

*The First
Screaming*

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

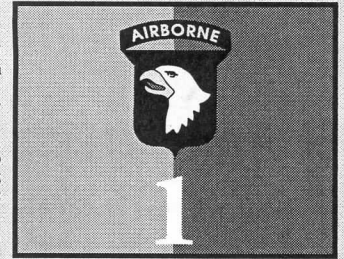


Published Quarterly
January - April - July - October

*Eagles
in Viet Nam*

1st Brigade (Separate) Viet Nam

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101st Airborne Division

Volume 9, Number 4

October 2007

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The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade



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11th BIENNIAL REUNION OF THE FIRST BRIGADE (S) 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION HAMPTON, VIRGINIA SEPTEMBER 25 – 28, 2008

(See page 16)

Again, I ran out of magazine before I ran out of material. The January 2008 issue is already a work in progress.

Last month James D. Agins, 326 MED D 7/66-2/67, gave me a call from Interstate 75 as he was approaching Sweetwater. We met at the Hardee's hamburger place just off the interstate and talked about First Brigade veterans for a while. Jim is a very close friend of Lawrence D. Anglin, 2/502 B 10/60-7/66, whose deteriorating health is a major concern to all who know him. He sees Larry about once a week and helps him with getting to and from meetings. Jim Agins has been very supportive of the magazine. He sent two trays of slides and other material he has from Viet Nam that is now in my historical records of the brigade.

I was able to attend two great reunions, where I saw a number of First Brigade (S) veterans, this summer. The 101st Airborne Division Association Reunion in Omaha, Nebraska, was my final reunion as a Governor of the 327th Regiment. This is the third time I have attended a 101st reunion in Omaha and,

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).



Your editor and publisher MAJ(R) Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5/66-5/67, as many of you see him at functions that include veterans of the First Brigade (S). (Photo by Tony Mabb)

thanks to Terry and Carol Zahn, all have been outstanding.

Alice and I attended the 101st Airborne Division Vietnam Veterans Reunion in North Charleston, South Carolina. The reunion was well organized and interesting. I had an opportunity to see and meet some First Brigade (S) veterans I had not seen lately and to meet some new ones. I also had a chance to get reacquainted with members of the 101st Association from many years back. The leaders of the association were welcoming; most are new, to me, since I attended reunions in Hampton and at Fort Campbell.

I have just returned from a trip to Hampton, Virginia, where I met with the General William C. Lee Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division. The chapter will be our host for the 11th Biennial Reunion in September of 2008. Attending the dinner meeting were four 1st Brigade (S) veterans, three of whom I had never been in touch with. The 20 or more who attended the meeting seemed to be

ready to pitch in and make the ALWAYS FIRST BRIGADE reunion a success.

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



S.C. MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER DIES AT 70

'He took his last breath with dignity'

Fairfield County man, severely injured in Vietnam, dies of cancer

By **CHUCK CRUMBO**
Staff Writer

It seemed nothing could stop Webster Anderson.

Not North Vietnamese troops. Not the loss of both legs and a hand. Not the loss of a spouse.

Until the end, Army Sgt. 1st Class Anderson pressed on — driven to see his life of 70 years end on his own terms, family and friends said Monday.

Anderson, one of only eight South Carolinians who received the Medal of Honor for heroism in the Vietnam War, died of cancer Saturday at his Fairfield County home.

"He did not cry. He did not mumble. He did not complain," said Anderson's son, Davis. "He took his last breath with dignity."

Anderson's wife, Vickie, said her husband's strong will and determination to see things through to the end were the qualities she most admired.

"When he did something, he didn't stop until he got it right, and he never left anything undone," Vickie Anderson said. "I learned a lot from him. He made me a better woman."

Webster Anderson also refused to let the injuries he suffered get to him, friends and family said.

"He didn't hold a grudge," said John F. Baker of Columbia, also a Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War. "He was just a real nice, pleasant and friendly guy."

Anderson usually started the day doing 200 push-ups and 200 sit-ups, and lifting weights with his one arm. He walked five miles a day on his artificial limbs, said Davis, 32, his youngest son.

"There'd be days when he'd throw off those legs and jump into Lake Wateree for a swim," Davis Anderson added.

His father would take Fridays off from his TV repair business, get his boat and go fishing.

"He taught me that we could be anything we wanted, and he lived his life that way," Davis Anderson said.

That lesson served Davis Anderson well. When he was 9 months old, Davis lost a leg to cancer.

The disability didn't deter Davis, who went on to play high school football and graduate from college.

While Webster Anderson said in interviews he didn't dwell on what happened in Vietnam, he admitted to a reporter that he couldn't forget what fate dealt him on Oct. 15, 1967.

Sgt. Anderson was with an ar-



President Richard Nixon congratulates Webster Anderson, who was a hero of the Vietnam War.

SPECIAL TO THE STATE



TAKAARI IWABU/THE STATE

Vickie Anderson holds a portrait of her husband, Webster Anderson, as family members gather at their Fairfield County home to mourn his death.

tillery battery of the 101st Airborne Division at a place called Tam Ky. That night, the battery of about 60 soldiers was attacked and overrun by North Vietnamese.

"When it happened, I looked at our young kids, and they were so scared," said Anderson, 34 at the time of the attack. "They were jumping in holes and crying. A lot of them were getting killed, and I thought I was going to die, too."

Anderson mounted the exposed parapet of his howitzer position to direct fire at the enemy

MEDAL OF HONOR

Highest honor the nation bestows for heroism.

Although only partially conscious and severely wounded, Sfc. Anderson refused medical evacuation and continued to encourage his men in the defense of the position. Sfc. Anderson by his inspirational leadership, professionalism, devotion to duty and complete disregard for his welfare was able to maintain the defense of his section position and to defeat a determined attack. Sfc. Anderson's gallantry and extraordinary heroism at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army."

— excerpt from the citation

Continued on Page 2

ANDERSON

FROM PAGE 1

and shoot his rifle at attacking North Vietnamese soldiers.

Two grenades exploded at Anderson's feet, severely injuring his legs. Anderson lifted himself off the ground, propped up against the parapet and continued to direct his soldiers.

Another enemy grenade landed in the gun pit near a wounded member of Anderson's crew. Anderson tried to throw it away, but it exploded in his right hand.

Despite his injuries, Anderson refused medical treatment and continued to direct his troops until they repulsed the attack.

For his actions, Anderson was voted the Medal of Honor by Congress. It was presented to him in November 1969 by President Richard Nixon.

Parades and banquets were held in Anderson's honor when he

returned to his hometown of Winnsboro in December 1969.

Among those attending the ceremonies were Gov. Bob McNair and U.S. Sens. Strom Thurmond and Fritz Hollings.

Anderson pressed on with his life, operating a TV repair shop from his home and raising his family of two boys and a girl.

All went to college. Two became teachers; Davis is Fairfield County deputy administrator.

A fire destroyed Anderson's home in 1975. Everything was lost, including his Medal of Honor. But Thurmond got Anderson another one.

His first wife, Ida, died in 1991. He married his second wife, Vickie, in 1996.

Webster Anderson kept up his rigorous pace until 1995, when a fifth stroke robbed him of the use of his left arm.

Baker said he visited Webster Anderson almost daily during the two months he was being treated for colon cancer at the Dorn VA

Hospital.

"He left the hospital about a month ago," said Baker, who works in the hospital's computer department. "He wanted to go home and die."

On Saturday, Webster Anderson lay on his deathbed, surrounded by his wife, children and step-children, and some of their 13 grand- and step-grandchildren.

Death came the way Webster Anderson wanted.

"We've got to be thankful now," Davis Anderson said. "He's no longer in any pain. . . ."

"They say old soldiers never die, they just fade away. But he'll be with us for a long, long time."

Services for Webster Anderson will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday at the Blackjack Baptist Church, Winnsboro.

Reach Crumbo at (803) 771-8503 or
[ccrumbo@thestate.com](mailto:crcrumbo@thestate.com).

DUTY - HONOR - COUNTRY

IN MY 25 YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE, I'VE HAD THE DISTINCT PLEASURE TO MEET AND SERVE WITH MANY OF OUR COUNTRY'S FINEST MEN AND WOMEN. THIS PAGE IS DEDICATED TO ALL OF OUR MILITARY, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING OUR FREEDOM. MAY GOD KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE.



SFC WEBSTER ANDERSON - My Hero, My Inspiration, My Friend

It was 0320 hours, 15 October 67. There were 46 of us on a narrow hilltop in the middle of the jungle. When it was over, there were 12 of us left. Many men became Hero's that early morning. Each man had his own battle, and his own story to tell. Webster Anderson lost both legs and his right hand during the battle, he never gave up, and he never quit. Even while the medic was trying to treat his wounds, Webster was barking orders to his men to continue the defense of our position. The hilltop was later dubbed, "SAD HILL." After being sent home and spending a year in the hospital, he still never quit. He donned his artificial limbs and opened a TV Repair business, putting three kids through college. I finally located Webster in 1995 on a motorcycle trip through the south. I visited him an average of every two years after that. He never complained or showed any regrets for his misfortune. What ever happens in my life is trivial in nature. He has given me the inspiration to move on through any adversity. Webster and men like him taught me to be the man I am. Honor and devotion to Duty, which I carry on in my trade practice today.

The above information is located on the web page of David R. Flood I, 2/320 FA A Btry 8/67-8/68, P.O. Box 639, Northford, CT 06472-0639.

Anderson Webster

MOH

Webster Anderson was a United States Army soldier and a recipient of America's highest military decoration—the Medal of Honor—for his actions in the Vietnam War. Webster Anderson joined the Army from his birth city of Winnsboro, South Carolina, and by October 15, 1967 was serving as a Staff Sergeant in Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, First Brigade (S), 101st Airborne Division. On that day, Anderson's artillery unit was attacked by North Vietnamese forces near Tam Ky in the Republic of Vietnam. Anderson directed the defense of the unit's position and continued to lead after twice being severely wounded. He survived his wounds and was subsequently promoted to the rank of Sergeant First Class and awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle.

Medal of Honor citation

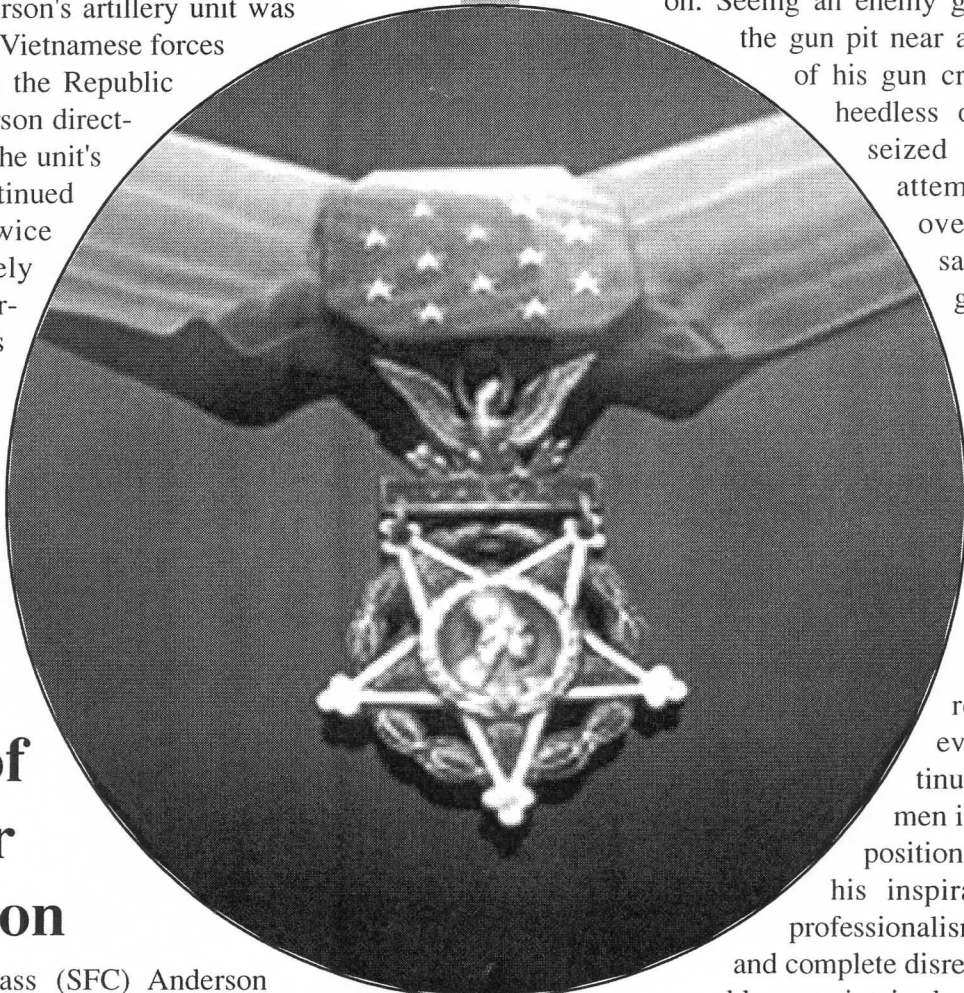
Sergeant First Class (SFC) Anderson then Staff Sergeant (SSG), distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as chief of section in Battery A, against a hostile force. During the early morning hours Battery A's defensive position was attacked by a determined North Vietnamese Army infantry unit supported by heavy mortar, recoilless rifle, rocket propelled grenade and automatic weapon fire. The initial enemy onslaught breached the battery defensive perimeter. SFC Anderson, with complete disregard for his personal safety, mounted the exposed parapet of his howitzer position and became the mainstay of the defense

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of the battery position. SFC Anderson directed devastating direct howitzer fire on the assaulting enemy while providing rifle and grenade defensive fire against enemy soldiers attempting to overrun his gun section position. While protecting his crew and directing their fire against the enemy from his exposed position, two enemy grenades exploded at his feet knocking him down and severely wounding him in the legs. Despite the excruciating pain and though not able to stand, SFC Anderson valorously propped himself on the parapet and continued to direct howitzer fire upon the closing enemy and to encourage his men to fight



on. Seeing an enemy grenade land within the gun pit near a wounded member of his gun crew, SFC Anderson heedless of his own safety, seized the grenade and attempted to throw it over the parapet to save his men. As the grenade was thrown from the position it exploded and SFC Anderson was again grievously wounded.

Although only partially conscious and severely wounded, SFC Anderson refused medical evacuation and continued to encourage his men in the defense of the position. SFC Anderson by his inspirational leadership, professionalism, devotion to duty and complete disregard for his welfare was able to maintain the defense of his section position and to defeat a determined attack. SFC Anderson's gallantry and extraordinary heroism at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

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Death

Webster Anderson died at age 70 of colon cancer and was buried in Blackjack Baptist Church Cemetery in his hometown of Winnsboro, South Carolina.



Medal of Honor flag presented to family of Webster Anderson

By Bobb Hane

Published 07/17/2007 in THE HERALD INDEPENDENT

"I am not handicapped. I am only inconvenienced." -Sgt. First Class Webster Anderson. Vickie Anderson, widow of Sgt. First Class Webster Anderson, accepted the Medal of Honor flag on his behalf Friday morning in a ceremony at Fortune Springs Park in Winnsboro.

The flag has 13 white stars on a light blue background with gold fringe. There have been 3,444 recipients of the Medal of Honor. Three of the living recipients were present for the ceremony. They are Col. Charles P. Murray, Jr., United States Army - Retired; Master Sgt. John F. Baker, Jr., United States Army - Retired; and Mike Thornton, United States Navy - Retired. Michael Williams, son of the late Petty Officer Elliot Williams - a Medal of Honor recipient - was also present.

Murray recalled the life of "this tremendous soldier, this great American," relating a story of one of Anderson's hospitalizations during which he asked Murray to help him get out of bed so that he could do his daily 100 pushups.

"It is tough to stand up here and talk about Webster without tears coming to my eyes," he said. "They have already started in fact. ... Webster, we still love you."

Thornton and Anderson were close friends.

"After I retired Webster and I used to go and talk at schools some times about roadblocks in your life," Thornton said. "They would look at Webster and think that he had difficulties. They had the real difficulties, because he believed in himself and what he stood for. Your roadblocks are all up here in your mind."

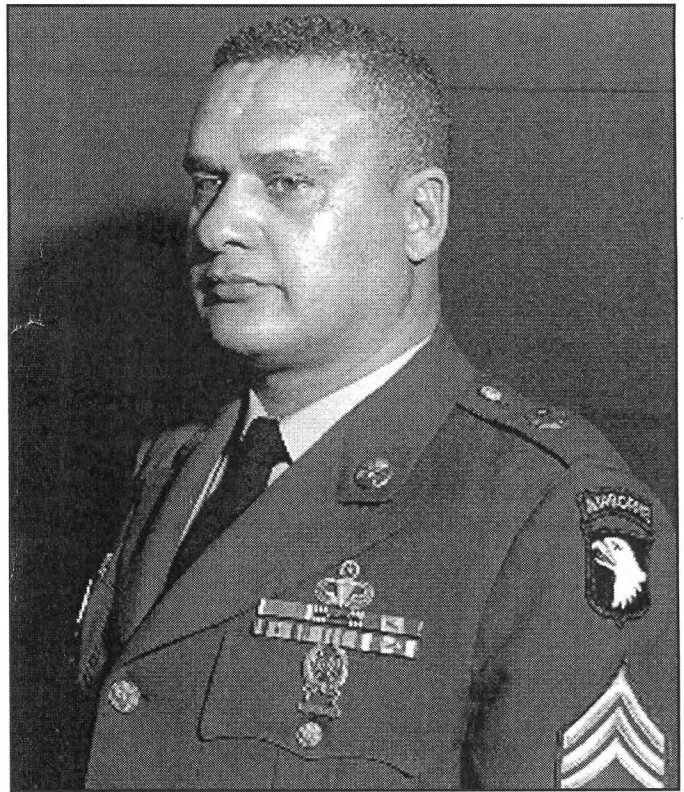
Also addressing those in attendance was Maj. Gen. Harry B. Burchstead, Jr., Deputy Adjutant General of South Carolina.

