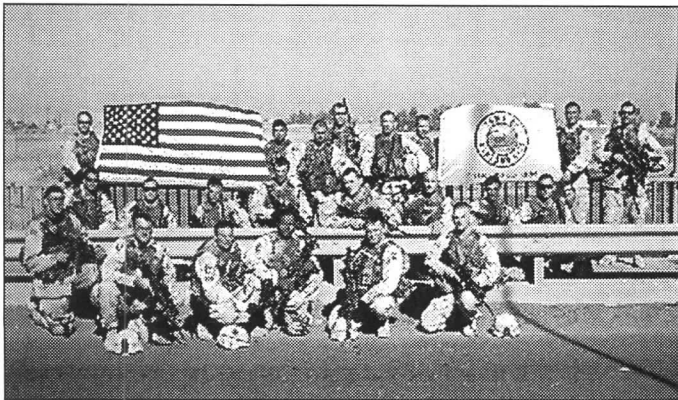
The Soldiers of TF 5/20 are more than up to the task of rebuilding Iraq and will do their best at all times, Reed said.



"It's a great opportunity, we're building a nation," he said. "A nation governed by Iraqi citizens for Iraqi citizens. My Soldiers are very excited to do this because they're getting a chance to make a difference."

(Editor's Note: From a 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) press release.

+ CSM(R) John R. "Russ" McDonald, 1/327 C 1/64-7/68
3010 Caldwell Rd., Condo 205, Ashland City, TN 37015-3948
(815) 792-1306
CobraTop327@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2003 10:44 AM
Subject: Cobra's on bridge on the Tigris river.



These are pictures from Captain Cimato made on a bridge in Mosul re-enlisting a SSG Smith and the one where they are holding flags is of course the American flag and the Ashland City flag that we had sent to them.



Memorial Donation

From Brian R. Bingales (1/327 B 9/66-10/68) for brave paratrooper Tim Gugelemoni, KIA in the Republic of South Vietnam 1967, a member of the Brave Rifles 1/327, 101st Airborne Division.



ATTENTION 327TH/401ST MEMBERS REGIMENTAL DINNER

THURSDAY AUGUST 5, 2004

Join fellow members of the Regiment for an evening of camaraderie and good times during the 59th annual reunion in Hampton, VA. These evenings always reflect the fellowship, traditions and heritage shared by those who proudly wore the crest of the 327th and 401st.

The dinner will be held on Thursday, August 5, 2004, at the Hampton Holiday Inn and Convention Center, 1815 West Mercury Blvd., Hampton, VA 23666. Telephone: (757) 838-0200. Cocktails will be served from 6 - 7 p.m. (cash bar), with dinner at 7:00 p.m. You are encouraged to bring an appropriate (?) prize for the after-dinner raffle.

The price of the Regimental dinner, which will be a four entrée buffet, is \$30 per person. Please send your payment to: Michael O'Connell, 11 Arrow Drive, Whitman, MA 02382. Telephone: (781) 447-5696. E-mail address: Michael.Oconnell@state.ma.us. The final date for accepting reservations is August 1, 2004. Unfortunately, no reservations can be accepted at the reunion.

We hope to have participation by active 1st Brigade members as they have returned from Iraq. Please indicate if you would be willing to sponsor participation of an active duty member of the regiment by underwriting the cost of his/her dinner.

Please save this announcement, or better yet, send in your reservation while the subject is fresh in mind. Please plan on joining with fellow members of the Regiment for a night of good food, good company and good times.

Mike O'Connell/Walt Jackson
327/401 Governors

2004 Snowbird Reunion

1st Brigade (S) 2004 Snowbird Attendees

Larry D. Anglin
2/502 B 6/65-7/66

Billy C. Colwell, Sr.
326 ENGR A 4/66-4/67

R. J. (Bob) Corey
2/502 HHC 10/65-11/66

1SG(R) Eugene Dean
326 ENGR A 66-67

David R. Flood I
2/320 FA A Btry 8/67-8/68

Elmer Galloway
2/502 12/67 - 12/68

Frank P. Griffo, Jr.
3/506 HQ 67-68

Benny L. Hamby
326 ENGR A 2/66-2/67

MAJ(R) Walter W. Jackson
1/327 C 7/67-6/68

LTC(R) James C. Joiner
2/327 B&C 1/67-1/68

Phil Kallas
1/501 A 69-70

William M. Madden
2/320 CO 65-66

Gene "Hard Core" Perry
2/327 HHC 7/67-7/68

Fred Ranck
1/327 A 12/68-1/70

COL(R) Larry A. Redmond
2/327 A 5/67-2/68

LTC(R) William (Bill) Rovan
2/327 HQ&A 6/66-5/67

Richard C. Schonberger
2/327 HHC 7/66-7/67

LTC(R) James S. Shamblen
326 ENGR B 66-67

Leland E. Studdard
1/327 C 1/68-1/69

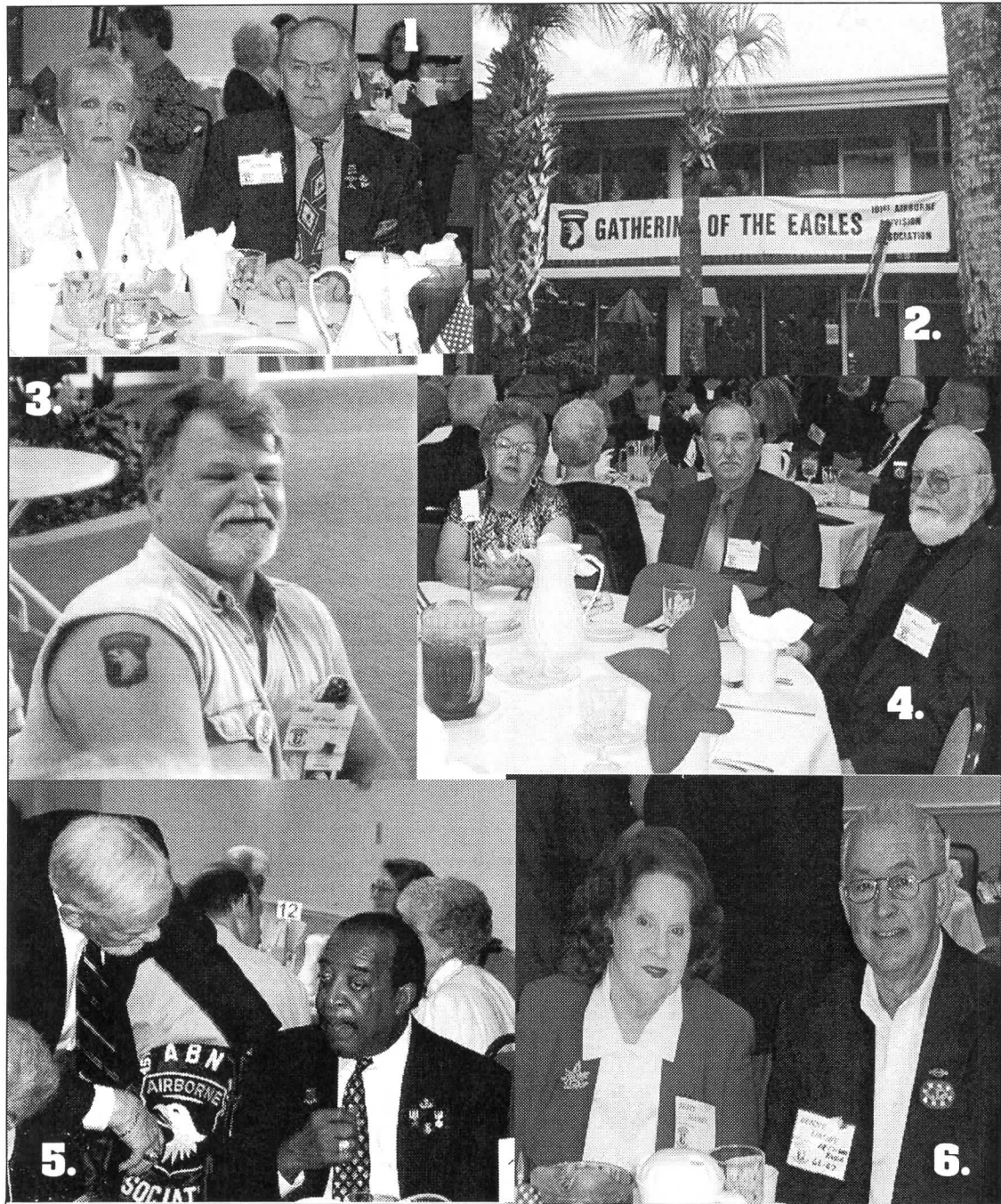
Johnny Velasquez
2/502 B Inf VN 67-68

CW4(R) Terrell R. Wallace
426th S&S B 64-71

Michael F. Wilson
2/327 A&C 6/67-3/68

MAJ(R) Ivan Worrell
INFO OFF 5/66-5/67

Terry R. Zahn
SPT BN HQ EIt 7/65-5/66



1. Michele and LTC(R) James C. Joiner [2/327 B&C 1/67-1/68] at the Saturday evening banquet. **2.** Welcoming sign for all the Screaming Eagles who attended the Snowbird Reunion sponsored by the Sunshine State Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association. **3.** Michael F. Wilson [2/327 A&C 6/67-3/68] is a true Screaming Eagle believer with the 101st patch tattooed on his right shoulder. The patch of the unit a soldier served in combat with is worn on the right shoulder. Not many comply so well. **4.** Theresa and Elmer Galloway [2/502 12/67 - 12/68] along with William M. Madden [2/320 CO 65-66] at the Saturday night dinner. **5.** Jim Brennan, past president of the 101st Airborne Division Association with Larry D. Anglin [2/502 B 6/65-7/66] during the Snowbird Reunion. **6.** Betty Jane and Benny L. Hamby [326 ENGR A 2/66-2/67] at the Snowbird banquet. Note the Combat Infantry Badge on Benny's lapel; A Company of the 326th Engineer Battalion was designated as a rifle company in 1966 and all those assigned were awarded the CIB.



1. Company C, 327th Infantry was well represented by these three veterans of C Company in Viet Nam; Michael F. Wilson [2/327 A&C 6/67-3/68], MAJ(R) Walter W. Jackson [1/327 C 7/67-6/68] and Leland E. Studdard [1/327 C 1/68-1/69]. **2.** Holding down one end of the bar are (L to R) Richard C. Schonberger [2/327 HHC 7/66-7/67] and LTC(R) William (Bill) Rován [2/327 HQ&A 6/66-5/67]. **3.** In the hospitality room three 327 vets catch up on war stories they are (L to R) LTC(R) James C. Joiner [2/327 B&C 1/67-1/68], Richard C. Schonberger [2/327 HHC 7/66-7/67] and Fred Ranck [1/327 A 12/68-1/70]. **4.** 101st Airborne Division Association President, Johnny Velasquez [2/502 B 67-68] and LTC(R) William (Bill) Rován [2/327 HQ&A 6/66-5/67] in the hospitality room. **5.** Outside the hospitality room (L to R) David R. Flood I [2/320 FA A Btry 8/67-8/68], Leland E. Studdard [1/327 C 1/68-1/69] and MAJ(R) Walter W. Jackson [1/327 C 7/67-6/68]. Walt serves on the 101st Association Board of Governors representing the 327th. **6.** LTC(R) James C. Joiner [2/327 B&C 1/67-1/68] and COL(R) Larry A. Redmond [2/327 A 5/67-2/68] in the hospitality room.

TIGER FORCE ACCUSED OF ATROCITIES

Editor's Note: Michael Willey was an outstanding combat reporter and photographer when he was serving in the Information Section of the 1st Brigade (S). Many of his stories and photos are in the unit newspapers that run in the center section of this magazine. I forwarded his message to Tom Willard who is also prominent in the Tiger Force section.

+ MICHAEL A. WILLEY, Brigade PIO 9/66-10/67
32176 Chester, Garden City, MI 48135-1742
(734) 458-1501 • photog1011@comcast.net

Ivan:

I have been asked to be a guest speaker in March for an "All Airborne" group with regards to the "Toledo Blade" reports about their reports on Tiger Force. I know that while I was with PIO in 1967, I never saw any of the atrocities that were reported by "The Toledo Blade."

I have read and re-read all the articles that "The Toledo Blade" printed on-line. It got to the point, that I requested a trip for my own mental well being at North Chicago VA Medical Center in the Stress Disorder Treatment Unit last December (2003).

I saw in the last issue of "The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam" that you did an article which addressed this exact issue. I also saw that there were many others that had responded via email with regards to this issue also. I went to the web site (<http://www.101stabndiv1stbrigade.com/>) to see if there were any further comments regarding this issue, with no avail. I was wondering if there was a bulletin board that was up and running which I could find more information similar to the responses to your article.



Michael Willey in Viet Nam

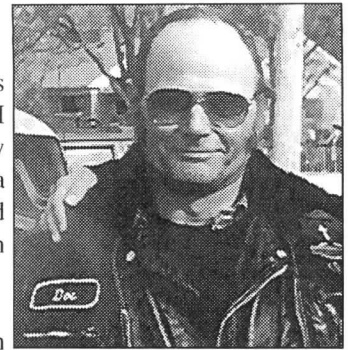
I do not remember Col. (R) Larry Redmond, who was in country about the same time as I was, but I have also felt much as he does. I think that stories have been embellished so that some one can possibly build a case for a 100% PTSD (SC) claim with the VA.

The only thing that I can remember any problematic area with Tiger Force during early 1967 was the trooper Ybarra who seemed to not have all his mental faculties together when I went out with the

team on the couple of times that I was sent on assignment. If memory serves me right, I was told that he would rather fire on a reporter (myself) as much as a gook, because I was not a part of the team. Luckily I had infantry experience that I could draw on and seemed to be accepted by the other members of

the team any ways.

Any further information on this issue would be appreciated. I will be giving my version of my perception of Tiger Force (in a positive light) the 3rd Wednesday of March in Northville, MI.



Michael Willey present day photo.

Thanks for your help in advance: Michael "Doc" Willey Chapter Chaplain and Chairman of the Board for Rolling Thunder (r) Inc. Michigan Chapter #3 1st Bde (Separate) 101st Abn Div (RVN) 1966-67

From: "Michael \"Doc\" Willey" <photog1011@comcast.net>
To: "Ivan" <worrell@usit.net>
Subject: Re: Tiger Force Issue

Ivan:

Attached is a rough copy of the presentation that I will be giving to the Airborne group, a week from tomorrow. I was not sure as to what your retired rank was, which is why it is in bold type face so that I can change it if need be.

I am having a real problem with a couple of the articles that were written by the Toledo Blade, with regards to Dennis Stout. I can not find any articles with his by-line on them in the issues of the Diplomat and Warrior or The Screaming Eagle, that I have which have survived over these 35 plus years.

The Toledo Blade reports that Dennis Stout worked for "The Screaming Eagle" during July of 1967. I was assigned to PIO at that time and I do not remember him there at that time. I only remember Alva G. Tate, Johnny Jackson, Dan Strobel and William P. Singley and Mike Mangemelli that would go out into the field (as well as myself). I also remember that Robert Lloyd and Lt. Barnett did most of the rear area stuff for the paper. That is the first problem with Mr. Stout's statements to the Blade. Here is the really big problem that I have with Mr. Stout. If he was in fact a part of PIO at that time, why did he not say anything to any of his counterparts (myself included) at that time. The one account that he gives to the Blade sounds like one of the missions that I was on with The Recondos, but there were no atrocities committed.

Another problem that I have is that it took me a great deal of time to get the confidence with members of Tiger Force, The Hawks and The Recondos before I was allowed to go out, with trust, with anyone of these groups (I still have my bush hats and black beret from these groups). I also remember that some members of these groups had a previous problem with one of our photojournalists that later had an accident while taking a photo behind a 106 recoilless rifle (if I remember that right).

Here is still another problem that I have with Stout's accounts to the Blade is that the article states that Stout arrived in Vietnam in September 1966 and was grazed by a bullet in May



of 1967 when he was reassigned to PIO as the battalion's 'press officer' (?). I arrived at the 101st in Vietnam in late September '66 and was wounded twice around March to May of 1967 (no purple heart awarded). That is when I was assigned to PIO (brigade). Another incident that sounds to close to my own experiences to be coincidence?

Personally I think that Mr. Stout is a liar or that time has warped his mind. In the article "Witness to Vietnam atrocities never knew about investigation" published October 22, 2003 in the Toledo Blade there are so many inaccuracies that I am to the point of vomiting. Anyone with a lick of common sense can see through the smoke and mirrors of the allegations by Mr. Stout. I have seen some real "wanna-be's" in my time, but this one seems to take the cake.

Finally if there were mass graves, as stated in that article, where are they now? All I see here is more Vietnamese trying to get rich quick off the good name of the 101st Screaming Eagles. And some troopers that either trying to be "wanna-be's" or are looking for more documentation for a VA claim for PTSD. I have enough issues and traumas toward my own claim that I do not have to make up more.

As you will see in my attached presentation, I have doubts about some of the statements that were made at this late date by those that claimed to have either been part of an action with Tiger Force or were near an action with Tiger Force. Why did it take Mr. Stout until December of 1996 to contact his congressman? How can anyone give locations, within 5 meters, of atrocities? Global Positioning Systems are not even that good. In another article by the Toledo Blade "Tiger Force documentation elude Army investigators" (published December 21, 2003) Mr. Stout states that he witnessed that he saw a Medic pump swamp water into the body of a prisoner who was later fatally shot. Come on now, why go to all that trouble? And finally if Mr. Stout's faith in the military was so shaken after seeing these assaults, why did he stay in to obtain the rank of Staff Sergeant as shown in the photo with him and his supposed uniform? Or is that his uniform?

Michael "Doc" Willey
Chapter Chaplain and Chairman of the Board for Rolling Thunder (r) Inc.
Michigan Chapter #3
1st Bde (separate) 101st Abn Div (RVN) 1966-67

Problems with the Toledo Blade articles:
BURIED SECRETS, BRUTAL TRUTHS
by Michael "DOC" Willey

Thank you for having me to attend your meeting. I hope that I might be able to shed some first hand information on the issue regarding the Toledo Blade expose' about Tiger Force called Buried Secrets Brutal Truths. I think that I can also speak to issues that have come about during the articles and shortly after to put some possibilities on the table for you to think about.

First off I would like to introduce myself and explain how and

why I have done some research into what was presented by the Toledo Blade Newspaper. My name is Michael "Doc" Willey. I served with the 1st Brigade (separate) 101st Airborne Division during the time that the articles refer to. I was in country from September 1966 until October 1967 and that covers the times that the Tiger Force articles deal with. When I received my first assignment in the brigade, I was with Headquarters / Headquarters Company of the 1st 327th Infantry, heavy weapons platoon (mortars). Presently I am the chaplain and chairman of the board for Rolling Thunder ® Incorporated Michigan Chapter #3, which is a veterans service organization.

