

*The First
Screaming*

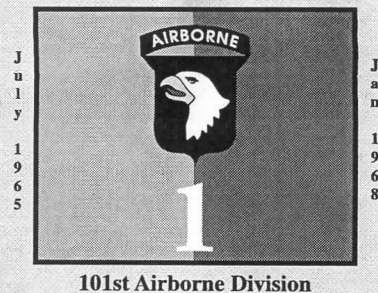
A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF
THE 1ST BRIGADE (Separate) 101st AIRBORNE DIVISION
in Viet Nam from July 1965 through January 1968



Published Quarterly
January - April - July - October

*Eagles
in Viet Nam*

1st Brigade (Separate) Viet Nam



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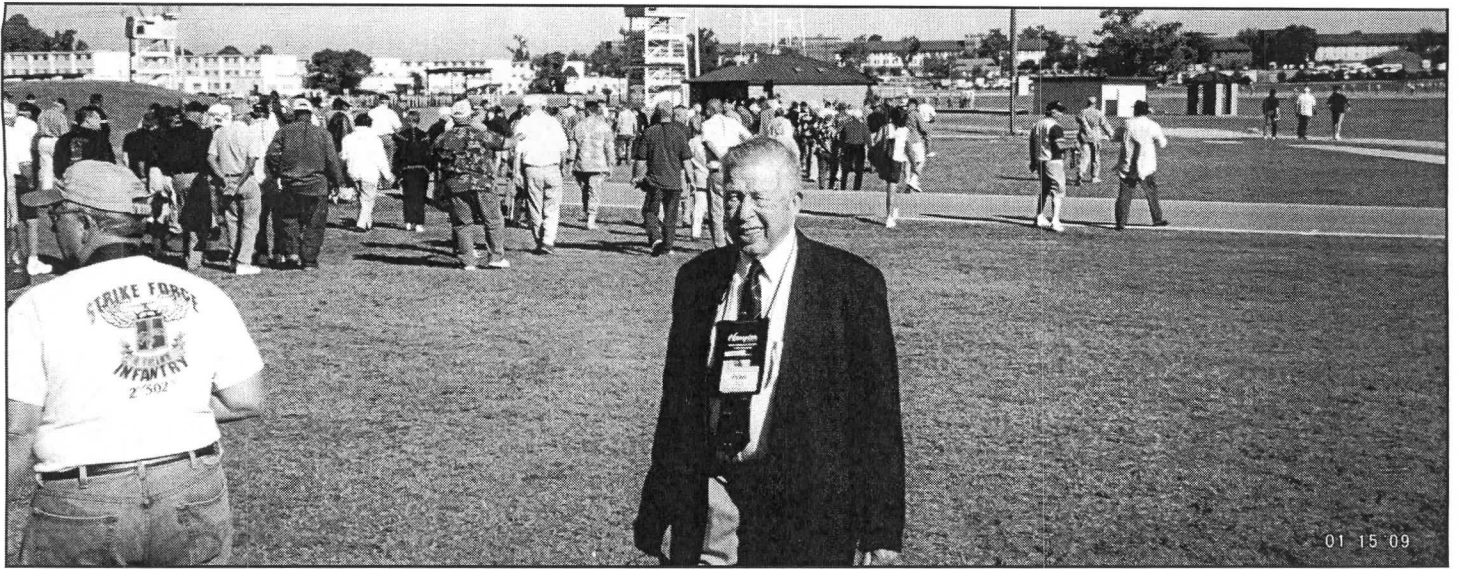
April 2007

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The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade



RAIN AT CHEO REO



MAJ(R) Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5/66-5/67 your editor and publisher takes time out from his duties as trip coordinator for the Fort Benning visit on the first day of the 2006 Reunion to pose for a photo by CSM(R) Robert A. Young, HHC CSM 6/66-6/67. The Fort Benning sun without glasses was a little hard on facial expression. I was really very happy with the trip at that point.

<http://firstscraming eagles.org/>

The address, above, is for the new web site for The First SCREAMING EAGLES in Viet Nam. It is open now. Check it out. Each previous issue will be posted by year. By clicking on the cover you can link to the contents page. Content pages are searchable. A discussion forum is another addition. The guestbook has a new format and will require those posting a message to copy a code that is beside the entry point. This feature will keep spammers from posting using search machinery. Those who wish to view the old guestbook will have a link. Please let me know of any improvements you believe can be made to the new web site.

The lead story for this issue is the longest article I have ever used. I believe it deserves the space because of the history it imparts about First Brigade operations between May 1967 and November 1967.

Its importance rises with me because COL Frank Dietrich submitted it when he was Brigade Commander. I served with Frank, in the original 10th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg and in Germany and again in the First Brigade when he commanded

This magazine is produced by and for veterans of the ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE who served in the brigade from July 1965 through April 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).



2/502, and always admired him as a smart, tough, unassuming officer whose first task, always, was accomplishing the mission while taking care of his men.

I hope most of the readers will enjoy reading the recommendation for the Presidential Unit Citation and that it will contain some First Brigade history that is new to you.

I am looking forward to attending THE WEEK OF THE EAGLES at Fort Campbell and to the MEMORIAL DAY activities in Washington, D. C. in May. Those of you who are members of the 101st Airborne Division Association will have all the information in your SCREAMING EAGLE magazine.

I was particularly interested in the short piece, written by Tom Willard, 1/327 RECON Med 65 – 66 (in the Letters to the Editor section) about Walter Reed Army Hospital. His comparison with the late 60s, when he was there, is a real study in expectations then and now.

The “letter home” shared by Mel Garten, who was the CO of 2/327, was written before he lost a leg to what would now be called an I E D.

I am very grateful to David P. Perrine, 2/502 HHC 5/67-10/67 who shared a large volume of copies of stories about the brigade that were printed in The Pacific Stars and Stripes. The story about

Terry L. Wren, 2/327 A 4/67-2/68, on page 16 is a product of his labors at the National Archives. David was the originator of the lead story although it originally got to me through two forwards.

The cover, for this issue, is the artwork of Raymond Gregory Brown and was published in VIETNAM ODYSSEY.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 1st Brigade 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)
APO San Francisco 96383


AVDG-AA-A

8 October 1969

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Presidential Unit Citation

Commanding General
101st Airborne Division (Ambl)
ATTN: AVDG-CG
APO San Francisco 96383

1. The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division with attached units is recommended for award of the Presidential Unit Citation. (Incl 4)
2. From 11 May 1967 to 25 November 1967, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and attached units distinguished themselves in combat by displaying extraordinary heroism in the face of a determined, well armed enemy. While conducting operations MALHEUR, BENTON and WHEELER, the 1st Brigade daily engaged in bitter conflicts with the enemy. On numerous occasions enemy units of superior size were overwhelmingly defeated by the 1st Brigade. These "Screaming Eagles" pursued the enemy tenaciously, driving him from his traditional sanctuaries thereby robbing him of much needed supplies and arms. The stamina and unrelenting drive of the 1st Brigade, during these 5 1/2 months of continuous fighting, dealt the enemy a blow which he shall long remember.
3. The inclosed documentation further amplifies the detailed performance of all participating units.



FRANK L. DIETRICH
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

- 6 Incl
1. Summary of recommendation
 2. Narrative description
 3. Summary of strengths & casualties
 4. Listing of units
 5. Proposed citation
 6. Additional inclosures

Editor's Note: This copy of the recommendation for a Presidential Unit Citation for the First Brigade was sent to me by James E. Samuel, 2/320th FA HHB 10/66-10/67 who had received it from Ben Melton, 2/320 Arty 11/66-9/67 who received it from David P. Perrine, 2/502 HHC 5/67-10/67. This PDF did not contain a "map C".

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION FOR OPERATION MALHEUR

During the morning hours of 11 May 1967 the paratroopers of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry and the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, conducted airmobile assaults into multiple landing zones west of Duc Pho and launched search and destroy operations toward the east. The next day the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, was inserted into the eastern portion of the area of operation and began movement toward the west to meet the two sister battalions of the brigade. (See Map A)

On 13 May, paratroopers of Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry were attacked by an estimated company size enemy force. Company B retaliated with organic and supporting fires driving the enemy from the battlefield. Thirteen enemy bodies were left behind. The battalion immediately pressed after the enemy force. Continuing its relentless pursuit of the enemy during the rest of the day, eleven more contacts accounted for 16 more enemy dead. Fighting continued during the night. The following morning one of the battalion's platoons, which had fanned out in search of the elusive Viet Cong, encountered an estimated VC battalion. The enemy was in well fortified positions with automatic weapons and mortars. This gallant platoon didn't hesitate to engage the numerically superior enemy bringing all available supporting fires to bear on the Viet Cong positions. Reinforcements were quick in coming, as the 176th Aviation Company continued its courageous support of the brigade. Four aircraft brought in reinforcements through heavy enemy fire; two aircraft picked up wounded, while the other two returned to pick up more reinforcements. The additional troops arrived at the landing zone (LZ) and again were met with a heavy volume of fire. As the afternoon wore on the battle intensified. It became apparent that the platoon was hopelessly outnumbered even though the gallant paratroopers had inflicted heavy losses upon the enemy.

Six aircraft were dispatched by the 176th Aviation Company to extract the platoon. New crews were placed on all but the lead aircraft. The lead crew landed in this virtual "hell" for the third time. After the successful extraction, the battalion moved swiftly to reestablish contact with the VC battalion.

The Screaming Eagles continued to pursue the enemy. On the 18th of May, the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry discovered and attacked a force in well fortified positions on hill 424. A platoon of B Company that initially made contact was reinforced while the other elements of the battalion relocated to bring maximum combat power to bear on the VC. The tireless paratroopers of B Company fought fiercely and at such close quarters that often forward observers could not use supporting fires. Company C, moving from the northeast to reinforce Company B, made contact on the northern slope of the hill where the battle centered. Company B had one platoon badly mauled by the enemy during the initial encounter but fought tenaciously to hold ground they had gained. In spite of heavy attacks neither company gave an inch of ground to the enemy. The courage and determination of these fighting men would not allow them to be driven from the area. The fighting continued until 2030 hours that night with unrelenting ferocity. The following morning Company A was airlifted north of Hill 424 to block the enemy, who were attempting to escape. Having formed small groups during the night the VC was partially successful in evading their pursuers. Only minor skirmishes took place that day. The battlefield was quiet once again; 45 enemy soldiers lay dead. Twelve American soldiers had given their lives while 38 of the troopers carry visible scars, mute evidence of the violent battle of Hill 424.

Contact was sporadic to heavy during the next few days. The enemy was seldom found in elements larger than squad size. Nevertheless, the brigade was making its presence known as they continued to operate in a semi-clandestine posture covering every possible VC hiding place. The number of enemy dead was mounting along with the number of weapons captured. Only occasionally were the men of the brigade able to fix the enemy in large numbers and then they were usually in well fortified, camouflaged positions. On 31 May Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry engaged a reinforced enemy platoon about 0825 hours in the morning. The enemy was entrenched with overhead cover and excellent camouflage. Only the intense desire to win finally carried this fighting company through the enemy's defensive positions. When the Viet Cong were finally driven from the position, 13 enemy bodies were counted in and around the hilltop fortifications. The brigade continued to play its part as the hunter until 7 June when the first phase of Operation MALHEUR ended.

Since 11 May the brigade had taken a major step in destroying the enemy's capability to fight in this area. The brigade had destroyed or captured many tons of food stuffs, hospital complexes, weapons, caches, and many hut and bunker complexes. The 20th Chemical Detachment, attached to the brigade, denied the enemy the use of many of these facilities by seeding them with persistent CS anti-riot agents. The assets of this small detachment were continually in demand as they moved throughout the area of operations to destroy rice and salt and to assist in the hazardous mission of flushing the enemy from his many tunnel complex hiding places. The first phase of the operation left the enemy reeling from the ferocity of the 1st Brigade's violent attack. Not only were the battalion commanders of the 93d, 95th and 97th battalions killed along with 396 troops, but the enemy had been deprived of enough food to feed one battalion for one year. The enemy had been well equipped and fed. He fought with courage and determination from prepared positions to protect his base camps, but he was no match for the determined, dedicated paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

On 8 June 1967, the second phase of Operation MALHEUR began with the change of direction of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry into the new area of operations. The following day, 9 June 1967, the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry assaulted into its portion of the AO and commenced search and destroy operations. Intelligence indicated the enemy was moving toward new base areas to reorganize and resupply. (See Map B)

Observing the effect the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division was having upon the long time Viet Cong stronghold, the Vietnamese government officials in the area requested the brigade's help in moving the entire populace of the Song Ve Valley to an area under government control. During the first month of Operation MALHEUR, the brigade had evacuated some 1,100 refugees, but this was nothing compared to the next few days. The operation began on 16 June with the insertion of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry into the high ground north of the Song Ve Valley with a three fold mission: blocking routes of approach into the area from the previously considered safe sanctuary; conducting search and destroy operations in the area; and conducting cordon and search operations in the northern portion of the valley. (See Map C) One company made contact almost immediately with an enemy battalion in prepared positions supported by mortars, 12.7mm machine guns and other automatic weapons. The company assaulted the position but was unable to overrun it because of the heavy concentration of fire placed upon them. Another company was inserted to the east to reinforce the unit in contact. One helicopter was destroyed on the LZ by automatic weapons fire. The company immediately moved to

assault the enemy positions from another direction. Entire automatic weapons fire and accurate mortar fire caused heavy casualties and the company was forced to pull back. Both companies reorganized and called for all available artillery fire, tactical air of the 7th Air Force, and gunships from the 176th Aviation Company. Contact was maintained with the enemy force until late in the afternoon, when the enemy disengaged to evade the intense fire power of the attacking paratroopers. Company A, the company that originally attacked the enemy position, reached the fortification first counting eight VC bodies as they pushed on in pursuit of the Viet Cong. The elusive enemy had vanished. No further contact was made as the battalion turned its attention to the valley.

The 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry and the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry had moved to the eastern and western portions of the valley respectively, commenced cordon and search operations and began movement of refugees. (See Map C) The population movement was not the paratroopers' only task. In the rich valley were large numbers of cattle and great amounts of food, which had to be denied the enemy. The Screaming Eagles accepted these additional missions. With the help of supporting helicopters they extracted great quantities of food. During 20 June to 22 June 1967, the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry moved cattle collected from the valley to an area of government control. For two days the battalion moved over 1,000 head of cattle some eight kilometers. In six short days the brigade had relocated some 5,750 persons, captured 60,100 pounds of rice and moved over 1,000 head of cattle out of the valley. The week long operation was conducted with little interference from the Viet Cong, who by this time were moving into another base area to reorganize and collect food and supplies for their demoralized troops.

The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division again turned its attention to the mountainous jungles of Quang Nghai Province in search of the remnants of the 1st and 2d VC Regiments, which moved from base camp to base camp trying desperately to evade the on rushing Screaming Eagles.