Burchstead cited the Gospel of John which he quoted as saying, "there is no greater love than a man who will lay down his life for his friends."

"Webster Anderson did not die on that narrow hilltop in Vietnam, but he was certainly prepared to die if necessary to save the lives of his fellow soldiers," he said.

Anderson's son Webster II said he believes his father would have been proud of being honored at such an event, but that he always saw the events of October 1967 as "just doing his job. If you asked him to explain any more, he would just say he was doing his job."

Son Davis Anderson thinks his father would have gotten emotional, seeing the uniforms and the flags at the ceremony - the military aspect of the event.



"That was his heart," he said. "He didn't feel like he did anything extraordinary. He thought he just did what he had to do to save his troops and make it home to his family. He never did brag about it. He told me one time in that combat he could have either laid down and died or could fight to go home and he was fighting to go home."

A reception in the Old Armory followed the ceremony.

During a November 1969 ceremony at the White House, Anderson was presented the Medal of Honor from President Richard M. Nixon for his actions during the Vietnam War. The Medal of Honor flag did not exist at that time.

The flag was authorized by Congress in October 2002. Living recipients of the Medal of Honor were presented flags at a ceremony conducted on the USS Constitution in Boston Harbor on September 30, 2006. In the future, the presentation of the Medal of Honor flag will be made at the same time as the presentation of the medal.

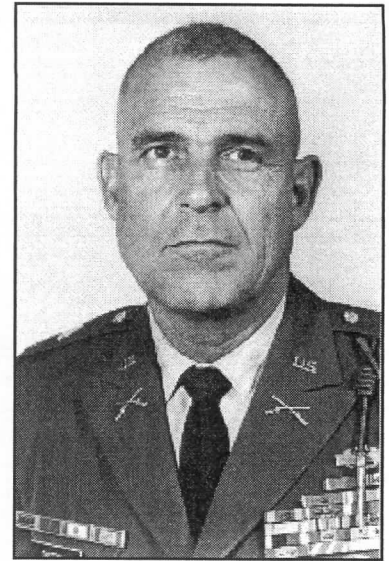
Anderson died on August 30, 2003 at age 70 and was buried in Blackjack Baptist Church Cemetery in Winnsboro.

Editor's note: This material about SSG (R) Webster Anderson and his earning the Medal of Honor is real news to me. The letter from Richard William Oyas, 2/320 Arty A Btry 10/66-10/67 (pages 25-26), sent me on an internet search that produced the material in this article. Some other material was duplication. I have not found the address for his widow but I am working on it. If you have other information about SSG Webster Anderson please contact me.



Editor's Note: The material about Phong Cao was originally sent to me by John Yeager, Jr., 2/502 C 11/66-9/67 who found it on the Center for Military History web site. The picture of Colonel Frank Dietrich was added to the material received. Note that Michael McFadden, 2/502 A 6/66-6/67 and MG(R) Stephen Silvasy, Jr., 2/502 C 7/66-8/67 are the company commanders. Others mentioned are not in my data base.

Chapter X: Phong Cao (November 1966)



Colonel Frank Dietrich

The battle of Phong Cao was a classic encirclement operation that illustrates a succession of innovations widely used in Vietnam. Infantry tactical formations and counter guerrilla techniques aided by the ever-present helicopter were immensely successful. The battle began on 6 November 1966 when the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, reinforced with the local Civilian Irregular Defense Group, air assaulted into four landing zones in the jungle fifteen miles northwest of Tuy Hoa. The Strike Force was one of three battalions assigned to the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, and was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Frank L. Dietrich. Colonel Dietrich was no newcomer to combat; he had fought in World War II from Africa to the Rhine with the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

The Strike Force was stalking the 5th Battalion, 95th North Vietnamese Regiment. The enemy was conducting training operations while waiting for ammunition being brought in from Binh Dinh and for replacements coming from North Vietnam. Only 214 of the enemy's 320 authorized officers and men were on duty. Their training area included a complex of base camps in a saddle formed by Hills 450 in the north and 350 in the south. The enemy battalion was to engage any small unit patrols that entered the training area, but if a large U.S. force moved in, it planned to slip out and wait for its ammunition and replacements at another site.

Colonel Dietrich, at the time of the Strike Force's air assault, did not have the details of the enemy's mission or situation, but he did know that a long-range patrol had spotted an unoccupied base camp on Hill 450 a month before. During this period in the war, long-range patrols were being used more frequently and were becoming a major source of intelligence. Intelligence indicated that an enemy division headquarters and elements of the 95th Regiment were in the area. Colonel Dietrich reasoned that the enemy was occupying positions on Hill 450. He also suspected that the North Vietnamese Army forces would avoid combat and leave the area if they realized that the Strike Force's objective was the hill. To conceal his battalion's target, therefore, he selected a deception objective west of Hill 450. He chose landing zones around the decoy

area and instructed his company commanders to move initially in a direction that would lead the North Vietnamese commander to believe that Hill 450 would not be searched.

As the operation began, the helicopter assaults were unopposed, and the companies moved out in modified checkerboard formation. The checkerboard, a method of searching an area by covering alternate squares with small units, was a new technique created by Lieutenant Colonel Henry E. "Hank" Emerson, who had preceded Colonel Dietrich as the commander of 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry. (Diagram. 3)

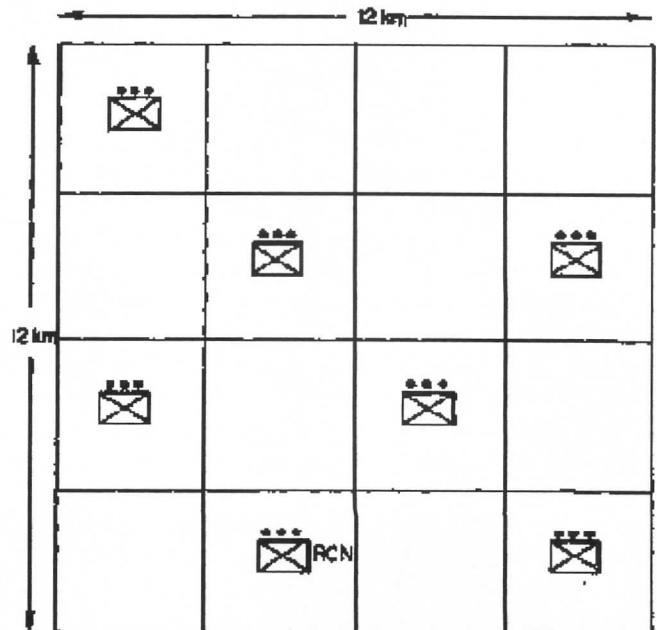


Diagram 3. Schematic deployment of two rifle companies and reconnaissance platoon in checkerboard search pattern. (Drawing is only representative as no attempt is made to arrive at exact configuration in practice.)

Company B made the first contact with four Viet Cong, killing one. The Reconcos, the battalion's reconnaissance platoon

reinforced to fifty-man strength, killed a lone Viet Cong in the only other encounter of the day. The 7th and 8th of November brought light contact, and by early afternoon of the 8th, the battalion had turned from the deception objective and was heading east. At 1830, elements of the Recondo Platoon reached Hill 450 and spotted four North Vietnamese in a company-size base camp. In the failing light the enemy had not seen the Recondos. The battalion commander was immediately informed of the Recondos' contact and, during the night of 8-9 November, his idea for surrounding the saddle was passed to the Strike Force commanders. Elements of Company B would attack from the west, while the rest of the company established a blocking position in the south. Company C, commanded by Captain Stephen Silvasy, Jr., would make a forced march into blocking positions in the southeast quadrant. Company A, commanded by Captain "Mike" McFadden, would be lifted by helicopter to the northeast quadrant. The Recondos would close the circle in the north between Companies A and B.

At 1000 the following morning, the Recondo Platoon was moving into position deployed as two sections. The two elements were separated by several hundred meters when Section A, led by platoon sergeant Richard F. Clemons, engaged first a trail-watcher and later an enemy platoon. The Recondos returned fire and were soon reinforced by the 2d Platoon from Company B, led by 1st Lieutenant Alden J. Holborn. Together the two units moved thirty meters up the wooded, vine-matted slope before enemy automatic weapons fire stopped their advance. As the fight was developing, the 3d Platoon of Company B, led by 1st Lieutenant John A. Marshok, Jr., had started to move north to come in behind the enemy. Lieutenant Marshok had been told that the battle was on the western slope of Hill 450, but his platoon was still well south of the hill when he became convinced that the sounds of the firefight were southwest of his position. Marshok reported the situation to his company commander and began to move west and then south to come in behind the enemy. The echo of the firefight in the mountains, the difficulty of reading the map in dense jungle, and the steep, slick slopes combined, however, to bring the platoon in on the southern flank of the Recondo-2d Platoon position.

At noon the Strike Force command post had the following information on the locations of the rifle companies. The main part of Company B was in a blocking position south of Hill 350. Company C was moving toward the southeast quadrant of Hill 350 but was still five hours away. Company A, several kilometers southeast of the battle, was approaching the area where it would be picked up for a helicopter assault to its place in the encirclement. Half of the Recondo Platoon was in a blocking position north of Hill 450. The other half, Section A, was with the 2d Platoon of Company B in contact with an enemy platoon somewhere on the western slope of the saddle formed by Hills 450 and 350. Their location had been reported as the western slope of 450. The 3d Platoon of Company B had been moving north toward Hill 450. The platoon reported its position as a kilometer south of the hill, but it also stated that it could hear the Recondo firefight south of its location and that it was moving toward the sounds of the firing.

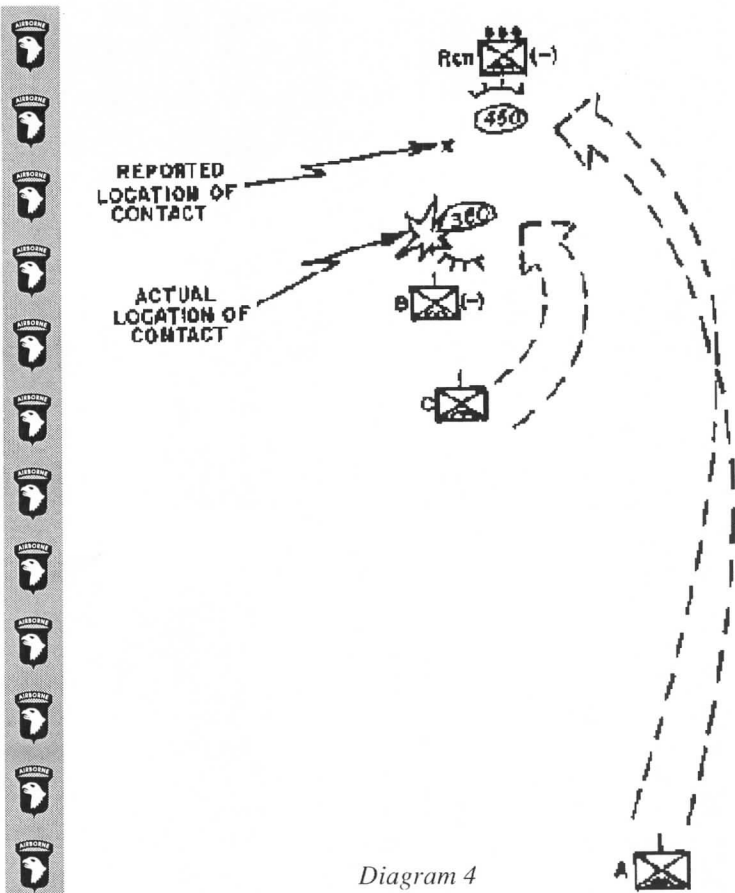


Diagram 4

Location of firefight.

The 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, was normally supported by a command and control helicopter, but Colonel Dietrich had not used it since the day of the assault into Phong Cao. This stratagem was part of his deception plan to minimize the evidence that a U.S. battalion was in the area. Now, however, he called for the helicopter, and at 1225 it reported to his command post. Colonel Dietrich immediately took to the air, and the platoons in the jungle below identified their locations by displaying panels and dispensing colored smoke grenades. In a matter of minutes he understood the confusion of reports he had received from the Recondo section and the two platoons. The firefight was on the western slope of Hill 350. (Diagram 4) The three platoons were together now, and he directed them to pull back to allow an air strike on the enemy position.

By 1440 the platoons had disengaged, and two U.S. Air Force fighters made a pass over the enemy. Their bombs landed in the target area but fragments sprayed the U.S. platoons. Although there were no casualties, the air strike was canceled. In place of the fighters, a helicopter light fire team was deployed. As the gunships completed their strike, a battery of 155-mm. howitzers from the 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery, took up the fire. The artillery firing, which lasted over an hour, was followed by an assault of Company B's platoons. Enemy resistance to the assault was light, and as darkness fell on 9 November, two platoons of Company B were dug in on Hill 350. Company A's air assault had been unopposed, and except for the platoons on Hill 350, the battalion was in a blocking position around the saddle. There was a gap between the Recondos and Company A and another between the two



Recondo sections. Claymores were positioned to fill the gap in the Recondo line. The battlefield was illuminated by 81-mm. mortars. A U.S. Air Force C-47 was on its way to replace the mortar illumination with flares. The encirclement was complete.

There was no contact during the night, but by 0715 on the morning of the 10th, the enemy had dispatched reconnaissance parties to determine U.S. locations. At 0840 a North Vietnamese reconnaissance patrol probed the northern flank of Company C; at 0905 the Company line was probed again; and at 1250 Company A was tested. At 1340 Company B was probed, and at 1345 the Recondos' position was reconnoitered. As a result of the enemy's reconnaissance, twelve North Vietnamese soldiers were killed. The North Vietnamese commander now knew that he was surrounded.

While the enemy reconnaissance was in progress, the Strike Force started to tighten its circle of forces. Using a loudspeaker in a helicopter, it tried to convince the 5th Battalion of the hopelessness of its situation. Two hours of broadcasting, however, brought no apparent results. By darkness of the 10th the entire Strike Force Battalion was deployed in a circle roughly 600 meters in diameter around Hill 450. A prisoner captured by Company C had reported that the remainder of the 5th North Vietnamese Army Battalion was on the hill.

In contrast to the C-47 illumination on the night of 9-10 November, Colonel Dietrich decided that continuous illumination was not required the night of 10-11 November. There were no gaps now in his circle of forces, and the enemy would be more easily destroyed if he moved out of his prepared positions. The enemy tested the ring five times that night: twice in the Company B area in the south, twice in the Company A positions in the east, and finally at 0340 the Recondos in the west. In each case the effort failed.

On the morning of the 11th, the 5th Battalion was greeted by renewed psychological operations. This broadcast came from a speaker on the ground with Companies B and C, which had started moving north up Hill 450. This time the enemy responded. One North Vietnamese soldier surrendered to Company C and appealed to his comrades to follow him. One more soldier surrendered to Company B. Then Company C captured seven enemy soldiers, and Company B captured two. Company A captured five soldiers, and the battalion staff with Company A captured two more. Companies B and C stopped at the top of Hill 450, and Company A swept the northern slope from east to west. They engaged a North Vietnamese machine gun and killed the crew.

The battle was over. The total number of bodies counted and enemy captured was seventy-five. Blood trails, parts of bodies, and prisoners indicated that many more had died. Of the thirty-six enemy soldiers captured, thirty-two were North Vietnamese Army troops. Fourteen crew-served weapons, including three of the battalion's four mortars; forty-four individual weapons; and substantial amounts of equipment, ammunition, and other supplies were also captured. U.S. casualties during the three-day period were five killed and fifteen wounded.

The battle of Phong Cao dramatically illustrates the use of the helicopter for command and control. It also demonstrates the application of established principles to new situations. The helicopter was described earlier as the most significant innovation of the war. Its value in command and control was confirmed many times in Vietnam. In the battle of Phong Cao, the helicopter permitted Colonel Dietrich to reach the point of contact in time to influence the battle. It also enabled him to locate the disoriented platoons on the ground, which indicated their positions with smoke and panels, and to insure their integration into his scheme of maneuver and fire support plan.

The unique enemy tactics in Vietnam offered the commanders of battalions and other small units opportunities for deception that had not existed in the Korean War or World War II. The tactics of the Strike Force Battalion during the battle of Phong Cao deceived the enemy into thinking that he was opposed by a small U.S. unit. "Even on 9 November when Company A conducted a heliborne assault a POW later captured stated that the NVA forces on Phong Cao Mountain thought they had the US forces surrounded until they attempted to break the contact and found it hopeless." Brigadier General Willard Pearson, who was the commanding general of the 1st Brigade, 101st Division, at the time of the battle of Phong Cao, described the concept as semiguerrilla tactics. These tactics emphasized stealth and deception through night operations, long-range patrols, reduction of helicopter traffic and other indications of U.S. operations, and similar techniques designed to foster contact with the enemy. Once contact was made, the units converted to conventional methods, using all available firepower, mobility, and reserves.

One of the most important aspects of semiguerrilla warfare was the ambush. The ambush had been used by the U.S. Army as far back as April 1775, when Colonel Smith's redcoat column was continuously ambushed as it withdrew from Concord, Massachusetts. The mechanical ambush, as it was used in Vietnam, however, was new. This innovation combined the ambush technique with the claymore mine and a trip wire. Later it was refined by the addition of a remote control firing device. In effect, this technique was an antipersonnel minefield with a fire-no fire option. Using the command-detonated mechanical ambush in conjunction with sensors increased its effectiveness. It was particularly appropriate in areas where firing devices that had to be triggered by the enemy were unsuitable because of civilian traffic.