A fellow veteran alerted me to these articles from the Toledo area. I started reading the series in November 2003, and what happened to me (personally) was that this increased my problems with my own Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I became more and more angry especially when the authors of the series would not return my email about the articles. I started to destroy my own relationships at home as well as become depressed and despondent to other things around me. Fortunately I was able to receive in-patient treatment for 35 days at the North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center on the Stress Disorder Treatment Unit. With psychotherapy classes like "Thinking Straight" and "Feeling Identification and Behavior Response" I was better able to put this article into better perspective.

When I arrived in the Republic of Vietnam, we had our forward area in Tuy Hoa right on the beach. It was also at that time that Tiger Force had been hit hard at a location that later became known as "Tiger Hill". This was my first encounter with these good men, as they were trying to reassemble their platoon with new troops, many which were not all that experienced. This was a long awaited stand down for those who had survived "Tiger Hill". At this time I had an opportunity to talk to several of the Tiger Force troopers. Being new to Vietnam, I gleaned much information from several of these troopers with regards to my own survival and those around me.

Later in 1967, during my tour, I was reassigned to the Brigade Public Information Office as a photojournalist. I would usually go on a mission with a different unit as part of my function with PIO. I was fortunate enough to have been assigned to go out with not only Tiger Force, but with a couple of other short reconnaissance units because of my infantry experience. Those other reconnaissance units were the Hawks from the 2nd 327th and the Recondos from the 2nd 502nd.

During my times that I went out with any unit, I never saw any atrocity. I never saw any trooper that removed or even had body parts from anyone. The only thing that I was shocked to be reminded of through the Toledo Blade articles was about one trooper. Several other Tiger Force troopers had warned me that Ybarra did not like anyone that was not part of the team and that I should keep my eyes on him and that he might not be tightly wrapped. This was a chilling item to recall when I read the Toledo Blade articles.

With regards to the Toledo Blade articles that Michael Sallah



and Mitch Weiss, Blade Staff writers, seemed to be repetitive in their over two dozen separate articles from their series about Tiger Force. Being that I am from southeast Michigan, I reviewed these articles over the Internet. Initially the series was supposed to run for just one week. However that series ran for more than a month and a half.

Some of the immediate problems that I saw in the articles were that there were insinuations that provided no hard facts and statements seemed to be stretched or sketchy. Just for starters, remember that I stated that when I first got into country I said that Tiger Force was basically reforming due to heavy casualties on Tiger Hill. I remember that the battalion was asking for volunteers, not highly trained personnel. The articles state several times that this was an elite-trained unit. This unit was constantly rebuilding and even when I went out with the unit as a photojournalist, we lost almost half of the squad that I was with due to injury or death.

There is a statement that there is over three feet of documentation with regards to the Tiger Force investigation that sits on a desk, but in other parts of the articles, and it states that most documentation is lost.

The articles state that 18 members had committed atrocities, but in other parts of the articles, there are only references made to 8 (Sergeant James Barnett, Specialist Barry Bowman, Sergeant William Doyle, Specialist Kenneth Green, Lieutenant James Hawkins, Sergeant Harold Trout, Private Sam Ybarra). three are deceased, and Lieutenant Hawkins maintains that the killings were justified. Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Morse was supposedly in charge of the unit at that time but there is no mention that there was ever a question by his superiors or the Criminal Investigation Division. They are even using reports from members that were supposed to be in units that were near the Tiger Force operations areas that are not substantiated in these articles but merely insinuations.

While I am discussing the number of interviews that were taken by the staff of the Toledo Blade, I am wondering just how many of those ambiguous statements were given by Vietnamese? There is a lot that can be gained if another unit were to be brought up on charges that atrocities were committed. We only have to look at the incident of Mai Lai. Also the problem that has, over the past couple of years, come to light with Lieutenant Bob Kerry and his SEAL team. The Vietnamese people would like nothing more than to get into our wallets at even this late date.

At one point in the series it states that 47 members were interviewed, but in another part of the series it states that these interviews extended to 60 states. First question at this point would be where did we get 10 new states? Second question is, how did they interview 47 members but there were more states than the number of interviewed members? Not only that, I personally emailed the Toledo Blade staff writers, with comments and I was never contacted. At another place in the series it states that there were 137 interviews, but it still is ambiguous as to who was interviewed.

The issue of the free fire zones is not explained to the readers of the articles. It must be understood that a lot of time went into preparing these zones. First they were known to be responsive and affable to our enemy and that the people were providing aid and help to our enemy. The free fire zones were well prepared with leaflets that explained that anyone that was caught in those areas would be considered as the enemy also. It also had the help of Psychological Warfare units (of which I even did a story on while with PIO) where the indigenous people were spoken to either personally or by way of remote speakers that were mounted in trees or on helicopters. The people that stayed behind in the free fire zones knew that they were going to be considered as the enemy and even the ones that I personally encountered knew that they were considered as the enemy and had no qualms about staying there.

To further shed a poor light on this unit, there was a statement in the series that "had the Tiger Force issue been investigated the Mai Lai incident would not have happened". This is totally absurd, as Mai Lai happened not to long after the accusations of the Tiger Force incidents and Mai Lai was in a different area as to where the supposed Tiger Force operations took place.

In the series, the articles never state that the atrocities were alleged. I thought that as an American citizen, we were innocent until proven guilty. The series states that these, suspected, atrocities took place over a seven month period but in other places in this series they elude to longer periods of time.

There is also one point in the series that states that there was drinking in the field while on operations. As I remember it, there was an unwritten rule between members that there would be no drunks or druggies on an operation. That meant that no one would pack any alcohol or drugs other than what the medic was to take with him. Besides, there just was not enough room in our A.L.I.C.E. rucksacks to carry anything more than what we needed for a particular mission.

There is also another statement from someone that was interviewed that claimed that victims were clubbed with the barrel of their weapon. Now back in that time frame in Vietnam we were using M-16 rifles, M-79 grenade launchers and M-60 machine guns. The M-60 was too cumbersome to use as a club and the front sights on an M-79 were way too fragile to be hitting anyone or anything with the barrels. As for the M-16, there was no rifleman that would want to screw up his front sights by hitting anyone with the barrel. This has to be another made up statement.

Here is something else that seems to have no sense made out of it in this series. There is a statement in one of the articles that in one mission Tiger Force had four soldiers wounded by the enemy in a grenade attack. It continues to say that during the next ten days that the soldiers led a rampage. First off I ask you, are you as a foot soldier going to have to fight harder when you are half of your squad short? Remember this unit used to go out by squads and there were usually about eight men on a mission. This might have been one of the missions that I was on and that would have been in a free fire zone. If this was the case, anyone was considered the enemy and we



were trying to survive until our extract was to happen. I say that they were fair game if it was the mission that I was on, as the people were not carrying visible weapons, but booby-traps and grenades. I think that you can safely say that those devices are just as effective as a rifle or machine gun.

There is a reference in the Toledo Blade series to Alpha Company being named as the Assassins. As I remember it, Alpha Company went by the name of Attack Company. What in the world does "A" company have to do with Tiger Force, which was in Head and Head Company? This is another way to spice up an article that already has a negative slant on it from the onset. Even a junior cub reporter could make up such notions.

I also remember an incident in the Song Ve Valley where we took incoming fire, but it was not out of the ordinary when our position was compromised. I remember that we lost a couple of good troopers during that engagement and several others were wounded including myself. We were not inappropriately angry, but there was enough adrenaline that helped us keep on top of our game until we got extracted. We even came out of there with the attitude that it was just another day at the office and we all said "It don't mean nuttin'."

People that have never been to war or in a battle zone have to understand that there is a line that has to be maintained for the good of self and for the others around you. As a chaplain, I would like to remind everyone that even the Holy Bible addresses this point. In Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 verse 8 states "A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of peace". And even in the same chapter in verse 3 it says "A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up;". As a chaplain I use this passage out of the Bible when I have a veteran that is beating him/herself up. They think that while they are in a combat zone and have had to fire on the enemy and not even knowing if they killed someone, they think that they have broken one of the 10 commandments. I then explain that the commandment is "Thou shall not murder", it is not "Thou shall not kill". Murder is when one person will take another persons life for no reason at all and in a malicious way. True there were times that might be looked upon that malice was the reason that the enemy was killed. However I don't think that there is any easy way to kill another human being.

Someplace in the series of articles it states that "by early September the enemy soldiers set ambushes for Tiger Force". Hell the enemy set ambushes for any American troops. There was even a bounty on any 101st member when there was proof of one being killed.

There is one point that I thought was almost absurd and I even had to laugh at how stupid these reporters from the Toledo Blade were. I did have to respect the fact that these journalists were ignorant to some basic facts of how the war was fought in Vietnam. There was a statement that grenades were thrown into tunnels or caves where unarmed civilians were. Now for those that have not been part of the Vietnam War, here is some information for you. The enemy had vast tunnel complexes. They could go in one side and come out at several different

sites. This allowed them to move about undetected and be able to reposition their firepower, as they would like for their advantage. Anyone that went to a tunnel, especially in a free fire zone, was immediately considered the enemy, as you could not see what else they were hiding underground. There was even one case where the 101st found a complete underground hospital near the Cambodian / Laos border.

There was another section in the series that caused me to find some levity to the trash that I had already been reading. There was one portion that stated that a medic administered a sedative to a prisoner just prior to their execution. I find this hard to believe, as I pose this question to you. Why would a medic waste a sedative on someone that is going to be executed when it might be needed for the men that he is serving with or even himself? Causes one to think wouldn't you say?

And before I bore any of you to a point of getting up and leaving, I submit one last point, not that there aren't any more left. In the series it states that a number of Tiger Force were encouraged not to talk to anyone about the investigation. This is just another spin that the staff writers have put on this degrading story. Naturally an investigator is going to tell people not to discuss any ongoing case with anyone. That is standard operating procedure so that manufactured stories will not make the investigation more difficult than it already is. Just ask any investigator, whether military or civilian police or any other law enforcement agency.

The statements and accusations continue to become more and more absurd and egregious by every article that was printed by staff writers Sallah and Weiss of the Toledo Blade. It seems as though these gentlemen have only an agenda to destroy the reputation and honor of the 101st Airborne Division. Any good lawyer could continue to blow holes in these numerous and repetitive articles.

Now this begs the question as to why someone would want to take the honorable name of a distinguished unit and drag it through the mud, even if there were a few bad apples in the whole bunch?

The 1st brigade separate currently has a quarterly publication called "The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam". In the January 2004 issue there was some concern about the articles that were printed in the Toledo Blade and that the Associated Press had also picked up on the story and even some other papers had ran parts of the series. The article in our quarterly magazine was led off by Major (r) Ivan Worrell with a description of what had been happening over the past couple of months since our previous issue. Quite a few emails that were sent to Mister Worrell with regards to the articles and some inaccuracies that were in them as well as general comments of disdain followed that. Some even attribute that these articles were brought about at this time for anti-war propaganda with regards to the present day war on terrorism. However in following many other articles in the Toledo Blade, I do not see that they are overly anti-war.

One response, in particular, that caught my eye was an email



from Colonel (r) Larry Redmond who was with the 2nd 327th Infantry at the time of the alleged incidents. He was wondering if it might not be possible that someone might be trying to make a case for P.T.S.D. with the Veterans Administration. During the time that I initially reviewed the articles that were written by Sallah and Weiss, I had the very same thoughts.

I have been involved in group therapy for the last fourteen plus years. I have seen several wanna-be's, which are people that wished for one reason or another that they had done something that they had not, that have passed through some of these groups. I know that from what I have seen with some of these wanna-be's is that they seem to get more sympathy by stating that they were involved or near atrocities while in Vietnam. I have also seen multitudes of others that definitely have traumas that they are truly trying to deal with.

Out of those wanna-be's which I have encountered, I have seen how many of them seem to have no problem in making derogatory statements about the units with which they served. These people have no scruples in how poorly they disrespect those who gave the ultimate sacrifice when they were called or volunteered to or for duty to their nation. There are an awful lot of wounds, which have been reopened with these articles that have admittedly had lack of proof and much hearsay. What a shame to denigrate such a great unit as the 101st Airborne Division.

However during my reading and reviewing of the questionable articles in the Toledo Blade, I have come across a further item. No one can be ignorant to the fact that this is an election year. It is also very strange that these articles started in November 2003, just as the election campaign trails got heated up. I found in part of the series that there was a reference made to a democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich (house member from Cleveland) stated in an early November 8th article titled "Top Vietnam minister to face questions during trip". In his statement he said, "This is outrageous that we are just hearing about this now". I think that we can see that the democratic spin-doctors were already at work.

Also immediately after Senator John Kerry visited Toledo on his campaign tour, the Toledo Blade reported that this Democratic Party front runner stated "I think the truth ought to come out", with regards to the Tiger Force story, Buried Secrets Brutal Truths.

True enough that Senator Kerry is a Vietnam veteran. He was assigned to the USS Gridley as an officer in the electrical department from December 1967 to June 1968. This was an uneventful time during his tour on the Gridley. On December 1st 1968 then Lieutenant (JG) Kerry arrived in country and was assigned to Swift Boat #44, which he served on until January 1969. It is reported that on December 2nd Kerry was wounded in his arm and given his first Purple Heart.

In late January 1969 Kerry was transferred to Swift Boat #94 where he had eighteen missions in forty-eight days. On February 20th 1969 he was wounded again and received his second Purple Heart, as he, the boat commander, did every-

thing wrong, from reports which I have seen. His boat had apparently come under fire from a rocket. Kerry ordered the boat to be beached. Note: boats under fire are supposed to evacuate the area due to lack of firepower, ammunition and the poorly armored craft. They are then supposed to call for a fire mission from another location or to call for support of land troops if they are in the area. Kerry was supposed to have then jumped out of his boat to chase down a wounded Viet Cong who supposedly attacked his boat. Another note: crewmembers are not supposed to leave their boats, as this reduces the crafts effective firepower and endangers the rest of the crew onboard. It is rumored that Kerry stated something to the effect that he had delivered the "coup-de-grace" to the wounded VC.

Later that day, the Lieutenant moved his boat about 800 meters where he again beached his boat and took a landing party ashore, where they found a supply dump. This was what the Senator supposedly received a Silver Star for. On March 13th 1969 a mine detonated near Kerry's boat where he was wounded for the third time. During this mission he also received a Bronze Star with "V" device for apparently trying to save another American's life. On March 17th 1969, just four days after this last mission, John Kerry requested and received a relief from duty to a non-combat area under a rule which allowed recipients of 3 Purple Hearts to make such a request. Not only is this my opinion, but I have heard that Colonel (r) George Givens (Army) has the same concerns.

Lieutenant Kerry was only in-country for about four months and has more "hardware" on his chest than myself or many other troopers whom I consider to be better than myself and served in more actions and campaigns than Lieutenant Kerry. I guess because I was only a Private First Class and later a Specialist Fourth Class, is why I did not receive Purple Hearts for the gunshot wound and in another incident, a burn from hot shrapnel, of which I still carry the scars today. However I guess that a Lieutenant (JG) can put themselves in for any citation they want, even when not observed by superior officers.

Further there are some other problems, which Senator Kerry is trying to hide with his "witch hunt" of Tiger Force. After Mr. Kerry returned to civilian life he unpatriotically threw some medals over the fence of the White House in Washington, DC. during a protest against the War in Vietnam and supposedly the medals were his. Later after a senate hearing he admitted that the medals were not his. Supposedly Kerry has his medals proudly displayed in his office.

Later in the early 1990's Kerry headed a senate committee which was to determine what became of American troops that were captured during the Vietnam War. The conclusion of this committee was that there was no evidence that any Americans were left behind. This is contrary to evidence, which was submitted by other groups that showed evidence of "live sightings" as late as 1999. This also included testimony by former Defense Secretary Melvin Laird and James Schlesinger as well former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. All their information was based on reliable accounts and intelligence information. I have not been able to acquire any additional



information about detainees in Southeast Asia since 1999. We also have to remember that in the early 1990's the information was more reliable and fresh so that the possible intervention for those in captivity would have been more at hand at that time. John Boutiller, a former Congressman and now columnist for NewsMax.com, states that John Kerry and others on the senate committee trashed the evidence.

A few weeks after the senate committee hearings, Kerry became controversial when Hanoi announced that it had a large contract with a Boston, Massachusetts real estate firm, Collier International, which was headed by Senator Kerry's cousin, Stuart Forbes. Of course, when was the last time a senator got anything more than a slap on the hand for anything? Add to all of the above problems that faced Senator John Kerry in his battle for the highest office in the land and you have damage control coming up at as many fronts as possible.

Finally it is quite interesting how Senator Kerry's spin-doctors have tried to disparage the good name of the current President of this United States, George W. Bush. There have been allegations that our President was AWOL during his military service, however those allegations were found to be untrue and another smoke screen backfired on Kerry. If a person or committee working for a person had the audacity to take pot-shots at the President of the United States, would you expect someone like that to not take disparaging remarks at distinguished units of our military? What better way to create a positive spin on such a troubled past. And what better way to get it out to the public than through the media, where most people never take the time to look into the details to see if they are true or not. Remember that bad news sells papers and boost ratings.

Being an amateur magician I have learned that to get an audience to believe your act, it is done through deception and misdirection. Look at all the misdirection that has gone on through the media, which could effect the office of the President of the United States in November 2004.

Thank you once again for having me and listening to many facts and my own opinions.

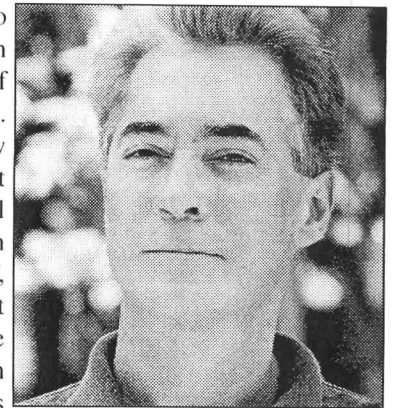
Editor's Note: I am trying very hard to stay out of the political campaign going on now to determine who will be President of the United States. Doc Willey's portrayal of politicians is crucial to the points he presents relative to the Tiger Force story as told by the Toledo Blade reporters. Do not expect to see much political debate in "The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam."

