

*The First
Screaming*

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



Published Quarterly
January - April - July - October

*Eagles
in Viet Nam*

1st Brigade (Separate) Viet Nam



101st Airborne Division

Volume 10, Number 3

July 2008

\$6.00

The ALWAYS FIRST Brigade



GET ABOARD



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

Reunion registration packets have been mailed to all those who are in the magazine database. Register early to avoid the rush. More reunion information on page 31. If you need registration material, contact the editor. Names and units of those registered for the reunion will be posted on the website in April.

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 MAJ(R) Ivan Worrell, INFO OFF 5166-5167 and COL (R) Harry A. Buckley Jr., 2/502 CO 66-67 have a meal in the field. LTC Buckley was Executive Officer of the brigade when the picture was taken. He later led the 2/502. Harry devoted most of his Army retirement to a second career as a college professor. Shortly after his second retirement he discovered that he had leukemia.

This is the final issue before the 2008 reunion. On the 8th of June we had about 75 on the registration list. This is comparable to the commitments we had for the reunion in Atlanta two years ago. The turnout for this reunion will govern our ability to stage a 2010 reunion. Preliminary arrangements have been discussed with Terry R. and Carol Zahn, SPT BN HQ 7/65-5/66, in Omaha, Nebraska. We have had some who doubt the ability of First Brigade (S) veterans to continue to support reunions. I hope those doubts fall by the wayside with a great turnout in Hampton in September.

The reunion committee from the General William C. Lee Chapter is planning a very interesting reunion. One great plus is the historic area that is and that surrounds Hampton. I am pleased with the fact that Chaplain (COL-R) Curtis R. Bowers, 1/327 HQ 7/65-6/66, who was known as the pistol packing padre will lead the Memorial Dinner and that Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Doctor, LTG(R) James B. Peake, 2/502 A 6/67-6/68, will be our speaker at the Always First Banquet.

I have been doing some number crunching relative to the subscription price of the magazine and have decided to absorb the rising costs of printing and postage for a while longer. One element of help has been those who send an extra amount with their subscription. Lately we have received donations from a number of people [see the dollar signs (\$) after the names of those who have renewed. One generous subscriber sent a check for 101 dollars for his one year subscription.

The reproduction of the SCRAPBOOK "For Fighting Men too busy to keep their own!" is a work that has been in progress for a very long time. The initial project by Department of the Army was a real service to those of us who were in Viet Nam and this reproduction should take up the slack for those who were not fortunate enough to receive one of the original copies.

I HOPE TO SEE YOU
IN HAMPTON



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 1ST BRIGADE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96347

20 December 1967

SUBJECT: Presidential Unit Citation

THRU: Channels

TO: The Commanding General
United States Army, Vietnam
ATTN: AVHAG-PD
APO 96375

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED BY
AUTHORITY OF DOD DIR. 5200.1 R
BY RAK/SY ON 08/5/05

1. Pursuant to authority contained in AR 672-5-1, I recommend that the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) be awarded to the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam, during the period 12 September 1967 to 25 November 1967.

2. All units, assigned, attached, and in direct support of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division acted with such determination, skill and espite de corps that incredible obstacles and a determined enemy were overcome and defeated within three months, and a Communist stronghold and staging area for further aggression within the borders of South Vietnam destroyed. Seldom before in the annals of American military history had an operation, conducted in such hostile terrain, over such extended lines of communications, against such a well prepared and determined enemy been brought to such a successful conclusion. Masterful use of the technology and skills of the modern army, the lessons of two years of continuous counterinsurgency operations and the everyday heroism of the average soldier, made this operation, called "WHEELER" the epitome of the Vietnam Odyssey of the Screaming Eagles.

3. Since May the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division had been operating under the Americal Division (Task Force Oregon) on a search and destroy operations in the lower I Corps area of the Republic of Vietnam. Combining the tremendous firepower available to Allied forces with semi-clandestine small unit operations, the Screaming Eagles had scored repeated successes against North Vietnamese regulars and Viet Cong main force units, as well as local guerillas, positioned in mountains west of Highway 1.

4. The selected area of operations, thought to be a base area of the 2d North Vietnamese Army Division, was dominated by rugged mountains, covered with dense tropical jungle. Two rivers, the Song Chang and Song

Tran cut through the area, providing the Viet Cong with good lines of infiltration and supply, and presenting the Americans with a obstacle to be contended with throughout the operation. The mountains gradually dropped off to the north where a major valley marked the boundary between Quang Tin and Quang Nam Provinces, and to the east where Highway 1 ran along the coastal lowlands. Taking advantage of the natural terrain features, the enemy had numerous bunkers constructed on the lower slopes of the mountains, (concealed by the dense vegetation) near their supply sources in the valleys. The weather also favored the enemy, especially during the first half of the operation, when frequent afternoon storms cancelled air activities and hindered observation. Enemy attacks frequently coincided with these rains. The rain and frequent ground fog also hindered resupply, but only once affected operations, forcing one artillery battery to fire contact missions only, because ammunition could not be brought in. The temperatures, up to 94 degrees with 99 percent humidity and thick mud, made overland movement and combat by the heavily burden paratroopers incredibly fatiguing.

5. The enemy believed to be in the area included the 5,000 man 2d NVA Division, which although operating at reduced strength and with many new personnel, was still a well equipped, disciplined and led force, capable of either offensive or defensive actions. The Division consisted of the 3d and 21 NVA Regiments, the 1st Viet Cong Main Force Regiment, and support units, including engineers, artillery, anti-aircraft and signal battalions. Other Viet Cong forces in the area included the 70th Main Force Battalion, attached to the Quang Nam Province headquarters, 72d Local Force Battalion, and seven local force companies. All these units had local support, since some districts had been almost completely Communist dominated for 20 years. The Americal Division gave the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division the mission of penetrating the area, and breaking the enemy's 20 year grip on the land and its people.

6. Commencing 11 September 1967, the paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division began Operation WHEELER, to find, fix and destroy Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Army forces and neutralize their base camps in the area. Opposed by a highly motivated, if need be fanatical, numerically superior enemy armed with the best in Communist bloc weapons, with plentiful food and supplies, and in carefully prepared fortifications in adverse terrain, the Screaming Eagles of the 1st Brigade were meeting an enemy with seemingly every advantage. Supported by all combat support and service units the Brigade accepted the challenge and mastered it through the combination of overwhelming firepower, tactical skill at all levels of command, and daily heroism unsurpassed on any previous battlefield.

7. The struggle was never easy. The terrain, mountainous jungle was broken by large open rice paddies, which provided the enemy food and clear fields of fire. The heavy afternoon rains of the summer monsoon hindered air support of ground forces. Viet Cong controlled population, hid the enemy and reported friendly movements. The enemy forces, both regular and guerilla, provided stubborn resistance at every turn, alternating between bitter defensive action and sudden violent counter attacks against Free

World Military Forces. But the NVA, tough as they were, and with all their advantages, could not match the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, which despite the terrain, the 90 degree heat, and professional skill of the enemy, prevailed with such unparalleled professionalism and courage, that few units of the United States Army could claim to match the feats of those 74 days.

8. The honor of moving first into the Area of Operation, on 11 September 1967, fell to the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, which air assaulted into multiple landing zones in the southern hills of the AO, to be joined the next day by the Brigade's other tactical units, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, which occupied the north and western portion of the area respectively.

9. During the first week contact was light and scattered, unlike recent operations to the immediate south, when the enemy immediately opposed the paratroopers' landings. Even so, Communist mines and booby traps caused some casualties, despite extensive use of "Daisy Cutters," modified 500 pound bombs which cleared landing zones of mines, and the teams of Company A, 326th Engineer Battalion (Airborne), which moved in with the infantry to clear each LZ. The Brigade, joined by 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, which was under operational control from 14 to 24 September, had little trouble with the harassment of the scattered groups of enemy consisting of from one to three men. By 16 September, 60 enemy had fallen to the paratroopers with only light American losses. But so far there was no indication of the large enemy concentrations known to be in the area.

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

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

fight, although previous contact with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division has made the enemy reluctant.

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

13. Enemy losses increased steadily in the next few days, but the Communists, led by the 2d Division, avoided a major contact until 29 September. That day, Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry met an entrenched North Vietnamese company. Two platoons were pinned down by the intense automatic weapons fire, but the third platoon, coordinating with the others, started to flank the enemy bunkers. Approaching from the rear, the platoon met a rear security force, positioned in four bunkers. The platoon sergeant, knowing the rest of the company depended on his platoon breaking the ambush led a small force forward despite a hail of enemy fire and grenades. Personally destroying all four enemy bunkers, the sergeant reformed his platoon and moved on against the main enemy positions. Again enemy fire slowed the advancing paratroopers, but the inspired platoon undanted, continued their assault destroying five more bunkers, using captured enemy grenades when their own supply was exhausted. This incredible attack against a powerful and determined force of NVA regulars resulted in 18 dead and eight weapons captured, including a RPD machinegun and a B-40 rocket launcher.

14. At the same time, to the west, Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry also ran into a well fortified, well equipped hostile force. The lead platoon was crossing a rice paddy when an estimated company, hidden in the high ground surrounding the rice paddy, ambushed the point squad, the first bursts of fire critically wounding the platoon leader, and killing the radio telephone operator. The intense fire sweeping the open rice paddy forced most of the platoon back into a nearby creek bed, leaving the dead and wounded of the lead element still exposed in the killing zone. Then one trooper jumped up and ran into the open, hazarding the heavy volume of fire that had stopped others who tried to advance. He brought back the wounded platoon leader through 75 meters of bullet swept ground, returned to find the dead RTO, directed supporting air and artillery fire onto the enemy positions. Company A of the same battalion was air assaulted into the same area, but at a heavy cost, as intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire shot down five helicopters, including the Command and Control ship carrying the battalion commander and a second ship which was sent to extract him. Although the personnel were eventually pulled out, heavy sniper fire prevented recovery of the helicopters. Fierce fighting continued for about seventeen hours, until Company A finally fought its way to the belegered Company C, shortly after midnight. The gallant determination of the para-

troopers soon overcame the enemy advantage and the VC abandoned their positions, and melted away in the darkness. The paratroopers' pursuit found only a few wounded and scattered equipment. Through the supporting fire of artillery and gunships, as well as the infantry fire, and the daring and intrepidity of the individual soldiers, separated by only a few yards from a dug in enemy, the NVA had learned that even a well armed, highly motivated force, holding superior positions could not cause the men of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, with their heritage of Normandy and Bastogne, to falter in the accomplishment of their mission, the destruction of communist forces in Quang Tin Province.

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

16. Action remained heavy as the paratroopers continued their sweep of the difficult terrain despite tremendous heat and humidity. But although the enemy continued to resist, by now the power of the Free World Forces advance began to have its effect on the enemy's will to fight. Information gained from Hoi Chanh's during this period indicated the enemy was short of food, medical supplies, and had suffered grievous losses from artillery and air strikes. By the operation's conclusion, record numbers of Viet Cong and NVA in Quang Tin Province rallied to the government, including an NVA Battalion Executive Officer, who led the Americans to several caches of his battalion's weapons. If the paratroopers could maintain their awesome pressure on the reeling enemy, an overwhelming victory was inevitable.

17. Another significant contact was made on 6 October, when Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry attacked elements of the 2d NVA Division who were just starting to dig into new positions. The first contact, with a group of NVA carrying an M-60 machine gun, resulted in six enemy dead. A subsequent assault with the heavily camouflaged main enemy force ended with eight more dead NVA and eight weapons captured. Small arms, automatic weapons, artillery and Army gunships combined with a swift violent attack to rout the unprepared enemy. The following day, an estimated NVA Company of the 22d Battalion, 21st NVA Regiment, which had been given the task of guarding caches abandoned in the rear, attacked Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry. Moving unnoticed in the early morning darkness to within a few yards of the paratrooper's perimeter the enemy launched such a violent attack, backed by three Soviet made flame throwers, that the company was forced back into a four platoon perimeter around the company CP. So confident of victory were the NVA that they displaced their aid station forward into the battle area, preparing for the final assault. Some shouted carefully learned American phrases such as "Medic" and "Strike Force" hoping in the darkness to confuse the paratroopers. But they could not penetrate the new positions manned by the gallant men of the 1st Brigade. By morning faced with the paratroopers ready for still more fighting, the enemy withdrew leaving 18 dead and 16 weapons, including one of the new flamethrowers behind. Seven paratroopers died in the battle, which might have ended in an enemy victory had not a defense and the steel wills of the defenders blunted the fierce enemy attack.

18. The next day, to the west, 2d platoon, Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry became separated from the rest of the company while pursuing a sniper. Suddenly the NVA springing a carefully planned ambush, pinning the platoon down with a heavy volume of automatic weapons, rifle grenades, and mortar fire. The platoon, unable to move forward against the enemy fire, was forced into a nearby woodline where they raked the enemy bunkers with small arms fire. The company commander, nearby with his headquarters group attempted to reach his endangered platoon. Supported by the fire of the 3rd platoon he moved forward, checking some of the fallen paratroopers along the way. But before he could reach the American positions he was hit three times, critically wounded. The NVA advanced to where he and others lay and shot him again leaving him for dead. The company's Forward Observer then took command, and organized a successful counter-attack over the bloodied ground although he was mortally leading it. Meanwhile, the 2d platoon leader, realizing that his position was hopeless, if the platoon remained pinned down, ordered the remainder of his men to attack the now disorganized enemy. The troopers were not to be denied victory against this numerically superior foe. By the time other units of the battalion reached the battlefield, the enemy was withdrawing, having lost 50 men. Ten more of the fleeing enemy were killed that afternoon as the battalion quickly swept the area clean of the battered NVA company. But it had been a costly victory; 17 Screaming Eagles were dead, one of the largest single encounter losses suffered by the Brigade since arriving in Vietnam.