The long-range patrol (LRP) was a particularly significant aspect of U.S. operations in Vietnam. Such patrols were not new to the U.S. Army, but they were used in increasing density and were now operating at division level. Long-range patrols were needed in Vietnam because of the difficult terrain assigned to the divisions and the elusiveness of the enemy. The helicopter and effective communications enabled the patrols to be more densely dispersed.

U.S. divisions formed provisional LRP units in 1965 and 1966, based on the success of the 5th Special Forces Group's Project Delta. The use of long-range patrols at division level prompted the development of a succession of minor innovations to



support operations. Two of these developments were the LRP ration, a freeze-dried meal about one-third the weight of a C ration, and the McGuire rig, a device similar to a parachute harness, which was attached to a line suspended from a helicopter. The system was used to extract small patrols in situations where the helicopter could not land. A drawback of the McGuire rig was that the passenger rode to his destination suspended below the helicopter. This disadvantage was overcome in the jungle penetrator system, which was commonly used for field medical evacuation in Vietnam. The penetrator was lowered through the jungle canopy using a helicopter hoist, and the passenger, seated or standing on the penetrator, was lifted into the helicopter. For the seriously wounded, a basket litter was substituted for the jungle penetrator. In addition to these innovations, new tactics for depositing and picking up long-range patrols by helicopter were also developed.

In support of the LRP effort, General William C. Westmoreland authorized the establishment of the MACV Recondo School in September 1966. The term "Recondo" is a combination of reconnaissance and commando and had been used to describe a ranger-type school organized in 1959 by



SOLDIERS TRAINING ON TROOP LADDERS SUSPENDED FROM CH-47. The troop ladder was superior to the rappel rope because it could be used for recovery as well as insertion.



General Westmoreland, when he commanded the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. This identification of Recondo with the men of the long-range patrols, who were generally considered to have the most uncomfortable and dangerous job in Vietnam, led to the use of the name by other units. The Recondo Platoon of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, was one such unit. The platoon could act as a long-range patrol since some of its members had been Recondo-trained, but the platoon was used as a maneuver unit in normal battalion operations. This innovation, the informal organization of a fourth maneuver element in the infantry battalions in Vietnam, was subsequently recognized in the authorization for a fourth rifle company.

Another technique, of the 2d Battalion (Airborne) 502d Infantry, that was new in some respects was the stay-behind patrol. Stay-behind patrols were used during World Wars I and II and also during the Korean War. These forces, however, were generally small in order to facilitate their withdrawal through enemy lines and to aid in concealment. The fluidity of the battlefield in Vietnam and the availability of helicopters to reinforce or extract the stay-behind force led to frequent use of stay-behind patrols of various sizes among U.S. forces.

The following extract from the report of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, gives the achievements of the Strike Force's stay-behind patrol at Phong Cao.

Three days after the conclusion of the battle, Company A, after an overt resupply, moved clandestinely back into the area and stayed approximately four (4) days. During this period they uncovered one large medical cache and intercepted some enemy forces returning to the area. Some two (2) days after Company A overtly moved out of the area, Company B clandestinely moved back into the Phong Cao mountain area as a follow up force and uncovered another large medical and kitchen cache plus finding one wounded NVA soldier who had been hiding since about 12 November.

The use of deception was the key to the victory at Phong Cao Mountain. The effective and easily understood deception plan was an excellent example of the adaptation of conventional tactics to an unconventional situation. The checkerboard search innovation, the long-range patrol, and the stay-behind force all contributed significantly to the success of the operations of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, at Phong Cao.

The way in which the long-range patrols were used was one of the most significant innovations of the war, and the use of the helicopter for command and control became a normal method of operation for virtually all tactical commanders in Vietnam. These innovations, except for the use of the helicopter, were adaptations of time-tested techniques and, in this sense, were characteristic of a large share of the innovations of the war. Confronted by an enemy who took advantage of any operational pattern that developed, the U.S. soldier in Vietnam soon learned that change was the order of the day and that innovation was the key to success.

Distinguished Service Cross presented to Frank L. Dietrich

DIETRICH, FRANK L. Colonel (Infantry), U.S. Army Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

Date of Action: November 9 - 11, 1966

HQ US Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 496 (February 1, 1967)

Citation: The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Frank L. Dietrich, Colonel (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters

Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

Colonel Dietrich distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions during the period 9 to 11 November 1966 while commanding the 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry on a search and destroy operation near Tuy Hoa. On the morning of 9 November, he was informed that contact had been made with an entrenched North Vietnamese Army battalion. Quickly assessing the situation from a command and control helicopter, Colonel Dietrich brilliantly maneuvered his troops, and by nightfall the hostile force was

surrounded. As the battle raged on into the next morning, he boldly joined his men on the ground. Unmindful of the extreme danger, he moved throughout the battlefield to assist his subordinate commanders and comfort the wounded.

On 11 November Colonel Dietrich dauntlessly climbed to the top of a tree with a radio to direct the conflict. Remaining exposed in this perilous position for two hours, he courageously deployed the ground elements and supervised the broadcast of surrender appeals. As the battle progressed, he completely disregarded his safety by running across 100 meters of bullet-swept terrain, and led a successful assault on a stubborn North Vietnamese position. Then, accompanied only by his radio operator, Colonel Dietrich moved through 800 meters of dense jungle to another engaged platoon. Moving to the front, he again braved the intense insurgent fire to encourage his men forward. His unimpeachable valor and aggressive leadership under fierce hostile fire contributed immeasurably to the defeat of a determined hostile force.

Lieutenant Colonel Dietrich's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



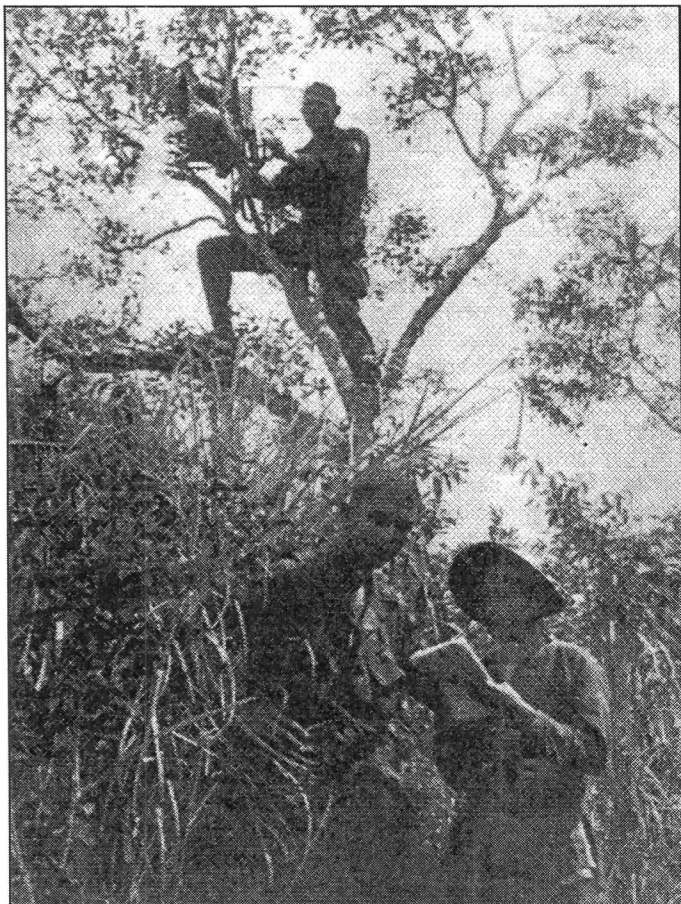
LTC Frank L. Dietrich and SSG Burrwood Yost are awarded Distinguished Service Crosses by General William C. Westmoreland MACV Commanding General.

"The Battle of Phong Cao"

by Gunslinger

Hang down your head, Bold Charlie
Pride of the NVA
 Hang down your head, Bold Charlie
 For you must surrender or die
 We met you on Phong Cao Mountain
 In the monsoon rain
 When we left you on Phong Cao Mountain
 Your dead in windrows were lain.
 We took you by surprise, Charlie
 In the mountainous jungle terrain
 The Fifth of the Ninty Fifth
 Will not fight soon again.
 You tried to fight, Bold Charlie
 The earth your blood did stain
 The STRIKE FORCE hacked you to pieces
 When the position you held we did gain
 You tried to run, scared Charlie
 And hide midst the fields of grain
 We had you surrounded, Charlie
 You could not break our chain.
 It was flee or die, scared Charlie
 But your flight was in vain
 We mowed you down, poor Charlie
 Till you tried no more again.
 Then you surrendered, Charlie
Pride of the NVA
 You broke your oath, weak Charlie
 To die for the Communist way.
 You lost much face, sick Charlie
 Your plans were overthrown
 Your fight is doomed to failure
 For your story will become known.
 The STRIKE FORCE beat you, Charlie
Pride of the NVA
 If you see Uncle Ho Chi, Charlie
 What are you going to say?

GERONIMO Psy-War Goes Up-Front



SSgt Frank Meade, in the tree with the loudspeaker, and Lt Cecil Holland, with an NVA prisoner broadcast Psy-War appeals to the enemy a few dozen yards ahead. (Photo by PFC Luis Callender)

DIPLOMAT and WARRIOR – Dec. 2, 1966
By PFC Luis Callender

Tuy Hoa- With the imminent destruction of a North Vietnamese army battalion close at hand, a 1st Brigade Psychological Warfare Team of three went on the firing line and won a major battle for men's minds.

The 502d Infantry had mauled the elusive 5th Battalion, 95th NVA regiment after two days of fighting in the hills northwest of Tuy Hoa. As the battle moved into the third day only remnants of the 5th Battalion remained, surrounded and waiting to be crushed by the advancing STRIKE FORCE.

The advance of the 101st paratroopers was stopped by the commander, Lieutenant Colonel Frank Dietrich, who gave the trapped enemy a chance to surrender.

The Psy War Team of three, 1st Lieutenant Cecil Holland, Staff Sergeant Frank Meade and SSgt. Tran Quang went to work.

Holland and Meade have been attached to the 101st from the 245th Psychological Operations Company for the last four months. In that time their job has involved the drawing and drop-

ping of leaflets and broadcasting to the countryside from the air. But on November 11, Meade and Holland went to the battlefield to beat the enemy with ideas rather than bullets.

When the two Psy War troopers arrived in the immediate battle zone, a mountainside of woods, thick vines and tall elephant grass, intense fire fights raged only 75 yards away. After a short briefing by the 502nd commander on the tactical situation, Holland and Meade were in action.

They set the 45 pound loudspeaker they had brought with them high in a tree and quickly the voice of SSgt. Tran Quang, the Vietnamese interpreter blazed out to the trapped NVA.

Psy-War Team of 3 Brings In 36 NVA

"Soldiers of the 95th do you want to be buried in an unmarked grave? That is the only honor you will have left if you continue your senseless fight. Do you think that right?"

"The soldiers of the STRIKE FORCE are everywhere. There is no escape. Approach the Americans with your hands above your head. Wave something white. Have your weapon muzzle down and you will not be harmed. This is your last chance and only hope. Life or death... the choice is yours."

The broadcast was a bare five minutes old when the first NVA surrendered with his weapon. Minutes later the exodus from the enemy camp was on. As each new prisoner came in the Psy War Team put him on the air with new surrender appeals. For hours Meade and Holland alternated holding the loudspeaker in the tree as the other instructed the prisoner what appeal to read. They began their campaign at nine in the morning and by one that afternoon 23 regulars had surrendered – among them a company executive officer.

As the STRIKE FORCE troopers relentlessly beat the thick thorny underbrush for the entrenched NVA, Holland and Meade strapped the loudspeaker on their backs and moved on line. The speaker never stopped its surrender appeals, even when the line of "Screaming Eagles" came under intense fire from the khaki uniformed enemy. At one point Holland and Meade got ahead of the line to broadcast the "life or death" message.

At four in the afternoon the entire hillside had been cleared of the enemy. Thirteen more NVA had surrendered for a total of 36.

"When you broadcast from the air," Holland said later "they (the enemy) think the Americans are detached. But this time we had it right in their faces and using his own comrades' moments after their surrender." The Psy War Lt. continued, "Made them think a little harder about living and dying." Did Holland and Meade get their message across? The majority of the captured NVA said the surrender broadcast, so close to their positions, was "the deciding factor to turn their backs on a useless fight."

Editor's Note: The psychological warfare story was first published in THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES magazine in January 2006.



OPINIONS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2007

Closure comes to local family

By JOHN B. BRYAN

Forty-one years is a long time for closure to finally occur. But for the Stevenson family, the four decades that have passed only made the closure that much sweeter.

Billy Edward Stevenson was a great athlete and a graduate of Wilson County High School. He aspired to go on to college and play basketball.

Before he was to realize his dream, young Billy Stevenson, at age 17, volunteered for service to his country.

Less than a year later, the local teen was a casualty of the war in Vietnam. He died on June 22, 1966.

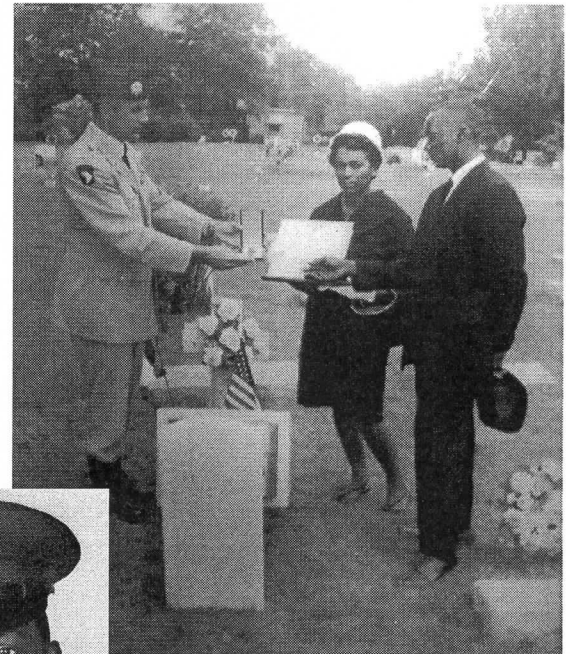
That was about all the Stevenson family knew of their brother's plight in the war. "Just another death in the war," said his sister Patricia Marable of her older brother's fate.

"Our family didn't know the details and for a long time it bothered me that we didn't know how Billy died. We finally have closure," Marable added.

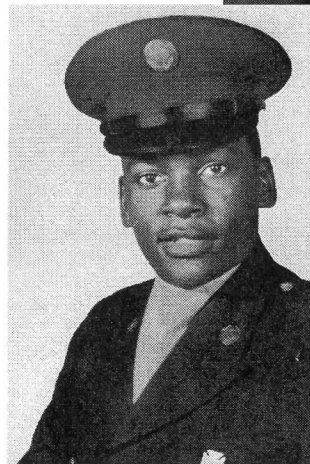
How the family came to know the story is really where this story begins.

Marable was cleaning an office in Lebanon last year and asked about a flag hanging on the wall in the office. Howard Wigington, the occupant of the office, explained the flag was the burial flag used in his father's funeral.

"When I told her about the flag and what it represented, she hesitated for a moment, then with tears in



Paul and Elizabeth Stevenson, parents of Billy E. Stevenson, receive their son's medals and American flag during the burial of the young war hero in 1966.



her eyes she said she lost a brother in the Vietnam War but didn't know anything about his death," Wigington said.

"She went on to say she would love to find out more about Billy and from there I got started on the quest to find out some information for her. All Patricia knew was that Billy was awarded a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars and that was about it," added Wigington.

Closure comes to local family...

Wigington searched the Internet and found some information which eventually led him to Stevenson's platoon leader, Lt. Col. Charles Beegle.

That process took nearly a year.

"He (Beegle) called me after seeing my posting on a website and he offered to drive to Lebanon to meet with the family. He said he wanted to tell the siblings in person about what a hero their

brother was," Wigington said.

Stevenson was a paratrooper in the 2/327th Infantry, "Charlie" Company of the 101st Airborne. He, along with 36 others, fought in the battle of Trung Luong, an "extremely horrific" conflict that was the cause for a "Presidential Unit Citation" to be presented to members of the unit for their combat efforts.

"Charlie" Company sent 37 men into the battle (that day) and only six came back off the field.

Thirty-six soldiers were killed or wounded in that battle," Wigington explained.

Billy Stevenson was the second to lose his life in that conflict, and according to his platoon leader, "he was only a couple of feet behind me when he got hit."

Beegle, who traveled from his home in Oklahoma City to Lebanon to meet with members of Stevenson's family, explained in great detail how Billy died, an explanation for which his siblings

have been waiting for 41 years.

"This information has healed my heart. Now I know Billy had a chance to make peace with God. He got shot on June 21 and died the next day," Marable said.

Marable, along with her other brother, Loharrel and sister Kathy, were all on hand at a local hotel Saturday to witness the testimony of their brother's platoon leader.

"Chuck (Lt. Col. Beegle) said that Billy was one of his top 10 soldiers and that he was a terrific

athlete. That's pretty good being in the top 10," she commented.

Beegle said that to be in his company, one had to be a "top-notch soldier" and that "Billy Stevenson was a great example of that."

Billy Stevenson was 18 years old when he lost his life fighting for his country in Vietnam. His family now knows the story behind the story because of an American flag hanging in an office and the simple question, "Why?"

3 SEPTEMBER 2007

Subject: BILLY EDWARD STEVENSON

To: Ivan Worrell
Editor and Publisher, **The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam**

Dear Ivan,

Per your telephone request I am submitting the following regarding Pfc Billy Stevenson.

You are already aware that this event was started via our website and went from there to meeting his family in Lebanon, Tn. His sister Patricia Marable for over 40 years had known of her brother's death but knew nothing about the circumstances.

