

*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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101st Airborne Division

Volume 9, Number 3

July 2007

\$6.00

# ***The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade***



**SORRY ABOUT THAT!**

I have had the good fortune to attend two great gatherings since the publication of the April edition of the magazine.

The Memorial Day weekend in Washington, D. C., sponsored by the National Capital Area Chapter was truly outstanding. Dennis Husereau, Chapter President and Robert E. Ponzio, Chapter Treasurer along with the other important volunteers were great hosts. The wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns was a particular honor and visits to the World War II Memorial where a wreath was laid, the Korean War Memorial where I was asked to lay the wreath and the Vietnam Memorial Wall were all events not to be soon forgotten.

I was amazed at the number of people visiting all the war memorials. These crowds proved to me that those who sacrificed to defend our country are not forgotten.

The ceremony at the 101st Airborne Division Memorial was well attended and was made more meaningful by the presence of the Color Guard, the commanding General and the Command Sergeant Major from the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT). Dennis Husereau presided. Short speeches were made by Major General Jeffrey Schloesser, Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division and Fort Campbell, KY, and COL(R) Lawrence A. Redmond, 2/327 A 5/67-2/68, 101st Airborne Division Association President. The laying of wreaths to honor our units and departed fellow soldiers was an awesome ceremony. I did not participate in the Monday parade but have been told it was a very impressive observance of the official Memorial Day holiday.

More information and photos of the Memorial Day activities will be published in the October 2007 magazine.

Before going to Washington for the Memorial Day observance I attended the first reunion of the unit I served with in Korea. The 1st Loudspeaker and Leaflet Company reunion was hosted by the Special Warfare Center where a class room was dedicated in the Company's name and we were guests at the Annual Memorial Ceremony of the Special Warfare Center where those who were Killed In Action in 1952 - 53 were recognized for the first time. I had the opportunity to meet the brother and sister of the only man KIA while I was the Loudspeaker Platoon Leader for nine months. The Company was an Eighth Army unit and my platoon was responsible for all the ground loudspeakers broadcasting propaganda to Korean and Chinese enemy forces across the Eighth Army front. I was also able to swap war stories with two men who served in the company when I did, one of whom was an equipment repair man in my platoon.

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).



COL(R) Lawrence A. "Larry" Redmond, 2/327 A 5/67-2/68, (R) is the Static Line 2007 1st Brigade (S) 101st Airborne Division MAN OF THE YEAR. Following the Static Line Awards Dinner he is congratulated by MAJ(R) Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5/66-5/67, editor and publisher of *The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam*. The Awards Dinner was on April 14th 2007, at the Atlanta Airport Marriott Hotel. Larry Redmond now serves as the President of the 101st Airborne Division Association. He was the Master of Ceremonies for both the Memorial Luncheon and the Always First Dinner at the September 2006 First Brigade (S) Reunion.

Part of the tour sponsored by the Special Warfare Center was a visit to the Airborne and Special Warfare Museum in Fayetteville. Before entering the museum I found the monument dedicated to the First Brigade (S) 101st Airborne Division and had a picture taken with it in the foreground. That picture will be on this page in the October issue.

The DMOR ceremonies in the 1st Brigade Combat Team (First Brigade [327th]) 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and 2nd Brigade Combat Team (2nd Brigade [502nd]) were very impressive with more pomp and circumstance than any new Distinguished Member of the Regiment could expect. More details on both DMOR ceremonies in the October issue.

Please remember this is a historical presentation not breaking news!

I continue to receive payment for subscriptions for more than one year and would like to repeat my disclaimer. This magazine has little backup. An editor/publisher and a part time administrative assistant make up the entire staff. Should I be physically unable to publish the magazine, those multi-year subscriptions would not be rebated.

My last official duties as Governor for the 327/401 will be fulfilled in Omaha in August so my responsibilities to the 101st Airborne Division Association will be fulfilled

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





# MOH For SSG Ira Perkins???

## BANGOR DAILY NEWS

(February 5, 2001)

### MOH For SSG Ira Perkins

Former Alexander resident and Staff Sgt. Ira Perkins

Fighting for a warrior; Brothers in arms seek medal for Maine veteran

By Diana Graettinger, Of the NEWS Staff

American soldiers, led by former Alexander resident Staff Sgt. Ira "Hilton" Perkins, were on a search and destroy operation in Dak To, Vietnam. It was not the first time Perkins and his men had been on a mission deep into the Vietnamese jungles, but it was to be Perkins' last.

June 1966 was the height of the monsoon season, and the United States was fighting North Vietnamese forces. It was still early in the war for the United States. American spirits were high, and the nation and its leaders still believed that communism could be defeated if we just used enough firepower. It would be years before our demoralized troops returned home and the United States felt the sting of defeat.

Perkins had been in Vietnam for about six months, but during that time he had distinguished himself by winning two Silver Stars and a Bronze Star for Valor, a second Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He also was awarded two Vietnam medals for valor. Perkins died on the battlefield on June 7, 1966. He was 29.

Now, nearly 35 years later, the men who served under him want him to receive the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award. And an unlikely leader, Maine Army National Guard recruiter Sgt. Bill Ferris, leads them. A career military man, Ferris has spent the past 26 years in the Army and Army National Guard, most recently as a recruiter in Calais and Bangor for the Army National Guard.

The Ferris-Perkins effort began on Memorial Day 1998, when Ferris discovered that a flag on a soldier's grave was missing.

That day, a cup of coffee in hand, Ferris visited the Calais cemetery where flags had been placed on the military graves in honor of the day. Walking among the graves, he noticed that there was no flag on Perkins' grave. He also noted the date Perkins had died and the list of medals he had won. He figured there was a Vietnam connection.

Ferris went to the Calais Armory, got a flag, returned to the cemetery and placed it on Perkins' grave. The connection with the Vietnam War and the number of medals Perkins had won made Ferris curious about the man, so he asked some questions. The first few people with whom he spoke didn't know anything about Perkins. He finally talked to a man who not



Ira Perkins

only had known the sergeant, but who also knew about his service in Vietnam. Ferris next met with Perkins' family, and together they began the battle to win Perkins the Medal of Honor.

Ferris said Perkins never knew he had been awarded any of his medals. They were presented to his family after his death. During a recent interview, Ferris pondered the irony of his initial cemetery visit. "If there had been a flag on that grave, I never would have walked up to it. Maybe it's fate," he said.

In 1965, Perkins, a career military man, was at Fort Benning, Ga., training troops for Vietnam when he decided he couldn't keep sending young men to a war he had not seen. Married and the father of four children, he applied for a waiver so he could go. The Army approved, and in December 1965, he landed in Vietnam.

Two months later, his superiors recommended him for a Silver Star after he and his platoon successfully defeated a reinforced Viet Cong squad at My Canh. His platoon didn't lose a single man. Later, on the evening of Feb. 27, Perkins' platoon encountered another Viet Cong squad, and, while leading his squad in the assault, "he personally charged a well-entrenched insurgent machine gun position and destroyed it, killing three Viet Cong." Three of his men were wounded, and he carried them through enemy fire to safety.

That April, Perkins was awarded the Bronze Star for Heroism in connection with a battle at Thain Long. His platoon had been sent in to secure a helicopter landing zone. As the heli-



copters began to land, the Viet Cong fired on them. One helicopter was hit and crashed to the ground. Perkins ran across the bullet-swept area and carried the injured pilot to safety.

There were more battles and more skirmishes with the enemy, and in early June, Perkins' company was moving through thick jungle at Dak To.

"Damn tuff [sic] terrain," wrote then 18-year-old paratrooper Robert R. Papesh of Ravenna, Ohio. Papesh was assigned to the third platoon ABU Company, 1st of the 327 ABU Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Perkins was his platoon sergeant. Papesh and other platoon members who served under Perkins have written accounts of what happened that day to support the quest for the medal.

Dominick Fondo Jr., now of Hollywood, Fla., described the platoon's location. "[We] were ordered into the Central Highlands of Vietnam, a place known for strong concentrations of North Vietnamese Regulars. This was Kontum Province," he wrote. Their mission was to find and wipe out Viet Cong. Papesh described the days leading up to the June 7 battle. "We began running sweeping patrols, although we found many signs, almost every hilltop was fortified with bunker complex trenches well dug and well maintained. On a few, we found rice still in pots cooking, and we knew our enemy was close at hand," he wrote.

After the first few days of "cat and mouse," Papesh said, the enemy became more evident. "They began to hit us with small ambushes and sniper fire, then our contacts grew into a running battle. Sgt. Perkins kept telling us to stay alert. He knew we were being drawn into something big. I think we all did."

On June 7, the men were ordered to the top of a ridge. "Staff Sgt. Perkins was not the type of person to tell you to take a hill. His exact words would be, 'Follow me. We are taking this hill,'" Fondo wrote.

"We were ordered to run a sweep down into and out of a small valley to our front. Perk didn't like it. He said it was a trap ... this was one bad area," Papesh wrote. "We moved out a rifleman to my front, my assistant gunner behind me, ammo bearer and the rest of third platoon starting out the other side, when the N.V.A. [North Vietnamese Army] opened up on us. ... They were on three sides of us."

Fondo described the trek into the valley as a "deadly horseshoe type ambush. ... The platoon was now fighting for their lives."

"At first it was hand-to-hand fighting, a lot of small arms," Papesh wrote. "AK fire, light machine gun fire and hand grenades. It was fast-paced and very intense. Somehow Perk made his way in front of us, all the while firing his weapon and screaming encouragement to us, pointing out machine gun emplacements for me to engage."

Fondo's assistant gunner was hit, as were others. "Perkins ... was attacking the very positions that had us pinned down," he said.

Then, a North Vietnamese soldier "popped up in front of Perk," took aim and shot him, Papesh said. "Perk stood up straight, changed his magazine, then killed the NVA. He turned his head toward me and yelled for us to keep moving forward," he said.

"The fire we were taking," Papesh said, "seemed to intensify. There was enemy all over. For as many as we took out, more seemed to join in from all over. Then Perk seemed to turn to jelly, a red mist engulfed him ... he went down hard. Perk was dead."

The men were ordered back to the ridge. "We were low on ammo, out of grenades and we knew how fast air strikes come in. We had to pull back," Papesh wrote. The men were waiting to go back and rescue their fallen comrades, but the next morning they were ordered to move out. "We had never left a fellow paratrooper behind, never ever," Papesh wrote. "Our whole platoon felt like we'd been kicked in the guts."

Days later, Perkins' friend Ted Stanley, now of Hot Springs, Va., along with others, went to recover the bodies of Perkins and the other men killed that day. Stanley had been injured in an earlier skirmish and was not there when Perkins was killed, but he talked to the eyewitnesses.

"They were all of the same belief, which was that the only reason they were alive was that Ira was dead. The thought was that if Perkins had not assaulted those dug-in positions after he was seriously wounded and given his life to relieve the fire on those troops who were pinned down, very few of them would have got out of there," Stanley wrote.

During a recent telephone conversation from his Virginia home, Stanley said he supported Ferris' effort. "I just thought he was an outstanding soldier," he said of Perkins. "We never worried about awards. We just assumed that the officers would write this kind of stuff up. I know all the boys that I talked to, the ones who were right there, felt he should have got it," he said.

Stanley, who spent five tours of duty in Vietnam, said that he knew men who were awarded the medal for a lot less. "He was a gung-ho trooper. You forget a lot of people, but I never forgot him," he said.

Fondo agreed. "He was a soldier's soldier. ... I don't think there was one person in that platoon or company [who] would not have followed him into hell," he said.

Although the battle happened almost 35 years ago, the horror of that day remains clear in the memories of Fondo, Papesh and the other men who served under Perkins, and they want the nation to award Perkins the Medal of Honor.

But it is going to be an uphill battle, because Perkins' former commanding officer, Capt. Ben Willis of Atlanta, Ga., and Col. David Hackworth, who was the battalion commander at the time, do not support the effort. Ferris said he contacted Willis who said, "I am philosophically against upgrading medals for any reason." Hackworth also said he would not support the effort. "Willis said no MOH, I say no MOH," Hackworth



wrote in a terse e-mail response to Ferris. Neither Willis nor Hackworth was on the battlefield that day.

Ferris believes that if it had been any other war, Perkins already would have a Medal of Honor, because unlike other wars, where officers and men remained together for a long period, officers and soldiers rotated through Vietnam quickly.

“Willis had only been there a couple of weeks before this all happened. By the time you sat down and figured out who won what, everybody was gone,” Ferris said.

The sergeant has appealed to Maine’s congressional delegation for help. They have referred the matter to the U.S. Army Awards Board, which is conducting its own investigation.

“After reviewing the case of Ira Perkins,” Sen. Susan Collins said, “I agreed that the new information presented by his family and by Mr. Ferris regarding his brave and selfless deeds merited full consideration at the highest level, and I therefore contacted the Secretary of the Army.”

U.S. Rep. John Baldacci said he too planned to make the case to the leaders of the armed forces. “Ira Perkins served our nation with heroism and honor. His story is one of tremendous leadership and bravery,” he said.

Maine’s senior U.S. Senator, Olympia Snowe, said her office has been working closely with those who advocate the honor. “As a U.S. Army Staff Sergeant in Vietnam, Sergeant Perkins distinguished himself in 1966, when his platoon was pinned down by an entrenched North Vietnamese force,” she said.

Perkins’ family hopes the government will right a wrong. At their home in Baileyville recently, Perkins’ mother, Doris, and her daughter Celia Caruso reminisced about a young man who made them laugh and smile.

“He had more life than any 10 men I ever knew, and if something struck him funny, he’d be just as likely to lay right down on the floor and roll as roar,” Doris Perkins said.

Born in Calais, Perkins grew up in Alexander. He attended school in Calais. His father, Ira H. Perkins, now dead, worked for the state and Calais highway departments. He married the former Shirley Seeley of Calais. They had four children. Perkins joined the U.S. Army in 1958.

Caruso smiled when she described how she and her brother used to play army. “We didn’t play cowboys and Indians; we had to play soldier,” she said. Her younger brother called it “shoulder.” She said she never got to be the commanding officer. “I think that’s why he liked it so much; he got to be boss,” she said.

Mother and daughter talked about the day they learned that their son and brother had died. Doris Perkins said she was working at Wearknitters in Calais when the U.S. Army representatives arrived to tell her Perkins was missing in action. “I had to go hunt his father up and tell him,” she said. Ten days later, the family was notified that he had been killed.



Caruso said she knew her brother had been killed days before she was told. She said she was asleep when a soldier stood at the foot of her bed and told her. “I went out with my girlfriend to a Chinese place that [next] night, and I said to her that within three days we were going to hear that he was gone,” she said. Caruso said the pain of his death never goes away. “It’s been a lot of years, and it still hurts.”

Doris Perkins still wonders why her son was not awarded the nation’s highest military award. “Right from the very first I said, ‘If he’d lived through this damn battle maybe he’d have gotten the Medal of Honor,’ but I just made up my mind they didn’t believe in giving it to somebody who was killed in battle,” she said.

*Editor’s Note: The following are in The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam database: Robert R. Papesch, Dominick Fondo, Jr. (Nick), Ted Stanley and Capt Ben Willis. Ben Willis has never acknowledged my mail. Please note date of publication at top.*

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## EDITOR’S COMMENTS ON SSG IRA PERKINS’ STORY

My interest in this story started with a forwarded story from the BANGOR DAILY NEWS. This Maine newspaper story (published here with permission) was interesting and I made a decision to wait and see what action was taken on the recommendation that had been sent to the offices of the two Maine Senators, Senator Olympia J. Snowe and Senator Susan M. Collins. During the month of May 2007 I phoned the offices of both senators. After calling the Washington office of Senator Snowe and being referred to an office in Maine then another office in Maine and back to Washington I finally, after hearing about guarding the confidentiality of those involved, was told the case was open in the office of Senator Snowe. In the case of Senator Susan Collins one phone call to her Washington office was enough to let me know that the case was closed there.

I talked to Bill Ferris, the retired Recruiting Sergeant who got the ball rolling on this effort to award SSG Ira Perkins the Medal of Honor, and he sent me a copy of his entire file about the Ira Perkins recommendation.

Dave Hackworth was the Battalion Commander of 1/327 and Ben Willis was the Company Commander of Abu Company 1/327. The correspondence is very interesting and reaches one conclusion from his battalion and company commanders - if the heroic actions of SSG Ira Perkins had reached Medal of Honor level he would have been recommended for the MOH.

Nowhere, in the material furnished me, did anyone question the bravery and devotion to duty of SSG Ira Perkins. The two Silver Stars and one Bronze Star (First Oak Leaf Cluster) certainly convinced me that he was exceptional above and beyond what is normally expected of a soldier in combat.

I do not believe this recommendation will ever be approved.



Dominick Fondo, Jr. (1/327 A 2/66-6/66) wrote to Senator Susan M. Collins on May 18, 2000.

I am writing you regarding a very special person I once knew. I had just turned eighteen years of age when I first met S.SGT. Perkins; the year was 1966, and the place was Tuy-Hoa, Viet-Nam. Senator Collins, I understand you are pursuing the Medal of Honor for S.SGT. Perkins and I would like to state, right here, that if ever there was a soldier deserving of this award, it was S.SGT. Perkins.



*Nick Fondo at the September 2006 1st Brigade (S) Reunion.*

On more than several occasions, I personally witnessed Perkins, at the risk of his own life and without regard for his own safety, expose himself to intense enemy fire to aid a wounded trooper or fallen trooper. Even though the trooper may no longer be with us, Perkins would risk his own life to retrieve the fallen soldier. This is the Ira H. Perkins I knew.

S.SGT. Perkins was not the type of person to tell you to take a hill. His exact words would be: "Follow me. We are taking this hill." He was a hard man, but a very fair man. I soon found out he was also a very caring person, especially for those serving under him. Should you mess up, he would be the first one to let you know it, but he was also the first at your side when you needed him. You always knew that no matter what may come, Perkins would be there for you. He was, as far as I am concerned, a truly courageous, fearless leader. He was a SOLDIER'S SOLDIER.