+ TOM WILLARD, 1/327 TF Medic 7/65-11/65
1711 Valle Moor Dr., Bismarck, ND 58501-2579
(701) 250-8903
tomwillard@bis.midco.net
Subject: Tiger Force
Date: Thu, 26 Feb 2004 02:26:41 -0500

Ivan,



Glad - but disturbed - to receive your publication that covered many facets of our beloved Tiger Force. On the back cover I saw Tony Bouchard; we went to combat medic school together, and he came in after me as a medic for TF, and we remain great friends to this day. I hope folks gave that photograph VERY close scrutiny. He's giving medical attention to



Tom Willard

a young Vietnamese woman. I can't understand how she stepped on the punji-stake. She had to have known the people that dug that hole, placed the stakes into the pit and covered it so well. I guess in her youthful exuberance she took the wrong turn on a trail. We've all done that. I'm delighted Tony took care of her. He's that kind of guy. As were all TF medics: We took care of the wounded Vietnamese villagers despite the fact their husbands, brothers, sisters, fathers and children were close by shooting at us. I delivered a baby one night. The child - a baby girl - didn't know her father was across a river shooting at us. She was beautiful.

Good old GI Joe. Wins sucker of the day in every war we've ever fought in.

You and I talked earlier today about the Tiger Force. I have spoken over the previous days with Colonel Hackworth, LTG Hank Emerson, Colonel Tom Taylor et al, and like the voice of those who have chimed in on this issue, there is the resounding question: Why? After nearly 40 years, haven't we heard about this. I spoke with Michael Sallah - I think it was last June. I told him he was off base. Since then, I've spoken with a few accusers and they are adamant that this happened.

Still, there is that thunderous, resounding crash in my brain that asks: Why didn't you know about this sooner?

I - we - didn't know. Almost none of us, anyway. Suddenly, after nearly four decades the Brigade is made aware through a very biased, self-serving article. This is how it is perceived. But it raised questions that involved honorable service, dedication to unit, division, and, more importantly, to our nation.

However, there was an investigation from 1971-75. Why were these allegations not given the highest priority at that time? Accusations abound that there was a cover-up. It's inconceivable that something of this enormity could have escaped the American soldiers, people, press, and conscience of that particular time. Assuming it was true, the press would have been on it like a starving dog on a juicy bone.

Now, it begins again. At an opportune political moment.

Therefore, let's argue in the alternative. Let's consider that the charges are true. That 18 young men ran amuck through the

Song Ve under orders from the Platoon leader, Platoon sergeants, who were under orders from the battalion commander to submit significant - 327 to be exact - body counts. Let's assume for the moment this was true. Obviously, there would have been no chain of command, that this group of 18 - who now represent hundreds of honorable Tigers, from Vietnam to Iraq - went on their own killing binge. "Ghost Rider" was the voice. Was it his? Maybe some clerk playing with the net? How can we be sure, knowing that a voice could have been anyone. Private. Pissed off clerk. Good English speaking officer from the NVA or VC.

Be cautious. That was the optimum order of the Tigers. Never walk down a trail until you've waited - with patience - to see what's there. Sometimes it two hours. Days. That discernible sound that didn't fit in the environment.

Then, our silence, became LOUD!

When we knew.

Please contact me. I'm currently researching for a new book I intend to write about the Tiger Force. A rebuttal to the "Toledo Blade." Keep cool. Keep calm.

I love you guys. Tommie "Archangel" Willard, Boat Person, USS Eltinge, Combat Medic, HHC Recon Platoon, Tiger Force 1965. DMOR, 1st 327 ABN, 1st Bde. 101st: THE NOMADS!

From - tomwillard@bis.midco.net
Subject: Fw: tiger force
Date: Fri, 27 Feb 2004 01:52:37 -0500

First, we find the mole. TW.

ABOVE THE REST

PS... My First Shirt Leo B. Smith, took me into a dark night. He said it was a mine field. He said step in my boot prints. I did. Abu Smith stopped, turned around and went back to the CP of Task Force Hanson, (that was the test unit of Tiger Force, some call it Mark - same guy) at Bihn Khe, before we started up the An Khe Pass. I asked, "First Sergeant, what do I do?" He replied, "You're in a mine field. Listen to the silence. Feel the ground. Smell it. Come to know it. It will guide you." I sat there for hours, seeing every horror imaginable. I was between our guns and theirs. Knowing I was in a mine field. When the sun came up, there was Abu. He said, "Come on, son. Get some chow." I carefully stepped backward, one step at a time, in his boot prints. He shouted, "What the hell are you doing?" I replied, knowing that if he had made it back, I said, "Walking in your boot steps. Through this mine field." He laughed, then said, "Get your ass over here. The engineers aren't going to lay in the mines until tomorrow." He taught me a lesson I have carried all my life...

Be careful where you step!

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

From: Joe Mahr
To: tomwillard@bis.midco.net
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2004 11:42 AM
Subject: tiger force

Tom:

My name is Joe Mahr, and I worked with Mike and Mitch on the original Tiger Force series. (I got your name from Mike.) I'm researching the creation of Tiger Force by Col. David Hackworth and what happened to the unit to cause the atrocities in '67. I've already talked to one '66 Tiger, who has told me that the Tigers of '66 were nothing like the unit in '67. I'm hoping you can help me flesh that out and help me understand exactly how the unit was created.

I've heard a couple different stories on how Tiger Force was created. One is that it was an outgrowth of what happened at An Khe (a special task force was needed to help rescue soldiers bogged in the battle, so a quick force of anti-tank and recon was combined to do the job, which grew into Tiger Force). The other version comes from the books I've seen on it (About Face and Special Men), which mention the formation around the end of '65 at Phan Rang.

I also hope to talk to you about Colonel Hackworth's role starting Tiger Force. His name attached to the unit raised some eyebrows when we ran the series.

Thank you.

Joe Mahr, reporter
"Toledo Blade"
Voice: (419) 724-6180
Fax: (419) 724-6439
Email: jmahr@theblade.com

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

From: Tom Willard
To: Joe Mahr
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2004 1:26 AM
Subject: Re: tiger force

Tiger Force is locked down. You tell me who led you to this, to break the story, then we'll talk. Hack, more general's than you can imagine want to know the name. Without the name. You go alone. Like the Tigers. Above The Rest! TW

"ARCHANGEL"

From - tomwillard@bis.midco.net
Subject: Tiger Force
Date: Wed, 25 Feb 2004 17:17:54 -0500

There's an obvious nervousness - even demand - in learning the truth of the allegations printed in an article by the "Toledo Blade," regarding atrocities committed in the Song Ve valley, Quaing Gnai province, from May through October of 1967.

The full gamut has run: disbelief, suspicion, curiosity, incredulity, along with outrageous anger. This is to be expected from honorable men who have served the Tiger Force with dedication, honor, nobility, pride, loss of blood and limb, and loss of life of Brother Tiger's. Despite what some may think right now about Tiger Force, we are, after all, only human.

The investigation has re-opened by the DoD, Army, and the Criminal Investigation Detachment. Interviews of two accusers was conducted on February 22, 2004, and today, February 24, 2004. There will be more to follow. The feed-back I received from the first one interviewed was that - compared to his first interview in 1971 - was very polite, cordial, but to the point. Which was good. It even included, as an investigator, a former member of the 502nd who served with the Brigade in Vietnam. The second interview is underway as I write this report.

My research has taken me to friends LTG Hank Emerson, Col. David Hackworth, Col. Tom Taylor, and all directed me to a Sweetwater Tennessean named Maj. Ivan Worrell. He is, according to Hack, the pre-eminent authority on the evolution and later missions of the Tiger Force. We all know he's a good man. A good friend.

Like myself, and others, he shares the initial after shock question: How could this be true and we not have known about it for 37 years? How?

That's a tough one to rationalize.

But both questions must be secondary to the most important question: What should be done if it is true?

I've offered to buy the horse and rope to hang them; another has offered to slap the horse on the rump. This seems to be the general consensus among Tigers and other decent people.

But, first, there must be a final rendering of the truth. This can only be done by CID and DoD. The article produced a great weight of testimony from Vietnamese villagers and former Tigers and other members of 1/327. Gory events. Tragic moments for the Vietnamese and the Tigers. Not a breakdown in chain of command; rather, a total lack of leadership from the battalion commander to the platoon officer commander and platoon sergeant. Who, for what foolish reason I can't understand, blew the whole thing - in his own words - as not being important. The platoon leader said much the same.

Yet, there was no physical evidence. Nothing but heresay. Which is inadmissible.

However, with enough corroboration, heresay testimony can develop a compelling weight.

The investigation that has begun will again directly disrupt the lives of a few people. They are the ones who know the truth. The investigation will indirectly disrupt the lives of all of us who served in Tiger Force, 327, 101, or the United States military in all branches of service.

That is the crux of the issue. Are we a nation that covers up atrocities? Or, are we a nation that fervently opposes atrocities?

Granted, My Lai - which occurred one year later - was a reality. A momentary breakdown of chain of command. Frightened, mis-directed young men who lost sight of their mission: to relieve South Vietnam of oppression. Not to be oppressive.

If Song Ve is true, it was not momentary; rather, a monstrous six-month long rampage that was facilitated and officiated by the chain of command.

DoD has resumed the investigation they botched on the first mission. It's reported that the records are missing from that first investigation. I don't think the records will be found missing on this investigation.

Sit tight. Be patient. Let's find out the truth.

Tom Willard
Medic Recon/ Tiger Force 1965



1ST BRIGADE (S) REUNION SEPTEMBER 17 - 19, 2004

Ivan,

Thank you for the information that you sent and the proposal for your assistance..much appreciated. Time frame will not be exactly what you might like right now but it is happening.

The reunion will be held at the:

Hilton Phoenix East/Mesa
1011 West Holmes Ave
Mesa, AZ 85210-4923
1.480.833.5555

Dates for the reunion - 17-19 September 2004

16-19 Sept the negotiated price for rooms \$97.00 per night-- very good rate significantly below published rates. The hotel is directly across the street from the Fiesta Mall.

Registration will be on the 17th, schedule being worked on now, additional information to follow.

Roger

Editor's Note: For more information or to receive a reunion registration brochure write or call: COL(R) Gerald E. Morse, 11327 HQ CO 67-68, 10914 E. Twilight Dr., Sun Lakes, AZ 85248-7926; (480) 895-0826.

MOTHER'S DAY HILL

Steve Black
ABU 1/327th
'67
cptsob@earthlink.net

I joined the Army in March 66 after messing around in college for 6 months. Enlisted Airborne unassigned, sent to 11b2p (heavy weapons infantry) jump school then the Nam.

Arrived in country Oct 66 and sent from Long Bihn to Saigon to augment the M.P.s providing security for troop billets. Sent to Abu Jan 67.

One of two from 2nd platoon not wounded on Mother's Day Hill. Knew all the KIA and many of the WIAs. Have been dealing with it ever since.

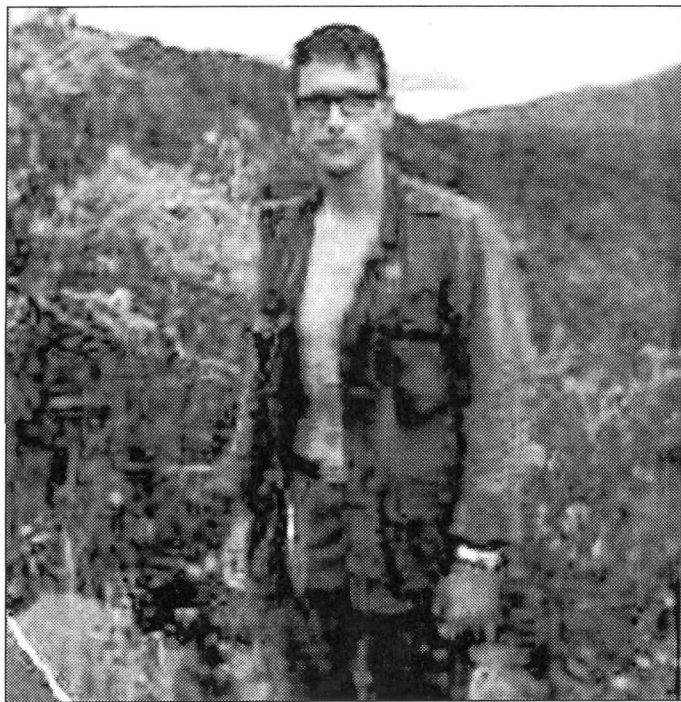
Out of the Army at Fort Bragg in March 69.

Spent four years in the Air Force from 71-75 as air traffic controller, and many years in the Army National Guard. Went to Desert Storm as an RN in a National Guard evac hosp.

Retired from that in 01 as Captain.

I have missed my brothers for all these years, and hardly a day goes by that I don't think about Mother's Day Hill.

Editor's Note: This is the material, along with the picture, shown below that is on the page for Steve Black on the 327th web site.



On the top of mother's day hill, just after the fight.

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

To: "David J. Markham" <david327@adelphia.net>

Subject: New story thread on Web Site: Mother's Day Hill

Organization: <http://screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com>

Brothers,

Some time ago we had a discussion about the battle that has come to be known as Mother's Day Hill. Our web master David J., has opened up a new discussion thread on the site and has posted this eyewitness to history account by our brother Steve Black <http://screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com/first/stories_poems/mothers_day_hill_thread.htm>.

If you would like to add to this thread or any of the other accounts posted please contact David J, to do so. davidj@screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com It is part of the 327th Vietnam Eagles Mission statement to preserve the history we wrote and thanks to your stepping up and the hard work of David J. & Hannibal we are starting to get it on the record.

NS/ATR!

Yankee Jim

Mother's Day Hill Thread

If you would like to add your memories to this thread please email them to David J. <mailto:davidj@screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com>

Mother's Day Hill from the back of the line in second platoon

Here is what I remember about the events leading up to and including the Battle. Steve Black <http://screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com/first/stories_poems/steve_black.htm>

I was a grenadier in 2nd platoon. We had been operating around Duc Pho for several days without enemy contact. We did see some signs of use in villages, such as military equipment, maps, canteens etc. left in the empty villages we were in.

At the time we had an ABC newsman and a two-man crew of Koreans carrying the large film camera they used. Most of the time that group was attached to the command group, the CO, his RTO, an FO and his RTO.

After about the third day I think, we got orders to start up a high hill with the plan to rendezvous with the choppers for resupply on the other side. My squad Sgt., I can't remember his name, but he was a great guy, was to get on the chopper to go to the rear. He was going to go to Hawaii to meet his fiancé and get married. She was already there, expecting to meet him in a couple of days.



As we started up the trail leading up the hill, it was clear it would be a hard climb. The trail was very steep, windy and narrow, with heavy jungle on all sides and above. I was in the last squad in my platoon. There were two platoons, 4th and 2nd, and the command group in between.

With a total number of about 55 or so men, spaced 5 meters apart, the entire column was perhaps 250-300 meters long. Those of us in the rear were nearly the length of a football field away from the lead elements. With the jungle as it was, the only people we could see were all within about 15 meters forward and back. As a consequence, those of us in the rear really had no idea what was going on at the lead, other than what we could hear.

On the 13th of May, about noon we stopped for lunch break, each one of us sitting on the trail facing in opposite directions, leaning back on our rucks and eating C's, smoking and talking quietly. All of a sudden, the guy sitting next to me, (can't remember who) jumped up and opened fire into the foliage just to our right. He fired one round then his 16 jammed. (not uncommon no matter how often you cleaned it). We went into the woods where he had fired and found a VC in his black pjs with a grenade in his hand. The one shot had hit him right in the heart. We had been seeing signs of enemy emplacements, commo wire and phones, ammo bags etc., as we had been going up the hill and this made it clear that we were entering Indian territory. My memory gets hazy here but I think our CO decided to cap up and head up the hill right then.

I remember that our lead elements made some contact as I remember fire, and shouts and moving quickly up the hill. Our lead elements had dropped their rucks and so those of us in the rear were grabbing them along the way. We were carrying ours and then had one on each arm as we suddenly found that running up the hill was easy. Gun fire has a way of doing that.

The rear elements I was with never got far enough up the hill to yet see what had transpired and no one really passed any information back down the hill, but as it was starting to get towards dark (usually always around 1800-1830) we started digging in for the night right on the trail.

As we were digging in, the dog handler we had assigned to our unit, SP/4 Bost and his dog came and joined the three guys that were at my position for the night. I had never met him before but as we rapped about our lives, his plans, his girl etc., I came to feel like I had known him forever and was very impressed with how friendly and easy going he was. I was looking forward to talking more with him as the days went on, despite the fact that it was a very tense night, knowing that we were likely going to catch more hell the next day and expecting perhaps more grenades during the night.

The next morning we were up early and back on line ready to go up the hill. From my location all I could see were the three or four men in line just ahead of me and the same to the rear. When walking up a trail slowly like this it was sort of being like any other line in the Army, a few steps forward, then wait

then a few steps forward then wait again. I remember that we had moved up the hill just a short ways, then seemed to be going back down a short dip in the trail and then back up. We had moved maybe 100 meters when all hell broke loose. The VC had opened up from bunkers on the lead elements of our unit and apparently hit first the dog, rumor was later in the day that it had been hit, jaw blown off and the dog ran off into the jungle. Along with the Sp/4 Bost who had been mortally hit, I don't know too much about who was hit and where initially as we were still strung out way back down the trail. As soon as the noise started every one hit the ground in a defensive position. We could here screams of pain, and cries for " medic" over and over. We could hear commands to move up the hill, move on the flank etc., then we heard "2nd platoon on line." We came running as fast as we could up the hill into the salvo.

I remember coming into a small clearing where I could see two men laying behind a log. One was Sgt. Jerry Norris, I don't remember the other. I rushed up next to them and lay down behind the same log. They both had a cigarette lit and were firing their 16s into the heavy jungle. Visibility was about 20 meters. I had the M 79 which in that jungle could not be used because the round would not penetrate far enough to be armed, or might even bounce back to where we were. All I could do was keep low. In the past grenadiers had been issued .45's but I guess there had been to many "accidental" foot wounding so they took them away. At least that's what I was told when I asked for one.

At this time the noise was beyond belief. People were screaming for help, the CO was somewhere ahead of us screaming into the radio and the FO was screaming for fire support. A volley of fire came in and it was incredibly loud. I remember thinking that was close. I heard an adjustment call and thought, "don't drop it any more." Then I heard a voice in my head (guardian angel ? Premonition?) Scream, move, move, move away. I low crawled about 20 meters behind another tree and just as I got there the rounds came right on top of where I had been. It killed Norris and all around and must have wounded many others. After the rounds hit the intensity of fire dropped a lot but there were still incoming. There were several rounds fired directly at me that went over my head into the tree that I know were from 16's. I thought it was Charlie, but in retrospect it may have been someone up front just firing anywhere at random.