Billy was killed in June of 1966 during the battle at Trung Luong, RVN, on the third day of the fight. It was during the mass assault on our company perimeter early that morning. During the re-enforcing of the perimeter that Billy was shot and killed.

Patricia worked for, Mr. Howard Wigington who was a veteran and started the process to find out about Billy for his family. Through my discussions with Howard, I stated I would be proud to come to Lebanon and meet with the Stevenson family.

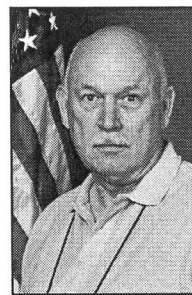
I have enclosed a news clipping and a copy of the news cast from channel 4 to give you more details of the visit. Helping with their closure of his death also brought more closure for me. I visited the grave site of Billy and for the first time saw from start to finish the result of losing a trooper.

Last year I met with the mother of second platoon's medic, Marty Eastham who was killed on the first day as he was treating one of my squad leaders Ray Mahns. Ray was also there along with Dick Coughlin from the second platoon. Both Ray and Dick were severely wounded but survived because of Marty.

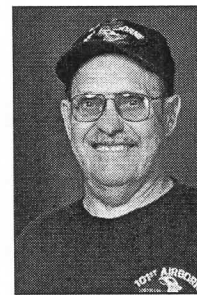


I hope this info is usable for an article. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. I have also included some photographs that might be of interest.

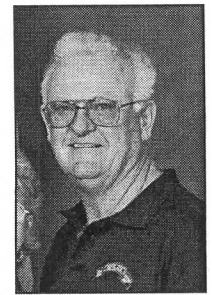
NO SLACK
/S/ Chuck Beegle
LTC (R) USA



LTC(R) Charles L. Beegle
2/327 C 1/66-1/67



Raymond C. Mahns
2/327 C 12/65-6/66



Dick Coughlin
2/327 C 11/65-6/66

Love & Kisses and Be My Valentine



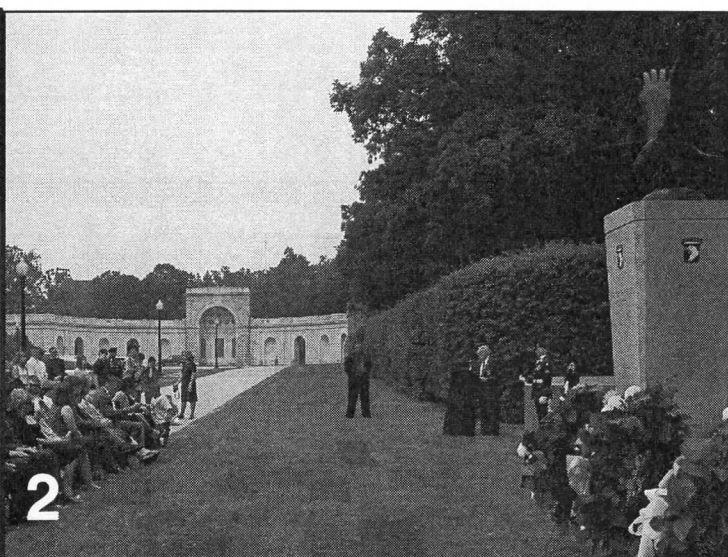
From Our Guns to Yours

"Happy Valentine" and "Love and Kisses" are the Valentine messages being sent to the Viet Cong through the 165 mm howitzers of the Second Battalion, 320th Air-

borne) Artillery, from the paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Divisions's First Brigade. —UPI.



MEMORIAL DAY 2007



1. AT THE WALL after laying the wreath (L to R) Dennis Husereau, President, National Capital Chapter, 101st Abn Div Assn; COL(R) Lawrence A. Redmond, 2/327 A 5/67-2/68, 101st Airborne Division Association President; Dick Winters and LTC(R) Richard C. Schonberger, 2/327 HHC 7/66-7/67, pose for a photo near the center of the wall. (Worrell pix)

2. AFTER THE WREATH LAYING at the 101st Airborne Division Memorial, just outside the main gate to Arlington National Cemetery, attendees listen to the words of 101st Association National President Larry Redmond. (Ben Lam Pix)

3. MAJOR GENERAL JEFFERY J. SCHLOESSER Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell, Kentucky stops in front of the 101st Airborne Division Memorial to chat with LTG(R) Charley Otstott, 2/502 A & HHC 6/67-6/68. (Ben Lam Pix)

4. THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION MEMORIAL in Arlington, Virginia, with the 101st Airborne Division Color Guard and 101st Airborne Division Association President Larry Redmond speaking. (Worrell Pix)



The Reporter Salutes

101st Screaming Eagles

ARRIVAL—The 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division stepped from landing craft onto the beach of Cam Ranh Bay July 29, 1965, after 20 days at sea. They were met by Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor and Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, COM-USMACV, both former "Screaming Eagle" commanders.

The 3700 men of the "Always First" Brigade, led by Col. James S. Timothy, set foot on the beach and prepared for the coming job.

FIRST COMBAT—The first assignment was at Cam Ranh — protection for the logistic base. Then, in early September, elements of the "Screaming Eagles" teamed up with ARVN troops in a search and destroy mission in the Qui Nhon-An Khe Axis which netted nine Viet Cong killed, 24 captured. It was the first rumble of battle for the "Eagles".

THE BIG ONE—In a few days, Company B of 2/502nd Infantry and a handful more troopers from the 502nd made an air-assault on a Viet Cong battalion training camp.

The first air-assault lift touched down on a landing zone 18 miles NE of An Khe, on a clear morning at 7:15, September 18, 1965. The second lift skimmed in over the treetops and began to descend. They didn't make it.

"All hell broke loose," a trooper recalled. Three choppers hovered 10 to 15 feet off the ground, the door gunners firing into the tree-line until their weapons smoked; there was a hail of bullets directed at the airships. The pilots decided not to land.

"I'm getting out!" a chopper pilot hollered to the troopers he was flying. None of them said anything or looked around. They stood up and began jumping the 15 feet or so to the ground below as the craft moved out. Ten or 15 men came in this way. Four of the choppers didn't make it out.

The fight raged on the entire day and through the night, until nine the next morning, when the Viet Cong withdrew and left the "Eagles" in possession of the battlefield. 226 enemy dead, and hundreds of weapons. The "Eagles" lost thirteen men.

OPERATION VALKERIE — In mid-October, the 101st began an operation "Valkerie." The "Ea-



Col. James S. Timothy
Departing Commander

gles" weren't on the road very long before they were engaged by a VC platoon. Within two hours 17 enemy were dead, 10 were captured.

CIVIC ACTION—While in the Qui Nhon area the "Screaming Eagles" spent an equal part of their energies at civic action projects as well as battle.

In November, 192 tons of VC cached rice were distributed in the area. And through the first part of December, roads were built and repaired; rice paddies harvested, culverts and bridges constructed and homes, destroyed by many battles in the area, were rebuilt. The people of the An Nhon District, grateful for the troopers' help held a district ceremony and publicly thanked the "Eagles," gave them gifts, and hoisted banners proclaiming: "The Whole People of An Nhon District Are Deeply Grateful To The 101st Airborne."

SOUTH TO CHECKERBOARD —Back in early November, the "Screaming" Eagles attempted to begin housekeeping. It wasn't easy. After the troopers left Qui Nhon in early December they got their first crack at starting a base camp. It was short lived though. By mid-December, just days after their arrival at Phan

Rang base camp, they were ordered to Lai Khe for operation checkerboard, a joint 1st Infantry Division, 173rd Airborne, Aussie, ARVN operation.

Near Bien Hoa the troopers discovered an underground tunnel system. It contained 400 tons of rice, thousands of small arms ammo, as well as other ordnance, a hospital, and many logistical supplies.

CHRISTMAS AT "HOME"—At last, the troopers got to come home to Phan Rang. It was a busy Christmas. There was much to be done. A whole base camp to be built, and only till the middle of January to get it well under way.

Christmas came and went, without much notice. The "Eagles" received a great many presents and letters from the States, but they were still 9000 miles away.

NORTH AGAIN — On January 17th, the major portion of the Brigade moved to Tuy Hoa, to set up the forward area camp in preparation for operation "VAN BUREN" which would begin at the end of the Oriental New Year truce.

On January 24, the "Screaming Eagles" began the first major offensive of the Year of the Horse: a search, destroy, and secure operation to assist the local populace in their rice harvest. The area is known to harbor several battalions of hard-core Viet Cong.

CHANGE OF COMMAND — On the 28th of January, the commander of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne, Col. James S. Timothy, handed the colors of the "Always First" Brigade over to a new commander. It was a heartfelt loss for the troopers who had followed this man through six months of almost constant contact with the enemy . . . the only colonel commanding a brigade in all of Vietnam.

The colors were given, however, not to a stranger, but to the 101st's deputy commander from Ft. Campbell, Ky., Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson.

When General Pearson received the brigade colors, he received command of the Army's finest . . . Timothy's Traveling Trouble.



RAIN OF STEEL—The 25,000th round recently left the tube of a 105mm howitzer of "B" Battery, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 320th Artillery in action against the Viet Cong near Qui Nhon. The gun is commanded by SFC Mack Burney. The artillerymen of the 320th, under the command of Lt. Col. William F. Braun, have provided close and continuous artillery support for the brigade on all of their operations since their arrival in Vietnam. (Photo by 101st-IO)

IN-FIGHTING—A "Screaming Eagle" searches every corner—PFC Peter T. Ramirez (front) searches the shelled ruin of a Viet Cong hideout while Sgt. Robert J. Turpin guards the rear exit. Both men are from Co. B, 2/327th. (Photo by 101st-IO)



THE 11th BIENNIAL REUNION

OF THE

FIRST BRIGADE (S) 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

WILL BE IN HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

SEPTEMBER 25 – 28, 2008

See Page 16

Following is a warning message. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Details will be mailed to you in a reunion packet and will appear in the January and July, 2008 magazines.



**THE 11th BIENNIAL REUNION
OF THE
FIRST BRIGADE (S)
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION**



**WILL BE IN HAMPTON, VIRGINIA
SEPTEMBER 25 – 28, 2008**

**AT THE HOLIDAY INN
HAMPTON HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER**



Some of the General William C. Lee Chapter members who will be leaders in the planning and execution of the 11th Biennial Reunion of the First Brigade (S) in Hampton, Virginia, September 25 – 28, 2008, are (L to R) James F. Shamblen, Chapter Secretary, Jamie Mitchell, CMP, Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau, Group Sales Manager and Fred Behrens, Chapter President. These chapter members along with many others will plan well and work hard to assure that veterans of the First Brigade (S), 101st Airborne Division will enjoy an outstanding reunion.

Daily Sick Call Held For Phu Yen Villagers

TUY HOA— During the months of August, September, and October, the Medical Platoon of the 1st Battalion, 327 Infantry, sponsored a civilian sick call each afternoon for the villagers east of Tuy Hoa.

Under the leadership of Doctor (Captain) Stephen M. Wilson and Doctor (Capt.) Dan E. Hammack, medical care was provided for 7000 Vietnamese civilians. Sick call attendance ranged from 100 to 200 patients each day.

The medics of the Medical Platoon were the backbone of the operation. They spent many hours treating every-

thing from scratches to pneumonia. Patients who needed more extensive care were taken to the province hospital in Tuy Hoa.

Doctor (Capt.) Dan Cheney, brigade dental officer, from the 326th Medical Clearing Company, made several trips to the civilian aid station. With his assistance and dental equipment he provided dental care for over 60 Vietnamese.

Other visiting medical personnel have also provided help. Doctors Capt. Don McLeod, also from the 326th Medical Clearing Company, Dick Matern from the province hospital in Nha Trang, and Capt. Bob Smith of the 85th Evacuation Hospital in Qui Nhon, all visited the aid station to give additional help and consultation.

Operation Seward Final Tally

PHUYEN, 28 Oct (D&W)

The 1st Brigade terminated Operation SEWARD Tuesday at midnight. The operation, which was a search and destroy, rice harvest protection operation in an area 18 miles northwest of Tuy Hoa in Phu Yen Province was initiated on September 5.

The combined ground-air operation accounted for 239 enemy killed, 32 captured, 880 suspects detained, 79 individual and 1 crew-served weapon seized.

Viet Cong Assassinate Suspected Defector

Local Viets Clam Up

PHUYEN—Paratroopers of the 1st Brigade recently came upon a bullet-riddled body. It had all the aspects of a Viet Cong elimination.

While on an operation north of Tuy Hoa, the 3rd Platoon of Company "C" 3d Battalion, 502d Infantry, discovered the body of a Vietnamese. The dead man's face was partly shot away and he had been shot more than 15 times in other parts of his body.

The corpse's hands been tied behind his back with a red and white flowered waist band and he lay face down on a grassy knoll overlooking several hamlets. A total of 20 expended cartridges, fired from an enemy weapon, were found near the body.

It was determined that the killing had taken place less than 24 hours prior to the body's being discovered by the "Screaming Eagles." It was suspected that the dead man may have been a Viet Cong who had tried to leave the fold or a Vietnamese who

knew too much about the Viet Cong. However, villagers in the hamlets surrounding the area where the body was found, say they had not seen, heard, nor knew anything.



Two Viet Cong suspects held by troopers of the 1st Brigade. (Photo by Sp4 Richard Parker)

DIPLOMAT AND WARRIOR

Published Weekly For The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

VOL. I, No. 24 VIETNAM NOV. 6, 1966

CG Decorated For Valor

TUY HOA — Brigadier General Willard Pearson was decorated at the 1st Brigade's Headquarters near Tuy Hoa for conspicuous gallantry under hostile fire.

The commanding general of the 1st Brigade was awarded the Silver Star and two Oak Leaf Clusters for heroically distinguishing himself on three separate occasions "under intense enemy fire" during Operation Hawthorne.

Lieutenant General Stanley R. Larsen, commander of I Field Force Vietnam (IFFV) presented the three Silver Stars to the "Always First" commanding general.

During combat operations in the central highlands, Gen. Pearson repeatedly exposed himself to intense mortar and automatic fire, without regard for his own safety, in order to better evaluate tactical situations. On three different occasions he was helilifted into landing zones that were no more than 50 yards from raging battles between his 101st paratroopers and North Vietnamese army troops.

In a short speech following the presentation to the 1st Brigade commander, Gen. Larsen stated that the 101st had compiled "a valorous combat record because of outstanding leadership."

Further citing the brigade, the three star general said,

(Cont'd on p-4, Col. 5)



Lt. Gen. Stanley Larsen, presents Brig. Gen. Pearson with a Silver Star and two Oak Leaf Clusters. (Photo by SFC Peter McCormack)

327th Guerrilla Tactics Net 3 'Charles Victors'

TUY HOA— The operational order was for a night ambush, and Lieutenant Peter Laizik returned to his weapons platoon to start preparations to spring a guerrilla trap on Viet Cong guerrillas.

The weapons platoon, of Company "B," 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, began preparing to move just after noon. That night the troopers would set up an ambush along a trail believed to be used frequently by the Viet Cong.

By late afternoon the platoon was within a mile of their ambush site. They stopped and ate "C" rations as heavy monsoon rains began to fall. Prior to dusk, a diversion element moved north

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

DIPLOMAT and WARRIOR

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

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

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

Have You Forgotten To Mail Yours?

Put your ballot in the mail now!!

Editor's Column

The American Red Cross Center at Phan Rang opened the doors to their new permanent facility there last week.

Kathy Wickstrom, the information chairwoman, pointed out that in addition to the usual services offered (wrapping paper, paperback books, games, cards, guitars, record player, cool drinks and coffee) a ping-pong table and badminton set are available. And by the end of November it is hoped a pool table will be set up too.

The Red Center would like to start a round-table discussion group to air views on provocative topics, as well as hold its nightly scheduled activities.

The new building is located nextdoor to the Brigade Chapel and a few yards from the APO.

The APO number for Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) changed on 1 November from APO 96243 to APO 96222.

The change will affect official and personal mail for MACV Headquarters only.

Names may not be removed from an Army enlisted recommended promotion list for any reason other than due cause, administrative error when determined ineligible for consideration, or transfer from the command.

This is the message sent to Army commanders further clarifying the system authorized last February where lists are prepared showing a person's relative standing for promotion. The message's intent is to insure consistent application Army-wide.

Army's message points out that an individual may not be removed from the list for such reasons as position elimination, lack of position vacancy in the individual's MOS, or because the MOS is on the frozen list.

Those not promoted because of any of these reasons will remain on the list and be placed at the top of lists established by later boards until the individual is promoted.

Each individual will be promoted to fill vacancies for which qualified before anyone who is later selected in his MOS and grade, unless the person is removed from the list for cause.

Uniquely Qualified Officers To Be Held

SAIGON (MACV-CI) — Headquarters, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam has published guidance on the selection of officers for retention in the command beyond one year. Primarily affected are officers who are or may be assigned to advisory positions.

Officers selected will be extended for total tours up to 18 or 24 months. Both commissioned and warrant officers will be considered for selection.

320th Arty Furnishes Dam Tach School

By 1st Lt. Arthur Barnett

TUY HOA —The children and teachers of the Dam Tach School stared in amazement as the vehicles of the 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery, pulled into their schoolyard. The school serves the 176 students of the Refugee Reception Center south of Tuy Hoa.

Loaded on the vehicles were 25 desks and benches for use in the school's new classroom which was bare of school furniture. Amusement led to excitement as students and teachers alike gathered with glee around the soldiers and helped them move the equipment into the schoolhouse. The children and artillerymen worked quickly and soon all the desks and chairs were inside the room.