19. Operation WHEELER soon entered its third phase as the enemy, aided by weather, now avoiding contact with the 1st Brigade 101st Airborne Division in the western portion of the AO, instead began making daily contact with the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, under the Brigades operational control in the eastern hills of the area. Intelligence determined that at least part of an NVA Regiment was moving into the lowlands near Highway 1. Company A of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry made the first significant contact in the east on the evening of 9 October. For five hours the company battled with at least one NVA Company. Before the intense firepower of the infantrymen and supporting artillery and gunships forced the enemy to break contact and withdraw to the north, ten Americans were dead and 17 wounded. Twentyfour NVA soldiers were killed and three AK-47's captured. As a consequence of the heavy losses, Company A was withdrawn to provide security to the Battalion CP and was replaced in the field by Company D.

20. By 14 October, after 33 days of daily contact under incredibly adverse conditions, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and supporting troops had killed 676 enemy, capturing 138 weapons and 52.5 tons of rice. Although the first month of the operation was characterized by monsoon rains and ground fog that hindered resupply and occasionally prevented artillery and air support, as well as concealing enemy movement, the Screaming Eagles, without respite, had administered their well led, well equipped foe a series of defeats that were rapidly eroding both his material strength and his morale. By now the relentless pressure of the searching paratroopers was telling on the enemy who had begun breaking his units into small groups and fleeing the battle area. Taking advantage of heavy rains and low clouds caused by tropical storms, much of the 2d NVA Division Headquarters managed to escape by sampans during the first week of October. Weather prevented the Brigade from intercepting the enemy or employing accurate air strikes. But sky spots were used with unknown results.

21. The enemy still possessed the capacity to strike, if there was chance for victory, relying on sudden, skillfully executed surprise attacks to inflict maximum losses on the Free World military forces, before Allied firepower could react. At 0315 on 15 October, an estimated 30 to 40 NVA troops successfully breached the perimeter of Battery A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 320th Artillery. Evading detection by moving under cover of an intense, accurate barrage of 82mm mortar, recoilless rifle, and B-40 rocket fire, sappers breached the northwest side of the defenses manned by a CIDG company, and equipped with satchel charges and grenades swept into the battery positions. The attack forced the artillerymen back, as satchel charges destroyed the Fire Direction Center and damaged one 105mm howitzer. But the artillerymen, now fighting with grenades and rifles counter attacked, breaking the NVA advance. Far greater destruction was prevented by an alert guard who shot an NVA sapper as he threw a lighted satchel charge into the battery's ammunition pit. Fortunately the fuse proved faulty. The brilliantly executed assault resulted in 12 Allied dead, and was foiled only by the courage and determination of the tough artillerymen, who proved that when the occasion demanded, they could fight with the ferocity of any infantryman in defense of their positions. Six NVA were found dead, around and inside the perimeter.

22. On 22 October the enemy, operating in an uncommonly large formation, again hit 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry. The Reconnaissance Platoon, reinforced later by Company D, sustained a series of attacks for four hours before the enemy broke contact and fled west. More casualties occurred when Company C, air assaulted into a blocking position to the northwest, was hit by a large mine of unknown type, resulting in ten wounded. The NVA force involved in the contact successfully eluded pursuit, leaving six dead behind.

23. As the Brigade continued to maneuver against the elusive NVA forces, shortly after 1200 hours on 27 October, Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, air assaulting into a suspected location of a battalion command post, was hit by a barrage of automatic weapons from a NVA company entrenched in a series of well prepared fortifications. Although the 2d and 3d platoons, which had initially been forced back by the enemy fire, assaulted the positions, they were unable to dislodge the entrenched company, despite heavy supporting fires. At 1600 Company A was air assaulted into blocking positions, but was unable to make contact with the enemy force. By dark, after six hours of close in fighting, contact was broken as the enemy abandoned the area to the hard driving paratroopers, leaving behind large caches of uniforms, equipment, ammunition, rice and salt. Nine NVA were confirmed killed in the violent action and other nearby scattered contacts, at a cost of 11 paratroopers lives.

24. By now the major communist forces in the area had suffered such severe losses, 564 VC and 250 NVA by body count, that they had lost the ability to engage the 1st Brigade in decisive conflict. But although they were now in small groups, hidden in the rugged hills, dense jungle and among the local population, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division continued its relentless pursuit, spreading out to cover more of the area. Now certain that the largest formations available to enemy could not defeat a single infantry company. Daily they met the reluctant enemy on his own terms, inflicting heavy losses in one sided, squad sized actions. Abandoning large rice caches, the enemy desperately tried to flee, but each day cost him an average of 15 dead, against light American losses. The final phase of Operation WHEELER began on 6 November when the Brigade again oriented to the west, blocking eastern egress routes in conjunction with operations of the 3d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

25. While there were numerous small contacts, only once in the final three weeks of WHEELER did the NVA dare to test the men of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division in a major battle. But while most actions were small, each day was costly to the Viet Cong both in terms of soldiers killed and supplies captured. For example, on 17 November, a typical day of light scattered contact, the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry killed eight retreating Viet Cong within three hours in six different encounters while suffering no losses themselves. That afternoon, Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry killed one NVA and one VC trailwatcher. The 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry picked up eight detainees and called down four air strikes on suspected enemy locations, resulting in two secondary explosions, one bunker destroyed, and a tunnel complex uncovered. That evening the Reconnaissance Platoon of that battalion

ambushed six NVA, killing five and wounding the other, at a cost of two wounded. Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry killed one uniformed VC cadre and discovered an small VC air station. Totals for the day were 10 VC and NVA killed at a cost of two American wounded.

26. The final significant action of the operation began at 1245 on 11 November when one platoon of Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry contacted an NVA force, later estimated to be a company, and advanced against it. Skillfully coordinating all elements of the company, and other units of the battalion, as well as artillery, gunships, and 7th Air Force tactical air support, they overran the enemy positions shortly after dark, finding 15 dead and seven weapons left by the fleeing enemy.

27. The demoralized Viet Cong of Quang Tin Province, their sanctuary destroyed, suffering losses of over 50 percent in some units, began responding to an intensive Civic Action and Psychological Warfare Program. Among the returnees were eight members of a 12 man local force squad, and a cook from the Viet Cong main Province hospital, who disclosed its location to the paratroopers. As a result of that information, the hospital complex was raided on 18 November. The staff and cadre had fled, but six wounded were found in the immediate area, and, as a result of a careful search, six more surrendered or were captured the next day. Also found, besides medical stocks were two large weapons caches which included two heavy machine guns, two 75mm recoilless rifles, and one RPG rocket launcher, as well as plentiful ammunition and spare parts.

28. With the 2d NVA Division and local force units fragmented, the Brigade terminated Operation WHEELER on 25 November, each battalion being relieved in place by elements of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, its mission accomplished, left operational control of the Americal Division and returned to its base camp at Phan Rang for a brief stand-down and preparation for future operations.

29. Throughout the operation, the superb training and meticulous leadership of the Screaming Eagles paid off in results. Final figures showed 1,105 enemy confirmed dead, and over 200 weapons captured, the most successful operation in the Brigade's history. Almost 200 tons of rice and five tons of salt were denied the enemy, crippling his ability to feed his forces. The Viet Cong's supposedly safe sanctuary in Quang Tin Province, where previously he had freely launched attacks against government positions along Highway 1, had provided little protection against the onslaught of the men of the 1st Brigade. Using the techniques perfected in other operations, able to stay in the field for 74 days with only brief rests, moving like the enemy that opposed them, carrying five days supplies on their backs, the men of the 1st Brigade had shown the regulars of the 2d NVA Division that no foe could match the Screaming Eagles in professional skill, determination and valor.

30. The problems inherent in the operation were tremendous, almost insurmountable. Not only was the Brigade operating in a hostile area, but also over long, erratic lines of communications, to its service support


elements at Phan Rang, two hundred miles to the south. With many of the scheduled Air Force sorties cancelled, the Brigade had to find new supply sources, then transport them through unfavorable weather to the tactical units. Despite the problems, never was the pace of the operation slowed for lack of equipment or supplies. For 74 days, the men of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, and all assigned and attached units, worked, without respite, toward a common goal, the destruction of an enemy who was depriving the people of Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam of their rightful heritage of freedom. Riflemen, artillerymen, engineers, air crewmen, clerks, maintenancemen, and the others of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division worked with superhuman effort as a team to achieve the incredible results of Operation WHEELER. Well equipped, well led Communist forces had been routed, their sanctuary destroyed and their hold on tens of thousands of people loosened. It would be months, if ever, before Communist forces could recover from the blows inflicted by the Screaming Eagles.

31. Although Operation WHEELER had been planned primarily as a tactical operation, a high impact Civic Action Program was instituted along with extensive Psychological Warfare Operations to complete the powerful effect of the paratroopers thrust into the enemy's base. During the operation 1,150 civilians requested evacuation from the Communist dominated areas. In addition 43.5 tons of rice and two animals were extracted. The combat battalions also treated 11,250 civilians on MEDCAP operations, and distributed medical supplies, food and soap to villagers at Ly Tra, Long Binh, Tich Dong and Tien Phuoc. Several civic action projects were also completed, with CORDS supplying the materials, personnel of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division the supervision, and the Vietnamese the labor. A four room school built at Ly Tra hamlet was attacked by the Viet Cong less than a month after completion. Four civilians were killed, eight teenagers abducted, and the new school damaged by demolitions. But the attack failed to reduce the hamlet's support of the government. Ten days after the incident the people of Ly Tra dedicated their repaired school to the 101st Airborne Division, despite the obvious Communist opposition. A sign that in addition to crippling Communist military forces, the troopers of the 1st Brigade, were also winning the other struggle, that for the allegiance of the people.

32. Although the instances of individual heroism are too numerous to mention here, the overwhelming victory, against the best the enemy had, proved to all that the courage, esprit de corps, professional skill and endurance of the soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division is unmatched today. Constantly moving, the infantry had only twice weekly contact with their base. Burdened in the tropical heat with ammunition, equipment, and rations to sustain themselves from three to five days, the infantrymen faced a prepared and dangerous enemy. Not a man wavered, and supported by all other elements of the Brigade, they met the enemy on his own ground and destroyed him, proving to the world that they are worthy descendants of the defenders of Bastogne. Their courage, professionalism, esprit de corps, in keeping with their tradition, reflect great credit on themselves, their Brigade, Division, and the United States Army. The

feats of heroism and determination exhibited in those 74 days of nearly nearly continuous contact with an almost fanatical enemy deserve recognition of the highest order for the men of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, and the attached, and supporting units which contributed to this unequalled feat of arms.

33. Inclosed are supporting documents that give an historically accurate, detailed account of the many facets of this operation.



S. H. MATHESON
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

Inclosures

1. List of Participating Units
2. After Action Report 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
3. After Action Report 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry
4. After Action Report 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry
5. After Action Report 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry
6. After Action Report Support Battalion 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
7. Operations Order and Fragment Orders
8. Action Schematic Overlays
9. Civil Affairs Summary
10. Strength Figures
11. Intelligence Evaluation of Operation Wheeler
12. Selected Citations from Individual Awards
13. Photographs of Operation
14. Daily Journals 11 September - 25 November 1967
15. Map Coverage of Area of Operations

Editor's Note: David P. Perrine, 2/502 HHC 5/67-10/67, sent the following messages along with copies of two recommendations for the Presidential Unit Citations. He wrote:

"I just returned from the Military History Institute at Carlisle, PA and found two recommendations signed by (Brigadier General) Matheson for unit awards.

The first is for a Presidential Unit Citation and is dated 10/30/67 for Operation Benton (8/13-8/29). It is seven pages in length (long sheet). There were no enclosures except Enclosure 7, consisting of many pages which I did not copy.

The second is also for a Presidential Unit Citation and is dated 12/20/67 is for Operation Wheeler (9/12/67-11/25/67). It is 11 pages in length. All of the enclosures were present but the file was at least 12 inches thick and I did not copy any of the enclosures.

I presume both were disapproved or returned without action.

I e-mailed Ralph Puckett, (2/502 CO 7/67-3/68) and asked him if he knew of the history of these two recommendations and he knew nothing. Both were news to him. Perhaps one of the subscribers might know whether these were withdrawn or disapproved?"

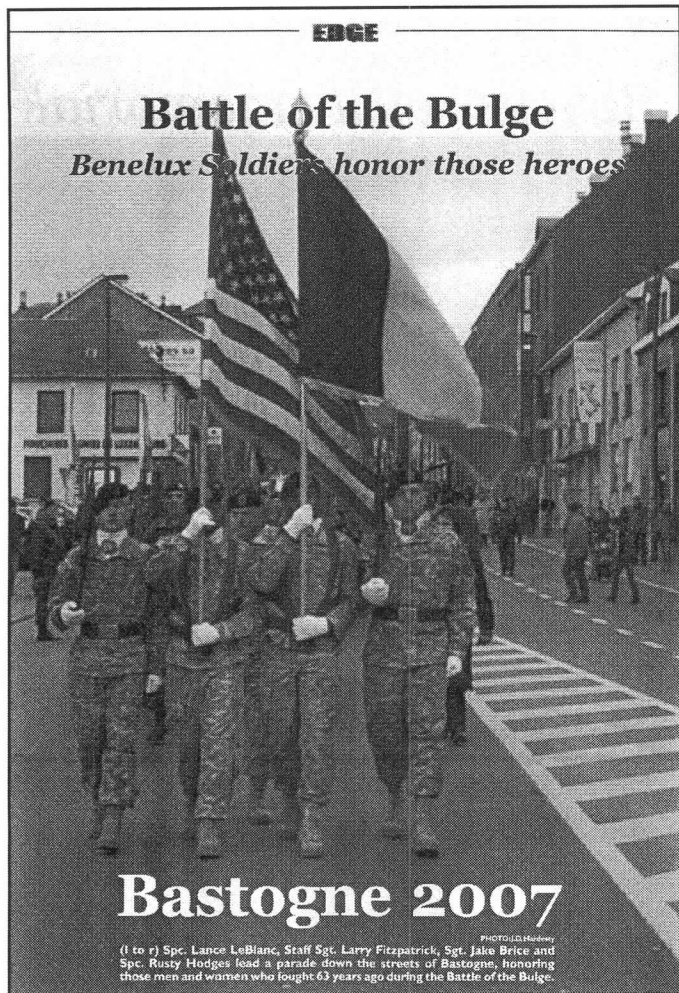
Skip Perrine



Harbor, WA 98335-7525. Please send her a gift subscription from me. A tiny word of "thanks" to one who followed her own sense of duty.