During the early part of the month of June, 1966, the unit I was part of: A Co., 3rd Plt., 1/327 Abn. Inf., 1st Bde., 101st Airborne Division, were ordered into the Central Highlands of Viet-Nam, a place known for strong concentrations of North Viet-Nameese Regulars. This was Kontum Province, R.V.N.

The night previous to our going in, Perkins gathered us around him and his exact words were: "We are going to a place that many of us will not, more than likely return from."

During the next few days we were sporadically engaged by the enemy. Then, I believe it was around the seventh of June 1966, we were sucked into a trap. (If only certain people had listened to Perkins, as he had an inkling that we were being drawn in). We were ordered into a valley in pursuit of the enemy, then the trap was sprung. We had stepped into a deadly horseshoe type ambush. Immediately Perkins ordered us to attack. He [Perkins] came under immediate and extremely heavy fire. It seems that we had run into a numerically superior force. Almost instantly Perkins then ordered us to withdraw before they, (N.V.A.) closed off the rear, thus completely cutting us off.

The Platoon was now fighting for their lives. I was a Machine-Gunner. At this point I was to Perkins' left and Bob Papesh, the other Gunner and his crew were with Perkins. Almost immedi-

ately, my assistant gunner, Donald Brock, was hit. As I was trying to cover Brock's retreat, we came under extremely heavy enemy fire. Meanwhile, S.SGT. Perkins realizing we were in a fight to the death, without regard to his life, and being severely wounded as well, was still pressing the attack, all the while shouting for us to withdraw. Perkins could've laid down and covered up, however, without regard for his own safety, and at the risk of his own life, ABOVE and BEYOND the CALL to DUTY, S.SGT. Perkins stood and was attacking the very positions that had us pinned down. Even though he was mortally wounded he committed himself to the attack, knowing full well that it would more than likely cost him his life, which, sadly it did.

I feel that I, and many others, owe our very lives to S.SGT. Perkins for the fierce determination and deflection of the enemies' attention. Had S.SGT. not done what he did, I have no doubt whatsoever that many more men would have died that fateful day.

This is my accounting of what took place that fateful day so many years ago. I was eighteen years of age, I am now fifty-two years of age and still a day does not go by that I do not think of S.SGT. Perkins. I, as does the United States of America, owe this man much, much more than we, as a Nation, will ever be able to repay.

Sincerely, Dominick Fondo, Jr.

Robert R. Papesh (1/327 ABU 8/65-7/66) wrote to Senator Susan M. Collins on May 18, 2000.

I am writing to support you in your effort to attain the Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously, for S.Sergeant Ira Hilton Perkins II.

My name is Robert R. Papesh. Back in early June 1966, I was an eighteen-year old paratrooper, assigned to the third Platoon ABU Company, 1st of the 327 ABU Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

I was one of two machine gunners for our platoon, as well as squad leader. As such, Sgt. Perkins shared a little more information about our missions than most of the men.

The first part of our mission was to relieve a Special Forces camp located in the border area of Laos - Cambodia, and South Vietnam, the central highlands. Damn tuff terrain. This area is known as Dak To. The second part of our mission was to find and fix the N.V.A. operating in this area.

After we completed our first task, we began running sweeping patrols, although we found many signs, almost every hilltop was fortified, with bunker complex trenches well dug and well maintained. On a few, we found rice still in pots cooking, and we knew our enemy was close at hand.

After the first few days of cat and mouse, our foe began to hit us with small ambushes and sniper fire, then our contacts grew into a running battle. Sergeant Perkins kept telling us to stay alert; he knew we were being drawn into something big, I think we all did.

Somewhere around the seventh we were set up on top of a ridge. We were ordered to run a sweep down into and out of a small valley to our front. Perk didn't like it; he said it was a trap. He told all of us to stay sharp. He knew we were going to find trouble. This was one bad area.



We moved out - a rifleman to my front; my assistant gunner behind me, ammo bearer and the rest of third platoon following single file behind. We made our way in and were starting out the other side, when the N.V.A. opened up on us. We had walked right into an ambush. They were on three sides of us.

At first it was hand-to-hand fighting, a lot of small arms, AK fire, light machine gun fire, and hand grenades. It was fast-paced and very intense. Somehow Perk made his way to and in front of us, all the while firing his weapon and screaming encouragement to us: pointing out machine gun emplacements for me to engage. There were N.V.A. all over us. Only feet separating us, for the most part. An N.V.A. popped up in front of Perk and shot him. Perk stood up straight; changed his magazine, then killed the N.V.A. He turned his head toward me and yelled for us to keep moving forward. The fire we were taking seemed to intensify - there was enemy all over. For as many as we took out, more seemed to join in from all over. Then Perk seemed to turn to jelly, a red mist engulfed him, body parts flew back into my face. He went down hard. Perk was dead, of this I have no doubt.

I had been yelling for more ammo; someone passed the word up for us to fall back and break contact. I screamed after we could retrieve Perk's body we would. Again we were ordered to pull back, an air strike was on the way. We'd police the area after. We were low on ammo; out of grenades, and we knew how fast air strikes come in - we had to pull back. We wound up back on the same ridge we had just left before. This fight wasn't over, but this time we held the high ground.

The next morning, as we were getting ready to move out, we found out we were not going to go out for Perk. We were moving in a different direction; we had never left a fellow paratrooper behind, never - ever! Our whole platoon felt like we'd been kicked in the guts.

We had gotten a new company commander just prior to this operation. We didn't know him; he didn't know us. Ordering us to leave Sgt. Perkins took the wind out of us. It seemed to explain why we didn't keep attacking the day before. He said it was too dangerous to go back into that valley. Our Captain let us down. None of us had any faith in him - never should have. Our faith and trust was in Sgt. Perkins. He stood up in the face of overwhelming odds. He knew the only way to counter an ambush is to punch through it. He gave his life - not just for us guys up front; he gave his life trying to save the 3rd Platoon, the rest of ABU Company, and so much more.

Perk died valiantly and courageously doing his duty; trying to get us all out of the trap he foresaw coming. He knew our safety lay on top of that hill - not trapped in the valley. Perk died because he wouldn't pull back and leave his men to die. He died, but he kept us alive. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind if Perk hadn't done what he did, none of us up front would have walked back down that hill, or out of that valley alive. His standing in front of us, giving us encouragement and leadership under intense fire, took a lot of fire off us. As important as a machine-gun crew was to our enemy, leadership (sergeants) was more so.

If Staff Sergeant Ira H. Perkins is not a true American Hero - no one is, or never could be. He not only unselfishly gave his life for his men, he died for everyone back in the Land of the

Free. My gun crew and I lived that day because of Perk's actions. There haven't been many days since then that I don't recall his courage that day.

Morale was totally gone after we were forced to leave him there, then, a few days later, on the 9th, this same Captain left me and two others seriously wounded in another valley, although they came back for me. I found two people profoundly effected my life: one is worthy of mention, Staff Sergeant Ira H. Perkins, the other, Ben Willis, knows what he is - let him live with it.

I've spent the past week trying to put this event into words. There's more that I could say, but please try to understand that even after thirty-four years, this is very difficult for me. Outside of feeling our Captain let us down, I'm proud to have served with Staff Sergeant Ira H. Perkins II, and the men from ABU Company. I owe much to many. Perk was the bravest man I've ever known. These clumsy words are my attempt to try to convey just a few to you. I hope I've told you what you need to know about Perk - he really is an American hero - God speed.

Sincerely, Robert R. Papesh

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GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 3649

11 June 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

PERKINS, IRA H. JR. RA11347300 SERGEANT E5 United States Army Co A, 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn, Div APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 27 February 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Sergeant Perkins distinguished himself on 27 February 1966 while serving as the point squad leader of a platoon size ambush patrol during a search and destroy mission near My Canh, Republic of Vietnam. When Sergeant Perkins' patrol encountered a reinforced Viet Cong squad preparing an ambush site, he immediately reported it to the patrol leader and maneuvered his squad to the right flank of the Viet Cong force. During the ensuing fire fight, Sergeant Perkins repeatedly exposed himself, gave directions, pointed out targets and encouraged his men until the Viet Cong unit was defeated with no friendly casualties sustained. Later in the evening, Sergeant Perkins' platoon encountered another Viet Cong squad. While leading his squad in the assault, he personally charged a well-entrenched insurgent machine gun position, destroyed it, and killed three Viet Cong. During the action, three friendly troops were hit and pinned down in a rice paddy, fully exposed to the hostile fire. Sergeant Perkins immediately ran through the deadly Viet Cong fire to the aid of his wounded comrades. After rendering life-saving first aid, he single-handedly carried one soldier back across the open rice paddy to safety. He then returned and rescued the second wounded man. Although the third soldier had been killed, Sergeant Perkins again exposed himself to the devastating Viet

Cong fire and retrieved the body from the exposed position. Through his courage and devotion to duty, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Sergeant Perkins' extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918.

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GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 135

8 February 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR  
(FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER) - (POSTHUMOUSLY)

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.  
PERKINS, IRA H JR RAI1347300 STAFF SERGEANT E6  
United States Army Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne),  
327th Infantry, APO San Francisco 96347.  
Awarded: Silver Star (First Oak Leaf Cluster) (Posthumously)  
Date action: 7 June 1966  
Theater: Republic of Vietnam  
Reason: Gallantry in action: Staff Sergeant Perkins' company was moving through thick jungle on a search and destroy operation when it came under heavy interlocking machine gun and automatic weapons fire from a well entrenched North Vietnamese Army force. Although seriously wounded by the initial burst of hostile fire, Sergeant Perkins rallied his pinned down platoon and led it to higher ground. Disregarding his intense pain, Sergeant Perkins crawled across an open bullet raked area until he was within twenty meters of a deadly sniper position which had slowed the unit's advance with extremely accurate fire. With absolutely no regard for his own life, Staff Sergeant Perkins jumped up and ran forward throwing grenades and firing his rifle at the dug in enemy. Mortally wounded, he fell in front of the destroyed sniper position, but valiantly continued to place accurate fire into the hostile emplacements. Sergeant Perkins' conspicuous action so inspired his men that they charged forward and completely destroyed three enemy machine gun positions, which resulted in the subsequent rout of the battered force. Sergeant Perkins' outstanding devotion to duty is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of USARV Message 16695, 1 July 1966 and paragraph 27, AR 672-5-1.

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GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 4957

25 July 1966

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR  
MEDAL FOR HEROISM

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.  
PERKINS, IRA H. JR. RAI1347300 STAFF SERGEANT E6  
United States Army Co A, 1st Bn (Abn), 327th Inf, 1st Bde,  
101st Abn Div, APO 96347  
Awarded: Bronze Star Medal (FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER)  
Date action: 7 April 1966  
Theater: Republic of Vietnam



Reason: For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Staff Sergeant Perkins distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 7 April 1966 while serving as a member of a platoon on a combat operation near Thain Long, Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Perkins' platoon had the mission of securing a helicopter landing zone for the remainder of his company. As the helicopters began to land, they received intense hostile fire. One helicopter was hit, crashed, and burst into flames. Seeing that the pilot was seriously wounded and trapped inside, Staff Sergeant Perkins, with complete disregard for his safety ran across the bullet swept area and made his way to the blazing helicopter. Unhesitatingly he entered the aircraft and extracted the pilot. He then carried the stricken pilot across one hundred meters of open rice paddies to safety. Staff Sergeant Perkins' quick reactions were responsible in saving the pilot's life. His personal bravery 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. Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962.

---

## THE LAST OF THE MIGHTY ABUS In Memory of SSGT. Ira H. Perkins

By Paratrooper Nick Fondo

As we walked into the valley we all knew, that this could be our last day too! Suddenly a machineguns deadly chatter, everyone has begun to scatter.

Like a man among men he stood charging and firing, shouting orders loud and clear. Complete disregard for his life, a life he held dear.

Trying to save those abreast, giving it his all doing his best! The fighting grew fierce and savage! Though severely wounded and knocked to the ground, he rose like a demon bred of hate! Fire in his eyes, I am sure, he knew his Fate.

The enemy was upon us, bayonet to bayonet, hand to hand, SSGT. PERKINS was making a stand. Perkins could've laid down, The medic I am sure would've had him shipped away to fight another day. But that was not his way!

As we lay down deadly fire, He continued the deadly charge. The enemy surely knew, This amazing feat of courageousness was SSGT. Perkins! Airborne through and through! This was SSGT. Perkins of the Mighty Abu!

Courageous, fearless and severely wounded too, I am sure he knew he was to meet his maker that fateful day, In a country faraway! SSGT. Perkins fell that day, we who survived were but a few, THE LAST OF THE MIGHTY ABUS!





# 25th Anniversary Edition

# the Shield & Circle

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VOL. 4 — NO. 33

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1967

FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY

## 20 Big Operations, 2,141 Miles

# 1st Brigade Continues Vietnam Odyssey

DUC PHO, Vietnam (101 Abn.-iO) -- Since the 101st Airborne's 1st Brigade arrived in Vietnam two years ago, it has made 25 tactical displacements, traveling 2,141 miles conducting 20 major operations.

They have occupied their base camp at Phan Rang 21 days in two years. This has been—and is—their tale of Odyssey. They

are the "Nomads of Vietnam."

The Screaming Eagles of the 1st Brigade marked their first anniversary in Vietnam, June 29, 1966, in Phu Yen province during Operation John Paul Jones. In less than six weeks, the brigade accounted for 209 enemy kills, captured 56 weapons, large amounts of ammunition, equipment, and secured Vung Ro Bay and Highway 1 north to Tuy Hoa.

Labor Day, 1966, marked the beginning of Operation Seward as the brigade launched a dual

mission: protect the rice harvest in Tuy Hoa, Tuy An and Hieu Xong valley and engage the enemy.

The area of operation had been a lucrative source for the Viet Cong in 1965 when only 45 percent of the rice yield was harvested by the Vietnamese farmers. Arrival of the Screaming Eagles produced a dramatic setback to the Communists.

Civilians harvested more than 17,000 tons, or 89 percent of the estimated yield. And as the

South Vietnamese worked in safety, the paratroopers accounted for 239 enemy kills, 80 enemy weapons and seized 40.5 tons of rice in VC caches.

After a five-day break, the brigade launched Geronimo I on Halloween with tactics appropriate to the occasion: clandestine entry into the battle area employing semi-guerrilla tactics.

The strategy resulted in a mauling of the 5th Battalion, 95th NVA Regiment. Concurrent with ground action, Geronimo I demonstrated the successful use of psychological methods which led 36 NVA to surrender.

Nineteen days before Christmas, 1966, the "Nomads of Vietnam" moved northwest from Tuy Hoa Valley to Kontum province near the Cambodian border. The deployment established a record as the brigade, moving by C-130 aircraft, completed the displacement in 48 hours demonstrating the flexibility of the brigade to respond to any area with maximum force.

Operation Pickett was initi-

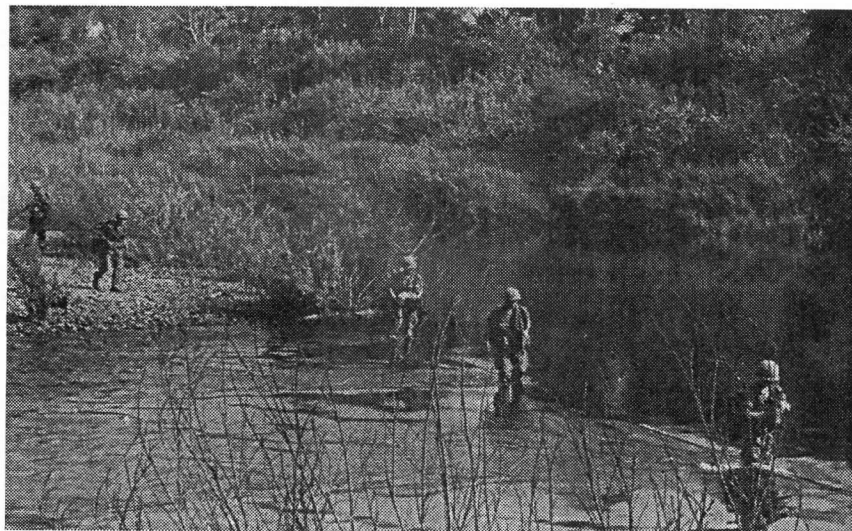
ated. During the Christmas-New Year's truce, the brigade maintained defensive operations and conducted airborne refresher training.

In late January, 1967, the Screaming Eagles of Vietnam returned to Phan Rang in preparation for Operation Farragut. Brigadier General S. H. Matheson, former assistant division commander at Ft. Campbell, assumed command from Brigadier General Willard Pearson, and the troopers moved out again.

Operation Farragut was marked by two significant accomplishments. First, the highway linking Phan Rang to Song Mao was opened. Second, by close cooperation and coordination with South Vietnamese military and civilian authorities, an extremely successful psychological operation geared to the "Chieu Hoi-Open Arms" program was executed, 475 Viet Cong deserted the Communist ranks. One-hundred fifteen VC chose to fight and failed.

Following Farragut, the brigade moved again, this time by

(Continued on page 8)



THE CONSTANT SEARCH--Paratroopers of the 101st's 1st Brigade, part of Task Force Oregon near Duc Pho, start out on a long day of search and destroy, a type of operation that has characterized much of their two-year stay in Vietnam.

The clips from the SHIELD & CIRCLE were taken from a newspaper sent by Michael E. Schaub, 21502 C 7168-11168, 1890 California Avenue, Wahiawa, HI 96786-2711.

# Nomad 1st Brigade Continues Odyssey

(Continued from Page 1)

land and air, initiating Operation Summerall near Khanh Duong in the Central Highlands.