Captain Thomas J. Kelly, battalion intelligence officer, had heard of the problems that school officials were having getting equipment for another classroom and decided to do something about it. After coordinating with

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

Honor Roll

The following men have been cited in brigade general orders for their valor in action:

- Capt. Dean H. Darling
- Maj. Herbert E. Garcia
- 1Lt. Eugene R. New
- Capt. John P. Herrling
- 1Lt. Chester L. Whiteside
- Maj. Allyn B. Ensign
- Maj. John M. McDonald
- Capt. Lynn C. Mallory Jr.
- 1Sgt. Warren S. Eichelberger
- SSgt. Marvin Edwards
- SSgt. Franklin J. Holbrook
- SSgt. Edward Peoples
- Sgt. Melvin Barber
- Sgt. Allen E. Jenkins
- Sp4 David E. Bracker
- Sp4 Ronald D. Chaffin
- Sp4 Thomas Doran
- Sp4 Edward A. Wudarsky
- Sp4 Robert N. York
- PFC Raymond W. Bateman
- PFC Bobby J. Pennington
- PFC William Wright III

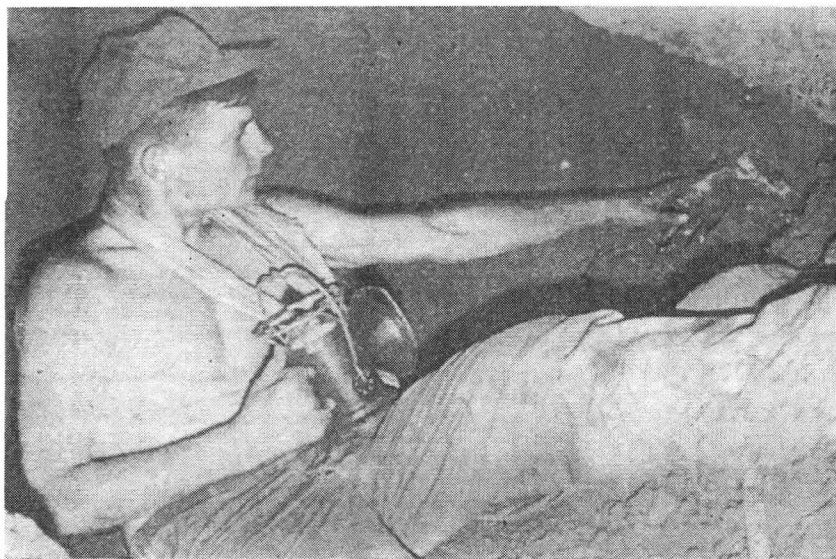
Enlisted Warrior of the Week



Sergeant Richard G. Tafoya, a member of Company, "C," 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry, was chosen as the "Enlisted Warrior of the Week" for his recent actions against the enemy near Tuy Hoa.



Paratroopers and schoolchildren unload new desks and benches for the Dam Tach schoolhouse. The men of Headquarters Battery, 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery used ammo boxes to make the equipment for the refugee school. (Photo by Sp 4 Oddvar Breiland)



PFC Johnny Vermillion, a member of Company "A," 326th Engineer s removes punji stakes from the walls of the tunnel complex. (Photo by PFC Tim McGowen)

Well, Hell...

Tunnel Capacity: 2 Regiments

By PFC Luis Callender

PHU YEN — While on operations northwest of Tuy Hoa with two CIDG (Civilian Irregular Defense Group) companies, Company "A," 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry, came upon what at first glance appeared to be a well. Upon closer observation the "Screaming Eagles" discovered a three foot entrance in the side of the eight-foot hole.

A three man team was lowered into the hole and once inside the tunnel, they were able to crawl for several hundred meters and emerge at another entrance. At one point the paratroopers found such items as sleeping mats, two new belts of machine gun ammunition, and four loaded magazines.

After a more thorough search the men of Company "A" discovered they had not found just one tunnel, but an entire tunnel complex complete with connecting entrances, air shafts, and defense trenches. They also found several bangalore torpedoes. Once they had secured the area a team of engineers from the 326th Engineers spent almost a week inside the bat infested complex. It was estimated that over 3000 cubic yards of earth had been moved by hand in construction of the tunnels.

The tunnels were used mainly for communications, escape, and concealment of troops, and it is estimated that two North Vietnamese army regiments could be well hidden in the complex without danger of being spotted.

The site for the complex was well chosen because the area is by no means easily accessible. Company "A" spent several grueling hours climbing the side of a mountain that is almost at a 90 degree angle. The Viet Cong had also constructed an anti-helicopter obstacle on



Two paratroopers help to pull out a "tunnel rat" from the large tunnel and trench complex uncovered by the 1st Brigade near Tuy Hoa on Operation SEWARD. (Photo by PFC Luis Callender)

the hilltop.

Engineers calculated that it would take almost five tons of conventional demolitions to completely destroy the entire complex, so the more than twenty entrances

and about four times that number of air shafts were caved in and C.S. gas was sealed inside.

If the tunnels were in one straight line they would have measured almost a mile.

Strike Force by Gunslinger

In Vietnam there is a name
That fills Ho Chi Minh with with terror.
Death stalks the trails by night and day
The STRIKE FORCE is the bearer.

Uncle Ho Chi count your men
Tonight they're few in number.
STRIKE FORCE took its toll today
They ripped them all asunder.

Hanoi maiden with large dark eyes
Your lover lives no longer.
Be advised he met his death
By a STRIKE FORCE widow maker.

Uncle Ho do your soldiers know
Their link with life is slender.
The fate they face on the trail from the North
Is death by the STRIKE FORCE vendor.

The STRIKE FORCE raids in the jungle glades
The rice fields and the river.
Oh, Uncle Ho your soldiers know
They can't escape forever.

The Viet Cong is cunning and shrewd
With his mines and ambush terrors.
To stand and fight is to meet his end
When the STRIKE FORCE he encounters.

You may wound our men with punji stakes
Shed blood with sniper fire.
In the end you'll feel the steel
Of the STRIKE FORCE in it's ire.

Your mortars seek to find their mark
As they hit in monsoon weather.
And the mines you lay in the falling rain
Do not make you the master.

Your AK's blaze and your Mausers bark
And your RPD's shoot faster.
But STRIKE FORCE rifles and grenadiers
Take a death toll that is greater.

Though our blood you've shed by assassins red
You have only caused us anger.
You must realize when one man dies
Ten of yours will live no longer.

We'll drink a toast to our comrades slain
When the fighting is no longer.
Their country's honor they did maintain
For freedom the world over.

Call the roll of the regiments
The STRIKE FORCE did encounter.
The list is long, your soldiers dead
Have gone from you forever.

Three hundred bodies we did count
At An Ninh by the river.
A stunning blow to the Ninety Fifth
The STRIKE FORCE did deliver.

By My Can village near Tuy Hoa
The Ninety Fifth did blunder
Into the STRIKE FORCE fighting men
One battalion lives no longer.

At Bu Gia Map we met your best
But they did not linger.
The few that lived turned tail and ran
One Forty First is few in number.

The Twenty Fourth failed to run
At Dak To in the summer.
We chopped them up, their day is done
The STRIKE FORCE them did slaughter.

At high noon near Tuy Hoa
The Eighteen B did slumber.
We hit them hard, their tools of war
Belong to the STRIKE FORCE victor.

The STRIKE FORCE harries the Viet Cong
NVA ranks grow thinner.
Black rifles act as the scythe of death
The STRIKE FOKCE is the reaper.

Ho Chi Minh sleep lightly
For your soldiers are in danger
There's death upon the trail tonight
The STRIKE FORCE is the hunter.

Circuit Lawyer Travels By Mule Thru 101 Area

By Lt. Arthur Barnett

PHU YEN— Everyone is familiar with the picturesque old circuit judge who traveled from town to town during the frontier days of American history; the man who used every mode of transportation that was available — horse, horse and buggy, mule and sometimes even his feet—to bring law to far-flung settlements.

The need for a man of this type still exists for the troopers of the 1st Brigade. And the man who handles their legal problems is Captain Gerald C. Coleman L.L.B., staff judge advocate of the 1st Brigade. It is his responsibility to give legal assistance to the "Screaming Eagles," handle problems concerning military justice, advise the brigade on the determination and disposition of prisoners of war, and settle claims that are made by members of the brigade.

Carrying out his duties keep the Philadelphia native on the go much of the time. Nicknamed the "Judge," he visits each battalion at least once a week and seldom gets time to settle down in one place for long. He maintains an office at the base camp in Phan Rang and another wherever the brigade is operating.

A 1960 graduate of Villanova University, Pennsylvania, Capt. Coleman is married and has three children. He went on to law school and received his L.L.B. from Georgetown University in Washington D.C. in 1963 and then entered the Army. The Judge, who is a senior parachutist, served with the 82nd Airborne Division in the Dominican Republic before joining the 101st.

In addition to carrying for the legal needs of the troopers in the field, Capt. Coleman lectures each new class of the brigade's Proficiency (P) School, urging newly arrived men to straighten out their legal affairs before going to the forward area, and advising them of their rights under the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act.

"Quite a few legal problems can be solved if they are taken care of as soon as a man arrives in-country," states Capt. Coleman explaining why he likes to talk to the new arrivals. "The fewer problems a man has to worry about—the better a soldier he is; and we try to help him in every way we can."

Assisting the traveling judge is Specialist 5 Eucl L. Perry who travels almost as much as his boss to keep up with the paper work. Sp5 Perry is a school trained legal affairs clerk and coordinates the work of the battalion clerks.



Mounted on the back of an mechanical Army Mule, the traveling magistrate of the 1st Brigade, Captain Gerald C. Coleman, moves on to the next case.

(Photo by Sp4 Oddvar Breiland)

Three VC Killed...

(Cont'd from p-1, Col. 3)

leaving the rest of the platoon concealed in the jungle. The troopers who were to set up the ambush moved out later under the cover of darkness and in a driving rain. They moved northwest to establish the ambush.

In the objective area, claymore mines were emplaced, each man on the ambush site given a zone of fire, and all round security established. Every man lay tense, now, seeming to sense the approaching enemy.

At 11:15 p.m. four enemy soldiers moved into the killing zone. The dark night was pierced with rifle fire,

machine gun chatter and the light from tracers. The fury of the properly executed ambush lasted a very short time but it took its toll on the enemy: three killed and one unhurt but hugging the ground in a daze.

The paratroopers quickly retrieved the enemy weapons, equipment and supplies and moved back to the ambush site with their prisoner to wait for enemy reinforcements or search parties. They never arrived.

Just after dawn the rain stopped and the ambush party buried the dead and moved back to the company command post with their prisoner.

NOTICE

If you hold a receipt for a privately owned weapon which is in custody at Tan Son Nhut AFB of the 377th Combat Support Group, your weapon must be claimed by 20 December or it will be disposed of by that unit.

USARV-IO

Dam Tach School

(Cont'd from p-2, Col. 3)

the brigade's civil affairs section, he called headquarters battery commander, Capt. Homer J. Gibbs and told him that the little schoolhouse needed desks and chairs. He then called in Sergeant First Class Harold T. Greenfield of the Survey Platoon and told him the problem.

The men of the Survey Platoon immediately started to work. Using ammunition boxes from the unit's 105 mm shells they made desks and benches that could seat two students. Utilizing good ole paratrooper ingenuity, they procured green paint and put the finishing touches on the 25 units they had constructed.

"The spirit that the men showed really amazed me," exclaimed Sgt. Greenfield. "In all my years of working on projects, I've never seen such a reaction. They even went into their own pockets to purchase some of the material."

CG Decorated

(Cont'd from p-1, Col. 3)

"You are, and have been, setting the pace for other units in Vietnam, and your achievements on the battlefield, as well as other areas, have been of great service to the Vietnamese people and have brought honor to your country.

"Without taking away any credit from the other fine units in country," the IFFV commander continued, "I say the 1st Brigade is the best in Vietnam.



WANTED

Information leading to the exposure of squad or platoon sized units with novel Nicknames—backed by outstanding combat records.

All commanders — be they LC or PFCIC are urged to uncover their "hotshot" squads.

Call STRIKE 99 for further information.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

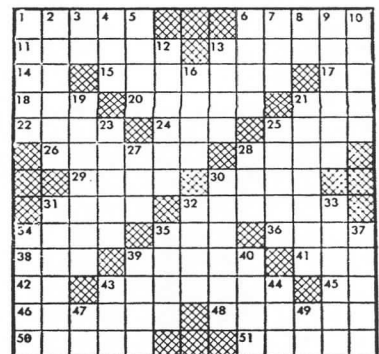
Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1-Cubic meter
- 6-Publish
- 11-Punctuation mark
- 13-Great outcry
- 14-Chaldean city
- 15-Burdensome
- 17-trade union (abbr.)
- 18-A month (abbr.)
- 20-Halls
- 21-Girl's nickname
- 22-Portico
- 24-River island
- 25-Stone
- 26-Impose as a necessary accompaniment
- 28-Diminish
- 29-Labor
- 30-Rise and fall of ocean
- 31-Musical organization
- 32-Harbinger
- 34-Great Lake
- 35-Baker's product
- 36-Female ruffs
- 38-Metal fastener
- 39-Classifies
- 41-A state (abbr.)
- 42-Hypothetical force
- 43-Thoroughfares
- 45-Greek letter
- 46-Loss
- 48-Checked
- 50-Chemical compound
- 51-Lying face downward

DOWN

- 1-Polatoes (slang)
- 2-Cylindrical
- 3-Teutonic deity
- 4-Spanish for "river"
- 5-Vast ages
- 6-Addition sign
- 7-Ethiopian title (abbr.)
- 8-Prefix: not
- 9-Warning
- 10-Storage box
- 12-Minor item
- 13-Native Egyptian
- 16-Irritate
- 19-Hold
- 21-Patterned
- 23-Make amends
- 25-Warning device
- 27-Succor
- 28-Evergreen tree
- 30-Seesaw
- 31-Newly married women
- 32-Rent
- 33-Make deeper
- 34-Kind of lyric poem
- 35-Harbor
- 37-Skid
- 39-Heavenly body
- 40-Walk
- 43-Observe
- 44-Title of respect
- 47-Length measure (abbr.)
- 49-Negative



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unit and dates ? - 1/08
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9310 Oak Hill
Woodway, TX 76712-7723

Patrick A. Copeland
2/327 42 IPSD 8/66-9/67 - 4/08
1140 7th Place
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-4911

Manuel C. Cruz
2/502 1/58-10/73 - 4/08
1264 East Gayinero Dr.
Yigo, GU 96929

James A. Donnelly
1/327 B 9/66-9/67 - 4/08
19566 North Ripon Rd.
Ripon, CA 95366-9401

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2/327 A & C 12/67-12/68 - 4/08
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2/502 67-68 - 4/08
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1/327 C 5/67-8/67 - 4/08
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George G. Herrera
2/502 B 7/66-7/67 - 4/08
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Clarksville, TN 37042

Larry Keller
2/327 B 1/67-12/67 - 4/08
56532 North Bank Road
McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413-
9617

Tommy J. Kellogg
1/327 HHC T.F. 7/67-1/68 - 4/08
25804 E. 3rd St.
Catoosa, OK 74015

Robert J. Leonard
1/327 C 12/66-9/67 - 4/08
5467 Sapphire Circle
Ellenwood, GA 30294

Stan Lyons
2/327 C 7/67-1/68 - 4/08
P.O. Box 328
Erin, TN 37061

Bob Mirata
2/502 C 9/66-9/67 - 4/08
488 N. State St.
Ukiah, CA 95482

Lester Montgomery
1/327 C 65-66 - 1/08
1904 Cedar Ave.
P. O. Box 452
Buena Vista, VA 24416

Richard G. Murphy
2/327 HQ & C 10/66-10/67 - 4/08
980 Millison Drive
Springfield, PA 19064

Walter R. Ostrander
2/502 C 5/65-7/66 - 4/08
4507 N. Frace
Tacoma, WA 98407

Frank D. Pierce
2/327 C 66-67 - 4/08
1824 Appalachian Hwy
Gadsden, AL 35903-4565

Lee Vick
1/327 HHQ 7/65-6/66 - 4/08
515 Piney Point Rd.
Yorktown, VA 23692

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1/327 HHC&A 9/66-5/67 - 4/08
210 Essex Way
Benicia, CA 94510-1512

Lawrence D. Anglin
2/502 B 10/60-7/66 - 4/08
6 Lincoln Drive
Columbus, NJ 08022-2332

CW4(R) Demery M. Austin
2/327 HHC 9/66-8/67 - 4/08
P.O. Box 519
Buies Creek, NC 27506-0519

Jose A. Avelar, Jr.
1/502 A VN 67-68 - 4/08
2314 Doral Ave.
Albert Lea, MN 56007-3323

COL(R) Richard R. Babbitt
2/327 B 7/67-7/68 - 4/08
241 Clinton St., Apt 6
Watertown, NY 13601-3623

Dean J. Beaupre
2/502 A 1/67-1/68 - 7/08
3469 Fancher Rd.
Holley, NY 14470-9393

LTG(R) Dennis L. Benchoff
20th Chem Det 9/66-7/67 - 4/08
380 Arbor Road
Lancaster, PA 17601-3204

COL(R) James R. Bennett
SPT BN D 7/65-7/66 - 7/08
6214 Welles Brook
San Antonio, TX 78240-2105

Hugh R. Black
1/327 B 10/66-7/67 - 4/08
P.O. Box 893670
Mililani, HI 96789-0670

Joseph D. Blanck
2/502 HHC LRRP 5/66-5/67 - 4/08
72 Ridgewood Ave.
Yonkers, NY 10704-2304

Lawrence P. Boecklen \$
2/327 B 1/67-1/68 - 7/08
28730 Altessa Way #201
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

CSM(R) Joseph M. Bossi
2/327 HHC 6/66-7/67 - 4/08
2231 Pendleton Drive
Clarksville, TN 37042-5618

Donald W. Brewer
2/17 CAV A 67-69 - 4/08
213 W. 10th St.
Beardstown, IL 62618

Ernest Bridgers \$
2/502 RECON 3/66-5/67 - 4/08
4758 Gardenia Circle
Rocky Mount, NC 27804-9500