After a few minutes I got up and went to were Sgt. Norris was, and where I had been to see what happened and what I could do. The two of them were still lying in a fighting position with there weapons supported by the log, smokes still going. They were perfectly normal from the waist up but from the web gear down they looked like 100 lbs of ground beef, I mean exactly like that. I moved on up the hill and found our medic, he had his intestines out on the ground, so I tried to dress him with wet rags. Apparently the CO had called in a medivac as the air was full of smoke, and choppers were coming in. He was also severely wounded. I remember giving morphine surrets to some in that area.



To the best of my knowledge, there were two other people left in my platoon not wounded, one was named Brabson, I don't remember who else. They and I and the ABC crew who were also not wounded spent a lot of time trying to give first aid to the many wounded. I don't remember that there was anyone else moving at the time. When the choppers arrived, they could not land due to the heavy jungle, so the six of us started chopping down the small trees in the area with machetes. I remember one of the camera men filming this. The choppers then hovered and lowered baskets down. We loaded wounded in as fast as they could lower down a basket. It was scary because they were only about 20 feet or so over us in full hover, and there was still some occasional incoming. The noise, and confusion and fear was indescribable.

After what seemed like forever, elements of the 1st and 3rd platoon joined us and set up a perimeter. They started taking over the loading so I went to try and give first aid to others.

Some how a chopper must have been able to land as the camera group were soon gone. We spent the rest of the day evacuating the wounded. My squad leader had his leg blown off just about the knee, and I remember someone loaded him in a basket and then put his boot with his leg still in it on his chest. I thought he was going to die of shock. In fact I never knew what happened to him nor do I remember his name.

After the fight there were only three from my platoon, so we were assigned to one of the other platoons and the next day soldiered on. This was tough because there was never any time to process the losses, and I remember that for the next few days where ever there was any gun fire, I would want to cry. We did not make any heavy contact after that day.

After a few days, we were ordered to go back up the hill from the back side, to see if anyone had reoccupied the bunkers. When we had checked them out just after the battle, there were blood trails but no dead or wounded.... So we never knew what kind of damage we had inflicted. As we approached the battle area, the stench of death was overwhelming, and there were pieces of flesh still hanging in the trees all around.

My life was forever changed by that day, and it is sad that we could have avoided it if the CO would just have listened to others.

Steve Black

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

From: David J. Markham [mailto:david327@adelphia.net]
To: Steve Black; James Simchera; Eli Haggins; Mouse Hammonds; Dale Hansen; Dave Markham; John McDonald

Steve and Point team,

I have started a new discussion thread, http://screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com/first/stories_poems/mothers_day_hill_thread.htm

I would like to thank you Steve for sending me your memory of this time in your life. We all realize how hard it is to relive these events in our lives, but I think we all also believe that opening up to each other and talking about things so long buried is helping a lot of us. Thank you again Steve.

YJ can you get the word out about the new thread? Thank you too!

ATR/NFS/BF

David J. • <http://screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com>

Editor's Note: The names recorded in the above e-mails may need explanation. Yankee Jim is Jim Simchera [21327 A 9169-9170], 6542 Bill Lundy Rd, Laurel Hill, FL 32567, (850) 689-1574, he keeps a great number of people current with what is happening through his original e-mail and forwarding items of interest. David J. Markham [11327 C 10166-10167], 3410 Adelaide Drive, Erie, PA 16510-2102, (814) 899-7252 is the web master for the 327th web site. He is known as "Davie J." by his friends who enjoy his outstanding web site (see the address just above this note and Steve Black [11327 A 67] 2872E 2500S, New Harmony, UT 84757, (453) 586-0900 <ptsob@earthlink.net>. Steve was not on my address list when I found his Mother's Day Hill story on the 327th web site. If you have recollections of this battle please post your story on the web site and send any information to me for use in the magazine.

Sgt. Smith In Airborne In Vietnam



WAYNE SMITH

Army Sergeant First Class Wayne Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson Smith, Route 4, Harriman, is participating in "Operation Wheeler" in Vietnam with other members of the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade.

Wheeler, which began in September, is the fifth operation the Brigade has been in since joining Task Force Oregon in May.

Sgt. Smith is a supply sergeant in the 2nd Battalion of the brigade's 502nd Infantry.

His wife, Nannie, lives at 3407 Rosehill Road, Fayetteville, N. C.

Continued on page 16

+ 1st SGT(R) Wayne Smith, 2/502 HQ 3/67-3/68, 510 Bowman Rd., Harriman, TN 37748; (423) 376-5089 while visiting the office furnished the following articles about Task Force Oregon.

TFO UNITS KILL 27

CHU LAI (IO) – Task Force Oregon units killed 27 enemy yesterday in scattered contacts in southern I Corps.

Cordon and search operations by the 101st Airborne in the Song Ve River Valley near Duc Pho accounted for 14 enemy killed and 670 refugees relocated as Operation Malheur II continued.

One company of the “Screaming Eagles” killed eight VC in an extensive tunnel complex. One anti-tank weapon was captured along with a French sub-machine gun, two mines and assorted mortar rounds and small arms ammunition.

The 670 refugees raised the total airlifted out of the VC infested valley to 2,241. More than 200 head of cattle are being herded out of the valley. The cattle drive, dubbed “The Old Chisolm Trail” by civic action officials, began Saturday.

The 14 enemy killed boost Operation Malheur II totals to 133. Eighteen paratroopers have been killed in the 11-day old operation.

The 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, operating along the coastal plains north of Duc Pho, killed 12 enemy in scattered contacts yesterday, and captured three individual weapons.

No significant contact was reported by the “Chargers” of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. One enemy was killed in the area of operations.

During the week ending June 17, “Oregon” MEDCAPs treated more than 5,000 villagers in Quang Ngai and Quang Tin Provinces. Units have held more than 580 MEDCAPs in treating approximately 47,000 Vietnamese since beginning operations in mid-April.

TF Oregon News

13 Jun 67

CHU LAI (IO) – Task Force Oregon units killed 13 enemy yesterday in actions in Quang Ngai and Quang Tin Provinces.

Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne sprung a dawn ambush on a squad of Viet Cong in rain-soaked jungles near Duc Pho during Operation Malheur II.

Seven VC were killed and five weapons and nine field packs captured.

Another enemy was killed when elements of the brigade engaged an estimated squad.

One VC was observed floating face-down on a river by a Forward Air Controller (FAC) spotter plane. The body resulted from an artillery strike Sunday on a convoy of enemy supply sampans.

In other actions, a company of paratroopers destroyed a platoon-size base camp.

Yesterday’s nine enemy killed raised the total for the five-day old operation to 85.

TF Oregon News

17 June 67

CHU LAI (IO) – Task Force Oregon units killed 22 enemy in contacts reported yesterday.



Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne encountered stiff resistance as two companies received enemy mortar and automatic weapons fire in jungle fighting west of Duc Pho.

The action began late in the afternoon as one company was airlifted into a new position. Another company was sent to reinforce the besieged paratroopers. One helicopter was shot down, five paratroopers were killed and 41 wounded according to early reports. Officials were unable to determine enemy losses in initial reports.

Earlier in the day, the “Screaming Eagles” notched 10 enemy kills. Company A, of the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry accounted for eight of the enemy losses. Five were wounded.

The 10 enemy killed raised the total in the week-old operation Malheur II to 110.

The 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry had light enemy contact resulting in two enemy killed. The “Broncos” destroyed a bunker complex of 38 bunkers. Two MEDCAPs treated 263 patients.

In the Chu Lai area, the 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery killed nine enemy in two fire missions requested by a forward observer about nine miles south of Chu Lai.

Flying 1377 sorties, aviators of the 14th Aviation Battalion transported 2383 troops and hauled 337 tons of cargo in support of ground operations.

TF Oregon News

21 June 67

“Buried in the rush of news from the Middle East were reports of a grab-bag unit of US Army troopers operating under the unusual designation of “Task Force Oregon,” after the home state of its commander, Major General William B. Rosson, 48. Pieced together six weeks ago, the task force is General Westmoreland’s answer to a rapidly deteriorating situation in Quang Ngai, a Communist-infested province in the troublesome I Corps. The four South Vietnamese battalions in Quang Ngai were far too weak to cope with 12,000 local Viet Cong, who had been bolstered by two newly arrived North Vietnamese divisions. The U.S. Marines, who usually police the province, were rushing to the North to fend off a threatened invasion across the DMZ.”

“Lacking a spare division to meet the challenge, General Westmoreland pulled together paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division, tanks from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, riflemen from the 25th Division and the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. Last month the division-strength hybrid moved north into the thickly covered foothills and verdant coastal plain of Quang Ngai.”

“Almost every place the new outfit went, it found Viet Cong and North Vietnamese waiting in ambush or entrenched in deep, multitunneled bunkers. Employing a “pile-on” tactic – to find the enemy and then pile on more men and firepower until Charlie or his Northern neighbors were crushed – Oregon’s troopers proved to be bruising hunters. Last week, as elements of the 101st Airborne began a new sweep through central Quang Ngai, the task force had killed 1,520 enemy while suffering only 134 losses itself, for one of the highest kill ratios of the war.”



POW Tells of Heavy Losses

Troopers Blast Viet Cong Trap

VC Mutt Fingers Owners

DUC PHO—The loyalty of a Viet Cong dog cost his owner and three other enemy soldiers their lives.

Spec. 4 Antonio B. Cardon, Dona Ana, N.M., C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., was maintaining surveillance of a river bed during Operation Malheur II, when he saw an enemy soldier moving along the shore.

Plat. Sgt. Edward A. Birmingham, Rutland, Vt., and Cardon moved toward the stream and began searching for the enemy. "I saw a dog lying next to a small tunnel," Birmingham said, "and I figured there were people inside."

Birmingham yelled for those in the tunnel to come out.

There was no response. The dog fled.

Cardon and Birmingham heaved grenades into the tunnel, just as Staff Sgt. Roy Logue, Danville, Va., joined the two paratroopers.

"When the smoke cleared away, I crawled into the tunnel," said Logue, "and was I surprised."

Four dead VC lay sprawled on the tunnel floor.

VC Feigns Priesthood

DUC PHO—Charlie Co. of the 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf., was irritated. All night their defensive position had been peppered with sniper fire. As dawn broke, a patrol moved out in search of the bushwhacker.

Pfc David L. Cash, Ventura, Calif., saw a man running across a rice paddy with a weapon in his hands. "He was about 400 meters away," said Cash, "and I yelled 'Charlie'. When we opened fire, the VC dove into a tunnel."

Spec. 4 William S. MacKee, St. Louis, saw the enemy disappear and began running toward the tunnel. "I was afraid he would get away," MacKee said, "so I went in after him. He was huddled in the back of the tunnel with his weapon, so I grabbed him by the neck and dragged him out."

The prisoner promptly declared he was a Buddhist priest who had been taken captive by the VC and forced to snipe at Americans. However, during questioning he admitted he was a Viet Cong and gave the names of 15 other VC, plus the location of bunkers and a rice cache.

Capt. Roger M. John, Sherman, Texas, company commander, moved his unit to the village, established defensive positions and began the search.

They found the rice buried under the floors of the huts.

"By mid-day, I knew we had found a major storage area," said Capt. John.

The paratroopers extracted 10 tons of rice which was given to the refugees at Nghia Hanh.

One paratrooper commented, "That VC was a better prophet than priest."

The Screaming Eagle



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Ninh Thuan province Boy Scouts move sand for construction of a playground near Phan Rang. Assisting them are paratroopers of the 101st Airborne and Co. B, 87th Eng. Bn. Story on page 2. (USA Photo by Capt. Was Grosbeck)

Mission Lasts 7 Hours

Dust-Off Wins on 3rd Try

DUC PHO — A recent late afternoon MEDEVAC mission turned into a seven hour endurance contest between a "dust-off" crew of the 498th Med. Co (Air Ambulance) and the Viet Cong during Operation Malheur II west of here.

Answering the emergency call were WO pilots John W. Shelton, Williamsburg, Va., and Frank F. Hefferman, Anchorage, Alaska, and their crew.

Co. B of the 2nd Bn (Abn), 327th Inf., was fighting its way out of an enemy ambush when the helicopter arrived. Enemy fire ripped through the Red Cross marked aircraft.

Quickly the helicopter moved out of range as crew chief Spec. 5 Kenneth Lynch, Oxnard, Calif., Staff Sgt. Robert Humphries, Evansville, Ill., gunner and Spec. 5 William Smith, medic checked the aircraft for damage.

The enemy fire had destroyed the winch. Other bullets ricocheted between the pilots, damaging the electrical panel.

Realizing they could not evacuate wounded from the dense jungle without a winch, the crew returned to their base for another helicopter.

Once again the helicopter hovered over the site of the wounded paratroopers. The winch cable was halfway down when enemy fire again hit the chopper, this time striking the oil cooler.

The helicopter began to lose power as the oil pressure fell

to zero.

"We had only two minutes to find a place to land," said

'Doc' Defies Enemy Mines

DUC PHO (1/327-IO) — Finding themselves trapped in a mine field, paratroopers of the 101st Airborne turned to the one man that could help them—their prisoner.

Tiger Force, the reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf., was taking a VC prisoner in for interrogation when Spec. 4 David McCleery, Battle Creek, Mich., stepped on a mine.

The explosion sent fear racing through the troopers as they realized they were in a mine field. Their feet refused to move.

McCleery needed help. "My better judgement told me not to move," said Pfc Frank Kimmel, Santa Cruz, Calif., "I hesitated, then ran to McCleery. It was a miracle I missed the mines. God was on my side."

Staff Sgt. James Haugh, Terre Haute, Ind., had the solution. He directed the prisoner to lead the way. The Viet Cong knew where he was going. As they walked, he pointed out the mines. "He saved us several casualties by pointing out ones we'd never have seen," said Haugh.

Shelton.

In the seconds remaining, the aircraft made it to a rice paddy where the crew prepared for an emergency landing.

"There were farmers in the field when we came down," recalled Shelton. "Minutes later they opened fire on us."

Shelton stayed at the radio until enemy machinegun fire began raking the downed chopper.

Darkness fell on the five man fighting for their lives.

Gunships responded to their emergency and picked up the crew. A nearby infantry unit provided security for the downed chopper, while Shelton and crew went back for a third chopper.

"When you get thrown from a horse," joked Lynch, "you get back on. Those wounded paratroopers out there needed us."

Once more the "dust-off" approached the battle area. Again they received fire, but this time managed to lift out the seriously wounded. Smith, the medic, treated them as the helicopter flew to the medical clearing station.

Lynch and Smith received Purple Hearts for wounds they had received in the ordeal.

Shelton's only comment was: "You can always count on the 101st to be where the action is and that's why we like being with the Screaming Eagles. They appreciate the job you do."

DUC PHO—Twenty-four hours after a Viet Cong ambush was thwarted by the 101st Airborne, the paratroopers learned how deadly their firepower had been.

B Co. of the 2nd Bn (Abn), 327th Inf., air-assaulted into an area they previously had searched during Operation Malheur I, and this time the men knew exactly where they were going.

"We headed straight for an enemy base camp," said Capt. Ray Millard, St. Louis, the company commander.

With the third platoon leading the way, B Co. approached a dead tree across the trail. Squad leader Sgt. Charles Romig, Palmerton, Pa., noted the area looked suspicious. There was an absence of decayed or dead vegetation around the tree.

"Be careful," he warned point man Spec. 4 Raymond Gefrere, Detroit.

Twenty yards farther up the trail lay another tree in the same position.

"Something's strange," Gefrere commented, "it doesn't look natural."

Suddenly the enemy opened up from forward and right flank positions. Gefrere was hit. So was the platoon leader and the man behind him.

Sgt. Romig hit the dirt and his squad opened up.

Lt. Chico Beltran, platoon leader, ignored his leg wound and pulled Gefrere to safety as Romig radioed the rest of the platoon for help.

Plat. Sgt. Richard A. Merrick, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, sent the 2nd and 3rd squads to the right flank and led the rest of the platoon forward. Meanwhile, Spec. 4 Jesse Ramey, Arroyo Grande, Calif., moved his fire team to the lower side of the trail into positions with Romig's squad.

The platoon leader could not call in fire support because the contact was too close, so the paratroopers responded with maximum firepower.

Ramey's fire team moved up the hill, blasting away with grenades, linking up with Merrick's squads and the 1st platoon. Together they swept the VC positions.

As the paratroopers searched the battlefield, they were disappointed at finding only one enemy body, but heartened since no paratroopers were killed.

The following day, A Co. captured a wounded VC and discovered fresh graves. The prisoner explained he had been a part of the VC force which tried and failed to ambush B Co. the day before.

Twenty of his comrades, he said, had been killed or wounded.

Combat Vets Take Charge

DUC PHO—Lt. Colonels Ralph Puckett, Jr., Columbus, Ga., and Gerald Morse, Manlius, N.Y., assumed command of 2nd Bn (Abn), 502nd Inf. and 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf. respectively in recent ceremonies here.

Col. Puckett succeed Col. Harry A. Buckley, who will pursue a doctor of philosophy degree prior to reassignment to West Point.

Col. Morse received the battalion colors from Lt. Colonel Harold P. Austin, who has been reassigned to USARYIS, Okinawa.

Brigade Honors Vietnamese

DUC PHO—Three ARVN staff sergeants were made honorary Screaming Eagles here when they received certificates signed by Brig Gen. S. H. Matheson commander of the 1st Brigade. The certificates were presented to sergeants Luong Thien Xuong, Tran Yen and Nguyen Van Huynh, interpreters at-

tached to the 181st Military Intelligence Detachment. Xuong joined the brigade in October 1965. Yen was attached to the brigade a month later. Sgt. Huynh has been with the Screaming Eagles since the brigade arrived in Vietnam, July 29, 1965. He is married and has five children.

The trio supports the brigade by translating documents, assists in interrogation of detainees, and VIP translators. Capt. Clyde K. Gibson, detachment commander, presented the certificates in a recent ceremony, citing each of them for outstanding support to the detachment and brigade.

Wants Peace

'Finest ARVN I've Ever Met'

By Spec. 5 William P. Singley
DUC PHO — The heart of a lion is concealed by the thin frame and bright smile of an ARVN soldier who is as familiar in the 101st Airborne as the Screaming Eagle patch itself. Paratroopers swear by him, love him and are proud to serve with him.

He is Staff Sgt. Bui Van Ich. Born in North Vietnam, Ich spent his childhood years in Haiphong. When the Geneva resolution partitioned the country in 1954, his parents and their eight children fled south to Saigon.