Fifty per cent of the brigade's personnel moved by C-7A and C-130 aircraft and the rest by convoy along Highway 21. This dramatic move not only secured the highway, but also demonstrated to the civilian population that Allied Military Forces --not VC--controlled the area.

Paratroopers accounted for 72 enemy kills, captured 57 weapons, 21 tons of rice and large amounts of ammunition and medical supplies.

In conjunction with combat operations, brigade civil affairs teams conducted extensive MEDCAP programs in the Montagnard villages, constructed fish ponds to initiate protein supplement into the villagers' diet, and innoculated livestock against diseases which had plagued their herds.

While at Khahn Duong, the brigade received a mission to move north--an operation taking it within 175 miles of North Vietnam.

Moving by air and sea, the Screaming Eagles joined the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division in Task Force Oregon.

Selecting names of significant battles the 101st Airborne fought in World War II, Operations Malheur I was initiated May 11 in an area the Communists had controlled since 1954.

With two airborne battalions forcing the Viet Cong into a third occupying blocking positions, Malheur I produced the highest body count since Operation Hawthorne.

More than 390 enemy were killed in 14 days of fighting. When Malheur I terminated June 7, the Screaming Eagles had killed 399 enemy, captured

157 individual weapons (11 crew-served), 78 tons of rice and more than 40 tons of salt.

The next day, the brigade launched Operation Malheur II which included plans for the largest civil affairs operation in the history of Quang Ngai province.

In addition to fighting a stubborn, well-equipped enemy, the airborne infantrymen were to relocate the population of the Song Ve River valley to RVN refugee centers at Nghia Hanh and Mo Duc. Livestock in the valley also was to be herded to the evacuated families in the refugee centers.

Utilizing psychological operations teams to blanket the valley with leaflet and loudspeaker appeals, the residents were informed the paratroopers were coming and how to prepare for the evacuation.

The preparatory phase was successful. At each village, the residents were packed and ready. Chinook helicopters lifted them and their belongings to Nghia Hanh. As each village was evacuated, the Screaming Eagles rounded up the livestock and began herding them north to meet their owners.

On June 22, the valley relocation and cattle drive were completed. More than 5,000 villagers and 1,196 head of cattle and water buffalo had been moved from VC control to safety.

Since arriving in Vietnam, 1st Brigade has killed 4,117 enemy, secured 4,624 detainees for interrogation, captured 1,537 individual weapons, and nearly 1,400 tons of rice.

When the Screaming Eagles paused July 29, 1967, near Duc Pho, they were fully aware their third year in Vietnam will be like the preceding ones as their odyssey continues.

## 1,300 Villagers Observe U.S. International Aid Day

PHAN RANG, Vietnam (Spt Bn IO) -- One of the largest celebrations in the history of Ninh Thuan province was observed here when 1,300 residents joined in observance of International Aid Day.

The occasion--marked by ceremony, cultural exchanges, and sports events--climaxed with the dedication of a new recreation center built by Vietnamese and paratroopers of Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

Lieutenant Colonel Kha Vang Huy, province chief, delivered the principal address at the opening ceremonies in downtown Phan Rang.

A volleyball contest between the province and support battalion team preceded an Oriental luncheon in the Officers Open Mess, hosted by Army Lieutenant Colonel Quin-

ton P. Sunday, Eufaula, Okla., support battalion commander.

Following the luncheon, the official party joined the citizens of Phan Rang at My Duc stadium where the province soccer team played the paratroopers. The game ended in a tie.

Climaxing the day long festivities was a reception at the home of Lt. Col. Huy and the dedication of the recreation center, constructed and furnished by the Phan Rang Community Council and support battalion personnel.

Highlight of the evening was the presentation of a plaque by the Phan Rang Cub Scouts to Captain Wes Grosbeck, battalion civil affairs officer, for paratroopers assistance in building the center and playground equipment for the children of Phan Rang.

## Paratroopers Battle Viet Cong At Large Hospital Complex

DUC PHO, Vietnam (101 Abn--IO)--Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne inflicted heavy losses on a stubborn enemy force defending a hospital and rehabilitation complex in the Song Ve valley west of here.

The action began when the 1st Platoon, Company A of the 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry discovered a hut complex late one afternoon during Operation Malheur II.

Employing stealth and strict noise discipline Platoon Sergeant Robert P. Sherman, Columbus, Ga., moved the platoon toward the thatch-roofed, jungle village.

Ten meters away from the first group of huts, a Viet Cong guard spotted the paratroopers. The Americans moved into the complex, surprised by its size. Lieutenant Jerry Barnhill, Hou-

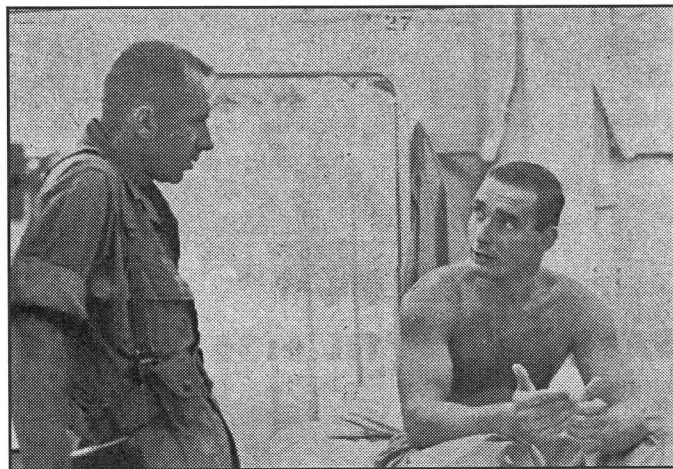
caught fire, Lieutenant Barnhill used it as a reference point to direct gunships and a medivac to lift out a wounded paratrooper.

Throughout the night, bullets split the air. Combat engineers and infantrymen cleared a landing zone in the darkness under enemy fire.

"There was no sleeping that night," said Specialist 4 James N. Page, Dayton, Ohio.

At daybreak, the paratroopers resumed their search of the village.

"We found 22 VC bodies and secured four detainees," said Sergeant Sherman. "And we found enough hospital and field equipment to fill a two and half ton truck."



COMMANDER'S CARE--Lieutenant Colonel Harry S. Buckley of Tacoma, Wash., commander of the 2d Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade, visits one of his men at the hospital at Qui Nhon. Private First Class Donald Pryor, Newark, N. J. is recovering from leg wounds suffered in Operation Malheur II. (U. S. Army Photograph by Sp4 Alva Tate.)



# 101st Sergeant Looks Back On Year Away From Home

DUC PHO, Vietnam (101 Abn IO) -- "Eloise always understood," said Sergeant First Class Esiquio R. Martinez, Hopkinsville, Ky.

Recalling 25 years of continuous military service that carried him through three wars, the fifty-three year old veteran grew thoughtful. "I've never had an accompanied overseas tour, but my wife has been wonderful about it."

As he waited for a ride to the airstrip at the forward command post of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne, the sergeant reflected on his year in Vietnam. Minutes earlier he was presented his 15th award of the Bronze Star - this time for service with the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 320th Artillery.

The father of five children, one of whom finished a tour in Vietnam last January, said he had enjoyed his tour and wouldn't mind coming back.

"I'm a 30-year man," he explained, "and there's still lots to be done over here."

Sergeant Martinez is a master parachutist who has more than 500 jumps to his credit. He made three combat jumps with Company C of the 504th Regiment during World War II and fought with the 187th Regiment in Korea. His decorations include 24 ribbons, among them the Silver Star and two Purple Hearts.

His most unforgettable moment occurred in the United States prior to going overseas in World War II.

"It was in '43 at Camp McCall, N. C.," he said. "Fifteen of us were on a C-47 getting ready to make a training jump when an engine caught fire. The pilot couldn't put it out and the plane began falling. Only three of us got out the door before it crashed."

Sergeant Martinez also recalls a thrilling moment - marching with the 82nd Airborne Division in New York, celebrating the end of the war in Europe.

## CPT (R) JIM L. MARTIN A CO 2/327th INF

Jim L. Martin, A Co 2/327th Airborne Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division passed away suddenly on Nov 5, 2006. A memorial service was held Monday, November 13, 2006, at Southern Arizona Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista, AZ.

His two sons, TJ and Kyle Martin survive Jim.

Jim was a decorated veteran of Vietnam, a Ranger. His awards included a Purple Heart. He was retired with the rank of Captain.

Notice sent by CW3(R) William J. Keller, 2/327 Hq (S-4) 6/65-7/66, Tucson, AZ.



# Tom Willard's Journey

Terry DeVine column:

N.D. oral history project reunites veterans who served in combat  
*The Forum* - 03/07/2004

It was a bloody day back in October 1965 when a medevac chopper landed with a load of casualties at the 85th Evacuation Hospital in Qui Nhon, South Vietnam.

On board was a 101st Airborne Army combat medic from Minot, N.D. And he was literally shot to hell.

Tom Willard's unit had been caught in an ambush and he had gone to the aid of a wounded trooper when he was hit.

Willard wasn't hit just once. He was shot five times. Three hits nearly severed his hand, which had to be amputated, another hit him in the leg and the most serious entered his back and came out his chest, severing an artery.

Willard knew he was bleeding out quickly so he ordered gunpowder to be poured into the gaping chest wound and ignited. That cauterized the wound and kept him alive for the chopper ride.

Waiting on the ground in Qui Nhon was Army surgical technician and 1963 graduate of Rugby (N.D.) High School, Jerry Ustanko. He'd been assisting doctors in surgery since the day he arrived in South Vietnam in August 1964.

Some days were horrific, like the day the 101st -- in the battle of An Dinh -- landed literally on top of a North Vietnamese army mess hall. They lost 52 dead, 86 wounded, 20 helicopters were shot down and 400 troopers were trapped and had to hang on until help arrived.

Then came the battle of the Ia Drang Valley, immortalized in the book, "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young," by Lt. Gen. Hal Moore and UPI correspondent Joe Galloway, in which the 1st Air Cavalry lost 350 dead in a matter of minutes.

Ustanko, retired after 30 years with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota, remembers the hospital being awash in blood, with stretchers filling every available space and spilling outside as wounded troopers were triaged.

"There were some terrible days," says Ustanko, who now works part time as a long-term care specialist for Noridian Services Inc. in Fargo. "But you had to do your job and you dealt with it."

His wife Myrna, the Williston, N.D., native he married in 1966, knows those experiences are never forgotten. "If you only knew," she says.

"Jerry saw the dying, I saw the killing," says Willard. "He had it worse than I did. After the helicopter pilots, I think the medics, nurses and doctors were the bravest people in Vietnam."



Willard, now coordinator of the North Dakota Veterans History Project, recently reunited with Ustanko at a joyful reunion in Fargo. He credits Ustanko as being one of the people who saved his life.

Willard also put Ustanko in touch with two of his fellow Rugby High graduates. They lost track of each other and hadn't talked in nearly 39 years until Willard put them together again.

Jeff Voeller, the best man at Ustanko's wedding, and Ustanko joined the Army together on June 18, 1963, right out of high school. Voeller now farms near Climax, Minn.

Duane Volk, who now lives in Moline, Ill., and Willard went to 101st Airborne jump school together and both went to Vietnam.

Willard, a former professor of English literature at the University of North Dakota, has engineered several reunions between Vietnam veterans since taking charge of the Veterans History Project.

The highly decorated Willard, who is well connected in military circles nationally, has written 15 novels, including a series of books called the "Black Sabre Chronicles."

One of the books, which are fiction based on historical fact, says Willard, is called "Stone Ponies" and deals with his 101st Airborne experiences in Vietnam.

"It brought back so many memories," Volk said the day he talked to Willard and Ustanko in a phone conversation at Fargo's Holiday Inn. "There are not enough adjectives to describe it (the book). It's just perfect."

Ustanko, Voeller and Volk were buddies in high school and Ustanko saw Volk occasionally in Vietnam when he delivered mail in the wards at the field hospital.

Willard, who was hand-picked to serve with "Tiger Force" by then Maj. David Hackworth, the most highly decorated soldier to come out of Vietnam and now a military consultant for network television, delights in reuniting former soldiers who served together in combat. That is something the Veterans History Project allows him to do.

I should point out that Willard and Hackworth did not serve with "Tiger Force" at the time it is alleged to have perpetrated a number of atrocities against the Vietnamese people. Those charges are now being investigated by the U.S. government.

Ustanko and his medical colleagues kept Willard unconscious for three days while they flooded his grossly infected wounds with antibiotics, leaving the chest wound open to drain. He eventually was transferred to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Things worked out well for both Willard and Ustanko. Jerry and his wife had three children and Tom and his wife had four.

Willard is dedicated these days to getting North Dakota veter-

ans to talk about their war experiences as part of the oral history project.

And, when he has the opportunity, to rekindle old friendships forged in the crucible of battle.

*Editor's Note: This companion piece to the Walter Reed Hospital article (April 2007 issue), written by Tommy Willard, may be some enlightenment on the extent of his wounds, this is on the 327th web site. COL(R) David H. Hackworth (1/327 HQ 63-66) deceased May 4, 2005.*

Tom,

Is the attached correct and current enough to use now?

Best Regards,

Ivan

Tom Willard" <tomwillard@bis.midco.net>

To: "Ivan Worrell" <firstbrigades101magazine@yahoo.com>

Subject: Re: Web Site story

Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2007 15:04:49 -0600

An over-glorification of my performance.

The real heroes were the two black medics --- Willie Murrell and Jessie Copeland --- who came to the aid of me and the wounded trooper I aided.

The date of the article was roughly 22 March 2004.

I didn't like the "John Wayne-ish" aspect of the article. I was scared, moaning, praying, trying to figure out what to do, just like anybody else.

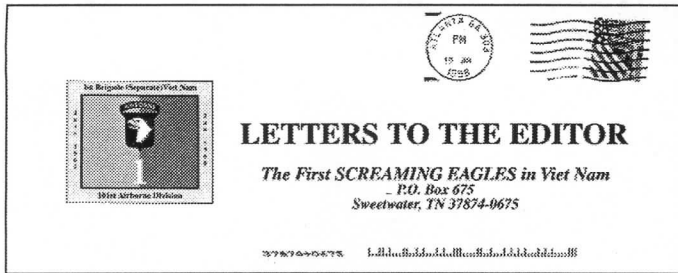
The reunion at the motel was one of the greatest moments of my life. The journalist, Terry Devine, *Fargo Forum* (USMC, Vietnam 1968), was the one that made it happen.

Read more about Tom Willard,  
1/327 RECON Med 65-66 on page 29



**101st AIRBORNE  
DIVISION REUNION  
Omaha, Nebraska,  
August 8-10, 2007  
Contact Sam Bass at  
address on page 36.**





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

+ CHARLES R. GANT, 2/502 A&D 12/67-12/68  
4306 Filmore Rd., Greensboro, NC 27409-9721  
(336) 605-4594  
crg502@triad.rr.com

I am writing this message in behalf of Larry Anglin who developed Agent Orange caused neurological neuropathy.

He was in Bravo Company 66-67 and is a wonderful man and is married to one of the sweetest ladies any man could dream of being married to. He is now wheel chair bound and cannot even speak due to his nervous system deteriorating so much and the VA is screwing him over and now his wife has had to take a leave of absence from her Post Office job.

They could possibly lose their home and his medical bills are just continuing to pile up, so I am going to reach out to the men in Bravo who served in 66-67 and others and hope I get some donations to help offset some of their financial burden.

Trust me as governor of the O'Deuce this is a very honest and much needed quest I am on to help a fellow Vietnam vet who served in our noble Strike Force Battalion.

The Iraqi and Afghani vets are getting all of the attention now which is fantastic and bringing to the forefront major problems within our VA system, but the Vietnam and Korean vets are still being ignored. I just hope I can get a good response not only from this email, but from other messages I will be sending to surviving officers and men who Larry served with and the many friends he and Ionie have in hopes they too will respond with donations.

All the VA wants to do is put him in a VA rest home and they are supposed to offer home health care for families willing to work along side them. The VA systems really stinks and Ionie being the loving wife that she is wants to keep Larry at home where only a loving wife can truly give him the love that she can provide. His mind is sharp and clear, but his body has been ravaged by this illness.

Please find it in your hearts and pockets to help as our government is yet again failing another Vietnam vet.

You can make checks for any amount you can spare to LARRY ANGLIN and mail them to me for collection

Honor and Duty,  
Charles R. Gant  
Governor 502nd Regiment  
4306 Filmore Rd., Greensboro, North Carolina 27409

JOSEPH E. GENEREUX, 2/327 A 7/65-7/66  
131 Deer Run Lake Drive, Ormond Beach, FL 32174  
(386) 671-7875  
jgeneroux@cfl.rr.com

I would like to purchase a copy of the Always 1st Bde, which has the list of men, awarded medals for bravery in the 1965-1966 time frame. I was a sqd ldr and plt sgt, in A Co 2/327 Dec 59-August 1966.

*Editor's Note: I do not know of such a publication.*

LOUIS ARCHULETTA  
Wichita, Kansas  
LT1Archuletta@earthlink.net

I am searching for any information I can possibly find on my brother Ray A. Archuletta KIA Sept 7, 1967. His rank during both tours was that of a SSG E-6. I do know that he was in B Company 2/502 Infantry at the time of his death. What I am trying to find out is he had a first tour in Vietnam and was medic-vac'd back to the US in 1966. I have no clue as to the Company he was in from Dec 25, 1965 to March 26, 1966. On this date he took a round through the jaws. He partially recovered from that wound and returned to Vietnam Mar 1967. During the time he was at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center. He spoke of a fire fight on Feb 7, 1966. This was the firefight that LT James Gardner was awarded the Medal of Honor. Also of other dead soldier's named Alexander Montoya and David Garcia from Pueblo, Colorado. If any one can provide me with more information I would appreciate whatever information I might receive. Thank you,  
Rays's brother, Louis Archuletta

**MESSAGES FROM THE  
firstscreeing eagles.org  
WEBSITE GUEST BOOK**

+ DAVID J. MARKHAM, 1/327 C 10/66-10/67  
3410 Adelaide Drive, Erie, PA 16510-2102  
W (814) 397-2816 H (814) 899-7252  
screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com  
davidj@screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com

Ivan,

I thought I would check out your new site after reading about it in my favorite magazine. Of course I will change the link address on our Favorite Links page at our <http://screamingeagles-327thvietnam.com> site. I need to remember to visit often to see what gets posted on the forum that sounds interesting. Hope to see you again this year at Ken and Angie's in Crossville, TN.  
David J.