Only with determination and gallant aggressiveness seldom seen before could these accomplishments have been possible. Heroism was commonplace as evidenced by the combat medic who continuously exposed himself to enemy fire to give aid to the wounded; the private who exposed himself to draw enemy fire away from wounded buddies; the young machine gunner who, when his platoon became pinned down by heavy enemy fire, jumped to his feet and charged the enemy bunker; the platoon sergeant who continued to expose himself to enemy forces to rally his platoon; the platoon leader who charged an enemy bunker with hand grenades, inspiring his platoon to even greater heroics; the artillery men who braved sniper fire to continue fire missions in support of a company in heavy contact; the helicopter pilot who ignored hostile fire to land reinforcements, supplies and extract the wounded; the platoon that attacked a known superior force and maintained contact until reinforcements arrived. With acts such as these the determined paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division found, fixed and destroyed the enemy on his own grounds. This monumental victory could not have been accomplished without the unsurpassed professionalism and gallantry of every individual assigned, attached, and in support of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION FOR OPERATION BENTON

The mission assigned to the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division by Task Force Oregon on 10 August 1967, was to conduct combat assaults into Quang Tin Province. Seal and search and destroy operations were to be conducted in the vicinity of the Chien Dang Village complex, the last reported location of major enemy units.

Enemy documents revealed that the 21st North Vietnamese Army Regiment of the 23d North Vietnamese Division was operating in the area of responsibility. Professionally led, tactically proficient and well disciplined, this was a superior regiment of the North Vietnamese Army, consisting of the 11th, 22d, 33d and 70th battalions. The 21st North Vietnamese were supported by the 76th Company, 406th Sapper Battalion. The task of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division was incredibly difficult because of strong, mutually supporting systems of fortified bunkers and trench complexes. Viet Cong local force units were also active opponents of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division during Operation BENTON. Seven companies of Viet Cong local force units were prepared to deny the 1st Brigade successful execution of its mission in Quang Tin Province. Equipped with mortars, automatic weapons, grenades, individual weapons and supported by the GK 33d Artillery Battalion of the 2d North Vietnamese Division, this foe, while not equal in valor to the men of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, proved a true test of the mettle and heroism of the entire brigade.

The honor of initial contact with the enemy in Quang Tin Province fell to Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry shortly after 1300 hours on D-Day 13 August 1967 when they annihilated seven Viet Cong. Hard won combat experience and conditioning were rewarded as no members of Company B were wounded or killed in the engagement. Shortly thereafter, the reconnaissance platoon, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, killed one Viet Cong. That same day a company size mobile strike force composed of former Vietnamese and Viet Cong defectors, called Mike Force, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, captured three prisoners of war.

At the same time, in conjunction with the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, operations were initiated by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry. (See Map D) On the afternoon of 13 August 1967, Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry led off in a northwesterly direction from its heavily mined landing zone. A numerically superior force attacked the 1st platoon with deadly accurate fire of rockets, rifle grenades, machine guns and small arms. The enemy was in well covered, concealed positions. Breaking contact and taking all their wounded, the platoon withdrew to the original landing zone to rejoin the CO (-). At 1715 hours the second platoon, B Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, moved to the northeast where it too engaged an extremely strong, numerically superior enemy force in a heavy fire fight. (See Map E) Ordered back to the landing zone with the first platoon, the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry was integrated into the company defensive position. Enemy fire swept the company position. The courage of the pilots of the medical evacuation and ammunition resupply helicopters was tested to the limit. Every helicopter encountered automatic weapons fire from surrounding enemy positions as they delivered needed ammunition and evacuated critically wounded soldiers during the battle. In spite of the murderous fire, medical evacuation of wounded soldiers and ammunition resupply was accomplished by early evening.

Fighting what was apparently a North Vietnamese Battalion, the company commander called on all available resources at his disposal; artillery fires, armed helicopters, and Air Force AC-47 miniguns. At 1800 hours the company perimeter was brought under intense enemy fire from the north, west, and south. Rifle grenades fell inside the perimeter, but no ground attack developed. At 2000 hours firing slacked off, allowing the remaining wounded paratroopers to be evacuated. Just prior to midnight the position was bombarded heavily by 60mm and 82mm mortar rounds. Following the enemy mortar attack, rockets, rifle grenades and machine gun fire commenced, signaling an assault. Precisely at 0100 hours a Viet Cong company launched a ground attack from the southeast against the 3d platoon position. The company, with a tremendous volume of individual weapons fire, artillery and air support repulsed the enemy attack. The enemy launched another attack from the northeast, but this was broken up before it could get within hand grenade range of the gallant defenders. The main enemy effort came from the west against the 1st and 4th platoon's sector. Two enemy companies advanced against the two defending platoons. Even though the enemy got within five meters of the defenders, they could not force the courageous paratroopers of B Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, to concede their positions. Firing accurately and furiously with small arms, the company killed many and forced the remainder to break off the attack. The enemy was forced to retreat during the early morning hours immediately prior to dawn, after having suffered grievous losses upon his first contact with the paratroopers of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry. That morning the company found 35 enemy dead, 18 weapons and large amounts of ammunition and equipment surrounding their perimeter. Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry repelled this determined enemy assault only by heroic self sacrifice on the part of every man in the company. Two soldiers of this gallant, courageous and determined company were killed and 19 were wounded. (See Map E)

The 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, moved into the area of operations on 14 August 1967. A Company, the brigade reaction force, was committed at 1420 hours into Quang Tin Province. Little contact was made as the enemy, stunned by the furious onslaught of the previous day, was forced to withdraw. Sniper fire from this diabolically well hidden enemy continued to harass the American soldiers. The remainder of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry joined the battle on 15 August 1967. The 3d platoon of Company B made their first significant contribution to the mission that day. Observing a squad sized element of North Vietnamese soldiers, they immediately took the enemy under intense individual weapons fire. Accurate artillery fire was immediately available to the company commander as well as armed helicopters and U.S. Air Force support. Killing ten of the enemy and capturing a weapon, the platoon was not to go unscathed. Two soldiers of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, the "Above the Rest" Battalion, were killed.

Strong defensive positions with fortified bunkers, caves and tunnels were found early on the morning of 16 August 1967 by Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry. The day's fighting resulted in ten enemy dead with no loss to friendly forces. Large amounts of enemy equipment, foodstuffs and weapons were captured or destroyed on this fourth and successful day of operations by the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. The brigade had annihilated 95 of the enemy thus far on Operation BENTON.

Action on 17 August 1967 was characterized by sporadic enemy contact. The longevity of the enemy's unmolested occupation of Quang Tin Province came to light

on this day. About 0900 hours, Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry found a hospital complex. Twenty thousand pounds of rice and 2,000 pounds of salt were discovered. Later that afternoon, Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry uncovered a medical supply cache, containing large amounts of medical dressings, 300 bottles of penicillin, syringes, a large number of surgical instruments and like appurtenances. Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry discovered a cache which contained several mortar rounds, rockets, homemade bombs, explosive compound and a large quantity of miscellaneous small arms ammunition, ample evidence of this enemy's ability to support his attempted subjugation of Quang Tin Province. Organic and attached units of the 1st Brigade continued their unrelenting pressure on the enemy. Troop A, 2d Squadron (Airborne), 17th Cavalry at 0145 hours apprehended seven Viet Cong. Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry apprehended two Viet Cong at 0831 hours. The Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry engaged and killed one Viet Cong at 0900 hours. Shortly thereafter, Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry killed one Viet Cong. Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry encountered two stubborn enemy snipers in fortified positions; tactical air was employed resulting in no loss of life to friendly forces and two enemy dead. The Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry saw two uniformed enemy soldiers whom they engaged. The two were killed and an assault weapon was captured. This day's action was reported as light. However, this relative term must be adjusted with respect to the total picture. Courageous action by every unit of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division kept the hostile force off balance preventing him from regrouping his forces. As a result, large amounts of foodstuffs were confiscated or destroyed. Medical supplies, arms, explosives and ammunition were captured, 12 enemy soldiers were killed and 20 captured. The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division was not to be denied the accomplishment of its mission. By now a total of 107 enemy had been killed.

Heavy contact with the enemy was again made on 18 August 1967 at 1200 hours. One platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry received automatic weapons fire. Replying with a heavy volume of fire, the platoon extracted itself by employing air strikes and artillery. Maneuvering its remaining platoons, the Company (-) joined the battle. Fighting furiously, the battle lasted until 2215 hours when the enemy was forced to withdraw. On this same date, one platoon of Company C, at about 1700 hours, came into contact with an enemy force of company size. Again, this well armed enemy initiated fire. Nine automatic weapons prevented the platoon from maneuvering effectively. Skillfully maneuvering his remaining platoons against the enemy force, using artillery and air to rain down a hail of steel, the company commander attacked aggressively. Heavy fighting continued for over two hours. The enemy finally was forced to retreat, dragging his dead and wounded with him. One hundred-forty of the enemy had been killed by this date.

It was not until 25 August 1967 that the North Vietnamese Regulars and Viet Cong dared to again engage the soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division in any strength. Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry became engaged with a large, strong enemy force. After a brief but intense fire fight, a medical evacuation helicopter was called to the location to evacuate a wounded infantryman. Ignoring custom, the enemy downed the medical helicopter with automatic weapons fire. The company quickly secured the downed aircraft, killing one enemy soldier in the process. Northwest of the main body of Company A, the 2d platoon was maneuvering against enemy positions. Deadly individual weapons fire delivered

by the platoon failed to dislodge this well entrenched hostile force. Stronger measures were needed. Engineers rushed forward under fire and placed explosives on the bunker complex itself. The charges succeeded in breaching the enemy works. Assaulting the position, the platoon found four enemy dead and two weapons. Operation BENTON had been in progress 14 days. Two hundred seventy-seven of the enemy had been killed.

Individual acts of heroism and unquestioned unit gallantry had marked the final three days of action during Operation BENTON. The enemy avoided contact. His hold over Quang Tin Province had been broken at a fearful cost to himself in terms of men killed, weapons and equipment captured or destroyed, and his logistical and communication lines interdicted. The unquestioned valor, professional skill and uncommon courage of all men of the units assigned and attached to the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division was evidenced by the magnificent accomplishments of the brigade. From first contact with the enemy on Operation BENTON, 13 August until the operations end on 29 August 1967, the enemy had been driven from the field leaving 303 killed in action. Forty-one soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division paid for this victory with their lives. Two hundred and fifty-one were wounded seriously enough to require medical evacuation. Six million, four hundred thirty-two thousand pounds of rice, 2,800 pounds of salt and 8,000 pounds of tea were discovered and denied the enemy during Operation BENTON.

These 17 days of intensely fought, continuous battle proved conclusively that the indomitable spirit, courage and gallantry of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division would persevere over well trained, equipped and fanatical enemy who would deny the people of Quang Tin Province, Republic of Viet Nam, their rightful heritage of liberty and freedom. These qualities of esprit de corps, outstanding courage, professionalism, determination and compassion for their fellow man against a formidable oppressor were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit on all members of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and all attached units who participated in this extraordinary combat action.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION FOR OPERATION WHEELER

Commencing 11 September 1967, the paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division began Operation WHEELER, to find, fix and destroy Viet Cong/North Vietnamese army forces and neutralize base camps. Opposed by a highly motivated and numerically superior enemy, armed with the best in Communist bloc weapons, the Screaming Eagles of the 1st Brigade were meeting an enemy who seemed to have the advantage. Supported by all combat support and service units, the brigade accepted the challenge and mastered it, through the combination of overwhelming firepower, tactical skill at all levels of command, and daily heroism unsurpassed on any previous battlefield.

The honor of moving first into the Area of Operation on 11 September 1967, fell to the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, who air assaulted into multiple landing zones in the southern hills of the AO. This battalion was joined the next day by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry and 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, who occupied the northern and western portion of the area. (See Map F)

During the first week, contact was light and scattered. Even so, Communist mines and booby traps caused some casualties, despite extensive use of "Daisy Cutters," modified 500 pound bombs designed to clear landing zones of mines. Teams from Company A, 326th Engineer Battalion (Airborne) moved in with the infantry to clear each LZ. On 14 September, the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, was placed under Operational Control of the 1st Brigade. The only resistance was harassment by the scattered groups of enemy consisting of from one to three men. By 16 September, 60 enemy had fallen to the paratroopers with only light American losses. So far there was no indication of the large enemy concentrations known to be in the area.

The first clue occurred on 19 September, a week after the initial assault. A "Mike Force" company of former Viet Cong and NVA, attached to 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, was swept with small arms and automatic weapons fire from an estimated reinforced enemy platoon. Operating far in the western part of the AO beyond reinforcing distance of other ground troops, the company fought throughout the day. Aided by artillery of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 320th Artillery, tactical air support of the 7th Air Force, and Army gunships, the company finally forced the enemy back, killing five and capturing one. Three Allies were killed and 14 Allied soldiers wounded.

This action along with other intelligence indicated the major enemy formations, including the 2d NVA Division Headquarters, were actually located to the west. Acting on this information, on 26 September all elements of the brigade began maneuvering westward, hoping to trap the enemy main force units before they could withdraw. Both the 1st and 2d Battalions (Airborne), 327th Infantry conducted air assaults into the extended AO on 27 September. (See Map G) The 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, with the Reconnaissance Company, 2d ARVN Division under its operational control, moved into blocking positions. The enemy's reaction to these maneuvers was immediate and violent. They defended their headquarters with every weapon at hand, including numerous mortars and anti-aircraft weapons. The paratroopers' quick reaction to a changing tactical situation had forced the enemy to fight, although previous contact with the 1st Brigade, had made the enemy reluctant to do so.

On 27 September the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry was the first airborne unit tested in battle on this operation. Hit by rifle and automatic weapons fire from an estimated enemy platoon, the Reconnaissance Platoon (Tiger Force), countered with the entire range of weapons available to the brigade. The Tigers rushed forward against the weakening enemy fire, sweeping over the bunkers. The enemy, quickly losing heart at the violence of the paratroopers' assault, fled leaving six of their dead behind. Only one Screaming Eagle was wounded.

Enemy losses increased steadily in the next few days, but the enemy avoided a major contact until 29 September. That day, Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry met an entrenched North Vietnamese company. Two platoons were pinned down by the intense automatic weapons fire, but the third platoon was able to execute a flanking move. Approaching from the rear, the platoon met a rear security force positioned in four bunkers. The platoon sergeant, knowing the rest of the company depended on his platoon breaking the position, led a small force forward despite a hail of enemy fire and grenades. Personally destroying all four bunkers, the sergeant reformed his platoon and moved on against the main enemy

positions. Again enemy fire slowed the advancing paratroopers, but the inspired platoon continued their assault, destroying five more bunkers using captured enemy grenades when their own supply was exhausted. This incredible attack against a powerful and determined force of NVA regulars resulted in 18 enemy with weapons captured, including a RPD machine gun and a B-40 rocket launcher.

At the same time, to the west, Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry also ran into a well fortified, well equipped hostile force. The lead platoon was crossing a rice paddy when an estimated company, hidden in the high ground surrounding the rice paddy, ambushed the point squad. The first bursts of fire critically wounded the platoon leader and killed the radio telephone operator. The intense fire sweeping the open rice paddy forced most of the platoon back into a nearby creek bed, leaving the dead and wounded of the lead element still exposed in the killing zone. Then one trooper jumped up and ran into the open, hazarding the heavy volume of fire that had stopped others who tried to advance. He brought back the wounded platoon leader through 75 meters of bullet swept ground, returned to the dead RTC and directed supporting air and artillery fire onto the enemy positions. Company A of the same battalion was committed into the same area to relieve pressure. Intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire downed five helicopters, including the Command and Control ship carrying the battalion commander and a second ship which was sent to extract him. Although the personnel were eventually pulled out, heavy sniper fire prevented recovery of the helicopters. Fierce fighting continued for about seventeen hours. Company A finally fought its way to the beleaguered Company C shortly after midnight. The gallant determination of the paratroopers soon overcame the enemy advantage and the VC abandoned their positions, melting away in the darkness. The paratroopers' pursuit found only a few wounded and some scattered equipment.