After joining the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, he was sent to language school in Saigon. English had been one of

his high school subjects and the new language course sharpened his proficiency. When Ich graduated, he requested assignment to the 101st Airborne.

"I like the American airborne," said Ich.

In March, 1966, he became the interpreter for a Co., 2nd Bn (Abn), 502nd Inf., and began one of the most challenging years of his military career.

"It was a good assignment," he recalled. "Being in the field is important for me. As an interpreter I can save lives."

Spec. 4 Johnny A. Castellano, Brooklyn, agrees, explaining that in an operation near the Cambodian border, A Co. took an NVA prisoner. Ich questioned him and learned four heavily-armed NVA companies were ahead, waiting to ambush the paratroopers.

"We called in support," said Castellano, "then closed in and cut the enemy to pieces."

"Ich," he added, "was the hero of the day."

Sgt. Ich revealed his courage and bravery during a battle at Tuy Hoa when three VC broke through the perimeter. "Ich jumped up and attacked them," remembered Lt. Evan A. Francis, Euclid, Ohio. "Sgt. Ich saved our company commander's life. In my book, Ich is the finest ARVN I've ever met."

The slight Vietnamese warrior is modest about his combat experiences, but strong in opinions about the brigade. "If you have to be in the Army, it is best to be with the 101st," he says. "The leaders are hard men in the field, but they know what they are doing."

Having contracted malaria three times in the field, Ich has been restricted from combat assignments, and now works with the brigade civil affairs section. In this position, he handles the multitude of translations and coordination responsibilities between American and Vietnamese agencies.

Reflecting on the war that plagues his country, Sgt. Ich revealed he has cousins who are soldiering in the NVA.

"Some Vietnamese do not know why the Americans are here," he said. "I am glad they are. I do not like to fight, but sometimes you have to."

When asked about his plans for the future, he said simply: "I look forward to being a farmer. I want a simple life, to be neither rich nor poor. A life without war."

Totals Released For Malheur II

DUC PHO—The statistics for Operation Malheur II were released recently by military spokesmen of the 101st Airborne.

The search and destroy operation west of here was the second largest since the 1st Brigade arrived in Vietnam more than two years ago. Enemy dead numbered 470, bringing the total for Malheur I and II to 875.

The largest contact for the paratroopers in Vietnam was Operation Hawthorne, conducted in June, 1966 near Dak To. Enemy dead in that action numbered 521.

Malheur II began June 8 and terminated at midnight on August 1. It was the second operation for the paratroopers since joining Task Force Oregon in I Corps. Malheur I accounted for 405 enemy killed.

Malheur II	
Enemy Killed (BC)	470
POW (VC/NVA)	52/16
Detainees	631
Weapons	147
Rice (tons)	155
Salt (tons)	101.1
Kill Ratio	16 to 1

Since Joining Oregon	
Enemy Killed (BC)	875
POW (VC/NVA)	81
Detainees	863
Weapons	322
Rice (tons)	233
Salt (tons)	133.1
Kill Ratio	9.6 to 1

Total in Vietnam	
Enemy Killed (BC)	4,134
POW (VC/NVA)	524
Detainees	4,639
Weapons	1,581
Rice (tons)	1,403.2
Kill Ratio	8.8 to 1



The honored soldiers are: (l-r) Sgt. Luong Thien Xuong; Sgt. Tran Yen and Sgt. Nguyen Van Huynh.

Paratroopers Unearth Enemy Weapons Cache

DUC PHO, — It had the appearance of an Easter egg hunt but the prize was a VC weapons cache.

Paratroopers of C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., acting on information furnished by a Viet

Cong detainee, hacked their way through the jungle to a hut where a large weapons cache was allegedly hidden.

"We gave the area a thorough search," said Staff Sgt. Richard Jenkins, Valrico, Fla., "but all we found was a flashlight and a handful of documents."

Repeated efforts to gain more detailed information from the detainee proved fruitless.

Lt. James M. Hayes, Santa Fe Springs, Calif., sent out search parties to scout the surrounding area.

"My squad was searching north of the hut," said Jenkins, "when we stopped to take a break among a cluster of rocks."

Pfc. William Teal, Aberdeen, S.D., leaned back against a rock to relax when his hand touched something slick.

"Hey, Sarge! I think I found something," he exclaimed.

Moving the rock aside, Teal found a dirty poncho hiding an 82-mm mortar base plate.

"The guys were as excited as kids on an Easter egg hunt," quipped Jenkins. "Everybody began turning rocks over."

The paratroopers of the 101st Airborne found a machine gun, 60-mm mortars, sniper scopes, ammunition, NVA uniforms and documents.

Gunner Adores Mistress

DUC PHO — She's long, a bit on the heavy side, but when you touch her, she responds in a language everybody understands. Her name is "Sapphire," mistress of a machine gunner in the 101st Airborne.

"Sapphire" is an M-60 machine gun, coddled and cared for by Spec. 4 Edward G. Berry, C Co. of the 2nd Bn (Abn), 327th Inf.

"She never lets me down," says the York, Pa., paratrooper.

One afternoon as C Co. was moving through dense jungle, a Viet Cong sniper fired and fled. The paratroopers gave chase until they discovered fresh bunkers.

"Keep an eye on the trail," said Staff Sgt. David Sirois, Skowhegan, Me., to Berry and assistant gunner, Spec. 4 David Durante, San Benito, Tex.

"I could hear noises in the bushes," said Berry. "It sounded like a squad or more of VC."

Suddenly an enemy soldier came running toward them.

"Sapphire" purred a duet with Durante's M-16 as the VC fell.

Two reconnaissance teams with a scout dog moved out, searching for the enemy. Reaching a bombed out clearing, Pfc. Santos Castro, Los Angeles, cautioned the paratroopers to be alert.

Halfway across the clearing, the dog stiffened. A volley of enemy fire hit the dog handler. Castro moved forward with Berry and Durante covering him.

"I don't worry when Berry and Durante are behind me," said Castro.

Moments later, the three paratroopers ran to aid their buddies pinned down by enemy fire.

"Sapphire" spoke with finality. A woman always has the last word.

Boy Scouts Help Sidewalk Project

PHAN RANG — Vietnamese Boy Scouts joined with American servicemen stationed near here to build an outdoor playground for children of this coastal city, 175 miles north of Saigon.

Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne's Support Battalion, Company B of the 8th Engineer Battalion and representatives of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) assisted the scouts of Ninh Thuan Province in construction of a 500-foot circular sidewalk, which surrounds a playground equipped with swings, slides, teeter-boards, and other equipment built by the Americans.

The project, completed in 10 weeks, was celebrated in conjunction with International Aid Day ceremonies which attracted 1,500 residents of Phan Rang who joined in the observance with US/FWMMF (United States and Free World Military Forces).



Commanding General BG S. H. Matheson
Information Officer MAJ Billy E. Spangler

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Officer-in-Charge 1LT Barry C. Hana
Editor SP5 William P. Singley

Circulation 5,000

VC Lifted—Feet First

Cong Yanks Cong

By Pfc. Perry F. Ambrose
DUC PHO, (2/327-10)—In a day-long hide-and-seek contest, paratroopers of the 101st Airborne matched Communist resistance with American determination and won the prize—feet first.

The Fourth platoon of A Co., 2nd Bn (Abn), 327th Inf., was conducting search and destroy operations near here when they saw six Viet Cong scurry into a cave.

Quickly, the paratroopers sealed off the front and rear cave entrances, and heaved grenades into the approaches.

Nothing happened.
Warily, Pfc. Vito Legari, West Islip, Long Island, N.Y., and Spec. 4 Dale Burkman, New Castle, Ind., entered the cave from the front and rear.

No trace of VC.
"We stood there for quite some time," said Legari, "trying to figure out where they had vanished. As Burkman and

I looked around, I stumbled on something which turned out to be a trap door."

Legari and Burkman tried to raise the door and failed.

Pfc. Floyd W. Ply, Harrison, Ark., joined them in trying to raise the door.

While the three paratroopers pried open the trap door, platoon members outside saw two VC trying to escape from a third entrance to the cave.

One got away, the other was hit and fell back into the cave.

Meanwhile, Legari, the smallest of the three paratroopers, tried to slip thru the trap door into the tunnel.

"The Viet Cong aren't any bigger than I am," joked Legari, "but somehow they could get through that hole and I couldn't."

Spec. 4 Donald R. Kinton, Kreole, Miss., entered the cave and the quartet began enlarging the hole in the cave floor.

Once the hole was expanded,

Kinton, armed with a lighted torch, crawled into the tunnel.

He saw a VC about to pull the pin on a grenade. Kinton thrust the burning torch into his face and scrambled out of the tunnel.

The grenade was a dud. Disgusted with the stubborn enemy, the paratroopers dropped several grenades into the tunnel opening.

When the smoke and dust cleared away, one VC crawled out of the hole and surrendered.

Legari decided to enter the tunnel for a look around. An enemy bullet zipped by his head.

The paratroopers pulled back to map new strategy. Third platoon joined them in suggesting tactics they hoped would force the stubborn enemy to surrender.

A claymore was set off in the tunnel opening.

The VC responded by throwing out a grenade.

Another dud.

The prisoner was sent back to the tunnel opening, where he tried to talk his comrades into surrendering.

Nothing happened.

In contempt, Staff Sgt. James A. Ross, Canton, Ohio, dropped another grenade into the tunnel, and brought the prisoner back again to persuade them to surrender.

One of the hesitant VC responded, bringing two weapons with him. He explained there was one Viet Cong left in the tunnel and two dead.

Apparently, the report of one remaining stubborn VC was too much for Mr. Pham Minh Cong, interpreter working with A Co.

In anger, Mr. Cong threw his helmet to the ground, went into the tunnel and came back dragging the last VC by his heels.

It had taken nearly all day to capture the three prisoners, but it was worth it. The platoon had captured an area VC commander, his assistant, 70 pounds of documents, more than 700 pounds of rice, a typewriter, and medical supplies.



Balancing Act

Staff Sgt. Robert E. Dubreuil, Clarksville, Tenn., balances double-barreled load of empty shell containers. The shells were fired in support of infantry units during Operation Hood River. (USA Photo by Spec. 4 Lou Glossen)

In O-Deuce

Champions Lead

DUC PHO—"The VC have us in a hole, men. Let's try a right-end sweep with the point and slack men flaring to the flanks for downfield protection."

A statement like this is what Spec. 4 Jim Switzer, Abilene, Kan., might suggest to his squad while engaged in a fire fight.

After three years of college football, the former Small College All-American finds plays hard to forget.

Switzer was a sociology major at Emporia College in Kansas. Now he is a squad leader in the weapons platoon, A Co., 2nd Bn (Abn), 502nd Inf.

In his senior year at Emporia, Jim was selected All-American fullback of the little schools. He set a national record of 28 touchdowns in one season.

After the service Jim plans to play semi-pro football and continue his education.

A Co. has another champion

leading a squad. Spec. 4 Edward Lee, Belmont, Mass., won the title of "Mr. Strength and Health, USA" in 1965.

Lee became interested in body-building when he was 12 years old.

"Everyday after school I would walk down to the city gym and watch them work out," said Lee. "With the encouragement of the gym director, I began to train."

Shortly before his 18th birthday, "Strength and Health" magazine announced the start of its national body-building contest. Advancing through city and state eliminations, Lee won the national title.

Although he has lost 35 pounds in his two months in Vietnam, his strength hasn't been affected. He still casually picks up a 5-gallon water can with one hand to fill his canteen cup.

'Retreat' Wins Battle

Hawks Fool VC

By SSG Mike Mangiameli

DUC PHO — Sound combat tactics by paratroopers of the 101st Airborne made fools of an estimated 50 NVA during Operation Malheur II near here.

The Hawk Platoon, 2nd Bn (Abn), 327th Inf., halted after a day of patrolling in the Song Ve valley.

Staff Sergeant Frank C. Lincoln, Port Jefferson, N.Y., a Hawk team leader, suggested defensive positions in dense underbrush with alternate positions

in a trench about 80 meters across an open field.

"We always select alternate positions," explained Lincoln, "but have rarely had opportunity to use them."

Soon after the Hawks occupied their primary positions, a yelling NVA force charged the paratroopers. Without hesitation and according to plan, the Hawks grabbed their weapons and dashed across the open field to the trench.

The enemy stopped firing and stared at the running paratroopers.

"Charlie was shocked," chuckled Lincoln. "I guess the last thing he expected was us to run."

Lincoln continued: "By the time the enemy decided to resume his attack, most of us were in the trench. Apparently 'Charlie' thought we were still running, because they charged, shooting and yelling."

From their trench positions, the Hawks blasted away at the silhouetted enemy, felling half of them in the first volley.

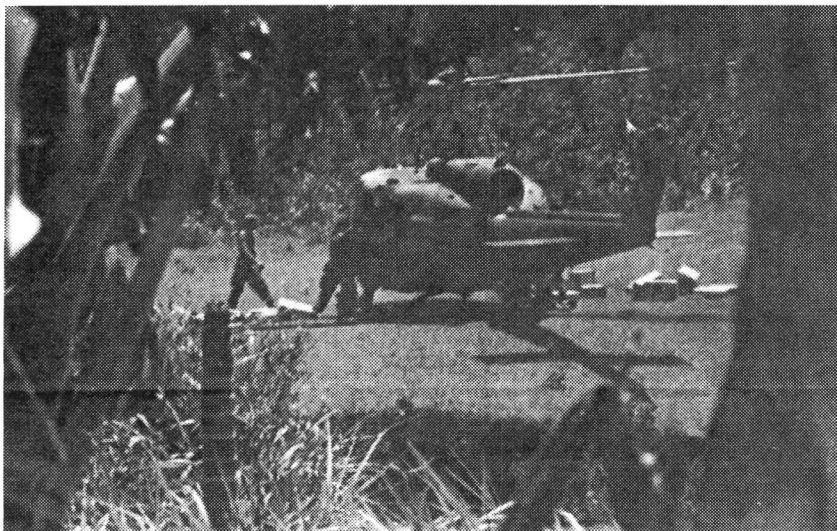
"We had them at a complete disadvantage," Lincoln said. "Only a few in the platoon were wounded."

Among the wounded was the platoon medic who was hit as he approached the trench. One of the Hawks grabbed him, pulling him to safety. However, the medic's first aid equipment lay exposed on the battlefield.

Lincoln leaped from the trench, dashed to the pouch, scooped it up and ran back to the trench amid a hail of bullets and grenades.

"Looking back on it," joked the sergeant, "it scares me, but we had to have the medic's kit."

Four hours later the battle ended. Twelve enemy lay dead, six paratroopers were wounded. The Hawks tactics paid off!



Chopper Resupply

Paratroopers of a 101st Airborne line company unload C-rations from a helicopter. Often the Screaming Eagles work clandestinely, resupplying only when necessary. (USA photo by Spec. 5 Thomas Holzhauser)

Tigers Wake To VC Alarm

DUC PHO (1/327-10)—"It was a hell of a way to wake up," said Spec. 4 Robin Varney, Seattle, Wash.

Varney and other paratroopers of the 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf., Tiger Force had set defenses for the night during the last week of Operation Malheur II.

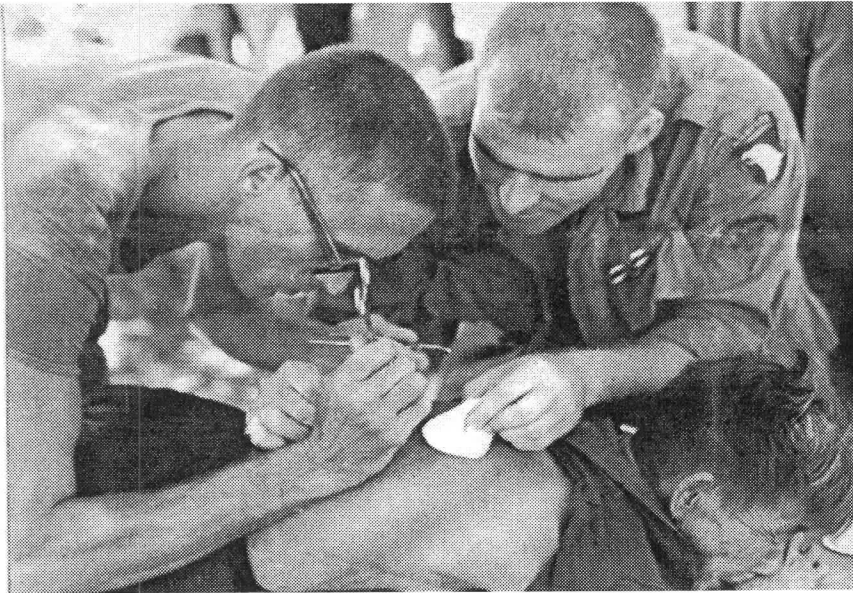
Just as most of the men had dozed off, the VC probed their positions with grenades. Varney was blown out of his slumber and into a ditch.

"I tried to get back to my gun when another grenade knocked me one way and the gun another."

Again Varney went for his machinegun. This time an explosion rolled him on top of it. Before he had a chance to fire, another grenade sent him reeling.

The VC moved to another position and the Tigers were ready. Their intense fire drove them off. One paratrooper of the 101st Airborne had been killed and two wounded.

"I guess I'm just lucky," said Varney, "I wasn't even scratched."



A Simple Operation

Years Of Pain Disappear



The Rest After

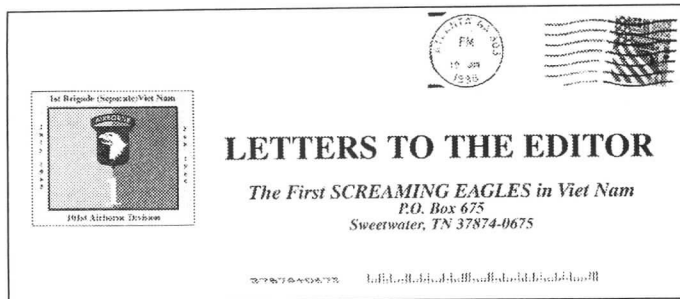
As paratroopers of the 101st Airborne search out the enemy, another force wages "that other war"—combating the suffering and disease abiding in each village and hamlet.

Here, Spec. 4 Robert Allman, Baltimore, and Spec. 5 David A. Barmettler, Omaha, treat a massive cyst which afflicted this short-haired, elderly woman for more than 40 years.

She was only one of more than 100 persons treated that day.

The majority of cases treated by 101st Airborne medics stem from unsanitary conditions. As a result, much of the MEDCAP's time is devoted to instruction in personal hygiene.