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

Ivan, Like the idea of a new site and the forum should be interesting, can't wait to read the discussions.

Keep up the good work.

---

## E-MAIL MESSAGES

+ LTC(R) WILLIAM (BILL) ROVAN, 2/327 HQ&A 6/66-5/67  
4920 Hwy 220 W, Lincolnton, GA 30817-5022  
(706) 359-5210  
Wrovan@nu-z.net

Ivan. One week ago I had major surgery for prostate cancer and am now in the recovery mode. Feeling well and moving about, although rather slow.

The surgery was performed at Carolina Medical Center by Dr. Manish Damani and used the new daVinci robot. An amazing technology...developed, by the way, by the Dept of Defense. A five-arm robot is placed over the operating table and the arms inserted into the surgical area via small incisions. The surgeon sits across the room at a console and controls the arms which move 360 degrees, etc. No more 8-10 inch incisions down the gut! Loss of blood, pain and recovery time are significantly decreased.

Best news of all, post-operative biopsy confirmed the cancer was confined to the prostate. This is a testimonial to early-detection, and the primary purpose of the mail.....all you Vietnam vets are around my age and candidates for prostate cancer. Get regular PSA tests...I would recommend 6 months. I caught mine in August 2006 when it went up to 4.4, then 5.8 in Oct, delayed a bit as it came back down to 4.4. Finally, in Dec 06 I had a needle biopsy done which confirmed cancer. It takes a while to get on the list for the robot, so surgery was not done until March. As a side, prostate cancer is an automatic disability for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange (of course, a claim must be processed). My second Vietnam tour was at the DMZ where leaves were brown all year round. I don't know if Agent Orange had anything to do with my case, but statistics indicate Vietnam vets have a significantly higher incidence of prostate cancer and in most instances is not showing up until 30-40 years later. Once again, I urge all you guys to get your PSA. For anyone facing a similar situation, feel free to contact me at wrovan@nu-z.net. No Slack. Bill



*Captain Bill Rován's company captured some VC Special Services material. Some of the athletic shirts and volleyball are shown in the photo.*



*Captain Bill Rován in Viet Nam.*

---

## FROM U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

+ COL(R) LAWRENCE A. REDMOND, 2/327 A 5/67-2/68,  
336 Crystal River Dr., Kissimmee, FL 34759-5212, (863) 427-3727 writes with his subscription renewal: Latest magazine was great, Ivan. Thanks for the article on Terry.

+ JOHN M. TAYLOR, JR., 1/501 SIG B 6/65-7/66, 23745  
Oakside Blvd., Lutz, FL 33549-6904, work (813) 949-9074  
home (813) 948-7747 wrote when sending in his subscription  
renewal: Always the optimist that we will make it another year.

+ DAVID E. SNYDER, 1/327 A 6/61-3/66, 316 Lynn Lane,  
Waynesboro, VA 22980-5447, (540) 942-4808 wrote: I want  
to thank you for this wonderful publication. I look forward to  
its arrival and read it cover to cover. Then I go back and do it  
again. I take it to my American Legion Post and everyone  
loves it. Here is my renewal for another year. Keep up the good  
work and keep them coming.

Again thank you for all you do.



+ RICHARD A. HISE, 1/327 HHC TF 1/67-7/68, P.O. Box 327, Machias, NY 14101-0327, (716) 353-4501 sent the following: Just reading the latest issue of "The First Screaming Eagles" on page nine of Volume 9 Number 2, April 07, there is an error. "Tiger Force" had two KIAs: Ingram, Jerry G. PFC, age 18 on 27 Sept 67 and Varney, Robin L. SGT, age 20 on 27 Sept 67.

We also had two more on 29 Sept 67 – Beck, Edward C. SP/4, age 20 and Green, Kenneth L. SP/4, age 20 (AKA: Boots).

Barry "Doc" Bowman was also wounded in the arm and elbow. He was medevaced the next morning by the BN CO's CC chopper in a hail of sniper fire. The two KIAs were evaced late the same afternoon by a slick. It was one of those hillside pickups. Normally as "senior medic" I helped load, but in this case I let their team members load the kids. They had been carrying the bodies all day.

Also enclosed is my renewal.

Ivan, I will be at Ft. Campbell from 16 to 20 May. If you wish I'll tell you all about what happened on 29-30 Sept 67. Much has been written about Tigers. 50% is just plain lies and BS, 25% are exaggerated war stories and 25% is somewhere near the truth. The main problem is we were treated as being guilty just because of a book. The whole thing is based on a C.I.D. investigation. The authors picked from here and there and quoted a lot of dead people or their relatives. People who were NOT in the field from 1 May to 23 Nov 67 have told wild stories about my medics and I take great offense. I have been to a lawyer and I have no recourse. I've even been told to drop the subject! I just don't like the idea that these lies are out there and it detracts from the best airborne unit I served in – the 1/327 Inf.

Stay alert – Stay alive!

*Editor's Note: That's the way the citation was written. Thanks for the correction. Sorry I missed you at Fort Campbell.*

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+ DONALD R. LENC, 2/320 FA HHB 6/67-6/68, 5240 Windfall Rd., Medina, OH 44256-8750 work (216) 276-0977, home (330) 722-1879 when renewing his subscription wrote: Sign me up for another year and extra to help the cause. Really enjoyed the reunion last year and look forward to going to the next one.

---

+ RICHARD E. COBB, 2/502 RECON 6/67-10/67, 306 Eakin St. SE, Blacksburg, VA 24060-5220, work (703) 418-2800, home (540) 961-6834 wrote when renewing his subscription: Here's for another year, plus a little extra. FYI, I'm maintaining the web page for the O'Deuce now, along with Dale Joritz. Our URL: <http://2nd502.org>.

+ COL(R) GEORGE W. AUX, JR., 2/320 FA HHB, A, B 1/67-8/68, 1529 Crenshaw Point, Wake Forest, NC 27587-7378 when renewing his subscription wrote: Please Re-up me! A change of address is shown in RED on enclosed form. I will move beginning 28 April and be gone from the Alexandria address by 10 May.

Enjoy your publications immensely and always look forward to reading them immediately upon their arrival.

Once established in Wake Forest, I'll finally have access and time to pull together more "memories."

Keep your powder dry! Balls of the Eagle!  
George Aux

---

+ GUY DEARMON, JR., 2/502 HHC 4/67-4/68, 184 Sharp Springs Rd., Smyrna, TN 37167-5323, (615) 456-8536, along with his subscription renewal wrote: The April 07 edition brought back a lot of old memories, especially the piece on the Presidential Unit Citation (pages 1-15). I also enjoyed the piece on CSM "Sabo" – he was a real trooper (pages 28&29).

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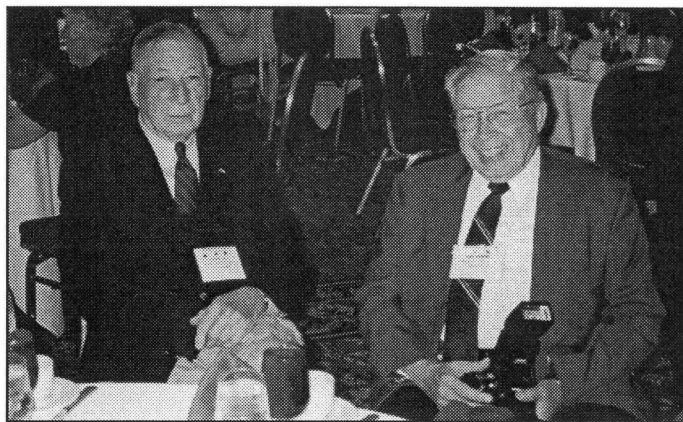
+ CSM(R) ROBERT A. YOUNG, HHC CSM 6/66-6/67, 2 North East Street, Green City, MO 63545-1024, (660) 874-5123 sent the following letter. Good to see you again at "Static Line." I've enclosed a photo of two VIPs (sent a copy to Gen Seitz) – so Ivan, you do select good company to "chum around" with!

Gen Dick Seitz is a special gentleman – just a great guy! We flew on the same plane from Atlanta to Kansas City – last saw him when we picked up our suitcases.

Just talked to Mrs. Matheson (over in Carmel, CA). She's doing as well as can be expected, w/o Gen Matt! She was excited to receive news from Gen Seitz. As you know, they were very good friends.

Good Lord willing, I hope to see you in Omaha, NE.

Airborne forever, Bob



Left to right: LTG(R) Richard Seitz and Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5/66-5/67. General Seitz commanded the 82nd Airborne Division when Worrell was the 82nd Information Officer. (Photo sent by CSM Robert Young, HHC CSM 6/66-6/67.)

+ WILLIE M. ORTIZ, 2/502 HHC 7/65-5/66, P.O. Box 22074, Tucson, AZ 85734-2074, (520) 573-1672 along with his subscription renewal wrote: Sorry I'm a little late. Wife and I are raising eight grandkids, money at times gets a little short. Enclosed are my dues for this year. Hoping you have a magazine laying around that you can send me.

*Editor's Note: April 2007 magazine sent.*

+ = Current Subscriber



## THAT CONTAGIOUS SPIRIT

*My first combat assault as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam was uneventful with respect to enemy activity. However, the intelligence reports did not predict it that way, and the atmosphere those many hours before take off was one filled with suspense and restlessness. The first lift was to leave the Kontum Airfield at daybreak on the 1st of December and continue until two battalions from the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division had been moved to areas west of Polei Kleng, just a few clicks from the Cambodian Border.*

*The briefing for the lift was presented around 1930 hours on the evening of the eighth. That night the pilots and crews seemed restless. There was more noise than usual and as a newcomer it was very obvious that this was not just an average mission or an average evening in the field with an aviation unit.*

*An hour and a half before initial pitch pull all pilots and crews were up. An early breakfast was served. But different from just eight or nine hours earlier—there was a distinctive quietness over the area.*

*About forty minutes before daybreak enroute to my aircraft, I stopped for a moment at the edge of the taxiway on the north side of the field. The air was crisp and cool and the noiselessness and early morning darkness set the stage for many wandering thoughts. I knew how I felt and the newness of the whole*

*thing, I'm sure, contributed a great degree to the pasels of butterflies that occupied my system. However, I couldn't conceive of feeling any worse. Until for some reason I began to wonder what my feelings would be if I were still wearing the ole' Screaming Eagle Patch, that with great apprehension I finally removed while in flight school, and would soon be carried out into those jungle covered mountains and left possibly face to face with the enemy.*

*Then at the very moment these anxious thoughts passed through my mind, I detected a wonderful and familiar sound. As I looked toward the western end of the airstrip not yet visible through the early morning haze, these sounds became very recognizable. Then suddenly out of the morning darkness and the settling mist appeared the first elements of the 101st as they gloriously proceeded up the runway at a doubletime singing one of their age old chants. Slightly dazed, I stood for a moment in complete amazement as I observed these proud American paratroopers preparing for battle and possibly death.*

*After a few seconds, I continued on toward my chopper—a bit choked I must admit, not only from the admiration I felt for the men, but also for what that pure and simple Airborne Spirit had once again done for me.*

—A Pilot,

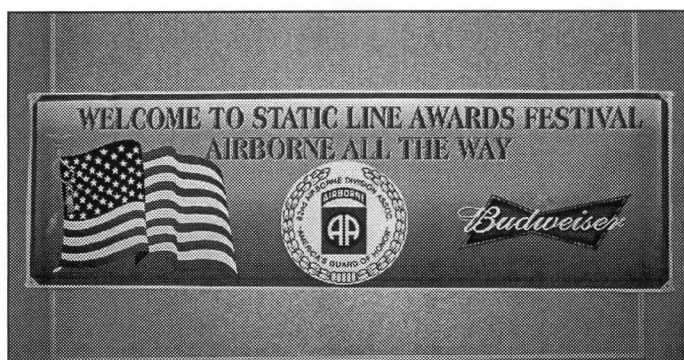
117th Assault Helicopter Co

SGT BERNARD GORDON, HHB, 2/320 Arty has extended for the second time for an additional six months but expects to be home in time for the Reunion on leave. Bennie was wounded by a grenade as he served as a forward observer with the Infantry.

*From the SCREAMING EAGLE magazine of  
July/August 1967, page 11.*







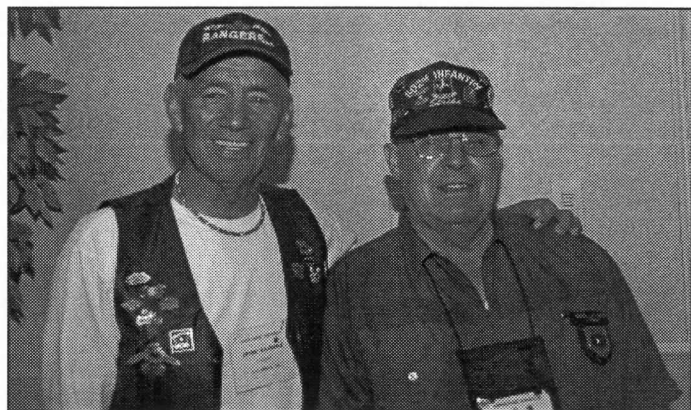
Welcome sign in the Static Line Awards Hospitality Room that shows the 82nd Airborne Division influence on this gathering. The Atlanta Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division is responsible for the Hospitality Room.



Before the Memorial Luncheon at the 30th Anniversary Static Line Awards celebration (L to R) Sam Bass, Executive Secretary & Treasurer, 101st Airborne Division Association, who was chosen as the 101st Airborne Division Association Man of the Year, sits at a table awaiting lunch with CSM(R) Robert A. Young, Brigade CSM 6/66-6/67.



At the Static Line Awards banquet The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam Man of the Year (Left) COL(R) Lawrence A. Redmond, 2/327 A 5/67-2/68 is presented his Man of the Year plaque by Don Lassen, Editor and Publisher of THE STATIC LINE.



In the Hospitality Room for the 30th Anniversary Static Line Awards celebration are (L to R) SGM(R) Peter Bacerra, 2/327 HHC 5/66-5/67 and CSM(R) Harvey P. Appleman, 2/327 HQ 2/67-3/68.



# Screaming Eagles of WWII Foundation

On April 11-14th, four members of the Screaming Eagles of WWII Foundation ([www.screamingeagles.nl](http://www.screamingeagles.nl)) presented the plans for the Operation Torch tour at the Static Line reunion in Atlanta, GA.

The Operation Torch tour is a 11-day trip through the battlefield areas of Operation Market Garden in The Netherlands, including a side trip to Bastogne, Belgium. The tour is organized by the Screaming Eagles of WWII Foundation on a non-profit basis.

Both the Foundation and Operation Torch were met with great enthusiasm. Don Lassen, the organizer and central core of this annual event which celebrated its 30th anniversary this year, graciously presented the Dutch delegation during the banquet.

After the Static Line reunion, the Foundation's director of US operations, Joseph M. Bossi, hosted this Dutch party and gave them a full tour of Fort Campbell. In the process, the Dutch delegation was invited by Brigadier General Ricky L. Rife and Colonel Thomas D. Vail (new Division Chief of Staff) to present both the Screaming Eagles of WWII Foundation and the Operation Torch 2007 plans.



Both General Rife and Colonel Vail hold the history of the 101st Airborne Division high. This history includes the special bond the Division has with the Dutch people in general and the people of the area liberated by the US Airborne Forces (nicknamed "The Corridor") especially.

The Screaming Eagles of WWII Foundation strives to continue this very special friendship by inviting veterans, families of veterans and active duty personnel to participate in the Operation Torch trip with two goals in mind:

## Keeping the memory alive Honoring the sacrifice

It was therefore a special honor to be able to present plans for Operation Torch 2007 to the Division.

CSM(R) Joseph M. Bossi, 2/327 HHC 6/66-7/67, 2231 Pendleton Drive, Clarksville, TN 37042-5618, (615) 860-2026 is a Board Member and the U. S. Contact for Operation Torch.



After the Static Line Awards Dinner, the Dutch delegation posed for a picture with CSM(R) Joseph M. Bossi, 2/327 HHC 6/66-7/67. They are (L to R) Frits Janssen, Leoni Wenstedt, Petra Wenstedt-Pulles, Barry Pulles and Joe Bossi.



## 61 NVA Killed 1st Day

# 101st Paratroopers Launch Benton

CHU LAI — Two battalions of paratroopers launched Operation Benton with air assaults into Communist strongholds Aug 13, west of here killing 61 NVA in the first 24-hours of fighting.

The operation began with the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf, and 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf, deploying from selected landing zones, anticipating contact with an NVA regiment believed to be operating in the area.

## VC Deflate Trooper's 'Soft Sleep'

CHU LAI — Two paratroopers in the 101st Airborne's Operation Hood River found out how quick "Charlie" can shoot. They also discovered one particular VC couldn't shoot straight.

"We were operating along a high ridge line in the mountains and following a well-used trail in hopes of finding some VC when we came upon a base complex," said Pfc. Harold G. Morris, Redondo Beach, Calif., of C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

Morris's unit, the 2nd Platoon, had discovered a company-sized area of huts, mess hall, animal bins and storage pits.