Don Brewer's letter touched a nerve. I have also wondered why there was so little news about A Troop, but Brewer at least rattled a chain. Yours, but also mine.

First Screaming Eagles in Viet Nam does keep me in touch with a unique breed of men, a few of whom I've known and one who hugely influenced my life: Matheson. Here in Belgium I've met some of that "Band of Brothers" bunch by the way, and had a good chat. [I'll send you separately same article.]



I'm issuing you a challenge: print more about the CAV! That's not so hard. Years ago I wrote something and sent a photo of my platoon in front of our "First Kill" sign. Pass on this challenge – you have our addresses. Didn't Jim Harding, Troop CO, retire as a general? Challenge us to contribute!

With his permission, I'm extending Don Brewer's subscription, so he can follow what he started. The challenge applies to him as well, of course. After all, he had the balls to write first on this matter.

Of the various Airborne rags that drop in my APO, FIRST is by far the best. Keep it up, All the Way!

From: First Screaming Eagles
<firstbrigades101magazine@yahoo.com>
Subject: donut dollies
To: william.k.bergman@us.army.mil

Bill,

What is the story on Barsanti sending our Red Cross workers away?

Want to use your letter in the July magazine and do not know the story on the Donut Dollies leaving the brigade.

From: <william.k.bergman@us.army.mil>
Subject: Re: donut dollies
To: First Screaming Eagles
<firstbrigades101magazine@yahoo.com>
Cc: "Jan McMullen" <janmax@comcast.net>, Bill Robertson
<wnrobert@bellsouth.net>

Ivan,

At the time [early 1968] I was a mere lieutenant Platoon Leader/Troop XO, and we were busy with Tet and the aftermath from Song Be and Hue. So my impression may be corrected by those in G1 ... also I will ask Jan McMullen [then Sigurdson, Donut Dolly at the time], to give you a quick comment, seen your approaching deadline. I cc Bill Robertson as well; he is in touch with bunches more, wherein may reside broader staff experience.

What I recall is that MajGen Barsanti, among his many changes like getting rid of our superb Brigade Commander and imposing his Big Unit tactics in a small unit war, had heard somewhere that Red Cross women were of easy morals and exploited their round-eye status in the market.

That is hearsay, as you only really know of what goes on in your unit - not the rest of the theatre.

As our Donut Dollies were of impeccable reputation and unimpeachable behavior, one assumes that all in Vietnam were so. Ours were superb and ready to be flown out to any jungle mountaintop to help dish out hot chow to the troops, in addition to their normal admin jobs in the rear. Among those, the mission to carry messages of death is plenty tough.

On the single occasion in the second half of '67 when the Cav Troop stood down at Phan Rang, I trotted over to the Red Cross hooches, and negotiated with the Watchdog Mother Superior [whatever her title] for one of the young ladies to attend my Platoon party, help serve the beer, whatever. It was very clear that they were not available for dating, noway nohow, not during duty time, not on their 'own time, which did not exist. Duty was 100%, and their mission was the troops. And so it went.

Jan Sigurdson's presence at the Platoon's party brought out to an astonishing degree the gentlemanly comportment in my raucous and ribald troopers. The effect of her presence on my airborne handful of hoodlums I have never forgotten. Drunk as

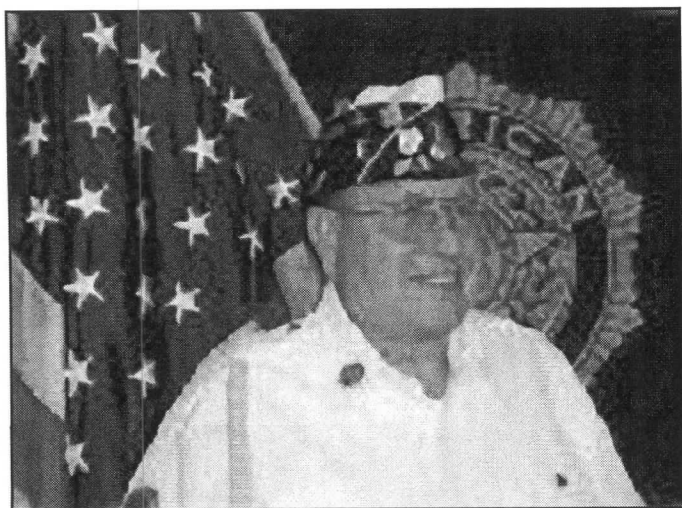
skunks, at their very core they were the young men as their Mothers had raised them - fundamentally gentlemen. If any one of them had dared to try to get 'fresh,' twenty others would have pounced on the offender. Since our normal airborne vocabulary was reasonably profane, they were not able to bring out a complete sentence without a dozen interjections of "excuse me." My career has brought me in routine contact with ambassadors, princes[ses], counts and barons, but the natural nobility of those youngsters we placed in harm's way, to defend the freedom of a people we had never known and whose language we could not speak - I have never come across more noble men than these.

So when I heard of the dismissal of our Donut Dollies and the purported reason, I was and remain to this day deeply offended. In decades since then I have, of course, seen many a decision made by out-of-touch commanders and executed by the impersonal high level staff, to the detriment of the soldier in the foxhole.

Later, on R&R and back in the 'States, one hears all sorts of stories about all sorts of subjects. But the one experience where I was the man on the scene, remains with me. Our First Brigade Donut Dollies did their duty diligently with purity of purpose, and so were an important reminder of humanity in the business of war.

Editor's Note: Stay tuned for more on the Donut Dollies. I hope to have more information from Mrs. Jan Sigurdson McMullen, American Red Cross, who served in the First Brigade (S).

+ DAVID E. SNYDER, 1/327 A 6/61-3/66, 316 Lynn Lane, Waynesboro, VA 22980-5447, (540) 942-4808 along with his subscription renewal sent the following:



AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

14TH DISTRICT COMMANDER
DAVID E. SNYDER - POST 340



+ J.C. STEWART, SFC, USA-RET, 41st ARTY E Atch 3/67-4/67, 10601 Sigma St., El Paso, TX 79924, (915) 821-1511 wrote: Ivan, hope you and yours are well. My Mom lives up in Rockwood. (Just thought I'd throw that in.)

Enjoyed the April edition. A lot of good info in there and the sign over 17th CAV mess hall door was kind of dé-jà-vu for me, although I don't remember seeing it. My squad Quad 50 gun truck (E-41) sat just S. of their tents. Our truck had "have guns will travel" across front of the hood, from summer of 66 - back at Ft. Bliss - right after we formed up the new unit in prep for RVD odyssey! Take care and keep up the good work!

Forgot most important part: Please renew my subscription also. It's hell to get old and forget. Ha! Of course you wouldn't know about that!

P.S. Guess it didn't get blown up. Had several vets from later tours tell me they'd seen it somewhere.

+ TIM SWAIN, HHC S-2 65, 111 E. Morningside Dr., Peoria, IL 61614-2131, work (309) 637-1700 home (309) 692-7301 when renewing subscriptions for himself and others wrote: Here is \$300 for the subscriptions, etc. You are a good man and every paratrooper in the 101st is indebted to you. Again thank you.

+ COL(R) JOSEPH WASCO, JR., 2/327 CO 1/66-1/67, 1791 Clearview Rd., Union Bidge, MD 21791-9703, (410) 751-1288 wrote: Check enclosed for dues. Miss all you fine outstanding people. Airborne

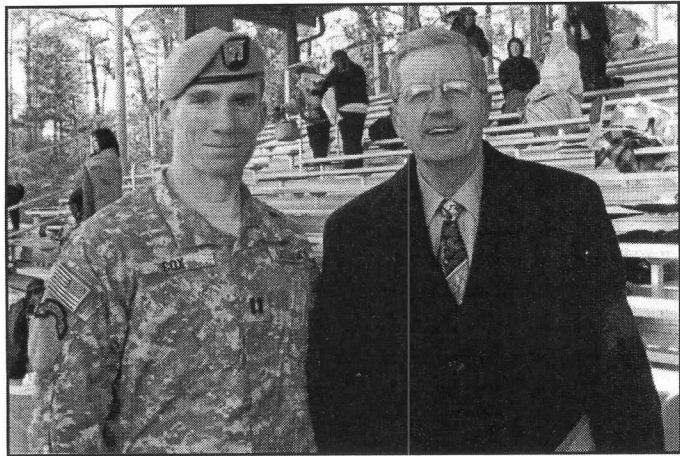
+ DONALD R. LENC, 2/320 FA HHB 6/67-6/68, 5240 Windfall Rd., Medina, OH 44256-8750, work (216) 276-0977 home (330) 722-1879 wrote: Sign me up for another year. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2008 reunion.

+ DALE N. WAGNER, 2/17 CAV A Trp 5/66-6/67, PO Box 7720, Reno, NV 89510-7720, work (775) 688-4000 home (775) 852-9419 wrote: Old age must be getting me. Of all the membership and subscriptions this is the one that I most look forward to and you had to remind me to pay up! Sorry about that! Use the extra for a little postage paid.

+ FRANK D. GINNETT, 2/502 HHC 9/66-9/67, 118 Main St., Alta Vista, KS 66834-9775, (785) 499-5210 wrote: Thanks, great publication! I am looking for two former 101st (S) buddies. Thomas A. Bateman from South Carolina and Dennis Goff from Akron, Ohio. Bateman was with HHC 2/502 66-67 Mortars/Recon. Goff was with 327 - don't remember - 1st or 2nd BN 66-67. Any info would be greatly appreciated.

Editor's Note: Goff was not in my database. Bateman was but at a North Carolina address. This info was sent to Ginnett. Can anyone help with info on Goff?

+ WILLIAM J. NORTHQUEST, 1/327 C 6/66-12/67, 7532 Brookstone Circle, Flowery Branch, GA 30542, (770) 945-8783 sent the following:



Captain Bobby J. Cox and William J. Northquest

By way of background, Captain Cox is my nephew.

He graduated from the Citadel in 2002 and was commissioned in the Regular Army in Infantry. (Interesting story: when he decided to go to the Citadel, he told his mother that all he was interested in doing was staying out of the limelight and just be a private in the cadet corps. He was selected as the Regimental Commander (top cadet) in his senior year; obviously along the way, he had a change of heart.)

Upon graduation, he attended the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Ranger and Airborne. His first assignment was with the 3/187 Infantry, 101st Airmobile Division at Fort Campbell from where he deployed with his unit to Iraq.

After Iraq, he was assigned to the 2nd Bn, 75th Rangers at Fort Lewis in 2004 and while there deployed to Iraq two times.

In late 2005, he attended the Infantry Captains Career Course. After graduation, he was assigned to the Ranger Department at Fort Benning.

In April of this year, he was reassigned to the 82nd Airborne Div at Fort Bragg and will be deploying back to Iraq later this year.

William J. Northquest (1/327 C 6/66-12/67) gives Ranger Graduation Speech below:

RANGER GRADUATION SPEECH January 25, 2008

Colonel Hager, distinguished guests, family and friends of these graduating Rangers.

And to America's newest Army Rangers standing in formation, I say congratulations! You made it! You made it through nine weeks of some of the most difficult and demanding training the Army can dish out and you did outstanding. And when you consider that 30% of those who started the training with you

are not in formation today, you have every right to stick your chests out and be proud of what you have accomplished. And if I may say so myself as an old soldier, you look damn good out there. (What do you think audience?)

Each of you has earned the honor of wearing the black and gold Ranger Tab on your left shoulder. Wear it proudly because it announces to the whole world that you are an elite soldier and the best of the very best. Today you join a proud history of Army Rangers who have served their country with honor for well over 200 years. You are the symbol of our professional Army. As someone once said, and I quote, "While a ship may symbolize the Navy and an airplane or long missile the Air Force, the only completely adequate symbol of the Army is man – the frontline combat soldier. He doesn't float, fly or fission. He is not a superman, but he must be a little better than most men, a little tougher in character, with stamina, guts, determination and discipline, and he must be dedicated to his profession to ensure that our Army will be victorious in the future as it always has been in the past." Unquote.

You would not be standing here in formation today had it not been for the love and support of your family and friends and for the professionalism and dedication of your Ranger instructors during the past nine weeks. When I had the privilege of being assigned to the Mountain Ranger Camp, I personally observed the long hours your Ranger instructors spent and the sacrifices they made to ensure quality soldiers like you were trained as Rangers for this Army of ours. And so I say thank you, RI's, for a job extremely well done.

During your time in the Army you have learned the Army's seven core values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. I'd like to put a little different spin on those values and look at them through the word 'WINNERS'. Each letter of the word means something special for all Rangers. The W stands for a willingness to defend your country; you proved that when you raised your right hand and volunteered to join the Army and further volunteered for Ranger training all for the purpose of defending this great nation of ours against an enemy out to destroy our way of life. The I is for infantry skills and the unique skills of a Ranger you have learned and for the skills yet to be learned. The two N's are for never quit and never fail your team, essential values for any successful Ranger operation. The E is for endurance, both physical and mental; qualities you will need as you and your unit are tested in the months ahead. The R is for a rugged attitude, an attitude that 'I can do it' no matter what the circumstances. And finally, the S is for spiritual strength, something every Ranger has had to call on at one time or another. There is no doubt in my mind that all of you are truly winners, US Army Rangers!