James P. Brinker
2/502 E 12/69-11/70 - 4/08
10 Luther Lane
Dudley, MA 01571-5857

Dallas E. Brown
2/327 A 12/67-12/68 - 4/08
7232 Santealah Way
Antioch, TN 37013-4542

Robert B. Brown
326 ENGR A 7/65-7/66 - 4/08
340 Ridgeway Circle
Troutville, VA 24175-5820

Narva J. "Doc" Brye
2/502 HHC & A 6/67-6/68 - 4/08
4124 N 91st St.
Omaha, NE 68134

Anthony A. Burgee
2/327 B 12/65-12/66 - 4/08
1116 E. Price St.
Philadelphia, PA 19138-1809

Arthur W. "Ossie" Burton
2/327 Inf B 12/65-5/66 - 4/08
2420 W. Camelot Rd.
Avon Park, FL 33825-9290

Steve Buss
2/502 B 7/65-2/66 - 4/08
76 Scott Rd.
Cumberland, RI 02864-2808

Charles W. Campbell
2/502 Recon A&C 2/66-2/67-4/08
28715 Carnoustie Ave.
Moreno Valley, CA 92555-7010

Harry R. Campbell, Jr.
2/502 C 6/65-6/66 - 4/08
177 Perrysville Rd.
Saltsburg, PA 15681

Russ Campbell
2/320 Arty C Bty 5/67-5/68-4/08
240 Hamilton Ave.
Glen Rock, NJ 07452-2205

Tom Caramanno
1/327 C 12/66-1/68 - 4/08
5578 Quietwood Pl
Fayetteville, NC 28304-4876

Tom Carhart
1/327 A 12/67-6/68 - 4/08
25 Hawthorne Terrace
Northampton, MA 01062

1SG(R) Jim Carner
181st MI Det 8/65-8/66 - 10/08
6616 83rd St. East
Puyallup, WA 98371-6359

Bill Carver \$
HHC MP 7/65-6/66 - 7/08
11548 S. Deer Run St.
Olathe, KS 66061-8307

Ken Claypoole \$
2/327 B 10/66-6/67 - 4/08
1729 Alabama Ave.
West Sacramento, CA 95691

MAJ(R) Billie R. Cook
SPT BN A & C 65-66 - 4/08
208 James Landing Cir.
Smithfield, VA 23430-2316

David S. Cook
1/327 C 5/65-7/66 ELT - 4/08
12 Lakeshore Drive
Winthrop, ME 04364-3919

CPT(R) Thomas J. Courtney \$
2/502 B&E 67-68 - 7/08
335 Cedar Lane
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Morris Cox
1/327 A 68-69 - 7/08
P58825 C3-211L
P.O. Box 2199
Blythe, CA 92226

George W. Day, Jr.
2/327 HQ 6/65-6/66 - 4/08
32 Bradley Court
Wilmington, OH 45177-7851

Stephen D. Eicherly
Det 3, 3rd RRU 7/65-2/66 - 4/08
11382 Mac Duff St.
Garden Grove, CA 92841-1516

Fred Raymond Ellis 2/327 A 6/66-6/67 - 4/08 4680 N Waterside Dr. Clovis, CA 93611	Lewis S. Henry 326 ENGR A 4/67-3/68 - 4/08 397 Packers Falls Rd. Lee, NH 03824	Ed Kurth 1/327 B 11/66-2/68 - 4/08 12 Lakeshore Drive Glassboro, NJ 08028-2718	Randy Mills 2/502 A 5/67-10/67 - 4/08 1521 Sweet Myrtle Circle Mount Pleasant, SC 29466-8093
SFC(R) Floyd W. Flynt 501 SIG HHC 5/67-4/68 - 4/08 P.O. Box 857 Prairie Grove, AR 72753-0857	MG(R) Donald C. Hilbert 1/327 A 7/65-8/66 - 4/08 9414 Turnberry Drive Potomac, MD 20854	COL(R) Gerard Landry 2/502 A 7/64-7/66 - 4/09 6240 Split Creek Lane Alexandria, VA 22312	Kenneth R. Millsbaugh 2/320 FA HHC 7/67-5/68 - 4/08 3720 W. 91st Ave. Merrillville, IN 46410-6858
Michael E. Frieze 2/17 CAV A 7/65-6/66 - 4/08 P.O. Box 815 Yulee, FL 32041-0815	SFC(R) Charles A. "Shaky" Hover 501 SIG C 7/66-5/67 - 10/08 6255 W. Tropicana Ave, Apt 274 Las Vegas, NV 89103-4643	James M. Lane 326 ENGR A 5/66-5/67 - 4/08 1105 So. H Street Port Angeles, WA 98363	Roger J. Morris 1/327 C 9/67-9/68 - 7/08 Box R-56, Unit 29622 APO, AE 09096-9622
Claude A. Frisbie \$ 1/327 A 7/66-2/68 - 4/08 175 Springton Rd. Glenmoore, PA 19343-1106	BG(R) John D. Howard 1/327 A & TF 1/65-6/66 - 4/08 2627 S. Kent Street Arlington, VA 22202	Edward F. Lewin 2/502 C 12/67-12/68 - 4/08 6822 Dunoon Court Miami Lakes, FL 33014-6002	COL(R) Gerry Morse 1/327 C.O. 7/67-6/68 - 4/08 10914 East Twilight Drive Sun Lakes, AZ 85248-7926
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Bob Garcia 2/320 FA B EIT 65-66 - 4/08 5726 Cortez Rd W Bradenton, FL 34210-2701	Martin Jeppeson \$ 1/327 HHC 5/67-1/68 - 4/08 16 Dumfries Ct. Sacramento, CA 95831-2917	Allen W. Lloyd, CPA 2/327 HHC Recon 3/67-8/67-4/08 P. O. Box 33519 Indialantic, FL 32903-0519	CW4(R) Charlie M. Musselwhite 1/327 HHC 64-66 EIT- 7/08 1800 62nd Place South St. Petersburg, FL 33712-5722
COL(R) Edwin P. "Ted" Geesey HHC 5/67-5/68 - 4/08 10511 Hunting Crest Lane Vienna, VA 22182-1521	LTC(R) James C. Joiner 2/327 B&C 1/67-1/68 - 4/08 6204 Spanish Main Dr. Apollo Beach, FL 33572-2433	Richard A. Luttrell 2/327 A 4/67-3/68 - 4/08 27 Taft Drive Rochester, IL 62563-9200	John Neely 1/327 C & HHC 6/68-6/69 - 4/08 111 Federal Street Salem, MA 01970
LTC(R) Ted Gesulga 2/327 HHC 4/66-4/67 - 4/08 1019 E. Wright Road Greenville, NC 27858	COL Edward P. Kane, U.S.A.(Ret) 326 ENGR A 4/67-4/68 - 4/08 1501 Morgan Lane Wayne, PA 19087-1112	Alton E. Mabb, Jr. 2/502 E Recon 10/70-8/71 - 4/08 P.O. Box 15141 Jacksonville, FL 32239	Charles W. Osentoski 2/502 HHC 12/66-12/67 - 7/08 114 Windsor Rd. Fairfield Glade, TN 38558
CSM(R) Hal S. Gladson \$ 1/327 B 5/66-5/67 - 4/08 56 Woodland Hills Dr., Ste. 6 Southgate, KY 41071-2963	CW3(R) William J. Keller 2/327 HQ(S-4) 6/65-7/66 - 4/08 8032 East Hayne St. Tucson, AZ 85710-4213	Joe Mastriani 2/320 FA C 1/65-6/66 - 4/08 56 Smoke Hill Ridge Marshfield, MA 02050-2576	Ricky Oyas 2/320 Arty A Btry 10/66-10/67 - 10/08 1504 N Holly Dr. Prescott, AZ 86305-7209
Paul L. Grady 2/327 C 8/66-8/67 - 4/08 48360 Bowman Run Rd. Racine, OH 45771	Tom Kerns 1/327 C & HDQ 6/67-6/68 - 4/08 5217 Tama Rd. Celina, OH 45822-9409	Harold Mattson 1/327 A 5/65-3/67 - 4/09 8701 Thomas Ave. S. Bloomington, MN 55431	Felix F. Padula 2/502 HHC 4/63-9/65 - 4/08 5770 Taylor Rd. Painesville, OH 44077-9155
Peter S. Griffin 2/502 A 9/64-6/66 - 4/08 800 Mineral Springs Road Madison, NC 27025-8126	Dave Kilborn 2/320 FA B Btry 4/66-11/68-4/08 275 Randall Drive Folsom, CA 95630	Larry F. Melton 1/327 B 6/67-7/68 - 4/08 8901 Surrey Drive Pendleton, IN 46064-9335	Richard E. Pauley 326 MED D 4/65-6/66 - 4/08 18709 Whirlaway Rd. Eagle River, AK 99577-8334
MG(R) James R. Harding 2/17 CAV A 6/66-1/68 - 4/08 1394 Harding Rd Box 236 Wicomico Church, VA 22579-0236	Albert P. Klerlein, III 1/327 B 12/65-11/66 - 4/08 75 Meadows Rd. Chesapeake City, MD 21915-1700	George L. Mercado 2/502 C 4/66-11/66 - 4/08 7892 Willow Springs Dr. #1521 Lake Worth, FL 33467-3235	Don Perez 2/17th Cav A 66-67 - 7/08 457 S. St. Augustine Ave. Claremont, CA 91711
Elton M. Heath Family - Rand Goranson - 7/08 #6 Northwest Crossing Davenport, IA 52806-2453	George Nelson Klink 1/327 B 6/67-4/68 - 4/08 8285 East 800 South Wolcottville, IN 46795	Carl E. Midkiff \$ HHC AIR SECT 12/66-12/67 - 4/09 1029 David Court Radcliff, KY 40160	Philip D. Pitcock \$ 1st Bde C 7/65 -? - 4/08 4982 Gamaliel Rd. Tompkinsville, KY 42167

Freddy A. Pitner \$
2/327 A 10/65-10/66 - 7/08
207 Sugar Loaf Rd.
Seymour, TN 37865-6729

Robert A. Press
1/327 A 6/64-6/66 - 7/08
3061 W. Young
Show Low, AZ 85901-6919

James R. Rafferty
HHC 11/66-6/67 - 4/08
358 Fish Creek Rd.
Saugerties, NY 12477-3440

William S. Reno
2/327 B 6/67-6/68 - 4/08
6566 So. Hudson Place
Tulsa, OK 74136-2723

CSM(R) Robert H. Retter
HHC 181 MI 8/65-8/66 - 4/08
2605 87th Court East
Palmetto, FL 34221-8382

Jim Rizzi
2/502 Recon 6/67-7/68 - 4/08
9 May Ct.
Stony Point, NY 10980

R. Jack Santos
2/17 CAV A 1/66-12/66 - 7/08
1828 Berkley Ave.
Pueblo, CO 81004

LTC(R) Richard C. Schonberger
2/327 HHC 7/66-7/67 - 4/08
8804 Kenilworth Drive
Springfield, VA 22151-1101

Fred Schwaner
SPT BN 6/66-6/67 - 4/08
3191 Sharp Rd.
Glenwood, MD 21738-9434

CSM(R) George M. Sekerak
1/327 B 6/67-7/68 - 4/08
7224 Godfrey Dr.
Fayetteville, NC 28303-2405

Harrison Shannon, Jr.
1/327 C 6/65-6/66 - 4/08
12423 Windsor Glade Dr.
Matthews, NC 28105-4112

Gale A. Shire
3/506 A 6/67-8/68 - 7/08
P.O. Box 191
Kasilof, AK 99610-0191

Dieter P. Steigerwald, Sr.
2/327 HQ 12/65-12/66 - 7/08
4507 Makyas Road
Syracuse, NY 13215-8741

Dick D. Stranahan
2/17 CAV A Trp 64-66 - 4/08
546 Fentress Lookout
Falls of Rough, KY 40119-6230

LTC(R) James M. Tajiri
HHC 181 MI 7/66-6/67 - 7/08
P.O. Box 1115
Pebble Beach, CA 93953-1115

Emmett M. Teague
2/502 A 12/65-11/66 - 4/08
1 Medley Lane
Clinton, CT 06413-1315

Victor A. Thompson
2/502 A 2/67-8/67 - 4/08
2404 N.W. Osage Circle
Riverside, MO 64150

Frank M. Torre
1/327 A 12/66-12/67 - 4/09
166A Pillsbury Rd.
Londonderry, NH 03053-3222

Walter C. Towers
1/327 A&Tigers 5/66-5/67 - 4/08
8 Joan Dr.
Stanhope, NJ 07874-3200

Steve Vargo
2/327 HHC & C 4/67-3/68 - 7/08
R.D. #2, Box 154 A
Valley Grove, WV 26060

Dave Walz
2/327 A 6/67-6/68 - 10/08
2150 Kiley Crossing
Newark, OH 43055

COL(R) Samuel J. Watson, III
2/327 HHC 9/65-9/66 - 4/09
6364 Hillcrest Place
Alexandria, VA 22312-1234

Ralph Whitehead
1/327 11/65-1/68 - 4/08
231 Ave. L
Anson, TX 79501

Michael A. Willey
Brigade PIO 9/66-10/67 - 4/08
32176 Chester
Garden City, MI 48135-1742

Jimmy L. Williams
326 Engr A 7/65-10/66 - 4/08
4746 Stacey Rd.
Memphis, TN 38109-6734

Terry L. Wren
2/327 A 4/67-2/68 - 4/08
5622 N 13000 W Rd.
Custer Park, IL 60481-9026

Richard Young
2/320 FA HQ 5/65-2/66 - 4/08
49 King St.
Hatfield, MA 01038

Terry R. Zahn
SPT BN HQ Elt 7/65-5/66 - 4/08
14824 Erskine St.
Omaha, NE 68116-5123

\$ = Above Subscription Price

Address Corrections

June 1, 2007 through
August 31, 2007

Ernest Bridgers
2/502 RECON 3/66-5/67 - 4/08
4758 Gardenia Circle
Rocky Mount, NC 27804-9500

Ken Claypoole
2/327 B 10/66-6/67 - 4/08
1729 Alabama Ave.
West Sacramento, CA 95691

MG(R) Donald C. Hilbert
1/327 A 7/65-8/66 - 4/08
9414 Turnberry Drive
Potomac, MD 20854

Roy L. Hill
2/502 Recon 11/67-1/69 - 7/07
5150 Phoebe Frk
Rockholds, KY 40759-9856

Warren K. Kraft
326 ENGR A 7/65-7/66 - 7/07
4082 S 2275 W
Roy, UT 84067-2065

LTC(R) John E. Miller
2/327 B 5/67-2/68 - 7/07
1011 W 66th St.
Kansas City, MO 64113-1815

Lewis E. Percy
1/327 C 7/65-7/66 - 4/08
4021 Biscayne Drive
Winter Springs, FL 32708

James R. Rafferty
HHC 11/66-6/67 - 4/08
358 Fish Creek Rd.
Saugerties, NY 12477-3440

1SGT(R) James B. Rawlinson
2/502 12/65-12/66 - 1/08
139 Michael Lane
Talladega, AL 35160

Ernest L. Taylor
2/502 C 1/68-7/69 - 4/08
510 N 19th St. Lot 28
Canon City, CO 81212-2468

Dave Walz
2/327 A 6/67-6/68 - 10/08
2150 Kiley Crossing
Newark, OH 43055

Bad Addresses

June 1, 2007 through
August 31, 2007

Will Green
1/327 C 66-67
1342 West Greenleaf
Chicago, IL 60629

Charles Knott
1/327 HHQ TF 66-67
865 South, County Rrd. 800W
Paris Crossing, TN 47270

Dan Knox
2/327 C 67-68
2761 Seminole Dr.
Fairfield, CA 94533

John N. Moore, III
2/327 C 2/67-7/67
1448 Kennedy Dr. #7
Key West, FL 33040-4008

Joe Nitecki, Jr.
2/327 C 66-67
50 Achre Ct.
Tiffin, OH 44883

Ron Oloroso
1/327 C 67-68
Box 698
Goodland, FL 33933

George (Butch/Tex) Saviour
2/327 A & C 67-68
6229 Kings Bridge
El Paso, TX 79934

Michael D. Shifrel
Air Force FAC VN 65-66
Shelby Resources
937 Sawmill Rd.
Yonkers, NY 10710

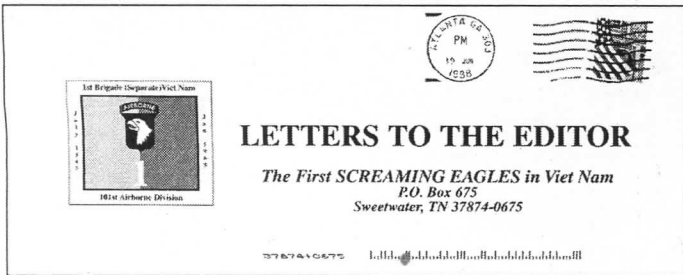
Greg Timmons
1/327 A.B. HHQ 2/66-67
1481 Sheafe Ave.. NE #110
Palm Bay, FL 32905

Greg Timmons
1/327 A.B. HHQ 2/66-67
Rt 9 Box 411
Hendersonville, NC 28792

SSGT(R) Al Zanetti
2/327 B 67
658 Baywood St.
Imperial, CA 92251



Homer Gomez, 2/502 C 6/67-7/68 and his wife Nina at the 10th Biennial Reunion of the 1st Brigade (S) in Atlanta, Georgia, in September 2006. Homer is featured on the back cover of this magazine.



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

+ ROBERT HUTCHINSON, 1/327 A 5/67-12/67
4032 206th St., Bayside, NY 11361-2607
(718) 229-2012
VFWPOST536@AOL.COM

I served with ABU Company 1st of the 327th Infantry from 5-67 to 1-68. I am interested if anyone out there can fill me in on any information on 18 August 1967. A bad day. Thank you.