The next major contact occurred 30 September along the routes of egress to the north. There the Reconnaissance Company, 2d ARVN Division had positioned itself to block the enemy attempting to flee north from the advancing paratroopers. An estimated platoon fell into the Vietnamese ambush. The fire fight ended quickly with 13 enemy soldiers dead and five weapons captured. Despite defeats such as this, the NVA and VC regulars continued to resist by taking advantage of poor weather and combining defensive actions with several ground and mortar attacks against American positions. On 2 October, the Viet Cong received a lesson in the relentless pursuit that the paratroopers could apply. After a short engagement with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, an enemy force attempted its usual tactic of scattering through the rough terrain to escape the hotly pursuing paratroopers. A combat tracker team, using a Labrador Retriever, was quickly inserted into the area by the battalion. The fleeing VC were traced to a hut where in a short but violent battle, six were killed at a cost of one American life. That same day, Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry was attacked by an unknown sized force using small arms, automatic weapons and mortars. The initial assault succeeded in penetrating the American position, but after desperate fighting the enemy was thrown back, their attack shattered against the unmovable American defenders. The battle continued after dark but the determined defenders, aided by Air Force AC-47's and Company B of the same battalion, finally forced the enemy to withdraw. The VC fled, knowing that daylight would bring their annihilation if they tried to hold their positions against the advancing infantry.

Action remained heavy as the paratroopers continued their sweep of the difficult terrain despite oppressive heat and humidity. Although the enemy continued to resist, the power of the Free World Forces' advance began to have its effect. Information gained from Hoi Chanh during this period indicated the enemy was short of food, medical supplies, and had suffered grievous losses from artillery and air strikes. By the operation's conclusion, record numbers of Viet Cong and NVA in Quang Tin Province rallied to the government. One, an NVA Battalion Executive Officer, led the Americans to several caches of his battalion's weapons.

Operation WHEELER soon entered its third phase. The enemy, aided by bad weather avoided contact with the 1st Brigade in the western portion of the AO but began making daily contact with elements of the brigade in the eastern hills of the area. Intelligence indicated that at least part of an NVA Regiment was moving into the lowlands near Highway 1. Company A of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, now OPCON to the 1st Brigade, made the first significant contact on the evening of 9 October. For five hours the company battled with at least one NVA company. Before the intense firepower of the infantrymen coupled with supporting artillery and gunships forced the enemy to withdraw to the north, ten Americans were dead and 17 wounded. Twenty-four NVA soldiers were killed and three AK-47's captured. As a consequence of the heavy losses, Company A was withdrawn to provide security to the Battalion CP and was replaced in the field by Company D.

By 14 October, after 33 days of contact under incredibly adverse conditions, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and supporting troops had killed 676 enemy, captured 138 weapons and 52.5 tons of rice. Although operations were hampered during the first month by monsoon rains and ground fog, the Screaming Eagles had dealt their well led, well equipped foe a series of blows that rapidly eroded his strength and his morale. By now the relentless pressure of the searching paratroopers was forcing the enemy to break into small groups and flee the battle area. Taking advantage of heavy rains and low clouds caused by tropical storms, much of the 2d NVA Division Headquarters managed to escape by sampans during the first week of October. Weather prevented the brigade from intercepting the enemy or employing accurate air strikes.

The brigade continued to maneuver against the elusive NVA forces. Shortly after 1200 hours on 27 October, Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, was air assaulted into a suspected battalion command post location. The company was hit by a barrage of automatic weapons from a NVA company entrenched in a series of well prepared fortifications. The 2d and 3d platoons, initially forced back by the enemy fire, assaulted the positions, but were unable to dislodge the entrenched company. At 1600 Company A was air assaulted into blocking positions. By dark, after six hours of close-in fighting, contact was broken as the enemy abandoned the area to the hard driving paratroopers, leaving behind large caches of uniforms, equipment, ammunition, rice and salt.

By now the major communist forces in the area had suffered such severe losses (564 VC and 250 NVA by body count) that they had lost the ability to engage the 1st Brigade in decisive conflict. They were now in small groups hiding in the rugged hills, dense jungle and among the local population. The 1st Brigade continued its relentless pursuit, spreading out to cover more of the area. Daily they met the reluctant enemy on his own terms, inflicting heavy losses in squad sized

actions. Abandoning large rice caches the enemy tried desperately to flee, but each day cost him an average of 15 dead. The final phase of Operation WHEELER began on 6 November when the brigade again oriented to the west, blocking eastern egress routes in conjunction with operations of the 3d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

While there were numerous small contacts, only once in the final three weeks of Operation WHEELER did the NVA dare to test the men of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division in a major battle. While most actions were small, each day was costly to the Viet Cong both in terms of soldiers killed and supplies captured. For example, on 17 November, the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry killed eight retreating Viet Cong within three hours in six different encounters while suffering no losses themselves. That afternoon, Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry picked up eight detainees and called four air strikes on suspected enemy locations, resulting in two secondary explosions, one bunker destroyed, and a tunnel complex uncovered. That evening the Reconnaissance Platoon of that battalion ambushed six NVA, killing five and wounding the other at a cost of two wounded. Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry killed one uniformed VC and discovered a small VC aid station. Totals for the day were 10 VC and NVA killed at a cost of two Americans wounded.

The final significant action of the operation began at 1245 hours on 11 November when one platoon of Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry contacted an NVA force later estimated to be a company. Skillful coordination of all ground elements with artillery, gunships, and 7th Air Force tactical air support, enabled the company to overrun the enemy positions shortly after dark. Fifteen dead and seven weapons were left by the fleeing enemy.

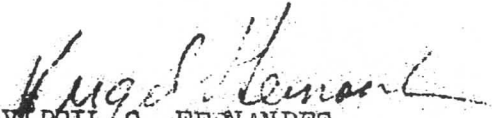
The demoralized Viet Cong of Quang Tin Province, their sanctuary destroyed, suffering losses of over 50 percent in some units, began responding to an intensive Civic Action and Psychological Warfare Program. Among the returns were eight members of one 12 man local force squad. A cook from the Viet Cong Main Force Province hospital led paratroopers to its location. The staff and cadre of the hospital had fled, but six wounded enemy were found in the immediate area with six more surrendering the next day. Also found were two large weapons caches which included two heavy machine guns, two 75mm recoilless rifles, and one RPG rocket launcher, as well as ammunition and spare parts.

With the 2d NVA Division and local force units fragmented, the brigade terminated Operation WHEELER on 25 November. The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, its mission accomplished, returned to its base camp at Phan Rang.

Throughout the operation, the superb training and dynamic leadership of the Screaming Eagles paid off. Final figures showed 1,105 enemy confirmed dead, and over 200 weapons captured, making Operation WHEELER the most successful operation in the brigade's history. Almost 200 tons of rice and 5 tons of salt were denied the enemy. The Viet Cong's supposedly safe sanctuary in Quang Tin Province, where previously he had freely launched attacks against government positions along Highway 1, had provided little protection against the onslaught of the men of the 1st Brigade. Using the techniques perfected in other operations, able to stay in the field for 74 days with only brief rests, moving like the enemy that opposed them,

carrying five days supplies on their backs, the men of the 1st Brigade had shown the regulars of the 2d NVA Division that no foe could match the Screaming Eagles in professional skill, determination and valor.

AUTHENTICATED BY:


VIRGIL S. FERNANDES
Major, Infantry
Adjutant

12



SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND CASUALTIES

Friendly Forces


<u>TOTAL ASSIGNED</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>MHA</u>	<u>CAP</u>
4600	246	1310	1	0

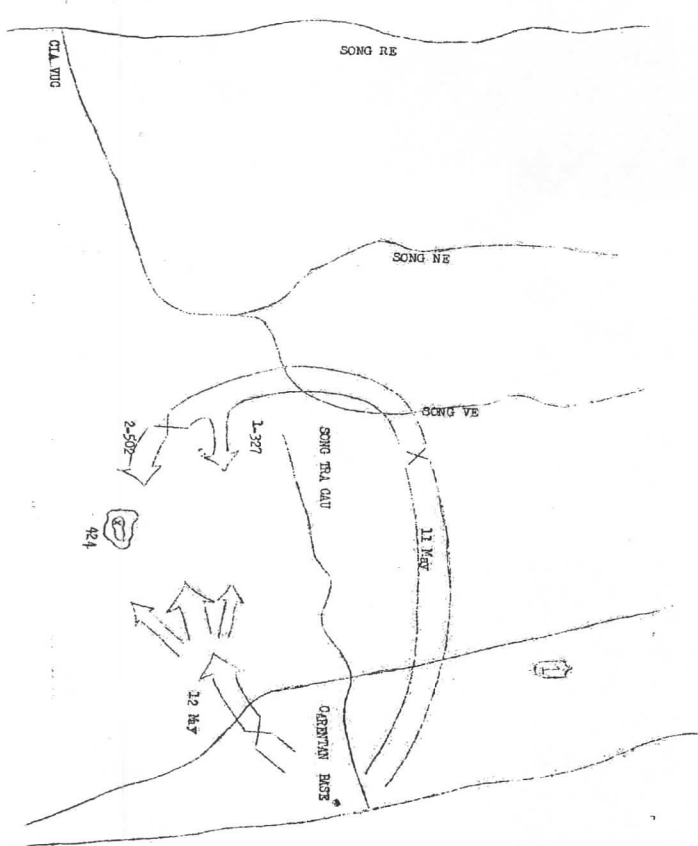
Enemy Forces

<u>ESTIMATED FORCES</u>	<u>BODY COUNT</u>	<u>PROBABLE CASUALTIES</u>	<u>CAP</u>
5000	2277	500	145

These figures are based upon averages from the 3 operations

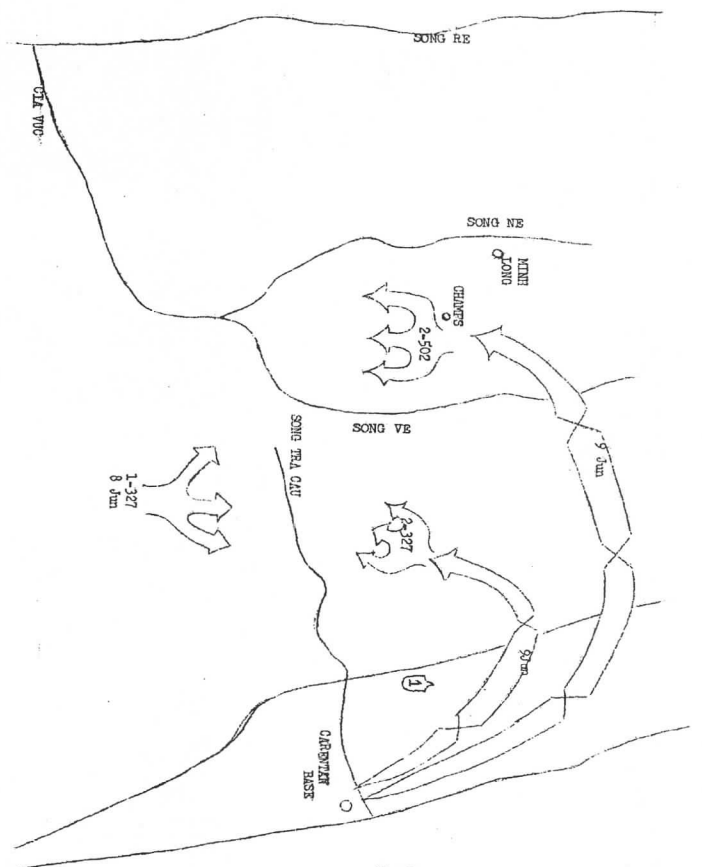
AUTHENTICATED BY:


VIRGIL S. FERNANDES
Major, Infantry
Adjutant



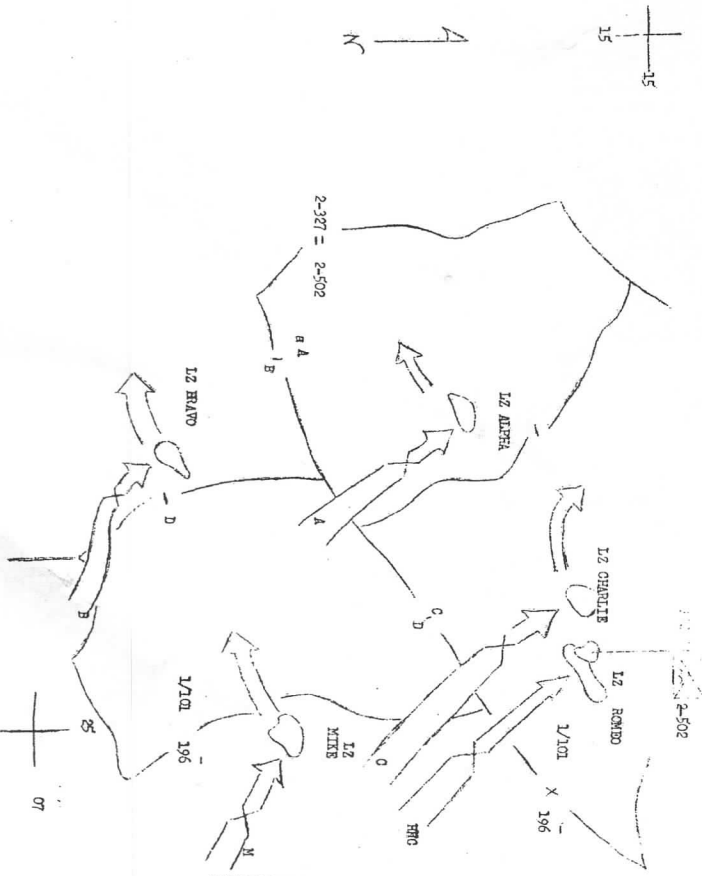
SKETCH MAP A
 PHASE I Operation MALHEUR
 11 May - 7 Jun