"My squad had point responsibility," said Sgt. John R. Grimes, Maysville, Okla., "I set up security positions around the huts while the other squads searched for anything 'Charlie' may have left behind."

"Morris took one side of a trail leading down from the mountain and I took the other," explained Pfc. James E. Johnson, Mobile, Ala., "The trail came down to a 'v' and went back up and it took two of us to provide adequate security."

The dense underbrush and thick jungle handicapped the paratroopers' visibility; however, minutes later three Viet Cong suddenly came into view.

"They surprised the hell out of me," said Morris. "I fired a quick burst, hit one, and another sprayed our positions with an AK-47."

"We had been resupplied the day before," said Morris. "Charlie tore up my rucksack, putting holes in all but two of my C-ration cans. He also ruined my sweater and two canteens."

Johnson's problem was a little more serious.

"The VC not only ruined my C-rations, but shot my air mattress full of holes. If there's anything I hate, it's sleeping on hard, rocky ground."

As darkness fell, the tactical command post of the "No Slack" battalion was attacked by enemy mortars.

Moments later, B Co. of the 'o-deuce' was hit from three sides.

The long night began with all available supporting fires provided to the units in contact.

## Fast Foot Saves Two Lives

QUANG NGAI — A swift kick and quick shooting by a 101st Airborne paratrooper saved his life and that of his platoon leader near here recently during Operation Hood River.

C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf, had selected defensive positions for the night with 2nd platoon assigned an area near a trail along a rice paddy.

"We had searched the valley all day," said Spec. 4 Gerald A. (Frenchy) Soileau, Ville Platte, La., "We failed to find as much as a water buffalo."

"As soon as it was dark," added SFC David J. Harper, Columbus, Ga., acting platoon leader, "I had the men set out warning devices. Less than 20 minutes later, 'Charlie' probed our position."

"We had just set up the devices when I heard a pop and

Flare and helicopter gunships were joined by Air Force dragon ships. Flares turned the battlefield into day as their guns raked enemy positions with withering fire.

At one moment during the battle, Lt. Col. Edmond P. Abood, Brooklyn, directed the fires of the dragon ship to

within 50 meters of his defensive circle.

"Black Panther" was really cool," said a sergeant who took mortar fragments in the arm. "He really kept us up tight."

In B Co. of the 502nd, Capt. Ronald Odum, San Francisco, was leading his paratroopers in a blistering attack on the enemy

forces that all but surrounded his company.

As tracer bullets cut long red arcs into the enemy locations, helicopter crews carried out ammunition resupply missions to the engaged units and evacuated their wounded. Some chopper pilots had logged more than 18 hours of flying time when dawn broke over the battle areas.

With daylight, Odum's command searched the battlefield for enemy dead. Thirty-five bodies littered the perimeter, including 11 AK-47 automatic weapons, five SKS rifles and two light Russian machine guns.

Meanwhile, the "No Slack" command post continued to receive small arms fire as they moved out to engage the enemy.

At noon the next day the enemy disengaged to lick his wounds.

A Co., of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf, was inserted as a blocking force early in the afternoon as the Screaming Eagle brigade prepared for whatever the enemy had to offer.

Night fell in silence.

## VN Captain Continues Struggle

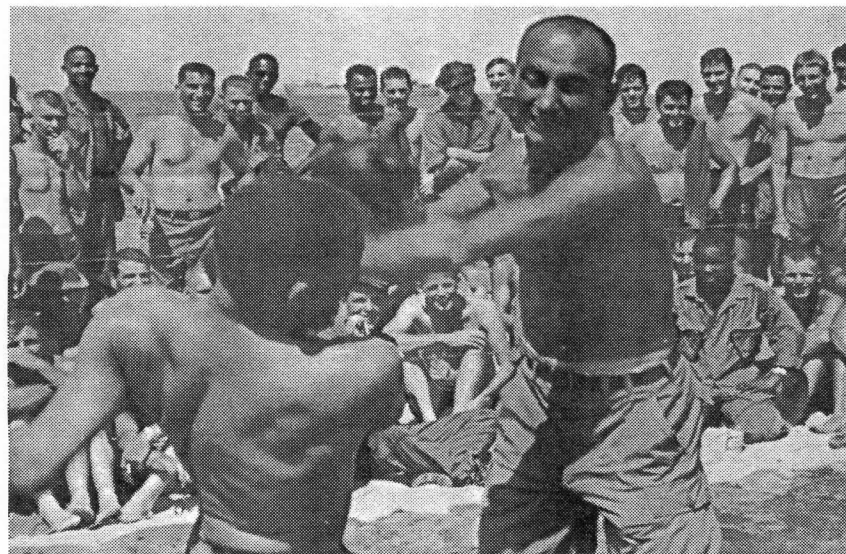
MINH LONG—The commander of the South Vietnamese Special Forces camp here is a veteran of more than 20 years of combat, having fought in World War II, the French Indo-China War and now the war to deny Communist control of South Vietnam.

Capt. Le Van Chanh served with the Japanese during their occupation of Saigon in 1941-1945. After the Japanese defeat, Chanh, with other members of the Cao Dai religious order, aligned themselves with the Viet Minh to oppose the French. However, in 1947 the Cao Dai recognized the threat Communism presented to South Vietnam, and joined the French forces in fighting the Viet Minh until the French withdrew from Indo-China in 1954.

Following the partitioning of his country into North and South Vietnam, Chanh enlisted in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and continued opposing Communism and the Viet Cong.

Trained in special forces operations, he has commanded six different special forces camps.

During the 101st Airborne's Operations Malheur I and II, Capt. Chanh's forces worked with paratrooper elements in search and destroy operations near here.

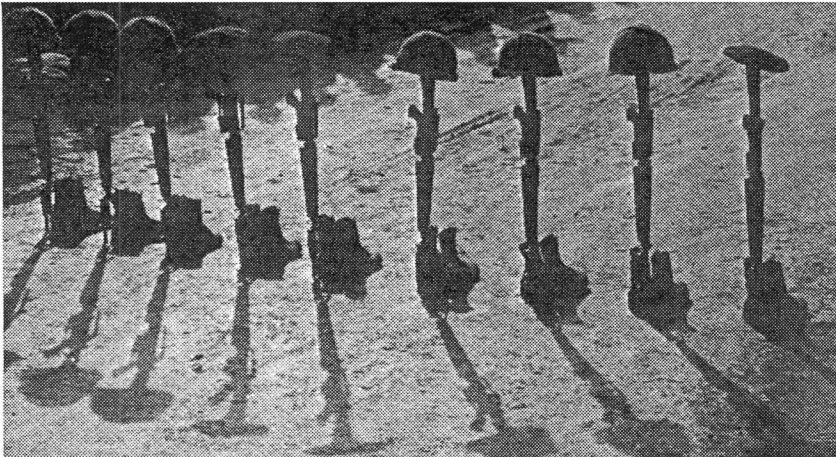


## 'Hang in There, Sarge!'

S. Sgt. Larry T. Jacobs, Nashville, Tenn., leans away from a hard log thrown by Lt. Col. Edmond P. Abood, Brooklyn, as paratroopers of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf, shout encouragement. Boxing was a feature attraction of the day of rest and relaxation on the beach following Operation Malheur II near Duc Pho. (Photo by S. Sgt. Mike Mangiameli)



# Shadows and Silence...



Nine paratroopers of the 2nd (Abn), 502nd Inf., who died during Operation Malheur II fight- ing were honored by their comrades recently. The three berets represent Recondos. (Photo by Spec. 4 James Lohr)

# HHC 'Top' Follows Family Tradition

By SP4 Dan Stroebel  
CHU LAI—As he played and skied in the 16-foot snow drifts of winter-time Czechoslovakia, it seemed highly improbable to 10 year-old George M. Sekerak that he would ever be a first sergeant in the United States Army.

brothers, and mother anxiously awaited the time when they would be able to join Michael Sekerak in the United States. First Sergeant Sekerak of HHC, 1st Bde., 101st Airborne Div., left Czechoslovakia in 1939 for the United States with his mother and two brothers.

The son of a farmer who departed for the United States in 1927, George Sekerak, his two

"I remember when we got on the train to Hamburg, Germany, where we were to board the ship for the United States, the Nazi storm troopers pushed us out of our seats and we had to stand all the way to Hamburg," said Sekerak.

# Java Flies, Enemy Dies

CHU LAI — A hip-shooting paratrooper brought down the first confirmed enemy kill for C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., during Operation Hood River.

The family arrived in New York and journeyed to Cleveland, where Michael and Mary Sekerak settled to rear their family.

Spec. 5 Steve Varga, Wheeling, W.Va., had just finished passing out malaria pills in the company command post and settled down for a hot cup of C-ration coffee.

"We lived in a neighborhood which was predominantly European. There were people there who spoke Russian so I had no problem until I went into school," said Sekerak. It wasn't mathematics or history, but English took some time.

"We were set up along a trail getting ready to move out," said Varga. "I stirred my coffee a couple of times, looked absent-mindedly off in the distance and there was Charlie, walking up the trail like he owned it. I grabbed my rifle, pushed the selector to automatic and gave him a burst."

In 1945 he was drafted and chose the Army.

"No one else in the command group saw the VC," said Captain Jim Joiner, Tampa, Fla.

"I always wanted to be a soldier because the family had a history of soldiers. My grandfather rode with the Cossacks." After talking to some paratroopers in Cleveland he decided to join the Airborne.

"Varga nailed him with a three round burst and got the first kill in the company for this operation."

"I wanted to be a Marine at first, but I felt the airborne would be a better deal," he said.

But sometimes all is not well that ends well. During the shooting Varga spilled his coffee and he had no more.

Sekerak completes 22 years in the Army this month. He is married, has four children and still writes his mother in their native language.

"What else?" laughed First Sergeant Sekerak. "It's all she can read."

# ...And Those That Continue

**Bronze Star with "V" Device**  
M. Sgt. Lloyd L. Smith Jr., HHC; Pfc. Richard P. McCarthy, B Co. 2/502; Lt. James T. Unger, C Co. 2/327; Spec. 4 Daniel Cooper, C Co. 1/327; Cpl. Elliot R. Allen Jr., A Co. 2/502; S. Sgt. David E. Sirois, C Co. 2/327; Pfc. Gary Ristine, HHC, 2/502.

1/327; Spec. 5 Dolfey Jenkins, HHC 2/502; Sgt. Larry L. LaSalle, A Co. 1/327; Spec. 4 Nathaniel Fells, B Co. 2/502; S. Sgt. Raymond A. Proctor, B Co. 2/327; Sgt. Charles D. Jenkins, C Co. 2/327; Spec. 4 Michael Taylor, B Co. 1/327.

Maj. Fred S. Lindsey, HHC; S. Sgt. Robert E. Ellis Jr., A Co. Spt Bn; Sgt. Patrick A. Knaub, HHC, 2/320; Spec. 5 Norman B. Hardinger, A Co. 326th Eng.; Cpl. Daniel T. Pienta, B Btry, 2/320; Spec. 4 Leon Carr, HHC, 2/502; Spec. 4 Donald H. Bowers, B Co. 2/327.

Sgt. William R. Doyle, A Co. 1/327; Lt. David G. Sherrard, C Co. 2/327; Sgt. Billy D. Miller, A Co. 2/502; Spec. 4 Duwayne R. Sonnenberg, C Co. 2/327; Spec. 4 Richard R. Recendez, B Co. 1/327; Spec. 4 Edward L. Carr, B Co. 2/502; Lt. Edward R. Throckmorton, B Co. 2/502. Pfc. John C. Adams, B Co.

**ARCOM with "V" Device**  
Pfc. Les H. Paschall, HHC, 2/327; S. Sgt. Hans W. Wolf, E Co. Spt Bn; Spec. 4 Bennie Thomas Jr., A Co. 2/502; Spec. 4 James H. Johnson, C Co. 1/327; Lt. Bennie L. Jagears, HHC, 2/327; Pfc. James R. Gillette, C Co. 2/502; Lt. Thomas R. Glueck, C Co. 2/327.

**ARCOM**  
Spec. 5 Farrell R. Harden, HHC; Pfc. Richard E. Dew, A Co. 2/327; Pfc. Richard M. Hammond, A Trp. 2/17; Pfc. Karl A. Parrish, C Co. 1/327; Pfc. Robert C. Walters Jr., HHC, 2/327; Spec. 4 Douglas V. Corley, A Co. Spt Bn; Spec. 4 Alfonso Costanza, A Co. 2/502.

**Bronze Star**  
S. Sgt. Donald L. Dreiling, A Co. 2/327; Spec. 4 Valdosta Belton, B Co. 2/502; Sgt. James Z. Wyatt, B Co. 1/327; Spec. 4 Robert W. Hemenway, C Co. 2/327; Spec. 4 Raymond Gillison, C Co. 2/327; Spec. 4 Timothy Costello, B Co. 2/502; Capt. Robert H. Iwaski, 181 MI Det.

Pfc. Marion N. Wilson, HHC, 1/327; Pfc. John F. Hurley, C Co. 2/502; Spec. 6 Frankie G. Johnson, HHC; Spec. 4 James T. Tyrrell, A Trp 2/17; Spec. 4 James N. Page, A Co. 2/502; Spec. 4 George Laessig III, 406th Radio Res Det; Pfc. Michael Rogner, A Co. 1/327.

# Assn. Sends Best Wishes

(Editor's note: The following telegram was addressed to the brigade during Operation Benton.)

CHICAGO, Ill. — As we start our 22nd annual reunion celebrating the 25th anniversary of the 101st Airborne Division our thoughts, prayers and every wish for continued success are with you, our Screaming Eagle comrades in Vietnam.

We are very proud of each one of you and your carrying of the traditions of the division with its "Rendezvous with Destiny."

From World War II. Fort Campbell and Vietnam veterans in attendance — Airborne All The Way to the "Always First Brigade."

— H. L. Harlan, President, 101st Airborne Division Association.

# Rendezvous Begins For New Soldiers

DUC PHO—Four men sat on a hill west of here and stared across the valley. Their young faces revealed traces of doubt, concern, apprehension, curiosity and determination.

The four were replacements, waiting for a helicopter to take them to their assigned units—

the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

"I'm looking forward to it," commented Pfc. Roger Polasky, Pittsburgh, "but I am kind of scared, I guess."

The other three nodded in agreement.

Pfc. Joe LaPorte, Massillon, Ohio, said, "I think I'm just doing my part."

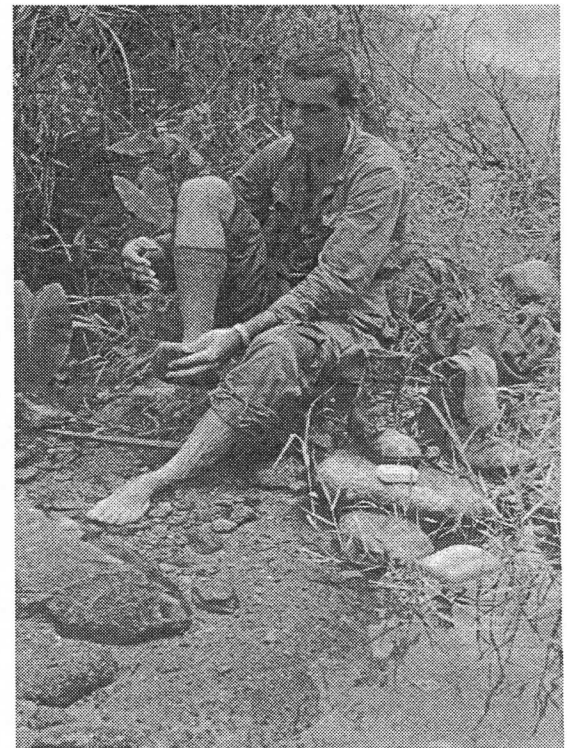
Someone shouted for the replacements to be ready to move in 20 minutes.

They checked their equipment.

"I read about this in the papers, I heard about it on radio and I saw it on TV," said Pfc. Kent McGown, DeQueen, Ark., "But it's hard to imagine I'm really a part of it now."

A helicopter arrived, sending dust swirling. A helmeted figure motioned the four to climb aboard.

Pfc. Hugh Major, Tucker, Ga., hefted his rifle and grinned: "Who do I see about R&R?"



# Tired Old 'Dogs'

Platoon Sgt. Edward A. Birmingham, Rutland, Vt., washes his feet in a jungle stream during Operation Hood River. The paratrooper is a member of C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

(Photo by S. Sgt. Art Campbell)



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

The Screaming Eagle is an authorized Army newspaper published weekly by the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, RVN, for military personnel. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Reproduction of all material other than copyrighted items is authorized. Address all communications to: Editor, Screaming Eagle, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, APO San Francisco 96347. Printed in Tokyo, Japan, by Pacific Stars and Stripes.

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

Circulation 5,000



# '02 Diversion Catches VC

QUANG NGAI — A platoon of 101st Airborne paratroopers used diversionary tactics to surprise three VC recently during Operation Hood River near here.

"We were walking up a small stream bed in thick jungle when I heard voices," recalled Pfc. Jimmy Morris, Adel, Ga., "I motioned for silence in the column."

Freezing in place, men of A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. heard VC talking 100 yards to their front.

"At first we thought they were moving toward us," said Morris, "so we set up a hasty ambush and waited. The VC

continued to talk, but we couldn't hear any sound of movement. We decided to move toward them."

Realizing the sound of dead wood breaking underfoot would alert the enemy, Spec. 4 Lester Johnson, New Orleans, radioed for fire from B and C Btrys. of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 320th Artillery.

"Every time a round exploded," Johnson explained, "our column would advance a few feet, but it was too slow."