CURTIS LAIRD, Snohomish, WA
curtislaird@yahoo.com

Looking for anybody that served with my father, Dennis Lee Laird. He served in HHC 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne from July '65 to Aug '66 (I'm not sure which battalion, but I think it was 2/327). He was a RTO and he hailed from Seattle, WA. Shoot me an e-mail if you have any info, no matter how small. I know he was in An Khe in Oct of '65, and probably took part in Operation Highland. His rank was SP4.

Thanks in advance.

**MESSAGES FROM THE
firstscreeing eagles.org
WEB SITE GUEST BOOK**

B. PEREZ, 2/502 Bravo Co. 68-69
boorjapereaz@yahoo.com (??)

Vietnam 68/69 Camp Eagle. Welcome Home Brothers.
Airborne All The Way

+ R. PATRICK NOONAN, 2/327 A 10/65-10/66
3231 A Via Carrizo, Laguna Woods, CA 92637-0649
(949) 859-1128
pat6alpha@yahoo.com

Hi Ivan, can't wait for the next edition of your superior mag, and the upcoming reunion in Virginia. Keep up the good work!!!



+ BRIEN J. RICHARDS, 2/502 HHC 9/66-9/67
1822 Pacific Ave., Kingman, AZ 86401
(928) 279-2441
brich@npgcable.com

Ivan, thank you again. You have done an exemplary job, getting the printed media out to all the troops. What you are doing will live long after we are gone. What you have done for countless VN Vets is priceless. I am wondering about the reunion I had heard would be in Tucson, Arizona. Was that September of 08? If I am wrong could someone please advise? Thank you and God Bless.

Sincerely,

Brien Richards, known as "Rich," pointman, 3rd Squad, Second Section, Recondo Platoon for 9 1/2 months. With the platoon 11 months.

Editor's Note: The 101st Airborne Division Association Reunion will be in August 2008 in Reno, Nevada. The 1st Brigade (S) Reunion will be in Hampton, Virginia, in September 2008.

PAUL E. GRIMES, 2/502 HHC S-4 12/66-7/67
2 Arnold Way, Verona, NJ 07044
work (212) 318-2218 home (973) 239-8396
PGRIMES@bloomberg.net

Hey guys, I guess I took a long snooze. Woke up and tried to check out the old web site for updates on guys. Ryan Kirk straightened me out to this site. Good to see a couple of familiar names. I'll recognize the site for enemy traps then look in on this chat room you're all talking about. Good job, Guys.

AIRBORNE

E-MAIL MESSAGES

Dave Cook, 1/327 C 5/65-7/66 ELT
12 Lakeshore Drive, Winthrop, ME 04364-3919
(207) 377-2186
cookdsmg@adelphia.net

Hi Ivan, It was great talking to you and getting caught up on Airborne operations! Thank you for your kind words regarding my 327 Abn Inf (VN) column in THE STATIC LINE. It was a long run and I enjoyed helping 327 guys 327 Gold Star and families connect. As I told you, I ceased writing it after I ceased hearing from new guys, old guys, or any guys. The reason for the column in the first place was to help 327 vets and families connect, etc. For many years that happened. As you know, I always asked the guys to help out and send me something to use; a question, a story, a new 327 contact, or how many push ups they do every morning but, over the last few years, not much came back. People get sick of the same old s**t and they have moved on and that's OK. I was always glad to hear from those that did respond but I judged the usefulness of

the thing by the number of people who "popped smoke."
ATR, D.S. Cook

Editor's Note: If you wish to contact David S. Cook, 11327 C 5/65-7/66 ELT, all his address information is on page 36.

FROM U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

+ CARL E. MIDKIFF, HHC AIR SECT 12/66-12/67, 1029 David Court, Radcliff, KY 40160, (270) 351-1950 sent the following: I was reading through the recommendation for the BDE PUC (Presidential Unit Citation) you printed in the last issue (April 2007 pages 1-15) and read something you might like a little more information on.

On page nine (magazine page 10) of the recommendation, the first paragraph starts off with, "At the same time...." Slightly below the center of the paragraph it says, "Intense and accurate...." And a second ship which was sent to extract him."

I was the aircraft commander (Steve Nickaloff was pilot) on the second ship. We were flying Col Collins' huey "Rips Mule" (The Generals ship was "Dukes Stallion"). LTC Yerks, Command & Control, had tried to make a medevac of a young lieutenant and enemy fire had driven them out of the LZ before the Lt could be loaded aboard. They made it about halfway back to the BN TOC and had to land on a small hilltop. I asked Col Collins if my crew could try the medevac and he told me to pick up Greyhound (Col Yerks) first and then get the Lt if I could. Col Yerks' ship was setting on top of a little hill in the Hiep Duc Valley less than a mile from where we were at the BN command bunker (on top of a higher hill).

We took off from the top of the mountain and immediately made a left turn to set up for landing. A couple of hundred yards from the LZ the place lit up like the 4th of July. Extremely heavy automatic weapons fire. The engine and transmission chip detection lights came on and the engine started surging. I told Nick not to try to go around but to land beside the C/C ship. I radioed back to the BN CP that we were down and abandoning the huey. We jumped out and set up a four-man perimeter. As the blades slowed down the transmission was popping and cracking as it came apart. If we hadn't set it down the transmission would have seized in about 30 seconds. The crew-chief counted more than 40 holes in our huey. (Sketch map G page 15, April 2007)

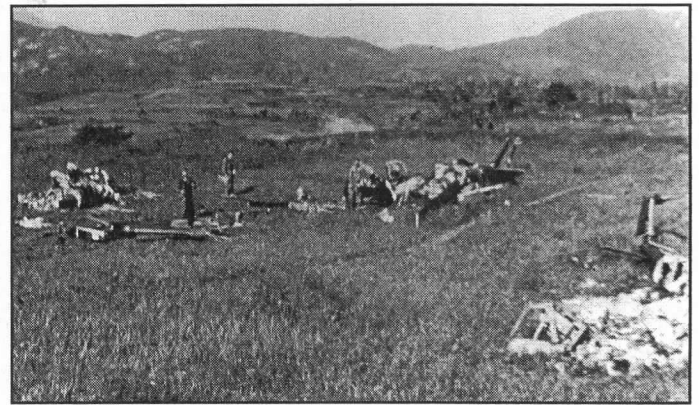
We were on the ground for about five hours before we were picked up and the recommendation tells the rest of the story. I have been told this was the same day mentioned by Frank McGhee in "Same Mud, Same Blood," when he says "again and again they tried to pick up the wounded Lieutenant."

Note: Our huey continued to take hits the whole time we were on the ground.

I also thought you might like to know what "the helicopter history of Southern I Corps" had to say about that day. **20 Sep, the Americal Div was established from Task Force OREGON. 29 Sep, the 14th CAB was called upon to provide gunship close**

air support, reaction force lift ships, and flareships to units of the 101st Abn Div who were engaged in heavy fighting. During the first encounter two UH-1D's were shot down while attempting to perform medical evacuations. Subsequently a gunship providing cover was downed and three more aircraft were shot down while inserting a lift force into the immediate area. All aircraft operating the area were subjected to continuous heavy automatic weapons fire. Tactical air and gunships support were provided until darkness and weather prevented further assistance. Since the area was still insecure and recovery was impossible those aircraft still on the ground were destroyed in place. In final tabulation for the day, the battalion had 22 aircraft hit, three UH-1D's and one UH-1B destroyed; eight pilots wounded one crew chief KIA. This was the worst day ever suffered by the battalion.

Keep up the good work. Carl
P.S. Wasn't sure, did the Bde get the PUC?



A couple of years later I was in Germany and ran into a former 176th helicopter pilot and he let me copy a slide he had of the little hill about two weeks after the incident took place. While they were trying to secure the first two hueys another one was shot down next to our two. In the picture there are three hueys and the hill became known as million-dollar hill.

Editor's Note: I can find no evidence that a Presidential Unit Citation was approved.

+ RICKY OYAS, 2/320 Arty A Btry 10/66-10/67, 1504 N Holly Dr., Prescott, AZ 86305-7209, (928) 771-2223 sent the following letter.

7/12/2007

Dear Ivan Worrell,

My name is Richard Oyas. I am a 61 year old veteran of the Vietnam war and I need your help. I served with A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 320th Artillery, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne, from October 1966 through October 1967. On the night of October 15, 1967 near Tam Ky, Vietnam, my battery was attacked and nearly overrun. The battle started about 1:00 A.M. and lasted until dawn. It was a terrible night I will never forget. My job was in the Fire Direction Center (FDC) and fortunately I was on radio watch when the attack started. Everyone else in my section was sleeping. At one point the enemy had taken control of one of the 105 cannons and had lowered the barrel to fire point blank at our

battery. They were prevented from doing so by Sergeant Webster Anderson, who posthumously earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery that night. During the battle, I received a wound on my wrist that required stitching later in base camp. After the battle and the smoke had cleared, of the nine men in my section (FDC), I was the only one left who was not seriously wounded or killed in action. Thank God I was on radio watch and not asleep. We were taken off the hill that morning by helicopters. Approximately four (4) days later back at base camp in Chu Lai, in a small ceremony, I was awarded the Purple Heart. A picture of the ceremony was taken by a photographer from the STARS AND STRIPES. I lost the picture and everything else I owned in the Cedar fire in San Diego County, 2003. My wife and I were heart broken. November of 1967 I reported to B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 321 Artillery, 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Even though I was due to be discharged on April 26, 1968, I was sent back to Vietnam during the TET Offensive. President Johnson alerted the 82nd and I was on my second tour. Once back in Vietnam, the Army realized there were a lot of us who had just left Vietnam or had less than 90 days in the Army. They decided to hold us in Chu Lai before we were sent back to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. My problem occurred when I got back to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. I was told our permanent Army Records were in transit to Vietnam with the 82nd Airborne. Since the Army wanted to discharge us as soon as possible they made up an incomplete, temporary DD-214. I received an early honorable discharge on April 5, 1968. Once back home I put the Army and what happened that Oct. 15th night behind me. It was years before I could talk about it. In 2005, I was getting ready to retire after 37 years of working and I decided I wanted to join the VA for my medical needs. I sent away for my DD-214. When I received it I was surprised it was the temporary one the Army made up. There was no record of my Purple Heart, jump school, sharpshooter expert, etc. In Feb. 2006, I contacted the Board for Correction of Military Records to clear up this misunderstanding. As you can see by the enclosed paper work I was denied my Purple Heart. Could you please help me find my permanent records regarding my Purple Heart or see that a new one is awarded to me. I earned it and because of Army clerical error and lost records it was denied and this is very upsetting to me and my family. If you have any questions you can contact me at 1-928-771-2223, 1504 North Holly Drive, Prescott, AZ 86305-7209.

Thank you and God Bless America,
Richard William Oyas

Editor's Note: This letter alerted me (for the first time) that the First Brigade (S) had a third Medal of Honor (CMH) recipient. See page one for more information about SSG Webster Anderson who lived to be awarded the CMH. His MOH was not a posthumous award. It appears that the Board of Correction of Military Records has spoken. Can anyone think of another avenue to explore?

+ RALPH WHITEHEAD, 1/327 11/65-1/68, 231 Ave. L, Anson, TX 79501, (325) 668-9488 sent the following when renewing his subscription.

Thank you for calling. I know the brotherhood of vets is together.

I would like to find Walter F. Zitch and Richard F. Young. We

served through many battles and lost touch. The 101 is and will always be the hardcore of the military. Thanks for keeping our memory going.

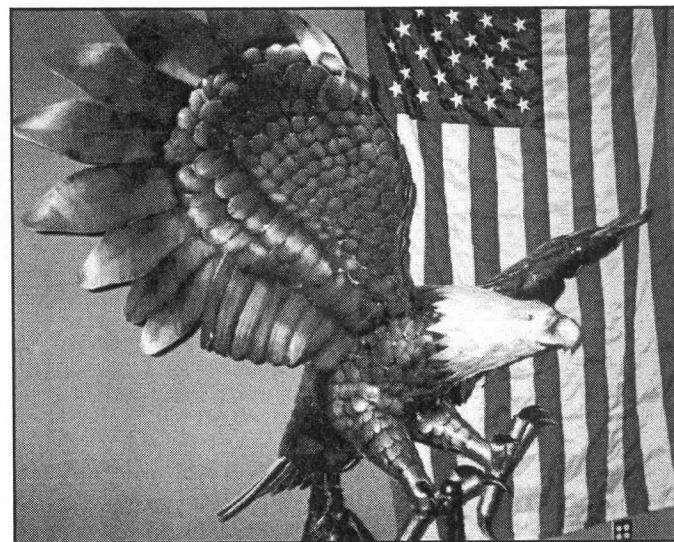
Take care. Thanks and keep up the history.

Editor's Note: Neither Zitch nor Young were in my database. Can anyone help?

+ 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 and photos. Ivan, good to see you again in Omaha. Enjoyed the 327th Dinner – good food, excellent company – certainly can't beat an AIRBORNE gathering for fun! I've enclosed a few photos taken at the Reunion. You can see by the quality, why I didn't qualify for the PIO.



Fri, 10 Aug 07 -- taken at the Strategic Air and Space Museum. C-47 "Gooney Bird" and R. A. Young. First plane Young jumped out of (also a Gooney Bird).



Eagle at Omaha Reunion.

Hope all's well over in Sweetwater. Until next time – stay healthy!

Airborne, All the Way
Robert

Editor's Note: It was great to have SGM Young join the 327/401 for dinner in Omaha.

+ CHAP (COL-R) FRED "MAX" WALL, JR., 2/327 4/67-8/67, 348 Boulevard, Gainesville, GA 30501, (770)538-0567, when renewing his subscription wrote: Ivan, I hope all is well with you. Thanks for all you do to perpetuate the saga of the 1st BDE.



Flagpole for Cobra Top

Men of Cold Steel Cobra Company from the 56 – 57 era presented, CSM(R) John R. "Russ" McDonald, 1/327 C 7/65-7/68, with a flagpole to stand in front of his house. In the picture (L to R) are John Allen; James Hunt, 1/327 C 65-66; Faye McDonald, Russ McDonald and Kenneth F. Ihle, 1/327 C 3/65-7/66. (photo furnished by Ken Ihle)

+ = Current Subscriber



Gary J. Sauer HHC AVN 66-67

Carl Midkiff notified the office of the passing of CWO Gary Sauer of Boise, Idaho, in May 2007. He wrote that Sauer would be sorely missed by all who knew him and especially by those who flew with him. He was a fun guy and a great pilot.



OBITUARIES

Editor's Note: David R. Minikel was not in the 1st Brigade (S) database.

DAVD R. MINIKEL

January 20, 1941 - June 24, 2007

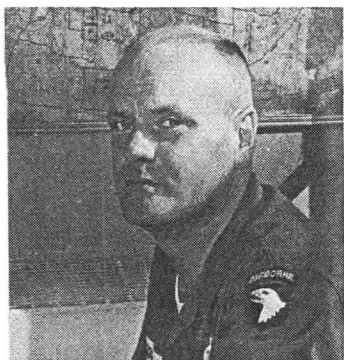
Activist, actor/singer, attorney, Vietnam veteran, politico, movie aficionado, puzzle master, world traveler, talk show host, friend, brother. All who knew David miss his intellect, wit, commitment, lively sense of humor, generosity, and wide range of skills. He could as easily break into song as interpret Roberts' Rules of Order. He was the best Secretary any Board of Directors ever had. David supported many causes and was deeply involved with the Democratic Party, the Pierce County AIDS Foundation, The Grand Cinema, and many others. As a private attorney, David successfully championed the causes of many underdogs. As an Assistant Attorney General, David wrote groundbreaking civil rights legislation. He worked for gay rights, open government, immigration reform, and services for foster youth. He thoroughly enjoyed performing in local theatre productions, particularly musicals.

All are proud of David's military service as US Army 1st Lieutenant in Battery B2, 320th Artillery in Vietnam (65-66).

David was a native of Michigan and graduated from University of Michigan Law School. Twin Dianne McFadden and other siblings Harry Minikel, Fred Minikel, and Gloria James and countless friends survive him.

A memorial celebration/potluck will be Sunday, July 8 at 1 pm at Wells Hall, Christ Episcopal Church, 310 North K, Tacoma. The family requests that donations be made to the Pierce County AIDS Foundation in lieu of flowers.





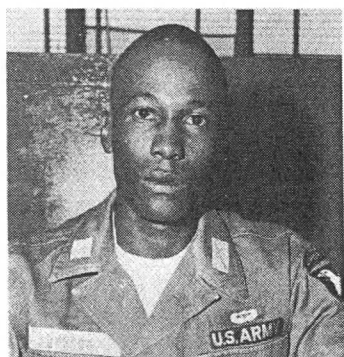
Lt Col Joseph B. Rodgers
Executive Officer



Col James S. Timothy
Commanding



Sgt Maj Trinidad Prieto
Sergeant Major



Capt Fred H. Johnson
CO, Hq Co



1st Sgt Dale P. Duckworth
1st Sgt, Hq Co

FIRST

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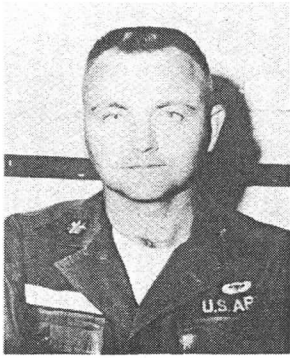
Capt David L. Pinson, S-1; 1st Lt Timothy W. Swain, S-2; Maj David H. Hackworth, S-3; Maj Herbert J. Dexter, S-4.