Today is an ending but, more importantly, it is also a beginning. Each of you goes from here to new assignments and challenges with the promises of the future. Through hard work, dedication and a positive attitude you can accomplish whatever goals you set for yourself. As Henry Ford, the founder of the Ford Motor Company, once said, "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right."

In closing, I wish each and every one of you the very best life has to offer. The words from an old Irish prayer say it all: "May you be graced with good health, happiness, peace, freedom and love, with the sun in your face, the wind at your back and the Lord holding you in the palm of his hand."

Congratulations, Rangers! Rangers Lead The Way!

+ JAMES J. MOFFAT, 181 MI Det. 9/65-9/66, 11 Laurel Dr., Scranton, PA 18505-2213, (570) 330-9392 sent a clipping from the ELK CITY DAILY NEWS, Elk City, Oklahoma dated November 21, 1965. The clip is a general school story that includes material about the 181st MI Detachment. The teacher, Miss Horan, was Moffat's next door neighbor when he was growing up in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He believes the letters from the students reached the unit when it was in Qui Nhon.

"The 5th and 6th grade students at St. Joseph School have been corresponding with members of the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. As part of the English project the class wrote individual letters to American soldiers in the 181st MI Det. Last week they began receiving replies to their letters."

One letter signed by all members of the battalion (should have been detachment) read in part:

"Dear members of St. Joseph's: Today we received many unexpected letters from the United States. All of us were surprised and very glad to receive all these letters from Miss Horan's 5th and 6th graders. Thank you very much for writing them. It's nice to know that all of you are thinking about us over here and praying for us.

We are fighting in Viet Nam because we want the Vietnamese people to be as free as we are in America. We also want to stop the Communists before they take over any more countries.

We are part of Jim's unit called the 'Screaming Eagles' because of the shoulder patch we wear. We want all of you to be honorary members of our unit so we are sending you our patch.

You are all doing very well in English. We really enjoyed the stories you told about yourselves. If we meet any of your fathers, brothers, cousins or friends who are over here we will be sure to say hello to them for you."

Another letter from Jim Bouquet emphasized how much the letters were appreciated. It read in part:

"Dearest children of St. Joseph School: My name is Jim. I'm 21 years old and I am a Catholic. I'm a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division, Viet Nam.

We received all your letters and we loved every one of them. The reason all of us American men are in Viet Nam is because of you, our families back home. All those letters you have written make every moment of our hardships worthwhile.



The people here don't have pretty churches like we do back home because they don't have the money to build them. You know most of us here haven't been to church in over five months, but that doesn't stop us from praying every chance we get.

Sincerity such as this hits deep in the hearts of all of us. There are no words good enough to express our appreciation to all of you at St. Joseph School. God bless each and every one of you. I have to go now. You are all in our prayers. An American Soldier."

The 5th and 6th graders are now preparing an insignia of their Mission Club to send to Viet Nam, making the 101st Division honorary members of the Sacred Heart Mission Club. They also plan on sending Christmas cards to members of the unit.

The address is: 181st MI Det. Field Forces, Viet Nam APO 96240, San Francisco, Cal.

The class has received an official letter of appreciation from Capt. David O. Faist, commanding officer of the 181st Military Intelligence Detachment. It stated:

"Dear Miss Horan and Students: I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your students for the fine letters that were received by PFC James J. Moffat, which he was so kind to make available to all members of this detachment for their reading enjoyment.

These letters demonstrated the true thoughts of what we consider to be loyal Americans. Many people today play down the role of patriotism, however faith is again renewed in the American cause and way of life when young loyal citizens write in the manner your students did.

To the members of the 5th and 6th grades at St. Joseph School, we wish continued success in school and all future endeavors. We only regret that we don't have the time to answer each and every letter individually; however our best wishes are with you all.

We can assure you that we all agree with Mary Grethen when she said 'remember you can't beat the United States'."

(end of newspaper story; however the letter was signed) Sincerely, David O. Faist, Capt, AIS, Commanding with a P.S. that read: We are enclosing some Vietnamese money so that you can compare it with our own. The bills enclosed are 5, 10, and 20 Piaster notes. The rate of exchange here is 118 Piasters for one American dollar.

+ BG(R) JOHN W. COLLINS, III, DCO 7-12/67 CO 12/67-7/68, 210 Hillview Dr., San Antonio, TX 78209-2205, (210) 822-0873 wrote: Dear Ivan, A quick note about 1st Brigade Reunions.

In 1984 Billy Spangler (PIO), Andy Bolcar (Arty. Comdr.) and I arranged for the first reunion of the Brigade in San Antonio, Texas. At that reunion, interest was shown in having other reunions every two years. The first six reunions consisted

Continued on Page 27



Donald Lenc
5240 Windfall Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 8750

Vol. II, No. 2

1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

January 10, 1968



Enemy Bib

Pfc. Tommy Thompson, Venice, Fla., eats a noon meal of C-rations with an enemy flag draped around his neck. The flag was captured when troopers of B Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., discovered an enemy complex during Operation Wheeler.

(Photo by Pfc. Robert Mosey)

Wheeler Ends at 1,105; Klamath Falls Underway

PHAN RANG—Paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Div. launched Operation Klamath Falls 100-miles north-east of Saigon Dec. 1, and killed 26 enemy, captured 20 individual and one crew served weapon in the first week of fighting.

The offensive began with air assaults by 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. and 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. into an enemy area concealed by triple-canopy jungle. The 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. joined the action with a combat assault Dec. 3, followed by 3rd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. the next day.

Paratroopers of the 1/327 paced the brigade body count as the 'Above The Rest' battalion scored 16 of the 26 kills, captured 12 individual and one crew-served weapons.

'Strike Force' paratroopers of A Co., 'Five-O-Deuce' made the first contact of the new operation at 3:40 p.m., Dec. 2 when they spotted eight enemy carrying weapons on a jungle trail. A hasty ambush netted six enemy kills, two detainees and two weapons.

Later that day at 6:30 p.m., A Co. of the 1/327 killed an insurgent carrying an AK-47 automatic rifle and rucksack.

B Co. of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. captured the first crew-served weapon of the

operation Dec. 4 when they caught 14 VC in a night ambush. The action netted four kills, two detainees, three AK-47 rifles, and an 82mm mortar complete with base plate, bipod, sight and 10 rounds of mortar ammunition.

Klamath Falls marked the brigade's return to II Corps after an absence of nearly eight months.

The Screaming Eagles held a brief stand-down at the base camp here during the Thanksgiving holiday. It was the brigade's first return to its base camp since March when they moved to the Central Highlands

for Operation Summerall and the subsequent move to I Corps.

While conducting combat operations in the northernmost corps of the Republic, the Screaming Eagles of the 1st Brigade claimed 2,405 enemy dead—1,105 in Operation Wheeler which lasted 75 days.

The 3/506 initiated Operation Rose south of here after completing training in the brigade's Proficiency School in November. The search and destroy sweep was brief, designed to acclimatize the unit prior to joining the rest of the Screaming Eagles in Operation Klamath Falls.



Steak Sandwich

Sgt. James R. Barnett, Loretto, Tenn., enjoys a steak sandwich after he and his buddies of the reconnaissance platoon, 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., were extracted from the field at the end of Operation Wheeler.

(Photo by Spec. 4 Ben Croxton)

2 Hide in Well

'O-Deuce' Troopers Nab 5 VC

CHU LAI — Paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne killed five enemy including two who tried to hide in a well west of here during an Operation Wheeler action.

Pfc. Jimmy Hale, a pointman with B Co. of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., led fellow paratroopers along a ridge line to a clearing overlooking a small valley. The Philadelphia rifleman halted and motioned the men behind him to get down.

"I could see 10 VC carrying weapons down a trail on the valley floor," he said.

Pfc. Ray Wondra, Lyons, N.Y., brought his M-60 machine gun forward. "Our point element opened fire and three enemy dropped immediately," said Wondra. "The others fled towards a group of huts."

B Co. commander, Capt. Tom Mercer, Flushing, Mich., moved two platoons to protect the flanks and the remaining elements advanced on line toward the three enemy dead.

"We picked up three AK-47 automatic rifles and moved on," said Wondra. "Hale joined with the end of the left flank."

"When I walked by the well, I noticed the water was being

agitated," said Hale. "I thought it was unusual, because there was no wind."

Hale dismissed the thought and continued to advance with his element.

Suddenly two short bursts of automatic weapons fire sent the "Strike Force" paratrooper to the prone.

"It's coming from our rear!" yelled Hale.

The paratroopers searched for the source of enemy fire.

"The well!" Hale thought aloud.

Pulling a grenade from his belt, Hale removed the pin and said: "Hope for a 'hole-in-one'."

The grenade sailed through the air and 'plunked' into the well.

"Two scared, drenched VC scrambled to the top of the well," Hale recalled. "The grenade went off before they could get out."

Two bodies slid back into the water, an AK-47 teetered on the well's edge.

"I made a dash for the weapon, but it fell into the water before I could reach it," said Hale.

As Hale returned to his rucksack, Wondra asked: "What was that all about?" Hale answered: "A grenade in the hand is worth two VC in a well."

1/327 'Felt' Enemy Would Strike CP Again

CHU LAI—The men of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne had a feeling "Charlie" would strike the battalion command post again. Two nights earlier the hilltop outpost had been mortared. Tonight the paratroopers expected a ground attack.

"We just knew they were coming," said Plat. Sgt. Bruce Shimizu, Hilo, Hawaii. "Before dark we had spotted six NVA moving below. We were ready."

Darkness fell. The men checked their watches frequently. Soon it was nine o'clock—the time of the previous mortar attack.

In one defensive position, four young Screaming Eagles of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., waited. Spec. 4 Bobby Hill, Griffin, Ga., listened carefully.

"I hear something," said Hill. A grenade exploded nearby. Then another landed in their

position. Hill and Spec. 4 Larry Hart, Pontiac, Mich., scrambled out. The other two weren't so fast and sustained minor injuries.

The platoon leader, Lt. Vaughan Davidson, Gastonia, N.C., rushed to the position. Quickly the paratroopers had the M-60 machine gun chattering.

Shimizu had a 60mm mortar zeroed in on a nearby ravine. "They had to be firing from

it," he said. "We placed all our mortar fire in it and the incoming rounds decreased."

Simultaneously flares brightened the darkness and the paratroopers fired on enemy running across the front of their positions.

In the morning, scouting patrols found dozens of blood trails—signs that the enemy had suffered many wounded in the encounter.



Raising the Flag

Paratroopers of B Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn.), 502nd Inf., raise the American flag over a captured NVA complex during Operation Wheeler. The company commander, Capt. Thomas Mercer, Flushing, Mich. (sixth from left, bottom) and his men took a break in the complex prior to continuing their search and destroy sweep. (Photo by Pfc. Robert Mosey)

Screaming Eagle Briefings

Handy Motto

Paratroopers of 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division use their battalion motto as a greeting, but during Operation Wheeler one paratrooper used it as a challenge.

Pfc. Perry F. Ambrose, Nevada, Iowa, was accompanying C Co of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., during a search and destroy sweep when lead elements made contact with the enemy.

"We started running down the trail toward the action when an enemy automatic weapon opened fire," said Ambrose. "I became separated from the rest of the element."

Ambrose decided to crawl around the enemy position and rejoin his friends.

"I got into position and heard a noise in the brush," he said. "I decided not to fire because it might be 'friendly'."

Ambrose yelled: "No Slack!" Several startled NVA leaped up and disappeared in the brush before Ambrose could fire.

OP Destroyed

A 50-foot high, tree-top Viet Cong observation post (OP) which commanded a full-horizon view for miles around was destroyed by paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division during Operation Klamath Falls.

The OP was found by troopers of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., in the center of a camouflaged Viet Cong base camp. Capt.

Thomas K. Mercer, Flushing, Mich., climbed the vine-lashed, bamboo ladder to the top, evaluated the view and climbed back down.

Sgt. Charles O. Ivy, Quitman, Miss., got the order to destroy the structure. Quickly the demolitions expert from A Co. of the 312th Engineer Bn. blew the enemy's "Crow's Nest" to the ground.

One less OP for 'Charlie'.

Third Reunion

Reunion with a member of your family can be a great morale booster, according to SFC Luther J. Stultz, Attica, Ind., and Sgt. Steven A. Stultz, Chicago.

The two brothers met recently at the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne base camp at Phan Rang—their third meeting in nearly 11 years.

Luther is the personnel NCO for Hq. Co. of the 3rd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. Steven is a gunner for B Btry, of the 2nd Bn., 15th Arty. Group at Phu Cat.

"The last time we saw each other was July, 1965, in Germany," said Luther. "And then it was only for a few hours."

Luther has served in the Army nearly 15 years and has been stationed in France, Korea and Hawaii. Steven has served eight years and has been stationed in Okinawa and Germany twice. Both volunteered for a tour in Vietnam.

The two brothers intend to use the opportunity of being stationed in the same country to visit occasionally.

Three-Day Pass

A paratrooper of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division was rewarded with a three-day pass for the first kill of Operation Klamath Falls.

Spec. 4 George Jackson Jr., Waynesboro, Ga., spotted a Viet Cong sneaking up to the perimeter of B Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.

"He was moving from one bush to another," said Jackson. "When he crossed an open area, I fired."

The enemy appeared to stumble then fell heavily to the ground. His AK-47 rifle fell nearby.

"He got the first VC of the operation," said Capt. Edgar F. Burch, Boulder, Colo., company commander. "He earned his pass."

Enemy Search, Troopers Wait

CHU LAI—Four paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division spent a harrowing night surrounded by a squad of North Vietnamese soldiers in a recent action during Operation Wheeler.