**Story by Spec. 5 William P. Singley
Photos by Spec. 4 James Lohr**



**MESSAGES FROM THE
101stABNDIV1stBRIGADE.COM
WEB SITE GUEST BOOK**

DAVE FLOOD, 2/320th FA A Btry 8/67-8/68
10 Alcap Ridge, Cromwell, CT 06416
(860) 613-2041
Reddleg101@aol.com

Served with A Btry 2/320th FA Aug 67 to Aug 68, supported 1/327th Inf. I'd like to thank the troopers I met in Fla this Feb. In the spirit of the Airborne, I was invited to their reunion of the "Sunshine Chapter." What a great time my Lady and I had at the reunion. Ivan, "GREAT SITE." You'll be receiving my membership shortly.

"Welcome Home Brothers"

Any 320th FA soldiers out there. We have a 320th FA Association started by Roger Jacobson. Roger can be reached at 608-854-2317 or emailed at rodleone@centurytel.net for membership.

ED LIPTAK, 2/502 B 9/66-5/67
Treasure Island, FL
eliptak@msn.com

Just discovered this site and was amazed at some of the stories. Christmas 1966 in Kontum - the amoebic dysentery outbreak in early 1967. Was in B/2/502 from September 66 thru May 67 - wounded 5/18/67 - Platoon leader was Dave Booth - also remember Ken Possert from Ohio. Lots of names on site looked familiar but couldn't be sure. Fantastic website - keep up the good work

+ JAMES P. BRINKER, 2/502 E 12/69-11/70
10 Luther Lane, Dudley, MA 01571-5857
W (508) 797-3447 H (508) 943-6936
brinker101@charter.net

Recon 2BN / 502Inf Vietnam 1965-1971

There will be a reunion for all men that served in Recon 2/502 in Vietnam from July 1965 - January 1972. Strike Force associates, family, and friends of these men are also invited. The reunion will be in conjunction with the Florida Vietnam Veterans Reunion to be held April 23-25, 2004 in Melbourne FL. Please contact Jim Brinker, 10 Luther Lane, Dudley, MA 01571, Phone 508 943-6936, E-mail brinker101@charter.net



for registration information. Help is needed on collecting names and addresses of all Recondos, living and deceased, from 1965-1971. Please send any address changes to me as E-Mail addresses change so often. Confirmation of your intent to be part of this Reunion is needed as soon as possible. Hotel rate is only good to 4-1-04. Let me know if you are coming alone and would like to share a room with another Recon guy. We would like to have all reunion fees collected by that time also.

Several guys have shown interest in having replicas of Recondo 2/502 pocket patch and Recon 2/502 shoulder tabs made. How about Black Berets and hatchets? Widow maker card with Recondo symbol? Any other ideas? Let me know and I will work on it.

We plan on collecting history, biographies, and personal remembrances. These will be collected and put into a packet to be distributed to fellow Recondos. Send any information to Jim Brinker and they will be made into a volume. This should be done ASAP.

Jim Brinker
Recon 2/502 69-70

+ GEORGE L. MERCADO, 2/502 C 4/66-11/66
4656 Pinemore Ln., Lake Worth, FL 33463-6989
(561) 966-6324
mercadog11@msn.com

My name is George Mercado, and served with C/2/502 from 4/66 to 11/66. I participated in Operation Hawthorne which took place in June 66 in the Dak To area. I would like to know if any of you who will read this message know the correct Grid Coordinate for the now famous napalm strike called by Cpt Carpenter. I was able to get a 1:50k military map of the area and based on what I have read, I can only put my finger on an area about 8 x 8 Km. The reason for this request is that my grandchildren are beginning to ask me questions about my tour of duty in Vietnam. If you can pin point the location, please E-mail me the information at the above address. I will be very grateful.

+ BILL GUNTER, 2/502 B 1/67-5/67
27721 Falkirk, Mission Viejo, CA 92691
W (949) 360-2923 H (949) 364-1653
tailgunter@cox.net

I received my Jan 04 issue of the Newsletter. I just would like to thank you for the articles and comments about the Tiger Force who are being beaten up by the press. Co B, 2/502 Inf Jan - May 67

+ EDDIE LEWIN, 2/502 C 12/67-12/68
6822 Dunoon Court, Miami Lakes, FL 33014-6002
W (305) 687-8180 H (305) 826-8556
eelyx@aol.com

Greetings, Ivan... Thanks for the story on General John Keane's

retirement. I remember 1LT Jack Keane humping a rucksack and an M16 with Charlie 2/502 outside Veghel and/or Eagles Nest in the A Shau Valley back in the "old days" in '68. He ate his "C"s with us; was bug eaten like us; sweated like us; waited out the night and was shot at by the NVA like us. I'm proud to have had the privilege of serving in the 1st Brigade with giants like Captain Dennis K. Anderson, LTC James "Grubby" Hayes, Cpt. Paul "Maddog" Kimberling and General John Keane.

JOSE' G. RAMOS, 3/506
6322 Bright Ave., Whittier, CA 90601-3626
wlcmmveterans@aol.com

I would like to invite my brothers and sisters of the 101st to please visit our WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY WEBSITE @ WWW.WHVVD.ORG, you will see how far we have come and how close we are to making a day to WELCOME HOME our Warriors of the Vietnam War a reality and permanent part of our history.

Jose' G. Ramos
Team Coordinator/Founder
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Organization
www.whvvd.org

"A WELCOME HOME WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF"

"GOD BLESS AMERICA AND ALL ITS VETERANS"

+ GENE FYE, 2/502 C 1/64-2/66
473 Old Evans Rd., Apt. 415, Martinez, GA 30907-4330
eugenefye@comcast.net

Wishing all 1st Brigade troopers a Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

+ RICHARD DAVIS, 2/502 B 9/66-9/67
P.O. Box 87, Foster, WV 25081-0087
(304) 369-1472
gdavis@newwave.net

Happy holidays to the 1st Brigaders, it's been 37 years but I do think sharing cookies and candy with the 3rd Plt B/2/502 was more meaningful than today's easy going sharing. Brothers then, brothers now.....Strike Force

+ JIM GOULD, 2/502 HHC Recon 4/66-3/67
PO Box 1870, Hobe Sound, FL 33475-1870
(772) 546-0877 • jghawk3@hotmail.com

I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season. Hope to see many of you at the 17th Annual Florida VN Veterans Reunion next April 23-25 in Melbourne Florida.

Jim Gould
HHC 2/502 Recondos 66-67



+ MIKE BALDINGER, 2/502 C 12/65-12/66
54 B St., Keyser, WV 26726-2705
(304) 788-1461
Supergrover@mindspring.com

Happy holidays to all 1st Bde guys. Especially those with me at Dak To June 9-11, 1966, C/2/502

+ DAVE BROWN, 2/327 C 6/66-2/67
26298 Indigo Drive, Park Rapids, MN 56470-5190
(218) 732-4636
indigopines@unitelc.com

Was with C Co. 2/327th (1st squad/2nd platoon) June '66 to Feb. '67 (WIA). Then transferred to gunships because of wounds. After 11 months of that I transferred to VN Airborne Div./Advisory Team (Red Hats) for 20 months. 39 months straight in-country. Would like to hear from any and all. Thanks.

EDWIN TUBBS, 2/502 A 67-68
9442 Palmetto Lane, Shreveport, LA 71118
Etubbs502@aol.com

Just looking for anyone with A Co 2/502 67-68. I have located some but looking for more. Strike Force

E-MAIL MESSAGES

+ TIM SWAIN, HHC S-2 65
111 E. Morningside Dr., Peoria, IL 61614-2131
W (309) 637-1700 H (309) 692-7301
timswain@airborneranger.us

Ivan: How's it going? Thanks for the strong, vibrant and always interesting leadership you continue to give to our 1st Brigade. Just finished reading my most recent issue (Oct 03) and copied David Campbell's moving poem to my web site (Google: Swain Country).

Several suggestions:

1. Each of us should go to www.virtualwall.org and type in the name(s) of each friend we lost in Vietnam and then supply additional information to the contact person (i.e. relatives) and personal remembrances. The advent of the Internet is really an amazing means of contact/communications. For example, friends killed in Operation Gibraltar starting 18 Sep 65, have the Province listed as "unknown." I checked Google and An Khe was/is in Binh Dinh Province. Additionally, the relatives should be informed about this web site, which some might not know about.

2. Good move on your part to high ground! I remember when in late Oct 65 or early Nov 65 as the 1st Brigade was moving

from Route 19 and An Khe via Qui Nhon to Phan Rang, we bivouacked in a seemingly flat/perfect area, until it rained. We were flooded out. A little embarrassing, but a lesson was learned.

3. Sure proud of the 101st Airborne in Iraq. Our troopers continue to maintain the highest standards and traditions of our proud 101st Airborne Division. My friend, Gen Wayne Downing (R) (173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) in Vietnam), whom he has known for years and visited in Iraq, speaks highly of its commander, Maj Gen Petraeus.

Hang in there Ivan. Airborne. Merry Christmas.

Tim Swain, Peoria, IL

+ GILBERT PETRAMALO, Family C 502 7/67-8/67/KIA
615 N. Windsor, Mesa, AZ 85213
(253) 405-2089
petramalo@mstar2.net

Dear Sir:

My twin brother, Lt. Thomas Petramalo, was killed in action in Viet Nam in August, 1967. My understanding is that on the night of August 13, 1967, his platoon came under heavy rocket fire at Chui Lai. I believe he was assigned to "C" Company, 502nd Infantry. My brother was mortally wounded during this attack and was air-evacuated to a hospital ship, I believe the USS Repose. He died August 21, 1967 from his wounds.

I am preparing a family history for our children and would like to include any information you can possibly give to me. The only information we have is the date and place of his death.

Is there any record of that particular battle? Any survivors of "C" Company who would have been with him that I could communicate with?

I returned yesterday from a trip to Ft. Campbell, KY and attempted to contact you while I was there. I visited the museum and studied the Viet Nam history there. My brother was considered one of the "Nomads of Viet Nam." I believe my brother was involved in "Operation Benson." I would appreciate any help you could give me.

Thank you for your help

Gilbert Petramalo

Editor's Note: I do not have the research facilities to answer your questions. I will put your request for help in the April issue of the magazine and hope some of the readers will respond.

+ RICHARD DAVIS, 2/502 B 9/66-9/67
P.O. Box 87, Foster, WV 25081-0087
(304) 369-1472
gdavis@newwave.net

Troops, received letter from troop wanting to know if I knew

a Ray Archuletta, KIA Sept 67. He was 1st Plt B/2/502. Any of you men remember the name? Anything about him? Will pass it on to relative of his. Any of you men remember any 1st platoon men even? I'll track them for him if you give me names. Thanks men and Strike Force

Richard

Subject: 327th Sis has a request for her Mom
YANKEE JIM SIMCHERA, 2/327 A 9/69-9/70
6542 Bill Lundy Rd., Laurel Hill, FL 32567
(850) 689-1574
YankeeJim@screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com

Brothers, Here's a request from "our" Brother Reuben "Sweet Daddy Grace" Garnett's sister Elaine. Reuben was KIA in March of 1966 while serving with A 1/327th. Here's a link to his Memorial Page on the web site <<http://screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com/327thmemorial/garnett.htm>>. Take a look and read the sentiment written by his sister and the others that knew him. Our Sis, Elaine has been on my 327th Email Roster for some time now and she has contributed some profound traffic to our fellowship. Sis, as I call her, works hard taking care of homeless vets in her city and is active as well with many other Vet issues. You might want to add her to your Email list so you can participate in the blessings she has to share. Read her note to Hannibal below and lets get some mail out to a 327th Mom who can use a pick-me-up!

You are Above The Rest & No Slack!
Yankee Jim

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

From: Hannibal [mailto:hannibal327@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2003 4:46 PM
Subject: FW: Mom

YJ, Suppose you could send this out? Sure would like to see mom receive a whole TON of cards!!
Thanks bro. NFS!

Dale

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

From: Sojourner314@aol.com
[mailto:Sojourner314@aol.com]

Hi Dale, Mom is dealing with some medical issues. If Reuben were here he would pick her up and swing her around--more slowly than when he was in his 20's. He could make her laugh. I was praying and wondering whether the brothers and sisters online would be kind enough to step into the gap and send her a shower of cards. That would lift up her spirits, I am sure.

Her name and address: Mrs. Bertha E. Garnett,
446 Ridge Street, Steelton, PA 17113

She is still young yet, 77. She gave Reuben his sense of adventure. She rode speed boats, roller coasters and laughed hearti-



ly with him. You wouldn't know it when you met her, she speaks softly. If any of the brothers and sisters have stories about him, she would relish all of them. The good ones and the naughty ones. She loved his spirit and tender heart. The last time he was home he went into the kitchen, picked her up so that her feet were dangling. She said, "Put me down, Reuben!!! put me down." He laughed and said, "Woman, what are you going to do?" She said, "Put me DOWN." He did and they both fell out laughing!

Thank you Dale for being there.
Love you,
Elaine

Subject: Award of Combat Infantryman Badge to Robert Ferguson + HERBERT D. WILLIAMS, III, 2/327 A&B 7/67-6/68
124 Artillery Rd., Winchester, VA 22602-6945
W (703) 901-7780 H (540) 723-6730
HerbWms@aol.com

Ivan, As we discussed by phone this AM, here are the letters I wrote awarding the Combat Infantryman Badge to Robert Ferguson and forwarding a CIB to him. I recently learned from Richard Luttrell, who was also in my platoon in A/2/327 in 1967, that Robert is seriously ill with liver disease and is dying. Richard and Dave Walls drove from Illinois to Flagstaff, Arizona, to see Robert and called me so I could talk to him. That's when I learned that he never got the CIB and decided to do what I could to at least verify that he should have been awarded it officially. Please publish the award in your next issue if possible so his buddies will know he got it too.

Thanks,
Herb Williams
A/2/327 7/67-12/67
B/2/327 1/68-6/68

.....
Herbert D. Williams III
124 Artillery Road
Winchester, VA 22602-6945

December 1, 2003

Robert Ferguson
P.O. Box 424
Flagstaff, Arizona 86002

Subject: Combat Infantryman Badge Award

Dear Robert,

The enclosed CIB award is long overdue!

The CIB I'm sending to you has been "awaiting further service" while it was pinned to my retirement uniform in the closet for the past 10 years. During the years I wore it, it was a constant and special reminder of what we all shared as Combat Infantrymen in Vietnam – the good, the bad, and the ugly! Now, however, I can't think of better "further service" for my

CIB than to pass it on to someone who also paid the price for it and deserves the award.

One of the high points of my life was the opportunity to be an Airborne Infantry Platoon Leader in the 101st Airborne Division and to be surrounded by Paratroopers like you and the other men in our platoon in combat. Thanks for your service. I was proud to be there with you!

Sincerely,

/s/HWilliams
Herbert D. Williams III
Colonel, US Army, Retired
Home Phone: 540-723-6730
Cell Phone: 703-901-7780

Enclosure as stated
.....

Herbert D. Williams III
124 Artillery Road
Winchester, VA 22602-6945

December 1, 2003

Subject: Combat Infantryman Badge Award

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Former Specialist Four (E-4) ROBERT FERGUSON earned and is hereby awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for exemplary performance of duty and service to his country as a US Army Airborne Infantryman in combat operations in the Republic of South Vietnam during the period 1967-1968.

Because of administrative error, he was apparently never awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge in official US Army orders during his Vietnam service. That error then should not deprive him of the recognition he deserves now!

I was his Platoon Leader in Company A, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division, and personally verify that he met every qualification for the Combat Infantryman Badge award. He courageously faced and endured the danger, hardship, and personal sacrifice routinely expected of a "Screaming Eagle" Combat Infantryman on a daily basis.

If there is any question about his qualification for the Combat Infantryman Badge award, you may contact me at the address or the telephone numbers above.

AIRBORNE! ALL THE WAY! NO SLACK!

/s/HWilliams
Herbert D. Williams III
Colonel, US Army, Retired



YANKEE JIM SIMCHERA, 2/327 A 9/69-9/70
6542 Bill Lundy Rd., Laurel Hill, FL 32567
(850) 689-1574
YankeeJim@screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com
Subject: RE: 327th Sis has a request for her Mom

327th Family this is for you. YJ

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

From: Sojourner314@aol.com
[mailto:Sojourner314@aol.com]
Subject: Re: 327th Sis has a request for her Mom

Greetings and love to all!

I just returned from visiting with Mom; her spirits are perking up. She has received several cards and is so touched and grateful. I see a difference in her.

There is a possibility she will be looking at some serious implications in the next couple of months.

I wish I had a lot to say, but on this subject I am filled. Today, I am thinking of her white hair. Her smile and the way her eyes look when she is in her shyness. She was actually laughing a lot today. Thank you for helping her.

I shall keep you informed. Right now, I have a tear sliding down the left cheek. You know, she really is a gentle person.

I love you all, I thank you all, and I thank God!

Elaine

YANKEE JIM SIMCHERA, 2/327 A 9/69-9/70
6542 Bill Lundy Rd., Laurel Hill, FL 32567
(850) 689-1574
YankeeJim@screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com
Subject: [101 VetNet] 2004 WEEK OF THE EAGLES

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

From: Jackson, Walter W. [mailto:jacksonw@idvs.state.id.us]
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2004 10:39 AM
From: CSM (RET) Joseph M. Bossi [mailto:jbossi@sfa38.org]
Sent: Saturday, January 17, 2004 1:46 PM

From: CALPOSNER@aol.com
To: frazierlg@ctos.com
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2004 8:09 AM
Subject: 2004 WOE

As you know, our soldiers are finally coming home.

As Chairman of the Week of Eagles Coordinating Committee, I am pleased to announce that there will be a full-scale Week of Eagles celebration at Fort Campbell 14-19 June 2004. Your Association will have a table at the Welcome Center and a booth at the airfield during Super Saturday. Here's the schedule of major events:

Welcome Center (Gate 7) will be open 14-19 June
AD Unit open houses and DMOR, 15-17 June.
Solider Stakes and Sporting Events, 14-16 June.
 Golf Scramble, 15 June.
 10K Run, 16 June
Memorial Ceremony and Normandy reception
 (Pratt Museum), 17 June.
 Division Review, 18 June.
Super Saturday: Air Assault demonstration,
 static displays, air show and
 BBQ/Concert.