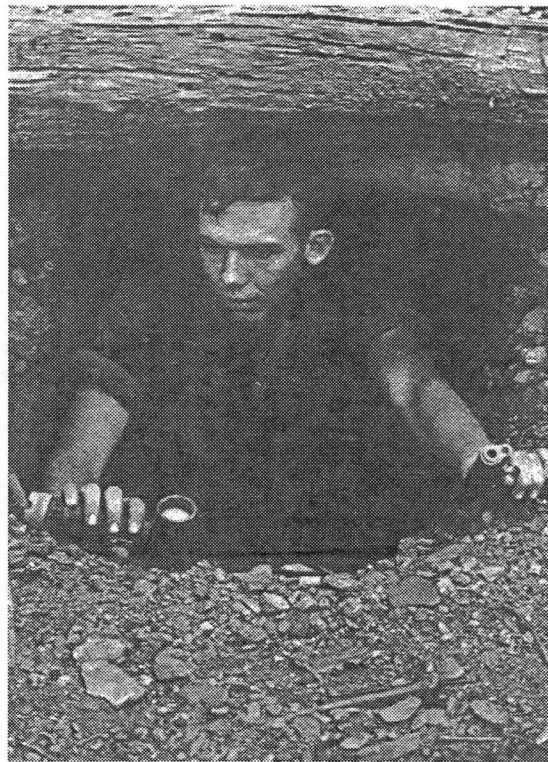
The platoon also called for an airborne psychological operations team to fly overhead, broadcasting an endless Chieu Hoi appeal into the area below, concealing the paratrooper advance.

Spec. 4 Manual Aberez, Amarillo, Texas, pointman, cautiously approached a clearing.

"The diversion worked," said Aberez. "Three VC were sitting around a fire, their attention locked on the helicopter circling overhead."

Suddenly a dead branch snapped, alerting the enemy. "They started running for a trail leading into the jungle," said Aberez, "our point element opened fire. We dropped one and wounded the other two who escaped."

Searching the body of the dead VC, the paratroopers discovered papers indicating he was a Viet Cong battalion commander.



## Tunnel Rat

Pfc. William J. Coldwell, Plano, Ill., a tunnel rat with C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., crawls from a bunker complex after a search during Operation Hood River. Coldwell searched more than 25 tunnels in one afternoon. (Photo by S. Sgt. Mike Manglamell)

# Platoon Uncovers Lucky 13

DUC PHO (1/327-IO)— A platoon from B Co. of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. captured a 'baker's dozen' of VC weapons while exploiting a gunship attack on an enemy base camp near here recently.

Lt. Floyd Williams, Detroit, said 176th Aviation Co. gunships opened fire when they saw 12 VC moving into the underground.

"During our search we found clothing, cooking utensils and 1,500 pounds of rice abandoned by the VC," said Williams.

Intensifying their probe, Williams' platoon discovered five French light machine guns concealed under bushes.

"We were excited about the find and we fanned out to cover every foot of the camp," Williams added.

The platoon soon found a Chinese sub-machine gun, five rifles, two shotguns, a grenade, and an assortment of small arms ammunition.

## Knights in Top 10

ARMY "GOLDEN KNIGHTS" Parachute Team finished among the top 10 in the national parachute competition. Four members of the team garnered honors in meet sponsored by Parachute Club of America. Judging was on accuracy in hitting the ground target and maneuvers formed in free fall.

## Malaria Is Subtle Enemy

Malaria control is a responsibility of the individual soldier. Although we can not avoid every mosquito, we can reduce the probability of malaria by using mosquito netting whenever possible, using insecticides, applying repellent to exposed areas of the body, keeping sleeves down and collars buttoned after dark, avoiding swampy areas after sunset, and taking malaria pills regularly. This tropical disease is known to reoccur years after one has supposedly been cured. At an older age, it can be more dangerous.

## Log Over 600 Sorties in 24 Hours

# Brigade Served and Saved by Flying 'Minutemen'

By SP4 Dan Stroebel

CHU LAI — The "Minutemen" of the 176th Aviation Co. shouldered one of their heaviest workloads since arriving in Vietnam as they ferried troops, ammunition and supplies for the 101st Airborne during Operation Benton near here recently.

On D-Day the sound of rotor blades whipping the damp morning air echoed over the brigade area as the "Minute-

men" lifted the first wave of paratroopers into the combat zone. Back and forth the choppers shuttled as the day wore on.

Late in the afternoon, 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. made contact and the pilots of the 176th remained in their cockpits furnishing supplies, Medivac and gunship support.

WO Dennis D. Bostad, Stevens Point, Wis., flew nearly 19 consecutive hours during the

first day of the operation.

"After the first 10 hours, I was numb," recalled Bostad. "Then I caught my second wind and kept going."

Bostad flew four types of missions during his long stint at the controls. After 11 hours and 30 minutes of combat assault flying, he switched helicopters and flew the command and control ship for Lt. Col. Ralph Puckett Jr., commander of the paratrooper battalion.

Later Bostad was flying ammunition resupply missions. When he landed his helicopter at the end of the long day, he had been evacuating wounded from the battlefield, often under fire.

"The night flying was the most challenging," Bostad explained. "About midnight, the moon set and the troopers on the ground had to use flashlights to guide us in. It got to the point where we quit hoping

we could do it — we just knew we had to get in."

The gunship pilots and crews of "Minutemen" battled their way through the long day with mission after mission of close support for the paratroopers. Two and three gunships orbited the battle areas, lacing the Communist infested jungle with machinegun and rocket fire.

Capt. Matthew M. McGuire, Long Island, N.Y., was flying his gunship in support of 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. when a .30 caliber enemy bullet smashed through the helicopter windshield and struck him in the chest. His armored vest saved his life.

"It knocked the wind out of me, but I was more concerned about where the bullet came from," McGuire said. "We weren't aware of any ground fire, but it came from somewhere."

McGuire had logged 14 hours when he walked away from his chopper.

WO Kim P. Hogan, Evanston, Ill., flew his gunship nearly eight hours that night, supporting paratrooper forces who battled the enemy at hand-grenade range.

"The paratroopers had a man on the perimeter use a flashlight to mark their forward positions," said Hogan, "and we went in firing as close as possible. It was tight all the way."

In the first 24-hours of Operation Benton, the "Minutemen" pilots of 176th Aviation Co. logged 214 hours in the air while flying 648 sorties in a spectacular demonstration of Army aviation support.



## 176th Aviation 'Musket' Smokes VC

A rocket from a gunship of the 176th "Minutemen" streaks toward its target during Operation Benton fighting. (Photo by Pfc. James Nelson)

# Father and Son



Maj. Henry Nachtsheim Jr. (right) passes on his camouflaged helmet cover to his son, Lt. Henry Nachtsheim III at Phan Rang. The elder Nachtsheim, who served as executive officer of the Spt. Bn. wanted to welcome his son into the brigade before leaving for a European assignment. (Photo by Spec. 5 Robert Lloyd)

# Cavalrymen Sweep Through VC Village

DUC PHO—Like an eagle falling out of the sky to claim its prey, paratroopers of A Troop, 2nd Sqdn. (Abn), 17th Cav. swooped down on an apparently deserted village near here, killing three VC and rescuing a Vietnamese orphan.

The airborne cavalrymen were conducting a reconnaissance of the Song Ve valley when five VC ran from a hut.

A helicopter gunship of the 176th Aviation Co. piloted by Capt. Matthew M. McGuire, Long Island, N.Y., laid down a base of fire as Maj. Bobby G. Hanna, Columbus, Ga., landed the cavalry element in another chopper 100 meters from the village.

Capt. James R. Harding, Chicago, troop commander, led the cavalrymen in pursuit of the fleeing enemy.

"The VC were carrying rucksacks," Harding said. "When we searched their bodies, we found various documents, medical supplies and articles of new cloth-

ing — including woolen sweaters."

As the paratroopers searched each hut in the village, they found a 12-year-old boy.

"The boy told us there were VC in the area," said Harding. "And he said his parents were dead. We brought him out with us and took him to the GVN refugee center at Minh Long."

# Added to Menu

# Snake Puts Squeeze On Squad

CHU LAI — Walking point for his platoon, during Operation Hood River recently, Spec. 4 Patrick S. Campbell, Chattanooga, Tenn., spotted a 20-foot python on the trail.

"I remembered the small zoo the 101st has in Phan Rang," said Campbell, "I thought the snake would make a nice addition for it."

The 20-year-old member of C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., jumped on the snake and grabbed it behind the head.

"The python just shook me off, but I was determined that snake would get to the zoo."

Campbell grabbed the snake again, applying a stronger grip.

"I must have really made him mad," laughed Campbell. "He whipped around until he coiled himself around me and tried to bite me. That's when I decided I needed help."

The rest of the squad had been watching the wrestling match and making small bets on the winner. When it was evident the snake was getting

the best of Campbell, the squad decided to help him.

"That snake started really getting serious," said Private Anthony W. Dean, Gatesville, Tex., "I grabbed a machete while the rest of the squad attempted to uncoil the snake from Campbell's body."

"I started getting a little scared when seven men couldn't pull the snake off," said Campbell. "Even the machete, sharp as it was, didn't do any good." Perseverance paid off. The

snake finally was killed but instead of winding up in the Phan Rang zoo, it became the supper meal for eight tired paratroopers.

How was it? "Delicious," said Dean. "But of course I became a little used to eating snake during trips in Texas." Campbell didn't quite agree.

"I sort of lost my appetite after I realized I must have been on the snake's menu for supper."

# Paratroopers Build Bridges of Peace

PHAN RANG — Paratroopers of Spt. Bn. (Abn) here are building a reputation of friendship with the Vietnamese of Ninh Thuan province by joining with them in rebuilding vital

community services for the people.

The battalion's most recent project was the reconstruction of a bridge linking Cau Dap to Buu Son, the district capital. The bridge, built by the French in the late 1940's, had deteriorated and was unsafe for even the lightest vehicle traffic.

When battalion civil affairs officer, Capt. Barry J. Roller, learned of the unsafe bridge, he offered the services of the Screaming Eagles to help rebuild the treacherous span.

Six Popular Forces soldiers volunteered to assist the Americans in the task.

Side by side, Vietnamese and Americans worked at widening, strengthening and replacing all of the stringers and supports of the bridge. A total of 1,596 board feet of lumber was used to cover the 30.5 foot span.

Roller praised the Popular Forces troopers and credited them with doing the major portion of the construction.

Battalion personnel furnished the materials, tool, transportation and engineering assistance.

Previously, the paratroopers conducted extensive MEDCAP programs throughout the province and expanded treatment to include bath demonstrations and orientations on personal hygiene, climaxed by the issuance of soap provided by donors in the United States.

Another project which received acclaim throughout the province was the construction of a playground for children of Phan Rang.

The program of building friendship with the Vietnamese people also includes a scholarship program, construction of a new school, and language classes.

In order to support these many and varied projects in the province, the paratroopers established a warehouse where surplus and repairable items are stored. Other supplies contributed by people in the United States for the Vietnamese villagers are stored there before distribution.

# Travel Tips Alleviate Confusion In CONUS

SAIGON — U.S. servicemen returning to Vietnam from compassionate leave in the States should be prepared to buy an airplane ticket, a USMACV spokesman said recently.

Both Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., have reported that space available travel is extremely difficult to obtain.

Although many flights leave both bases for overseas destinations, the seats are filled with either replacements or others traveling in a duty status.

A man with insufficient funds for a return ticket to Vietnam must report to the nearest transportation officer. An airplane ticket may be supplied, but the cost will be deducted from the serviceman's pay.

Going in the other direction, many GIs returning from Vietnam are discovering they do not have standby travel status because they either do not have or have not completed DD Form 1580.

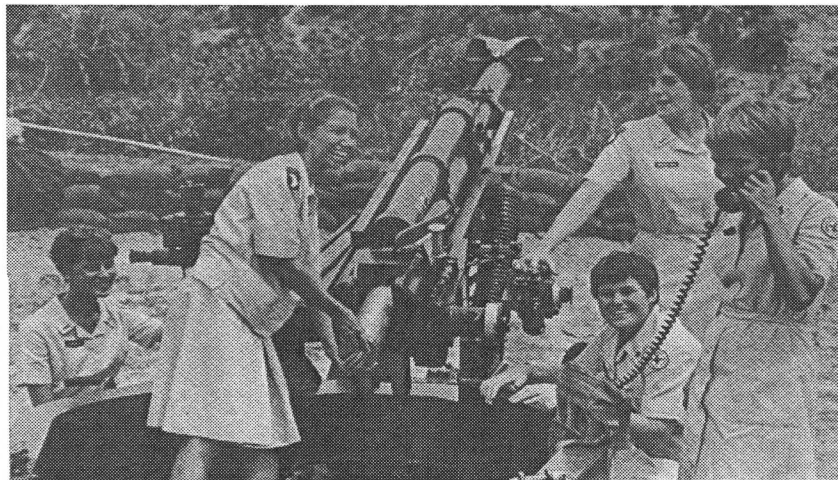
A recent Army survey of mili-

tary traffic at San Francisco International, Army Personnel Center, Oakland, and the Seattle-Tacoma Airport found more than 7,000 military members trying for a space without the Military Standby Authorization for Commercial Air Travel (DD Form 1580).

The Army has asked all its commanders to take appropriate action to insure all personnel are properly briefed on requirements for DD Form 1580 and are provided with necessary authenticated forms prior to commencement of travel.

Baggage has acquired a new status in transportation. Military Traffic Management and Terminal Service (MTMTS) and 31 airlines have reached an agreement to speed delivery of unaccompanied military baggage to servicemen.

Baggage will be flown as air freight to domestic and overseas points, reducing the time required for a serviceman's extra personal baggage to reach him at a new assignment.



# Prettiest Gun Crew Around

Red Cross "Dollies"—(l-r) Rosemary Cook, Great Falls, Mont.; Margaret Goodrich, Winston-Salem, N.C.; Ginny Bradley, Merced, Calif.; Martha Fondren, Jackson, Miss.; and Gail Allen, Guitman, Ga., got a bang out of their visit to a battery of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 320th Arty. (Photo by S. Sgt. Mike Mangiameli)

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## Renewals

March 1, 2007 through  
June 4, 2007

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\$ = Above Subscription Price

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March 1, 2007 through  
June 4, 2007

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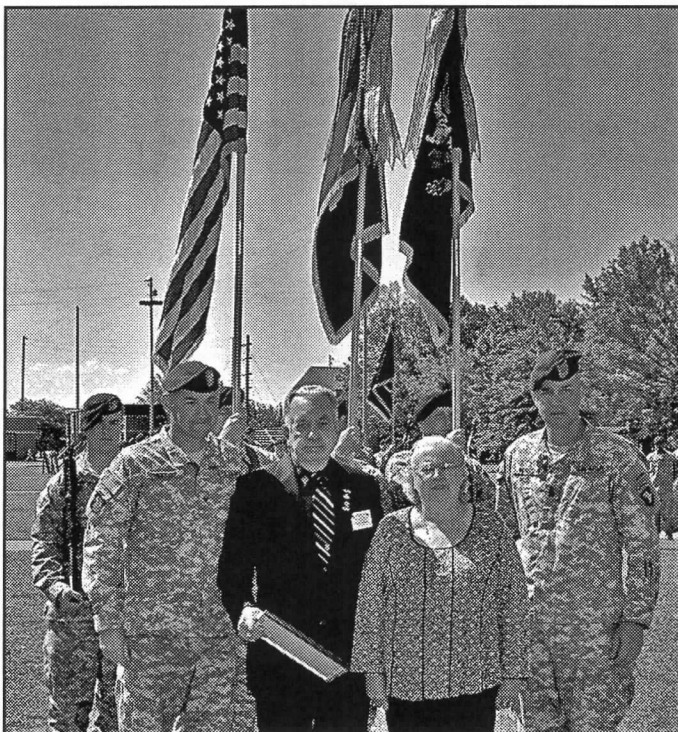


# Musselwhite father and son DMOR

CW4(R) Charlie M. Musselwhite, 1/327 HHC 65-66 EIT, sent the following information.

I am not a writer by trade. I will try and have this make sense to you. Feel free to make changes as you see fit for clarity.

My military career began on 11 October 1948 and I retired on 1 November 1978. My son Daniel began his military career on 10 August 1982 and retired 1 October 2004. I held all the enlisted grades except E-9 prior to being promoted to Warrant Officer. I retired as a CW-4. My son retired as a CSM. I served in the 101st Airborne Division and my son served in the 82nd Airborne Division. Most of my career was spent in the Infantry and the Engineers. All my son's career was spent in the Field Artillery. The items listed below show similarities in our careers.



*L to R: Color Guard, unknown, 1st Brigade Commanding Officer COL Michael S. McBride, Charles, Jacqueline and 1st Brigade Command Sergeant Major Robert G. Wright.*

Both had Airborne Division combat tours. Daniel deployed to Grenada 24 October 1983 HSB 1/320 Airborne Artillery Battalion. CSM Musselwhite also deployed to Iraq with 2/319th Field Artillery Regiment 14 February 2003 and returned on 8 February 2004.

I deployed with the 1/327th Infantry Battalion, 1st Brigade 101st Airborne Division 29 June 1965 to Vietnam. I returned to Fort Campbell, KY in August 1966 into the part of the 101 Airborne Division that had remained there. I was assigned as the maintenance officer of the 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division and I remained in that position until December 1968. When the remainder of the division deployed to Vietnam in October 1967, I accompanied them.

Charlie completed Jump School in 1963 and Daniel completed Jump School in 1982. Charlie completed Jumpmaster School in 1964 and Daniel completed Jumpmaster School in 1985.

Charlie earned his Master Parachute Wings in 1967 and Daniel earned his Master Parachute Wings in 1996.

Charlie graduated from Jungle Warfare School June 1963 and Daniel graduated from Ranger School in December 1987.

Charlie was awarded a Bronze Star in 1966, 1967 and two in 1969 and Daniel was awarded a Bronze Star in 2004.

Charlie was awarded the Legion of Merit in 1969 and 1978 and Daniel was awarded the Legion of Merit 2004.