Early in the day, men of B Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., discovered an NVA rucksack leaning against a farmhouse. A quick search produced AK-47 ammunition, khaki uniforms and assorted enemy documents. A tunnel was found beneath the house and behind it in the jungle an enemy hammock swung gently in the breeze.

The paratroopers reported the discoveries to Capt. Edgar Burch, Boulder, Colo.

Spec. 4 Marco Vega, Queens, N.Y., a fire-team leader, volunteered to lead an ambush on a trail near the farmhouse.

"The fewer men we use, the less noise we make," said Vega. "I'm sure we'll ambush the owners of the equipment."

As darkness fell, Vega and three other troopers sat silently in their positions.

Their wait was brief.

Pfc. Carl Widas, Slidell, La., saw a khaki-clad figure, pistol belt and grenades strapped around his waist.

Widas alerted Vega and Spec. 4 Sam Shell, Philadelphia.

The rifle fire alerted other NVA behind the lead man. The paratroopers could hear them talking to each other in the darkness as they searched.

An enemy stepped into sight. Vega sent a burst from his M-16 rifle into the armed figure.

"He fell dead," said Vega. "The others following him, immediately spread out in search of our position."

"They spent hours looking for us," continued Vega. "We could hear them calling to each other and beating the bush. We had good positions and just waited out the night."

In the early morning hours the enemy moved on and the paratroopers rejoined their company.

"How did it go out there," asked a buddy from B Co.

"Just great," said Vega. "But does anybody have a silencer for an M-16?"

New CO's In Artillery

PHAN RANG—The colors of three batteries of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 320th Arty., changed hands recently at the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne base camp here.

Capt. Dale F. Means, Fayetteville, N.C., took command of A Btry. The post was vacated by Capt. Craig H. Mandeville, Chickasha, Okla., who had commanded the battery since July 20.

In C Btry, Capt. Fred A. Gordon, Battle Creek, Mich., handed the colors to Capt. Russell A. Campbell, South Attleboro, Mass. Capt. Gordon has been battery commander since June 22.

Lt. Col. Andrew S. Bolcar, Knoxville, Tenn., attributes the changes to a need for flexibility in officer experience in the airborne artillery.

"I want to give my officers as much experience in all areas of artillery," he said. "This experience is important to the quality and diversification of artillery officers in the airborne."

The former battery commanders have new jobs within the battalion. Capt. Mandeville is the liaison officer with the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf.; Capt. Harrison is assistant operations officer; Capt. Gordon is senior liaison officer with brigade operations.



Off and Running

Paratroopers of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., quickly jump out of a 176th Aviation Co. helicopter and deploy against enemy snipers during Operation Wheeler. (Photo by Sgt. Bob Chambers)



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'How Does it Feel?'

A group of Vietnamese youngsters huddle around Capt. Andrew Lovey, Milwaukee, as he listens to the heart of a young villager through his stethoscope. Lovey is the surgeon for the 3rd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. (Photo by Pfc. Jerry Berry)

400 Persons Treated

MEDCAP Successful

By Pfc. Jerry Berry
THOUNG DIEN—More than 400 persons in this Ninh Thuan Province hamlet were medically cared for recently when a MEDCAP team of 101st Airborne paratroopers and Government of Vietnam (GVN) officials visited here.

The joint Free World Military Allied Forces (FW/MAF) project was organized by the 3rd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf., civil affairs officer, Capt. Douglas A. Alitz, Long Valley, N.J., and Than Hai district chief, Capt. Viet Tan.

Because the area was not considered safe for vehicular traffic, the Regional Forces here secured a landing zone for the 'Chinook' helicopter which transported the team and their supplies.

Medical assistance was provided by the battalion surgeon, Capt. Andrew Lovey, Milwaukee, Wis., Lt. Curtis Washington, Reading, Pa., Spec. 5 William Brown, Atlanta, and Thuan Le-Kim, Phan Rang.

"Our basic purpose was to

enter a VC controlled area with a team of American and Vietnamese to demonstrate our united desire to help the people," said Lovey. "Our primary objective was to give medical aid to the sick and needy."

The ailments treated by the MEDCAP team ranged from common colds to impetigo. "We didn't have a dental surgeon with us," said Lovey. "If we had, about 200 teeth could have been extracted from patients who needed dental assistance."

The Province Health Director explained to the hamlet residents that other forms of help and assistance provided by the central government were available in Phan Rang and at Cam Ranh Bay. Persons suffering from chronic malaria and trachoma were urged to avail themselves of hospital treatment.

MEDCAP personnel also inoculated more than 300 persons for cholera and medicines for common ailments were distributed along with 80 pounds of soap.

Uncover 75mm Rifles

'Recondos' Find Hidden Cache

By Pfc. Robert Mosey

CHU LAI—A boonie hat, a field expedient latrine, and an odd-looking tree leaf led to the discovery of a NVA weapons cache and supply center by paratroopers of 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne during Operation Wheeler west of here.

Operating in conjunction with a company making a raid on a suspected NVA hospital complex, the Recondos of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. were acting as a blocking force.

"A Hoi Chanh had pinpointed the location of an enemy hospital on a jungle mountainside," said Pfc. Timothy Ahern, Boston. "B Co. assaulted while we blocked the opposite side in case the enemy decided to run."

Ahern, pointman for the reconnaissance element, was hacking his way through through thick foliage when he saw an old hat hanging from a tree limb.

Uncover Ammunition

"Directly behind it was a small cleared area of freshly-dug soil," said Ahern. "We decided to check it out."

A few inches beneath the loose soil, the paratroopers felt the slickness of a poncho.

"The guys started digging like crazy," said Ahern.

Underneath the dirty poncho, sealed in new wooden boxes were 60 rounds for an 82mm

mortar and approximately 5,000 rounds of assorted small arms ammunition.

Staff Sgt. William Seaman, Cordell, Ga., ordered half of the Recondos to continue blocking while the rest searched the area for other possible caches.

"We scoured the area for two hours and found nothing more, so we decided to set up a perimeter defense and eat our noon meal," said Seaman.

While digging a latrine near a dried-up stream bed, Ahern discovered sandal prints.

"I followed the prints," said Ahern. "They led to a carefully concealed grass hootch."

The Recondo quickly summoned his buddies who again set up a circular defense.

"The hootch was empty, but

probing revealed it had a false floor," said Sgt. Bruce Falconer, Roseville, Calif.

The Recondos removed the flooring and found a large, dark hole.

Weapons Found

Two 75mm recoilless rifle barrels, one anti-aircraft machine gun with carriage, two Russian machine guns, one rocket launcher, an M-60 machine gun barrel, and numerous boxes of ammunition were extracted from the enemy hiding place.

"A trail was found also at the rear of the hootch," said Spec. 4 Michael Bergman, Denver. "We followed it until we came to four different trails leading in different directions."

"Which way now?" asked Pfc. Tom Wolfe, Columbus, Ohio.

A strange looking tree leaf held the answer.

"It was hanging over one of the trails," said Bergman, "a white arrow was painted on both sides."

Another hootch was found. "Numerous tunnels around the grass hut held still more ammunition," said Ahern, "we also found office and medical supplies, three tons of rice and documents."

Satisfied their search was thorough, the Recondos radioed for a helicopter to extract the materials.

Surgeon Warns Of Beverages

PHAN RANG — Brigade surgeon, Maj. John P. Ritchey, Salem, Ore., cautions Screaming Eagles against drinking locally bottled beverages which may endanger their health.

Laboratory tests have revealed some drinks contain ground glass and unsafe water.

Persons who consume these beverages risk infections which may cause serious illness and internal damage.



'Let's Have a Look!'

A Vietnamese mother presents her child to Capt. Andrew Lovey for examination during a MEDCAP in Thuong Dien. (Photo by Pfc. Jerry Berry)

Replacements Trained Well by 'No Slack' Platoon

By SSG Al Wilson

CHU LAI—Replacements for the 1st Platoon of A Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf., get plenty of attention from other paratroopers—all their lives may depend on it.

The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne paratroopers all pitch in to help a new trooper take his place in the unit effectively. Lt. Hubert D. Williams III, New Bern, N.C., and SFC. Nichie G. Alonzo, a 20-year veteran with three tours in Vietnam, find the training essential.

"We train even while in combat," says Alonzo. "We teach aggressiveness, teamwork and

maintenance of equipment."

When new men are assigned to the platoon they are split up among the squads to eliminate a squad comprised only of new men.

"This way one squad isn't 'green,'" said Alonzo. "A squad of veterans can teach a new trooper very quickly. In no time at all he's rigging his load-bearing equipment properly, staying alert and adapting to life in the field."

"We explain maintenance of equipment right away," said Lt. Williams. "It has paid off for us. Our resupply of equipment is negligible."

While talking, the officer pointed to a nearby trooper brushing mud from his gear. "That's what I mean. A simple task, yet it prevents rot and subsequent resupply."

Camouflage also is emphasized.

"The North Vietnamese manual instructs the NVA soldier to shoot anything in a steel helmet," said Alonzo. "So we hide the helmet with camouflage. There is a tendency to hesitate when someone first spots a camouflaged 'pot' and that gives us a second to react."

But the biggest lesson learned

is one of confidence.

"The most important lesson I learned was not to fear 'Charlie,'" said Pfc. Earl Erwin Jr., Mobile, Ala. "Once you know how he fights, life out here isn't that bad."

New members of the platoon also are taught to respect Vietnamese civilians. The practice has proved invaluable.

"Recently we were searching a hut complex and the people told our interpreter of a hidden rice cache," said Williams. "Five women even cooked rice for the entire platoon."

The platoon leader also was told where to find the village 'tax collector' by the people.

Later, at their request, 17 families were evacuated to a refugee center.

"We could get the same reception everywhere," said Williams. "We're trying our best to win their respect."

All these lessons are put together when the platoon makes contact with the enemy. Afterwards, the leaders conduct a critique. Everyone's opinion is valued. Improvements are made immediately.

"I think the care my NCO's take with this program has made us one of the top platoons in the brigade," said Williams. "And it's saved quite a few lives."



Helping the Enemy

Spec. 5 Tommy Brown, Chadburn, N.C., a medic with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne, treats a wounded NVA soldier after B Co. of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., uncovered an enemy hospital complex. (Photo by Pfc. Robert Mosey)

Viet Cong Soldier Leads Troops to Hospital Site

By Pfc. Robert Mosey

CHU LAI — A discontented Viet Cong surrendered to paratroopers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne 18 miles west of here recently and led them to an NVA hospital complex resulting in the detention of 12 patients.

Officials said the insurgent presented a 'Chieu Hoi' pass and told of poor morale and dissatisfaction among enemy troops. Further questioning revealed he was a cook at the hospital. He then led B Co. of the Screaming Eagles' 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. to the complex atop a jungle-covered mountain.

Found were an operating room with tables, fresh pools of blood on the dirt floors and piles of new and used bandages. Communist Chinese and Russian medical supplies also were discovered.

The complex consisted of 10 large huts with underground tunnels. Eight of the structures were hospital wards capable of quartering 20 persons each. One served at the operating room, another at the dining hall. Blood-stained sheets lay crumpled on the operating room floor. Blood trails led from the tables to the jungle.

Six Patients Fleeing

Sgt. Frederick Davenport, Buffalo, N.Y., led a platoon in search of enemy wounded.

"We were about 60 yards from the hospital when we heard something moving, in a bush,"

Davenport said. "We found six enemy wounded trying to crawl away."

The paratroopers picked up the wounded and carried them back to one of the wards where a medic treated and prepared them for evacuation to the 2nd Surgical Hospital here.

The six enemy had been wounded by Screaming Eagle artillery and Air Force jets in contacts a week earlier.

Subsequent questioning identified one as a supply sergeant from the 1st Bn., 21st NVA Regiment. The others were members of the 2nd Bn., 1st Viet Cong Regiment, detailed for food production teams for the 2nd NVA Division.

Continuing the search, two more large huts were found 200 meters north of the main complex. Hidden documents on the premises indicated the hut served as hospital staff living quarters.

Find Five More

The next day patrols were dispatched again. One NVA gave up to paratroopers and broadcast surrender appeals to his comrades.

"Our squad was moving down a well-used trail when a khaki-clad NVA crawled towards us from the bushes," said Pfc. James Hall, Waco, Tex.

Sgt. Doan Dinh Hoan, an Army of Vietnam interpreter, was sent to the area to question the enemy soldier after he was treated by a medic.

"He will show us where others

are hiding," Hoan told Capt. Thomas Mercer, Flushing, Mich., the company commander.

Four more wounded enemy were pulled out of nearby spider holes.

The five enemy—three NVA and two VC—were carried back to the hospital where they were treated.

Mercer requested a psychological operations team to continue the search for enemy wounded.

"We knew there were more nearby," Mercer said. "We hoped the 'psy-ops' boys could talk them into surrendering."

Surrender Appeal

Sgt. Michael Stone, Nutley, N.J., and Spec. 4 Gary Fairchild, Buffalo, N.Y., of the 244th Psychological Operations Co., were airlifted into the hospital site.