SOUTH
 CHINA
 SEA

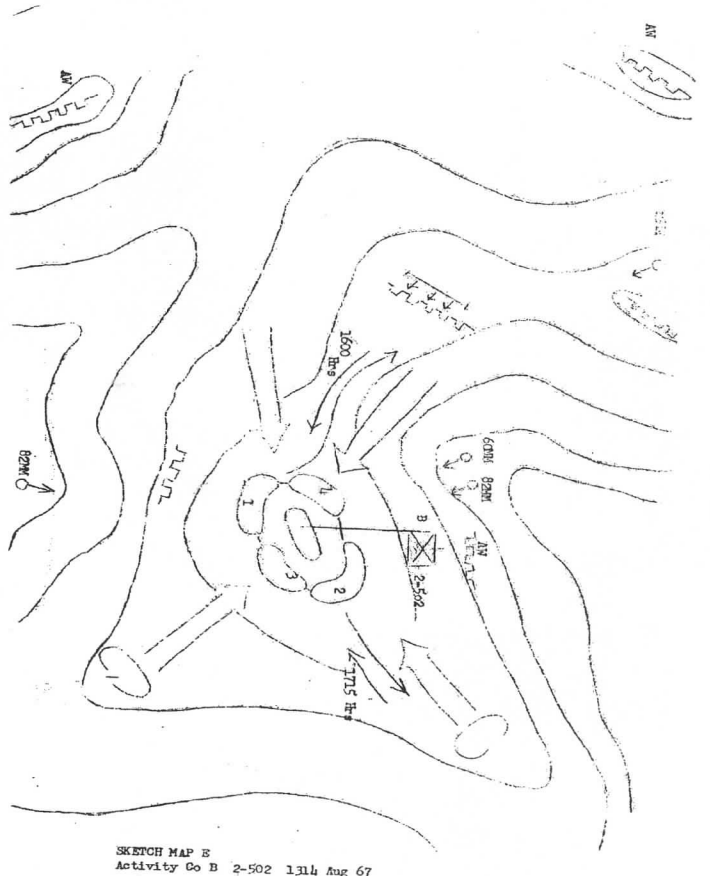


SKETCH MAP B
 PHASE II Operation MALHEUR
 8 Jun - 15 Jun

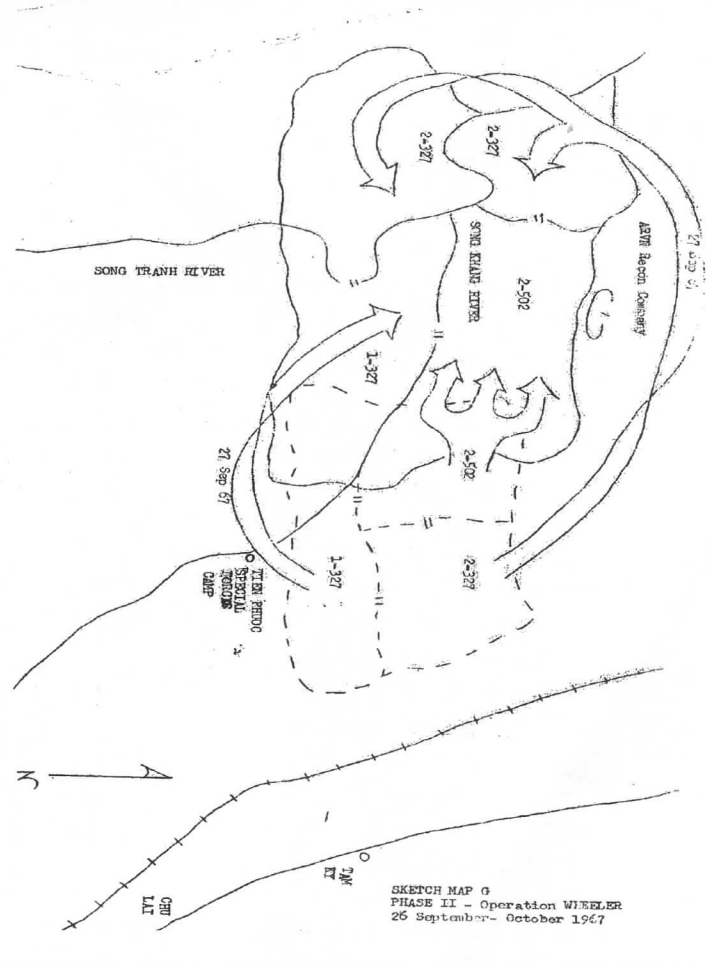
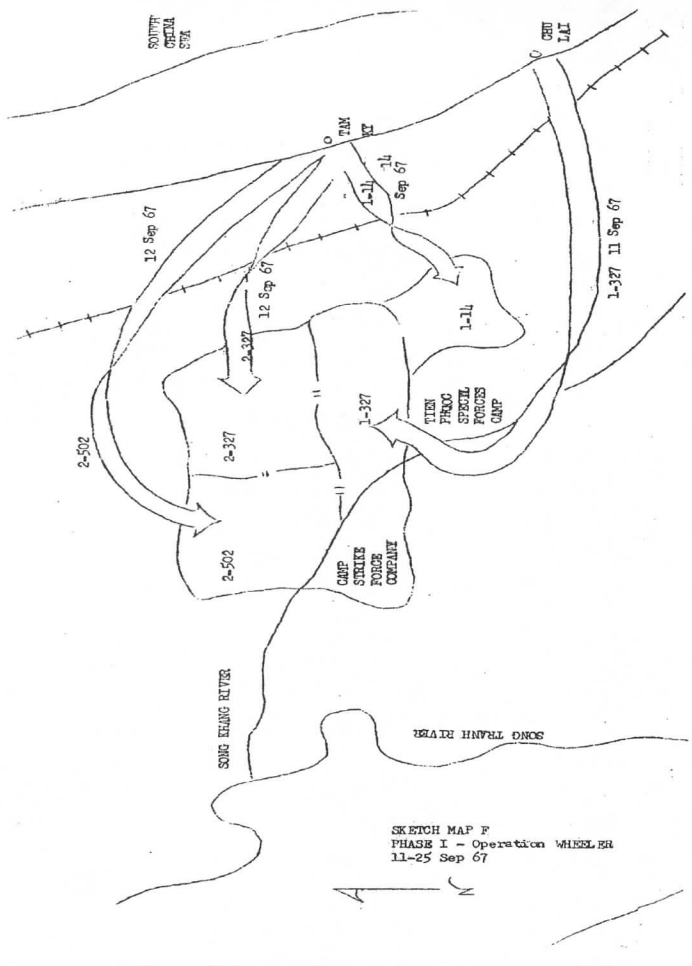
SOUTH
 CHINA
 SEA



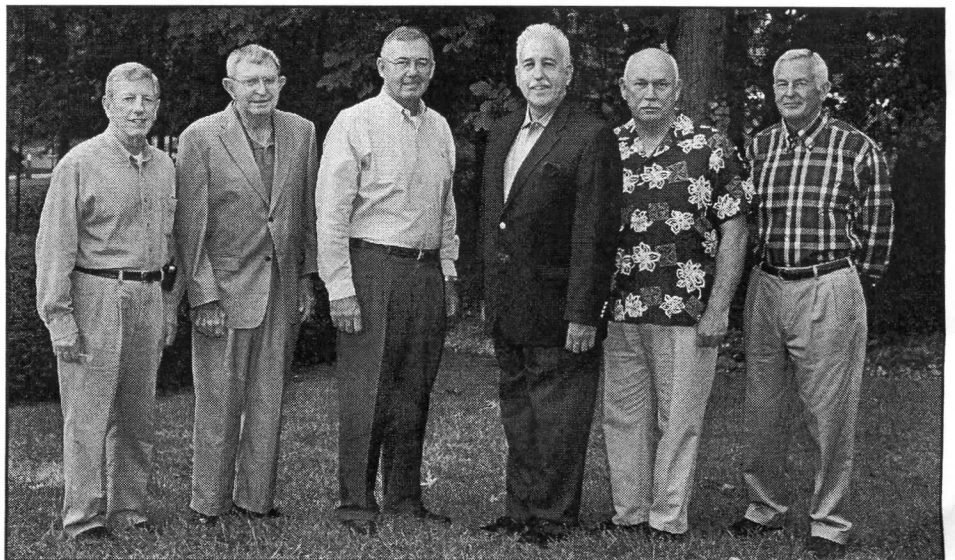
SKETCH MAP D
 OPN BENTON
 2/502 13 Aug 67



SKETCH MAP E
 Activity Co B 2-502 13th Aug 67



Robert C. Hudson, 2/327 C&HHC 6/65-7/66, 5221 NW 119th St., Gainesville, FL 32653, work (352) 337-8590, home (352) 332-6373 sent the following information: Ivan, thanks for reaching out about the enclosed photo. All of us served in the 2/327. From left to right: ALLEN CHRISTENSEN – 4.2” Mortar Platoon Leader of 2/327, also served as S-2 for a while in Vietnam, went over on the Eltinge, formed a company of cooks, drivers, etc. during battle of Troung Loung and led them into the fight, retired as a Colonel; MSGT BOBBY BURKE – outstanding 1st Sergeant of C Company 2/327, went over on the Eltinge, spent his whole tour as 1st Sergeant of C Company; ROBERT C. HUDSON – went over on the Eltinge, platoon



leader of 1st Platoon C Company, wounded between An Khe and Quinhon on October 29, 1965. After returning from the 85th Evac Hospital in December, finished the rest of tour as Asst S-3 of 2/327, while at the 85th Evac, was put in charge of a group of about 25 ambulatory patients mixing penicillin for the casualties rolling in from the 1st Cav in the battle of the Ia Drang; MIKE SIERRA – went over on the Eltinge and was Asst S-3 when we went over, took over 1st Platoon in C Company when Hudson was wounded, finished his tour as 1st Platoon Leader, retired as a Colonel; CHUCK BEEGLE – Platoon leader in C Company during battle of Troung Loung, joined the battalion around December 1965, retired as a Lt Col (???); DICK DAVIS – went over on the Eltinge, was S-1 for the first couple of months of our tour, took over as Commander of C Company around mid-October 1965, spent the rest of his tour as Commander of C Company, retired as a Major General, last tour of duty was as Deputy Commander of 18th Airborne Corps.

Ivan, we all had a marvelous time at the Reunion in Atlanta. Thanks for all you do to keep us together.



A LETTER HOME

by COL(R) Melvin Garten, 2/327 CO 10/65-5/66

8 Jan 66

Dear Shirley and Saul,

I wish I had the capability to describe infantry combat in Viet Nam (in Korea or WWII?). You know we read books, see movies and TV, but until one undergoes the weather, terrain, food, dangers, ad infinitum ... it can't be understood. In some ways perhaps it may be like having a baby – or other personal relationships physical in nature. You can read about it, etc., but until you are “there,” it's merely academic.

Yesterday for example, we started search and destroy operations about 30 miles south of our base camp in Phan Rang. Nothing dramatic ... a few “Charlies”... our job to root them out. The fact is – the area under concern is high mountainous jungle. The weather is just miserable – just absolutely drenching, cold rain. We have only two tents – one rather medium size where I house my operations, maps, communications and very meager supplies. The other is the small tent for me. All others are either under stretched canvas or ponchos. And its raining, and our rations are individual little cans of meat and crackers and it's walk, walk, walk.

Anyway, this morning, in the rain, I helicoptered into mountain top landing zones which had been cleared in the jungle so that we can drop supplies and evacuate wounded.



I visited each major commander – and all I saw was guns and high spirit – “when do we move out again, colonel?” All night long it had poured, everyone was hungry and wet, we had a few wounded (but no one killed) – and their heads were high – their morale zooming.

In the book, “The Bridges of Toko Ri,” the admiral muses in conclusion as he watches his fliers take off to danger in their bombing mission ... “where do we get those men from.” I too have mused these thoughts, in '44, in '52, '65.

So, it is impossible for me to tell you about infantry. I can say that any discussion of combat – whether it be air force, navy, or army artillery, engineers, signal corps – you name it, is merely academic – if an infantryman is not present.

We finish these search and destroy operations in about 48 more hours. I and my men will not melt before then. But the mountains south of Phan Rang will always hold memories – like the mountains in Luzon or the Philippine Islands or the mountains in Korea overlooking the Chorwon Valley.

Hell, it's important to look forward – not back!!

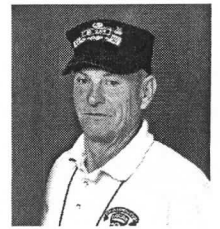
Bring on the new mountains wherever they are. We'll get to the top!!

Love & kisses
Mel



STARS AND STRIPES

PUBLISHED DAILY IN TOKYO FOR U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN AND KOREA



Terry Wren

Radioman Gets His Outfit Out of a Jam

Pacific Stars & Stripes 7
Monday, Oct. 30, 1967

By SP4 DAN STROEBEL
CHU LAI, Vietnam (IO) — While a monsoon rain raged through the jungles and a platoon of 101st Airborne paratroopers were cut off, a radiotelephone operator (RTO) remained calm and radioed for assistance.

Spec. 4 Terry L. Wren was credited with saving many lives when he directed a relief element to the fighting, pointed out enemy positions and led to the wounded, including his company commander.

The 2nd Platoon of A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., had been cut off from other elements of the company by two NVA companies. Bitter fighting ensued as the paratrooper com-

mand element fought its way to the encircled platoon.

Sixty NVA bodies were found after the contact in which 17 paratroopers were killed. Wren called in the help that forced the NVA to break contact.

“We felt like a big battle was coming,” said Wren. “I don't know why, but you could feel it in the air. We had been mortared the night before, so they knew we were in the area.

“We knew they were in the area too,” he recalled. “One look at the almost new weapons we captured the day before told us we were up against NVA.

“That morning the ‘Old Man’ halted a moment in a hut to radio the day's plans to the

platoon leaders.

“That's when we first got hit.”

A sniper opened fire on the command element and the 2nd Platoon quickly deployed to silence the enemy. Wren and the rest of the command group followed them in the search.

The first sweep was fruitless and the platoon moved through the thorny vines and trees a second time, firing on enemy positions.

Wren and the command group moved to a nearby hamlet, hoping to glean information from the villagers.

“The people wouldn't look at us,” said Wren. “We knew they were frightened and their eyes

flitted around the area.

“Suddenly the 2nd Platoon began firing on full automatic,” said Wren.

A mortar round scored a direct hit on a hut near Wren and the command element. Quickly they moved toward the 2nd Platoon and the sounds of fighting.

Wren, sensing the magnitude of the situation, quickly called a nearby company for assistance. The relief element killed three NVA in camouflaged uniforms. When the paratroopers arrived, Wren briefed them. They quickly maneuvered and the enemy broke contact.

“I called a medic for the captain and we patched him up the best we could,” said Wren.

“Then we found the artillery forward observer and he was hurt badly too.”

After the wounded were evacuated, Wren mopped the rain from his face, noticing it for the first time in five hours. It was the same rain that kept helicopter gunships grounded.

“I'm lucky to be alive,” he said. “Everything happened so fast.”

The rescuers counted 60 enemy dead, 2nd Platoon suffered 17 killed.

“No one would have survived if Wren hadn't called for help,” said Sgt. Ronald G. Nixon. “The NVA had us outnumbered and they knew it. But our boys made them pay dearly.”

Three Battalions

ARVN Troops Work With 'Screaming Eagles' In Operation PICKETT

By Lt. John Hensley

KONTUM — "Operation Pickett had only been initiated 72 hours when we were furnished the equivalent of three more battalions in the field to work with us," stated General Pearson in complimenting the local Vietnamese forces.

He added, "We have now worked in 13 provinces and two corps areas and this is one of the quickest and most effective integration of forces I have seen."

Elements of the 24th Special Tactical Zone have initiated independent combat operations in the area of operation to complement the paratroopers' Operation PICKETT, while some of the units are integrated down to platoon level, working side by side with the 101st on search and destroy missions.

The local MACV and Special Forces advised units are handling route security for the 101st from Kontum to their forward resupply base, Pleiku to Kontum, and local route security around the city.

Regional Force companies and elements of the 2d Battalion, 42d Regiment, ARVN supply the brigade base security while tanks from the 24th STZ watch over the Kontum airfield.

CIDG elements are presently screening the brigade's forward supply and refueling base, the radio relay site, elements of the 320th Artillery, and "B" Battery of the 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery with constant ambush and reconnaissance patrols.