Daniel's son Vaughan also served in the 82nd Airborne Division. When Daniel graduated from Jump School in November 1982 the wings that were pinned on him by MG Wetzel were the wings that had been pinned on Charlie when he completed Jump School in 1963. When Vaughan completed Jump School in 2001, those same wings were pinned on Vaughan by Charlie and Daniel. Vaughan's grandmother Jackie and mother Patti were there to see this ceremony. Our whole family is very proud that we are a "THREE GENERATION PARATROOPER FAMILY."

Command Sergeant Major Daniel O. Musselwhite is granted and assigned the distinction of Distinguished Member of the 319th AIRBORNE FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY 2004.

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FOUR CHARLIE M. MUSSELWHITE** is granted and assigned the distinction of Distinguished Member of the 327th INFANTRY REGIMENT BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY 17 MAY 2007.

Charlie M. Musselwhite, 1800 62 Place South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33712, Tel 727-866-8346, C-727-420-1695.



*Charlie Musselwhite at Tuy Hoa, 1966, directing his troops under fire.*



# Another from the Greatest Generation Passes ...

by Barry Hana

## Special to *The First Screaming Eagles* in Viet Nam

Fort Meyers, VA --

A page has turned in the story of the greatest generation, and also in the book of life. On January 8, 2005, Major General S.H. (Salve) Matheson died at his home in Carmel, CA. He was 84 years old.

Weeks and months passed as preparations were made, and a schedule set, for his funeral and burial, at Arlington National Cemetery.

MG Matheson jumped into France with Easy Company of the 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne Division as a shavetail lieutenant on D-Day, 6th of June. His unit of Screaming Eagles, now known as the "Band of Brothers," is immortalized in the Stephen E. Ambrose book of the same name.

Matheson also served as a battalion commander in Korea, participating in the Inchon and Wonsan amphibious landings. He commanded the Army's 10th Special Forces Group in Bad Tolz, Germany. He served as commander of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, and as commander of the Second U.S. Army Division in Korea. His personal leadership and military record of distinguished service to his country has been an inspiration to thousands of Americans who served with him in these military units.

### A Celebration of His Life & Service

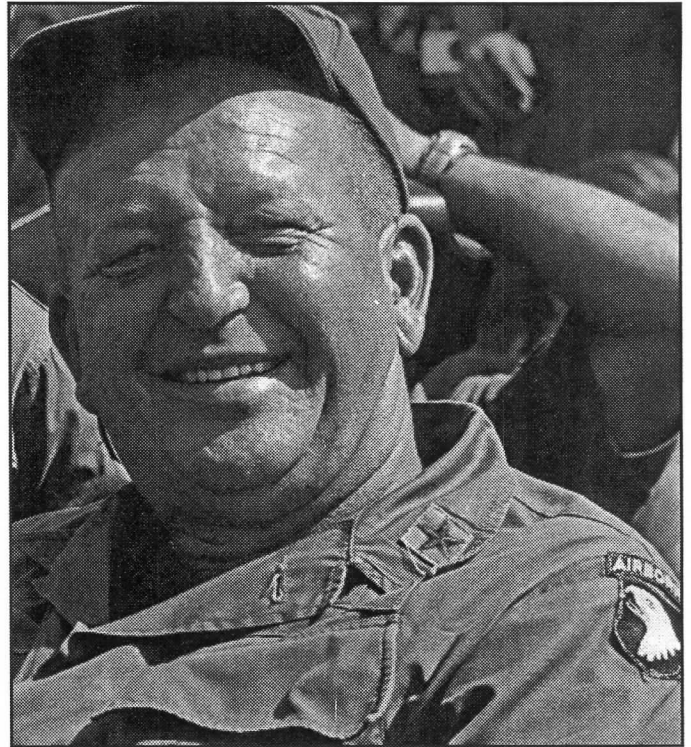
On Friday, April 29 the cremated remains of "Iron Duke" (his radio call sign) were buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. His family and many of those who had served with him in Europe, Korea and Vietnam were in attendance. The burial followed a catholic ceremony at the Old Chapel, Fort Meyers, VA. Following the funeral mass, his remains were carried to his gravesite by an honor guard of the Third U.S. Infantry, the Old Guard of the Army that faithfully and proudly serves Arlington National Cemetery, "The Garden of Stones."

Men in this honor guard move with a reverence for fallen heroes that is remarkable. Slow, yet crisp salutes, gliding motions and gleaming boots fitted with metal taps for emphasis in their steps when called upon. These very best young men of our nation honor the heroes who have died defending our country, and those who have died after surviving a lifetime of wars, and pass of infirmities and old age.

Mounted soldiers in dress blue uniforms with multi-colored service ribbons lead the flag-draped, horse-drawn caisson, followed by a soldier leading and walking beside the rider less horse, with black boots secured backwards in the stirrups, symbolic of a fallen commander.

Also present is a three-man honor guard of soldiers specially chosen for this ceremony by the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) from Fort Campbell, Ky. These young men, from small towns in Kansas, Ohio and Michigan carry the United

States Flag, the 101st Airborne Flag, resplendent with proud battle streamers earned for unit gallantry in action, and, finally, the red and gold two-star flag of a major general of the U.S. Army.



*Brigadier General S. H. Matheson seems to have something to smile about.*

An entourage of honorary pallbearers walk quietly behind, each man chosen by the family. Men with call signs like Bald Eagle, Phantom, Greyhound and Zebra as well as a son and two grandsons. Then two limousines for family members, followed by a procession of civilian and military people in attendance, walking and in automobiles. More than 150 people came from military posts and cities from all across the country at their own expense, to say goodbye to their fallen leader and comrade in arms.

### Graveside Ceremony

As the entourage walked the mile or so to the grave site, tourists in the cemetery looked on from the roadsides. School groups and families, Americans all. Whether they knew who was passing by, wasn't really important. But it was surely someone special. Caps were removed, and hands were placed over hearts until the flags and procession passed by. Then they were free to search the stones for names perhaps more familiar to them, and visit President John F. Kennedy's grave nearby. Upon arriving at Matheson's gravesite, the Third Infantry Band played "America the Beautiful" and "Holy, Holy, Holy." A 13-round artillery tribute was heard from afar. A 21-gun salute followed from a squad of Third Infantry soldiers. Then taps were played by the lone bugler, standing apart and in the midst of the many simple, white gravestones surrounding the newest resident of Arlington. A folded American Flag was presented to Mrs. Patricia Matheson, thanking her for her husband's service to the country.





### A Eulogy to Remember

Mrs. Matheson and retired Brigadier General John Walker Collins of San Antonio, TX, a long-time and trusted friend of Matheson, asked retired Colonel Billy E. Spangler of Boerne, TX, to deliver the eulogy for Matheson. Spangler served on Matheson's staff with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam and later as the editor of *Stars & Stripes Europe*. Known for his ability to write and say what is in the hearts of disciplined military men, Spangler delivered several anecdotes of Matheson's character and leadership he had seen first-hand in Vietnam. Some drew laughter, others head-nodding agreement.

Spangler also reminded those in attendance of why military men honor each other, referencing Stephen E Ambrose writings.

"War creates a comradeship that at its height is an ecstasy ... that men are true comrades only when each is ready to give up his life for the other, without reflection and without thought of personal loss."

That is why veterans have a tremendous bond that others can never fully understand.

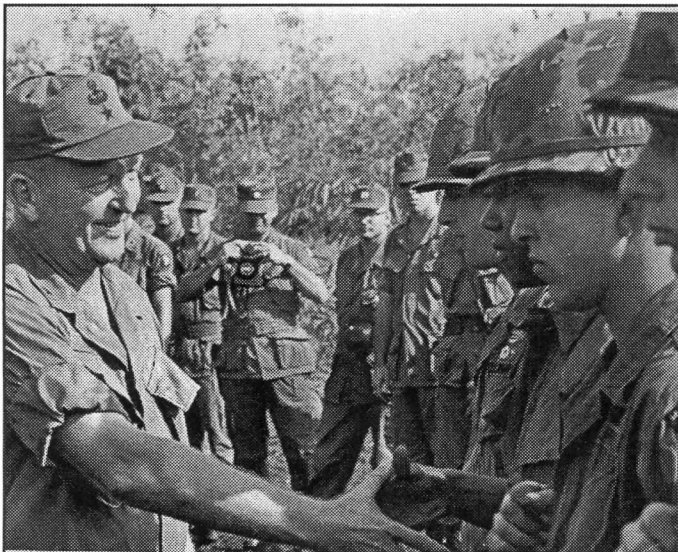
General Matheson's leadership, Spangler said, gave all of his men a membership in that ecstatic comradeship -- a comradeship he honored and preserved in all his deeds. He cared for his troops, and he carried the responsibility of command of those troops with great sensitivity for them, as well as dedication to the missions at hand.

Spangler closed by saying:

"The last of General Matheson's soldiers are here today. We are older now, no longer young men. And, we are here because he touched our lives in a way that made us better soldiers, husbands, fathers, neighbors, and citizens.

"We are here because General Matheson imparted to us the sterling qualities of his character:

*(continued on page 28)*



*Brigadier General S. H. Matheson shakes hands with men he has decorated.*

## Bury Me With Soldiers

**Bury Me With Soldiers  
I've played a lot of roles in life;  
I've met a lot of men,  
I've done a lot of things  
I'd like to think I wouldn't do again.  
And though I'm young, I'm old enough  
To know someday I'll die.  
And to think about what lies beyond,  
Beside Whom I would lie.  
Perhaps it doesn't matter much;  
Still if I had my choice,  
I'd want a grave "mongst  
Soldiers when  
At last death quells my voice.  
I'm sick of the hypocrisy  
Of lectures of the wise.  
I'll take the man, with all the flaws,  
Who goes, though scared, and dies.  
The troops I knew were commonplace  
They didn't want the war;  
They fought because their fathers and  
Their fathers had before.  
They cursed and killed and wept...  
God knows  
They're easy to deride...  
But bury me with men like these;  
They faced the guns and died.  
It's funny when you think of it,  
The way we got along.  
We'd come from different worlds  
To Live in one where no one belongs.  
I didn't even like them all,  
I'm sure they'd all agree.  
Yet ... I would give my life for them,  
I know some did for me.  
So bury me with soldiers, please  
Though much maligned they be.  
Yes, bury me with soldiers, for  
I miss their company.  
We'll not soon see their likes again;  
We've had our fill of war.  
But bury me with men like them  
Till someone else does more.**



(continued from page 27)

- a love for troops of every war
- the scale of trustworthiness upon which he daily weighed the responsibilities of command
- a reverence for the sanctity of life
- a selflessness of service
- a happy, knowing heart filled with love of his wife and children who understood his calling, prayed for his safety, longed for his return and coveted his presence."

"We are here because we loved him, too, and by being here, we honor him and his life the only way we know how. We are here because we give thanks for the ecstatic comradeship he gave to us."

*(Retired U. S. Army CPT Barry Hana served with General Matheson with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division in 1967-68. He lives in St. Louis County.)*

Author's Note:

*I attended this funeral and burial because of my great respect and affection for MG Matheson. He was one of several of my lifelong mentors. As a 1942 ROTC graduate of UCLA, he was especially encouraging to this 1964 ROTC graduate of Missouri, in a land far away. I was born in 1942, two years and three weeks before General Matheson jumped into France on D-Day, 1944, while my father Charles R. Hana, served in the Pacific with the U.S. Navy as a troop transport ship radarman searching the skies for Japanese Kamikaze aircraft prior to U.S. invasions at several Pacific Islands.*

*I also attended for my family, for other troops who served with me, and many Americans who could not be there. I hope this report respectfully shares the experience with every reader and touches the heart of all those who served in the U.S. military.*

*Colonel Billy Spangler, originally from Southern Illinois, remains a great friend and "older brother" from my Vietnam "band of brothers."*

*While in Washington D.C., Billy and I visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and remembered those names inscribed there who we knew personally.*

*In General Matheson's and Radarman Charles Hana's honor, as members of the greatest generation, we also visited the new, World War II Memorial. Both are wonderful tributes to Americans who served their country when called to do so.*

*CPT Barry Hana, HQ-PIO 3/67-3/68*



# Yank Knives, Fists, Guns Repel North Viet Attack

## 60 Reds Killed by GI Platoon

SAIGON (UPI) — U.S. paratroopers fighting in a torrential rainstorm that grounded their air support used knives, fists, guns and grenades to beat off a North Vietnamese company encircling an isolated platoon, a spokesman reported today.

The four-hour fight killed 60 North Vietnamese and sent the remainder of the 200 man company fleeing into the hills. Seventeen of the badly outnumbered paratroopers were killed and four wounded in the Sunday battle along the monsoon-drenched coast below Da Nang. The Reds had a Russian-made flamethrower but did not use it.

This news clip was sent by Tom Dohnke, 2/327 A 7/67-5/68. It is from THE DAILY REPORT published for Ontario — Upland, California on Monday, October 9, 1967.



# America Supports You: Wounded Warriors Hit Links in Full Swing

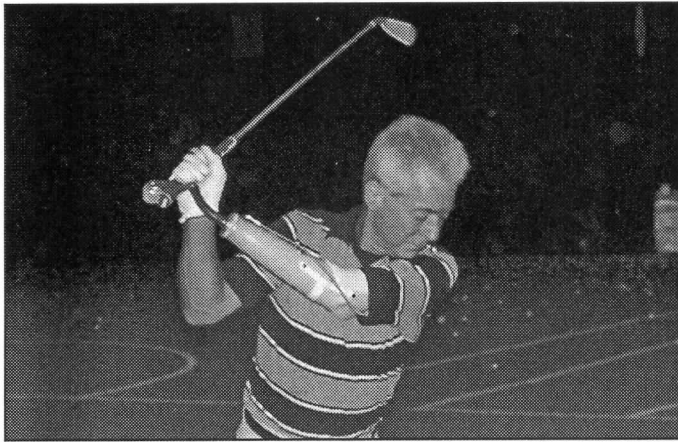
Tom Willard amputee golfer

By John J. Kruzell - *American Forces Press Service*

ROCKVILLE, Md., April 22, 2007 – In golf jargon, a "handicap" refers to the number of strokes that separates an amateur golfer from a pro. On the Woodmont Country Club driving range here April 20, the term described a more literal disadvantage.

"It's just an obstacle," said Tom Willard, a novelist and a former Army paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division whose left arm was amputated after he was shot five times in Vietnam. With the aid of the "Amputee Golf Grip," a prosthetic device Willard invented, he has continued driving, pitching and putting through the years.

"You can go over the obstacle, under it, around it or through it," he said. "And 'through' is the best way to go."



Tom Willard, 1/327 RECON Med 65-66 demonstrates the way to use the prosthesis he invented to allow wounded warriors to better handle a golf club and compete on a higher level.

Several disabled golf instructors like Willard joined Disabled Sports USA with its partner program Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project in offering 10 wounded service members from Walter Reed Army Medical Center, in Washington, D.C., the "First Swing" golf seminar here. In 2007, the partnered programs will sponsor more than 70 events in 19 different sports in 14 states.

"There is no tool better than sports to get people active again, self-confident again and to believe in themselves again after they've become disabled," said Kirk M. Bauer, executive director of Disabled Sports USA, who lost his leg in Vietnam when a grenade detonated nearby.

"(Wounded service members) teach all of us that no matter what life throws at you, if you've got the right opportunities and the right attitude, you can overcome that and go on and lead a very active and a very successful life," he said. "But you have to move forward, and you have to believe in yourself. That's what they're teaching all of us."

In the country club ballroom, wounded vets listened as Bob Buck, the executive director of Eastern Amputee Golf Association, explained various prosthetic golfing devices and adaptive equipment. He suggested putter extensions for above-knee amputees who have difficulty bending over, specially-designed gloves for

golfers with hand injuries, and clubs with swiveling heads that allow a golfer to swing from a seated position if necessary.

Buck said the Eastern Amputee Golf Association has a 3,000-person mailing list that includes 1,100 amputees, sponsors eight 36-hole tournaments, conducts golf clinics around the country, and currently gives 18 scholarships to amputee service members or their children. Through a donation by Buck's associate, Don Boyd, each of the wounded vets would receive a set of clubs as a parting gift and as incentive to keep swinging.

Having received a prosthetic right leg in 1970 after a car accident, Buck is proof that amputee golfers can excel on the links. "I was about a 12 handicap before I lost my leg at age 28, and I've been as low as a four since then. My swing has probably improved," he said.

Army Sgt. 1st Class David Cook, from Westchester, Ill., said he was excited to try golfing for the first time since his right leg was amputated below the knee five weeks ago. Sitting in a wheelchair with his amputation site wrapped in a bandage, Cook had set his sights low.

"I wish I had my prosthetic so I could stand up and hit the ball," Cook said. "I'm just looking forward to getting back out there. Realistically, I'm not going to be able to hit the ball since I don't have the other foot yet."

"You'll be surprised," Buck interjected.

In a convoy of golf carts, the disabled veterans and their instructors wheeled around freshly cut fairways, and onto the driving range that overlooked a lightly down-sloping pitch. During the sunny afternoon, flags indicating various distances downrange flapped in the breeze.

Cook drove his "Golf Xpress" single-rider cart to a spot on the range next to a shiny pyramid of golf balls, and then rotated his seat 90 degrees to face the stack. Rising from the seat, Cook hopped on his left foot and used a six-iron to fish a ball from the top of the pyramid. Then he hopped into swinging position.

"I've never done this before," he said, still hopping. Balancing himself, Cook began his backswing. His club shaft was nearly parallel to the ground before he drove the iron toward the ball.

Upon contact, a large earthy divot flew almost as far as the ball. Then Cook launched a low line drive that hooked into the trees just off the fairway for his second shot.