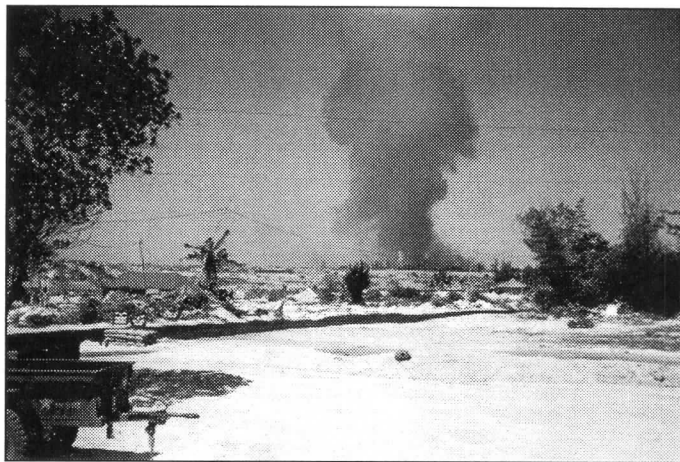
More information as it becomes available. Cal Posner, Chairman

FROM U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

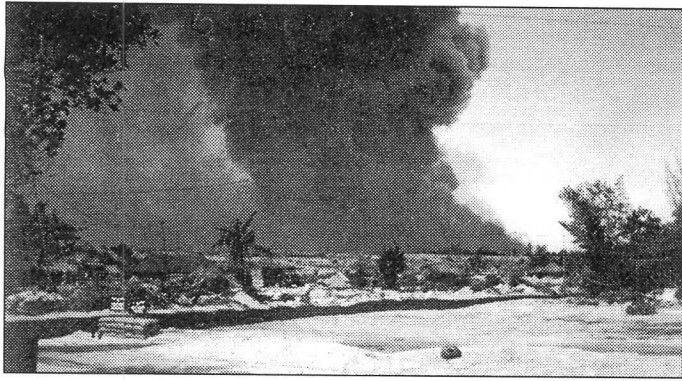
+ GILBERT PETRAMALO, Family C 502 7/67-8/67/KIA,
615 N. Windsor, Mesa, AZ 85213; (253) 405-2089 when
becoming a new subscriber is seeking information about his
twin brother, LT Thomas Petramalo who was Killed in Action
on 21 Aug 1967. Can anyone help?

AL-AMIN H. PASHA, 1/327 C 66-67, 49 Smith St., Newark,
NJ 07106-1107 wrote: I was assigned to Cobra Company,
1/327th Inf from 1966-1967 VN. I would like to reach anyone
that was a part of my unit at that time. I was in the Army from
3/14/66-3/13/69. Airborne

+ CLAY BARKER, 181st MI DET 6/66-6/67, 3910 Lochview
Court, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588-6759; (843) 650-5880 sent
the following. Here are some pictures of 1st Bde, 181st MID
personnel. They were just found in an old briefcase. Sorry as
to names but the detachment roster has been placed in some
unknown and unfound location.

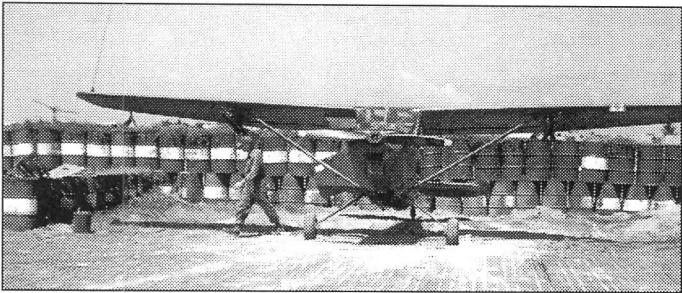


Someone may remember the ammo dump going up which was located right on the beach. I was somewhere between the 1st and 2nd corps area. This was in the summer of 1967. Believe the operation was named "Operation Oregon."



Great magazine – keep it up.

P.S. I was the Intelligence Liaison Officer between 1st BDE and FFII in Nha Trang.

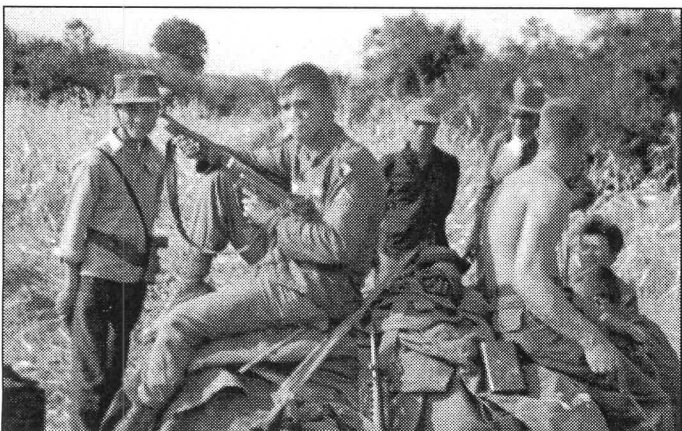


Birddog used to gather intelligence.

Editor's Note: Clay also sent another photo in which he is located 1st on the left back row. This picture was used in the JANUARY 2004 issue page 15. Perhaps someone will recognize themselves or others.

+ WILLIAM C. HARPER, (Doc) 1/327 HHC&B 11/67-11/68, 5516 Spreading Branch Rd., Hope Mills, NC 28348-2053 wrote: Enclosed is my check for \$20.00 to renew my subscription. I truly enjoy reading the magazine with its wonderful articles. It does bring back memories.

+ ROBERT DICKSON, 2/320 FA B Btry 7/65-8/66, Box 203, New Hartford, IA 50660; (319) 983-2777 sent the following: I've enclosed a few pictures you may want for the magazine. Feel free



Harold Buckner (left with rifle) soldier on right unknown B Battery 320th Artillery VN 65. (Buckner is from Princeton, West Virginia.)



to make copies. I have quite a few because I had a camera with me during my entire tour. I will send you some periodically.



Base camp Cam Rahn Bay, Viet Nam, July 1965. This photo of the 10S Howitzer was taken right after the main party arrived on the LeRoy Eltinge.

+ JACK J. NELSON, 2/502 E & A 9/66-5/67, 3371 Brodie Way, Palm Harbor, FL 34684-3503 wrote: Another change of address for me! This time into my own house finally.

Your dedication and sacrifice to bring out our magazine is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to you, alone, we have drawn together and think cohesively about our very singular experience in Viet Nam. You have given us a chance to look back uninterrupted to what we did and how we did it.

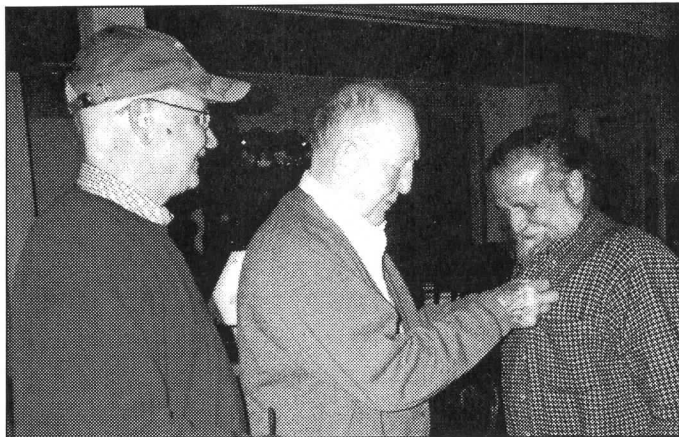
Anytime you want to visit Clearwater-Tampa or St. Petersburg, I have a room and a nice car waiting for you.

Airborne, all the Way,
Jack

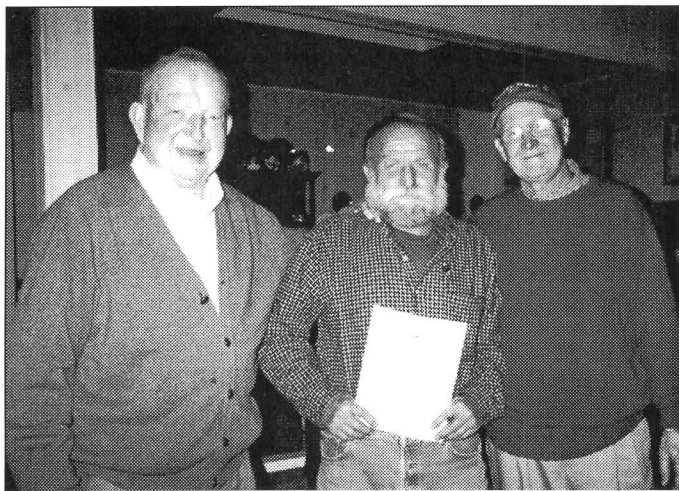
+ MICHAEL MCFADDEN, 2/502 A 6/66-6/67, 2864 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953-2627; (831) 375-7762 sent the following:

Glenn Hoppert (2/502 A 6/66-6/67) and his wife, Donna, made what has become a most welcomed annual visit during the recent ATT Golf Tournament week. Oscar Jury (2/502 A 6/66-6/67), who is a comrade from the 2d Plt of Attack Co, Strike Force, drove up from Colton, CA to help us celebrate Glenn's birthday. We enjoyed a double celebration/surprise as we just recently received notification that Oscar had been designated a Distinguished Member of The Regiment. Gen Matt (MG(R) S. H. Matheson, HHC CG 1/67-1/68) and Pat came over for the birthday supper and then (following Glenn's words and reading of the Certificate) did the honors of presenting Oscar with his DMOR Certificate and Pin. It was good to see how well Glenn is progressing in his battle with cancer. I have enclosed three pictures and will leave the selection process for publication

to your judgment. You will note that Oscar's position of attention is a bit rusty. It was quite and experience to see an outstanding Bde Cmdr and two outstanding point men meet, shake hands, tell stories and laugh together after all the years. And if that was not enough ... Ward Jones (2/502 HHC 10/66-10/67), Strike Force Bn Surgeon, also made the trip up from Thousand Oaks to join the reunion. The good news with Doc Jones is that he appears to have defeated the life-threatening part of his cancer. The evening could not have been any more pleasant. Your continued efforts in behalf of our Bde is much appreciated.



Left to right: Glenn Hoppert, MG(R) S. H. Matheson and Oscar Jury.



Left to right: MG(R) S. H. Matheson, Oscar Jury and Glenn Hoppert.

Oscar Jury, who was also known as "Raggedy Jury" because his uniform (even by field operations standards) was always in some serious degree of disarray, served in A/2/505 as a rifleman, point man, team leader, and squad leader, from 6/66 to 6/67. Oscar was one of those highly responsible troopers who automatically appeared at the point of most need and did whatever it took to accomplish the mission and support his comrades. That age old, "man among men" is an appropriate description of Oscar's service. Following his distinguished tour of duty, he was discharged and just recently completed a 32

year career with GTE. He describes his semi-retired status as, "I work when I want to and otherwise fish and hunt." He and Dottie have been married 32 years, have 2 sons and 4 grandchildren ... 3 boys and a girl. His civilian career and family accomplishments are what we would have predicted based on what we knew of him as a young man and trooper. Oscar lives at 24696 Scotch Lane, Colton, CA, 92324 ... and can be contacted at jury@gte.net.

+ PAUL E. GRIMES, 2/502 HHC S-4 12/66-7/67, 2 Arnold Way, Verona, NJ 07044 W (212) 318-2218, H (973) 239-8396 wrote: I conveyed on the website how I reconnected with an OLD friend I hadn't seen in nearly 36 years. Sal LoSauro, was badly injured at Ft. Campbell in a parachute jump I participated in, during the summer of 1966! He was hospitalized there for MONTHS, learning to walk again, and he met many of our guys who returned WIA and spent time in the post hospital with him! NOW I don't know his street address BUT I think if you contact him via EMAIL, <slosauro@dol.state.nj.us>, he would be impressed and may join. He IS currently very active with the VFW and other vets organizations, although his severe injury prevented him from making the trip to Vietnam!



As always, THANKS for all you do to keep the guys together and communicating with each other. I am attaching ONE picture in hopes I can go through my aging slides and have some additional pictures made up to send to you! Hopefully you can scan these-with all the new technology I'm not up to speed on the best way to reproduce my slides for you to share with the guys. I believe I have pictures of many of the boonie guys, through I certainly cannot identify them! I'm hoping some guys may enjoy seeing themselves after all these years. I'll hold off converting them into picture, for a couple of weeks, just in case you want me to send them in slide format. Remember, these slides are 37-0r-so years old!

I'll close now! Thanks again and hopefully I'll be able to make one of the reunions and we can meet before they "throw us into the hole!"

+ = Current Subscriber

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THE BLADE
The Journal of Eastern Ohio
 A BLADE INVESTIGATION

**BURIED SECRETS
 BRUTAL TRUTHS**

**Elite unit savaged
 civilians in Vietnam**

The Blade

Tiger Force activities in the last half of 1967 have been the subject of many, many e-mails, letters and other communication and it continues in this magazine. If you wish to read the initial series of articles published by THE TOLEDO BLADE about the Tiger Force you may purchase a 14 page tabloid for \$2.00 by calling 1-800-245-3317 and charging it to your credit card. You can read the stories on the web by going to <www.toledoblade.com> and searching for Tiger Force.

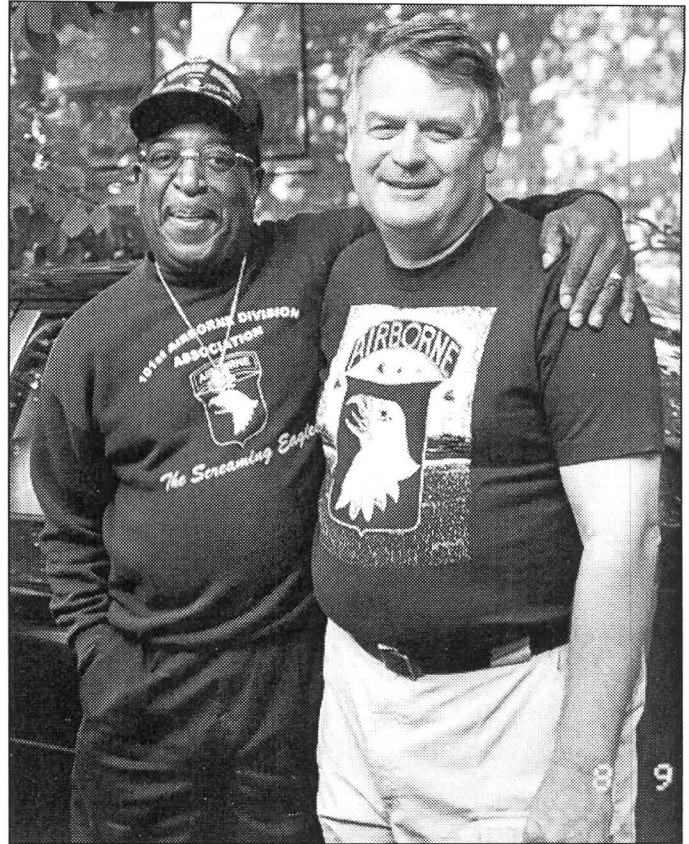
SICK CALL, HOSPITALIZED and CONFINED TO QUARTERS



Jerry [2/502 B 7/66-7/67] and Jody Scott at the 2002 1st Brigade (S) Reunion.

COL(R) Jerry C. Scott, [2/502 B 7/66-7/67] 4537 Sears Road, Columbus, GA 31907, (706) 563-8640 has been fighting partial paralysis caused by a spinal operation. He hopes to be discharged from the VA hospital in Augusta, Georgia, soon and to be at home or seeking treatment and/or rehabilitation therapy at another clinic or hospital. Jody has an e-mail list and is keeping us updated on Jerry's condition. If you would like to be added to the list contact her at: Jody Scott <jody.scott@earthlink.net>.

COL(R) David H. Hackworth, [1/327 HQ 63-66] P.O. Box 11179, Greenwich, CT 06831-1179 (203) 629-0288 is receiving treatments for cancer. He has some moments when the treatments take their toll but be assured he is fighting the cancer with all his resources and is as tenacious at battling for change in the armed forces and for the good of soldiers as he has ever been.



This photo was used in the newsletter of the General Anthony C. McAuliffe NY - NJ Chapter and because it is a good photo of two great 1st Brigade supporters I asked for a copy for the magazine. The picture of (L to R) Larry D. Anglin [2/502 B 6/65-7/66] and Fred Ranck [1/327 A 12/68-1/70] was taken last summer (2003) when Larry and Ionie stopped to visit Fred and Ellen on the way to the annual reunion.

Any individual can request military medical and personnel records as well as all medals and skill badges by writing to the following address:

**ARPERCEN /RECORDS
 9700 Page Blvd.
 St. Louis, MO 63232-5200**

Enclose a copy of your DD-214 and a letter stating what you want.

The National Personnel Records Center has also provided the following website for veterans to access their DD-214 online: eVetRecs

All this information and many other articles concerning Veterans affairs can be found on the 327th Vietnam Eagles Web Site. Go to the 327th home page hit the link INSIDE THE WIRE and then choose the VETERAN'S ISSUE link. This will take you directly to the page: http://screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com/first/veterans_issues/veterans_issues.htm



Issue #1



Issue #2



Issue #3



Issue #4



Issue #5



Issue #6



Issue #7



Issue #8



Issue #9



Issue #10



Issue #11



Issue #12



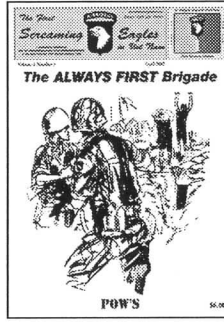
Issue #13



Issue #14



Issue #15



Issue #16



Issue #17



Issue #18



Issue #19



Issue #20



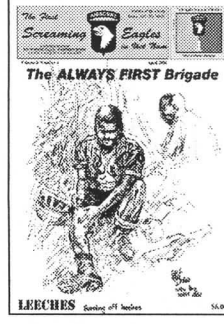
Issue #21



Issue #22



Issue #23



Issue #24



101st ABN DIV
Screaming Eagle Logo



1st BDE (S) Logo



1st BDE (S) 101st ABN DIV Logo

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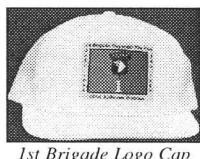
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SEE ORDER FORM ON PAGE 32

Below is the total information from the original 1959 33-rpm record cover.

Airborne, little known in the jargon of warfare until World War II proved the need for speed and maneuverability, is today a key word in the modern concepts of battle.

Corregidor, Leyte, Anzio, Salerno and Bastogne, once strange-sounding names, are remembered today for World War II newscasts which told of the courage and the sacrifices of airborne troops on those distant battlefields.

Men like Generals Matthew B. Ridgway and Maxwell D. Taylor, both Army Chiefs of Staff; men like Generals "Bill" Lee, "Slim Jim" Gavin, "Joe" Swing, and "Tony" McAuliffe, who uttered the now-famous "Nuts" to the Germans at Bastogne—these are but a few of the great airborne leaders whose names are indelibly inscribed on the rolls of these elite units.