One of the most important contributions of the CIDG and ARVN force to Operation PICKETT is the release of U.S. forces from security missions to deploy against the enemy, and providing an existing intelligence organization for the 101st use.

Says Colonel Donald A. Seibert, 24th STZ Senior Advisor, "It's a big advantage for our units to work with the 101st for it gives them a lot of confidence. They worked with the 101st at Dak To and saw what an outstanding unit they were, and feel proud to be working with them again."



Troopers of the 1st Brigade salute their fallen comrades during a memorial service held near Kontum. (Photo by Lt. John Hensley)

Kontum Hills Produce French Speaking Montagnard For 2d, 327th Infantry

By PFC Luis Callender

KONTUM — Artillery Forward Observers are handy people to have around — especially when they do a bit of moonlighting and double as interpreters.

First Lieutenant Daniel Larned is a good example.

When paratroopers of Company "A," 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry discovered someone lurking around their perimeter, they naturally wanted to question them. What they came up with was a Montagnard man, his wife, and their three dogs.

For all concerned, it seemed a prize catch. The "Screaming Eagles" Operation PICKETT seemed to have yielded a good intelligence source in the virgin jungle north of Kontum City.

Then came the problem. No one in Company "A" spoke much Vietnamese and there was no interpreter. But that turned out to be a small problem since the Montagnard did not speak Vietnamese either. Communications were stalemated with hand signals

and pantomime. Then the Montagnard broke into a flurry of French, and that's where Lt. Dan Larned came in.

"At first the Montagnard mistook us for Frenchmen," Larned commented later, "But he overheard us talking as we set up for the night and he guessed we were Americans. He said he had heard about us but that we were the first ones he's ever seen."

Larned who learned his French at the Army Language School, said he had no problem speaking French to the Montagnard, as the latter spoke the language in its pure form. The Montagnard told the 101st Lieutenant that he had learned French from missionaries but had not

spoken it in almost a decade.

The American and the Montagnard conversed in low tones at length. The going was a bit bumpy at first but

the hillman lost his rustiness, as Larned kept the conversation well-oiled with compliments on the man's almost
(Cont'd on p-3, Col. 4)

MARS Station Now At Kontum Camp

By 55gt Mike Mangiameli

KONTUM — A Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) has been set up in the forward battle zone of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

Operating in the brigade command post at Kontum, the station handles both telephone calls, which are billed to the calling party from the relay point in the United States to the point of destination, and free telegrams of up to 26 words each.

The station operates on a

seven-station net in Vietnam which places calls in turn and normally handles up to 15 calls and 40 telegram daily. The calls, limited to five minutes each, are normally transmitted and received with remarkable clarity and can be placed to other MARS
(Cont'd on p-3, Col. 2)

Honor Roll

The following individuals have been cited for valor in action:

- Sp4 Donald L. Edwards
- Sp4 William E. Sandlin
- Sp4 Joseph Steven
- PFC Dean W. Mehrrens
- PFC Arthur L. Wheeler

DIPLOMAT and WARRIOR

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



THE GUNNER

By Gunslinger

The point man stalks on the jungle trail
And the leader calls the tune
But the Gunner plays the song of death
When the ambush trap is sprung.

When Charlie is caught in his redoubt thought safe
By surprise attack at noon
It's the Gunner who bars the route of escape
And assures Charlie of his doom.

When the NVA begin their assault
From the mountain's sloping side
It's the Gunner who opens the gates of hell
To stem the charging tide.

Then the M-60s and the RPDs
Engage each other in wrath
And the hammer of lead is a fiery thread
That ends with Charlie's death.

When the NVA are caught in their holes
And in covered bunkers deep
It's the Gunner who pins the bastards down
While the riflemen forward sweep.

To eliminate the die hard foe
With rifle and grenade
So his soul may wander the face of the earth
Far from his ancestor's grave.

When Charlie is finally run to earth
It's the gun that ends the fray
With tracers that streak like the drip of blood
From the fangs of the wolf at his prey.

Place Your Bets

SAIGON (D&W) — At stake! The National Football League championship.

Today at the Dallas Cotton Bowl, the champion Western Conference Green Bay Packers in their ninth NFL title game will play their Eastern counterpart, the Dallas Cowboys.

It will be a Sudden Death game for the League title and a \$2 million network TV-Radio receipt.

If the game is tied at the end of 60 minutes of play, it will continue in Sudden Death overtime. The team scoring first (by safety, field goal or touchdown) will win.

All twenty-two starters on offense and defense for the Green Bay Packers when they defeated Cleveland

23-12 in last year's championship are still on the active roster but there have been four line-up changes.

The four new starters are Bill Curry at center, Marv Fleming at right end, and Elijah Pits at halfback on offense, and Bobby Jeter at right defensive halfback. Of the current starters, nine are holdover starters from the

Green Bay championship teams of 1961, 1962 and 1965. They are receiver Boyd Dowler, tackles Bob Skoronski and Forrest Gregg, guard Fred Thurston, quarterback Bart Starr and fullback Jim Taylor from the offense, and end Willie Davis, tackle Henry Jordan and defensive back Willie Wood from the defense.

(Cont'd on p-2, Col. 4)

Screaming Eagles Revamp The Minh Quy Hospital

By Lt. Arthur Barnett

KONTUM — The last place any paratrooper wants to go is a hospital; yet, that's where many of the 1st Brigade men have been spending a lot of their time lately.

The hospital is the Minh Quy Hospital on the outskirts of Kontum City and is run by Doctor Patricia Smith

from Seattle, Washington. She is assisted by one Australian, one Vietnamese, and three American nurses. Sup-

ported by Catholic charities and voluntary contributions, Minh Quy has been treating the Montagnard tribesmen in

and around the Kontum City area for over three and a half years and Dr. Smith has developed quite a number of devoted followers since she

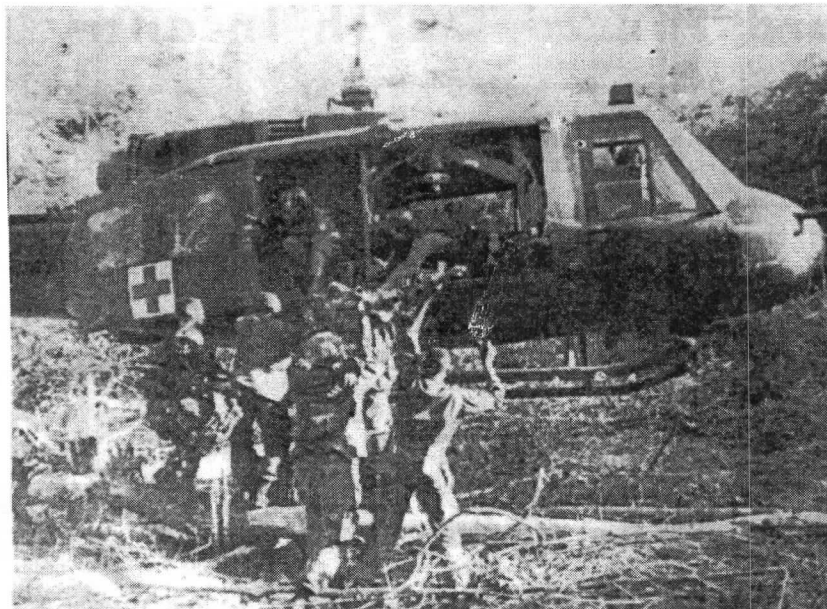
(Cont'd on p-4, Col. 1)

Sp4 Donates Blood To Montagnard

KONTUM — More people are finding out every day, that when the paratroopers of the 1st Brigade say they'll help, it means "all the way." Latest to find out this important fact were the nurses of the Minh Quy hospital in Kontum City.

Specialist 4 Mickey Pharr III of Company "C," Support Battalion (Forward) was helping other members of his unit repair and clean equipment and buildings at the Catholic supported hospital when a crisis arose. A Montagnard woman with acute abscess anemia needed a blood transfusion

A quick check of the hospital's meager supplies proved futile and Miss Millicent Rice of Seattle, Wash., a practical nurse at the hospital, appealed to the paratroopers for the needed blood. Specialist Pharr volunteered and gave; the precious fluid to save the woman's life.



Brigade troopers load a wounded comrade aboard a "Dustoff" during Operation PICKETT. (Photo by Sp4 Gene Tate)

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



First Lieutenant Ronald G. Odom, the "Recondo Platoon, leader, 502d Infantry, was chosen as the "Officer Warrior of the Week" for his recent actions against the enemy near Kontum.

VC Removed, 106 Montagnards Relocated

KONTUM — A Montagnard village of 106 tribesmen has been relocated and placed under government control at their own request by elements of the 1st Brigade.

During Operation PICKETT, Company "A," 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry found two Montagnard women working near a stream in the unit's area of operation. After questioning by a Vietnamese interpreter attached to the 101st, the women told the location of their village in the mountains and the presence of 16 possible Viet Cong and of nine weapons.

That day the company surrounded the village and after a thorough search, captured the nine weapons and numerous small caches of ammunition, and detained the VC suspects.

The entire tribe of 106 men, women, and children then expressed a desire to be moved to a secure area away from the VC infested jungles.

The following morning, Company "C," of the battalion moved into the village and brought the tribe out to a clearing where the Montagnards were airlifted by helicopter to Kontum.

STRIKE FORCE

Troopers Meet French Speaking Montagnard

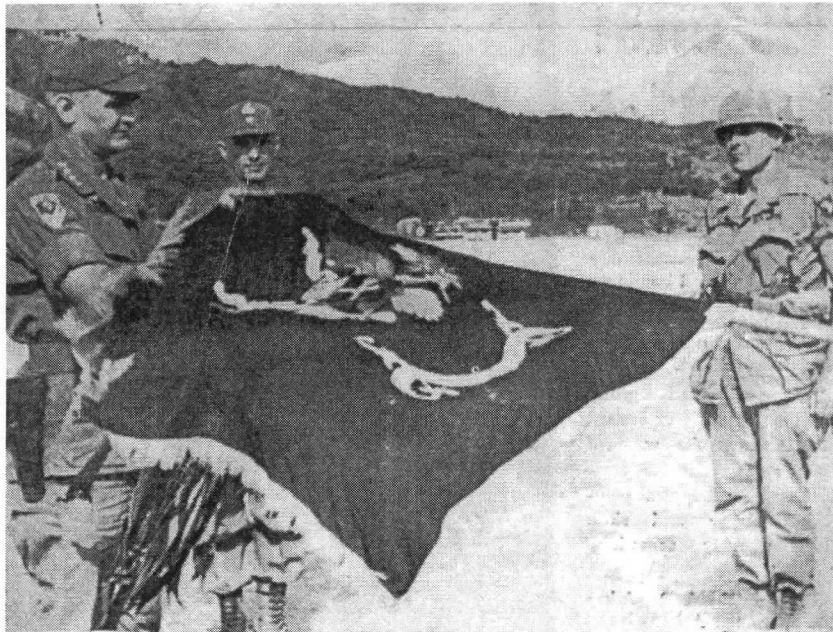
(Cont'd from p 1, Col. 4)

forgotten French.

The Montagnard told the Artillery Observer that he didn't live in any particular place, and had no home because he was a leper. "I'm just a wanderer," he told Larned. To which the lanky Californian replied, "So are we. They call us the Nomads of Vietnam."

First Brigade paratroopers, gave some of their rations to the "wanderer" and his wife and three dogs.

When morning dawned on the jungle, the 101st troopers went forward to meet the challenge of the Kontum hills and the French-speaking Montagnard, and his clan, departed in the opposite direction with a wave of the hand.... and "Au revoir."



General William C. Westmoreland pins a brigade streamer on the 502d Infantry's colors near Kontum as Gen. Pearson and Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Frank Dietrich look on. The streamer was presented to the STRIKE FORCE for their outstanding action during the brigade's Operation Geronimo 1 near Tuy Hoa. This was the first award of the streamer within the brigade. (Photo by Lt. John Hensley)

MARS Station Set Up At Kontum Base Camp

(Cont'd from p-4, Col. 4)
stations in Japan, Okinawa and the Phillipines. Calls to

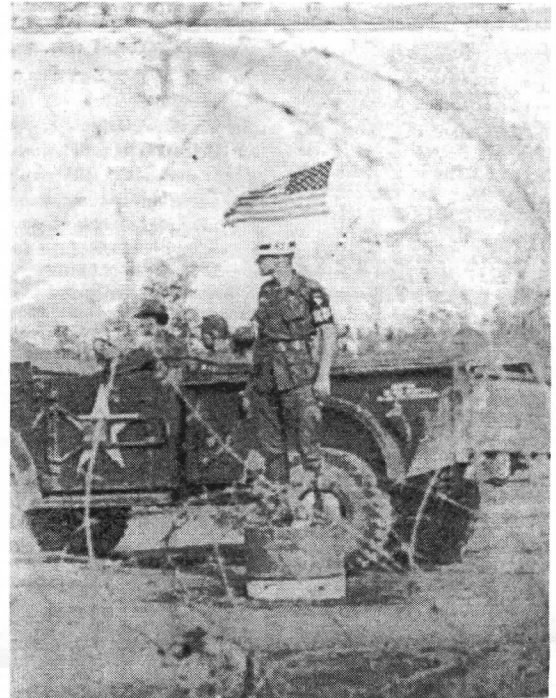
Hawaii are placed daily except Sunday and Monday, between 7 and 9:30 a.m., and 11 p.m. and 3 a.m.

At present the station is connected with MARS relay stations in Bakersfield and Davis, Calif., and Fort Lewis, Wash. It occasionally is able to reach Cedar Rapids, Ia., Memphis, Tenn., and Fort Hood, Tex.

Telegrams, called "MARS-GRAMS," are processed the same day they are received and take from 18 hours to four days to reach their party.

The operator, Sergeant Dennis F. Seelye, explained the procedure for getting on the list for calls: "Anyone may be placed on the calling list by calling STRIKE 40 starting at 11 a.m., the day before the call is to be placed. Only the first 15 names are accepted: those unable to place their call are cancelled and must reschedule their appointment.

"The only requirement for placing the call is the man must know the party's telephone number. Arera code numbers are located on a master sheet as well as the time difference between here and the time zone in the United States."



A 1st Brigade MP routes resupply traffic near Kontum at the Brigade Command Post during Operation PICKETT. (Photo by Lt. John Hensley)

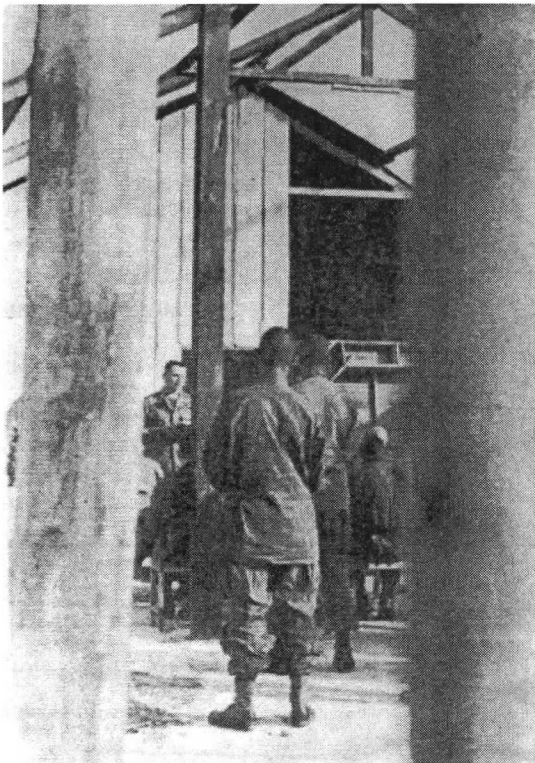
Place Your Bets

(Continued from p-2, Col. 1)

Five members of the Dallas Cowboys are holdovers from the first Cowboy season, in 1960. Quarterback Don Meredith, tight end Frank Clarke, offensive lineman Mike Connelly and linebacker

Jerry Tubbs were members of the active Dallas roster their first year. Fullback Don Perkins was under contract to the team but was injured and on the reserve list all season.