On his third swing, Cook hit a picture-perfect iron shot that sailed straight down the range and rolled near the black-and-white checkered flag marking 120 yards.

"Now I liked that one," Cook said after firing off an equally clean drive that breezed well past the checkered flag. "I could do this every day."

Willard took a break from instructing to sneak in a few shots using a six-iron he gripped with his prosthetic device. He then stepped back and observed the other golfers' progress. "It's not here or here that's important," Willard said, pointing to his arm then to his leg.

Motioning towards his heart, he said, "It's about what's in here."



## 101st Sergeant, a Pro, Looks at His Men

# Hardship and Death Are Near but the Young Soldiers Are Unbending

**Editor's Note:** Sgt. Bill Hutcherson is known to many of us. We reprint here a letter which appeared in the *Shield and Circle*, Ft. Campbell, Ky., and in many other papers. Many members brought it to our attention. We believe it is of interest to all.

(Reprinted with the permission of the *Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal*, Mr. John Sorrells, promotions editor.)

\* \* \*

Dear Editor:

I am writing, first, to express my appreciation for the Vietnam edition of *The Commercial Appeal*. My parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hutcherson, live at 1490 Duke Road, and I was a resident there from 1947 until 1952 when I came into the Army, and have many very good friends in the city on the bluff.

(Sergeant Hutcherson's wife is the former Mary Suliano who was born in Memphis. She now lives in Clarksville, Tenn.)

In presenting the following information I would like to state that the opinions and observations are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Army, and are made by me solely to share my experience with anyone who may be interested.

I am a member of the world-famous 101st Airborne Division's "Screaming Eagles," a unit acclaimed for World War II actions in Normandy, Holland and Bastogne, and the actions of the First Brigade, 101st, has caused some experts to say we are the finest fighting unit in Vietnam. Throughout this letter you will read evidence of my pride in this unit. My role in the war effort is that of combat engineer and I have been on a variety of assignments in the engineer company, the brigade headquarters, and out in the field with the troopers fighting the Viet Cong. I arrived in Vietnam in early May, went through a week of hellish proficiency training (which has paid many dividends) at Phan Rang, and joined the First Brigade at Cheo Reo, a small airstrip hacked out of the jungle near Special Forces camp. We were there only a short time when a hot spot developed in the Kontum Province near Dak To, where we kicked off Operation Hawthorne and ran head-on into the crack 24th North Vietnamese (NVA) Regiment, and the accounts of the sound thrashing we gave them was well covered in the newspapers throughout the world. The combat engineers of the first platoon, A Company, 326th Engr Bn, were at the receiving end of the first punch the NVA gave us when they tried to overrun an artillery position in the early morning hours of 7 June.

A short time later this position was taken by Screaming Eagles with bayonets and grenades. An engineer team went in under fire to hack out a landing zone to evacuate dead and wounded from the surrounded company of Capt. Bill "Lonesome End" Carpenter. After this action the situation became too quiet for the 101st and we were moved to our present location at Tuy Hoa, on the east coast of South Vietnam, adjacent to the South China Sea and a vast rice bowl, surrounded by the

Staff Sgt. Bill Hutcherson, a former Memphian, is a career soldier. In this moving letter to *The Commercial Appeal* he tells of his admiration and respect for the young men—new to the Army and Vietnam—now being called upon to fight.

steep, rugged mountains and jungle of central Vietnam. We have found the VC and NVA reluctant to tangle with the 101st and have to go in and root them out of the jungle and swamps, where we have racked up a pretty good score on them while protecting the rice harvest. My most recent actions have been the exploring, charting, and destruction of a vast tunnel complex in an area where the infantry paratroopers had clobbered the VC-NVA unit earlier. You just can't imagine the extent of these tunnels and caves unless you have been in them and followed their twisting course in an exhausting crouch or crawl. We used 3,500 pounds of explosives just to seal one of these things. On our approach to one of these tunnels with an infantry escort, we broke out of a jungle village onto an open plateau where we spread out and the word "punjis" was passed back, and a look at the grown showed them to be as thickly sown as the grass and slanted at a deadly angle. I hadn't taken 10 steps when one of them nailed me in the side of the foot.

On another occasion I jumped off a helicopter to check out a critical bridge, ran into some elephant grass for cover, and only when I stopped at the bridge did I notice that I was completely surrounded by punji stakes a foot long. How I ever got through there without getting speared is one of the fortunes of war.

Our camp right now is located on a large sand dune, interlaced with thick cactus hedges, a million acres of rice paddy (which my wife thinks is beautiful from the pictures I send home), and after one of these drenching rains the sun can pop out and in 30 minutes you again have loose, dry, shifting sand. While up in Dak To one of our engineering problems was finding sand and gravel to provide traction of the clayey, gumbo-like soil, while here in Tuy Hoa, we are constantly in search of clay to stabilize the loose sand.

I would like to comment on the young soldier we have over here. If I gain nothing else from this tour, my confidence in the young American has been restored by the actions of the 18-22 year old trooper, as he has met hardship, adversity and death, and is unbending to any of these. I'm sure that 10,000 draft dodgers, card burners, and demonstrators could not dent his morale and dedication to duty. I have seen him soaking wet, burdened by a load that would bring an ordinary man to his knees, surrounded by the enemy,



knowing that death could be in the next step, taking the place of his buddy on the point who has just lost a leg to a land mine, moving ever forward and hoping the VC will make a show, filling his canteen at an abandoned well or stream, putting in the purification pill—one for clear water, two for muddy—using a rock for a pillow when the march is halted and he can grab a wink of sleep struggling to his feet at the command, grabbing a bite to eat from a tin can, supplementing his ration with rice or an occasional chicken stew, always looking for that letter from home that will boost him for a time completely away from his hardship and carry him to the time his year is finished. Just as quickly the letter is folded and he again moves out into the jungle, thick with insects and crawly things—vines scratching and tearing. This young fellow is the very best America has to offer and he is not an uneducated stumble bum or reject from society. We found a shallow grave last week with a couple of skulls of NVA soldiers in them and up walks a dirty, tired, unshaven infantry PFC who proceeds to recite, "Alas, Poor Yorik," and there followed 10 minutes of perfect Shakespeare.

From this group I exclude the professional like myself, as we choose to follow this line of endeavor, and it is ordinary duty requirement and responsibility to see that the mission comes first and anything else has second priority. Are sergeants the same as they used to be? I will say that if the ones you knew were completely dedicated to their duty, fiercely obedient and loyal to their respected superiors, a counselor and adviser to his subordinates, and fortified with a "know-how and desire to do," then the sergeant has not changed. You may gather from this that I am Regular Army airborne all the way and genuinely proud of the role in which I am cast. A lot of writers have documented the status of the professional sergeant and officer of this war, and I believe my estimation of myself and my fellow sergeants is in keeping with their observations. I was on a search and destroy operation with one of our infantry companies last month and I went in to search and destroy a tunnel that ran right through a village. The first wave of infantry cleared out the Viet Cong and then searched for weapons and cache of supplies; as the old men, women, and children came from out of their protective shelters, I felt a real compassion for these people. A little later in the day, as we were preparing the tunnel for demoli-

tion this compassion quickly turned to anger and hate when one of my men crashed through a punji pit and one of those razor-sharp, filth-infested spears tore into his side.

I could have wiped out the entire village, but there is restraint and there must be restraint. Restraint comes hard when you are dealing with murderers. Premier Ky has stated that he did not care to sit at a conference table with murderers. Surely it is criminal when the VC plant a booby trap on a trail used mostly by his native countrymen and a little girl and her sister trip the thing; one dies instantly, the other has legs mangled and later dies, and the mother is hit by shrapnel. This happened a half mile or so from our base. We think the 101st Airborne practices restraint, as evidenced by our VC body count—weapons—captured ratio.

Every VC you kill won't have a weapon; he may only have grenades or supplies. In a 10-12 man group there may only be four or five weapons. The black pajamas are the daily habit of most of the native villagers over here and you cannot identify the enemy solely on the basis of black pajamas; he must have a weapon or shoot at you first in order to become a target. I would like to add that if some young fellow in Memphis is contemplating burning his draft card, or joining an anti-Vietnam demonstration group, or trying to establish grounds for conscientious objection, I would like to ask him to think again, to reconsider, to shun these minority groups and think about being a man. Let him join an airborne paratrooper outfit, go through the hell that accompanies such an assignment and gain an experience he will always be proud of, for which people will look up to him for his sacrifice, and he will stand tall in a legion that first marched at Lexington and Concord, that marches still on this day, and which will march for many days to come.

Some of us think we do not get our fair share from the press and information people since we are far removed from Saigon, and do not have an elaborate base camp to accommodate the press people (two or three have been wounded while with us), so you may hear from me from time to time in my attempt to blow the horn for the Screaming Eagles.

S/SGT. BILL HUTCHERSON  
RA 53134288  
HHC S-3 Section  
1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div.  
APO San Francisco, Calif. 96347

★ ★ ★

## The Commercial Appeal's Editorial Duty and Restraint

There is no credibility gap among the American troops in Vietnam if Staff Sgt. is typical. This former Memphian, whose long and lucid letter to the editor appeared in *The Commercial Appeal* recently, makes it clear that pride in fellow men and compassion for human suffering walk hand in hand with courage and determination in the dirty business of war. Of his men, Sgt. Hutcher-

son commented: "If I gain nothing else from this tour, my confidence in the young American has been restored. . . . This young fellow is the very best America has to offer and he is not an uneducated stumble bum or reject from society."

As depicted by this professional soldier, Americans in the field fully understand that might does not make right. During a tunnel-demolition mission in a Viet Cong village, the sergeant saw one of his men severely wounded on a "razor-sharp, filth-infested" punji spear

at the bottom of a hidden pit. "I could have wiped out the entire village," wrote Sgt. Hutcherson, "but there is restraint and there must be restraint." For, as he said, when the enemy had fled and the old people and children came out of hiding, "I felt a real compassion for these people." These are the words of a hardened professional, a man who writes feelingly about "duty, obedience, loyalty, knowhow and desire to do." He has no illusions about war. He lives with death and uncertainty around him. But he knows why he's doing this unpleas-

ant job as clearly as he knows how to do it. In his letter to fellow Americans at home he has bridged thousands of miles to help close the gap in understanding. For him it is unthinkable that an American youth would burn a draft card when "the very best America has to offer" is daily risking life to protect the principle of freedom.

By comparison he makes the sacrifices of the rest of us puny, and the complaints of civilians about politics and credibility trifles of no consequence.



MSG William L. Hutcherson, 326 ENGR A, died on September 11th 2001 in Clarksville, Tennessee. This material is taken from the March - April 1967 issue of THE SCREAMING EAGLE, the official publication of the 101st Airborne Division Association.



THOMAS J. MURPHY, father of Michael who was lost in action in Vietnam trying to rescue his buddies and for which he received the Bronze Star posthumously, is shown welcoming Sgt Maj Walter J. Sabablauski home in Fla. SMaj Sasablauski was 1st Sgt of Co C, 2/502 and was awarded the DSC in this action. Mr. Murphy presented SMaj Sasablauski with a plaque "for distinguished service in de-



fense of our Country" signed by Florida's Gov. Kirk. On hand to greet him were his wife, Bernice, his mother, former army buddies, local officials, and a surprise, Maj. Wayne R. Smith, a former commander, whom Sasablauski saluted and greeted with the words, "It's good to see you, Sir." Both men cried. SMaj Sasablauski was on orders to West Point as an instructor. Said Mr. Murphy, for whom the ceremony had a special meaning, "It was a heartwarming tribute for a Screaming Eagle and I was honored to be a part of the program."

Taken from THE SCREAMING EAGLE of January - February 1968 page 15.  
PFC Michael T. Murphy was Killed In Action on June 10th 1966.





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Issue #11



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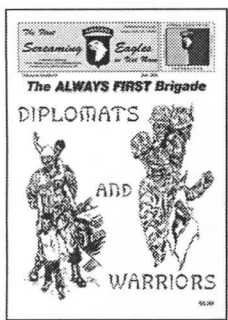
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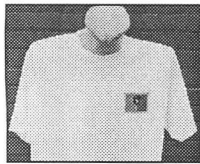
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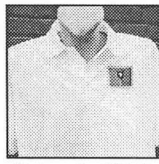
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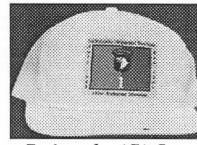
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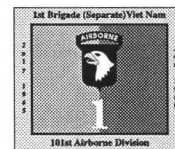
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This challenge coin is a beautiful example of taking a great design and having skilled artists produce a coin that any unit would be proud of. Designed by Roger M. John [1/327 C 7/67-12/68] for the 9th Biennial 1st Brigade (S) Reunion in Phoenix, Arizona 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.



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.



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Issue #32



Issue #33



Issue #34



Issue #35



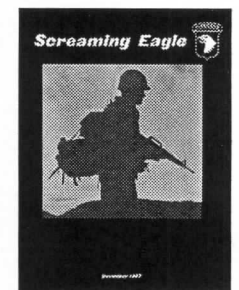
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Viet Nam Odyssey



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

**THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM**

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

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# Deadline

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## Some Airborne Associations of interest to 1st Brigade veterans

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Sam Bass  
32 Screaming Eagle Blvd  
P.O. Box 929  
Fort Campbell, KY 42223-0929  
Phone: (931) 431-0199 Ext 33  
FAX: 931-431-0195  
Email: sambass101@comcast.net

### INCOMING

101ST Airborne Division Vietnam Veterans  
Gustav F. "Gus" Vass, 2/327 C 9/67-9/68  
2841 Somerset Dr. #115  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311-1962  
Phone: (954) 610-5371

### STATIC LINE

Don Lassen  
Box 87518  
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### 327th ABN INF Assoc (Vietnam)

David S. Cook  
12 Lakeshore Dr.  
Winthrop, ME 04364  
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### 320th Airborne FA Association

Tom Walinski, Vice Chairman  
7705 Sicilia Court  
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Following is a description of most of the items published in the July 2007 issue of The FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES in Viet Nam magazine. The editor sends his sincere thanks to those who contributed material to make the magazine more interesting and to all subscribers who make the magazine possible.

**MOH FOR SSG IRA PERKINS???** .....PAGES 1 – 6  
Material about an effort to have two Silver Stars and a Bronze Star upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

**1ST BRIGADE CONTINUES VIETNAM ODYSSEY** .....PAGES 7 – 9  
Accounts of First Brigade (S) actions reported in the 25th anniversary edition of the Fort Campbell newspaper THE SHIELD AND CIRCLE.

**OBITUARIES** .....PAGE 9  
The obituary of CPT(R) Jim Martin, 2/327 A dates?.

**TOM WILLARD'S JOURNEY** .....PAGES 9 & 10  
Story about the North Dakota Oral History Project that was conceived and directed by Tom Willard.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** .....PAGES 11 – 14  
Messages from First Brigade (S) veterans taken from the brigade web site, e-mail and mail sent through the U. S. Postal Service. Most mail that may be of interest to a majority of First Brigade (S) veterans is published.

**STATIC LINE AWARDS FESTIVAL** .....PAGE 15  
The mast head of the monthly paper along with a few photos of First Brigade (S) veterans who attended the annual April All-Airborne gathering.

**SCREAMING EAGLES WWII FOUNDATION** .....PAGE 16  
CSM(R) Joseph M. Bossi, 2/327 HHC 6/66-7/67 is a board member and the U. S. contact for this foundation headquartered in The Netherlands. They work to form and maintain close ties born in WWII between the 101st Airborne Division veterans along with their families and friends.

**THE SCREAMING EAGLE** .....PAGES 17 – 20  
The September 6, 1967 issue of the First Brigade (S) weekly newspaper announces the beginning of Operation Benton. This paper was sent by William J. Northquest, 1/327 C 6/66-12/67.

**SUBSCRIBERS** .....PAGES 21 – 24  
This list is composed of the names and addresses of NEW SUBSCRIBERS, RENEWED SUBSCRIBERS and ADDRESS CORRECTIONS. The list is shorter in this issue because the Postal Service was very slow with delivery of renewal notices. Many renewals have been received after the publishing deadline.

**MUSSELWHITE FATHER AND SON DMOR** .....PAGE 25  
An account of the parallels of father and son in two airborne divisions with both being honored as Distinguished Members of their regiments.

**ANOTHER OF THE GREATEST GENERATION PASSES** .....PAGES 26 – 28  
This account of the funeral of MG S. H. Matheson by CPT Barry Hana, HQ-PIO 3/67-3/68, is an exemplary tribute to a great man who led a great brigade.

**60 REDS KILLED BY GI PLATOON** .....PAGE 28  
A short account of a deadly firefight in September or October of 1967.

**AMERICA SUPPORTS YOU** .....PAGE 29  
Wounded warriors hit links in full swing, the story, by the American Forces Press Service about teaching amputees to play golf. Tom Willard invented a prosthesis to help with the golf swing and participated in the instruction.

**SSG BILL HUTCHERSON WRITES** .....PAGES 30 – 32  
Letter written to the Memphis COMMERCIAL APPEAL by Bill Hutcherson and their take on it. First published in THE SCREAMING EAGLE of March – April 1967.

**ITEMS FOR SALE** .....PAGES 33 –35  
Covers of all back issues are shown in thumbnail format along with First Brigade related memorabilia. An order form is included.

**AIRBORNE ASSOCIATIONS** ..... PAGE 36  
Some associations and publications that may be of interest to veterans of the First Brigade (S) in Viet Nam.



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## ... And Doing Your Job

**Sgt. Joseph Craven, Miami, Fla. (left), fires on NVA troops while Spec. 4 Steve Meyers, Baldwin Park, Calif., reloads his M-16 rifle. The two paratroopers of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. were patrolling during Operation Benton. (Photo by Spec. 4 James Lohr)**

*From the COL(R) Gerry Morse (11327 C.O. 7167-6168) collection.*

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