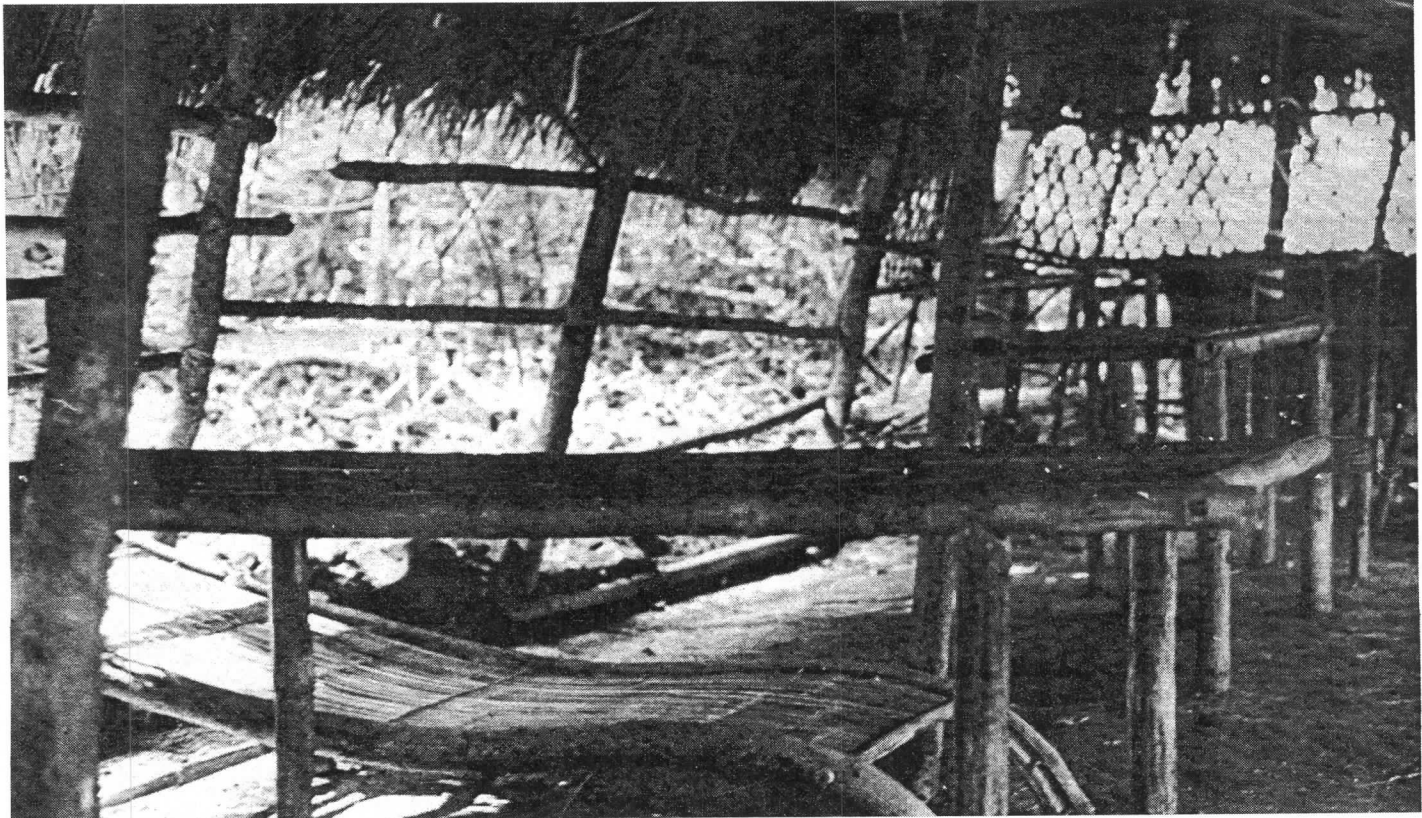
With rucksacks and loudspeakers on their backs, the team was briefed and sent to the top of the mountain. The NVA soldier volunteered to broadcast an appeal to other enemy troops.

The broadcast proved uneventful. Reports from the paratrooper perimeter the rest of the day were negative.

The next morning, however, another NVA patient walked into the complex, his hands clasped behind his neck.

He was the last to give up.

"The NVA said there were 52 patients and 30 staff members and cadre at the hospital," said Mercer. "But they fled when we approached."



Jungle Operating Room

Paratroopers of B Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., discovered an NVA hospital complex during Operation Wheeler and found this jungle operating room—complete with operating tables and mosquito nets. Pools of blood were found on the dirt floor and bloody sheets were scattered around the area. Twelve patients were found in the jungles near the complex. They had fled as the paratroopers approached. (Photo by Pfc. Robert Mosey)

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2/502 C 7/67-1/69
2061 Alyssa Jade Dr.
Henderson, NV 89052-7123

Lloyd Jorgenson
2/502 C 66
40090 Crooked Creek Rd.
Hinckley, MN 55037-5327

Tom Joyce
1/327 A 4/65-7/66 - 10/06
23 Grossmont Dr.
Fountain Inn, SC 29644-8024

Anthony Kuzmicki
2/502 HHC 65-66
PO Box 507
Castile, NY 14427-0507

Ray Lake
2/327 B 7/65-7/66 - 7/08
824 Hawks Bridge Rd
Salem, NJ 08079-4502

Dr. Knute Landreth
1/327 A 10/67-8/68 - 4/02
304 Tierra Berrenda Dr.
Roswell, NM 88201-7836

Louie F. LaTorre
2/327 A 7/67-7/68 - 10/08
485 Oceanpoint Ave.
Cedarhurst, NY 11516-1328

Johnnie C. Lindsey DMOR
1/327 Inf HHC 8/66-8/67 - 4/06
992 Walker Ln
Texarkana, TX 75501-2163

Stanley C. Lyons
2/327 C 7/67-1/68 - 4/08
6417 Baptist Ridge Rd.
Hilham, TN 38568

Mike McDermott
2/327 A
1420 Shield St.
Laramie, WY 82072-2246

Charles C. McLaughlin
unit & dates ?
300 Karlee Dr.
Hopkinsville, KY 42240-3068

Edmund R. Medina
2/502 HHC 7/65-3/66- 1/07
7005 S 7th Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85041-6704

Ben Melton
2/320 Arty 11/66-9/67 - 4/08
104 Stratmore Cir
Bossier City, LA 71111-2286

COL(R) Burt Miller
2/327 ALO/FAC 1/66-6/66
3520 E Rocky Slope Dr
Phoenix, AZ 85044-7093

MSG(R) Joe W. Mulligan
1/327 B&HQ 6/66-6/67 - 4/09
115 Brookside Dr
Clinton, MS 39056-3594

Alex F. Nagy
AVN SPT B 6/67-9/67 - 4/05
3313 Concord Ct
Mishawaka, IN 46545-3176

John E. Nighman
1/327 HQ & C 65-66
7727 Township Road 263
Bergholz, OH 43908-7954

Henry R. Olson
1/327 HQ 65-66
4434 Shorehaven Ln
Racine, WI 53403-4134

Lewis E. Percy
1/327 C 7/65-7/66 - 4/09
2609 Tierra Circle
Winter Park, FL 32792

John P. Ritchey
HHC Staff 7/67-7/68 - 4/09
4628 Harbour Village Blvd, Unit
2407
Port Orange, FL 32127-7271

COL(R) Othar J. Shalikhavilli
2/502 HQ 67
6006 Creekside Ln
Hoschton, GA 30548-8231

Gilbert Singleton
unit and dates ?
7750 S Marshfield Ave
Chicago, IL 60620-4217

Robert E. Souza
1/327 HHC
PO Box 3349
Los Lunas, NM 87031-3349

William Fred Stewart
1/327 C 67-68
P. O. Box 69
Spavinaw, OK 74366-0069

COL(R) Thomas H. Taylor
2/502 B 7/65-6/66 - 4/09
P.O. Box 1094
Inverness, CA 94937-1094

Hughey C. Walker
1/327 C 8/66-5/67
28 McKenzie Cir
Pawleys Island, SC 29585-5767

William Jerry Downs
3/506
9747 North Conant Ave
Kansas City, MO 64153

Paul L. Dunlap
unit & dates ?
1974 Brae-Moor Dr.
Dunedin, FL 34698

Tom Duran
2/502 B 4/66-4/67 - 4/05
820 Woodside Lane East #1
Sacramento, CA 95825

Walter E. Eddy, Jr.
2/327 A 65-69 - 4/03
1373 Craghead Cir
Moneta, VA 24121-5967

Carl B. Fedde
42nd Scout Dog 9/66-8/67 - 6/00
5341 McCaghren Drive
Columbus, GA 31909-4184

LTC(R) Dennis Foley
1/327 A, TF & HHC 65-67
Foley Productions
P.O. Box 4370
Whitefish, MT 59937-4370

Barry W. Fox
326 MED 67-68
2116 Lucina Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15210-4136

James L. Grainger
1/327 A 67-69
4100 S Frank Dr #2
Tucson, AZ 85735-8880

Steve Hassna
2/327 C 67-68
P.O. Box 357
Cazedero, CA 95421

Patrick S. Husted
3/506
4110 Morning Sun Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

COL(R) Lawrence M. Jackson
1/327 B 67-68
2126 Francis Ct.
Leavenworth, KS 66048-4137

Ron J. Jones
2/327 A 11/67-11/68
P. O. Box 6613
Kokomo, IN 46904

William Lemp
unit and dates ???
115 Markowitz Street
Carteret, NJ 07008

CPT Peter A. Lind
1-327IN C
C/I-327IN
Unit #96020
APO. AE 09325-6020

Floyd McDonald
2/327 C 6/65-7/66
2807 Revere St.
Jackson, MS 39212

Mike Merlo
1/327 C 67-68
1000 Audrey Way
Roseville, CA 95661

Steve E. Merrill
1/327 T.F. 11/67-?
3698 Mission Ct.
Largo, FL 33771

Dean A. Morrison
3/506 C 10/67-10/68
224 Reservoir Road
West Hampton, MA 01021-9613

James C. Owens
unit & dates ?
3266 Easton Rd.
Norton, OH 44203

SFC(R) Patrick J. Payne
1/327 B 6/65
RR 2, Box 678
Copperas Cove, TX 76522-9415

SSG Robert E. Roberts
2/502 B 67-68
118 Talbot St.
Bluefield, WV 24701

Carl R. Schmahl
1/327 A 1/67-1/68
7032 Panorama Ct.
Warrenton, VA 20187

John Simunic
326 ENGR A 1/66-9/66
1209 State St.
Bay City, MI 48706-3670

Walter A. Tangel
2/11th FA B 66-72
504 Redstone Rd.
Gallatin, TN 37066-4627

Miles L. Thomas
2/502 HHC 67
9401 Tujung Valley St.
Sunland, CA 91040

James T. Unger
2/327 67-68
P.O. Box 452
Montara, CA 94037

David Williamson
2/327 C 1/69-1/71 - 1/05
P.O. Box 1471
Eureka Spgs, AR 72632



Bad Addresses

March 10, 2008 through
June 3, 2008

SFC(R) Joseph A. Atai
2/327 C 65-66
Star Route Box 44
Haikii, HI 96708

Rick Backstrom
2/502 C 66-67
Rt. 1, Box 551
Renner, SD 57055

**If you can help
with a current
address – please
contact the editor.**

Continued from Page 16

primarily of people who had served in the Brigade in 1967. Afterwards, participation increased with personnel who had served in the Brigade while in Vietnam, during the period 1965-1968.

How long these reunions will continue depends upon volunteers and the desires of those attending the reunion in Hampton, Virginia, in September. Under any circumstances this matter should be addressed.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the next reunion due to the accident I had in 2006. At this time, I have very limited use of my hands to such an extent that I am not able to drive and dress myself. Obviously, I am unable to travel and my activities are confined to my living in San Antonio.



I deeply regret not being able to attend the reunion, as the highlight of my military career was my service in the 1st Brigade. I have never served with such a fine group of men and it was always a pleasure for me to renew old acquaintances.

In summary, I guess a statement made by Gen. McArthur in his address to Congress sums up my condition. It was "old soldiers never die, they just fade away."

All my very best - AIRBORNE
signed/Rip
John W. Collins, III

+ = Current Subscriber



For the soldier . . . Colonel Billy E. Spangler . . . Praise the Lord!

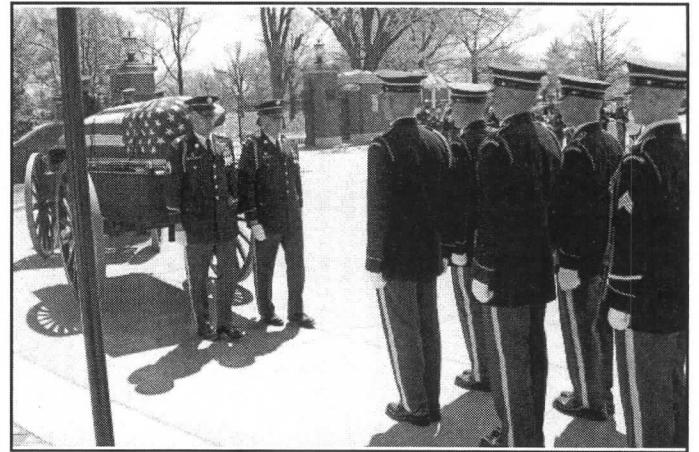
Billy and I met in 1967, some 41 years ago, in South Vietnam. We served with the men of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, a privilege we cherished. I'm honored today by his family, to say a few words about my "brother" and friend.

Billy was larger than life in several ways. He had an intellectual mind, a poet's heart, a soul for God and a love for our troops. His standards were high and his service outstanding. It is good that he will rest here at Arlington National Cemetery.

Billy loved Melba, his winsome wife – and his family. Lest we be too sad, in our sorrows, let's all bear patiently the grief and pain; leave to thy God to order and provide. In every change, even unto death, He will remain faithful to us.

Billy enjoyed a rich military career. In addition to his many assignments, one day -- February 12, 1973 -- had special significance for him. With members of the press, he met and accompanied back to Hawaii 100 U.S. POW's from Hanoi. These were men who had not breathed freedom in six to eight years. For Billy, it was a humbling and inspirational experience. What an honor, he said, to participate in the return of these men who sacrificed so much.