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BRIGADE HQ

From the 1965 101st Yearbook

The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam



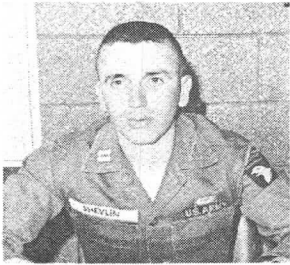
Maj Marcus W. Hansen
Executive Officer



Lt Col James R. Wilson
Commander



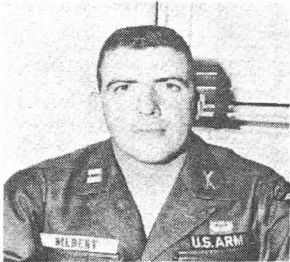
Sgt Maj John Dobrensky
Sergeant Major



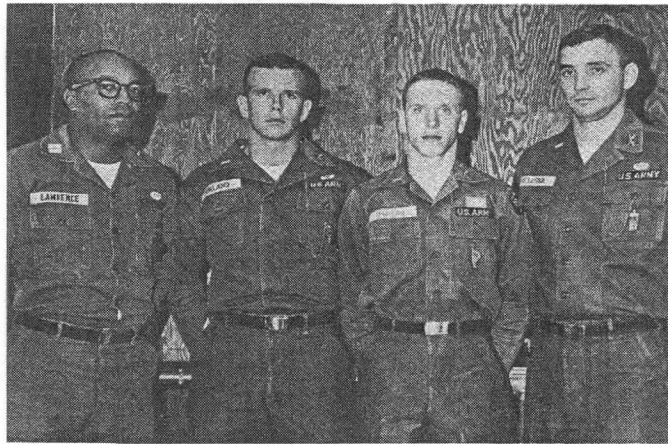
Capt George L. Shevlin
CO, Hq Co



1st Sgt Leo B. Smith
1st Sgt, Hq Co



Capt Donald A. Hilbert
CO, A Co



Capt Robert L. Lawrence, S-4; 1st Lt John H. Dorland, S-3 Air;
2nd Lt James M. O'Bryan, S-2; 1st Lt Robert S. Metzger Jr, S-1.



1st Sgt Duane Finley
1st Sgt, A Co



Capt James M. Nichols
CO, B Co

1st Battalion



1st Sgt Northern Woodall
1st Sgt, B Co



Capt Allen C. DeGraw
CO, C Co

327th Infantry



Sfc John R. McDonald
1st Sgt, C Co

From the 1965 101st Yearbook



Maj Burton J. Walrath
Executive Officer



Lt Col Edward J. Collins
Commander



Sgt Maj Curtis Duco
Sergeant Major



Capt Theodore J.
Mortensen Jr
CO, Hq



1st Sgt William H. Gray
1st Sgt, Hq Co



Capt Michael T. Plummer
CO, A Co



1st Lt Richard E. Davis, S-1; 2nd Lt Ronald C. Carne, S-2; Capt James W. Price, S-3; Capt Richard A. Hein, S-4.



1st Sgt Harry E.
Mikolajewski
1st Sgt, A Co



Capt Paul W. Apfel
CO, B Co

2nd battalion



1st Sgt Thomas E. Thayer
1st Sgt, B Co



Capt Williams S. Martin
CO, C Co

327th infantry

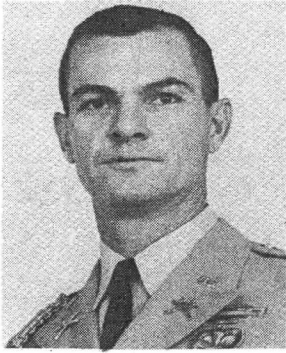


1st Sgt Bobby A. Burke
1st Sgt, C Co

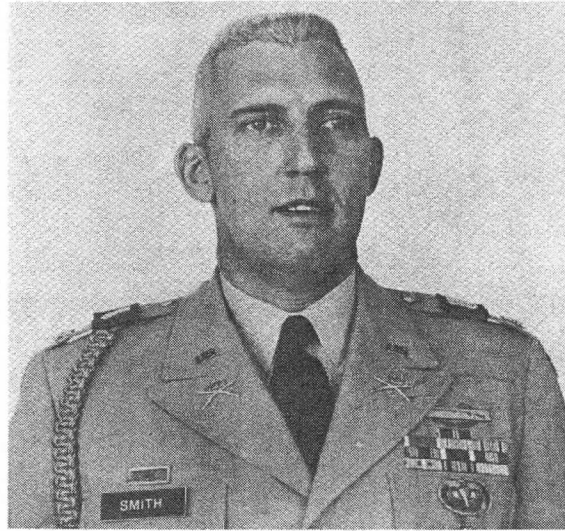
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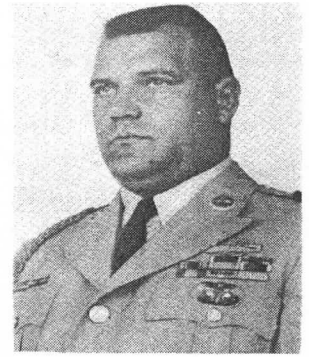
October 2007



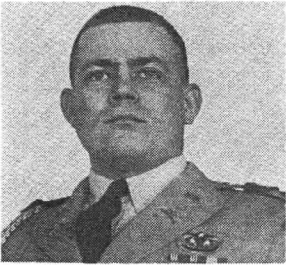
Maj Joseph E. Hicks
Executive Officer



Lt Col Wilfrid K. G. Smith
Commander



Sgt Maj Melvin C. Strawser
Sergeant Major



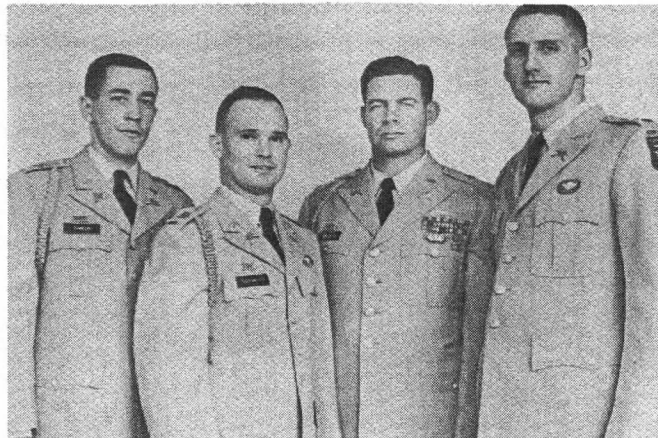
Capt Jesse H. Ruder Jr
CO, Hq Co



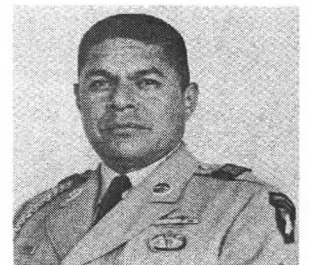
1st Sgt John O. Morris Jr
1st Sgt, Hq Co



Capt Gerard Landry
CO, A Co



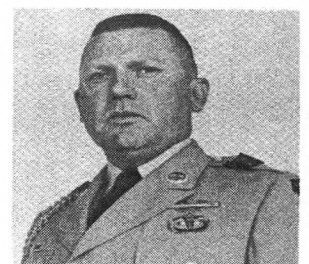
1st Lt David C. Johnson, S-1; 2nd Lt James F. Schoonover Jr, S-2; Maj Bliss W. Wilder, S-3; 1st Lt Charlie Y. Talbott Jr, S-4.



1st Sgt Theofilo R. Macias
1st Sgt, A Co



Capt Wilford E. Roe
CO, B Co



1st Sgt Omer B. Roll
1st Sgt, B Co



Capt Robert E. Rawls
CO, C Co



1st Sgt Roger B. Donovan
1st Sgt, C Co

2nd battalion 502nd infantry

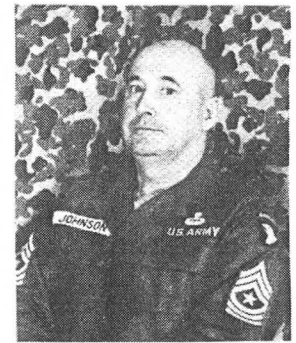
From the 1965 101st Yearbook



Maj John V. Lamp
Executive Officer



Lt Col William F. Braun
Commander



Sgt Maj Cecil M. Johnson
Sergeant Major



Capt Samuel H. Boyd
CO, Hq Btry



1st Sgt Sidney E. Allen
1st Sgt, Hq Btry



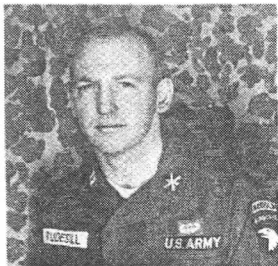
1st Lt Thomas D. Gaither
CO, A Btry



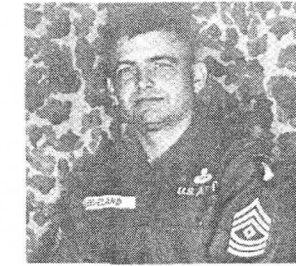
1st Lt Jerome R. Anderson, S-1; Capt Samuel H. Boyd, S-2; Capt Robert P. Dirmeyer, S-3; WO1 James T. Sullivan, S-4.



1st Sgt Garland T. Wright
1st Sgt, A Btry



Capt Robert S. Rudesill
CO, B Btry



1st Sgt Charles F. Loveland
1st Sgt, B Btry



Capt Fred E. Redd, III
CO, C Btry



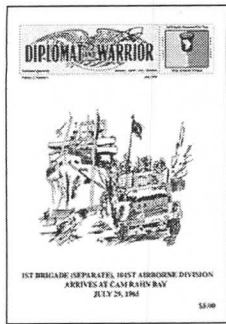
1st Sgt Arnold E. Belcher
1st Sgt, C Btry

2/320th Artillery

From the 1965 101st Yearbook

The First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam

October 2007



Issue #1



Issue #2



Issue #3



Issue #4



Issue #5



Issue #6



Issue #7



Issue #8



Issue #9



Issue #10



Issue #11



Issue #12



Issue #13



Issue #14



Issue #15



Issue #16



Issue #17



Issue #18



Issue #19



Issue #20



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Issue #22



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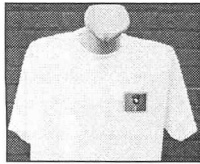


Issue #29



Issue #30

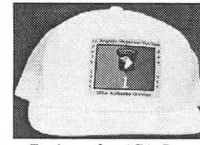
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Issue #33



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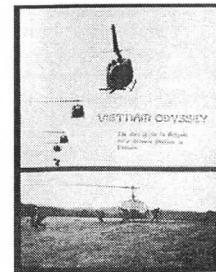
Issue #36



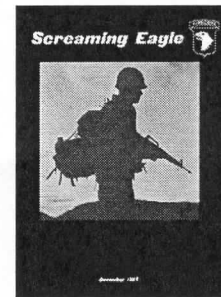
Issue #37



Issue #38



Viet Nam Odyssey



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



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

1st Brigade (S) CHALLENGE COIN

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



[Actual 1 1/2 inch size]

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

THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM

Ivan Worrell, Editor and Publisher
117 1/2 North Main Street
Post Office Box 675
Sweetwater, TN 37874-0675

Phone or FAX 1-423-337-5983

e-mail: firstbrigades101magazine@yahoo.com

**CHECK OUT THE
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is published quarterly by Worrell Publications, Post Office Box 675, 117 1/2 North Main Street, Sweetwater, Tennessee 37874-0675, as a service to veterans who served in the 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division from July 1965 through April 1968 and is mailed Standard A postage paid under Postal Permit 101, Sweetwater, Tennessee 37874.

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

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

Deadline

**Material to be published in the
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Winthrop, ME 04364
Phone: 207-377-2186
E-Mail: cookdsmg@adelphia.net

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Tom Walinski, Vice Chairman
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Following is a description of most of the items published in the October 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.

SFC WEBSTER ANDERSON MOHPAGES 1 - 4
Reports on the life and death of a First Brigade (S) 101st Airborne Division hero on October 15, 1967, when he lost both legs while defending his artillery battery position.

PHONG CAO November 1966PAGES 5 - 10
An account of a classic checkerboard battle, by the 2/502, that decimated an enemy battalion. This battle also employed a Psy War Loudspeaker Team with great success.

BILLY STEVENSON 2/327 C KIAPAGES 11 - 12
Story of a platoon leader finding the family of one of his soldiers who was KIA and driving across the country to meet them and tell them how their loved one died.

MEMORIAL DAY 2007PAGE 13
Pictures and captions taken at the Memorial Day ceremonies sponsored by the National Capital Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association.

THE FIRST SIX MONTHSPAGES 14 -15
Story and pictures from THE ARMY REPORTER (The Army's Troop Information newspaper in Viet Nam) about the first one half year of Viet Nam duty for the First Brigade.

THE 11th BIENNIAL REUNIONPAGE 16
The initial announcement of the 2008 reunion of the First Brigade (S) 101st Airborne Division.

DIPLOMAT AND WARRIORPAGES 17 - 20
The November 6th 1966 issue of the First Brigade (S) weekly newspaper headlines the presentation, by LTG Stanley Larsen, of three Silver Stars to Brigade Commanding General BG Willard Pearson.

SUBSCRIBER INFORMATIONPAGES 21 - 23
This list is composed of NEW SUBSCRIBERS, RENEWED SUBSCRIBERS, ADDRESS CORRECTIONS and BAD ADDRESSES. If you can help with correct addresses for the bad ones that are published -- please write, phone or e-mail.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORPAGES 24 - 27
Messages from the First Brigade (S) website, e-mail and mail sent through the U. S. Postal Service. Mail that is believed to be of interest to most of the First Brigade (S) veterans is published.

OBITUARIESPAGE 27
All subscribers are urged to forward reports of the death of any First Brigade (S) veteran you become aware of.

BRIGADE HQ AND BATTALIONSPAGES 28 - 32
Pages from the 101st Airborne Division yearbook published in 1965. Most of those pictured deployed with the brigade. The 2/320 Artillery page, in the original, was very dark so that correcting the original was not very successful.

ITEMS FOR SALEPAGES 33 - 35
The covers of all issues are shown in thumbnail format along with other First Brigade (S) memorabilia and an order form is included.

AIRBORNE ASSOCIATIONSPAGE 36
On the facing page is a list of associations and publications that may be of interest to veterans of the First Brigade (S).



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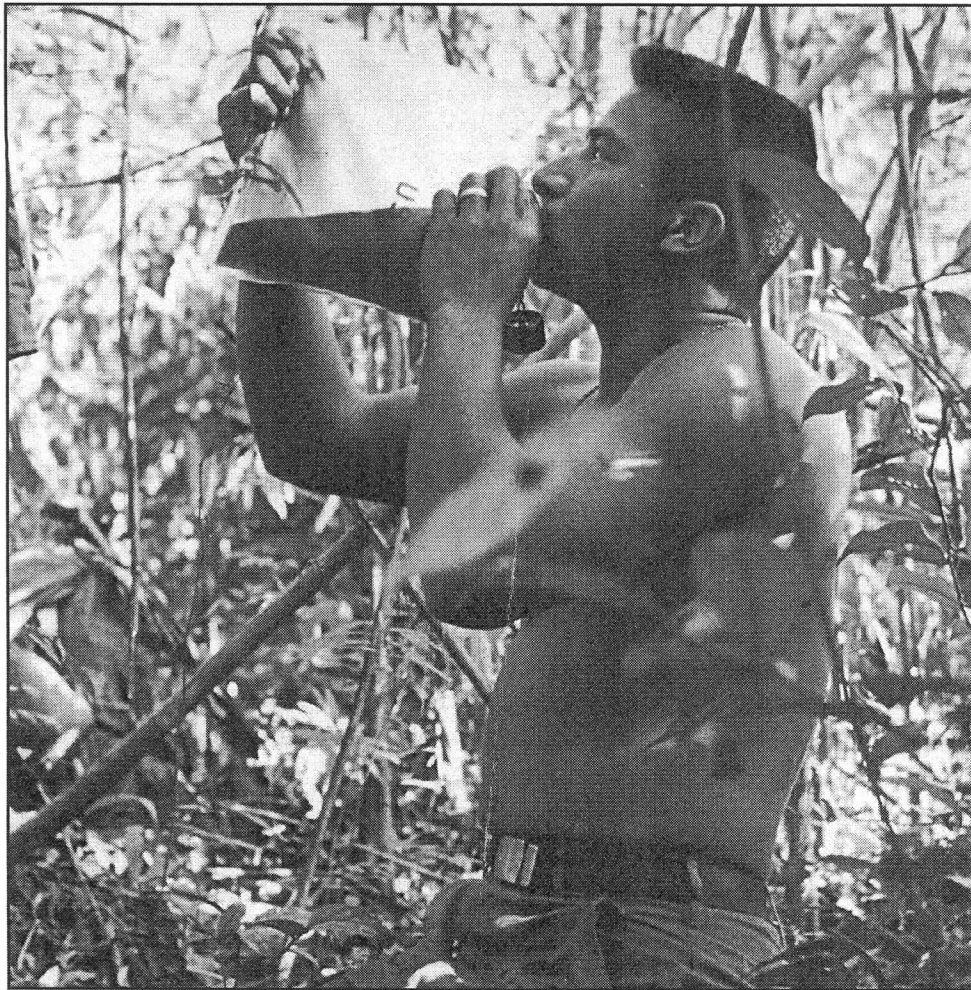
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PHAN RANG, Vietnam – KOOL-AID. Specialist Four Homero-Gomez, a paratrooper with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne, tastes his fruit-flavored stream water during Operation Klamnth Falls southwest of here. Troopers often use the soft-drink concentrate to improve the taste of stream water treated with purification tablets. Gomez is a member of the 3rd Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry. (USA Photo by Specialist Five Richard McLaughlin)

Photo from COL(R) Gerry Morse (11327 C.O. 7167-6168) collection.

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