(Cont'd on p-4, Col. 2)



1st Brigade troopers use an abandoned and roofless church for religious services at Kontum. (Photo by Lt. John Hensley)

Can Do

Minh Quy Hospital Revamped By 101st

(Cont'd from p-2, Col. 5)

first started working in the area more than seven years ago.

Nurses Joan Blonien and Jean Platz have been with Dr. Smith for a number of years. Joan for six and a half years and Jean for three. Practical nurse Millicent Rice from Seattle joined the small staff in May, followed by Nurse Ruth O'Halloran from Wagga Wagga, Australia in November. Miss Marie Hanh has been with the staff for four and a half years. She is from Pleiku and received her training in practical nursing at Dalat and Minh Quy.

When told of repairs and equipment needed at the 40 bed-120 patient hospital by Major Stephen Doherty, the Brigade Civil Affairs Officer, paratroopers immediately went to work as they had so many times before in the past months all over Vietnam's II Corps area.

The men of "Can Do" Support Battalion bore the brunt on the work with Ordnance men and mechanics of "B" and "C" Companies repairing the hospital's old vehicles, cleaning equipment and moving a steel frame for a new hospital building over 200 meters of ground. From Brigade Headquarters Company came the Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon (LRRP) Medics helping to treat the hospital patients.

The paratroopers pitched in, astounding both both nurses and patients with the brisk efficiency and ferocity with which they attacked

their jobs. Anywhere something was found broken the men of the "Can Do" Battalion could be seen—patching doors, fixing and building shelves, cleaning out wells and repairing generators, the men went about their work with tireless effort.

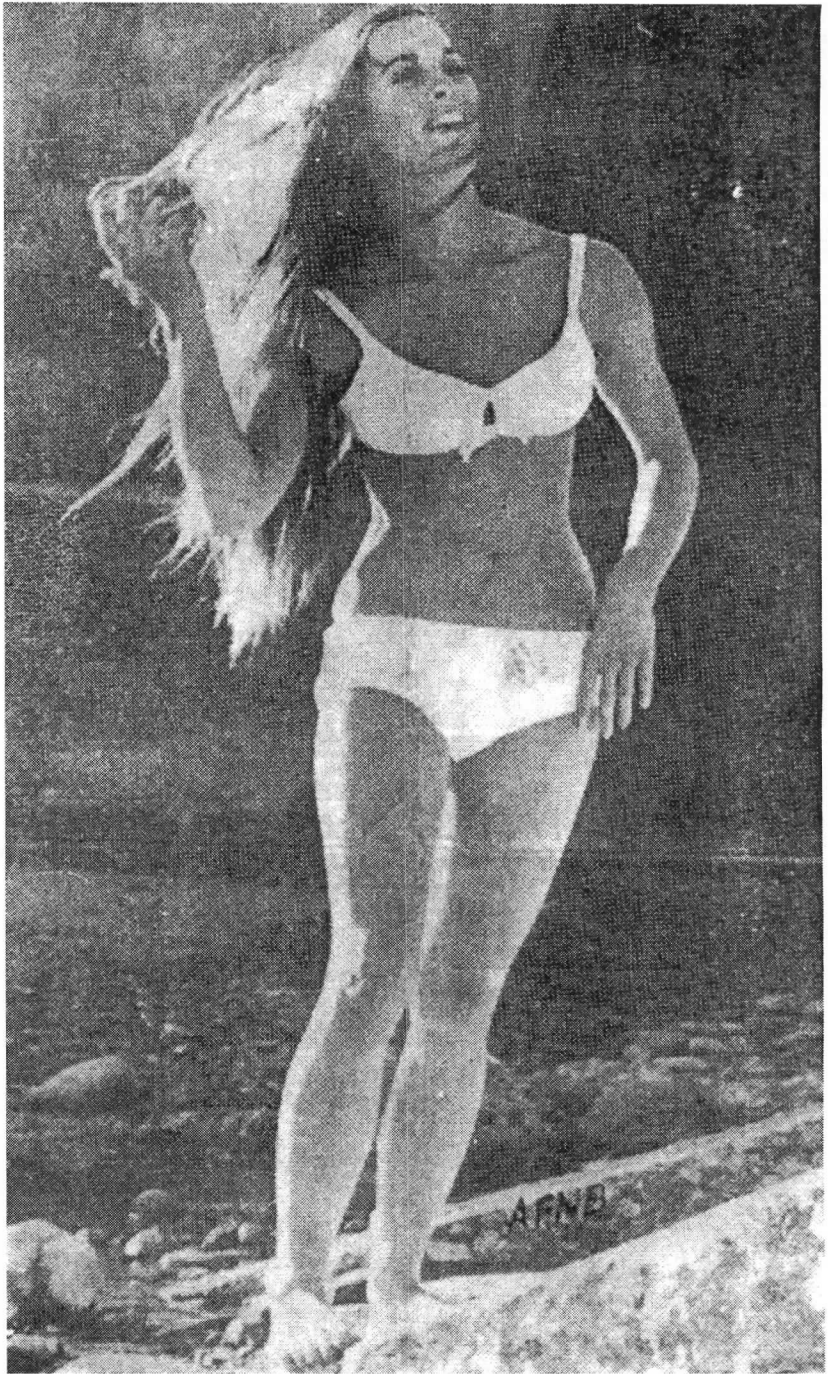
"We've never had a group like the 101st," exclaimed Miss Platz as she watched while small miracles were performed with typical paratrooper ability and skill. "They're really something special."

Sergeant Frank R. Aiken and Specialist 4 Michael Jones, both "C" Company medics, joined with Staff Sergeant Edward Mardis of the 433rd Medical Detachment, 10th Aviation Battalion to place a new plaster cast on a Montagnard tribesman who had a spinal disease and three infected ribs.

LRRP Medic Sergeant Robert P. Johnson and platoon leader Captain Robert L. Friedrich teamed with ward nurse O'Halloran to give injections to the patients.

Captain Patrick M. Bronnahan, commander of the forward Support Maintenance Detachment is supervising the work being done at the hospital. "The men are really doing a fine job. They enjoy helping the nurses and patients of the hospital in any way they can," he said.

And finally, "Diplomats and Warriors" of the 101st as they work are showing the Montagnards how to repair their facilities so when the call to move comes the projects won't stop.



Place Your Bets

(Cont'd from p-3, Col. 5)

None of the Cowboys has ever played in a championship game. The only post-season game Dallas has played in was the Playoff Bowl at Miami, vs. Baltimore, last January, won by the Colts 35-3.

There are eight newcomers on the Packers and seven are rookies—running backs Donny Anderson, Jim Grabowski and Phif Vandersea, guard Gale Gillingham, defensive end Bob Brown, defensive tackle Jim Weatherwax, and defensive back Dave Hathcock. The other new-

comer in receiver Red Mack, a six-year NFL veteran.

Like Green Bay, the Cowboys have seven rookies on their roster—running backs Walt Garrison and Les Shy, defensive backs Dick Daniels and Mike Johnson, offensive linemen John Niland and Malcolm Walke, and defensive end Willie Townes is the only starter although Niland started two games when Jim Boeke was sidelined with an injured knee. Two other Cowboy rookies, defensive tackles Bill Sandeman and John Wilbur, are off the roster because of knee injuries.

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Nancy Hesler
Associate - 1/08
602 Taft Ave.
Charleston, IL 61920-4133

Norman Miller
2/502 C 6/66-6/67 - 7/07
P. O. Box 1272
Russell Springs, KY 42642

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December 1, 2006 through
February 28, 2007

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Hopkinsville, KY 42240-5342

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2/327 C 1/66-1/67 - 10/08
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Norman, OK 73070-1286

Jerry L. Bell
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Savannah, TN 38372

Roy P. Blevins
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Falls Church, VA 22046-3630

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Clyde W. Bright \$
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Nashville, TN 37211-7931

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\$ = Above Subscription

Address Corrections

December 1, 2006 through
February 28, 2007

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Bad Addresses

December 1, 2006 through
February 28, 2007

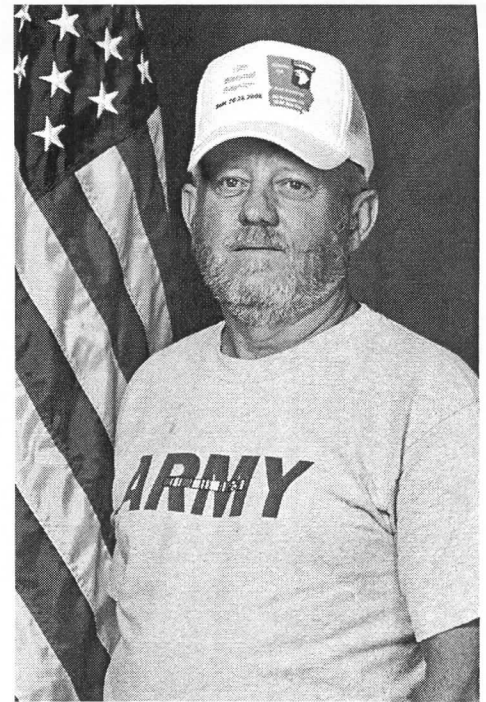
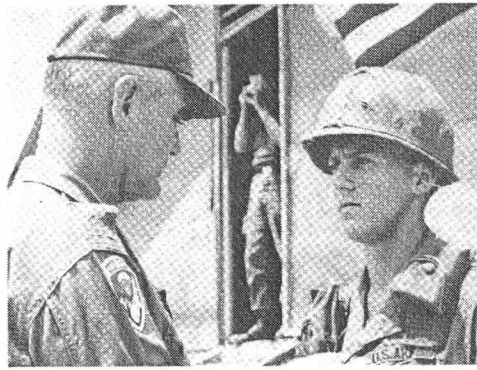
Frank M. Dunlevy
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4 Embarcadero Cntr, Suite 1200
San Francisco, CA 94111



WITH THE 101 IN VIETNAM

It has been announced that Gen. William C. Westmoreland, CG, MACV, will return home in June to be U. S. Army Chief of Staff. The Screaming Eagle extends a hearty "Well Done" to Gen. Westmoreland and wishes him all success in his new and most important assignment for our country.

In the photo to the right, Sgt. Michael P. Perry, a member of Co C, 2/502d Inf, receives the Distinguished Service Cross from Gen. Westmoreland in a ceremony at Bien Hoa. Sgt. Perry was cited for exceptional valor as a squad leader during the 1st Bde's Operation Wheeler, west of Tam Ky, on Sept. 29, 1967, in which his actions resulted in the elimination of 9 enemy bunkers, 18 VC killed, and numerous weapons captured. Said Sgt. Perry, "I was only trying to do my job."



"The Screaming Eagle" magazine May-June 1968 page 7

*Michael Perry (2/502 C 5/67-5/68)
at the September 2006 First
Brigade (S) Reunion.*



PERRY, MICHAEL P.

Sergeant, U.S. Army

Company C, 2d Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

Date of Action: September 29, 1967

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Michael P. Perry, Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Sergeant Perry (then Specialist Four) distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 September 1967 while serving as squad leader of an airborne infantry company on a search and destroy mission near Chu Lai. The forward platoons of the company received a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire that pinned them down and inflicted several casualties. Sergeant Perry's platoon was contacted and requested to move forward and flank the Viet Cong. While advancing toward its sister elements, his unit was suddenly subjected to intense hostile fire from fortified and well concealed bunkers. While the rest of the troops provided supporting fire, Sergeant Perry and his platoon sergeant charged through a hail of bullets, firing their rifles and throwing hand grenades into the Viet Cong position. Several enemy grenades landed near Sergeant Perry, and he unhesitatingly grabbed them and hurled them back at the insurgents. Although wounded by fragments from an exploding grenade, he refused to withdraw for medical treatment and continued his fierce assault until he had destroyed four enemy bunkers. He then quickly helped reorganize the platoon's troops and led them to relieve their beleaguered comrades. When savage automatic weapons fire again erupted on the platoon, Sergeant Perry and his platoon sergeant braved murderous fire to assault a Viet Cong position, successfully destroying it with hand grenades. Having expended his grenades, Sergeant Perry armed himself with enemy grenades and continued the attack through a curtain of fire. Sergeant Perry's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

HQ US Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 836 (February 23, 1968)



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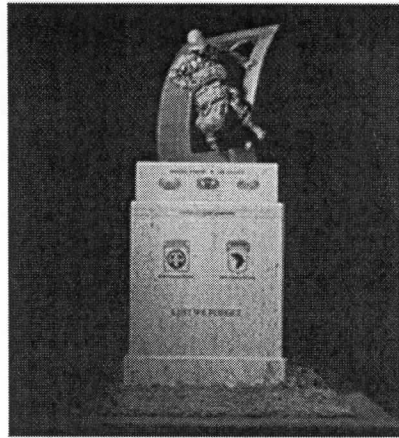
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ARMY

NAVY

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AIR FORCE



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My check for \$.....payable to the HEARTLAND AIRBORNE MEMORIAL INC.

purchased by my parents. Then, wearing a chest full of medals and parts of my body and soul missing, with no money for cab fare, I started hitch-hiking from the main gate to Dulles airport.

As a new member of the 'Wounded Warrior Project,' I'm more than aware of the 'Above and Beyond' efforts currently in place to assist amputees in getting settled, and marching forward with a positive attitude regarding their new challenges in life. Our servicemen and women are treated with the highest degree of respect; they are made aware of all their benefits, responsibilities, and return home to an incredible support system of family, friends, and government.

On the eve of my being wounded, I spent a few minutes with one of my commanders --- then Major --- Colonel David H. Hackworth. He asked if I would be serious about going to OCS (Officers Candidate School). I told him I was a high school drop out. He replied that --- with his 'order' --- I had a GED. He went further by stating that the war would go on for years; that the Army would need combat experienced officers. I asked him, "What makes a leader?" He replied, simply, "Three things: You take care of your people. And, always lead from the front. And always do the right thing, not the easy thing."

In the last years of his life, I became telephone-close to General William C. Westmoreland. He pretty much summed up leadership in the same way when he endorsed my novel *BUFFALO SOLDIERS*, which was 1 of 40 selections by then US Army Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki, for his Recommended Professional Reading List.

I saw all of that bear fruit two days ago.

Standing before a world television audience, four-star General Richard Cody, Vice Chief of Staff of the US Army, took the brunt of the blame for the recent mistakes regarding Building 18 at Walter Reed. That did not surprise me. Dick Cody is my friend, the man who fired the first shot in Operation Desert Storm from his Apache attack helicopter, taking out the Iraqi radar fence on the Saudi Arabian border. General Cody was the commanding general of the 101st Airborne when I was inducted as Distinguished Member of the Regiment (DMOR), the highest accolade that can be bestowed on a soldier by his division. Knowing General Cody, I know that he dearly cares more for his men, than his own life.