Let me share one military remembrance of Billy's last year. As he was receiving frequent medical treatments at Fort Sam Houston Medical Center, Billy remembered that combat medics are trained there. Billy asked permission to interview several Screaming Eagle medics just returned from Afghanistan and Iraq. He planned to write a piece that later would become the center-spread for the Winter 2007 issue of the 101st Airborne Division Magazine. He wrote some 1,500 words on experiences of these medics, and had their photos taken. He also received copyright permission to include a 1944 Bill Mauldin cartoon to link the Greatest Generation soldiers to our troops today. The cartoon showed two combat medics in a shallow foxhole, with several nearby soldiers crawling forward. Dozens of bullets were streaking over their heads. The caption read, one senior medic to the other, "Quit beefin', or I'll send ya back to th' infantry." (Pause). Billy



Members of the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry at Fort Myer, VA, attend COL Spangler's flag-draped caisson.

loved Mauldin's GI Joe cartoons which captured the hearts, souls and humor of real soldiers.

Billy's desire to write this feature article on combat medics, showed he still cared for our troops. Like the band of brothers here today and some already gone from us, Billy recognized our country's troops at every opportunity – even when so terribly ill. (Pause)

Now it's time for old soldiers and their ladies to say farewell to Billy. Soon we will whisper lyrics of the bugler's "Taps" in this great garden of heroes: "Then good night, peaceful night; Till the light of the dawn shineth bright; God is near, do not fear – friend good night!" God has raised Billy up to Him, quite fittingly we believe, on Eagle's Wings. God surely blessed Colonel Billy Spangler in this life, and is doing so now, in his eternal life with Him.

Amen

(Delivered Old Post Chapel, Fort Myer, VA at Arlington National Cemetery, Tuesday, April 15, 2008.) Barry Hana, CPT, 1st Brigade Information Office, Vietnam 1967-68.)

My Father Colonel Billy Spangler

by Evan Spangler

We meet today to honor the life of Colonel Billy Spangler.

Soldier, journalist, teacher.

Husband, father, mentor.

A president of the Illinois Broadcasters' Association, a news director.

An editor-in-chief of **Stars and Stripes Europe**, a commandant of the Defense Information School.

His titles were many, but these and others did not confer honor upon him. As an Italian renaissance philosopher wrote, "titles do not honor men, but men honor titles."

My father brought honor to his titles by living his faith in God and his love for people. He accepted the invitation to be made a fisher of men and so saw in all of us, not what we were, but what we could become, and strove to help us attain it.

For my part, mere biography cannot explain what he gave to me.

His physical courage saved my life.

His moral courage is my benchmark.

His talent as a teacher allowed me to learn to speak and to write the American language.

He filled the rucksack of my being with literature and philosophy, a fascination with politics and history; and practical wisdom that spanned the stock market to quail hunting - and the joy brought by a pair of well-trained English pointers.

He imparted to me a passion for all the possibility this life offers, a longing for "a muse of fire, that would ascend the brightest heaven of invention."

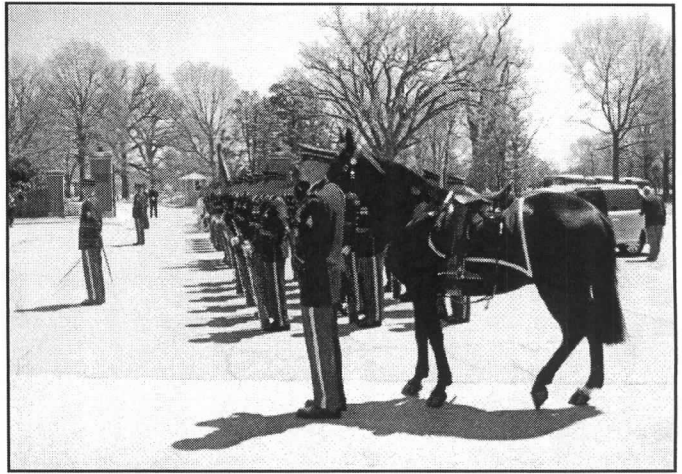
Death can rob me of his physical presence, but not his gifts. I cannot lose his life, or the companionship of his soul.

Our companionship with his soul brings us here today as we fulfill his wish to be buried with soldiers.

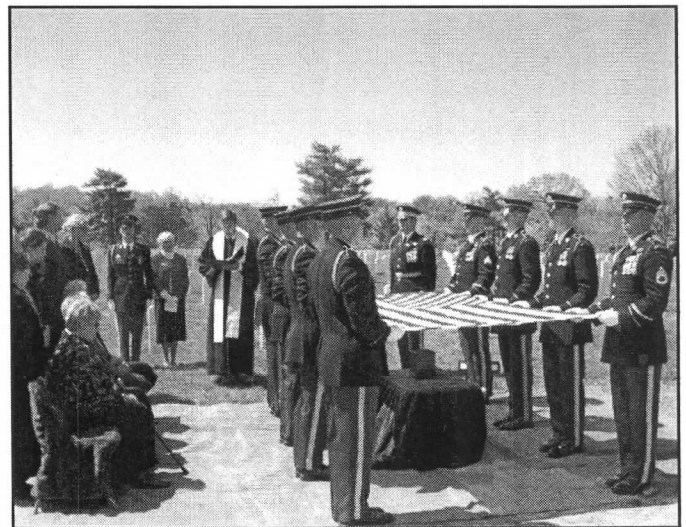
My father loved soldiers and nothing so "gentled his condition" as serving with the 101st Airborne Division in Viet Nam, "with men," as he told me so often, "who were willing to die for me and never ask why."

Brave men, without even intending to do so, had honored him beyond measure, beyond comprehension. A humbling honor he remembered with gratitude unto his last day.

Now we prepare to commend my father to "the way of all the earth" to join the eternal ranks of those who served their country "under difficult circumstances." But we do not say goodbye; only until we met again.



Riderless horse of a fallen commander, with boots reversed in the stirrups, waits outside the Fort Myer chapel, for the procession to the burial site to begin.



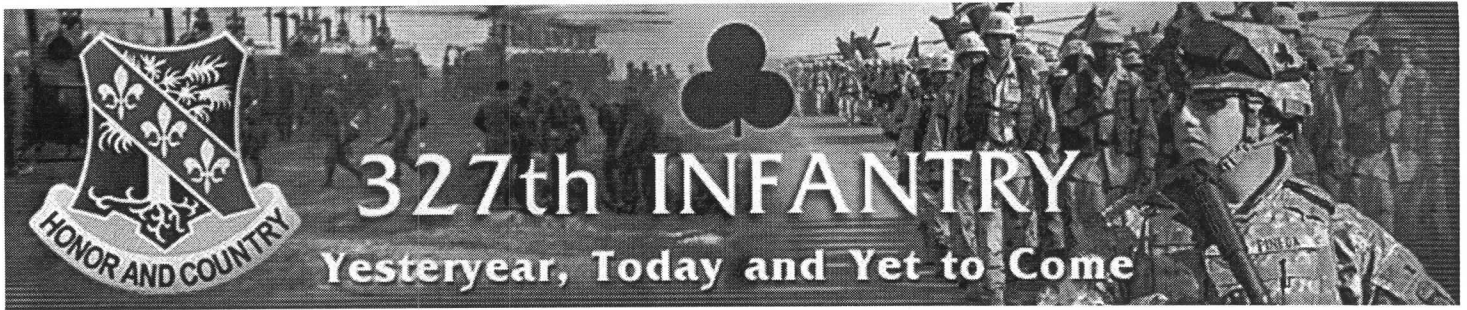
U.S. Flag honors the fallen at the burial site.



U.S. Flag is presented to Mrs. Melba Spangler for Colonel Spangler's service to his country. Son Evan Spangler stands directly behind his mother. Evan's wife Marina is to his right.

(Photos by CPT Barry Hana, formerly of 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division Public Information Office, Vietnam.)





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 JUNE 12, 2008

Story and photos by
 Sgt. Rick Rzepka
 1st BCT PAO
 101st Airborne Division (AA)

Marriage and an M-4: 101st couple stays committed to Army

The old adage says something like, if the Army wanted you to have a wife, it would issue you one. Yet, while the Army has never quite been in the business of matchmaker, in this case, it can add cupid's arrow to its arsenal.

Jessica and Steven Miller met while on a deployment to the Iraq theatre of operations in 2005. Amid the hectic atmosphere and their arduous schedules, Jessica and Steve found time to connect with one another.

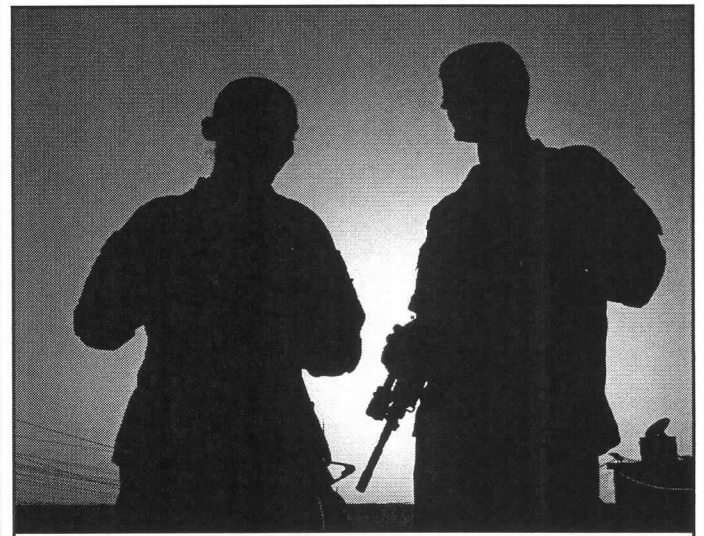
Upon returning home, the two sergeants were married on Aug. 25, 2007, just one month out from another Iraq deployment.

Today Steve and Jessica Miller serve in the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division in the Salah ad Din province and have recently renewed their vows to the Army.

The Millers reenlisted for a substantial bonus and their duty station of choice, but the real bonus said Jessica, is being able



Sergeants Jessica and Steve Miller re-enlist together at the Bastogne headquarters on COB Speicher, Iraq. (L to R) Sgt Jessica Miller, LTC Greg Anderson, 426th BSB Commander and Sgt Steve Miller.



Sergeants Jessica and Steve Miller at COB Speicher, Iraq. The Millers are one of a handful of Army couples serving together in Iraq.

to serve with her husband in Iraq.

"Number one they got us here together, number two they give us a lot of privileges that a lot of other couples don't have," said Sgt. Jessica Miller.

Recently the Army has begun to allow married soldiers serving in a combat zone to cohabitate on forward operating bases to ease the strain of deployment.

"Your first year of marriage is supposed to be that special newlywed time, but for us it's different," said Jessica. "We live in an 8X10 room, but it is real."

The Millers, who have a combined total of five deployments to Iraq between them, are looking forward to taking some time off when they return home to their new duty station at Fort Jackson, SC. "You can't turn down Fort Jackson," said Jessica, "it's a non-deployable post."

For now however, the Millers call a portable metal container, bounded by blast-walls, home. They try to avoid the stressors of life in a combat zone, while spending what little free time they have, together.

"Free time is our time to do what we want," said Steve who typically watches movies with his wife after work. One of the couple's biggest challenges is not bringing issues from work home, he said.



Finding a balance between married life and work is tough enough in the civilian world, but in the Army it's a battle. "I bring home work sometimes," said Steve, "but it's nice to have a neutral party in Jessica," he said.

The Miller's battle tested solution to the problems couples face while deployed is simple, said Steve. "Communication, communication, communication," he said.

For Jessica, the crux of a successful military marriage rests on a couple's ability to never accept defeat; truly a value in the Army. "Persistence is the key to what makes it work," she said. "It can be stressful, but there is another side to it."

The Millers are not your typical American couple, yet their sense of duty and commitment to each other and to the Army sets the standard.

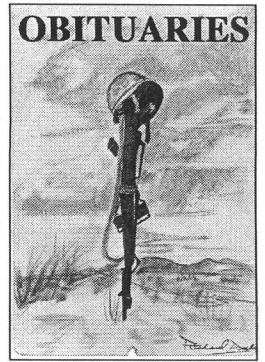
"Our relationship is different from anything that we've ever experienced," said Jessica. "Right now it's not about Jessica and Steve, it's about the mission and getting done what needs to get done," she said.



Sergeants Jessica and Steve Miller at COB Speicher, Iraq. The Millers are one of a handful of Army couples serving together in Iraq.



SFC William Jaap
2/327 HHC 7/65-7/66



CW3(R) William J. Keller, 2/327 HQ(S-4) 6/65-7/66, 8032 East Hayne St., Tucson, AZ 85710-4213 CW3KELLERPBO@aol.com sent the following:

I have the sad duty to inform you of the passing of my good friend William Jaap. Bill served with me in the 101st ABN Division and the 82nd ABN Division. Also he served with the Special Forces Group.

Bill had been sick for the last several years. He at one time or another fought just about every illness known to man. But the last lump got him.

His wife Susan, daughter Blinda and son Richard were a great support system to Bill. I talked to Bill at least every other month for the last few years.

I have taken it upon myself to send flowers for the service on 6-3-08. Internment / Memorial Services were held on June 4, 2008 at noon Strunk Funeral Home, Vero Beach, Florida, 772-562-2325.

You may call Susan at 772-569-2154.

Respectfully,
Bill Keller

P. S. For your information Bill Jaap came from a long line of Paratroopers. I served with one brother in Munich, 503rd A.I.R. 56 through 58/59(?).

Carlo A. DiBattista
2/327 B 1/67-12/67

2008 Reunion Material was returned for Carlo A. DiBattista of Collingswood, New Jersey, marked deceased.

COL(R) William R. (Bill) Madden, Jr.
2/320 Arty CO 6/66-5/67

Notice was received from Helen Madden that William passed away on February 22, 2008. He was born July 12, 1928 in Clinton, South Carolina.

Funeral services were held February 27, 2008 at Kaster-Maxon & Futrell Funeral Home Chapel. Interment was at Fort Bliss National Cemetery, El Paso, Texas.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Madden at 2916 Rockey Ridge Dr., El Paso, TX 79904-2420.