The XVIII Airborne Corps came into being on August 25, 1944, as the only airborne corps in the United States Army. During World War II, the Dragon Corps, as it is called, made up the bulk of the airborne troops which spearheaded the invasion of Holland. Its first commander was General Matthew B. Ridgway, who later became Army Chief of Staff. At present, it is commanded by Major General Robert F. Sink.

The 11th Airborne Division fought World War II in the Pacific Theater, posting victories at Luzon, Leyte, Manila and Los Banos, where the Angels, in a spectacular raid, freed more than 2,100 internees from the Japanese Internment Camp. Troops of the 11th, with General Douglas MacArthur, were the first American forces to enter the Japanese homeland. During the Korean conflict the 187th,

one of its combat teams, was detached, sent to the Far East and parachuted in the Suncheon-Sukchon Area and again at Munsan.

The 82d Airborne Division was the first American airborne division to go overseas, and completed, at Sicily, the first large-scale airborne assault. Said to be the most decorated division in the United States Army, the 82d has received decorations from three foreign governments.

The 101st Airborne Division, the Screaming Eagles, teamed up with the 82d and the British in Normandy and Holland. It was at Bastogne that the 101st heroically staved off cold, hunger and the German Army during the Battle of the Bulge.

The United States Military Band

Major William R. Schempf, Director of Music The United States Military Academy Band is the oldest military unit in continuous service at West Point. Although its service as a part of the Academy began about 1812, historical archives show the presence of military musicians, with Continental troops in the vicinity of West Point as early as 1776.

The Band has increased in number along with the Corps of Cadets, until today it has an authorized strength of more than 150 men including the Field Music augmentation. The musicians of the United States Military Academy Band are enlisted men of the highest professional qualifications, many being composers and arrangers as well as excellent performers.

The versatile musicians of the Band participate in every type of military, cultural, or social activity at West Point. An active schedule of military ceremonies, concerts, funerals, athletic events, theatrical performances, recep-

tions, and dances leaves but little time for off-post appearances, except for occasional functions of national importance.

The Cadets Glee Club, West Point

Chief Warrant Officer Frederic W. Boots, Director
John H. McKillop, Cadet Director

The Glee Club has been an officially recognized extracurricular activity of the United States Corps of Cadets since 1928. First formed with 25 members, interest in the organization has brought its strength to the present 200, of which 140 are from the upper classes. The remaining 60 cadets form the Fourth Class Glee Club.

During each year, the Glee Club presents approximately 20 concerts. For each off-post appearance and recording sessions, a group of 95 cadets is selected. The Club has performed in Carnegie Hall, Town Hall, and many television shows, including a number of appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show.

The Cadet Glee Club is an active member of the Associated Male Chorus of America and of the Intercollegiate Music Council.

The airborne trooper is fiercely proud of his unit and he never hesitates to express that pride in song. The XVIII Airborne Corps and each of the divisions has its own favorite song which is played at all official gatherings.

"The XVIII Airborne Corps March" At the suggestion of Major General Robert F. Sink, XVIII Airborne Corps commander, a nameless song dating back to the early days of the airborne was titled and adopted as the official Corps song. The music was written by Major R. H. Graham and adapted by Sp. 2/c Charles Gross.

"Beautiful Streamer" Sung to the tune of "Beautiful Dreamer," the parody "Beautiful Streamer" tells the story of a paratrooper pleading with his chute to open.

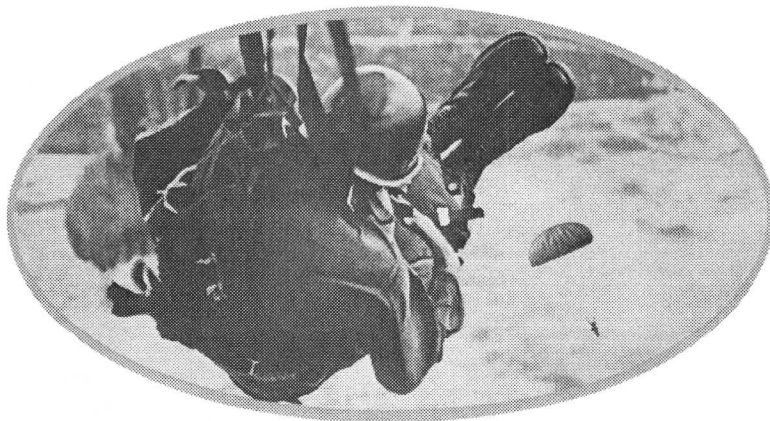
"Down From Heaven" The favorite song of the 11th Airborne Division is "Down from Heaven," an original composition by Lt. Col. Byron Paige, a former member of the famed division. It was arranged by Sgt. George Whissen.

"The All American Soldier" The 82d Airborne Division has as its official song the "All-American Soldier," an adaptation of the "American Soldier" by Tom Jones and Charles Koff. Words for the adaptation were composed by Carl Sigman when he was a member of the 82d.

"Screaming Eagles" The 101st Airborne Division song, "Screaming Eagles," bears the honor of being the Division's official song. It was written by Captain Samuel R. Loboda, now Asst. Bandleader of the United States Army Band in Washington, D.C.

"March of the New Infantry" Also known as the "Paratrooper Song," this selection was written by Tom Adair and Dick Uhl and was arranged for band by F. Henri Klickman in 1943. Not all the songs are as serious as the official music of the individual units. Many famous airborne songs have become popular by poking fun at disaster or scoffing at the troopers' natural fears.

The United States Military Academy Band and Cadet Glee Club plays and sings . . .



"Blood on the Risers" Perhaps the most famous of all airborne songs is the tragic parody "Blood on the Risers," sung to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." The verses tell the sad story of a trooper who forgot to "hook up" properly before jumping and fell to his death.

"The Army Goes Rolling Along" Formerly the Field Artillery's "Caisson Song," the words of this tune were re-written to make the song the official March of the United States Army. The song was officially adopted as the Army song in 1957 and was especially arranged for the United States Military Academy Band by Sp. 1/c Kenneth G. Whitcomb.

Recorded Publications Company expresses its appreciation to Sp. 2/c Edward Marvin and Sp. 2/c Joseph Vayda for text and recording aid respectively.

Cover designed by 2nd Lt. Robert Hollingsworth

This disk or tape has some surface noise from the 1959 vintage record used to make the new master.

airborne salute

April 2004

The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam

33

The obituary below was received from Thomas Murphy, 921 Market St., DeKalb, IL 60115-3466 along with this letter.

I am an Air Force veteran 1979-1984. I lived at Fort Campbell before Dad went to Vietnam. As a son and a veteran I was very proud of my father's service with the 101st.

I found your newsletter on the internet for my dad after searching for possible members of his old unit. I cannot describe how happy he was to receive the newsletter and get back in touch with what he truly loved. I wish he could have contacted some of his old buddies.

In closing I just want to say thank you again. You truly brought my father happiness and a sense of belonging while he was battling cancer. He was always proud of the 101st Airborne especially the First Brigade.

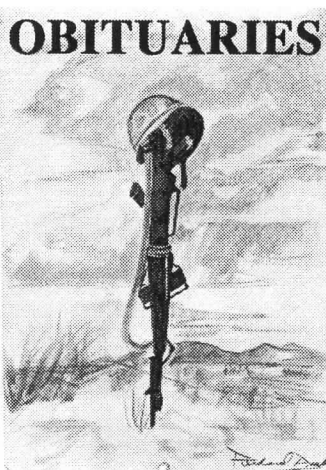
Respectfully, Thomas Murphy

THOMAS J. MURPHY
2/17 CAV A Trp 5/65-4/66

Thomas James Murphy, 62, of Springfield, Ill., died Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2004, at his residence.

Born Oct. 26, 1941, in Springfield, he was the son of Thomas and Betty (Benscoter) Murphy. He married Karen Schmidt in 1960 in Springfield; he later married Andrea Murphy in 1990 in New Jersey.

He was a 1959 graduate of Springfield High School, a member of the DeMolay in 1959 and a member of Springfield and



Sangamon County Rescue Squad from 1962-1967. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1963 and served in the Vietnam conflict from 1965-1966 as a sergeant. He was a firefighter and paramedic from 1967-1978 in DeKalb. He attained the rank of lieutenant with the fire department and held a key role in the establishment of the Paramedic Program. After leaving DeKalb, he worked in the Emergency Medical Services as a paramedic, and as a flight crew coordinator in the U.S. Virgin Islands, New York and New Jersey. He returned to Illinois and worked as an industrial safety consultant for Dobbertin and Associates of Decatur until his illness forced him to retire.

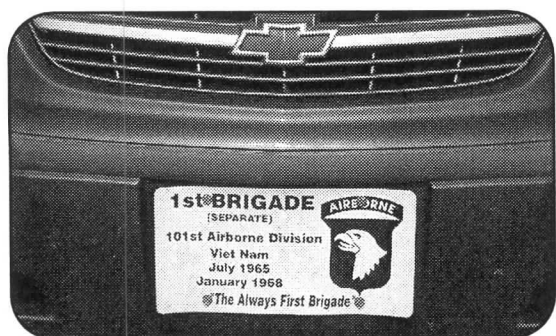
He is survived by his mother, Betty Murphy of Springfield; a son, Thomas (Carla) Murphy of DeKalb; a daughter, Patricia Murpy of Springfield; a stepson, Douglas B. Murphy of Springfield; a sister, Nancy Murphy Doyle of Springfield; four grandchildren, an uncle, Ernest M. Murphy of Springfield; a niece, Bonnie Doyle, and a nephew, Michael Doyle, both of Springfield.

He was preceded in death by his father, Thomas Murphy.

Private family services were held at Camp Butler National Cemetery. There was no visitation. The Interveteans Burial Detail of Sangamon County conducted the last rites for a fallen comrade.

The family has requested that memorial contributions be made to Fort Campbell Historical Foundation Museum Fund, P.O. Box 2133, Fort Campbell, KY 42223.

Arrangements were under the direction of Birsh & Son Funeral Home in Springfield.



This four (4) inch diameter round decal is manufactured so that it may be used both inside and outside. The patch is full color. Price is \$2.50 each postpaid.



Viet Nam Odyssey History of the 1st year 108 pages 4 pages color



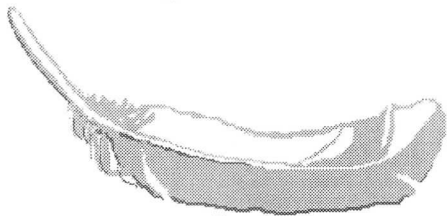
Dec. '67 Reprint History July '65 - Dec. '67

This heavy plastic auto tag is a must for 1st Brigade (S) veterans. Let people know you served in the best unit in Viet Nam and give brother 1st Brigade troopers an opportunity to know about THE ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE activities.

See order form on page 32.

Kenneth B. Taylor [2/327 C 6/66 – 6/67], 1611 Anelope Trail, Harker Heights, TX 76548-2189, has written a series of short essays about his experiences in the Army, particularly in the 1st Brigade in Viet Nam.

On Eagles Wings



By
Kenneth “Teddy Bear” Taylor

Cass

Cass was his nickname. His real name was Cassidy. He came from a middle income, hard working, American family. He found pleasure in small things and reminisced about enjoying pleasant conversation while walking at night with his girl friend back home. In his adolescence he played basketball. His parents wouldn't let him play in his good shoes so he asked his father if he had some old shoes he could use. His father said there might be something in the attic he could find to wear. In an old box was a pair of motorcycle boots. Motorcycle boots became his foot attire for basketball, but later in high school he excelled when given proper equipment. He became a star player and even reached “All State” in the sport.

After Army training in the states we were assigned to different battalions of the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. He and Bucky another one of our friends from jump school got assigned to the same battalion. They were such good friends they used to beat each other up, make up, and then go back into the bar for a few more beers. Bucky always carried a switchblade and used to throw it into trees, and walls, and such. Together they were a great team.

Bucky was a small powerful fellow and elected to walk point carrying an M60 machinegun. The gun weighed 23 lbs. and each one hundred round belt of ammunition weighed 7 1/2 lbs. As point man he walked first down the trail. Sensing something in the jungle ahead, he froze in place. He passed the word back for the platoon leader to come forward. The two huddled at the front of the column. Bucky whispered, “There is something wrong up front. We need to go up and check it out.” Placing command and control in jeopardy wasn't proper but Bucky had proved his judgement in unconventional warfare. The platoon leader inched forward with Bucky, leaving the platoon behind. A hundred meters further along the trail they made heavy enemy contact. Bucky stayed to fight and the platoon leader made it back to the radio and called in the quick reaction force.

Occasionally when platoons moved through the jungle they were assigned as reaction forces for other platoons in their battalion. If one of the platoons got into trouble, the other was airlifted in to help the other out. Tension is always high when helicopters insert soldiers. There was the chance that inserting a quick reaction force meant the pilots were flying into a “hot” landing zone. As the helicopter touched down Cass bounded from the chopper and rushed for cover. He could hear the small weapons fire and immediately made his way from tree to tree until the bullets were hitting the dirt and trees around him. The white skin of a person with no shirt caught his attention. Cass recognized Bucky vaulting over a fallen tree with a machinegun in one hand, coming toward him. Bucky was out of breath and ammunition, but Cass carried two hundred rounds in this pack. The two friends made their way to a big rock for cover as they reestablished enemy contact. Cass stood up and fired his M16, went back down, and then Bucky would jump up with his M60. The two alternated fire until they started getting low on ammunition. They lay behind the rock trying to decide what to do. Cass looked over at Bucky and said, “Lets charge the hill.” Bucky only had time to yell, “No”, as an enemy soldier standing on top of the rock leveled his rifle at them. Bucky rocked back on the stock of his machine gun and opened fire. The enemy soldier fell on top of them splattering blood everywhere. They tossed off the body, and continued alternating fire until the enemy broke off the fight. Cass and Bucky emerging from the jungle, arm-in-arm, out of ammunition, bone tired, and drenched in blood, must have been a welcome sight. The rest of the soldiers in the two platoons were amazed that Bucky and Cass were still alive. They were the only two soldiers making contact with a company size North Vietnamese unit. Their Bronze Stars would seal their friendship forever. Bucky probably visits the Vietnam Memorial to look at Cass's name, but maybe he can't.

Ken Taylor

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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, 117 1/2 North Main Street, Sweetwater, Tennessee 37874-0675, as a service to veterans who served in the 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division from July 1965 through January 1968 and is mailed 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.

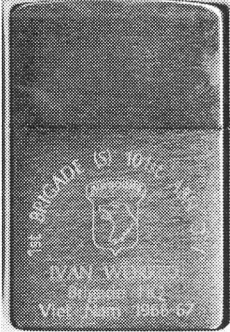
The editor and publisher reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity and to meet space constraints. The editor and publisher has the right to refuse any article or advertisement that may, in his opinion, cause embarrassment to any veteran of the 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division.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

PERSONALIZED ZIPPO LIGHTER

This Zippo is engraved with the 101st Patch with the 1st Brigade (S) 101st ABN DIV information arched above the patch. Three (3) lines of engraving show your name, your unit and Viet Nam with the years you served in the brigade. Each line of engraving is limited to 16 characters per line, including spaces. The finish of the lighter is brushed steel.



See Order Form Page 32

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July 2004 issue of The First SCREAMING EAGLES In Viet Nam is Due June 1st, 2004

**101st Airborne Division Association Reunion
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INSIDE FRONT COVER

Notes from the editor and information about the front cover. A new feature of this article will be called SICK CALL, HOSPITALIZED and CONFINED TO QUARTERS and will list all those known to be incapacitated, being treated and recovering.

101ST HOME FROM IRAQPAGES 1 AND 2

Photos and story about the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) preparing to leave Iraq.

2004 SNOWBIRD REUNIONPAGES 3 AND 4

List of 1st Brigade veterans, who could be identified by the editor, who attended the Snowbird Reunion and photos of some of those who were there.

TIGER FORCE UPDATEPAGES 5 – 12

Opinion pieces relative to Tiger Force operations from two who were on the ground with the Tigers. Michael Willey who reported on Tiger Force operations and Tom Willard who was an early Tiger Force medic, and plans to write a book about Tiger Force, share opinions and research.

MOTHER’S DAY HILLPAGES 13 – 15

Steve Black relates his recollections of what he observed before, during and after the Battle of Mother’s Day Hill in May of 1967.

TASK FORCE OREGON CLIPSPAGES 15 AND 16

News clips about Task Force Oregon and a hometown release photo and text were delivered to the office by 1st SGT(R) Wayne Smith [2/502 HQ 3/67-3/68].

THE SCREAMING EAGLEPAGES 17 – 20

Wayne Smith also furnished this paper which is a reproduction of the August 30,1967 1st Brigade (S) weekly newspaper. Note that this paper has many articles datelined Duc Pho with two stories about Tiger Force.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORPAGES 21 – 27

Messages and photographs from readers and those who do not subscribe to the magazine. These pages include material from the 1st Brigade web site, e-mail and the U. S. Mail.

SUBSCRIBERS’ LISTPAGES 28 AND 29

These pages contain lists of new subscribers, renewing subscribers and address corrections.

E-MAIL and U. S. MAIL ADDRESS FOR RECORDSPAGE 30

Information about contacting the Army Personnel Service Records Center to access or request records, medals and skill badges

ITEMS FOR SALEPAGES 31 – 34

Items for sale are pictured on pages 31, 33, 34 and 36. The order form for all these items is on page 32. A new item, AIRBORNE SALUTE is shown on page 33.

OBITUARIESPAGE 34

We are fortunate to have only one obituary this quarter.

ON WINGS OF EAGLESPAGE 35

Another in the continuing series of his Viet Nam experiences by Kenneth B. Taylor [2/327 C 6/66-6/67]. This installment is titled “Cass.”

PUBLICATION INFORMATIONPAGE 36

General information about the 1st Brigade (S) magazine along with some notices of upcoming meetings, a change of address form and a form that can be used to send the name and address of a fellow 1st Brigade (S) veteran who is not a subscriber or who may not be listed in the data base maintained for the 1st Brigade members.

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**PHAN RANG....AIRBORNE
PAUL BUNYAN IN VIET NAM?**
Under guard of a fellow paratrooper a combat engineer of Company "A," 326th Engineer Battalion (Airborne) slices up a large tree to clear a helicopter landing zone. The dense jungles of Viet Nam added to the labors of the engineers on a recent operation of the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division. (67-L156-5) US Army Photo by SP4 Alva G. Tate, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div IO, APO 96347, Tel 109

**9th Biennial Reunion
Phoenix, Arizona
17-19 September 2004
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