What happened? I'm still not certain. Somebody dropped the ball. The money was there. I assume the government contractors were there to do the job. That's where I would begin my inquiry. Not blaming the men and women of the medical corps and Army command, who work tirelessly to make certain that our wounded warriors are treated with respect, dignity, education, and... don't have to worry about hitch-hiking in the dark to get home.

An apology is owed to the staff, personnel, and the United States Army, who continue to provide progressive care for the wounded at Walter Reed Army Hospital.

After the painful experience of Vietnam, we swore that our

children, as Thomas Paine prayed, would not suffer trouble; that they would know peace. That prayer has gone unfulfilled. However, if any are traumatically wounded, they have the US Army Walter Reed Hospital waiting.

A safe haven.

With warmest regards,
Tommie Willard, Author
DMOR, 1/327 Airborne Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, "Class of '65"

DAN CLINT, 1/327 A TF 5/67-5/68
21 Paseo de Aguila, Santa Fe, NM 87506
pappy117@msn.com
Subject: Sgt Welker

When I came in country in May of 1967 I went through p-training in Phan Rang. Sgt. Welker went through p-training at the same time, along with Cipriani, Dominguez and others. We ended up going to A Company, 1st of the 327th together. Cipriani was killed in action within a few weeks 5/29/67. Later, I learned Cipriani was from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Sgt. Welker shared his dream of becoming the Sergeant Major of the Army. It was a dream that was not to be realized. He died as a result of a bouncing betty mine 7/27/67.

In going through some of my photos I pulled this one out, of Sgt. Welker, thought I'd share it. He seemed like such an old man at the time. I think he was around 27.



Thomas A. Welker, KIA

Dan Clint

Editor's Note: This came from a string of e-mails forwarded by Yankee Jim Simchera, 2/327 A 9/69-9/70.



FROM U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

+ COL(R) KENNETH W. PFEIFFER, 1/327 C 8/66-8/67, 9330 Laurel Grove, San Antonio, TX 78250-3552, (210) 684-4034 when renewing his subscription wrote: Thanks for your great publication and additional thanks to you and your family for the great reunion.

+ CSM(R) ROBERT A. YOUNG, HHC CSM 6/66-6/67, 2 North East Street, Green City, MO 63545-1024, (660) 874-5123 wrote: Just received the Jan 07 issue of the "Always First Brigade" magazine – good read!

Ivan, I hope Fred and his "Virginia Gang" can put together a good brigade reunion in '08. You set the bar very high in Sept 06 – the best one I attended!

Keep up your good work, publishing the brigade magazine. Always look forward to receiving it!

+ SGT ANTHONY E. BOUCHARD, 1/327 HQ&HQ TF 6/66-6/67, 178 Tusculum Rd., Antioch, TN 37013-4050, (615) 832-1867 along with his subscription renewal wrote: What you have done since Viet Nam to help our 'Band of Brothers' is surely indicative of the person you are and the soldier you were. I am proud to call you friend.

+ JOSE S. LAGUANA, 2/502 A 12/65-9/66, P.O. Box 21823, Barrigada, Guam 96921-1823, (671) 653-5459 wrote when renewing his subscription: I was off the island for the last two months and I am trying to catch up with all the things that I am behind with. Thanks for reminding me about the subscription and I hope that this \$30.00 will cover membership dues too. I have lost all the material that I had during my tour with the 1st BDE in the last two big typhoons we had. My roof was blown off and everything got wet. I have a few General Orders of some of the awards that I received for action that we encountered. Most of all I just want to stay a member with the BDE till I die!

Sincerely yours,
Jose S. Laguana

Editor's Note: This is not a membership organization. The magazine has subscribers whose support makes publishing the magazine possible.

+ NANCY HESLER, Associate, 602 Taft Ave., Charleston, IL 61920-4133, (217) 345-5377 when becoming a new subscriber wrote: It was good to see you again at Snowbird and enjoy the warmer weather there – we've had various types since we returned home, all of it has been bad.

I've read your "First Brigade" magazine you shared with me (Jan 07 issue) with much interest and want to sign up for a year's subscription. I love the cover – those small pictures of

past sketches give one the full impression the artist has of it all. And the content seems to have a wide variety of information and opinion.

I'm working on a book club project this year and am certain your magazine should help to provide a much-needed background of Viet Nam for me.

Please give Alice my regards. I have warm memories of her gracious hospitality when we invaded Sweetwater 'way back when.' I never did manage to get the hang of making those appetizers (the biscuit/cheese/sausage ones) she whisked from the oven for us.

Many thanks,
Nancy

The following letter was received from William B. Singerhoff, HHC 1st Bde 67-68.

March 1, 2007

Dear Ivan,

Thanks so much for calling me back. I was recently diagnosed with PTSD by the Phych types at the VA, Nashville, due to a convoy I was on out of Duc Pho, RVN in which SGT Douglas M. Franklin was killed and SP4 Patrick Kennedy, the driver and SP4 Wolfe, the M-60 gunner all of the 1st Platoon, 101 MP Company were wounded when an explosive charge the enemy had buried in the road exploded. They were the forward convoy support and the first vehicle in the convoy.

The convoy was on August 1, 1967 and was put together to resupply a Squad of 101 MPs who were located at the Quang Ngai Air Base north of Duc Pho.

My duty at the time was as the CID Agent assigned to the forward area to handle all felony level investigations and my direct supervisor was the Provost Marshal, then Major Carl Allen. I had been real busy about that time, needed a break and asked the Provost Marshal to allow me to go on that convoy which he approved. I was in the third vehicle back, which was the supply 2 1/2 ton truck riding in the right front seat. The PM had to approve this because I had to stay in contact to get my regular assignments from him.

I need someone who remembers that convoy and that I was on it to write me a letter to support my claim. This is very important to me and I appreciate anything you might be able to do.

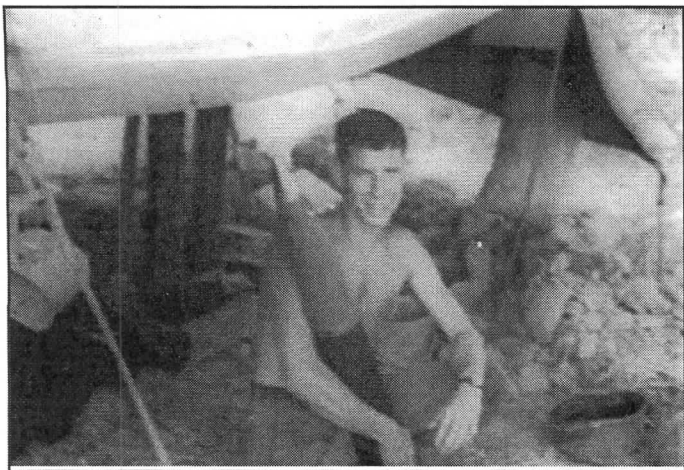
At the time I was actually assigned to HHC, 1st Brigade, 101 Abn Div, OPCON to the MP/ Provost Marshal.

Again thanking you in advance,

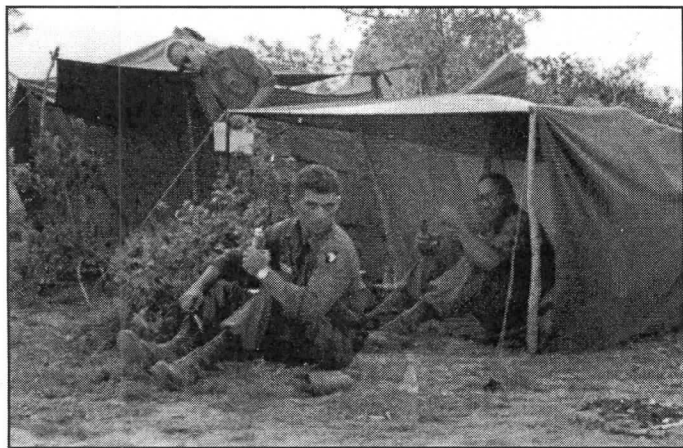
/s/ William B. Singerhoff (Bill)
William B218@Hotmail.com
931-553-4090



+ BOB DICKSON, 2/320 FA B Btry 7/65-8/66, Box 203, New Hartford, IA 50660, (319) 983-2777 sent the photos below.



Bob Dickson humping ammo somewhere in Viet Nam 1965.



Taken shortly after the LeRoy Eltinge arrived at Cam Ranh Bay. Alan Westrud standing in back of tent, Chuck Streeton seated with beer in hand, DeJesus on right.

+ = Current Subscriber



Check out the new
First Brigade
Web Site At:

firstscreeamingeagles.org/

SGM WALTER J.

Ivan:

There is a sidebar to the Sab story.

He retired to Palm Bay, FL. I don't know the year. When I learned that I called him up and invited him to a big travel seminar my company hosted at the local community college. This was between '83-89' Maybe '87?

He and his wife (I regret not recalling her name) came. Sab wore a dark blue suit, tie and spit shined low-quarters. It was the first and only time I saw him in civvies. He told me he was advising/training either the county police or the FL Hwy Patrol on self defense. He looked in good shape.

At the end of the travel show I addressed the audience and introduced Sab as a great soldier, the command sergeant major, from the 101st in Vietnam.

I worried there might be a bad, anti-war reaction, but ...

THEY GAVE HIM A STANDING OVATION!

It was fantastic.

That's the last time I saw him.

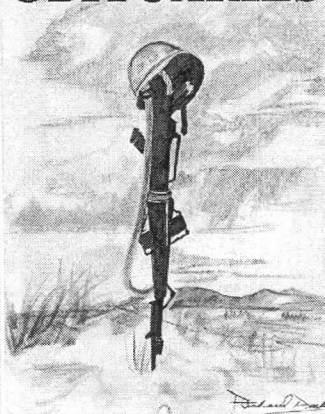
Bill

PS: In Vietnam he told me he wanted his final assignment to be training West Point cadets. As only the army could, they assigned him somewhere else. I believe he got on the horn to Westmoreland and secured the job. They must have loved him at the Point.

bill_singley@hotmail.com



OBITUARIES



Jack Browder

2/502 A 4/66-4/67

The January 2007 magazine and First Class Mail to Jack Browder, 132 West St. Plainfield, IN 46168 was returned marked "moved left no address."

Received a message from Michael McFadden (2/502 A 6/66-6/67) that he passed away. Shot full of cancer which was attributed to Agent Orange.



The top kick is a

Legend in the Five-O-Deuce

Sent by
William P. Singley,
BDE HQ PIO

SP4 William P. Singley

Twenty-eight years ago—in June 1939, three months before Hitler blitzkrieged Poland—a promising young boxer exchanged his gloves and trunks for the uniform of the U.S. Army. At the time “Wally Sabath” had a ring record of 58 wins and two losses. His victories included decisions over some of the best in the light-weight and welter-weight divisions.

Today, that tough fighter from Chicago is Sergeant Major Walter J. Sabalauski, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

Few enlisted men have compiled a record as remarkable as the 57-year old sergeant major. He recalls the old days at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, when “I was a yardbird and the newest soldier above me had 13 years of service.”

When war broke out in December 1941, the “yardbird” of Company E, 35th Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, started island hopping. On Guadalcanal his platoon leader was Lieutenant (now MG) Leland G. Cagwin, and his battalion commander was Stanley R. Larsen, now Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Continental Army Command.

“Fighting in the Philippines was much like conditions here in Vietnam, with jungle and rough terrain,” says the Sergeant. “We were preparing for the invasion of Japan, when V-J Day came. We were at sea and we had nothing to celebrate with,” recalls the Pacific veteran.

Subsequent assignments included a short stint as part of a military government team in Korea, and a

SPECIALIST 4 WILLIAM P. SINGLEY is assigned to Headquarters, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.



tour with Fifth U.S. Army headquarters in Chicago.

When the Korean war started, Sergeant Sabalauski returned to the 25th Division and his old company. “Korea was different from Vietnam,” he notes. “You knew where the enemy was.”

He served in Korea twice between hitches with the 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 1959, he joined the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 504th Infantry, 8th Division in Germany.

The sergeant major prefers to stay close to the action. “It’s like boxing,” he says. “Your training pays off.”

In 1963, he volunteered as an advisor to the 32d Vietnamese Ranger Battalion. Following that tour he re-returned to the 82d Airborne Division in time to go to the Dominican Republic. From the Caribbean, Sergeant Sabalauski returned to Vietnam and the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division to become the first sergeant of Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502 Infantry.

When his unit was threatened with being overrun by Viet Cong during Operation Hawthorne in Kontum Province, his commanding officer called in an airstrike on their position, an action that saved the lives of many paratroopers. For his bravery in that action, the fighting First Sergeant was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

The Vietnam veteran next became the First Sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Recently promoted to sergeant major, Sergeant Sabalauski feels the young “Screaming Eagles” of today are smarter than their World War II and Korean counterparts. “It took more than three years to make a professional soldier in the old days. Now a few firefights make the young trooper experienced and better than his predecessors in other wars.”

Backing up this judgment are the Sergeant’s impressive credentials. His service record notes he has won the DSC, Silver Star, four Bronze Stars for valor, four Purple Hearts, three Army Comendation Medals, the Air Medal, and wears three Presidential Unit Citations, to name only his principal decorations.

The Heartland
Airborne Chapter
&

AMERICAN PRODUCTS INC.

proudly introduces the

Airborne Memorial Commemorative Miniature



Determination, courage and skill are just some of the attributes symbolized in artist and sculptor Matthew Placzek's wonderful tribute to all Airborne warriors. This inspiring sculpture will be the centerpiece of the Heartland Park in Omaha, Nebraska.

Artist Placzek has captured the essence of the Airborne warrior.



The heavily laden paratrooper is depicted having just exited the door of his plane and seems frozen between heaven and hell. You can just imagine hearing him give the traditional "Geronimo" yell.

All of the detail of the actual sculpture is captured in this tribute which is attractively mounted on a hardwood base. A commemorative medal set on the base denotes the Heartland Park in Omaha. It stands 8" tall and has the same bronze look of the actual memorial. All proceeds will go to the completion and upkeep of the park.

If "Airborne All The Way" has been part of your life, or if someone you care for has met the test and earned their wings, you should own this tribute. It makes a perfect gift for your loved one who has had the grit and love of country to step out of that door and yell "Geronimo!"

Complete your gift with a personal message engraved in brass...

Sgt. G. I. Joe
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18 08

Airborne Memorial Miniature: Total : \$100.00 ea. x ____ +\$9.95 ea. S&H = \$ _____

Name Plate, with up to three lines of copy : Additional \$10.00 ea. miniature x ____ = \$ _____

(Attach separate sheet with Name Plate copy) Total (In US Funds) \$ _____

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We accept VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER & AMERICAN EXPRESS only. Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

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Canadian purchasers must designate on checks or credit cards that amount being paid is in US funds.

Authorizing Signature: _____

Cobra Lake

Welcome All



The COBRA REUNION is scheduled for June 21 - 23, 2007, at Cobra Lake near Crossville, Tennessee. Host and hostess for the reunion are Kenneth F. and Angela Ihle, 1/327 C 3/65-7/66. For more information and registration requirements contact Carl S. Coulthard, 1/327 B 6/66-6/67, 904 County Home Rd, Hamlet, NC 28345-4391, (910) 582-8147, e-mail CarlandMarla@carolina.rr.com.