2008 Reunion Registrations as of 5/27/08



Joe R. Alexander (3/506 A 10/67-10/68)

Butler A. (Buddy) Baldwin, Jr. (2/327 A 7/67-7/68)
and Gail

Ray Besser (2/502 B 3/67-10/67)

Tony Bliss (1/327 A 10/65-10/66)

Larry Boecklen (2/327 B 1/67-1/68)
and Connie

Chaplain (COL-R) Curt Bowers (1/327 HQ 7/65-6/66)

Dallas E. Brown (2/327 A,D,HHQ 12/67-12/68)

Carlos L. Burgos (2/502 A 7/65-2/66)

Robert Burluson (Photographer)

Gerry Carter (2/327 A 6/67-1/68)
and Elaine

John Clancy (326 ENGR A 67-68)
and Michele

Bob Crosby (2/327 HHC & C 3/67-3/68)
and Margaret

George Day (2/327 HQ 6/65-6/66)
and Shirley

David K. Dever (1/327 HHC 7/65-7/66)

Carroll Dinkle (1/327 T. F. 7/65-7/66)
and Bonnie Howard

Ronald Gardner (326 ENGR A 12/65-12/66)
and Marlene

Roy D. Gierke (2/327 A 4/67-2/68)
and guest Larry Koepf

Mike Hadden (2/327 HHC 7/65-6/66)

Roger Haseltine (2/327 A 12/65-12/66)
and Theresa

Robert Hudson (2/327 C 8/64-7/66)
and Barbara



Roger John (1/327 C 7/67-12/68)
and Elise

Louie LaTorre (2/327 A 7/67-7/68)
and Carmen

Don Lenc (2/320 FA HHB 6/67-6/68)
and Dolores

David Lindwall (2/327 C 1/67-10/67)
and Kim

Edwin Lundquist (2/327 C 65-66)
and Nancy

Richard Luttrell (2/327 A 4/67-3/68)
and Carole

Roderick J. Marshall (2/327 HHQ Hawks 5/66-5/67)
and Willola

Carlos Melendez (HHC AVN 5/67-11/67)
and Carole

Nick Mihalic (2/327 HHQ 4/67-8/67)

John Miller (2/327 B 67-68)
and Joan

Galen G. Mitchell (1/327 A 7/65-4/66)
and Irene

Robert (Pappy) Papesh (1/327 ABU 12/65-7/66)
and Josephine

John Pippin (2/502 A 1/66-2/67)

Larry Redmond (2/327 A 5/67-WIA 2/68)
and Mary

Wilford E. Roe (2/502 B 8/64-9/65)
and Diana, June Nicoletti and Ann Falcon

William P. Rován (2/327 A 6/66-5/67)

Joseph Stifler (2/502 HQ 7/65-7/66)

COL(R) Elliott (Bud) Sydnor, Jr. (1/327 HQ 8/67-8/68)
and Jean

Vic Thompson (2/502 A 2/67-8/67)
and guest Jim Ritter

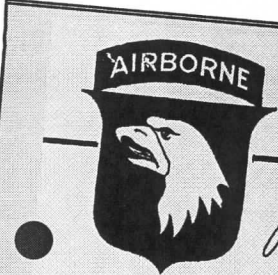
John D. Vaughn (2/327 B 12/67-8/68)
and Linda

Darrell White (801st SPT BN 66-67)

Ivan Worrell (BDE HQ 4/66-4/67)



FIRST BRIGADE SCRAPBOOK



SCRAPBOOK

TO 1 FEBRUARY 1966

for fighting men too busy to keep their own!

-101st "SCREAMING EAGLES" PREY ON VIET CONG-

The New York Times.

NEW YORK TIMES
30 JULY 1965

Airborne Brigade Arrives

By Seymour Topping
The 101st Airborne Division, South Vietnam, July 29 — A brigade of 10,000 paratroopers landed at 2:13 P.M. from the transport ship *USS General Leroy Eltinge* after a 10-day voyage from Oahu, Calif. Two hours later, the detachment made a demonstration parachute jump with combat equipment.

About 3,500 paratroopers, including the 101st Airborne Division, landed at 2:13 P.M. from the transport ship *USS General Leroy Eltinge* after a 10-day voyage from Oahu, Calif. Two hours later, the detachment made a demonstration parachute jump with combat equipment.

The brigade is equipped with 700-mm howitzers but is lighter and more mobile than the 11th Airborne Brigade, which has been in action against the Vietcong. It will be based at Camp Carroll, which is being transformed into a major logistical center. Camp Carroll is 180 miles northeast of Saigon.

The Washington Post

Forces in Viet-Nam Will Total 125,000

By John G. Nixon

Washington Post Staff Writer
Thirteen additional battalions and supporting forces totaling 50,000 men were ordered to South Viet-Nam yesterday in an action that will nearly double the American ground combat forces committed there.

To replace such forces being withdrawn from the strategic reserve at home, a new Army division and several independent brigades will be organized in the United States officials disclosed.

Officials gave some details yesterday of the resignation of the Nation's combat forces in Viet-Nam are to be increased immediately to 125,000 men.

The 15,000-man 1st Cavalry division, a new type of "air mobile" unit ideally designed for helicopter-borne operations such as in Viet-Nam, was announced as heading there. It has eight combat battalions. Identity of the other five battalions on the shipping list was not officially revealed, but it was learned that a brigade of some three battalions from the 101st Airborne is en route there.

Three American ground combat units already are in Viet-Nam—the 24,000-man 3rd Marine division, a 4,000-man 1st Infantry from Ft. Riley, Kans., and the 5,000-man 173d Airborne from Okinawa. The reinforcements ordered there yesterday will increase American ground combat strength in Viet-Nam to more than 125,000 men.

THE SUN

Baltimore Sun 20 SEPTEMBER 1965 P-1

AN KHE NIGHT ATTACK OF VIET CONG BEATEN BY U.S. PARATROOPERS

Saigon, Vietnam, Monday, Sept. 20 (AP)—Viet Cong guerrillas launched a night attack yesterday against American paratroopers in the central highlands and were beaten off. The Communists left four dead behind. The small-scale Viet Cong attack was the latest outbreak of fighting near An Khe where units of the United States Army's 101st Airborne Brigade clashed with a strong enemy force.

After being pinned down for 24 hours, the United States troops started moving forward again yesterday in the rough terrain. Together with Vietnamese forces they continued the sweep early today through the valley and foothills that were bombed extensively during the weekend by Air Force planes.

No Casualties Reported
No United States casualties were reported in last night's action, supplies out of the area most of Saturday. The Viet Cong lost three killed and one wounded, but the wounded man died soon afterward, sources said.

The 27th Battalion of the 101st Brigade was the unit attacked. The airborne troops camp under a heavy fire Saturday when they first landed in the area by helicopter. Only about a company and a half—perhaps 200 men—could land. Viet Cong fire drove out the others until late in the day.

By daybreak, however, the rest of the force was moved in and driven planes and artillery blasted Viet Cong positions. The fighting guerrillas at midnight fled in Saigon, United States military authorities said. Viet Cong later reports from military officers near An Khe, however, said American troops had cornered and killed 100 Viet Cong. They said the figures did not include Viet Cong believed killed in heavy air and artillery attacks. United States casualties were described as moderate.

The battle began with an airborne operation 17 miles north-east of An Khe, where the newly arrived United States 1st Cavalry Division has set up its base camp. The operation is part of a United States drive to bolster its strength and control in the strategic central highlands.



Continued on page 2

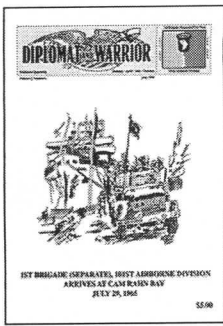
The FIRST BRIGADE, 101st Airborne Division SCRAPBOOK was compiled by Department of the Army "For Fighting Men too Busy to Keep Their Own!"

The SCRAPBOOK contains 105 8.5 x 11 inch pages and is three

hole punched ready to be secured in a regular three ring notebook. Great care was taken to make copies that are true to the original.

Cost is \$15.00 per copy postpaid. See the order form on page 34.





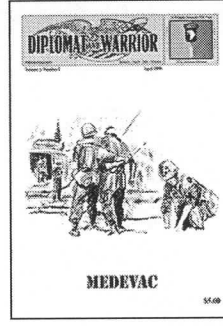
Issue #1



Issue #2



Issue #3



Issue #4



Issue #5



Issue #6



Issue #7



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Issue #9



Issue #10



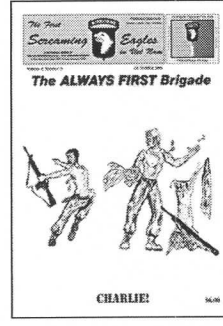
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Issue #13



Issue #14



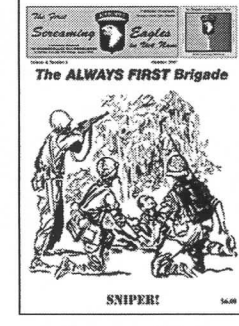
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Issue #17



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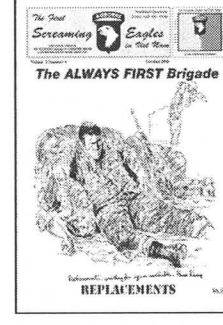
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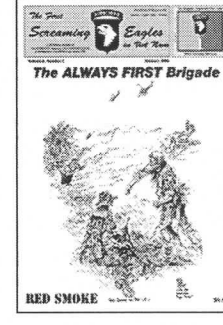
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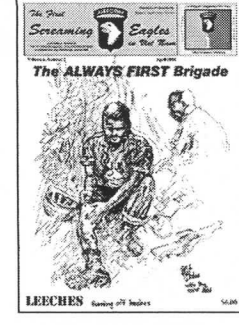
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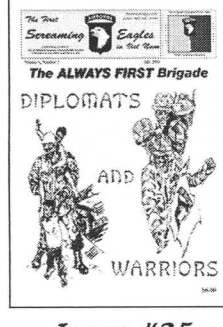
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Issue #24



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Issue #26



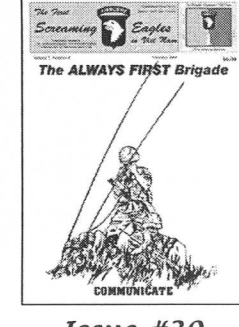
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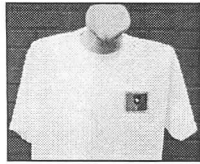


Issue #29



Issue #30

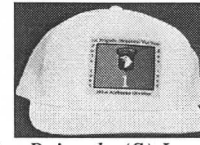
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Issue #31



Issue #32



Issue #33



Issue #34



Issue #35



Issue #36



Issue #37



Issue #38



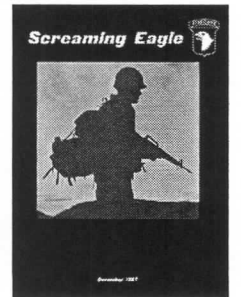
Issue #39



Issue #40



Issue #41



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.



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[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

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Phone or FAX 1-423-337-5983

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THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIET NAM

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

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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
OCTOBER 2008 issue of The First
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Following is a description of most of the items in the July issue of THE FIRST SCREAMING EAGLES in VIET NAM MAGAZINE. Sincere thanks is forwarded to all those who have contributed material to make this magazine possible for all the veterans of the First Brigade (S).

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATIONPAGES 1 – 11
 Recommendation for the PUC for the brigade for actions in Operation Wheeler. Nothing can be found to establish any results of the recommendation. None of the attachments could be found in the archives.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORPAGES 12 – 16 AND 27
 Messages from the First Brigade (S) web site, e-mail and the U. S. Postal Service that should be of interest to most of those who subscribe to the magazine.

THE SCREAMING EAGLEPAGES 17 – 20
 The January 10, 1968, issue of the weekly unit newspaper published for soldiers of the brigade has a lead story about the end of Operation Wheeler that is featured on pages one through 11. The original of this paper was sent by Donald R. Lenc, 2/320 FA HHB 6/67-6/68.

SUBSCRIBER INFORMATIONPAGES 21 – 26
 This list is composed of NEW SUBSCRIBERS, RENEWED SUBSCRIBERS, ADDRESS CHANGES and BAD ADDRESSES. If you can help with a correct address please inform the editor.

COL BILLY SPANGLERPAGES 27 & 28
 Eulogies by CPT Barry Hana, HQ-PIO 3/67-3/68, and his son Evan Spangler at the Arlington funeral of Billy Spangler.

FIRST BRIGADE IN IRAQPAGES 29 & 30
 Story of a married couple in the First Brigade in Iraq and how they are able to set up housekeeping in the combat zone.

OBITUARIESPAGE 30
 All First Brigade (S) veterans are urged to send death notices for publication. If you can amplify the short announcements we sometimes have to rely on, please send the more complete information.

REUNION REGISTRATIONSPAGE 31
 A list of those who have registered for the 2008 reunion in Hampton, Virginia, in September. See the web site for more up-to-date information.

FIRST BRIGADE SCRAPBOOKPAGE 32
 Announcement of the republication of the SCRAPBOOK “for fighting men too busy to keep their own!” See the order form on page 34 to order a copy for your very own.

ITEMS FOR SALEPAGES 33 – 35
 Illustrations of all past magazines are shown in thumbnail format and other First Brigade memorabilia are pictured. An order blank with prices is included.

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



FIRST RENEWAL NOTICE FOR July 2008 EXPIRATIONS

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CHU LAI, Vietnam--STREAM CROSSING--Paratroopers of 101st Airborne cross a monsoon swollen stream during Operation Wheeler west of here. The Screaming Eagles killed more than 650 enemy in the first month of Wheeler, the largest operation since the paratroopers arrived in Vietnam, July 1965. (USA Photo by SSG Mike Mangiameli)

*From the collection of
COL(R) Gerry Morse,
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