The reunion for Cobra Company, 1/327 veterans is a wonderful place for fellowship with fellow veterans in a beautiful setting with hosts who go to great lengths to make us welcome and to provide the basics of fun, fellowship, food and drink.

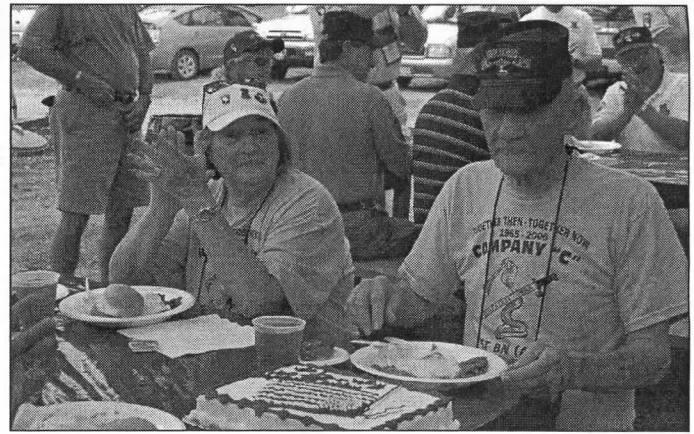
All photographs that follow were taken at the 2006 reunion.



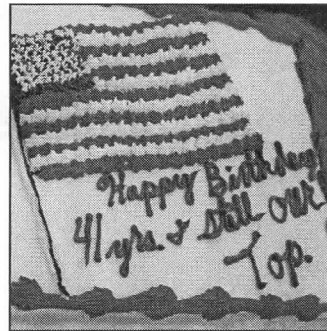
Kenneth F. and Angela Ihle, 1/327 C 3/65-7/66 pose at the gate to their property that includes Cobra Lake.



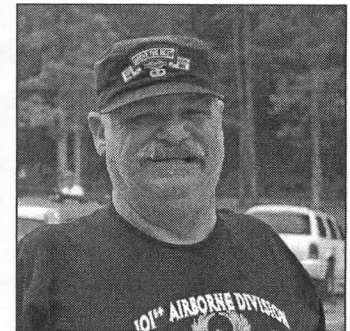
T-shirt prepared by David J. Markham, 1/327 C 10/66-10/67. Words from the cobra's mouth say "41 Years And Still ABOVE THE REST."



Faye and CSM(R) John R. "Russ" McDonald, 1/327 C 7/65-7/68 "COBRA TOP," eat before he cuts his birthday cake.



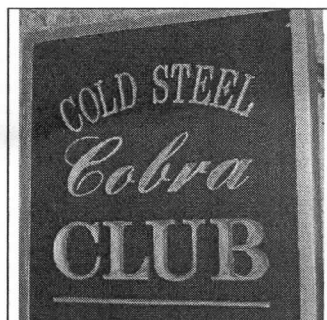
The birthday cake for "COBRA TOP" says "Happy Birthday, 41 years & still our Top."



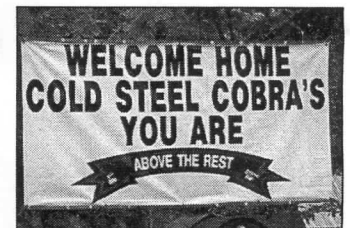
Carl S. Coulthard, 1/327 B 6/66-6/67, in charge of registration.



The first highway out of Crossville, going to Cobra Lake, is Tennessee 101 and this is at the first turn.



Sign inside the Ihle's garage that serves as a shelter from the sun and rain at reunions.



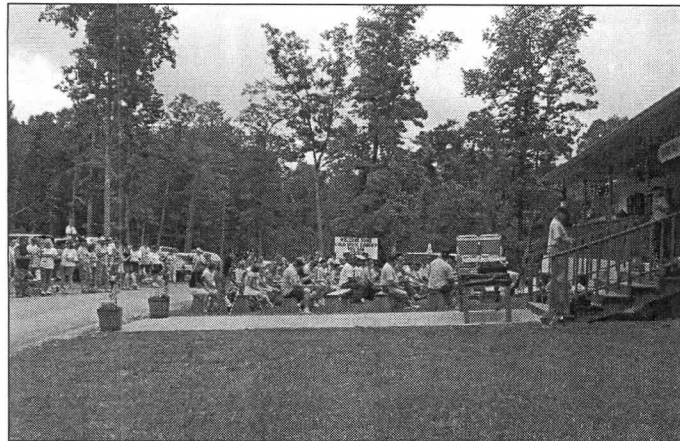
The WELCOME HOME SIGN by Ken and Angie's driveway.



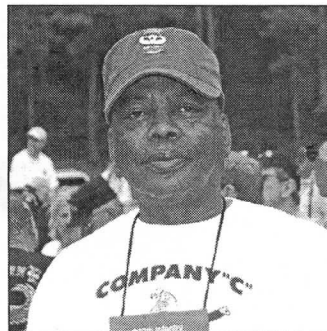
Theodore Penton, 21327 C 10/67-2/69
and David J. Markham, 11327 C 10/66-10/67.



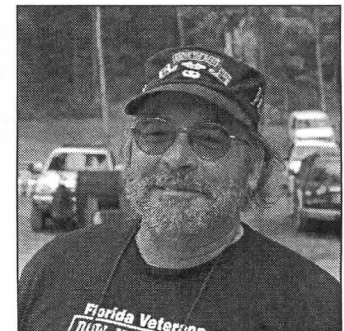
Tim and Anna Zumwalt, 11327 B 5/65-7/66 EIT.



A crowd gathers for announcements and drawing on Sunday afternoon.



Eartis Booth,
11327 B 7/65-6/66



Gregory D. Whitlock,
11327 B 67-68



WHEN YOU HEAR THE BUGLE CALL BOOK REVIEW

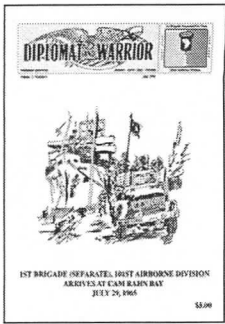
Unfortunately, the Vietnam Veteran has never received any measure of respect for his exertions in a bitter war fought under most difficult conditions. The image of a young infantryman walking point down some stinking jungle trail surrounded by danger and risking his life, limbs and manhood with each step taken persists.

Here is the story of a young paratrooper who served with dignity, loyalty, honor and dedication in the battalion which I was fortunate to command in 1965 – 1966. I am proud to have been associated with Pete Griffin and all of his paratroop companions who fought the good fight but who suffered the great pain and anguish of returning home to a totally thankless society. I commend this book to anyone wishing to gain an insight into why so many Vietnam Veterans have experienced difficulty in adjusting after such a soul searing experience. Fortunately, Pete has found his way and is now reaching out to help others do the same.

I am confident that the Vietnam Vets will receive their full payback in Heaven. Bless them all, bless them all – the sergeants and privates and all.

HENRY E. EMERSON
LT. GEN. U S Army (RET)

Editor's Note: The above Review by General Emerson is printed on the back of Peter Griffin's book that was reviewed on pages 10 and 11 of the January 2007 issue. For more information about the book call 1-888-232-4444.



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



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Issue #17



Issue #18



Issue #19



Issue #20



Issue #21



Issue #22



Issue #23



Issue #24



Issue #25



Issue #26



Issue #27



Issue #28

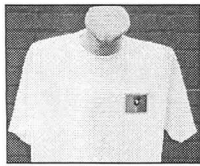


Issue #29



Issue #30

1st BRIGADE (SEPARATE) ITEMS FOR SALE



1st Brigade (S) Logo
T Shirt Full Color



1st Brigade (S) Logo
Golf Shirt Full Color



1st Brigade (S) Logo Cap
Full Color

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_____	Logo T-shirt S, M, L, XL	\$12.00 + \$4.05 (\$16.05) (Circle logo below)
_____	Logo T-shirt XXL & XXXL	\$14.00 + \$4.05 (\$18.05) (Circle logo below)
_____	Logo Golf shirt S, M, L, XL	\$20.00 + \$4.05 (\$24.05) (Circle logo below)
_____	Logo Golf shirt XXL & XXXL	\$22.00 + \$4.05 (\$26.05) (Circle logo below)
_____	VIETNAM ODYSSEY,	\$15.00 postpaid
_____	BACK ISSUES of <i>The Diplomat & Warrior</i>	1, 2, 3, 4 (\$7.50 each postpaid)
_____	BACK ISSUES of <i>First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam</i>	5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 (\$7.50 each postpaid)
_____	Reprint of the December 1967 <i>Screaming Eagle Magazine</i>	(\$7.50 each postpaid)
_____	Plastic Auto Tag	(\$5.00 [\$8.00 with magnets] each postpaid)
_____	Label quality sticker 4 inch diameter full color logo	(4 labels \$2.50 postpaid)
_____	Decal for inside and outside view full color four inch round	(\$2.50 each postpaid)
_____	Airborne Salute - <u>Audio Cassette</u> or <u>CD</u> Circle One	(\$15.00 each postpaid)
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TOTAL		\$ _____

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101st ABN DIV
Screaming Eagle Logo



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- (4) The All American Soldier [82d Airborne Division Song]
- (5) Screaming Eagles [101st Airborne Division Song]
- (6) March of the New Infantry [Paratrooper Song]
- (7) Blood on the Risers
- (8) The Army Goes Rolling Along

\$15.00 Postpaid for CD or tape

(Has some surface noise from the 1959 record used to make the new master.)

1st Brigade (S) CHALLENGE COIN

This challenge coin is a beautiful example of taking a great design and having skilled artists produce a coin that any unit would be proud of. Designed by Roger M. John [1/327 C 7/67-12/68] for the 9th Biennial 1st Brigade (S) Reunion in Phoenix, Arizona in September of 2004, it is appropriate for any use or time because it is not identified with that reunion.



[Actual 1 1/2 inch size]

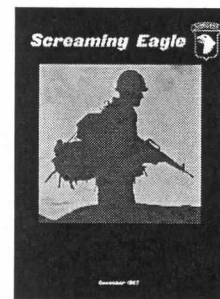
The 1 1/2 inch diameter coin is crafted in vivid colors, has a beveled edge and is coated with a clear acrylic to preserve the coin's surface. (It is unfortunate that it cannot be shown here in color.) Cost is \$10.00 per coin, postpaid. See page 34 for order form.



The 1st Brigade (S) plastic auto tag is not new but it has been improved. It now can be ordered with magnets on the back so it can be attached to any ferrous metal surface. Regular tag without magnets \$5.00. Improvement costs \$3.00 - total price \$8.00.



Viet Nam Odyssey



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



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.



Issue #31



Issue #32



Issue #33



Issue #34



Issue #35



Issue #36

THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM

Ivan Worrell, Editor and Publisher
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Sweetwater, TN 37874-0675

Phone or FAX 1-423-337-5983

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CHECK OUT THE
1ST BRIGADE (SEPARATE) WEB SITE AT
<http://firstscreeamingeagles.org/>

THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM

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Material to be published in the
JULY 2007 issue of The First SCREAMING EAGLES In Viet Nam is Due June 1st, 2007

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College Park, GA 30337-0518
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327th ABN INF Assoc (Vietnam)

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

THE AIRBORNE QUARTERLY

COL (R) William E. Weber
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Email: eagle187@direcway.com

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Following is a description of most of the items published in the April 2007 issue of **The First SCREAMING EAGLES in Viet Nam magazine**. The Editor's sincere thanks go to those who contributed material to make the magazine more interesting and to all the subscribers who make the magazine possible.

INSIDE FRONT COVER

The announcement of a new web site for the **FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES** is a long awaited event. All veterans of the brigade are urged to check it out. This page also includes some thoughts written by the editor.

RECOMMENDATION OF PUCPAGES 1 – 15

This recommendation for award of the Presidential Unit Citation for the 1st Brigade for actions between May 1967 and November 1967 was written and signed when COL Frank Dietrich was Brigade Commander. The historical significance of the material and detailed description of the operations made it worthy of the space needed to publish the entire document in one issue.

SOME 2/327 VETERANS AT THE REUNIONPAGE 15

Photo by Bobby Burleson and material about those in the photo by Robert C. Hudson.

A LETTER HOMEPAGE 16

COL (R) Melvin Garten shared one of the letters he wrote from Viet Nam.

TERRY L. WREN, 2/327 A 4/67-2/68PAGE 16

PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES story of how Terry Wren used his radio to summon assistance and help save the platoon he was with from disaster.

DIPLOMAT AND WARRIORPAGES 17 – 20

The January 2, 1967 issue of the DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR is most-ly concerned about events in the Kontum area and Operation Pickett.

SUBSCRIBERSPAGES 21 & 22

This list is composed of NEW SUBSCRIBERS, those who have RENEWED SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADDRESS CORRECTIONS and BAD ADDRESSES. Please note the address corrections and send us correct addresses for the bad address if you know them.

MICHAEL P. PERRY, 2/502 C 5/67-5/68PAGE 23
Material from the 101st Airborne Division Association magazine, **THE SCREAMING EAGLE**, about the Distinguished Service Cross received from General William C. Westmoreland.

AIRBORNE MONUMENTPAGE 24

A rendering and other material about the monument dedicated to paratroopers to be built in Omaha, Nebraska and ready for visits during the 101st Airborne Division Association reunion in August of this year. Terry R. Zahn, SPT BN HQ Elt 7/65-5/66, is one of the leaders on the monument committee.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORPAGES 25 – 28

Messages from 1st Brigade veterans come from the brigade web site, e-mail and through the U. S. Postal Service. Most mail that may be of interest to brigade veterans is published.

OBITUARYPAGE 28

Only one obituary was found this quarter. The death of Jack Browder, 2/502 A 4/66 – 4/67 is reported.

SGM WALTER SABALAUSKIPAGES 28 – 29

A story from **ARMY DIGEST** and another personal experience is reported by William P. Singley, BDE HQ PIO 67 - ?.

AIRBORNE MONUMENT MINIATUREPAGE 30

Order blank for individual miniatures of the Airborne Monument being built in Omaha, Nebraska.

COBRA LAKEPAGES 31 & 32

Information about the 2007 Cobra Lake Reunion as well as photos from the 2006 reunion.

ITEMS FOR SALEPAGES 33 – 35

Covers of all back issues are shown in thumbnail format along with 1st Brigade related memorabilia. An order blank is included.

AIRBORNE ASSOCIATIONSPAGE 36

Some associations and publications that may be of interest to veterans of the 1st Brigade (S) in Viet Nam.

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CHU LAI, Vietnam—MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. Their eyes focused on the body of a fallen paratrooper, Lt. Clyde B. Herrington, Millins, S.C., radios a situation report to his company during Operation Benton. The Screaming Eagle brigade killed 61 enemy the first day of the operation. At right is radio-telephone operator Spoc. 4 Jimmy F. Brown, St. Louis. (USA Photo by Staff Sgt. Art Campbell)

From COL(R) Gerry Morse (11327 C.O. 7167-6168) scrapbook.

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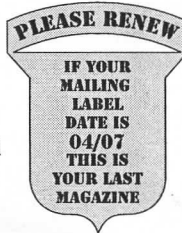
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